

# Western Asset Inflation-Linked Income Fund

**Product Commentary** 

## **Performance Review**

- Economic uncertainties triggered a flight to quality during the first quarter of 2025, driving U.S. Treasury yields lower and their prices higher. The economy continued to expand, while inflation remained higher than the Federal Reserve's ("Fed") 2% target. Meanwhile, President Trump's plans for new reciprocal tariffs on U.S. imports led to concerns of rising inflation. All told, both short- and long-term Treasury yields declined and the overall U.S. bond market, as measured by the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index, returned 2.78% during the first quarter.
- For the quarter, the fund returned 5.45% at NAV, while the benchmarks, the Bloomberg U.S. Govt Inflation-Linked 1-10Yrs and Bloomberg U.S. Govt Inflation-Linked All Maturities, returned 3.93% and 4.16%, respectively.

## **QUARTERLY KEY PERFORMANCE DRIVERS**

- Interest rate positioning in aggregate had a positive impact on performance as the yield curve steepened.
- Emerging market exposures also were additive for returns.
- In addition, corporate credit exposures in aggregate were additive for results, due to positive subsector and issue selection even as spreads widened.
- The Fund's duration positioning was beneficial as real yields ended the quarter lower.
- In terms of detractors, TIPS exposures were a headwind for returns.

## **Outlook & Strategy**

- The disinflationary trend may be interrupted as tariffs and retaliatory actions are implemented, but we expect inflation to move lower again over the longer term. Monetary policy remains restrictive. We expect central banks will continue to cut rates modestly in 2025. The Fed remains well positioned to provide support if the U.S. economy falters. Public debt levels continue to rise and yield curves may steepen given concerns over fiscal policies globally.
- We see pockets of opportunity in developed market rates in Europe, the UK and Australia. While the overall uncertainty in the market environment
  necessitates caution, we do see some longer-term value opportunities in emerging market local currency debt. Spread sector fundamentals remain
  supportive, but valuations reflect those fundamentals and credit spreads persist at below historical averages. We continue to find opportunities within
  spread sectors and related securities, while remaining tactical. Developed market duration provides useful diversification to offset potential macro and
  political risks going forward.

#### **Product Details**

Inception Date	09/30/2003
Benchmark	Bloomberg U.S. Govt Inflation-Linked 1-10Yrs, Bloomberg U.S. Govt Inflation-Linked All Maturities
Ticker	WIA
CUSIP	95766Q106

## **Product Description**

Provides a leveraged portfolio investing at least 80% in inflation-linked securities, consisting primarily of U.S. Treasury Inflation Protected Securities "TIPS", with the ability to invest in other fixed-income assets including high-yield, emerging markets, structured products, commodities and currency. Seeks current income, with a secondary investment objective of capital appreciation. Emphasizes team management and extensive credit research expertise to identify attractively priced securities.

#### **Performance Data**

## Average Annual Total Returns1 (%)

	1 Mth	3 Mths	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception (09/26/2003)
Western Asset Inflation- Linked Income Fund (NAV Returns) <sup>a</sup>	1.01	5.45	5.73	-1.80	3.56	2.32	3.11
Western Asset Inflation- Linked Income Fund (Market Price Return) <sup>a</sup>	1.23	6.30	10.38	-1.01	5.27	3.47	2.94
Bloomberg U.S. Govt Inflation-Linked 1-10Yrs	0.97	3.93	6.99	1.86	3.47	2.84	3.48
Bloomberg U.S. Govt Inflation-Linked All Maturities	0.53	4.16	6.11	-0.17	2.22	2.49	3.76

Performance shown represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be higher or lower than the performance shown. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than the original cost. Returns based on Market Price or NAV, and assume the reinvestment of all distributions at the Dividend Reinvestment Plan Price or NAV, respectively. All returns include the deduction of management fees, operating expenses and all other fund expenses, and do not reflect the deduction of brokerage commissions or taxes that investors may pay on distributions or the sale of shares. When applicable, performance would have been lower if fees had not been waived in various periods. The index is unmanaged and includes reinvestment of any income or distributions. It does not reflect any fees, expenses or sales charges. One cannot invest directly in an index, and an index is not representative of the fund's portfolio. Index data is provided for comparison purposes only. The fund is not managed against an index. Returns for periods of less than one year are not annualized. Please visit franklintempleton.com for the most recent month-end performance.

The total annual operating expenses are as of the fund's annual report available at the time of publication. Actual expenses may be higher and may impact portfolio returns. **NAV** is total assets less total liabilities divided by the number of shares outstanding. **Market Price**, determined by supply and demand, is the price an investor purchases or sells the fund. The Market Price may differ from a fund's NAV. **Premium / Discount** reflects the difference between the NAV and the Market Price of the fund, and represents the amount that the fund is trading above or below its NAV, expressed as a percentage of the NAV.

The **Bloomberg U.S. Government Inflation-Linked 1-10 Year Index** measures the performance of the intermediate U.S. TIPS market. Source: Bloomberg Indices.

The **Bloomberg U.S. Government Inflation-Linked All Maturities Index** measures the performance of the U.S. TIPS market. The Index includes TIPS with one or more years remaining maturity with total outstanding issue size of \$500 million or more. Source: Bloomberg Indices.

# **Investment Team**

Western Asset is one of the world's leading active fixed-income managers, delivering long-term fundamental value investment solutions to clients for over half a century. Founded in 1971, Western Asset offers clients deep expertise across the range of global fixed-income sectors from nine offices located in key financial markets.

1. Periods shorter than one year are shown as cumulative total returns.

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# 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. Low-rated, high-yield bonds are subject to greater price volatility, illiquidity and possibility of default. The fund is subject to the additional risks associated with inflation-linked securities, including liquidity risk, prepayment risk, extension risk and deflation risk. International investments are subject to special risks, including currency fluctuations and social, economic and political uncertainties, which could increase volatility. These risks are magnified in emerging markets. Currency management strategies could result in losses to the fund if currencies do not perform as expected. Derivative instruments can be illiquid, may disproportionately increase losses, and have a potentially large impact on performance. Commodity-related investments are subject to additional risks such as commodity index volatility, investor speculation, interest rates, weather, tax and regulatory developments. Asset-backed, mortgage-backed or mortgage-related securities are subject to prepayment and extension risks. Leverage increases the volatility of investment returns and subjects investments to magnified losses and a decline in value.

# **Important Legal 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.

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a. Gross expenses are the fund's total annual operating expenses as of the fund's annual report available at the time of publication. Actual expenses may be higher and may impact portfolio returns. Net expenses reflect voluntary fee waivers, expense caps and/or reimbursements. Voluntary waivers may be modified or discontinued at any time without notice.

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