#### FUND INFORMATION

**Portfolio managers:** Alex Temple; Christopher Burrows, CFA<sup>\*</sup> and Mark Cole

**Sub-adviser:** Allspring Global Investments, LLC

**Benchmark:** Bloomberg Euro Corporate Bonds (1-5 Y) Index

Fund inception: 4 Nov 2011

Management approach: Actively managed

Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation: Article  $8^{\circ}$ 

<sup>†</sup>Promotes environmental and social characteristics but does not have a sustainable investment objective.

**OBJECTIVES AND PROCESS** 

- Seeks to maximise investment income whilst preserving capital
- Invests at least two-thirds of its assets in investment-grade euro-denominated short-term
- credit debt securities • Has an average weighted duration
- of up to 3.5 years or less
  Invests at least two-thirds of its total assets in issuers that have a proprietary overall ESGiQ score that is favourable by meeting the threshold specified in our methodology and will exclude issuers that have less favourable or those that do not have an ESGiQ score, such as sovereign issuers, cash, derivatives and investments in underlying funds
- Uses fundamental credit research combined with active top-down allocation decisions within a controlled risk framework seeking to generate superior investment returns
- Uses a negative screen to exclude securities issued by companies based on their exposure to ESG risks
- Targets a carbon intensity that is lower than the benchmark
- May invest:
  - Up to one-third of its assets in currency-hedged non-euro-denominated debt securities and foreign agencies
  - Up to 10% of its assets in investment-grade asset-backed securities
  - Up to 10% of its assets in below-investment-grade debt securities
  - In derivatives for hedging, efficient portfolio management or for investment purposes

# CALENDAR YEAR PERFORMANCE (%)

#### Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

	YTD	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
EUR Short Duration Credit Fund - Class I (EUR)	0.72	5.39	6.54	-8.92	-0.23	0.83	3.55	-1.15	1.72	2.81	0.64
Bloomberg Euro Corporate Bonds (1-5 Y) Index	0.69	4.81	6.39	-8.00	-0.08	1.11	2.77	-0.47	1.16	2.60	0.58

Fund performance calculations are net of all applicable fees and are calculated on an NAV-to-NAV basis in US dollars (with income re-invested). Share class inception date: 4 Nov 2011

# Quarterly review

• The fund returned -0.23% in March on a net basis versus the Bloomberg Euro Aggregate Corporate 1–5 Year Index, which returned -0.22%, an underperformance of 1 basis point (bp; 100 bps equal 1.00%). For the first quarter, the fund returned 0.72%, outperforming the benchmark by 3 bps.

# Market review

Credit spreads in March moved wider as uncertainty from the US administration reached a crescendo ahead of the "Liberation Day" tariff announcements scheduled for the day after April Fools' Day.

Despite the on-off nature of the tariffs earlier in the quarter, uncertainty began to creep into US equities (lower prices) and the Treasury market (lower yields on fears of lower growth) towards the end of the quarter as it became clear that tariffs and retaliatory tariffs were likely to be more permanent.

The main development over the quarter for Europe was the decision by many countries to build up their military capabilities in response to ongoing uncertainty in the Russia/Ukraine peace negotiations and the message that the US administration will put "America first", as promised by Trump during the election campaign.

To this end, Germany's conservative leader, Friedrich Merz, announced a boost to spending on defence, civil protection and intelligence, with spending over 1% of gross domestic product exempt from debt restrictions.

# **FUND RISKS**

Debt securities risk Asset-backed securities risk ESG risk Contingent convertible bonds risk Currency risk Geographic concentration risk Global investment risk Leverage risk

# PORTFOLIO POSITIONING

PORTFOLIO ATTRIBUTION\* AND STRATEGY

### Sector-detractor

- The fund's overweight exposure to communication was the top-contributing sector, adding 0.02% (allocation effect: 0.00%; selection effect: 0.02%). An overweight exposure to government-backed corporates was also among the top-performing positions. The defensive characteristics of these exposures resulted in resilient performance through broader market selling. The sector added 0.01% (allocation effect: 0.01%; selection effect: 0.00%).
- Exposure to other financials, which encompasses real estate names, detracted most considerably from performance, down 0.02% (allocation effect: 0.00%; selection effect: -0.03%). The highly rates-sensitive sector was weighed on by the combination of softening economic conditions and a potential tariff-related inflationary impulse, which has made the central banks' job all the more challenging.

