# Pioneer Multi-Asset Ultrashort Income Fund

**Performance Analysis and Market Commentary** | March 31, 2024

## Average Annual Total Returns for Class Y Shares

| | Month-to-Date | Quarter-To-Date | Year-To-Date | 1-Year | 3-Year | 5-Year | 10-Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Pioneer Multi-Asset Ultrashort Income Fund (MYFRX)** | 0.58% | 1.96% | 1.96% | 7.73% | 3.52% | 2.61% | 2.10% |
| **ICE BofA US 3-Month Treasury Bill Index (Benchmark)** | 0.45% | 1.29% | 1.29% | 5.24% | 2.58% | 2.02% | 1.38% |

Gross and Net expense ratio: 0.45%

**Call 1-800-225-6292 or visit amundi.com/us for the most recent month-end performance results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. The performance data quoted represents past performance, which is no guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate, and shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost.** Class Y shares are not subject to sales charges and are available for limited groups of investors, including institutional investors. Initial investments are subject to a $5 million investment minimum, which may be waived in some circumstances. All results are historical and assume the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Periods of less than one year are actual, not annualized. Other share classes are available for which performance and expenses will differ.

Performance results reflect any applicable expense waivers in effect during the periods shown. Without such waivers, fund performance would be lower. Waivers may not be in effect for all funds. Certain fee waivers are contractual through a specified period. Otherwise, fee waivers can be rescinded at any time. See the prospectus and financial statements for more information.

## Market Review

- The theme of the first quarter was stronger than expected growth and inflation. Fears of recession eased and markets pushed back the timing and pace of Federal Reserve (Fed) interest rate cuts during 2024. The expected timing of the first rate cut was pushed out from March to July, and the total amount of forecasted 2024 cuts dropped from six to three. US Treasury yields rose 32 basis points (bps) to 37 bps across the curve, and the Bloomberg US Treasury Index returned -0.96%. The Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index outperformed Treasuries with a -0.78% total return as most spread sectors outperformed. The one exception was Agency mortgage-backed securities (MBS), as represented by Bloomberg US MBS Index, whose -1.04% return for the quarter was 0.14% worse than comparable Treasuries. Securitized credit performed strongly, led by the commercial MBS (CMBS) sector with a 0.85% total return, which was 1.45% better than Treasuries. Investment-grade corporate bonds outperformed Treasuries by 0.83% (-0.40% total return) as the index spread tightened nine bps. US High Yield returned 1.5%, Leveraged Loans 2.4%, Emerging Market sovereign debt 2.32% and Emerging Market corporates 2.32%, as represented by the Bloomberg US High Yield Index, the Morningstar/LSTA Leveraged Loan Index, the J.P. Morgan Emerging Market Sovereign Debt, and the J.P. Morgan Emerging Market Corporates Index respectively. Oil prices surged 16% over the quarter and broad commodities gained 9%. The US dollar rallied 3.2% as markets priced out the number of near-term Fed rate cuts.

See glossary of frequently used terms for definitions. Diversification does not assure a profit or protect against loss.

## Performance Review

— Pioneer Multi-Asset Ultrashort Income Fund's Class Y shares outperformed its benchmark, the ICE BofA US 3-Month Treasury Bill Index, for the first quarter of 2024.

— Credit assets generally outperformed like-duration Treasuries, leading to outperformance in most non-government sectors.

— The Fund's securitized exposures, including allocations to asset-backed securities (ABS), residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS), collateralized loan obligations (CLOs), and commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS), were particularly strong contributors to returns for the quarter as they have been carrying higher yields compared to similarly rated corporate securities. Securitized credit spreads have partially recaptured some of their relative valuation differences versus corporate spreads.

— Investment grade corporates, particularly financials, also contributed to positive nominal returns for the quarter as spreads continued to grind tighter based on strong investor risk appetite and strong economic data. Bank loans also contributed for the quarter.

— The Portfolio's longer-than-benchmark yield-curve positioning detracted from the quarter's benchmark-relative performance, given interest rate volatility.

