

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- -Global credit delivered mixed returns in February with spread tightening offset by interest rate pressure across the US, Europe, and Emerging Markets (EM)
- -In the US, high yield continued to deliver positive performance supported by persistent demand, low supply, and attractive yields. Given rate pressure and a rising Treasury yield, investment grade risk assets and Treasurys posted negative returns
- -In Europe, returns followed a similar trend as spreads moved tighter and rates trended higher with the market continuing to push back expectations around rate cuts from the European Central Bank (ECB), supported by hawkish comments from various ECB members
- -Emerging Market (EM) debt outperformed US and European credit this month. Within Asia, policy support in China is building as fiscal initiatives have been accompanied by a large ongoing injection of liquidity. In Latin America, there are ample signals of growth for the region ahead

HIGH YIELD AND LEVERAGED LOAN TECHNICALS

US Retail Fund Flows

US\$0.01 billion in high yield inflows, US\$0.74 billion in leveraged loan retail inflows MTD (through 02.29)

HY New Issuance*	US	EUROPE			
YTD	US\$59.3 bn	US\$10.2 bn			
MTD	US\$27.7 bn	US\$0.6 bn			
Loan New Issuance*	US				
YTD	US\$199.8 bn				
MTD	US\$63.7 bn				

Macro: Rate Volatility							
Micro: Strong Techni	cals and Good	d Earnings					
Default Rates**	US	EUR					
LTM	5.7%	3.9%					

US New Issuance Names (500 mn and above) MTD

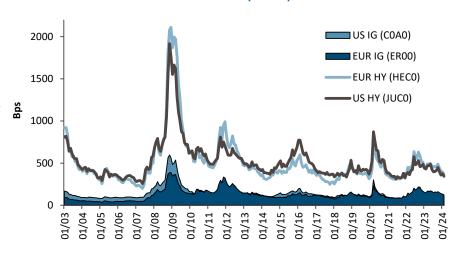
Copeland, Howden, Allied Universal, Post Holdings Inc., Nova Chemicals Corp, Crash Champions, Artera Services, Hillenbrand Inc, Assuredpartners Inc, WE Soda, Consolidated Energy, Amer Sports, Ardonagh Group Finance, Sally Holdings, Amwins Group Inc, Transdigm Inc., AAR Escrow Issuer LLC, StoneX Group Inc., Firstcash Inc., EQM Midstream Partners, Royal Caribbean Cruises, First Quantum Minerals, Builders Firstsource, Wesco Distribution Inc., Delek Logistics

US New Issuance Pipeline (Announced)

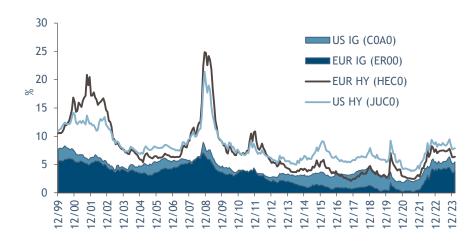
Clear Channel Outdoor

<u>Note</u>: Reference to the names of each company mentioned in this communication is merely for explaining the investment strategy and should not be construed as investment advice or investment recommendation of those companies.

CORPORATE BOND SPREADS (STW) BY INDEX



CORPORATE BOND YIELDS (YTW) BY INDEX



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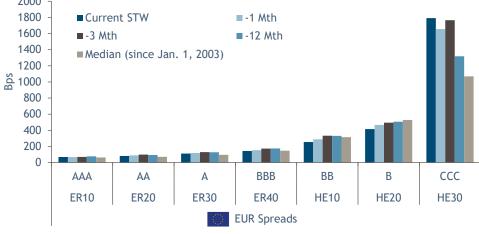


CORPORATE BOND SPREADS (STW) - FEBRUARY 29, 2024

	Index	Rating	Current STW	-1 Mth	-3 Mth	-12 Mth	Median (since Jan. 1, 2003)
US	C0A0	IG	102	103	113	132	130
	JUC0	HY	344	376	397	431	452
	JUC4	BB/B	279	309	328	366	385
	C0A1	AAA	42	40	35	60	63
	C0A2	AA	55	56	54	74	75
	C0A3	А	86	87	95	109	103
	C0A4	BBB	127	128	142	164	170
	JUC1	BB	222	245	254	296	311
	JUC2	В	353	385	418	451	477
	JUC3	CCC	845	936	959	979	900
EM	EMCL	All	213	245	255	276	305
EUR	ER00	IG	124	133	148	148	117
	HEC0	HY	366	395	438	436	432
	ER10	AAA	69	68	70	77	63
	ER20	AA	82	89	99	94	71
	ER30	A	112	119	130	128	97
	ER40	BBB	144	154	173	175	148
	HE10	ВВ	255	289	333	331	315
	HE20	В	416	467	495	507	529
	HE30	CCC	1792	1656	1766	1318	1070

