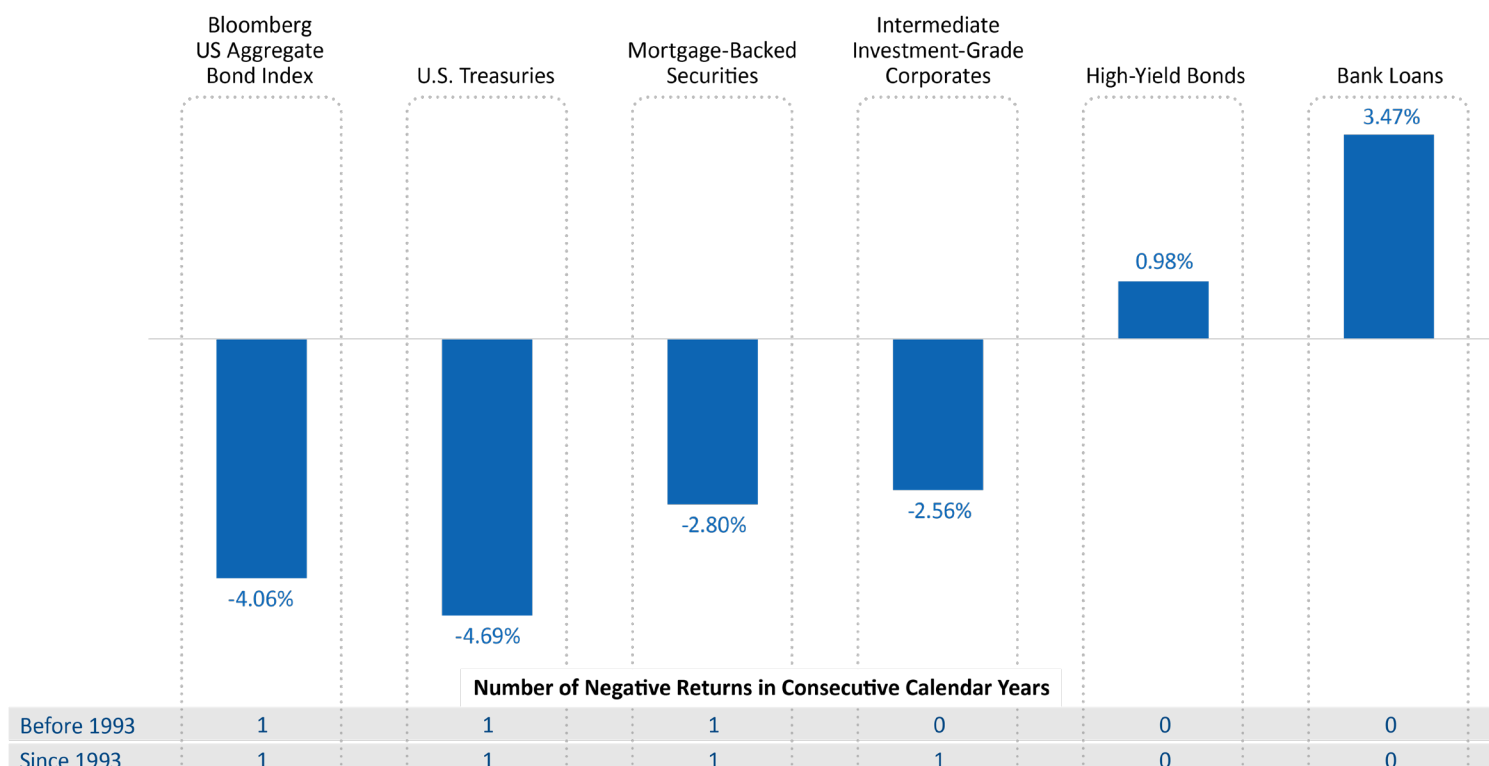


KEEPING UP WITH THE CHANGING FIXED-INCOME MARKET

Back in 1993, the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index was made up of 6,074 issues, had a market value of \$3.9 trillion and, dating back to 1976, had never experienced negative returns in two consecutive calendar years. Today, the investment-grade bond market is made up of 13,974 issues, has a market value of \$30.87 trillion and experienced its first negative returns in consecutive years (2021 & 2022). With how much the fixed-income market has changed over three decades, is it time for a different investment approach and to consider corporate bonds?

Average Calendar-Year Returns When the Agg Has Been Negative



Past performance does not guarantee future results. Investing involves risk, including loss of principal. Morningstar as of 12/31/24 for indexes and 11/28/25 for Investment-Grade Bond market size and issues. The Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index broadly tracks the performance of the U.S. investment-grade bond market. U.S. Treasuries represented by the Bloomberg US Treasury Index, which is made up of U.S. government bonds of various durations. Mortgage-backed securities represented by the Bloomberg Mortgage-Backed Securities Index, a market value-weighted index composed of agency mortgage-backed pass-through securities. Intermediate investment-Grade Corporate Bonds represented the Bloomberg US Intermediate Corporate Bond Index, which measures the investment-grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market and includes publicly issued securities that have between 1 and up to, but not including, 10 years to maturity. High-Yield Bonds represented by the Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield Index, which measures the USD-denominated, high-yield, fixed-rate corporate bond market. Bank loans (or floating-rate loans) are financial instruments that pay a variable or floating interest rate. The bank-loan market is represented by the Morningstar LSTA LL TR Index, which measures the performance and market value of leveraged loans denominated in U.S. dollars.