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Credit market outlook: A default cycle has started, but credit spreads remain tight

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Unless otherwise noted, information as of November 2023.

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Thematic credit investing

- 1. Up in quality: With the Fed keeping rates higher for longer, higher debt costs will continue to weigh on earnings and interest coverage ratios over the coming quarters, and both IG and HY companies will experience higher refinancing costs.
- **2. Large cap:** A default cycle has started with bankruptcy filings rising, and default rates will continue to rise over the coming quarters, impacting in particular middle market companies.
- 3. Lend to firms with low leverage and high interest coverage ratios: Lagged effects of monetary policy are slowing consumer credit growth with auto and credit card delinquencies rising and bank lending conditions tightening, leading to a significant slowing of loan growth impacting consumers and firms with weak balance sheets.

Source: Apollo Chief Economist

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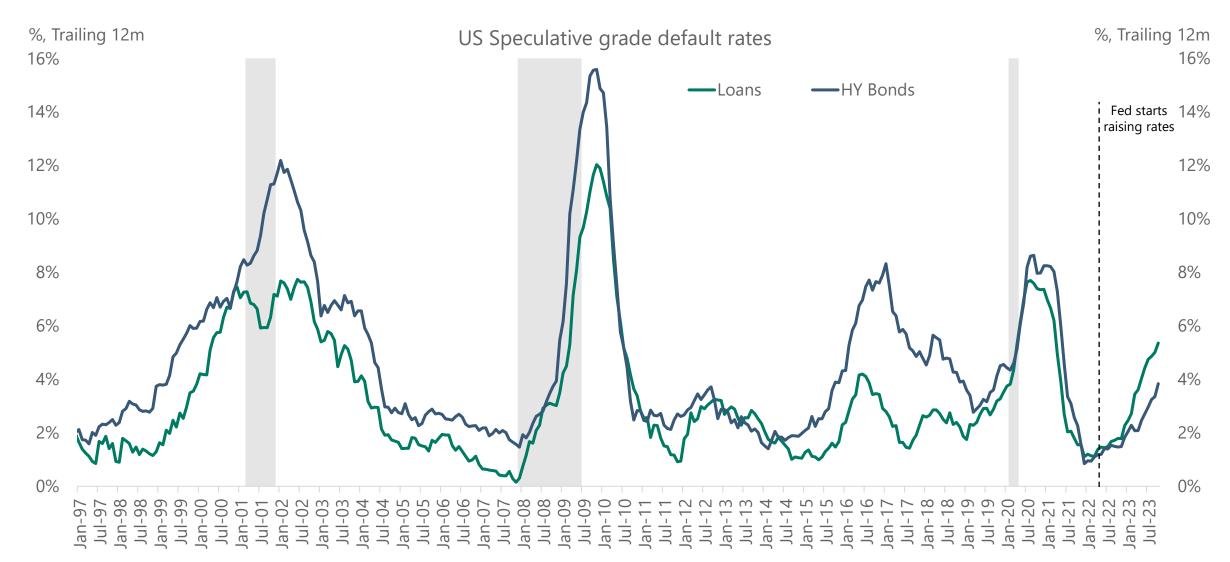
- 1. A default cycle has started
- 2. Yield levels
- 3. Spread levels
- 4. New issuance
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- 12. China HY

Source: Apollo Chief Economist 4

A default cycle has started

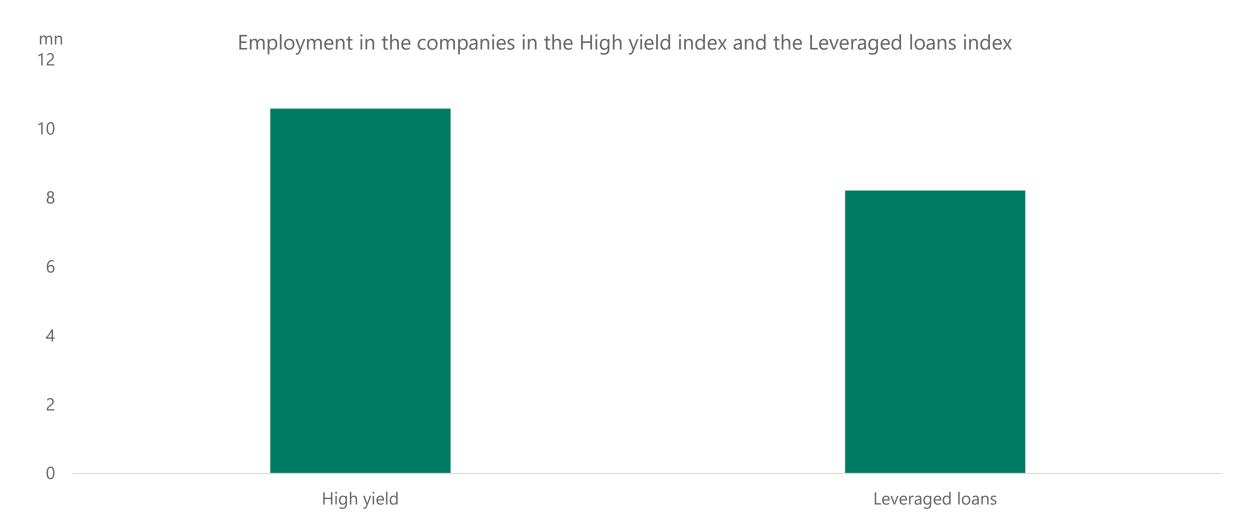


A default cycle has started

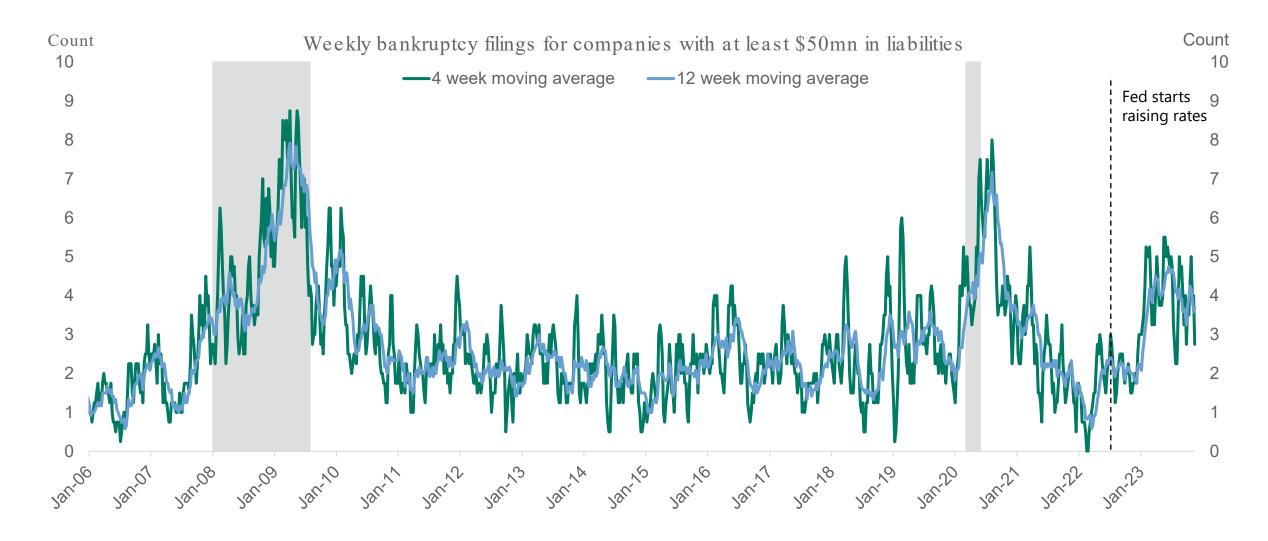


Source: Moody's Analytics, Apollo Chief Economist

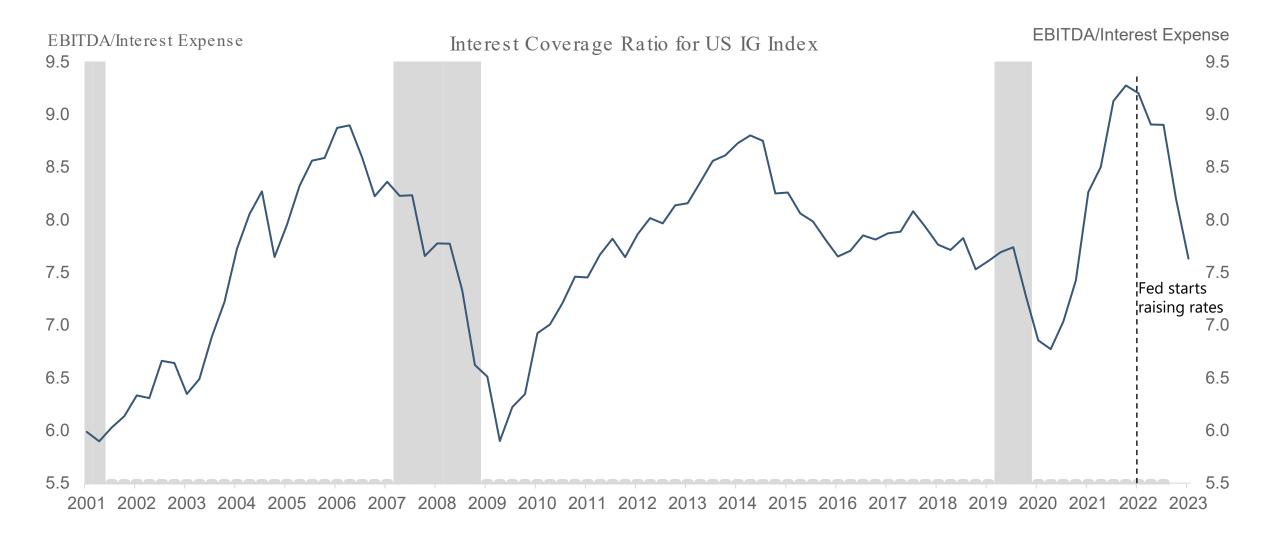
Total employment in the US high yield index: 11 million; total employment in the leveraged loans index: 8 million



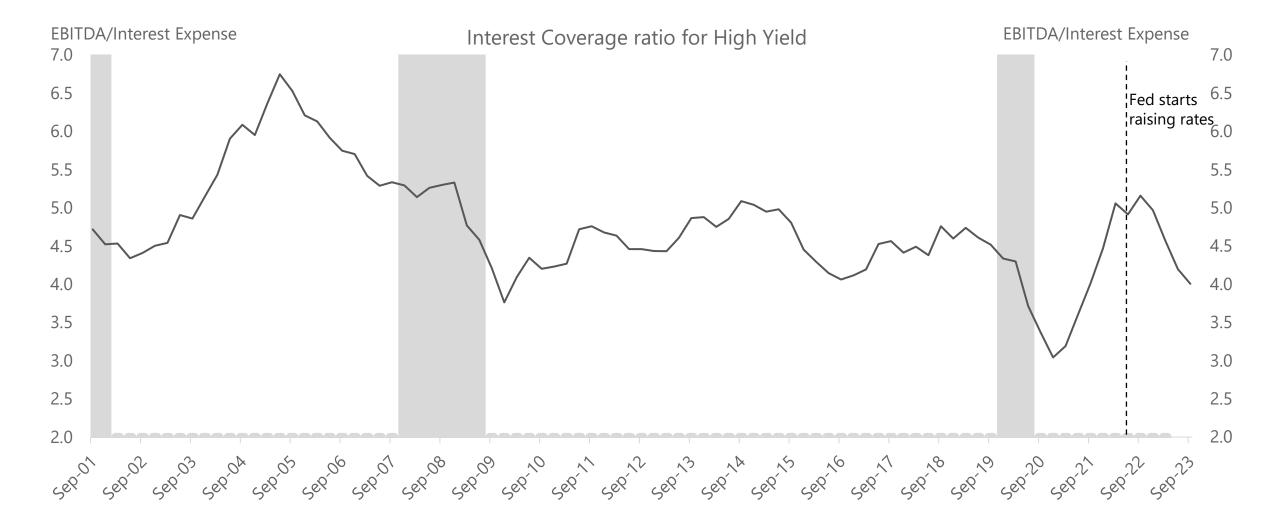
Weekly bankruptcy filings high because of Fed hikes



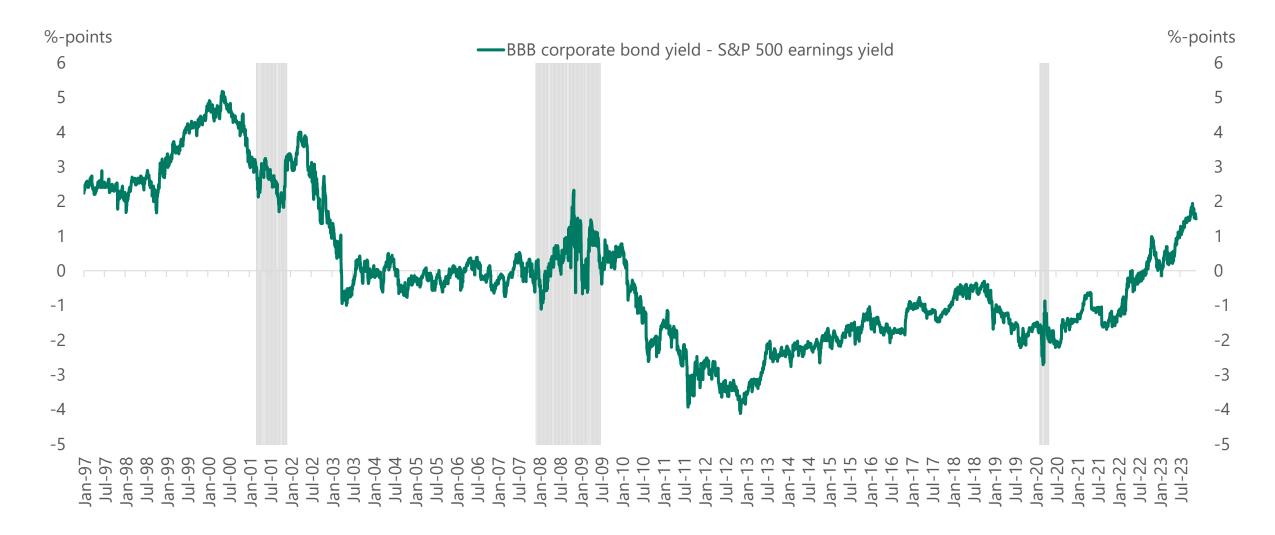
IG ICR coming down



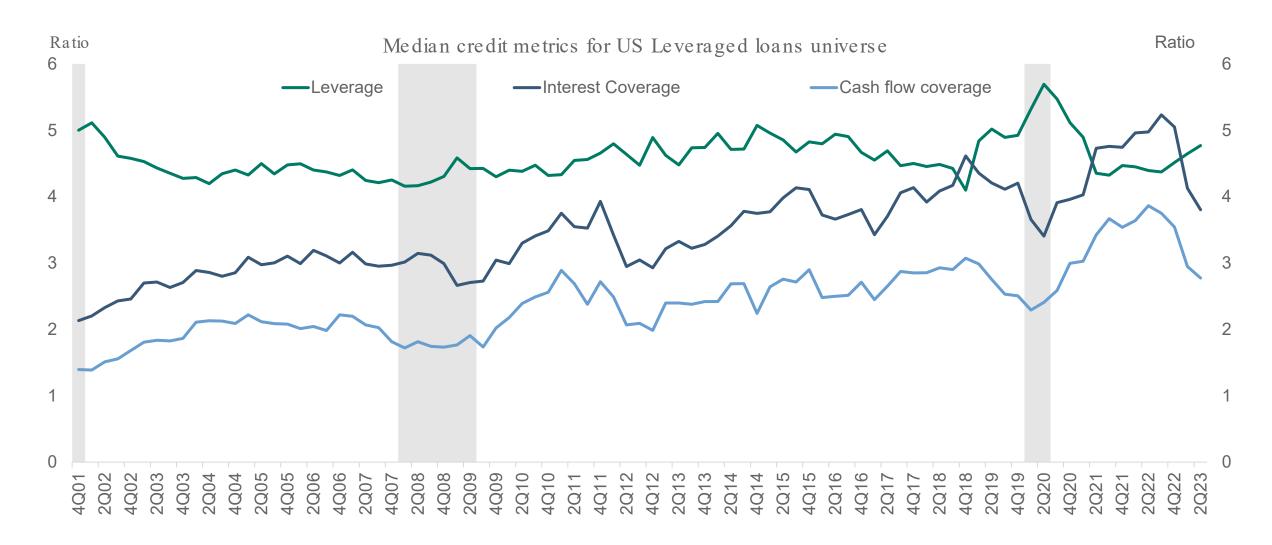
HY ICR coming down



Bonds more attractive than equities

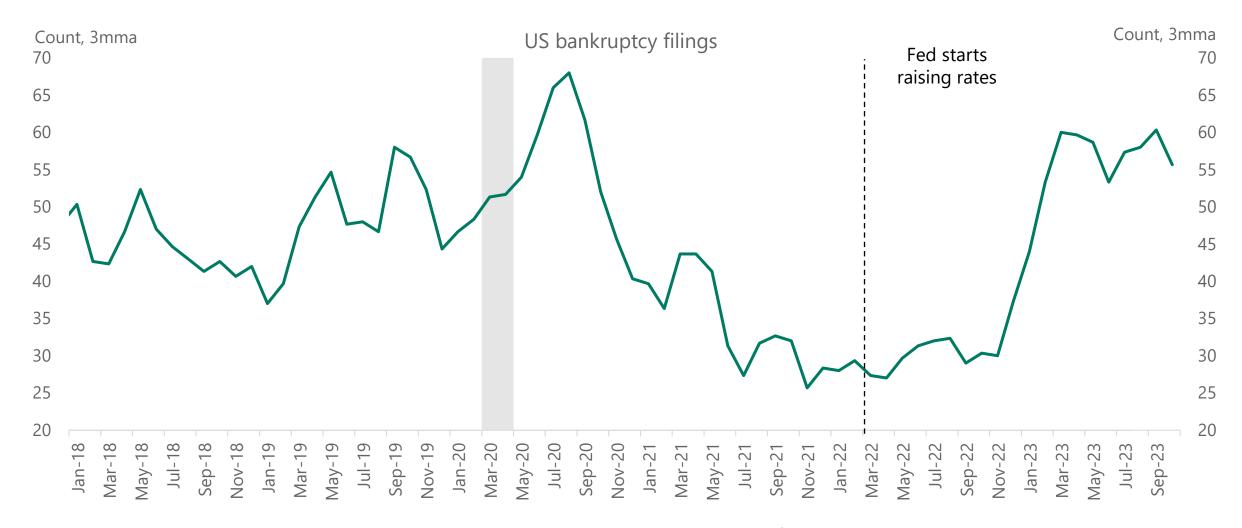


Credit metrics for leveraged loan deals: ICR and cash flow down. Leverage up.

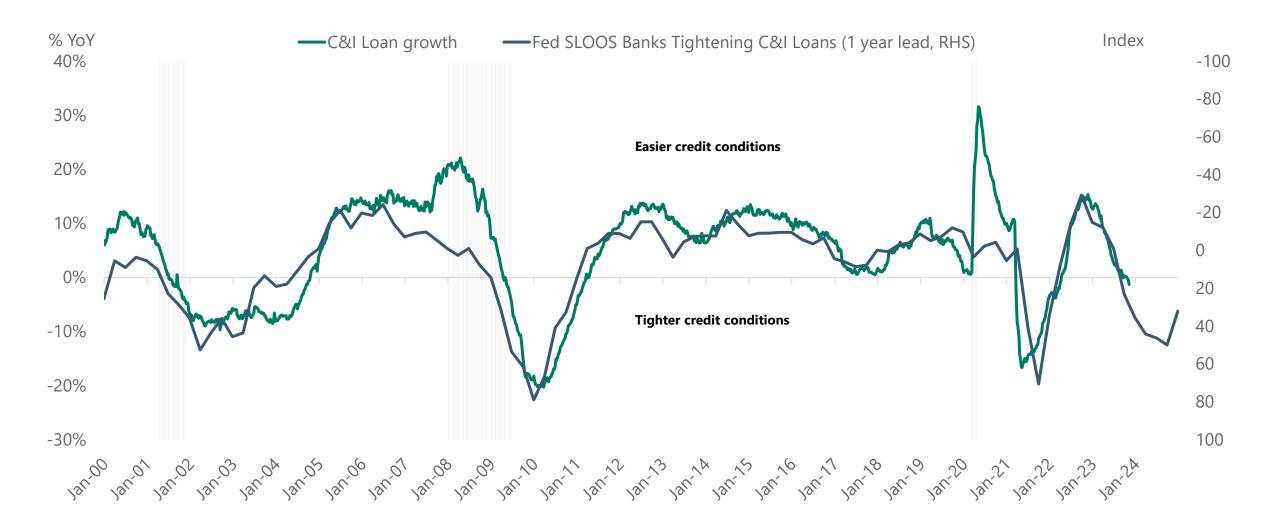


Source: Pitchbook LCD, Apollo Chief Economist

Fed hikes pushing bankruptcy filings higher

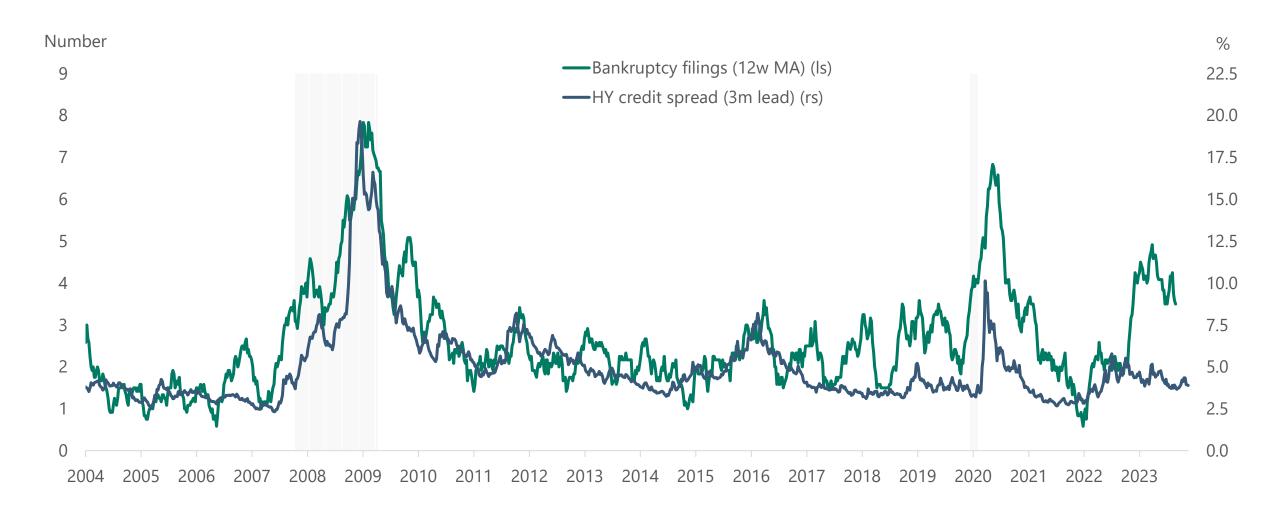


Bank lending likely to shrink over the coming quarters

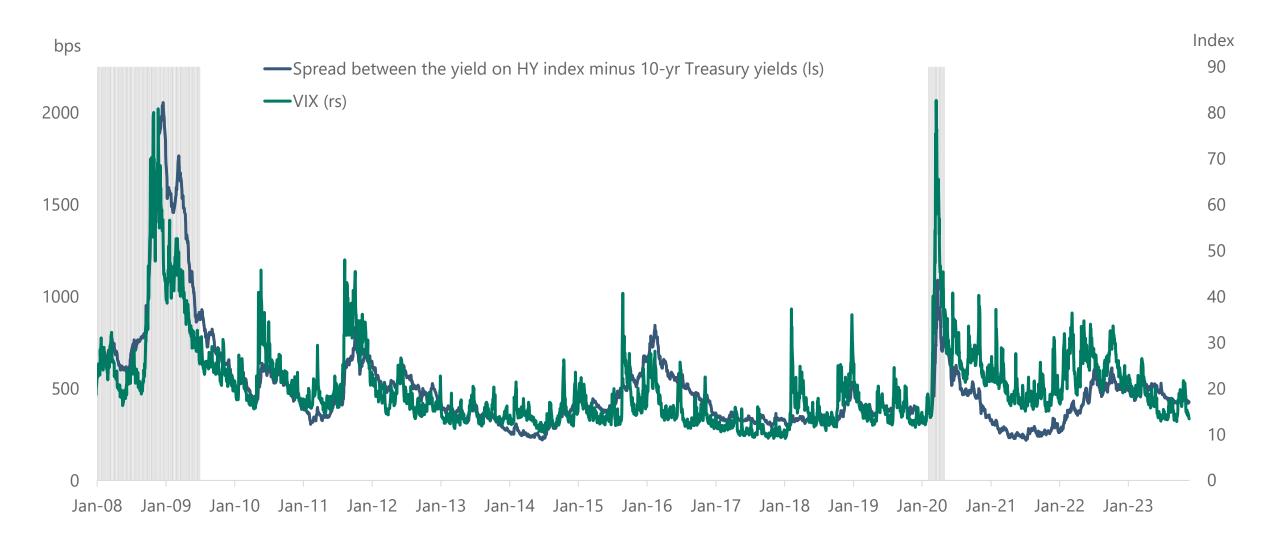


Source: FRB, Haver Analytics, Apollo Chief Economist

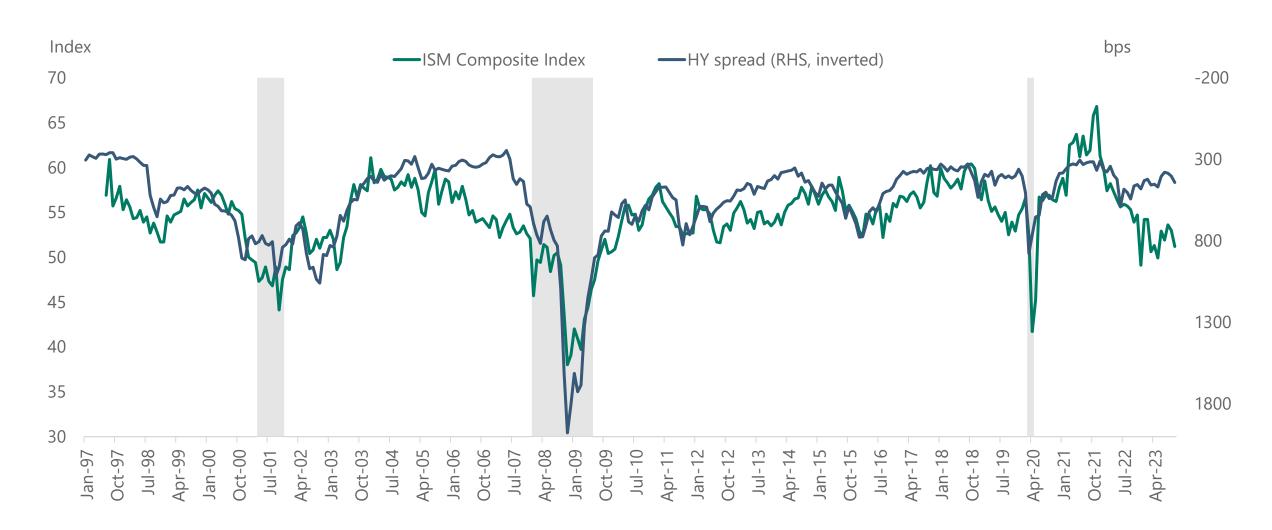
Disconnect between bankruptcy filings and credit spreads



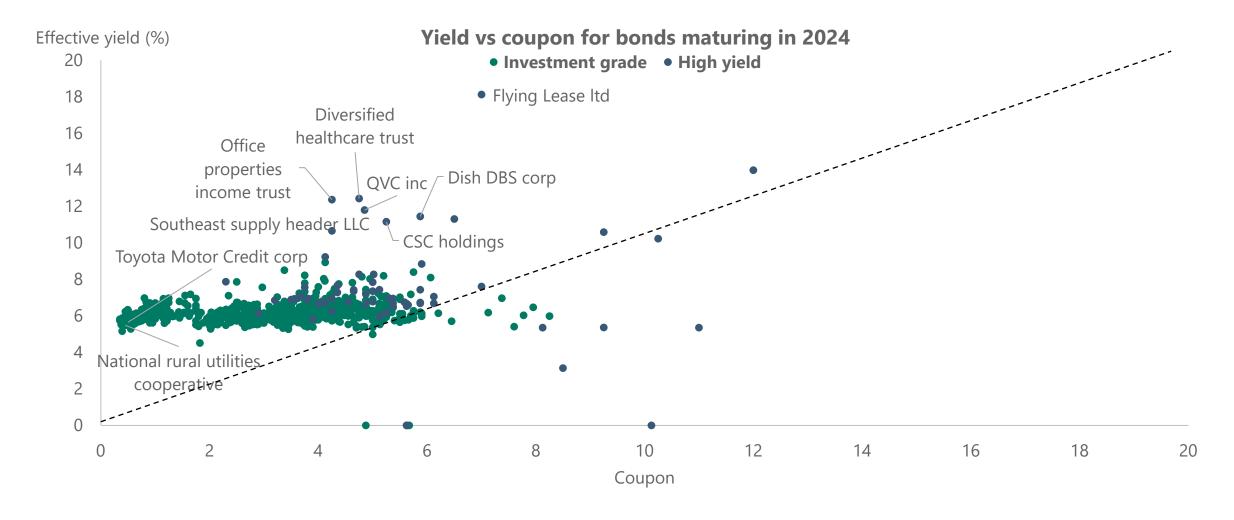
HY credit spreads and VIX tend to move closely together



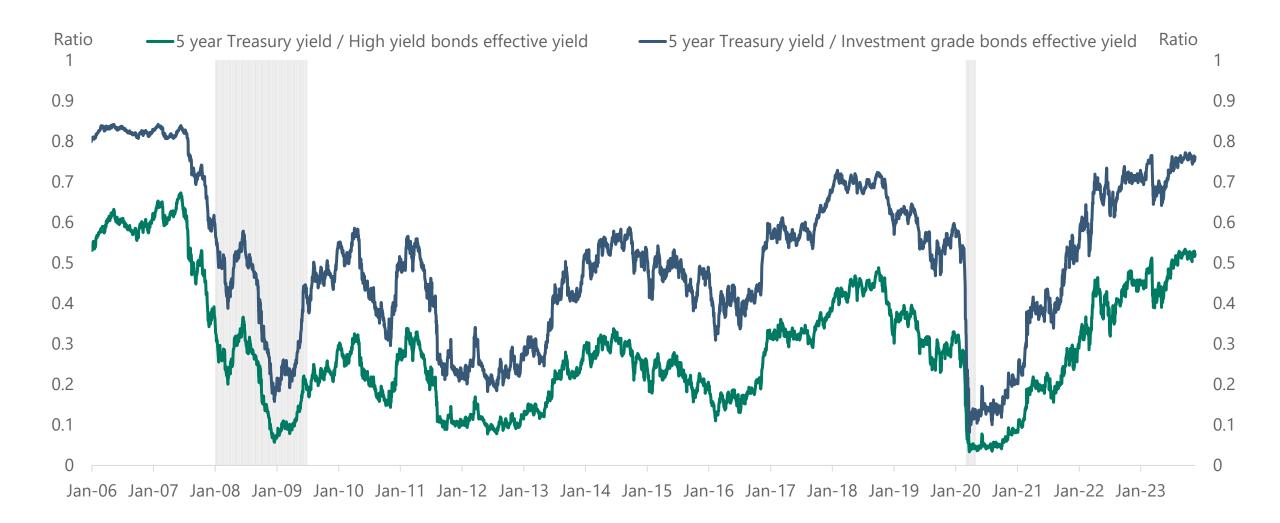
Disconnect between spreads and economic activity



Comparing coupons and effective yields for IG and HY bonds maturing in 2024



Rise in yields due to rising risk free rates

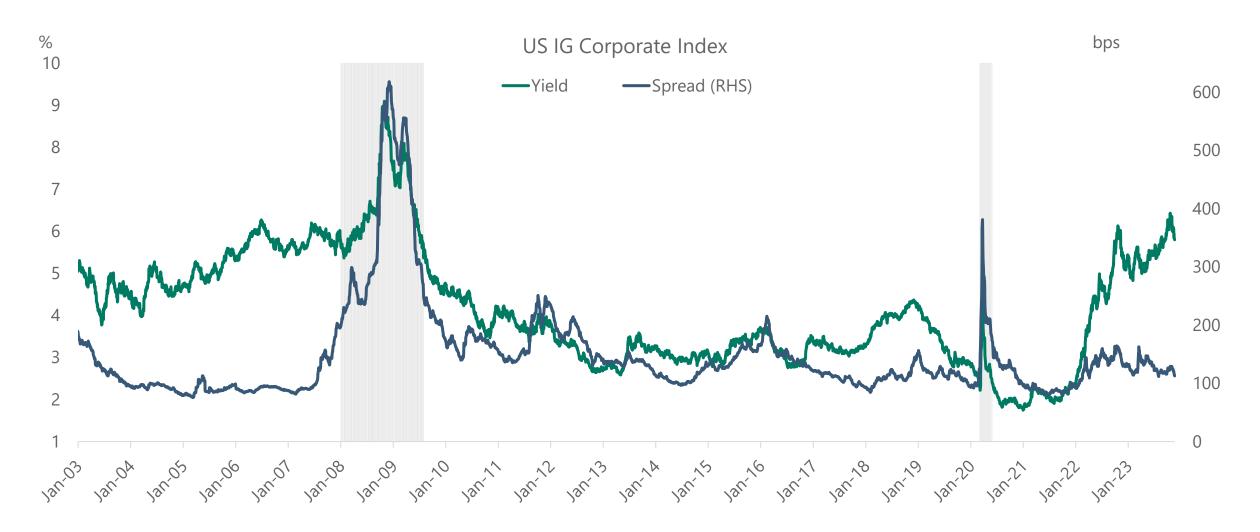


Source: ICE BofA, Haver Analytics, Apollo Chief Economist

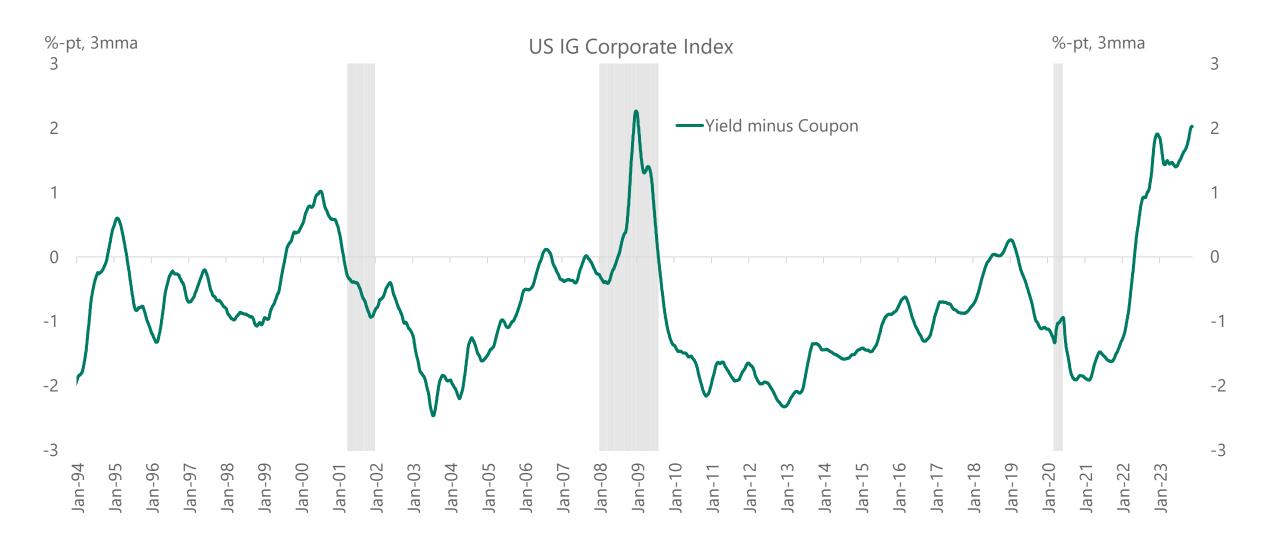
HY and IG implied volatility



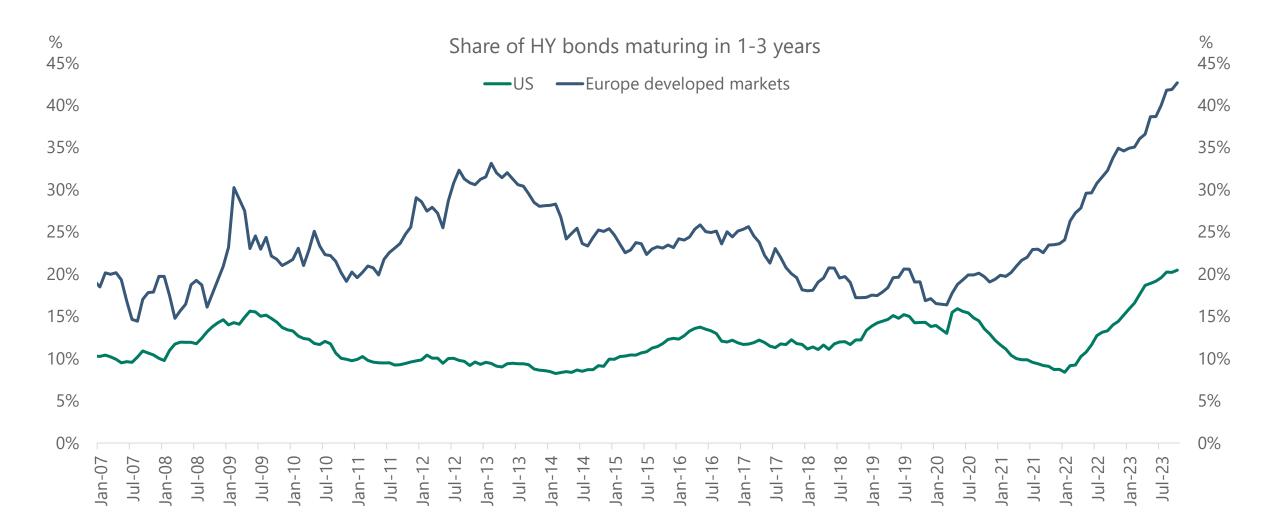
Disconnect between yield and spreads



The yield on the IG corporate bond index is 2%-point higher than coupon rate



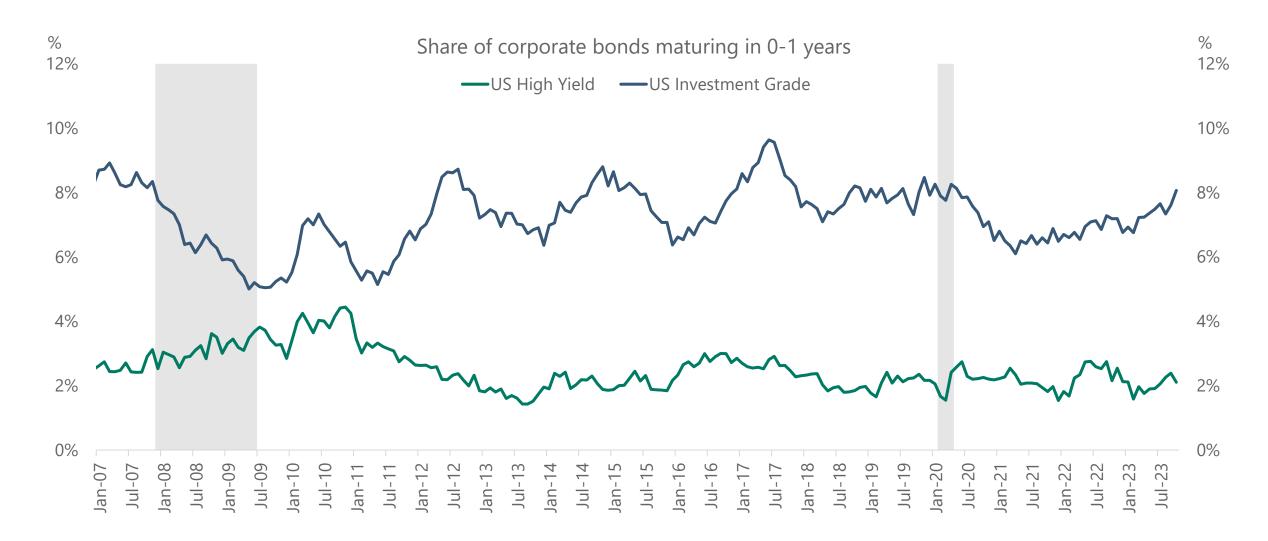
Share of high yield bonds maturing in 3 years rising



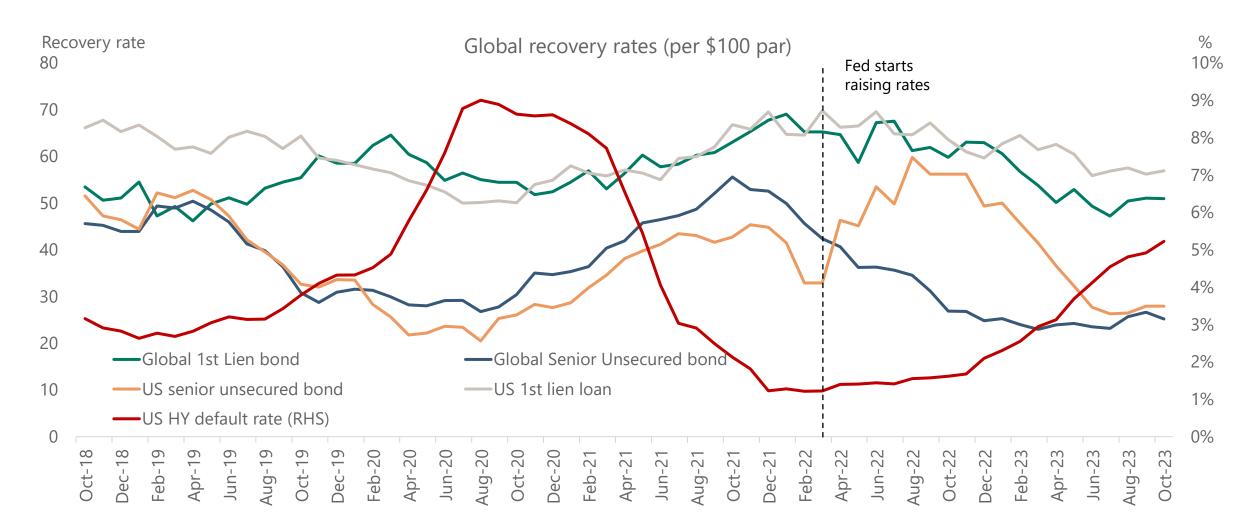
Share of IG corporate bonds maturing in 3 years



