



Global Economic & Credit Market Briefing

Week 38 Ending – September 18, 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

Global Economic & Credit Market

Week 38 Ending – September 18, 2026

Economic Calendar

Wednesday, September 23: Retail Sales

Thursday, September 24: New Home Sales

Friday, September 25: Durable Goods Orders

Key Market Metrics

	18-Sep	WoW	YTD	YoY	LTM EBITDA	NTM EBITDA
Equities Return						
S&P 500:	7,651	(0.08%)	+11.76%	+15.36%	17.0x	12.8x
Dow Jones:	51,683	(1.69%)	+7.53%	+12.01%	13.6x	12.7x
Nasdaq:	26,523	+0.72%	+14.11%	+18.03%		
Credit Return						
High-yield:		(0.48%)	+2.23%	+3.67%		
Leveraged Loan:		+0.18%	+3.56%	+4.85%		
Credit Yields						
High-yield:	7.68%	+10 bps	+103 bps	+94 bps		
Leveraged Loan:	9.24%	+7 bps	+142 bps	+154 bps		
Rates						
10Y Treasury:	4.99%	+3 bps	+85 bps	+91 bps		
1M SOFR:	3.89%	+7 bps	+20 bps	(24)bps		
3M SOFR:	4.00%	+10 bps	+34 bps	(1)bps		
6M SOFR:	4.15%	+11 bps	+58 bps	+32 bps		
Currencies						
British Pound / USD:	\$1.34	(0.95%)	(0.59%)	(1.18%)		
Euro / USD:	\$1.15	(0.97%)	(2.21%)	(2.56%)		
USD / Yen:	¥156.88	+2.13%	+0.11%	+6.00%		
Swiss franc / EUR:	€ 1.06	+0.28%	(1.41%)	(1.09%)		

U.S. News

FOMC Meetings & Interest Rate Decision

- The FOMC voted 12-0 to raise the federal funds rate by 25 basis points to a target range of 3.75%-4.00% — the first rate hike since July 2023, reversing the market's prior expectation of a hold and marking a clear pivot toward inflation-fighting over growth support
- Fed Chair Kevin Warsh said inflation has been "too high for too long" and that the Committee needed clearer evidence of sustained disinflation before easing, citing elevated PCE projections (3.7% for 2026) and Middle East-driven energy costs as key factors behind the hike
- The updated dot plot shows a split committee — eight officials see another hike in 2027, six expect a hold, four project cuts — with markets now pricing in one additional 25bp hike before year-end and the 10-year Treasury yield up roughly a full point since its February low

Retail Sales

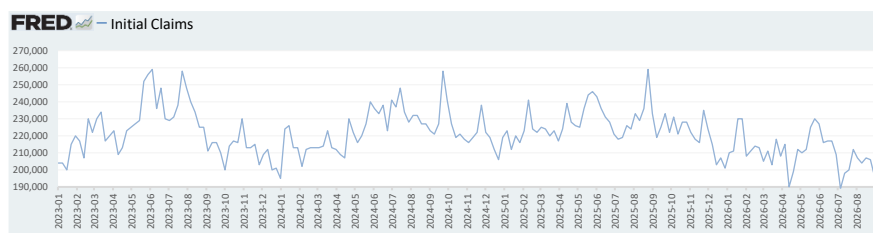
- Retail sales surged 1.2% month-over-month in August to \$773.9 billion, dramatically beating the 0.8% consensus and marking the strongest monthly gain since March, with July's figure revised to a smaller 0.5% decline
- Excluding autos, sales rose 1.4% — the largest ex-auto increase in five months — though gasoline station sales climbed 3.1% on higher fuel prices, meaning part of the headline strength reflects inflation rather than volume growth
- The report lands against a backdrop of deteriorating sentiment, with University of Michigan consumer confidence falling to 51.0 in August from 55.2 in July and year-ahead inflation expectations rising to 4.3% — a resilience-versus-anxiety divergence that gives the Fed a genuinely mixed signal

Housing Starts

- Overall housing starts fell 2.6% in August to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.275 million — missing the 1.32 million consensus and marking the lowest level since May, driven by a 22.5% plunge in multifamily construction to 344,000 units
- Single-family starts, which make up the bulk of homebuilding, rebounded 7.6% to 918,000 units and are up 5.2% year-over-year, though Reuters noted the improvement is "likely temporary" given rising mortgage rates tied to Middle East-driven inflation
- Building permits — a leading indicator — fell 2.7% to 1.394 million, with single-family authorizations down 1.8%, reinforcing analyst warnings (Cotality) that housing starts could decline a further 2% in 2026 and 4% in 2027 as builders contend with rising costs and shrinking margins

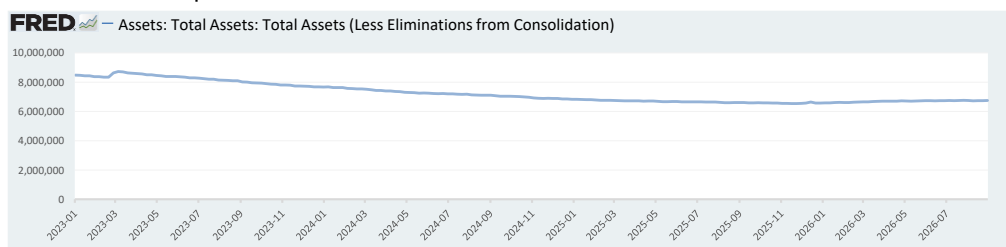
Jobless Claims

- Initial jobless claims, a measure of how many workers were laid off across the U.S., decreased to 196,000 in the week ended September 11, down 10,000 from the prior week
- The four-week moving average was 203,250, down 2,750 from the prior week
- Continuing claims – those filed by workers unemployed for longer than a week – decreased at 1.730 million in the week ended September 4. This figure is reported with a one-week lag



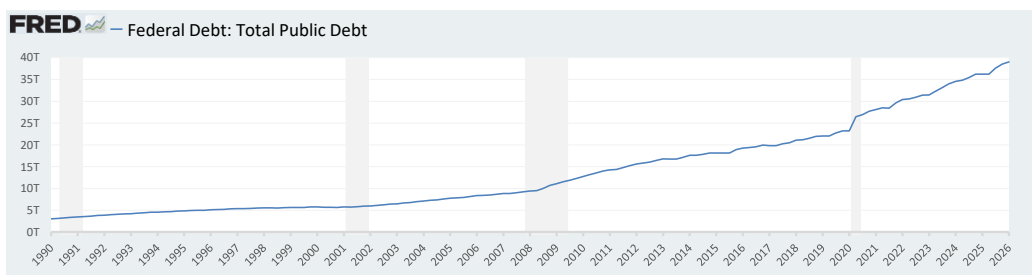
Fed's Balance Sheet

- The Federal Reserve's assets totaled \$6.747 trillion in the week ended September 18, up \$5.9 billion from the prior week
- Treasury holdings totaled \$4.554 trillion, up \$1.8 billion from the prior week
- Holdings of mortgage-backed securities (MBS) were \$1.91 trillion in the week, down \$0.0 billion from the prior week



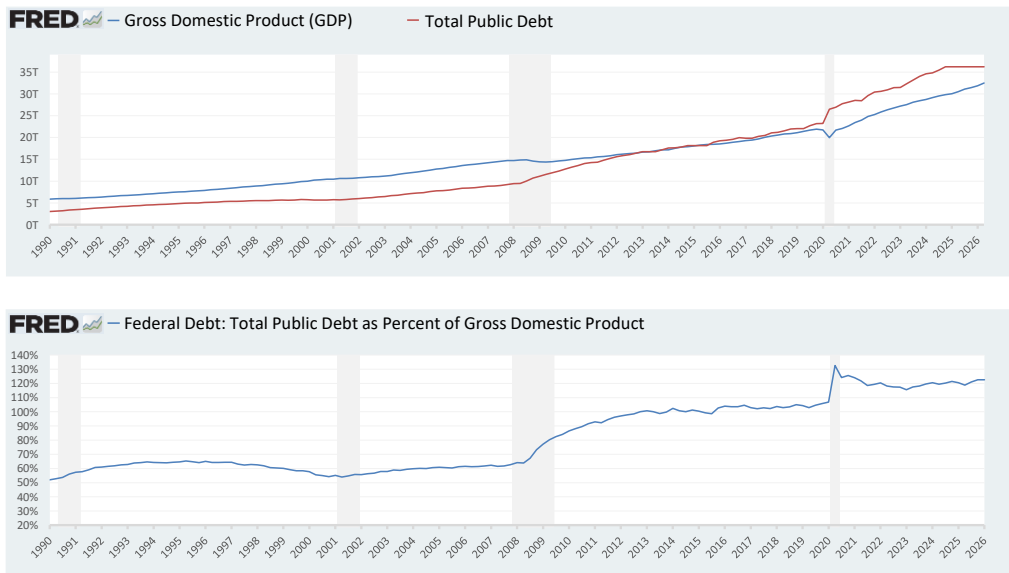
Total Public Debt

- Total public debt outstanding was \$40.09 trillion as of September 18, an increase of 6.9% from the previous year
- Debt held by the public was \$32.39 trillion, and intragovernmental holdings were \$7.76 trillion



GDP

- The latest annualized U.S. GDP stands at \$32.49 trillion as of June 30, 2026, an increase of 1.95% from the previous quarter, & an increase of 6.56% from the previous year
- The total public debt-to-GDP ratio is at 121.47% as of June 30, an increase of 2.69% from the previous year

