EthiFinance

European Securitisation Market

Annual Review 2026

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Executive Summary

Securitisation remains an important component of the European structured finance market, providing banks, financial institutions and specialised lenders with a mechanism to transform pools of financial assets into marketable securities. By transferring credit risk and diversifying funding sources, securitisation supports balance sheet management, enhances access to capital markets and contributes to the financing of households, corporates and the broader economy.

This report provides an overview of the evolution of the European securitisation market, with a particular focus on the main trends observed in issuance volumes, outstanding balances and collateral composition. The analysis is based on data sourced from AFME, SIFMA, Bank of America and JP Morgan, covering European issuance, placed and retained transactions, collateral types, outstanding balances by country and selected indicators for the United States market.

The document focuses primarily on Europe, while providing a more detailed country-level view of Spain, the United Kingdom, Germany and France. These markets have been selected because of their relevance within the European securitisation landscape and because they illustrate different market structures, collateral profiles and issuance dynamics. The comparison between these countries allows for a better understanding of how securitisation activity varies across jurisdictions, both in terms of market size and asset class composition.

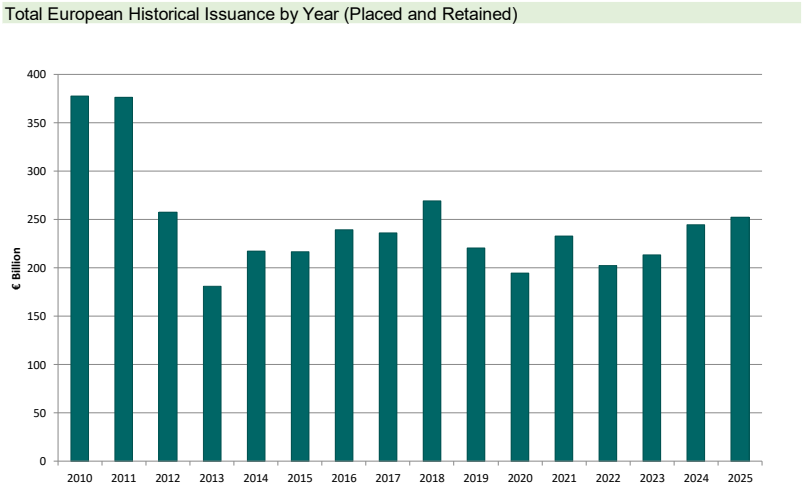
The first section presents a general overview of the European securitisation market, highlighting the recent evolution of total issuance and the balance between placed and retained volumes. The second section focuses on country highlights, analyzing the specific characteristics of Spain, the United Kingdom, Germany and France. The report then examines outstanding balances across Europe, identifying the largest markets and the main changes in securitised assets. This is followed by an analysis of collateral trends and issuance dynamics, with particular attention to the role of RMBS, ABS, CLO/CDO, SME and other relevant asset classes.

Although the report is centered on Europe, a brief reference to the US market is included to mainly show a comparison of the market size in Europe versus the US. The US securitisation market, particularly in ABS and Agency MBS (mortgage-backed securities issued or guaranteed by US government-sponsored enterprises, such as Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac), operate on a significantly larger scale and therefore offer a useful benchmark when assessing the relative depth and development of the European market. This comparison is not intended to be a full analysis of the US market, but rather a concise perspective to frame the European data within a broader international context.

Overall, the purpose of this report is to provide a structured and data-driven view of the European securitisation market, combining aggregate market trends with country-specific analysis. The report aims to support a clearer understanding of how securitisation activity has evolved, which countries and collateral types are driving market dynamics, and how the European market compares with the broader securitisation landscape.

1. European Market Overview

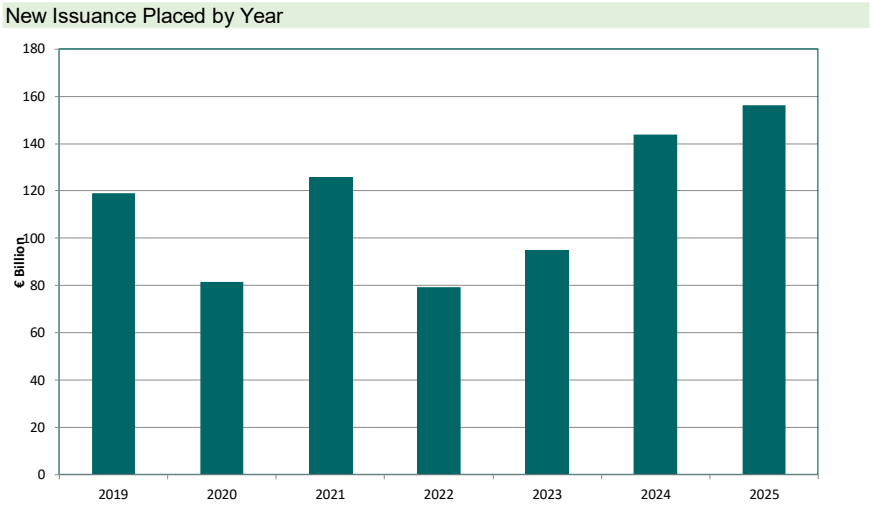
The European securitisation market recorded total issuance of €252.3Bn in 2025, representing a year-on-year increase of 3.0% from €244.9Bn in 2024. This marks almost a complete recovery from the annual volume observed in 2012, when issuance reached €257.8Bn, and consolidates a sustained recovery path from the lows observed in 2020 (€194.7Bn) and 2022 (€202.8Bn). In a longer-term perspective, current issuance levels remain well below the pre-crisis peaks of 2010–2011, around 33% less than in those years, when volumes exceeded €375Bn annually, reflecting the structural shift towards a smaller but more transparent and better-regulated market following the global financial crisis and subsequent regulatory reforms.



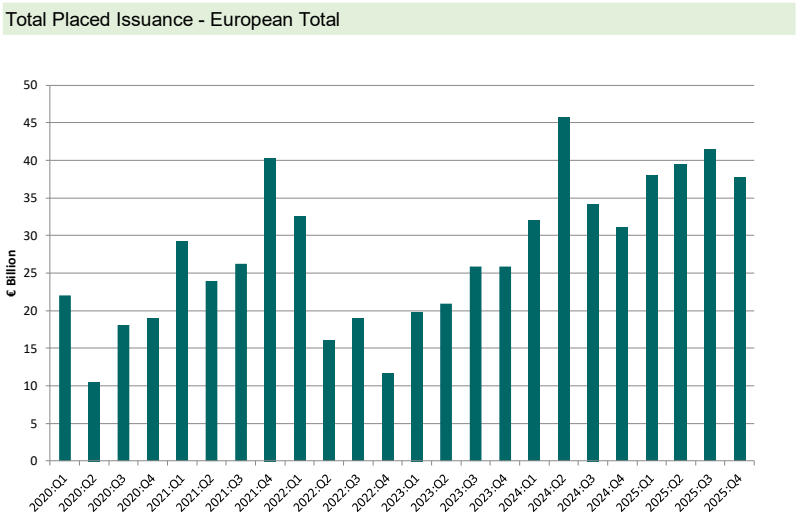
One of the most significant developments in 2025 was the continued shift in the balance between placed and retained issuance. **Placed issuance** refers to transactions that are **distributed and sold to external investors in the capital markets**, while **retained issuance** refers to **securitisations that remain on the originator's balance sheet**, typically used as collateral for central bank funding facilities or for internal liquidity management purposes. The distinction between the two is critical for assessing the true depth of investor participation in the market.

Placed issuance rose to €156.2Bn, up 8.6% from €143.9Bn in 2024, while retained issuance declined to €96.0Bn, down 4.7% from €100.8Bn. As a result, **transactions placed** accounted for approximately 61.9% of total issuance in 2025, the highest share in the period analyzed and a notable increase from 58.8% in 2024 and just 39.0% in 2022. This evolution is important because it signals that market growth is increasingly driven by genuine investor demand rather than by originators retaining their own securitisations for use as central bank collateral or for balance-sheet purposes.

The trend is particularly striking when viewed over the full 2019–2025 period. Placed issuance fell sharply during 2020 and 2022, coinciding with the initial pandemic shock and the subsequent monetary tightening cycle, before recovering strongly in 2024 and reaching new highs in 2025. Retained issuance, by contrast, has followed the opposite trajectory, declining from a peak of €123.6Bn in 2022 to €96.0Bn in 2025. This divergence underlines the improving health of the primary market and the growing appetite from institutional investors for European securitised products.

