



STERLING CAPITAL FUNDS

TOTAL RETURN BOND FUND

A Shares
(BICAX)
Inception 12.02.1999

C Shares
(BICCX)
Inception 02.01.2001

Inst'l Shares
(BIBTX)
Inception 12.02.1999

R6 Shares
(STRDX)
Inception 02.01.2018

12.31.2019

Overall Morningstar Rating™



Overall rating against 382 Morningstar US Fund Intermediate Core Bond Funds as of 12.31.2019, derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five- and ten-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. (BIBTX)

FUND FACTS

Investment Objective:

Seeks a high level of current income and a competitive total return.

Total Net Assets	\$1,544,920,645
Number of Holdings	392
Average Life	8.08 Years
Effective Duration	5.93 Years
Turnover	82%

TOTAL EXPENSE RATIO

	Net	Gross
A Shares (BICAX)	0.70%	0.83%
C Shares (BICCX)	1.45%	1.58%
Inst'l Shares (BIBTX)	0.45%	0.58%
R6 Shares (STRDX)	0.35%	0.58%

The Advisor has contractually agreed to limit management fees paid by the Fund from February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021. Performance would have been lower without limitations in effect.

*The Administrator has contractually agreed to waive its administrative fees, pay Fund operating expenses, and/or reimburse the Fund to keep R6 shares Net Expense Ratio to 0.35% from February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021. Performance would have been lower without limitations in effect.

DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTION

Month	Rates/A Share
October	\$0.0244
November	\$0.0235
December	\$0.0265
December NAV	\$10.82

EFFECTIVE DURATION BREAKDOWN

0-1 Yr.	11.8
1-2 Yr.	8.0
2-3 Yr.	14.5
3-5 Yr.	22.6
5-10 Yr.	27.4
10+ Yrs.	15.6

The composition of the fund's holdings is subject to change.

30-DAY SEC YIELD

	With Waivers	Without Waivers
A Shares (BICAX)	2.06%	1.94%
Inst'l Shares (BIBTX)	2.43%	2.31%

SEC Yield is an annualization of the fund's total net investment income per share for the 30-day period ended on the last day of the month.

Philosophy and Process

In managing the fund, the portfolio management team employs a multi-faceted approach to generate excess return and uses a combination of top-down and bottom-up analysis, quantitative vs. qualitative analysis and fundamentals vs. valuation. There is a strong emphasis on risk management and an adherence to certain core investment beliefs.

Strategy Summary

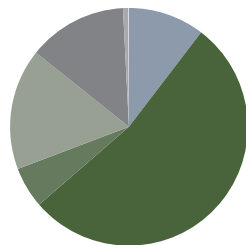
The team's multi-faceted approach uses a combination of top-down and bottom-up analysis, quantitative vs. qualitative analysis and fundamentals vs. valuation in order to generate excess return. Emphasis is placed on risk management through asymmetric risk/return profiles, quantifying risk and assessing return (return potential secondary to risk assessment) and analyzing investment risk within the context of the portfolio and on a stand-alone basis. The team firmly believes in no unintended exposures, consistent risk-adjusted performance over time and the idea that "if you cannot measure it, you cannot manage it."

Fund Performance 12.31.2019	QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception
A Shares with 5.75% Sales Charge	-5.58%	2.85%	2.85%	2.07%	2.00%	3.43%	4.66%
A Shares without Sales Charge	0.15%	9.10%	9.10%	4.11%	3.21%	4.04%	4.97%
Institutional Shares	0.12%	9.26%	9.26%	4.34%	3.45%	4.29%	5.22%
BBgBarc US Agg Bond Index	0.18%	8.72%	8.72%	4.03%	3.05%	3.75%	5.00%
Lipper Core Bond Median	0.18%	8.75%	8.75%	3.88%	2.89%	3.84%	--

Year-End Returns	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
A Shares without Sales Charge	-1.31%	5.73%	0.29%	3.49%	4.17%	-0.70%	9.10%
Institutional Shares	-0.97%	5.99%	0.54%	3.75%	4.34%	-0.35%	9.26%
BBgBarc US Agg Bond Index	-2.02%	5.97%	0.55%	2.65%	3.54%	0.01%	8.72%

Past performance does not guarantee future results. The performance data quoted represents past performance and current returns may be lower or higher. 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 the original cost. To obtain performance information current to the most recent month end and information on other share classes, please visit www.sterlingcapital.com. Performance for periods greater than one year is annualized.

