FULLERTON FUND MANAGEMENT

Fullerton Wise Income

November 2024

Investment Objective

The investment objective of FWI is to generate regular income and long-term capital appreciation for investors.

The Fund will invest primarily in a diversified portfolio of collective investment schemes, other investment funds, exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), securities, including but not limited to fixed income securities, equities, real estate investment trusts ("REITs"), money market instruments and cash as deemed appropriate by us in accordance with its investment objective.

Fund Information

Fund Size	SGD 34.12 million
Base Currency	SGD
Preliminary Charge	Class A - Currently up to 5% Class R / R1 - Currently 0%
Dealing Frequency	Every Business Day
Subscription Mode	Cash, SRS

Manager's Commentary

Market Review

With the uncertainty surrounding the U.S. elections resolved in early November, developed market equity markets resumed their upward trajectory, making November one of the strongest months for developed market equities this year. The MSCI AC World Index, which represents global equities, recorded a return of 3.7% in U.S. dollars. U.S. equities performed particularly well, with the MSCI U.S. Index rising 6.2% and the S&P 500 Index increasing by 5.9% in U.S dollars. Despite persistent political challenges in Europe, the MSCI Europe Index still managed a 1.1% gain in euros; however, this translated to a -1.7% return in dollars due to a -2.8% depreciation of the euro during the month.

Emerging market equities in Asia faced headwinds as concerns grew over potential tariffs on Asian exports following Donald Trump's presidential victory plus the Republican Party's control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Consequently, the MSCI Asia ex-Japan Index fell by -3.3% in dollars, with the strength of the dollar accounting for 1.4 percentage points of that decline.

President-elect Trump has indicated plans to impose 25% tariffs on Canadian and Mexican exports until those countries address issues related to drugs and illegal immigration into the U.S.. Additionally, he has proposed an extra 10% tariff on imports from China above the current tariffs.

In fixed income markets, Trump's nomination of Scott Bessent as Treasury Secretary and his commitment to reduce the U.S. government's budget by $2 trillion were well-received by investors. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note decreased by 11 basis points (bps), closing at 4.17%, while the yield on the 10-year German Bund fell by 30 bps, ending November at 2.09% amid economic data suggesting a slowdown in major European economies. Market expectations are leaning towards further monetary policy easing from both the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Federal Reserve during their December meetings. The U.S. dollar-hedged Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index rose by 1.2%, while the JACI Composite Index improved by 0.5%.

Political developments in Europe could stall growth and the Fund is light on allocation. Germany's right-wing AfD Party has announced plans to campaign for an exit from both the European Union and the euro if they form the next government following the February 2025 elections. In France, the right-wing National Rally aims to destabilise the current government, while in the UK, support for the Labour Party-led government is waning due to unpopular policy decisions and recent resignations of key officials.

Conversely, U.S. risk assets have benefited from robust economic data and strong Q3 corporate earnings reports. Market is ignoring the weakness in ISM Manufacturing Index, and instead chose to focus on October's ISM Services Index which read 56.0, its highest level since July 2022. Additionally, stability in initial jobless claims is alleviating concerns about an economic slowdown.

Within Singapore, the iStoxx Singapore Developed REITs Index suffered -3.4% in Singapore dollars, mark-to-market loss in November on profit taking as investors switched out of REITs and into the growth leaders and banks. Hence, MSCI Singapore Index saw a strong 9.3% rally in Singapore dollar. Singapore government generic 10-year bond yield slipped 8 bps to end the month at 2.74%.

Investment Outlook

Strong economic indicators from the U.S. aside, China's proactive policy measures are expected to spur investors' interest in Chinese equities, notwithstanding potential geopolitical volatility. As the initiatives unfold, they may encourage investors to increase their allocations to Chinese equities beyond the current representation of just over 2% in the MSCI AC World Index. Supportive monetary and fiscal policies are anticipated to drive stronger growth in 2025.

The Fund plans to tactically boost its allocation to Asian equities as regional markets are likely to benefit from China's renewed focus on economic stimulation. Continued easing of monetary policy by the People's Bank of China, the ECB and Federal Reserve, alongside fiscal stimulus from U.S. and China, should support risk assets moving into next year.

Singapore's core CPI inflation, which excludes private transport and accommodation, was 2.1% year-on-year (yoy) for October, considerably below the consensus of 2.5% on lower cost of services, utilities and retail prices. The next monetary policy meeting of the Monetary Authority of Singapore may be too soon to fully assess the domestic implications, assuming new policies from the U.S. will only be announced after the Trump's inauguration on 20 January. Nevertheless, we anticipate MAS's easing cycle will be gradual.

However, elevated geopolitical risks remain a concern that could intermittently disrupt markets, including ongoing U.S.-China trade tensions and conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Looking further ahead, bond vigilantes are likely to demand higher term premia for longer-duration assets, potentially increasing volatility as yield curves steepen. Nevertheless, equity analysts have maintained their healthy corporate earnings forecasts, indicating resilience against risk events despite recent market fluctuations.

Investment Strategy

Asset Allocation

We are confident central banks' easing of monetary policies will favour global risk assets. Within investment guidelines, our strategy focus will be: (i) capitalising on sectors poised for growth due to rejuvenation policies; and (ii) maintaining diversification across geographies and sectors to mitigate risks associated with geopolitical developments that could affect inflation or financial stability.

