

AN ACTIVE ETF STANDING OUT FROM ITS FIXED INCOME PEERS

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One of the most talked-about and intriguing categories of ETFs is the actively managed ETF. Active ETFs still represent only a small subset of the ETF universe, but a number of high-profile, traditional active managers have considered entering the space with non-transparent strategies. WisdomTree, a pioneer in active ETFs and a leading active ETF provider since entering this category in 2008, strongly believes that [transparency](#) is a major virtue of the ETF structure, especially in the fixed income category. In fixed income, we see potential benefits to tapping experienced investment managers to better navigate the [credit cycle](#). This may be particularly true in environments where [liquidity](#) has become compromised and the low-hanging fruit of early credit cycles is gone. Under the guidance of Western Asset Management Company (Western Asset)¹, the [WisdomTree Strategic Corporate Bond Fund \(CRDT\)](#) has developed an impressive track record since its inception on January 31, 2013. Since its inception, CRDT has outperformed 94% of all corporate bond mutual funds and ETFs on a risk-adjusted basis (Sharpe Ratio) and 87% of all world bond funds on a similar basis. Looking at just the corporate bond ETF category, CRDT had the second-best [Sharpe ratio](#) (risk-adjusted returns) among 21 funds, ranking it in the top 95% of corporate bond ETFs since its inception and giving it the fifth-best absolute return.

	Since Inception	All Corporate Bond Mutual Funds and ETFs			Corporate Bond ETFs			World Bond Category		
		Number of Peers	Peer Group Rank	% of Peers Beaten	Number of Peers	Peer Group Rank	% of Peers Beaten	Number of Peers	Peer Group Rank	% of Peers Beaten
WisdomTree Strategic Corporate Bond ETF (CRDT)	1/31/2013–3/31/2015									
Annualized Return	4.57%	181	42	77%	21	5	81%	358	28	92%
Sharpe Ratio	1.14	181	12	94%	21	2	95%	358	47	87%

Source: Morningstar, Inc., 2015.

For the 1-year period ending 3/31/2015, CRDT's rankings were: 111 out of 203 peers in All Corporate Bond Mutual Funds and ETFs; 17 out of 28 peers in Corporate Bond ETFs; and 49 out of 404 peers in the World Bond Category. All rights reserved. The information contained herein (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers is responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. Past performance, rankings and ratings are no guarantee of future results. The "Percent of Peer Group Beaten" is a fund's total-return percentile rank relative to all funds in the same Morningstar category and is subject to change each month. Regarding ranking of funds, 1 = best and 181 = worst, using the one-year time frame as an example, where there were 181 managers with performance extending through the full period.

CRDT Performance Average

Annual

Total

CRDT Returns

FUND	Cumulative Returns as of 3/31/2015			Average Annual Returns as of 3/31/2015		
	1-MO.	3-MO.	YTD	SINCE FUND INCEPTION 1/31/2013	1-YR.	SINCE FUND INCEPTION 1/31/2013
WisdomTree Strategic Corporate Bond Fund (CRDT) NAV	0.26%	2.58%	2.58%	10.16%	5.61%	4.57%
WisdomTree Strategic Corporate Bond Fund (CRDT) Market	0.40%	2.26%	2.26%	9.48%	5.33%	4.27%
Barclays Global Credit Index Hedged	0.31%	2.23%	2.23%	10.34%	6.31%	4.66%
Global Corporate Composite Hedged	0.20%	2.27%	2.27%	10.92%	5.93%	4.91%

Performance is historical and does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than quoted. Investment returns 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. Performance data for the most recent month-end is available at www.wisdomtree.com.

WisdomTree shares are bought and sold at market price (not NAV) and are not individually redeemed from the Fund. Total returns are calculated using the daily 4:00 p.m. EST net asset value (NAV). Market price returns reflect the midpoint of the bid/ask spread as of the close of trading on the exchange where Fund shares are listed. Market price returns do not represent the returns you would receive if you traded shares at other times.

Western Asset incorporates both [top-down](#) and disciplined [bottom-up](#) analysis in uncovering corporate bond opportunities in the United States and around the world. By taking a global view of credit, the team at Western is able to think strategically about what risks are ultimately worth taking. **Window into Western Asset's Current Views** A primary benefit of the daily transparency of the ETF structure is full knowledge of how a portfolio is positioned every day. An investor can get a window into Western's worldview based on allocations to CRDT. Right now, the team managing CRDT is cautiously constructive at current [spreads](#) but remains vigilant in monitoring idiosyncratic risks.

- **Favorites:** U.S. Financials remain an over-weight, with the continued regulatory push to "Back to Basics" banking having strong bondholder-friendly implications.
- **Under-weights:** Conversely, greater caution is suggested in considering credits in sectors, such as energy, chemicals, communications and technology, that appear more prone to shareholder activism and M&A.
- **Opportunities Lower in the Credit Spectrum:** Western Asset sees opportunities in select high-yield credits, given the resiliency in fundamentals and support from positive technicals.
- **Homebodies:** On the whole, U.S. and UK credits are preferred to European credits across the quality spectrum.
- **Less Rate Risk:** There current bias is to take on less [interest rate risk](#) than the benchmark for the second quarter.

Ultimately, effective bond managers are only as good as their investment processes. As we have outlined in this piece, we believe that Western Asset's approach to fixed income can be a valuable resource to investors seeking to navigate the evolution of global credit markets. Western Asset is one of premiere value-focused fixed income managers, and CRDT is showing how active ETFs can provide differentiated and meaningfully strong performance—all while providing full transparency. ¹Western Asset sub-advises five WisdomTree Funds, as of 3/31/15.

Important Risks Related to this Article

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performance report to accompany this blog.

For more investing insights, check out our [Economic & Market Outlook](#)

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

U.S. investors only: Click [here](#) to obtain a WisdomTree ETF prospectus which contains investment objectives, risks, charges, expenses, and other information; read and consider carefully before investing.

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You cannot invest directly in an index.

DEFINITIONS

Transparency : The extent to which investors have ready access to any required financial information about a company, such as price levels, market depth and audited financial reports.

credit cycle : the process in which the pricing of and access to credit evolves over time.

Liquidity : The degree to which an asset or security can be bought or sold in the market without affecting the asset's price. Liquidity is characterized by a high level of trading activity. Assets that can be easily bought or sold are known as liquid asset.

Sharpe ratio : Measure of risk-adjusted return. Higher values indicate greater return per unit of risk, specifically standard deviation, which is viewed as being desirable.

Top-down : A method of analysis that involves looking at the "big picture" first and then analyzing the details of smaller components.

Bottom-up : An investment approach that de-emphasizes the significance of economic and market cycles. This approach focuses on the analysis of individual securities.

Spread : Typically refers to a difference between a measure of yield for one asset class and a measure of yield for either a different subset of that asset class or a different asset class entirely.

Interest rate risk : The risk that an investment's value will decline due to an increase in interest rates.