Fort Washington
Investment Advisors, Inc.

A member of Western & Southern Financial Group

Uncompromised Focus®

FORT WASHINGTON CORE PLUS FIXED INCOME — 4Q2024

PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY

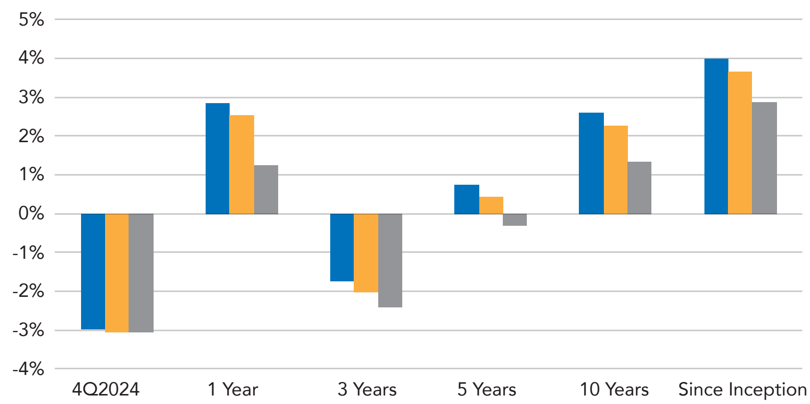
The Fort Washington Core Plus strategy returned -2.99% / -3.06% (gross/net) for the quarter, relative to the Bloomberg Aggregate Index which returned -3.06%.

Security selection was the largest contributor to relative performance during the quarter, driven by securitized and investment grade corporates. Within securitized, the strategy was overweight CMOs which outperformed relative to Agency Passthroughs. Within investment grade corporates, subordinated positions within high quality banks were the primary driver of outperformance.

Sector allocation was a positive contributor to performance during the quarter. The primary driver was the overweight allocation to investment grade corporates as spreads tightened over the quarter.

Interest rate exposure detracted from relative performance over the quarter. The strategy had a longer duration bias relative to the benchmark for a majority of the period which underperformed as interest rates increased. Separately, the strategy was biased for a steeper curve but tactical adjustments to this positioning underperformed during the period.

Trailing Total Returns (as of December 31, 2024)



	4Q2024	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception
Core Plus (Gross)	-2.99	2.84	-1.74	0.76	2.59	4.01
Core Plus (Net)	-3.06	2.53	-2.03	0.45	2.25	3.66
Bloomberg US Aggregate Index	-3.06	1.25	-2.41	-0.33	1.35	2.88

Source: Fort Washington. Past performance is not indicative of future results. This supplemental information complements the Core Plus GIPS Report. Inception date: 10/01/2007.

POSITIONING

Risk budget: The strategy is targeting a modest overweight to risk, representing 30% of the risk budget.

Economic activity has been healthy over the last year despite expectations for a deceleration. Inflation remains above the Fed's 2% target but continues to decline, although recent data has been a bit bumpy. As a result of disinflation and a cooling labor market, the Fed has cut rates by 100 basis points since September. However, interest rates have increased meaningfully over the same period as investors lowered their expectations for future rate cuts. While the consensus is for a continued U.S. economic expansion, there are still macroeconomic risks to that outlook such as geopolitical uncertainty and potentially restrictive financial conditions.

Valuations largely reflect a limited margin of safety with minimal upside. Despite our improved economic outlook, elevated asset prices result in only a modest overweight risk posture within the strategy.

INVESTMENT PROFESSIONALS

Daniel J. Carter, CFA
Managing Director,
Senior Portfolio Manager
28 Years Experience

Austin R. Kummer, CFA
Managing Director,
Senior Portfolio Manager
11 Years Experience

Garrick T. Bauer, CFA
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Portfolio Manager, Head of Credit
Leveraged Credit

Paul A. Tomich, CFA
Vice President,
Senior Portfolio Manager
Investment Grade Credit

Scott D. Weston
Managing Director,
Senior Portfolio Manager
Structured Products

Brendan M. White, CFA
Senior Vice President,
Co-Chief Investment Officer

Investment Grade Credit
10 Portfolio Managers & Analysts
Average Industry experience / 2001

Securitized Products
7 Portfolio Managers & Analysts
Average Industry experience / 2006

Emerging Markets
4 Portfolio Managers & Analysts
Average Industry experience / 2003

Leveraged Credit
11 Portfolio Managers & Analysts
Average Industry experience / 2003

Sectors: Sector positioning reflects generally expensive valuations, relative value, and opportunities within each sector. Allocations were mostly unchanged during the quarter and primary risk exposures include:

- The strategy remains overweight Investment Grade Credit (IG). Within the IG allocation, the strategy is increasingly weighted toward liquid, higher quality issues. We are maintaining a risk overweight to select sectors where compelling bottom-up opportunities exist such as midstream and banks.
- Securitized Products remain an overweight exposure relative to the benchmark, focused within high quality non-agency CMBS and RMBS. With much of the investable universe trading near historically tight levels, the exposure is biased up-in-quality due to credit curves not adequately compensating investors for risk. Across many non-agency sectors, the spread between AAA and BBB securities is near the tightest historical levels.
- The strategy has maintained its neutral weighting to emerging market debt (EMD). Investment grade and high yield EMD are trading at historically tight levels skewing the risk/reward to the downside.
- The strategy holds domestic HY CDX protection as spreads are at historically tight levels, limiting the upside return of the sector to carry.

Rates: We are currently positioning portfolios long duration relative to the benchmark as we believe longer rates exhibit attractive value, following the meaningful increase over the past couple months. The yield curve continued to steepen during Q4 as longer rates increased while the Fed cut rates. Portfolios are marginally biased for a steeper curve and are overweight the intermediate part of the curve relative to the index. Volatility has been elevated as investors adjust their expectations for future rate cuts and we anticipate that to continue as new economic data is released.

Sector Allocation

	Portfolio		Index		Relative	
	MV %	Spread Risk	MV %	Spread Risk	MV %	Spread Risk
US Government	**32.4**	**-**	**45.0**	**0.0**	**-12.6**	**-0.0**
TIPS	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment Grade Credit	**36.2**	**2.4**	**26.6**	**1.4**	**+9.6**	**+1.0**
Basic Industry	0.6	0.0	0.5	0.0	+0.0	+0.0
Capital Goods	3.1	0.1	1.4	0.1	+1.8	+0.0
Communications	3.5	0.3	1.9	0.2	+1.6	+0.2
Consumer Cyclical	3.3	0.2	1.7	0.1	+1.6	+0.1
Consumer Non-Cyclical	5.6	0.4	3.7	0.2	+1.9	+0.2
Energy	3.2	0.3	1.7	0.1	+1.4	+0.2
Financials	10.7	0.6	8.1	0.4	+2.6	+0.2
Other Industrial	-	-	0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.0
Technology	2.7	0.1	2.2	0.1	+0.5	+0.0
Transportation	1.7	0.1	0.5	0.0	+1.2	+0.1
Utility	1.6	0.1	2.2	0.2	-0.6	-0.0
Other	0.3	0.0	2.6	0.0	-2.3	-0.0
Securitized	**28.6**	**1.2**	**27.1**	**0.5**	**+1.5**	**+0.8**
RMBS	18.6	0.7	25.1	0.4	-6.6	+0.3
ABS	2.8	0.1	0.5	0.0	+2.3	+0.1
CLO	1.1	0.1	-	-	+1.1	+0.1
CMBS	6.2	0.3	1.5	0.1	+4.6	+0.2
High Yield	**0.3**	**0.0**	**-**	**-**	**+0.3**	**+0.0**
Emerging Markets Debt	**1.4**	**0.3**	**1.3**	**0.1**	**+0.1**	**+0.2**
Preferred Stock	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Cash	**1.1**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**+1.1**	**-**

Source: Bloomberg PORT. Sector Analysis chart is for illustrative purposes only; this illustrates the portfolio's allocation of dollars and risk compared to the benchmark. Information is subject to change at any time without notice. Index is the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index. This should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation of any strategy, product, or particular security. See disclosures for important information about derivatives. This supplemental information complements the Core Plus GIPS Report.

Portfolio Characteristics

	Core Plus Composite	Bloomberg US Aggregate
Yield to Worst	5.33	4.91
Option Adjusted Spread	68	34
Option Adjusted Duration	6.58	6.08
BBB Equiv Spread Risk	3.98	2.03
Average Quality	Aa3/A1	Aa2/Aa3
Number Issuers	225	1,411

Source: Fort Washington. Portfolio characteristics and credit quality are as of the reported date and subject to change at any time without notice. Past performance is not indicative of future results. This supplemental information complements the Core Plus GIPS Report.

Credit Quality

	Core Plus Composite	Bloomberg US Aggregate
AAA	11%	3%
AA	48%	73%
A	11%	11%
BBB	27%	12%
BB	1%	0%
B	1%	0%
CCC and Below	0%	0%
Not Rated / Other	0%	0%
Cash	1%	0%

MARKET OVERVIEW

The investment landscape remains shaped by strong domestic growth, changing policy priorities from the newly elected administration, and evolving investor sentiment. Economic growth exceeded expectations from the beginning of the year, underscored by the resilience of both consumers and businesses. However, policy changes concerning trade and regulation have garnered significant attention, potentially impacting the trajectory of the U.S. economy.

