



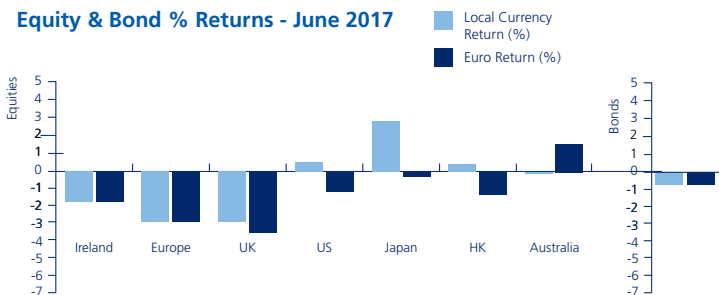
# Monthly Investment Review

Equity markets were mixed during the month of June but have performed strongly, in local currency terms, during the first half of the year. Markets have been on an upward trajectory for over eight years and this trend has continued in 2017 on the back of improving economic data globally and good corporate earnings growth. However, from a eurozone investor perspective, gains in international markets have been significantly eroded during 2017 by a strengthening euro currency. It should be noted that the euro remains in its 30-month trading range against the US dollar albeit at the upper end. The euro's strength, especially in the last three months, has been due to good eurozone economic data and hints by the ECB that tapering of 'quantitative easing' may be on the radar screen. Market participants continue to assess the pace of interest rate rises in the US - is this just a return to normality or could monetary policy eventually become too tight? Equities remain well valued on a relative basis compared to bonds and cash, although they have become more expensive on an absolute (P/E ratio) basis. Eurozone government bonds continue to offer little long term value.

## Equity Markets

- Equities (in euro terms) fell back somewhat during June mainly due to currency effects; although there was some profit taking in Europe. Economic and corporate earnings data continues to be supportive. The Q2 earnings results season is about to kick-off in the US. Early signs look encouraging given the number of upward revisions by analysts as well as the low number of profit warnings.
- World equities (in euro terms) fell by 0.9% in June and have given a total return of plus 3.2% in the first six months of the year. There was a mixed bag of returns amongst the major equity markets in local currency terms during the month ranging from plus 2.8% in Japan to minus 2.8% in Europe; returns in euro terms were hit by the stronger euro currency. Year-to-date, Hong Kong (+17.1%), the US (+8.2%) and Europe (+6.5%) have led the way.
- Sectorwise in the US, bond-proxy stocks, such as telecoms (-3.0%) and utilities (-2.9%) underperformed whilst financials (+6.3%) benefitted from rising bond yields. The 'FANG' stocks (Facebook, Amazon, Netflix and Google), which have been driving the US stock market this year, finally saw some profit taking. Year-to-date, the best performing sector being technology (+16.4%), the worst energy (-13.8%).

Equity & Bond % Returns - June 2017



This graph shows the performance of the major equity markets over the month of May. The returns are shown in both local and euro currencies. The bond index is the Merrill Lynch over 5 Year Euro Government Bond Index. Source: Bloomberg, July 2017.

## Bonds & Interest Rates

- The Merrill Lynch Euro over Five Year Index fell by 0.7% in June and is now down by 1.5% year-to-date. Stronger economic data and hints from ECB President Mario Draghi that there may be tapering of quantitative easing at some point unsettled bond markets. Bonds prices had been holding up reasonably well this year following sharp declines in H2 2016.
- The German ten-year bond yield rose sharply over the month from 0.30% to 0.47% although it just about remains in its fairly tight trading range. The yield had hit an all-time low of minus 0.19% on 8th July 2016. Equivalent US rates rose from 2.20 to 2.30%. Yields in the US reached a 2016 low of 1.36%, also on 8th July, and have risen due to the expectation of further interest rate rises and expected changes in US economic policy.
- The markets now expect possibly one further US rate rise, of 0.25%, before the end of 2017 following upward moves on 15th March and 14th June. Eurozone rates are likely to remain at current ultra-low levels for at least 12 months whilst a UK move is not expected until H1 2018.

## Commodities & Currencies

- Commodity prices, as a rough rule-of-thumb, generally rise as economic growth expands. This has been the case for a number of commodities in 2017. The major exception has been the oil price which has fallen heavily, dragging down the overall commodity index. This index was down by 2.8% during June and is down by 9.2% so far this year.
- After an almost 50% rally in 2016, the oil price fell sharply (-5%) for the fourth month in-a-row and is now down around 15% year-to-date. Oil has been adversely affected by an increase in shale oil production, disappointment over the scale of OPEC's production cuts and the US's move to exit the Paris climate pact. The gold price fell by just over 2% during the month to \$1,242 per troy ounce but is up by almost 8% in the first half of the year.
- The euro currency strengthened by close to 2% against the US dollar during the month with the EUR/USD rate moving from 1.12 to 1.14. The rate began the year at 1.05.



