

# **Credit Market Strategist**

# Out of the frying pan into the fire

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The new problem is the potential demand / supply mismatch in the Treasury market. The continued selloff in Treasury yields should make it harder for IG investors to buy until the Treasury market finds a bottom. The headlines on potential Fed support suggest the bottom could be found sooner rather than later. Our tracker shows relatively stable institutional and foreign demand for IG, but mutual fund / ETF flows could remain weak following very large outflows this week.

### The Trump put finally arrives

This week the Trump administration announced a 90-day pause on reciprocal tariffs for all countries except China. The announcement reinforces our view that the administration will not drive the US economy into a recession.

### **Buy cheap single-As**

BBB industrials have outperformed single-A industrials during the volatile period since April 2nd. Normally the spread ratio is higher during periods of market stress and recession concerns, including in 2016, 2019 and 2022. Rotating into the relatively cheap single-As should be an attractive recession hedge.

## More volatility, less supply

Volatility spiked. The silver lining for IG credit is less M&A, more conservative balance sheet policies, and less supply. We cut our 2025 supply outlook by \$110bn to \$1.58tr.

# IG 1Q-25 earnings preview: weaker

Bottom-up consensus calls for US HG public issuer earnings to grow +3.3% YoY in 1Q, a notable slowdown from the +19.2% YoY increase in the prior 4Q-2024 quarter.

## M&A volumes up in March

The pipeline of announced deals with potential IG funding implications increased very slightly to \$229bn in March from \$224bn in February.

#### IG market technicals

**Supply**: \$6bn of issuance this week, expect \$10-35bn next week. **Flows**: -\$6.99bn outflow this past week ending on April 2nd. **Dealer inventories**: +\$1,618 past week ended Thu. Details inside.

We published the weekly CMS data and charts in **Situation Room**.

#### 13 April 2025

Credit Strategy United States

# Data Analytics



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#### Recent credit strategy research

Publication	Name
Situation Room	Flight to safety flows in bonds
Situation Room	The Trump put finally arrives
Situation Room	More volatility, less supply
Situation Room	Buy cheap single-As
Monthly HG	Mar '25: Tariff and growth
Market Review	<u>shocks</u>
Credit Market	Credit Market Strategist: Jan '25
Strategist	Credit Investor Survey: Bullish on
	<u>America</u>
Credit Market	Summer '24 snapshot of the US
Strategist	<u>IG market</u>

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Refer to important disclosures on page 27 to 29.

Timestamp: 13 April 2025 11:17AM EDT

# **US IG key views**

- **US IG spread view.** We are constructive on spreads given that we avoid a recession in the base case, the direct impact of tariffs on IG is small, stagflation means not much impact on nominal US GDP growth. Supply volumes could be impacted by the heavy maturities in April and May. On the flip side, less M&A and more conservative balance sheet management should subtract from supply. IG credit quality continues to improve based on ratings. We expect IG spreads to trade in 90 130ps range this year.
- Quality. BBBs are almost fully compressed to single-As, which is inconsistent with
  the recently wider spreads and elevated risks to US growth. We suggest investors
  increase allocation to single-As Industrials to position for decompression (see
  Situation Room: Buy cheap single-As 07 April 2025).
- Sectors. We seek to outperform in a relatively tight spread environment by being
  overweight yieldier sectors. At the same time, we hedge growth and tariff risks by
  positioning in non-cyclical and more US domestic sectors. For more details, see
  Credit Market Strategist: Sector outlook 21 March 2025.
- **Curve.** 5s10s IG spread curve flattened as investors sold front-end bonds to raise cash. 5yr bonds now screen cheap on the curve.
- Sector recommendation matrix.

# Exhibit 1: High Grade Sector Views Summary

US IG credit strategy sector views matrix

Overweight View Market weight		View	Underweight	View	
Aerospace/Defense	Over	Automobiles	Market	Basic Materials	Under
Banks/Brokers	Over	Food, Bev, & Bottling	Market	Metals & Mining	Market
Energy	Over	Life Insurance	Market	Chemicals	Under
Oil & Gas	Over	Media & Entertainment	Market	Consumer Products	Under
Pipelines	Over	Tobacco	Market	Industrial Products	Under
Health Care	Over			Retail	Under
Railroads	Over			Discounters	Under
REITs	Over			Non-Discounters	Under
Telecom	Over			Technology	Under
Utilities	Over				

Source: BofA Global Research

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# Out of the frying pan into the fire

The tariff pause this week reduces the tail risk of a US recession and supports our updated 90 – 130bps IG spread target for 2025 (vs. 118bps currently). The spike in volatility this week widened bid-ask and flattened 5s10s IG spread curve. That should normalize as the volatility subsides following the decline in tariff uncertainties.

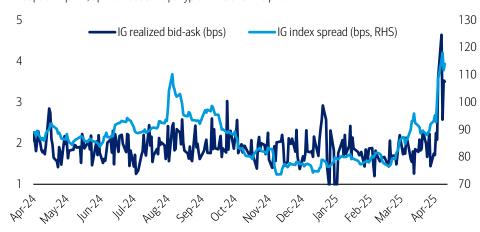
The new problem is the potential demand / supply mismatch in the Treasury market. The continued selloff in Treasury yields should make it harder for IG investors to buy until the Treasury market finds a bottom. The headlines on potential Fed support suggest the bottom could be found sooner rather than later. Our tracker shows relatively stable institutional and foreign demand for IG, but mutual fund / ETF flows could remain weak following very large outflows this week.

## Strained liquidity

Our rates strategists wrote that "US Treasury liquidity conditions meaningfully thinned to near a point of requiring official sector intervention" this week (see <u>Global Rates Weekly: The art of the repeal</u>). Not surprisingly the bid-ask in the IG corporate bond market also widened and remained elevated on Thursday (Exhibit 2). Trading shifted notably to more recent new issues (Exhibit 3, Exhibit 4).

#### Exhibit 2: IG bond bid-ask widened this week

IG realized bid-ask (based on dealer buy and sell average spreads on the same bond on the same day) peaked at 4.6bps on April 7, up from about 2bps typical rate over the prion 12M.



Source: BofA Global Research, FINRA TRACE

#### Exhibit 3: Liquidity weakened for off-the-run bonds ...

The share of trading for bonds older than one year dropped from 74% on March  $31^{st}$  to 56% on April  $3^{rd}$ .



Source: BofA Global Research, FINRA TRACE

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#### Exhibit 4: ... as trading volumes for older bonds declined.

The share of trading for bonds older than 3 year dropped from 50% on March  $31^{st}$  to 33% on April  $3^{rd}$ .



Source: BofA Global Research, FINRA TRACE



### **Tracking demand**

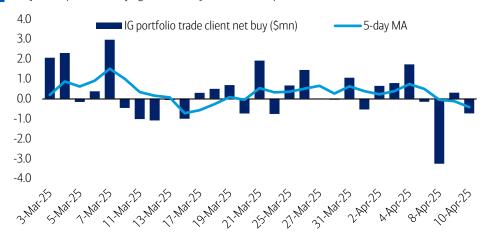
Demand weakened, driven by retail. Looking at portfolio trades as an indicator of institutional demand shows one big day of net selling on April 8 (Exhibit 5). Investors also used portfolio trades to rotate out of 1-3yr and 5-10yr and into the back-end (Exhibit 6). The selling was concentrated in high quality, suggesting investors were mostly raising cash and not getting out of IG in general (Exhibit 7).

Our foreign demand tracker shows a mixed picture. Some net selling for a few days after April  $2^{nd}$ , and then buying this week. On net foreign investor neither sold nor bought much (Exhibit 8).

The big outflows this week came from retail investors. The daily outflows reached about \$4bn on Monday and Tuesday, before slowing on Wednesday. Note that better flows on Wednesday were due to ETFs, while outflows from funds continued (Exhibit 9, Exhibit 10). Fund flows tend to chase returns, and following the big backup in rates the returns are now consistent with HG fund outflows going forward (Exhibit 11).

Exhibit 5: Investors only heavily sold bonds through PTs on April 8th

Away from April 8th net buying was relatively balanced for IG portfolio trades.

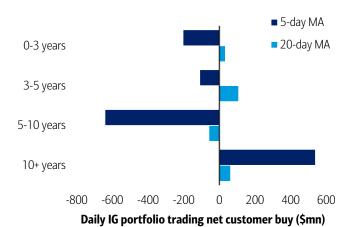


**Source:** BofA Global Research, FINRA TRACE.

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#### Exhibit 6: IG portfolio trades by maturity

IG investors sold 0-10yr bonds, bought 10+yr bonds through PTs.

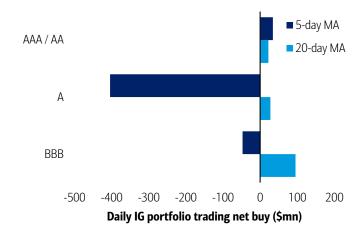


Source: BofA Global Research, FINRA TRACE.

