

BGF China Bond Fund

BlackRock®

October 2024

Key figures at a glance

2024 YTD performance: 5.83%*

Performance: Net of fees in the A2 CNH share class, the portfolio returned +0.29%* in October.

▲ **Offshore:** Offshore saw a positive return driven by carry and credits, while rates detracted from performance.

▲ **Onshore:** Onshore performance was positive, driven by carry and rates, while credit performance was muted.

Key performance contributors were offshore rates hedge, local government related, and onshore rates and convertibles. On the other hand, offshore rates detracted from performance, but our rates hedges have helped to mitigate some of the negative performance.

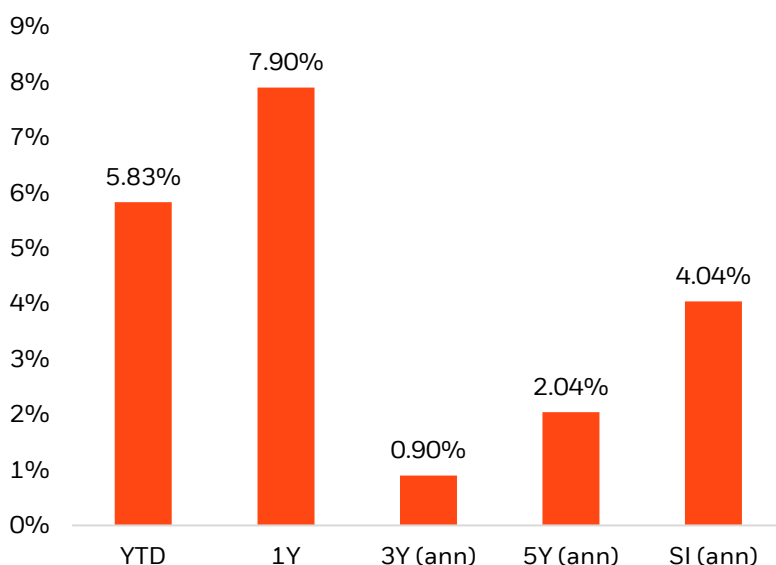
Positioning: In onshore, we kept 43% balanced across rates bond, financials, and corporate credits. We prefer short-dated credit bonds (2-3 year). We have recently added good quality bank tier 2 papers post market correction. In offshore, we kept 57% in exposure with 12% from CNH bonds, liking short-dated HY bonds with attractive carry and adding CNH bonds with attractive valuations supported by strong demand from onshore buyers. The portfolio's USD spread duration contribution is around 0.9 years.

▲ **Favoured:** Supportive policies and supply trends continue to be bullish for China fixed income which we remain constructive with a focus on diversification.

▲ **Cautious:** We remain cautious in the property sector, where we are selective in high quality SOE developers, while having minimal exposure to distressed names that have limited downside.

Performance Summary* (%)

A2 CNH Share class Net Returns



1st Quartile ranking by Morningstar RMB Bond since inception

Recent Awards

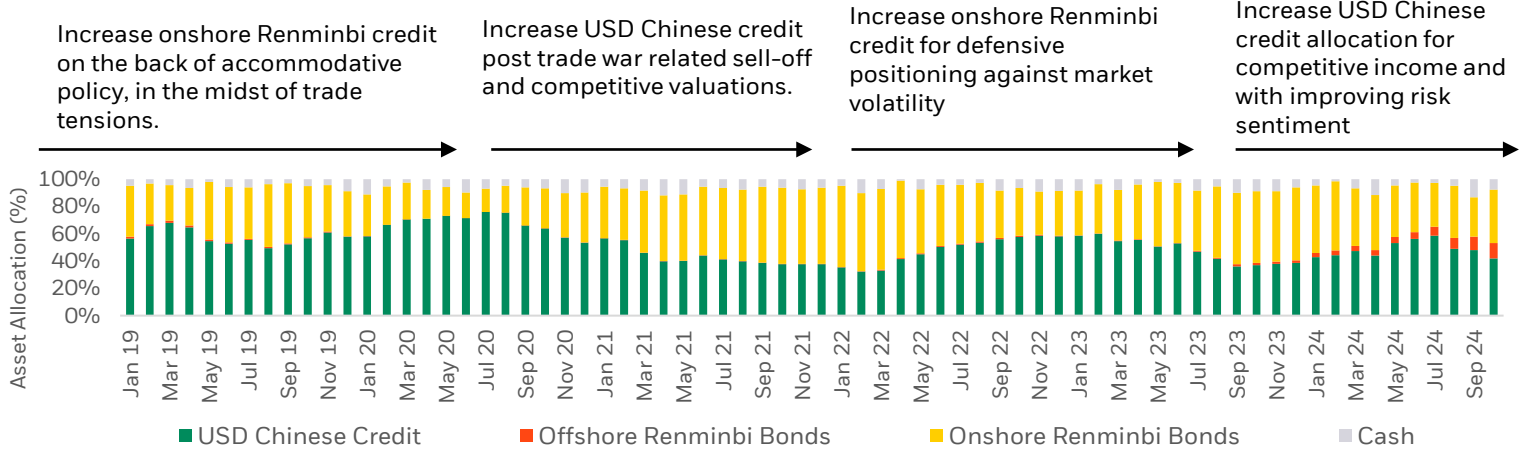
- 2022 Golden Bull Award**
3-year Overseas China Fixed Income Fund (4th consecutive win)
- 2022 Asian Private Banker Asset Management Awards for Excellence**
Best Fund Provider
- 2022 Refinitiv Lipper Fund Awards Hong Kong**
Winner over 3, 5, & 10 years
- 2022 Fund Selector Fund Awards**
Platinum (Highest Award)
- 2021 Golden Bull Award**
3-year Overseas China Fixed Income Fund (3rd consecutive win)
- 2021 Asian Private Banker Asset Management Awards for Excellence**
Best Fund Provider
- 2021 Refinitiv Lipper Fund Awards**
Winner over 3 & 5 years

