

## **Marketing Communication**

Morningstar Rating™ ★★★★

# PIMCO Asia High Yield Bond Fund

#### PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The PIMCO Asia High Yield Bond Fund returned 1.79% (Institutional, Income shares net of fees) and 1.86% (Institutional, Accumulation shares net of fees) in February. Year-to-date the Fund has returned 4.09% (Institutional, Income shares net of fees) and 4.14% (Institutional, Accumulation shares net of fees).

- The J.P. Morgan Asia Credit Index returned 0.06% in February and spreads tightened by 18bps. In February, the HY segment outperformed, returning 2.12% vs. -0.28% for the investment grade (IG) segment. Asia HY spreads tightened by 41bps over the month and Asia IG spreads tightened by 16bps. Asia HY's performance was driven by strong performance from India industrials, frontier sovereigns, Macao gaming and China and Hong Kong real estate.
- The J.P. Morgan Asia Credit Index's excess return was at 0.95% for February.
   The excess return for the IG and HY segment was at 0.69% and 2.55%, respectively.

#### Contributors

- Credit selection in India corporate credit contributed to relative performance, notably within the Industrials sector
- Credit selection in China real estate contributed to relative performance

#### **Detractors**

- Underweight exposure to Hong Kong real estate and Philippine industrials detracted from relative performance
- Credit selection within Asia quasi-sovereign credit detracted from relative performance, notably due to China financials

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

of Fees)	1 Mo.	3 Mos.	6 Mos.	1 Yr.	3 Yrs.	5 Yrs.	SI
Institutional, Acc (%)	1.86	5.92	11.10	0.54	-7.01	-1.56	-1.41
Institutional, Inc (%)	1.79	5.88	10.98	0.57	-7.02	-1.56	-1.41
Benchmark (%)	2.21	7.04	12.39	4.21	-6.20	-1.31	_

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)	Feb'2019- Feb'2020	Feb'2020- Feb'2021	Feb'2021- Feb'2022	Feb'2022- Feb'2023	Feb'2023- Feb'2024
Institutional, Acc (%)	9.53	4.99	-17.44	-3.14	0.54
Institutional, Inc (%)	9.60	4.93	-17.43	-3.19	0.57
Benchmark (%)	8.25	4.82	-18.43	-2.92	4.21

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)	2020	2021	2022	2023	YTD
Institutional, Acc (%)	5.20	-10.31	-14.01	0.45	4.14
Institutional, Inc (%)	5.20	-10.32	-13.98	0.42	4.09
Benchmark (%)	4.94	-11.05	-15.09	4.76	4.93

Current MIFID legislation prevents us from reporting performance data for funds with less than a 12 month track record. The benchmark is the J.P. Morgan JACI Non-Investment Grade 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 J.P. Morgan JACI Non-Investment Grade Index comprises fixed rate US Dollar-denominated high yield bonds issued by Asia sovereigns, quasi-sovereigns, banks and corporates. The existing JACI Non-IG contains both fixed and floating rate bonds issued by Asia-domiciled entities having a nominal outstanding of at least US\$150 million and more than one year to maturity.

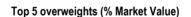
#### **Key Facts**

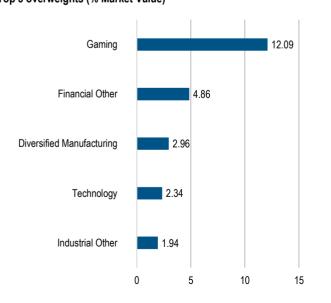
	Accumulation	Income		
Bloomberg Ticker	PIAHYIA	PIAHYII		
ISIN	IE00BGSXQQ02	IE00BJK9HS65		
Sedol	BGSXQQ0	BJK9HS6		
CUSIP	G7S11T648	G7110D106		
Valoren	45165905	46300553		
WKN	A2PAD0	A2PDZS		
Inception Date	14/02/2019	14/02/2019		
Distribution	-	monthly		
Unified Management Fee	0.65% p.a.	0.65% p.a.		
Fund Type	UCITS			
Portfolio Manager	Stephen Chang, Abhijeet Neogy, Mohit Mittal			
Total Net Assets	2.4 (USD in Billions)			
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. 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). China InterBank Bond Market ("CIBM"): The fund may be exposed to liquidity risks, settlement risks, default of counterparties and market volatility associated with CIBM. In addition, the CIBM rules are new and still subject to further clarification and/or changes, which may adversely affect the fund's capability to invest in the CIBM

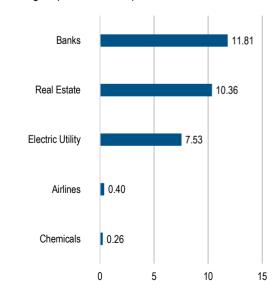
#### **MONTH IN REVIEW**

- Asia high yield outperformed in February on the back of strong performance from India industrials, Macao gaming, China and Hong Kong real estate, and frontier sovereigns. Pakistan's sovereign bonds tightened as a result of a successful general election and parliament election, which could potentially lead to an improvement in its external financing. Over in India, Vedanta's bond restructuring also led to some spread tightening.
- Central banks in the region, such as South Korea, India, Thailand, and Indonesia maintained their benchmark rates. The Fed continues to remain data-driven and need clear evidence of softening inflation before a rate cut is considered. The US Treasury curve widened by 3-28bps across the curve, and the 10Yr Treasury yield widened by 19bps to 4.24%. Over in China, policymakers cut its 5-year loan prime rate, which is typically tied to mortgage rates, by 25bps in an attempt to stimulate housing demand and supporting infrastructure investment. China also announced 2024 economic targets in the recent NPC meeting at around ~5% growth. Policymakers also expanded fiscal issuance quota, vowed to manage property risk, improve policy, and support private business and foreign investment.
- Given the highly dynamic situation, we continue to monitor and take actions where we see opportunities. We believe rigorous risk management and careful security selection will be crucial for investors in the region. We continue to believe that active management is especially important during this fast-moving cycle where dislocations are likely and capturing resulting opportunities can be key to producing alpha.





