

FUND INFORMATION

Portfolio managers: Scott M. Smith, CFA° and Jonathan Terry, CFA°

Benchmark: Bloomberg U.S. Credit Bond Index

Fund inception: 15 Dec 2016

Management approach: Actively managed

Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation: Article 8'

[†]Promotes environmental and social characteristics but does not have a sustainable investment objective.

OBJECTIVES AND PROCESS

- Seeks total return, maximizing investment income whilst preserving capital.
- Invests at least two-thirds of its assets in US\$-denominated credit debt securities of investment grade (or equivalent) at the time of purchase.
- Invests at least 5% of its assets in Green, Sustainable, Sustainable-linked and Social Bonds.
- Focuses on bottom-up credit research seeking to balance income whilst aiming for a competitive yield to drive total returns.
- Favours companies with strong or improving ESG positions and incorporates into its rigorous fundamental analysis.
- Uses a negative screen to exclude securities issued by companies based on their exposure to ESG risks.
- The fund may invest:
 - one-third of fund assets in debt securities rated below investment grade and non US\$-denominated debt securities
 - up to 20% of fund assets in asset-backed securities
 - futures/derivatives for hedging, efficient portfolio management or for investment purposes

CALENDAR YEAR PERFORMANCE (%)

Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

	YTD	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
USD Investment Grade Credit Fund - Class I (USD)	-0.02	8.00	-16.08	-1.46	11.33	15.20	-2.46	6.88
Bloomberg U.S. Credit Bond Index	-0.41	8.18	-15.26	-1.08	9.35	13.80	-2.11	6.18

Fund performance calculations are net of all applicable fees and are calculated on an NAV-to-NAV basis in US dollars (with income re-invested). Share class inception date: 15 Dec 2016

Quarterly review

- In the first quarter of 2024, the USD Investment Grade Credit Fund generated a total return of -0.02%, outperforming the Bloomberg US Credit Index by 39 basis points (bps; 100 bps equal 1.00%), which returned -0.41%.
- The constructive macro backdrop paired with elevated demand for the asset class was supportive of tight credit spreads.

Market review

Credit market conditions remained strong through the quarter despite a heavy amount of issuance. The US Credit Index option-adjusted spread ended 8 bps tighter at 85 bps, generating quarter-to-date total returns of -0.41%, taking month-to-date excess returns over duration-matched Treasuries to 83 bps. The move in rates more than offset the constructive spread moves, resulting in modestly negative total returns.

Tighter spreads drove positive excess returns for corporates. Financials led performance with 115 bps in excess returns, whilst utilities and industrials followed at 101 bps and 72 bps, respectively. Solid supply/demand technicals contributed to the significant move tighter in spreads.F

KEY RISKS

Debt securities risk: debt securities are subject to credit risk and interest rate risk and are affected by an issuer's ability to make interest payments or repay principal when due. **Asset-backed securities risk:** asset-backed securities may be more sensitive to changes in interest rates and may exhibit added volatility, known as extension risk, and are subject to prepayment risk. **High yield securities risk:** high yield securities are rated below investment grade, are predominantly speculative, have a much greater risk of default and may be more volatile than higher-rated securities of similar maturity. **ESG risk:** applying an ESG screen for security selection may result in lost opportunity in a security or industry resulting in possible underperformance relative to peers, ESG screens are dependent on third party data and errors in the data may result in the incorrect inclusion or exclusion of a security.

Investors should note that, relative to the expectations of the Autorité des Marchés Financiers, this fund presents disproportionate communication on the consideration of non-financial criteria in its investment policy.



PORTFOLIO POSITIONING

PORTFOLIO ATTRIBUTION* AND STRATEGY

Country—neutral

- The fund invests primarily in US-based issuers and maintains an exposure of over 70%. The remaining exposure is allocated to issuers outside of the US, with debt denominated in US dollars.
- We continue to believe having exposure to Yankee/global credit provides solid yield opportunities and diversification benefits for the fund.

