## HUNTER GLOBAL FIXED INTEREST FUND



## 29 February 2023

## **Report & Commentary**

Fund Information	29 February 2024					
Fund Size	\$1.401 Billi	\$1.401 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 (%)	-0.63%	+2.94%	+6.58%	-1.36%		
Benchmark (%)	-0.70%	+2.16%	+5.12%	-2.04%		
Alpha (%)	+0.07%	+0.78%	+1.46%	+0.68%		

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 <u>hunterinvestments.co.nz</u> and <u>business.govt.nz/disclose</u>.

### Performance update

The Hunter Global Fixed Interest Fund slightly outperformed its benchmark in February as yields retreated higher through the month, especially shorter maturities, on the back of stronger than expected inflation and labour market data.

Sector strategies dominated performance in February, specifically stock selection within the investment grade corporate debt sector and our overweight to securitised assets which outperformed as credit spreads tightened. Tactical positions in US duration especially an underweight around the 3-year maturity also added value as yields moved higher over the month.

However, our overweight to European duration and longer maturities in Canada subtracted value in the rising rate environment.

### **Investment markets**

February saw divergence reemerge between equity and bond markets with stronger than expected inflation and jobs data in the US dampening hopes for imminent rate cuts while reinforcing expectations of a "soft" or "no landing" scenario which saw short term interest rates rise and spurred equity markets higher. To be fair, much of the strength in equity markets centred on tech stocks, particularly Nvidia, as the AI boom saw significant earnings growth reported across that sector. While the focus was on the "Magnificent 7", Japanese and Chinese equity markets also showed strength.

PIMCO continues to see significant value in bonds but remain sceptical about the chances of a "soft landing", their base case being a "soft recession". However, this less optimistic economic outcome is actually more bullish for bonds.

## **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 underweight has increased slightly to 5.2 years, significantly less than the benchmark's duration of 6.6 years, largely a reflection of PIMCO yield curve strategy.

The underweight duration position remains quite targeted, focussed on Japan and Emerging Markets with a slight increase in the underweight position in North America. Elsewhere, PIMCO maintain overweight duration positions in more interest rate sensitive markets or where they see strong evidence of economic slowing, specifically, Australasia and the UK.

In terms of the yield curve, the Fund is now largely neutral in the 1-3, slightly underweight 3-5 year maturities but significantly 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. It is expected that 5-10 year maturities will benefit disproportionately in a variety of scenarios (no landing, soft landing, soft recession) with the an expected positive steepening of the curve, pivoting around 10-year maturities. Longer bonds face increased issuance and potential demand for term premia.

The Fund remains underweight corporate credit generally, targeting high credit quality, the average credit rating of the Fund is 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 North America, predominantly against European currencies, including Euro, and a number of minor currencies.

The Fund continues to have a small allocation to inflationlinked bonds.

Tony Hildyard - 021 830 720 tony.hildyard@harbourasset.co.nz

Manager: Harbour Asset Management Limited contactus@harbourasset.co.nz 0800 460 830

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#### 29 February 2024



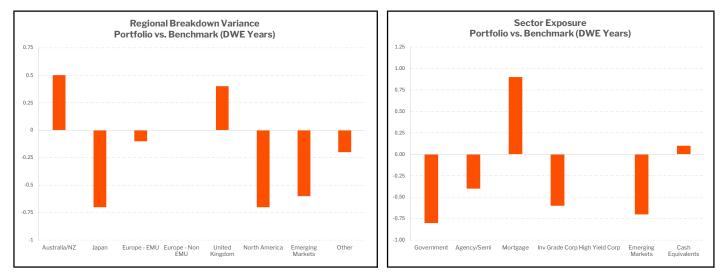
Hunter Global Fixed Interest Fund

#### Investment Portfolio Characteristics

Investment Statistics		Quality Breakdown			Curve Exposure				
Effective Duration	5.2	Market Value		Market Value	Duration Weighted Exposure			Duration Weighted Exposure	
Benchmark Duration	6.6	% Portfolio		% Benchmark	% Portfolio	% Benchmark		Years Portfolio	Years Benchmark
Average Maturity	6.2	58.0	AAA	12.0	1.9	0.0	0 - 1 years	0.1	0.0
Average Coupon	3.4	6.0	AA	42.0	9.6	7.6	1 - 3 years	0.5	0.5
Average Quality	AA-	16.0	А	32.0	11.5	13.6	3 - 5 years	0.6	0.9
Fund Total Carry	6.5	18.0	BBB	14.0	71.2	34.8	5-10 years	3.7	2.3
Benchmark Total Carry	5.2	2.0	Sub Inv Grade	0.0	5.8	45.5	10+ years	0.3	3.0
		100	Total	100	100	102	Total	5.2	6.6

Regional Breakdown by currency of settlement)					
Duration Weighted	Exposure	Duration Weighted Exposure			
% Portfolio	% Benchmark		Years Portfolio	Years Benchmark	
11.5	1.5	Australia/NZ	0.6	0.1	
5.8	15.2	Japan	0.3	1.0	
25.0	21.2 Europe - EMU		1.3	1.4	
1.9	1.5 Europe - Non EMU		0.1	0.1	
13.5	4.5 United Kingdom		0.7	0.3	
42.3	43.9	North America	2.2	2.9	
1.9	10.6	Emerging Markets	0.1	0.7	
-1.9	1.5	Other	-0.1	0.1	
100	100	Total	5.2	6.6	

Sector Breakdown					
Duration Weig	ted Exposure		<b>Duration Weighted Exposure</b>		
% Portfolio	% Benchmark		Years Portfolio	Years Benchmark	
48.1	50.0	Government	2.5	3.3	
1.9	7.6	Agency/Semi	0.1	0.5	
32.7	12.1	Mortgage	1.7	0.8	
9.6	16.7	Inv Grade Corp	0.5	1.1	
0.0	0.0	High Yield Corp	0.0	0.0	
5.8	15.2	Emerging Markets	0.3	1.0	
1.9	0.0	Cash Equivalents	0.1	0.0	
100	102	Total	5.2	6.6	





#### **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)	61%	21%
Modern Slavery Statement	43%	18%
Majority Independent Board	24%	21%

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.

## Climate Targets

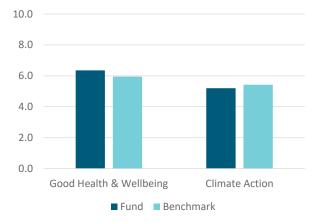
	Fund	Benchmark
TCFD Recommendations	54%	34%
SBTi Committed	8%	5%
SBTi Targets Set	8%	11%

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.

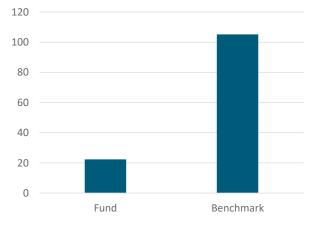
'Targets Set' indicates that SBTi has reviewed and validated the company's target(s).

#### **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.

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



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

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# **COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE**

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

## Investment Mandate Compliance Certificate for month ended 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

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;
- 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.

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05.03.2024

Date

Tim Morrison Head of Compliance Harbour Asset Management Limited