SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

Fund Commentary

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HINC Hartford High Yield ETF

Inception Date 9/30/98 **Listing Date** 10/19/2026 **Morningstar® Category** High Yield Bond

Market Overview

Global fixed income markets came under pressure in the third quarter of 2026 as persistent inflation, higher energy prices, and a broad repricing of central bank policy pushed government bond yields sharply higher. Corporate credit markets also weakened as spreads widened across regions, sectors, and ratings categories amid higher government bond yields, persistent inflation concerns, elevated issuance, and geopolitical uncertainty. Despite the more challenging backdrop, investor demand remained strong and investment-grade (IG) fund flows stayed positive.

Performance Summary

- The Hartford High Yield Fund (I Share) underperformed the Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield Bond Index during the quarter.
- In aggregate, sector allocation had a positive impact on relative performance during the quarter. An underweight to the wirelines sector and overweight to technology contributed to relative results. In contrast, an overweight to the cable and satellite sector and an underweight to energy detracted from relative results.
- In aggregate, security selection had a negative impact on relative performance during the quarter. From a sector perspective, the largest detractors were security selection within the financial institutions and leisure industries. In contrast, the largest positive contributors were security selection within the technology and cable and satellite sectors.

Positioning & Outlook

- Corporate issuers continue to grapple with uncertain trade policy and the geopolitical environment, while investment and capital expenditures remain elevated in select areas. From a fundamental perspective, corporate issuers maintain healthy profit margins and coverage ratios with manageable leverage ratios relative to long-term averages. However, we are beginning to see divergence in the market, with some sectors emerging as winners and losers from the current economic environment. Capital allocation trends are starting to favor shareholders over creditors, and we are expecting more leveraged mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activity going forward. From a valuation perspective, high yield credit spreads have widened but remain inside median levels.
- We are positioning portfolios with a defensive tilt going into the fourth quarter of 2026, primarily due to less attractive valuations, risks of an extended Middle East conflict, and our view that global economic tail risks are not adequately priced. We anticipate further volatility and increased dispersion as the US and global economic picture evolves alongside events in the Middle East and a shift toward more restrictive central bank policy. Depending on the source of spread widening, we may tactically increase risk to take advantage of more attractive valuations. However, we remain cautious on challenged issuers given increasing risk of creditor-on-creditor violence and liability management exercises. High yield defaults remain below historical median levels, although activity has increased modestly among CCC rated issuers. We believe security selection will become increasingly important and are particularly focused on issuers' ability to pass on higher costs. Strong earnings and interest coverage provide ample cushion for deterioration, in our view. Still, we prefer more stable credit profiles and are wary of rising stress in private credit, which could signal further defaults.
- At the end of the period, the Fund's largest industry overweights were to the retailers and healthcare industries. The largest industry underweights in the fund were to the aerospace/defense and gaming industries.

Portfolio manager from Wellington Management and years of experience

Blake Huynh, CPA, 29 years

Top Ten Holdings (%)

U.S. Treasury Notes	3.15
iShares iBoxx USD High Yield Corporate Bond ETF	2.54
Tenet Healthcare Corp.	2.03
CCO Holdings LLC/CCO Holdings Capital Corp.	1.69
Directv Financing LLC/Directv Financing Co-Obligor, Inc.	1.62
CHS/Community Health Systems, Inc.	1.58
Cloud Software Group LLC	1.56
EchoStar Corp.	1.54
Ardonagh Group Finance Ltd.	1.49
Sunoco LP	1.48
Percentage Of Portfolio	**18.68**

Holdings and characteristics are subject to change. Percentages may be rounded.

Spreads are the difference in yields between two fixed-income securities with the same maturity, but originating from different investment sectors.

