ZCG®

Global Economic & Credit Market Briefing

Week 35 Ending – August 28, 2026

IN THIS EDITION

U.S. Economy
Key macro updates

Credit Markets
Trends in credit & leverage

Global Developments
Geopolitical & market highlights

430 Park Avenue, 16th Floor,
New York, NY 10022

Briefing

Global Economic & Credit Market

Week 35 Ending – August 28, 2026

Economic Calendar

Tuesday, September 8: NFIB Index of Small Business Optimism
Thursday, September 10: Producer Price Index (PPI)
Friday, September 11: Core Consumer Price Index (CPI)

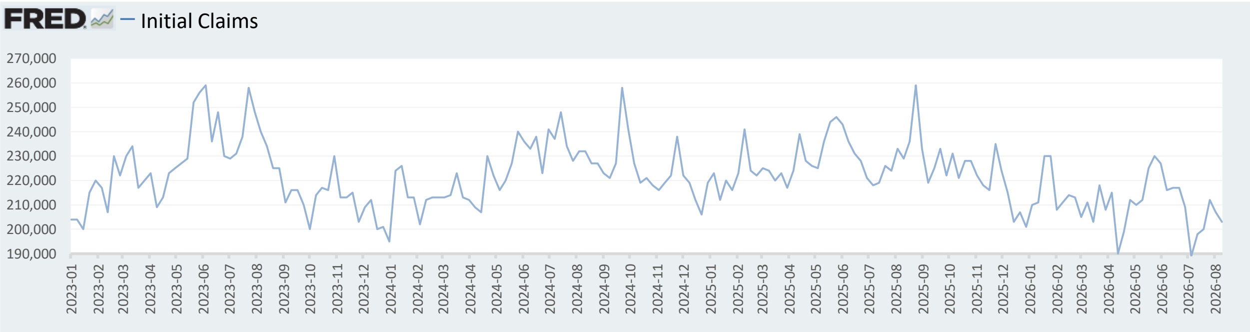
Key Market Metrics

	28-Aug	WoW	YTD	YoY	LTM EBITDA	NTM EBITDA
Equities Return						
S&P 500:	7,712	+0.49%	+12.65%	+18.61%	17.0x	12.8x
Dow Jones:	53,560	+0.53%	+11.44%	+17.36%	13.6x	13.1x
Nasdaq:	26,402	+0.85%	+13.60%	+21.64%		
Credit Return						
High-yield:		+0.31%	+3.11%	+5.43%		
Leveraged Loan:		+0.23%	+3.02%	+4.78%		
Credit Yields						
High-yield:	7.22%	(4)bps	+57 bps	+39 bps		
Leveraged Loan:	8.87%	0 bps	+105 bps	+102 bps		
Rates						
10Y Treasury:	4.71%	(1)bps	+56 bps	+52 bps		
1M SOFR:	3.69%	+2 bps	(0)bps	(59)bps		
3M SOFR:	3.76%	+2 bps	+11 bps	(41)bps		
6M SOFR:	3.87%	+3 bps	+30 bps	(14)bps		
Currencies						
British Pound / USD:	$1.35	(0.78%)	+0.47%	+0.19%		
Euro / USD:	$1.16	(0.80%)	(1.37%)	(0.84%)		
USD / Yen:	¥160.09	+0.72%	+2.16%	+8.96%		
Swiss franc / EUR:	€ 1.07	(0.17%)	(0.66%)	(0.12%)		

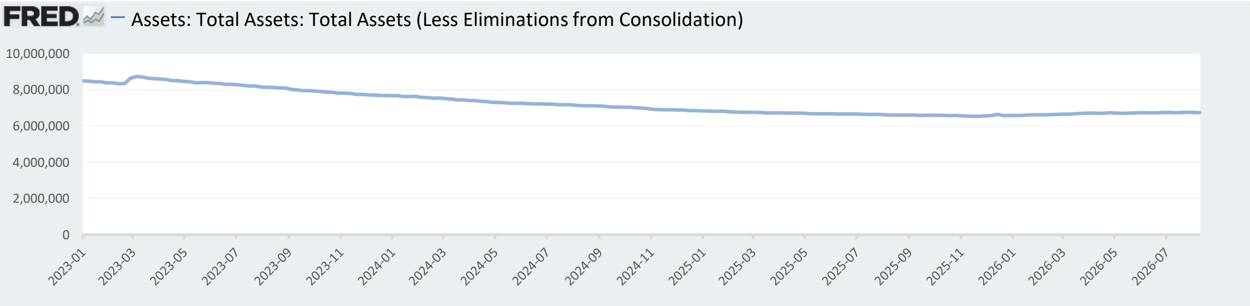
U.S. News

- **US Consumer Confidence Index**
    - The Conference Board index fell 0.8 points to 89.4, the lowest since January, from a downwardly revised 90.2 in July; economists polled by Reuters had forecast 90.2 against an originally reported 90.8. The reading sits well below the 100 breakeven line for a second consecutive monthly decline.
    - Present Situation rose 6.8 points to 121.2, its first gain in four months, driven by labor-market perception: the "plentiful" minus "hard to get" differential widened 4.8pp to +7.5%, the highest this year. Current business conditions were flat at +1.3%.
    - Expectations fell 5.8 points to 68.2, with all three components down — business conditions to −6.3%, six-month labor market to −11.5%, household income to +3.8%. Consumers expecting more jobs fell to 14.6% from 16.4%; those expecting fewer rose to 26.1%.
- **PCE Index**
    - Core PCE rose 0.2% MoM and 3.3% YoY, both in line with consensus; headline PCE rose 0.2% MoM against 0.1% expected, with the annual rate holding at 3.7% versus 3.6% forecast. Personal income rose 0.4% ($115.1bn) and nominal PCE 0.2% ($36.3bn), both above expectations; real PCE was flat after a 0.4% June gain. The saving rate recovered to 3.0% from a four-year low of 2.6% in June. Core PCE remains 1.3pp above the Fed's 2% target; headline 1.7pp above.
    - Services spending rose $86.2bn while goods spending fell $49.9bn. On prices, goods declined 0.1% on a 2.7% drop in gasoline and energy goods and a 0.9% fall in furnishings and durable household equipment; services prices rose 0.3%, led by a 1.2% increase in financial services and insurance and a 0.3% gain in housing. Disposable income rose 0.5%, the strongest after-tax gain since January.
    - Market reaction as a result of the PCE release was muted: the 10-year rose 1bp to 4.649%, the 2-year less than 1bp to 4.213%, and the 30-year eased fractionally to 5.17%; in-line core prevented a selloff despite the hot headline. September hike odds moved to 36%.
- **Fed Chair Warsh's Jackson Hole Keynote**
    - Warsh said inflation remains above the 2% goal and hinted rates could need to move higher absent more progress, while stopping short of signaling a September move. He placed responsibility for 65 months of sustained elevated inflation squarely with the central bank, and framed his position as a commitment to a discipline rather than to a decision.
    - The new the FED Chair claimed better-than-expected CPI and PCE prints "do not tell me that underlying trends have meaningfully improved"; Warsh called the economy strengthened and attributed slower hiring to flattening labor supply, not weak demand — removing the labor market as a dovish offset.
    - Hike odds diverged rather than converged: CME FedWatch 42% (from 35%), Kalshi 48% (from ~30%), Morningstar citing nearly 60% from below 40%. That spread is the signal — September is genuinely unpriced. August CPI on Sept. 11 is the last major inflation read before the Sept. 15–16 FOMC, and August PCE — the Fed's actual target gauge — doesn't publish until after. Goldman's Hatzius expects core near 0.2% and the FOMC on hold; other analysts say Warsh has little option but to hike this year if inflation stays above 2%.

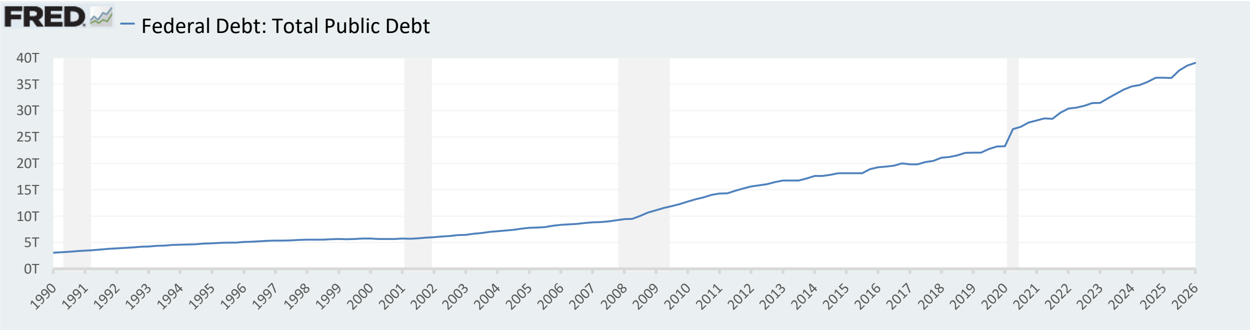
- **Jobless Claims**
  - Initial jobless claims, a measure of how many workers were laid off across the U.S., decreased to 206,000 in the week ended August 14, down 6,000 from the prior week
  - The four-week moving average was 204,000, up 4,250 from the prior week
  - Continuing claims – those filed by workers unemployed for longer than a week – increased at 1.799 million in the week ended August 7. This figure is reported with a one-week lag



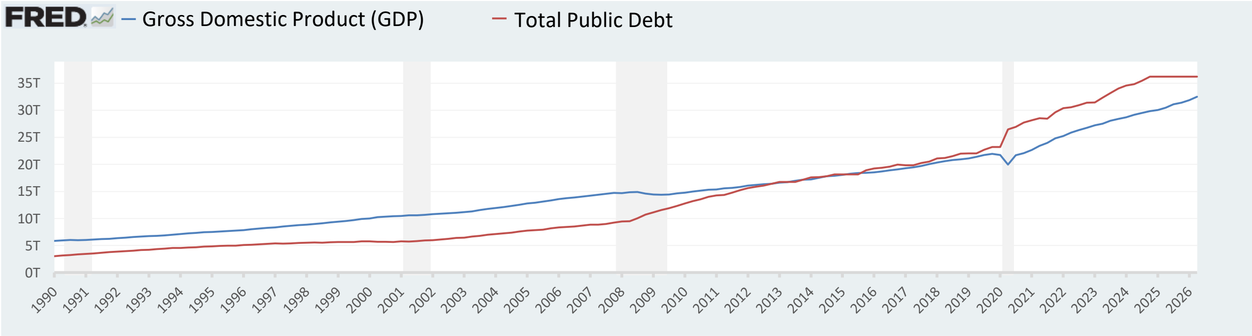
- **Fed's Balance Sheet**
  - The Federal Reserve's assets totaled $6.731 trillion in the week ended August 28, down $14.8 billion from the prior week
  - Treasury holdings totaled $4.546 trillion, up $7.0 billion from the prior week
  - Holdings of mortgage-backed securities (MBS) were $1.92 trillion in the week, down $7.6 billion from the prior week

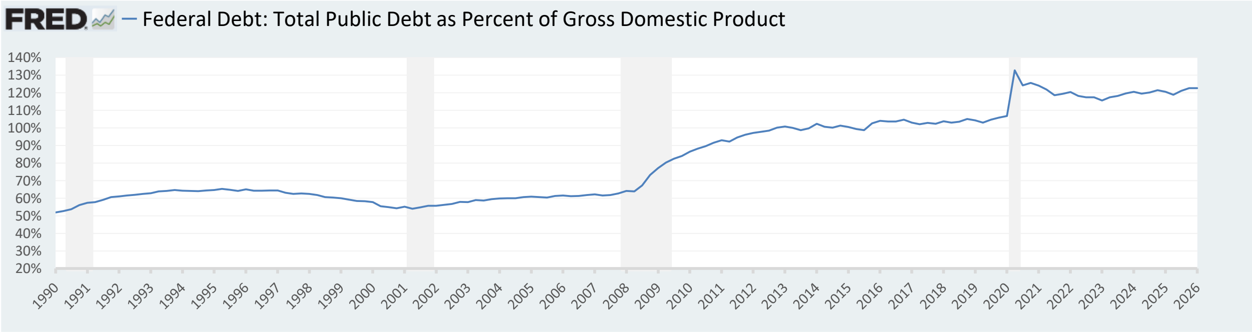


- **Total Public Debt**
  - Total public debt outstanding was $40.08 trillion as of August 28, an increase of 7.4% from the previous year
  - Debt held by the public was $32.31 trillion, and intragovernmental holdings were $7.73 trillion



