Brandes Core Plus Fixed Income Fund

FUND INFORMATION

Class I:	BCPIX
Class A:	BCPAX
Class R6:	BCPRX

STRATEGY

The Brandes Core Plus Fixed Income Fund seeks to maximize long-term total return, consisting of both current income and capital appreciation.

Performance data quoted represents past performance; past performance does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance of the fund may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. All performance is historical and includes reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Performance data current to the most recent month end may be obtained by calling 1.800.395.3807.

TEN LARGEST CORPORATE ISSUERS

(% of assets as of 6/30/2025)

United States Treasury Note	66.86
Univision Communications Inc	2.03
Ford Motor Credit Co LLC	1.81
Bank of America Corp	1.75
Fannie Mae Pool	1.62
Netflix Inc	1.52
Freddie Mac Pool	1.51
Goldman Sachs Group Inc	1.47
Prime Security Services	1.35
USB Capital IX	1.31

Fund holdings are subject to change at any time at the discretion of the investment manager.

Market Overview

The quarter began with a jolt as the Trump administration introduced a sweeping round of tariffs in early April, only to partially reverse course a week later. This policy whiplash injected additional uncertainty into markets.

Shorter-term maturity U.S. Treasury yields declined as investors began to price an increasing possibility of a rate cut by the Fed (Federal Reserve) as soon as their July meeting. However, yields of longer-term maturity U.S. Treasuries rose as the deteriorating U.S. fiscal situation received mounting attention, highlighted by a credit rating reduction for U.S. government debt by Moody's by one notch, from Aaa to Aa1.

The act of the Moody's downgrade was less important than the message. Moody's is essentially messaging that the U.S. fiscal situation has become untenable, but this is hardly a secret to most who have been paying attention for the last several years.

The Fed held rates steady at their June meeting. Much of the focus, however, was on the release of their Dot Plot – which displays Fed policymakers' projections for the future path of the fed funds rate. The median projection is for one rate cut before year-end. Seven of the nineteen policymakers are expecting no rate cuts this year. Two outliers are projecting three cuts.

While the identities behind the "dots" are not disclosed, it does not take extensive sleuthing to likely assign those two outliers in the three-cut camp to Christopher Waller and Michelle Bowman. Both were appointed by President Trump during his first term and are thought to be on the short list to replace Chairman Powell when his term is up. With President Trump's repeated calls for lower rates, the two outliers' policy projections may be profoundly influenced by the politics of jockeying for the top job at the Fed.

At quarter end the market was projecting a near certainty of at least two rate cuts before year-end, with three cuts a real possibility.

Corporate bonds and Agency mortgage-backed securities posted positive returns versus U.S. Treasuries during the quarter. Yield spreads on both asset classes remain near their tightest levels in over three decades. These sectors remain largely priced for perfection in our view, even with the considerable uncertainty about inflation, growth, geopolitics and the deteriorating fiscal situation. In this environment, individual security selection rooted in a robust process focused on long-term fundamentals is paramount in our view.

Fund Performance

In the second quarter, the Brandes Core Plus Fixed Income Fund (Class I Shares) returned 1.30%, modestly outperforming its benchmark, the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, which returned 1.21%.

Term-structure positioning was a positive factor during the quarter. The U.S. Treasury curve steepened with yields on shorter-term maturities declining, while yields on maturities longer than 10 years rose during the period. The Fund has been overweight shorter maturity securities and thus benefited when longer-maturity securities underperformed. The duration of the Fund was maintained at 90% of the benchmark's duration throughout the quarter.

Select holdings in corporate bonds provided a positive contribution to returns during the quarter, led by holdings in communications (Univision and Consolidated Communications), consumer non-cyclical (Organon and Pilgrim's Pride), and technology (Pitney Bowes).

Select holdings in banking (US Bank) modestly detracted from performance.

