

Brown Advisory Sustainable Core Fixed Income



We seek to deliver attractive risk-adjusted returns by incorporating ESG research that we believe strengthens bottom-up, credit-focused research, while seeking to produce positive environmental and social impacts.

November 2020 Monthly Report

Performance Contributors



AMY HAUTER, CFA
Portfolio Manager



TOM GRAFF, CFA
Portfolio Manager

PERFORMANCE BY SECTOR ANALYSIS

SECTOR	AVG. WEIGHT (%)		MONTHLY RETURN (%)		CONTRIBUTION TO RETURN (BPS)	
	Rep Acct.	Bench	Rep Acct.	Bench	Rep Acct.	Bench
ABS	2.73	0.35	0.06	0.15	0.00	0.00
CMBS	20.53	2.18	0.46	0.78	0.09	0.02
Corporate	39.99	27.44	1.77	2.78	0.70	0.76
Mortgage	2.86	26.72	-0.53	0.07	-0.02	0.02
Municipal	9.89	0.74	1.31	2.59	0.13	0.02
Non-US Government	6.21	3.37	0.26	1.04	0.02	0.03
US Government	16.08	39.20	0.25	0.34	0.04	0.13
[Cash]	1.72	--	0.00	--	0.00	--
TOTAL	100.00	100.00	0.96	0.98	0.96	0.98

INSIDE THE STRATEGY: FACTS & TYPICAL PORTFOLIO FIGURES

Strategy Inception: 09/30/2014
Portfolio Managers: Amy Hauter, CFA & Tom Graff, CFA
Benchmark: Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index

Portfolio Comments

The Brown Advisory Sustainable Core Composite rose 1.01% (net of fees) in November outperforming its benchmark, the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, which rose 0.98%.

We have seen investment grade corporate bonds continue to rally broadly in the past few months, supported by positive sentiment around the COVID vaccine. However in corporate bonds this month, we saw a low quality rally with the best performers in the most highly COVID-impacted sectors. While we have minimal exposure to high yield, we were still able to outperform this month mainly on selection and curve positioning.

Our portfolio is positioned for the yield curve to steepen and rates to rise, which is a mild position and mostly designed to dampen volatility should it come. This position reflects our thinking that over time the U.S. economy will continue to gain strength and eventually cause rates to rise by some degree.

We have been reducing credit this month, mainly on valuation. Our large overweight position in March/April reflected a truly unique value opportunity, whereas now we see corporate bonds as merely attractive. We believe that it makes sense to remain overweight, but no longer to maintain a maximum overweight position. **B**

FIXED INCOME CHARACTERISTICS

	REP. ACCOUNT	BENCHMARK
Avg. Credit Quality	Aa3	Aa2
Effective Duration (years)	5.8	6.1
Yield to Worst (%)	1.3	1.1
Avg. Life (years)	7.2	8.1

DURATION DISTRIBUTION (%)

	REP. ACCOUNT	BENCHMARK
Less than 1 Year	6.7	6.8
1 to 3 Years	16.1	33.1
3 to 5 Years	18.4	22.9
5 to 7 Years	28.2	10.7
7 to 10 Years	25.0	7.5
Greater than 10 years	5.7	19.0

SECTOR DISTRIBUTION (%)

	REP. ACCOUNT	BENCHMARK
Cash & Equivalents	0.9	--
US Government	15.7	39.1
Non-US Government	6.2	3.4
Corporate	41.3	27.6
Mortgage	2.8	26.7
CMBS	20.5	2.2
ABS	2.7	0.4
Municipal	9.9	0.7

QUALITY DISTRIBUTION (%)

	REP. ACCOUNT	BENCHMARK
AAA/Aaa	49.4	69.4
AA/Aa	9.3	3.5
A	12.7	12.0
BBB	28.2	14.2
High Yield	0.5	0.5
Not Rated	--	0.4

*Source: FactSet®. The information provided in this material is not intended to be and should not be considered to be a recommendation or suggestion to engage in or refrain from a particular course of action or to make or hold a particular investment or pursue a particular investment strategy, including whether or not to buy, sell, or hold any of the securities mentioned. It should not be assumed that investments in such securities have been or will be profitable. References to specific securities are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended for advisory clients. Portfolio level information includes cash and cash equivalents. Fixed income sectors, quality distribution and duration distribution may not total 100% due to rounding. Contribution to return is calculated by multiplying a security's beginning weight in the portfolio by the security's return on a daily basis, and geometrically linking the return for the reporting period. Numbers may not total due to rounding. Portfolio information provided is based on a representative Sustainable Core Fixed Income account and is provided as supplemental information. The composite performance shown above reflects the Sustainable Core Fixed Income Composite, managed by Brown Advisory Institutional. Brown Advisory Institutional is a GIPS Compliant firm and is a division of Brown Advisory LLC. Please see the Brown Advisory Sustainable Core Fixed Income disclosure statement at the end of this presentation for a GIPS compliant presentation.

