



# Artisan High Income Fund

MONTHLY  
Commentary

Investor Class: ARTFX | Advisor Class: APDFX As of 31 July 2019

## Commentary

Credit markets posted modest gains in July aided by accommodative Fed policy and a favorable supply/demand backdrop. High yield bonds (as measured by the ICE BofAML US High Yield Index) returned 0.5% to push YTD gains to 10.7%. Leveraged loans played catch up against bonds with returns of 0.8%, as outflows slowed and the CLO bid remained steady. Our portfolio outpaced the ICE BofAML US High Yield Index due to strength in our leveraged loan holdings and relative overweight to insurance issuers.

High yield bond spreads tightened 16bps to finish at 406bps. Despite the sustained YTD rally, credit spreads remain 33bps wide of the year-to-date lows set in April and 80bps wide of the cycle lows in 2018. Bond yields also declined, making new YTD lows to finish at 6.0%. For loans, yields (to three-year takeout) decreased 4bps to 6.4%, while loan spreads (to three-year takeout) decreased 12bps to 459bps.

Across the credit quality spectrum, lower rated bonds continue to lag as higher rated bonds outperform with falling rates and slowing growth. In all, BBs and Bs returned 0.6% while CCCs declined 0.1%. Overarching risk aversion was even more apparent in distressed securities, which declined 2% in the month. Across sectors, financials (1.9%), transportation (1.5%) and telecom (1.2%) were the best performing segments, while autos (-0.2%) and energy (-1.3%) were the only sectors that finished lower.

Default activity rose to its highest levels in more than a year, with five defaults equaling \$10.3 billion in bonds and loans. As a result, the 12-month par-weighted default rate ticked up to 2.1%, which is 30bps higher than levels to start the year but well below the long-term average of 3.5%. Looking ahead, default activity is expected to trend below 2.0% for the remainder of 2019 and into 2020.

In our view, the landscape continues to be broadly favorable to high yield credit investors. Fundamentals for our opportunity set remain supportive, but uncertainty regarding the direction of the global economy remains, leaving the market vulnerable to bouts of volatility, as is typical at this point in the cycle. We will continue to use these opportunities to take advantage of mispricing across companies and capital structures and believe our high-conviction approach will be rewarded over a long investment horizon.

Portfolio Details	ARTFX	APDFX
Net Asset Value (NAV)	\$9.67	\$9.66
Inception	19 Mar 2014	19 Mar 2014
30-Day SEC Yield	6.25%	6.45%
Expense Ratios		
Semi-Annual Report 31 Mar 2019 <sup>1</sup>	0.98%	0.83%
Prospectus 30 Sep 2018 <sup>2</sup>	1.00%	0.83%

<sup>1</sup>Unaudited, annualized for the six-month period. <sup>2</sup>See prospectus for further details.

Portfolio Statistics	Fund
Number of Holdings	134
Number of Issuers	92

Source: Artisan Partners.

## Top 10 Holdings (% of total portfolio)

General Electric Co	6.3
Charter Communications Inc	4.2
Vertafore	3.7
Ardonagh Midco 3 PLC	3.6
AssuredPartners Inc	2.6
TKC Holdings Inc	2.6
Acrisure LLC	2.5
T-Mobile USA Inc	2.3
Ferrellgas LP	2.3
NFP Corp	2.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32.3%</b>

Source: Artisan Partners/Bloomberg. For the purpose of determining the portfolio's holdings, securities of the same issuer are aggregated to determine the weight in the portfolio.

## Portfolio Composition (% of total portfolio)

Corporate Bonds	67.1
Bank Loans	28.0
Equities	0.0
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Artisan Partners/Bloomberg. Negative cash weightings and portfolio composition greater than 100% may be due to unsettled transactions or investment in derivative instruments. Treasury futures represented net notional exposure of -4.72% of net assets.

## Investment Results (%)

As of 31 July 2019	Average Annual Total Returns							
	MTD	QTD	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Inception
Investor Class: ARTFX	0.73	0.73	9.65	5.41	6.93	6.36	—	6.24
Advisor Class: APDFX	0.64	0.64	9.64	5.46	7.07	6.52	—	6.39
ICE BofAML US High Yield Master II Index	0.51	0.51	10.72	6.94	6.83	5.08	—	5.01
As of 30 June 2019								
Investor Class: ARTFX	1.45	2.25	8.85	5.37	7.60	6.04	—	6.20
Advisor Class: APDFX	1.47	2.29	8.94	5.54	7.78	6.21	—	6.37
ICE BofAML US High Yield Master II Index	2.45	2.57	10.16	7.58	7.54	4.70	—	4.99

Source: Artisan Partners/ICE BofA Merrill Lynch. Returns for periods less than one year are not annualized.

