

# Core Investment-Grade Fixed Income

12.31.2025



STERLING  
CAPITAL

## Sterling Capital

- Over 55 Years of Institutional Fixed Income Management

## Philosophy

- Multi-Faceted Approach to Generate Excess Return
- Emphasis on Risk Management
- Adhere to Core Investment Beliefs

## Process

### Top-Down Analysis

- Duration Management
- Yield Curve
- Sector Allocation

### Bottom-Up Analysis

- Fundamental Research
- Proprietary Models
- Security Valuation

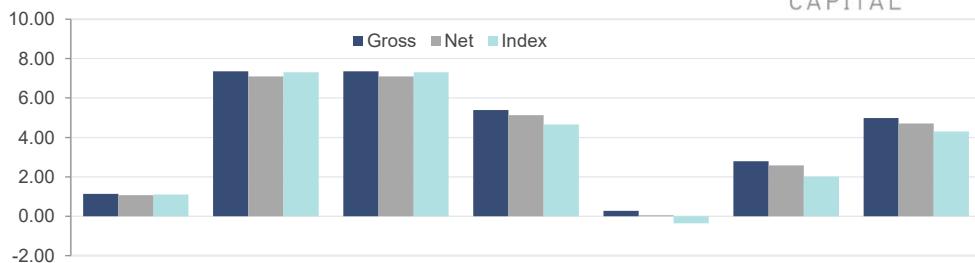
## Performance

- Disciplined Management Adds Incremental Value
- Consistent Returns

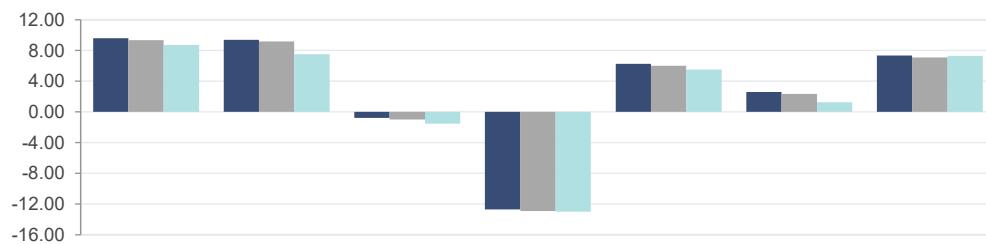
<sup>1</sup>The performance inception date is 03.31.1996. The benchmark is the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond.

Performance is preliminary and is annualized for periods longer than one year. Net of fees performance returns are preliminary and are presented net of the investment management fees and trading expenses. Gross of fees performance returns reflect the deduction of trading costs: a client's return will be reduced by the management fees and other expenses it may incur. Investment management fees are described in SCM's Form ADV 2A. Performance reflects the reinvestment of interest income and dividends and realized capital gains. The performance presented represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Performance is compared to an index: however, the volatility of an index varies greatly and investments cannot be made directly in an index. Market conditions vary from year to year and can result in a decline in market value due to material market or economic conditions. Please refer to the attached GIPS Composite Report for additional disclosures. **The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index** is an unmanaged index composed of securities that are SEC-registered, taxable, and dollar denominated. The index covers the U.S. investment grade fixed rate bond market, with index components for government and corporate securities, mortgage pass-through securities, and asset-backed securities. It is not possible to invest in the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, which is unmanaged and does not incur fees and charges.

<sup>1</sup>The performance inception date is 03.31.1996. The benchmark is the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond.

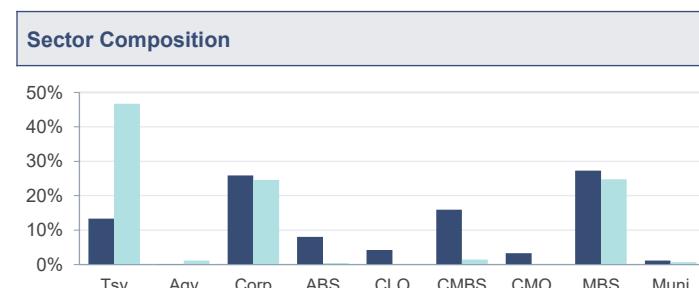


Performance	QTR	YTD	1Y	3Y	5Y	10Y	Since Inception <sup>1</sup>
Sterling (Gross)	1.13%	7.36%	7.36%	5.39%	0.28%	2.80%	4.98%
Sterling (Net)	1.07%	7.10%	7.10%	5.13%	0.04%	2.58%	4.71%
Index	1.10%	7.30%	7.30%	4.66%	-0.36%	2.01%	4.31%

