Stichting Pensioenfonds Atos Origir

Derde Kwartaal 2023

### **Investment Review**

The Fund outperformed its benchmark over the quarter.

#### Activity

In September, corporate spreads remained relatively resilient despite several factors that exerted negative pressure on equities, including higher yields, negative consumer headlines, and rising energy prices. To start the month, labor markets demonstrated some signs of cooling evidenced by JOLTS data which exhibited a decline in both job openings and the quits rate. Concurrently, Non-Farm Payrolls registered below 200,000 for the third month in a row while the participation rate moved higher. With respect to inflation, Core CPI printed 0.3% moving the annualized rate to 4.39%. Although the figure was higher than the two prior monthly prints, annualized core CPI metrics are all trending lower indicating an overall softer inflationary environment. In monetary policy, as widely expected, the FOMC maintained the target federal funds rate at 5 1/4 - 5 1/2 % and left its 2023 median dot unchanged potentially indicating another 25bps hike before year end. In a more unexpected move, the median SEP dots for 2024 and 2025 were revised higher suggesting that the Fed intends to only cut rates by 50bps over each respective year and maintain a restrictive policy stance until 2026. This revision was driven by a more optimistic economic outlook with upward projections to the trajectory of GDP growth and downward projections to the unemployment rate. The most noteworthy development over the month was the aggressive rise in interest rates and steepening of the yield curve with the 10-year Treasury hitting a 16-year high at 4.65% intraday. Despite the cooling inflation and labor market data, yields have continued to move higher driven by a pickup in term premium, improving economic growth projections and the Fed's indication that it is unlikely to pivot even if growth slows. Outside of economic news, Investors faced negative headlines surrounding a potential government shutdown, UAW labor strike and significantly higher oil prices driven by OPEC supply cuts. Against this backdrop, the Bloomberg US Investment Grade Credit Index widened by 3bps in September, to 112bps, resulting in a monthly excess return of 3bps. Primary market issuance for September was about \$141.9bn, including \$114.5bn in corporates and \$27.4bn in noncorporates. With rates persistently climbing higher, we continue to see a lack of issuance in the back end of the curve with year-over-year long end issuance down nearly 13%. In terms of recent news developments, the M&A landscape remains a prominent topic with Enbridge announcing the strategic acquisition of three U.S. based utilities and Cisco announcing an acquisition with Splunk. In respect to performance, the best-performing sectors were integrated energy, midstream, electric, refining, and E&P. The worst-performing were sovereigns, banking, consumer cyclical services, lodging, and media. AAA rated bonds fared the best across the investment grade quality spectrum, while A rated bonds fared the worst.

# **BLACKROCK**

## **Omvang fonds**

Waarde begin van de periode

€ 2,230,782

Waarde eind van de periode

€ 2,087,338

### Rendement

%	Kwartaal	Jaar tot op heden	3-Jaars Ann.	5-Jaars Ann.	10-Jaars Ann.
Fonds	-2.58%	10.94%	9.51%	6.87%	9.76%
Benchmark	-3.62%	11.52%	6.90%	6.89%	9.73%