

Sanlam Credit Fund

Monthly Commentary

April 2022

Fund performance

	Inception	1mth	3mth	6mth	YTD	1Yr	Since Inception
Fund (A GBP Acc)	30/08/2016	-1.0%	-3.2%	-3.6%	-3.9%	-2.6%	3.1%
Sector (IA £ Strategic Bond)		-2.1%	-4.8%	-6.1%	-6.3%	-5.2%	1.9%

	12 months to Apr 18	12 months to Apr 19	12 months to Apr 20	12 months to Apr 21	12 months to Apr 22
Fund (A GBP Acc)	3.6%	2.3%	1.6%	9.5%	-2.6%
Sector (IA £ Strategic Bond)	1.8%	2.6%	1.2%	9.4%	-5.2%

- Performance beyond one year is annualised.
- **Past performance is not an indicator of future performance.**
- Source: Sanlam, Morningstar and Lipper as at 30/04/22. Figures for periods longer than 12 months are annualized. NAV to NAV figures are used. Net of charges, assumes net income reinvested. Class A net returns are used to illustrate the funds longest track record in the table above.

Fund commentary

Another very difficult month for risk assets generally, and for corporate bonds specifically.

In an attempt to apply some data points to the weakness, the Nasdaq fell by just over 13% during April, the worst monthly performance since the GFC, excluding 2020.

In what is typically a seasonally strong month for corporate bonds, unfortunately the macro environment put paid to that narrative, with the Bloomberg GBP Aggregate Corporate Index generating excess returns of -135bp during the month, bring year-to-date excess returns to -308bps. April total returns were -332bps

Corporate bonds once again experienced a disorderly mark down mostly driven by the shock that is being forced upon it from interest rate volatility. Growth concerns in Europe (through the Russian invasion into Ukraine) and China (zero covid policy) pushed investor confidence down further.

Bond markets are fragile because the ECB is getting impatient to end what has been a decade of unconventional support, alongside the Fed and MPC who are likely to raise interest rates in the early days of May.

A slower China has global implications, with weaker end demand for exporting nations, and lingering supply chain stresses. How much of an economic slowdown looks priced-in for corporate bond sectors? The Investment Team think rather a lot, which is why over the course of the past few weeks the cash component of the Fund has slowly but surely been deployed in the market, and the yield has risen markedly, but not at the expense of duration.

Fund commentary (cont.)

Earnings season is now underway, and will be watched very closely, how have firms' earnings held up amid the overwhelming effects of cost pressures that companies face today. Results so far, suggest relatively stable earnings margins.

As a new month begins, the Investment Team take a degree of comfort from the now relatively attractive re-pricing of corporate bonds. Individual bond selection and industry allocation remain the key focus.

Important Information

The fund will invest in debt securities. The government or company issuer of a bond might not be able to repay either the interest or the original loan amount and therefore default on the debt. This would affect the credit rating of the bond and, in turn, the value of the fund. Investment in bonds and other debt instruments (including related derivatives) is subject to interest rate risk. If long-term interest rates rise, the value of your shares is likely to fall. The Fund may engage in transactions in financial derivative instruments for hedging purposes only. There is a risk that losses could be made on derivative positions or that the counterparties could fail to complete on transactions.

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Contact us

Bruce Simpson
Head of Distribution
and Marketing

+44 (0) 20 3316 4064
Bruce.Simpson@Sanlam.co.uk

Liz Adnitt
Head of UK Wholesale
Distribution

+44 (0) 20 3316 4071
Liz.Adnitt@Sanlam.co.uk

Andy Groves
Account Director

+44 07917580592
Andrew.Groves@Sanlam.co.uk

Tom Whitfield
Account Director

+44 (0) 20 3116 4016
Tom.Whitfield@Sanlam.co.uk

Sanlam Investments

Monument Place
24 Monument Street
London
EC3R 8AJ