# M&G Credit Income Investment Trust

Quarterly review as at 30 September 2020



# Company description

The Company aims to generate a regular and attractive level of income with low asset value volatility by investing in a diversified portfolio of public and private debt and debt-like instruments ('Debt Instruments'), of which at least 70% will be investment grade. Over the longer term, it is expected that the Company will be mainly invested in private Debt Instruments, which are those instruments not traded on a stock exchange. The Company currently proposes quarterly dividends at an annual rate of LIBOR plus 2.75% on NAV and targets LIBOR plus 4% over the longer term.

The Company has the ability to borrow up to 30% of net asset value although it is expected that it will primarily be managed without borrowing and typically any borrowings will not exceed 20% of net asset value. Any borrowings may magnify any gains or losses made by the Company.

# Market review

The start of the period saw economic activity continue to improve in the UK and Eurozone following the lifting of lockdowns and easing of restrictions. However, the release of stark backward looking data showing GDP decline for consecutive quarters in the first half of the year, indicated that both economies had entered historic recessions. In August, rising Covid-19 infections in mainland Europe, most notably Spain and France, meant that travel restrictions were re-imposed. Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) data for the Eurozone indicated a slowing in the momentum of the region's recovery, as pent-up demand unleashed by the easing of lockdown restrictions began to fizzle out. Having locked down and reopened later than western European counterparts, the UK seemingly benefitted from a milder resurgence in new cases by comparison, helping consumer optimism continue to fuel the summer rebound in economic activity; mainly in the services sector and aided by the Treasury's "eat out to help out" scheme. In the US, Fed chair Jay Powell used his speech at Jackson Hole to announce a new approach to monetary policy in which the FOMC would tolerate inflation rising above 2% for short periods of time (rather than viewing it as an upper bound), leading to a sell-off in US sovereign bonds and other core rates markets.

A general risk-off tone underpinned most of September, with markets becoming very choppy and much more news flow driven than in previous months. In the UK, escalating Covid numbers gave rise to further social restrictions and an increasing likelihood of lockdowns being re-imposed, whilst Brexit negotiations also continued to dominate domestic headlines and weighed on investor sentiment. In Europe, rising infection rates prompted a tightening of restrictions and led to a downturn in service sector activity. Eurozone business activity stalled with the PMI falling to 50.4, down from 51.9 in the previous month and indicating an elevated risk of the economy sliding back into contraction in the fourth quarter. In the US the focus was very much on politics, with the passing of liberal icon US Justice Ginsburg triggering a Senate fight to fill her seat on the Supreme Court and the latest presidential debate furthering concerns that any election result would be disputed by incumbent president Donald Trump. Whilst previous US elections haven't proved major events for markets, the potential uncertainty created by a less than smooth transition is a major concern for investors. Republicans and Democrats remained significantly apart on agreeing a bill for a new stimulus package and the prospect for achieving this before the November election became increasingly unlikely.

Credit markets continued to be well supported by a combination of central bank stimulus and government policy, which remained the predominant drivers of investor confidence, with corporate and macro fundamentals remaining largely negative. The public market remained firm throughout the period as limited selling pressure, low supply of new issues, and investors hunt for yield fuelled a continuation of the steady grind tighter in both investment grade and high yield credit spreads.

# Manager commentary

The previous period had seen a high volume of trading activity, as we took the opportunity presented by volatility in the public markets to add risk and reposition the portfolio. We now find all but the most Covid-affected areas of public investment grade and high yield credit to offer relatively low returns. However, we did participate selectively in a handful of new issues, mostly in the BBB space, where we were comfortable with the profile of the issuer and where the premium being paid to access the market represented attractive relative value. The Trust's short position in the Long Gilt future hedged against the broader decline in asset values caused by the volatility in rates markets during August. Over the period, the NAV based quarterly return was +2.20%.

