

# PIMCO Total Return ESG Fund

## PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The PIMCO Total Return ESG Fund returned 1.05% after fees in March, outperforming the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index by 0.12%. Year-to-date the Fund has returned 0.00% at NAV, while the benchmark returned -0.78%.

A perceived “last mile” problem in the Fed’s battle against inflation led bond markets to retrace their Q4’23 rally and bring expectations for 2024 cuts in line with the Fed’s dot plot. Risk sentiment remained robust despite the possibility of “higher-for-longer” rates, with the MSCI World finishing the quarter up 9.01% and credit spreads broadly tightening. The Fed paused once again and maintained its forecast for three 25-basis-point rate cuts in 2024. Global developed central banks largely followed suit, with both the ECB and BoE leaving rates on hold. Meanwhile, in Japan, the BoJ raised its policy rate for the first time since 2007, marking the end of negative interest rate policies.

### Contributors

- Positions within securitized credit, particularly CMBS and ABS
- Tactical U.S. duration positioning
- An overweight to agency MBS

### Detractors

- Modest exposure to select developed market currencies vs. the U.S. dollar
- Long exposure to duration in the dollar bloc, particularly Canada, as yields rose

	Month end performance 31 March 2024				Quarter end performance 31 March 2024			
	3 mos.	6 mos.	1 yr.	YTD	1 yr.	5 yrs.	10 yrs.	Since inception
■ PIMCO Total Return ESG Fund share class INST at NAV	0.00	6.94	2.86	0.00	2.86	0.34	1.49	5.55
■ Benchmark (%)	-0.78	5.99	1.70	-0.78	1.70	0.36	1.54	4.86

**Benchmark:** Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index

*Performance quoted represents past performance. Past performance is not a guarantee or a reliable indicator of future results. Investment return and the principal value of an investment will fluctuate. Shares may be worth more or less than original cost when redeemed. Current performance may be lower or higher than performance shown. For performance current to the most recent month-end, visit [www.pimco.com](http://www.pimco.com) or call (888) 87-PIMCO.*

Certain Funds may offer a share class with an inception date which is different than the inception date of the Fund. For the periods prior to the inception date of a share class, performance information is based on the performance of the Fund’s oldest class shares, adjusted to reflect the fees and expenses paid by that class of shares. The performance figures presented reflect the total return performance, unless otherwise noted, for institutional class shares and reflect changes in share price and reinvestment of dividend and capital gain distributions. All periods longer than one year are annualized. Periods less than one year are cumulative. The minimum initial investment for Institutional class shares is \$1 million; however, it may be modified for certain financial intermediaries who submit trades on behalf of eligible investors.

Differences in the Fund’s performance versus the index and related attribution information with respect to particular categories of securities or individual positions may be attributable, in part, to differences in the pricing methodologies used by the Fund and the index.

There is no assurance that any fund, including any fund that has experienced high or unusual performance for one or more periods, will experience similar levels of performance in the future. High performance is defined as a significant increase in either 1) a fund’s total return in excess of that of the fund’s benchmark between reporting periods or 2) a fund’s total return in excess of the fund’s historical returns between reporting periods. Unusual performance is defined as a significant change in a fund’s performance as compared to one or more previous reporting periods.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** Please note that this material contains the opinions of the manager as of the date noted, and may not have been updated to reflect real time market developments. All opinions are subject to change without notice.

A Shares	PTGAX	INST Shares	PTSAX
ADMIN Shares	PRFAX	I-2 Shares	PRAPX
C Shares	PTGCX	I-3 Shares	PTRSX

Fund Inception Date	01 May 1991
Shareclass INST Inception Date	01 May 1991
Total Net Assets (in millions)	\$1,877.9

### Performance Characteristics

INST 30-day SEC yield <sup>1</sup>	4.70%
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<sup>1</sup>The 30 day SEC Yield is computed under an SEC standardized formula based on net income earned over the past 30 days.

### Basic Facts

Dividend frequency	Monthly with Daily Accrual
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### Fund Expenses

INST share Gross Expense Ratio	0.61%
INST share Adjusted Expense Ratio	0.50%

The Adjusted Expense Ratio excludes certain investment expenses, such as interest expense from borrowings and repurchase agreements and dividend expense from investments on short sales, incurred directly by the Fund or indirectly through the Fund’s investments in underlying PIMCO Funds (if applicable), none of which are paid to PIMCO.