Currency—neutral

 The fund solely invests in US-dollar-denominated debt. Therefore, currency is not a factor in returns.

Sector-neutral

- Credit market conditions strengthened through the quarter and spreads grinded tighter. Spreads tightened across ratings and maturity buckets, but the moves were most significant in higher-beta, longer-duration credit. Demand for longer-duration credit remains elevated as investors look to lock in higher all-in yields.
- The risk/return profile for the investment-grade credit space remains attractive as corporate fundamentals are intact and total return prospects look constructive following a re-pricing in rate expectations.
- The fund is positioned relatively conservatively as economic growth is expected to moderate through the year. We remain overweight the communications and technology sectors, as solid balance sheets and strong free-cash-flow generation should remain supportive through the cycle. We also remain overweight banks, particularly GSIBs, as they have benefitted from the higher rate environment. The fund remains underweight consumer cyclical and basic industry sectors, as the cyclical nature tends to be more negatively affected in weaker economic settings.
- Sector effects were neutral to relative returns this quarter.

Duration and yield curve—contributor

- Treasury yields fluctuated throughout the quarter and ended the
 period higher across the curve. Moves in front-end tenors were
 more meaningful than the longer end, leading to a bear flattener.
 The federal funds rate remained unchanged, and markets are
 pricing in two to three rate cuts in the latter half of the year. US
 Federal Reserve Chair Powell reiterated the committee's
 commitment to monitoring incoming data and inflation measures
 and will adjust monetary policy measures accordingly.
- The fund remains overweight the 5- to 10-year and 20- to 30-year portions of the curve. Spread compression in the long end of the curve has been significant and contributed to outperformance.
 We remain underweight the front-end 0- to 3-year part of the curve as valuations looks less attractive
- In terms of duration, the fund is positioned neutral versus the Bloomberg US Credit Index. We continue to believe our ability to be benchmark-aware as opposed to benchmark-centric will benefit the fund's performance as it allows us to adjust positioning accordingly.

Security selection—contributor

- Corporate credit issuance reached record levels in the first quarter and totaled to US\$530 billion. This was 30% more than the four-year trailing average, whilst full-year supply estimates remain broadly in line with last year at around US\$1.3 trillion. Many issuers sought to take advantage of robust credit market conditions, which resulted in the elevated numbers. Long duration issuance in January was light but picked up in February and March. Demand for new deals remained strong and most deals were well oversubscribed. This has created a positive technical and led to strong performance following issuance. New-issue securities outperformed the broader market for two out of the three months this quarter. Looking ahead, we expect issuance in the second quarter to be lighter given the substantial amount of issuance thus far. This should serve as a tailwind for the asset class and be supportive of spreads at current levels.
- Security selection contributed to performance this quarter, which primarily stemmed from securities in the financials sector.
 Looking ahead, we continue to expect rate and spread volatility to persist and will continue to look to capitalise on opportunities with fundamentally sound credits at attractive valuations.

"Demand for new deals remained strong and most deals were well oversubscribed. This has created a positive technical and led to strong performance following issuance."



PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

	FUND	BLOOMBERG U.S. CREDIT BOND INDEX
Avg. eff. duration	6.62	6.83
Avg eff maturity (yrs)	11.54	10.79
Weighted avg. coupon	3.95	4.15

SECTOR ALLOCATION (%)

	FUND	BLOOMBERG U.S. CREDIT BOND INDEX
U.S. treasuries	8.46	0.00
Cash & equivalents	2.45	0.00
Agencies	0.00	2.67
Consumer discretionary	5.50	6.33
Consumer staples	8.15	13.46
Government-related	0.00	2.74
Energy	2.43	6.51
Financials	41.04	26.21
Industrials	3.04	9.11
Information technology	13.11	8.05
Real estate	3.82	2.28
Utilities	0.30	7.19
Communication services	11.70	7.14
Sovereign	0.00	3.54
Supranational	0.00	4.78

