# High Quality High Yield

March 31, 2025

## Inception Date

October 1, 2000

## Total Strategy Assets[1]

$954 million

## Lead Portfolio Manager

Jeff Tapper, CFA

## Strategy Vehicles

- Separately Managed Account
- Collective Investment Trust (CIT)

## Benchmark[2]

ICE BofA U.S. BB-B Rated Constrained Index

## Typical Targets[3]

| | |
|---|---|
| **CCC or Below (%)** | 0 – 10 |
| **High Yield Bonds – BB/B (%)** | 80 – 100 |
| **Emerging Markets (%)** | 0 – 10 |
| **Convertibles/Preferreds (%)** | 0 – 5 |
| **Leveraged Loans (%)** | 0 – 10 |
| **Cash (%)** | 0 - 10 |

## OUR STRENGTHS

With a focus on the higher quality segment of the below investment grade market, our strategy seeks to generate attractive risk adjusted returns over the long term, while also preserving capital.

We believe our key competitive strengths are:

**Investment Style** — Portfolio Managers, research analysts and traders work together; focused primarily on security selection within a duration neutral portfolio.

**Size** — Our size helps ensure sufficient diversification at the portfolio level, while being able to source new issue allocations, participate in smaller deals, and remain sufficiently nimble to reposition the portfolio as market opportunities arise.

**Experience** — Our deep credit experience helps enable us to navigate various market cycles, looking for any market dislocations and exercising an appropriate sell discipline.

## PHILOSOPHY AND PROCESS

**We believe fixed income markets are efficient with respect to interest rate risk, but regularly misprice securities that are exposed to credit, downgrade and liquidity risks.**

We seek to exploit inefficiencies in the market and provide clients with excess returns to the benchmark without incurring undue risk through:

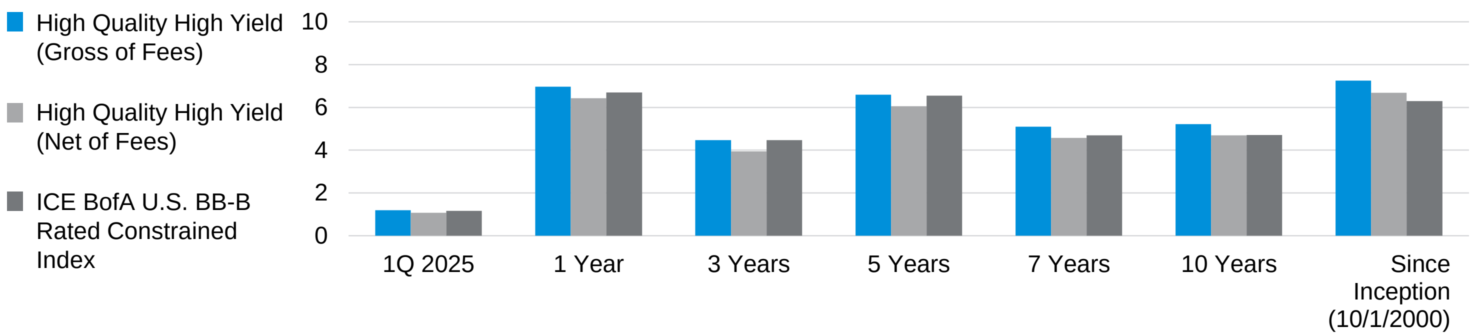
- Conducting proprietary, in-depth fundamental research
- Targeting duration-neutral portfolios
- Constructing portfolios with attractive risk / reward characteristics

## ALPHA DRIVERS

- Portfolios are constructed from the bottom up, with a focus on relative value regardless of sector
- Seek to identify those credits that are potential upgrade candidates to investment grade
- We do not put a large emphasis on macro bets, such as duration and term structure
- Willing to invest in off-the-run bonds and loans allow our credit research team to take a deeper dive to identify value
- Believe in the ability to turn the portfolio over to source new ideas at attractive levels and aim to exit positions with rich valuations