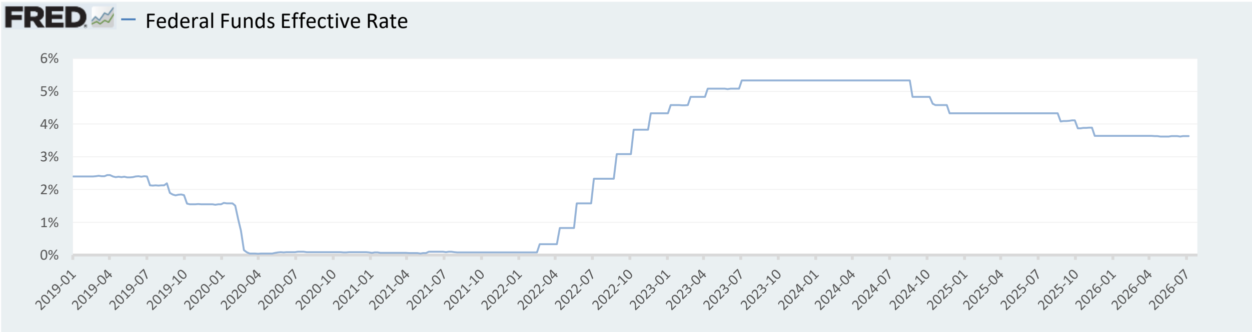
- **GDP**
    - The latest annualized U.S. GDP stands at $32.48 trillion as of June 30, 2026, an increase of 1.91% from the previous quarter, & an increase of 6.53% from the previous year
    - The total public debt-to-GDP ratio is at 121.52% as of June 30, an increase of 2.73% from the previous year



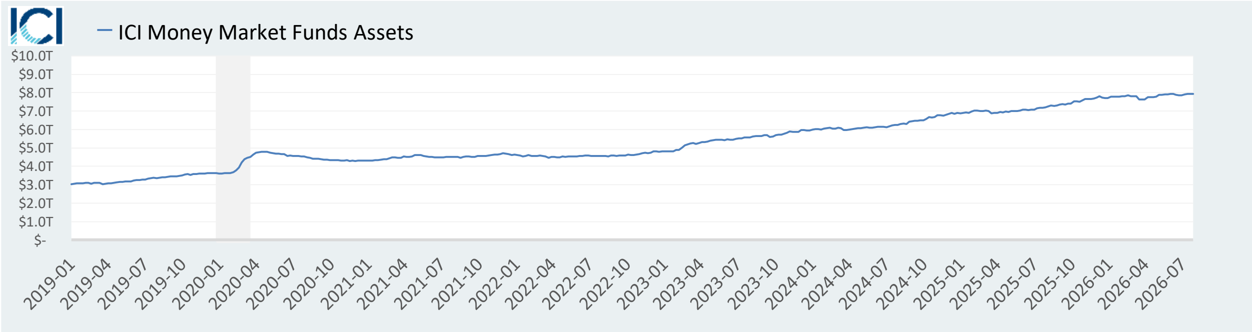


- **Inflation Factors**
  - CPI:
    - The consumer-price index rose 3.4% in July year over year
    - On a monthly basis, the CPI increased 0.1% in July on a seasonally adjusted basis, after decreasing -0.4% in June
    - The index for all items less food and energy (core CPI) rose 0.2% in July, after falling 0.0% in June
    - Core CPI increased 2.5% for the 12 months ending July
  - Food & Beverages:
    - The food at home index increased 2.6% in July from the same month a year earlier, and decreased -0.1% in July month over month
    - The food away from home index increased 3.4% in July from the same month a year earlier, and increased 0.3% in July month over month
  - Commodities:
    - The energy commodities index decreased (2.9%) in July after decreasing (9.5%) in June
    - The energy commodities index rose 24.7% over the last 12 months
    - The energy services index rose 0.1% in July after increasing 1.5% in June
    - The energy services index rose 4.3% over the last 12 months
    - The gasoline index rose 24.6% over the last 12 months
    - The fuel oil index rose 39.1% over the last 12 months
    - The index for electricity rose 4.2% over the last 12 months
    - The index for natural gas rose 4.3% over the last 12 months
  - Supply Chain:
    - Drewry's composite World Container Index decreased to $4,472.88 per 40ft container for the week of August 28
    - Drewry's composite World Container Index has increased by 111.1% over the last 12 months
  - Housing Market:
    - The shelter index increased 0.1% in July after increasing 0.1% in June
    - The rent index increased 0.1% in July after increasing 0.1% in June
    - The index for lodging away from home decreased (3.4%) in July after decreasing (2.5%) in June

- **Federal Funds Rate**
  - The effective Federal Funds Rate is at 3.63%, down (0.01%) year to date



- **Money Market Funds**
  - Money market fund assets stood at $7.93 trillion as of August 26, 2026, up 0.1% from the previous week, & up 10.1% from the previous year



World News

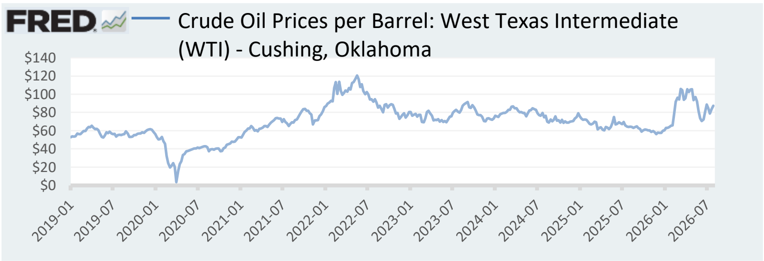
- **Middle East**
  - Bessent unveiled Monday what he called an economic onslaught against Iran's financial connections, targeting a network of brokers, companies and shadow-fleet vessels across the UAE, Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Switzerland and Europe, plus remaining global branches of Bank Melli. Asked whether Chinese banks could be hit, he said no one is above the reach of U.S. sanctions, and that entities facilitating transactions in the ecosystem turning Iranian oil into money will be targeted. Trump is personally calling world leaders with requests to cease dealings with Tehran, and countries are being given time before major action.
  - Iran and Oman agreed a revenue-sharing framework for the strait, with Tehran stressing the arrangement does not guarantee immediate reopening; separately, the Trump administration told mediators it has no interest in returning to the terms of the June preliminary deal that later collapsed. Iran's foreign ministry called the new sanctions an assertion of extraterritorial sovereignty over UN member states. Diplomatic progress is real but partial — underwrite continued Hormuz disruption through year-end.
  - The EIA expects it will take until early 2027 for production and trade patterns to return to pre-conflict status, and anticipates some Persian Gulf producers will not restore output to pre-conflict averages at all. Global oil inventories are estimated to have fallen by an average of 4.2 million b/d, and the EIA forecasts prices remain elevated until flows normalize and inventories are replenished. A new blockade threat on Saudi exports via Bab el-Mandeb adds risk to the primary Hormuz alternative; Suez and the Sumed pipeline are slower, costlier and capacity-limited. Underwrite elevated energy costs through FY27, not as a transitory FY26 shock.
- **Europe**
  - The Ifo Business Climate Index rose from 86.6 in July to 88.8 in August, which Capital Economics said — alongside the detailed Q2 GDP release — adds to evidence of surprising resilience and supports near-term ECB policy tightening. Combined with the prior week's four-year-high flash manufacturing PMI, German industrial credits remain the strongest European sector story.
  - ECB Minutes released August 27 emphasized that July's hold should not be read as the end of tightening, with another hike likely unless the inflation outlook improves significantly, while policymakers wanted to keep the September 15–16 decision open. The ECB said the energy-price outlook remains broadly in line with June projections despite volatility, warning the full inflationary impact of the energy shock has yet to land. Vanguard expects one further increase, likely September.
  - Iceland's Aug. 29 referendum on restarting EU accession talks polls neck-and-neck with a slight tilt to "no" (June Gallup: 39% for, 46% against; two-thirds of the business federation opposed), and matters less for Iceland than as a test of whether the EU can still expand on demand — Brussels is offering real concessions on fisheries to secure a success story ahead of a late-September proposal replacing unanimity with qualified-majority voting.
  - Fitch affirmed France's A+ sovereign credit rating with a stable outlook but cautioned that persistently high fiscal deficits (Fitch projected ~5.2%) and rising public debt pose growing risks. The agency warned that failure to make meaningful progress on deficit reduction could result in a negative outlook and potentially a future downgrade.
- **China**
  - Treasury's "Operation Economic Outcast," launched Aug. 24, targets Iran's oil-revenue network, with Bessent stating Chinese banks are not exempt — China being Iran's largest crude buyer. China's foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said sanctions and pressure tactics are not the solution and called for a political and diplomatic approach, while Beijing warned the measures will only further intensify tensions. With a fragile trade truce in place

since the May Beijing summit and Xi due in Washington in late September, that visit is the near-term binding constraint on how far Washington actually pushes secondary sanctions against Chinese banks.

    - China is ramping up tax enforcement amid fiscal pressures, with more than 100 listed companies facing ¥7.7B ($1.1B) of back taxes and penalties in 1H26, including cases where tax assessments exceeded annual profits; June alone accounted for ¥3.5B of clawbacks. Authorities have also expanded scrutiny of cross-border brokerage accounts, offshore trusts, and overseas insurance policies used by high-net-worth individuals. The crackdown is weighing on luxury spending, casinos, and Hong Kong equities.
    - China and India agreed to advance negotiations toward a long-term settlement of their border dispute, signaling continued improvement in relations following the 2020 border clashes. The talks pave the way for deeper economic and diplomatic engagement, with President Xi expected to visit India next month and both sides committing to further negotiations on border demarcation and management.
- **Americas**
    - Negotiations broke down late Friday August 21 before a midnight deadline, with 50% duties taking effect on roughly $20 billion of Canadian products including dairy, alcoholic beverages, cement, building materials, hockey equipment and certain clothing. Carney called the tariffs a miscalculation and blamed uneconomic and unfair US demands; he said Canada is at war, having been attacked.
    - Talks collapsed after last-minute pressure from Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, per people familiar with the matter, leaving Trump to impose tariffs and Carney to vow retaliation. Bloomberg separately reported the US is weighing further trade measures against Canada in response to the retaliation. Escalation risk is not priced as resolved — sponsors should not underwrite a near-term deal.
    - Canada's retaliatory tariffs are strategically targeting U.S. exports from politically important and battleground states such as Ohio, Michigan, Maine, and Alaska, increasing pressure on Republican candidates ahead of the midterm elections. The escalating trade dispute, including additional Canadian measures on U.S. alcohol and potential U.S. counter-retaliation, raises uncertainty for cross-border supply chains, trade-sensitive industries, and North American economic relations.
    - Mexico returned to the Samurai bond market for the first time in two years, raising ¥282.8 billion ($1.77 billion) across four tranches as issuers rush to secure funding ahead of potential Bank of Japan rate hikes. The deal attracted 52 global investors and highlights Mexico's continued access to international capital markets despite mounting sovereign credit pressures, including a negative outlook from S&P and a Moody's downgrade to the lowest investment-grade rating.

Commodities

- **Oil Prices**
  - WTI: $83.40 per barrel
    - (4.20%) WoW; +11.32% YTD; +30.01% YoY
  - Brent: $89.31 per barrel
    - (5.38%) WoW; +13.70% YTD; +30.15% YoY

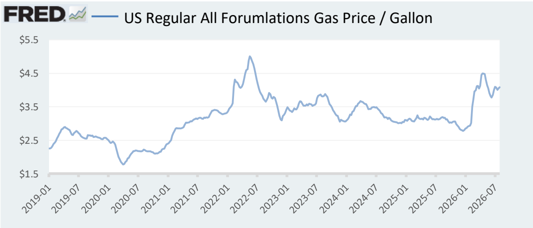


- **US Production**
  - U.S. oil production amounted to 13.8 million bpd for the week ended August 21, up 0.0 million bpd from the prior week

- **Rig Count**
  - The total number of oil rigs amounted to 588, flat from last week

- **Inventories**

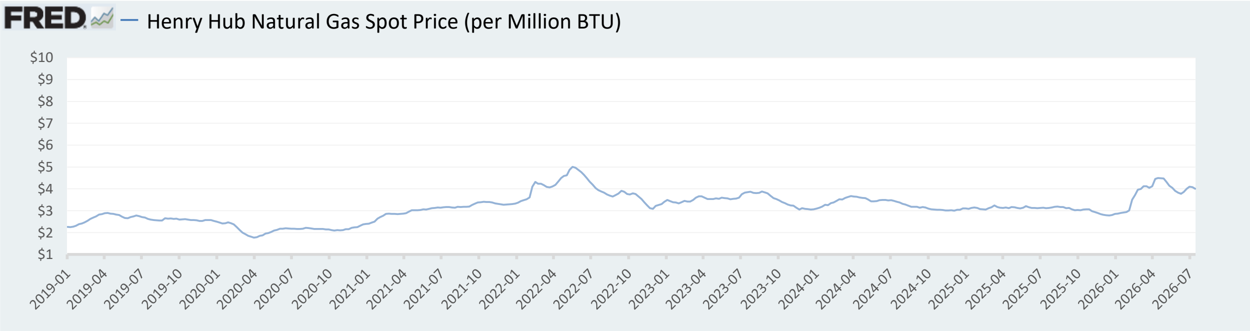
  - **Crude Oil**
    - Total U.S. crude oil inventories now amount to 428.9 million barrels, up 2.5% YoY
    - Refiners operated at a capacity utilization rate of 97.4% for the week, up from 97.2% in the prior week
    - U.S. crude oil imports now amount to 6.593 million barrels per day, down (1.2%) YoY



