



Annual Management Report of Fund Performance

As at September 30, 2023

This Annual Management Report of Fund Performance contains financial highlights but does not contain either semi-annual or annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can obtain a copy of the semi-annual or annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-888-809-3333, by writing us at Northwest & Ethical Investments L.P., 151 Yonge Street Suite 1200, Toronto, ON M5C 2W7 or by visiting our website at www.neiinvestments.com or SEDAR at www.sedarplus.ca.

Unitholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the investment fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

Management Discussion of Performance

Investment Objective and Strategies

The Fund's investment objective is to provide high level of current income with the potential for capital gains. The Fund will invest its assets primarily in global fixed income instruments from both developed and emerging markets. The Fund can invest across all sectors and credit qualities but will be primarily invested in investment grade securities rated BBB- and above by Standard & Poor's (or its equivalent by qualified rating agencies).

The Fund follows a responsible approach to investing, as described in the Simplified Prospectus of the Fund.

Risk

The risks associated with investing in the Fund remain as discussed in the Simplified Prospectus. The Fund is suitable for investors investing for the short to medium term, with a low tolerance for risk. Any changes in the Fund have not affected the overall level of risk of the Fund.

Results of Operations

The NEI Global Total Return Bond Fund's Series A units returned 2.2% for the twelve-month period ended September 30, 2023 compared with a return of 1.6% for the benchmark explained below.

Unlike the benchmark return, the Fund's returns are after the deduction of fees and expenses paid by the Fund. Performance differences between series of units are mainly attributable to management fees charged to each series. Refer to the Past Performance section for the details of returns by series.

The benchmark for this Fund is the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index (C\$ Hedged).

The Fund's net asset value decreased by 25.80% during the period, from \$1,230,444,860 as at September 30, 2022 to \$912,952,108 as at September 30, 2023. This change in net assets is attributed to net unitholder activity of -\$355,853,991 and \$38,361,239 to investment operations, including market appreciation (depreciation), income and expenses.

Market Overview

During the period, economic activity and inflation both continued to surprise to the upside in most regions, especially in the U.S. In response, central banks across the world kept hiking interest rates. Over the period, the Bank of Canada (BoC) hiked interest rates by 175 basis points (bps), the U.S. Federal Reserve Board (Fed) by 225 bps, the Bank of England by 300 bps and the European Central Bank, which had started hiking later, by 325 bps. This resulted in core sovereign bond yields moving higher across the board and curves staying or becoming inverted. In the U.S., the two- and 10-year yields both moved up by approximately 75 bps, to 5.04% and 4.57%, respectively. In Canada, two-year yields climbed 108 bps to 4.87% while 10-year yields were up 85 bps to 4.03%. In the U.K., two-year gilts yield were up by 67 bps to 4.9% and 10-year yield were up 34 bps to 4.44%. In the eurozone, where the interest rate adjustment started later, two-year bunds were up by 144 bps to 3.2% while 10-year bund yields moved 73 bps to 2.84%, leaving the curve inverted. Spreads in the eurozone periphery were well behaved, with spreads tightening for Portugal, Italy and Greece. Overall, this environment resulted in negative returns for core sovereign bonds during the period.

Credit, on the other hand, proved resilient, recovering from the widening that had occurred earlier in 2022 and benefiting from the supportive growth environment, with credit spreads tighter despite some volatility. Financials were particularly hit in the first quarter of 2023, following the collapse of regional bank SVB Financial Group and the write-off of Credit Suisse Group AG additional tier 1 bonds, but recovered over the two subsequent quarters. Overall, global investment-grade bond spreads were 50 bps tighter to 131 bps, with U.K. pound and euro investment-grade bonds outperforming U.S. investment-grade bonds. Global high-yield bond spreads tightened by 177 bps over the period to 436 bps.

In foreign exchange, the U.S. dollar was weaker overall, with the U.S. dollar index losing 5.3% overall. The index was weak in the fourth quarter of 2022, losing close to 10%, but recovered since, especially in the third quarter of 2023.

Factors That Have Affected Performance

The three drivers of relative performance, duration (interest rate sensitivity), credit and foreign exchange, generated significant positive contributions to the Fund's performance. The underweight duration position maintained by the portfolio sub-advisor to varying degrees during the whole period was a significant contributor to performance. An overweight allocation to credit and emerging market hard currency bonds also significantly contributed to performance, as spreads performed following a difficult period earlier in 2022, especially in EM. The overweight exposure to emerging market currencies was also a strong contributor, in particular to the Mexican peso and the Brazilian real.

The slightly long U.S. dollar positioning overall slightly detracted from performance. A long Norwegian krone position versus a short British pound position detracted from performance as the krone underperformed the pound.

