

# Intermediate Corporate Fixed Income Strategy

Characteristics and Commentary

1st Quarter 2026

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## Market Environment

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- Markets began the quarter focused on AI disruption and private credit risks, but the escalation in Iran quickly shifted attention to surging energy prices and higher rates driven by near-term inflation concerns.
- Fixed income markets have largely interpreted the shock as a near-term, supply-driven inflation event. Yields moved higher and curves flattened as expectations for Fed easing were pushed out of 2026.
- Most investment grade markets delivered flat total returns in Q1, as higher yields were offset by strong income carry. Credit modestly underperformed amid risk-off sentiment and supply pressures, while higher-quality sectors outperformed, including agency MBS.

## Quarterly Performance

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The Intermediate Corporate Strategy returned -0.29% (gross) / -0.38% (net) vs. -0.17% for the Bloomberg Intermediate Credit Index.

Attribution:

- Curve/Duration: -4 bps
- Sector/Selection: -8 bps (-6 bps/-2 bps)

Primary contributors to relative performance:

- Sector: Overweight Corporate Credit
- Industries: Consumer Cyclical, Basic Industry & Natural Gas

Primary detractors to relative performance:

- Sector: Underweight Government Related
- Industries: Banking, REITs & Insurance

## Outlook

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- From an investment standpoint, yields have moved too aggressively toward pricing hikes, creating an attractive window to add duration. Higher yields have also improved forward return expectations for core fixed income through stronger carry.
- Inflation is rising, but with limited pressure from rents and wages, we expect inflation to fade quickly if tensions with Iran ease. We continue to center our expectations around one to two cuts, given slower growth, a weakening labor market, limited core inflation pressure, and a more dovish incoming Fed chair.
- Credit remains a balance between spreads that are still too tight and yield levels that are attractive and supportive of continued inflows.

## Positioning

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- We continue to favor a low tracking-error posture, reduced credit risk, and a focus on quality. Recent rate volatility, curve flattening, and spread widening have created opportunities for selective repositioning, including adding duration and moving further in on the curve within our credit allocation.
- Within our sector allocation, we balance still-tight credit spreads against attractive yields by maintaining full exposure to harvest income while positioning defensively through a front-end bias and selective issuer and sector exposure that avoids private credit risk and AI-related disruption.
- Specifically, this has included overweight positions in large money-center banks, and increased exposure to capital goods, regulated utilities, and natural gas-focused energy businesses.

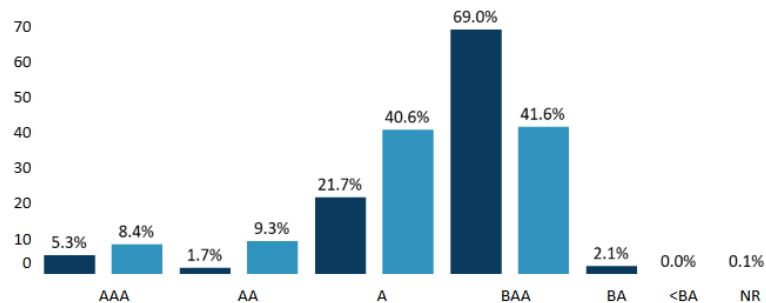
## PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

<b>As of Date</b>	March 31, 2026
<b>Portfolio Market Value</b>	Composite
<b>Benchmark</b>	Bloomberg Intermediate Credit

