





**Quarterly Investment Report | 1Q24** 

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Please note that this material contains the opinions of the manager as of the date noted, and may not have been updated to reflect real time market developments. All opinions are subject to change without notice.

# **Executive summary**

### Portfolio Performance

U.S. equity exposure was positive in the quarter as the S&P 500 Index returned 10.56%. The Fund's "PLUS" bond alpha strategy contributed to performance.

#### **CONTRIBUTORS**

- U.S. equity exposure was positive in the quarter as the S&P 500 Index returned 10.56%
- Holdings of securitized credit, specifically non-agency mortgages
- Long exposure to investment-grade corporate credit

#### **DETRACTORS**

Long exposure to U.S. interest rates

Performance periods ended 31 Mar '24	3 mos.	6 mos.	1 yr.	3 yrs.	5 yrs.	10 yrs.	SI
Fund before fees	11.19	25.39	32.32	10.43	14.90	13.28	12.06
Fund after fees	11.01	25.00	31.48	9.72	14.17	12.56	11.33
Benchmark*	10.56	23.48	29.88	11.49	15.05	12.96	10.11

Performance quoted represents past performance. Past performance is not a guarantee or a reliable indicator of future results. Investment return and the principal value of an investment will fluctuate. Shares may be worth more or less than original cost when redeemed. Current performance may be lower or higher than performance shown. For performance current to the most recent month end, visit pimco.com or call 888.87.PIMCO.

### Portfolio strategy

- Maintain modest exposure to interest rate duration, primarily for tail risk hedging attributes.
- Increased exposure to agency mortgages as valuations are attractive. These securities provide resilience and downside risk mitigation.
- Selective credit holdings: We continue to emphasize bottom-up security selection in defensive, high-quality, short-dated and default-remote securities
- Neutral currency positioning: Neutral on the overall direction of the U.S. dollar

Class:	INST
Inception date:	28 Jun '02
Fund assets (in millions):	\$1,980.47
Gross expense ratio:	0.70%
Adjusted expense ratio:	0.64%

The Adjusted Expense Ratio excludes certain investment expenses, such as interest expense from borrowings and repurchase agreements and dividend expense from investments on short sales, incurred directly by the Fund or indirectly through the Fund's investments in underlying PIMCO Funds (if applicable), none of which are paid to PIMCO.

Summary information	31 Mar '24
30-day SEC yield	4.69%
Effective duration (yrs)	0.58
Effective maturity (yrs)	2.57
Average coupon	4.60%
Net currency exposure	-2.37%

Summary information	Index*
Number of stocks	503
Weighted average market cap (\$MM)	721,650.83
Trailing P/E ratio	25.04
Forward P/E ratio	21.98
Price/Sales	2.87
Price/Book	4.78
Price/Cash Flow	17.04
Top 5 GICS sectors (MV%)	Index*
Information Technology	29.57
F	

Information Technology	29.57
Financials	13.16
Health Care	12.42
Consumer Discretionary	10.34
Communication Services	8.95

\*S&P 500 Index;

### **Quarter in Review**

# Strong economic growth and the prospect of accommodative monetary policy drove equity markets higher in Q1

Developed market equities rose 8.9% in the first quarter of 2024 against an improving macro-economic backdrop, AI enthusiasm, and the prospect of interest-rate cuts. U.S. equities rose 10.6% as mega-cap leaders continued to drive the index higher. European equities rose 7.6% during the first quarter as strong economic readings and signs of slowing inflation spurred optimism. Japanese equities rose by 21.4% as the BOJ ended the era of ultra-accommodative monetary policy amid reflating growth and the return of inflation. Emerging market equities gained 2.4% in the first quarter following strong performance in South Korea and China.



SOURCE: Bloomberg, PIMCO

Global and US Equity indexes represent returns in USD. Non-US Developed and EM indexes represent returns in local currency.

