

# PIMCO Balanced Income and Growth Fund

Morningstar Rating™ ★★★★★

## PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The PIMCO Balanced Income and Growth Fund returned 3.00% (Institutional, Accumulation net of fees) in March outperforming the 60% MSCI ACWI Index / 40% Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index by 0.74%. Year-to-date the Fund has returned 6.32% (Institutional, Accumulation net of fees), while the benchmark returned 4.56%.

Equity markets continued their upward trajectory, while bond indices modestly rose as several global central banks sent dovish signals to the market. U.S. credit spreads tightened, developed sovereign bond yields fell, while the U.S. Dollar strengthened. In the U.S., the 10-year Treasury fell 5 bps to 4.20% as the Federal Reserve reaffirmed its expectation of three rate cuts in 2024. In Germany, the 10-year Bund yield fell 11 bps to 2.30%. In the U.K., 10-year Gilt yields fell 19 bps to 3.93%, while 10-year Japanese Government Bond yields rose 2 bps to 0.73%.

### Contributors

- Long exposure to U.S. equities
- Long exposure to non-U.S. developed equities, primarily Spanish and Japanese equities
- Long exposure to EM equities
- Long exposure to U.S. duration

### Detractors

- Long tactical exposure to the Japanese Yen
- No other material detractors over the month

### Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results

Performance (Net of Fees)	1 Mo.	3 Mos.	6 Mos.	1 Yr.	3 Yrs.	5 Yrs.	10 Yrs.	SI
Institutional, Acc (%)	3.00	6.32	15.74	14.78	2.36	6.03	5.61	5.84
Benchmark (%)	2.25	4.56	14.25	15.27	3.75	7.06	6.26	—

Past Performance is not a guarantee or reliable indicator of future results and no guarantee is being made that similar returns will be achieved in the future.

Performance (Net of Fees)	Mar'2019-Mar'2020	Mar'2020-Mar'2021	Mar'2021-Mar'2022	Mar'2022-Mar'2023	Mar'2023-Mar'2024
Institutional, Acc (%)	-8.65	36.76	2.29	-8.65	14.78
Benchmark (%)	-4.02	31.19	2.80	-5.75	15.27

The following information is additional to, and should be read only in conjunction with, the calendar year performance data presented below.

Calendar Year (Net of Fees)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	YTD
Institutional, Acc (%)	7.58	-0.90	4.18	14.18	-5.16	15.57	14.59	11.01	-17.06	11.40	6.32
Benchmark (%)	5.61	-0.80	6.45	15.18	-4.86	19.18	12.65	10.28	-15.32	16.36	4.56

Current MIFID legislation prevents us from reporting performance data for funds with less than a 12 month track record. The benchmark is the Inception to November 28, 2023 60% MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI) and 40% Bloomberg Global Aggregate USD Hedged Index. November 29, 2023 onwards 60% MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI) and 40% Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index

All periods longer than one year are annualised. SI is the performance since inception.

The fund is considered to be actively managed in reference to the below benchmark as further outlined in the prospectus and key investor information document/key information document.

The MSCI ACWI Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets. The Index consists of a group of country indices comprising developed and emerging market country indices. It is not possible to invest directly in an unmanaged index. Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index represents securities that are SEC-registered, taxable, and dollar denominated. The index covers the U.S. investment grade fixed rate bond market, with index components for government and corporate securities, mortgage pass-through securities, and asset-backed securities. These major sectors are subdivided into more specific indices that are calculated and reported on a regular basis. It is not possible to invest directly in an unmanaged index.