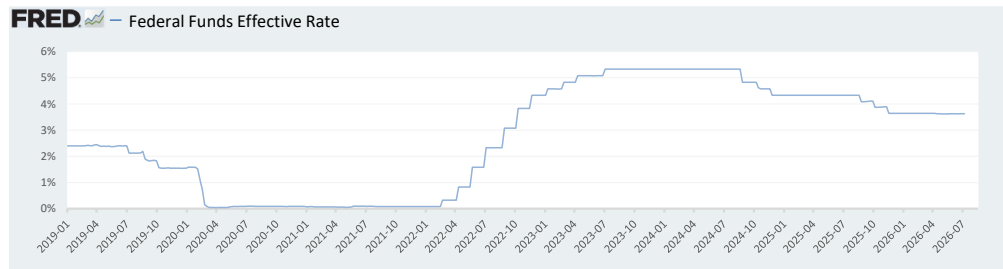


Inflation Factors

- CPI:
 - The consumer-price index rose 3.4% in August year over year
 - On a monthly basis, the CPI increased 0.4% in August on a seasonally adjusted basis, after increasing 0.1% in July
 - The index for all items less food and energy (core CPI) rose 0.3% in August, after rising 0.2% in July
 - Core CPI increased 2.4% for the 12 months ending August
- Food & Beverages:
 - The food at home index increased 2.1% in August from the same month a year earlier, and increased 0.0% in August month over month
 - The food away from home index increased 3.4% in August from the same month a year earlier, and increased 0.3% in August month over month
- Commodities:
 - The energy commodities index increased 4.2% in August after decreasing (2.9%) in July
 - The energy commodities index rose 28.0% over the last 12 months
 - The energy services index fell (0.6%) in August after increasing 0.1% in July
 - The energy services index rose 4.0% over the last 12 months
 - The gasoline index rose 27.4% over the last 12 months
 - The fuel oil index rose 52.0% over the last 12 months
 - The index for electricity rose 3.8% over the last 12 months
 - The index for natural gas rose 4.4% over the last 12 months
- Supply Chain:
 - Drewry's composite World Container Index increased to \$4,500.12 per 40ft container for the week of September 18
 - Drewry's composite World Container Index has increased by 135.2% over the last 12 months
- Housing Market:
 - The shelter index increased 0.3% in August after increasing 0.1% in July
 - The rent index increased 0.3% in August after increasing 0.1% in July
 - The index for lodging away from home increased 0.5% in August after decreasing (3.4%) in July

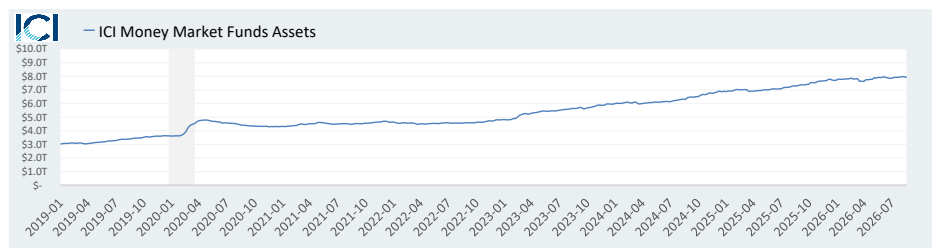
Federal Funds Rate

- The effective Federal Funds Rate is at 3.88%, up 0.24% year to date



Money Market Funds

- Money market fund assets stood at \$7.92 trillion as of September 16, 2026, down (0.7%) from the previous week, & up 8.8% from the previous year



World News

Middle East

- Oil futures fell for a third straight session Friday — Brent down 0.9% to \$103.87 and WTI down 1.6% to \$100.30 — as markets priced in expectations that Saudi Arabia could partially restore flows through its damaged East-West Pipeline within days, though full repairs to the critical Red Sea bypass route could take six to eight weeks
- The disruption marks an unprecedented risk factor, with one energy executive noting it's "the first time since 1973" markets are grappling with Saudi Arabia potentially offline, even as the IEA notes alternative routes and weaker demand have cushioned the blow — Hormuz flows averaged just 7.6 million barrels a day in August, 13.1 million below prewar levels, while Saudi/UAE bypass routes have offset 2.8 million barrels a day of lost volume
- Hundreds of thousands of Iranians joined a government-organized rally in Tehran marking 200 days since the war began, with attendees chanting "Death to America" and displaying drones used in recent Strait of Hormuz attacks, as the regime seeks to project strength while a U.S. blockade and sanctions squeeze the economy
- The demonstration deliberately coincided with the sensitive anniversary of the 2022 death that sparked nationwide protests, with analysts noting the regime fears history repeating as truckers and taxi drivers already stage strikes over slashed subsidies and rising fuel prices — even as Iran continues sporadic attacks on Hormuz shipping despite the nominal ceasefire

Europe

- European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen proposed making Canada the EU's first-ever "associate member," a landmark shift signaling how traditional U.S. allies are forging closer ties amid strained relations with the Trump administration — with discussions covering integrated defense supply chains, joint cloud/data centers, expanded Canadian energy exports to Europe, and mutual visa-free travel arrangements
- Significant obstacles remain, as Canada has refused to accept all EU single-market rules (freedom of movement, budget contributions) that typically accompany deep market access, and 10 EU nations still haven't ratified the existing 2017 Canada-EU trade deal — while polls show over 80% of Canadians support closer European ties even as Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre warned against becoming "the 28th EU state"
- Canadian PM Mark Carney defended the EU partnership before the European Parliament as essential to protecting Canadian sovereignty amid Trump's trade war and repeated "51st state" threats, framing it not as a rival power bloc but as part of his broader goal to double Canada's non-U.S. exports by 2035
- Trump directly threatened retaliation, calling potential Canadian EU associate membership a possible "hostile act" that could trigger "very serious tariffs" on European trade — a warning Carney rebuffed by insisting "no one would dictate" Canada's partnerships, while pledging to put the final EU pact structure to a vote in Canadian Parliament

China

- Trump and Xi are set to discuss AI at next week's Washington summit, but the two sides hold fundamentally incompatible views on "safety" — the U.S. focuses on preventing models from slipping beyond human control or aiding weapons development, while Beijing's state security

minister has explicitly framed AI risk as a threat to "the political-security environment" requiring tighter party control over data and internet access

- Analysts see little prospect for meaningful convergence, noting China has "consistently rejected overtures of serious collaboration" and won't slow its AI development while it remains only months behind U.S. labs — an asymmetry compounded by China's open-weight model strategy (DeepSeek, Moonshot) versus America's closed, paid-gateway approach, and a track record (the failed 2023 Biden-era dialogue) of Beijing routing talks through its foreign ministry rather than technical experts to limit substantive exchange
- Beijing's roughly \$54 billion recapitalization of its largest banks and insurers — directed at strong institutions like ICBC rather than weak ones — signals an effort to buy time on a four-year property bust rather than resolve it, with shares falling on the announcement as investors recognized the losses haven't disappeared, only been redistributed
- Economist Michael Pettis argues China's closed capital account and captive household deposits let regulators indefinitely defer a Lehman-style crisis, but at a steeper cumulative cost — record-low bank net interest margins and eroding consumer spending suggest the country is tracking toward a Japan-style "lost decades" scenario of slow-motion losses absorbed by savers rather than a single dramatic reckoning

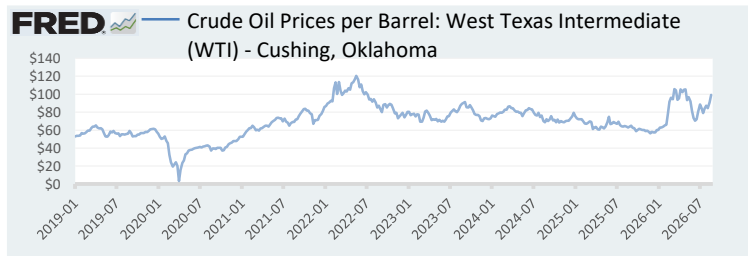
Americas

- Canada's Industry Minister Melanie Joly warned Stellantis must reopen its idle Brampton, Ontario plant or repay roughly \$710 million in government funds, as the automaker pursues a sale of the facility to Canadian armored-car maker Roshel after determining resumed auto production there was financially unfeasible
- The dispute has pushed labor talks with union Unifor to an impasse, with union president Lana Payne warning of a strike affecting 9,000 workers unless Stellantis abandons the planned divestment — Stellantis had previously shifted Jeep Compass production from Brampton to Illinois, citing the 25% U.S. tariff on foreign-assembled vehicles
- Canada unveiled a "productivity mega deduction" allowing businesses to immediately expense the full cost of most new capital investments in the year they become available, aiming to attract nearly \$1 trillion in new investment and marking what analysts call the most substantial change to Canada's tax code in decades
- The policy expands eligible asset classes beyond manufacturing to energy, mining, and broadband — covering roughly two-thirds of all capital investment — and is projected to give Canada a marginal effective tax rate less than half that of the U.S., at an estimated cost of C\$36 billion over five years while potentially boosting annual economic output by C\$22 billion

Commodities

Oil Prices

- WTI: \$100.30 per barrel
 - +0.25% WoW; +33.88% YTD; +56.60% YoY
- Brent: \$103.87 per barrel
 - (0.71%) WoW; +32.23% YTD; +54.02% YoY



U.S. Production

- U.S. oil production amounted to 13.9 million bpd for the week ended September 11, down 0.1 million bpd from the prior week

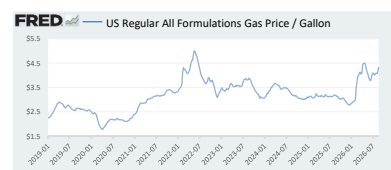
Rig Count

- The total number of oil rigs amounted to 595, up 4 from last week

Inventories

○ Crude Oil

- Total U.S. crude oil inventories now amount to 423.4 million barrels, up 1.9% YoY
- Refiners operated at a capacity utilization rate of 96.8% for the week, down from 97.8% in the prior week
- U.S. crude oil imports now amount to 6.824 million barrels per day, down 24.0% YoY