U.K.: FTSE 100 Index, Europe: MSCI Europe Index, Japan: Nikkei 225 Index, Brazil: Ibovespa Brazil Sao Paulo Stock Exchange Index, South Korea: KOSPI Composite Index, India: S&P BSE Sensex Index, China: Shanghai Composite Index

# **Market Summary**

### Q1'24: Inflation rebound

#### **Developed market debt**

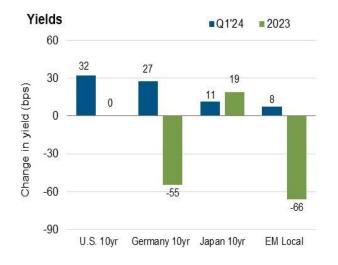
Yields rose broadly across developed markets as inflation remained firm and economic activity robust, particularly in the U.S. While central banks generally held policy rates steady, including in the U.S., U.K., and Europe, dovish remarks from officials bolstered risk sentiment even as investors adjusted expectations for rate cuts in 2024. In Japan, the BoJ hiked rates for the first time in 17 years, ending its negative interest rate policy.

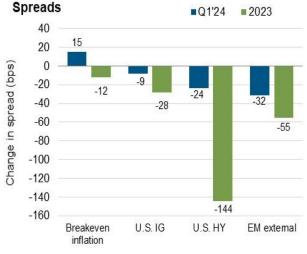
#### Credit

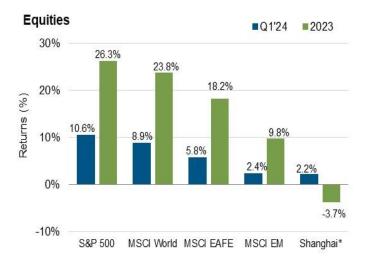
U.S. investment grade credit<sup>1</sup> spreads tightened 8 bps, ending the quarter at 85 bps. The sector returned - 0.41%, outperforming like-duration treasuries by 0.83%. Credit spreads continued to tighten amid strong earnings results and heavy issuance to start the year.

#### **Equities**

Developed market equities<sup>2</sup> rose 8.9% in the first quarter of 2024 driven by optimism around interest rate cuts, easing inflationary pressures, and economic growth.







Source: U.S. 10yr, Germany 10yr, Japan 10yr, Breakeven inflation (Bloomberg); EM local (JPMorgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Composite Yield to Maturity Index); U.S. investment grade credit (Bloomberg U.S. Credit Index); U.S. high yield credit (ICE BofA High Yield Constrained Index); EM external (JPMorgan Emerging Bond Index Global Sovereign Spread); S&P 500 (S&P 500 Total Return Index); MSCI EAFE (MSCI EAFE Net Total Return USD Index); MSCI EM (MSCI Emerging Net Total Return USD Index); \*Shanghai (Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite Index).

1: Bloomberg US Credit Index

2: MSCI World Index

### **Investment implications:**

### Opportune time to consider going active in global fixed income

### Look global

Greater-than-usual focus on bond markets outside of the U.S.

### **Lock in elevated yields**

Intermediate maturities can offer a "sweet spot" with markets expecting cash rates to fall

### **Favor high quality**

Up-in-quality bias in both public and private credit markets

### Go active

Differentiated macro paths present compelling opportunities for active investors

Source: PIMCC

### **Portfolio Outlook**

### Strategic outlook

Higher savings balances and a slower pass-through of monetary policy in the U.S. relative to other developed markets could, in our view, keep inflation above the Fed's 2% target over the cyclical horizon. We still expect the Fed to start normalizing policy at midyear, similar to other DM central banks; however, the Fed's subsequent rate-cutting path could be more gradual. Additionally, we believe that an economic soft landing is achievable, but both recessionary and inflationary risks remain elevated in the aftermath of unprecedented global shocks to supply and demand.

#### **Key strategies**

#### **Equity Exposure: S&P 500 Index**

The strategy seeks to target full exposure to the S&P 500 Index.

#### Bond alpha strategy: Interest rate strategies

Maintain modest exposure to interest rate duration, primarily for tail risk hedging attributes.

Maintain modest long exposure to U.S. TIPS as a hedge against rising inflation.

#### Bond alpha strategy: Spread strategies

Maintain allocations to high quality securitized credit, including non-agency mortgage-backed and ABS, CMBS, CLO bonds.

Increased exposure to agency mortgages as valuations are attractive. These securities provide resilience and downside risk mitigation.

