# Ruffer Total Return International

### Positive returns with low volatility

During July, the fund price rose by 0.4%. This compared to the FTSE All-Share TR which rose by 4.4% and a rise of 2.6% in the FTSE Govt All Stocks Index (all figures total returns in sterling).

In June almost all asset classes posted a negative return in the face of a surprise increase in the US inflation rate (US CPI rose from 8.3% to 8.6%) and the prospect of increased monetary tightening by the US Federal Reserve. In July, risk appetite roared back even as inflation increased again, from 8.6% to 9.1%, and the US Federal Reserve increased interest rates by 75bps for the second month in a row. The fund was broadly flat on the month, its defensive positioning articulated in last month's factsheet holding it back. Underneath the surface, performance contributions from the fund's equity exposure (+1.5%) and UK long-dated index-linked bonds (+1.3%) were offset by the unconventional protections (-1.6%) and gold exposure (-0.3%).

What explains the positive market outturns in a month which, according to Deutsche Bank, saw one of the steepest quarter-on-quarter declines in underlying company earnings in the last decade? We are back in the territory of bad news being good news for equity and bond markets. Over the last few months, investor expectations have shifted from stagflation risk to recession risk and are now starting to re-price the re-establishment of a Fed 'put' – the moment when the US Federal Reserve will abandon its monetary tightening and focus on growth stabilisation which will either directly or indirectly support equity markets. Interest rate futures now price that the central bank will be cutting interest rates by early next year.

How likely is this outcome? Possible, but not likely. We have been through numerous 'unprecedented' events in the last few years. 'Unprecedented' amounts of peace-time fiscal stimulus in 2020 and 2021, combined with 'unprecedented' monetary policy; but it would be truly unprecedented to slow the economy sufficiently to bring down the highest inflation rate for 40 years with an afterinflation policy rate that never goes positive. It would require a much deeper economic slowdown than is implied in 2023 earnings estimates, which have barely budged.

This bear market is not over, and we believe that we are entering its most dangerous phase. Liquidity is being drained from the financial system. Jamie Dannhauser, Ruffer's Economist, covered this in detail in the latest Green Line. The interest rate on US dollar short-dated bonds is now providing a genuine alternative to taking risk. One of the pushbacks to the view that a move lower in equity markets was likely, was the already extremely bearish investor sentiment and positioning. A low-liquidity summer rally, sucking in those who can't afford relative underperformance, should see this box ticked. We have used the last month's moves to reduce direct equity exposure further to try and ensure the portfolio is robust to the risks we see. Capital preservation is at the forefront of our minds.

Ruffer performance is shown after deduction of all fees and management charges, and on the basis of income being reinvested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of the shares and the income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount originally invested. The value of overseas investments will be influenced by the rate of exchange. Future performance is subject to taxation which depends on each investor's personal situation, and may be subject to change in the future.



#### I class July 2022 Issue 133

#### **Investment** objective

The investment objective of Ruffer Total Return International ('the fund') is to achieve positive returns with low volatility 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). Pervading this objective is a fundamental philosophy of capital preservation.

#### Performance since fund launch on 14 July 2011

Past performance does not predict future returns



Source: Ruffer LLP, FTSE International

## Ruffer Total Return International as at 31 Jul 2022

Asse	t allocation	Currency alloca	tion	10 largest equity holdin
				Stock
				BP
				Ambev SA
				Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group
				Unilever
				ORIX
	allocation		%	Hertz
	nort-dated bonds		27.9 17.5	Cigna
	dex-linked gilts on-UK index-linked		9.1	Alibaba Group ADR
	ash		8.6	Shell
	ong-dated index-linke iquid strategies and o	•	8.4 6.2	NatWest Group
• G	old exposure and gold	d equities	1.7	5 largest bond holdings
	K/Europe equities orth America equities		10.8 4.4	Stock
• Ja	apan equities		3.8	UK Treasury 0.125% 2023
	sia ex-Japan equities		0.6	UK Treasury index-linked 2.5% 20
	ther equities		1.0 %	US Treasury 0.625% TIPS 2023
	ncy allocation		66.9	UK Treasury index-linked 1.875%
	erling S dollar		00.9 12.7	US Treasury FRN 2023
<ul> <li>Ve</li> </ul>			10.1	,
	ustralian dollar		7.1	*Excludes holdings in pooled funds
• Eu	Jro		2.1	

Source: Ruffer LLP. Pie chart totals may not equal 100 due to rounding. The base currency of the fund is GBP. Share classes denominated in other currencies are hedged to reduce the impact on your investment of movements in the exchange rate between the base currency of the fund (GBP) and the currency of the share class.

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#### Fund size £5,130.3m €6,122.8m

#### **Fund information**

% of fund

1.5

1.0

1.0

0.8

0.7

0.7

07

0.6

0.6

0.5

9.7

8.5

7.9

7.5

5.4

% of fund

			%		
Ongoing (	0.94				
Maximum	1.0				
Annual ma	0.9				
Maximum	5.0				
	nvestment ent in other cur	rency)	£25m		
Record da		Third Monday	of November		
Ex dividen	d dates Nex	t NAV following th			
Payment		business days afte			
Dealing	Weekly, every Wednesday (if not a business day, on the following business day) Plus on the last business day of each month				
Cut off	4pm Luxembourg time on the day before valuation day (so typically Tuesday and the penultimate business day of the month)				
ISIN and SEDOL	EUR I cap CHF I cap USD I cap GBP I dis SEK I cap USD I dis CAD I cap GBP I cap	LU0638558394 LU0638558477 LU063855850 LU0779209195 LU0923103534 LU0955560437 LU1296766634 LU1400661093 LU0638558121	B4LVH08 B4QLM86 B4L04N7 B8BHYH0 B94R6P6 BCDYZK7 BYSW6J6 BD2YGL3 B4WP6Q8		
Structure	Sub-fund	l of Ruffer SICAV, a domiciled	Luxembourg		
administra	ent company, tive agent, regis er agent, paying / agent	strar	tner Solutions (Europe) S.A.		
Investmen	t manager		Ruffer LLF		
	, bank	Pictet & Cie	(Europe a) C A		
Depositary	Dalik	i ictet a cie	(Europe) S.A		

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#### **Fund Managers**

## Jacques Hirsch

Joined Ruffer in 2011, previous work included fund management and macro research at Goldman Sachs, GLG Partners and Fulcrum Asset Management. Graduated



from École Centrale Paris in 1999, and holds an MSc in Mathematics from Oxford University.

#### 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 Chartered Institute for



Securities & Investment. 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 30 June 2022, assets managed by the Ruffer Group exceeded £26.0bn.

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