

Q3 2023

**European High Yield and Leveraged Loan Report** 

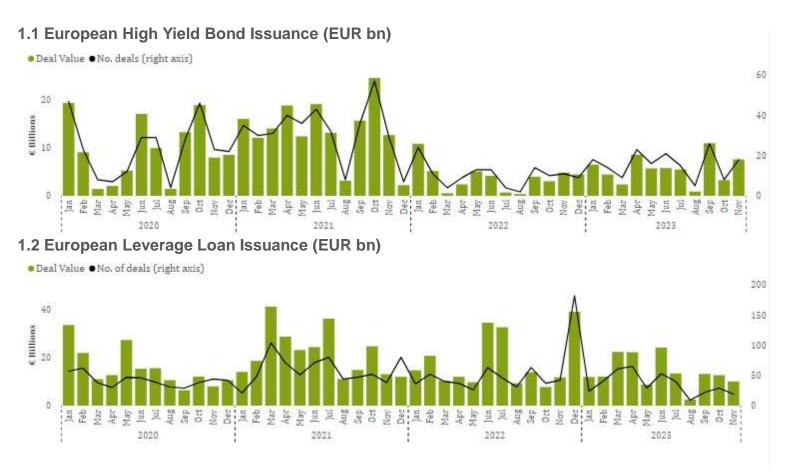
European Leveraged Finance



# afme/ Contents

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# afme/ Key findings



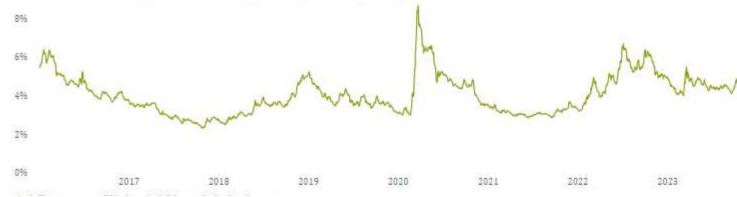
Primary high yield bond issuance in 3Q'23 decreased 14% QoQ but increased 244% YoY. (See top chart). The quarterly issued amount stood at €17.2 billion, below the amount issued in 2Q'23 (€20.0 billion), but above the amount issued in 3Q'22 (€5.0 billion)

Preliminary data for 4Q'23 as of end November anticipates a similar issued amount for the last quarter of the year (See top chart).

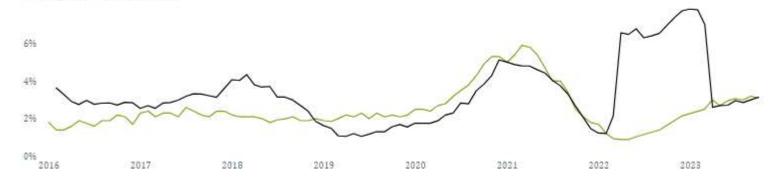
In 3Q'23, quarterly supply of leverage loans stood at €29.0 bn, a decrease of 47% QoQ and a decrease of 48% YoY (See bottom chart).

# afme/ Key findings

### 1.3 ICE BofA Euro High Yield Index Option-Adjusted Spread (%)



### 1.4 European High-yield bond default rates • Standard and Poor's • Moody's



European high yield spreads tightened slightly during 3Q'23, from 4.46% at the end of June 2023 to 4.37% at the end of September 2023.

S&P reported the trailing 12-month speculative-grade bond default rate at 3.1% in September 2023, a slight increase from 3.06% in June 2023. Moody's reported the speculative-grade default rate at 3.14% in September 2023, up from 2.96% in June 2023.

Fitch reported an increase in European Leveraged Loan default rates (by number of deals) to 3.9% in September 2023 from 1.6% in December 2022.

According to Reorg, 88% of the European leveraged loan deals examined in 3Q'23 were covenant-lite.



## Leveraged Finance Overview

## afme / Leveraged Finance Overview

### **Issuance Highlights**

European leveraged finance issuance (leveraged loans and high yield bonds) accumulated €29.0 billion in proceeds in 3Q'23, a 47% decrease from €54.9 billion in 2Q'23 and down 48% from €55.5 billion in 3Q'22.

The high yield bond share of European leveraged finance market issuance increased to 37% in 3Q'23 from 27% in 2Q'23 and up from 8% in 3Q'22.

### **Credit Standards and Loan Demand**

According to the October 2023 European Central Bank lending survey, credit standards for loans eased for both large firms and SMEs compared to the July 2023 survey. However, credit conditions continued tight compared to historic levels, with Industry or Firm-Specific Outlook and the General Economic Situation and Outlook as the most impactful in contributing to tightening, followed by Risk on Collateral Demanded and Bank's Liquidity Position.

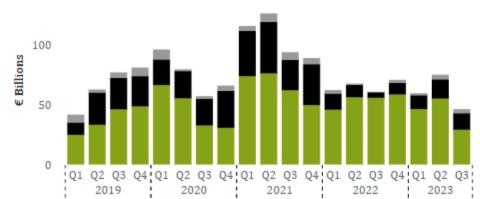
Net demand for loans to enterprises decreased in 3Q'23. The factors contributing to the decrease in loan demand were Interest Rates, Fixed Investments and M&A and Restructuring. The three factors that partially contributed positively on loan demand were "Debt Restructuring", "Debt Issuance" and "Equity Issuance".



