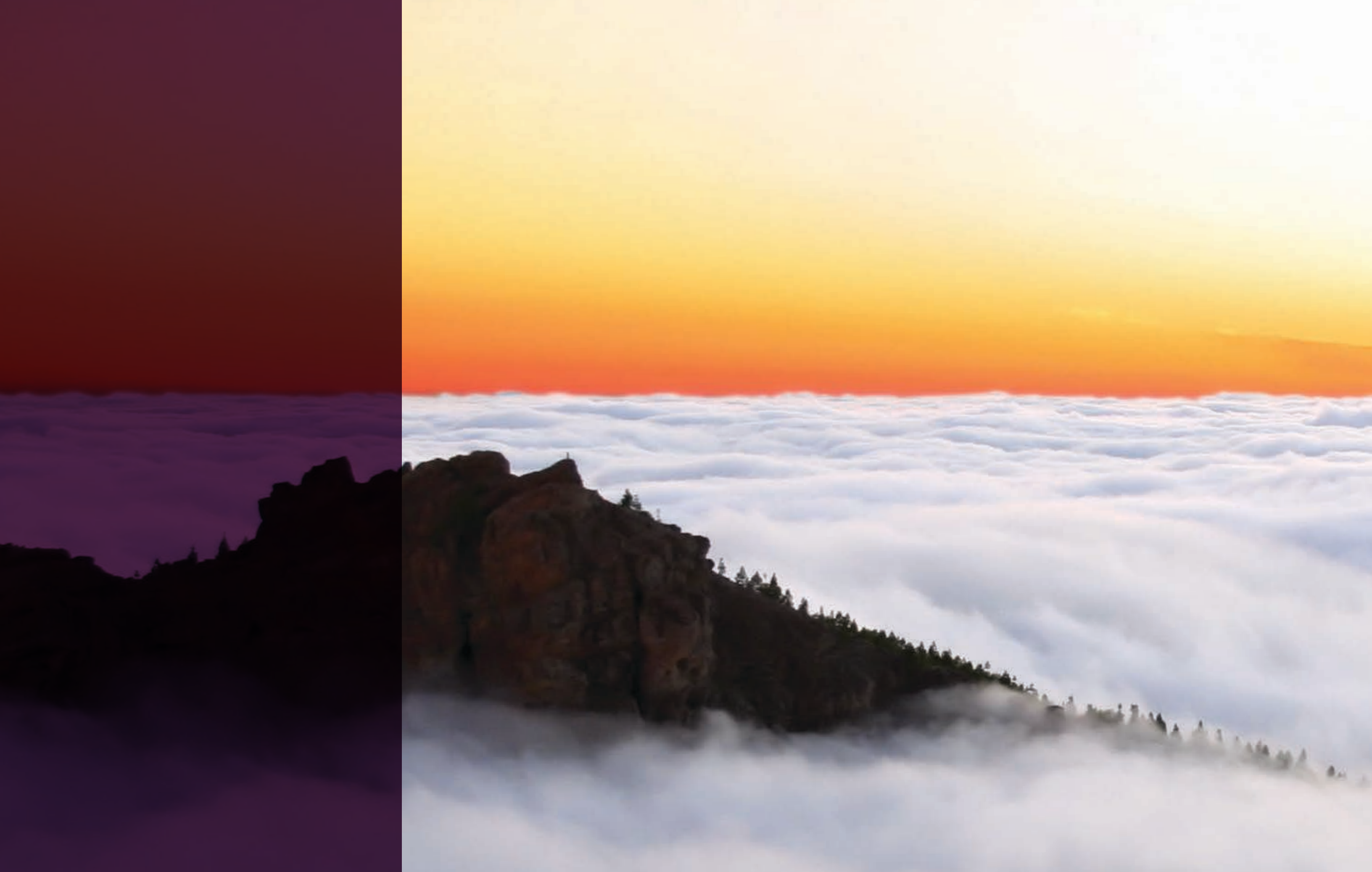
GUGGENHEIM



Portfolio Strategy Research

The Core Conundrum

Introduction

Extraordinary monetary easing in response to two global crises over the past 15 years has driven yields on U.S. Treasury and Agency securities to historic lows. The dominance of low-yielding government-related securities in the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index presents an investment conundrum: How can core fixed-income investors meet their total return objectives without taking on undue risk?

In our view, the answer lies in an active, diversified, multi-sector approach to core fixed-income management. Investors may find better value in fixed-income sectors that are underrepresented in the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index (the Agg), such as structured credit, below investment-grade corporate credit, floating-rate bonds, and municipal bonds. Searching for value outside the benchmark requires additional resources and differentiated expertise, but can uncover investments that may offer attractive returns and diversification without taking undue duration and credit risk. We believe the Guggenheim approach to core fixed-income investment represents a more sustainable way to generate income and enhance risk-adjusted returns over the long term.

Report Highlights

- The Agg remains the preeminent performance benchmark for core fixed-income investors, but it is dominated by low-yielding government securities. Traditional return targets may be difficult to achieve while staying close to the Agg.
- At $26.8 trillion, the Agg represents less than half of the total U.S. fixed-income universe, leaving out over $28 trillion of non-indexed securities.
- As an active fixed-income asset manager unconstrained by the benchmark Agg, we can access a broad spectrum of fixed-income sectors best suited to current market conditions. For example, bank loans and short-duration products have performed well in periods of rising rates, and structured credit has provided compelling returns when investment-grade corporate bond spreads were too low to offset the risk side of the equation.
- We believe actively managed portfolios have the best potential to harvest attractive risk-adjusted returns. This approach demands significantly more credit expertise and ongoing diligence, but we believe it offers the prospect of better risk-adjusted returns over time.