CORPORATE BOND SPREADS (STW)







MARKET PERFORMANCE % AND STATISTICS - FEBRUARY 29, 2024

		F	Performance Summary (%)				Characteristics			Performance History (%, annualised)				
High Yiel	d	MTD	Pr. Mth	QTD	YTD	DTW (yrs)	YTW (%)	STW (bps)	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	4 Year	5 Year	
JUC0	US HY	0.27	0.01	0.28	0.28	3.61	7.87	344	10.92	2.43	1.88	3.49	3.97	
JC4N	US HY BB-B	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.10	3.67	7.22	279	10.28	2.27	1.66	3.21	3.85	
HEC0	Euro HY	0.35	0.83	1.18	1.18	2.99	6.39	366	10.00	2.61	0.87	2.02	2.61	
HEC5	Euro HY BB-B	0.31	0.69	1.00	1.00	3.07	5.73	303	10.22	2.66	0.85	1.77	2.14	
Investme	nt Grade													
C0A0	US IG	-1.40	0.15	-1.25	-1.25	6.68	5.46	102	6.13	-2.27	-2.54	-1.29	1.88	
C4NF	US BBB Corporates	-1.45	0.16	-1.29	-1.29	6.84	5.64	121	7.17	-2.07	-2.41	-1.06	2.25	
ER00	Europe IG	-0.89	0.09	-0.80	-0.80	4.43	3.87	124	6.57	-2.03	-2.70	-1.81	-0.44	
EN40	Europe BBB	-0.84	0.18	-0.66	-0.66	4.43	3.97	134	6.77	3.33	2.21	1.65	1.32	
Governm	ents (7-10 Year Indices)													
G402	US Treasuries 7-10 Yrs	-2.05	0.02	-2.03	-2.03	7.31	4.27	2	1.39	-5.81	-4.52	-3.57	-0.12	
G4L0	UK Gilts 7-10 Yrs	-1.78	-1.78	-3.53	-3.53	7.50	4.04	-3	1.79	-6.64	-5.49	-4.73	-2.33	
G4D0	German Fed Govt 7-10 Yrs	-2.02	-0.64	-2.65	-2.65	7.88	2.36	0	4.43	-6.90	-5.67	-4.91	-2.88	
Equities														
S&P	S&P 500 incl. Dividends	5.34	1.68	7.11	7.11				30.43	9.71	11.89	16.45	14.75	
DAX	DAX Index	4.58	0.91	5.53	5.53	YTM (%)	Discour	nt Margin	15.05	10.57	8.64	10.42	8.95	
Loans							Byr life)							
CS Levera	aged Loan Index	0.89	0.78	1.68	1.68	9.50	5	i19	11.37	6.72	5.55	5.57	5.10	
CS Weste Loan Inde	rn European Leveraged ex	0.51	1.32	1.84	1.84	8.18	4	183	10.63	5.58	4.45	4.51	4.07	

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future performance.

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CREDIT MARKET UPDATE

US:

US fixed income credit delivered mixed returns in February with spread tightening offset by interest rate pressure. High yield continued to deliver positive performance supported by persistent demand, low supply, and attractive yields. Given rate pressure and a rising Treasury yield, investment grade risk assets and Treasurys posted negative returns. Confidence in the stability of growth increased this month—driven by strong inflation data and a PCE (Personal Consumption Expenditure) report that was in line with expectations—pointing to rates staying the same in March. At the same time, prices remain at discounts to par and yield levels remain well above the longer-term averages, providing a strong return catalyst.

Europe:

In Europe, credit markets delivered mixed returns in February. Rates trended higher with the market continuing to push back expectations around rate cuts from the European Central Bank (ECB), supported by hawkish comments from various ECB members. Spreads moved tighter; high yield continued to deliver positive performance supported by persistent demand, low supply, and attractive yields. Given rate pressure and rising government bond yields, investment grade and government bonds declined. This month, we saw limited performance dispersion across ratings and sectors with market attention firmly on macro-economic data—particularly inflation data at month-end and the timing of upcoming rate cuts. Interest in corporate credit remains robust with yields well above longer term averages, and both good carry and reasonable value on offer.

EM:

Emerging Market (EM) debt outperformed US and European credit this month. Within EM, high yield continued to deliver positive performance supported by persistent demand, low supply, and attractive yields. Given rate pressure and a rising US Treasury yield, investment grade EM debt and government bonds posted negative returns. Policy support in China is building as fiscal initiatives have been accompanied by a large ongoing injection of liquidity. In Japan, given the large gap between strong market momentum and softening economic activity, we believe the Bank of Japan's changes in its asset purchase programs will take precedence over rate hikes at the start of policy normalization. In Turkey, there was strong growth reported despite rate hikes as household consumption improved. In Latin America, growth continues for the region, despite a stall in Brazil's reported 4Q23 GDP growth. However, amidst expectations that Mexico's GDP growth will benefit this quarter from strong domestic demand and fiscal spending ahead of elections, and evidence of gains made across Chile's manufacturing, mining, and retail sectors, there are ample signals of 1Q24 recovery for the region.