### afme/ Leveraged Finance Issuance

### 2.1 European Leveraged Issuance by Type

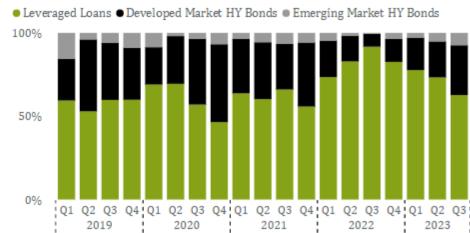
Leveraged Loans
 Developed Market HY Bonds
 Emerging Market HY Bonds



### 2.3 European Leveraged Finance Average Deal Size

■ Leveraged Loans • Developed Market HY Bonds • Emerging Market HY Bonds 600 € Millions

### 2.2 European Leveraged Issuance Percentage, by type



### 2.4 Global Comparison High Yield Issuance

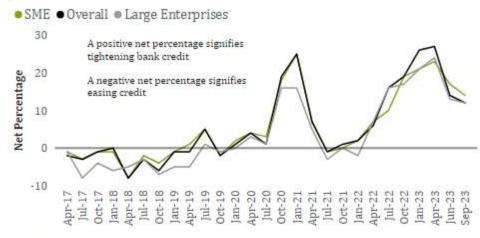
Region	2023 Q1	Q2	QЗ	Total	2022 Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2021	2020	2019
Americas	34.7	49.0	37.1	120.8	38.5	24.1	18.9	13.3	344.9	343.7	202.7
Europe	13.2	20.0	17.2	50.4	16.5	11.6	5.0	12.3	57.1	65.7	93.0
Asia	7.3	6.4	4.9	18.6	3.9	6.2	8.8	3.7	162.8	113.6	109.6

Source: Dealogic

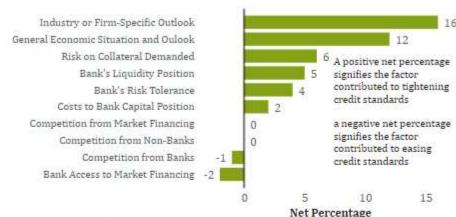


### afme/ Credit Standards and Loan Demand

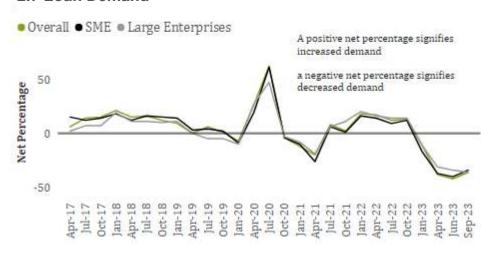
#### 2.5 Bank Credit Standards



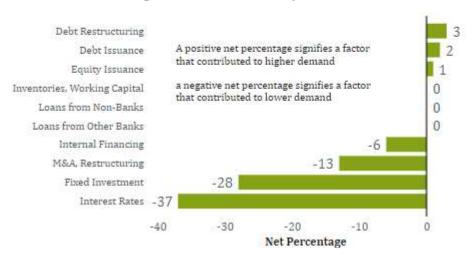
### 2.6 Factors Affecting Bank Credit Standards: September 2023



#### 2.7 Loan Demand



### 2.8 Factors Affecting Loan Demand: September 2023





## Leveraged Loans

## afme/ Leveraged Loans

### **Issuance: Leveraged Loans**

Leveraged loan issuance, including first lien, second lien, and mezzanine financing, totaled €29 billion in 3Q'23, down 47% from €54.9 billion in 2Q'23 and down 48% from €55.5 billion in 3Q'22.

All the leveraged loans issued in 3Q'23 were first lien loans.

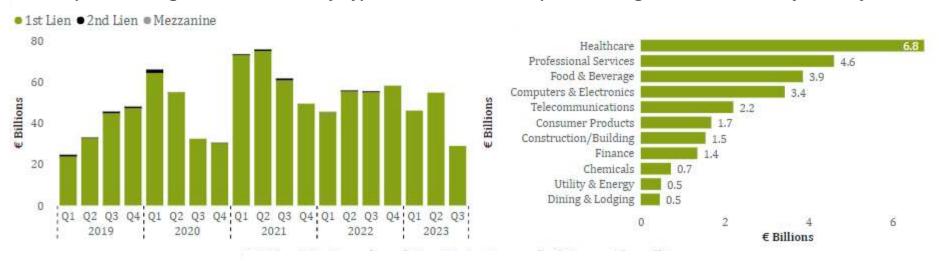
Pricing spreads for institutional loans only marginally widened by 1 basis points (bps) q-o-q but tightened by 49 bps y-o-y.

Three sectors accounted for 53% of leveraged loan issuance in 3Q'23. The leading sector was Healthcare (€6.8 billion or 23.5% of total), followed by Professional Services (€4.6 billion, 15.9%), and Food & Beverage (€3.9 billion, 13.5%), with the balance split between 17 other sectors.

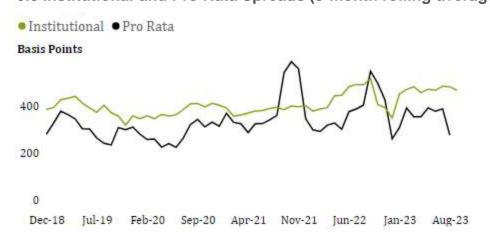
# afme/ Leveraged Loans

### 3.1 European Leveraged Loan Issuance By Type

### 3.2 European Leveraged Loan Issuance by Industry: Q3 2023



### 3.3 Institutional and Pro Rata Spreads (3-month rolling average)





## High Yield Bonds Overview

## afme/ High Yield Bonds Overview

### **Issuance: High Yield Bonds**

Primary high yield bond issuance totaled €17.2 billion on 46 deals in 3Q'23, a 14% decrease from €20 billion on 60 deals in 2Q'23 and a 244% increase from €5.0 billion on 20 deals in 3Q'22. Developed Market Europe issuance accounted for 80.1% of the 3Q'23 issuance (€13.8 billion on 37 deals) while the rest (€3.4 billion on 9 deals) was issued by Emerging market Europe firms.

