

Federated Hermes Short-Intermediate Total Return Bond Fund

12/31/24

Fund facts

Performance inception date

R6 Shares	1/31/14
Institutional Shares	9/2/05
A Shares	1/31/14

Benchmark

Bloomberg 1-5 Year US Government/Credit Index

Morningstar category

Short-Term Bond

Lipper classification

Short Investment Grade Debt Funds

Fund assets

\$638.4 million

Ticker symbols

R6 Shares - SRBRX
Institutional Shares - FGCIX
Service Shares - FGCSX
A Shares - FGCAx

Key investment team

John Gentry, CFA
Chengjun (Chris) Wu, CFA
Robert Matthews, CFA
Todd Abraham, CFA
Mark Durbiano, CFA
Ihab Salib
Anthony Venturino, CFA
Christopher McGinley

Yields (%)

30-day yield (R6)	4.98
30-day yield (IS)	4.98
30-day yield (A)	4.67

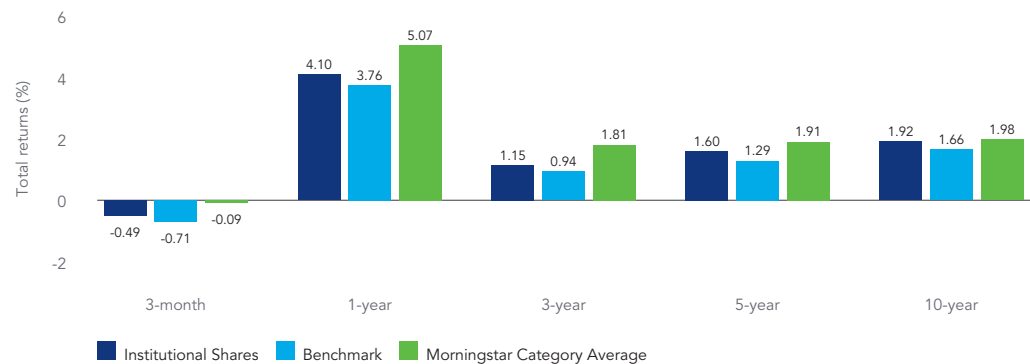
Fund description

The fund seeks to maintain a dollar-weighted average effective portfolio duration of 1.5 to 3.5 years and pursues total return by investing in a broad mix of bond sectors that management believes will benefit from changes in economic and market conditions. US government and investment-grade corporate bonds predominate, with limits on exposure to domestic high-yield and international emerging-market sectors.

Average annual total returns (%)

Performance shown is before tax.

	3-month	YTD	1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year	Since inception	Expense ratio*	
								Before waivers	After waivers
R6 Shares	-0.49	4.11	4.11	1.19	1.61	1.81	1.74	0.44	0.37
Institutional Shares	-0.49	4.10	4.10	1.15	1.60	1.92	3.20	0.49	0.38
A Shares (NAV)	-0.55	3.84	3.84	0.90	1.34	1.67	1.66	0.73	0.63
A Shares (MOP)	-1.51	2.82	2.82	0.55	1.13	1.56	1.56	0.73	0.63
Benchmark	-0.71	3.76	3.76	0.94	1.29	1.66	-	-	-



Calendar year total returns (%)

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Institutional Shares	4.10	5.17	-5.47	-0.28	4.89	5.19	0.81	1.70	3.31	0.34
Benchmark	3.76	4.89	-5.50	-0.97	4.71	5.01	1.38	1.27	1.56	0.97
Morningstar Category Average	5.07	5.73	-5.22	0.05	3.81	4.72	0.92	1.73	2.08	0.19

Performance quoted represents past performance, which is no guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than what is stated. To view performance current to the most recent month-end, and for after-tax returns, contact us or visit FederatedHermes.com/us. Maximum offering price figures reflect the maximum sales charge of 1% for A Shares. See the prospectus for other fees and expenses that apply to a continued investment in the fund. Total returns for periods of less than one year are cumulative.

* The fund's expense ratio is from the most recent prospectus. The expense ratio may reflect voluntary fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements determined by the fund's Advisor and its affiliates. The voluntary waivers and/or reimbursements, if applicable, are in effect up to but not including the later of 11/1/25 or the date of the fund's next effective prospectus.



