Janus Henderson INVESTORS

# FLEXIBLE INCOME FUND

## At a glance

**Performance***
The Fund returned −2.91%, the Index returned −2.61% and the Sector returned −2.38%.

**Contributors/detractors**
An overweight allocation to spread risk detracted, as did overall yield-curve positioning. A diversified overweight allocation to securitised sectors supported relative performance.

**Outlook**
We believe elevated yields may support income, diversification and long-term potential. We also continue to favour the high-quality carry and risk-return profile of securitised credit sectors.

## Portfolio management


**Greg Wilensky, CFA**


**Michael Keough**


**John Lloyd**

## Investment environment

- US fixed income fell in September. Yields rose after the Federal Reserve (Fed) hiked interest rates amid a resilient economy, as oil prices rose following the collapse of a fragile US-Iran ceasefire, and as private sector debt issuance increased.
- Securitised credit sectors outperformed Treasuries and investment grade corporate bonds.
- The Fed raised the federal funds rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 3.75% to 4.00%, its first monetary policy tightening since July 2023. Chair Kevin Warsh said the economy was strong, but that inflation had been too high for too long. Futures markets are pricing in one more hike this year, and at least another two in 2027.
- The US economy added a higher-than-expected 162,000 jobs in August, with unemployment unchanged at 4.1% and July's previously reported job losses revised to a gain of 21,000. Annual US inflation held at 3.4% in August and remains stubbornly high.
- The 10-year US Treasury yield ended the month 54 bps higher at 5.29%, while the 2-year yield also ended 54 bps higher at 4.88%. Investment grade corporate bond spreads widened 2 bps to 80 bps, while high yield bond spreads widened 50 bps to 311 bps.

## Portfolio review

The overweight credit risk position and resulting underweight position in Treasuries detracted as credit sectors underperformed comparable-maturity Treasuries. This was partially offset by our preference for securitised credit sectors, including private-label collateralised mortgage obligations (CMO), collateralised loan obligations (CLO), commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) and asset-backed securities (ABS). These holdings all contributed as these sectors outperformed corporate bonds. The off-benchmark allocation to loans also helped. Security selection in agency mortgage-backed securities (MBS) detracted.

The large overweight position in securitised credit is diversified across ABS, CMBS, residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS) and CLOs. Low unemployment supports household finances, which in turn supports consumer-backed ABS. Meanwhile, CMBS remains attractive to us due to a meaningful spread pick-up versus corporate bonds, as well as strong and consistent investor demand, which we believe is underpinned by stable property-level fundamentals and generally orderly deal execution. CLOs are supported by the corporate earnings picture, while their floating-rate structure may benefit from any rate increases.

**Marketing communication**
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**Past performance does not predict future returns.**
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*For benchmark and sector, if applicable, refer to Fund details on page 3. For relevant descriptions, risks and the Fund's investment policy statement, refer to Additional fund information on page 4.

We increased spread risk during the month as spreads widened, although the overall credit risk level is neutral relative to our long-term strategic asset allocation risk level. While we added selectively to corporate bonds and trimmed the underweight Treasuries position, our allocation to investment grade corporate bonds remains near its cyclical low weighting. We also added to agency MBS after the asset class sold off, but remain modestly underweight, having previously cut the position.

Yield curve positioning detracted. The overall composition of our position across the curve, including the underweight to longer-maturity securities, detracted as yields rose by less compared with the middle of the curve, and as the yield curve flattened. This was partially offset by being underweight duration for much of the period as yields rose.

We moved from a modest duration underweight position to a moderate overweight position as higher yields have improved the risk-reward profile of interest-rate exposure. Beyond the additional income available at current yield levels, we believe duration could provide increasingly attractive portfolio insurance against a potential slowdown in economic growth, recession, or other risk-off events that could prompt a flight to quality and lower Treasury yields.

## Manager outlook

Bond yields have risen sharply due to a combination of rising Treasury yields and widening spreads. This comes in the wake of continued US economic strength and heavy borrowing by the government and by companies driving investment in artificial intelligence (AI). It also follows a fresh jump in oil prices, and the Fed's renewed focus on bringing inflation down to its target of 2%. However, despite the turmoil seen in rates markets, the underlying credit fundamentals remain sound, providing a base from which fixed income investors may consider selectively adding risk now that valuations have become more attractive.

A key risk that we continue to monitor is whether higher energy prices or monetary policy overtightening by the Fed cause the economy to weaken too much. With the path to resolving the US-Iran conflict unclear, and unlikely to occur before the US midterm elections, oil prices have the potential to move sharply in either direction, altering the outlook for growth and inflation for better or worse. The futures market points to as many as four 25 bps hikes over the next 12 to 15 months, although we expect fewer. Meanwhile, markets have already priced in substantial Fed tightening, lifting benchmark bond yields and real yields to multi-decade highs.