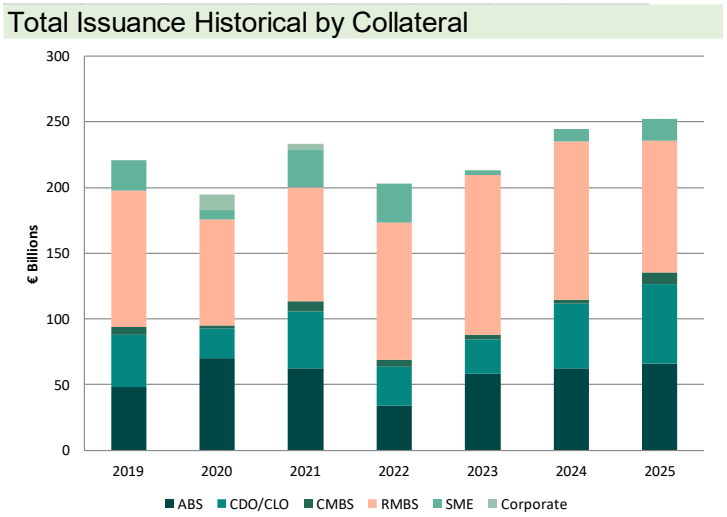


The **quarterly profile of placed issuance** in 2025 was remarkably stable compared with previous years. **Placed volumes** in 2025 ranged from €41.4Bn in Q3 to €37.8Bn in Q4, with Q1 at €38.0Bn and Q2 at €39.1Bn. This consistency contrasts with the pronounced seasonality observed in earlier years, such as the sharp Q4 2021 spike (€40.3Bn) followed by a steep decline in Q2 2022 (€15.9Bn), or the strong Q2 2024 peak (€45.7Bn) followed by a softer second half of the year. The more even distribution of activity across quarters in 2025 suggests a more mature and predictable issuance pipeline, with originators and arrangers spreading supply more evenly throughout the year and investors maintaining a consistent allocation to the asset class.



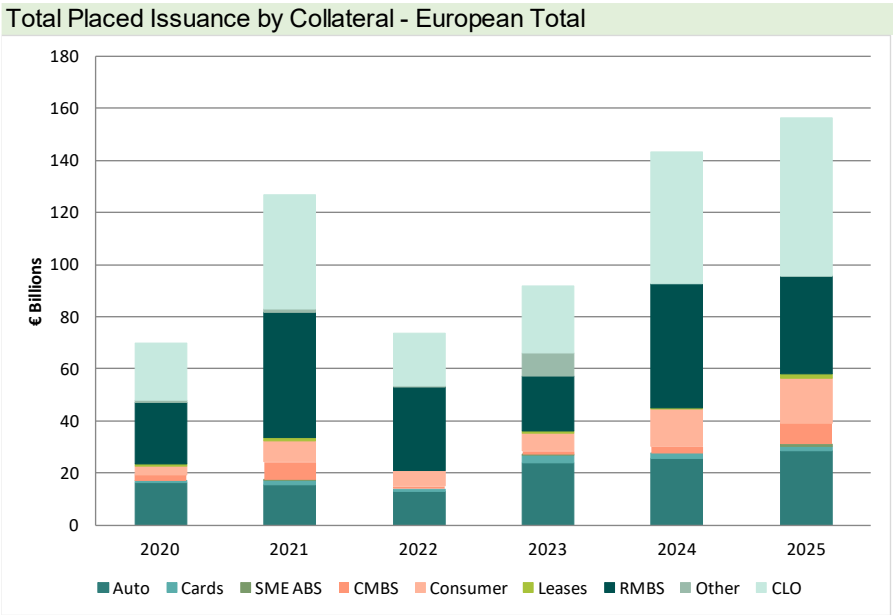
The composition of **total European issuance (placed and retained combined)** continued to evolve in 2025. **RMBS remained the largest collateral category** at €100.7Bn, although this represented a decline from €120.3Bn in 2024. ABS increased to €66.0Bn (from €62.7Bn), and CDO/CLO rose more sharply to €60.5Bn (from €49.2Bn), becoming the fastest-growing segment in absolute terms. SME-backed securitisation also registered a significant increase, reaching €16.4Bn compared with €9.8Bn in 2024, while CMBS issuance rose to €8.8Bn from €2.8Bn, albeit from a low base.

These movements indicate a gradual diversification of the European issuance base. **While RMBS continues to dominate — accounting for roughly 40% of total issuance** — the growing contribution of CLO/CDO, ABS and SME-backed transactions suggest that the **market is broadening beyond its traditional mortgage-centric profile**.

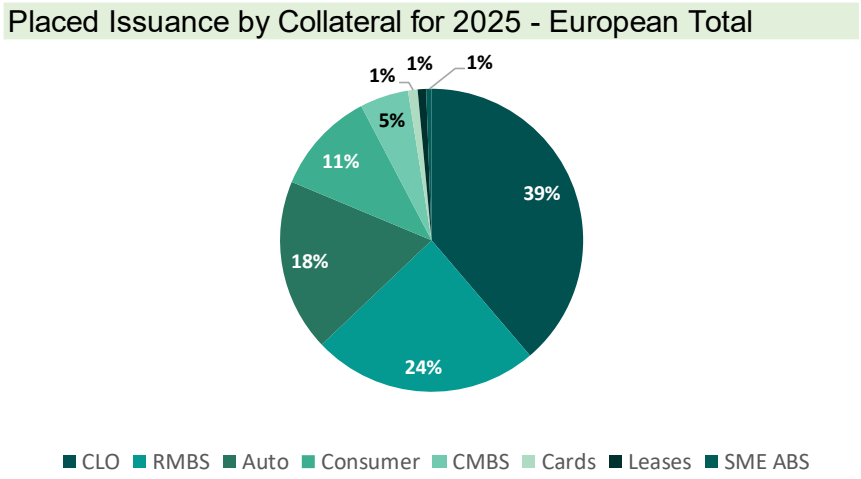


When analyzing only **placed issuance** — which better reflects genuine market distribution to investors — the collateral mix shifts significantly. **In 2025, CLO was the largest placed category** at €60.5Bn, accounting for 38.73% of total placed volume, followed by RMBS at €37.7Bn (24.14%) and Auto ABS at €28.7Bn (18.37%). Consumer ABS continued its strong growth, reaching €17.2Bn (11.01%), while CMBS increased to €8.1Bn (5.19%). Smaller segments included Cards (€1.6Bn, 1.02%), Leases (€1.4Bn, 0.90%) and SME ABS (€0.9Bn, 0.58%).

Compared with 2024, the most notable changes in placed issuance were the decrease in RMBS (from €47.6Bn to €37.7Bn), and offset by increases in CLO volumes (from €50.6Bn to €60.5Bn), Consumer ABS (from €14.4Bn to €17.2Bn), CMBS (from €2.5Bn to €8.1Bn) and Auto ABS (from €25.8Bn to €28.7Bn). The result is a more balanced distribution of placed issuance across asset classes in 2025 than in 2024, when CLO and RMBS together accounted for a larger combined share.



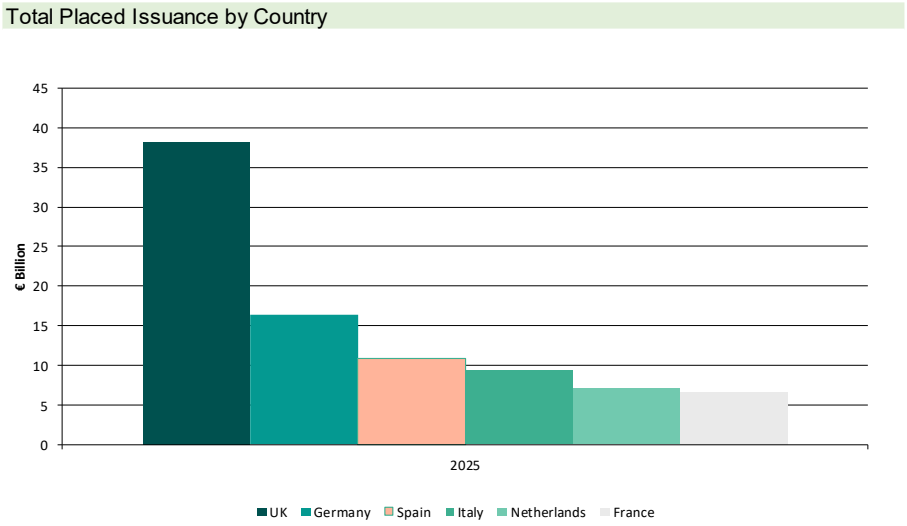
The 2025 collateral distribution snapshot confirms this pattern. CLO and RMBS together represent approximately 63% of placed issuance, while Auto and Consumer ABS combined contribute a further 29%, reflecting the importance of consumer-related securitisation in the European placed market. The remaining segments — CMBS, Cards, Leases and SME ABS — together account for approximately 8% of the total.