US corporate bonds maturing within a year



Recovery rates

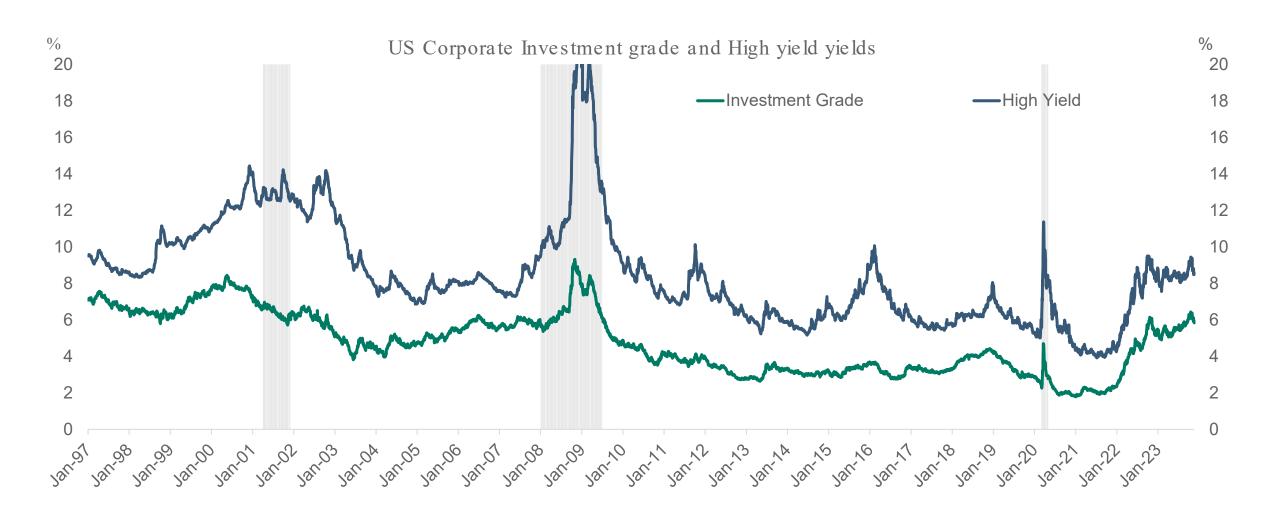


Source: Moody's Analytics, Apollo Chief Economist

Yield levels

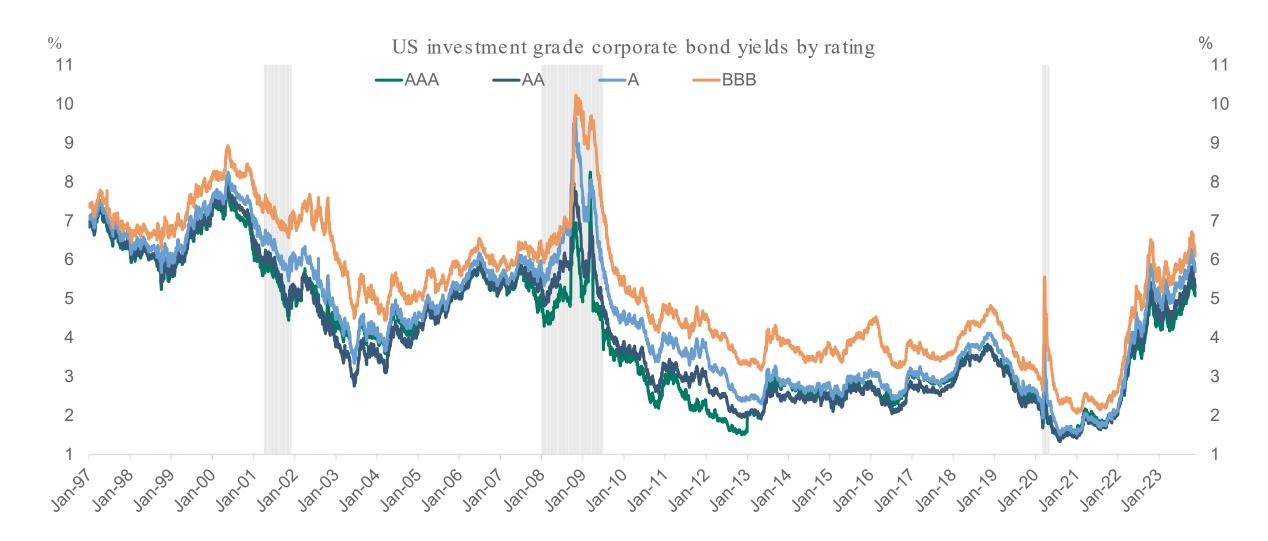


US IG yield around 6.8% and HY yield around 8.5%



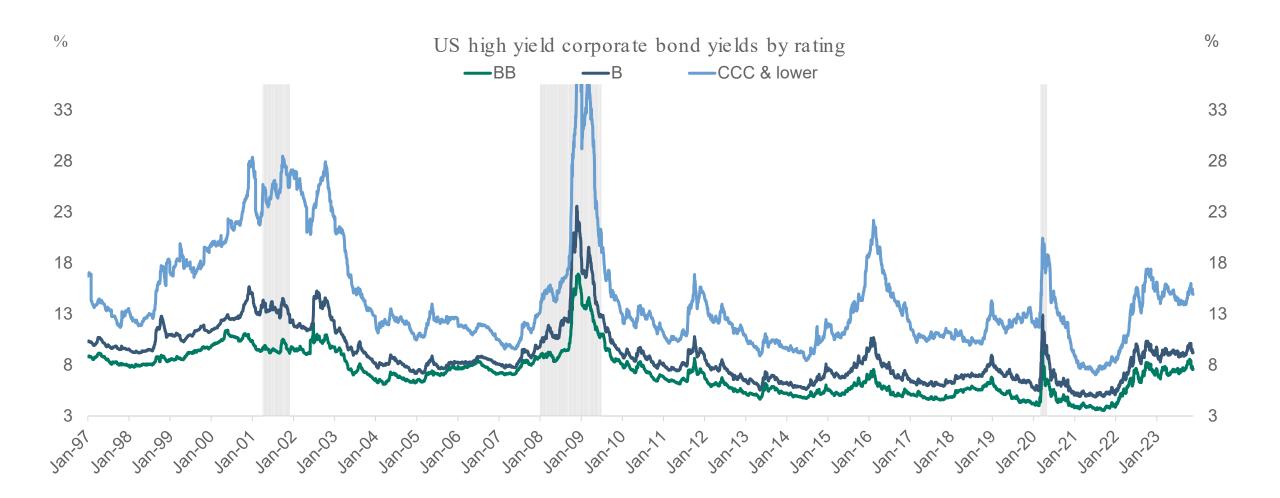
Source: ICE BofA, Haver Analytics, Apollo Chief Economist.

US IG yield levels, by rating



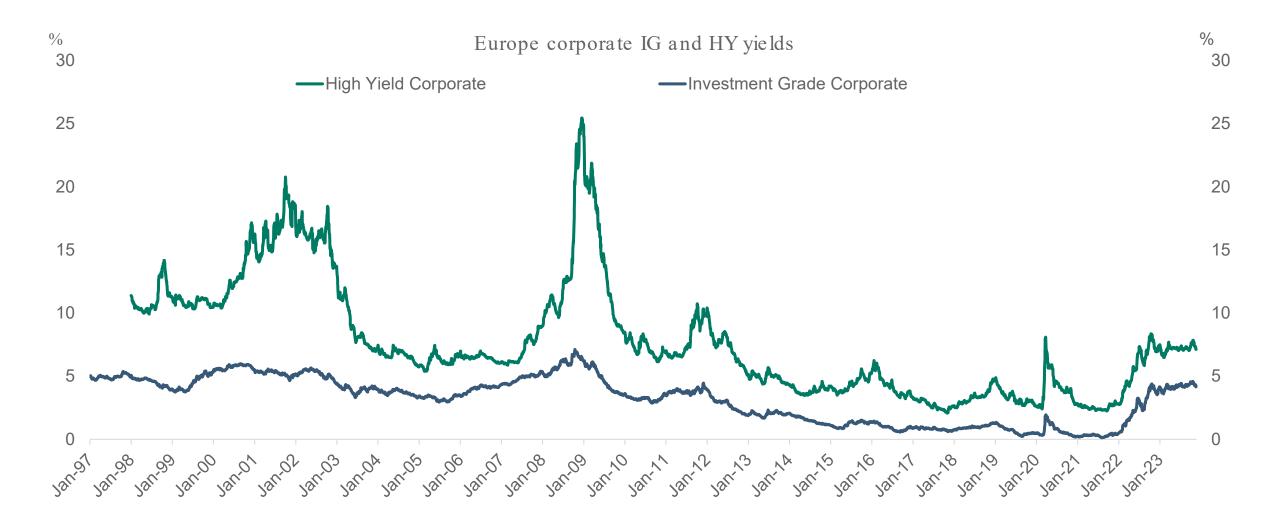
Source: ICE BofA, Haver Analytics, Apollo Chief Economist

US HY yield levels, by rating

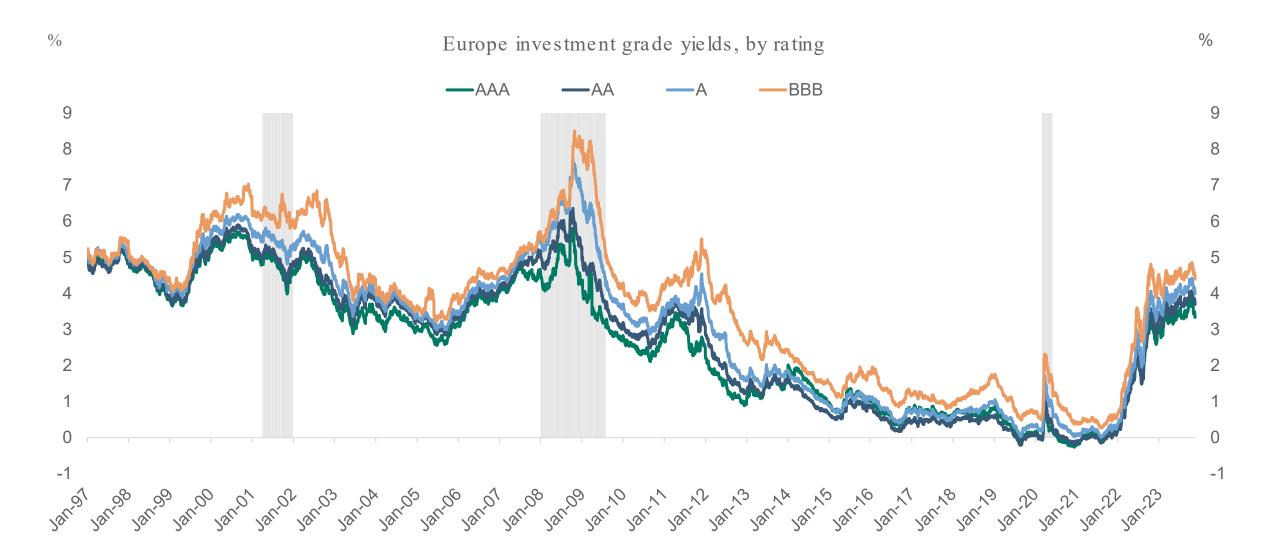


Source: ICE BofA, Haver Analytics, Apollo Chief Economist

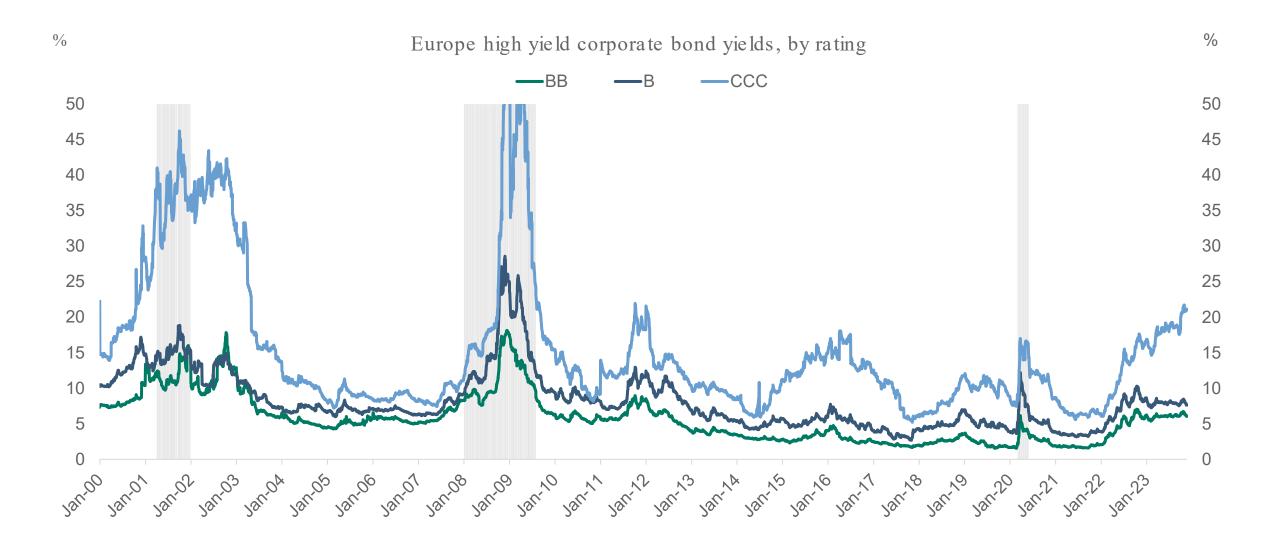
European corporate IG and HY yields



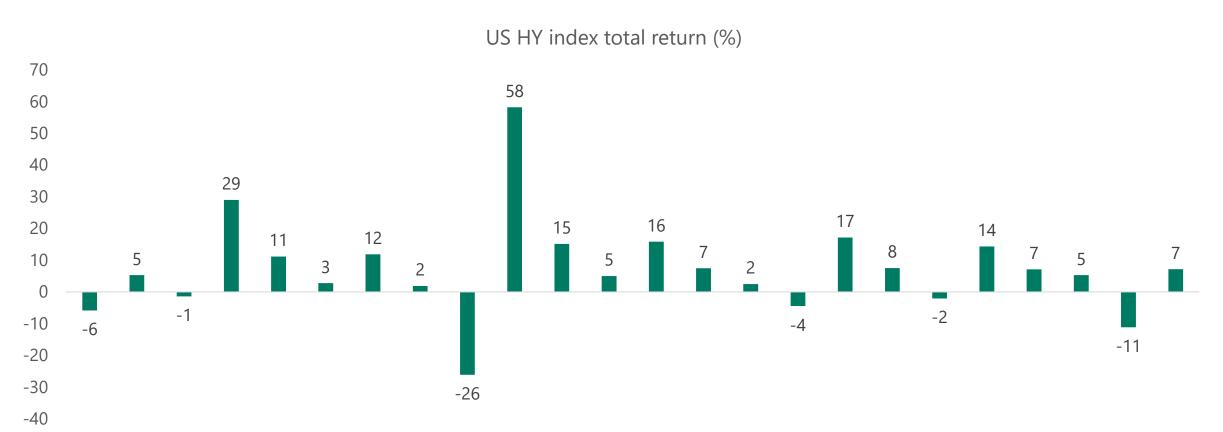
European IG yield levels, by rating



European HY yield levels, by rating

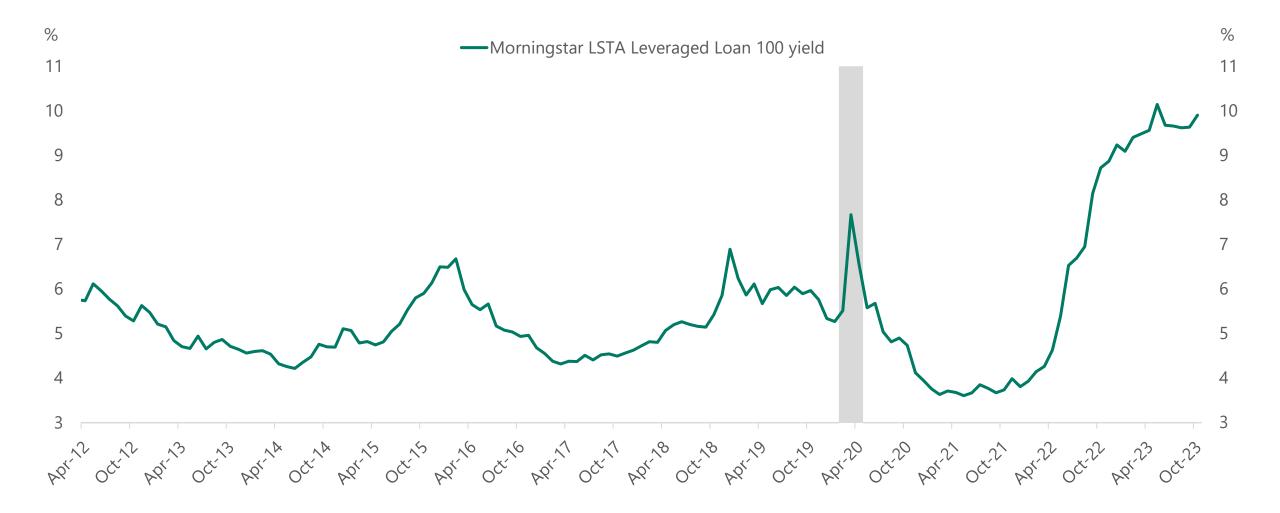


Annual returns for HY



2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 YTD

Yield for the leveraged loan index: 9.9%

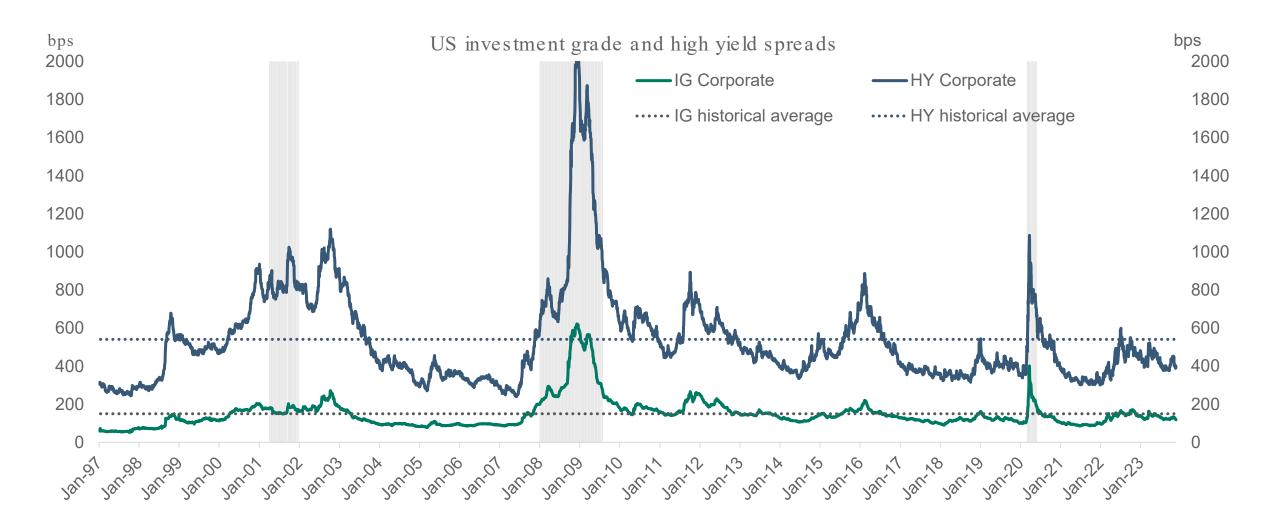


Source: Pitchbook LCD, Apollo Chief Economist

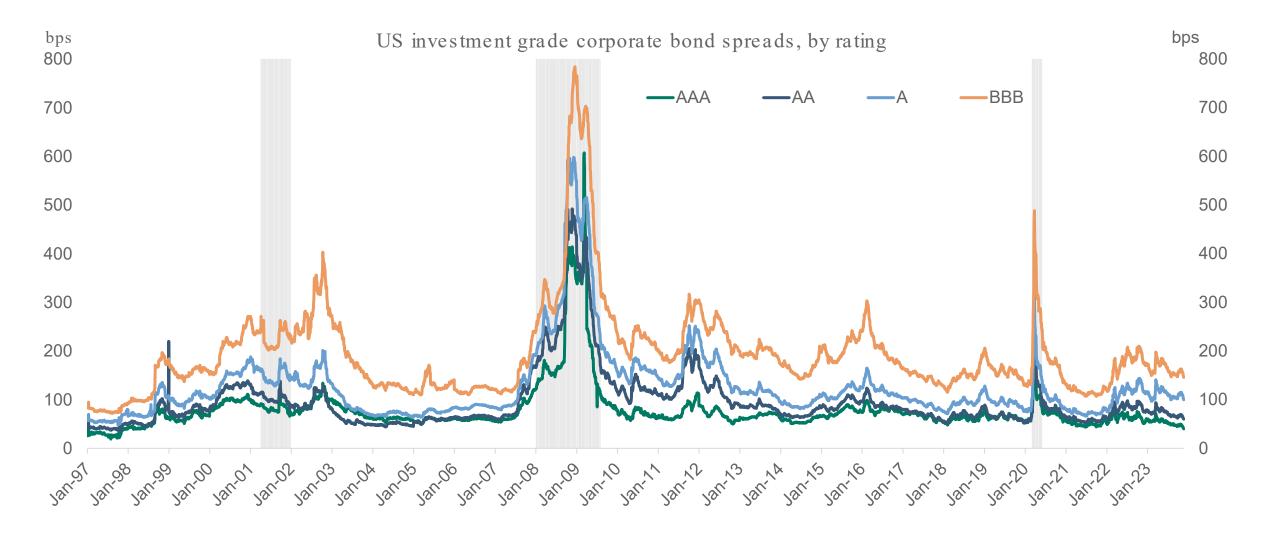
Spread levels



Credit spreads not pricing in a recession



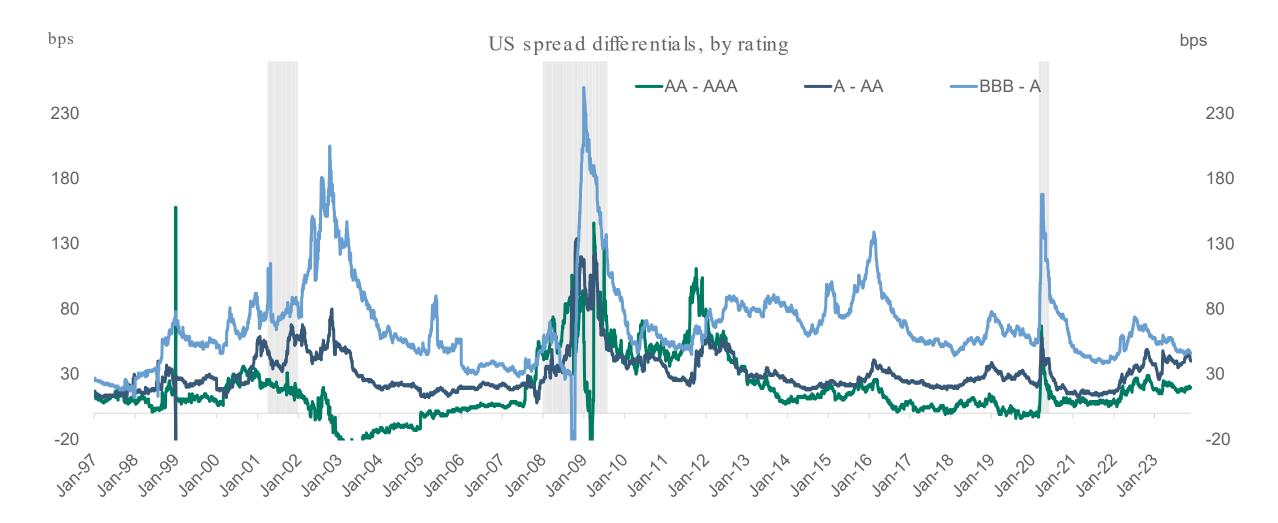
IG spreads by rating



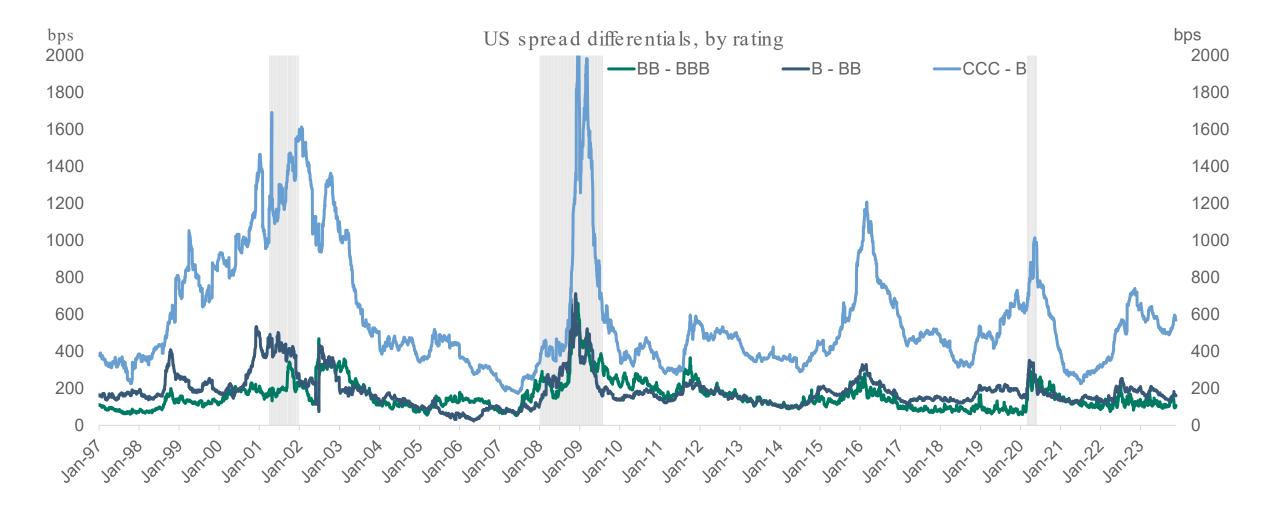
HY spreads by rating



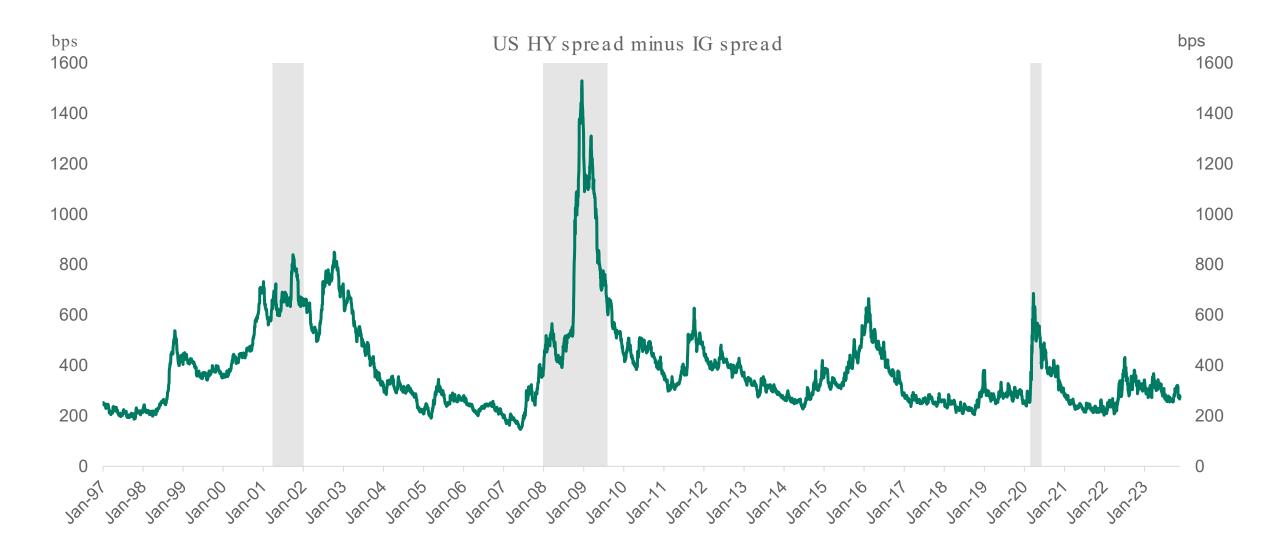
IG quality spreads, some differentiation between single-A and double-AA



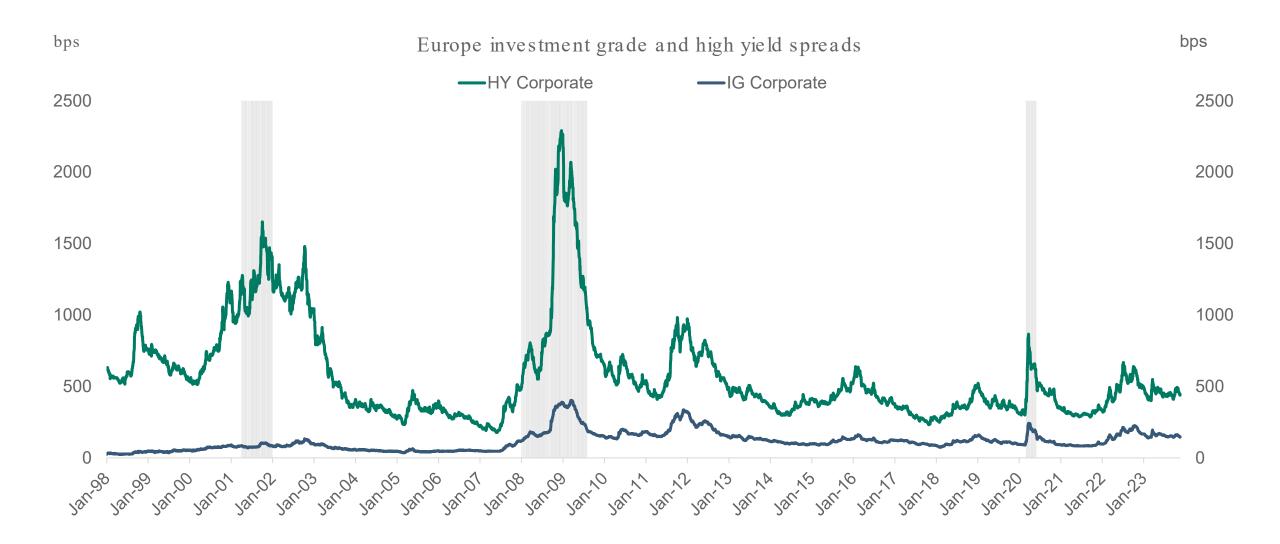
HY quality spreads, more differentiation between CCC and single-B



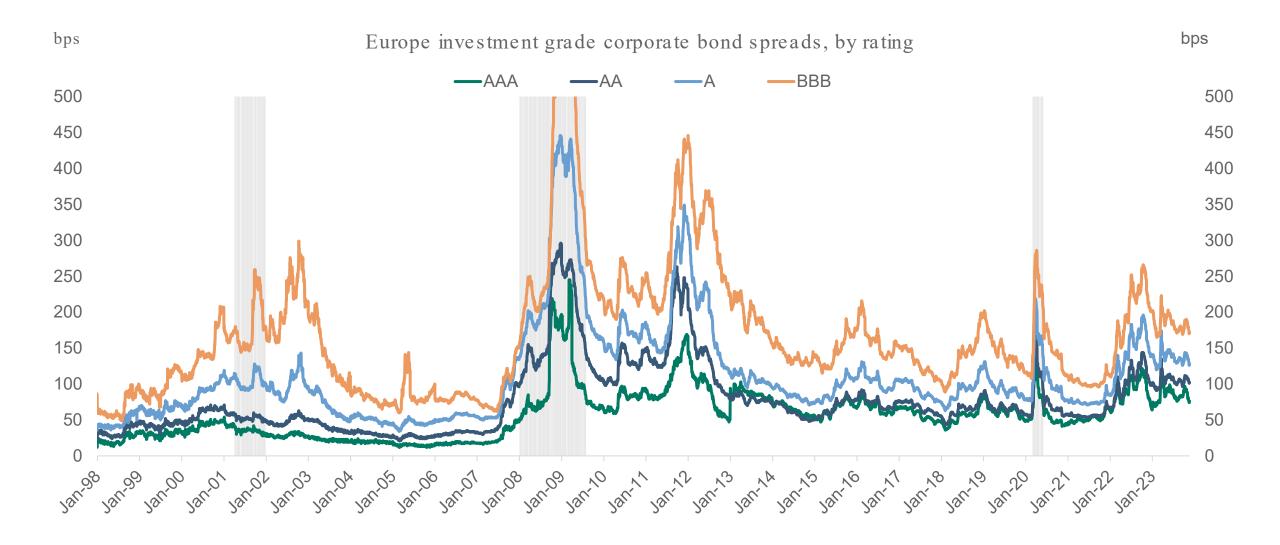
US HY spread minus IG spread



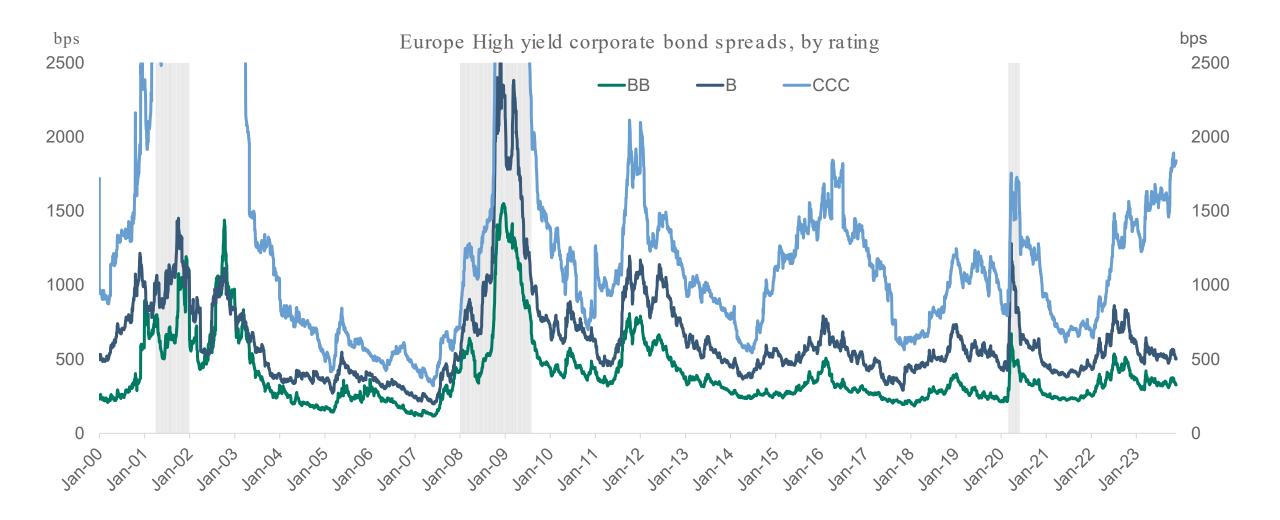
European IG and HY spreads



European IG spreads by rating



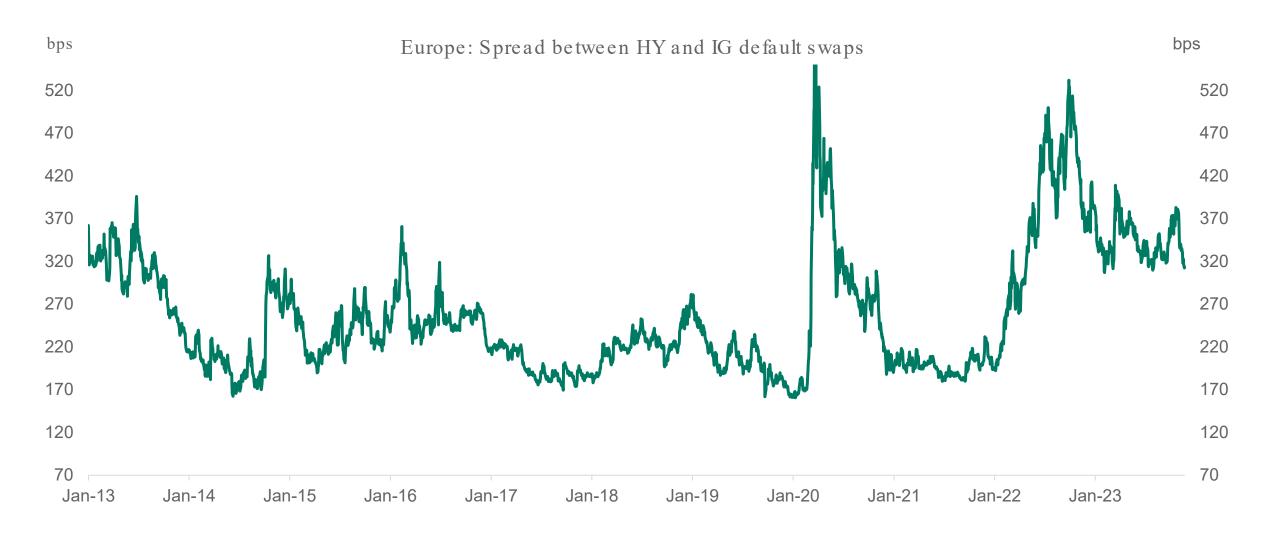
European HY spreads by rating



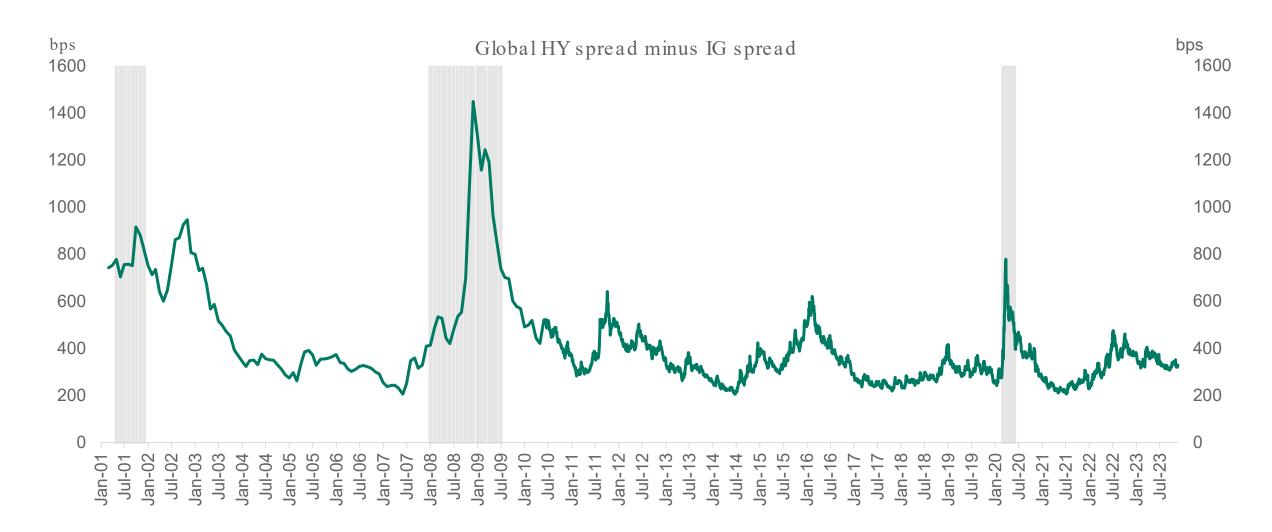
European HY spread minus IG spread



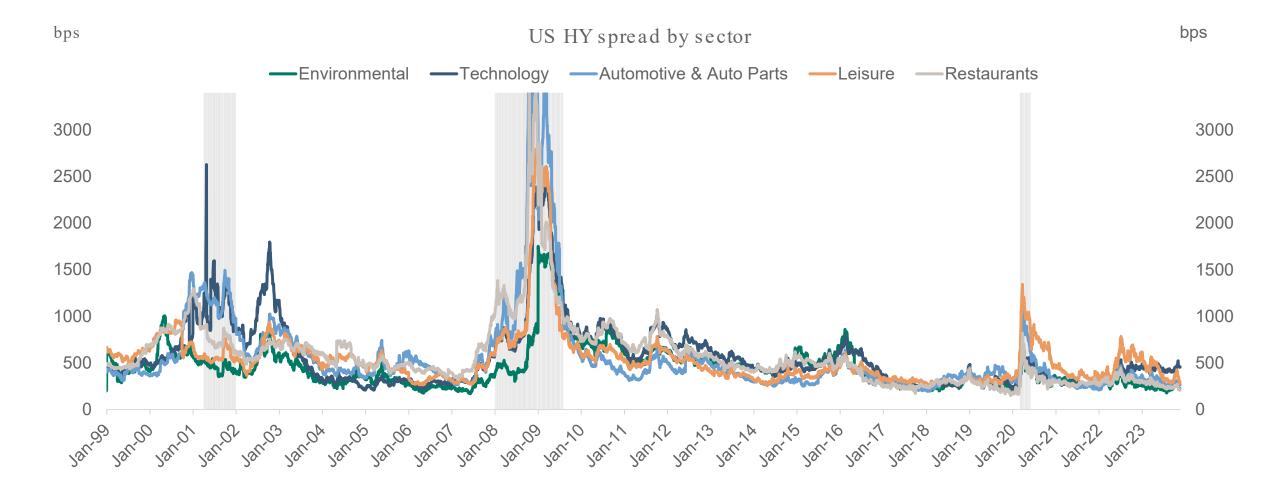
Spread between Europe HY and IG default swaps



