



# Short Duration: 1-3 Year Government

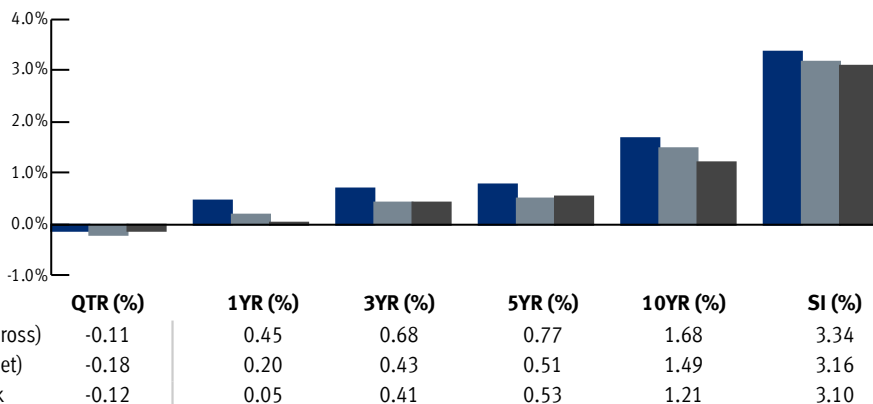
## Quarterly Commentary

Market volatility reemerged during the first quarter as risk assets experienced a meaningful correction after a prolonged period of market complacency. The relative euphoria seen in the markets during the second half of 2017 has dissolved as fears over inflation, a more hawkish Fed, potential trade wars, and drastic swings in equity markets have spooked investors. US Treasury yields rose sharply in February and continued the momentum upward into March, reaching some of the highest levels seen since 2014. Despite volatility's return, US economic conditions are stable as growth prospects remain high and leading economic indicators continue to be strong.

The Fed's Open Market Committee raised their overnight Fed funds rate in March by 25 bps to a range of 1.50%-1.75%. This rate hike was widely anticipated and marked the first move in 2018, yet it is anticipated the Fed will raise rates another 2-3 times this year. Market measures of inflation have strengthened recently, but actual price measures remained subdued. The Fed has indicated no concern about low inflation and a flattening yield curve in the near-term.

For the year 2018, we believe US rates will rise on the front end of the curve as the Fed continues to move rates higher while low inflation will keep longer rates anchored, causing a further flattening of the yield curve. We anticipate 2018 US GDP of ~2.75%; continued low inflation; flexibility to increase rates, given confidence in dot forecast; and improved carry and positive bond returns from modestly higher rates. However, there are risks to the outlook, primarily from a climate of protectionism, potential trade wars and inflation concerns that bear watching.

## Investment Performance



Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Source: RBC Global Asset Management, ICE Data Indices

Inception of the performance record is 1.1.98.

Returns are presented in gross and net of fees and include the reinvestment of all income. All returns for periods greater than one year are shown on an annualized basis. Performance and composite information presented is supplemental to the "GIPS® Compliant Presentation" which contains additional information regarding calculation of performance data.

## Strategy Overview

- \$7,572 Million Assets Under Management
- Inception: January 1998
- Benchmark: ICE BofA Merrill Lynch 1-3 Year U.S. Treasury & Agency Index
- Vehicles: Separate Account

## Investment Philosophy & Style

- A well constructed diversified portfolio managed within an active risk framework will enhance consistent income over various market cycles
- Thorough understanding of the issuer, credit and debt structure
- Focus on security selection and curve exposure while actively managing duration, call and extension risk
- Invest in out-of-benchmark sectors when expected return justifies the opportunity
- Avoid making large duration calls

## Risk Management

- Mandate and policy controls
- Full, multidisciplinary vetting of client policies and objectives
- Multiple levels of review
- Clear accountabilities and cross checks
- High quality focus reduces credit risk

## Portfolio Construction

- Duration Range: 0-3 years
- Maturity Range: 0-5 years
- Investment Universe: Treasuries, Agencies, Taxable or Tax-exempt Municipals, Agency Secured, Mortgage Backed
- Credit Quality: securities rated from AAA to BBB, fully customizable

