THORNTONS
INVESTMENTS

Thorntons Progressive
Investor Factsheet Q2 2024

Investment Objectives

The Thorntons Progressive model portfolio aims to provide a medium to high risk investment that generates capital growth and some income over a five-year investment period. Typically the majority of the portfolio will be invested in international and UK equities with the balance spread across property, alternative assets and corporate bonds. The model is invested across a portfolio of funds and exchange traded instruments.

Five-year annualised volatility target of 10.5 to 12.6

Key Facts

Historic Model Yield	2.5%
Five Year Monthly Volatility	11.4
Estimated OCF of model	0.48%
Investment fee	0.2% (VAT Exempt)
Comparison Benchmark	IA Mixed Investment 40-85% Shares

Data sourced from Financial Express as at 30 June 2024

Date of Inception 31 December 2014

Managers

Matt Strachan BSc (Hons) Econ, ACSI
Matt is the CIO at Thorntons Investments and has over 30 years of international investment management experience, including managing an OBSR rated N American fund.

Ciaran Garvey BSc Econ & Fin, MSc Fin, FCSI
Ciaran is an investment manager at Thorntons Investments, he has over 10 years industry experience after graduating from University College Dublin and Heriot Watt University.

Performance from Inception

Progressive Model Total Return 31/12/14 -30/06/2024

A - *Thorntons Progressive Portfolio*
B - *IA Mixed Investment 40-85% Shares*

31/12/14 - 30/06/24
Data from FE fundinfo

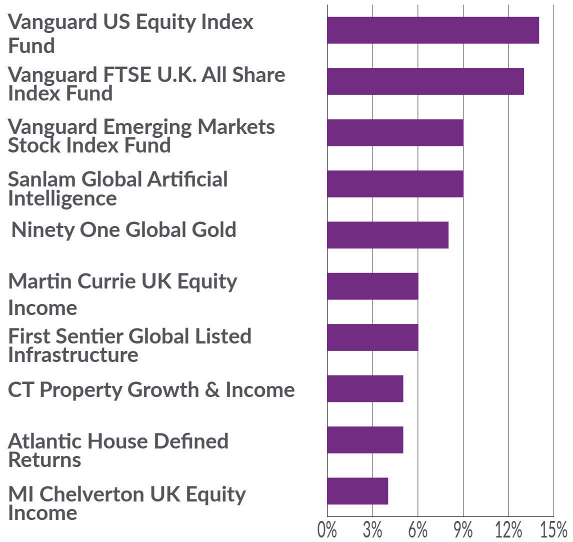
Performance - Cumulative	Q2	YTD	1 year	3 years	5 years	Incept
Thorntons Progressive Model Portfolio	2.8%	7.5%	14.2%	10.9%	29.7%	72.0%
IA Mixed Investment 40-85% Shares Sector	1.7%	5.9%	11.8%	7.2%	25.6%	66.7%

Discrete Calendar Year	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Thorntons Progressive Model Portfolio	9.8%	-9.6%	10.7%	4.8%	15.4%
IA Mixed Investment 40-85% Shares Sector	8.1%	-10.0%	10.9%	5.3%	15.8%

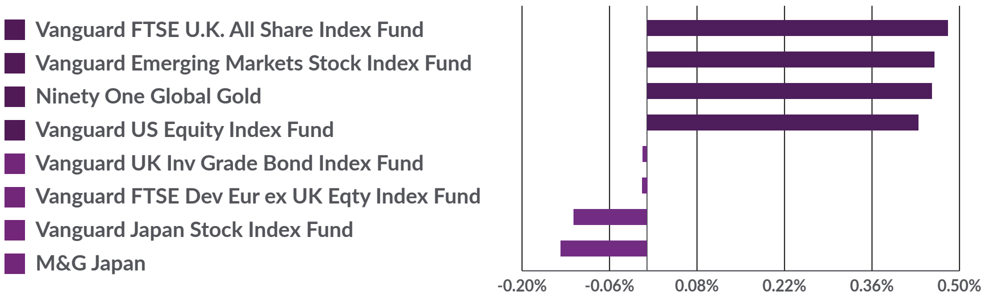
Industry Allocation

- 45.0% - International Equities
- 23.0% - UK Equities
- 19.0% - Other
- 6.0% - Bonds
- 5.0% - Property
- 2.0% - Cash