In the private market we were pleased to be able to add 6 new assets to the portfolio, totalling c.£9.5m. These included a regulatory capital transaction (c.£1.5m), purchasing the mezzanine tranche of credit protection on a portfolio consisting of predominately revolving facilities extended to blue chip corporates in the Americas; a bilateral deal (c.£2.5m) with an Australasian banking group to finance a pool of Australian equity release mortgages; and the purchase of the senior (£1m) and junior (£2m) tranches of a 5 year fixed loan secured against 2 large commercial premises in London, currently leased to two large FTSE listed UK corporations. We also completed a banking club transaction (£0.8m) to finance the buyout of a UK headquartered business, which has a strong 15 year track record in supporting the MA ("Medical Affairs") function of large and mid-cap companies in the pharmaceutical industry.



# Key information

	Adam English
re from	14 November 2018
gers	Robert Whitten &
	Yiu-Wai Cheung
	14 November 2018
	GB00BFYYL325
	MGCI
	£133.9m
	147
Quarterl	y: Feb, May, Aug & Nov
	3.96%
	1.28
	4.36
	5.32
	0.00 %
	gers

Please see the glossary for an explanation of terms used.

# Charges

Annual management charge	0.50%
Ongoing Charges Figure	0.92%

## Risks associated with the Company

The value of investments will fluctuate, which will cause share prices to fall as well as rise and you may not get back the original amount you invested. There is no guarantee that the Company's Investment Objective will be achieved.

The Company may be exposed to the possibility that a debtor will not meet its repayment obligations.

Changes in interest rates may adversely affect the market value of some of the Company's investments. Debt Instruments may be repaid by issuers at short notice: as a result it may be difficult for the Company to reinvest capital at an attractive price or at all, which may affect it adversely.

A variety of factors, such as market conditions, liquidity concerns or Company performance may lead to a reduction in trading volume or shares trading at a discount to their net asset value. Shareholders may also be unable to realise their investment at quoted market prices or at all.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list. Please refer to the Risk section in the Prospectus.

These private transactions were funded by selling down a number of public bonds that had delivered strong returns since their initial purchase and as such we were able to lock in significant capital gains. In doing so, we were also able to selectively reduce our exposure to names and sectors that have been more acutely affected by the pandemic and which are forecast to face difficulties in the short and medium term; mostly in the auto and banking space where a return to growth is forecast to be slow and challenging, with margins remaining under severe pressure.

## Outlook

The end of the quarter appeared to mark a critical juncture in the fight against the virus. The economic resurgence seen over the summer months began to slow and the rise of second wave infections in Europe and the UK prompted the re-imposition of the severest restrictions since the initial onset of the pandemic earlier in the year. Leading into year-end there is scope for increased volatility in global markets, where we see the biggest risk being another complete shutdown of "non-essential" businesses which would provide an abrupt halt to any nascent economic recovery. In addition, a "no-deal" Brexit has the potential to add further pain to UK and Eurozone economies still recovering from the recessionary shock of previous quarters. The US faces similar challenges relating to a second wave of the virus, while a contested presidential election in November could jeopardise negotiations over fiscal stimulus and destabilise markets. It's worth noting that major central banks have indicated that accommodative monetary policy will remain in place for an extended period. In the UK, MPC member Sir Dave Ramsden commented as recently as August that quantitative easing would be ramped up should signs of market dysfunction emerge once again.

Considering the prevailing level of uncertainty surrounding the aforementioned concerns, we remain cautious on adding risk in the public market, particularly at current levels; however we remain well positioned to take advantage of attractive primary or secondary opportunities that may arise. During the period we signed on a £25m unsecured credit facility which can be used to provide liquidity at times when it is unattractive to sell existing assets, giving us the flexibility to take advantage of markets during periods of pronounced volatility. Given the strong pipeline of private opportunities we are seeing, our focus in the final quarter of the year will be to continue to sell down public assets in order to finance the purchase of additional private transactions.

# Dividends

	Pay date	Amount GBp
First	23.08.2019	2.09
Second	28.02.2020	1.65
Third	28.05.2020	0.85
Fourth	28.08.2020	0.77
Fifth	27.11.2020	0.71

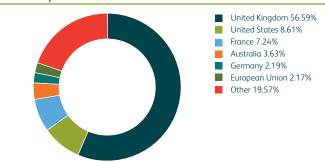
# Share price vs NAV



Source: M&G and State Street as at 30 September 2020.

