Quarterly Board Report

Zurich Target Date Funds



Zurich TDF 2025

Market Commentary

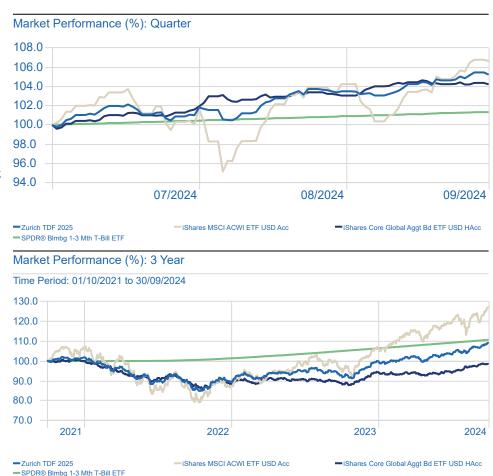
Market Commentary:

The third quarter of 2024 was a positive one, as both stocks and bonds delivered strong returns, defying the expectations of many investors. Major equity Indexes continued their ascent, while bonds—measured by the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index—had their second-best quarterly return in over two decades.

As a result, multi-asset portfolios are comfortably in positive territory for the year.

Specific to stocks, signs of broader participation are emerging. It's well known that a few stocks have driven most of the returns in recent years, but the third quarter marked a break from that trend. Value stocks outperformed Growth stocks, Small Caps outpaced Large Caps, and non-U.S. stocks outperformed US stocks. From a sector perspective, Utilities, Financials, and Industrials were among the top four performing sectors, while Technology landed in the middle of the pack.

All of this was a welcome change for diversified, valuation-driven investors and will be interesting to monitor going forward.



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

Portfolio & Attribution Commentary

Portfolio Commentary

Within Equities, strength in non-US stocks was a major development this quarter. The broad MSCI EAFE Index gained 7.3%, ahead of the S&P 500's 5.9% return. Emerging Markets performed even better, advancing 8.7% in dollar terms. China, the largest component of the Index, soared by 23.5% during the quarter, with most of this gain occurring in the quarter's final days following the announcement of stimulus measures by the Chinese government. Chinese Equities represent an intriguing case study, illustrating how owning undervalued asset classes can be advantageous, as it often takes just a single catalyst—like government support—to unlock substantial value.

The Bond market has been a challenging asset class in recent years. Rising rates from low starting yields had been a difficult tandem to overcome. But the good news? It appears the worst may be behind us. Apart from the fourth quarter of last year, when the US Aggregate Bond Index returned 6.8%, this quarter's 5.2% return marks the best quarterly performance since 1995. These strong returns were broadly distributed as Emerging-Market Bonds and US High-Yield Bonds both experienced robust quarters, increasing by 6.1% and 5.3%, respectively.

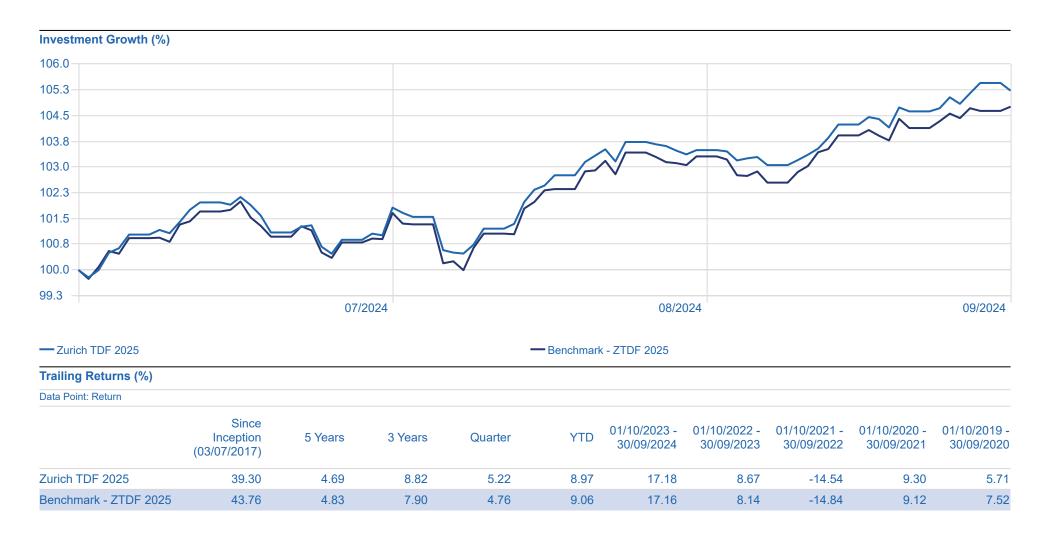
The most significant story in the bond market has likely been the actions taken by the Federal Reserve. The third quarter saw the first Fed rate cut in more than four years. The cut was widely expected, and markets have reacted positively so far, as all indications suggest further Fed easing through year-end and into 2025. However, it's important to remember that markets are discounting mechanisms—constantly attempting to price in future events—and we can never be certain about what lies ahead. The event roadmap through year-end is significant: a presidential election, war, and mounting signs of financial strain among lower-income consumers, which could potentially signal a further consumer spending slowdown.