○ Gasoline

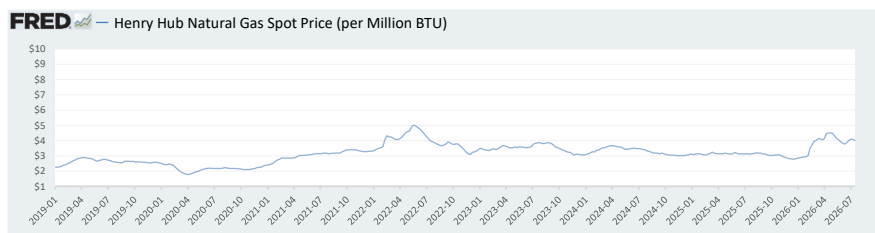
- Retail average regular gasoline prices amounted to \$4.47 per gallon in the week of September 18, up 39.7% YoY
 - Gasoline prices on the East Coast amounted to \$4.31, up 37.6% YoY
 - Gasoline prices in the Midwest amounted to \$4.18, up 36.5% YoY
 - Gasoline prices on the Gulf Coast amounted to \$3.95, up 37.6% YoY
 - Gasoline prices in the Rocky Mountain region amounted to \$4.58, up 38.4% YoY
 - Gasoline prices on the West Coast amounted to \$5.60, up 27.3% YoY
- Motor gasoline inventories were up by 0.8 million barrels from the prior week
- Motor gasoline inventories amounted to 207.7 million barrels, down (4.6%) YoY
- Production of motor gasoline averaged 9.64 million bpd, up 2.5% YoY
- Demand for motor gasoline amounted to 8.798 million bpd, down (0.1%) YoY

○ Distillates

- Distillate inventories decreased by 1.6 million in the week of September 18
- Total distillate inventories amounted to 107.9 million barrels, down (13.5%) YoY
- Distillate production averaged 5.227 million bpd, up 5.5% YoY
- Demand for distillates averaged 3.501 million bpd in the week, down (3.3%) YoY

○ Natural Gas

- Natural gas inventories increased by 44 billion cubic feet last week
- Total natural gas inventories now amount to 3,298 billion cubic feet, down (3.7%) YoY



Geopolitical Hotspots

Russia

- Russia's September 18-20 parliamentary election is designed to boost Putin's flagging approval — currently at 74%, down from over 80% during earlier war years — by putting him at the forefront of his party's campaign for the first time, with the antiwar Yabloko party barred from the ballot after its social-media following surged, effectively suppressing the only visible measure of war disapproval; state media has amplified reports of 100% turnout in remote villages and occupied Ukrainian territories to project unified support, even as independent pollsters show 70% of Russians view the political situation as "tense or worse"

Turkey

- Turkish regulators froze trading by seven asset managers and moved to liquidate 131 investment funds after a wave of implosions triggered by risky, leveraged bets on illiquid stocks — including one fund that reported 43,000% returns over two years before collapsing with \$5 billion in assets and 100,000 investors; the crisis sent the Borsa Istanbul 100 down 8.5% for the week and prompted authorities to detain executives and refer 38 people to prosecutors, even as Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek insisted "there's no systemic risk" and the central bank injected liquidity to stabilize markets

Malaysia

- Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak received a royal pardon allowing him to serve the remaining two years of his 1MDB-related abuse-of-power sentence under house arrest, conditional on paying a \$12 million fine, though the pardon does not extend to a separate 15-year sentence for money laundering tied to the same \$4.5 billion sovereign-wealth fund scandal that financed a superyacht and the film "The Wolf of Wall Street"; analysts say the move signals a broader shift among Malaysia's ruling elite toward moving past the scandal that ended his party's six-decade grip on power

North Korea

- North Korea has deployed thousands of workers, increasingly women, to Russian factories and warehouses to generate hard currency and deepen ties with Putin — with the Kim regime taking up to 90% of the roughly \$7,500 average annual earnings — even as these workers face growing danger from Ukrainian long-range drone strikes, including attacks on Wildberries e-commerce warehouses that killed at least nine people and employed North Korean women; the relationship was further cemented this month with the opening of the first-ever road bridge between the two countries, while North Korean workers abroad generated up to \$800 million last year funding Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs

Credit News

High yield bond yields increased 10bps to 7.68% and spreads widened 10bps to 302bps. Leveraged loan yields increased 7bps to 9.24% while spreads tightened 2bps to 468bps. WTD high yield bond returns were negative 32bps and WTD leveraged loan returns were positive 16bps. High-yield bond & leveraged loan yields increased due to a hawkish Fed outcome, with the Fed signaling another potential hike in December. HY funds saw their largest weekly outflow since March, while loan demand remained resilient, supported by consecutive weeks of fund inflows and continued primary market activity.

High-yield:

Week ended 09/18/2026

- Yields & Spreads¹

Current Week		Prior Week		Δ (bps)	
Yield	Spread	Yield	Spread	Yield	Spread
7.68%	302	7.58%	292	10	10

- Pricing & Returns¹

Pricing			Returns			
Current Week	Prior Week	Δ (bps)	WTD	MTD	YTD	2025
\$95.41	\$95.85	-44	-0.32%	-0.73%	2.08%	9.0%

- Fund Flows²

Total Flows (\$)
(\$2,500mm)

- New Issue²

Week		YTD		
# New Deals	Total (\$)	Total (\$)	Prior Year YTD	CY vs PY
7	\$6.4bn	\$250.0bn	\$235.7bn	+6%

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

8/31/26	7/31/26	6/30/26
4.78%	4.51%	4.98%

- Total HY Defaults

Excluding Distressed Exchanges			Including Distressed Exchanges		
8/31/26	7/31/26	6/30/26	8/31/26	7/31/26	6/30/26
1.98%	1.89%	1.89%	2.63%	2.70%	2.67%

Leveraged loans:

Week ended 09/18/2026

- Yields & Spreads¹

Current Week		Prior Week		Δ (bps)	
Yield	Spread	Yield	Spread	Yield	Spread
9.24%	468	9.17%	470	7	(2)

- Pricing & Returns¹

Pricing			Returns			
Current Week	Prior Week	Δ (bps)	WTD	MTD	YTD	2025
\$94.79	\$94.76	2	0.16%	0.41%	3.58%	6.0%

- Fund Flows²

Total Flows (\$)
\$701mm

- New Issue²

Week		YTD		
# New Deals	Total (\$)	Total (\$)	Prior Year YTD	CY vs PY
29	\$36.1bn	\$585.0bn	\$778.8bn	-25%

- Distressed Level (loan price below \$80)¹

8/31/26	7/31/26	6/30/26
8.95%	9.40%	9.39%

- Total Leveraged Loan Defaults

Excluding Distressed Exchanges			Including Distressed Exchanges		
8/31/26	7/31/26	6/30/26	8/31/26	7/31/26	6/30/26
1.21%	1.29%	1.29%	2.33%	2.29%	2.29%

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 09/18/2026

- New U.S. CLO Issuance²

# Priced	Total (\$)	New Issue	Refis/Resets
16	\$8.0bn	\$3.4bn	\$4.6bn

- New U.S. CLO YTD Issuance²

Total U.S. CLOs	Total (\$)	New Issue	Refis/Resets	Prior Year YTD	CY vs. PY
759	\$338.0bn	\$119.7bn	\$218.3bn	\$379.7bn	-11%

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:

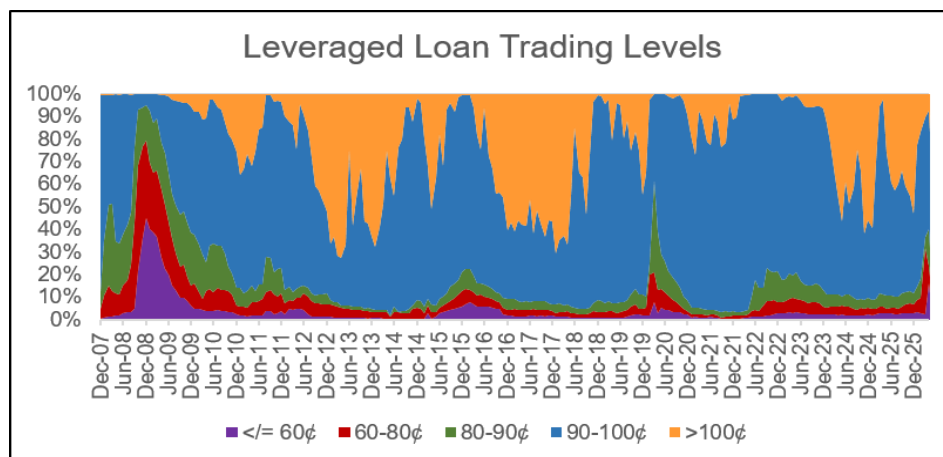
- S&P and Moody's High Yield Ratings

	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
Week Ending 09/04/26	5	7	0.7x	6	10	0.6x
Week Ending 09/11/26	14	7	2.0x	3	7	0.4x
Week Ending 09/18/26	3	8	0.4x	4	5	0.8x
YTD 2026	274	200	1.4x	260	221	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	96.9	98.1	94.8	3.3
Leveraged Loans	95.0	96.6	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 9/22/25

[3] HY low price as of 3/27/26. LL low price as of 3/3/26

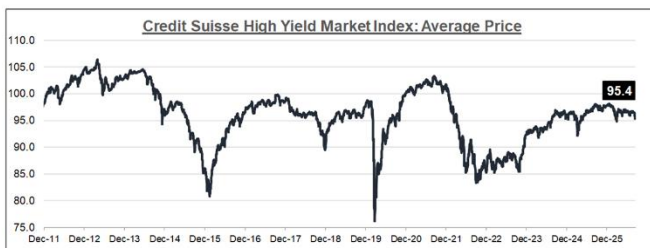
Diagram C: Leveraged Loan and High Yield Returns

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	0.16%	0.17%	(0.32%)	(0.14%)
MTD Return	0.41%	0.40%	(0.73%)	(1.01%)
YTD Return	3.58%	3.49%	2.08%	0.71%

[1] Credit Suisse Total Return information is calculated weekly. Yield data is as of 09/18/2026

[2] Yield data as of 09/18/2026

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

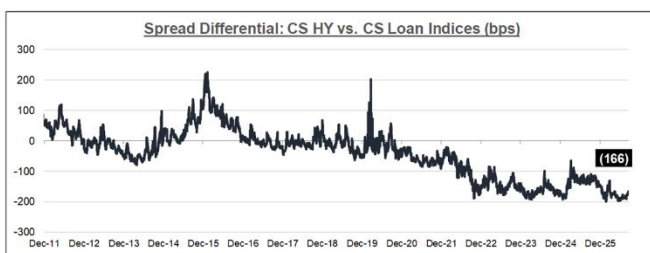


Source: CSFB High Yield Index (formerly DLJ High Yield Index) Spread-to-Worst, expressed in basis points. Data is reported daily.