### Security selection-neutral

- SES, a global communication services company, was among the top individual performers over the quarter, despite considerable selling in January. SES had traded lower on risks posed by well-capitalised US competitors transforming the competitive landscape. SES's February result was a positive one, reporting revenue in line and EBITDA beat helping reassure investors. SES has also been supported by a shift in sentiment against US-based corporates. Our exposure to EDF also added to performance after releasing a strong result, generating positive free cash flow and maintaining balance sheet headroom.
- Grand City Properties was the largest detractor over the period. Negative macro dynamics weighed on the name, despite releasing a positive result late in the quarter.

Duration and yield curve-detractor

• In the first quarter, the strategy's interest rate exposure was down 0.04% (shift 0.02% and twist -0.06%).

### Strategy:

The recent tariff announcement has exceeded economists' expectations, leading to a significant remarking of risk assets. It is likely that these policy changes will negatively affect global growth and may contribute to an inflationary impulse, further complicating the efforts of central banks worldwide. Importantly, corporate fundamentals remain relatively stable. Recent earnings growth has been positive, and balance sheets are well capitalised. Whilst tariffs will undoubtedly affect earnings, the strong starting point should support continued strength in corporate fundamentals.

Whilst an organic cyclical recovery has emerged in Europe, prospects remain fragile and renewed political uncertainty introduces additional downside risk. A partial recovery of the European consumer, owing to trailing real wage gains, is underway, reflected in surveyed consumer confidence. However, household consumption trends remain so far subdued (food retail volumes and large discretionary purchase activity remains depressed), which notably disappointed in the second half of 2024. Risks may be partially mitigated by the capacity for the European Central Bank to cut rates.

A tariff-related remarking of investment-grade credit will likely create opportunities to add risk at more attractive levels of spread. It seems there is still some runway for weakness to continue in the near term; however, we will look to exploit opportunities where we feel the risk/return dynamics have become compelling.

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# SECTOR WEIGHTS (%)

	FUND	
Banks	40.73	37.17
Electric	6.57	4.91
Telecommunication services	5.74	3.74
Commercial services	5.12	3.94
Healthcare products	4.91	1.97
Real estate	4.80	2.63
Pharmaceuticals	4.75	2.69
Auto Ioan	3.80	6.23
Oil & gas	2.31	3.09
Cash & equivalents	5.50	0.00

Data based on ending weights as of quarter end.

# CREDIT ASSET CLASS (%)

	FUND
Corporate bonds	80.84
Corp. (Inv. grade)	64.18
Bank capital (Inv. grade)	26.64
Agencies	7.73
Local authorities	2.84
Sovereign	1.59
Treasuries	1.60
Emerging markets (Inv. grade)	0.66
High yield bond	0.31
Cash & equivalents	6.98

Data based on ending weights as of quarter end.

# ANNUALISED PERFORMANCE (%)

#### Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

	3 MONTH	YTD	1 YEAR	3 YEAR	5 YEAR	10 YEAR
EUR Short Duration Credit Fund	0.72	0.72	5.01	2.02	1.85	1.01
Bloomberg Euro Corporate Bonds (1-5 Y) Index	0.69	0.69	5.02	2.01	1.72	1.04
Morningstar EUR Corporate Bond - Short Term Average	0.71	0.71	4.40	2.32	2.00	0.72

**Past performance is not indicative of future performance.** Fund performance calculations are net of all applicable fees and are calculated on an NAV-to-NAV basis in US dollars (with income re-invested). Share class inception date: 4 Nov 2011

# SHARE CLASS INFORMATION (Share class and currency availability varies by jurisdiction)

	INCEPTION DATE	ТҮРЕ	ISIN	ONGOING CHARGES/ TER (%)*
Class I (EUR)	2011-11-04	Accumulating	LU0694366682	0.35

\*The ongoing charges/total expense ratio (TER) reflects annual total operating expenses for the class, excludes transaction costs and is expressed as a percentage of net asset value. The figure shown is from current KID. The investment manager has committed to reimburse the Sub-Fund when the ongoing charges exceed the agreed upon TER. Ongoing charges may vary over time.

