

# NIKKO AM NZ CASH FUND

## Monthly Fact Sheet

## 31 March 2017



### Investment objective

The objective of the Fund is to construct a portfolio of permitted investments that outperform the Fund's benchmark return by 0.2% per annum over a rolling three year period before fees, expenses and taxes.

### Benchmark

Bloomberg NZBond Bank Bill Index (from 1 July 2016)

### Fund description

The Fund aims to provide investors with regular income by constructing an actively managed investment portfolio of short term deposits and bonds whilst preserving capital value.

The Fund gains its investment exposures by investing into the Nikko AM Wholesale NZ Cash Fund which is managed by the Nikko AM NZ Fixed Income team.

### Distributions

Quarterly. Last business days of March, June, September and December.

### Management fees and other charges

A management fee of 0.25% per annum calculated as a percentage of the net asset value of the Fund will be deducted from the Fund.

Nikko AM may also recover expenses (including the Trustee fee) from the Fund up to a maximum of 0.15% per annum of the Fund's net asset value. As at the time of publication these expenses are estimated to be 0.08% per annum.

### Buy/sell spread

Nil

### Investment restrictions

Nikko AM Wholesale NZ Cash Fund

- Authorised investments are cash, deposits and debt securities with an interest rate exposure of up to 365 days, issued or guaranteed by any NZ registered bank, SOE, NZ Government, NZ local authority and NZ and overseas corporate.

- Securities issued by corporates and registered banks must have minimum credit rating of A1 short-term and A long term (Standard and Pooors). Derivative counterparties must have A or better credit rating and all derivative exposure shall be covered by cash or physical holdings.

Refer to the SIPO for full details of permitted investments and restrictions.

### Performance

(NZD returns; before tax, after fees and expenses)

1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
0.23%	0.70%	1.37%	2.84%

  

2 years (pa)	3 years (pa)	5 years (pa)	Inception (pa)*
3.15%			3.39%

\* June 2014

### Distributions

Cents per unit	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec
2017	0.65			
2016	1.00	0.55	0.50	0.65
2015	0.75	0.70	0.90	0.70

### Asset allocation (% of fund)

NZ Government, Government Department or Government Guaranteed	9.6%
NZ registered banks	88.5%
Local authorities	1.1%
Corporate bonds & SOEs	0.8%

### Credit quality

AAA	1.3%
AA	72.0%
A	26.7%

## Top 5 issuers (% of fund)

Westpac Banking Corporation	20.9%
Kiwibank	16.0%
ASB Bank Limited	14.5%
ANZ Bank	12.2%
Bank of New Zealand	11.3%
<b>Number of issuers in portfolio</b>	<b>18</b>

## Duration and yield

Duration	Fund 109 days versus benchmark 45 days
Yield	Fund (gross) 2.87% versus benchmark 1.91% Fund (net) 2.54%* versus OCR 1.75%

\* After management fee and expenses

## Market commentary

The short end of the yield curve is upward sloping, indicating the market believes the rate cutting cycle has likely finished for now with the Official Cash Rate at an all-time low of 1.75%.

Over March the 90-day rate was unchanged at 2.00% and the 1-year swap was down 2 points to 2.07%.

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) left the OCR unchanged at 1.75% at the March review. As expected the RBNZ maintained a broad neutral tone. Earlier in March Governor Wheeler stated that the probability of future OCR movements are equally weighted, this reflects balanced risks around inflation. Global monetary policy, the level of the NZ Dollar and the impact of tradable inflation, CPI inflation, the housing market and the maturity of this economic cycle will all help determine the direction and extent of the next move.

The housing market has moderated in recent months. Even though bank funding costs have been stable, mortgage rates have been going up, providing a tightening to credit and the housing market. Investor LVRs also appear to have had an impact. GDP growth slowed at the end of 2016, but this appears to be due to temporary factors and growth outlook remains positive. Dairy prices continue to recover. Tourism, construction and migration all remain positive. New Zealand’s economic expansion is mature, but is ongoing.

We expect the next OCR move to be up, but this is not imminent. We are of the view that the next tightening of monetary policy will not have to go as far as it may have in the past to have the same effect of balancing the economy.

## Fund commentary

The Fund (gross return) outperformed its benchmark over the quarter. The higher yield was the main contributor with the longer than benchmark duration also adding value. The higher yield should lead to continued strong performance of the Fund. We have been buying high credit quality commercial paper as a source of added liquidity and portfolio duration. Margins on 12-month term deposits remain attractive. Credit margins on fixed and floating rate bonds have contracted and our recent buying activity in this space has added to performance.

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