Portfolio Changes

The portfolio sub-advisor reduced the Fund's underweight duration meaningfully, starting the period -2.3 years underweight versus the benchmark and finishing it only -0.8 year underweight, reflecting the view that the end of the interest rate hiking cycle is imminent for most markets. Towards the end of the period, the portfolio sub-advisor closed the underweight position in Canadian duration following the repricing in July and moved to a neutral duration in Europe in the face of a weak economic outlook, persistent inflation, and an interest rate policy path. Management of the U.S. duration was tactical but the Fund remains underweight, as the labour market remains tight, even though inflation is cooling. The Fund retained an underweight position in Japan, with the view that the risk/reward has become more asymmetric following the Bank of Japan's loosening of its yield curve control policy in July. The Fund keeps a steepening bias in both U.S. and European duration. The Fund still has small, long-duration positions in some emerging market yield curves with the view that some central banks are likely to cut interest rates (Brazil, Mexican and South Africa) and on the New Zealand and U.K. curve, with the view that the upwards rates adjustment may have been overdone.

In foreign exchange, the portfolio sub-advisor meaningfully reduced the Fund's long U.S. dollar position as valuations now look expensive and the portfolio sub-advisor expects the imminent end of the Fed tightening cycle to weigh on the currency. After having significantly reduced the Fund's euro short position, the portfolio sub-advisor increased the short again to -4.4% given a weakening economic outlook. The portfolio sub-advisor increased the long Norwegian krone position, from 3.5% to 6.7%, with the view that the currency has become more undervalued and increased the Fund's underweight position to the Canadian dollar meaningfully after the BoC was the first major central bank to signal a pause. The Fund moved from long to short positions in New Zealand dollars, Swiss francs, reduced Swedish krona and Singapore dollar exposures and closed South Korean won.

In emerging markets, the portfolio sub-advisor added to local currencies, increasing exposure to the Mexican peso and Brazilian real, and initiating a position in Indian rupee. The Fund increased its short position in Chinese renminbi, following a downgrade of growth prospects for the country.

ESG Activities

The following environmental, social, and governance (ESG) activities are some of those undertaken during the period related to the Fund's investment objectives and strategies.

During the period under review, the ESG rating of the portfolio remained at C. The ESG score of the portfolio remained constant, going from 0.97 to 0.98, although it dropped slightly during the period, reaching 0.89 in March, before rebounding. It remains higher than the score of the index at 0.63. The weight of bonds with a C rating dropped by about 14% to the benefit of bonds with B and D ratings. At the pillar level, the environmental (E) score improved, going from 0.59 to 0.73, the social score (S) dropped very slightly from 1.09 to 1.06 and the governance score (G) dropped the most from 1.22 to 1.09.

This is explained for the most part by the increase in emerging market debt (mainly Mexico, Brazil and South Africa) which have, on average, lower G scores than developed markets governments. It was also the largest contributor to the increase of the D-rated bucket. On the other hand, lower allocations to U.S. and Canadian Treasuries and government-related securities were the main reason for the decrease in C-rated bonds in the portfolio. The addition of New Zealand and Swedish sovereign bonds, as well as highly rated European Financials and corporates was the reason of the increase in B-rated securities.

NEI's Responsible Investing & ESG Services team (RI team) engaged five companies including Citigroup Inc., Vodafone Group PLC, and Telefonica SA, on topics such as net-zero commitments and digital rights.

Recent Developments

Overall, the portfolio sub-advisor's short-duration bias, long-credit and long positions in selected emerging market currencies result in a slightly long risk bias, reflecting the increased probability of a soft landing for the U.S. economy. The portfolio sub-advisor remains ready to adjust positions and to take advantage of the flexibility of the Fund as new data comes in. The Fund holds diversified positions across government bonds, sovereign, supranational and agency debt, high-quality credit, and selected emerging market positions, but avoids high-yield instruments, which still look too expensive relative to the risk of increasing defaults arising from higher funding costs and slowing economic activity.

The balance of moderate interest rate exposure, credit and foreign exchange positions enable the Fund to offer an attractive yield of 6.6% with an average rating of single-A and a duration of 5.7 years. The portfolio sub-advisor continues to believe this is a good environment for the Fund to generate attractive returns going forward as the end of the interest rate hiking cycle approaches.

The term of Marie Rounding ended on September 30, 2023. Ms. Rounding has served with distinction on the Independent Review Committee ("IRC") since 2014. After consulting with the Manager, the IRC determined it would replace Ms. Rounding with Caroline Cathcart. Ms. Cathcart was appointed as a new IRC member effective October 01, 2023, for a one-year term. As Ms. Rounding acted as the IRC chair after her term ended, Ms. McCarthy was appointed IRC Chair, effective October 5, 2023, and replaced Ms. Rounding in this role.

