

Fullerton Asian Bond Fund - Class B (SGD)

April 2024

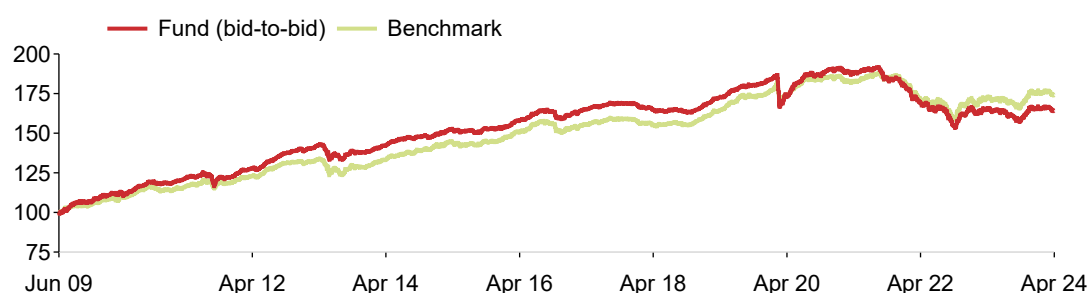
Investment Objective

The investment objective of the Fund is to generate long term capital appreciation for investors by investing all or substantially all of its assets in Fullerton Lux Funds – Asian Bonds (the “Underlying Fund”), a sub-fund of Fullerton Lux Funds.

Investment Focus and Approach

The Managers intend to invest in the Class I - USD share class of the Underlying Fund, which is denominated in US\$. The investment objective of the Underlying Fund is to generate long term capital appreciation for investors. The Managers, who also act as the investment manager of the Underlying Fund, seek to achieve the objective of the Underlying Fund by investing in fixed income or debt securities denominated primarily in USD and Asian currencies, issued by companies, governments, quasi-governments, government agencies or supranationals in the Asian region. The Asian countries include but are not limited to China (including Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan), South Korea, India, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Pakistan and Vietnam.

Performance (%)



	1 mth	3 mths	6 mths	1 yr	3 yrs	5 yrs	10 yrs	SI. Ann. Ret.	SI. Ann. Vol.
Fund (bid-to-bid)	-1.41	-1.12	3.93	-0.51	-4.37	-0.98	1.46	3.39	4.78
Fund (offer-to-bid)	-4.28	-4.00	0.90	-3.40	-5.31	-1.56	1.16	3.18	NA
Benchmark	-1.42	-1.00	4.57	1.17	-1.49	1.16	2.73	3.80	4.19

Returns of more than 1 year are annualised. Returns are calculated on a single pricing basis in SGD with net dividends and distributions (if any) reinvested. Offer-to-bid returns include an assumed preliminary charge of 3% which may or may not be charged to investors.

Benchmark: JACI Investment Grade Total Return – SGD Hedged Index, with effect from 8 May 2010.

Note: The Fund will accrue management fee rebates on a daily basis with effect from 4 September 2012.

Source: Fullerton Fund Management Company Ltd, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and Bloomberg.

Market Review

Asian credits ended the month lower, according to the JP Morgan Asian Credit Index. Both the investment-grade and high-yield sectors experienced declines, with the former showing relatively more weakness compared to the latter. This underperformance can be attributed to duration-related losses, particularly as US Treasury yields surged throughout the month. Despite all that, Asia credit spreads were little changed, once again reflecting the strong technical support and search for yield motives amongst investors.

Strong US CPI, robust payrolls, resilient retail sales, helped propel US treasury yields higher in April. Yields across the US Treasury yield curve reached YTD highs during the month, as the resilience of the US economy has seen the market push out expectations of Fed rate cuts. Market-implied expectations for Fed policy for 2024 started the month at 70bps but plummeted to less than 30bps by month end. The US 10-year yields closed the month at 4.7%, marking a substantial increase of 48 basis points compared to the previous month. Conversely, US Treasuries experienced intermittent support during the month from safe-haven demand amid escalating conflict in the Middle East and strong demand observed in certain auctions.

Regarding sectors, financials, infrastructure, and metals and mining sectors demonstrated stronger performance, whereas real estate, diversified, and TMT (Technology, Media, and Telecommunications) sectors lagged. Country-wise, Pakistan and Vietnam recorded gains, while the rest of the countries delivered losses, led by Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Malaysia which were the worst performers.

