# LAZARD

*October* 2019

# Lazard Credit Fi.

International bonds and debt securities	Share Classes*	ISIN code	NAV €	Net assets (€ million) :	Total net assets (€ million) :
	PVC EUR unit	FR0010590950	15 610,17	601,80	
	RVC EUR unit	FR0010752543	345,78	64,92	957,56
	PC EUR unit	FR0011844034	1 274,56	103,80	
	PVD EUR unit	FR0012074151	104,94	105,20	
	PD EUR unit	FR0013306743	1 010,18	48,48	
	TC EUR unit	FR0013305935	207,82	29,92	
	RVD EUR unit	FR0013306735	200,27	0,47	
		ISIN code	NAV \$	Net assets (\$ million) :	
	PC H-USD unit	FR0013305935	1 331,53	2,84	
* Not all share classes of the relevant sub-fund are		ISIN code	NAV CHF	Net assets (CHF million) :	
registered for marketing in Germany and Austria	PC H-CHF unit	FR0013076932	1 115,83	0,48	
MANAGEMENT					

### ■ INVESTMENT POLICY

The management objective aims to achieve, on a minimum investment horizon of 3 years, a performance net of fees of ICE BoFAML Euro Financial Index in Euros for PVC EUR, PVD EUR, RVC EUR, RVD EUR, PVD EUR, PVD EUR, TC EUR units, ICE BofAML Euro Financial in Franc Swiss 100% hedged for PC H-CHF unit and ICE BofAML Euro Financial 100% hedged in Dollar US for PC H-USD unit. To attain this objective, the strategy will rely on an active management of the portfolio mainly invested in subordinated securities (this type of debt is more risky than Senior Unsecured or Securitized debts), or any securities, not considered as common stocks, issued by European financial institutions. The investment process combine both a Top-down approach (strategic and geographical allocation approach which takes into consideration the macro and sectorial environments) and a Bottom-up approach (stock-picking based on fundamental analysis of the issuer and its securities) and then integrating the regulatory environment in which this asset class evolves. The modified duration will be managed in a 0 to 8 range. The UCIT will only invest into debts or securities issued by companies incorporated in an OECD country and/or in issues or securities listed on a stock exchange of those countries. The UCIT only invests in securities negotiated in Euro, dollar and sterling.

#### **FUND MANAGER'S COMMENT - François Lavier - Alexis Lautrette**

The net asset value of Lazard Credit Fi rose by +1,0% over the month (IVC share).

Spreads on financial debt have all tightened. Tier 2 bonds tightened by -18 bps to 172 bps and Senior debts tightened by -8 bps to 81 bps according to JP Morgan's SUSI indices. AT1s in OAS tightened by -27 bps to 360 bps according to Bloomberg Barclays Global Index.

The German government bond yield curve steepened during the month, with the 10-year yield up +16 bps to -0,4%, the 5-year yield up +15 bps to -0,6%, while the 2-year yield up +10 bps to -0,7%.

For 2019, Lazard Credit Fi posted a net performance of +10,2% vs +9,0% for the JP Morgan SUSI Lower Tier 2 and +13,6% for the Barclays Global Contingent Capital € Hedged Index.

Lazard Credit Fi has a 260-day volatility of 2,2% vs 1,9% for the SUSI Lower Tier 2 and 3,9% for the Barclays Global Contingent Capital € Hedged Index.

Once again, political newsflows and Central Banks were the main drivers of the markets in October. A "Phase 1" agreement between the US and China is underway, the UK has, once again, postponed its Brexit up to January 31, 2020 and B. Johnson has launched the process of new elections coming on December 12. Central Banks are cutting Rates (Fed, -25 bps, 3rd cut this year), increasing the size of their balance sheets (Fed +60 bn / month, starting October 15, ECB +620 bn month, starting October 30) and the tiering for Eurozone banks has been introduced the same day as its QE program, limiting the impact of negative Rates for close to 40% of banks' reserves.

Macroeconomic datas are still mixed, with no signs of improvement on the Manufacturing front, and still very good jobs reports.

Positioning from investors continues being too defensive and Technicals were and are still very supportive to the credit market: inflows into credit Funds are continuing, supply was lighter in October and we are in the last weeks of potential issuance for the current year, funding programs are already 95% completed by banks, cash is still very important in investors hands and traders were excessively prudent, wishing without obtaining a "repeat" of last year 4Q sell-off. Hence, the path of least resistance continues to be for spreads tightening from now.

On Credit Fi, the largest contributors to performance are UK banks through all the capital structure (+40bps), followed by italian Tier 2 (+25bps, Unicredit and Monte mainly). Variable rates Legacy bonds also performed well with +20bps for an average weight of 7%.

The primary market, excluding covered bonds, totaled 24 bn $\in$  in gross issuance according to Barclays, with net bank issuance totaling +10 bn $\in$  over the months. Since the beginning of the year, gross issuance has represented 249 bn $\in$  and net issuance +84 bn $\in$ .

