

PIMCO INCOME STRATEGY FUND
Form N-CSRS
March 29, 2019

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-CSR

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT

INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number: 811-21374

PIMCO Income Strategy Fund

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019

(Address of principal executive offices)

Trent W. Walker

Treasurer (Principal Financial & Accounting Officer)

650 Newport Center Drive

Newport Beach, CA 92660

(Name and address of agent for service)

Copies to:

David C. Sullivan

Ropes & Gray LLP

Prudential Tower

800 Boylston Street

Boston, MA 02199

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (844) 337-4626

Date of fiscal year end: July 31

Edgar Filing: PIMCO INCOME STRATEGY FUND - Form N-CSRS

Date of reporting period: January 31, 2019

Form N-CSR is to be used by management investment companies to file reports with the Commission not later than 10 days after the transmission to stockholders of any report that is required to be transmitted to stockholders under Rule 30e-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30e-1). The Commission may use the information provided on Form N-CSR in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection, and policymaking roles.

A registrant is required to disclose the information specified by Form N-CSR, and the Commission will make this information public. A registrant is not required to respond to the collection of information contained in Form N-CSR unless the Form displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. Please direct comments concerning the accuracy of the information collection burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609. The OMB has reviewed this collection of information under the clearance requirements of 44 U.S.C. § 3507.

Item 1. Reports to Shareholders.

The following is a copy of the report transmitted to shareholders pursuant to Rule 30e-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act) (17 CFR 270.30e-1).

PIMCO CLOSED-END FUNDS

Semiannual Report

January 31, 2019

PIMCO Corporate & Income Opportunity Fund | PTY | NYSE

PIMCO Corporate & Income Strategy Fund | PCN | NYSE

PIMCO High Income Fund | PHK | NYSE

PIMCO Income Strategy Fund | PFL | NYSE

PIMCO Income Strategy Fund II | PFN | NYSE

Beginning on January 1, 2021, as permitted by regulations adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, paper copies of the Fund's annual and semi-annual shareholder reports will no longer be sent by mail, unless you specifically request paper copies of the reports. Instead, the reports will be made available on the Fund's website, pimco.com/literature, and you will be notified by mail each time a report is posted and provided with a website link to access the report.

If you already elected to receive shareholder reports electronically, you will not be affected by this change and you need not take any action. You may elect to receive shareholder reports and other communications from the Fund electronically by visiting pimco.com/edelivery or by contacting your financial intermediary, such as a broker-dealer or bank.

Beginning January 1, 2019, you may elect to receive all future reports in paper free of charge. If you own these shares through a financial intermediary, such as a broker-dealer or bank, you may contact your financial intermediary to request that you continue to receive paper copies of your shareholder reports. If you invest directly with the Fund, you can inform the Fund that you wish to continue receiving paper copies of your shareholder reports by calling 844.337.4626. Your election to receive reports in paper will apply to all funds held with the fund complex if you invest directly with the Fund or to all funds held in your account if you invest through a financial intermediary, such as a broker-dealer or bank.

Table of Contents

	Page
<u>Letter from the Chair of the Board & President</u>	2
<u>Important Information About the Funds</u>	4
<u>Financial Highlights</u>	16
<u>Statements of Assets and Liabilities</u>	18
<u>Statements of Operations</u>	19
<u>Statements of Changes in Net Assets</u>	20
<u>Statements of Cash Flows</u>	22
<u>Notes to Financial Statements</u>	81
<u>Special Shareholder Meeting Results</u>	103
<u>Changes to the Boards of Trustees</u>	104
<u>Glossary</u>	105

Fund	Fund Summary	Schedule of Investments
<u>PIMCO Corporate & Income Opportunity Fund</u>	<u>11</u>	23
<u>PIMCO Corporate & Income Strategy Fund</u>	<u>12</u>	37
<u>PIMCO High Income Fund</u>	<u>13</u>	48
<u>PIMCO Income Strategy Fund</u>	<u>14</u>	59
<u>PIMCO Income Strategy Fund II</u>	<u>15</u>	70

Letter from the Chair of the Board & President

Dear Shareholder,

Following this letter is the PIMCO Closed-End Funds Semiannual Report, which covers the six-month reporting period ended January 31, 2019. On the subsequent pages you will find specific details regarding investment results and discussion of the factors that most affected performance over the reporting period.

For the six-month reporting period ended January 31, 2019

The U.S. economy continued to expand. Looking back, U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) grew at an annual pace of 3.4% during the third quarter of 2018. According to the Commerce Department's initial reading released after the reporting period ended fourth-quarter 2018 GDP grew at an annual pace of 2.6%.

The Federal Reserve (the Fed) continued to normalize monetary policy. After raising interest rates in March and June, the Fed again moved rates higher at its September and December 2018 meetings. The Fed's December rate hike pushed the federal funds rate to a range between 2.25% and 2.50%. In addition, the Fed continued to reduce its balance sheet. At its meeting in January 2019, the Fed appeared to taper its expectations for the pace of rate hikes in 2019, saying, "In light of global economic and financial developments and muted inflation pressures, the Committee will be patient as it determines what future adjustments to the target range for the federal funds rate may be appropriate to support these outcomes."

