

# Neuberger Berman Core Bond Fund

[NB.COM/COREBOND](http://NB.COM/COREBOND)

**TICKER:** Institutional Class: NCRLX, Class A: NCRAX, Class C: NCRCX, Class R6: NRCRX, Investor Class: NCRIX

## Fund Highlights

**Go Beyond the Benchmark With An Active Approach**  
Utilizes a broader opportunity set of high quality, investment grade sectors than the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index

**Multiple Sources of Potential Alpha**  
Seeks to add value through security selection, relative value sector allocation and, to a lesser extent, duration management

**High Conviction Security Selection**  
Typically 50-80 corporate issuers in the Fund, compared with ~1,000 in the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index

## Portfolio Characteristics<sup>4</sup>

Portfolio Assets (\$mn)	905
Number of Holdings	830
Date of Last Income Distribution	12/31/2024
Amount of Last Income Distribution	0.11
Frequency of Income Distribution	Monthly
Beta (Bloomberg Agg)	1.04
Sharpe Ratio (3 Year)	-0.77
Standard Deviation (3 Year)	8.02
Upside Capture (%)	104.32
Downside Capture (%)	101.48
Weighted Average Maturity (Years)	9.03
Average Effective Duration (Years)	6.08

## Sector Breakdown (%)

	Fund	Benchmark
Corporates	29.1	27.4
Agency MBS	26.8	25.1
ABS	9.2	0.4
Non-Agency MBS	4.6	0.0
CMBS	5.1	1.5
Agencies	0.4	0.7
Treasuries	23.7	44.3
TIPS	0.0	0.0
Global Treasuries	0.0	0.0
US High Yield	0.1	0.0
Municipal	0.0	0.5
Net Cash & Equivalents	2.7	0.0
Net Unsettled Positions***	-1.6	0.0

## Investment Performance

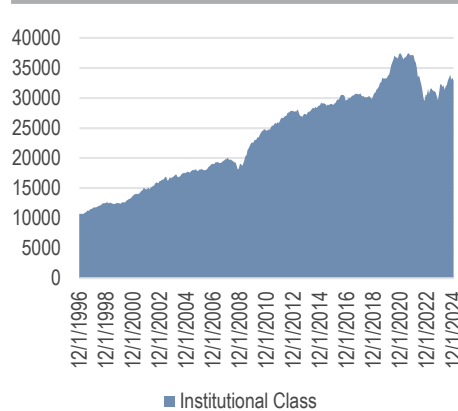
As of December 31, 2024\*

AT NAV	QTD	YTD	AVERAGE ANNUALIZED					EXPENSE RATIOS <sup>3</sup>	
			1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception	Gross Expense	Total (Net) Expense
Institutional Class <sup>1</sup>	-2.99	1.88	1.88	-2.26	0.22	1.60	4.23	0.43	0.38
Class A <sup>1</sup>	-2.99	1.46	1.46	-2.64	-0.17	1.20	3.98	0.80	0.78
Class C <sup>1</sup>	-3.28	0.71	0.71	-3.36	-0.91	0.44	3.54	1.57	1.53
Class R6 <sup>1</sup>	-2.85	2.09	2.09	-2.13	0.34	1.67	4.26	0.34	0.28
Investor Class <sup>1</sup>	-3.10	1.46	1.46	-2.67	-0.17	1.19	3.83	0.93	0.78
<b>WITH SALES CHARGE</b>									
Class A <sup>1</sup>	-7.10	-2.89	-2.89	-4.05	-1.03	0.75	3.83		
Class C <sup>1</sup>	-4.24	-0.27	-0.27	-3.36	-0.91	0.44	3.54		
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index <sup>2</sup>	-3.06	1.25	1.25	-2.41	-0.33	1.35	4.22		

**Performance data quoted represent past performance, which is no guarantee of 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 costs. Results are shown on a "total return" basis and include reinvestment of all dividends and capital gain distributions. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. For current performance data, including current to the most recent month end, please visit [www.nb.com/performance](http://www.nb.com/performance).

