# PIMCO Canadian Total Return Bond Fund

#### PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The PIMCO Canadian Total Return Bond Fund returned -0.15% before fees in February, outperforming the FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index by 0.19%. Year-to-date the Fund has returned -1.28% before fees.

Canadian bond yields continued to rise in February amid better-than-expected inflation and employment data. Similarly in the U.S., the 10-year Treasury rose 34 bps to 4.25% as unexpectedly resilient inflation and strong economic data challenged market expectations of rapid rate cuts. While the Canadian economy did not boast the same level of resilience, as real GDP per capita continues to decline, the Canadian economy did avert a recession unlike other countries in the developed markets as the yield curve broadly flattened in the month.

#### **Fund information**

Fund Inception Date	20 Jan 2011
Strategy	FIXED INCOME, CORE
Total Net Assets CAD (in millions)	\$498.60

#### Contributors

- Relative curve positioning favouring Canadian duration over U.S.
- Exposure to U.S. securitized credit including high quality CMBS, CDOs/CLOs, as well as non-agency RMBS.

#### **Detractors**

Overweight exposure to Canadian duration as rates rose over the period.

## Portfolio Manager

Marc Seidner, Vinayak Seshasayee, Michael Kim, David Braun

#### 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.

#### Month End Performance 29 Feb 2024

1 Yr.

5.48

3.79

# YTD 1 Yr. 3 Yrs. 5 Yrs. 10 Yrs. Since inception -1.28 8.51 -2.25 2.19 3.01 3.51

-2.80

Quarter End Performance 31 Dec 2023

1.30

2.42

2.84

■ PIMCO Canadian Total Return Bond Fund Series I Unit (before management and admin fees)(%)

-1.71

6.69

■ FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index (%)

6 mos.

4.67

3.64

3 mos.

2.42

1.66

Commissions, trailing commissions, management fees and expenses all may be associated with mutual fund investments. Please read the prospectus before investing. The indicated rates of return are the historical annual compounded total returns including changes in unit value and reinvestment of all dividends and does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or optional charges or income taxes payable by any security holder that would have reduced returns. Mutual funds are not guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated.

Performance is net of operating expenses, but does not include management or administrative fees. Management fees for Series I units of a Fund are negotiated and paid directly by the investor, not by the Fund, and will not exceed the Series A management fees of the Fund. Please refer to the prospectus for additional details on applicable fees and expenses.

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.

#### **PORTFOLIO POSITIONING**

Strategies we expect to pursue include:

Interest Rate Strategies – We seek to be dynamic with our duration exposure, seeing relative value opportunities between Canadian and U.S. rates while running a neutral to modestly overweight profile to overall benchmark duration.

**Credit** – We are cautious on generic credit and believe that the recent tightening in credit spreads reduces opportunity and has an asymmetric potential for spreads to widen further. Instead, we believe we can find better opportunities within securitized fixed income, senior global financials, and provincials which offer attractive yields given their level of risk. **Non-Canadian Markets and Currency** – We seek tactical

**Non-Canadian Markets and Currency –** We seek tactical opportunities that provide attractive risk-reward profiles and the ability to diversify sources of return. We are tactically overweight to select emerging market Latin American currencies given their strong technical and fundamental characteristics.

Sector Diversification (Duration%)	
Canada	32.05
Provincial	49.30
Canadian Credit	11.33
Foreign	2.20
High Yield Credit	0.28
Emerging Markets <sup>Ω</sup>	0.15
Canadian Other	4.23
Net Other Short Duration Instrumentsr <sup>II</sup>	0.45

## **MONTH IN REVIEW**

The Canadian yield curve bear flattened in February with the Canadian 2-year rising by 21 bps to end the month at 4.18 percent while the 10-year yield rose by 17 bps to end the month at 3.49 percent. Meanwhile, the Canadian 30-year yield rose by 11 bps to end the month at 3.36 percent.

The FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index returned -0.34 percent overall. Government of Canada bonds and provincials underperformed the index by returning -0.47 percent and -0.60 percent respectively, while corporates outperformed the index returning 0.21 percent. Performance of the index and its subcomponents was largely driven by duration as well as a slight tightening seen in Canadian corporate spread levels. In the month, the Canadian January CPI print was released showing a better-than-expected 2.9 percent year-over-year change, up from 3.4 percent prior. Concurrently, unemployment ticked down in January from the month prior, now at 5.7 percent, outperforming consensus estimates of 5.9 percent. Furthermore, Canadian GDP also outpaced expectations showing a positive 1.0 percent annualized growth rate in Q4 2023, a reversal from the negative print seen in Q3 2023. This is despite the Canadian economy having a lower real GDP per capita through 2023, a stark contrast from the country's U.S. counterparts.

