

# BlueBay Investment Grade ESG Bond Fund

### Investment objective

The fund is actively managed and targets better returns than its benchmark, the iBoxx Euro Corporates Index, while taking into account Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") considerations.

### Investment strategy

- There are no restrictions on the extent to which the fund's portfolio and performance may deviate from the ones of the benchmark.
- At least two-thirds of the fund's investments will be in fixed income bonds rated investment grade and issued by governments, banks and corporates based in European
  countries with a sovereign investment grade rating.
- Up to 15% of the fund's assets may be invested in fixed income bonds rated below investment grade, provided that such bonds are not rated below B-/B3 or an
  equivalent rating by a credit rating agency.
- The Fund meets the conditions set out in Article 8 of the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation as it promotes environmental/social characteristics through binding requirements as a key feature. Full details available online: <a href="https://www.rbcbluebay.com/en-gb/institutional/what-we-do/funds/sustainability-related-disclosures/">https://www.rbcbluebay.com/en-gb/institutional/what-we-do/funds/sustainability-related-disclosures/</a>

### Fund performance (%) Gross of fees (EUR)1

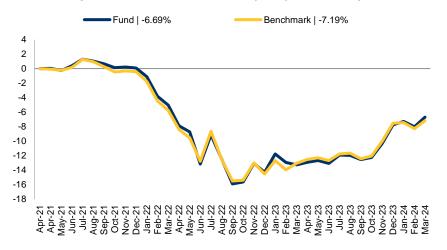
	1 M	3 M	YTD			5 Y	10 Y	SI*
Fund	1.46	1.15	1.15	7.61	-	-	-	-2.34
Benchmark	1.21	0.37	0.37	6.77	-	-	-	-2.52
Relative	0.24	0.78	0.78	0.84	-	-	-	0.18

### Calendar year performance (%) Gross of fees (EUR)1

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Fund	7.65	-14.38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benchmark	8.19	-14.17	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_

iBoxx EUR Corporates - TREUR is the benchmark for the Fund. The inception date for the Fund is 28 April 2021. \*SI - Since inception.

### Cumulative performance Gross of fees (EUR) since inception<sup>1</sup>



### Risk statistics<sup>2</sup>

	Fund
Standard deviation (%)	5.08
Tracking error (%)	1.81
Information ratio	0.10

### Contributors

- Long corporate risk (beta)
- Overweight bank debt

### Detractors

Issuer underweights

#### **Outlook**

- The first quarter saw markets benefit from robust economic data and earnings but the reality is that the macroeconomic outlook remains uncertain and dependent on the path of growth and inflation.
- We feel the Federal Reserve will cut rates if the data allows but believe there will be only one or two US rate cuts in 2024. Slower growth and inflation in Europe may
  mean the European Central Bank cuts first.
- Shifting expectations on the path for rates will likely see periods of volatility so our risk-taking here will be more tactical and two-way in nature.
- There are signs that the rally in corporates is running out of steam but we expect demand to be boosted by end investors looking to allocate cash. We maintain a
  modestly constructive view on investment-grade corporates.
- In bottom-up positioning, we see pockets of value and vulnerabilities across the corporate universe, which should lead to elevated performance dispersion. Active sector and issuer selection remains key.

Past performance does not predict future returns. The return of your investment may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations if your investment is made in a currency other than that used in the past performance calculation. Fees and other expenses will have a negative effect on investment returns. Performance shown for 1 year periods onwards are annualised figures.

This is a marketing communication. Please refer to the prospectus of the Fund before making any final investment decisions.

Source: RBC Global Asset Management, iBoxx Indices as at 31 March 2024. This report is incomplete without the Legal Disclaimer included on the last page.

#### **Fund characteristics**

	Fund	Benchmark
Weighted interest rate duration (years)	4.52	4.40
Weighted spread duration (years)	4.75	4.40
Beta adjusted spread duration (years)	6.39	4.40
Yield to worst (%)	3.95	3.66
Number of issues	139	3,791
Number of issuers	97	850
Weighted rating	BBB+	A-

We have updated our yield calculations for derivatives to reflect the higher rate environment better.

# Top sector spread duration contribution relative to benchmark

Overweights	
Banks	0.89
Utilities	0.49
Industrial Goods & Services	0.31
Travel & Leisure	0.28
Health Care	0.18

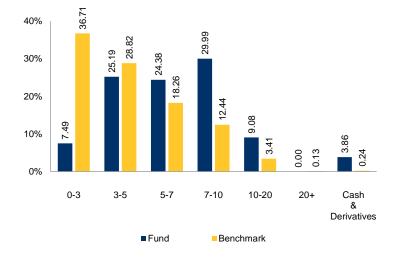
Underweights	
Food & Beverage	-0.24
Oil & Gas	-0.17
Insurance	-0.15
Personal & Household Goods	-0.12
Chemicals	-0.11