\*The inception dates for Neuberger Berman Core Bond Fund Institutional Class and Investor Class are 10/1/95 and 2/1/97, respectively. The inception date for the Class A and Class C shares is 12/20/07. The inception date for Class R6 shares is 1/18/19. Performance prior to the inception date of Investor Class, Class A, Class C and Class R6 is that of the Institutional Class adjusted to reflect applicable sales charges but not class-specific operating expenses. The date used to calculate benchmark performance is that of the Institutional Class. *Average Annual Total Returns with sales charge reflect deduction of current maximum initial sales charge of 4.25% for Class A shares and applicable contingent deferred sales charges (CDSC) for Class C shares. The maximum CDSC for Class C shares is 1%, which is reduced to 0% after 1 year.*

## \$10,000 Hypothetical Investment<sup>5</sup>



## Annual Returns (%)

	Institutional Class	Benchmark
2024	1.88	1.25
2023	6.09	5.53
2022	-13.61	-13.01
2021	-1.08	-1.54
2020	9.47	7.51
2019	9.42	8.72
2018	-1.07	0.01
2017	3.72	3.54
2016	2.95	2.65
2015	0.26	0.55
2014	5.72	5.97
2013	-2.47	-2.02
2012	6.46	4.21

## 30-Day SEC Yield (%)<sup>6</sup>

Institutional Class	4.75
Class A	4.35
Class C	3.58
Investor Class	4.35
Class R6	4.85

## Maturity Distribution (%)

Less than One Year	2.08
One to Five Years	31.58
Five to Ten Years	47.11
Ten Years or Greater	19.23

\*\*\*Negative cash position on a trade date basis is due to pending settlement of certain forward mortgage-backed securities purchases. Net unsettled positions reflect the Fund's mortgage-backed to-be-announced (TBA) transactions and other trades pending settlement. Pending settlement means a transaction traded on or before the reporting date that is anticipated to settle in the following period. These net unsettled positions are also reflected in the percentages for the corresponding sector weightings and maturity distribution.

*An investor should consider the Fund's investment objectives, risks and fees and expenses carefully before investing. This and other important information can be found in the Fund's prospectus, and if available summary prospectus, which you can obtain by calling 877.628.2583. Please read the prospectus, and if available the summary prospectus, carefully before making an investment.*

## Morningstar Overall Rating™

Institutional Class: ★ ★ ★ ★

(Out of 431 Intermediate Core Bond Funds)

The Morningstar ratings for Neuberger Berman Core Bond – Institutional Class for the 3-, 5- and 10-year periods ended December 31, 2024, was 3 stars (out of 431 intermediate core bond Funds), 4 stars (out of 387 intermediate core bond Funds) and 4 stars (out of 274 intermediate core bond Funds), respectively. Morningstar calculates a Morningstar rating based on a risk-adjusted total return.

## Credit Quality (%)<sup>7</sup>

	Fund	Benchmark
AAA / Gov't / Gov't Agency	14.11	3.24
AA	53.19	73.22
A	7.56	11.20
BBB	21.31	12.29
BB or Below	0.14	0.00
Cash	2.53	0.00
Not Rated	1.17	0.04

## Management Team

### THANOS BARDAS

27 Years of Industry Experience

### DAVID M. BROWN, CFA

34 Years of Industry Experience

### NATHAN KUSH

24 Years of Industry Experience

### OLUMIDE OWOLABI

27 Years of Industry Experience

For each retail mutual Fund with at least a three-year history, Morningstar calculates a Morningstar Rating based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a Fund's monthly performance (including the effects of sales charges, loads, and redemption fees), placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of Funds in each category receive five stars, the next 22.5% receive four stars, the next 35% receive three stars, the next 22.5% receive two stars and the bottom 10% receive one star. (Each share class is counted as a fraction of one Fund within this scale and rated separately, which may cause slight variations in the distribution percentages.) The Overall Morningstar Rating for a retail mutual Fund is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five- and ten-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. Ratings are ©2024 Morningstar, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Unless otherwise stated, information (including holdings and portfolio characteristics) is as of the quarter end indicated in the document title and is subject to change without notice.

Shares in the Fund may fluctuate, sometimes significantly, based on interest rates, market conditions, credit quality and other factors. In a rising interest rate environment, the value of an income Fund is likely to fall. The market's behavior is unpredictable and there can be no guarantee that the Fund will achieve its goal. 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. The Fund's yield and share price will fluctuate in response to changes in interest rates. The value of an individual security or particular type of security can be more volatile than the market as a whole and can perform differently from the value of the market as a whole. Bonds are subject to the credit risk of the issuer. To the extent the Fund invests more heavily in particular sectors, its performance will be especially sensitive to developments that significantly affect those sectors.