CREDIT-QUALITY ALLOCATION (%)1

		BLOOMBERG U.S.
	FUND	CREDIT BOND INDEX
AAA/Aaa	0.00	7.19
AA/Aa	9.72	8.66
A/A	37.78	40.98
BBB/Baa	48.45	43.13
BB/Ba	1.60	0.00
Not rated	0.00	0.04
Cash & equivalents	2.45	0.00

1. The ratings indicated are from Standard & Poor's, Fitch Ratings, and/or Moody's Investors Service. The percentages of the fund's portfolio with the ratings depicted in the chart are calculated based on the total investments of the fund. If a security was rated by all three rating agencies, the median rating was used. If a security was rated by two of the three rating agencies, the lower rating was used. If a security was rated by one of the agencies, that rating was used.

Negative cash percentage and credit-quality allocation greater than 100% is due to unsettled derivative contract positions, which cause the sector/credit weight(s) to increase proportionately to the negative cash amount.

FUND FACTS

Inception date	15 Dec 2016
Net expense ratio—Inst (USD)	0.45%
Assets—all share classes	\$413.59m

ANNUALISED PERFORMANCE (%)

Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

	3 MONTH	1 YEAR	3 YEAR	5 YEAR	10 YEAR	SINCE FUND INCEPTION (15 DEC 2016)
USD Investment Grade Credit Fund	-0.02	4.47	-2.14	1.66	_	2.59
Bloomberg U.S. Credit Bond Index	-0.41	4.15	-1.86	1.39	_	_
Morningstar USD Corporate Bond Average		3.96	-2.35	1.21	2.11	_

Fund performance calculations are net of all applicable fees and are calculated on an NAV-to-NAV basis in US dollars (with income re-invested). Share class inception date: 15 Dec 2016

SHARE CLASS INFORMATION (Share class and currency availability varies by jurisdiction)

	INCEPTION DATE	TYPE	ISIN	/ 11 11 10/ 12	ONGOING CHARGES/ TER (%)*
Class I (USD)	2016-12-15	Accumulating	LU1528096115	0.30	0.45

^{*}The ongoing charges/total expense ratio (TER) reflects annual total operating expenses for the class, excludes transaction costs and is expressed as a percentage of net asset value. The figure shown is from current KID. The investment manager has committed to reimburse the Sub-Fund when the ongoing charges exceed the agreed upon TER. Ongoing charges may vary over time.



ESG METRICS

The data provided is for transparency and informational purposes only. The ESG metrics are not indicative of how or whether ESG factors will be utilised by the fund. The information is based on third party ratings and, unless otherwise stated within a fund's investment objective, do not change a fund's investment objective or constrain the fund's investable universe. For more information regarding a fund's investment strategy, please see the fund's prospectus. Refer to allspringglobal.com for further sustainability disclosures.

MSCI ESG SCORE

	FUND		BENCHMARK	
	VALUE COVERAGE		VALUE	COVERAGE
MSCI Overall Score	6.7	98%	6.7	96%

Data is sourced from MSCI ESG Research where companies are rated on a scale of 0 - 10 (0 - worst, 10 - best). Weighted average scores exclude effects of unrated securities.

PRODUCT/ACTIVITY INVOLVEMENT (%)

	FUND	BENCHMARK
Controversial Weapons	0.00	1.93
Oil Sands	0.00	0.23
Small Arms	0.00	0.00
Thermal Coal	0.00	0.90
Tobacco	0.00	1.07
UNGC violators	0.00	2.84

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SUSTAINALYTICS ESG RISK SCORE

	VALUE	COVERAGE
Fund	21	89%
Benchmark	23	90%

ESG Risk Ratings measure exposure to and management of ESG risks. Lower risk scores reflect less ESG risk. Sustainalytics ESG Risk Scores measure ESG risks on a scale of 0-100 (0-no ESG Risk, > 40 - Severe ESG Risk).