Economic activity outside the U.S. generally moderated. Against this backdrop, the European Central Bank (the ECB) and the Bank of Japan largely maintained their highly accommodative monetary policies, while other central banks took a more hawkish stance. For example, the Bank of England raised rates at its meeting in August 2018. Meanwhile, the ECB ended its quantitative easing program in December 2018, but indicated that it does not expect to raise interest rates at least through the summer of 2019.

The U.S. Treasury yield curve flattened as longer-term rates fell more than short-term rates. The yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury note was 2.63% at the end of the reporting period, down from 2.96% on July 31, 2018. U.S. Treasuries, as measured by the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Treasury Index, returned 2.87% over the six months ended January 31, 2019. Meanwhile, the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, a widely used index of U.S. investment grade bonds, returned 2.71%. Riskier fixed income asset classes, including high yield corporate bonds and emerging market debt, generated mixed results versus the broad U.S. market. The ICE BofAML U.S. High Yield Index returned 1.02%, whereas emerging market external debt, as represented by the JPMorgan Emerging Markets Bond Index (EMBI) Global, returned 2.98%. Emerging market local bonds, as represented by the JPMorgan Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets Global Diversified Index (Unhedged), returned 3.75%.

U.S. equities moved higher in July and August 2018. We believe this rally was driven by a number of factors, including corporate profits that often exceeded expectations. U.S. equities then fell sharply during two of the next three months. We believe this was triggered by a number of factors, including signs of moderating global growth, concerns over future Fed rate hikes, the ongoing trade dispute between the U.S. and China and the partial U.S. government shutdown. However, U.S. equities rallied sharply in January 2019. In our view, this was partially due to the Fed's revised view on monetary policy tightening for 2019. All told, U.S. equities, as represented by the S&P 500 Index, returned -3.00%. Elsewhere, emerging market equities, as measured by the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, returned -2.60%, whereas global equities, as represented by the MSCI World Index, returned -5.00%. Japanese equities, as represented by the Nikkei 225 Index (in JPY), returned -7.00%.

Edgar Filing: PIMCO INCOME STRATEGY FUND - Form N-CSRS

and European equities, as represented by the MSCI Europe Index (in EUR), returned -7.46%.

Commodity prices fluctuated and generally declined. When the reporting period began, West Texas crude oil was approximately \$69 a barrel, but by the end it was roughly \$54 a barrel. This was driven in part by increased supply and declining global demand. Elsewhere, gold prices rose, whereas copper prices declined.

2 PIMCO CLOSED-END FUNDS

Finally, the foreign exchange markets experienced periods of volatility, due in part to signs of decoupling economic growth and central bank policies, along with a number of geopolitical events, including uncertainties around Brexit and trade negotiations between the U.S. and China. The U.S. dollar produced mixed results against other major currencies during the reporting period. For example, the U.S. dollar appreciated 2.13% and 0.12% versus the euro and the British pound, respectively, whereas the U.S. dollar depreciated 2.66% versus the yen.

Thank you for the assets you have placed with us. We deeply value your trust, and we will continue to work diligently to meet your broad investment needs. For any questions regarding your PIMCO Closed-End Funds investments, please contact your financial advisor, or call the Funds shareholder servicing agent at (844) 33-PIMCO. We also invite you to visit our website at pimco.com to learn more about our global viewpoints.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. DeCotis
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Peter G. Strelow
President

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Unless otherwise noted, index returns reflect the reinvestment of income distributions and capital gains, if any, but do not reflect fees, brokerage commissions or other expenses of investing. It is not possible to invest directly in an unmanaged index.

Important Information About the Funds

We believe that bond funds have an important role to play in a well-diversified investment portfolio. It is important to note, however, that in an environment where interest rates may trend upward, rising rates would negatively impact the performance of most bond funds, and fixed-income securities and other instruments held by a Fund are likely to decrease in value. A wide variety of factors can cause interest rates to rise (e.g., central bank monetary policies, inflation rates, general economic conditions). In addition, changes in interest rates can be sudden and unpredictable, and there is no guarantee that Fund management will anticipate such movement accurately. A Fund may lose money as a result of movement in interest rates.

As of the date of this report, interest rates in the U.S. and many parts of the world, including certain European countries, are at or near historically low levels. Thus, the Funds currently face a heightened level of interest rate risk, especially since the Federal Reserve Board has ended its quantitative easing program and has begun, and may continue, to raise interest rates. To the extent the Federal Reserve Board continues to raise interest rates, there is a risk that rates across the financial system may rise. Further, while bond markets have steadily grown over the past three decades, dealer inventories of corporate bonds are near historic lows in relation to market size. As a result, there has been a significant reduction in the ability of dealers to make markets. Bond funds and individual bonds with a longer duration (a measure used to determine the sensitivity of a security's price to changes in interest rates) tend to be more sensitive to changes in interest rates, usually making them more volatile than securities or funds with shorter durations. In addition, in the current low interest rate environment, the market price of the Funds common shares may be particularly sensitive to changes in interest rates or the perception that there will be a change in interest rates. All of the factors mentioned above, individually or collectively, could lead to increased volatility and/or lower liquidity in the fixed income markets or negatively impact a Fund's performance or cause a Fund to incur losses.