The Fund's performance could be affected if borrowers pay back principal on certain debt securities, such as mortgage- or asset-backed securities, before or after the market anticipates, shortening or lengthening their duration and could magnify the effect of rate increases on the security's price. When-issued and forward-settling securities can have a leverage-like effect on the Fund, which may increase fluctuations in the Fund's share price and may cause the Fund to liquidate positions when it may not be advantageous to do so. Leverage amplifies changes in the Fund's net asset value. Derivatives can be highly complex, can create investment leverage and may be highly volatile, and the Fund could lose more than the amount it invests. Derivatives may be difficult to value and may at times be highly illiquid, and the Fund may not be able to close out or sell a derivative position at a particular time or at an anticipated price. The Fund's investments in derivatives create counterparty risk. The Fund may also invest in senior loans, which also may be rated below investment grade. No active trading market may exist for many loans, loans may be difficult to value and many are subject to restrictions on resale, which may result in extended trade settlement periods and may prevent the Fund from obtaining the full value of a loan when sold. An inability to sell a portfolio position can adversely affect the Fund's value or prevent the Fund from being able to take advantage of other investment opportunities. Unexpected episodes of illiquidity, including due to market factors, instrument or issuer-specific factors and/or unanticipated outflows, may limit the Fund's ability to pay redemption proceeds within the allowable time period.

<sup>1</sup>The Fund's Investment Manager (the "Manager") currently caps certain Class A, Class C, Class R6, Investor Class, and Institutional Class expenses. Absent such arrangement, which is subject to change, the total returns would have been less. Prior to February 28, 2008, the Fund had a different goal, to maximize income without undue risk to principal and investment strategy which limited its ability to invest in derivatives and non-USD denominated securities and as such performance from June 13, 2005 to February 28, 2008 might have been different if the current policies had been in effect. The Fund is the successor to Ariel Premier Bond Fund ("Ariel Bond Fund"). The total return data for the Fund's Institutional Class prior to June 13, 2005 is that of the Ariel Fund Institutional Class from October 1, 1995 (inception date) and the total return data for the Fund's Investor Class is that of the Ariel Fund Institutional Class for the period October 1, 1995 through January 31, 1997 and the Ariel Fund Investor Class for the period February 1, 1997 through June 10, 2005. The investment policies, guidelines and restrictions of the Fund are in all material respects equivalent to Ariel Bond Fund. Ariel Bond Fund Institutional Class had lower expenses and typically higher returns than Ariel Bond Fund Investor Class. Returns would have been lower if the manager of Ariel Bond Fund had not waived certain of its fees during the periods shown. The Investor Class is closed to new investors.

<sup>2</sup>The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged index that represents the U.S. domestic investment-grade bond market. It is comprised of the Bloomberg Government/Corporate Bond Index, Mortgage-Backed Securities Index, and Asset-Backed Securities Index, including securities that are of investment-grade quality or better, have at least one year to maturity, and have an outstanding par value of at least \$250 million. Please note that indices do not take into account any fees and expenses of investing in the individual securities that they track, and that individuals cannot invest directly in any index. Data about the performance of these indices are prepared or obtained by the Manager and reflect the reinvestment of income dividends and other distributions, if any. The Fund may invest in many securities not included in the above-described indices.

<sup>3</sup>Total (net) expense represents the total annual operating expenses that shareholders pay (after the effect of fee waivers and/or expense reimbursement). The Fund's investment manager has contractually undertaken to waive and/or reimburse certain fees and expenses of the Fund so that the total annual operating expenses are capped (excluding interest, brokerage commissions, acquired Fund fees and expenses, taxes including any expense relating to tax reclaims, dividend and interest expenses relating to short sales, and extraordinary expenses, if any; consequently, total (net) expenses may exceed the contractual cap) through 10/31/2027 for Institutional Class at 0.38%, Investor Class at 0.78%, Class R6 at 0.28%, Class A at 0.78% and Class C at 1.53% (each of average net assets). Absent such arrangements, which cannot be changed without Board approval, the returns may have been lower. Information as of the most recent prospectus dated February 28, 2024, as amended and supplemented.

