

RobecoSAM SDG High Yield Bonds ZH GBP

RobecoSAM SDG High Yield Bonds is an actively managed fund that invests in global corporate bonds. The selection of these bonds is based on fundamental analysis. The fund's objective is to provide long term capital growth. The funds invests in high yield corporate bonds with a sub-investment grade rating, with a structural bias to the higher rated part in high yield. The portfolio is built on the basis of the eligible investment universe and the relevant SDGs using an internally developed framework about which more information can be obtained via the website www.robeco.com/si.



Roeland Moraal, Sander Bus
Fund manager since 22-10-2019

Current MIFID legislation prevents us from reporting performance data for funds with less than a 12 month track record.

Index

Bloomberg Barclays Global High Yield Corporate Index
(hedged into GBP)

General facts

Type of fund	Bonds
Currency	GBP
Total size of fund	GBP 279,887,531
Size of share class	GBP 111,717
Outstanding shares	1,021
1st quotation date	18-10-2022
Close financial year	31-12
Ongoing charges	0.03%
Daily tradable	Yes
Dividend paid	No
Ex-ante tracking error limit	5.00%
Management company	Robeco Institutional Asset Management B.V.
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The high yield bond index had a positive total return in April, which was purely a matter of earning the carry in high yield as yields and spreads traded sideways. The fund slightly underperformed the benchmark. The contribution from beta was a small positive, whereas issuer selection contributed negatively. In the US market, lower quality outperformed. In Europe, we saw the opposite picture. Our quality bias made a small negative contribution. As Europe slightly underperformed the US, our overweight in Europe also detracted slightly. Positive contributions came from avoiding names like Envision and Lannett, both healthcare companies that defaulted in April. Not owning index heavyweight Dish Networks also contributed nicely. This satellite television company is burdened with too much debt and its competitive position is at risk. Even its most senior debt yields 15%, a clear sign that restructuring will be unavoidable. A negative contribution came from our large overweight in healthcare device maker Catalent. Bonds rallied hard in Q1 on rumors that Catalent was approached by IG competitor Danaher. Bad Q1 earnings and a denouncement by Danaher made bonds drop back to initial levels.

Market development

Not often have we seen months that were this stable in terms of spreads and yields. Spreads and yields both rose by 1 bp, to 453 bps and 8.22% (hedged to EUR). Intra-month volatility was very low as well. Investors had to digest the volatility around the US regional banks that shook markets in March, and were otherwise focused on the start of the earnings season and on macro data that could be relevant for central bank actions. In this relative calmness, primary markets reopened again: the number of deals reached almost 20 bln in the US alone, more than triple the amount that companies were able to print in March. However, this number is still a far cry from the normal issuance levels we have seen on average over the last 10 or so years. Default activity picked up in April, with several larger issuers in retail and healthcare going into restructuring.

Sustainability profile

- Exclusions+
- ESG Integration
- Target Universe



For more information on exclusions see <https://www.robeco.com/exclusions/>
For more information on target universe methodology see <https://www.robeco.com/si>

Expectation of fund manager

Our base case remains that the US as well as Europe will experience a recession in 2023. We are coming from a prolonged period of (too) easy monetary policy and low or even negative yields. The result is a US economy running hot, and a persistent inflation problem both in the US and in Europe. Central banks have been on an aggressive rate hiking path, and their goal is to tame the inflation beast, be it at the cost of driving the economies into a recession. This is typically the environment where 'things break' and accidents happen. Likely victims are over-leveraged companies that are now facing a rapid rise in their cost of debt. Think CCC companies, leveraged LBOs, or companies in sectors that were perceived to be stable and hence loaded with debt like in telecom. The question is: what is priced in? With all-in yields now at 7.5% to 8.5%, a lot of additional widening is needed for total returns to become negative. We will continue to take an active beta approach and are currently close to a beta of 1. We stay up-in-quality. Stock picking is ever more important, as the current environment will certainly create winners and losers.

Top 10 largest positions

Our top ten holdings consist mostly of BB-rated large caps in the consumer and communications sectors. In communications, positions are in some of the large US telecom operators like Sprint, Charter and Altice US. Sprint was actually upgraded to IG last month, meaning we will likely reduce the position. Within the consumer space, we own positions in healthcare research provider IQV and in auto suppliers Goodyear and ZF Industries. Other large holdings are in the packaging space, with can producers Ball and Crown.

Fund price

30-04-23	GBP	109.62
High Ytd (02-02-23)	GBP	110.26
Low Ytd (03-01-23)	GBP	105.98

Fees

Management fee	None
Performance fee	None
Service fee	None
Expected transaction costs	0.02%

Legal status

Investment company with variable capital incorporated under Luxembourg law (SICAV)
 Issue structure Open-end
 UCITS V Yes
 Share class ZH GBP
 This fund is a subfund of Robeco Capital Growth Funds, SICAV

Registered in

Luxembourg, Singapore, Switzerland

Currency policy

All currency risks are hedged.

