AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

# BNY MELLON MULTI-ASSET BALANCED FUND

## QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT

The value of investments can fall. Investors may not get back the amount invested. Income from investments may vary and is not guaranteed.

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# FUND INFORMATION

## Investment objective

To achieve a balance between income and capital growth over the long term (5 years or more).

## Performance Benchmark

A benchmark is a metric or baseline to judge a fund's performance against. The BNY Mellon Multi-Asset Balanced Fund uses the UK Investment Association Mixed Investment 40-85% Shares NR Sector average as an appropriate benchmark for comparison.

This benchmark is a collection of funds with different investment managers. Both the Fund and the constituents of the benchmark have a range of different investments. Typically, between 40% and 85% of the funds' portfolios will be invested in company shares.

As an actively managed fund, the Investment Manager can make investment decisions (whether to buy, sell or hold assets) at its discretion. These decisions are made in line with the Fund's objective and investment policy as disclosed in the Prospectus.

## Your investment report

This report covers the performance of the Fund over the past three months. It includes:

- A video update from the Fund's manager.
- Performance summary and insights into what the Fund bought and sold over this period.
- Data showing the performance of the Fund against its benchmark.
- How, and where, the Fund is currently invested.

*If you have any questions about the Fund, please speak to your financial adviser. With their knowledge of your savings goals and appetite for investment risk, they will be best placed to discuss how investing in the Fund can support your financial objectives.*

For any investment-related terms that you are unsure of please refer to the glossary which can be found on page 7.

# INVESTMENT MANAGER

BNY Investments Newton seeks to deliver strong investment outcomes to its clients by taking an active, multidimensional and engaged approach, applied across four key disciplines: income and value equities, growth and core equities, specialist equities and multi-asset strategies.

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# QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

## July to September 2025

### Watch Fund update

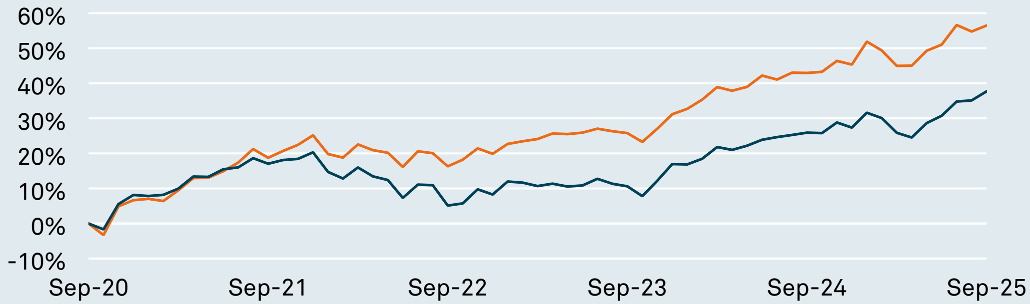

In this short video, Simon Nichols, portfolio manager of the BNY Mellon Multi-Asset Balanced Fund, shares his insights into how the Fund performed over the last quarter.

## Performance summary (%)

| | 3 months | Year-to-date | 1 year | 3 years annualised | 5 years annualised |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fund | 3.61 | 7.66 | 9.47 | 10.39 | 9.36 |
| Performance Benchmark | 5.33 | 8.12 | 9.35 | 9.41 | 6.60 |

| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fund | 6.49 | 17.37 | -4.23 | 9.43 | 10.80 |
| Performance Benchmark | 5.09 | 11.24 | -10.00 | 8.02 | 8.90 |

## 5 years cumulative performance (%)




56.49% Fund 37.7% Performance Benchmark

Source for all performance: Lipper as at 30 September 2025. Fund performance for the Institutional Shares W (Accumulation) share class calculated as total return, based on net asset value, including reinvested income net of applicable UK tax and charges. All figures are in GBP terms.

