July 2025

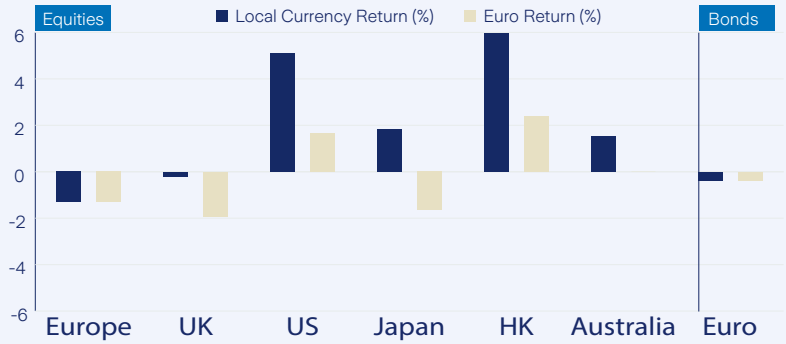
Monthly Investment Review

In June 2025, global equities showed impressive resilience, recovering some of the ground lost earlier in the year in local currency terms. Despite facing increased tensions in the Middle East and a complex backdrop of economic uncertainty, changing tariff policies, and growing geopolitical risks, markets remained steady, with North American stocks leading the way and outperforming their international peers. However, currency movements reduced the returns for euro based investors. Trade policy continued to drive market movements, with uncertainty around enforcement and the risk of new tariffs adding to volatility. Geopolitical risks grew, particularly after the Iran-Israel conflict escalated in mid-June, prompting many investors to seek safer assets. Despite these headwinds, equity markets posted solid gains. Positive progress in trade talks, strong corporate earnings, and renewed optimism about AI-driven growth in the technology sector all helped support this positive performance.

Activity

There were no significant changes to our active asset allocation in June. Our current stance is slightly underweight in equities across Mutli-Asset Funds, with a geographical underweight in US equities relative to the global market. Within equities, we continue to favour growth stocks, including the Technology and Industrials sectors, while maintaining an underweight position in Energy and Consumer Staples. In our bond portfolio, we remain overweight but have recently shortened duration to reduce exposure to changing interest rate expectations. We also continue to hold a strong allocation to alternatives, including a tactical position in gold, which has contributed positively to returns so far this year.

Equity & Bond % Returns: June 2025



This graph shows the performance of the major equity markets over the month of June. The returns are shown in both local and euro currencies. The bond index is the ICE BofA 5+ Government Bond Index. Source: Bloomberg, July 2025

Current Zurich positioning and latest monthly change

	Region	Under	Neutral	Over
Equities	Overall Equity Position	↔		
	North America	↔		
	Europe			↔
	Japan		↔	
	Asia (Ex-Japan)			↔
Fixed Income	Overall Fixed Income Position			↔
	Sovereign Eurozone		↔	
	European Credit			↔
Alternatives	Overall Alternatives Position			↔
	Oil		↔	
	Gold			↔
	Copper			↔
	Global Property	↔		
	Soft Commodities		↔	
Currencies	USD		↔	
	GBP		↔	
	YEN		↔	
		-5%	0%	+5%

Legend: ↔ No change | ↑ Increase | ↓ Decrease

Market Performance

Equity Markets

US equity markets maintained strong momentum in June, with major indices showing positive returns despite ongoing uncertainty around trade policy and fiscal matters. Growth stocks stood out, especially semiconductor companies, as rising expectations for AI applications boosted investor interest, reviving demand for several of the "Magnificent 7" stocks. However, 8 out of 11 sectors ended the month lower, while Technology and Communication Services led the way with gains of 5.4% and 3.3%, respectively. Consumer Staples was the weakest sector, declining by 5.4%. Although US equities narrowed their performance gap with European markets in June, European stocks remained resilient, supported by robust economic data, the enduring expectation of fiscal expansion, and continued inflows from investors seeking greater diversification.

Bonds & Interest Rates

Treasury yields declined in June following unrest in the Middle East, though the drop was less pronounced than typically seen after comparable geopolitical events. Short-term yields, which closely follow Federal Reserve policy, remained steady as the Fed maintained its "wait and see" stance on rate cuts. In contrast, long-term US Treasury yields fell to new cycle lows, with the 10-year yield reaching 4.23%. While the Fed's preferred inflation measure indicated mild upward pressure during the month, markets increasingly anticipated potential rate cuts in the latter half of 2025. In Europe, inflation remained subdued compared to other developed markets. The European Central Bank cut rates by 25 basis points in June, bringing the key Deposit rate down to 2%.

