# **Quarterly Board Report**

Zurich Target Date Funds



Zurich TDF 2025

# Market Commentary

#### **Market Commentary:**

The second quarter of 2023 saw a wide range of outcomes-generally positive, with some assets remarkably strong-although this was not a synchronized experience.

Once again, inflation and interest rates played a prominent role, with inflation retreating at different speeds across the world as interest rates near their expected peaks. Economic resilience was another major theme for the quarter, with stronger than expected growth.

So far, removing the punchbowl hasn't stopped the party. The unwinding of stimulus after a decade of near-zero rates is a complex undertaking, but inflation is coming down and jobs are holding up. Despite clear pressure building in parts of society-especially households and businesses with debt funding needs-a growing base of retirees are embracing higher interest rates.

This contrasts with the original consensus that higher interest rates would tip the economy into recession, knocking indebted companies with no profits out and taking the markets down with it. If anything, the prospect of peak interest rates has supported markets. coupled with a new wave of excitement regarding artificial intelligence.

#### Market Performance (%): Quarter



-SPDR® Blmbg 1-3 Mth T-Bill ETF

- iShares Core Global Aggt Bd ETF USD HAcc

Market Performance (%): 3 Year Time Period: 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2023



-SPDR® Blmbg 1-3 Mth T-Bill ETF

- iShares Core Global Aggt Bd ETF USD HAcc

Source: Morningstar Direct. The performance data quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate; thus an investor's shares, when sold or redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The returns shown assume all dividends and capital gains distributions are reinvested and are net of the underlying holdings' fees and expenses. The Zurich TDF products launched on 03/07/2017.

# Portfolio & Performance Review

Performance Review

# Portfolio & Attribution Commentary

#### **Portfolio Commentary**

The hype surrounding artificial intelligence has been extraordinary, specifically regarding natural language processing tools such as ChatGPT. This is driving stocks that may stand to benefit from the unlocking of growth and disruption, as investors wrestle to understand the winners and losers. In part due to this, we witnessed unusually high concentration in a small number of companies dominating the index returns. The "magnificent seven" was a new term coined to celebrate the dominance of a selected few winners.

Resulting from the above, large U.S. growth stocks moved significantly higher, while smaller value stocks lagged. Financials, healthcare, and utilities have all struggled in this environment—but commercial real estate has been the real sore point, with vacancy rates rising and debt issues festering. Yet, for all the talk about stocks, it is defensive assets that have seen the biggest fundamental shift—and higher than usual volatility.

Bonds delivered mixed results in the second quarter, again heavily influenced by changes in rates and inflation. The banking turmoil didn't roll over into other industries or markets— as feared—creating a tailwind for riskier bonds like corporate high yield. Shorter-dated bonds also held up better than longer-dated bonds.

Investors have clearly moved away from a TINA mentality (there is no alternative) to a TARA mindset (there are reasonable alternatives) with major shifts in the investing landscape.

Among currencies, the big story has been Japanese yen weakness, with relatively low interest rates and inflation persisting in the region. Other major currencies like the US dollar saw only modest movements for the quarter.

#### **Attribution Commentary**

Performance was positive over the quarter, with positive contributions from the Cash and Equity positioning.

Within Equities, US Equities were amongst the biggest contributors to returns as they benefitted from the strong Growth performance over the quarter. Japan also contributed positively to portfolio returns on the back of strong performance and a relative overweight

#### position.

Within Fixed Income, the exposure to Emerging Market Local Currency Bonds contributed positively to returns on the back of strong Asset Class performance. On the hand, US government bonds came under pressure and slightly detracted from performance whilst Global Credits were broadly flat.

## Zurich TDF 2025

### Performance Review



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# Portfolio Positioning & Outlook

#### **Recent Changes**

There were no portfolio changes over the quarter.

#### **Positioning Update and Outlook**

Given the recent gains, it is healthy to question the likelihood of continued strength. Is it time to batten down the hatches or raise the sail? Markets go up and down, usually supported by the fundamentals of higher profits and economic prosperity beneath them.

Yet, we live in a world of continued uncertainty. Many market commentators are saying this rally marks the start of a new bull market and investors should jump into equities to ride this wave. But others argue it's a bear market rally and investors should get out of stocks while the getting is good.

In our view, the question for investors isn't whether to raise the sails and ride the tailwind of a new bull market, or to batten down the hatches in preparation for a near-term squall, but rather how to best position their portfolios based on today's valuations.

As an investor rather than an economist, and opting for true diversification, we still see merit in multi-asset investing today, with a few selected areas particularly interesting. These are expressed in the portfolios we manage, with sizing and access dependent on the mandate served.

From a positioning standpoint, our allocation remains balanced across the different regions from an Equity perspective. We continue to favour markets that offer better value and offer diversification benefits, such as Japan, the UK, or the Global Healthcare sector.

From a Fixed Income perspective, the portfolio has meaningful exposure to global bonds, with a preference for the US curve. The Fixed income allocation is broadly diversified with significant exposure to more defensive assets such as governments bonds combined with exposures to both investment grade, high yield, and Emerging Markets debt.