The Fund has an overall overweight in risky assets due to their clearer path for corporate earnings growth. At the same time, we recognise long-term potential in Asian markets influenced by supportive government policies in Japan, China, and India. We have also extended our bond portfolio duration to offset equity risk amid recent yield surges. We continue to find credit attractive given subsiding inflation and stable economic growth prospects.

To manage various risks, we prioritise diversification across geographies, sectors, and themes. This balanced approach aims to capture growth opportunities while ensuring that defensive positions are established to effectively navigate an increasingly complex global economic landscape.

Fixed Income

Within fixed income, we will look into adding duration as bond yields move higher. We are also selective on China credits which could benefit from stimulus and continue to participate in new issues which offer attractive relative valuations. Our investment thesis considers improvement in financial conditions. In general, we consider the investment climate going forward to be more favourable for risk assets and for this reason, the Fund is underweight fixed income.

SREITs

Notwithstanding the recent weak performance, we are positive on REITs in the longer term. Rates market has calmed down subsequent to President elect Trump announcing his intention to cut government expenses and appointing Scott Bessent, viewed by market as a prudent operator, as his preferred Treasury Secretary. Elsewhere, we remain invested in Singapore banks which have outperformed on strong earnings.

Equities

We marginally added to global equities during seasonal weakness after weighing the strong U.S. economy with rising PMI services and healthy job data. Investors' sentiment has turned quickly after a clear mandate is given to Trump and the Republicans. Continued U.S. and Chinese government stimuli, along with central banks' looser financial conditions, will likely led to further risk assets outperformance in 2025.

Performance (%)

	1 mth	3 mths	6 mths	1 year	3 years	5 years	Since Inception
A-SGD (bid-to-bid)	-0.03	0.15	-	-	-	-	-
R-SGD (bid-to-bid)	0.00	0.25	5.96	10.44	0.62	-	0.90
R1-SGD (bid-to-bid)	0.00	0.25	5.96	10.44	0.62	-	0.90

Returns are calculated on a single pricing basis with net dividends and distributions (if any) reinvested. Returns more than a year are annualised. Preliminary charge is currently waived.

Asset Allocation (%)[1]

Equities	34.8
REITs	30.7
Fixed Income	29.5
Cash and cash equivalents	5.0

Regional Exposure (%)[1]

Singapore	45.7
Developed Markets	41.0
Emerging Markets	13.3

Top 5 Holdings (Equities, REITs, % of NAV)

iShares Core MSCI World UCITS ETF	20.3
Amundi Prime Global UCITS ETF	11.4
CapitaLand Integrated Commercial Trust	7.7
CapitaLand Ascendas REIT	5.7
Mapletree Industrial Trust	3.3

Top 5 Holdings (Fixed Income, % of NAV)

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT 3.375% SEP 2033	4.0
SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT 2.625% AUG 2032	3.2
ISHARES USD ASIA HIGH YIELD BOND ETF	3.1
SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT 3.375% MAY 2034	2.2
AUST & NZ BANKING GROUP 5.204% SEP 2035	0.7

Fixed Income Sector Exposure (%)[1]

Financials	31.3
Sovereigns & Supranational	31.3
Consumer Discretionary	12.4
Industrials	3.3
Materials	3.1
Energy	2.8
Utilities	2.4
Communication Services	1.3
Information Technology	1.2
Consumer Staples	0.4
Real Estate	0.1
Others	10.4

Fund Statistics

Fixed Income	
Duration	5.5 years
Average Credit Rating[3]	A-
Yield-to-Worst[4]	4.6%
S-REITs	
Dividend Yield	6.0%
Price to Book	1.0x
Price to Earnings	21.4x

Dividend History[5]

	Dividend / share	Record Date
Class A	-	28 Jun 2024
Class A	SGD 0.0118	30 Sep 2024
Class R	SGD 0.0096	28 Jun 2024
Class R	SGD 0.0101	30 Sep 2024
Class R1	SGD 0.0154	28 Jun 2024
Class R1	SGD 0.0160	30 Sep 2024

Fund Details

	Class A (Distribution)	Class R (Distribution)	Class R1 (Distribution)
Inception Date	8 Jul 2024	31 March 2021	31 March 2021
NAV per Unit[6]	SGD 1.03	SGD 0.88	SGD 0.78
Management Fee	Currently 0.80% p.a.	Currently 0.40% p.a.	Currently 0.40% p.a.
Initial Investment	None	None	None
Subsequent Investment	None	None	None
ISIN Code	SGXZ97897235	SGXZ55613715	SGXZ44316438
Bloomberg Code	FULFWIA SP	FULFMWR SP	FULFMR1 SP

Note: All fund data are sourced from Fullerton, Bloomberg dated as at 30 November 2024, unless otherwise stated.

1. Numbers might not add due to rounding.
2. Others include ETFs
3. Where the security is not rated by external rating agencies, Fullerton's internal rating methodology will apply.
4. Refers to Yield-to-Worst in base currency, before hedging.
5. Dividends are declared on a quarterly basis (i.e. March, June, September, December). Please refer to our website for more details on the dividend payouts.
6. Figures are truncated to 2 decimal places. Please refer to Fullerton's website for official price.

For further information on Fullerton and its funds:

Fullerton Fund Management Company Ltd
3 Fraser Street #09-28
DUO Tower
Singapore 189352

T +65 6808 4688
F +65 6417 6805
fullertonfund.com

FULLERTON
FUND MANAGEMENT