

CHETWOOD

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

ESG PORTFOLIOS

QUARTER 3 2025 REPORT





Quarter Insights

- Tariff headlines continued to dominate markets during the quarter, but global equity markets broadly produced solid gains, with the US economy remaining resilient and corporate earnings proving stronger than expected.
- Emerging market equities surged, supported by AI investment, domestic policy support, and the extension of the US-China trade truce.
- Both the US and UK saw signs of the labour market softening over the quarter. In the US, average monthly job gains slowed to 29,000 in the three months to August, while the UK saw unemployment rise to 4.7% and job vacancies continue to decline.
- The US Federal Reserve cut rates by 25 basis points in September, signalling the start of a gradual easing cycle as growth is expected to decline.
- The Bank of England lowered rates to 4.0% and indicated a slower pace of future cuts. Persistently high inflation and renewed fiscal concerns pushed 30-year gilt yields to their highest levels this century.

Market Review

The third quarter of 2025 proved steadier for global markets after the turmoil earlier in the year. While President Trump's tariff announcements caused significant volatility in the first half, their impact on inflation and growth has been more modest than initially feared. US economic resilience and stronger-than-expected corporate earnings provided a tailwind for risk assets like equities.

Equity markets advanced across most regions. Emerging markets outperformed developed markets, with Chinese equities leading the way. Policy support for domestic chipmakers, optimism around AI, and easing US-China trade tensions drove a sharp rally in Chinese tech stocks. Japan also performed strongly, aided by a weaker yen, resilient economic data, and the US-Japan trade deal reducing the tariffs on exports.

US equities, led by their large technology-related stocks, rose 10% in sterling terms over the quarter and have rallied nearly 30% since April's lows. Earnings growth has exceeded expectations, although a significant portion of the gains is attributable to higher valuations rather than stronger profits.

UK equities advanced 7%, supported by global revenue exposure and currency weakness. Domestic politics and the upcoming budget continue to weigh on sentiment. In fixed income, UK gilts struggled, with 30-year yields reaching their highest level since 1998.

Despite renewed concerns over fiscal sustainability, in our view, these higher yields already reflect much of this negative sentiment and offer a substantial margin of safety.

Global central banks diverged in tone over the quarter.

The Fed delivered its first rate cut of the year in September, lowering the federal funds rate by 25 basis points and signalling the start of a gradual easing cycle as growth momentum softened. The BOE also cut rates by 25 basis points to 4.0% but indicated further reductions may come more slowly due to persistently high inflation.

Both the US and UK saw labour market softening. In the US, average monthly job gains slowed to 29,000 in the three months to August, while UK unemployment rose to 4.7% and job vacancies declined, with hiring intentions at their weakest since 2020.

Global bond markets were volatile but ended the quarter slightly higher, as US Treasury yields fell on the softer labour market data. The difference in yield between higher-risk corporate bonds and safer government bonds, known as credit spreads, narrowed, which supported returns for both investment grade and high-yield bonds.