The leading use of proceeds for high yield bond issuance in 3Q'23 was General Corporate Purposes with €9.3 billion (54.2% of the total quarterly issuance), followed by Repay Debt/Refinancing at €6.6 billion (or 38.3%).

Three sectors accounted for 35.9% of the total high yield bond issuance volume in 3Q'23 in developed market Europe: Leisure & Recreation led issuance with €2.53 billion (18.3% of total), followed by Finance with €2.50 billion (18.1% of total), and Telecommunications with €1.6 billion (11.6% of total). In Emerging Market Europe, the main sector was Finance with €3.07 billion (or 89.7% of total), followed by Consumer Products with €0.37 billion (10.3% of total).

The proportion of USD-denominated issuance went slightly down to 24.7% of all issuance in 3Q'23 from 24.8% in 2Q'23 but up from 17.7% in 3Q'22.

### **High Yield Bonds Overview**

### 4.1 European HY Issuance, Developed and Emerging Markets



### 4.2 European HY Issuance, Sponsored vs Corporate

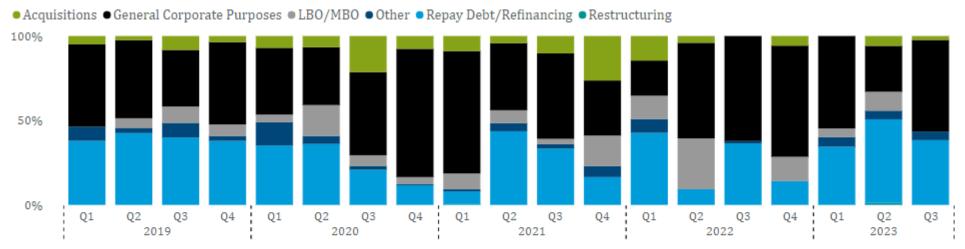


# Finance for Europe

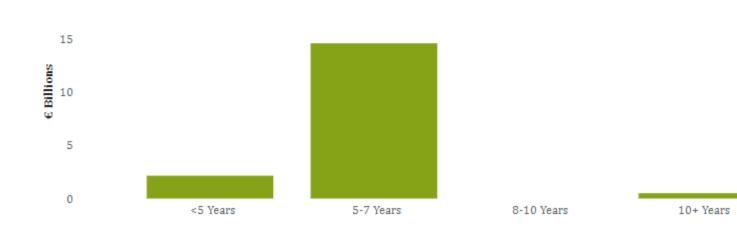
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## afme/ High Yield Bonds Overview

### 4.3 European HY Issuance, Use of Proceeds



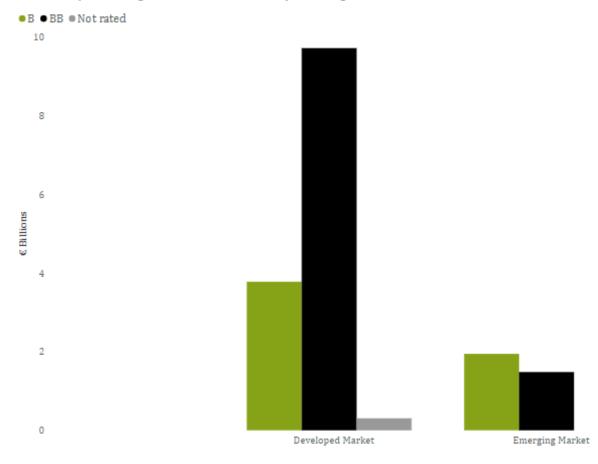
### 4.4 European HY Bond Issuance by Tenor: Q3 2023



Other

## afme/ High Yield Bonds Overview

### 4.5 European High Yield Issuance by Rating: Q3 2023



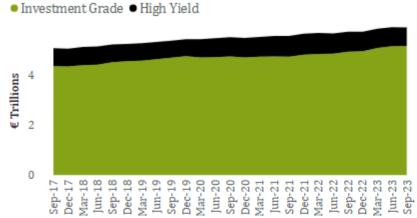
<sup>\*</sup>Corporate Bond Issuance denotes corporate and sponsored bonds, excluding government bonds.

Source: Dealogic

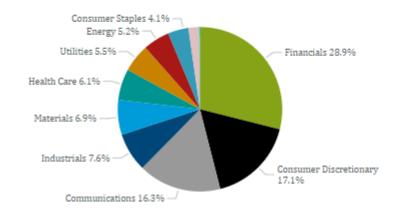
by Sector

### **High Yield Bonds Overview**

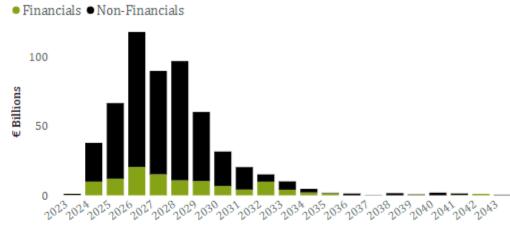
#### 4.6 European Corporate Bonds Outstanding



