Fort Washington Investment Advisors, Inc.

A member of Western & Southern Financial Group

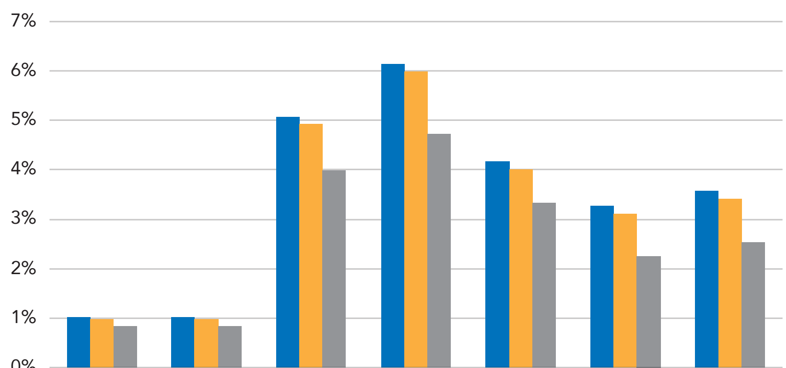
Uncompromised Focus®

FORT WASHINGTON ULTRA SHORT DURATION – 1Q2026

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Fort Washington Ultra Short Duration strategy focuses on high-quality (investment grade), high-cash-flow bonds, with an emphasis on securitized products. It offers an alternative to cash for investors with a longer expected holding period of 6-12+ months.
- A resilient but increasingly complex economic backdrop—AI transformation, geopolitical risk, and rising inflation—has driven yields and volatility higher. Valuations in credit remain full, but financial conditions have tightened modestly. Uncertainty is high.
- The composite returned 1.02% gross and 0.98% net for the quarter, outperforming the ICE BofA 3-Month Treasury Bill Index, which returned 0.85%. Over the trailing 12-month period, the composite return was 5.07% gross and 4.92% net, ranking in the 11th percentile among its peers.

Trailing Total Returns (as of March 31, 2026)



	1Q2026	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception
Ultra Short Duration (Gross) (%)	1.02	1.02	5.07	6.14	4.16	3.27	3.57
Ultra Short Duration (Net) (%)	0.98	0.98	4.92	5.98	4.01	3.11	3.41
ICE BofA 3-Month US T-Bill (%)	0.85	0.85	4.00	4.74	3.34	2.26	2.54

Inception date: 01/01/1995. Source: Fort Washington Investment Advisors. Past performance is not indicative of future results. This supplemental information complements the Ultra Short Duration Fixed Income GIPS Report.

MARKET COMMENTARY

The first quarter of 2026 was characterized by a resilient but increasingly complex U.S. economic backdrop, as solid underlying growth momentum was met with rising geopolitical risks and renewed inflation uncertainty. Early in the quarter, economic data pointed to a "Goldilocks" environment, with steady consumer spending, improving CEO confidence, and easing credit conditions supporting growth, even as manufacturing remained in mild contraction and housing activity stayed subdued. Real GDP estimates for the first quarter suggest a meaningful rebound from the government-shutdown-impacted fourth quarter of 2025, supported by stronger retail sales and favorable consumption trends. The inflation picture was mixed, with Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) measures hovering near the high-2% range, reinforcing expectations that the Federal Reserve (Fed) would remain on hold after a series of rate cuts in late 2025.

As the quarter progressed, the macro narrative shifted. Inflation proved stickier than expected, highlighted by a strong February Producer Price Index (PPI) report and persistent pressures from tariffs, services, and margins. Labor market data remained mixed, while consumer sentiment weakened despite continued spending. Markets also contended with structural shifts, including AI-driven disruption in the software sector and growing concerns in private credit, alongside rising fiscal deficits and Treasury supply. Despite these headwinds, credit markets remained resilient, with spreads near cycle tights and financial conditions still accommodative.

