



THORNTONS INVESTMENTS

Investment Objectives

The Thorntons Cautious model portfolio aims to provide a low risk investment that preserves capital value and generates a sustainable return greater than that achieved from a deposit account over a five-year period. Typically the majority of the portfolio will be invested in bonds and alternative assets, with a smaller allocation to equities and property. The model is invested across a portfolio of funds and exchange traded instruments.

Target five-year annualised volatility of 4.2 to 6.3

Key Facts

Historic Model Yield	3.6%
Five Year Monthly Volatility	8.2
Estimated OCF of model	0.47%
Investment fee	0.2% (VAT Exempt)
Comparison Benchmark	IA Targeted Absolute Return

Data sourced from Financial Express as at 30 September 2024

Date of Inception 31 December 2014

Managers

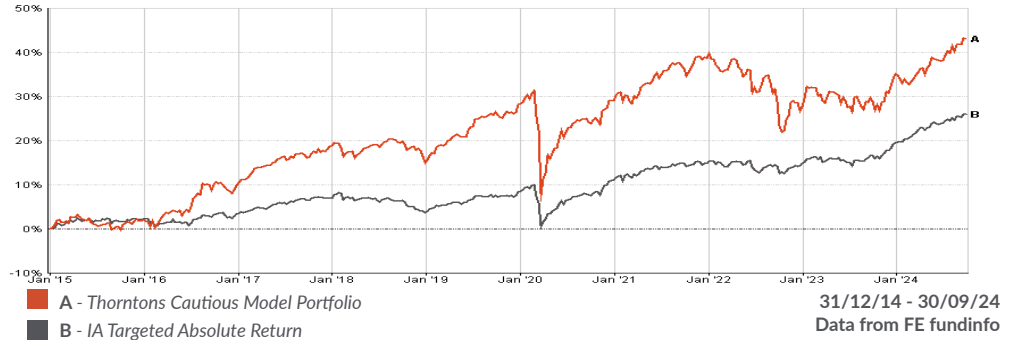
Matt Strachan BSc (Hons) Econ, ACSI
Matt is the CIO at Thorntons Investments and has over 30 years of international investment management experience, including managing an OBSR rated N American fund.

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.

Thorntons Cautious Investor Factsheet Q3 2024

Performance from Inception

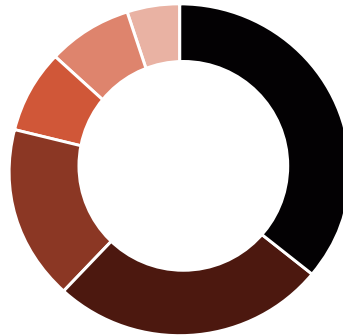
Cautious Model Total Return 31/12/14 -30/09/2024



Performance - Cumulative	Q3	YTD	1 year	3 years	5 years	Incept
Thorntons Cautious Model Portfolio	3.4%	5.6%	11.5%	5.6%	13.1%	43.1%
IA Targeted Absolute Return Sector	1.6%	5.2%	8.3%	10.1%	17.3%	26.1%

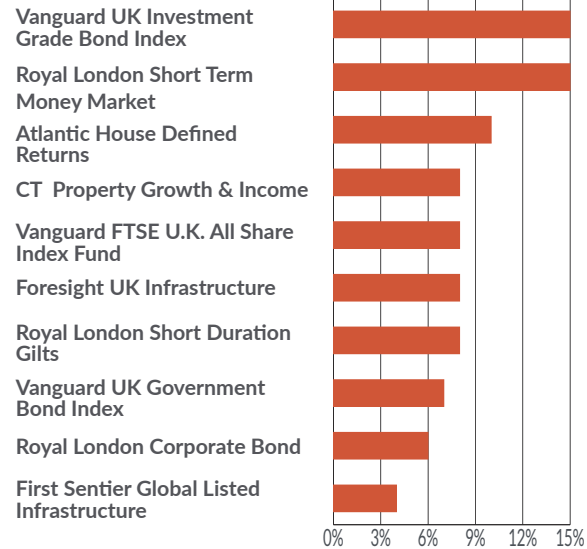
Discrete Calendar Year	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Thorntons Cautious Model Portfolio	5.9%	-8.4%	7.6%	1.1%	11.2%
IA Targeted Absolute Return Sector	4.3%	-0.4%	3.5%	2.6%	4.4%

