

Morningstar Category Classification Definitions & Investment Definitions

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Morningstar Category Classification Definitions:

U.S. Equity:

Large Value

Large-value portfolios invest primarily in big U.S. companies that are less expensive or growing more slowly than other large-cap stocks. Stocks in the top 70% of the capitalization of the U.S. equity market are defined as large-cap. Value is defined based on low valuations (low price ratios and high dividend yields) and slow growth (low growth rates for earnings, sales, book value, and cash flow).

Large Blend

Large-blend portfolios are fairly representative of the overall U.S. stock market in size, growth rates, and price. Stocks in the top 70% of the capitalization of the U.S. equity market are defined as large-cap. The blend style is assigned to portfolios where neither growth nor value characteristics predominate. These portfolios tend to invest across the spectrum of U.S. industries, and owing to their broad exposure, the portfolios' returns are often similar to those of the S&P 500 Index.

Large Growth

Large-growth portfolios invest in big U.S. companies that are projected to grow faster than other large-cap stocks. Stocks in the top 70% of the capitalization of the U.S. equity market are defined as large-cap. Growth is defined based on fast growth (high growth rates for earnings, sales, book value, and cash flow) and high valuations (high price ratios and low dividend yields). Most of these portfolios focus on companies in rapidly expanding industries.

Mid-Cap Value

Some mid-cap value portfolios focus on medium-size companies while others land here because they own a mix of small-, mid-, and large-cap stocks. All look for U.S. stocks that are less expensive or growing more slowly than the market. The U.S. mid-cap range for market capitalization typically falls between \$1 billion-\$8 billion and represents 20% of the total capitalization of the U.S. equity market. Value is defined based on low valuations (low price ratios and high dividend yields) and slow growth (low growth rates for earnings, sales, book value, and cash flow).

Mid-Cap Blend

The typical mid-cap blend portfolio invests in U.S. stocks of various sizes and styles, giving it a middle-of-the-road profile. Most shy away from high-priced growth stocks, but aren't so price conscious that they land in value territory. The U.S. mid-cap range for market capitalization typically falls between \$1 billion-\$8 billion and represents 20% of the total capitalization of the U.S. equity market. The blend style is assigned to portfolios where neither growth nor value characteristics predominate.

Mid-Cap Growth

Some mid-cap growth portfolios invest in stocks of all sizes, thus leading to a mid-cap profile, but others focus on midsize companies. Mid-cap growth portfolios target U.S. firms that are projected to grow faster than other mid-cap stocks, therefore commanding relatively higher prices. The U.S. mid-cap range for market capitalization typically falls between \$1 billion-\$8 billion and represents 20% of the total capitalization of the U.S. equity market. Growth is defined based on fast growth (high growth rates for earnings, sales, book value, and cash flow) and high valuations (high price ratios and low dividend yields).

Small Value

Small-value portfolios invest in small U.S. companies with valuations and growth rates below other small-cap peers. Stocks in the bottom 10% of the capitalization of the U.S. equity market are defined as small-cap. Value is defined based on low valuations (low price ratios and high dividend yields) and slow growth (low growth rates for earnings, sales, book value, and cash flow).

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Small Blend

Small-blend portfolios favor U.S. firms at the smaller end of the market-capitalization range. Some aim to own an array of value and growth stocks while others employ a discipline that leads to holdings with valuations and growth rates close to the small-cap averages. Stocks in the bottom 10% of the capitalization of the U.S. equity market are defined as small-cap. The blend style is assigned to portfolios where neither growth nor value characteristics predominate.

Small Growth

Small-growth portfolios focus on faster-growing companies whose shares are at the lower end of the market-capitalization range. These portfolios tend to favor companies in up-and-coming industries or young firms in their early growth stages. Because these businesses are fast growing and often richly valued, their stocks tend to be volatile. Stocks in the bottom 10% of the capitalization of the U.S. equity market are defined as small-cap. Growth is defined based on fast growth (high growth rates for earnings, sales, book value, and cash flow) and high valuations (high price ratios and low dividend yields).

