

# Prudential Defensive Portfolio

A sub-fund of Prudential Investment Funds (1)

Annual short report for the year ended 31 October 2013

# Authorised Corporate Director's report

## Investment objective of the Prudential Defensive Portfolio

The Fund aims to achieve long-term total return (the combination of income and growth of capital) by investing mainly in collective investment schemes. No more than 30% of the Fund will be invested in schemes whose predominant exposure is to equities.

## Policy for achieving the objective of the Prudential Defensive Portfolio

The Fund is an actively managed portfolio investing mainly in collective investment schemes in order to provide a well diversified exposure to global fixed income and variable rate assets, cash, near cash, equities and / or immovable property. Typically the Fund will have a high exposure to lower risk assets such as fixed income assets, cash and near cash. Scheme selection is made on the basis of in depth initial and ongoing qualitative assessment of the fund managers and quantitative analysis of the collective investment schemes.

The Fund may also invest directly in other assets including transferable securities, other collective investment schemes, cash and near cash, deposits, warrants and money market instruments. Derivative instruments may be held directly for the purposes of efficient portfolio management only.

## Risk and reward profile\*



- › The above risk number is based on the rate at which the value of the Fund has moved up and down in the past.
- › This risk number is based on simulated historical data and may not be a reliable indicator of the future risk profile of the Fund.
- › The risk number shown is not guaranteed and may change over time.
- › The lowest risk number does not mean risk free.

**The Fund has the above risk number because of the effect of the following risks:**

- › The value of stockmarket investments, and the income from them, will fluctuate. This will cause the Fund price to fall as well as rise and you may not get back the original amount you invested.
  - › Any investment in international companies means that currency exchange rate fluctuations will have an impact on the Fund.
  - › There is a risk that one or more countries will exit the Euro and re-establish their own currencies. In light of this uncertainty or in the event that this does occur, there is an increased risk of asset prices fluctuating or losing value. It may also be difficult to buy and sell securities and issuers may be unable to repay the debt. In addition, there is a risk that disruption in Eurozone markets could give rise to difficulties in valuing the assets of the Fund. In the event that it is not possible to carry out an accurate valuation of the Fund, dealing may be temporarily suspended.
  - › **Fixed income securities** - Changes in the interest rate will affect the value of, and the interest earned from, the fixed income securities held by the Fund. When interest rates rise, the capital value of the Fund is likely to fall and vice versa.
  - › The value of the Fund will fall if the issuer of a fixed income security held is unable to pay income payments or repay its debt (known as a default). A default, expected default, or downgrading will make a fixed income security harder to sell as its value and income are likely to fall. Fixed income securities that pay a higher level of income usually have a lower credit rating because of the increased risk of default. The higher the rating the less likely it is that the issuer will default, but ratings are subject to change.
  - › **Property** - Property investments can be harder to buy and sell when compared to investments in fixed income securities and shares.
  - › There is a risk that a property held in the Fund's portfolio could default on its rental payments.
  - › Property valuations are provided by an independent valuer and are therefore subjective.
- \* Please note that this 'Risk and reward profile' section is based on Sterling Class 'A' shares, the nominated share class.

## Investment activities over the report period

Between 1 November 2012 (the start of the review period) and 31 October 2013, the Prudential Defensive Portfolio's total return (capital performance with net income reinvested) was 7.7%\*. This compares with an average total return of 6.4%\* in the fund's peer group, the IMA Mixed Investment 0-35% Shares Sector. Past performance is no guide to potential returns in the future.

Risk assets were in favour with investors for much of the period under review although a number of issues served to dampen sentiment at times. A lack of political consensus about how to address the US's huge debt was a recurring theme during the year and the problem has yet to be addressed comprehensively. Meanwhile, sentiment was subdued in early summer 2013 due to concerns that the US Federal Reserve (Fed) was about to start scaling back its measures aimed at supporting economic growth. Overall, however, the mood was buoyant on the back of generally improving economic data around the globe. Investors were also encouraged by a continued willingness on behalf of many central banks, particularly the Fed, to bolster economic activity.