Investment Professionals

Anne B. Walsh, JD, CFA
Chief Investment Officer,
Guggenheim Partners
Investment Management

Steve Brown
Chief Investment Officer,
Total Return and Macro Strategies

Adam Bloch
Portfolio Manager

Brian Smedley
Chief Economist,
Head of Macroeconomic
and Investment Research

Maria M. Giraldo, CFA
Managing Director and
Strategist, Macroeconomic
and Investment Research

Contents

Section 1

The Core Conundrum

With the Agg heavily concentrated in low-yielding Treasury and Agency securities, remaining closely aligned to this benchmark and achieving historical rates of total return have become contradictory objectives. Heavy Treasury issuance, multiple rounds of quantitative easing (QE), and the Federal Reserve's (Fed) zero interest-rate policy (ZIRP) have helped create this conundrum for core fixed-income investors.

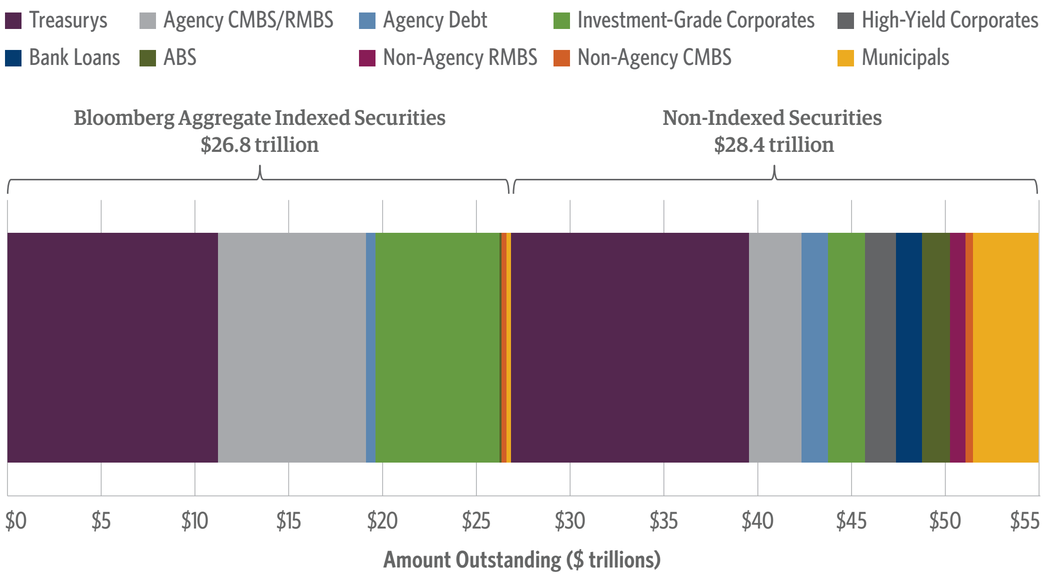
Fiscal Policy Has Altered the Composition of the Agg

Since its creation in 1986, the Agg (formerly known as the Lehman Agg, then the Barclays Agg, then the Bloomberg Barclays Agg) has been the most widely used proxy for the U.S. bond market. Inclusion in the Agg requires that securities be U.S. dollar-denominated, investment-grade rated, fixed rate, taxable, and have above a minimum par amount outstanding. In 1986, the Agg was a useful proxy for the fixed-income universe, which at the time primarily consisted of Treasurys, Agency bonds, Agency mortgage-backed securities (MBS), and investment-grade corporate bonds—all of which met the inclusion criteria. However, the broad fixed-income universe has evolved significantly with the growth of sectors such as asset-backed securities (ABS), non-Agency residential MBS (RMBS), high-yield corporate bonds, leveraged loans, and municipal bonds.

While the fixed-income universe has become more diversified in structure and quality, the composition of the Agg has not kept pace with these changes. As of Dec. 31, 2022, Treasurys comprised 50 percent of the Agg, which, when combined with Agency securities, brings the weighting of U.S. government-related debt to just over 73 percent. Thus, investors reluctant to stray far from the Agg's composition are disadvantaged by sector concentration in low-yielding securities.

Fixed-Income Markets Are Underrepresented by the Agg

The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index Represents Less than Half of the Fixed-Income Universe

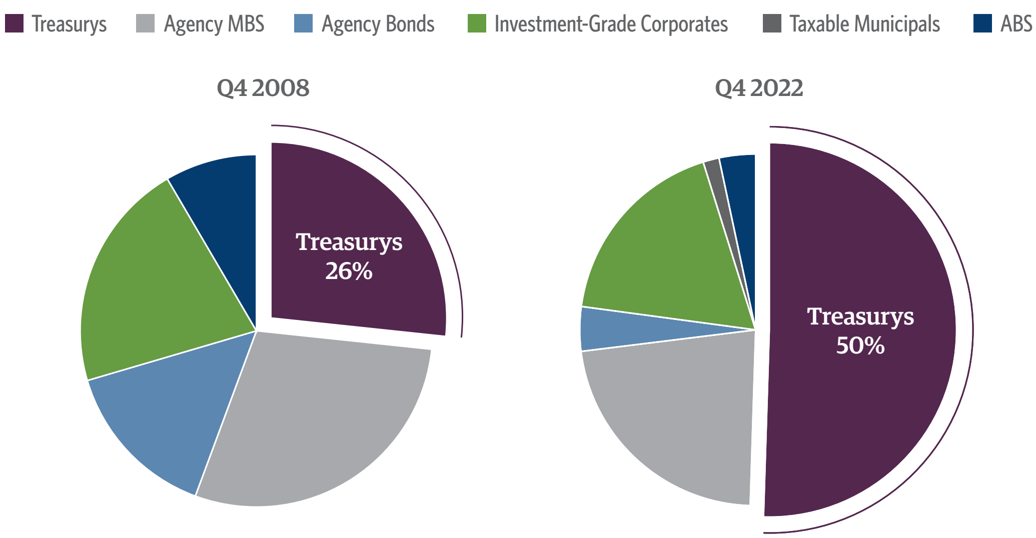


Source: Guggenheim Investments, SIFMA, S&P LCD, Bloomberg. Excludes sovereigns, supranationals, and covered bonds. Data as of 12.31.2022.

