

Client Designated MMF, USDBF and SDBF Rates

Monthly Investment Analysis Review

August 2024

Monthly Economic Summary

General Economy

The UK Manufacturing PMI rose to 52.5 in August from 52.1 in July, firmly above market expectations and at the fastest pace in over two years. The continued expansion in the manufacturing sector (i.e. a reading above 50) was brought about by an improved sales pipeline and higher risk-taking among clients. On the price front, despite higher shipping and raw material costs, input cost inflation eased to its lowest in nearly four years. Meanwhile, the UK services PMI edged up to 53.3 in August from 52.5 in July, above market expectations of 52.8. This was the tenth consecutive month of expansion in service activity, and the strongest since April, driven by greater business and consumer spending. On the price front, cost pressures eased across the service sector amidst fewer supplier surcharges and more competitive market conditions. However, services providers continued to experience high wage inflation. Consequently, the UK composite PMI rose to 53.4 in August, from 52.8 in July, the highest level since April and exceeding market expectations of 52.9. Meanwhile, the UK Construction PMI rose to 55.3 in July from 52.2 in June (it is released on a one-month lag to other sector reports), and above market expectations of 52.7. This growth extends the current five-month streak of expansion for construction activity, with all categories of construction experiencing increased activity.

The UK economy stalled in June with no growth, after a 0.4% m/m increase in May, and matching market expectations. The largest negative contributions came from retail trade, while professional, scientific, and technical activities were up 0.1%. Meanwhile, industrial production grew by 0.8% m/m in June. Elsewhere, the UK's trade deficit declined to £5.32 billion in June, from an upwardly revised £5.77 billion the previous month. Imports rose by 2.6%, while exports also grew by 3.5%, marking the smallest trade gap since April.

The UK recorded a 97,000 rise in jobs in the three months prior to June, following the 19,000 increase in the previous period. This marked the largest growth in job creation since November 2023, mainly caused by an increase in part-time employees and self-employed workers. Meanwhile, average weekly earnings (including bonuses) increased 4.5% y/y in the three months to June, after 5.7% the previous period. The unemployment rate fell to 4.2% between May and June, below market expectations of 4.5%.

The monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) fell by 0.2% in the month of July, and in line with market expectations. However, due to the base effect, the headline annual rate edged up to 2.2% in July, but below market forecasts of 2.3%. The largest upward contribution came from housing and household services, while restaurants and hotels slowed considerably since the last period.

In the retail sector, sales rose by 0.5% in July, after a revised 0.9% drop in June and aligning with market expectations. Sales at non-food stores increased by 1.4%, driven by summer discounting and sporting events. Meanwhile, GfK Consumer Confidence indicator remained at -13 in August, defying expectations of a slight improvement to -12. Elsewhere, public sector net borrowing, excluding public sector banks, climbed to £3.1 billion in July compared to market expectations of £1.5 billion. Total public sector spending increased by £3.8 billion, driven by higher central government spending on public services and benefits. Furthermore, receipts rose by £2 billion which was bolstered by self-assessed income tax.

US Economy

The US economy added 114,000 jobs in July, below a downwardly revised 179,000 in June and below market expectations of a 175,000 increase. The main areas of gain were healthcare, construction, transportation, and warehousing, while information lost jobs. The US economy expanded an annualised 3% in Q2, up from 1.4% in Q1 and above market expectations of 2.8%. The US inflation rate fell to 2.9% in July, its fourth straight decline, and lowest level since March 2021, matching market expectations.

EU Economy

Eurozone inflation rate increased to 2.6% in July, from 2.5% in June, and matched market expectations. Meanwhile, the core rate, excluding food and energy prices, held at 2.9% still above the two-year low in April of 2.7%. GDP in the Eurozone expanded by 0.3% in Q2, in line with previous estimate. Key economies like France, Italy and Spain all expanded while Germany's economy contracted.

Housing

The Halifax House Price index rose 2.3% y/y in July, the sharpest annual growth since January, above the upwardly revised 1.9% rise in June. The Nationwide House Price Index rose by 2.4% y/y in August 2024, above from the 2.1% increase in July but below market expectations of a 2.9% rise. It marked the seventh consecutive period of rising house prices and marked the strongest growth since December 2022.

Currency

Sterling appreciated against the Euro and Dollar over the month.

August	Start	End	High	Low
GBP/USD	\$1.2793	\$1.3143	\$1.3235	\$1.2709
GBP/EUR	€1.1853	€1.1874	€1.1884	€1.1620

Interest Rate Forecasts

Link Group and Capital Economics did not revise their forecasts during the month.

