

Sanlam Credit Fund

Quarterly Update

Q1 2022

Key facts

Fund AuM	£105.4m
Number of Holdings	59
Fund Managers	Darren Reece Guillaume Desqueyroux
Fund Launch Date	Aug-16
Domicile	Ireland
Base Currency	Sterling
Fund Type	OEIC, UCITS V
IA Sector	Sterling Strategic Bond
Morningstar Category	GBP Flexible Bond
Dealing Deadline	12:00 (GMT)
Settlement Time	T+3
Valuation Point	23:00 (GMT)

Market recap

A very difficult quarter for fixed income markets as inflationary expectations determined by the Fed and most Central Banks have been reset higher. Geopolitics and the tragedy of what's happening in Ukraine have had not only the upsetting humanitarian consequences but a knock-on effect on commodity prices and European growth expectations. The resurgence of coronavirus in China, with the domestic growth and global supply chain knock-ons of the authorities' zero-Covid policy, is yet to be fully felt.

Global corporate bond spreads experienced significant underperformance during most of the quarter but recovered their poise towards the final weeks of March, as market participants felt that the sell-off was too aggressive.

U.S. and European high yield default rates remain very low and with corporate bond yields now relatively attractive, inflows into the asset class are appropriate.

As alluded to above, with Central Bank inflationary expectations being set higher and market suggestions that the Fed and others are behind the curve, government bond prices fell significantly during the quarter. 5-year Treasuries fell 8%, UK Gilts 4% and German Bunds 5%.

Fund review

In what has been a very tough start to the year, the Credit Fund has held in well. The Fund has returned -2.8% year to date, outperforming its sector (IA Sterling Strategic Bond Fund) by +1.5%, which returned -4.3% in the same period. Despite the tough quarter, on an annualized basis since inception, the Fund is still comfortably ahead of its objective of UK Bank of England Base Rate +1-2%.

Regardless, the Investment Team is disappointed with the negative year to date performance and is working to ensure any further downside is protected against, but that the Fund is also set to benefit when stability eventually returns. It is this investment philosophy that will bode well for the second half

Fund review (cont.)

of the year.

The Fund's attractive Yield to Worst of circa. 4.1% and healthy credit profile, alongside an Effective Duration of circa. 2.6, should continue to provide an attractive shelter for the more cautious of investors, seeking to prioritize capital preservation and downside protection.

The net income produced for the B Inc GBP share class in Q4 was £0.92, taking the 12-month net income to £3.73, comfortably ahead of the Bank of England UK Base Rate +1-2% target. Taking into consideration the last 12-months of net income and the price of the B Inc GBP share class, the Current Yield of the Fund is 3.9%.

Fund performance

	Inception	3mth	6mth	YTD	1Yr	Since Inception
Fund (A GBP Acc)	30/08/2016	-2.8%	-3.2%	-2.8%	-0.9%	3.4%
Sector (IA £ Strategic Bond)		-4.3%	-4.5%	-4.3%	-2.4%	2.3%

	12 months to Mar 18	12 months to Mar 19	12 months to Mar 20	12 months to Mar 21	12 months to Mar 22
Fund (A GBP Acc)	4.1%	2.0%	0.6%	10.9%	-0.9%
Sector (IA £ Strategic Bond)	2.3%	2.1%	-2.1%	13.0%	-2.4%

- Performance beyond one year is annualised.
- **Past performance is not an indicator of future performance.**
- Source: Sanlam, Morningstar and Lipper as at 31/03/22. 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.

Performance attribution

The fund's top positive and negative contributors to performance in the quarter are listed below:

Positive:

Lifetri 5.25% 2032: local return of 4.72%, contributing 0.08% to performance

Lifetri is an unrated life insurer in the Netherlands focusing on the DB-derisking activity. The sub-sector benefits from a strong pipeline of new business for the next few years.

Lloyds 7.281% Perp: local return of 1.05%, contributing 0.03% to performance

This security has been tendered by the company as a result of the new regulatory framework. It has been a long holding of the fund and exemplified the legacy instrument strategy implemented into the fund.

Negative:

Fidelidade 4.25% 2031: local return of -5.00%, contributing -0.20% to performance

After a strong rally post-rating in December 2021, the security has been sold off by the market in the context of the overall price correction experience during the quarter. However, the FY21 set of results confirmed the right trajectory of the company and its capital generation.

Utmost 4% 2031: local return of -7.54%, contributing -0.14% to performance

Utmost is one the longest duration hold in the fund and the market value has suffered from the important move in rates. The team remains comfortable with the strategy of the company and the operational efficiency of the business model

What to expect

At times like these, consumers would perhaps look to the authorities for support, but we don't think they should expect too much help from central banks. Central banks have been raising rates despite the war in Ukraine and in the US Powell has already made it very clear that fighting inflation and stabilising prices will be prioritised, even if that means a hit to GDP growth. In Europe, the situation is a little more nuanced as Europe doesn't have the benefit of being self-sufficient in energy, but policymakers know that they have to do something to bring inflation down to more normal levels before it gets too embedded. Politically, governments will face growing pressure to mitigate the cost of living crisis, but it is worth remembering that governments have problems of their own; for example, looking at the UK, we reckon that there is around half a trillion pounds of debt that is linked to RPI inflation – which, as we noted above, is currently running a full two points ahead of CPI inflation. Unfortunately, for central banks, there are no easy answers to the current crisis.

The quarter begins with a general concern on inflation and interest rates as well as growth expectations. Whilst the Investment Team does not forecast a peak in long term interest rate expectations there are suggestions from some analysts and strategists that pricing may have gone too far. As investors, we respect those suggestions but don't necessarily share them, and do not let that influence our investment philosophy, which is to identify companies with strong balance sheets, well-capitalised structures, and transparency of earnings.

Our priorities of downside protection and capital preservation supported by a short duration emphasis, alongside intensive and robust credit analysis will hopefully continue to result in a degree of peer group outperformance.

Importantly, the Fund is structured to not only outperform in negative market environments but as the 5 plus year track record suggests, display a healthy positive trajectory when the market stabilises.

The Team would not be surprised to see the wides in corporate bond spreads tested again this year, given there are so many areas of uncertainty. The list is long, not least the beginning of 'Quantitative Tightening' although we do note that global corporate bond fundamentals are healthy, and the starting point of this year and indeed this quarter is solid.

Ongoing rotation of investments within the Fund seeking appropriate yield for the risks, a rise in broad credit quality and a healthy mix of short-duration bond maturities should be expected from our investors heading into Q2.

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.

The value of this portfolio is subject to fluctuation and past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The performance is calculated for the portfolio and the actual individual investor performance will differ as a result of initial fees, the actual investment date, the date of reinvestment and dividend withholding tax. All terms exclude costs. Fluctuations or movements in exchange rates may cause the value of underlying investments to go up or down. Do remember that the value of participatory interests or the investment and the income generated from them may go down as well as up and is not guaranteed, therefore, you may not get back the amount originally invested and potentially risk total loss of capital. Therefore, the Manager does not provide any guarantee either with respect to the capital or the return of a portfolio. The Manager has the right to close any Portfolios to new investors to manage them more efficiently in accordance with their mandates. Collective Investment Schemes are traded at ruling prices and can engage in borrowing and scrip lending. Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) are generally medium to long term investments. A schedule of fees and charges and maximum commissions is available on request free of charge from sanlam.co.uk. A full summary of investor rights can be obtained from <https://www.linkgroup.eu/policy-statements/irish-management-company/>. Document is provided in English.

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