

# Ultra Short Bond Fund

A Shares  
(BUSRX)  
Inception 11.30.2012

Inst'l Shares  
(BUSIX)  
Inception 11.30.2012



**STERLING**  
CAPITAL FUNDS

12.31.2024

## Fund Facts

**Investment Objective:**  
Seeks to provide current income and competitive total return.

Total Net Assets \$27,710,981  
Number of Holdings 127  
Average Life 0.79 Years  
Effective Duration 0.53 Years  
Turnover 69%

Annual turnover data is shown as of 09.30.2024, the most recent fiscal year end.

## Total Expense Ratio

|                       | Net   | Gross |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| A Shares (BUSRX)      | 0.67% | 0.82% |
| Inst'l Shares (BUSIX) | 0.42% | 0.57% |

The Advisor has contractually agreed to limit certain fees paid by the Fund from February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2026. Performance would have been lower without limitations in effect.

## Dividend Distribution

| Month        | Rates/A Share |
|--------------|---------------|
| October      | \$0.0349      |
| November     | \$0.0325      |
| December     | \$0.0349      |
| December NAV | \$9.83        |

## Effective Duration Breakdown

|               |       |
|---------------|-------|
| 0.0-0.5 Year  | 56.5% |
| 0.5-1.0 Year  | 22.9% |
| 1.0-1.5 Year  | 13.8% |
| 1.5-2.0 Years | 4.8%  |
| 2.0+ Years    | 2.0%  |

The composition of the Fund's holdings is subject to change.

## 30-Day SEC Yield

|                       | With Waivers | Without Waivers |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| A Shares (BUSRX)      | 3.98%        | 3.83%           |
| Inst'l Shares (BUSIX) | 4.23%        | 4.08%           |

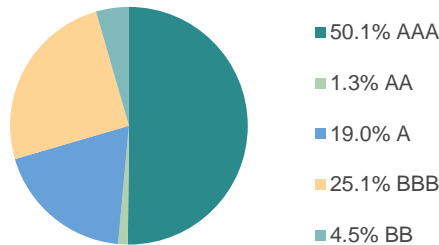
SEC Yield is an annualization of the Fund's total net investment income per share for the 30-day period ended on the last day of the month.

| Fund Performance For the Period Ended 12.31.2024 | QTR   | YTD   | 1Y    | 3Y    | 5Y    | 10Y   | Since Inception |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| A Shares without Sales Charge                    | 1.15% | 5.58% | 5.58% | 3.75% | 2.64% | 1.98% | 1.67%           |
| Institutional Shares                             | 1.21% | 5.85% | 5.85% | 3.97% | 2.87% | 2.24% | 1.92%           |
| ICE BofA 0-1Y U.S. Treasury Index                | 1.08% | 5.19% | 5.19% | 3.62% | 2.40% | 1.80% | 1.52%           |
| Lipper Ultra-Short Obligation Median             | 1.10% | 5.68% | 5.68% | 3.84% | 2.59% | 2.06% | ---             |

| Year-End Performance              | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021   | 2022  | 2023  | 2024  |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| A Shares without Sales Charge     | 1.41% | 2.90% | 2.02% | -0.04% | 0.17% | 5.59% | 5.58% |
| Institutional Shares              | 1.66% | 3.27% | 2.16% | 0.31%  | 0.32% | 5.85% | 5.85% |
| ICE BofA 0-1Y U.S. Treasury Index | 1.92% | 2.57% | 1.12% | 0.06%  | 0.68% | 5.05% | 5.19% |

**Past performance does not guarantee future results. The performance data quoted represents past performance and current returns may be lower or higher. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than the original cost. To obtain performance information current to the most recent month end and information on other share classes, please visit [www.sterlingcapital.com](http://www.sterlingcapital.com). Performance is annualized for periods greater than one year.**

## Quality Breakdown



Credit quality ratings using S&P's ratings symbols reflect the credit quality of the underlying bonds in the Fund portfolio and not of the Fund itself. Securities are rated by S&P's, Moody's and Fitch; when ratings vary the highest rating available for each security is applied. Credit quality ratings are measured on a scale that generally ranges from AAA (highest) to D (lowest). "NR" is used to classify securities for which a rating is not available. Bond quality ratings are subject to change.