The use of derivatives may subject the Funds to greater volatility than investments in traditional securities. The Funds may use derivative instruments for hedging purposes or as part of an investment strategy. Use of these instruments may involve certain costs and risks such as liquidity risk, interest rate risk, market risk, call risk, credit risk, leverage risk, management risk and the risk that a Fund may not be able to close out a position when it would be most advantageous to do so. Changes in regulation relating to a Fund's use of derivatives and related instruments could potentially limit or impact a Fund's ability to invest in derivatives, limit a Fund's ability to employ certain strategies that use derivatives and/or adversely affect the value or performance of derivatives and the Fund. Certain derivative transactions may have a leveraging effect on a Fund. For example, a small investment in a derivative instrument may have a significant impact on a Fund's

exposure to interest rates, currency exchange rates or other investments. As a result, a relatively small price movement in an asset, instrument or component of the index underlying a derivative instrument may cause an immediate and substantial loss or gain, which translates into heightened volatility in a Fund's net asset value (NAV). A Fund may engage in such transactions regardless of whether the Fund owns the asset, instrument or components of the index underlying the derivative instrument. A Fund may invest a significant portion of its assets in these types of instruments. If it does, a Fund's investment exposure could far exceed the value of its portfolio securities and its investment performance could be primarily dependent upon securities it does not own.

Certain Funds' monthly distributions may include, among other possible sources, interest income from its debt portfolio and payments and premiums (characterized as capital for financial accounting purposes and as ordinary income for tax purposes) generated by certain types of interest rate derivatives.

Strategies involving interest rate derivatives may attempt to capitalize on differences between short-term and long-term interest rates as part of a Fund's duration and yield curve active management strategies. For instance, in the event that long-term interest rates are higher than short-term interest rates, the Fund may elect to pay a floating short-term interest rate and to receive a long-term fixed interest rate for a stipulated period of time, thereby generating payments as a function of the difference between current short-term interest rates and long-term interest rates, so long as the floating short-term interest rate (which may rise) is lower than the fixed long-term interest rate.

Edgar Filing: PIMCO INCOME STRATEGY FUND - Form N-CSRS

A Fund may also enter into opposite sides of multiple interest rate swaps or other derivatives with respect to the same underlying reference instrument (e.g., a 10-year U.S. treasury) that have different effective dates with respect to interest accrual time periods for the principal purpose of generating distributable gains (characterized as ordinary income for tax purposes) and that are not part of the Fund's duration or yield curve management strategies (paired swap transactions). In a paired swap transaction, a Fund would generally enter into one or more interest rate swap agreements whereby the Fund agrees to make regular payments starting at the time the Fund enters into the agreements equal to a floating interest rate in return for payments equal to a fixed interest rate (the initial leg). The Fund would also enter into one or more interest rate swap agreements on the same underlying instrument, but take the opposite position (i.e., in this example, the Fund would make regular payments equal to a fixed interest rate in return for receiving payments equal to a floating interest rate) with respect to a contract whereby the payment obligations do not commence until a date following the commencement of the initial leg (the forward leg).

4 PIMCO CLOSED-END FUNDS

A Fund may engage in investment strategies, including the use of derivatives, to, among other things, seek to generate current, distributable income, even if such strategies could potentially result in declines in the Fund's net asset value. A Fund's income and gain-generating strategies, including certain derivatives strategies, may generate current income and gains taxable as ordinary income sufficient to support monthly distributions even in situations when the Fund has experienced a decline in net assets due to, for example, adverse changes in the broad U.S. or non-U.S. equity markets or the Fund's debt investments, or arising from its use of derivatives. For instance, a significant portion of a Fund's monthly distributions may be sourced from paired swap transactions utilized to produce current distributable ordinary income for tax purposes on the initial leg, with a substantial possibility that the Fund will later realize a corresponding capital loss and potential decline in its net asset value with respect to the forward leg (to the extent there are not corresponding offsetting capital gains being generated from other sources). Because some or all of these transactions may generate capital losses without corresponding offsetting capital gains, portions of a Fund's distributions recognized as ordinary income for tax purposes (such as from paired swap transactions) may be economically similar to a taxable return of capital when considered together with such capital losses.

The notional exposure of a Fund's interest rate derivatives may represent a multiple of the Fund's total net assets. There can be no assurance a Fund's strategies involving interest rate derivatives will work as intended and such strategies are subject to the risks related to the use of derivatives generally, as discussed above (see also Notes 6 and 7 in the Notes to Financial Statements for further discussion on the use of derivative instruments and certain of the risks associated therewith).

