Data as of May 31, 2025



# J.P. Morgan Core Bond

Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement System

# Speaker biographies



Susan Parekh Executive Director

Is a member of the Global Fixed Income, Currency & Commodities (GFICC) group. Based in Columbus, Susan is a portfolio manager on the Core Strategy team responsible for managing institutional taxable bond portfolios and fund vehicles within Short Duration, Stable Value, Core Bond and Long Duration strategies. An employee since 1996, Susan previously worked as a performance analyst and a senior investment fund accountant. Susan holds a B.B.A. in accounting and finance from Western Michigan University.



John Nicely Managing Director

Is a member of the Global Fixed Income, Currency & Commodities (GFICC) group. Based in Columbus, he is the Head of the U.S. Broad Market Investment Specialist team and is responsible for representing fixed income products to clients, consultants, prospects and internal partners. An employee since 1998, John was previously a client portfolio manager for the Broad Market team and has served in various other business management roles and analytical positions within Asset Management. John holds a B.S. in finance from the Capital University and holds FINRA Series 7, 63 and 65 licenses.

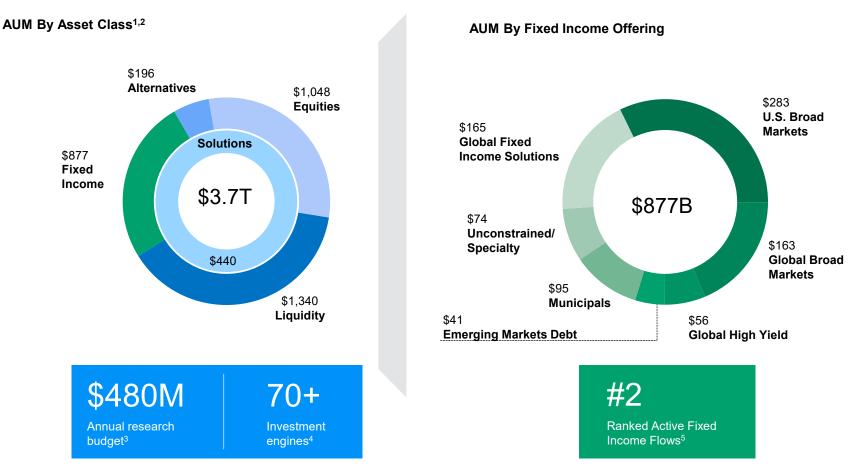


Blake Johnson Client Advisor

Blake Johnson, executive director, is a pension client advisor in the Institutional division of J.P. Morgan Asset Management. An employee since 2012, Blake is responsible for serving the investment needs of large and complex public pensions across the United States. In this role, she sources the firm's global resources across a spectrum of traditional and alternative asset classes to help institutions address investment challenges. Prior to her current position, Blake was a member of J.P. Morgan's Global Insurance Solutions Group focused on delivering the firm's investment and analytical capabilities to insurance investors. Blake earned a B.A. from Bowdoin College and holds Series 3, 7 and 63 licenses.

# J.P. Morgan Asset Management: Broad, diversified active manager

The power of perspective to build stronger portfolios



As of March 31, 2025; unless otherwise noted. Due to rounding, data may not always add up to the total AUS. AUM figures are representative of assets managed by the Global Fixed Income, Currency & Commodities group and include AUM managed on behalf of other J.P. Morgan Asset Management investment teams. As of March 31, 2025. Includes custom glide path and retail advisory assets; AUS by asset class includes AUS managed behalf of other investment teams; Only for AM; AJ.P. Morgan Asset Management as of December 31, 2024; AJ. Market Intelligence Simfund, public filings and company websites.

# J.P. Morgan Asset Management Global Fixed Income, Currency & Commodities

A globally integrated, research-driven fixed income organization

## Deep research Information advantage Over 70 career research Collaboration across functions, deep analysts\* connected across a market access, and proprietary data common global platform drive unique insights **Fiduciary** excellence Trusted lenders of our clients' capital for over 150 years **Culture of risk management** A proven track record of providing stability in the midst of market volatility



**Bob Michele**Head of Global Fixed Income,
Currency & Commodities

Source: J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., J.P. Morgan Asset Management. The manager seeks to achieve the stated objectives. \*Includes VP level and above Research Analysts, including Quantitative Research. There can be no guarantees those objectives will be met.