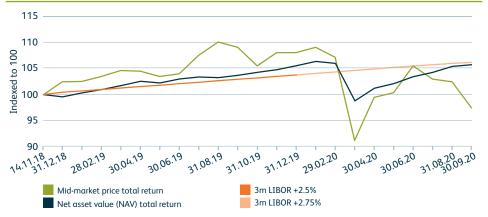
Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

# Geographical exposure (%)



Source: M&G and State Street as at 30 September 2020.

# Total return



The M&G Credit Income Investment Trust currently targets a dividend return of LIBOR +2.75% after returning LIBOR +2.5% for the period 14/11/18 - 31/12/19.

The portfolio is actively managed. The Portfolio Manager has complete freedom in choosing which investments to buy, hold and sell in the fund.

Source: Morningstar Inc, State Street and M&G, as at 30 September 2020. Returns are calculated on a price to price basis with income reinvested. Returns stated in GBP terms.

# Portfolio overview (%)

TOTALONO OVELVIEW (70)	
Cash on deposit	Trust 2.20
Public	60.00
Asset-backed securities	22.25
Bonds	37.76
Private	37.90
Asset-backed securities	5.18
Bonds	1.35
Investment funds	9.55
Loans	13.32
Private placements	1.02
Other	7.48
Derivatives	(0.10)
Debt derivatives	(0.01)
Forwards	(0.09)

Due to rounding, percentage figures displayed in the Factsheet may not add up to exactly 100%.

# Credit rating breakdown (%)

	Trust
Unrated	(0.10)
Derivatives	(0.10)
Cash and investment grade	78.42
Cash on deposit	2.20
AAA	5.79
AA+	2.58
AA	5.17
AA-	4.32
A+	0.22
A	1.71
A-	2.26
BBB+	12.05
BBB	13.02
BBB-	21.65
M&G European Loan Fund ("ELF") (note)	7.45
Non-investment grade	21.68
BB+	4.36
BB	3.59
BB-	4.44
B+	1.33
В	3.71
B-	0.42
CCC+	1.38
CCC-	0.35
M&G European Loan Fund ("ELF") (note)	2.10

# Top 20 Holdings (%)

	Trust
M&G European Loan Fund (Prvt)	9.55
Cash on Deposit	2.20
ATLAS 2020 1 Trust AUD Note A2 (Prvt)	1.78
Finance For Residential Social FRSH 1 1 A2 RegS	1.69
Delamare Finance 1.3066% 19 Feb 2029	1.61
Hall & Woodhouse Var. Rate 30 Dec 2023 (Prvt)	1.57
Signet GBP Stretch Term Loan (Prvt)	1.41
NDPFT 2017-1 A RegS	1.41
RIN II LTD (A) A 144A	1.37
Project Driver TL (Prvt)	1.35
Sonovate Limited Var. Rate 12 Apr 2021 (Prvt)	1.26
Finance For Residential Social FRSH 1 1 A1 RegS	1.24
Westbourne 2016 1 WR Senior	
Var. Rate 30 Sep 2023 (Prvt)	1.19
Gate 2 Var. Rate 4 Jun 2021 (Prvt)	1.15
Luminis Ltd 09/25 1 (Prvt)	1.10
Ripon 17-1X B RegS	1.07
Gongga (Corporate Loans) Limited A A RegS	1.06
MRSTNI 1 A4	1.06
Asia-Pacific Mtge Securitisation A1 (Prvt)	1.02
LPG 4.49% 21 May 2024 (Prvt)	1.02

