

VT AJ Bell Cautious

As at 30 June 2025

Portfolio commentary

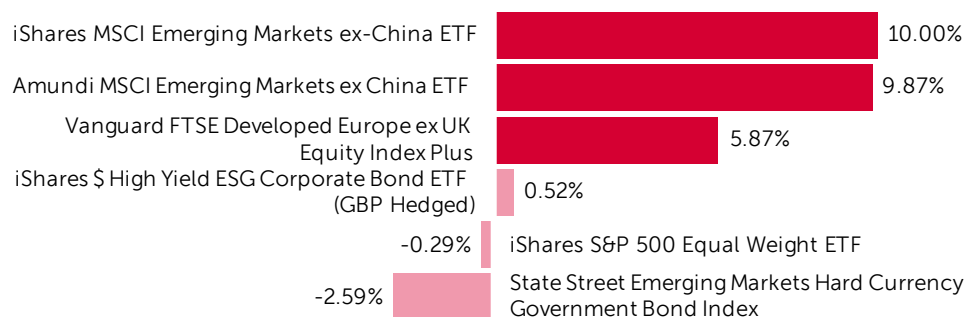
With a tumultuous quarter of tariffs and geopolitical challenges, the high amount of cash held by the AJ Bell Cautious Fund remained an asset to the portfolio. While April began with a tumble for the stock market, the cautious fund holds only 26% of its assets in equity, helping to limit the effects.

High interest rates allowed cash to stay attractive throughout the quarter. Although there was market talk of central banks cutting interests to stimulate the economy in the face of tariffs, the Bank of England made just one cut during the quarter, and the US Federal Reserve has not cut since last year as inflation stays higher than its goal.

To protect against the risks of inflation, the fund has invested in short-term US Treasuries that adjust according to inflation levels. These are protected from fluctuations in the value of the dollar through a sterling hedge.

The portfolio is also invested in UK gilts and corporate bonds, which managed a steadily positive quarter despite other areas of tumult. Although investments in high yield bonds struggled at the beginning of April with the market tumble, prices recovered by the end of the quarter.

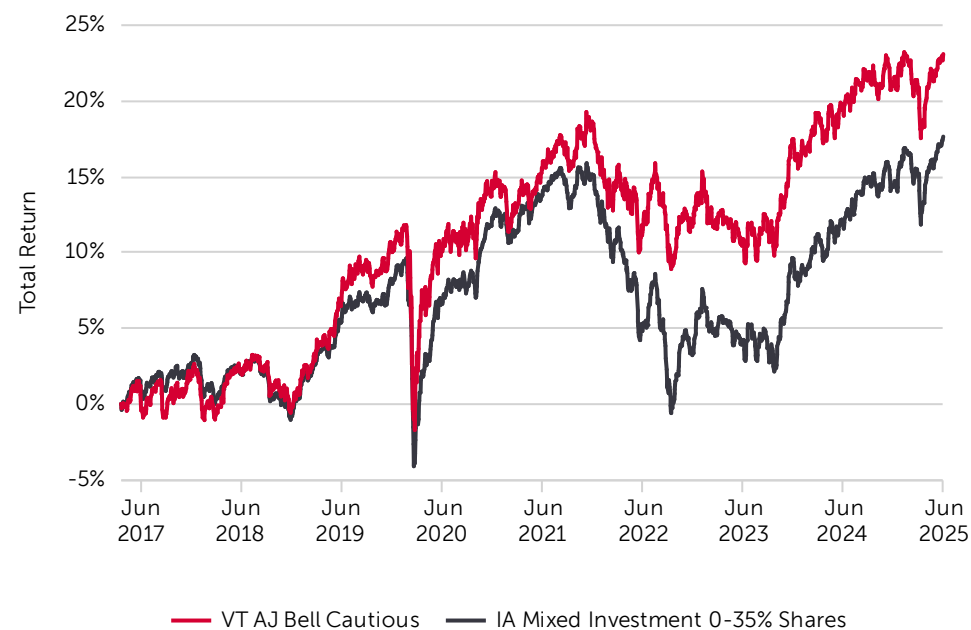
Q2 2025 best/worst performers



Performance

Cumulative (%)	3 months	6 months	1 year	3 years	5 years	Since inception
VT AJ Bell Cautious	2.20	1.55	2.96	10.58	11.43	23.10
IA Mixed Investment 0-35% Shares	2.30	2.84	5.11	12.26	10.21	17.64

The above table displays the total return of the fund on a cumulative basis. This is taken from the most recent month end.



Past performance is not indicative of future performance. The value of investments may go down as well as up and the income generated by investments is not guaranteed and may fluctuate. You may receive back less than the amount that you invested.