International Equity:

Foreign Large Value

Foreign large-value portfolios invest mainly in big international stocks that are less expensive or growing more slowly than other large-cap stocks. Most of these portfolios divide their assets among a dozen or more developed markets, including Japan, Britain, France, and Germany. These portfolios primarily invest in stocks that have market caps in the top 70% of each economically integrated market (such as Europe or Asia ex-Japan). Value is defined based on low valuations (low price ratios and high dividend yields) and slow growth (low growth rates for earnings, sales, book value, and cash flow). These portfolios typically will have less than 20% of assets invested in U.S. stocks.

Foreign Large Blend

Foreign large-blend portfolios invest in a variety of big international stocks. Most of these portfolios divide their assets among a dozen or more developed markets, including Japan, Britain, France, and Germany. These portfolios primarily invest in stocks that have market caps in the top 70% of each economically integrated market (such as Europe or Asia ex-Japan). The blend style is assigned to portfolios where neither growth nor value characteristics predominate. These portfolios typically will have less than 20% of assets invested in U.S. stocks.

Foreign Large Growth

Foreign large-growth portfolios focus on high-priced growth stocks, mainly outside of the United States. Most of these portfolios divide their assets among a dozen or more developed markets, including Japan, Britain, France, and Germany. These portfolios primarily invest in stocks that have market caps in the top 70% of each economically integrated market (such as Europe or Asia ex-Japan). Growth is defined based on fast growth (high growth rates for earnings, sales, book value, and cash flow) and high valuations (high price ratios and low dividend yields). These portfolios typically will have less than 20% of assets invested in U.S. stocks.

Foreign Small/Mid Value

Foreign small-/mid-value portfolios invest in international stocks that are smaller and less expensive than other stocks. These portfolios primarily invest in stocks that fall in the bottom 30% of each economically integrated market (such as Europe or Asia ex-Japan). Value is defined based on low valuations (low price ratios and high dividend yields) and slow growth (low growth rates for earnings, sales, book value, and cash flow). These portfolios typically will have less than 20% of assets invested in U.S. stocks.

Foreign Small/Mid Blend

Foreign small-/mid-blend portfolios invest in a variety of international stocks that are smaller. These portfolios primarily invest in stocks that fall in the bottom 30% of each economically integrated market (such as Europe or Asia ex-Japan). The blend style is assigned to portfolios where neither growth nor value characteristics predominate. These portfolios typically will have less than 20% of assets invested in U.S. stocks.

Foreign Small/Mid Growth

Foreign small-/mid-growth portfolios invest in international stocks that are smaller, growing faster, and higher-priced than other stocks. These portfolios primarily invest in stocks that fall in the bottom 30% of each economically integrated market (such as Europe or Asia ex-Japan). Growth is defined based on fast growth (high growth rates for earnings, sales, book value, and cash flow) and high valuations (high price ratios and low dividend yields). These portfolios typically will have less than 20% of assets invested in U.S. stocks.

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World Stock

World-stock portfolios have few geographical limitations. It is common for these portfolios to invest the majority of their assets in the U.S., Europe, and Japan, with the remainder divided among the globe's smaller markets. These portfolios typically have 20%-60% of assets in U.S. stocks.

Europe Stock

Europe-stock portfolios invest at least 70% of total assets in equities and invest at least 75% of stock assets in Europe. Most of these portfolios emphasize the region's larger and more developed markets, including Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, France, and Switzerland. Many also invest in the region's smaller markets, including the emerging markets of eastern Europe.

Pacific/Asia ex-Japan Stock

Pacific/Asia ex-Japan stock portfolios cover a wide geographic range. Most of these portfolios focus on export-oriented nations such as Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, and Korea. These portfolios invest at least 70% of total assets in equities and invest at least 75% of stock assets in Pacific countries, with less than 10% in Japan.