Bank Rate												
	Now	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27
Link Group	5.00%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%	3.25%	3.25%	3.25%	3.25%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
Capital Economics	5.00%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	-

Current Investment List

Borrower	Principal (£)	Interest Rate	Start Date	Maturity Date	Lowest LT / Fund Rating	Historic Risk of Default	Expected Credit Loss (£)
MMF Aberdeen Standard Investments	50,000,000	5.04%		MMF	AAAm		
MMF CCLA	40,000,000	5.04%		MMF	AAAm		
MMF Deutsche	39,600,000	5.02%		MMF	AAAm		
MMF Federated Investors (UK)	55,000,000	5.07%		MMF	AAAm		
MMF Invesco	60,000,000	5.08%		MMF	AAAm		
USDBF Aberdeen Standard Investments	55,672,796	5.76%		USDBF	AAAf		
USDBF Federated Sterling Cash Plus Fund	27,858,481	5.55%		USDBF	AAAf		
USDBF Payden Sterling Reserve Fund	66,795,184	6.41%		USDBF	AAAf		
Goldman Sachs International Bank	20,000,000	6.15%	04/09/2023	04/09/2024	A+	0.001%	101
Santander UK PLC	45,000,000	5.00%		Call10	А	0.001%	569
DBS Bank Ltd	20,000,000	5.28%	08/07/2024	08/10/2024	AA-	0.002%	462
Goldman Sachs International Bank	20,000,000	5.33%	12/04/2024	14/10/2024	A+	0.006%	1112
Santander UK PLC	20,000,000	5.90%	16/10/2023	16/10/2024	Α	0.006%	1163
Goldman Sachs International Bank	20,000,000	5.23%	22/03/2024	22/11/2024	A+	0.010%	2098
United Overseas Bank Ltd	20,000,000	5.35%	07/06/2024	09/12/2024	AA-	0.006%	1215
United Overseas Bank Ltd	20,000,000	5.28%	26/06/2024	18/12/2024	AA-	0.007%	1324
United Overseas Bank Ltd	20,000,000	5.23%	28/03/2024	19/12/2024	AA-	0.007%	1336
NatWest Markets Plc (NRFB)	20,000,000	5.23%	10/01/2024	10/01/2025	А	0.017%	3337
Surrey County Council	20,000,000	5.00%	26/07/2024	27/01/2025	AA-	0.009%	0
Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd	20,000,000	5.31%	29/04/2024	29/01/2025	AA-	0.009%	1834
Toronto Dominion Bank	20,000,000	5.19%	15/05/2024	03/02/2025	AA-	0.009%	1895
NatWest Markets Plc (NRFB)	20,000,000	5.20%	13/05/2024	13/02/2025	Α	0.021%	4197
Toronto Dominion Bank	20,000,000	5.31%	24/05/2024	24/02/2025	AA-	0.011%	2150
Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd	45,000,000	5.18%		Call185	AA-	0.011%	5056
DBS Bank Ltd	10,000,000	5.15%	15/07/2024	14/03/2025	AA-	0.012%	1184
Cooperatieve Rabobank U.A.	20,000,000	5.28%	21/06/2024	18/03/2025	A+	0.025%	5031
Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd	20,000,000	4.90%	19/08/2024	19/03/2025	AA-	0.012%	2429
Goldman Sachs International Bank	15,000,000	4.81%		Call272	A+	0.034%	5158
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Current Investment List

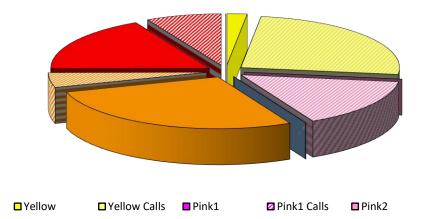
Borrower	Principal (£)	Interest Rate	Start Date	Maturity Date	Lowest LT / Fund Rating	Historic Risk of Default	Expected Credit Loss (£)
Landesbank Hessen-Thueringen Girozentrale (Helaba)	20,000,000	5.27%	07/06/2024	09/06/2025	A+	0.036%	7130
Toronto Dominion Bank	20,000,000	5.21%	05/07/2024	04/07/2025	AA-	0.019%	3729
Toronto Dominion Bank	20,000,000	5.16%	17/07/2024	17/07/2025	AA-	0.019%	3887
Cooperatieve Rabobank U.A.	20,000,000	5.00%	01/08/2024	01/08/2025	A+	0.042%	8470
NatWest Markets Plc (NRFB)	20,000,000	5.30%	28/05/2024	28/05/2026	Α	0.108%	21606
NatWest Markets Plc (NRFB)	30,000,000	6.20%	07/08/2023	07/08/2026	Α	0.124%	37291
Borrower - Funds	Principal (£)	Interest Rate	Start Date	Maturity Date			
L&G	79,860,736	9.35%					
ROYAL LONDON	79,705,445	9.77%					
Total Investments	£1,134,492,642	5.93%					
Total Investments - excluding Funds	£974,926,461	5.34%				0.023%	£128,922
Total Investments - Funds Only	£159,566,181	9.56%					

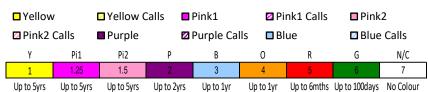
Note: An historic risk of default is only provided if a counterparty has a counterparty credit rating and is not provided for an MMF or USDBF, for which the rating agencies provide a fund rating. The portfolio's historic risk of default therefore measures the historic risk of default attached only to those investments for which a counterparty has a counterparty credit rating and also does not include investments which are not rated.