## Investment Team

**Brandon T Swensen, CFA**, Managing Director, Co-Head, US Fixed Income  
Industry Experience: 20 years

**Brian Svendahl, CFA**, Managing Director, Co-Head, US Fixed Income  
Industry Experience: 26 years

Supported by a team of 13 portfolio managers and research analysts

## About RBC Global Asset Management

- Over \$325 billion Assets Under Management
- Offices in North America, Europe and Asia
- Over 300 investment professionals globally
- Part of Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), one of the highest rated and largest banks in the world\*

\*Ratings: S&P: AA-, Moody's: A1. Ranked 5th largest bank in North America and 10th globally based on market capitalization (Bloomberg, 3.31.18).

## Portfolio Characteristics<sup>1</sup>

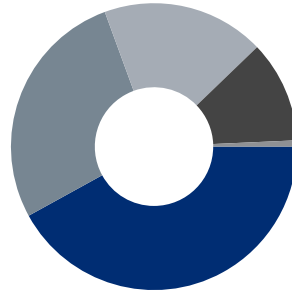
Effective Duration  
Yield to Maturity  
Average Credit Quality

**Strategy**  
1.8 years  
2.5%  
AAA

**Benchmark**  
1.8 years  
2.3%  
AAA

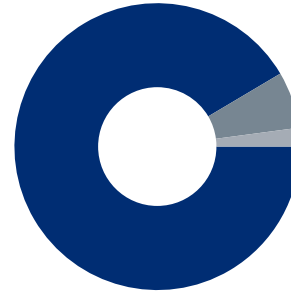
## Distribution<sup>1</sup>

### Sector



■ Agency Secured	42.0%
■ Agency	27.4%
■ Treasury	18.4%
■ Municipal	11.5%
■ MBS	0.7%

### Credit



■ AAA	91.5%
■ AA	6.4%
■ A	2.1%

Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Source: RBC Global Asset Management, Citigroup Yield Book, Bank of America, Moody's, S&P

<sup>1</sup>Supplemental information complements the "GIPS<sup>®</sup> Compliant Presentation" as provided. The information presented are those of the representative account in the strategy. There is no guarantee that every account will be identical to the information presented here.

This presentation should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell any financial instruments. The information contained herein should not be relied upon as the sole investment-making decision.

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# GIPS® Compliant Presentation, as of March 31, 2018

## RBC GAM U.S. Fixed Income - Short Duration 1-3 Year Government

Inception Date: January 1, 1998

Benchmark: ICE BofA Merrill Lynch 1-3 Year US Treasury & Agency Index

Currency: USD

Annual Returns	Composite Gross Return (%)	Composite Net Return (%)	Benchmark Return (%)	Composite 3-Yr St Dev (%)	Benchmark 3-Yr St Dev (%)	Number of Portfolios	Internal Dispersion (%)	Composite Assets (millions)	Firm Assets (millions)
2008	6.57	6.41	6.75	1.47	1.61	3	0.12	43.3	164,090.1
2009	3.05	2.94	1.23	1.56	1.82	5	0.01	107.1	228,136.6
2010	2.86	2.74	2.34	1.53	1.68	5	0.14	266.8	252,397.6
2011	1.93	1.82	1.55	0.90	0.96	5	0.18	271.4	244,857.4
2012	1.31	1.20	0.51	0.72	0.70	6	0.07	320.2	279,416.3
2013	0.43	0.18	0.36	0.54	0.48	5	0.11	304.2	296,003.0
2014	0.94	0.69	0.62	0.53	0.42	7	0.05	537.5	302,064.4
2015	0.76	0.51	0.55	0.62	0.55	6	0.07	585.3	276,979.3
2016	1.10	0.85	0.89	0.77	0.75	12	0.06	1,250.8	289,538.6
2017	0.87	0.62	0.44	0.75	0.73	6	0.24	689.2	331,885.2
YTD 2018	-0.11	-0.18	-0.12	0.71	0.69	5	0.04	653.4	326,569.8

