# The World of Fixed Income from a Consultant Perspective

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### Changing Landscape in Fixed Income



#### **Changes in Return Expectations**

			2021				
	Asset Class	Return	Risk	Return/ Risk	Return	Risk	Return/ Risk
P u	Core Fixed Income	2.16	3.43	0.63	5.19	4.28	1.21
b	Investment Grade Corporate Bonds	2.69	6.22	0.43	6.04	7.14	0.85
1	US Large Cap Equity	5.13	14.80	0.35	8.19	16.19	0.51
c	US Small Cap Equity	6.33	19.44	0.33	9.07	20.44	0.44
s	International Developed Equity	7.80	16.92	0.46	10.58	17.64	0.60
А	Private Equity	9.36	18.67	0.50	11.46	20.06	0.57
l t	Core Real Estate	6.46	10.94	0.59	8.02	10.60	0.76
s	Private Debt	7.67	13.74	0.56	9.29	13.21	0.70

### Equal Changes in Portfolio Construction

		2021			2024				
			_		Return/				Return/
	Asset Class	Weight	Return	Risk	Risk	Weight	Return	Risk	Risk
	US Large Cap	30%	5.13	14.80	0.35	30%	8.19	16.19	0.51
6	US Small Cap	15%	6.33	19.44	0.33	15%	9.07	20.44	0.44
	International Developed Equity	15%	7.80	16.92	0.46	15%	10.58	17.64	0.60
0	Total Equity	60%				60%			
1									
· ·	Core Fixed Income	30%	2.16	3.43	0.63	30%	5.19	4.28	1.21
4	IG Corporate Bonds	10%	2.69	6.22	0.43	10%	6.04	7.14	0.85
0	Total Fixed Income	40%				40%			
U									
	Total Portfolio	100%	4.58%	11.55%	0.40	100%	7.57%	12.57%	0.60
	US Large Cap	35%	5.13	14.80	0.35	35%	8.19	16.19	0.51
7	US Small Cap	18%	6.33	19.44	0.33	18%	9.07	20.44	0.44
-	International Developed Equity	18%	7.80	16.92	0.46	18%	10.58	17.64	0.60
0	Total Equity	70%				70%			
1									
_	Core Fixed Income	22%	2.16	3.43	0.63	22%	5.19	4.28	1.21
3	IG Corporate Bonds	8%	2.69	6.22	0.43	8%	6.04	7.14	0.85
0	Total Fixed Income	30%				30%			
0									
	Total Portfolio	100%	4.96%	12.80%	0.39	100%	7.93%	13.84%	0.57

#### Which Lead to Changes in Behavior

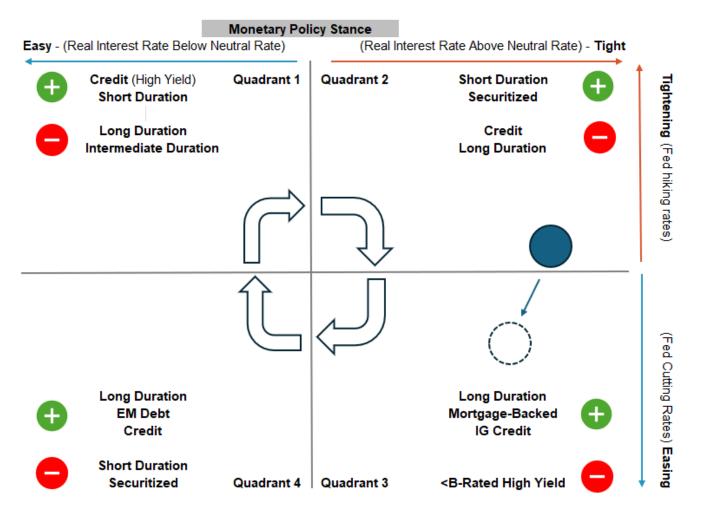
Asset Class	Fund Flows Year to Date	Fund Flows Trailing 12 Months
Core Fixed Income	\$35.5T	\$64.1T
Corporate Bonds	\$652.8M	\$979.7M
All Fixed Income	\$75.3T	\$75.4T

