Octagon Investment Funds

New Zealand Fixed Interest Fund

Monthly Performance Update as at 31 March 2025

To review the fund's investment objective and strategy, fees information and risk indicator please see the funds' product disclosure statement and most recent fund update at www.octagonasset.co.nz/our-funds/new-zealand-fixed-interest-fund/.



Return comparison	1 Month	3 Months	1 Year	3 Years*	Since inception*
Net Fund Return^	0.14%	0.56%	5.94%	3.53%	4.37%
Gross Fund Return	0.20%	0.74%	6.76%	4.32%	5.28%
Bloomberg NZBond Composite 0+ Yr Index	0.15%	0.69%	6.15%	2.87%	n/a
S&P/NZX Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index	0.52%	0.97%	7.37%	4.33%	5.06%
*Annualised					

Major investments

Major holdings as % of total portfolio	48.82%
Kiwibank Subordinated Bonds 2.36% 11/12/2030	2.91%
Westpac New Zealand 1.439% 24/02/2026	2.91%
New Zealand Government 15/05/2032 2.00%	3.36%
NZ Government 4.25% 15/05/2034 Green Bond	3.64%
New Zealand Government 4.50% 15/04/2027	4.74%
New Zealand Government 3% 20/04/2029	5.04%
New Zealand Government 15/05/2028 0.25%	5.33%
New Zealand Government 14/04/2033 3.5%	5.88%
New Zealand Government 4.50% 15/05/2030	7.35%
New Zealand Government 1.5% 15/05/2031	7.67%

Things to note

- Manager: Forsyth Barr Investment Management Ltd
- Investment manager: Octagon Asset Management Ltd
- Date the fund started: 26 June 2008
- Tax status: Portfolio Investment Fund (PIE)
- Minimum suggested investment time frame: At least three years
- Market Index: Bloomberg NZBond Composite 0+ Yr
- Currency: New Zealand dollars

Risk indicator **



View the <u>Product Disclosure Statement</u> for detailed information about this Fund and Octagon Investment Funds Scheme.

Manager's comments

How did your portfolio perform?

The New Zealand Fixed Interest Fund delivered a gross return of 0.20% for the month of March, fractionally outperforming the fund's market index return of 0.15% by 0.05%.

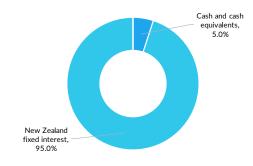
For the 12 months to the end of March, the New Zealand Fixed Interest Fund delivered a return of 6.76% comfortably outperforming the fund's market index return of 6.15% by 0.61%.

What happened in the markets that you invest in?

April was another positive, business-as-usual month for New Zealand fixed interest investors. The twin themes of falling domestic inflation and faltering domestic economic performance continued. Against this backdrop, the Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) is widely expected to cut its Official Cash Rate (OCR) by 0.25% to 3.50%. Both the market and regulator see the OCR moving lower over the course of this year, to around a terminal level of 3.00%, plus or minus 0.25%.



Target Asset Allocation



What are we thinking about the future?

Our current thinking is that it's too simplistic a thesis that lower interest rates will mechanically result in a material lift in New Zealand's economic performance. We believe that economic uncertainty remains in many domestic households and that wary consumers will save (or prioritise debt reduction by keeping mortgage payments constant) rather than spend interest rate windfalls. Furthermore, add in global economic and political uncertainty – the US 'Liberation Day' announcements in early April rewarded the more conservative investor – and we can see why consumers would prefer to watch, worry and wait.

On this basis, we intend to remain fully invested. The fund's duration, a measure of how sensitive the portfolio is to a given change in New Zealand wholesale interest rates, was around 5.0 years, broadly matching that of the fund's benchmark.

The fund's gross yield to maturity, calculated as the weighted-average gross yield of all securities in the portfolio, was around 4.35% and the weighted-average portfolio credit quality was AA- (where a security does not have an external credit rating we have assigned an internal credit rating based on our assessment). We use the lowest available credit rating for New Zealand Government bonds, Fitch's AA+.

Our strategy is to accumulate New Zealand Government bonds while maintaining some exposure to short-dated or preferred non-Government securities. Corporate bond spreads remain tight, near long-term averages, despite the obvious current economic risks. We favour 'hard duration' Government bonds and proxies for better protection against the likelihood of widening credit spreads. This approach should continue delivering capital gains complementing the fund's gross yield-to-maturity.



Craig Alexander Head of Fixed Interest and ESG

Fees

Annual fund charges are currently 0.75% p.a. of the value of your investment. We pay management and administration charges along with the Supervisor fee out of this. All fees and charges are quoted exclusive of GST.

For more information please visit octagonasset.co.nz, email info@octagonasset.co.nz, or call 0800 628 246

^ Net Fund Returns are calculated before the deduction of taxes and after deduction of fund charges and trading expenses and including imputation credits where available. Gross Fund Returns are calculated before deduction of taxes and fund charges but after deduction of trading expenses and including imputation credits where applicable. Market index returns do not have any deductions for fund charges, trading expenses or tax.

** The risk indicator is rated from 1 (low) to 7 (high). The rating reflects how much the value of the relevant fund's assets goes up and down (volatility). A higher risk generally means higher potential returns over time, but more ups and downs along the way. The risk indicator is based on the returns data for the five years to 31 March 2025. See more information about the risks of investing in the Product Disclosure Statement.

This publication does not contain financial advice - for financial advice, please speak to your Investment Adviser. We recommend you review your investments and seek specialist advice on any taxation aspects. Past performance is not a reliable guide to future performance. Forsyth Barr Investment Management Limited is the issuer, and Octagon Asset Management Limited the investment manager, of the Octagon Investment Funds. A copy of the Product Disclosure Statement for the Funds is available from www.octagonasset.co.nz/disclosure-information, by contacting your Investment Adviser, or by calling 0800 628 246.