

# How to Invest in the Bond Market in a Low Interest World

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Presented by:

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# TCW Overview

AS OF MARCH 31, 2019

## Distinguishing Features:

- Among leading global asset management firms with nearly five decades of investment experience
- Disciplined, team-managed investment processes that have been tested across market cycles
- Broad range of products and expertise across fixed income, equities, emerging markets, and alternative investments
- High level of employee ownership of TCW
- For the fifth year in a row, TCW named “Best Places to Work in Money Management among firms with 500-999 employees” by *Pensions & Investments*, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018

## Firm Facts:

- Established in 1971 in Los Angeles, California
- \$200 billion under management
- Through our TCW and MetWest Fund Families, TCW manages one of the largest mutual fund complexes in the U.S. with approximately \$94 billion in assets under management
- TCW staff of more than 600 individuals
- Offices in Los Angeles, New York, Boston, Chicago, London, Milan, Hong Kong, and Tokyo



Source: TCW

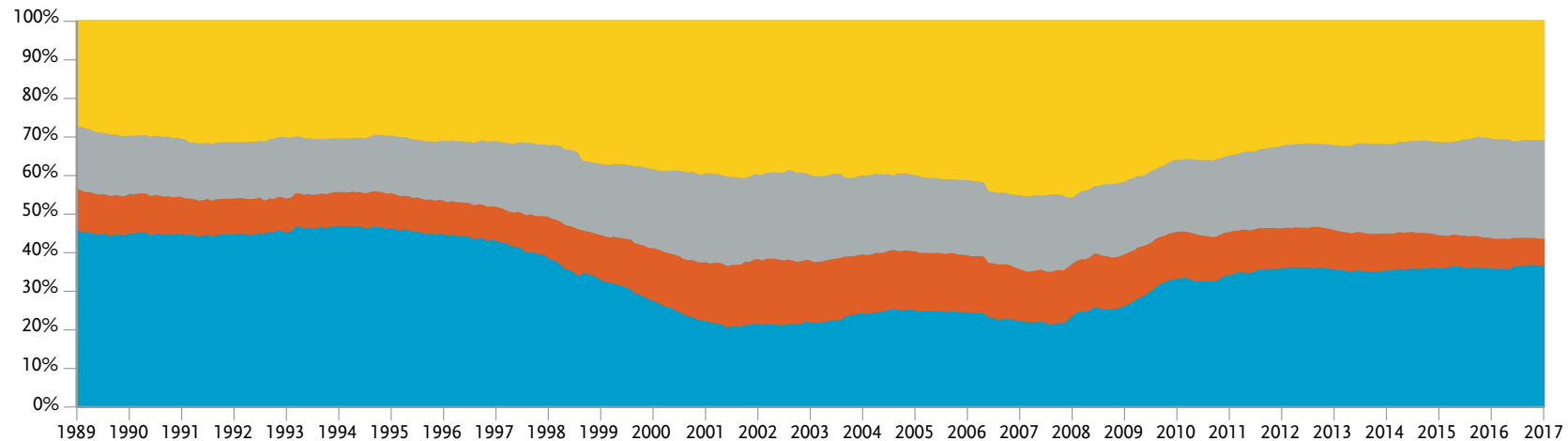
Comprises the assets under management, or committed to management, of The TCW Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

# Bond Market Investing in a Low Interest World

# The Index Allocation to Low Yielding Government Bonds has Steadily Increased

**Reason #1: Active Fixed Income Managers Have Flexibility to Find Value in all Sectors**

**HISTORICAL SECTOR ALLOCATION - BLOOMBERG BARCLAYS AGGREGATE BOND INDEX**



Source: Barclays Live

- Since the financial crisis, the index allocation to low yielding government bonds has steadily increased as Treasury and other government related bonds including agency mortgages comprise almost 70% of the Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Bond Index
- The Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Bond Index does not include many attractive fixed income sectors like non-agency MBS, floating rate bonds or TIPS
- Replication of the Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Bond Index is challenging
  - Index includes thousands of issues that trade very rarely and are highly illiquid (primarily in the corporate sector)
  - Due to QE programs, the Fed has removed much of the outstanding value of certain parts of the Treasury and agency mortgage sectors

# Interest Rates Have Enjoyed a Long-Term Decline

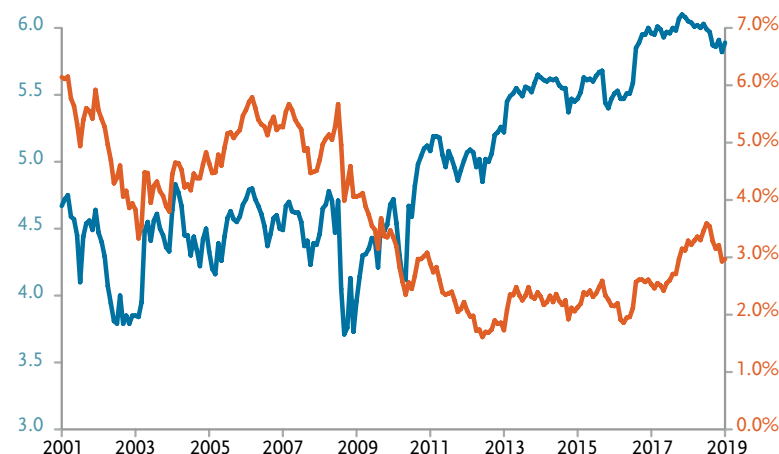
## Reason #2: Active Management Can Help Protect a Portfolio From Higher Interest Rates

10 YEAR US TREASURY YIELD



Source: Bloomberg

HISTORICAL DURATION AND YIELD  
BLOOMBERG BARCLAYS AGGREGATE BOND INDEX



Source: Barclays Live

- Interest rates have enjoyed a long-term decline generating positive returns for fixed income markets
- The long-term bull market and Fed support will ultimately end, eventually leading to higher interest rates over the longer-term
- Duration of the Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Bond Index has risen while the yield has declined
  - At current levels a 40 basis point increase in interest rates over the next 12-months will push annual return of the index below zero
- Skilled active fixed income managers can help mitigate the impact of rising rates and be more likely to deliver positive returns
  - Actively reduce the overall duration of the portfolio
  - Increase the yield of a portfolio by purchasing undervalued bonds