## Market Outlook and Positioning

— In our view, market-implied pricing of Fed rate cuts in 2024 is no longer unreasonable, and we see good value in the front end of the Treasury curve (two to five year maturities). While market pricing of three 25 basis point rate cuts in 2024 is a reasonable baseline for a soft-landing inflation scenario, one must consider other potential outcomes. We expect that a recessionary scenario could lead to significantly greater rate cuts, while the "no landing" scenario of more persistent inflation would only delay the start of rate cuts. As such, the overall distribution of outcomes for the Fed Funds rate in a year's time is skewed to the downside: the weighted average across future Fed Funds scenarios is lower than current market pricing. We remain concerned about a steepening of the yield curve, however. The US government deficit, at 6.3% of gross domestic product (GDP), is elevated by historical standards and will increase significantly in coming years if current laws governing taxes and spending generally remain unchanged. Budget deficit growth on its current projected path could increase Federal debt held by the public far beyond any previously recorded level, and we believe markets will likely demand a higher term premium to hold more Treasury notes and bonds. In the medium term, we see the elevated likelihood of a return of the "bond vigilantes" of the early 1990s – a scenario in which significantly higher long-term Treasury yields are required to force Congress to enact necessary fiscal adjustments to reduce deficits to a sustainable level. In terms of sector allocation, our views are largely unchanged, as relatively narrow spreads justify lower-than-normal exposure to spread risk, and we continue to selectively favor higher-quality and shorter-duration exposure within spread sectors.

— The Portfolio by prospectus must have at least 80% of its assets in investment grade (IG) securities, and is currently positioned even more conservatively with a bit over 90% in IG. The portfolio management team has been preparing for potential economic weakness and has been scrupulous on the debtors of our bonds.

— To potentially mitigate future volatility, we have increased our liquidity levels overall, holding 15%+ in cash and cash equivalents. Currently, the Portfolio has less than 10% in below-IG bonds, and we are very selective in this exposure, targeting areas we believe are of better quality than recognized by the market (such as seasoned US housing exposure). A large portion of the securitized credit exposure is tied to the US housing market, which is holding up very well in our view given the constrained new home supply levels. We believe if market weakness caused the Fed to cut rates, housing could get a boost from lower mortgage rates.

— We believe the Fund is well positioned for continued Fed rate volatility, which we believe skews towards rate-cuts in 2024. We have marginally increased overall duration and reduced the Fund's exposure to floating-rate securities based on this outlook.

— We are maintaining a significant portfolio allocation to highly liquid securities such as repurchase agreements, Treasuries, and other liquid instruments - which we believe will allow us to opportunistically add credit if market volatility presents itself.

**Bloomberg 1-3 Year US Government/Credit Index** measures the performance of the short-term (1-3 years) government and investment-grade corporate bond markets. **The US Treasury Index** an index based on recent auctions of US Treasury bills and is commonly used as a benchmark when determining interest rates, such as mortgage rates. **The S&P 500 Index** measures the performance of the broad US stock market. **The Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index** is a broad-based flagship benchmark that measures the investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market. Indices are unmanaged and their returns assume reinvestment of dividends and do not reflect any fees or expenses. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

The portfolio is actively managed and current information is subject to change. The sectors/holdings discussed should not be considered recommendations to buy or sell any security.

