

# FLOATING RATE FUND

## MARKET REVIEW

Fixed Income Market Review						
Yields and Spreads	06/30/2025	09/30/2025				
2 Year Treasury Yield	3.71%	3.61%				
10 Year Treasury Yield	4.23%	4.15%				
2-10 Treasury Yield Spread	52 bps	54 bps				
Bloomberg U.S. Corporate Investment Grade Bond Index Spread (OAS)	83 bps	74 bps				
ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Constrained Index Spread (OAS)	296 bps	280 bps				
Returns	QTD (as of 09/30)	YTD (as of 09/30)				
Bloomberg Aggregate Index	2.03%	6.13%				
Bloomberg U.S. Corporate Investment Grade Bond Index	2.60%	6.88%				
Bloomberg U.S. Commercial Mortgage Backed Securities (CMBS) Index	1.87%	6.26%				
Bloomberg U.S. Asset Backed Securities (ABS) Index	1.64%	4.62%				
Bloomberg U.S. Mortgage Backed Securities (MBS) Index	2.43%	6.76%				
ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Constrained Index	2.40%	7.06%				
Morningstar LSTA U.S. Leveraged Loan Index	1.77%	4.68%				
ICE BofA U.S. Convertible Index Return	8.58%	15.70%				

**Source:** FactSet, as of 09/30/2025.

Past performance is not a reliable indicator or guarantee of future results. Due to market volatility, the market may not perform in a similar manner in the future. Indexes are unmanaged, do not reflect the deduction of fees or expenses, and are not available for direct investment. The index data provided is not representative of any Lord Abbett product.

- U.S. fixed income market performance was broadly positive for the quarter. This primarily reflected a sentiment shift from the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) toward a more dovish stance, with growing expectations for rate cuts amid signs of labor market softening and political pressure from President Donald Trump. While a 25 basis point cut was delivered in September, uncertainty remains with regards to further easing for the remainder of the year. Elsewhere, labor data was mixed: solid in June but weaker in both July and August. However, unemployment stayed low and jobless claims were relatively steady. Inflation remained above the long-term target, which prompted more caution from Fed officials. Other tailwinds included corporate earnings which exceeded expectations, and consumer spending that held firm despite signs of stress among lower-income households. All optimism continued to also fuel market gains, though concerns about sustainability and monetization emerged. Overall, strong corporate earnings, resilient consumer demand, and anticipated Fed easing helped push returns higher, though risks remain from policy uncertainty, slowing job creation, and unresolved trade issues. Trade tensions persisted, with new tariffs imposed and ongoing negotiations with China, while legal challenges to Trump's tariff authority added complexity.<sup>1</sup>
- U.S. leveraged loans exhibited solid returns over the quarter, gaining +1.77%.<sup>2</sup> Performance was primarily driven by higher carry as well as modest compression in spreads. Within the sector, Single B loans continued to outperform, beating out



both BBs and CCCs. Looking at sectors, Broadcasting and Diversified Media led the way, while Automotive sector lagged.<sup>3</sup> Gross issuance also accelerated, with over \$370bn in volume compared to just \$104bn in Q2. Default/LME activity in the loan index increased modestly; including distressed exchanges, the par-weighted U.S. loan default rate finished the third quarter at approximately 3.49%.<sup>3</sup>

#### **FUND REVIEW**

• The Fund returned +1.78%, reflecting performance at the net asset value (NAV) of Class I shares with all distributions reinvested for the quarter ended September 30, 2025. The Fund's benchmark, the Morningstar LSTA U.S. Leveraged Loan Index\*, returned +1.77% during the same period.

### Past performance does not guarantee future returns.

- Positive credit selection within the CCC rating tier was a primary contributor for the quarter. This was a combination of underweight positions to several issuers within Automobiles that underperformed after facing increased financial and liquidity challenges. Additionally, the portfolio was overweight several positions within Capital Goods and Telecommunication Services sectors that outperformed following more idiosyncratic events like increased M&A activity and strong earnings. The portfolio also benefited from a modest allocation to high yield corporates, which exhibited strong performance as yields declined.
- Several positions within the portfolio detracted from returns relative to the index, reflected by credit selection within the Single B rating tier. These were primarily overweight positions to issuers within Consumer Discretionary and Consumer Durables sectors that underperformed. Additionally, the portfolio was underweight several issuers that exhibited positive quarterly earnings that led to outperformance for the quarter. Credit selection within Commercial Services and Software sectors also detracted, reflected by positions that lagged due to structural shifts from Al adoption.

#### **FUND POSITIONING & OUTLOOK**

Continue to target loans with high carry.

Loan spreads have remained tight and a high percentage of the loan index now trades above par, limiting opportunities to add convexity to the Fund. In this context, we focused on adding loans that offer higher levels of carry. We believe that loans remain an attractive source of carry as yields remain elevated, which may provide more income and additional cushion in the event that spreads widen.

We maintained barbell approach for credit rating exposure.

We continue to hold modest overweights to BBs and CCCs while underweight Single Bs. For the quarter, we found more attractive value in high quality BBs relative to the single-B cohort where we saw an increase in aggressive repricing activity. For down-in-quality, we maintained the overweight which skewed towards shorter dated securities where we believe performance is likely to be catalyst driven. We continued to add to BB positions over the period, mainly in Energy and Utilities sectors, while trimming single-Bs are tight valuations.

Sector exposure remains relatively balanced.

