High Growth Index

Quarterly Investment Option Update

31 March 2019

Aim and Strategy

To provide high returns from capital growth over the long term by investing in growth assets. Exposure to individual asset classes will be attained through the use of index focussed fund managers. The investment option seeks to provide an index focussed solution to diversified investing. Through a process of diversified market analysis combined with selection of the most appropriate fund managers for each underlying asset class, the fund is designed to provide market tracking returns over the recommended investment time frame.

Investment Option Performance

To view the latest investment performances please visit www.amp.com.au

Investment Option Overview

Investment category	Multi-Sector
Suggested investment timeframe	7 years
Relative risk rating	High
Investment style	Index

Asset Allocation	Ranges (%)
International shares	35-55
Australian shares	35-55
Listed property & infrastructure	0-15
Growth alternatives	0-15
International fixed interest	0-10
Australian fixed interest	0-10
Cash	0-10

Actual Allocation	(%)
International shares	44.73
Australian shares	39.29
Listed property & infrastructure	8.74
Growth alternatives Defensive alternatives	5.96
International fixed interest	1.07
Australian fixed interest	0.02
Cash	0.19
Others	0

Market Review

In the ongoing environment of economic uncertainty, global equities have vacillated between a risk-on and a risk-off bias; exacerbated by the unresolved US-China trade negotiations. Particular sticking points on the negotiations include a requirement for adequate protection of intellectual property, a loosening up of agricultural levies and the opening up of markets in general. The sharp rally in global equities since the December 2018 pull-back also leaves them vulnerable to falls.

US economic data continues to be mixed. There were stronger capital goods orders but weaker industrial production and falling new-home sales. Inflation continues to be under control. The December reporting season completed in the first quarter of 2019 and was broadly positive. One blot is the shifting consumer landscape and changing tastes, with the ongoing structural shift to online shopping and the erosion of traditional retail brands, as evidenced by The Kraft-Heinz Company write-down.

However, there remain concerns over the widening twin deficit (trade and fiscal); especially given the elevated and increasing government and household debt levels. On a more positive note, the US administration found some succour in the conclusion of the Mueller report into Russian interference in the election process, which recommended no further prosecutions be initiated.

The US Federal Reserve (Fed) imparted some cause for market concern towards the end of the quarter with an unusual set of communications, indicating it would be unlikely to raise interest rates until 2020 at the earliest; and with an intention to halt the wind-down of its balance sheet by September 2019. This suggests it believes the US economy is more fragile than was previously believed and has also locked it into a path, reducing its flexibility. In addition, short-term changes to Fed policy, with no clearly definable data-driven rationale, has dented its credibility somewhat and raised questions in some quarters as to the independence of its decision-making structure. The yield curve is now inverted, suggesting the market is also worried about the US economy longer term.

In Asia, Japanese jobs data remains strong and consumer spending is supportive. The Bank of Japan maintained its ultra-easy monetary policy as fully factored into the market; however it downgraded its economic outlook. In China, economic data has been relatively subdued; with a further slowdown in industrial production and a rise in unemployment. The Lunar New Year also tends to distort first quarter figures. Policy stimulus effects should be more noticeable later in the year as there tends to be a delayed effect whilst measures feed into the economy. The Chinese administration has said it will implement suitable further policy stimulatory measures as and when required.

In Europe, economic sentiment and data continues to falter and, with inflation remaining benign, there is likely to be increased pressure on the European Central Bank (ECB) to remain accommodative. The ECB has revised down its growth and inflation forecasts for the Eurozone and will extend its targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTROs). However, TLTROs are a relatively narrow private-sector targeted approach and more general stimulatory measures may also be required, together with policies to ensure the bloc has access to sufficient funding liquidity. Of further concern is the Eurozone's engine, Germany, moving further towards recessionary territory. Germany's manufacturing sector is now contracting, particularly impacted by slowing demand for automobiles.

Brexit negotiations and the final outcome continue to be uncertain, with a short extension granted by the European Union. However, with British Members of Parliament now having taken control of the process, but failing to agree a way forward by the end of the quarter, there remains continued chaos and a potential constitutional crisis. A no-deal Brexit risk remains elevated.

Availability

Product name	APIR
AMP Flexible Lifetime Super	AMP1523AU
CustomSuper	AMP1523AU
Flexible Lifetime - Allocated Pension	AMP1535AU
SignatureSuper	AMP1547AU
SignatureSuper - Allocated Pension	AMP1559AU
SignatureSuper Select	AMP1547AU

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