

QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REVIEW

High Yield Strategy

RETURNS (%) (LOCAL)

	Cumulative (%)		Annualized (%)				
	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	ITD
Net of Fees (Composite)	7.49	12.93	12.93	2.96	5.65	–	4.86
Gross of Fees (Composite)	7.63	13.46	13.46	3.43	6.16	–	5.37
Markit iBoxx USD Liquid High Yield	7.21	12.89	12.89	1.73	4.79	–	3.97
Value Added (vs. Markit iBoxx USD Liquid High Yield)	0.28	0.04	0.04	1.23	0.87	–	+0.89

Major Performance Drivers

The Markit iBoxx USD Liquid High Yield index returned 7.2% in Q4, buoyed by a strong rally in both spreads and risk-free rates. On an excess return (over Treasuries) basis, there wasn't much to differentiate across credit ratings, while on a total return basis, BBs fared marginally better than lower rated bonds.

The High Yield portfolio outperformed the benchmark in Q4. The portfolio's allocation to CDX HY for harvesting Carry, was the main contributor to its outperformance over the benchmark. Quality exposure, through BB bonds, kept pace with the benchmark, while positions in High Yield cash portfolio products, including Total Return Swaps, made a small positive contribution to the relative performance. At quarter end, the portfolio was invested in liquid portfolio products and high yield bonds.

Inception Date: 31-Jan-17

Risks: Risks associated with investing in the Strategy may include Management and Operational Risk, Market Risk - Fixed Income, Credit Risk, Illiquidity Risk, and Derivatives and Short Sales Risk. Returns shown for periods greater than one year are on an annualized basis. To obtain performance information to the most recent month-end, visit www.gmo.com.

Performance Returns: Performance data quoted represents past performance and is not predictive of future performance. Net returns are presented after the deduction of a model advisory fee and incentive fee if applicable. These returns include transaction costs, commissions and withholding taxes on foreign income and capital gains and include the reinvestment of dividends and other income, as applicable. Fees paid by accounts within the composite may be higher or lower than the model fees used. **GMO LLC claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®).** A Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) Composite Report is available on GMO.com by clicking the GIPS® Composite Report link in the documents section of the strategy page. GIPS® is a registered trademark owned by CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein. Actual fees are disclosed in Part 2 of GMO's Form ADV and are also available in each strategy's Composite Report. Gross returns are presented gross of management fees and any incentive fees if applicable. These returns include transaction costs, commissions, withholding taxes on foreign income and capital gains and include the reinvestment of dividends and other income, as applicable. If management and incentive fees were deducted performance would be lower. For example, if, before fees, the strategy were to achieve a 10% annual rate of return above its hurdle rate each year for ten years, and an annual advisory fee of 1% and incentive fee of 20% of net returns above the hurdle rate were charged during that period, the resulting average annual net return (after the deduction of management and incentive fees) would be approximately 7.20%.

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PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The GMO High Yield Strategy seeks to generate total return in excess of that of its benchmark, the Markit iBoxx USD Liquid High Yield Index, by applying a systematic, factor-based approach to portfolio construction. It is designed to capture alpha from top-down sources of risk premia, taking advantage of structural market inefficiencies, while maintaining a liquid portfolio. Our top-down, data-driven approach (in what is still largely a fundamentally managed asset class) brings a unique perspective that allows us to allocate capital across a range of high yield instruments in order to seek the best possible risk-adjusted returns over a full market cycle.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Benchmark(s): The Markit iBoxx USD Liquid High Yield Index is an independently maintained index consisting of liquid USD high yield bonds, selected to provide a balanced representation of the broad USD high yield corporate bond universe.

The above information is based on a representative account in the Strategy selected because it has the fewest restrictions and best represents the implementation of the Strategy.

ABOUT GMO

Founded in 1977, GMO is a global asset manager committed to delivering superior performance and advice to our clients. We are privately owned, which allows us to singularly focus on our sole business – achieving outstanding long-term client investment outcomes. Offering multi-asset, equity, fixed income, and alternative strategies, we invest with a long-term, valuation-based philosophical approach.

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