



Monthly Commentary August 2026

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Market Update & Portfolio Positioning

"July saw volatile markets, with diversification helping offset weakness in technology and emerging markets."



Matthew Cove DipFA
Director
01304 371 753

July 2026 Review

Global equities were marginally lower in July as rising geopolitical tensions and higher energy prices weighed on sentiment. The breakdown of the US/Iran ceasefire pushed oil and natural gas prices higher, increasing inflation concerns and reducing expectations for interest rate cuts. This weighed on bond markets, as higher interest rate expectations pushed bond prices lower, although credit markets remained stable. The UK and Europe outperformed the US, while emerging markets lagged. Energy and financials were among the stronger areas, while technology and growth-oriented sectors came under pressure as concerns grew over the scale and durability of AI spending. These concerns were reinforced by AI companies increasingly turning to corporate bonds to help fund their continued expansion.

BlackRock Portfolio Positioning

Within our portfolios, diversification helped offset weakness in some areas. Our exposure to the UK and Europe benefited from their stronger performance, while Gold provided some protection against geopolitical uncertainty. We continued to hold Listed Infrastructure, which should benefit from rising demand for electricity and transportation as investment in AI grows. With higher energy prices adding to inflation concerns, we retain a preference for shorter-dated and inflation-linked government

Throgmorton Select Portfolios

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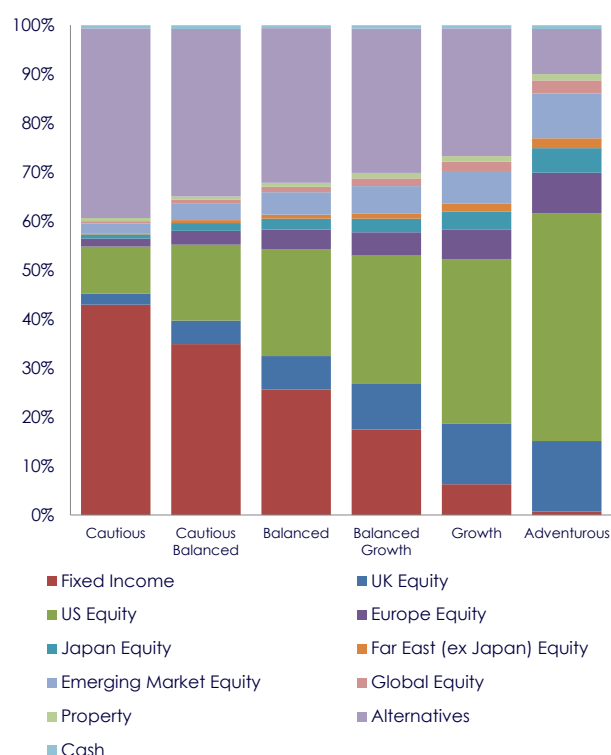
Dimensional

BlackRock

Cornelian

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Asset Allocation as at 31/07/2026



bonds, which are less sensitive to rising interest rate expectations. Chinese government bonds provide further diversification and inflation protection. Overall, we continue to favour growth-oriented investments, supported by a robust economy and strong corporate earnings, while maintaining positions to navigate geopolitical and inflation risks.

Cornelian Portfolio Positioning

Diversification across equities was beneficial in July, with UK and European holdings outperforming as Asia and Emerging Markets came under pressure from weakness in technology. The increased allocation to global healthcare also helped as investors moved away from crowded AI-related investments. UK holdings performed particularly well, with strong gains from Hilton Food, Trainline, Shell, Prudential, RELX and HSBC. MITIE Group rose more than 40% after announcing a recommended takeover. Fixed income was relatively stable and outperformed broad bond benchmarks, helped by the Funds' focus on shorter-term lending, which reduces sensitivity to interest rates. Alternative assets also added value, with gains from listed real estate and infrastructure offsetting modest absolute return losses. Strong performers included Tritax Big Box, Target Healthcare and LondonMetric Property.

All investment involves risk. It is important you understand that past performance is not a guarantee of future performance. The value of investments and any income derived from them may go down as well as up and you might not get back the full amount you invested.

Investment Performance and Volatility as at 31/07/2026

	5 Year Return % ¹	3 Year Return % ¹	1 Year Return % ¹	Volatility % ²
SP3 Cautious	17.91	19.76	5.77	6.18
SP4 Cautious Balanced	23.56	24.04	7.82	6.75
SP5 Balanced	30.43	29.21	10.13	7.53
SP6 Balanced Growth	36.44	33.83	12.16	8.25
SP7 Growth	47.61	41.14	15.28	9.14
SP8 Adventurous	58.53	45.97	17.82	9.98

Data source FE Analytics 31/07/2026. Figures are net of underlying fund costs, but gross of all other charges, such as discretionary management fees, platform custody charges, adviser charges & where applicable transaction costs. 1. Performance figures are representative of the current portfolio asset allocations. 2. Volatility figures calculated on a five year annualised basis.

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