Diversified Pacific/Asia

Diversified Pacific/Asia stock portfolios have a wider investment range than other Asia-oriented portfolios. These portfolios can invest throughout the Pacific Rim, including Australia and New Zealand. As a result, country weightings for these portfolios vary tremendously, though most retain some exposure to Japan and Hong Kong. These portfolios invest at least 70% of total assets in equities and invest at least 75% of stock assets in Pacific countries, including at least 10% in Japan.

China Region

China-region stock portfolios invest almost exclusively in stocks from China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. These portfolios invest at least 70% of total assets in equities and invest at least 75% of stock assets in one specific region or a combination of China, Taiwan, and/or Hong Kong.

Diversified Emerging Markets

Diversified emerging-markets portfolios tend to divide their assets among 20 or more nations, although they tend to focus on the emerging markets of Asia and Latin America rather than on those of the Middle East, Africa, or Europe. These portfolios invest predominantly in emerging market equities, but some funds also invest in both equities and fixed income investments from emerging markets.

Specialty / Alternative:

Convertibles

Convertible bond portfolios are designed to offer some of the capital-appreciation potential of stock portfolios while also supplying some of the safety and yield of bond portfolios. To do so, they focus on convertible bonds and convertible preferred stocks. Convertible bonds allow investors to convert the bonds into shares of stock, usually at a preset price. These securities thus act a bit like stocks and a bit like bonds.

Financial

Financial portfolios seek capital appreciation by investing primarily in equity securities of U.S. or non-U.S. financial-services companies, including banks, brokerage firms, insurance companies, and consumer credit providers.

Health

Health portfolios focus on the medical and health-care industries. Most invest in a range of companies, buying everything from pharmaceutical and medical-device makers to HMOs, hospitals, and nursing homes. A few portfolios concentrate on just one industry segment, such as service providers or biotechnology firms.

Equity Energy

Equity energy portfolios invest primarily in equity securities of U.S. or non-U.S. companies who conduct business primarily in energy-related industries. This includes and is not limited to companies in alternative energy, coal, exploration, oil and gas services, pipelines, natural gas services, and refineries.

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Natural Resources

Natural-resources portfolios focus on commodity-based industries such as energy, chemicals, minerals, and forest products in the United States or outside of the United States. Some portfolios invest across this spectrum to offer broad natural-resources exposure. Others concentrate heavily or even exclusively in specific industries. Portfolios that concentrate primarily in energy-related industries are part of the equity energy category.

Equity Precious Metals

Precious-metals portfolios focus on mining stocks, though some do own small amounts of gold bullion. Most portfolios concentrate on gold-mining stocks, but some have significant exposure to silver-, platinum-, and base-metal-mining stocks as well. Precious-metals companies are typically based in North America, Australia, or South Africa.

Real Estate

Real estate portfolios invest primarily in real estate investment trusts of various types. REITs are companies that develop and manage real estate properties. There are several different types of REITs, including apartment, factory-outlet, health-care, hotel, industrial, mortgage, office, and shopping center REITs. Some portfolios in this category also invest in real estate operating companies.

Global Real Estate

Global real estate portfolios invest primarily in non-U.S. real estate securities but may also invest in U.S. real estate securities. Securities that these portfolios purchase include: debt & equity securities, convertible securities, and securities issued by real estate investment trusts and REIT-like entities. Portfolios in this category also invest in real estate operating companies.

Technology

Technology portfolios buy high-tech businesses in the U.S. or outside of the U.S. Most concentrate on computer, semiconductor, software, networking, and Internet stocks. A few also buy medical-device and biotechnology stocks and some concentrate on a single technology industry.

Utilities

Utilities portfolios seek capital appreciation by investing primarily in equity securities of U.S. or non-U.S. public utilities including electric, gas, and telephone-service providers.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure equity funds invest more than 60% of their assets in stocks of companies engaged in infrastructure activities. Industries considered to be part of the infrastructure sector include: oil & gas midstream; waste management; airports; integrated shipping; railroads; shipping & ports; trucking; engineering & construction; infrastructure operations; and the utilities sector.

