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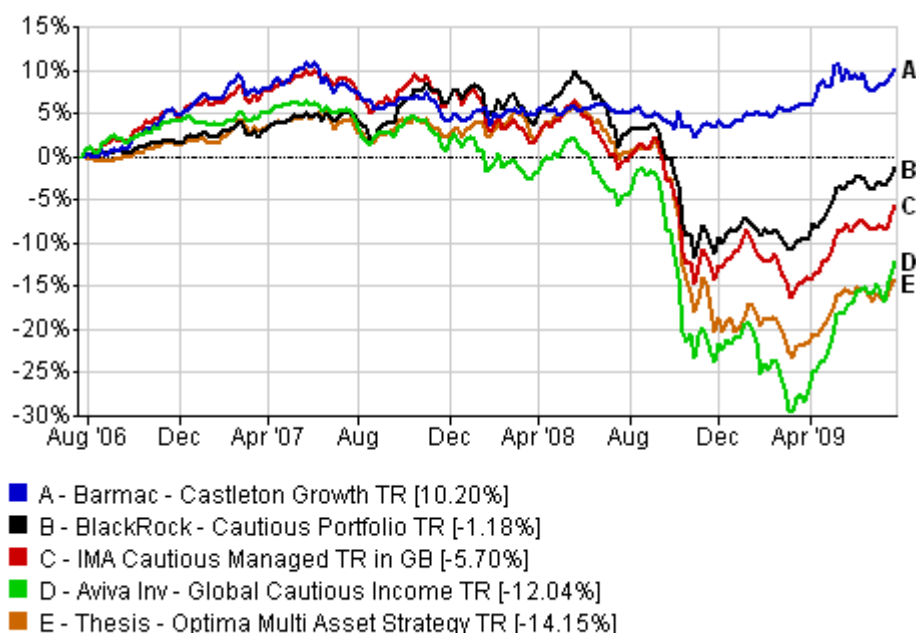
Funds celebrate third birthday

IFAs get a taste of three new funds appearing on their radar

This month there are three funds in the IMA Cautious Managed sector celebrating their third birthdays; the **BlackRock Cautious Portfolio**, the **Barmac Castleton Growth** fund and the **Thesis Optima Multi Asset Strategy** fund will all be appearing on IFAs radars for the first time.

Additionally, the **Aviva Investors Global Cautious Income** fund will be turning three as well, while it is in the IMA specialist sector it offers an interesting alternative to the other cautious funds mentioned above. The performance of the funds is reasonably diverse. Top of the charts is the **Barmac Castleton Growth** fund which has returned 10.2 per cent over the three years to 24 June 2009. This is in excess of the sector by 15.94 per cent and puts it firmly in the top quartile, ranking 2nd out of 83 funds.

Performance of funds over 3-yrs



24/07/2006 - 24/07/2009 © Data provided by Financial Express 2009

Source: [Financial Express Analytics](#)

The **BlackRock Cautious Portfolio**, managed by **Adam Ryan**, has the noble objective of producing absolute returns in excess of the **Bank of England** base rate. It has failed in its quest. Over the three year period it lost 1.18 per cent, beating the sector average by 4.52 per cent. This is hardly a disaster and still puts the fund in the second quartile. The fund sets itself the goal of producing absolute returns over the medium term, which is quite a vague time horizon; it certainly has a solid platform to build on and could still achieve this aim.

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The **Thesis Optima Multi Asset Strategy** fund has very little to cheer about on its birthday this month. The fund has lost 14.15 per cent over the three year period, placing it in the bottom quartile, and has been less cautious than its peers too; its volatility is 0.78 per cent above the average and 5.54 per cent above the **Barmac Castleton Growth** fund. Taking a fund of funds approach the objective of beating cash and providing stable absolute returns haven't been met over the fund's first three years. The fund has managed to beat its internal composite benchmark however, and its performance for the last six months has been top quartile.

Finally the dark horse in this group is the **Aviva Investors Global Cautious Income** fund. Set the challenge of making 5.5 per cent a year or the Bank of England base rate + 1 per cent it has had mixed results. In its first year the fund produced a return of 5.01 per cent but this has been the highlight of its relatively short life. The following two years produced losses of 8.37 per cent and 8.59 per cent respectively, leading to a 12.04 per cent loss in total over the three years. This fund is worth looking at despite its specialist sector classification.

Its objective in terms of both risk and return are very similar to its cautious managed cousins. It's highly diversified nature that puts it outside the IMAs cautious definition should turn out to be beneficial and give it an edge over its UK constrained peers.

Fund	Launch date	3-yr performance	Relative to IMA Cautious Managed Sector
<u>Barmac Castleton Growth</u>	11/07/2006	10.2	15.94
<u>BlackRock Cautious Portfolio</u>	30/06/2006	-1.18	4.52
<u>Aviva Investors Global Cautious Income</u>	30/06/2006	-12.04	-6.34
<u>Thesis Optima Multi Asset Strategy</u>	17/07/2006	-14.15	-8.45

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