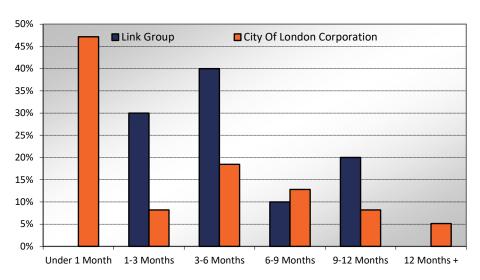
The Historic Risk of Default column is based on the lowest long term rating. If clients are using this % for their Expected Credit Loss calculation under IFRS 9, please be aware that the Code does not recognise a loss allowance where the counterparty is central government or a local authority since relevant statutory provisions prevent default. For these instruments, the Expected Credit Loss will be nil. Please note that we are currently using Historic Default Rates from 1990-2023 for Fitch, 1983-2023 for Moody's and 1981 to 2023 for S&P.

Where Link Group have provided a return for a property fund, that return covers the 12 months to June 2024, which are the latest returns currently available.

Portfolio Composition by Link Group's Suggested Lending Criteria





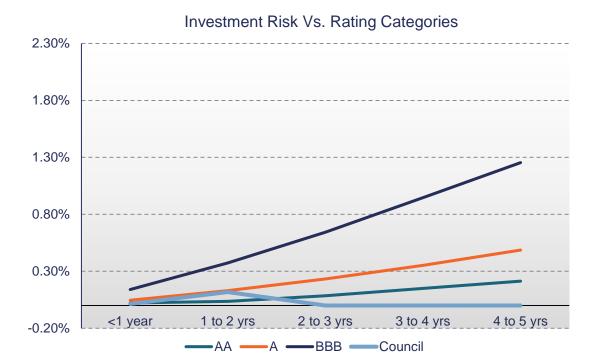


Portfolios weighted average risk number = 3.05

WARoR = Weighted Average Rate of Return
WAM = Weighted Average Time to Maturity

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									Excluding Cal	ls/MMFs/USDBFs
	% of Portfolio	Amount	% of Colour in Calls	Amount of Colour in Calls	% of Call in Portfolio	WARoR	WAM	WAM at Execution	WAM	WAM at Execution
Yellow	27.14%	£264,600,000	92.44%	£244,600,000	25.09%	5.05%	11	14	149	185
Pink1	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Pink2	15.42%	£150,326,461	100.00%	£150,326,461	15.42%	6.01%	0	0	0	0
Purple	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Blue	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Orange	32.31%	£315,000,000	14.29%	£45,000,000	4.62%	5.21%	190	255	191	266
Red	25.13%	£245,000,000	30.61%	£75,000,000	7.69%	5.40%	212	376	255	492
Green	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
No Colour	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
	100.00%	£974,926,461	52.82%	£514,926,461	52.82%	5.34%	118	181	213	346

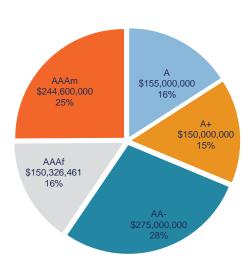
Investment Risk and Rating Exposure



Historic Risk of Default

Rating/Years	<1 year	1 to 2 yrs	2 to 3 yrs	3 to 4 yrs	4 to 5 yrs
AA	0.02%	0.04%	0.09%	0.15%	0.21%
Α	0.05%	0.13%	0.23%	0.35%	0.49%
BBB	0.14%	0.37%	0.64%	0.95%	1.25%
Council	0.01%	0.12%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Rating Exposure



Historic Risk of Default

This is a proxy for the average % risk for each investment based on over 30 years of data provided by Fitch, Moody's and S&P. It simply provides a calculation of the possibility of average default against the historical default rates, adjusted for the time period within each year according to the maturity of the investment.

Chart Relative Risk

This is the authority's risk weightings compared to the average % risk of default for "AA", "A" and "BBB" rated investments.

Rating Exposures

This pie chart provides a clear view of your investment exposures to particular ratings.

Note: An historic risk of default is only provided if a counterparty has a counterparty credit rating and is not provided for an MMF or USDBF, for which the rating agencies provide a fund rating. The portfolio's historic risk of default therefore measures the historic risk of default attached only to those investments for which a counterparty has a counterparty credit rating and also does not include investments which are not rated.

Monthly Credit Rating Changes FITCH

Date	Update Number	Institution	Country	Rating Action
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Monthly Credit Rating Changes MOODY'S

Date	Update Number	Institution	Country	Rating Action
28/08/2024	2040	Toronto-Dominion Bank	Canada	The Outlook on the Long Term Rating of Toronto-Dominion Bank was changed to 'Negative' from 'Stable'.

Monthly Credit Rating Changes S&P

Date	Update Number	Institution	Country	Rating Action
07/08/2024	2038	Commerzbank AG	Germany	The Long Term Rating was Upgraded to 'A' from 'A-' and the Short Term Rating was Upgraded to 'A-1' from 'A-2'. The Outlook on the Long Term Rating was changed to Stable from Positive.
27/08/2024	2039	National Bank of Canada	Canada	The Long Term Rating was Upgraded to 'A+' from 'A'.

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