

Quarterly Apex Preservation Conservative Update Q2 2026



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Purpose of this Update

This update provides an overview of how the portfolio has behaved over the period, viewed through a long-term, objective-led investment lens. It is intended to support understanding of portfolio behaviour over time rather than short-term market movements.

Goal

Preservation: Protect capital and limit losses, prioritising stability over maximum returns.

The Quarter in a snapshot

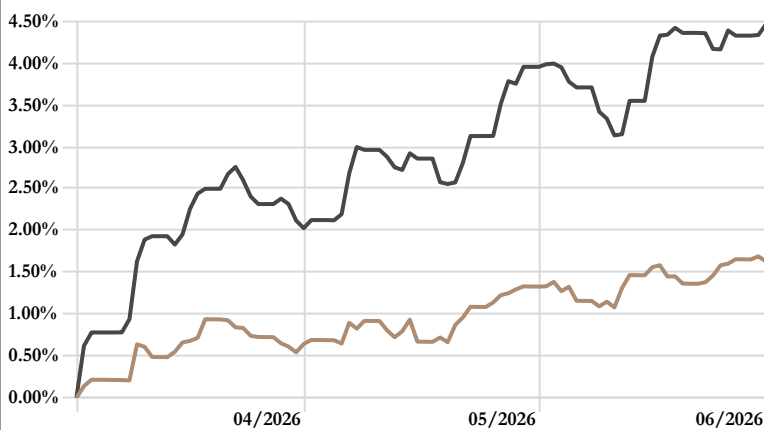
Markets demonstrated resilience despite heightened geopolitical volatility. Inflation is becoming broader based, especially in services, and demand is generally outstripping supply across large swathes of the global economy.

- Government bond yields rose modestly this quarter, but despite higher yields, fixed income delivered broadly positive returns, supported by income and resilient credit markets.
- Equity markets advanced over the quarter as investor confidence improved, with resilient economic data and optimism around corporate earnings.
- Crude oil recorded its largest quarterly decline since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Global currency markets were relatively stable overall in this quarter, with a stronger U.S. dollar.

Overall positioning of the model family

Preservation models are designed with the aim of seeking steady, more secure growth rather than chasing higher returns. Instead of trying to match or beat the benchmark, the focus is on trying to lower volatility and lessen losses during market falls, attempting to keep the value of the investment more stable over time.

Investment Growth - Quarter



—Apex Preservation Conservative

—IA Mixed Investment 0-35% Shares

Source: Morningstar Direct

Short-Term Perspective

This chart shows how the portfolio performed over the last three months.

Short periods like a single quarter can move around more because markets react quickly to news such as economic data, interest rate expectations and investor confidence. Because of this, quarter-by-quarter movements should not be viewed in isolation.

Instead, they should be seen as one small part of the longer investment journey. Short-term ups and downs are normal and do not necessarily indicate that the portfolio has deviated from its long-term objective or risk level.

Over this quarter, the portfolio yielded a positive return, but this was less than the benchmark given a much smaller equity allocation.

Returns - Quarter

01/04/2026 -
30/06/2026

Apex Preservation Conservative	1.63%
IA Mixed Investment 0-35% Shares	4.46%

Important note:

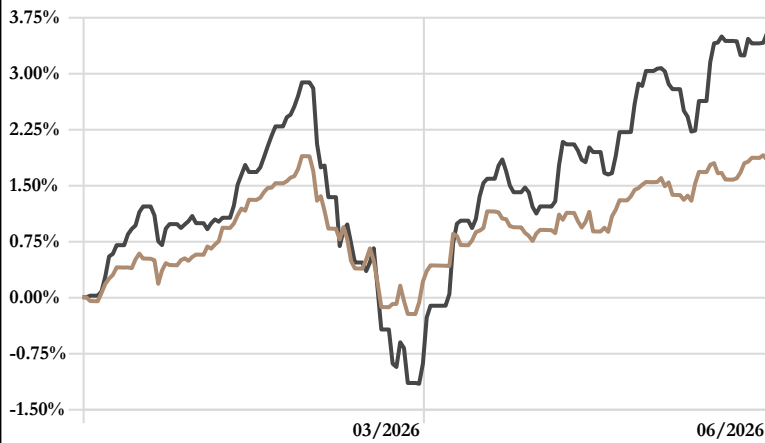
Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

