

**Bentham Syndicated Loan Fund NZD**
**December 2019**
**Fund Aim**

To provide investors with a diversified exposure to the global syndicated loan market with an active allocation to investments in different industries, issuers and geographies.

**Fund Performance as at 31 December 2019**

	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year	3 years (p.a.)	5 years (p.a.)	Since inception (p.a.)
Gross return (before fees)	1.34	1.82	2.65	7.17	5.25	6.41	6.59
Growth return (after fees)	0.88	0.48	-0.11	-2.83	-2.87	-1.30	-1.87
Distribution return	0.36	1.10	2.29	8.94	7.24	6.87	7.57
<b>Total return (after fees)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>1.58</b>	<b>2.18</b>	<b>6.10</b>	<b>4.37</b>	<b>5.51</b>	<b>5.70</b>
Benchmark	1.49	1.44	2.17	7.34	4.40	5.46	5.60
Active return (after fees) <sup>2</sup>	-0.24	0.14	0.00	-1.24	-0.03	0.05	0.10

Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Returns may be volatile and may vary from year to year.

<sup>1</sup> Total Return (after fees) is calculated using pre-distribution month end withdrawal unit prices, and assumes all income is reinvested in additional units. Total Return equals Growth return (after fees) plus Distribution return (after fees).

<sup>2</sup> Active Return of the Fund is the difference between the Total Return and the return of the Benchmark. Gross Returns (before fees) are calculated by adding back the fees and expenses deducted. Please refer to the PDS for more information on fees and expenses.

**Portfolio and Market Returns**

The Bentham Syndicated Loan Fund NZD had a total return (after fees) of 1.24% in the month of December, underperforming the benchmark (Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index hedged into NZD) by 0.24%. On a before fees basis the fund returned 1.34% for the month, underperforming the benchmark by 0.15%.

**Fund Statistics**

At month end, the Fund had a yield to maturity of 5.51% and running yield of 4.99%, with the credit yield spread increasing by 10 bps to 449 bps during the month. The Fund had an interest rate duration of 0.36 years and credit duration of 3.56 years.

**Leveraged Loan Market**

The discount margin (3 year) for the Index decreased by 37 bps during the month to 461 bps.

The top performing leveraged loan industries in December were Energy, Retail and Consumer Durables with returns (sector performance in USD terms) of 4.11%, 2.73% and 2.41% respectively. The worst performing loan industries were Gaming/Leisure, Aerospace and Housing with returns of 0.89%, 0.99% and 1.00% respectively.

**Portfolio Exposures**

The Fund's three largest industry exposures are 10.1% in Electronics, 7.7% in Healthcare, Education and Childcare and 7.3% in Chemicals, Plastics and Rubber. The Fund's top three company exposures are 1.1% in Level 3 Communications, 1.0% in Numericable and 1.0% in Euramax International. During the month, the Fund increased its exposure to RPI Finance Trust, Installed Building Products and ACProducts; with decreased exposures to Caesars Resort, Frenchpark and Assystem Technologies Services.

**Portfolio Summary Statistics**

Yield to maturity	5.51%
Running yield	4.99%
Credit spread <sup>3</sup>	+449bps
Number of issuers	352
Interest rate duration	0.36 years
Credit duration	3.56 years
Average credit quality <sup>4</sup>	BB-
Fund size	NZ\$39,300,986

**Risk Characteristics**

5 Year Volatility <sup>5</sup>	2.98
5 Year Sharpe Ratio <sup>6</sup>	1.38
5 Year Tracking Error <sup>7</sup>	0.88
5 Year Information Ratio <sup>8</sup>	1.08

**Fund Distributions**

Distribution frequency	Monthly
Monthly distribution <sup>9</sup>	0.36% (Dec 2019)
Target distribution rate (FY20) <sup>10</sup>	1m NZ BKBM + 3.0% to 3.5%

<sup>3</sup> Spread over the swap rate.

<sup>4</sup> The average credit quality is calculated using a duration adjusted Moody's Weighted Average Rating Factor (WARF) for both the S&P and Moody's security credit ratings within a portfolio.

