# **HUNTER GLOBAL FIXED INTEREST FUND**



# Report & Commentary 31 October 2023

Fund Information	31 October 2023			
Fund Size	\$1.369 Billi	\$1.369 Billion		
Fund Type	PIE	PIE		
Investment management	PIMCO			
Benchmark	Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index - \$NZ hedged			
Performance (gross)	1 month	3 months	1 Year	3 Year pa
Portfolio (%)	-0.76%	-2.34%	+2.35%	-3.38%
Benchmark (%)	-0.75%	-2.60%	+1.24%	-4.18%
Alpha (%)	-0.01%	+0.26%	+1.11%	+0.80%

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 <a href="https://hunterinvestments.co.nz">hunterinvestments.co.nz</a> and <a href="https://business.govt.nz/disclose">business.govt.nz/disclose</a>.

#### Performance update

The Hunter Global Fixed Interest Fund's performance was around benchmark in October although nominal returns were again negative reflecting the continued sell-off in bond yields across the globe this month.

Rising yields saw positive alpha contributions from interest rate strategies, particularly the underweight duration position in Japan, especially at the long end of the yield curve. Our underweight to European duration, particularly longer dated maturities, also added value as did our positioning in inflation linked securities where "break evens" moved higher.

Main detractors this month was our overweights to Australian duration, especially around the 10-year maturity, and to securitised assets where credit spreads widened.

# **Investment markets**

October was another challenging month for investors with both bond and equity markets struggling in the face of heightened geopolitical risks and higher long term interest rates. US and Japanese bond markets were particularly weak. US GDP growth and inflation reads both came in higher than expected. While in Japan, investors tested the upper bounds of the BoJ's yield curve control (YCC) guidance.

Meanwhile share markets were also weaker but, across market dispersion continues, especially in the US, where strength remains concentrated in a few tech stocks. Looking forward, Investors worry about the sheer volume of government borrowing required but remain data focussed, equities still optimistic that a "soft landing" can be achieved while bond markets remain sceptical that inflation can be controlled without a somewhat harder landing. At least, the recent interest rate rises has tightened financial conditions reducing the immediate likelihood of further central bank tightening.

## **Portfolio positioning**

PIMCO continues to maintain a cautious view towards both interest rates and corporate credit, still focusing on relative value positions and diversified alpha strategies.

The Fund's overall duration has reduced slightly to 5.4 years, still 1.1 years less than the benchmark's duration of 6.5 years, both shortening as yields rose during the month.

The underweight duration position is quite targeted, focussed on Japan, core Europe and Emerging Markets. However, PIMCO is increasingly overweight in more interest rate sensitive countries (having a higher proportion of floating rate and short-term mortgages) particularly the UK, Australasia and non-core Europe. PIMCO is now only slightly underweight the US market reflecting the improved value following the further sell off in yields.

In terms of the yield curve, the Fund is underweight in the 1-3 years maturities, slightly overweight 3-5 years with a larger overweight to the 5–10 years portion of the curve. The Fund's largest yield curve position remains its underweight to 10 years plus maturities. This positioning is premised on an expected positive steepening of the curve, pivoting around 10-year maturities, as inflation normalises and investors demand term premiums again.

The Fund remains underweight corporate credit generally, targeting financials and non-cyclicals, resulting in a portfolio with high credit quality, still maintaining an average rating of AA.

US Federal Reserve "tapering" programme also sees PIMCO remaining underweight the agency and semi-government sectors but retaining an overweight exposure to the mortgage sector. Securitised assets remain PIMCO's preferred way to take spread exposure offering greater default protection in the current environment.

Currency strategies remain largely tactical or target portfolio diversification. Currently the fund is overweight the Yen, emerging market currencies and non-EMU Europe predominantly against the North American dollar bloc, the Euro and a number of minor currencies. We are now only slightly overweight the Australian dollar.