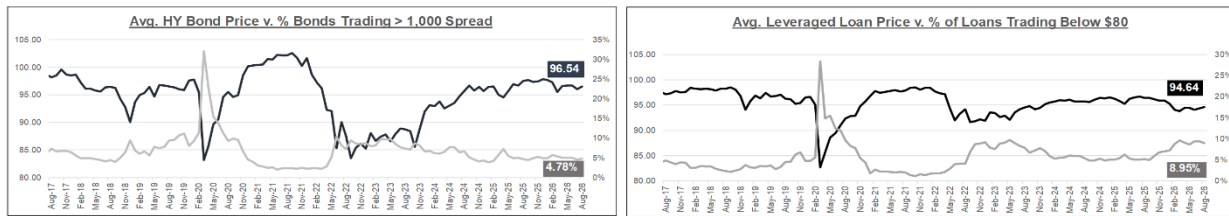
Source: CSFB High Yield Index (formerly DLJ High Yield Index) Yield-to-Worst, expressed as a percentage. Data is reported daily.

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

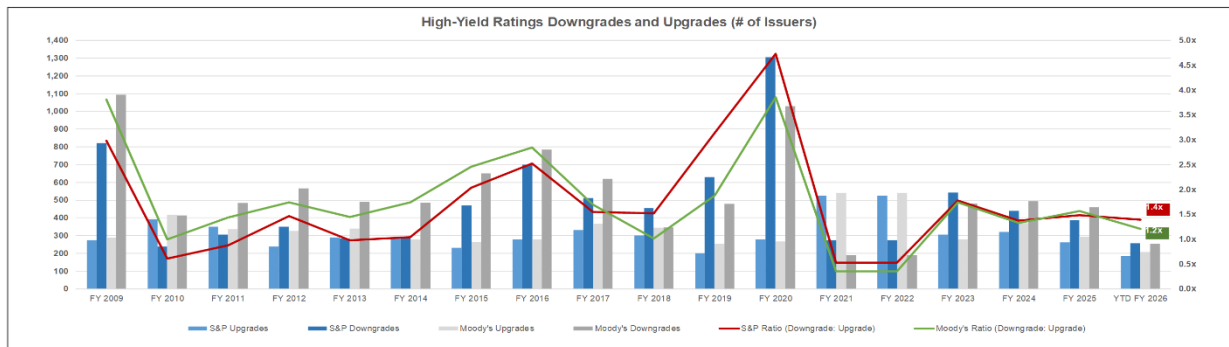


Diagram J: New Issue - Leveraged Loan and High Yield

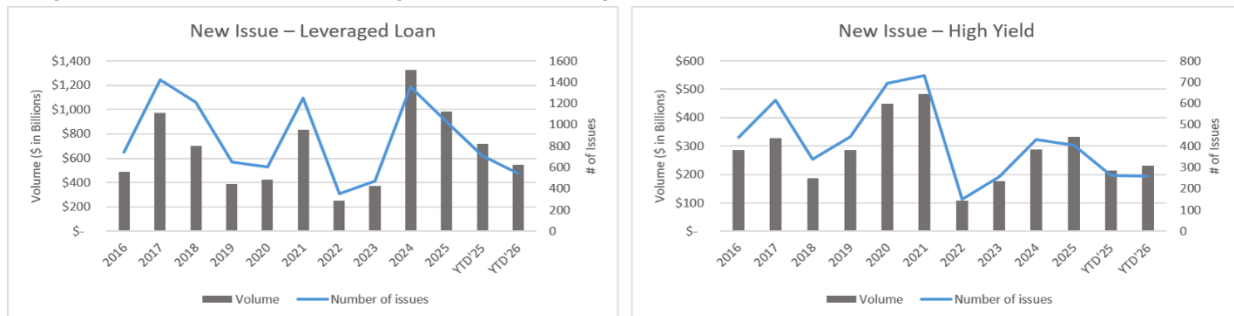
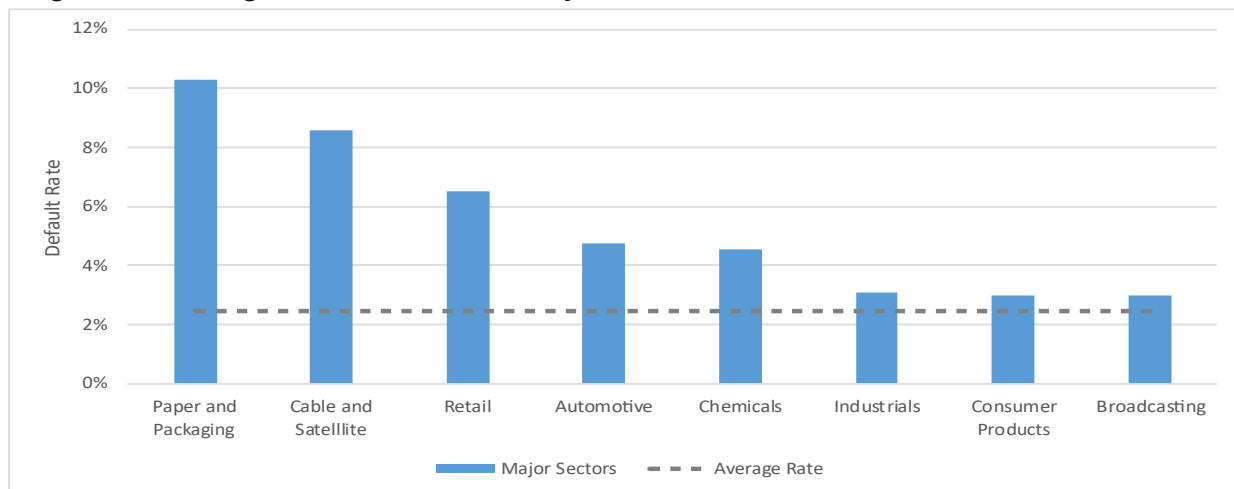


Diagram K: Leveraged Loan + HY Defaults by Sector – LTM



Source: JP Morgan Default Monitor

Diagram L: CLO Economics

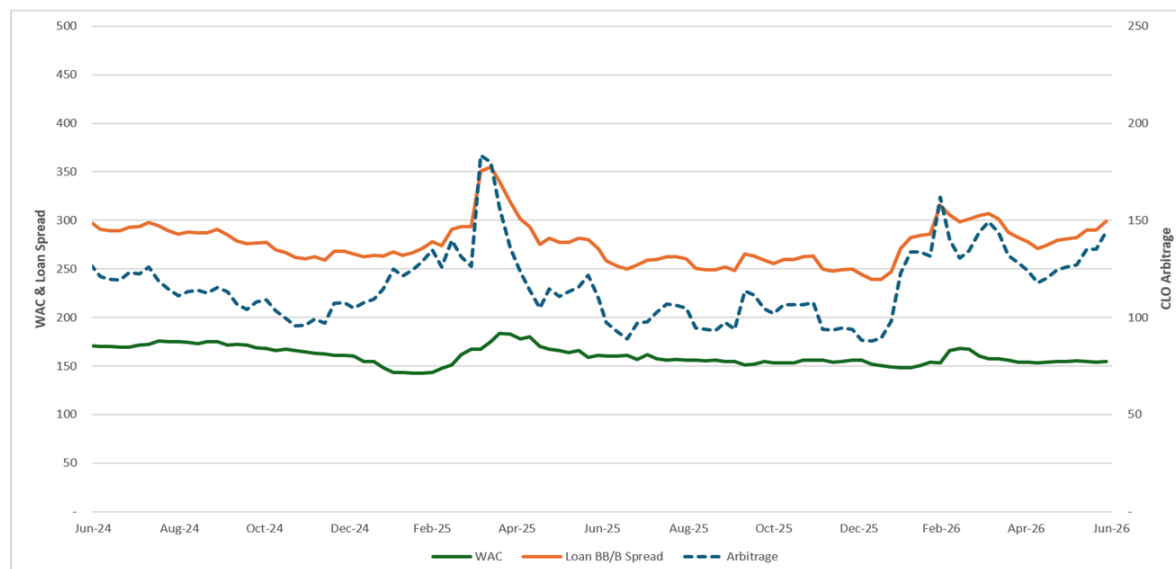
US CLO Economics											
CLO Arbitrage [1]			AAA Spread [2]			WAC Liabilities [2]			Asset WAS [3]		
2Q26	1Q26	2Q25	2Q26	1Q26	2Q25	2Q26	1Q26	2Q25	2Q26	1Q26	2Q25
128	122	119	S+124	S+120	S+136	S+159	S+156	S+178	S+407	S+398	S+417

[1] CLO Arbitrage = WAS - WAC - Fees & Losses

[2] Source: LCD

[3] Source: BBG. BB/B Loan Index Spread (25%/75% weighting)