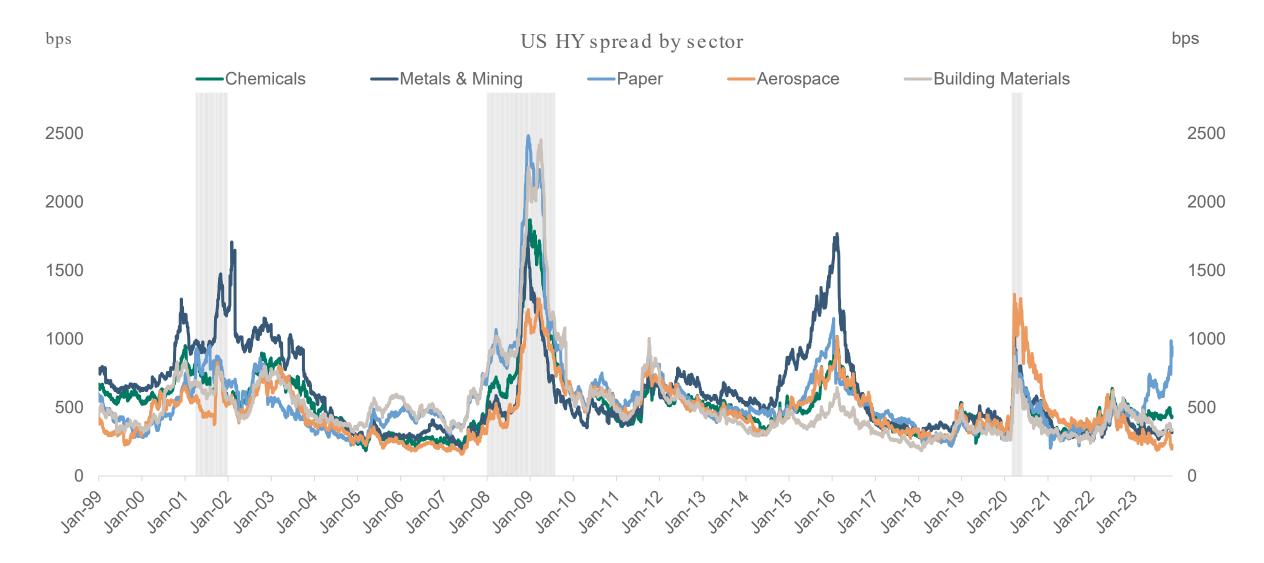
Global HY spread minus global IG spread



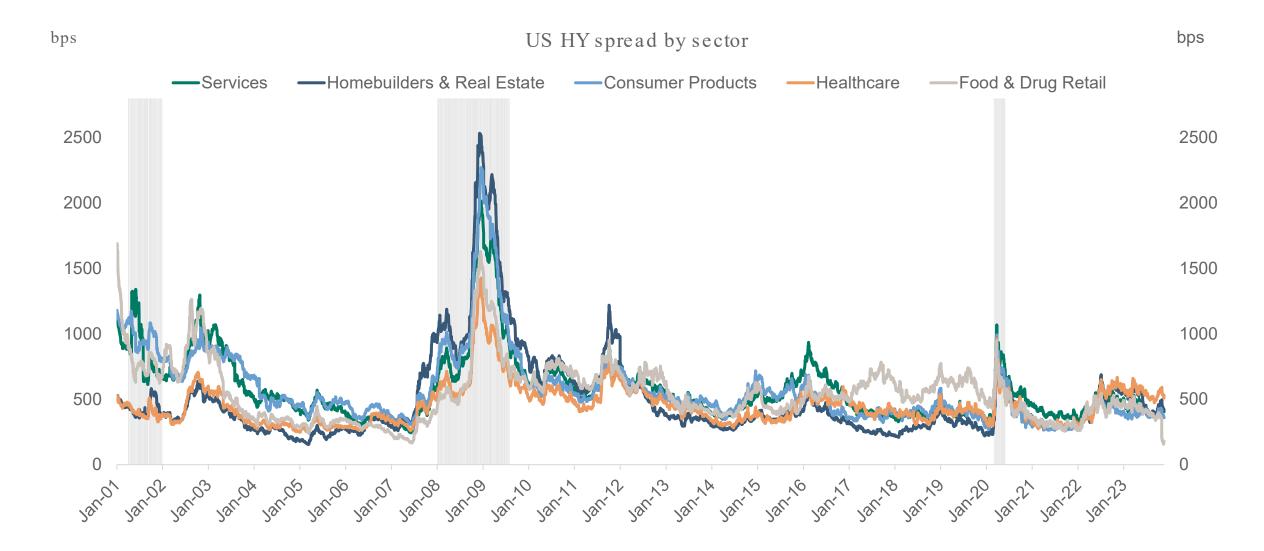
HY spreads by sector: Spread for tech remains wider



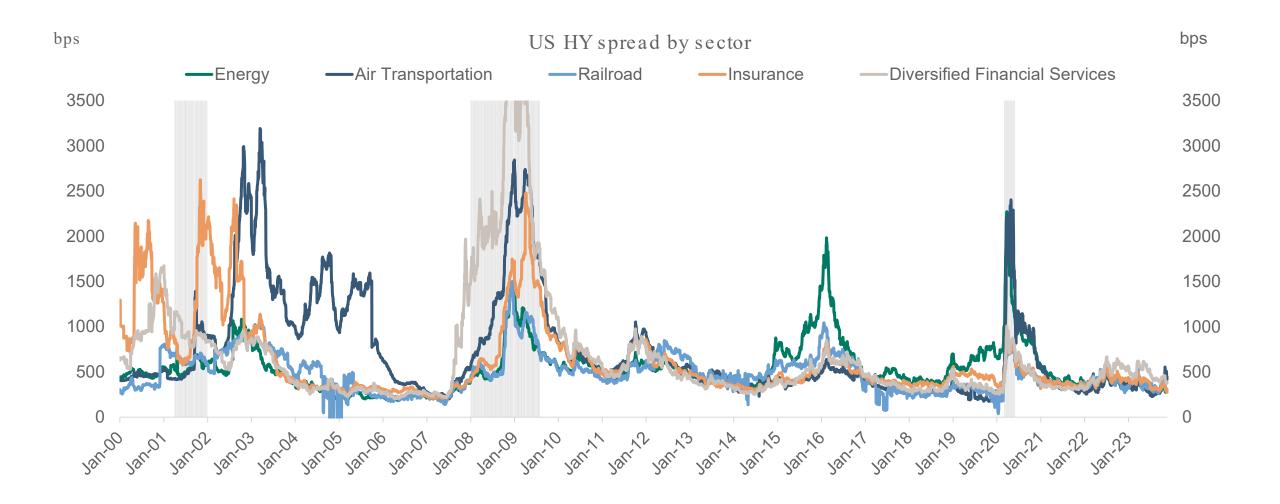
HY spreads by sector: Spread for paper has widened



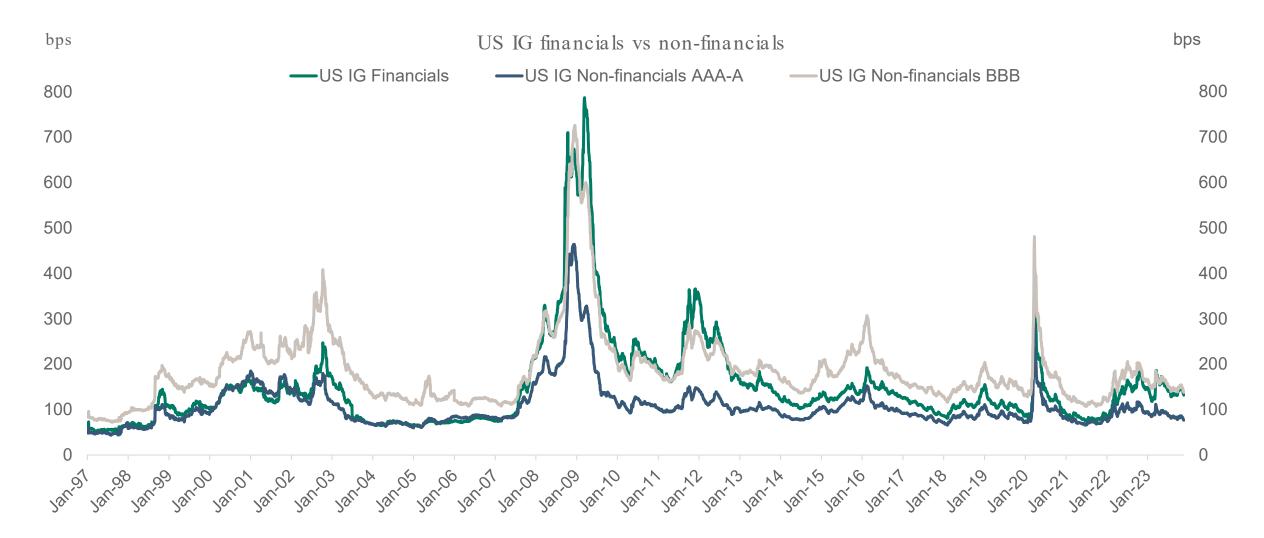
HY spreads by sector



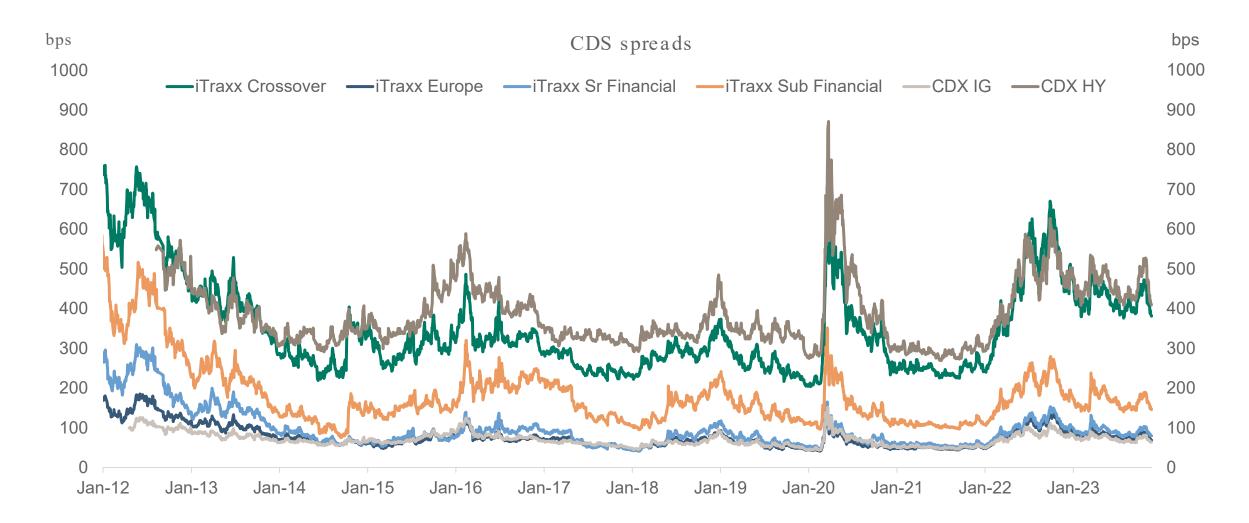
HY spreads by sector



IG spreads for financials and non-financials



CDS spreads



Source: Markit, Bloomberg, Apollo Chief Economist

Long-duration IG spreads in US and Europe

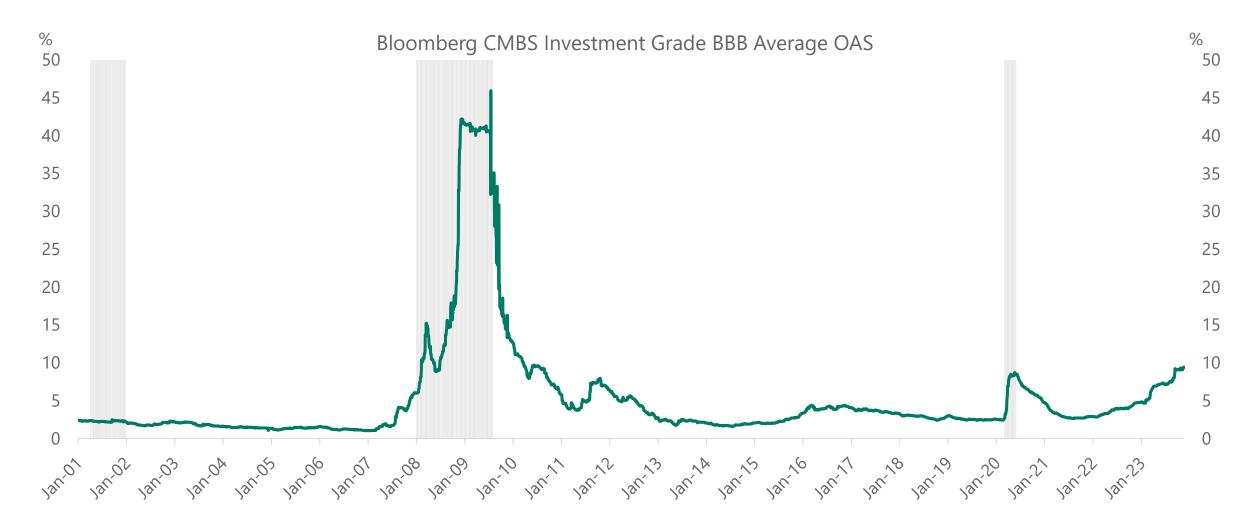


Divergence between and US and Europe lower rated junk bond spreads



Source: Bloomberg, Apollo Chief Economist 56

CMBS BBB spreads

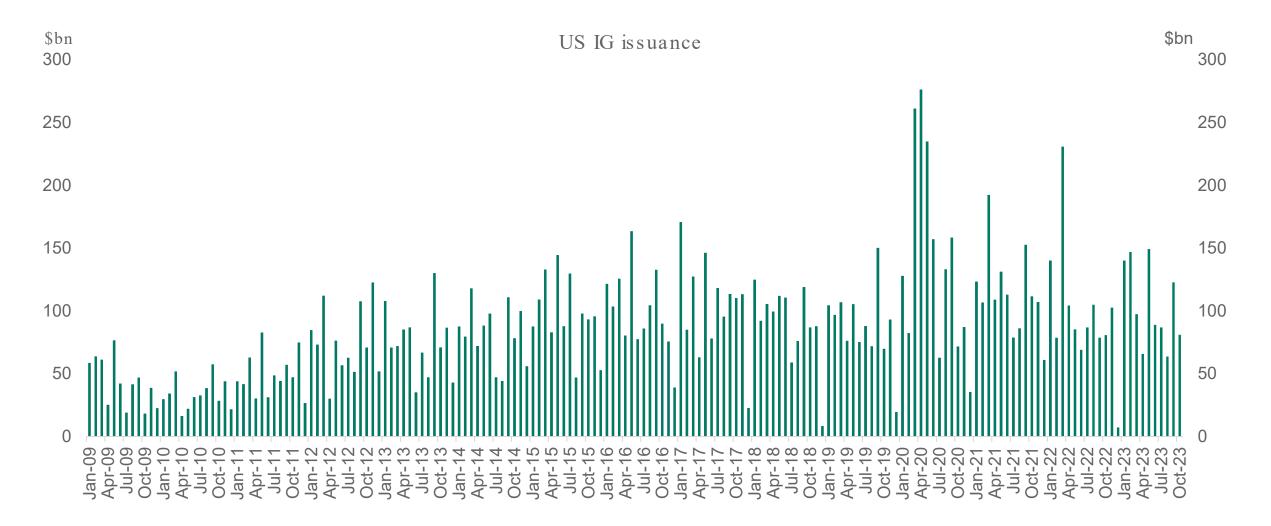


Source: Bloomberg, Apollo Chief Economist

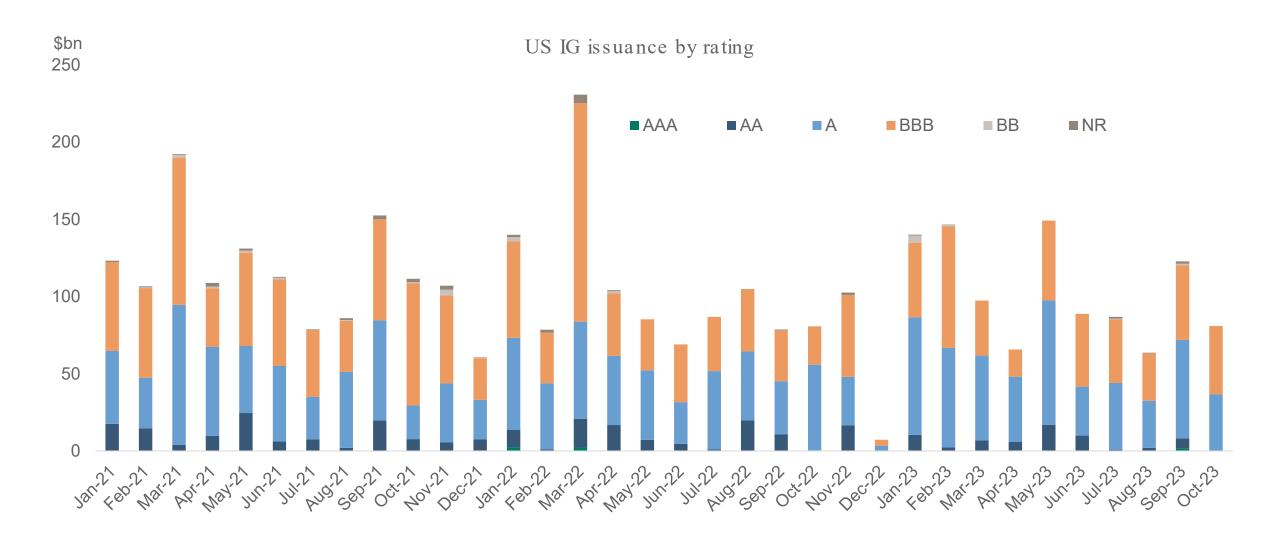
New issuance



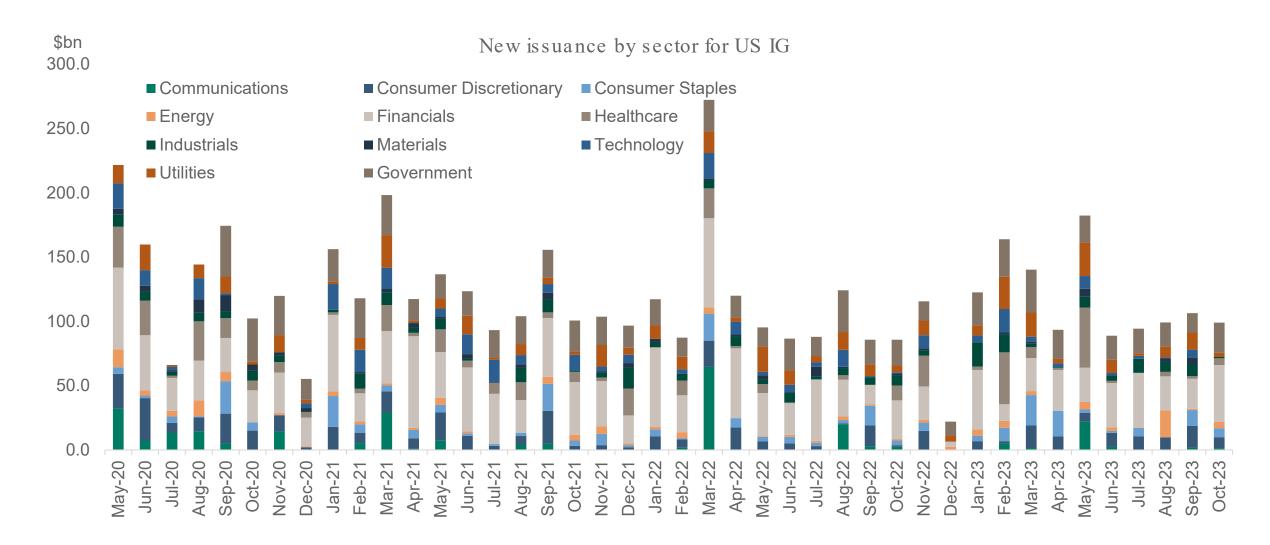
US IG issuance



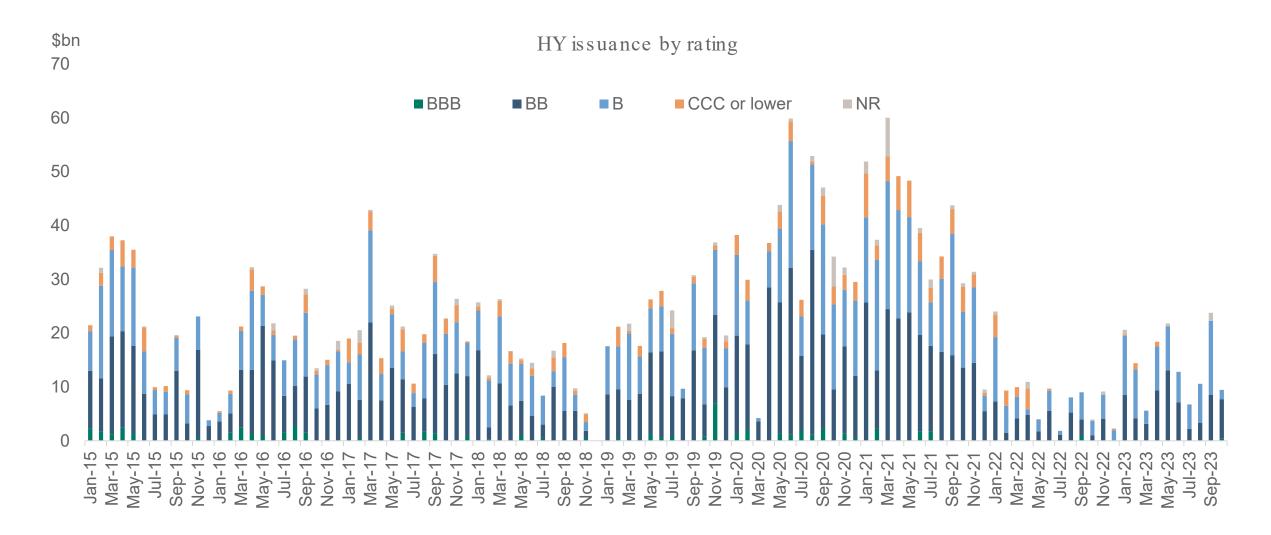
IG issuance by rating



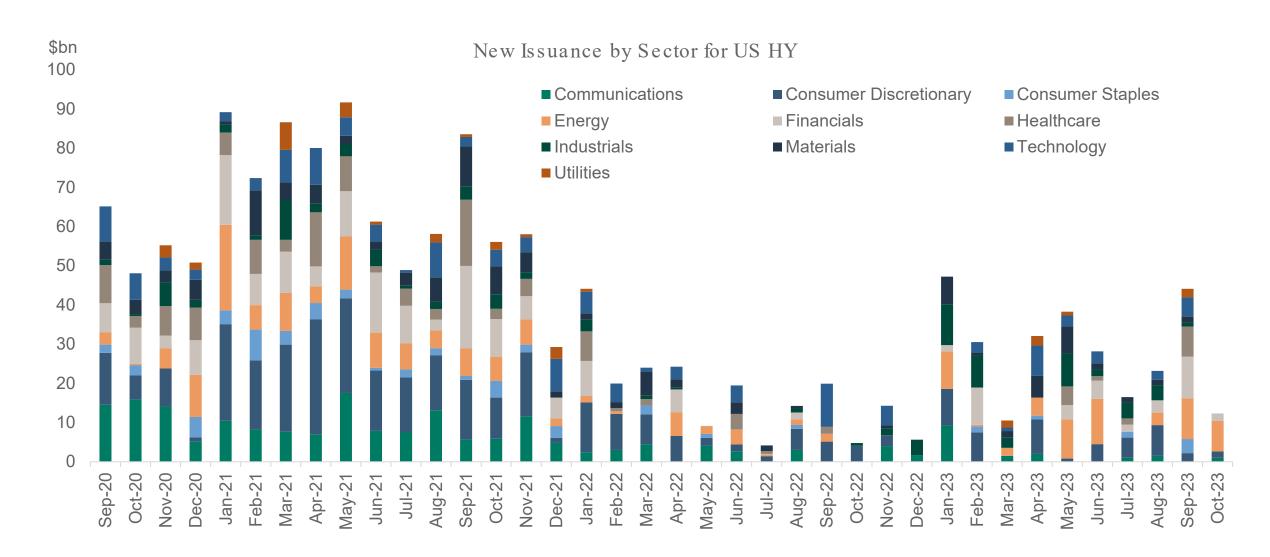
Sector distribution of new IG issuance



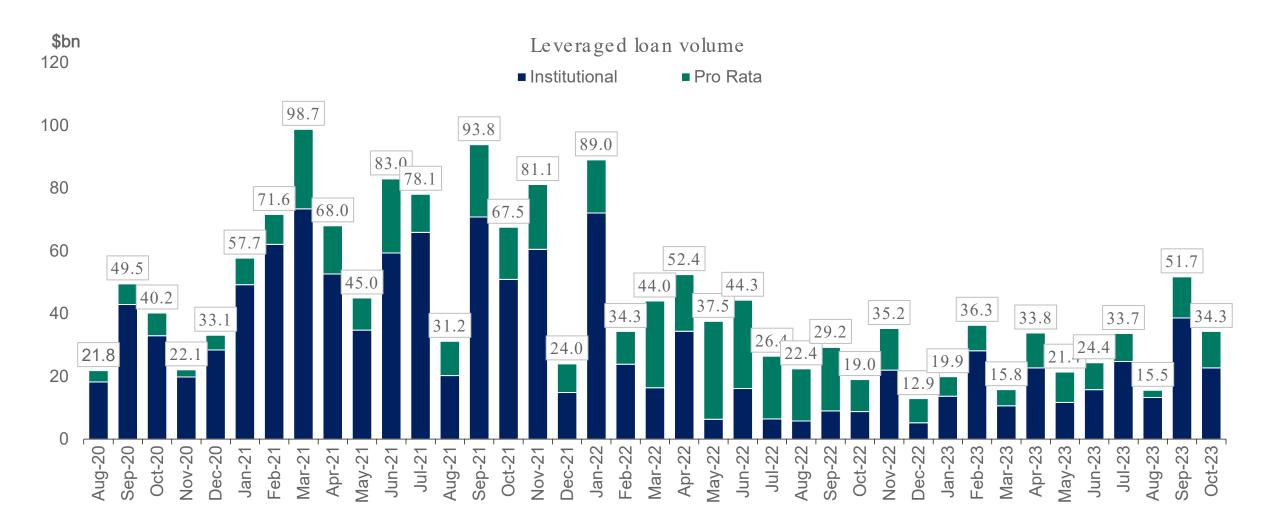
HY issuance by rating



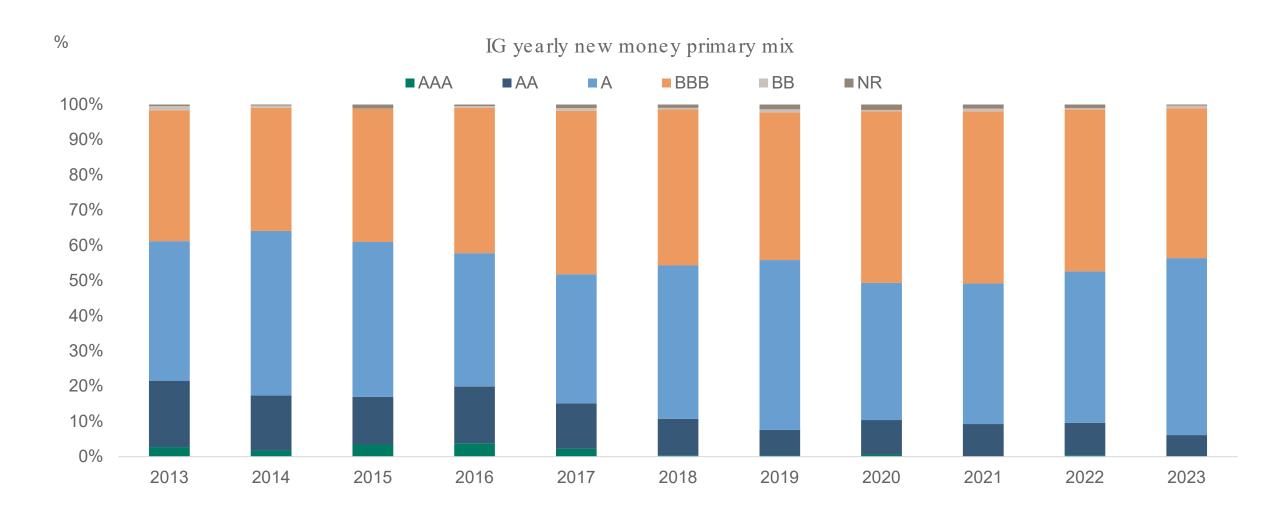
Sector distribution of new HY issuance



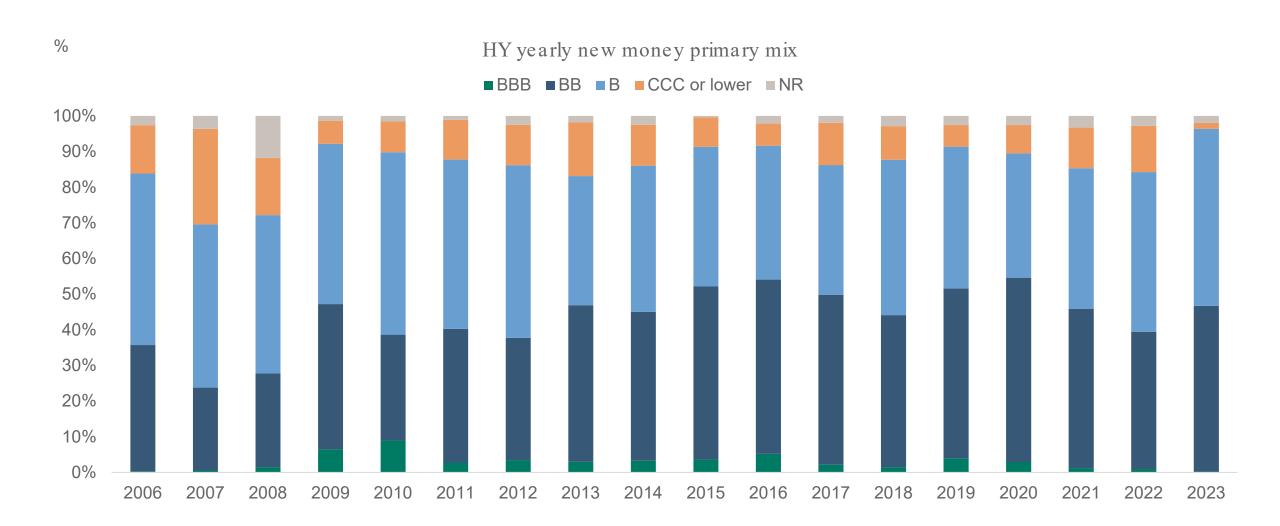
Leveraged loan volume



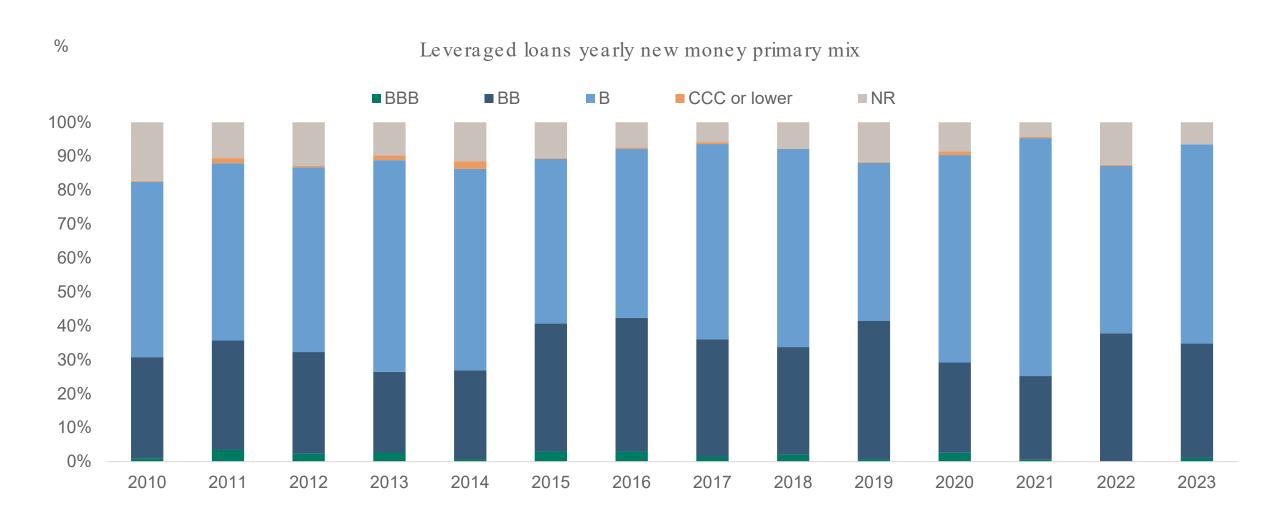
IG new money primary mix



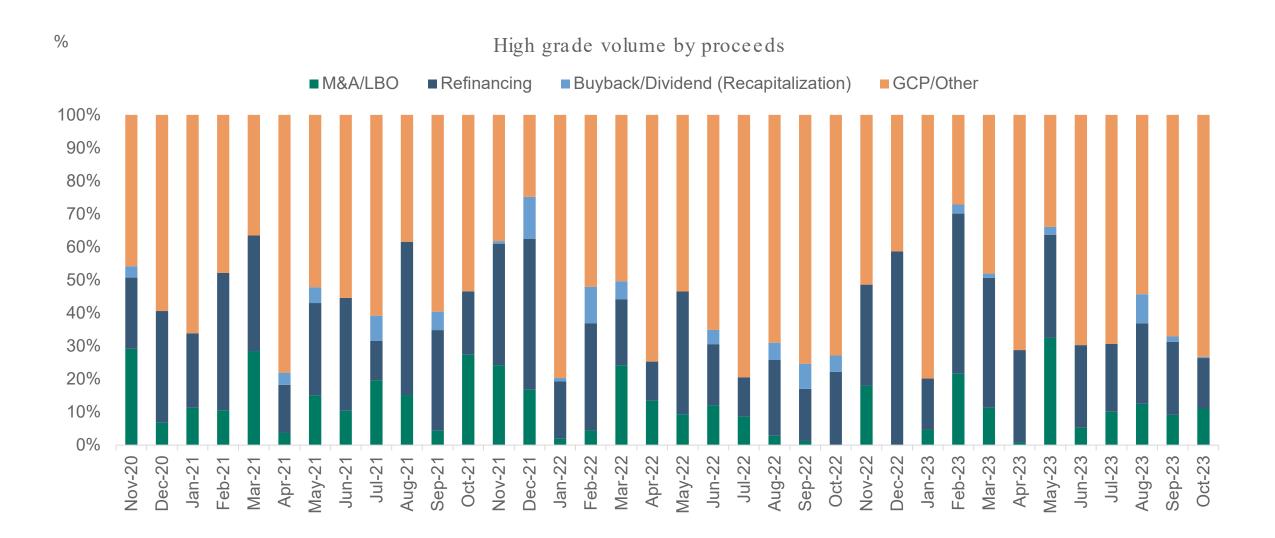
HY new money primary mix



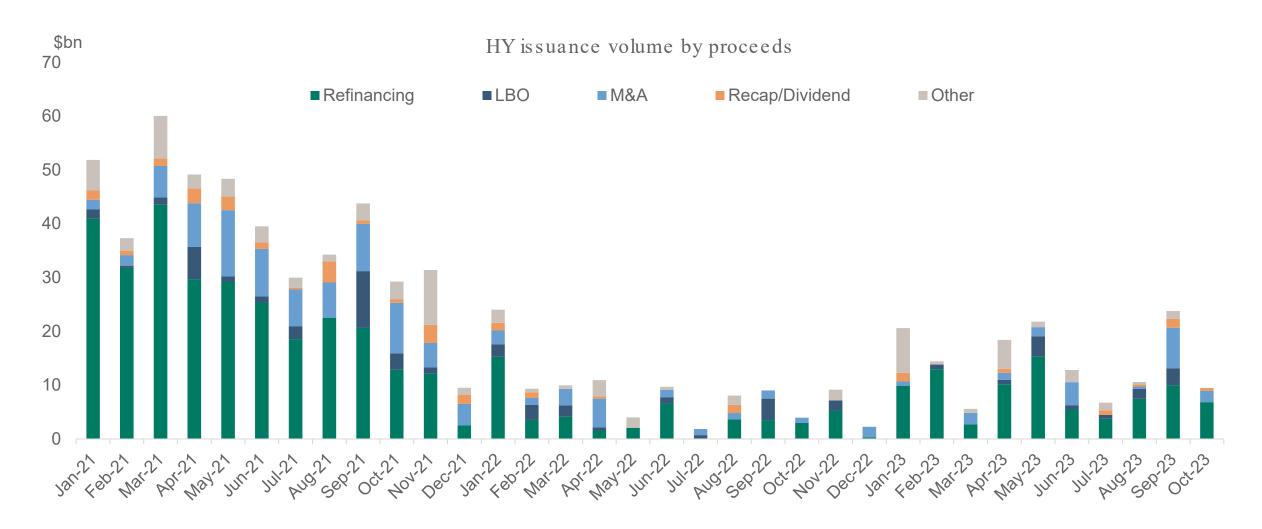
Loans new money primary mix



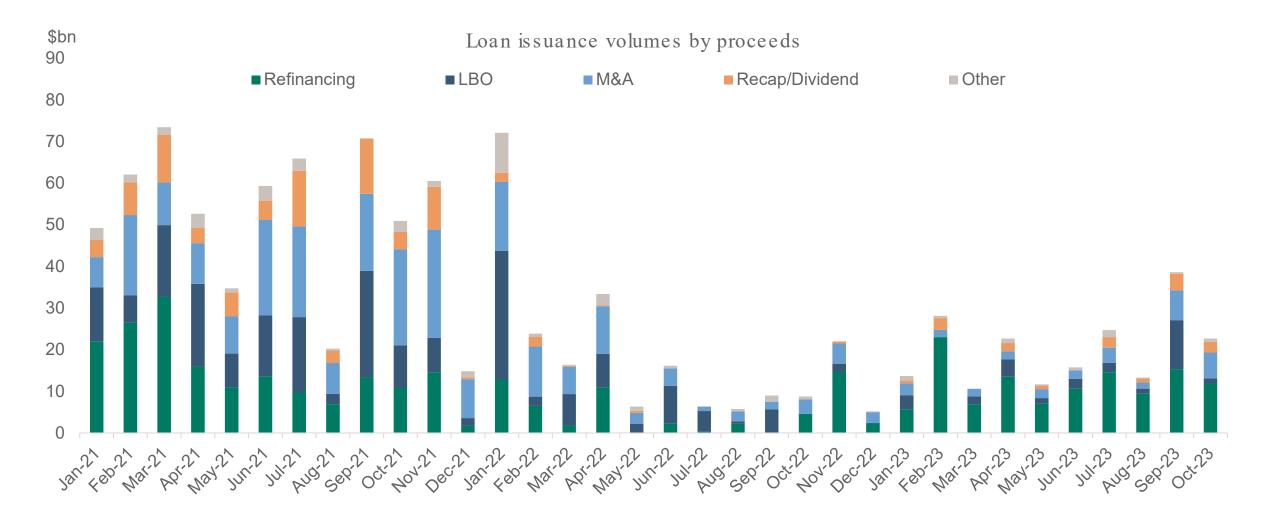
High grade volume by proceeds



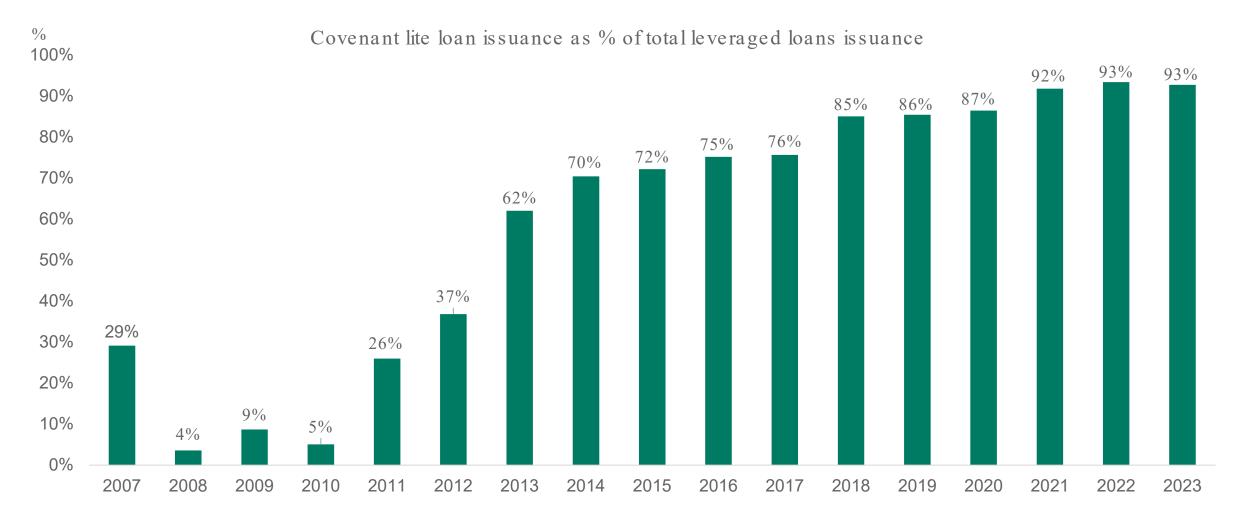
High yield volumes by proceeds



Loan volumes by proceeds

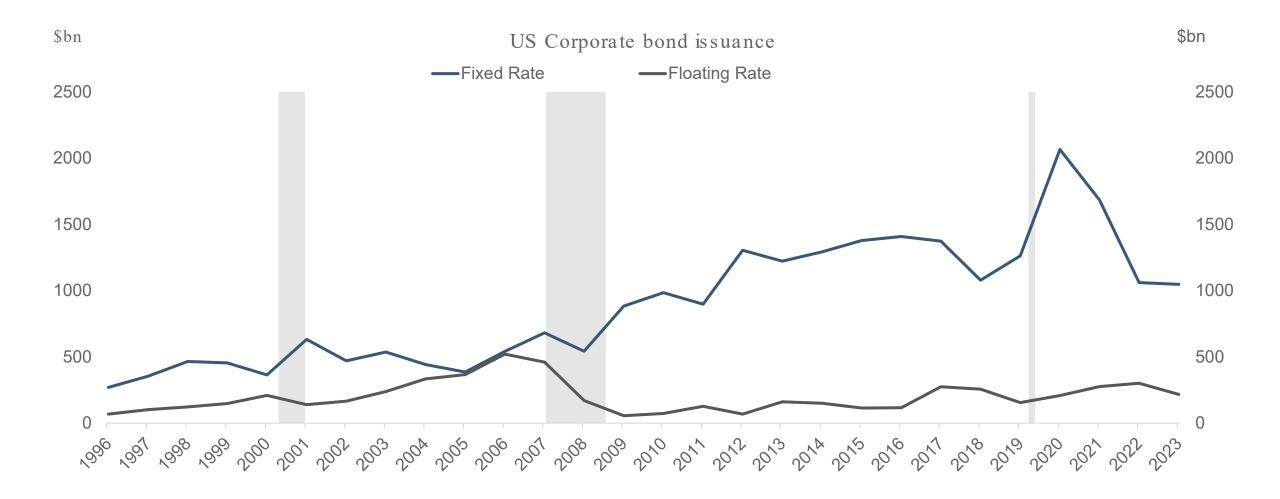


Covenant lite loan issuance



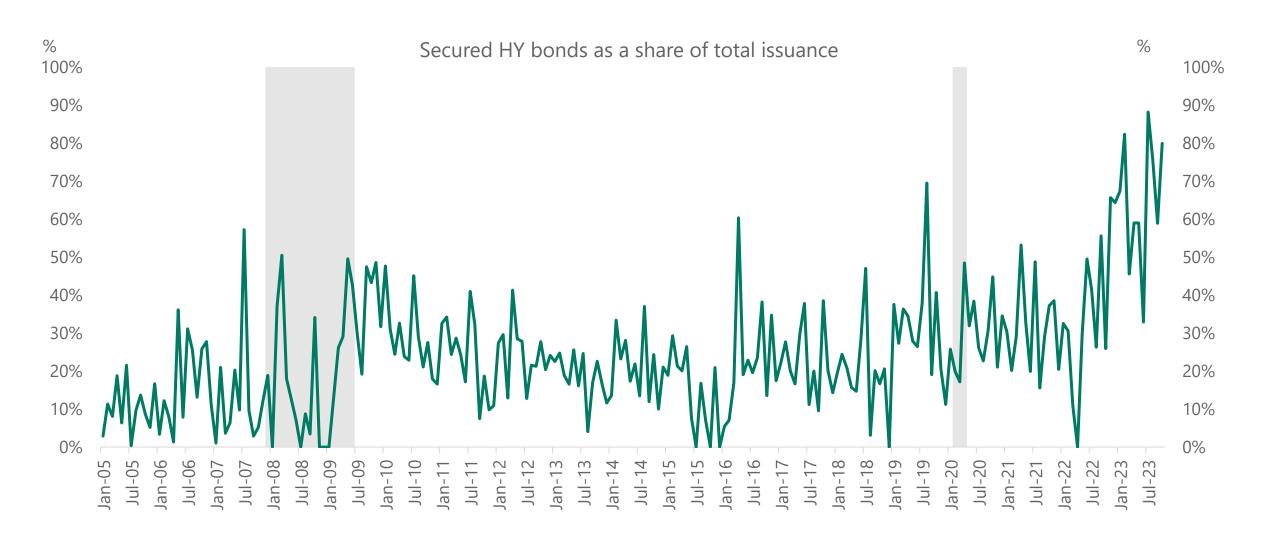
Source: Pitchbook LCD, Apollo Chief Economist.. Note: A covenant-lite loan is a type of financing with fewer restrictions on the borrower and fewer protections for the lender, often used in leveraged buyouts. Data as of 31st October 2023.