Top 5 underweights (% Market Value)



Source: PIMCO Source: PIMCO

#### PIMCO ASIA HIGH YIELD BOND FUND I MONTHLY COMMENTARY I AS OF 29 FEBRUARY 2024

#### **PORTFOLIO POSITIONING**

We expect performance in Asia high yield to be uneven with differentiation in fundamentals likely to continue, highlighting the importance of active credit selection. We continue to maintain a focus on a high quality and diversified portfolio, and choose to not stretch for yields. The Fund focuses on sectors with stronger long-term growth potential and more attractive relative value.

We remain selective and focused on bottom-up credit selection. We are constructive on the Macao gaming and India renewable energy sectors due to the continued recovery and policy tailwinds. We continue to be underweight China banks and LGFVs, and select Asian financials, partly due to relatively tight valuations, and are finding better value in other global financial credits. We are maintaining a cautious and selective stance towards the China property sector. Valuations are attractive, but continued volatility, funding challenges, and weaker fundamentals are potential risks. Thematically, we are seeing select opportunities to capitalize on the cyclical recovery of the COVID-reopening across the region. We continue to rely on the insights and top picks of our credit research analysts and expect to maintain a selective and up-in-quality approach. We are reducing asymmetric risk and closely monitoring concentrations.

#### **Fund Statistics**

Effective Duration (yrs)	2.19
Benchmark Duration (yrs)	2.56
Current Yield (%)⊕	7.22
Estimated Yield to Maturity (%)⊕	11.16
Annualised Distribution Yield (%)†	7.02
Average Coupon (%)	5.51
Effective Maturity (yrs)	4.70

#### **OUTLOOK AND STRATEGY**

In our cyclical outlook, Navigating the Descent, we anticipate a downshift toward stagnation or mild contraction in 2024. The standout strength of the U.S. is likely to fade over the cyclical horizon, and countries with more rate-sensitive markets will likely slow more markedly. But, current starting yields, which have historically been highly correlated with returns, are still near highest levels.

We continue to expect Asia's growth-inflation dynamics to diverge from the rest of the world. We believe economic growth in many Asian markets will remain resilient as the recovery continues. The Fed's potential rate cuts should stabilize the Asia credit market overall, but the outlook for each economic varies. Overall, we see opportunities in Asia credit for investors who employ an active and selective investment approach.

China's slowing growth momentum and weak property market create downside risks. A key swing factor will be the willingness of policymakers to provide more material support. Policymakers have announced more supportive measures, but the impact will ultimately depend on implementation. An overall improvement in income expectations and property easing is needed to revive sentiment and stabilize the property market.

Asia credit valuations remain attractive, but there could potentially be more volatility ahead. With a current spread over Treasuries (SOT) of 787bps, Asia HY continues to trade relatively wide with a 475bps and 392bps premium over U.S. and global high yield respectively. Technicals remain supportive as we expect negative net financing for 2024 amid flush onshore liquidity.



#### PIMCO ASIA HIGH YIELD BOND FUND | MONTHLY COMMENTARY | AS OF 29 FEBRUARY 2024

The credit quality of a particular security or group of securities does not ensure the stability or safety of an overall portfolio. The Quality ratings of individual issues/issuer and generally range from AAA or Aaa (highest) to D or C (lowest) for S&P and Moody's respectively.

The JACI Non-Investment Grade Index tracks total returns for US dollar-denominated bonds issued by Asia sovereign, quasi-sovereign, and corporate borrowers. Countries covered are Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Macau, Mongolia, Pakistan, The Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The existing JACI Non-IG contains both fixed and floating rate bonds issued by Asia-domiciled entities having a nominal outstanding of at least US\$150 million and more than one year to maturity. Emerging Markets (EM).

<sup>®</sup> Yields reported gross of fees, the deduction of which will reduce the yield. Yields are reported in the base currency of the fund and are not specific to the share class. The current yield illustrates the income investors could get from the portfolio as a percentage of market value of the securities assuming a holding period of one year. The current yield does not take into account the future cash flows of bonds, but rather is a snapshot of the income in the portfolio as of a certain point in time.

Tannualised Distribution Yield is as of last month ending 02/29/2024.

<sup>®</sup> PIMCO calculates a Funds Estimated Yield to Maturity by averaging the yield to maturity of each security held in the Fund on a market weighted basis. PIMCO sources each securitys yield to maturity from PIMCOs Portfolio Analytics database, PIMCO sources the securitys yield to maturity from Bloomberg. When not available in either database, PIMCO will assign a yield to maturity for that security from a PIMCO markes no representation as to the accuracy of the data for the purposes of calculating the Estimated Yield to Maturity. The Estimated Yield to Maturity is provided for illustrative purposes only and should n

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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 frading efficiencies. A Fund may be forced to sell 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.



#### PIMCO ASIA HIGH YIELD BOND FUND | MONTHLY COMMENTARY | AS OF 29 FEBRUARY 2024

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.

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