

ULTRA SHORT GOVERNMENT FUND



Co-Portfolio Managers: Tom Carney, CFA & Nolan Anderson
 Investment Style: Ultra-Short-Term Bond

The Ultra Short Government Fund was flat in the third quarter with a +0.02% return, the same as a +0.02% return for the ICE BofAML U.S. 6-Month Treasury Bill Index (6-Month Treasury). Year-to-date, the Fund has returned +0.09% compared to a +0.08% return for the index.

Overview

At the Federal Reserve’s (Fed) two rate-setting meetings during the quarter, the Fed once again made no changes in short-term monetary policy, leaving interest rates at/near zero. At the Fed’s September meeting, updated projections by Fed members suggested that short-term interest rates could rise sometime in 2023. The chart below (dubbed the ‘dot plot’ in the media) provides Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) participants’ latest assessment of where the Fed Funds rate might need to be for 2021 and beyond.

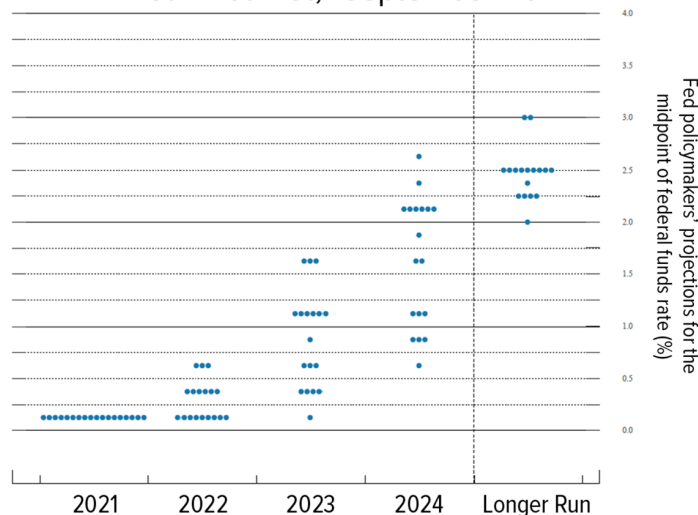
Whether the Fed’s projections are accurate or not, it appears the Ultra Short Government Fund will continue to offer ultra-low returns for the remainder of 2021, well into 2022, and maybe much longer. The Fed’s previous zero interest-rate policy (ZIRP) experience (2009-2015) lasted nearly seven years. Hopefully today’s iteration that began in March 2020 won’t have investors singing the lyrics of the Eagle’s classic ‘Hotel California’ – “You can check-out any time you like, but you can never leave.”

In sum, the Fed’s monetary policy decisions (e.g., changes in short-term interest rates) will continue to affect all investments within our opportunity set. As a result, our yield and return will invariably follow the path dictated by the Fed’s monetary policy, as we frequently reinvest maturities with holdings that mature in a short period of time. As of September 30, 2021, 81.8% of our portfolio was invested in U.S. Treasury notes, 8.5% in investment-grade asset-backed securities, and 9.7% in cash and cash equivalents. The average effective duration dropped slightly from 0.4 years on June 30, 2021, to 0.3 years on September 30, 2021. The Fund’s 30-day yield decreased approximately 3 basis points in the quarter to 0.08% as of September 30, 2021. Given the Fed is nearly certain to hold short-term interest rates at/near zero for the foreseeable future, the Fund’s 30-day yield could continue to decline in the months and quarters to follow.

Under normal market conditions, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets in obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government and related entities. The balance of Fund assets may be invested in U.S. investment-grade debt securities. Additionally, the Fund will maintain an average effective duration of one year or less. Duration is a measure of how sensitive the portfolio may be to changes in interest rates. All else being equal, a lower-duration bond portfolio is less sensitive to changes in interest rates than a bond portfolio with a higher duration. Over time, this shorter-term focus (duration of less than one year) is intended to generate higher total returns than cash or money market funds, while also taking less interest rate risk than a bond portfolio with a higher duration.

The Fund’s principal investment strategies and objectives of providing current income, protecting principal, and providing liquidity remain our primary goals. While the Fund’s current income will likely remain pressured (i.e., drift lower) by the current ultra-low nominal reinvestment environment, we believe we can continue to add value via security selection in the U.S. investment-grade debt segment. Protecting principal and providing liquidity will always come first, however, in managing the Ultra Short Government Fund on behalf of shareholders.

Fed “Dot Plot,” September 2021



Note: FOMC participants’ assessments of appropriate monetary policy: each dot indicates an individual FOMC participant’s judgment of the midpoint of target range or the appropriate target level for the federal funds rate at the end of the specified calendar year or over the longer run.

