

A Sub-Fund of Morgan Stanley Investment Funds
Global Balanced Defensive Fund

PORTFOLIO SOLUTIONS GROUP

Performance Review

In the one month period ending 31 December 2025, the Fund's Z shares returned 0.38% (net of fees)¹.

December performance was somewhat muted for global markets, as year-end profit-taking and thinner trading slowed equity market gains and long-term yields rose amid better-than-expected economic data and shifting expectations for monetary easing. Concerns about the sustainability of the artificial intelligence (AI) theme and valuations of related stocks re-emerged during the month, contributing to a broadening in equity market performance to other sectors and non-U.S. markets. Commodity markets showed a strong finish to the year for gold and silver while oil prices declined.

Our allocations to European equities, emerging markets equities and Australian equities were the top contributors to performance, while our allocations to U.S. equities, U.S. government bonds and emerging markets bonds were the top detractors over the month of December.

Market Review

United States

The MSCI USA Index returned -0.02% in U.S. dollar (USD) terms and -1.16% in euro terms in December.

Third quarter 2025 gross domestic product (GDP) growth rose a better-than-expected 4.3%, according to the government's initial estimate. In December, the U.S. manufacturing sector contraction deepened. The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) Manufacturing PMI fell to 47.9%, from 48.2% in November, as production growth slowed and declines in new orders and employment eased. However, the service sector strengthened into year-end on the back of accelerating growth in business activity and new orders, along with a return to employment growth. The ISM Services PMI registered 54.4 in December, up from 52.6 in November.

The U.S. unemployment rate increased to 4.6% in November 2025, from 4.4% in September 2025, with 64,000 jobs added in the month, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Wages grew 3.5% in the 12 months ended November 2025. Separately, the BLS reported the headline consumer price index (CPI) was up 2.7% in the year to November 2025, slowing from 3.0% in September 2025. Core CPI, which excludes food and energy, rose 2.6% in the 12 months ended November 2025, cooling from 3.0% in September 2025. BLS unemployment and inflation data for October 2025 were cancelled due to the U.S. government shutdown.

Eurozone

The MSCI Europe Index returned 2.67% in euro terms and 3.85% in USD terms in December.

Eurozone manufacturing conditions weakened further at year-end. The HCOB Eurozone Manufacturing PMI dropped to 48.8 in December, from 49.6 in November, hampered by a faster fall in new orders, a renewed contraction in production volumes and sustained job losses. The service sector continued to expand, exhibiting weaker momentum in new business sales but stronger growth in hiring. The HCOB Eurozone Services PMI slipped to 52.4 in December, from 53.6 in November.

Annual headline inflation cooled to 2.0% in December, from 2.2% in November 2025, according to Eurostat's flash estimate. Annual core inflation (excluding energy, food, alcohol and tobacco) rose an estimated 2.3% in December 2025, down from 2.4% in November 2025. In a separate Eurostat report, the unemployment rate in November 2025 was estimated at 6.3% in the euro area (decreasing from 6.4% in October) and 6.0% in the European Union (unchanged from October).

Japan

The MSCI Japan Index returned 0.99% in yen terms and 0.54% in USD terms in December.

Following a five-month downturn, Japan's manufacturing sector stabilised at the end of 2025. A much softer decline in new orders, broad stabilisation in production and a faster pace of hiring drove the S&P Global Japan Manufacturing PMI to 50.0 in December, up from 48.7 in November. Expansion in the service sector continued but momentum slowed. The S&P Global Japan Services PMI fell to 51.6 in December, from 53.2 in November, as business activity and new orders grew more slowly while hiring growth accelerated.

Headline inflation rose 2.9% in the year to November 2025, slowing from 3.0% in October 2025, as reported by the government's statistics office. Japan's unemployment rate was 2.6% in November 2025, holding steady from October 2025. Household spending grew 2.9% (in real terms) in the year ended November 2025.

¹ Source: Morgan Stanley Investment Management. Data as of 31 December 2025.

Portfolio Activity

In December, we initiated a new position in European utilities via a MSCI Europe Utilities basket. European utilities present a compelling opportunity driven by structural and cyclical factors. The sector is at the forefront of Europe's energy transition, supported by policy incentives, grid modernisation and renewable deployment. This positioning aligns with our EU Investment Renaissance theme, capturing benefits from fiscal stimulus and infrastructure spending.

The portfolio's effective equity exposure at the end of the month was 28.4%.

Strategy and Outlook

Entering December, there had been concern that economic weakness related to the U.S. government shutdown might complicate interpretation of underlying economic trends, risking elevated growth fears as the market attempted to separate temporary weakness from more substantive deterioration. This concern was likely one contributor to the defensive rotation seen in October and November. While the macro data trend following the government shutdown has carried a large degree of noise, the core message has been that our prior understanding of the underlying trends holds with no major red flags to prompt renewed growth concerns.