Corporate bond issuance



Source: SIFMA, Apollo Chief Economist.

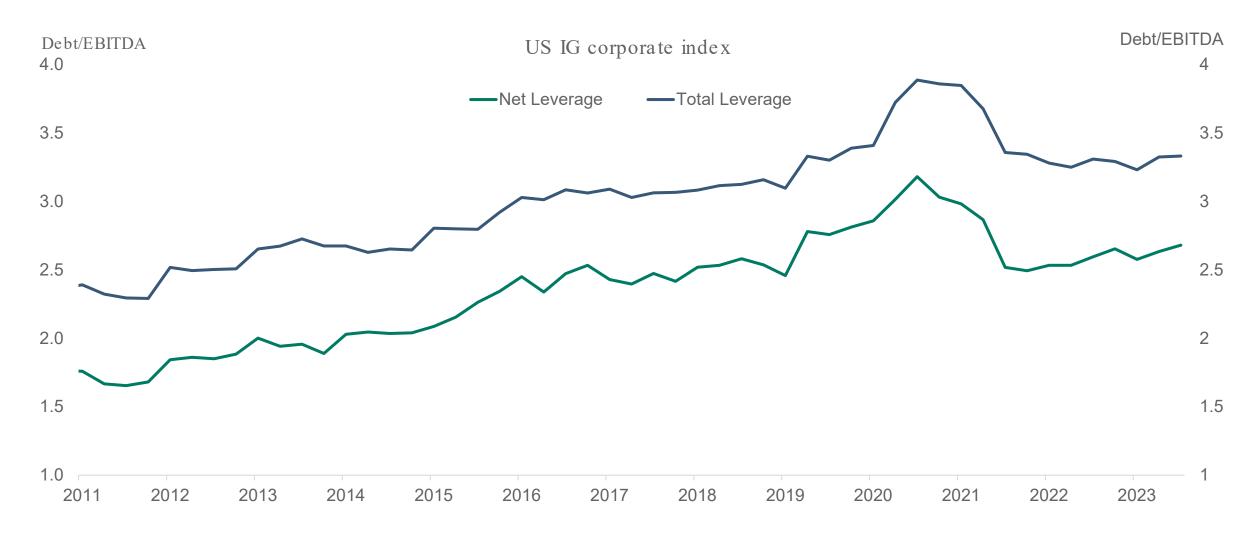
Secured HY bond issuance volume



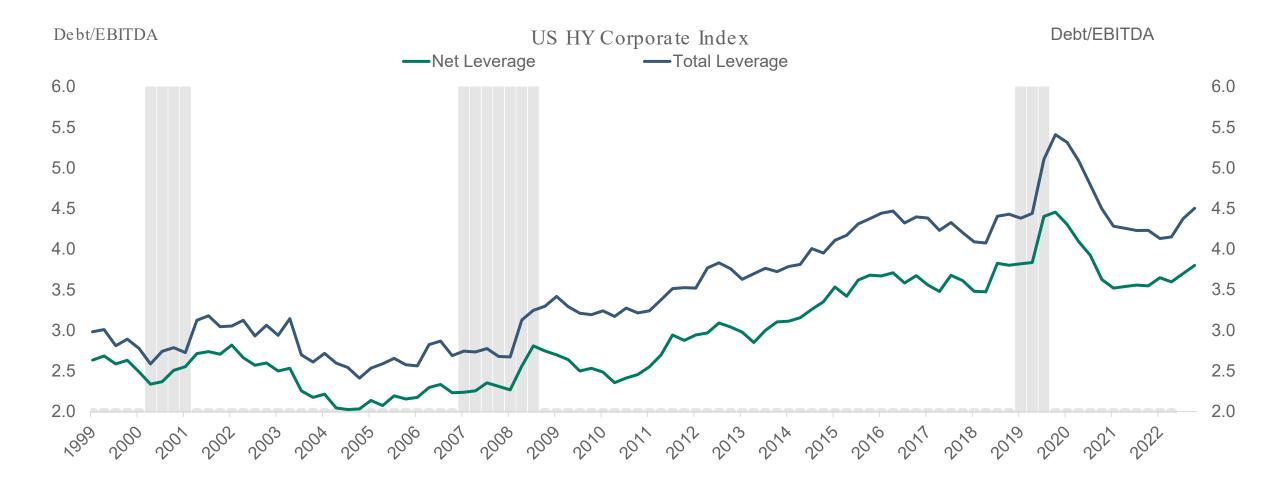
Credit fundamentals



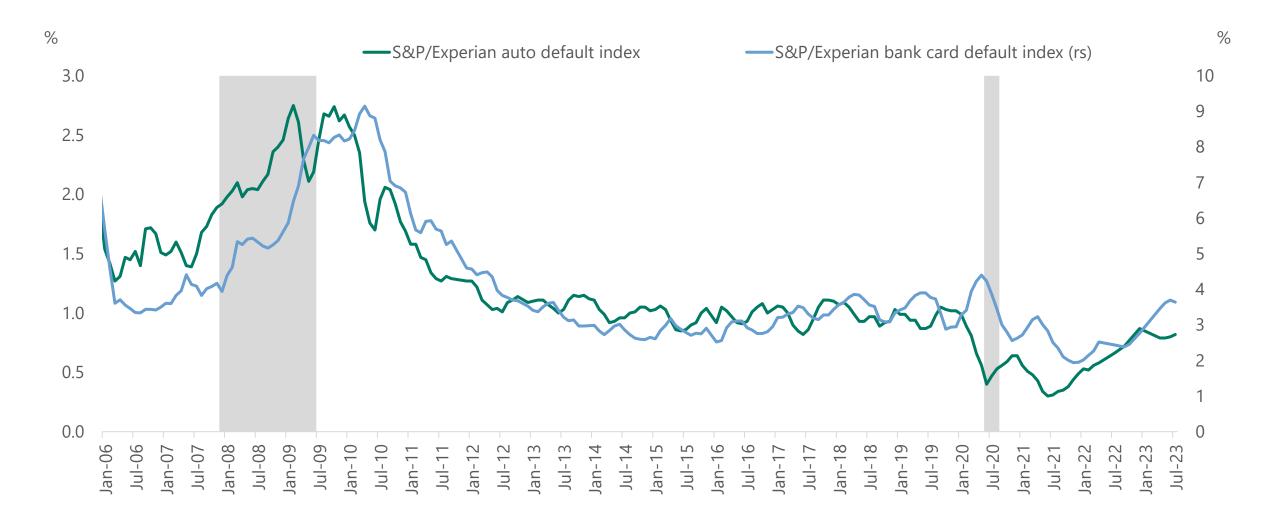
IG leverage has come down after the pandemic



High yield leverage rising recently

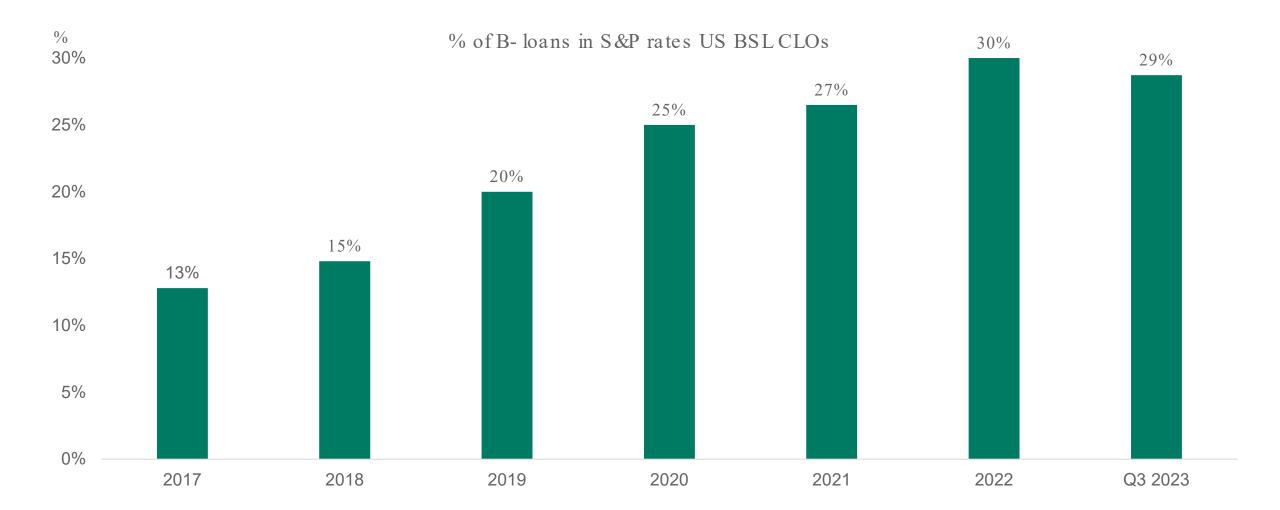


Default rates for auto loans and credit cards moving higher



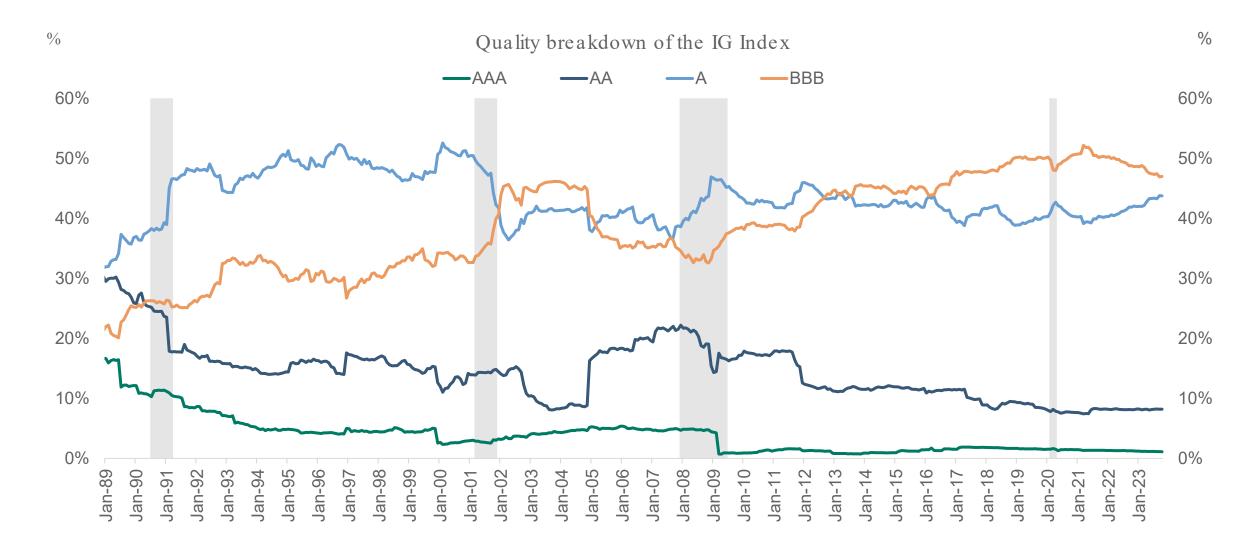
Source: S&P, Bloomberg, Apollo Chief Economist

29% of the loans in the Morningstar LSTA Leveraged Loan Index are rated B-

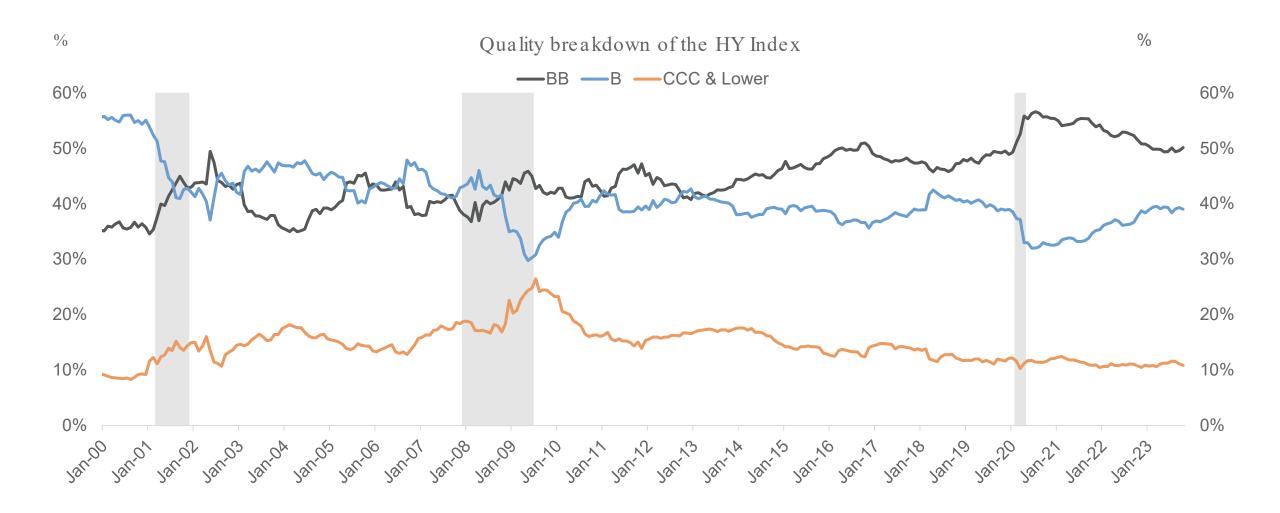


Source: Morningstar, Apollo Chief Economist 78

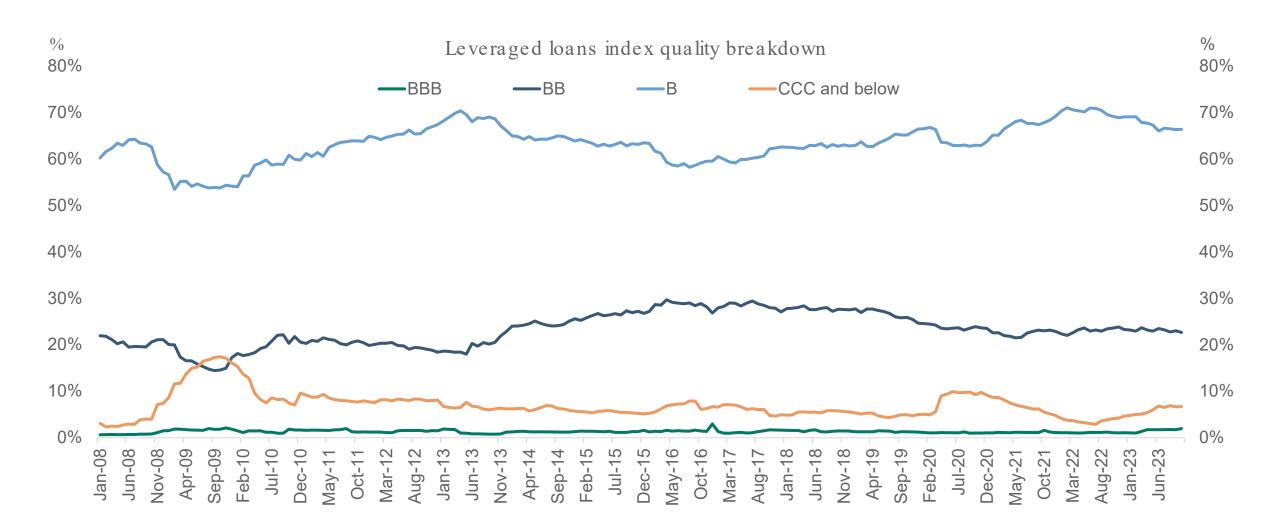
Quality composition of the IG Index



Quality composition of the HY Index

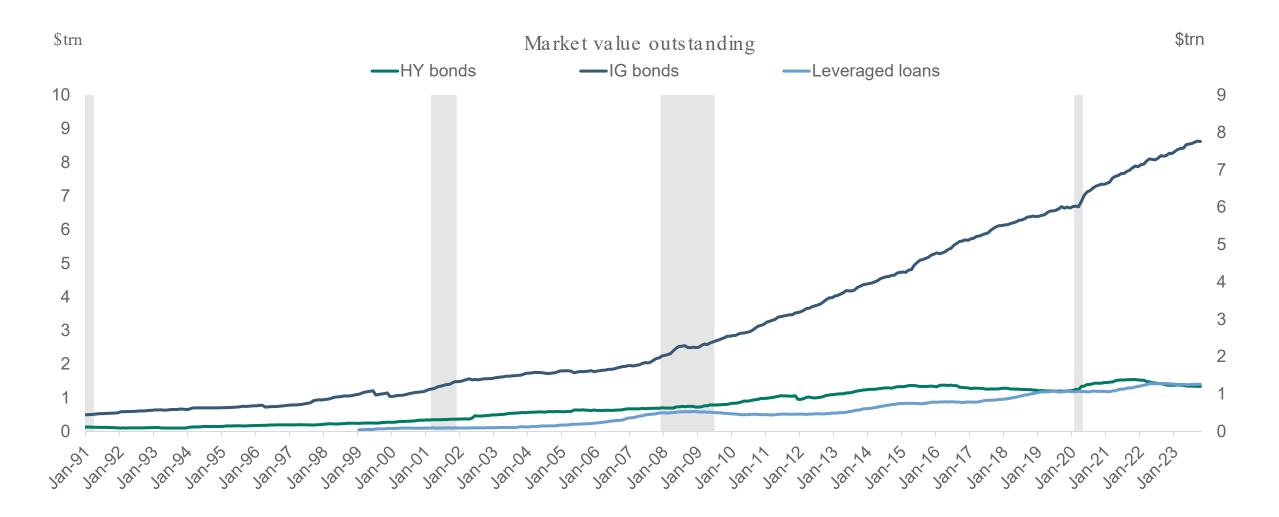


Quality composition of the leveraged loans index

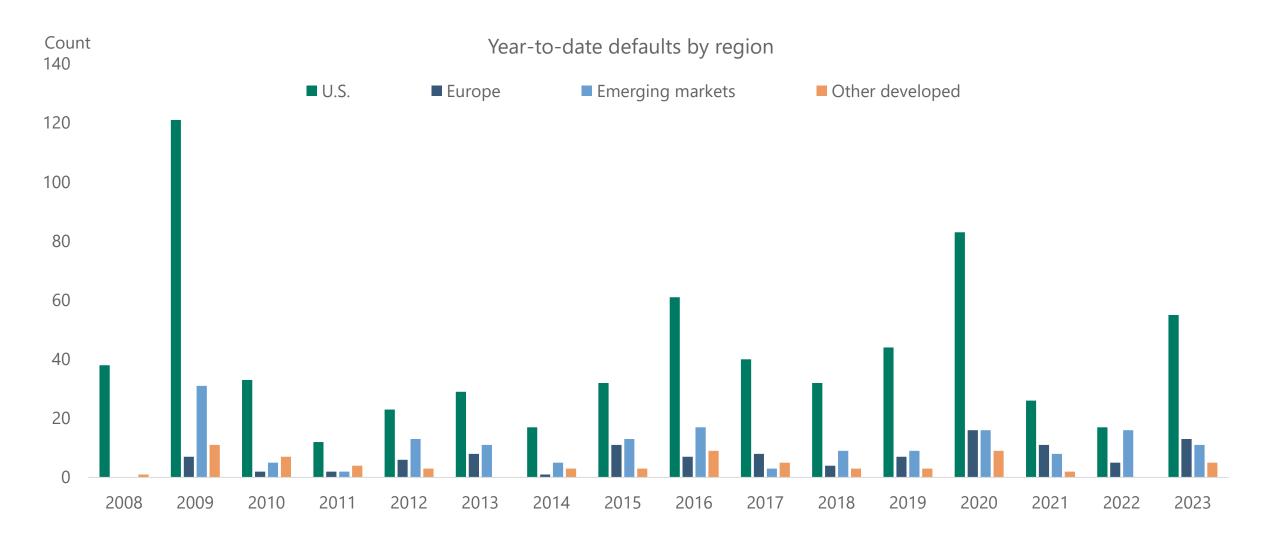


Source: Pitchbook LCD, Apollo Chief Economist

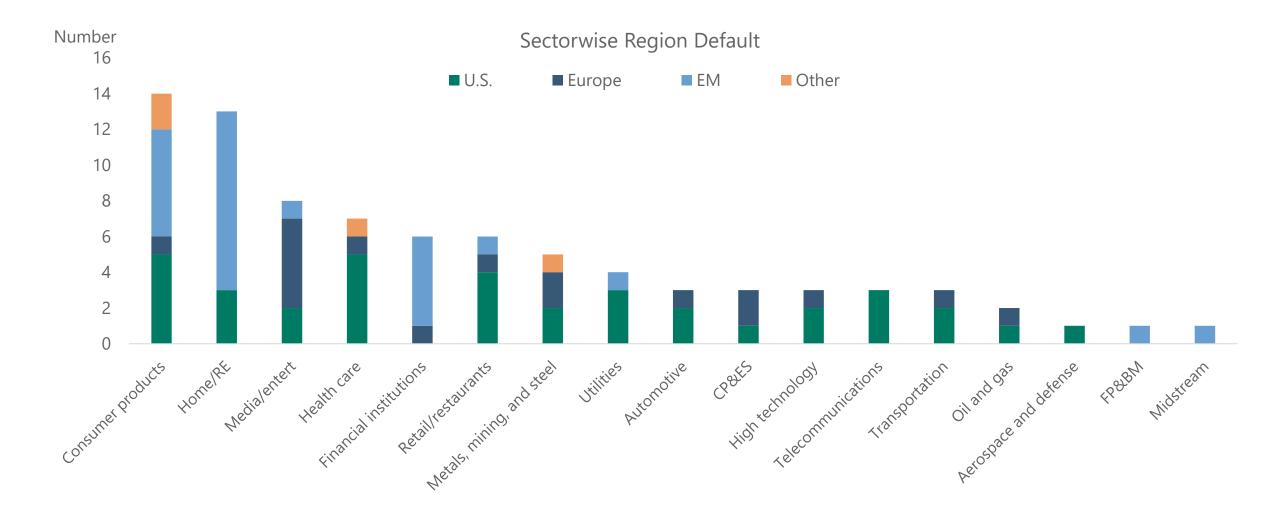
IG market is eight times bigger than HY and eight times bigger than the loan market



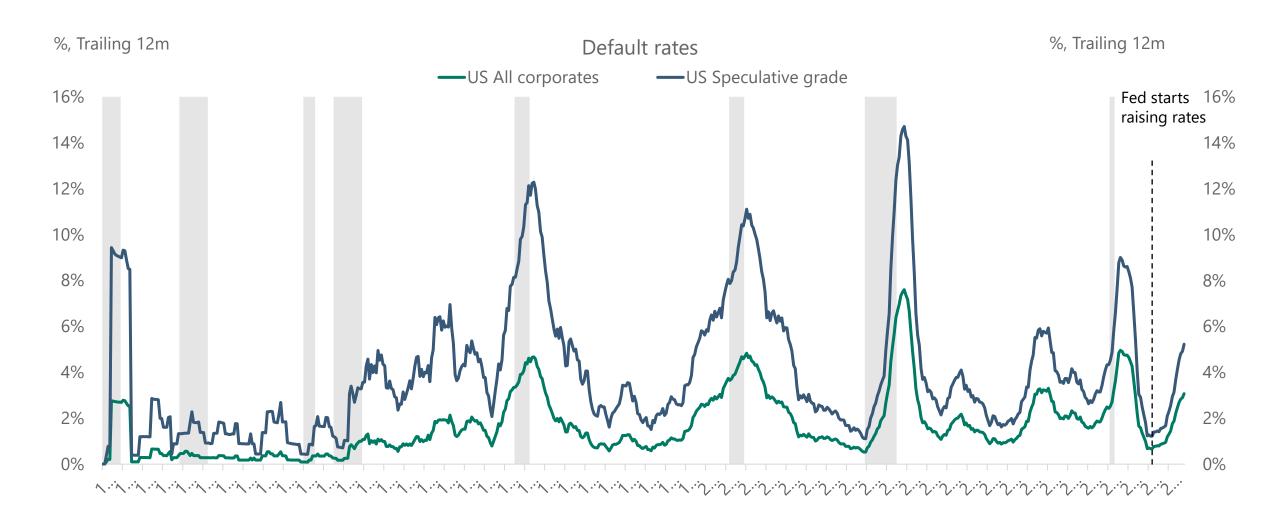
Global default rates rising in US and Europe



Default rates differ across sectors

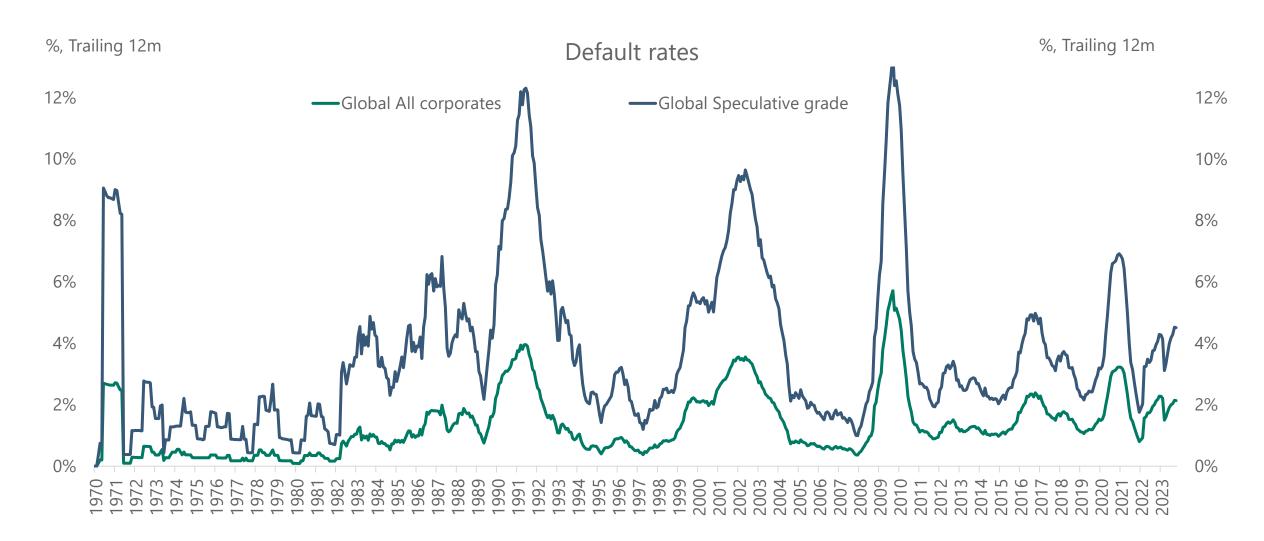


A default cycle has started



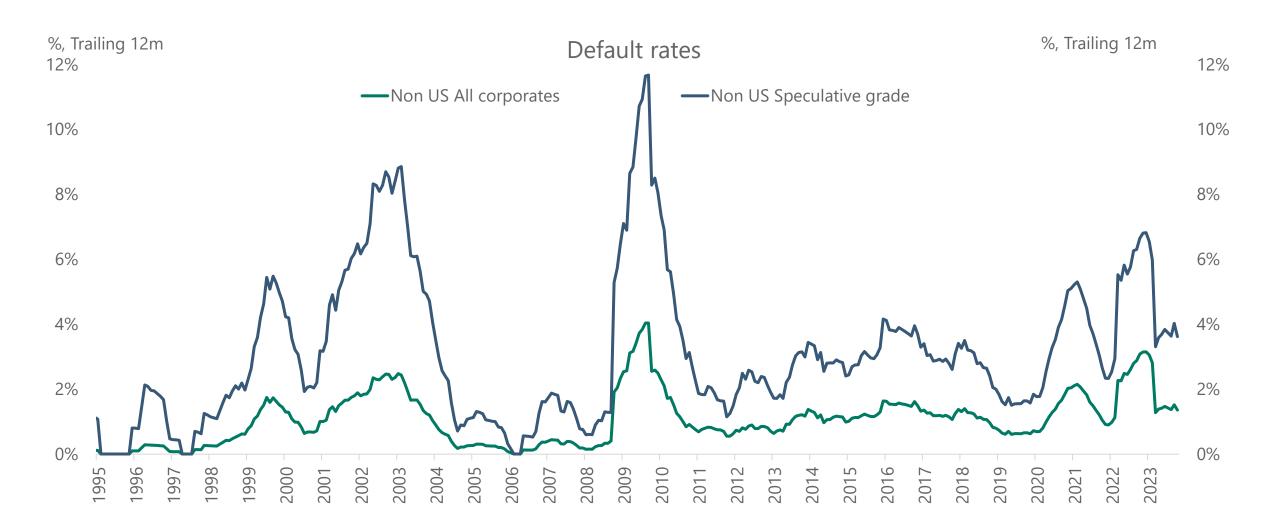
Source: Moody's Analytics, Apollo Chief Economist

Global corporate default rates



Source: Moody's Analytics, Apollo Chief Economist

Non-US corporate default rates

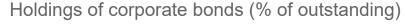


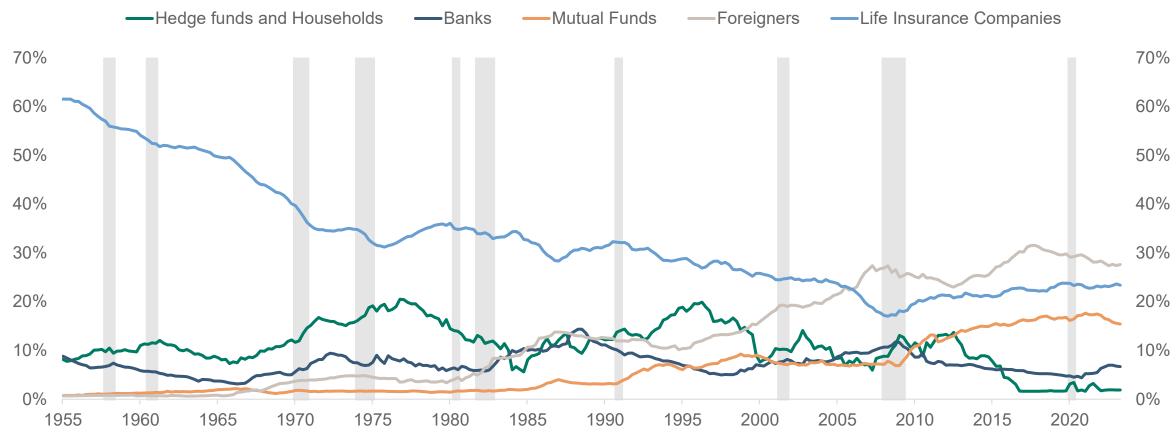
Source: Moody's Analytics, Apollo Chief Economist

Corporate bond holdings



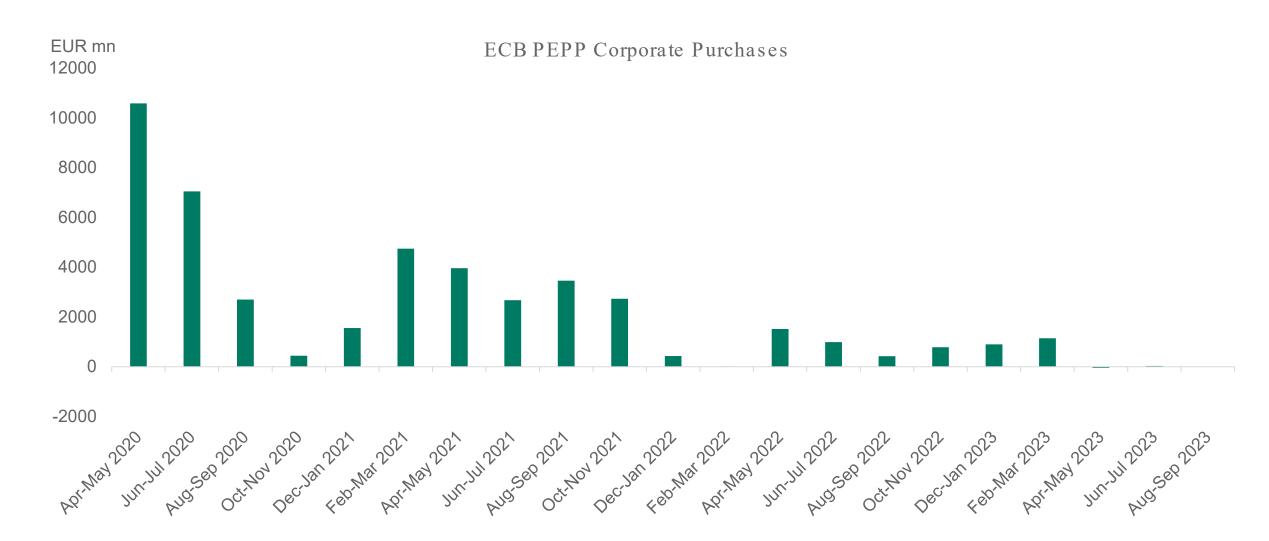
The biggest holder of US corporate bonds is foreigners





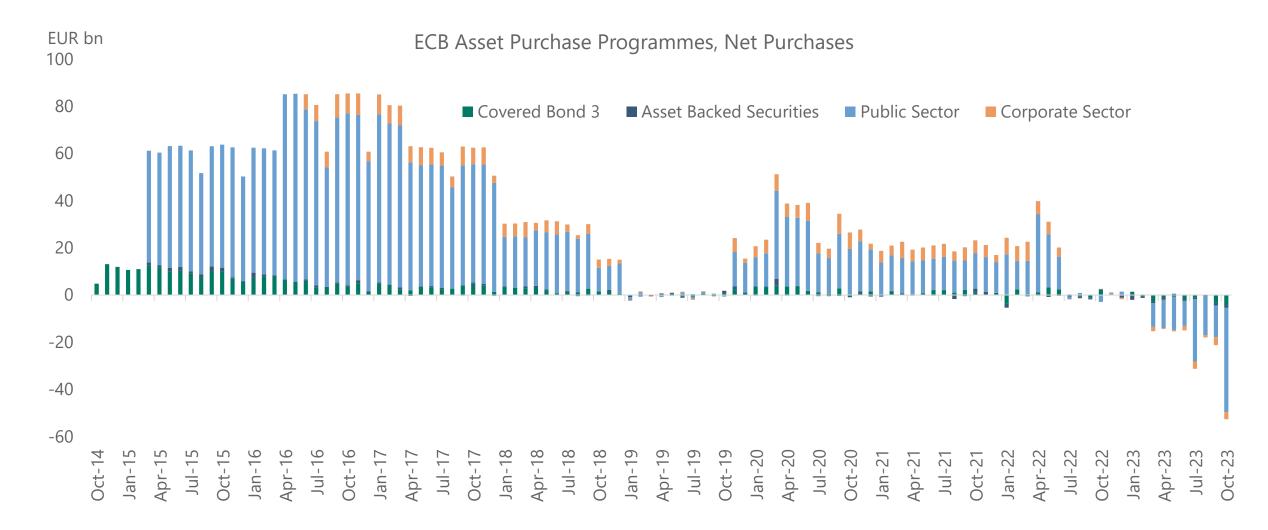
Source: FRB, Haver Analytics, Apollo Chief Economist

ECB purchases of corporate bonds



Source: ECB, Bloomberg, Apollo Chief Economist

ECB doing QT



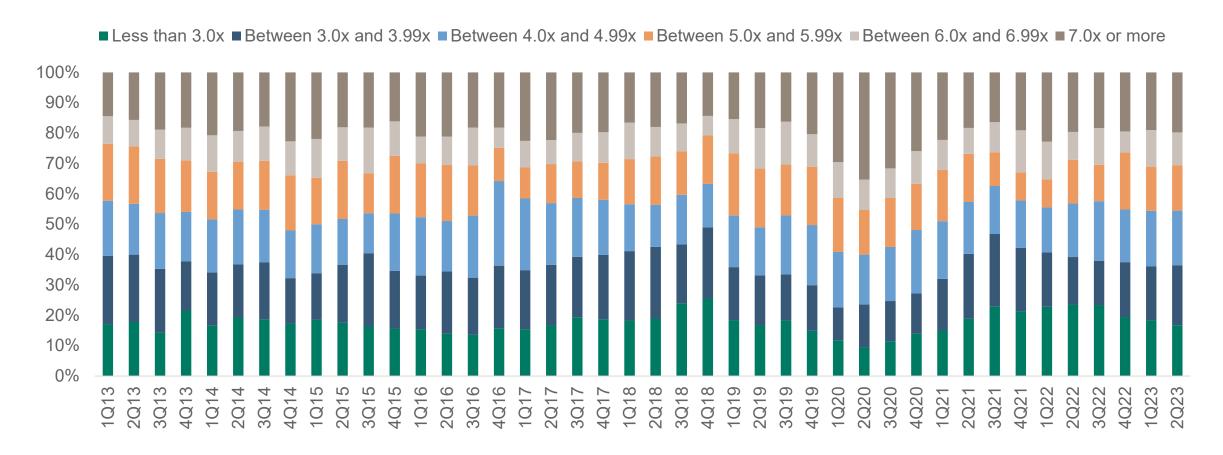
Source: ECB, Bloomberg, Apollo Chief Economist

Loans/CLOs



Leveraged loan deals, by multiple

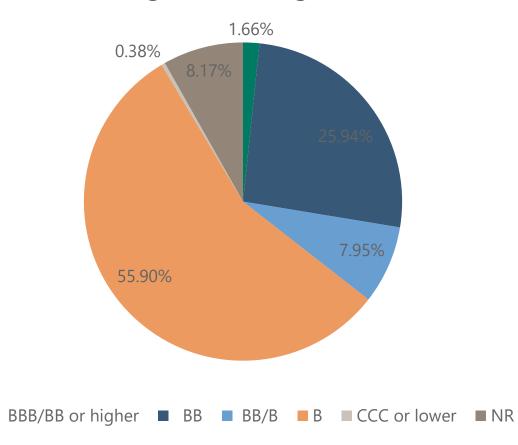
Share of leveraged deals



Source: Pitchbook LCD, Apollo Chief Economist

Leveraged loans rating distribution, 2023Q3

US leveraged loan rating distribution



Source: Pitchbook LCD, Apollo Chief Economist

Leveraged loans distribution, by industry, 2023Q3

Automotive

■ Telecom

■ Entertainment & Leisure

■ Telecom Equipment

■ Home Furnishings

■ Printing & Publishing

US leveraged loan industry distribution 2.00% _ 0.15% 1.24% 0.91% 8.13% 14.06% 0.84% 0.50% 1.18% 2.40% 5.70% 2.61% _0.96% 0.70% Building Materials Cable ■ Computers & Electronics ■ Chemicals ■ Environmental ■ Food & Beverage ■ Forest Product ■ Gaming & Hotel ■ Manufacturing & Machinery ■ Metals & Mining ■ Not for Profit Insurance ■ Restaurants ■ Retail Food & Drug ■ Real Estate ■ Retail