US Large Cap Equity	\$44.1T	\$121.5T
US Small Cap Equity	\$5.4T	\$14.6T
International Developed Equity	\$7.0T	\$18.8T
All Equity	\$75.8T	\$198.8T

### Why We Like Fixed Income Today



#### Monetary Policy Cycle



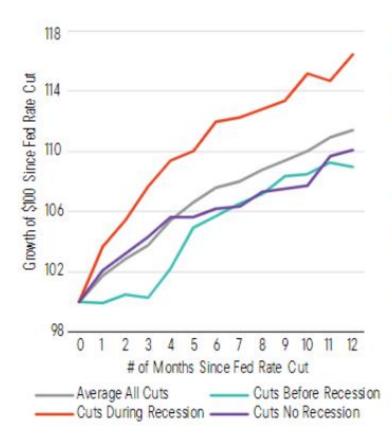
#### Historical Returns by Quadrant

Return Environment when Monetary Policy is ...

	Long-Term				
	Annualized	Easy But	Tight &	Tight &	Easy &
Index	Return	Tightening	Tightening	Easing	Easing
Bloomberg US Agg	6.52%				
Bloomberg US Treasury 1-3 Yr	3.20%				
Bloomberg US Intermediate Treasury	5.99%				
Bloomberg US Long Treasury	6.93%				
Bloomberg US Corporate	6.96%				
Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield	8.21%				
Bloomberg US Securitized	3.90%				
Bloomberg Municipal Bond	5.94%				
Bloomberg US Mortgage-Backed Securities	6.47%				
Bloomberg Emerging Markets (USD)	8.10%				

0-1% Above LTA	0-1% Below LTA
1-2% Above LTA	1-2% Below LTA
2-4% Above LTA	2-4% Below LTA
>4% Above LTA	>4% Below LTA
>8% Above LTA	

#### Historical Returns Post First Fed Rate Cut



Date of First		US Treasury Subsequent Returns				
Fed Cut	Stage of Business Cycle	3-Month	6-Month	12-Month		
19-Aug	Before Recession	-1.10%	3.40%	7.00%		
7-Sep	Before Recession	4.00%	8.60%	8.70%		
1-Jan	Before Recession	0.30%	3.60%	6.60%		
Jul-95	No Recession	3.70%	7.50%	5.10%		
Jun-89	No Recession	0.80%	4.60%	6.80%		
Nov-87	No Recession	5.70%	3.10%	7.80%		
Sep-84	No Recession	7.10%	9.40%	20.60%		
Apr-82	During Recession	4.20%	17.80%	26.10%		
Jun-81	Before Recession	-2.20%	7.20%	13.60%		
Apr-80	During Recession	15.10%	9.80%	13.10%		
Jul-74	During Recession	3.70%	8.40%	10.10%		
	Average Before Recession	0.30%	5.70%	9.00%		
	Average No Recession	4.30%	6.20%	10.10%		
	Average During Recession	7.70%	12.00%	16.40%		

As of December 29, 2023

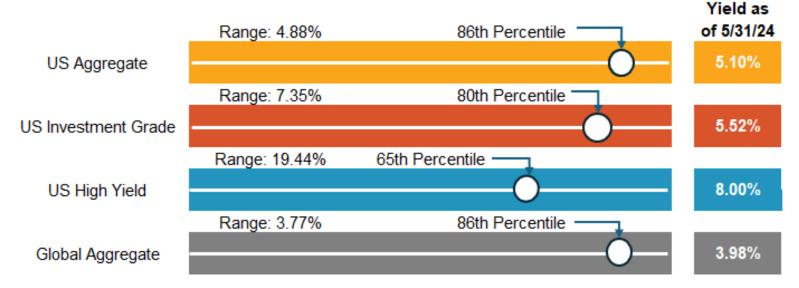
Sources: Franklin Templeton Institute, Federal Reserve, Bloomberg, NBER, Macrobond

Notes US Treasury is represented by the Bloomberg US Treasury Index. The analysis considers all first cuts following a series of rate hikes since 1972. A series of rate hikes (a hiking cycle) is defined as at least three hikes (or fewer if their magnitude exceeds 100 bps). Single cuts that occurred within longer hiking cycles are excluded (September 1973, November 1979, January 1981, and July 1987). In the line chart, the values are rebased with base value 100 on the month of the first cut.