Related Party Transactions

Northwest & Ethical Investments L.P. ("NEI LP") is the Manager, Trustee, Portfolio Manager and Registrar of the Fund. Northwest & Ethical Investments Inc., the general partner of NEI LP, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aviso Wealth Inc. ("Aviso"). Aviso is also the sole limited partner of NEI LP. Aviso is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aviso Wealth LP, which in turn is owned 50% by Desjardins Financial Holding Inc. and 50% by a limited partnership owned by the five Provincial Credit Union Centrals and The CUMIS Group Limited. Desjardins Financial Holding Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec ("Fédération").

NEI LP charges the Fund a fixed administration fee in place of certain variable expenses. NEI LP in turn, pays all operating expenses of the Fund, other than specified Fund costs (e.g. the fees and expense of the Independent Review Committee ("IRC"), taxes, and brokerage commissions) which include payments to related parties. These services are in the normal course of operations and are measured at an exchange amount that is consistent with other independent parties. Desjardins Trust Inc. ("Desjardins Trust") is the custodian of the Fund. Desjardins Trust is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fédération. The Fund may engage in securities lending and repurchase transactions, and Desjardins Trust may act as the Fund's securities lending and repurchase transactions agent ("Agent"). Any revenue earned on such transactions is split 60%—40% between the Fund and the Agent. Desjardins Securities Inc. ("DSI") is a broker responsible for security transactions on behalf of the Fund. DSI is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fédération.

The Fund's sub-advisors may place a portion of the Fund's portfolio transactions with brokerage firms which are affiliates of NEI LP, provided that the affiliate's trade execution abilities and costs are comparable to those of non-affiliated qualified brokerage firms.

The Fund is distributed through Credential Asset Management Inc., Credential Qtrade Securities Inc., and members of the Fédération and other nonrelated parties by way of shared ownership. NEI LP pays to these parties distribution and servicing fees based on a percentage of the daily values of the units of each held by the dealer's clients and additionally, in some cases, on the amount of initial purchase.

NEI LP has established the IRC for the Fund in accordance with the requirements of National Instrument 81-107 – Independent Review Committee for Investment Funds in order to review conflicts of interest as they relate to investment fund management. The Fund received standing instructions from the IRC with respect to the following related party transactions: trades in securities (whether debt or equity) of a company related to a sub-advisor.

The Manager is required to advise the IRC of any material breach of a condition of the standing instructions. The standing instructions require, among other things, that the investment decision in respect to related party transactions (a) are aligned with the investment objectives, investment strategies, risk profile and other important details of the Fund for which the investment is being proposed; (b) are made by the Manager free from any influence by any entities related to the Manager; (c) represent the business judgment of the Manager uninfluenced by considerations other than the best interests of the Fund; and (d) are made in compliance with the Manager’s policies and procedures.

Transactions made by the Manager under the standing instructions are subsequently reviewed by the IRC to monitor compliance. The Fund relied on the IRC’s standing instructions regarding related party transactions during this reporting period.

This document contains forward-looking statements. Such statements are generally identifiable by the terminology used, such as “plan”, “anticipate”, “intend”, “expect”, “estimate”, or other similar wording. These forward-looking statements are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties and other factors which may cause actual results, levels of activity and achievements to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such statements. Such factors include, but are not limited to: general economic, market and business conditions; fluctuations in securities prices, fluctuation in interest rates and foreign currency exchange rates; and actions by governmental authorities. Future events and their effects on the Fund may not be those anticipated by us. Actual results may differ materially from the results anticipated in these forward-looking statements. We do not undertake, and specifically disclaim, any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking information, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

Financial Highlights

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the past five fiscal years or for the periods since inception, as applicable.