The Agg represents less than half of the U.S. bond market, and excludes bank loans, high-yield corporate bonds, and non-Agency RMBS, as well as the majority of the ABS and municipal bond sectors. These are sectors in which we have found attractive relative value.

Fiscal Deficits Have Reshaped the Traditional Core Universe Toward Government-Related Securities

Core Fixed-Income Universe, by Sector



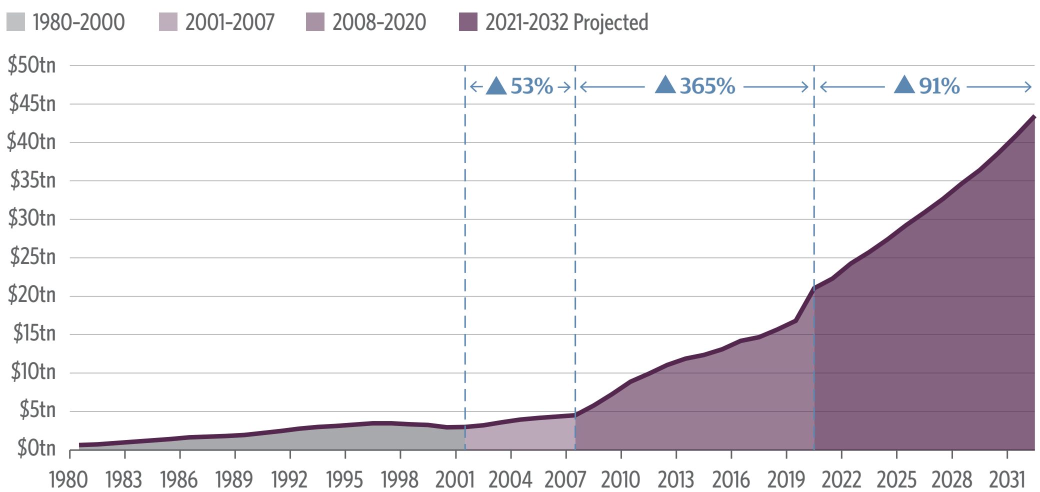
Source: Guggenheim Investments, SIFMA. Data as of 12.31.2022.

Treasurys comprised 50 percent of the Agg as of Dec. 31, 2022, which, when combined with Agency securities, brings the weighting of U.S. government-related debt to 73 percent. Thus, investors reluctant to stray far from the Agg's composition are disadvantaged by sector concentration in low yielding securities.

The sheer glut of Treasurys and their dominant representation in the Agg is unlikely to reverse anytime soon due to the ongoing need to fund government deficits—present and future. Marketable U.S. Treasury securities outstanding total $21 trillion, representing a compound annual growth rate of 10.2 percent since 2008 when policymakers turned on the fiscal spigot to fight the Global Financial Crisis (GFC). In 2020, over $4 trillion was issued to finance the COVID-19 pandemic-related government assistance. Marketable Treasury securities outstanding are projected to reach $44 trillion by the end of 2032, according to the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) baseline projections.

Treasury Securities Outstanding Surged Post-Crisis and Will Continue to Rise

Treasury Securities Outstanding in $trillions



Source: Guggenheim Investments, SIFMA, Congressional Budget Office. From the Budget and Economic Outlook: 2023 to 2032 published 2.16.2023.

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Monetary Policy Has Distorted Market Yields

The Fed has bought over $8 trillion in government-related assets over the past 15 years through its quantitative easing (QE) program. This practice of purchasing Treasurys, Agency debentures, and Agency MBS began in 2008, when the Fed reached the limit of conventional monetary policy tools by lowering the federal funds target rate to a range of 0–0.25 percent for the first time in history. Since then, the Fed has permanently expanded its toolkit to include what were once considered unconventional policy tools, which include the QE program as well as explicit forward guidance.

The QE program was intended to reduce long-term interest rates and stimulate growth through borrowing, and it largely succeeded. The 10-year Treasury yield averaged just 2.65 percent from the first round of QE in December 2008 until the end of the third QE program in October 2014. Starved for duration supply and yield, investors crowded into credit sectors. Credit risk premiums tightened relative to Treasurys, and corporate bond yields remained low for most of the cycle that followed the GFC.

In 2020, amid a global pandemic that triggered the most acute shock to credit markets in recorded history, the Fed cut rates to zero again, relaunched its QE program (its fourth round since 2008) and leaned heavily on forward guidance. This time, with approval from Congress, the Fed also introduced a series of emergency lending facilities for various types of borrowers, including large and small companies, municipalities, primary dealers, and money market mutual funds.

As part of the emergency facilities, the Fed also launched the Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facility (SMCCF), which purchased corporate bonds in the secondary market and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that met certain criteria. Markets rediscovered appetite for credit even as the economy experienced rolling industry shutdowns due to public health concerns. Risk assets rallied and corporate bond yields collapsed.

The emergency lending facilities existed only due to "unusual and exigent circumstances," a condition the COVID-19 pandemic certainly met. Congressional and Treasury Department opposition led to the corporate credit facilities ending new purchases of bonds and ETFs on Dec. 31, 2020. In June 2021, the Fed began outright selling of assets held in the SMCCF.

