### April 2024 | Strategic asset allocation

## Our long-term investment framework



# Strategic asset allocation is extremely important when it comes to building a diversified portfolio and is a key driver of long-term investment results.

As a client of Omnis Investments, you benefit from investment solutions built for you by Omnis. Their investment strategies are built around a strategic asset allocation (SAA), which is a key component of the investment process. It involves deciding how to divide your money among different types of assets, such as shares, bonds and property, and provide exposure to different regions around the world. SAA considers your personal goals, risk tolerance and time horizon, and aims to achieve a balance between risk and reward.

The idea behind SAA is to create a long-term framework for investing that reflects your specific needs and circumstances. By carefully selecting and weighting different types of assets, we create diversified portfolios that are designed to provide steady returns over time.

When you invest with Omnis, you can rest assured that we're managing your portfolio with using a framework that matches your appetite for risk. Read on to find out more about what goes on behind the scenes, including how we review the SAA weightings every year.

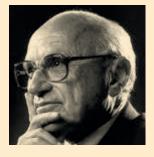
#### Why is SAA important?

It's important to review the SAA regularly to make sure it's still relevant for the prevailing investment environment and outlook for potential returns. This assessment helps ensure the weightings to each asset class remain appropriate for the level of risk.

#### THE FATHER OF MODERN PORTFOLIO THEORY

Harry Markowitz is an American finance and economics educator, and cowinner of the 1990 Nobel Prize for Economics for theories on evaluating stock market risk and reward. The Harry Markowitz Model states that shares in a portfolio can either be of low risk

and low returns or high risk and high returns. Optimising both can help maximise an investor's total portfolio return. The model also defines an acceptable loss bracket within the portfolio that an investor may have to bear. These principles are fundamental to strategic asset allocation.



The Omnis Investment Committee works with world-class partner J.P. Morgan Asset Management (JPMAM) to review our SAA framework every year. This annual review doesn't mean we're constantly changing things, but ensures we have the SAA under close scrutiny and are ready to make changes when it is in the best interests of investors.

Making sure the SAA is well-positioned is a vital component of longterm investing. It ties in with one of our core investment principles – that staying invested over multiple years rather than making lots of short-term movements in an attempt to time the market delivers more consistent returns.

#### How do we build portfolios?

We believe investors should have diversified portfolios that blend assets and provide exposure to opportunities throughout the global markets. This approach is supported by years of academic research, and the idea is that by spreading your investments across a variety of assets, you can achieve better returns with less risk in the long run.

We use an evidence-based approach that involves detailed analysis to determine the best blend of assets for each investor based on their risk tolerance. By doing so, we aim to create portfolios that are tailored to each individual's unique needs and goals.

#### What is our SAA review process?

The SAA review process is conducted on an annual basis to ensure our portfolios remain well positioned. The information gathered by our global research partners JPMAM is then implemented by our dedicated fund management group at Omnis. This means that you obtain an optimised portfolio as a result of this process.

In order to build portfolios with different SAAs that meet risk expectations, we work with another industry leader, EValue, to determine client attitudes to risk. Our objective is to provide investors with a journey they are comfortable taking.

During the most recent review, we have reviewed our allocation to UK-based assets in order to reduce single country risk.





#### SAA and your portfolios

We cannot stress enough the importance of a well-researched SAA framework. Our teams invest a substantial time and resources into the complex mathematics we used to design each portfolio, which are then matched to a different expectation of an investment journey. This journey is the volatility of a portfolio, which is the daily rate at which its value moves up or down.

Overconfidence is a well-documented human trait and you may have come across many examples in your life. Setting our SAA ensures we maintain a rigorous approach to investing and avoid blending funds managed by those without the research teams to conduct such exercises. The change in the SAA does not materially change the ongoing investment costs of the portfolio.

#### Experience and expertise

The team behind the Omnis portfolios have many years of experience of investing, giving them the skills and knowledge to understand what it takes to navigate an evolving investment environment.



## ROBERT JEFFREE

Chief Executive Officer

Robert joined Omnis in 2020 having begun his career at HSBC Asset Management's in 1995. He initially joined as an investment analyst before training as a fund manager on the European equities desk. After three years at HSBC, he moved to McKinsey as an investment management consultant. In 2004 he joined New Star Asset Management as a fund manager for the firm's multi-asset and Asia portfolios.



#### **ANDREW SUMMERS** Chief Investment Officer

Andrew joined Omnis Investments in 2023 bringing with him over 27 years of experience in investment management. He began his career at Goldman Sachs, before moving to Investec Wealth & Investment where he served as Global Head of Product & Research, Head of Collectives Research and Head of Alternative Investments.

At Omnis, Andrew leads the investment function, including the manager research team, who select the best investment managers for our clients. He also leads our tactical asset allocation team, who manage our client's discretionary propositions.



#### HANNAH EVANS Head of Manager Research

Hannah joined Omnis in 2022 having begun her career at UK actuarial consultancy Lane Clark and Peacock. Hannah has nearly 20 years of experience in investment manager research. Most recently she worked at Russell Investments evaluating and identifying investments strategies that offer the optimal risk and reward characteristics for clients. At Omnis Hannah leads our work on selecting and monitoring the investment managers of the Omnis funds.



#### **RICHARD GARLAND** Chief Investment Strategist

Richard is an experienced multi-asset investment manager and strategist with over 25 years of industry experience gained at private banks C. Hoare & Co. and Berenberg. Richard specialises in interpreting the implications of global macroeconomic developments for investment returns and portfolio asset allocations. He also focuses on investment process and portfolio construction. Richard joined Omnis in 2023 to take control of the tactical asset allocation overlay for the



#### **ROHIT VASWANI** Client Portfolio Manager

Omnis Managed Portfolio Service.

Rohit has over 13 years of experience in financial services, across a variety of roles. He began his career at Fidelity International, working with investors globally to provide investment solutions and more recently with fund managers and fund buyers at Portfolio Adviser, a leading UK-based investment publication.



#### **SIMON HARRIS** Chief Operating Officer

Simon is responsible for managing the operations team and overseeing a range of in-house and outsourced operational and service delivery activities. Simon has over 20 years of asset management experience from roles that range from fund accounting, unit-linked pricing, outsourced supplier management, custody oversight, finance operations and investment operations.

He previously worked at Embark, part of the Lloyds Banking Group, where he was Head of Investment Operations. Before this, Simon spent over 18 years at Zurich Insurance Company in a variety of roles, with the most recent being responsible for delivering operational expertise to the UK Investments team within the Group Investment Management business. He started his career in audit assurance and qualified as a chartered accountant with Ernst & Young.



#### **ANGIE KEOGH** Head of Risk and Compliance

Angie joined Omnis in 2023 and is a member of the management committee with responsible for regulatory oversight of the business. She has more than 20 years of experience in financial services and has held senior roles in the fund management, life and insurance sectors. Angie has worked for a range of businesses including Zurich, Axa and Holloway Friendly. She started her career at Columbia Threadneedle where she spent 10 years working with the investment teams.

#### Important information

The value of investments and any income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the original amount invested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance and should not be relied upon.



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