

Fund Aim

To provide investors with a diversified exposure to the US high yield bond market with active allocation between individual securities and industries.

Fund Performance as at 31 December 2023 (%)

	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year	3 years (p.a.)	5 years (p.a.)	7 years (p.a.)	10 years (p.a.)	15 years (p.a.)	20 years (p.a.)	Since inception (p.a.)
Gross return (before fees)	3.73	6.25	7.08	13.99	2.52	4.62	4.40	5.24	10.90	8.25	7.97
Growth return (after fees)	1.93	4.29	3.12	5.12	-5.86	-3.31	-3.33	-2.43	1.67	-2.01	-1.28
Distribution return	1.74	1.78	3.63	8.24	7.72	7.22	7.01	6.93	8.42	9.50	8.52
Total return (after fees)¹	3.67	6.07	6.75	13.36	1.86	3.91	3.68	4.50	10.09	7.49	7.24
Benchmark	3.48	6.41	6.62	11.24	0.70	3.73	3.40	4.34	9.89	7.43	7.44
Active return (after fees) ²	0.19	-0.33	0.13	2.12	1.16	0.18	0.28	0.16	0.21	0.07	-0.20

Source: Fidante Partners. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Returns may be volatile and may vary from year to year.

¹ Total Return (after fees) is calculated using pre-distribution month end withdrawal unit prices, and assumes all income is reinvested in additional units. Total Return equals Growth return (after fees) plus Distribution return (after fees).

² Active Return of the Fund is the difference between the Total Return and the return of the Benchmark. Gross Returns (before fees) are calculated by adding back the fees and expenses deducted. Please refer to the PDS for more information on fees and expenses.

Portfolio and Market Returns

The Bentham High Yield Fund had a total return (after fees) of 3.67% in the month of December, outperforming the benchmark ICE BofAML US Cash Pay High Yield Constrained Index3 (hedged into AUD) by 0.19%. On a before fees basis the fund returned 3.73% for the month, outperforming the benchmark by 0.25%.

High Yield Market

For the month, all industries had positive returns. The top performing industries in December were Telecommunications, Cable/Wireless Video and Retail with returns (sector performance in USD terms) of 5.39%, 5.00% and 4.38% respectively. The worst performing industries were Energy, Food And Drug and Aerospace with returns of 2.11%, 2.45% and 2.74% respectively.

The credit yield spread for the Index decreased by 47 bps during the month to 332 bps.

Portfolio Exposures

The Fund's three largest industry exposures are 10.0% in Diversified/Conglomerate Service, 7.7% in Electronics and 6.1% in Finance. The Fund's top three company exposures are 1.4% in Altice Financing, 1.0% in Austin and 1.0% in HealthEquity. During the month, the Fund increased its exposure to Rockies Express Pipeline, CommScope Technologies and Grand Total; with decreased exposures to CDI Escrow Issuer, LCPR Senior Secured Financing DAC and Vt.

Portfolio Summary Statistics

Yield to maturity	6.93%
Running yield	5.35%
Credit spread ⁴	+337bps
Number of issuers	230
Interest rate duration	4.01 years
Credit duration	3.46 years
Average credit quality ⁵	BB-
Fund size	A\$334,090,653

Risk Characteristics

5 Year Volatility ⁶	9.36
5 Year Sharpe Ratio ⁷	0.34
5 Year Tracking Error ⁸	1.68
5 Year Information Ratio ⁹	0.53

Fund Distributions

Distribution frequency	Quarterly
Quarterly distribution ¹⁰	1.74% (Dec 2023)

³ Previously known as Merrill Lynch High Yield Cash Pay Constrained Index.

⁴ Spread to worst over the swap rate.

⁵ The average credit quality is calculated using a duration adjusted Moody's Weighted Average Rating Factor (WARF) for both the S&P and Moody's security credit ratings within a portfolio.

⁶ Volatility is Standard Deviation.

⁷ Sharpe Ratio is the excess return over the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index (before fees) divided by Standard Deviation.

⁸ Tracking Error is the Standard Deviation of the Active Return (before fees).

⁹ Information Ratio is the Active Return (before fees) divided by the Tracking Error.

¹⁰ Calculated as the cents per unit (CPU) distribution at the month end divided by the ex-distribution unit price at the start of the month.