# Top country spread duration contribution relative to benchmark

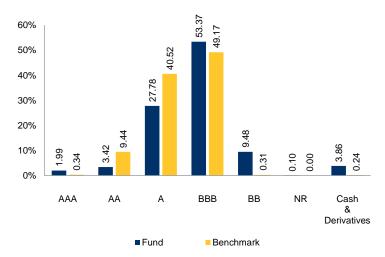
Overweights	
United Kingdom	0.60
Spain	0.28
France	0.18
Denmark	0.14
Luxembourg	0.13

Underweights	
Norway	-0.05
Canada	-0.04
Ireland	-0.04
Finland	-0.04
Austria	-0.04

### Interest rate duration distribution by maturity (years)



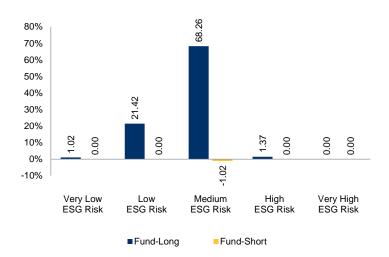
# Credit quality breakdown (%, NAV)



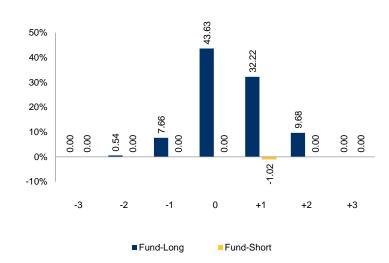
# Important risk considerations

- At times, the market for investment grade bonds may dry up, which could make it difficult to see these bonds, or the fund may only be able to sell them at a discount.
- There may be cases where an organisation with which we trade assets or derivatives (usually a financial institution such as a bank) may be unable to fulfill its
  obligations, which could cause losses to the fund.
- RBC BlueBay's ESG analysis can rely on input from external providers. Such data may be inaccurate or incomplete or unavailable and BlueBay could assess the
  ESG risks of securities held incorrectly.
- RBC BlueBay could suffer from a failure of its processes, systems, and controls or from such a failure at an organisation on which we rely in order to deliver our services - which could lead to losses for the fund.

### BlueBay: Issuer fundamental ESG risk ratings<sup>3</sup>



# BlueBay: Security investment ESG scores<sup>4</sup>



# Top 3 long issuers by spread duration contribution<sup>3, 4</sup>

Issuer	Years (absolute)	Years (relative)	ESG Risk Rating	ESG Score
CaixaBank SA	0.23	0.21	Medium	0
BPCE SA	0.23	0.18	Low	0
Banque Federative du Credit Mutuel SA	0.20	0.13	Medium	0

Top 3 short issuers by spread duration contribution<sup>3, 4</sup>

Issuer	Years	Years	ESG Risk	ESG
	(absolute)	(relative)	Rating	Score
ITV PLC	-0.01	-0.01	Medium	+1

## **Fund information**

Investment manager	RBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited	Fund type	UCITS
Base currency	EUR	Fund domicile	Luxembourg
Fund inception date	28 April 2021	SFDR	Article 8
Fund size (EUR)	21 m	Benchmark	iBoxx EUR Corporates - TREUR
Portfolio Manager(s)	Andrzej Skiba, CFA; Marc Stacey; Tom Moulds		

The Funds AUM is stated on a T+1 basis and includes non-fee earning assets. The benchmark is hedged into the Share Class currency where relevant.

## **Contact information**

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### **Notes**

- 1. While gross of fees figures would reflect the reinvestment of all dividends and earnings, it would not reflect the deduction of investment management and performance fees. An investor's returns will be reduced by the deduction of applicable fees which will vary with the rate of return on the strategy. For example, if there was an annualised return of 10% over a 5-year period then the compounding effect of a 0.60% management fee and a 0.20% performance fee would reduced the annualised return to 9.32% (figures used are only to demonstrate the effect of charges are not an indicator of future performance). In addition the typical fees and expenses charged to a strategy will offset the strategy's trading profits. A description of the specific fee structure for each BlueBay strategy is contained in the strategy's prospectus.
- Risk statistics are annualised and calculated using weekly data points since inception. Risk statistics will be produced once there are 3 complete months of data
  available; for meaningful results, a minimum sample of 36 data points is recommended and where history is less than 3 years caution should be taken with the
  interpretation and representation of this data. Returns for periods less than 1 year have not been annualised in accordance with current industry standard reporting
  practices.
- Fundamental EGS risk rating is assigned at an issuer level by BlueBay. Categories range from 'very high' ESG risk rating to 'very low' ESG risk rating and is a
  function of the ESG risk profile of an issuer and how will it manages these risks.
- 4. Investment ESG score is assigned at an issuer level by BlueBay unless otherwise stated (i.e. assigned at the security level). Scores range from '+3" through to '-3' and indicates the extent to which ESG is considered investment materials, as well as the nature and scale of the materiality impact (i.e. positive credit impact, no credit impact).

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