

Muzinich & Co. Corporate Credit Snapshot | August 2026

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

-Global credit delivered mostly positive returns in August. The month was somewhat choppy, shaped by the conflict in the Middle East, thin summer liquidity, and an ongoing earnings season

-Strong corporate earnings supported a tightening in credit spreads across the credit spectrum, with high yield delivering the strongest returns, buoyed by robust earnings and a light new issue calendar

-Communication from the US Federal Reserve suggested the policy tightening cycle may not yet be complete, with investors cautioned against underestimating the potential for a renewed acceleration in inflation and, consequently, a push forward in policy tightening. Investors appear increasingly confident that the European Central Bank will raise rates by 25 basis points in September, with two further hikes anticipated over the next 12 months, as a resilient economy, sticky inflation, and rising gas prices heading into winter leave little room for a pause

-Emerging markets (EM) also gained this month. Total returns from EM government bonds and corporates were differentiated primarily due to the outperformance of high yield

HIGH YIELD AND LEVERAGED LOAN TECHNICALS

US Retail Fund Flows

US\$0.3 billion in high yield inflows, US\$2.7 billion in leveraged loan retail inflows MTD (through 08.31)

HY New Issuance*	US	EUROPE
YTD	US\$231.6 bn	US\$81.2 bn
MTD	US\$26.7 bn	US\$0.5 bn
Loan New Issuance*	US	
YTD	US\$544.4 bn	
MTD	US\$30.1 bn	

Main Market Driver

Macro: Middle East, Earnings

Micro: Thin Summer Liquidity

Default Rates (Dollar weighted)**

	US	EUR
LTM	2.5%	3.7%

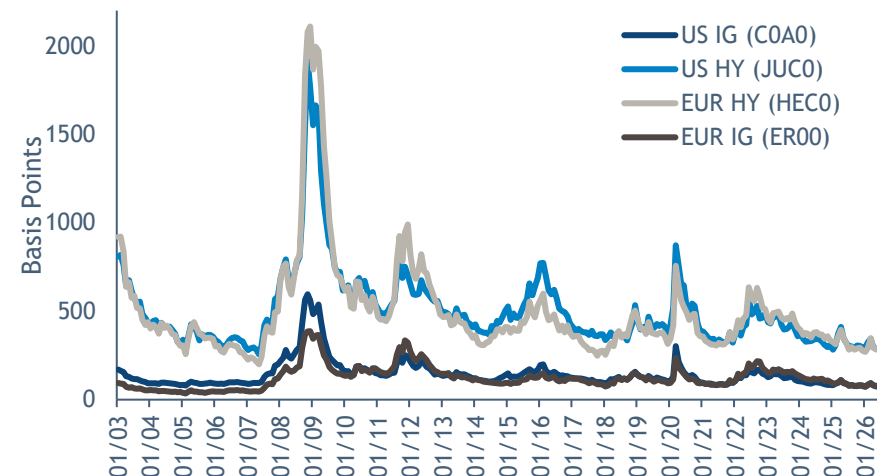
US New Issuance Names (500 mn and above) MTD

Cavalier Acquisition, Newell Brands Inc., Focus Financial Partners, KEHE Distribution, Onemain Finance Corp, RHP Hotel, Valvoline Inc., Gainwell, Zenith Arc LLC, Gray Media Inc, Northern Oil & Gas

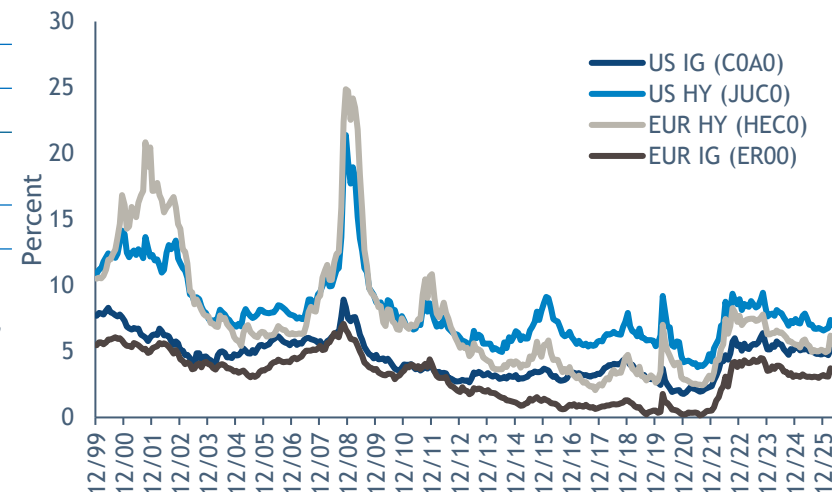
US New Issuance Pipeline (Announced)

