# **Quarterly Asset Class Report Taxable Fixed Income**

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Role in the Portfolio Fixed Income

Canterbury Consulting recommends and communicates asset-class strategy with the objective of constructing a diversified portfolio of fixed income strategies designed to (in aggregate):

- Preserve after-tax wealth and mitigate volatility
- Maintain comparable exposure to the broad municipal market
- Focus exposure based on state domicile and after-tax returns
- Exhibit returns uncorrelated to equity markets



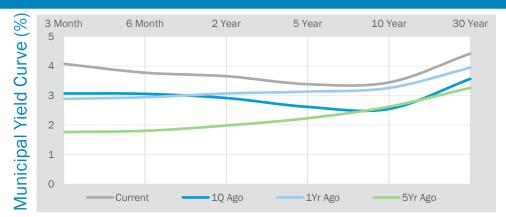
- Canterbury global fixed income portfolios are set up with a goal to deliver consistent after-tax and net-of-fees excess returns and moderate tracking error versus the Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index. The goal for taxable fixed income portfolios are to have a high-quality bias with sensitivity toward taxes.
- Canterbury's fixed income portfolios seek to exhibit benchmark-like, after-tax yields and credit quality through more
  portfolio diversification and lower duration. Portfolio diversification will depend on the client's state of domicile and
  individual goals (i.e. income vs. capital preservation).

# Index Returns as of September 30, 2023

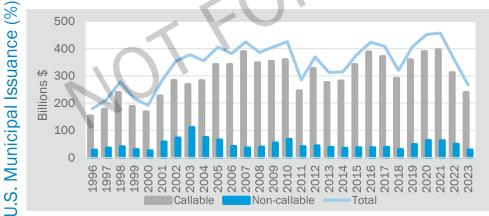
### Fixed Income

	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	7 Years	10 Years
oomberg Global Aggregate	-3.59	-2.21	2.24	-6.93	-1.62	-1.53	-0.44
oomberg US Agg Bond	-3.23	-1.21	0.64	-5.21	0.10	-0.09	1.13
S. Treasurys							
ofAML 3M US Treasury Note	1.25	3.62	4.55	1.73	1.76	1.57	1.14
oomberg Short Treasury	1.33	3.57	4.45	1.53	1.71	1.53	1.14
oomberg Intermediate Treasury	-0.81	0.28	1.30	-3.21	0.68	0.20	0.80
oomberg Long Term US Treasury	-11.83	-8.55	-9.09	-15.73	-2.78	-3.41	0.75
oomberg U.S. Treasury TIPS 1-5Y	0.24	1.52	2.84	1.45	2.67	2.06	1.63
comberg US Treasury US TIPS	-2.60	-0.78	1.25	-1.98	2.12	1.46	1.74
					120		
S. Corporate Credit					$(\mathbf{Y})$		
oomberg US Corp IG	-3.09	0.02	3.65	-4.93	0.93	0.81	2.23
orningstar LSTA Leveraged Loan	3.46	10.16	13.05	6.08	4.46	4.69	4.30
ofAML US HY Master II	0.53	5.97	10.19	1.82	2.80	3.69	4.16
ofAML US HY BB-B Constrained	0.23	5.10	9.65	1.28	2.94	3.54	4.16
ofAML US Corporate AAA	-5.18	-1.78	0.63	-7.59	0.20	0.04	1.78
ofAML US Corporate AA	-3.40	-0.58	2.08	-5.73	0.20	0.13	1.60
ofAML US Corporate A	-2.86	-0.06	3.05	-5.09	0.86	0.62	2.04
ofAML US Corps BBB	-2.37	1.12	5.22	-4.07	1.40	1.35	2.68
ofAML US High Yield BB	-0.34	3.82	8.32	0.86	3.43	3.63	4.50
ofAML US High Yield B	0.95	6.73	11.35	1.90	2.45	3.51	3.81
ofAML US High Yield CCC	2.83	12.91	14.18	5.39	0.97	3.99	3.87
ecuritized	10						
oomberg ABS	0.25	1.99	2.81	-0.80	1.48	1.25	1.49
oomberg MBS	-4.05	-2.26	-0.17	-5.09	-0.77	-0.64	0.61
oomberg CMBS	-1.02	0.16	1.19	-3.77	0.99	0.57	1.43
unicipals		3.20	2.20	<b>3.1.</b>	0.00	3.5.	2.10
oomberg Municipal	-3.95	-1.38	2.66	-2.30	1.05	0.92	2.29
oomberg Muni 1-10	-1.95	-0.69	2.16	-1.34	1.13	0.92	1.51
555	1.00	0.00	2.10	2.07	2.20	0.02	1.01
obal							
oomberg Global Aggregate TR Hdg USD	0.06	2.96	0.52	-2.88	0.93	0.84	2.11
	-4.00	-3.20	3.39	-8.39	-3.10	-2.77	-1.73
oomberg Gbl Agg Ex USD				-0.00	-0.10		1.10