Labour market data has been a key focus with near-term downside economic scenarios focusing on the risk that soft labour markets see further deterioration, prompting increased recession risk. Where the soft labour market has largely been a function of soft hiring demand, layoffs have not increased. Given this lens, initial jobless claims have been one key source of comfort. Weekly data through December continues to show initial jobless claims running at levels comparable to recent years, reinforcing the view that companies are not actively reducing headcount. While the November employment report (released mid-December) came with significant noise from the government shutdown, economists looked to private payrolls as a better indicator of trend. Private payrolls were +52,000 month-over-month (seasonally adjusted) in October and +69,000 in November. This remains below the pre-tariff announcement trend of around +126,000 but is stronger than mid-year data, again suggesting that labour markets are soft but not deteriorating unexpectedly.

The Federal Reserve (Fed) also delivered its third consecutive 25 basis point rate cut in December. Chair Powell had referred to the first of these cuts as "risk management" or "insurance" with a focus on risks presented by a soft labour market trend and a policy rate that remained above neutral. With the December rate cut, the Fed arguably completed its package of insurance cuts. The Fed statement in December was updated to reinforce data dependence ahead of future rate decisions, and Chair Powell expressed a view that the current policy rate sits toward the upper end of the Fed's estimate of neutral. While we have been less optimistic that further rate cuts will materialise in 2026, Fed rate cuts through the end of 2025 add to 2026 tailwinds and represent another source of market support.

We expect growth to accelerate in 2026, offering new hope for economic broadening and presenting a favourable backdrop for financial markets. Fed rate cuts, the front-loading of fiscal benefits within the Trump administration's tax and spending policy, the accruing benefits of deregulation efforts, and fading tariff headwinds all point to stronger growth. Meanwhile, the AI theme begins its transition from investment stage to the application stage, offering potential upside from realised productivity gains.

For further information, please contact your Morgan Stanley Investment Management representative.

Fund Facts

Launch date	23 August 2016
Base currency	Euro

Calendar Year Returns (%)

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

	YTD	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Class Z Shares	3.42	3.42	7.95	4.91	-8.74	4.33	-0.38	5.59	-2.26	0.63	--

All performance data is calculated NAV to NAV, net of fees, and does not take account of commissions and costs incurred on the issue and redemption of shares. The sources for all performance and index data is Morgan Stanley Investment Management (MSIM Ltd). **Please visit our website www.morganstanley.com/im to see the latest performance returns for the fund's other share classes.**

Share Class Z Risk and Reward Profile

- The fund may be impacted by movements in the exchange rates between the fund's currency and the currencies of the fund's investments.
- The value of bonds are likely to decrease if interest rates rise and vice versa.
- The value of financial derivative instruments are highly sensitive and may result in losses in excess of the amount invested by the Sub-Fund.
- Issuers may not be able to repay their debts, if this happens the value of your investment will decrease. This risk is higher where the fund invests in a bond with a lower credit rating.
- The fund relies on other parties to fulfill certain services, investments or transactions. If these parties become insolvent, it may expose the fund to financial loss.
- Sustainability factors can pose risks to investments, for example: impact asset values, increased operational costs.
- There may be an insufficient number of buyers or sellers which may affect the fund's ability to buy or sell securities.
- Commodity investments can change significantly and quickly in value as a large variety of factors affect them.
- There are increased risks of investing in emerging markets as political, legal and operational systems may be less developed than in developed markets.
- Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. Returns may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may lose all or a substantial portion of his or her investment.
- The value of the investments and the income from them will vary and there can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objectives.
- Investments may be in a variety of currencies and therefore changes in rates of exchange between currencies may cause the value of investments to decrease or increase. Furthermore, the value of investments may be adversely affected by fluctuations in exchange rates between the investor's reference currency and the base currency of the investments.

Please refer to the Prospectus for full risk disclosures, available at www.morganstanleyinvestmentfunds.com. All data as of 31.12.2025 and subject to change daily.

Applications for shares in the Sub-Fund should not be made without first consulting the current Prospectus and the Key Information Document ("KID") or Key Investor Information Document ("KIID"), which are available in English and in the language of countries authorized for fund distribution and is available online at [Morgan Stanley Investment Funds Webpages](#) or free of charge from the Registered Office at European Bank and Business Centre, 6B route de Trèves, L-2633 Senningerberg, R.C.S. Luxembourg B 29 192.

The summary of investor rights is available in the aforementioned languages and website location under the General Literature section.

Information in relation to sustainability aspects of the Fund is available from the Prospectus of the Fund.

If the management company of the relevant Fund decides to terminate its arrangement for marketing that Fund in any EEA country where it is registered for sale, it will do so in accordance with the UCITS rules.

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The use of leverage increases risks, such that a relatively small movement in the value of an investment may result in a disproportionately large movement, unfavourable as well as favourable, in the value of that investment and, in turn, the

value of the Fund.

Investment in the Fund concerns the acquisition of units or shares in a fund, and not in a given underlying asset such as building or shares of a company, as these are only the underlying assets owned.

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The **MSCI Europe Index** is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure developed market equity performance in Europe. The term "free float" represents the portion of shares outstanding that are deemed to be available for purchase in the public equity markets by investors. The performance of the Index is listed in U.S. dollars and assumes reinvestment of net dividends.

The **MSCI Japan Index** is a free-floated adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to track the equity market performance of Japanese securities listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, Osaka Stock Exchange, JASDAQ and Nagoya Stock Exchange. The MSCI Japan Index is constructed based on the MSCI Global Investable Market Indices Methodology, targeting a free-float market capitalization coverage of 85%.

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