Quality Breakdown



Credit quality ratings using S&P's ratings symbols reflect the credit quality of the underlying bonds in the fund portfolio and not of the fund itself. Securities are rated by S&P's, Moody's and Fitch; when ratings vary the highest rating available for each security is applied. Credit quality ratings are measured on a scale that generally ranges from AAA (highest) to D (lowest). "NR" is used to classify securities for which a rating is not available. Bond quality ratings are subject to change.

*Allocations are based on the current weight to funds in the cited category. The composition of the fund's holdings is subject to change.

Portfolio Composition*	Fund	Index
Corporate	30.6%	25.3%
Financial Institutions	13.0%	7.9%
Industrial	14.7%	15.5%
Utility	2.9%	1.9%
Government Related	5.1%	5.7%
Agency	0.4%	2.5%
Local Authority	4.7%	0.9%
Sovereign	--	1.0%
Supranational	--	1.3%
Securitized	51.6%	29.5%
ABS	14.8%	0.5%
CMBS	12.5%	2.0%
CMO	6.5%	--
MBS Passthrough	17.8%	27.0%
Treasury	10.4%	39.5%
Treasury	10.4%	39.5%
Cash & Equivalents	2.3%	--
Cash & Equivalents	2.3%	--
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. For a prospectus or summary prospectus with this and other information about the fund, please call (888) 228-1872 or visit our website at www.sterlingcapital.com. Read the prospectus carefully before investing.



STERLING CAPITAL FUNDS

Morningstar Style Box



TOTAL RETURN BOND FUND



Portfolio Management

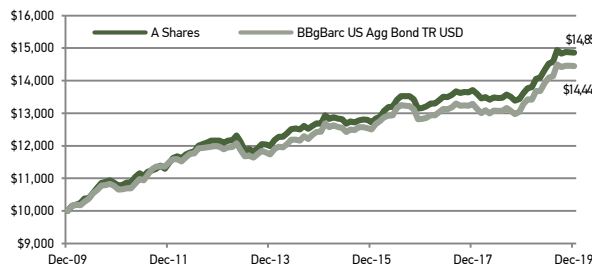
Mark M. Montgomery, CFA®
Senior Managing Director
Co-Portfolio Manager

Mark joined Sterling Capital Management in 1997 and has co-managed the fund since 2008. He has investment experience since 1990. Mark is a graduate of West Chester University where he received a BS in Marketing and a Minor in Public Administration and a MBA from Drexel University. He holds the Chartered Financial Analyst® designation.

Peter L. Brown, CFA®
Executive Director
Co-Portfolio Manager

Pete joined Sterling Capital Management in 2004 and has co-managed the fund since 2020. He has investment experience since 2000. Pete received a BS in Statistics with minors in Business Management, Marketing and Communications from Cornell University and a MBA from Wake Forest University. He holds the Chartered Financial Analyst® designation.

Growth of \$10,000



The Growth of \$10,000 chart is hypothetical based upon the performance of A Shares without sales charge for the period ended 12.31.2019. It includes the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains.

Lipper Core Bond Category

Based on Total Return as of 12.31.2019

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Lipper Ranking / Number of Funds in Category	172 / 514	77 / 454	47 / 391	61 / 296
Lipper Percentile	2nd (34%)	1st (17%)	1st (12%)	1st (21%)

Morningstar US Fund Intermediate Core Bond Category

Based on Risk-Adjusted Returns as of 12.31.2019

	Overall Rating	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Institutional Shares Morningstar Rating™	★★★★	--	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
Morningstar Ranking / Number of Funds in Category	382	76 / 430	37 / 382	18 / 327	30 / 251
Morningstar Quartile (Percentile)		1st (20%)	1st (11%)	1st (6%)	1st (14%)