The Fed was not alone in its interventionist policies. The European Central Bank (ECB), Bank of Japan (BoJ), the Bank of England (BoE), and Sweden's Riksbank all engaged in some form of QE, repeatedly expanding the size and scope of asset purchases in an attempt to boost inflation. In 2014, the ECB took the additional step of making its benchmark deposit rate target negative, a strategy that the BoJ adopted in 2016.

With annual net Treasury issuance set to rise further in coming years, the Agg will continue to be heavily skewed toward government-related assets. A large allocation to Treasurys will not only continue to depress the Agg's yield, but it will also drive investors to take investment shortcuts that increase risks, as we discuss in the following section.

Section 2

Coping with Distorted Market Realities

Traditional yield-enhancement techniques, such as increasing duration and lowering credit quality, may boost total returns in the short term, but at what risk? Easy financial conditions may be masking the potentially damaging long-term effects of reflating the economy through debt accumulation.

Risks to the Conventional Approach

Despite gradually declining yields over the past four decades, investment return assumptions have been revised only marginally. Per the National Association of State Retirement Administrators, the median investment return assumption for national public pension plans declined from 8 percent in 2001 to 7 percent in 2021. This target, which includes all asset classes, is well above what the Agg offers.

Both pension and insurance accounts require steady income sourced to match liabilities. They can no longer afford to simply accept the lower returns offered by the Agg. As a result, many of these and other core fixed income investors have chosen to increase yield by adding significantly more duration risk than the benchmark or by increasing credit risk.

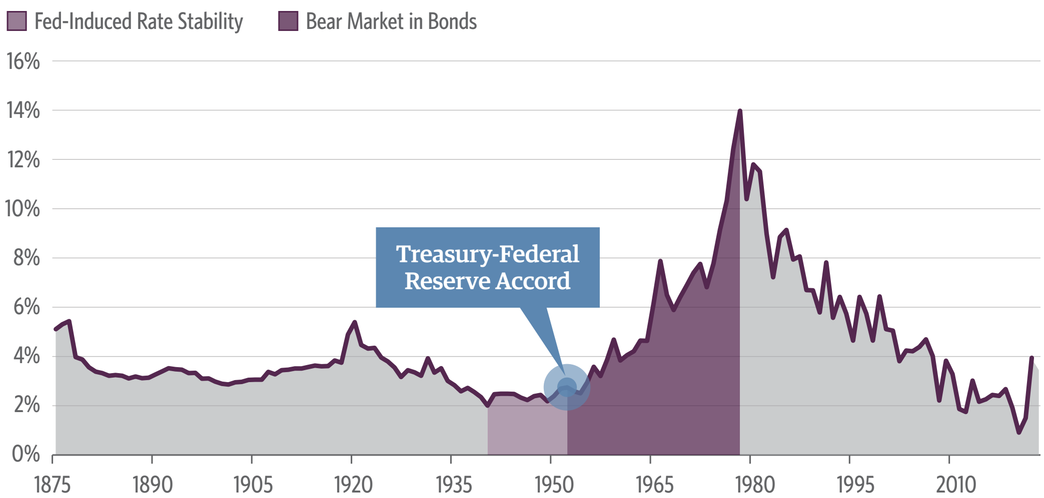
The problem with significantly extending duration to achieve yield targets is that low yields create an asymmetric return profile for bonds with more downside than upside return potential, assuming yields remain positive. We are mindful of this risk given the multi-decade bear market that followed the end of the Fed's efforts to suppress Treasury yields during the 1940s.

In 1942, the Fed, acting in coordination with the U.S. Treasury Department, agreed to fix Treasury bill yields at three-eighths of a percent and cap yields on long-term Treasury bonds at 2.50 percent in order to keep debt service costs low during World War II. The Treasury-Federal Reserve Accord of 1951 ended this arrangement, setting the stage for 30 years of rising interest rates. The bear market in bonds was finally halted in the early 1980s by former Fed Chairman Paul Volcker's successful efforts to rein in double-digit inflation by raising the fed funds rate to 20 percent.

Today, the Fed seeks to limit bond market volatility through forward guidance, though this has not always been effective. For example, in May 2013, Fed Chair Ben Bernanke signaled the possibility that the Fed might soon taper its purchases of Treasurys and Agency MBS as it wound down its third QE program. The bond markets sold off dramatically despite no immediate Fed action taking place. The 10-year Treasury yield spiked to 3.0 percent from 1.7 percent over the course of 20 weeks in what is now referred to as the "taper tantrum."

Fed Intervention and Its Impact on the Bond Market

U.S. 10-Year Treasury Yields Since 1875



Source: Guggenheim Investments, Bloomberg, Robert Shiller. Data as of 5.5.2023.

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Rising Credit Risk

To satisfy the pressing need for income, many investors have assumed additional credit risk over time, which has resulted in a highly indebted corporate credit market. In aggregate, U.S. nonfinancial corporations have accumulated over $11 trillion in debt and loans. Relative to gross domestic product, it stands at 49 percent, up from 43 percent in 2007, according to Haver Analytics and Federal Reserve Financial Accounts data.

In general, U.S. corporate credit quality has steadily deteriorated given rising debt burdens. Over 50 percent of the Bloomberg U.S. Corporate Bond Index is BBB-rated, just one rating level above junk, compared to 33 percent in 2007. In 2020, over $200 billion in U.S. dollar denominated investment-grade corporate bonds were downgraded to below investment-grade ratings, based on rating changes that we tracked using Bloomberg and BofA Merrill Lynch Research.