Inception date

08 Jun 2009

Fund size

SGD 9.52 million

Base Currency

USD

Pricing Date

30 Apr 2024

NAV*

SGD 1.64

Management fee

0.9% p.a.

Expense Ratio

0.98% p.a. (For financial year ended 31 Mar 2023)

Minimum Initial Investment

None (effective 1 Apr 2010)

Minimum Subsequent Investment

None (effective 1 Apr 2010)

Preliminary Charge

Up to 3%

Dealing day

Daily, up to 5pm (Singapore time)

Bloomberg Code

FULLABB SP

ISIN Code

SG9999006118

The Fund is available for SRS subscription.

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* Figures have been truncated to 2 decimal places. The official price is published on Fullerton's website.

Investment Strategy

Since the beginning of the year, market expectations for central bank policy rates have been significantly recalibrated, now forecasting a less aggressive easing trajectory through the end of 2024. This reevaluation largely coincides with diminishing recession concerns, as economic activity has displayed surprising resilience. However, with robust growth, there exists the ongoing concern that inflation levels may persist. Consequently, we have adjusted our projections for the Fed's first rate cut to later this year, though we maintain that immediate rate increases are not on the table for the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), which considers current policy restrictive. The Committee still anticipate a moderation in inflation, consistent with our own projections, but this moderation is taking longer to materialise than previously thought.

Elsewhere, the recent Politburo meeting in China has set a positive policy tone by committing to accelerating government bond issuances and increasing fiscal spending. Monetary policy easing is expected to be modest, serving as a complementary measure to facilitate the absorption of government bonds. Furthermore, while the Politburo acknowledges the stronger-than-expected first-quarter GDP figures, it remains cognisant of the challenges facing China's recovery, including insufficient domestic demand, latent risks in certain sectors, and external uncertainties. This suggests that policymakers are mindful of the headwinds to growth and are unlikely to prematurely withdraw policy support. On the other hand, unless China's growth target of "around 5%" is significantly off track, policymakers may not feel compelled to intensify easing measures in the near future.

From a portfolio strategy perspective, periods of higher yields present an opportunity to extend duration, potentially resulting in more favourable risk-reward outcomes. In line with this approach, we have gradually extended our portfolio's duration profile since the beginning of the year. Recently, we utilised bond futures to hedge out some of our duration risk, moving to a relative underweight duration position while maintaining exposure to spread risk. Regarding the yield curve, we are overweight in the long-end and very short-end, but underweight in the belly of the curve. In parallel, we participated in primary markets for issuers with attractive pricing. These investments have been financed by trimming existing holdings that appear overvalued. Additionally, we continue to seek favourable entry points to enhance our exposure in the high-yield sector, particularly in entities where our analysts have a constructive outlook.

Geographical Breakdown

Australia	5.1%
China	22.8%
Hong Kong	6.6%
India	13.2%
Indonesia	13.7%
Japan	4.1%
Korea	11.3%
Macau	3.2%
Malaysia	2.2%
Philippines	4.7%
Singapore	3.6%
Thailand	2.2%
UK	3.6%
Others	2.7%
Cash and cash equivalents	0.8%

Top 5 Holdings

Lendlease US Capital Inc 4.5% May 2026	1.2%
Gohl Capital Ltd 4.25% Jan 2027	1.2%
Hyundai Capital Services 2.125% Apr 2025	1.1%
CDB Financial Leasing 2.875% Sep 2030	1.1%
Kyobo Life Insurance Co 5.9% Jun 2052	1.0%

Rating Breakdown

AA	0.8%
A	17.3%
BBB	62.0%
BB	14.3%
B	4.8%
Cash and cash equivalents	0.8%

Fund Characteristics

Average duration (years)	4.6
Yield to Worst	5.9%

Credit Rating : Where the security is not rated by external rating agencies, Fullerton's internal rating methodology will apply.

Yield to Worst (YTW): Refers to YTW in base currency. Not guaranteed. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance. Data is based on the Underlying Fund.

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The source of the JACI Investment Grade Total Return – SGD Hedged Index is J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, the Index Sponsor. Prior to 1 October 2012, the benchmark was computed by the Managers derived from JACI Investment Grade Total Return Index. The source was changed retrospectively from 8 May 2010.

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