Institutional High Income Fund

FUND FACTS

OBJECTIVE

Seeks high total investment return through a combination of current income and capital appreciation

Share class	I
Inception	6/5/1996
Ticker	LSHIX
CUSIP	543495600

Market Conditions

- Global fixed-income markets delivered healthy gains in the second quarter, reflecting a combination of slowing economic growth, persistently low inflation and the US Federal Reserve's (Fed's) shift toward increasingly accommodative monetary policy. As late as the fourth quarter of last year, the markets generally anticipated that the Fed would continue to raise interest rates for at least another 12 months. As growth slowed both in the United States and overseas in late 2018 and into the first quarter, the Fed indicated that it would move to a neutral policy. More recently, the continued weakness in the global economy gave rise to expectations that the Fed would in fact cut rates at least once before the end of 2019. The change in the outlook for Fed policy fueled a strong, broad-based rally in bonds, the bulk of which occurred from mid-May onward.
- US Treasurys performed particularly well in this environment, with positive total returns across the maturity spectrum. The two-year yield, which tends to be more sensitive to shifts in Fed policy than longer-term issues, slid over fifty basis points. Longer duration segments of the curve produced the strongest price performance. The yield curve steepened as a result, with the gap between the two- and ten-year notes rising compared with its level at the end of the first quarter.
- Investment grade corporate bonds generated robust returns and outperformed duration matched US Treasuries. In addition to benefiting from the rally in rate-sensitive assets, corporates were aided by the backdrop of favorable investor risk appetites, rising equity markets and expectations that corporate earnings growth will remain in positive territory.
- High yield bonds posted positive absolute returns but finished somewhat behind investment-grade debt. The category's relative performance was affected by the sharp

CLASS I PERFORMANCE (%)

	CUMULATIVE TOTAL RETURN		AVERAGE ANNUALIZED RETURN			
	3 MONTH	YTD	1 YEAR	3 YEAR	5 YEAR	10 YEAR
FUND	1.56	8.13	4.79	7.02	3.04	9.27
BENCHMARK	2.50	9.94	7.48	7.52	4.70	9.24

Performance data shown represents past performance and is no guarantee of, and not necessarily indicative of, future results. Investment return and value will vary and you may have a gain or loss when shares are sold. Current performance may be lower or higher than quoted. For most recent month-end performance, visit www.loomissayles.com.

Additional share classes may be available for eligible investors. Performance will vary based on the share class. Performance for periods less than one year is cumulative, not annualized. Returns reflect changes in share price and reinvestment of dividends and capital gains, if any. You may not invest directly in an index.

Gross expense ratio 0.68% (Class I). Net expense ratio 0.68%. As of the most recent prospectus, the investment advisor has contractually agreed to waive fees and/or reimburse expenses once the expense cap of the fund has been exceeded. This arrangement is set to expire on 1/31/2020. When an expense cap has not been exceeded, the fund may have similar expense ratios and/or yields.

The Class I inception date is 6/5/1996. Class I shares are only available to certain institutional investors only; minimum initial investment of $3 million.

decline in oil prices, which dampened the earnings prospects for the many energy-related high yield issuers. Still, high yield retains a sizable performance advantage in the year-to-date period through June 30.

- Domestic inflation remained calm in the second quarter, mirroring a trend that was in place across the globe. US core personal consumption expenditure inflation, after moving toward the 2% level late last year, settled back into a range between 1.5% and 1.7% thus far in 2019. Low inflation has been one of the key factors fueling expectations for Fed rate cuts.
- Emerging market bonds delivered healthy total returns that outpaced US high yield. The asset class benefited from its sensitivity to US monetary policy expectations and a weak US dollar in June.

Portfolio Review

- The fund underperformed its benchmark, the Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate High Yield Index, primarily due to security selection.

Winners

- Exposure to non-US dollar denominated issues positively contributed to performance as the sector generated the greatest relative returns within the strategy. Holdings denominated in the euro and Mexican peso were the best performers within the allocation.
- The fund's exposure to US Treasurys aided relative return during the quarter.
- The allocation to convertible securities positively impacted performance during the quarter, aided by security selection within communications and REIT names.

Laggards

- Security selection with the fund's allocation to US high yield corporate credit limited performance for the quarter as a result of energy and basic industry names.
- Emerging market credit nominally weighed on returns for the period due to a selected energy name.