**Past performance is not a guide to future performance.**

# THIRD QUARTER 2025

## MARKET BACKDROP

Global stock markets rose between the months of July and September 2025. Equities were buoyed by strength in the technology sector, positive developments on the international trade front, and interest rate cuts from the US Federal Reserve (Fed) and the Bank of England (BoE). Trade relations improved, with the US finalising agreements with some of its major trading partners, including the European Union and Japan. The US and China agreed to another extension, meaning the imposition of any further tariffs is delayed until at least 10 November.

Most regions of the world saw stock prices rise. In the US, the S&P 500 and Nasdaq indices hit record highs, pulled up by enthusiasm for artificial intelligence (AI) stocks. In September, the US Fed lowered interest rates for the first time this year, to 4.25%, on evidence that the US job market is slowing. The European Central Bank (ECB) stopped lowering interest rates, leaving them at 2.15% throughout the quarter. European equities rose despite political turmoil in France, which saw Prime Minister Francois Bayrou resign after only nine months in office. Inflation stayed right around the ECB's 2% target. Emerging markets were supported by improved relations between the US and China and a weaker US dollar.

In bond markets, US Treasury yields retreated as economic data softened and interest rates fell. Yields on 10-year UK, German and Japanese government bonds rose. In this environment, UK stocks fared well. The FTSE All-Share Index rose throughout the three months under review. Less encouragingly, UK inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, remained elevated at 3.8% in July and August. The BoE lowered interest rates to 4% at its August meeting, but held them steady in September.

## PERFORMANCE

The Fund's return for the three months to the end of September was positive (after fees), but it underperformed its benchmark.

### Reasons for performance

Shares of technology firms continued to do well, and so the Fund's shares in companies exposed to the AI ecosystem, such as Samsung Electronics, TE Connectivity and Taiwan Semiconductor, boosted returns. Owning shares in Google's parent company Alphabet also proved helpful.

Relatedly, the Fund's holding in shares of energy company GE Vernova did well on the expectation that more electrification will be needed to develop AI platforms.

That said, financials stocks also did well this quarter, and so owning fewer shares in this industry than other funds in the benchmark detracted somewhat. The shares that were held in the Fund underperformed; these included holdings of Canadian insurer Intact Financial and Indian bank HDFC. Shares of London Stock Exchange struggled as investors worried about how new AI technologies will affect its business model. This was also true of information services firms Wolters Kluwer and RELX, which both saw their share prices fall in August.

In fixed income, however, the Fund's holdings of US government bonds added to returns. The prices of Treasury bonds rose over the quarter as their yields fell, while prices of most other developed market government bonds fell as their yields rose.

## ACTIVITY

In the financials sector, the manager bought a new holding in shares of Intact Financial. The firm looks to have a solid standing within the industry and has potential to expand into international markets. In the technology sector, the manager bought more shares of Amazon. There seems to be room for Amazon to expand the technology infrastructure arm of its business.

Some changes were made to the Fund's holdings in the healthcare sector. A new position in shares of Thermo Fisher Scientific was added. The life sciences sector looks to be recovering from earlier weakness. Elsewhere, the manager sold the Fund's position in Lonza when its share price rose, and earned profits from the sale.

The Fund's shares of insurer Progressive were sold after strong returns were realised. The manager also sold some of the Fund's shares in GE Vernova on fears that supply constraints in the US power market could prove challenging for the firm.

In the bond market, the manager purchased UK Gilts with a variety of maturity dates, on the belief that yields currently look attractive.

