Quilter

WealthSelect Managed Active Portfolios

Monthly commentary – Review of April 2025

Marcus Brookes
Chief Investment Officer

Our market summary

April was marked by significant market volatility, primarily driven by President Trump's 'Liberation Day' announcement of sweeping reciprocal tariffs on imported goods. The tariffs announced on 2 April were broader and higher than expected, and the implications of this new US trade policy impacted equities, fixed income, and currencies. Stock markets recovered somewhat later in the month as Trump suspended the reciprocal tariffs for 90 days for countries that had not implemented any retaliatory measures. Against this backdrop, global equities ended the month down 2.4% whilst global bonds finished the month up by 0.5%.

In order to aid your understanding, the underlined terms are hyperlinked to definitions in our online investment glossary.

Equity markets

The US was the worst performing equity market in April. The 0.9% loss experienced in US dollar terms was increased to a loss of 3.9% for sterling-based investors due to the weakness of the US dollar. Energy was the weakest sector along with the healthcare and financials sectors, with consumer staples and IT the best performers. Meanwhile, Trump's tariffs weakened business confidence, hindering investment and spending decisions, and increasing the risk of a recession.

Like the US, European markets were impacted by the uncertainty caused by the reciprocal tariffs. However, an interest rate cut from the European Central Bank (ECB) and supportive fiscal policies helped provide relief. Overall, European ex UK equities were up 1.6% over the month. Like the US, the energy sector was the weakest with defensive areas, including consumer staples and utilities, showing resilience.

UK equities also faced the same challenges from trade policy uncertainties and ended the month down 0.2%. The energy sector was once again the main laggard, whereas the utilities sector, known for its defensive characteristics, was the top performer. Additionally, the more domestically focused small-cap companies (up 3.6%) outperformed large cap (down 1.4%) over the month.

April saw an escalation in trade tensions between the US and China. This weighed on Chinese equities, which ended the month down 7.5%. Overall, emerging markets proved to be more resilient and were down only 2.1%. Mexico was the top performer as it faced no new trade tariffs on 2 April, whilst Brazil was notably strong, supported by the strength of the Brazilian real. Elsewhere, India continued to do well, and South Africa was up, helped by the surge in the gold price.

Fixed income

There was significant volatility in bond markets over the month. There was a sharp spike in US Treasury yields and government bond yields fell across Europe and the UK. At the end of the month, US Treasuries were up 0.5%, UK gilts were up 1.8%, global corporate bonds were up 0.4%, and global government bonds were up 1.3%.

Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated. Investment involves risk. The value of investments may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. *Source: Quilter Investors as at 30 April 2025. Total return, percentage growth over period 31 March 2025 to 30 April 2025. The performance figures shown for equities are represented by an appropriate MSCI index. global bonds by the Bloomberg Global Aggregate (GBP Hedged) Index, US Treasuries by the ICE BofA US Treasury (GBP Hedged) Index, UK gilts by the ICE BofA UK Gilt Index, global corporate bonds.by the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate (GBP Hedged) Index, and global government bonds by the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Government Treasuries (GBP Hedged) Index.*

Performance review

April was a volatile month for markets. Following President Trump's 'Liberation Day' announcements, global equities saw sharp declines with volatility also spreading to fixed income markets. After a softening of the approach to tariffs, calm began to return, and equities staged a recovery.

A weakening dollar weighed on returns from our US equity exposure and gold was the big beneficiary of the volatility and uncertainty, reaching new all-time highs over the month.

