



## FORT WASHINGTON SECURITIZED TOTAL RETURN – 1Q2026

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ The Fort Washington Securitized Total Return strategy focuses on low to moderate risk/return opportunities in securitized products with an emphasis on providing a higher-quality, lower-volatility replacement for investment-grade corporate bonds.
- The Fort Washington Securitized Total Return strategy returned 0.60% gross and 0.53% net for the quarter, outperforming the Bloomberg US Mortgage Backed Securities Index return of 0.40%, led by carry and spread contributions from non-index sectors.
- The U.S. economy remained resilient through the first quarter, with consumer spending holding up and growth rebounding from the late-2025 shutdown, though inflation remained sticky and labor market signals became more mixed.
- Late-quarter geopolitical tensions and higher energy prices renewed inflation concerns, contributing to greater market volatility, higher Treasury yields, and tighter financial conditions, even as credit spreads remained relatively contained.
- Although spreads remain somewhat tight, sector fundamentals remain supportive, and management will continue to emphasize higher-quality assets, while maintaining a duration-neutral position relative to the index.

### INVESTMENT PROFESSIONALS

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Senior Portfolio Manager  
34 Years Experience

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28 Years Experience

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Portfolio Manager  
12 Years Experience

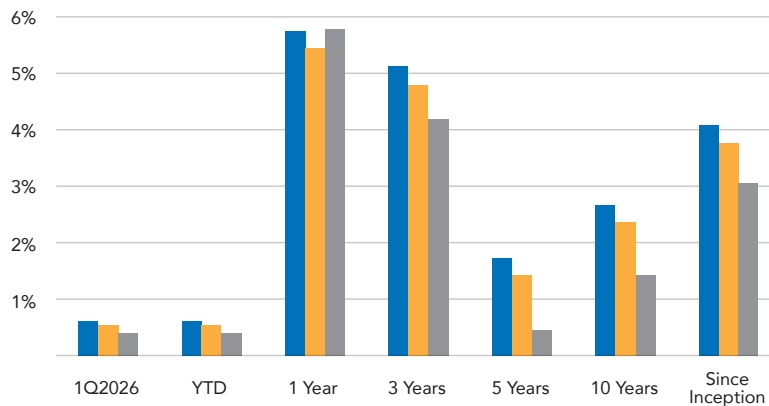
**Beth N. Turner, CFA**

Senior Credit Analyst  
12 Years Experience

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Senior Fixed Income Analyst  
9 Years Experience

### Trailing Total Returns (as of March 31, 2026)



	1Q2026	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception
■ Securitized Total Return (Gross) (%)	0.60	0.60	5.76	5.11	1.71	2.65	4.07
■ Securitized Total Return (Net) (%)	0.53	0.53	5.44	4.79	1.40	2.35	3.76
■ Bloomberg US MBS Index (%)	0.40	0.40	5.79	4.17	0.45	1.43	3.06

Inception date: 01/01/2005. Source: Fort Washington. Past performance is not indicative of future results. This supplemental information complements the Securitized Total Return GIPS Report.

## Portfolio Characteristics and Sector Allocation

	MV %	YTW	OAS	OAD	OASD	DTS	Contr. to DTS	Avg. Rating
Securitized Total Return	100	5.3	104	5.4	5.0	4.5	4.5	AA
ABS	9	5.8	194	2.2	2.3	3.4	0.3	BBB
CLO	3	5.3	130	0.1	3.3	4.2	0.1	AA
CMBS	16	6.3	239	2.0	1.9	5.3	0.8	AA-
RMBS	71	5.0	63	6.8	6.2	4.6	3.3	AA+
IG Credit	0	4.4	-6	9.4	9.2	1.3	-	AAA
Cash	2	3.7	-	-	-	-	-	AAA
Bloomberg US MBS Index	100	4.8	24	5.4	5.2	2.2	2.2	AA+

Source: Fort Washington. Data as of 03/31/2026. Portfolio characteristics are as of the reported date and are subject to change without notice. Past performance is not indicative of future results. This supplemental information complements the Securitized Total Return GIPS Report. Cash within Sector Allocation includes look-through to underlying securities within portfolio fund investments.