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Head of Investment Development

## Activity

Overweight equity positions were maintained during June in all of the multi-asset portfolios given the relative value argument as well as the stronger economic outlook and good corporate earnings. With regards to geographic positions the main overweights are in Europe, Asia (ex-Japan) and Ireland. Sector positions were also broadly maintained during the month with the exception that bank stocks were increased whilst profits were taken in some technology stocks. The funds are overweight in bank stocks and materials, close to neutral in technology, underweight in utilities and telecoms. materials, close to neutral in technology, underweight in utilities and telecoms.

Asset Class		Positive	Neutral	Negative
Equities	North America		✓	
	Europe	✓		
	Japan		✓	
	UK			✓
	Asia-Ex Japan	✓		
Fixed Income	Eurozone			✓
	US			✓
	UK			✓
Currencies	USD			✓
	GBP		✓	
	YEN		✓	
Alternatives	Oil	✓		
	Gold		✓	
	Copper	✓		
	Global Property			✓

	Year to Date	Annualised						Fund Size (€)
		1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	15 Years	20 Years	
<b>Prisma Multi-Asset Funds*</b>								
Prisma <b>2</b>	-0.5%	0.7%	1.2%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	155,571,893
Prisma <b>3</b>	0.0%	3.3%	3.4%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	573,421,914
Prisma <b>4</b>	0.8%	8.1%	7.1%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	576,573,148
Prisma <b>5</b>	1.1%	11.3%	9.1%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	229,429,311
Prisma <b>6</b>	2.7%	14.7%	7.1%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	20,670,816
<b>Managed Funds</b>								
Cautiously Managed	1.2%	6.6%	7.4%	8.8%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	398,584,997
FinEx Sector Average	1.6%	5.0%	4.0%	4.8%	2.4%	3.6%	4.1%	
Balanced	2.7%	11.5%	9.6%	11.4%	4.9%	6.9%	6.9%	1,650,926,719
FinEx Sector Average	1.8%	8.2%	6.7%	9.1%	2.5%	4.6%	5.1%	
Performance	3.7%	14.4%	10.4%	12.2%	4.6%	7.1%	6.8%	1,310,340,898
Dynamic	3.8%	16.0%	11.0%	12.9%	4.7%	7.3%	6.8%	1,560,430,703
FinEx Sector Average	2.6%	10.9%	7.7%	9.6%	2.8%	4.8%	5.2%	
<b>Protected Funds</b>								
Protected 70	1.8%	8.3%	5.4%	7.4%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	15,610,284
Protected 80	0.8%	4.2%	3.1%	4.6%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	34,891,649
Protected 90	-0.6%	-0.3%	0.2%	0.8%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	12,302,875
<b>Cash Fund</b>								
Secure	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	1.3%	2.2%	290,651,626
Cash Fund	-0.4%	-0.8%	-0.6%	-0.5%	0.3%	Not Started	Not Started	416,795,476
FinEx Sector Average	-0.2%	-0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.9%	1.2%	1.9%	
<b>Bond Funds</b>								
Global Corporate Bond (JP Morgan)*	2.2%	0.4%	2.4%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	5,143,529,461
Global Government Bond (JP Morgan)*	-0.1%	-4.6%	2.0%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	300,809,647
Indexed Eurozone Government Bond (BlackRock)	-0.5%	-3.8%	2.8%	4.6%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	7,466,792
Active Fixed Income	-1.5%	-4.6%	4.3%	6.6%	6.6%	6.0%	7.0%	175,429,746
Inflation-Linked Bond	-2.0%	-1.7%	0.6%	1.4%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	6,124,739
Long Bond	-2.9%	-8.2%	5.9%	8.5%	7.3%	Not Started	Not Started	52,306,819
FinEx Sector Average	-0.6%	-1.9%	3.2%	4.9%	4.3%	4.5%	5.3%	
<b>Absolute Return/Diversified Assets Funds</b>								
Global Targeted Returns Fund (Invesco)	2.2%	3.2%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	6,470,000,000
Dyanmic Diversified Growth (BlackRock)	4.0%	3.5%	0.4%	3.0%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	16,118,160
Active Asset Allocation	0.7%	8.1%	6.9%	7.4%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	257,116,159
<b>Commodity Funds</b>								
Gold	-1.2%	-8.8%	3.5%	-3.5%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	38,545,953
Indexed Global Energy and Metals	-13.4%	-5.6%	-11.0%	-6.1%	-5.9%	Not Started	Not Started	13,296,305
<b>Equity Funds (Global)</b>								
5 Star 5	3.2%	16.4%	10.9%	11.3%	3.9%	7.4%	Not Started	205,401,149
International Equity	3.4%	16.3%	11.9%	13.5%	5.8%	7.3%	7.9%	1,244,299,952
Global Select (Threadneedle)	5.4%	16.9%	13.3%	14.1%	6.2%	7.4%	Not Started	6,487,473
Indexed Global Equity (BlackRock)	1.2%	16.6%	11.5%	13.3%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	99,220,336
Sector Average	3.0%	14.8%	9.4%	11.5%	4.0%	5.3%	5.1%	
<b>Equity Funds (European)</b>								
5 Star 5 Europe	9.6%	24.3%	13.3%	16.1%	5.0%	Not Started	Not Started	111,214,481
European Select (Threadneedle)	10.4%	14.0%	9.9%	13.6%	6.3%	8.5%	Not Started	11,399,773
Sector Average	8.9%	20.3%	8.1%	13.5%	3.2%	5.9%	6.8%	

Source: Financial Express as at 01/07/2017

The Financial Express sector averages shown are the average of all funds in each of the Financial Express sectors in the individual pensions category.

