

# Unit Investment Trust Funds

## METRO\$ US INVESTMENT GRADE CORPORATE BOND FEEDER FUND KEY INFORMATION AND INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Month Ended October 31, 2023

### FUND FACTS

<b>Classification:</b>	Feeder	<b>Net Asset Value per Unit (NAVPU):</b>	0.907283
<b>Launch Date:</b>	February 14, 2018	<b>Total Fund NAV (in USD Mns):</b>	0.43
<b>Trust Fee (per annum):</b>	0.50% based on NAV	<b>Dealing Day:</b>	12NN, any banking day
<b>Minimum Investment:</b>	USD 500	<b>Redemption Settlement:</b>	4 Banking Days after date of redemption
<b>Additional Investment:</b>	USD 100	<b>Early Redemption Charge:</b>	50% of income on redeemed amount
<b>Minimum Holding Period:</b>	7 calendar days from date of participation		

### COOLING-OFF PERIOD

Pursuant to BSP Circular No. 857, the TRUSTOR (individual participants) shall have the right to cancel their initial subscriptions or contributions, without penalty, upon written notice to the Trustee within two (2) banking days immediately following the signing of agreement or contract evidencing their participation in the Fund. Further, the net amount of payment or delivery due the TRUSTOR shall be based on the transaction day's NAVPU when notice of redemption, termination or cancellation was received.

### FEES COLLECTED FOR THE MONTH<sup>1</sup>

Trustee Fees:	Custodianship Fees:	External Auditor Fees:	Other Fees:
<b>0.043%</b>	<b>0.002%</b>	<b>0.000%</b>	<b>0.000%</b>
<i>Metrobank-Trust Banking Group</i>	<i>Standard Chartered Bank</i>	<i>SGV &amp; Co.</i>	<i>Others</i>

<sup>1</sup> As a percentage of average daily NAV for the month valued at (in USD Mns): **0.44**

### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGY

The Investor Fund is a USD-denominated Unit Investment Trust Fund structured as a feeder fund and aims to provide market returns from a representative portfolio of USD-denominated investment grade corporate bonds that comprise the US Investment Grade Corporate Bond Market by investing at least 90% of its assets in the iSHARES IBOX \$ INVESTMENT GRADE CORPORATE BOND ETF. The Fund's benchmark is the Markit IBOX USD Liquid Investment Grade Index (IBOXIG Index).

### CLIENT SUITABILITY

A client profiling process is performed prior to participating in the Fund to guide the prospective investor if the Fund is suited to his/her investment objectives and risk tolerance. Clients are encouraged to update the resulting profile every three (3) years or if there's any change in his/her personal/financial circumstances. Before deciding to invest, clients are advised to read the Declaration of Trust/Plan Rules of the Fund, which may be obtained from the Trustee, or seek an independent/professional opinion when necessary.

### The METRO\$ US INVESTMENT GRADE CORPORATE BOND FEEDER FUND is suitable only for investors

#### who:

- Have an Aggressive profile.
- Want capital appreciation over the long-term by primarily investing in iSHARES IBOX \$ INVESTMENT GRADE CORPORATE BOND ETF
- Recommended investment horizon is at least five (5) years
- Participation in the Fund shall be open to Filipino individuals, resident and non-resident aliens and corporate accounts.

### KEY RISKS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

You should not invest in this Fund if you do not understand or are not comfortable with the accompanying risks.

