Janus Henderson INVESTORS

US SHORT DURATION BOND FUND

At a glance

Performance*
The Fund returned −0.75%, the Index returned −0.58% and the Sector returned −0.65%.

Contributors/detractors
The overweight position in credit risk and the yield curve position detracted, while the diversified overweight allocation to securitised sectors contributed to relative performance.

Outlook
We believe elevated yields support attractive income, diversification and long-term potential. We also continue to favour the high-quality carry and lower risk available in securitised credit sectors.

Portfolio management


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Investment environment

- US short-duration bonds fell in September, driven by sharply higher yields following a Federal Reserve (Fed) interest rate hike, amid a resilient economy. Oil prices rose again following the collapse of a fragile US-Iran ceasefire, and 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. Most policymakers expect one more rate hike this year, while the futures market is leaning towards two.
- The US economy added a surprisingly high 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, although core inflation (which excludes food and energy prices) eased to 2.4%, its lowest level since March 2021.
- US 2-year Treasury yields ended 54 bps higher at 4.88%. Investment grade corporate bond spreads rose by 2 bps to 80 bps, while high yield corporate bond spreads widened by 50 bps to 311 bps. The spread on short-duration credit sectors widened by 7 bps to 51 bps.

Portfolio review

The overall overweight credit risk position and resulting underweight position in Treasuries detracted, as credit sectors underperformed comparable-maturity Treasuries. This was partly offset by our preference for securitised credit sectors, such as private-label collateralised mortgage obligations (CMO), collateralised loan obligations (CLO), commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) and asset-backed securities (ABS), as these sectors outperformed corporate bonds. Positioning 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 may support household finances, which in turn may support consumer-backed ABS. Meanwhile, CMBS remains attractive due to a meaningful spread pick-up versus corporate bonds and strong and consistent investor demand, which we believe is underpinned by stable property-level fundamentals and generally orderly deal

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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.

execution. CLOs may be supported by the still-robust corporate earnings picture, while their floating-rate structure may benefit from rate increases.

Overall yield curve positioning detracted from relative performance due to the fund's higher level of duration versus the benchmark. Designed as a hedge against credit risk, this structural overweight position hurt as spreads widened and rates rose at the same time. We moved further overweight duration during the period, as we believe higher yields have improved the risk-reward profile. Beyond the additional income available at current yield levels, we believe duration may offer increasingly attractive portfolio insurance against a potential slowdown in economic growth, recession or other risk-off events.

During the month, we increased the position in CLOs, CMBS and ABS. We also maintained a small agency MBS allocation, while reducing the allocation to Treasuries. We added to corporate credit risk as spreads widened, but maintained the underweight allocation to investment grade corporate bonds.

Manager outlook

Bond yields have risen sharply due to a combination of higher Treasury yields and wider spreads. This follows continued US economic strength and heavy borrowing by the government, as well as 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 towards its 2% target. However, despite the turmoil seen in rates markets, underlying credit fundamentals remain sound, providing a base from which we might 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 overtightening by the Fed causes 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 economic 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 monetary policy tightening, lifting benchmark bond yields and real yields to multi-decade highs.

Elevated yields and strong fundamentals support attractive income generation and long-term return potential. However, we remain cognisant that spreads, even after recent widening, remain below longer-term averages. Therefore, our overall risk positioning is close to our long-term strategic asset allocation risk level.

We continue to favour securitised credit over corporate credit from a valuation and technical perspective, as securitised sectors offer a more compelling combination of high-quality carry with lower risk. 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	Since inception (24/12/98)
A2 USD (Net)	-0.75	-0.45	0.30	1.42	4.73	1.69	1.78	2.52
Index	-0.58	-0.18	0.59	1.75	4.33	2.07	1.98	2.92
Sector	-0.65	-0.23	0.80	1.87	4.28	2.58	1.92	2.09
A2 USD (Gross)	—	—	—	—	—	2.62	2.71	3.77
Target	—	—	—	—	—	3.12	2.89	3.74

12 month rolling	Sep 2025-Sep 2026	Sep 2024-Sep 2025	Sep 2023-Sep 2024	Sep 2022-Sep 2023	Sep 2021-Sep 2022
A2 USD (Net)	1.42	4.46	8.41	2.30	-7.47
Index	1.75	4.12	7.19	2.77	-5.07
Sector	1.87	4.11	6.93	3.93	-3.61

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 as high a level of income as is consistent with the aim of limiting losses to capital (although not guaranteed) over the long term. Performance target: To outperform the Bloomberg 1-3 Year US Government/Credit Index by 1.40% 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	120.60m
Asset class	Fixed Income
Domicile	Ireland
Structure	Irish Investment Company
Base currency	USD
Index	Bloomberg 1-3 Year US Government/Credit Index
Morningstar sector	USD Diversified Bond - Short Term
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.

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. As of 1 August 2026, Daniel Siluk & Addison Maier have been appointed as co-managers of this fund. From 21 November 2025, the Fund's investment strategy changed. On 31 July 2024, the fund name changed from Janus Henderson US Short Term Bond Fund to Janus Henderson US Short Duration Bond. The Fund's investment policy and performance target also changed. 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 70% of its assets in US short-term and intermediate-term bonds. The Fund will invest at least 70% of its net asset value in investment grade Debt Securities. The Fund may also hold other assets including bonds of other types from any issuer, 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 1-3 Year US Government/Credit 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. 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.

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