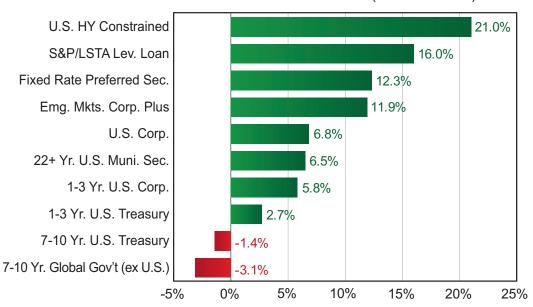
How Bonds Have Fared Since 7/8/16

Bond Index Cumulative Total Returns (7/8/16-4/26/19)



Source: Bloomberg. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Index returns reflect the performance of ICE BofAML Indices except for the S&P/LSTA Leveraged Loan Index.

View from the Observation Deck

- 1. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note (T-note) closed at an all-time low of 1.36% on 7/8/16, according to data from Bloomberg.
- 2. For comparative purposes, its all-time closing high was set on 9/30/81 at 15.84%, while its average yield has been 6.15% from 1/5/62 to 4/26/19.
- 3. From 7/8/16-4/26/19, the yield on the 10-year T-note rose from 1.36% to 2.50%, or an increase of 114 basis points (bps). It closed as high as 3.24% (11/8/18) in the period.
- 4. Since the Federal Reserve ("Fed") began raising rates on 12/16/15, the federal funds target rate (upper bound) has increased from 0.25% to 2.50%, or an increase of 225 bps, according to Bloomberg.
- 5. The cumulative total returns in the chart indicate that bonds issued by corporations, which inherently carry a higher degree of credit risk, have outperformed the other major categories since the yield on the 10-year-T-note began its upward climb from its all-time low on 7/8/16.
- 6. Of the various bond indices in the chart, global government debt has had the worst showing since 7/8/16. Deutsche Bank just reported that negative yielding notes and bonds in Europe currently total more than \$10 trillion, the highest amount in roughly three years and nearly half of the total deficit amassed by the U.S., according to 24/7 Wall St.

This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The illustration excludes the effects of taxes and brokerage commissions or other expenses incurred when investing. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. The ICE BofAML U.S. High Yield Constrained Index tracks the performance of U.S. dollar denominated below investment grade corporate debt publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market. The S&P/LSTA U.S. Leveraged Loan Index is a market value-weighted index designed to measure the performance of the U.S. leveraged loan market. The ICE BofAML Emerging Markets Corporate Plus Index tracks the performance of U.S. dollar and eurobond markets. The ICE BofAML Fixed Rate Preferred Securities Index tracks the performance of investment grade fixed rate U.S. dollar denominated preferred securities is used in the U.S. domestic market. The ICE BofAML 1-3 Year U.S. Corporate Index is a subset of the ICE BofAML U.S. Corporate Index including all securities with a remaining term to maturity of less than 3 years. The ICE BofAML 1-3 Year U.S. Treasury Index tracks the performance of U.S. dollar denominated sovereign debt publicly issued by the U.S. government with a remaining term to maturity of less than 3 years. The ICE BofAML 22+ Year U.S. Municipal Securities Index tracks the performance of U.S. dollar denominated investment grade tax-exempt debt publicly issued by U.S. states and territories, and their political subdivisions with a remaining term to maturity greater than or equal to 22 years. The ICE BofAML U.S. Corporate Index tracks the performance of U.S. dollar denominated investment grade to corporate debt publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market. The ICE BofAML 7-10 Year Global Government (ex U.S.) Index tracks the performance of U.S. dollar denominated in U.S. dollars. The ICE BofAML 7-10 Year U.S. Treasury Index tracks the performance of U.S. dollar denominated in U.S. dollars. The ICE BofAML 7-10 Year U.S. Treasury Index tracks the performance of U.S. dollar denominate

The information presented is not intended to constitute an investment recommendation for, or advice to, any specific person. By providing this information, First Trust is not undertaking to give advice in any fiduciary capacity within the meaning of ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code or any other regulatory framework. Financial advisors are responsible for evaluating investment risks independently and for exercising independent judgment in determining whether investments are appropriate for their clients.