<b>Interest Rate Risk:</b>	The possibility for an investor to experience losses due to changes in interest rates. The purchase and sale of a debt instrument may result in profit or loss because the value of a debt instrument changes inversely with prevailing interest rates.
<b>Market/Price Risk:</b>	The possibility for an investor to experience losses due to changes in the market prices of stocks/equities. It refers to the portfolio's exposure to marked-to-market valuation due to market price fluctuations of the stocks/equities.
<b>Liquidity Risk:</b>	The possibility for an investor to experience losses due to the inability to sell or convert assets into cash immediately or in instances where conversion to cash is possible but at a price that could result in a loss. This may be caused by low trading volume due to different reasons such as securities with small or few outstanding issues, absence of buyers and/or sellers (limited buy/sell activity) or underdeveloped capital market.
<b>Credit Risk / Default Risk:</b>	The possibility for an investor to experience losses due to a borrower's failure to pay principal and/or interest in a timely manner on instruments such as bonds, loans, or other forms of fixed income security which the borrower issued. This inability of the borrower or counterparty to make good on its financial obligations may have resulted from adverse changes in its financial condition thus, lowering credit quality of the security, and consequently lowering the price (market/price risk) which contributes to the difficulty in selling such security.
<b>Foreign Exchange Risk:</b>	The possibility for an investor to experience losses due to fluctuations in foreign exchange rates. The exchange rates depend upon a variety of global and local factors, e.g. interest rates, economic performance, and political developments.
<b>Country Risk:</b>	The possibility for an investor to experience losses arising from investments in securities issued by/in foreign countries due to the political, economic and social structures of these countries. There are risks in foreign investments due to the possible internal and external conflicts, currency devaluations, foreign ownership limitations and tax increases of the foreign country involved which are difficult to predict but must be taken into account in making such investments.
<b>Index Tracking Risk:</b>	The possibility for the Fund not being able to achieve a level of return that closely mirrors the index being tracked due to operational and fund management expenses.
<b>Other Risks:</b>	Your participation in the UITFs may be further exposed to the risk of any actual or potential conflicts of interest in the handling of in-house or related party transactions by Metrobank. These transactions may include own-bank deposits; purchase of own-institution or affiliate obligations (stocks, mortgages); purchase of assets from or sales to own institution, directors, officers, subsidiaries, affiliates or other related interests/parties; or purchases or sales between fiduciary/managed accounts.

The Fund invests only in high-credit quality assets which are evaluated using a rigorous internal scoring model required under the Trustee's accreditation process and BSP regulations. Internal risk limits and position limits together with regulatory exposure limits are monitored, reviewed and strictly adhered to on a daily basis. The Fund may also use financial derivatives solely for hedging risk exposures.

**THE UIT FUND IS NOT A DEPOSIT AND IS NOT INSURED BY THE PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (PDIC).**

**RETURNS CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AND HISTORICAL NAVPU IS FOR ILLUSTRATION OF NAVPU MOVEMENTS/FLUCTUATIONS ONLY. WHEN REDEEMING, THE PROCEEDS MAY BE WORTH LESS THAN THE ORIGINAL INVESTMENT AND ANY LOSSES WILL BE SOLELY FOR THE ACCOUNT OF THE CLIENT.**

**THE TRUSTEE IS NOT LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS UNLESS UPON WILLFUL DEFAULT, BAD FAITH OR GROSS NEGLIGENCE.**



For other details, you may visit our website at [www.metrobank.com.ph](http://www.metrobank.com.ph) or contact us at 8-8700-700 or email us at [customercare@metrobank.com.ph](mailto:customercare@metrobank.com.ph)



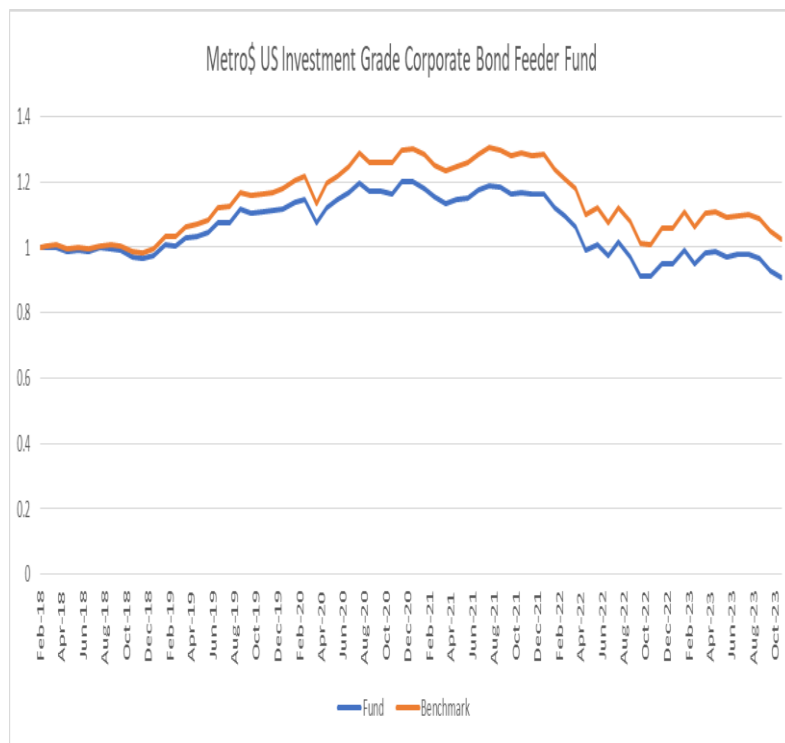
# Unit Investment Trust Funds

## FUND PERFORMANCE AND STATISTICS as of

October 31, 2023

(Purely for reference purposes and is not a guarantee of future results)

