

Franklin Floating Rate Fund PLC–A (dis) USD

Franklin Floating Rate Fund plc

Fund Manager Report

Bank Loans Fixed Income 31 May 2020

Product Details¹

Fund Assets	\$427,649,097.40
Fund Inception Date	15/05/2000
Number of Securities Including Cash	139
Bloomberg	FRAFRAA ID
ISIN	IE0032578035
Base Currency	USD
Investment Style	Bank Loans
Benchmark	Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index
Morningstar Category™	Other Bond

Asset Allocation²

Market Value—Percent of Total

	%
Fixed Income	91.68
Cash & Cash Equivalents	5.47
Equity	2.85

Fund Description

A master feeder fund which seeks to provide investors with as high a level of current income and preservation of capital as is consistent with investing primarily in floating rate or variable rate senior secured corporate loans or senior secured debt securities.

Performance Data

Performance Net of Management Fees as at 31/05/2020 (Dividends Reinvested) (%)3

	1 Mth	3 Mths	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	(15/10/2002)
A (dis) USD	1.03	-11.19	-11.57	-12.45	-3.32	-0.67	1.72	2.29
Net of Sales Charge - A (dis) USD	-2.00	-13.86	-14.22	-15.08	-4.30	-1.27	1.41	2.12
Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index USD	3.80	-5.24	-6.02	-3.35	1.66	2.60	4.17	4.67

Cumulative Performance (%)

	1 Mth	3 Mths	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	(15/10/2002)
A (dis) USD	1.03	-11.19	-11.57	-12.45	-9.64	-3.31	18.61	49.16
Net of Sales Charge - A (dis) USD	-2.00	-13.86	-14.22	-15.08	-12.35	-6.21	15.05	44.68
Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index USD	3.80	-5.24	-6.02	-3.35	5.06	13.69	50.47	123.47

Portfolio Manager Insight

Performance Review

ONE-MONTH KEY PERFORMANCE DRIVERS

	Loan Selection	Quality/Tier	Sectors/Industries
	Transportation Issuers	_	Overweight in Automotive
HELPED	Retail Issuers	_	Overweight in Gaming
TILLI LD	Consumer Cyclical Service Issuers	_	_
	Energy Issuers	Lower-Tier	Underweight in Restaurants
HURT	Consumer Product Issuer	Middle-Tier	_
	Aerospace and Defense Issuer	Upper-Tier	_

- During the month, loan selection was the primary detractor from relative results, led by our selection amongst energy, consumer product and aerospace and defense issuers. Conversely, our loan selection amongst transportation, retail and consumer cyclical service issuers benefitted performance. Our industry allocation contributed to results (albeit marginally), led by our overweight in the automotive and gaming segments. Conversely, our underweight in the restaurant segment detracted from performance.
- The fund's allocation amongst all credit quality segments hindered results.
- We maintained our defensive positioning and overweight in Upper-Tier loans relative to the index

Outlook & Strategy

- During the month, the loan market extended the broad recovery that started in April. Given
 how spreads have compressed in the broader loan market, especially amongst single-B and
 triple-C credits relative to double-Bs, we maintain our belief that the market is largely being
 driven by technical conditions given the current recessionary environment.
- 1. All holdings are subject to change.
- 2. Market value figures reflect the trading value of the investments. Portfolio breakdown percentages may not total 100% and may be negative due to rounding, use of any derivatives, unsettled trades or other factors.

- However, factors such as demand from CLOs (collateralised loan obligations) and opportunistic inflows from sources such as separately
 managed accounts and hedge funds have contributed to a general compression of spreads across the asset class. In addition, new issuance
 remains subdued, which has also benefitted the technical environment and looks likely to continue, in our view.
- As the fundamental impact of the pandemic becomes increasingly apparent, we envision a growing bifurcation in performance in the asset class based on perceived resiliency and level of exposure. Given the impact of COVID-19 on business conditions, we expect to see an increasing number of defaults materialise. Consequently, we believe that bouts of volatility, with spread widening in the lower-quality part of the loan market and an increasing preference for higher-quality loan issuers, are probable.
- Our strategy remains to be overweight in higher-quality loans, with a focus on issuers in relatively defensive sectors with sound capital structures.
 We continue to look for opportunities to selectively add strong single-B rated loans that have room to appreciate, as double-B rated paper looks fully valued, in our view.
- While aiming to opportunistically rebalance into such issues, we also recognise the need to maintain a defensive posture through exposure to higher-quality issues in more recession- and coronavirus-resilient industries. The core of our risk management efforts remains prudent security selection and thorough due diligence.

Portfolio Characteristics ⁴				
	Portfolio	Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index		
Average Duration	0.85 Yrs	1.22 Yrs		
Average Credit Quality ⁵	BB-	В		
Average Weighted Maturity	3.78 Yrs	-		
Spread to LIBOR	4.10 bps	351.00 bps		
Time to Reset	74.00 Days	-		
Coupon Rate	4.58%	4.42%		
Discount Margin	4.28%	6.83%		
Average Price	\$82.62	\$88.56		

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^{5.} The average credit quality (ACQ) rating may change over time. The portfolio itself has not been rated by an independent rating agency. The letter rating, which may be based on bond ratings from different agencies, is provided to indicate the average credit rating of the portfolio's underlying bonds and generally ranges from AAA (highest) to D (lowest). For unrated bonds ratings may be assigned based on the ratings of the issuer or other relevant factors. The ACQ is determined by assigning a sequential integer to all credit ratings AAA to D, taking a simple, asset-weighted average of debt holdings by market value and rounding to the nearest rating. The risk of default increases as a bond's rating decreases, so the ACQ provided is not a statistical measurement of the portfolio's default risk because a simple, weighted average does not measure the increasing level of risk from lower rated bonds. The ACQ is provided for informational purposes only. Derivative positions are not reflected in the ACQ.