4.8 European Corporate HY Bonds Outstanding



### 4.7 European Corporate HY Bonds Maturity Wall



4.9 European Corporate HY Bonds Outstanding by Current Rating



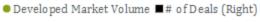


## European Developed Market High Yield Bonds



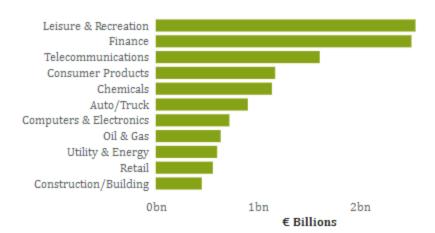
## afme/ Developed Market High Yield Bonds

### 5.1 European Developed Market HY Bond Issuance



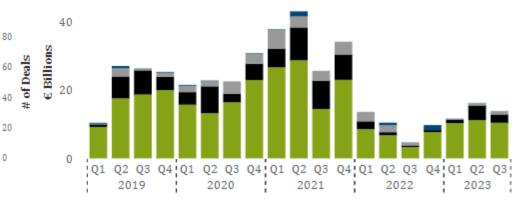


5.3 European Developed Market HY Issuance by Industry: Q3 2023

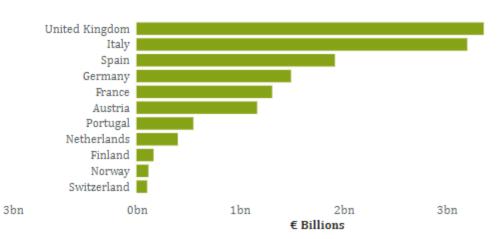


### 5.2 European Developed Market HY Issuance by Currency





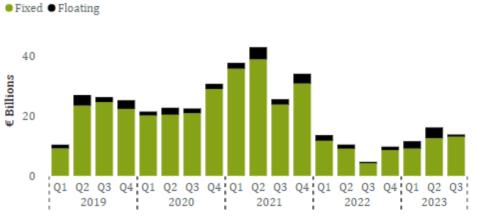
5.4 European Developed Market HY Issuance by Country of Risk: Q3 2023



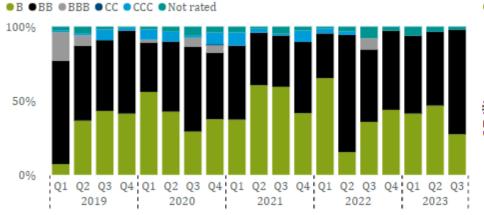


### afme/ Developed Market High Yield Bonds

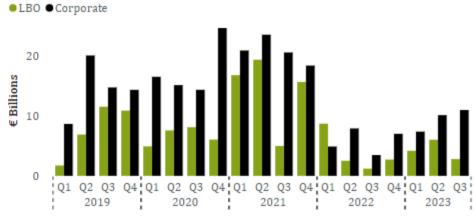
### 5.5 European Developed Market HY Issuance, Fixed vs. **Floating**



5.7 European Developed Market HY Rating Distribution at Issuance



5.6 European Developed Market HY Issuance, Sponsored vs. Corporate



5.8 European Developed Market Corporate Bonds Outstanding: Q3 2023



Source: Dealogic [5.5], [5.6] and [5.7], Bloomberg [5.8]



## afme/ Developed Market High Yield Bonds

### 5.9 European Developed Market HY Bond Issuance

Issuer	Industry Group	Date	Currency	Amount (billion)	Coup on	Moodys	S&P	Fit ch
Cirs a Finance International SARL	Leisure & Recreation	05/07/2023	EUR	0.33	3-mth Euribor +450	B2	В	
Cirs a Finance International SARL	Leisure & Recreation	05/07/2023	EUR	0.38	7.875	B2	В	
Green Bidco SAU	Computers & Electronics	06/07/2023	EUR	0.27	10.25		В	B+
Profine GmbH	Chemicals	06/07/2023	EUR	0.38	9.375	B2	В	
Hoermann Holding GmbH & Co KG	Computers & Electronics	11/07/2023	EUR	0.05	7			
TIM SpA	Telecommunications	12/07/2023	EUR	0.75	7.875	B1	B+	BB-
Matterhorn Telecom SA	Telecommunications	12/07/2023	Other	0.10	5.25		BB-	BB+
Seadrill Finance Ltd	Oil & Gas	13/07/2023	USD	0.45	8.375	B2	BB	BB-
HFC Prestige Products Inc	Consumer Products	19/07/2023	USD	0.67	6.625	Ba2	ВВ	
Energia Group NI FinanceCo plc	Utility & Energy	20/07/2023	EUR	0.60	6.875	Ba2		BB+
Seadrill Finance Ltd	Oil & Gas	25/07/2023	USD	0.07	8.375	B2	ВВ	BB-
Iceland Bondco plc	Retail	26/07/2023	EUR	0.25	3-mth Euribor +550	B3	В	B+
Iceland Bondco plc	Retail	26/07/2023	GBP	0.31	10.875	B3	В	B+
Caixa Central de Credito Agricola Mutuo - CRL	Finance	04/08/2023	EUR	0.05	8.375	Ba1		
Lamor Corp Oyj	Transportation	24/08/2023	EUR	0.03	10	Nr	NR	NR
Monte dei Paschi	Finance	29/08/2023	EUR	0.50	6.75	B1		B+
Okea ASA	Oil & Gas	30/08/2023	USD	0.12	9.125			
BPER Banca SpA	Finance	04/09/2023	EUR	0.50	5.75	Ba1		BB+
Unicaja Banco SA	Finance	04/09/2023	EUR	0.30	6.5			BB+
Banco de Credito Social Cooperativo - BCC	Finance	05/09/2023	EUR	0.65	7.5		BB+	
Rexel SA	Computers & Electronics	06/09/2023	EUR	0.40	5.25	Ba1	BB+	
ZF Europe Finance BV	Auto/Truck	06/09/2023	EUR	0.65	6.125	Ba1	BB+	
Bo els Topholding BV	Professional Services	07/09/2023	EUR	0.40	6.25	Ba3	ВВ	
Bank Millennium SA	Finance	11/09/2023	EUR	0.40	9.875	Ba2		BB
Coty Inc	Consumer Products	12/09/2023	EUR	0.50	5.75	Ba2	ВВ	BB+
Banijay Entertainment SAS	Leisure & Recreation	13/09/2023	EUR	0.54	7	B1	B+	BB-
Banijay Entertainment SAS	Leisure & Recreation	13/09/2023	USD	0.37	8.125	B1	B+	BB-
Katjes International GmbH & Co KG	Food & Beverage	15/09/2023	EUR	0.12	6.75			
CHEPLAPHARM Arzneimittel GmbH	Healthcare	19/09/2023	EUR	0.30	7.5	B2	B+	BB-
Bank Millennium SA	Finance	20/09/2023	EUR	0.10	9.875	Ba2		ВВ
PHM Group Oy	Machinery	20/09/2023	EUR	0.14	3-mth Euribor +750	B2	В	
Webuild SpA	Construction/Building	20/09/2023	EUR	0.45	7		ВВ	ВВ
TIM SpA	Telecommunications	21/09/2023	EUR	0.75	7.875	B1	B+	BB-
Piaggio & C SpA	Auto/Truck	27/09/2023	EUR	0.25	6.5	Ba3	BB-	
Pinnacle Bidco plc	Leisure & Recreation	27/09/2023	EUR	0.38	8.25	B3		B-
Pinnacle Bidco plc	Leisure & Recreation	27/09/2023	GBP	0.55	10	B3		B-
We Soda Ltd	Chemicals	27/09/2023	USD	0.76	9.5		B+	BB-