| Portfolio Composition  | Fund   | Index  |
|------------------------|--------|--------|
| Corporate              | 46.7%  | --     |
| Financial Institutions | 31.5%  | --     |
| Industrial             | 12.7%  | --     |
| Utility                | 2.5%   | --     |
| Government Related     | 0.6%   | --     |
| Local Authority        | 0.6%   | --     |
| Securitized            | 50.1%  | --     |
| ABS                    | 32.4%  | --     |
| ARM                    | 0.8%   | --     |
| CMBS                   | 14.9%  | --     |
| CMO                    | 2.1%   | --     |
| Treasury               | 1.3%   | 100.0% |
| Cash                   | 1.3%   | --     |
| Total                  | 100.0% | 100.0% |

Allocations are based on the current weight to funds in the cited category. The composition of the Fund's holdings is subject to change.

## Philosophy & Process

To pursue its investment objective, the Fund invests, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of its net assets plus borrowings for investment purposes in fixed income securities (bonds). The Fund will maintain an average duration of 18 months or less. The Fund is generally structured to target a dollar-weighted average maturity of 0-24 months. The team's multi-faceted approach uses a combination of top-down and bottom-up analysis, quantitative vs. qualitative analysis and fundamentals vs. valuation in order to generate excess return. Emphasis is placed on risk management through asymmetric risk/return profiles, quantifying risk and assessing return (return potential secondary to risk assessment) and analyzing investment risk within the context of the portfolio and on a stand-alone basis. The team firmly believes in no unintended exposures, consistent risk-adjusted performance over time and the idea that "if you cannot measure it, you cannot manage it."

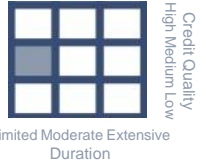
**Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. For a prospectus or summary prospectus with this and other information about the Fund, please call 888.228.1872 or visit our website at [www.sterlingcapital.com](http://www.sterlingcapital.com). Read the prospectus carefully before investing.**



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# Ultra Short Bond Fund

Morningstar Style Box



12.31.2024

## Portfolio Management

### Mark Montgomery, CFA®

Senior Managing Director | Co-Portfolio Manager  
Mark joined SCM in 1997 and has co-managed the Fund since 2008. He has investment experience since 1990. Mark received a B.S. in Marketing with a minor in Public Administration from West Chester University and a M.B.A. from Drexel University. He holds the CFA® designation.

### Byron Mims, CFA®

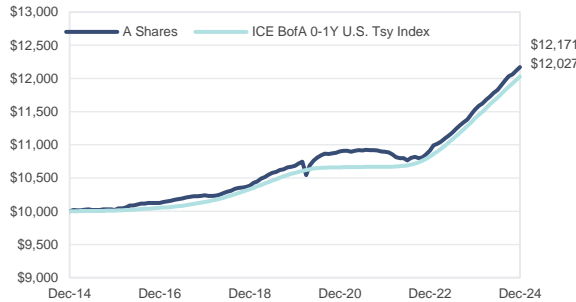
Executive Director | Co-Portfolio Manager  
Byron joined SCM in 2012 and has co-managed the Fund since February 2016. He has investment experience since 2006. Byron is a summa cum laude graduate of North Carolina State University where he received a B.S. in Economics and was recognized as valedictorian. He holds the CFA® designation.

### Jeff Ormsby, CFA®

Executive Director | Co-Portfolio Manager  
Jeff joined SCM in 2011 and has co-managed the Fund since February 2016. He has investment experience since 2006. Jeff is a summa cum laude graduate of North Carolina State University where he received a B.S. in Economics and was recognized as valedictorian. He received a M.B.A. from UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School, where he was the Norman Block Valedictorian Award recipient. He holds the CFA® designation.

The Chartered Financial Analysts® (CFA) charter is a graduate-level investment credential awarded by CFA Institute, the largest global association of investment professionals. To earn the CFA charter, candidates must: 1) pass three sequential, six-hour examinations; 2) have at least four years of qualified professional investment experience; 3) join CFA Institute as members; and 4) commit to abide by, and annually reaffirm, their adherence to the CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct.

## Growth of \$10,000



The Growth of \$10,000 chart is hypothetical based upon the performance of A Shares without sales charge for the period ended 12.31.2024. It includes the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains.