Energy Limited Partnership

Energy Limited Partnership funds invest a significant amount of their portfolio in energy master limited partnerships. These include but are not limited to limited partnerships specializing in midstream operations in the energy industry.

Commodities Broad Basket

Broad-basket portfolios can invest in a diversified basket of commodity goods including but not limited to grains, minerals, metals, livestock, cotton, oils, sugar, coffee, and cocoa. Investment can be made directly in physical assets or commodity-linked derivative instruments, such as commodity swap agreements.

Multialternative

These funds offer investors exposure to several different alternative investment tactics. Funds in this category have a majority of their assets exposed to alternative strategies. An investor's exposure to different tactics may change slightly over time in response to market movements. Funds in this category include both funds with static allocations to alternative strategies and funds tactically allocating among alternative strategies and asset classes. The gross short exposure is greater than 20%.

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Option Writing

These portfolios use options as a significant and consistent part of their overall investment strategy. Trading options may introduce asymmetric return properties to an equity investment portfolio. These investments may use a variety of strategies, including but not limited to: put writing, covered call writing, option spread, options-based hedged equity, and collar strategies. In addition, option writing funds may seek to generate a portion of their returns, either indirectly or directly, from the volatility risk premium associated with options trading strategies.

Market Neutral

These funds attempt to reduce systematic risk created by factors such as exposures to sectors, market-cap ranges, investment styles, currencies, and/or countries. They try to achieve this by matching short positions within each area against long positions. These strategies are often managed as beta-neutral, dollar-neutral, or sector-neutral. A distinguishing feature of funds in this category is that they typically have low beta exposures (< 0.3 in absolute value) to market indexes such as MSCI World. In attempting to reduce systematic risk, these funds put the emphasis on issue selection, with profits dependent on their ability to sell short and buy long the correct securities.

Allocation / Fund of Funds:

Target-Date Retirement

Target-Date Retirement portfolios provide a mix of stocks, bonds, and cash for those investors already in or entering retirement. These portfolios tend to be managed to more of a conservative asset-allocation strategy. These portfolios aim to provide investors with steady income throughout retirement.

Target Date 2000-2010

Target-date portfolios provide diversified exposure to stocks, bonds, and cash for those investors who have a specific date in mind (in this case, the years 2000-2010) for retirement. These portfolios aim to provide investors with an optimal level of return and risk, based solely on the target date. Management adjusts the allocation among asset classes to more-conservative mixes as the target date approaches, following a preset glide path. A target-date portfolio is part of a series of funds offering multiple retirement dates to investors.

Target-Date 2015

Target-date portfolios provide diversified exposure to stocks, bonds, and cash for those investors who have a specific date in mind (in this case, the years 2011-2015) for retirement. These portfolios aim to provide investors with an optimal level of return and risk, based solely on the target date. Management adjusts the allocation among asset classes to more-conservative mixes as the target date approaches, following a preset glide path. A target-date portfolio is part of a series of funds offering multiple retirement dates to investors.

Target-Date 2020

Target-date portfolios provide diversified exposure to stocks, bonds, and cash for those investors who have a specific date in mind (in this case, the years 2016-2020) for retirement. These portfolios aim to provide investors with an optimal level of return and risk, based solely on the target date. Management adjusts the allocation among asset classes to more-conservative mixes as the target date approaches, following a preset glide path. A target-date portfolio is part of a series of funds offering multiple retirement dates to investors.

Target-Date 2025

Target-date portfolios provide diversified exposure to stocks, bonds, and cash for those investors who have a specific date in mind (in this case, the years 2021-2025) for retirement. These portfolios aim to provide investors with an optimal level of return and risk, based solely on the target date. Management adjusts the allocation among asset classes to more-conservative mixes as the target date approaches, following a preset glide path. A target-date portfolio is part of a series of funds offering multiple retirement dates to investors.