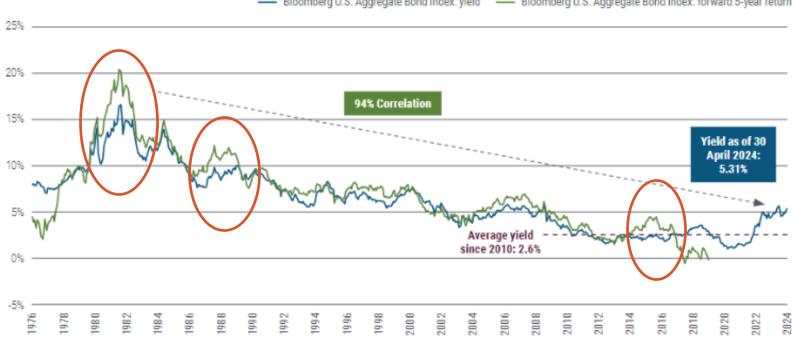
Indexes are unmanaged and one cannot directly invest in them. They do not include fees, expenses or sales charges. Past performance is not an indicator or a guarantee of future results.

#### **Current Yields Relative to Historical Norms**

#### Latest Yield, as a Percentage of 20-Year Range



#### **Yield Matters**



Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index: yield Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index: forward 5-year return

Source: eVestment

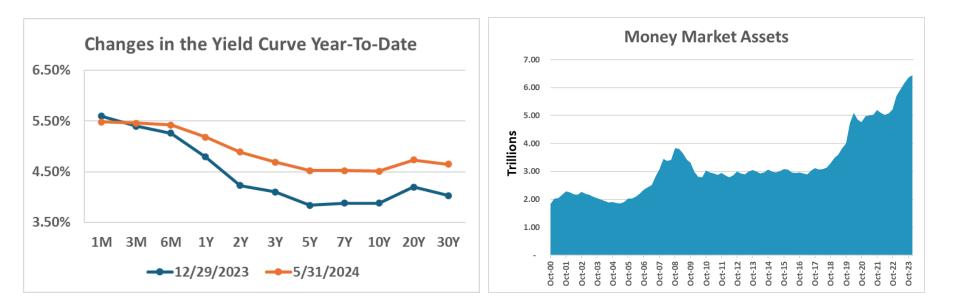
Data from May 10, 2004 through May 31, 2024

Yields measure Yield to Worst for the following benchmarks: Bloomberg Agggregate, Bloomberg High Yield, Bloomberg Global Aggregate and Bloomberg Investment Grade