Unprecedented intervention by policymakers in 2020 helped avoid a heavier volume of recession-driven defaults and additional credit downgrades, although there were many. It also precipitated a faster recovery in market prices than would normally occur during and following a recession. However, the long-term negative consequences of high leverage looms over the credit market. The reach for yield into greater credit risk may culminate in losses from corporate defaults when policymakers are no longer willing to intervene. For insurance clients, this could lead to capital costs from credit downgrades or losses from selling bonds that are expected to be downgraded to junk.

Section 3

Guggenheim's Investment Blueprint

At $24 trillion, the Agg represents less than half of the total U.S. fixed-income universe, leaving out $28 trillion in securities that do not meet its requirements for inclusion, including many bank loans, high-yield bonds, non-Agency RMBS, ABS, and municipal bonds. We believe there is a more sustainable strategy that relies on the ability to uncover value in predominantly investment-grade securities outside of the traditional benchmark-driven framework. This approach to portfolio construction may help increase return potential without adding undue credit or duration risk.

Increasing Return Potential Without Adding Undue Credit or Duration Risk

Managing duration within tolerable constraints, maintaining an investment-grade portfolio, and generating attractive yields do not have to be competing investment objectives. Investment-grade assets exist outside the traditional benchmark, and can offer attractive yields that are comparable to, or higher than, similarly rated corporate bonds. In this section, we offer some perspective on how an active manager can go outside the benchmark to solve the core conundrum. As an active fixed-income asset manager unconstrained by the benchmark Agg, we can access a broad spectrum of fixed-income sectors best suited to current market conditions. For example, bank loans and short-duration products have performed well in periods of rising rates, and structured credit has provided compelling returns when investment-grade corporate bond spreads were too low to offset the risk side of the equation. Investors constrained by the Agg are predominantly limited to Treasurys, Agencies, and investment-grade corporate bonds, which has left them exposed during periods in which those sectors underperformed.

Asset Allocation Matters, Particularly in Today's Volatile Environment

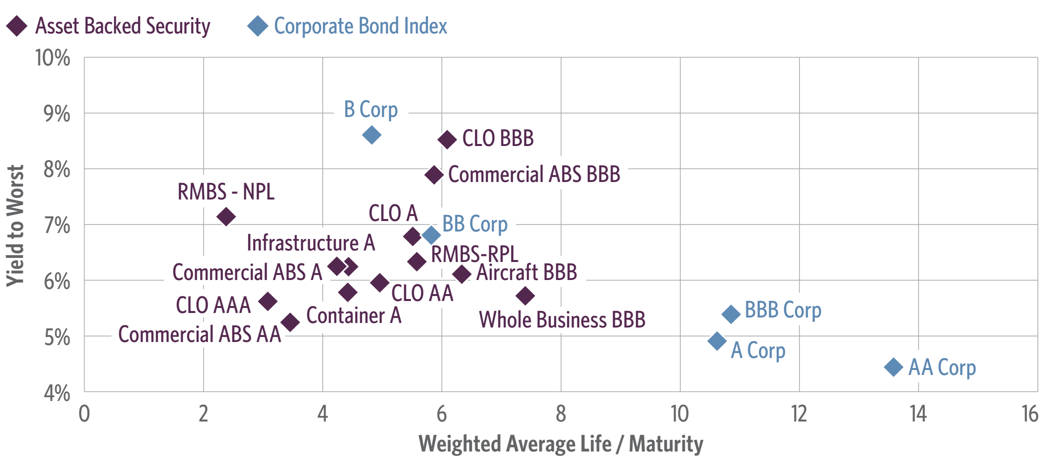
Sector Index Returns

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	YTD 2023
High Yield 15.81%	High Yield 7.44%	Municipals 9.05%	Municipals 3.3%	High Yield 17.13%	High Yield 7.51%	ABS 2.24%	IG Corporates 14.54%	IG Corporates 9.89%	Leveraged Loans 5.40%	Leveraged Loans -1.06%	Leveraged Loans 3.21%
CMBS 10.04%	Leveraged Loans 6.15%	IG Corporates 7.46%	MBS 1.51%	Leveraged Loans 9.88%	IG Corporates 6.42%	Municipals 1.28%	High Yield 14.32%	Treasurys 8.00%	High Yield 5.28%	ABS -3.77%	High Yield 2.47%
IG Corporates 9.82%	ABS 0.91%	MBS 6.08%	CMBS 0.94%	IG Corporates 6.11%	Municipals 5.45%	Leveraged Loans 1.14%	CMBS 8.27%	CMBS 7.61%	Municipals 1.52%	Municipals -8.53%	ABS 1.10%
Leveraged Loans 9.42%	CMBS 0.18%	Treasurys 5.05%	Treasurys 0.84%	CMBS 3.5%	Leveraged Loans 4.25%	CMBS 1.01%	Leveraged Loans 8.17%	High Yield 7.11%	ABS 0.50%	CMBS -10.94%	CMBS 0.74%
Municipals 6.78%	MBS -1.41%	CMBS 4.21%	ABS 0.42%	ABS 1.97%	CMBS 3.52%	MBS 0.99%	Municipals 7.54%	Municipals 5.21%	CMBS -0.90%	High Yield -11.19%	IG Corporates 0.70%
ABS 3.03%	IG Corporates -1.53%	High Yield 2.45%	Leveraged Loans -0.38%	MBS 1.67%	MBS 2.48%	Treasurys 0.86%	Treasurys 6.86%	MBS 3.87%	IG Corporates -1.04%	MBS -11.81%	MBS 0.57%
MBS 2.59%	Municipals -2.55%	Leveraged Loans 2.06%	IG Corporates -0.68%	Treasurys 1.04%	ABS 2.33%	High Yield -2.08%	MBS 6.35%	ABS 3.48%	MBS -1.04%	Treasurys -12.46%	Municipals 0.55%
Treasurys 1.99%	Treasurys -2.75%	ABS 1.59%	High Yield -4.47%	Municipals 0.25%	Treasurys 2.31%	IG Corporates -2.51%	ABS 3.79%	Leveraged Loans 2.78%	Treasurys -2.32%	IG Corporates -15.76%	Treasurys 0.11%

