

# PIMCO Target Return Fund

## PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The PIMCO Target Return Fund (the "Fund") returned 1.17% (Institutional Class, net of fees) in February outperforming the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bills Index by 0.82%. Year-to-date the Fund has returned 2.54% (Institutional Class, net of fees), while the benchmark returned 0.72%.

Tech stocks led a broad market rally fueled by advancements in artificial intelligence, while bond indexes faced challenges as yields rose. The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) met for the first of 8 times this year and decided to hold the cash rate at 4.35%. This decision did not surprise the markets who had priced this in at ~95% probability, however, slightly hawkish comments 'not ruling out rate hikes' did.

### Key Facts

Bloomberg Ticker	PIMTRGR
ISIN	AU60ETL00501
APIR	ETL0050AU
Inception date	06 September 2007
Distribution	Quarterly
Management Fee <sup>1</sup>	0.62% p.a.
Portfolio Managers	Robert Mead, Adam Bowe
Total Net Assets	102.9 (AUD in Millions)

<sup>1</sup>In addition to the Management Fee there may be other fees and costs associated with an investment in this fund. For a detailed explanation on fees and costs please refer to the Product Disclosure Statement.

### Contributors

- Macroeconomic strategies
- Systematic alternative risk premia strategies
- Trend-following strategies

### Detractors

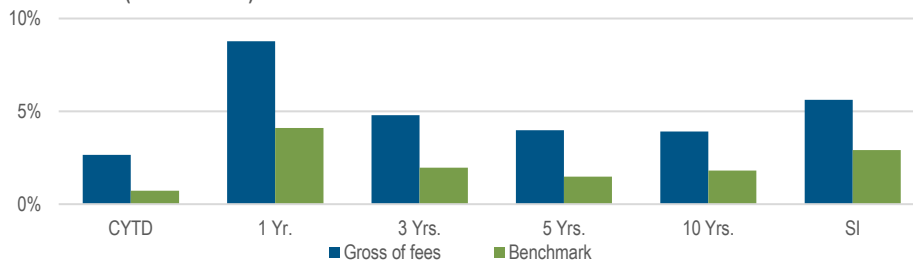
- Australian Credit and Rate Strategies

### Investment Statistics

Fund Duration (yrs)	-1.08
Benchmark Duration (yrs)	0.13
Estimated Yield to Maturity (%) <sup>Ⓢ</sup>	5.40
Average Coupon (%)	3.40
Effective Maturity (yrs)	6.16

<sup>Ⓢ</sup>Yield to Maturity (YTM) is the estimated annual rate of return that would be received if the Fund's current securities were all held to their maturity and all coupons and principal were made as contracted. YTM does not account for fees or taxes. YTM is not a forecast, and is not a guarantee of, the future return of the Fund. The Fund's actual return will depend on a range of factors, including fluctuations in the value of the Fund's securities held from time to time.

Performance (Gross of Fees)



Performance	CYTD	1 mos.	3 mos.	FYTD	1 Yr.	3 Yrs.	5 Yrs.	10 Yrs.	SI
Net of fees (%)	2.54	1.17	3.25	7.27	8.10	4.14	3.33	3.27	4.97
Benchmark (%)	0.72	0.34	1.09	2.88	4.10	1.95	1.47	1.80	2.92
Outerperformance (%)	1.82	0.82	2.16	4.39	3.99	2.19	1.86	1.46	2.05

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results

Returns for periods longer than 1 year are annualised

Net of Fees - Fund performance is quoted net of fees and expenses and assumes the reinvestment of all distributions but does not take into account personal income tax

SI is the performance since inception. Inception date is 06/09/2007

The benchmark is the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bills Index

### Risk Profile

#### 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.

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## PORTFOLIO POSITIONING

The Fund aims to maintain a structural allocation to global macroeconomic and quantitative strategies. Within quantitative strategies, the Fund aims to harness exposures to systematic alternative risk premia and trend-following strategies. The Fund may also be looking to take advantage of idiosyncratic global credit opportunities.

