# Monthly

## Gatemore Pensions Summary (GPS) October 2019



#### CONTACT

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#### In case you missed it

Gatemore nominated for European Asset Management Firm of the Year < €20bn award by Funds Europe Awards 2019.

Fund Europe Awards 2019 shortlist

### Do investors have to sacrifice returns to invest responsibly?

Studies show ESG investments can enhance returns.

Funds Europe article

## Corporate debt 'timebomb' could trigger new global crisis

Company debt held by pension funds and insurers may be unable to cover interest costs in the event of a material downturn.

The Times article \*

#### Fallen angels on the horizon

Bonds are being downgraded to junk, after investments were riskier than predicted.

Portfolio Institutional article

#### The small-cap conundrum

Small-cap indices outperform over time, but there is little proof that size alone explains returns.

Investment & Pensions Europe article

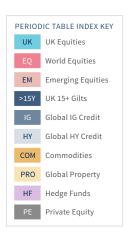
#### STAT OF THE MONTH

1923

The last December election in the UK

#### MARKET COMMENTARY

Global growth concerns remained in October, despite some perceived improvement in global trade and a general easing of recessionary fears globally. Through the month, risk assets rallied with equities, particularly Emerging Markets, performing strongly. Conversely 'haven' assets, such as UK government bonds, performed poorly as yields rose from their lows in September. The Federal reserve cut rates for the third time this year but cited the thawing Sino-US relations and strong consumer activity as reasons to pause any further rate cuts. The UK extended Article 50 past the PM's do or die deadline, and the UK is now set for an election on 12 December.



#### PERIODIC TABLE OF ASSET CLASSES

The chart below shows stacked performance figures for selected asset classes from best to worst.

From left to right it shows a monthly performance for the last 12 months, then the YTD, 1yr and 3yr numbers.

Gilt returns run across the middle, with anything above it outperforming and anything below underperforming.

	NOV 2018	DEC 2018	<b>JAN</b> 2019	<b>FEB</b> 2019	MAR 2019	APR 2019	MAY 2019	JUN 2019	JUL 2019	AUG 2019	<b>SEP</b> 2019	OCT 2019	YTD	1yr	3yr
<u> </u>	EM 4.1%		PE 11.3%	PE 4.4%		PE 4.6%		PE 12.8%				EM 4.2%			
WINNERS vs. Gilts	PRO 3.6%		PRO 11.0%	EQ 3.0%		EQ 3.6%		EQ 6.7%				EQ 2.5%			
	PE 3.3%		EM 8.8%	UK 2.3%		UK 2.3%		EM 6.2%				PRO 2.3%			
	EQ 1.3%		EQ 7.8%	HY 1.4%		EM 2.1%		UK 4.0%			PE 4.0%	COM 2.0%			
	IG (0.4%)		COM 5.4%	COM 1.0%		HY 0.8%		HY 3.2%			UK 3.0%	IG 1.2%			
	COM (0.6%)		HY 4.4%	HF 0.6%		HF 0.7%		IG 2.8%			PRO 2.7%	HY 0.8%			PE 14.9%
	HF (0.6%)		UK 3.6%	EM 0.2%		IG 0.5%		COM 2.7%			EQ 2.0%	HF 0.2%	PRO 26.1%		EQ 12.1%
	HY (1.0%)		IG 2.3%	IG 0.2%		PRO (0.4%)		PRO 2.1%			EM 1.9%	PE (0.6%)	PE 24.9%		PRO 9.7%
2 3	UK (1.6%)		HF 2.1%	PRO (0.0%)		COM (0.4%)		HF 1.6%			COM 1.2%	UK (1.9%)	EQ 21.1%	PRO 23.1%	EM 7.4%
	Over 15y Gilts														
	>15Y (3.2%)	>15Y 4.7%	>15Y 2.1%	>15Y (1.7%)	>15Y 5.5%	>15Y (2.5%)	>15Y 4.5%	>15Y 0.2%	>15Y 3.2%	>15Y 6.6%	>15Y 0.9%	>15Y (3.1%)	>15Y 16.2%	>15Y 17.8%	>15Y 6.6%
LOSERS vs. Gilts		IG (1.2%)			UK 3.3%		IG 0.7%		UK 2.2%	PRO 2.5%	HY 0.5%		UK 12.1%	PE 13.4%	UK 5.8%
		HY (0.8%)			PRO 3.0%		PRO (0.2%)		PE 1.5%	IG 1.9%	HF 0.4%		IG 10.8%	EQ 13.0%	HY 5.2%
		HF (2.2%)			IG 1.6%		HF (0.7%)		HF 0.8%	HF 0.4%	IG (0.8%)		EM 10.4%	EM 11.9%	IG 4.4%
		EM (2.7%)			EQ 1.3%		HY (1.0%)		PRO 0.7%	HY (1.6%)			HY 9.6%	IG 11.8%	HF 2.2%
		UK (3.5%)			EM 0.8%		UK (2.9%)		EQ 0.6%	EQ (1.9%)			HF 6.2%	HY 7.8%	COM (0.7%)
		PRO (5.7%)			PE 0.5%		COM (3.4%)		HY 0.4%	COM (2.3%)			COM 5.2%	UK 6.5%	
		COM (6.9%)			HY 0.5%		EQ (5.8%)		IG 0.1%	PE (2.6%)				HF 3.5%	
		EQ			HF		EM (7.3%)		COM (0.7%)	UK (4.1%)				COM (2.6%)	
		(7.8%)			0.0%		(1.570)							(2.070)	

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**GPS VIEWPOINT** 

### The Consequences of a Yield Hunt

In October the IMF published its Global Financial Stability report which highlighted liquidity concerns in credit markets. It examined 1760 bond funds (c. 60% of outstanding fixed income assets globally) and concluded that 17% would be unable to meet liquidity demands if their largest month's redemption occurred again.

This is not a surprising statistic given that the world has been on a yield hunt for the last 10 years. As QE has suppressed global yields (25% of global bond yields are now in negative territory), investors have sought more and more exotic and/or higher yielding solutions to satisfy their thirst.

The problem is then that higher yielding assets become less higher yielding and the risk of default and illiquidity is underpriced.

Come the crunch, the perceived liquidity is just not there.

Globally this is an issue, but closer to home, those that have piled into direct lending and emerging market debt to "match" pension liabilities should ask the question — is this now a return free risk?

#### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Usually, just as a holder's desire to sell an asset increases, his ability to sell it decreases.



#### **Howard Marks**

American investor and wirter, co-founder of Oaktree Capital Management



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Indices. Periodic table: (UK) FTSE 100 Total Return Index GBP; (EQ) MSCI Daily TR Net World Ex UK USD; (EM) MSCI Emerging Net Total Return USD Index; (>15Y) FTSE Actuaries Govt Securities UK Gilts TR over 15 Yr; (IG) Bloomberg Barclays Global Agg Corporate Total Return Index Value Unhedged USD; (HY) Bloomberg Barclays Global High Yield Total Return Index Value Unhedged; (HF) Hedge Fund Research HFRX Global Hedge Fund Index; (PRO) S&P Global REIT USD Total Return Index; (COM) Bloomberg Commodity Index Total Return; (PE) Thomson Reuters Private Equity Buyout Index. Credit spreads chart: BC UA Corporate Avg OAS, BC U.S. Corp HY Avg OAS, Barclays EA Corp Avg OAS, EM USD Aggregate Avg OAS. Source: Bloomberg.