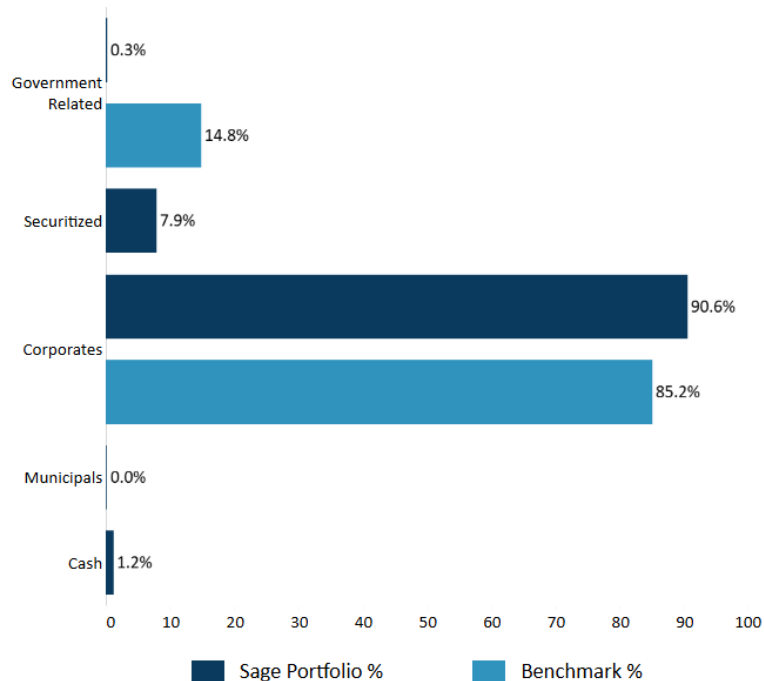
## PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

	Portfolio	Benchmark
<b>Yield to Worst</b>	5.04%	4.72%
<b>Coupon</b>	4.76%	4.37%
<b>Effective Maturity</b>	5.13	4.86
<b>Effective Duration</b>	4.06	4.08
<b>Average Credit Rating</b>	Baa	A-

