BlackRock GSS Index Models

BlackRock.

December 2023

MODEL PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

GSS Conservative Index Model	3М	6М	1 YR	3 YRS (p.a.)	5 YRS (p.a.)	Since inception (p.a.)
Portfolio (%)	4.2	3.2	7.9	1.1	3.9	3.5
Benchmark (%)	5.0	4.1	8.1	1.2	3.6	3.5

The Conservative model portfolio has an inception date of 19 April 2018. The benchmark is the Morningstar Aus Moderate Target Allocation NR A\$

GSS Balanced Index Model	3М	6М	1 YR	3 YRS (p.a.)	5 YRS (p.a.)	Since inception (p.a.)
Portfolio (%)	4.6	3.7	10.4	3.7	6.1	5.4
Benchmark (%)	5.8	4.8	10.5	3.2	5.7	5.2

The Balanced model portfolio has an inception date of 19 April 2018. The benchmark is the Morningstar Aus Balanced Target Allocation NR A\$

GSS Growth Index Model	3М	6М	1 YR	3 YRS (p.a.)	5 YRS (p.a.)	Since inception (p.a.)
Portfolio (%)	5.2	4.2	12.9	6.2	8.2	7.1
Benchmark (%)	6.7	5.5	12.8	5.5	7.8	6.9

The Growth model portfolio has an inception date of 19 April 2018. The benchmark is the Morningstar Aus Growth Target Allocation NR A\$

GSS High Growth Index Model	3М	6М	1 YR	3 YRS (p.a.)	5 YRS (p.a.)	Since inception (p.a.)
Portfolio (%)	5.5	4.6	14.9	8.1	9.8	8.3
Benchmark (%)	7.3	6.2	15.5	7.8	10.0	8.4

The High Growth model portfolio has an inception date of 19 April 2018. The benchmark is the Morningstar Aus Aggressive Target Allocation NR A\$

GSS Total Growth Index Model	3М	6М	1 YR	3 YRS (p.a.)	5 YRS (p.a.)	Since inception (p.a.)
Portfolio (%)	5.9	4.9	16.6	9.6	11.0	8.5
Benchmark (%)	7.3	6.2	15.5	7.8	10.0	7.7

The Total Growth model portfolio has an inception date of 2 October 2018. The benchmark is the Morningstar Aus Aggressive Target Allocation NR A\$

Source: BlackRock, Morningstar, as of 31 December 2023. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. The model performance shown is hypothetical and for illustrative purposes only. The performance may not represent the performance of an actual account or investment product and is not the result of any actual trading. Performance is estimated and net of underlying fund fees, but gross of platform fees and does not include brokerage and commissions that may be incurred in the trading of financial products within the model portfolio. Actual investment outcomes may vary. Index performance returns do not reflect any management fees, transaction costs or expenses. Indexes are unmanaged and one cannot invest directly in an index. Material differences may exist between portfolios and benchmarks being compared, such as, investment objectives, fees and expenses, types of investments made, countries or markets covered.

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MARKET OVERVIEW

Global markets rose strongly over the final quarter of 2023 amid rising optimism for a soft economic landing. Investors saw a broad-based rally across asset classes, with a dovish policy pivot by central banks and a growing disinflationary narrative supporting sentiment into year-end. Global equities, as measured by the MSCI World Index (hedged), ended the quarter up 9.2% in Australian dollar terms and Developed Market equities outperformed their Emerging Market counterparts. Fixed Income markets, as represented by the Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index (hedged), gained 5.4% in Q4 to finish the year in positive territory.

United States

In the US, the S&P 500 Index rose by 11.7% over the quarter and by 4.5% in December (in local currency terms), with Real Estate and Technology sectors among the best performers. Stocks rallied as the US Federal Reserve (Fed) signalled that peak interest rates appear to have been reached. The central bank held monetary policy steady across the quarter and now forecasts three rate cuts by the end of 2024. On the data front, core inflation of 4.0% year-on-year for November was in line with expectations, while unemployment ticked down to 3.7%, taking it back near the five-decade lows seen earlier in 2023. Meanwhile, US corporate earnings grew at 4.9% for Q3 and are expected to eke out modest gains for the full calendar year.

Europe

European equities, as represented through the Euro Stoxx 50 Index, increased by 8.5% in the fourth quarter and by 3.2% in December (in local currency terms). The European Central Bank (ECB) left policy rates unchanged over the quarter but pushed back against investor expectations of repeated rate cuts in 2024, with ECB President, Christine Lagarde, maintaining that the central bank didn't believe it was "time to lower our guard". Meanwhile, Eurozone inflation for November increased 2.4% year-on-year which was below market consensus, while manufacturing activity contracted over the quarter.