Commodities & Currencies

In June, military tensions between Israel and Iran initially pushed oil prices above $78 per barrel, raising investor concerns about stagflation. Relief came with a diplomatic breakthrough and ceasefire, which helped oil prices fall and eased market anxiety. Gold moved within a narrow range for the month, returning just 0.4%. Unlike silver and copper, which gained 9.5% and 5.3% respectively, gold did not attract significant safe haven demand during the conflict, reflecting recent buyer fatigue. The US dollar remained weak, with the euro rising to 1.176 USD by month-end, up from 1.135 the previous month.

Zurich Life Annualised Performance to end June 2025

	Year to Date	Annualised 1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	15 Years	20 Years	Fund Size (€m)
Multi-Asset Funds								
Prisma Low	0.9%	3.8%	3.1%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	43
Prisma 2	0.5%	3.4%	3.3%	2.0%	1.3%	Not Started	Not Started	592
Prisma 3	-0.1%	3.9%	5.3%	4.0%	3.0%	Not Started	Not Started	2,687
Prisma 4	-1.5%	4.1%	8.2%	7.3%	5.8%	Not Started	Not Started	5,028
Prisma 5	-2.5%	4.6%	11.9%	10.5%	8.3%	Not Started	Not Started	4,038
Prisma Max	-3.3%	4.3%	13.8%	11.3%	9.0%	Not Started	Not Started	430
Active Asset Allocation	-1.7%	3.6%	7.8%	7.7%	6.1%	Not Started	Not Started	1,306
Managed Funds								
Cautiously Managed	-1.6%	3.3%	6.9%	5.2%	4.4%	6.1%	Not Started	993
Sector Average	0.3%	4.1%	4.3%	3.2%	2.3%	3.2%	2.8%	
Balanced	-2.7%	3.4%	9.9%	7.8%	6.9%	8.6%	7.0%	2,920
Sector Average	-0.9%	3.9%	6.4%	5.8%	3.9%	5.9%	4.2%	
Performance	-3.4%	3.5%	12.1%	9.9%	8.4%	9.8%	7.7%	2,191
Dynamic	-4.0%	3.2%	13.3%	10.8%	9.1%	10.5%	8.2%	2,931
FinEx Sector Average	-0.2%	5.9%	8.3%	7.7%	5.1%	6.8%	4.9%	
Protected Funds								
Protected 70	-5.2%	-0.3%	6.6%	5.7%	3.8%	5.2%	Not Started	18
Protected 80	-4.2%	-0.4%	4.6%	3.7%	1.9%	3.0%	Not Started	32
Cash								
Cash Fund	1.1%	2.6%	2.2%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	Not Started	2,932
FinEx Sector Average	0.8%	2.1%	1.9%	0.8%	0.2%	0.2%	0.8%	
Bond								
Medium Duration Corporate Bond	1.7%	6.3%	3.9%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	983
Short Duration Corporate Bond	1.9%	5.0%	3.2%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	1,493
Global Corporate Bond (JP Morgan)	2.2%	4.3%	2.3%	-1.3%	0.7%	Not Started	Not Started	5
Global Government Bond (JP Morgan)	1.2%	2.1%	-0.6%	-3.0%	-0.4%	Not Started	Not Started	1
Indexed Eurozone Government Bond (BlackRock)*	0.7%	4.0%	0.0%	-2.8%	0.0%	Not Started	Not Started	20
Active Fixed Income	-1.1%	2.9%	0.1%	-2.4%	0.2%	2.4%	2.8%	872
Inflation-Linked Bond	1.1%	3.1%	0.6%	1.0%	1.1%	1.2%	Not Started	9
Long Bond	-2.8%	1.4%	-2.2%	-5.7%	-0.4%	2.4%	2.6%	306
FinEx Sector Average	0.1%	3.3%	1.0%	-1.9%	0.4%	1.9%	2.1%	
Absolute Return/Diversified Assets Funds								
Dynamic Diversified Growth (BlackRock)	4.8%	7.1%	5.2%	2.9%	2.1%	Not Started	Not Started	11
Commodity Funds								
Gold	11.6%	28.2%	16.8%	11.4%	9.6%	6.3%	Not Started	773
Indexed Global Energy and Metals	-4.4%	-2.1%	-4.3%	10.1%	2.8%	1.5%	Not Started	19
Indexed Commodities	-6.9%	-4.4%	-5.1%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	
Equity Funds (Global)								
5 Star 5	-4.0%	5.5%	15.7%	13.8%	10.4%	11.2%	8.6%	557
International Equity	-3.9%	4.0%	14.9%	11.9%	9.9%	11.3%	9.0%	7,399
Global Select (Threadneedle)	-4.9%	1.0%	13.7%	10.3%	9.7%	11.4%	9.1%	13
Indexed Global Equity (BlackRock)*	-5.0%	5.3%	12.6%	12.9%	9.7%	Not Started	Not Started	312
FinEx Sector Average	-2.4%	4.9%	10.1%	10.8%	7.1%	8.9%	6.6%	
Equity Funds (European)								
5 Star 5 Europe	6.7%	4.1%	14.1%	12.0%	8.6%	10.9%	8.6%	204
European Select (Threadneedle)	3.5%	-0.1%	12.9%	8.3%	6.8%	10.2%	8.5%	8
FinEx Sector Average	6.8%	7.1%	11.1%	8.8%	5.2%	7.7%	6.1%	
Equity Funds (Euro)								
Eurozone Equity	12.7%	13.9%	17.4%	13.2%	8.3%	9.8%	8.3%	135
Indexed Eurozone Equity (BlackRock)*	13.6%	13.9%	16.5%	11.7%	7.0%	Not Started	Not Started	10
FinEx Sector Average	12.6%	12.2%	14.3%	11.0%	6.0%	7.7%	5.3%	