Source: Dealogic



## European Emerging Market High Yield Bonds

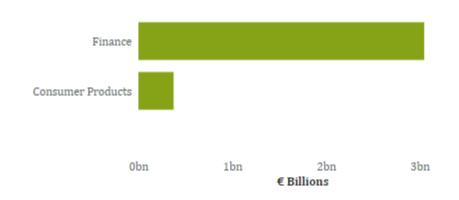


### afme/ Emerging Market High Yield Bonds

### 6.1 European Emerging Market HY Bond Issuance



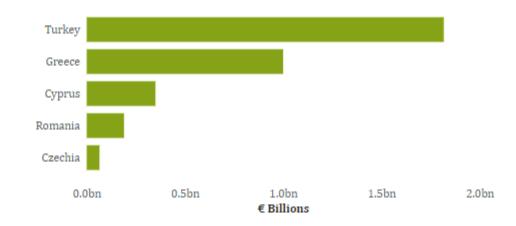
6.3 European Emerging Market HY Issuance by Industry: Q3 2023



### 6.2 European Emerging Market HY Issuance by Currency



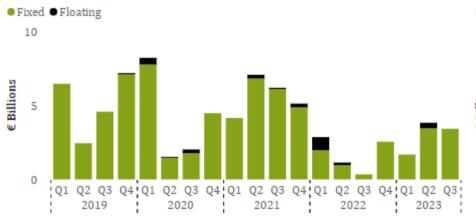
6.4 European Emerging Market HY Issuance by Country of Risk: Q3 2023



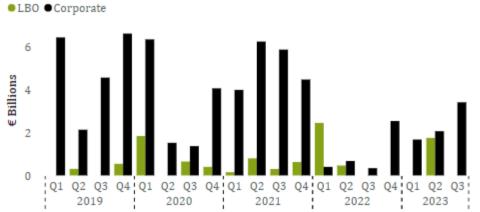


## afme/ Emerging Market High Yield Bonds

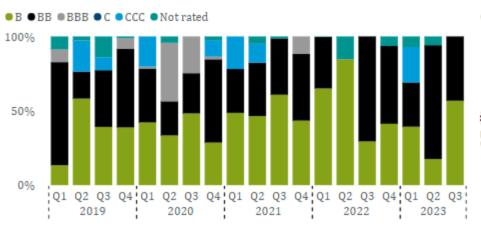




6.5 European Emerging Market HY Issuance, Fixed vs. 6.6 European Emerging Market HY Issuance, Sponsored vs. Corporate



Issuance



6.7 European Emerging Market HY Rating Distribution at 6.8 European Emerging Market Corporate Bonds Outstanding: Q3 2023



## afme/ Emerging Market High Yield Bonds

### 6.9 European Emerging Market HY Bond Issuance

Issuer	Industry Group	Date •	Currency	Amount (billion)	Coupon	Moodys	S&P	Fitch
Piraeus Financial Holdings SA	Finance	7/6/2023	EUR	0.50	7.25	B1	B+	
Bank of Cyprus Public Co Ltd	Finance	7/18/2023	EUR	0.35	7.375	Ba3	BB-	
Banca Transilvania	Finance	8/18/2023	EUR	0.19	8.875			BB
Turkiye Vakiflar Bankasi TAO - VakifBank	Finance	9/6/2023	USD	0.70	9			B-
Yapi ve Kredi Bankasi AS	Finance	9/6/2023	USD	0.47	9.25	B3		B-
Turkiye Sinai Kalkinma Bankasi	Finance	9/12/2023	USD	0.28	9.375	B3		B-
Arcelik AS	Consumer Products	9/18/2023	USD	0.38	8.5		ВВ	BB-
NBG	Finance	9/26/2023	EUR	0.50	8	Ba3		
365.bank as	Finance	9/29/2023	EUR	0.07	7.75	Ba1		



## **Credit Quality**

## afme/ Credit Quality

### **Credit Quality**

S&P reported the trailing 12-month speculative-grade bond default rate at 3.1% in September 2023, a slight increase from 3.06% in June 2023. Moody's reported the speculative-grade default rate at 3.14% in September 2023, up from 2.96% in June 2023.