Target-Date 2030

Target-date portfolios provide diversified exposure to stocks, bonds, and cash for those investors who have a specific date in mind (in this case, the years 2026-2030) for retirement. These portfolios aim to provide investors with an optimal level of return and risk, based solely on the target date. Management adjusts the allocation among asset classes to more-conservative mixes as the target date approaches, following a preset glide path. A target-date portfolio is part of a series of funds offering multiple retirement dates to investors.

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Target-Date 2035

Target-date portfolios provide diversified exposure to stocks, bonds, and cash for those investors who have a specific date in mind (in this case, the years 2031-2035) for retirement. These portfolios aim to provide investors with an optimal level of return and risk, based solely on the target date. Management adjusts the allocation among asset classes to more-conservative mixes as the target date approaches, following a preset glide path. A target-date portfolio is part of a series of funds offering multiple retirement dates to investors.

Target-Date 2040

Target-date portfolios provide diversified exposure to stocks, bonds, and cash for those investors who have a specific date in mind (in this case, the years 2036-2040) for retirement. These portfolios aim to provide investors with an optimal level of return and risk, based solely on the target date. Management adjusts the allocation among asset classes to more-conservative mixes as the target date approaches, following a preset glide path. A target-date portfolio is part of a series of funds offering multiple retirement dates to investors.

Target-Date 2045

Target-date portfolios provide diversified exposure to stocks, bonds, and cash for those investors who have a specific date in mind (in this case, the years 2041-2045) for retirement. These portfolios aim to provide investors with an optimal level of return and risk, based solely on the target date. Management adjusts the allocation among asset classes to more-conservative mixes as the target date approaches, following a preset glide path. A target-date portfolio is part of a series of funds offering multiple retirement dates to investors.

Target-Date 2050

Target-date portfolios provide diversified exposure to stocks, bonds, and cash for those investors who have a specific date in mind (in this case, the years 2046-2050) for retirement. These portfolios aim to provide investors with an optimal level of return and risk, based solely on the target date. Management adjusts the allocation among asset classes to more-conservative mixes as the target date approaches, following a preset glide path. A target-date portfolio is part of a series of funds offering multiple retirement dates to investors.

Target-Date 2055

Target-date portfolios provide a diversified exposure to stocks, bonds, and cash for those investors who have a specific date in mind (in this case, the years 2051-2055 and beyond) for retirement. These portfolios aim to provide investors with an optimal level of return and risk, based solely on the target date. Management adjusts the allocation among asset classes to more-conservative mixes as the target date approaches, following a preset glide path. A target-date portfolio is part of a series of funds offering multiple retirement dates to investors.

Target-Date 2060+

Target-date portfolios provide a diversified exposure to stocks, bonds, and cash for those investors who have a specific date in mind (in this case, the year 2060 and beyond) for retirement. These portfolios aim to provide investors with an optimal level of return and risk, based solely on the target date. Management adjusts the allocation among asset classes to more-conservative mixes as the target date approaches, following a preset glide path. A target-date portfolio is part of a series of funds offering multiple retirement dates to investors.

Allocation—15% to 30% Equity

Funds in allocation categories seek to provide both income and capital appreciation by investing in multiple asset classes, including stocks, bonds, and cash. These portfolios are dominated by domestic holdings and have equity exposures between 15% and 30%.

Allocation—30% to 50% Equity

Funds in allocation categories seek to provide both income and capital appreciation by investing in multiple asset classes, including stocks, bonds, and cash. These portfolios are dominated by domestic holdings and have equity exposures between 30% and 50%.

Allocation—50% to 70% Equity

Funds in allocation categories seek to provide both income and capital appreciation by investing in multiple asset classes, including stocks, bonds, and cash. These portfolios are dominated by domestic holdings and have equity exposures between 50% and 70%.