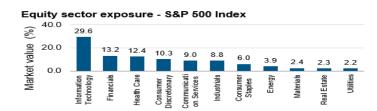
#### Bond alpha strategy: Currency strategies

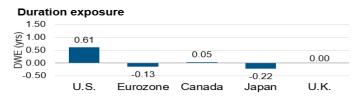
Neutral on the overall direction of the U.S. dollar

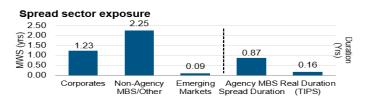
Source: PIMCO

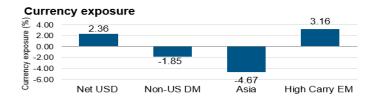
Non-agency may include non-agency mortgage backed securities, asset backed securities, and commercial mortgage backed securities For spread sectors, the relevant spread duration contribution is used

#### **Position**









# **Sector exposure**

		Port	folio		
	% of Mar	ket value	Duration in	years	
	31 Dec '23	31 Mar '24	31 Dec '23	31 Mar '24	
US Government Related	12.54	-23.07	-0.52	-1.21	
Government - Treasury	18.18	21.60	0.57	0.78	
US Agency	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Swaps and Liquid Rates	-5.63	-44.67	-1.09	-1.99	
Securitized*	48.99	53.77	1.25	1.52	
Invest. Grade Credit	22.25	31.88	0.26	0.24	
High Yield Credit	1.34	1.86	0.02	0.01	
Non-USD Developed	9.57	15.24	-0.06	-0.02	
Emerging Markets**	1.80	1.54	0.02	0.02	
Bonds and Other Long Duration Instruments	1.74	1.47	0.02	0.02	
EM Short Duration Instruments	0.06	0.07	-0.00	0.00	
Other***	1.98	2.56	0.00	0.00	
Net Other Short Duration Instruments****	1.53	16.22	0.08	0.01	
Commingled Cash Vehicles	6.16	5.84	0.00	0.01	
Certificate of Deposit/Commercial Paper/STIF	3.01	2.82	0.00	-0.01	
Government Related	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
MBS/ABS	3.54	3.33	0.14	0.11	
Credit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Bankers Acceptance	0.91	0.66	0.00	0.00	
Other***	75.34	66.16	-0.07	-0.07	
Short Duration Derivatives and Derivative Offsets	-54.30	-28.87	0.01	-0.04	
Net Unsettled Trades	-33.14	-33.73	0.00	0.00	
Total	100	100	1.05	0.57	

<sup>\*</sup>Securitized includes Agency MBS, non-Agency MBS, CMBS, ABS, CDO, CLO, and Pooled Funds.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Emerging markets instruments includes an emerging market security or other instrument economically tied to an emerging market country by country of risk with an effective duration less than one year and rated investment grade or higher or if unrated, determined to be similar quality by PIMCO. Emerging Markets includes the value of short duration emerging markets instruments previously reported in another category.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Investment vehicles not listed, allowed by prospectus.

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup>Net Other Short Duration Instruments includes securities and other instruments (except instruments tied to emerging markets by country of risk) with an effective duration less than one year and rated investment grade or higher or, if unrated, determined by PIMCO to be of comparable quality, commingled liquidity funds, uninvested cash, interest receivables, net unsettled trades, broker money and derivatives offset. With respect to certain categories of short duration securities, the Adviser reserves the discretion to require a minimum credit rating higher than investment grade for inclusion in this category.

### **Portfolio characteristics**

### Key rate duration exposure



#### Portfolio (yrs)

	31 Dec '23	31 Mar '24
0-5 yrs	1.09	0.45
5-15 yrs	0.13	0.30
15+ yrs	-0.18	-0.16
Total	1.04	0.59

#### Interest rate exposure

#### Portfolio (yrs)

		10 /
	31 Dec '23	31 Mar '24
Effective duration	1.04	0.58
Bull market duration	0.85	0.24
Bear market duration	1.44	0.88
Spread duration		
Mortgage spread duration	2.02	2.09
Corporate spread duration	0.90	1.34
Emerging markets spread duration	0.07	0.06
Swap spread duration	-1.14	-2.03
Covered bond spread duration	0.09	0.06
Sovereign related spread duration	-	0.00