*Assumptions: 50bp annual fees and 70bp annual loss (2% CDR, 65% Recovery)



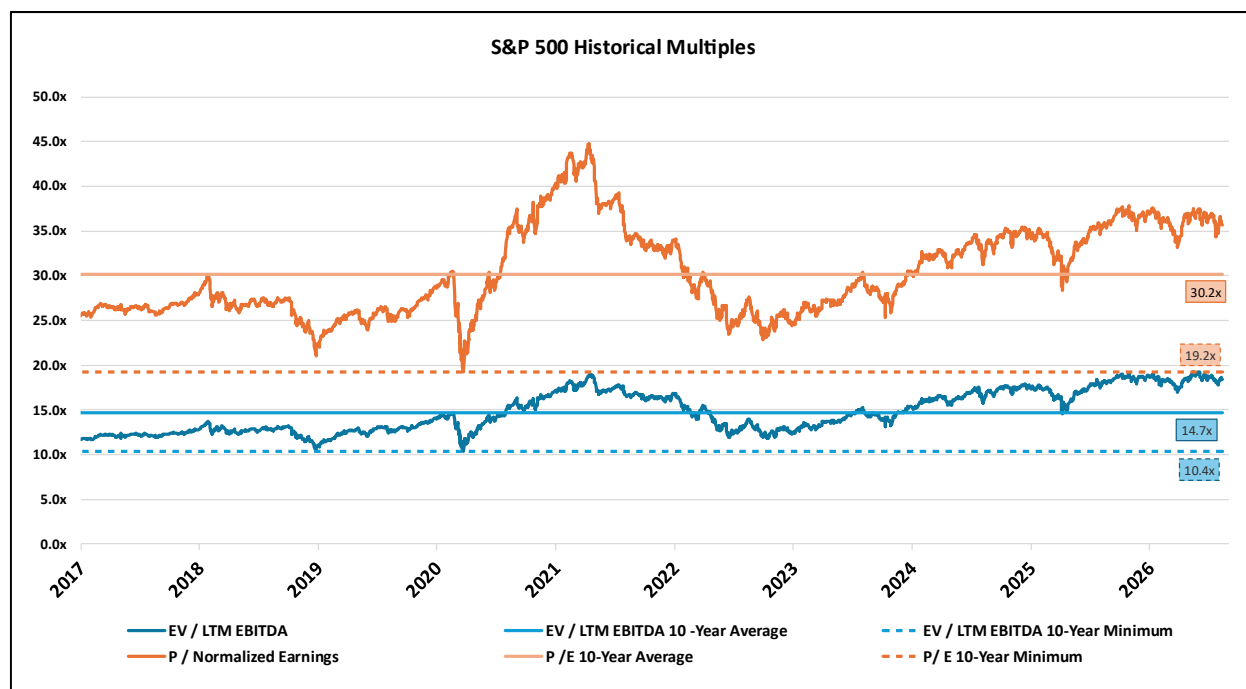
Source: JPM and BBG

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

By	8/28/26	9/4/26	9/11/26	9/18/26	Change				
					Weekly	Q2 2026	Q1 2026	Q4 2025	Q3 2025
France - 10 year	4.13%	4.20%	4.45%	4.57%	11 bps	(7 bps)	16 bps	3 bps	25 bps
Germany - 10 year	3.28%	3.34%	3.50%	3.52%	1 bps	(14 bps)	15 bps	14 bps	10 bps
Italy - 10 year	4.10%	4.15%	4.35%	4.43%	8 bps	(28 bps)	36 bps	2 bps	6 bps
Japan - 10 year	2.93%	2.92%	2.99%	2.99%	0 bps	37 bps	24 bps	41 bps	23 bps
UK - 10 year	5.03%	5.13%	5.34%	5.30%	(5 bps)	(26 bps)	49 bps	(26 bps)	27 bps
US									
US - 2 year	4.34%	4.37%	4.63%	4.74%	12 bps	38 bps	32 bps	(6 bps)	(24 bps)
US - 5 year	4.48%	4.54%	4.78%	4.86%	7 bps	28 bps	22 bps	5 bps	(16 bps)
US - 10 year	4.72%	4.78%	4.97%	5.00%	3 bps	15 bps	15 bps	7 bps	(14 bps)
US - 30 year	5.21%	5.24%	5.35%	5.33%	(3 bps)	4 bps	7 bps	13 bps	(5 bps)

