

# **Balanced Reference Portfolio (SGD)**

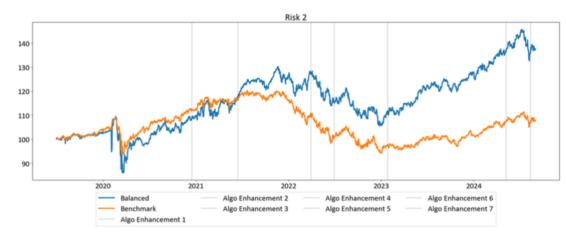
# September 2024

## **Investment Objective & Methodologies:**

Blend growth with stability for moderate long-term returns.

- Provide steady long-term growth while balancing risk and return through diversification.
- This strategy combines moderate exposure to higher-risk assets together with an emphasis on stability and capital preservation; aiming for a well-rounded approach to growth and risk management.
- Deliver superior risk-adjusted returns through proprietary AI-driven investment models.
- Employ algorithm and quantitative strategies to select ETFs listed on the US stock exchanges (i.e. NYSE, NASDAQ and etc.) designed to optimize asset allocation, rebalancing, and performance metrics that exceeds the benchmark on a consistent basis.

## Performance (%)



%	1 mth	3 mths	6 mths	YTD	1 yr	2 yrs	3 yrs	SI Ann.	Si Ann.
								Ret.	Vol.
Portfolio	(2.7)	(0.3)	5.1	8.0	11.3	9.5	3.2	6.4	15.4
Benchmark	(1.9)	0.7	2.8	6.1	6.8	2.9	(3.2)	1.5	10.6
Peer 1	(0.4)	1.6	3.3	5.7	8.3	2.0			
Peer 2	(1.0)	1.6	4.5	6.1	7.3	2.1			
Peer 3	0.2	2.4	4.5	6.5	10.7	7.1			

Returns (%) are rounded to 1 decimal place, and all are net of underlying ETF expense ratios and annual SqSave management fees; but exclude consideration of annual performance fees, if any. The returns more than 1 year are annualised.

Portfolio holidays are based on the US calendar.

SI : Since Inception Ann. : Annualised Ret. : Return Vol. : Volatility

### Benchmark:

- 58.3% BNDX Vanguard Total International Bond ETF
- 26.1% EEM iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF
- 15.6% VTI Vanguard Total Stock Market ETF

Inception date 01 July 2019

Base Currency SGD

Pricing Date 31 August 2024

NAV\* SGD 1.86

Management fee 0.5% p.a.

### Performance Fee

10% of positive yearly returns, applied on a high watermark basis

Minimum Initial & Subsequent Investment SGD1.00

**Preliminary Charge**None

Daily Dealing Cutoff Times

Deposits from SqCash: 11 am

Deposits from Bank Account: 10 pm prior to business day

Withdrawals: 6 pm on business days

Subscription Mode Cash

SqSave is an investment brand of PIVOT Fintech Pte. Ltd. (201716150D), offering digital investment management services under a Capital Markets Services licence (CMS100806), regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

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<sup>\*</sup> Figures are rounded to 2 decimal places.



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Top 5 ETFs (% of NAV)		Asset Allocation (%)	
SPDR Gold Trust (GLD)	19.37%	Developed Equity	34.74%
Technology Select Sector SPDR Fund (XLK)	16.14%	Fixed Income	28.77%
iShares Short Treasury Bond ETF (SHV)	13.52%	Alternative Investment	22.26%
SPDR Bloomberg International Treasury Bond ETF (BWX)	8.06%	Emerging Equity	7.11%
iShares MSCI India ETF (INDA)	7.11%	Currency	5.73%
		Cash	1.39%

### **Investment Manager's Commentary**

August was marked by significant market volatility, triggered by a series of global events. The sharp sell-off began with the Market Fallout on August 5th, when Japan's Nikkei 225 dropped by 12.4%, sparking steep declines across global equity markets.