# Robust, multi-layered risk management supported by proprietary technology



### **Portfolio Management**

Investment Directors

Independent Risk

Day-to-day responsibility for portfolio risk and adherence with guidelines

Ensure risk allocation is delivered as intended

Provide portfolio management oversight by monitoring adherence to investment objectives and process

Provide in-business customized risk monitoring and risk analytics support

Dynamically monitor portfolios through customized regional frameworks and across various disciplines

Present a consolidated view of risks to senior management

Manage Stressed Market Protocol to prepare AM processes for high volatility or market crises

**Spectrum** gives our investment teams a holistic view of markets and agility to act fast, especially during times of volatility

### **Tailored solutions**

Customizable toolset to tailor investment strategies to specific client needs

### **Analytical capabilities**

Advanced analytics to monitor exposure and impact in real time

### Comprehensive risk management

Tools to evaluate and manage risk at the click of a button



As of December 31, 2024. Source: J.P. Morgan Asset Management. The manager seeks to achieve the stated objectives. There can be no objective they will be met.

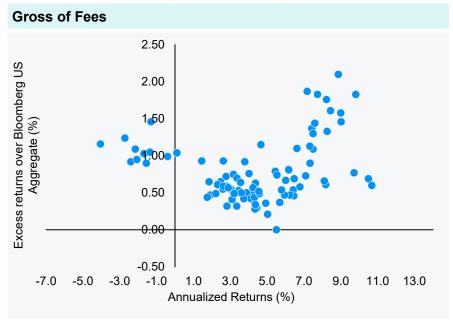


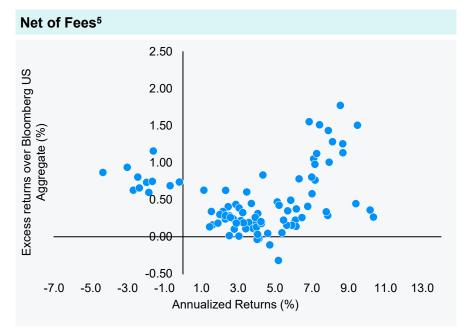
# Strategy: Core Bond

# Consistency is the hallmark of our investment approach

Core Bond Composite three-year rolling returns supplemental to annual performance report

Quarterly periods ending 3/31/2003 through 3/31/2025





### Goal: Outperform the index by 50-100 bps (Gross of Fees) annually over a full market cycle

- 1. The charts and/or graphs shown above and throughout the presentation are for illustration and discussion purposes only.
- 2. Past performance is not indicative of future returns. Performance includes the reinvestment of income.
- 3.Performance results are gross of investment management fees. The deduction of an advisory fee reduces an investor's return. Actual account performance will vary depending on individual portfolio security selection and the applicable fee schedule. Fees are described in Part II of the Advisor's ADV which is available upon request. (Please see back for additional performance disclosure)
- 4. Because this strategy primarily invests in bonds, it is subject to interest rate risks. Bond prices generally fall when interest rates rise. This may make the strategy more volatile. Please see addition risks on the back disclosure page.
- 5.Please note, the "net of fee" composite performance returns is calculated using a model investment management fee. It is based on a representative fee applicable to institutional clients looking to invest in the strategy and it is higher or equal to the weighted average investment management fee of the underlying accounts within the composite at year end. Actual fees may be lower based on assets under management and other factors. Where fees are lower, "net of fees" performance returns will be higher. As such, "net of fees" performance for actual accounts may differ significantly from the "net of fees" performance shown above.



### **Investment Team**



**Kay Herr, CFA\*** U.S. CIO



Rick Figuly <sup>(1)</sup>
Lead Portfolio Manager, Core Bond Fixed Income

### **Portfolio Managers**



**Daniel Ateru, CFA**Portfolio Manager



**Tim Eisel**Portfolio Manager



**Edward Fitzpatrick, CFA**<sup>(1)</sup> Portfolio Manager



**Scott Grimshaw, CFA**Portfolio Manager



**Andy Melchiorre, CFA**<sup>(1)</sup> Portfolio Manager



**Michael Pacca**Portfolio Manager



Susan Parekh Portfolio Manager



**Justin Rucker, CFA** (1)
Portfolio Manager



**Ashley Sorensen** Portfolio Manager

### **Common Platform**



John Nicely
Head of U.S. Broad Market
Investment Specialists



Vincent Kumaradjaja\* Head of Risk



Brian Lysiak\* Head of Trading



Sam Soquar\* Head of Research

PA SERS Team

\*Bob Michele direct report. (1) Listed Portfolio Managers according for JPMorgan Prospect filing for all JPMorgan Core Bond vehicles. As of March 31, 2025. There can be no assurance that the professionals currently employed by J.P. Morgan Asset Management will continue to be employed by J.P. Morgan Asset Management or that the past performance or success of any such professional serves as an indicator of such professional's future performance or success.

