TM Ruffer Portfolio

Positive returns with low volatility

February 2023 **Issue 15**

February saw the return of a 'good news is bad news' dynamic in markets as a string of positive economic surprises out of the US reignited concerns about inflation and, with it, expectations of more central bank rate hikes. This meant January's Goldilocks 'soft landing' became February's 'no landing' – a scenario in which growth remains stronger for longer, forcing interest rates to remain higher for an extended period. This was painful for most assets, with bonds suffering the most severe whiplash as global bonds followed up their best (ever) January with their worst February performance since 1990.

Whilst the bond market adjusted in real time, with yields and short-term inflation expectations rising over the month as markets priced interest rates in the US to reach 5.5% by the end of the summer (up from 4.9% at the start of the month), equities remained remarkably sanguine. At least until Valentine's Day brought stronger than expected US inflation data, hitting January's equity darlings as rate-sensitive names fell furthest (the Nasdaq fell 6.9% on the month). Against this backdrop of rising yields, the fund's long-dated inflation-linked bonds suffered, as they were not met with a commensurate rise in longer term inflation expectations. Gold, which had the additional headwind of a rising US dollar, also detracted from performance. Our protective assets offered little help as volatility and credit spreads remained subdued. Whilst a falling oil price over the period was reflected in the negative contribution from our commodity exposure, the fund's energy equities made positive returns.

The question now is whether this is just a blip in this year's risk rally, or a sign of things to come. So far, a confluence of factors has created a tactical runway for markets in the coming months. These include China re-opening, a European energy-driven rebound, US consumer resilience and positive liquidity from central banks in China, Japan, and Europe. In light of this we have used the recent weakness to add to some of our risk assets, primarily via China sensitive equities and commodities. However, we do not view this set up as sustainable for 2023 as a whole, and our positioning continues to be informed by three essential judgements: inflation can't fall back to target without recession, recession won't come without tightening financial conditions, and we won't get tighter financial conditions unless central banks are hawkish.

We are already seeing evidence a global growth rebound is inconsistent with sustained disinflation. With Fed officials having now put a 50 basis point hike back on the table, we expect both fundamentals and liquidity conditions to be challenged in the second half of the year. Hence, we have used this year's decline in volatility (equity and credit) to dial up the protection in the portfolio, using VIX calls again for the first time since 2020. What's more, equity risk premiums remain extremely depressed (at the time of writing, the yield on a six month treasury bill exceeds the earnings yield on the S&P 500) and thus our overall allocation to risk assets remains low in favour of the optionality of cash.

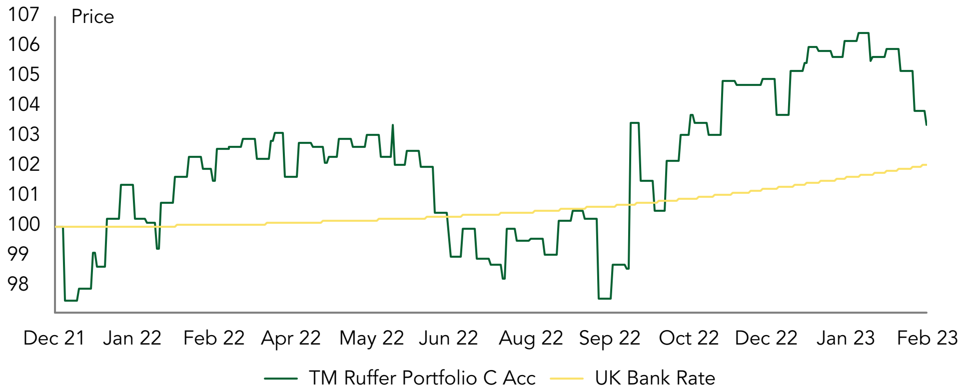
The danger today is the equity market had a narrative that it is now reluctant to abandon. We, the Fed and the bond market, it seems, have Keynes in our minds: "When the facts change, I change my mind – what do you do, sir?" So far equity markets and many investors, do not.

Ruffer performance is shown after deduction of all fees and management charges, and on the basis of income being reinvested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of the shares and the income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount originally invested. The value of overseas investments will be influenced by the rate of exchange.

Investment objective

To achieve positive returns over a 12 month rolling period, after all costs and charges have been taken. Underlying this objective is a fundamental philosophy of capital preservation. Capital invested is at risk and there is no guarantee that a positive return will be delivered over any one or a number of twelve-month rolling periods.