<sup>5</sup> Volatility is Standard Deviation.

<sup>6</sup> Sharpe Ratio is the excess return over the Bloomberg NZBond Bank Bill Index (before fees) divided by Standard Deviation.

<sup>7</sup> Tracking Error is the Standard Deviation of the Active Return (before fees).

<sup>8</sup> Information Ratio is the Active Return (before fees) divided by the Tracking Error.

<sup>9</sup> Calculated as the cents per unit (CPU) distribution at the month end divided by the ex-distribution unit price at the start of the month.

<sup>10</sup> Target distribution rates for FY20 set at one month New Zealand Bank Bill Swap Rate (BKBM) plus a range of 3.0% to 3.5% of the monthly unit price. Bentham intends to achieve the distribution rate for FY2020 with taxable income. If there is a shortfall of taxable income, the distribution may possibly include a capital return.

The current distribution rate setting was based on the running yield of the Fund as at 30 June 2019 and assumes the Fund continues to achieve an equivalent yield for FY2020. Actual distributions, however, can differ from this setting because of future matters which are not known or able to be presently identified.

**Bentham Syndicated Loan Fund NZD**
**December 2019**
**Monthly Distribution Returns History (%)<sup>1</sup>**

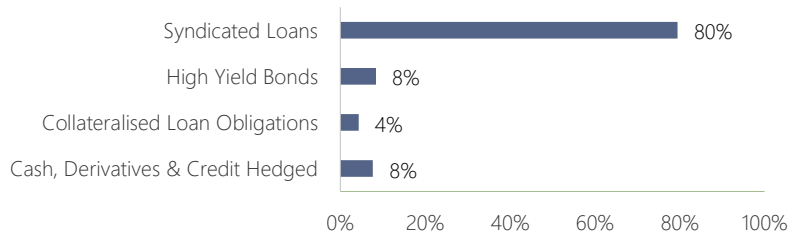
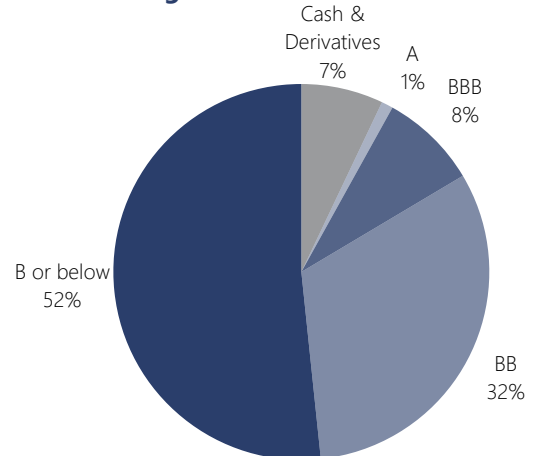
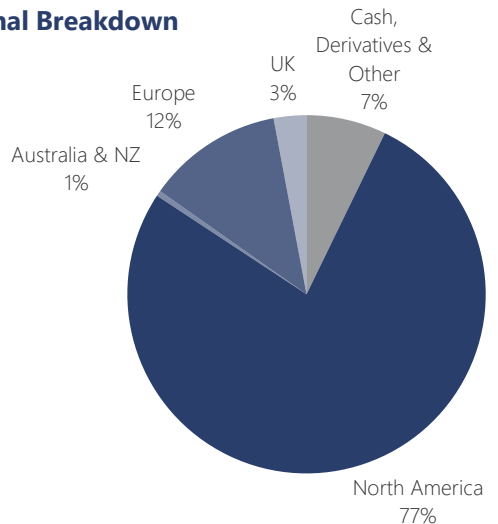
Financial Year	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	YTD <sup>2</sup>
2020	0.41	0.41	0.36	0.36	0.37	0.36	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.29
2019	0.41	0.40	0.41	0.40	0.40	0.41	0.41	0.40	0.41	0.40	0.41	4.42	8.76
2018	0.46	0.41	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.43	0.42	5.21
2017	0.51	0.50	0.49	0.50	0.48	0.41	0.46	0.47	0.45	0.47	0.46	2.91	8.63
2016	0.51	0.48	0.47	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.46	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.42	1.14	6.14
2015	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.54	0.57	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.53	0.55	0.56	0.00	6.19

