



Santander Multi Index Substance

2 / 2024

Fund commentary

Shares had a strong February, with company earnings and economic data releases driving most of the returns. The US, Japan, and Emerging Markets especially outperformed, whilst Europe still had positive returns. Bonds however struggled as yields spiked in the first week of the month. This was on the back of investors reducing their expectations of Central Bank interest rate cuts over 2024.

In terms of asset allocation, the portfolio went overweight shares by increasing exposure in Europe, the US and Japan. This is with the belief that the less aggressive rate cut expectation in the market more aligns with our view. Bonds in Europe and the US were sold to fund these share purchases, however we remain overweight in bonds overall. The portfolio also switched some shorter duration corporate bonds into longer duration corporate bonds, as the rise in yields during the month made it cheaper to buy these bonds that we believe will add value over the long-term.

Absolute performance over the month was slightly positive due to shares returns. The large bond allocation in this lower-risk portfolio detracted some of the returns this month, however the portfolio is positioned with the belief that yields will fall over the longer horizon so bonds will offer attractive returns in the future. The change in expectations of Central Bank rate cuts has allowed us to become more optimistic on shares.

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