  - **Gasoline**
    - Retail average regular gasoline prices amounted to $4.08 per gallon in the week of August 28, up 27.5% YoY
      - Gasoline prices on the East Coast amounted to $4.04,up 30.2% YoY
      - Gasoline prices in the Midwest amounted to $4.02, up 27.3% YoY
      - Gasoline prices on the Gulf Coast amounted to $3.74, up 33.9% YoY
      - Gasoline prices in the Rocky Mountain region amounted to $4.50, up 37.0% YoY
      - Gasoline prices on the West Coast amounted to $5.27, up 24.5% YoY
    - Motor gasoline inventories were down by 2.5 million barrels from the prior week
    - Motor gasoline inventories amounted to 206.8 million barrels, down (7.0%) YoY
    - Production of motor gasoline averaged 9.77 million bpd, down (2.1%) YoY
    - Demand for motor gasoline amounted to 9.043 million bpd, down (2.1%) YoY

  - **Distillates**
    - Distillate inventories decreased by -2.2 million in the week of August 28
    - Total distillate inventories amounted to 103.4 million barrels, down (9.5%) YoY
    - Distillate production averaged 5.135 million bpd, down (1.6%) YoY
    - Demand for distillates averaged 3.839 million bpd in the week, down (7.3%) YoY

  - **Natural Gas**
    - Natural gas inventories increased by 15 billion cubic feet last week
    - Total natural gas inventories now amount to 3,184 billion cubic feet, down (1.0%) YoY



Geopolitical Hotspots

- **Japan**
  - Kioxia and Sandisk plan to invest more than ¥5 trillion to expand NAND flash memory production in Japan, including a ¥1.8 trillion facility for advanced 3D flash chips. The investment reflects rising AI-driven demand for data center storage, while Japan's expected government support underscores its strategic push to strengthen domestic semiconductor capabilities and supply-chain resilience.
- **Africa**
  - South Africa is preparing its inaugural sovereign green bond, potentially this fiscal year, to help fund an estimated 3.7 trillion rand climate-transition agenda. Proceeds are expected to support projects such as green hydrogen, hydropower, and energy-efficiency initiatives, with the government aiming to mobilize up to $8 billion annually by 2030.
- **Venezuela**
  - Venezuela is reportedly considering withdrawing from OPEC as part of a broader geopolitical and energy-policy realignment following political changes in Caracas and increased engagement with the U.S. An exit would mark a significant shift for a founding OPEC member and could further weaken the cartel's cohesion, while potentially giving Venezuela greater flexibility over production and exports as it seeks to revive its oil sector and attract investment.
- **India**
  - Modi's 80th Independence Day address reaffirmed the developed-economy-by-2047 target, with semiconductors, AI and nuclear at the center of industrial strategy: AI training for 1 crore (10mn) youth over the next year, seven to eight new semiconductor plants within one to two years on top of three already in production, and 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047 enabled by the SHANTI Act, with five reactors to be commissioned this decade against current capacity under 9 GW. He framed energy security explicitly around the weaponization of strategic sea routes.
- **Colombia**
  - Colombia's incoming government plans to reinstate fiscal borrowing limits and introduce a fiscal adjustment package to restore investor confidence and address widening deficits. Despite these efforts, the 2027 budget projects a sizeable 9.4% fiscal deficit, a more than 50% increase in debt-service costs to 155 trillion pesos, and approximately 239 trillion pesos of new borrowing.
- **Cuba**
  - Cuba's population fell to 9.4 million in 2025 as emigration and demographic decline accelerated, with net outflows of 245,000 people alongside just 68,000 births versus 136,000 deaths. The trend underscores the severe economic challenges facing the country amid ongoing sanctions, while the U.S. has pledged $100 million in humanitarian aid, including food and hygiene assistance for vulnerable households.
- **Australia**
  - Australia's household spending remained resilient in July, rising 1.1% month-over-month and 7.0% year-over-year, well above the 5.7% consensus forecast. Broad-based strength across discretionary categories such as recreation, culture, and health suggests consumer demand remains a key support for economic growth despite higher interest rates.

- **Nepal**
    - The Nepal-Tibet flash floods have become one of the deadliest natural disasters in the region in years, with at least 586 confirmed deaths and more than 2,400 people still missing, including hundreds of foreign tourists and workers. Rescue efforts remain severely constrained by washed-out roads, damaged infrastructure, power outages, and the continued risk of flooding, raising concerns that casualties could rise further.
- **Italy**
    - Italy extended fuel tax relief through Sept. 5 to ease pressure on consumers facing rising fuel prices ahead of next year's expected general election, with the support measure funded by accelerated tax collections from large energy companies
- **Egypt**
    - Egypt has emerged as a new front in the U.S.-China AI race, with Huawei bidding to supply 2,008 AI chips and build a data center, potentially marking the first export of its Ascend AI accelerators. The U.S. is countering with Nvidia-backed alternatives and regulatory pressure to prevent Huawei from replicating its telecom playbook in AI infrastructure.

Credit News

High yield bond yields decreased 4bps to 7.22% and spreads tightened 9bps to 286bps. Leveraged loan yields were unchanged at 8.87% and spread tightened 4bp to 476bps. WTD high yield bond returns were positive 33bps and WTD leveraged loan returns were positive 22bps. High-yield bond & leveraged loan spreads decreased in a week encompassing very little macro surprises and no capital market activity. Positioning, however, diverged across the two asset classes, with high-yield funds experiencing a $1.5bn outflow - the largest in five months while loan funds saw $407mm of inflows for the ninth consecutive week.

High-yield:

Week ended 08/28/2026

- Yields & Spreads[1]

Current Week		Prior Week		Δ (bps)	
Yield	Spread	Yield	Spread	Yield	Spread
7.22%	286	7.26%	296	(4)	(9)

- Pricing & Returns[1]

Pricing			Returns			
Current Week	Prior Week	Δ (bps)	WTD	MTD	YTD	2025
$96.59	$96.46	13	0.33%	0.87%	3.06%	9.0%

- Fund Flows[2]

Total Flows ($)
($1,500mm)

- New Issue[2]

Week		YTD		
# New Deals	Total ($)	Total ($)	Prior Year YTD	CY vs PY
0	$0.0bn	$231.6bn	$207.7bn	+12%

- Distressed Level (trading in excess of 1,000 bps)[2]

7-31-26	6-30-26	5-31-26
4.51%	4.98%	5.01%

- Total HY Defaults

Excluding Distressed Exchanges			Including Distressed Exchanges		
7-31-26	6-30-26	5-31-26	7-31-26	6-30-26	5-31-26
1.89%	1.89%	1.18%	2.70%	2.67%	2.02%

Leveraged loans:

Week ended 08/28/2026

- Yields & Spreads[1]

Current Week		Prior Week		Δ (bps)	
Yield	Spread	Yield	Spread	Yield	Spread
8.87%	476	8.87%	480	0	(4)

- Pricing & Returns[1]

Pricing			Returns			
Current Week	Prior Week	Δ (bps)	WTD	MTD	YTD	2025
$94.61	$94.54	8	0.22%	0.79%	3.06%	6.0%

- Fund Flows[2]

Total Flows ($)
$407mm

- New Issue[2]

Week		YTD		
# New Deals	Total ($)	Total ($)	Prior Year YTD	CY vs PY
0	$0.0bn	$543.4bn	$719.8bn	-25%

- Distressed Level (loan price below $80)[1]

7-31-26	6-30-26	5-31-26
9.40%	9.39%	8.68%

- Total Leveraged Loan Defaults

Excluding Distressed Exchanges			Including Distressed Exchanges		
7-31-26	6-30-26	5-31-26	7-31-26	6-30-26	5-31-26
1.29%	1.29%	1.28%	2.29%	2.29%	2.62%

Default activity:

- Most recent defaults include: Hughes Satellite Systems ($1.5bn, 8/2/2026), Unifrax Investment ($3.1bn, 7/26/2026), Dish DBS ($9.8bn, 6/30/2026), QVC Group ($2.2bn, 4/16/2026), Cumulus Media ($641mn, 03/05/2026), Trinseo ($390mn, 02/17/2026), Beasley Broadcasting Group ($189mn, 02/01/2026), Nine Energy Service ($300mn, 02/01/2026), Multi-Color ($4.5bn, 01/29/2026), and Pretium Packaging ($201mn, 01/28/2026).

CLOs:

Week ended 08/28/2026

- New U.S. CLO Issuance[2]

# Priced	Total ($)	New Issue	Refis/Resets
24	$10.3bn	$3.5bn	$6.8bn

- New U.S. CLO YTD Issuance[2]

Total U.S. CLOs	Total ($)	New Issue	Refis/Resets	Prior Year YTD	CY vs. PY
704	$312.9bn	$111.3bn	$201.6bn	$343.8bn	-9%

Note: High-yield and leveraged loan yields and spreads are swap-adjusted

[1] Source: Credit Suisse High Yield and Leveraged Loan Index
[2] Source: JP Morgan

Ratings activity:

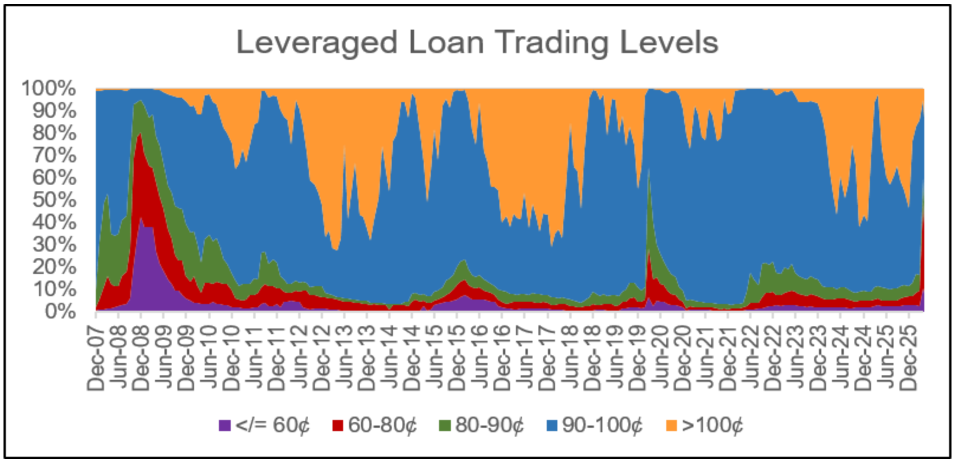
- S&P and Moody's High Yield Ratings

	S&P			Moody's		
	Downgrades	Upgrades	Ratio	Downgrades	Upgrades	Ratio
Full Year 2025	388	261	1.5x	460	294	1.6x
Week Ending 01/02/26	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Week Ending 01/09/26	4	4	1.0x	1	2	0.5x
Week Ending 01/16/26	8	5	1.6x	7	3	2.3x
Week Ending 01/23/26	4	3	1.3x	11	7	1.6x
Week Ending 01/30/26	5	5	1.0x	6	5	1.2x
Week Ending 02/06/26	10	8	1.3x	9	10	0.9x
Week Ending 02/13/26	5	2	2.5x	11	2	5.5x
Week Ending 02/20/26	7	2	3.5x	5	3	1.7x
Week Ending 02/27/26	10	3	3.3x	6	3	2.0x
Week Ending 03/06/26	8	7	1.1x	12	16	0.8x
Week Ending 03/13/26	7	2	3.5x	9	5	1.8x
Week Ending 03/20/26	8	10	0.8x	12	2	6.0x
Week Ending 03/27/26	4	7	0.6x	10	5	2.0x
Week Ending 04/03/26	9	3	3.0x	3	13	0.2x
Week Ending 04/10/26	10	7	1.4x	4	7	0.6x
Week Ending 04/17/26	3	3	1.0x	3	8	0.4x
Week Ending 04/24/26	8	4	2.0x	7	8	0.9x
Week Ending 05/01/26	6	5	1.2x	9	3	3.0x
Week Ending 05/08/26	8	5	1.6x	5	5	1.0x
Week Ending 05/15/26	6	10	0.6x	7	3	2.3x
Week Ending 05/22/26	16	3	5.3x	10	8	1.3x
Week Ending 05/29/26	10	3	3.3x	15	8	1.9x
Week Ending 06/05/26	12	11	1.1x	8	9	0.9x
Week Ending 06/12/26	12	6	2.0x	11	3	3.7x
Week Ending 06/19/26	6	10	0.6x	5	11	0.5x
Week Ending 06/26/26	9	7	1.3x	10	12	0.8x
Week Ending 07/03/26	7	1	7.0x	3	0	n/a
Week Ending 07/10/26	8	4	2.0x	4	1	4.0x
Week Ending 07/17/26	3	5	0.6x	4	3	1.3x
Week Ending 07/24/26	11	11	1.0x	8	8	1.0x
Week Ending 07/31/26	2	2	1.0x	5	10	0.5x
Week Ending 08/07/26	7	5	1.4x	7	3	2.3x
Week Ending 08/14/26	10	4	2.5x	5	5	1.0x
Week Ending 08/21/26	4	6	0.7x	7	7	1.0x
Week Ending 08/28/26	5	5	1.0x	8	1	8.0x
YTD 2026	252	178	1.4x	247	199	1.2x

