# **Monthly Fund Commentary**



## Hartford Strategic Income Fund

Tickers: A: HSNAX C: HSNCX F: HSNFX I: HSNIX R3: HSNRX R4: HSNSX R5: HSNTX R6: HSNVX Y: HSNYX

### What Happened?

- Renewed inflation worries driven by tariffs, along with Germany's fiscal announcement, sent long-duration developed-sovereign yields sharply higher. Most spread sectors produced negative total returns and underperformed government bonds.
- The US Treasury yield curve steepened as front-end yields rallied, and longdated yields sold off.
- The Federal Reserve kept rates on hold but slowed the pace of its balance sheet runoff, while the European Central Bank and the Swiss National Bank each cut rates by 25 basis points (0.25%).

### **Performance Highlights**

#### **Contributors**

- Commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) positioning had a positive impact on performance. CMBS offers opportunities for liquidity providers.
- Positioning in emerging markets (EM) local debt helped returns during the month. EM country fundamentals remain largely constructive, supported by manageable balance of payment positions, improving or steady fiscal deficits, and supportive commodity prices.

#### **Detractors**

- Exposure to global high yield represented the top detractor from returns during the month. Strong earnings and interest coverage provide ample cushion in the event of deterioration, in our view; more challenged issuers are at greater risk of liability-management exercises.
- An allocation to convertible bonds hurt performance due to their equity sensitivity in a risk-off environment. We still believe convertible bonds offer positive convexity and exposure to issuers with strong upside potential.

#### Month End Performance (%) (I-Share) as of 3/31/25



Performance data quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment 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 the performance data quoted. For more current performance information to the most recent month ended, please visit hartfordfunds.com. Please see page 3 for standardized performance. Returns for less than one year are not annualized.

Convexity is a measure of the curvature, or the degree of the curve, in the relationship between bond prices and bond yields.

**Duration** is a measure of the sensitivity of an investment's price to nominal interest-rate movement.

**Spreads** are the difference in yields between two fixed-income securities with the same maturity, but originating from different investment sectors.

Yield curve is a line that plots interest rates of bonds having equal credit quality but differing maturity dates; its slope is used to forecast the state of the economy and interest-rate changes.

#### Overall Morningstar Rating™ (I-Share)\*

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340 Products

Multisector Bond Category Based on Risk-Adjusted Returns as of 3/31/25

# Portfolio managers from Wellington Management and years of experience

Campe Goodman, CFA, 28 years Joseph F. Marvan, CFA, 37 years Robert D. Burn, CFA, 27 years

## **Current Insight and Positioning From Wellington Management**

- We believe higher-yielding fixed income remains an attractive opportunity, benefitting from income at attractive yields and the potential for capital appreciation.
- Attractiveness of valuations is likely to continue to diverge across fixed-income sectors, creating opportunities for active sector rotation.
- We're monitoring trade and other policy developments closely and will remain vigilant in dynamically rotating exposures among sectors in an effort to take advantage of market dislocations as they emerge.

Sector Exposure (%) as of 3/31/25	
High Yield Credit	25
Emerging Market Debt	21
United States Government	13
Asset Backed Securities	12
Bank Loans	12
Mortgage Backed Securities	12
Other	9
Commercial Mortgage Backed	6
Securities	U
Investment Grade Credit	4
Developed Government and	0
Related (Non-US \$)	U
Cash, Cash Equivalents and Cash	-13
Offsets	-13

Characteristics are subject to change. Percentages may be rounded.

Credit	Exposure <sup>1</sup>	( <b>%)</b> as	of 3/31.	/25

Aaa/AAA	5
Aa/AA	19
A	3
Baa/BBB	11
Ba/BB	26
В	31
Caa/CCC or lower	4
Not Rated	15
Cash & Cash Offsets	-13

<sup>1</sup>Credit exposure is the credit ratings for the underlying securities of the Fund as provided by Standard and Poor's (S&P), Moody's Investors Service, or Fitch and typically range from AAA/Aaa (highest) to C/D (lowest). If S&P, Moody's, and Fitch assign different ratings, the median rating is used. If only two agencies assign ratings, the lower rating is used. Securities that are not rated by any of the three agencies are listed as "Not Rated." Ratings do not apply to the Fund itself or to Fund shares. Ratings may change.

\$3.7 billion
1,286
778
Monthly
4.77 yrs.

