HUNTER GLOBAL FIXED INTEREST FUND



Report & Commentary

31 December 2021

Fund Information	31 December 2021			
Fund Size	\$1.188 billi	\$1.188 billion		
Fund Type	PIE			
Investment management	PIMCO			
Benchmark	Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index - \$NZ hedged			
Performance (gross)	1 month	3 months	1 Year	3 Year pa
Portfolio (%)	+0.20%	+0.34%	-0.27%	+4.95%
Benchmark (%)	-0.37%	+0.19%	-1.23%	+3.82%
Alpha (%)	+0.57%	+0.15%	+0.96%	+1.13%

The performance in this fact sheet is gross of fees and tax. Investors should also refer to the Quarterly Fund Update, which is available on hunterinvestments.co.nz and business.govt.nz/disclose.

Performance update

The Hunter Global Fixed Interest Fund outperformed its benchmark in December, the Fund's defensive duration positioning working for it as inflation concerns and expectations of tighter monetary conditions overwhelmed renewed fears around COVID-19 and the surging Omicrom variant.

Our underweight to U.K. and European duration, especially at the long end of the curve, added value this month as yields rose on the back of more "hawkish" central bank moves. Similarly, holdings in covered bonds and inflation-linked bonds also added value as did a preference for investment-grade financial assets in the credit sector.

Detractors this month included holdings in government-related bonds and Agency MBS, as did an underweight to Singaporean duration where yields actually fell.

Investment markets

After a weak start on the back of sharply rising COVID-19 cases, global equity markets rallied sharply from midmonth as investors determined that global economic growth would not be derailed by the surge in COVID cases. European, US and UK equity markets were up 5.8%, 4.4% and 4.6% respectively in December.

However, the tone in interest rate markets was more sombre as central banks took a more "hawkish" approach, the US Federal Reserve signalling an early end to their security purchasing programme in the face of more broadly based inflation, the ECB announcing the end of their Pandemic Emergency Purchasing Programme, although

stepping up their normal Asset Purchase Programme, and the Bank of England hiking rates 0.15% to 0.25%.

The US Fed is now also forecast to start raising interest rates mid-year.

Portfolio positioning

PIMCO is maintaining its cautious view towards both interest rates and corporate credit, still focusing on relative value positions and diversified alpha strategies.

The Fund remains significantly underweight duration versus the index with absolute duration now 6.2 years vs 7.5 years, the underweights predominantly in the 3-5-year and the 10-year+ sections of the yield curve.

PIMCO is generally underweight duration in most regions, particularly the US, UK and core Europe although maintains a slight overweight to non-core Europe which is still benefitting from ECB support. The Fund's exposure to the Australia / New Zealand region is now neutral.

The Fund remains underweight to corporate credit generally, targetting financials and non-cyclicals.

US Federal Reserve "tapering" expectations sees PIMCO remaining underweight all key securitised MBS sectors, particularly the agency and semi-government sectors, slightly preferring the non-agency mortgage sector. However, securitised assets remain PIMCO's preferred way to take spread exposure offering greater default protection in the current environment.

Currency strategies are largely tactical or to target portfolio diversification. We retain a small position in non-EMU Europe and NZD versus USD but have scaled back or closed out all our other currency positions.

The Fund continues to have a small allocation to inflation-linked bonds.

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Hunter Global Fixed Interest Fund Investment Portfolio Characteristics

Investment Statistics				
Effective Duration	6.2			
Benchmark Duration	7.5			
Average Maturity	8.1			
Average Coupon	1.7			
Average Quality	A+			
Total Carry	2.8			

Quality Breakdown				
Market Value	Market Value			
% Portfolio		% Benchmark		
46.2	AAA	38.1		
6.4	AA	14.8		
19.8	Α	31.7		
22.1	BBB	15.5		
5.6	Sub Inv Grade	0.0		
100	Total	100		

HUNTER	44
INVESTMENT FUNDS	

Curve Exposure					
Duration Weig	hted Exposure		Duration We	ighted Exposure	
% Portfolio	% Benchmark		Years Portfolio	Years Benchmark	
3.6	0.0	0 - 1 years	0.2	0.0	
4.5	5.8	1 - 3 years	0.3	0.4	
-0.6	12.7	3 - 5 years	0.0	1.0	
39.4	28.2	5-10 years	2.4	2.1	
53.1	53.2	10+ years	3.3	4.0	
100	100	Total	6.2	7.5	

Regional Breakdown by currency of settlement)					
Duration Weighte	ed Exposure		Duration Weighted Exposure		
% Portfolio	% Benchmark		Years Portfolio	Years Benchmark	
1.6	1.3	Australia/NZ	0.1	0.1	
18.1	16.4	Japan	1.1	1.2	
17.4	22.9	Europe - EMU	1.1	1.7	
7.6	1.3	Europe - Non EMU	0.5	0.1	
2.1	7.5	United Kingdom	0.1	0.6	
46.4	41.8	North America	2.9	3.2	
5.3	7.2	Emerging Markets	0.3	0.5	
1.5	1.6	Other	0.1	0.1	
100	100	Total	6.2	7.5	

Sector Breakdown				
Duration Weighted Exposure			Duration Weighted Exposure	
% Portfolio	% Benchmark		Years Portfolio	Years Benchmark
67.0	53.7	Government	4.1	4.0
1.5	8.1	Agency/Semi	0.1	0.6
5.3	8.7	Mortgage	0.3	0.7
9.5	17.4	Inv Grade Corp	0.6	1.3
1.0	0.0	High Yield Corp	0.1	0.0
12.2	12.1	Emerging Markets	0.7	0.9
3.6	0.0	Cash Equivalents	0.2	0.0
100	100	Total	6.2	7.5