We think elevated yields and strong fundamentals support the potential for attractive income generation and long-term return potential. However, we remain cognisant that spreads, even after recent widening, are still below longer-term averages. Therefore, our overall risk positioning is moderate.

We continue to favour securitised credit over corporate credit from a valuation and technical perspective, as securitised sectors offer us a more compelling combination of high-quality carry and an attractive risk-reward profile. In contrast, we remain cautious on investment grade corporate bonds due to unfavourable market technicals; namely, the expected headwind of further new supply, with AI-related borrowing potentially exceeding $1 trillion next year.

## Performance (%)

| Returns | Cumulative | | | | Annualised | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 Month | 3 Month | YTD | 1 Year | 3 Year | 5 Year | 10 Year |
| A2 USD (Net) | -2.91 | -3.84 | -3.71 | -2.86 | 3.40 | -1.93 | 0.12 |
| Index | -2.61 | -3.51 | -2.91 | -1.84 | 4.06 | -0.64 | 1.14 |
| Sector | -2.38 | -3.21 | -2.71 | -1.86 | 3.57 | -0.18 | 1.18 |
| A2 USD (Gross) | — | — | — | — | — | -0.29 | 1.92 |
| Target | — | — | — | — | — | 0.64 | 2.42 |

| Calendar year | YTD at Q3 2026 | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A2 USD (Net) | -3.71 | 6.74 | 0.64 | 3.88 | -15.24 | -2.33 | 8.89 | 7.90 | -2.23 | 2.18 | 1.15 |
| Index | -2.91 | 7.30 | 1.25 | 5.53 | -13.01 | -1.54 | 7.51 | 8.72 | 0.01 | 3.54 | 2.65 |
| Sector | -2.71 | 6.68 | 1.82 | 4.75 | -10.17 | -1.50 | 6.92 | 7.66 | -1.19 | 4.08 | 2.23 |

Performance is on a net of fees basis, with gross income reinvested. Source: at 30/09/26. © 2026 Morningstar, Inc. All rights reserved. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete, or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. **Past performance does not predict future returns.** Performance/performance target related data will display only where relevant to the share class inception date and annualised target time period. **The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount originally invested.** Source for target returns (where applicable) - Janus Henderson Investors.

Fund charges will impact the value of your investment. In particular, the ongoing charges applicable to each fund will dilute investment performance, particularly over time. For further explanation of charges please visit our Fund Charges page at www.janushenderson.com.

Note that any differences among portfolio securities currencies, share class currencies and costs to be paid or represented in currencies other than your home currency will expose you to currency risk. Costs and returns may increase or decrease as a result of currency and exchange rate fluctuations.

## Investment objective

The Fund aims to provide a return, from a combination of income and capital growth, while seeking to limit losses to capital (although not guaranteed) over the long term. Performance target: To outperform the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index by 1.35% per annum, before the deduction of charges, over any 5 year period.

For the fund's investment policy, refer to the Additional fund information on page 4.
**Past performance does not predict future returns.**

## Fund details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Inception date** | 24 December 1998 |
| **Total net assets** | 437.27m |
| **Asset class** | Fixed Income |
| **Domicile** | Ireland |
| **Structure** | Irish Investment Company |
| **Base currency** | USD |
| **Index** | Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index |
| **Morningstar sector** | USD Diversified Bond |
| **SFDR category** | Article 8 |

In accordance with the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation, the Fund is classified as Article 8 and promotes, among other characteristics, environmental and/or social characteristics, and invests in companies with good governance practices.




Rating as at previous month end. Rating is for the representative share class as defined in the performance table.

# Additional fund information

Tax assumptions and reliefs depend upon an investor's particular circumstances and may be subject to change. Please note the performance target is to be achieved over a specific annualised time period. Refer to the performance target wording within the objective. Availability of share classes shown may be limited by law in certain jurisdictions. Performance records/scenarios are detailed within the fund's specific KIID/KID; fees and charges, and the respective risk rating may vary. Further information can be found in the fund's prospectus and KIID/KID, which must be reviewed before investing. Please consult your local sales representative and/or financial adviser if you have any queries. From 21 November 2025, the Fund's investment strategy changed. Janus Henderson Flexible Income Fund's investment policy was changed effective 31 July 2024. Past performance shown before this date was achieved under circumstances that no longer apply. This is an Irish Investment Company regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. A short-term trading fee may be applied upon exiting the fund as per the prospectus. These are the views of the author at the time of publication and may differ from the views of other individuals/teams at Janus Henderson Investors. Any securities, funds, sectors or indices mentioned within this article do not constitute or form part of any offer or solicitation to buy or sell them. The information in this commentary does not qualify as an investment recommendation. Investment into the fund will acquire units/shares of the fund itself and not the underlying assets owned by the fund. Cash balances and exposures are based on settled and unsettled trades as at the reporting date.

