



# Active and Passive:

Different Investment Approaches That Could Work for You

Meagan Dow, CFA® • Senior Analyst, Portfolio Solutions

## Passive and Active: What You Need to Know

- » A passive investment tries to replicate the market performance of an asset class. Active investments try to do something different, such as outperform the market performance of an asset class, or take less risk.
- » A combination of active and passive investments can improve overall portfolio diversification, particularly in asset classes with large allocations. These may include:
  - Canadian Large-cap Stocks
  - Overseas Large-cap Stocks
  - U.S. Large-cap Stocks
  - Canadian investment-grade Bonds
  - Canadian & U.S. Small- and Mid-cap Stocks
- » There is no universal figure for the amount of active or passive investments to include in a portfolio. Your considerations may include desired level of involvement, sensitivity to fees, tax sensitivity and long-term expectations for the investments (e.g., outperform the market).

The difference between active and passive investments has blurred over time. We believe it has become more relevant to think about investments on a spectrum — from passive to more active. A passive investment attempts to replicate the performance of an entire asset class, neither outperforming nor underperforming how an average dollar invested in that asset class would perform (net of fees).

Investments become more active as they attempt to do something other than track a particular asset class, usually to outperform the market, take less risk, and/or achieve some other outcome, such as producing more income. As you move further across the spectrum toward active investments, more decisions are based on human judgment rather than rules. The most active investments are those clients choose themselves. It's also worth noting that the degree of active management can vary, even within the categories shown on the next page.

## Which Will Perform Best?

Many people have tried to determine whether the active or passive approach will outperform over time. The reality is that in each asset class, there are long periods in which the majority of active managers may outperform the passive strategy, and vice versa. Therefore, the answer depends on the specific asset class, market environment, and time horizon; it is very difficult to know how well each approach will work ahead of time. That is why, at Edward Jones, we believe investments all along the spectrum have merit. You should consider your desire for additional diversification, your willingness to be involved in decision-making, and your sensitivity to fees and/or taxes. These factors are better determinants of what type of investment to choose, regardless of where we are in the market cycle.

**Edward Jones**®

## The Spectrum of Active Investments

Passive      More Active\*      →

	Passive Funds	Strategic Beta Funds	Actively Managed Funds	Individual Securities
<b>Professional Fund Management</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Portfolio Construction</b>	Investment professionals buy and sell securities to replicate a market cap-weighted index	Investment professionals use judgment to build a rules-based index, then buy and sell securities to replicate that index	Investment professionals use judgment to buy, monitor and sell securities in the portfolio	Client and advisor work together to select and monitor securities
<b>Tax Impact*</b>	Low	Low	Highest	Lowest
<b>Ongoing Cost**</b>	Lowest for professional management	Low	Highest	None
<b>Client Involvement</b>	Lowest	Low	Low	Highest
<b>Other Names</b>	Index Funds	Factor Investing Smart Beta	Active Management	Stocks, Bonds
<b>Example</b>	S&P/TSX Composite ETF	Canadian Large Cap Dividend ETF	Canadian Dividend & Income Mutual Fund	Canadian Large-cap Stock

\*These represent reasonable expectations for the category, but may not be the case for every investment within the category.

\*\*Excludes commissions, sales charges and account fees

### Which is Right for You?

If the idea of lower expenses and the potential for greater tax efficiency appeals to you, a passively managed fund (especially an ETF) and/or individual stocks or bonds may be appropriate. If you prefer not to make individual investment decisions and want the chance to outperform the index, a strategic beta and/or active fund may be appropriate. If you're looking to maximize diversification, owning a combination of passive funds and active investments could make sense. It's really about evaluating what you want and prioritizing your goals. We recommend working with your Edward Jones advisor to help determine which combination of investment approaches is most appropriate for you.

## Building Your Portfolio

It's important to remember that a number of steps should be addressed before choosing a type of investment, including the allocations to stocks and bonds, the mix of investment categories and the mix of asset classes. Because passive and active investment approaches have benefits and trade-offs, we believe many clients can benefit from owning a combination of the two.

### For Additional Diversification, Blend Passive and Active

- We recommend splitting large asset class allocations between active and passive investments to enhance diversification.
  - In many portfolios, these asset classes include Canadian Large-cap Stocks, Overseas Large-cap Stocks, U.S. Large-cap Stocks, Canadian Investment-grade Bonds and potentially Canadian & U.S. Small- and Mid-cap Stocks.
  - If you have no preference, an equal split is a reasonable starting point. That said, your unique situation and preferences for different attributes may warrant tilting toward one or the other.
- For smaller asset class allocations, we recommend choosing either an active or passive investment.

### Owning All Passive or All Active is Fine

While we believe owning a blend of active and passive investments adds a beneficial type of diversification, depending on the circumstances and preferences of certain investors, owning all passive or active investments may be more appropriate than owning both.

### Moving Toward Owning Both

If you would like to own active and passive investments and currently only have one or the other, there are a variety of ways to begin adding this type of diversification to your portfolio. In considering any change, of course, you'll want to ensure the benefits outweigh the costs (e.g., transaction costs, taxes, etc.).

#### Potential ways to improve diversification

##### All active portfolio

- Add a passive investment in the largest asset class(es) in your portfolio, to better diversify that asset class.
- Add a passive investment in an investment category or asset class you don't currently own in your portfolio.
- Add a passive ETF to each investment category for potentially more efficient rebalancing, or to be used in the case of an unexpected distribution.

##### All passive portfolio

- Add an active investment in the largest asset class(es) in your portfolio, to better diversify that asset class.
- Add an active investment in an investment category or asset class you don't currently own in your portfolio.

**Your individual objectives and preferences should largely determine how much of your portfolio is allocated to active and passive investments. Work with your advisor to understand the number of ways to build your portfolio along the active/passive spectrum.**

*Diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.*

*ETFs and mutual funds are offered by prospectus. You should consider the investment objective, risks, and charges and expenses carefully before investing. The prospectus contains this and other information. Your Edward Jones advisor can provide a prospectus, which you should read carefully before investing. Your investment return and principal value will fluctuate, and you may lose money.*

edwardjones.ca

Member - Canadian Investor Protection Fund

**Edward Jones**<sup>®</sup>