

Evolve Active Core Fixed Income Fund

FIXD invests primarily in domestic and international high quality fixed income securities, and to a lesser extent, adding yield or enhancing returns on the portfolio by opportunistically investing in international fixed income securities, emerging market debt, preferred shares, convertible bonds and non-investment grade bonds.

NEO
FIXD

ETF TICKER: FIXD (UNHEDGED)
MUTUAL FUND FUNDSERV CODE: EVF110 (CLASS F); EVF111 (CLASS A)
SUB-ADVISOR: ADDENDA CAPITAL

Active management in Fixed Income continues to be an attractive investment opportunity. Addenda Capital is one of Canada's largest multi-asset investment firms, with over \$38.1 billion in assets under management, including \$26.1 billion in fixed income and over \$1.2 billion in preferred shares.

Source: Addenda Capital, as at December 31, 2021. *Excludes \$1,533 million in Advisory assets and \$354 million in Overlay assets.

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Market and Portfolio Review

The Bank of Canada twice hiked the overnight target rate by 50 bps during the second quarter (for a total of 100 bps). Similarly, the Federal Reserve tightened their target range by a total of 125 bps, while also signaling more to follow.

Interest rates rose across the curve as the bond market moved to price in higher expectations for tightening of monetary policy this year.

Equity market negative price volatility continued in the second quarter as interest rates continued to rise driven by aggressive Central Bank monetary policy tightening and inflation concerns.

The S&P/TSX Composite Index total return was -13.19% during the quarter, while the MSCI World Index (C\$) performed similarly, returning -13.44%. The FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index continued its trend by falling 5.66%, and the BarCap Global Credit Index (\$USD) declined 3.5% as interest rates rose. The C\$ depreciated versus its US counterpart during the quarter by 2.8%, which helped offset the decline in foreign bond returns.

The FIXD ETF portfolio declined alongside the broader bond market during the 2nd quarter, returning -6.50% (before fees) vs the benchmark return of -5.66%. Underperformance during the month was attributable to the off-benchmark allocation to Preferred Shares which declined more than Canadian bonds; although this was partially offset by the allocation to Global bonds which outperformed the broader bond market in Canadian dollar terms. The underlying Core Bonds component of the FIXD strategy also had a negative impact on relative performance due to the portfolio's longer than benchmark duration; however, the overall FIXD portfolio has a shorter-than-benchmark duration.



Outlook

Global growth slows but remains above longer-term trends supported by fiscal stimulus and a historically high savings rate. We expect that growth will be primarily driven by the consumer and government sectors, although supported but positive business investment. Unemployment will continue to fall and dislocations in the labour force should work their way out as the participation rate rises.

Inflation pressure should peak in 2022 but remain above central bank targets due to supply chain issues, elevated commodity prices, and increasing labour costs. Significant dislocations in the labour markets with more job openings than available workers put upward pressure on wages. Structural forces (aging demographics, technology advancements, and a growing debt overhang) will continue as headwinds to long term inflation.

2022 will be a transition year as central banks raise administered monetary policy rates and start to reverse bond purchase programs.

Global monetary policy evolves at different speeds as some central banks move to tighten while others maintain extraordinary easy policy. Above target price inflation will be the primary focus of central banks.

Fiscal stimulus via direct consumer programs has mostly finished but infrastructure spending will continue to contribute positively to growth.

Risks

Risk of recession grows as elevated inflation remains persistent, resulting in more aggressive central bank tightening to combat price increases which slows economic momentum in the process.

Reduction in the size of their bond purchase holdings and the ultimate terminal rate of policy tightening contribute to market volatility.

Longer term risk from significant Government fiscal deficits may result in higher personal and corporate taxes which would be negative for economic growth.

Commissions, trailing commissions, management fees and expenses all may be associated with exchange traded mutual funds (ETFs) and mutual funds. Please read the prospectus before investing. ETFs and mutual funds are not guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated. There are risks involved with investing in ETFs and mutual funds. Please read the prospectus for a complete description of risks relevant to the ETF and mutual fund. Investors may incur customary brokerage commissions in buying or selling ETF and mutual fund units. This communication is intended for informational purposes only and is not, and should not be construed as, investment and/or tax advice to any individual.

The indicated rates of return are the historical annual compound total returns net of fees (except for figures of one year or less, which are simple total returns) including changes in per unit value and reinvestment of all dividends or distributions and do not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or optional charges or income taxes payable by any securityholder that would have reduced returns. The rates of return shown in the table are not intended to reflect future values of the ETF or returns on investment in the ETF. ETFs are not guaranteed, their values change frequently, and past performance may not be repeated.

Certain statements contained in this documentation constitute forward-looking information within the meaning of Canadian securities laws. Forward-looking information may relate to a future outlook and anticipated distributions, events or results and may include statements regarding future financial performance. In some cases, forward-looking information can be identified by terms such as "may", "will", "should", "expect", "anticipate", "believe", "intend" or other similar expressions concerning matters that are not historical facts. Actual results may vary from such forward-looking information. Evolve undertakes no obligation to update publicly or otherwise revise any forward-looking statement whether as a result of new information, future events or other such factors which affect this information, except as required by law.