



## FORT WASHINGTON INTERMEDIATE FIXED INCOME — 1Q2025

### PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY

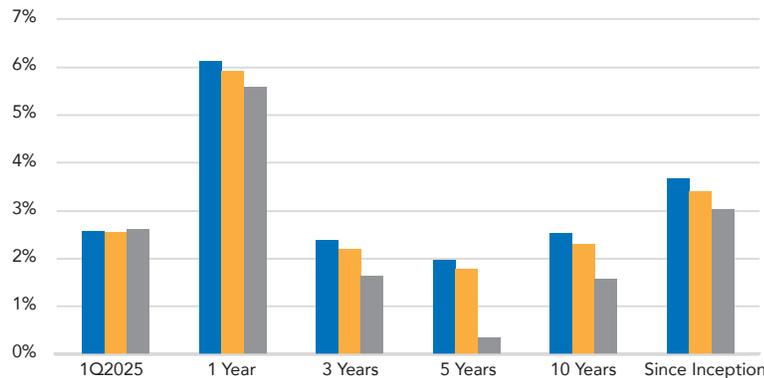
The Fort Washington Intermediate Fixed Income strategy returned 2.58% gross and 2.54% net for the quarter, underperforming the Bloomberg US Intermediate Aggregate Index, which returned 2.61%.

Security selection was the largest detractor from relative performance during the quarter, driven by the investment grade corporates and securitized sectors. Within securitized, the Fund was overweight CMOs and non-agency CMBS which underperformed relative to Agency Passthroughs. Within investment grade corporates, underperformance was primarily due to broad spread widening with the largest driver being underperformance within the banking sector.

The strategy's sector allocation detracted from relative performance during the quarter due to an overweight allocation to investment grade corporates. IG Corporate spreads widened over the quarter which negatively impacted performance.

The strategy's interest rate exposure contributed positively to relative performance, offsetting some of the negative impacts of sector allocation and security selection. The strategy was positioned with a longer duration relative to the benchmark for a majority of the period, which outperformed as interest rates declined.

### Trailing Total Returns (as of March 31, 2025)



	1Q2025	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception
■ Intermediate Fixed Income (Gross)	2.58	6.11	2.40	1.99	2.52	3.66
■ Intermediate Fixed Income (Net)	2.54	5.94	2.21	1.79	2.32	3.41
■ Bloomberg US Agg Intermediate Bond	2.61	5.58	1.64	0.36	1.58	3.03

Source: Fort Washington. Past performance is not indicative of future results. This supplemental information complements the Intermediate Fixed Income GIPS Report. Inception date: 01/01/2006.

### POSITIONING

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

Developing trade policy has created elevated uncertainty around economic growth and inflation. Forecasts for U.S. economic activity have declined in recent weeks amid tariffs and weaker sentiment across businesses and consumers. Investor expectations for inflation are for a meaningful short-term impact but one that is not expected to be persistent. While the Federal Reserve (Fed) paused at their last two meetings, expectations are for multiple cuts in 2025, as downside risks to growth have increased and uncertainty remains high.

Despite modestly cheaper valuations since the beginning of the year, current levels are still expensive relative to history. Incorporating elevated uncertainty with current valuations, portfolios are positioned with a modest overweight risk posture and an ability to add risk as opportunities arise.

### INVESTMENT PROFESSIONALS

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

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

**Garrick T. Bauer, CFA**  
Managing Director,  
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  
Securitized Products

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

**Investment Grade Credit**  
10 Portfolio Managers & Analysts  
Average Industry experience / 2005

**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 current valuations, relative value, and opportunities within each sector. The portfolio increased its allocation to high-quality securitized products, specifically RMBS, and reduced exposure to U.S. Treasuries over the quarter. Primary risk exposures include:

- ▶ The strategy remains overweight to 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 AAA-rated non-agency CMBS and high-quality RMBS. Given relative value and potential upside from early prepayments if mortgage rates decline, the strategy added to agency and non-agency RMBS over the quarter.

**Rates:** We are currently positioning portfolios long duration relative to the benchmark, as uncertainty remains high and downside risks have increased. The yield curve steepened modestly during the quarter as growth expectations declined and forecasts for Fed cuts increased. Portfolios are positioned largely neutral from a curve perspective relative to the index. Volatility has been elevated and we anticipate the magnitude of expected rate cuts will continue shifting with new economic data and developments around executive branch policies, presenting opportunities for tactical adjustments.