Performance since launch on 9 December 2021



	Performance %
February 2023	-2.0
Year to date	-2.4
1 year	1.9

Share price as at 28 February 2023	p
C accumulation	103.44
C income	100.38

12 month performance to December %	2022
TM Ruffer Portfolio C Acc	7.5
UK Bank Rate	1.5

TM Ruffer Portfolio as at 28 Feb 2023

Asset allocation

Currency allocation

Asset allocation	%
Short-dated bonds	18.0
Credit and derivative strategies	14.0
Index-linked gilts	11.6
Non-UK index-linked	10.2
Cash	6.5
Long-dated index-linked gilts	5.5
Gold exposure and gold equities	4.3
Commodity exposure	9.4
North America equities	5.8
UK equities	4.2
Asia ex-Japan equities	4.1
Japan equities	3.0
Europe equities	2.8
Other equities	0.6

Currency allocation	%
Sterling	61.7
US dollar	19.0
Yen	7.7
Australian dollar	5.3
Euro	0.5
Other	5.8

10 largest equity holdings*

Stock	% of fund
iShares MSCI EM Asia UCITS ETF	1.9
Alibaba Group	0.7
Alibaba Group Holding	0.7
BP	0.7
Ambev SA	0.6
Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group	0.4
Vallourec	0.4
Resona	0.3
Amazon	0.3
Cigna	0.3

5 largest bond holdings

Stock	% of fund
UK Treasury 0.125% 2024	5.9
UK Treasury index-linked 0.125% 2024	5.8
UK Treasury index-linked 2.5% 2024	5.8
US Treasury 0.625% TIPS 2024	3.6
UK Treasury index-linked 0.125% 2068	3.5

*Excludes holdings in pooled funds

Source: Ruffer LLP.
Pie chart totals may not equal 100 due to rounding.

The fund's prospectus and key information documents are provided in English and available on request. Please note that TM Ruffer Portfolio is a UK non-UCITS retail scheme (NURS). The TM Ruffer Portfolio is not registered for distribution in any country other than the UK. In line with the Prospectus, it is possible that at any one time the TM Ruffer Portfolio may invest more than 35% of its assets in transferable securities issued by or on behalf of or guaranteed by a single named issuer which may be one of the following: the Government of the United Kingdom (including the Scottish Administration, the Executive Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly, the National Assembly of Wales), the Governments of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, LCR Finance plc, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United States (including Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC), Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA), Private Export Funding Corporation (PEFCO)) or by one of the following international organisations: African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Council of Europe Development Bank, Deutsche Ausgleichsbank (DTA), Eurofima, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Investment Bank (EIB), Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank, Japan Development Bank, European Federal Home Loans, Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KFW) and the Nordic Investment Bank (NIB).

Fund size £2,737.1m

Fund information

	%
Ongoing Charges Figure	1.24
Annual management charge	1.14
Maximum annual management charge	1.20
Yield	1.81
Minimum investment	£100,000
Ex dividend dates	30 Jun, 31 Dec
Pay dates	28 Feb, 31 Aug
Dealing frequency	Weekly, every Wednesday where this is a business day Plus the final business day of the month
Valuation point	12.00 each dealing day

	Accumulation	Income
ISIN	GB00BP4DCZ86	GB00BP4DJF75
SEDOL	BP4DCZ8	BP4DJF7

Investment manager	Ruffer LLP
Auditors	Ernst & Young LLP
Authorised Corporate Director	Thesis Unit Trust Management Limited
Depository	Bank of New York Mellon (International) Limited
Structure	Non-UCITS Retail Scheme Investment Funds (OEIC)

Enquiries

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Fund Managers

Luka Gakic

HEAD OF UK WEALTH

Joined Ruffer in 2011, after four years at Lehman Brothers, and Nomura, where he worked in equity financing and delta-one sales. Graduated from the University of Oxford in 2006 with a degree in philosophy, politics and economics and is a member of the CISI.

Alexander Chartres

INVESTMENT DIRECTOR

Joined Ruffer in 2010 after graduating from Newcastle University with a first class honours degree in history and politics. He is a member of the CISI and co-manages two of Ruffer's flagship funds.

Investment Specialist

Kate Forsyth

INVESTMENT MANAGER

Joined Ruffer in 2016, with a degree in Spanish and International Management from the University of Bath. She became a member of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment following completion of the CISI Masters in Wealth Management in 2019.

Ruffer LLP

Ruffer LLP manages investments on a discretionary basis for private clients, trusts, charities and pension funds. As at 31 January 2023, assets managed by the Ruffer Group exceeded £26.5bn.