Attribution Commentary

Portfolio returns were pleasing over the quarter, with Bonds being a key contributor to performance.

Within Fixed Income, long duration assets continued to outperform, particularly US and Global Treasuries, where the portfolios have and continue to hold modest overweight positions. EM Local Currency Debt also had strong returns over the quarter, a reversal from the underperformance in the previous quarter.

Within Equities, the portfolios meaningfully benefitted from the long-standing overweight position to Emerging Market Equities as the asset class comfortably outperformed the broad US Equity market. Allocations to European, Japanese and UK Equities also added to performance and there were no detractors to performance over the period.



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Portfolio Positioning & Outlook

Positioning Update and Outlook

It's important to remember that markets are discounting mechanisms—constantly attempting to price in future events—and we can never be certain about what lies ahead. The event roadmap through year-end is significant: a presidential election, war, and mounting signs of financial strain among lower-income consumers, which could potentially signal a further consumer spending slowdown.

Of course, while many risks lie ahead, this is always the case because the future is unknowable. The issues outlined above represent the known factors currently under consideration. There is always the possibility of an unforeseen event—a black swan—that no one predicts in advance.

Regardless, a diversified, valuation-driven approach likely remains the most effective way to navigate looming uncertainties.

We conducted the annual review of the glidepaths and there were no changes to the targets, however, we took the opportunity to also review the asset allocation and investment selection of the portfolios. Whilst there were no changes at the broad asset class level, we reduced the allocations to US Corporate Bonds and exited the positions in UK Corporate Bonds and European High Yield Bonds on the back of strong performance. We also introduced a position to iShares Emerging Markets Government Bond Index Fund to reflect our constructive view on Emerging Markets Hard Currency Bonds.

Zurich TDF 2025 - Holdings Portfolio Date: 30/09/2024					
Vanguard U.S. Govt Bd Idx \$ Acc	24.50	Silver	4.71	3.87	9.60
PIMCO GIS GlInGd Crdt Instl USD Acc	13.70	Bronze	4.92	5.85	13.79
Stt Strt Glbl Trs Bd ldx I USD Acc Hdg	13.70	Bronze	3.89	3.56	9.13
iShares US Index (IE) Instl Acc USD	9.10	₹ Silver	5.63	20.91	35.33
Vanguard U.S. 500 Stk Idx \$ Acc	7.30	▼ Gold	5.76	21.62	35.63
iShares EmergMkts ldx (IE) Instl Acc USD	4.90	Bronze	8.45	16.46	26.39
Vanguard Glb Bd Idx \$ H Acc	4.60	Bronze	4.51	4.05	10.78
PIMCO GIS Glb Lw Dur RI Rt Ins USD Acc	4.50	Bronze	2.59	5.07	8.21
Fundsmith Equity I Acc	3.30	₹ Silver	4.00	12.78	24.27
Colchester Lcl Mkts Bd \$ Unhgd Accl	3.00	Bronze	9.40	3.49	13.47
iShares UK Index (IE) Instl Acc GBP	2.50	₹ Silver	7.89	15.41	23.13
Vanguard Jpn Stk ldx \$ Acc	2.50	₹ Silver	5.69	12.22	21.37
Vanguard €z Stk ldx € Acc	2.30	₩ Gold	7.33	13.29	27.42
iShares US Corp Bd Idx (IE) Instl AccUSD	1.80	₹ Silver	5.76	5.23	13.56
ILF USD Liquidity 4	1.20		1.31	4.01	5.38
iShares Em Mkts Govt Bd Idx (LU) A2 USD	1.10	Bronze	5.82	8.35	18.41