Not FDIC Insured • May Lose Value • No Bank Guarantee

Investment approach

Core, Intermediate-term Bond Fund

- A disciplined approach to short-term fixed income with a conservative, investment-grade risk profile
- Invests primarily in US government, mortgage-backed and investment-grade corporate fixed income with modest exposure to sectors such as high yield and emerging markets debt
- May invest in below investment-grade securities up to 35%. Typically up to 15%

Consistent, repeatable investment process

- Combines top-down decision making with bottom-up security selection to build diversified, risk-managed portfolios
- Key decision teams known as "Alpha Pods" seek diversified, uncorrelated alpha sources across various market environments
- Positioning set across five factors: sector allocation, security selection, duration management, yield curve strategy and currency management

Tenured team with long-term results

- Team-based approach focused by sector to extract value from each step of the process
- Federated Hermes' fixed-income philosophy and process has a 50-year heritage
- The fixed-income management team averages 28 years of experience and have worked at Federated Hermes for an average of 18 years

As of 12/31/24

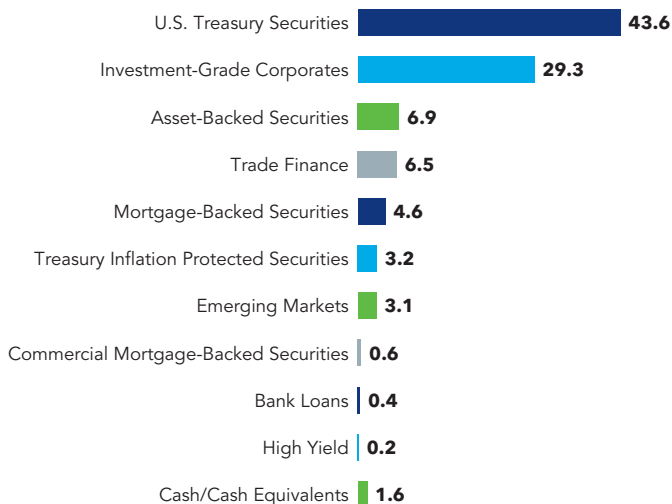
Portfolio statistics

Weighted average effective maturity	3.1 yrs.
Weighted average effective duration	2.5 yrs.
Weighted average coupon	4.39%
Weighted average yield to maturity	4.85%
Weighted average bond price	\$98.59

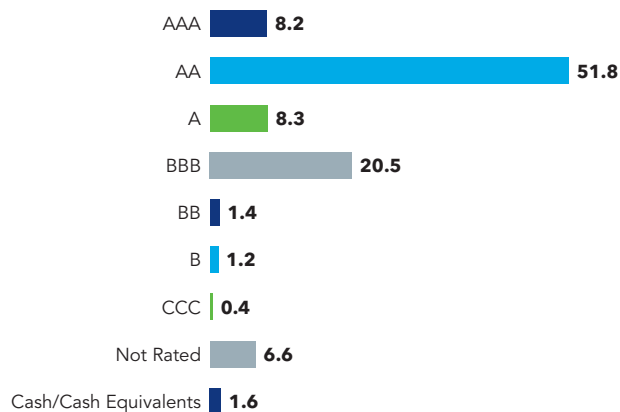
Top holdings (%)

U.S. Treasury Note, 5.000% due 8/31/25	14.3
Project and Trade Finance Core Fund	6.9
U.S. Treasury Note, 3.125% due 8/31/27	5.7
U.S. Treasury Note, 4.125% due 9/30/27	5.0
U.S. Treasury Note, 3.750% due 12/31/28	4.6
Mortgage Core Fund	4.3
U.S. Treasury Note, 3.500% due 1/31/28	4.3
U.S. Treasury Note, 4.375% due 8/31/28	3.1
Emerging Markets Core Fund	2.6
U.S. TIPS, 1.625% due 10/15/29	2.2
Total % of portfolio	53.0

Sector weightings (%)



Quality breakdown¹ (%)



Quality breakdown does not apply to Equity or Cash/Cash Equivalents.

Portfolio composition is based on net assets at the close of business on 12/31/24 and may not necessarily reflect adjustments that are routinely made when presenting net assets for formal financial statement purposes. Because this is a managed portfolio, the investment mix will change.

