Janus Henderson INVESTORS

HORIZON EURO HIGH YIELD BOND FUND

At a glance

Performance*
The Fund returned −1.76%, the Index returned −1.83% and the Sector returned −1.63%.

Contributors/detractors
Security selection and sector allocation contributed to performance. The fund's small overweight credit beta position relative to the benchmark detracted as credit spreads widened. Duration positioning also detracted.

Outlook
We believe the environment for high yield bonds remains supportive. Economic activity has been more resilient than expected, while credit technicals appear healthy, supported by inflows into the asset class.

Portfolio management



Tom Ross, CFA



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Investment environment

- European high yield bonds posted a negative excess return (versus equivalent government debt), driven by higher underlying government bond yields and widening credit spreads.
- The sharp rise in global government bond yields was the dominant market narrative during the month. Long-term yields in most major markets hit multi-year highs as rises in oil prices drove up inflation expectations and increased the likelihood that policymakers would tighten monetary policy further. French government bonds were hit hard by concerns around rising debt and the stability of the French government.
- European high yield bond markets weakened in tandem with other fixed income sectors, amid weaker risk sentiment and elevated issuance across credit markets.
- The European Central Bank (ECB) raised interest rates for the second time since the US/Iran conflict began and indicated that further monetary policy tightening may be needed. The US Federal Reserve (Fed) also raised interest rates by 25 basis points (bps) to 4.0%, its first policy tightening since July 2023.
- All ratings categories posted negative excess returns. B-rated bonds outperformed on a relative basis, followed by BB-rated bonds. CCC-rated bonds underperformed, as the category primarily contains issuers undergoing restructuring proceedings, which can have a negative effect on performance.
- At the sector level, spreads widened the most in real estate, leisure and consumer goods, while spreads widened the least in the transportation, banking and energy sectors.

Portfolio review

Security selection contributed to performance, whereas sector allocation marginally detracted. The fund's small overweight credit beta position relative to the benchmark detracted, as credit spreads widened. Duration positioning also hurt performance, as government bond yields rose.

At the sector level, the fund's overweight position in basic industry and an underweight position in real estate contributed, while an underweight position in consumer goods detracted. Security selection in telecommunications,

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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.

basic industry and retail contributed. Selections in automotive and real estate detracted. In terms of ratings, an overweight position and security selection in B-rated bonds contributed, as did selections in BB-rated bonds.

At the issuer level, not holding a position in UK broadband provider TalkTalk contributed to relative performance as it entered bankruptcy proceedings in September. The indebted company sought to challenge more established competitors by offering customers contracts at lower prices, but subscribers tended to leave contracts early before the company could break even. An overweight position in chemicals firm Styrolution (an Ineos company) also contributed to performance. The bonds rallied following progress towards the introduction of EU measures to protect the chemicals sector in Europe. The overweight position in CoreWeave also contributed after its bonds rallied back from weakness in August. CoreWeave is expected to benefit from increasing demand for data and chips and a shortage of supply over the coming months. UK homebuilder Keepmoat also aided performance. While the rates backdrop has moved against homebuilders, Keepmoat is relatively insulated from any slowdown in the private housing market as it develops social housing in collaboration with local councils.

Conversely, an underweight position in UK telecommunications firm Virgin Media detracted from relative performance as its bonds rallied during the month. We remain underweight in the subordinated debt and hold a long position in the secured debt. While Virgin Media is heavily indebted, it is not in a bad operational position and it has a good relationship with its customers. Elsewhere, an overweight position in the residential-focused real estate company Grand City detracted after its bonds suffered amid broad-based real estate weakness, as well as the global bond sell-off and expectations for further interest rate rises. Having no holding in Spanish auto parts manufacturer Grupo Antolin also detracted from relative returns.

In terms of activity, we continued to reduce risk in the portfolio in the first half of the month. Given the uncertainty around rates, we reduced the allocation to expensive long-duration BB-rated credits, where spreads had reached very tight levels. We also reduced exposure to French credits due to concerns over French government bond volatility, and we reduced exposure to well-performing B-rated issuers, which can often underperform in a sell-off. We took profits in software holdings such as Almaviva and TeamSystem, following substantial spread compression, and reduced exposure to cyclical and higher-beta credits, including automotive issuer ZF and select telecom credits. We continued to raise liquidity through floating-rate notes and other defensive positions.

Towards the end of the month, spread widening in the market led us to look for cheaper opportunities to add some risk back in. We selectively added a number of positions, including CPI Property Group and Toucan, to exploit relative value opportunities created by the sharp sell-off. We also added some new issues that had come to market, notably a refinancing deal from German healthcare company Bayer, nursing home operator Clariane, and telecoms firm KPN.