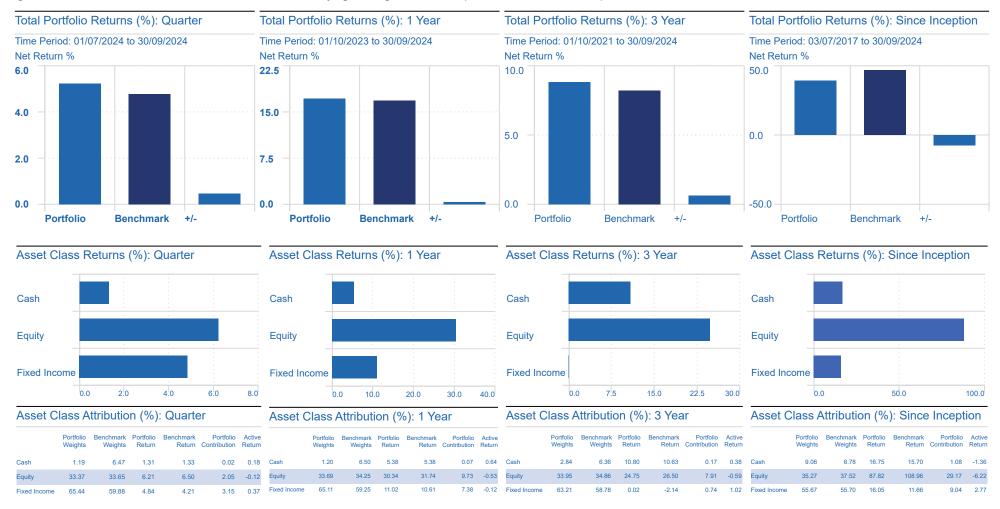
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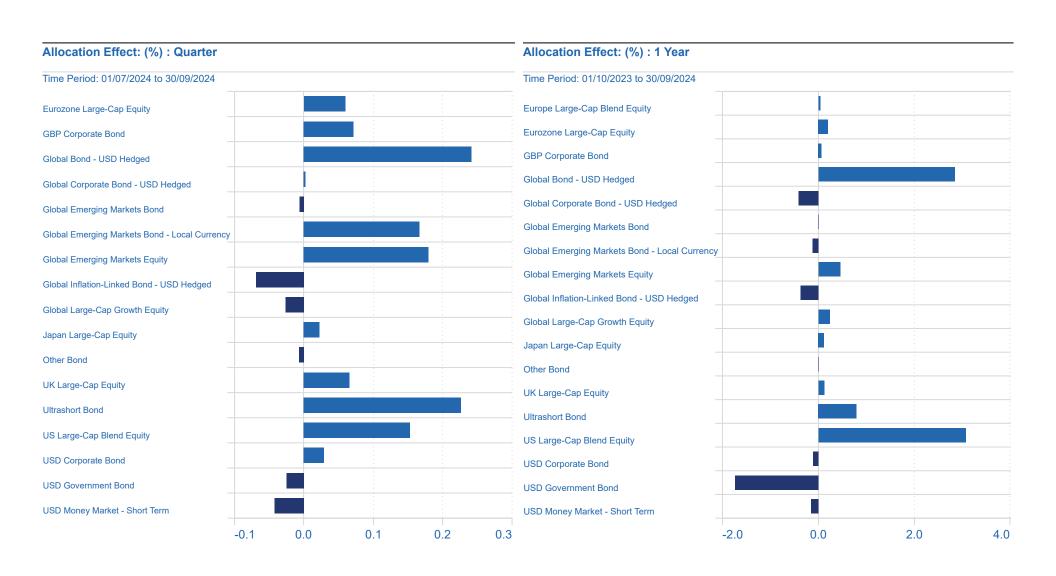
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Asset Class Attribution

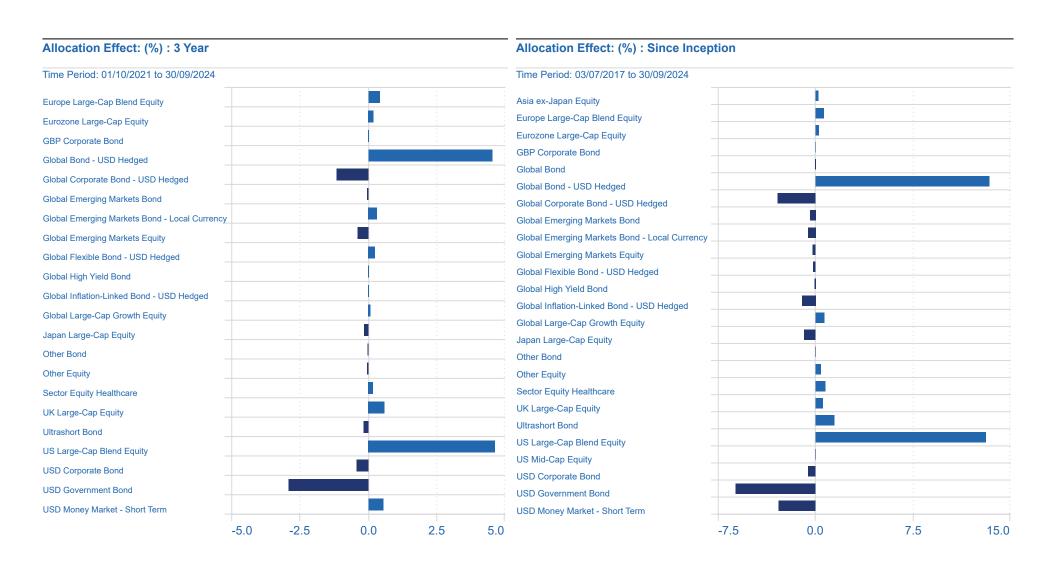
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Asset Allocation Attribution



Asset Allocation Attribution



Zurich TDF 2025

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