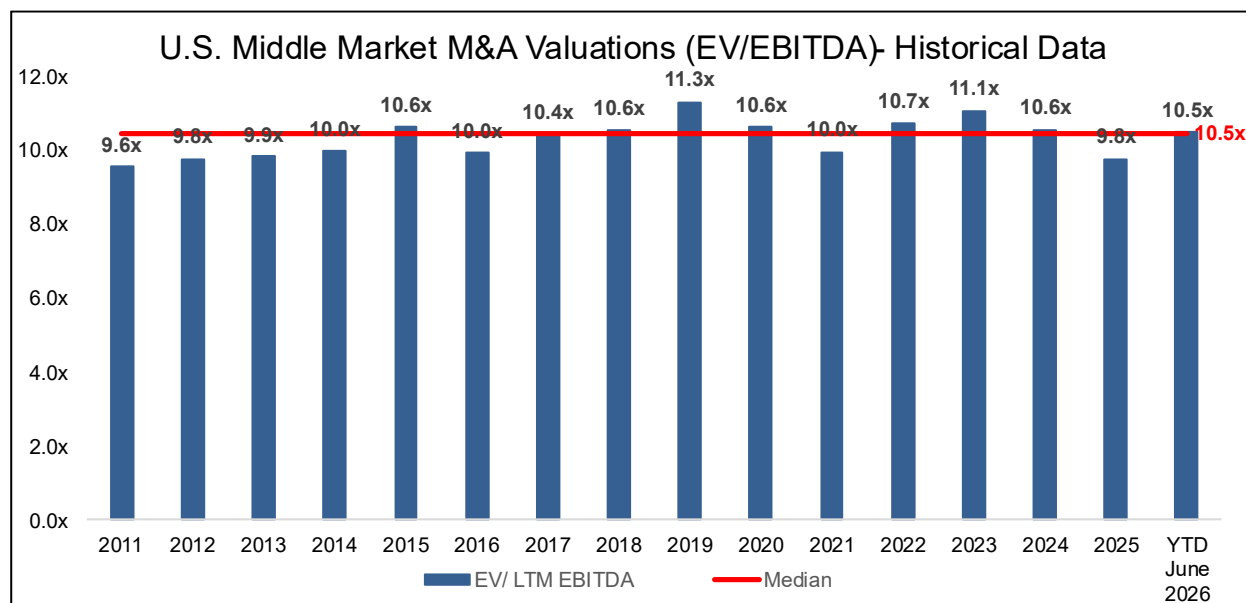
Source: Bloomberg

Diagram N: S&P 500 Historical Multiples



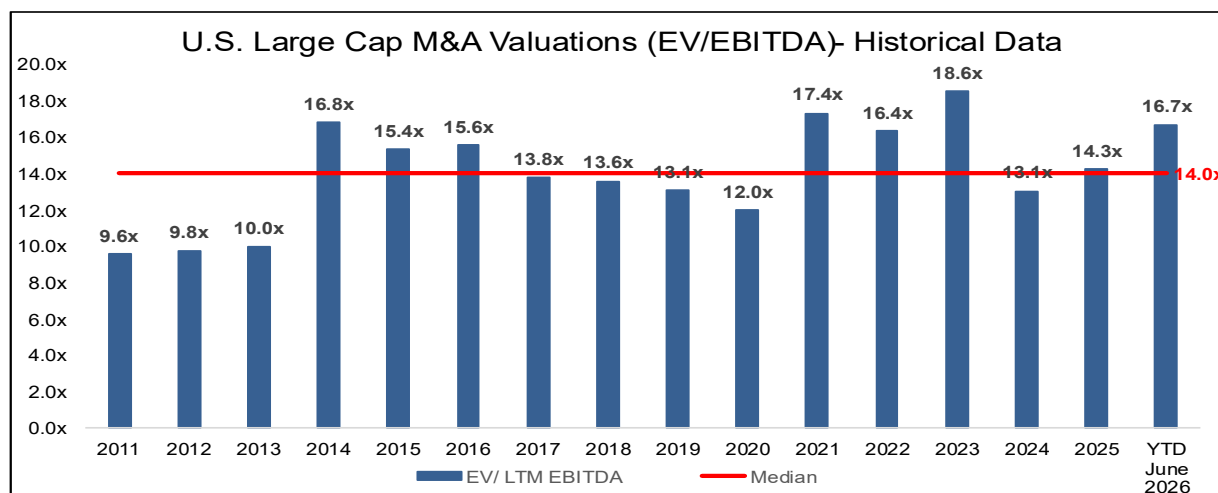
Source: S&P Capital IQ

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



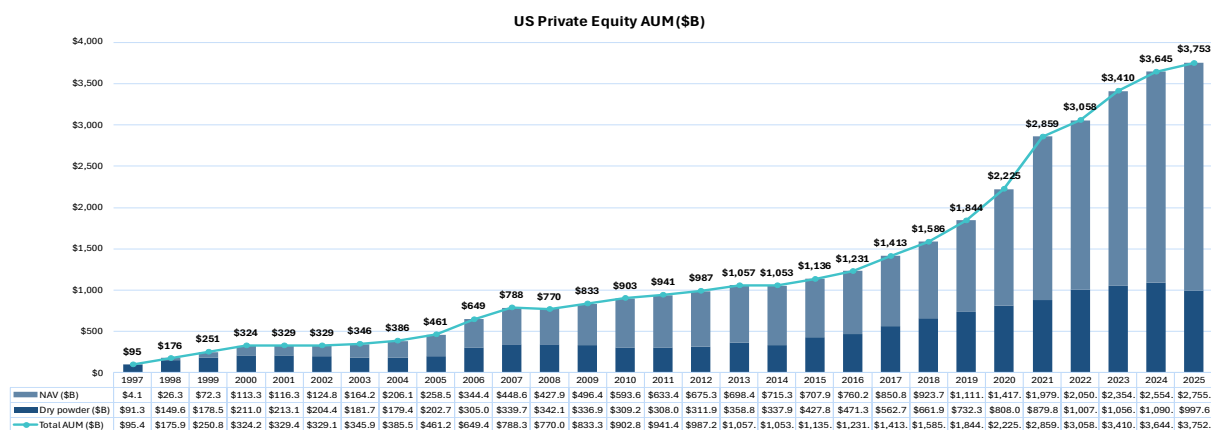
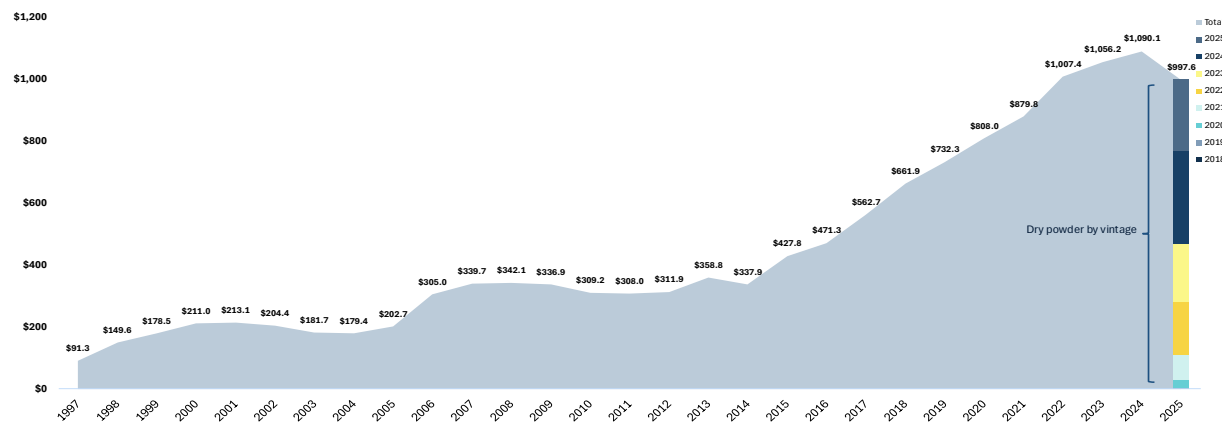
Source: Pitchbook

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



Source: Pitchbook

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

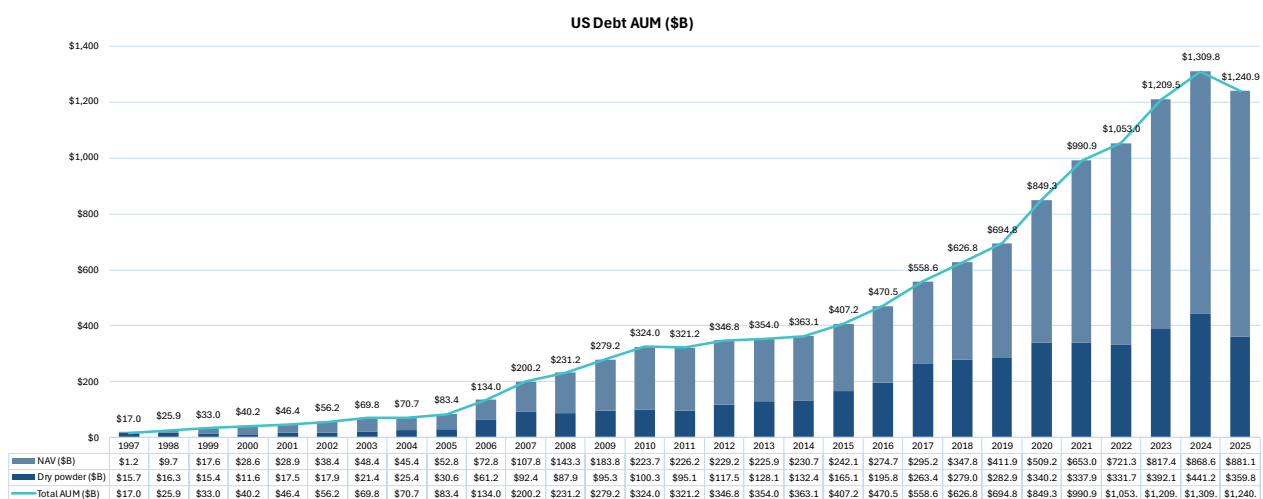
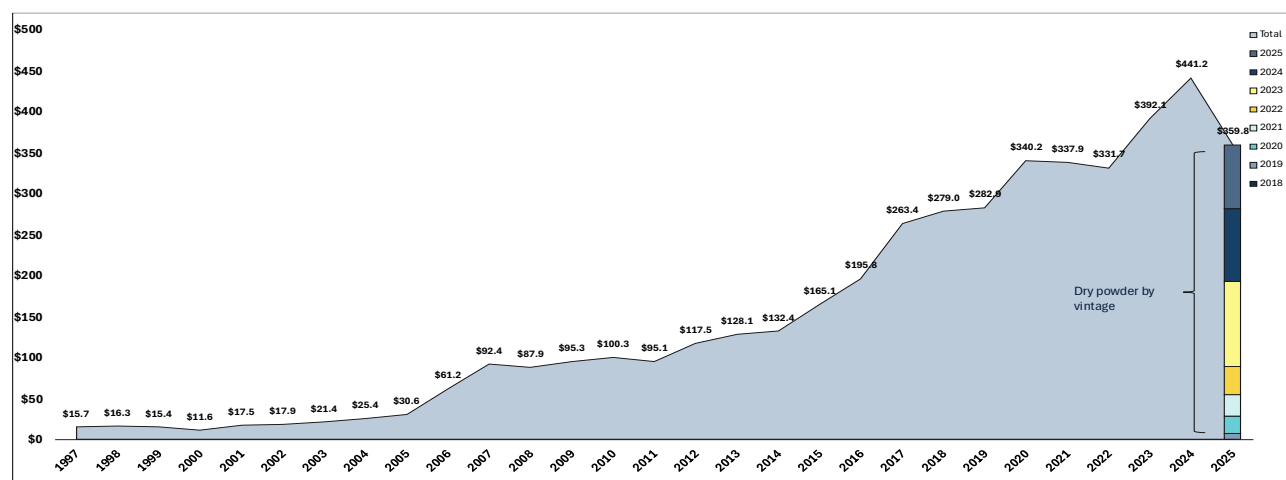


US Private Equity AUM (\$B)

	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	\$806.0	\$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	\$2,060.7	\$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

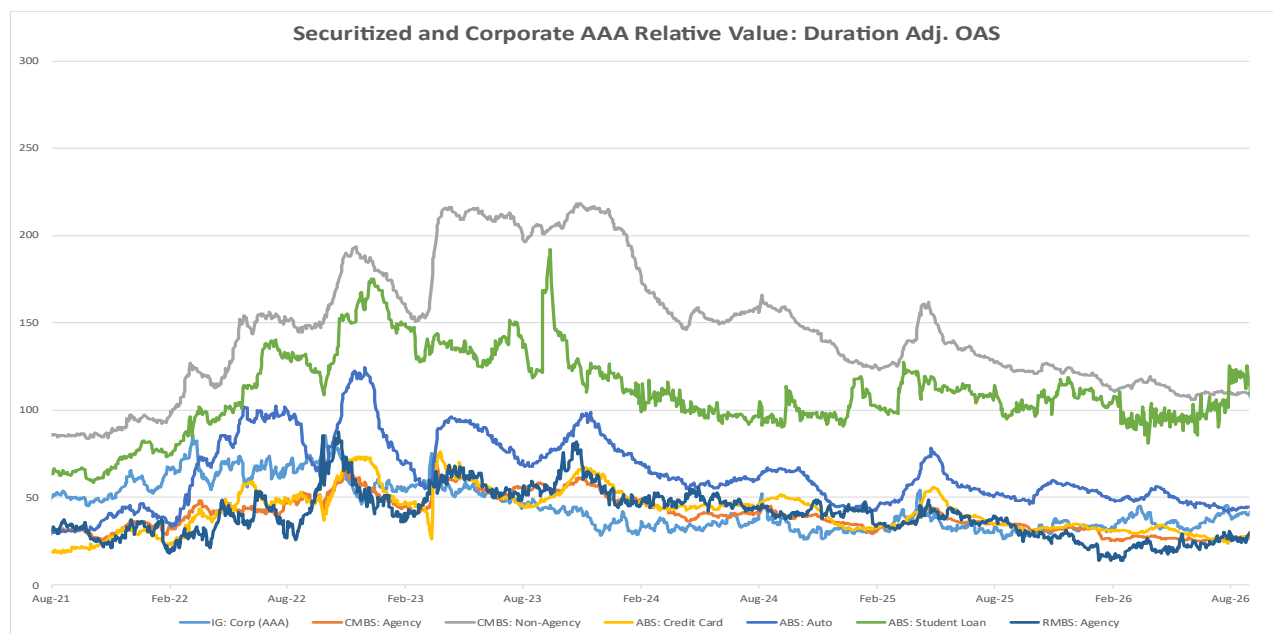
Diagram R: Dry Powder for All US Debt (\$B)



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	\$282.8	\$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