### NAVPu GRAPH



### NAVPu OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS

Highest	0.999540
Lowest	0.899557

### STATISTICS OF THE TARGET FUND

Weighted Average Duration (in years)	7.80
Volatility, Past 1 Year (in %) <sup>2</sup>	10.32%
Sharpe Ratio <sup>3</sup>	-0.50
Information Ratio <sup>4</sup>	-0.12
Tracking Error <sup>5</sup>	0.76%

<sup>2</sup> Volatility measures the degree to which the Fund fluctuates vis-à-vis its average return over a period of time. The lower the number, the more stable the Fund's return is relative to its average return over time.

<sup>3</sup> Sharpe Ratio is used to characterize how well the return of a Fund compensates the investor for the level of risk taken. The higher the number, the better.

<sup>4</sup> Information Ratio measures reward-to-risk efficiency of the portfolio relative to the benchmark. The higher the number, the higher the reward per unit of risk.

<sup>5</sup> Tracking Error measures the deviation between the Fund's return and benchmark return since the Fund's inception. The lower the number, the more aligned the Fund's return is with the benchmark. (Starting September 2021 report the basis for the Tracking Error computation is since the Fund's inception.)

### CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE

	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inception
<b>Fund</b>	-2.456%	-7.122%	-8.142%	-0.250%	-21.965%	-6.441%	-9.272%
<b>Benchmark</b>	-2.466%	-6.882%	-7.697%	1.775%	-18.524%	3.877%	2.449%

### PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION

Allocation	% of Fund
iShares iBOXX \$ IG Corp Bond ETF	96.15%
Time Deposits	3.81%
Cash	0.25%
Other Receivables - Net of Liabilities <sup>6</sup>	-0.22%

<sup>6</sup> Includes accrued income from investments, receivables from brokers/counterparties and unpaid expenses.

### Maturity Profile of the Target Fund

20+ years	26.10%
15-20 years	8.68%
10-15 years	8.43%
7-10 years	17.58%
5-7 years	19.23%
3-5 years	19.21%

### TOP 10 HOLDINGS OF THE TARGET FUND

Name	% of Fund
1. BLK CSH FND TREASURY SL AGENCY	0.45%
2. USD CASH	0.32%
3. ANHEUSER-BUSCH COMPANIES LLC	0.27%
4. PFIZER INVESTMENT ENTERPRISES PTE	0.22%
5. CVS HEALTH CORP	0.21%
6. GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC	0.21%
7. T-MOBILE USA INC	0.19%
8. DEUTSCHE TELEKOM INTERNATIONAL FIN	0.17%
9. BOEING CO	0.16%
10. WARNERMEDIA HOLDINGS INC	0.16%

### RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related Party	Transaction	Market Value (in USD Mns)
MBTC	Time Deposit Placement	0.02

Investments in the said outlets were approved by the Trust Committee. Likewise, all related party transactions are conducted on an arm's length and best execution basis and within established limits.

### TARGET FUND FACTS

**Name of Target Fund:** iShares iBOXX \$ Investment Grade Corporate Bond ETF

**Fund Currency:** US Dollar

**Fund Manager:** BlackRock Fund Advisors

**Inception Date:** July 22, 2002

**Benchmark:** Markit iBoxx USD Liquid Investment Grade Index

**Domicile:** United States of America

**Regulator:** Securities and Exchange Commission

**Administrator, Custodian and Transfer Agent:** State Street Bank & Trust Company

### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Target Fund seeks to track the investment results of an index composed of U.S. dollar-denominated, investment grade corporate bonds.