## MARKET OVERVIEW

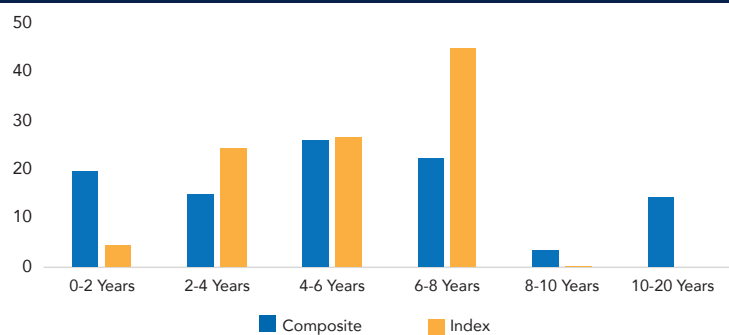
As the first quarter of 2026 progressed, the investment landscape remained defined by economic resilience, though uncertainty increased meaningfully beneath the surface. Early in the quarter, the U.S. economy appeared to be on solid footing, supported by steady consumer spending, firmer CEO confidence, and easing credit conditions. Following the temporary drag from the government shutdown in late 2025, growth appeared to reaccelerate, with stronger retail sales and healthier consumption trends helping to support activity. At the same time, inflation remained unsettled, with Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) measures hovering in the upper-2% range, reinforcing expectations that the Federal Reserve (Fed) would remain on hold after rate cuts were delivered in late 2025.

As the quarter progressed, the macro backdrop became more complicated. Inflation proved stickier than expected, driven by tariff pressures, persistent services inflation, and firm corporate margins. Labor market conditions were mixed, with unemployment stabilizing, but job openings continuing to soften, while weaker consumer sentiment pointed to growing caution even as spending held up. Beyond the domestic data, investors also faced a broader set of structural concerns, including AI-driven disruption in parts of the software market, signs of strain in private credit, and the prospect of larger fiscal deficits alongside increased Treasury issuance.

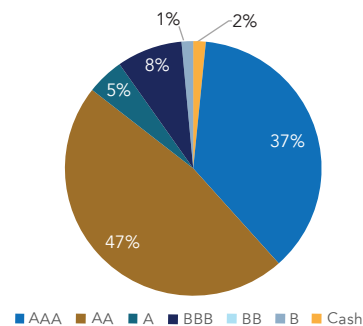
Geopolitical developments added to these pressures later in the quarter, most notably the escalation of conflict involving the U.S., Israel, and Iran. The resulting rise in energy prices, compounded by disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, renewed inflation concerns and contributed to greater volatility across asset classes. In turn, confidence in the timing and magnitude of future Fed easing diminished, as markets increasingly questioned whether policy would remain restrictive for longer. Developments in early April reinforced that view, with inflation reaccelerating and Fed officials signaling concern that progress on price stability could stall even as downside growth risks began to build.

Against this backdrop, financial markets experienced higher volatility but largely remained range bound over the quarter. Equity markets became more mixed beneath the surface, particularly as investors reassessed the earnings outlook for AI-related sectors, while broader indices consolidated following early-year strength. Credit spreads showed some volatility but remained relatively tight, even as stress began to emerge in parts of the private credit market. Treasury yields moved sharply within the quarter but ultimately finished higher, with the 10-year Treasury yield closing March near 4.4% and toward the upper end of its recent range.

## Duration Distribution



## Credit Quality



Source: Fort Washington. Characteristics are subject to change without notice. Totals may not equal 100 due to rounding. This supplemental information complements the Securitized Total Return GIPS Report.

## PERFORMANCE

The Fort Washington Securitized Total Return Composite returned 0.60% gross and 0.53% net during the first quarter, outperforming the Bloomberg US Mortgage Backed Securities Index, which returned 0.40%.

Outperformance in Q1 was driven by spread effects and carry in non-index sectors. ABS, CLOs, CMBS, and Non-Agency RMBS all posted strong returns on a rate-neutral basis (+30-50 basis points vs. Treasuries). Key rate duration positioning detracted from performance, as the portfolio was overall duration-neutral but overweight in the belly of the yield curve and underweight in the long end. The benchmark US Mortgage Backed Securities Index generated strong returns early in the quarter following the announcement that the government-sponsored enterprises were being instructed to purchase up to \$200 billion of MBS. However, the index subsequently sold off due to weak follow-through and rate volatility, ending the quarter with roughly flat returns on a rate-neutral basis.