Outlook

- Economic activity has not progressed as positively as we had anticipated. Global and US manufacturing have come under pressure and trade war concerns have increased. Combined with the fact that inflation has been tame, these factors will likely lead the Fed to cut interest rates. While we don't believe that the Fed is facing a regime shift, we do expect it to provide accommodation with multiple rate cuts to help ward off recession and extend this cycle.
- The net effect of these potential cuts should be to support economic growth and relieve the modest inversion at the short end of the yield curve as those rates decline. We do not believe a US recession will occur over the next twelve months given the solid employment conditions and outlook for corporate profits. In addition, fundamentals remain intact and we still do not anticipate any significant uptick in corporate bond defaults.
- The US corporate bond markets have performed well year to date, supported by declining

US rates. Spreads in both investment grade and high yield markets have contracted, largely reversing the difficult close to 2018.

- As valuations have shifted higher, we have taken some gains and have become increasingly patient and selective. However, yields in the US credit markets remain high relative to the rest of the developed world. More accommodative central banks should support economic growth and the demand for yield.
- We continue to maintain a level of reserves in our portfolios for future opportunities should markets experience a sharp pullback. This happened at the end of 2018 and to a lesser degree in May of this year, and both reversals were followed by rallies. We do strive to maintain as much yield as possible in these reserve-like positions.
- Our credit strategy remains focused on higher quality issues given the late expansion phase of the credit cycle.[1] We continue to be positive on the energy sector based on improved balance sheets and a favorable outlook for the price of oil. We are also maintaining exposure to the banking/financial sector as the overall credit quality remains positive, supported by tightened capital requirements.
- Our convertible allocation is focused on idiosyncratic stories, predominantly within energy, technology, and healthcare. We maintain a selective, patient approach to this sector due to valuations.
- Non-dollar exposure remains very low relative to historical allocations. We are watching for any inflection point on global growth relative to US growth for potential investment opportunities. Any escalation of trade wars would likely be largely positive for the US dollar. Notwithstanding any individual non-dollar opportunities we anticipate the value of the dollar to be range bound.
- Trade wars, specifically with China, and softening global manufacturing remain the principal risks to our outlook. We expect some modest controlled escalation in the trade situation. Any such escalation and further weakness in global manufacturing could drive volatility and create potential opportunity.
- We believe our portfolios are well positioned with an appropriate balance of risk, yield, liquidity and diversification to drive returns in the current environment. Our defensive or reserve positions give us future flexibility to adapt to changing markets and to identify opportunities as they arise.

About Risk

Below investment grade fixed income securities may be subject to greater risks (including the risk of default) than other fixed income securities. **Fixed income securities** may carry one or more of the following risks: credit, interest rate (as interest rates rise bond prices usually fall), inflation and liquidity. **Foreign and emerging market securities** may be subject to greater political, economic, environmental, credit, currency and information risks. Foreign securities may be subject to higher volatility than US securities due to varying degrees of regulation and limited liquidity. These risks are magnified in emerging markets. **Currency** exchange rates between the US dollar and foreign currencies may cause the value of the fund's investments to decline. **Equity securities** are volatile and can decline significantly in response to broad market and economic conditions.

Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate High Yield Index *covers the universe of fixed rate, non-investment grade debt. Eurobonds and debt issues from countries designated as emerging markets (sovereign rating of Baa1/BBB+/BBB+ and below using the middle of Moody's, S&P, and Fitch) are excluded, but Canadian and global bonds (SEC registered) of issuers in non-EMG countries are included. Original issue zeroes, step-up coupon structures, 144As and pay-in-kind bonds (PIKs, as of October 1, 2009) are also included. Indexes are unmanaged and do not incur fees. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.*

Outlook as presented in this material reflects subjective judgments and assumptions of the portfolio team and does not necessarily reflect the views of Loomis, Sayles & Company, L.P. There is no assurance that developments will transpire as stated. Opinions expressed will evolve as future events unfold.

Before investing, consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses. Please visit www.loomissayles.com or call 800-633-3330 for a prospectus and a summary prospectus, if available, containing this and other information. Read it carefully.

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[1] *A credit cycle is a cyclical pattern that follows credit availability and corporate health..*