The Fund's top overweight positions remained Utilities and Transportation, with primary additions to Commercial and Professional Services, Materials and Capital Goods sectors. We have focused on more idiosyncratic positions in these

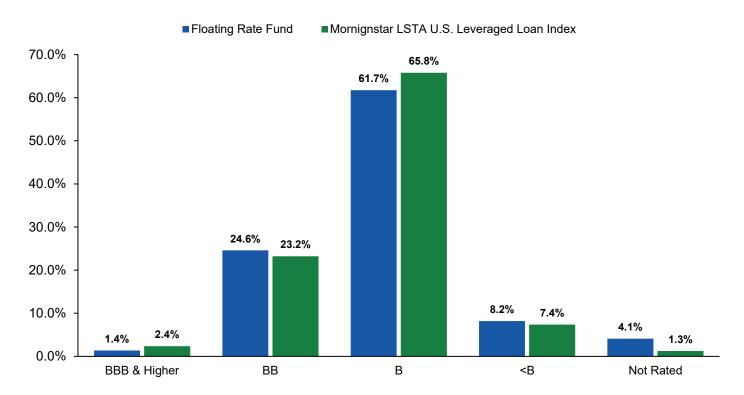


sectors and also are vigilant within certain Al disruption themes that have been prominent in the loan market. Therefore, we've reduced Software and Services, which is now a top underweight, along with Consumer Services.

### We remain constructive on the bank loan market amid a favorable economic backdrop.

Concerns that developed in the first half of the year following the tariff shock and sharp volatility in April have largely subsided, which has helped loan performance continue to be resilient. Loan issuers have continued to be supported by solid fundamentals, which were solid through the fastest Fed hiking cycle in over 40 years. And following multiple rate cuts by the Fed from peak level in 2024, we expect underlying credit metrics of loan issuers, such as interest and fixed charge coverage ratios, to steadily improve. We also continue to see a supportive technical, particularly on the demand side with continued demand from CLO creation. However, we are wary of several potential headwinds such as stickier inflation or unexpectedly strong data that could prompt a more hawkish Fed stance, as well as renewed geopolitical tensions or weaker-than-expected macro indicators that could challenge the current outlook.

## CREDIT QUALITY DISTRIBUTION



Index Data Source: Morningstar. Due to rounding, the percentage allocation of the portfolio breakdown may not equal 100%. Portfolio breakdown as of 09/30/2025.



### PERFORMANCE AS OF 09/30/2025

	3Q25	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
I Share Net Asset Value	1.78%	6.75%	9.58%	6.84%	4.80%
Morningstar LSTA U.S. Leveraged Loan Index*	1.77%	7.00%	9.85%	6.96%	5.47%
Morningstar Bank Loan Funds Average**	1.58%	6.32%	9.08%	5.91%	4.43%

Gross Expense Ratio: 0.60%.

Performance data quoted reflect past performance and are no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be higher or lower than the performance quoted. The investment return and principal value of an investment in the Fund will fluctuate so that shares, on any given day or when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. You can obtain performance data current to the most recent month end by calling Lord Abbett at (888) 522-2388 or referring to our website at lordabbett.com.

\*The Morningstar LSTA US Leveraged Loan Index is a market-value weighted index designed to measure the performance of the US leveraged loan market. Indices are unmanaged, do not reflect fees and expenses and are not available for direct investment.

\*\*The Morningstar Bank Loan Funds category consists of bank-loan portfolios that primarily invest in floating-rate bank loans instead of bonds. In exchange for their credit risk, these loans offer high interest payments that typically float above a common short-term benchmark such as the London interbank offered rate, or LIBOR.

<sup>1</sup>Factset as of 09/30/2025

<sup>2</sup>As represented by the Morningstar LSTA US Leveraged Loan Index as of 09/30/2025.

<sup>3</sup>J.P. Morgan as of 09/30/2025.

A Note about Risk: The Fund is subject to the general risks associated with investing in debt securities, including market, credit, liquidity, and interest rate risk. The value of investments in debt securities will fluctuate in response to market movements. When interest rates rise, the prices of debt securities are likely to decline, and when interest rates fall, the prices of debt securities tend to rise. The Fund may invest substantially in high yield, lower-rated securities. These securities carry increased risks of price volatility, illiquidity, and the possibility of default in the timely payment of interest and principal. Moreover, the specific collateral used to secure a loan may decline in value or become illiquid, which would adversely affect the loan's value. The Fund may invest in foreign or emerging market securities, which may be adversely affected by economic, political, or regulatory factors and subject to currency volatility and greater liquidity risk. The Fund may invest in derivatives, which are subject to greater liquidity, leverage, and counterparty risk. Certain of the Fund's derivative transactions may give rise to leverage risk. Leverage, including borrowing for investment purposes, may increase volatility in the Fund by magnifying the effect of changes in the value of the Fund's holdings. The use of leverage may cause investors in the Fund to lose more money in adverse environments than would have been the case in the absence of leverage. These factors may affect Fund performance.

The Fund's portfolio is actively managed and is subject to change.

The credit quality of the securities in a portfolio are assigned by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (NRSRO), such as Standard & Poor's, Moody's, or Fitch, as an indication of an issuer's creditworthiness. Ratings range from `AAA' (highest) to `D' (lowest). Bonds and loans rated `BBB' or above are considered investment grade. Credit ratings `BB' and below are lower-rated securities (junk). High-yielding, non-investment-grade loans and bonds (junk) involve higher risks than investment-grade loans and bonds. Adverse conditions may affect the issuer's ability to pay interest and principal on these securities.

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The performance table above is based on Class I shares. Average Annual Total Returns are based on changes in the net asset value and assume reinvestment of all distributions, and do not reflect deduction of any front-end sales charges which are not applicable for Class I shares. Returns for less than one year are not annualized.

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## Fund Commentary 3Q25

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