

Allianz HKD Income

Monthly commentary

Investment Objective

The Fund concentrates on Hong Kong Dollar denominated debt markets. Up to 30% of fund assets may be invested in assets denominated in Offshore-Renminbi. The proportion of assets that at the time of acquisition are high yield issues (minimum rating: B-) may not exceed 30%. Asset- or mortgage-backed securities may not be acquired. The aim of the Fund is to attain long term capital growth and income.

What Happened in March

Global bond prices were volatile in March, with 10-year US Treasury yields rising to 4.35% before ending little changed from February at 4.21%. Stronger-than-expected service sector data was countered by growth and inflation concerns regarding the impact of higher tariffs. US services purchasing managers' index (PMI) came in higher at 54.3 compared to expectations of 51. Meanwhile, the Michigan Consumer Sentiment index dropped even further by 6.8 points to 57.9, while 1- and 5-year inflation expectations surged. On the other hand, European bonds declined sharply as 10-year German Bund yields rose by 33 basis points (bps) to 2.7% after Germany relaxed its debt brake to significantly step up its defence spending, the largest one-day sell-off since the fall of the Berlin Wall. The European Commission has also set out spending plans of EUR 150 billion to fortify its defences after US President Trump signalled plans to roll back American defence for the continent. In China, 10-year China government bond (CGB) yields edged higher by 4 bps to 1.8% amid fading expectations for any near-term rate cuts after remarks from the People's Bank of China (PBoC). China also returned to deflation in February for the first time in more than a year, with consumer prices falling 0.7% year-on-year.

In March, Hong Kong's interbank market softened, with the 3-month Hong Kong Interbank Offered Rate (HIBOR) falling by 13 bps to 3.9% by the end of the month, broadly following US interest rate directions. Hong Kong aggregate balance stood at HKD 44,621 million, little changed from the previous session. Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) maintained its base rates unchanged at 4.75% on 20 March as US Federal Reserve (Fed) held steady its borrowing costs. In the foreign exchange (FX) market, HKD traded at 7.78 against USD, slightly weakened from the previous month. On the economic data front, Hong Kong's economy increased by 2.4% year-on-year in Q4, matching estimates and accelerating from previous quarter. Consumer price index (CPI) printed at 1.4% down from January's 4-month high of 2%, unemployment rates remained low at 3.2%.

Portfolio Review

The Fund delivered a positive return in March. Long-end Hong Kong government bonds contributed the most to performance. On the other hand, bottom contributors were Japan Insurance USD bonds.

Market Outlook

Early 2025 has brought a switch in sentiment. US trade and fiscal policy uncertainty is resulting in a re-assessment of the more bullish US growth expectations that had been priced by asset markets at the start of the year. US growth outperformance versus the rest of the world is increasingly being questioned. Against this backdrop, we continue to favour a steeper US yield curve.

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All data are sourced from Bloomberg, IDS, State Street Luxembourg and Allianz Global Investors as at 31 March 2025 unless otherwise stated.

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