**Description of the Firm:** For the purposes of Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®), RBC Global Asset Management is the asset management division of Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), operating under the following brands: RBC Global Asset Management (RBC GAM) in Canada, the U.S. (institutional), the U.K. and Hong Kong; Phillips, Hager & North Investment Management (institutional); and BlueBay Asset Management (institutional). With offices around the world, RBC GAM offers a full range of global investment solutions in cash management and fixed income, equity, balanced, alternative and specialty investment strategies through mutual funds, hedge funds, pooled funds and separately managed accounts. The RBC GAM group of companies has more than C\$417 billion (US\$331 billion) in assets under management as at December 31, 2017. RBC purchased Phillips, Hager & North Investment Management, including the assets of BonaVista Asset Management, on May 1, 2008, and BlueBay Asset Management on December 17, 2010. A complete list and description of the firm's composites and performance results is available upon request.

**Compliance Statement:** RBC GAM claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS® standards. RBC GAM has been independently verified for the periods January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2016. Verification assesses whether (1) the firm has complied with all the composite construction requirements of the GIPS® standards on a firm-wide basis and (2) the firm's policies and procedures are designed to calculate and present performance in compliance with the GIPS® standards. The U.S. Fixed Income - Short Duration 1-3 Year Government composite has been examined for the periods January 1, 2003 - December 31, 2016. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request.

**Composite Description:** The Short Duration 1-3 Year Government Composite consists of accounts that invest primarily in short duration taxable U.S. Treasury and Government Agency securities. Holdings may include government-guaranteed structured product and taxable municipals.

**Benchmark:** The benchmark for this composite is the ICE BofA Merrill Lynch 1-3 Year U.S. Treasury & Agency Index, which is an unmanaged index which measures the performance of certain U.S. Government bonds with maturities of 1-3 years. Index returns are provided for comparison purposes to represent the investment environment existing during the time periods shown. An index is fully invested, includes the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains, but does not include any transaction costs, management fees, or other costs. Holdings of each separately managed account in a composite will differ from the index. An investor may not invest directly in an index.

**Gross of Fees:** Gross of fees performance returns are presented before management fees, but after all trading expenses. Returns are presented net of withholding taxes on dividends, interest income and capital gains where applicable.

**Net of Fees:** Net of fee performance is calculated using the maximum stated annual fee of 0.25% applied monthly. Prior to January 1, 2013 net of fee performance was calculated using actual fees.

**Performance Calculations:** Results are based on all fully discretionary accounts meeting the composite definition, including those accounts no longer with the firm. Returns are shown in U.S. Dollars, and include the reinvestment of all income. Additional information regarding policies for valuing portfolios, calculating performance, and preparing presentations is available upon request. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

**Composite Dispersion:** The composite dispersion of annual returns is indicated by the performance of individual accounts representing the equal weighted standard deviation of returns. Dispersion of returns is calculated for portfolios included in the composite for the full year.

**3-Year Standard Deviation:** Periods with less than 3 years of data will show "n/a".

**Derivatives, Leverage and Short Positions:** None of these strategies are currently employed by any accounts in this composite.

**Cash Flow Policy:** As of April 1, 2015 the significant cash flow policy was removed from the composite. Prior to that date, composite policy required the temporary removal of any portfolio incurring a client-initiated significant cash inflow or outflow of at least 10% of portfolio assets. The temporary removal of such an account occurred at the beginning of the month in which the significant cash flow occurred and the account re-entered the composite the first full month of being fully invested.

**Fee Schedule:** 0.25% on first \$25 million; 0.15% on next \$25 million; 0.10% on next \$50 million; 0.08% on assets exceeding \$100 million. Advisory fees are described on this page and in Form ADV Part 2A. RBC GAM reserves the right to negotiate all advisory fees.

**Minimum Account Size:** There is no minimum account size for this composite.

**Creation Date:** This composite was created on January 1, 2008 and has an inception date of January 1, 1998.

**Composite History:** Prior to December 1, 2016 this composite was named Short Government. This composite was redefined on July 1, 2016 to include a broader range of accounts that invest primarily in short duration U.S. Government securities. The change was made because the more constrained accounts that had previously been excluded were determined to have risk and return profiles that were substantially similar to accounts included in the composite, and that their inclusion would more fully represent RBC GAM-US capabilities in this space.

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