(Prvt) - Private Investment

# Sector breakdown (%)

ADC (A	Trust
ABS (Assorted)  Mortgage Backed	17.04
Funds	9.55
Real Estate Dev & Mgt	7.79
Commercial Mortgage Backed	4.39
Investments & Misc Find Sycs	3.87
REITS	3.58
Food & Drug Retail	3.35
Banking	3.10
Housing Association	2.94
Auto Loans	2.90
Cons/Comm/Lease Financing	2.73
Life-Insurance	2.22
Cash on Deposit	2.20
ABS Automobiles	1.94
ABS Credit Cards	1.85
Telecom - Wireless	1.71
Telecom - Wireline Integrated & Services	1.62
Beverage	1.57
Support-Services	1.34
Aerospace/Defense	1.27
Diversified Capital Goods	1.27
Tobacco	1.03
Tech Hardware & Equipment	0.93
Multi-Line Insurance	0.85
Integrated Energy	0.76
Property and Casualty Insurance	0.72
Specialty Retail	0.70
Building Materials	0.69
Non-Electric Utilities	0.66
Gaming	0.58
Brokerage	0.58
Health Services	0.54
Electronics	0.49
Food - Wholesale	0.49
Environmental	0.48
Metals/Mining Excluding Steel	0.45
Oil Field Equipment & Services	0.38
Steel Producers/Products	0.35
Auto Parts & Equipment	0.27
Printing & Publishing	0.26
ABS Utilities	0.22
Personal & Household Products	0.11
Packaging  Department Stores	0.11
Department Stores	0.11
Debt Derivatives Forwards	(0.01)
roiwaius	(0.09)

Source: All data contained within the Factsheet is sourced from the Company administrator, State Street as at 30 September 2020.

This glossary provides an explanation of terms used in this quarterly review and in our literature.



Anything having commercial or exchange value that is owned by a business, institution or individual.

### Asset Backed Security (ABS)

A security whose income payments and value are derived from and collateralized by a specified pool of underlying assets.

Category of assets, such as cash, company shares, fixed income securities and their sub-categories, as well as tangible assets such as real estate.

### Basis points (bps)

A common unit of measure for interest rates and other percentages in finance. One basis point is equal to 1/100th of 1%, or 0.01%, or 0.0001, and is used to denote the percentage change in a financial instrument.

A loan in the form of a security, usually issued by a government or company, which normally pays a fixed rate of interest over a given time period, at the end of which the initial amount borrowed is repaid.

Refers to the financial assets, or resources, that a company has to fund its business operations.

### Capitalisation

The total market value of all of a company's outstanding shares.

A group of funds with similar investment objectives and/or types of investment, as classified by bodies such as the Investment Association (IA) or Morningstar™. Sector definitions are mostly based on the main assets a fund should invest in, and may also have a geographic focus. Sectors can be the basis for comparing the different characteristics of similar funds, such as their performance or charging structure.

### Consumer Prices Index (CPI)

An index used to measure inflation, which is the rate of change in prices for a basket of goods and services. The contents of the basket are meant to be representative of products and services we typically spend our money on.

Fixed income securities that can be exchanged for predetermined amounts of company shares at certain times during their life.

### Corporate bonds

Fixed income securities issued by a company. They are also known as bonds and can offer higher interest payments than bonds issued by governments as they are often considered more risky.

The borrowing capacity of an individual, company or government. More narrowly, the term is often used as a synonym for fixed income securities issued by companies.

# Credit Default Swaps (CDS)

Are a type of derivative, namely financial instruments whose value, and price, are dependent on one or more underlying assets. CDS are insurance-like contracts that allow investors to transfer the risk of a fixed income security defaulting to another investor.

An independent assessment of a borrower's ability to repay its debts. A high rating indicates that the credit rating agency considers the issuer to be at low risk of default; likewise, a low rating indicates high risk of default. Standard & Poor's, Fitch and Moody's are the three most prominent credit rating agencies. Default means that a company or government is unable to meet interest payments or repay the initial investment amount at the end of security's life.

## Credit spread

The difference between the yield of a corporate bond, a fixed income security issued by a company, and a government bond of the same life span. Yield refers to the income received from an investment and is expressed as a percentage of the investment's current market value, and a bond is a fixed income security.

When a borrower does not maintain interest payments or repay the amount  $% \left\{ 1,2,...,n\right\}$ borrowed when due

Financial instruments whose value, and price, are dependent on one or more underlying assets. Derivatives can be used to gain exposure to, or to help protect against, expected changes in the value of the underlying investments. Derivatives may be traded on a regulated exchange or traded over the counter.