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#### Exhibit 7: IG portfolio trades by rating

IG investors net sold A-rated bonds through portfolio trades this past week.

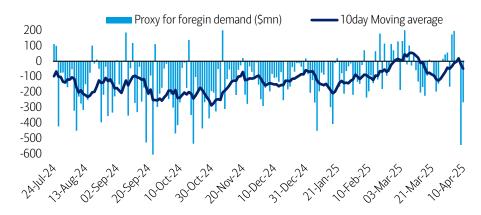


Source: BofA Global Research, FINRA TRACE



#### Exhibit 8: Demand from foreign investors was about flat this week

Our proxy shows potential selling from foreign investors immediately after April  $2^{nd}$  and then some buoying this week.

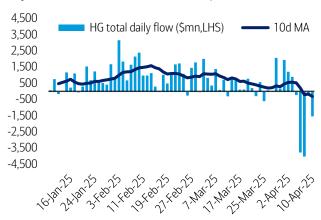


Note: Overnight and morning net buying by investors is correlated with demand from foreign investors due to different time zones. Negative numbers indicate foreign buying.

Source: BofA Global Research, TRACE

#### Exhibit 9: Big outflows from HG on April 7 and 8

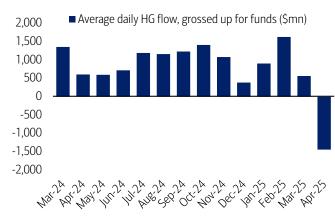
Daily outflows from HG were around \$4bn on April 7 and 8



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#### Exhibit 10: Wear HG flows so far in April

The average daily flow to HG funds / ETFs has turned negative so far in April.



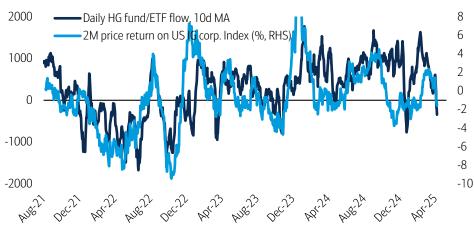
Source: EPFR Global

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#### Exhibit 11: Bond returns are currently consistent with outflows from HG funds

The recent increase in yields and lower bond returns are consistent with outflows from HG funds and ETFs.

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Source: EPFR Global

Source: EPFR Global



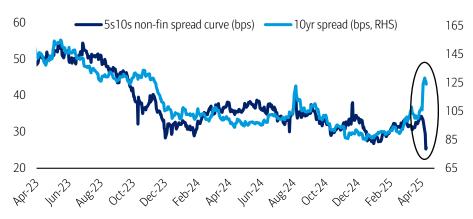
# The victim of the volatility: 5yr spreads

IG 5yr spreads are tighter and lower beta compared to the 10yr. That means 5s10s IG spread curve tends to steepen when spreads widen. The opposite happened this week, with the curve instead flattened significantly (Exhibit 12). That suggests investors were likely using the 5yr point to raise cash. The 5yr spreads are now cheap and should outperform once the volatility subsides.

In contrast the price action in the 10s30s IG spread curves remained orderly. The 10s30s curve flattened in line with the increase in 30yr Treasury yields on stronger yield-sensitive demand (Exhibit 13).

#### Exhibit 12: 5s10s IG spread curve flattened this week

5s10s IG non-financial spread curve tends to steepen when spreads widen. The opposite happened last week



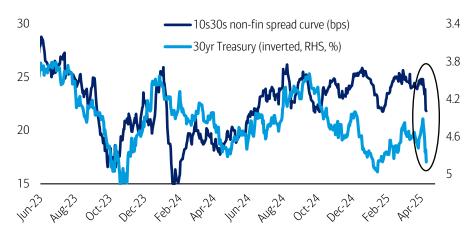
Note: the curves are based on issuer-matched on-the-run bonds.

**Source:** BofA Global Research, ICE Data Indices, LLC

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#### Exhibit 13: 10s30s IG spread curve flattened in line with higher Treasury yields

Unlike the 5s10s IG spread curve, 10s30s price action was orderly this week despite the volatility.



Note: the curves are based on issuer-matched on-the-run bonds.

Source: BofA Global Research, ICE Data Indices, LLC

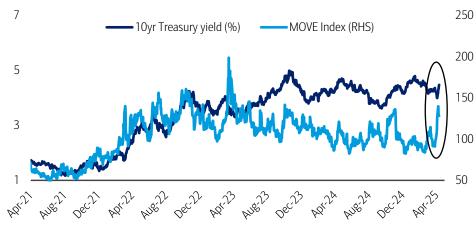


#### Rates vol = less demand for bonds

Higher rates risks should be bad for demand in addition to the outflows from funds / ETFs. Unexpectantly the Treasury yield curve bear steepened following the April 2<sup>nd</sup> tariff announcement. Treasuries also cheapened vs. swaps, suggesting weaker demand (Exhibit 15, Exhibit 16). While higher yields are generally attractive, investors generally need some stability before they are comfortable buying. Currently such stability is missing, given the implied rates volatility near the highest levels since 2022 (Exhibit 14).

#### Exhibit 14: Higher rates, but also much higher rates vol

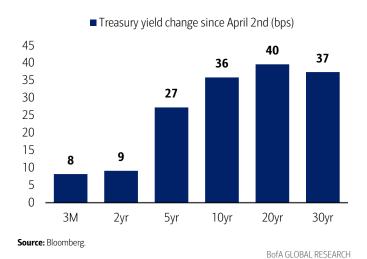
The increase in implied rates vol was high relative to the increase in rates. That should be negative for demand.



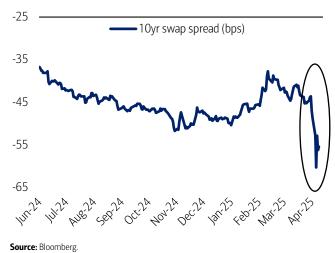
Source: Bloomberg.

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# **Exhibit 15: Treasury yield curve bear steepened since April 2nd** 10yr Treasury yields is 36bps higher since April 2nd, while 2yr yield is 9bps higher.



# Exhibit 16: 10yr swap spread turned more negative 10yr swap spread declined by 12bps since April 2nd.



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#### Relative value after the selloff

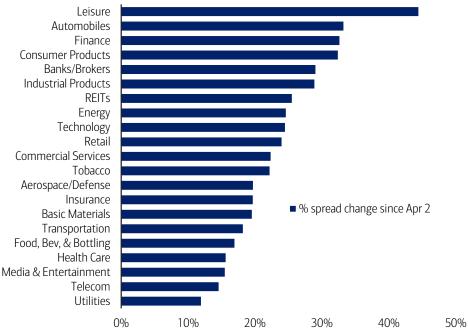
The less cyclical / more domestic sectors such as Utilities, Telecom, Media, Health Care and Food / Bev have finally outperformed this week (Exhibit 17). That means these defensive sectors are not as cheap as they were only a week ago. However, given the outlook for weaker growth they likely still have more room to outperform. The relative value is still relatively far from the recession fears period in 2022 / 2023 (Exhibit 18).



However, European Yankees continue to trade relatively cheap relative to US issuer spreads (Exhibit 19, Exhibit 20). Hence we still think European Yankees provide a nice hedge to US tariff and growth risks.

#### Exhibit 17: Less cyclical / more domestic IG sectors outperformed since April 2nd

Utilities, Telecom, Media, Health Care and Food have outperformed since April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

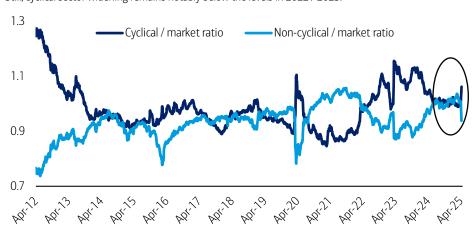


Source: BofA Global Research, ICE Data indices, LLC

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#### Exhibit 18: Cyclical sectors have finally underperformed

Still, cyclical sector widening remains notably below the levels in 2022 / 2023.



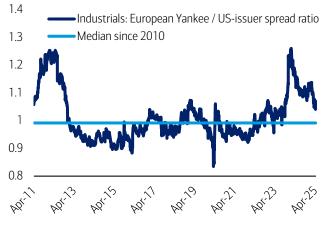
Non-cyclical sectors: Transportation, Utilities, Health Care, Aerospace / Defense. Cyclical sectors: Autos, Banks/Brokers, Finance, Basic Materials. Note that we exclude Energy from the cyclical sectors.

Source: BofA Global Research, ICE Data Indices, LLC



#### Exhibit 19: European Yankee spreads remain cheap ...

The ratio of European issuer spreads to US issuer spreads for Industrial issuers remains above the historical median.

