Allianz Global Investors

Allianz Income and Growth

Monthly commentary

- The Fund aims at long-term capital growth and income by investing in US and/or Canadian corporate debt securities and equities.
- The Fund is exposed to significant risks of investment/general market, company-specific, creditworthiness/credit rating/downgrading, default, valuation, asset allocation, country and region, emerging market, interest rate, currency (such as exchange controls, in particular RMB), and the adverse impact on RMB share classes due to currency depreciation. The Fund's investments focus on US and Canada which may increase concentration risk.
- The Fund may invest in high-yield (non-investment grade and unrated) investments and convertible bonds which may subject to higher risks, such as volatility, loss of principal and interest, creditworthiness and downgrading, default, interest rate, general market and liquidity risks and therefore may adversely impact the net asset value of the Fund. Convertibles may also expose to risks such as prepayment, equity movement and greater volatility than straight bond investments.
- The Fund may invest in financial derivative instruments ("FDI") which may expose to higher leverage, counterparty, liquidity, valuation, volatility, market and over the counter transaction risks. The Fund's net derivative exposure may be up to 50% of the Fund's net asset value.
- This investment may involve risks that could result in loss of part or entire amount of investors' investment.
- In making investment decisions, investors should not rely solely on this material.

Note: Dividend payments may, at the sole discretion of the Investment Manager, be made out of the Fund's capital or effectively out of the Fund's capital which represents a return or withdrawal of part of the amount investors originally invested and/or capital gains attributable to the original investment. This may result in an immediate decrease in the NAV per share and the capital of the Fund available for investment in the future and capital growth may be reduced, in particular for hedged share classes for which the distribution amount and NAV of any hedged share classes (HSC) may be adversely affected by differences in the interests rates of the reference currency of the HSC and the base currency of the Fund, particularly if such HSC are applying the IRD Neutral Policy.

What Happened in March

Equities, convertible securities, and high yield bonds finished lower in March. Escalating geopolitical tensions were the dominant macro overhang with the Iran conflict disrupting global supply chains and driving energy prices higher. The Q4 reporting season finished strong with year-over-year earnings growth nearing 14% for the S&P 500. Overall, economic reports were positive with muted jobless claims activity, positive trends in key services and manufacturing surveys, and steady consumption balanced against mixed inflation readings and constrained housing dynamics. The US Federal Reserve (Fed) left interest rates unchanged with Jerome Powell stating a cut is unlikely without progress on inflation. Against this backdrop, rate cut expectations pushed out further and government debt yields rose sharply with the 10-year US Treasury yield settling at 4.32%.

Equity and Option Market Environment

The S&P 500 Index returned-4.98% for the month. *

Energy, Utilities, and Financials were the top performing sectors in the period, while Industrials, Health Care, and Consumer Staples were the bottom performing sectors.

Equity volatility was higher month-to-month at 25.25.*

Convertible Market Environment

The ICE BofA US Convertible Index returned -2.52% for the month.^

Most sectors declined with Energy, Media, and Utilities outperforming, while Consumer Staples, Transportation, and Materials underperformed.

Investment grade issues outperformed below-investment grade issues. Yield-oriented (busted) outperformed total return (balanced) and equity sensitive issues.

Monthly new issuance saw 14 issues priced, raising USD 7.2 billion in proceeds.^

High-Yield Bond Market Environment:

The ICE BofA US High Yield Index returned -1.19% for the month. ^ BB, B, and CCC rated bonds returned -1.38%, -0.80%, and -1.37%, respectively.^

Spreads widened to 328bps from 312bps, the average bond price fell modestly to 96.18, and the market's yield rose to 7.65%.^

All industries finished lower with Energy, Technology, and Cable outperforming, while Packaging/Paper, Real Estate, and Gaming underperformed.

Trailing 12-month default rates finished the period at 2.07% (par) and 1.87% (issues).**

Monthly new issuance saw 18 issues priced, raising USD 21.0 billion in proceeds.**

Portfolio Review

Top contributors included multiple Energy sector holdings expected to benefit from rising oil prices, including integrated oil & gas, exploration & production, refining, and infrastructure companies. A cloud services company advanced, capitalising on artificial intelligence (AI) related tailwinds, a specialty chemicals manufacturer gained on margin upside and cost reduction optionality, and a cyber security provider finished higher on rising demand forecasts. The other top contributors included a discount apparel retailer that reported a beat-and-raise quarter, among others.