Net Assets per Unit (\$)⁽¹⁾

| Series | Period | Net Assets, Beginning of Period | Increase (Decrease) from Operations | | | | | Distributions | | | | | | Net Assets, End of Period |
|------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | Total Revenue | Total Expenses | Realized Gains (Losses) | Unrealized Gains (Losses) | Total Increase (Decrease) from Operations ⁽²⁾ | From Income (Excluding Dividends) | From Dividends | From Underlying Funds | From Capital Gains | Return of Capital | Total Distributions ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾ | |
| A | Sept. 2023 | 8.82 | 0.48 | -0.16 | -0.63 | 0.50 | 0.19 | 0.60 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.08 | 0.00 | 0.68 | 8.16 |
| | Sept. 2022 | 9.96 | 1.55 | -0.18 | -0.61 | -1.39 | -0.63 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.50 | 8.82 |
| | Sept. 2021 | 10.37 | 0.88 | -0.19 | -0.25 | -0.41 | 0.03 | 0.42 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.42 | 9.96 |
| | Sept. 2020 | 10.90 | -0.25 | -0.20 | 0.38 | -0.05 | -0.12 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.31 | 0.12 | 0.43 | 10.37 |
| | Sept. 2019 | 10.59 | 0.03 | -0.20 | 0.38 | 0.46 | 0.67 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.39 | 0.41 | 10.90 |
| C | Sept. 2023 | 10.00 | 0.24 | 0.00 | -0.74 | 0.43 | -0.07 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 9.93 |
| F | Sept. 2023 | 9.32 | 0.50 | -0.09 | -0.66 | 0.52 | 0.27 | 0.74 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.09 | 0.00 | 0.83 | 8.59 |
| | Sept. 2022 | 10.53 | 1.63 | -0.10 | -0.64 | -1.48 | -0.59 | 0.62 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.62 | 9.32 |
| | Sept. 2021 | 10.87 | 0.93 | -0.11 | -0.26 | -0.44 | 0.12 | 0.44 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.44 | 10.53 |
| | Sept. 2020 | 11.33 | -0.26 | -0.11 | 0.40 | -0.09 | -0.06 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.32 | 0.13 | 0.45 | 10.87 |
| | Sept. 2019 | 10.91 | 0.03 | -0.11 | 0.40 | 0.49 | 0.81 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.41 | 0.43 | 11.33 |
| I | Sept. 2023 | 9.45 | 0.54 | 0.00 | -0.72 | 0.56 | 0.38 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.16 | 9.67 |
| | Sept. 2022 | 11.63 | 1.81 | -0.01 | -0.71 | -1.63 | -0.54 | 1.65 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.65 | 9.45 |
| | Sept. 2021 | 11.67 | 1.01 | 0.00 | -0.28 | -0.54 | 0.19 | 0.27 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.27 | 11.63 |
| | Sept. 2020 | 12.20 | -0.27 | -0.01 | 0.42 | -0.08 | 0.06 | 0.28 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.35 | 0.00 | 0.63 | 11.67 |
| | Sept. 2019 | 11.45 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 0.42 | 0.65 | 1.11 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.27 | 12.20 |
| O | Sept. 2023 | 9.68 | 0.52 | -0.01 | -0.70 | 0.68 | 0.49 | 0.97 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.97 | 9.08 |
| | Sept. 2022 | 10.70 | 1.65 | -0.01 | -0.65 | -1.55 | -0.56 | 0.51 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.51 | 9.68 |
| | Sept. 2021 | 10.50 | 0.93 | -0.01 | -0.26 | -0.44 | 0.22 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10.70 |
| | Sept. 2020 | 10.95 | -0.24 | -0.01 | 0.38 | -0.20 | -0.07 | 0.22 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.32 | 0.00 | 0.54 | 10.50 |
| | Sept. 2019 | 10.07 | 0.02 | -0.01 | 0.37 | 0.49 | 0.87 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 10.95 |
| T ⁽⁵⁾ | Sept. 2023 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Sept. 2022 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Sept. 2021 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Sept. 2020 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Sept. 2019 | 9.03 | -0.20 | -0.05 | 0.32 | -0.21 | -0.14 | 0.00 | 0.09 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.09 | 0.00 |
| P | Sept. 2023 | 8.59 | 0.46 | -0.14 | -0.61 | 0.46 | 0.17 | 0.61 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.08 | 0.00 | 0.69 | 7.94 |
| | Sept. 2022 | 9.69 | 1.50 | -0.16 | -0.59 | -1.35 | -0.60 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.50 | 8.59 |
| | Sept. 2021 | 10.07 | 0.86 | -0.17 | -0.24 | -0.41 | 0.04 | 0.41 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.41 | 9.69 |
| | Sept. 2020 | 10.61 | -0.24 | -0.17 | 0.37 | -0.09 | -0.13 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.31 | 0.15 | 0.46 | 10.07 |
| | Sept. 2019 | 10.28 | 0.03 | -0.17 | 0.37 | 0.51 | 0.74 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.38 | 0.40 | 10.61 |
| PF | Sept. 2023 | 8.90 | 0.47 | -0.07 | -0.63 | 0.58 | 0.35 | 0.75 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.08 | 0.00 | 0.83 | 8.18 |
| | Sept. 2022 | 10.02 | 1.55 | -0.08 | -0.61 | -1.40 | -0.54 | 0.58 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.58 | 8.90 |
| | Sept. 2021 | 10.31 | 0.88 | -0.08 | -0.25 | -0.43 | 0.12 | 0.42 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.42 | 10.02 |
| | Sept. 2020 | 10.82 | -0.24 | -0.09 | 0.38 | -0.15 | -0.10 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.32 | 0.20 | 0.52 | 10.31 |
| | Sept. 2019 | 10.40 | 0.02 | -0.08 | 0.38 | 0.45 | 0.77 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.39 | 0.41 | 10.82 |