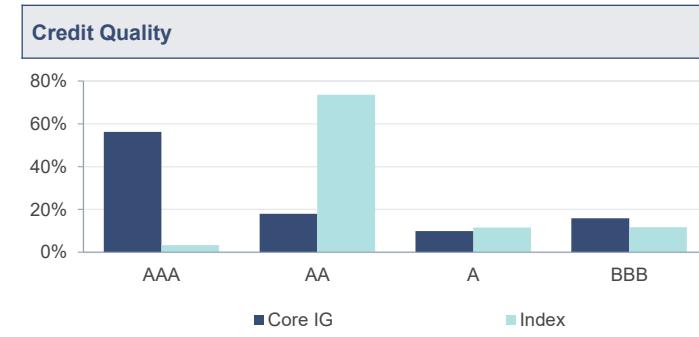


Year-End Returns	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Sterling (Gross)	9.59%	9.40%	-0.78%	-12.70%	6.27%	2.59%	7.36%
Sterling (Net)	9.37%	9.18%	-0.97%	-12.92%	6.00%	2.34%	7.10%
Index	8.72%	7.51%	-1.54%	-13.01%	5.53%	1.25%	7.30%

Portfolio Characteristics		
	Sterling	Index
Effective Duration	5.89 Yrs	5.97 Yrs
Average Life	8.18 Yrs	8.10 Yrs
Average Quality	AA-	AA-
Yield-To-Maturity	4.72%	4.32%



Duration Composition		
	Sterling	Index
0-2 Years	10.2%	14.8%
2-4 Years	24.2%	26.5%
4-6 Years	29.0%	20.4%
6-8 Years	20.5%	16.9%
8-10 Years	2.0%	5.1%
10+ Years	14.1%	16.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



■ Core IG ■ Index

Portfolio characteristics totals may not equal 100% due to rounding. Credit ratings methodology: Bloomberg. Sources: Bloomberg L.P.; FactSet; Sterling Capital Management Analytics. "Bloomberg®" and the Bloomberg indices are service marks of Bloomberg Finance L.P. and its affiliates, including Bloomberg Index Services Limited ("BISL"), the administrator of the index (collectively, "Bloomberg") and have been licensed for use for certain purposes by Sterling Capital Management LLC and its affiliates. Bloomberg is not affiliated with Sterling Capital Management LLC or its affiliates, and Bloomberg does not approve, endorse, review, or recommend the product(s) presented herein. Bloomberg does not guarantee the timeliness, accurateness, or completeness of any data or information relating to the product(s) presented herein.

## Sterling Capital Core Investment-Grade Fixed Income

	Total Gross Return	Total Net Return	Benchmark Return	3Y Composite Std. Dev. (Gross)	3Y Benchmark Std. Dev.	Composite Dispersion	Number of Portfolios	Composite AUM (MM)	Total Firm AUM (MM)
2024	2.59%	2.34%	1.25%	7.38%	7.72%	0.07%	11	\$2,473	\$66,160
2023	6.27%	6.00%	5.53%	6.77%	7.14%	0.13%	14	\$2,482	\$66,746
2022	-12.70%	-12.92%	-13.01%	5.83%	5.77%	0.21%	16	\$2,145	\$62,842
2021	-0.78%	-0.97%	-1.54%	3.90%	3.35%	0.07%	14	\$1,151	\$75,309
2020	9.40%	9.18%	7.51%	3.85%	3.36%	0.27%	16	\$1,146	\$70,108
2019	9.59%	9.37%	8.72%	2.75%	2.87%	0.28%	15	\$966	\$58,191
2018	0.18%	-0.01%	0.01%	2.61%	2.84%	0.05%	16	\$1,123	\$56,889
2017	4.49%	4.30%	3.54%	2.61%	2.78%	0.13%	15	\$895	\$55,908
2016	3.60%	3.41%	2.65%	2.77%	2.98%	0.21%	16	\$858	\$51,603
2015	0.75%	0.56%	0.55%	2.85%	2.88%	0.06%	12	\$657	\$51,155