#### Average Annual Total Returns (%) as of 3/31/25

								Expenses <sup>1</sup>	
Class	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	SI	Gross	Net
A	1.92	1.92	7.30	3.91	4.98	3.88	4.23	0.91%	0.91%
A with 4.5% Max Sales Charge	_	_	2.47	2.32	4.02	3.40	3.97	_	_
F	2.01	2.01	7.74	4.33	5.38	4.23	4.56	0.53%	0.53%
1	1.98	1.98	7.62	4.22	5.29	4.15	4.52	0.63%	0.63%
R3	1.83	1.83	6.89	3.55	4.63	3.53	4.21	1.25%	1.25%
R4	1.91	1.91	7.28	3.90	4.96	3.85	4.46	0.93%	0.93%
R5	1.99	1.99	7.64	4.23	5.29	4.18	4.71	0.64%	0.64%
R6	2.02	2.02	7.77	4.31	5.39	4.28	4.77	0.54%	0.54%
Υ	2.13	2.13	7.65	4.24	5.30	4.21	4.73	0.64%	0.64%
Benchmark	2.78	2.78	4.88	0.52	-0.40	1.46	_	_	
Morningstar Category	1.82	1.82	6.36	3.20	4.86	3.18	_	_	_

Morningstar® Category Multisector Bond

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Share Class Inception: A, I - 5/31/07; F - 2/28/17; R3, R4, R5 - 9/30/11; R6 - 11/7/14; Y - 8/31/07. Performance shown prior to the inception of a class reflects performance and operating expenses of another class(es) (excluding sales charges, if applicable). Had fees and expenses of a class been reflected for the periods prior to the inception of that class, performance would be different. Since inception (SI) performance for A, F, I is from 5/31/07; R3, R4, R5, R6, and Y is from 8/31/07. Performance and expenses for other share classes will vary. Additional information is in the prospectus. Only Class A assesses a sales charge. Performance for periods of less than one year is not annualized.

Benchmark: Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index is composed of securities that cover the US investment grade fixed rate bond market, with index components for government and corporate securities, mortgage pass-through securities, and asset-backed securities. Indices are unmanaged and not available for direct investment.

\*Class I-Shares Star Ratings: 3-year 4 stars out of 340 products, 5-year 3 stars out of 284 products, and 10-year 4 stars out of 198 products for the period ended herein. Other share classes may have different ratings. The Morningstar Rating<sup>TM</sup> for funds, or "star rating", is calculated for funds and separate accounts with at least a 3-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. Star rating based on a Morningstar Risk Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance (without adjusting for any sales load, if applicable), placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. 5 stars are assigned to the top 10%, 4 stars to the next 22.5%, 3 stars to the next 35%, 2 stars to the next 22.5%, and 1 star to the bottom 10%. Overall Morningstar Rating is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its 3-, 5-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. For more information about the Morningstar Fund Ratings, including their methodology, please go to global.morningstar.com/managerdisclosures. ©2025 Morningstar, Inc. All rights reserved. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information.

1 Expenses are the total annual operating expenses from the Fund's most recent prospectus at the time of publication.

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Important Risks: Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Security prices fluctuate in value depending on general market and economic conditions and the prospects of individual companies. • Fixed income security risks include credit, liquidity, call, duration, event and interest-rate risk. As interest rates rise, bond prices generally fall. • Investments in high-yield ("junk") bonds involve greater risk of price volatility, illiquidity, and default than higher-rated debt securities. • Foreign investments, including foreign government debt, may be more volatile and less liquid than U.S. investments and are subject to the risk of currency fluctuations and adverse political, economic and regulatory developments. These risks may be greater, and include additional risks, for investments in emerging markets. • Derivatives are generally more volatile and sensitive to changes in market or economic conditions than other securities; their risks include currency, leverage, liquidity, index, pricing, valuation, and counterparty risk. • The risks associated with mortgage-related and asset-backed securities as well as collateralized loan obligations (CLOs) include credit, interest-rate, prepayment, liquidity, default and extension risk. • The purchase of securities in the To-Be-Announced (TBA) market can result in higher portfolio turnover, which could increase transaction costs and an investor's tax liability. The risks associated with the TBA market include price and counterparty risk. • Restricted securities may be more difficult to sell and price than other securities. • Loans can be difficult to value and less liquid than other types of debt instruments; they are also subject to nonpayment, collateral, bankruptcy, default, extension, prepayment and insolvency risks. • Obligations of U.S. Government agencies are supported by varying degrees of credit but are generally not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. • The portfolio managers may allocate a portion of the Fund's ass

Investors should carefully consider a fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. This and other important information is contained in a fund's full prospectus and summary prospectus, which can be obtained by visiting hartfordfunds.com. Please read it carefully before investing.

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