With increasing volatility at the beginning of the quarter around the Liberation Day tariff announcement, we took the opportunity to add to a few existing positions in the Fund. We added to positions in Citigroup (6.95% coupon, perpetual maturity, callable 1/31/30 rated Ba1/BB+), Goldman Sachs (3.80% coupon, perpetual maturity, callable 5/10/26, rated Ba1/BB+), Transocean (8.75% coupon, 2/15/30 maturity, first lien security, rated B1/B), and Univision Communications (8.50% coupon, maturing 7/31/31, rated B1/B+).

We also added a new position in a secured bond from Kohl's Corp (10.00% coupon, maturing 6/1/30, rated Ba3/BB+). Kohl's Corp had been making progress on turnaround efforts through 2023, particularly around inventory management, but hit a rough patch again in 2024. The company has been plagued by frequent strategy shifts, persistent CEO turnover, and shifting consumer shopping preferences away from traditional retail outlets, leading to a challenging operating environment. Kohl's issued the bond we purchased during the quarter, and it is secured by the value of eleven of the company's distribution centers and e-commerce fulfillment facilities. We estimate the value of the collateral package at approximately twice the value of the bond issuance, giving us what we believe is a solid margin of safety for this security. The Fund experienced maturities in holdings from Citigroup, Range Resources, and VMWare. The Fund's holding in Charles Schwab was called during the quarter.

Outlook

For all the consternation about slowing growth and the potential impact from tariffs, the economy remains quite resilient. The labor market is holding up well. The unemployment rate remains low, likely aided by a shrinking pool of labor due to reduced immigration. Credit and equity market performance remains strong.

Many believe that inflation is close enough to the Fed's target and that it is time for the Fed to shift its focus to rate cuts – principal among them the primary resident at the White House. There are a few cautionary points worth considering, however, regarding inflation:

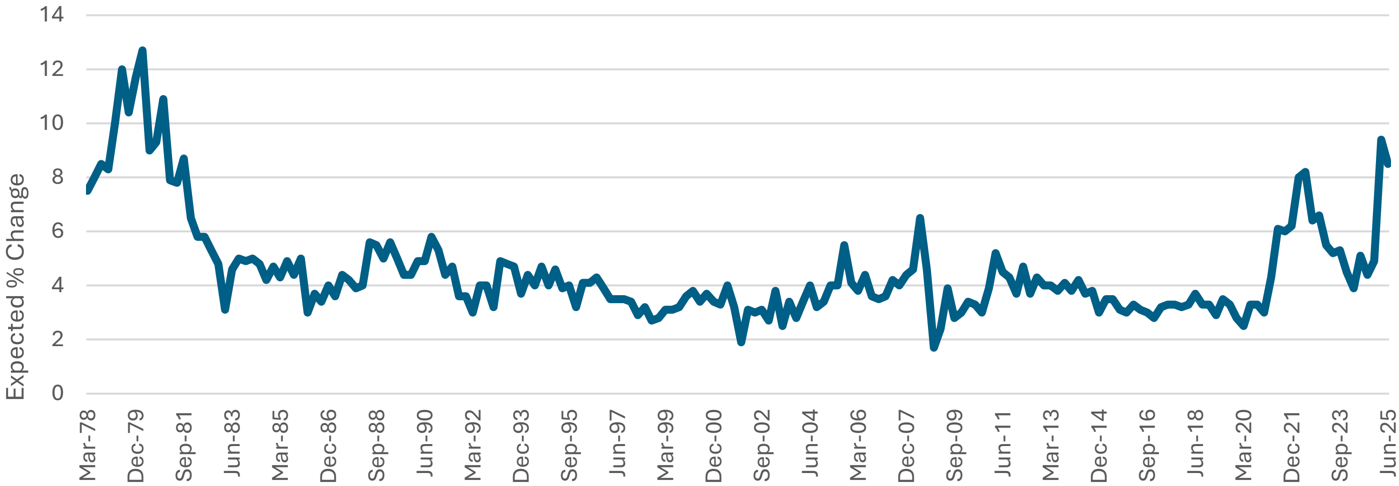
- The drop in inflation over the last few years was largely driven by a drop in goods prices. In fact, until April, goods prices had dropped for 15 consecutive months. While the abrupt change in tariff policy has not yet been reflected in the data, there is a strong likelihood that goods prices may now see rising price pressures.

