# **Guinness China RMB Income Fund**

Investment Commentary – January 2025



# RISK

This is a marketing communication. Please refer to the prospectus, supplement, KIDs and KIID for the Fund, which contain detailed information on its characteristics and objectives, before making any final investment decisions.

The Guinness China RMB Income Fund is a bond fund. Investors should be willing and able to assume the risks of bond and fixed income investing. The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise as a result of market and currency movement, and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Further details on the risk factors are included in the Fund's documentation, available on our website.

Past performance does not predict future returns.

# ABOUT THE STRATEGY

Launch	09.03.2023
Sector	IA Specialist Bond
Manager	EPIC Investment Partners

# OBJECTIVE

The Guinness China RMB Income Fund aims to provide investors with a combination of capital appreciation and income. The Fund invests in a range of bonds and fixed income investments which will be denominated or hedged back to Renminbi (Renminbi or RMB being the official currency of China). The Fund buys government and quasisovereign bonds in the onshore China bond market and supranational and high-grade corporate credit in the offshore bond market. The Fund is actively managed without reference to a benchmark.

### CONTENTS

Commentary	1
Key Facts	3
Performance	4
Important Information	5

# COMMENTARY

China's economic landscape in Q4 2024 reflected both progress and ongoing challenges as policymakers intensified efforts to stimulate growth and counteract deflationary pressures. Through the period of Q4 2024 fiscal and monetary actions, including debt restructuring for local governments, targeted support for the property market, and special bond issuances to strengthen state-owned banks, began to yield positive outcomes.

Monetary policy also played a pivotal role, with the People's Bank of China (PBoC) adjusting rates to stimulate activity and bolster the housing market. These coordinated efforts showed signs of pay off, as manufacturing activity rebounded, and business sentiment improved. Infrastructure investment also showed signs of renewed strength, while consumer spending gained momentum.

Key economic indicators signalled a nascent recovery. However, challenges persisted amid structural imbalances, while the property sector remains fragile despite some stabilisation in real estate services and household loans.

The renminbi (RMB) came under pressure through the quarter given the US-China rate differentials, coupled with a sentiment shift following Donald Trump's triumph in the US elections in November. Policymakers stepped up efforts to maintain currency stability, the controlled strategy aims to prevent foreign investment losses and protect domestic consumption, both viewed as vital for economic recovery.

### **PORTFOLIO REVIEW**

The China RMB Income Fund's CNH Y class gained +0.12% in the final quarter of 2024. The portfolio was flat in October, and suffered a loss in November, given the slight increase in yields at the shorter end of the Chinese government bond market. Yields then rallied in December, and positive performance was supported by the China government 2.52% 2028s, the Export-Import Bank of China 4.15% 2027s and KFW 2.9% 2026.



# **Guinness China RMB Income**

In November the Agricultural Development Bank 3.4% 2024 and the China Government 3.38% 2024 bonds matured. The Fund reinvested in China Government 3.38% 2026 and Export-Import Bank of China 4.15% 2027.

The yield on the 2-year benchmark China Government rallied 28 basis points (bps) to 1.09%, closing at all-time lows. The onshore and offshore renminbi returned +4.28% and +3.52%, respectively, against the euro. Against the dollar the currencies gained 3.19% and 3.90%, respectively. The A1 (WARF) rated portfolio yields 2.35% and has a duration of 1.34 years.

# OUTLOOK

China's economy shows promising signs of renewed momentum for 2025. Whilst markets await further policy specifics, several positive catalysts are emerging across key sectors. Of course, we remain cognisant of clear challenges. The property sector appears poised for stabilisation after a prolonged adjustment, with construction activity likely to find its footing at sustainable levels. Infrastructure investment should see meaningful expansion, supported by an ambitious fiscal programme including increased treasury bond issuance and a wider 4% deficit target, which should help drive growth.

