# PIMCO Flexible Global Bond Fund (Canada)

### PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The PIMCO Flexible Global Bond Fund (Canada) returned 1.18% before fees in March, outperforming the Bloomberg Global Aggregate (CAD Hedged) Index by 0.32%. Year-to-date the Fund has returned 0.50% before fees.

Equity markets continued their upward trajectory, while bond indices modestly rose as several global central banks sent dovish signals to the market. U.S. credit spreads tightened, and developed sovereign bond yields fell, while the dollar strengthened. In the U.S., the 10-year Treasury fell 5 bps to 4.20% as the Federal Reserve reaffirmed its expectation of three rate cuts in 2024. In Germany, the 10-year Bund yield fell 11 bps to 2.30%. In the U.K., 10-year Gilt yields fell 19 bps to 3.93%, while 10-year Japanese government bond yields rose 2 bps to 0.73%

Fund information				
Fund Inception Date	20 Jan 2011			
Strategy	FIXED INCOME, FOREIGN /			

GLOBAL
Total Net Assets CAD (in millions) \$241.31

#### Contributors

- Exposure to the Canadian cash rate, as a source of income.
- Long exposure to duration in the dollar bloc, as yields fell.
- Long exposure to duration in the euro bloc, as yields fell.

#### **Detractors**

 Curve positioning in Japanese rates, as the intermediate section of the curve outperformed.

## Portfolio Manager

Sachin Gupta, Andrew Balls, Pramol Dhawan

## 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 31 Mar 2024			Quarter End Performance 31 Mar 2024						
	3 mos.	6 mos.	1 Yr.	YTD	1 Yr.	3 Yrs.	5 Yrs.	10 Yrs.	Since inception
	0.50	6.09	5.63	0.50	5.63	0.82	2.44	3.20	3.81
	-0.14	5.52	3.33	-0.14	3.33	-1.70	0.40	1.97	2.72

- PIMCO Flexible Global Bond Fund (Canada) Series I Unit (before management and admin fees)(%)
- Bloomberg Global Aggregate (CAD Hedged) Index (%)

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**

The Fund is long overall duration with a focus on country, maturity and instrument selection. We are long duration in aggregate in Europe, where we maintain our preference for the intermediate section of the curve. We maintain long exposure to duration in the U.K. and dollar bloc, and have reduced our long in the U.S. The Fund has short exposure to duration in Japan, where the central bank recently ended its negative interest rate policy, and to a lesser extent in China.

We are more constructive on corporate credit given a relatively resilient macro backdrop, but remain cautious in our overall spread exposure given tight valuations. We favor senior securitized assets, like non-agency mortgages, but have also pivoted to long exposure to non-financials. We maintain a long to financials, particularly senior issues from global systemically important banks. We maintain exposure to U.S. TIPS as valuations are attractive. Within sovereign spread strategies, we continue to hold high quality EM external debt, focusing exposure in Eastern Europe where spreads widened following the Russian invasion.

We find relative value in select EM currencies while maintaining long exposure to select DM currencies with compelling yields dynamics. We maintain short exposure to select Asian currencies, particularly CNY and TWD.

Sector Allocation (% Duration Weighted Exposure)		
Government Related	58.17	
Inflation Linked	3.19	
Securitized <sup>†</sup>	31.50	
Covered Bonds and Pfandbriefe	4.05	
Investment Grade Credit	23.81	
High Yield Credit	0.20	
Municipals	0.55	
EM External	9.46	
EM Local	-22.62	
$Other^{\Delta}$	0.00	
Net Other Short Duration Instrumentsr <sup>tt</sup>	-8.31	

### **MONTH IN REVIEW**

Equity markets continued their upward trajectory, while bond indices modestly rose as several global central banks sent dovish signals to the market. U.S. credit spreads tightened, and developed sovereign bond yields fell, while the dollar strengthened. In the U.S., the 10-year Treasury fell 5 bps to 4.20% as the Federal Reserve reaffirmed its expectation of three rate cuts in 2024. In Germany, the 10-year Bund yield fell 11 bps to 2.30%. In the U.K., 10-year Gilt yields fell 19 bps to 3.93%, while 10-year Japanese government bond yields rose 2 bps to 0.73%.

Sovereign rate strategies contributed to absolute performance over the month, primarily from long exposure to duration in the dollar bloc and euro bloc.

Spread sector strategies contributed to absolute performance over the month, primarily from long exposure to senior financials and non-financials within investment grade corporate credit. Currency strategies contributed to absolute performance over the month, primarily from exposure to the Canadian cash rate.

<b>Top 10 Country Exposure (Duration</b>	າ %)
United States	36.68
United Kingdom	28.00
Australia	24.06
Euro Currency	23.57
Canada	14.96
New Zealand	6.02
France	-8.05
Singapore	-8.08
China	-8.28
Japan	-16.88

#### **OUTLOOK AND STRATEGY**

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.

In this uncertain environment, we favor portfolio flexibility and liquidity to respond to events and potentially take advantage of opportunities. We are long duration in the Fund, specifically in the belly of the curve given valuations. From a country relative value standpoint, we have favored taking duration in the U.K and dollar bloc countries vs. Japan. We hold exposure to select emerging market currencies (INR, IDR, PLN, BRL, MXN, TRY) based on valuations.

In spread sectors, we continue to be selective within corporate credit, favoring senior issues from global systemically important banks. We remain focused on securitized assets, such as U.S. non-agency mortgages, which we believe offer defensive qualities in addition to reasonable risk premia for liquidity, complexity, and uncertainty over the timing of cash flows.

## **FUND STATISTICS**

Effective Duration (yrs)	2.96
Effective Maturity (yrs)	2.42
Sharpe Ratio (10 year)	0.48
Volatility (10 year)	0.04

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

"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.

The Securitized bucket will include Agency MBS, nonAgency MBS, CMBS, ABS, CDO, CLO, and Pooled Funds.

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



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.

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.

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 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 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.

Bloomberg Global Aggregate (CAD Hedged) Index provides a broad-based measure of the global investment-grade fixed income markets. The three major components of this index are the U.S. Aggregate, the Pan-European Aggregate, and the Asian-Pacific Aggregate Indices. The index also includes Eurodollar and Euro-Yen corporate bonds, Canadian Government securities, and USD investment grade 144A securities. It is not possible to invest directly in an unmanaged index.

The PIMCO Global Advantage Bond Index (GLADI) (CAD, Partially Hedged) (NY Close) is a diversified global index that covers a wide spectrum of global fixed income opportunities and sectors, from developed to emerging markets, nominal to real asset, and cash to derivative instruments. Unlike traditional indices, which are frequently comprised of bonds weighted according to their market capitalization, GLADI uses GDP-weighting which puts an emphasis on faster-growing areas of the world and thus makes the index forward-looking in nature. PIMCO's GLADI methodology is intellectual property covered by U.S. Patent No. 8,306,892. GLOBAL ADVANTAGE and GLADI are trademarks of Pacific Investment Management Company I.I.C. It is not possible to invest directly in an unmanaged index. Company LLC. 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.

References to agency and non-agency mortgage-backed securities refer to mortgages issued in the United States.

Emerging Market (EM); Mortgage-backed securities (MBS); Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS)

Australian dollar (AUD); Brazilian real (BRL); Canadian dollar (CAD); Chinese yuan (CNY); Hungarian forint (HUF); Indian rupee (INR); Indonesia rupiah (IDR); Japanese yen (JPY);

Mexican peso (MXN); Norwegian krone (NOK); Polish zloty (PLN); Taiwanese dollar (TWD); Turkish lira (TRY)