



BOND DEBENTURE FUND

MARKET REVIEW

- The U.S. bond market, as measured by the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index (the "Aggregate" Index), was positive for the quarter, returning 0.62%.¹ The U.S. Treasury component of the Aggregate Index returned 0.18% during the quarter. Following the market bounce back in the second quarter, risk assets continued to rally in the first two months of the third quarter on the back of optimistic earnings reports for 2Q2020 and particularly strong gains in technology issues even as coronavirus cases continued to rise and several vaccine candidates entered Phase 3 trials, boosting overall sentiment. Investment grade corporate bonds² returned approximately 1.67% and experienced significant spread tightening early in the quarter before widening amid the rebound in volatility in September. Most risk assets fell meaningfully in September as market sentiment was driven lower amid political volatility related to the Supreme Court of the U.S. (SCOTUS) vacancy, heightened COVID-19 concerns in Europe, flaring U.S.-China tensions related to national security concerns, and heightened uncertainty leading up to the U.S. Presidential election.
- High yield bonds³ posted positive performance in the third quarter. High yield spreads tightened 103 basis points from June month-end levels to 542 basis points at the end of September. Within the asset class, lower quality segments of the high yield market outperformed higher quality tiers. Bank loans⁴ also posted positive returns for the quarter, performing in line with the high yield market.
- Over the third quarter, the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) announced a new approach to setting monetary policy, whereby the Fed will seek inflation that averages 2% over time. Under this new policy shift, the Fed will allow inflation to moderately overshoot the 2% goal following periods of weakness. Additionally, the new approach permits labor-market gains to reach more workers. The policy shift came about following years of too-low inflation.

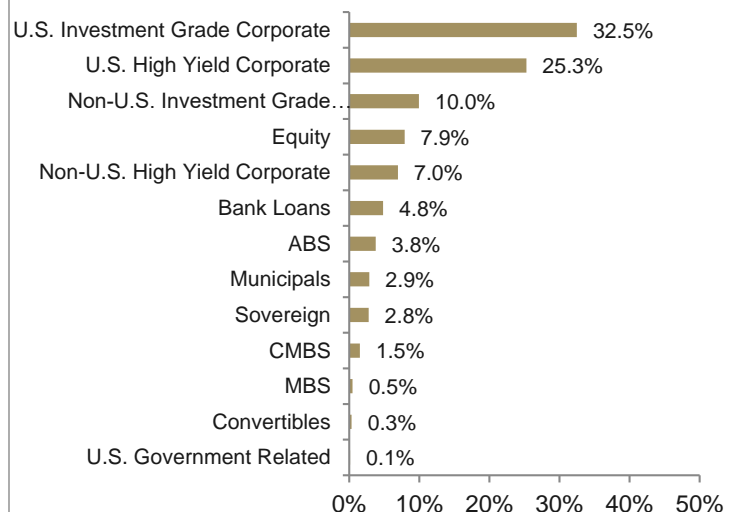
PORTFOLIO REVIEW

- The Fund returned 4.48%, reflecting performance at the net asset value (NAV) of Class A shares with all distributions reinvested, for the quarter ended September 30, 2020. The Fund's benchmark, the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, returned 0.62% during the same period.
- The Fund takes a flexible, multi-sector approach, which emphasizes credit sensitive sectors of the market, compared to its benchmark, which is largely comprised of U.S. Treasuries and government related securities. The Fund's allocation to the leveraged credit segment of the market, and most notably high yield bonds, contributed to relative performance during the period. While an elevated pace of supply pressured the asset class, high yield bonds continued to benefit from the U.S. Federal Reserve's (Fed) stimulus measures as well as an increase in investors' risk appetite over the third quarter. The Fund's allocation to equities also contributed during the period. Despite an increase in volatility in September, equities rallied over the quarter, outperforming the broader investment grade fixed income universe.
- The Fund's allocation to bank loans detracted from relative performance as the asset class performed worse than the broader fixed income market. Despite strong performance in September following robust supply and demand technicals, the asset class faced headwinds related to the low interest rate backdrop which weighed on third quarter performance.