(1) All per unit figures presented in 2023 are referenced to net assets determined in accordance with IFRS and are derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements for the period ended September 30, 2023.

(2) Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

(3) Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the Fund.

(4) Distributions (if any) that may have been made that included return of capital in excess of short term earnings were made to minimize disruption and provide stability to investors who have elected to take their distributions in the form of cash, and as disclosed in the Simplified Prospectus. These amounts are reviewed at each calendar year-end and management engages in discussions with the sub-advisor to determine the most applicable strategy on a go forward basis and will take any action(s) as needed for the long term stability of the Fund.

(5) Effective January 18, 2019 Series T has been discontinued and all assets have been merged into Series A.

Ratios and Supplemental Data

| Series | Period | Total Net Asset Value (000's of \$) | Number of Units Outstanding (000's) | Management Expense Ratio (%) ⁽¹⁾ | Management Expense Ratio before Waivers and Absorptions (%) | Trading Expense Ratio (%) ⁽²⁾ | Portfolio Turnover Rate (%) ⁽³⁾ | Net Asset Value per Unit (\$) |
|------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|-------------------------------|
| A | Sept. 2023 | 30,145 | 3,696 | 1.84 | 1.84 | 0.01 | 53.30 | 8.16 |
| | Sept. 2022 | 32,921 | 3,731 | 1.84 | 1.84 | 0.05 | 115.54 | 8.82 |
| | Sept. 2021 | 44,462 | 4,463 | 1.84 | 1.84 | 0.03 | 110.64 | 9.96 |
| | Sept. 2020 | 54,814 | 5,287 | 1.85 | 1.85 | 0.04 | 125.81 | 10.37 |
| | Sept. 2019 | 56,911 | 5,221 | 1.84 | 1.84 | 0.04 | 127.78 | 10.90 |
| C | Sept. 2023 | 1 | - | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.01 | 53.30 | 9.93 |
| F | Sept. 2023 | 39,237 | 4,567 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.01 | 53.30 | 8.59 |
| | Sept. 2022 | 39,905 | 4,280 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.05 | 115.54 | 9.32 |
| | Sept. 2021 | 56,307 | 5,347 | 0.99 | 0.99 | 0.03 | 110.64 | 10.53 |
| | Sept. 2020 | 65,614 | 6,038 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.04 | 125.81 | 10.87 |
| | Sept. 2019 | 66,278 | 5,848 | 0.99 | 0.99 | 0.04 | 127.78 | 11.33 |
| I | Sept. 2023 | 761,225 | 78,741 | N/A | N/A | 0.01 | 53.30 | 9.67 |
| | Sept. 2022 | 1,008,551 | 106,781 | N/A | N/A | 0.05 | 115.54 | 9.45 |
| | Sept. 2021 | 1,085,075 | 93,338 | N/A | N/A | 0.03 | 110.64 | 11.63 |
| | Sept. 2020 | 1,194,608 | 102,376 | N/A | N/A | 0.04 | 125.81 | 11.67 |
| | Sept. 2019 | 1,285,571 | 105,383 | N/A | N/A | 0.04 | 127.78 | 12.20 |
| O | Sept. 2023 | 2,008 | 221 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.01 | 53.30 | 9.08 |
| | Sept. 2022 | 4,285 | 443 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.05 | 115.54 | 9.68 |
| | Sept. 2021 | 2,891 | 270 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.03 | 110.64 | 10.70 |
| | Sept. 2020 | 1,793 | 171 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.04 | 125.81 | 10.50 |
| | Sept. 2019 | 2,398 | 219 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.04 | 127.78 | 10.95 |
| T ⁽⁴⁾ | Sept. 2023 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Sept. 2022 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Sept. 2021 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Sept. 2020 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Sept. 2019 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| P | Sept. 2023 | 15,543 | 1,958 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 0.01 | 53.30 | 7.94 |
| | Sept. 2022 | 13,563 | 1,580 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 0.05 | 115.54 | 8.59 |
| | Sept. 2021 | 18,468 | 1,906 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 0.03 | 110.64 | 9.69 |
| | Sept. 2020 | 20,781 | 2,064 | 1.67 | 1.67 | 0.04 | 125.81 | 10.07 |
| | Sept. 2019 | 20,006 | 1,886 | 1.65 | 1.65 | 0.04 | 127.78 | 10.61 |
| PF | Sept. 2023 | 64,793 | 7,917 | 0.79 | 0.79 | 0.01 | 53.30 | 8.18 |
| | Sept. 2022 | 131,220 | 14,746 | 0.78 | 0.78 | 0.05 | 115.54 | 8.90 |
| | Sept. 2021 | 137,963 | 13,774 | 0.78 | 0.78 | 0.03 | 110.64 | 10.02 |
| | Sept. 2020 | 126,815 | 12,299 | 0.78 | 0.78 | 0.04 | 125.81 | 10.31 |
| | Sept. 2019 | 130,036 | 12,018 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.04 | 127.78 | 10.82 |