Allocation—70% to 85% Equity

Funds in allocation categories seek to provide both income and capital appreciation by investing in multiple asset classes, including stocks, bonds, and cash. These portfolios are dominated by domestic holdings and have equity exposures between 70% and 85%.

Morningstar Category Classification Definitions & Investment Definitions

Allocation—85%+ Equity

Funds in allocation categories seek to provide both income and capital appreciation by investing in multiple asset classes, including stocks, bonds, and cash. These portfolios are dominated by domestic holdings and have equity exposures of over 85%. These funds typically allocate at least 10% to equities of foreign companies and do not exclusively allocate between cash and equities.

World Allocation

World-allocation portfolios seek to provide both capital appreciation and income by investing in three major areas: stocks, bonds, and cash. While these portfolios do explore the whole world, most of them focus on the U.S., Canada, Japan, and the larger markets in Europe. It is rare for such portfolios to invest more than 10% of their assets in emerging markets. These portfolios typically have at least 10% of assets in bonds, less than 70% of assets in stocks, and at least 40% of assets in non-U.S. stocks or bonds.

Tactical Allocation

Tactical Allocation portfolios seek to provide capital appreciation and income by actively shifting allocations across investments. These portfolios have material shifts across equity regions, and bond sectors on a frequent basis. To qualify for the tactical allocation category, the fund must have minimum exposures of 10% in bonds and 20% in equity. Next, the fund must historically demonstrate material shifts in sector or regional allocations either through a gradual shift over three years or through a series of material shifts on a quarterly basis. Within a three-year period, typically the average quarterly changes between equity regions and bond sectors exceeds 15% or the difference between the maximum and minimum exposure to a single equity region or bond sector exceeds 50%.

Fixed Income:

Emerging Markets Bond

Emerging-markets bond portfolios invest more than 65% of their assets in foreign bonds from developing countries. The largest portion of the emerging-markets bond market comes from Latin America, followed by Eastern Europe. Africa, the Middle East, and Asia make up the rest.

World Bond

World bond portfolios invest 40% or more of their assets in foreign bonds. Some world bond portfolios follow a conservative approach, favoring high-quality bonds from developed markets. Others are more adventurous, and own some lower-quality bonds from developed or emerging markets. Some portfolios invest exclusively outside the U.S., while others regularly invest in both U.S. and non-U.S. bonds

High Yield Bond

High-yield bond portfolios concentrate on lower-quality bonds, which are riskier than those of higher-quality companies. These portfolios generally offer higher yields than other types of portfolios, but they are also more vulnerable to economic and credit risk. These portfolios primarily invest in U.S. high-income debt securities where at least 65% or more of bond assets are not rated or are rated by a major agency such as Standard & Poor's or Moody's at the level of BB (considered speculative for taxable bonds) and below.

Multisector Bond

Multisector bond portfolios seek income by diversifying their assets among several fixed income sectors, usually U.S. government obligations, U.S. corporate bonds, foreign bonds, and high-yield U.S. debt securities. These portfolios typically hold 35% to 65% of bond assets in securities that are not rated or are rated by a major agency such as Standard & Poor's or Moody's at the level of BB (considered speculative for taxable bonds) and below.

Long-Term Bond

Long-term bond portfolios invest primarily in corporate and other investment-grade U.S. fixed-income issues and typically have durations of more than 6.0 years. Because of their long durations, these portfolios are exposed to greater interest-rate risk. Morningstar calculates monthly breakpoints using the effective duration of the Morningstar Core Bond Index in determining duration assignment. Long-term is defined as 125% of the three-year average effective duration of the MCBI.

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Long Government

Long-government portfolios have at least 90% of their bond holdings invested in bonds backed by the U.S. government or by government-linked agencies. This backing minimizes the credit risk of these portfolios, as the U.S. government is unlikely to default on its debt. They are not risk-free, though. Because these portfolios have durations of typically more than 6.0 years, they are more sensitive to interest rates, and thus riskier, than portfolios that have shorter durations. Morningstar calculates monthly breakpoints using the effective duration of the Morningstar Core Bond Index in determining duration assignment. Long term is defined as 125% of the three-year average effective duration of the MCBI.