- Speaking of tariffs, the effective U.S. tariff rate has risen from 2.3% at year-end to over 7% at the end of April (the most recent measurement data point). Where tariffs eventually settle remains a moving target, but the baseline will likely be higher than recent history. We have seen estimates that tariffs will add between 1.5% and 2.0% to inflation.

- There is a belief that if growth continues to slow, the Fed will be forced to cut rates. Nevertheless, in the first half of 2022 growth was negative and in contrast, the Fed aggressively hiked rates.

- Main Street inflation expectations remain elevated. The driving principle around Fed policy revolves around whether inflation expectations and price behavior are "well anchored" (i.e., showing confidence that future inflation will remain close to targeted levels). As demonstrated in the following chart, inflation expectations do not seem well anchored to the Fed's 2% target, intimating that the Fed may hold off on rate cuts longer than the market believes.

Exhibit 1. Are Inflation Expectations in Danger of Becoming Unanchored?
Inflation Expectations Are at the Highest Level Since the 1980s



Source: University Of Michigan Survey, "Expected Change In Prices During the Next Year," June 2025. Survey asks respondents if they think prices in general will go up, or go down, or stay where they are now? And by what percent do you expect prices to go up, on the average, during the next twelve months?

Market outlooks are always uncertain, but we now seem to be in a period of elevated uncertainty that increases the potential volatility of financial markets. In our view, however, uncertainty and volatility can create opportunities for long-term patient investors.

We took advantage of market volatility early in the quarter to add to a few of the Fund's existing positions, as well as add a new holding to the portfolio. The broader market appears to us to be largely priced for perfection and complacent to the shifting risk tides. In our opinion, this places a premium on deep fundamental research and individual security selection. We continue to tilt the Brandes Core Plus Fixed Income Fund into what we believe is a defensive posture to mitigate some of the market uncertainty and potential for widening yield spreads. We believe that this remains a risk. Accordingly, the Fund continues to favor shorter-maturity corporate bonds and those that we believe exhibit strong, tangible asset coverage. We are managing duration approximately 10% shorter than the Fund's benchmark. We have a meaningful allocation to U.S. Treasuries and if market uncertainty and volatility continue to cause credit fundamentals to become mispriced relative to our estimates of intrinsic value, then we will look to redeploy some of those Treasury holdings thoughtfully and effectively to take advantage of opportunities.

We remain underweight agency mortgage-backed securities.

As we move forward, we believe prudence dictates that we continue our search for value in a measured and deliberate manner while continuing to tilt the Fund to what we believe is a relatively defensive posture.
We remain optimistic about the prospects for the Brandes Core Plus Fixed Income Fund.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Doyle, CFA
Fixed Income Portfolio Manager

Average Annual Total Returns (%) as of June 30, 2025							
Without Load	3 Months	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception 12/28/2007
Class I	1.30	3.96	5.94	4.24	0.84	2.10	3.08
Class A	1.26	3.87	5.75	4.04	0.62	1.87	2.79
Class R6	1.19	3.96	5.82	4.36	1.42	2.61	3.39
With Load	3 Months	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception 12/28/2007
Class A	-2.48	-0.02	1.79	2.73	-0.15	1.47	2.57
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index	1.21	4.02	6.08	2.55	-0.73	1.76	2.91

Operating Expenses: Class I: 0.61% (gross), 0.31% (net) Class A: 0.84% (gross), 0.51% (net) Class R6: 0.57% (gross), 0.31% (net)

Performance data quoted represents past performance; past performance does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance of the fund may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. All performance is historical and includes reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Performance data current to the most recent month end may be obtained by calling 1.800.395.3807. Performance would have been lower without limitations in effect. Performance of A Shares without load does not reflect maximum sales charge of 3.75%. If reflected, the load would reduce the performance quoted.