Government spending is set to provide fresh impetus, benefiting from lower interest rates and a more supportive fiscal stance. The administration's heightened focus on boosting household consumption could bear fruit through expanded subsidy programmes and initiatives to stimulate durable goods purchases, particularly in the automotive and appliance sectors. On the trade front, China's robust export machine continues to demonstrate resilience, maintaining healthy trade surpluses despite global headwinds. The potential for currency flexibility provides an important buffer against external pressures.

With policymakers demonstrating clear commitment to growth and multiple sectors showing signs of improvement, China appears well-positioned to maintain steady economic momentum through 2025, supported by its substantial policy toolkit and improving domestic dynamics.



# **Guinness China RMB Income Fund**

GUINNESS CHINA RMB INCOME FUND - FUND FACTS						
Fund size	¥31.1m					
Fund launch	09.03.2023					
OCF	0.60%					
Benchmark	n/a					
Historic yield	2.7% (Y CNH Dist)					

Historic yield reflects the distributions declared over the past 12 months expressed as a percentage of the mid-market price, as at the latest month end. It does not include any preliminary charges. Investors may be subject to tax on the distribution.

# **GUINNESS CHINA RMB INCOME FUND - PORTFOLIO**

Top 10 holdings		Credit Rating		Country	
China Govt Bond 3.60% 27/06/2028	8.5%	ААА	6.5%	1	
China Govt Bond 2.52% 04/08/2028	8.2%	AA	14.3%	China	75.0%
China Govt Bond 3.31% 30/11/2025	8.1%	А	75.0%	Germany	6.5%
China Govt Bond 3.39% 21/05/2025	8.1%			-	0.576
China Govt Bond 2.30% 16/06/2026	8.1%			Hong Kong	4.9%
China Govt Bond 2.55% 17/06/2025	8.1%			-	
China Govt Bond 2.20% 27/07/2025	8.0%			United Arab Emirates	4.8%
China Exim Bank 4.15% 18/06/2027	6.7%			-	
China Govt Bond 3.38% 04/07/2026	6.6%			Qatar	4.6%
KFW 2.90% 24/02/2026	6.5%				-
Top 10 holdings	76.8%			Cash	4.2%
Number of holdings	14			L	



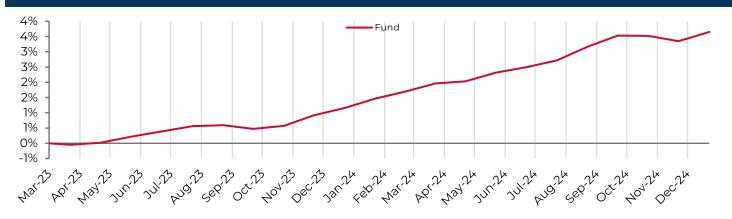
### **Guinness China RMB Income Fund**

### Past performance does not predict future returns.

<b>1 Month</b> +0.3%	<b>YTD</b> +2.5%	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 \/r
+0.3%			-	J.	10 yr
	+2.5%	+2.5%	-	-	-
1 Month	YTD	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
+1.0%	+1.6%	+1.6%	-	-	-
1 Month	YTD	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
-1.0%	-0.6%	-0.6%	-	-	-
1 Month	YTD	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
+1.0%	+6.0%	+6.0%	-	-	-
	+1.0% <b>1 Month</b> -1.0% <b>1 Month</b>	+1.0% +1.6% <b>1 Month YTD</b> -1.0% -0.6% <b>1 Month YTD</b>	+1.0% +1.6% +1.6%   1 Month YTD 1 yr   -1.0% -0.6% -0.6%   1 Month YTD 1 yr	+1.0% +1.6% +1.6% -   1 Month YTD 1 yr 3 yr   -1.0% -0.6% -0.6% -   1 Month YTD 1 yr 3 yr	+1.0% +1.6% +1.6% -   1 Month YTD 1 yr 3 yr 5 yr   -1.0% -0.6% -0.6% - -   1 Month YTD 1 yr 3 yr 5 yr   1 Month YTD 1 yr 3 yr 5 yr

