

# Spotlight Fund of the Month

## Quick Facts

**Columbia Balance Fund I (CBALX)**

**Morningstar** --- ☆☆☆☆☆

**Category** --- US Fund Moderate Allocation

**Total Assets** --- \$9.2 billion



## Why We Like This Fund

The Columbia Balance Fund I (CBALX) is a multi-asset portfolio that seeks high total return through a unique approach to stock and bond selection. Although generally maintaining a moderate, balanced allocation of 60% equity and 40% fixed income, the portfolio may deviate modestly from strategic targets as the relative values of stocks and bonds fluctuate or market movements alter the desired risk profile. Stocks and bonds are managed as separate sleeves by distinct teams with expertise in either equity or fixed income investment management. The equity portion is managed in a disciplined, contrarian manner anchored by the belief that opportunities can be found where the market displays an inordinate amount of pessimism. Through a combination of fundamental and quantitative analysis, the strategy aims to capitalize on low-cost, out-of-favor value and growth stocks, ultimately assembling a robust large-cap core equity exposure. Conversely, top-down research informs the fixed income sleeve. After generating an economic view, the bond managers implement ideal duration risk, yield curve positioning, and sector exposures. The fund ranks in the top quartile of category peers over trailing 3-, 5-, and 10-year periods and consistently outpaces its benchmark index. From a risk-adjusted perspective, the strategy achieved much stronger Sharpe ratios than its peers (without taking on excessive risk) and generates substantially more alpha than the category average.

## Where to Use

The Columbia Balance Fund I (CBALX) is an ideal choice for any investor seeking traditional, balanced market exposure and a smooth return profile. The skilled management team has delivered consistent risk-adjusted outperformance and significant alpha since inception. Additionally, given the fund's multi-asset construction, this strategy could suffice as total portfolio exposure for small accounts.

## What are the Top-Rated Funds Lists?

The Top-Rated Mutual Funds and Exchange Traded Funds (ETF) Lists are resources that feature a list of equity, fixed income, and alternative mutual funds or ETFs that are selected by Osaic Research using proprietary screening criteria and selection methodology. The lists are designed to help you narrow the wide universe of funds available to a more manageable selection of higher-quality funds. Spectrums of asset class categories are covered. In most categories, you will find at least one risk-averse fund option and one option where the focus is geared more toward alpha generation, with the potential for higher volatility.

**You can access the Top-Rated Funds Lists by visiting the Market Research page through Vision2020 or by reaching out to [Research@Osaic.com](mailto:Research@Osaic.com).**

## Disclosures

Index performance does not reflect the deduction of any fees and expenses, and if deducted, performance would be reduced. Indexes are unmanaged and investors are not able to invest directly into any index. Past performance cannot guarantee future results.

Investing involves risk, including the potential loss of principal. No investment strategy can guarantee a profit or protect against loss. In general, the bond market is volatile; bond prices rise when interest rates fall and vice versa. This effect is usually pronounced for longer-term securities. Any fixed-income security sold or redeemed prior to maturity may be subject to a substantial gain or loss. Vehicles that invest in lower-rated debt securities (commonly referred to as junk bonds or high-yield bonds) involve additional risks because of the lower credit quality of the securities in the portfolio. International investing involves special risks not present with U.S. investments due to factors such as increased volatility, currency fluctuation, and differences in auditing and other financial standards. These risks can be accentuated in emerging markets.

The statements provided herein are based solely on the opinions of the Osaic Investment Research Team and are being provided for general information purposes only. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed constitutes an offer or a solicitation to buy or sell any securities or other financial instruments. Any opinions provided herein should not be relied upon for investment decisions and may differ from those of other departments or divisions of Osaic or its affiliates.

Certain information may be based on information received from sources the Osaic Investment Research Team considers reliable; however, the accuracy and completeness of such information cannot be guaranteed. Certain statements contained herein may constitute "projections," "forecasts" and other "forward-looking statements" which do not reflect actual results and are based primarily upon applying retroactively a hypothetical set of assumptions to certain historical financial information. Any opinions, projections, forecasts and forward-looking statements presented herein reflect the judgment of the Osaic Investment Research Team only as of the date of this document and are subject to change without notice. Osaic has no obligation to provide updates or changes to these opinions, projections, forecasts and forward-looking statements. Osaic is not soliciting or recommending any action based on any information in this document.

**FOR FINANCIAL PROFESSIONAL USE ONLY:** Securities and investment advisory services are offered through the firms: Osaic Wealth, Inc. and Osaic Institutions, Inc., broker-dealers, registered investment advisers, and members of FINRA and SIPC. Securities are offered through Osaic Services, Inc. and Ladenburg Thalmann & Co., broker-dealers and members of FINRA and SIPC. Advisory services are offered through Ladenburg Thalmann Asset Management, Inc., and Osaic Advisory Services, LLC., registered investment advisers. Advisory programs offered by Osaic Wealth, Inc. are sponsored by VISION2020 Wealth Management Corp., an affiliated registered investment adviser. 7913596