

Fixed-Income Annual Returns

2011 to 2020

This chart compares 10 years of annual performance from January through December of each year for 11 different fixed-income asset classes. Choose any asset class—municipal bonds in the medium gray box, for example—and follow its performance over the past 10 years. Notice how this asset class has performed near or at the top and bottom compared to other asset classes throughout the 10 years. Or take corporate bonds in the medium blue box. This asset class shows the best performance in 2019,

but was the worst performer the year before. This demonstrates the importance of diversification, since each fixed-income category tends to vary in performance from one year to the next. A fixed-income category that leads one year could trail the next year. Although diversification does not prevent losses, you may be able to help mitigate losses by diversifying across multiple fixed-income categories.

| 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 10.70% Municipal bonds | 17.95% Emerging markets | 7.44% High yield bonds | 9.05% Municipal bonds | 3.30% Municipal bonds | 17.13% High yield bonds | 10.51% International bonds | 1.82% Cash | 14.54% Corporate bonds | 10.11% International bonds |
| 9.81% Treasuries | 15.81% High yield bonds | 5.29% Leveraged loans | 7.46% Corporate bonds | 1.51% Mortgage backed securities | 10.16% Leveraged loans | 8.17% Emerging markets | 1.60% Short-term gov't/ credit | 14.32% High yield bonds | 9.89% Corporate bonds |
| 8.15% Corporate bonds | 9.82% Corporate bonds | 0.64% Short-term gov't/ credit | 6.08% Mortgage backed securities | 1.29% Emerging markets | 9.88% Emerging markets | 7.50% High yield bonds | 1.28% Municipal bonds | 13.11% Emerging markets | 8.00% Treasuries |
| 7.84% Investment grade bonds | 9.66% Leveraged loans | 0.05% Cash | 5.97% Investment grade bonds | 0.84% Treasuries | 6.11% Corporate bonds | 6.42% Corporate bonds | 0.99% Mortgage backed securities | 8.72% Investment grade bonds | 7.51% Investment grade bonds |
| 6.97% Emerging markets | 6.78% Municipal bonds | -1.41% Mortgage backed securities | 5.05% Treasuries | 0.65% Short-term gov't/ credit | 2.65% Investment grade bonds | 5.45% Municipal bonds | 0.86% Treasuries | 8.64% Leveraged loans | 7.11% High yield bonds |
| 6.23% Mortgage backed securities | 4.21% Investment grade bonds | -1.53% Corporate bonds | 4.76% Emerging markets | -0.68% Corporate bonds | 1.67% Mortgage backed securities | 4.12% Leveraged loans | 0.44% Leveraged loans | 7.54% Municipal bonds | 6.52% Emerging markets |
| 4.98% High yield bonds | 4.09% International bonds | -2.02% Investment grade bonds | 2.45% High yield bonds | 0.55% Investment grade bonds | 1.49% International bonds | 3.54% Investment grade bonds | 0.01% Investment grade bonds | 6.86% Treasuries | 5.21% Municipal bonds |
| 4.36% International bonds | 2.59% Mortgage backed securities | -2.55% Municipal bonds | 1.60% Leveraged loans | 0.03% Cash | 1.28% Short-term gov't/ credit | 2.47% Mortgage backed securities | -2.08% High yield bonds | 6.35% Mortgage backed securities | 3.87% Mortgage backed securities |
| 1.59% Short-term gov't/ credit | 1.99% Treasuries | -2.75% Treasuries | 0.77% Short-term gov't/ credit | -0.69% Leveraged loans | 1.04% Treasuries | 2.31% Treasuries | -2.15% International bonds | 5.09% International bonds | 3.33% Short-term gov't/ credit |
| 1.52% Leveraged loans | 1.26% Short-term gov't/ credit | -3.08% International bonds | 0.02% Cash | -4.47% High yield bonds | 0.26% Cash | 0.84% Short-term gov't/ credit | -2.46% Emerging markets | 4.03% Short-term gov't/ credit | 3.12% Leveraged loans |
| 0.07% Cash | 0.08% Cash | -4.12% Emerging markets | -3.08% International bonds | -6.02% International bonds | 0.25% Municipal bonds | 0.82% Cash | -2.51% Corporate bonds | 2.21% Cash | 0.54% Cash |

Index definitions

- **Cash alternatives** are represented by Bloomberg Barclays US Treasury 1-3 Month Index, which measures the performance of public obligations of the U.S. Treasury with maturities of 1-3 months.
- **Investment grade bonds** are represented by Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index, which measures the performance of investment grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market (which includes Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities), mortgage-backed securities (agency fixed-rate and hybrid adjustable-rate mortgage—or ARM—passthroughs), asset-backed securities (ABS), and commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS).
- **Corporate bonds** are represented by Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate Bond Index, which measures the performance of the investment grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate, taxable Corporate Bonds bond market. It includes USD-denominated securities publicly issued by U.S. and non-U.S. industrial, utility, and financial issuers that meet specified maturity, liquidity, and quality requirements.
- **Emerging markets** debt is represented by Bloomberg Barclays Emerging Market Aggregate Index, which measures the performance of hard currency Emerging Markets debt, including fixed and floating-rate U.S. dollar-denominated debt issued from sovereign, quasi-sovereign, and corporate Emerging Market issuers.
- **High yield bonds** are represented by Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate High Yield Bonds Index, which measures the performance of fixed-rate non investment-grade bonds.
- **International bonds** are represented by Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index ex USA, which measures the performance of global investment grade fixed-rate debt markets that excludes USD-denominated securities.
- **Leveraged loans** are represented by S&P/Loan Syndications and Trading Association (LSTA) Leveraged Loan Index, which measures the performance of 100 loan facilities drawn from the S&P/LSTA Leveraged Loan Index (LLI). Standard & Poor's chooses these based on market weightings, spreads, and interest payments of the largest facilities in the leveraged loan market.
- **Mortgage backed securities** are represented by Bloomberg Barclays US Mortgage-Backed Securities Index, which measures the performance of the agency mortgage-backed pass-through securities (both fixed-rate and hybrid ARM) issued by Ginnie Mae (GNMA), Fannie Mae (FNMA), and Freddie Mac (FHLMC).
- **Municipal bonds** are represented by Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bonds Index. It measures the performance of the U.S. Long-Term tax exempt bond market with four main sectors: state and local general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, insured bonds and prerefunded bonds.
- **Short-term government/credit** is represented by Bloomberg Barclays US Government/Credit 1–3 Year Index, which measures the performance of the non-securitized component of the US Aggregate Index with maturities of 1-3 years, including Treasuries, government-related issues and corporate bonds.
- **Treasuries** are represented by Bloomberg Barclays US Treasuries Index, which measures the performance of public obligations of the U.S. Treasury.