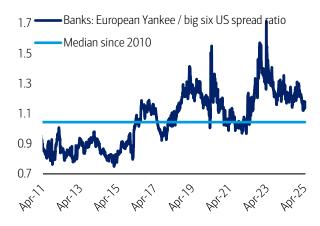


Source: BofA Global Research, ICE Data Indices, LLC

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#### Exhibit 20: ... relative to US issuers spreads

The ratio of European issuer spreads to US issuer spreads for Banks issuers remains above the historical median.



Source: BofA Global Research, ICE Data Indices, LLC

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#### Based on:

Situation Room: The Trump put finally arrives 09 April 2025

# The Trump put finally arrives

Today the Trump administration announced a 90-day pause on reciprocal tariffs for countries that have not retaliated. That presumably includes all countries except China. During the pause the tariff rate will drop to 10%. At the time of writing, it's unclear whether sectoral tariffs (such as tariffs on autos) are included in the pause.

# Outlook unchanged: constructive on IG spreads

We argued that the administration will likely not allow tariffs to drive the US economy into a recession due to political costs (see <u>Credit Market Strategist: It gets worse before it gets better</u>). Today's announcement reinforces that view. However, markets would still need to navigate elevated uncertainties and slower growth. As a result, we continue to prefer non-cyclical sectors, Yankees over US-domiciled issuers and single-A over BBB industrials (see <u>Situation Room: Buy cheap single-As</u>). Our IG spread target for 2025 is 90 to 130bps.

Previously published here

Situation Room: Buy cheap single-As 07 April 2025



# **Buy cheap single-As**

BBB industrials have outperformed single-A industrials during the volatile period since April 2<sup>nd</sup> (Exhibit 21). As a result, the BBB / A Industrial spread ratio has dropped to near the lowest levels on record (Exhibit 22). This move is very unusual. Normally the spread ratio is higher during periods of market stress and recession concerns, including in 2016, 2019 and 2022 (Exhibit 23).

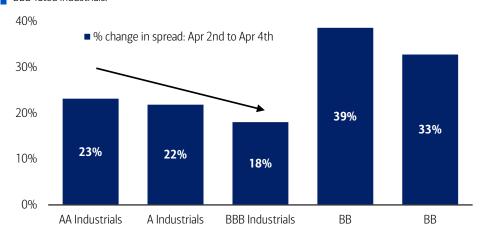
## A cheap recession hedge

We think rotating into the relatively cheap single-As should be an attractive recession hedge. The historically low BBB/A spread ratio suggests single-As should outperform (on a beta-adjusted basis) in most scenarios, and especially in the scenario that spreads remain near current wide levels.

### Cheap A / rich BBB issuer screen

We screen for larger A-rated issuers that have widened the most (in terms % of spread) since February 28 (Exhibit 24). Similarly, we screen for larger BBB-rated industrial issuers with the smallest percentage spread change since February 28 (Exhibit 25).

**Exhibit 21: High quality spreads have underperformed since the "Liberation Day".**AA and A-rated Industrial spreads are 23 and 22% wider since April 2<sup>nd</sup>, compared to just 18% wider for BBB-rated industrials.

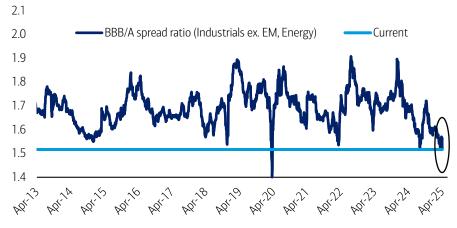


Source: ICE Data Indices, LLC

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Exhibit 22: BBB/A spread ratio for non-financials is near record lows

The last time spreads were this compressed was in August 2024 and during Covid spread volatility.

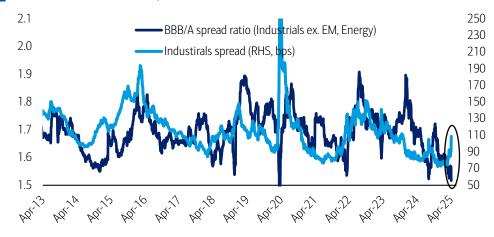


Source: BofA Global Research, ICE Data Indices, LLC



#### Exhibit 23: Wider spreads -> decompression

Wider spreads typically lead to decompression, or a higher BBB/A spread ratio. So far this year wider spreads instead coincided with more compression.



Source: BofA Global Research, ICE Data Indices, LLC

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Exhibit 24: Cheap single-A screen

Single-A rated Industrial issuers with the largest % spread change since Feb 28 (at least \$5bn in index notional).

			Index notional	Spread on Feb 28	Spread on	Spread change	Spread Change
Ticker	Sector	Rating	(\$bn)	(bps)	Apr 4 (bps)	(bps)	(%)
PCAR	Automobiles	Α	5.1	26	49	22	84%
TOYOTA	Automobiles	Α	33.1	40	72	32	79%
BMW	Automobiles	Α	14.2	59	99	39	67%
HYNMTR	Automobiles	Α	24.0	76	124	48	63%
HNDA	Automobiles	Α	16.8	56	91	35	62%
MBGGR	Automobiles	Α	16.1	69	105	36	53%
NKE	Retail	Α	8.0	52	79	27	52%
ECL	Basic Materials	Α	7.1	48	72	24	50%
CAT	Industrial Products	Α	19.1	42	62	20	49%
NTT	Telecom	Α	8.4	46	68	22	49%
DTRGR	Industrial Products	Α	10.4	77	115	37	48%
DE	Industrial Products	Α	32.9	41	60	19	45%
MMM	Industrial Products	Α	9.2	62	90	28	45%
DGELN	Food, Bev, & Bottling	Α	8.5	62	89	27	45%
TGT	Retail	Α	12.1	58	83	25	43%
UNANA	Consumer Products	Α	10.1	38	54	16	41%
ADBE	Technology	Α	6.2	36	51	15	41%
CARGIL	Food, Bev, & Bottling	Α	7.9	61	85	25	41%
EL	Consumer Products	Α	7.3	81	114	33	41%
NFLX	Media & Entertainment	Α	9.0	51	72	21	41%

Source: BofA Global Research, ICE Data Indices, LLC

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#### Exhibit 25: Rich BBB screen

BBB-rated Industrial issuers with the smallest % spread change since Feb 28 (at least \$5bn in index notional).

Ticker	Sector	Rating	Index notional (\$bn)	Spread on Feb 28 (bps)	Spread on Apr 4 (bps)	Spread change (bps)	Spread Change (%)
UBER	Commercial Services	BBB	6.7	88	96	9	10%
BAYNGR	Health Care	BBB	15.7	151	170	19	13%
BCECN	Telecom	BBB	6.6	114	132	18	15%
ELV	Health Care	BBB	28.2	97	112	15	16%
CVS	Health Care	BBB	51.8	121	141	20	16%



#### **Exhibit 25: Rich BBB screen**

BBB-rated Industrial issuers with the smallest % spread change since Feb 28 (at least \$5bn in index notional).

Ticker	Sector	Rating	Index notional (\$bn)	Spread on Feb 28 (bps)	Spread on Apr 4 (bps)	Spread change (bps)	Spread Change (%)
INTC	Technology	BBB	43.6	123	144	21	17%
CNC	Health Care	BBB	15.7	142	165	24	17%
COXENT	Media & Entertainment	BBB	11.2	131	154	23	17%
RCICN	Telecom	BBB	14.5	119	141	22	19%
CAH	Health Care	BBB	7.0	88	105	17	19%
CDW	Commercial Services	BBB	5.0	103	123	20	19%
FDX	Transportation	BBB	5.8	88	105	17	19%
CARR	Industrial Products	BBB	8.1	83	99	16	20%
CI	Health Care	BBB	25.7	93	111	18	20%
BA	Aerospace/Defense	BBB	45.0	131	157	27	20%
BALN	Aerospace/Defense	BBB	9.6	79	95	16	20%
Τ	Telecom	BBB	85.1	97	118	20	21%
FOXA	Media & Entertainment	BBB	6.6	110	134	23	21%
RTX	Aerospace/Defense	BBB	34.7	82	99	17	21%
HCA	Health Care	BBB	22.7	113	137	24	21%

Source: BofA Global Research, ICE Data Indices, LLC

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#### Previously published here

Situation Room: More volatility, less supply 08 April 2025

# More volatility, less supply

Volatility has spiked. The silver lining for IG credit is less M&A, more conservative balance sheet policies, and less supply. In our 2025 supply outlook we penciled in a \$50bn increase in M&A supply and a \$25bn rise in opportunistic issuance / re-leveraging (see report: Credit Market Strategist: 2025 US IG supply outlook). Despite a strong start to the year, M&A issuance will now likely be lower. Higher uncertainty should lead companies to lower opportunistic issuance relative to last year rather than increasing it (Exhibit 26). As a result, we cut our 2025 supply outlook by \$110bn to \$1.58tr, up 3% from \$1.52tr issued in 2024.