Source: Fidante Partners

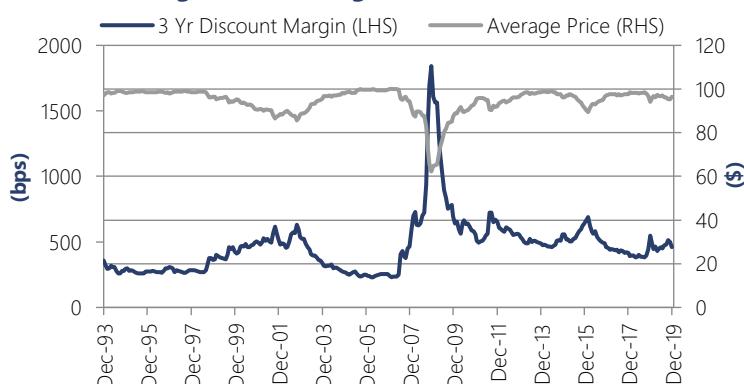
Past distributions are no indication of future distributions.

<sup>1</sup> Calculated as the cents per unit (CPU) distribution at month end divided by the ex-distribution unit price at the start of the month.

<sup>2</sup> Annual distribution return (Year-to-Date) is calculated as the Total Return (after fees) minus Growth Return. Total Return (after fees) is calculated using pre-distribution month end withdrawal unit price, and assumes distributions are reinvested. Growth Return equals the percentage change in unit price.

**Portfolio Asset Allocation**

**Credit Rating Breakdown**

**Regional Breakdown**

**Top 5 Industry Exposures (Moody's SIC)**

Electronics	10.1%
Healthcare, Education and Childcare	7.7%
Chemicals, Plastics and Rubber	7.3%
Diversified/Conglomerate Service	6.3%
Hotels, Motels, Inns, and Gaming	6.2%

**Discount Margin and Average Price of US Loan Market**

**Pricing and Fees**

Unit frequency pricing	Daily
Management fee	0.84%
Recoverable expenses	0.00% (Dec 2019)
Buy/sell spread <sup>3</sup>	+0.440%/-0.440%
Entry and exit fees	Nil
Minimum initial investment	NZ\$50,000

<sup>3</sup> Buy/sell spread is retained in the Fund to cover transaction costs. It is not paid to the Investment Manager. The buy/sell spread is reviewed on a monthly basis to ensure it fairly reflects market transaction costs.

Source: Credit Suisse

## Bentham Syndicated Loan Fund NZD

December 2019

### Fund Overview

Portfolio Manager	Richard Quin
Inception date	30 September 2013
ARSN code	165 696 300
Benchmark	Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index (hedged into New Zealand dollars)
Return objective	The Fund aims to achieve investment returns above the Benchmark over the suggested investment time frame
Suggested investment time frame	Medium term, minimum 3 years
Fund aim	To provide investors with a diversified exposure to the global syndicated loan market with an active allocation to investments in different industries, issuers and geographies
Interest rate risk	Predominantly floating rate
Currency	Hedged into New Zealand dollars
Fund features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to global senior secured syndicated loans which are not generally available to direct retail investors</li> <li>• Regular monthly distributions</li> <li>• High running yield with low interest rate risk</li> <li>• Fund track record 5+ years</li> <li>• Strategy track record 14+ years</li> <li>• Loans are valued to market prices daily – with daily unit pricing</li> </ul>

#### More information:

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Advisers: New Zealand Advisers, contact The Investment Store on 0800 331 041

Institutional Investors / Consultants: contact The Investment Store on 0800 331 041

Website: [www.benthamam.com](http://www.benthamam.com)

PDS: [Bentham Syndicated Loan Fund NZD PDS](#)

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