# **FUND FACTS**

Inception date	4 Nov 2011
Assets—all share classes	\$106.87m
Average credit rating	A
Obligors	113
Yield To Worst	2.85
Credit Spread (bps)	71
Average Maturity (Years)	2.68
Interest Rate duration (yrs)	2.53
Credit-spread duration (yrs)	2.67
Ex-ante volatility (bps)	249
Ex-post volatility (bps)	
Beta Against Index	0.94
99% Monthly VaR	1.87%

Data based on ending weights as of quarter end.

### **ESG METRICS**

The data provided is for transparency and informational purposes only. The ESG metrics are not indicative of how or whether ESG factors will be utilised by the fund. The information is based on third party ratings and, unless otherwise stated within a fund's investment objective, do not change a fund's investment objective or constrain the fund's investable universe. For more information regarding a fund's investment strategy, please see the fund's prospectus. Refer to allspringglobal.com for further sustainability disclosures.

# MSCI ESG SCORE

	FUND		BENCHMA	ARK
	VALUE	COVERAGE	VALUE	COVERAGE
MSCI Overall Score	7.3	94%	7.3	96%

Data is sourced from MSCI ESG Research where companies are rated on a scale of 0 - 10 (0 - worst, 10 - best). Weighted average scores exclude effects of unrated securities.

#### **PRODUCT/ACTIVITY INVOLVEMENT (%)**

	FUND	BENCHMARK
Controversial Weapons	0.00	0.45
Oil Sands	0.00	0.00
Small Arms	0.00	0.10
Thermal Coal	0.00	0.59
Торассо	0.00	0.65
UNGC violators	0.00	0.20

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### SUSTAINALYTICS ESG RISK SCORE

	VALUE	COVERAGE	
Fund	19	98%	,
Benchmark	19	99%	,

ESG Risk Ratings measure exposure to and management of ESG risks. Lower risk scores reflect less ESG risk. Sustainalytics ESG Risk Scores measure ESG risks on a scale of 0 - 100 (0 - no ESG Risk, >40 - Severe ESG Risk).

### CARBON CHARACTERISTICS

	FUND		BENCHMARK		
	VALUE	COVERAGE	VALUE	COVERAGE	% ABOVE/ BELOW BENCHMARK
Carbon to value invested (metric tons CO2e/\$1MM invested)*	31	94%	50	97%	-38%
Weighted average carbon intensity (metric tons CO2e/\$1MM revenues)*	55	94%	80	97%	-31%

 $^{*}\mbox{Carbon emissions}$  includes scope 1 and scope 2 GHG emissions. Data sourced from MSCI ESG Research.

## **RANKINGS AND RATINGS**

Morningstar total return rankings-Institutional Class (as of 31 Mar 2025)

MORNINGSTAR CATEGORY	EUR CORPORATE BOND - SHORT TERM
1 year	78 out of 358
3 year	217 out of 290
5 year	149 out of 257
10 year	46 out of 152

#### Overall Morningstar Rating <sup>™</sup> ★★★

The Overall Morningstar Rating, a weighted average of the 3-, 5-, and 10-year (if applicable) ratings, is out of 290 funds in the Eur corporate bond - short term category, based on risk-adjusted returns as of 31 Mar 2025. Ratings and awards are not an indication, promise, or guarantee of future performance. Ratings and awards should not be relied upon when making an investment decision.

The Morningstar Rating for funds, or star rating, is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar risk-adjusted return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The Morningstar Rating does not include any adjustment for sales loads. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its 3-, 5-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% 3-year rating for 36–59 months of total returns, 60% 5-year rating/40% 3-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% 5-year rating/20% 3-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent 3-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods.