 **Past performance is not a guide to future performance.**

# OUTLOOK

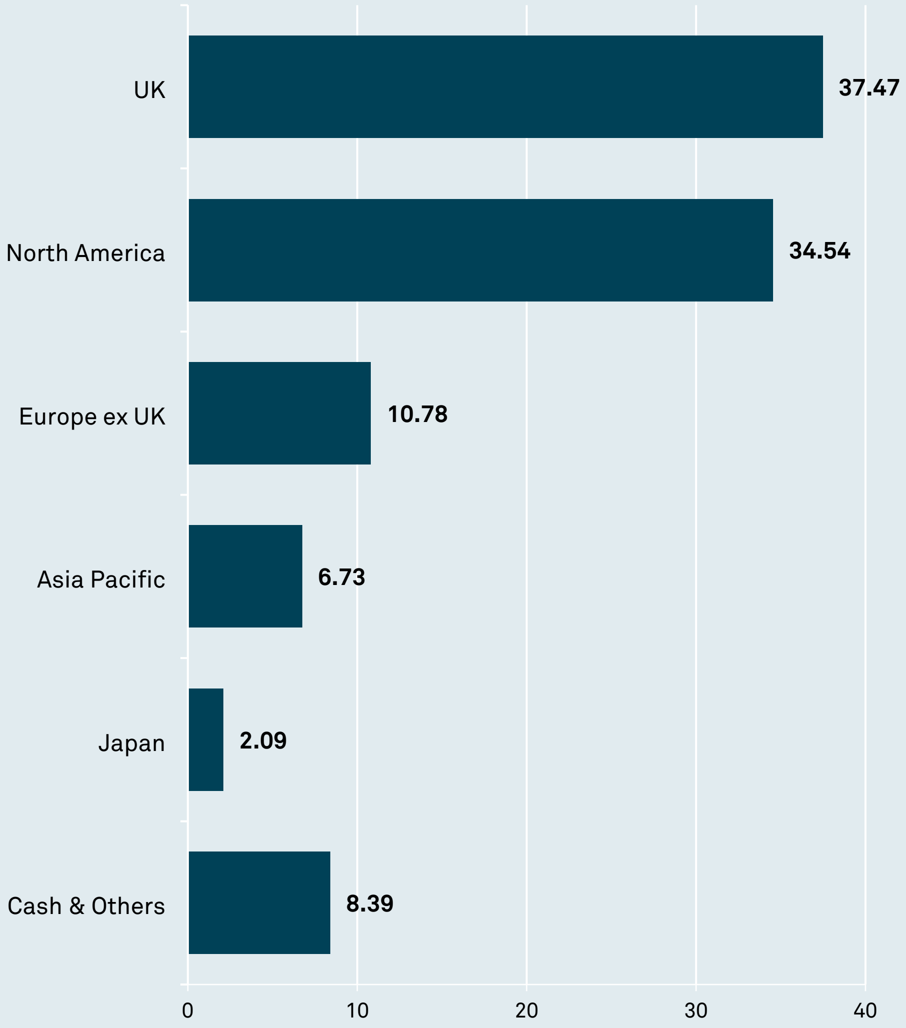
Investor sentiment seems to have improved from the first half of the year given lower interest rates and the many trade deals the US has agreed. However, this means terms of trade have shifted considerably from January, and we have yet to see how this will affect inflation rates and corporate earnings.

Developments in AI echo this scenario; for now, steeper investment in the area is proving supportive for markets, but this could change if valuations or expectations become unsustainably high.

Inflation and interest rates will remain key considerations going into the end of the year. Further interest rate cuts from the Fed and the BoE could materialise. The Fund's manager will be keeping an eye on how this will affect both markets and investor sentiment.