8

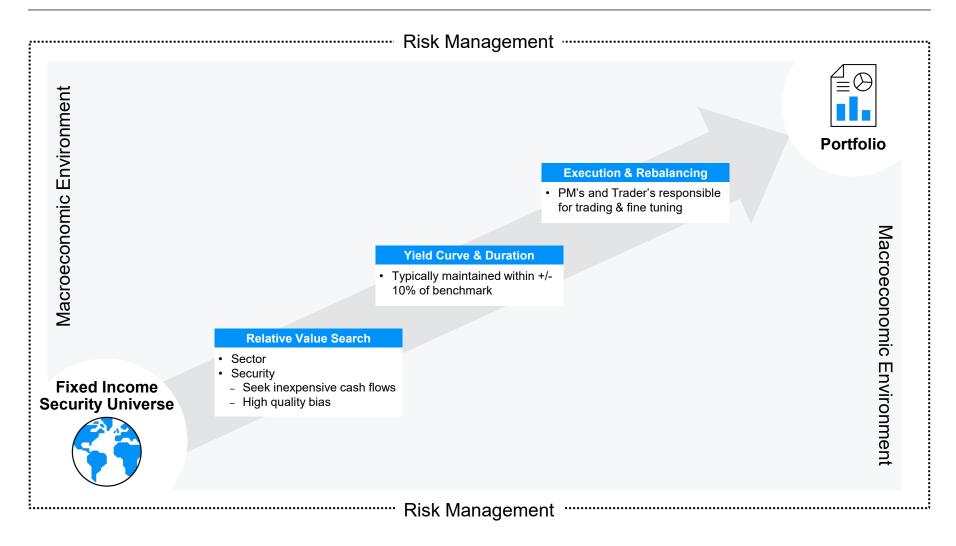
# **Investment Philosophy**

- · Longer term investing versus trading mentality
- Style emphasized research and individual security analysis, rather than large macro bets
- · Portfolios are well diversified and of high average credit quality, helping to minimize individual security risk
- · Many small decisions drive overall portfolio strategy, making us less dependent on a few top-down decisions
- Low turnover minimizes trading costs
- Risk management, embedded throughout the process, seeks to limit downside risk relative to a benchmark

This approach has resulted in consistent, long-term outperformance of the benchmark in a variety of market environments

The manager seeks to achieve the stated objectives. There can be no guarantee the objectives will be met.

# **Investment Approach**



The manager seeks to achieve the stated objectives. There can be no guarantee the objectives will be met.

# We focus on identifying undervalued sectors within defined allocation guidelines

As of May 31, 2025

### **Sector analysis**

- Analysis focuses research efforts on attractive sectors that offer a clear risk/reward advantage
- Process utilizes:
  - Sector-specific scenario analysis
  - Historical and projected spread analysis
  - Macroeconomic trends
- Portfolio managers are generalists, and maintain specialized sector research responsibilities
- > Typical allocation leads to spread product of 65% to 85%

### Typical allocation ranges - Core Bond Strategy

	Allocation range	Allocation as of 5-31-25
Securitized Credit (Non-Agency MBS, ABS, CMBS)	10-20%	15.8%
Corporate Credit	20-35%	24.8%
Agency MBS	20-40%	28.9%
Treasury	15-35%	40.2%

Source: J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc. Actual account allocations may differ.

11

# Risk management is an integral part of our investment process

### **Objectives**

- Limit downside risk relative to benchmark
- Consciously identify and manage risk exposures

### **Foundations**

- · Portfolio guidelines
  - Provide diversification framework relative to benchmark
  - Serve as the primary basis for monitoring portfolios versus benchmarks
- · Stress testing
  - Total return simulations for portfolio versus benchmark
  - Stress changes in interest rates, yield curve and spreads
- · Extensive portfolio reporting and oversights
- Performance review

## **Participants**

- Portfolio managers portfolio construction and monitoring
- Quantitative/risk managers risk environments, analysis and monitoring
- Credit analysts security review
- Senior management oversight and accountability
- Client portfolio managers client policy and communication

