

# Sestante Assertive Index Portfolio

## Monthly Investment Report

As of 31/07/2025

### Latest Performance\*

	1-mth	3-mths	1-yr	3-yr	5-yr	Inception
Sestante Assertive Index	2.35	8.63	13.06	11.82	10.51	8.84
RBA Cash Rate + 3% p.a.	0.58	1.76	7.47	7.14	5.55	5.18

### Market Review

Investor sentiment strengthened in July, driven largely by progress on U.S. trade negotiations and optimism surrounding artificial intelligence (AI). Equity markets saw broad-based gains, with emerging markets outperforming developed ones amid favourable trade developments and strong capital inflows, particularly into tech-related sectors.

The S&P 500 rose 2.2% during the month, which now makes the rebound over 27% from April's low. The rally was fuelled by easing trade tensions, robust corporate earnings, and the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), which promised pro-growth fiscal policies and business-friendly tax cuts for 2026. Large-cap technology stocks led gains, supported by strong earnings and persistent enthusiasm for AI investments. Semiconductors and hardware companies were among the primary beneficiaries.

Nearly 83% of reporting S&P 500 firms exceeded earnings expectations, with average surprises over 7%. The technology, financials, and communications sectors drove the bulk of the upside, while industrials lagged. Despite rising input costs, even the energy and materials sectors saw earnings upgrades. However, valuations remain elevated, global equities now trade at around 20x forward earnings, significantly above the long-term average of 16x, suggesting heightened sensitivity to future policy or earnings disappointments.

Emerging market equities outshone developed markets, with standout performances in Taiwan, China, South Korea, and Thailand. Taiwanese stocks continued to attract AI-driven investment, while easing trade frictions and resumed AI-chip exports to China supported broader regional sentiment. Meanwhile, India and Brazil underperformed due to new U.S. tariffs. India faces a 25% duty plus penalties linked to its Russian trade, while Brazil was hit with a 50% tariff.

In Japan, equity markets advanced strongly following a favourable trade agreement with the U.S., which triggered rallies in exporters and AI-related sectors. European shares rose as well, helped by relief that threatened 30% U.S. tariffs were replaced with a lower baseline of 15%. Exemptions for key sectors like aerospace helped sustain investor confidence. In the UK, the FTSE All-Share posted positive returns, led by energy and healthcare, although mid-cap stocks lagged.

Australian equities returned 2.4% for the month, supported by gains in resource stocks, as iron ore and coal prices rose.

Bond markets faced headwinds as global government bond yields rose, reflecting ongoing concerns about fiscal discipline in major economies. In contrast, corporate bonds outperformed, supported by stronger economic sentiment and solid earnings. U.S. corporate credit markets saw spread compression and positive returns across both investment grade and high-yield segments, driven by upbeat data and investor risk appetite.

The U.S. dollar strengthened broadly, buoyed by the easing trade tensions, U.S. economic resilience and investor sentiment. Commodities saw mixed performance, the energy and livestock sectors delivered gains, while industrial and agricultural metals struggled. Precious metals remained mostly unchanged.

Looking ahead, markets will be focused on the U.S. Federal Reserve and any further tariff announcements. With valuations stretched and policy uncertainty lingering, diversified investment strategies remain crucial to manage both risk and opportunity.

For a detailed market review and outlook, please refer to the Monthly Market Commentary document available on [www.azsestante.com/investment-options](http://www.azsestante.com/investment-options)



### \$10,000 invested over time



■ Sestante Assertive Index    ■ RBA Cash Rate + 3% p.a.

