





**Quarterly Investment Report | 1Q24** 

#### **Wholesale Class**

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#### **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

The Fund's interest rate, spread sector, and currency strategies contributed to relative performance over the quarter.

#### CONTRIBUTORS

- Underweight exposure to duration in the U.S., as yields rose.
- Long exposure to U.S. non-agency MBS and high-quality CLOs, as spreads tightened.
- Selection across the coupon stack within U.S. agency MBS.

#### **DETRACTORS**

- Overweight exposure to duration in the U.K., as yields rose.
- Short exposure to the Chinese yuan, as it appreciated against the Australian dollar.
- Underweight exposure to duration in China, as yields fell.

Performance periods ended 31 Mar '24	3 mos.	FYTD	1 yr.	3 yrs.	5 yrs.	10 yrs.	SI
Net of fees (%)	0.30	4.40	4.22	-2.16	0.41	2.84	5.41
Benchmark*	-0.31	2.84	2.53	-2.38	-0.13	2.33	4.96

#### 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.

### Portfolio strategy

- Underweight overall duration: Maintain an underweight to duration in Japan and the U.S. Favour exposure to duration in the dollar bloc (particularly Australia).
- European duration positioning: Broadly neutral to euro bloc duration, focusing on the intermediate section of the curve. Maintain modest overweight to duration in the U.K.
- Spread sector positioning: Emphasize high-quality securitised credit vs. corporate credit. Focus on senior issues of global systemically important banks and other financial services issuers.
- Currency positioning: Continue to seek out diversifying relative value opportunities in select DM and EM currencies.

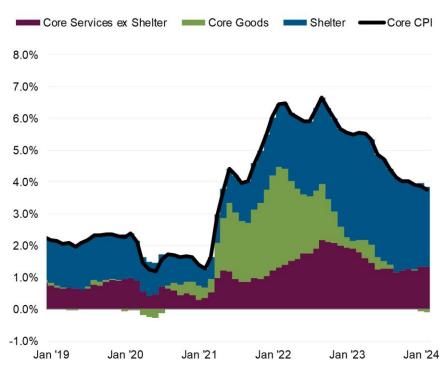
Class: Inception date: Fund assets (in millions)		WHOLESALE 28 Apr '04 AUD7,362.73
Summary information		31 Mar '24
Effective duration (yrs)		5.27
Benchmark duration (yrs)		6.66
Effective maturity (yrs)		6.26
Average coupon		3.94%
Regional exposure	Portfolio	Benchmark
(currency in Dur yrs)	(yrs)	(yrs)
United States	1.87	2.76
Japan	0.24	0.94
Eurozone	1.41	1.45
United Kingdom	0.73	0.33
Europe non-EMU	0.13	0.09
Australia	0.51	0.08
Canada	0.26	0.19
New Zealand	0.08	0.01
Other Industrialized Countries	-0.13	0.12
Emerging markets	0.18	0.03
Total	5.27	6.01
Quality Exposure (MV %	<b>6</b> )	31 Mar '24
AAA		21.97
AA		33.26
A		12.36
BBB		27.98
Sub Investment Grade		4.43
Average Credit Quality		A+

<sup>\*</sup>Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index hedged into AUD

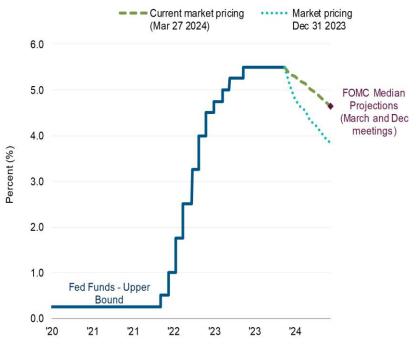
### **Quarter in Review**

### Persistent inflation pushed yields and year-end rate projections higher

A perceived "last mile" problem in the Fed's battle against inflation led bond markets to retrace their Q4'23 rally and bring expectations for 2024 cuts in line with the Fed's dot plot. Risk sentiment remained robust despite the possibility of "higher-for-longer" rates, with the MSCI World finishing the quarter up 9.01% and credit spreads broadly tightening. The Fed paused once again and maintained its forecast for three 25-basis-point rate cuts in 2024. Global developed central banks largely followed suit, with both the ECB and BoE leaving rates on hold. Meanwhile, in Japan, the BoJ raised its policy rate for the first time since 2007, marking the end of negative interest rate policies.



Inflation in the U.S. remained sticky over the quarter, driven by core services, highlighting the "last mile" problem that the Fed is facing in its attempts to return inflation to 2%.



Persistent inflationary pressures saw bond markets retrace their Q4'23 rally, with market pricing now in line with the Fed's median dot plot projection for year end 2024 (which remained unchanged relative to December projections).

Source: Haver Source: Bloomberg

# **Market Summary**

### Q1'24: Inflation rebound

The Fund's interest rate, spread sector, and currency strategies contributed to relative performance over the guarter.