A Fund's use of leverage creates the opportunity for increased income for the Fund's common shareholders, but also creates special risks. Leverage is a speculative technique that may expose a Fund to greater risk and increased costs. If shorter-term interest rates rise relative to the rate of return on a Fund's portfolio, the interest and other costs of leverage to the Fund could exceed the rate of return on the debt obligations and other investments held by the Fund, thereby reducing return to the Fund's common shareholders. In addition, fees and expenses of any form of leverage used by a Fund will be borne entirely by its common shareholders (and not by preferred shareholders, if any) and will reduce the investment return of the Fund's common shares. Moreover, to make payments of interest and other loan costs, a Fund may be forced to sell portfolio securities when it is not otherwise advantageous to do so.

In addition, because the fees received by PIMCO are based on the average weekly total managed assets (including any assets attributable to any preferred shares or other forms of leverage that may be

outstanding) minus any accrued liabilities (other than liabilities representing leverage) of PIMCO Income Strategy Fund and PIMCO Income Strategy Fund II, and on the average daily net asset value (including daily net assets attributable to any preferred shares that may be outstanding) of PIMCO Corporate & Income Opportunity Fund, PIMCO Corporate & Income Strategy Fund and PIMCO High Income Fund, PIMCO has a financial incentive for a Fund to use certain forms of leverage, which may create a conflict of interest between PIMCO, on the one hand, and the common shareholders of a Fund, on the other hand.

There can be no assurance that a Fund's use of leverage will result in a higher yield on its common shares, and it may result in losses. Leverage creates several major types of risks for a Fund's common shareholders, including (1) the likelihood of greater volatility of net asset value and market price of the Fund's common shares, and of the investment return to the Fund's common shareholders, than a comparable portfolio without leverage; (2) the possibility either that the Fund's common share dividends will fall if the interest and other costs of leverage rise, or that dividends paid on the Fund's common shares will fluctuate because such costs vary over time; and (3) the effects of leverage in a declining market or a rising interest rate environment, as leverage is likely to cause a greater decline in the net asset value of the Fund's common shares than if the Fund were not leveraged and may result in a greater decline in the market value of the Fund's common shares.

A Fund's investments in and exposure to foreign securities involve special risks. For example, the value of these investments may decline in response to unfavorable political and legal developments, unreliable or untimely information or economic and financial instability. Foreign securities may experience more rapid and extreme changes in value than investments in securities of U.S. issuers. The securities markets of

Edgar Filing: PIMCO INCOME STRATEGY FUND - Form N-CSRS

certain foreign countries are relatively small, with a limited number of companies representing a small number of industries. Issuers of foreign securities are usually not subject to the same degree of regulation as U.S. issuers. Reporting, accounting, auditing and custody standards of foreign countries differ, in some cases significantly, from U.S. standards. Also, nationalization, expropriation or other confiscation, currency blockage, political changes or diplomatic developments could adversely affect a Fund's investments in foreign securities. In the event of nationalization, expropriation or other confiscation, a Fund could lose its entire investment in foreign securities. Investing in foreign (non-U.S.) securities may entail risk due to foreign (non-U.S.) economic and political developments; this risk may be increased when investing in emerging markets. For example, if a Fund invests in emerging market debt, it may face increased exposure to interest rate, liquidity, volatility, and redemption risk due to the specific economic, political, geographical, or legal background of the foreign (non-U.S.) issuer.

SEMIANNUAL REPORT JANUARY 31, 2019 **5**

Important Information About the Funds (Cont.)

The geographical classification of foreign (non-U.S.) securities in this report are classified by the country of incorporation of a holding. In certain instances, a security's country of incorporation may be different from its country of economic exposure. The United States presidential administration's enforcement of tariffs on goods from other countries, with a focus on China, has contributed to international trade tensions and may impact portfolio securities.

Investments in loans (including whole loans) are generally subject to risks similar to those of investments in other types of debt obligations, including, among others, credit risk, interest rate risk, variable and floating rate securities risk, and, as applicable, risks associated with mortgage-related securities. In addition, in many cases loans are subject to the risks associated with below-investment grade securities. In the case of a loan participation or assignment, a Fund generally has no right to enforce compliance with the terms of the loan agreement with the borrower. As a result, a Fund may be subject to the credit risk of both the borrower and the lender that is selling the loan agreement. In the event of the insolvency of the lender selling a loan participation, a Fund may be treated as a general creditor of the lender and may not benefit from any set-off between the lender and the borrower. A Fund may be subject to heightened or additional risks and potential liabilities and costs by investing in mezzanine and other subordinated loans, including those arising under bankruptcy, fraudulent conveyance, equitable subordination, lender liability, environmental and other laws and regulations, and risks and costs associated with debt servicing and taking foreclosure actions associated with the loans.

