

# **International Share Index**

Quarterly Investment Option Update

31 March 2024

## **Aim and Strategy**

The strategy aims to provide returns that closely match the MSCI World (ex-Australia, ex-Tobacco) Accumulation Index with net dividends reinvested before fees and taxes. This option is unhedged to Australian dollars. Exposure to the international shares asset class will be attained through the use of low cost index-focused investment managers.Note: unhedged strategy results in net performance being impacted (positively or negatively) by movements in the Australian dollar, relative to other currencies where the portfolio holds exposure.

## **Investment Option Performance**

To view the latest investment performances for this product, please visit <a href="https://www.amp.com.au/performance">www.amp.com.au/performance</a>

## **Investment Option Overview**

Investment category	Global Shares
Suggested minimum investment timeframe	7 years
Standard Risk Measure	7/Very High
Investment style	Index
Manager style	Single

Asset Allocation	Benchmark (%)
Global shares	100
Cash	0

Actual Allocation	%
Global Shares	97.67
Australian Shares	0.14
Property	2.24
Cash	-0.05
Sector Allocation	%
Information Technology	24.21
Financials	15.03
Health Care	12.09
Industrials	11.12
Consumer Discretionary	10.86
Communication Services	7.54
Consumer Staples	6.05
Energy	4.47
Materials	3.57
Utilities	2.46
Real Estate	2.22
Futures	0.44
Cash	-0.05
Top Holdings	%
Microsoft Corp	4.68
APPLE INC	3.97
NVIDIA Corp	3.52
Amazon.com Inc	2.64
Alphabet Inc	2.64
Meta Platforms Inc	1.70
Eli Lilly & Co	0.99
Broadcom Inc	0.93
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO	0.91
Berkshire Hathaway Inc	0.87

Region Allocation	%
North America	75.33
Europe ex UK	13.84
Japan	6.25
United Kingdom	3.73
Asia ex Japan	0.85
Australasia	0.06
Cash	-0.05

### **Fund Performance**

The Option posted a strong double-digit return during the March quarter, as global share markets continued to advance. Buoyed by resilient macroeconomic data, the broad-based rally in markets saw both growth and value stocks gain ground, with US shares leading the charge. Boosted by the positive performance in the last few quarters, the Option has continued to deliver healthy positive returns over the longer term, including over 1, 3 and 5 years, and since inception.

#### **Market Review**

The March quarter was another outstanding period for global shares, with many indices seeing new highs as major developed markets rose by over 10% in local currency terms. (Over 14% in Australian dollar terms, as the Australian dollar weakened). 'Goldilocks' like market conditions prevailed, particularly in the US, as traders bet on inflation continuing to fall and any near-term recessionary conditions to be mild. Oscillating sentiment around the path of US interest rates appeared to have little to no impact on global share markets, which rose steadily and despite significantly less rate cuts being priced in at quarter-end relative to the end of 2023. Interestingly, stock gains on a sector basis were more broadly based than recent prior quarters, where IT stocks have dominated. Emerging market shares also rose strongly, returning around 4.5% for the period, though significantly underperformed developed markets on the back of continued Chinese economic growth concerns. (All returns quoted in local currency terms and on a total-return basis, unless otherwise stated.)

#### Outlook

Interest rates have begun falling in some countries on the back of significantly decreased levels of inflation and low economic growth, particularly outside of the US. The corporate environment remains tough, though strong businesses, as always, will likely move forward with increased market dominance. We believe a diverse basket of businesses bought at reasonable prices, particularly those with strong competitive advantage that generate high amounts of cash from their shareholders' capital, will serve investors well over the long-term.

## **Availability**

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<sup>\*</sup>Closed to new investors

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