Fund Performance Report and relevant information about the iShares iBoxx \$ Investment Grade Corporate Bond ETF can be viewed and downloaded through [www.iShares.com](http://www.iShares.com).



For other details, you may visit our website at [www.metrobank.com.ph](http://www.metrobank.com.ph) or contact us at 8-8700-700 or email us at [customer@metrobank.com.ph](mailto:customer@metrobank.com.ph)



# Unit Investment Trust Funds

## INVESTMENT POLICY

A. The Fund may be invested and reinvested in the following instruments:

- USD-denominated deposits
- USD-denominated money market instruments
- Tradable Philippine sovereign, quasi-sovereign and corporate fixed income securities
- Tradable fixed income securities issued by other sovereign countries and foreign quasi-sovereign and private institutions
- Tradable USD-denominated subordinated fixed income instruments issued by corporations and financial institutions
- Other USD-denominated investments allowed under BSP regulations

B. The Investor Fund may invest a minimum of 90% of its fund in the target Fund and a maximum of 10% in cash, deposits and other money market instruments. The investment of the Investor Fund in any one Target Fund shall not exceed 10% of the Total Net Asset Value of the Target Fund.

## OUTLOOK AND STRATEGY

The fund decreased by 2.45% for the month, better than the target funds decrease of 2.79%, due to the cash holdings. The fund continues to look for tactical re-entry into the target fund as U.S. yields rise.

As the U.S. economy continues to defy expectations of slowing down (for now), the recent pause by the Fed could be the "long pause" we have been waiting for.

The Federal Reserve (the Fed) maintained interest rates at 5.25% to 5.5%, a 22-year high. However, they left the possibility open for another rate hike in December. Fed Chair Jerome Powell mentioned that the rise in long-term yields is constraining, these may not be high enough to bring inflation down to the 2% target. He also indicated that rate cuts are not currently under consideration.

The increase in long-term yields, known as bear steepening, had significant effects on various asset classes, reflecting the "higher for longer" narrative in economic data. Third-quarter 2024 growth came in at 4.9% quarter-over-quarter, the highest level since the fourth quarter of 2021, driven by robust consumer spending. Personal consumption surged from 0.8% to 4.0%, while unemployment remained at 3.8%. However, despite strong consumption in retrospect, leading economic indicators such as Manufacturing and Services PMI continued to show weakening in September, with readings of 49.8 and 50.1, respectively.

The elevated long-term yields will continue to test the resilience of the economy and consumers in the coming months even as indications of delinquencies rising, debt refinancing is coming due, and household savings declining.

Geopolitical uncertainties heightened following the gruesome attack by the Hamas militant group based in Gaza on nearby towns inside Israel. This placed the Middle East region on elevated alert amidst fears of an escalating tensions that could draw Iran and the US in the middle of the conflict. Gold prices, reached a high of USD2,006 and closed the month with a 7.32% increase.

In October, the yield on U.S. 10-year Treasury bonds closed at 4.93%, marking a 36-basis point increase and reaching the highest level since 2007. The negative spread between the U.S. 10-year and 2-year narrowed from 47bps to 16bps, suggesting the onset of recession. However, similar to the previous month, this movement was accompanied by a painful bear steepening as longer-term yields rose under the 'soft landing' narrative. It's important to note that an inverted yield curve signals an impending recession, while the un-inversion of the yield curve signals the onset of a recession. The risk-off sentiment in various markets prompted a 0.46% month-over-month strengthening of the U.S. dollar, closing at USD106.66.

Currently, the fund is capitalizing on favorable dollar time deposit rates, offering a 180-day yield of 5.60%.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company is regulated by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). For any inquiries and complaints relating to Trust Products and Services you may (1) call our hotline: 8-8700-700 (Mondays-Fridays from 9:00am to 6:00pm); (2) send an email to [customercare@metrobank.com.ph](mailto:customercare@metrobank.com.ph); or (3) visit our website at <https://www.metrobank.com.ph/invest/uitf> to know more. You may also file complaints at BSP Financial Consumer Protection Department at (632) 8708-7087 or [consumeraffairs@bsp.gov.ph](mailto:consumeraffairs@bsp.gov.ph). To know your rights under BSP Circular No. 857 (Regulations on Financial Consumer Protection), please access a copy at the BSP website ([www.bsp.gov.ph](http://www.bsp.gov.ph)).



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