Source: Bloomberg

Appendix:

Diagram A: Leveraged Loan Trading Levels



Source: Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index

Diagram B: High Yield and Leveraged Loan LTM Price

High Yield and Leveraged Loan Data [1]				
	LTM Price			
	Avg. Price	High [2]	Low [3]	LTM High vs. Low Δ
High Yield	97.0	98.1	94.8	3.3
Leveraged Loans	95.1	96.7	93.5	3.1

[1] Data is from Credit Suisse High Yield Market Index and Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index
[2] HY high price as of 1/22/26. LL high price as of 9/16/25
[3] HY low price as of 3/27/26. LL low price as of 3/3/26

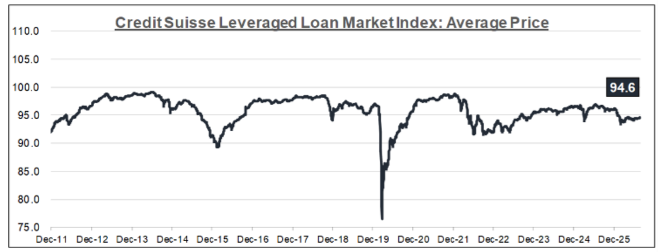
Diagram C: Leveraged Loan and High Yield Returns

Leveraged Loan and High Yield Returns				
	Leveraged Loan Indices		High Yield Indices	
	Credit Suisse [1]	S&P/LSTA [2]	Credit Suisse [1]	S&P [2]
Weekly Return	0.22%	0.21%	0.33%	0.26%
MTD Return	0.79%	1.66%	0.87%	0.15%
YTD Return	3.06%	2.99%	3.06%	1.76%

[1] Credit Suisse Total Return information is calculated weekly. Yield data is as of 08/28/2026
[2] Yield data as of 08/28/2026

Diagram D: Average Bid Price of High Yield Bonds & Loans

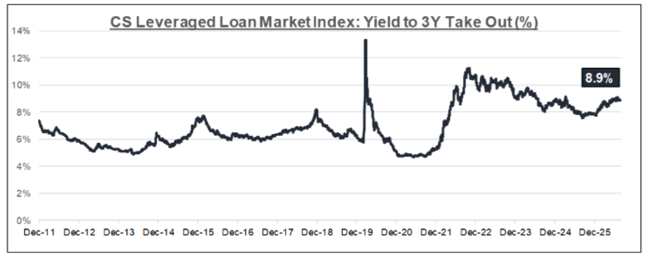
Source: CSFB High Yield Index (formerly DLJ High Yield Index) Average Price, expressed as a % of par value. Data is reported daily.



Source: CSFB Leveraged Loan Index Average Price, expressed as a % of par value. Data is reported daily.

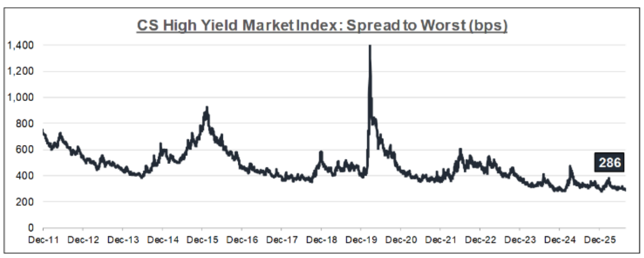
Diagram E: Leveraged Loans Spreads & Yields

Source: CSFB Leveraged Loan Index Discount Margin to 3Y take-out, expressed in basis points. Data is reported daily.

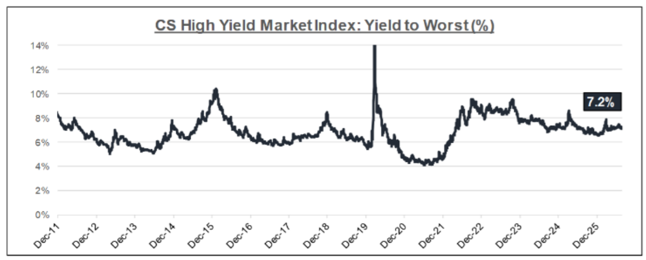


Source: CSFB Leveraged Loan Index Yield to 3Y take-out, expressed as a percentage. Data is reported daily.

Diagram F: High Yield Bonds Spreads & Yields

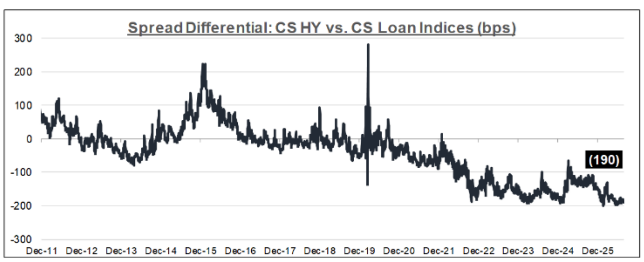


Source: CSFB High Yield Index (formerly DLJ High Yield Index) Spread-to-Worst, expressed in basis points. Data is reported daily.



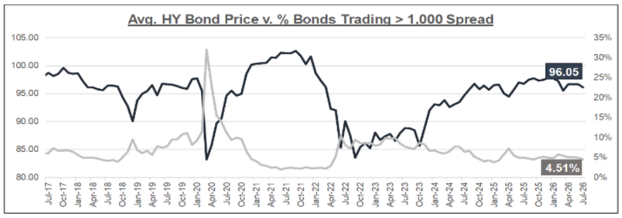
Source: CSFB High Yield Index (formerly DLJ High Yield Index) Yield-to-Worst, expressed as a percentage. Data is reported daily.

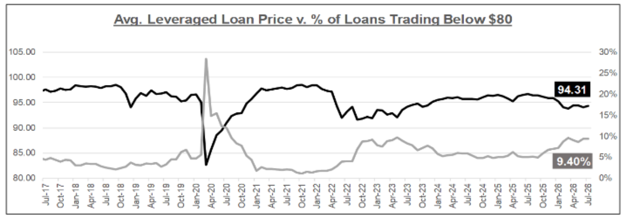
Diagram G: Spread between High Yield Bonds and Leveraged Loans



Source: CSFB HY Index and CSFB LL Index. Data is reported daily.

Diagram H: Percentage of Leveraged Loan and High Yield Market Trading at Distressed Levels





Source: CSFB. Data is reported monthly.

Source: JPM. Data is reported monthly.

Diagram I: High Yield Upgrades and Downgrades

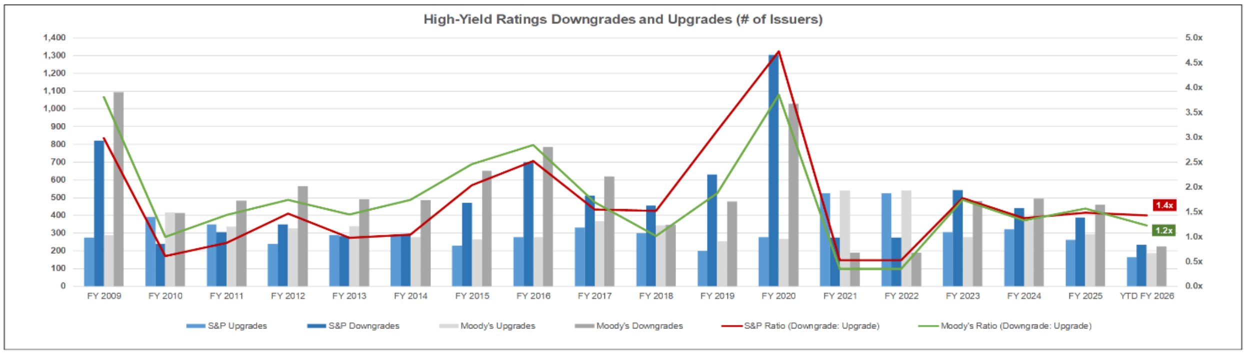
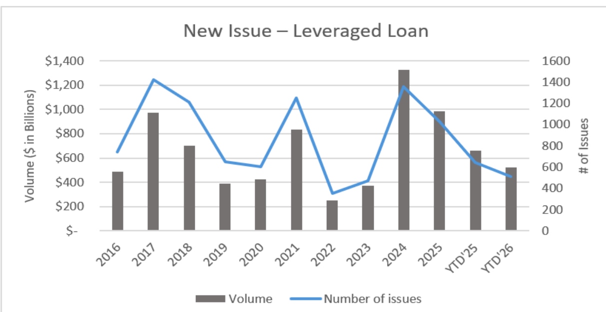


Diagram J: New Issue - Leveraged Loan and High Yield



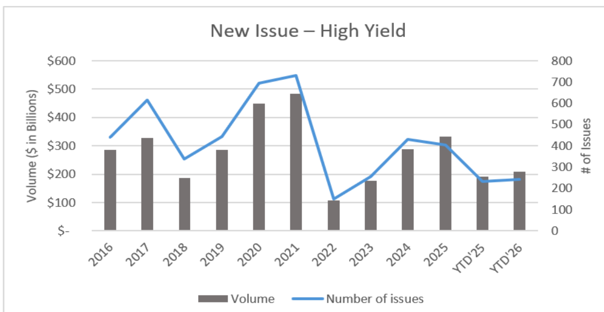
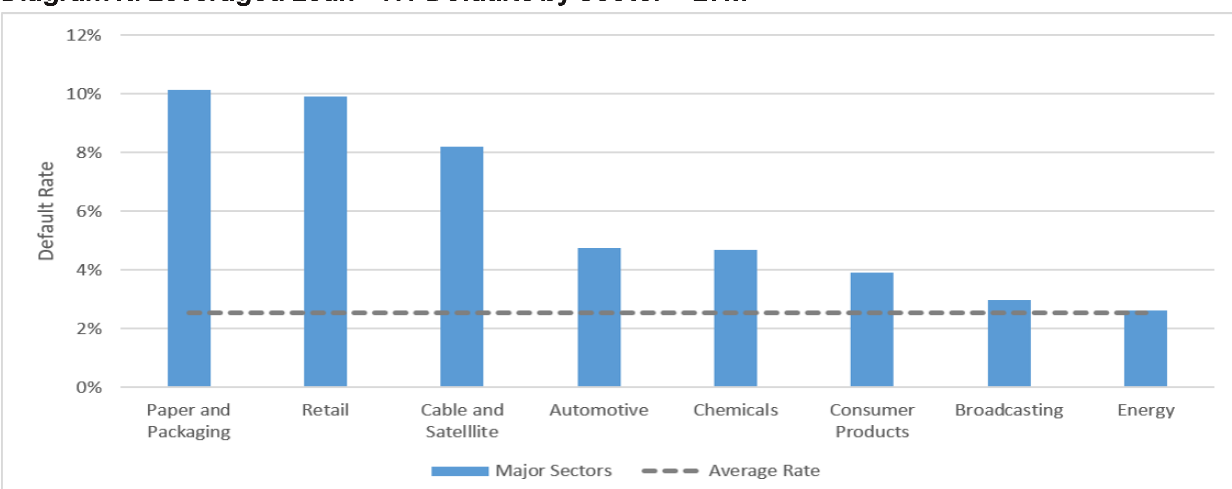


Diagram K: Leveraged Loan + HY Defaults by Sector – LTM

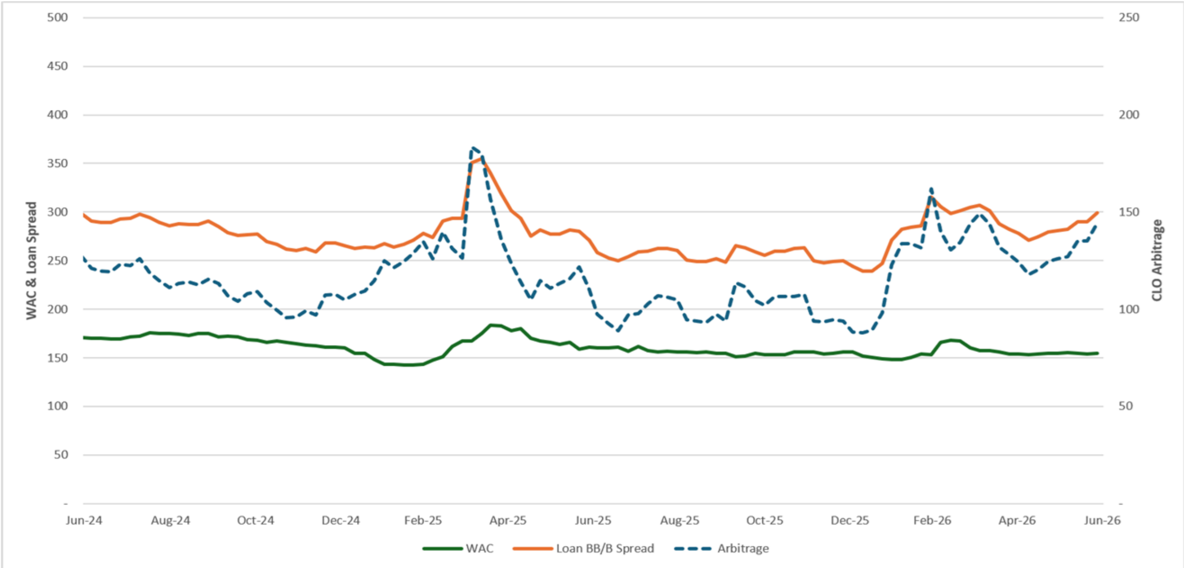


Source: JP Morgan Default Monitor

Diagram L: CLO Economics

US CLO Economics											
CLO Arbitrage [1]			AAA Spread [2]			WAC Liabilities [2]			Asset WAS [3]		
2Q26	1Q26	2Q25	2Q26	1Q26	2Q25	2Q26	1Q26	2Q25	2Q26	1Q26	2Q25
128	122	119	S+124	S+120	S+136	S+159	S+156	S+178	S+407	S+398	S+417