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

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### Hunter Global Fixed Interest Fund Investment Portfolio Characteristics



Quality Breakdown				
Market Value		Market Value		
% Portfolio		% Benchmark		
68.5	AAA	11.8		
2.8	AA	42.1		
8.8	Α	31.7		
17.5	BBB	14.4		
2.4	Sub Inv Grade	0.0		
100	Total	100		

Curve Exposure				
<b>Duration Weig</b>	Duration Weighted Exposure Duration Weighted Exposure			
% Portfolio	% Benchmark		Years Portfolio	Years Benchmark
2.5	0.1	0 - 1 years	0.1	0.0
-5.0	7.9	1 - 3 years	-0.3	0.5
22.2	13.4	3 - 5 years	1.2	0.9
68.2	36.6	5-10 years	3.7	2.4

10+ years

Total

0.7

5.4

2.7

6.5

12.2

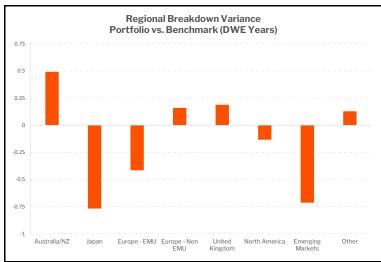
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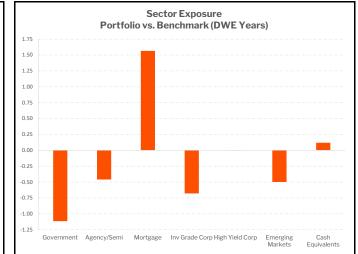
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Regional Breakdown by currency of settlement)					
Duration Weighted	Duration Weighted Exposure			<b>Duration Weighted Exposure</b>	
% Portfolio	% Benchmark	(	Years Portfolio	Years Benchmark	
10.6	1.3	Australia/NZ	0.6	0.1	
4.0	15.3	Japan	0.2	1.0	
17.6	21.1	Europe - EMU	1.0	1.4	
4.6	1.4	Europe - Non EMU	0.2	0.1	
9.2	4.8	United Kingdom	0.5	0.3	
50.3	44.1	North America	2.7	2.9	
-0.9	10.3	Emerging Markets	0.0	0.7	
4.5	1.8	Other	0.2	0.1	
100	100	Total	5.4	6.5	

Sector Breakdown					
<b>Duration Weighted Exposure</b>			Duration Weighted Exposure		
% Portfolio	% Benchmark		Years Portfolio	Years Benchmark	
38.1	49.1	Government	2.1	3.2	
0.6	7.6	Agency/Semi	0.0	0.5	
44.4	12.9	Mortgage	2.4	0.8	
6.2	15.6	Inv Grade Corp	0.3	1.0	
0.1	0.0	High Yield Corp	0.0	0.0	
8.4	14.8	<b>Emerging Markets</b>	0.5	1.0	
2.2	0.0	Cash Equivalents	0.1	0.0	
100	100	Total	5.4	6.5	







#### **ESG Integration (PIMCO)**

At PIMCO, we define ESG Integration as the integration of material ESG factors into investment research. We believe incorporating ESG factors should be part of a robust investment process. We recognize that ESG factors are increasingly material inputs into our understanding of global economies, markets, industries and business models. Whether climate change, income inequality, shifting consumer preferences, regulatory risks, human capital management or unethical conduct, ESG factors are important considerations when evaluating long-term investment opportunities. These factors are evaluated across markets and assets classes where applicable. Our commitment to ESG integration was one of the main drivers that led PIMCO to become a signatory to the Principles of Responsible Investment (PRI) in September 2011.

The integration of ESG factors into PIMCO's investment process seeks to account for material ESG risks in both top-down macro positioning and bottom-up security evaluation. To the extent that ESG risks are material for particular sectors, issuers, etc., our fundamental credit views will reflect this. While ESG scores play a role in security selection for portfolios that follow ESG strategies and guidelines, they are not a criterion for security selection in portfolios that do not follow ESG strategies and guidelines. Additionally, integrating material ESG factors into the evaluation process does not mean that ESG information is the sole consideration for an investment decision; instead, PIMCO's portfolio managers and analyst teams evaluate a variety of factors, which can include ESG considerations, to make investment decisions. By integrating material ESG factors into the evaluation process, PIMCO is increasing the total amount of information assessed to generate a more holistic view of an investment, in efforts to deliver the best performance outcomes for our clients.