**Glossary of Frequently Used Terms**

**Advanced Refunding Bond (usually applies only to municipal bond funds) –** A bond issued to retire, or pre-refund, another outstanding bond more than 90 days in advance of the original bond's maturity date.
**Basis Point –** A unit of measure used to describe the percentage change in the value or rate of a financial instrument. One basis point is equivalent to 0.01% (1/100th of a percent) or 0.0001 in decimal form. In most cases, it refers to changes in interest rates and bond yields.
**Beta –** measures an investment's sensitivity to market movements in relation to an index. A beta of 1 indicates that the security's price has moved with the market. A beta of less than 1 means that the security has been less volatile than the market. A beta of greater than 1 indicates that the security's price has been more volatile than the market.
**Breakeven(s) –** The difference(s) between the yield of a nominal bond and an inflation-linked bond of the same maturity.
**Carry** – The cost or benefit of owning that asset.
**Correlation –** The degree to which assets or asset class prices have moved in relation to one another. Correlation ranges from -1 (always moving in opposite directions) through 0 (absolutely independent) to 1 (always moving together).
**Credit spreads (or spreads) –** The differences in yield between Treasuries and other types of fixed-income securities with similar maturities.
**Credit Risk Transfer Securities** – Securities that transfer a portion of the risk associated with credit losses within pools of conventional residential mortgage loans from the government-sponsored entities (GSEs), Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, to the private sector.
**Dot Plot –** The Fed's "dot" plot/projection is a quarterly chart summarizing the outlook for the federal funds rate for each of the FOMC's members.
**Duration –** A measure of the sensitivity of the price (the value of principal) of a fixed income investment to a change in interest rates, expressed as a number of years.
**Dividend Yield –** Refers to a stock's annual dividend payments to shareholders, expressed as a percentage of the stock's current price.
**Excess returns –** represent investment performance generated by a security or portfolio that exceed the "riskless" performance of a security generally perceived by the market to be risk-free, such as a certificate of deposit or a government-issued bond.
**Goldilocks –** An economy that is not too hot or cold, in other words sustains moderate economic growth, and that has low inflation, which allows a market-friendly monetary policy.
**Hedge** – An investment utilized to help reduce the risk of adverse price movements in an asset. Normally, a hedge consists of taking an offsetting position in a related security to help guard against a swift change in price, such as purchasing a "put" (sell) or "call" (buy) option contract on a stock in which the investor already owns shares outright.
**Insurance-linked securities –** Investments sponsored by property-and-casualty insurers to help mitigate the risk of having to pay claims in the wake of natural disasters.
**Liquidity Premium** – Any form of additional compensation that is required to encourage investment in assets that cannot be easily and efficiently converted into cash at fair market value.
**Interest Rate Coverage Ratio** – A debt and profitability ratio used to determine how easily a company can pay interest on its outstanding debt.
**Loan Spread –** The interest rates over and above the LIBOR rate charged to borrowers by banks.
**Loan-to-Value (LTV) Ratio** – A measure comparing the amount of a mortgage with the appraised value of the property. The higher the down payment, the lower the LTV ratio.
**Municipal-to-Treasury Yield Ratio (municipal bond funds only) –** A measure of municipal bond valuation. The higher the Municipal-to-Treasury ratio, the more attractive municipals are relative to Treasuries.
**Mark to Market –** Involves recording the price or value of a security, portfolio, or account to reflect the current market value rather than the book value.
**Prepayment Risk –** The risk involved with the premature return of principal on a fixed-income security. When principal is returned early, future interest payments will not be paid on that part of the principal.
**Real Yield –** The yield provided by an investment once inflation is taken into account.
**Reinsurance --** coverage provided to insurance companies.
**Rate-on-Line –** The premium/coupon paid by the re/insurance company for coverage.
**Standard Deviation –** A statistical measure of the historic volatility of a portfolio; a lower standard deviation indicates historically less volatility.
**Sharpe Ratio –** A measure of risk-adjusted return that describes how much excess return an investor receives in exchange for the volatility of holding a riskier asset.
**Spread sectors –** Nongovernmental fixed-income market sectors that offer higher yields, at greater risk, than governmental investments.
**Tail Risk –** The additional risk of an asset or portfolio of assets moving more than 3 standard deviations from the current price, above the risk of a normal distribution.
**Tax-Equivalent Yield –** The pretax yield that a taxable bond needs to possess for its yield to be equal to that of a tax-free municipal bond.
**Subordinated Capital/Financing –** Financing ranked behind that held by secured lenders with regard to the order of repayment. Subordinated financing can be a mix of debt and equity instruments. Equity components may include options and warrants. Debt components may include asset-backed securities.
**Yield Curve (Curve)–** A yield curve is a line that plots the interest rates, at a set point in time, of bonds having equal credit quality but differing maturity dates.
**Yield to Maturity –** The total return anticipated on a bond if the bond is held until the end of its lifetime.
**Yield to Worst (YTW) –** The lowest potential yield that can be received on a bond without the issuer actually defaulting.