#### **Developed market debt**

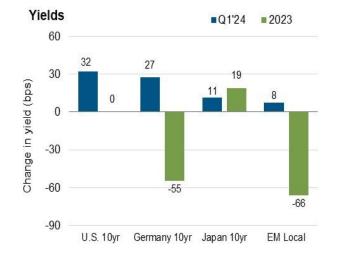
Yields rose broadly across developed markets as inflation remained firm and economic activity robust, particularly in the U.S. While central banks generally held policy rates steady, including in the U.S., U.K., and Europe, dovish remarks from officials bolstered risk sentiment even as investors adjusted 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.

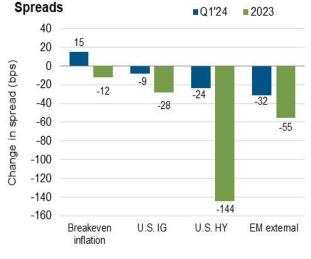
#### Credit

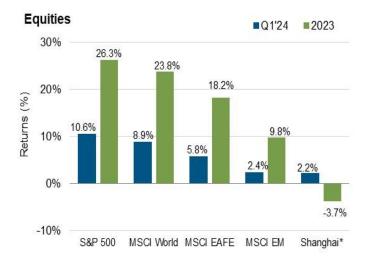
U.S. investment grade credit<sup>1</sup> spreads tightened 8 bps, ending the quarter at 85 bps. The sector returned - 0.41%, outperforming like-duration treasuries by 0.83%. Credit spreads continued to tighten amid strong earnings results and heavy issuance to start the year.

#### **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).

<sup>1:</sup> Bloomberg US Credit Index

<sup>2:</sup> 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**

#### **Interest Rate Strategies**

The Fund is underweight to overall duration with a focus on country, maturity and instrument selection. Focus duration underweight in Japan, given the end to negative interest rate policy, and the U.S., where inflation remains sticky.

#### **European Country Positioning**

The Fund is broadly neutral duration in Europe, instead preferring to express an overweight to duration in the U.K. given its vulnerability to higher yields.

#### **Spread Positioning**

The Fund prefers exposure to senior securitised assets, particularly mortgage-related assets in the U.S. and Europe with strong fundamentals and compelling valuations. Reduce corporate credit underweight through an increase in senior issues of systemically important banks.

#### **Currencies**

Currency strategies continue to act as a diversifying strategy in the portfolio and we seek opportunities in carry and valuation dispersion across countries. Given valuations, we maintain longs to a basket of select developed market, EM Asia, CEEMEA and LatAm countries.

Source: PIMCO

## **Sector exposure**

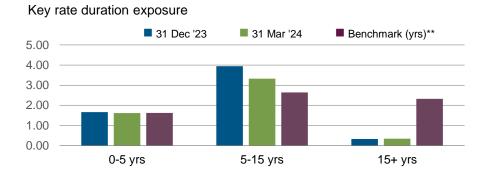
		Portfolio				Benchmark		
	% of Mar	ket value	Duration	in years	% of Market value	Duration in years		
	31 Dec '23	31 Mar '24	31 Dec '23	31 Mar '24	31 Mar '24	31 Mar '24		
Government	42.86	30.06	3.25	2.36	44.37	3.29		
Semi-Gov	0.58	1.60	0.03	0.11	5.20	0.36		
Agency	0.70	0.88	0.03	0.04	3.14	0.15		
IG Corporates	-1.49	3.07	0.31	0.49	17.89	1.09		
Financial	9.52	11.93	0.26	0.43	7.40	0.34		
Industrial	0.78	1.22	0.03	0.05	9.03	0.63		
Utilities	0.11	0.25	0.01	0.01	1.45	0.11		
Other Investment Grade Credit	-11.90	-10.33	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00		
High Yield	0.67	0.49	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00		
Financial	0.24	0.22	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00		
Industrial	0.43	0.27	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Utilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Other High Yield Credit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Securitized*	43.70	44.97	1.75	1.86	13.78	0.78		
Agency Mortgages	30.96	31.76	1.02	1.18	11.03	0.67		
Non-Agency Mortgages	9.15	8.99	0.43	0.43	0.38	0.02		
Asset-Backed Securities	0.17	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00		
Covered Bonds	3.01	3.64	0.28	0.23	2.18	0.10		
Emerging Markets**	7.14	8.16	0.37	0.42	15.58	0.98		
Sovereigns	5.55	5.95	0.26	0.28	9.63	0.70		
Quasi-Sovereigns	0.92	1.55	0.08	0.11	5.17	0.24		
Corporates	0.67	0.67	0.03	0.03	0.78	0.04		
Cash Equiv & Other	5.85	10.77	0.17	-0.02	0.04	0.00		
Total	100	100	5.92	5.27	100	6.65		

Benchmark: Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index hedged into AUD

<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.