GUINNESS CHINA RMB INCOME FUND - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE										
(CNH)	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Fund	+2.5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
(GBP)	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Fund	+1.6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(USD)	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Fund	-0.6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(EUR)	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Fund	+6.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-





Source: FE fundinfo to 31.12.24. Graph is in CNH. Investors should note that fees and expenses are charged to the capital of the Fund. This reduces the return on your investment by an amount equivalent to the Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF). The current OCF for the share class used for the fund performance returns is 0.60%. Returns for share classes with a different OCF will vary accordingly. Transaction costs also apply and are incurred when a fund buys or sells holdings. The performance returns do not reflect any initial charge; any such charge will also reduce the return.



# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Issued by Guinness Global Investors**, a trading name of Guinness Asset Management Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

This report is primarily designed to inform you about fixed interest securities and equity and fixed interest markets invested in by the Guinness China RMB Income Fund. It may provide information about the Fund's portfolio, including recent activity and performance. It contains facts relating to the equity markets and our own interpretation. Any investment decision should take account of the subjectivity of the comments contained in the report. OCFs for all share classes are available on www.guinnessgi.com.

This document is provided for information only and all the information contained in it is believed to be reliable but may be inaccurate or incomplete; any opinions stated are honestly held at the time of writing, but are not guaranteed. The contents of the document should not therefore be relied upon. It should not be taken as a recommendation to make an investment in the Fund or to buy or sell individual securities, nor does it constitute an offer for sale.

### Documentation

The documentation needed to make an investment, including the Prospectus, Supplement, Key Information Document (KID) / Key Investor Information Document (KIID) and the Application Form, is available in English from www.guinnessgi.com or free of charge from:-

• the Manager: Waystone Management Company (IE) Limited (Waystone IE) 2nd Floor 35 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin D04 A4E0, Ireland; or,

• the Promoter and Investment Manager: Guinness Asset Management Ltd, 18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ.

Waystone IE is a company incorporated under the laws of Ireland having its registered office at 35 Shelbourne Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin, D04 A4E0 Ireland, which is authorised by the Central Bank of Ireland, has appointed Guinness Asset Management Ltd as Investment Manager to this fund, and as Manager has the right to terminate the arrangements made for the marketing of funds in accordance with the UCITS Directive.

### **Investor Rights**

A summary of investor rights in English is available here: https://www.waystone.com/waystone-policies/

#### Residency

In countries where the Fund is not registered for sale or in any other circumstances where its distribution is not authorised or is unlawful, the Fund should not be distributed to resident Retail Clients. **NOTE: THIS INVESTMENT IS NOT FOR SALE TO U.S. PERSONS.** 

#### Structure & regulation

The Fund is a sub-fund of Guinness Asset Management Funds PLC (the "Company"), an open-ended umbrella-type investment company, incorporated in Ireland and authorised and supervised by the Central Bank of Ireland, which operates under EU legislation. If you are in any doubt about the suitability of investing in this Fund, please consult your investment or other professional adviser.

#### Switzerland

This is an advertising document. The prospectus and KID for Switzerland, the articles of association, and the annual and semi-annual reports can be obtained free of charge from the representative in SwitzerlandReyl & Cie S.A., Rue du Rhône 4, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland. The paying agent is Banque Cantonale de Genève, 17 Quai de l'Ile, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland.

### Singapore

The Fund is not authorised or recognised by the Monetary Authority of Singapore ("MAS") and shares are not allowed to be offered to the retail public. The Fund is registered with the MAS as a Restricted Foreign Scheme. Shares of the Fund may only be offered to institutional and accredited investors (as defined in the Securities and Futures Act (Cap.289)) ('SFA') and this material is limited to the investors in those categories.

Telephone calls will be recorded and monitored