There were 8 bond defaults reported in the 3Q'23 by Standard and Poor's and Moody's. The most frequent reasons were distressed exchange (for 5 of them) and missed principal payment (for 3 of them).

According to S&P, in 3Q'23 upgrades exceeded downgrades in Developed Market Europe (30 upgrades to 28 downgrades), a worse ratio than 57 upgrades to 34 downgrades in 2Q'23.

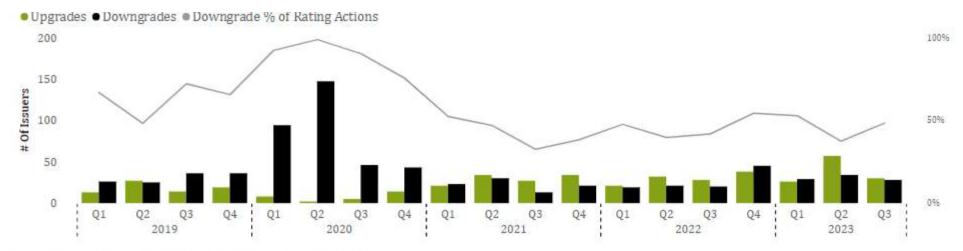
According to Moody's, in the third quarter of 2023 the number of downgrades exceeded upgrades (16) downgrades and 15 upgrades).

Fitch reported an increase in European Leveraged Loan default rates (by number of deals) to 3.9% in September 2023 from 1.6% in December 2022.

According to Reorg, 88% of the European leveraged loan deals examined in 3Q'23 were covenant-lite.

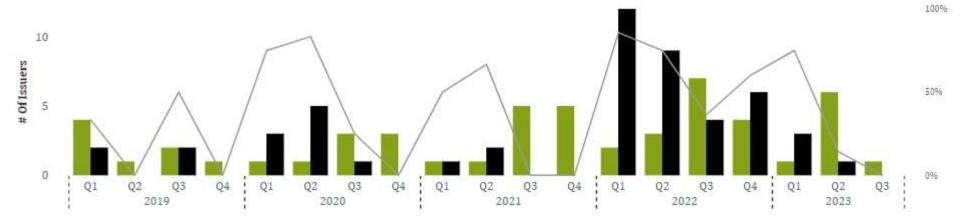
## afme/ Credit Quality

### 7.1 S&P Developed Europe Issuer Rating Actions



### 7.2 S&P Emerging Europe Issuer Rating Actions

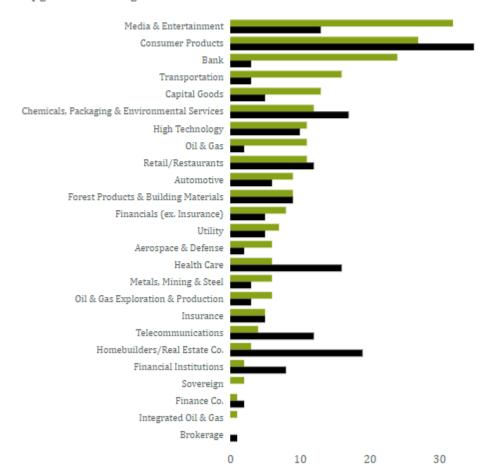




# afme/ Credit Quality

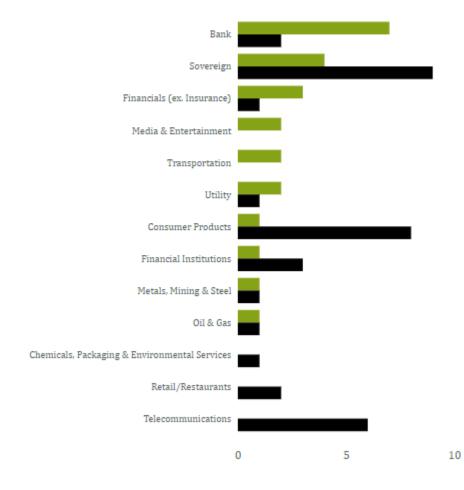
### 7.3 S&P Developed European Industry Rating Actions by # of Ratings

Upgrades • Downgrades



### 7.4 S&P Emerging European Industry Rating Actions by # of Ratings

Upgrades • Downgrades

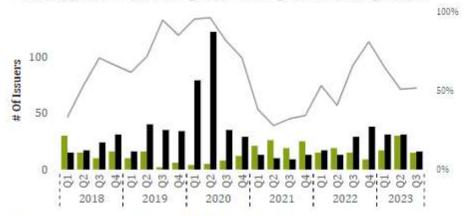


Source: S&P [7.1], [7.2], [7.3] and [7.4]

### afme/ Credit Quality Finance for Europe

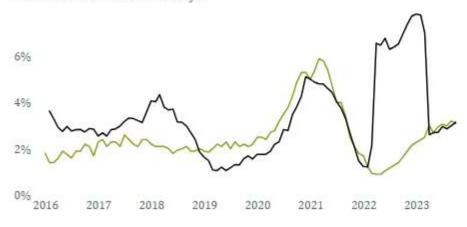
#### 7.5 Moody's: Europe Issuer Rating Actions (corporate)

