Mutual Limited

Security with Performance

Investment Update - June 2024

MHYF - Mutual High Yield Fund

All figures as at 30 June 2024

Fund Performance

	3 months %	6 months %	12 months %	3 years % p.a.	5 years % p.a.	Inception % p.a.
MHYF (pre-fees)	3.07	6.47	12.32	7.87	7.01	7.00
MHYF (post-fees)	2.80	5.95	11.30	6.84	5.99	5.97
BBerg AusBond Bank Bill Index	1.08	2.18	4.37	2.44	1.64	1.66
Relative Performance (Net)	1.72	3.77	6.93	4.40	4.35	4.31

Investment Objective and Investment Strategy

Mutual's objective for the Mutual High Yield Fund is to source and actively manage a portfolio of fixed interest credit assets with a core focus on structured credit. Targeted portfolio construction is to hold assets with a shorter credit duration to limit capital movements during periods of market volatility.

Mutual manages interest rate risk by predominately investing in assets that reset their reference rate every 30 days.

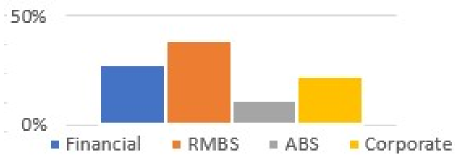
Portfolio

Liquidity
Up to 21 days

Fund Statistics

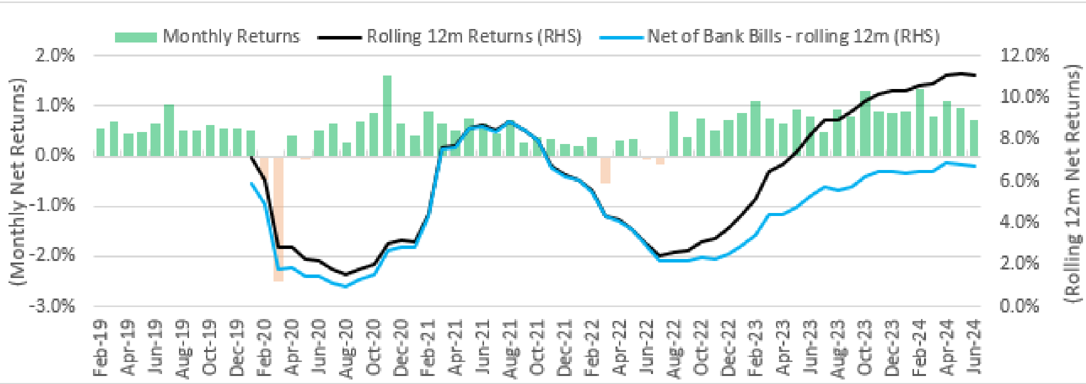
Running Yield:	9.30%
Yield to Maturity:	8.94%
Credit Duration (years):	2.60
Interest Duration (years):	0.11

Current Portfolio Diversification



Month in Review

Performance: MHYF returned 0.72% (net) in June. The 6 month net return was 5.95% and the 12 month net return was 11.30% at the end of June. Over the past 12 months the fund has returned 6.93% (net) above the Ausbond Bank Bill Index, versus a target of +2.20%.



Overview: Macro growth and inflation trajectories, combined with the path of monetary policy settings remain the core dominating themes for markets, with geopolitical risk re-emerging as a factor through the month. While geopolitical risk escalated, the market impact was brief, and largely limited to French securities – bonds, stocks and credit, a result of the snap election called by Macron that risks the far right taking a majority control of the government. Locally, interest rates are back centre stage following the monthly CPI print in June that showed inflation accelerating to +4.0% YoY, up from +3.6% YoY a month earlier and well ahead of the consensus at +3.8% YoY. This surprise to the upside added to the RBA's hawkish commentary following the decision in early June to leave the cash rate unchanged at 4.35%. The RBA board left all options on the table and reiterated their absolute focus on containing inflation. They are traversing a narrow and perilous path, hike here and risk a recession, or hold rates and eventually cut and risk inflation re-accelerating.

Outlook

We were going into the second half of the calendar year thinking the cash rate was firmly on hold. Now, another hike is a real possibility. Market pricing has moved this way, pricing in +10bps of a hike at the August meeting and +17bps at the December meeting. In percentage terms, this means the market thinks a +25bps hike in August is about a 40% chance and a +25bps hike by December is a better than 50:50 chance. Economists are more divided, but generally have shifted towards the possibility of another hike. At Westpac, they side with rates strong June quarter CPI release together with strong labour market data could tip the balance and force a rate hike. At Citi, they are of the view the quarterly inflation figure will print

Portfolio Manager
Mutual Limited

Inception
1 February 2019

Fund Size
$114.8m

Month End Price
$1.064384

Benchmark
Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index

Distribution Frequency
Quarterly

Minimum Investment
$20,000

Minimum Investment Term
6 months
(suggested)

Management Fees
1.0260% p.a. (inclusive of GST)

Buy / Sell Spread
Nil / 0.25%

APIR Code
PRM8798AU

ISIN
AU60PRM87985

Ratings
Lonsec

Platforms:
Centric
Netwealth
Powerwrap
Praemium

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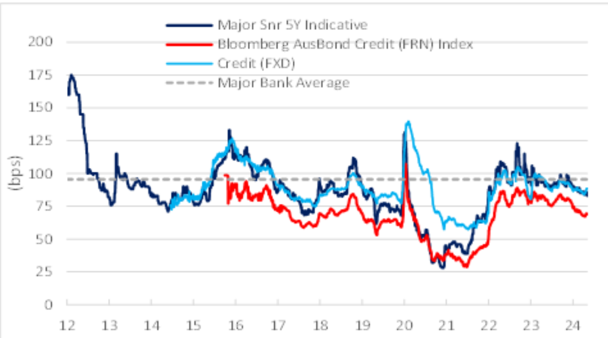
0.3% higher than the RBA's forecast for Q2, and in order to maintain credibility around its inflation target the RBA Board needs to hike at least once more. July will be a month of speculation with interest rate pricing the centre of attention.