CARBON CHARACTERISTICS

	FUND		BENCHMARK		
	VALUE	COVERAGE	VALUE	COVERAGE	% ABOVE/ BELOW BENCHMARK
Carbon to value invested (metric tons CO2e/\$1MM invested)*	42	88%	77	85%	-45%
Weighted average carbon intensity (metric tons CO2e/\$1MM revenues)*	80	89%	261	89%	-69%

^{*}Carbon emissions includes operational and first-tier supply chain greenhouse gas emissions. Data sourced from S&P Trucost Limited.



RANKINGS AND RATINGS

Morningstar total return rankings—Institutional Class (as of 31 Mar 2024)

MORNINGSTAR CATEGORY	USD CORPORATE BOND
1 year	153 out of 380
3 year	137 out of 310
5 year	65 out of 240
10 year	N/A

Overall Morningstar Rating $^{\mathsf{m}}$



The Overall Morningstar Rating, a weighted average of the 3-, 5-, and 10-year (if applicable) ratings, is out of 310 funds in the USD corporate bond category, based on risk-adjusted returns as of 31 Mar 2024. Ratings and awards are not an indication, promise, or guarantee of future performance. Ratings and awards should not be relied upon when making an investment decision.

BENCHMARK DESCRIPTIONS:

The Bloomberg U.S. Credit Bond Index is a broad base, market capitalization-weighted bond market index representing intermediate term investment grade bonds traded in the United States. You cannot invest directly in an index. The Fund uses the Bloomberg U.S. Credit Index for performance comparison. The investments of the Sub-Fund may deviate significantly from the components of and their respective weightings in the benchmark.

The Morningstar Category average is the average return for the peer group based on the returns of each individual fund within the group. The total return of the Morningstar Category average does not include the effect of sales charges. You cannot invest directly in a Morningstar Category average.

Diversification does not ensure or guarantee better performance and cannot eliminate the risk of investment losses

The Morningstar Rating for funds, or star rating, is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar risk-adjusted return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The Morningstar Rating does not include any adjustment for sales loads. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its 3-, 5-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% 3-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% 5-year rating/40% 3-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% 5-year rating/20% 3-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent 3-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating

The Morningstar absolute ranking is based on the fund's total return rank relative to all funds that have the same category for the same time period. Morningstar rankings do not include the effect of sales charges. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

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DEFINITION OF TERMS:

Credit-quality ratings: Credit-quality ratings apply to underlying holdings of the fund and not the fund itself. Standard & Poor's and Fitch rate the creditworthiness of bonds from AAA (highest) to D (lowest). Standard & Poor's rates the creditworthiness of short-term notes from SP-1 (highest) to SP-3 (lowest). Ratings from A to CCC may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show relative standing within the rating categories. Moody's rates the creditworthiness of bonds from Aaa (highest) to CC (lowest). Ratings Aa to B may be modified by the addition of a number 1 (highest) to 3 (lowest) to show relative standing within the ratings categories. Moody's rates the creditworthiness of short-term U.S. tax-exempt municipal securities from MIG-1/VMIG-1 (highest) to SG (lowest). Credit quality and credit-quality ratings are subject to change.

Duration: Duration is a measurement of the sensitivity of a bond's price to changes in Treasury yields. A fund's duration is the weighted average of duration of the bonds in the portfolio. Duration should be interpreted as the approximate change in a bond's (or fund's) price for a 100-basis-point change in Treasury yields. Duration is based on historical performance and does not represent future results.

Yield curve: The yield curve is a graphical representation of fixed-income security yields (usually U.S. Treasuries) at their respective maturities, starting with the shortest time to maturity and sequentially plotting in a line chart to the longest maturity. The yield curve is based on historical performance and does not represent future results.

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