

Bentham Syndicated Loan Fund NZD

September 2025

Fund Aim

The Fund aims to provide investors with a diversified exposure to the global syndicated loan market with an active allocation to investments in different industries, issuers and geographies.

Fund Performance as at 30 September 2025

	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year	3 years (p.a.)	5 years (p.a.)	10 Year (p.a.)	Since inception (p.a.)
Gross return (before fees)	0.03	1.04	2.99	7.00	9.36	7.01	5.97	6.15
Growth return (after fees)	-0.52	-0.69	-0.63	-1.09	-0.70	-2.16	-2.34	-2.39
Distribution return	0.51	1.55	3.22	7.23	9.23	8.33	7.42	7.65
Total return (after fees) ¹	-0.01	0.85	2.59	6.14	8.53	6.17	5.08	5.26
Benchmark	0.39	1.54	3.66	6.76	9.61	6.91	5.56	5.61
Active return (after fees) ²	-0.40	-0.68	-1.07	-0.62	-1.08	-0.74	-0.48	-0.35

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

September 2025 was marked by notable macroeconomic developments and shifts in global financial markets. In the United States, the Federal Reserve responded to signs of a cooling labour market by cutting interest rates by 25 basis points at its September meeting. This decision followed weaker than expected employment data, with non-farm payrolls increasing by just 22,000 in August. This was significantly below the 79,000 jobs added in July and the consensus forecast of 75,000. The data reflected a growing softness in the labour market and increased expectations that the Fed may adopt a more accommodative stance as the year progresses.

In Australia, economic indicators presented a mixed picture. Headline inflation rose to 3.0% in August, up from 2.8% in July, surprising to the upside and prompting a sharp rise in bond yields. The stronger inflation print has cast doubt over the likelihood of a rate cut at the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA) November meeting, as policymakers weigh persistent price pressures against a softening economic backdrop. While the unemployment rate held steady at 4.2%, data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed a net decline of 5,400 employed persons in August—an early indication of potential weakness in the labour market.

Despite these conflicting signals, global equity markets delivered strong returns for the month. The MSCI World Index (unhedged in AUD) rose by 2.0%, supported by investor optimism surrounding central bank policy and continued corporate earnings strength. In the United States, the S&P 500 advanced by 3.5%, reaching new record highs.

Fixed income markets were mixed. In Australia, bond yields tightened slightly, with the Australian bond index yield narrowing by 2 bps over the month with yields selling off later in the month on the back of the inflation data. Investment-grade credit spreads tightened by 5 bps, while U.S. high-yield spreads tightened by 3 bps, indicating continued investor demand for risk assets.

Portfolio Summary Statistics

Yield to maturity	6.39%
Running yield	6.53%
Credit spread ³	+377bps
Number of issuers	472
Interest rate duration	0.32 years
Credit duration	3.24 years
Investment grade ⁴ exposure	B+
Fund size	NZ\$43,615,354

Risk Characteristics

5 Year Volatility ⁵	3.19
5 Year Sharpe Ratio ⁶	1.16
5 Year Tracking Error ⁷	0.95
5 Year Information Ratio ⁸	0.10

Fund Distributions

Distribution frequency	Monthly
Monthly distribution ⁹	0.51% (Sep 2025)
Target distribution rate (FY26) ¹⁰	1m NZ BKBM + 3.0%

³ Spread over the swap rate.

⁴ An assigned credit rating of BBB-/Baa3 or better by a credit rating agency.

⁵ Volatility is Standard Deviation.

⁶ Sharpe Ratio is the excess return over the Bloomberg NZBond Bank Bill Index (before fees) divided by Standard Deviation.

⁷ Tracking Error is the Standard Deviation of the Active Return (before fees).

⁸ Information Ratio is the Active Return (before fees) divided by the Tracking Error.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Bentham intends to achieve the distribution rate for FY2026 with taxable income. If there is a shortfall of taxable income, the distribution may possibly include a capital return. The current distribution rate setting was based on the running yield of the Fund as at 30 June 2025 and assumes the Fund continues to achieve an equivalent yield for FY2026. Actual distributions, however, can differ from this setting because of future matters which are not known or able to be presently identified.

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Monthly Distribution Returns History (%)¹

Financial Year	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	YTD ²
2026	0.52	0.52	0.51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.55
2025	0.76	0.75	0.74	0.72	0.69	0.66	0.66	0.60	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.56	7.94
2024	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.83	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.84	0.85	10.57
2023	0.60	0.65	0.67	0.70	0.71	0.78	0.77	0.79	0.81	0.84	0.85	1.11	9.57
2022	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.33	0.33	0.35	0.36	0.37	0.38	0.39	0.43	0.51	4.20
2021	0.40	0.39	0.40	0.39	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.39	1.49	1.51	2.46	9.70