Strong consumer spending has been the largest contributor to growth over the last year. While household savings have declined, higher income earners have propelled the economy following a surge in investment and home prices since the pandemic. Higher wages have also supported the broader labor market. Although job creation has slowed over the last year, it is being offset by a lack of job losses, resulting in a largely balanced labor market.

As the economy continues to expand, inflation remains a focus for many investors due to the implications for Fed policy. While inflation still appears to be on a path of disinflation, recent data has been bumpy. Furthermore, several new tariff proposals from the President have added to uncertainty. While tariffs are generally considered a one-time price increase rather than inflationary, there is a risk that they could progress into a larger trade war with some of the United States' largest trading partners (China, Mexico, Canada). This possibility has caused investors to increase their short-term inflation outlook while longer-term expectations have remained largely range bound.

At the same time, other policy proposals may provide tailwinds for economic growth into 2025. Deregulation efforts could provide certain industries, particularly energy and banking, with lower amounts of operational restrictions that should improve bottom lines. In addition, lower levels of regulation should enhance M&A activity while the possibility of lower corporate tax rates would lift fundamentals for many small/medium size firms. This positive backdrop for the economy is helping support risk assets as evidenced by historically tight credit spreads and higher equity prices.

The Federal Reserve began cutting policy rates following further disinflation and a cooler labor market. Despite the Fed Funds rate being reduced by 100 basis points, longer-term yields moved higher during the fourth quarter as investors expect continued economic strength to result in fewer rate cuts during 2025. The dynamic of higher long-term rates while the Fed is cutting has led to a more traditionally shaped yield curve. The shift in longer rates was the main driver of fixed income returns over the fourth quarter. The 10-year Treasury increased about 80 basis points and caused a 3% decline in the Bloomberg US Aggregate Index as credit spreads remained near historically tight levels.

While higher rates could put pressure on risk assets, consumer spending and business investment are likely to support current valuations. However, we remain cognizant of downside risks to the current economic trajectory such as the bifurcation between lower income earners relative to higher income households as well as sluggish growth from Europe and China. Additionally, markets will maintain a keen eye on any potential weakness in employment, developments in U.S. fiscal policy, and geopolitical conflicts.

MACRO OUTLOOK | AS OF 12/31/2024

Factor	Outlook	Comments
Economic Growth	Neutral	• Recent economic data has been robust and expectations for future growth remain positive • Consumers supported by higher wages and increased net worth for higher income cohorts • Overall business fundamentals generally healthy and small business sentiment improving • Progress toward 2% inflation has been bumpy in recent months but disinflation expected to continue • Extension of tax cuts, tariffs, immigration, and deficits will be a focus over coming quarters
Financial Conditions	Neutral	• Terminal rate expectations move higher, markets currently anticipates about 1 cut in 2025 • Volatility to remain elevated as markets react to incoming data and policy response • Lending standards and market-based financial conditions largely neutral
Valuations	Credit: Expensive	• Spreads are near historical tight levels reflecting a continued U.S. economic expansion. Risk/reward is skewed to the downside at current levels.
	Equities: Neutral	• Equity valuations have become stretched following strong performance. Although breadth has improved, index concentration remains historically high.
	Rates: Positive	• Longer interest rates are toward the higher end of the recent range and are exhibiting attractive value in our view. Yields reflect a higher terminal rate for the Fed and benign long-term inflation expectations.

Risk Budget	Summary
30%	Economic growth has been strong over the last year despite expectations for slowing. Inflation remains above the Fed's 2% target as recent data has been bumpy, but expectations are for further disinflation. The labor market is balanced while business and consumer fundamentals remain generally healthy. As a result, investors anticipate continued growth, especially following 100 basis points of cuts from the Federal Reserve. However, the number of future Fed rate cuts that investors expect has decreased and translated into higher long rates. Although our economic forecast has improved, valuations reflect minimal macroeconomic risks with limited upside, resulting in a modest allocation to risk assets.