In summary, the European securitisation market in 2025 was characterized by moderate growth in total issuance, a continued and meaningful shift towards placed transactions, greater quarterly stability and an increasingly diversified collateral base. These developments point to a market that is not only growing in volume but also improving in quality of distribution and breadth of activity, providing a constructive foundation for the country-level analysis that follows.

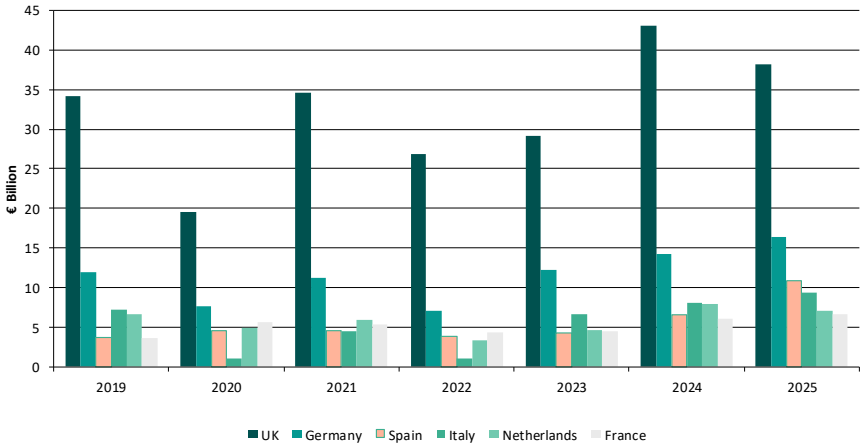
2. Country Highlights

Placed issuance activity in Europe remains concentrated across a limited number of jurisdictions. In 2025, Pan-European transactions — those not allocated to a single country of collateral — represented the largest category at €61.7Bn, equivalent to 39.3% of total European placed issuance. Among individual national markets, **the United Kingdom remained the largest contributor** at €38.2Bn (24.4% share), followed by Germany at €16.4Bn (10.5%), Spain at €10.9Bn (6.9%), Italy at €9.5Bn (6.0%), the Netherlands at €7.1Bn (4.5%) and France at €6.7Bn (4.3%). Together, **these four focus countries — Spain, the United Kingdom, Germany and France — accounted for approximately 46.1% of total European placed issuance in 2025**, underscoring their collective importance in the market.



The evolution of placed issuance by country over the 2019–2025 period reveals divergent trajectories. The United Kingdom has consistently been the dominant national market, with placed volumes ranging from €19.6Bn in 2020 to €43.0Bn in 2024, before declining to €38.2Bn in 2025. Germany has shown steady growth, more than doubling from €7.6Bn in 2020 to €16.4Bn in 2025. Spain recorded the most dramatic acceleration, rising from €4.5Bn in 2020 to €10.9Bn in 2025 — with a particularly sharp jump of 65.2% between 2024 and 2025. France, while smaller in absolute terms, has also followed an upward trend, increasing from €3.7Bn in 2019 to €6.7Bn in 2025.

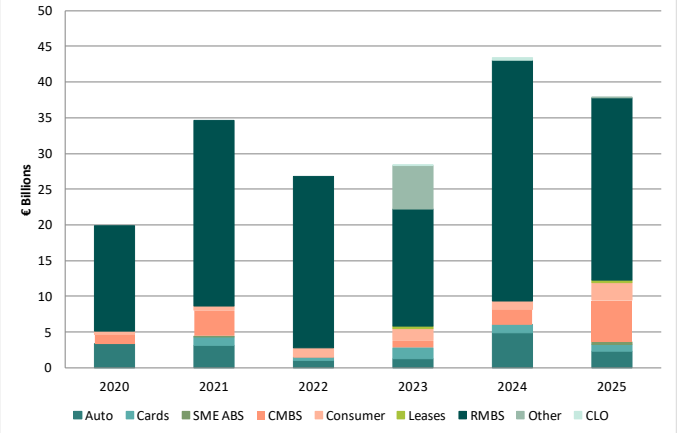
Total Placed Issuance by Country



United Kingdom

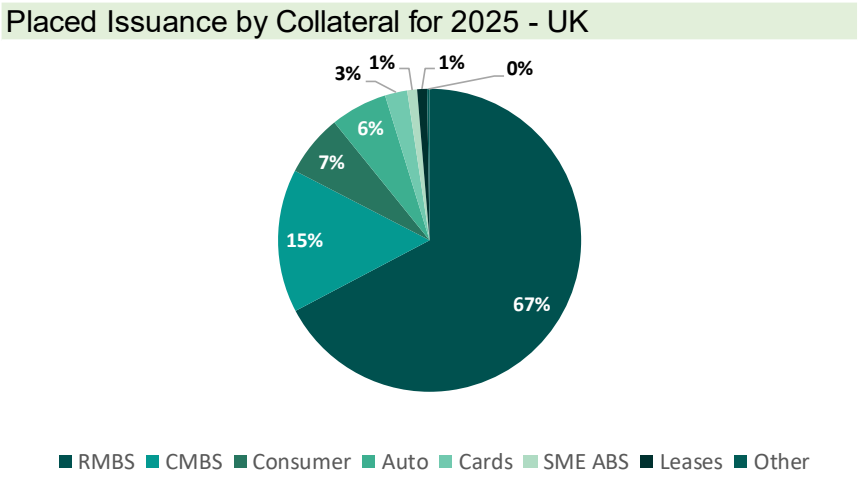
The United Kingdom remains by far **the largest and most established individual securitisation market in Europe**. Despite a decline in placed issuance from €43.0Bn in 2024 to €38.2Bn in 2025 (a 11.2% decrease), the UK still accounted for **24.4% of total European placed volumes**, more than double the share of the next-largest national market, Germany. The UK's position reflects the depth of its mortgage market, the breadth of its investor base and the maturity of its securitisation infrastructure.

Total Placed Issuance by Collateral - UK



Looking at the historical evolution of UK placed issuance by collateral, RMBS has consistently been the dominant asset class, although its absolute volume has fluctuated significantly — from €14.8Bn in 2020 to €33.8Bn in 2024 and back to €25.5Bn in 2025. The decline in RMBS issuance in 2025 was the primary driver of the overall decrease in UK placed volumes. At the same time, the growth of CMBS, Consumer and Auto ABS categories points to a gradual — if still modest — broadening of the UK issuance base.

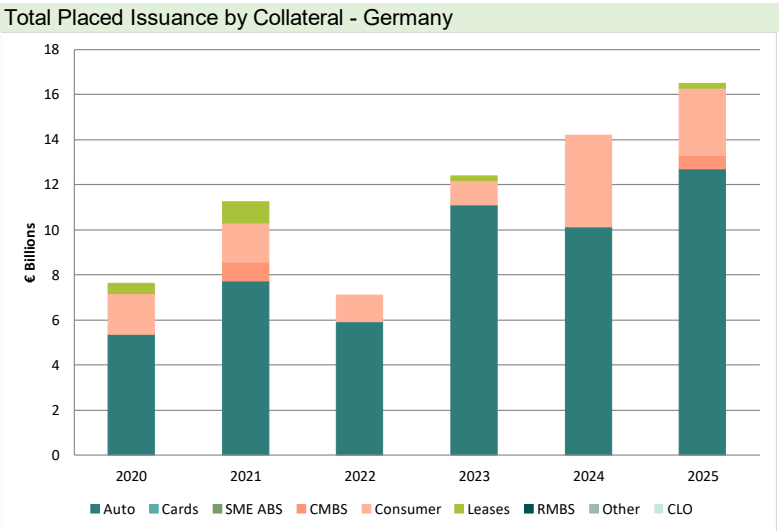
The 2025 issuance profile confirms the UK's distinctive characteristic: an overwhelming concentration in RMBS, which totaled €25.5Bn and represented 67.3% of total UK placed issuance. This dominance of mortgage-backed securitisation is a defining feature of the UK market and distinguishes it sharply from other European jurisdictions. Beyond RMBS, the second-largest category was CMBS at €5.8Bn (15.3%), which more than doubled from €2.2Bn in 2024, signaling renewed activity in commercial property-backed securitisation. Consumer ABS reached €2.5Bn (6.6%), Auto ABS stood at €2.3Bn (6.1%), and Cards contributed €0.9Bn (2.4%). Smaller contributions came from Leases (€0.4Bn) and SME ABS (€0.4Bn).



