



# **BrandywineGLOBAL - Corporate Credit Fund**

Class A: BCAAX Class I: BCGIX

Commentary | as of September 30, 2025

## **Key Takeaways**

- Markets: The U.S. fixed income market continued its ascent over the third quarter. Trade negotiations, questions tied to
  monetary policy, and geopolitical events were some of the factors impacting the market. The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate
  Bond Index gained 2.03%, raising its year-to-date return to 6.13%. U.S. investment-grade and high-yield credit spreads
  narrowed further, leading to positive total returns. Investment grade slightly outpaced high yield over the quarter,
  benefiting from lower yields along the longer end of the curve. Overall solid investor demand and falling U.S. yields were
  supportive of the credit market and kept spreads tight.
- Contributors: Security selection contributed to returns.
- **Detractors**: A lower duration position detracted from performance.
- Outlook: Spreads and yields have both generally come in markedly over the year. From these levels, investors should
  prepare for higher volatility and wider spreads, as it does not take as much to reintroduce some risk aversion to asset
  prices. Our objective is to be positioned to take advantage when this occurs.

#### **Performance Review**

- The strategy modestly underperformed its benchmark during the guarter.
- Our lower duration positioning was responsible for the bulk of the underperformance, especially relative to longer duration investment-grade credit, as Treasury yields moved lower and spreads tightened modestly.
- Our conviction in smaller, publicly traded issuers led to positive issue selection. Lower quality also outperformed over the
  period, with B-rated credits outperforming BB-rated credits by around 25 basis points, and CCC outperforming the broader
  market by 95 basis points.
- Some of our more challenged issuers, particularly in the retail and basic industry sectors, recovered well from their lows as bondholders collaborated with corporate management teams to offer financing solutions.
- It is increasingly important to have scale, size, and flexibility to achieve the best possible outcomes. We continue to work
  hard on select idiosyncratic situations with other bondholders, advisors and corporate management teams, and anticipate
  further recovery.

#### **Outlook**

- High-yield corporate credit continues to serve as a gateway between core bonds and stocks, offering higher income with reduced interest rate risk, stable fundamentals, and a well-diversified backdrop. A slower labor market has pushed the Federal Reserve (Fed) to resume rate cuts, which may move stock valuations higher and credit spreads lower, while also leading to declining base rates for loans. Defaults remain well below historic averages as fixed-rate coupons are serviced with nominal earnings that benefit from inflation, tax reforms, and tariff cost pass-throughs. However, the market has become increasingly bifurcated across issuer size and quality. The prevalence of liability management exercises (LMEs) in lieu of traditional bankruptcies presents an opportunity for active managers to receive better economic outcomes relative to smaller sized investors who are often more passive.
- Spreads and yields have both generally come in markedly over the year. From these levels, investors should prepare for higher volatility and wider spreads, as it does not take as much to reintroduce some risk aversion to asset prices. Our objective is to be positioned to take advantage when this occurs.

## Morningstar Rating™

Overall Rating as of September 30, 2025



(4-Star) Class A



(4-Star) Class I

As of 09/30/2025 the fund's Class I and Class A shares received a 4 star overall Morningstar rating  $^{\text{TM}}$ , measuring risk-adjusted returns against 586, 547 and 439 High Yield Bond funds over the 3-, 5- and 10- year periods, respectively. A fund's overall rating is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its 3-, 5- and 10-year (if applicable) rating metrics.

<b>Fund Characteristics</b>	Fund
Distribution Frequency	Monthly
30-Day SEC Yield (Class A)—With Waiver	5.45%
30-Day SEC Yield (Class A)—Without Waiver	5.45%

## Average annual total returns and fund expenses (%) - as of September 30, 2025

			Without Sales Charge						With Maximum Sales Charge							Expenses		Sales Charges		Inception	
Class	CUSIP	Ticker	3-Мо	YTD	1-Yr	3-Yr	5-Yr	10-Yr	Inception	3-Мо	YTD	1-Yr	3-Yr	5-Yr	10-Yr	Inception	Gross	Net	Initial Charge	CDSC	Date
Class A	52472T783	BCAAX	2.29	4.60	6.07	10.15	5.20	6.15	6.49	-1.54	0.72	2.06	8.75	4.45	5.77	6.33	0.84	0.83	3.75	_	9/30/2002
Class I	52472T775	BCGIX	2.35	4.77	6.30	10.43	5.47	6.44	6.78	2.35	4.77	6.30	10.43	5.47	6.44	6.78	0.61	0.60	_	_	9/30/2002
Benchmark 1	_	_	2.61	6.97	4.36	7.75	1.26	3.68	_	2.61	6.97	4.36	7.75	1.26	3.68	_	_	_	_	_	_
Benchmark 2	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_

### Benchmark(s)

Benchmark 1=ICE BofA US Corporate & High Yield Index

Benchmark 2=Consumer Price Index- All Urban Consumers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics +3% annual risk premium