The views expressed are those of Amundi US and are current through March 31, 2024. These views are subject to change at any time based on market or other conditions, and Amundi US disclaims any responsibility to update such views. These views may not be relied upon as investment advice and, because investment decisions for strategies are based on many factors, may not be relied upon as an indication of trading intent on behalf of any portfolio.

**A Word about Risk**

The market prices of securities may go up or down, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably, due to general market conditions, such as real or perceived adverse economic, political, or regulatory conditions, recessions, inflation, changes in interest or currency rates, lack of liquidity in the bond markets, the spread of infectious illness or other public health issues or adverse investor sentiment. All investments are subject to risk, including the possible loss of principal. Pioneer Multi-Asset Ultrashort Income ("MAUI") Fund has the ability to invest in a wide variety of debt securities. **The Fund may invest in underlying funds,** including ETFs. In addition to the Fund's operating expenses, you will indirectly bear the operating expenses of investments in any underlying funds. **The Fund and some of the underlying funds employ leverage,** which increases the volatility of investment returns and subjects the Fund to magnified losses if an underlying fund's investments decline in value. **The Fund may use derivatives, such as options, futures, inverse floating rate obligations, swaps, and others**, which can be illiquid, may disproportionately increase losses, and have a potentially large impact on Fund performance. **The Fund may invest in credit default swaps,** which may in some cases be illiquid, and they increase credit risk since the fund has exposure to both the issuer of the referenced obligation and the counterparty to the credit default swap. **The Fund may invest in subordinated securities** which may be disproportionately adversely affected by a default or even a perceived decline in creditworthiness of the issuer. **The Fund may invest in floating rate loans.** The value of collateral, if any, securing a floating rate loan can decline or may be insufficient to meet the issuer's obligations or may be difficult to liquidate. **The Fund may invest in insurance-linked securities (ILS).** The Fund could lose a portion or all of the principal it has invested in an ILS, and the right to additional interest and/or dividend payments with respect to the security, upon the occurrence of a trigger event that leads to physical or economic loss. ILS may expose the Fund to issuer (credit) default, liquidity, and other risks **The Fund may invest in zero-coupon bonds and payment in kind securities,** which may be more speculative and fluctuate more in value than other fixed income securities. The accrual of income from these securities are payable as taxable annual dividends to shareholders. **Investments in equity securities are subject to price fluctuation. International investments are subject to special risks** including currency fluctuations, social, economic and political uncertainties, which could increase volatility. These risks are magnified in emerging markets. **Investments in fixed income securities involve interest rate, credit, inflation, and reinvestment risks.** As interest rates rise, the value of fixed income securities falls. **The Fund may invest in mortgage-backed securities,** which during times of fluctuating interest rates may increase or decrease more than other fixed-income securities. Mortgage-backed securities are also subject to pre-payments. **Prepayment risk is the chance that an issuer may exercise its right to prepay its security,** if falling interest rates prompt the issuer to do so. Forced to reinvest the unanticipated proceeds at lower interest rates, the Fund would experience a decline in income and lose the opportunity for additional price appreciation. **High yield bonds possess greater price volatility, illiquidity, and possibility of default. There may be insufficient or illiquid collateral securing the floating rate loans** held within the Fund. This may reduce the future redemption or recovery value of such loans. **The Fund may have disadvantaged access to confidential information** that could be used to assess a loan issuer, as Amundi US normally seeks to avoid receiving material, non-public information. **Multi-Asset Ultrashort Income Fund is not a money market fund.** These risks may increase share price volatility. There is no assurance that these and other strategies used by the Fund or underlying funds will be successful. **Please see the prospectus for a more complete discussion of the Fund's risks.**

**Before investing, consider the product's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. Contact your financial professional or Amundi Asset Management US for a prospectus or a summary prospectus containing this information. Read it carefully.**

Individuals are encouraged to seek advice from their financial, legal, tax and other appropriate professionals before making any investment or financial decisions or purchasing any financial, securities or investment-related product or service, including any product or service described in these materials. Amundi US does not provide investment advice or investment recommendation.