

Schroder ISF* Global Multi-Asset Balanced

Fund Manager: Ingmar Przewlocka, Anna Podoprigora | Fund update: October 2025

Performance overview

- The fund delivered positive performance in October with equity and bond markets closed the month higher after a turbulent month.

Drivers of fund performance

- Performance was strong in October, driven by gains across all asset classes except currency.
- Equities were the best performer, led by the actively managed global equity basket. Defensive positions, including short US and MSCI World index futures, detracted. In sector selection, global crypto and blockchain-related stocks and European banks and basic industries contributed, while European autos continued to lag.
- In fixed income, government bonds, investment-grade and high-yield credit, and emerging market debt were all positive. Our short position in German 30-years detracted.
- Alternatives were driven by gains in commodities, notably industrial metals, with insurance-linked securities flat for the month.
- Currency was the only significant negative, driven mainly by our initial short dollar position, which detracted as the dollar strengthened.

Portfolio activity

- Over the month, we added back to equity from 27% at the end of September to 47% at the end of October. Part of the increase in net exposure came from a reduction in hedging activity as we reduced short positions in global and US market indexes. We also added long positions in Europe, including French CAC 40 and Italian MIB index futures. In sector selection, we moved from short to long European banking sector index futures and added to European basic resources. In Japan, we re-established a Nikkei index futures position.
- In fixed income, we reduced duration exposure over the month. The fall in duration was partly driven by an increase in the German 30-year short position.
- In commodities, we added back some gold via ETCs (exchange-traded commodities). We retained our industrial metals ETC and diversified commodity swap ETF (exchange-traded fund).

- In currencies, we started with a short position in the dollar, moving to a long position by the month-end.

Outlook

- Having argued that markets were overdue for a correction, we believe October's shake-up could set equities on a firmer footing heading into year-end. By trimming hedge positions and making some opportunistic buys, we shifted the portfolio from a cautious stance to a more aggressive one by month-end. Here are three key themes driving the portfolio:
- **Moving from short to long in European banks** - Political and credit shocks in France, triggered by the Prime Minister's resignation, an S&P downgrade, and a US jury verdict against BNP Paribas, sparked a sharp sell-off in bank stocks as investors worried about rising yields and sector risk. We used this volatility to add exposure to the CAC 40 and European bank indices, as well as Italy's MIB, which has the highest financials weighting in Europe at nearly 50%. The move reflects both tactical opportunity and our relatively constructive view on Italy's economic outlook.
- **The basic industry theme is starting to play out** - We use a mix of industry and resource positions, such as industrial metals, diversified commodities, European basic resources futures, and a US materials ETF, to capture real-asset returns with an eye on infrastructure trends. Key demand drivers include manufacturing recovery, AI-driven data centre growth, China's renewables push, and the energy transition, which now recognises copper and silver as critical minerals alongside rare earths.
- **US shutdown has supported the dollar** - Short US dollar positioning boosted returns earlier this year as tariff tensions weakened the dollar and hopes for European stimulus lifted the euro. We've now shifted to a tactical dollar overweight due to crowded short positions, fading European optimism, and US spending freezes tightening liquidity, though our long-term view on the dollar remains cautious.

Calendar year performance (%)

Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested.

Year	Fund	Comparator benchmark ¹	Target benchmark ¹
2024	7.1	5.6	6.7
2023	7.0	6.2	6.6
2022	-8.5	-11.1	3.4
2021	8.5	3.7	2.4
2020	6.0	1.4	2.6
2019	12.0	7.7	2.6
2018	-6.9	-5.1	2.7
2017	3.7	2.0	2.7
2016	0.6	1.9	2.7
2015	-2.9	0.9	3.0

Source: Schroders, as at 31 December 2023. Fund performance is net of fees, NAV to NAV with net income reinvested, C Acc shares. ¹Target benchmark is 3m Euribor +3%. Comparator benchmark is Morningstar EUR Cautious Allocation Global Category. As of 15 August 2022, the target is replaced from 3m Euribor +3% to a comparator of the Morningstar EUR Cautious Allocation Global Category. Please see the respective fund factsheets for the performance of other share classes.

Risk considerations

Capital risk / distribution policy: As the fund intends to pay dividends regardless of its performance, a dividend may represent a return of part of the amount you invested.

Counterparty risk: The fund may have contractual agreements with counterparties. If a counterparty is unable to fulfil their obligations, the sum that they owe to the fund may be lost in part or in whole.

Credit risk: A decline in the financial health of an issuer could cause the value of its bonds to fall or become worthless.

Currency risk: The fund may lose value as a result of movements in foreign exchange rates.

Currency risk / hedged share class: The hedging of the share class may not be fully effective and residual currency exposure may remain. The cost associated with hedging may impact performance and potential gains may be more limited than for unhedged share classes.

Emerging Markets & Frontier risk: Emerging markets, and especially frontier markets, generally carry greater political, legal, counterparty, operational and liquidity risk than developed markets.

High yield bond risk: High yield bonds (normally lower rated or unrated) generally carry greater market, credit and liquidity risk.

Liquidity risk: In difficult market conditions, the fund may not be able to sell a security for full value or at all. This could affect performance and could cause the fund to defer or suspend redemptions of its shares.

Operational risk: Operational processes, including those related to the safekeeping of assets, may fail. This may result in losses to the fund.

Performance risk: Investment objectives express an intended result but there is no guarantee that such a result will be achieved. Depending on market conditions and the macro economic environment, investment objectives may become more difficult to achieve.

IBOR: The transition of the financial markets away from the use of interbank offered rates (IBORs) to alternative reference rates may impact the valuation of certain holdings and disrupt liquidity in certain instruments. This may impact the investment performance of the fund.

Derivatives risk: Efficient Portfolio Management and Investment Purposes: Derivatives may be used to manage the portfolio efficiently. A derivative may not perform as expected, may create losses greater than the cost of the derivative and may result in losses to the fund. The fund may also materially invest in derivatives including using short selling and leverage techniques with the aim of making a return. When the value of an asset changes, the value of a derivative based on that asset may change to a much greater extent. This may result in greater losses than investing in the underlying asset.

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