Intermediate-Term Bond

Intermediate-term bond portfolios invest primarily in corporate and other investment-grade U.S. fixed-income issues and typically have durations of 3.5 to 6.0 years. These portfolios are less sensitive to interest rates, and therefore less volatile, than portfolios that have longer durations. Morningstar calculates monthly breakpoints using the effective duration of the Morningstar Core Bond Index in determining duration assignment. Intermediate-term is defined as 75% to 125% of the three-year average effective duration of the MCBI.

Corporate Bond

Corporate Bond portfolios concentrate on bonds issued by corporations. These tend to have more credit risk than government or agency-backed bonds. These portfolios hold more than 65% of their assets in corporate bonds, hold less than 40% of their assets in foreign bonds, less than 35% in high yield bonds, and have an effective duration of more than 75% of the Morningstar Core Bond Index.

Intermediate Government

Intermediate-government portfolios have at least 90% of their bond holdings in bonds backed by the U.S. government or by government-linked agencies. This backing minimizes the credit risk of these portfolios, as the U.S. government is unlikely to default on its debt. These portfolios have durations typically between 3.5 and 6.0 years. Consequently, the group's performance--and its level of volatility--tends to fall between that of the short government and long government bond categories. Morningstar calculates monthly breakpoints using the effective duration of the Morningstar Core Bond Index in determining duration assignment. Intermediate is defined as 75% to 125% of the three-year average effective duration of the MCBI.

Inflation-Protected Bond

Inflation-protected bond portfolios invest primarily in debt securities that adjust their principal values in line with the rate of inflation. These bonds can be issued by any organization, but the U.S. Treasury is currently the largest issuer for these types of securities.

Short-Term Bond

Short-term bond portfolios invest primarily in corporate and other investment-grade U.S. fixed-income issues and typically have durations of 1.0 to 3.5 years. These portfolios are attractive to fairly conservative investors, because they are less sensitive to interest rates than portfolios with longer durations. Morningstar calculates monthly breakpoints using the effective duration of the Morningstar Core Bond Index in determining duration assignment. Short-term is defined as 25% to 75% of the three-year average effective duration of the MCBI.

Short Government

Short-government portfolios have at least 90% of their bond holdings in bonds backed by the U.S. government or by government-linked agencies. This backing minimizes the credit risk of these portfolios, as the U.S. government is unlikely to default on its debt. These portfolios have durations typically between 1.0 and 3.5 years, so they have relatively less sensitivity to interest rates and, thus, low risk potential. Morningstar calculates monthly breakpoints using the effective duration of the Morningstar Core Bond Index in determining duration assignment. Short is defined as 25% to 75% of the three-year average effective duration of the MCBI.

Ultrashort Bond

Ultrashort-bond portfolios invest primarily in investment-grade U.S. fixed-income issues and have durations typically of less than one year. This category can include corporate or government ultrashort bond portfolios, but it excludes international, convertible, multisector, and high-yield bond portfolios. Because of their focus on bonds with very short durations, these portfolios offer minimal interest-rate sensitivity and therefore low risk and total return potential. Morningstar calculates monthly breakpoints using the effective duration of the Morningstar Core Bond Index in determining duration assignment. Ultrashort is defined as 25% of the three-year average effective duration of the MCBI.

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Nontraditional Bond

The Nontraditional Bond category contains funds that pursue strategies divergent in one or more ways from conventional practice in the broader bond-fund universe. Many funds in this group describe themselves as "absolute return" portfolios, which seek to avoid losses and produce returns uncorrelated with the overall bond market; they employ a variety of methods to achieve those aims. Another large subset are self-described "unconstrained" portfolios that have more flexibility to invest tactically across a wide swath of individual sectors, including high-yield and foreign debt, and typically with very large allocations. Funds in the latter group typically have broad freedom to manage interest-rate sensitivity, but attempt to tactically manage those exposures in order to minimize volatility. The category is also home to a subset of portfolios that attempt to minimize volatility by maintaining short or ultra-short duration portfolios, but explicitly court significant credit and foreign bond market risk in order to generate high returns. Funds within this category often will use credit default swaps and other fixed income derivatives to a significant level within their portfolios.