# WHERE THE FUND IS INVESTED

## Geographical allocation (%)

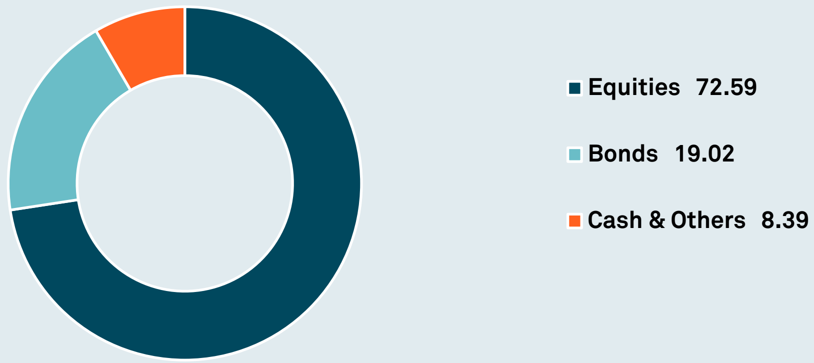



Source: BNY Mellon Investment Management EMEA Ltd. Data as at 30 September 2025

## Largest fund holdings (%)

| | |
|---|---|
| Microsoft Corporation | 3.85 |
| BAE Systems plc | 2.35 |
| Alphabet Inc. Class A | 2.21 |
| Government Of United Kingdom 4.25% 07-Sep-2039 | 2.20 |
| Government Of United Kingdom 4.25% 07-Dec-2027 | 2.20 |
| Government Of United Kingdom 4.25% 07-Mar-2036 | 2.18 |
| Amazon.com Inc. | 2.09 |
| Government Of United Kingdom 3.5% 22-Jan-2045 | 2.04 |
| Shell Plc | 2.00 |
| Government Of United Kingdom 0.5% 31-Jan-2029 | 1.95 |

## Fund allocation (%)



## GLOSSARY

**ACTIVE MANAGEMENT:** A process whereby an investment professional actively makes buy, hold and sell decisions and aims to outperform the overall market.
**ASSET(S)**: In this context, investments held in a portfolio, for example stocks, bonds, property and cash.
**BENCHMARK:** A baseline for comparison against which a fund can be measured.
**BOND(S):** A loan of money by an investor to a company or government for a stated period of time in exchange for a fixed interest rate payment and the repayment of the initial amount at its conclusion.
**CAPITAL GROWTH:** When the current value of an investment is greater than the initial amount invested.
**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI):** An index used to measure inflation, based on the prices in a basket of goods and services, meant to be representative of those we typically spend our money on.
**DEVELOPED MARKETS:** A country that is most developed in terms of its economy and financial markets.
**EMERGING MARKET(S):** Countries in the process of becoming developed economies. emerging market
**EQUITY/EQUITIES:** Shares issued by a company, representing an ownership interest.
**FIXED INCOME:** Broadly refers to those types of investment security that pay investors fixed interest or dividend payments until their maturity date.
**FINANCIALS:** A sector made up of companies that provide financial services.
**GOVERNMENT BONDS:** A loan of money by an investor to a government for a stated period of time in exchange for a (generally) fixed rate of interest and the repayment of the initial amount at its conclusion.
**GILTS:** Fixed income security issued by the UK government.
**INDEX/INDICES:** A portfolio of investments representing a particular market or a portion of it. For example: The FTSE 100 is an index of the shares of the 100 largest companies on the London Stock Exchange.
**INDUSTRIALS:** The industrial goods sector includes stocks of companies that mainly produce capital goods used in manufacturing, resource extraction, and construction.
**INFLATION/INFLATIONARY:** The rate of increase in the cost of living. Inflation is usually quoted as an annual percentage, comparing the average price this month with the same month a year earlier.
**MATURITY/MATURITIES:** The length of time until the initial investment amount of a fixed income security is due to be repaid to the holder of the security.
**MULTI-ASSET:** An investment containing more than one asset class, such as cash, equity or bond.
**PORTFOLIO:** A collection of investments.
**RETURN(S)/RETURNED:** The gain or loss from an investment over a stated period of time - expressed in either percentage or cash terms.
**SECTORS:** An area of the economy in which businesses share the same or related business activity, product, or service.
**SHARE(S):** Also known as equity, is a security representing the ownership of a fraction of a company listed on the stock market.
**STOCK:** Also known as equity, is a security that represents the ownership of a fraction of the issuing corporation.
**TARIFFS:** Taxes imposed by a government on goods and services imported from other countries.
**TREASURY/TREASURIES:** US government debt security with a maturity of more than 10 years. Treasury bonds make interest payments semi-annually.
**YIELD:** Income received from investments, either expressed as a percentage of the investment's current market value, or dividends received by the holder.
**VALUATION(S):** A quantitative process of determining the fair value of an asset, investment, or firm.

**The value of investments can fall. Investors may not get back the amount invested. Income from investments may vary and is not guaranteed.**

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**For a full list of risks applicable to this fund, please refer to the Prospectus or other offering documents. Please refer to the prospectus and the key investor information document (KIID) before making any investment decisions. Go to www.bny.com/investments.**

**Important Information**

**This is a financial promotion.**



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