1290 Retirement Funds

How the Markets Performed

In the U.S., the first quarter of 2019 brought news that the economy grew 2.6% in the fourth quarter of 2018 — higher than expectations, but lower than the previous two quarters. Consumer spending was strong, despite earlier reports that retail sales had dipped during the holiday period. For the full year, gross domestic product rose 2.9%, the highest annual rate in three years. Nonetheless, the U.S. Federal Reserve put its monetary tightening project on hold as signs of a possible global economic slowdown began to emerge.

The U.S. stock market resumed its strong run in the first quarter, supported by the technology sector. Equities rallied against a decidedly mixed economic backdrop.

International developed markets, as represented by the MSCI EAFE Index, increased in the first quarter. The eurozone equity markets all advanced, but to varying degrees, as equity market sentiment recovered despite slowing economic activity across the region.

The U.S. bond market, as measured by the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, rallied 2.9% in the first quarter. The 10-Year Treasury rate ended the quarter down 24 basis points (1 basis point = 1/100th of 1%), further reducing the spread between 2- and 10-Year Treasuries. U.S. investment-grade corporate credit delivered the strongest returns to investors since 2009. U.S. high yield posted its best quarter in 25 years.

Laggards included other European and Asian fixed income, which produced only modest quarterly returns.

The Allocations Drive Performance

Each Fund's performance will reflect the performance of the underlying asset classes and depend upon their percentage weighting within the Fund. Here's why:

The 1290 Retirement Funds are managed to target a specific year of planned retirement. The Asset mix will become more conservative each year, until about 10 years after the target retirement year, when it will become relatively stable. The Funds balance the need for appreciation with the need for income as retirement approaches, and focus on supporting an income stream over a long-term retirement withdrawal horizon.

To achieve its exposures, the Fund invests in exchange traded funds (ETFs) representing various equity and bond asset classes. So the Funds' performance will be a function of the asset class performance and the percentage weighting of each in the Funds. Current target and actual allocations, as well as performance, are available in an accompanying quarterly Fund Fact Sheet.

Funds Highlights

What helped the Funds' performance during the quarter?

- All asset classes experienced strong performance during the quarter, led by U.S. large cap.

What hurt the Funds' performance during the quarter?

- As the market rebounded in 1Q 2019, the low volatility factor underperformed its market cap-weight counterpart across various regions.
- On a fund level, having no dedicated position in real estate detracted from performance as the sector was up almost 17%.

Source: FMG, LLC

An investor should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the Funds carefully before investing. To obtain a prospectus containing this and other information, please call 1-888-310-0416 or download the file from www.1290funds.com. Read the prospectus carefully before you invest.

The 1290 Retirement Funds seek the highest total return over time consistent with their asset mix while managing portfolio volatility. Total return includes capital growth and income. Performance may be affected by one or more of the following risks: Investments in foreign securities, including depositary receipts, involve risks not associated with investing in U.S. securities. Foreign markets, particularly emerging markets, may be less liquid, more volatile and subject to less government supervision than domestic markets. Security values also may be negatively affected by changes in the exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and foreign currencies. Differences between U.S. and foreign legal, political and economic systems, regulatory regimes and market practices also may impact security value and it may take more time to clear and settle trades. Equity securities involve the risk that the value of the securities may fluctuate, sometimes widely fluctuate, in response to changes in a company's financial condition as well as general market, economic and political conditions and other factors. Fixed income investments are subject to interest rate risk so that when interest rates rise, the prices of fixed income securities can decrease and the investor can lose principal value. The Fund will be subject to the risks associated with the securities and other investments in which the Underlying ETF invests and the ability of the Fund to meet its investment objective will directly depend on the ability of the Underlying ETFs to meet their investment objective. An index-based ETF's performance may not match that of the index it seeks to track. An actively managed ETF's performance will reflect its adviser's ability to make investment decisions that are suited to achieving the ETF's investment objective. In addition, the use of volatility management techniques by the Underlying ETF may limit the Fund's participation in market gains, particularly during periods when market values are increasing, but market volatility is high. Diversification does not eliminate the risk of experiencing investment losses. The underlying ETFs may be unsuccessful in maintaining a portfolio of investments that minimize volatility.

An investment in the fund will not ensure that an investor will have assets sufficient to cover retirement expenses or that an investor will have enough saved to be able to retire in, or within a few years of, the target year identified in the Fund's name.

Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

1290 Funds is part of the family of mutual funds advised by AXA Equitable Funds Management Group, LLC (FMG, LLC), doing business in this instance as 1290 Asset Managers. FMG, LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company (AXA Equitable), NY, NY. AXA Distributors, LLC is the wholesale distributor of the 1290 Funds. AXA Advisors, LLC (member FINRA, SIPC) offers the 1290 Funds to retail investors.

1290 Funds® is a registered service mark of AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company, New York 10104. The Funds are distributed by ALPS Distributors, Inc., which is not affiliated with FMG, LLC, AXA Equitable, AXA Distributors, or AXA Advisors.

ALPS, a DST Company, 1290 Broadway, Suite 1100, Denver CO 80203.

1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10104

Mutual Funds: Are Not a Deposit of Any Bank • Are Not FDIC Insured • Are Not Insured by Any Federal Government Agency • Are Not Guaranteed by Any Bank or Savings Association • May Go Down in Value

AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company (NY, NY)

(AXA000791) (exp. 9/30/19)