### Potential Opportunities in Fixed Income

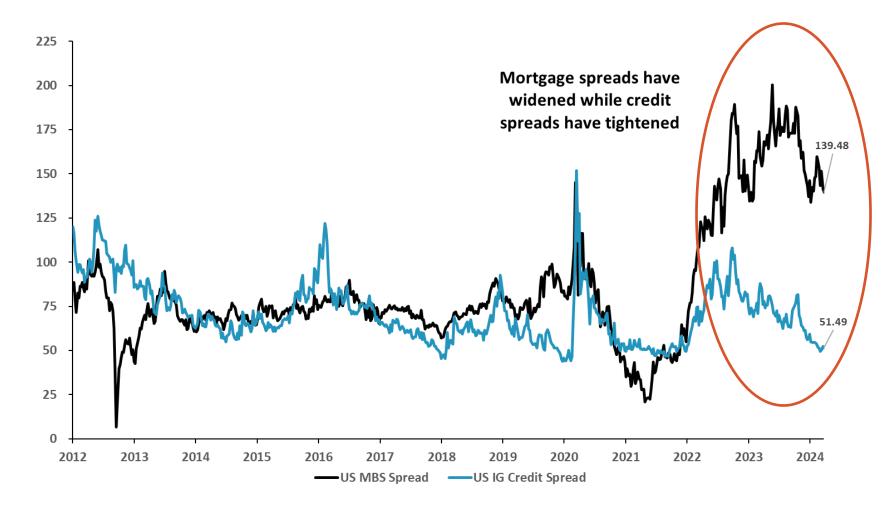


#### High Quality Short Duration

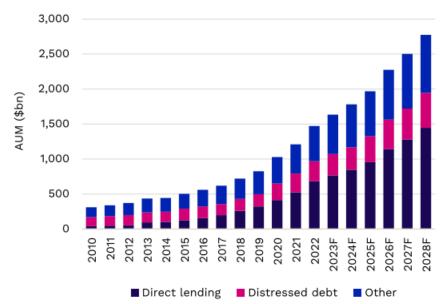


Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Bloomberg, Morgan Stanley Investment Management. Yields measure Market Yield on U.S. Treasury Securities at 3-Year Constant Maturity, Quoted on an Investment Basis Data in the left chart as of 5/31/24. Data in the right chart as of 12/31/23.

#### **Mortgage-Backed Securities**

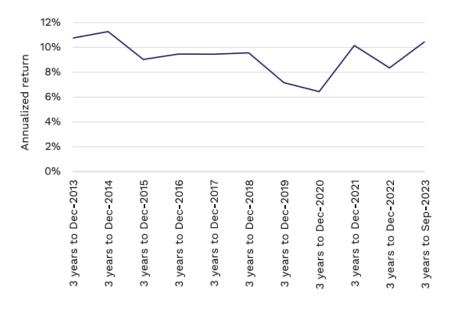


#### Private Credit – Senior Direct Lending

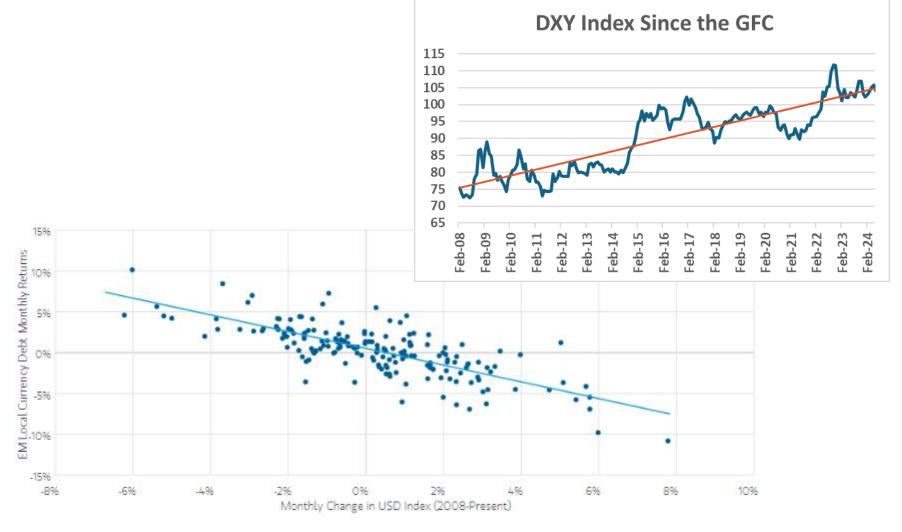


#### Global private debt AUM\* by strategy

#### Direct lending three-year horizon IRRs



#### **Emerging Market Debt**



Past performance is no guarantee of future results

Source: Bloomberg, Morgan Stanley Investment Management, Wall Street Journal

Bloomberg Emerging Market Local Currency Government Bond Index used for EM Local Currency Debt. The index performance is provided for illustrative purposes only and is not meant to depict the performance of a specified investment. Data in the top graph as of May 31, 2024. Data in the bottom graph as of August 31, 2023

DXY measures the strength of the US dollar against a basket of six other currencies: Euro, Japanese Yen, Pound sterling, Canadian dollar, Swedish Krona and Swiss Franc.

## Potential Risks



#### We Get a Repeat of 2022

- Interest Rate Hikes
  - > Additional rate hikes would lead to a decline in bond prices
- Inflation Surge
  - Continued high inflation would lead to more Fed rate hikes, hurting bond prices
  - Higher prices could impact consumers and cause credit spreads to widen due to corporate uncertainty
- Housing Market Instability

> Higher mortgage rates crushes housing affordability and impacts consumer buying power

- Indiscriminate Investor Selling
  - Even high-quality assets (i.e. Treasuries) suffered in 2022 and high correlation between asset classes meant there was no place to hide for investors.

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