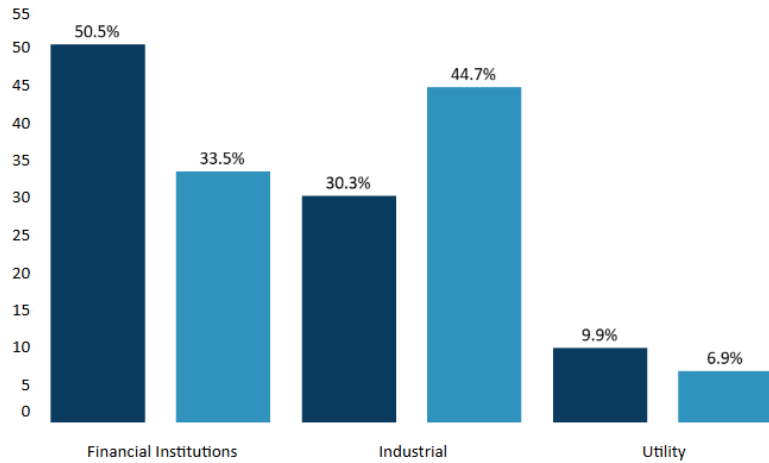
## CREDIT RATING ALLOCATION



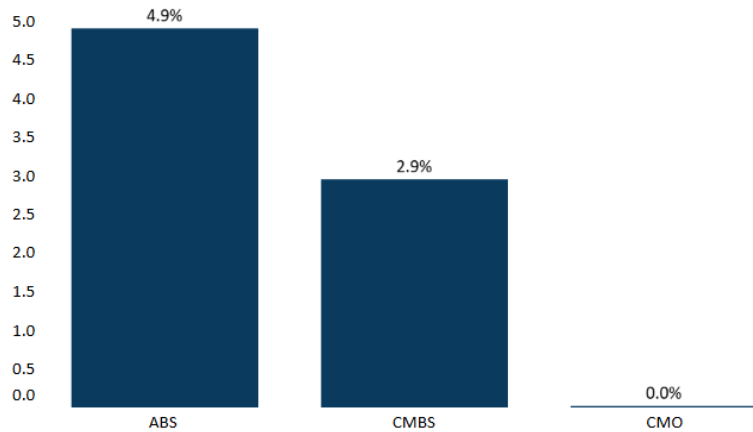
## SECTOR ALLOCATION



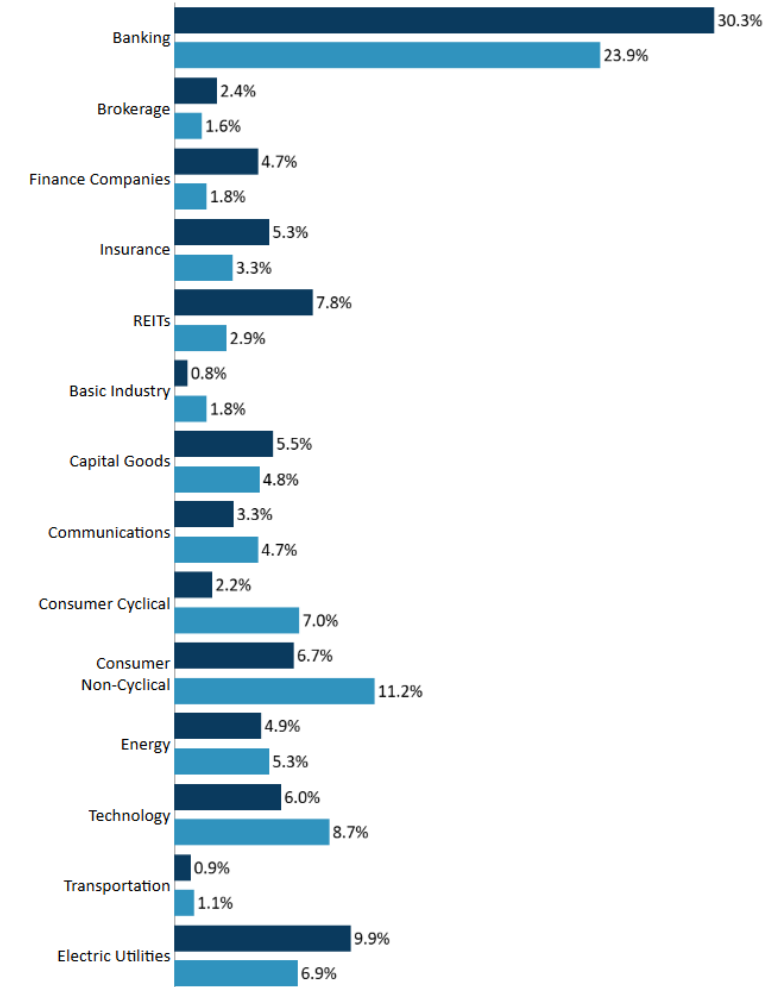
### CORPORATE SECTOR ALLOCATION



### SECURITIZED SECTOR ALLOCATION



### CORPORATE INDUSTRY ALLOCATION

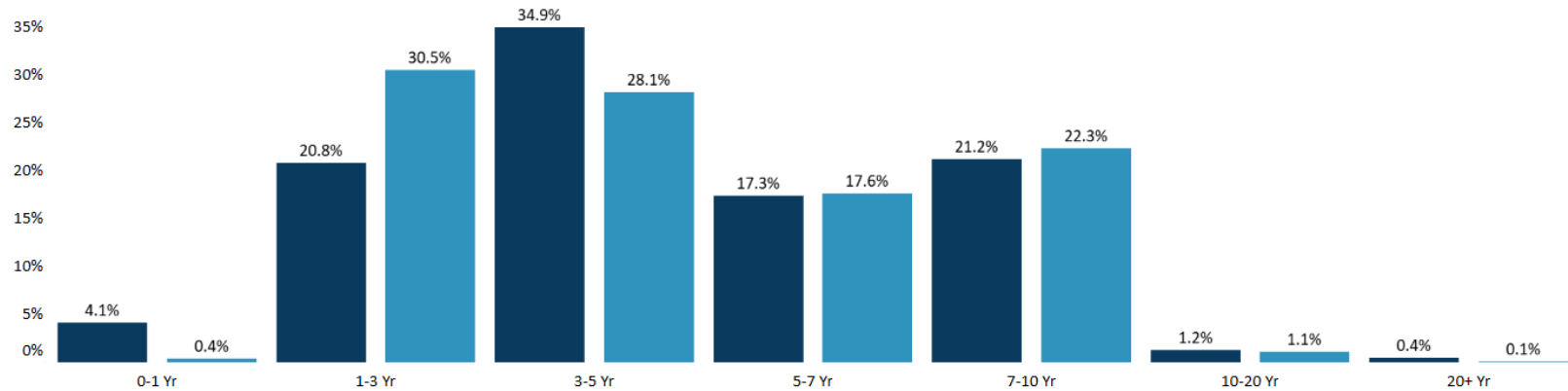


■ Sage Portfolio %

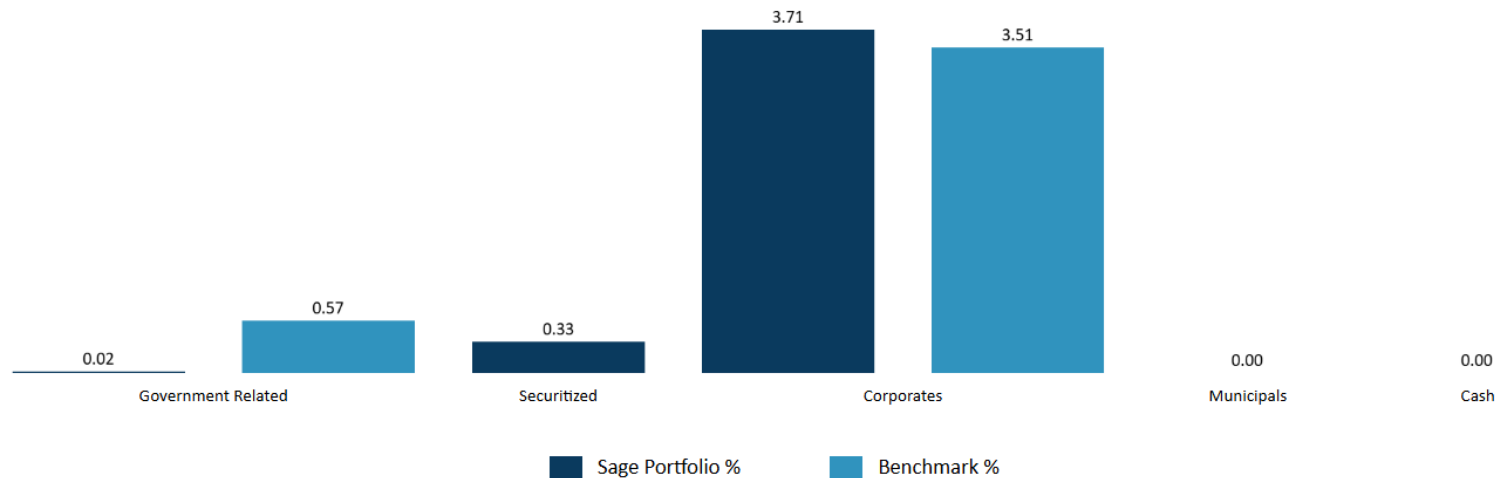
■ Benchmark %




### MARKET VALUE DISTRIBUTION BY MATURITY



### CONTRIBUTION TO DURATION DISTRIBUTION BY SECTOR





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Intermediate Corporate Fixed Income Composite

Year	Gross Return (%)	Net Return (%)	Benchmark Return (%)	Number of Portfolios	3 Yr Composite Deviation (%)	3 Yr Benchmark Deviation (%)	Internal Dispersion	Total Composite Assets (\$MM)	Total Firm Assets (AUM) (\$MM)	Advisory Only Assets* (\$MM)	Total Firm Assets (AUA)* (\$MM)
2016	3.44	3.08	3.68	10	2.38	2.47	0.06	180	10,183	1,809	11,992
2017	3.93	3.56	3.67	10	2.22	2.29	0.04	217	10,808	1,904	12,712
2018	-0.16	-0.51	0.01	11	2.10	2.19	0.05	250	11,062	1,677	12,739