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Average Annual Total Returns

AS OF 09/30/2021									
	YTD	1-year	3-year	5-year	10-Year	Since Inception	Inception Date	Net Expense	Gross Expense
Ultra Short Government Fund (SAFEX)	0.09%	0.09%	1.34%	1.21%	0.62%	2.26%	08/01/1991	0.20%	0.59%
ICE BofA US 6-Month Treasury Bill	0.08%	0.13%	1.43%	1.34%	0.79%	2.79%	-	-	-

30-Day SEC Yield

AS OF 09/30/2021		
	Subsidized Yield	Unsubsidized Yield
Ultra Short Government Fund (SAFEX)	0.08%	-0.44%

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Data quoted is past performance and current performance may be lower or higher. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate, and shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Please visit weitzinvestments.com for the most recent month-end performance.

Investment results reflect applicable fees and expenses and assume all distributions are reinvested but do not reflect the deduction of taxes an investor would pay on distributions or share redemptions. Net and Gross Expense Ratios are as of the Fund's most recent prospectus. Certain Funds have entered into fee waiver and/or expense reimbursement arrangements with the Investment Advisor. In these cases, the Advisor has contractually agreed to waive a portion of the Advisor's fee and reimburse certain expenses (excluding taxes, interest, brokerage costs, acquired fund fees and expenses and extraordinary expenses) to limit the total annual fund operating expenses of the Class's average daily net assets through 07/31/2022.

The Net Expense Ratio reflects the total annual operating expenses of the Fund after taking into account any such fee waiver and/or expense reimbursement, if any; total returns would have been lower had there been no waivers or reimbursements.

The Fund's Investment Advisor may also voluntarily waive fees from time to time. For example, the Advisor may voluntarily undertake to waive fees in the event that fund yields drop below a certain level. Once started, there is no guarantee that the Advisor would continue to voluntarily waive a portion of its fees. Such voluntary waiver is not reflected in the Fund's Net Expense Ratio but may impact the Fund's performance.

Effective 12/16/2016, the Ultra Short Government Fund revised its principal investment strategies. Prior to that date, the Fund operated as a "government money market fund" and maintained a stable net asset value of \$1.00 per share. Performance prior to 12/16/2016 reflects the Fund's prior principal investment strategies and may not be indicative of future performance results.

Index performance is hypothetical and is shown for illustrative purposes only. You cannot invest directly in an index. The **ICE BofA 6-Month Treasury Bill** index is generally representative of the market for U.S. Treasury Bills.

Holdings are subject to change and may not be representative of the Fund's current or future investments.

Credit ratings are assigned to underlying securities utilizing ratings from a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization (NRSRO) such as Moody's and Fitch, or other rating agencies and applying the following hierarchy: security is determined to be Investment Grade if it has been rated at least BBB- by one credit rating agency; once determined to be Investment Grade (BBB- and above) or Non-Investment Grade (BB+ and below) where multiple ratings are available, the lowest rating is assigned. Mortgage-related securities issued and guaranteed by government-sponsored agencies such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are generally not rated by rating agencies. Securities that are not rated do not necessarily indicate low quality. Ratings are shown in the Fitch scale (e.g., AAA). Ratings and portfolio credit quality may change over time. The Fund itself has not been rated by a credit rating agency.

Definitions: **30-Day SEC Yield** represents net investment income earned by a fund over a 30-day period, expressed as an annual percentage rate based on the Fund's share price at the end of the 30-day period. **Subsidized yield** reflects fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements during the period. Without such fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements, if any; yields would have been lower. **Unsubsidized yield** does not adjust for any fee waivers and/or expense reimbursement in effect. **Average effective duration** provides a measure of a fund's interest-rate sensitivity. The longer a fund's duration, the more sensitive the fund is to shifts in interest rates. **Investment Grade Bonds** are those securities rated at least BBB- by one or more credit ratings agencies. **Non-Investment Grade Bonds** are those securities (commonly referred to as "high yield" or "junk" bonds) rated BB+ and below by one or more credit ratings agencies.

Consider these risks before investing: All investments involve risks, including possible loss of principal. Market risk includes political, regulatory, economic, social and health risks (including the risks presented by the spread of infectious diseases). Changing interest rates may have sudden and unpredictable effects in the markets and on the Fund's investments. See the Fund's prospectus for a further discussion of risks.

Investors should consider carefully the investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses of a fund before investing. This and other important information is contained in the prospectus and summary prospectus, which may be obtained at weitzinvestments.com or from a financial advisor. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing.

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