Source: Guggenheim Investments, Bloomberg, Factset. Data as of 2.28.2023. **Past performance does not guarantee future results. Performance will vary over different market cycles.** Each asset class is represented by corresponding index: High Yield by Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High-Yield Index, Investment-Grade Corporates by Bloomberg U.S. Corporate Bond Index, Municipals by Bloomberg U.S. Municipal Bond Index, CMBS by Bloomberg U.S. CMBS Investment-Grade Index, Leveraged Loans by Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index, Treasurys by Bloomberg U.S. Treasury Index, MBS by Bloomberg U.S. MBS Index, ABS by ICE BofA U.S. Fixed & Floating Rate Asset Backed Securities Index. Index information is provided for illustrative purposes only and is not meant to represent the performance of the strategy or its underlying investments. **Asset-backed securities (ABS), including mortgage-backed securities and CLOs, are complex investments and not suitable for all investors. Some ABS may have structures that make their reaction to interest rates and other factors difficult to predict, making their prices volatile and they are subject to liquidity and valuation risk. CLOs bear similar risks to investing in loans directly, including credit risk, interest rate risk, counterparty risk and prepayment risk. Loans are often below investment grade, may be unrated, and typically offer a fixed or floating interest rate.**

As an active fixed-income asset manager unconstrained by the benchmark Agg, we can access a broad spectrum of fixed-income sectors best suited to current market conditions. For example, bank loans and short-duration products have performed well in periods of rising rates, and structured credit has provided compelling returns when investment-grade corporate bond spreads were too low to offset the risk side of the equation.

Discovering Yield in Structured Credit



Source: Guggenheim Investments, Bloomberg. This information is provided for informational purposes only and is intended to reflect the general characteristics of certain fixed income sectors in the recent market environment. The characteristics shown herein do not represent characteristics of any client portfolios and there is no guarantee that assets with similar characteristics will be available in the future. **Corporate bond** index data is based on the yield to worst (YTW) and maturities of the AA-, A-, BBB-, BB-, and B-rated sleeves of the Bloomberg U.S. Corporate Bond Index and the and the Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield Index (BB and below) as of 4.30.2023. **Collateralized loan obligation (CLO)** data is based on the YTW and weighted average life (WAL) of the Palmer Square CLO Senior Debt Index (AAA and AA or equivalent) and Palmer Square CLO Debt Index (A, BBB) as of 4.30.2023. CLO index yields assume that forward benchmark rates are realized. **Commercial ABS** information is derived from the aircraft, equipment, railcars, utility, and franchise subsectors of the ICE BofA AA-BBB U.S. Fixed Rate Asset Backed Index as of 4.30.2023, and does not include auto, consumer, student loans, single family rentals, collateralized mortgage obligations, manufactured housing, credit cards, home equity, payment rights, and non-performing loans subsectors. The subsectors included in commercial ABS are generally issued less frequently, backed by less familiar assets, and potentially higher yielding than those subsectors that are excluded. Because they are less common, they may be more susceptible to liquidity and valuation risk than other ABS subsectors. Weighting for the selected commercial ABS universe is based on the current face value in index for the WAL and market value in index for YTW.

This chart compares CLO and commercial ABS indexes against the average yield and duration of similarly rated corporate bond indexes. CLO and ABS indexes offered higher or comparable yields, but typically with less duration exposure, making them more suitable for some investors if rates rise.

The Advantage of Active Over Passive Fixed-Income Management

While passive management has shown some definite advantages for stock portfolios, we believe that the surest path to underperformance in bonds is to remain anchored to outdated fixed-income conventions. Traditional core strategies are overly confined to a benchmark that no longer accurately reflects all of the investment options that exist in today's more complex fixed-income landscape. As such, they restrict portfolios from reallocating toward more attractive opportunities that have emerged as a result of the evolution of U.S. capital markets, such as many forms of structured credit that are excluded from the Agg.

Instead, we believe actively managed portfolios have the best potential to harvest attractive risk-adjusted returns in the current fixed-income market environment. Active fixed-income managers have the ability to properly position their portfolios in a way that is not permissible for a passive strategy as risks emerge and trading opportunities develop. For example, the impact of rate and yield curve changes on long duration assets can be managed with active decisions around portfolio duration positioning. Active managers also can dial up or dial down credit exposure over the course of a business cycle where appropriate. In short, as an active manager without a tether to the benchmark, our goal is to position our portfolios to help protect client assets from drawdown risk by underweighting sectors that could negatively affect returns before anything happens. By definition, for passive fixed-income vehicles, this type of strategic positioning is simply not an option.*

Risk mitigation is a central tenet of all active fixed-income investing because of the inherent difference in the return proposition of stocks versus bonds. In stocks, the goal is to try to find good companies whose value will appreciate over time—there are winners and losers, but a typical long investor is hoping for gains. If you pick the right stocks and market conditions are friendly, the upside can be rewarding. A passive strategy will reflect this general approach. For bonds, the risk and return is asymmetric. If an investor's research is correct and everything goes as planned and no bonds default, over time the total return is the coupon and return of principal. The upside is limited, but the downside can be significant in the event of any deterioration in credit quality. For fixed-income investors, the object is to generate stable returns by playing what Charles Ellis famously termed a "loser's game," in which one wins by avoiding defaults and other "mistakes" rather than chasing returns.