In the UK, the FTSE 100 Index underperformed its developed market peers and gained 2.3% over the quarter and 3.9% in December (in local currency terms). Alongside most other central banks, the Bank of England (BoE) kept the official bank rate at 5.25% across the period. However, the central bank maintained a hawkish tone and cautioned that "the full effect of higher interest rates has yet to come through" to the British economy. UK headline inflation fell significantly more than expected to 3.9% year-on-year for November driven by lower fuel prices, with markets pricing the start of BoE rate cuts in the first half of 2024.

Asia

China's CSI 300 Index fell by 6.8% in Q4 and 1.8% in December (in local currency terms), bucking the broader market rally. Over the quarter, Moody's rating agency downgraded the country's credit rating to a negative outlook given concerns regarding the property sector and local government debt. Meanwhile, China's deflation worsened in November with monthly CPI printing at -0.5% year-on-year, while weaker trade data was also evident as imports fell -0.6% compared to a year earlier. Although Chinese authorities have rolled out a series of incremental policy measures designed to support the economy, consumer and investor confidence remains low.

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Japanese equities, as represented by the Nikkei 225 Index, advanced 5.2% over the quarter and 0.1% in December (in local currency terms), outperforming most major markets across 2023. The Bank of Japan (BoJ) maintained its negative benchmark rate in Q4, with the central bank closely monitoring whether the desired level of inflation can "sustainably be achieved". A leading indicator of nationwide prices, Tokyo core inflation, rose by 2.3% year-on-year in November, while the unemployment rate remained at 2.5% over the period.

Australia

The S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index increased by 8.4% in Q4 and by 7.2% in December, with Real Estate and Healthcare among the best performing sectors. The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) left the monetary policy stance unchanged at their December meeting – having hiked the cash rate by 25 basis points over the quarter – as uncertainty around the path of inflation and upside risks to unemployment continue to persist. Australia's unemployment rate in November rose slightly to 3.9%, with strong migration adding to the supply of labour. Australian house prices, as represented by the CoreLogic Home Value index, posted a modest 0.4% increase in December to finish the year 8.1% stronger.

Fixed Income

Fixed income markets rebounded across Q4, driven by a steep fall in government bond yields as investors priced in monetary policy easing over 2024. Over the quarter, US and Australian 10-year yields tumbled 69 bps and 53 bps to finish 2023 roughly at where it started off the year at 3.9% and 4.0% respectively. The fall in rates pushed bond prices higher. As such, the Australian composite bond index rose 3.8% in Q4, while the Global Aggregate index (hedged) was up 5.4% across the period. Riskier parts of the fixed income markets, namely corporate credit and emerging market debt indices, also performed strongly over the quarter and full calendar year.

Commodities & FX

Commodity markets and energy prices were mixed over the quarter. Despite ongoing conflict in the Middle East, Oil prices declined 12.1% in Q4, given delays in the implementation of production cuts by OPEC+. Iron Ore rose strongly by 24.4% as Chinese housing stimulus measures were announced, while Copper increased by 3.3% and Gold gained 11.6%. Within currencies, the US dollar, depreciated 4.2% across the period against its developed market peers amid the risk-on rally. The Australian dollar rose 5.9% against the US dollar over Q4 as the interest rate differential narrowed.

BlackRock GSS Index Models

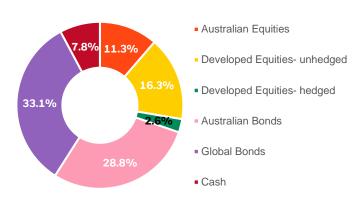
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CURRENT HOLDINGS & ASSET ALLOCATION

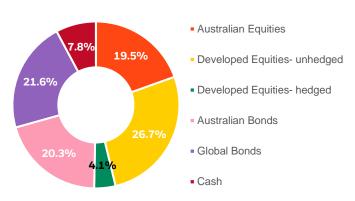
GSS Conservative Index Model

Netwealth Code	Name	Weight (%)
NETOOO9AU	BlackRock GSS Unhedged International Equities Index Fund	16.3
NET2119AU	BlackRock GSS Hedged International Equities Index Fund	2.6
NETO001AU	BlackRock GSS Australian Equities Index Fund	11.3
NET5702AU	BlackRock GSS Global Bond Index Fund	33.1
NET0023AU	BlackRock GSS Australian Bond Index Fund	28.8
	Cash	7.8



GSS Balanced Index Model

Netwealth Code	Name	Weight (%)
NETOOO9AU	BlackRock GSS Unhedged International Equities Index Fund	26.7
NET2119AU	BlackRock GSS Hedged International Equities Index Fund	4.1
NETO001AU	BlackRock GSS Australian Equities Index Fund	19.5
NET5702AU	BlackRock GSS Global Bond Index Fund	21.6
NET0023AU	BlackRock GSS Australian Bond Index Fund	20.3
	Cash	7.8