■ Total Upgrades ■ Total Downgrades ■ Downgrade % of Rating Actions

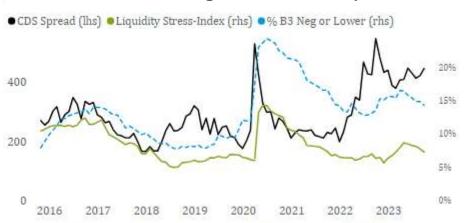


### 7.7 European High Yield Default Rates

● Standard and Poor's ● Moody's

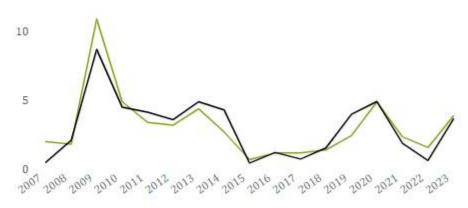


### 7.6 High-Yield bond CDS spreads vs. liquidity-stress index and HY bonds rated B3 neg and lower in Europe



### 7.8 Fitch: European Leveraged Loan Default Rates

By number of deals ● By value



\*Adjusted includes c\* and cc\* rated issuers as if those had already defaulted.

# afme/ Credit Quality Finance for Europe

### 7.9 European Defaults

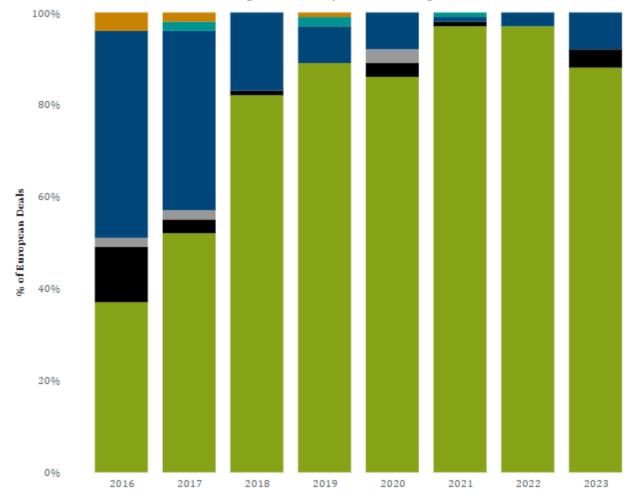
Issuer	Industry Group	Country	Date	Reported By	Reason
Adler Group S.A. (ADO Group Ltd.)	Homebuilders/real estate companies	Luxembourg	Apr-2023	S&P	Distressed exchange
CatLuxe S.a.r.l.	consumer products: apparel & shoes	Spain	Apr-2023	Moody's	Distressed exchange
Codere Luxembourg 2 S.a.r.l.	gaming: casinos	Spain	Apr-2023	Moody's	Missed interest payment
Covis Finco S.a r.l	Health care	Switzerland	Apr-2023	S&P	Distressed exchange
Takko Fashion S.a r.l.	retail: specialty	Germany	May-2023	Moody's	Missed principal payment
Frigoglass SAIC	Consumer Products	Greece	May-2023	S&P	Distressed exchange
CatLuxe Sarl (CatLuxe Acquistion Sarl)	Consumer Products	Luxembourg	May-2023	S&P	Out-Of-Court Restructuring
Venator Materials LLC	chemicals: commodity chemical	United Kingdom	May-2023	Moody's and S&P	Chapter 11
Technicolor Creative Studios SA	services: business	France	Jun-2023	Moody's	Distressed exchange
Mallinckrodt PLC	Health care	Ireland	Jun-2023	S&P	Missed interest payments
Covis Midco 2 S.a r.l.	pharmaceuticals: general & specialty	Luxembourg	Jun-2023	Moody's	Chapter 11
Tullow Oil plc	energy: oil & gas expln & prodn	United Kingdom	Jun-2023	Moody's	Distressed exchange
Comet Bidco Limited	services: business	United Kingdom	Jun-2023	Moody's	Distressed exchange
Solocal Group S.A.	media publishing: books	France	Jul-2023	Moody's	Missed interest payment
Takko Fashion S.a.r.l.	Consumer Products	Luxembourg	Jul-2023	S&P	Distressed exchange
Casino Guichard - Perrachon S.A.	Retail/Restaurants	France	Aug-2023	S&P	Missed interest payments
Casino Guichard-Perrachon SA	retail: food & grocery	France	Aug-2023	Moody's and S&P	Missed principal payment
Ideal Standard International S.A.	Forest Products and Building Materials	Luxembourg	Aug-2023	S&P	Distressed exchange
Keter Group B.V.	consumer products: durables	Netherlands	Aug-2023	Moody's	Missed principal payment
Ideal Standard International S.A.	consumer products: durables	Belgium	Sep-2023	Moody's	Distressed exchange
FDS Holdings BV	chemicals: speciality chemical	Netherlands	Sep-2023	Moody's	Distressed exchange
Haya Holdco 2 plc	services: business	United Kingdom	Sep-2023	Moody's	Distressed exchange

Source: S&P, Moody's



### afme/ Credit Quality and European Leveraged Loan **Covenants**

7.10 Financial Covenant Packages in European Leveraged Loans 2016 - Q3 2023



- Cov-lite: Springing RCF Leverage Maintenance Financial Covenant
- Cov-loose: 1 or 2 Maintenance Financial Covenants
- Cov-loose: Deals with 1 or 2 Maintenance Financial Covenants for benefit of the RCF and deals which are Cov-loose but may change to Cov-lite
- Cov-loose: Leverage Maintenance Financial Covenant only
- Cov-loose: Maintenance Financial Covenant for a specified period and Leverage Maintenance Covenant only thereafter
- No Financial Covenants
- Traditional: 3 or 4 Maintenance Financial Covenants

