

Professional Growth

Quarterly Investment Option Update

31 December 2019

Aim and Strategy

To provide moderate to high investment returns over the long term, with the likelihood of significant fluctuations in the value of the investment from year to year. The portfolio will primarily invest in a diversified mix of defensive and growth assets managed by professional asset managers.

Investment Option Performance

To view the latest investment performances for each product, please visit www.amp.com.au

Investment Option Overview

Investment category	Multi-Sector
Suggested minimum investment timeframe	6 years
Relative risk rating	High
Investment style	Active
Manager style	Multi-manager

Asset Allocation	Benchmark (%)
International shares	40
Australian Shares	35
Listed and Unlisted Property and Infrastructure	7
Australian and International Fixed Interest	7
Cash	5
Defensive Alternatives	3
Growth Alternatives	3

Actual Allocation	%
International Shares	43.98
Australian Shares	35.42
Listed Property and Infrastructure	7.11
Growth Alternatives	3.09
International Fixed Interest	4.95
Defensive Alternatives	4.14
Cash	1.31

Fund Performance

Global share markets were up significantly over the December quarter, with the MSCI World ex Australia index finishing the period up by 7.66%. Drivers included strong US corporate earnings, the announcement of a "phase one" trade deal between China and the US in December, prevailing stimulatory central bank policies around the globe and an emphatic election result in the UK (leading to an apparent resolution to ongoing Brexit delays). Against a backdrop of a solid US economy with generationally low unemployment, these factors combined to spur optimistic investor sentiment around the globe. Indices that were notably strong included the US S&P 500 (up by 9.07%), the Chinese S&P/CITIC300 (up by 7.13%) the European DJ Euro STOXX 50 (up by 5.35%) and the German DAX (up by 6.61%). Emerging markets, meanwhile, produced some of the strongest returns of all; the MSCI Emerging Markets index finishing the quarter up by 9.54% on improving trade relations between China and the US, strong commodity prices and broader positive market-sentiment.

Australian shares meanwhile finished the December quarter slightly higher, returning 0.68% as measured by the S&P/ASX200 index on a total return basis. Stripping the effect of dividends out of the return, the market's performance was effectively flat for the period. Shares were generally flat early in the quarter, before rising in November amid bullish broader global sentiment. Subsequently, the market gave up some of these gains in December on a lack of material company news and some end-of-year profit taking. At a sector level, health care was the standout performer, though energy and information technology stocks were also generally strong. Financials however pulled the market down, as did consumer staples to a lesser degree.

Global government bond yields meanwhile trended higher for the majority of the December quarter, with markets buoyed by optimism stemming from improving trade relations between the US and China which could lead to a resolution of their long running trade dispute, while risk of a hard Brexit in the UK was reduced in December following the resounding re-election of Prime Minister Johnson's Conservative party.

(Indices quoted in local currency terms and on a total-return basis, unless otherwise stated.)

Market Review

The start of the quarter saw initial concerns of the risk of a recession. However, as the quarter progressed, US economic data was generally positive overall. Market sentiment further improved following the conclusion of the US -China trade disputes. US gross domestic product grew at an annualised rate of 1.9% in the third quarter. In October, the Federal Funds Rate was reduced by 25 basis points to 1.50-1.75%. Meanwhile President Trump's impeachment had little impact on financial markets.

In Europe, business conditions were flat in December but remain up from their low adding to confidence that Eurozone growth may be improving. During the quarter, the European Central Bank made no changes to interest rates. Meanwhile, in December the Swedish central bank raised rates from -0.25% to zero, ending roughly five years of negative rates.

In the UK, the Conservative party won the general election and will seek to prevent an extension of the Brexit transition period beyond the end of 2020. During the quarter, the Bank of England left rates on hold.

In Asia, Japan's gross domestic product growth for the September quarter was revised upward. The government announced fiscal stimulus plans in December whilst the Bank of Japan left monetary policy on hold. In China, industrial production and retail sales were stronger-than-expected in November suggesting positive signs for growth. China's central bank lowered its one-year loan prime rate in November by five basis points to 4.15%.

Availability

Product Name	APIR
AMP Flexible Lifetime Super	AMP1956AU
AMP Flexible Super - Retirement account	AMP1963AU
AMP Flexible Super - Super account	AMP1970AU
Flexible Lifetime - Allocated Pension	AMP1949AU
Flexible Lifetime - Investments (Series 2)	AMP1981AU
Flexible Lifetime - Term Pension	AMP1949AU
SignatureSuper	AMP1731AU

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