Brown Advisory Sustainable Core Fixed Income Composite

Year	Composite Total Gross Returns (%)	Composite Total Net Returns (%)	Benchmark Returns (%)	Composite 3-Yr Annualized Standard Deviation (%)	Benchmark 3-Yr Annualized Standard Deviation (%)	Portfolios in Composite at End of Year	Composite Dispersion (%)	Composite Assets (\$USD Millions)*	GIPS Firm Assets (\$USD Millions)*
2019	9.5	9.1	8.7	2.9	2.9	14	0.2	265	42,426
2018	0.4	0.1	0.0	2.8	2.8	19	0.3	217	30,529
2017	3.7	3.4	3.5	2.8	2.8	11	0.3	113	33,155
2016	1.0	0.8	2.7	N/A	N/A	9	0.1	91	30,417
2015	1.2	0.8	0.6	N/A	N/A	Five or fewer	N/A	60	43,746
2014**	2.0	1.9	1.8	N/A	N/A	Five or fewer	N/A	5	44,772

**Return is for period October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

Brown Advisory claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Brown Advisory has been independently verified for the periods from January 1, 1993 through December 31, 2019. The Verification reports are available upon request. Verification assesses whether (1) the firm has complied with all the composite construction requirements of the GIPS standards on a firm-wide basis and (2) the firm's policies and procedures are designed to calculate and present performance in compliance with the GIPS standards. Verification does not ensure the accuracy of any specific composite presentation. GIPS® is a registered trademark owned by CFA Institute.

1. *For the purpose of complying with the GIPS standards, the firm is defined as Brown Advisory Institutional, the Institutional and Balanced Institutional asset management divisions of Brown Advisory. As of July 1, 2016, the firm was redefined to exclude the Brown Advisory Private Client division, due to an evolution of the three distinct business lines.

Disclosures

The views expressed are those of the author and Brown Advisory as of the date referenced and are subject to change at any time based on market or other conditions. These views are not intended to be and should not be relied upon as investment advice and are not intended to be a forecast of future events or a guarantee of future results. Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance and you may not get back the amount invested. The information provided in this material is not intended to be and should not be considered to be a recommendation or suggestion to engage in or refrain from a particular course of action or to make or hold a particular investment or pursue a particular investment strategy, including whether or not to buy, sell, or hold any of the securities mentioned. It should not be assumed that investments in such securities have been or will be profitable. To the extent specific securities are mentioned, they have been selected by the author on an objective basis to illustrate views expressed in the commentary and do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended for advisory clients. The information contained herein has been prepared from sources believed reliable but is not guaranteed by us as to its timeliness or accuracy, and is not a complete summary or statement of all available data. This piece is intended solely for our clients and prospective clients, is for informational purposes only, and is not individually tailored for or directed to any particular client or prospective client. Please see composite disclosure statements above for additional information.

Terms and Definitions for Representative Account Calculations

The **Total Return of a benchmark-, sector-, and portfolio-level** are the sum of the returns from price movement and the returns due to payments or other sources of income. Standard benchmark-, sector- and portfolio-level returns are the sums of the weights of each security multiplied by its return, summed and calculated daily and summed over the period covered by the report or by an otherwise-noted period. Contribution to Return is calculated by multiplying a security's beginning portfolio weight by its daily return and geometrically linking the security's daily contribution to return over the entire reporting period. **Effective Duration** is a time measure of a bond's interest-rate sensitivity, based on the weighted average of the time periods over which a bond's cash flows accrue to the bondholder. **Yield to Worst** is calculated by making worst-case scenario assumptions on the issue by calculating the returns that would be received if provisions, including prepayment, call or sinking fund, are used by the issuer. **Average Life** is the average period of time for all principal dollars to be returned to investors. **Alpha** is a measure of performance on a risk-adjusted basis. Alpha takes the volatility (price risk) of a mutual fund and compares its risk-adjusted performance to a benchmark index. FactSet® is a registered trademark of FactSet Research Systems, Inc.