Industry Allocation

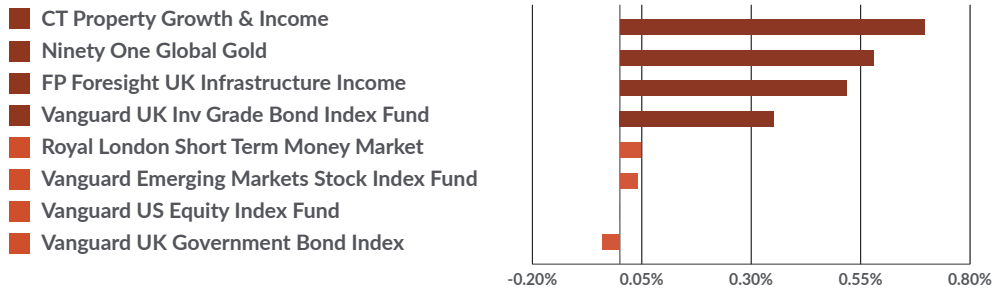


- 36.0% - Bonds
- 26.0% - Other
- 17.0% - Cash
- 8.0% - Property
- 8.0% - UK Equities
- 5.0% - International Equities

Top Ten Holdings



Top And Bottom Contributors To Performance Q3 2024



Platform Availability



Market Commentary

Although there have been plenty of developments to distract and concern, including a sharp drop in equity markets at the start of August, financial markets generally took a glass-half-full view on prospects over the quarter. Much of the positive side of the ledger has focused on central bank implementation of interest rate cuts across much of the world, including here in the UK and most importantly in the US. Inflation reports have been drifting down and heading in the right direction towards targeted levels.

Although other economic data prints have been uninspiring (weak in Europe), there has been enough activity to encourage the view that recession can be avoided and the fabled 'soft-landing' achieved. Bonds responded well to falling inflation and interest rate cuts, with UK gilts returning 2.3% over the quarter.

UK stocks returned 1.3%, despite sterling strengthening by nearly 3% over the quarter; sterling strength is normally seen as a drag on overseas earnings for UK companies. The strength of sterling clipped the returns from other stock markets, making US equities slightly negative, despite a positive return in dollar terms. There were two notable events for stock markets during the quarter, the first a 'flash crash' in Japanese equities at the start of August, when the market plunged more than 12%, in one day, following a rapid strengthening of the yen after the Bank of Japan made a long-awaited increase in interest rates. Most of the fall was recovered the following day, but it highlighted that there is still a lot of leverage and stress across financial markets following the unprecedented period of quantitative easing. The second event came right at the end of the quarter, when Chinese stocks surged following a series of stimulus measures by the Peoples Bank of China and promise of government fiscal support.

As the world works its way through the record roster of general elections, Labour's win in the UK looks like one of the more stable. Indeed, Japan has just called a snap election for the end of October, to help ratify the authority of the new prime minister. The key election we now wait for is the US election on November 5th, where the two presidential candidates offer widely different policy outcomes. In the UK we have the new Labour government's first budget at the end of October, which is causing a degree of concern given the hairshirt political language in advance. Hopefully, there will be a sensible balance struck between spending and taxation, but the recent rise in long bond yields reflects worries that budget deficits will not be tackled, both here and abroad.

Industrial commodity prices were weak due to concerns about the health of the Chinese economy, in particular, but there have been some sharp rallies just after quarter end on hopes demand will be boosted by their promised stimulus. Oil was one of the weakest commodities over the quarter, as demand concern outweighed worries about intensifying hostilities in the Middle East. However, again there has been a price spike at the start of October, following the Iranian missile attack on Israel. Given the escalation of military action it is no surprise that gold was the best performing financial asset, +6.7% in sterling terms.

Portfolio Commentary Q3 2024

The Cautious portfolio made further gains, returning 3.4% over the third quarter, with most investments making a positive contribution. The star performer was Ninety One Global Gold, +14.8%, as the gold price moved higher on lower interest rates and heightened Middle East tensions. Also performing well was CT Property Growth & Income, +8.9%, as interest returned to the sector. The significant investment in the Vanguard UK Investment Grade Bond Index fund, +2.3%, was also one of the bigger contributors to performance. We sold other corporate bond investments, Royal London Sterling Extra Yield Bond fund and Royal London Ethical Bond fund, both +2% at time of sale, as well as L&G Cash Trust, +0.8%. Reinvestment was made in Royal London Short Duration Gilts and Vanguard UK Government Bond Index fund, which we expect to be bigger beneficiaries of further interest rate cuts.

The Vanguard UK Government Bond Index fund dipped 0.6% from purchase and was one of the two negative contributors to performance, the other being Vanguard US Equity Index fund, where sterling strength translated a positive stock market return into a very small negative. The benefit of diversity across the portfolio was reflected in the sharp turnaround and strength of performance in alternative asset class investments. Foresight UK Infrastructure Income +6.6% and First Sentier Global Listed Infrastructure +6.1%, attracted interest as beneficiaries of interest rate cuts.

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