

# FLORIDA TRUST

## **Economic and Market Commentary – April 2026**

In the U.S, the yield on the 2-year Treasury rose six basis points (“bps”) to 3.87%. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury rose five bps to 4.37% and the yield on the 30-year Treasury rose six bps to 4.97%.

In April, data showed that U.S. economic activity continues to be resilient, the labor market has stabilized, and inflation remains elevated. The U.S. economy expanded at a moderate 2% annualized quarterly pace in the first quarter of 2026, despite downward pressure from heightened uncertainty and rising oil prices. Over half of the growth was driven by technology-related investment, which we expect to continue in 2026, keeping real GDP growth on trend for the remainder of the year. In the labor market, data released in March showed that the U.S. labor force barely grew in 2025, which explains why the unemployment rate has remained stable around 4.3% over the last 12 months despite a sharp slowdown in job growth. We continue to expect near-zero labor force growth in 2026 due to an aging population and low immigration, suggesting that the current slow pace of job growth will be sufficient to keep the unemployment rate steady. Meanwhile, core inflation has hovered around 3% for nearly two years, with core personal consumption expenditures (PCE) inflation rising slightly to 3.2% year over year in March. Lags before one-time tariff-related price effects drop out of the inflation data suggest that core inflation may remain elevated for most of 2026 before moderating near the end of the year as services prices continue to soften.

At its April meeting, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) voted to hold the federal funds rate steady at 3.50% to 3.75%, with three dissents favoring a shift to more hawkish language in the statement, and one dissent favoring a rate cut instead. The divergence in policymakers’ views suggests the Fed will likely stay on hold in the near term, especially given that the unemployment rate has been relatively steady over the last 12 months and core inflation has hovered around 3% for 23 months. We anticipate the Fed will hold rates steady for most of 2026 before resuming rate cuts in late 2026 and early 2027 as inflation moderates, with the terminal federal funds rate ending at 3%.

### **Short-Term Bond Fund (“STBF”)**

Short fixed income returns were positive across all sectors in April and year-to-date as short-term yields were roughly consistent while spreads tightened and strong interest income remained beneficial to total return. The STBF posted a +0.31% total return<sup>1</sup> for April, versus the benchmark ICE BofA 1-3 Year US Treasury index, which returned 0.21%. Year-to-date, the STBF returned +0.62% and the benchmark +0.50%; fiscal year-to-date, the STBF has returned +1.76% versus 1.62% for the benchmark.

The STBF remains well positioned as we continue to invest in a high-quality tilt and a diversified mix of credit, with ample liquidity, and modestly long duration position. The strong income component (4.01% SEC yield 4/30) should be additive to returns as any negative bond price performance will cure over time. Outside of U.S. Treasuries and government-related securities, we remain focused on high quality credit including corporates, asset-backed securities, and mortgage-backed securities for the fund. During April, we purchased corporate and securitized credit for the STBF at the higher yields now available, taking advantage of the environment and locking in higher income for the future. We continue to participate selectively in new issue deals and actively position duration based on breakeven analyses and our macroeconomic views. Strong investor demand absorbed another wave of heavy issuance, leading to a tightening in risk premiums across both corporate and securitized markets. Against this market backdrop, we maintain a modestly long duration position, consistent with our expectation that the Federal Reserve will begin cutting rates within the next 12 months, though the timing may shift later into the year.

The STBF is assigned Fitch rating agency’s highest Fund Credit Quality Rating and Fund Market Risk Sensitivity Rating of AAAf/S1. The net 30-Day SEC Yield for the fund was 4.01% as of 4/30, versus 3.87% 2025-year end. The liquidity of the fund is strong, with 32% of funds invested in Treasuries and government related securities. There were no client deposits or redemptions in April.

### **Day to Day Fund (“DtD Fund”)**

The Florida Trust Day to Day Fund posted a total return of +0.31%<sup>2</sup> in April, compared to the benchmark ICE BofA Three-Month Treasury Index return of +0.29%. Year-to-date, the DtD returned +1.24% and the benchmark +1.14%; fiscal-year-to- date, the fund returned +2.28% versus 2.13% for the benchmark. The

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<sup>1</sup> Net Asset Value calculated by custodian UMB. Net of fees. Past performance does not predict future returns.

<sup>2</sup> Net of fees returns provided custodian UMB. Past performance does not predict future returns.

net 7-day SEC yield of the Day to Day Fund was 3.76%, compared to 3.83% at 2025-year end. Comparable prime institutional government funds had an average yield of 3.38%<sup>3</sup> on 4/30. The Fund continues to provide safety, income, and liquidity of investments in a stable, \$1 NAV Fund.

The DtD Fund holds diversified credit exposure by investing in high-quality and liquid corporates, commercial paper (“CP”), Yankee CDs (“YCDs”), and money market tranches of ABS, and municipal variable rate demand notes (“VRDNs”) as we search to maximize yield without adding volatility or sacrificing liquidity. We work to balance maximizing short-maturity credit sector investments in the fund; as a regular exercise we rotate positions considering risk and income and consider names on a relative value basis. The fund holds a 17% allocation to floating rate notes. By nature, these securities do not count against day count restraints within the fund, allowing us additional flexibility in utilizing fixed instruments when considering maximum maturity level. The floating rate securities in the portfolio have an average yield of 3.8% and continue to be additive to performance, though we are focused on fixed-rate instruments as we see increased relative value.

The fund remains highly liquid. The weighted-average maturity of the portfolio at month end was 46 days and 29% of the portfolio is invested in government or government guaranteed securities. Net cash flows on the month totaled approximately -\$13 million. The fund is assigned Fitch rating agency’s highest Money Market Fund Rating of AAA mmf.

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*3 Crane Money Fund Average Yield: Institutional (government) 7-day yield*

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