[1] CLO Arbitrage = WAS - WAC - Fees & Losses
[2] Souce: LCD
[3] Source: BBG. BB/B Loan Index Spread (25%/75% weighting)
*Assumptions: 50bp annual fees and 70bp annual loss (2% CDR, 65% Recovery)



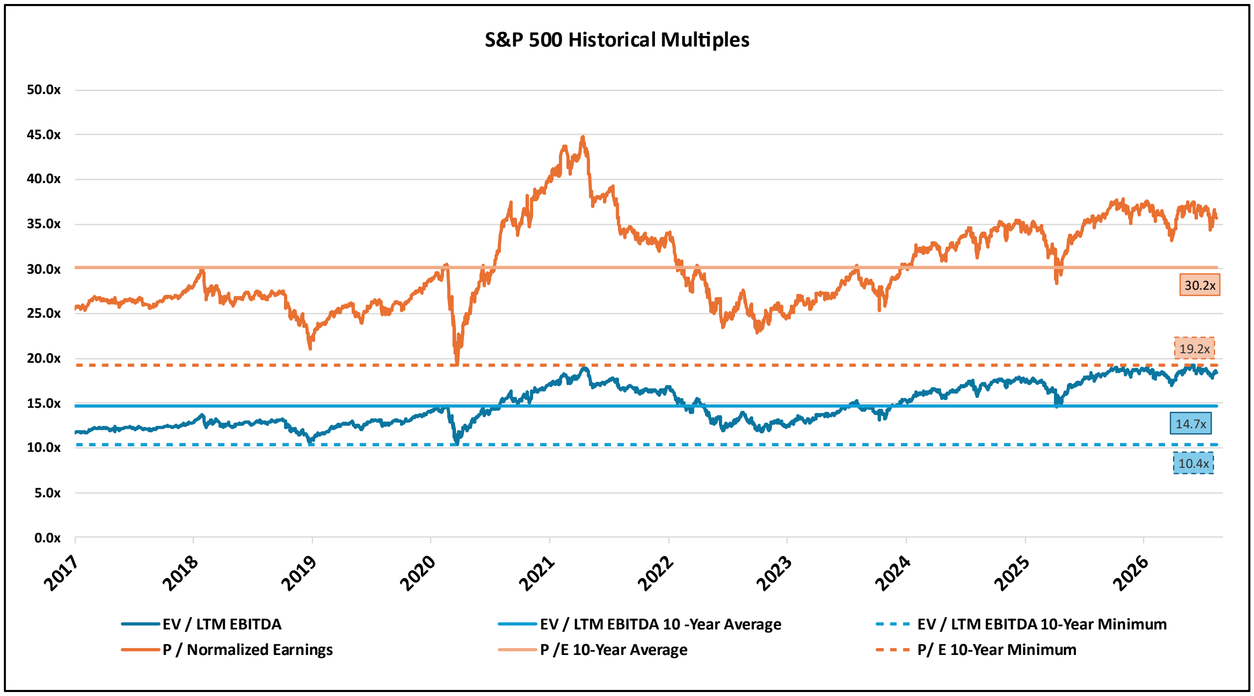
Source: JPM and BBG

Diagram M: Developed Country Govt. Bond Yields (%)

By	8/7/26	8/14/26	8/21/26	8/28/26	Change: Weekly	Q4 2025	Q3 2025	Q2 2025	Q1 2025
France - 10 year	3.92%	4.05%	4.13%	4.13%	(1 bps)	3 bps	25 bps	(17 bps)	26 bps
Germany - 10 year	3.13%	3.20%	3.26%	3.28%	2 bps	14 bps	10 bps	(13 bps)	37 bps
Italy - 10 year	3.90%	3.98%	4.08%	4.10%	2 bps	2 bps	6 bps	(39 bps)	35 bps
Japan - 10 year	2.81%	2.89%	2.89%	2.93%	4 bps	41 bps	23 bps	6 bps	27 bps
UK - 10 year	4.92%	5.04%	5.06%	5.06%	0 bps	(20 bps)	20 bps	(28 bps)	15 bps
US									
US - 2 year	4.20%	4.17%	4.24%	4.34%	11 bps	(6 bps)	(24 bps)	(9 bps)	(38 bps)
US - 5 year	4.35%	4.36%	4.42%	4.48%	5 bps	5 bps	(16 bps)	(5 bps)	(48 bps)
US - 10 year	4.65%	4.69%	4.73%	4.72%	(2 bps)	7 bps	(14 bps)	11 bps	(43 bps)
US - 30 year	5.20%	5.26%	5.27%	5.21%	(7 bps)	13 bps	(5 bps)	26 bps	(28 bps)

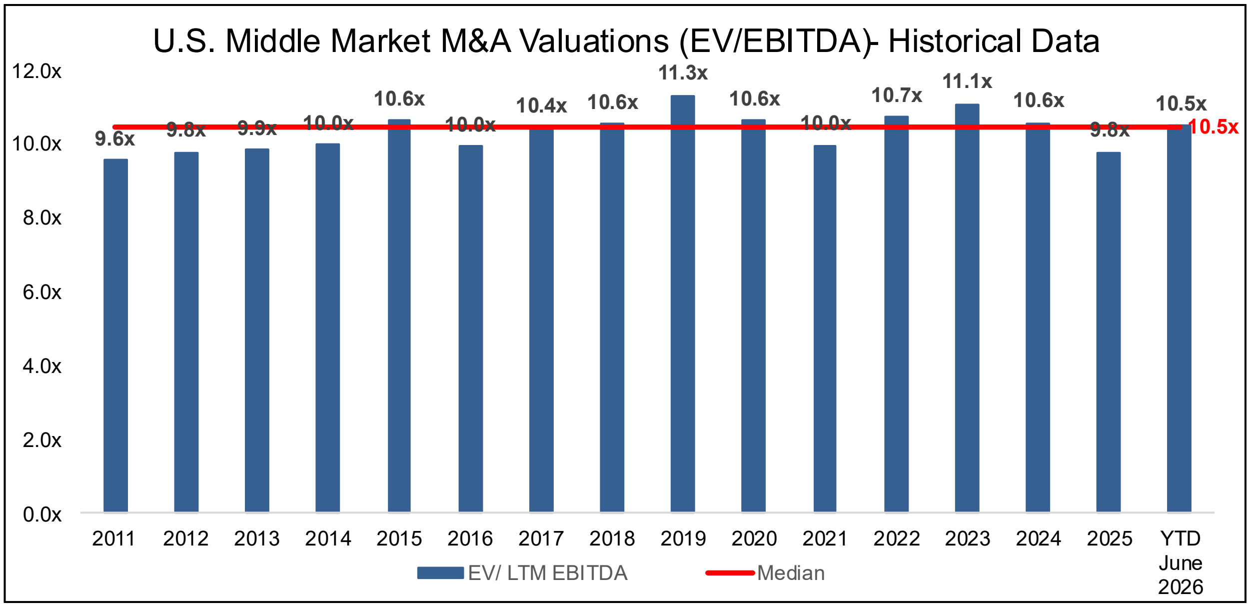
Source: Bloomberg

Diagram N: S&P 500 Historical Multiples



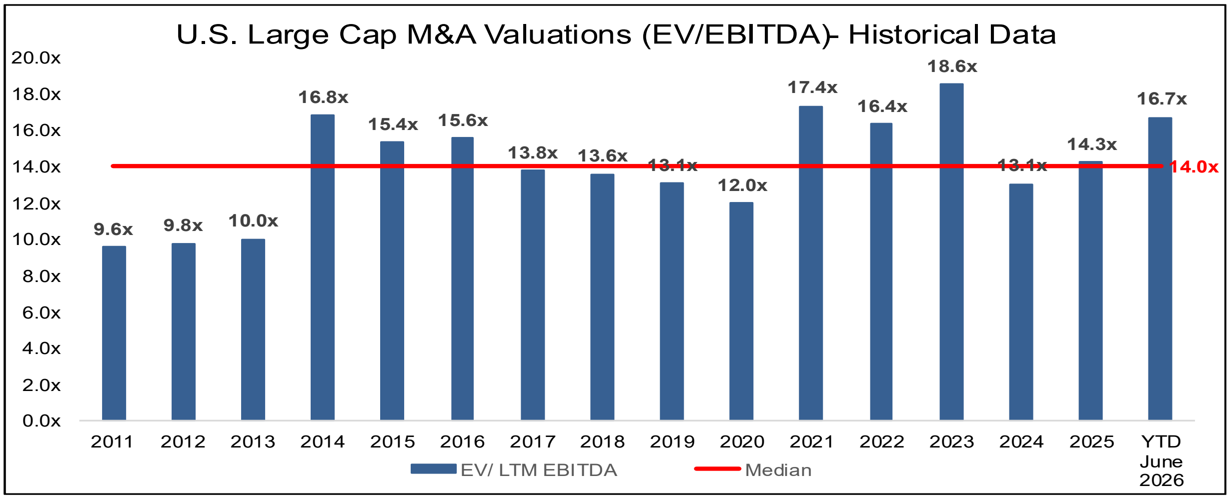
Source: S&P Capital IQ

Diagram O: U.S. Middle-Market M&A Valuations (EV/EBITDA)



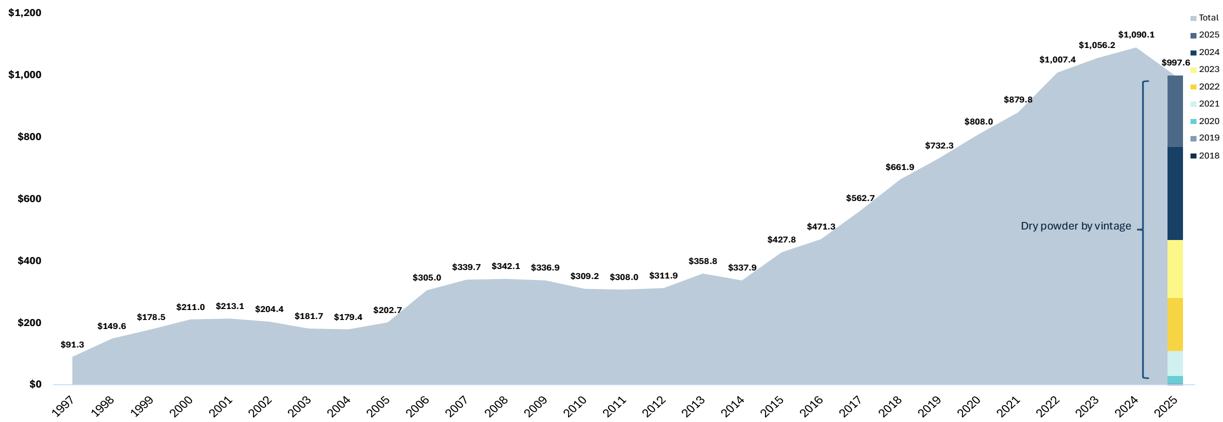
Source: Pitchbook

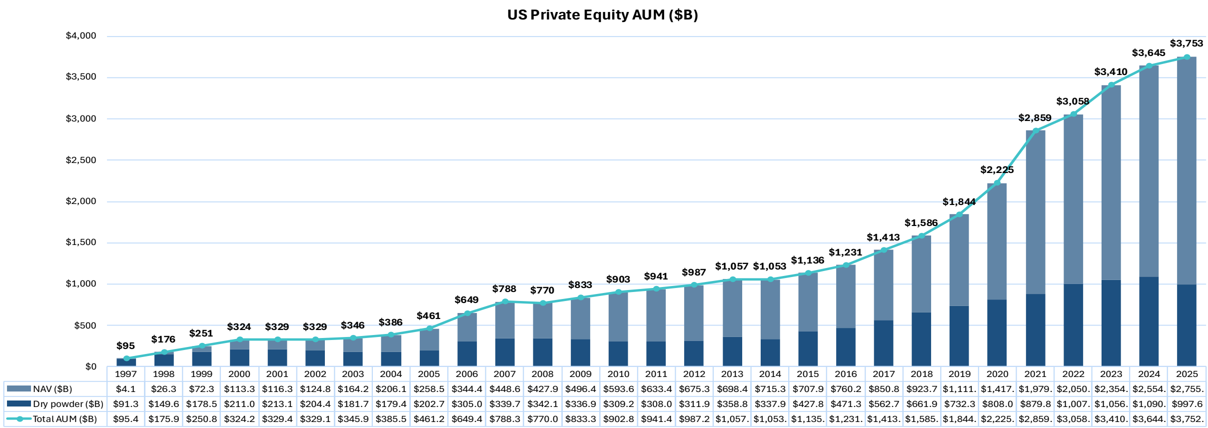
Diagram P: U.S. Large Cap M&A Valuations (EV/EBITDA)