### Zurich TDF 2025

Zurich TDF 2025 - Holdings								
Portfolio Date: 30/06/2023								
	Portfolio Weighting %	Morningstar Analyst Rating	3 Mth Rtn to Qtr End (%)	YTD Rtn to Qtr End (%)	1 Yr Rtn to Qtr End (%)			
Vanguard U.S. Govt Bd Idx \$ Acc	19.50		-1.38	1.71	-2.18			
Stt Strt Glbl Trs Bd Idx I USD Acc Hdg	13.70		-0.06	2.97	-0.20			
PIMCO GIS GlinGd Crdt Instl USD Acc	12.80		0.05	3.44	2.67			
iShares US Index (IE) Instl Acc USD	9.10		8.69	16.42	19.19			
Vanguard U.S. 500 Stk Idx \$ Acc	8.40		8.59	16.56	18.90			
iShares US Corp Bd Idx (IE) Instl AccUSD	5.60		-0.49	2.55	1.29			
iShares EmergMkts Idx (IE) Instl Acc USD	5.20		0.56	4.51	0.88			
PIMCO GIS Glb Lw Dur RI Rt Ins USD Acc	4.60		-0.58	1.27	0.67			
Colchester Lcl Mkts Bd \$ Unhgd Accl	3.60		5.90	12.70	19.81			
Vanguard European Stock Idx USD Acc	3.30		2.98	13.90	22.20			
Fundsmith Equity I Acc	3.00		4.36	14.69	19.15			
Vanguard Global S/T Bd Idx USD H Acc	2.60		-0.16	1.64	0.70			
Vanguard Jpn Stk Idx \$ Acc	2.60		6.38	12.95	17.98			
HSBC GIF Euro High Yield Bond ICHUSD	2.00		0.56	1.46	7.57			
ILF USD Liquidity 4	2.00		1.21	2.30	3.67			
iShares UK Index (IE) Instl Acc GBP	2.00		2.14	7.45	13.05			

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## Zurich TDF 2025

### Asset Class Attribution

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### Asset Allocation Attribution

Allocation Effect: (%) : Quarter Allocation Effect: (%) : 1 Year									
Time Period: 01/04/2023 to 30/06/2023			Time Period: 01/07/2022 to 30	Time Period: 01/07/2022 to 30/06/2023					
Europe Large-Cap Blend Equity	I		Europe Large-Cap Blend Equity						
Global Bond - USD Hedged			Global Bond - USD Hedged						
Global Corporate Bond - USD Hedged			Global Corporate Bond - USD He	dged					
			Global Emerging Markets Bond -	Local Currency					
Global Emerging Markets Bond - Local Currency			Global Emerging Markets Equity						
Global Emerging Markets Equity			Global Flexible Bond - USD Hedg	jed					
Global Inflation-Linked Bond - USD Hedged			Global High Yield Bond						
Global Large-Cap Growth Equity			Global Inflation-Linked Bond - US	D Hedged					
			Global Large-Cap Growth Equity						
Japan Large-Cap Equity			Japan Large-Cap Equity						
Other Bond			Other Bond						
UK Large-Cap Equity			Sector Equity Healthcare						
Ultrashort Bond			UK Large-Cap Equity						
US Large-Cap Blend Equity		i.	Ultrashort Bond						
			US Large-Cap Blend Equity						
USD Corporate Bond			USD Corporate Bond						
USD Government Bond			USD Government Bond						
USD Money Market - Short Term			USD Money Market - Short Term						
-0.8	0.0	0.8	1.5	-2.0	0.0	2.0	4.0		

### Asset Allocation Attribution

Allocation Effect: (%) : 3 Year     Time Period: 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2023			Allocation Effect: (%) : Since Inception   Time Period: 03/07/2017 to 30/06/2023					
Global Bond - USD Hedged				Europe Large-Cap Blend Equity				
Global Corporate Bond - USD Hedged				Global Bond				
Global Emerging Markets Bond				Global Bond - USD Hedged			*	
				Global Corporate Bond - USD Hedged				
Global Emerging Markets Bond - Local Currency				Global Emerging Markets Bond				
Global Emerging Markets Equity				Global Emerging Markets Bond - Local Current	су			
Global Flexible Bond - USD Hedged				Global Emerging Markets Equity				
Global High Yield Bond				Global Flexible Bond - USD Hedged				
Global Inflation-Linked Bond - USD Hedged				Global High Yield Bond				
Global Large-Cap Growth Equity				Global Inflation-Linked Bond - USD Hedged				
				Global Large-Cap Growth Equity				
Japan Large-Cap Equity				Japan Large-Cap Equity				
Other Bond				Other Bond				
Other Equity				Other Equity				
Sector Equity Healthcare				Sector Equity Healthcare				
UK Large-Cap Equity				UK Large-Cap Equity				
Ultrashort Bond				Ultrashort Bond				
US Large-Cap Blend Equity				US Large-Cap Blend Equity			-	
				US Mid-Cap Equity				
USD Corporate Bond				USD Corporate Bond				
USD Government Bond				USD Government Bond				
USD Money Market - Short Term				USD Money Market - Short Term				
-	5.0 0.0	5.0	10.0		-5.0	0.0	5.0	10.0

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