

Managed Portfolio Service

# Passive MPS 2

As at 30 September 2025

**Market commentary:**

As summer arrived, markets started to become more relaxed about the trade war and political theatre in Washington. Instead, investors turned their attention back to fundamentals and the dominant AI theme. There was little change in the economic backdrop with respect to growth across most regions, however, greater concern arose in the US after a significant downward revision to payroll data and weakness through the summer months. Whilst the US dollar is weaker in 2025, it stabilised versus major peers during the quarter and made some ground back versus the pound.

The risks to inflation that we have been flagging for some time started to emerge in earnest in the UK, with inflation now expected to reach double the Bank of England target before year end. In the US, inflation pressures also arose, although there were signs that companies absorbed some price pressures through margins rather than passing them on to consumers amidst economic uncertainty.

Bond markets started to price in greater inflation uncertainty, with longer-dated bond yields moving higher throughout the quarter in many markets. Fiscal uncertainty also loomed over the UK and US bond markets, however, in the US this was counteracted by the Fed quickly responding to weaker employment statistics via a “risk management” rate cut in September. At a time of political pressure on the central bank, significant dispersion arose amongst the Fed’s voting members, with one suggesting interest rates should fall to below 3% by year end.

Back in the UK, inflation pressures similarly complicated the Bank of England’s path. Sticky price increases in core goods, housing, and services make calibration difficult. The UK yield curve steepened slightly as markets struggled to pin down the inflation and growth trade-off.

The leadership rotation in global equities gained traction again this quarter. While the US market continued to deliver gains and be powered by the AI theme, its returns stood amongst some other good performances. China stole the

show as AI technology continued to emerge and attract investors to the offshore market, where tech sector valuations are much lower than those seen in the US. Broader emerging markets also performed well. Strong returns from TSMC in Taiwan and a continued rally in Korea were however weighed down by weakness in Indian equities.

Europe and the UK also advanced, particularly large caps in the UK. However, returns fell short of other regions. In Japan, the equity market picked up after a hard-fought trade deal with the US and the reassertion of good company fundamentals, not least that they continue to undertake large-scale buybacks.

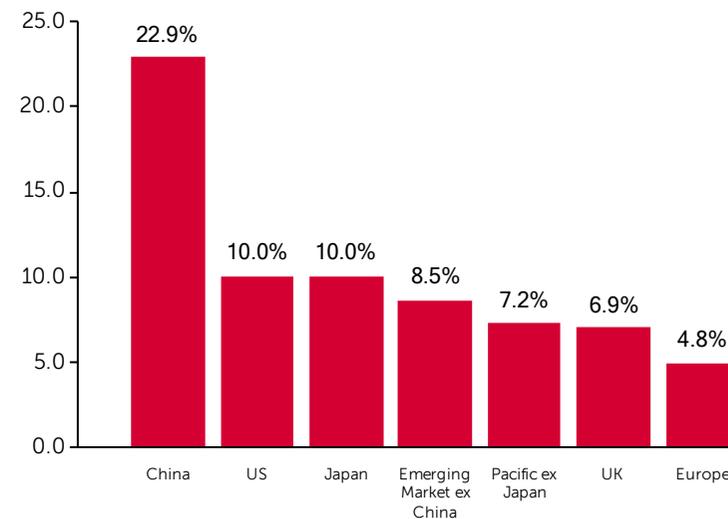
**Outlook**

The improving mood through the summer brings year-to-date returns in many equity markets into double-digit territory. However, the weaker dollar over the course of the year has eroded returns for UK investors significantly.

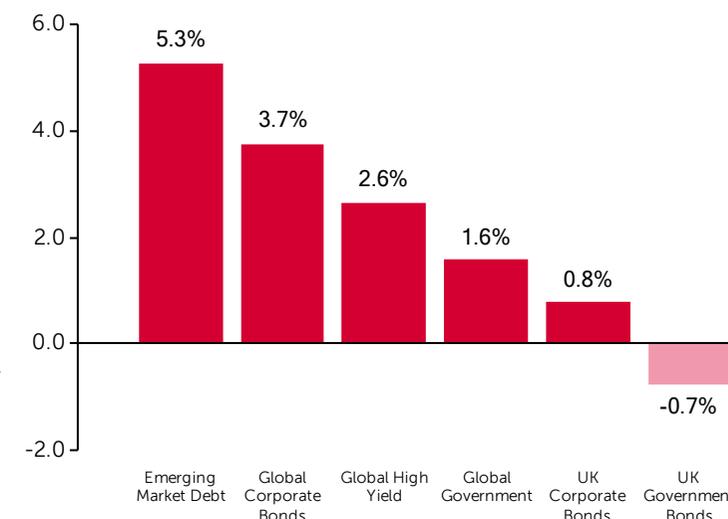
The contrast between the equity and bond markets is becoming interesting, particularly in the US where bond yields are increasingly displaying fears over the economic growth trajectory, whilst equities remain squarely focused on AI, the associated capex and signs of strong sentiment in M&A activity. Bond markets are often early to point out cracks in the economy that may worry equities later, however they can also cry wolf. Meanwhile, gilt investors in the UK have other issues to worry about, namely inflation and how it can be tamed without causing economic damage. Plenty of headlines regarding these problems stand between us and the end of the year, however, as we often see, they may just prove to be noise best avoided by those managing portfolios.