# Tracking M&A issuance

M&A IG supply reached \$76bn in 1Q, up from \$66bn in 1Q-2024. However, the pipeline of announced deals is a bit lower YoY, and new M&A activity will likely slow from here. That should drive M&A supply down to about \$175bn in 2025 from \$185bn in 2024 (Exhibit 29).

# M&A volumes up in March

M&A announcements jumped to \$322bn in March, the highest since December 2021. However there was also \$54.7bn of M&A-related IG issuance in March, the highest since February 2024. Therefore on net, the pipeline of announced deals with potential IG funding implications was close to unchanged in March, but we note that the pipeline has declined YoY and over the past 24 months.



#### Exhibit 26: Lower CEO confidence -> less M&A and re-leveraging

Companies should be more careful with their balance sheets given the more difficult outlook.



Source: Bloomberg

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#### Exhibit 27: IG 2025 supply forecast: \$1.58tr

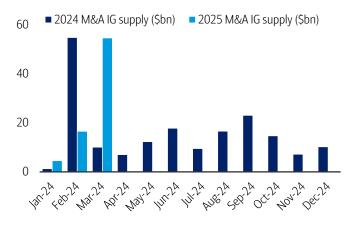
We lower our 2025 supply forecast from \$1.69tr to \$1.58tr on less M&A and more conservative balance sheet management.



Source: BofA Global Research

#### Exhibit 28: M&A supply reached \$76bn in 1Q-2025

That's up from \$66bn in 1Q-2024



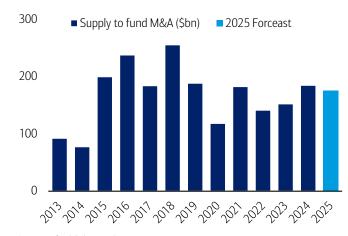
Source: BofA Global Research

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#### Exhibit 29: M&A supply will likely be lower in 2025

We are looking for M&A supply to slow to about \$175bn in 2025 from \$185bn in 2024.



Source: BofA Global Research



#### Previously published here

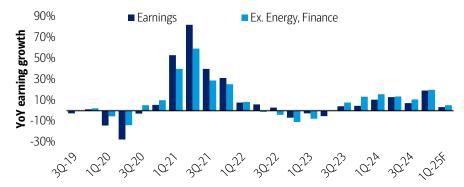
Situation Room: The Trump put finally arrives 09 April 2025

# IG 1Q-25 earnings preview: weaker

The big six US banks / brokers will kick off the 1Q reporting season this Friday, April  $11^{th}$ . Bottom-up consensus calls for US HG public issuer earnings to grow +3.3% YoY in 1Q, a notable slowdown from the +19.2% YoY increase in the prior 4Q-2024 quarter. Excluding the more volatile Energy and Finance sectors, earnings growth is expected to be slightly higher, increasing +5.2% YoY in 1Q-25, down from the +19.8% YoY reading in 4Q-24 and +10.7% YoY in 3Q-24. Finally, bottom-up consensus calls for +0.8% YoY 1Q earnings growth ex. Energy, Finance and the Magnificent 7.

#### **Exhibit 30: Earnings growth for US IG issuers**

YoY earnings growth is expected to slow down in 1Q (+5.2%) ex. Energy and Finance.



Note: 1Q-25 based on the actual results when available and consensus estimates otherwise.

Source: BofA Global Research, FactSet

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Consensus calls for YoY revenue growth to weaken for the full universe (to +3.8% YoY in 1Q from +4.6% YoY in 4Q), as well as ex. Energy and Finance (+4.3% YoY in 1Q from +5.0% YoY in 4O).

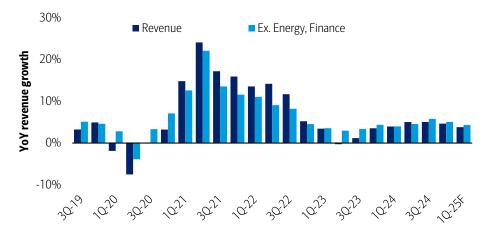
# **Positive surprises**

Based on pre-COVID averages, actual results surprise to the upside by 3.7% for earnings and +0.7% for revenues. For the prior 4Q-2024 earnings season, earnings surprise was stronger (+6.3%), while revenue surprise was +0.6%, slightly below the pre-COVID average (Exhibit 32, Exhibit 33).



#### Exhibit 31: Revenue growth for US IG issuers

Consensus is calling for YoY revenue growth to weaken for the full universe (to +3.8% YoY in 1Q from +4.6% YoY in 4Q) as well as ex. Energy and Finance (to +4.3% YoY in 1Q from +5.0% YoY in 4Q).



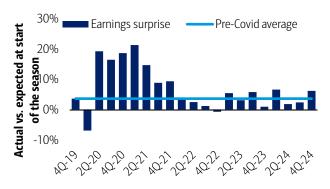
Note: 1Q-25 based on the actual results when available and consensus estimates otherwise.

Source: BofA Global Research, FactSet

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#### **Exhibit 32: Earnings surprise for US IG issuers**

Earnings surprise was above the +3.7% pre-Covid average in 4Q-2024.

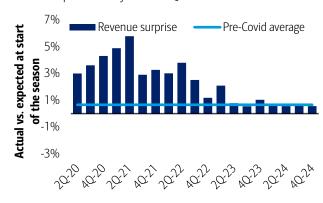


Source: BofA Global Research, FactSet

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# Exhibit 33: Revenue surprise for US IG issuers

Sales beat expectations by 0.6% in 3Q-2024.



Source: BofA Global Research, FactSet

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#### Foreign over domestic

The strongest earnings growth in 1Q-25 (+7.6%) is expected for the more global issuers (>50% share of foreign sales, ex. Finance, Energy, Utilities); the weakest earnings growth (-0.2%) is expected for the more domestic issuers (<25% foreign sales).



#### Exhibit 34: 1Q-25 consensus earnings growth by foreign sales

Expected 1Q earnings growth is expected to be the weakest for domestic issuers (-0.2%).



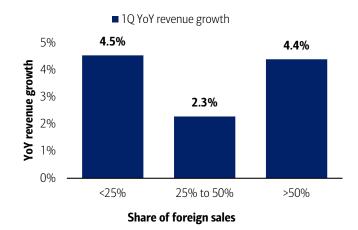
Note: 1Q-25 based on the actual results when available and consensus estimates otherwise. Excluding Finance, Energy, Utilities.

Source: BofA Global Research, FactSet.

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#### Exhibit 35: 1Q-25 consensus sales growth by foreign sales

Expected 1Q sales growth is 4.5% YoY for the more domestic issuers, 2.3% for issuers with intermediate foreign exposure, 4.4% for more global issuers.



Note: 1Q-25 based on the actual results when available and consensus estimates otherwise. Excluding Finance, Energy, Utilities. **Source**: BofA Global Research, FactSet.

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#### Results by sector

Sectors with the weakest expected YoY earnings growth include Automobiles (-41%), Basic Materials (-19%), and Industrial Products (-13%). The strongest YoY earnings growth is expected for Technology (17%), Other (14%), and Utilities (10%, Exhibit 36).

#### Exhibit 36: 1Q-2025 results by sector for US public IG issuers

The table lists earnings and sales growth by sector.

	Earnings	Sales		Share of the
Sector	growth (YoY)	growth (YoY)	Share of bond index value	sector that has reported
Aerospace/Defense	6.9%	-0.3%	1.2%	0%
Automobiles	-42.8%	-5.4%	1.1%	0%
Banks/Brokers	6.9%	4.3%	11.4%	1%
Basic Materials	-16.9%	0.0%	1.5%	2%
Consumer Products	-7.4%	-4.7%	0.6%	0%
Energy	-11.1%	1.3%	4.7%	0%
Finance	4.9%	6.2%	2.3%	0%
Food, Bev, & Bottling	-11.4%	2.0%	2.0%	12%
Health Care	5.4%	7.6%	6.9%	0%
Industrial Products	-12.6%	-6.8%	1.8%	0%
Insurance	-8.0%	-0.7%	2.7%	0%
Media & Entertainment	5.4%	6.6%	2.8%	0%
REITs	8.6%	2.8%	1.9%	0%
Retail	8.6%	3.1%	2.9%	7%
Technology	16.8%	11.8%	5.6%	19%
Telecom	2.2%	2.1%	2.3%	0%
Transportation	-5.7%	1.3%	2.0%	9%
Utilities	10.8%	8.2%	6.1%	0%
Other	14.3%	3.6%	2.7%	3%
Total US HG public co's	3.7%	3.9%	62.4%	3%
Total ex. Financials	4.0%	4.1%	44.0%	4%
Total ex. Energy	4.9%	4.2%	57.7%	3%
Total ex. Fin. & Energy	5.4%	4.4%	39.3%	5%
Yankee and private co's	n.a.	n.a.	37.6%	n.a.
HQ ex. Financials, Utilities	5.5%	5.9%	15.7%	1%
BBB ex. Financials, Utilities	-0.1%	1.6%	21.9%	7%

Note: based on the actual results when available and consensus estimates otherwise.