### Key Facts

	Accumulation
Bloomberg Ticker	PGMAUIA
ISIN	IE00B639QY17
Sedol	B639QY1
CUSIP	G70975787
Valoren	10011826
WKN	AORF98
Inception Date	15/04/2009
Distribution	-
Unified Management Fee	0.95% p.a.
Fund Type	UCITS
Portfolio Manager	Emmanuel Sharef, Erin Browne, Dan Ivascyn, Joshua Anderson
Total Net Assets	672.3 (USD in Millions)
Fund Base Currency	USD
Share Class Currency	USD

**Credit and Default Risk:** A decline in the financial health of an issuer of a fixed income security can lead to an inability or unwillingness to repay a loan or meet a contractual obligation. This could cause the value of its bonds to fall or become worthless. Funds with high exposures to non-investment grade securities have a higher exposure to this risk. **Currency Risk:** Changes in exchange rates may cause the value of investments to decrease or increase. **Equity Risk:** The value of equity or equity related securities may be affected by stock market movements. Drivers of price fluctuations include general economic and political factors as well as industry or company specific factors. **Derivatives and Counterparty Risk:** The use of certain derivatives could result in the fund having a greater or more volatile exposure to the underlying assets and an increased exposure to counterparty risk. This may expose the fund to larger gains or losses associated with market movements or in relation to a trade counterparty being unable to meet its obligations. **Emerging Markets Risk:** Emerging markets, and especially frontier markets, generally carry greater political, legal, counterparty and operational risk. Investments in these markets may expose the fund to larger gains or losses. **Liquidity Risk:** Difficult market conditions could result in certain securities becoming hard to sell at a desired time and price. **Interest Rate Risk:** Changes in interest rates will usually result in the values of bond and other debt instruments moving in the opposite direction (e.g. a rise in interest rates likely leads to fall in bond prices). **Mortgage Related and Other Asset Backed Securities Risks:** Mortgage or asset backed securities are subject to similar risks as other fixed income securities, and may also be subject to prepayment risk and higher levels of credit and liquidity risk.

## MONTH IN REVIEW

The MSCI World Index rose 3.2% in March as investors remained optimistic about prospective rate cuts from major central banks and softening inflation. In the U.S., the S&P 500 Index finished the month at all-time highs, gaining 3.2% as U.S. consumer sentiment hit its highest level in nearly three years. Performance was largely driven by energy, as shares in 22 out of 23 energy companies rose in the index. Japanese markets reached new highs, posting a 3.7% gain on the back of regulatory actions that aim to incentivize Japanese households to invest in equities. Emerging market equities rose 2.5% in March, led by Far East markets. South Korea's KOSPI Index posted a 4.3% gain, hitting its highest level in over two years led by major chip stocks.

Developed sovereign yields ended broadly lower in March after fluctuating intra-month as markets assessed central bank rhetoric. The U.S. 10-year Treasury yield ended 5 bps lower at 4.20% as the Fed maintained its guidance for three rate cuts this year. The German 10-year Bund yield fell 11 bps to 2.30% as the ECB revised down its inflation forecasts, while the U.K. 10-year Gilt yield fell 19 bps to 3.93% as inflation and growth reports improved. In Japan, the BOJ ended its negative interest rate policy with its first rate hike in 17 years, and the 10-year JGB yield rose by a modest 2 bps to 0.73%. Global investment grade credit posted positive returns of 1.21% for the month, outperforming like-duration government bonds by 0.44%. Global IG spreads tightened 5 bps amid continued strong earnings results despite heavy issuance to start the year.

## PORTFOLIO POSITIONING

- **Core Equity Strategy:** Across developed markets, we are underweight the U.S., but are overweight Europe and Japan. We have a modest underweight to emerging market equities. In terms of sectors, we are overweight communication services and industrials, and underweight real estate and consumers staples.
- **Flexible Fixed Income Strategy:** With a yield advantage over other developed markets, we maintain a preference for U.S. duration. We continue to prefer agency MBS given attractive spread levels and a strong liquidity profile. In the higher-yielding segment, we also maintain a preference for senior legacy non-agency MBS based on attractive spreads, strong fundamentals, and a resilient housing market.
- **Tactical Strategy:** Given higher inflation signals, we increased our underweight exposure to U.S. equities, Eurozone equities, Japanese equities, and credit. Furthermore, we decreased our exposure to duration, and we increased our exposure to the U.S. Dollar.

## OUTLOOK AND STRATEGY

Higher U.S. savings rates and slower monetary policy transmission may keep inflation above the Fed's 2% target for some time. We expect the Fed to start normalizing policy by mid-year, similar to other developed market central banks, but with a more gradual rate-cutting path. While we think an economic soft landing is possible, recessionary and inflationary risks are still high in the aftermath of unprecedented global supply and demand shocks.