Apex Preservation Conservative



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Investment Growth - 6 Months



—Apex Preservation Conservative —IA Mixed Investment 0-35% Shares

Source: Morningstar Direct

Returns - 6 Months

	01/01/2026 - 30/06/2026
Apex Preservation Conservative	1.84%
IA Mixed Investment 0-35% Shares	3.53%

Long-Term Perspective

This chart shows how the portfolio has grown since it first started.

Investment growth does not happen in a straight line. Market falls and recoveries are a normal part of long-term investing, and both can be seen in this chart.

The aim of showing performance since inception is to illustrate how a diversified portfolio may behave over the long term while seeking to remain within its intended level of risk. Over time, the objective is to protect capital and limit losses in line with the portfolio's risk profile, subject to acceptable levels of volatility and drawdown, which are noted further below.

Important note:

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

Medium-Term Perspective

This chart shows performance over the last six months, which helps link short-term market movements with longer term results.

Returns over this period reflect both what markets have been doing and the fact that the portfolio is spread across different types of investments. It's normal to see periods where returns rise and periods where they level off.

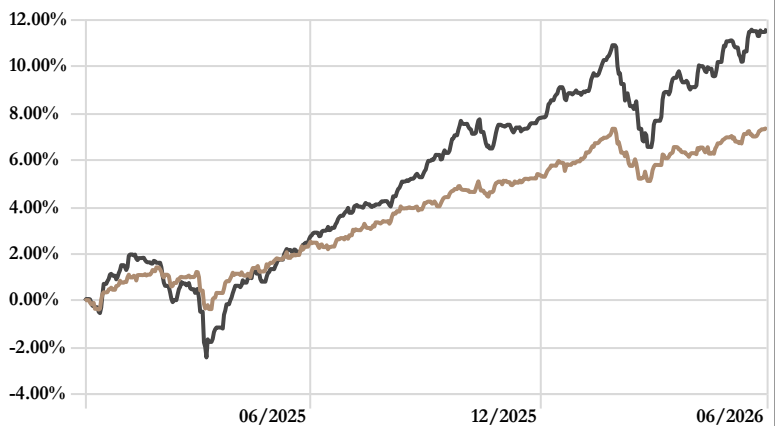
This view is intended to help show how returns build up over time, rather than to judge performance based on any single moment.

Overall, this remains a positive period for the portfolio.

Important note:

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

Investment Growth - Since Inception



—Apex Preservation Conservative —IA Mixed Investment 0-35% Shares

Source: Morningstar Direct

Returns - Since Inception

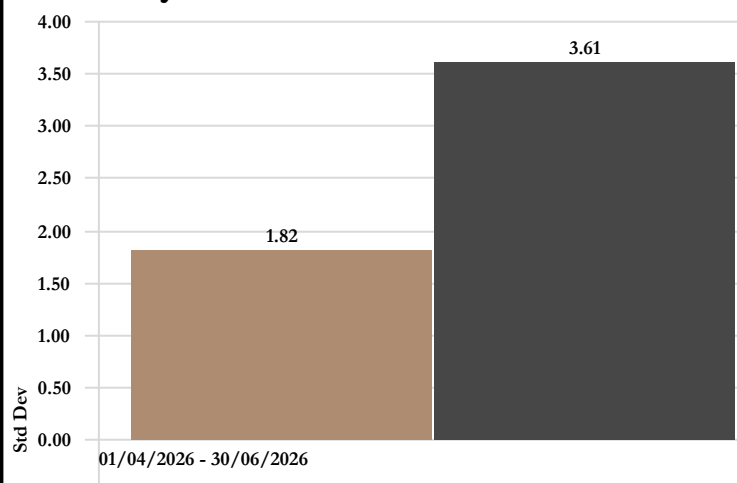
	02/01/2025 - 30/06/2026
Apex Preservation Conservative	4.84%
IA Mixed Investment 0-35% Shares	7.66%