#### **Exclusions**

Further to the ESG integration in the PIMCO investment process, the Hunter Global Fixed Interest Fund has the following exclusions (derivative positions that may include exposures as part of a basket are exempt from these restrictions, e.g. Basket CDS for spread trade or hedging etc.):

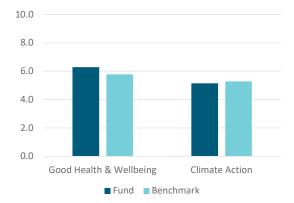
- Tobacco Companies;
- Armament Manufacturers:
- Cluster munitions development or production;
- The Portfolio will not invest in companies who derive more than 10% of their earnings from pornography or gambling; and
- The Portfolio will not invest in companies who derive more than 10% of their earnings from or whose only, core, or majority business is the exploration, extraction, refining or processing of fossil fuels. In addition, the Portfolio will not invest in any utility who primarily burns fossil fuels. The development or operation of pipelines are excluded from this restriction.

#### **ESG Metrics**

	Fund	Benchmark
Gender Diversity (workforce >40% female representation)	47%	23%
Modern Slavery Statement	38%	22%
Majority Independent Board	30%	31%

Numbers represent the proportion of holdings meeting the above criteria. We assess only the corporate bond holdings of both the Benchmark and Fund, figures shown are as a percentage of those holdings in order to maintain comparability.

#### **Contribution to UN SDGs**



Represents the overall portfolio impact on progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals: 3. Good Health and Wellbeing, and 13. Climate Action, as assessed by ISS.

On a scale of 0-10: 0 is a negative impact, 10 a positive impact, and 5 is no net impact.

#### **Climate Targets**

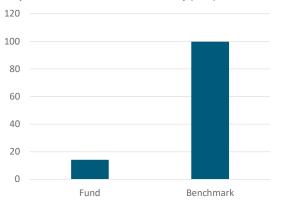
	Fund	Benchmark
TCFD Recommendations	43%	34%
SBTi Committed	20%	6%
SBTi Targets Set	9%	11%

TCFD Recommendations: proportion of portfolio holdings that have committed to adopting recommendations of the Task Force for Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). Does not indicate a complete TCFD disclosure.

SBTi Committed indicates the company has made a public commitment to set a science-based target aligned with SBTi's target-setting criteria within 24 months.

 $\hbox{'Targets Set' indicates that SBTi has reviewed and validated the company's target (s).}\\$ 

#### Scope 1 & 2 Carbon Emissions Intensity (USD)



Scope 1 & 2 Carbon Emissions Intensity reflects the portfolios weighted average total carbon emissions per million USD of revenue, as a proxy of the carbon efficiency per unit of output.

#### Bloomberg Disclaime

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# **COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE**

# HUNTER GLOBAL FIXED INTEREST FUND (THE "FUND") (RETAIL UNIT TRUST)

# Investment Mandate Compliance Certificate for month ended 31 October 2023

Harbour Asset Management Limited (the "Manager"), certifies that to the best of our knowledge, and having made reasonable enquiries, that, and except as specified in this certificate;

- 1. The Fund has at all times complied with the Fund's Trust Deed;
- 2. The Fund has complied with internal guidelines as described in the Statement of Investment Policy & Objectives (SIPO), dated 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023;
- 3. PIMCO Australia Pty Ltd ('PIMCO') as the appointed underlying specialist investment manager for the Hunter Global Fixed Interest Fund, provides Harbour with a monthly certification of compliance.

Tim Morrison

**Head of Compliance** 

Harbour Asset Management Limited

2.11.2023

Date