



Santander GO Short Duration Dollar

11 / 2024

Fund commentary

At the end of November, the Santander account had a duration of 0.70yrs, a spread duration of 0.59yrs, and a reporting yield of 4.70%. The ICE BAML 1-3yr Corporate OAS rallied 3bps to 52bps; the 2yr UST traded in a range of 4.07-4.38%, ending the month at 4.15%. For November, Santander returned 39.2bps.

The market was primarily impacted by political developments and Federal Reserve communications over the month. Following the US presidential election, Treasury yields remained elevated, reflecting market reactions to the political landscape and economic outlook. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell maintained a cautious stance on rate cuts, emphasizing no urgency in altering monetary policy, which contributed to the stability of yields above pre-election levels. Longer term yields also fluctuated, notably rallying approximately 6 basis points after Scott Bessent was nominated as Treasury Secretary. This move suggested a temporary easing of bond market concerns regarding future inflation prospects. Additionally, October's headline CPI inflation aligned with expectations at 2.6%, marking its first increase since March, which further influenced yield movements. Credit spreads performed well for the majority of the month on the back of the risk-on sentiment across US markets.

As rates remain elevated, we will target a duration of around 0.70 years given that fewer cuts are now priced in and we still believe that the Fed is poised to cut more than one more time this cycle. We will continue to carefully monitor comments from Fed speakers for any hints of a potential pause in cuts. With regards to the new US administration, it is not possible to know the magnitude of the changes that will be put in place. There will also be some lag time for any impact on the economy. We are comfortable maintaining our credit exposure given strong corporate and bank fundamentals, however with spreads being as tight as they are, we may look to add to higher quality duration.

Going forward we will maintain a portfolio duration of roughly 0.70 years and will be nimble as we see developments market pricing of Fed cuts. Add 6-18 month fixed-rate securities and high quality duration on back ups.

Trades to highlight:

Buy 3yr Standard Chartered New Issue fixed rate

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Buy 2.5NC1.5yr Mizuho

Buy 2NC1yr PNC New Issue

Buy 2yr US Treasury

Buy 12mo First Abu Dhabi Bank CP

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