Performance data quoted represents past performance, which does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the figures shown. Principal value and investment returns will fluctuate, and investors' shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than the original cost. Performance would have been lower if fees had not been waived in various periods. Total returns assume the reinvestment of all distributions and the deduction of all fund expenses. Returns with sales charge reflect a deduction of the stated maximum sales charge. An investor cannot invest directly in an index, and unmanaged index returns do not reflect any fees, expenses or sales charges. Returns for periods of less than one year are not annualized. All classes of shares may not be available to all investors or through all distribution channels. For current month-end performance, please visit franklintempleton.com. Net expenses are the fund's total annual operating expenses as of the fund's prospectus available at the time of publication. Actual expenses may be higher and may impact portfolio returns. Net expenses reflect contractual fee waivers, expense caps and/or reimbursements, which cannot be terminated prior to 12/31/2026 without Board consent. Additional amounts may be voluntarily waived and/or reimbursed and may be modified or discontinued at any time without notice.

Maximum sales charges have been updated as of August 15, 2022, please refer the Fund's prospectus for more information.

## What are the Risks?

All investments involve risks, including possible loss of principal. Fixed income securities involve interest rate, credit, inflation and reinvestment risks, and possible loss of principal. As interest rates rise, the value of fixed income securities falls. Changes in the credit rating of a bond, or in the credit rating or financial strength of a bond's issuer, insurer or guarantor, may affect the bond's value. Low-rated, high-yield bonds are subject to greater price volatility, illiquidity and possibility of default. Active management does not ensure gains or protect against market declines. These and other risks are discussed in the fund's prospectus.

#### Glossary

A basis point (bp, or bps) is one one-hundredth of one percent (1/100% or 0.01%).

**Duration** is a measure of the sensitivity of a bond's price to changes in interest rates.

Investment grade is a rating that indicates that a municipal or corporate bond has a relatively low risk of default. BBB is medium credit quality rating.

#### **Important Information**

The information provided is not a complete analysis of every material fact regarding any country, market, industry, security or fund. Because market and economic conditions are subject to change, comments, opinions and analyses are rendered as of the date of this material and may change without notice. A portfolio manager's assessment of a particular security, investment or strategy is not intended as individual investment advice or a recommendation or solicitation to buy, sell or hold any security or to adopt any investment strategy; it is intended only to provide insight into the fund's portfolio selection process. Holdings are subject to change.

The performance in the accompanying chart and table is that of the Predecessor. The fund acquired the assets and liabilities of Diamond Hill Corporate Credit Fund, a series of the Diamond Hill Funds (the "Predecessor Fund") on July 30, 2021. The investment policies, portfolio managers objectives, guidelines and restrictions of the fund are in all material respects equivalent to those of the Predecessor. The performance information reflects the expenses of the Predecessor adjusted to reflect the fees and expenses of the new fund, however, the 30-Day SEC Yields shown reflect the fees and expenses of the Predecessor. The performance is shown net of annual management fees and other expenses. Historical performance for Class C and IS shares prior to their inception is based on the performance of Class A shares (which is, in turn, based on the performance of Investor shares of the Predecessor Fund), adjusted to reflect differences in sales charges.

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) is a monthly measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. The ICE BofA US Corporate & High Yield Index is comprised of U.S. dollar denominated investment grade and below investment grade corporate debt publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market. Source: The index data referenced herein is the property of Intercontinental Exchange ("ICE") and/or its licensors and has been licensed for use by Franklin Templeton. ICE and its licensors accept no liability in connection with this use.

Important data provider notices and terms available at www.franklintempletondatasources.com. All data is subject to change.

The **30-day SEC yield** is calculated using the net income (interest and dividends) per share earned over a trailing 30-day period (annualized), divided by the fund's share price at the end of that period. It may not equal the fund's actual income distribution rate, which reflects the fund's past dividends paid to shareholders.

Morningstar Rating™: Source: Morningstar®, 09/30/2025. For each mutual fund and ETF with at least a 3-year history, Morningstar calculates a Morningstar Rating™ based on how a fund ranks on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure against other funds in the same category. This measure takes into account variations in a fund's monthly performance, and does not take into account the effects of sales charges and loads, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of funds in each category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The weights are: 100% 3-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% 5-year rating/40% 3-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% 5-year rating/20% 3-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent 3-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods. The fund's Class A shares received a Morningstar Rating of 3, 3 and 5 star(s) for the 3-, 5- and 10-year periods, respectively. Franklin Templeton provides this fund's Morningstar Rating™ for Class A and Class I shares only. Other share classes may have different Morningstar ratings.

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Before investing, carefully consider a fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. You can find this and other information in each prospectus, or summary prospectus, if available, at www.franklintempleton.com. Please read it carefully.