(1) Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs, as well as withholding taxes) for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.

(2) The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.

(3) The portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's sub-advisor manages its investment holdings. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the period. The higher the portfolio turnover rate in a period, the greater the trading costs payable by the Fund in the period, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the period. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a Fund.

(4) Effective January 18, 2019 Series T has been discontinued and all assets have been merged into Series A.

Management Fees

The Manager is responsible for the management, supervision and administration of the Fund. The Manager receives from the Fund management fees, before HST, calculated daily on the net asset value of the Fund at an annual rate shown below. The Fund does not pay management fees for Series C, I and O units. Series I and O unitholders pay a negotiated fee directly to NEI Investments. Series C unitholders negotiate directly with the dealer and pay management fees directly by the dealer to the Manager.

The management fee covers the cost of investment advisory fees, sales, marketing, and distribution expenses of the Fund. In addition, the Manager may pay a trailer fee to dealers out of this management fee. The trailer fee is a percentage of the average daily value of the units of the Fund held by the dealer's clients. No trailer fees are paid in respect of any Series F and PF units of the Fund.

The following table shows the major services paid for out of management fees as a percentage of the management fee for all applicable series of the Fund:

| | Management Fee (%) | Investment Advisory and Other Fees (%) | Trailer Fee (%) |
|-----------|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| Series A | 1.40 | 49.58 | 50.42 |
| Series F | 0.65 | 100.00 | N/A |
| Series P | 1.25 | 40.00 | 60.00 |
| Series PF | 0.50 | 100.00 | N/A |

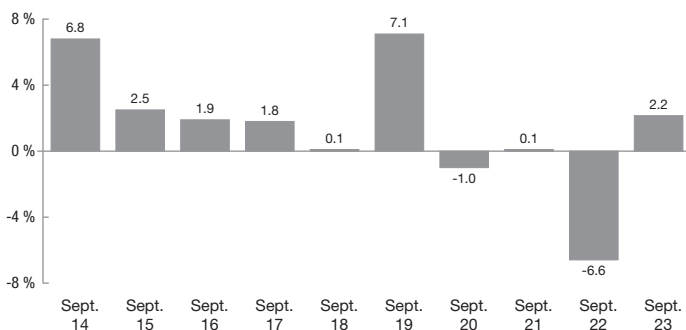
Past Performance

The performance information provided will not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future. The information shown assumes that distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the relevant series of the Fund. In addition, the information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance.

Year-by-Year Returns

The following charts show the annual performance for each series of units of the Fund for each period shown and illustrate how the Fund's performance has varied from period to period. The charts indicate how much an investment made on the first day of each financial period would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial period.

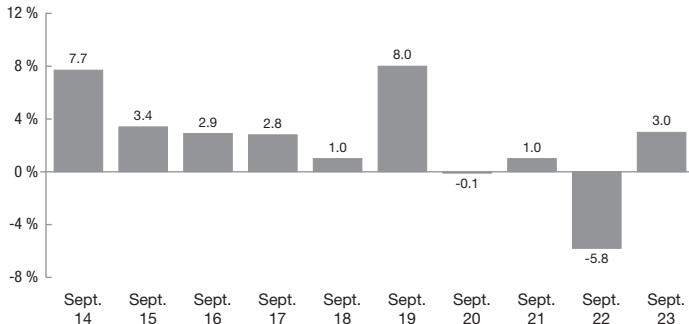
Series A



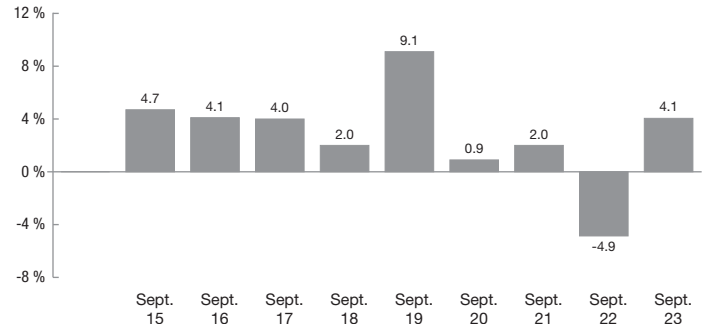
Series C

Historic performance reporting is not permitted until the series has at least 12 months of performance.

