



**Separately Managed Accounts** 

# Western Asset Corporate Bond Ladders

3Q 2025

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# Your trusted partner for what's ahead™



### For our clients, we are:



# At-a-glance

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75+	years of asset management
	experience
\$1.6tn	total assets under management <sup>1</sup>
	. , ,
40	investment managers added to our
10	platform since 2019
	investment
1,600+	professionals in
1,000	25+ countries
150	countries with clients

# Investment specialisation across public and private markets

Multi-Asset

Managed Volatility Model Portfolios Target Date Target Risk

**Target Volatility** 

Balanced Income

\$194.4



### **Our Investment Capabilities (USD Billion)**

Equity	\$685.9	Fixed Income	\$438.5
Emerging/Frontier		Bank Loans	
Global		Corporate Credit	
Preferred/Convertibles		Currencies	
Sector		Government	
Shariah		Multi-Sector	
Single Country Equity		Municipals	
Thematic		Securitised	
US Equity		Sustainable Bonds	

Alternatives	<b>\$263</b> .
Alternative Credit	
Digital Assets	
Hedged Strategies	
Private Equity	
Real Estate	
Secondaries	

# Complemented by innovations in

Venture Capital

Sustainable and Impact investing, ETFs, Custom Indexing, Frontier Risk Alternatives, and others

Our Investment Managers	Asset Classes
Franklin Templeton (1947)	• • •
Alcentra (2002)	
Benefit Street Partners (2008)	
Brandywine Global (1986)	• •
Clarion Partners (1982)	
ClearBridge Investments (2005)	
Lexington Partners (1994)	
Putnam Investments (1937)	
Royce Investment Partners (1972)	
Western Asset (1971)	

3

<sup>1.</sup> AUM is in USD as of 30 September 2025.

## Western Asset Management Approach and Philosophy



Western Asset is a global investment management firm committed to understanding the needs of each client, identifying investment solutions, and delivering superior long-term investment results

#### **Team-managed** approach

- · Team unites groups of specialists dedicated to different market sectors
- · Each group of sector specialists utilizes its expertise in bottom-up analysis of each portfolio sector

#### **Investment Philosophy Objective-Driven** Long-term, fundamental value discipline

- Bottom-up
- Top-down

#### Diversified strategies

- · Depth of resources
- Global

#### Integrated analytics and risk management

- · Relative value analysis
- · Transparency and communication

## **Investing** Seeks to:

- Protect from rising rates
- Protect from inflation
- · Preserve capital
- · Diversify globally
- · Hedge liabilities
- Enhance income
- · Generate tax-free income
- Generate total return
- · Achieve ESG objectives

#### Core Fixed Income

- Intermediate
- Core
- · Core Full Discretion
- Investment-Grade Credit
- · Agency Mortgage-Backed

#### Generate Total Return

- Total Return Unconstrained
- · Global Total Return
- Global Multi-Sector
- · Dynamic Fixed Income
- · Credit Opportunities
- MBS Opportunities
- Emerging Market

#### Enhance Income

- Short-Duration High Income
- · Emerging Markets Debt
- · High Yield
- · Diversified High Income
- Structured Products/REIT/ CLO

#### Increase Alpha

- · Global Credit Absolute Return
- Macro Opportunities

#### **Hedge Liabilities**

- Long Duration
- Long Credit
- · Liability-Driven Investing
- · Tail Risk Management

## Western Asset Corporate Bond Ladders Portfolios



#### Overview

The Western Asset Corporate Bond Ladders seeks to deliver income opportunities while preserving capital and reducing interest rate risk by investing in laddered corporate bonds. The strategy invests in a diversified portfolio of credit-monitored investment-grade corporate securities with equally weighted maturities from 1-5 years or 1-10 years.

#### **Objectives**

The strategy seeks to maintain a competitive level of income while preserving of principal by investing — and reinvesting — in a welldiversified portfolio of investment-grade corporate bonds with laddered maturities.

#### We believe:

- · Laddered portfolios may offer advantages over self-managed portfolios in creating a stable stream of income.
- · Ladders represent a disciplined approach that allows investors to manage changes in interest rates.
- · Credit monitoring may enhance income by providing opportunities to allocate across the full range of investmentgrade securities.
- · A diversified set of bonds with staggered maturities and coupon stream may provide continued opportunities for reinvestment.

#### **Key differentiators**

- · Team-managed approach.
  - o Team unites groups of specialists dedicated to different market sectors.
  - o Each group of specialists draws on its distinctive expertise in the bottom-up analysis of its respective sector.
- · In-depth bond research.
  - Looks across sectors and issues to select attractive income opportunities and ensure diversification when reinvesting cash flows.
- · Overseen by a fixed income leader.
  - o Access to a highly regarded proprietary credit research team in selecting and monitoring holdings.
  - Exclusive focus on fixed income management.
  - o Long tenure managing separately managed accounts in taxable and tax-exempt markets.