In the fund manager's opinion, the broad range of asset classes in the portfolio should provide access to those areas that perform well while also offering some protection against unexpected weakness. In his view, the fund has delivered favourable returns, while keeping an appropriate level of risk, as set out in the fund's mandate.

Against a broadly confident backdrop, the fund's performance was led by its portfolio of equities, or company shares. Within the UK and European portions of the fund, notable contributors included the Artemis Income Fund, the Threadneedle UK Fund and the Henderson European Selected Opportunities Fund. Meanwhile, holdings in the First State Asia Pacific Leaders Fund and the Aberdeen Emerging Markets Fund added more modest value.

On average, fund selection from Morningstar OBSR, an independent investment advisor, has been favourable for performance, for example, the AXA Framlington UK Select Opportunities Fund did particularly well.

The fund manager is currently targeting an overall equity position of 21%, with 8% each allocated to the UK and Europe. His target is 3% for Asia and 2% in emerging markets.

Meanwhile, the fixed income portion of the portfolio comprises mainly corporate bonds, which are interest-bearing loans issued by companies. The manager is targeting a 10% weighting in high yield corporate bonds, or interest-bearing loans issued by lower quality companies, which typically pay a greater level of income than their higher quality counterparts. High yield holdings in the portfolio include the M&G High Yield Corporate Bond Fund, the Kames High Yield Bond Fund and the Baillie Gifford High Yield Bond Fund, which generated reasonable value.

The manager is also targeting a 45% presence in investment grade corporate bonds, which are at the higher rated end of the market. Holdings in this section of the portfolio included the Invesco Perpetual Corporate Bond Fund and the Kames Investment Grade Bond Fund, which generated favourable returns. Within the investment grade portion of the fund, the manager sold a position in the Investec Strategic Bond Fund and started a new holding in the Royal London Corporate Bond Fund.

The fund manager is also targeting a 14% weighting in short-dated credit via the M&G Short Dated Corporate Bond Fund. This fund typically invests in low-risk debt instruments such as variable rate securities and corporate bonds with a short time until their maturity date.

The fund manager remains comfortable not holding government bonds (interest-bearing loans from governments), as he feels their rates of returns are excessively low. This strategy has been beneficial for returns, due to weakness in this area of the market.

The portfolio also has a presence in commercial property, where it is targeting a 9% position. The fund manager continues to feel that property is a solid asset that provides a useful diversification and contribution to returns. Holdings in this portion of the portfolio include the Aviva Investors Property Trust and the M&G Property Portfolio.

Given the lack of sustained economic progress around the globe and the existence of political uncertainty, the fund manager prefers to remain relatively neutral and back a basket of assets rather than place a significant reliance on any major theme playing out correctly. For this reason, despite evidence of valuation variations in different markets, the overall shape of the portfolio is broadly unchanged and transactions over the period relate mainly to cashflow management or steps taken to bring individual holdings back to their target weighting.

Purchases over the period under review included the Kames Investment Grade Bond Fund, M&G High Yield Corporate Bond Fund and the Aviva Investors Property Trust. Positions in the Fidelity Moneybuilder Income Fund and the Baillie Gifford High Yield Bond Fund were topped up over the year as well.

Economic growth in most major markets seems to be stabilising or picking up, although the pace of the recovery is disappointing. US expansion, and to a lesser extent that of the UK, appears to be fairly solid, but the picture in China is less certain. The socio-political situation too remains troublesome and there are pockets of unrest in the Middle East. Closer to home, the eurozone has come out of recession although structural reforms in the region have yet to be fully addressed. Likewise, US politicians have so far failed to find a meaningful way forward to tackling the debt crisis and the issue is expected to rear its head again early in the new year.

Despite these underlying concerns, the fund manager believes investors have already factored in some uncertainty and that many assets are favourably valued. In his view, the potential for short-term setbacks remains but longer term the picture is encouraging.

\* Source: Morningstar, Inc.