*The fund's performance with maximum 5% sales charge applied: -4.72% (1 month), 0.54% (year-to-date), 2.50% (1-year), -0.81% (3-year), 1.00% (5-year), 3.63% (since inception). Performance for A2 CNH share class, net in CNH on a NAV pricing with income reinvested as at 31 October 2024 and assumed a 5% Front End Load where indicated. Source: BlackRock and Morningstar as at 31 October 2024. A2 CNH share class inception date: 11 Nov 2011. The figures shown relate to past performance. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future results and should not be the sole factor of consideration when selecting a product or strategy. Morningstar rating should not be seen as any sort of guarantee or assessment of the creditworthiness of a fund or of its underlying securities and should not be used as the sole basis for making any investment decision.

Outlook and Positioning

Balanced allocation between the onshore and offshore markets.

Historical Asset Allocation across Chinese Onshore and Offshore Bond Markets



Source: BlackRock, 31 October 2024

As of end October, the fund has 43% in onshore and 57% in offshore. In the offshore space, we continue to increase CNH allocation, mainly through offshore LGFV sector, given the attractive relative valuation and yield pick-up. Given spreads compression in offshore credits, we took some profit in the USD credits space. We also think that near term risk events like US elections and Middle East tensions may continue to increase market volatility, hence we think it is prudent to take some chips off the table. We increased our allocation to onshore after the spread widening in the end of September as all-in yield looks increasingly attractive in onshore. We particularly like financials and central government related sector as the latest fiscal measures provides strong supports.

We are defensively positioned while capturing opportunities

Key Portfolio Statistics	
NAV	CNH 17,835 million
Duration	2.26 years
Rating	BBB-
No. of issuers	365
No. of holdings	624
Inception	11 Nov 2011
Annual management fee	0.75%

Data as of 31 October 2024

Keep market beta risk low

- Average Investment Grade (IG) rating for a balance of income and quality
- Kept credit beta low offshore by keeping to the shorter end with USD spread duration at 0.9 years

Yield arbitrage between onshore and offshore markets

- Adjust allocation between onshore and offshore depending on market conditions and relative valuation opportunities. E.g. we moved some allocation onshore prior to the Silicon Valley Bank episode in Q1 2023 based on valuation considerations and benefitted from onshore outperformance amid volatility and in 2024 H1 we have reallocated to offshore credit due to attractive valuation and technical support and currently we remain overweight in the offshore market. Post market correction, we will take opportunity to add onshore credit as all-in yield is more appealing,

Dynamic duration management

- We remain agile in our duration management, actively adjusting our CNY and USD duration in response to evolving market conditions. In CNY duration, we think current CGB level is attractive and increased CNY duration to 1.7year. We think short-end CGB will continue to be supported with policy easing expectation. To hedge against geopolitical risks following Trump's win, we have recently extended the CNY duration through 30-year CGBs. For dollar duration, October economic data prints in the US continue to show resilience, reflecting robust underlying economic momentum, further reducing the possibility of an aggressive rates cut this year. Recent increases in Trump's election odds also put pressure in the UST curve. We prefer to stay cautious to USD duration and hence cut our USD duration to 0.2 years.

Allocation to onshore and strategically important names

- Expect monetary policy to be accommodative, and onshore to remain as a stable carry, Looking to add onshore allocation for appealing all-in yield.

Selective and diversified positioning in China property

- In property, we continue to focus on SOE developers and a select few strong POE developers. We prefer those with better asset quality, low near-term redemption pressure, strong funding access and small off-balance-sheet obligations. We think government tone has shown more urgency in resolve property slump with more targeted policies being rolled out. The latest rounds of easing reflect stronger determination from authorities to ensure stable sectoral development, but we think execution remains the key. We remain selective and continue to prefer a barbell strategy, with most positions in higher quality survivors to capture potential upside, while holding some distressed credits with limited downside for potential recovery. Finally, we continue to have a balanced allocation across onshore and offshore to diversify risk. As more target policies being rolled out, we took the opportunity to add some POE issuers that offer good upside convexity. As of end October 2024, the portfolio has 4.1% in exposure to China Property, with a mix of 1.0% in IG and 3.1% in HY, and a balance of 1.7% onshore vs 2.4% offshore.

Important information

Source: BlackRock, as of 31 October 2024. The figures shown relate to past performance. Past Performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future results and should not be the sole factor of consideration when selecting a product or strategy. The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. Fund launch date: November 11th, 2011 Based on the A2 CNH share class. Fund performance figures are calculated net of fees and are NAV to NAV with income reinvested. The Fund was restructured from Renminbi Bond Fund to BGF China Bond Fund on Dec 8th, 2017 with the ability to invest onshore. The performance shown was based on the Renminbi Bond fund performance before Dec 8th, 2017 and the BGF China Bond Fund after Dec 8th 2017. The return may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. Suanjin Tan founded the fund in 2011, left in 2016, and rejoined as a fund manager starting Oct 2021.

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