

# BT Wholesale Conservative Outlook Fund

**Fact Sheet**  
**September 2011**

ARSN: 087 593 100



## About the Fund

The BT Wholesale Conservative Outlook Fund provides investors with a diversified portfolio of Australian and international shares, Australian and international property securities, Australian and international fixed interest, cash and alternative investments. The Fund has a significant weighting towards defensive assets.

### Fund objective

The Fund aims to provide a return (before fees, costs and taxes) that exceeds the Fund's benchmark over the medium term. The suggested investment timeframe is three years or more.

### Benchmark

The benchmark for the Fund is created from a blend of indices based on the Fund's exposure to different asset classes. The benchmark is calculated by using the weighted average asset allocation neutral position and the index returns for each asset class. Details of the particular market indices used for the Fund's benchmark can be found on our website at

<http://www.btim.com.au/AllFunds> and clicking on your fund page.

### Investment process

The underlying investments in the BT Wholesale Conservative Outlook Fund are managed by BTIM together with a number of external partners. BTIM manages investments in the asset classes of Australian shares, Australian fixed interest and cash, global fixed interest, Australian property securities and alternative investments. These investments are augmented by our arrangements with leading global investment managers who have a competitive advantage in the management of global asset classes. These include: AQR Capital Management LLC for international shares and AEW Capital Management LP for global property securities.

### Investment team

The Fund is managed by BTIM's Macro Strategies team headed by Joe Bracken who has more than 15 years industry experience. The team has a diverse skill set, combining a range of global and domestic market experience and drawing on the resources of BTIM's other specialist teams: Income Strategies and Equity Strategies.

## Performance<sup>1</sup>

(%)	Total Returns		Benchmark Return
	(post-fee)	(pre-fee)	
3 months	-0.64	-0.44	-0.28
FYDT	-0.64	-0.44	-0.28
6 months	0.04	0.45	0.46
1 year (pa)	3.44	4.30	3.71
2 years (pa)	4.38	5.25	4.70
3 years (pa)	3.81	4.65	4.95
5 years (pa)	2.76	3.60	4.34

## Asset allocations (as at 30 September 2011)

Australian Listed Shares:	13.2%
Overseas Listed Shares:	8.1%
Australian Fixed Interest:	34.8%
Overseas Fixed Int (inc Mortgages):	15.8%
Property Trusts	3.3%
Global Listed Property	1.9%
Alternative Assets	6.1%
Australian Liquidity (< 180 days):	16.8%

## Investment guidelines

Asset allocation ranges (%)	Neutral Position	Ranges	
		Min	Max
Australian shares	15	5	25
International shares	8	0	18
Australian fixed interest	34	20	55
International fixed interest	15	5	35
Australian property	3	0	10
Global property	2	0	10
Alternative investments	6	0	20
Cash	17	0	40

## Other information

Fund size (as at 30 Sep 2011)	\$63 million
Date of inception	February 1990
Minimum investment	\$25,000
Buy-sell spread	0.17% <sup>#</sup>
Distribution frequency	Quarterly
APIR code	BTA0805AU

## Fees

Management fee	0.86% pa*
----------------	-----------

<sup>1</sup> The asset allocation neutral position, asset allocation ranges and the benchmark have changed over time. As it is historical information, the fund performance reflects the asset allocation neutral positions and ranges that have applied over time. The benchmark performance shown is that of the combined benchmarks that the fund has aimed to exceed over time.

<sup>#</sup> The buy-sell spread represents transaction costs incurred whenever you invest or withdraw funds, and may vary from time to time without notice.

\* You should refer to the latest Product Disclosure Statement for full details of fees and other costs you may be charged.

## Market review

The September quarter was a very weak one for Equity markets the world over, with the MSCI World index falling by 17.1% over the period. The Australian market fared better than most with the ASX200 Accumulation index down by 11.6%, which was the worst quarter since the nadir of the crisis at the end of 2008.

The market has once again been dominated by macro events, despite the year end reporting season in August. The beginning of the period saw investor confidence significantly dented by the political stalemate in Washington around raising the debt ceiling, with a deal eventually getting approved but not without enduring reputational damage. Firmly consolidating this negative sentiment was the fact that US economic data released in early August was very weak. The idea that any weakness was being caused by temporary factors and that the recovery was still on track was firmly brushed aside as investors contemplated the reality of a persistently slower growth environment. As a result, equities across the globe sold off sharply.

The US Federal Reserve implemented its USD400bn 'Operation Twist', which is designed to reduce the longer dated treasury yields by increasing the Fed's holdings in longer dated treasuries and reducing shorter dated notes. This provided some temporary respite but overall the market reaction was underwhelming and the rally short-lived as attention moved back to the well documented European, and in particular Italian and Spanish, debt issues.

Political leaders within the Eurozone continued to demonstrate that their own political agendas were higher on the priority list than agreeing and implementing a workable solution to the debt problem, which resulted in the equities sell-off gather strong momentum in September. There was no respite from China either, with increasing speculation in the market that there would be a 'hard landing', with softening equity data and increased concern around the property sector.

The RBA held the cash rate at 4.75% throughout the period, in what continues to be lacklustre domestic economy. Themes remained consistent in each of the accompanying statements with the Reserve Bank noting the unsettled nature of the financial markets due to sovereign debt and banking concerns in Europe and the prospect of slower economic growth in the United States.