The value of investments can go down as well as up and your client may not get back their original investment. Past performance is not a guide to future performance and some investments need to be held for the long term.

**Equity performance - last quarter**



**Fixed income performance - last quarter**



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### Portfolio commentary

AJ Bell Passive MPS 2 has a 19% allocation to cash and equivalents. These holdings have benefitted from cash rates that remain over 4%, despite recent cuts by the Bank of England.

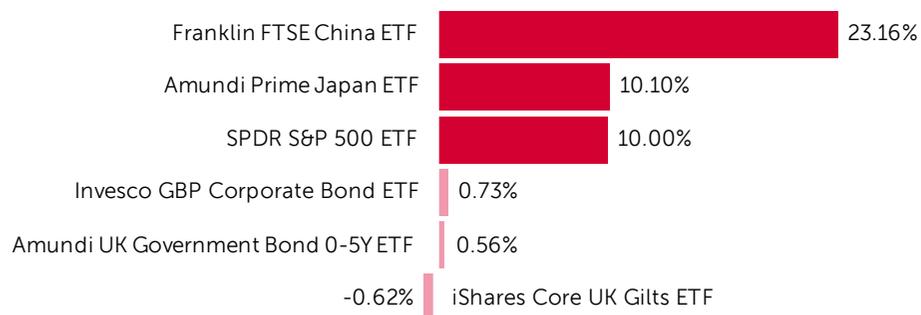
UK corporate bonds saw decent uplift as credit spreads tightened. Lingering fears over tariff-led inflation and a shift lower in the US yield curve helped the positioning towards US TIPS over the quarter.

Globally, emerging market debt had a good quarter as investors looked beyond developed market bonds due to fiscal uncertainty and challenges to institutional global high yield credibility. Global high yield bonds carried on their positive momentum, contributing to the portfolio performance.

UK equities were uplifted in Q3 predominantly due to contributions from the large cap companies, however, fears around fiscal policy and the next Budget still linger.

Overall, the AJ Bell Passive MPS 2 was up 5.14% over the quarter.

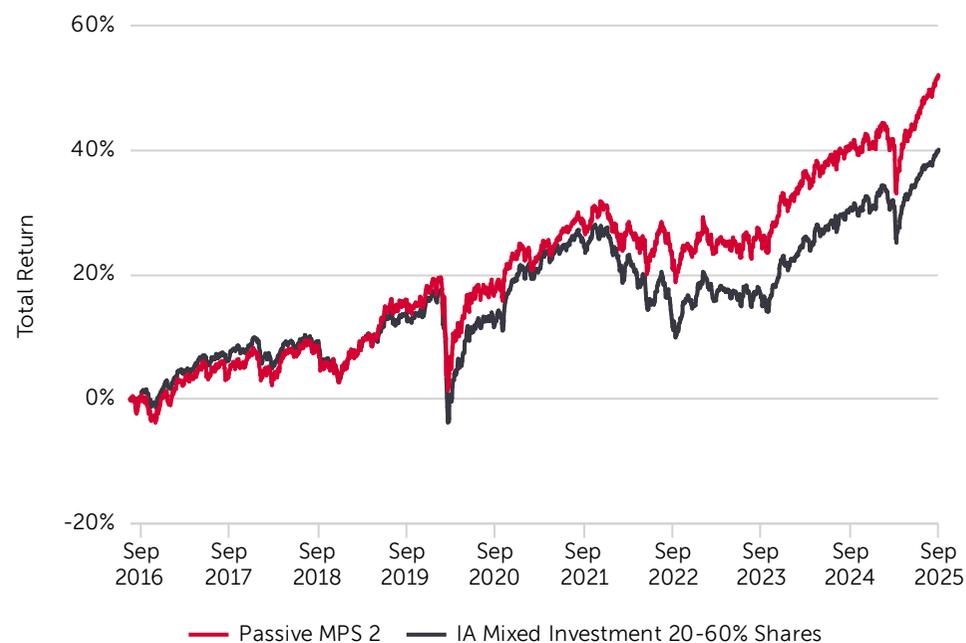
### Q3 2025 best/worst performers



### Performance

Cumulative (%)	3 months	6 months	1 year	3 years	5 years	Since inception
Passive MPS 2	5.14	8.48	8.44	25.55	29.57	51.94
IA Mixed Investment 20-60% Shares	3.83	7.10	7.36	25.50	24.67	40.09

The above table displays the total return of the fund on a cumulative basis. This is taken from the most recent month end.