<sup>4</sup>**Beta** (average 3-year shown) is a measure of market-related risk (expressed between 0-1%) of a portfolio compared to that of the overall market, as represented by an index. The lower the beta the lower the sensitivity to the movements of the market, as represented by the index. **Sharpe Ratio** (average 3-year shown) is a measure of the risk-adjusted return of a portfolio. The ratio represents the return gained per unit of risk taken. The Sharpe ratio can be used to compare the performance of managers. Managers with the same excess return for a period but different levels of risk will have Sharpe ratios that reflect the difference in the level of risk. **Standard Deviation** (average 3-year shown) is a statistical measure of portfolio risk. The Standard Deviation describes the average deviation of the portfolio returns from the mean portfolio return over a certain period of time. Standard Deviation measures how wide this range of returns typically is. The wider the typical range of returns, the higher the Standard Deviation of returns, and the higher the portfolio risk. **Upside Capture** is a measure of the manager's performance in up markets relative to the market itself. A value of 110 suggests the manager performs ten percent better than the market when the market is up. During the selected time period, the return for the market for each period is considered an up market period if it is greater than zero. Upside Capture is calculated by dividing the return of the manager during the up market periods by the return of the market during the same periods. **Downside Capture** is a measure of the manager's performance in down markets relative to the market itself. A value of 90 suggests the manager's loss is only nine tenths of the market's loss. During the selected time period the return for the market for each period is considered a down market period if it is less than zero. Downside Capture is calculated by dividing the return of the manager during the down periods by the return of the market during the same periods. **Weighted Average Maturity** is expected average life to worst or in other words the par-weighted average time (in years) to principal repayment for securitized assets or the time (in years) to probable call/put for non-securitized assets. **Average Effective Duration** can be a useful tool in measuring the price sensitivity of the portfolio to changes in interest rates and measures the % change in price for a 100 bps of shift in interest rates. Unlike other measures of duration, average effective duration takes into account any optionalities (e.g. whether the instrument is callable at a certain price) embedded within each security in the portfolio. Generally, the larger the duration, the more sensitive the portfolio will be to a change in interest rates. Instruments with higher effective durations often carry more risk and have higher price volatility than those with lower durations.

<sup>5</sup>The hypothetical analysis assumes an initial investment of \$10,000 made on October 1, 1995, the inception date of the Fund's Institutional share class. This analysis assumes the reinvestment of all income dividends and other distributions, if any. The analysis does not reflect the effect of taxes that would be paid on Fund distributions. The analysis is based on past performance and does not indicate future results. Given the potential fluctuation of the Fund's Net Asset Value (NAV), the hypothetical market value may be less than the hypothetical initial investment at any point during the time period considered. The above analysis also does not compare the Fund's relative performance to the Fund's prospectus benchmark, the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index. Please see annualized performance table.

<sup>6</sup>A Fund's 30-day SEC yield is similar to a yield to maturity for the entire portfolio. The formula is designated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Absent any expense cap arrangement noted above, the SEC yields may have been lower. A negative 30-Day SEC yield results when a Fund's accrued expenses exceed its income for the relevant period. Please note, in such instances the 30-Day SEC yield may not equal the Fund's actual rate of income earned and distributed by the Fund and therefore, a per share distribution may still be paid to shareholders. The unsubsidized 30-day SEC yields for Class A, Class C, Class R6, Institutional Class and Investor Class are 4.34%, 3.56%, 4.82%, 4.72% and 4.20%, respectively.

<sup>7</sup>Chart represents the ratings of the securities held by the Fund and does not imply any credit rating of the Fund itself. Credit-quality ratings are obtained from Barclays using ratings derived from Moody's, S&P, and Fitch. When calculating the credit quality breakdown, if a security is rated by each of these rating agencies, then the middle rating will be used. If only two rating agencies rate a security, then the lower of the two ratings will be used. If only one rating agency rates a security, then that one rating will be used. Where none of the agencies rate a security, the security will be considered unrated. Portfolio holdings, underlying ratings of holdings and credit quality composition may change materially over time.

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