# Conclusion: The Late Cycle Has Arrived

Investment Grade Credit

✓✓

High Yield/Bank Loans

✓✓

Yield Curve

✓

U.S. Housing

✓

Global Housing

✓

EM Equities

✓

Fund Flows

✓

Commodity Prices

✓

Commercial Real-Estate

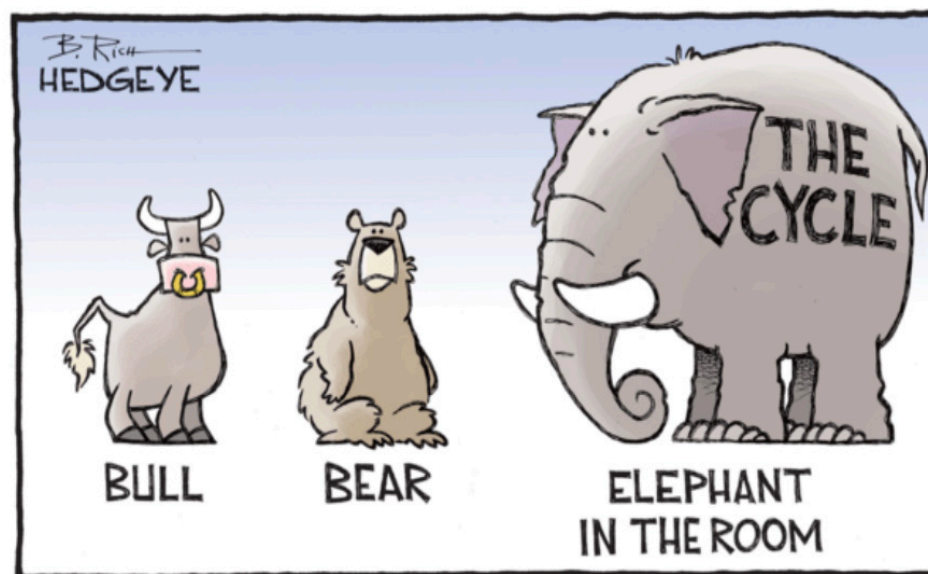
✓

EM Credit

Perhaps

U.S. Equities

Perhaps



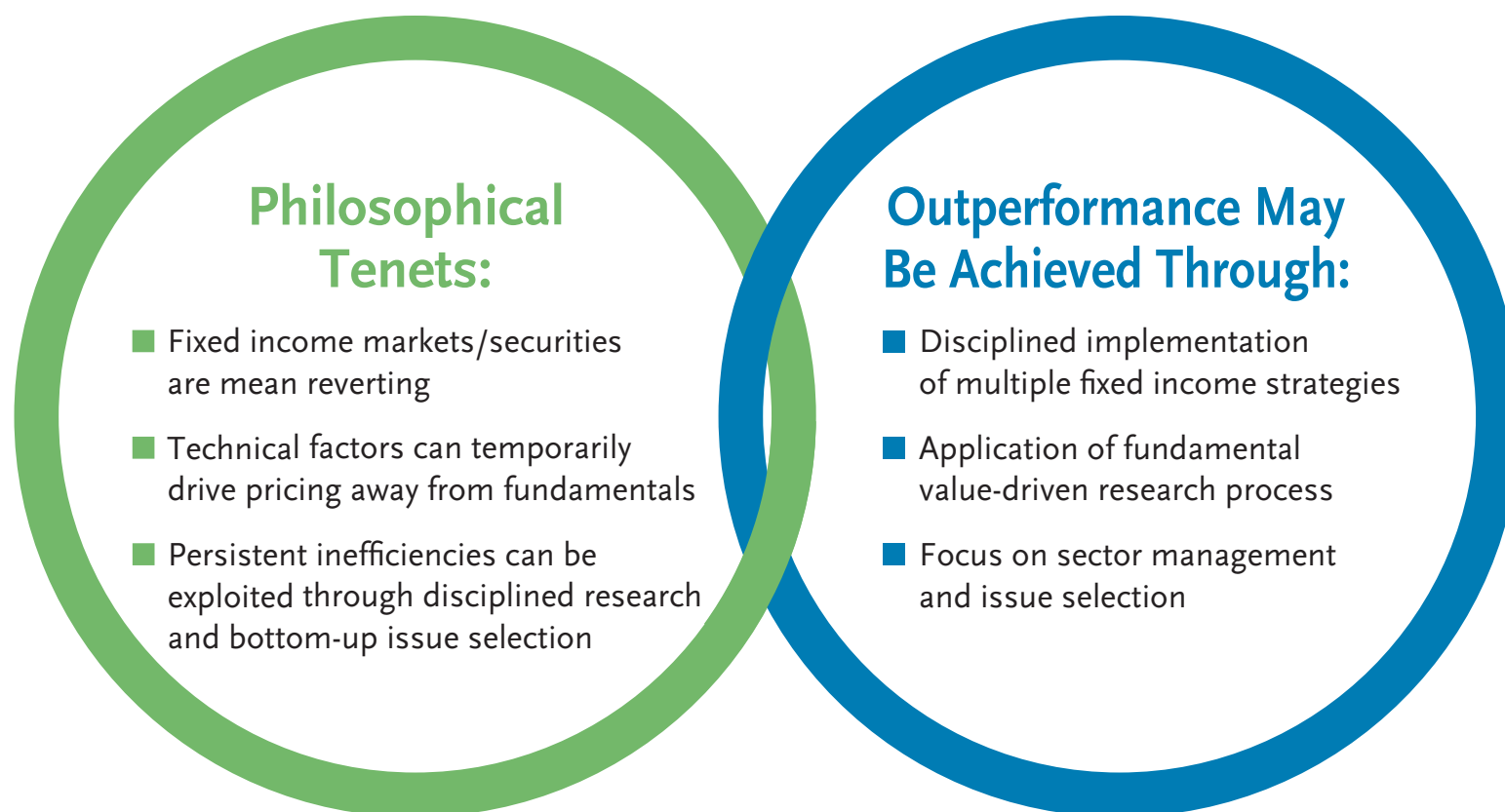
# In the Late Cycle, Fixed Income Strategies That Emphasize Yield Lose the Most Money

	That Was Then... 2017		This Is Now... 2018	
EM HY Corps Return	+10.5%		-2.9%	
EM Sovs/ Quasisovereign Return	+10.3%		-4.3%	
U.S. HY Corporate Return	+7.5%		-2.3%	
Euro HY Corporates	+6.7%		-3.6%	
EM IG Corps Return	+6.3%		-0.6%	
	Total Return	Peer Group Percentile	Total Return	Peer Group Percentile
Sample Portfolio	+6.96%	1	-1.49%	85
Sample Portfolio	+6.62%	2	-0.73%	60
Sample Portfolio	+5.13%	10	-0.26%	39
Sample Portfolio	+4.26%	28	-0.88%	68
Sample Portfolio	+3.43%	61	+0.16%	23
<b>Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Index</b>	<b>+3.54%</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>+0.01%</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Source: Bloomberg, BofA ML, Morningstar