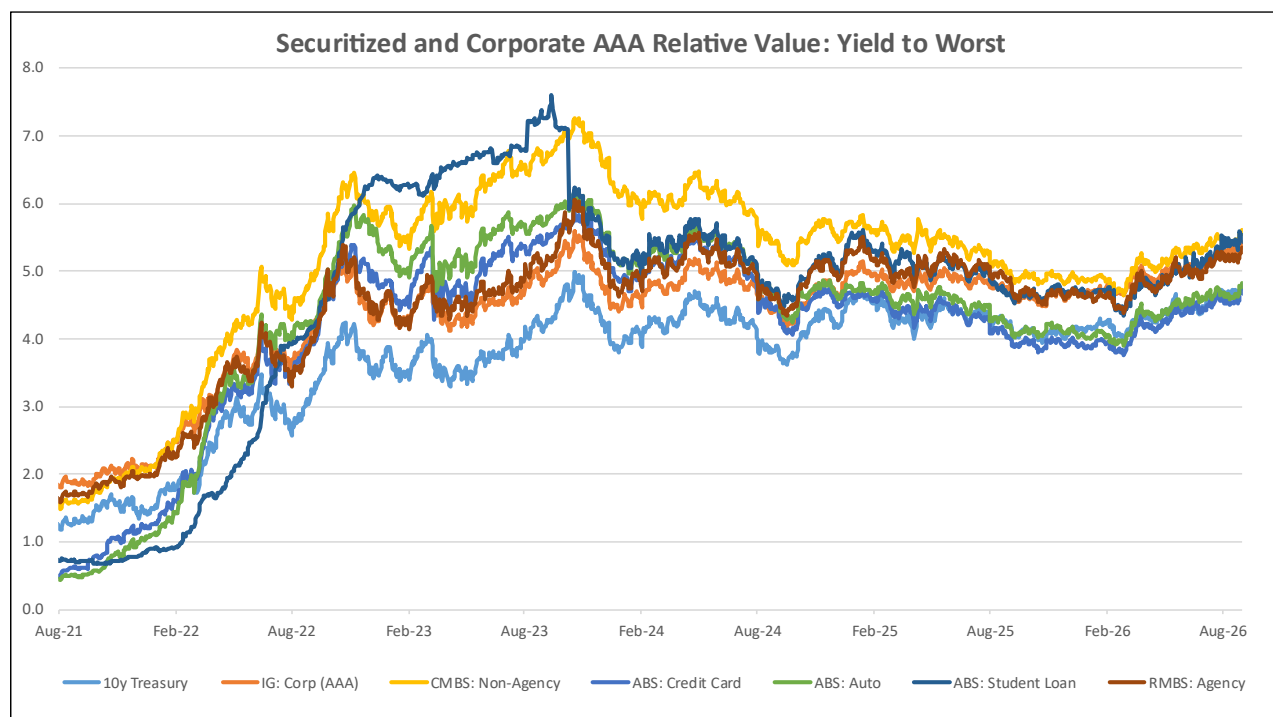
*As of 12/31/2025

Diagram S: Structured Credit Spreads



Source: Bloomberg

Diagram T: Structured Credit Yield



Source: Bloomberg

Diagram U: SOFR Curve

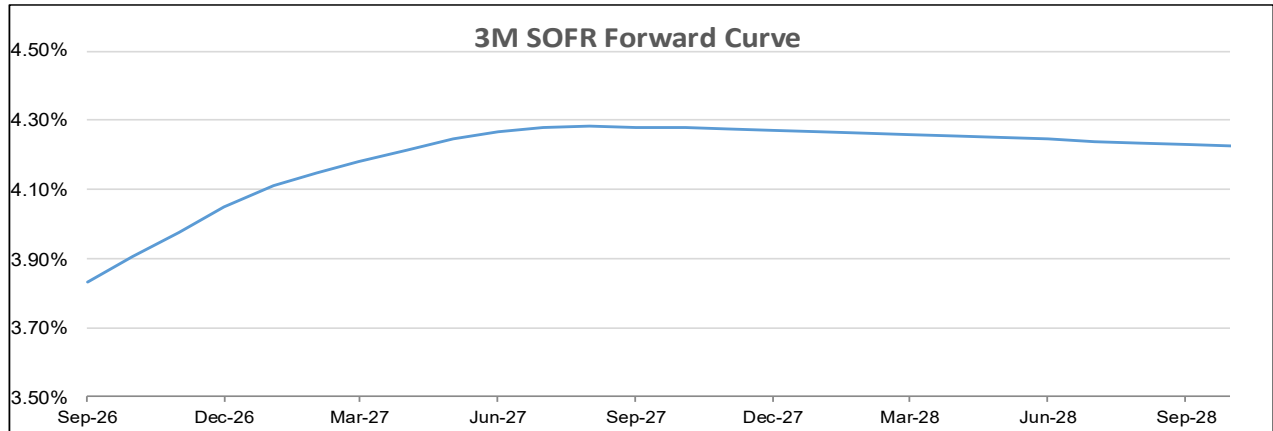
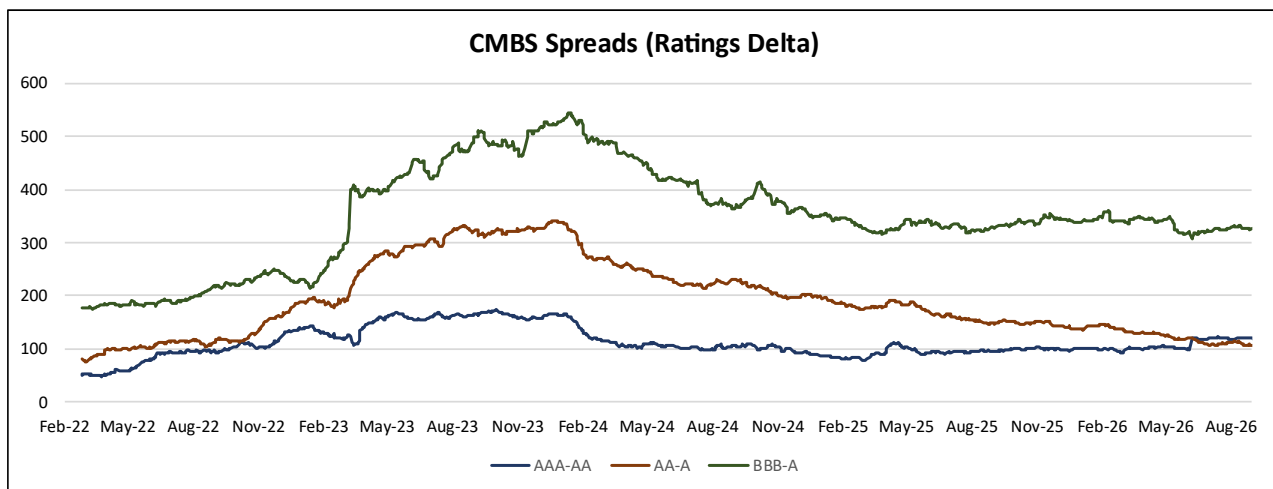
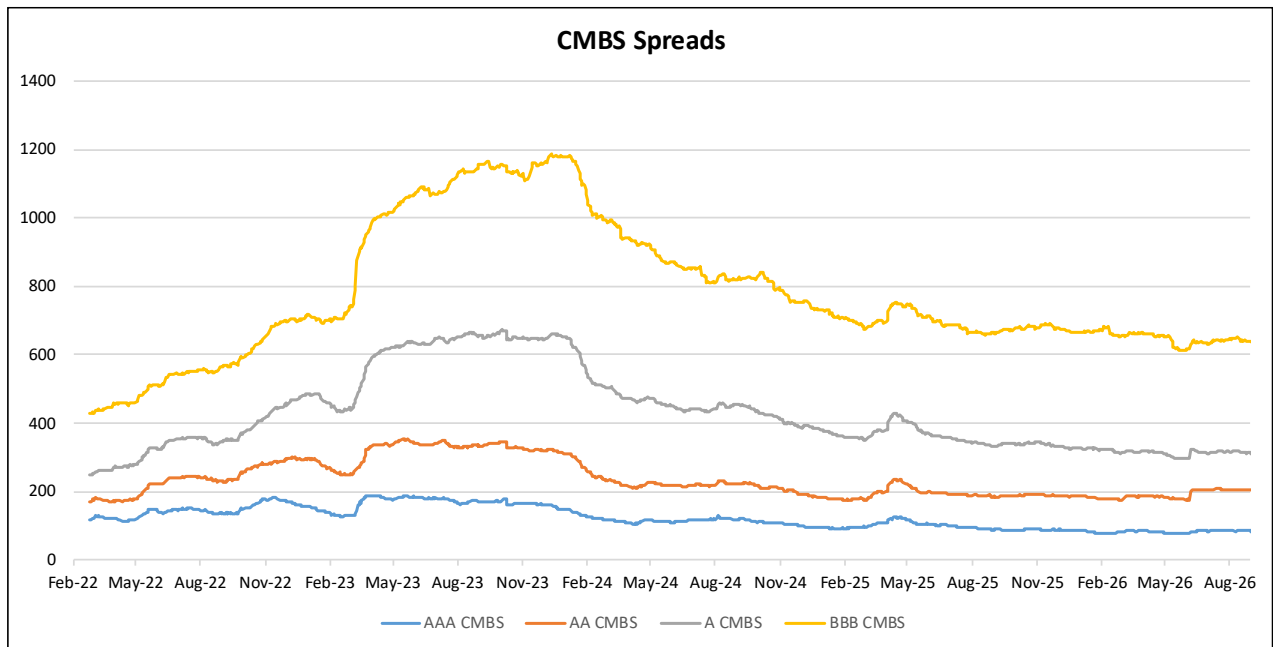


Diagram V: CMBS Spreads



Source: Bloomberg

About ZCG

ZCG is a leading, privately held global firm comprising 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

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/>.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION and DISCLAIMER: Certain information contained in this material has been obtained from third-party sources that we deem to be reliable, but we do not warrant its accuracy or completeness, and any yield referenced is indicative and subject to change. The material contained herein is intended as a general market commentary. Any opinions or statements contained herein are purely the author's and may not reflect those of Z Capital or any affiliates. The opinions or statements expressed are for informational purposes only and are subject to change without notice. This material should not be regarded as research or a Z Capital research report or as including sufficient information to support an investment decision. Certain statements contained in this document are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are inherently uncertain as they are based on expectations and assumptions concerning future events and are subject to numerous known and unknown risks and uncertainties which could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those projected. Statements in this document are not intended to be, and should not be construed as, legal, business, investment, or tax advice. This document is not intended to be relied upon as the basis for any investment decision. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. This material is not, and is not intended as, an offer or solicitation for the purchase or sale of any financial instrument.