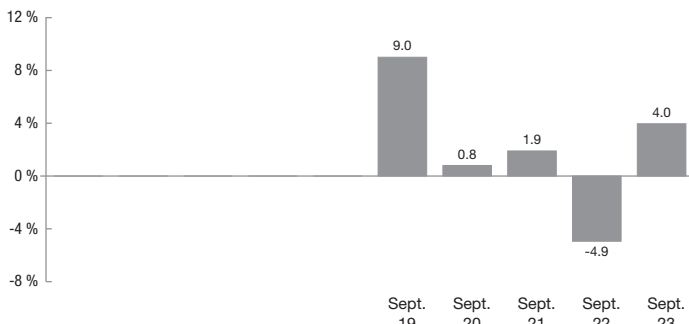
Series F



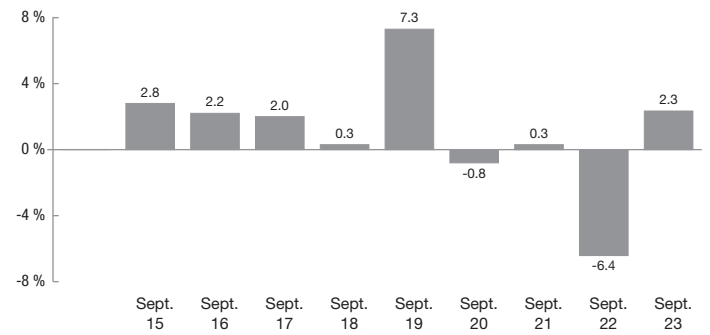
Series I



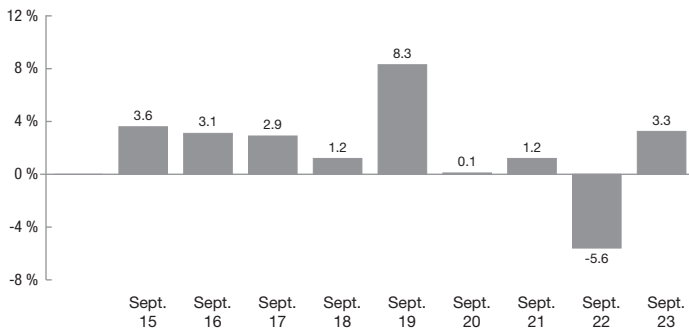
Series O



Series P



Series PF



Annualized Compound Returns

The following table shows the annual compound returns for all series of the Fund except Series C. Historic performance reporting is not permitted for Series C until the series has at least 12 months of performance. All returns are in Canadian dollars, on a total return basis, net of fees. For comparison, the returns for the benchmark are included. A discussion regarding the relative performance of the Fund is found in the Results of Operations section of this report and a description of indexes can be found in the Annualized Compound Returns section of this report.

The benchmark for this Fund is the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index (C\$ Hedged).

The Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index is a flagship measure of global investment grade debt from twenty-four local currency markets. This multi-currency benchmark includes treasury, government-related, corporate and securitized fixed-rate bonds from both developed and emerging markets issuers. This is a Canadian dollar hedged index.

While the Fund uses this benchmark for long-term performance comparisons, it is not managed relative to the composition of the Index. As a result, the Fund may experience periods when its performance is not aligned with the Index, either positively or negatively. Please see the "Results of Operations" section of this report for a discussion of recent performance results.

| Group/Investment | 1 Yr (%) | 3 Yrs (%) | 5 Yrs (%) | 10 Yrs (%) | Since Inception ^(*) (%) |
|---|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------------------------------|
| Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index (C\$ Hedged) | 1.6 | -4.0 | 0.2 | 1.7 | ** |
| NEI Global Total Return Bond Fund, Series A | 2.2 | -1.5 | 0.3 | 1.4 | N/A |
| NEI Global Total Return Bond Fund, Series F | 3.0 | -0.7 | 1.1 | 2.3 | N/A |
| NEI Global Total Return Bond Fund, Series I | 4.1 | 0.3 | 2.1 | N/A | 3.2 |
| NEI Global Total Return Bond Fund, Series O | 4.0 | 0.2 | 2.0 | N/A | 2.1 |
| NEI Global Total Return Bond Fund, Series P | 2.3 | -1.3 | 0.5 | N/A | 1.2 |
| NEI Global Total Return Bond Fund, Series PF | 3.3 | -0.4 | 1.4 | N/A | 2.2 |

^(*)Since inception returns are not provided for series that have been in existence for more than 10 years.