### **Portfolio characteristics**



	Portfol	Portfolio (yrs)		
	31 Dec '23	31 Mar '24	31 Mar '24	
0-5 yrs	1.66	1.61	1.62	
5-15 yrs	3.94	3.32	2.64	
15+ yrs	0.32	0.34	2.32	
Total	5.92	5.27	6.58	

#### Interest rate exposure

	Portfol	io (yrs)	Benchmark (yrs)**	
	31 Dec '23	31 Mar '24	31 Mar '24	
Effective duration	5.92	5.27	6.58	
Spread duration				
Mortgage spread duration	1.93	1.98	0.64	
Corporate spread duration	0.18	0.99	1.17	
Emerging markets spread duration	0.37	0.43	1.00	
Swap spread duration	2.88	1.83	0.00	
Covered bond spread duration	0.30	0.25	0.10	
Sovereign related spread duration	0.03	0.10	0.47	

<sup>\*\*</sup>Benchmark duration is calculated by PIMCO
Benchmark: Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index hedged into AUD

# **Country and currency exposure**

Country exposure by country of settlement

, , ,	31 Dec '23		31 Ma	ar '24	Benchmark		
	Duration (yrs)	FX (%)	Duration (yrs)	FX (%)	Duration (yrs)	FX (%)	
United States	2.62	1.49	1.87	4.07	2.76	-0.00	
Japan	0.26	0.83	0.24	0.52	0.94	0.00	
Eurozone	1.37	-0.64	1.41	-0.70	1.45	0.05	
Austria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	
Belgium	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.07	0.00	
European Union	1.12	0.00	1.08	0.00	0.25	0.00	
Finland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	
Euro Currency	0.00	-0.64	0.00	-0.70	0.00	0.04	
France	-0.02	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.32	0.00	
Germany	-0.02	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.28	0.00	
Greece	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	
Ireland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	
Italy	0.17	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.19	0.00	
Luxembourg	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Netherlands	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.07	0.00	
Lithuania	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Portugal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	
Slovakia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	
Slovenia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Spain	0.11	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.14	0.00	
Cyprus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Estonia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Latvia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Malta	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
United Kingdom	0.60	-0.03	0.73	0.02	0.33	0.00	
Europe non-EMU	0.29	0.09	0.13	-0.70	0.09	-0.00	
Czech Republic	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	
Denmark	0.25	0.02	0.10	0.00	0.01	-0.00	
Croatia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Norway	0.00	0.26	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	
Poland	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.49	0.01	0.00	
Sweden	0.00	-0.01	-0.00	-0.47	0.01	0.00	

Benchmark: Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index hedged into AUD

# **Country and currency exposure**

Country exposure by country of settlement

	31 Dec '23		31 Mar '24		Benchmark	
	Duration (yrs)	FX (%)	Duration (yrs)	FX (%)	Duration (yrs)	FX (%)
Switzerland	0.03	-0.50	0.03	-0.73	0.04	-0.00
Dollar Block	0.75	98.35	0.84	97.41	0.28	99.95
Australia	0.46	100.32	0.51	99.90	0.08	99.95
Canada	0.22	-1.99	0.26	-2.51	0.19	-0.00
New Zealand	0.07	0.03	0.08	0.02	0.01	0.00
Other Industrialized Countries	0.11	-2.07	-0.13	-2.41	0.12	-0.00
Chile	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00
Hong Kong	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.00
Israel	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.01	-0.00
Singapore	-0.08	-0.03	-0.22	0.04	0.01	0.00
South Korea	0.19	-0.56	0.08	-1.26	0.10	-0.00
Taiwan	-0.00	-1.52	-0.00	-1.22	0.00	0.00
EM - Asia	-0.07	-0.78	0.18	-1.00	0.64	0.00
China	0.05	-2.47	0.32	-1.98	0.56	0.00
Indonesia	0.00	0.63	0.00	0.41	0.03	0.00
India	-0.03	1.09	0.08	0.98	0.00	0.00
Malaysia	-0.11	-0.03	-0.10	0.02	0.03	0.00
Thailand	0.02	0.00	-0.12	-0.43	0.03	-0.00
EM - Latin America	0.00	2.01	0.00	1.83	0.03	-0.00
Argentina	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Brazil	0.00	0.97	0.00	0.56	0.00	0.00
Colombia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	-0.00
Mexico	0.00	1.03	0.00	1.27	0.02	0.00
Peru	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
EM - CEEMEA	0.00	0.76	0.00	0.96	0.01	0.00
Hungary	-0.00	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hungary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Romania	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South Africa	0.00	0.52	0.00	0.96	0.00	0.00
Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	5.92	100	5.27	100	6.66	100

Benchmark: Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index hedged into AUD

# **Important Disclosures**

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The Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index hedged into AUD is an unmanaged market index representative of the total return performance of major world bond markets on a AUD hedged basis. It is not possible to invest in an unmanaged index.

Portfolio allocations and other information in the charts in this Quarterly Investment Report are based on the fund's net assets.

All \$ amounts referenced are in USD and source citations are PIMCO unless stated otherwise.

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## **Important Disclosures**

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.

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

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.

## **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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