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## Portfolio snapshot

Number of holdings	15
Inception date	18 Aug 2016
Underlying OCF	0.10%
Annual Investment Management Charge	0.15%
Indicative Total OCF	0.25%

## Top 10 holdings

Holding	Weight (%)
SPDR S&P 500 ETF	14.00
Invesco GBP Corporate Bond ETF	13.00
Amundi UK Equity All Cap ETF	12.00
iShares E Ultrashort Bond ETF	10.00
BlackRock Institutional Sterling Liquidity	7.00
Amundi MSCI Emerging Markets ex China ETF	6.00
State Street Emerging Markets Hard Currency Government Bond Index	6.00
Vanguard FTSE Developed Europe ex UK Equity Index Plus	6.00
Invesco Global High Yield Corporate Bond ESG Climate Transition UCITS ETF	5.00
Amundi Prime Japan ETF	4.00

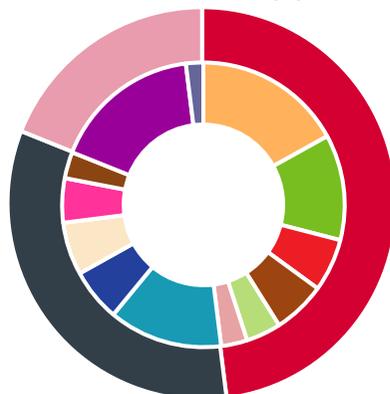
Lower risk ← Higher risk



Typically lower rewards

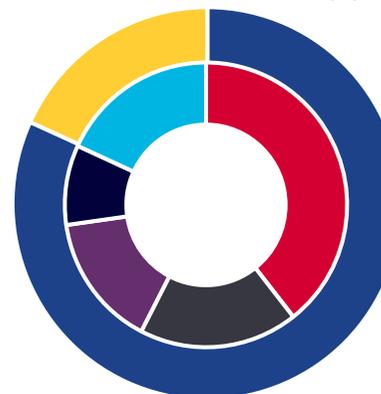
Typically higher rewards

Asset allocation (%)



<b>Equity</b>	<b>48.00</b>
North America equity	17.00
UK equity	12.00
Emerging markets ex-China equity	6.00
Europe ex-UK equity	6.00
Japan equity	4.00
China equity	3.00
<b>Fixed Income</b>	<b>33.00</b>
UK corporate bonds	13.00
Emerging market debt	6.00
UK government bonds	6.00
Global high yield bonds (GBP hedged)	5.00
International government bonds (GBP hedged)	3.00
<b>Cash</b>	<b>19.00</b>
Cash equivalent	17.00
Cash	2.00

Fixed income breakdown (%)



<b>GBP Bonds</b>	<b>81.82</b>
UK corporate bonds	39.39
UK government bonds	18.18
Global high yield bonds (GBP hedged)	15.15
International government bonds (GBP hedged)	9.09
<b>International Bonds</b>	<b>18.18</b>
Emerging market debt	18.18

Equity breakdown (%)



Sector	Weight (%)
Financial Services	18.90
Technology	18.52
Industrials	13.16
Consumer Cyclical	10.20
Healthcare	9.35
Consumer Defensive	7.93
Communication Services	7.35
Energy	4.79
Basic Materials	4.45
Utilities	3.20
Real Estate	2.14

Indicative Total Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF) is inclusive of the AJ Bell Investments Annual Management Charge (fee of 0.15%) and the ongoing charges of underlying investments. MPS transaction costs reflect the aggregated transaction costs reported by underlying products. In some instances products may deploy pricing mechanisms which can result in negative costs. Additional costs will be incurred while using the MPS. These include (where applicable) platform costs and dealing costs. Any charges payable to your financial adviser will apply in addition. Therefore, the actual performance of your portfolio might differ from the stated past performance. There is no set minimum investment into the MPS, however, the structure of the underlying investments means that the portfolios work more efficiently for investments above a certain size. For this MPS, this is around £25,000.

Due to its multi-asset nature, no financial instrument or index represents a fair benchmark for the portfolio. However, to give context and enable an objective assessment of the portfolio's performance, the IA Mixed Investment 20-60% Shares is included for reference. The portfolio does not aim to track the IA sector as a benchmark. Performance is calculated on a net of fees basis.

Performance reflects the headline model and includes the underlying costs of the holdings and the annual investment management charge. It does not include any transaction costs that would have been incurred through rebalancing or changing any underlying holdings. This model was launched on 18 Aug 2016. Cash performance is measured using the AJ Bell Investcentre platform interest rates.

Allocation and performance information contained in this document is representative of the standard Passive MPS 2 model held on AJ Bell Investcentre. The implementation of this model may vary when held via other platforms, for example, where access to certain share classes is restricted. This may lead to differences in allocation, performance and cost.

Based on target weights at portfolio rebalance. Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



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