■ Transportation

■ TV

■ Textile & Apparel

Source: Pitchbook LCD, Apollo Chief Economist

■ Aerospace & Defense

Services & Leasing

Healthcare

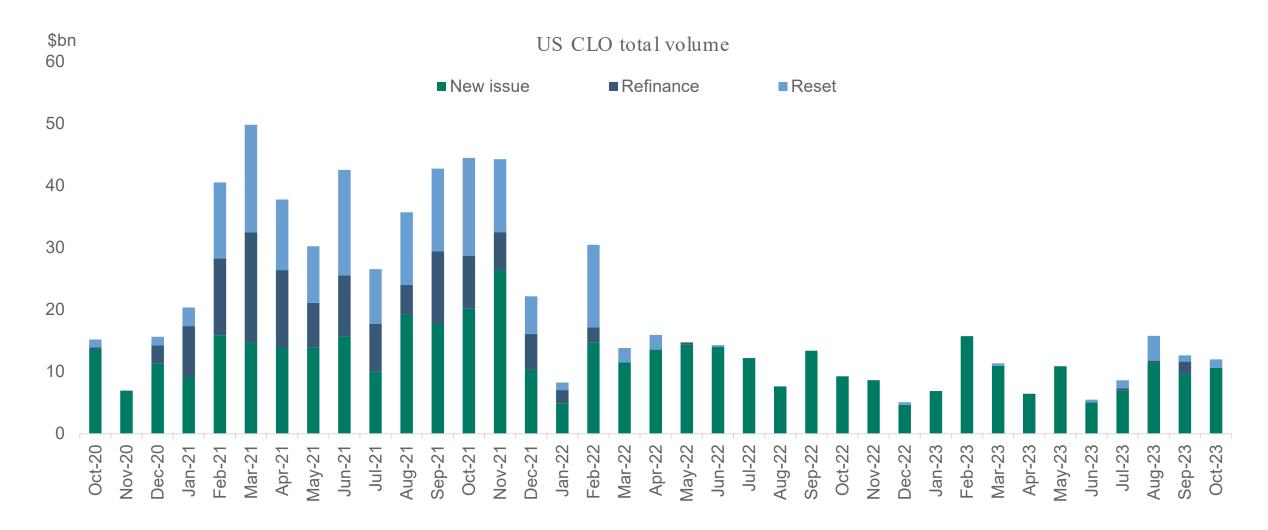
Oil & Gas

■ Utilities

■ Consumer Nondurables

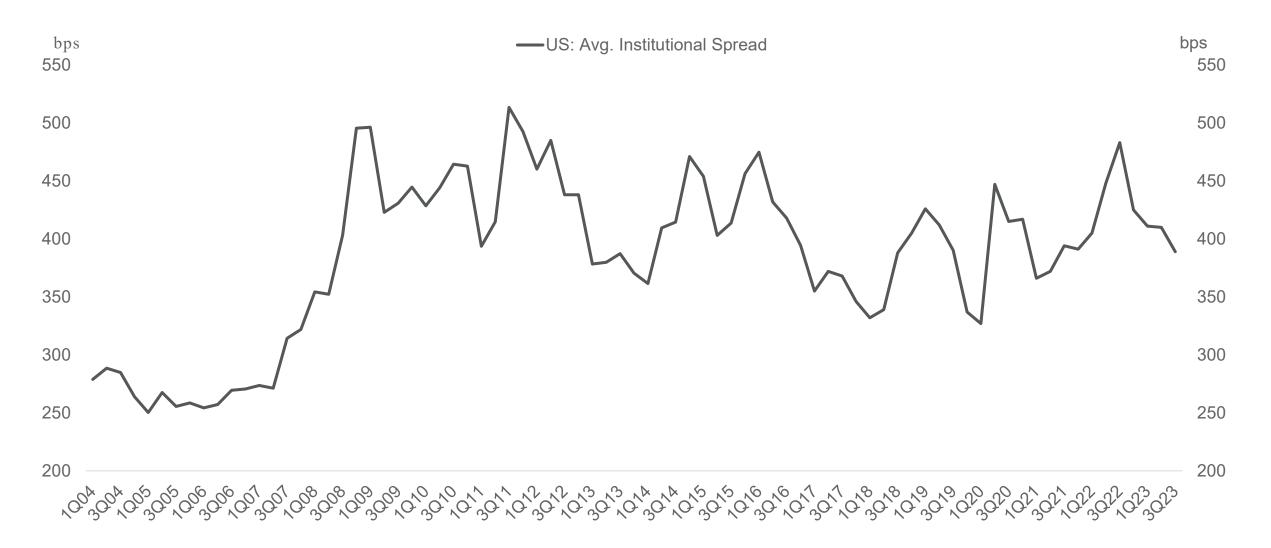
95

US CLO total volume



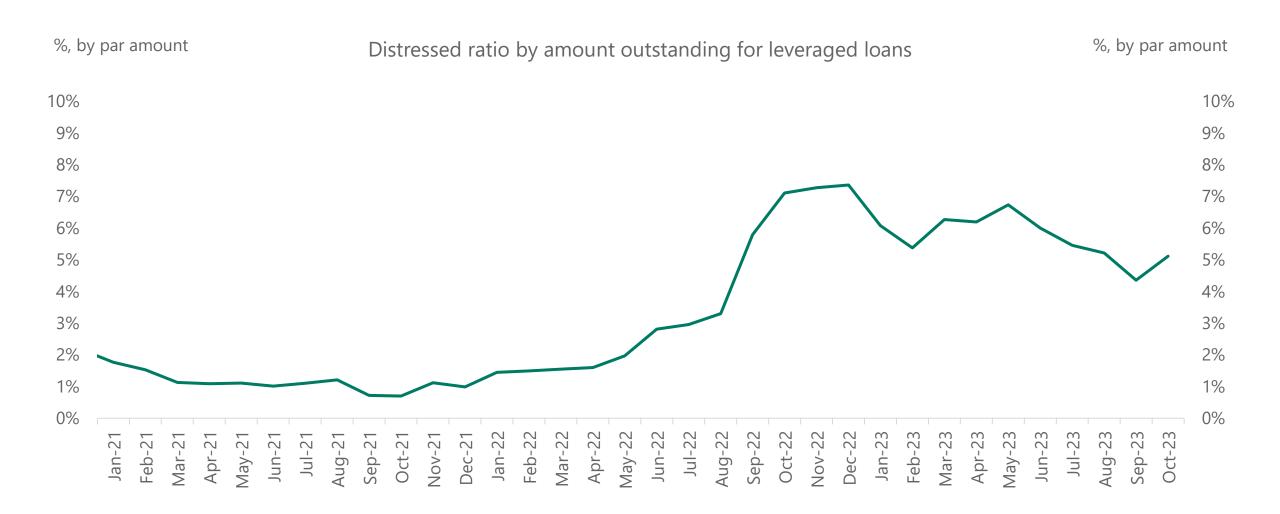
Source: Pitchbook LCD, Apollo Chief Economist.

Loans: Institutional spread relative to bespoke loans

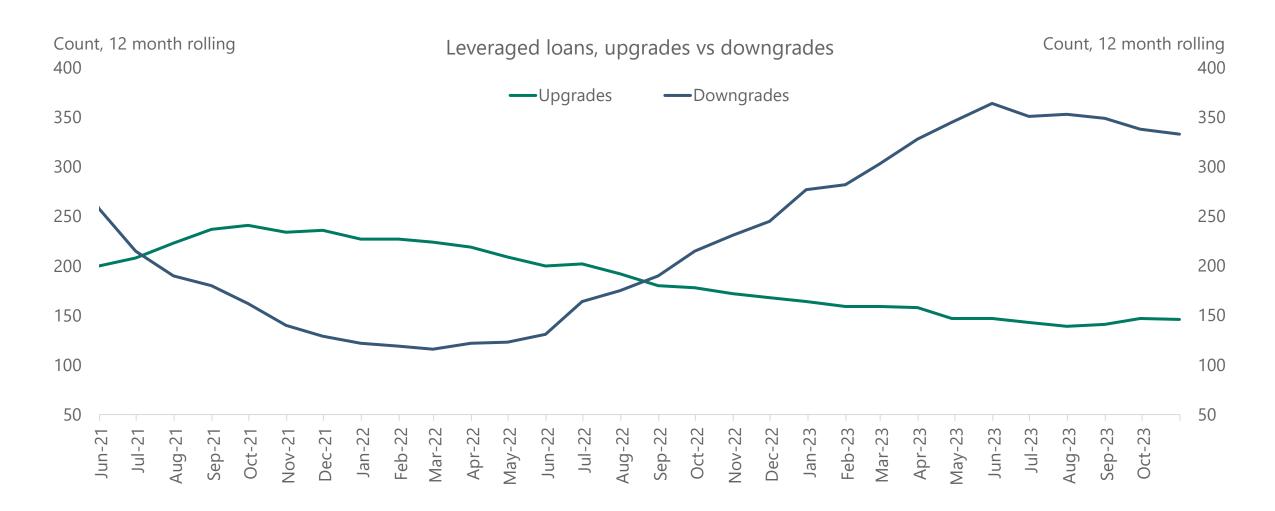


Source: Pitchbook LCD, Apollo Chief Economist

Distressed ratio for leveraged loans has risen



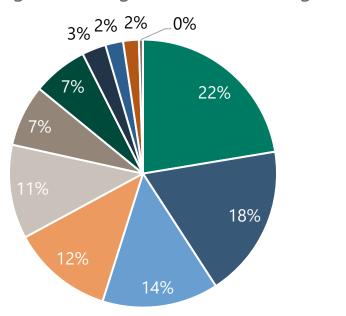
More downgrades than upgrades



Source: Pitchbook LCD

Leveraged loans index weights

Morningstar leveraged loans index weights



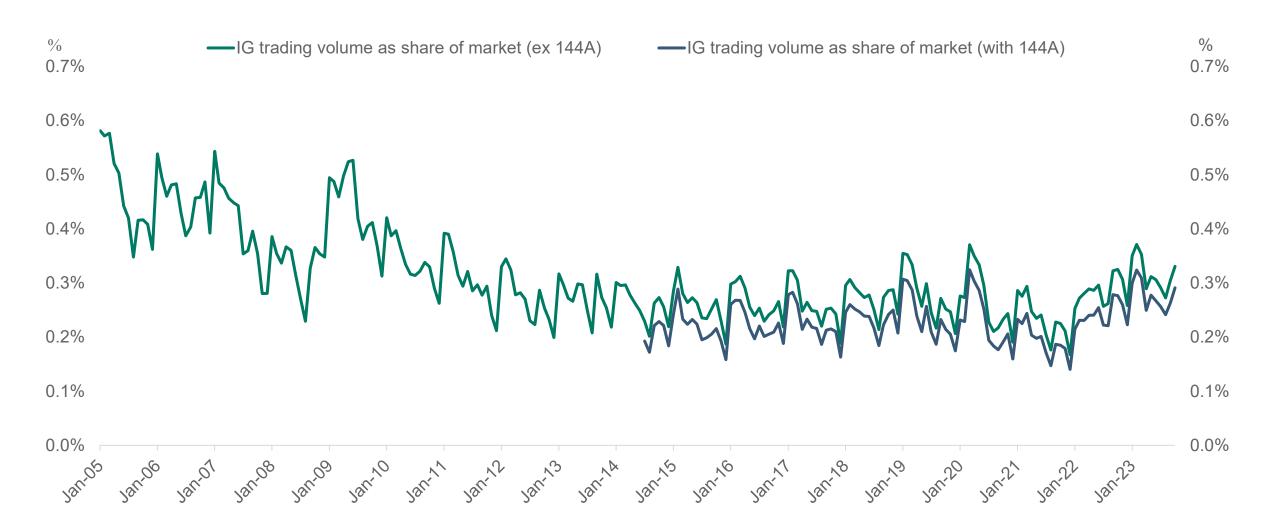


Source: Pitchbook LCD, Apollo Chief Economist

Liquidity in US credit markets

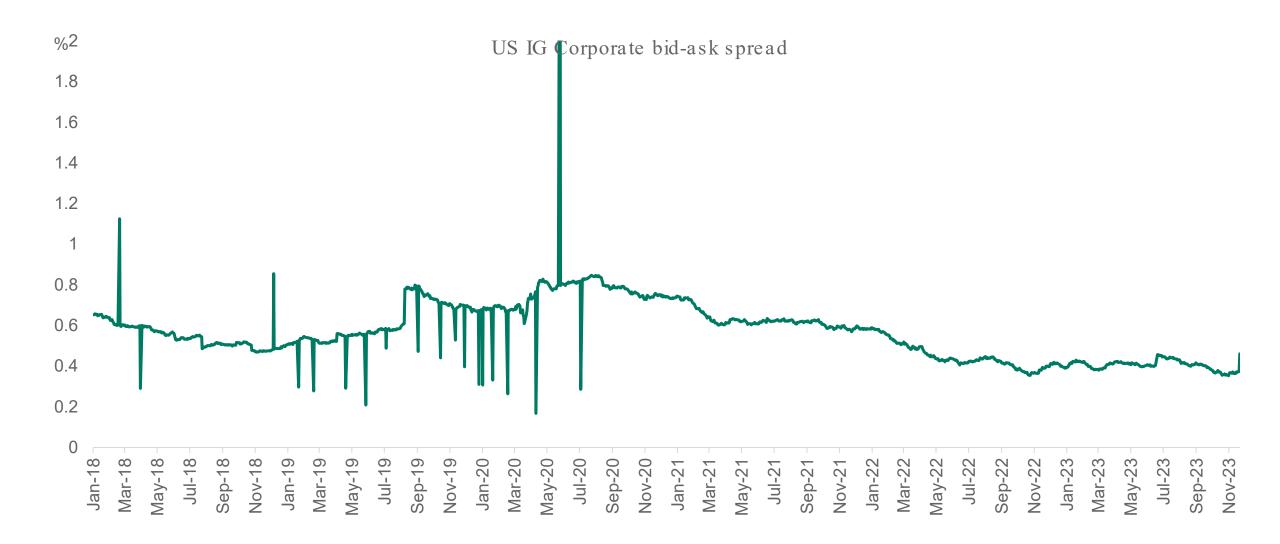


IG trading liquidity

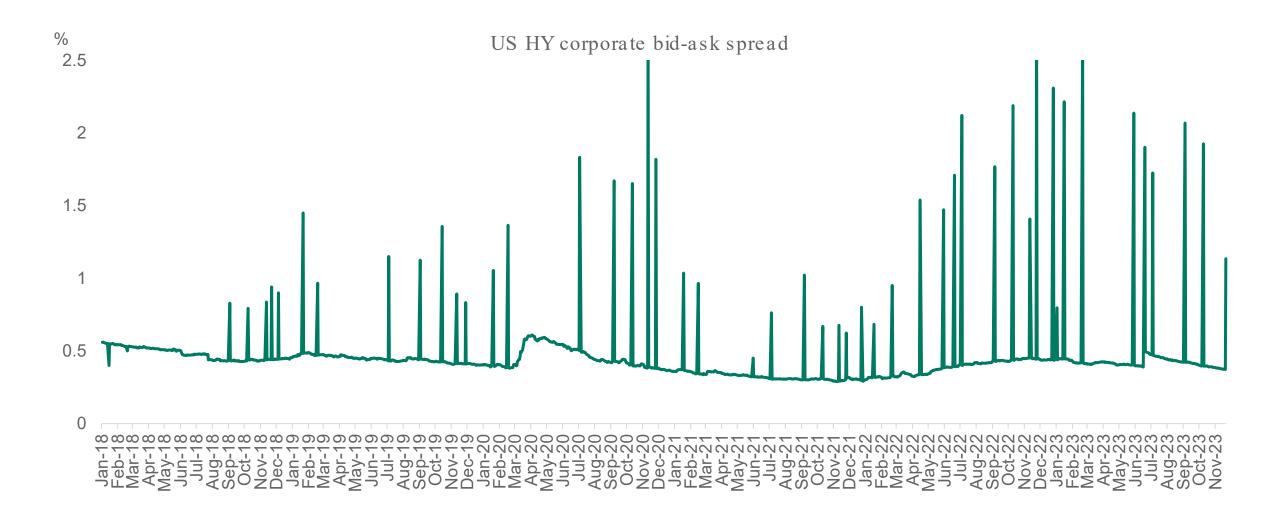


Source: ICE BofA, FINRA TRACE, Haver Analytics, Apollo Chief Economist

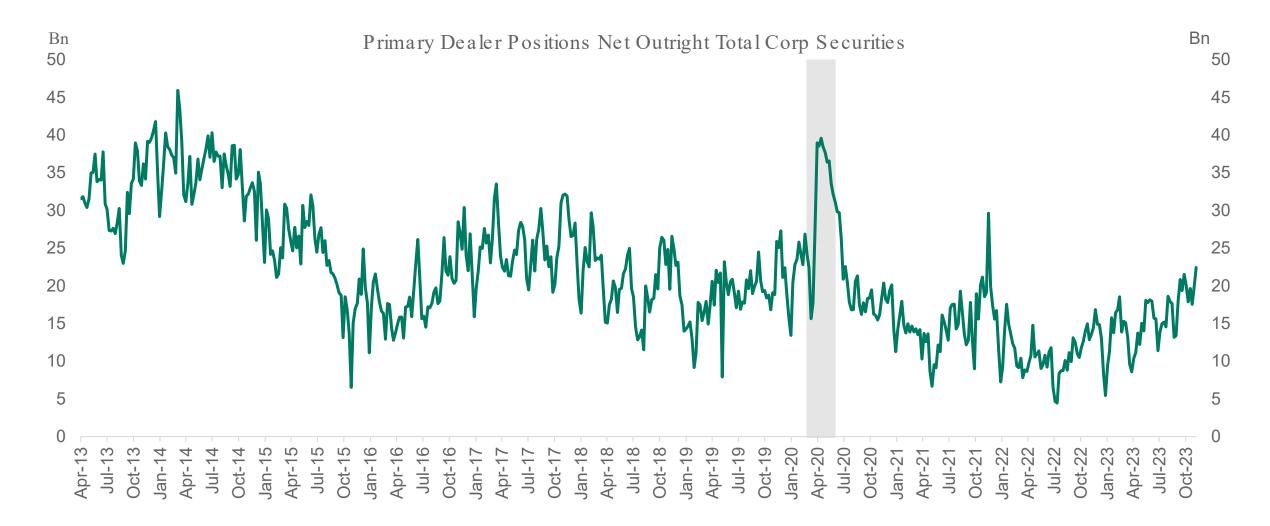
Bid-ask spread for US IG



Bid-ask spread for US HY

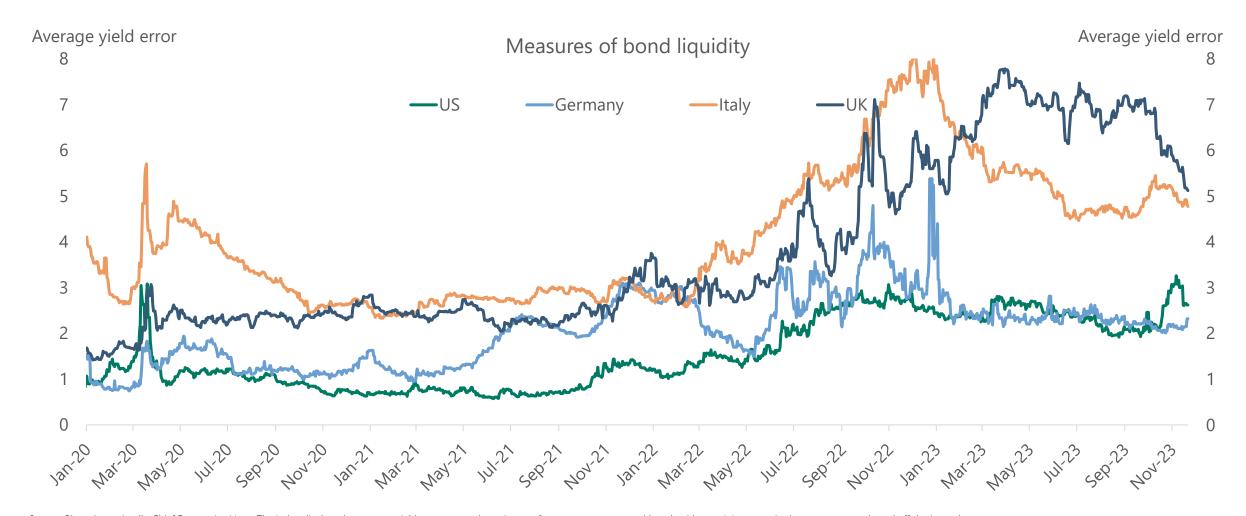


Dealer inventory of corporate bonds (IG+HY)



Source: Bloomberg, Apollo Chief Economist

Worse liquidity in the UK bond market

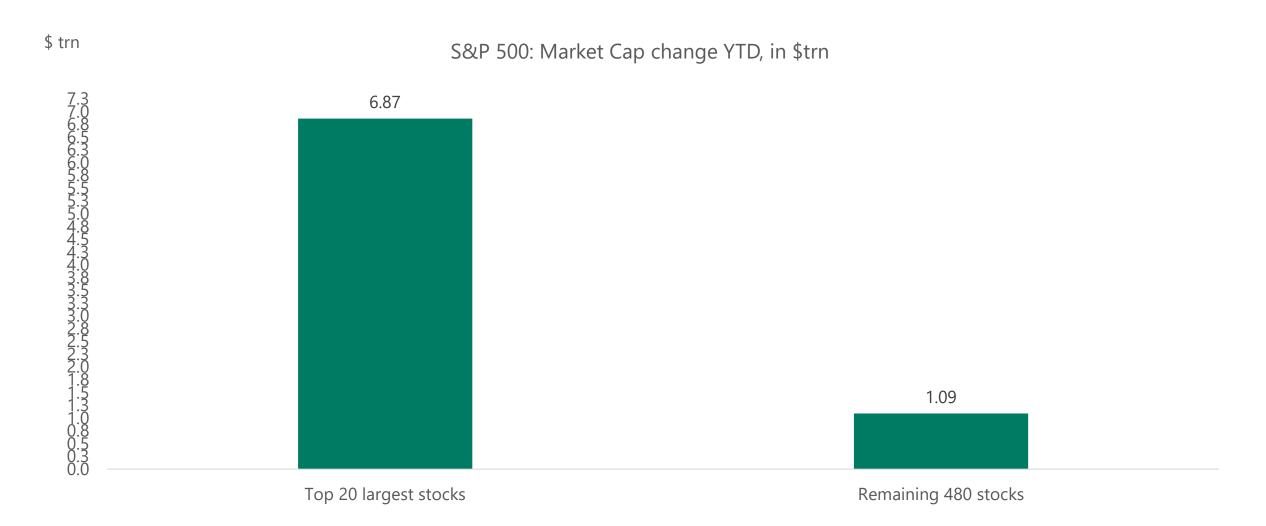


Source: Bloomberg, Apollo Chief Economist. Note: The index displays the average yield error across the universe of government notes and bonds with remaining maturity 1-year or greater, based off the intra-day Bloomberg relative value curve fitter. When liquidity conditions are favorable the average yield error are small as any dislocations from fair values are normalized within a short time frame. Average yield error is defined as an aggregate measure for dislocations in Treasury securities across the curve.

Market technicals

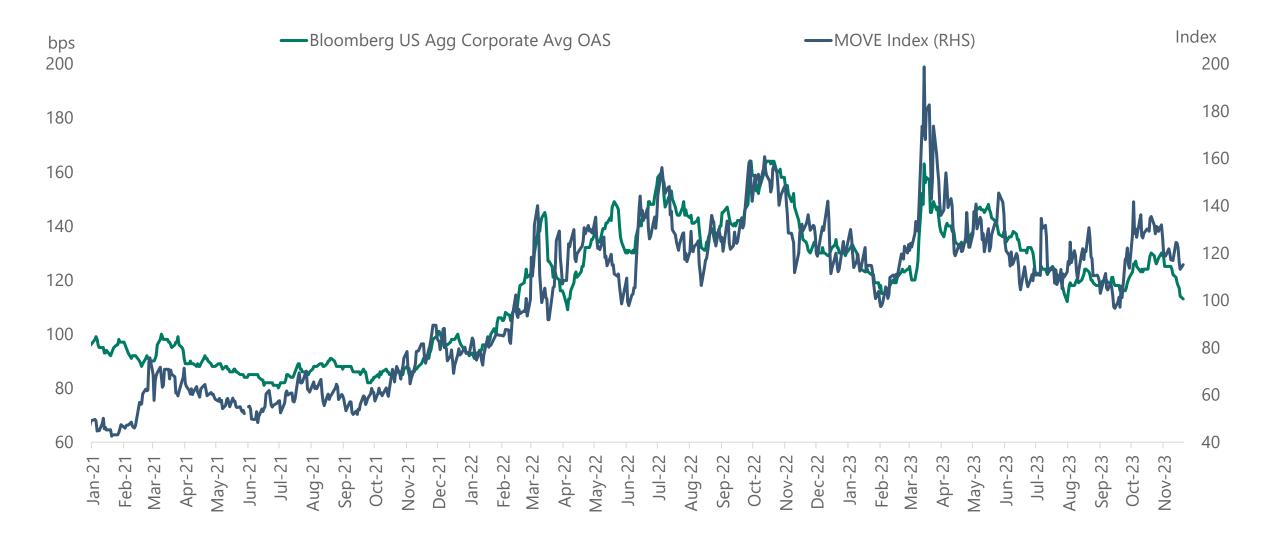


2023: Not a broad-based rally in the S&P500

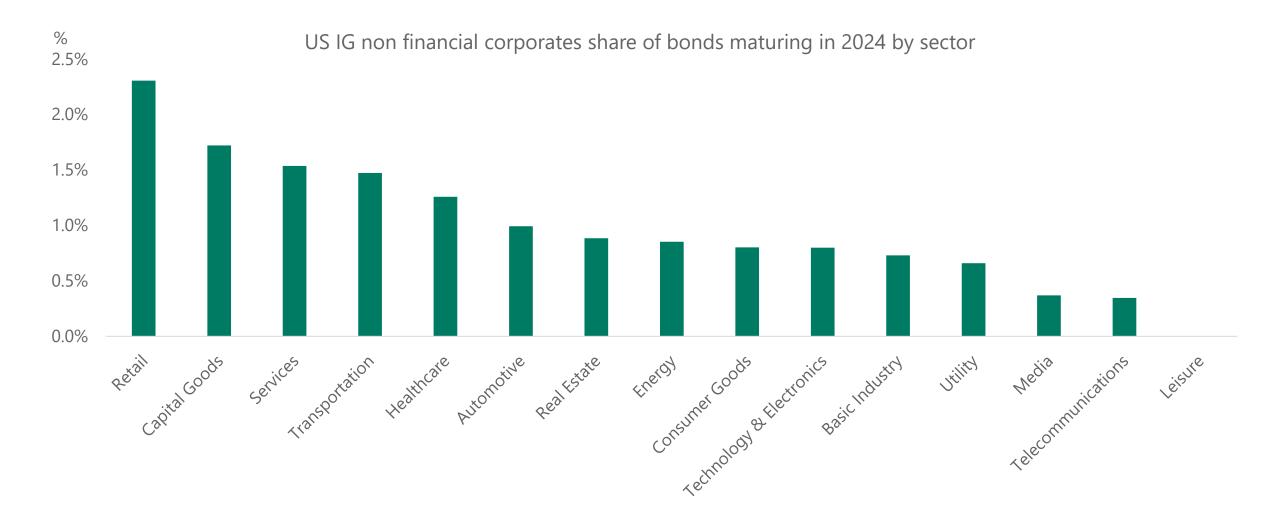


Source: Bloomberg, Apollo Chief Economist.

US IG spread highly correlated with implied rates vol

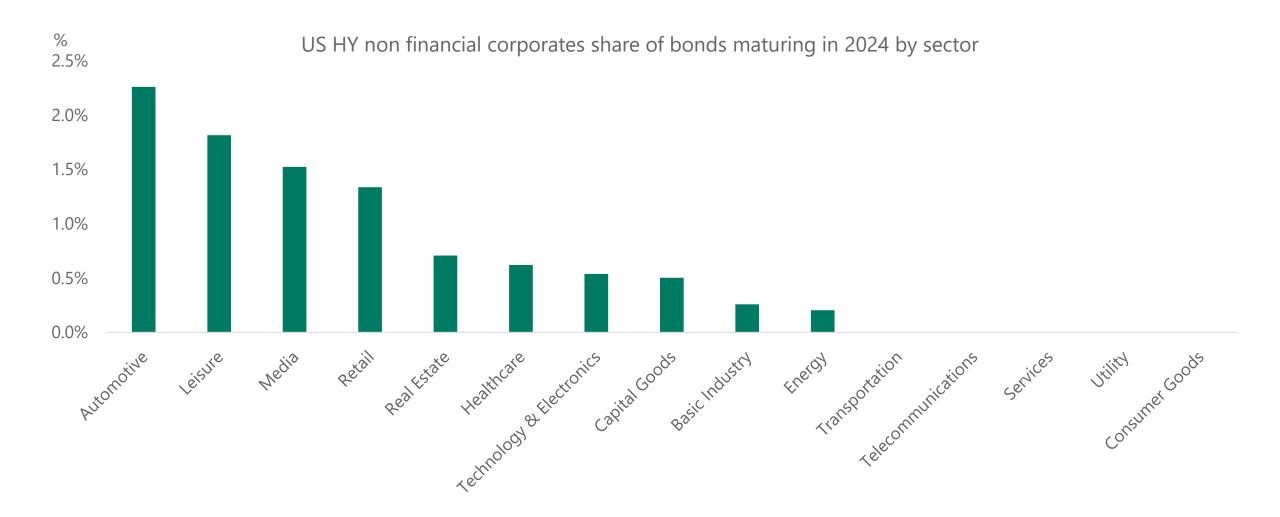


Investment grade maturity by sector in 2024



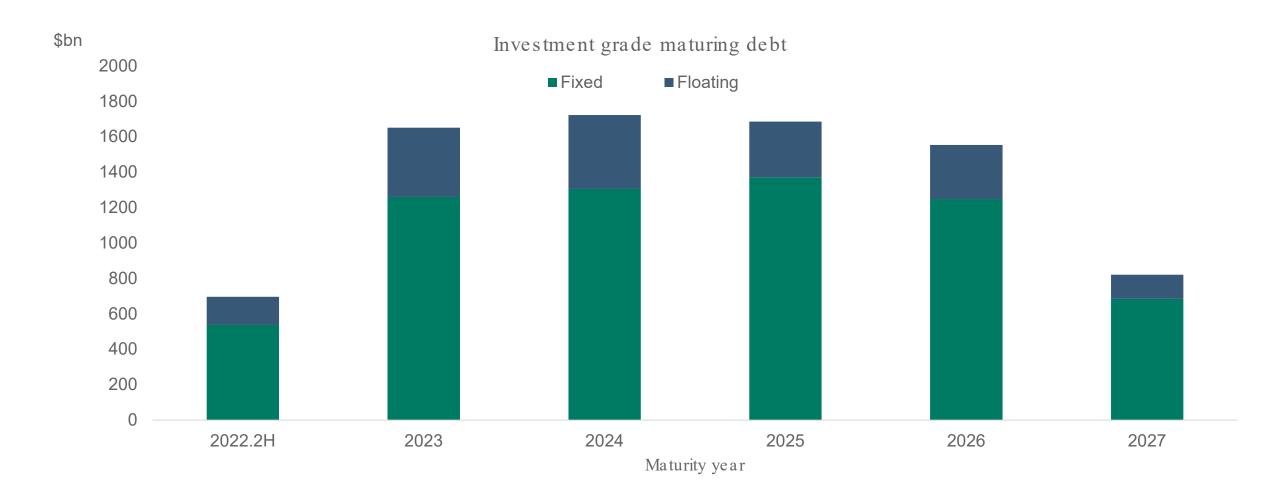
Source: ICE BofA, Bloomberg, Apollo Chief Economist

High yield maturity by sector in 2024

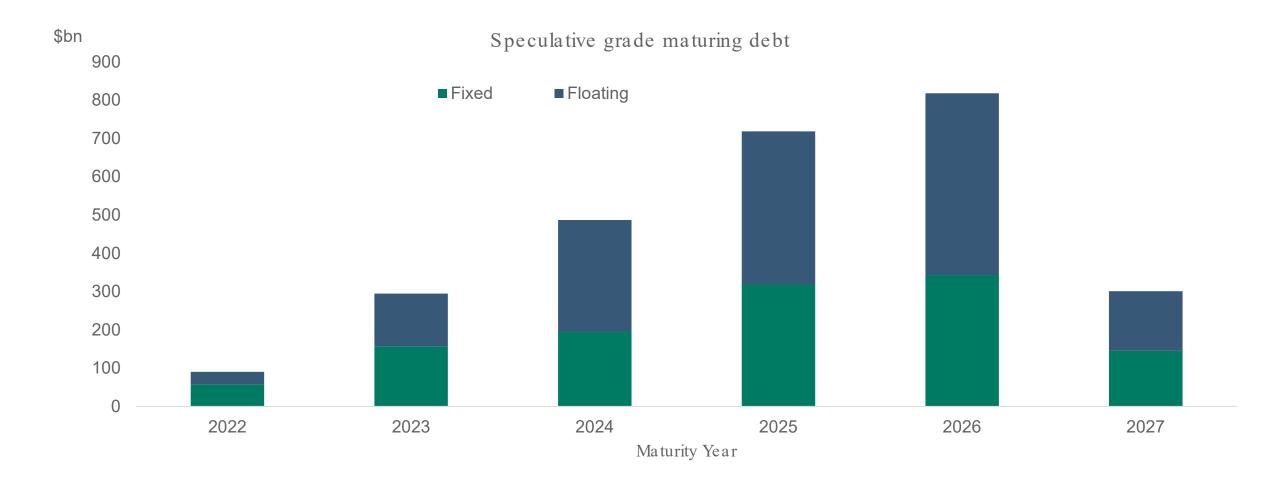


Source: ICE BofA, Bloomberg, Apollo Chief Economist

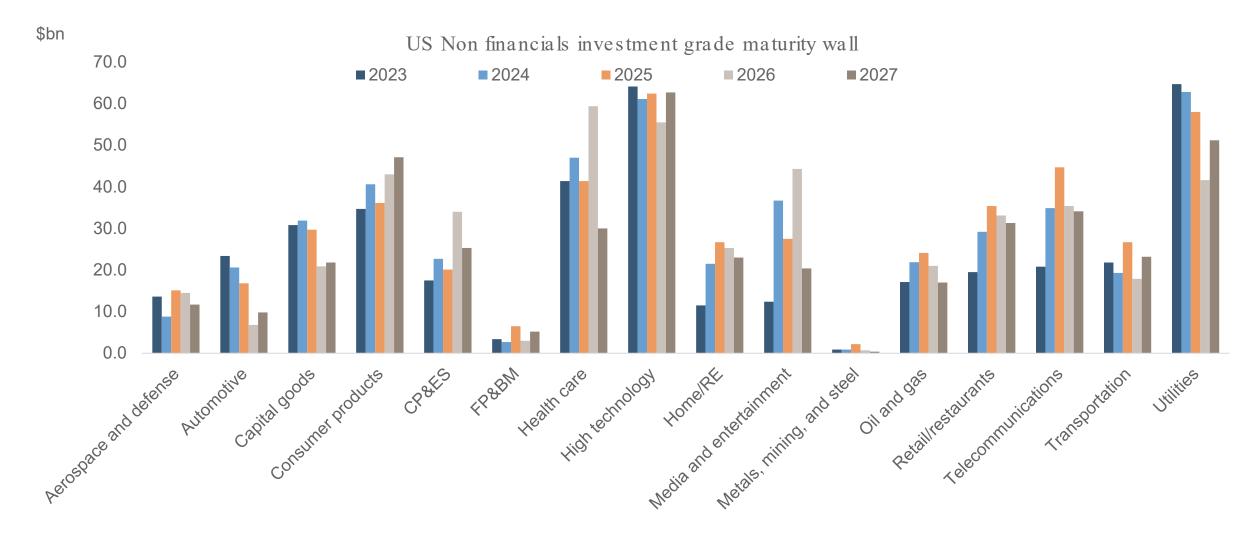
Investment grade maturity wall



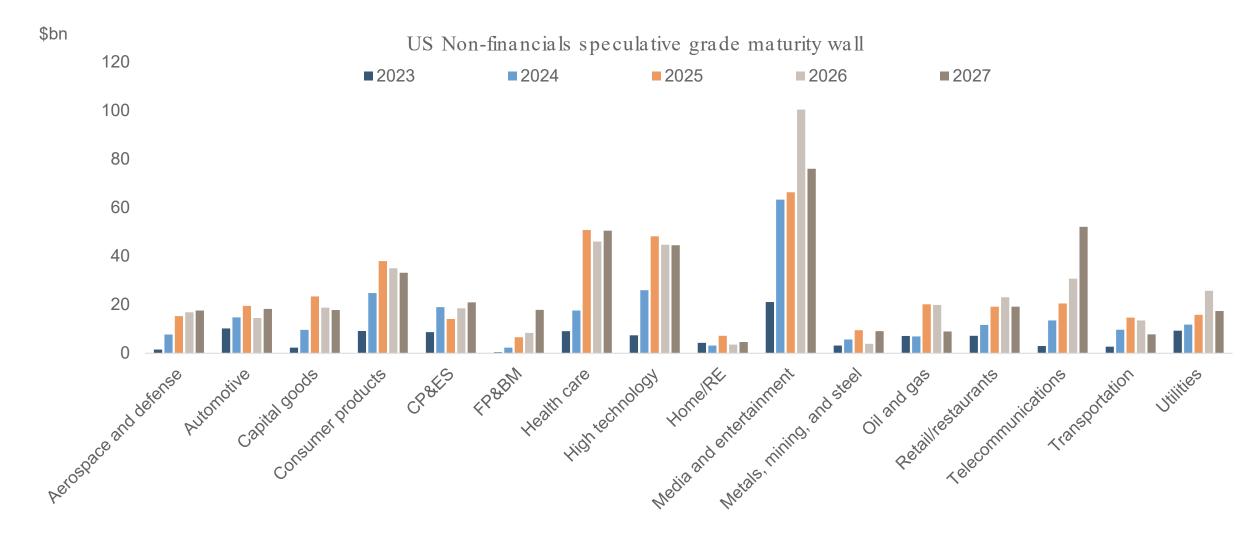
High yield maturity wall



IG: US Non financials maturity wall



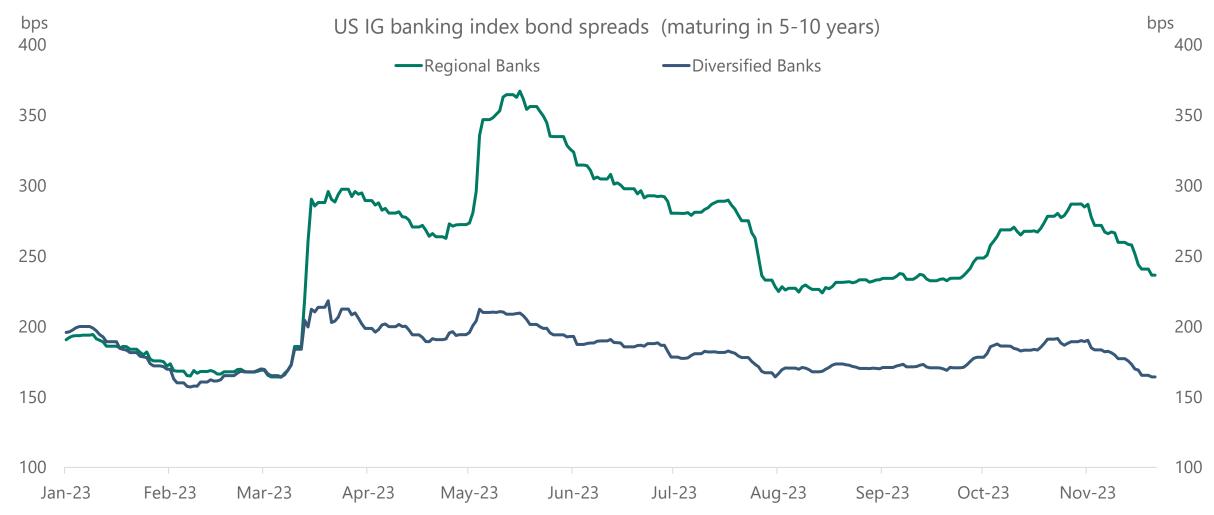
HY: US Non financials maturity wall



Regional banks

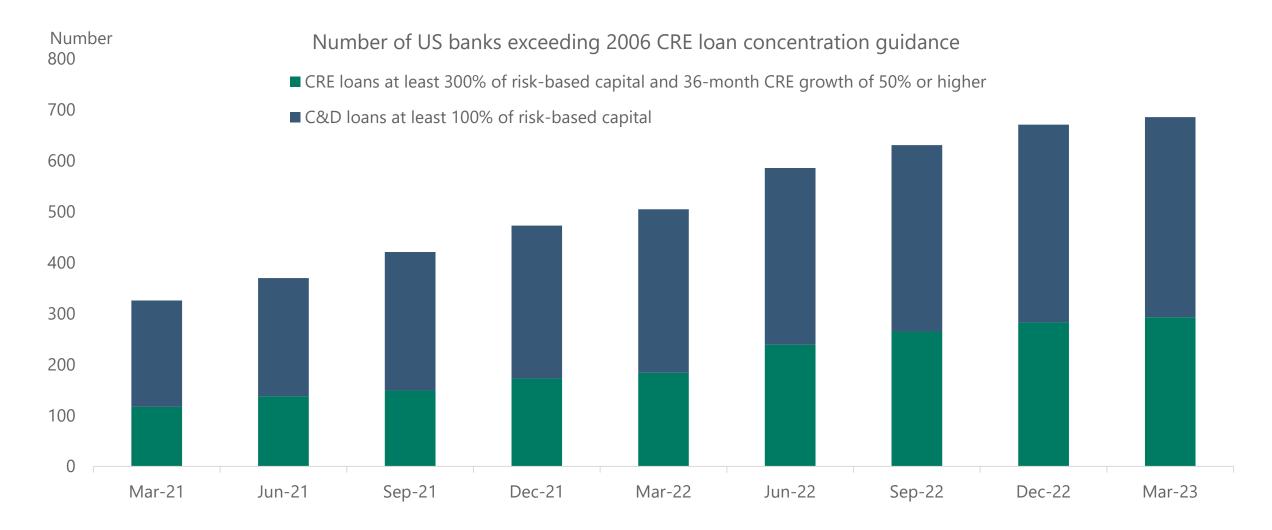


Regional bank spreads have widened recently

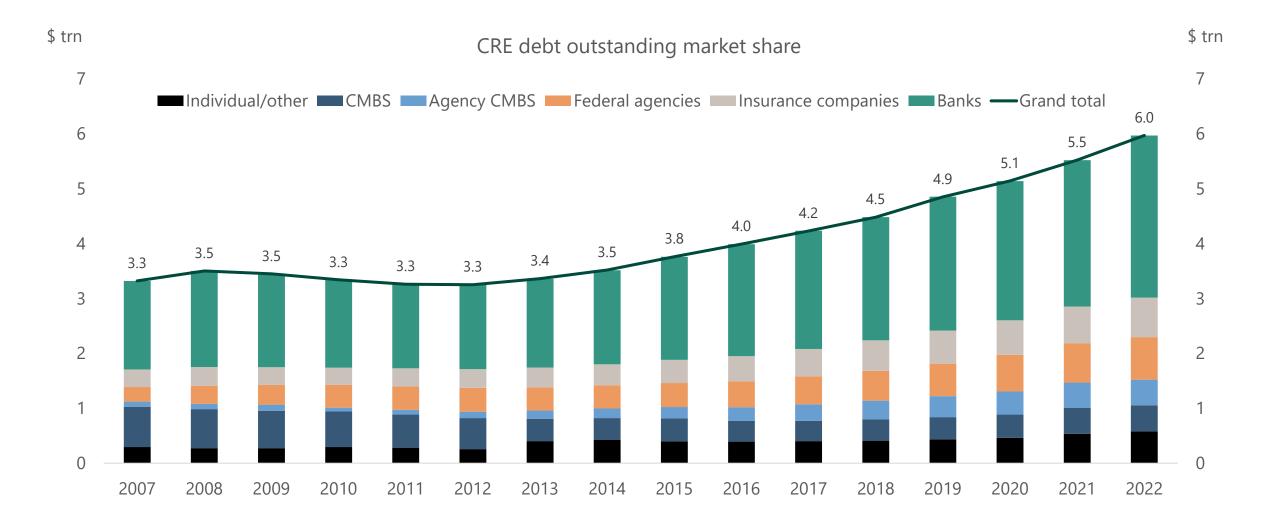


Source: ICE BofA, Bloomberg, Apollo Chief Economist. Note: Unweighted average spreads of bonds from ICE 5-10 Year US Banking Index, C6PX Index for bonds issued before 1st Jan 2023. There are 8 banks in the Regional index and 41 banks in the Diversified index, and Regional banks include BankUnited Inc, Citizens Financial Group, Huntington Bancshares Incorporated, Regions Financial Corporation, Truist Financial Corporation, Webster Financial Corp, Wintrust Financial Corp, Zions, and Diversified banks includes JP Morgan, Citibank, Bank of America, etc