INVESTMENT PROFESSIONALS

Scott D. Weston
Managing Director
Senior Portfolio Manager
34 Years Experience

Brent A. Miller, CFA
Vice President
Senior Portfolio Manager
25 Years Experience

Laura L. Mayfield
Vice President
Senior Portfolio Manager
21 Years Experience

Richard V. Schneider
Vice President
Senior Portfolio Manager
28 Years Experience

Jay M. Devine
Vice President
Senior Portfolio Manager
28 Years Experience

Dimitar T. Kamacharov, CFA
Portfolio Manager
11 Years Experience

Paul A. Tomich, CFA
Vice President
Senior Portfolio Manager
21 Years Experience

Kiran Pillani
Assistant Vice President
Portfolio Manager
21 Years Experience

Beth N. Turner, CFA
Senior Credit Analyst
12 Years Experience

Charles D. Buggage
Senior Fixed Income Analyst
9 Years Experience

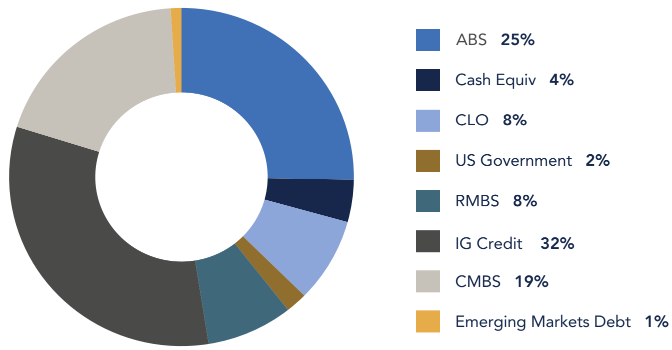
Geopolitics became the dominant driver late in the quarter, as escalating conflict between the U.S., Israel, and Iran pushed energy prices higher and increased market volatility. Treasury yields moved sharply higher but remained within their long-term range, as "buy-the-dip" demand offset inflation concerns. Risk assets saw greater volatility, with equities consolidating amid uncertainty around AI, private credit stress, and geopolitics, while rising inflation expectations and fiscal expansion reduced confidence in the timing of Fed easing.

Early April developments reinforced these themes, with inflation re-accelerating to approximately 3.3% year over year and consumer sentiment declining further amid geopolitical concerns. Fed officials signaled growing concern that progress on inflation could stall, supporting a higher-for-longer policy stance despite the risk of softer growth. At the same time, uncertainty surrounding Fed leadership, ongoing geopolitical tensions, and a rising deficit contributed to tighter financial conditions. Taken together, the first quarter of 2026 highlighted an economy that remains fundamentally resilient but increasingly vulnerable to external shocks, with markets transitioning from a disinflation-driven outlook to one dominated by stagflationary risks and policy uncertainty.

Portfolio Characteristics

	Ultra Short Duration
Quality	Aa3/A1
Option Adjusted Duration (years)	0.61
Weighted Average Life (years)	0.99
Coupon	4.13
Yield to Worst	4.75
Convexity	-0.01
Number of Unique Issues*	241*

Composite Sector Allocation



Data as of 03/31/2026. Source: Fort Washington. *An Ultra Short Duration Fixed Income Representative Account is being used to illustrate Number of Issues. Overall, our portfolio adheres to the principles of strong quality growth while maintaining disciplined valuation. With our dedicated sustainability research team encompassing system changes across sectors, we are confident that the Fund is well-positioned to capture investment opportunities arising from a society transitioning to net zero, becoming more nature-positive and socially equitable. This provides investors with a diverse range of growth opportunities. Characteristics are subject to change without notice. This supplemental information complements the Ultra Short Duration Fixed Income GIPS Report. Totals may not equal 100 due to rounding. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Upside/Downside Capture

10-Year Trailing	
Upside Capture	103%
Downside Capture	101%

Return and Volatility

10-Year Trailing	Fort Washington USD	Morningstar USB
Avg Return (ann)	3.11%	2.54%
Std Dev Return (ann)	1.34%	1.18%
Sharpe Ratio	0.63	0.24