## Investment policy

The Fund invests at least 60% (but normally more than 70%) of its assets in US bonds of any quality, including high yield (non-investment grade) bonds and asset-backed and mortgage- backed securities, issued by governments, companies or any other type of issuer. The Fund may also hold other assets including bonds of other types from any issuer, preference shares, cash and money market instruments. The Sub-Investment Adviser may use derivatives (complex financial instruments) to reduce risk, to manage the Fund more efficiently, or to generate additional capital or income for the Fund. The Fund is actively managed with reference to the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index, which is broadly representative of the bonds in which it may invest, as this forms the basis of the Fund's performance target. The Sub-Investment Adviser has discretion to choose investments for the Fund with weightings different to the index or not in the index, but at times the Fund may hold investments similar to the index.

## Investment strategy

The Sub-Investment Adviser's investment process is research-driven, incorporating "top-down" and "bottom-up" factors to identify and manage exposure to risks across sectors, industries, and individual investments. Fixed-income portfolio management evaluates expected risk-adjusted returns on a portfolio and position level by analysing fundamentals, valuations, and market technical indicators. This research encompasses both traditional fundamental analysis and data driven quantitative models and signals from such models.

## Fund specific risks

An issuer of a bond (or money market instrument) may become unable or unwilling to pay interest or repay capital. If this happens or the market perceives this may happen, the value of the bond will fall. When interest rates rise (or fall), the prices of different securities will be affected differently. In particular, bond values generally fall when interest rates rise (or are expected to rise). This risk is typically greater the longer the maturity of a bond investment. While high yield (non-investment grade) bonds generally offer higher rates of interest than investment grade bonds, they are more speculative and more sensitive to adverse changes in market conditions. Asset-Backed Securities (ABS) and other forms of securitised investments may be subject to greater credit / default, liquidity, interest rate and prepayment and extension risks, compared to other investments such as government or corporate issued bonds and this may negatively impact the realised return on investment in the securities. Some bonds (callable bonds) allow their issuers the right to repay capital early or to extend the maturity. Issuers may exercise these rights when favourable to them and as a result the value of the Fund may be impacted. High exposure to a particular country or geographical region carries a higher level of risk than a more broadly diversified portfolio. If the Fund holds assets in currencies other than the base currency of the Fund, or you invest in a share/unit class of a different currency to the Fund (unless hedged, i.e. seeks to mitigate exchange rate movements between the share/unit class currency and the base currency of the Fund), the value of your investment may be impacted by changes in exchange rates. Derivatives may be used to help achieve the investment objective. This can result in leverage (higher levels of debt), which can magnify an investment outcome. Gains or losses may therefore be greater than the cost of the derivative. Derivatives also introduce other risks, in particular, that a derivative counterparty may not meet its contractual obligations. When the Fund, or a share/unit class, seeks to mitigate exchange rate movements of a currency relative to the base currency (hedge), the hedging strategy itself may positively or negatively impact the value of the Fund due to differences in short-term interest rates between the currencies. Securities could become hard to value or to sell at a desired time and price, especially in extreme market conditions when asset prices may be falling, increasing the risk of investment losses. Some or all of the ongoing charges and other costs of the Fund may be taken from capital, which may erode capital or reduce potential for capital growth. In addition to income, this share class may distribute realised and unrealised capital gains and original capital invested. Fees, charges and expenses are also deducted from capital. Both factors may result in capital erosion and reduced potential for capital growth. Investors should also note that distributions of this nature may be treated (and taxable) as income depending on local tax legislation. Losses could be incurred if a counterparty became unwilling or unable to meet its obligations, or as a result of failure or delay in operational processes or the failure of a third party provider.

## Source for risk rating

The summary risk indicator is a guide to the level of risk of this product compared to other products. It shows how likely it is that the product will lose money because of movements in the markets or because we are not able to pay you. We have classified this product as 3 out of 7, which is a medium-low risk class. The risk indicator assumes you keep the product for 5 years. This rates the potential losses from future performance at a medium-low level, and poor market conditions are unlikely to impact our capacity to pay you.

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