PERFOR	RMANCE										
HISTOR	RICAL PERFORM	MANCE									
140 ⊤				Lazard Cre	dit Fi. IVC		Chained In	ndex			
130 -											
120 -								~			
110 -					~~~~						
100 -											
90 +	1							1		1	
10/31/14	4125125	9128115	3112116	8125116	217117	7123127	115/18	6120118	12/3/18	5118119	10 31 19

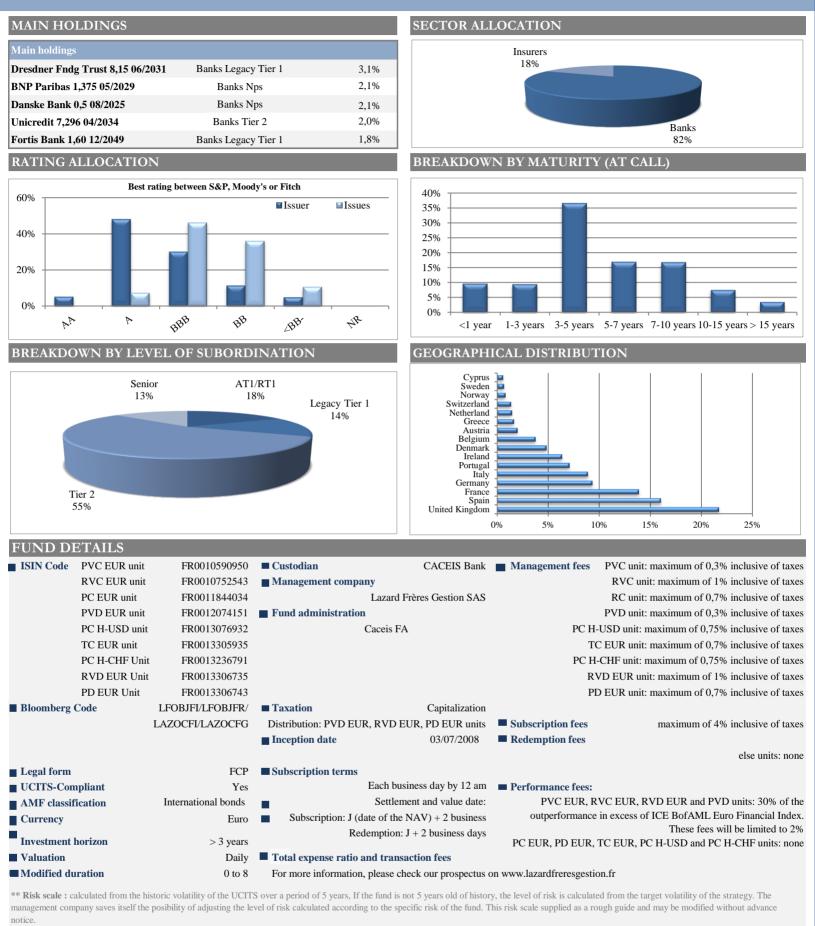
Past performance indications is not a guarantee of current or future performance. The return may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations The tax treatment depends on the indivividual circumstances of each investor and may be subject to change in the future

PERFORMANCE						SCALE	E RISK*	*				
nnualized performance*	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	1	2	3	4	5	6 7	
azard Credit Fi. IVC	-4,55%	7,74%	5,27%	1,14%	6,53%							-
Shained Index***	2,37%	2,36%	1,03%	-0,11%	0,10%		le calculate	ed from the	volatility of	the UCITS ove	er a period of 5 ye	ars (see detail o
						back). Risk 1 does	s not mean	a risk-free i	nvestment. T	<i>This indicator</i>	may change over i	time.
umulative performance*	Month	YTD	1 year	3 years	5 ans	RISK F						
azard Credit Fi. IVC	0,97%	10,24%	8,29%	13,78%	22,09%		AIIOS	)				
Shained Index***	-0,10%	3,62%	4,03%	9,00%	9,58%						1 year	3 year
The performance quoted represents past performance. Past performance less than one year is given for illustrative pu		uarantee future result	<i>S</i> .			Volatility	y					
** Since April 1st, ICE BofAML Euro Financial Index, from	June 30, 2016 to Marc	h 29, 2019 Eonia Cap	i +2,70% before 1	Eonia Capi.								
Iodified duration4,4		Spread duration		4,6				]	Lazard Cre	dit Fi. IVC	3,06%	3,32%
									Chainea	l Index***	1,33%	1,15%
Yield to maturity (Without hedging costs)	9,7%	Average rating (i	ssuer) <sup>1</sup>	BBB+		Tracking	Terror				2,77%	2,66%
(without neuging costs)							tion ratio				1,45	0,54
Yield to call (Without hedging costs)	2,9%	Average rating (i	ssues) <sup>1</sup>	BBB-		Ratios calo	culated on a	ı weekly ba.	sis over 1 ye	ar and month	ly over three years	
		<sup>1</sup> Average rating for e	ach security			Cross en	rrency ex	mosuro				
Yield to call (With hedging costs) 2	2,3%	Spread vs	s Govt.	287			R / 21%		% GBP			
Yield to Worst 2	2,8%					Net curr 100% E	ency expo UR	osure:				
	Lazard Fr	ères Gestion SAS	, 25 rue de co	urcelles - 7500	8 Paris with a	capital of € 14	4,487,500	)				
		0		under the numb								
Por	tfolio Managemer	t Company appro	•	utorité des Mar azardfreresgest		rs" under nun	iber GP (	04 00006	8."			

# LAZARD FRÈRES GESTION

# October 2019

## Lazard Credit Fi.



Contacts :	Additional and data	
Subscription/Redemption	information:	Publication of NAVs :
CACEIS Bank	Commercial service	www.lazardfreresgestion.fr
+331.57.78.14.14	+331.44.13.01.79	
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