Basis: Bid to bid with net income reinvested to 31 October 2013.

Please note that the views expressed in this report should not be taken as a recommendation or advice on how the fund or any holding mentioned in the report is likely to perform. If you wish to obtain financial advice as to whether an investment is suitable for your needs, you should consult a financial adviser.

# Fund summary

Sterling Class 'C' shares are not generally available to all investors.

## Distribution dates and fund facts

Distribution type	xd		payment	
Final	03.11.14		31.12.14	
	Final distribution		Ongoing Charges Figure <sup>[b]</sup>	
	Inc 31.12.13 <sup>[a]</sup>	Acc 01.11.13 <sup>[a]</sup>	31.10.13	31.10.12
Sterling	p	p	%	%
Class 'A'	1.4660	1.5820	2.16	2.25
Class 'C'	2.5656	n/a	0.93	1.04
Class 'R'	n/a	1.7860	1.59	1.84 <sup>[c]</sup>

- <sup>[a]</sup> The date on which the final distribution will be paid to Income shareholders and credited to Accumulation shareholders.
- <sup>[b]</sup> The Ongoing Charges Figure is the ratio of the relevant annualised total disclosable costs of each share class from the most recent reporting period to the average net asset value for that share class over the same period.
- <sup>[c]</sup> The comparative Ongoing Charges Figure shown here is an estimate of the charges, as the share class had not been in existence for a full financial year.

## Fund performance

Performance of share classes

	Net asset value per share as at 31.10.13		Net asset value per share as at 31.10.12		Net asset value % change	
	Inc	Acc	Inc	Acc	Inc	Acc
Sterling	p	p	p	p	%	%
Class 'A'	118.61	124.13	111.50	115.27	+6.38	+7.69
Class 'C'	118.86	n/a	111.66	n/a	+6.45	n/a
Class 'R'	n/a	110.82	n/a	102.50	n/a	+8.12

Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

The price of shares and the income from them can go down as well as up, and you may get back less than you invested.

# Fund summary

Prices					
Calendar year		Income shares Highest	Lowest	Accumulation shares Highest	Lowest
Sterling Class 'A'	2010 <sup>[a]</sup>	p 107.57	p 98.97	p 107.57	p 98.97
	2011	109.39	102.28	109.90	103.21
	2012	114.18	104.98	117.78	106.82
	2013 <sup>[b]</sup>	120.69	113.98	124.79	117.81
Class 'C'	2010 <sup>[a]</sup>	108.44	99.04	n/a	n/a
	2011	110.11	102.39	n/a	n/a
	2012	115.31	105.20	n/a	n/a
	2013 <sup>[b]</sup>	122.04	114.34	n/a	n/a
Class 'R'	2012 <sup>[c]</sup>	n/a	n/a	104.83	100.00
	2013 <sup>[b]</sup>	n/a	n/a	111.42	104.86

<sup>[a]</sup> From 22 January 2010 (the launch date of the sub-fund).

<sup>[b]</sup> To 1 November 2013.

<sup>[c]</sup> From 3 August 2012 (the launch date of the share class).

Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

The price of shares and the income from them can go down as well as up, and you may get back less than you invested.



# Fund summary

Income

## Interest income per share

Calendar year		Distributed	Reinvested
Sterling (net)		p	p
Class 'A'	2010	0.4920	0.4920
	2011	1.3476	1.3532
	2012	1.7796	1.7500
	2013 <sup>[a]</sup>	1.4660	1.5820
Class 'C'	2010	1.3232	n/a
	2011	2.4020	n/a
	2012	2.7972	n/a
	2013 <sup>[a]</sup>	2.5656	n/a
Class 'R'	2012	n/a	0.2108
	2013 <sup>[a]</sup>	n/a	1.7860

<sup>[a]</sup> Up to final: ex-distribution date 1 November 2013;  
payment date 31 December 2013.