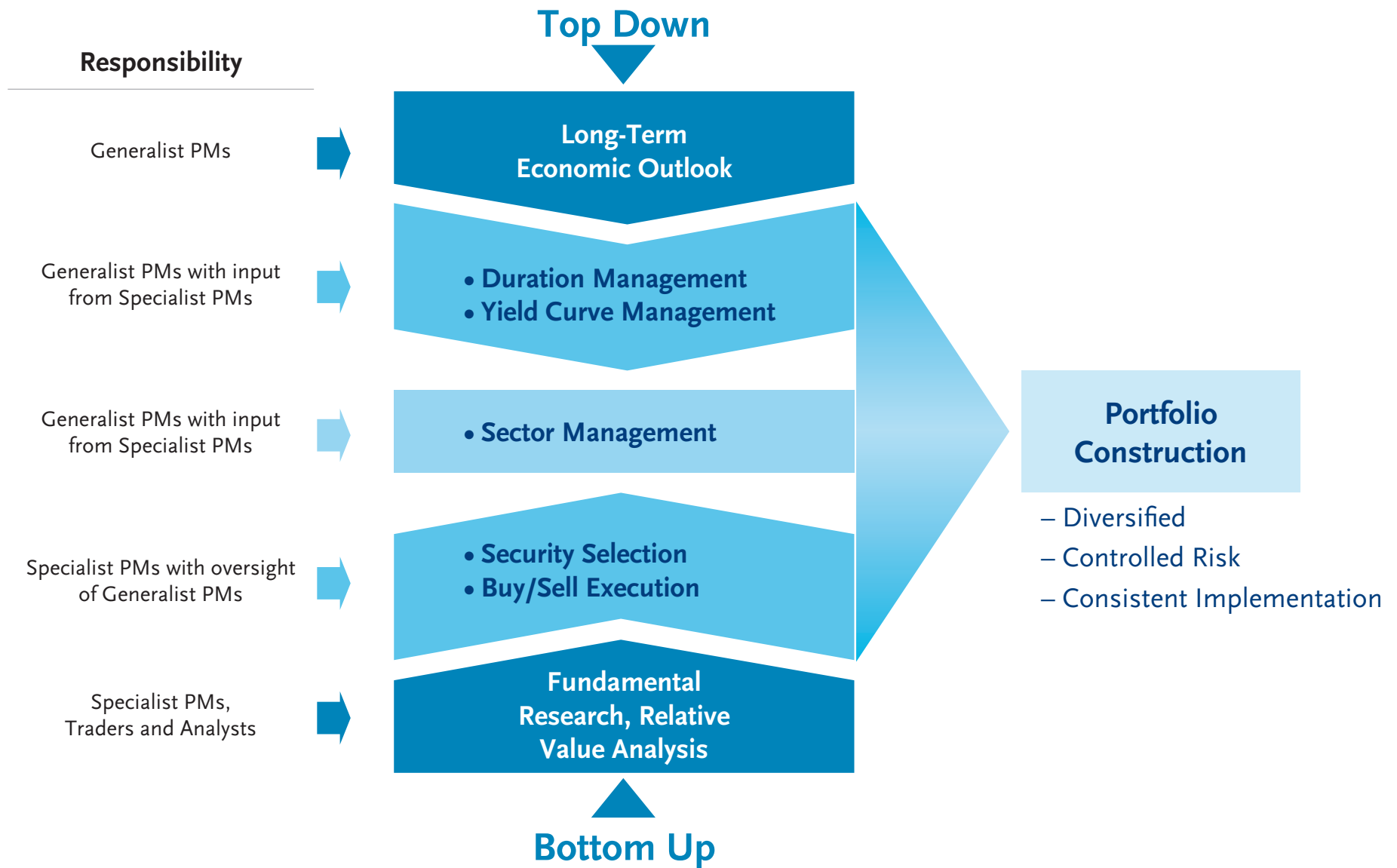
Please see important disclosures at the end of the section regarding the data presented herein.

