

QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REVIEW

Benchmark-Free Allocation Fund

Performance returns (USD)

ANNUALIZED RETURNS (QUARTER-END)	Quarter-End	YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception
Benchmark-Free Allocation Fund (net)	4.20	9.10	9.94	10.18	6.94	4.00	7.06
Benchmark-Free Allocation Fund (gross)	4.41	9.56	10.87	11.09	7.82	4.86	7.78
CPI Index	0.59	1.20	2.70	2.87	4.56	3.06	2.58
Value Add	+3.61	+7.90	+7.24	+7.30	+2.37	+0.94	+4.48

Net of all fees and expenses after reimbursement by the Manager, but not transaction costs, if any. If certain expenses were not reimbursed, performance would be lower. Gross of fees, expenses and transaction costs, if any. If these fees, expenses and costs were included, performance would be lower. **Performance data quoted represents past performance and is not indicative of future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance data may be lower or higher than the performance data provided herein. To obtain performance information to the most recent month-end, visit [www.gmo.com](http://www.gmo.com).** The portfolio is actively-managed, is not managed relative to a benchmark and uses an index for performance comparison purposes only and, where applicable, to compute a performance fee. Returns include a substantial, one-time litigation settlement recovery received on December 16, 2024. This event contributed 2.45% to 2024 annual performance. Performance for other periods, including this date, was also positively impacted, sometimes materially. Without this recovery, performance would have been lower in both absolute terms and relative to the benchmark. Additional information is available upon request.

MAJOR PERFORMANCE DRIVERS

- Top-down asset allocation was good, driven primarily by strong equity returns, although leaning into Value equities in the U.S. did hamper returns there.
- Security selection was modestly positive across equities and fixed income, while the performance of the alternative strategies was negative.

Long-only equities represented 51.4% of the portfolio on average through the quarter, with 10.9% in Emerging Markets with a distinct Value bias, 6.4% in Japan Fundamental Value, 5.4% in Developed ex-U.S. Small Value, 6.5% in Developed ex-U.S., 3.9% in Resource Equity, 5.3% in U.S. Opportunistic Value, 9.8% in International Opportunistic Value, and 3.2% in Japan Small Value.

Inception Date: 23-Jul-03  
Performance for the year of inception is less than a full calendar year. Returns shown for periods greater than one year are on an annualized basis.  
**Risks:** Risks associated with investing in the Fund may include: (1) Management and Operational Risk: the risk that GMO's investment techniques will fail to produce desired results, including annualized returns and annualized volatility; (2) Market Risk - Equities: the market price of equities may decline due to factors affecting the issuer, its industries, or the economy and equity markets generally. Declines in stock market prices generally are likely to reduce the net asset value of the Fund's shares; and (3) Non-U.S. Investment Risk: the market prices of many non-U.S. securities (particularly of companies tied economically to emerging countries) fluctuate more than those of U.S. securities. Many non-U.S. markets (particularly emerging markets) are less stable, smaller, less liquid, and less regulated than U.S. markets, and the cost of trading in those markets often is higher than it is in U.S. markets. For a more complete discussion of these and other risks, please consult the Fund's Prospectus. **Performance Returns:** Annualized Returns may include the impact of purchase premiums and redemption fees. The GMO Trust funds are distributed in the United States by Funds Distributor LLC. GMO and Funds Distributor LLC are not affiliated.  
**Net Expense Ratio: 1.23%; Gross Expense Ratio: 1.28% Net Expense Ratio reflects the reduction of expenses from fee reimbursements. The fee reimbursements will continue until at least June 30, 2026. Elimination of this reimbursement will result in higher fees and lower performance. Gross Expense Ratio is equal to the Funds Total Annual Operating Expenses set forth in the Funds most recent prospectus dated June 30, 2025.**

# QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REVIEW

## MAJOR PERFORMANCE DRIVERS CONT.

The equity portfolio returned 10.8% for the quarter, lagging the MSCI ACWI return of 11.5%. Top-down regional exposure had a marginal positive impact, but stylistic exposures had a significant negative impact as Value trailed far behind Growth, particularly in the U.S. market. Security selection was modestly positive for the quarter. Our Emerging Markets portfolio returned 13.3%, ahead of the MSCI Emerging Market index return of 12.0%. The Japan Fundamental Value portfolio posted 10.9%, compared to the TOPIX return of 11.3%, while the Japan Small Value exposure posted 7.8%, and the Developed ex-U.S. Small Value portfolio delivered 16.4%. The Developed ex-U.S. exposure posted 13.2%, which beat the MSCI World ex-USA index by 120 bps. Resource Equity posted 7.0%, the U.S. Opportunistic Value exposure returned 3.2%, 20 bps behind the MSCI USA Value index return of 3.4%, and International Opportunistic Value posted 10.1%, behind the MSCI World ex-USA Value return of 10.5%.

Alternative strategies averaged 29.4% through the quarter, made up of 15.7% in Equity Dislocation and 13.8% in Alternative Allocation, a broad and diversified range of alternative approaches in a single holding. Alternative strategies returned -3.6% for the quarter. Equity Dislocation returned -6.6%, well ahead of the MSCI ACWI Value minus MSCI ACWI Growth comparator of -11.4%, and the strategy remains well ahead of the naïve approach over longer time periods. Alternative Allocation posted -1.6% for the quarter as the exposure to Equity Dislocation hampered returns, and long Quality/short Junk also fell in the speculative risk on environment.

Fixed income represented 19.2% of the portfolio on average through the quarter, including 2.1% in asset-backed securities, 2.1% in Emerging Country Debt, and 14.9% in U.S. Treasuries. Our fixed income strategies returned 2.0% for the quarter, ahead of the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate return of 1.2%. Emerging Country Debt, as measured by the J.P. Morgan EMBIG-D index, had a 3.3% return, and the portfolio beat that handsomely with a 4.7% return. The asset-backed securities posted 1.6%, ahead of the Bloomberg U.S. Securitized index return of 1.2%. It was a solid quarter for traditional duration and the U.S. Treasury exposure returned 1.6%.

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# QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REVIEW

## PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Fund seeks to generate positive total return by allocating dynamically across asset classes, free from the constraints of traditional benchmarks. Over a complete market cycle, the Fund seeks annualized returns of 5% (net of fees) above the Consumer Price Index and annualized volatility (standard deviation) of 5-10%.

The philosophy that underlies all of GMO's Asset Allocation investment strategies is the belief that, at times and in the short term, the pricing of asset classes can deviate from true intrinsic value, but mean reverts to appropriate valuation levels over the long term. GMO's proprietary 7-Year Asset Class Forecasts form the foundation of our investment process, providing a framework to assess the return opportunity embedded in different asset classes. We use that insight to allocate to what we believe are the most attractively priced asset classes.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**An investor should consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing. This and other important information can be found in the funds prospectus. To obtain a prospectus please visit [www.gmo.com](http://www.gmo.com). Read the prospectus carefully before investing.**

**Comparator Index(es):** The CPI (Consumer Price Index) for All Urban Consumers US All Items is published monthly by the U.S. government as an indicator of changes in price levels (or inflation) paid by urban consumers for a representative basket of goods and services. CPI Index returns are typically reported on the 15th of the month. The CPI data reported may not include the most recent month-end which could impact the data that GMO has provided.

The GMO Trust funds are distributed in the United States by Funds Distributor LLC. GMO and Funds Distributor LLC are not affiliated.

## ABOUT GMO

Founded in 1977, GMO is a global asset manager committed to delivering superior performance and advice to our clients. We are privately owned, which allows us to singularly focus on our sole business – achieving outstanding long-term client investment outcomes. Offering multi-asset, equity, fixed income, and alternative strategies, we invest with a long-term, valuation-based philosophical approach.

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\*GMO's West Coast Hub is comprised of members of Investment, Global Client Relations, and other teams located in and around the Greater San Francisco area

\*\*Representative Office

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