

Professional Moderately Conservative

Quarterly Investment Option Update

31 December 2019

Aim and Strategy

To provide moderate long term investment returns, with limited likelihood of 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 identified and selected by ipac within each asset class.

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	4 years
Relative risk rating	Medium to High
Investment style	Active
Manager style	Multi-manager

Asset Allocation	Benchmark (%)
Australian and International Fixed Interest	32
International shares	21
Australian Shares	20
Cash	15
Listed and Unlisted Property and Infrastructure	7
Defensive Alternatives	3
Growth Alternatives	2

Actual Allocation	%
International Shares	22.74
Australian Shares	19.85
Listed Property and Infrastructure	7.26
Growth Alternatives	2.06
International Fixed Interest	28.29
Defensive Alternatives	4.17
Cash	15.62

Fund Performance

Global government bond yields 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. In a period where markets experienced bouts of volatility, global central banks continued to provide stimulatory monetary conditions, with the US Federal Reserve cutting the Federal Funds Rate earlier in the quarter by a further 25 basis points to 1.50-1.75%. However, the central bank did signal a pause in their interest rate easing cycle, with any future accommodative moves to be considered in light of the influence of economic data. The global economic backdrop was further supported later in the period by improving data in the major global economies such as China, which provided further tentative evidence of a global economic upturn. The US 10-year bond yield ended the quarter at 1.92%, while its German and Japanese counterparts ended at -0.19% and -0.01% respectively.

Australian government bond yields moved higher over the course of the December quarter, aided primarily by the reduction of key geopolitical risks relating to US-China trade and Brexit. After reacting somewhat earlier in the quarter to a widely-expected cut of 0.25% in the official cash rate by the Reserve Bank of Australia amid continuing mixed local data, domestic bond investors generally largely followed their overseas counterparts during the period as optimism returned to markets. However, the rise in domestic yields was constrained by the negative impacts of ongoing uncertainty with regard to domestic economic growth prospects, which saw the Reserve Bank of Australia slightly downgrade its consumption and economic growth forecasts for the fourth time in 2019, citing the impact on incomes of the drought, higher taxes and a downturn in investments. The Commonwealth Government 2-year bond yield ended the quarter at 0.92%, while the 10-year bond yield ended at 1.31%.

Global shares 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). Australian shares finished the December quarter slightly higher, though stripping the effect of dividends out of the return, the market's performance was effectively flat. Financial stocks pulled the market down, as did consumer staples to a lesser degree. (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	AMP1958AU
AMP Flexible Super - Retirement account	AMP1965AU
AMP Flexible Super - Super account	AMP1972AU
Flexible Lifetime - Allocated Pension	AMP1951AU
Flexible Lifetime - Investments (Series 2)	AMP1983AU
Flexible Lifetime - Term Pension	AMP1951AU
SignatureSuper	AMP1984AU

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