Data as of 03/31/2026. Source: Fort Washington and Morningstar. The above illustrations are shown for comparative purposes only and show net returns for the Fort Washington USD Composite compared to the Morningstar USB Peer Group category. Morningstar USB Peer Group returns were calculated by taking the arithmetic average of the return reported for each share class of each fund in the peer group. Past performance is not indicative of future results. This supplemental information complements the Ultra Short Duration Fixed Income GIPS Report. Upside/Downside Capture is measured against the Morningstar Ultra Short Bond peer group, and net performance is shown. For full gross and net performance, and applicable disclosures, please see the Ultra Short Duration Fixed Income GIPS Report. Upside capture represents the average relative performance of Fort Washington's Ultra Short Duration Fixed income composite for all months when peer group returns were positive. Downside capture represents the average relative performance for all months when peer group returns were negative.

PORTFOLIO REVIEW

The quarter started on sound footing, with markets expecting a strong rebound from slow Q4 growth impacted by the government shutdown, while inflation held steady in the upper 2% range. Credit spreads tightened early (the "January effect") on growth prospects, while Treasuries remained range-bound. As the quarter progressed, AI-induced volatility—and later, the conflict in Iran—pushed rates sharply higher amid rising inflation concerns, while spreads widened. Spreads gave up their January gains but remained surprisingly tight given rate volatility and increasing "unknowns." Rates ended the quarter with a strong bear-flattening move, leaving 10-year Treasury yields 15 bps higher and 2-year rates 32 bps higher. Importantly for Ultra Short investors, the front-end of the curve is no longer inverted, and adding duration has become more compelling, in our view. Spreads on short, high-quality bonds were mixed, with some sectors tightening and others widening 5-10 basis points.

For Q1, the Ultra Short Duration composite returned 1.02% gross and 0.98% net, outperforming the ICE BofA U.S. 3-Month Treasury Bill Index, which returned 0.85%. The composite's 1-year trailing return was 5.07% gross versus the ICE BofA U.S. 3-Month Treasury Bill Index at 4.00%. The yield component of return was the primary driver of performance for the quarter, with movements in rates and spreads contributing approximately -0.16% in price return. Each broad sector outperformed the T-Bill index for the quarter.

The strategy's major sectors—CMBS, CLO, RMBS, ABS, and Corporates—returned 1.19%, 1.15%, 1.09%, 0.96%, and 0.94%, respectively. The top three performing subsectors benefitted from spread tightening, while ABS and RMBS had the longest duration positions (0.8 years and 1.3 years, respectively), creating a modest headwind.

The strategy continues to perform well and within expectations, providing investors with a strong return relative to money market funds or other cash-like alternatives. While sector-level spreads remain in the top quartile (historically tight), the market continues to offer pockets of value, particularly within securitized subsectors.

PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY

The strategy's positioning changes tend to be evolutionary, as monthly paydowns are reinvested in the most opportunistic securities and sub-sectors. Spreads in the securitized sectors tightened notably in 2025, and beginning in Q4, marginal cash flows were reinvested primarily in the corporate bond sector, which represented compelling value in an overall tight spreading market. In Q1 we continued to invest marginal cash in the corporate sector increasing exposure by 2% and bringing total exposure to 32% at quarter-end—the highest sector exposure for the strategy. This brought securitized credit exposure down to about 60%, a recent low.

CLO exposure continued to decline, as a more positively sloped front-end Treasury curve made fixed-rate bonds more attractive, and higher interest rates increased the appeal of adding duration. CLO exposure declined by about 2% to 8.6% at the end of Q1. When Treasury rates rose over 50 bps late in the quarter, we added an approximately 2% position in the 2-year Treasury note to the strategy to help extend duration into the 0.60-0.65 year range. This Treasury position will be slowly divested as volatility declines and we source more alpha-oriented opportunities. Cash was reduced by 4% to 3% of strategy assets at quarter-end.

Overall, the portfolio is biased toward higher quality and increased liquidity. Spreads appear tight, especially considering recent volatility and uncertain outlook. Both spreads and spread duration are at the lower end of recent ranges, while interest rate risk is in line with peers.