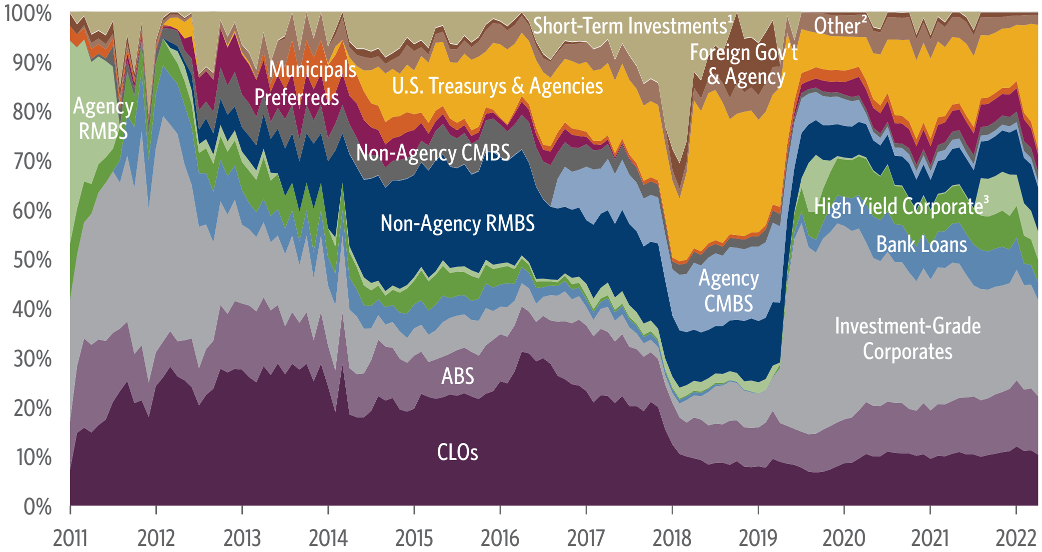
As an example of how an active manager shifts allocations over the course of the cycle, the chart at the top of the following page shows the change in allocations in our Core Plus Fixed-Income Strategy over the course of the last cycle. For comparison, the lower chart shows the evolution in the Agg over the same period.

With the chasm between investors' income targets and benchmark yields likely to persist, traditional views of core fixed-income management need to evolve. In our view, investors must be willing to look beyond the benchmark to explore sectors in which value remains underexploited. This approach demands significantly more credit expertise and ongoing diligence, but we believe it offers the prospect of better risk-adjusted returns over time.

*There is no guarantee that an active manager's views will produce the desired results or expected returns, which may lead to underperformance. Actively managed investments generally charge higher fees than passive strategies, which could affect performance. In addition, active and frequent trading that can accompany active management, also called "high turnover," may lead to higher brokerage costs and have a negative impact on performance. Further, active and frequent trading may lead to adverse tax consequences.

Total Return Bond Fund: Allocations Over Time

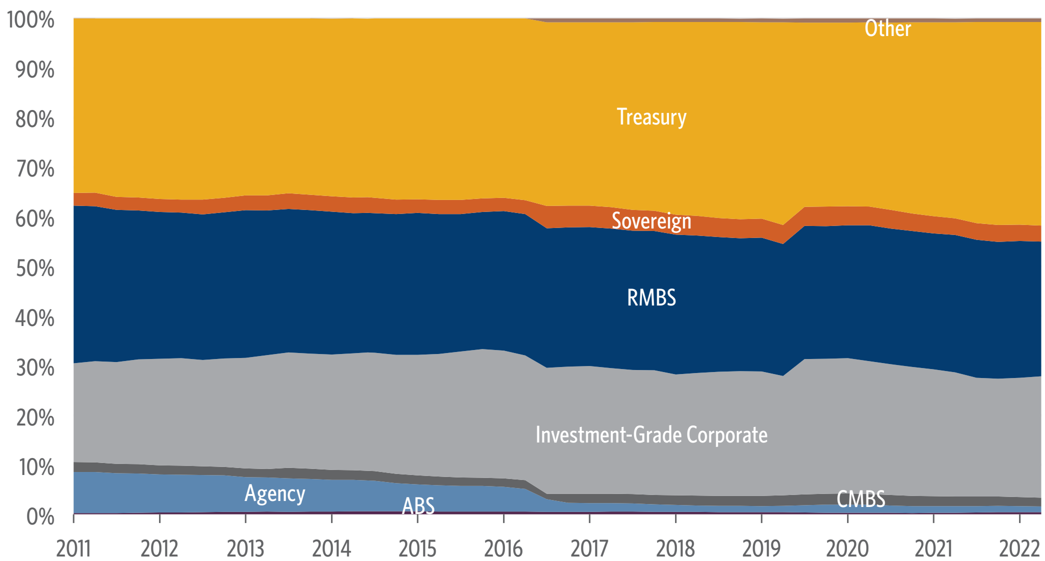
As an example of how an active manager shifts allocations over the course of the cycle, this chart shows the change in allocations in our Total Return Bond Fund over the course of the last cycle.



Source: Guggenheim Investments. Data as of 3.31.2023. Data is subject to change on a daily basis. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Shown for illustrative purposes. 1. Short Term Investments include Commercial Paper, Cash, and T-Bills. 2. Other may consist of military housing bonds, derivatives, equities, mutual funds, and ETFs.

Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate: Allocations Over Time

For comparison, this chart shows the evolution in the Agg over the same period.



Source: Guggenheim Investments, Bloomberg. Data as of 3.31.2023. Shown for illustrative purposes.