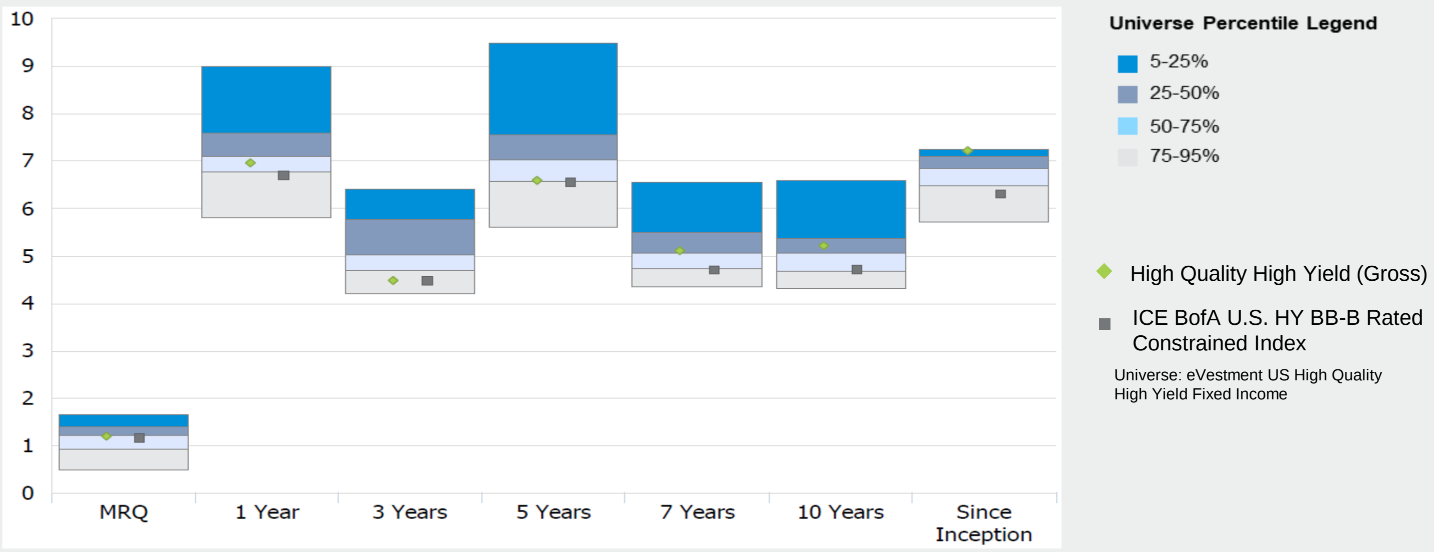
1. Stated at estimated fair value (unaudited). High Quality High Yield is a strategy of fixed income assets. Total Strategy Assets for High Quality High Yield include all assets managed by MIM in the High Quality High Yield strategy and may include certain assets that are not included in Composite Assets (as presented in GIPS® Composite Statistics and Performance table towards the end of this document) for High Quality High Yield.
2. Please see the full GIPS® disclosures towards the end of this document.
3. Any portfolio targets and/or limits are used to illustrate the Investment Manager's current intentions and may be subject to change without notice.

## COMPOSITE PERFORMANCE (%)[1]




| | 1Q25 | 1 Year | 3 Years | 5 Years | 7 Years | 10 Years | Since Inception |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **High Quality High Yield (Gross of fees)** | **1.19** | **6.96** | **4.47** | **6.59** | **5.10** | **5.21** | **7.25** |
| **High Quality High Yield (Net of fees)** | **1.07** | **6.43** | **3.95** | **6.06** | **4.58** | **4.69** | **6.68** |
| ICE BofA U.S. BB-B Rated Constrained Index | 1.16 | 6.69 | 4.47 | 6.55 | 4.70 | 4.71 | 6.30 |
| Custom Benchmark[2] | | | | | | | 6.55 |

## RELATIVE PERFORMANCE (GROSS OF FEES)[2]




1. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Net of fee returns reflect the deduction of investment advisory fees and are calculated in the same manner as gross of fee returns. Net of fee returns are calculated using the highest fee rate disclosed in the Form ADV. Fees for separate accounts may be negotiable depending upon asset size and type of account.
2. Effective April 1, 2012, the performance benchmark for the High Quality High Yield composite is the ICE BofA U.S. High Yield BB-B Constrained Index. From November 1, 2007 to March 31, 2012, the benchmark was the ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Master II Constrained Index. This change was made to better align the benchmark with the composite's mid-grade focus. From inception date through October 31, 2007, the benchmark was the Bear Stearns High Yield Index. This change was made due to the ICE BofA benchmark being the more widely used index for institutional investors. Therefore, the Custom Benchmark represents a blend of these benchmarks. For additional benchmark disclosure, please see the full GIPS® disclosures towards the end of this document.
3. The eVestment Universe ranking is calculated by eVestment using investment performance returns gross of fees and strategy descriptions self-reported by participating investment managers and are not are not verified or guaranteed by eVestment. eVestment defines each Universe and selects the participating managers for the Universe it determines have similar investment strategies. The Universe ranking uses gross performance as manager fees may vary so that returns will be reduced when advisory fees are deducted. Performance returns for periods greater than one year are annualized. Additional information regarding net performance rankings is available upon request. The reports of the Universe percentile ranks were sourced on April 21, 2025, and represent 93% of the reported eVestment High Yield Fixed Income High Quality Universe as of that date. MIM has not verified and cannot verify the information from outside sources.