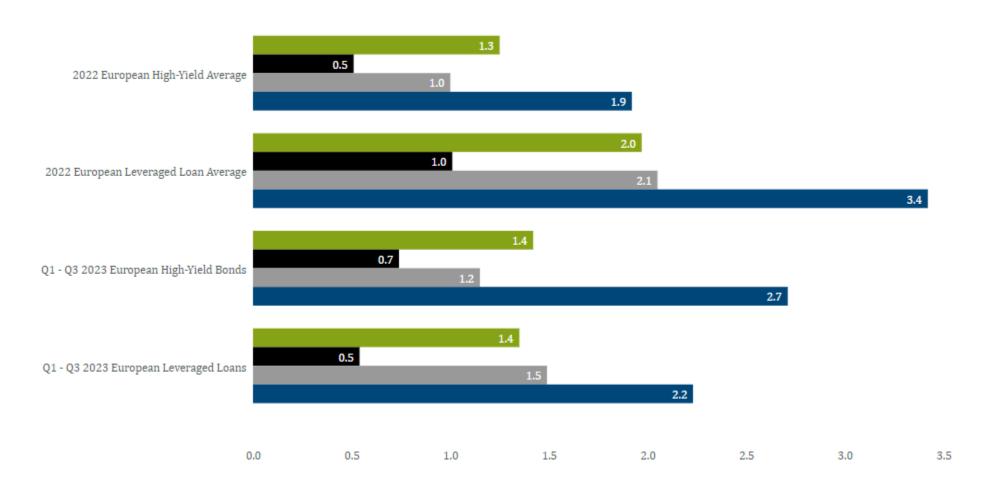
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<sup>\*</sup>Figures based on Reorg calculations for European deals

### afme/ High Yield Day-1 Capacity and Investor Pushback

### 7.11 European High-Yield Key Creditor Risks for Dilutive, Priming Debt and for Value Leakage

Transfer to Unrestricted Subsidiaries
 Shareholder Payments
 Additional Structurally Senior Debt
 Additional Senior Secured Debt





## Relative Value and Total Return

## afme/ Relative Value and Return

### Returns

10 out of 19 asset classes tracked in this report recorded quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) gains in 3Q'23. "U.S. HY Distressed" experienced an increase of 5.5%, followed by "Euro HY CCC and Lower Rated" with a positive 3.7% q-o-q.

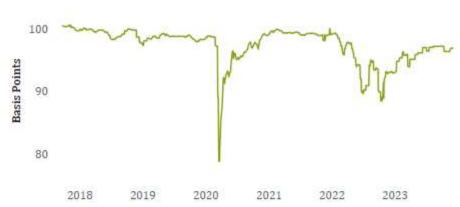
The worst performing asset class was "Russell 2000" with a loss of 5.49% q-o-q in 3Q'23, followed by "U.S. Mortgages 30Y" with a negative -4.32% q-o-q, and "US Municipal" with a -3.78% loss q-o-q.

# Finance for Europe

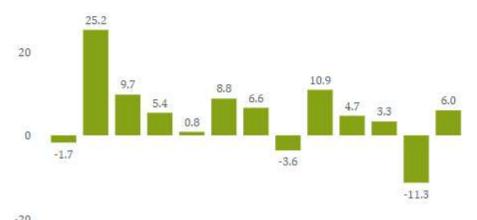
### afme/ Relative Value and Total Return



8.1 Relative value: European HY Bonds, Cash vs. Synthetic 8.2 Relative value: European Leveraged Loans, Cash (EURO Lev40)



8.3 European HY Bond Total Return

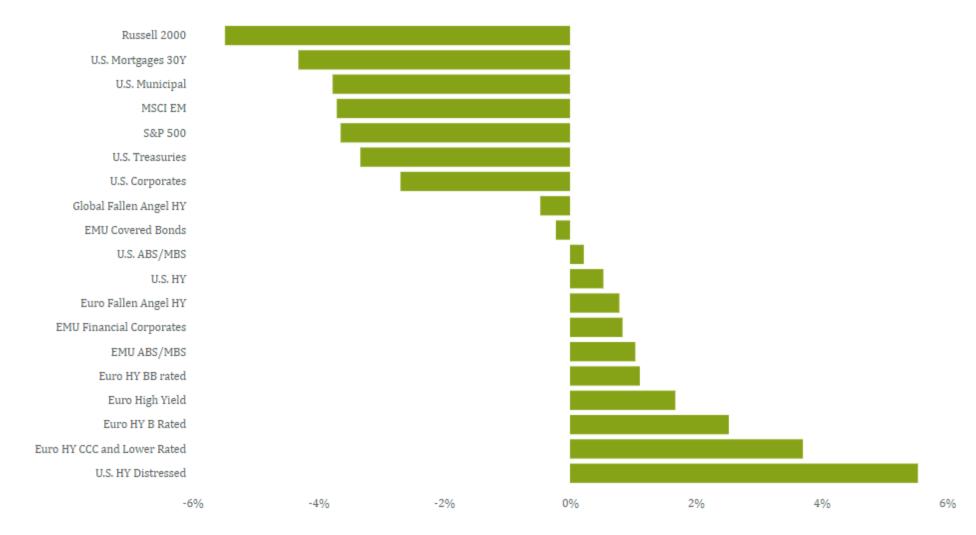


Eikon [8.1] and [8.2], and Bloomberg [8.3]

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

### afme/ Relative Value and Total Return Finance for Europe

8.4 Asset Class Total Return: Q3 2023



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