Apex Preservation Conservative



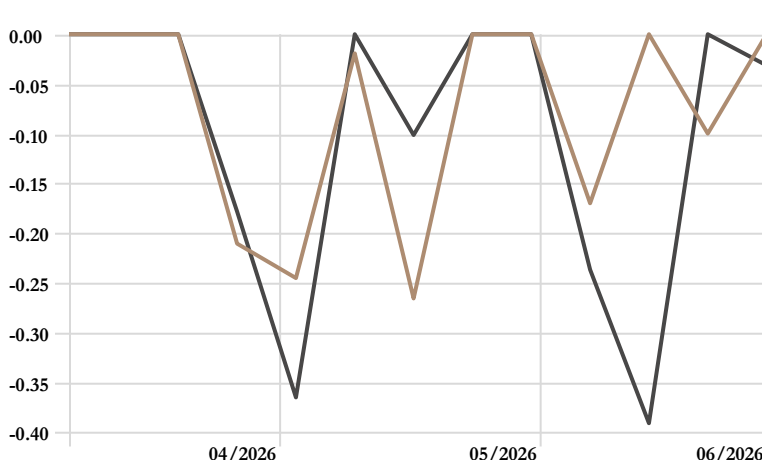
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Volatility - Quarter



■ Apex Preservation Conservative ■ IA Mixed Investment 0-35% Shares

Drawdown - Quarter



■ Apex Preservation Conservative ■ IA Mixed Investment 0-35% Shares

Volatility - Quarter

	Standard Deviation
Apex Preservation Conservative	1.82
IA Mixed Investment 0-35% Shares	3.61

Source: Morningstar Direct

Drawdown - Quarter

	Max Drawdown	Max Drawdown # of Periods
Apex Preservation Conservative	-0.27	4.00
IA Mixed Investment 0-35% Shares	-0.39	2.00

Portfolio Behaviour and Risk Characteristics

Over the period, the portfolio experienced a range of market conditions, including geopolitical events and changes in global monetary policy, while continuing to behave in line with its investment objective and risk profile.

- In simple terms, the portfolio's value fluctuated less than the benchmark over the period.
- Losses during market falls were less than the benchmark this period. When markets went down, the portfolio also fell, but whilst it can't avoid market declines altogether, the goal is to limit how severe they are.
- Following periods of market weakness, the portfolio may recover differently from the benchmark depending on market conditions and the performance of its underlying investments.

These points are based on what has happened in the past. The way the portfolio performs will change over time, and future results can't be guaranteed.

Definitions of terms like standard deviation, volatility and drawdown are available in the glossary.



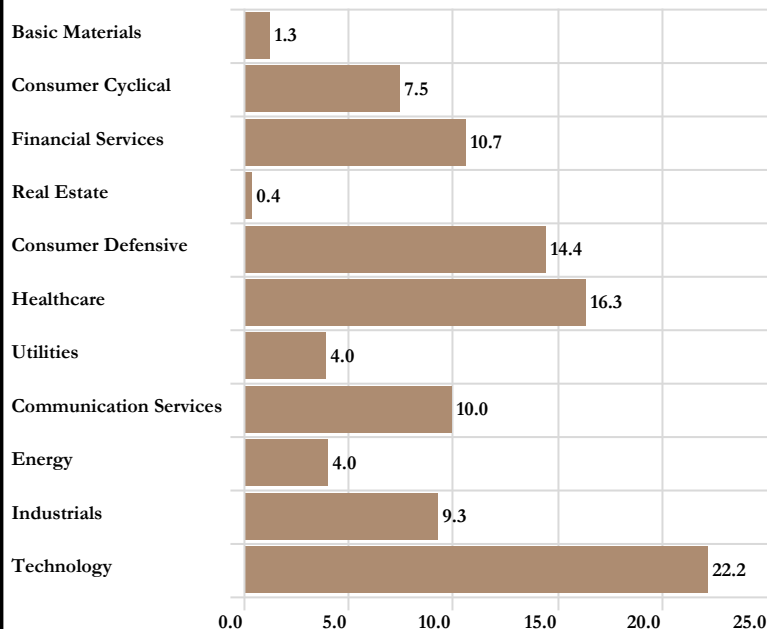
Understanding Portfolio Behaviour This Period:

Over the period, the portfolio outcome reflected its diversified construction and long-term strategic positioning rather than reliance on any single asset class or short-term theme.