#### 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. 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.

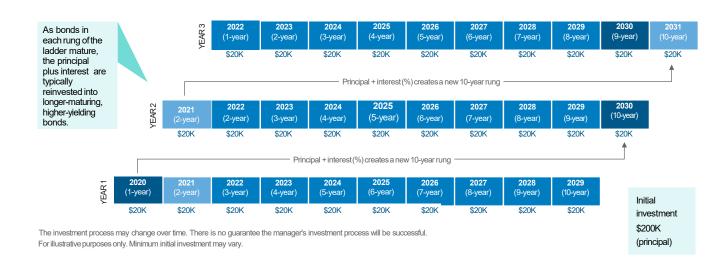
5

# Why invest in a Corporate Bond Ladders?



# How reinvesting can advance the ladder.

- Help minimize impact of rising rates by allowing bonds to roll down curve until maturity.
- May provide greater income from investing at potentially higher rates.
- May benefit from owning a well diversified portfolio of individual bonds, and ongoing professional credit monitoring.
- Tap in to institutional-caliber credit research and selection.



# Western Asset Corporate Bond Ladders Portfolios Investment process





#### Identify term structure of ladder

Term structure

- Purchase bonds maturing at regular intervals from 1-5 or 1-10 years<sup>1</sup>
- Hold securities to maturity and reinvest back out at longest maturity rung of ladder
- Manage reinvestment risk by staggering maturities and coupon streams across a diverse mix of sectors and issuers



# Identify attractive sectors and industries

Sector and issue decision

- Employ in-depth research to uncover yield opportunities across the investment-grade rating spectrum
- Winnow portfolio candidates using proprietary credit analysis



# **Build portfolio from credit-monitored** approved list

#### Review/sell process

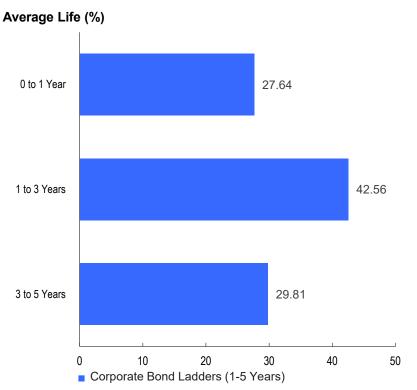
- Monitor credits constantly, despite intent to hold all securities until maturity
- Re-examine whether a particular investment should continue to be held when the issuer's ability to pay the coupon or repay upon maturity is in doubt

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Other options may be available.

# **Corporate Bond Ladders (1-5 Years) portfolio characteristics**



As of 9/30/2025



Credit Quality (%)	Corporate Bond Ladders (1-5 Years)		
AA	22.66		
A	59.84		
BBB	17.50		

Characteristics (%)	Corporate Bond Ladders (1-5 Years)
Effective Duration	2.10 Years
Yield to Worst	4.10%
Current Yield	3.40%
Weighted Average Life	2.29 Years
Cash Flow	4.06%

Credit quality is a measure of a bond issuer's ability to repay interest and principal in a timely manner. The credit ratings shown are based on each portfolio security's rating as provided by the following Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations ("NRSRO"): Standard and Poor's ("S&P"), Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's"), Fitch Ratings, Ltd. In the event a portfolio security is rated by more than one NRSRO, the higher rating is shown. In the case where a security is not rated by an NRSRO, these are listed as "Non Rated". The credit quality of the investments in the Portfolio does not apply to the stability or safety of the Portfolio. These ratings may change over time. The Portfolio itself has not been rated by an NRSRO.

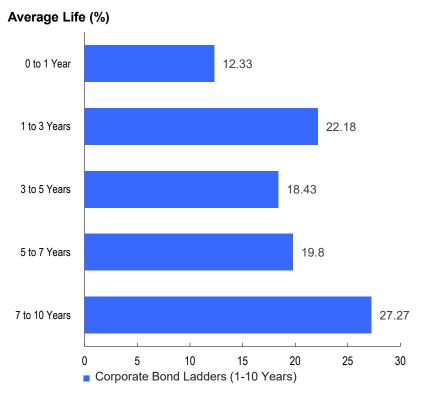
Source: BondEdge. Portfolio characteristics are based on a representative account and are subject to change at any time. Portfolio characteristics of individual client portfolios in the program may differ, sometimes significantly, from those shown above. **Please see appendix for term definitions.** This information does not constitute, and should not be construed as, investment advice or recommendations with respect to the credit qualities or maturity structures listed and should not be used as a sole basis to make any investment decisions.

Current Yield is calculated without the deduction of fees and expenses.