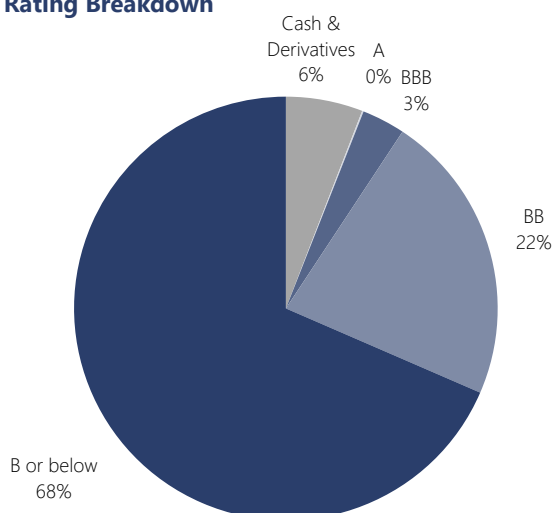
Source: Fidante Partners

Past distributions are no indication of future distributions.

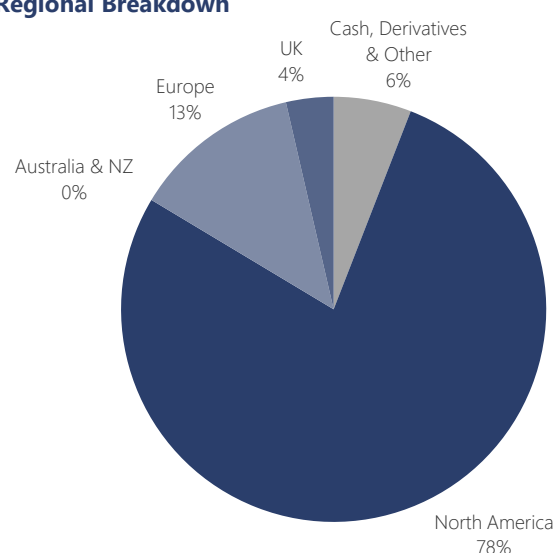
¹ Calculated as the cents per unit (CPU) distribution at month end divided by the ex-distribution unit price at the start of the month.

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.

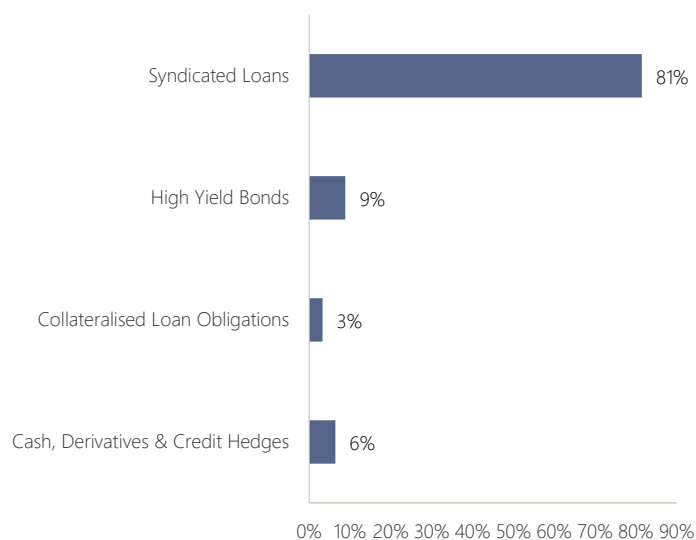
Credit Rating Breakdown



Regional Breakdown



Portfolio Asset Allocation



Top 5 Industry Exposures (Moody's SIC)

Electronics	13.2%
Diversified/Conglomerate Service	13.1%
Finance	10.1%
Healthcare, Education and Childcare	7.6%
Diversified/Conglomerate Manufacturing	4.5%

Pricing and Fees

Unit frequency pricing	Daily
Management fee	0.84%
Recoverable expenses	0.00% (Sep 2025)
Buy/sell spread ³	+0.400%/-0.400%
Entry and exit fees	Nil
Minimum initial investment	NZ\$50,000

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.

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September 2025

Fund Overview

Inception date	30 September 2013
APIR code	165 696 300
Benchmark	Morningstar LSTA US Leveraged Loan Index (hedged into NZD) * Effective 1 May 2025, the benchmark was changed to Morningstar LSTA US Leveraged Loan Index (hedged into NZD). Prior to this, the benchmark was CS Leveraged Loan Index (hedged into NZD).
Return objective	The Fund aims to achieve investment returns above the Benchmark over the suggested investment time frame
Suggested investment time frame	Medium term, minimum 3 years
Interest rate risk	Predominantly floating rate
Currency	Hedged into New Zealand dollars
Fund features	• Access to global senior secured syndicated loans which are not generally available to direct retail investors • Regular monthly distributions • High running yield with low interest rate risk • Fund track record 10+ years • Strategy track record 20+ years • Loans are valued to market prices daily – with daily unit pricing

More information:

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PDS: [Bentham Syndicated Loan Fund NZD PDS](#)

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