

# Allianz US Short Duration High Income Bond

## Monthly commentary

- The Fund aims at long-term income and lower volatility by investing in short duration high yield rated corporate bonds of the United States of America ("US") bond markets in accordance with environmental and social characteristics. The Fund aims to achieve the Sustainability KPI with the adoption of the Sustainability Key Performance Indicator Strategy (Absolute) ("KPI Strategy (Absolute)"). The Fund does not constitute as an ESG fund pursuant to the SFC's circular issued on 29 June 2021.
- The Fund is exposed to significant risks of investment/general market, creditworthiness/credit rating/downgrading, default, interest rate, valuation, sovereign debt, country and region, RMB and the adverse impact on RMB share classes due to currency depreciation.
- The Fund is exposed to sustainable investment risks relating to KPI Strategy (Absolute) (such as foregoing opportunities to buy certain securities when it might otherwise be advantageous to do so, selling securities when it might be disadvantageous to do so, and/or reducing risk diversifications compared to broadly based funds) which may result in the Fund being more volatile and have adverse impact on the performance of the Fund and consequently adversely affect an investor's investment in the Fund.
- 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. Convertible 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.

### What Happened in May

High yield bonds finished higher for the month. Corporate earnings results in May remained strong with the S&P 500 Index on pace to deliver its highest quarterly earnings growth and surprise percentage since 2021. On the economic front, unemployment declined and the manufacturing sector continued to expand, while inflation rose and personal savings, income, and consumption fell. There was no Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting in May, but Kevin Warsh was officially sworn in as the next Chairman of the Federal Reserve. Against this backdrop, the 10-year US Treasury yield and crude oil settled well below intra-month highs on lower odds of reescalation in the Middle East.

## ALLIANZ US SHORT DURATION HIGH INCOME BOND: MONTHLY COMMENTARY

The ICE BofA US High Yield Index returned +0.49% for the month.\* BB, B, and CCC rated bonds returned +0.53%, +0.69%, and -0.48%, respectively.\*

Spreads narrowed to 274bp from 283bp, the average bond price was flat at 97.32, and the market's yield rose modestly to 7.35%.\*

Most industries finished higher with technology, packaging/paper, and services outperforming, while cable, transportation, and retail underperformed.

Trailing 12-month default rates finished the period at 2.02% (par) and 1.64% (issues).^The upgrade/downgrade ratio was lower at 0.8.^

Monthly new issuance saw 40 issues priced, raising USD27.0 billion in proceeds. ^ High-yield funds reported estimated net flows of +USD 0.6 billion.^

### Portfolio Review

Industries contributing the most to performance were Financial Services, Support-Services, and Retail. Strength in Financial Services was attributable to several issues in the lending and mortgage services space along with an aircraft leasing issue. Within Support-Services, holdings in building products, equipment rental, and power generation drove performance. Multiple issuers in the automotive retail space positively impacted the portfolio in Retail.

There were no industries that detracted from performance in the period.

Liquidity remained in focus to pay distributions, meet redemptions and to take advantage of reinvestment opportunities. Transactions in the period included new purchases in Gas Utilities, Specialty Retail, and Consumer Finance, and a complete sell in Commercial & Residential Mortgage Finance.

### Outlook and Strategy

The outlook for 2026 remains unchanged. Conflict headwinds may offset some of the artificial intelligence (AI) proliferation, reindustrialisation, and fiscal and monetary policy tailwinds. On the other hand, Q1 results are surpassing expectations, management outlooks are constructive, earnings estimates continue to trend higher, and multiple datapoints indicate sustained economic 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. Conversely, a prolonged conflict in the Middle East 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 capital expenditure plans.

2026 earnings estimates are trending higher driven by better-than-expected results, AI spend, earnings breadth expansion, productivity gains, durable margins, cost controls, and Energy sector strength. Earnings breadth expansion could lead to a sustained broadening out of market leadership. 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.

The US high yield market, yielding more than 7%^, offers equity-like returns but with less volatility. 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.


Longer-duration issues are the most likely to be impacted by high and volatile rates, but the overall high yield market should have a dampened response due to its larger coupon relative to other fixed income alternatives. As a result, US high yield bonds contribute from both a diversification and a relative performance perspective, offering a very compelling yield opportunity.

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All data are sourced from Allianz Global Investors, S&P Dow Jones Indices and FactSet dated 31 May 2026 unless otherwise stated.

\*Source: BofA Merrill Lynch, as at 31 May 2026

^Source: J.P. Morgan, as at 31 May 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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Investing in fixed income instruments (if applicable) may expose investors to various risks, including but not limited to creditworthiness, interest rate, liquidity and restricted flexibility risks. Changes to the economic environment and market conditions may affect these risks, resulting in an adverse effect to the value of the investment. During periods of rising nominal interest rates, the values of fixed income instruments (including short positions with respect to fixed income instruments) are generally expected to decline. Conversely, during periods of declining interest rates, the values are generally expected to rise. Liquidity risk may possibly delay or prevent account withdrawals or redemptions.

Investment involves risks, in particular, risks associated with investment in emerging and less developed markets. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Investors should read the offering documents for further details, including the risk factors, before investing. This material and website have not been reviewed by the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong. Issued by Allianz Global Investors Asia Pacific Limited.

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