Highlights

- In the fourth quarter, the fund's Institutional Shares returned -0.49% vs. -0.71% for the Bloomberg 1-5 Year Government/Credit Index. Year-to-date, the fund's Institutional Shares returned 4.10%, vs. 3.76% for the index
- Sector allocation was the key driver of performance during the quarter, with additional contribution from security selection and duration management
- To start the first quarter of 2025, the fund's duration is slightly short its benchmark and its yield curve exposure is underweight the front-end of its benchmark, with allocations to securitized products, trade finance and emerging markets (EM) debt

Looking back

Resiliency and uncertainty were key watch words during the fourth quarter. From low weekly jobless claims to improving consumer confidence and manufacturing surveys, solid economic data underpinned growth prospects. Election uncertainty was decisively resolved, but that in turn led to rising uncertainty over potential pro-growth fiscal policies from the new administration and what impact, if any, they would have on Federal Reserve (Fed) policies. In addition, inflation has proved to be stubborn. After slow and steady gains in the Fed's preferred inflation measure, core personal consumption expenditures, it reaccelerated during the fourth quarter, hitting 2.82% in November, well above the Fed's 2% target. While the Fed made it clear that it wanted to continue to cut its federal funds rate to normalize policy, Fed Chair Powell commented after the December meeting that the Fed needed to see further progress on inflation to cut rates, and he indicated that several policy makers had factored into their thinking potential changes from the new administration. The Fed's own economic projections from its December meeting call for above longer-run trends in economic growth, unemployment and inflation in 2025. Market expectations for future Fed rate cuts fell during the quarter, as the implied year-end 2025 rate rose nearly 100 basis points, to end just below 4.0%, more in-line with the Fed's own projection.

Treasury yields zig-zagged higher in the fourth quarter, rising sharply in October, falling slightly in November, but then rising again in December. The benchmark 10-year note yield ranged from 3.73% in early October to 4.63% late in the quarter, before closing at 4.57%. Led by the belly of the curve, front-end Treasury yield curves steepened, while the 10/30-year curve flattened, as 30-year yields rose less than did 10-year yields. The Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index posted a total return of -3.06%, and all sectors except high yield and leveraged loans were also negative. All sectors except mortgage-backed securities (MBS) outperformed comparable-duration Treasuries in the quarter, and all sectors outperformed Treasuries for the full year. Commodities prices were mixed, as crude oil, gasoline, and natural gas all gained, while metals lost value. After hitting its all-time high of \$2,800/ounce in October, gold eased lower but finished slightly higher for the quarter.

Performance

Federated Hermes Short-Intermediate Total Return Bond Fund Institutional Shares returned -0.49% at net asset value (NAV) for the fourth quarter of 2024, while the fund's benchmark, the Bloomberg 1-5 Year Government/Credit Index, had a total return of -0.71%. The fund's total return for the period also reflected actual cash flows, transaction costs and other expenses that were not reflected in the total return of the benchmark index.

Performance contributors

- Allocations to EM debt, trade finance and asset-backed securities, and overweight to investment grade (IG) corporates
- Security selection, particularly of US Treasuries and banking, technology, capital goods and energy securities
- Duration management, as the portfolio shifted from duration short of its benchmark, to neutral, and then back to short at quarter-end

Performance detractors

- Slight drag from insurance, communications and utility selection
- Yield curve positioning, primarily from longer duration MBS and EM debt

Performance quoted represents past performance, which is no guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than what is stated. Other share classes may have experienced different returns than the share class presented. To view performance current to the most recent month-end, and for after-tax returns, contact us or visit FederatedHermes.com/us.

