# VT Astute Conservative

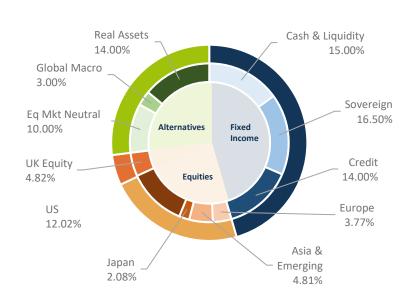
## FUND FACTSHEET | JULY 2022

### Objective

To deliver total returns in line with the Consumer Prices Index over the recommended minimum time horizon of 5+ years.

The fund will seek to achieve its objective by investing at least 70% in collective investment vehicles, a greater proportion of which will be allocated to defensive assets, such as fixed interest and cash, than to growth assets (such as equities).

#### Asset Allocation



#### Recent Changes (Previous 3 months)



Purchased iShares USD Treasury Bond ETF, iShares Core UK Gilts ETF, M&G Global Listed Infrastructure & Regnan Sustainable Water and Waste.



**Increased** iShares USD Treasury Bond ETF, Gresham House Energy Storage & Tritax EuroBox.



**Sold** Pimco Mortgage Opportunities & Invesco Physical Gold

**Reduced** Allianz Fixed Income Macro, iShares USD TIPS ETF, JPM UK Equity Core, ES R&M UK Recovery, Premier Miton European Opportunities & VT Gravis Clean Energy Income.



We further increased our position in the iShares USD Treasury Bond ETF as well as buying the iShares Core UK Gilts ETF, this was to increase portfolio duration after yields had risen to a suitable level. We reduced some of our UK positions in favour of purchasing M&G Global Listed Infrastructure and Regnan Sustainable Water and Waste, to introduce the infrastructure theme to the fund. We also sold our Invesco Physical Gold position to increase equity exposure following market falls.

#### Holdings

Fixed	Income & Cash	45.5%		
	Cash			
Cash & Liquidity	Blackrock Sterling Liquid Env. Aware Fund			
	Aegon European ABS			
	Royal London Diversified ABS			
Sovereign	iShares USD TIPS ETF			
	iShares USD Treasury Bond ETF			
	iShares China CNY Bond ETF			
	iShares Core UK Gilts ETF			
Credit	M&G UK Inflation Linked Corporate Bond			
	Robeco QI Global Multi-Factor Credit			
	Hermes Multi-Strategy Credit			
	Equity	27.5%		
UK Equity	ES R&M UK Recovery Fund			
	JPMorgan UK Equity Core			
	ASI UK Mid-Cap Equity			
Int. Equity	ES R&M European			
	LF Miton European Opportunit	ies		
	Comgest Growth Europe Ex. UK			
	Allianz China A-Shares			
	iShares MSCI EM SRI ETF			
	Polar Emerging Markets Stars			
	Jupiter Japan Income			
	Invesco S&P 500 ETF			
	Federated Hermes US SMID Equity Hedge			
	L&G US Equity			
Thematic	M&G Global Listed Infrastructu	ıre		
Equity	Regnan Sustainable Water and	Waste		
А	lternatives	27.0%		
Eq. Mkt Neutral	Blackrock European Absolute A	Alpha		
	Protea Eco Advisers ESG Absolu	ute Return		
Macro	Allianz Fixed Income Macro			
Real Assets	VT Gravis Clean Energy Income	2		
	VT RM Alternative Income			
	Aquila European Renewables I	ncome Fund		
	Gresham House Energy Storage			
	The Renewables Infrastructure Group			
Real	Sequoia Economic Infrastructure			
Assets	LXI REIT			
Direct	Starwood European Real Estate Finance			
	Real Estate Credit Investments			
-	Tritax EuroBox			
	Aberdeen Standard European	Logistics		



## VT Astute Conservative

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#### Performance



- VT Astute Conservative A Acc
- UK CPI
- Morningstar UK Moderately Cautious Target Allocation

#### Cumulative & Discrete Performance

	1 Year	Launch	2021	2020*
VT Astute Conservative	-3.48	2.98	5.74	4.06
Benchmark	8.54	11.25	5.39	0.53
Comparator	-7.44	-3.05	3.70	3.05

Performance is net of ongoing charges \*Data from the 20th of July 2020 (Fund launch).

#### Commentary

It has been another difficult month for markets after what had already been a tough start to the year. Government bonds have been hit hard this year, failing to provide the protection that investors tend to seek from them. Government bonds were hit as markets moved to price in further increases in interest rates on top of what has already been announced. The US raised rates by 0.75% to 1.75%, and the UK raised rates by 0.25% to 1.25%, with markets now expecting interest rates to rise to 3.4%, 3% and 1.6% in the US, UK and Europe, respectively, by next year. The increase in expectations for interest rates has also contributed to a decline in equity valuations, along with concerns about the growth outlook. Recession fears have risen, due to the squeeze on consumers wallets from higher prices and higher borrowing costs as the central banks seek to fight inflation. Despite recession fears building, consensus analyst forecasts still expect positive growth in company profits for both this year and next. So, the key risks from here are if company earnings disappoint relative to expectations, or if the still relatively expensive US growth stocks continue to see further declines in their valuations. We continue to closely monitor central bank activity and while risks remain, we continue to remain neutral on risk assets.

#### **ESG** Rating



#### **Fund Details**

Fund Size £ 84.40m Benchmark CPI

Comparator Morningstar UK Moderately
Cautious Target Allocation
Manager Astute Investment Management

ACD Valu Trac
Fund Type OEIC (UCITS)
Launch Date 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020
OCF 0.98%
Total No. Holdings 39
Dealing Frequency Daily

ISIN GB00BKWGB467
SEDOL BKWGB46

#### Fund Management Team



**Scott Osborne** PhD CFA Chief Investment Officer



**Nathan Chan** IMC Senior Investment Analyst



**Toby Hulse** DipPFS IMC Investment Analyst

#### Risks

Investments can fall as well as rise and you may get back less than your original investment. Changes in markets, currency exchange rates or interest rates may have adverse effects on the value of your investments. Past performance is never a guide to future performance.

#### **Contact Information**



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