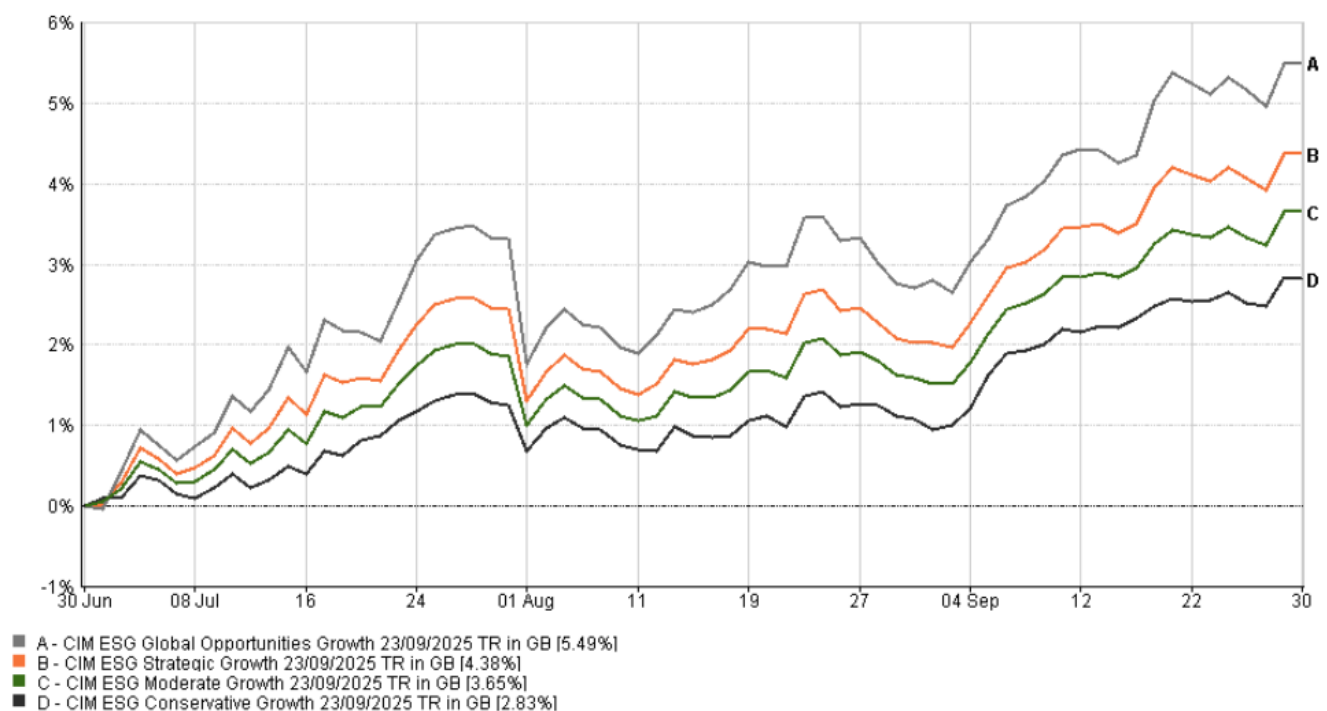
Portfolios performance

Portfolio / Comparator	3 months
CIM ESG Conservative Growth Portfolio	2.83%
ARC Sterling Cautious PCI	2.62%
CIM ESG Moderate Growth Portfolio	3.65%
ARC Sterling Balanced Asset PCI	4.04%
CIM ESG Strategic Growth Portfolio	4.38%
ARC Sterling Steady Growth PCI	5.07%
CIM ESG Global Growth Opportunities Portfolio	5.49%
ARC Sterling Equity Risk PCI	6.20%

Index Returns ¹	3 months
UK Equities	7.50%
UK Government Bonds (Gilts)	-0.62%
All Country World Equities	9.55%
Pacific Equities (ex Japan)	7.14%
Emerging Market Equities	11.96%
US Equities	9.99%
UK Headline Inflation	1.53%

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance; and the value of investments, as well as the income from them can go down as well as up, and investors may get back less than the original amount invested.

Performance graph



30/06/2025 - 30/09/2025 Data from FE fundinfo 2025

Key Funds and Trades over the Quarter

Top 3 Model Funds	3 months
Polar Emerging Market Stars	15.05% ▲
FT Clearbridge US Equity Sustainable Leaders	7.83% ▲
JPMorgan Climate Change Solutions ETF	6.94% ▲