Benchmark: Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index

Composite Creation Date: 03.31.1996

Inception Date: 04.01.1996

1. Consists of all fee paying, discretionary core fixed income accounts measured against the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index. Minimum credit quality is investment grade (Baa3/BBB-).
2. The material risks of this strategy are, but not limited to, the following: Market Risk, Management Risk, Market Disruption and Geopolitical Risk, Interest Rate Risk, Credit Risk. For a full list of strategy risks, please reference Sterling Capital Management's Form ADV, Part 2A.
3. Sterling Capital Management LLC (SCM) claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. SCM has been independently verified for the periods 01/01/2001 to 12/31/2024. The verification report(s) is/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. Benchmark returns are not covered by the report of the independent verifiers. GIPS® is a registered trademark of the CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein.
4. SCM is a registered investment advisor with the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC). Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training. SCM manages a variety of equity, fixed income and multi-asset portfolios. Prior to January 2001, SCM was a wholly owned subsidiary of United Asset Management (UAM). In January 2001, SCM purchased all the assets and business of Sterling Capital Management Company from UAM to become an employee-owned firm. In April 2005, BB&T Corporation (BB&T) purchased a majority equity ownership stake in SCM. In October 2010, the management group of SCM entered into an agreement with BB&T that reduced and restructured management's interest in SCM. Additionally, BB&T Asset Management merged into SCM. In January 2013, CHOICE Asset Management merged into SCM. In August 2015, eight new employees joined SCM via Stratton Management Company following the close of BB&T's purchase of Susquehanna Bancshares. In December 2019, BB&T and SunTrustBanks, Inc. Holding Company merged as equals to form Truist Financial Corporation (Truist). SCM was then a wholly-owned subsidiary of Truist. In August 2020, eight new employees joined SCM via the Investment Advisory Group of SunTrust Advisory Services. In July 2024, Guardian Capital U.S. Asset Management (formerly Guardian Capital LLC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Guardian Capital Group Limited (Guardian), completed the acquisition of SCM from Truist.
5. The performance presented represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Market and economic conditions vary from year to year and can result in a decline in market value due to material market or economic conditions. Please refer to the slide titled "Performance" for the one-, five-, and ten-year returns of the composite.
6. A complete list of all of SCM's composites and SCM's broad distribution pooled funds and their descriptions is available upon request. Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Composite Reports are available upon request.
7. Performance reflects reinvested interest income and dividends and realized and unrealized capital gains and losses. All portfolios utilize trade-date and accrued income accounting. Valuations and performance are reported in U.S. dollars. Periodic time weighted returns are geometrically linked. Returns are not calculated net of non-reclaimable withholding taxes due to immaterial dollar amounts. Effective 1/1/22, composite returns are calculated by weighting the individual portfolio returns using beginning of period market values. From 4/30/99 through 12/31/21, composite returns were asset weighted using the aggregate method that reflects both beginning market value and cash flows. Prior to 4/30/99, composite returns were calculated by weighting the individual portfolio returns using beginning of period market values.
8. Gross of fees returns are presented before management fees but after all trading costs. Effective 1/1/22, the net of fees returns reflect the maximum ADV management fee. Prior to 1/1/22, net of fees returns are presented after actual management fees and trading costs. The stated fee schedule is: 0.25% on the first \$50 million and 0.20% on all incremental assets above \$50 million on an annual basis as described in SCM's Form ADV, Part 2A.
9. The appropriate benchmark is the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index. The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged index composed of securities that are SEC-registered, taxable, and dollar denominated. The index covers the U.S. investment grade fixed rate bond market, with index components for government and corporate securities, mortgage pass-through securities, and asset-backed securities. It is not possible to invest in the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, which is unmanaged and does not incur fees and charges.
10. The annual composite dispersion presented is measured by an asset-weighted standard deviation calculation method of all portfolios in the composite for the entire year, and is calculated using gross of fee returns. It is not meaningful when there have been less than six portfolios in composite for entire calendar year. The three year annualized standard deviation measures the variability of the composite and benchmark returns over the preceding 36-month period. The composite 3-year standard deviation is calculated using gross of fee returns. It is not required to be presented when a full three years of composite performance is not yet available.