ABS and CMBS were the top-performing sectors excluding the impact of interest rates (both +51 basis points net of rate movements). Agency CMOs, Non-Agency RMBS, and CLOs outperformed Treasuries by +45 basis points, +38 basis points, and +31 basis points respectively. The strategy's Agency Pass-Through segment was in line with the benchmark.

## PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY

Activity in Q1 was heavy as securitized products exposure was reduced by ~10% across the firm's Core Plus and Core Fixed Income mandates. The team took advantage of the overtightening in Agency MBS in late January to reduce exposure by 9% during the quarter, with 4% increases in both Non-Agency RMBS and CMBS. Marginal purchases were concentrated in new issue AAA Prime Jumbo RMBS. Non-Agency RMBS remains the largest exposure in the strategy at 34% of market value.

The overweight to Non-Agency RMBS is based on relative value—high-quality RMBS trading at dollar prices in the \$80-\$90 range are among the cheaper asset classes in securitized products, with spreads in the 40th-50th percentile historically.

Portfolio credit quality remained near its highest level in a decade, with an average rating of AA. At the end of the fourth quarter, the portfolio duration was 5.4 years, in line with the index.

## OUTLOOK

There remains uncertainty in the market, though the economy continues to show resilience. Consumer spending has held up better than expected, the labor market remains stable overall, and financial conditions are still reasonably supportive, despite higher volatility. At the same time, inflation has remained firmer than anticipated, with tariff pressures, services inflation, and higher energy prices complicating the path forward. Geopolitical tensions and rising fiscal concerns remain key headwinds and have reduced confidence in the timing and magnitude of future Fed easing.

Although labor market conditions have softened modestly, the overall unemployment rate remains low and aggregate consumption trends continue to look healthy. Consumer sentiment has weakened, and lower-income cohorts remain under pressure from the cumulative effects of inflation, but higher-income consumers continue to support overall spending. While the picture is not without risk, the broader economy still appears capable of generating continued, if somewhat slower, growth.

Spreads have softened somewhat but remain tighter than median in most sectors. However, we continue to believe fundamentals across the strategy's broad sectors—ABS, CMBS, RMBS, and CLOs—remain supportive of these valuations. Consumer credit performance has normalized further, particularly among lower-income borrowers, but overall household balance sheets and collateral trends remain sound enough to support ABS and RMBS fundamentals. CMBS continues to face the most pressure, though the market is gradually working through challenged assets, and the distinction between stronger and weaker properties remains clear.

Following the rise in volatility this quarter, valuations across securitized assets remain somewhat rich relative to longer-term averages, though dispersion has created opportunities in select areas. Spreads could be characterized as modestly tight but still supported by healthy fundamentals, stable demand, and a benign default backdrop across most sectors.

Management will maintain a quality bias, with risk/reward still skewed to the downside, and remain duration-neutral relative to the index.

## SECURITIZED TOTAL RETURN COMPOSITE GIPS REPORT

	1Q2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Securitized Total Return (Gross)	0.60%	8.05%	3.87%	5.85%	-9.28%	0.40%	4.59%	6.71%	2.06%	3.43%	3.24%
Securitized Total Return (Net)	0.53%	7.73%	3.56%	5.53%	-9.55%	0.10%	4.27%	6.39%	1.75%	3.12%	2.93%
Bloomberg US Mortgage Backed Securities Index	0.40%	8.58%	1.20%	5.05%	-11.81%	-1.04%	3.87%	6.35%	0.99%	2.47%	1.67%
Securitized Total Return 3-Year Annual Standard Deviation <sup>1</sup>	-	5.57%	6.68%	5.97%	4.81%	3.10%	3.28%	1.94%	1.83%	1.54%	1.90%
Bloomberg US Mortgage Backed Securities Index 3-Year Annual Standard Deviation <sup>1</sup>	-	6.72%	8.51%	7.66%	5.62%	1.71%	2.17%	2.15%	2.26%	1.75%	2.11%
Dispersion <sup>2</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of Accounts	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5
Composite Assets (\$ Millions)	\$340	\$509	\$371	\$348	\$328	\$380	\$368	\$398	\$235	\$230	\$150
Total Firm Assets (\$ Millions)	\$89,918	\$89,448	\$81,286	\$74,613	\$66,365	\$73,804	\$65,086	\$59,174	\$49,225	\$52,774	\$45,656