### Derivative exposure (duration in yrs)

	31 Dec '23	31 Mar '24
Government futures	0.20	0.46
Interest rate swaps	-1.09	-1.99
Credit default swaps*	14.55	24.72
Purchased swaps	0.00	0.00
Written swaps	14.55	24.72
Options	-0.06	-0.05
Purchased options	0.00	-0.04
Written options	-0.06	-0.01
Mortgage derivatives	0.00	0.00
Money market derivatives	0.02	0.01
Futures	0.00	0.00
Interest rate swaps	0.02	0.01
Other Derivatives	0.00	0.00

<sup>\*</sup> Shown as a percentage of market value

# **Country and currency exposure**

Country exposure by currency of settlement

31 Dec '23 31 Mar '24 Duration (yrs) Duration (yrs) FX (%) FX (%) **United States** 1.10 102.10 0.61 102.37 Japan -0.26 0.53 -0.22 0.52 Eurozone -0.15 -0.02 -0.13 0.02 Euro Currency 0.00 -0.02 0.00 0.02 European Union -0.06 0.00 -0.05 0.00 Germany -0.09 0.00 -0.08 0.00 **United Kingdom** 0.01 0.03 0.00 0.02 **Europe non-EMU** 0.08 0.07 0.05 0.02 Denmark 0.08 0.06 0.05 0.01 Sweden 0.00 0.01 0.00 0.01 Switzerland 0.00 0.01 0.00 0.01 **Dollar Block** 0.25 -2.38 0.26 -2.43 Australia 0.25 0.14 0.21 0.04 -0.00 -2.51 -2.47 Canada 0.05 New Zealand -0.00 -0.01 -0.00 -0.01 Other Industrialized -0.01 -2.59 -0.01 -2.71 Countries -0.00 -0.01 -0.00 -0.01 Hong Kong South Korea -0.00 -1.07 -0.00 -1.23 Taiwan -0.00 -1.52 -0.00 -1.48 EM - Asia -0.00 -0.35 0.00 -0.60 China -0.00 -2.02 -0.00 -1.96 India 0.00 1.01 0.00 0.97 Indonesia 0.00 0.67 0.00 0.39 EM - Latin America 1.69 0.01 0.01 1.81 0.00 0.01 0.00 0.01 Argentina Brazil 0.00 0.78 0.00 0.57 0.01 Mexico 0.01 0.89 1.23 **EM - CEEMEA** 0.00 0.92 0.00 0.97 South Africa 0.00 0.93 0.00 0.98 Turkey -0.00 -0.00-0.01 -0.01

100

0.58

100

1.04

Emerging markets exposure by country of risk

	31	Dec '23		31 Mar '24					
	% of MV short duration Instruments	% of MV bonds	Duration (yrs)	% of MV short duration Instruments	% of MV bonds	Duration (yrs)			
Brazil	0.07	0.44	0.00	0.06	0.39	0.00			
China	-0.05	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00			
EM Index Product	0.00	0.85	0.00	0.00	0.79	0.00			
Hungary	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Mexico	0.01	0.19	0.01	0.01	0.18	0.01			
South Africa	0.03	0.13	0.01	-0.01	0.12	0.01			
Total	0.06	1.74	0.02	0.07	1.47	0.02			

Total

# Additional share class performance

PIMCO StocksPLUS® Absolute Return Fund (net of fees performance)

		Maximum												
	Maximum	Deferred												
	Sales	Sales	Gross	Net	Adjusted									
	Charge	Charge	expense	expense	expense	NAV	Class							
Performance periods ended: 31 Mar '24	(Load)	(Load)	ratio	ratio	ratio	currency	Inception date	3 mos.	6 mos.	1 yr.	3 yrs.	5 yrs.	10 yrs.	SI
Class A (at NAV)	3.75	1.00	1.10	-	1.04	USD	31 Jul '03	10.94	24.80	31.02	9.25	13.71	12.11	10.89
Class A (at MOP)	3.75	1.00	1.10	-	1.04	USD	31 Jul '03	6.78	20.12	26.10	7.87	12.85	11.69	10.70
Class C (at NAV)	-	1.00	1.85	-	1.79	USD	31 Jul '03	10.64	24.23	30.02	8.44	12.84	11.28	10.06
Class C (at MOP)	-	1.00	1.85	-	1.79	USD	31 Jul '03	9.64	23.23	29.02	8.44	12.84	11.28	10.06
Class I-2	-	-	0.80	-	0.74	USD	30 Apr '08	11.07	25.01	31.47	9.62	14.06	12.46	11.24
Class I-3	-	=	0.90	0.85	0.79	USD	27 Apr '18	11.06	24.98	31.43	9.59	14.01	12.40	11.19
Class INST	-	-	0.70	-	0.64	USD	28 Jun '02	11.01	25.00	31.48	9.72	14.17	12.56	11.33
S&P 500 Index								10.56	23.48	29.88	11.49	15.05	12.96	10.11

