

Fixed-income fund Quarterly commentary

John Hancock Bond Fund

A: JHNBX C: JHCBX I: JHBIX R2: JHRBX R4: JBFRX R6: JHBSX

Objective	Use for	Morningstar category
High current income consistent with a prudent level of risk	Diversifying income holdings	Intermediate Core-Plus Bond

Quarterly commentary

Highlights

- The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, the fund's benchmark, returned 2.03% in the third quarter, boosting its year-to-date return to 6.03% as of September 30.
- The fund outperformed the benchmark in both the quarter and the year-to-date period.
- Asset allocation was the primary reason for the fund's positive three-month results.

Market review and outlook

A favorable outlook for U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) policy was a key driver of the bond market's third-quarter gain. The labor market began to soften, with unemployment ticking up to 4.3%. This trend contributed to the Fed's decision to cut interest rates by a quarter point in September, its first reduction since December 2024. Investors also started to factor in the potential for further Fed easing before year end, together with additional cuts in 2026, even though inflation remained above the central bank's long-term target. We expect the Fed will continue to take a cautious, data-driven approach.

The credit-oriented sectors of the market performed well, reflecting the backdrop of steady economic growth, robust corporate earnings, and investors' elevated appetite for risk. High-yield and investment-grade corporate bonds outperformed, as yield spreads moved to the low end of the historical range. Securitized assets also gained ground. Agency mortgage-backed securities (MBS) led the way in the category, followed by commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) and asset-backed securities (ABS), respectively. U.S. Treasuries, while positive in absolute terms, didn't keep pace with the broader market.

Contributors and detractors

Nearly all of the fund's performance advantage was the result of asset allocation. The portfolio was underweight in U.S. Treasuries and overweight in the credit sectors, particularly high-yield bonds (which aren't represented in the benchmark). This aspect of our positioning was well suited to the environment of the past three months, and it was also the primary factor in the fund's year-to-date outperformance. Security selection was a small positive, with outperformance in MBS and investment-grade corporates largely offset by a weaker showing in ABS. Yield curve/duration positioning was a minor detractor. (Duration is a measure of interest rate sensitivity.)

Portfolio changes

We added to the fund's weightings in both investment-grade corporate and high-yield bonds. Believing financials were attractive on a relative value basis, we maintained an overweight in the sector. The fund also held above-market weightings in non-cyclicals and utilities. We continued to move up in quality in corporates and high yield, with an emphasis on intermediate maturities. Given the compression in spreads, we sought to add value by optimizing yield and emphasizing security selection. We don't see current valuations as supportive for adding material risk in these areas in light of ongoing uncertainty.

We added to securitized credit, primarily in nontraditional ABS subsectors and more marginally in CMBS. Both shifts were funded by a reduction in U.S. Treasuries. We maintained a neutral duration (i.e., interest rate sensitivity roughly equal to the benchmark), and we remained positioned for a steepening of the yield curve. Agency MBS continued to be a significant overweight based on our view that they offered both high quality and compelling relative value. Although spreads for agency MBS tightened, we continued to view the category as being attractive relative to corporates. Our holdings remained focused on the middle of the coupon stack (i.e., 4.0% to 5.5% coupons) due to the higher income and measure of protection against prepayment risk.


We maintained a neutral duration versus the benchmark, while keeping the portfolio positioned with an overweight in intermediate-term bonds in an effort to benefit from further yield curve steepening.

This commentary reflects the views of the portfolio managers named and is subject to change as market and other conditions warrant. No forecasts are guaranteed. This commentary is provided for informational purposes only and is not an endorsement of any security, mutual fund, sector, or index. The subadvisor, the advisor (John Hancock Investment Management LLC), and their affiliates, employees, and clients, may hold or trade the securities mentioned in this commentary. Diversification does not guarantee a profit or eliminate the risk of a loss.


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 **Pranay Sonalkar, CFA**
On the fund since 2021.
Investing since 2007

 **Connor Minnaar, CFA**
On the fund since 2022.
Investing since 2002

 **Spencer Godfrey, CFA**
On the fund since 2025.
Investing since 2003

 **Jeffrey N. Given, CFA**
On the fund since 2006.
Investing since 1993

 **Howard C. Greene, CFA**
On the fund since 2002.
Investing since 1979

Average annual total returns^{1,2}

	Qtd	Ytd	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr	Since inception	Inception date
Class I without sales charge	2.31	6.56	3.33	5.84	0.31	2.63	6.65	11/9/73
Class A without sales charge	2.23	6.32	3.02	5.53	0.01	2.32	6.47	11/9/73
Class A with sales charge (Maximum initial sales charge 4.00%)	-1.89	2.10	-1.11	4.10	-0.81	1.91	6.39	11/9/73
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index	2.03	6.13	2.88	4.93	-0.45	1.84	—	—
Intermediate core-plus bond category	2.15	5.90	2.98	5.43	0.21	2.24	—	—

Expense ratios³

	Gross	Net (what you pay)	Contractual through
Class I	0.47%	0.46%	7/31/2027
Class A	0.77%	0.76%	7/31/2027

The performance data shown represents past performance, which does not guarantee future results. Returns for periods shorter than one year are cumulative, and results for other share classes will vary. Shares will fluctuate in value and, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance cited. Performance figures assume that all distributions are reinvested. For the most recent month-end performance, visit [jhinvestments.com](https://www.jhinvestments.com).

10 largest issuers⁴

1. Federal National Mortgage Association	22.97	6. Bank of America Corp.	0.86
2. United States of America	13.68	7. Ford Motor Credit Company LLC	0.83
3. Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	13.41	8. Energy Transfer LP	0.60
4. Government National Mortgage Association	1.04	9. Dell International LLC	0.58
5. JPMorgan Chase & Company	0.93	10. Broadcom, Inc.	0.58

What you should know before investing

Fixed-income investments are subject to interest-rate and credit risk; their value will normally decline as interest rates rise or if an issuer is unable or unwilling to make principal or interest payments. Investments in higher-yielding, lower-rated securities include a higher risk of default. Foreign investing, especially in emerging markets, has additional risks, such as currency and market volatility and political and social instability. Mortgage- and asset-backed securities may be sensitive to changes in interest rates, and may be subject to early repayment and the market's perception of issuer creditworthiness. Liquidity—the extent to which a security may be sold or a derivative position closed without negatively affecting its market value, if at all—may be impaired by reduced trading volume, heightened volatility, rising interest rates, and other market conditions. The use of hedging and derivatives could produce disproportionate gains or losses and may increase costs. Fund distributions generally depend on income from underlying investments and may vary or cease altogether in the future. Please see the fund's prospectus for additional risks.

The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index tracks the performance of U.S. investment-grade bonds in government, asset-backed, and corporate debt markets. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

Request a prospectus or summary prospectus from your financial professional, by visiting [jhinvestments.com](https://www.jhinvestments.com), or by calling us at 800-225-5291. The prospectus includes investment objectives, risks, fees, expenses, and other information that you should read and consider carefully before investing.

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1 11/9/73 is the inception date for the oldest class of shares, Class A shares. Class I shares were first offered on 9/4/01; returns prior to this date are those of Class A shares and have not been adjusted for expenses; otherwise, returns would vary. **2** It is not possible to invest in an index. Index definitions can be found within the "What you should know before Investing" section. **3** "Net (what you pay)" represents the effect of a contractual fee waiver and/or expense reimbursement and is subject to change. **4** Listed holdings reflect the largest portions of the fund's total and may change at any time. They are not recommendations to buy or sell any security. Data is expressed as a percentage of net assets and excludes cash and cash equivalents.