Mortgage-related and other asset-backed securities represent interests in pools of mortgages or other assets such as consumer loans or receivables held in trust and often involve risks that are different from or possibly more acute than risks associated with other types of debt instruments. Generally, rising interest rates tend to extend the duration of fixed rate mortgage-related securities, making them more sensitive to changes in interest rates. As a result, in a period of rising interest rates, if a Fund holds mortgage-related securities, it may exhibit additional volatility since individual mortgage holders are less likely to exercise prepayment options, thereby putting additional downward pressure on the value of these securities and potentially causing the Fund to lose money. This is known as extension risk. Mortgage-backed securities can be highly sensitive to rising interest rates, such that even small movements can cause an investing Fund to lose value. Mortgage-backed securities, and in particular those not backed by a government guarantee, are subject to credit risk. In addition, adjustable and fixed rate mortgage-related securities are subject to prepayment risk. When interest rates decline, borrowers may pay off their mortgages sooner than expected. This can reduce the returns of the Funds because the Funds may have to reinvest that money at the lower prevailing interest

rates. The Funds' investments in other asset-backed securities are subject to risks similar to those associated with mortgage-related securities, as well as additional risks associated with the nature of the assets and the servicing of those assets. Payment of principal and interest on asset-backed securities may be largely dependent upon the cash flows generated by the assets backing the securities, and asset-backed securities may not have the benefit of any security interest in the related assets.

A Fund may also invest in the residual or equity tranches of mortgage-related and other asset-backed instruments, which may be referred to as subordinate mortgage-backed or asset-backed instruments and interest-only mortgage-backed or asset-backed instruments. Subordinate mortgage-backed or asset-backed instruments are paid interest only to the extent that there are funds available to make payments. To the extent the collateral pool includes a large percentage of delinquent loans, there is a risk that interest payment on subordinate mortgage-backed or asset-backed instruments will not be fully paid. Investments in subordinate mortgage-backed and other asset-backed instruments may be subject to risks arising from delinquencies and foreclosures, thereby exposing its investment portfolio to potential losses. Subordinate securities of mortgage-backed and other asset-backed instruments are also subject to greater credit risk than those mortgage-backed or other asset-backed securities that are more highly rated. There are multiple tranches of mortgage-backed and asset-backed instruments, offering investors various maturity and credit risk characteristics. Tranches are categorized as senior, mezzanine, and subordinated/equity or first loss, according to their degree of risk. The most senior tranche of a mortgage-backed or asset-backed instrument has the greatest collateralization and pays the lowest interest rate. If there are defaults or the collateral otherwise underperforms, scheduled payments to senior tranches take precedence over those of mezzanine tranches, and scheduled payments to mezzanine tranches take precedence over those to subordinated/equity tranches. Lower tranches represent lower degrees of credit quality and pay higher interest rates intended to compensate for the attendant risks. The return on the lower tranches is especially sensitive to the rate of defaults in the collateral pool. The lowest tranche (i.e., the equity or residual tranche) specifically receives the residual interest payments (i.e., money that is left over after the higher tranches have been paid and expenses of the issuing entities

Edgar Filing: PIMCO INCOME STRATEGY FUND - Form N-CSRS

have been paid) rather than a fixed interest rate. Because an investment in the residual or equity tranche of a mortgage-related or other asset-backed instrument will be the first to bear losses incurred by such instrument, these investments may involve a significantly greater degree of risk than investments in other tranches of a mortgage-related or other asset-backed instrument.

6 PIMCO CLOSED-END FUNDS

The risk of investing in collateralized loan obligations (CLOs), include prepayment risk, credit risk, liquidity risk, market risk, structural risk, legal risk and interest rate risk. CLOs may carry additional risks, including, but not limited to: (i) the possibility that distributions from collateral securities will not be adequate to make interest or other payments; (ii) the quality of the collateral may decline in value or default; (iii) the possibility that the investments in CLOs are subordinate to other classes or tranches thereof; and (iv) the complex structure of the security may not be fully understood at the time of investment and may produce disputes with the issuer or unexpected investment results.

High-yield bonds (commonly referred to as junk bonds) typically have a lower credit rating than other bonds. Lower-rated bonds generally involve a greater risk to principal than higher-rated bonds. Further, markets for lower-rated bonds are typically less liquid than for higher-rated bonds, and public information is usually less abundant in markets for lower-rated bonds. Thus, high yield investments increase the chance that a Fund will lose money. PIMCO does not rely solely on credit ratings, and develops its own analysis of issuer credit quality. A Fund may purchase unrated securities (which are not rated by a rating agency) if PIMCO determines that the security is of comparable quality to a rated security that a Fund may purchase. Unrated securities may be less liquid than comparable rated securities and involve the risk that PIMCO may not accurately evaluate the security's comparative credit quality, which could result in a Fund's portfolio having a higher level of credit and/or high yield risk than PIMCO has estimated or desires for the Fund, and could negatively impact the Fund's performance and/or returns. Certain Funds may invest a substantial portion of their assets in unrated securities and therefore may be particularly subject to the associated risks. Analysis of the creditworthiness of issuers of high yield securities may be more complex than for issuers of higher-quality debt obligations. To the extent that a Fund invests in high yield and/or unrated securities, the Fund's success in achieving its investment objectives may depend more heavily on the portfolio manager's creditworthiness analysis than if the Fund invested exclusively in higher-quality and rated securities. The Funds may hold defaulted securities that may involve special considerations including bankruptcy proceedings, other regulatory and legal restrictions affecting the Funds' ability to trade, and the availability of prices from independent pricing services or dealer quotations. Defaulted obligations might be repaid only after lengthy workout or bankruptcy proceedings, during which the issuer might not make any interest or other payments. Defaulted securities are often illiquid and may not be actively traded. Sales of securities in bankrupt companies at an acceptable price may be difficult and differences compared to the value of the securities used by the Funds could be material. The credit quality of a particular security or group of securities does not ensure the stability or safety of the overall portfolio.