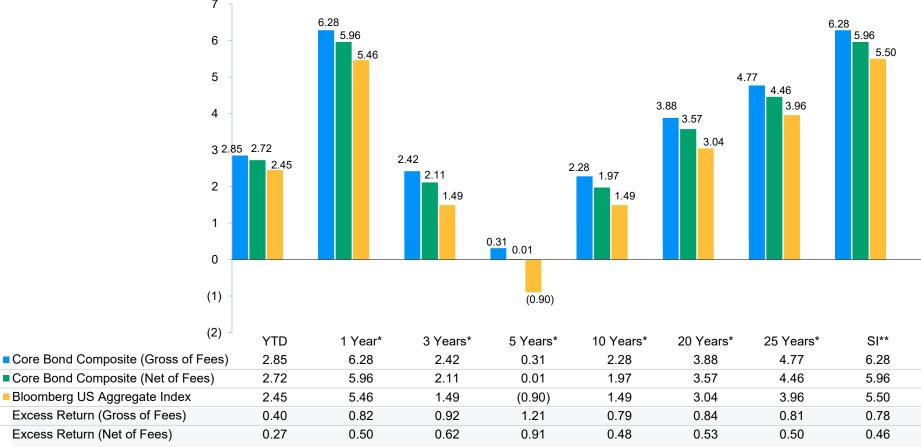
The manager seeks to achieve the stated objectives. There can be no guarantee the objectives will be met.

# Performance and Positioning

Strategy: Core Bond

# **Core Bond Composite: Investment Performance**

Period Ending May 31, 2025 – Gross & Net of Fees (%) Supplemental to annual performance report



Past performance is not indicative of future returns. Performance includes the reinvestment of income. \*Annualized \*\*Inception Date: 12/31/1985. Please note, the "net of fee" composite performance returns is calculated using a model investment management fee. It is based on a representative fee applicable to institutional clients looking to invest in the strategy and it is higher or equal to the weighted average investment management fee of the underlying accounts within the composite at year end. Actual fees may be lower based on assets under management and other factors. Where fees are lower, "net of fees" performance returns will be higher. As such, "net of fees" performance for actual accounts may differ significantly from the "net of fees" performance shown above.

Since 1/1/17, sector classifications have been updated within Global Fixed Income to provide greater consistency, transparency, granularity, and alignment with current industry conventions.

# **Risk Metrics**

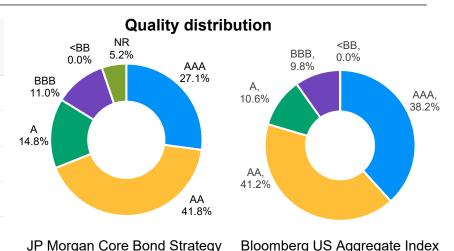
All data as of March 31, 2025

					= top decile		= top quartile
Performance & Risk Statistics	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	15 Years	20 Years	25 Years
Performance							
Core Bond (Gross of Fees)	5.87	1.45	0.82	2.26	3.21	4.03	4.76
Core Bond (Net of Fees)	5.55	1.14	0.52	1.96	2.91	3.71	4.45
Bloomberg US Aggregate	4.88	0.52	(0.40)	1.46	2.44	3.18	3.96
Excess Return Ranking	6	15	29	17	28	21	19
Standard Deviation (vs. Bloomberg US Aggregate Index)							
Core Bond	5.89	7.21	6.03	4.83	4.21	4.04	4.06
Bloomberg US Aggregate	4.95	7.67	6.39	5.02	4.42	4.25	4.22
Standard Deviation Ranking	42	18	13	12	10	8	5
Information Ratio (vs. Bloomberg US Aggregate Index)							
Core Bond	4.04	1.17	1.69	1.14	1.20	0.97	0.97
Information Ratio Ranking	1	16	10	3	5	3	3
Sharpe Ratio (using FTSE 3-Month T-Bill)							
Core Bond	0.12	(0.41)	(0.31)	0.07	0.46	0.59	0.72
Bloomberg US Aggregate	(0.05)	(0.51)	(0.48)	(0.09)	0.26	0.36	0.50
Sharpe Ratio Ranking	7	20	36	16	20	3	1

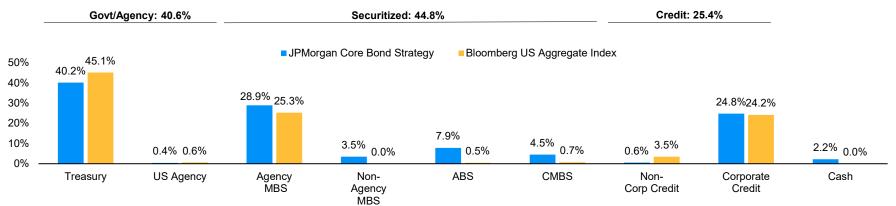
Source: eVestment Alliance (US Core Fixed Income Universe) and J.P. Morgan Asset Management.; eVestment data populated on 4/22/25. **Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current and future results**. Excess Return Ranking is calculated using Gross of Fees Returns