## Fund performance

The portfolio underperformed its benchmark in September quarter. The quarter was a very weak one for risk assets, particularly shares & property, with Australian shares down 11.65% and Global Property down -15.24%. International equities held up a little better, falling 8.0%, due mainly to the fall in the Australian dollar offsetting losses in the offshore share markets. Government bonds continued to rally in the September quarter, contributing to a 4.6% return for Australian Fixed Interest and a 5.35% for International Fixed Interest.

In a relative sense, our underlying active strategies were mixed with Australian equities and Australian fixed interest adding value

and International Equities detracting value in September quarter. Our asset allocation position also slightly detracted value.

## Strategy & outlook

The key influence on the Australian share market continues to be the global macro environment. While we expect there to be a recovery from the aggressive sell-off we saw in September, there looks to be little imminent chance of a meaningful and long lasting reduction in the levels of volatility to buoy equity investors. The key issue remains Europe and while the economic situation there remains dire, the element that continues to frighten markets the most remains a now seemingly entrenched lack of confidence in the key political protagonists agreeing (let alone implementing) a timely and workable solution to the problem. The current state of play is there is an initiative to provide the under funded European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF), with a 'first-loss guarantee' facility that would effectively insure a proportion of the face value of a sovereign bonds issue with the aim of re-instigating investor confidence in that sovereign issuer. Importantly, there are more meaningful initiatives to recapitalise European banks and clear consensus that action must be taken to avoid full contagion into the banking sector. Progress is being made but it is not quick enough to provide sustained confidence for markets.

In the U.S, data has improved to the extent that the complete stand-still scenario that some were portraying back in August has not eventuated. However, there is broader acceptance that overall growth will be sluggish for some time. From where we are today, we are faced with a long period of lacklustre growth and it remains to be seen what further initiatives the government and Federal reserve can implement to jolt the economy.

In China, recent data suggests something of a slow-down, with softening data, particularly in the property sector. We are definitely not in the 'hard-landing camp' and would point out that the imbalances in the Chinese economy that had such a painful impact in 2008 are not nearly so evident today. In particular, growth has been slower in light of more restrictive policy and they are running about half the surplus that they were 3 years ago.

The Reserve Bank has yet not been able to gauge the extent that the slowing growth in Europe and the US will have on emerging market economies. It would be naïve to suggest that they will come through unscathed and it is likely that China's export-led economy will start to moderate as export volumes decline. Declining commodity prices may also provide an indication of slowing emerging markets and may also result in a paring back of mining investment intentions in Australia, although the investment pipeline remains large. Australian households have remained cautious, a behaviour that is only likely to be exacerbated by a weakening labour market and a high level of financial market volatility.

Fundamentally, we continue to be negative in the near to mid-term on credit markets as global growth appears to have markedly slowed. Whilst corporate balance sheets are markedly more robust than a few years ago, we believe that the market will continue to experience ongoing gyrations, typically with credit either widening or the market losing liquidity, until headline risk dissipates.



## For more information

Please call 1800 813 886, contact your business development representative or visit [www.btim.com.au](http://www.btim.com.au)

BT Investment Management (RE) Limited ABN 17 126 390 627, AFSL 316 455, is the responsible entity and issuer of units in the Wholesale class of units in the BT Conservative Outlook Fund (referred to as the BT Wholesale Conservative Outlook Fund). A Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) is available for the Fund and can be obtained by contacting your business development representative on 1800 813 886 or visiting [www.btim.com.au](http://www.btim.com.au). You should obtain and consider the PDS before deciding whether to acquire, continue to hold or dispose of units in the Fund. This information has been prepared without taking account of your objectives, financial situation or needs. Before acting on this information, consider its appropriateness, having regard to your objectives, financial situation and needs. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit with or any other liability of the Westpac Banking Corporation (ABN 33 007 457 141) or any other Company in the Westpac Group of companies.

Performance figures are calculated in accordance with the Investment & Financial Services Association (IFSA) standards. Total returns (post-fee) are calculated: to the last day of each month using exit prices; taking into account management costs of the fund; assuming reinvestment of distributions (which may include net realised capital gains from the sale of assets of the fund). No reduction is made to the unit price (or performance) to allow for tax you may pay as an investor, other than withholding tax on foreign income (if any). Certain other fees such as Contribution fees or Withdrawal fees (if any) are not taken into account. Total returns (pre-fee) are calculated by adding back management costs to the (post-fee) returns. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

If market movements, cash flows or changes in the nature of an investment (eg a change in credit rating) cause the Fund to exceed any of the investment ranges or limits in this document, this will be rectified by BTIM (RE) as soon as reasonably practicable after becoming aware of it. If BTIM (RE) does so, it will have no other obligations in relation to these circumstances. The procedures, investment ranges, benchmarks and limits specified in this document are accurate as at the date of its issue, and BTIM (RE) reserves the right to vary these from time to time.

BT Investment Management (RE) Limited is a member of the Westpac Group. Neither BT Investment Management (RE) Limited, nor any other company in the Westpac Group, guarantees the repayment of capital or the performance of the product or any particular rate of return.

BT<sup>®</sup> is a registered trade mark of BT Financial Group Pty Ltd and is used under licence.