How we are positioned

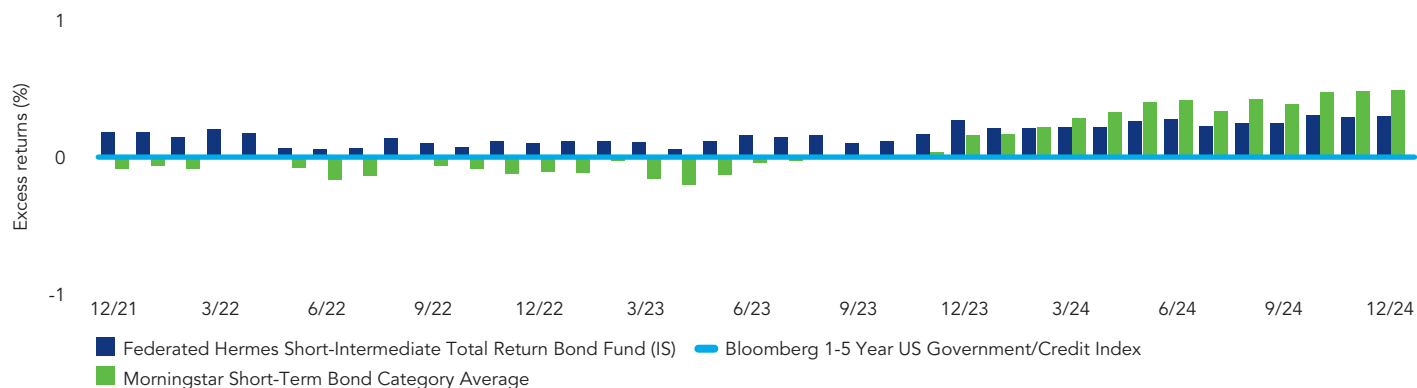
The fund starts the first quarter of 2025 with duration slightly short its benchmark and yield curve exposure underweight the front-end of the curve. During the fourth quarter, the fund reduced exposure to IG corporates, MBS and EM debt exposure, primarily due to valuation, while adding Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS) exposure.

The fund employed derivatives to express duration, yield curve, sector and currency investment themes during the quarter. The fund continues to incorporate into its security selection process sustainable investing practices that focus on environmental, social and governance issues.

ESG factors may be considered in the investment analysis process in a manner that is complementary to and enhances the fundamental research and analysis process. Certain ESG factors may help identify business and operational risks or opportunities and add a contextual dimension to the overall evaluation of a security. Like any aspect of investment analysis, there is no guarantee that an investment strategy that considers ESG factors will result in performance better than or equal to products that do not consider such factors.

See disclosure section for important disclosures and definitions.

5-year rolling excess performance vs. Bloomberg 1-5 Year US Government/Credit Index



Source: Morningstar, Inc. Performance represents 5-year periods (1-month shift).

Returns are for Institutional Shares. Other classes of shares are available whose performance will vary due to different charges and expenses.

Risk statistics

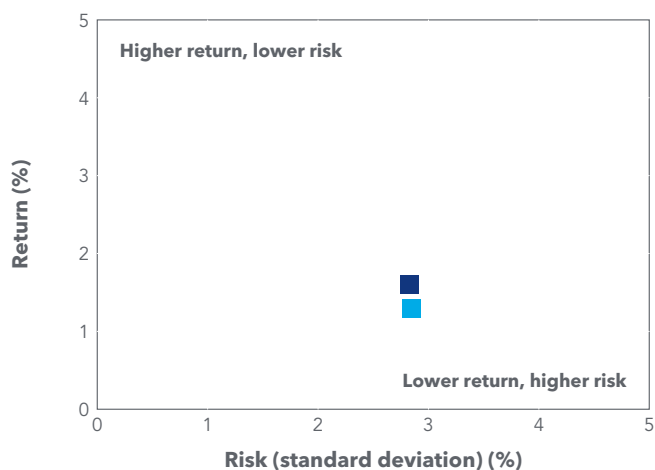
	3-year	5-year	7-year	10-year
Standard deviation	3.47	2.83	2.49	2.26
Alpha	0.10	0.26	0.12	0.25
Beta	0.97	0.97	0.95	0.94
Up capture ratio	98.84	100.32	96.49	99.49
Down capture ratio	94.27	91.20	87.84	86.74
Sharpe ratio	-0.86	-0.35	-0.19	0.03

Sources: Federated Hermes, Morningstar, Inc.

Fund vs. Bloomberg 1-5 Year US Government/Credit Index

See disclosure section for important definitions.

