

A Sub-Fund of Morgan Stanley Investment Funds

US Dollar Short Duration Bond Fund

BROAD MARKETS FIXED INCOME TEAM

Performance Review

In the one month period ending 30 September 2025, the Fund's Z shares returned 0.44% (net of fees)¹, while the benchmark returned 0.45%.

In September, the portfolio performed in line with its benchmark. Similar to last month, the portfolio's overweight positionings to spread sectors, particularly investment grade financials and industrials were the primary contributors to excess performance. Additionally, the portfolio's exposure to securitized products, such as non-agency commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) continued to contribute to excess performance. The portfolio's exposures to non-agency residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS) detracted from excess performance.

Market Review

One year after its decisive 50 basis point (bps) "first cut," the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) delivered a more restrained 25 bps reduction this September, lowering its target rate to a range of 4.00%-4.25%. While speculation swirled about multiple dissenters favouring a larger cut, only one voting member broke from consensus—underscoring the Fed's cautious stance.

Market expectations ahead of the 17 September policy meeting were the most dovish since April's post-Liberation Day turmoil, yet the Fed's decision reminded investors that policymakers remain committed to maintaining positive real interest rates until inflation expectations are fully anchored. Despite progress in disinflation, with core personal consumption expenditures (PCE) at 2.9% and unemployment near 4.2%, the Fed signalled that inflation's "last mile" remains the hardest.

Fed's Measured Cut Flattens Curve, Signals Caution

The Fed's first rate cut of 2025—of 25 bps—tempered expectations for aggressive easing. Despite early-month weak jobs data, stronger activity later in the month reduced urgency for further cuts. The U.S. yield curve flattened, with long-maturity Treasuries outperforming.

Global Divergence in G7 Central Bank Policy

While the Fed and Bank of Canada eased rates, the European Central Bank (ECB), Bank of England (BoE) and Bank of Japan (BoJ) held steady. Canada's cut reflected domestic weakness, while Europe grappled with political gridlock and inflation persistence. Japan maintained its cautious hiking stance.

Dollar Mixed as Foreign Exchange Markets React to Policy Shifts

The Bloomberg Dollar Index was flat, but the U.S. dollar weakened against high-carry and cyclical currencies. The euro edged higher, while New Zealand dollar and Canadian dollar lagged amid diverging central bank paths and growth outlooks.

EM Debt Strengthens on Easing and Inflows

Emerging markets (EM) debt gained as the Fed and EM central banks eased policy. Argentina and Indonesia faced political risks, but strong inflows supported hard and local currency debt. Credit spreads tightened across sovereign and corporate segments.

Investment Grade Credit Tightens Amid Strong Demand and M&A Surge

Global investment grade spreads narrowed by 5 bps, reversing August's widening. Financials and consumer non-cyclicals led gains. Merger and acquisition (M&A) activity surged, highlighted by a record \$55 billion leveraged buyout of Electronic Arts. Technicals remained strong despite elevated issuance.

High Yield and Convertibles Ride Risk-On Sentiment

High yield outperformed investment grade credit, supported by firm demand and record issuance. Convertible securities rallied with equities, surpassing 2024's full-year total. Dispersion fell to its lowest since January, reflecting broad sector strength.

Agency MBS Outperforms as Banks Rebuild Holdings

Agency mortgage-backed securities (MBS) outperformed Treasury bonds. Spreads tightened, and bank holdings rose. Mortgage fundamentals remained solid, with low delinquency and limited refinancing activity.

Securitized Credit Resilient Despite Mixed Signals

Asset backed securities (ABS), CMBS and RMBS issuance rebounded post-summer. CMBS strength came from logistics and luxury hotels; Class B office remained weak. RMBS spreads narrowed on stable home prices and strong credit fundamentals.

¹ Source: Morgan Stanley Investment Management Limited. Data as of 30 September 2025.

Portfolio Activity

Over the month, the portfolio decreased exposures to investment grade corporates as we believe their yield and spread levels are less attractive. Duration decreased over the month and was kept close to the benchmark duration.

Strategy and Outlook

As we enter the final quarter of 2025, the outlook across fixed income sectors reflects cautious optimism amid evolving macro conditions and central bank policy shifts. In developed markets, duration positioning remains neutral outside Japan, with selective opportunities in Canadian and Australian government bonds. The U.S. yield curve steepeners are being trimmed, while Japanese exposure is shifting toward short duration and long inflation breakevens. In foreign exchange, a short U.S. dollar stance against high-beta currencies is favoured, supported by global growth differentials and monetary easing cycles outside the U.S.