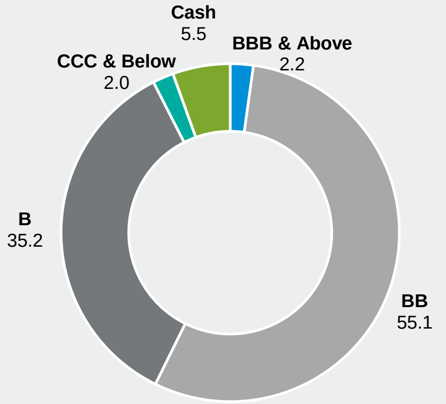
## STRATEGY CHARACTERISTICS [1]

| | Yield To Maturity (%) | Effective Duration (years) | Average Credit Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| **High Quality High Yield Strategy[1]** | **7.23** | **3.16** | **Ba3** |
| ICE BofA U.S. BB-B Rated Constrained Index | 6.99 | 3.18 | Ba3 |

## SECTOR POSITIONING[1]

| | Market Value (%) | |
|---|---|---|
| | High Quality High Yield | ICE BofA U.S. BB-B Rated Constrained Index |
| **Automotive** | **4.00** | 3.12 |
| **Basic Industry** | **10.47** | 10.00 |
| **Capital Goods** | **5.37** | 6.16 |
| **Consumer Goods** | **4.00** | 3.66 |
| **Electric - Generation** | **3.04** | 2.60 |
| **Energy** | **11.95** | 12.25 |
| **Financial Services** | **3.76** | 7.35 |
| **Healthcare** | **6.54** | 7.88 |
| **Leisure** | **10.97** | 7.02 |
| **Media** | **7.20** | 6.84 |
| **Real Estate** | **3.37** | 3.82 |
| **Retail** | **2.79** | 6.46 |
| **Services** | **10.71** | 6.11 |
| **Technology & Electronics** | **4.66** | 4.75 |
| **Telecommunications** | **3.95** | 5.99 |
| **Transportation** | **1.73** | 1.87 |
| **Cash** | **5.50** | 0.00 |
| **Automotive** | **4.00** | 3.12 |

## CREDIT QUALITY DISTRIBUTION (%)[1]




| | High Quality High Yield Strategy | ICE BofA U.S. BB-B Rated Constrained Index |
|---|---|---|
| BBB & Above | **2.2** | 0.4 |
| BB | **55.1** | 58.1 |
| B | **35.2** | 39.7 |
| CCC & Below | **2.0** | 1.9 |
| NR | **0.0** | 0.0 |
| Cash | **5.5** | 0.0 |

1. The characteristics displayed are for a representative account for this investment strategy. Actual account characteristics may differ. The benchmark data is that of the ICE BofA U.S. BB-B Rated Constrained Index. All data above is provided for illustrative purposes only. This data is supplemental to the information required in a GIPS® compliant document. Credit ratings reflect the index provider's credit quality methodology. Average quality excludes cash and securities that are not rated. Totals may not foot due to rounding.

## COMPOSITE STATISTICS AND PERFORMANCE

| Year | Gross-of-fee Return | Net-of-fee Return | Benchmark Return[1] | Number of Portfolios | Dispersion Stdv[2] | Composite 3-Year Stdv[3] | Benchmark 3-Year Stdv[3] | Composite Assets | Total Firm Assets (BB)[4] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2014** | 2.16% | 1.66% | 3.49% | ≤ 5 | N/A | 4.83% | 4.32% | $427,033,942 | - |
| **2015** | -4.68% | -5.16% | -2.79% | ≤ 5 | N/A | 5.91% | 5.05% | $316,091,581 | - |
| **2016** | 17.54% | 16.96% | 14.72% | ≤ 5 | N/A | 6.53% | 5.43% | $245,385,760 | - |
| **2017** | 8.79% | 8.25% | 6.98% | ≤ 5 | N/A | 5.98% | 4.96% | $267,861,525 | - |
| **2018** | -3.96% | -4.44% | -2.04% | ≤ 5 | N/A | 4.94% | 4.00% | $63,672,412 | - |
| **2019** | 18.14% | 17.56% | 15.10% | ≤ 5 | N/A | 4.59% | 3.84% | $34,668,185 | $600.0 |
| **2020** | 8.12% | 7.58% | 6.28% | ≤ 5 | N/A | 8.52% | 8.77% | $184,749,665 | $659.6 |
| **2021** | 4.86% | 4.34% | 4.60% | ≤ 5 | N/A | 8.08% | 8.58% | $230,315,590 | $669.0 |
| **2022** | -10.48% | -10.92% | -10.58% | ≤ 5 | N/A | 10.16% | 10.72% | $158,362,389 | $579.8 |
| **2023** | 11.70% | 11.15% | 12.58% | ≤ 5 | N/A | 8.08% | 8.31% | $176,858,491 | $600.8 |
| **2024** | 7.42% | 6.89% | 6.84% | ≤ 5 | 0.05 | 8.13% | 8.39% | $146,493,441 | $596.9 |
| **YTD through 3/31/25** | 1.19% | 1.07% | 1.16% | ≤ 5 | N/A | 7.93% | 8.19% | $113,139,313 | $616.9 |