# **Core Bond Composite: Positioning**

Portfolio statistics	JPMorgan Core Bond Strategy	Bloomberg US Aggregate Index	Difference	
Gross YTM	5.11%	4.75%	+0.35%	
OAS (bps)	79	36	+43	
Duration (years)	6.27	6.00	+0.27	
Spread Duration (years)	3.57	3.25	+0.31	
Convexity	0.56	0.51	+0.05	



### Sector distribution

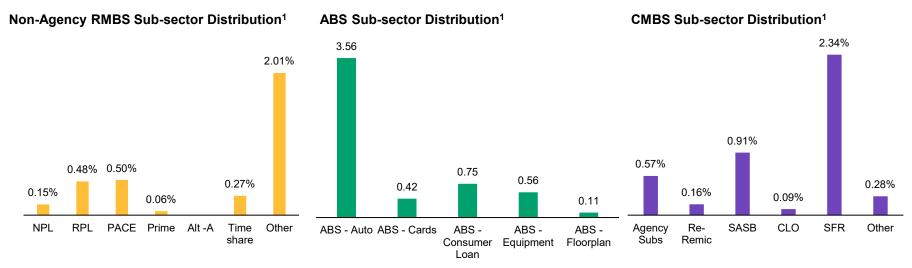


All data as 5/31/2025. The manager uses credit quality ratings on underlying securities of the portfolio from five major ratings agencies - S&P, Moody's, Fitch, Kroll and DBRS Morningstar. When calculating the credit quality breakdown, the manager selects the highest rating of the agencies that have provided a securities rating. Securities that are not rated by any of the five agencies are reflected as not rated. Sectors may not sum to 100% as market values reflect notional value exposure of Treasury futures and other derivatives. Source: J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc. and Bloomberg. Index statistics compiled by running index constituents through Yield Book models. Please see performance disclosures which accompany this presentation. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

# **Core Bond Composite: Structured Securities Analysis**

### All data as of May 31, 2025

Sub-sector Statistics <sup>1</sup>	Agency Pass-Through	Agency CMO	Agency CMBS	Non-Agency RMBS	ABS	Non-Agency CMBS
Market Value (%)	16.23%	3.51%	9.03%	3.47%	7.86%	4.51%
Yield to Maturity	5.29%	5.15%	4.69%	6.81%	5.80%	7.01%
OAS (bps)	46	56	56	269	173	297
WAL (yrs)	8.05	6.12	5.93	3.05	2.97	2.37
Duration (yrs)	6.01	5.89	5.11	2.37	2.40	2.01
Convexity	-0.01	0.25	0.37	0.09	0.14	0.07

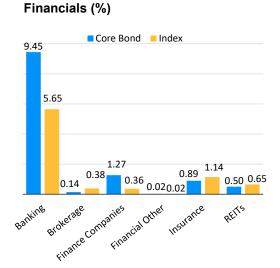


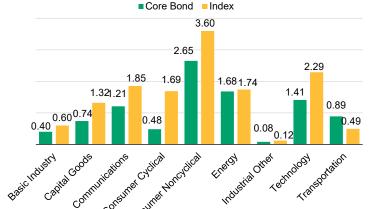
Portfolio and Benchmark statistics calculated with Prism/FI Reporting Since 1/1/17, sector classifications have been updated within Global Fixed Income to provide greater consistency, transparency, granularity, and alignment with current industry conventions. Please see performance disclosures which accompany this presentation. Actual account characteristics may differ. \* Securities must be investment grade at time of purchase. Securities downgraded to below investment can be held at manager discretion unless guidelines dictate otherwise.

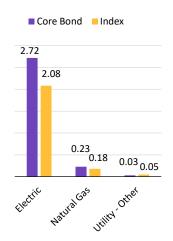
# **Core Bond Composite: Credit Breakdown**

### All data as of May 31, 2025

Sub-sector statistics <sup>1</sup>	Financials		Industrials		Utilities		Non-Corp. Credit	
	Core Bond	Index	Core Bond	Index	Core Bond	Index	Core Bond	Index
Market Value (%)	12.26%	8.19%	9.54%	13.71%	2.98%	2.31%	0.57%	3.50%
Yield to Maturity (%)	5.26%	5.18%	5.50%	5.25%	5.63%	5.44%	5.93%	4.74%
OAS (bps)	104	92	106	88	113	100	136	52
Duration (yrs)	4.11	5.23	8.15	7.45	8.57	8.16	9.50	5.75
Spread Duration (yrs)	4.07	5.15	7.94	7.26	8.33	7.93	9.21	5.59
Spread Duration Contribution (yrs)	0.50	0.42	0.76	1.00	0.25	0.18	0.05	0.20