#### **OUTLOOK AND STRATEGY**

We do not see value in taking excessive interest rate risk. We will seek to be neutral to slightly overweight with yields at their current levels

We favour high quality corporate and U.S. securitized credit, and continue to have high conviction in high quality opportunities in global financials in the senior capital structure. We are also beginning to see opportunity to add to Canadian provincials.

PIMCO will seek to maintain duration and tactical currency exposure to countries that have strong fundamentals and offer the potential for higher yield and diversification.

# **FUND STATISTICS**

Effective Duration (yrs)	7.02
Effective Maturity (yrs)	9.83
Sharpe Ratio (10 year)	0.25
Volatility (10 year)	0.05

No offering is being made by this material. Interested investors should obtain a copy of the prospectus, which is available from your Financial Advisor.

<sup>o</sup>Short duration 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.

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"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, short duration derivatives and derivatives offsets. 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. Derivatives Offsets includes offsets associated with investments in futures, swaps and other derivatives. Such offsets may be taken at the notional value of the derivative position.

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

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

The **Sharpe Ratio** measures the risk-adjusted performance. The risk-free rate is subtracted from the rate of return for a portfolio and the result is divided by the standard deviation of the portfolio returns

Volatility is measured by the standard deviation, or dispersion of a set of data from its mean, based on historical portfolio returns. A larger spread of data indicates higher standard deviation and higher volatility.

Past performance is not a guarantee or a reliable indicator of future results. The performance figures presented reflect the total return performance and reflect changes in unit price and reinvestment of dividend and capital gain distributions. All periods longer than one year are annualized. Funds typically offer different series, which are subject to different fees and expenses (which may affect performance), having different minimum investment requirements and are entitled to different services. 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 unitholder redemptions for cash, or hold a comparatively large portion of its portfolio in cash due to significant unit purchases for cash, in each case when the Fund otherwise would not seek to do so, which may adversely affect performance.

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Although the Fund may seek to maintain stable distributions, the Fund's distribution rates may be affected by numerous factors, including but not limited to changes in realized and projected market returns, fluctuations in market interest rates, Fund performance, and other factors. There can be no assurance that a change in market conditions or other factors will not result in a change in the Fund's distribution rate or that the rate will be sustainable in the future.

For instance, during periods of low or declining interest rates, the Fund's distributable income and dividend levels may decline for many reasons. For example, the Fund may have to deploy uninvested assets (whether from purchases of Fund units, proceeds from matured, traded or called debt obligations or other sources) in new, lower yielding instruments. Additionally, payments from certain instruments that may be held by the Fund (such as variable and floating rate securities) may be negatively impacted by declining interest rates, which may also lead to a decline in the Fund's distributable income and dividend levels.



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A word about risk: 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 while generally supported by a government, government-agency or private guarantor, there is no assurance that the guarantor will meet its obligations. High-yield, lower-rated, securities involve greater risk than higher-rated securities; portfolios that invest in them may be subject to general resk and while generally supported by a government, government-agency or private guarantor, there is no assurance that the guarantor will meet its 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. Commodities contain heightened risk, including market, political, regulatory and natural conditions, and may not be appropriate for all investors. Equities may decline in value due to both real and perceived general market, economic and industry conditions. Convertible securities may be called before intended, which may have an adverse effect on investment objectives. Entering into **short sales** includes the potential for loss of more money than the actual cost of the investment, and the risk that the third party to the short sale may fail to honor its contract terms, causing a loss to the portfolio. **Currency rates** may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time and may reduce the returns of a portfolio. **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 derivatives could lose more than the amount invested. The Fund is **non-diversified**, which means that it may concentrate its assets in a smaller number of issuers than a diversified fund.

Portfolio structure is subject to change without notice and may not be representative of current or future allocations.

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 long-term, especially during periods of downturn in the market.

**Duration** is a measure of a portfolio's price sensitivity expressed in years.

FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index is designed to be a broad measure of the Canadian investment-grade fixed income market. Returns are calculated daily, and are weighted by market capitalization, so that the return on a bond influences the return on the index in proportion to the bonds market value. It is intended to be a transparent index, with individual security holdings disclosed electronically each day. The Universe Index is divided into a variety of sub-indexes according to term and credit. The main term subsectors are Short, Mid, and Long. There are four main credit or borrower categories: bonds issued by the Government of Canada (including Crown Corporations), Provincial bonds (including provincially-guaranteed securities), Municipal Bonds, and Corporate Bonds. The Corporate sector is further divided into sub-sectors based on credit rating: a combined AAA/AA sector, a single-A sector, and a BBB sector. It is not possible to invest directly in an unmanaged index.

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For more information about the risk rating and specific risks that can affect the fund's returns, see the "What are the Risks of Investing in the Fund?" section of the fund's simplified

prospectus.
Commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS); Collateralized Debt Obligations (CDOs); Collateralized Loan Obligations (CLOs); Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities (RMBS); References to Agency and non-agency mortgage-backed securities refer to mortgages issued in the United States.