Contingent convertible securities (CoCos) are a form of hybrid debt security issued primarily by non-U.S. issuers, which have loss absorption mechanisms built into their terms. The risks of investing in CoCos include, without limitation, the risk that interest payments will be cancelled by the issuer or a regulatory authority, the risk of ranking junior to other creditors in the event of a liquidation or other bankruptcy-related event as a result of holding subordinated debt, the risk of the Fund's investment becoming further subordinated as a result of conversion from debt to equity, the risk that the principal amount due can be written down to a lesser amount, and the general risks applicable to fixed income investments, including interest rate risk, credit risk, market risk and liquidity risk, any of which could result in losses to the Fund. CoCos may experience a loss absorption mechanism trigger event, which would likely be the result of, or related to, the deterioration of the issuer's financial condition (e.g., a decrease in the issuer's capital ratio) and status as a going concern. In such a case, with respect to CoCos that provide for conversion into common stock upon the occurrence of the trigger event, the market price of the issuer's common stock received by the Fund will have likely declined, perhaps substantially, and may continue to decline, which may adversely affect the Fund's NAV.

Variable and floating rate securities generally are less sensitive to interest rate changes but may decline in value if their interest rates do not rise as much, or as quickly, as interest rates in general. Conversely, floating rate securities will not generally increase in value if interest rates decline. Inverse floating rate securities may decrease in value if interest rates increase. Inverse floating rate securities may also exhibit greater price volatility than a fixed rate obligation with similar credit quality. When a Fund holds variable or floating rate securities, a decrease (or, in the case of inverse floating rate securities, an increase) in market interest rates will adversely affect the income received from such securities and the NAV of the Funds' shares.

The global economic crisis brought several small countries in Europe to the brink of default and many other economies into recession and weakened the banking and financial sectors of many European countries. For example, the governments of Greece, Spain, Portugal, and the Republic of Ireland have all experienced large public budget deficits, the effects of which are still yet unknown and may slow the overall recovery of the European economies from the global economic crisis. In addition, due to large public deficits, some European countries may be dependent on assistance from other European governments and institutions or other central banks or supranational agencies such as the International Monetary Fund. Assistance may be dependent on a country's implementation of reforms or reaching a certain level of performance.

Edgar Filing: PIMCO INCOME STRATEGY FUND - Form N-CSRS

Failure to reach those objectives or an insufficient level of assistance could result in a deep economic downturn which could

Important Information About the Funds (Cont.)

significantly affect the value of a Fund's European investments. It is possible that one or more Economic and Monetary Union of the European Union member countries could abandon the euro and return to a national currency and/or that the euro will cease to exist as a single currency in its current form. The exit of any country out of the euro may have an extremely destabilizing effect on other eurozone countries and their economies and a negative effect on the global economy as a whole. Such an exit by one country may also increase the possibility that additional countries may exit the euro should they face similar financial difficulties. In June 2016, the United Kingdom approved a referendum to leave the European Union. Significant uncertainty remains in the market regarding the ramifications of that development, and the range and potential implications of possible political, regulatory, economic and market outcomes are difficult to predict.

As the use of technology has become more prevalent in the course of business, the Funds have become potentially more susceptible to operational and information security risks resulting from breaches in cyber security. A breach in cyber security refers to both intentional and unintentional cyber events that may, among other things, cause a Fund to lose proprietary information, suffer data corruption and/or destruction or lose operational capacity, result in the unauthorized release or other misuse of confidential information, or otherwise disrupt normal business operations. Cyber security breaches may involve unauthorized access to a Fund's digital information systems (e.g., through hacking or malicious software coding), but may also result from outside attacks such as denial-of-service attacks (i.e., efforts to make network services unavailable to intended users). In addition, cyber security breaches involving a Fund's third party service providers (including but not limited to advisers, sub-advisers, administrators, transfer agents, custodians, distributors and other third parties), trading counterparties or issuers in which a Fund invests can also subject a Fund to many of the same risks associated with direct cyber security breaches. Moreover, cyber security breaches involving trading counterparties or issuers in which a Fund invests could adversely impact such counterparties or issuers and cause the Fund's investment to lose value.

Cyber security failures or breaches may result in financial losses to a Fund and its shareholders. These failures or breaches may also result in disruptions to business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses; interference with a Fund's ability to calculate its net asset value, process shareholder transactions or otherwise transact business with shareholders; impediments to trading; violations of applicable privacy and other laws; regulatory fines; penalties; reputational damage; reimbursement or other compensation costs; additional compliance and cyber security risk management costs and other adverse consequences. In addition, substantial costs may be incurred in order to prevent any cyber incidents in the future.