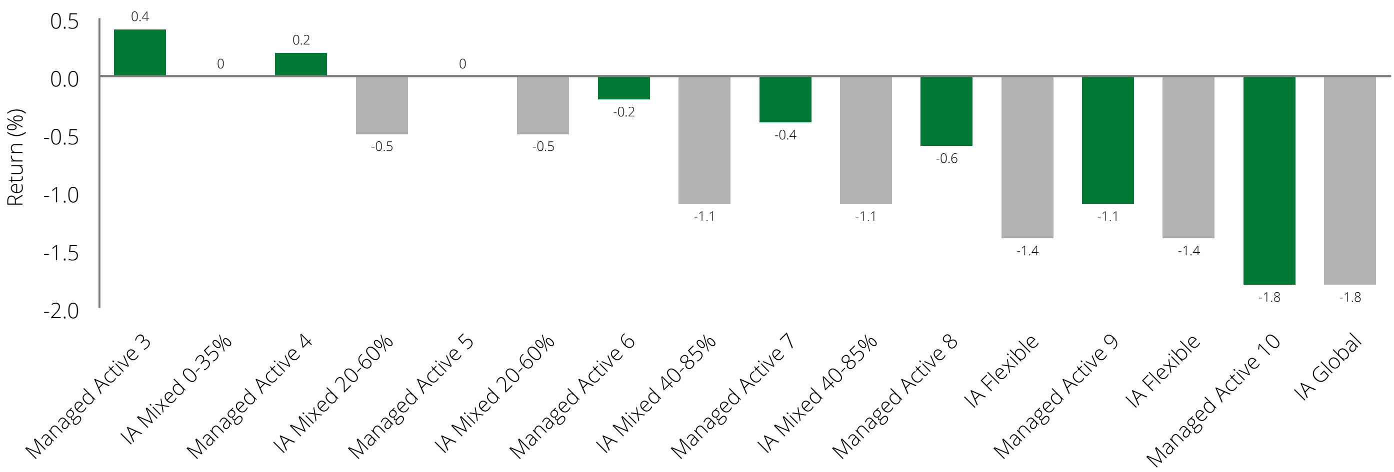
Against this backdrop, portfolio returns ranged from a gain of 0.4% for Managed Active 3 to a 1.8% loss for Managed Active 10.

Stuart Clark
Portfolio Manager

Helen Bradshaw
Portfolio Manager

Bethan Dixon
Portfolio Manager

Monthly performance (%)



Performance summary (%)

	Cumulative performance						*Discrete annual performance to end of April*				
	1 month	*YTD*	*1 year*	*3 year*	*5 year*	*Since launch*	*2024 - 2025*	*2023 - 2024*	*2022 - 2023*	*2021 - 2022*	*2020 - 2021*
Managed Active 3	**0.4**	**1.6**	**5.7**	**12.1**	**21.0**	**54.8**	**5.7**	**6.4**	**-0.4**	**-2.0**	**10.2**
IA Mixed 0-35% Shares	0.0	0.5	4.5	5.0	11.3	35.0	4.5	4.4	-3.7	-3.0	9.3
Managed Active 4	**0.2**	**1.3**	**5.4**	**13.5**	**26.7**	**67.6**	**5.4**	**7.3**	**0.3**	**-1.4**	**13.3**
IA Mixed 20-60% Shares	-0.5	-0.3	4.0	7.8	22.3	50.1	4.0	6.4	-2.6	-2.2	16.0
Managed Active 5	**0.0**	**0.9**	**5.2**	**14.9**	**32.6**	**80.1**	**5.2**	**8.2**	**1.0**	**-0.9**	**16.4**
IA Mixed 20-60% Shares	-0.5	-0.3	4.0	7.8	22.3	50.1	4.0	6.4	-2.6	-2.2	16.0
Managed Active 6	**-0.2**	**0.6**	**4.9**	**16.6**	**38.9**	**91.5**	**4.9**	**9.1**	**1.9**	**-0.2**	**19.3**
IA Mixed 40-85% Shares	-1.1	-2.3	2.9	9.8	33.2	76.7	2.9	8.7	-1.8	-0.1	21.4
Managed Active 7	**-0.4**	**0.3**	**4.6**	**18.2**	**45.4**	**104.4**	**4.6**	**10.1**	**2.7**	**0.4**	**22.5**
IA Mixed 40-85% Shares	-1.1	-2.3	2.9	9.8	33.2	76.7	2.9	8.7	-1.8	-0.1	21.4
Managed Active 8	**-0.6**	**-0.1**	**4.1**	**19.8**	**52.2**	**118.1**	**4.1**	**11.2**	**3.5**	**1.0**	**25.7**
IA Flexible	-1.4	-2.9	2.0	9.6	35.9	81.0	2.0	9.0	-1.4	-0.6	24.7
Managed Active 9	**-1.1**	**-1.5**	**2.8**	**19.7**	**57.9**	**139.4**	**2.8**	**12.4**	**3.6**	**2.0**	**29.3**
IA Flexible	-1.4	-2.9	2.0	9.6	35.9	81.0	2.0	9.0	-1.4	-0.6	24.7
Managed Active 10	**-1.8**	**-3.1**	**1.2**	**19.1**	**60.6**	**162.4**	**1.2**	**13.6**	**3.6**	**2.4**	**31.7**
IA Global	-1.8	-6.5	0.2	15.2	53.7	155.4	0.2	14.3	0.6	0.0	33.4

Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated. Source: Quilter and FactSet as at 30 April 2025. Total return, percentage growth. The performance shown is after the deduction of the charges of the underlying funds, but before the deduction of the Managed Portfolio Service charge. The deduction of this charge will impact on the performance shown. The performance shown is based on a model of the WealthSelect Managed Active Portfolios held via Quilter's platform. The performance of the WealthSelect Managed Active Portfolios on other platforms may not be the same due to various factors including the availability of funds and share classes, the timing of trades, and the impact of costs and charges. The WealthSelect Managed Active Portfolios launched on 24 February 2014.

Investment outlook

The volatility sparked by 'Liberation Day', the rollercoaster of announcements with respect to the 90-day pause, and then the subsequent deal negotiations certainly tested the patience of many market participants. While equity markets have seen a strong bounce back, confidence has been shaken and the medium to long-term impact of Trump's announcements may still have to be felt.

1. A waiting game

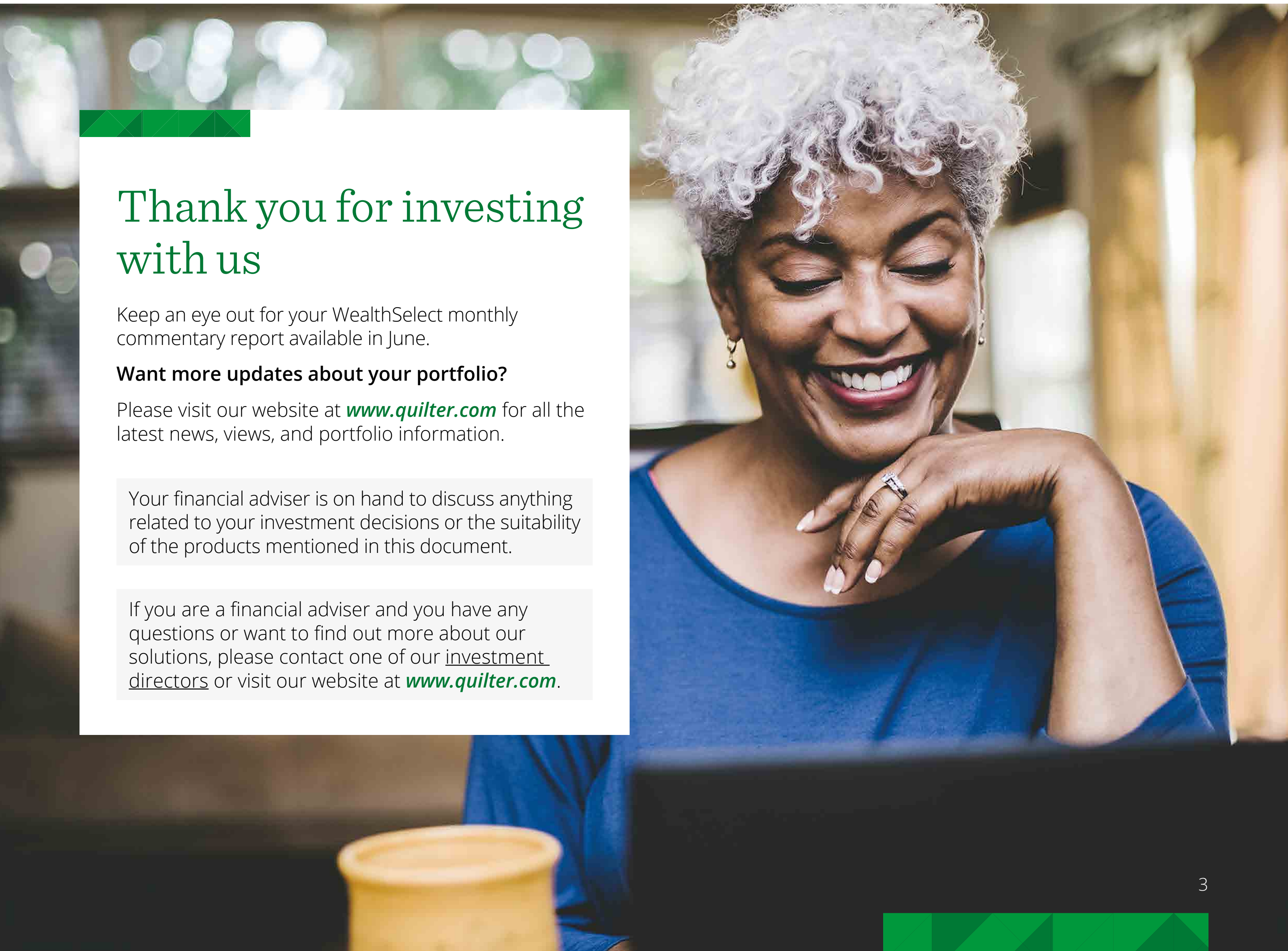
If we assume that the US keeps tariffs at a global 10% level then, while considerably better than the worst-case scenario, this is still significantly higher than before. This will affect either inflation, corporate earnings, or both. Conversely, we still wait to see what President Trump and his team deliver on domestic policies such as tax cuts and deregulation, which may offset some of the impact of the tariffs.