Top detractors were select hyperscalers, including Alphabet* and Microsoft* on operating expense and capital expenditure (capex) concerns. Apple* declined but finished off the lows, while multiple tech hardware holdings exposed to the data centre buildout theme consolidated strong year-to-date gains. An airframe manufacturer faced a short-term production issue, and a semiconductor company lagged despite reporting better-than-expected results and guidance. The other top detractors were a large multinational bank and an aerospace company.

All option positions expired below strike and the portfolio was able to retain the set premiums.

Regarding positioning, cash levels remained elevated and some cyclical exposure was reduced in favour of companies with higher operating performance visibility. Exposure increased the most in Energy, Technology, and Communication

Services, and decreased the most in Industrials, Consumer Discretionary, and Health Care. Covered call option positioning increased month-over-month, and convertible and high yield new issuance participation was selective.

Outlook and Strategy

The outlook for 2026 is largely unchanged, although conflict headwinds may offset some of the AI proliferation, reindustrialisation, and fiscal and monetary policy tailwinds. Q4 results surpassed expectations, management guidance was constructive, earnings estimates continued to rise, and multiple economic datapoints indicated sustained growth.

Going forward, corporate investment, consumer spending (helped by tax cuts/refunds), less regulation, energy and defence spending, and credit expansion could support gross domestic product (GDP) growth. On the other hand, a prolonged conflict lengthens the recovery period, pushing out eventual stability in commodity markets, supply chains, and geopolitics. The investment team continues to closely monitor the situation including the potential effects of higher energy prices on consumption, margins, sales, inflation, government debt yields, monetary policy, and capex plans.

Bottom-up analysts continue to upwardly revise their 2026 (and 2027) earnings estimates due to steady growth, durable margins, productivity gains, expanding earnings breadth, AI spend, and cost controls. Expanding earnings breadth could lead to a further broadening out of market leadership. Earnings headwinds include risks cited above and rising operating expenses, among others, with the view that shifts in the use of free cash flow have trade-offs.

Return expectations for 2026 remain unchanged with risk assets having ample time to either recover or produce further gains over the remainder of the year. Convertible securities could outperform equities again and high yield bonds could deliver another year of coupon-like returns. Given their defensive characteristics, convertible securities, and high yield bonds can mitigate market volatility better than equities, which historically average a mid-teens intra-year decline even in annual periods of positive returns.

US convertible securities have an attractive asymmetric return profile, providing upside participation potential when stock prices rise and downside mitigation when stock prices fall. The asset class could outperform the broad equity market again in 2026, helped by solid earnings growth, expanding market breadth, stable credit spreads, and robust new issuance. After a record year of new issuance in 2025, primary market activity likely slows in 2026 but remains elevated around USD 75-80 billion. Aside from diversification benefits, new issuance expands the opportunity set of investments with attractive terms and the desired risk/reward characteristics.

The US high-yield market, yielding more than 7%[1], offers equity-like returns but with less volatility. Currently, the asset class is expected to deliver another year of coupon-like returns in 2026. The market's attractive total return potential is a function of its discount to face value and higher coupon, which also serves to cushion downside volatility. Credit fundamentals are stable, near-term refinancing obligations remain low, and management teams continue to exercise balance sheet discipline. Additionally, the market's credit quality composition has improved. In this environment, new issuance is expected to remain steady, spreads can stay tight, and the default rate should continue to reside below the historical average.

A covered call options strategy can be utilised to generate premium income. In periods of elevated or rising equity volatility, premiums collected may translate into more attractive annualised yields.

Collectively, these three asset classes can provide a steady source of income and a compelling "participate and protect" return profile.

The Income and Growth strategy is a client solution designed to provide high monthly potential income, the potential for capital appreciation, less volatility than an equity-only fun.

Source: Allianz Global Investors dated 31 March 2026 unless otherwise stated.

*Source: FactSet, as at 31 March 2026.

^Source: BofA Merrill Lynch, as at 31 March 2026.

**Source: J.P. Morgan, as at 31 March 2026.

[1] Source: ICE Data Services; data as at 31 March 2026.

Allianz Global Investors and Voya Investment Management entered into a long-term strategic partnership on 25 July 2022, upon which the investment team transferred to Voya Investment Management. This did not materially change the composition of the team, the investment philosophy nor the investment process. Management Company: Allianz Global Investors GmbH. Delegated Manager: Voya Investment Management Co. LLC ("Voya IM").

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