Global Strategic Bond Fund

NEDGROUP INVESTMENTS

▶ Core. Nimble. Proven.

April 2026 Commentary, Marketing Communication

ISINs: Class D Acc USD: IE000H9BC817 | Class D Inc GBP hedged: IE000TEXPBZ5

Class D Inc EUR hedged: IE0009J3J172

Our investment approach

- Actively managed, core global bond portfolio focused on developed market liquid issuers, in hard currency.
- Nimble decision-making driven by valuations, fundamentals and technicals.
- Alpha generation through relative value, duration and credit selection.

Portfolio Management Team

Alex Ralph

Co-portfolio Manager

26 years in the industry

David Roberts

Co-portfolio Manager

36 years in the industry

What do we mean core and nimble? Inside, we share the fund's return drivers, portfolio positioning and put the spotlight on a bond bought/sold.

Performance and markets

April brought a ceasefire of sorts in the US-Iran conflict. It did not, however, bring material clarity. Oil prices remained elevated, at times recording spot prices double those seen at the end of February, while forward prices remain significantly higher still.

Risk assets – credit included – found reasons to be cheerful and regained much of the ground lost in March. That suited our positive carry fund structure. However, we would have preferred spreads to have widened more before rallying. The little damage done in March was not sufficient to prompt a change in our overall credit exposure.

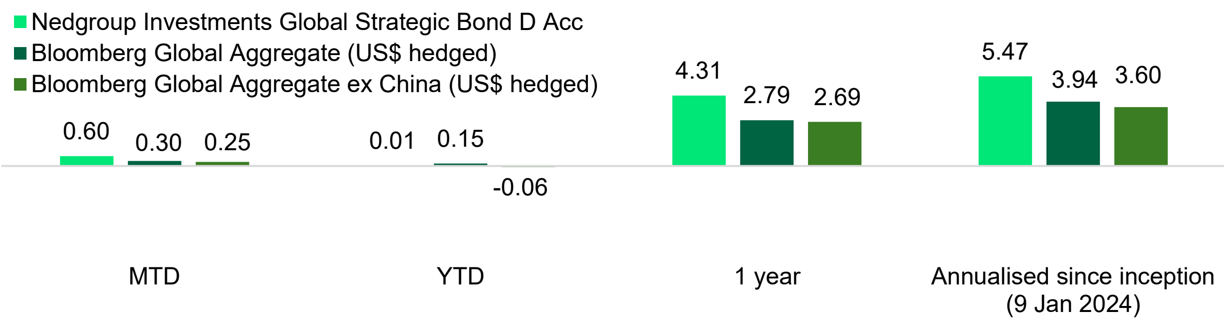
That said, we did benefit from our small rotation into cyclical names that had been unduly punished at the wides – contributing to the month's performance. Add in some success in capturing rates volatility, the fund posted positive returns, ahead of the index, lifting year-to-date performance out of negative territory after the prior month.

We do, however, remain concerned that investors are overly sanguine about the longer term economic and political damage being done. As a result – and coupled with still expensive valuations – we have not chased credit risk. It seems many investors believe this continues to be a goldilocks period: AI saves us all, or failing that, central banks will once again provide easy money. What could possibly go wrong?

Fund performance (USD)

(Other currencies at the end of document)

Past performance is not indicative of future performance and does not predict future return.



Data as at 30 April 2026. Source: Morningstar, Bloomberg. The share classes being offered in Germany are newly launched and do not have their own historical performance data. The performance information presented in this marketing material relates to the nearest comparable share class and is provided solely for indicative purposes. Differences in fees, and other factors may affect future performance. Investors should not rely solely on this information when making investment decisions.

MONTHLY PORTFOLIO UPDATE

NEDGROUP INVESTMENTS

Key return drivers

Over the month, the fund returned 0.60%, Bloomberg Global Aggregate (US$ hedged), 0.30% and Bloomberg Global Aggregate ex China (US$ hedged), 0.25%.