Like with operational risk in general, the Funds have established business continuity plans and risk management systems designed to reduce the risks associated with cyber security. However, there are inherent limitations in these plans and systems, including that certain risks may not have been identified, in large part because different or unknown threats may emerge in the future. As such, there is no guarantee that such efforts will succeed, especially because the Funds do not directly control the cyber security systems of issuers in which a Fund may invest, trading counterparties or third party service providers to the Funds. There is also a risk that cyber security breaches may not be detected. The Funds and their shareholders could be negatively impacted as a result.

The Funds may invest in securities and instruments that are economically tied to Russia. Investments in Russia are subject to various risks such as political, economic, legal, market and currency risks. The risks include uncertain political and economic policies, short-term market volatility, poor accounting standards, corruption and crime, an inadequate regulatory system, and unpredictable taxation. Investments in Russia are particularly subject to the risk that economic sanctions may be imposed by the United States and/or other countries. Such sanctions—which may impact companies in many sectors, including energy, financial services and defense, among others—may negatively impact the Funds' performance and/or ability to achieve their investment objectives. The Russian securities market is characterized by limited volume of trading, resulting in difficulty in obtaining accurate prices. The Russian securities market, as compared to U.S. markets, has significant price volatility, less liquidity, a smaller market capitalization and a smaller number of traded securities. There may be little publicly available information about issuers. Settlement, clearing and registration of securities transactions are subject to risks because of registration systems that may not be subject to effective government supervision. This may result in significant delays or problems in registering the transfer of securities. Russian securities laws may not recognize foreign nominee accounts held with a custodian bank, and therefore the custodian may be considered the ultimate owner of securities they hold for their clients. Ownership of securities issued by Russian companies is recorded by companies themselves and by registrars instead of through a central registration system. It is possible that the ownership rights of the Funds could be lost through fraud or negligence. While applicable Russian regulations impose liability on registrars for losses resulting from their errors, it may be difficult for the Funds to enforce any rights they may have against the registrar or issuer of the securities in the event of loss of share registration. Adverse

Edgar Filing: PIMCO INCOME STRATEGY FUND - Form N-CSRS

currency exchange rates are a risk and there may be a lack of available currency hedging instruments. Investments in Russia may be subject to the risk of nationalization or expropriation of assets. Oil, natural gas, metals, and timber account for a significant portion of Russia's exports, leaving the country vulnerable to swings in world prices.

8 PIMCO CLOSED-END FUNDS

The common shares of the Funds trade on the New York Stock Exchange. As with any stock, the price of a Fund's common shares will fluctuate with market conditions and other factors. If you sell your common shares of a Fund, the price received may be more or less than your original investment.

Shares of closed-end management investment companies, such as the Funds, frequently trade at a discount from their net asset value and may trade at a price that is less than the initial offering price and/or the net asset value of such shares. Further, if a Fund's shares trade at a price that is more than the initial offering price and/or the net asset value of such shares, including at a substantial premium and/or for an extended period of time, there is no assurance that any such premium will be sustained for any period of time and will not decrease, or that the shares will not trade at a discount to net asset value thereafter.

The Funds may be subject to various risks, including, but not limited to, the following: asset allocation risk, credit risk, stressed securities risk, distressed and defaulted securities risk, corporate bond risk, contingent convertible securities risk, high yield risk, market risk, issuer risk, liquidity risk, equity securities and related market risk, mortgage-related and other asset-backed securities risk, extension risk, prepayment risk, privately issued mortgage-related securities risk, mortgage market/ subprime risk, foreign (non-U.S.) investment risk, emerging markets risk, currency risk, redenomination risk, non-diversification risk, management risk, municipal bond risk, inflation-indexed security risk, senior debt risk, loans, participations and assignments risk, reinvestment risk, real estate risk, U.S. Government securities risk, foreign (non-U.S.) government securities risk, valuation risk, segregation and cover risk, focused investment risk, credit default swaps risk, event-linked securities risk, counterparty risk, preferred securities risk, confidential information access risk, other investment companies risk, private placements risk, inflation/deflation risk, regulatory risk, tax risk, recent economic conditions risk, market disruptions and geopolitical risk, potential conflicts of interest involving allocation of investment opportunities, repurchase agreements risk, securities lending risk, zero-coupon bond and payment-in-kind securities risk, portfolio turnover risk, smaller company risk, short sale risk and convertible securities risk. A description of certain of these risks is available in the Notes to Financial Statements of this Report.

On each Fund Summary page in this Shareholder Report, the Average Annual Total Return table measures performance assuming that all dividend and capital gain distributions were reinvested. Total return is calculated by determining the percentage change in NAV or market price (as applicable) in the specified period. Returns do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund distributions. Total return for a period of more than one year represents the average annual total return. Performance at market price will differ from results at

NAV. Although market price returns tend to reflect investment results over time, during shorter periods returns at market price can also be influenced by factors such as changing views about a Fund, market conditions, supply and demand for the Fund's shares, or changes in the Fund's dividends. Performance shown is net of fees and expenses.