Portfolio Diversification⁴

Sector Allocation vs. Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index⁶ Market Value—Percent of Total

Health Care 12 86 7.60 Food & Beverage 4.73 Services 11.40 6.93 Transportation 6.86 Gaming/Leisure Technology Broadcasting 2.13 5.05 Aerospace & Defence 2.08 Consumer Products 2.72 Industrial Retailers 3.07 Packaging 2.62 Telecommunications Energy Cable Satellite 61₁₀ Finance 7.32 1.67 Media 4.56 1.53 Chemicals

3.77

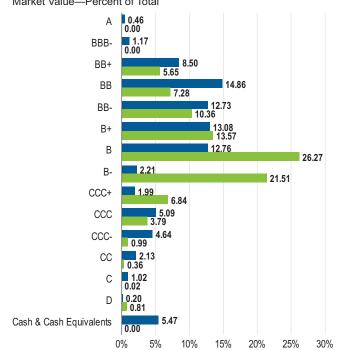
4.96

10%

5%

0.9643

Credit Quality Allocation vs. Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index^{7,8} Market Value—Percent of Total



Franklin Floating Rate Fund PLC Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index

Franklin Floating Rate Fund PLC Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index

Wireless

Home Building Metals & Mining

Collateralized Loan Obligation

Cash & Cash Equivalents

Utility

Other

Supplemental Performance Statistics

0.00 0%

Supplemental Risk Statistics9

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	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Since Inception
Standard Deviation (%)				
Franklin Floating Rate Fund PLC	7.57	6.39	5.05	5.89
Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index	8.44	6.82	5.30	6.77
Tracking Error (%)	2.76	2.33	1.74	2.09
Information Ratio ¹⁰	-1.80	-1.40	-1.41	-1.14
Sharpe Ratio				
Franklin Floating Rate Fund PLC	-0.66	-0.28	0.23	0.18
Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index	0.00	0.22	0.68	0.51

15%

Investment Team

Portfolio Manager	Years with Firm	Years Experience
Reema Agarwal, CFA	15	23
Justin G. Ma, CFA	13	13
Margaret Chiu, CFA	8	8
Judy Sher	6	17

- 6. Market value figures reflect the trading value of the investments. Portfolio breakdown percentages may not total 100% and may be negative due to rounding, use of any derivatives, unsettled trades or other factors.
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- 8. Ratings shown are assigned by one or more Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations ('NRSRO'), such as Standard & Poor's and Moody's. The ratings are an indication of an issuer's creditworthiness and typically range from AAA or Aaa (highest) to D (lowest). When ratings from both agencies are available, the lower rating is used; and when only one is available, that rating is used. Foreign government bonds without a specific rating are assigned the country rating provided by an NRSRO, if available. The NR category consists of ratable securities that have not been rated by an NRSRO. The N/A category consists of nonratable securities (e.g., equities). Cash includes equivalents, which may be rated.
- 9. Information Ratio and Tracking Error information are displayed for the product versus the Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index.
- 10. Information Ratio is a way to evaluate a manager's ability to outperform a benchmark in relation to the risk that manager is assuming, with risk defined as deviation from the benchmark. This measure is calculated by dividing the portfolio's excess return (portfolio return less the benchmark return) by the tracking error (derived by taking the standard deviation of the monthly differences between the portfolio return and the benchmark return over time).

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What Are the Key Risks?

The value of shares in the Fund and income received from it can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the full amount invested. Performance may also be affected by currency fluctuations. Currency fluctuations may affect the value of overseas investments. The Fund invests mainly in equity and debt securities of US companies. Such securities have historically been subject to significant price movements that may occur suddenly due to market or company-specific factors. As a result, the performance of the Fund can fluctuate considerably over time. Investors should be aware that the fund's share price and yield will fluctuate with market conditions. Counterparty Risk: the risk of failure of financial institutions or agents (when serving as a counterparty to financial contracts) to perform their obligations, whether due to insolvency, bankruptcy or other causes. Derivatives risk: the risk of loss in an instrument where a small change in the value of the underlying investment may have a larger impact on the value of such instrument. Derivatives may involve additional liquidity, credit and counterparty risks. Liquidity risk: the risk that arises when adverse market conditions affect the ability to sell assets when necessary. Reduced liquidity may have a negative impact on the price of the assets. Other significant risks include: lower-rated or non-investment grade securities risk, credit risk, derivative instruments risk, and interest rate securities risk. For full details of all of the risks applicable to this Fund, please refer to the "Risk Factors" section of the Fund in the current prospectus of Franklin Floating Rate Fund plc.

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Performance figures are not based on audited financial statements and assume reinvestment of interest and dividends. When comparing the performance of Franklin Floating Rate Fund plc (the "Fund") with a benchmark index, it is important to note that the securities in which the Fund invests may be substantially different than those represented by the benchmark index. Furthermore, an investment in Franklin Floating Rate Fund plc represents an investment in a managed investment company in which certain charges and expenses, including management fees, are applicable. These charges and expenses are not applicable to indices. Lastly, please note that indices are unmanaged and are not available for direct investment. Certain data and other information shown have been supplied by outside sources. While we consider that information to be reliable, we give no assurance that such data and information is accurate or complete.

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The indices include a greater number of securities than those held in the Fund.

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