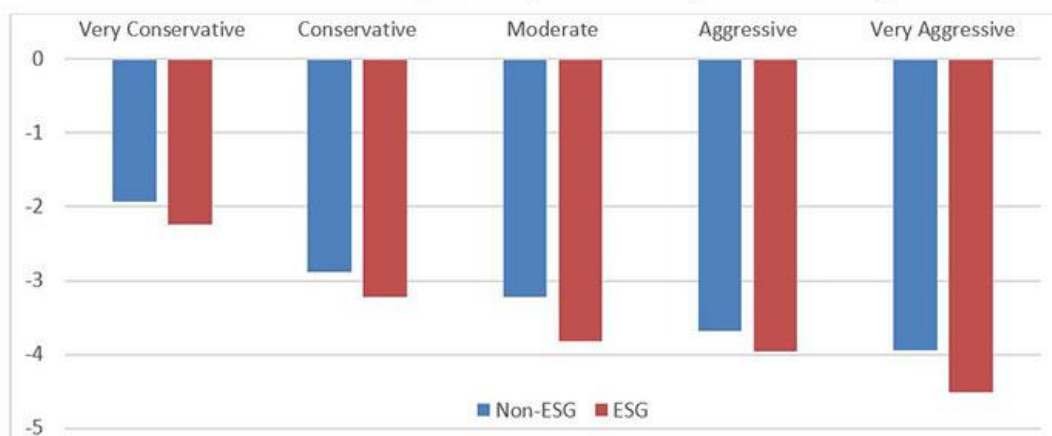




As at 31 March 2022, UOBAM Robo-Invest, UOB Asset Management’s robo-adviser on the Singtel Dash app, had portfolios that delivered returns of between -1.9 percent and -4.5 percent since inception, ranging from the Very Conservative portfolio to the Very Aggressive portfolio. The Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) portfolios and non-ESG portfolios saw largely similar performances since inception.

Non- ESG and ESG portfolio performance (% in SGD terms)



Source: UOBAM, 21 December 2021 to 31 March 2022. Performance on a Net Asset Value basis, before subscription fees. Past performance of the portfolio or UOBAM and any past performance, prediction, projection or forecast on the economy or markets are not necessarily indicative of the future or likely performance of the portfolio or UOBAM. Returns are calculated on a single pricing basis.

ESG Portfolios

- The Very Conservative portfolio posted -1.9 percent return for the quarter mainly due to negative contributions from Asian and global bonds.
- The Conservative portfolio suffered losses due to the higher exposure to Singapore bonds and REITs.
- The Moderate portfolio had an allocation to US equities and Asian equities that negatively impacted performance.
- The Aggressive and Very Aggressive portfolios had an allocation to US equities and Asian equities that negatively impacted performance. The REITs exposure also weighed on performance. However, the allocation to global equities helped to offset some losses.

Non-ESG Portfolios

- The Very Conservative portfolio posted -2.2 percent return for the quarter mainly due to negative contributions from Asian bonds.
- The Conservative portfolio had a higher allocation to Asian equities and REITs exposure which weighed on performance.
- The Moderate and Aggressive portfolios also saw their allocation to Asian equities and REITs weigh on performance.
- The Very Aggressive portfolio had an allocation to global equities that helped to offset losses.

Q2 2022 Market Outlook & Portfolio Strategy

Federal Funds Futures are predicting as many as nine rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve (Fed) this year. This is the most aggressive tightening by the agency since 1994, and such expectations will likely keep the bond market under pressure.

However, some of this may already have been priced into the market. And while the Fed is committed to tame inflation, it will be mindful of the growth risk. High borrowing costs tend to slow consumer demand and corporate investments. The Russia-Ukraine conflict, sanctions and higher energy prices may also start taking a heavier toll on global and US economies.

As such, the Fed may choose to pause after a few rate hikes and wait for confirmation from economic data. If this plays out, and current fears of an overly aggressive Fed fail to materialise, we may see a relief rally in the bond market.

In the longer term, while 1Q 2022 was an anomaly where global bonds proved more volatile than equities, we do not see this to be the new norm. We would expect asset class performance to revert to their historic trends. As such, we continue to maintain our asset allocation framework, including our exposure to developed and emerging market government bonds, as a potential source of above-deposit returns and for diversification purposes.

We encourage you to take this opportunity to review your investment objective and portfolio. Should you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at UOBAMSupport@uobgroup.com.

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