		Annualised						
	Year to Date	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	15 Years	20 Years	Fund Size (€m)
Equity Fund (American)								
5 Star 5 Americas	-8.5%	2.7%	16.0%	13.4%	12.6%	13.5%	10.9%	200
American Select (Threadneedle)	-10.2%	-4.1%	9.8%	10.4%	10.6%	13.2%	10.0%	12
FinEx Sector Average	-7.0%	3.1%	12.8%	14.0%	10.9%	13.0%	9.3%	
Equity Funds (Far East Asia)								
5 Star 5 Asia Pacific	-1.1%	3.7%	8.7%	9.8%	7.4%	7.8%	6.8%	97
Asia Pacific Equity	-0.9%	4.0%	7.2%	9.2%	6.6%	7.7%	Not Started	15
FinEx Sector Average	-0.8%	5.8%	4.1%	6.7%	4.3%	5.5%	5.9%	
Equity Funds (High Yield)								
Dividend Growth	-3.7%	1.5%	8.5%	11.9%	6.0%	9.0%	Not Started	317
FinEx Sector Average	-2.4%	4.9%	10.1%	10.8%	7.1%	8.9%	6.6%	
Equity Funds (Emerging Market)								
Emerging Markets Opportunities (JP Morgan)	1.4%	0.3%	3.2%	2.7%	3.4%	Not Started	Not Started	7
Indexed Emerging Market Equity Fund (BlackRock)	1.5%	4.9%	5.2%	5.3%	3.7%	Not Started	Not Started	23
Sector Average	0.3%	3.6%	3.5%	4.5%	2.7%	2.6%	5.6%	
Equity Funds (Specialist)								
Indexed Top Tech 100	-5.6%	4.0%	20.5%	16.4%	17.4%	19.3%	14.9%	474
FinEx Sector Average	-1.3%	4.3%	7.7%	9.9%	6.2%	5.9%	4.8%	
Property Funds								
Property Fund	0.2%	0.8%	-2.5%	-2.2%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	15
Indexed European (Ex-UK) Property	12.1%	15.4%	4.9%	-0.4%	1.8%	5.1%	Not Started	338
Indexed Australasia Property	5.0%	8.0%	-3.1%	0.4%	0.7%	3.8%	Not Started	185
Sector Average	1.8%	2.8%	-2.8%	0.2%	1.0%	2.3%	0.2%	
Dimensional Funds								
Global Short-term Investment Grade Fixed Income (Dimensional)	1.3%	3.1%	2.0%	-0.3%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	
Euro Inflation Linked Int Duration Fixed Income (Dimensional)	1.6%	2.4%	-0.1%	0.4%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	
World Equity (Dimensional)	-4.0%	3.4%	9.6%	11.9%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	
Global Short Fixed Income (Dimensional)	1.0%	2.6%	1.4%	-1.1%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	
World Allocation 20/80 (Dimensional)	0.3%	3.2%	3.4%	2.0%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	
World Allocation 40/60 (Dimensional)	-0.6%	3.4%	5.1%	4.5%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	
World Allocation 60/40 (Dimensional)	-1.6%	3.6%	6.5%	6.8%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	
World Allocation 80/20 (Dimensional)	-2.9%	3.5%	8.0%	9.3%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	
Global Small Companies (Dimensional)	-7.2%	2.0%	6.7%	10.4%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	
Global Value (Dimensional)	-3.8%	2.5%	9.5%	13.2%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	
Global Sustainability Core Equity (Dimensional)	-5.0%	4.6%	11.8%	12.5%	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	
Funds Closed to New Business								
Indexed Eurozone Property	12.3%	14.9%	3.5%	0.2%	1.8%	4.8%	2.8%	
Diversified Assets	0.0%	4.8%	3.7%	6.5%	4.2%	5.5%	Not Started	

