FRANKLIN TEMPLETON | WESTERN ASSET

# Western Asset Inflation-Linked Income Fund

**WIA** **Commentary | as of September 30, 2026**

## Key Takeaways

- **Markets:** During the third quarter, global markets remained heavily influenced by developments in the Middle East, as repeated military escalations and disruptions to global energy supplies drove renewed inflation concerns and a significant repricing of the interest-rate outlook. As a result, risk assets generally underperformed, aside from AI-related winners.
- **Contributors:** Yield-curve positioning, investment-grade credit, emerging market (EM) debt, commodities and structured products
- Detractors: Duration positioning, Treasury inflation-protected securities (TIPS), high-yield corporate credit
- **Outlook:** Global fixed-income markets are navigating heightened uncertainty driven by geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, rapid technological change and increased scrutiny of private credit markets. Energy-related supply disruptions have lifted near-term inflation and triggered a sharp reset in market expectations for central bank policy, with investors pricing rate hikes rather than the cuts anticipated earlier in the year.

## Performance Review

- Yield-curve positioning was a contributor, mostly benefiting from the underweight to the 5-year part of the curve, which underperformed.
- Tactical TIPS positioning was a modest detractor.
- Allocation to investment-grade credit contributed due to security selection.
- Allocation to high-yield credit detracted as spreads widened.
- EM debt allocation was a contributor due to security selection.
- Commodities exposure was a contributor, mainly due to a long position in copper.
- Structured product allocation contributed as spreads generally tightened.
- Duration positioning netted to a detractor.

## Outlook

- While near-term inflation pressures are evident, longer-term inflation expectations remain well anchored, and we believe the magnitude of the recent rate repricing may be somewhat overdone.
- Global growth is expected to moderate, with the US remaining relatively more resilient than other regions due to energy independence, fiscal support and strong underlying fundamentals.
- Despite tight valuations across spread sectors, credit fundamentals remain supportive.
- We favor selectively adding short-end duration and taking advantage of high-quality opportunities in corporate new issuance, AI-related financing activity and select areas of securitized credit, including commercial mortgage-backed securities and collateralized loan obligations.

| Fund Characteristics | Fund |
|---|---|
| Distribution Frequency | Monthly |



Not FDIC Insured | No Bank Guarantee | May Lose Value

## Average annual total returns (%) - as of September 30, 2026

| Product | Ticker | Listed Exchange | 3-Mo* | 6-Mo* | YTD* | 1-Yr | 3-Yr | 5-Yr | 10-Yr | Inception | Inception Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Market Price Return | WIA | NYSE - XNYS | -4.54 | -2.09 | -2.52 | -2.45 | 6.78 | -1.49 | 3.22 | 2.84 | 9/26/2003 |
| NAV Returns | — | — | -3.21 | -1.86 | -1.69 | -1.41 | 4.49 | -1.40 | 2.27 | 2.99 | 9/26/2003 |
| Benchmark 1 | — | — | -2.14 | -1.45 | -0.82 | -0.52 | 4.49 | 1.54 | 2.70 | 3.36 | — |
| Benchmark 2 | — | — | -3.34 | -2.45 | -2.24 | -2.16 | 3.65 | -0.22 | 2.09 | 3.53 | — |

*Cumulative total returns

## Benchmark(s)

Benchmark 1=Bloomberg U.S. Govt Inflation-Linked 1-10Yrs

Benchmark 2=Bloomberg U.S. Govt Inflation-Linked All Maturities

***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. An investor cannot invest directly in an index, and unmanaged index returns do not reflect any fees, expense or sales charges. Returns for periods of less than one year are not annualized. Please visit franklintempleton.com for the most recent month-end performance.*

The difference between total assets and net assets, if any, is due primarily to the fund's use of borrowings and other liabilities; netassets do not include borrowings. The fund may employ leverage in the form of loans, preferred stock, reverse repurchase agreementsand/or other instruments. When the fund engages in transactions that have a leveraging effect on the fund's portfolio, the value of thefund will be more volatile and all other risks will tend to be compounded.

## 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.

## Glossary

A **collateralized loan obligation (CLO)** is a single security backed by a pool of debt.

**Commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS)** are a type of mortgage-backed security backed by commercial mortgages rather than residential real estate. CMBS tend to be more complex and volatile than residential mortgage-backed securities due to the unique nature of the underlying property assets.

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

## 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.

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

Source: Bloomberg Indices.

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