



Future Directions Asian Share

Quarterly Investment Option Update

30 September 2021

Aim and Strategy

To provide high returns over the long term, while accepting a higher level of volatility, through a diversified portfolio of international shares within the Asia (ex-Japan) universe. The objective is to provide a total return, after costs and before tax, above the return from the MSCI All Country Asia ex Japan Net Index on a rolling 3 to 5 years basis.

Investment Option Performance

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

Investment Option Overview

Investment category	Global Shares
Suggested minimum investment timeframe	7 years
Relative risk rating	Very High
Investment style	Active
Manager style	Multi-manager

Asset Allocation	Benchmark (%)
International shares	100
Cash	0

Actual Allocation	%
International Shares	94.86
Australian Shares	1.84
Listed Property and Infrastructure	0.67
Cash	2.63

Sector Allocation	%
Information Technology	29.11
Financials	18.47
Consumer Discretionary	13.47
Communication Services	7.24
Materials	6.84
Health Care	5.98
Industrials	5.46
Consumer Staples	3.60
Energy	3.45
Utilities	2.71
Cash	2.63
Real Estate	1.05

Top Holdings	%
TSMC	8.51
Samsung Electronics Co Ltd	5.87
Tencent Holdings Ltd	4.27
Alibaba Group Holding Ltd	4.00
AIA Group Ltd	2.50
Infosys Ltd	1.99
HDFC Bank Ltd	1.68
MediaTek Inc	1.63
Kia Corp	1.55
HKEX	1.45

Region Allocation	%
Asia ex Japan	94.67
Cash	2.63
Australasia	1.84
United Kingdom	0.87

Fund Performance

In difficult market conditions, the Fund posted a negative return but outperformed its benchmark over the September quarter. Both underlying managers lost ground but outperformed the benchmark. The Fund continues to post strong positive returns and has outperformed the benchmark over the long term, including over 1, 2, 3 and 5 years, and since inception (annualised). (All returns are before fees.)

Country allocation contributed positively to relative returns. The main positive contributors were an underweight exposure to China and an overweight exposure to Taiwan, while the main detractors were an underweight exposure to Indonesia and an overweight exposure to South Korea.

Sector allocation was the key driver of the Fund's outperformance, with the main positive contributions from underweight exposures to consumer discretionary, communication services and real estate, and overweight exposures to materials and information technology.

Stock selection detracted modestly from relative returns. The main detractors were positions in materials and financials stocks, while the main positive contributors were positions in utilities and information technology stocks.

The main individual detractor from relative returns was an overweight position in Chinese music streaming service company Tencent Music Entertainment Group which slumped (-45.6%) after its net profits declined, partly due to higher operating expenses. It also came under pressure as Chinese authorities cracked down on technology companies, ordering the company to end its exclusive music-licensing deals, which could slow its subscriber growth. Other detractors included an underweight position in Indian multinational conglomerate Reliance Industries which climbed (+24.2%), and an overweight position in Indian pharmaceutical company Aurobindo Pharma which dropped (-21.7%) over the period.

The main individual contributor to relative returns was an overweight position in Chinese wind power company China Longyuan Power Group which soared (+49.1%) as investors shifted away from technology companies, into companies likely to receive government support. It subsequently benefited after the Chinese President said in an address to the United Nations that China would cease building new coal-fired power projects overseas as part of its efforts to cut carbon emissions. Other contributors included an overweight position in Indian financial services provider HDFC Bank, which climbed (+10.8%) and an underweight position in Chinese internet behemoth Alibaba Group, which continued to fall (-33.0%) over the period.

Market Review

Global shares posted another quarter of gains. Through July and August, markets were buoyant, driven by global reopening and the ongoing recovery. Economic and corporate fundamentals remained solid, particularly in the US, where companies' earnings generally surprised on the upside through reporting season and strong US employment data was released. Central banks, including the US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank were also generally quite dovish, suggesting they won't be rushing to remove stimulus given the current climate.

However, in September a marked turn in sentiment was evident, emanating from a combination of factors including inflation concerns, volatile commodity prices reflecting slowing Chinese demand for steel, and global supply issues creating turbulence for energy resource prices. Adding further to the bearish turn in sentiment were solvency concerns surrounding a major Chinese property developer, China Evergrande Group, and the perceived threat of an international spill-over. In addition, the continued trend towards hawkish statements from some central banks and short-term fears of a US government shutdown due to the approaching debt ceiling also weighed on markets. Upcoming tax-hikes in the US added further to the list of worries. Despite all this, the global economy remains generally on track in its recovery. Corporate earnings are growing, social restrictions are being removed rapidly as populations are becoming vaccinated, and countries are reopening.

Meanwhile, emerging markets fell, underperforming developed markets. Within Asia, the Chinese market fell as investors remained concerned about the government's increased scrutiny of private-sector companies and became concerned about the solvency of China Evergrande Group. Most other Asian markets rose only modestly due to the resulting uncertainty, although India advanced strongly due to its supportive monetary policy and expectations of a substantial rebound in growth as the economy reopens. Indonesia also rose strongly.

Outlook

The economic backdrop remains complicated. Uncertainty over the persistency of inflationary pressures, ongoing stimulus packages, the US Federal Reserve's timeline for tapering and stretched valuations in some areas, continue to muddy the interpretation of future events, with a fluid 'risk on/'risk off' bias. Thus, the medium-term outlook for global shares remains difficult to predict. The environment is further complicated by some supply-

demand mismatches, where it is difficult to ascertain with any degree of certainty what will be short-term and what will prove to be more secular in nature. Likely tax hikes in the US will also impact US companies' earnings. With changing consumer dynamics, many companies are expected to face challenging conditions for some time yet, while stronger businesses are likely to emerge post the vaccine implementation with gained market share. Despite some inflationary concerns, governments generally continue to implement supportive monetary and fiscal programmes to ease short-term economic stress. The hope is that economies will be resilient enough to return to sustainable growth relatively quickly. Although the short-term environment remains uncertain, we believe the long-term trend will remain to the upside. Investors with a diversified portfolio of quality businesses, bought at a reasonable price, are likely to do well over the long-term.

Availability

Product Name	APIR
AMP Flexible Super - Retirement	AMP1344AU*
AMP Flexible Super - Super	AMP1473AU*
CustomSuper	AMP1197AU*
Flexible Lifetime - Allocated Pension	AMP1201AU*
Flexible Lifetime - Investments (Series 1)	AMP1205AU**
Flexible Lifetime - Investments (Series 2)	AMP1408AU**
Flexible Lifetime - Super	AMP1197AU*
SignatureSuper	AMP1211AU*
SignatureSuper - Allocated Pension	AMP1220AU*
SignatureSuper Select	AMP0793AU

*Closed to new investors

**Closed to new and existing investors

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