Cash (liquidity) assets were stable throughout this quarter. Other components like growth-orientated assets performed strongly. Fixed interest capital values declined somewhat.

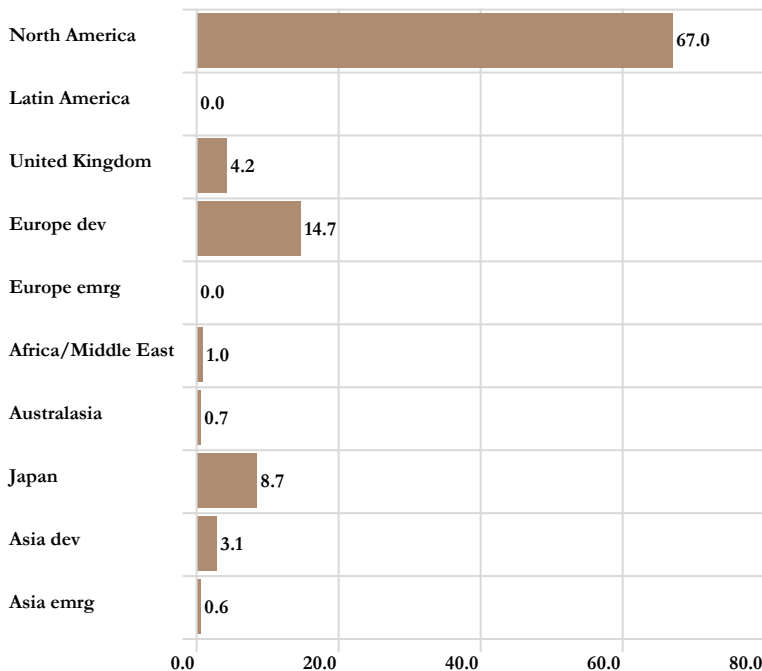
Different asset classes will perform differently over time, which is a normal feature of a diversified portfolio. The portfolio remains positioned in line with its stated objective, with no changes driven by short-term market movements.

Equity Sector Exposure



Source: Morningstar Direct

Equity Regional Exposure



We allocated across systematic sources of returns, which are called factors that have been widely studied in academic research and observed in long-term market data.

Our portfolios lean towards the four following factors:

- **Value:** favouring attractively priced sectors and companies
- **Momentum:** capturing trends and market leadership as they evolve
- **Quality:** prioritising companies with strong balance sheets and stable profitability
- **Low Volatility:** seeking lower overall volatility, and aiming to reduce the impact of market declines over the long term

These factors are used to complement our mix of investments, enhancing long-term consistency across different market cycles.

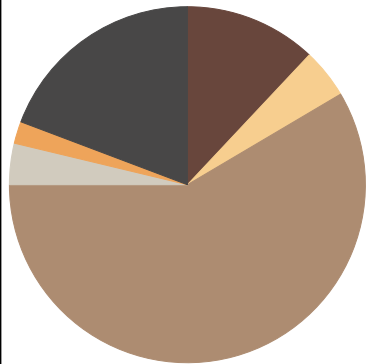
During this quarter, we trimmed our pro-value positioning, but remained firmly overweight on the basis of: wide valuation spread and higher long-term interest rates (versus long-term average).

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Asset Allocation



• Equities	12.00
• Dynamic	4.50
• Fixed Income	58.50
• Inflation Sensitive	3.75
• Alternatives	2.00
• Liquidity	19.25
Total	100.00

Most of the portfolio is in bonds and cash aiming for stability, with a small amount in global shares to target modest growth.

