



MUTUAL FUNDS

# Fund Commentary

Q1 | 2008

## John Hancock Lifestyle Balanced Portfolio

FROM THE MFC GLOBAL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT (U.S.A.) LIMITED PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT TEAM

The performance data contained within this material represents past performance, which does not guarantee future results. The return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate, so that shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than the original cost. The Fund's current performance may be higher or lower and is subject to substantial changes. For performance data current to the most recent month end, contact your financial professional or call John Hancock Funds at 1-800-225-5291.

### FUND RESULTS

The Portfolio returned -6.12% for the quarter ended March 31, 2008, compared to a -4.76% return for its benchmark, a blended index combining 60% S&P 500 Index and 40% Lehman Brothers U.S. Aggregate Index.\*

### MARKET REVIEW

Stocks suffered a broad-based sell-off during the first quarter, as a worsening credit crisis and a slowing U.S. economy combined to depress share prices. With the situation deteriorating rapidly, the Federal Reserve Board intervened, slashing short-term interest rates by a total of 2.00%. The Fed also loosened its lending guidelines to allow investment banks to borrow directly from it, as commercial banks do. Additionally, the central bank facilitated JPMorgan Chase's buyout of embattled broker Bear Stearns by providing a \$29 billion loan guarantee. These actions appeared to reassure the markets and steadied stock prices somewhat by the end of March.

There were few places to hide within the equity markets, as well as a number of landmines in the non-investment-grade portion of the fixed-income market. For example, in the U.S. market, large-cap, mid-cap and small-cap stocks all posted losses approaching double digits. Little solace was found in the overseas markets, although they were aided somewhat by ongoing weakness in the U.S. dollar. Emerging markets, which had been such an outstanding asset class in prior periods, posted a double-digit loss. One of the only ports in the storm was natural resources equities, which fell significantly less than the broader equity markets. On the fixed-income side, high-quality fixed-income securities and securities denominated in foreign currencies were the strongest performers, while non-investment-grade securities lagged significantly.

### PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Overall, our diversification across asset classes was a modest positive contributor to relative performance. Specifically, we benefited from our exposure to international large-cap, global natural resources, U.S. real estate and global real estate equities, along with global bonds and TIPS. Offsetting some of those benefits was our allocation to

the weak-performing high-yield bond asset class. From a manager perspective, while there were some standout relative performers, our manager selections overall held us back.

Among individual funds, one solid relative performer was **Small Company Value** (T. Rowe Price). The good showing was driven by strong stock picking in both the industrials and technology sectors. Exposure to **Natural Resources** (Wellington) further contributed to the Portfolio's results. Commodity prices continued their record-setting pace, with gold breaking \$1,000 per troy ounce and crude oil topping \$100 per barrel during the quarter. Our exposure to **Total Return** (PIMCO) added value by avoiding a majority of the problem sectors in fixed income created by the credit crisis.

Conversely, performance was hampered by a position in large-cap blend holding **Core Equity** (Legg Mason). Poor performance from the fund's health care, telecommunication services and financial holdings were the main detractors during this difficult period. In the large-cap growth segment, **Blue Chip Growth** (T. Rowe Price) was a detractor. One of the Portfolio's largest holdings, that fund suffered from an overweighting in the technology sector and from poor stock picks in the consumer discretionary and industrials sectors. **Global Real Estate** (DeAM) was weighed down by weak overall security selection, a heavier emphasis on Asia and a relatively light exposure to Europe. In fixed income, performance was hampered by **High Income** (MFC Global (U.S.A.)), a high-yield bond fund. Exposure to the poorly performing media and airline industries were challenges to the fund during the quarter. In the intermediate-term bond category, **Strategic Bond** (WAMCO) lagged because of its positions in select automotive names, its investments in mortgage-backed securities and exposure to high yield.