### Portfolio Managers

Mark Kiesel, Qi Wang, Mohit Mittal, Jelle Brons

### Fund Statistics

Effective Duration (yrs)	5.64
Effective Maturity (yrs)	7.38
Sharpe Ratio (10 year)	0.03
Volatility (10 year)	5.13%

## PORTFOLIO POSITIONING

The Fund is modestly underweight headline duration relative to its benchmark with hedges in select regions. The Fund is underweight duration in the U.S., but remains tactical given valuations. The Fund maintains modest long exposure to duration in Canada, particularly at the front-end of the curve, and short exposure to duration in Japan.

The Fund is underweight corporate credit overall, though maintains a bias toward high-quality issues with a preference for senior issues of large national champion banks. The Fund is overweight agency MBS with a focus on higher coupons due to the ongoing reduction in the Fed's mortgage holdings and pull-back in lending. The Fund continues to favor high-quality securitized credit, including residential non-agency mortgages, particularly securitized issuers with strong sustainability profiles, given inherent fundamental strength and the de-leveraging nature of the asset class. The Fund continues to be long TIPS as a hedge against the possibility of inflation being higher than currently priced in the markets.

The Fund remains focused on relative value trades with currencies, and has long exposure to a basket of currencies with attractive valuations, high real carry, and/or supportive fundamentals. The Fund uses a diversified basket of funding currencies from select developed markets and Asian emerging markets.

## QUARTER IN REVIEW

A perceived “last mile” problem in the Fed’s battle against inflation led bond markets to retrace their Q4’23 rally and bring expectations for 2024 cuts in line with the Fed’s dot plot. Risk sentiment remained robust despite the possibility of “higher-for-longer” rates, with the MSCI World finishing the quarter up 9.01% and credit spreads broadly tightening. The Fed paused once again and maintained its forecast for three 25-basis-point rate cuts in 2024. Global developed central banks largely followed suit, with both the ECB and BoE leaving rates on hold. Meanwhile, in Japan, the BoJ raised its policy rate for the first time since 2007, marking the end of negative interest rate policies.

Interest rate strategies contributed to relative performance over the quarter. Contributions from tactical U.S. duration positioning more than offset detractions from long exposure to duration in the dollar bloc, particularly Canada.

Spread sector strategies contributed to relative performance over the quarter, primarily from positions within securitized credit, particularly CMBS and ABS, and an overweight to agency MBS. Currency strategies detracted from relative performance over the quarter, primarily from modest exposure to select developed market currencies versus the U.S. dollar.

Sector Allocation (% Market Value)	Fund
US Government - Treasury <sup>d</sup>	16.3
US Government - Agency <sup>e</sup>	0.3
Swaps and Liquid Rates <sup>o</sup>	-12.1
Securitized <sup>h</sup>	66.6
Invest. Grade Credit	23.7
High Yield Credit	0.3
Non-USD Developed	8.2
Emerging Markets <sup>q</sup>	1.6
Municipal	0.4
Other <sup>a</sup>	3.5
Net Other Short Duration Instruments <sup>ff</sup>	-8.9

## OUTLOOK AND STRATEGY

Higher savings balances and a slower pass-through of monetary policy in the U.S. relative to other developed markets could, in our view, keep inflation above the Fed's 2% target over the cyclical horizon. We still expect the Fed to start normalizing policy at midyear, similar to other DM central banks; however, the Fed's subsequent rate-cutting path could be more gradual. Additionally, we believe that an economic soft landing is achievable, but both recessionary and inflationary risks remain elevated in the aftermath of unprecedented global shocks to supply and demand.

The Fund is modestly underweight headline duration relative to its benchmark. The Fund is modestly underweight U.S. duration in aggregate, focusing on curve positioning. The Fund maintains a modest long exposure to duration in Canada, particularly at the front-end of the curve. The Fund maintains a short position to duration in Japan as an advantageous duration hedge.

The Fund maintains an underweight position to non-financial investment grade corporate credit and instead prefers to hold exposure to high-quality securitized assets, such as U.S. non-agency residential MBS and AAA tranches of CLOs. The Fund continues to be overweight agency MBS, focusing on higher coupons due to the ongoing reduction in Fed's mortgage holdings and banks temporarily stepping back in the wake of SVB debacle. The Fund continues to be long U.S. TIPs as a hedge against the possibility of inflation being higher than currently priced in the markets.

The Fund maintains long exposure to select developed and emerging market currencies with attractive valuations, high real carry, and/or supportive fundamentals.

*Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the funds carefully before investing. This and other information are contained in the fund's prospectus and summary prospectus, if available, which may be obtained by contacting your investment professional or PIMCO representative or by visiting [www.pimco.com](http://www.pimco.com). Please read them carefully before you invest or send money.*

<sup>1</sup>Includes U.S. Treasury notes, bonds, futures, and inflation-protected securities <sup>2</sup>Includes U.S. agencies, FDIC-guaranteed and government-guaranteed corporate securities, and supranationals <sup>3</sup>Includes U.S. dollar denominated interest rate swaps, swaptions, options, and other rate related derivatives. Other portfolio derivatives, where applicable, may be included as part of other sectors based upon their underlying risk characteristics. <sup>4</sup>The Securitized bucket will include Agency MBS, nonAgency MBS, CMBS, ABS, CDO, CLO, and Pooled Funds. <sup>5</sup>Net Other Short Duration Instruments includes securities and other instruments (except instruments tied to emerging markets by country of risk) with an effective duration less than one year and rated investment grade or higher or, if unrated, determined by PIMCO to be of comparable quality, commingled liquidity funds, uninvested cash, interest receivables, net unsettled trades, broker money, short duration derivatives and derivatives offsets. With respect to certain categories of short duration securities, the Adviser reserves the discretion to require a minimum credit rating higher than investment grade for inclusion in this category. Derivatives Offsets includes offsets associated with investments in futures, swaps and other derivatives. Such offsets may be taken at the notional value of the derivative position. <sup>6</sup>Short duration emerging markets instruments includes an emerging market security or other instrument economically tied to an emerging market country by country of risk with an effective duration less than one year and rated investment grade or higher or if unrated, determined to be similar quality by PIMCO. Emerging Markets includes the value of short duration emerging markets instruments previously reported in another category.

<sup>7</sup>Other may include convertibles, preferreds, and yankee bonds.

Investments made by a Fund and the results achieved by a Fund are not expected to be the same as those made by any other PIMCO-advised Fund, including those with a similar name, investment objective or policies. A new or smaller Fund's performance may not represent how the Fund is expected to or may perform in the long-term. New Funds have limited operating histories for investors to evaluate and new and smaller Funds may not attract sufficient assets to achieve investment and trading efficiencies. A Fund may be forced to sell a comparatively large portion of its portfolio to meet significant shareholder redemptions for cash, or hold a comparatively large portion of its portfolio in cash due to significant share purchases for cash, in each case when the Fund otherwise would not seek to do so, which may adversely affect performance.

**A word about risk:** Investing in the **bond market** is subject to risks, including market, interest rate, issuer, credit, call risk, inflation risk, and liquidity risk. The value of most bonds and bond strategies are impacted by changes in interest rates. Bonds and bond strategies with longer durations tend to be more sensitive and volatile than those with shorter durations; bond prices generally fall as interest rates rise, and low interest rate environments increase this risk. Reductions in bond counterparty capacity may contribute to decreased market liquidity and increased price volatility. Bond investments may be worth more or less than the original cost when redeemed. Investing in **foreign denominated and/or domiciled securities** may involve heightened risk due to currency fluctuations, and economic and political risks, which may be enhanced in emerging markets. **Mortgage and asset-backed securities** may be sensitive to changes in interest rates, subject to early repayment risk, and their value may fluctuate in response to the market's perception of issuer creditworthiness; while generally supported by some form of government or private guarantee there is no assurance that private guarantors will meet their obligations. **High-yield, lower-rated, securities** involve greater risk than higher-rated securities; portfolios that invest in them may be subject to greater levels of credit and liquidity risk than portfolios that do not. **Equities** may decline in value due to both real and perceived general market, economic, and industry conditions. **Derivatives** may involve certain costs and risks such as liquidity, interest rate, market, credit, management and the risk that a position could not be closed when most advantageous. Investing in derivatives could lose more than the amount invested. **Diversification** does not ensure against loss. A Fund's **ESG investing strategy** may select or exclude securities of certain issuers for reasons other than financial performance. Such strategy carries the risk that the Fund's performance will differ from similar funds that do not utilize an ESG investing strategy. For example, the application of this strategy could affect the Fund's exposure to certain sectors or types of investments, which could negatively impact the Fund's performance. **ESG investing is qualitative and subjective by nature**, and there is no guarantee that the factors utilized by PIMCO or any judgment exercised by PIMCO will reflect the opinions of any particular investor, and the factors utilized by PIMCO may differ from the factors that any particular investor considers relevant in evaluating an issuer's ESG practices. In evaluating an issuer, PIMCO is dependent upon information and data obtained through voluntary or third-party reporting that may be incomplete, inaccurate or unavailable, or present conflicting information and data with respect to an issuer, which in each case could cause PIMCO to incorrectly assess an issuer's business practices with respect to its ESG practices. Socially responsible norms differ by region, and an issuer's ESG practices or PIMCO's assessment of an issuer's ESG practices may change over time. There is no assurance that the ESG investing strategy or techniques employed will be successful. Past performance is not a guarantee or reliable indicator of future results.