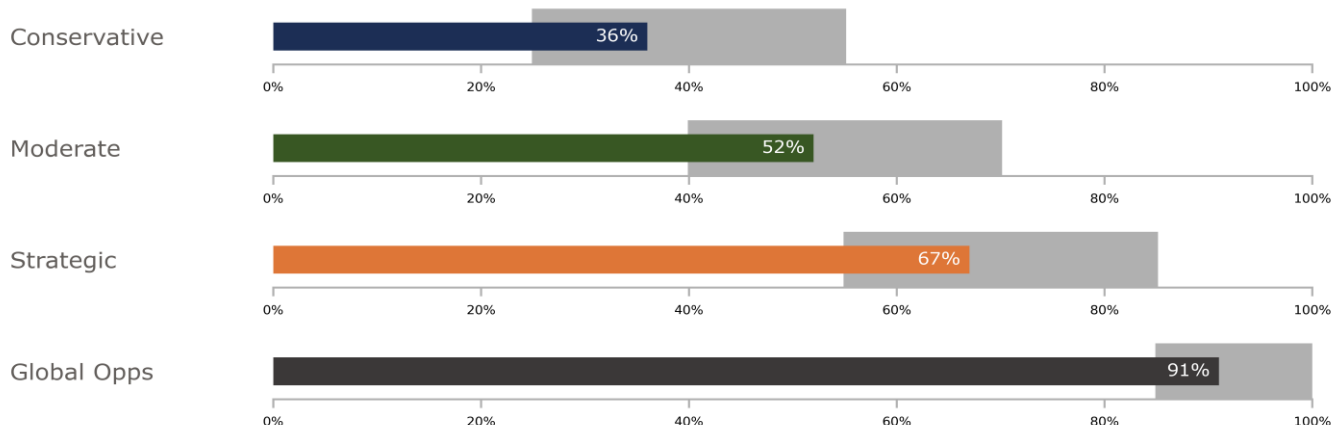
Bottom 3 Model Funds	3 months
iShares Green Bond Index ETF	0.92% ▼
JPM Global Macro Sustainable	0.66% ▼
Lyxor Core UK Government Bond ETF	-0.63% ▼

Source FE Analytics to 30th September 2025

Key fund	Commentary
Polar Emerging Market Stars	The fund delivered a strong 15% gain over the quarter, reflecting its focus on high-quality companies in rapidly growing sectors. Its overweight to the technology sector, particularly in China and other high-growth EM markets, contributed significantly to performance. The fund's ESG-focused approach seeks to invest in companies with sustainable business practices, strong governance, and positive social and environmental impact, making it a core holding within our ESG portfolios while offering both growth potential and responsible investment credentials.
FT Clearbridge US Equity Sustainable Leaders	The FT Clearbridge US Equity Sustainable Leaders fund delivered an 8% gain over the third quarter, supported by its focus on high-quality, sustainably run US companies. The fund invests in businesses demonstrating strong ESG practices, including robust governance, environmental responsibility, and positive social impact, while targeting long-term growth opportunities. Its disciplined approach has helped navigate volatility and capture upside in key sectors, making it a cornerstone of our ESG portfolios and a way to combine growth potential with sustainable, responsible investing principles.
JPM Global High Yield Bond Multi-Factor ETF	This is an actively managed fund investing in global high-yield corporate bonds. Over the quarter, it benefited from a tightening in credit spreads, which essentially means that the extra yield investors demand to hold riskier corporate bonds over safe government bonds narrowed, which boosted bond prices. This helped the fund deliver strong performance, relative to the fund's high-yield benchmark as well as other bond strategies.
AQR Apex	This new fund is an Article 8 alternative investment, meaning it incorporates environmental and social considerations into its strategy. It aims to deliver returns uncorrelated with equities and bonds, providing meaningful diversification and helping to enhance risk-adjusted performance. This allocation was funded by the sale of the JPM Global Macro Sustainable fund.

Asset class review

Equity Exposure



Conservative

Ten largest fund holdings (%)

AQR Apex	15.2%
iShares Global Aggregate Bond ESG ETF	13.6%
Lyxor Core UK Government Bond ETF	11.6%
iShares Green Bond Index Hedged Dis	11.0%
JPM Glb HY Corp Bond Multi-Factor Hdged	10.2%
Royal London Sustainable Leaders Trust	8.1%
ClearBrige US Sustainability Leaders	7.0%
Stewart Investors Asia Pac Sustainable	6.4%
Vanguard Global Sustainable Equity	5.9%
JPM Climate Change Solutions ETF	4.6%
Assets in top ten holdings	93.6%

Ten largest asset class exposures (%)

