

## **PORTFOLIO UPDATE**

# QM U.S. Bond Index Fund - I Class

As of March 31, 2024



Portfolio Manager: Rob Larkins Managed Fund Since: 2007 Joined Firm: 2003

## **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE**

The fund seeks to provide a total return that matches or incrementally exceeds the performance of the U.S. investment-grade bond market.

#### **FUND INFORMATION**

Symbol	TSBLX
CUSIP	872840103
Inception Date of Fund	October 05, 2020
Benchmark	Bloomberg US Agg Index
Expense Information (as of the most recent Prospectus)*	0.13% (Gross) 0.12% (Net)
Fiscal Year End	October 31
12B-1 Fee	-

<sup>\*</sup>The I Class operates under a contractual operating expense limitation that expires on February 28, 2025.

#### MARKET COMMENTARY

The U.S. investment-grade (IG) fixed income market, as measured by the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, recorded positive returns in March, although first-quarter results were negative as a result of a two-month losing streak at the start of the year. A slight drop in longer-term Treasury yields along with generally tighter credit spreads supported the March rebound.

Treasury yields fluctuated during the month but finished slightly lower across much of the curve. Higher-than-expected inflation data helped drive up Treasury yields through the first half of the month, while a Federal Reserve meeting that was generally perceived as dovish sent rates lower toward the end of March. After starting the month at 4.25%, the benchmark 10-year Treasury yield rose as high as 4.34%, the highest closing level since the end of November, according to Treasury Department data, before dropping back to 4.20% at month-end.

At the Fed meeting, policymakers, as expected, left the federal funds rate unchanged, but investors were more focused on the Summary of Economic Projections, which continued to show that the median Fed forecaster expects three interest rate cuts this year. The projections did point to stronger growth and inflation this year than previously indicated, while also removing one rate cut from the forecast for 2025.

Absolute results were positive in all the major benchmark sectors due to falling Treasury yields, while excess returns were also generally positive. IG corporates benefited from solid technicals, resilient economic data, and a risk-on environment and produced the strongest absolute and excess returns. Commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) performed well-particularly beaten-down, lower-rated issues-amid solid demand, while the agency mortgage-backed securities sector received a boost from expectations for lower rate volatility and manageable supply. Asset-backed securities delivered modest excess returns but trailed other sectors amid elevated new issuance.

## **PERFORMANCE**

(NAV, total return)

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	One Month	Three Months	One Year	Three Years	Five Years	Ten Years	Fifteen Years	30-Day SEC Yield	30-Day SEC Yield w/o Waiver°
QM U.S. Bond Index Fund - I Class	0.76%	-0.68%	1.75%	-2.61%	0.41%	1.58%	2.63%	4.55%	4.54%
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index	0.92	-0.78	1.70	-2.46	0.36	1.54	2.62	-	-

Performance data quoted represents past performance and is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. To obtain the most recent month-end performance, visit troweprice.com. The Fund's total return figures reflect the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains, if any.

The T. Rowe Price Fund shares the portfolio of an existing fund (the original share class of the fund referred to as the "investor class"). The total return figures for the I Class shares have been calculated using the performance data of the investor class up to the inception date of the I Class (10/5/20) and the actual performance results of the I Class since that date. Because the I Classes are expected to have lower expenses than the Investor Classes, the I Class performance, had it existed over the periods shown, would have been higher.

°Excludes the effect of contractual expense limitation arrangements. If the expense waiver was not in effect for the 30-Day period shown, there may not be a difference in the 30-day SEC yields shown above.

Investors should note that if interest rates rise significantly from current levels, total returns will decline and may even turn negative in the short term. The Fund is subject to risks of fixed income investing, including interest rate risk and credit risk.

The fund's strategy relies heavily on quantitative models to analyze data and construct investment portfolios. Relying on these models entails the risk that the models themselves may be limited or incorrect, that the data the models rely on may be incorrect or incomplete, and that the adviser may not be successful in selecting companies for investment or determining the weighting of particular bonds.

The fund(s) may have other share classes available that offer different investment minimums and fees. See the prospectus for details.

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# **RISK RETURN CHARACTERISTICS**

(Three Years ended March 31, 2024)

	Annualized Std. Deviation	Alpha	Beta	R-Squared	Information Ratio	Sharpe Ratio	Tracking Error
QM U.S. Bond Index Fund - I Class	7.06%	-0.23%	0.99	1.00	-0.35	-0.74	0.44%
Bloomberg US Agg Index	7.14	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	-0.71	0.00

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Figures are calculated using monthly data and are net of fees.

# **PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS**

	QM U.S. Bond Index Fund - I Class	Bloomberg US Agg Index
Number of Holdings	1,236	13,534
Weighted Average Maturity	8.86 years	8.40 years
Weighted Average Effective Duration	6.20 years	6.14 years
Weighted Average Coupon	3.73%	3.28%
Yield to Maturity	5.39%	4.85%
Percent of Portfolio in Cash	0.1%	-
Total Assets (all share classes)	1,345,001,488	-

# **SECTOR DIVERSIFICATION**

	U.S. Treas- ury	Mortgage	Corporate	CMBS	Govern- ment Re- lated	ABS	U.S. Mu- nicipal	High Yield	Reserves	Equity & Other
QM U.S. Bond Index Fund - I Class	29.4%	28.9%	28.9%	4.8%	4.2%	3.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Bloomberg US Agg Index	42.2	26.2	25.3	0.9	4.9	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Over/Underweight	-12.8	2.7	3.6	3.9	-0.6	2.7	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1

# **CREDIT QUALITY DIVERSIFICATION**

	U.S.	U.S. Govt							
	Treas*	Ag**	AAA	AA	Α	BBB	ВВ	Not Rated	Reserves
QM U.S. Bond Index Fund - I Class	29.4%	28.5%	6.3%	7.2%	14.6%	13.7%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Bloomberg US Agg Index	41.9	27.0	4.4	4.6	11.6	10.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Over/Underweight	-12.5	1.6	1.9	2.6	3.1	3.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

## **MATURITY DIVERSIFICATION**

	0-1 Year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years	5-7 Years	7-10 Years	10-20 Years	20-30 Years	30+ Years
QM U.S. Bond Index Fund - I Class	5.2%	18.1%	19.8%	10.8%	24.0%	10.9%	11.0%	0.2%

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#### **Definitions**

Weighted Average Effective Duration is a calculation that seeks to measure the price sensitivity of a bond Fund to changes in interest rates. In general, the longer the average duration, the greater the Fund's sensitivity to interest rates.

#### **Additional Disclosures**

Consider the investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses carefully before investing. For a prospectus or, if available, a summary prospectus containing this and other information, call 1-800-638-7780 or visit troweprice.com. Read it carefully.

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