Top Ten Holdings

1. U.S. Treasury 2.5% 15-Feb-2045	3.84%
2. U.S. Treasury 2.625% 15-Feb-2029	2.08%
3. U.S. Treasury 2.5% 31-Jan-2024	1.84%
4. Ford Credit Auto Owner Trust 2018-REV1 3.19% 15-JUL-2031	1.12%
5. FNMA, Pool #CA4431	1.12%
6. FHLMC, Pool #QA3329	1.10%
7. U.S. Treasury 2.5% 28-Feb-2026	1.06%
8. Fnmra, Pool #B05415	1.02%
9. Fnmra, Pool #B08851	1.02%
10. Freddie Mac Gold Pool #Q46278	1.00%

Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to change and risk. Based on Market Value of securities.

Firm Overview

Sterling Capital Management LLC is a registered investment adviser founded in 1970, and an independently operated subsidiary of BB&T Corporation now Truist Financial Corporation, one of the nation's largest financial services holding companies. Sterling is headquartered in Charlotte, NC with offices in Raleigh, NC; Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia, PA; San Francisco, CA; Richmond, VA; and Virginia Beach, VA. We are driven by our commitment to pursue performance excellence and provide exceptional client service. Our seasoned investment teams aim to generate long-term consistent investment performance in line with specific fund objectives. What matters most to you matters most to us.

Investment Considerations

The fund is subject to the same risks as the underlying bonds in the portfolio such as credit, prepayment, call and interest rate risk. As interest rates rise the value of bond prices will decline. The fund may invest in more aggressive investments such as foreign securities which may expose the fund to currency and exchange rate fluctuations; derivatives (futures and swaps); mortgage backed securities sensitive to interest rates and high yield debt (also known as junk bonds), all of which may cause greater volatility and less liquidity. Derivatives may be more sensitive to changes in market conditions and may amplify risks.

The **Chartered Financial Analyst® (CFA)** charter is a graduate-level investment credential awarded by CFA Institute — the largest global association of investment professionals. To earn the CFA charter, candidates must: 1) pass three sequential, six-hour examinations; 2) have at least four years of qualified professional investment experience; 3) join CFA Institute as members; and 4) commit to abide by, and annually reaffirm, their adherence to the CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct.

Ratings and Rankings would have been lower for Class A shares due to fees and expenses.

Lipper and Morningstar rankings are based on total return, including the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains but do not include sales charges for the periods indicated. Rankings shown are for Class I Shares and may be lower for Class A Shares due to higher fees and expenses. Mutual funds are assigned a rank within a universe of funds, relative to a peer group and similar in investment objective as determined by Lipper and Morningstar. The lower the number rank, the better the fund performed compared to other funds in the classification group. Lipper and Morningstar also calculate a percentile measure for each fund ranging from 1% (best) to 100% (worst).

The Morningstar Rating™ for funds, or "star rating", is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% three-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% five-year rating/40% three-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% five-year rating/20% three-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent three-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods.

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Technical Terms: **Effective Duration:** A calculation of the average life of individual bonds within a bond fund, and serves as a useful measure of the entire portfolio's sensitivity to rising and falling interest rates. An Effective Duration of 2.00 means that with a 1% decline in interest rates, the principal value should rise by 2%, and vice versa. **Portfolio Turnover Rate:** A measure of how frequently assets within a fund are bought and sold by the managers.

Sterling Capital Management LLC a separate subsidiary of BB&T Corporation now Truist Financial Corporation, serves as investment adviser to the Sterling Capital Funds and is paid a fee for its services. Shares of the Sterling Capital Funds are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed or endorsed by, Branch Banking and Trust Company now Truist Bank or its affiliates. The funds are not insured by the FDIC or any other government agency. The funds are distributed by Sterling Capital Distributors LLC, which is not affiliated with Branch Banking and Trust Company now Truist Bank or its affiliates.

Not a deposit • Not FDIC insured • May lose value • Not guaranteed by the bank • Not insured by any government agency