

Ardea Australian Inflation Linked Bond Fund

ARSN 622 519 117 APIR Code HOW0062AU

Quarterly Performance Report March 2024

Performance (% p.a.) ¹	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year	3 years	5 years	Since Inception ²
Portfolio (net)	1.29	-0.17	5.77	2.38	2.46	3.14	5.39
Bloomberg AusBond Inflation Government 0+ years Index	1.34	0.15	5.95	2.45	0.97	2.11	4.69
Excess return	-0.05	-0.33	-0.18	-0.06	1.49	1.03	0.70

¹ Performance figures are calculated after fees have been deducted and assume distributions have been reinvested. No allowance is made for tax when calculating these figures. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

² The Fund's inception date is 18/03/2010.

Source: Fidante Partners Limited, 31 March 2024.

Strategy Overview

Ardea's pure relative value (RV) investment specialisation is fundamentally different to conventional fixed income investing and therefore we customise our quarterly portfolio commentaries accordingly.

As our portfolios are inherently high turnover, highly diversified and designed to generate uncorrelated returns from a repeated investment process averaged over time:

- *performance is the cumulative result of interactions between many of modestly sized trades that were entered, exited, and held over the preceding months*
- *performance is generally driven by many small gains / losses, rather than a few key contributors*
- *performance is not driven by broader bond / equity market fluctuations*
- *a single quarter is generally not enough time to draw meaningful conclusions about performance themes*

Therefore, we customise the quarterly portfolio commentary in the following ways:

- *Consider quarterly performance in isolation only when there is outsized performance volatility, unusually concentrated performance drivers and / or noteworthy portfolio changes.*
- *Consider quarterly performance in a longer-term context, with reference to the Fund's investment objectives and the roles it plays in the broader portfolio.*

Investment Objectives

The Fund's investment objectives encompass both the magnitude of returns generated ('size' of return) and the risk characteristics underlying those returns ('style' of return), resulting in a unique combination of risk / return attributes that cannot be obtained from conventional fixed income investments.

These attributes link to the underlying theme of defensive risk diversification.

Portfolio Commentary

The portfolio delivered an excess return of -0.05% relative to the benchmark index for the month of March, resulting in an excess return of -0.33% for the quarter.

Rolling quarterly performance remains within the normal range of expected performance variability, based on the portfolio's volatility target.

As usual, performance drivers for the quarter were diversified across small gains / losses generated by many modestly sized trades, with no unusually concentrated performance drivers.

Curve RV strategies contributed negative performance for the quarter. (-0.06%)

Bond vs Derivative RV strategies contributed negative performance for the quarter. (-0.08%)

Option exposures contributed negative performance for the quarter. (-0.13%)

Inflation exposures contributed positive performance for the quarter. (+0.05%)

Explanatory Notes

- The normal range of expected performance variability is defined relative to the portfolio's volatility / TE target (1.0% p.a.). Based on this, quarterly excess returns should mostly be within a range of -0.2% / +0.8% (1 std dev band, 68% of sample) and sometimes outside this range, but no wider than -0.7% / +1.2% (2 std dev band, incremental 27% of sample).
- Curve RV strategies seek to profit from RV pricing anomalies in the shapes of interest rate curves.
- Bond vs Derivative RV strategies seek to profit from anomalies in the relative pricing of government bonds vs interest rate derivatives.
- Option exposures stem from RV trades that involve buying interest rate options. These exposures are biased to outperform in periods of market stress and are used to balance risk vs other types of RV trades that may temporarily underperform at such times.
- Inflation exposure stems from RV driven divergences in the portfolio's breakeven inflation exposure relative to the benchmark index.

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This material has been prepared by Ardea Investment Management Pty Ltd (ABN 50 132 902 722, AFSL 329 828) Ardea, the investment manager of the Ardea Australian Inflation Linked Bond Fund. Fidante Partners Limited ABN 94 002 835 592 AFSL 234668 (Fidante) is a member of the Challenger Limited group of companies (Challenger Group) and is the responsible entity of the Fund. Other than information which is identified as sourced from Fidante in relation to the Fund, Fidante is not responsible for the information in this material, including any statements of opinion. It is general information only and is not intended to provide you with financial advice or take into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. You should consider, with a financial adviser, whether the information is suitable to your circumstances. The Fund's Target Market Determination and Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) available at www.fidante.com should be considered before making a decision about whether to buy or hold units in the Fund. To the extent permitted by law, no liability is accepted for any loss or damage as a result of any reliance on this information. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Ardea and Fidante have entered into arrangements in connection with the distribution and administration of financial products to which this material relates. In connection with those arrangements, Ardea and Fidante may receive remuneration or other benefits in respect of financial services provided by the parties. Fidante is not an authorised deposit-taking institution (ADI) for the purpose of the Banking Act 1959 (Cth), and its obligations do not represent deposits or liabilities of an ADI in the Challenger Group (Challenger ADI) and no Challenger ADI provides a guarantee or otherwise provides assurance in respect of the obligations of Fidante. Investments in the Fund are subject to investment risk, including possible delays in repayment and loss of income or principal invested. Accordingly, the performance, the repayment of capital or any particular rate of return on your investments are not guaranteed by any member of the Challenger Group.