% Inflation-linked assets can help protect the value and alternatives are included to add exposure to assets that do not move in line with markets.

Overall, this is a multi-asset portfolio focused on preserving capital rather than taking on significant risk.

Decisions about how much is invested in each type of asset are based on long-term expectations and are reviewed regularly.

They are not driven by short-term market movements, but by the need to stay aligned with the portfolio's long-term objective.

Source: Morningstar Direct

Quarterly Commentary

We entered the second quarter with equity markets challenged by war in the Middle East, as investors struggled with concerns over growth and inflation, along with how the U.S. central bank (the Federal Reserve) would act with an impending change with the appointment of a new chairman. As we exit the quarter it's clear equity markets, at least for now, have met those challenges as stocks generally sit just below all-time highs reached in early June, while inflation remains hot and sticky.

Financial markets may be entering a more challenging phase. The outlook for shares is still generally positive because the economy continues to grow, but investors are becoming much more sensitive to inflation, interest rates and real-world supply constraints rather than simply the amount of money flowing through the financial system.

The key question is no longer whether the economy will grow or fall into recession. Instead, it is whether growth can remain strong enough to support company profits without pushing inflation and interest rates higher. If borrowing costs rise too much, government bond yields increase or the U.S. dollar strengthens significantly, investors may become less willing to pay high prices for shares, leading to weaker stock market returns.

These factors help explain how the portfolio performed. However, short-term market movements should always be viewed as part of a longer-term investment approach.

Looking Ahead - What May Influence Markets

In the future, markets are likely to be influenced by several key factors. These include political developments, interest rate decisions, government debt levels, and global trade conditions.

Political events can impact markets by changing policies, regulations, and relationships between countries. Interest rates remain important for both stocks and bonds, as central banks try to balance controlling inflation with supporting economic growth. At the same time, higher government borrowing in many countries could make markets more sensitive to economic changes.

Short-term market changes are expected and should be viewed in the context of long-term investment objectives.



Consumer Duty

We continually check that your portfolio offers value for money, is easy to understand, and continues to deliver fair outcomes. This includes monitoring performance, costs and risk levels each quarter.

Manager Activity & Positioning Update

There were no changes to the underlying investment management of the funds held within the portfolio during the period.

Cost Overview

Total cost of this portfolio remains low and unchanged. There were no increases this quarter.

DFM Charge	0.47%
OCF	0.16%
Total Ongoing Cost	0.63%
Transaction Cost *	0.20%

* Transaction costs are the costs incurred when investments are bought and sold within the portfolio as part of its ongoing management. These costs are embedded within the underlying investments and are therefore borne by the investor, rather than charged as a separate fee.

The figure shown represents an annual estimate based on the previous year's trading activity. All performance figures shown are net of these costs, meaning the returns you see already reflect their impact. These costs are not charged separately or deducted again.

Performance does not include any other third-party fees, such as platform fees.

Glossary

- **Volatility** = How much the investment returns go up and down, higher volatility means bigger more frequent movements
- **Benchmark** = A reference point used to compare performance, often an index representing a particular market or sector
- **Diversification** = Spreading investments across different types of assets, regions, or sectors to reduce risk and avoid relying on any single area for returns
- **Drawdown** = A temporary decline in the value of a portfolio
- **Asset Allocation** = How a portfolio is divided between different asset types (such as shares, bonds, and cash). The mix helps manage risk and guide long-term growth
- **Standard Deviation** = Is a simple way of saying how much values usually spread out from the average

Planning Perspective - Staying Aligned to Objectives

From a long-term planning perspective, the key consideration is whether the portfolio continues to behave in a manner consistent with its intended role.

Over the period, the portfolio operated as designed: participating in market growth while maintaining diversification and managing risk characteristics. Period-by-period outcomes should be assessed in the context of long-term objectives rather than short-term results.

Disclaimers

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Data accurate as of 15/07/2026