The Net Expense Ratio for the I-3 Class reflects a contractual supervisory and administrative fee waiver and/or expense reduction in place through 31 July 2024 and renews automatically for a full year unless terminated by PIMCO in accordance with the terms of the agreement. See the Fund's prospectus for more information.

The Adjusted Expense Ratio excludes certain investment expenses, such as interest expense from borrowings and repurchase agreements and dividend expense from investments on short sales, incurred directly by the Fund or indirectly through the Fund's investments in underlying PIMCO Funds (if applicable), none of which are paid to PIMCO.

Performance quoted represents past performance. Past performance is not a guarantee or a reliable indicator of future results. Investment return and the principal value of an investment will fluctuate. Shares may be worth more or less than original cost when redeemed. Current performance may be lower or higher than performance shown. For performance current to the most recent month end, visit pimco.com or call 888.87.PIMCO.The maximum offering price (MOP) returns take into account the Class A maximum initial sales charge of 3.75%. The maximum offering price (MOP) returns take into account the contingent deferred sales charge (CDSC) for Class C shares, which for this fund is 1.00%.

Class A shares are subject to an initial sales charge (as a percentage of offering price). A CDSC (as a percentage of the lower of the original purchase price or redemption price) may be imposed in certain circumstances on Class A shares that are purchased without an initial sales charge and then redeemed during the first 12 months after purchase. Class C shares are subject to a CDSC, which may apply in the first year.

For the periods prior to the inception date of a share class, performance information is based on the performance of the Fund's oldest class shares, adjusted to reflect the fees and expenses paid by that class of shares.

# **Important Disclosures**

This material is authorized for use only when preceded or accompanied by the current PIMCO funds prospectus or summary prospectus, if available.

Past performance is not a guarantee or a reliable indicator of future results. The performance figures presented reflect the total return performance, unless otherwise noted, after fees and reflect changes in share price and reinvestment of dividend and capital gain distributions. All periods longer than one year are annualized. Periods less than one year are cumulative. The minimum initial investment for Institutional, I-2, I-3 and Administrative class shares is \$1 million; however, it may be modified for certain financial intermediaries who submit trades on behalf of eligible investors.

There is no assurance that any fund, including any fund that has experienced **high or unusual performance** for one or more periods, will experience similar levels of performance in the future. High performance is defined as a significant increase in either 1) a fund's total return in excess of that of the fund's benchmark between reporting periods or 2) a fund's total return in excess of the fund's historical returns between reporting periods. Unusual performance is defined as a significant change in a fund's performance as compared to one or more previous reporting periods.

Differences in the Fund's performance versus the index and related attribution information with respect to particular categories of securities or individual positions may be attributable, in part, to differences in the pricing methodologies used by the Fund and the index.

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.

