Ruffer Total Return International – Australia Fund

Positive returns with low volatility

If ever there was a month to dig a little deeper than a cursory glance at the positive returns for both bonds and equities, it was March 2023. We began the month with US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell reintroducing volatility to the bond market after he noted that the Fed would again consider 50bp rate hikes. This moved bond yields higher for a matter of days before the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank in the US and the rushed acquisition of the long-troubled Credit Suisse by its Swiss counterpart UBS, as investors turned their backs on the weakest of financials. Policymakers have been swift in responding and we have likely survived a moment of acute stress. What has not been solved is the chronic shift of deposits away from bank accounts to higher yielding alternatives and the damaging effect this will pose to financial market liquidity.

The fund's duration assets, through inflation-linked government bonds and gold exposure, delivered positive contributions as yields fell. On the negative side of the ledger, the fund's exposure to commodity assets detracted from performance as uncertainty over the health of the global economy rose. Given the stability of the portfolio through these rapidly shifting sands, we resisted the temptation to make major changes. However, we did increase yen exposure to c 15% to enhance its role as a key protective asset in the portfolio's armoury.

There appears to be a growing dichotomy between the interpretation of recent events by bond and commodity markets compared to equities. The former are more than hinting that economic conditions are soon to deteriorate, whilst the latter is basking in another duration led rally catalysed by the fall in bond yields. We do not believe that both views can be held simultaneously for long. Our issue with the equity market's muscle memory is that given policymaker's battle with persistent inflation, you cannot have falling rates without a recession taking the heat out of the economy. We understand the logic that a lower discount rate makes future cash flows more valuable in the present, but we doubt that future cash flows will be unblemished in a tougher economic backdrop. Given this viewpoint, we continue to operate with a relatively modest exposure to risk assets (c 30% including equities and commodity exposure).

In 2022 investors were fixated on the rate of change of interest rates, however, we do not think financial markets are out of the woods even if policymakers appear to be reaching the final stages of their current rate hiking cycle. We operate in a financial system that has become accustomed to ever lower interest rates over the past four decades. The obvious outcome in such an environment is for leverage to increase – and increase it has. Whilst interest rates might have risen sharply over the last 12 months, the impact is not always felt instantaneously. As Warren Buffett once said, "only when the tide goes out do you learn who has been swimming naked". A repricing of the cost of capital has already taken out the giddiest parts of the market but the longer rates are held at current levels, the further the pain is likely to spread.

Jacques Hirsch left Ruffer at the end of March. Alex Lennard will continue to manage the fund and a new co-manager will be announced in due course.

March 2023 **Issue 28**

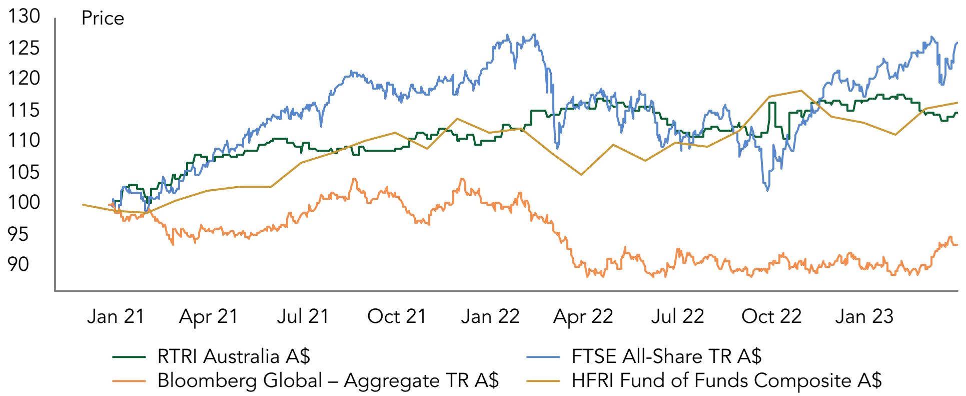
Investment objective

The investment objective of the fund is to achieve low volatility, positive returns from an actively managed portfolio. The fund may have exposure to the following asset classes: cash, debt, securities of any type (including government and corporate debt), equities and equity related securities and commodities (including precious metals). Overriding this objective is a fundamental philosophy of capital preservation. Investors should note that there can be no assurance that the investment objective will be achieved. Returns are not guaranteed.