## Top Ten Holdings

|                           |        |           |       |
|---------------------------|--------|-----------|-------|
| Enterprise Financing 22-1 | 3.27%  | 20-jan-28 | 1.95% |
| Onemain Financial 22-3    | 5.94%  | 15-may-34 | 1.63% |
| Wells Fargo & Co.         | 3.908% | 25-apr-26 | 1.44% |
| CSAIL 15c3 Comm. Mtg.     | 3.718% | 17-aug-48 | 1.43% |
| CSAIL 15c4 Comm. Mtg.     | 3.808% | 18-nov-48 | 1.43% |
| Citi Comm. Mtg. 16-p3     | 3.063% | 16-apr-49 | 1.42% |
| Synchrony 22-1            | 3.37%  | 15-apr-28 | 1.42% |
| Ford Credit 20-rev1       | 2.04%  | 15-aug-31 | 1.42% |
| Chesapeake Funding        | 5.52%  | 15-may-36 | 1.37% |
| Lloyds Banking Group      | 4.582% | 10-dec-25 | 1.31% |

Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to change and risk. Based on Market Value of securities.

## Lipper Ultra-Short Obligation Category Based on Total Return as of 12.31.2024

|  | 1Y        | 3Y        | 5Y        | 10Y       |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Lipper Ranking/Number of Funds in Category | 72/180    | 59/166    | 26/155    | 23/94     |
| Lipper Quartile (Percentile)               | 2nd (40%) | 2nd (36%) | 1st (17%) | 1st (25%) |

## Morningstar U.S. Ultrashort Bond Category For the Period Ended 12.31.2024

|   | Overall Rating | 1Y        | 3Y        | 5Y        | 10Y       |
|---|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Institutional Shares Morningstar Rating™        | ★★★            | ---       | ★★★       | ★★★★      | ★★★       |
| Morningstar Ranking/Number of Funds in Category | 202            | 110/254   | 81/202    | 40/184    | 39/111    |
| Morningstar Quartile (Percentile)               |                | 2nd (40%) | 2nd (40%) | 1st (23%) | 2nd (34%) |

**Note: Morningstar Ratings are based on risk-adjusted returns. Morningstar Rankings are based on total return.**

**A Note on Indices:** The volatility of an index varies greatly. All indices are unmanaged and investments cannot be made directly in an index.

**The ICE BofA 0-1 Year U.S. Treasury Index** tracks the performance of USD-denominated sovereign debt publicly issued by the U.S. government in its domestic market with maturities less than one year. Qualifying securities must have at least one month and less than one year remaining to final maturity, a fixed coupon schedule and a minimum amount outstanding of \$1B.

**The Lipper Ultra-Short Obligation Index** reflects the average time-weighted rate of return of a representative group of U.S. ultra-short obligation funds over time. Refinitiv™ Lipper® defines a U.S. ultra-short obligation fund as a fund that invests primarily in investment-grade debt issues (or better) and maintains a portfolio dollar-weighted average maturity between 91-365 days. Lipper ensures that no restricted track record extensions are permitted, meaning only real histories represent the independently collected data. Source: Refinitiv Lipper. Ratings and Rankings would have been lower for Class A shares due to fees and expenses. Lipper and Morningstar rankings are based on total return, including the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains but do not include sales charges for the periods indicated. Rankings shown are for Class I Shares and may be lower for Class A Shares due to higher fees and expenses. Mutual funds are assigned a rank within a universe of funds, relative to a peer group and similar in investment objective as determined by Lipper and Morningstar. The lower the number rank, the better the fund performed compared to other funds in the classification group. Lipper and Morningstar also calculate a percentile measure for each fund ranging from 1% (best) to 100% (worst).

The Morningstar Rating™ for funds, or "star rating", is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the risk-adjusted performance figures associated with its three-, five-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% three-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% five-year rating/40% three-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% five-year rating/20% three-year rating for 120 or more months of risk-adjusted returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent three-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods.

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**Technical Terms:** **Effective Duration** calculates the average life of individual bonds within a bond fund, and serves as a useful measure of the entire portfolio's sensitivity to rising and falling interest rates. An Effective Duration of 2.00 means that with a 1% decline in interest rates, the principal value should rise by 2%, and vice versa. **Portfolio Turnover Rate** measures a fund's annual trading activity. It is a percentage used to demonstrate how many holdings in a mutual fund were replaced within the year. (Sources: Corporate Finance Institute; Investopedia.)

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