

Fidelity Funds – Asian Bond Fund

31 July 2024

For existing investors in the Fidelity Funds – Asian Bond Fund ('the Fund') only. Thank you for investing in the Fund. We would like to use this opportunity to give you an update on the Fund's performance. Please note that this is not a product advertisement or solicitation for investment in the Fund.



How has the Fund performed in July 2024?

- The Fund returned 1.6%¹ (for the A-ACC-USD share class in USD terms) and 1.4%¹ (for the A-MINCOME(G)-SGD (hedged)* share class in SGD terms).



Reasons for performance

- Global investment grade (IG) markets continued to post positive returns in July, primarily driven by the rates rally. US IG outperformed both Asia and Europe. US Federal Reserve (Fed) chairman Powell reinforced expectations for a start to the rate cutting cycle at the September Fed meeting. As more rate cuts were priced over the next few quarters, the US 10-year treasury yield fell below 4.0% for the first time since February 2024. From a credit spread perspective, Asia IG spreads widened, Europe IG tightened and US IG stayed roughly unchanged.
- The Fund continued to deliver positive returns in July, in line with its index². The yield component, which includes stable carry and coupon income, and term structure outperformed, while credit was in line.
- On a country level, the underweight in China and Hong Kong helped the most, while the overweight in Japan impacted relative performance.
- On a sector level, the underweight in quasi-sovereigns contributed the most while the overweight in financials and underweight in technology, media and telecommunications (TMT) were the main relative detractors in July.
- On an individual issuer level, key credit contributors include overweight positions in Philippine Government Bonds, Bank of East Asia and Ping An Real Estate. Key credit detractors include the underweight in CK Hutchison Holdings, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co and Tencent.



Outlook / Expectations

- Asian IG fundamentals remain supportive, as much of global growth remains in Asia. Certain central banks in the region have also started to show signs of pivot, and Asian countries' ample foreign exchange reserves provide them with greater resilience in a shifting global macro environment.
- From a valuation perspective, Asian IG credit spreads have continued to tighten due to the credit rally and surge in shorter-dated and higher-quality issuance. We remain opportunistic to strike a balance between rich valuations, strong technical momentum and stable fundamentals.
- In terms of portfolio positioning, the Fund duration has increased slightly with its overweight predominantly from local currency duration in CNY, SGD and JPY. We are slightly overweight credit beta with overweight exposures in higher quality markets including Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore. We continued to participate in new issuances that are attractively valued and in local currency including financial names in the region. We trimmed outperformers and lower-yielding names across quasi-sovereigns and financials mostly across North Asia.
- The Fund remains focused on yield as the primary return driver for the portfolio. We continue to look for high quality names with good credit ratings to add to the portfolio, along with high-coupon, short-dated names for cash parking purposes. We maintain a long duration bias but will remain tactical.
- As at 31 July 2024, the Fund's yield to maturity⁴ was 5.2%, running yield⁵ was 4.9%, duration³ was 5.9 years and average credit rating⁶ was BBB+.

We remain confident that the Fund could continue to meet its objectives of **generating regular yield from its underlying investments and to offer lower volatility relative to equity during difficult market conditions over the medium and long term.**

Source: Fidelity International, as at 31 July 2024.

1. The stated returns are computed on a NAV-NAV basis, with dividends reinvested in their respective currencies. They do not take into account the amount of initial sales charge, which may be levied by your distributor. The stated returns will be reduced when the applicable sales charge is being taken into account. Please note that past performance is not indicative of future returns. The 1-year return, net of sales charge of 3% for the Fidelity Funds – Asian Bond Fund A-ACC-USD and A-MINCOME(G)-SGD (hedged)* share classes are 1.17% and -0.61% respectively.
2. The reference benchmark is the ICE BofA Asia Dollar Investment Grade Index.
3. Duration is a measure of sensitivity of the fund value to changes in interest rates and includes all investments in the fund including derivatives. It takes into account that expected cash flows will fluctuate as interest rates change and affect a bond's price.
4. Yield to Maturity is the internal rate of return earned on a bond, assuming that the bond will be held until maturity and all coupon and principal payments will be made. It is an estimation of future return, as the rate at which coupon payments can be reinvested when received is unknown.
5. Running Yield describes the income investors get from their portfolio as a percentage of market value of the securities (incorporating the effect of derivatives) and does not include the impact of fees. It should not be relied on as a measure of expected fund return. The running yield does not reflect the total return over the life of the bond and takes no account of reinvestment risk or the fact that bonds usually mature at par value.
6. Average Credit Rating is the weighted average of all the bond credit ratings in the fund. It takes into account all investments in the fund including derivatives. This measure gives an idea of how risky the fund's bonds are overall: the lower the average credit rating, the riskier the fund. With a Linear weighted average the weight assigned to each issue is equal to its market value weight.

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Singapore

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CA-2024-2017095-(G)

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HK-SSO-2024-2024012-NR