Source: FE fundinfo as at 01/07/2025

Annual management charges (AMC) apply. The fund returns shown are net of the AMC deducted by each provider in their unit prices. This will vary for each provider, and any difference will impact the relative performance of the funds shown. 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.

* Performance using most recent data available.

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

Warning: Annual management fees apply. The fund growth shown is before the full annual management charge is applied on your policy.
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.

Barclays Bank Plc is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

J.P. Morgan Asset Management Marketing Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Columbia Threadneedle Investment Services Limited. Columbia Threadneedle Asset Management Limited. Authorised and Regulated in the UK by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Invesco Management S.A. is authorised in Luxembourg and regulated by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF).

Dimensional Fund Advisors Ltd., registered address 20 Triton Street, Regent's Place, London, NW1 3BF, Company Number 02569601, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority - Firm Reference No.150100.

The information below applies to all graphs and the preceding pages:

Source: MSCI July 2025. The MSCI information may only be used for your internal use, may not be reproduced or redisseminated in any form and may not be used as a basis for or a component of any financial instruments or products or indices. None of the MSCI information is intended to constitute investment advice or a recommendation to make (or refrain from making) any kind of investment decision and may not be relied on as such. Historical data and analysis should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of any future performance analysis, forecast or prediction. The MSCI information is provided on an "as is" basis and the user of this information assumes the entire risk of any use made of this information. MSCI, each of its affiliates and each other person involved in or related to compiling, computing or creating any MSCI information (collectively, the "MSCI Parties") expressly disclaims all warranties (including, without limitation, any warranties of originality, accuracy, completeness, timeliness, non-infringement, merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose) with respect to this information. Without limiting any of the foregoing, in no event shall any MSCI Party have any liability for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, punitive, consequential (including, without limitation, lost profits) or any other damages. (www.msci.com)

Source: ICE Data Indices July 2025. ICE Data Indices, LLC ("ICE DATA"), is used with permission. ICE DATA, ITS AFFILIATES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE THIRD PARTY SUPPLIERS DISCLAIM ANY AND ALL WARRANTIES AND REPRESENTATIONS, EXPRESS AND/OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE, INCLUDING THE INDICES, INDEX DATA AND ANY DATA INCLUDED IN, RELATED TO, OR DERIVED THEREFROM. NEITHER ICE DATA, ITS AFFILIATES NOR THEIR RESPECTIVE THIRD PARTY PROVIDERS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ANY DAMAGES OR LIABILITY WITH RESPECT TO THE ADEQUACY, ACCURACY, TIMELINESS OR COMPLETENESS OF THE INDICES OR THE INDEX DATA OR ANY COMPONENT THEREOF, AND THE INDICES AND INDEX DATA AND ALL COMPONENTS THEREOF ARE PROVIDED ON AN "AS IS" BASIS AND YOUR USE IS AT YOUR OWN RISK. ICE DATA, ITS AFFILIATES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE THIRD PARTY SUPPLIERS DO NOT SPONSOR, ENDORSE, OR RECOMMEND ZURICH LIFE ASSURANCE PLC, OR ANY OF ITS PRODUCTS OR SERVICES.

This Monthly Investment Review does not constitute an offer and should not be taken as a recommendation from Zurich Life.

Advice should always be sought from an appropriately qualified professional.

Zurich Life Assurance plc
Zurich House, Frascati Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, A94 X9Y3, Ireland.
Telephone: 01 283 1301 Fax: 01 283 1578 Website: www.zurich.ie
Zurich Life Assurance plc is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

Intended for distribution within the Republic of Ireland.

GR: 9687 Print Ref: ZL ISA 76 0725

ZURICH