# Sustainable Core Fixed Income

STRATEGY FACT SHEET

First Quarter 2024

#### **PHILOSOPHY**

We seek to deliver attractive risk-adjusted returns by incorporating sustainable investment<sup>5</sup> research that we believe strengthens bottom-up, credit-focused research, while seeking to produce positive environmental and social impacts.

STRATEGY INCEPTION DATE: 09/30/2014

#### **IMPACT THEMES**

IMPACT DISTRIBUTION<sup>2</sup>

Affordable Housing

Clean Energy

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Sustainable Agriculture & Natural

Resource

Health & Wellness

Multi-sector

**Economic Mobility & Community** 

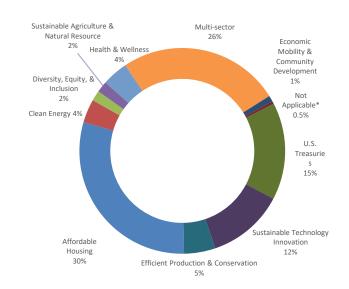
Development

Not Applicable\*

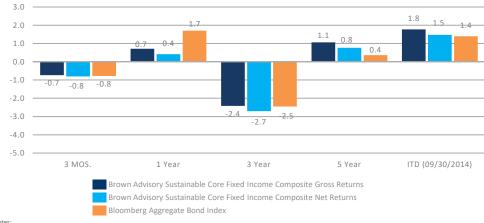
U.S. Treasuries

Sustainable Technology Innovation

Efficient Production & Conservation



## PERFORMANCE (AS OF 03/31/2024)<sup>1, 3, 4</sup>



#### Notes

- 1. Source: FactSet\*. Returns shown are through 03/31/2024 for each period. All returns greater than one year are annualized. Past performance is not indicative of future results.
- Source: FactSet\*. The portfolio information on the right is based on a representative Sustainable Core Fixed Income account and is provided as Supplemental Information. Portfolio level information includes cash and cash equivalents. Fixed income sectors, quality distribution and duration distribution may not total 100% due to rounding. \*Not Applicable refers to cash and equivalents, treasuries, and neutral securities.
- The composite performance shown above reflects the Sustainable Core Fixed Income Composite, managed by Brown Advisory Institutional. Brown Advisory Institutional is a division of Brown Advisory LLC, and Brown Advisory Institutional is a GIPS compliant firm. Please see the reverse side for a GIPS Report and a complete list of terms and definitions.
- 4. Bloomberg\* and Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index are service marks of Bloomberg Finance L.P. and its affiliates, including Bloomberg Index Services Limited ("BISL"), the administrator of the index (collectively, "Bloomberg") and have been licensed for use for certain purposes by Brown Advisory, Bloomberg is not affiliated with Brown Advisory, and Bloomberg does not approve, endorse, review, or recommend the Brown Advisory, Sustainable Core Fixed Income Strategy

  Bloomberg does not guarantee the timeliness, accurateness, or completeness of any data or information relating to the Brown Advisory Sustainable Core
- 5. Sustainable investment considerations are one of multiple informational inputs into the investment process, alongside data on traditional financial factors, and so are not the sole driver of decision-making. Sustainable investment analysis may not be performed for every holding in the strategy. Sustainable investment considerations that are material will vary by investment style, sector/industry, market trends and client objectives. The Sustainable Core Fixed Income Strategy ("the Strategy") seeks to identify issuers that it believes may be desirable based on our analysis of sustainable investment related risks and opportunities, but investors may differin their views. As a result, the Strategy may invest in issuers that do not reflect the beliefs and values of any particular investor. The Strategy may also invest in issuers that would otherwise be excluded from other strategies that focus on sustainable investment risks. Security selection will be impacted by the combined focus on sustainable investment research assessments and fundamental research assessments including thereturn forecasts. The Strategy incorporates data from third parties in its research process but does not make investment decisions based on third-party

## PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS<sup>2</sup>

|                            | REP.<br>ACCOUNT | BLOOMBERG<br>AGGREGATE<br>BOND INDEX |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Avg. Credit Quality        | Aa3             | Aa2                                  |
| Effective Duration (years) | 6.4             | 6.1                                  |
| Yield to Worst (%)         | 4.9             | 4.8                                  |
| Avg. Life (years)          | 7.6             | 8.7                                  |

**Brown** ADVISORY Thoughtful Investing.

### SECTOR DISTRIBUTION (%)<sup>2</sup>

|                      | REP.<br>ACCOUNT | BLOOMBERG<br>AGGREGATE<br>BOND INDEX |  |  |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Cash & Equivalents   | 1.0             |                                      |  |  |
| US Government        | 21.9            | 43.3                                 |  |  |
| Non-US<br>Government | 13.4            | 2.7                                  |  |  |
| Corporate            | 24.3            | 25.1                                 |  |  |
| Mortgage             | 31.5            | 26.1                                 |  |  |
| CMBS                 |                 | 1.6                                  |  |  |
| ABS                  | 3.2             | 0.6                                  |  |  |
| Municipal            | 4.8             | 0.6                                  |  |  |
|                      |                 |                                      |  |  |

#### CREDIT QUALITY COMPOSITION (%)2

|            | REP.<br>ACCOUNT | BLOOMBERG<br>AGGREGATE<br>BOND INDEX |  |  |
|------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| AAA/Aaa    | 73.3            | 72.8                                 |  |  |
| AA/Aa      | 2.4             | 2.6                                  |  |  |
| Α          | 7.0             | 12.0                                 |  |  |
| AA+        |                 | 0.3                                  |  |  |
| BBB        | 17.3            | 11.8                                 |  |  |
| High Yield |                 | 0.5                                  |  |  |
| Not Rated  |                 |                                      |  |  |

#### DURATION DISTRIBUTION (%)<sup>2</sup>

| REP.<br>ACCOUNT | BLOOMBERG<br>AGGREGATE<br>BOND INDEX |  |  |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 7.4             | 1.6                                  |  |  |
| 12.1            | 24.3                                 |  |  |
| 17.6            | 22.3<br>19.4                         |  |  |
| 31.9            |                                      |  |  |
| 24.0            | 16.4                                 |  |  |
| 7.0             | 16.0                                 |  |  |
|                 | 7.4<br>12.1<br>17.6<br>31.9<br>24.0  |  |  |



## About Brown Advisory

Brown Advisory is a leading independent investment firm that offers a wide range of solutions to institutions, corporations, nonprofits, families and individuals. Our mission is to make a material and positive difference in the lives of our clients. We are committed to delivering a combination of first-class performance, customized strategic advice and the highest level of personalized service.

We follow a philosophy that fixed income strategies built from a foundation of stability coupled with fundamental credit research can seek to generate alpha and control risk. We have a culture and firm equity ownership structure that attract and retain professionals who share those beliefs, and we follow a repeatable investment process that helps us stay true to our philosophy.

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## Sustainable Core Fixed Income Composite

