# VT iFunds Absolute Return Orange Fund

FEBRUARY 2019 ISSUE



#### **Investment Objective**

The Fund aims to deliver a level of return over rolling three year periods equivalent to cash (as measured by 6 month LIBOR) plus 6% per annum before fees and charges. There is no guarantee that a positive return will be achieved over this, or any period, and capital is at risk. The annualised volatility for the Fund is expected to be 9% per annum irrespective of general equity and bond market conditions.

#### **Investment Policy**

The Fund will seek to achieve its investment objective primarily through investment in exchange traded funds, transferable securities, and other regulated collective investment schemes. This may include schemes or funds managed by the ACD and/or an associate. The Fund may also invest directly in money market instruments, warrants, deposits, cash and near cash. There is no particular emphasis on any geographical area or industry or economic sector. The Fund is permitted to use derivatives but solely for the purposes of Efficient Portfolio Management (including hedging).

#### **Fund Information**

VT iFunds Absolute Return Orange Fund					
Bloomberg Code (Acc Share C	lass) THORAAA LN				
Launch Date	27 May 2011				
ISA Eligible	Yes				
UCITS Scheme	Yes				
IA Sector	Absolute Return				
Benchmark (gross)	6 month LIBOR + 6%				
Initial Charge	0.00%				
Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF)	* 1.02%				
Minimum Investment	£5,000				
Fund Size	£54.3m				
Investment Adviser	iFunds				
Authorised Corporate Directo	r (ACD) Valu-Trac (VT)				

# Five Years Cumulative Net Performance to 28th February 2019



\* The OCF is inclusive of a 0.58% management fee and the charges of the underlying holdings.

# **Performance Summary**

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. On 10/11/2016 the Fund switched from a Non-UCITS Retail Scheme (NURS) to a UCITS scheme. Prior to 10/11/2016 the only additional investment power used under NURS was to allow up to 35% of the fund value to be invested in a single instrument. Under UCITS rules the maximum investment is 20%. As the fund invests solely in index tracking ETFs & ETCs, this new restriction would not have impacted materially on past performance as the fund would simply have invested in two separate index tracking funds had the new limit applied.

#### **Performance Table**

Performance to 28/02/19	1 month to 28/02/19	6 months to 28/02/19	1 year to 28/02/19	3 years to 28/02/19	5 years to 28/02/19
VT iFunds Absolute Return Orange Fund (net)	-1.1%	-9.3%	-12.2%	1.2% p.a.	2.9% p.a.
Benchmark (6 month LIBOR + 6%) (gross)	0.6%	3.5%	6.9%	6.7% p.a.	6.7% p.a.
Year on Year Performance	Year to 28/02/19	Year to 28/02/18	Year to 28/02/17	Year to 28/02/16	Year to 28/02/15
VT iFunds Absolute Return Orange Fund (net)	-12.2%	7.4%	10.3%	-2.3%	13.5%
Benchmark (6 month LIBOR + 6%) (gross)	6.9%	6.5%	6.6%	6.7%	6.7%
Risk	1 year volatility	3 year volatility	5 year volatility	Max 30 day loss	Maximum drawdown
VT iFunds Absolute Return Orange Fund (net)	8.3%	8.3% p.a.	7.8% p.a.	-8.6%	-15.7%

Fund performance is net of all fees and charges. Volatility has been calculated using the standard deviation of monthly returns. Max 30 day loss is the biggest loss over any rolling 30 day period since fund launch. Max drawdown is the biggest loss from peak to trough since fund launch. Data has been provided by iFunds Asset Management and other third party data providers. For full disclosures please see the bottom of page two.

iFunds Asset Management Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, registered in England and Wales, No. 2442391. Registered office The TechnoCentre, Puma Way, Coventry, CV1 2TT. www.ifunds.co.uk

# VT iFunds Absolute Return Orange Fund



# **Top 5 Holdings**

ETF / Fund	Weighting	
iShares UK Gilts 0-5yr UCITS ETF	18%	
iShares Core UK Gilts UCITS ETF	18%	
SPDR Barclays Capital UK Gilt ETF	16%	
SPDR Barclays Capital 1-5 Year Gilt ETF	14%	
iShares Physical Gold ETC	9%	

# Commentary

The fund fell by 1.1% during February compared to its cash plus benchmark of 0.6%. UK equities as measured by the FTSE All Share were up 2.3% and UK government bonds as measured by the FTSE Actuaries All Stocks Gilt index were down by 0.9%.

Despite the recent rally in a number of equity markets the fund remains defensively positioned. UK government bonds remain highly ranked by momentum our process on a risk adjusted basis as a large number of equity assets continue to display a long term negative trend. However, over the month, a number of equity assets have turned positive and are now rising up our relative strength table.

In terms of trading it was a relatively quiet month for the fund. Our allocation to Latin American equities, which had been the only equity position maintained following the October and December stock market falls, was liquated in favour of topping up our allocation to gold and other precious metals. Although precious metals had a negative month, partly due to a strengthening pound, they continue to trend positively overall and are ranked highly on a risk adjusted basis.

The volatility of the pound continues to be a concern. During the first half the month it fell before rallying strongly on the back of developments regarding the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Towards the end of the month the Labour party appeared to move towards making a commitment to holding a second referendum whilst Theresa May announced that parliament would get a vote on extending article 50 should her deal and no deal be rejected. These moves have reduced the chances of a no deal, although as we have seen in recent years, expect the unexpected.

Overall the fund remains cautious with a significant allocation to short dated UK government bonds and precious metals. That said, we are starting to see a number of equity assets return to a positive overall trend following the falls during quarter four of last year.

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# Fund Asset Allocation (as at 28/02/2019)



Monthly Asset Allocation Changes



# **Benefits of iFunds Absolute Return Funds**

Our Absolute Return range of multi-asset funds aim to provide investors with positive returns above cash over rolling three year periods. Each fund seeks to maximise the level of return for a given level of risk whilst reducing drawdown. Overall our goal is to provide a more predictable and smoother outcome for all investors.

- Potential for positive returns regardless of market conditions.
- Consistent volatility profile.
- Risk based asset allocation.
- Truly flexible and dynamic asset allocation.
- Repeatable and proven investment process.

The ACD of the fund is Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited. Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), registration number 145168. This status can be checked with the FCA on 0845 730 0104, or on the FCA website. Registered in England No. 2428648.

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