Sector Allocation						
	Portfolio		Index		Relative	
	MV %	Spread Risk	MV %	Spread Risk	MV %	Spread Risk
<b>US Government</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>44.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>-0.0</b>
TIPS	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Investment Grade Credit</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>+13.8</b>	<b>+0.8</b>
Basic Industry	0.7	0.0	0.4	0.0	+0.3	+0.0
Capital Goods	2.4	0.1	1.1	0.0	+1.3	+0.0
Communications	3.6	0.1	1.1	0.0	+2.4	+0.1
Consumer Cyclical	3.2	0.1	1.5	0.1	+1.7	+0.1
Consumer Non-Cyclical	6.0	0.2	2.5	0.1	+3.5	+0.1
Energy	2.5	0.1	1.2	0.0	+1.3	+0.1
Financials	12.0	0.6	8.2	0.3	+3.9	+0.2
Other Industrial	-	-	0.0	0.0	-0.0	-0.0
Technology	2.6	0.1	1.7	0.0	+0.8	+0.0
Transportation	1.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	+0.9	+0.0
Utility	1.7	0.1	1.5	0.1	+0.2	+0.0
Other	0.2	0.0	2.7	0.0	-2.5	-0.0
<b>Securitized</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>+0.1</b>
RMBS	15.3	0.3	30.3	0.5	-15.0	-0.2
ABS	0.9	0.0	0.5	0.0	+0.4	+0.0
CLO	0.3	0.0	-	-	+0.3	+0.0
CMBS	8.5	0.4	1.8	0.1	+6.7	+0.3
<b>High Yield</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>+0.6</b>	<b>+0.1</b>
<b>Emerging Markets Debt</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-0.0</b>
<b>Preferred Stock</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>+1.7</b>	<b>-</b>

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 Intermediate 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 Intermediate Fixed Income GIPS Report.

Portfolio Characteristics		
	Intermediate Fixed Income	Bloomberg US Aggregate Intermediate
Yield to Worst	4.71	4.47
Option Adjusted Spread	56	31
Option Adjusted Duration	4.52	4.42
BBB Equiv Spread Risk	2.27	1.33
Average Quality	Aa3/A1	Aa2/Aa3
Number Issuers	167	1,150

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 Intermediate Fixed Income GIPS Report.

Credit Quality		
	Intermediate Fixed Income	Bloomberg US Aggregate Intermediate
AAA	10%	4%
AA	51%	77%
A	12%	9%
BBB	24%	10%
BB	1%	0%
B	0%	0%
CCC and Below	0%	0%
Not Rated / Other	0%	0%
Cash	2%	0%

## MARKET OVERVIEW

Uncertainty was the dominant theme in markets during the first quarter, driven largely by shifting policies under the new administration. Evolving trade policies and escalating tensions with key trading partners created an added layer of complexity for businesses, impacting corporate planning and investment decisions. At the same time, consumer sentiment showed signs of softening, with investors reassessing the potential impact of new policies on spending behavior.

This growing lack of clarity combined with rising inflation concerns have created uncertainty around the trajectory of U.S. economic growth, prompting economists to revise their 2025 GDP forecasts. However, it's worth emphasizing that much of the deterioration so far has been reflected in soft data—surveys, sentiment indicators, and business confidence—rather than hard economic metrics, like GDP or employment.

Looking ahead, key factors to watch include potential shifts in fiscal policy, the Fed's response to evolving macroeconomic conditions, and the extent to which business and consumer sentiment translates into actual spending and business activity. If uncertainty persists or tariffs escalate into larger trade wars, it will likely manifest in weaker hard data. That said, a dovish Fed reaction or a pivot on trade policy could help restore some confidence and support domestic growth.

Increased policy uncertainty and renewed growth fears led to a risk-off tone for financial markets as interest rates declined and risk assets underperformed. Equities were volatile as the S&P 500 briefly entered correction territory from mid-February highs and ended the quarter down -4.3%. Credit spreads also moved wider but remain tight relative to historical levels. Amid this risk-off tone, treasury yields moved lower with the 10-year Treasury ending the quarter at 4.21% compared to 4.57% at the start of the year.

## MACRO OUTLOOK | AS OF 03/31/2025

Factor	Outlook	Comments
Economic Growth	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growth expectations have fallen due to developments over trade policy and softer sentiment across businesses and consumers</li> <li>Aggregate consumer has a solid foundation but negative "wealth effect" could impact spending</li> <li>Overall business fundamentals generally healthy but new trade policy creates uncertainty for capital investment and hiring</li> <li>Market forecasts for inflation have increased due to tariffs, but impacts are not expected to be persistent</li> <li>Economic effects of tariffs and budget reconciliation will be the policy focus over coming quarters</li> </ul>
Financial Conditions	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terminal rate expectations continue shifting, markets currently anticipate 3+ cuts in 2025</li> <li>Volatility to remain elevated as markets react to incoming data and policy response</li> <li>Lending standards and market-based financial conditions have tightened recently, but largely neutral</li> </ul>
Valuations	Credit: Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spreads have widened recently from expensive levels to near median relative to history</li> <li>Risk/reward is more balanced, but downside risk remains elevated</li> </ul>
	Equities: Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The S&amp;P 500 entered correction territory in March but ended the quarter slightly above the lows. Despite recent price declines, valuations are still above long-term averages</li> </ul>
	Rates: Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Longer interest rates appear attractive at current levels. Yields reflect further interest rate cuts from the Fed and benign long-term inflation expectations</li> </ul>
Risk Budget	30%	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>The U.S. economy entered the year on solid footing, but growth forecasts have declined in recent weeks. Shifting trade policy and escalating geopolitical tensions have created elevated uncertainty along with weaker sentiment across consumers and businesses. Tariffs have also caused higher inflation forecasts. While they are expected to have a meaningfully short-term impact, investors do not expect the effects to be persistent. Corporate fundamentals remain generally healthy, but the current environment creates uncertainty over Capex and hiring. As a result, investors anticipate slower growth and increased their forecasts for Fed cuts, expecting 3+ cuts in 2025. Valuations have cheapened somewhat to near median long-term levels. Valuations, coupled with elevated downside economic risks, result in a modest allocation to credit risk.</p>