The excess return has been attributed vs Bloomberg Global Agg ex China using a top-down methodology:

Total excess return for the month (net vs Bloomberg Global Agg ex China): +34 bps		
Contribution		**Positioning comments**
Duration	+10bps	Yields ended little changed. We were successful in selling rallies and buying dips. Overall, we think yields are too high but understand why that is.
Curve	0bps	We removed most of our risk following recent successes from EU flattening. All seems directional, steepening in a bull market and vice versa.
Geography	0bps	Overall duration management had a greater effect than geography, however, Australia and playing UK ranges was additive.
Asset allocation	+22bps	Our current bias to European credit helped produce decent excess returns as spreads outperformed relative to US markets.
Credit sector/ security selection:	+2bps	A snap back in spreads helped a decent chunk of our higher beta holdings claw back to end of Feb levels. Picking up Motel One, Fibercop and Heimstaden Bostad at market wides contributed to our positive credit selection – they outperformed as the market recovered. Our overall defensive bias was a drag, however, as autos/real estate and sub financials were the best performing sectors.

Positioning recap and outlook

Total portfolio: Yield = 4.5% (% exc. futures), Duration = 6.0 years, ESG rating: A

Rates (weight = 31.6% (63.1% inc. futures), yield = 4.0%, duration = 4.9 years)

Positioning in sovereign bonds	Fund	Expected fund range	Index
	32% (63% inc. futures)	**30% - 40%**	**53%**
Investment perspectives	**Valuation** No change – cheap but for good reason.	**Fundamentals** So far signs of CPI surge have been modest. Surveys suggest more to come and EU leading indicators are dire.	**Technicals** Long-term investors seem to have moved longer duration. Supply remains well within market comfort zones. No buyers' strike.

- Energy spike pushed yields materially higher.
- Markets moved rapidly from expensive to cheap.
- Late month rebound as focus moved from CPI and the prospect of rate hikes, to declining GDP/employment.

Contribution data and positioning information as of 30 April 2026. Yield shown is yield to worst. Source: Nedgroup Investments. Valuations are based on a medium-term outlook. For government bonds, this is determined by market returns (beta) relative to inflation/inflation expectations and real growth. For corporates, this is determined by adjusting expected excess returns for risk (default and volatility). Valuation based strategic positioning may be adjusted for shorter term technical or fundamental economic factors.

Credit (IG: weight = 44.4%, yield= 5.1%, duration = 4.9 years)
(HY: weight = 15.0%, yield= 6.4%, duration = 3.5 years)

Positioning in corporate bonds	Fund	Expected fund range	Index
	Investment grade: 44%	20% - 60%	19%*
	High yield: 15%	20% - 30%	0%
Investment perspectives	**Valuations**. Emerging value was very short-lived as credit returned to its expensive status very quickly. Indeed, Europe saw the strongest monthly performance for both investment grade and high yield since November 2023. Market has reverted back to trade in a very narrow range – maintaining its low beta status.	**Fundamentals** Results season was strong, with most companies beating earnings expectations. Top line revenues were more mixed however, and sector performance continued to diverge with tech-exposed names outperforming.	**Technicals** New issue market picked up with decent issuance across all geographies. US high yield had its busiest month of 2026 but matched by decent inflows towards the end of April.

*"Pure" IG credit. Add in Std the index has 47%

Portfolio changes and where next

We noted last month that the evolution of positioning in the short-term would depend on events in the Middle East. That remains the case. Rates continue to price for surging inflation, credit (and equities) for strong earnings and next-to-no probability of recession. Equity leadership of course is extremely narrow – that's understandable for anyone who reads the detail of the latest US macro data: ex "tech and energy" growth is, at best, anaemic.

Towards month-end central banks told us they were "on hold" – that seems good enough for risk assets. Rates, however, continue to keep an eye on oil and despite closing April near year-to-date highs, there is clearly the possibility of more short-term dislocation. Can credit and equities continue to ignore that? Debatable at best.

Spotlight on an issuer: FiberCop

- FiberCop is the largest fixed network infrastructure operator in Italy. The Company was spun out of Telecom Italia in 2024 and is investing heavily in improving the network.
- **Fundamentals:** FiberCop is set to deploy significant cash through the next few years as it continues its Fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) roll-out, targeting 20 million households by 2027. As the company transitions from its legacy monopoly position in DSL/FttC to a duopoly position in FTTH alongside Open Fiber, it will need to price to perfection to ensure they reap the rewards of their headstart in the rollout. Leverage will peak towards 7x and will then reduce as capex steps down towards 2030. At this point, an upgrade to IG is likely.
- **Valuation:** We purchased the 2031 new issue at the start of April, when spreads were at their widest. The bond offered decent new issue concession against a weakened market backdrop. As the market rallied back, so did FiberCop. The 2031 bonds tightened 40bps and delivered c.2% - we took profits as value became less compelling.
- **Technicals:** FiberCop have been active in the primary market as it looks to fund an elevated capex programme. The company significantly upsized its June 2025 issuance and the new April issuance was tapped two weeks later to take advantage of increased demand. Proceeds were used to facilitate the tender of €1.8bn in 2026-2028 maturities. We expect more supply to come.