2. Unpredictability affecting confidence

The greatest difficulty of the current administration is the unpredictability around policy announcements and retracement. This makes it difficult for companies to commit to capital expenditure and is likely to affect consumer confidence. We will be keeping a close eye on earnings guidance during the upcoming results season.

3. Positioned appropriately

Flexibility and a willingness to adapt is likely to be key to delivering returns in this environment. Alongside this, a diversified portfolio that is not overly reliant on a particular sector or asset class to deliver returns or manage risk will be vitally important. We believe the current construction of the portfolios meets these criteria but will not be complacent about any individual position.



Thank you for investing with us

Keep an eye out for your WealthSelect monthly commentary report available in June.

Want more updates about your portfolio?

Please visit our website at ***www.quilter.com*** for all the latest news, views, and portfolio information.

Your financial adviser is on hand to discuss anything related to your investment decisions or the suitability of the products mentioned in this document.

If you are a financial adviser and you have any questions or want to find out more about our solutions, please contact one of our investment directors or visit our website at ***www.quilter.com***.

Need additional help reading documents?

More and more of our investors are using screen reading software as a quick and easy way to read their documentation if they are blind, partially sighted, or dyslexic. Alternatively, we can write to you in several alternative formats, such as large print, braille, audio, and OpenDyslexic font.

Find out more about screen readers, accessing your documents online, and our alternative format options at ***www.quilter.com/document-help***.

Important information

Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated. Investment involves risk. The value of investments may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Exchange rates may cause the value of overseas investments to rise or fall.

quilter.com

Please be aware that calls and electronic communications may be recorded for monitoring, regulatory, and training purposes and records are available for at least five years.

The WealthSelect Managed Portfolio Service is provided by Quilter Investment Platform Limited and Quilter Life & Pensions Limited. Quilter is the trading name of Quilter Investment Platform Limited, which also provides an Individual Savings Account, Junior ISA, and Collective Investment Account, and Quilter Life & Pensions Limited, which also provides a Collective Retirement Account and Collective Investment Bond.

Quilter Investment Platform Limited and Quilter Life & Pensions Limited are registered in England and Wales under numbers 1680071 and 4163431, respectively. Quilter Investment Platform Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority under number 165359. Quilter Life & Pensions Limited is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority under number 207977. Registered office: Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London, United Kingdom, EC4V 4AB.

Quilter uses all reasonable skill and care in compiling the information in this communication and in ensuring its accuracy, but no assurances or warranties are given. Investors should not rely on the information in this communication when making investment decisions. Nothing in this communication constitutes advice or a personal recommendation. This communication is for information purposes only and is not an offer or solicitation to buy or sell any Quilter portfolio.

Data from third parties is included in this communication and those third parties do not accept any liability for errors and omissions. Investors should read the important information provided by the third parties, which can be found at www.quilter.com/third-party-data. Where this communication contains data from third parties, Quilter Investors cannot guarantee the accuracy, reliability or completeness of the third-party data and accepts no responsibility or liability whatsoever in respect of such data.

Published: May 2025

QI 23702/29/11326/SK22302