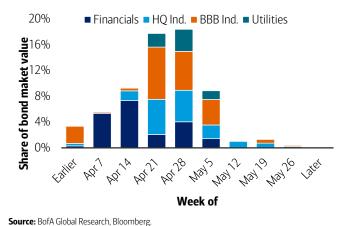
Source: BofA Global Research, FactSet.



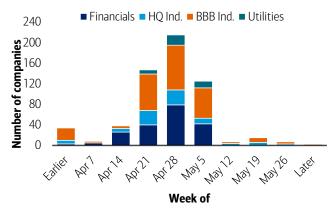
#### Timing of the earnings season

This week eight issuers accounting for 5.5% of the US IG corporate bond index market value are scheduled to release 1Q results. The pace then accelerates to 38 issuers (9.3% of the bond index) during the week of April 14, 147 issuers (17.8% of the index) during the week of April 21 and the peak 216 issuers (18.4% of the index) during the week of April 28. In terms of sectors, reporting will be skewed early in the season for financials, late for utilities, and mid-season for high quality industrials. The earnings season will be mostly over following the week of May 5<sup>th</sup> (Exhibit 37, Exhibit 38).

**Exhibit 37: Weekly reporting: by the share of the US IG bond index** The weeks of April 21 and April 28 are the busiest of the season.



**Exhibit 38: Weekly reporting: by the number of companies**The number of companies reporting peaks for the week of Feb 4.



Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg.

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### Previously published here

Situation Room: More volatility, less supply 08 April 2025

# M&A volumes up in March

North American M&A announcements jumped to \$322bn in March, the highest since December 2021, from \$134bn in February (Exhibit 39). There was also \$54.7bn of M&A-related IG issuance in March, up from \$16.6bn in February and the highest since February 2024 (Exhibit 41).

# **Deal pipeline stable**

The pipeline of announced deals with potential IG funding implications increased very slightly to \$229bn in March from \$224bn in February.

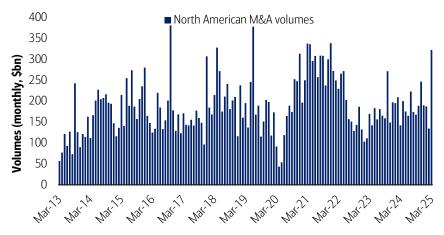
The trend has been for the pipeline to decline over the past 24 months, down from \$304bn average in 2023 and \$346bn average in 2022 (Exhibit 40). Although the relationship tends to be a bit noisy, the current pipeline implies M&A-related supply over the next eight months of \$103bn, below the \$118bn over the prior eight months (Exhibit 42, Exhibit 43).

See details of the current deal list in the Pipeline of M&A deals with IG issuance implications section.



#### Exhibit 39: Monthly North American M&A volumes

North American M&A announcements jumped to \$322bn in March, from \$134bn in February.

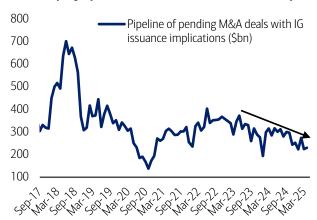


Note: limited to pending and closed deals only. Cancelled deals are excluded.

Source: Bloomberg

#### Exhibit 40: Pipeline of pending M&A deals with IG funding implications

The pipeline of pending M&A deals with US IG funding implications decreased very slightly to \$229bn in March from \$224bn in February.

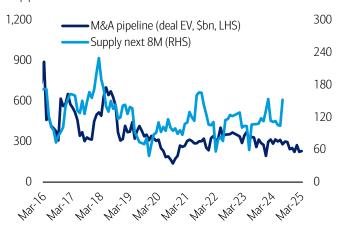


Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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#### Exhibit 42: M&A pipeline vs IG supply

IG supply is historically correlated with the volume of pending M&A deals in the pipeline.



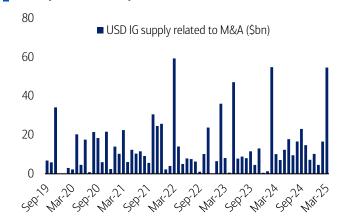
Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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#### Exhibit 41: US IG M&A related supply

US IG M&A-related supply totaled \$54.7bn in March, up from \$16.6bn in February, \$4.5bn in January and \$10.2bn in December.

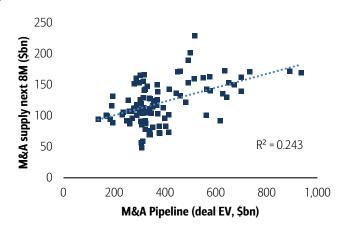


Source: BofA Global Research

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### Exhibit 43: Implied M&A supply next 8m: \$103bn

The R-squared of the regression is 0.24.



Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg



# Pipeline of M&A deals with IG issuance implications

Our criteria for inclusion in the list of announced deals listed consists of deals at least \$1bn in size (in terms of EV) announced by USD high grade issuers. We further restrict the list to deals with a cash component, suggesting to us that the company may choose to fund all or portion of that cash component in the high grade bond market. Finally, the list excludes deals that have already been funded in the corporate bond market, deals that have been rejected by regulators and those that have closed.

#### Exhibit 44: M&A deals with potential high grade bond funding needs

A list of pending M&A deals with potential IG bond funding implications.