Outlook

Looking ahead to March, we will have the Federal Reserve (Fed) and the European Central Bank meetings towards the beginning and end of the month, respectively. The Fed has clearly stated that their concern about bringing inflation down to their target still trumps their worries about staying restrictive for too long and slowing economic growth. We are hearing that the primary market in the US should slow after several large M&A transactions were funded in February, whereas activity in the European primary markets is likely to pick-up. We continue to see strong demand for credit from various corners of the market—investors coming out of cash and money-market funds as the fear of rate hikes fades, pension funds whose funding positions have improved and are consequently rotating from equities into credit, and insurance companies looking to lock in historically attractive yields. We therefore anticipate spreads to be supported at current levels driven by continued inflows, with ongoing tightening in higher-yielding parts of the market.

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Important Information

The following indices referenced in the snapshot are ICE BofA indices:

JUCO - ICE BofA US Cash Pay High Yield Constrained Index

JUC1 - ICE BofA BB US Cash Pay High Yield Constrained Index;

JUC2 - ICE BofA Single-B US Cash Pay High Yield Constrained Index;

JUC3 - ICE BofA CCC and Lower US Cash Pay High Yield Constrained Index;

JUC4 - ICE BofA BB-B US Cash Pay High Yield Constrained Index:

JC4N - ICE BofA BB-B US Non-Financial Cash Pay High Yield Constrained Index:

HECO - ICE BofA Euro High Yield Constrained Index;

HE10 - ICE BofA BB Euro High Yield Index;

HE20 - ICE BofA Single-B Euro High Yield Index;

HE30 - ICE BofA CCC & Lower Euro High Yield Index;

HEC5 - ICE BofA BB-B Euro Non-Financial High Yield Constrained Index;

COAO - ICE BofA US Corporate Index;

COA1 - ICE BofA AAA US Corporate Index;

COA2 - ICE BofA AA US Corporate Index;

COA3 - ICE BofA Single-A US Corporate Index;

COA4 - ICE BofA BBB US Corporate Index;

C4NF - ICE BofA BBB US Non-Financial Corporate Index;

ER00 - ICE BofA Euro Corporate Index;

ER10 - ICE BofA AAA Euro Corporate Index;

ER20 - ICE BofA AA Euro Corporate Index:

ER30 - ICE BofA Single-A Euro Corporate Index:

ER40 - ICE BofA BBB Euro Corporate Index:

EN40 - ICE BofA BBB Euro Non-Financial Index:

G402 - ICE BofA 7-10 Year US Treasury Index

G4L0 - ICE BofA 7-10 Year UK Gilt Index

G4D0 - ICE BofA 7-10 Year German Government Index;

EMCL - ICE BofA US Emerging Markets Liquid Corporate Plus Index.

S&P 500 - The Standard & Poor's 500 Index (S&P 500) is an index of 500 stocks seen as a leading indicator of U.S. equities and a reflection of the performance of the large cap universe, made up of companies selected by economists. DAX - The German Stock Index is a total return index of 30 selected German blue chip stocks traded on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. The equities use free float shares in the index calculation.

CS Leveraged Loan Index - The CS Leveraged Loan Index is designed to mirror the investable universe of US dollar denominated leveraged loan market. The index is rebalanced monthly on the last business day of the month instead of daily. Qualifying loans must have a minimum outstanding balance of \$100 million for all facilities except TL A facilities (TL A facilities need a minimum outstanding balance of US\$1 billion), issuers domiciled in developed countries, at least one year long tenor, be rated "5B" or lower, fully funded and priced by a third party vendor at month-end.

CS Western European Leveraged Loan Index - The CS Western European Leveraged Loan Index is designed to mirror the investable universe of the Western European leveraged loan market. Loans denominated in US dollar or Western European Currencies are eligible for inclusion. The index is rebalanced monthly on the last business day of the month instead of daily. Qualifying loans must have minimum outstanding balance of \$100 million (in local currency), issuers with assets located in or revenues derived from Western Europe, at least one year long tenor, be rated "5B" or lower, fully funded and priced by a third party vendor at month-end.

All performance, duration, yield and spread data downloaded from Bloomberg. Markit iBoxx USD Leveraged Loan (IBOXLTRI), S&P 500 incl. Dividends, and DAX figures from Bloomberg. You cannot invest directly into an index.

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Muzinich & Co. Corporate Credit Snapshot | February 2024



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