Monthly Fund Commentary



Hartford Total Return Bond Fund

Tickers A: ITBAX C: HABCX F: ITBEX I: ITBIX R3: ITBRX R4: ITBUX R5: ITBTX R6: ITBVX Y: HABYX

What Happened?

- Fixed-income markets started 2024 with a reversal of the rally that closed out 2023, though most of the move was recouped by the end of the month.
 Spread sectors generally outperformed government bonds as economic data continued to support a soft-landing scenario.
- US Treasury yields finished little changed as the yield curve steepened modestly
- Market participants grappled with the expected timing of the Federal Reserve's (Fed) first rate cut, with little clarity offered at the January Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting

Performance Highlights

Contributors

- Allocations to structured-finance sectors (non-agency residential mortgage backed securities (RMBS), asset backed securities (ABS), and commercial mortgage backed securities (CMBS)) represented the top contributor to relative results. Housing data releases have been strong and the structural housing-supply shortages continued to act as a powerful tailwind for homeprice performance.
- Positioning within investment-grade (IG) credit contributed favorably to relative performance. Spreads appear tight, but elevated yields should continue to bolster demand for credit.

Detractors

- An out-of-benchmark allocation to high yield detracted from relative returns.
 We expect better opportunities for nimble, discerning active investors to increase exposure at wider spreads.
- An overweight to agency MBS hurt relative results amid uncertainty about the future Fed rate path. We continue to focus on relative value opportunities and enhancing cashflow stability.

Portfolio Managers from Wellington Management

Joseph F. Marvan, CFA

Senior Managing Director Fixed-Income Portfolio Manager Professional Experience Since 1988

Campe Goodman, CFA

Senior Managing Director Fixed-Income Portfolio Manager Professional Experience Since 1997

Robert D. Burn, CFA

Senior Managing Director Fixed-Income Portfolio Manager Professional Experience Since 1998

The portfolio managers are supported by the full resources of Wellington.

Month End Performance (%) (I-Share) as of 1/31/24



Overall Morningstar
Rating™ (I-Share)*

★★★

568 Products | Intermediate Core-Plus
Bond Category Based on Risk-Adjusted

Returns as of 1/31/24

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.

Investment grade securities are fixed income securities that are rated at 'BBB" or higher by Standard & Poor's or Moody's.

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.

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

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Current Insight and Positioning From Wellington Management

- Corporate fundamentals are expected to deteriorate at the margin, albeit from a strong starting point, with margins under pressure as recent strength in pricing power subsides
- We maintain an underweight to IG credit due to better observed opportunities in various out-of-benchmark sectors, including high-quality securitized credit (residential housing benefits from low supply), BB high yield (more insulated from default risk than CCCs), and select emerging markets (focus on exporters and countries with good macro policies)
- We believe there is scope for yields to remain supported by expected weaker growth and as central banks pivot to more accommodative monetary policies. We maintain an above-average duration profile.

Sector Exposure (%) as of 1/31/24

	Mortgage Backed Securities	50
	Investment Grade Credit	26
	United States Government	15
	Asset Backed Securities	10
	High Yield Credit	6
	Commercial Mortgage Backed Securities	5
	Developed Government and Related (Non-US \$)	1
	Emerging Market Debt	1
	Bank Loans	0
	Other	0
	Cash, Cash Equivalents and Cash Offsets	-14

Characteristics are subject to change. Percentages may be rounded.

Credit Exposure¹ (%) as of 1/31/24

Aaa/AAA	13
Aa/AA	62
A	10
Baa/BBB	19
Ba/BB	6
В	1
Caa/CCC or lower	1
Not Rated	3
Cash & Cash Offsets	-14

'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.

Net Assets	\$3.2 billion
# of Holdings	1,632
# of Issuers	411
Dividend Frequency	Monthly

Holdings Characteristics

Effective Duration 5.69 yrs.

Monthly Fund Commentary

Performance (%) as of 12/31/23

			Average Annual Total Returns			Expenses ¹			
Class	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	SI	Gross	Net
A	7.28	6.54	6.54	-3.37	1.54	1.91	4.11	0.68%	0.68%
A with 4.5% Max Sales Charge	_	_	1.75	-4.84	0.61	1.44	3.93	_	_
F	7.38	7.01	7.01	-3.01	1.91	2.28	4.33	0.32%	0.32%
I	7.38	6.99	6.99	-3.07	1.86	2.22	4.30	0.37%	0.37%
R3	7.23	6.31	6.31	-3.69	1.21	1.59	4.11	1.04%	1.04%
R4	7.27	6.60	6.60	-3.38	1.53	1.91	4.29	0.74%	0.74%
R5	7.40	6.90	6.90	-3.09	1.88	2.23	4.49	0.44%	0.44%
R6	7.41	6.97	6.97	-3.02	1.91	2.29	4.54	0.32%	0.32%
Υ	7.42	6.94	6.94	-3.07	1.87	2.28	4.53	0.38%	0.38%
Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index	6.82	5.53	5.53	-3.31	1.10	1.81	_	_	
Morningstar Category	6.77	6.22	6.22	-2.99	1.48	1.93		_	_
Lipper Peer Group	6.74	5.85	5.85	-3.31	1.25	1.73	_	_	_

Morningstar® Category Intermediate Core-Plus Bond Lipper Peer Group Core Bond

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Share Class Inception: A, Y - 7/22/96; F - 2/28/17; I - 8/31/06; R3, R4, R5 - 12/22/06; R6 - 11/7/14. 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 is from 7/22/96. Performance and expenses for other share classes will vary. Additional information is in the prospectus. Only Class A assesses a sales charge.

Bloomberg U.S. 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 3 stars out of 568 products, 5-year 4 stars out of 539 products, and 10-year 4 stars out of 375 products for the period ended herein. Other share classes may have different ratings. The Morningstar Rating™ 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. ©2024 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.

 $^{\rm 1}\textsc{Expenses}$ as shown in the Fund's most recent prospectus.

Effective as of the close of business on 3/29/19, Class C of the Fund closed to new investors, except as disclosed in the prospectus.

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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. The Fund's strategy for allocating a portion of its assets to specialist portfolio managers may not work as intended. Fixed income security risks include credit, liquidity, call, duration, event and interest-rate risk. As interest rates rise, bond prices generally fall. 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 and related expenses as well as price and counterparty risk. 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. 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, regulatory and counterparty risk. Foreign investments 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 for investments in emerging markets. Restricted securities may be more difficult to sell and price than other securities. Investments in high-yield ("junk") bonds involve greater risk of price volatility, illiquidity, and default than higher-rated debt securities. The Fund may have high portfolio turnover, which could increase its transaction costs and an investor's tax liability.

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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