The EUR Short Duration Credit Fund received 2 stars among 290 funds, 3 stars among 257 funds, and 4 stars among 152 funds for the 3-, 5-, and 10-year periods, respectively. The Morningstar Rating is for the Institutional Class only; other classes may have different performance characteristics.

The Morningstar absolute ranking is based on the fund's total return rank relative to all funds that have the same category for the same time period. Morningstar rankings do not include the effect of sales charges. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.** 

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### KEY RISKS

Debt securities risk: debt securities are subject to credit risk and interest rate risk and are affected by an issuer's ability to make interest payments or repay principal when due. Asset-backed securities risk: asset-backed securities may be more sensitive to changes in interest rates and may exhibit added volatility, known as extension risk, and are subject to prepayment risk. ESG risk: applying an ESG screen for security selection may result in lost opportunity in a security or industry resulting in possible underperformance relative to peers. ESG screens are dependent on third-party data and errors in the data may result in the incorrect inclusion or exclusion of a security. Contingent convertible bonds risk: These instruments can be converted from debt into equity because of the occurrence of certain predetermined trigger events including when the issuer is in crisis resulting in possible price fluctuations and potential liquidity concerns. Currency risk: currency exchange rates may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time and can be affected unpredictably by intervention (or the failure to intervene) by relevant governments or central banks, or by currency controls or political developments. Geographic concentration risk: investments concentrated in specific geographic regions and markets may be subject to greater volatility due to economic downturns and other factors affecting the specific geographic regions. Global investment risk: securities of certain jurisdictions may experience more rapid and extreme changes in value and may be affected by uncertainties such as international political developments, currency fluctuations and other developments in the laws and regulations of countries in which an investment may be made. Leverage risk: the use of certain types of financial derivative instruments may create leverage which may increase share price volatility.

#### DEFINITION OF TERMS:

**Credit-quality ratings:** Credit-quality ratings apply to underlying holdings of the fund and not the fund itself. Standard & Poor's and Fitch rate the creditworthiness of bonds from AAA (highest) to D (lowest). Standard & Poor's rates the creditworthiness of short-term notes from SP-1 (highest) to SP-3 (lowest). Ratings from A to CCC may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show relative standing within the rating categories. Moody's rates the creditworthiness of bonds from Aaa (highest) to CC (lowest). Ratings Aa to B may be modified by the addition of a number 1 (highest) to 3 (lowest) to show relative standing within the ratings categories. Moody's rates the creditworthiness of short-term U.S. tax-exempt municipal securities from MIG-1/VMIG-1 (highest) to SG (lowest). Credit quality and credit-quality ratings are subject to change.

**Duration:** Duration is a measurement of the sensitivity of a bond's price to changes in Treasury yields. A fund's duration is the weighted average of duration of the bonds in the portfolio. Duration should be interpreted as the approximate change in a bond's (or fund's) price for a 100-basis-point change in Treasury yields. Duration is based on historical performance and does not represent future results.

Yield curve: The yield curve is a graphical representation of fixed-income security yields (usually U.S. Treasuries) at their respective maturities, starting with the shortest time to maturity and sequentially plotting in a line chart to the longest maturity. The yield curve is based on historical performance and does not represent future results.

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The Bloomberg Euro Corporate Bonds (1-5 Year) Index contains fixed-rate, investment-grade, euro-denominated securities from industrial, utility and financial issuers only with a maturity of at least one year and up to, but not including, 5 years. Inclusion is based on currency of the issue, not the domicile of the issuer. You cannot invest directly in an index. The Fund uses the Bloomberg Euro Aggregate Corporate Bonds 1-5 Yr. Index (EUR Unhedged) for performance comparison. The investments of the Sub-Fund may deviate significantly from the components of and their respective weightings in the benchmark.

The Morningstar Category average is the average return for the peer group based on the returns of each individual fund within the group. The total return of the Morningstar Category average does not include the effect of sales charges. You cannot invest directly in a Morningstar Category average.

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The prospectus is available in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.

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