Government Bonds	21.1%
Other Alternatives	15.2%
Corporate Bonds	15.1%
North American Equities	13.3%
High Yield Bonds	10.2%
Asia Pacific ex Japan Equities	8.4%
UK Equities	7.4%
European Equities	3.1%
Emerging Market Equities	2.5%
Cash	2.0%

Moderate

Ten largest fund holdings (%)

AQR Apex	13.2%
Royal London Sustainable Leaders Trust	11.6%
ClearBrige US Sustainability Leaders	10.0%
Stewart Investors Asia Pac Sustainable	9.3%
iShares Green Bond Index Hedged Dis	9.0%
Vanguard Global Sustainable Equity	8.4%
JPM Glb HY Corp Bond Multi-Factor Hdged	8.3%
iShares Global Aggregate Bond ESG ETF	8.2%
Lyxor Core UK Government Bond ETF	7.0%
JPM Climate Change Solutions ETF	6.6%
Assets in top ten holdings	91.6%

Ten largest asset class exposures (%)

North American Equities	19.1%
Other Alternatives	13.2%
Government Bonds	12.7%
Asia Pacific ex Japan Equities	12.2%
Corporate Bonds	11.4%
UK Equities	10.7%
High Yield Bonds	8.3%
European Equities	4.5%
Emerging Market Equities	3.7%
Cash	2.0%

Asset class review

Strategic

Ten largest fund holdings (%)

Royal London Sustainable Leaders Trust	15.0%
ClearBrige US Sustainability Leaders	13.0%
Stewart Investors Asia Pac Sustainable	11.9%
Vanguard Global Sustainable Equity	10.9%
AQR Apex	10.8%
JPM Climate Change Solutions ETF	8.5%
Polar Emerging Market Stars SX Inc	8.4%
iShares Green Bond Index Hedged Dis	5.6%
JPM Glb HY Corp Bond Multi-Factor Hdged	5.2%
iShares Global Aggregate Bond ESG ETF	4.8%
Assets in top ten holdings	94.1%

Ten largest asset class exposures (%)

North American Equities	24.7%
Asia Pacific ex Japan Equities	15.7%
UK Equities	13.8%
Other Alternatives	10.8%
Government Bonds	7.4%
Corporate Bonds	7.0%
European Equities	5.8%
High Yield Bonds	5.2%
Emerging Market Equities	4.7%
Cash	2.0%

Global Opps

Ten largest fund holdings (%)

Royal London Sustainable Leaders Trust	20.2%
ClearBrige US Sustainability Leaders	17.5%
Stewart Investors Asia Pac Sustainable	16.1%
Vanguard Global Sustainable Equity	14.7%
JPM Climate Change Solutions ETF	11.4%
Polar Emerging Market Stars SX Inc	11.4%
AQR Apex	6.8%

Assets in top ten holdings 98.1%

Ten largest asset class exposures (%)

North American Equities	33.3%
Asia Pacific ex Japan Equities	21.1%
UK Equities	18.6%
European Equities	7.9%
Other Alternatives	6.8%
Emerging Market Equities	6.4%
Japan Equities	2.1%
Cash	2.0%
Other	1.9%

Asset Class	Portfolio Views
Fixed Interest	We hold a positive view on government bonds due to the relatively high yields and attractive income profile, with a focus on attractively priced UK assets. Capital upside may be muted in the short term due to higher-than-average government issuance, but with scope for considerable upside should economics slow and inflation abate. We deem corporate bonds a little less attractive due to current tight credit spreads.
UK Equities	We remain constructive on UK equities, supported by rising dividends, share buybacks, and increased M&A activity. Despite strong performance in Q3, valuations remain attractive by historical and global standards. With only early signs of foreign investors returning after years of outflows, we believe there is still considerable scope for renewed interest to drive further gains, suggesting the current recovery in UK equities has further to run.
US Equity	We remain less constructive on U.S. stocks due to rich valuations and exposure to global tariff tensions. Within our US allocation, we favour greater diversification by sector and style to limit exposure to tariff risks and the historically high concentration to mega cap technology companies in the index.
Japan Equity	We remain positive on Japanese equities, which delivered another strong quarter and still trade on reasonable valuations. Continued corporate governance reforms, alongside rising buybacks, management buyouts, and growing activist investor engagement, are improving capital efficiency and strengthening shareholder returns, supporting a constructive long-term outlook.
Asia and Emerging Market Equity	We remain positive on Asia and EM, supported by robust economic and earnings growth prospects into 2026. Chinese equities, in particular, stand to gain from ongoing policy stimulus and investment in AI-related industries.
Alternatives	We view alternative investments as valuable diversifiers, particularly as traditional fixed income has struggled in a higher inflation environment. We currently favour liquid strategies managed by experienced teams, as well as infrastructure investments that offer some inflation protection.