Average Annual Total Returns (%)

	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	SI
HINC NAV	-2.19	-0.71	0.83	7.45	3.37	4.77	5.40
HINC Market Price	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bloomberg US Corporate High-Yield Bond Index	-1.82	0.10	1.41	8.03	3.60	5.05	—
Morningstar Category	-1.56	0.41	1.69	7.44	3.44	4.49	—

Expenses[1]: Gross 0.51% Net 0.50%

Morningstar® Category High Yield Bond

SI = Since Inception. Predecessor Fund Inception: 9/30/98. Prior to the close of business on 10/16/26, the Fund operated as an open-end mutual fund (the "Predecessor Fund") with the same investment objective and principal investment strategy as the Predecessor Fund. Prior to 3/31/26, the Predecessor Fund pursued a modified principal investment strategy. The NAV returns prior to the Fund's listing on the exchange on 10/19/26 include returns of the Predecessor Fund's Class F-shares through 2/28/17 and, prior to that date, other classes of the Predecessor Fund through 9/30/98. The market-price returns began with the Fund's listing on the exchange on 10/19/26. If the Predecessor Fund had been structured as an exchange-traded fund, the performance may have differed.

Performance data quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. For more current performance information to the most recent month ended, please visit hartfordfunds.com.

ETF shares are bought and sold at market price, not net asset value (NAV). Total returns are calculated using the daily 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time NAV. Market price returns reflect the midpoint of the bid/ask spread as of the close of trading on the exchange where Fund shares are listed. Market price returns do not represent the returns an investor would receive if they traded shares at other times. Brokerage commissions apply and will reduce returns.

Benchmark: Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield Bond Index is an unmanaged broad-based market-value-weighted index that tracks the total return performance of non-investment grade, fixed-rate, publicly placed, dollar denominated and nonconvertible debt registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Indices are unmanaged and not available for direct investment.

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[1]Expenses are from the Fund's most recent prospectus at the time of publication. Gross expenses do not reflect contractual expense reimbursement arrangements. Net expenses reflect such arrangements in instances when they reduce gross expenses. These arrangements remain in effect until 2/29/28 unless the Fund's Board of Trustees approves an earlier termination. Without these arrangements, performance would have been lower.

Important Risks: Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Security prices of the Fund's underlying holdings will fluctuate in value depending on general market and economic conditions and the prospects of individual companies. The market price of the Fund's shares will fluctuate in response to changes in the Fund's net asset value, intraday value of the Fund's holdings, and the supply and demand for shares on the exchange. • The Fund is actively managed and does not seek to replicate the performance of a specified index. • Investments in high-yield ("junk") bonds are considered speculative, involve heightened credit risk and greater risk of price volatility, illiquidity, and default than investment grade bonds. • Fixed income security risks include credit, liquidity, call, duration, event, and interest-rate risk. As interest rates rise, bond prices generally fall. • Foreign investments may be more volatile and less liquid than U.S. investments and are subject to the risk of currency fluctuations and adverse political, economic and regulatory developments. • Restricted securities may be more difficult to sell and price than other securities. • The Fund's investments may fluctuate in value over a short period of time. • Derivatives are generally more volatile and sensitive to changes in market or economic conditions than other securities; their risks include currency, leverage, liquidity, index, pricing, valuation, and counterparty risk. • Loans can be difficult to value and less liquid than other types of debt instruments; they are also subject to nonpayment, collateral, bankruptcy, default, extension, prepayment and insolvency risks. • Convertible securities are subject to the risks of both equity and fixed income investments. • When the Fund holds cash or is otherwise not fully invested, it is subject to the risk that it will not participate in market advances to the same extent as it would if it were fully invested. • The Fund may effect creations and redemptions partly or wholly for cash, rather than in-kind, which may make the Fund less tax-efficient and incur more fees than an ETF that primarily or wholly effects creations and redemptions in-kind.

Investors should carefully consider a fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. This and other important information is contained in a fund's full prospectus and summary prospectus, which can be obtained by visiting hartfordfunds.com. Please read it carefully before investing.

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