# Fixed Income Investment Philosophy



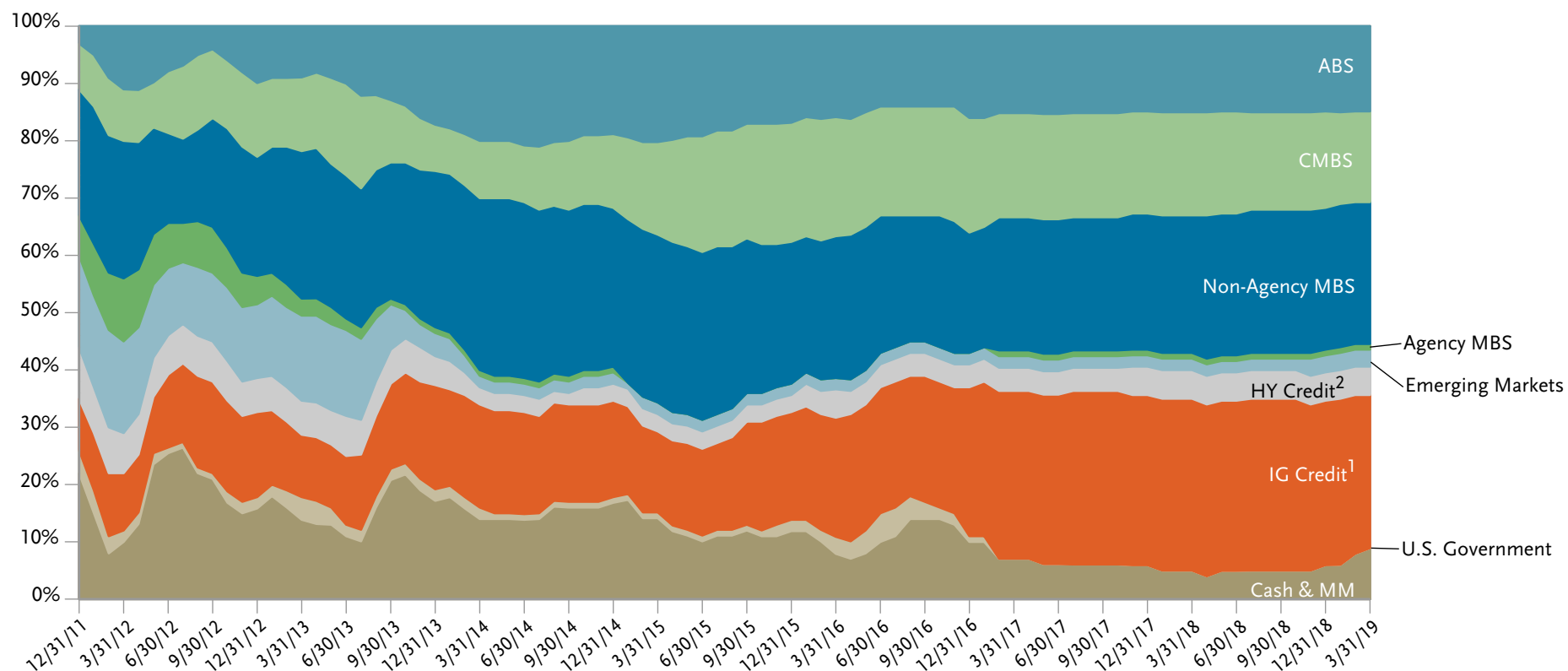


# Investment Process



# Sample Portfolio Historical Sector Positioning<sup>1</sup>

AS OF MARCH 31, 2019 | SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION



Source: TCW

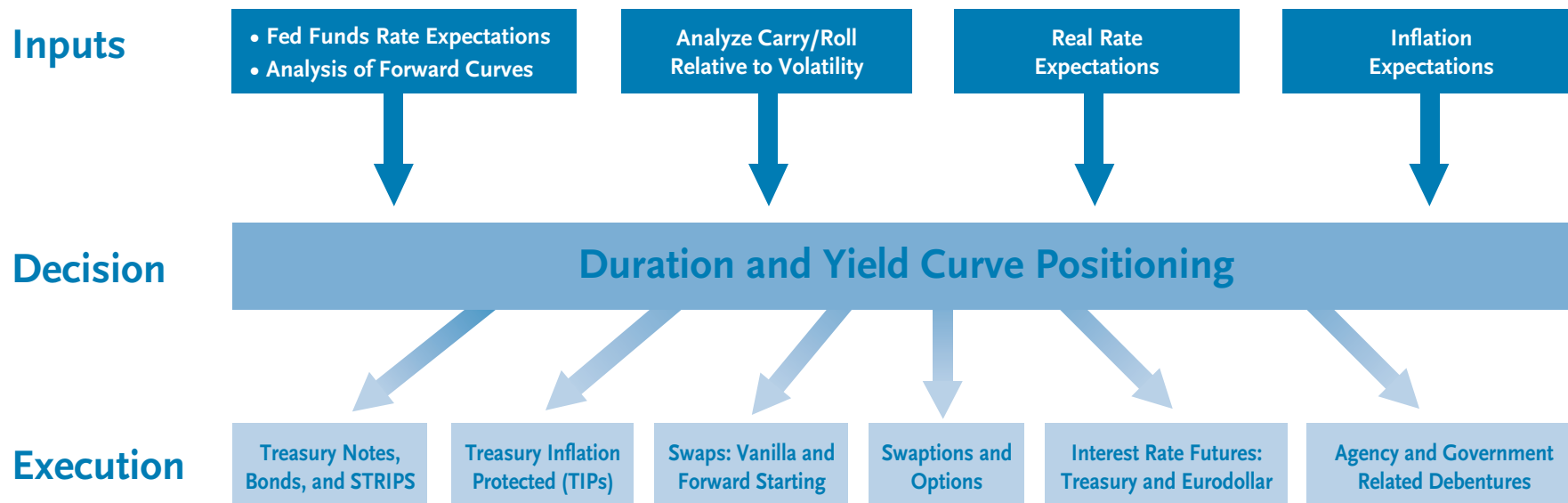
<sup>1</sup> Including Munis.

<sup>2</sup> Market value of HY Credit includes synthetic HY CDX derivative exposure; total of the columns may not add up to 100%.

Based upon a representative account. Portfolio characteristics and holdings are subject to change at any time.

# Issue Selection: Interest Rate Products

- TCW's Interest Rate Products Group is the hub amongst the specialist groups tasked with managing the liquidity, duration, convexity, and yield curve positioning across our fixed income strategies
- Market inefficiencies as a result of biases such as complexity and segmentation may result in alpha generation opportunities

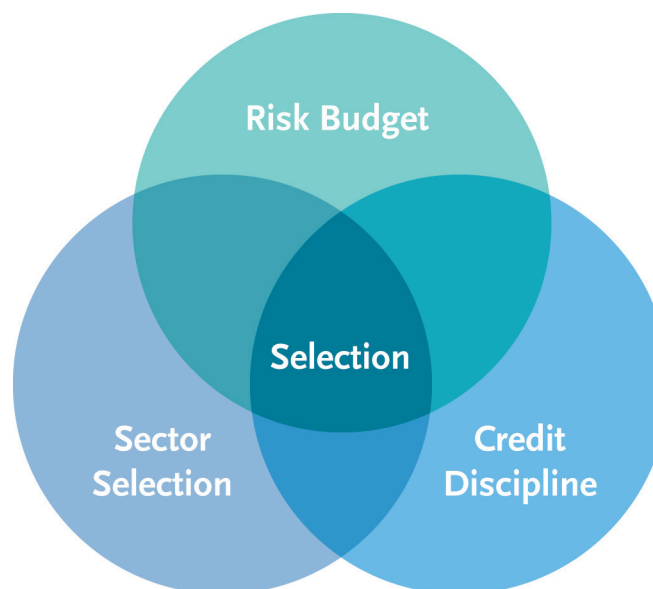


# Issue Selection: Corporate Credit

- Credit discipline emphasizes protections: assets, covenants, contracts and regulation
- Top-down risk budget evolution anchored by bottom-up credit selection

- Adjust corporate exposure (basis) over the credit cycle
- Value-based discipline based on mean-reverting nature of fixed income markets

- Credit selection disciplined based on downside protection
  - Collateral security
  - Covenant protection
  - Regulated industry oversight
  - Contracted or high visibility of cash flows
- Utilize full range of opportunities to gain attributes above
  - EETCs, project debt, loans, etc.



- Intensive fundamental credit analysis
  - Quality of company
    - Cash flow forecast
    - Available liquidity
  - Quality of claim
    - Capital structure analysis
    - Covenant analysis
  - Other factors
    - Ratings agency discussions
    - Management quality/Shareholder
- Size affords nimble trading ability

# TCW Sample Portfolio Alpha Attribution

	Approximate % of Alpha	Notes
Issue Selection	55%	The cornerstone of our investment process and the largest component of our alpha is grounded in solid issue selection based on strong fundamental research. Risk is controlled through 2.5% issuer concentration limits within the portfolio.
Sector	30%	Sector allocation is a key element of TCW sample portfolio as the portfolio has wide latitude to invest in various sectors. For instance, the portfolio allows up to 50% in below IG exposure and the actual allocation has ranged from almost 40% in 2012 to less than 20% in 2018.
Yield Curve	5%	Yield curve is generally a small component of alpha, but at times, such as 2007 and 2003 when the curve was at extremes it can be a meaningful source of returns.
Duration	5%	Duration is typically a modest contributor to returns given large duration positions can add significant volatility.
Trading	5%	Diligent pursuit of best execution and opportunistic trading opportunities have also been beneficial.

Portfolio characteristics and holdings are subject to change at any time. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