A word about risk: In managing the strategy's investments in Fixed Income Instruments, PIMCO utilizes an absolute return approach; the absolute return approach does not apply to the equity index replicating component of the strategy. Absolute return portfolios may not fully participate in strong positive market rallies. Investing in the bond market is subject to risks, including market, interest rate, issuer, credit, inflation risk, and liquidity risk. The value of most bonds and bond strategies are impacted by changes in interest rates. Bonds and bond strategies with longer durations tend to be more sensitive and volatile than those with shorter durations; bond prices generally fall as interest rates rise, and low interest rate environments increase this risk. Reductions in bond counterparty capacity may contribute to decreased market liquidity and increased price volatility. Bond investments may be worth more or less than the original cost when redeemed. Investing in foreign denominated and/or domiciled securities may involve heightened risk due to currency fluctuations, and economic and political risks, which may be enhanced in emerging markets. Mortgage and asset-backed securities may be sensitive to changes in interest rates, subject to early repayment risk, and their value may fluctuate in response to the market's perception of issuer creditworthiness; while generally supported by some form of government or private guarantee there is no assurance that private guarantors will meet their obligations. High-yield, lower-rated, securities involve greater risk than higher-rated securities; portfolios that invest in them may be subject to greater levels of credit and liquidity risk than portfolios that do not. Equities may decline in value due to both real and perceived general market, economic, and industry conditions. Derivatives may involve certain costs and risks such as liquidity, interest rate, market, credit, management and the risk that a position could not be closed when most advantageous. Investing in

Portfolio allocations and other information in the charts in this Quarterly Investment Report are based on the fund's net assets. These percentages may differ from those used for the fund's compliance calculations, including the fund's prospectus, regulatory, and other investment limitations and policies, which may be based on total assets of the fund or other measurements, may include or exclude various categories of investments from those covered in the portfolio allocation categories shown in this report, and may be based on different classifications and measurements of the fund's investments and other criteria. All funds are separately monitored for compliance with prospectus and regulatory requirements.

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# **Important Disclosures**

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.

Forecasts, estimates and certain information contained herein are based upon proprietary research and should not be interpreted as investment advice, as an offer or solicitation, nor as the purchase or sale of any financial instrument. Forecasts and estimates have certain inherent limitations, and unlike an actual performance record, do not reflect actual trading, liquidity constraints, fees, and/or other costs. In addition, references to future results should not be construed as an estimate or promise of results that a client portfolio may achieve.

S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged market index generally considered representative of the stock market as a whole. The Index focuses on the large-cap segment of the U.S. equities market. It is not possible to invest directly in an unmanaged index.

The following defined terms are used throughout the report. Emerging market short duration instruments includes an emerging market security or other instrument economically tied to an emerging market country by country of risk with an effective duration less than one year and rated investment grade or higher or if unrated, determined to be similar quality by PIMCO. Net other short duration instruments includes securities and other instruments (except instruments tied to emerging markets by country of risk) with an effective duration less than one year and rated investment grade or higher or, if unrated, determined by PIMCO to be of comparable quality, commingled liquidity funds, uninvested cash, interest receivables, net unsettled trades, broker money and derivatives offset. With respect to certain categories of short duration securities, the Adviser reserves the discretion to require a minimum credit rating higher than investment grade for inclusion in this category. Short duration derivatives and derivatives offsets include: 1) derivatives with an effective duration less than one year and where the country of risk is not an emerging market country (for example, Eurodollar futures) and 2) offsets associated with investments in futures, swaps and other derivatives. Such offsets may be taken at the notional value of the derivative position which in certain instances may exceed the actual amount owed on such positions. Municipals/Other may include convertibles, preferred and yankee bonds.

The performance figures presented reflect the performance for the institutional class unless otherwise noted.

A note about Sector exposure: Other indicates swaps and securities issued in euros.

A note about Emerging markets exposure by country of risk: country of risk reflects the country of incorporation of the ultimate parent company.

PIMCO uses an internal model for calculating effective duration, which may result in a different value for the duration of an index compared to the duration calculated by the index provider or another third party.

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# **Important Disclosures**

Acronyms and definitions of investment terms used throughout the report:

**Alpha** is a measure of performance on a risk-adjusted basis calculated by comparing the volatility (price risk) of a portfolio vs. its risk-adjusted performance to a benchmark index; the excess return relative to the benchmark is alpha.

**Average coupon** is the average of the coupon payments of the underlying bonds within the portfolio.

Average effective maturity is a weighted average of all the maturities of the bonds in a portfolio, computed by weighting each bond's effective maturity by the market value of the security.

"Bend-but-not-break" refers to credits that PIMCO would not expect to default in a credit-stressed environment.

Beta is a measure of price sensitivity to market movements. Market beta is 1.

Breakeven inflation rate (or expectation) is a market-based measure of expected inflation or the difference between the yield of a nominal and an inflation-linked bond of the same maturity.