Source: Pitchbook

Diagram Q: Dry Powder for All Private Equity Buyouts ($B)



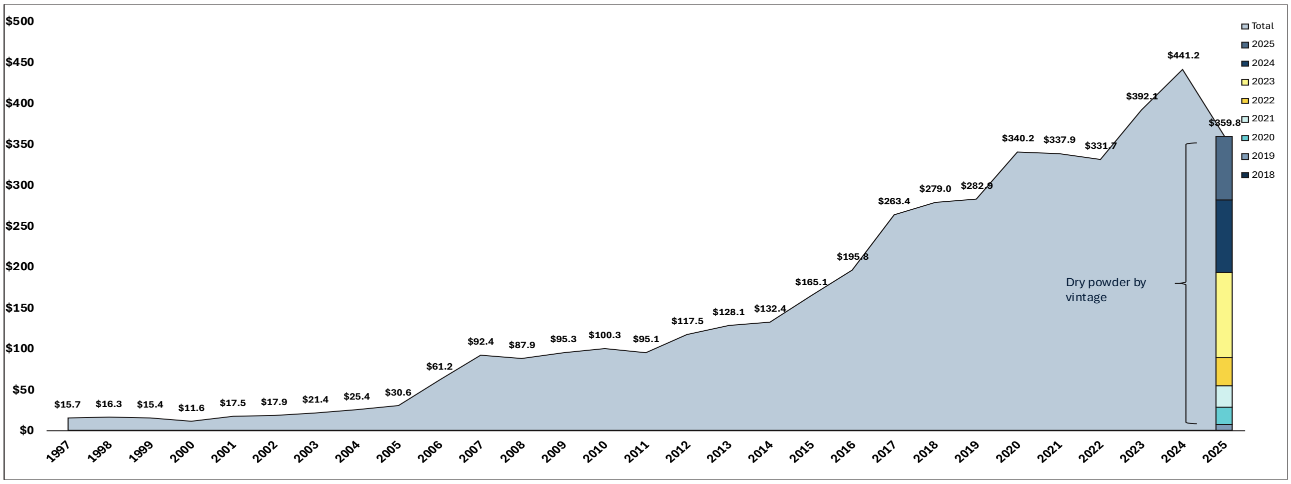


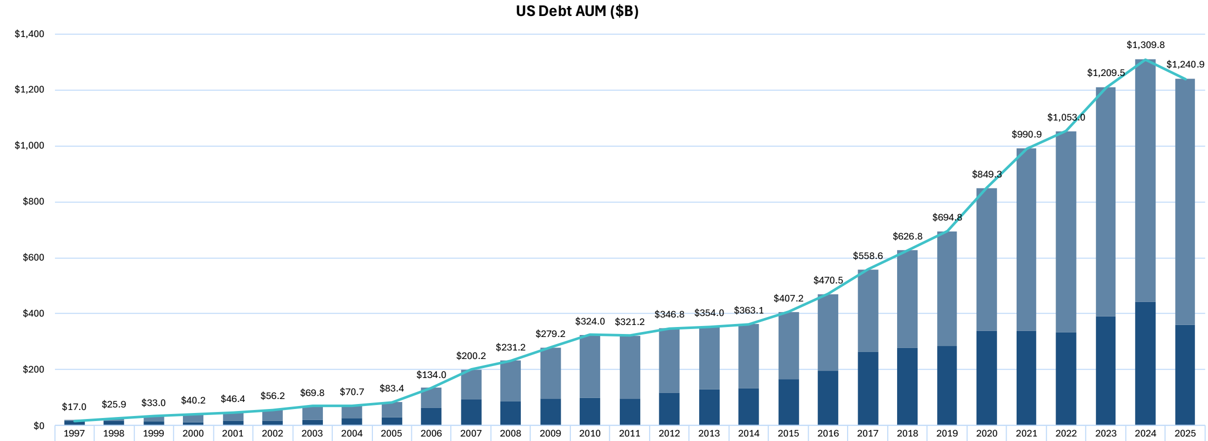
US Private Equity AUM ($B)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Dry powder ($B)	$202.7	$305.0	$339.7	$342.1	$336.9	$309.2	$308.0	$311.9	$358.8	$337.9	$427.8	$471.3	$562.7	$661.9	$732.3	$808.0	$879.8	$1,007.4	$1,056.2	$1,090.1	$997.6
NAV ($B)	$258.5	$344.4	$448.6	$427.9	$496.4	$593.6	$633.4	$675.3	$698.4	$715.3	$707.9	$760.2	$850.8	$923.7	$1,111.7	$1,417.2	$1,979.5	$2,050.7	$2,354.2	$2,554.4	$2,755.0
Total AUM ($B)	$461.2	$649.4	$788.3	$770.0	$833.3	$902.8	$941.4	$987.2	$1,057.2	$1,053.2	$1,135.8	$1,231.5	$1,413.5	$1,585.6	$1,844.0	$2,225.1	$2,859.4	$3,058.1	$3,410.4	$3,644.5	$3,752.6

*As of 12/31/2025

Diagram R: Dry Powder for All US Debt ($B)





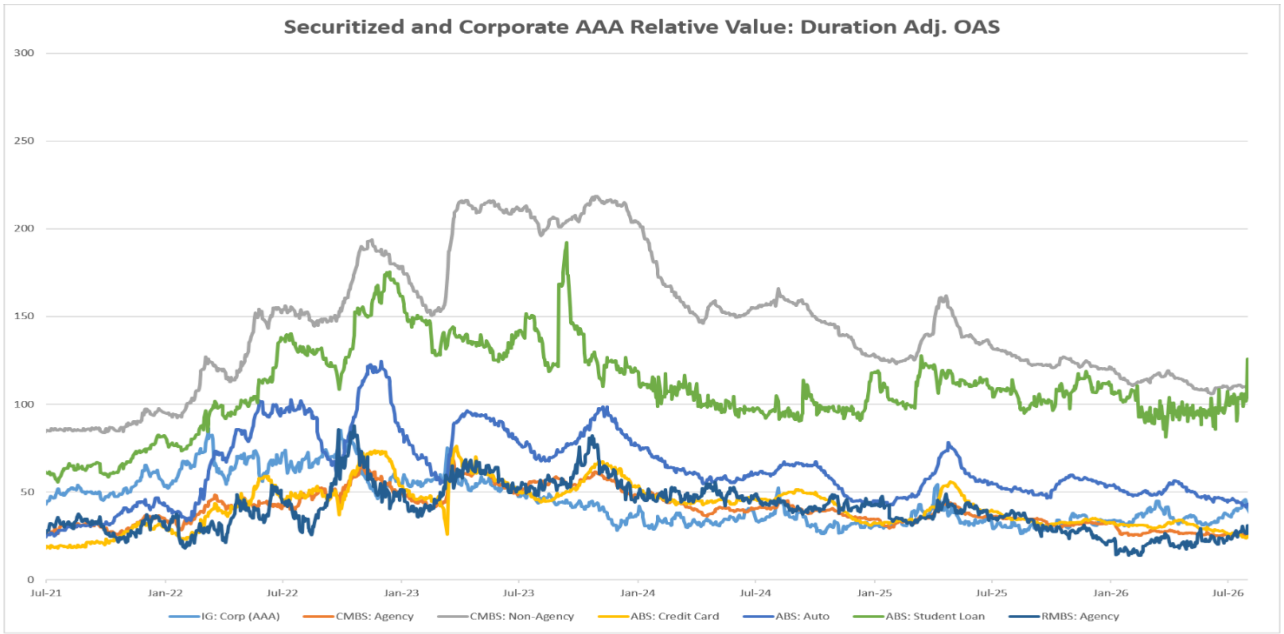
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
NAV ($B)	$1.2	$9.7	$17.6	$28.6	$28.9	$38.4	$48.4	$45.4	$52.8	$72.8	$107.8	$143.3	$183.8	$223.7	$226.2	$229.2	$225.9	$230.7	$242.1	$274.7	$295.2	$347.8	$411.9	$509.2	$653.0	$721.3	$817.4	$868.6	$881.1
Dry powder ($B)	$15.7	$16.3	$15.4	$11.6	$17.5	$17.9	$21.4	$25.4	$30.6	$61.2	$92.4	$87.9	$95.3	$100.3	$95.1	$117.5	$128.1	$132.4	$165.1	$195.8	$263.4	$279.0	$282.9	$340.2	$337.9	$331.7	$392.1	$441.2	$359.8
Total AUM ($B)	$17.0	$25.9	$33.0	$40.2	$46.4	$56.2	$69.8	$70.7	$83.4	$134.0	$200.2	$231.2	$279.2	$324.0	$321.2	$346.8	$354.0	$363.1	$407.2	$470.5	$558.6	$626.8	$694.8	$849.3	$990.9	$1,053.	$1,209.	$1,309.	$1,240.

US Debt AUM ($B)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Dry powder ($B)	$30.6	$61.2	$92.4	$87.9	$95.3	$100.3	$95.1	$117.5	$128.1	$132.4	$165.1	$195.8	$263.4	$279.0	$282.9	$340.2	$337.9	$331.7	$392.1	$441.2	$359.8
NAV ($B)	$52.8	$72.8	$107.8	$143.3	$183.8	$223.7	$226.2	$229.2	$225.9	$230.7	$242.1	$274.7	$295.2	$347.8	$411.9	$509.2	$653.0	$721.3	$817.4	$868.6	$881.1
Total AUM ($B)	$83.4	$134.0	$200.2	$231.2	$279.2	$324.0	$321.2	$346.8	$354.0	$363.1	$407.2	$470.5	$558.6	$626.8	$694.8	$849.3	$990.9	$1,053.0	$1,209.5	$1,309.8	$1,240.9