# The Sun Will...

## Now For the Good News → Valuations Have Improved (Modestly)

IG Corporate Spreads



Source: BofA ML, Bloomberg

High Yield Corporate Spreads



Source: BofA ML, Bloomberg

MBS Current Coupon Spread



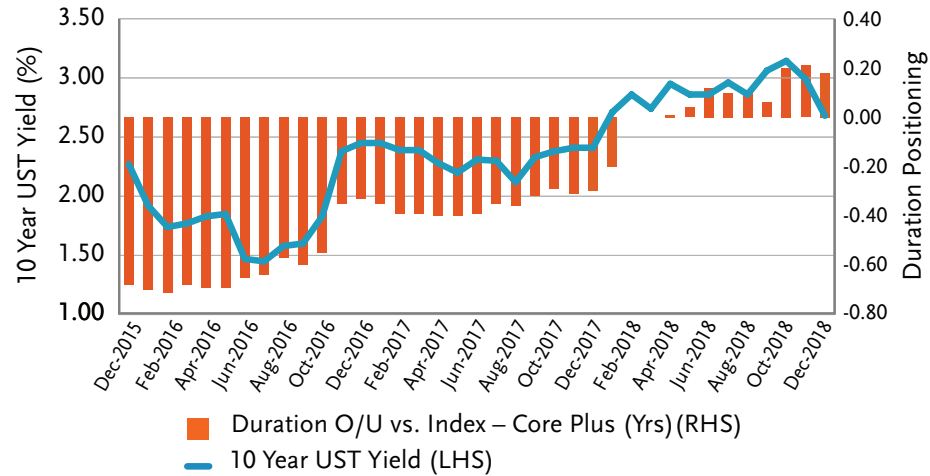
Source: Bloomberg, TCW

Emerging Market Spreads

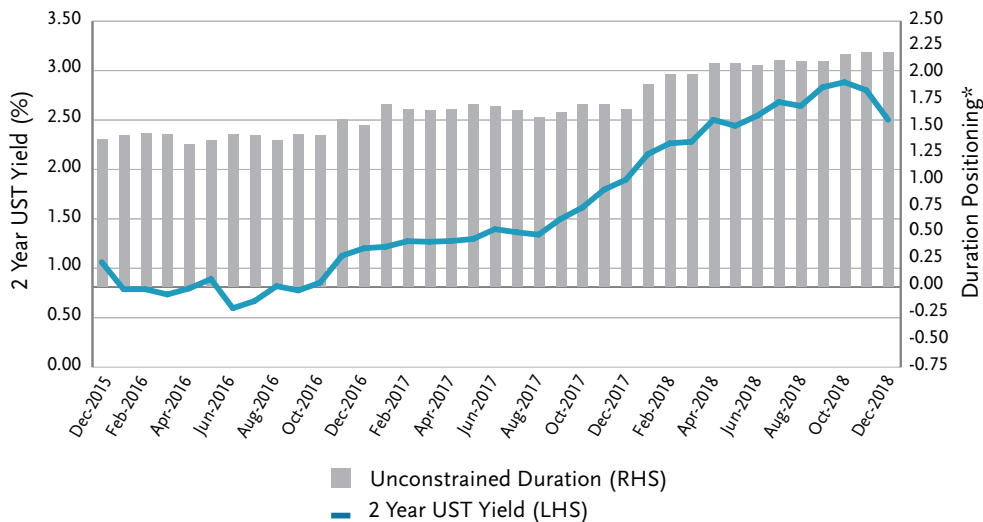


Source: JP Morgan

# Duration Positioning → Lengthen as Rates Have Risen



- Core Plus +0.2 year long duration vs. index



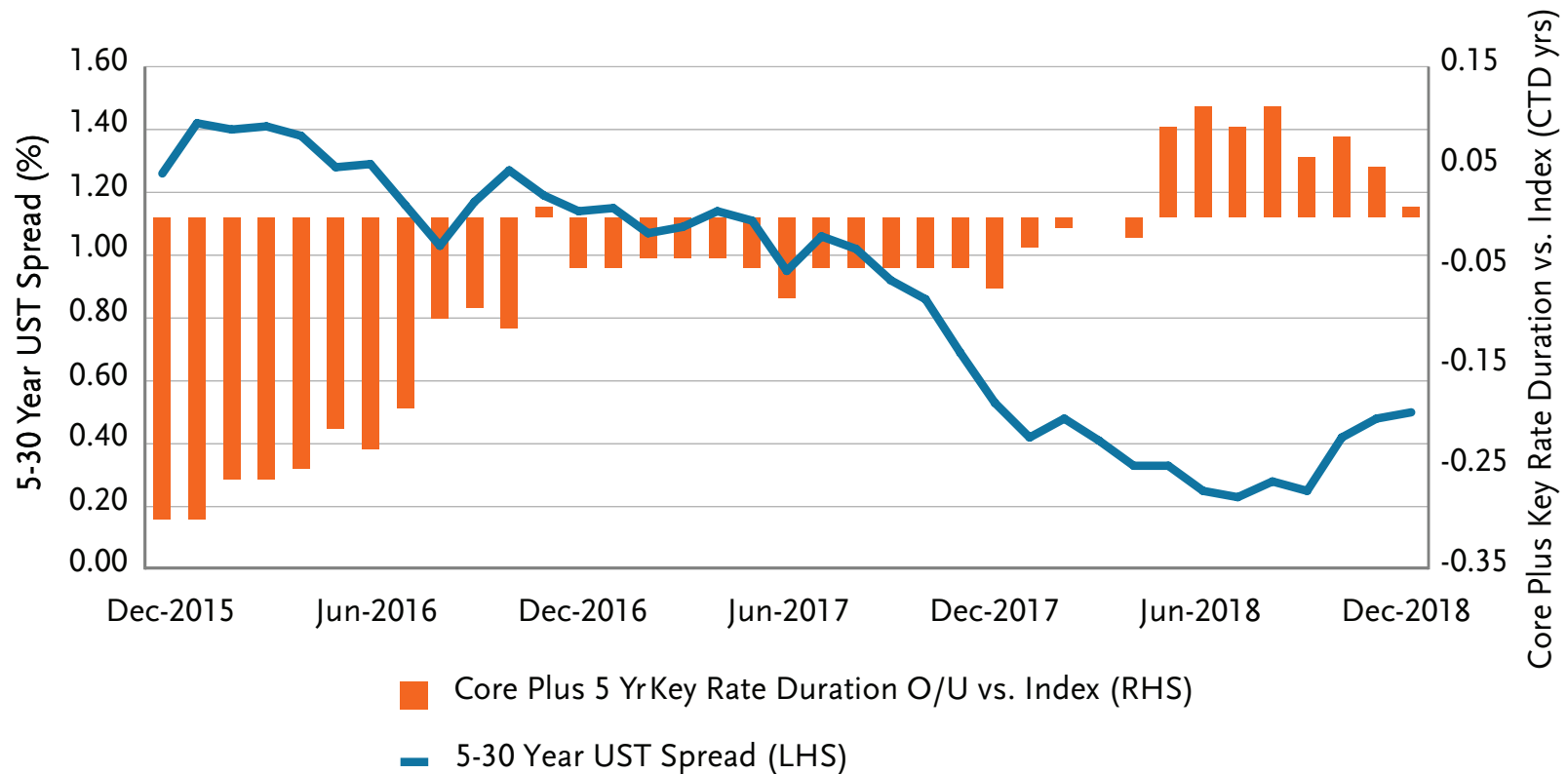
- Unconstrained has lengthened to 2.2 years

Source: TCW, Bloomberg

\* Low Duration Duration is the duration difference between Low Duration and its benchmark (Merrill 1-3 yr UST Index). Unconstrained Duration is the absolute duration of Unconstrained.