BlackRock GSS Index <u>Models</u>

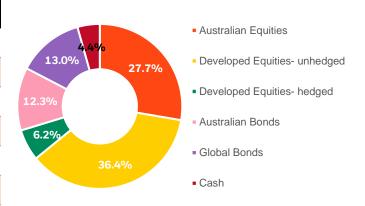
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CURRENT HOLDINGS & ASSET ALLOCATION

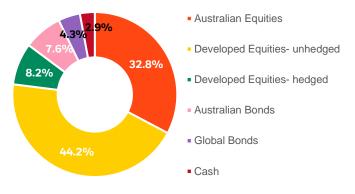
GSS Growth Index Model

Netwealth Code	Name	Weight (%)
NETOOO9AU	BlackRock GSS Unhedged International Equities Index Fund	36.4
NET2119AU	BlackRock GSS Hedged International Equities Index Fund	6.2
NETO001AU	BlackRock GSS Australian Equities Index Fund	27.7
NET5702AU	BlackRock GSS Global Bond Index Fund	13.0
NETO023AU	BlackRock GSS Australian Bond Index Fund	12.3
	Cash	4.4



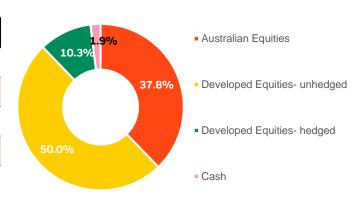
GSS High Growth Index Model

Netwealth Code	Name	Weight (%)
NETO009AU	BlackRock GSS Unhedged International Equities Index Fund	44.2
NET2119AU	BlackRock GSS Hedged International Equities Index Fund	8.2
NETO001AU	BlackRock GSS Australian Equities Index Fund	32.8
NET5702AU	BlackRock GSS Global Bond Index Fund	4.3
NET0023AU	BlackRock GSS Australian Bond Index Fund	7.6
	Cash	2.9



GSS Total Growth Index Model

Netwealth Code	Name	Weight (%)
NETOOO9AU	BlackRock GSS Unhedged International Equities Index Fund	50.0
NET2119AU	BlackRock GSS Hedged International Equities Index Fund	10.3
NETO001AU	BlackRock GSS Australian Equities Index Fund	37.8
	Cash	1.9



Source: BlackRock, as of 31 December 2023.

This information should not be relied upon by the reader as research, investment advice or a recommendation. Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

BlackRock GSS Index <u>Models</u>

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PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY - UNDERLYING FUND RETURNS (QUARTERLY)

BlackRock GSS Unhedged International Equities Index Fund

- International equities were positive over the fourth quarter of 2023 with the unhedged international equity index fund rising over Q4 (5.3%). A growing disinflationary narrative and dovish inflection by central banks provided a tailwind for global markets.
- US equities were a significant contributor over Q4 and the S&P 500 Index rose by 11.7% (in local currency terms), as the US Federal Reserve (Fed) forecasted interest rate cuts ahead in 2024. European equities also contributed to performance with the Euro Stoxx 50 Index gaining 8.5% over the quarter (in local currency terms), however China's CSI 300 Index lost -6.8% (in local currency terms) as the country's economic slowdown persisted.

BlackRock GSS Hedged International Equities Index Fund

- Risk assets saw a strong broad-based rally in Q4 and the hedged international equity index rose over the quarter (9.3%), as investors put faith in the ability of central banks to engineer a soft economic landing.
- The appreciation of the Australian dollar saw hedged international equities outperform that of unhedged equities, as it meant that the rise in global share prices was protected against any adverse currency moves.

BlackRock GSS Australian Equities Index Fund

- Australian equities outperformed unhedged global equities over the quarter, with the Australian equity index fund rising by 8.3% across the period.
- Domestic stocks realised gains in Q4, with Real Estate and Healthcare the best performing domestic sectors, while the Energy sector sold-off alongside weaker oil prices.

BlackRock GSS Global Bond Index Fund

- Fixed income markets ended the year in positive territory driven by a steep fall in government bond yields as investors priced in monetary policy easing over 2024.
- Over the quarter, the US 10-year yield tumbled to finish 2023 roughly where it started off the year at 3.9%. The fall in rates pushed bond prices higher and the Global Bond Index Fund was up 5.5% across the period.
- Riskier fixed interest segments, such as investment grade and high yield credit and emerging market debt indices, also
 performed strongly over the quarter.

BlackRock GSS Australian Bond Index Fund

- Australian bonds underperformed their global counterparts, although the Australian Bond Index Fund still gained 3.8% over the quarter.
- Bond yields fell alongside offshore moves, although uncertainty remains around the path of inflation which continues to print above the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA) target.

BlackRock Cash Fund

• The official cash rate set by the RBA increased to 4.35%, with the RBA hiking once in early November having paused for four consecutive months.

Source: BlackRock, as of 31 December 2023.

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