Risk management

Risk management is fully embedded in the investment process to ensure that positions always meet predefined guidelines.

Dividend policy

The fund does not distribute dividend. The income earned by the fund is reflected in its share price. The fund's entire result is thus reflected in its share price development.

Derivative policy

RobecoSAM SDG High Yield Bonds make use of derivatives for hedging purposes as well as for investment purposes. These derivatives are liquid.

Fund codes

ISIN	LU2539433271
Bloomberg	ROBHYDS LX
Valoren	123301292

Top 10 largest positions

Holdings

CCO Holdings LLC / CCO Holdings Capital Corp
 Sprint Capital Corp
 ZF Finance GmbH
 IQVIA Inc
 Ball Corp
 Crown European Holdings SA
 CSC Holdings LLC
 Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co/The
 FMG Resources August 2006 Pty Ltd
 SPCM SA
Total

Sector	%
Communications	2.13
Communications	1.56
Consumer Cyclical	1.49
Consumer Non Cyclical	1.30
Capital Goods	1.29
Capital Goods	1.28
Communications	1.27
Consumer Cyclical	1.22
Basic Industry	1.19
Basic Industry	1.19
Total	13.91

Characteristics

	Fund	Index
Rating	BA1/BA2	BA3/B1
Option Adjusted Modified Duration (years)	3.4	3.5
Maturity (years)	4.6	4.7
Yield to Worst (% , Hedged)	7.2	8.3
Green Bonds (% , Weighted)	3.7	3.0

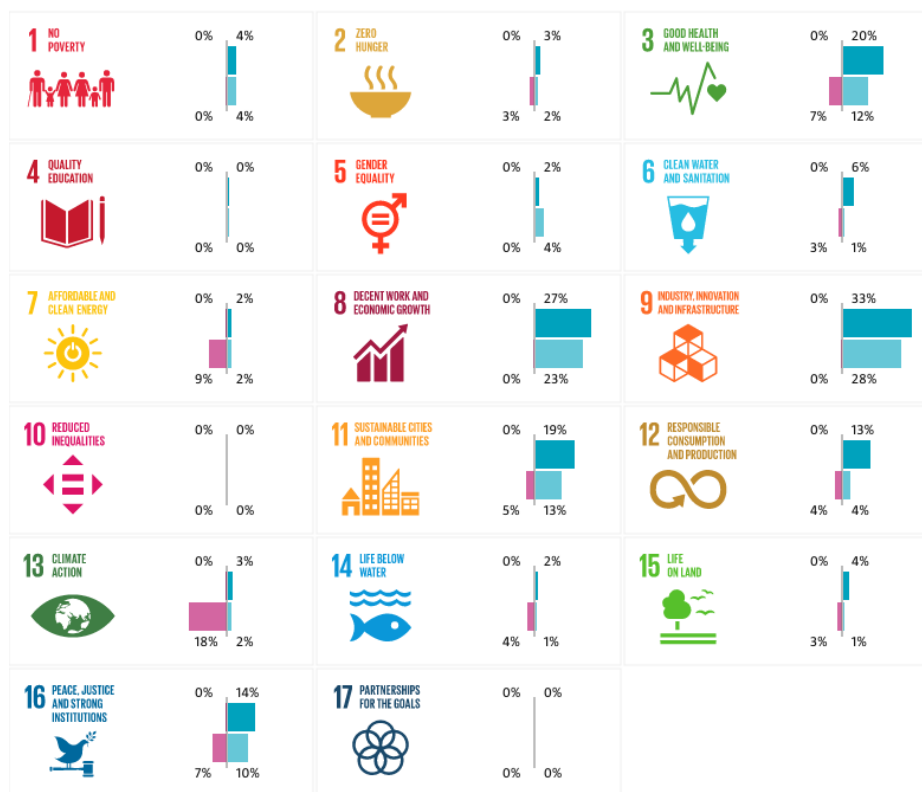
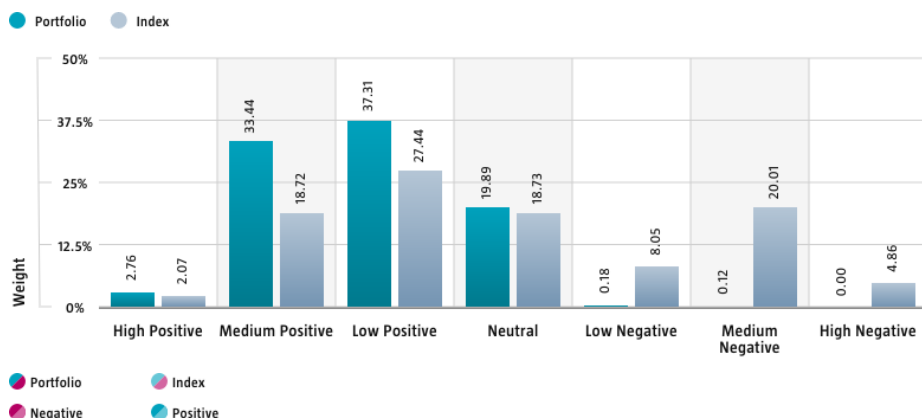
Sustainability