Almost 700 US banks exceed the 2006 CRE loan concentration guidance

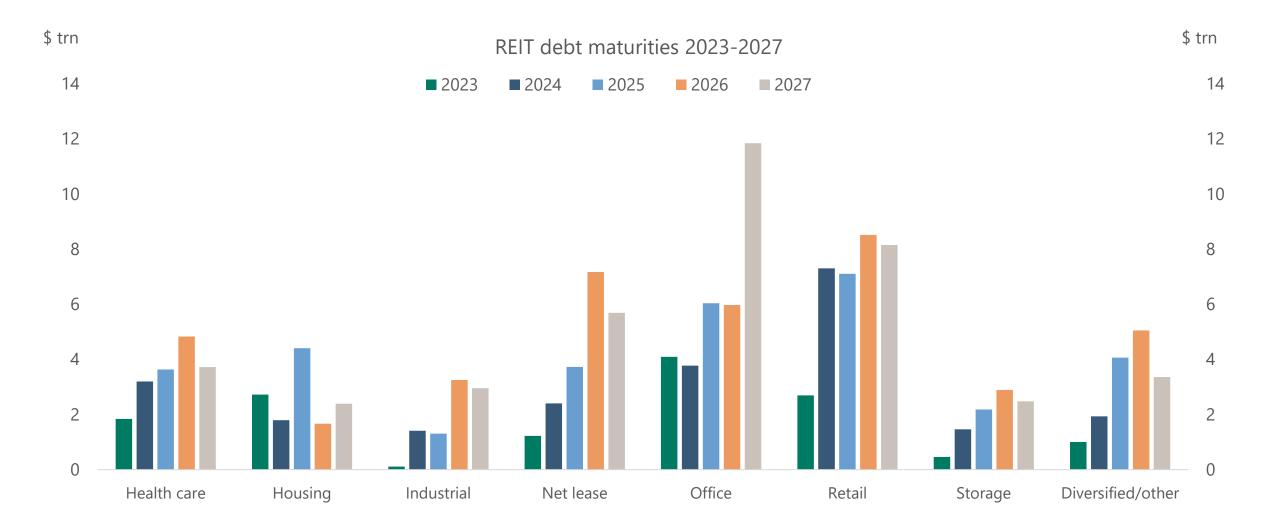


US banks account for the bulk of CRE lending



Source: S&P Capital IQ, Apollo Chief Economist

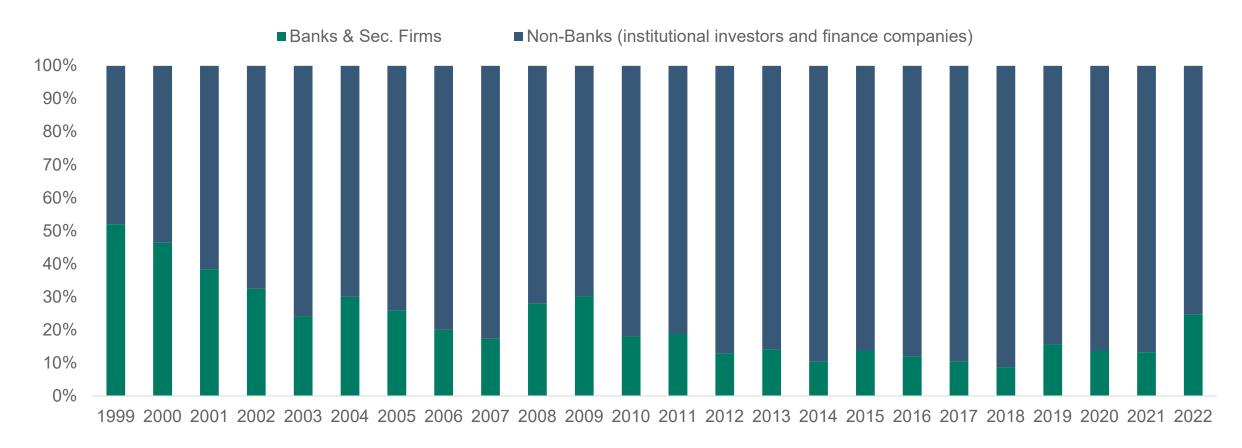
U.S. REITs hold approximately \$14 billion of debt maturing this year



Source: S&P Capital IQ, Apollo Chief Economist

More leveraged loans are held by banks

Primary investor market: leveraged loans

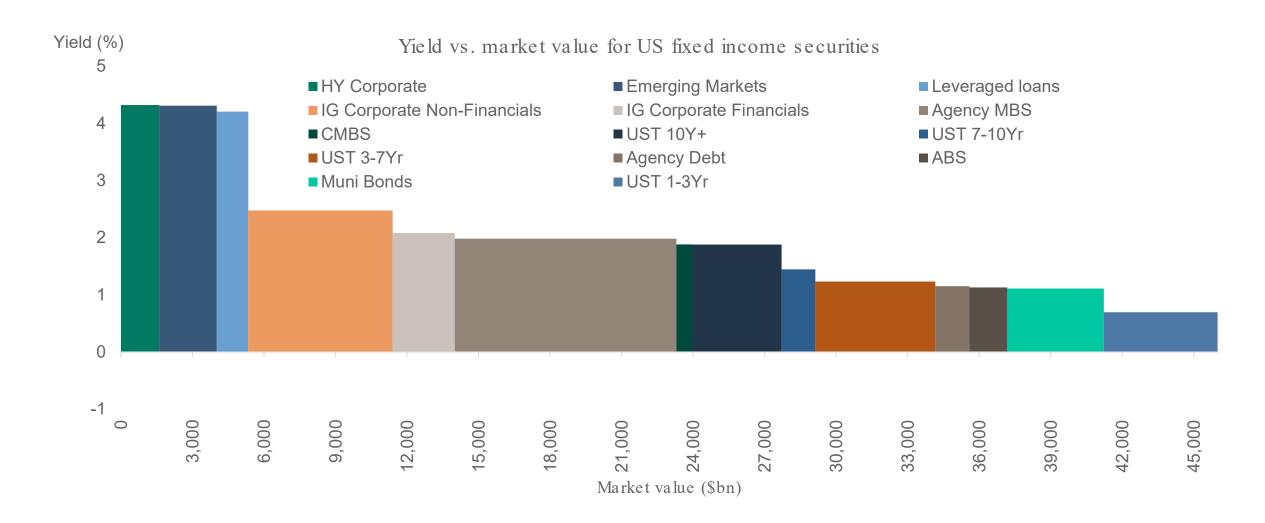


Source: Pitchbook LCD, Apollo Chief Economist

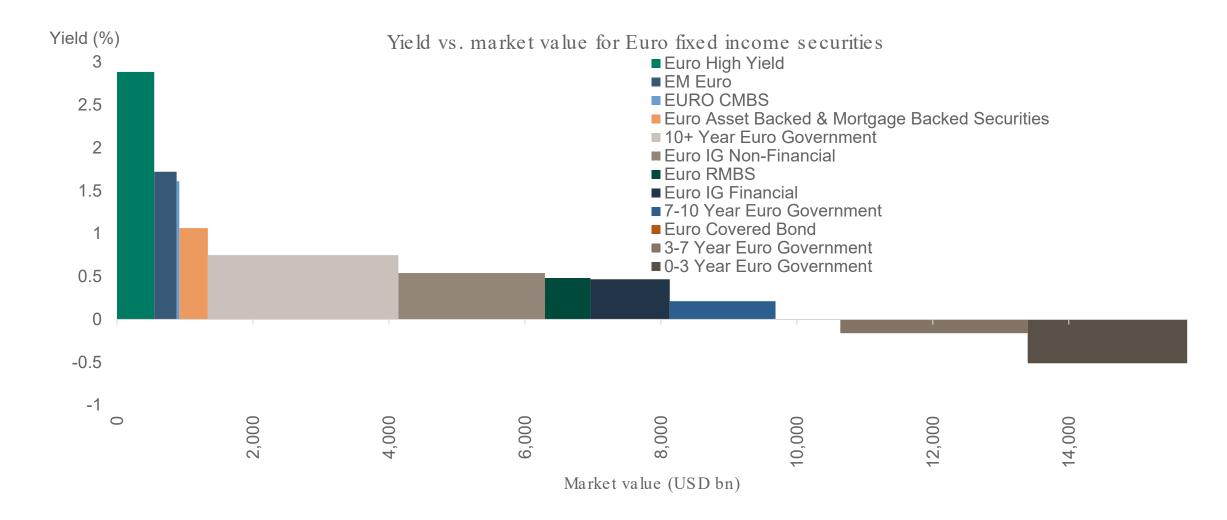
Credit markets in a broader perspective



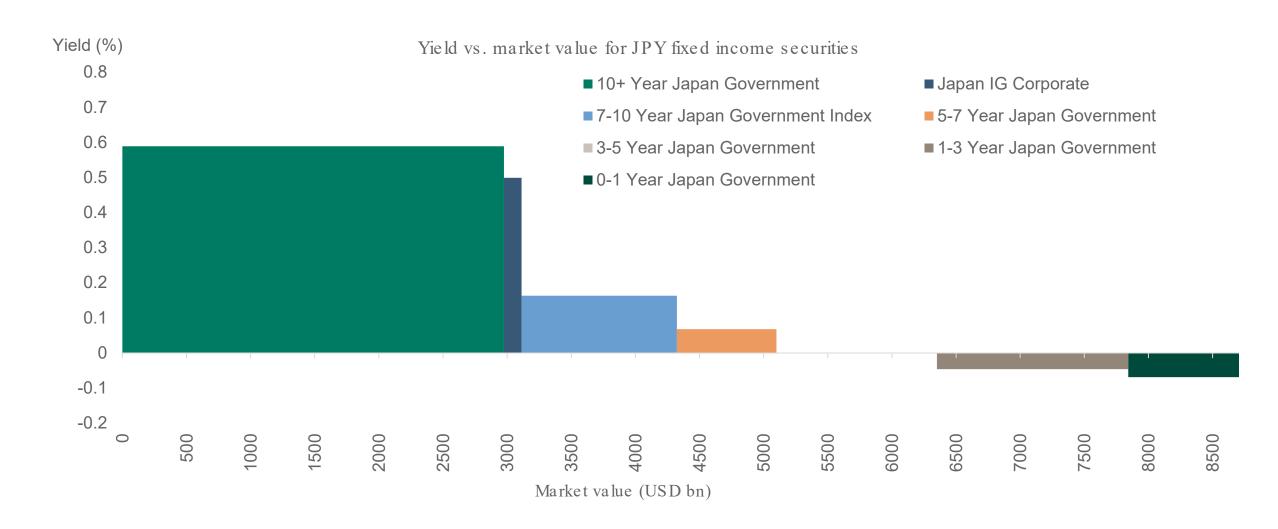
US fixed income markets by yield and size



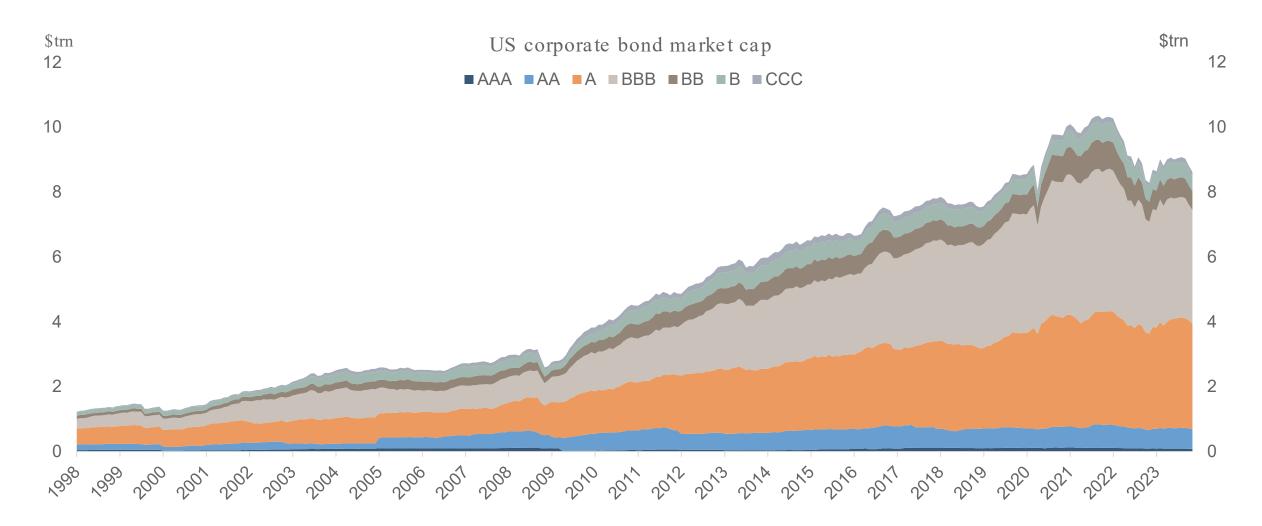
European fixed income markets by yield and size



Japanese fixed income markets by yield and size

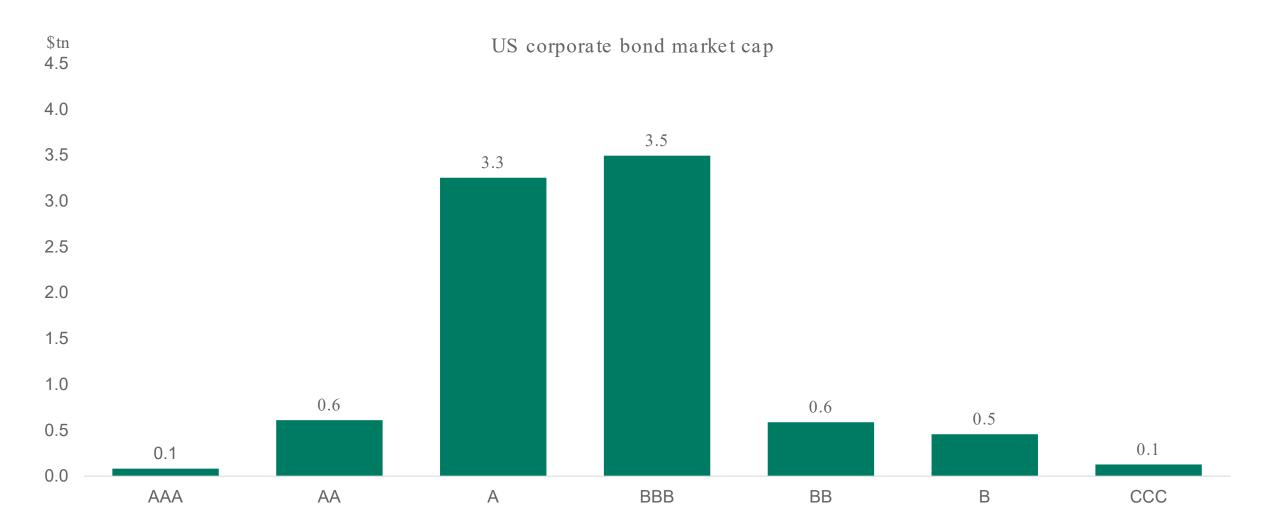


Total market cap of US corporate bond markets: \$9trn

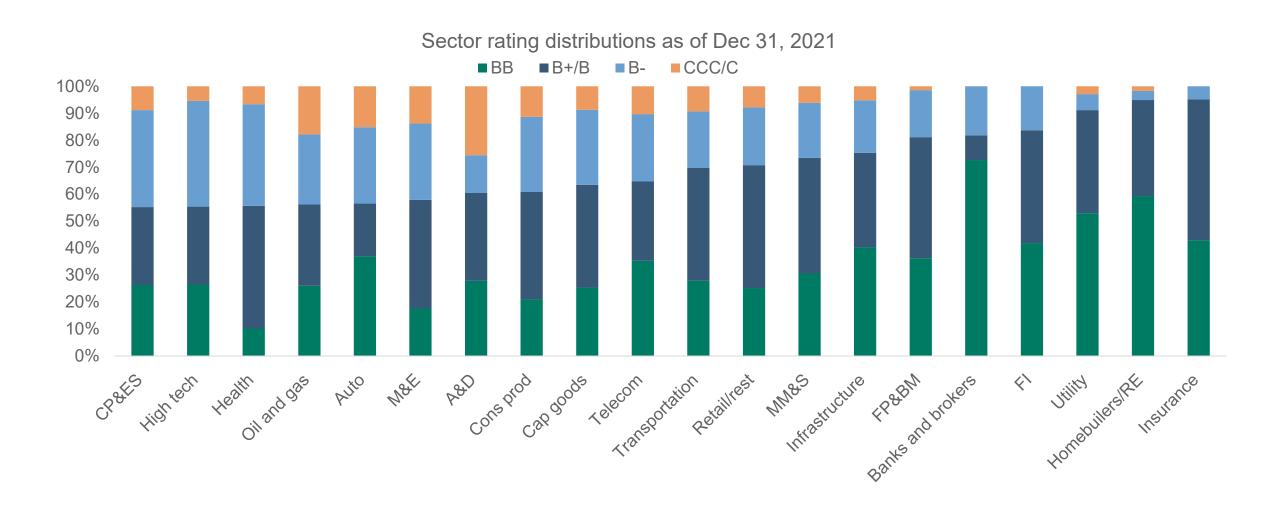


126

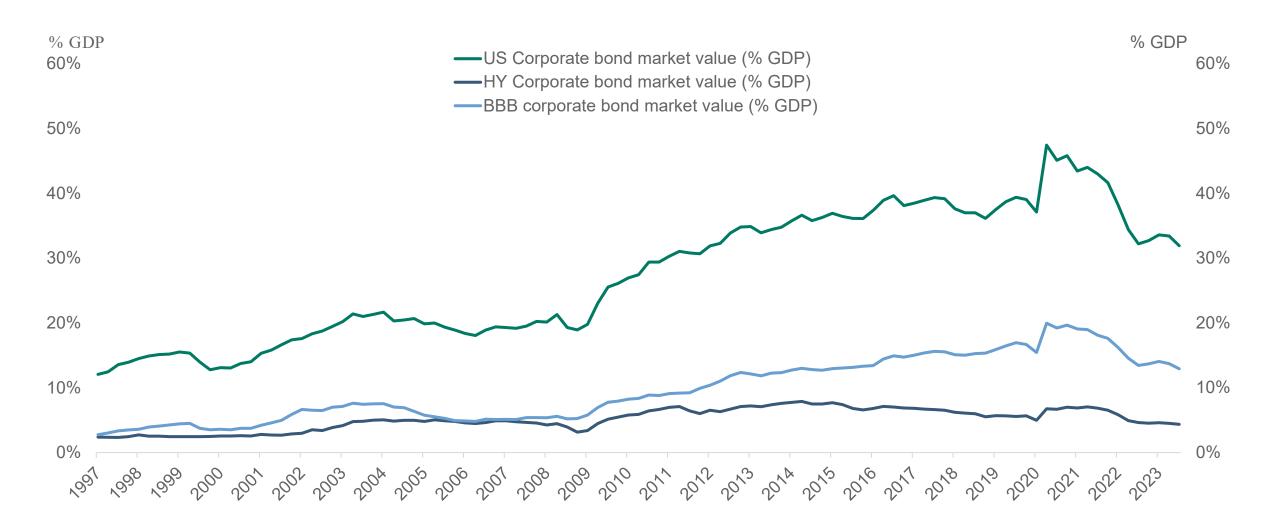
Corporate bond market cap, by rating



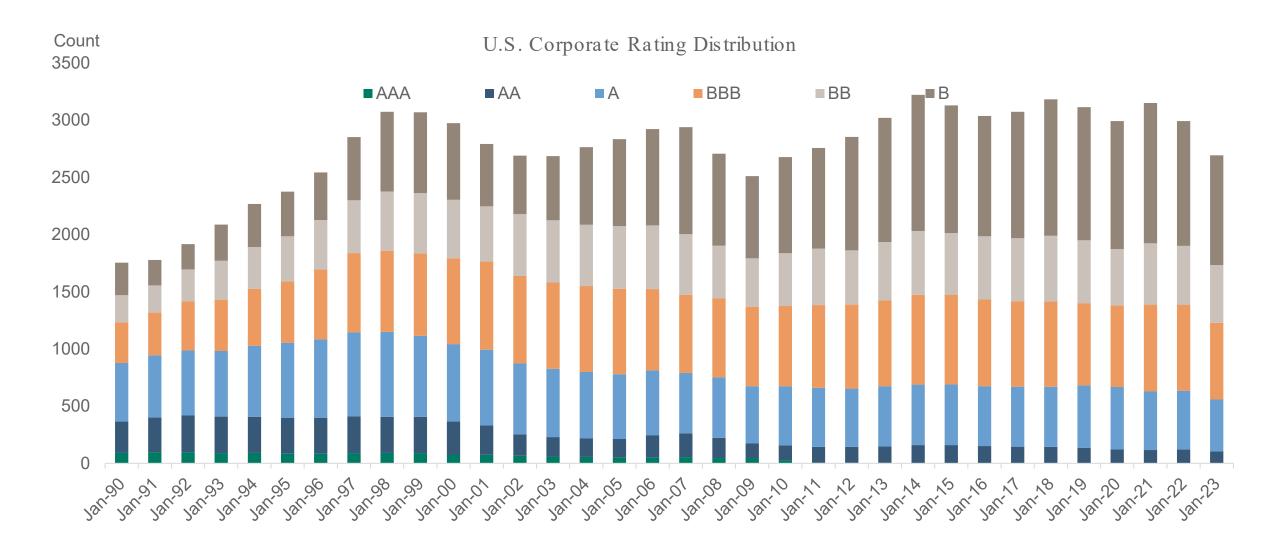
HY sector rating distributions



US corporate bond markets as a share of GDP

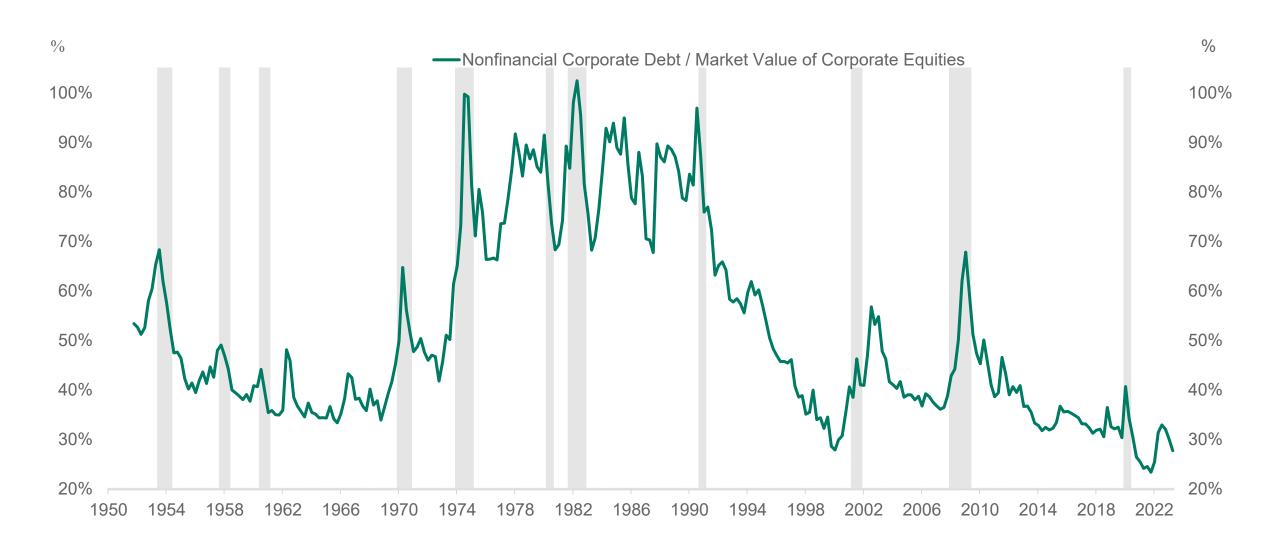


Distribution of corporate credit ratings



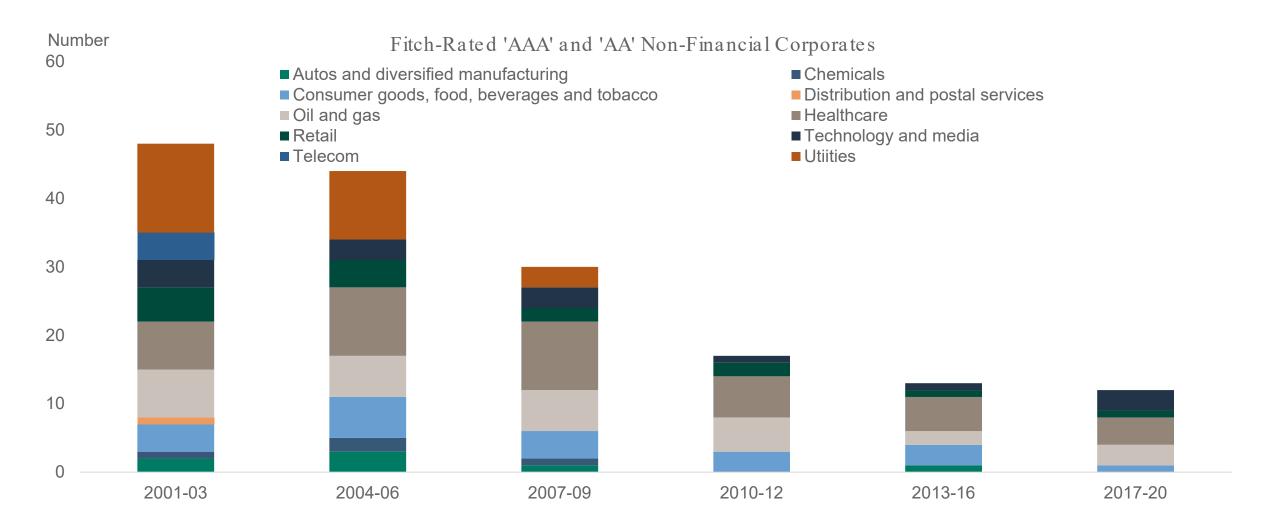
Source: S&P, Apollo Chief Economist

Debt-to-equity ratio is very low for corporate America

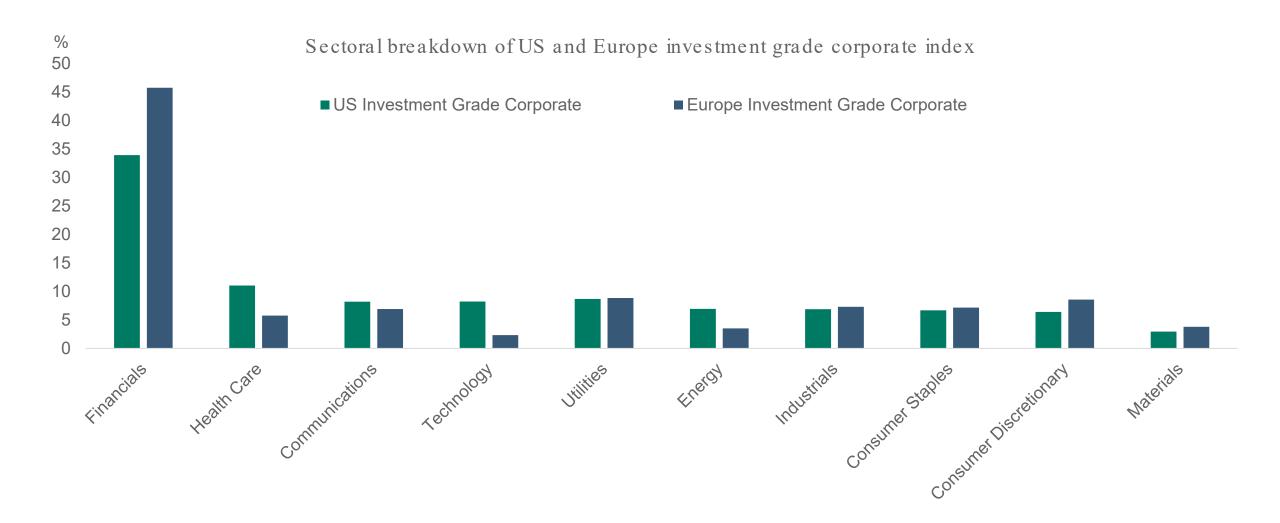


Source: FRB, Haver Analytics, Apollo Chief Economist.

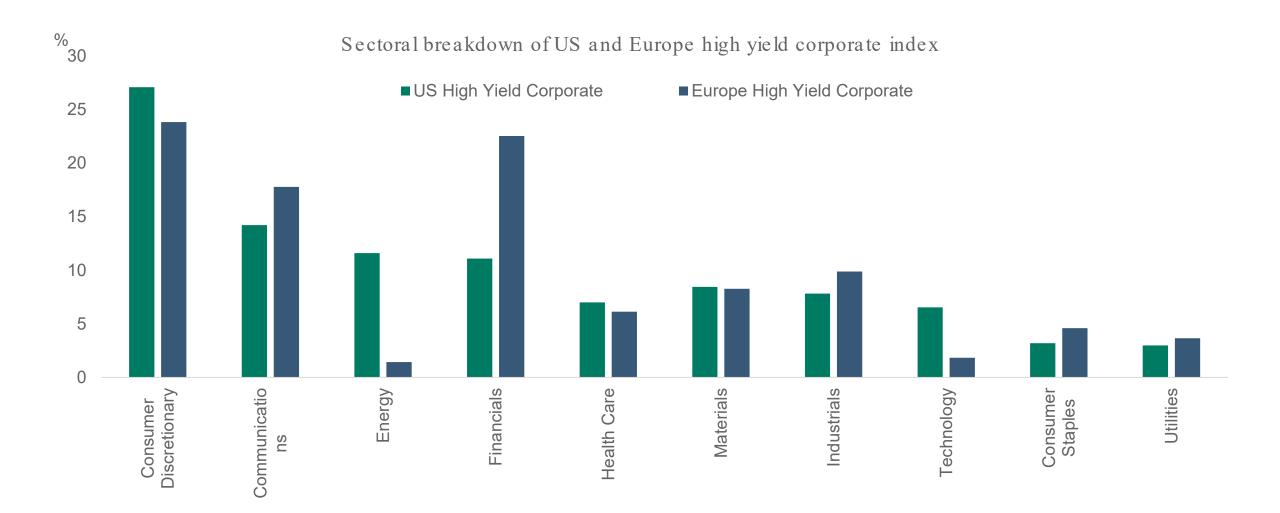
Fewer and fewer corporate bonds are rated AAA and AA



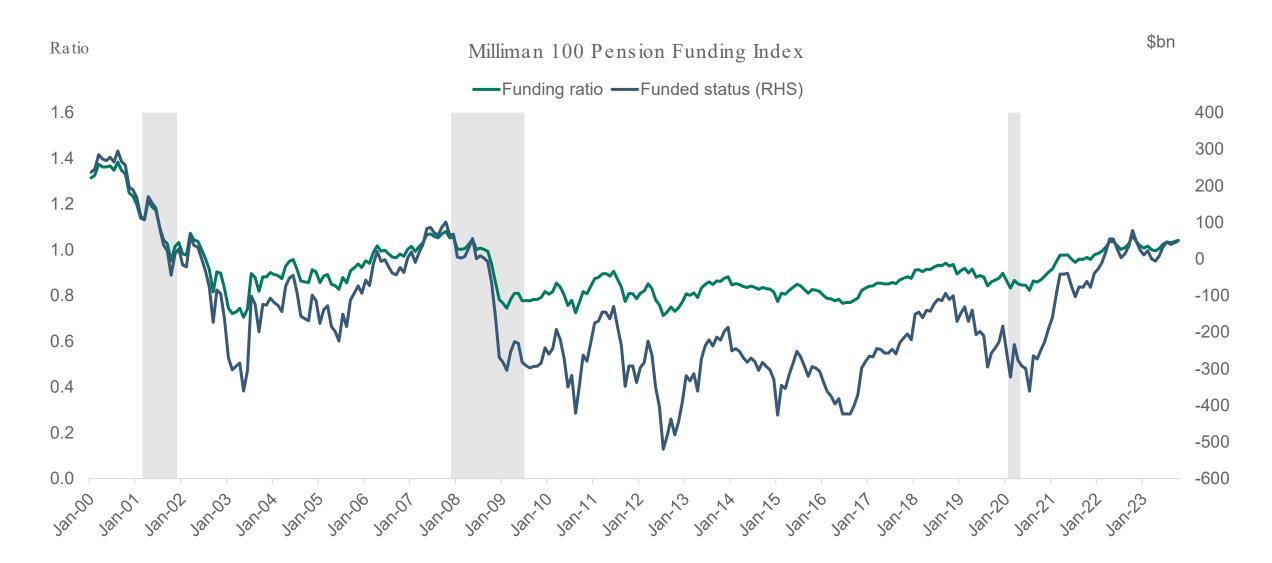
Comparing the US IG index with the EU IG index



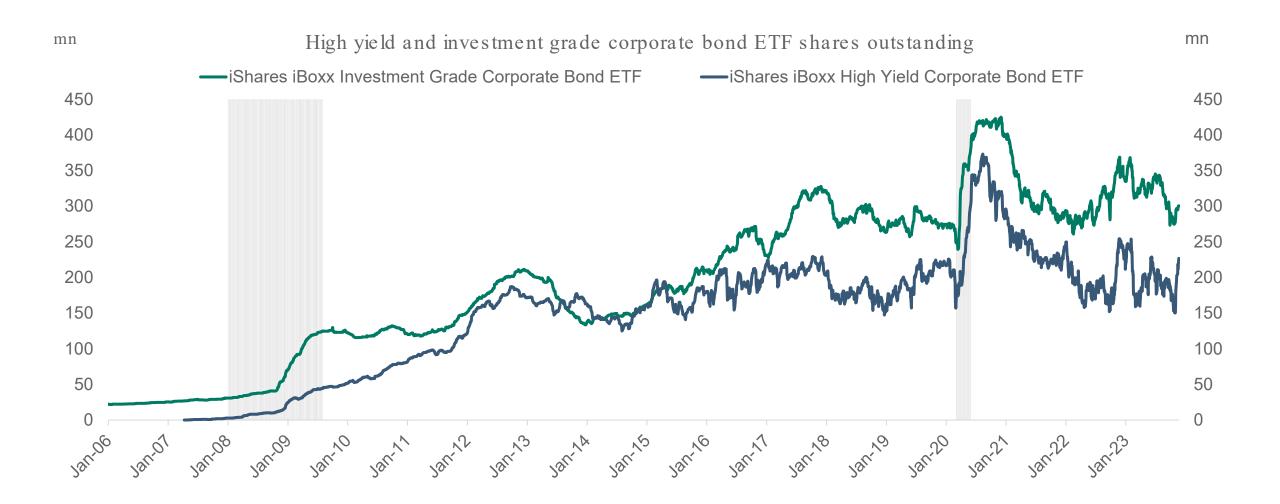
Comparing the US HY index with the EU HY index