PERFORMANCE						Week Ending		9/18/26						
Market Indices		18-Sep	11-Sep	WoW Change	YTD Change	YoY Change	Market Indices		18-Sep	11-Sep	WoW Change	YTD Change	YoY Change	
DJIA		51,682.64	52,573.29	(1.69%)	7.53%	12.01%	S&P/LSTA Leveraged Loan Index		4,451.93	4,444.20	0.17%	3.49%	4.82%	
S&P 500		7,650.50	7,656.98	(0.08%)	11.76%	15.36%	Barclays High Yield Index		2,964.95	2,973.16	(0.28%)	1.73%	2.98%	
NASDAQ		26,522.54	26,333.04	0.72%	14.11%	18.03%	Barclays Aggregate		2,314.44	2,315.23	(0.03%)	(1.46%)	(0.44%)	
MSCI - EAFE		3,142.97	3,194.03	(1.60%)	8.65%	13.87%	Loan Market Bids		18-Sep	11-Sep	WoW Change	YTD Change		
MSCI - Emerging Markets		1,710.85	1,721.53	(0.62%)	21.82%	27.12%	S&P Flow Name Index		94.79	94.76	0.02%	(1.18%)		
US Dollar Index		100.22	99.12	1.11%	1.93%	2.95%	S&P 100 Name Index		97.76	97.62	0.14%	(1.54%)		
Bitcoin		76,499.51	77,152.70	(0.85%)	(7.47%)	(31.03%)	S&P BB's Index		99.75	99.74	0.01%	(0.14%)		
VIX		14.81	15.84	(6.50%)	(0.94%)	(5.67%)	S&P B's Index		97.92	97.77	0.15%	(0.02%)		
							S&P CCC's Index		66.72	66.58	(1.29%)	(11.90%)		
High Yield & Loan Returns			WTD	MTD	YTD	2025	Loan Market Spreads		18-Sep	11-Sep	WoW Change	YTD Change		
High Yield Bond			(0.14%)	(0.59%)	2.23%	8.97%	S&P BB's Index		S+251	S+252	(1 bps)	4 bps		
Leveraged Loan			0.18%	0.39%	3.56%	5.99%	S&P B's Index		S+415	S+420	(5 bps)	5 bps		
							S&P CCC's Index		S+1837	S+1794	43 bps	366 bps		
Market Ratios		18-Sep	11-Sep	WoW Change	YTD Change	YoY Change	Credit Default Swap - Volatility Indices		Index	18-Sep	11-Sep	WoW Change	YTD Change	
CBOE Put/Call Ratio		Equities	0.58	0.58	0.00%	(36.96%)	7.41%	Investment Grade CDS		Markit	50.64	51.38	(1.44%)	1.26%
								High Yield CDS		Markit	307.93	310.80	(0.92%)	(2.71%)
Commodities (\$ USD)		Metric	18-Sep	11-Sep	WoW Change	YTD Change	YoY Change	Credit		18-Sep	11-Sep	WoW Change	YOY Change	
Core Commodity Index		CRY Index	422.55	423.08	(0.13%)	41.43%	40.27%	High Yield		OAS - YTW	T+267	T+265	2 bps	5 bps
Gasoline - Pump		Gallon	4.48	4.31	3.85%	58.00%	39.92%	Loan Index - S&P Flow Name		DM - 3 Year	S+468	S+470	(2 bps)	22 bps
Gasoline - Futures		Gallon	3.53	3.31	6.66%	106.85%	75.38%	US Treasury 2-Yr			4.74%	4.63%	12 bps	118 bps
Crude Oil - WTI		Barrel	100.30	100.05	0.25%	74.68%	57.78%	US Treasury 3-Yr			4.83%	4.72%	12 bps	129 bps
Crude Oil - Brent		Barrel	103.87	104.61	(0.71%)	70.70%	54.02%	US Treasury 5-Yr			4.86%	4.78%	7 bps	119 bps
Diesel		Gallon	6.45	6.20	4.13%	82.27%	75.04%	US Treasury 7-Yr			4.92%	4.87%	6 bps	107 bps
Natural Gas		MM BTU	2.91	2.83	2.86%	(21.00%)	(0.92%)	US Treasury 10-Yr			5.00%	4.97%	3 bps	89 bps
Coal (1 contract = 1,000 tons)		Contract	144.00	146.75	(1.87%)	33.95%	39.33%	US Treasury 30-Yr			5.33%	5.35%	(3 bps)	60 bps
Aluminum		Metric Ton	3,288.50	3,253.00	0.02%	9.78%	22.50%	US CLO Spreads - New Issue		31-Aug	31-Jul	MoM Change	YTD Change	
Copper		Metric Ton	14,521.50	14,240.00	1.98%	16.89%	46.09%	AAA		S+128	S+125	3 bps	1 bps	
Iron Ore		Metric Ton	97.57	98.02	(0.46%)	(8.92%)	(7.29%)	AA		S+158	S+160	(2 bps)	(7 bps)	
Steel - Hot Rolled Coil		Metric Ton	1,237.00	1,234.00	0.24%	38.68%	38.21%	A		S+184	S+183	1 bps	(11 bps)	
Steel - Cold Rolled Coil		Metric Ton	1,410.00	1,410.00	0.00%	32.39%	35.58%	BBB		S+274	S+280	(6 bps)	(16 bps)	
Ferrous Scrap		Metric Ton	421.00	439.00	(4.10%)	0.00%	(6.44%)	BB		S+575	S+645	(70 bps)	(25 bps)	
Ammonia		Metric Ton	555.00	555.00	0.00%	(14.62%)	2.78%	Market Rates		18-Sep	11-Sep	WoW Change	YTD Change	
Lumber		27.5k Board Ft	537.00	578.50	(7.17%)	(0.28%)	(6.36%)	Fed Fund Rate		4.31%	4.31%	0 bps	67 bps	
Gold		Troy Ounce	4,378.63	4,349.08	0.68%	1.37%	20.15%	Prime Rate		7.00%	6.75%	25 bps	25 bps	
Silver		Troy Ounce	66.26	64.49	2.75%	(7.54%)	58.41%	Broker Call Rate		5.75%	5.50%	25 bps	25 bps	
Corrugated Box Cost		Short Ton	131.61	131.61	10.45%	10.31%	7.03%	1M SOFR		3.89%	3.82%	7 bps	20 bps	
Cotton		Pound	79.67	80.89	(1.51%)	31.45%	(24.10%)	3M SOFR		3.98%	3.89%	9 bps	33 bps	
Butter		Pound	1.37	1.37	0.00%	(2.14%)	(24.10%)	6M SOFR		4.14%	4.04%	10 bps	56 bps	
Cheese		Pound	1.57	1.56	0.13%	(10.67%)	(14.20%)	Short Interest - Millions of shares		31-Aug	31-Jul	MoM Change	YTD Change	
Cocoa		Pound	2.42	2.70	(10.64%)	(12.47%)	(22.21%)	NYSE Mkt Short Interest		21,557.81	22,617.92	(4.69%)	11.07%	
Coffee		Pound	3.29	3.20	2.54%	7.23%	14.25%	Nasdaq Short Interest		22,585.92	22,597.85	(0.05%)	21.65%	
Corn		Bushel	5.28	5.10	3.38%	19.82%	24.48%	Fed Corp Primary Dealer Positions - \$ USD in Millions		31-Aug	31-Jul	MoM Change	YTD Change	
Milk, Non Fat Dry		Pound	1.80	1.80	0.00%	54.18%	42.86%	Net Outright Total Corp Securities		14,359.00	12,957.00	10.82%	125.98%	
Soybean		Bushel	13.04	12.80	1.82%	26.49%	25.64%	Margin Debt - \$ USD in Billions		31-Jul	30-Jun	MoM Change	YTD Change	
Sugar		Pound	0.17	0.18	(4.35%)	15.66%	12.87%	FINRA Margin Debt		1,417.23	1,502.07	(5.66%)	15.64%	
Wheat		Bushel	7.14	7.07	1.03%	40.88%	36.24%	Money Market Funds - \$ USD in Billions		16-Sep	9-Sep	WoW Change	YTD Change	
Live Cattle		Pound	2.16	2.20	(1.71%)	(6.93%)	(7.08%)	ICI Money Market Fund Assets		7,921.48	7,973.45	(0.65%)	2.43%	
Lean Hogs		Pound	0.78	0.82	(4.20%)	(8.23%)	(19.88%)							
Beef, USDA Ground		Pound	3.72	3.76	(1.06%)	7.05%	(3.60%)							
Chicken, Boneless & Skinless		Pound	1.23	1.23	0.00%	3.36%	5.13%							
Currencies	Metric	Spot Prices		Futures		10-Year Historicals								
		18-Sep	11-Sep	2025	2026	Low	High							
Japanese Yen	USDJPY	156.880	153.610	150.000	156.000	100.090	163.990							
Chinese Renminbi	USDCNY	6.698	6.707	7.100	6.700	6.243	7.351							
Swiss Franc	USDCHF	0.822	0.817	0.800	0.800	0.761	1.034							
British Pound	GBPUSD	1.340	1.352	1.330	1.350	1.035	1.438							
Euro Zone Euro	EURUSD	1.149	1.160	1.170	1.170	0.953	1.255							