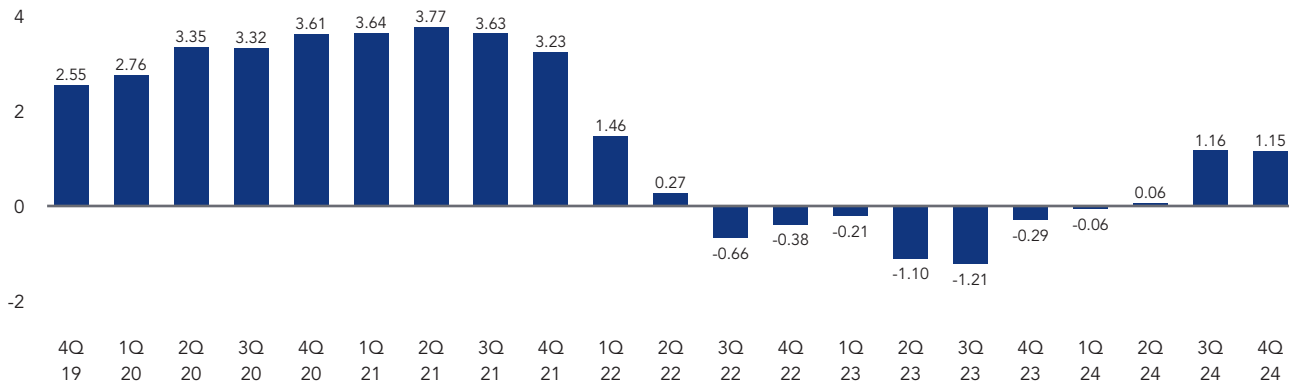
5-year risk/return



	Risk (%)	Return (%)
Federated Hermes Short-Intermediate Total Return Bond Fund (IS)	2.83	1.60
Bloomberg 1-5 Year US Government/Credit Index	2.85	1.29

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3-year rolling returns - IS (%)



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Category rankings

Morningstar Short-Term Bond Category		1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year
R6 Shares	Morningstar Category % Rank	84	80	65	61
	Morningstar Category Rank	446 of 553 funds	390 of 522 funds	295 of 482 funds	198 of 364 funds
IS Shares	Morningstar Category % Rank	84	81	66	52
	Morningstar Category Rank	447 of 553 funds	395 of 522 funds	299 of 482 funds	161 of 364 funds
A Shares	Morningstar Category % Rank	91	87	79	72
	Morningstar Category Rank	483 of 553 funds	431 of 522 funds	371 of 482 funds	229 of 364 funds

Lipper Short Investment Grade Debt Funds		1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year
R6 Shares	Lipper Classification % Rank	93	90	72	64
	Lipper Classification Rank	344 of 372 funds	309 of 346 funds	233 of 323 funds	156 of 243 funds
IS Shares	Lipper Classification % Rank	93	90	73	51
	Lipper Classification Rank	345 of 372 funds	312 of 346 funds	235 of 323 funds	124 of 243 funds
A Shares	Lipper Classification % Rank	96	96	86	71
	Lipper Classification Rank	357 of 372 funds	333 of 346 funds	277 of 323 funds	173 of 243 funds

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Rankings are based on total return and do not take sales charges into account.

Federated Hermes Short-Intermediate Total Return Bond Fund

¹The ratings referred to in the quality breakdown are provided by S&P Global Ratings, Moody's, and Fitch. The allocation of ratings presented aligns with the methodology of the Bloomberg index. Bloomberg employs the middle rating from S&P Global Ratings, Moody's, and Fitch to determine a security's credit classification, essentially following a "two out-of-three" rule. In cases where only two agencies rate a security, the more conservative (lower) rating is utilized. If only one agency rates a security, that single rating is used. Additionally, certain securities may not have a credit rating from any of the agencies, and they are categorized as "not rated." For clarity, credit ratings of A or better are indicative of high credit quality, while BBB represents good credit quality and the lowest tier of investment grade. Ratings of BB and below are assigned to lower-rated securities, often referred to as "junk bonds," and credit ratings of CCC or below indicate a high level of default risk. This breakdown doesn't consider the impact of credit derivatives in the fund.

30-day yield (also known as "SEC yield") for A Shares is a compounded and annualized figure calculated according to a formula set by the SEC. The formula requires use of a specific methodology for calculating dividends and interest earned, and expenses accrued, during the period, and reflects the maximum offering price per fund share. The standardized computation is designed to facilitate yield comparisons among different funds. In the absence of temporary expense waivers or reimbursements, the 30-day yield would have been 4.56% at maximum offering price for A Shares, 4.88% for R6 Shares, and 4.85% for Institutional Shares.

