# **EJF Investments Limited**

#### MONTHLY FACTSHEET



MONTHLY NAV PERFORMANCE													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ост	NOV	DEC	YTD
2024 Monthly Performance (inclusive of dividends) (%)	0.80	1.10	1.10	1.26	(0.26)	1.45	(0.19)	(0.42)					5.36
2023 Monthly Performance (inclusive of dividends) (%)	(0.58)	1.48	(4.55)	(0.17)	0.84	(6.72)	0.91	1.63	(0.36)	0.80	(0.69)	0.25	(7.27)
2022 Monthly Performance (inclusive of dividends) (%)	0.13	1.34	2.22	4.01	0.72	1.87	1.09	2.73	2.47	(0.40)	(3.15)	0.20	13.85
2021 Monthly Performance (inclusive of dividends) (%)	1.99	0.15	2.12	0.44	(2.09)	2.80	(0.01)	0.55	3.06	(0.16)	3.25	(1.43)	11.02
2020 Monthly Performance (inclusive of dividends) (%)	0.47	0.18	(13.57)	0.58	3.33	0.15	1.25	0.34	0.40	(0.73)	1.16	0.25	(7.02)
2019 Monthly Performance (inclusive of dividends) (%)	0.35	0.41	1.77	5.61	0.83	0.26	0.56	0.62	0.21	0.04	0.13	0.63	11.88
2018 Monthly Performance (inclusive of dividends) (%)	8.28	0.70	0.12	2.70	2.10	1.62	0.50	2.39	0.08	0.32	0.22	(1.13)	19.08
2017 Monthly Performance (inclusive of dividends) (%)	0.51*	2.96	3.65	0.24	2.85	0.34	0.90	1.37	0.54	4.92	0.59	2.53	23.47

<sup>\*</sup>This performance reflects the period 1 February through 9 February, the Exchange Offer Completion Date.

EJF Capital LLC AUM1

\$6.0 Billion

EJFI Annualised Performance since inception<sup>2</sup> (%)

8 88

#### **Investment Manager Monthly Commentary**

**Portfolio Activity:** EJFI's August 2024 NAV was £97.82 million or GBp1602 per share, representing a loss (inclusive of dividends) of 0.42% for the month which, for the second month in a row, was mainly driven by FX movements.

The underlying portfolio returned a 1.13% gain driven by The underlying portfolio returned a 1.13% gain driven by a 1.34% return from Securitisations & Related Investments. CDO Equity Tranche prices were flat month on month, meaning the rest of the return was driven largely by regular interest accruals. Elsewhere, MSRs were down 0.26% on account of downward mortgage rate movements. US Treasuries were up 0.04% and the US Bank debt portfolio was flat for the month

The US Dollar depreciated against Sterling during the month resulting in a 1.22% loss. The Company continues to hedge approximately 54% of its underlying US Dollar asset exposure as at month end.

August was a volatile month for the broad equity market as a weak set of employment data caused concern that the Federal Reserve (the "Fed") may be behind the curve with regards to cutting short-term rates. Additionally, the Manager believes that the tightening of the presidential race has likely contributed to the weakness in bank equities. As the month progressed, equity markets rebounded and Fed Chair Jay Powell's speech in Jackson Hole, Wyoming confirmed market expectations of a first rate cut in September. As of month-end, Fed Funds futures expect four cuts in 2024 and five additional cuts in 2025 for an assumed rate of 3.08% at the end of next year. While the forward curve may be a bit too aggressive in its rate cut expectations, the Manager believes that lower rates directionally are very positive for the typical small bank as it pertains to credit quality, margins, M&A and potential loan growth in 2025 all of which benefits much of the underlying exposure of the Company. August was a volatile month for the broad equity market

The Manager believes that small and mid-sized banks offer the best way to capitalize on a full turn in the cycle. The Manager also believes that smaller banks benefit more than bigger banks as rates decline, as loan growth picks up, and as M&A rebounds.

In the Manager's view, a multi-year cycle for the banks may be on the horizon. If that were the case, bank earnings could see upwards of a 70-80% increase over the course of a full cycle, which would include earnings increasing approximately 50% just from net interest margins rebounding. For example, many of the banks the Manager follows have seen net interest margin decline from 3.5% to 2.75% as the Fed raised rates

500bps this cycle. Additionally, small and medium sized banks typically grow much quicker than the industry and the Manager believes that multi-year earnings growth could be 25% or more. Finally, it is the Manager's view that fears over commercial real estate ("CRE") lending, unrealised securities losses and the events of March 2023 have discounted the multiples applied to bank shares. As lower yielding loans and securities roll off bank balance sheets, valuation multiples are likely to expand. Any additional M&A, regulatory changes or technology shifts should be a benefit to the small banks debt held by the Company.

The US CRT market was active on the issuance front in August with deals coming from JP Morgan on its corporate revolver book and Goldman Sachs on its capital call lines. The deals in August follow an active July where Pinnacle Financial Partners and Valley National Bancorp each printed deals. In the Manager's view there is more interest from the community and regional banks alike and there are several deals in the

Post month end update on Republic First: In April 2024, the Company experienced its first underlying investment default since listing in 2017 as Republic First Bancorp ("Republic First") was seized by Pennsylvania regulators. For perspective, the Company has debt exposures to 154 different bank issuers (and has debt exposures to 154 different bank issuers (and over its history, has been invested in as many as 166 bank issuers) through its investment in CDO Equity Tranches. The Manager believes that Republic First's problems were not related to its CRE exposures, but rather mismanagement of its balance sheet investments. Republic First's debt payments had already been in deferral status at the time of the FDIC seizure

Based on the Manager's view of the mechanics of the forced sale by the FDIC of Republic First to Fulton Bank, the Manager provided guidance in April 2024 that there could be a potential loss of up to 1% of the Company's NAV on a look-through basis; as a result of Republic First's former parent Chapter 11 bankruptcy application on 5 September 2024, the Manager anticipates the bankruptcy application may be taken into consideration by the independent broker and may result in this previously anticipated 1% loss to flow through to the September 2024 NAV. In addition, the Manager anticipates that the independent broker may recalibrate the yield of the related securitisation deal in light of anticipated future interest rate cuts to align with both anticipated future interest rate cuts to align with both other CDO Equity Tranches of similar securitisations and other recently issued bank debt which could lead to a mark to market loss in September 2024 NAV up to an additional 1% of the Company's NAV.

