

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 April

Global bonds had a volatile month, driven by shifting economic and political environments. The 10-year Treasury yields fell briefly below 4.0% early in the month, reflecting fears of a looming recession following President Donald Trump's unexpected "Liberation Day" announcements. However, inflation concerns surged as trade tensions with China escalated afterwards, pushing long-term yields higher. The 10-year yield peaked at 4.5% before easing to 4.2% by month-end as the political uncertainty around US Federal Reserve (Fed) leadership subsided. Economic data painted a mixed picture: Q1 gross domestic product (GDP) contracted by 0.3%, raising recession fears, while consumer sentiment fell to its lowest level since mid-2022. Despite easing inflation, retail sales were surprisingly strong.

In April, Hong Kong's interbank market tightened, with the 3-month Hong Kong interbank offered rate (HIBOR) rising by 10 basis points (bps) to 4.0% by the end of the month. The Hong Kong aggregate balance stood at HKD 45,106 million, while the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) maintained its base rates unchanged at 4.75%. In the foreign exchange market, HKD strengthened to 7.76 against the USD, touching the strong side of the currency convertibility range as dollar weakened. On the economic data front, Hong Kong's exports surged by 18.5% year-on-year in April, surpassing estimates and accelerating from the previous session. The consumer price index (CPI) remained stable at 1.4%, consistent with the previous month, and the unemployment rate remained low at 3.2%.

Portfolio Review

The Fund delivered a positive return in April, largely driven by HKD bonds which had been more stable and resilient despite the market volatility. On the other hand, the Fund's longer-dated bonds detracted, undermined by growing inflation expectations and heightened fears over the Fed's independence. Hong Kong government bonds and AIA HKD bonds contributed the most to performance, bottom contributors were Japan insurance bonds.

Market Outlook

Macro sentiment is likely to continue to be volatile driven by unpredictable US policies, USD is likely to be weaker in the longer term, such that If more carry trade unwinds and HKD touches the strong end of the trading band again, the HKMA will inject HKD liquidity and continue to push front-end HKD rates lower.

The Fund continues to favour front-end rates which we expect to stay well anchored, however, the longer end of the curve may be underperforming if a deteriorating fiscal outlook drives up term premia.



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All data are sourced from Bloomberg, IDS, State Street Luxembourg and Allianz Global Investors as at 30 April 2025 unless otherwise stated.

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