N/A

CORPORATE BOND SPREADS (STW) BY INDEX



CORPORATE BOND YIELDS (YTW) BY INDEX



Note: 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.

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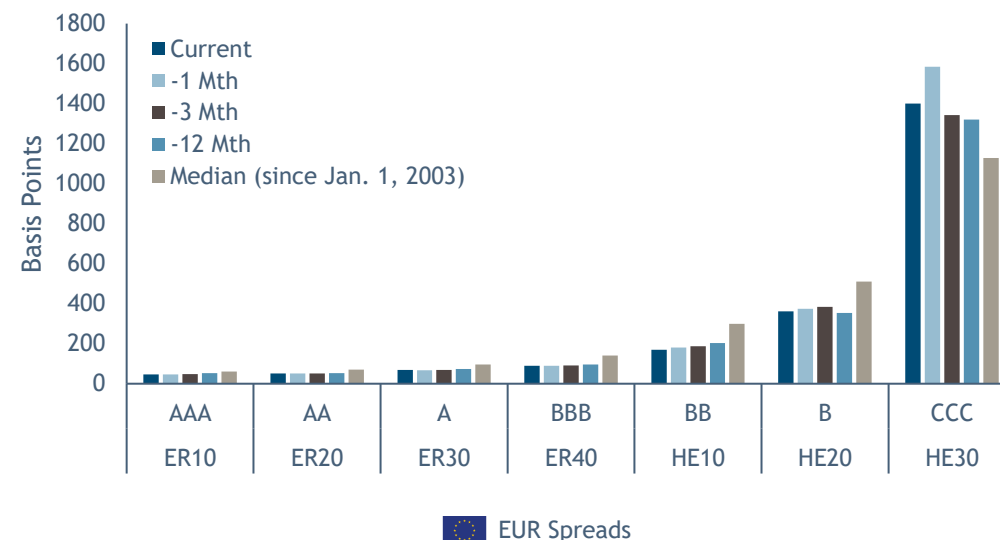
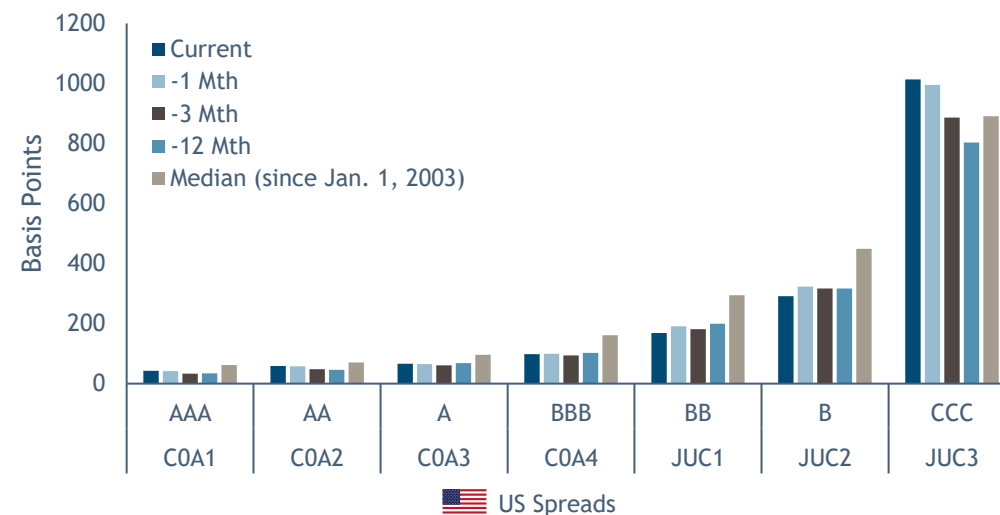
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CORPORATE BOND SPREADS (STW) - AUGUST 31, 2026