### Portfolio information

- Investment Objective: target RBA cash rate +3.0% per annum over rolling 7-year periods after fees.
- Asset Class: Diversified
- 85% Growth / 15% Defensive
- Portfolio Inception Date: 7 February 2019

## ESG Risk Score

● Sestante Assertive Index

Corporate ESG Risk Score

20.5



Sovereign ESG Risk Score



## ESG Pillar Score



5.7

Environmental



9.1

Social



5.2

Governance



0.6

Unallocated

## Major Index Returns

	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years
S&P/ASX 200 TR AUD	2.36	8.17	4.18	11.81	12.33
MSCI World Ex Australia GR AUD	3.14	11.42	4.03	18.00	19.67
Bloomberg AusBond Composite 0+Y TR AUD	-0.04	0.88	3.72	5.22	2.74
Bloomberg Global Aggregate TR Hdg AUD	-0.15	0.39	2.10	3.34	1.40
S&P Global Infrastructure NR AUD	1.90	5.65	8.96	23.22	13.09
RBA Cash Rate + 3% p.a.	0.58	1.76	3.55	7.47	7.14

### Important information

\*Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Performance is calculated before taxes, model management and platform fees and after underlying investment management fees. For full details of fees please refer to the relevant platform offer documents. Performance is notional in nature and an individual investor's actual performance may differ to the that of the model portfolio. Investment performance is shown from 7/2/2019 and represents modelled performance only and assumes income received is reinvested.

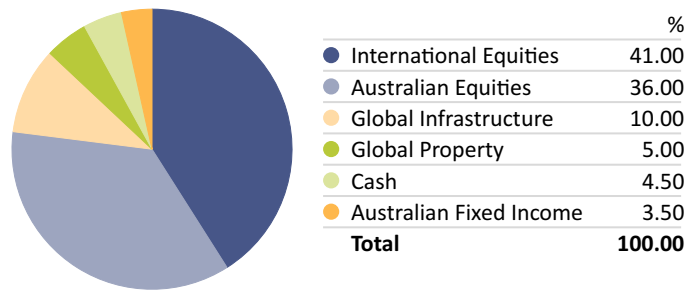
The Morningstar Historical Corporate Sustainability Score is a weighted average of the trailing 12 months of Morningstar Portfolio Corporate Sustainability Scores. Historical portfolio scores are not equal-weighted; rather, more-recent portfolios are weighted more heavily than older portfolios. Combining the trailing 12 months of portfolio scores adds consistency while still reflecting portfolio managers' current decisions by weighting the most recent portfolio scores more heavily.

ESG pillar scores are displayed as a number between 0 and 100 with most scores range between 0 and 25. It is the asset-weighted average of the company environmental, social, governance risk scores for the covered corporate holdings in a portfolio. The scores measure the degree to which a company's economic value may be at risk driven by environmental, social, and governance factors. The risk represents the unmanaged risk exposure after taking into account a company's management of such risks.

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## Current Asset Allocation

Portfolio Date: 31/07/2025



## Where your funds are invested

<b>International Equities</b>	<b>41.00</b>	—
Vanguard All-World ex-US Shares ETF	17.00	●●●●
iShares S&P 500 AUD Hedged ETF	13.00	●●●●
iShares S&P 500 ETF	11.00	●●●●
<b>Australian Equities</b>	<b>36.00</b>	—
iShares Core S&P/ASX 200 ETF	28.00	●●●●●
iShares Australian Equity Index	8.00	●●●●
<b>Global Infrastructure</b>	<b>10.00</b>	—
VanEck FTSE Gbl Infrs(AUD Hdg)ETF	10.00	●●●●
<b>Global Property</b>	<b>5.00</b>	—
VanEck FTSE Intl Prop (AUD Hdg) ETF	5.00	●●●●
<b>Cash</b>	<b>4.50</b>	—
BetaShares Aus High Interest Cash ETF	2.50	—
Cash	2.00	—
<b>Australian Fixed Income</b>	<b>3.50</b>	—
iShares Australian Bond Index	3.50	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	

Morningstar's Globe Ratings are just one tool that can help investors work out a fund's ESG credentials. A 5 Globe Rating indicates a fund is at the top end of its peer group in terms of sustainability, while a 1 Globe Rating shows it is underperforming on sustainability issues.

## Portfolio changes

There were no portfolio changes this month.