The following table discloses the commencement of operations and diversification status of each Fund:

Fund Name	Commencement of Operations	Diversification Status
PIMCO Corporate & Income Opportunity Fund	12/27/02	Diversified
PIMCO Corporate & Income Strategy Fund	12/21/01	Diversified
PIMCO High Income Fund	04/30/03	Diversified
PIMCO Income Strategy Fund	08/29/03	Diversified
PIMCO Income Strategy Fund II	10/29/04	Diversified

An investment in a Fund is not a deposit of a bank and is not guaranteed or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. It is possible to lose money on investments in the Funds.

Edgar Filing: PIMCO INCOME STRATEGY FUND - Form N-CSRS

The Trustees are responsible generally for overseeing the management of the Funds. The Trustees authorize the Funds to enter into service agreements with the Investment Manager and other service providers in order to provide, and in some cases authorize service providers to procure through other parties, necessary or desirable services on behalf of the Funds. Shareholders are not parties to or third-party beneficiaries of such service agreements. Neither a Fund's original or any subsequent prospectus or Statement of Additional Information (SAI), any press release or shareholder report, any contracts filed as exhibits to a Fund's registration statement, nor any other communications, disclosure documents or regulatory filings from or on behalf of a Fund creates a contract between or among any shareholders of a Fund, on the one hand, and the Fund, a service provider to the Fund, and/or the Trustees or officers of the Fund, on the other hand.

The Trustees (or the Funds and their officers, service providers or other delegates acting under authority of the Trustees) may amend its most recent or use a new prospectus or SAI with respect to a Fund, adopt and disclose new or amended policies and other changes in press releases and shareholder reports and/or amend, file and/or issue any other communications, disclosure documents or regulatory filings, and may amend or enter into any contracts to which a Fund is a party, and interpret the investment objective(s), policies, restrictions and contractual provisions applicable to any Fund, without shareholder input or approval, except in circumstances in which shareholder approval is specifically required by law (such as changes to fundamental investment policies) or where a shareholder approval requirement was specifically disclosed in a Fund's prospectus, SAI or shareholder report and is otherwise still in effect.

Important Information About the Funds (Cont.)

PIMCO has adopted written proxy voting policies and procedures (Proxy Policy) as required by Rule 106(4)-6 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. The Proxy Policy has been adopted by the Funds as the policies and procedures that PIMCO will use when voting proxies on behalf of the Funds. A description of the policies and procedures that PIMCO uses to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities of each Fund, and information about how each Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities held during the most recent twelve-month period ended June 30, are available without charge, upon request, by calling the Funds at (844) 33-PIMCO, on the Funds website at www.pimco.com, and on the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

Each Fund files a complete schedule of its portfolio holdings with the SEC for the first and third quarters of its fiscal year on Form N-Q. A copy of each Fund's Form N-Q is available on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov> and is available without charge, upon request by calling the Funds at (844) 33-PIMCO and on the Funds website at www.pimco.com.

The SEC has adopted a rule that, beginning in 2021, generally will allow the Funds to fulfill their obligation to deliver shareholder reports to investors by providing access to such reports online free of charge and by mailing a notice that the report is electronically available. Pursuant to the rule, investors may still elect to receive a complete shareholder report in the mail. Instructions for electing to receive paper copies of the Fund's shareholder reports going forward may be found on the front cover of this report.

10 PIMCO CLOSED-END FUNDS

PIMCO Corporate & Income Opportunity Fund

Symbol on NYSE - **PTY**

Allocation Breakdown as of 01/31/2019 [§]

Corporate Bonds & Notes	45.1%
Asset-Backed Securities	15.4%
Non-Agency Mortgage-Backed Securities	14.1%
Loan Participations and Assignments	6.4%
Sovereign Issues	4.2%
Short-Term Instruments	3.6%
Municipal Bonds & Notes	3.5%
U.S. Government Agencies	2.8%
Preferred Securities	2.7%
Real Estate Investment Trusts	1.1%
Other	1.1%
% of Investments, at value.	

[§] Allocation Breakdown and % of investments exclude securities sold short and financial derivative instruments, if any.

Fund Information (as of January 31, 2019)⁽¹⁾

Market Price	\$16.34
NAV	\$14.25
Premium/(Discount) to NAV	14.67%
Market Price Distribution Rate ⁽²⁾	9.55%
NAV Distribution Rate ⁽²⁾	10.95%
Total Effective Leverage ⁽³⁾	41%

Average Annual Total Return⁽¹⁾ for the period ended January 31, 2019

	6 Month*	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Commencement of Operations (12/27/02)
Market Price	(3.91)%	10.02%	9.82%	18.65%	13.75%
NAV	2.14%	6.05%	11.67%	21.00%	14.05%

All Fund returns are net of fees and expenses.

* Cumulative return