STRATEGY POSITIONING & OUTLOOK

- Over the third quarter as spreads tightened, we reduced the Fund's allocation to high yield corporate bonds and reallocated to safer spread products. We also decreased the Fund's allocation to commercial mortgage back securities (CMBS) as we believe COVID-19 related headwinds will pose a challenge to commercial real estate in the near term.
- We have selectively increased the Fund's exposure to emerging markets as relative USD weakness and related fundamental tailwinds to commodity-driven economies serve as a buffer. From a valuation perspective, we are seeing select opportunities in single-B African sovereigns.
- We continue to have a broadly constructive view on credit, and are positioning the portfolio based on relative value, underlying fundamentals, and our top-down view. We are investing in the essential and nonessential industries that are benefitting from a continued reopening of the economy. The magnitude and scale of this global pandemic is causing some secular shifts even with the ultimate arrival of therapeutics and a vaccine. The Fund's positioning currently reflects this view as we are investing in companies and industries that we believe are better poised to adapt to and benefit from these structural economic changes. We are still waiting for better data on the health, economic and consumer behavioral fronts before we get more constructive in unsecured risk of directly affected sectors such as airlines and crowd-oriented leisure. However, we have begun to selectively add higher quality paper in these industries primarily, but not exclusively, in secured bonds where we believe our commitments are well collateralized.

PORTFOLIO BREAKDOWN



Due to rounding and the exclusion of cash, the percentage allocation of the portfolio breakdown may not equal 100%. The total may also be greater than 100% due to negative cash allocations. Allocations are reported as of the date a security transaction is initiated; however, certain transactions may not settle until several days later. Accordingly, cash may appear as a negative allocation as a result of forward settling instruments, such as currency forwards, certain mortgage-backed securities, and treasury futures. Portfolio breakdown as of 09/30/2020.

PERFORMANCE AS OF 09/30/2020

	3Q20	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Net Asset Value (without sales charge)	4.48%	3.19%	3.95%	6.08%	6.20%
Maximum Offering Price (with 2.25% sales charge)	2.10	0.81	3.17	5.60	5.96
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index	0.62	6.98	5.24	4.18	3.64
Morningstar Multi-Sector Bond Funds Average ⁵	2.83	2.18	3.09	4.34	4.24

Expense Ratio: 0.79%

Performance data quoted reflect past performance and are no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be higher or lower than the performance quoted. The investment return and principal value of an investment in the Fund will fluctuate so that shares, on any given day or when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. You can obtain performance data current to the most recent month end by calling Lord Abbett at (888) 522-2388 or referring to our website at lordabbett.com.

¹As represented by the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index as of 09/30/2020. ²As represented by the ICE BofA U.S. Corporate (A-BBB) as of 09/30/2020. ³As represented by the ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Constrained Index as of 09/30/2020. ⁴As represented by the Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index as of 09/30/2020. ⁵Source: Morningstar.

A Note about Risk: The Fund is subject to the general risks associated with investing in debt securities, including market, credit, liquidity, and interest rate risk. The value of your investment will change as interest rates fluctuate and in response to market movements. When interest rates fall, the prices of debt securities tend to rise, and when interest rates rise, the prices of debt securities are likely to decline. Longer-term debt securities are usually more sensitive to interest-rate changes; the longer the maturity of a security, the greater the effect a change in interest rates is likely to have on its price. The Fund may make substantial investments in high-yield debt securities and may invest in senior loans which may be primarily below-investment grade. High yield securities, sometimes called junk bonds, carry increased risks of price volatility, illiquidity, and the possibility of default in timely payment of interest and expenses. The value of investments in equity securities will fluctuate in response to general economic conditions and to changes in the prospects of particular companies and/or sectors in the economy. Convertible securities are subject to the risks affecting both equity and fixed income securities, including market, credit, liquidity, and interest rate risk. These factors can affect Fund performance.

The Fund's portfolio is actively managed and is subject to change.

Bond credit ratings range from AAA (highest) to D (lowest). Bonds rated BBB or above are considered investment grade. Credit ratings BB and below are lower-rated securities (junk bonds). High-yielding, non-investment grade bonds (junk bonds) involve higher risks than investment grade bonds. Adverse conditions may affect the issuer's ability to pay interest and principal on these securities.

Performance reflects the reinvestment of all distributions. Certain purchases of Class A shares without a sales charge are subject to a contingent deferred sales charge (CDSC). The CDSC is not reflected in the performance shown. If any applicable CDSC had been included, performance would have been lower. Returns for less than one year are not annualized. If applicable, instances of high double-digit returns were achieved primarily during favorable market conditions and may not be sustainable over time.

The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is an index of U.S. dollar-denominated, investment-grade U.S. government and corporate securities, and mortgage pass-through securities, and asset-backed securities. Indexes are unmanaged, do not reflect the deduction of fees or expenses, and an investor cannot invest directly in an index.

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Morningstar Multi-Sector Bond Funds: Multisector-bond portfolios seek income by diversifying their assets among several fixed income sectors, usually U.S. government obligations, U.S. corporate bonds, foreign bonds, and high-yield U.S. debt securities. These portfolios typically hold 35% to 65% of bond assets in securities that are not rated or are rated by a major agency such as Standard & Poor's or Moody's at the level of BB (considered speculative for taxable bonds) and below.

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