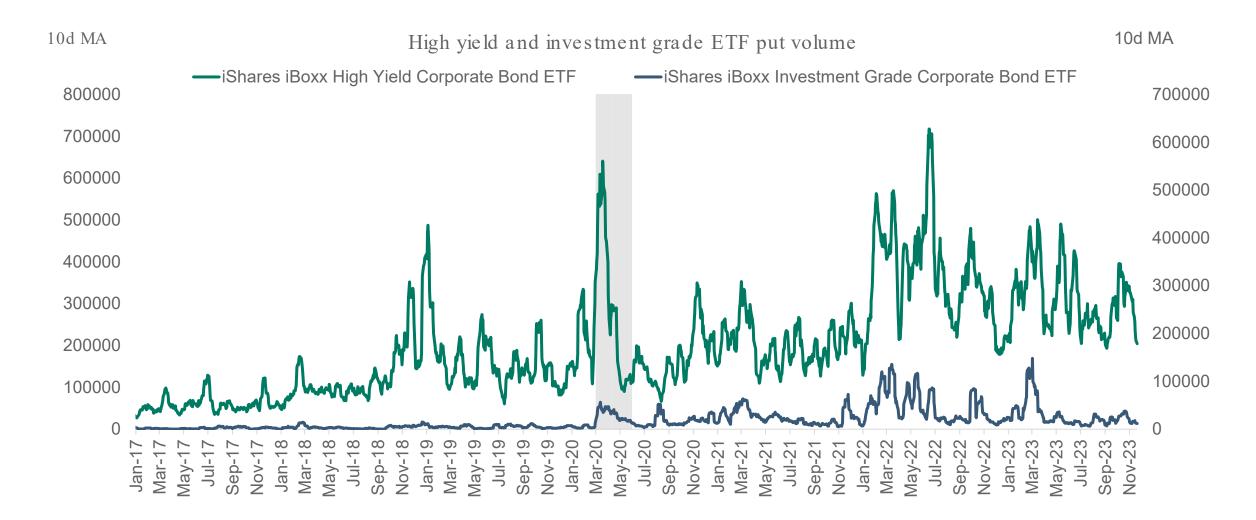
Pension funding status has improved



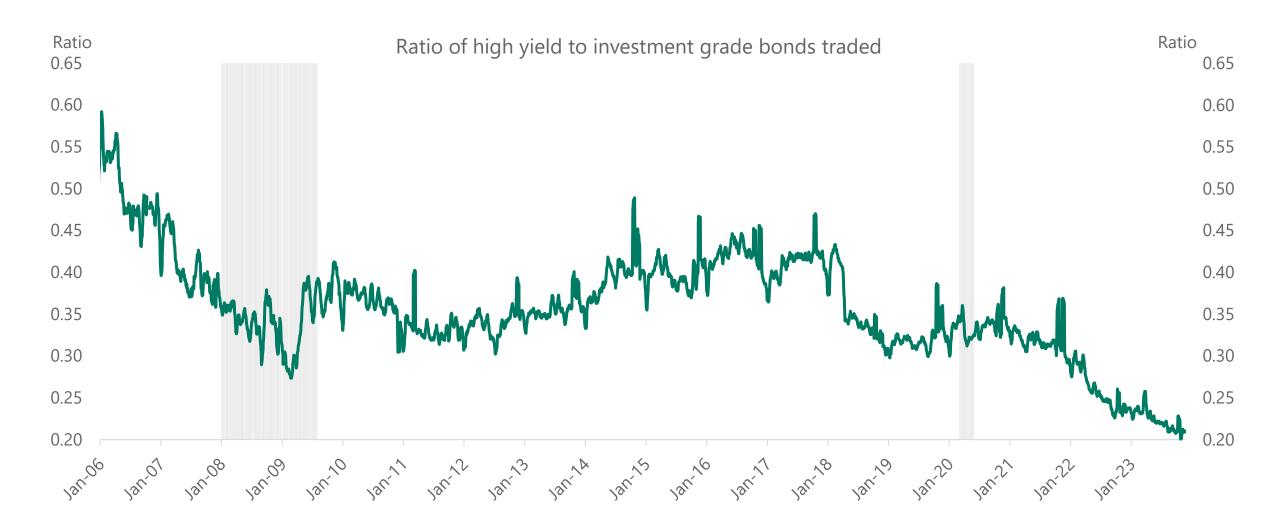
Retail investor activity in IG and HY



Put volumes for IG and HY ETF

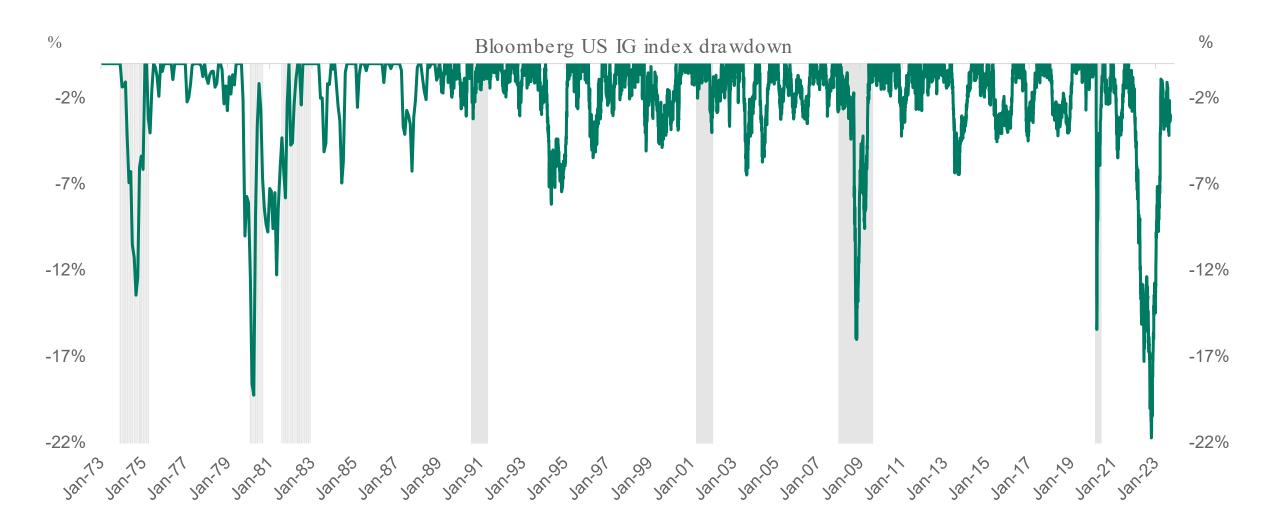


Fewer high yield bonds being traded



Source: FINRA Trace, Bloomberg, Apollo Chief Economist

IG index drawdown



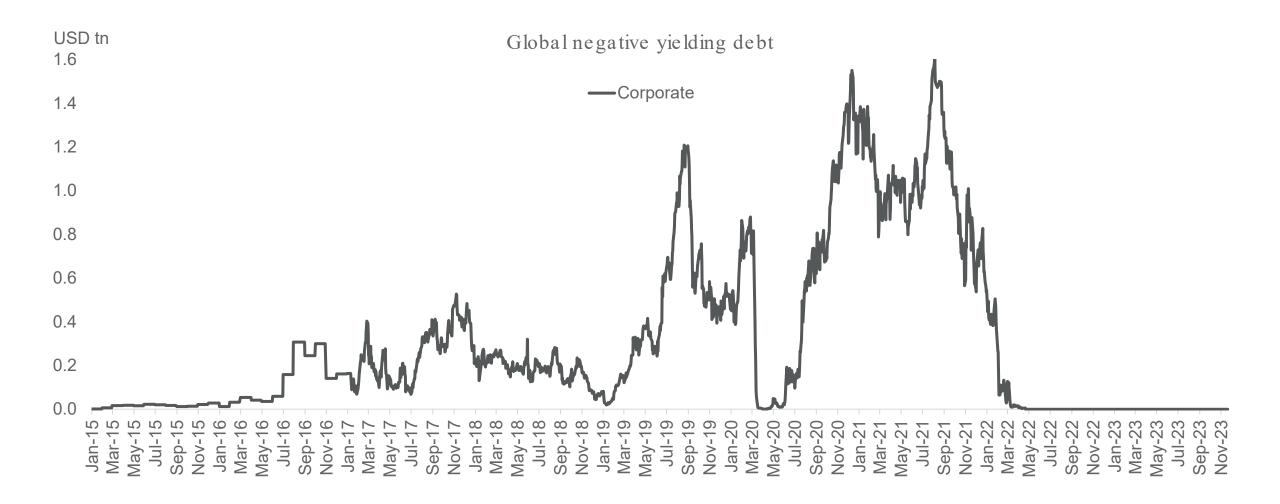
Bonds outstanding trading at negative interest rates



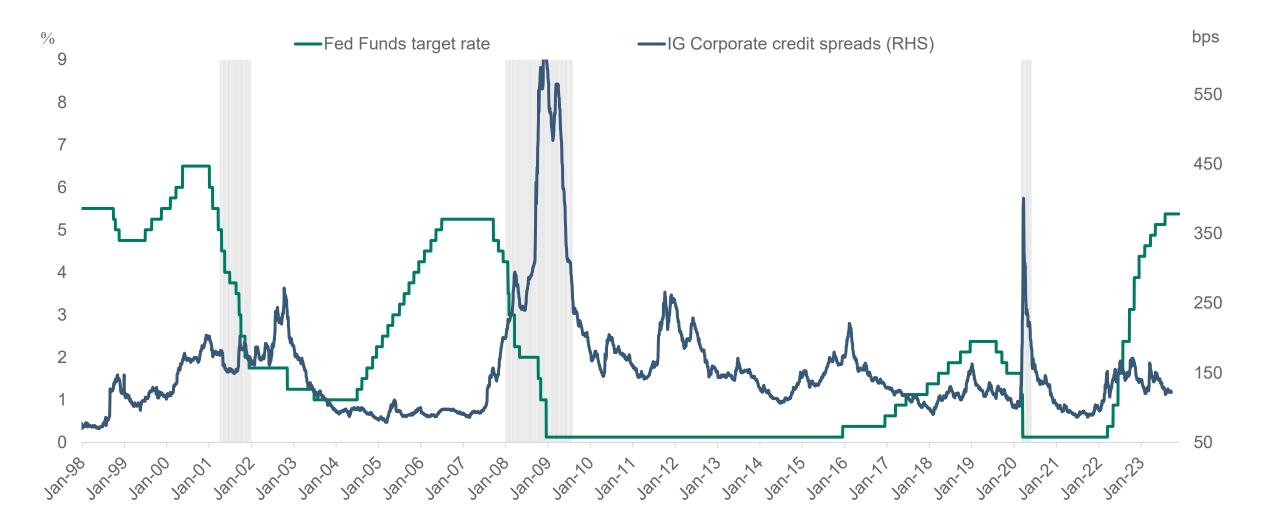
The total value of negative yielding debt in the world



All corporate bonds now have positive yields

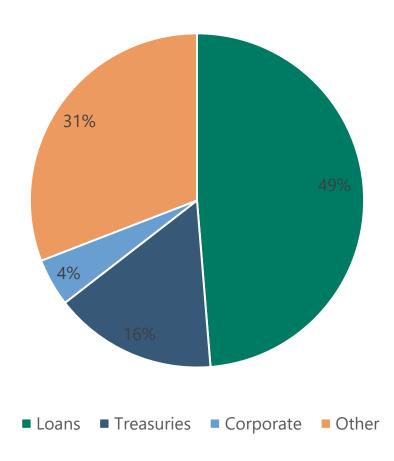


Credit spreads normally widen when the Fed is hiking

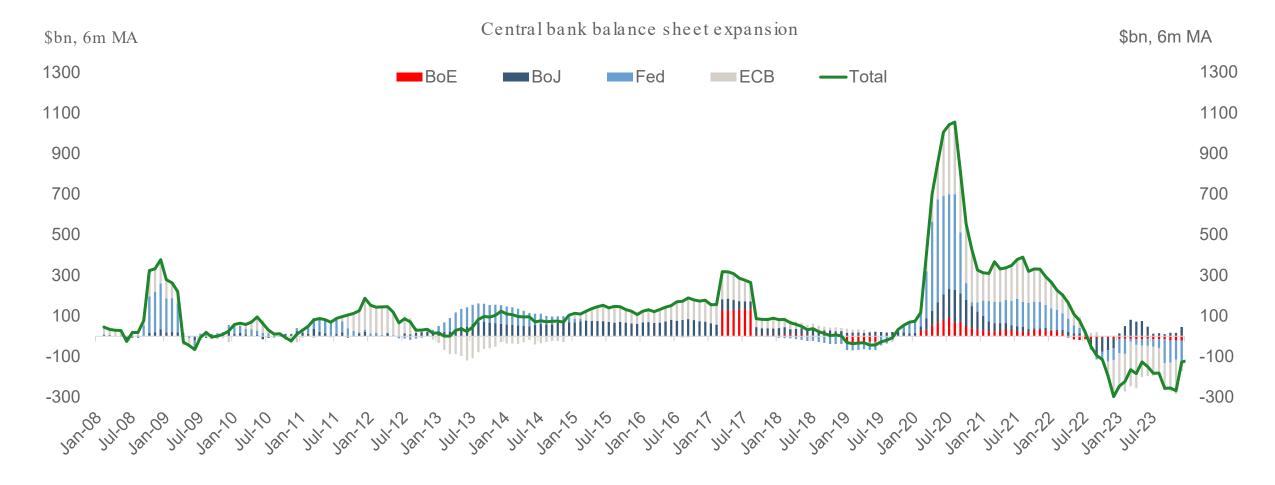


US: Floating rate bonds outstanding, November 2023

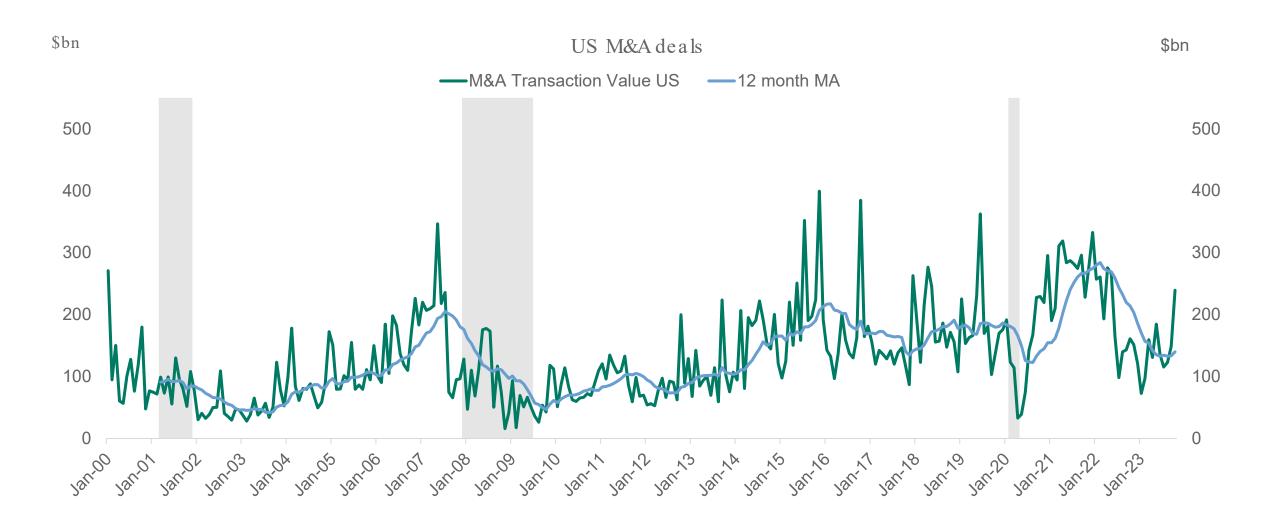




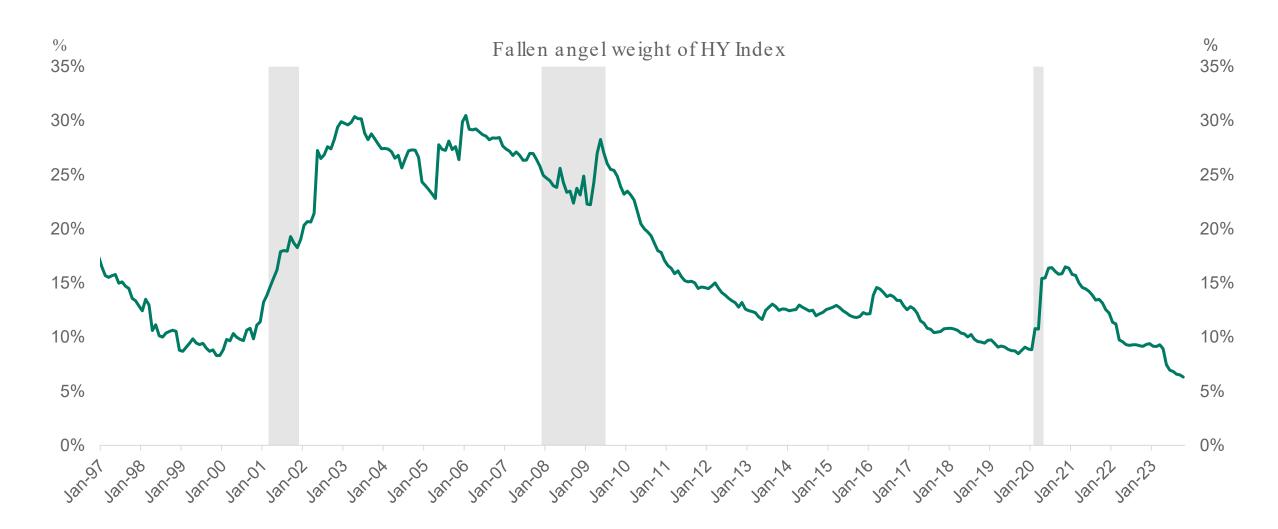
From QE to QT



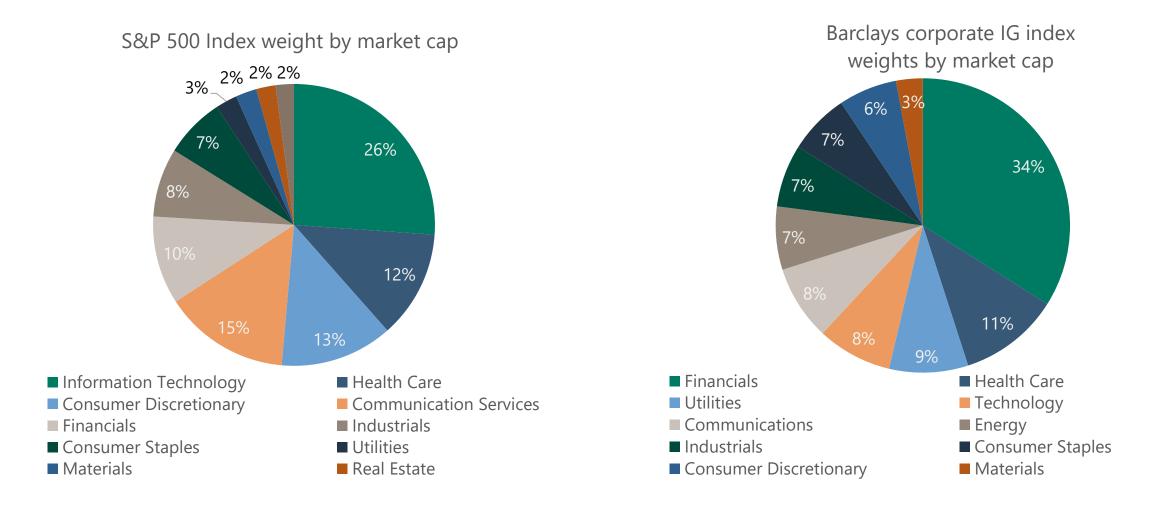
M&A activity declining



Declining share of fallen angels in the HY index

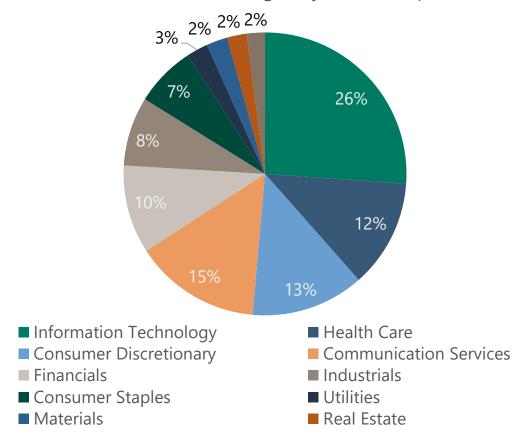


Big differences between weights in the S&P500 and the IG index

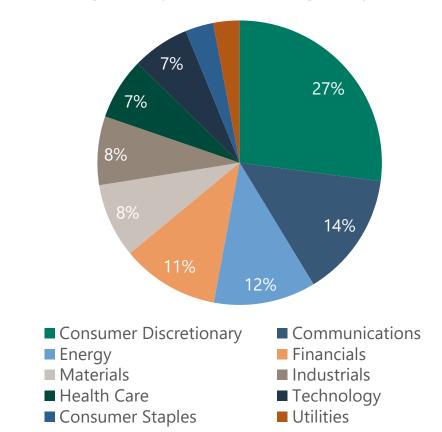


Big differences between weights in the S&P500 and the HY index

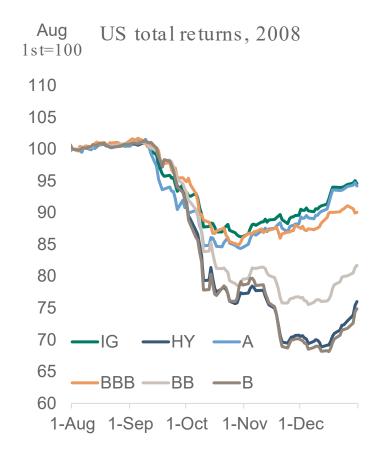


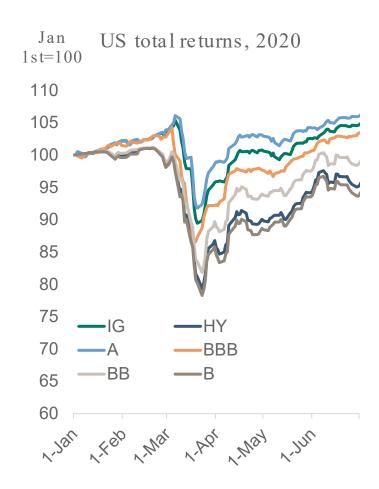


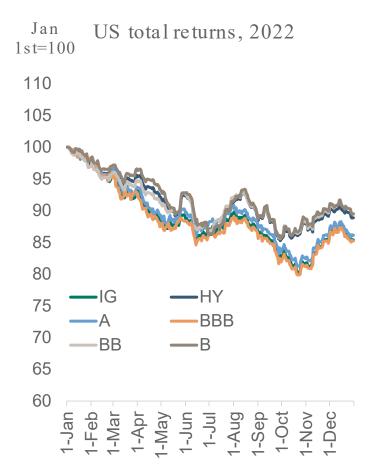
Bloomberg Barclays HY index weights by mkt cap



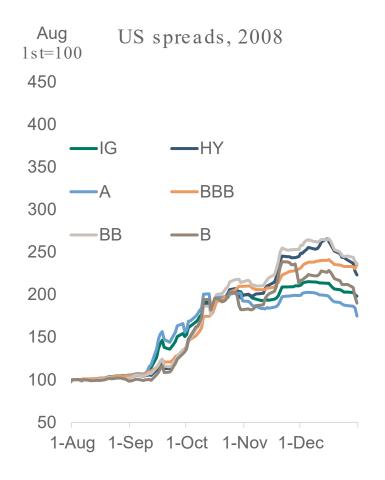
Synchronized sell-off in credit so far. Little differentiation between credits compared with 2008 and March 2020 episodes.

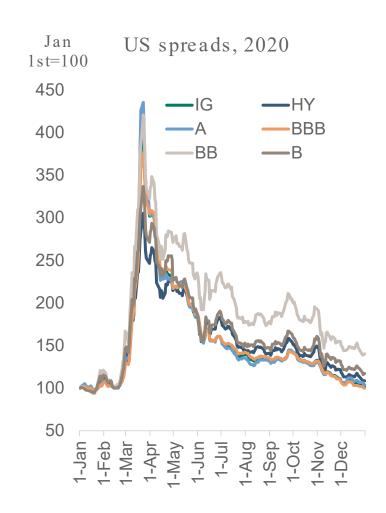


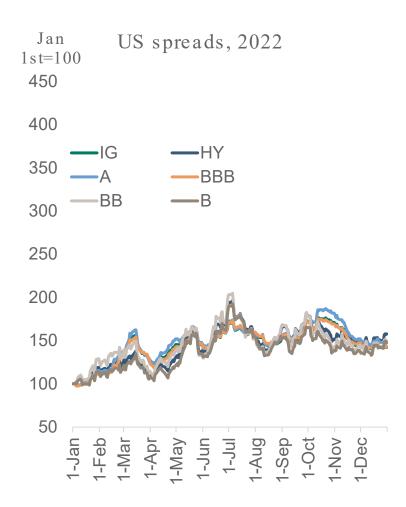




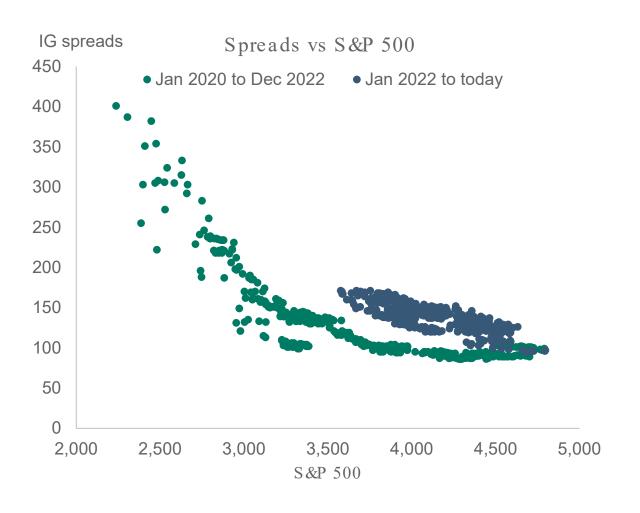
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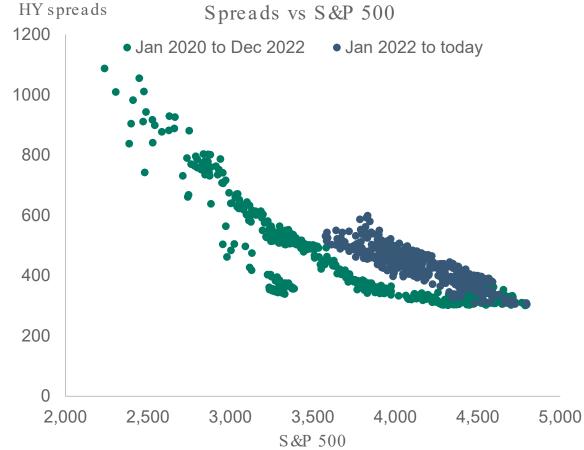




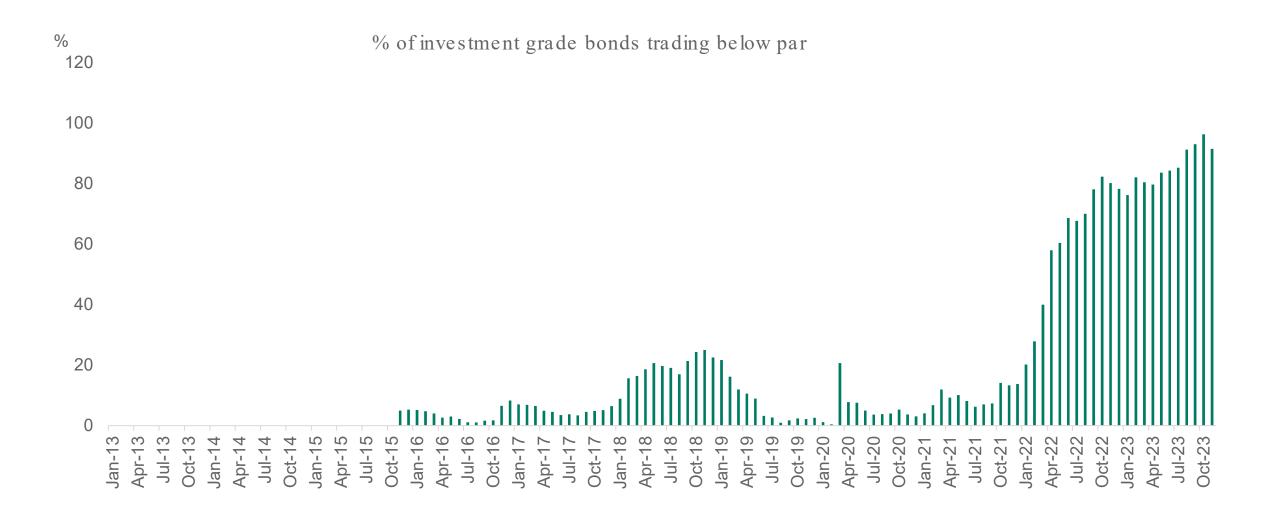


Valuation of credit versus equities

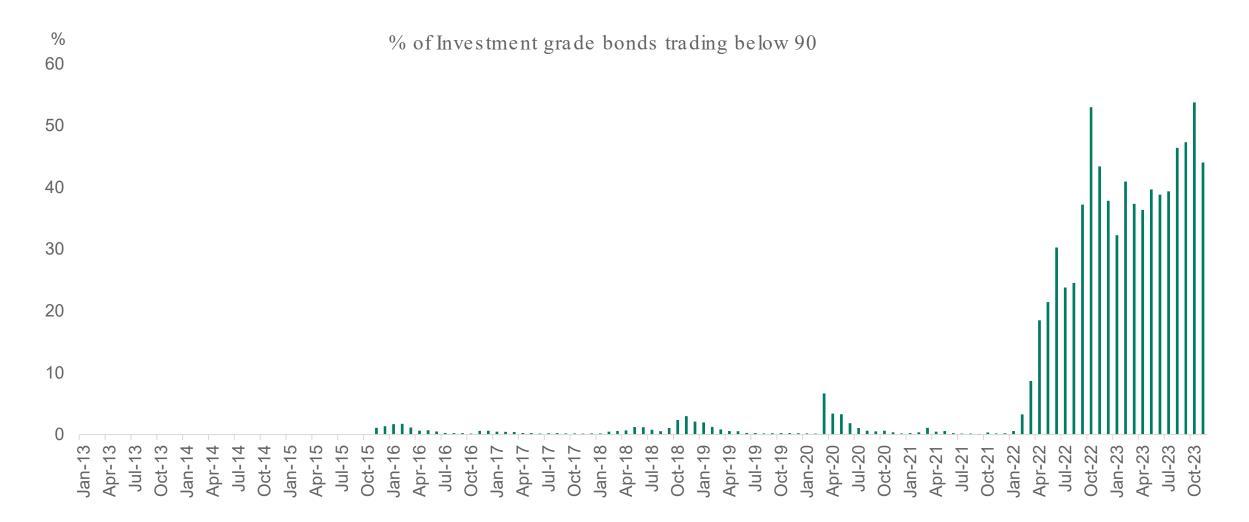




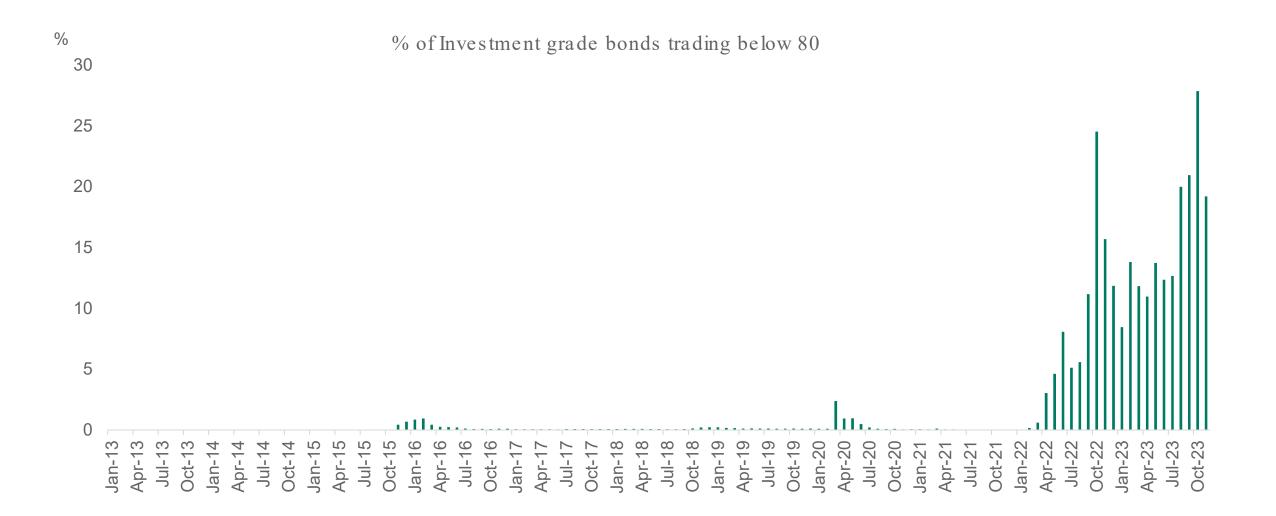
91% of the US IG market trading below par



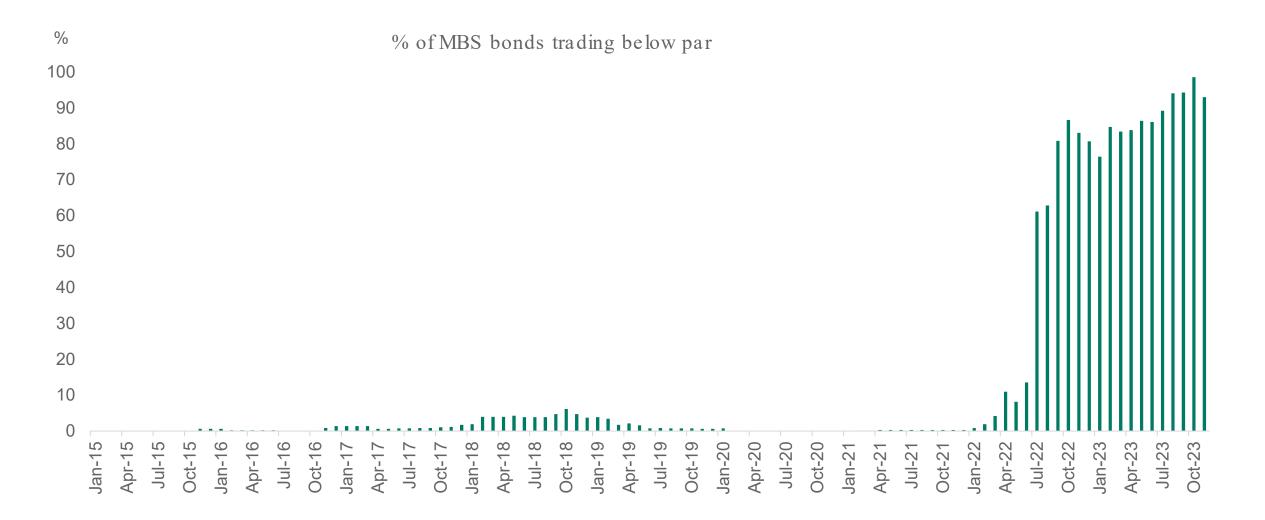
44% of the US IG market trading below 90



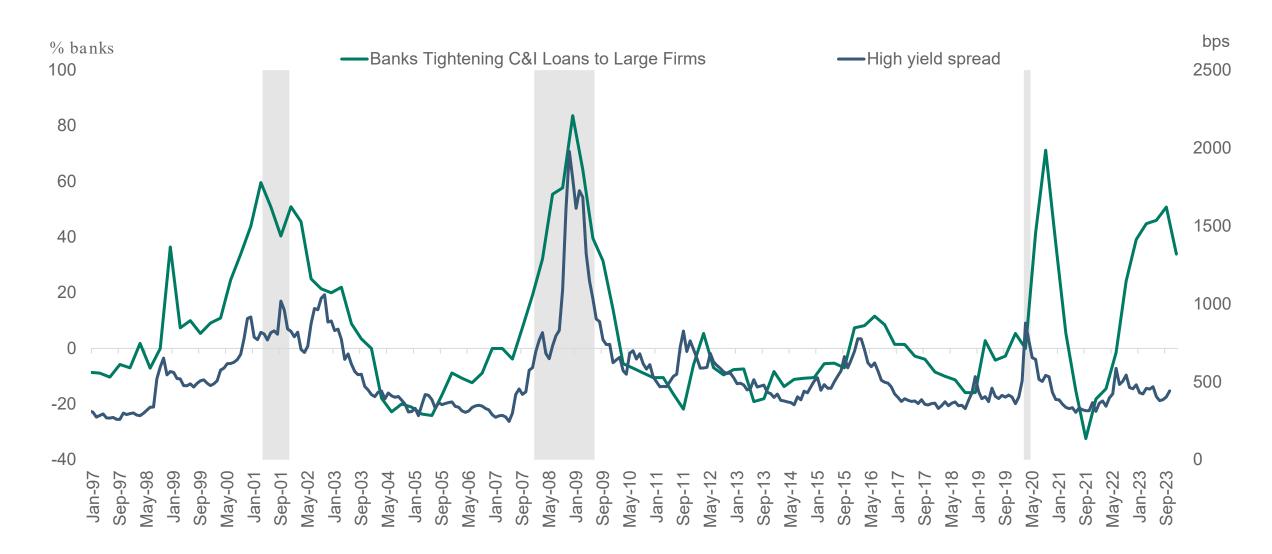
19% of the US IG market trading below 80



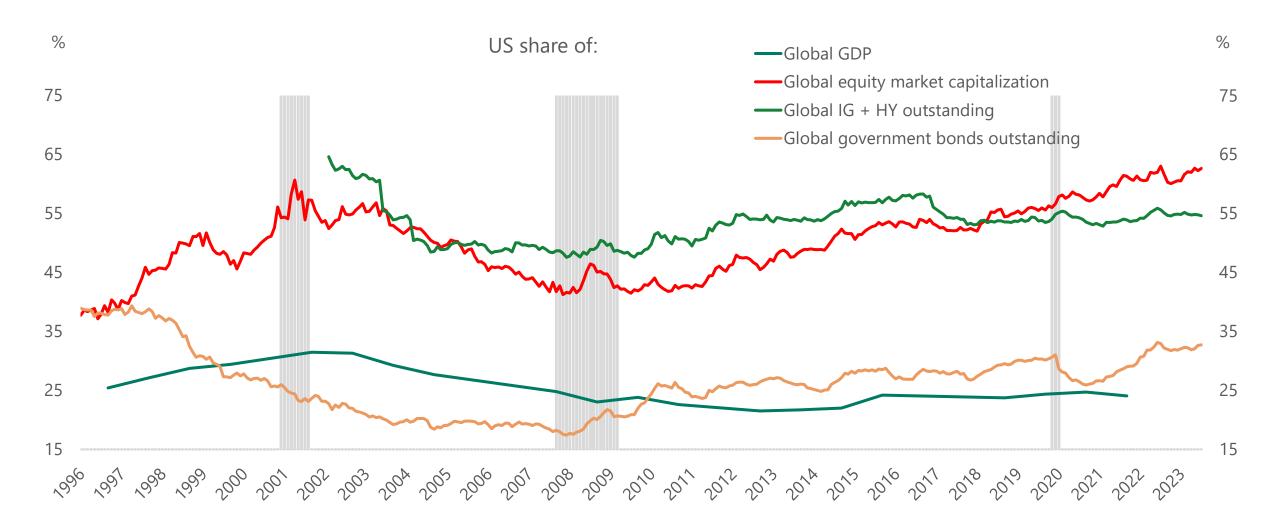
93% of the US MBS market trading below par



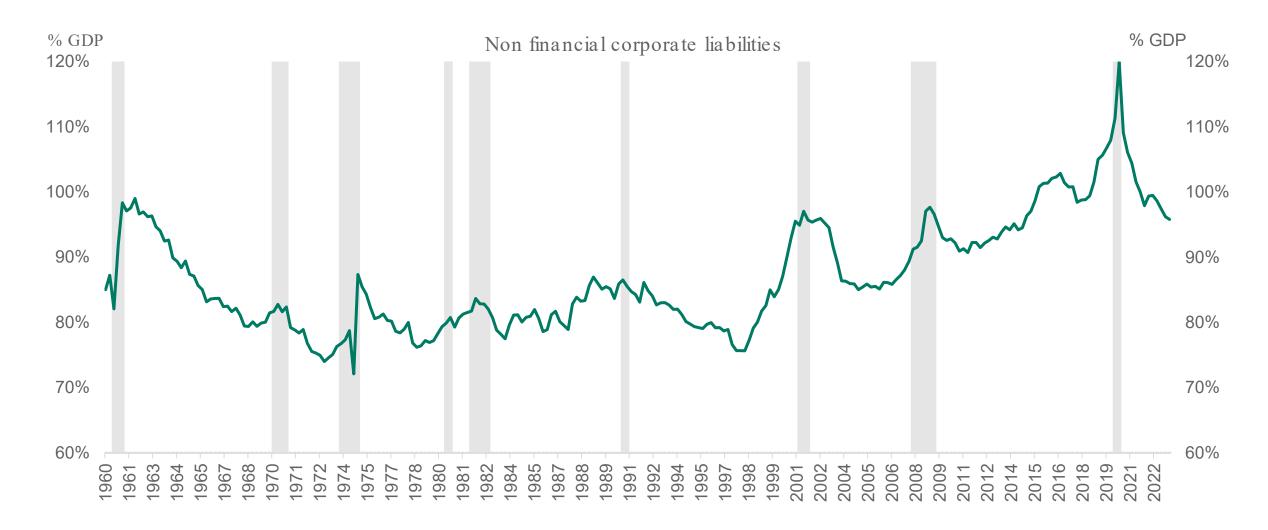
Banks tightening credit conditions, HY spread not responding



US share of the world economy and global financial markets



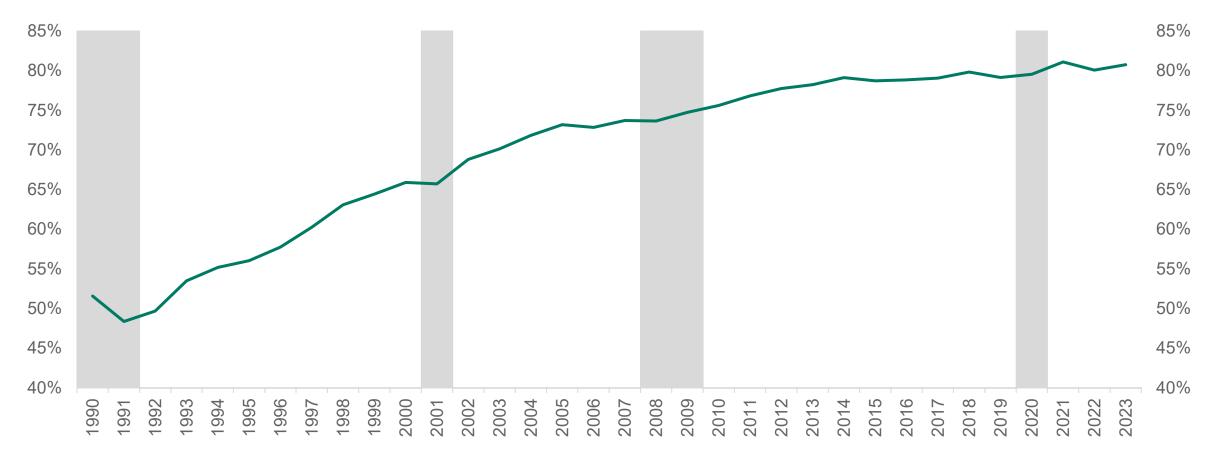
Corporate debt is coming down as a share of GDP



Source: FRB, Haver Analytics, Apollo Chief Economist

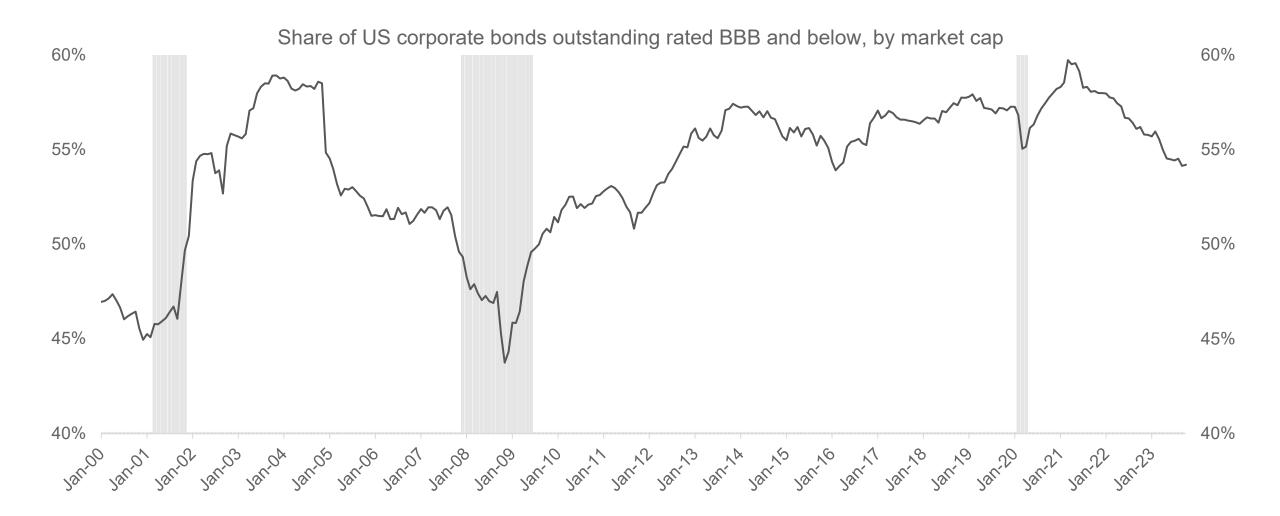
Lower-rated firms are by definition more vulnerable to rising interest rates