AUM includes \$3.2 billion of CDO managed assets and \$125.8 million of uncalled capital as at 30 June 2024. Based on the Company's 31 August

EJFI Key Facts (as of 31 August 2024)					
Ticker Symbol	EJFI LN				
NAV/Share	GBp160 (\$2.10 equivalent)				
Share Price	GBp99.5				
Share Price Discount to NAV	37.8%				
EJFI NAV	£97.8 million				
Market Cap	£60.8 million				
Gross Asset Value	£123.7 million				
Target Return	8%-10% total return p.a.				
Quarterly Dividend <sup>1</sup>	GBp2.675 per share (GBp10.7 per share p.a.)				
Dividend Yield	10.8% p.a. (share price)				
Hedging ratio <sup>2</sup>	54.2%				
Gearing ratio <sup>3</sup>	25.9%				
Ongoing Charges <sup>4</sup>	1.2% (1.8% gross of Manager reimbursement)				
2025 ZDP Shares	Ticker: EJF0 LN Shares: 19.3m, Maturity: 6/2025 Capital Entitlement: GBp140.0 Current Share Price: GBp129.5				

<sup>1</sup>The Company targets an annual dividend of 10.7 pence per share for the financial year to 31 December 2024, to be distributed evenly in four quarterly payments.

<sup>2</sup>The Company's base currency is denominated in GBP, though most of the Company's investments are currently in USD. As of 31 August 2024, USD 85.3m of approximately USD 157.4m exposure is hedged.

<sup>3</sup>Gearing ratio is computed as current accreted value of ZDP Shares over the NAV of the Company.

<sup>4</sup>For FY 23 and calculated in line with Association of Investment Companies ("AIC") recommended methodology. Manager Reimbursement reduced from 60% for FY23 to 10% until 30 June 2024 and nil thereafter

## **EJF Investments Limited**

# EJF

#### **MONTHLY FACTSHEET**

#### Existing Portfolio Breakdown<sup>1</sup>

#### Securitisations & Related Investments

- £74.9 million investment in 7 CDO Equity Tranches of securitisations sponsored by EJF Capital LLC
- £5.2 million investment in EJF CDO Manager LLC (49% ownership interest)
- £4.5 million investment in 7 Mezzanine debt securities of securitisations sponsored by EJF Capital LLC
- £1.1 million investment in a TruPS CDO security

#### **Specialty Finance Investments**

£8.3 million investment in a portfolio of mortgage servicing rights ("MSRs")

#### **Credit Risk Transfer**

■ £4.5 million in two Credit risk transfer ("CRT") transactions

#### **U.S.** Treasuries

£3.3 million in U.S. Treasury bills to partially hedge MSRs

#### U.S. Bank debt

£1.4 million in one subordinated debt instrument issued by a US Bank

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents

- £4.7 million unrestricted cash
- £2.8 million restricted cash<sup>2</sup>
- £12.7 million in a money market fund

#### Other Assets

£0.2 million of other assets

<sup>1</sup>Based on the Company's 31 August 2024 unaudited financials.

<sup>2</sup>Including an unrealised gain on forward currency contracts of £2.7 million.

## **US Treasuries** Other Assets US Bank debt 2.7% 0.2% 1.1% Cash and Cash Equivalents 16.4% specialty Finance Investments 6.7% Securitisations & Related Investments 69.3% Credit Risk Transfer 3.6%

#### **COMPANY OVERVIEW**

EJF Investments Ltd ("EJFI" or the "Company", together with its subsidiary the "Group") is a Jersey incorporated, closed end investment company. EJFI's shares are traded on the Specialist Fund Segment of the London Stock Exchange.

EJFI offers exposure to a portfolio of loans to US financial institutions and related assets, with an emphasis on floating rate debt. EJFI's objective is to provide shareholders with attractive risk adjusted returns via regular dividends and capital growth over the long term.

#### **PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW**

EJFI primarily invests in a diversified portfolio of debt issued by smaller US banks and insurance companies via CDO Equity Tranches, where the CDOs were structured by an affiliate of EJF Capital LLC.

EJFI owns a 49% interest in EJF CDO Manager LLC (the "CDO Manager") that manages CDOs and generates regular income. EJFI also invests in Specialty Finance Investments, including Mortgage Servicing Rights ("MSRs") which provide regular income in exchange for servicing pools of US mortgages.



## **EJF Investments Limited**

#### **MONTHLY FACTSHEET**

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The Company has appointed ACOLIN Fund Services SA, 6 Cours de Rive, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland, as its Swiss Representative. Banque Cantonale de Genève, 17 Quai de l'Ile, CH-1208 Geneva, Switzerland is the Swiss Paying Agent. In Switzerland shares shall be distributed exclusively to qualified investors. The fund offering documents, articles of association and audited financial statements can be obtained free of charge from the Representative. The place of performance with respect to shares distributed in or from Switzerland is the registered office of the Representative.

EJF Investments Limited is regulated by the Jersey Financial Services Commission.