**Annual management charges (AMC) apply. The fund returns shown are net of the AMC deducted by Zurich Life in our unit prices. The fund returns are based on an investment in the funds and do not represent the returns achieved by individual policies linked to the funds. These fund returns may be before the full AMC is applied to a policy. The actual returns on policies linked to the specified fund will be lower because of the effects of charges and in some cases a higher management charge.**

\* The Prisma Multi-Asset Funds were previously known as the Pathway Multi-Asset Funds.

\* External fund size: Where external funds have been on the Zurich platform for less than two years, we have used the fund size of the underlying external fund.

N/S = Not Started.

Figures highlighted in blue indicate where the Zurich Life fund has outperformed the sector average.

	Year to Date	Annualised						Fund Size (€)
		1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	15 Years	20 Years	
<b>Equity Funds (Eurozone)</b>								
Eurozone Equity	9.2%	25.9%	8.1%	14.5%	4.3%	Not Started	Not Started	79,489,800
Indexed Eurozone Equity (BlackRock)	8.8%	26.8%	7.4%	13.2%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	3,795,614
FinEx Sector Average	11.3%	15.9%	8.1%	13.7%	1.6%	4.2%	5.7%	
<b>Equity Funds (Irish)</b>								
Irish Equity	5.0%	22.0%	16.4%	19.8%	0.2%	Not Started	Not Started	17,184,143
Sector Average	5.4%	18.0%	12.9%	16.8%	-1.6%	3.9%	5.2%	
<b>Equity Funds (American)</b>								
5 Star 5 Americas	-2.7%	16.3%	13.8%	14.7%	7.6%	Not Started	Not Started	60,570,129
American Select (Threadneedle)	1.0%	19.5%	14.5%	15.5%	8.7%	7.3%	Not Started	11,672,975
Sector Average	0.8%	16.2%	13.4%	15.1%	7.7%	6.5%	5.6%	
<b>Equity Funds (Far East Asia)</b>								
5 Star 5 Asia Pacific	14.6%	24.9%	11.4%	10.5%	2.5%	Not Started	Not Started	76,839,393
Asia Pacific Equity	12.1%	23.6%	9.5%	9.5%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	9,410,477
Sector Average	10.2%	21.1%	6.9%	7.4%	3.5%	7.1%	5.2%	
<b>Equity Funds (High Yield)</b>								
Dividend Growth	1.1%	19.7%	11.8%	14.4%	4.8%	Not Started	Not Started	231,318,737
FinEx Sector Average	3.0%	14.8%	9.4%	11.5%	4.0%	5.3%	5.1%	
<b>Equity Funds (Emerging Market)</b>								
Emerging Markets Opportunities (JP Morgan)	13.1%	27.0%	7.9%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	2,130,250,255
Sector Average	9.7%	19.8%	6.1%	5.3%	2.2%	6.9%	Not Started	
<b>Equity Funds (Specialist)</b>								
Indexed Top Tech 100	7.7%	25.2%	21.3%	19.8%	13.5%	10.8%	Not Started	41,778,787
Sector Average	0.4%	5.7%	2.1%	5.0%	0.9%	3.1%	3.2%	
<b>Property Funds</b>								
Fund of REITs	6.4%	4.4%	7.7%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	16,175,466
Indexed European (Ex-UK) Property	6.9%	6.2%	10.4%	13.0%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	52,183,094
Indexed Australasia Property	0.0%	0.0%	9.0%	8.2%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	38,590,855
Sector Average	1.9%	3.6%	7.0%	6.8%	-2.7%	2.9%	6.4%	
<b>Funds Closed to New Business</b>								
Indexed Eurozone Property	8.3%	7.4%	10.0%	13.5%	1.9%	Not Started	Not Started	21,054,181
Indexed India Equity	10.9%	11.9%	8.6%	9.0%	2.9%	Not Started	Not Started	11,609,748
Income Opportunity (JP Morgan)	1.0%	3.8%	0.9%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	3,599,491,114
Diversified Assets	-1.6%	3.3%	3.6%	6.1%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	13,792,140
Earth Resources	-6.3%	-6.7%	-10.8%	-5.1%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	5,110,265
Green Resources	8.5%	11.0%	-3.2%	5.8%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	3,890,772
Small Cap Europe (Pictet)	11.2%	25.3%	11.6%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	245,794,561

**Warning: Past performance is not a reliable guide to future performance.**  
**Warning: The value of your investment may go down as well as up.**  
**Warning: Benefits may be affected by changes in currency exchange rates.**  
**Warning: If you invest in this fund you may lose some or all of the money you invest.**



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