Top Ten Holdings



Top And Bottom Contributors To Performance Q2 2024



Platform Availability

abrdn, Fidelity International, M&G wealth, nucleus, Scottish Widows, transact take control, Quilter, wealthtime, 7IM

Market Commentary

At the halfway point of 2024, financial markets have generally been in a positive mood. A number of markets and assets have made new all-time highs, including the UK stock market, after lagging behind other developed markets. A couple of Western central banks have cut interest rates and the Bank of England looks odds on to cut at the start of August. Inflation in goods has declined significantly, although service inflation remains stubborn, and after a shallow recession across much of Europe economic activity is slowly recovering. Whilst Labour's election win came as no surprise, some of the European election results have caused a degree of upset, most notably in France, whilst Biden's shaky start to US campaigning has caused a lot of consternation. This has left the UK looking surprisingly calm and stable in comparison, helping to boost sterling, the strongest major currency over the quarter.

Meanwhile concern that political rhetoric could spill over into widening fiscal deficits, after the IMF had already warned about levels of indebtedness, has caused longer term sovereign debt to sell off to a degree. UK gilts followed suit and returned -2.4% over the quarter. Corporate bonds held up much better, with credit spreads shrinking as the economic outlook improved. Property which is heavily influenced by the cost of debt, also held up better with a positive return of 1.2% over the quarter, mostly reflecting rental income. Surprisingly, though, gold rallied another 5%, making a new all-time high, in spite of high interest rates and bond yields, which normally depress gold. Its classic use as a hedge against geopolitical risk, look to be at play.

UK equities were one of the better performing stock markets over the quarter, returning 2.6%, with a growing level of takeover interest reflecting both the relative value of UK companies and relative political stability offered. The US stock market continued to make new highs, returning nearly 4% in sterling terms, but with performance heavily concentrated in a handful of stocks linked to Artificial Intelligence. Sterling strength curbed returns, most notably from other overseas markets, where Europe and Japan eased back from record highs and returned -4.4% and -4.6% respectively. Emerging markets had another good quarter, returning roughly 5%, as improving economic sentiment in China and Latin America was allied to the re-election of the market friendly Indian Prime Minister Modi. Lastly hopes of a better economic outlook boosted the commodities index 1.2%, with oil and copper notably higher.

The exceptional returns from US equities, over the last decade and more, in part reflect a number of exceptional advantages (huge capital markets, resource independence, productivity growth), but also a substantial increase in valuations. As political interest swings west, to the land of the free, any political upset might threaten the valuation premium. We have grown used to geopolitical turmoil and sadly to conflict. A quiet summer is probably welcomed by many (in fact a summer might be nice), but beyond that with an interest rate cut in the offing and enough confidence for investment decisions to be made, UK equities are looking one of the more attractive options.

Portfolio Commentary Q2 2024

The second quarter of 2024 saw the Progressive portfolio make further gains, returning +2.8%. For the first time in a number of years UK equity exposure provided the most positive contribution, with Chelverton UK Equity Income the best performing fund, +7.4%, and Vanguard FTSE UK All Share Index Fund +3.7% and Martin Currie UK Equity Income +3.8%. There was also a welcome positive return from Emerging Markets, with Vanguard Emerging Markets Stock Index +5.1% and Stewart Investors Asia Pacific Leaders +5.9%. The Ninety One Global gold fund, +5.7%, was another good performer as it closed some of the discount that miners had dropped to against the gold price. US equity also performed well with Vanguard US Equity Income +3.1% and Sanlam Global Artificial Intelligence +4.5%, with its large investment in US AI stocks.

Last quarter's star performer Japan, pulled back from its record high and combined with a weak yen to produce negative returns of -4.6%, from M&G Japan and -3.9%, from Vanguard Japan Stock Index. There were also some small negative returns, -0.2%, from Vanguard FTSE Developed Europe ex-UK Equity Index Fund, as political uncertainty hurt some markets, and -0.2% from Vanguard UK Investment Grade Bond Index, as bond markets sold off.

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