Manager outlook

Despite weakness across credit and government bond markets, we believe the underlying environment for high yield corporate bonds remains broadly supportive. Economic activity has been more resilient than expected and we expect third-quarter corporate earnings to provide further evidence that corporate fundamentals remain intact. Credit technicals also look healthy, with continued inflows into the asset class, while the all-in yields currently offered by high yield credit may improve the attractiveness of the asset class. As of the end of September, the effective yield on US high yield credit was 8.4%, while European high yield credit stood at 6.8%.

We view the macroeconomic backdrop as the main challenge. Higher energy prices and prolonged geopolitical tensions have pushed inflation higher and increased the risk that interest rates may remain elevated for longer. As a result, we expect volatility in government bond markets to persist. Elsewhere, France is likely to remain a key focus given the uncertain political situation around the proposed 2027 budget.

Nevertheless, we believe periods of market weakness can create buying opportunities for active credit investors to add high-quality credits at attractive levels. Rather than taking indiscriminate broad-market risk, we intend to continue to seek opportunities where spread widening provides attractive compensation for the underlying fundamental risk or creates pricing dislocations. We have already increased portfolio risk following the recent sell-off and may look to add further risk if markets continue to weaken, while being mindful of taking profits on issuers where spreads tighten significantly.

We think the primary market should remain an important source of opportunities, as broader financing requirements remain substantial. September demonstrated that patience can be rewarded, as issuers were required to offer more attractive new issue premiums as the month progressed.

Looking ahead, the growing funding requirements associated with the artificial intelligence (AI) investment cycle could create an increasingly interesting supply of corporate bonds, potentially including very large data centre financing transactions. That said, questions around returns on investment, amid the substantial spending plans of the hyperscalers, and potential lower-cost disruption (particularly from Chinese open-source models) reinforce the need for selectivity across the whole AI ecosystem, in our view.

Overall, we remain constructive on corporate credit fundamentals but selective about risk. With spreads wider and pricing more attractive than during the summer, we believe the portfolio is well positioned to seek to take advantage of further market dislocation while maintaining a focus on issuer quality, relative value and attractive new-issue premiums.

Performance (%)

	Cumulative				Annualised			
Returns	**1 Month**	**3 Month**	**YTD**	**1 Year**	**3 Year**	**5 Year**	**10 Year**	**Since inception (19/11/12)**
A2 EUR (Net)	-1.76	-1.93	-0.54	-0.40	6.17	1.25	2.76	4.16
Index	-1.83	-1.91	-0.02	0.57	6.49	2.44	3.34	4.31
Sector	-1.63	-1.55	-0.07	0.50	5.52	1.83	2.45	3.31
A2 EUR (Gross)	—	—	—	—	—	2.43	3.97	5.44
Target	—	—	—	—	—	4.24	5.15	6.13

12 month rolling	**Sep 2025-Sep 2026**	**Sep 2024-Sep 2025**	**Sep 2023-Sep 2024**	**Sep 2022-Sep 2023**	**Sep 2021-Sep 2022**
A2 EUR (Net)	-0.40	5.85	13.53	7.12	-17.01
Index	0.57	6.49	12.76	11.26	-16.02
Sector	0.50	5.48	10.84	8.99	-14.49

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 over the long term. Performance target: To outperform the ICE BofA European Currency Non-Financial High Yield Constrained Index (100% Hedged) by 1.75% 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	19 November 2012
Total net assets	258.02m
Asset class	Fixed Income
Domicile	Luxembourg
Structure	SICAV
Base currency	EUR
Index	ICE BofA European Ccy Non-Financial High Yield Constrained Index (100% Hedged)
Morningstar sector	EUR High Yield 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.

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 31 December 2025, Richard Taylor no longer manages this fund. This is a Luxembourg SICAV Fund, regulated by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF). 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 high yield (non-investment grade, equivalent to BB+ rated or lower) corporate bonds, denominated in Euros or Sterling. The Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in each of the following: total return swaps; contingent convertible bonds (CoCos); and/or asset-backed and mortgage-backed securities. The Fund may also invest in other assets including bonds of other types from any issuer (including perpetual bonds), cash and money market instruments. The Investment Manager may use derivatives (complex financial instruments), including total return swaps, with the aim of making investment gains in line with the Fund's objective, to reduce risk or to manage the Fund more efficiently. The Fund is actively managed with reference to the ICE BofA European Currency Non-Financial High Yield Constrained Index (100% Hedged), which is broadly representative of the bonds in which it may invest, as this forms the basis of the Fund's performance target. The Investment Manager 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 Investment Manager seeks to provide a high overall yield and potential for capital growth by investing primarily in Euro and Sterling denominated sub investment grade rated corporate bonds. The investment process combines rigorous fundamentally driven security selection from the credit analysts, which is expected to be the largest driver of performance, with asset allocation views.

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. 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. CoCos can fall sharply in value if the financial strength of an issuer weakens and a predetermined trigger event causes the bonds to be converted into shares/units of the issuer or to be partly or wholly written off. 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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