	Index	Rating	Current STW	-1 Mth	-3 Mth	-12 Mth	Median (since Jan. 1, 2003)
US	COA0	IG	79	79	74	81	126
	JUC0	HY	275	298	286	300	432
	JUC4	BB/B	211	236	228	245	366
	COA1	AAA	43	42	33	34	62
	COA2	AA	59	58	48	46	71
	COA3	A	66	65	61	68	96
	COA4	BBB	98	99	94	102	162
	JUC1	BB	169	191	181	200	294
	JUC2	B	291	323	317	317	450
	JUC3	CCC	1013	995	887	803	891
EM	EMCL	All	146	153	158	165	292
EUR	ER00	IG	77	77	78	83	113
	HEC0	HY	272	290	284	298	411
	ER10	AAA	47	46	48	53	62
	ER20	AA	52	51	51	53	70
	ER30	A	69	68	69	74	96
	ER40	BBB	90	90	91	96	142
	HE10	BB	170	181	188	204	299
	HE20	B	362	374	384	354	510
	HE30	CCC	1400	1585	1342	1321	1129

CORPORATE BOND SPREADS (STW)



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MARKET PERFORMANCE % AND STATISTICS - AUGUST 31, 2026

		Performance Summary (%)				Characteristics			Performance History (% annualised)				
High Yield		MTD	Pr. Mth	QTD	YTD	DTW (yrs)	YTW (%)	STW (bps)	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	4 Year	5 Year
JUC0	US HY	0.98	-0.28	0.69	2.58	3.08	7.19	275	4.77	6.44	8.38	8.05	4.08
JC4N	US HY BB-B	1.03	-0.30	0.73	2.93	3.16	6.52	208	5.36	6.23	8.02	7.67	3.86
HEC0	Euro HY	0.32	-0.34	-0.02	1.88	3.01	5.70	272	2.97	4.95	7.20	6.98	2.81
HEC5	Euro HY BB-B	0.45	-0.31	0.14	1.97	3.00	5.16	218	3.34	5.23	7.28	7.10	2.92
Investment Grade													
COA0	US IG	0.40	-1.55	-1.15	-0.16	6.31	5.50	79	2.03	3.13	5.19	4.11	0.09
C4NF	US BBB Corporates	0.50	-1.62	-1.13	0.12	6.42	5.67	95	2.38	3.44	5.62	4.68	0.22
ER00	Europe IG	-0.25	-0.97	-1.21	0.13	4.37	3.85	77	0.77	2.60	4.15	3.35	-0.19
EN40	Europe BBB	-0.18	-0.97	-1.15	0.22	4.35	3.94	87	0.93	2.79	4.45	3.66	-0.26
Governments (7-10 Year Indices)													
G4O2	US Treasuries 7-10 Yrs	0.14	-1.40	-1.26	-1.22	7.00	4.69	2	0.36	1.64	3.10	1.35	-1.55
G4L0	UK Gilts 7-10 Yrs	0.23	-1.51	-1.28	-0.71	7.11	5.01	0	2.44	1.27	3.26	0.46	-2.59
G4D0	German Fed Govt 7-10 Yrs	-0.64	-2.00	-2.62	-1.30	7.59	3.24	0	-1.61	-0.84	0.78	-0.74	-3.51
Equities													
S&P	S&P 500 incl. Dividends	2.72	-0.06	2.66	13.12				20.35	18.08	21.02	19.72	12.77
DAX	DAX Index	2.45	2.53	5.05	7.22				9.86	17.85	18.08	19.60	10.64
Syndicated Loans							YTM (%)	3Y DM (bps)					
US	US Leveraged Loan Index	0.96	0.79	1.76	3.08		8.82	482	4.57	5.72	7.08	7.61	6.07
Europe	European Leveraged Loan Index	0.57	0.05	0.62	2.46		8.00	508	3.77	4.77	6.15	6.82	5.09

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

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CREDIT MARKET UPDATE

US:

US credit delivered positive returns in August across the board. The month was somewhat choppy, shaped by the conflict in the Middle East, thin summer liquidity, and an ongoing earnings season. Strong corporate earnings supported a tightening in credit spreads across the credit spectrum, with high yield delivering the strongest returns, buoyed by robust earnings and a light new issue calendar. At the same time, communication from the Federal Reserve suggested the policy tightening cycle may not yet be complete, with investors cautioned against underestimating the potential for a renewed acceleration in inflation and, consequently, a push forward in policy tightening. Interest rates moved higher over the month as the curve shifted upward, a dynamic that weighed more heavily on longer-duration assets and contributed to high yield's outperformance relative to investment grade. Within fixed income, corporate credit outperformed government bonds, a trend we expect to continue. Against this backdrop, we see opportunity across the credit spectrum: shorter-duration positioning remains attractive given the current rate environment, while investment grade offers investors durable, high-quality income.

Europe

European credit markets delivered mixed but broadly constructive returns in August. The month was somewhat choppy, shaped by the conflict in the Middle East, thin summer liquidity, and an ongoing earnings season. Strong global corporate earnings supported a tightening in credit spreads, most notably in high yield, which outperformed investment grade on the back of robust results, growth upgrades, and a light new issue calendar—a combination that pushed spreads tighter. Demand for credit remained healthy and new supply was absorbed easily. At the same time, central bank communication suggested the tightening cycle may not yet be complete. Investors appear increasingly confident that the European Central Bank will raise rates by 25 basis points in September, with two further hikes anticipated over the next 12 months, as a resilient economy, sticky inflation, and rising gas prices heading into winter leave little room for a pause. Within fixed income, corporate credit outperformed government bonds, a trend we expect to continue. In Europe, the long end of the curve underperformed on fiscal tolerance concerns. Against this backdrop, higher yields at the short end of the curve may allow for income generation without exposure to concerns about long-term fiscal stability.

EM:

Emerging markets (EM) gained this month. August was somewhat choppy, shaped by the conflict in the Middle East, thin summer liquidity, and the ongoing earnings season. Strong global corporate earnings supported a tightening in credit spreads, most notably in high yield. At the same time, communication from major central banks suggested that the policy tightening cycle may not yet be complete, with investors cautioned against underestimating the potential for a renewed acceleration in inflation and, consequently, a push forward in policy tightening. Total returns from government bonds and corporates were differentiated primarily due to the outperformance of high yield, which outperformed due to spread tightening, combined with higher carry and lower sensitivity to rising global government bond yields. Within high yield, Asia was the strongest-performing region, driven primarily by the property sector. In investment grade, Eastern Europe and Middle East/Africa benefited from broad-based spread tightening across the Middle East, which helped offset the impact of rising government bond yields. From a credit-rating perspective, BBs were the strongest-performing bucket in EM, benefiting from an attractive balance between credit risk and lower interest-rate sensitivity.

Outlook:

We are heading into September in an environment of persistent event risk, with the Middle Eastern conflict still unresolved and inflation showing few signs of easing across major economies. We expect US Treasury yield volatility to remain elevated around the Federal Reserve's September meeting, where markets are pricing a meaningful probability of a further rate hike. In Europe, the European Central Bank is widely anticipated to hike as well. In general, we remain positive on corporate fundamentals globally, although we acknowledge the market's questions around near-term returns, particularly in tech-related sectors tied to heavy capital spending. We also acknowledge that credit spreads look quite compressed following August's rally; however, we expect a heavier new issue calendar in September to create attractive entry points. We continue to find healthy yields offering potential income and downside defense, and we remain active in seeking out opportunities as they arise.

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Important Information

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

JUC0 - 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;
HEC0 - 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;
C0A0 - ICE BofA US Corporate Index;
C0A1 - ICE BofA AAA US Corporate Index;
C0A2 - ICE BofA AA US Corporate Index;
C0A3 - ICE BofA Single-A US Corporate Index;
C0A4 - 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;
G4O2 - 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.
Bloomberg US Leveraged Loan Index - The Bloomberg US Leveraged Loan Index measures the performance of USD denominated, high-yield, floating-rate, institutional leveraged loan market. The US Loan Index was created in 2024, with history backfilled to January 1, 2019.

Bloomberg European Leveraged Loan Index - The Bloomberg European Leveraged Loan Index measures the performance of the EUR- and GBP- denominated, high-yield, floating-rate, institutional leveraged loan market. The index was created in 2025, with history backfilled to January 1, 2019.

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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