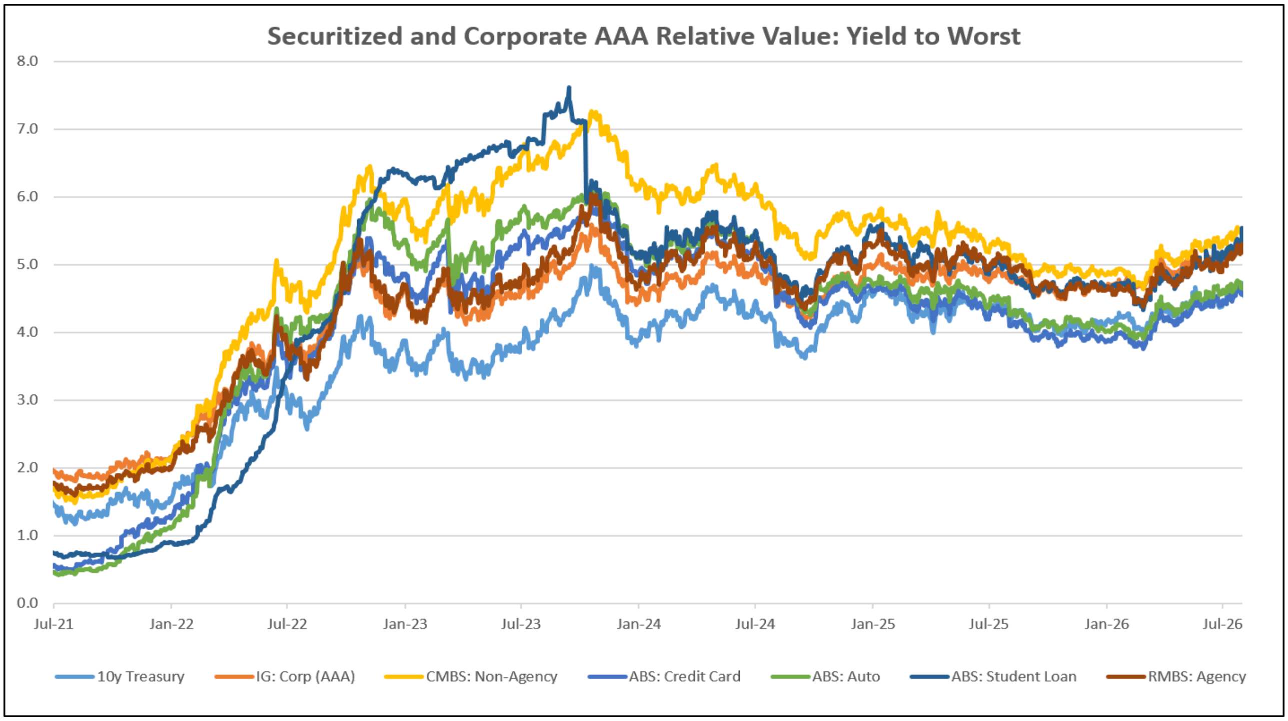
*As of 12/31/2025

Diagram S: Structured Credit Spreads



Source: Bloomberg

Diagram T: Structured Credit Yield



Source: Bloomberg

Diagram U: SOFR Curve

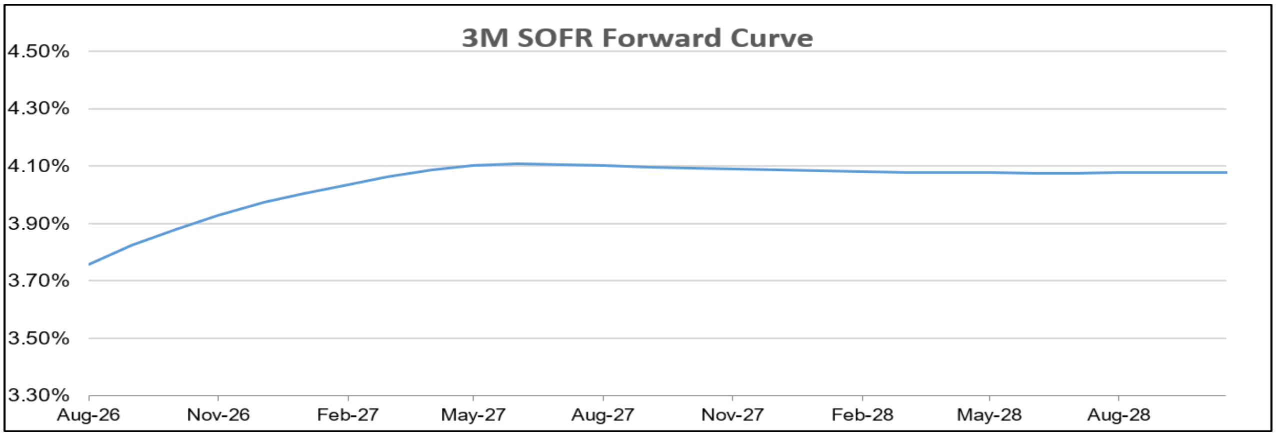
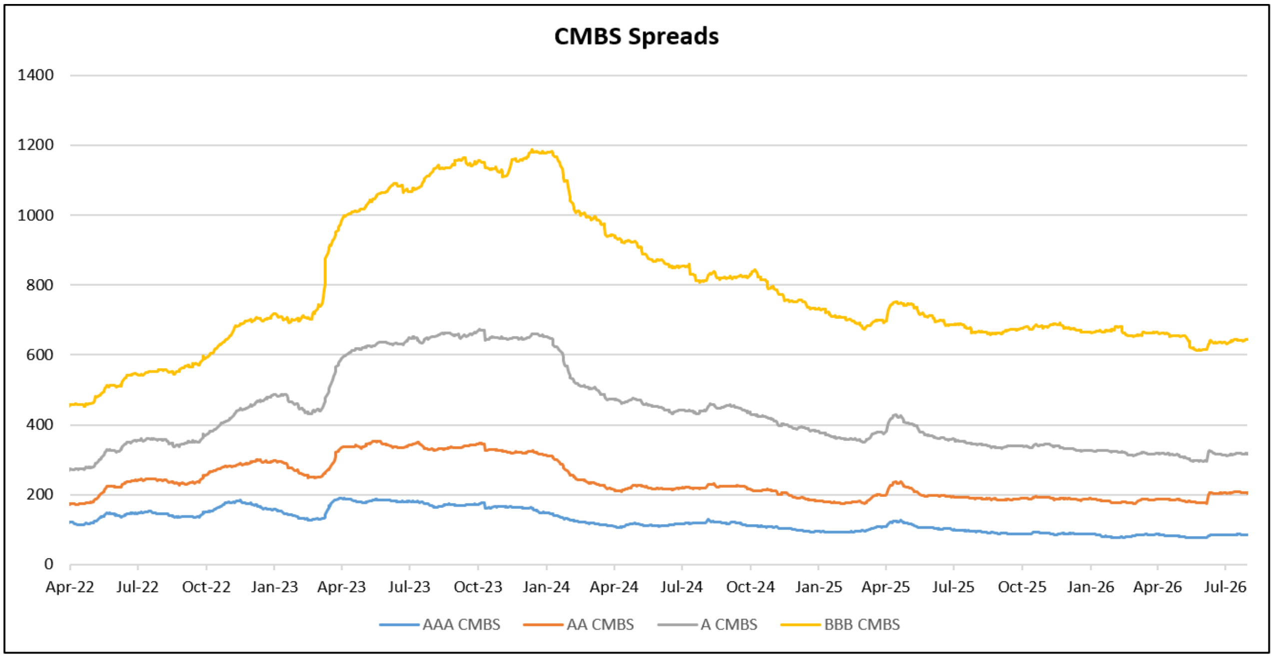
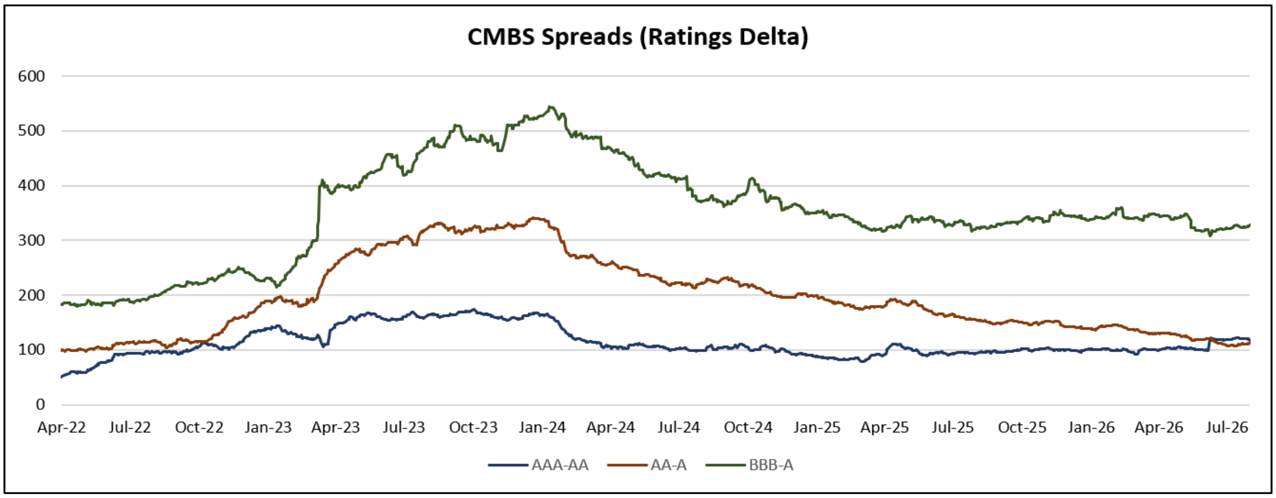


Diagram V: CMBS Spreads





Source: Bloomberg

About ZCG

ZCG is a leading, privately held global firm comprised of private markets asset management, business consulting services, and technology development and solutions.

ZCG's investors are some of the largest and most sophisticated global institutional investors including pension funds, endowments, foundations, sovereign wealth funds, central banks, and insurance companies.

For almost 30 years, ZCG Principals have invested tens of billions of dollars of capital. ZCG has a global team of approximately 250 professionals and is headquartered in New York, with eight affiliated offices, across six countries.

For more information on ZCG, please visit www.zcg.com.

Asset Management

ZCG Private Equity is the private equity fund management platform of ZCG, which pursues a strategy of acquiring companies that are growth platforms, corporate carve-outs, buy & builds, and go-private transactions, driven by a three-pronged approach for value creation.

ZCG's current portfolio companies sell products in 120 countries, operate 15 manufacturing facilities, and have over 200,000 employees and associates directly and through joint ventures.

ZCG Credit is the credit fund management platform of ZCG, which leverages a horizontal approach, a flexible mandate allowing ZCG to deploy capital horizontally at the highest risk adjusted return across the senior secured spectrum, including broadly syndicated loans and direct lending. ZCG Credit manages closed and open-ended funds as well as structured vehicles of strategic debt, investing across industries with exposure to over 300 credits across the platform.

ZCG Arabia Direct Finance is a Shariah-compliant direct financing platform under CMA regulation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ("KSA") that aims to address the structural financing gap of small and medium-sized enterprises in the KSA through tailored financing solutions, including senior and asset-backed structures.

ZCG Consulting

ZCGC is a global business advisory partner delivering operational optimization, process and procedures, transformation, and M&A support. Our team combines deep industry expertise with hands-on senior leadership to help portfolio businesses, governments, and investors unlock growth, streamline operations, and maximize long-term value and returns across numerous industry verticals.

ZCGC partners with management teams to develop strategic plans and execute high-impact value creation initiatives. As a trusted resource for private equity firms and portfolio companies, our consultants bring leadership experience across investment banking, capital markets, Big 4 consulting, real estate development, talent acquisition, procurement, and the corporate C-suite.

Together with Haptiq, our strategic software development affiliate, we equip clients with the tools and expertise to drive growth and long-term success. For more information on ZCGC, please visit **www.zcgc.com**.

Technology

Haptiq, LLC ("Haptiq") – where insight meets innovation.

Haptiq is an AI-native enterprise solutions company with purpose-built technology for private equity firms, institutional organizations, government entities, and large-scale operating environments. With headquarters in New York City and four global offices, Haptiq is supported by more than 300 engineers and delivery professionals across the globe. By centralizing and unifying data, automating workflows, and surfacing predictive insights, Haptiq enables organizations to scale operational excellence and generate alpha across complex enterprise environments. For more information, please visit **https://www.haptiq.com/**.

Data Scan

Week Ending 8/28/26

PERFORMANCE

Market Indices	28-Aug	21-Aug	WoW Change	YTD Change	YoY Change
DJIA	53,559.99	53,277.01	0.53%	11.44%	17.36%
S&P 500	7,711.76	7,674.37	0.49%	12.65%	18.61%
NASDAQ	26,402.42	26,180.46	0.85%	13.60%	21.64%
MSCI - EAFE	3,246.34	3,243.62	0.08%	12.22%	18.88%
MSCI - Emerging Markets	1,722.14	1,721.89	0.01%	22.63%	36.54%
US Dollar Index	99.70	98.80	0.91%	1.40%	1.93%
Bitcoin	80,105.20	77,322.62	3.60%	(11.69%)	(30.84%)
VIX	14.43	15.13	(4.63%)	(3.48%)	0.00%

High Yield & Loan Returns	WTD	MTD	YTD	2025
High Yield Bond	0.44%	0.92%	3.11%	8.97%
Leveraged Loan	0.19%	0.76%	3.02%	5.99%

Market Ratios		28-Aug	21-Aug	WoW Change	YTD Change	YoY Change
CBOE Put/Call Ratio	Equities	0.62	0.51	21.57%	(32.61%)	(17.33%)

Commodities ($ USD)	Metric	28-Aug	21-Aug	WoW Change	YTD Change	YoY Change
Core Commodity Index	CRY Index	406.36	406.24	0.03%	36.01%	34.67%
Gasoline - Pump	Gallon	4.09	4.11	(0.46%)	44.37%	27.77%
Gasoline - Futures	Gallon	3.49	3.35	4.24%	104.64%	58.70%
Crude Oil - WTI	Barrel	83.40	87.06	(4.20%)	45.25%	29.10%
Crude Oil - Brent	Barrel	89.31	94.39	(5.38%)	46.77%	30.15%
Natural Gas	MM BTU	2.89	2.77	4.15%	(21.65%)	(1.90%)
Coal (1 contract = 1,000 tons)	Contract	131.20	131.50	(0.23%)	22.05%	17.62%
Aluminum	Metric Ton	3,242.00	3,237.50	0.02%	8.23%	24.45%
Copper	Metric Ton	14,294.00	14,215.50	0.55%	15.06%	45.59%
Iron Ore	Metric Ton	95.84	95.21	0.66%	(10.54%)	(5.77%)
Steel - Hot Rolled Coil	Metric Ton	1,205.00	1,200.00	0.42%	35.09%	37.09%
Steel - Cold Rolled Coil	Metric Ton	1,385.00	1,365.00	1.47%	30.05%	34.47%
Ferrous Scrap	Metric Ton	421.00	439.00	(4.10%)	0.00%	(9.46%)
Ammonia	Metric Ton	555.00	635.00	(12.60%)	(14.62%)	13.96%
Lumber	27.5k Board Ft	567.50	574.00	(1.13%)	5.39%	0.98%
Gold	Troy Ounce	4,455.11	4,603.07	(3.21%)	3.14%	30.38%
Silver	Troy Ounce	66.38	68.99	(3.79%)	(7.37%)	69.97%
Corrugated Box Cost	Short Ton	128.35	128.35	9.81%	7.58%	3.38%
Cotton	Pound	87.31	83.27	4.85%	44.05%	(29.86%)
Butter	Pound	1.46	1.46	0.00%	4.46%	(29.86%)
Cheese	Pound	1.62	1.62	0.12%	(6.84%)	(12.09%)
Cocoa	Pound	3.02	2.74	10.18%	9.23%	(5.93%)
Coffee	Pound	3.29	3.20	2.54%	7.23%	14.25%
Corn	Bushel	5.12	4.84	5.84%	16.30%	32.81%
Milk, Non Fat Dry	Pound	1.61	1.59	0.99%	37.69%	25.56%
Soybean	Bushel	12.76	12.25	4.18%	23.85%	24.12%
Sugar	Pound	0.18	0.18	(0.28%)	16.99%	6.55%
Wheat	Bushel	7.67	6.82	12.55%	51.28%	50.32%
Live Cattle	Pound	2.19	2.23	(1.70%)	(5.50%)	(7.49%)
Lean Hogs	Pound	0.82	0.81	1.27%	(3.76%)	(13.13%)
Beef, USDA Ground	Pound	3.76	3.86	(2.45%)	8.28%	(9.21%)
Chicken, Boneless & Skinless	Pound	1.23	1.23	0.00%	3.36%	4.24%