Sustainability is incorporated in the investment process by the means of a target universe, exclusions, ESG integration, and a minimum allocation to ESG-labeled bonds. The fund solely invests in credits issued by companies with a positive or neutral impact on the SDGs. The impact of issuers on the SDGs is determined by applying Robeco's internally developed three-step SDG Framework. The outcome is a quantified contribution expressed as an SDG score, considering both the contribution to the SDGs (positive, neutral or negative) and the extent of this contribution (high, medium or low). In addition, the fund does not invest in credit issuers that are in breach of international norms or where activities have been deemed detrimental to society following Robeco's exclusion policy. ESG factors are integrated in the bottom-up security analysis to assess the impact of financially material ESG risk on the issuer's fundamental credit quality. Furthermore, the fund invests at least 2% in green, social, sustainable, and/or sustainability-linked bonds. Lastly, where a credit issuer is flagged for breaching international standards in the ongoing monitoring, the issuer will become subject to exclusion.

SDG Impact Alignment

This distribution across SDG scores shows the portfolio weight allocated to companies with a positive, negative and neutral impact alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) based on Robeco's SDG Framework. The framework, which utilizes a three-step approach to assess a company's impact alignment with the relevant SDGs, provides a methodology for assigning companies with an SDG score. The score ranges from positive to negative impact alignment with levels from high, medium or low impact alignment. This results in a 7-step scale from -3 to +3. If the data set does not cover the full portfolio, the figures shown above each impact level sum to the coverage level to reflect the data coverage of the portfolio, with minimal deviations that reflect rounding. Weights < 0.5% will show as 0. If an index has been selected, the same figures are also provided for the index.

For more information, please visit <https://www.robeco.com/docm/docu-brochure-robecosam-sdg-framework.pdf>



Sector allocation

Overweights are in less cyclical sectors like food and paper & packaging as well as in banks. Within chemicals we have outspoken overweights in specialty chemical companies active in for instance water treatment and filtration techniques.

Underweights are in the mostly SDG-negative energy and utility sectors, in cyclical sectors like retail and gaming, but also in pharma, which is dominated by large companies with aggressive financial strategies.

Sector allocation		Deviation index	
Capital Goods	16.5%	7.0%	
Communications	15.1%	0.2%	
Consumer Non Cyclical	13.4%	1.6%	
Basic Industry	12.0%	6.2%	
Consumer Cyclical	11.8%	-9.7%	
Banking	10.5%	5.5%	
Technology	5.5%	0.1%	
Insurance	1.9%	0.3%	
Owned No Guarantee	1.6%	1.6%	
Transportation	1.3%	-2.1%	
Energy	1.3%	-8.4%	
Other	1.6%	-9.9%	
Cash and other instruments	7.3%	7.3%	

Currency denomination allocation

All currency risks are hedged to the currency of the share class. The currency denomination allocation shows the currency distribution of the portfolio before hedging.

Currency denomination allocation		Deviation index	
U.S. Dollar	57.3%	-19.3%	
Euro	33.0%	12.2%	
Pound Sterling	2.4%	-0.1%	

Duration allocation

RobecoSAM SDG High Yield Bonds does not pursue an active duration policy. HY bonds tend to have a limited effective sensitivity to underlying moves in government bond yields. In our 0-duration share classes, the underlying rate risk is hedged to 0 to 6-month duration.

Duration allocation		Deviation index	
U.S. Dollar	2.6	-0.2	
Euro	0.7	0.0	
Pound Sterling	0.1	0.0	

Rating allocation

Most exposure is in Ba and B issuers. The fund has a large underweight in the categories Caa and below. We have an allocation to BBBs, consisting of former rising stars that still trade at attractive spread levels and some EM issuers with IG ratings.

Rating allocation		Deviation index	
A	0.8%	0.8%	
BAA	12.7%	12.7%	
BA	56.1%	3.1%	
B	17.3%	-18.6%	
CAA	5.5%	-3.9%	
CA		-0.5%	
C		-0.3%	
NR	0.3%	-0.5%	
Cash and other instruments	7.3%	7.3%	

Country allocation

Country risk analysis is incorporated in our proprietary credit research, but we do not implement any specific top-down country policy in the portfolio. We have a slight preference for Europe versus the United States based on valuations.

