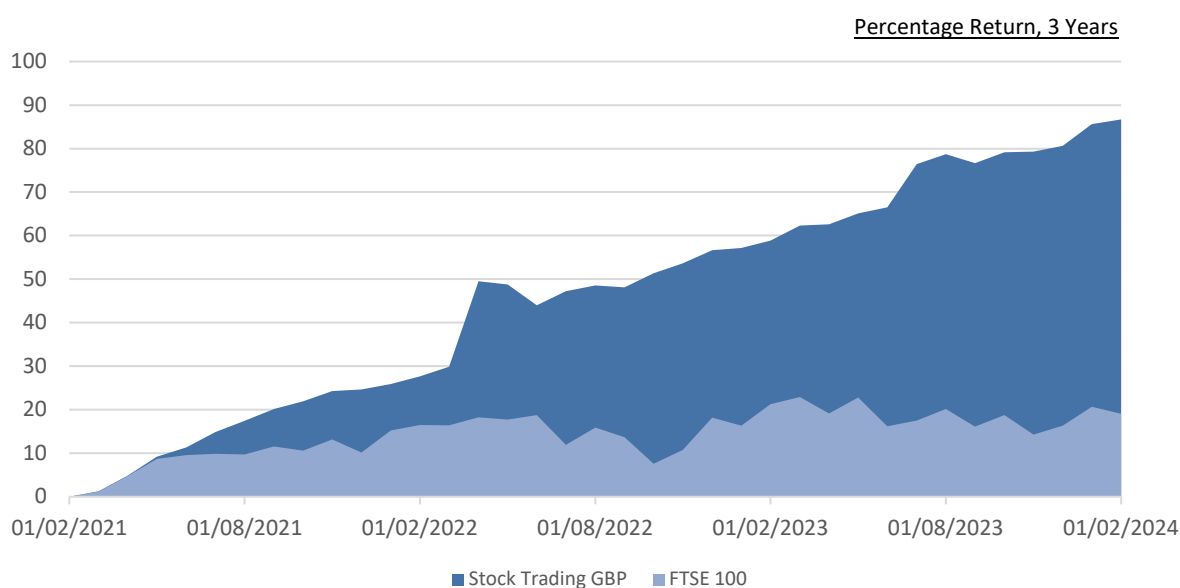




Stock Trading GBP started 2024 well, gaining 0.56% during January, whilst in stark comparison, the FTSE 100 fell 1.33% in the same period. This investment performed positively last year too; the recorded statistics show that the account filed 11 gaining months producing a net gain of 18.15%.

It is, however, the three-year returns which catch the eye; Stock Trading posted a staggering 86.70% in this period. Few equity investments can measure up to that, especially when you consider that there were no tech stocks traded in the period.



### Market comments January

Recent data has revealed that UK businesses have begun the year with renewed confidence, with the barometer rising to a near two-year high in January. The Lloyds business barometer, which measures businesses' confidence by assessing their trading prospects and optimism in the economy, shows overall confidence rose to 44% this month, rising nine points on the previous month. This is the most significant monthly increase since August and the highest level of confidence reported since February 2022. At that time, the UK economy was recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic. More importantly, it's the strongest start to a year since January 2016. The increase in confidence was driven, in part, by the easing of inflation over the past year and the growing expectation that interest rates will start to decline this year.

### February

I bought British American Tobacco stock (BATS.L) on the 2nd at 2.368 and closed the trade-in profit on the 8th at 2.492, banking a 5.24% gain. I also acquired a position in TUI AG (TUI.L) on the 2nd and had at the time bought at 527.50; again, it's good news as I closed the position at 550.00 on the 8th, adding to the gains already taken. With the profits and capital from the above trades back in cash, the account is currently weighted back to safety.

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