**Green Bonds** are those issues with proceeds specifically earmarked to be used for climate and environmental projects. **Social Bonds** are use-of-proceeds bonds earmarked to finance new and existing projects or activities with positive social impacts.

**Effective duration** is a measure of a portfolio's price sensitivity to interest rate changes, including expected changes in cash flows caused by embedded options. The **Sharpe Ratio** measures the risk-adjusted performance. The risk-free rate is subtracted from the rate of return for a portfolio and the result is divided by the standard deviation of the risk-free rate subtracted from the portfolio returns. **Volatility** is measured by the standard deviation, or dispersion of a set of data from its mean, based on historical portfolio returns. A larger spread of data indicates higher standard deviation and higher volatility. **Effective maturity** is a weighted average of all the maturities of the bonds in a portfolio, computed by weighting each bond's effective maturity by the market value of the security.

PIMCO Total Return ESG Fund is a diversified portfolio of high-quality bonds that is actively managed to maximize return in a risk-controlled framework while focusing on environmental-, social-, and governance oriented (ESG) principles.<sup>[1]</sup> Please see the Fund's prospectus for more detailed information related to its investment objectives, investment strategies and approach to ESG.<sup>[1]</sup> The Fund considers ESG factors to choose securities that comprise the fund and to proactively engage with issuers to realize ESG-objectives. Environmental ("E") factors can include matters such as climate change, pollution, waste, and how an issuer protects and/or conserves natural resources. Social ("S") factors can include how an issuer manages its relationships with individuals, such as its employees, shareholders, customers and its community. Governance ("G") factors can include how an issuer operates, such as its leadership, pay and incentive structures, internal controls, and the rights of equity and debt holders.

Morningstar ratings are only shown for those funds that have achieved a 4 or 5 star rating. Ratings for other share classes are either lower or not available.

Portfolio structure is subject to change without notice and may not be representative of current or future allocations.

Statements concerning financial market trends or portfolio strategies are based on current market conditions, which will fluctuate. There is no guarantee that these investment strategies will work under all market conditions or are appropriate for all investors and each investor should evaluate their ability to invest for the long term, especially during periods of downturn in the market. Outlook and strategies are subject to change without notice.

Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index represents securities that are SEC-registered, taxable, and dollar denominated. The index covers the U.S. investment grade fixed rate bond market, with index components for government and corporate securities, mortgage pass-through securities, and asset-backed securities. These major sectors are subdivided into more specific indices that are calculated and reported on a regular basis. It is not possible to invest directly in an unmanaged index.

PIMCO as a general matter provides services to qualified institutions, financial intermediaries and institutional investors. Individual investors should contact their own financial professional to determine the most appropriate investment options for their financial situation. This material contains the current opinions of the manager and such opinions are subject to change without notice. Information contained herein has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but not guaranteed. No part of this material may be reproduced in any form, or referred to in any other publication, without express written permission. PIMCO is a trademark of Allianz Asset Management of America LLC in the United States and throughout the world. ©2024, PIMCO. **PIMCO Investments LLC, distributor**, 1633 Broadway, New York, NY, 10019 is a company of PIMCO.

U.S. interest rate strategies encompass the Fund's duration, yield curve, and convexity strategies.

Currency rates may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time and may reduce the returns of a portfolio.

Break-even inflation is the difference between the nominal yield on a fixed-rate investment and the real yield on an inflation-linked investment of similar maturity and credit quality.

**Inflation-linked bonds (ILBs)** issued by a government are fixed income securities whose principal value is periodically adjusted according to the rate of inflation; ILBs decline in value when real interest rates rise. **Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS)** are ILBs issued by the U.S. government. US Federal Reserve (The Fed); Bank of Japan (BoJ); Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities (CMBS); European Central Bank (ECB); Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS); Silicon Valley Bank (SVB).