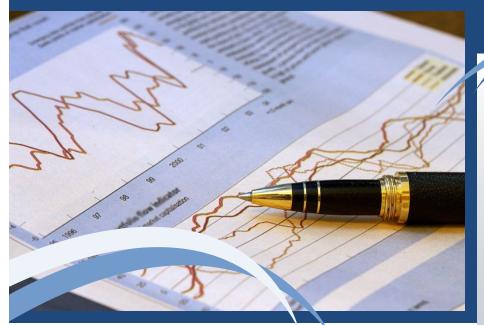
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APR 2019

MONTHLY INVESTMENT ALLOCATOR



MARKET OUTLOOK

- ♠ In US, the Fed committee has maintained Federal Fund Rate (FFR) at 2.25-2.5% level on Mar 2019, on the back of low inflationary environment with overall inflation in Feb 2019 increased by 1.5% YoY, less than 1.6% YoY increase in Jan 2019, slightly lower than the Fed 2.0% target. The Fed also noted a slower growth in recent month as household spending and business fixed investment slowed. However, labour market remains strong.
- The Caixin China Manufacturing PMI reached 50.8 in Mar 2019, up from 49.9 in Feb 2019 returning into expansionary territory for the first time in four months. A reading above 50 indicates expansion. The index rose as stipulated by substantial improvement in factory production and new export orders while employment increased for the first time in over five years. The manufacturing sector recovery is said to be strengthened by more relaxed financing environment and government efforts to bail out the private sector in order to boost the country's cooling economy.
- ASEAN bourses registered mixed return in Mar 2019. FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI Index (FBMKLCI) and Thailand's Stock Exchange Index (SET), fell by 3.8% and 0.9% MOM respectively. Philippine's Stock Exchange Index (PCOMP) and Jakarta Composite Index (JCI) increased by 2.8% and 0.4% MoM respectively. On the other hand, Singapore's Straits Times Index (STI) was flat MoM.
- We expect market volatility in Japan surrounding the 10 days Golden Week holiday. Thus, investors may make some position adjustments to unwind their position in Japan fund. China's Two Sessions meeting held on 5th March 2019 announced fiscal support which include cost cutting measures to help bolster the country's domestic-driven economy. Overall, we remain positive outlook on China. As for our model portfolio, we made some changes. In the Shariah model portfolio, we replace Eastspring Investments Dinasti Equity fund with RHB Shariah China Focus fund underpinned by its superior performance albeit on the short term as RHB Shariah China Focus fund was launched on 13th November 2018. However, we maintained CIMB-Principal Greater China fund for our China exposure in the conventional model portfolio as RHB Shariah China Focus fund is more volatile. Investors with higher risk tolerance may opt to switch CIMB-Principal Greater China Fund with RHB Shariah China Focus fund for their China exposure.

EQUITY

FBMKLCI declined by 3.8% MoM in Mar 2019 to close at 1,643.6. Looking at the trading participants for the month, both local retailers and local institution were net buyers, buying RM191mil and RM1,367mil worth of shares respectively. Foreign Investors on the other hand, was the net seller, selling RM1,557mil worth of shares. On year-to-date (YTD) basis, local retailers and local institutions also were net buyer, buying RM461mil and RM886mil worth of shares respectively. While, foreign investors are the net seller, selling at RM1,347 mil.

Most sectors in Malaysia recorded mix returns with energy, construction, technology, telecom and industrial products gained 7.1%, 6.9%, 5.1%,1.0% and 0.5% respectively. Other sectors namely utilities, plantation, property, healthcare, consumer, transport and finance fell by 0.4%, 0.7%, 1.6%, 1.6%, 2.1%, 2.2%, 4.6% MoM respectively. The financial sector was the biggest hit amid concerns over potential earnings risks for banks due to a possible overnight policy rate (OPR) cut.

BONDS

In Mar 2019, the yield for the Malaysian Government Securities (MGS) for 3-year, 5-year, 7-year, and 10-year MGS decreased by 19bps, 19bps, 15bps and 12bps to close at 3.38%, 3.53%, 3.72% and 3.77% respectively.

COMMODITIES

Nymex (WTI) crude oil increased 5.1% MoM in Mar 2019, to close at \$60.14/barrel from \$57.22/barrel in Feb 2019. This was boosted by the US government's consideration to weigh more sanctions on Iran. Apart from that, Venezuelan export terminal halted operation due to prolonged blackout and cancellation of OPEC meeting on April, leaving oil output cuts to persist, supporting the oil price. Crude palm oil rebounded by 4.5% MoM to close at RM2,001/MT in Mar 2019 from RM1,915/MT in Feb 2019. Gold price declined 1.8% MoM to close at \$1,293/Oz in Mar 2019 as oppose to \$1,316/Oz in 2019.