**Utilities (%)** 

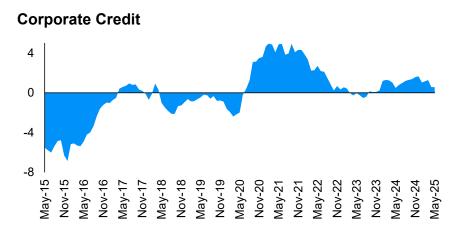
Portfolio and Benchmark statistics calculated with Prism/FI Reporting As of 1/1/17, sector classifications have been updated within Global Fixed Income to provide greater consistency, transparency, granularity, and alignment with current industry conventions. Please see performance disclosures which accompany this presentation. Actual account characteristics may differ. Index = Bloomberg US Aggregate Index

Industrials (%)

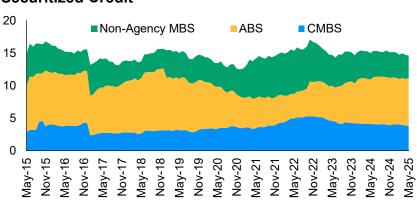
# Appendix

# **Sector Weight Comparison**

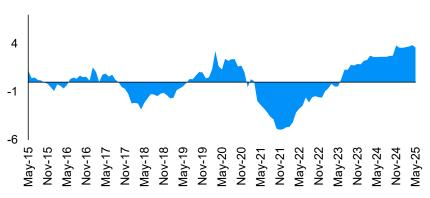
Core Bond Composite vs. Bloomberg US Aggregate (% Market Value)



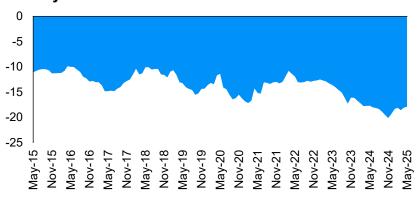
### **Securitized Credit\***



### **Agency Mortgage-backed Securities**



### **Treasury**

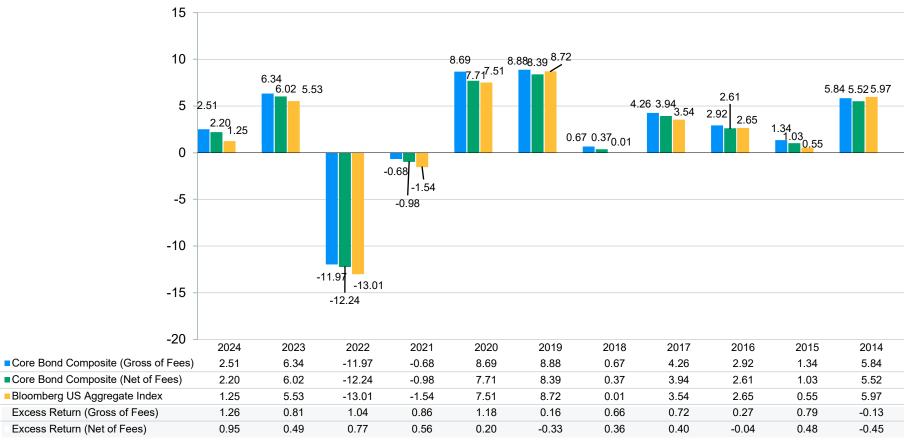


Source: J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc. Corporate and MBS graphs display net subsector exposures versus the index. Updated through May 31, 2025. \*CMBS= Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities; ABS=Asset-Backed Securities

Since 1/1/17, sector classifications have been updated within Global Fixed Income to provide greater consistency, transparency, granularity, and alignment with current industry conventions.

# Consistency is the hallmark of the Core Bond strategy

Calendar Year Periods – Gross & Net of Fees (%) Supplemental to annual performance report



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Since 1/1/17, sector classifications have been updated within Global Fixed Income to provide greater consistency, transparency, granularity, and alignment with current industry conventions

21

# Global Fixed Income, Currency & Commodities Team



**Bob Michele**, CFA Head of Global Fixed Income, Currency & Commodities



Kay Herr, CFA US CIO

Rachel Betton, Municipal
Don Clark, CFA, Insurance
Lisa Coleman\*, CFA, IG Credit
Rob Cook, CFA, High Yield
Rick Figuly, Core
Cary Fitzgerald, Short Duration
Ed Fitzpatrick, CFA, US Rates
Jesse Fogarty, CFA, Long Duration
Drew Headley, CFA, Income
Sajjad Hussain, CFA, Securitized
Priya Misra, Core Plus