A word about risk

Mutual funds are subject to risks and fluctuate in value.

High-yield, lower-rated securities generally entail greater market, credit/default and liquidity risks, and may be more volatile than investment-grade securities.

International investing involves special risks, including currency risk, increased volatility, political risks and differences in auditing and other financial standards.

Prices of emerging market and frontier market securities can be significantly more volatile than the prices of securities in developed countries, and currency risk and political risks are accentuated in emerging markets.

The fund's use of derivative instruments involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities and other traditional instruments.

Bond prices are sensitive to changes in interest rates, and a rise in interest rates can cause a decline in their prices.

The value of some mortgage-backed securities may be particularly sensitive to changes in prevailing interest rates, and although the securities are generally supported by some form of government or private insurance, there is no assurance that private guarantors or insurers will meet their obligations.

Definitions

Alpha shows how much or how little return is generated, given the risk a portfolio takes. A portfolio with an alpha greater than 0 has earned more than expected given its beta—meaning the portfolio has generated excess return without increasing risk. A portfolio with a negative alpha is producing a lower return than would be expected given its risk.

Beta measures a portfolio's volatility relative to the market. A beta greater than 1.00 suggests the portfolio has historically been more volatile than the market as measured by the fund's benchmark. A beta less than 1.00 suggests the portfolio has historically had less volatility relative to the market.

Sharpe ratio is calculated by dividing a fund's annualized excess return by the fund's annualized standard deviation. The higher the Sharpe ratio, the better the fund's historical risk adjusted performance.

Standard deviation is a historical measure of the variability of returns relative to the average annual return. A higher number indicates higher overall volatility.

Up capture ratio/down capture ratio is a measure of how well a manager was able to replicate or improve on periods of positive benchmark returns and how badly the manager was affected by periods of negative benchmark returns. The up-market capture ratio is a measure of a manager's performance in up markets relative to the index during the same period. For example, a ratio value of 115 indicates that the manager has outperformed the market index by 15% in periods when the index has risen. The down-market capture ratio is the direct opposite of the up-market capture ratio, gauging performance of the manager relative to the index in down markets. A ratio value of 80 would indicate the manager had declined on 80% as much as the declining overall market, indicating relative outperformance.

Weighted average bond price is the weighted average of all individual bond prices within a portfolio.

Weighted average coupon is the weighted average interest payment of all individual debt securities within a portfolio.

Weighted average effective duration (sometimes called "option-adjusted duration") is a measure of a security's price sensitivity to changes in interest rates calculated using a model that recognizes that the probability of a bond being called or remaining outstanding until maturity may vary if market interest rates change, and that makes adjustments based on a bond's embedded options (e.g., call rights, or in the case of a mortgage-backed security, the probability that homeowners will prepay their mortgages), if any, based on the probability that the options will be exercised. A fund's weighted average effective duration will equal the market value weighted average of each bond's effective duration in the fund's portfolio. As with any model, several assumptions are made so the weighted average effective duration of a fund in the Federated Hermes family of funds may not be comparable to other funds outside of the Federated Hermes family of funds. Securities with longer durations are more sensitive to changes in interest rates than securities of shorter durations.

Weighted average effective maturity is the average time to maturity of debt securities held in the fund.

Weighted average yield to maturity is used to determine the rate of return an investor would receive if a long-term, interest-bearing investment, such as a bond, is held to its maturity date. It takes into account purchase price, redemption value, time to maturity, coupon yield and the time between interest payments.

Bloomberg 1-5 Year US Government/Credit Index is a broad-based benchmark that measures the non-securitized component of the US Aggregate Index. It includes investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities that have a remaining maturity of greater than or equal to one year and less than five years.

Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged index composed of securities from the Bloomberg Government/Corporate Bond Index, the Mortgage-Backed Securities Index and the Asset-Backed Securities Index. Total return comprises price appreciation/depreciation and income as a percentage of the original investment. Indices are rebalanced monthly by market capitalization.

Indexes are unmanaged and cannot be invested in directly.

Ratings and rating agencies

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