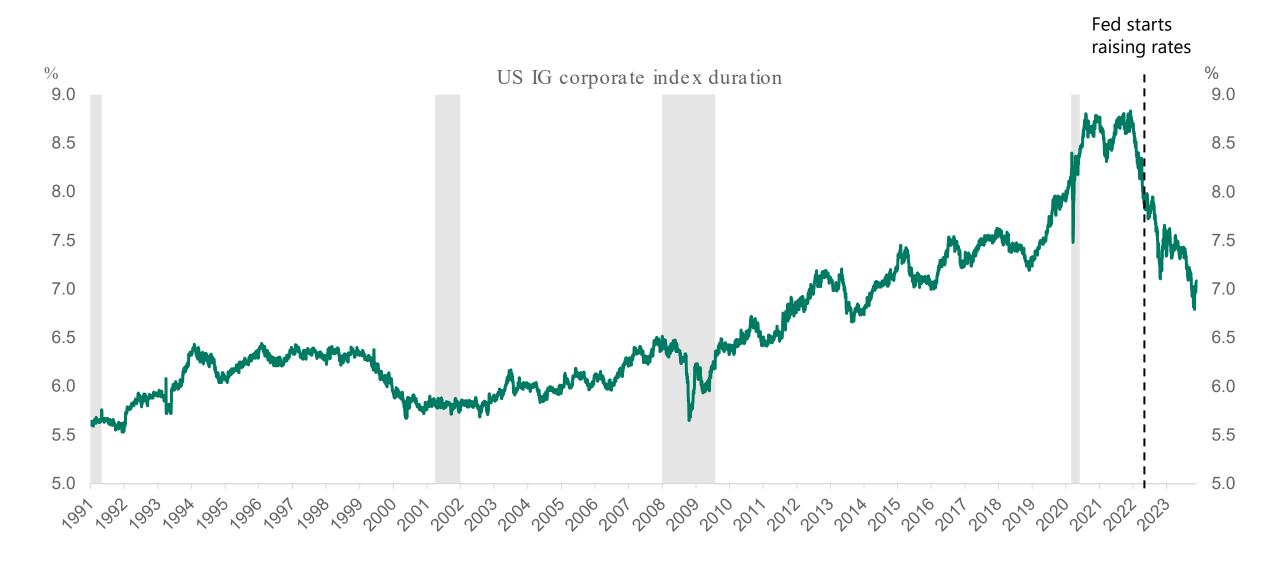


Source: S&P, Apollo Chief Economist

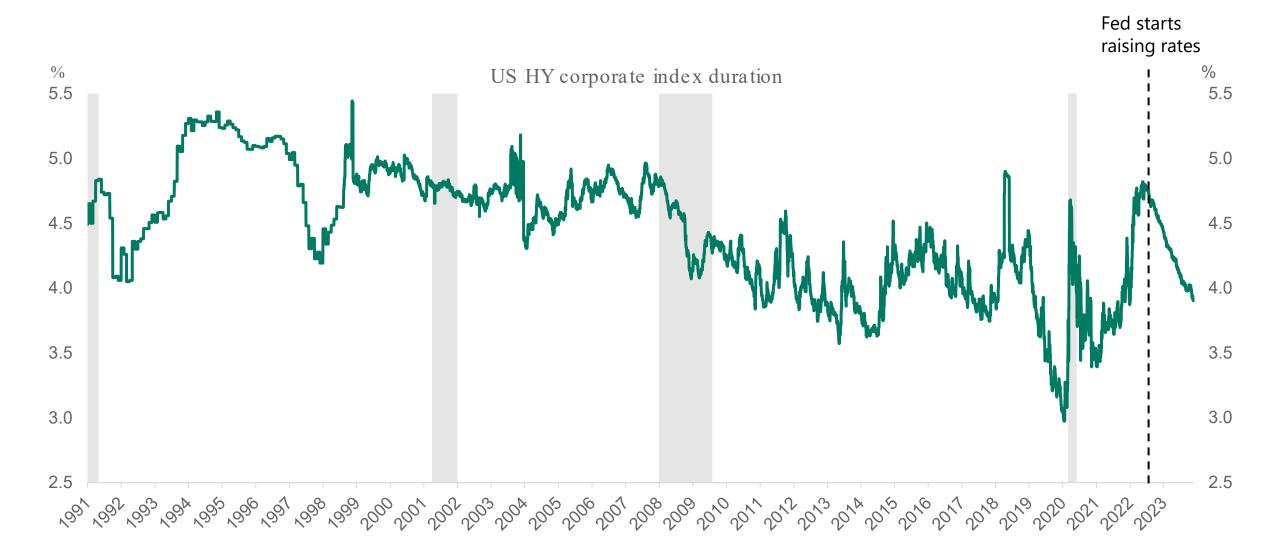
Share of corporate bond market value outstanding rated BBB and below



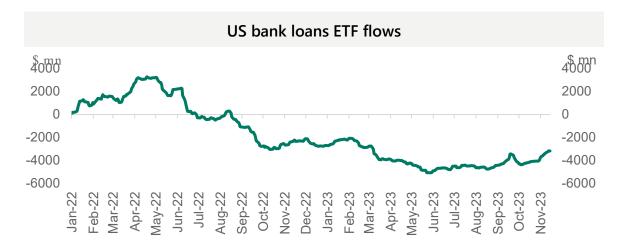
IG index duration declining

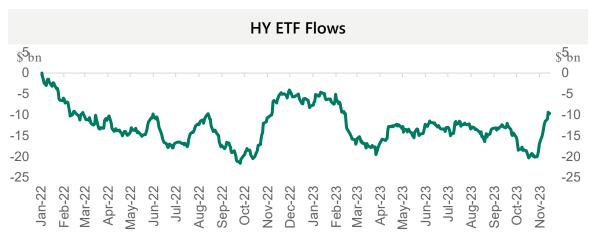


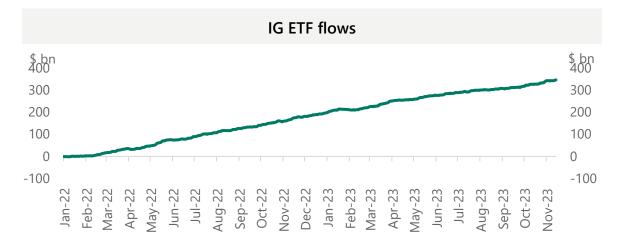
HY index duration declining

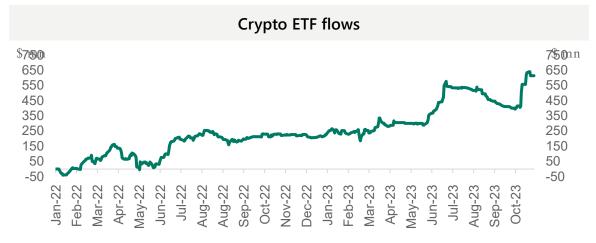


Flow monitor

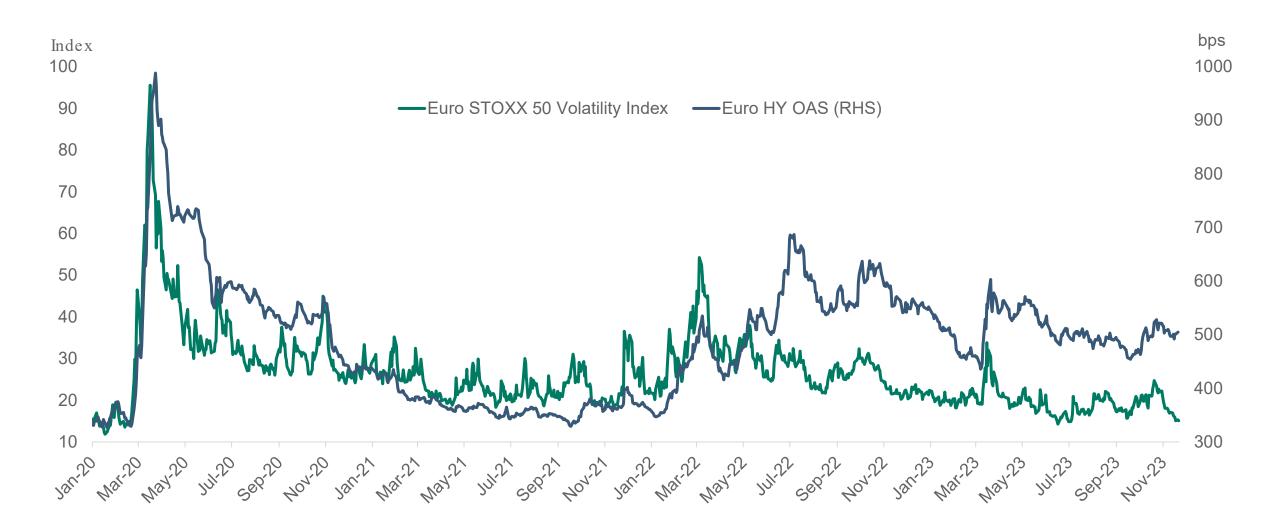




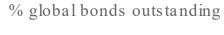


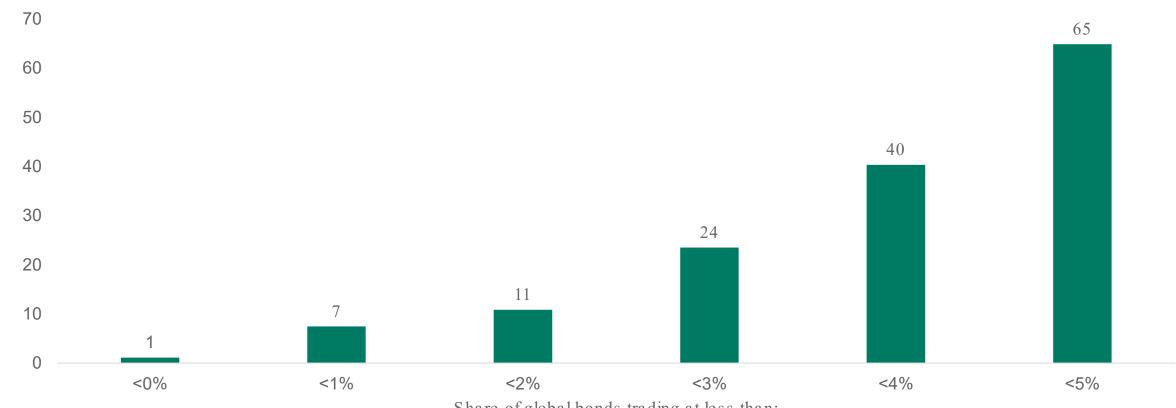


Convergence between EU equity vol and EU HY spreads



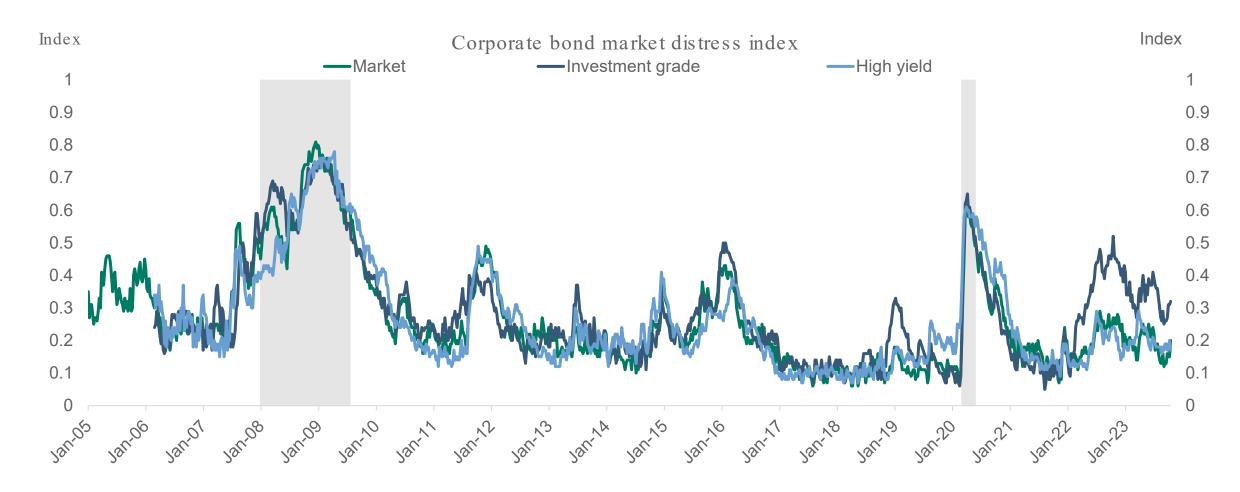
24% of bonds in the world trading at less than 3% yield





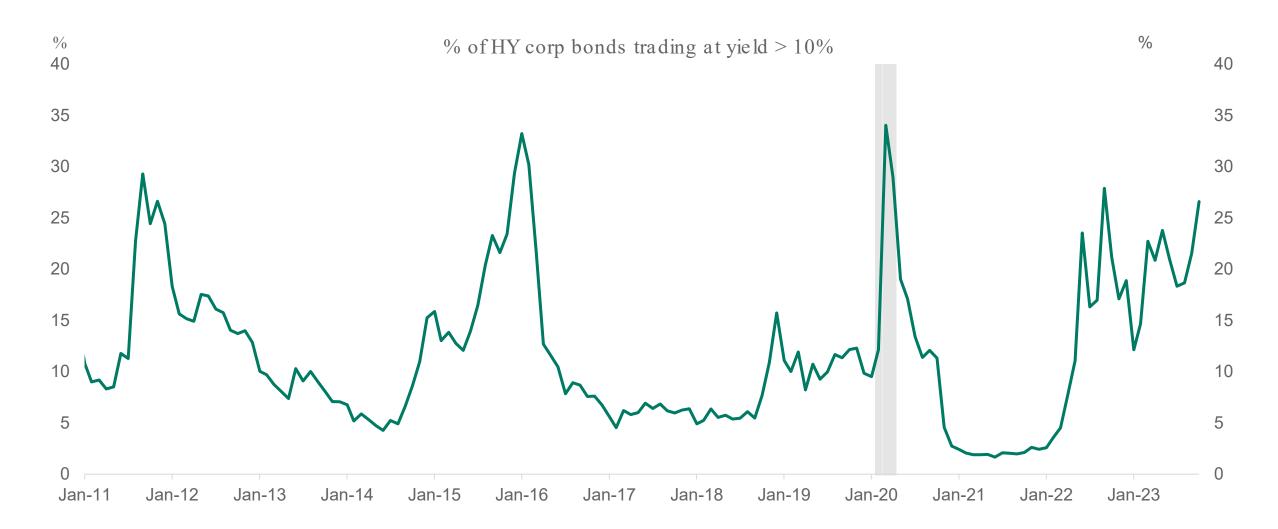
Share of global bonds trading at less than:

NY Fed measure of corporate bond market functioning

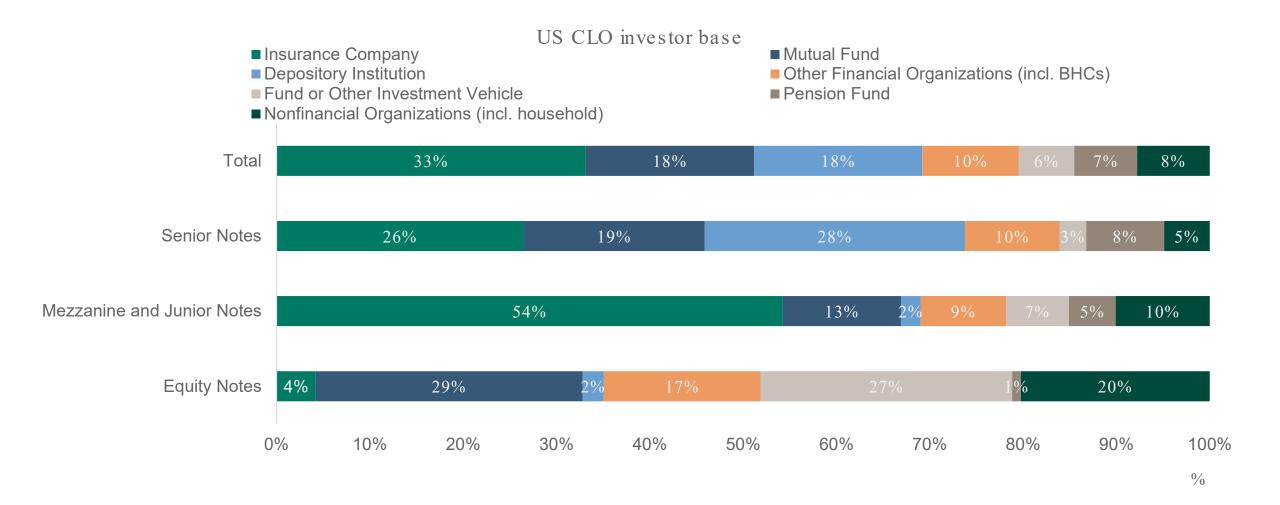


Source: FRB of New York, Apollo Chief Economist (Note: Corporate bonds are a key source of funding for U.S. non-financial corporations and a key investment security for insurance companies, pension funds, and mutual funds. Distress in the corporate bond market can thus both impair access to credit for corporate borrowers and reduce investment opportunities for key financial sub-sectors. CMDI offers a single measure to quantify joint dislocations in the primary and secondary corporate bond markets. Ranging from 0 to 1, a higher level of CMDI corresponds with historically extreme levels of dislocation. CMDI links bond market functioning to future economic activity through a new measure.

27% of bonds in the HY index are trading with a yield higher than 10%

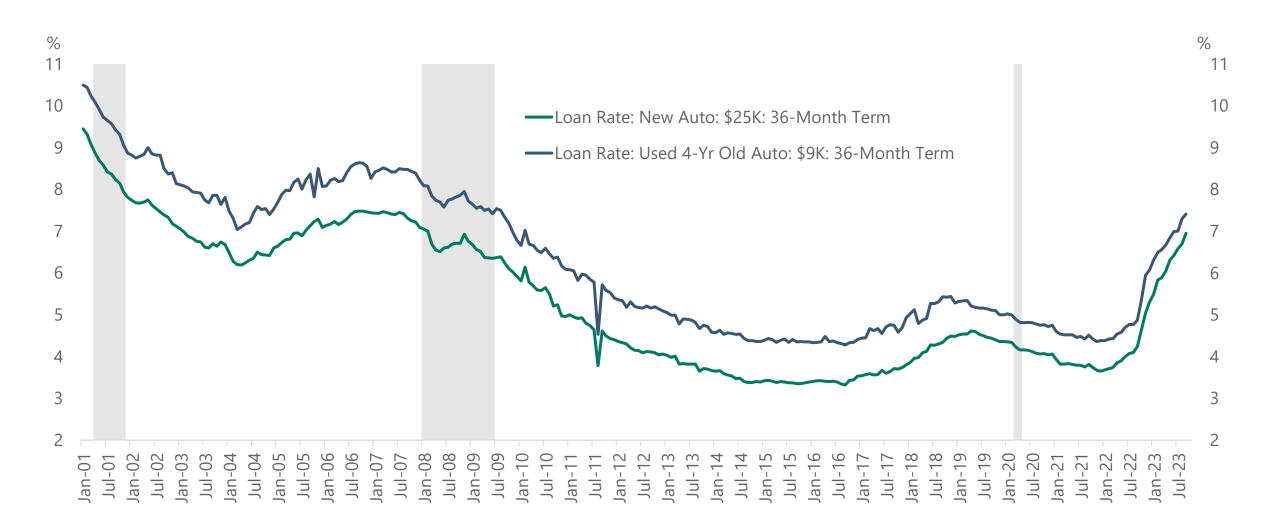


US CLO investor base by tranche



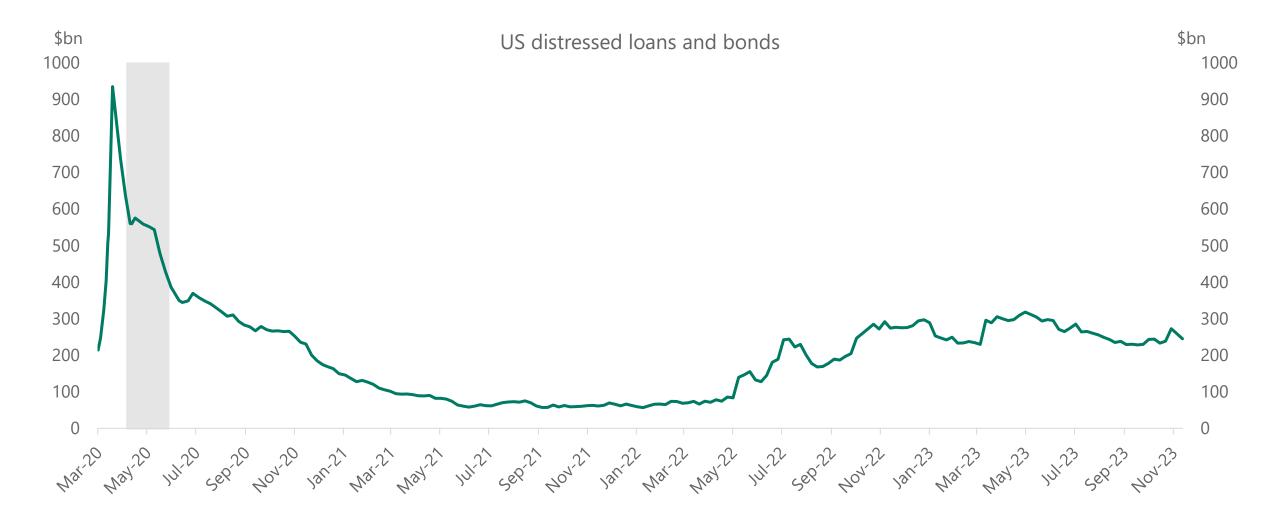
Source: TIC, Moody's data, Fed, Apollo Chief Economist

Auto loan rates rising



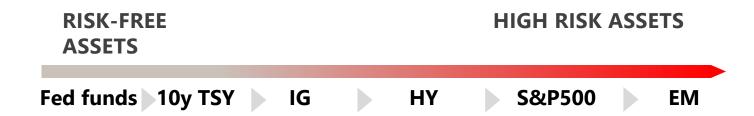
Source: RateWatch, Haver Analytics, Apollo Chief Economist

Distressed debt outstanding



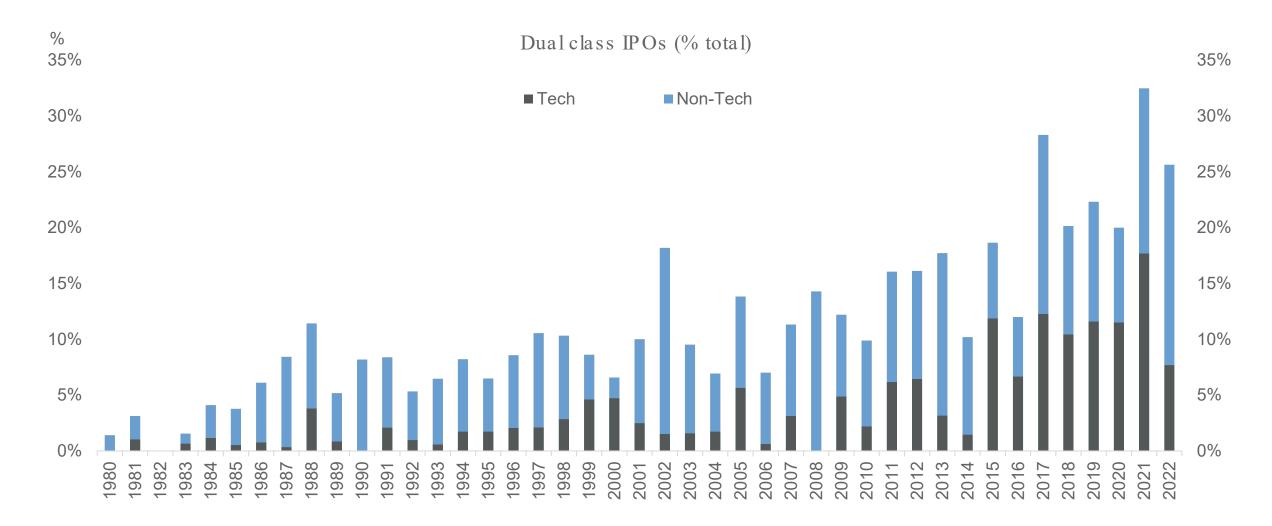
Inflation is reversing the hunt for yield





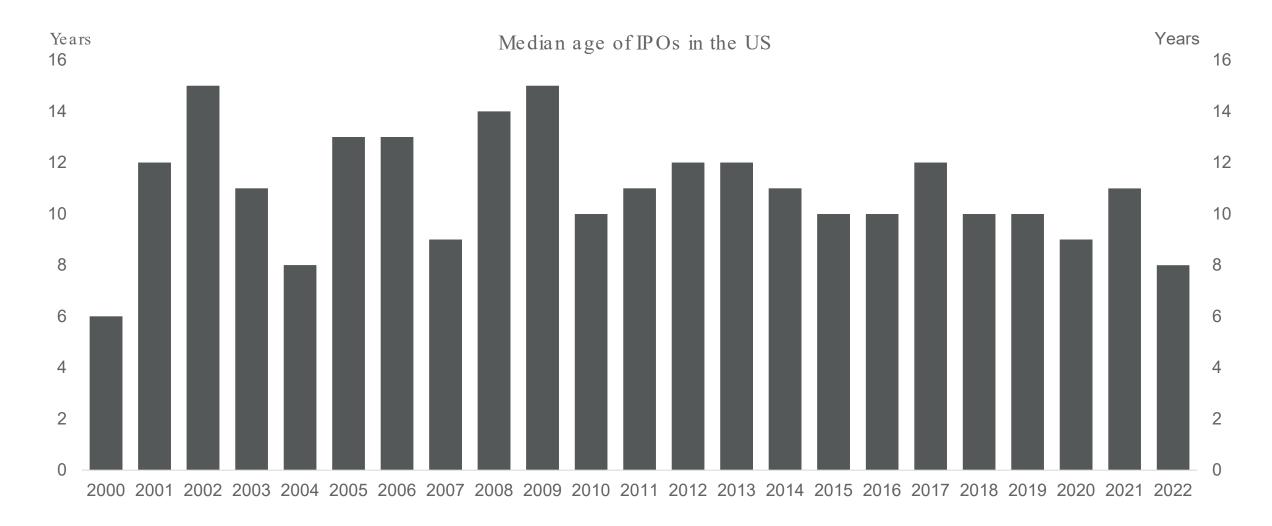
Source: Apollo Chief Economist

Dual class IPOs, driven by tech



Source: Jay Ritter, Apollo Chief Economist

Median age of IPOs

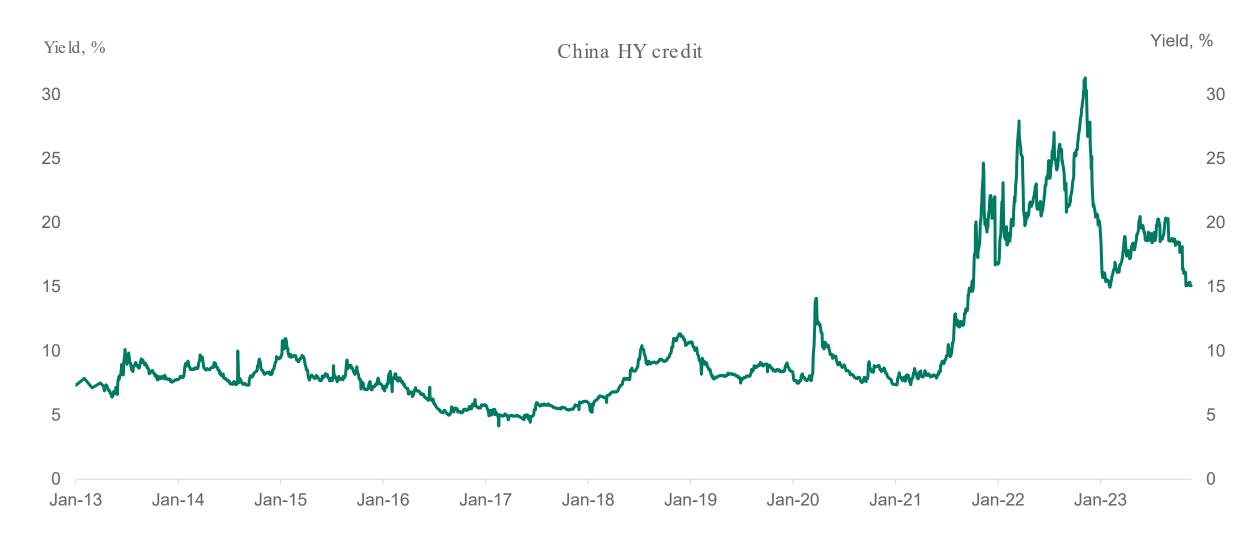


Source: Jay Ritter, Apollo Chief Economist

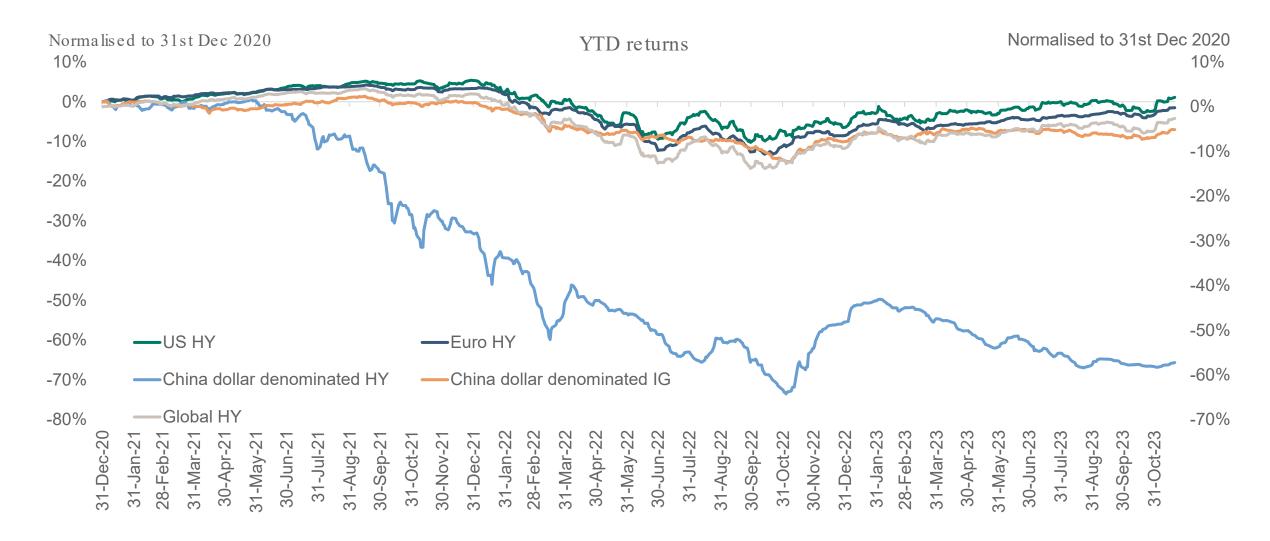
China HY



The yield on China HY is now at 18%



Little contagion from China HY to US and EU credit markets

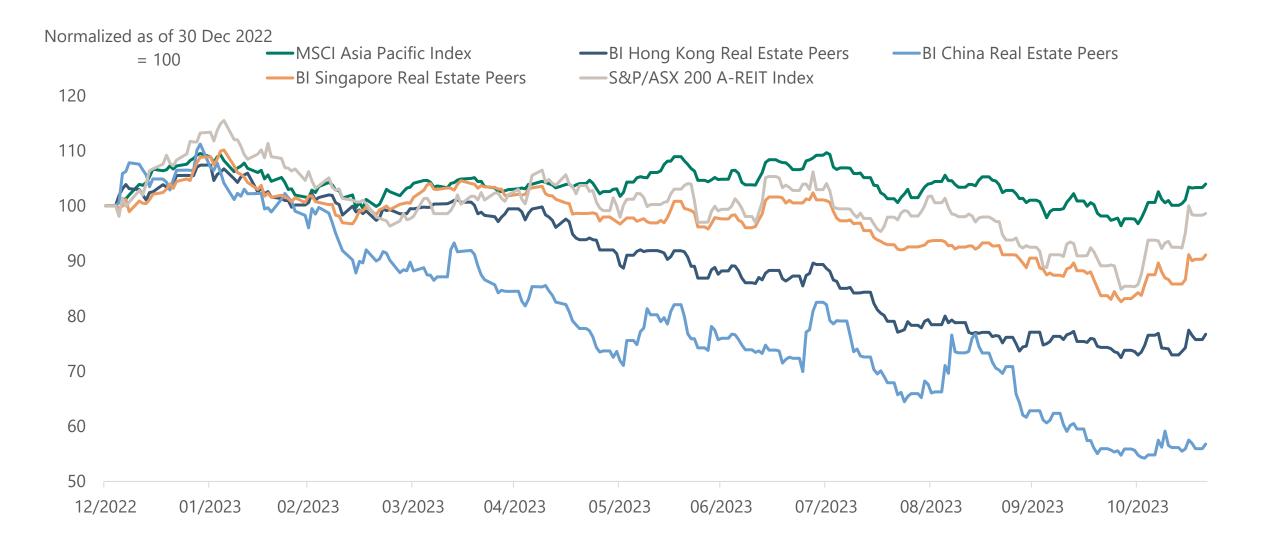


Source: ICE BofA, Bloomberg, Apollo Chief Economist,

China property crisis intensifying



China real state sector performance compared to its peers



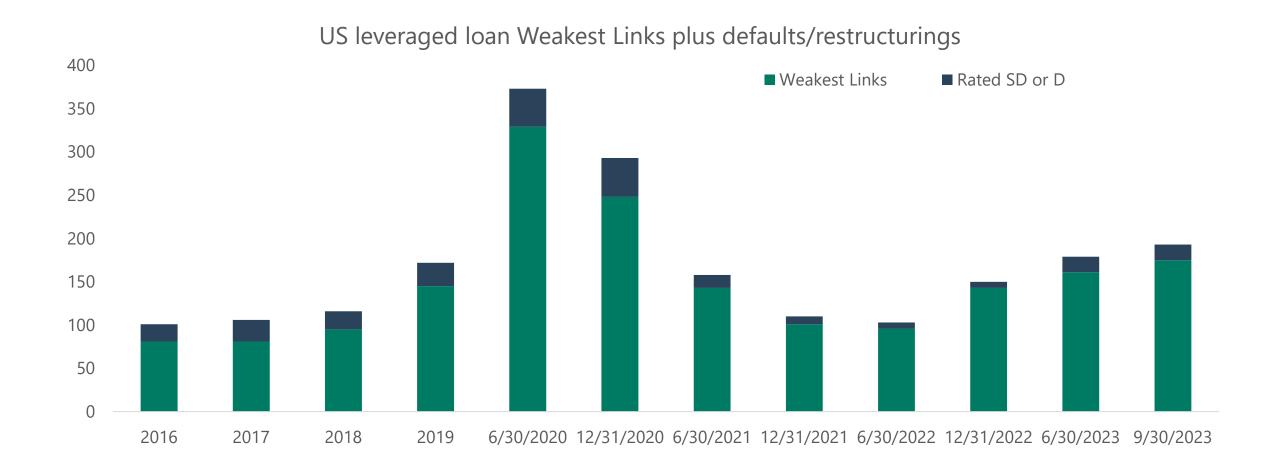
Top issuer names



Top issuer names for IG and HY

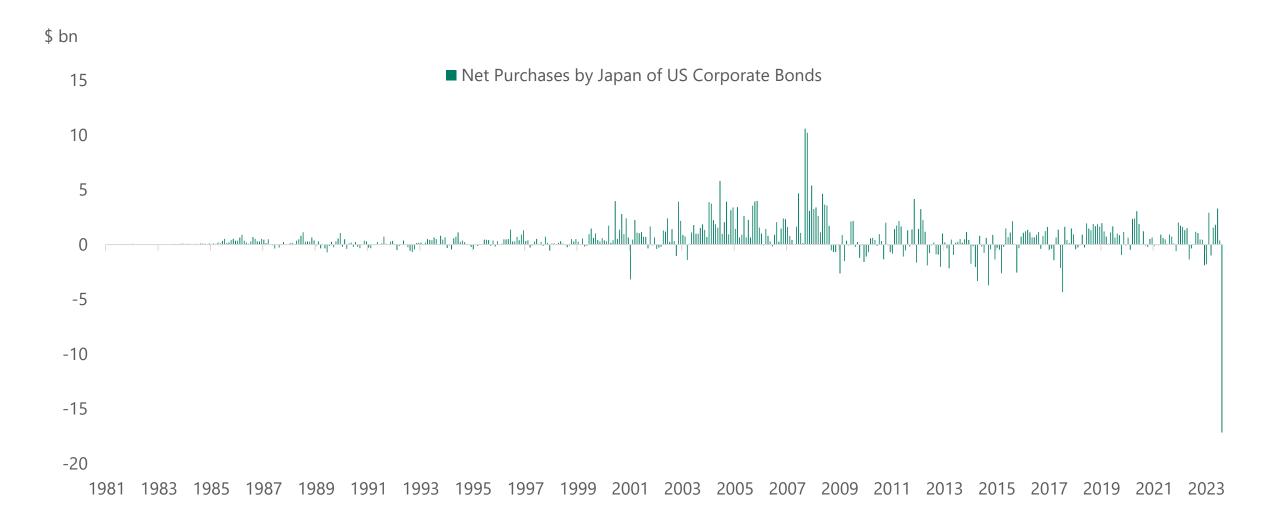
	Top 50 Investment Grade corporate bond issuers	Top 50 High Yield corporate bond issuers
1	Bank of America Corporation	Ford Motor Credit Company LLC
2	PMorgan Chase & Co.	CCO Holdings LLC/ CCO Holdings Capital Corp.
3	Morgan Stanley	Tenet Healthcare Corporation
4	Citigroup Inc.	TransDigm Inc.
5	Goldman Sachs Group Inc.	Carnival Corporation
6	Wells Fargo & Company	Ford Motor Company
7	Apple Inc.	Royal Caribbean Group
8	HSBC Holdings PLC	CSC Holdings LLC
9	AT&T Inc	Community Health Systems Incorporated
10	Oracle Corporation	DISH DBS Corporation
11	Verizon Communications Inc.	Bausch Health Companies Inc
12	Comcast Corporation	Caesars Entertainment Inc New
13	UnitedHealth Group Inc.	Sirius Xm Radio Inc
14	Amazon.com Inc.	Iron Mountain Inc.
15	Amgen Inc.	OneMain Financial Corporation
16	UBS Group AG	AAdvantage Loyalty IP Ltd/ American Airlines Inc
17	CVS Health Corp	Albertsons Cos Inc / Safeway Inc / New Albertsons LP / Albertsons LLC / (Albertsons Safeway LLC)
18	T-Mobile USA Inc.	Mozart Debt Merger Subordinated Inc.
19	Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc.	Equitrans Midstream Corporation
20	AbbVie Inc.	Altice France S.A
21	The Boeing Company	1011778 B.C. Unlimited Liability Company / New Red Finance Inc.
22	Intel Corporation	Bombardier Inc.
23	Microsoft Corporation	Ball Corporation
24	Barclays PLC	United Rentals (North America) Inc.
25	Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group Inc.	Hilton Domestic Operating Co Inc.
26	Walt Disney Company	Calpine Corporation
27	Charter Communications Operating LLC/Charter Communications Operating Capital Corp.	Icahn Enterprises L.P. / Icahn Enterprises Finance Corporation
28	Home Depot Inc	Post Holdings Inc.
29	Walmart Inc	Level 3 Financing Inc.
30	Lowes Companies Inc.	Univision Commmunications Inc.
31	Anheuser-Busch InBev Worldwide Inc.	Vistra Operations Co LLC
32	Pfizer Investment Enterprises Pte Ltd.	The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
33	HCA Inc.	Venture Global LNG Inc.
34	General Motors Financial Company Inc	FirstEnergy Corp.
35	Pacific Gas and Electric Company	Uniti Group LP/Uniti Fiber Holdings Inc/Uniti Group Finance 2019 Inc/CSL Capital LLC
36	Energy Transfer LP	HUB International Ltd.
37	Broadcom Inc	Bath & Body Works Inc
38	BNP Paribas SA	Service Properties Trust
39	Royal Bank of Canada	Carvana Co
40	Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	Transocean Inc.
41	Raytheon Technologies Corporation	Venture Global Calcasieu Pass LLC
42	International Business Machines Corporation	YUM Brands Inc
43	Merck & Co. Inc	Newell Brands Inc.
44	Toyota Motor Credit Corp.	GFL Environmental Inc.
45	Shell International Finance B.V.	Uber Technologies Inc
46	Philip Morris International Inc.	Navient Corporation
47	U.S. Bancorp.	NCL Corporation Ltd.
48	The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation	Standard Buildings Solutions Inc.
49	Exxon Mobil Corporation	Mauser Packaging Solutions Holding Company
50	Pepsico Inc	Vodafone Group PLC

US: More downside risk in credit as leveraged loan weakest links increase in Q3



Source: Pitchbook, LCD; Morningstar LSTA US Leveraged Loan Index, Apollo Chief Economist (Data through June 30, 2023) (SD and D - An obligor rated 'SD' (Selective Default) or 'D' has failed to pay one or more of its financial obligations (rated or unrated) when it came due. A 'D' rating is assigned when Standard & Poor's believes that the default will be a general default and that the obligor will fail to pay all or substantially all of its obligations as they come due. An 'SD' rating is assigned when Standard & Poor's believes that the obligor has selectively defaulted on a specific issue or class of obligations, but it will continue to meet its payment obligations on other issues or classes of obligations in a timely manner.)

Japanese investors record selling of US credit



Source: US Treasury, Bloomberg, Apollo Chief Economist



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Torsten Slok joined Apollo in August 2020 as Chief Economist and he leads Apollo's macroeconomic and market analysis across the platform.

Prior to joining, Mr. Slok worked for 15 years as Chief Economist at Deutsche Bank where his team was top ranked in the annual Institutional Investor survey for a decade. Prior to joining Deutsche Bank Mr. Slok worked at the IMF in Washington, DC and at the OECD in Paris.

Mr. Slok has a Ph.D in Economics and has studied at the University of Copenhagen and Princeton University.