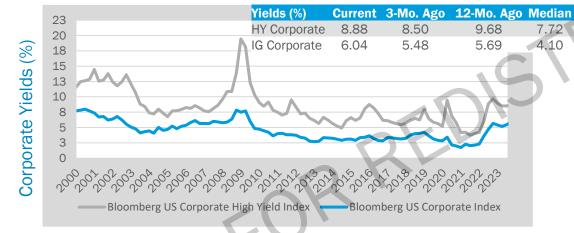


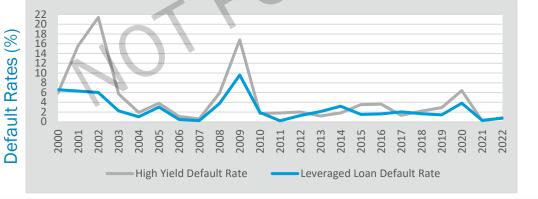
### Fixed Income

- Amid elevated inflation, the Federal Reserve raised the key interest rate by 25 basis points in July to a range of 5.25% 5.50%.
- In September, the FOMC agreed to keep rates unchanged but kept an additional rate hike of 25 basis points (bps) on the table by the end of the year. The Fed revised their economic forecast higher given a stronger than anticipated growth outlook.
- The Fed announced that interest rates would likely stay higher for longer and revised their interest rate forecast to show less rate cuts in 2024. Two rate cuts of 25 bps are currently on the table compared to 4 rate cuts announced at the July FOMC meeting.
- Yields across the municipal bond yield curve increased over the quarter on the back of positive growth momentum in the economy.
- Municipal bond issuance at the end of the third quarter was approximately 9% lower than the same period in 2022, which was already lower than the previous year.

Sources: Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA), U.S. Treasury Department, Barclays, Bloomberg. Data as of 09/30/2023

#### Spreads (%) 3-Mo. Ago 12-Mo. Ago Median 22 20 18 16 14 12 Current Corporate Spreads (%) 4.62 **HY Corporate** 4.03 4.05 5.43 IG Corporate 1.25 1.30 1.67 1.42 10 8 6 4 2 0 U.S. Investment Grade U.S. High Yield





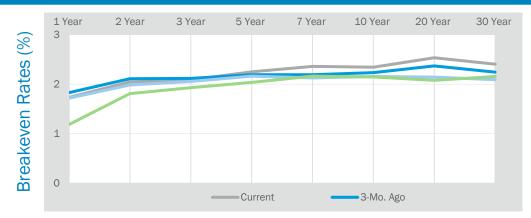
### Fixed Income

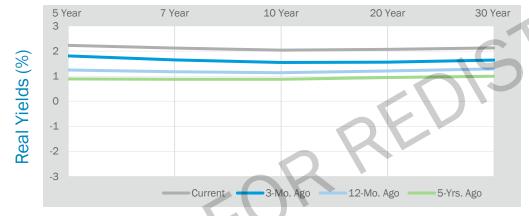
- Investment grade (IG) spreads narrowed from 130 basis points (bps) to 125 bps, and high yield (HY) spreads narrowed from 405 bps to 403 bps over the quarter.
- The yield for investment grade and high yield corporate bonds increased by 16 bps and 38 bps to 6.04% and 8.88%, respectively.
- Although corporate credit spreads remained below long-term medians, corporate credit yields continued to be modestly above historicals\*.

Sources: Federal Reserve Economic Data, S&P LCD, JP Morgan, Bloomberg Indices. Data as of 09/30/2023. S&P LCD Lev Loan Defaults, JP Morgan HY Bond Defaults, Data as of 12/31/2022



<sup>\*</sup>Long-term median is defined as median data since 2000.