Andrew Norelli, Income & Core Plus



lain Stealey, CFA International CIO

Myles Bradshaw, CFA, Aggregate Seamus Mac Gorain, CFA, Global Rates Danny Sage, Currency Implementation Nick Wall, CFA, Currency Bryan Wallace, Insurance



**Pierre-Yves Bareau** EMD CIO

Emil Babayev, Sovereign
Julio Callegari, Asia
Janet He, CFA, Sovereign Research
Didier Lambert, CFA, Local Currency
Leah Parento. Corporate



**Deb Fierro**Customized Bond Portfolios CIO

Chris Bailey, CFA, Taxables Jennifer Gonzalez, Municipals Nikhil Khosla, Extended Credit Will Zhang, CFA, International

### **Common Platform**



Sam Soquar Head of Research



**Brian Lysiak** Head of Trading



Vincent Kumaradjaja Head of Risk





**Shayan Hussain**, CFA US



Jemma Clee International



**Zsolt Papp** EMD



Sanaa Khan Customized Bond Portfolios



Greg Tell Insurance

As of April 1, 2025. There can be no assurance that the professionals currently employed by J.P. Morgan Asset Management will continue to be employed by J.P. Morgan Asset Management or that the past performance or success of any such professional serves as an indicator of such professional's future performance or success. CIO: Chief Investment Officer. \*Effective 1 October 2025, Andreas Michalitsianos will become Head of Global Credit, with Lisa Coleman retiring in March 2026.

## GIPS® Report: Core Bond Composite December 31, 2024

Year	Composite Gross of Fees Return %	Composite Net of Fees Return %	Benchmark Return %	Number of Accounts	Internal Dispersion	Composite 3Yr Annualized Std Dev (%)	Benchmark 3Yr Annualized Std Dev (%)	Composite Assets (\$Millions)	Firm Assets (\$ Billions)
2024	2.52	2.21	1.25	26	0.08	7.34	7.83	87,934	2,650
2023	6.34	6.02	5.53	24	0.08	6.69	7.24	72,975	2,141
2022	-11.96	-12.23	-13.01	26	0.12	5.48	5.85	62,182	1,693
2021	-0.68	-0.98	-1.54	30	0.11	3.65	3.40	71,095	1,973
2020	8.69	8.36	7.51	27	0.07	3.65	3.40	59,719	1,761
2019	8.88	8.56	8.72	33	0.06	2.93	2.91	66,855	1,427
2018	0.67	0.37	0.01	34	0.05	2.79	2.88	61,290	1,174
2017	4.26	3.94	3.54	41	0.13	2.77	2.81	61,049	1,165
2016	2.92	2.61	2.65	53	0.15	2.90	3.02	58,229	1,068
2015	1.34	1.03	0.55	65	0.11	2.62	2.92	65,433	834

Firm Definition: For the purpose of GIPS® compliance, the Firm also includes Separately Managed Accounts over which JPMIM has full and sole discretion. JPMIM is marketed under J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

Internal Dispersion: Internal dispersion measures the spread of annual returns of individual portfolios within a composite. It is calculated using the asset-weighted standard deviation of the gross returns of portfolios that were included in the composite for the full year. Internal dispersion is not shown for calendar years with five or fewer portfolios in the composite for the full year.

Standard Deviation: The three year annualized standard deviation measures the variability of the composite and benchmark returns over the preceding 36 month period. Standard deviation measures are not shown where there are less than 36 monthly observations available. Gross returns were used to calculate the three year annualized ex post standard deviation of the composite.

Composite Listing: A list of composite descriptions, pooled fund descriptions for limited distribution pooled funds, a list of broad distribution pooled funds, policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request.

Past and Future Performance: Past performance is no guarantee of future results. As with any investment vehicle, there is always the potential for gains as well as the possibility of losses.

Composite Description: The Core Bond strategy seeks to outperform the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index over a market cycle while maintaining a risk profile similar to the index. The strategy focuses on adding value through a bottom-up, value-oriented approach, that emphasizes security selection. Security selection is generally guided by the benchmark and can include corporate bonds, mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities, treasuries and agency bonds. Since July 1, 2018, a composite-specific minimum was set level of \$100 million has been applied. Prior to July 1, 2018, the composite-specific minimum was \$50 million. Prior to April 1, 2005, the composite-specific minimum was \$10 million. The composite was created in January 1986.