Source: Fort Washington. This is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as investment advice. Outlook reflects subjective judgments and assumptions subject to change without notice. Unexpected events may occur, there can be no assurance that developments will transpire as forecast. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

CORE PLUS FIXED INCOME COMPOSITE GIPS REPORT

	4Q2024	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Core Plus Fixed Income (Gross)	-2.99%	2.84%	6.74%	-13.56%	-0.75%	10.31%	11.09%	-0.73%	4.51%	6.62%	1.11%
Core Plus Fixed Income (Net)	-3.06%	2.53%	6.42%	-13.83%	-1.07%	9.97%	10.75%	-1.03%	4.14%	6.21%	0.71%
Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index	-3.06%	1.25%	5.53%	-13.01%	-1.54%	7.51%	8.72%	0.01%	3.54%	2.65%	0.55%
Core Plus Fixed Income 3-Year Annual Standard Deviation[1]	–	8.17%	7.60%	6.96%	4.59%	4.59%	2.76%	2.80%	2.76%	3.03%	3.06%
Bloomberg Aggregate 3-Year Annual Standard Deviation[1]	–	7.72%	7.14%	5.77%	3.35%	3.36%	2.87%	2.84%	2.78%	2.98%	2.88%
Dispersion[2]	0.06%	0.22%	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of Accounts	7	7	5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5
Composite Assets ($ millions)	$1,848.7	$1,848.7	$1,635.3	$1,570.3	$1,918.5	$1,643.3	$1,335.7	$1,163.6	$1,101.6	$607.0	$310.4
Total Firm Assets ($ millions)	$81,286	$81,286	$74,613	$66,365	$73,804	$65,086	$59,174	$49,225	$52,774	$45,656	$42,959

Composite inception date: 10/01/2007 and Composite creation date: 07/01/2015. [1]The 3-Year annualized ex-post standard deviation is calculated using monthly gross-of-fee returns to measure the average deviations of returns from its mean. [2]Dispersion is not calculated for years in which the composite contains five portfolios or less. Dispersion is calculated as the equal weighted standard deviation of gross-of-fee returns for those portfolios held in the composite during the entire period. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The benchmark for this composite is the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index. The Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index is a market capitalization-weighted index that measures the performance of the U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate, taxable bond market. The index includes investment grade securities such as U.S. Treasuries, government-related and corporate bonds, mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities, and commercial mortgage-backed securities. The index accounts for interest payments by incorporating them into the total return calculation. Fort Washington's Core Plus Fixed Income strategy uses explicit measures of value and risk as a guide to investment decisions. Combined with intensive fundamental research, the portfolio management team believes this provides the best opportunity for excess return. The Core Plus Composite includes all fixed income accounts above $50MM with the ability to invest in High Yield (at least 30%) and have the unrestricted ability to invest in Investment Grade Securities across all durations relative to the Bloomberg US Aggregate. Accounts within this composite may also have the ability to hold derivatives. These investments, whether or not traded on an established market, include but are not limited to options, notional principal contracts, futures or forward contracts, VIX futures; and options on futures, forward contracts, or debt obligations. Investments made in derivatives are used in line with the portfolio's risk exposure, allowing for the portfolio to reduce its exposure to an existing position or increase exposure within the portfolio's guidelines. Derivatives involve risks in addition to the risks of underlying securities, including liquidity, interest rate, market, credit, and management. Investing in derivatives could lose more than the amount invested. Effective 10/26/18, the Core Plus Fixed Income fee is 0.35% for the first $50 million, 0.25% on the next $50 million, and 0.20% for amounts in excess of $100 million for separate accounts. Portfolios in this composite include cash, cash equivalents, investment securities, interest, and dividends. Cash is maintained, within each separately managed account segment, in accordance with our asset allocation ratio. The U.S. dollar is the base currency. The specific securities identified and described do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold, or recommended. Returns are presented gross and net of management fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Gross returns will be reduced by investment advisory fees and other expenses that may be incurred in the management of the account. Net of fee performance was calculated using the actual management fees charged. Individual portfolio returns are calculated on a daily valuation basis. Fort Washington Investment Advisors, Inc. (Fort Washington), a wholly owned subsidiary of The Western and Southern Life Insurance Company, is a registered investment advisor and provides discretionary money management to a broad range of investors, including both institutional and individual investors. 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RISK DISCLOSURES

The Fort Washington Core Plus Fixed Income strategy invests in fixed-income securities which can experience reduced liquidity during certain market events, lose their value as interest rates rise and are subject to credit risk which is the risk of deterioration in the financial condition of an issuer and/or general economic conditions that can cause the issuer to not make timely payments of principal and interest also causing the securities to decline in value and an investor can lose principal. The strategy invests in non-investment grade debt securities which are considered speculative with respect to the issuers' ability to make timely payments of interest and principal, may lack liquidity and has had more frequent and larger price changes than other debt securities. The strategy invests in derivatives and securities such as forward foreign currency exchange contracts, futures contracts, options and swap agreements. Derivatives can be highly volatile, illiquid and difficult to value, subject to counterparty and leverage risks and there is risk that changes in the value of a derivative held by the strategy will not correlate with the strategy's other investments. The strategy invests in sovereign debt securities which are issued by foreign governments whose respective economies could have an important effect on their ability or willingness to service their debt which could affect the value of the securities.

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