Against this backdrop, the Fund seeks to provide a combination of income and growth potential in a stable and consistent manner, utilizing the following strategies:

**Core Equity Strategy:** The Fund's 60% core equity strategy is a systematic approach that seeks to outperform the MSCI ACWI Index, offering exposure to robust equity factors for consistent returns across market environments.

**Flexible Fixed Income Strategy:** The Fund's 40% flexible fixed income allocation uses a global, multi-sector approach to seek consistent income and long-term capital appreciation potential. Leveraging PIMCO's global resources, the strategy accesses the vast global fixed income market, investing in a mix of high-quality and higher-yielding assets to achieve its objectives.

**Tactical Strategy:** The Fund utilizes up to 10% tactical flexibility to enhance its long-term return potential, leveraging PIMCO's macro insights and return-generation expertise to improve the Fund's risk/return profile across varying macro and market environments. The Fund's approach to active tactical allocation anchors on macro-driven asset allocation adjustments to manage the 4 main risk factors of a multi-asset portfolio: equity, duration, credit, and currency.

## Fund Statistics

Effective Duration (yrs)	1.51
Benchmark Duration (yrs)	2.44

Japanese Equities: Nikkei 225 Index (NKY Index); Emerging Market Equities: MSCI Emerging Markets Index; Global Investment Grade Credit Spreads: Bloomberg Global Aggregate Credit Index USD-Hedged Index

Basis points (bps); Japanese Government Bond (JGB); European Central Bank (ECB); Bank of Japan (BOJ)

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**Correlation:** As outlined under "Benchmark", where disclosed herein and referenced in the prospectus and relevant key investor information document / key information document, a benchmark may be used as part of the active management of the Fund. In such instances, certain of the Fund's securities may be components of and may have similar weightings to the benchmark and the Fund may from time to time show a high degree of correlation with the performance of any such benchmark. However the benchmark is not used to define the portfolio composition of the Fund and the Fund may be wholly invested in securities which are not constituents of the benchmark. Investors should note that a Fund may from time to time show a high degree of correlation with the performance of one or more financial indices not referenced in the prospectus and relevant key investor information document / key information document. Such correlation may be coincidental or may arise because any such financial index may be representative of the asset class, market sector or geographic location in which the Fund is invested or uses a similar investment methodology to that used in managing the Fund.

## PERFORMANCE AND FEES

**Past performance is not a guarantee or a reliable indicator of future results.** The "gross of fees" performance figures, if included, are presented before management fees and custodial fees, but do reflect commissions, other expenses and reinvestment of earnings. The "net of fees" performance figures reflect the deduction of ongoing charges. All periods longer than one year are annualized. Investments made by a Fund and the results achieved by a Fund are not expected to be the same as those made by any other PIMCO-advised Fund, including those with a similar name, investment objective or policies. A new or smaller Fund's performance may not represent how the Fund is expected to or may perform in the long-term. New Funds have limited operating histories for investors to evaluate and new and smaller Funds may not attract sufficient assets to achieve investment and trading efficiencies. A Fund may be forced to sell a comparatively large portion of its portfolio to meet significant shareholder redemptions for cash, or hold a comparatively large portion of its portfolio in cash due to significant share purchases for cash, in each case when the Fund otherwise would not seek to do so, which may adversely affect performance.

**Outlook:** Statements concerning financial market trends or portfolio strategies are based on current market conditions, which will fluctuate. There is no guarantee that these investment strategies will work under all market conditions or are appropriate for all investors and each investor should evaluate their ability to invest for the long term, especially during periods of downturn in the market. Outlook and strategies are subject to change without notice.

**ESG Category Article 6 Funds:** Article 6 funds do not have sustainable investment as its objective, nor do they promote environmental and/or social characteristics. While such funds integrate sustainability risks into its investment policy (as further outlined in the Prospectus) and this integration process forms part of the investment level due diligence of the fund, ESG information is not the sole or primary consideration for any investment decision with respect to the fund.

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