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.

## INTERMEDIATE FIXED INCOME COMPOSITE GIPS REPORT

	1Q2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Intermediate Fixed Income (Gross)	2.58%	3.95%	5.95%	-9.20%	-0.26%	7.61%	8.08%	0.59%	3.04%	4.68%	0.77%
Intermediate Fixed Income (Net)	2.54%	3.77%	5.75%	-9.38%	-0.45%	7.40%	7.86%	0.38%	2.82%	4.44%	0.54%
Bloomberg Intermediate Aggregate Bond Index	2.61%	2.47%	5.18%	-9.51%	-1.29%	5.60%	6.67%	0.92%	2.27%	1.97%	1.21%
Intermediate Fixed Income 3-Year Annual Standard Deviation <sup>1</sup>	-	6.35%	5.83%	4.89%	2.82%	2.87%	2.00%	1.98%	1.93%	2.12%	2.23%
Bloomberg Intermediate Aggregate 3-Year Annual Standard Deviation <sup>1</sup>	-	6.09%	5.52%	4.33%	2.04%	2.16%	2.04%	2.12%	1.96%	2.13%	2.10%
Dispersion <sup>2</sup>	0.13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of Accounts	11	11	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5
Composite Assets (\$ millions)	\$1,005.6	\$991.2	\$506.2	\$596.2	\$670.6	\$675.0	\$630.6	\$588.1	\$584.7	\$704.0	\$445.7
Total Firm Assets (\$ millions)	\$82,871	\$81,286	\$74,613	\$66,365	\$73,804	\$65,086	\$59,174	\$49,225	\$52,774	\$45,656	\$42,959

Composite inception date: 01/01/2006 and Composite creation date: 01/01/2018. <sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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 quarterly gross-of-fee returns for those portfolios held in the composite during the full measurement period. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The benchmark for this composite is the Bloomberg US Aggregate Intermediate Bond Index. The Bloomberg US Aggregate Intermediate Bond Index measures the performance of the investment grade, fixed-rate taxable bond market and includes government and corporate bonds, agency mortgage-backed, asset-backed securities, and commercial mortgage-backed securities (agency and non-agency) with a maturity greater than 1 year and less than 10 years. The index accounts for interest payments by incorporating them into the total return calculation. Fort Washington's Intermediate Fixed Income strategy seeks to actively manage portfolios within a disciplined sector rotation and target duration framework, focusing on long-term results, utilizing a mix of fixed income securities. Fort Washington constructs portfolios that are diversified by sector, holdings, and quality which we believe will produce favorable risk-adjusted returns. The Intermediate Fixed Income Composite includes all fixed income accounts above \$5MM managed to the maturity constraints consistent to that of an intermediate duration focused index, with the ability to invest in Investment Grade Securities which allow for between 10%-30% allocations to High Yield and/or are restricted to invest in less than 5% in Emerging Market Securities, Non-U.S. Dollar denominated securities, and/or any derivative investments. The strategy's fee schedule is 0.35% on the first \$25 million and 0.30% on additional amounts over \$25 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. Assets under management include all portfolios managed by Fort Washington and exclude assets managed by and marketed as its Private Equity business unit. Fort Washington claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS Standards. Fort Washington has been independently verified for the periods 7/1/94 - 12/31/23. 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. 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. Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request. To receive a complete list and description of composites, contact Fort Washington by phone at 888.244.8167, in writing at 303 Broadway, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, or online at fortwashington.com.

## RISK DISCLOSURE

The Fort Washington Intermediate 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. Events in the U.S. and global financial markets, including actions taken to stimulate or stabilize economic growth may at times result in unusually high market volatility, which could negatively impact strategy performance and cause it to experience illiquidity, shareholder redemptions, or other potentially adverse effects. Banks and financial services companies could suffer losses if interest rates rise or economic conditions deteriorate.

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