Important Notices and Disclosures

The **Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index** is a broad-based flagship benchmark that measures the investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market. The index includes Treasurys, government-related and corporate securities, MBS (Agency fixed-rate and hybrid ARM pass-throughs), ABS, and CMBS (Agency and non-Agency).

The **Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate ABS Index** is component of the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index, the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate ABS Index includes pass-through, bullet and controlled amortization structures. The Index includes only the senior class of each ABS issue and the ERISA-eligible B and C tranche.

The **Bloomberg U.S. CMBS Investment-Grade Index** measures the market of U.S. Agency and U.S. non-Agency conduit and fusion CMBS deals with a minimum current deal size of $300m.

The **Bloomberg U.S. Corporate Bond Index** measures the investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market. It includes USD denominated securities publicly issued by U.S. and non-U.S. industrial, utility, and financial issuers.

The **Bloomberg U.S. MBS Index** consists of the MBS assets within the Bloomberg Aggregate Index.

The **Bloomberg U.S. Municipal Bond Index** is a broad-based benchmark that measures the investment grade, USD-denominated, fixed tax-exempt bond market. The index includes state and local general obligation, revenue, insured, and pre-refunded bonds.

The **Bloomberg U.S. Treasury Index** measures U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate, nominal debt issued by the U.S. Treasury. Treasury bills are excluded by the maturity constraint, but are part of a separate Short Treasury Index. STRIPS are excluded from the index because their inclusion would result in double-counting.

The **Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High-Yield Bond Index** measures the USD-denominated, high yield, fixed-rate corporate bond market. Securities are classified as high yield if the middle rating of Moody's, Fitch and S&P is Ba1/BB+/BB+ or below.

The **Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index** is designed to mirror the investable universe of the USD-denominated leveraged loan market.

The **ICE BofA U.S. Fixed & Floating Rate Asset Backed Securities Index** tracks the performance of USD-denominated investment-grade asset backed securities publicly issued in the US domestic market.

The **ICE BofA AA-BBB U.S. Fixed Rate Asset Backed Index** is the AA-rated to BBB-rated subset of the ICE BofA U.S. Fixed Rate Asset Backed Securities Index, which tracks the performance of USD-denominated investment-grade fixed rate asset backed securities publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market.

The **Palmer Square CLO Senior Debt Index** is also a rules-based observable pricing and total return index for CLO debt for sale in the United States, rated at the time of issuance as AAA or AA or equivalent rating. Such debt is often referred to as the senior tranches of a CLO.

The **Palmer Square CLO Debt Index** is a rules-based observable pricing and total return index for collateralized loan obligation debt for sale in the United States, original rated A, BBB, or BB or equivalent rating.

Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Investments in fixed-income instruments are subject to the possibility that interest rates could rise, causing their values to decline. Investors in asset-backed securities, including collateralized loan obligations ("CLOs"), generally receive payments that are part interest and part return of principal. These payments may vary based on the rate loans are repaid. Some asset-backed securities may have structures that make their reaction to interest rates and other factors difficult to predict, making their prices volatile and they are subject to liquidity and valuation risk. CLOs bear similar risks to investing in loans directly, such as credit, interest rate, counterparty, prepayment, liquidity, and valuation risks. Loans are often below investment grade, may be unrated, and typically offer a fixed or floating interest rate. High yield and unrated debt securities are at a greater risk of default than investment grade bonds and may be less liquid, which may increase volatility.

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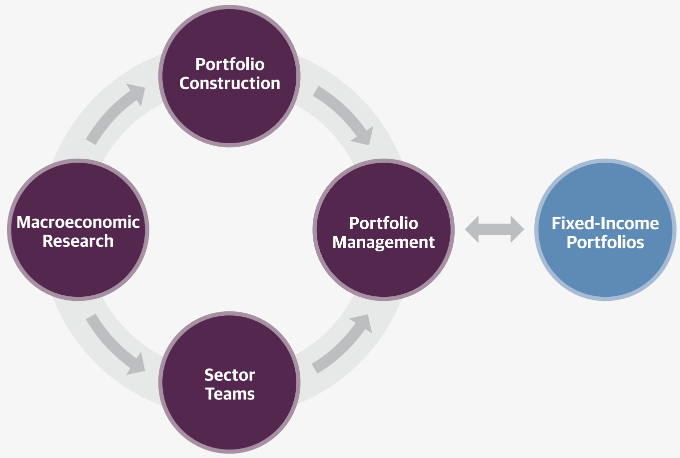
Guggenheim's Investment Process

Guggenheim's fixed-income portfolios are managed by a systematic, disciplined investment process designed to mitigate behavioral biases and lead to better decision-making. Our investment process is structured to allow our best research and ideas across specialized teams to be brought together and expressed in actively managed portfolios. We disaggregated fixed-income investment management into four primary and independent functions—Macroeconomic Research, Sector Teams, Portfolio Construction, and Portfolio Management—that work together to deliver a predictable, scalable, and repeatable process. Our pursuit of compelling risk-adjusted return opportunities typically results in asset allocations that differ significantly from broadly followed benchmarks.



Guggenheim Investments

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Guggenheim Partners

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1. Guggenheim Investments assets under management are as of 3.31.2023 and include leverage of $14.7bn. Guggenheim Investments represents the following affiliated investment management businesses of Guggenheim Partners, LLC: Guggenheim Partners Investment Management, LLC, Security Investors, LLC, Guggenheim Funds Distributors, LLC, Guggenheim Funds Investment Advisors, LLC, Guggenheim Partners Advisors, LLC, Guggenheim Corporate Funding, LLC, Guggenheim Partners Europe Limited, Guggenheim Partners Japan Limited, GS GAMMA Advisors, LLC, and Guggenheim Partners India Management.

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