Portfolio snapshot

Number of holdings	31	
Inception date	18 Apr 2017	
Fund size	£114.62m	
ISIN	(I Acc)	GB00BYW8RV97
	(I Inc)	GB00BYW8RT75

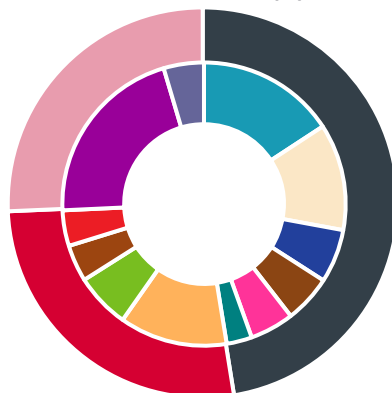
Top 10 holdings

Holding	Weight (%)
Vanguard UK Investment Grade Bond Index	13.32
BlackRock Institutional Sterling Liquidity	11.10
SPDR S&P 500 ETF	10.28
iShares £ Ultrashort Bond ETF	9.99
State Street Emerging Markets Hard Currency Government Bond Index	6.09
Cash	4.61
Vanguard FTSE Developed Europe ex UK Equity Index Plus	4.19
Vanguard FTSE UK All-Share Index	4.07
State Street Global High Yield Bond Screened Index	2.99
UK Gilt 1.25% July 2027	2.50

Risk profile

For investors who can tolerate some shorter-term capital loss from their portfolio, as markets fluctuate. The portfolio invests in funds and exchange traded funds (ETFs), using a defined strategic asset allocation process to deliver returns while meeting the targeted level of risk.

Asset allocation (%)



Fixed Income	47.43
UK corporate bonds	15.79
UK government bonds	12.17
Emerging market debt	6.09
International government bonds (GBP hedged)	5.46
Global high yield bonds (GBP hedged)	5.03
International government bonds	2.89
Equity	26.87
North America equity	12.31
UK equity	6.28
Europe ex-UK equity	4.19
Emerging markets ex-China equity	4.08
Cash	25.70
Cash equivalent	21.09
Cash	4.61

Fixed income breakdown (%)



GBP Bonds	81.07
UK corporate bonds	33.30
UK government bonds	25.65
International government bonds (GBP hedged)	11.52
Global high yield bonds (GBP hedged)	10.60
International Bonds	18.93
Emerging market debt	12.85
International government bonds	6.08

Equity breakdown (%)



Sector	
Technology	20.36
Financial Services	19.27
Industrials	12.23
Healthcare	10.00
Consumer Cyclical	8.97
Consumer Defensive	8.32
Communication Services	6.19
Energy	4.80
Basic Materials	4.22
Utilities	3.45
Real Estate	2.18

The Ongoing charges figure (OCF) includes the underlying OCF, the annual management fee, and the costs for running and administering the fund structure. The annual management fee is variable, as it consists of the fixed OCF, minus all other costs.

Transaction costs represent the net costs incurred by the fund in buying and selling underlying investments. These are the gross costs offset with any pricing mechanisms used by the fund to protect investors from the cost of transactions (such as swing pricing). In some instances this may result in a negative number.

Due to its multi-asset nature, no financial instrument or index represents a fair benchmark for the Fund. However, to give context and enable an objective assessment of the Fund's performance, the IA Mixed Investment 0-35% Shares is included for reference. The Fund does not aim to track the IA sector as a benchmark. Performance is calculated on a net of fees basis. This fund launched on 18 Apr 2017.

Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

The Dynamic Planner Risk Target Managed (RTM) scheme has risk profile bands ranging from 3-8, with 8 being the highest. It is based upon proprietary research and analysis of the long-term forecast returns and volatility of the Dynamic Planner asset and risk model. The risk profile assessment is reviewed independently by Dynamic Planner on an ongoing quarterly basis. Dynamic Planner is the brand name of the software system powered by Distribution Technology (DT). Copyright © Distribution Technology Ltd 2018 onwards.

FinaMetrica risk tolerance scores were mapped to the funds' strategic asset allocations. The mappings are only for use by financial advisors licensed to use FinaMetrica Risk Profiling system, are for guidance purposes only and do not constitute financial or investment advice.

EValue Limited ("EValue") owns the Funds Risk Assessor solution, which can be used to measure the risk rating of an investment fund or portfolio of investment funds. The AJ Bell Growth Funds were assessed on the EValue standard 1-10 rating scale across a 10 year time horizon.

Defaqto is a financial information business. AJ Bell has received a Defaqto Risk Rating and has been 5 Diamond Rated for its VT AJ Bell Cautious Fund.

The Synaptic Risk Rating Service is derived from the risk framework provided by Moody's Analytic's Stochastic engine. The AJ Bell Funds have been assessed on the Synaptic Risk Stamp 1-10 rating scale.

The Oxford Risk forward-looking risk estimates and mapped risk bands for the AJ Bell Funds can be expressed using five or seven bands.

The assigned risk profiles do not indicate a promise, forecast or illustration of future volatility or returns nor represent investment advice or a recommendation to buy or sell units/shares in a fund or portfolio.

Currency Risk: The Fund invests in overseas markets and the value of its investments and may rise or fall as a result of changes in exchange rates.

Emerging Markets Risk: The Fund invests in less economically developed markets (i.e. emerging markets) which can involve greater risks and fluctuations in valuations compared to developed market places.

Index Trading Risk: The performance of any passively managed funds may not exactly track that of their indices. This is referred to as 'Tracking error'.

Interest Rate Risk: Fluctuations in interest rates may affect the value of the Fund and your investment.

Liquidity Risk: The Fund invests within underlying funds and there is a risk that these suspend or defer the payment of redemption proceeds, which may impact the Fund's ability to meet redemption requests.



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