The Fund maintains an allocation to Australian rate and credit strategies made of what we consider to be predominantly high-quality, domestic fixed-interest securities that aim to form a 'bedrock' of absolute return generation sought by the Fund. This allocation also aims to take advantage of PIMCO's directional views on domestic rates.

## MONTH IN REVIEW

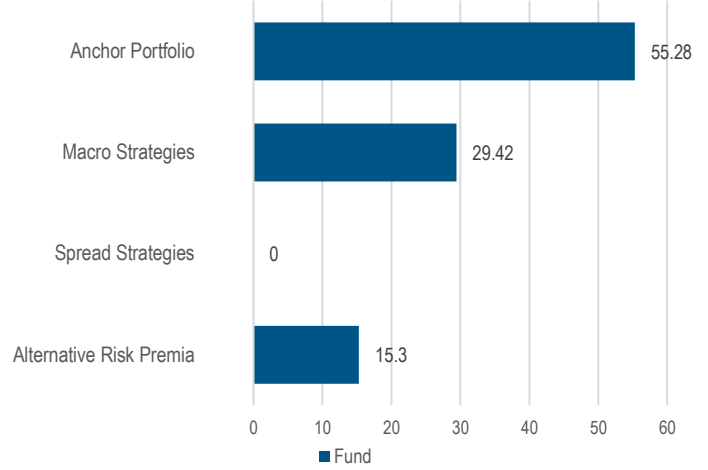
Tech stocks led a broad market rally fueled by advancements in artificial intelligence, while bond indexes faced challenges as yields rose. The U.S. 2y yield rose 41bps to 4.62%, and the U.S. 10y yield rose 34bps to 4.25%. The 10-year Australian Commonwealth Government Bond (ACGB) yields rose 12 bps to 4.14%. The Australian dollar fell 1.08% against the US dollar. In the monetary space, in Australia, the RBA met for the first of 8 times this year and decided to hold the cash rate at 4.35%. This decision did not surprise the markets who had priced this in at ~95% probability, however, slightly hawkish comments 'not ruling out rate hikes' did. The RBA noted in its statement that whilst headline inflation had almost halved from 7.8% over 2022 to 4.1% at the year end, it was still far from the ideal mid 2-3% range and the battle is not yet won. Sticky services inflation, driven by continuing excess demand in the economy and strong domestic cost pressures, remains a lingering concern for the Board. The baseline is that the RBA will need to see enough progress on inflation to begin the easing cycle. The real side of the economy is slowing, with the unemployment rate climbing 20 bps to 4.1% against consensus estimates of 4% and the previous 3.9%. Underemployment also increased, rising to 6.6% with total hours worked falling by -0.5% or -9.6 million hours.

### OUTLOOK AND STRATEGY

Further disinflation and the potential for a faster cutting cycle should, in our view, raise the prospects for a soft landing. However, this is not to say that we believe that the path toward a soft landing is the only possible path. It is our view that the tighter-for-longer strategy that central banks have been communicating along with the strong possibility of stagnation in developed market supply and demand growth leave recession risks elevated.

In this uncertain environment, we favour portfolio flexibility and liquidity to respond to events and potentially take advantage of opportunities.

Sector Allocation (% Market Value)



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**Diversification:** Diversification does not ensure against losses.

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

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**Forecast:** These forecasts are predictive in nature. Actual results may differ materially from these projections.

All periods longer than one year are annualised.

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**Index:** It is not possible to invest directly in an unmanaged index.

**Investment Strategies:** There is no guarantee that these investment strategies will work under all market conditions and each investor should evaluate their ability to invest for a long-term especially during periods of downturn in the market. No representation is being made that any account, product, or strategy will or is likely to achieve profits, losses, or results similar to those shown.

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**Strategy Availability:** Strategy availability may be limited to certain investment vehicles; not all investment vehicles may be available to all investors. Please contact your PIMCO representative for more information.

Interest rate strategies encompass the Fund's duration, yield curve, and convexity strategies.

Benchmark: Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bills Index.

The Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bills Index is an unmanaged index representative of the total return performance of Australian money market securities. It is not possible to invest in an unmanaged index..

Spreads referenced are the average option adjusted spread level as generated by Barclays.