Note	
Note	ected
Memet date	
3718/2025   GOOGL US   Alphabet Inc   18521720 US   Wiz Inc   32.0   12/3	ate
1/10/2025   CEG US	
9/5/2024 VZ US Verizon Communications Inc FYBR US Frontier Communications Parent Inc 19.6 3/3 2/5/2024 3651071 Z DC Novo Holdings A/S CTLT US Catalent Inc 16.2 12/1 3/4/2025 158443Z UH Abu Dhabi National Oil Co 0339293Q CN NOVA Chemicals Corp 13.4 2/5/2024 NOV0B DC Novo Nordisk A/S NA, NA, NA, NA, Manufacturing sites/Bloomington 11.0 12/1 10/31/2024 SIE GR Siemens AG ALTR US Altair Engineering Inc 9.5 3/2 10/20/2020 000660 KS SK Hynix Inc na. Memory-chip unit/Intel Corp 9.0 3/2 3/25/2024 NOV0B DC Novo Nordisk A/S 15.09704D GR Cardior Pharmaceuticals GmbH 1.1 6/3 8/15/2024 ROP US Roper Technologies Inc 1940188D US Transact Campus Inc 1.6 9/3 10/30/2024 EQNR NO Equinor ASA na. Northern Marcellus gas unit/US 1.3 1/2 9/24/2024 MQG AU Macquarie Group Ltd DESR US Desri Inc 1687478D US Garza Food Ventures LLC 1.2 1/1 10/2/2024 PEP US PepsiCo Inc 1687478D US Garza Food Ventures LLC 1.2 1/1 1/3/2025 FLO US, NA, NA. Private Investor 1756575D US Simple Mills Inc 0.8 2/2 1/3/25/2024 IBM US International Business Machine HCP US HashiCorp Inc 1.0 2/2-4/25/2024 AVI US Acuity Inc 0.3176062 US QSC LLC 1.2 2/21 1/3/2025 GSK LN GSK PLC 2121787D US Infinera Corp 2.1 3/3 4/22/2024 CSGP US CoStar Group Inc MITR US Matterport Inc 1.9 3/3 1/2/2025 FLO US, NA, NA. Private Investor 1.9 1/3/2025 GSK LLC 2.2 2/21 1/3/2025 FLO US COStar Group Inc 1.9 1/3/2025 FLO US FLO COSTAR Group Inc 1.9 1/3/2025 FLO US FLO COSTAR GROUP	
2/5/2024   36510712 DC   Novo Holdings A/S   CTLT US   Catalent Inc   16.2   12/1   3/4/2025   1584432 UH   Abu Dhabi National Oil Co   0339293Q CN   NOVA Chemicals Corp   13.4   12/1   10/31/2024   SIE GR   Siemens AG   ALTR US   Altair Engineering Inc   9.5   3/2   10/20/2020   000660 KS   SK Hynix Inc   n.a.   Memory-chip unit/Intel Corp   9.0   3/2/3   3/25/2024   NOVOB DC   Novo Nordisk A/S   1509704D GR   Cardior Pharmaceuticals GmbH   1.1   6/34   6/3	
3/4/2025   158443Z UH	
2/5/2024	3/2024
10/31/2024   SIE GR   Siemens AG   ALTR US   Altair Engineering Inc   9.5   3/2   10/20/2020   000660 KS   SK Hynix Inc   n.a.   Memory-chip unit/Intel Corp   9.0   3/2   3/25/2024   NOVOB DC   Novo Nordisk A/S   1509704D GR   Cardior Pharmaceuticals GmbH   1.1   6/3	ı.a.
10/20/2020   000660 KS   SK Hynix Inc   n.a.   Memory-chip unit/Intel Corp   9.0   3/2t   3/25/2024   NOVOB DC   Novo Nordisk A/S   1509704D GR   Cardior Pharmaceuticals GmbH   1.1   6/3t   8/15/2024   ROP US   Roper Technologies Inc   1940188D US   Transact Campus Inc   1.6   9/3t   10/30/2024   EQNR NO   Equinor ASA   n.a.   Northern Marcellus gas unit/US   1.3   1/2   9/24/2024   MQG AU   Macquarie Group Ltd   DESR US   Desri Inc   1.7   1/11   10/2/2024   PEP US   PepsiCo Inc   1687478D US   Garza Food Ventures LLC   1.2   1/11   Karr Wapiti & Zama properties/Paramount   2.4   1/3   11/14/2024   OVV US   Ovintiv Inc   n.a.   Resources Ltd   2.4   1/3   Flowers Foods Inc, Management Group,   1756575D US   Simple Mills Inc   0.8   2/2   11/3/2025   FLO US, N.A., N.A.   Private Investor   1756575D US   Simple Mills Inc   0.8   2/2   11/3/2025   GSK LN   GSK PLC   2121787D US   IDRx Inc   1.0   2/2   11/24/2024   AYI US   Acuity Inc   0317606Z US   QSC LLC   1.2   2/2t   10/24/2024   AYI US   Acuity Inc   0317606Z US   QSC LLC   1.2   2/2t   10/24/2024   CSGP US   CoStar Group Inc   MTTR US   Matterport Inc   1.9   3/3   11/14/2025   WAB US   Westinghouse Air Brake Technologies Corp   n.a.   Inspection Technologies division/Evident Corp   1.8   3/3   2/12/2025   PSX US   Phillips 66   2540277D US   EPIC Y-Grade GP LLC, EPIC Y-Grade LP   2.2   4/1   11/2/2025   BN CN   Brookfield Corp   NEOEN FP   Neoen SA   2.9   4/4   11/2/2025   4/4	3/2024
3/25/2024   NOVOB DC   Novo Nordisk A/S   1509704D GR   Cardior Pharmaceuticals GmbH   1.1   6/30   8/15/2024   ROP US   Roper Technologies Inc   1940188D US   Transact Campus Inc   1.6   9/30   10/30/2024   EQNR NO   Equinor ASA   n.a.   Northern Marcellus gas unit/US   1.3   1/2   9/24/2024   MQG AU   Macquarie Group Ltd   DESR US   Desri Inc   1.7   1/11   10/2/2024   PEP US   PepsiCo Inc   1687478D US   Garza Food Ventures LLC   1.2   1/11   11/14/2024   OWUS   Ovintiv Inc   n.a.   Resources Ltd   2.4   1/3   11/8/2025   FLO US, N.A., N.A.   Private Investor   1756575D US   Simple Mills Inc   0.8   2/2   11/3/2025   GSK LN   GSK PLC   2121787D US   IDRx Inc   1.0   2/24   11/3/2025   GSK LN   GSK PLC   2121787D US   IDRx Inc   1.0   2/24   11/24/2024   AYI US   Acuity Inc   0317606Z US   QSC LLC   1.2   2/24   16/28/2024   NOKIA FH   Nokia Oyj   INFN US   Infinera Corp   2.1   3/3   1/14/2025   WAB US   Westinghouse Air Brake Technologies Corp   n.a.   Inspection Technologies division/Evident Corp   1.8   3/3   1/14/2025   PSX US   Phillips 66   2540277D US   EPIC Y-Grade GP LLC, EPIC Y-Grade LP   2.2   4/1   1/2/2025   BN CN   Brookfield Corp   NEOEN FP   Neoen SA   2.9   4/4   1/2/2025   A/4   A/4/2025   BN CN   Brookfield Corp   NEOEN FP   Neoen SA   2.9   4/4   1.0/2025   A/4   A/4/2025   A/4   1/2/2025   BN CN   Brookfield Corp   NEOEN FP   Neoen SA   2.9   4/4   1.0/2026   A/4   A/	/2025
8/15/2024         ROP US         Roper Technologies Inc         1940188D US         Transact Campus Inc         1.6         9/36           10/30/2024         EQNR NO         Equinor ASA         n.a.         Northern Marcellus gas unit/US         1.3         1/2           9/24/2024         MQG AU         Macquarie Group Ltd         DESR US         Desri Inc         1.7         1/17           10/2/2024         PEP US         PepsiCo Inc         1687478D US         Garza Food Ventures LLC         1.2         1/17           Karr Wapiti & Zama properties/Paramount         Resources Ltd         2.4         1/3           11/14/2024         OVV US         Ovintiv Inc         n.a.         Resources Ltd         2.4         1/3           1/8/2025         FLO US, N.A., N.A.         Private Investor         1756575D US         Simple Mills Inc         0.8         2/2           1/13/2025         GSK LN         GSK PLC         2121787D US         IDRx Inc         1.0         2/2           4/25/2024         IBM US         International Business Machine         HCP US         HashiCorp Inc         5.9         2/2           6/28/2024         AYI US         Acuity Inc         03176062 US         QSC LLC         1.2         2/2           6/28/2024 <td>/2025</td>	/2025
10/30/2024   EQNR NO   Equinor ASA   n.a.   Northern Marcellus gas unit/US   1.3   1/2	/2024
9/24/2024   MQG AU   Macquarie Group Ltd   DESR US   Desri Inc   1.7   1/13   1/13   1/14/2024   PEP US   PepsiCo Inc   1687478D US   Garza Food Ventures LLC   1.2   1/13   1/13   1/14/2024   OVV US   Ovintiv Inc   n.a.   Resources Ltd   2.4   1/3	/2024
9/24/2024   MQG AU   Macquarie Group Ltd   DESR US   Desri Inc   1.7   1/13   1/13   1/14/2024   PEP US   PepsiCo Inc   1687478D US   Garza Food Ventures LLC   1.2   1/13   1/13   1/14/2024   OVV US   Ovintiv Inc   n.a.   Resources Ltd   2.4   1/3	2025
10/2/2024	/2025
11/14/2024	/2025
11/14/2024	2023
Flowers Foods Inc, Management Group,	/2025
1/8/2025         FLO US, N.A., N.A.         Private Investor         1756575D US         Simple Mills Inc         0.8         2/20           1/13/2025         GSK LN         GSK PLC         2121787D US         IDRx Inc         1.0         2/24           4/25/2024         IBM US         International Business Machine         HCP US         HashiCorp Inc         5.9         2/26           10/24/2024         AYI US         Acuity Inc         0317606Z US         QSC LLC         1.2         2/26           6/28/2024         NOKIA FH         Nokia Oyj         INFN US         Infinera Corp         2.1         3/3           4/22/2024         CSGP US         CoStar Group Inc         MTTR US         Matterport Inc         1.9         3/3           1/14/2025         WAB US         Westinghouse Air Brake Technologies Corp         n.a.         Inspection Technologies division/Evident Corp         1.8         3/3*           2/12/2025         TEL US         TE Connectivity PLC         2295658Z US 2540276D US,         Richard's Manufacturing Co Inc         2.3         4/1           1/6/2025         PSX US         Phillips 66         2540277D US         EPIC Y-Grade GP LLC, EPIC Y-Grade LP         2.2         4/1           1/2/2025         BN CN         Brookfield Corp	2023
1/13/2025         GSK LN         GSK PLC         2121787D US         IDRx Inc         1.0         2/24           4/25/2024         IBM US         International Business Machine         HCP US         HashiCorp Inc         5.9         2/26           10/24/2024         AYI US         Acuity Inc         0317606Z US         QSC LLC         1.2         2/26           6/28/2024         NOKIA FH         Nokia Oyj         INFN US         Infinera Corp         2.1         3/3           4/22/2024         CSGP US         CoStar Group Inc         MTTR US         Matterport Inc         1.9         3/3           1/14/2025         WAB US         Westinghouse Air Brake Technologies Corp         n.a.         Inspection Technologies division/Evident Corp         1.8         3/3*           2/12/2025         TEL US         TE Connectivity PLC         2295658Z US 2540276D US,         Richard's Manufacturing Co Inc         2.3         4/1           1/6/2025         PSX US         Phillips 66         2540277D US         EPIC Y-Grade GP LLC, EPIC Y-Grade LP         2.2         4/1           1/2/2025         BN CN         Brookfield Corp         NEOEN FP         Neoen SA         2.9         4/4	(2025
4/25/2024         IBM US         International Business Machine         HCP US         HashiCorp Inc         5.9         2/26           10/24/2024         AYI US         Acuity Inc         0317606Z US         QSC LLC         1.2         2/26           6/28/2024         NOKIA FH         Nokia Oyj         INFN US         Infinera Corp         2.1         3/3           4/22/2024         CSGP US         CoStar Group Inc         MTTR US         Matterport Inc         1.9         3/3           1/14/2025         WAB US         Westinghouse Air Brake Technologies Corp         n.a.         Inspection Technologies division/Evident Corp         1.8         3/3*           2/12/2025         TEL US         TE Connectivity PLC         2295658Z US         Richard's Manufacturing Co Inc         2.3         4/1           1/6/2025         PSX US         Phillips 66         2540277D US         EPIC Y-Grade GP LLC, EPIC Y-Grade LP         2.2         4/1           1/2/2025         BN CN         Brookfield Corp         NEOEN FP         Neoen SA         2.9         4/4	
10/24/2024         AYI US         Acuity Inc         0317606Z US         QSC LLC         1.2         2/28           6/28/2024         NOKIA FH         Nokia Oyj         INFN US         Infinera Corp         2.1         3/3           4/22/2024         CSGP US         CoStar Group Inc         MTTR US         Matterport Inc         1.9         3/3           1/14/2025         WAB US         Westinghouse Air Brake Technologies Corp         n.a.         Inspection Technologies division/Evident Corp         1.8         3/3*           2/12/2025         TEL US         TE Connectivity PLC         2295658Z US         Richard's Manufacturing Co Inc         2.3         4/1           1/6/2025         PSX US         Phillips 66         2540277D US         EPIC Y-Grade GP LLC, EPIC Y-Grade LP         2.2         4/1           1/2/2025         BN CN         Brookfield Corp         NEOEN FP         Neoen SA         2.9         4/4	/2025
6/28/2024         NOKIA FH         Nokia Oyj         INFN US         Infinera Corp         2.1         3/3           4/22/2024         CSGP US         CoStar Group Inc         MTTR US         Matterport Inc         1.9         3/3           1/14/2025         WAB US         Westinghouse Air Brake Technologies Corp         n.a.         Inspection Technologies division/Evident Corp         1.8         3/3*           2/12/2025         TEL US         TE Connectivity PLC         2295658Z US 2540276D US,         Richard's Manufacturing Co Inc         2.3         4/1           1/6/2025         PSX US         Phillips 66         2540277D US         EPIC Y-Grade GP LLC, EPIC Y-Grade LP         2.2         4/1           1/2/2025         BN CN         Brookfield Corp         NEOEN FP         Neoen SA         2.9         4/4	/2025
4/22/2024         CSGP US         CoStar Group Inc         MTTR US         Matterport Inc         1.9         3/3           1/14/2025         WAB US         Westinghouse Air Brake Technologies Corp         n.a.         Inspection Technologies division/Evident Corp         1.8         3/3           2/12/2025         TEL US         TE Connectivity PLC         2295658Z US 2540276D US,         Richard's Manufacturing Co Inc         2.3         4/1           1/6/2025         PSX US         Phillips 66         2540277D US         EPIC Y-Grade GP LLC, EPIC Y-Grade LP         2.2         4/1           1/2/2025         BN CN         Brookfield Corp         NEOEN FP         Neoen SA         2.9         4/4	/2025
1/14/2025         WAB US         Westinghouse Air Brake Technologies Corp         n.a.         Inspection Technologies division/Evident Corp         1.8         3/3°           2/12/2025         TEL US         TE Connectivity PLC         2295658Z US         Richard's Manufacturing Co Inc         2.3         4/1           1/6/2025         PSX US         Phillips 66         2540277D US         EPIC Y-Grade GP LLC, EPIC Y-Grade LP         2.2         4/1           1/2/2025         BN CN         Brookfield Corp         NEOEN FP         Neoen SA         2.9         4/4	2025
2/12/2025     TEL US     TE Connectivity PLC     2295658Z US 2540276D US,     Richard's Manufacturing Co Inc     2.3     4/1       1/6/2025     PSX US     Phillips 66     2540277D US     EPIC Y-Grade GP LLC, EPIC Y-Grade LP     2.2     4/1       1/2/2025     BN CN     Brookfield Corp     NEOEN FP     Neoen SA     2.9     4/4	2025
2540276D US,  1/6/2025 PSX US Phillips 66 2540277D US EPIC Y-Grade GP LLC, EPIC Y-Grade LP 2.2 4/1  1/2/2025 BN CN Brookfield Corp NEOEN FP Neoen SA 2.9 4/4	/2025
2540276D US,  1/6/2025 PSX US Phillips 66 2540277D US EPIC Y-Grade GP LLC, EPIC Y-Grade LP 2.2 4/1  1/2/2025 BN CN Brookfield Corp NEOEN FP Neoen SA 2.9 4/4	2025
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10/24/2024 KDP US Keurig Dr Pepper Inc 2024076D US Ghost LLC 1.0 6/30	/2025
Muenchener Rueckversicherungs-	
3/19/2025 MUV2 GR Gesellschaft AG in Muenchen 2324746D US Next Insurance Inc 2.6 9/30	/2025
2/25/2025 TMO US Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc n.a. Purification & Filtration business/Solventum Corp 4.1 12/3	1/2025
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9/13/2023 TMUS US T-Mobile US Inc n.a. 600MHz spectrum/Comcast Corp 3.3	ı.a.