Contribution data and positioning information as of 30 April 2026. Yield shown is yield to worst. Source: Nedgroup Investments

What to watch out for next month

Rates:

Oil, oil, oil. And Trump

It remains a tug of war between short-term CPI spiking and longer-term growth destruction.

Markets are convinced its all about the former.

Central banks have warned it is not.

How that evolves is crucial to determining market direction.

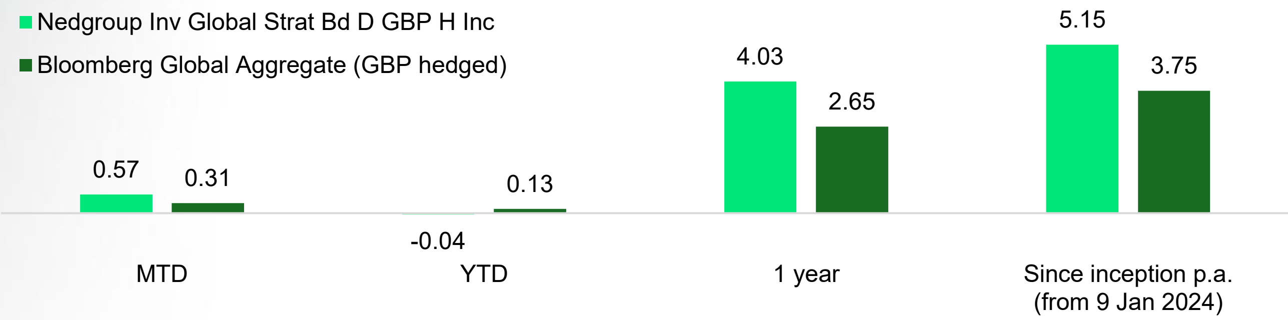
Credit:

Fundamentals remain solid. Inflows have returned. The credit cycle continues to be stuck on "goldilocks".

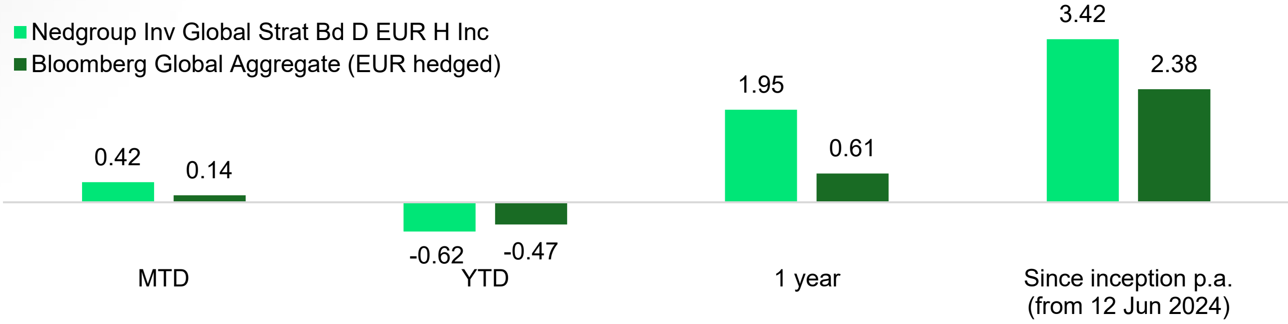
Large supply is expected in May, however, and the market may return its focus on the long-term growth impact of the Iranian war – even with a resolution.

We will continue to look for individual opportunities, but without a change in valuations – our credit allocation will remain stuck in defensive carry mode.