2019	10.47	10.09	9.52	7	2.20	2.16	0.07	370	12,798	1,823	14,621
2020	8.59	8.22	7.08	5	5.17	4.23		484	13,731	1,961	15,691
2021	-0.52	-0.87	-1.03	9	5.21	4.27		494	15,053	2,491	17,544
2022	-8.59	-8.91	-9.10	6	6.51	5.72		610	15,286	2,036	17,322
2023	7.59	7.22	6.94	6	5.59	5.48		811	22,640	1,986	24,626
2024	4.92	4.55	4.01	9	5.97	5.86		1,484	24,912	1,881	26,793
2025	8.19	7.81	7.88	12	4.21	4.12	0.04	1,597	28,347	1,859	30,206
		<b>1 Yr</b>	<b>5 Yr</b>	<b>10 Yr</b>	<i>Returns for periods less than one year are not annualized.</i>						
Gross Return (%)	8.19	2.12	3.64	<i>*Assets Under Advisement (AUA) includes Advisory Only Assets where Sage provides investment recommendations but has no control over implementation of investment decisions and no trading authority.</i>							
Net Return (%)	7.81	1.76	3.28	Compliance Statement: Sage Advisory Services, Ltd. Co. ("Sage") claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Sage has been independently verified for the period December 31, 2004 to December 31, 2024. The verification report is 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 Return (%)	7.88	1.54	3.13								