#### Exhibit 44: M&A deals with potential high grade bond funding needs

A list of pending M&A deals with potential IG bond funding implications.

Deal announce ment date	Acquirer Ticker	Acquirer Name	Target Ticker	Target Name	Announce d deal value (\$bn)	Expected completion date
4/24/2024	2137Z US	Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co	2231444D US	ATLAS SP Partners LP	2.0	n.a.
3/17/2025	PEP US	PepsiCo Inc	1784909D US	VNGR Beverage LLC	2.0	n.a.
11/21/2022	NSC US	Norfolk Southern Corp	2210036D US	Cincinnati Southern Railway Co	1.6	n.a.
4/16/2024	MSFT US	Microsoft Corp	1770871D UH	Group 42 Holding Ltd	1.5	n.a.
10/25/2023	STLA US	Stellantis NV	9863 HK	Zhejiang Leapmotor Technologies Ltd	1.1	n.a.
				Retained spectrum licenses/United States Cellular		
10/18/2024	VZ US	Verizon Communications Inc	n.a.	Corp	1.0	n.a.
5/2/2024	NOVN SW	Novartis AG	1946509D US	Curie Therapeutics Inc	1.0	n.a.
Source: BofA G	obal Research, Bloombe	erg				

## **Flows**

Previously published here

Situation Room: Flight to safety flows in bonds 10 April 2025

## Flight to safety flows in bonds

HY and loans reported the largest weekly outflows in at least five years, while the outflow from HG was the largest since 2022. That was offset by a large +\$15.95bn inflow into government bond funds.

Flows turned negative for US HG bond funds and ETFs this past week ending on April 09, with a -\$6.99bn outflow, down from a +\$3.30bn inflow in the prior week. Flows turned negative for HG ETFs (to -\$3.10bn, the biggest outflow since July 2020, from +\$0.98bn) as well as for HG Funds (to -\$3.89bn, from +\$2.31bn). Flows turned negative for both short-term HG (to -\$2.81bn, from +\$1.92bn) and ex. short-term (to -\$4.18bn, from +\$1.38bn).

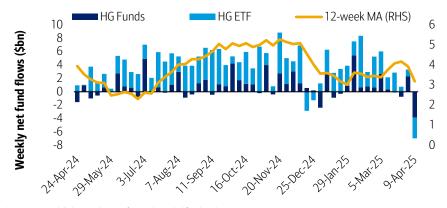
# Large outflows from HY, loans

Flows turned positive for equities this past week (to +\$33.26bn from -\$10.05bn), while flows turned negative for HY (to -\$10.00bn, the biggest outflow since July 2020, from +\$0.34bn). Outflows accelerated for loans (to -\$5.49bn, the biggest outflow since July 2020, from -\$0.49bn) and for munis (to -\$2.34bn, the biggest outflow since December 2022, from -\$0.44bn). Flows were also negative for global EM bonds (to -\$3.63bn, from +\$1.16bn). Finally, money markets reported a -\$37.44bn outflow this past week (the biggest outflow in 3 months), following a +\$5.58bn inflow a week earlier.



#### Exhibit 45: Weekly high grade fund flows, \$bn

HG ETF -\$3.10bn, HG Funds -\$3.89



Source: EPFR Global. Note: data are for US-domiciled funds only.

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#### Exhibit 46: Weekly equity fund flows, \$bn

Equities +\$33.26bn



EPFR Global. Note: data are for US-domiciled funds only.