Bank Loan

Bank-loan portfolios primarily invest in floating-rate bank loans instead of bonds. In exchange for their credit risk, these loans offer high interest payments that typically float above a common short-term benchmark such as the London Interbank Offered Rate, or LIBOR.

Stable Value

Stable-value portfolios seek to provide income while preventing price fluctuations. The most common stable-value portfolios invest in a diversified portfolio of bonds and enter into wrapper agreements with financial companies to guarantee against fluctuations in their share prices. These wrapper agreements typically provide price stability on a day-to-day basis, thereby insulating each portfolio's net asset value from interest-rate volatility. Therefore, the duration for each of these funds is essentially zero.

Money Market—Taxable

These portfolios invest in short-term money market securities in order to provide a level of current income that is consistent with the preservation of capital. These funds do not designate themselves as Prime in Form N-MFP.

Prime Money Market

These portfolios invest in short-term money market securities in order to provide a level of current income that is consistent with the preservation of capital. These funds designate themselves as Prime in Form N-MFP.

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Investment Definitions:

Alpha: The intercept value derived from the CAPM regression, or the difference between a Manager's performance and the Manager's expected performance given its market sensitivity or Beta. Alpha is used as a measure of value added by a Manager.

Down Market Capture: The percentage of the down market that was captured by the Manager calculated by using only periods where the market return is negative. A down market capture of less than 100% is considered desirable.

Up Market Capture: The percentage of the up market that was captured by the Manager calculated by using only periods where the market return is positive. An up market capture of greater than 100% is considered desirable.

Growth of \$100 Investment: The Growth of \$100 graph shows a fund's performance based on how \$100 invested in the fund would have grown over time with dividends reinvested. The returns used in the graph are not load-adjusted.

Performance vs. Peer Universe Chart: This chart compares the Manager's performance against the peer group over various annualized time horizons. The manager is represented by a dot and the peer group is represented by one of four quartile boxes, each one indicating a percentile range. Green represents the 5th percentile to 25th percentile of peers, Blue from the 25th percentile to the 50th percentile, Yellow from the 50th percentile to the 75th percentile, and Red from the 75th percentile to the 95th percentile.

R-Squared: Measures the percentage variability in the Manager's returns that can be explained by the Benchmark's returns.

Sharpe Ratio: A risk/return measure which indicates the Manager's excess return per unit of total risk as measured by Standard Deviation. It is the ratio of the Manager's returns in excess of the risk free rate to the Standard Deviation of the manager's returns in excess of the risk free rate.

Standard Deviation: A measure of the extent to which observations in a series vary from the arithmetic mean of the series. The Standard Deviation of a Manager, Benchmark or Index series measures the volatility, or risk of the asset. The more volatile the investment returns, the higher the standard deviation will be.

Information Ratio: A risk/return, or efficiency measure; it is a way to estimate the value added by an investment manager per corresponding unit of risk. It is the ratio of expected active return (the difference between the return of the security and the return of a selected benchmark index) over tracking error (standard deviation of the active return).

Correlation Coefficient: A number or function indicating the degree of correlation between two variables. It ranges between 1 for high positive correlation to -1 for high negative correlation, with 0 indicating a purely random relationship.

Fixed Income Credit Ratings (listed on the investment fact sheets): The credit quality ratings for underlying fixed-income holdings within the portfolio are assigned by either Standard & Poor's or Moody's and then reported by the investment company, along with the allocation as a percentage of overall fixed-income holdings, to Morningstar.