

# **Infinity Fixed Income Portfolio**

## March 2024

#### **Market Commentary**

Financial markets continued their upward trajectory over March, ending a strong 1q24. Markets continue to be buoyed by the relative strength of the US economy despite the fact that the potential for rate cuts (including the number of cuts) is being pushed further into the back end of 2024. We continue to expect that the Fed will cut rates through the 2h24 (beginning in August), although given the recent strength of the data, it is increasingly likely that the Fed will be looking at two (of -50bps) as opposed to three rate cuts. While this is likely to see bond yields remain elevated, we still believe that financial markets (particularly growth assets) can continue their upward trajectory over the year. Through the month several markets reached (another) all time high, including the ASX 200 Index post the 1h24 reporting season which saw an upward revision on the earnings outlook for the market. This followed on from the most recent US reporting season, which also saw an increase in the earnings outlook. However, given the rally in equity markets through the 1q24, our valuation assessment is now seeing several markets trade at the upper end of our fair value range. However, we don't see markets as outright expensive and believe that should earnings continue to remain sound, we believe that equity markets can move higher. Despite market consternation over the extent and timing of any rate cuts from the Fed, bond markets were able to move higher (yields lower) over the month. This supported a strong return across global bond markets led by the domestic Treasury market. While we now believe that we are passed the top if the global rate tightening cycle the potential for inflation and (by consequence) cash rates to be higher for longer remains. While this likely to see ongoing gyrations across financial markets, we continue to see opportunities across both 'growth' and 'defensive' asset classes. However, given the current macro and market backdrop, our focus remains on mitigating exposures where we feel that risk/reward outcome is not justified, both in the short and medium term. Overall, we continue to maintain a broad-based investment strategy across the entirety of our portfolios, but with a view to modifying individual portfolio risk exposures as market dynamics evolve.

### **Portfolio Commentary**

Fixed Income markets recovered in March after a weaker February. The portfolio delivered a healthy return of 0.7% which was slightly behind the blended benchmark's return of 0.96%. Over the longer-term, the portfolio has materially outperformed over trailing 3- and 5-year periods.

Most of the underlying managers produced positive performance for the month. The best of the bunch was Metrics Master Income Trust (+1.65%). Metrics' solid performance was underpinned by the consistent income produced from its loan portfolio. Principal Global Credit Opportunities Fund (+1.50%) also had a decent month which was pleasing given it suffered a tricky February. JP Morgan Global Strategic Bond Fund (+0.70%) appreciated over the month due to healthy performance from the Credit and Asset-Backed allocations.

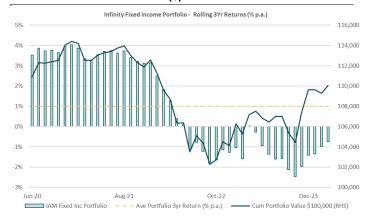
The weakest performing manager in March was Ardea Real Outcome Fund (-1.11%). Ardea's option positioning was the primary driver of the negative return.

#### Performance

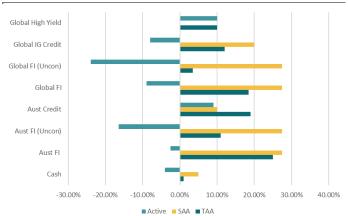
Period	Portfolio (%)	Growth (%)	Income (%)
1mth	0.70%	0.35%	0.35%
3mths	0.36%	-0.04%	0.40%
6mths	4.44%	3.61%	0.82%
1yr (p.a.)	2.68%	1.09%	1.60%
3yrs (p.a.)	-0.74%	-3.11%	2.37%
5yrs (p.a.)	1.01%	-1.63%	2.63%

Source: FE Analytics. Since inception July 2017. Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

#### **Cumulative Portfolio Value (\$)**



### **Asset Allocation**



#### **Portfolio Characteristics**

Characteristic	Portfolio	
3yr Risk (std dev %)	4.3%	
Sharpe Ratio	-1.2	
Risk/Return Ratio	-0.2	
Mthly OPR ratio (%)	0.6	
Tracking Error (%)	2.7%	
Information Ratio	0.5	

Source: Financial Express Analytics, Infinity Asset Mgt.





## **Infinity Fixed Income Portfolio**

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#### **Portfolio Changes:**

There were no changes made to the portfolio in March. As a result, the portfolio maintains its tilt towards Credit, both Investment Grade and High Yield, and correspondingly underweight traditional Bonds. There continues to be preference to alternative-style strategies across the portfolio, such as Global and Domestic unconstrained managers.

The table below provides a snapshot of the major positions in the portfolio at the end of March.

Manager	Sector	Asset Class	%
Macquarie True Index Aust Bond Fund	Australian Bonds	Aust Bonds	25.00%
JP Morgan Global Strategic Bond Fund	Global Bonds (Uncd)	Gbl Bonds	18.50%
Principal Global Credit Opportunities Fund	Global Credit	Gbl Bonds	12.00%
Lazard Emerging Markets Total Return Fund	EM Debt	Gbl Bonds	10.00%
Apostle Ethical High Yield Credit	Global HY Credit	Gbl Bonds	10.00%

#### Portfolio Overview:

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Product Code:	Panorama: DAM0869AU	Hub: INF011	NWL: MAC000383		
Asset Class:	Fixed Income				
Style:	Active				
B'chmk Index:	Refer PDS for details				
Min. Inv Horizon:	3 to 5 years				
Min Inv Amt:	A\$25,000				
Inv Mgt Fee:	0.3596% p.a.				

#### **Investment Objective:**

To deliver outperformance of the benchmark over a rolling three year period.

#### Designed for Investors who:

Seek exposure to a diversified mix of fixed income investments with a focus on delivering stable investment returns through the cycle via exposure to both domestic and global fixed income investments. Investors need to be able to tolerate a moderate level of investment risk that includes the potential for negative returns in any single year.