

Octagon Multi Asset Class Funds

Investor Factsheet for the guarter ended 31 March 2025

	3 months	1 year	3 year	Since Inception*
Income Fund Gross Return**	-1.16%	1.03%	1.38%	2.20%
Composite Market Index***	-1.92%	2.64%	1.92%	1.46%
Balanced Fund Gross Return**	-0.74%	5.01%	5.16%	4.15%
Composite Market Index***	-1.40%	5.52%	4.75%	4.10%
Growth Fund Gross Return**	-1.36%	4.69%	5.84%	5.15%
Composite Market Index***	-2.44%	5.73%	5.40%	5.29%

Income Fund





Income fund performance

For the quarter to 31 March the Income Fund delivered a gross return of -1.16%, outperforming the funds' market index return of -1.92%. For the four guarters to 31 March the Fund delivered a gross return of 1.03%, underperforming the funds' market index return of 2.64%.

For the four quarters to 31 March both Fixed Interest, the Cash Fund and the Listed Property Fund utilised within the portfolio beat their market indices. Directly owned securities in NZ and Australia detracted from performance.

The fund aims to invest in Australasian equities with high dividend paying credentials, and in strong broader equity markets over the last year these stocks have tended to underperform. For much of the last 12 months we have seen a continuation of high multiple "growth" stocks outperforming, particularly in New Zealand. The fund is under-represented in these growth names which generally trade on low (or no) dividend yields, instead holding stocks more defensive (and income producing) in nature. Until the most recent quarter this has been costly for relative performance. As an example, in the 12 months to 31 March 2025 the NZSE50 Gross with Imputation Index delivered 2.11% return with Fisher & Paykel Healthcare (which the fund does not own) delivering 3x the index return with the balance of the index, on aggregate, detracting from performance.

Annualised

Income fund positioning

The Income fund is exposed to both income and growth asset classes. Within the growth asset class, we have a higher tactical allocation to both NZ equities and Australasian listed property as we expect the NZ economic cycle to rebound over the next year. We also expect the property sector to further benefit from a declining interest rate environment, supporting dividend yields and our appetite for this asset class.

We calculate the running yield of the securities held within the Income fund as currently 4.64%.

Balanced Fund

Risk Indicator:	1234567		
Inception date:	11/12/2020		
Fund Size as at 31/12/2024:	NZ\$45,728,082		
Listed property 8%	Cash and cash equivalents 4.5%		



Balanced fund performance

For the quarter to 31 March the Balanced Fund delivered a gross return of -0.74%, outperforming the fund's market index return of -1.40%. For the four guarters to 31 March the Balanced Fund delivered a gross return of 5.01%, behind the fund's market index return of 5.52%.

Over the past four quarters we moved our tactical asset allocation from modestly underweight equities to modestly overweight, driven by increases to the listed property and New Zealand equity markets. We have maintained an underweight to global equities, based on what we view as expensive valuations, for well over a year now. We funded those moves mostly by lowering our fixed interest overweight and moving underweight cash.

Gross Fund Returns are calculated before deduction of taxes and fund charges but after deduction of trading expenses and including imputation credits where applicable. Market index returns do not have any deductions for fund charges, trading expenses or tax.

*** The market index return is based on a composite index made up of the indices used to measure the performance of each asset class invested in, as displayed under the target investment mix. In July 2023 the index used to measure the performance of the New Zealand fixed interest asset class was changed from the S&P/NZX Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index to the Bloomberg NZBond Composite 0+Yr Index. The Composite Market Index reported here uses the new market index from July 2023 onwards and uses the old market index for prior periods.

Our active hedging strategy detracted value for the quarter and year. Our currency model suggests the US dollar is expensive and it got even more so over the March quarter. As such, the Global Equities portfolio is hedged well above its neutral level of 50%.

Balanced fund positioning

We have upped the frequency of our Investment Committee meetings to match the increased volatility in asset prices. Over the March quarter we have made no changes but have discussed the merits of lifting our weight in global equities post their fall. We are closely monitoring responses to recent US-led trade policy.

We have a higher tactical allocation to both NZ equities and Australasian listed property as we expect the NZ economic cycle to rebound over the next year, with the property sector to further benefit from ongoing RBNZ rate-cuts supporting dividend yields and more investment projects. The NZ equity market is dominated by stocks with defensive revenues, be they electricity companies, utility companies or property stocks. The Listed Property asset class benefits from long-term contracted rents and improved earnings as interest rates fall.

The US economy was strong, and both China and Europe were looking to provide both interest rate and government spending support to their economies, ahead of the trade war commencing. This means the global economy is starting from a position of strength. Our current view is that the trade war will de-escalate but not go away. There will be slower growth and higher than otherwise inflation as a result and hence some of the fall in equity markets is justified by the increased risks.

We continue to position the fund to achieve attractive returns for the risks taken. We remind investors that it is our Strategic Asset Allocation, rather than tactical changes, that will drive the long-term returns of the Balanced Fund. Moves away from those strategic weightings should only occur where the short-term mispricing is very significant.

Growth Fund



30%

Growth fund performance

For the quarter to 31 March the Growth Fund delivered a gross return of -1.36%, outperforming the funds' market index return of -2.44%. For the four quarters to 31 March the Growth Fund delivered a gross return of 4.69%, behind of the funds' market index return of 5.73%.

Over the past four quarters we moved our tactical asset allocation from modestly underweight equities to modestly overweight, driven by increases to the listed property and New Zealand equity markets. We have maintained an underweight to global equities, based on what we view as expensive valuations, for well over a year now. We funded those moves mostly by lowering our fixed interest overweight and moving underweight cash.

Our active hedging strategy detracted value for the quarter and year. Our currency model suggests the US dollar is expensive and it got even more so over the March quarter. As such, the Global Equities portfolio is hedged well above its neutral level of 50%.

Growth fund positioning

We have upped the frequency of our Investment Committee meetings to match the increased volatility in asset prices. Over the March quarter we have made no changes but have discussed the merits of lifting our weight in global equities post their fall. We are closely monitoring responses to recent US-led trade policy.

We have a higher tactical allocation to both NZ equities and Australasian listed property as we expect the NZ economic cycle to rebound over the next year, with the property sector to further benefit from ongoing RBNZ rate-cuts supporting dividend yields and more investment projects. The NZ equity market is dominated by stocks with defensive revenues, be they electricity companies, utility companies or property stocks. The Listed Property asset class benefits from long-term contracted rents and improved earnings as interest rates fall.

The US economy was strong, and both China and Europe were looking to provide both interest rate and government spending support to their economies, ahead of the trade war commencing. This means the global economy is starting from a position of strength. Our current view is that the trade war will de-escalate but not go away. There will be slower growth and higher than otherwise inflation as a result and hence some of the fall in equity markets is justified by the increased risks.

We continue to position the fund to achieve attractive returns for the risks taken. We remind investors that it is our Strategic Asset Allocation, rather than tactical changes, that will drive the long-term returns of the Balanced Fund. Moves away from those strategic weightings should only occur where the short-term mispricing is very significant.

This publication does not contain financial advice - for financial advice, please speak to your Investment Adviser. We recommend you review your investments and seek specialist advice on any taxation aspects. Past performance is not a reliable guide to future performance. Forsyth Barr Investment Management Limited is the issuer, and Octagon Asset Management Limited the investment manager, of the Octagon Investment Funds. A copy of the Product Disclosure Statement for the Funds is available from www.octagonasset.co.nz/disclosure-information, by contacting your Investment Adviser, or by calling 0800 628 246.