

STRATEGY COMMENTARY Johnson Short Duration Fixed Income AS OF 06.30.2025

A QUARTER REVIEW:

While second-quarter market moves appear modest on the surface—10-year Treasury yields rose just 2 basis points, and investment-grade credit spreads tightened by 11 basis points—the intra-quarter volatility was anything but. The Liberation Day tariffs in early April shocked markets, driving a sharp equity selloff that briefly brought the S&P 500 near bear market territory. The bond market response was more nuanced: with short-term yields falling on growth concerns and long-end yields rising with inflation fears. Corporate credit also reacted strongly, with spreads widening sharply to just under 120 basis points, the highest level since 2023, before retreating later in the quarter as economic data showed stable growth and slower than expected inflation.

CONTRIBUTORS	DETRACTORS
CORPORATE OVERWEIGHT	
DURATION	

ATTRIBUTION					
	JOHNSON	ICE BofA Merrill Lynch US Corp & Govt, 1-3 Year Index	DIFFERENCE		
DURATION	0.02%	-0.04%	0.07%		
NON-PARALLEL	0.29%	0.30%	-0.01%		
OTHER RATES	0.00%	-0.05%	0.05%		
SECTOR/QUALITY	0.08%	0.03%	0.05%		
SELECTION	0.01%	0.01%	-0.01%		
INCOME	1.09%	1.00%	0.09%		

PERFORMANCE						
	QTD	1YR	3YR	5YR	7YR	10YR
JOHNSON (GROSS)	1.53%	6.47%	4.19%	1.72%	2.57%	2.18%
JOHNSON (NET)	1.46%	6.21%	3.93%	1.47%	2.32%	1.93%
ICE BofA Merrill Lynch US Corp & Govt, 1-3 Years	1.26%	5.93%	3.77%	1.60%	2.35%	1.86%

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY:

The Johnson Short Duration Fixed Income Strategy returned 1.46% net of fees in the second quarter, outperforming the ICE BofAML US Corporate and Government 1-3 Year Index which rose 1.26%. The Strategy's primary drivers of outperformance during the quarter were its income advantage versus the index, as well as its overweight to the corporate bond sector. This was further enhanced by our tactical addition to credit during April's market dislocation. While short duration investment-grade spreads tightened 6 basis points over the full quarter, they finished 35 basis points tighter from their April peak. Security selection within corporates also added value. The Strategy's relatively long-of-benchmark duration positioning had a modestly positive impact on relative performance, as yields on the front end of the curve fell 15-20 basis points during the quarter.

MARKET OUTLOOK AND PORTFOLIO POSITIONING:

Looking ahead, the Strategy remains positioned for a balanced environment. While credit valuations have been compressed, the likelihood of a tariff-driven recession has diminished. As a result, we continue to maintain the additional credit exposure initiated in April. Interest rates remain rangebound but elevated by historical standards. We continue to hold a modest duration overweight versus the benchmark, expressed through exposure to the front end and the belly of the yield curve, which we believe better balances interest rate risk. We also continue to maintain an allocation to out-of-benchmark MBS, as our focus on stable cash flow, seasoned, and positively convex securities provides a high-quality yield enhancement to the portfolio. Although trade policy briefly receded from the headlines, it remains a key risk factor that could re-emerge in the second half. As always, we remain committed to preserving capital, providing consistent income, and maintaining stability, especially in periods of heightened uncertainty.

PORTFOLIO SUMMARY				
	JOHNSON	ICE BofA Merrill Lynch US Corp & Govt, 1-3 Year Index		
COUPON	3.20%	3.18%		
YIELD TO MATURITY	4.33%	3.95%		
WEIGHTED AVG. MATURITY (IN YEARS)	2.08	1.96		
WEIGHTED AVG. DURATION (IN YEARS)	1.89	1.84		

OUR FIXED INCOME STRATEGY TEAM:







Michael Leisring, CFA Chief Investment Officer -Fixed Income, Portfolio Manager, Principal



Brandon Zureick, CFA
Senior Managing Director,
Principal



David Theobald, CFA
Senior Portfolio Manager,
Principal



Ryan Martin, CFASenior Portfolio Manager,
Principal

Our primary objective across all duration mandates is to outperform the market with comparable volatility by utilizing our proprietary and unique Quality Yield approach and the deep experience and continuity of our investment team.

For more information on our products and services, please contact a member of the our Sales & Client Service Team at 513.389.2770 or info@johnsonasset.com.



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