## Yield Curve Positioning → Move Toward Bullet as Curve Has Flattened

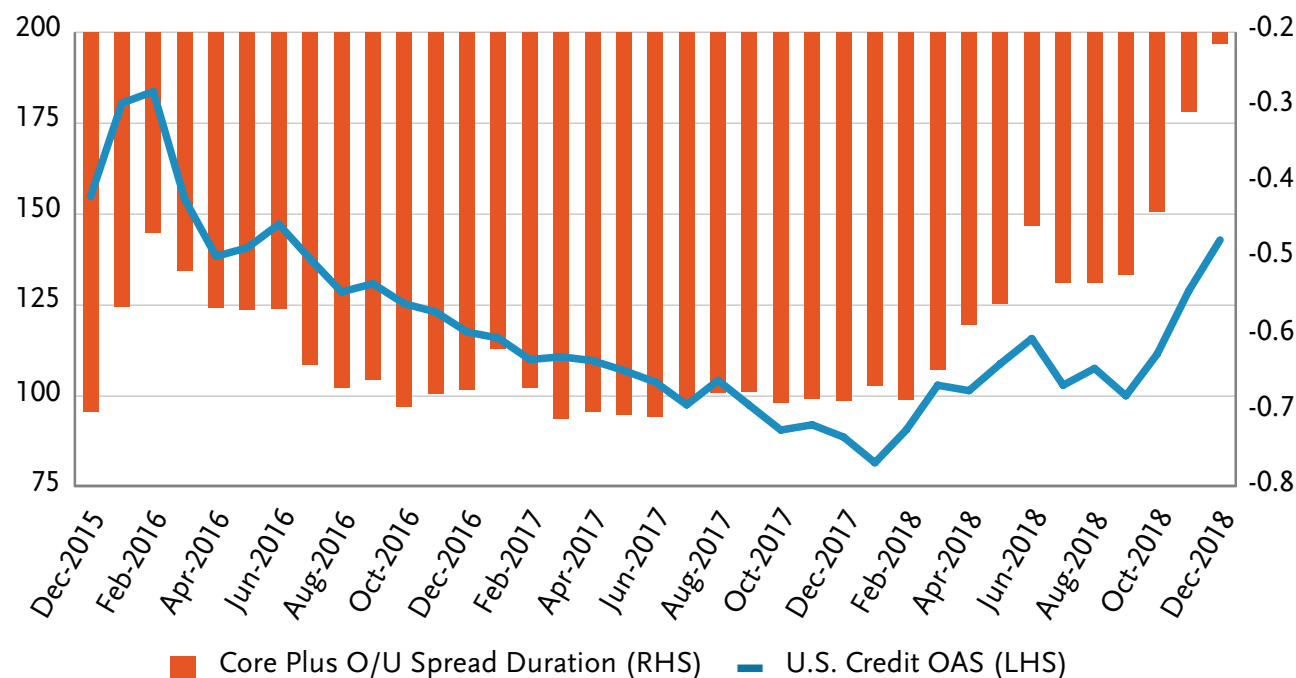


- Now slightly overweight five year part of the curve, while slightly underweight 30 year

Source: TCW, Bloomberg

\*This dataset includes CTD from the 20 year bucket as well.

## Corporate Credit Positioning → Add Opportunistically as Spreads Widen



- Opportunistically added front end corporates in 4Q 2017 as technicals pressured spreads
- Further corporate purchases in 2018 as spreads widened ~50 basis points
  - New issue concessions very attractive
  - High quality/defensive sectors – aerospace/defense, rails, telco
  - Midstream energy attractive given deleveraging and move away from MLP structure
- Now overweight by market value, though underweight by spread duration

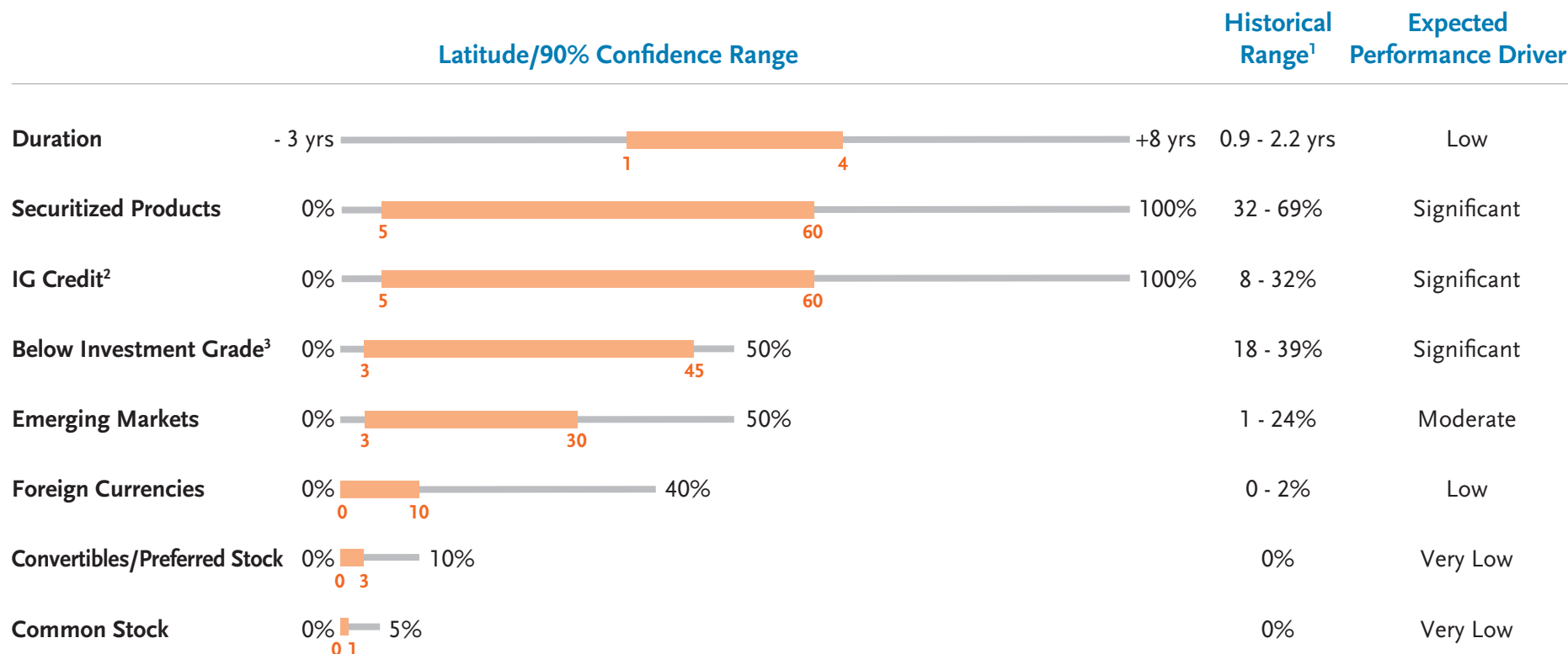
Source: TCW

# How Are We Adjusting Portfolios to the Changing Conditions?

- Consistent with our value disciplines...
  - Durations have been increased as rates rise, now slightly above benchmark
  - Investment grade corporate exposure has been increased selectively, now overweight by market value, still underweight by spread duration
  - Agency MBS has been added as this sector underperformed Treasuries, now slightly above benchmark
  - Moved to a very slight bullet maturity structure given flat yield curve
- Portfolio positioning still defensive, preparing for more volatility/opportunity...
  - Added high yield, emerging market exposure, but still near low end of risk budgets
  - Credit issue selection is selective, defensive
    - o Favor financials, utilities, non-cyclical vs. cyclical, commodity, non-U.S. exposure
    - o Generally shorter in maturity/duration profile
    - o Up-the-capital-structure where possible
    - o Select idiosyncratic opportunities (Ford, GE)
  - Senior-most tranches in securitized used as a way to maintain safe spread & carry vs. index
  - Maintain high liquidity!

# TCW Fixed Income Sample Portfolio Objective

## Sample Portfolio Active Management Focuses on Sector and Issue Selection



Source: TCW

<sup>1</sup> Based upon a representative account.

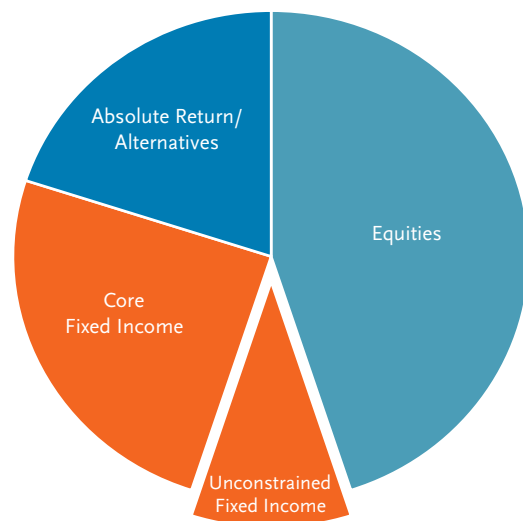
<sup>2</sup> Includes all investment grade credit securities excluding emerging market bonds.