# Fund summary

## Major holdings

The top ten holdings at the end of this year and the previous year end are shown below. <sup>[a]</sup>

	% of sub-fund as at 31.10.13		% of sub-fund as at 31.10.12
M&G Short Dated Corporate Bond Fund (formerly M&G High Interest Fund) Sterling Class 'A' (Income)	14.13	M&G High Interest Fund Sterling Class 'A' (Income)	14.06
M&G Strategic Corporate Bond Fund Sterling Class 'A'	9.15	M&G Strategic Corporate Bond Fund Sterling Class 'A'	9.15
Royal London Corporate Bond Fund Sterling Class 'Z' (Income)	9.05	Kames Investment Grade Bond Fund Sterling Class 'A'	9.14
Invesco Perpetual Corporate Bond Fund	9.02	Fidelity MoneyBuilder Income Fund Sterling Class 'A'	9.05
Kames Investment Grade Bond Fund Sterling Class 'A'	8.93	Investec Strategic Bond Fund Sterling Class 'A'	8.97
Fidelity MoneyBuilder Income Fund Sterling Class 'A'	8.93	Invesco Perpetual Corporate Bond Fund	8.76
Henderson European Selected Opportunities Fund Sterling Class 'A'	8.49	Henderson European Selected Opportunities Fund Sterling Class 'A'	8.36
Aviva Investors Property Trust Sterling Class '1'	4.44	Aviva Investors Property Trust Sterling Class '1'	4.68
M&G Property Portfolio Sterling Class 'I' (Income)	4.10	M&G Property Portfolio Sterling Class 'S' (Income)	4.27
M&G High Yield Corporate Bond Fund Sterling Class 'X'	3.94	Kames High Yield Bond Fund Sterling Class 'A'	4.07

[a] All holdings are in Accumulation shares / units unless otherwise stated.

## Classification of investments

The table below shows the percentage holding per sector.

	% of sub-fund as at 31.10.13	% of sub-fund as at 31.10.12
Equity portfolios		
Continental Europe	8.49	8.36
United Kingdom	8.11	7.86
Far East	2.87	2.96
Emerging markets	2.13	2.00
Property portfolios	8.54	8.95
Bond portfolios	69.08	68.88

## **Short reports**

This Short Report is issued in accordance with the requirements of the Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook, as issued (and amended) by the Financial Services Authority. This Short Report does not contain the Financial Statements of the Prudential Defensive Portfolio, and it is unaudited.

## **Report and accounts**

A copy of the Authorised Corporate Director's (ACD) Annual Investment Report and Financial Statements for Prudential Investment Funds (1), which incorporates all the sub-fund annual investment reports and audited financial statements is available free of charge on request from our website at [www.pru.co.uk/managersreports](http://www.pru.co.uk/managersreports) or by calling Customer Relations on 0845 783 5500. All literature provided will be in English.

# Other information

The information in this report is designed to enable shareholders to make an informed judgement on the activities of the fund during the year it covers and the results of those activities at the end of the year. For more information about the activities and performance of the fund during this and the previous year, please contact the Authorised Corporate Director.

## **Authorised Corporate Director (ACD)**

Prudential Unit Trusts Limited, Laurence Pountney Hill,  
London EC4R 0HH Telephone: 0845 783 5500  
(Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority)

## **Investment manager**

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(Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority)

## **Registrar**

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IFDS House, St. Nicholas Lane, Basildon, Essex SS15 5FS  
(Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority)

## **Depository**

National Westminster Bank Plc, Trustee & Depository Services,  
Younger Building, First floor, 3 Redheughs Avenue, Edinburgh EH12 9RH  
(Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority)

## **Independent auditors**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP,  
7 More London Riverside, London SE1 2RT

## **General information**

If you would like further details about any aspects of your investment please contact Customer Relations, PO Box 10866, Chelmsford, Essex CM99 2BX. Please remember to quote your name, customer number and sign any written communication to Prudential. Failure to provide this may affect your ability to transact with us. Alternatively, you can telephone us on 0845 783 5500. For security purposes and to improve the quality of our service, we may record and monitor telephone calls. You will require your customer number. Failure to provide this will affect your ability to transact with us.

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