OUTLOOK

The outlook for the U.S. economy remains constructive but increasingly nuanced, as above-trend growth is expected to persist alongside lingering inflation pressures and heightened policy uncertainty. Recent data point to resilient consumer spending, supported by strong household balance sheets and fiscal tailwinds, even as sentiment indicators move toward historical lows and certain cyclical sectors, such as manufacturing and housing, show signs of softness. Inflation is likely to remain sticky, driven by services, tariffs, and potential energy shocks stemming from geopolitical tensions. While the fixed income markets seem to have an inherent bias toward lower rates, the combination of growth and persistent inflation suggests that policy easing may be more limited and delayed than previously expected, reinforcing a higher-for-longer rate environment.

This backdrop suggests a favorable environment for short-duration strategies, which continue to offer attractive all-in yields with limited interest rate sensitivity. Front-end rates remain anchored by Fed policy, while longer-term yields face competing pressures from fiscal deficits, Treasury supply, and inflation uncertainty—contributing to episodic volatility and a steeper yield curve bias over time. Credit fundamentals remain broadly stable, though signs of stress in private credit and increased dispersion across sectors suggest that selectivity is becoming more important.

Risk premiums remain relatively tight by historical standards, particularly in high-quality spread sectors, but could widen if growth expectations soften or geopolitical risks intensify. We will remain disciplined with our lower risk, higher quality, and more liquid positioning, and make changes when valuations are more compelling, financial conditions are supportive, and market sentiment is on the mend. Given this backdrop, a high-quality, high-carry ultra-short strategy should earn its yield and perform well, particularly for investors with an intermediate investment horizon (6 months to 1 year).

Factor	Outlook	Comments
Economy	Neutral	• U.S. growth expectations for 2026 center around 2% (trend growth), while inflation pressures linger, financial conditions remain supportive, and tax policy provides a tailwind. But geopolitical tensions and elevated energy prices present downside risks. • Business fundamentals remain generally healthy: CAPEX expectations have improved, and AI should support productivity. • Goods inflation higher as service inflation remains range bound → persistence of energy shock will be key.
Consumer	Neutral (+)	• The labor market has stabilized, but lower-income cohorts are showing signs of stress, while high earners drive consumption. • Consumers broadly remain on sound footing; nominal debt continues to trend lower while debt service remains historically low. • Unemployment is currently stable at 4.3%. Labor market is balanced, and real wages are growing. However, consumer sentiment is reaching cycle lows. The savings rate is increasing as consumers brace for potential policy shocks.
Financial Conditions	Neutral (+)	• Federal Reserve (Fed) officials have paused rate cuts, articulating patience amid inflation concerns. • Terminal rate expectations continue to fluctuate (~3.5%); investors anticipate the Fed will remain on hold. • Lending standards and market-based financial conditions remain accommodative.
Valuations	Neutral (-)	• Securitized spreads have tightened in 2026 with most spreads bottom quartile (risk premiums are low and investors must be selective with higher risk). Credit curves have flattened with up-in-quality most compelling. Pockets of value remain. • Fundamentals are supportive of tight spreads, although price volatility risk is skewed to the downside. • Market activity has been consistent and strong—higher-quality securitized offers the best value, along with select trades in lower-rated assets.
Sentiment/ Technicals	Positive	• Liquidity is strong, and bid/offer spreads remain tight. • Primary market volume slowed following the U.S./Iran conflict but is picking up again, with heavy demand and deals multiple times oversubscribed. Secondary activity remains robust. • Investor demand has been consistent, with plenty of cash on the sidelines.
Interest Rates	Neutral (+)	• Interest rates are within a fair-value range (near 3-year historical average) and are priced for moderating inflation. • Risk related to the Iran conflict could push rates in either direction—higher on continued increasing energy costs or lower on concern about growth moderation and a flight to quality.
Outlook	Neutral	• Valuations on short-duration assets are full—opportunities exist, but the risk/reward is skewed to the downside. • Market volatility has declined following the Iran-related spike in March, and financial conditions have improved. Uncertainty around inflation and economic growth remains elevated. • Consumer and corporate fundamentals remain sound, but concern is rising, confidence has faded, and spending could slow. • Securitized Products still offers relative value to other fixed income sectors.