**Carry** is the rate of interest earned by holding the respective securities.

The terms "cheap" and "rich" as used herein generally refer to a security or asset class that is deemed to be substantially under- or overpriced compared to both its historical average as well as to the investment manager's future expectations. There is no guarantee of future results or that a security's valuation will ensure a profit or protect against a loss.

**CPI** is the Consumer Price Index.

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/issuers are provided to indicate the credit-worthiness of such issues/issuer and generally range from AAA, Aaa, or AAA (highest) to D, C, or D (lowest) for S&P, Moody's, and Fitch respectively.

**Dividend yield** is represented by the weighted average coupon divided by the weighted average price.

**Duration** is the measure of a bond's price sensitivity to interest rates and is expressed in years.

Effective duration is the duration for a bond with an embedded option when the value is calculated to include the expected change in cash flow caused by the option as interest rates change.

**Forward curve** is a function graph that defines the prices at which a contract for future delivery or payment can be concluded today.

Fallen angel is a bond that was initially given an investment grade rating but has since been reduced to below investment grade status.

GFC is the Global Financial Crisis.

Information ratio is a ratio of portfolio returns above the returns of a benchmark to the volatility of those returns.

**Like-duration Securities** are calculated by the index provider by comparing the index return to a hypothetical matched position in the security.

LNG is Liquefied Natural Gas.

The **Option Adjusted Spread (OAS)** measures the spread over a variety of possible interest rate paths. A security's OAS is the average return an investor will earn over Treasury returns, taking all possible future interest rate scenarios into account. The OAS is the net spread over the swap curve that will on average be earned if the security is held to maturity.

Rising star is the term given to a bond that was rated high yield but has since been upgraded to investment grade.

"Risk assets" are any financial security or instrument that are likely to fluctuate in price.

Risk premia is the return in excess of the risk-free rate of return an investment is expected to yield.

Roll yield is the yield that a futures investor captures as their long position in a futures contract converges to the spot price.

"Safe haven" is an investment that is expected to retain or increase in value during times of market turbulence.

"Safe Spread" is defined as sectors that we believe are most likely to withstand the vicissitudes of a wide range of possible economic scenarios. All investments contain risk and may lose value.

The **SEC yield** is an annualized yield based on the most recent 30 day period. The subsidized yield includes contractual expense reimbursements and it would be lower without those reimbursements. The **Unsubsidized 30 day SEC Yield** excludes contractual expense reimbursements.

Tracking error measures the dispersion or volatility of excess returns relative to a benchmark.

To relate the price sensitivity of ILBs to changes in nominal yields, yield beta is applied to nominal changes to arrive at a price sensitivity of ILBs to changes in nominal rates. A **yield beta** of 0.90 implies that if nominal yields move 100 basis points, real yields will move 90 basis points. ILBs with long maturity may respond differently to changes in nominal rates than shorter maturity ILBs.

The distribution yield for monthly paying Funds is calculated by annualizing actual dividends distributed for the monthly period ended on the date shown and dividing by the net asset value on the last business day for the same period. The distribution yield for quarterly paying Funds is calculated by taking the average of the prior four quarterly distribution yields. The quarterly distribution yields are calculated by annualizing actual dividends distributed for the quarterly period ended on the most recent quarterly distribution date and dividing by the net asset value for the same date. The yield does not include long- or short-term capital gains distributions.

Asset-Backed Security (ABS); Bank of England (BOE); Bank of Japan (BOJ); Breakeven Inflation (BEI); Collateralized Debt Obligation (CDO); Collateralized Loan Obligation (CLO); Commercial Mortgage-Backed Security (CMBS); Developed Markets (DM); Emerging Markets (EM); Federal Reserve Board (The Fed); Europe Central Bank (ECB); Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC); Foreign Exchange (FX); Gross Domestic Product (GDP); Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); High Yield (HY); Inflation-Linked Bond (ILS); Investment Grade (IG); Leveraged-buyout (LBO); Loan-to-Value (LTV); Master Limited Partnership (MLP); Mortgage-Backed Security (MBS); Market Weighted Spread (MWS); Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT); Residential Mortgage-Backed Security (RMBS); Treasury Inflation-Protected Security (TIPS); Year-over-Year (YoY)

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