

Heightened volatility across the globe has triggered a concern amongst many investors. During times of uncertainty, investors rotate capital income stable assets such as bonds since this group of securities is less susceptible to stomach-wrenching declines such as those seen in commodities over the past several weeks. In the article below, we'll look at a variety [exchange traded funds](#) that offer exposure to bonds and determine if whether now is the time to buy.

PIMCO TOTAL RETURN ACTIVE ETF

One of the most commonly used exchange traded for gaining exposure to high quality bonds that are actively managed in an attempt to maximize returns is the PIMCO Total Return Active ETF ([BOND](#)). Taking a look at the three-year weekly chart below, you can see that it is trading within a long-term uptrend as shown by the upward-sloping 75-week moving average (blue line). Based on [technical analysis](#), investors who are concerned about risk would likely set a stop-loss order directly below the nearby moving average of \$105.21. The positing of the stop loss provides investors with an ideal risk/reward ratio so it will be interesting to see how the pattern develops over the coming weeks. (For related reading, see [PIMCO's New ETF Play - Here's What You Need To Know](#))



ISHARES BARCLAYS 20+ YEAR TREASURY BOND FUND

Traders who'd like to minimize exposure to risk may be interested in examining the iShares Barclays 20+ Year Treasury Bond Fund ([TLT](#)). This fund has total net assets of just over \$6 billion and carries a reasonable expense ratio of 0.15%. While the fundamentals are attractive, the chart pattern tells an even more compelling story. As you can see from the ten-year weekly chart below, the TLT fund has been trading within a well-defined uptrend and there are no current signals that suggest this should reverse any time soon. This chart is a textbook style example of how an influential trendline can

provide support to a security for many years. Strategic investors would look to enter a position as close to the trendline as possible in an attempt to maximize the risk/reward. The recent pullback toward the major moving averages and the trendline are making for an interesting buying opportunity. From a risk management perspective, traders will likely hold a bullish outlook on the ETF until it closes below dotted trendline, which is currently near \$115. (For more, see: [20-year Treasury Bond ETF Trading Strategies](#))

iShares Barclays 20+ Year Treasury Bond Fund ([TLT](#))



ISHARES BARCLAYS 7-10 YEAR TREASURY BOND FUND

Another interesting option for traders looking to increase exposure to intermediate-term treasury bonds is the iShares Barclays 7-10 Year Treasury Bond Fund ([IEF](#)). Based on the chart below, you can see that bullish momentum is starting to take hold and that the recent pullback toward a short-term level of support is providing investors with a strategic opportunity to maximize their risk/reward. One of the most commonly used long-term technical buy signals occurs when the 50-day moving average crosses above the 200-day moving average. This bullish crossover marks the beginning of a long-term uptrend. While the two averages haven't crossed yet on the chart of IEF, traders are anticipating this signal within the coming week or so. Once this buy signal is generated it would not be surprising to see upward buying pressure and it could be enough of a [catalyst](#) to send the price back toward the 2015 high of \$109.20.

iShares Barclays 7-10 Year Treasury Bond Fund ([IEF](#))



The Bottom Line

Uncertainty and market volatility is causing many investors to consider moving capital away from equities and into more stable assets such as bonds. In the article above, we took a look at the charts of several major bond ETFs and they are some of the most bullish patterns found anywhere in the financial markets. The coming weeks could be the ideal time to invest in bonds. (For more, see: [Risks To Consider Before Investing In Bonds](#))