

# **Global Bond Fund**

31 March 2024

Performance <sup>1</sup>							
Total Returns (%)	<b>Unannualised Returns</b>		Average Annual Total Returns				
	3 Months	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inception	Inception Date
Global Bond Fund							
<b>USD Accumulating Class</b>	-0.37	-0.37	7.97	1.25	3.87	3.00	01/05/14
GBP Distributing Class	0.57	0.57	5.50	4.27	4.52	6.06	01/05/14
GBP Distributing Class (H)	-0.56	-0.56	7.28	0.52	2.87	2.09	01/05/14
<b>EUR Accumulating Class</b>	1.89	1.89	8.51	4.09	4.66	5.63	01/05/14
EUR Accumulating Class (H)	-0.80	-0.80	5.84	-0.64	1.82	1.18	01/05/14
EUR Distributing Class	1.89	1.89	8.54	4.13	4.69	5.64	01/05/14
EUR Distributing Class (H)	-0.81	-0.81	5.94	-0.62	1.83	1.18	01/05/14
CHF Distributing Class (H)	-1.50	-1.50	3.34	-	-	-2.66	01/07/21
BBG Global Agg (H, in USD)	0.01	0.01	4.14	-1.29	0.80	2.16	01/05/14

Returns represent past performance and do not guarantee future results. Investment return, costs, and share price will fluctuate with market conditions and may be affected by currency fluctuations. Investors may have a gain or loss when shares are sold. Fund performance changes over time and currently may be significantly lower than stated above. Visit the Fund's website at <a href="dodgeandcox.com">dodgeandcox.com</a> for current month-end performance figures.

### **Market Commentary**

During the first quarter of 2024, stronger than expected economic momentum in the United States put upward pressure on long-term interest rates across most developed and emerging markets. Central banks had varied responses to their respective domestic growth and inflation conditions. In the United States, market expectations for the number of rate cuts in 2024 fell significantly, while the Bank of Japan increased its policy rate for the first time since 2007. Meanwhile, a handful of Latin American and Eastern European central banks cut rates. Higher relative short-term interest rates in the United States contributed to the U.S. dollar strengthening against virtually all major currencies, except the Mexican peso which appreciated. As in 2023, credit spreads declined, leading to positive excess returns. In this environment of higher long-term interest rates, compressed spreads, and U.S. dollar strength, the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index hedged in U.S. dollars returned 0.01% and the Fund's USD Accumulating Class returned -0.37%.

#### **Portfolio Strategy**

During the first quarter, we continued to exercise price discipline across global credit, currencies, and interest rates. With credit spreads at historically tight levels, we reduced the Fund's credit² exposure by an incremental four percentage points to 44% by selling a variety of intermediate and longer-duration³ securities. Since the end of 2022, the Fund's credit weight has declined by approximately 14 percentage points. The Fund's remaining credit holdings are diversified across multiple dimensions, and we believe they offer an attractive risk/reward profile in a variety of economic scenarios.

Conversely, we increased the Fund's exposure to Agency<sup>4</sup> mortgage-backed securities (MBS) by seven percentage points. We believe these securities are attractively valued versus other investment alternatives. The Fund's 29% in Agency MBS, U.S. Treasuries, and cash serve as an important ballast at a time of tight credit spreads, and these holdings can be quickly re-allocated into risk-seeking assets as circumstances and valuations warrant.

We also made valuation-driven adjustments to the Fund's currency and interest rate exposures. We added 68 basis points<sup>5</sup> to the Chilean peso, as it depreciated on the back of policy rate cuts aimed at supporting domestic growth.<sup>6</sup> Chile has strong and credible institutions, which also informed our increased exposure. In turn, we trimmed the Fund's exposure to the Mexican peso by 71 basis points on the heels of strong performance. Lastly, given higher U.S. rates, we modestly extended U.S. duration in the Fund. Total portfolio duration

ended the quarter at 5.5 years.

Looking forward, we remain optimistic about the Fund's prospects over our multi-year investment horizon and across a wide range of scenarios. Thank you for your continued confidence in Dodge & Cox.

## Performance Review (USD Accumulating Class)

#### **First Quarter**

Key contributors included the Fund's:

- Exposure to Corporate bonds (38%)<sup>7</sup>, with British American Tobacco, TC Energy, and Prosus among the strongest-performing holdings; and
- Exposure to several government-related credits, including Pemex.

Key detractors included the Fund's:

- Exposure to U.S. interest rates, as Treasury yields rose during the first quarter; and
- Exposure to several developed market currencies, including the Japanese yen, Norwegian krone, and Australian dollar.

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- 1. All returns are stated in U.S. dollars, unless otherwise noted. The Funds' total returns include the reinvestment of dividend and capital gain distributions, but have not been adjusted for any income taxes payable by shareholders on these distributions or on Fund share redemptions. Index returns include dividend and/or interest income but, unlike Fund returns, do not reflect fees or expenses. The Class X shares inception date is 2 May 2022. The returns shown prior to that date are for the Class I shares. The Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index is a widely recognised, unmanaged index of multi-currency, investment-grade fixed income securities. Bloomberg calculates a USD hedged return by applying one-month forward rates to seek to eliminate the effect of non-USD exposures.
- $2. \ \ \, \text{Credit refers to corporate bonds and government-related securities, as classified by Bloomberg.}$
- 3. Duration is a measure of a bond's (or a bond portfolio's) price sensitivity to changes in interest rates.
- The U.S. Government does not guarantee the Fund's shares, yield, or net asset value. The agency guarantee (by, for example, Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae, or Freddie Mac) does not eliminate market risk.
- 5. One basis point is equal to 1/100th of 1%.
- 6. The use of specific examples does not imply that they are more or less attractive investments than the Fund's other holdings.
- 7. Figures in this section denote Fund positioning at the beginning of the period.