## Developed economy / market

Well-established economies with a high degree of industrialisation, standard of living and security.

### Dividend

Dividends represent a share in the profits of the company and are paid out to a company's shareholders at set times of the year.

A measure of the sensitivity of a fixed income security, also called a bond, or bond fund to changes in interest rates. The longer a bond or bond fund's duration, the more sensitive it is to interest rate movements.

### Emerging economy or market

Economies in the process of rapid growth and increasing industrialisation. Investments in emerging markets are generally considered to be riskier than those in developed markets.

## Episode

A phase during which investors allow their emotions to affect their decision making, which can cause financial markets to move irrationally.

Shares of ownership in a company.

### Ex-dividend, ex-distribution or XD date

The date on which declared distributions officially belong to underlying investors.

The proportion of a fund invested in a particular share/fixed income security, sector/region, usually expressed as a percentage of the overall portfolio.

### Fixed income security

A loan in the form of a security, usually issued by a government or company, which normally pays a fixed rate of interest over a given time period, at the end of which the initial amount borrowed is repaid.

### Floating rate notes (FRNs)

Securities whose interest (income) payments are periodically adjusted depending on the change in a reference interest rate.

Is the level of a company's debt in relation to its assets.

Fixed income securities issued by the UK government.

### Government bonds

Fixed income securities issued by governments, that normally pay a fixed rate of interest over a given time period, at the end of which the initial investment is repaid.

## Hard currency (bonds)

Refers to bonds denominated in a highly traded, relatively stable international currency, rather than in the bond issuer's local currency. Bonds issued in a more stable hard currency, such as the US dollar, can be more attractive to investors where there are concerns that the local currency could lose value over time, eroding the value of bonds and their income.

## Hedging

A method of reducing unnecessary or unintended risk.

# High yield bonds

Fixed income securities issued by companies with a low credit rating from a recognised credit rating agency. They are considered to be at higher risk of default than better quality, ie higher-rated fixed income securities but have the potential for higher rewards. Default means that a company or government is unable to meet interest payments or repay the initial investment amount at the end of security's life.

An index represents a particular market or a portion of it, serving as a performance indicator for that market.

Fixed income securities where both the value of the loan and the interest payments are adjusted in line with inflation over the life of the security. Also referred to as inflation-linked bonds.

The rate of increase in the cost of living. Inflation is usually quoted as an annual percentage, comparing the average price this month with the same month a year

## Investment Association (IA)

The UK trade body that represents fund managers. It works with investment managers, liaising with government on matters of taxation and regulation, and also aims to help investors understand the industry and the investment options available to them.

### Investment grade bonds

Fixed income securities issued by a company with a medium or high credit rating from a recognised credit rating agency. They are considered to be at lower risk from default than those issued by companies with lower credit ratings. Default means that a company or government is unable to meet interest payments or repay the initial investment amount at the end of a security's life.

### Investment trust

An investment trust is a form of collective investment found mostly in the United Kingdom. Investment trusts are closed-end funds and are constituted as public limited companies.

### Issuer

An entity that sells securities, such as fixed income securities and company shares.

### Leverage

When referring to a company, leverage is the level of a company's debt in relation to its assets. A company with significantly more debt than capital is considered to be leveraged. It can also refer to a fund that borrows money or uses derivatives to magnify an investment position.

### LIBOR

The three-month GBP London Interbank Borrowing Rate is the rate at which banks borrow money from each other (in UK pounds) for a three-month period.

### Liquidity

A company is considered highly liquid if it has plenty of cash at its disposal. A company's shares are considered highly liquid if they can be easily bought or sold since large amounts are regularly traded.

# Local currency (bonds)

Refers to bonds denominated in the currency of the issuer's country, rather than in a highly traded international currency, such as the US dollar. The value of local currency bonds tends to fluctuate more than bonds issued in a hard currency, as these currencies tend to be less stable.

### Long position

Refers to ownership of a security held in the expectation that the security will rise in value.

### Macroeconomic

Refers to the performance and behaviour of an economy at the regional or national level. Macroeconomic factors such as economic output, unemployment, inflation and investment are key indicators of economic performance. Sometimes abbreviated to 'macro'.