<sup>3</sup> Includes below investment grade corporate, emerging markets, and securitized debt.

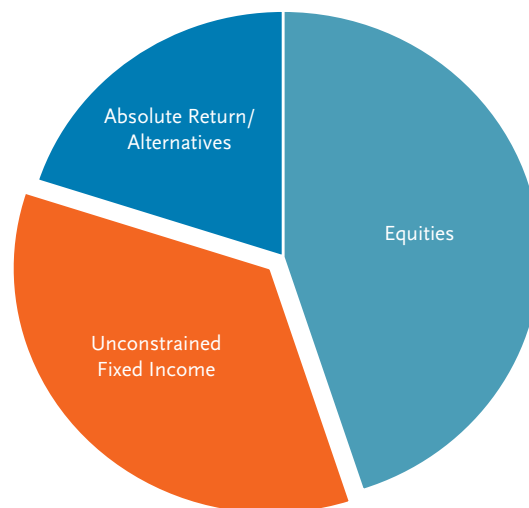
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# Fixed Income Sample Portfolio in the Context of Asset Allocation

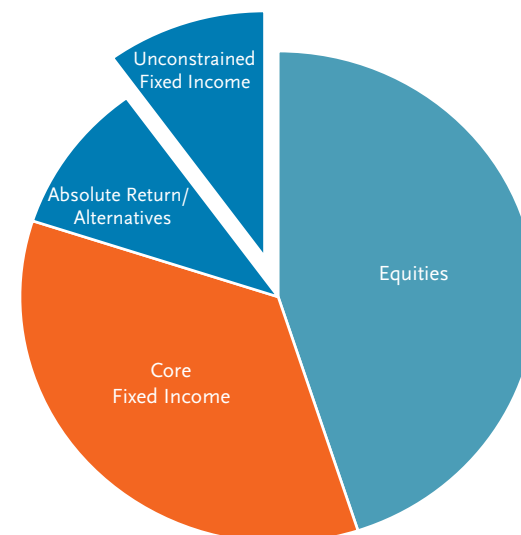
FIXED INCOME COMPLEMENT



FLEXIBLE CORE FIXED INCOME



ABSOLUTE RETURN ORIENTATION



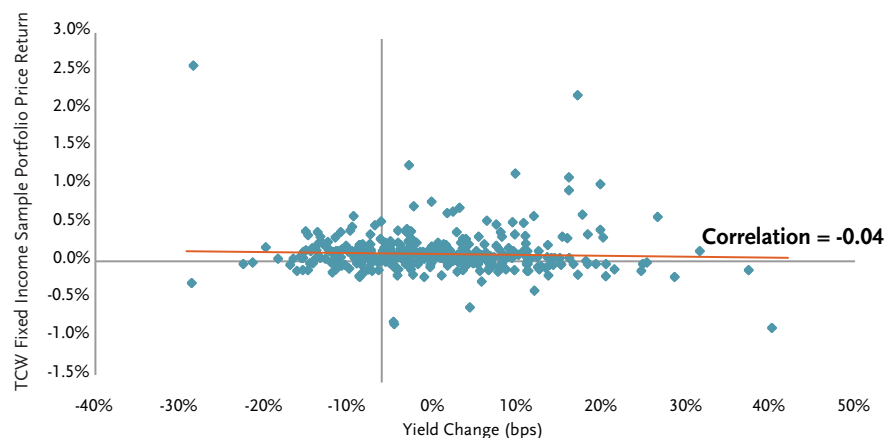
## OBJECTIVES:

- To enhance returns of a core, core plus fixed income strategy
- To replace a traditional intermediate duration strategy with a more flexible, opportunistic approach
- Seeks to generate positive returns over the long-term with low correlation to interest rates and equities

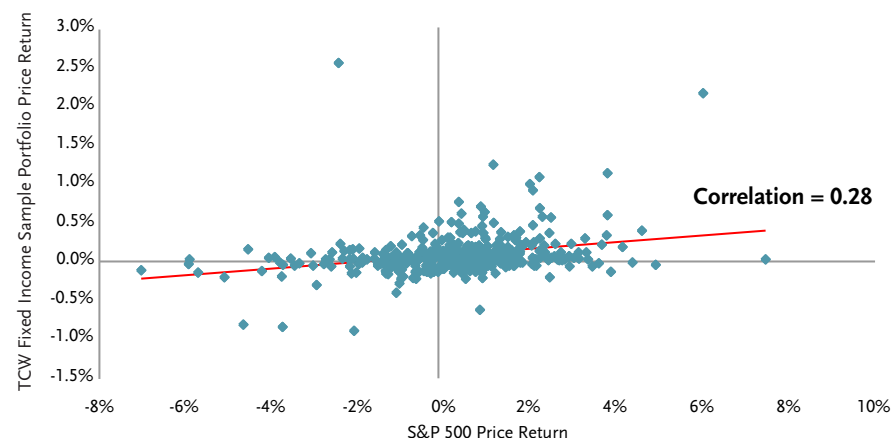
# TCW Fixed Income Sample Portfolio Correlations

AS OF MARCH 31, 2019

**TCW SAMPLE PORTFOLIO FIXED INCOME  
PRICE RETURN VS. 10 YR UST YIELD CHANGE\***



**TCW SAMPLE PORTFOLIO FIXED INCOME  
PRICE RETURN VS. S&P 500 PRICE RETURN\***



Source: Bloomberg, Barclays, TCW

\*Based upon a representative account. Since September 30, 2011 through March 31, 2019; based on weekly return data.

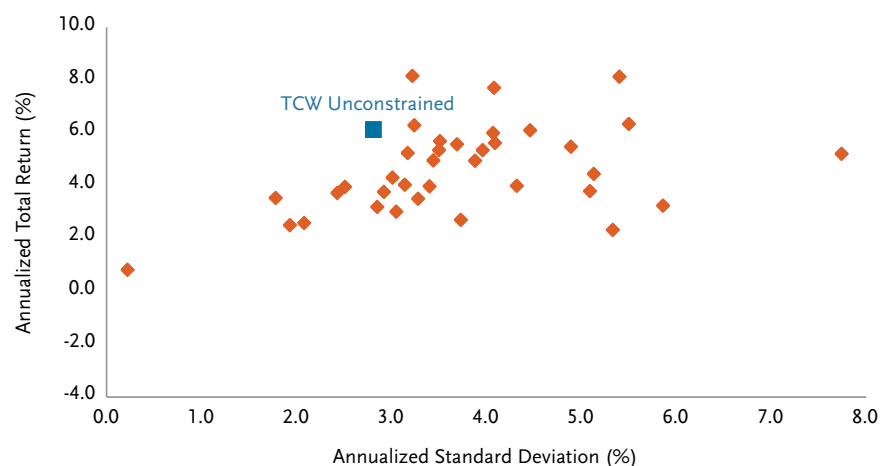
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# TCW Fixed Income Sample Portfolio Risk/Return Analysis