Source: Fort Washington. The above outlook reflects subjective judgments and assumptions. Unexpected events may occur so there can be no assurance that developments will transpire as forecast.

ULTRA SHORT DURATION FIXED INCOME COMPOSITE GIPS REPORT

	1Q2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Ultra Short Duration Fixed Income (Gross)	1.02%	5.37%	7.00%	6.36%	0.75%	0.81%	1.93%	3.68%	2.47%	2.02%	2.07%
Ultra Short Duration Fixed Income (Net)	0.98%	5.22%	6.84%	6.19%	0.60%	0.66%	1.78%	3.52%	2.32%	1.86%	1.92%
ICE BofA 3-Month US Treasury Bill Index	0.85%	4.18%	5.25%	5.01%	1.46%	0.05%	0.67%	2.28%	1.87%	0.86%	0.34%
Ultra Short Duration Fixed Income 3-Year Annual Standard Deviation[1]	–	0.44%	0.98%	0.92%	2.14%	2.12%	2.10%	0.27%	0.20%	0.23%	0.24%
ICE BofA 3-Month US Treasury Bill Index 3-Year Annual Standard Deviation[1]	–	0.19%	0.56%	0.65%	0.34%	0.32%	0.27%	0.20%	0.20%	0.12%	0.05%
Dispersion[2]	–	–	0.28%	0.72%	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of Accounts	≤5	≤5	6	6	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5
Composite Assets ($ Millions)	$1,550	$1,338	$999	$905	$747	$1,639	$1,166	$1,132	$1,341	$1,385	$963
Total Firm Assets ($ 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 and creation date: 01/01/1995. [1]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. [2]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 quarterly gross-of-fee returns for those portfolios held in the composite during the full measurement period. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The benchmark for this composite is the ICE BofA 3-Month US Treasury Bill Index. The ICE BofA 3-Month US Treasury Bill Index measures the performance of short-term U.S. Treasury bills with maturities of three months. The index accounts for interest payments by incorporating them into the total return calculation. Fort Washington's Ultra Short Duration Fixed Income strategy seeks to achieve superior return on short-term investments and to employ an active sector rotation process identifying relative value within the short-term marketplace. Typical securities utilized include government bonds, corporate bonds, commercial paper, municipal bonds, and asset-backed bonds. Portfolio characteristics include average maximum duration of one-year, maximum duration per security of 5 years with all securities rated investment grade at time of purchase. All fee-paying, fully discretionary portfolios managed in the Ultra Short Duration style, with a minimum of $15 million under our management, are included in this composite. The strategy's fee schedule is 0.15% for separate accounts. Portfolios in this composite include cash, cash equivalents, investment securities, interest, and dividends. 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 composite primarily invests in ultra short term, investment grade debt obligations, and its average effective portfolio duration will normally be one year or less. 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. 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. 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. 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 Ultra Short Duration Fixed Income strategy invests in fixed-income securities which can experience reduced liquidity during certain market events, lose their value as interest rates rise and are subject to credit risk, which is the risk of deterioration in the financial condition of an issuer and/or general economic conditions that can cause the issuer to not make timely payments of principal and interest also causing the securities to decline in value and an investor can lose principal. The strategy invests in mortgage-backed securities and asset-backed securities which are subject to the risks of prepayment, defaults, changing interest rates and, at times, the financial condition of the issuer. The strategy invests in repurchase agreements which are considered loans by the strategy and may suffer a loss of principal and interest in the event of counterparty defaults. The strategy invests in Collateralized Loan Obligations (CLOs) that have risks that largely depend on the type of underlying collateral and risks may include illiquidity, limited active market, the possibility that distributions from collateral securities will be insufficient to make interest or other payments, the potential for a decline in the quality of the collateral, and can bear the risk of default by the loans.

CONTACT

contactus@fortwashington.com

Fort Washington Investment Advisors, Inc.
A member of Western & Southern Financial Group

Uncompromised Focus®