As of December 31, 2025

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**Composite Characteristics:** The Intermediate Corporate Fixed Income Composite (the "Composite") consists of all non-wrap program discretionary, fee-paying accounts over \$1,000,000 that are managed for a full month according to this style. The Composite contains accounts investing primarily in corporate fixed income securities. The Composite creation and inception date is May 31, 2010. Not every client's account in the Composite will have the identical characteristics. The actual characteristics with respect to any particular client account may vary based on a number of factors, including but not limited to: (i) the size of the account; (ii) the investment restrictions applicable to the account, if any; and (iii) the market conditions at the time of investment. Effective 3/1/2020, the Significant Cashflow Policy is defined as a cashflow equal or greater than 10% percent of the total account value on the day the cash flow is initiated. The account will be removed from the composite at the beginning of the month in which the significant cash flow occurs and added back to the composite on the first day of the month following the date that the account is fully invested. From 1/1/2014 through 2/29/2020 the Significant Cashflow Policy was defined as a cashflow equal or greater than 25%.

**Composite Fee:** The gross investment results for the Composite presented herein represent historical gross performance with no deduction for investment management fees but net of all trading expenses Net returns are net of all trading expenses and are calculated by deducting 1/12th of the highest management fee on a monthly basis from the monthly gross composite return. The model fee is 0.35%. The fee schedule for the Composite is as follows: 0.35% for the first \$10 million; 0.25% for the next \$15 million; and 0.20% for the balance over \$25 million. Actual fees may vary depending on, among other things, the applicable fee schedule and portfolio size. Please see Sage's Form ADV Part 2A for a full disclosure of Sage's fee schedules.

**Composite Benchmark:** Sage has reviewed the relevant universe of indices and has determined that the Bloomberg Intermediate Credit Maturity Bond Market Index most closely resembles the Composite managed by Sage. The Bloomberg Intermediate Credit Maturity Bond Market Index represents securities that are U.S. Agencies, U.S. investment grade corporates, foreign debentures and secured notes with maturities from one year up to, but not including, ten years.

**Calculation Methodology:** All valuations, gross, and net returns are based in U.S. Dollars and are computed using a time-weighted total rate of return. Periodic returns have been geometrically linked and annualized for all time periods longer than one year. Portfolio performance results include, and reflect, as applicable, the reinvestment of all interest, accrued income, cash, cash equivalents, realized and unrealized gains and losses. Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request. Internal dispersion is the asset-weighted standard deviation of annual gross returns of those accounts included in the Composite for the entire year. If there are years whereby there are 5 or fewer accounts, the dispersion is N/A. The 3-year ex-post standard deviation measures the variability of the composite gross returns and the benchmark returns over the preceding 36-month period. If there are years whereby there are fewer than 36 monthly returns available, the 3-year annualized ex-post standard deviation of this composite and its benchmark is N/A.

**Risk Disclosures:** Actual performance results may differ from Composite returns, depending on the size of the account, investment guidelines and/or restrictions, inception date and other factors. Past performance is not indicative of future returns. As with any investment vehicle, there is always the potential for gains as well as the possibility of losses.

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