Past performance does not guarantee and is not a reliable indicator of future results. Investment returns and principal values will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than that shown. Call 800.344.1770 for current to most recent month-end performance. The performance information shown does not reflect the deduction of a 2% redemption fee on shares held by an investor for 90 days or less and, if reflected, the fee would reduce the performance quoted. Unlike the Index, the High Income Fund may hold loans and other security types. At times, this causes material differences in relative performance.

## Ratings Distribution (%)

A	1.2
BBB	8.8
BB	17.1
B	52.2
CCC	19.6
CC	1.0
Unrated	0.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: S&P/Moody's.

## Maturity Distribution (%)

< 1 Year	0.5
1 - <3 years	11.5
3 - <5 years	22.7
5 - <7 years	42.4
7 - <10 years	14.7
10+ years	8.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Artisan Partners/Bloomberg. Percentages shown are of total fixed income securities in the portfolio.

## Portfolio Construction

The team generally determines the amount of assets invested in each issuer based on conviction, valuation and availability of supply. Based on the team's analysis it divides the portfolio into three parts. Core investments are generally positions with stable to improving credit profiles and lower loan to value ratios. Spread investments are those where the team has an out-of-consensus view about a company's credit improvement potential. Opportunistic investments are driven by market dislocations that have created a unique investment opportunity. Allocations to each group will vary over time based on market conditions.

## Team Leadership



Portfolio Manager

Bryan C. Krug, CFA

Years of Investment Experience

19

Carefully consider the Fund's investment objective, risks and charges and expenses. This and other important information is contained in the Fund's prospectus and summary prospectus, which can be obtained by calling 800.344.1770. Read carefully before investing.

Fixed income securities carry interest rate risk and credit risk for both the issuer and counterparty and investors may lose principal value. In general, when interest rates rise, fixed income values fall. High income securities (junk bonds) are speculative, experience greater price volatility and have a higher degree of credit and liquidity risk than bonds with a higher credit rating. The portfolio typically invests a significant portion of its assets in lower-rated high income securities (e.g., CCC). Loans carry risks including insolvency of the borrower, lending bank or other intermediary. Loans may be secured, unsecured, or not fully collateralized, trade infrequently, experience delayed settlement, and be subject to resale restrictions. Private placement and restricted securities may not be easily sold due to resale restrictions and are more difficult to value. The use of derivatives in a portfolio may create investment leverage and increase the likelihood of volatility and risk of loss in excess of the amount invested. International investments involve special risks, including currency fluctuation, lower liquidity, different accounting methods and economic and political systems, and higher transaction costs. These risks typically are greater in emerging markets.

ICE BofAML US High Yield Master II Index measures the performance of below investment grade \$US-denominated corporate bonds publicly issued in the US market. J.P. Morgan Leveraged Loan Index is designed to mirror the investable universe of the USD-denominated institutional leveraged loan market. The index(es) are unmanaged; include net reinvested dividends; do not reflect fees or expenses; and are not available for direct investment.

For the purpose of determining the Fund's holdings, securities of the same issuer are aggregated to determine the weight in the Fund. The discussion of portfolio holdings does not constitute a recommendation of any individual security. Securities named in the Commentary, but not listed as a Top Ten Holding or not listed here are not held in the Fund as of the date of this report. The portfolio managers' views and portfolio holdings are subject to change and the Fund disclaims any obligation to advise investors of such changes.

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**30-Day SEC Yield** is based on a formula specified by the SEC that calculates a fund's hypothetical annualized income, as a percentage of its assets. This hypothetical yield will differ from the fund's actual experience and as a result, income distributions from the fund may be higher or lower. **Credit Quality** ratings are from S&P and/or Moody's. Ratings typically range from AAA (highest) to D (lowest) and are subject to change. The ratings apply to underlying holdings of the portfolio and not the portfolio itself. If securities are rated by both agencies, the higher rating was used. Securities not rated by S&P or Moody's are categorized as Unrated/Not Rated. **Maturity Distribution** represents the weighted average of the maturity dates of the securities held in the portfolio. **Spread** is the difference in yield between two bonds of similar maturity but different credit quality. **Three-year takeout** refers to the point at which a current loan is refinanced or otherwise paid off. **Beta** is a measure of the volatility of a security or a portfolio in comparison to the market as a whole. **Par-weighted Default Rate** represents the total dollar volume of defaulted securities compared to the total face amount of securities outstanding that could have defaulted. **Collateralized Loan Obligation (CLO)** is a security backed by a pool of debt. **Bid price** is the quoted bid, or the highest price an investor is willing to pay to buy a security.

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