**Past performance is not indicative of future results.** The information presented is only available for institutional client use.

1. Effective April 1, 2012, the performance benchmark for the High Quality High Yield Composite is the ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch U.S. High Yield BB-B Constrained Index. From November 1, 2007 to March 31, 2012, the benchmark was the ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch U.S. High Yield Master II Constrained Index. This change was made to better align the benchmark with the composite's mid-grade focus. From inception date through October 31, 2007, the benchmark was the Bear Stearns High Yield Index. This change was made due to the ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch benchmark being the more widely used index for institutional investors. It is impossible to invest directly in an unmanaged index. All index returns presented are provided to represent the investment environment existing during the time periods shown and will not be covered by the future report of independent verifiers. For comparison purposes, the index is fully invested and includes the reinvestment of income. The returns for the index do not include any transaction costs, management fees, or other costs.
2. The dispersion of annual returns is measured by the standard deviation among asset-weighted gross-of-fee portfolio returns represented in the composite for the full year. "N/A" is an indication that the information is not statistically meaningful due to an insufficient number of portfolios (five or fewer) in the composite for the entire year. Standard deviation is only presented for accounts managed for a full calendar year.
3. The three-year annualized standard deviation measures the variability of the gross-of-fee composite and the benchmark returns over the preceding 36-month period. The standard deviation is not presented for 2000 through 2010 because it is not required for periods prior to 2011. It is also not presented for quarter-ends.
4. Prior to July 1, 2019, the investment team was part of a prior firm. Therefore, "Total Firm Assets (BB)" is left blank for year ends before the team joined MetLife Investment Management.

For purposes of the Global Investment Performance Standards ("GIPS") compliance, the "Firm" is defined as MetLife Investment Management ("MIM"). MIM is MetLife, Inc.'s institutional investment management business. The Firm is defined to include all accounts captured in MetLife's Assets Under Management. On December 15, 2022, MetLife, Inc. ("MetLife") acquired Affirmative Investment Management Partners Limited ("AIM") and the Firm was redefined as of December 15, 2023 to include the AIM entity in the Firm Assets. Previously, on September 15, 2017, MetLife, Inc. ("MetLife") acquired Logan Circle Partners ("LCP") and the Firm was redefined as of July 1, 2019 to include LCP in the Firm assets.

MetLife Investment Management claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. MetLife Investment Management has been independently verified for periods January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2023. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must establish policies and procedures for complying with all the applicable requirements of the GIPS standards. Verification provides assurance on whether the firm's policies and procedures related to composite and pooled fund maintenance, as well as the calculation, presentation, and distribution of performance, have been designed in compliance with the GIPS standards and have been implemented on a firm-wide basis. The High Quality High Yield Composite has had a performance examination for the periods November 1, 2007 through December 31, 2023. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request.

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The creation date of the High Quality High Yield Composite is November 1, 2007, and the inception date is October 1, 2000. Prior to July 1, 2019, the performance of the composite represents the performance that occurred while members of the management team were affiliated with prior firms. The composite has been examined for the periods November 1, 2007 to June 30, 2019 while at another firm. The prior firm, LCP, was verified for the periods November 1, 2007 to June 30, 2019. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request.