### Maturity

The length of time until the initial investment amount of a fixed income security is due to be repaid to the holder of the security.

### Monetary policy

A central bank's regulation of money in circulation and interest rates.

## Morningstar™

A provider of independent investment research, including performance statistics and independent fund ratings.

### Near cash

Deposits or investments with similar characteristics to cash.

# Net

The proportion of a fund invested in, for example, different sectors. Derivatives are included. The latter are financial instruments whose value, and price, are dependent on one or more underlying assets.

## Net Asset Value (NAV)

A fund's net asset value is calculated by taking the current value of the fund's assets and subtracting its liabilities.

# Non-Executive Director (NED)

A non-executive director is a member of a company's board of directors who is not part of the executive team. A non-executive director typically does not engage in the day-to-day management of the organization, but is involved in policymaking and planning exercises.

## **Options**

Financial contracts that offer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an asset at a given price on or before a given date in the future.

### Overweight

If a fund is 'overweight' a stock, it holds a larger proportion of that stock than the comparable index or sector.

### Payment date

The date on which distributions will be paid by the fund to investors, usually the last business day of the month.

### Physical

The fund's exposure excluding derivatives, which are financial instruments whose value, and price, is dependent on one or more underlying securities.

### Private

Refers to assets that are not listed or traded on a recognized exchange.

### **Public**

Refers to assets that are listed on and can be traded on a recognized exchange.

### REIT (Real Estate Investment Trust)

A REIT is a company that owns, operates or finances income-producing real estate.

### Retail Prices Index (RPI)

A UK inflation index that measures the rate of change of prices for a basket of goods and services in the UK, including mortgage payments and council tax.

### Securitise/Securitisation

The creation and issuance of tradable securities, such as bonds, that are backed by the income generated by an illiquid asset or group of assets. By pooling a collection of illiquid assets, such as mortgages, securities backed by the mortgages' income payments can be packaged and sold to a wider range of investors.

### Short position

A way for a fund manager to express his or her view that the market might fall in value.

### Short-dated corporate bonds

Fixed income securities issued by companies and repaid over relatively short periods.

# Short-dated government bonds

Fixed income securities issued by governments and repaid over relatively short periods.

### Spread duration

A measure of the portfolio's sensitivity to changes in credit spreads.

## Sub-investment grade bonds

Fixed income securities issued by a company with a low rating from a recognised credit rating agency. They are considered to be at higher risk from default than those issued by companies with higher credit ratings. Default means that a company or government is unable to meet interest payments or repay the initial investment amount at the end of a security's life.

### Swap

A swap is a derivative contract where two parties agree to exchange separate streams of cashflows. A common type of swap is an interest rate swap to hedge against interest rate risk.

### Synthetic inflation-linked bonds

Refers to securities created using a combination of assets to simulate the characteristics of inflation-linked bonds. By buying inflation-linked government bonds and selling protection against companies defaulting on their debts, using credit default swaps, the combined synthetic investment will behave similarly to a physical inflation-linked bond, had one had been issued. Synthetic inflation-linked bonds are usually created where a company does not have any inflation-linked bonds in issue.

### Total return

The term for the gain or loss derived from an investment over a particular period. Total return includes income (in the form of interest or dividend payments) and capital gains.

### Valuation

The worth of an asset or company based on its current price.

## Volatility

The degree to which a given security, fund, or index rapidly changes. It is calculated as the degree of deviation from the norm for that type of investment over a given time period. The higher the volatility, the riskier the security tends to be.

## Weighted Average Life (WAL)

The asset-weighted average number of years to final maturity of the portfolio, based on the final maturity for all assets/exposures.

### Yield

This refers to either the interest received from a fixed income security or to the dividends received from a share. It is usually expressed as a percentage based on the investment's costs, its current market value or its face value. Dividends represent a share in the profits of a company and are paid out to the company's shareholders at set times of the year.

### Yield to maturity

The total return anticipated on the portfolio if the underlying bonds are held until maturity.

# Important information

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