- The Sustainable Core Composite (the Composite) is comprised of all discretionary accounts with no material investment restrictions, which invest primarily in fixed income securities that have a target duration between four and seven years. At least 80% of the securities in each portfolio in the Composite will have credit quality ratings of A or better at the time of purchase. Accounts included in the composite are invested primarily in taxable securities. The guidelines of accounts specifically indicate a preference for sustainability related investments. Bonds in composite accounts are evaluated according to a variety of environmental, social and governance factors. These factors are used by the portfolio manager to seek holdings with attractive ESG risk profiles and or bonds whose uses of proceeds meet the standards of the Green Bond Principles. ESG Factors are not used for the purposes of absolute negative screening in Composite accounts.
- ESG considerations that are material will vary by investment style, sector/industry, market trends and client objectives. The strategy seeks to identify issuers and securities that it believes may have desirable ESG outcomes, but investors may differ in their views of what constitutes positive or negative ESG outcomes. As a result, the strategy may invest in securities that do not reflect the beliefs and values of any particular investor. The strategy may also invest in securities that would otherwise be screened out of other ESG oriented funds. Security selection will be impacted by the combined focus on ESG assessments and forecasts of return and risk. The strategy intends to invest in securities with measurable ESG outcomes, as determined by Brown Advisory, and seeks to screen out particular issuers and industries. Brown Advisory relies on third parties to provide data and screening tools. There is no assurance that this information will be accurate or complete or that it will properly exclude all applicable securities. Investments selected using these tools may perform differently than as forecasted due to the factors incorporated into the screening process, changes from historical trends, and issues in the construction and implementation of the screens (including, but not limited to, software issues and other technological issues). There is no guarantee that Brown Advisory's use of these tools will result in effective investment decisions.
- The minimum account market value required for composite inclusion is \$2 million. From July 2016 to September 2019, the minimum account market value required for composite inclusion was \$1 million. Prior to July 2016, the minimum account market value required for Composite inclusion was \$2 million.
- Effective January 1, 2016, a significant cash flow policy was implemented for the Composite. Accounts with a greater than or equal to 14% external cash flow will be removed from the Composite for the entire month that the external cash flow occurred. The account will be added back to the Composite the following month if it meets the Composite inclusion requirements. The external cash flow percentage is calculated using beginning market value.
- The Composite creation date is November 1, 2015. The Composite inception date is October 1, 2014.
- The benchmark is the Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Bond Index. The Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged, market-value weighted index comprised of taxable U.S. investment grade, fixed rate bond market securities, including government, government agency, corporate, asset-backed, and mortgage-backed securities between one and ten years. Bloomberg Barclays Indices are trademarks of Bloomberg or its licensors, including Barclays Bank PLC. An investor cannot invest directly into an index. Benchmark returns are not covered by the report of the independent verifiers.
- The composite dispersion presented is an equal-weighted standard deviation of portfolio returns calculated for the accounts in the Composite for the entire calendar year period. The composite dispersion is not applicable (N/A) for periods where there were five or fewer accounts in the Composite for the entire period.
- Gross-of-fees performance returns are presented before management fees but after all trading commissions, and gross of foreign withholding taxes (if applicable). Net-of-fee performance returns reflect the deduction of actual management fees and all trading commissions. Other expenses can reduce returns to investors. The standard management fee schedule is as follows: 0.375% on the first \$10 million; 0.25% on the next \$15 million and 0.20% on the balance over \$25 million. Further information regarding investment advisory fees is described in Part II A of the firm's form ADV. Actual fees paid by accounts in the Composite may differ from the current fee schedule.
- The three-year annualized ex-post standard deviation measures the variability of the Composite (using gross returns) and the benchmark for the 36-month period ended on December 31. The 3 year annualized standard deviation is not presented as of December 31, 2014, December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2016 because 36 month returns for the Composite were not available (N/A.)
- Valuations and performance returns are computed and stated in U.S. Dollars. All returns reflect the reinvestment of income and other earnings.
- Duration is a measure of interest rate risk.
- The use of derivatives is integral to the investment process of the strategy mutual fund, which is a constituent of the Composite. Futures and swaps are utilized and comprise roughly 20% of the fund. The fund may employ leverage, but it is not integral to the investment process. Portfolios have and may invest in CMOs and range accrual notes. Shorting is not utilized.
- A complete list of composite descriptions, policies for valuing portfolios, calculating performance, and preparing compliant presentations are available upon request.
- Past performance is not indicative of future results.
- This piece is provided for informational purposes only and should not be construed as a research report, a recommendation or suggestion to engage in or refrain from a particular course of action or to make or hold a particular investment or pursue a particular investment strategy, including whether or not to buy, sell or hold any of the securities mentioned, including any mutual fund managed by Brown Advisory.