The High Quality High Yield strategy seeks to produce agency predictable and consistent excess returns relative to a benchmark with a similar level of volatility by investing primarily in higher quality, below investment grade U.S. corporate fixed income securities. In the instance that any of the three major rating es has a different quality rating for an individual security, the MIM High Yield team calculates security quality ratings by using "average" language. Effective June 30, 2020, the composite name was changed from High Yield Mid-Grade to High Quality High Yield. Effective January 1, 2025, the High Quality High Yield Composite contains fully discretionary, fixed income accounts with assets exceeding $15 million, managed in accordance with the applicable composite strategy except as otherwise excluded herein. From July 1, 2023 until December 31th, 2024, the High Quality High Yield Composite had no minimum account size. From March 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023, the High Quality High Yield Composite's minimum account size was $15 million. From July 1, 2016 until February 28, 2021, the High Quality High Yield Composite did not have a minimum account size. From March 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016, the High Quality High Yield Composite's minimum account size was $15 million. Prior to March 1, 2014, there was no minimum account size for the High Quality High Yield Composite. The Firm maintains a list of composites and descriptions, a list of limited distribution pooled funds and their descriptions, and a list of broad distribution pooled funds, all of which are available upon request. Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS® reports are available upon request.

Effective August 1, 2020, the Firm removes accounts that have a significant daily external aggregate cash flow greater than 20% or monthly flow greater than 50%. Between May 1, 2020 and July 31, 2020, there was no significant cash flow policy for this composite. From August 1, 2011 until April 30, 2020, the High Quality High Yield Composite had a significant cash flow policy which was applied consistently and within GIPS® standards. The Firm chose to remove accounts that had a significant daily external aggregate cash flow greater than 20% or monthly flow greater than 50%. If any account met these thresholds, then the account was removed from the composite. Aggregate cash flow is defined as additions plus withdrawals over the period. Accounts were removed in the month of the significant cash flow. If the significant cash flow was client-directed requiring security liquidation that materially affected account management, the Firm removed the account the month of security liquidations. The account was reinstated to the composite once the portfolio manager had determined that the flow had not impacted the management of the account and the account was invested as per the strategy. Additional information regarding the treatment of significant cash flows is available upon request.

Effective April 1, 2012, the performance benchmark for the High Quality High Yield Composite is the ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch U.S. High Yield BB-B Constrained Index, which contains all securities in the ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch U.S. High Yield Master II Index rated BB+ through B- but caps issuer exposure at 2%. From November 1, 2007 to March 31, 2012, the benchmark was the ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch U.S. High Yield Master II Constrained Index, which is constructed to mirror the high yield debt market that includes U.S. dollar publicly issued corporate bonds and deferred interest bonds that are not yet accruing a coupon. Bonds rated in default, or that are not rated are excluded from the index. This change was made to better align the benchmark with the composite's mid-grade focus. From inception through October 31, 2007, the benchmark was the Bear Stearns High Yield Index, comprised of fixed rate, non-convertible, U.S. dollar-denominated securities rated both BB+ and Ba1 or lower with an outstanding par value of at least $100 million. This change was made due to the ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch benchmark being the more widely used index for institutional investors. The High Quality High Yield Custom Index represents a blend of these indices during their respective periods as benchmarks for the composite. It is impossible to invest directly in an unmanaged index. All index returns presented are provided to represent the investment environment existing during the time periods shown and will not be covered by the future report of independent verifiers. For comparison purposes, the indices are fully invested and include the reinvestment of income. The returns for the indices do not include any transaction costs, management fees, or other costs.

Returns are based on fully discretionary accounts under management and may include terminated accounts. The dispersion of annual returns is measured by the standard deviation among asset-weighted gross-of-fee portfolio returns represented within the composite for the full year. Dispersion is not calculated for composites with five or fewer accounts for the whole period.

Performance returns are presented gross and net-of-fees, include the reinvestment of all income and are calculated in U.S. dollars. Dividend income has been recorded net of all applicable foreign withholding taxes. Net returns have been calculated by reducing the monthly gross returns by a model fee equal to the highest stated ADV fee for the strategy. The investment management fee schedule for the High Quality High Yield strategy is 0.45% on the first $100 million, 0.40% on amounts from $100 million to $250 million, and 0.35% on amounts over $250 million. Net returns have been calculated by reducing the monthly gross returns by the twelfth root of the highest stated in the Firm's Form ADV of 0.45%. From inception to June 30, 2023, the highest ADV fee was 0.50%. Beginning July 1, 2023, the highest stated ADV fee has been 0.45%. Investment management fees are described in greater detail in the Firm's Form ADV. As of December 31, 2023, 100% of the composite assets are comprised of non-fee-paying portfolios for the periods presented. Individual client returns will be reduced by investment management fees and other expenses that the account may incur. Fees have a compounding effect on cumulative results. Actual investment management fees incurred by clients may vary.

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