Country allocation		Deviation index	
United States	46.2%	-15.1%	
France	6.4%	2.8%	
Germany	5.8%	2.6%	
Italy	4.2%	-0.1%	
United Kingdom	4.1%	-0.7%	
Netherlands	3.5%	2.3%	
Canada	2.7%	0.0%	
Spain	2.7%	0.5%	
Luxembourg	1.9%	0.2%	
Belgium	1.7%	1.5%	
India	1.3%	0.7%	
Other	12.1%	-2.0%	
Cash and other instruments	7.3%	7.3%	

Investment policy

RobecoSAM SDG High Yield Bonds is an actively managed fund that invests in global corporate bonds. The selection of these bonds is based on fundamental analysis. The fund's objective is to provide long term capital growth. The fund has sustainable investment as its objective within the meaning of Article 9 of the European Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation. The fund advances the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by investing in companies whose business models and operational practices are aligned with targets defined by the 17 UN SDGs. The fund integrates ESG (Environmental, Social and corporate Governance) in the investment process, applies an exclusion list basis controversial behavior, products (including controversial weapons, tobacco, palm oil and fossil fuel) while avoiding investment in thermal coal, weapons, military contracting and companies that severely violate labor conditions, next to engagement. The fund invests in high yield corporate bonds with a sub-investment grade rating, with a structural bias to the higher rated part in high yield. The portfolio is built on the basis of the eligible investment universe and the relevant SDGs using an internally developed framework about which more information can be obtained via the website www.robeco.com/si. The majority of bonds selected will be components of the Benchmark, but bonds outside the Benchmark may be selected too. The fund can deviate substantially from the weightings of the Benchmark. The fund aims to outperform the Benchmark over the long run, whilst still controlling relative risk through the applications of limits (on currencies and issuers) to the extent of deviation from the Benchmark. This will consequently limit the deviation of the performance relative to the Benchmark. The Benchmark is a broad market weighted index that is not consistent with the sustainable objective of the fund.

Fund manager's CV

Roeland Moraal is Lead Portfolio Manager European High Yield in the Credit team. Before assuming this role, he was Portfolio Manager in the Robeco Duration team and worked as an Analyst with the Institute for Research and Investment Services. Roeland started his career in the industry in 1997. He holds a Master's in Applied Mathematics from the University of Twente and a Master's in Law from Erasmus University Rotterdam. Sander Bus is CIO and Lead Portfolio Manager Global High Yield Bonds. He has been dedicated to High Yield at Robeco since 1998. Previously, Sander worked for two years as a Fixed Income Analyst at Rabobank where he started his career in the industry in 1996. He holds a Master's in Financial Economics from Erasmus University Rotterdam and he is a CFA® charterholder.

Team info

RobecoSAM SDG High Yield Bonds is managed within Robeco's credit team, which consists of nine portfolio managers and twenty-three credit analysts. The portfolio managers are responsible for the construction and management of the credit portfolios, whereas the analysts cover the team's fundamental research. Our analysts have long term experience in their respective sectors which they cover globally. Each analyst covers both investment grade and high yield, providing them an information advantage and benefiting from inefficiencies that traditionally exist between the two segmented markets. Furthermore, the credit team is supported by three dedicated quantitative researchers and four fixed income traders. On average, the members of the credit team have an experience in the asset management industry of seventeen years, of which eight years with Robeco.

Fiscal product treatment

The fund is established in Luxembourg and is subject to the Luxembourg tax laws and regulations. The fund is not liable to pay any corporation, income, dividend or capital gains tax in Luxembourg. The fund is subject to an annual subscription tax ('tax d'abonnement') in Luxembourg, which amounts to 0.01% of the net asset value of the fund. This tax is included in the net asset value of the fund. The fund can in principle use the Luxembourg treaty network to partially recover any withholding tax on its income.

Fiscal treatment of investor

Investors who are not subject to (exempt from) Dutch corporate-income tax (e.g. pension funds) are not taxed on the achieved result. Investors who are subject to Dutch corporate-income tax can be taxed for the result achieved on their investment in the fund. Dutch bodies that are subject to corporate-income tax are obligated to declare interest and dividend income, as well as capital gains in their tax return. Investors residing outside the Netherlands are subject to their respective national tax regime applying to foreign investment funds. We advise individual investors to consult their financial or tax adviser about the tax consequences of an investment in this fund in their specific circumstances before deciding to invest in the fund.

Morningstar

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Febelfin disclaimer

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