| Year   | Composite Total<br>Gross Returns (%) | Composite Total Net<br>Returns (%) | Benchmark Returns<br>(%) | Composite<br>3-Yr Annualized<br>Standard Deviation (%) | Benchmark 3-Yr<br>Annualized Standard<br>Deviation (%) | Portfolios in Composite at<br>End of Year | Composite<br>Dispersion (%) | Composite Assets<br>(\$USD Millions)* | Firm Assets<br>(\$USD<br>Millions)* |
|--------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2023   | 4.4                                  | 4.1                                | 5.5                      | 6.5  | 7.1  | 44  | 0.7                         | 965                                   | 81,325                              |
| 2022   | -12.8                                | -12.3                              | -13.0                    | 5.9  | 5.8  | 34  | 0.2                         | 583                                   | 58,575                              |
| 2021   | -0.4                                 | -0.8                               | -1.5                     | 4.6  | 3.6  | 31  | 0.3                         | 502                                   | 79,715                              |
| 2020   | 9.4                                  | 9.4                                | 7.5                      | 4.3  | 3.4  | 26  | 0.4                         | 416                                   | 59,683                              |
| 2019   | 9.5                                  | 9.1                                | 8.7                      | 2.9  | 2.9  | 14  | 0.2                         | 265                                   | 42,426                              |
| 2018   | 0.4                                  | 0.1                                | 0.0                      | 2.8  | 2.8  | 19  | 0.3                         | 217                                   | 30,529                              |
| 2017   | 3.7                                  | 3.3                                | 3.5                      | 2.8  | 2.8  | 11  | 0.3                         | 113                                   | 33,155                              |
| 2016   | 1.0                                  | 0.7                                | 2.7                      | N/A  | N/A  | 9   | 0.1                         | 91                                    | 30,417                              |
| 2015   | 1.2                                  | 0.9                                | 0.6                      | N/A  | N/A  | Five or fewer                             | N/A                         | 60                                    | 43,746                              |
| 2014** | 2.0                                  | N/A                                | 1.8                      | N/A  | N/A  | Five or fewer                             | N/A                         | 5                                     | 44,772                              |

<sup>\*\*</sup>Return is for period October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

Brown Advisory Institutional claims compliance with the GIPS standards, Brown Advisory Institutional has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Brown Advisory Institutional has been independently verified for the periods from January 1, 1993 through December 31, 2023. The Verification reports are available upon request. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must establish policies and procedures for complying with all the applicable requirements of the GIPS standards. Verification provides assurance on whether the firm's policies and procedures related to composite and pooled fund maintenance, as well as the calculation, presentation, and distribution of performance, have been designed in compliance with the GIPS standards and have been implemented on a firm-wide basis. Verification does not provide assurance on the accuracy of any specific performance report. GIPS® is a registered trademark of CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein.

- \*For the purpose of complying with the GIPS standards, the firm is defined as Brown Advisory Institutional, the Institutional and Balanced Institutional asset management divisions of Brown Advisory. As of July 1, 2016, the firm was redefined to exclude the Brown Advisory Private Client division, due to an evolution of the three distinct business lines.
- The Sustainable Core Composite (the Composite) is comprised of all discretionary accounts with no material investment restrictions, which invest primarily in fixed income securities that have a target duration between 3 and 7 years. At least 80% of the securities in each portfolio in the Composite will have credit quality ratings of A or better at the time of purchase. Accounts included in the Composite are invested primarily in taxable securities. The minimum account market value required for Composite inclusion is \$2 million, and accounts in the Composite will have an average effective duration between 3 and 7 years. The guidelines of accounts specifically indicate a preference for sustainability related investments.
- Bonds in Composite accounts are evaluated according to a variety of considerations including sustainability related risk and opportunities. These inputs are used by the portfolio manager to seek holdings with effective management of
- sustainability-related risks and or bonds whose uses of proceeds meet the standards of the Green Bond Principles. Sustainability considerations are not used for the purposes of absolute negative screening in Composite accounts.