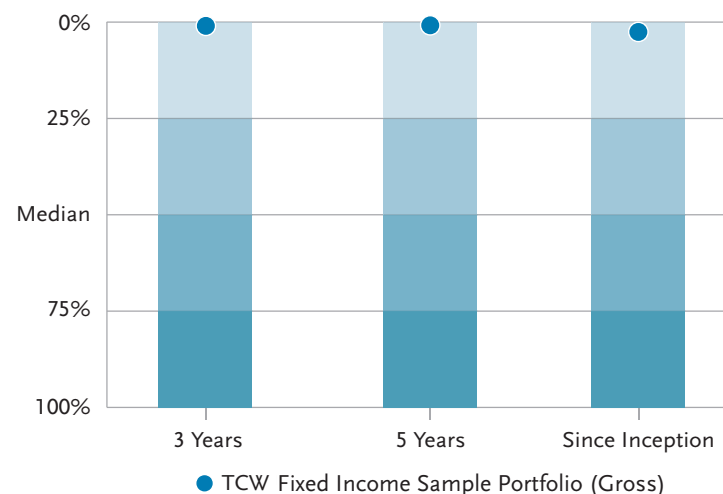
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## RISK-RETURN ANALYSIS

10/1/11 - 3/20/19



## SHARPE RATIO RANK



## RISK STATISTICS

	Total Return (Gross)			Standard Deviation			Sharpe Ratio			Maximum Drawdown		
	3 Years	5 Years	SI	3 Years	5 Years	SI	3 Years	5 Years	SI	3 Years	5 Years	SI
TCW Sample Portfolio	4.24%	3.39%	6.13%	1.00%	0.98%	2.81%	3.06	2.71	2.01	0.19%	0.51%	1.77%
3-month Index (LUS5) <sup>1</sup>	1.56%	1.06%	0.82%	0.22%	0.24%	0.22%	1.35	1.12	1.33	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Source: eVestment

<sup>1</sup> ICE BofAML U.S. Dollar 3-Month Deposit Offered Rate Average Index (LUS5)

Inception date: October 1, 2011

The peer group is comprised of 158 composites in the eVestment Global Unconstrained Fixed Income Universe that are managed by U.S.-domiciled investment managers, are listed in the U.S. exchanges and are benchmarked against a USD-denominated index.

Footnotes regarding performance appear in the appendix and are an integral and important part of this chart. Individual results may vary. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Portfolio characteristics and holdings are subject to change at any time.

# History Shows Why We Can Stop Worrying and Love the Fed



January 29, 2007:

*“One of the pleasant surprises I had coming to government has been the strong economy we have today.”* – **Henry Paulson**

February 21, 2007:

*“I’m waking up less at night than I was [over the slowdown in housing]. So far, there’s been remarkably little effect [from housing] on the rest of the economy.”* – **Janet Yellen**

March 28, 2007:

*“At this juncture...the impact on the broader economy and financial markets of the problems in the subprime markets seems likely to be contained.”* – **Ben Bernanke**

April 5, 2007:

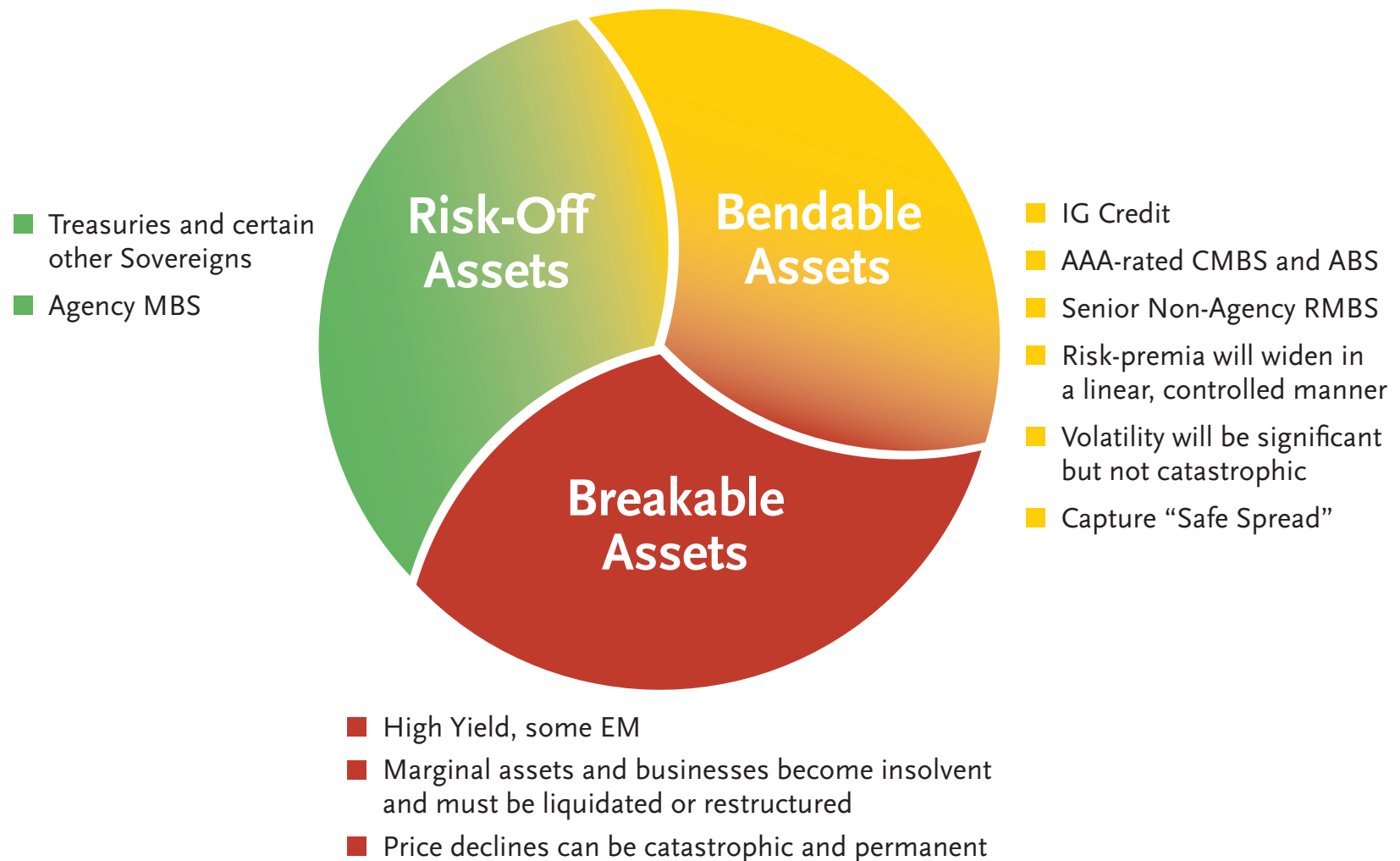
*“The damage from the subprime market has been largely contained.”* – **Richard Fisher**

April 20, 2007:

*“I don’t see (subprime mortgage market troubles) imposing a serious problem. I think it’s going to be largely contained.”* – **Henry Paulson**



# The Three Kinds of Assets In a De-Leveraging



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