Target Market Summary

This product is likely to be appropriate for a consumer seeking capital growth and capital preservation to be used as a core or satellite component within a portfolio where the consumer has a minimum five year investment timeframe, medium to high risk/ return profile and needs weekly access to capital.

Performance since sub-fund launch on 24 December 2020



RTRI Australia capitalisation shares	Performance %
March 2023	0.3
Year to date	-1.7
1 year	-1.3
Since Inception	15.0

As at 31 March 2023	AUD
Unit price	1.1496

Source: Ruffer LLP, RTRI – Australia Fund.

Past performance is not an Indicator of future performance.

12 month performance to March %	2022	2023
RTRI Australia AU$	8.7	-1.3
FTSE All-Share TR AU$	9.4	8.4
Bloomberg Global – Aggregate TR AU$	-5.1	3.1
HFRI Fund of Funds Composite AU$	2.6	10.9

Source: Ruffer LLP, FTSE International, Bloomberg, HFRI. Ruffer performance is shown in AUD after deduction of all fees and management charges, and on the basis of income being reinvested. Calendar quarter data has been used up to the latest quarter end and monthly data thereafter. The comparator benchmarks shown are those of the underlying fund, hedged in AUD, which were chosen because they represent the investible universe of the strategy, both in terms of instruments and geographies.

Ruffer Total Return International – Australia Fund as at 31 Mar 2023

Asset allocation – underlying fund (RTRI)

Asset allocation	%
Short-dated bonds	20.0
Cash	12.2
Non-UK index-linked	9.3
Index-linked gilts	8.5
Long-dated index-linked gilts	7.9
Gold exposure and gold equities	7.2
Protection strategies	2.2
Commodity exposure	9.2
UK equities	6.7
North America equities	5.8
Europe equities	4.3
Asia ex-Japan equities	3.3
Japan equities	2.8
Other equities	0.6

10 largest equity holdings*

Stock	% of fund
Shell	1.5
BP	1.2
iShares MSCI China A UCITS ETF	1.2
Bayer AG	0.9
Ryanair	0.8
ArcelorMittal	0.8
Alibaba Group Holding	0.8
Hoya	0.7
Glencore	0.7
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co	0.7

5 largest bond holdings

Stock	% of fund
UK Treasury index-linked 2.5% 2024	6.3
US Treasury 0.625% TIPS 2023	5.8
US Treasury FRN 31 Oct 2024	4.2
UK Treasury index-linked 0.125% 2068	3.4
Australian govt bonds 5.5% 2023	3.3

*Excludes holdings in Ruffer funds

Source: Ruffer LLP.

Pie chart totals may not equal 100 due to rounding.

Fund size A$245.4m

Fund information

	%
Asset class	Multi-Asset
Fund inception date	24 December 2020
Fund base currency	AUD
Fund structure	Managed Investment Scheme
Fund regulator	The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC)
Distribution	Annual, although not expected. The year end is 30 June

APIR	ISIN	ARSN
PIM1038AU	AU60PIM10382	643 278 693

Bloomberg	PIM1038 AU
Buy/sell spread	0%
Minimum initial investment	AUD$20,000
Management costs	1.07% per annum of the net asset value of the Fund comprising: Fund level fees and costs of 0.9% Indirect costs of 0.17%
Dealing Day	Weekly, typically a Thursday*
Subscription and redemption cut-off	Weekly, typically 2pm Friday*
Subscription and redemption settlement dates	T+5, typically a Thursday*
Investment Manager	Ruffer LLP
Responsible Entity	The Trust Company (RE Services) Limited
Custodian and Administrator	Apex Fund Services Pty Ltd
Auditors	Ernst & Young

*The Fund's Dealing Day, subscription and redemption cut-off will be impacted by public holidays in Luxembourg, the UK and/or Australia. Impacted dates are available from ruffer.co.uk/rtri-au

Fund Manager

Alex Lennard

INVESTMENT DIRECTOR

Joined Ruffer in 2006 after graduating from Exeter University with an honours degree in economics and finance. He is a member of the CISI. He is co-manager of two of Ruffer's flagship funds.

Ruffer LLP

Ruffer LLP manages investments on a discretionary basis for private clients, trusts, charities and pension funds. As at 28 February 2023, assets managed by the Ruffer Group exceeded A$47.1bn.

Enquiries

Ruffer LLP, 80 Victoria St
London SW1E 5JL

australiafund@ruffer.co.uk
ruffer.co.uk/rtri-au

Zenith
Investment Partners
Recommended

Recommended
Lonsec Research