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- Effective January 1, 2016, a significant cash flow policy was implemented for the Composite. Accounts with a greater than or equal to 14% external cash flow will be removed from the Composite for the entire month that the external cash flow occurred. The account will be added back to the Composite the following month if it meets the Composite inclusion requirements. The external cash flow percentage is calculated using beginning market value. The composite creation date is November 1, 2015. The composite inception date is October 1, 2014.
- The benchmark is the Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index. The Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged, market-value weighted index comprised of taxable U.S. investment grade, fixed rate bond market securities, including government, government agency, corporate, asset-backed, and mortgage-backed securities between one and ten years. "Bloomberg agregate Bond Index are service marks of Bloomberg Finance L.P. and its affiliates, including Bloomberg Index Services Limited ("BISL"), the administrator of the index (collectively, "Bloomberg") and have been licensed for use for certain purposes by Brown Advisory Institutional. Bloomberg is not affiliated with Brown Advisory Institutional, and Bloomberg does not approve, endorse, review, or recommend the Composite. Bloomberg does not guarantee the timeliness, accurateness, or completeness of any data or information relating to the Composite. An investor cannot invest directly into an index. Benchmark returns are not covered by the report of the independent verifiers
- The composite dispersion presented is an equal-weighted standard deviation of portfolio gross returns calculated for the accounts in the Composite for the entire calendar year period. The composite dispersion is not applicable (N/A) for periods where there were five or fewer accounts in the Composite for the entire period.
- Gross-of-fees performance returns are presented before management fees but after all trading commissions, and gross of foreign withholding taxes (if applicable). Net-of-fees performance returns are calculated by adjusting the gross-of-fees performance return by the highest fee for the institutional strategy as outlined in Part 2A of the firm's Form ADV, applied on a monthly basis. Certain accounts in the Composite may pay asset-based custody fees that include commissions. For these accounts, gross and net returns are also net of custody fees. Other expenses can reduce returns to investors. The standard management fee schedule is as follows: 0.30% on the first \$50 million; 0.25% on the next \$50 million; and 0.20% on the balance over \$100 million. Further information regarding investment advisory fees is described in Part 2A of the firm's Form ADV. Actual fees paid by accounts in the Composite may differ from the current fee schedule.
- Effective July 1, 2023, the firm transitioned from using actual account fees in the calculation of net performance returns to applying the highest fee for the institutional strategy as outlined in Part 2A of the firm's Form ADV. The net performance track record was revised back to Composite inception.
- The investment management fee for the Investor Shares of the Brown Advisory Sustainable Bond Fund (the Fund), which is included in the Composite, is 0.30%, and represents the highest fee charged excluding Advisor Shares. The total expense 11. ratio for the Investor Shares of the Fund as of the most recent fiscal year end (June 30, 2023) was 0.52%. Further information regarding investment management fees and expenses is described in the fund prospectus and annual report
- 12. The three-year annualized ex-post standard deviation measures the variability of the Composite (using gross returns) and the benchmark for the 36-month period ended on December 31. The 3 year annualized standard deviation is not presented as of December 31, 2014, December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2016 because 36 month returns for the Composite were not available (N/A.)
- 13 Valuations and performance returns are computed and stated in U.S. Dollars. All returns reflect the reinvestment of income and other earnings.
- Duration is a measure of interest rate risk. 14
- 15. The use of derivatives is integral to the investment process of the Fund, which is a constituent of the Composite. Futures and swaps are utilized and comprise roughly 20% of the Fund. The Fund may employ leverage, but it is not integral to the investment process. Portfolios have and may invest in CMOs and range accrual notes. Shorting is not utilized.
- A complete list of composite descriptions and broad distribution and limited distribution pooled funds is available upon request.
- Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request.
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- Past performance is not indicative of future results.

  This is not an offer to sell securities. That may only be accomplished by the issuance of a private offering memorandum/subscription documents. 19
- This piece is provided for informational purposes only and should not be construed as a research report, a recommendation or suggestion to engage in or refrain from a particular course of action or to make or hold a particular investment or pursue a particular investment strategy, including whether or not to buy, sell or hold any of the securities mentioned, including any mutual fund managed by Brown Advisory.

## Terms and Definitions for Representative Account Calculations

Effective Duration is a time measure of a bond's interest-rate sensitivity, based on the weighted average of the time periods over which a bond's cash flows accrue to the bondholder. Yield to Worst is calculated by making worstcase scenario assumptions on the issue by calculating the returns that would be received if provisions, including prepayment, call or sinking fund, are used by the issuer. Average Life is the average period of time for all principal dollars to be returned to investors. Alpha is a measure of performance on a risk-adjusted basis. Alpha takes the volatility (price risk) of a portfolio and compares its risk-adjusted performance to a benchmark index. FactSet\* is a registered trademark of FactSet Research Systems, Inc.