

There are many places to research bond quotes. I have always used Yahoo! (<http://finance.yahoo.com/bonds>). However, it has been functioning strangely lately. Sometimes it works, sometimes it does not work. Try it and it may work for you. (However, for the Southwestern Community College bonds, you are going to want to use the FINRA site discussed below.)

Another site you can use is from FINRA, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. (This is the entity that oversees brokers and brokerage companies. On this site, you can check up on your broker!) Their home web page is www.finra.org. To get to the bond quotes pages from their home page, choose [For Investors] from their home page, then choose the [Market Data Center] link on the right hand side of the page, and then choose [Bonds] from the left menu. This takes you to the *Quick Bond Search* page which is <http://finra-markets.morningstar.com/BondCenter/Default.jsp>. You can start your search for bond data here or use the *Advanced Bond Search* page by clicking on [Advanced Bond Search]. The *Advanced Bond Search* page is <http://finra-markets.morningstar.com/BondCenter/Screeners.jsp?type=advanced>. The *Advanced Bond Search* page seems to work much better than the *Quick Bond Search* page. You will need the *Advanced Bond Search* to do date searches. (I have had much better success with the *Advanced Bond Search* page than the *Quick Bond Search* page.)

Whichever site you decide to use, answer the following questions:

- 1) Find the Home Depot corporate bond quotes. What is the coupon rate, maturity date, S&P rating, price, and yield for the highest yielding bond from Home Depot? (Be sure you checked “Corporate” bonds before searching.)

- 2) Search and choose a Southwestern Community College District municipal bond that matures between 01/01/2018 and 12/31/2019. (**Just type “Southwestern” for the name. Do not type anything else!**) What is the coupon rate, maturity date, rating, price, and yield for the bond? (Be sure you have checked “Municipal” bonds and chosen “California.”)

- 3) Search for bonds from Ford that mature between 01/01/2040 and 12/31/2049. (Use “Ford Mtr”.) What prices are the Ford bonds selling for? (Remember to multiply by 10.) What are the ratings from S&P, Moody’s, and Fitch?

- 4) Go to <http://finance.yahoo.com/bonds> and choose [Composite Bond Rates]. What are the current yields and yield spreads (differences) between U.S. Treasury bonds, A-rated municipal bonds, and A-rated corporate bonds for the following maturity dates? Are the current spreads wide or narrow?

Maturity	U. S. Treasury	A-rated Municipal	Muni-Treasury Spread (difference)	A-rated Corporate	Corp-Treasury Spread (difference)
2-Year					
5-Year					
10-Year					

- 5) Search the Internet for the term “Stripped MBS” (a.k.a. SMBS). What is an SMBS? How do they work? Is an SMBS a suitable investment for most investors?