Fee Schedule: The performance results reflect the reinvestment of income, deduction of transaction costs, and are net of withholding taxes, where applicable. Gross returns do not reflect the deduction of management fees or any other expenses that may be incurred in the management of the account. Net returns are net of model fees in effect for the respective time period. The model fee applies only to the latest fiscal year and is reviewed at least annually; therefore, it can change from year to year. Information on previous years' model fees is available upon request. Model net returns are calculated by subtracting 1/12th of the model fee listed in the fee disclosure section from the gross composite return on a monthly basis. The model fee is either the highest tier of the fee schedule in effect for the period, or a higher value, whichever is required to ensure the composite model net of fee return is lower than or equal to the composite net of fee return calculated using actual fees. As of December 31, 2024, the model fee applied is 0.30%. The standard annual fee schedule is as follows: 0.30% on the first \$75 million of assets managed; 0.25% on the next \$75 million; 0.25% on the next \$150 million; 0.15% thereafter. One or more accounts within the strategy have paid performance fees during the year. Individual clients are subject to negotiation and may deviate from the typical fee presented within this report. Actual fees charged may vary by account due to various conditions described in Part IIA of Form

Compliance Statement: J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc. claims compliance with the GIPS standards. J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc. has been independently verified for the periods 2001-2023. The verification reports are available upon request. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must establish policies and procedures for complying with all the applicable requirements of the GIPS standards. Verification provides assurance on whether the firm's policies and procedures related to composite and pooled fund maintenance, as well as the calculation, presentation, and distribution of performance, have been designed in compliance with the GIPS standards and have been implemented on a firm-wide basis. Verification does not provide assurance on the accuracy of any specific performance report.

Benchmark Description: The benchmark is the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index. The index returns are provided to represent the investment environment existing during the time periods shown and are not covered by the report of independent verifiers. For comparison purposes the index is fully invested, which includes the reinvestment of income. The returns for the index do not include any transaction costs, management fees or other costs except for ICE indices which include transaction costs as of January 2, 2024.

Significant Cash Flow Policy: Beginning January 1, 2005, an account is temporarily removed from the composite if it experiences a cash and/or securities inflow or outflow greater than or equal to 10% of the account's beginning market value.

GIPS Trademark: GIPS® is a registered trademark of CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein.

Publication Date: 04/14/2025



# J.P. Morgan Asset Management

#### RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH INVESTING:

Interest Rate Risk. The Strategy mainly invests in bonds and other debt securities. These securities will increase or decrease in value based on changes in interest rates. If rates increase, the value of the Strategy's investments generally declines. On the other hand, if rates fall, the value of the investments generally increases. Your investment will decline in value if the value of the investments decreases. Securities with greater interest rate sensitivity and longer maturities tend to produce higher yields, but are subject to greater fluctuations in value. Usually, the changes in the value of fixed income securities will not affect cash income generated, but may affect the value of your investment.

Mortgage-related and asset-backed securities are subject to certain other risks. The value of these securities will be influenced by the factors affecting the housing market and the assets underlying such securities. As a result, during periods of declining asset value, difficult or frozen credit markets, swings in interest rates, or deteriorating economic conditions, mortgage-related and asset-backed securities may decline in value, face valuation difficulties, become more volatile and/or become illiquid. Additionally, during such periods and also under normal conditions, these securities are also subject to prepayment and call risk. When mortgages and other obligations are prepaid and when securities are called, the strategy may have to reinvest in securities with a lower yield or fail to recover additional amounts (i.e., premiums) paid for securities with higher interest rates, resulting in an unexpected capital loss. Some of these securities may receive little or no collateral protection from the underlying assets and are thus subject to the risk of default described under "Credit Risk". The risk of such defaults is generally higher in the case of mortgage-backed investments that include so-called "sub-prime" mortgages. The structure of some of these securities may be complex and there may be less available information than other types of debt securities.

Credit Risk. There is a risk that issuers and counterparties will not make payments on securities and investments held by the portfolio. Such default could result in losses to an investment in the portfolio. In addition, the credit quality of securities held by a portfolio may be lowered if an issuer's financial condition changes. Lower credit quality may lead to greater volatility in the price of a security. Lower credit quality also may affect liquidity and make it difficult for the portfolio to sell the security. The portfolio may invest in securities that are rated in the lowest investment grade category. Such securities are considered to have speculative characteristics similar to high yield securities, and issuers of such securities are more vulnerable to changes in economic conditions than issuers of higher grade securities.

Quality Rating Methodology. J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc. (JPMIM) receives credit quality ratings on underlying securities of the portfolio from the major ratings agencies – S&P, Moody's, Fitch, DBRS, Kroll, and Morningstar. When calculating the credit quality breakdown, JPMIM uses the highest applicable rating from any Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization (NRSRO). Securities that are not rated by any NRSRO are reflected as such. Cash is being treated as a AAA-rated asset.

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# J.P. Morgan Asset Management

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