Class I shares commenced operations on December 28, 2007. Class S shares never commenced operations. They were re-designated as Class A shares and commenced operations on January 31, 2013. Performance shown prior to the inception of Class A shares on January 31, 2013 reflects the performance of Class I shares, restated to reflect Class A sales loads and expenses. Class R6 shares commenced operations on October 10, 2017. Performance shown prior to inception of Class R6 shares reflects the performance of Class I shares.

The Advisor has contractually agreed to limit the operating expenses through July 15, 2026. The Expense Caps may be terminated at any time by the Board of Trustees upon 60 days notice to the Advisor, or by the Advisor with the consent of the Board.

Term definitions: https://www.brandes.com/termdefinitions

It is not possible to invest directly in an index

The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is a broad-based benchmark that measures the investment-grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market. This index is a total return index which reflects the price changes and interest of each bond in the index.

Bond ratings are grades given to bonds that indicate their credit quality as determined by a private independent rating service such as Standard & Poor's. The firm evaluates a bond issuer's financial strength, or its ability to pay a bond's principal and interest in a timely fashion. Ratings are expressed as letters ranging from 'AAA', which is the highest grade, to 'D', which is the lowest grade. In limited situations when the rating agency has not issued a formal rating, the Advisor will classify the security as nonrated.

Because the values of the Fund's investments will fluctuate with market conditions, so will the value of your investment in the Fund. You could lose money on your investment in the Fund, or the Fund could underperform other investments. The values of the Fund's investments fluctuate in response to the activities of individual companies and general stock market and economic conditions. As with most fixed income funds, the income on and value of your shares in the Fund will fluctuate along with interest rates. When interest rates rise, the market prices of the debt securities the Fund owns usually decline. When interest rates fall, the prices of these securities usually increase. Generally, the longer the Fund's average portfolio maturity and the lower the average quality of its portfolio, the greater the price fluctuation. The price of any security owned by the Fund may also fall in response to events affecting the issuer of the security, such as its ability to continue to make principal and interest payments or its credit rating. Below investment grade debt securities are speculative and involve a greater risk of default and price change due to changes in the issuer's creditworthiness. The market prices of these debt securities may fluctuate more than the market prices of investment grade debt securities and may decline significantly in periods of general economic difficulty. The Fund may hold illiquid securities which may reduce the return of the Fund because it may be unable to sell such illiquid securities at an advantageous time or price. Illiquid securities may also be difficult to value. The Fund is actively managed, and may frequently buy and sell securities. Frequent trading increases a Fund's portfolio turnover rate and may increase transaction costs, such as brokerage commissions and taxes, which in turn could detract from the Fund's performance.

Investing in foreign securities poses additional risks. The performance of foreign securities can be adversely affected by the different political, regulatory and economic environments and other overall economic conditions in the countries where the Fund invests. Emerging country markets involve greater risk and volatility than more developed markets. Some emerging markets countries may have fixed or managed currencies that are not free-floating against the U.S. dollar. Certain of these currencies may experience substantial fluctuations or steady devaluation relative to the U.S. dollar. Mortgage-related securities are subject to certain additional risks. Rising interest rates tend to extend the duration of mortgage-related securities, making them more sensitive to changes in interest rates. As a result, when holding mortgage-related securities in a period of rising interest rates, a Fund may exhibit additional volatility. In addition, mortgage-related securities are subject to prepayment risk. When interest rates decline, borrowers may pay off their mortgages sooner than expected. This can reduce the returns of a Fund because it will have to reinvest that money at the lower prevailing interest rates.

A mutual fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses must be considered carefully before investing. The statutory and summary prospectuses contain this and other important information about the investment company, and may be obtained by calling 1.800.395.3807 or visiting www.brandes.com/funds. Read carefully before investing.

The foregoing reflects the thoughts and opinions of Brandes Investment Partners® exclusively and is subject to change without notice.

The Brandes funds are distributed by Foreside Financial Services, LLC.