^(**)The return of the benchmark since inception for each applicable series is as follows: Series I: 1.5%, Series O: 0.1%, Series P: 1.3%, Series PF: 1.2%.



NEI Global Total Return Bond Fund

Summary of Investment Portfolio as at September 30, 2023

Total Net Asset Value: \$912,952,108

| Top Holdings | | % |
|--------------|--|------|
| 1 | Cash and Equivalents | 8.6 |
| 2 | U.S. Treasury Bonds, 3.500%, 2028-01-31 | 5.0 |
| 3 | Federative Republic of Brazil, 10.000%, 2029-01-01 | 3.0 |
| 4 | New Zealand Government, Series 0427, 4.500%, 2027-04-15 | 2.9 |
| 5 | United Mexican States, Series M, 7.750%, 2031-05-29 | 2.9 |
| 6 | United Kingdom Government, 1.625%, 2028-10-22 | 2.4 |
| 7 | United Kingdom Government, 0.125%, 2028-01-31 | 2.4 |
| 8 | Japan Government, Series 70, 0.700%, 2051-03-20 | 1.7 |
| 9 | U.S. Treasury Bonds, 3.875%, 2027-12-31 | 1.6 |
| 10 | United Mexican States, Series M 20, 7.500%, 2027-06-03 | 1.6 |
| 11 | Italy Treasury Bonds, 1.700%, 2051-09-01 | 1.6 |
| 12 | Republic of South Africa, Series 2035, 8.875%, 2035-02-28 | 1.5 |
| 13 | U.S. Treasury Bonds, 3.375%, 2042-08-15 | 1.5 |
| 14 | Japan Government, Series 66, 0.400%, 2050-03-20 | 1.5 |
| 15 | Canada Housing Trust, Series 88, 2.100%, 2029-09-15 | 1.4 |
| 16 | Coöperatieve Rabobank, 4.655%, floating rate from 2027-08-22, 2028-08-22 | 1.4 |
| 17 | Province of Ontario, 3.100%, 2027-05-19 | 1.4 |
| 18 | European Union, 0.000%, 2031-07-04 | 1.2 |
| 19 | New Zealand Government, 1.750%, 2041-05-15 | 1.2 |
| 20 | United Mexican States, 4.500%, 2029-04-22 | 1.1 |
| 21 | Italy Treasury Bonds, 3.000%, 2029-08-01 | 1.1 |
| 22 | Zurich Finance, 3.000%, floating rate from 2031-04-19, 2051-04-19 | 1.1 |
| 23 | Province of Ontario, 2.650%, 2025-02-05 | 1.1 |
| 24 | Canada Housing Trust, Series 90, 1.800%, 2024-12-15 | 1.1 |
| 25 | Italy Treasury Bonds, Series 8Y, 4.000%, 2031-10-30 | 1.0 |
| Total | | 51.3 |

| Net Asset Value Mix | | % |
|-------------------------|-------|---|
| Fixed Income | 91.3 | |
| Cash and Equivalents | 8.6 | |
| Asset-Backed Securities | 0.2 | |
| Other | -0.1 | |
| Total | 100.0 | |

| Sector Allocation | | % |
|---|-------|---|
| Foreign Government Bonds | 39.4 | |
| Corporate Bonds | 35.7 | |
| Cash and Equivalents | 8.6 | |
| U.S. Government Bonds | 8.4 | |
| Supranational Bonds | 2.8 | |
| Federal Bonds | 2.5 | |
| Provincial and Crown Corporations Bonds | 2.5 | |
| Asset-Backed Securities | 0.2 | |
| Other | -0.1 | |
| Total | 100.0 | |

| Geographic Distribution | | % |
|-------------------------|-------|---|
| Other Countries | 29.6 | |
| United States | 15.7 | |
| United Kingdom | 11.6 | |
| Italy | 9.1 | |
| Cash and Equivalents | 8.6 | |
| Mexico | 7.5 | |
| Netherlands | 6.4 | |
| France | 5.8 | |
| Canada | 5.7 | |
| Total | 100.0 | |

"Other Countries" geographic category includes all countries individually representing less than 5% of the Fund's net asset value.

The Summary of Investment Portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the investment fund. Updates are available quarterly.