		Spot Prices		Futures		10-Year Historicals	
Currencies	Metric	28-Aug	21-Aug	2025	2026	Low	High
Japanese Yen	USDJPY	160.090	158.950	150.000	158.000	99.890	161.690
Chinese Renminbi	USDCNY	6.730	6.721	7.100	6.700	6.195	7.346
Swiss Franc	USDCHF	0.809	0.801	0.800	0.800	0.815	1.030
British Pound	GBPUSD	1.354	1.364	1.330	1.340	1.069	1.588
Euro Zone Euro	EURUSD	1.159	1.168	1.170	1.160	0.959	1.251

Market Indices	28-Aug	21-Aug	WoW Change	YTD Change	YoY Change
S&P/LSTA Leveraged Loan Index	4,430.71	4,421.50	0.21%	2.99%	4.77%
Barclays High Yield Index	2,993.74	2,985.69	0.27%	2.72%	4.91%
Barclays Aggregate	2,343.86	2,340.79	0.13%	(0.21%)	1.86%

Loan Market Bids	28-Aug	21-Aug	WoW Change	YTD Change
S&P Flow Name Index	94.61	94.54	0.08%	(1.36%)
S&P 100 Name Index	97.42	97.29	0.13%	(1.88%)
S&P BB's Index	99.73	99.70	0.03%	(0.16%)
S&P B's Index	97.28	97.20	0.08%	(0.67%)
S&P CCC's Index	68.14	68.24	(0.15%)	(8.66%)

Loan Market Spreads	28-Aug	21-Aug	WoW Change	YTD Change
S&P BB's Index	S+249	S+250	(1 bps)	2 bps
S&P B's Index	S+433	S+437	(4 bps)	23 bps
S&P CCC's Index	S+1720	S+1722	(2 bps)	249 bps

Credit Default Swap - Volatility Indices	Index	28-Aug	21-Aug	WoW Change	YTD Change
Investment Grade CDS	Markit	50.27	50.89	(1.22%)	0.53%
High Yield CDS	Markit	301.27	303.40	(0.70%)	(4.81%)

Credit		28-Aug	21-Aug	WoW Change	YOY Change
High Yield	OAS - YTW	T+260	T+269	(9 bps)	(8 bps)
Loan Index - S&P Flow Name	DM - 3 Year	S+476	S+480	(4 bps)	20 bps
US Treasury 2-Yr		4.34%	4.24%	11 bps	71 bps
US Treasury 3-Yr		4.40%	4.31%	9 bps	81 bps
US Treasury 5-Yr		4.48%	4.42%	5 bps	79 bps
US Treasury 7-Yr		4.59%	4.57%	2 bps	68 bps
US Treasury 10-Yr		4.72%	4.73%	(2 bps)	51 bps
US Treasury 30-Yr		5.21%	5.27%	(7 bps)	33 bps

US CLO Spreads - New Issue	31-Jul	30-Jun	MoM Change	YTD Change
AAA	S+125	S+127	(2 bps)	(2 bps)
AA	S+160	S+158	2 bps	(5 bps)
A	S+183	S+185	(2 bps)	(12 bps)
BBB	S+280	S+293	(13 bps)	(10 bps)
BB	S+645	S+610	35 bps	45 bps

Market Rates	28-Aug	21-Aug	WoW Change	YTD Change
Fed Fund Rate	4.31%	4.31%	0 bps	67 bps
Prime Rate	6.75%	6.75%	0 bps	0 bps
Broker Call Rate	5.50%	5.50%	0 bps	0 bps
1M SOFR	3.69%	3.67%	2 bps	(0 bps)
3M SOFR	3.77%	3.74%	2 bps	12 bps
6M SOFR	3.87%	3.84%	3 bps	30 bps

Short Interest - Millions of shares	31-Jul	30-Jun	MoM Change	YTD Change
NYSE Mkt Short Interest	22,617.92	22,564.83	0.24%	16.53%
Nasdaq Short Interest	22,597.85	22,681.25	(0.37%)	21.72%

Fed Corp Primary Dealer Positions - $ USD in Millions	31-Jul	30-Jun	MoM Change	YTD Change
Net Outright Total Corp Securities	12,957.00	17,174.00	(24.55%)	103.92%

Margin Debt - $ USD in Billions	31-Jul	30-Jun	MoM Change	YTD Change
FINRA Margin Debt	1,417.23	1,502.07	(5.65%)	15.64%

Money Market Funds - $ USD in Billions	26-Aug	19-Aug	WoW Change	YTD Change
ICI Money Market Fund Assets	7,934.59	7,928.48	0.08%	2.60%

TECHNICALS (Supply / Demand)

Bank Loan & High Yield, Inflows (Outflows) Mutual Fund, $ USD in Millions, (Source: Lipper FMI)

	Week Ending	Bank Loans	High Yield
	26-Aug-26	$ 407	$ (1,500)
	19-Aug-26	$ 507	$ 97
	12-Aug-26	$ 987	$ 167
	5-Aug-26	$ 797	$ 2,000
	29-Jul-26	$ 298	$ (640)
	22-Jul-26	$ 503	$ 534
	15-Jul-26	$ 515	$ (393)
	8-Jul-26	$ 909	$ 194
	1-Jul-26	$ 450	$ 2,200
Year To Date 2026		**$ 9,063**	**$ 498**
Year Ended December 31, 2025		**$ 6,052**	**$ 19,823**
Year Ended December 31, 2024		**$ 21,086**	**$ 19,373**

Leveraged Finance Primary Volume - $ USD in Billions

	Year To Date		Year End	YoY
8/28/2026	2026	2025	2025	Change
Bank Debt	**543.4**	**719.8**	**984.3**	**(24.51%)**
Total Bonds	**231.6**	**207.7**	**332.0**	**11.51%**
Totals	**775.0**	**927.5**	**1,316.3**	**(16.44%)**

NEW ISSUE SUMMARY

Institutional Loans	8/28/2026	Deals	Amt ($mm)
Priced	Prior Week	0	0
In-Market Forward Calendar		0	0

High Yield	8/28/2026	Deals	Amt ($mm)
Priced	Prior Week	0	0
In-Market Forward Calendar		0	0

DEFAULT ACTIVITY

Total Loan Defaults - as of:	31-Jul	30-Jun	YE 2025
Default Rate by Total Amount of All Loans Outstanding	1.29%	1.29%	1.46%
Default Rate by Total Amount of All HY Bonds Outstanding	1.89%	1.89%	0.99%

ECONOMIC DATA RECAP

Key Economic Indicators:		Period Ending	Actual	Expected	Prior
Initial Jobless Claims		8/22/2026	203K	208K	207K
Continuing Claims		8/15/2026	1,778K	1,790K	1,796K
Change in Non-Farm Payrolls		7/31/2026	(23K)	85K	20K
Change in Private Payrolls		7/31/2026	30K	78K	30K
Unemployment Rate	U-3	7/31/2026	4.1%	4.2%	4.2%
Unemployment Rate	U-6	7/31/2026	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%
Average Work Week		7/31/2026	34.3	34.3	34.3
Existing Home Sales		7/31/2026	4.06M	4.05M	4.13M
Housing Starts		7/31/2026	1,239K	1,340K	1,415K
S&P/Case-Shiller Composite	YoY	6/30/2026	2.1%	1.8%	1.7%
S&P/Case-Shiller Composite	MoM	6/30/2026	0.2%	0.9%	0.2%
Consumer Confidence		8/31/2026	89.4	90.3	92.2
GDP	QoQ-Annualized	6/30/2026	1.5%	2.1%	2.1%
Durable Goods Orders		7/31/2026	1.1%	0.4%	0.5%
Total Vehicle Sales		7/31/2026	16.33M	16.30M	16.52M
Capacity Utilization		7/31/2026	76.3%	76.3%	76.2%

Fed & Treasury Balance Sheet		28-Aug	21-Aug	WoW Change	YoY Change
Fed Total Assets	$ in Billions	6,730.9	6,745.7	(0.2%)	1.9%
Public Debt	$ in Billions	40,077.5	40,033.3	0.1%	7.4%

US Debt Outstanding		1Q26	4Q25	QoQ Change	YoY Change
Domestic Nonfinancial Debt	$ in Billions	81,855.3	80,711.4	1.4%	5.7%

Shared National Credit		2025	2024	YoY Change
Shared National Credit Total Commitments	$ in Billions	6,911.4	6,521.9	6.0%
Special Mention Commitments	$ in Billions	155.3	161.8	-4.0%
Classified Commitments	$ in Billions	437.5	434.0	0.8%

Employment - Labor Participation Rates	31-Jul	30-Jun	YTD Change
Civilian Employment as % of Total Labor Force	58.9%	59.0%	0.53pp
Labor Force Participation Rate	61.4%	61.5%	0.55pp

Government Assistance		31-May	30-Apr	YTD Change
SNAP fka Food Stamps - # of Participants	in Millions	36.6	37.1	(6.73%)

Retail Sales	30-Jun	31-May	YTD Change
Adj. Retail & Food Services Sales Index - US Census	768.1	766.2	4.50%

Packaging Papers & Containerboard	YoY	YTD YoY
Packaging Papers & Specialty Packaging Shipments (Jun)	2.00%	6.00%
Total Containerboard Production (Q2 2026)	(2.00%)	(5.00%)

U.S. Rig Count - Active Drilling Rigs, Exploring or Developing Oil & Natural Gas

Type	Peak- 2000 to Date	# of Rigs	% Change	28-Aug	21-Aug	YoY Change
Oil	10/10/2014	1,609	(72.22%)	447.0	452.0	8.76%
Gas	9/12/2008	1,606	(91.78%)	132.0	127.0	8.20%

Rail & Truck Volume		31-May	30-Apr	YTD Change
Total Rail Freight Carloads	Tons in Thousands	1,006.06	1,003.58	5.87%
Total Intermodal	Tons in Thousands	1,245.10	1,183.85	4.80%
Truck Tonnage Index		112.96	116.75	0.55%

TSA Checkpoint Travel Numbers		28-Aug	21-Aug	WoW Change	YoY Change
Weekly Traveler Throughput	in Thousands	16,361.3	17,251.5	(5.16%)	(4.63%)

Freight Rates	28-Aug	21-Aug	WoW Change	YTD Change	YoY Change
Baltic Exchange Dry Index	3,186	2,841	12.14%	69.74%	57.96%
Shanghai - Los Angeles Spot Rates	6,818	6,802	0.24%	174.81%	192.37%
Shanghai - NY Spot Rates	9,333	9,507	(1.83%)	182.65%	183.59%
Shanghai Containerized Freight Index	3,510	3,410	2.93%	111.89%	147.96%

ECONOMIC / GDP DATA

International Monetary Fund Growth Rates (Source: IMF "World Economic Outlook")

Country	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
United States	0.9%	2.9%	2.8%	2.1%	2.3%	2.2%
Brazil	2.5%	3.2%	3.4%	2.5%	2.4%	2.2%
China	3.2%	5.2%	5.0%	5.0%	4.6%	4.1%
Germany	0.8%	(0.3%)	(0.5%)	0.2%	0.7%	1.0%
India	6.1%	8.2%	6.5%	7.3%	6.4%	6.7%
Japan	0.5%	1.5%	0.1%	1.1%	0.6%	0.7%
United Kingdom	0.6%	0.3%	1.1%	1.4%	1.0%	1.3%
Saudi Arabia	8.7%	(0.8%)	2.0%	4.3%	1.7%	5.5%
UAE	7.5%	4.3%	4.0%	4.8%	3.1%	5.3%

Region	2024	2025	2026	2027
World	3.3%	3.3%	3.0%	3.4%
Advanced Economies	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%	1.8%
Euro Area	0.9%	1.4%	0.9%	1.2%
Emerging Mkts and Developing Economies	4.3%	4.4%	3.8%	4.5%
Emerging and Developing Asia	5.3%	5.4%	5.0%	4.8%
Emerging and Developing Europe	3.5%	2.0%	1.9%	2.1%
Latin America and the Caribbean	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.7%
Middle East and Central Asia	2.6%	3.7%	0.7%	6.5%
Sub-Saharan Africa	4.1%	4.4%	4.3%	4.5%

430 Park Avenue, 16th Floor
New York, NY 10022
(212) 595-8400

Data Sources: Bloomberg, LCD News, J.P. Morgan, USDA, US Department of Labor, US Department of Transportation, International Monetary Fund, RealtyTrac