Outlook

The global economy continues to show resilience, even as growth moderates from the rapid pace seen earlier in the cycle. While the near-term growth outlook has cooled, the long-term prospects for equity markets remain favourable, supported by expectations for sustained earnings expansion.

Earnings remain a key driver of stock prices, and analyst forecasts have continued to be revised higher in recent months.

Corporate earnings growth has been bolstered by positive operating leverage: after several years of restructuring, firms are leaner, more efficient, and increasingly driven by automation and AI. Modest revenue gains are therefore translating into stronger profit growth, even amid a cooling economy.

Trade negotiations and tariffs remain a source of uncertainty. While tariffs have yet to have a meaningful impact on inflation, we are monitoring the situation closely. Job creation, though slowing, continues to support overall income growth, and the Federal Reserve has shifted its focus toward

sustaining employment and guiding an orderly economic slowdown. For the time being, demand for goods and services remains broadly positive, underpinned by healthy consumer and corporate balance sheets.

Some earlier cyclical tailwinds, such as capex growth and high job openings, have eased, though momentum from AI investment and infrastructure buildout continues to support growth. Sentiment indicators remain subdued due to political and trade uncertainty, yet the underlying data on production, consumption, and investment continue to hold up well. From an investment standpoint, this divergence between perception and reality can create opportunity.

Against this backdrop, we remain constructive on markets. Global diversification remains crucial, particularly as valuations in the US are elevated relative to other regions. We continue to see attractive opportunities in companies exposed to global AI infrastructure, Asia Pacific and emerging market technology, and deeply discounted healthcare sectors. We believe these areas are well-positioned to benefit from declining interest rates through the remainder of 2025.

Thoughts for the quarter ahead...



- With global growth steady and central banks easing policy, we remain constructive on both equities and fixed income.
- With high valuations in the US, we continue to see attractive investment opportunities in the rest of the world, especially in global AI infrastructure build out, Asia Pac/EM technology and deeply discounted healthcare companies.
- We do not think that US tariff risks are fully behind us and continue to watch closely for signs of an inflationary pass-through.
- The UK economy continues to show resilience, but attention will remain on politics and the November budget. Despite potential volatility, we believe current high gilt yields already price in much of the risk, making them attractive in our view.
- The market is currently pricing in two Federal Reserve rate cuts in Q4, while further reductions from the Bank of England appear unlikely. This divergence increases the potential for relative surprises in UK bonds and Sterling.

Important information

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Risk factors should be taken into account and understood including (but not limited to) currency movements, market risk, liquidity risk, concentration risk, inflation risk, performance risk, local market risk and credit risk.

Investors should be aware that past performance is not an indication of future performance, the value of investments and the income derived from them may fluctuate and you may not receive back the amount you originally invested.

¹ For the comparative index returns, we have used the total return performances of the following ETF's:

Comparative index	ETF Name
UK Equities	ISHARES CORE FTSE 100
US Equities	ISHARES CORE S&P 500
European Equities (ex UK)	ISHARES MSCI EUROPE EX-UK
Emerging Market Equities	ISHARES CORE EM IMI ACC
Japanese Equities	ISHARES CORE MSCI JAPAN
Pacific Equities (ex Japan)	ISHARES CORE MSCI PACIF X-JP
UK Government Bonds (Gilts)	ISHARES CORE UK GILTS
Global Bonds (GBP hedged)	ISHARES CORE GLB AGG GBP-H D
Commodities	ISH DIVERS COMMOD SWAP ETF