Emerging markets debt continue to benefit from supportive fundamentals and attractive valuations, particularly in local currency debt. Real yield differentials and reform-oriented policy agendas are drawing sustained inflows, though country-level selectivity remains critical. We believe a softening U.S. dollar and cautious Fed stance further enhance the appeal of EM assets, but investors must navigate idiosyncratic risks and policy divergence.

Corporate credit maintains a cautiously constructive tone, with solid fundamentals and supportive technicals offsetting tight spreads and elevated issuance. Investment grade issuers are expected to weather a low-growth environment, while high yield benefits from resilient earnings and attractive yields despite lingering inflation concerns. Convertible bonds remain well positioned, offering asymmetric return profiles and equity sensitivity that reward selectivity and structure quality.

In securitized products, agency MBS is expected to outperform as spreads tighten and valuations remain compelling. Securitized credit spreads should stay stable, with performance driven by carry and resilient fundamentals. Residential mortgage credit securities are favoured, while consumer ABS and commercial real estate securities warrant caution due to interest rate pressures and sector-specific challenges. Taxable municipal bonds offer attractive yields and income cushions, with strong technicals and stable credit fundamentals likely supporting performance through year-end.

For further information, please contact your Morgan Stanley Investment Management representative.

Fund Facts

Launch date	22 April 2016
Base currency	U.S. dollars
Benchmark	Bloomberg US Treasury 1-3 Year Index

Calendar Year Returns (%)

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

	YTD	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Class Z Shares	3.82	5.57	5.90	-0.50	0.04	2.55	3.92	1.92	1.75	--	--
Blended Index	3.16	4.75	4.74	-1.02	-0.07	1.82	2.93	1.86	0.57	--	--

All performance data is calculated NAV to NAV, net of fees, and does not take account of commissions and costs incurred on the issue and redemption of shares. The sources for all performance and index data is Morgan Stanley Investment Management ('MSIM Ltd'). **Please visit our website www.morganstanley.com/im to see the latest performance returns for the fund's other share classes.**

Share Class Z Risk and Reward Profile

- The fund may be impacted by movements in the exchange rates between the fund's currency and the currencies of the fund's investments.
- The value of bonds are likely to decrease if interest rates rise and vice versa.
- The value of financial derivative instruments are highly sensitive and may result in losses in excess of the amount invested by the Sub-Fund.
- Issuers may not be able to repay their debts, if this happens the value of your investment will decrease. This risk is higher where the fund invests in a bond with a lower credit rating.
- The fund relies on other parties to fulfill certain services, investments or transactions. If these parties become insolvent, it may expose the fund to financial loss.
- Sustainability factors can pose risks to investments, for example: impact asset values, increased operational costs.
- There may be an insufficient number of buyers or sellers which may affect the fund's ability to buy or sell securities.

- Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. Returns may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may lose all or a substantial portion of his or her investment.
- The value of the investments and the income from them will vary and there can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objectives.
- Investments may be in a variety of currencies and therefore changes in rates of exchange between currencies may cause the value of investments to decrease or increase. Furthermore, the value of investments may be adversely affected by fluctuations in exchange rates between the investor's reference currency and the base currency of the investments.

Please refer to the Prospectus for full risk disclosures, available at www.morganstanleyinvestmentfunds.com. All data as of 30.09.2025 and subject to change daily.

Applications for shares in the Sub-Fund should not be made without first consulting the current Prospectus and the Key Information Document ("KID") or Key Investor Information Document ("KIID"), which are available in English and in the language of countries authorized for fund distribution and is available online at Morgan Stanley Investment Funds Webpages or free of charge from the Registered Office at European Bank and Business Centre, 6B route de Trèves, L-2633 Senningerberg, R.C.S. Luxembourg B 29 192.

The summary of investor rights is available in the aforementioned languages and website location under the General Literature section.

Information in relation to sustainability aspects of the Fund is available in English online at: Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation.

If the management company of the relevant Fund decides to terminate its arrangement for marketing that Fund in any EEA country where it is registered for sale, it will do so in accordance with the UCITS rules.

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