### OUTLOOK

While the quarter-end rally was driven by relief that the Fed was actively addressing the U.S. economy's problems and hope that the credit crisis would abate, it's difficult to tell how soon we'll see meaningful improvement. Domestic and foreign banks are still vulnerable to significant write-downs of assets, in our view, and the U.S. economy continues to show signs of slowing, which will lead to

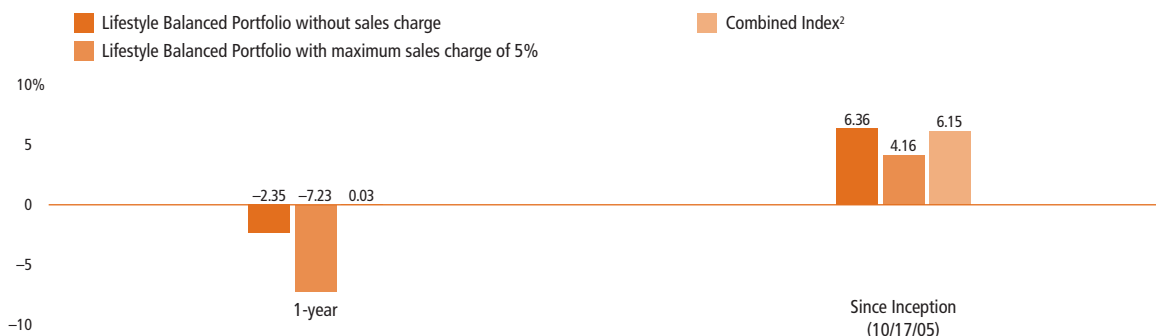
\*Performance for Class A shares only at net asset value. Please visit our Web site at [www.jhfunds.com](http://www.jhfunds.com) for performance of other share classes.

This commentary reflects the views of the portfolio managers through March 31, 2008. The managers' views are subject to change as market and other conditions warrant. No forecasts are guaranteed. This commentary is provided for informational purposes only and is not an endorsement of any security, mutual fund, sector or index. MFC Global Investment Management (U.S.A.) Limited, John Hancock Investment Management Services, LLC, and their affiliates, employees and clients may hold or trade the securities mentioned in this commentary.

slower earnings growth. However, it is important to remember that markets generally start to recover well before the actual economic data turns decidedly positive. Given the daunting challenge of trying to predict when

this will occur, as well as trying to predict what the leading areas will be, we believe the Portfolio's broad diversification offers a very prudent way to participate in the eventual recovery.

**AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS – CLASS A (3/31/08)<sup>1</sup>**



Performance reflects a total annual fund operating expense ratio of 1.41%. There is currently no contractual expense reimbursement in effect; therefore, the net and gross expense ratio is the same figure. These figures are based on estimated expenses of the underlying funds in the Portfolio. Expenses for other share classes will vary, which will affect returns. Performance figures assume that all distributions are reinvested. Performance quoted without sales charges would be reduced if the sales charges were applied.

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**A portfolio's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses should be considered carefully before investing. The prospectus contains this and other important information about the Portfolio. To obtain a prospectus, call your financial professional, John Hancock Funds at 1-800-225-5291 or visit our Web site at [www.jhfunds.com](http://www.jhfunds.com). Please read the prospectus carefully before investing or sending money.**

*Each Lifestyle Portfolio's performance depends on the adviser's skill in determining the strategic asset class allocations, the mix of underlying funds, as well as the performance of those underlying funds. The underlying funds' performance may be lower than the performance of the asset class which they were selected to represent. A Portfolio is subject to the same risks as the underlying funds in which it invests, which include the following: stocks and bonds can decline due to adverse issuer, market, regulatory or economic developments; investing in foreign securities is subject to certain risks not associated with domestic investing, such as currency fluctuations and changes in political and economic conditions; and the securities of small-capitalization companies are subject to higher volatility than larger, more established companies. High yield bonds are subject to additional risks, such as the increased risk of default. Before making an investment in a Lifestyle Portfolio, you should consider all the risks associated with it.*

**For more information, call your financial professional or John Hancock Funds at 1-800-225-5291.**



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<sup>1</sup> Source: Morningstar, Inc. Performance for other share classes may vary, and returns assume all dividends and capital gains are reinvested. The results reflect any expense reductions, which can be terminated in the future. Without these reductions, expenses increase and results would have been less favorable. For a fund which has been in existence for less than a year, total return is not annualized.

<sup>2</sup> The combined index consists of 60% of the S&P 500 Index and 40% of the Lehman Brothers U.S. Aggregate Index. The S&P 500 Index is composed of 500 widely held common stocks. The Lehman Brothers U.S. Aggregate Index includes U.S. government, corporate and mortgage-backed securities with maturities up to 30 years. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

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