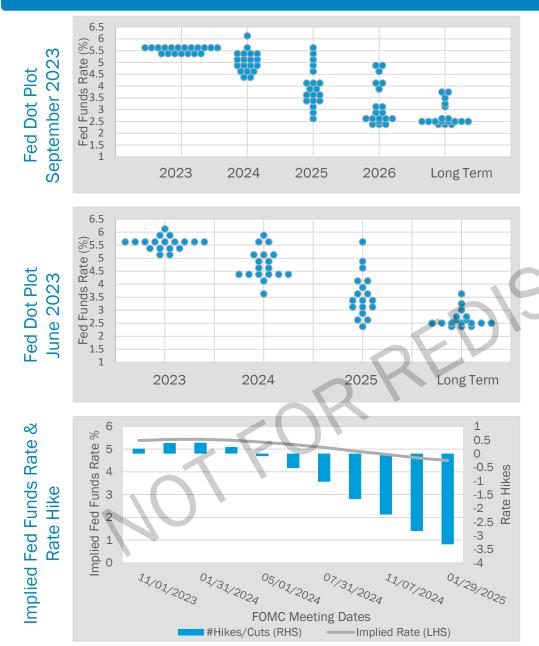




### Fixed Income

- Front-end breakeven inflation rates remained relatively unchanged while intermediate-tolong-term breakevens rose. The breakeven rate is the implied inflation rate for a given maturity and is calculated by subtracting the real yield of a treasury bond from the nominal yield.
- Breakeven rates currently imply that inflation should trend in line with the Fed's original inflation target of 2% in the near-term.
   Conversely, intermediate-to-long-term breakevens imply that inflation could trend higher than the Fed's inflation target.
- Real yields from the 5-year maturity and beyond increased, showing that nominal yields outpaced implied inflation.
- Inflation continues to be driven by supply/demand imbalances, economic growth, tight labor markets, and high wage growth.

Source: Bloomberg. FRED. CPI & PCE Data. U.S. Breakeven Rates. U.S. Treasury Inflation-Indexed Rates. Data as of 09/30/2023

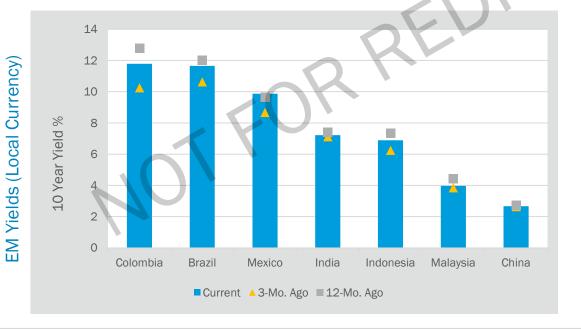


### Fixed Income

- The fed funds rate forecast for 2023 was left relatively unchanged at a range of 5.5% -5.75%, as represented by the Fed Dot Plot. This implies one additional rate hike of 25 bps by the end of the year.
- As of the end of September, market participants expect the Fed to keep rates unchanged by the end of this year and start cutting interest rates by mid-2024.
- The Fed Dot Plot represents where each of the Federal Open Markets Committee (FOMC) members believe the fed funds rate will be in the future.
- The implied fed funds rate is where market participants believe the fed funds rate will be based on futures prices.

Source: Bloomberg. December FOMC Dot Plot. Fed Funds Futures as of time of December FOMC meeting. Implied Fed Funds Futures & Rate Hike Probabilities as of 09/30/2023.

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### Fixed Income

- Global developed market yields generally rose as market participants expect a longer period of elevated rates than originally anticipated.
- Emerging markets (EM) sovereign yields also rose during the quarter as risk appetite fell on news that U.S. rates will likely stay higher for longer.
- The U.S. dollar generally appreciated against most developed and emerging market currencies due to positive growth momentum in the U.S.

Source: Bloomberg. Data as of 09/30/2023



**Developed Yields** 



### Goals

- Are clients seeking to preserve capital, generate total return, or blend the two within a fixed income segment?
- What level of risk related to portfolio correlation is the client looking to incur?



# Interest Rate & Inflationary Environment

- How does the current interest rate regime and inflationary environment affect return and risk (i.e. stagnant, slow-rise, rapid rise)?
- What level of interest rate volatility is the client willing to take?



### Risk Tolerance

- How much risk is a client willing to take?
- Duration, yield curve positioning, sector exposure, credit exposure, the correlation to equities, and the client's distribution flows are important factors to measure.



# Tax Considerations

- Is the client's status taxable or tax-exempt?
- Does the client have a higher threshold given the respective tax situation?



### Time Horizon

- Does the client have short term or long term goals?
- Are spending requirements quarterly, annually, or longer?
- Is spending consistent with the return/risk profile of the portfolio?

### **FIXED INCOME PORTFOLIO**



**CORE** 



**OPPORTUNISTIC** 



## **Characteristics**

- Low volatility
- Uncorrelated to equities
- U.S. Focus



### **Characteristics**

- Income orientated
- Total return focus
- Uncorrelated to core bonds



### **Exposure**

- Treasuries
- Agencies
- Investment grade corporate
- MBS



### **Exposure**

- Non-U.S. developed sovereigns
- EM sovereigns
- High yield
- Bank loans
- Private debt