Fund performance (GBP)



Fund performance (EUR)



Data as at 30 April 2026. Inception date of shareclass. Source: Morningstar. The share classes being offered in Germany are newly launched and do not have their own historical performance data. The performance information presented in this marketing material relates to the nearest comparable share class and is provided solely for indicative purposes. Differences in fees, and other factors may affect future performance. Investors should not rely solely on this information when making investment decisions.

Contact us

Email: Clientsolutions@nedgroupinvestments.com

London: 7th Floor, 12 Arthur Street, EC4R 9AB, +44 (0) 7960 901396

Disclaimer

This is a marketing communication. Please refer to the prospectus, the key investor information documents (the KIIDs/PRIIPS KIDs) and the financial statements of Nedgroup Investments Funds plc (the Fund) before making any final investment decisions.

These documents are available from Nedgroup Investments (IOM) Ltd (the Investment Manager) or via the website: www.nedgroupinvestments.com, where the prospectus is available in English and the KIIDs/KIDs in English and the official languages of each country of registration.

This document is of a general nature and for information purposes only, it is not intended for distribution to any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of any country or other jurisdiction where such distribution, publication or use would be contrary to law or regulation. Whilst the Investment Manager has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that this document is accurate and current at the time of publication, we shall accept no responsibility or liability for any inaccuracies, errors or omissions relating to the information and topics covered in this document.

The Fund is authorised and regulated in Ireland by the Central Bank of Ireland. The Fund is authorised as a UCITS pursuant to the European Communities (Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities) Regulations 2011 as amended and as may be amended, supplemented, or consolidated from time -to-time and any rules, guidance or notices made by the Central Bank which are applicable to the Fund. The Fund is domiciled in Ireland. Nedgroup Investment (IOM) Limited (reg no 57917C), the Investment Manager and Distributor of the Fund, is licensed by the Isle of Man Financial Services Authority. The Depositary of the Fund is Citi Depositary Services Ireland DAC, 1 North Wall Quay, Dublin 1, Ireland. The Administrator of the Fund is Citibank Europe plc, 1 North Wall Quay, Dublin 1, Ireland.

The sub-funds of the Fund (the Sub-Funds) are generally medium to long-term investments, and the Investment Manager does not guarantee the performance of an investor's investment and even if forecasts about the expected future performance are included the investor will carry the investment and market risk, which includes the possibility of losing capital.

The price of shares may go down or up depending on fluctuations in financial markets outside of the control of the Investment Manager meaning an investor may not get back the amount invested.

Past performance is not indicative of future performance and does not predict future returns.

Risks and fees are outlined in the relevant Sub-Fund supplement.

Prices are published on the Investment Manager's website.

Distribution: The prospectus, the supplements, the KIIDS/PRIIPS KIDS, constitution, country specific appendix as well as the annual and semi-annual reports may be obtained free of charge in English for the prospectus and in English together with the relevant local languages for the KIIDs/KIDs from the country representative, the Investment Manager, or at www.nedgroupinvestments.com. The Investment Manager may decide to terminate the arrangements made for the marketing of its collective investment undertakings in accordance with Art 93a of Directive 2009/65/EC and Art 32a of Directive 2011/61/EU.

Switzerland: The Representative is Acolin Fund Services AG, Maintower, Thurgauerstrasse 36/38, 8050 Zurich, Switzerland, whilst the Paying agent is Banque Heritage SA, Route de Chêne 61, CH-1211 Geneva 6. Nedgroup Investments (IOM) Limited is affiliated to the Swiss ombudsman: Verein Ombudsstelle Finanzdienstleister (OFD), Bleicherweg 10, CH-8002 Zurich.

Germany: The Fund's Facilities agent in Germany is Acolin Europe AG, with the registered office at Line-Eid-Strasse 6, 78467 Konstanz. The Prospectus (in English) and the PRIIPS KID (in German), may be obtained free of charge at the registered office of the Facilities agent, or electronically by Email via facilityagent@acolin.com, or by using the contact form at https://acolin.com/services/facilities-agency-services.

U.K: Nedgroup Investments (UK) Limited (reg no 2627187), authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, is the facilities agent. The Fund and certain of its sub-funds are recognised in accordance with Section 264 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

Isle of Man: The Fund has been recognised under para 1 sch 4 of the Collective Investments Schemes Act 2008 of the Isle of Man. Isle of Man investors are not protected by statutory compensation arrangements in respect of the Fund.