In credit, there was a slower pace of $A Financial supply following an active May where NAB and Westpac priced A$6.1bn of senior and A$1.25bn of T2. In June just ANZ issued in AUD printing A$4.25bn senior across 3 and 5 year tenors at +70bps and +80bps respectively. By the end of the month the 5 year had found support and traded at +83bps, a few points inside the long run average of +87bps. There is a consensus view the major banks have front loaded their issuance into the first half of the year, a strategy designed to avoid any potential risks from the US election in November. A slower supply pipeline should support credit spreads, although it is unlikely we will see further sharp compression given Westpac issued the first senior of the year at +100bps in January and is now trading around +80bps.

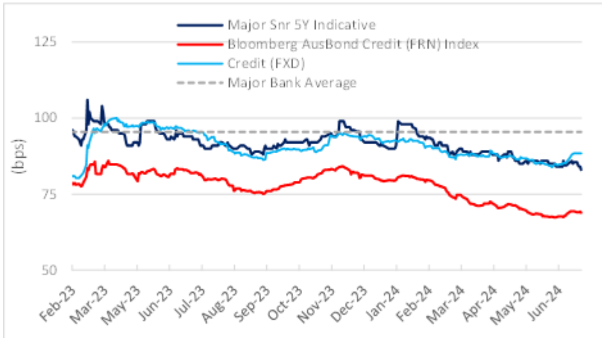
It was a quieter second quarter in Tier 2 with just two deals in June. NAB priced a A$1.25bn 15NC10 year trade at +200bps and Heartland Bank debuted a A$50m transaction. Across the quarter, there was no benchmark 10NC5 year transaction from any Australian Bank. This followed a bumper Q1 where A$8bn of A$ Tier 2 was issued, being the largest quarter of issuance ever. At the time of writing, the drought of supply has broken with Westpac delivering a dual tranche 10NC5 year trade at +167bps. The deal opened for IOIs at +177bps, compressing 10bps at pricing with total demand of almost 3 times the A$1.5bn print size. Westpac were only in the market in April for the same tenor transaction, so there was some surprise they returned so quickly. All the major banks have now met the January 2026 deadline for 6.5% of risk weighted assets in Tier 2, so it makes sense they are moving to the next stage of managing this part of the capital stack after spending the last few years building this buffer. Westpac announced the new deal on the same day as advising APRA had approved the call of their August 2024 security, maybe a trend we will see more regularly going forward.

Credit Spreads—long run history



Source: Bloomberg, Mutual Limited

Credit Spreads—short run history



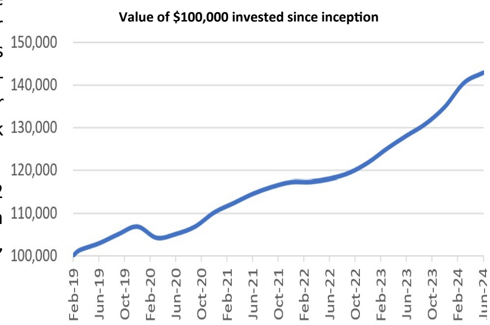
Source: Bloomberg, Mutual Limited

The A$ Securitisation market has experienced record breaking primary volumes in 2024. In the past 2 months alone, 30 deals have priced for a total of A$20.8bn. Despite the volume, as has been seen in senior and tier 2, spreads have compressed with particular strength in lower rated mezzanine notes driven by investor demand for higher yielding assets. The BBB rated notes for RMBS have generally found their level in the low +200bps region. The BB and B notes are also now gaping tighter, with Bluestone printing a prime deal and RedZed a non-conforming deal with the BB rated E notes pricing under +500bps. This compares to the same time last year where in June 2023 RedZed priced BB rated E notes at +800bps, noting the average since 2019 is +525bps.

The prospect of another rate hike from the RBA has not yet weighed on sentiment in structured credit. An additional rate hike will put further pressure on borrowers, however the resilience seen so far in arrears is not expected to dramatically change. Ongoing gains in house prices, albeit momentum is slowing, continues to provide a buffer to both borrowers who choose to sell and lenders who have to take possession of properties.

Across the Mutual Limited holdings, non-conforming arrears drifted a touch higher, +3bps to 3.28% while prime arrears fell -13bps to 0.89%, mainly a result of the recent inflows of prime deals that provides a larger denominator. For the broader market, S&P data to the end of April showed non-conforming arrears improving +6pbs to 4.24%, well down on the long run average of 8.14% (2000 to now range of 2.01% - 23.25%). Historically, the loss rate on mortgages written by non-bank originators has been 0.04% - 0.10%, or between $40 and $100 lost per $100,000 lent. This statistic highlights why we prefer this sector and think returns will remain robust.

Overall we remain constructive with the outlook for credit despite the strong returns over the past 12 months. We are alert to risks, including the geopolitical landscape and the chance of further rate hikes in Australia. Short of a systemic shock, any widening in credit spreads is likely to be measured and gradual, providing further opportunity to reinvest income.



If you would like more information on MHYF please visit www.mutualltd.com.au or contact Mutual on + 61 3 8681 1900