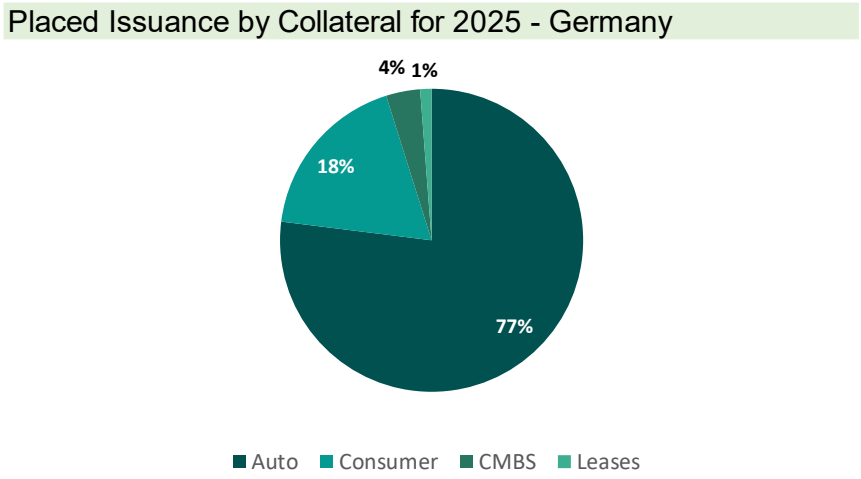
Outstanding balances in the UK reached €229.8Bn in Q4 2025, up from €226.4Bn in Q4 2024 (+1.5%), confirming the UK's position as the largest national market by stock. The outstanding composition is led by RMBS (58.8%), followed by Other (11.6%), CMBS (10.9%), Cards (9.8%), Consumer (4.5%) and Auto (3.7%). The presence of a significant Cards and CMBS outstanding stock — categories that are relatively minor in other European markets — further underscores the UK's broader and more diversified securitisation universe.

Germany

Germany recorded placed issuance of €16.4Bn in 2025, up 16.1% from €14.2Bn in 2024, **making it the second-largest individual national market in Europe**. The German market has shown consistent growth since the pandemic-era low of €7.6Bn in 2020, and the 2025 figure represents the highest annual placed volume in the period under review.



The defining characteristic of the German placed market is its **extreme concentration in Auto ABS**. In 2025, Auto-backed securitisation accounted for €12.7Bn, or approximately 77.0% of total German placed issuance. This reflects the central role of the German automotive industry and its captive finance arms in driving securitisation activity. No other European market shows a comparable degree of dependence on a single collateral type. Consumer ABS was the second-largest category at €3.0Bn (18.2%), followed by a small CMBS transaction of €0.6Bn (3.6%) and Leases at €0.2Bn (1.2%). Notably, Germany had no placed RMBS, CLO, Cards or SME ABS issuance in 2025 — a pattern that has been consistent across recent years, Germany's low level of RMBS placed issuance is partly attributable to the fact that a significant proportion of transactions are retained by originators and used as collateral with the Eurosystem.



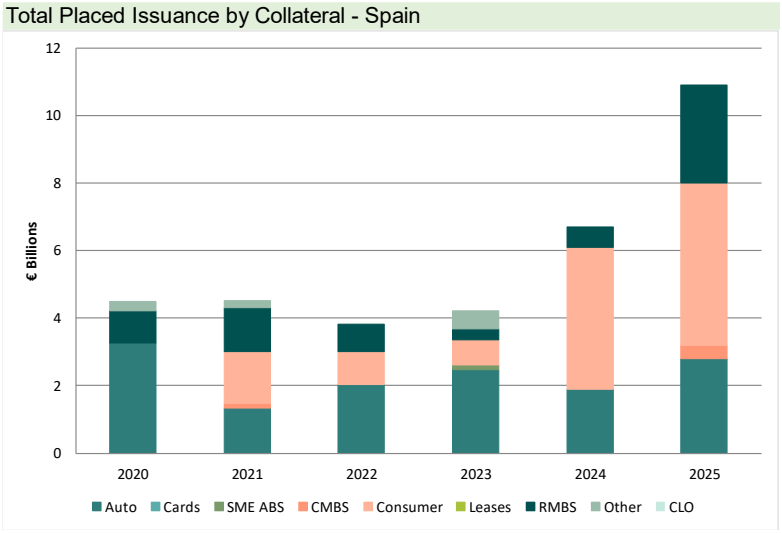
This narrow collateral profile means that the German placed market is effectively a proxy for the European auto securitisation sector. While this provides strong specialisation and depth in one segment, it also makes the German market more vulnerable to cyclical shifts in the automotive industry and to changes in auto lending volumes.

Outstanding balances in Germany reached €119.9Bn in Q4 2025, a striking 35.3% increase from €88.6Bn in Q4 2024 — the largest year-on-year growth among the four focus countries. The outstanding stock is led by RMBS (58.1%), which contrasts with the near-absence of RMBS in placed issuance and reflects a legacy portfolio of retained mortgage-backed transactions. Auto ABS represents 24.5% of outstandings, followed by Consumer (12.5%), SME ABS (2.5%) and CMBS (1.4%). The sharp rise in outstanding balances, combined with growing placed issuance, suggests that Germany is experiencing a structural expansion of its securitisation market, driven primarily by auto and consumer lending activity.

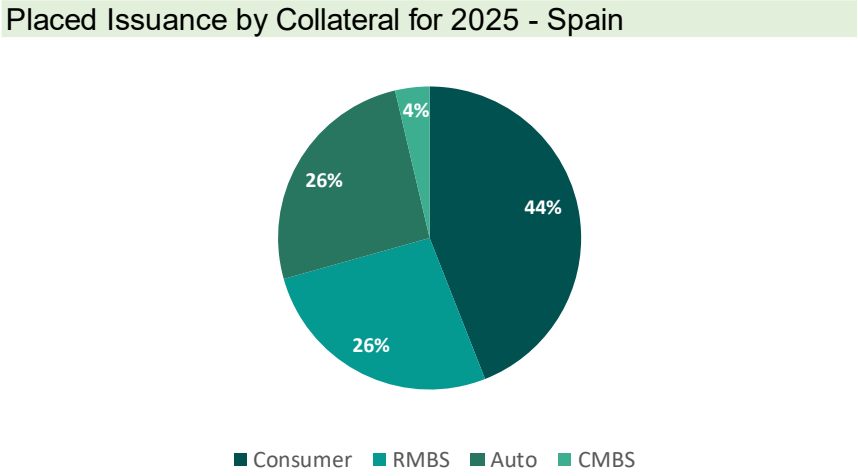
Spain

The Spanish securitisation market **experienced a transformative year in 2025**, with placed issuance reaching €10.9Bn, up 65.2% from €6.6Bn in 2024. This represents the **highest placed volume recorded in the 2019–2025 period** and marks a decisive step change for a market that had remained relatively stable between €3.7Bn and €4.5Bn during 2019–2023. Spain's share of **European placed issuance** rose to 6.9%, consolidating its position as the **third-largest individual national market behind the UK and Germany.**

The surge in issuance was driven primarily by **a dramatic expansion of Consumer ABS**, which reached €4.8Bn in 2025 — nearly the entire placed volume of the country just two years earlier — compared with €4.2Bn in 2024 and only €0.7Bn in 2023. Consumer-backed securitisation has therefore become the defining asset class of the Spanish placed market, reflecting the growing use of securitisation by Spanish banks and specialized lenders to fund consumer credit portfolios. Alongside this, RMBS issuance recovered strongly to €2.9Bn. A smaller but notable CMBS transaction of €0.4Bn also appeared, adding a new collateral type to the Spanish placed issuance mix.



