

Investment objectives

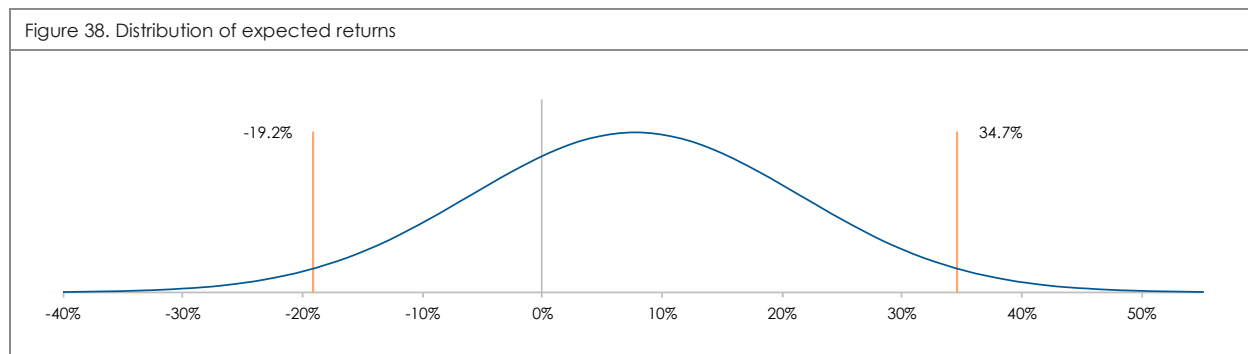
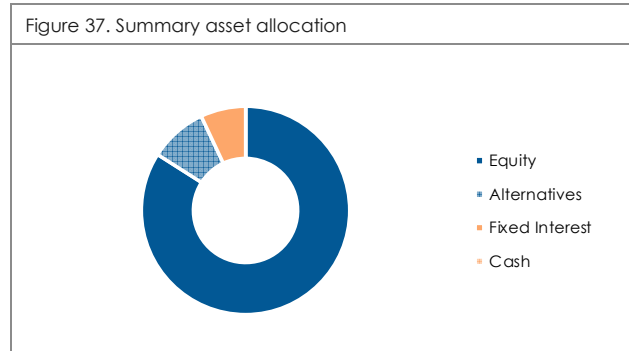
Our 'medium-term speculative' asset allocation model aims to maximise risk-adjusted returns over the longer-term using a diversified range of investments.

It comprises equity and 'alternatives' exposure in the region of 93% with the remaining 7% held in fixed interest and cash (see figure 37).

Potential risks and returns

Our analysis (see important information) suggests that we can reasonably expect an annualised nominal rate of return somewhere between 4.6% and 11.0% with a midpoint of 7.8%, before deduction of charges and tax liabilities, from a portfolio matched to this asset allocation. Assuming a rate of inflation equal to 3.0%, we could see an annualised 'real' midpoint rate of return of around 4.6%.

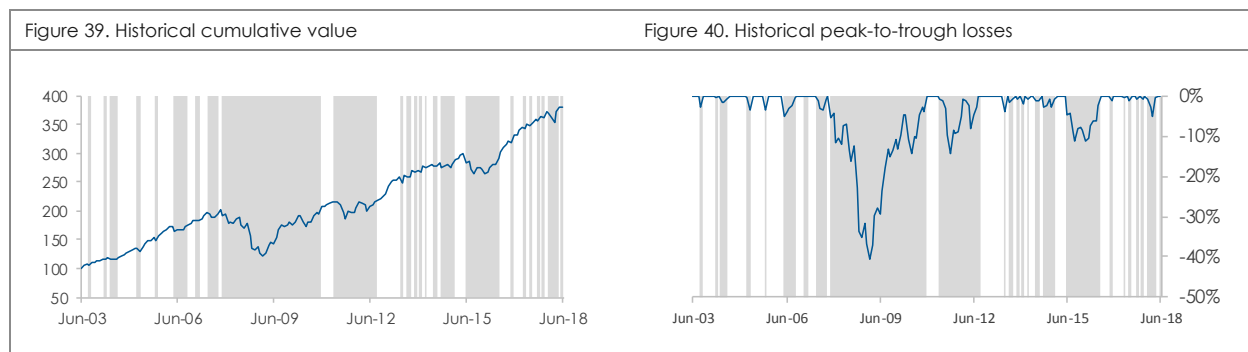
There is, of course, a great deal of uncertainty about these returns. For instance, we predict routine fluctuations in nominal values, in any one 12-month period, between -19.2% and +34.7% (see figure 38) with much greater potential for loss during unusually poor market conditions.



Indeed, looking back at performance over the last 15 years (June 2003 to June 2018, see figure 39), there was a period in the run up to Feb-2009 when a portfolio matched to this asset allocation experienced a maximum peak-to-trough loss of 49.9% (see figure 40).

There is no reason to believe that a loss of this magnitude, or greater, could not be repeated.

Note also, that the model has spent 37 consecutive months 'underwater' - that being the longest single period in the last decade that the portfolio has failed to gain in value.



Portfolio 10 (cont)

Cone of uncertainty

The table is intended to illustrate the wide range of possible future values, it provides ball-park estimates for the possible range of values for each £100 invested today at differing points in the future – at the 10, 15, 20 and 25 year horizon.

Description	10 years	15 years	20 years	25 years
Very High (95%)	431 or 15.7% p.a.	736 or 14.2% p.a.	1,224 or 13.3% p.a.	2,004 or 12.7% p.a.
High (75%)	283 or 11.0% p.a.	439 or 10.4% p.a.	674 or 10.0% p.a.	1,029 or 9.8% p.a.
Median (50%)	211 or 7.8% p.a.	307 or 7.8% p.a.	446 or 7.8% p.a.	647 or 7.8% p.a.
Low (25%)	157 or 4.6% p.a.	214 or 5.2% p.a.	294 or 5.5% p.a.	407 or 5.8% p.a.
Very Low (5%)	103 or 0.3% p.a.	128 or 1.6% p.a.	162 or 2.4% p.a.	209 or 3.0% p.a.

Detailed asset allocation

The target weights, below, represent an idealised position; there are good reasons why your portfolio might differ from time to time¹⁰.

Asset Class	Strategic asset allocation	Tactical asset allocation	Difference
UK Value Companies	13.00%	21.00%	+8.00%
UK Large Companies	8.00%	8.00%	No change
UK Mid Companies	13.00%	13.00%	No change
UK Smaller Companies	8.00%	8.00%	No change
US Equities	8.00%	10.00%	+2.00%
European Equities	8.00%	10.00%	+2.00%
Japanese Equities	8.00%	0.00%	-8.00%
Asia Pacific Equities	8.00%	10.00%	+2.00%
Emerging Market Equities	8.00%	4.00%	-4.00%
Medium-Term Gilts	4.00%	0.00%	-4.00%
Index-Linked Gilts	2.00%	2.00%	No change
IG Corporate Bonds	2.00%	2.00%	No change
Overseas Bonds	2.00%	3.00%	+1.00%
Property	0.00%	3.00%	+3.00%
Commodities	8.00%	6.00%	-2.00%

¹⁰ Legacy holdings, product constraints and potential cost or taxation implications all have an impact which must be weighed