

December 2021

Marketing communication For professional investors only

Fund Managers Names

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Macro backdrop

The ICE BofA Global High Yield Constrained Index (hedged to US dollars) delivered a total return of 1.4% (and excess returns of 1.8%) in December, with credit spreads tightening. This takes the annual total and excess return to 3% and 4.3% respectively. US high yield was the outperformer in December on an excess return basis, followed by European then emerging-market equivalents, though all regions delivered positive excess returns (versus government debt).

While the start of the month saw some countries increase restrictions in response to the Omicron variant of Covid-19, early evidence suggested the variant is less potent than previous Covid-19 strains and we saw spreads tighten and recover some of November's losses. Positive market sentiment drove high yield spreads tighter, with investors absorbing a hawkish turn generally from central banks, which was further aided by reduced supply and the typical 'Santa rally'. However, China continued to underperform, driven largely by ongoing weakness in the property sector and exacerbated by rising Omicron cases (and the associated lockdowns and industrial disruption).

In terms of ratings, at the index level, BB-rated bonds outperformed, followed by B-rated then CCC-rated bonds and lower.

Fund performance and activity

The fund delivered a positive return in December and outperformed its benchmark with the fund's overweight beta position versus the index beneficial to relative returns.

At the sector level, areas of the market where the fund was overweight risk relative to the index, such as basic industry, health care and services, contributed positively to performance.

While security selection detracted marginally overall, there were no significant single-name losses. Instead, the small negatives were a result of positioning in China and Europe. In Europe, the overweight position to Thyssenkrupp and underweight position to Telecom Italia weighed marginally. Within our Chinese holdings, overweights to Sunac and Kaisa Group detracted given ongoing weakness in the Chinese property sector. However, the fund was underweight risk to the Chinese property sector overall and this positioning added to returns

On the positive side, overweight positions to energy names such as Occidental Petroleum and Southwestern Energy contributed, as did an overweight to Lenzing in the basic industry sector.





Outlook/strategy

The fund remains positioned with an overweight risk stance versus the benchmark, reflecting our expectation for global high yield to deliver small positive excess returns in the near term. The fund remains overweight the US driven by a fundamental preference for this region at the top-down level combined with our bottom-up decisions. The fund is approximately flat risk in the emerging markets and other areas, and underweight Europe.

While high inflation versus historical levels remains prevalent, we continue to believe inflationary pressures should normalise over the long term. On a historical basis, high yield has typically outperformed other fixed income assets and equities in periods of rising inflation, and therefore is a useful diversification tool within fixed income or multi-asset portfolios.

Despite global high yield valuations being less attractive given the tightening in spreads experienced in December, attractive single-name opportunities remain and the significant issuance expected this year should provide other alpha generating opportunities in our view.

We remain constructive on the fundamental and technical backdrop, which ultimately drives our favourable view of high yield. Default expectations for 2022 are historically very low and recovery rates are high, while credit quality is improving and growth remains positive. The technical tailwind in high yield persists, with the hunt for yield prevalent, and the existence of high volumes of negative-yielding assets and global central bank policy being well-communicated. Overall, we continue to believe the supportive technical and fundamental landscape will drive a further small tightening in high yield credit spreads in the near term.

Source: Janus Henderson Investors, as at 31 December 2021



Fund information

Index ICE BofA Global High Yield Constrained Index (100% Hedged)

Morningstar sector Europe OE Global High Yield Bond

Objective The Fund aims to provide an income with the potential for capital growth over the long term.

Performance target To outperform the ICE BofA Global High Yield Constrained Index (100% Hedged) by 1.75% per

annum, before the deduction of charges, over any 5 year period.

Performance in (USD)

Performance %	H2 (Net)	Index	Sector	Quartile ranking	H2 (Gross)	Target (Gross)
1 month	1.5	1.4	1.6	2nd	-	-
YTD	0.8	3.0	2.4	4th	-	-
1 year	0.8	3.0	2.4	4th	-	-
3 years (annualised)	8.3	7.9	6.6	1st	-	-
5 years (annualised)	6.2	5.9	4.8	1st	7.2	7.7
10 years (annualised)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Since inception 19 Nov 2013 (annualised)	6.4	5.7	3.6	-	7.5	7.6

Source: at 31 Dec 2021. © 2022 Morningstar. All rights reserved, performance is with gross income reinvested. Performance/performance target related data will display only where relevant to the share class inception date and annualised target time period.

Discrete year performance %	H2 (Net)	Index	Sector	H2 (Gross)	Target (Gross)
31 Dec 2020 to 31 Dec 2021	0.8	3.0	2.4	1.6	4.8
31 Dec 2019 to 31 Dec 2020	6.6	6.5	5.3	7.4	8.3
31 Dec 2018 to 31 Dec 2019	18.3	14.5	12.4	19.5	16.5
31 Dec 2017 to 31 Dec 2018	-1.8	-1.9	-3.7	-1.0	-0.2
31 Dec 2016 to 31 Dec 2017	8.5	8.0	8.1	9.7	9.9

Source: at 31 Dec 2021. © 2022 Morningstar. All rights reserved, performance is with gross income reinvested. Discrete performance data may change due to final dividend information being received after quarter end.

Source for target returns (where applicable) – Janus Henderson. Where quartiles are shown, 1st quartile means the share class is ranked in the top 25% of share classes in its sector.

Please note the performance target is to be achieved over a specific annualised time period. Refer to the performance target wording within the objective.

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For further information on the Luxembourg-domiciled Janus Henderson fund range please contact your local sales office or visit our website: www.janushenderson.com.

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