The 2025 placed issuance by collateral distribution reflects this shift clearly: Consumer ABS accounts for 44% of total Spanish placed issuance, followed by RMBS at 26%, Auto at 26% and CMBS at 4%. This represents a significant diversification compared with the historical pattern, in which the Spanish market was traditionally dominated by RMBS and, to a lesser extent, auto-related securitisation. The emergence of Consumer ABS as the largest single category marks a structural change in how the Spanish market uses securitisation as a funding tool.



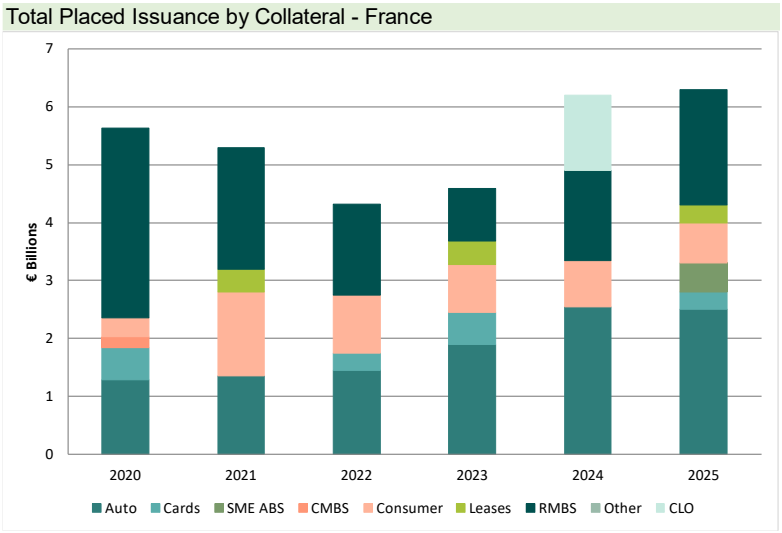
In terms of outstanding balances, Spain held €101.3Bn in Q4 2025, down from €107.3Bn in Q4 2024 (a 5.6% decline). The outstanding stock remains heavily concentrated in RMBS (67.2%), followed by Consumer (16.1%), Auto (10.1%) and SME ABS (4.5%). The divergence between a declining outstanding balance and sharply increasing placed issuance suggests that amortization and redemption of legacy RMBS portfolios continue to outpace new issuance, while the newer Consumer and Auto transactions are gradually reshaping the stock over time.

France

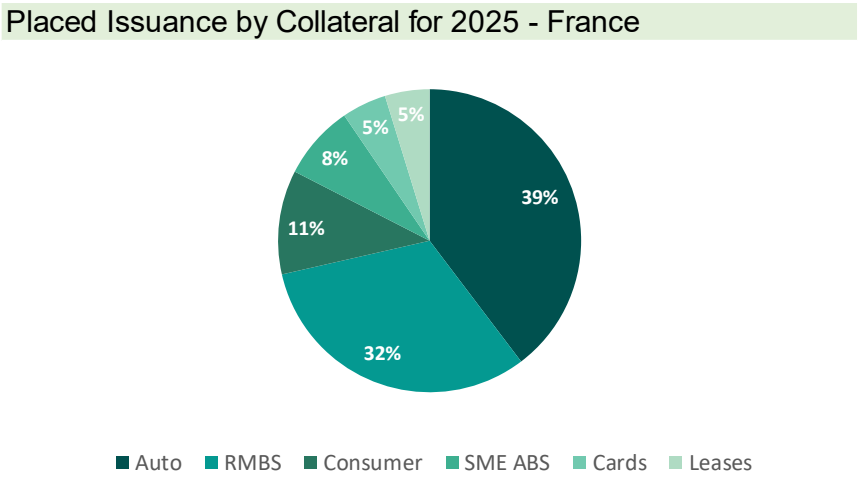
France recorded placed issuance of €6.3Bn in 2025, up 1.6% from €6.1Bn in 2024. While this represents a modest increase in absolute terms, the French market has shown a comparatively flat trajectory since 2020, with annual placed volumes fluctuating within a narrow range of €4.3Bn to €6.3Bn — in contrast with Spain and Germany, which have experienced more pronounced growth over the same period. France accounted for 4.3% of total European placed issuance in 2025 and confirms its position as a mid-sized but diversified European securitisation market.

The most distinctive feature of the French placed market is its diversified collateral composition. Unlike the UK (dominated by RMBS), Germany (dominated by Auto) or Spain (increasingly dominated by Consumer), France distributes its placed

issuance across multiple asset classes. In 2025, Auto ABS was the largest category at €2.5Bn (39%), followed by RMBS at €2.0Bn (32%), Consumer ABS at €0.7Bn (11%), SME ABS at €0.5Bn (8%), Cards at €0.3Bn (5%) and Leases at €0.3Bn (5%). This breadth of collateral types, with no single category exceeding 40% of the total, makes France one of the most balanced markets in Europe.



The historical evolution of French placed issuance shows a relatively stable market that has shifted over time. In 2020, RMBS accounted for approximately €3.3Bn out of a total of €5.6Bn — representing nearly 60% of placed volumes. By 2025, RMBS had declined to 32% while Auto and Consumer categories had grown, resulting in a more evenly distributed issuance base. The appearance of a CLO transaction in 2024 (€1.3Bn) absent in 2025 — also illustrates the occasional diversification into structured credit products.



Outstanding balances in France stood at €179.0Bn in Q4 2025, down from €185.2Bn in Q4 2024 (−3.3%). France remains the second-largest national market by outstanding stock in Europe, behind the UK. The outstanding composition is heavily concentrated on RMBS (77.7%), followed by Consumer (14.0%), Auto (3.8%), SME ABS (3.5%), Leases (0.6%) and Cards (0.2%). The contrast between the outstanding profile — dominated by legacy RMBS — and the more balanced placed issuance mix illustrates how new issuance activity is gradually reshaping the French market's collateral composition over time, even if the outstanding stock still reflects the historical weight of mortgage-backed transactions.

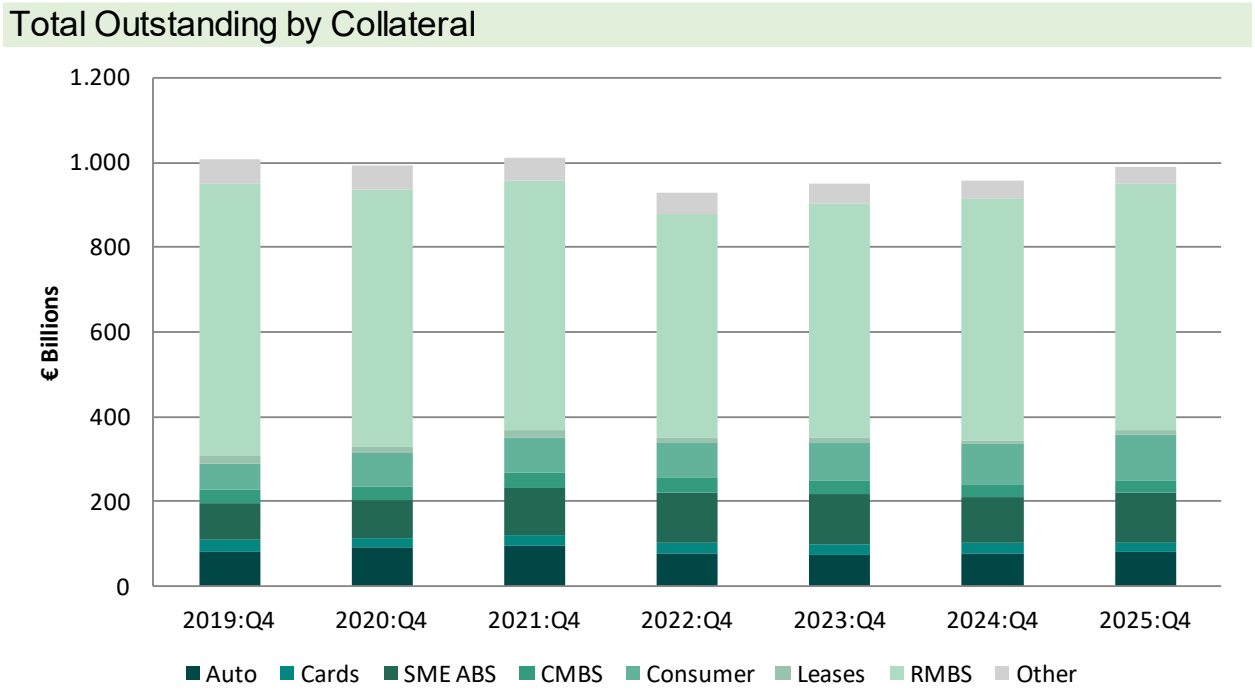
3. Outstanding Balances Across Europe

While issuance volumes capture the flow of new securitisation activity, outstanding balances provide a complementary view of the stock of securitised assets in the market. **Outstanding balances reflect not only new issuance but also the effects of amortization, prepayment and redemption of existing transactions**, offering a more complete picture of the overall size and evolution of the European securitisation market.

