5 things you need to know about how to invest in bonds

People looking to invest in bonds should consider several key factors before making a commitment. Here are five key things to consider when investing in bonds.

ACCESSING BONDS

There are many different ways for investors to access the £75 trillion global bond market.

INVEST IN A RANGE OF

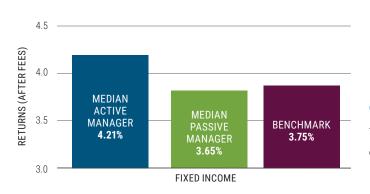
BONDS THROUGH A FUND

INVEST DIRECTLY

VIA AN EXCHANGE	VIA A BROKER	IN AN ACTIVE FUND	IN A PASSIVE
Some	The majority	A portfolio of	FUND
exchanges	of bonds are	bonds actively	A portfolio of
offer bonds	sold over-the-	managed by a	bonds that
	counter via	fund manager	passively
	brokers	according to a	tracks an index
		set strategy	

ACTIVE VS. PASSIVE INVESTMENT

Active managers use their expertise to manage risks and select investments. As the chart below shows, active fixed income managers outperformed passive managers and the benchmark index over the 10-year period ended 31 December 2019.



Source: Morningstar Based on Morningstar U.S. Fund Intermediate Core and Intermediate Core-Plus categories. Institutional share class. Benchmarks: Fixed Income = Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index.

Past performance is not a guarantee or a reliable indicator of future results.

THE RISKS OF INVESTING

INTEREST RATE RISK The risk that a bond's price will fall when interest rates rise.

DEFAULT RISK

The risk that the issuer of the bond cannot pay the coupons or the value of the bond at maturity.

INFLATION RISK

ΡΙΜΟΟ

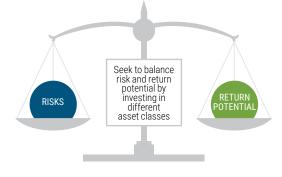
The risk that a bond's future purchasing power will be eroded by the increasing cost of goods and services.

REINVESTMENT RISK

The risk of reinvesting money from mature bonds into new bonds with lower interest rates.

DIVERSIFICATION

Often described as financial markets' only free lunch, diversification is the mixture of assets or asset classes with low or negative correlation in a way that helps reduce overall risk. For example, holding both bonds and equities can help diversify a portfolio.



COMPARING BONDS

Three key things to consider when choosing to invest in bonds or bond funds include:



ΡΙΜΟΟ

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