# Corporate Bond Ladders (1-10 Years) portfolio characteristics



### As of 9/30/2025



Credit Quality (%)	Corporate Bond Ladders (1-10 Years)		
AAA	2.49		
AA	24.62		
A	51.88		
BBB	21.02		

Characteristics (%)	Corporate Bond Ladders (1-10 Years)		
Effective Duration	4.09 Years		
Yield to Worst	4.29%		
Current Yield	3.78%		
Weighted Average Life	4.77 Years		
Cash Flow	4.25%		

Credit quality is a measure of a bond issuer's ability to repay interest and principal in a timely manner. The credit ratings shown are based on each portfolio security's rating as provided by the following Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations ("NRSRO"): Standard and Poor's ("S&P"), Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's"), Fitch Ratings, Ltd. In the event a portfolio security is rated by more than one NRSRO, the higher rating is shown. In the case where a security is not rated by an NRSRO, these are listed as "Non Rated". The credit quality of the investments in the Portfolio does not apply to the stability or safety of the Portfolio. These ratings may change over time. The Portfolio itself has not been rated by an NRSRO.

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## **Investment management team**



Western Asset Management is one of the world's leading global fixed income managers. Founded in 1971, the firm is known for team management and proprietary research, supported by robust risk management and a long-term fundamental value approach.

### **Definitions**



#### **Term Definitions**

**Maturity** is the date at which a debt instrument is due and payable. A bond due to mature on January 1, 2025, will return the bondholder's principal and final interest payment when it reaches maturity on that date. Bond yields are frequently calculated on a yield-to-maturity basis.

**Duration (Modified Duration)** is the measure of the price sensitivity of a fixed income security to an interest rate change of 100 basis points. Calculation is based on the weighted average of the present values for all cash flows.

Yield to Worst (YTW) is based on a portfolio's current holdings on one specific day, is gross of all portfolio expenses, and is calculated based on assumptions that prepayment occurs if the bond has called or put provisions, and the issuer can offer a lower coupon rate based on current market rates. If market rates are higher than the current yield of a bond, the YTW calculation will assume no prepayments are made, and YTW will equal the yield to maturity. The YTW will be the lowest of yield to maturity or yield to call (if the bond has prepayment provisions). The YTW of a bond portfolio is the market-weighted average of the YTWs of all the bonds in the portfolio. Yield to Worst is calculated without the deduction of fees and expenses.

**Insured** municipal bonds are ones where scheduled interest and principal payments are guaranteed by AAA-rated municipal bond insurers.

**General Obligation** municipal bonds are backed by the credit and taxing power of the issuing jurisdiction rather than the revenue of a given project.

**Revenue** bonds are municipal bonds supported by the revenue from a specific project.

**Pre-refunded** bonds are municipal bonds that are generally backed or secured by U.S. Treasury bonds.

**Effective Duration** is a duration calculation for bonds with embedded options. Effective duration takes into account that expected cash flows will fluctuate as interest rates change.

**Average Maturity** is the average length of maturity for all fixed-rate debt instruments held in a portfolio.

**Average Coupon** based on the portfolio's underlying holdings, which may differ and are subject to change. Coupon rate is the annual coupon payments paid by the issuer relative to a bond's face or par value. **Average Coupon is calculated without the deduction of fees and expenses.** 

Yield to Maturity - The rate of return anticipated on a bond if it is held until the maturity date. The calculation of YTM takes into account the current market price, par value, coupon interest rate and time to maturity. Yield to Maturity is calculated without the deduction of fees and expenses.

**Weighted Average Life** - An estimate of the number of years to maturity, taking the possibility of early payments into account, for the underlying holdings.

The **Sharpe Ratio** is a risk-adjusted measure that is calculated using standard deviation and excess return to determine reward per unit of risk. The higher the Sharpe Ratio, the better the portfolio's historical adjusted performance.

**Alpha** is a measure of the difference between actual returns and expected performance, given the level of risk as measured by **Beta**, where Beta measures sensitivity to benchmark movements.

**R-Squared** measures the strength of the linear relationship between the portfolio and its benchmark. R-squared at 1.0 implies perfect linear relationship and zero implies no relationship exists.

**Standard Deviation** is a measure of the variability of returns; the higher the standard deviation, the greater the range of performance (i.e., volatility).

The **Capture Ratios** measure a manager's composite performance relative to the benchmark, considering only those months that are either positive (Up) or negative (Down) for the benchmark.

An **Up-Market Capture Ratio** greater than 1.0 indicates a manager who has outperformed the benchmark in the benchmark's positive months.

A **Down-Market Capture Ratio** of less than 1.0 indicates a manager who has outperformed the relative benchmark in the benchmark's negative months.



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- Over 75 years of experience in identifying opportunities and delivering investment solutions to clients.

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