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MARKET REVIEW

Broadly encouraging economic releases contributed to rising sovereign yields, against the backdrop of political uncertainty stemming from the US elections and intensifying tension in the Middle East. Most fixed income sectors outperformed duration-equivalent government bonds.

US economic data releases were mixed, strained in part by the impact of two major hurricanes. The unemployment rate held steady and weekly jobless claims were range bound, while nonfarm payrolls fell short of expectation. Retail sales broadly gained across most categories, however consumer remained frustrated by persistently high prices. The ISM manufacturing index continued in contraction territory as production and demand cooled, while cost of inputs remained a hindrance. Eurozone annual inflation edged higher, while constrained new orders and backlogs weighed on manufacturing PMI. Germany's IFO business climate index rose, with assessment of current conditions and expectations both improving. UK's S&P global manufacturing PMI dipped slightly but stayed in expansionary territory as an improvement in new orders was offset by the increased cost of raw materials. China's Caixin manufacturing PMI beat expectations as new orders grew at the fastest rate in four months. Industrial production advanced, owing to equipment sector and high-tech manufacturing. Japan's machine tool orders, a leading indicator of future capital spending, declined on the year. In Canada, auto purchases lifted retail sales, the unemployment rate ticked down, and urban housing starts advanced.

Major central banks' paths to policy normalization diverged; however, global developments pointed to a potential slowdown in rate cuts. The ECB cut rates for a third time, as anticipated. In the UK, Chancellor Rachel Reeves' Budget announcements would add up to £141 billion net borrowing over the next five years, significantly higher than the levels expected in the March Budget and the £85 billion consensus. Most other major central banks left policy rates unchanged.

FUND PERFORMANCE AND ATTRIBUTION

On a total return basis, World Bond performance was negative over the month with rates and currency detracted, while credit contributed.

Strategic duration performance was negative. Our long US duration exposure detracted from performance as US Treasury yields moved higher during the month. The resilient US labor market, resurgent oil prices on fears of an escalating Middle East conflict, and the prospect of a prolonged US port strike raised concerns about revived inflationary pressures, resulting in markets pricing fewer rate cuts by the Fed. Mounting uncertainty surrounding US election also added to the upward pressure facing Treasury yields.

Strategic currency performance was also negative. This was mainly led by a broad overweight to G10 currencies vs USD as the dollar appreciated against major developed market currencies in October, helped by tempered expectations for Fed rate cuts and betting markets increasingly pointing to a Trump second term.

Macro-driven duration strategies were positive. Our short duration positions in the UK contributed as sovereign bond yields moved higher across major developed economies over the course of October, reversing the downward trajectory from August and September. UK Chancellor Rachel Reeves' Budget sent gilt yields close to their highest level since the 2008 global financial crisis as the announcements would add up to £141bn net borrowing over the next five years, significantly higher than the levels expected.

Macro-driven currency strategies were also positive. Our short SEK contributed as the US dollar experienced a broad-based appreciation against its G10 counterparts.

Credit strategies were positive. Our allocations to IG corporate credit, high yield credit and securitized contributed as spreads tightened across sectors over the month.

FUND POSITIONING AND OUTLOOK

Over the month we decreased the Fund's duration at 3.68 years, driven by opportunistic duration. In opportunistic duration, we decreased Japan duration as we believe current policy rates are still too low given the reflation forces at play in the economy. The probability is skewed to a faster normalization through 2025, and the policy rate should be nearer 1% over the next 12 months.

In strategic market currency strategies, we decreased our non-USD exposure, led by decreases in NZD, GBP, KRW, NOK, and AUD exposure.

The Fund's exposure to credit sectors remains conservative. We are long investment grade, high-yield, and securitized.

PAST PERFORMANCE DOES NOT PREDICT FUTURE RETURNS. AN INVESTMENT CAN LOSE VALUE.

Fund performance is based on USD T Acc share class and are net of fees and expenses. Other share class performance may differ. | Index used in the calculation of attribution data: Non-benchmark Relative Strategy. | Fund performance is net of actual (but not necessarily maximum) withholding and capital gains tax but are not otherwise adjusted for the effects of taxation and assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. | If an investor's own currency is different from the currency in which the fund is denominated, the investment return may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. | The views expressed are in the context of the investment objective of the Fund only and should not be considered a recommendation or advice.

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BELOW INVESTMENT GRADE: Lower rated or unrated securities may have a significantly greater risk of default than investment grade securities, can be more volatile, less liquid, and involve higher transaction costs. **CAPITAL:** Investment markets are subject to economic, regulatory, market sentiment and political risks. All investors should consider the risks that may impact their capital, before investing. The value of your investment may become worth more or less than at the time of the original investment. The Fund may experience a high volatility from time to time. **CREDIT:** The value of a bond may decline, or the issuer/guarantor may fail to meet payment obligations. Typically lower-rated bonds carry a greater degree of credit risk than higher-rated bonds. **CURRENCY:** The value of the Fund may be affected by changes in currency exchange rates. Unhedged currency risk may subject the Fund to significant volatility. **DERIVATIVES (D+E) (MKT):** Derivatives may provide more market exposure than the money paid or deposited when the transaction is entered into (sometimes referred to as Leverage). Market movements can therefore result in a loss exceeding the original amount invested. Derivatives may be difficult to value. Derivatives may also be used for efficient risk and portfolio management, but there may be some mismatch in exposure when derivatives are used as hedges. The use of derivatives forms an important part of the investment strategy. **EMERGING MARKETS:** Emerging markets may be subject to custodial and political risks, and volatility. Investment in foreign currency entails exchange risks. **HEDGING:** Any hedging strategy using derivatives may not achieve a perfect hedge. **INTEREST RATES:** The value of bonds tends to decline as interest rates rise. The change in value is greater for longer term than shorter term bonds. **LEVERAGE:** The use of leverage can provide more market exposure than the money paid or deposited when the transaction is entered into. Losses may therefore exceed the original amount invested. **MANAGER:** Investment performance depends on the investment management team and their investment strategies. If the strategies do not perform as expected, if opportunities to implement them do not arise, or if the team does not implement its investment strategies successfully; then a fund may underperform or experience losses. **SHORT SELLING:** A short sale exposes the Fund to the risk of an increase in market price of a security sold short; this could result in a theoretically unlimited loss. **SUSTAINABILITY:** A Sustainability Risk can be defined as an environmental, social or governance event or condition that, if it occurs, could cause an actual or potential material negative impact on the value of an investment.

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