### **Key Market Drivers:**

- Unravelling the Carry Trade: Traders who had borrowed low-interest Yen to invest in higher-yield assets were caught off guard by the Bank of Japan's rate hike on July 31st. The subsequent surge in the Yen forced many to liquidate their positions, exacerbating the market turnoil
- Al Hype Deflating: Al-related stocks, which had seen inflated valuations, began to correct as a more realistic view of the technology's short-term potential set in.
- Recession Fears: Concerns over a potential global recession continued to weigh on markets, with fears of delayed US Federal Reserve interest rate cuts stoking further anxiety.

By the end of the month, major US market indices like the S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrials had recovered, but the journey was anything but smooth.

# August Performance Review: Balanced Reference Portfolio Stood Strong Amidst Volatility

In August, our GlobalSave Balanced Reference portfolio navigated through notable market volatility. The U.S. dollar's 3% decline vs. the Singapore dollar, due to our assets being USD-denominated, was a key factor. For example, while the bond focused ETFs in our reference portfolio showed modest increases on a USD basis in the past month, they fell by 1-2% in SGD adjusted terms, influencing overall performance. Gold remained steady, providing stability. Conversely, our represented equity-oriented ETFs achieved modest gains ranging from 1-4% in SGD terms, though this was not enough to fully offset the declines in other areas. Despite these challenging market conditions, our Balanced Reference Portfolio demonstrated some resilience. Over the 1-month period, the portfolio posted a return of (2.7%), modestly lagging our comparable peers and the benchmark.

### **Short-term Performance:**

Over the 6-month period, the portfolio returned 5.1%, comfortably surpassing the benchmark's 2.8% and outperforming all peers, illustrating its ability to rebound and capitalize on market opportunities.

## Year-to-date (YTD) and 1-year Performance:

YTD, the portfolio posted an impressive return of 8.0%, significantly exceeding the benchmark's 6.1%. It also outperformed Peer 1, Peer 2, and Peer 3, which returned 5.7%, 6.1%, and 6.5%, respectively. This demonstrates the portfolio's superior positioning and resilience in navigating market turbulence. Over the 1-year period, the portfolio delivered an outstanding 11.3% return, well ahead of the benchmark's 6.8%, and surpassing Peer 1 and Peer 2. It even outpaced Peer 3, which achieved 10.7%.

## Medium-term Performance (2 years and 3 years):

In the 2-year period, the portfolio achieved a strong annualised return of 9.5%, far outpacing the benchmark's 2.9% and comfortably ahead of peer returns, underscoring its resilience and consistent performance over time. Over the 3-year period, the portfolio posted a positive annualised return of 3.2%, significantly outperforming the benchmark's negative (3.2%) performance.

## Since Inception (SI Annualised Return):

The portfolio's annualised return since inception stands at 6.4%, a remarkable achievement compared to the benchmark's 1.5%, reflecting its long-term success in delivering sustainable growth for investors.

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## **Investment Manager's Commentary (continued)**

## **Enhancements in GlobalSave Portfolios for Future Performance**

Our investment approach involves rigorous Al-driven quantitative analysis, utilizing insights from past performance to continuously refine and enhance our strategies. In response to the current volatile environment in August, we have optimised our algorithms for all five GlobalSave portfolios to improve their performance. This includes incorporating new ETFs with low correlations to equities and adjusting the balance between equity and fixed income weights. We anticipate that the results of these modifications will start to become evident in the coming months.

#### **Looking Ahead**

As we approach September, key events such as the forthcoming US Federal Reserve meeting just after mid-month and critical economic data releases are set to influence market direction. While potential interest rate cuts might provide some relief, the broader market's reaction will be crucial. The mixed performance across asset classes and ongoing volatility underscores the essential role of diversification in managing risk during turbulent times, particularly within our 5 GlobalSave portfolios.

By remaining calm and focused, investors can better navigate short-term market fluctuations while staying aligned with their long-term financial goals. As Warren Buffett wisely advises, "Be fearful when others are greedy and greedy when others are fearful." Now is a time to consider investing strategically to capitalise on opportunities and continue progressing towards your financial objectives.

#### Conclusion

At SqSave, we're committed to being there for you through every market shift. Our team is dedicated to providing the stability and guidance you need to stay on track with your financial goals. Your trust is our priority, and we're here to support you every step of the way.

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