Composite inception date: 01/01/2005. <sup>1</sup>The 3-Year annualized ex-post standard deviation is calculated using monthly gross-of-fee returns to measure the average deviations of returns from its mean. <sup>2</sup>Dispersion is not calculated for years in which the composite contains five portfolios or less. Dispersion is calculated as the equal weighted standard deviation of gross-of-fee returns for those portfolios held in the composite during the entire period. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The benchmark for this composite is the Bloomberg US Mortgage Backed Securities Index. The Bloomberg US Mortgage Backed Securities Index tracks fixed-rate agency mortgage-backed pass-through securities guaranteed by Ginnie Mae (GNMA), Fannie Mae (FNMA), and Freddie Mac (FHLMC). The index is constructed by grouping individual TBA-deliverable MBS pools into aggregates or generics based on program, coupon, and vintage. The index accounts for interest payments by incorporating them into the total return calculation. Fort Washington's Securitized Total Return strategy seeks to achieve superior return on mortgage-related investments by investing in both index and non-index securities and employing an active intra-sector relative value framework. Typical securities utilized include agency mortgage-backed securities, private label mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities, commercial mortgage-backed securities, agency debentures, Treasuries and cash securities. Portfolio duration will target +/- 1 year relative to the duration of the Bloomberg US Mortgage Backed Securities Index. Average quality to be investment grade. All fee-paying, fully discretionary, non-restricted portfolios managed in the Securitized Total Return style, with a minimum of \$15 million under our management, are included in this composite. The strategy's fee schedule is 0.30% on the first \$25 million and 0.25% on additional amounts over \$25 million. Portfolios in this composite include agency mortgage-backed securities, private label mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities, commercial mortgage-backed securities, agency debentures, Treasuries and cash securities. Cash is maintained, within each separately managed account segment, in accordance with our asset allocation ratio. The U.S. dollar is the base currency. The specific securities identified and described do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold, or recommended. Returns are presented gross and net of management fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Gross returns will be reduced by investment advisory fees and other expenses that may be incurred in the management of the account. Net returns reflect the portfolio's gross returns with the deduction of expenses and other costs associated with the management of the investments in the portfolio as well as the deduction of the highest advertised fee rate for the applicable strategy shown. Individual portfolio returns are calculated on a daily valuation basis. Prior to 01/01/1997, individual portfolio returns were calculated monthly using a time-weighted return method. Fort Washington Investment Advisors, Inc. (Fort Washington), a wholly owned subsidiary of The Western and Southern Life Insurance Company, is a registered investment advisor and provides discretionary money management to a broad range of investors, including both institutional and individual investors. Assets under management include all portfolios managed by Fort Washington and exclude assets managed by and marketed as its Private Equity business unit. Fort Washington claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS Standards. GIPS® is a registered trademark of CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein. Fort Washington has been independently verified for the periods 07/01/1994-12/31/2024. The verification reports 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. Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request. To receive a complete list and description of composites, contact Fort Washington by phone at 888.244.8167, in writing at 303 Broadway, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, or online at fortwashington.com.

## RISK DISCLOSURE

The Fort Washington Securitized Total Return strategy invests primarily in securitized asset instruments, including mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities and other securities. The market prices of securities may go up or down, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably, due to general market conditions, such as real or perceived adverse economic, political, or regulatory conditions, recessions, inflation, changes in interest or currency rates, lack of liquidity in the bond markets, or adverse investor sentiment. Investments in the strategy are subject to possible loss due to the financial failure of issuers of underlying securities and their inability to meet their debt obligations. When interest rates rise, the prices of fixed-income securities in the strategy will generally fall. Conversely, when interest rates fall, the prices of fixed-income securities in the strategy will generally rise. The value of mortgage-related and asset-backed securities will be influenced by factors affecting the real estate market and the assets underlying those securities. These securities are also subject to prepayment and extension risks and risk of default.

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