## **Balanced Fund**

# Portfolio Investment Entity

# Monthly Fact Sheet as at 28 February 2025



## **Portfolio Managers**



Mark Riggall Portfolio Manager



Paul Morris
Co-Portfolio Manager

The Fund fell 0.2% last month, bringing the one-year return to 11.1%. Market volatility picked up in February as investors grew concerned about falling US growth. This saw shares sell-off and bonds rally. The Fund has navigated this period well due to active decisions across asset allocation and stock selection.

In late January, the Fund's exposure to US shares was reduced as we became concerned about a slowing in growth. At the same time, exposure to bonds was increased. Given the rally in shares and fall in bond prices at that point, it was an opportune time to reallocate. Over February, US shares underperformed and bond prices were strong, benefiting the Fund's positions. Stock selection helped last month too. Given the high valuations of shares in the US, we have been allocating more to the UK and Europe where valuations are cheap.

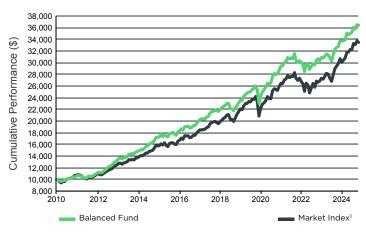
Last month, our UK shares performed strongly, despite the weakness in global shares. NatWest Group (+10.6%) and Bank of Ireland (+17.8%) continue to be strong performers, joined by BT Group (+12.6%) and Coca-Cola Europacific Partners (+9.8%). Looking ahead, it is likely that share and bond markets will continue to be choppy. US policies around tariffs and cuts to government spending are increasing uncertainty and weighing on sentiment. However, the underlying US economy is strong and whilst growth is slowing it is unlikely to be negative. The rest of the developed world is also supported by falling interest rates and in Europe, increased fiscal spending is on the cards. The outlook for returns remains reasonable, partly due to the solid returns available from bonds which can cushion returns, even if economic growth slows more sharply.

To view Milford's February 2025 Market and Economic Review please see milfordasset.com/insights.

For previous fund reports see milfordasset.com/fund-reports.

#### **Cumulative Fund Performance**

(after fees and before tax)



Assumes the growth of \$10,000 invested at the Fund's inception date.

## **Key Fund Facts**

Objective <sup>2</sup>	To provide capital growth over the minimum recommended investment timeframe
	Diversified fund that primarily invests in equities,

**Description** with a significant allocation to fixed interest

securities

securities				
Minimum recommended investment timeframe	5 years +			
Target Allocation	39% Income Assets / 61% Growth Assets			
Neutral FX Exposure	13.0%			
Net Asset Value (NAV)	\$2,085.9 M			
Buy-sell Spread	None - swing pricing applies (See PDS for details)			
Inception Date	1 April 2010			
Benchmark	Not applicable			
Base Fund Fee <sup>3</sup>	1.05%			
Performance Fee	The Fund may invest into related Milford funds that charge performance fees.			
Total Fund Fees 4	1.06% (includes an est. performance fee)			
	Lower risk Higher risk			
Risk Indicator	1 2 3 4 5 6 7			

Potentially lower returns

## **External Ratings**



The Milford Balanced Fund has a Morningstar Medalist Rating<sup>TM</sup> of 'Silver' as of 5-11-2024

Potentially higher returns



Unit Price: \$3.473

## Investment Performance after fees as at 28 February 2025<sup>5</sup>

	1 Month	3 Months	1 year	3 years (p.a.)	5 years (p.a.)	Since inception (p.a.)
Milford Balanced Fund (Gross Of Tax)	-0.23%	1.05%	11.05%	6.54%	7.50%	9.05%
After Tax 10.50%	-0.29%	0.95%	10.50%	6.16%	7.17%	8.57%
After Tax 17.50%	-0.32%	0.88%	10.14%	5.90%	6.96%	8.25%
After Tax 28.00%	-0.38%	0.79%	9.60%	5.52%	6.63%	7.79%
Market Index <sup>1</sup>	-0.75%	0.56%	12.14%	7.43%	7.49%	8.44%

## **Top Equity Holdings**

Holdings	% of Fund
Microsoft	1.79%
Contact Energy	1.67%
NatWest Group	1.41%
Bank of America	1.33%
Shell	1.23%
Amazon	1.08%
BT Group	0.95%
Fiserv	0.92%
Coca-Cola Europacific Partners	0.90%
Infratil	0.90%

#### **Current Asset Allocation**

	Actual Investment Mix	Neutral Investment Mix
Effective Cash#	20.28%	8%
New Zealand Fixed Interest	6.68%	6%
International Fixed Interest	24.70%	25.0%
New Zealand Equities	7.51%	10.5%
Australian Equities	9.75%	13.5%
International Equities	25.96%	30%
Listed Property	5.12%	7%
Other	0.00%	0.0%

# The actual cash held by the Fund is 11.10%. Effective Cash reported above is adjusted to reflect the Fund's notional positions (e.g. derivatives used to increase or reduce market exposure).

## **Top Fixed Interest Holdings**

Holdings	% of Fund
Scentre Group 5.125% 2080	0.62%
Origin Energy 5.35% 2031	0.59%
EnBW International Finance 6.048% 2034	0.49%
Westpac 5.754% 2034	0.47%
NatWest 5.125% Perpetual	0.44%
ANZ 5.545% 2035	0.41%
ANZ 4.63% 2030	0.40%
NZLGFA 4.5% 2030	0.34%
ING Groep 4.25% Perpetual	0.34%
Iberdrola 5.87% 2034	0.34%

Note: Fixed interest securities are reported in the following format: Issuer name, interest (coupon rate), maturity year.

#### **Fund Allocation**



<sup>1.</sup> The Fund does not have a performance benchmark, hence a market index has been included for comparison purposes. See the Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives for more details on the market index. The market index is a blend of indices that represent the Fund's neutral asset allocation. Note the Fund's investment strategy is designed to achieve its objective, which may mean that at times, the returns of the market index may not be an appropriate measure. 2. After the Base Fund Fee but before tax and before the performance fee. 3. Where applicable, the Base Fund Fee includes an estimate of non-related underlying fund charges. 4. The Total Fund Fees comprise the Base Fund Fee and any estimated Performance Fee. Please refer to the Product Disclosure Statement for more information as to how these are calculated. 5. Please note past performance is not a guarantee of future returns.