Quarterly Distribution Returns History (%)¹

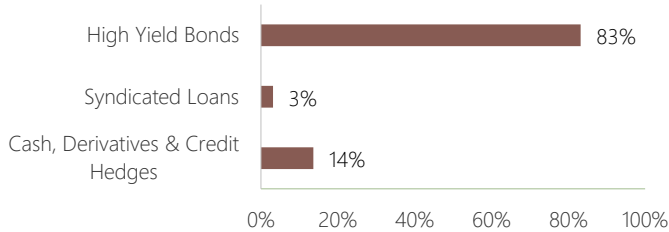
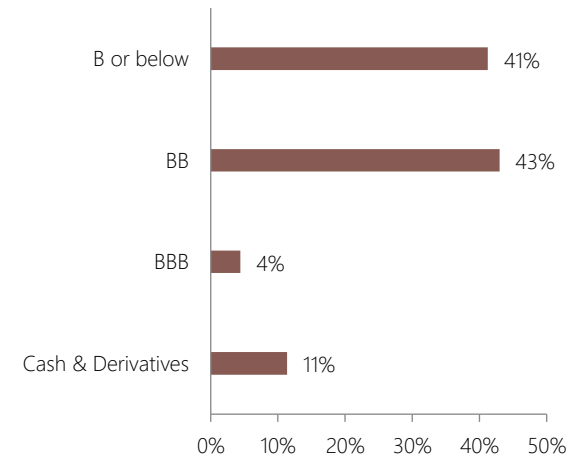
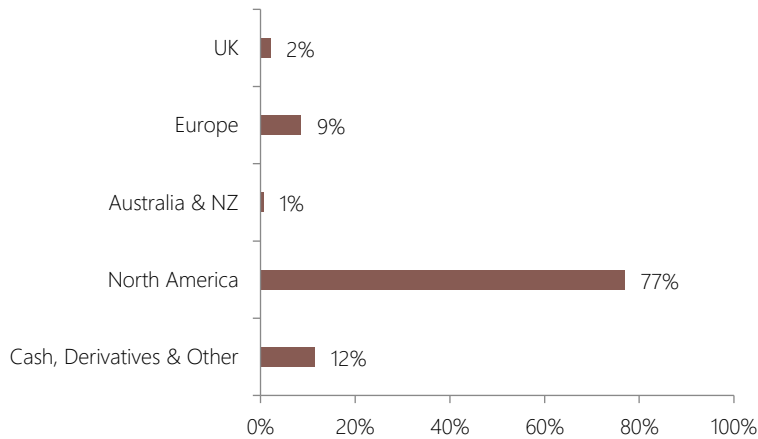
Financial Year	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	YTD ²
2024	1.74	1.74	-	-	3.63
2023	2.04	2.04	2.06	2.05	8.69
2022	1.12	1.13	1.11	1.10	3.91
2021	1.36	1.35	1.32	0.00	10.78
2020	1.22	1.22	1.85	2.08	6.20
2019	1.36	1.40	1.37	1.63	5.99

Source: Fidante Partners

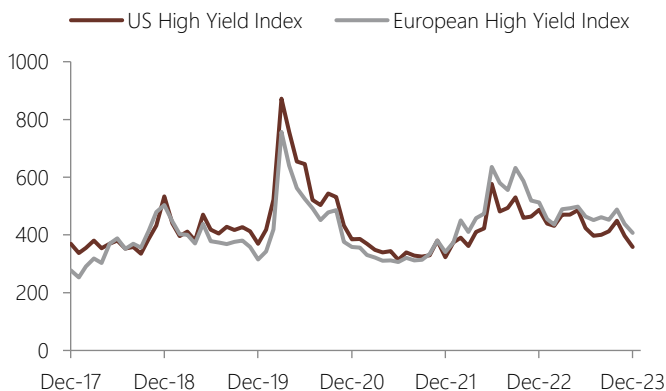
Past distributions are no indication of future distributions.

¹ Calculated as the cents per unit (CPU) distribution at month end divided by the ex-distribution unit price at the start of the month.

² Annual distribution return (Year-to-Date) is calculated as the Total Return (after fees) minus Growth Return. Total Return (after fees) is calculated using pre-distribution month end withdrawal unit price, and assumes distributions are reinvested. Growth Return equals the percentage change in unit price.

Portfolio Asset Allocation

Credit Rating Breakdown

Regional Breakdown

Top 5 Industry Exposures (Moody's SIC)

Diversified/Conglomerate Service	10.0%
Electronics	7.7%
Finance	6.1%
Mining, Steel, Iron and Non-Precious Metals	6.0%
Oil and Gas	5.8%

High Yield Spread to Worst (bps)

Pricing and Fees

Unit frequency pricing	Daily
Management fee	0.60%
Recoverable expenses	0.07% (Dec 2023)
Buy/sell spread ³	+0.200%/-0.200%
Entry and exit fees	Nil
Minimum initial investment	A\$10,000

³ Buy/sell spread is retained in the Fund to cover transaction costs. It is not paid to the Investment Manager. The buy/sell spread is reviewed on a monthly basis to ensure it fairly reflects market transaction costs.

Source: ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Fund Overview		Platform Availability & mFund Code	
Portfolio Manager	Tom Flannery and Richard Quin	BT Wrap	✓ Oasis ✓
Inception date	15 October 1998	HUB24	✓ uXchange ✓
APIR code	CSA0102AU	Netwealth - Private	✓ ASX mFund Settlement Service BAM03
Benchmark	ICE BofAML US Cash Pay High Yield Constrained Index (hedged into Australian dollars)		
Return objective	The investment objective of the Fund is to outperform the Benchmark over the suggested minimum investment timeframe		
Suggested investment time frame	Medium to long term, 3 years+		
Fund aim	To provide investors with a diversified exposure to the US high yield bond market with active allocation between individual securities and industries		
Currency	Hedged into Australian dollars		
Fund features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to a diversified global high yield credit portfolio • Regular quarterly distributions • Daily unit pricing • Australian domiciled trust with a 20+ year track record – one of Australia's longest running high yield funds • Investments not generally available to direct retail investors 		

More information:

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PDS: [Bentham High Yield Fund PDS](#)

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