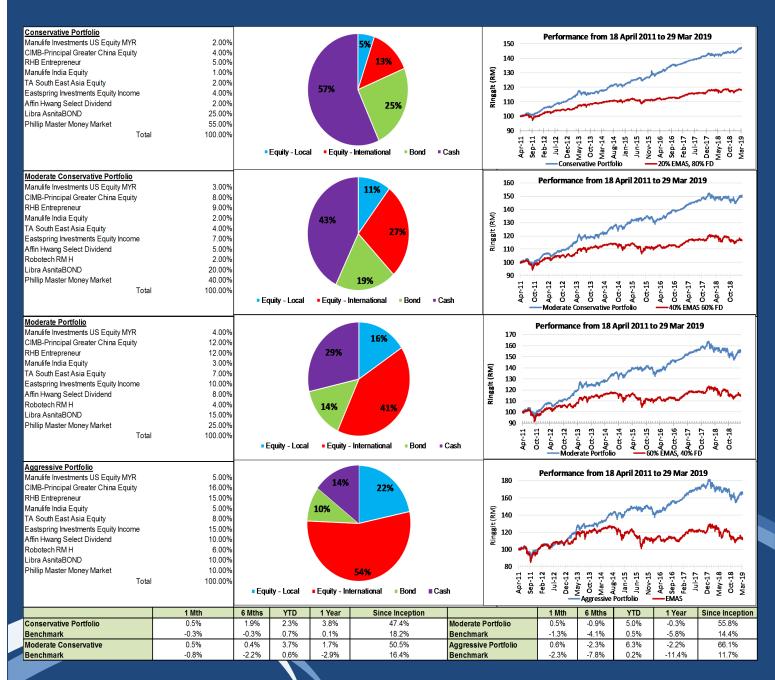


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Commentary

All of our model portfolios registered positive returns, outperformed their respective benchmarks in Mar 2019. However, the fund exposure in Japan and Malaysia have dragged the overall returns. Top performing funds were Manulife India Equity Fund and Robotech Fund which increased 8.3% MoM and 2.0% MoM respectively.

Model Portfolio



Source : Lipper

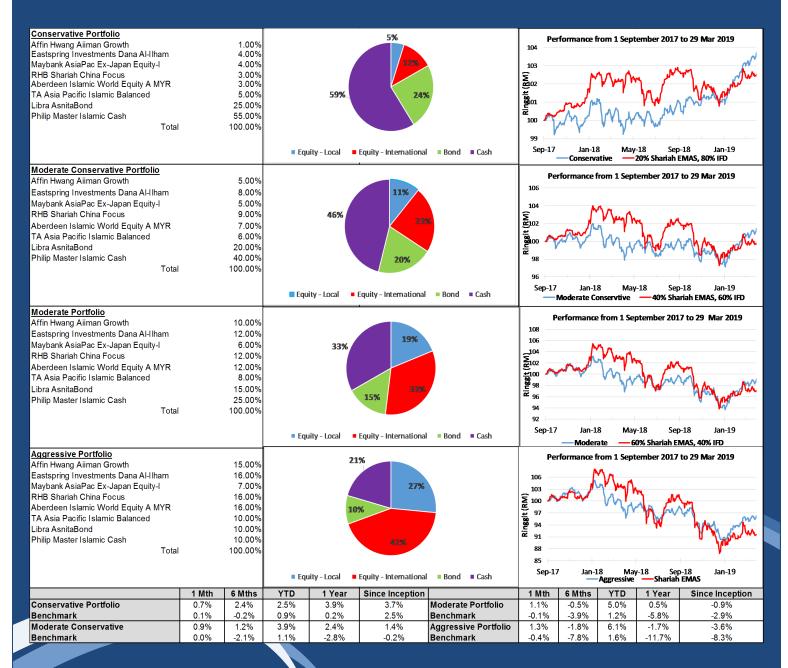




Commentary

Similarly, all of our Shariah model portfolios registered positive returns, outperformed their respective benchmarks in Mar 2019. Top performing funds were Eastspring Investment Dinasti Equity fund and Maybank AsiaPac ex-Japan Equity-I fund which increased 3.1% MoM and 1.9% MoM respectively.

Shariah Model Portfolio



DISCLAIMER

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Source: Lipper

It's a matter of trust