Total outstanding volumes

As of Q4 2025, total European securitisation outstanding balances — including CLO/CDO — reached approximately €1,294.3Bn, up from €1,217.6Bn in Q4 2024, representing a year-on-year increase of 6.3%. This is the highest level recorded in recent years and confirms that the European securitised asset stock is expanding, driven both by new issuance and by the growing weight of CLO structures within the broader market.

Excluding CLO/CDO — which are often analyzed separately due to their distinct collateral and investor profile — **European outstanding balances stood at €991.1Bn in Q4 2025**, compared with €956.7Bn in Q4 2024, an increase of 3.6%. This marks a return above the symbolic €990Bn threshold last seen in 2020–2021, when balances ranged between €992.8Bn and €1,009.5Bn, before declining to €930.2Bn in Q4 2022 following the monetary tightening cycle. The recovery since then has been gradual but sustained: from €952.3Bn in Q4 2023 to €956.7Bn in Q4 2024 and now €991.2Bn in Q4 2025.



*Excluding CLO/CDO

The CLO/CDO segment has been a particularly dynamic component of the outstanding stock. CLO/CDO balances rose from €228.8Bn in Q4 2023 to €260.9Bn in Q4 2024 and further to €303.1Bn in Q4 2025, representing a 16.2% year-on-year increase. This sharp growth reflects the strong CLO issuance observed in 2024 and 2025 and confirms the increasingly important role of CLO structures within the European securitisation landscape.

Outstanding balances by collateral type

The composition of European outstanding balances (excluding CLOs) remains firmly anchored in residential mortgage-backed securitisation. RMBS continues to be the dominant asset class by a wide margin, with €582.9Bn in Q4 2025, representing 58.8% of total outstanding balances ex-CLOs. Despite this dominance, RMBS balances have been on a long-term declining trend — from €640.4Bn in Q4 2019 to a low of €529.4Bn in Q4 2022 — before recovering to current levels.

The increase from €570.1Bn in Q4 2024 to €582.9Bn in Q4 2025 (+2.2%) suggests that new RMBS issuance is now outpacing the natural amortization of legacy mortgage portfolios.

Beyond RMBS, the remaining outstanding stock is distributed across several asset classes, each with distinct dynamics:

- SME ABS stands at €115.2Bn (11.6% of the total), up from €108.1Bn in Q4 2024 (+6.6%). SME-backed securitisation has maintained a significant outstanding presence, supported by public guarantee schemes and the use of retained structures for funding purposes.
- Consumer ABS has grown to €107.6Bn (10.9%), the strongest year-on-year increase among the major collateral categories at +10.7% (from €97.2Bn). This growth mirrors the surge in consumer-related issuance activity, particularly in Spain and Germany, and reflects the broader expansion of consumer credit securitisation across Europe.
- Auto ABS reached €79.5Bn (8.0%), up from €76.7Bn (+3.7%). Auto-backed balances have been relatively stable in recent years after a period of growth between 2019 and 2021, suggesting a market in steady state where new issuance broadly offsets amortization.
- CMBS increased to €31.8Bn (3.2%), up from €28.4Bn (+12.0% of increase), the highest growth rate among the established collateral categories. Although CMBS remains a relatively small segment, the recent increase signals renewed activity in commercial property-backed securitisation.
- Cards declined slightly to €24.7Bn (2.5%), down from €25.7Bn (−4%), continuing a trend of gradual reduction from €27.3Bn in Q4 2019.
- Leases stood at €9.2Bn (0.9%), up modestly from €8.9Bn (+3.3%), remaining the smallest collateral category in the European outstanding stock.

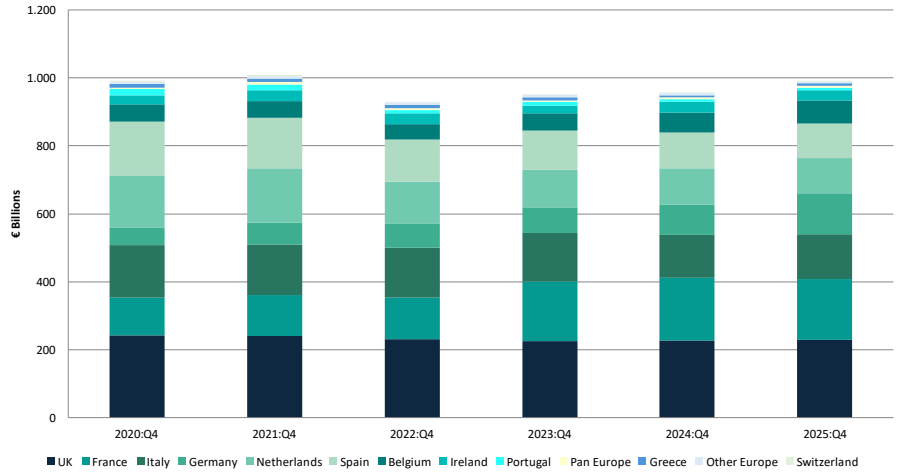
The overall picture is one of a gradually shifting composition. While RMBS continues to dominate, the combined share of Consumer, Auto, SME and CMBS has been growing steadily, reflecting the diversification of new issuance activity observed in recent years. Over time, as legacy RMBS portfolios continue to amortize and newer, more diversified issuance accumulates, the outstanding balance composition is expected to become progressively more balanced.

Outstanding balances by country

The **geographic distribution of European outstanding balances** (excluding CLOs) is spread across a broader set of countries than issuance activity, reflecting the legacy stock of securitised assets accumulated over many years.

- The United Kingdom remains the largest individual market by outstanding balance, with €229.8Bn in Q4 2025 (23.2% of the European total), up from €226.4Bn in Q4 2024 (+1.5%). The UK's leading position reflects the depth of its mortgage market and the large stock of RMBS transactions built over more than two decades.
- France holds the second-largest outstanding stock at €179.0Bn (18.1%), although this represents a decline from €185.2Bn in Q4 2024 (−3.3%). France's outstanding base is heavily weighted towards RMBS and has been partially affected by the amortisation of older mortgage-backed portfolios. Despite this, France's outstanding stock has grown significantly since 2019 (€122.3Bn), largely driven by an expansion in retained RMBS transactions during the 2021–2024 period.
- Italy ranks third with €131.4Bn (13.3% of the total), up from €126.0Bn in the previous period Q4 24 (+4.3%), showing some stability and a decline of -14.8% as of Q4 25from €154.3Bn in Q4 2020.
- Germany follows with €119.9Bn (12.1%), recording the most dramatic year-on-year growth among all countries: +35.3% from €88.6Bn in Q4 2024. This sharp increase is consistent with the strong Auto and Consumer ABS issuance observed in the German market and points to a structural expansion of Germany's securitised asset base.
- The Netherlands holds €103.7Bn (10.5%), down from €106.9Bn (−3.0%), continuing a long-term decline from €161.0Bn in Q4 2019 driven by the amortisation of legacy Dutch RMBS portfolios.
- Spain stands at €101.3Bn (10.2%), down from €107.3Bn in Q4 2024 (−5.6%). The Spanish outstanding stock has followed a sustained downward trajectory since its recent peak of €158.4Bn in Q4 2020, declining in every subsequent year — a cumulative contraction of 36.0% over five years. This prolonged reduction is primarily driven by the amortisation of legacy RMBS portfolios, which have fallen from €113.5Bn in Q4 2020 to €68.1Bn in Q4 2025, a decline of approximately 40%. RMBS still accounts for 67.2% of total Spanish outstanding balances, but its absolute weight is shrinking steadily as older mortgage-backed transactions run off.
- Belgium has emerged as a notable market, with outstanding balances of €68.1Bn (6.9%), up from €57.1Bn in Q4 2024 (+19.3%). Ireland holds €30.2Bn (3.0%), while the remaining jurisdictions — Portugal (€8.5Bn), Pan-European (€6.1Bn), Greece (€5.9Bn), Other Europe (€5.9Bn) and Switzerland (€1.4Bn) — together account for approximately 2.8% of the total. As of Q4 25 the total outstanding of the European countries adds up to €991.1Bn vs. €957.0Bn as of Q4 24, showing an increase of 3,6% in the period.

Total Outstanding by Collateral

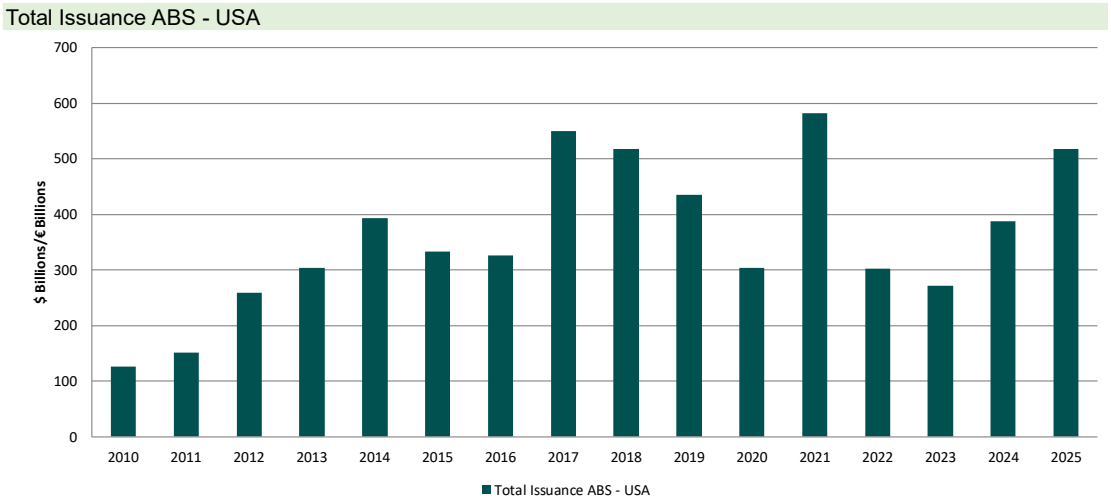


4. Brief US Market Perspective

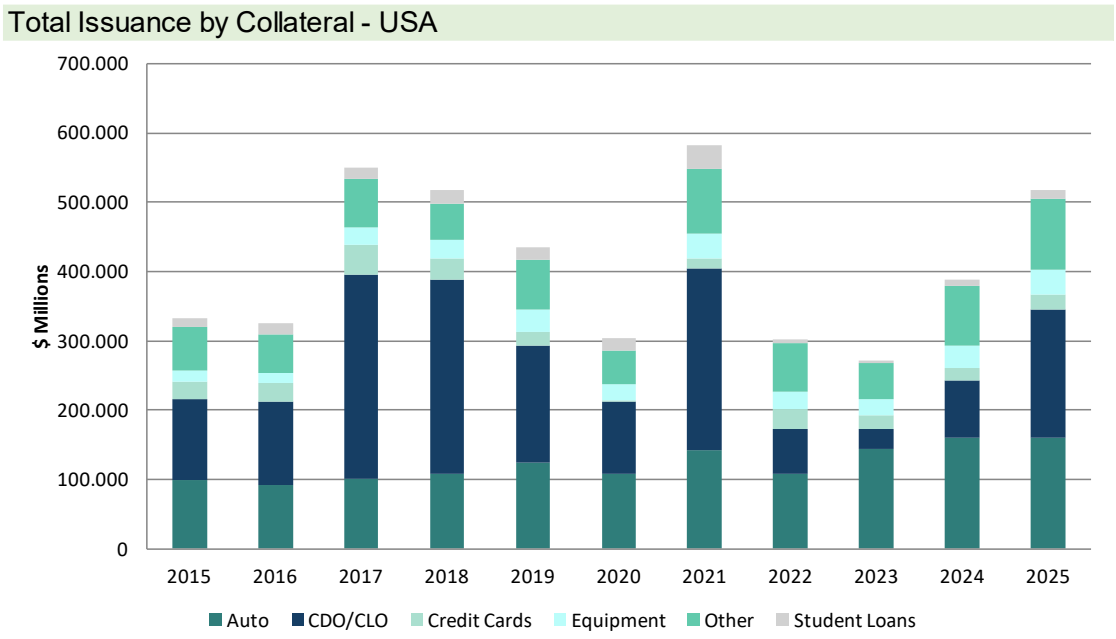
Although this report focuses on the European securitisation market, a brief reference to the United States provides useful context for understanding the relative scale and dynamics of the world's largest ABS market. The data presented in this section covers US Asset-Backed Securities issuance (including CDO/CLO) and is sourced from SIFMA, Bloomberg, Dealogic and Refinitiv. All figures are denominated in US dollars.

US ABS issuance: recovery and growth

Total US ABS issuance reached $517.4Bn in 2025, representing a 33.3% increase from $388.1Bn in 2024 and the highest annual volume since 2021, when issuance peaked at $581.9Bn. The 2025 figure also surpasses the pre-pandemic levels of 2018 ($516.9Bn) confirming a strong recovery from the trough observed in 2023, when issuance fell to just $270.9Bn — the lowest level in the decade.



The trajectory of US ABS issuance over the past ten years has been characterized by two distinct cycles. The first, between 2015 and 2018, saw a sustained expansion from $333.4Bn to $516.9Bn, peaking at $550.3Bn in 2017, driven by strong CLO activity and robust consumer lending. The second cycle began with the pandemic-related contraction in 2020 ($304.3Bn), followed by a sharp rebound to $581.9Bn in 2021 — largely fueled by an extraordinary surge in CDO/CLO issuance — before declining again in 2022–2023 as monetary tightening and reduced investor appetite weighed on volumes. The recovery to $388.1Bn in 2024 and $517.4Bn in 2025 marks the beginning of what appears to be a new expansionary phase.



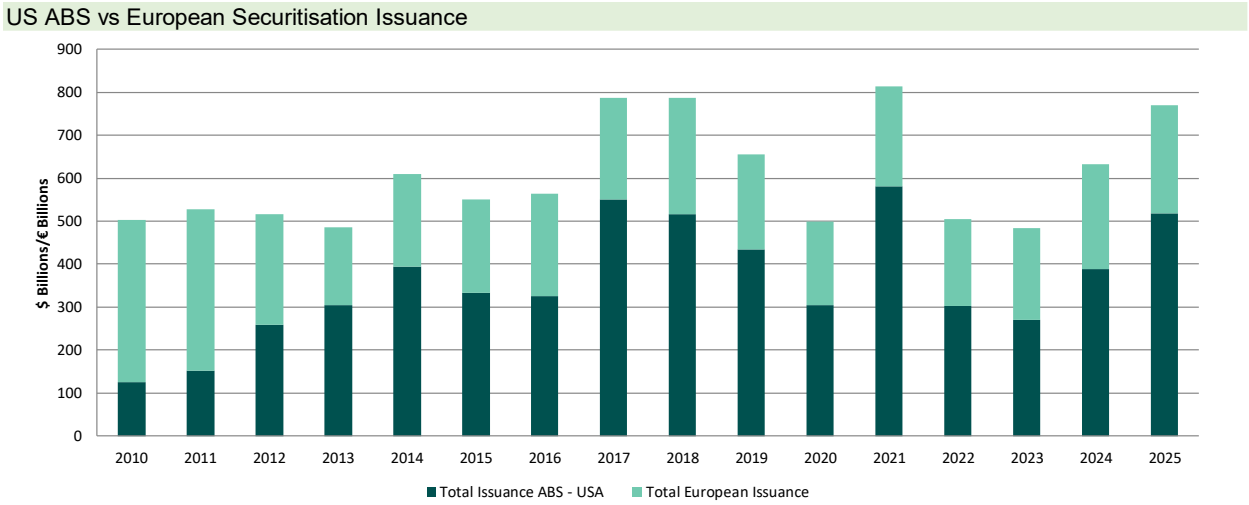
Collateral composition:

The composition of US ABS issuance in 2025 was led by two dominant asset classes:

- CDO/CLO was the largest category at $185.3Bn, accounting for approximately 35.8% of total issuance. This represents a remarkable 126.6% increase from $81.8Bn in 2024 and signals a dramatic resurgence in US leveraged loan securitisation. CDO/CLO has historically been the most volatile component of US ABS issuance, ranging from $103.1Bn in 2020 to $262.5Bn in 2021 before contracting to $64.1Bn in 2022. The 2025 rebound brings CLO activity back towards the levels observed in 2019 ($169.9Bn).
- Auto ABS was the second-largest category at $159.8Bn (30.9%), essentially flat compared with $160.6Bn in 2024 (−0.5%). Auto securitisation has been the most stable and consistent component of US ABS issuance, growing steadily from $98.4Bn in 2015 to approximately $160Bn in 2024–2025. Its resilience across market cycles reflects the structural demand for auto loan financing in the US economy. Beyond these two dominant segments that add up to 66.7% of the total, the remaining collateral categories in 2025 included:
- Other´s category stood at $103.4Bn (20.0%), up from $86.6Bn in 2024 (+19.5%). This category, which includes various non-standard receivables, has grown significantly in recent years and now represents a meaningful share of total issuance.
- Equipment at $35.7Bn (6.9%), up from $32.3Bn (+10.3%), a stable mid-sized segment backed by equipment lease and loan receivables.
- Credit Cards at $21.4Bn (4.1%), up from $18.1Bn (+18.0%). Card-backed securitisation has remained relatively contained in recent years.
- Student Loans at $11.9Bn (2.3%), up from $8.8Bn (+35.7%), a niche segment that has recovered modestly from its low of $3.5Bn in 2023 but remains well below the levels seen prior to 2020, reflecting changes in the US student lending market and the broader policy debate around student debt.

Structural contrast with Europe

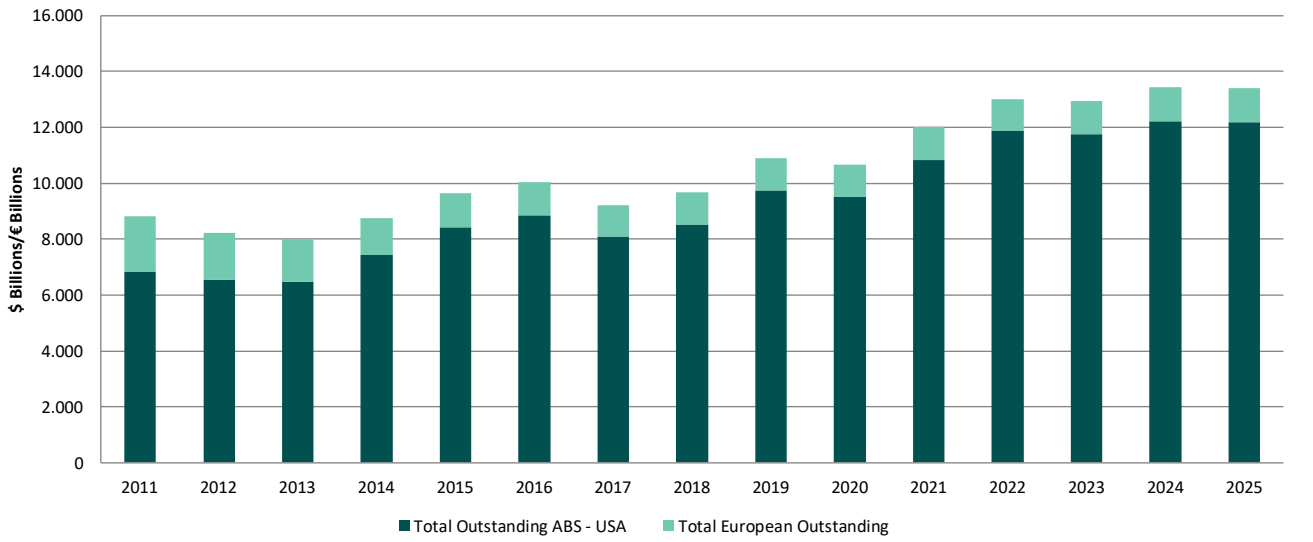
The US ABS issuance figure of $517.4Bn in 2025 provides a useful reference point when compared with the European securitisation market. While a direct currency-adjusted comparison requires caution, the scale differential is clear: **US ABS issuance alone — which excludes Agency MBS and Non-Agency RMBS/CMBS — is approximately twice the size of total European securitisation issuance (placed and retained combined) of €252.3Bn at the end of 2025**. When Agency MBS is included, the US securitisation market operates at an order of magnitude significantly larger than its European counterpart.



The collateral mix also differs substantially. The US market is heavily driven by CDO/CLO and Auto, which together account for approximately 67% of total ABS issuance. In Europe, the issuance base is more evenly distributed across RMBS, ABS, CLO and SME-backed transactions, with no two categories dominating to the same extent. Furthermore, the US market features asset classes — such as Student Loans and Equipment ABS — that have limited or no equivalent in European securitisation.

The contrast between the US and European securitisation markets is particularly evident when comparing total outstanding volumes over the 2011–2025 period. US ABS outstanding has followed a sustained upward trajectory, rising from approximately $6,800Bn in 2011 to around $12,177Bn in Q1 2025 — an increase of close to 79% over the period — reflecting the structural depth of the US market. European outstanding, by contrast, remained broadly flat throughout the same period, hovering in a narrow range between roughly €1,134Bn and €1,992Bn and showing a gradual decline as the amortization of legacy transactions has outpaced new placed issuance. As a result, in Q12025 the US accounted for nearly 91%, while Europe represents 9%. This persistent divergence highlights the structural scale gap between both markets: while Europe has shown a recovery in placed issuance and a gradual diversification of its collateral base, its outstanding stock continues to represent only a small fraction of the US market, underlining the still-limited depth of European securitisation as a funding channel relative to its US counterpart.

US ABS vs European Securitisation Outstanding



* 2025Q1 Data

These differences reflect the distinct institutional, regulatory and economic frameworks under which the two markets operate and reinforce the view that the US market serves as a benchmark for scale and depth rather than as a direct comparator for the European securitisation landscape.

5. Conclusion

The European securitisation market delivered a positive performance in 2025, consolidating the recovery observed in recent years and reinforcing the role of securitisation as a relevant funding, risk-transfer and capital management tool across the region. Total issuance reached €252.3Bn in 2025, the highest annual volume since 2012, while placed issuance rose to €156.2Bn, accounting for 61.9% of total volumes, the highest placement rate in the period analysed. This shift from retained to placed transactions signals that market growth is increasingly driven by genuine investor demand, supported by a more stable and predictable quarterly issuance profile throughout the year.

At the country level, the market showed divergent but broadly constructive dynamics. Spain recorded the strongest momentum with placed issuance surging 65.2% to €10.9Bn, driven by the expansion of Consumer ABS. Germany continued its steady growth to €16.4Bn, firmly anchored in Auto securitisation. France maintained the most diversified collateral profile among the focus countries, while the United Kingdom, despite a decline to €38.2Bn in placed issuance, remained the largest individual national market by a wide margin. Outstanding balances excluding CLOs reached €991.2Bn in Q4 2025, approaching the €1,000Bn threshold, with total outstandings including CLO/CDO standing at approximately €1,294.3Bn, a new recent high. The US market, with ABS issuance of $517.4Bn in 2025, continues to operate on a significantly larger scale and serves as a useful benchmark for the European market's development potential, while the outstanding adds up to $12,177Bn.

Looking ahead, the trends observed in 2025 such as higher placement rates, greater collateral diversification, growing outstanding volumes and renewed country-level momentum suggest that the European securitisation market has room for continued development. The gradual reduction in RMBS dependence, the emergence of Consumer and Auto ABS as increasingly important asset classes, and the divergent growth trajectories across jurisdictions all points to a market that is not only expanding in volume but also evolving in structure and depth. These developments provide a solid foundation for the continued role of securitisation as a key component of the European financial system.

EthiFinance
C/Velázquez. 18
28001 Madrid

+34 **914 31 82 42 Madrid Office**

Julio.parraga@ethifinance.com

Brianda.torres@ethifinance.com

www.ethifinance.com

Structured Finance Department

Julio Párraga - Structured Finance Analyst

Brianda Torres - Head of Structured Finance

Antonio Madera, PhD. – CRO FIS, Structured Finance and Sovereigns