### **Exhibit 47: Fund flows summary**

YTD fund flows summary by asset class

Asset class	Last week (% of AUM for weekly reporting funds/ETFs)	YTD (% of AUM for all funds/ETFs)	YTD (\$bn)
High grade: total	-0.29%	1.3%	57.3
High grade: ex short-term	-0.23%	1.1%	37.9
High yield: total	-3.21%	0.2%	0.8
High yield: ETFs only	-6.43%	0.2%	0.2
Loans	-3.79%	6.1%	10.4
EM	-0.70%	-0.6%	-3.9
Munis	-0.39%	0.8%	8.5
All fixed income	-0.24%	1.8%	128.5
Money markets	-0.50%	2.0%	147.3
Equities	0.26%	0.3%	69.5

Note: Last week flow as % of AUM is based on AUM for weekly reporting funds / ETFs only. YTD flow as % of AUM is based on AUM for the full fund/ ETF universe as of December 31 2020. Global EM funds, US-domiciled funds only for other fund types..

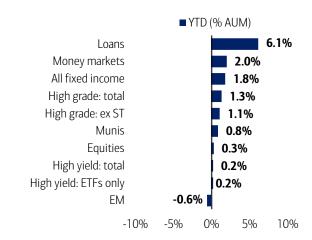
Source: EPFR Global, BofA Global Research

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#### Exhibit 48: Year to date fund flows, % of AUM

Loans has had the biggest inflows so far in 2025.



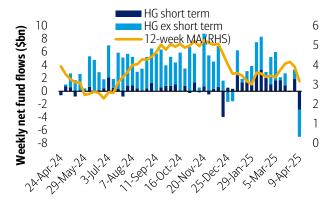
Note: Global EM funds, US-domiciled funds only for other fund types.

Source: EPFR Global, BofA Global Research



#### Exhibit 49: Weekly high grade fund flows, \$bn

HG short-term -\$2.81bn, HG ex short-term -\$4.18

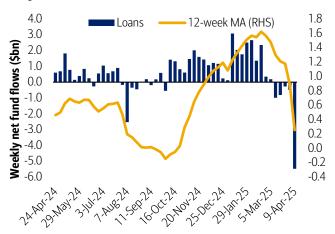


EPFR Global. Note: data are for US-domiciled funds only

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#### Exhibit 51: Weekly loan fund flows, \$bn

Leveraged loans -\$5.49bn



EPFR Global. Note: data are for US-domiciled funds only

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#### Exhibit 53: Cumulative % flows in HG over the last 2 years

Following large outflows in 2022, HG flows turn positive in 2023

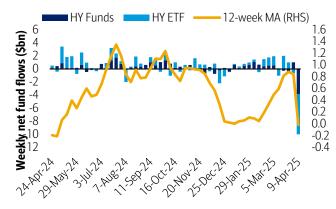


**Source:** EPFR Global, BofA Global Research

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#### Exhibit 50: Weekly high yield fund flows, \$bn

HY ETFs -\$6.17bn, HY funds -\$3.83

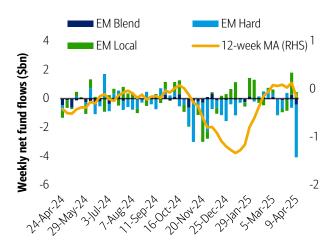


EPFR Global. Note: data are for US-domiciled funds only.

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#### Exhibit 52: Weekly EM fund flows, \$bn

Global EM bonds -\$3.63bn

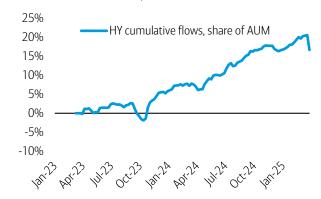


EPFR Global. Note: data are for US-domiciled funds only.

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#### Exhibit 54: Cumulative % flows in HY over the last 2 years

2022 and 2023 have seen consequent outflows in HY



Source: EPFR Global, BofA Global Research



#### Exhibit 55: Cumulative % flows in equities over the last 2 years

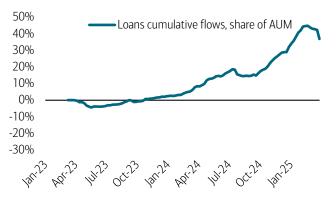
Flows moderate in equities after two years of inflows



rce: errk global, bota global keseatcti BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### Exhibit 56: Cumulative % flows in loans over the last 2 years

After large inflows until mid-2021, loans subject to large outflows ever since



Source: EPFR Global, BofA Global Research

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#### Appendix: defining high grade

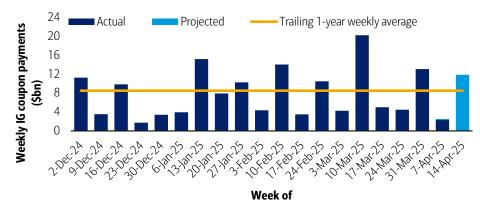
We define our high grade flows metric as a combination of "bond" and "corporate bond" fixed income funds and ETFs domiciled in the US (and investing in any currency, although the majority is invested in USD). We also exclude funds primarily focused on Government, HY, EM and MBS from the sample. The "bond" category refers to the broad high grade market, which includes Treasuries, mortgages and agencies in addition to corporate bonds. This category accounts for the majority of AUM and flows. On the other hand the dedicated corporate bond funds and ETFs are much smaller in terms of assets under management. We also include the "total return" bond category in our tracking of high grade flows. Finally note that "short-term" maturity refers to duration of 0 to 4 years.

# Weekly technicals

The US IG corporate bond market is expected to generate \$11.9bn in coupon payments next week, above the trailing 1-year weekly average of \$8.5bn (Exhibit 57).

#### **Exhibit 57: Weekly US IG coupon payments**

Expect \$11.9bn of coupon payments next week, above the \$8.5bn trailing 1-year weekly average.



Source: ICE Data Indices, LLC, BofA Global Research

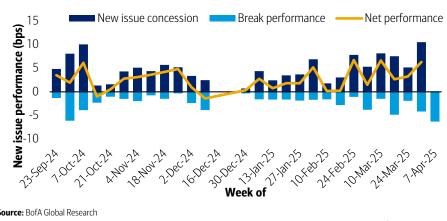


# Supply

US IG gross issuance was \$6.0bn this week (Exhibit 60). Market volatility could continue to impact issuance volumes. On the other hand, backlog has likely formed by now and banks may look to issue post earnings. As a result, we look for issuance in a wide \$10 -\$35bn range, depending on market conditions.

#### Exhibit 58: Weekly new issue supply performance

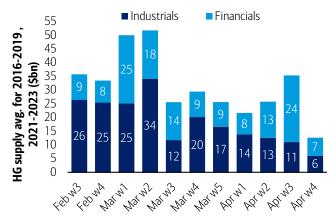
Break performance improved this week.



Source: BofA Global Research

#### **Exhibit 59: Weekly Supply seasonality**

Supply volumes pick tend to slow after the 1st week of June.

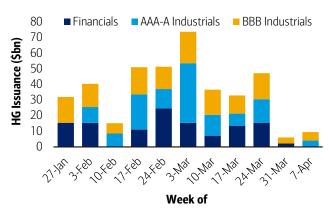


Source: Bloomberg, BofA Global Research

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Exhibit 60: Weekly Supply This week's supply consisted of \$0.0bn financials, \$4.0bn high-quality industrials and \$5.5bn BBB industrials.



Bloomberg, BofA Global Research

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#### Exhibit 61: Recent new issue pricing and new issue concessions

List of new issues in the IG corporate bond market today along with performance metrics.

Date	Ticker	Name	Tenor	Size (\$mn)	Moody's/S&P	Cpn (%)	Px Spd	NIC	* Brk Perf	Cur Spd
2025-04-08	PAYX	Paychex Inc	5	1,500	Baa1/BBB+	5.1	125	n.a.	n.a.	116
2025-04-08	PAYX	Paychex Inc	7	1,500	Baa1/BBB+	5.35	135	n.a.	-2	123
2025-04-08	PAYX	Paychex Inc	10	1,200	Baa1/BBB+	5.6	145	n.a.	-4	128
2025-04-10	AZO	AutoZone Inc	5	500	Baa1/BBB	5.125	115	n.a.	-5	110
2025-04-10	DGELN	Diageo Investment Corp	5	750	A3/A-	5.125	110	n.a.	-11	99
2025-04-10	DGELN	Diageo Investment Corp	10	750	A3/A-	5.625	130	19	-13	117
2025-04-10	JAPTOB	Japan Tobacco Inc	3	800	A2/A+	4.85	105	n.a.	-6	99
2025-04-10	JAPTOB	Japan Tobacco Inc	5	900	A2/A+	5.25	125	n.a.	-6	119
2025-04-10	JAPTOB	Japan Tobacco Inc	10	800	A2/A+	5.85	150	n.a.	-6	144
2025-04-10	KEYS	Keysight Technologies Inc	5	750	Baa1/BBB	5.35	140	n.a.	-6	134

Note: We calculate new issue concessions (NIC, bps) by estimating the difference between new issue bond spread and interpolated G spread from comparable liquid secondary bonds of the same issuer prior to the new issue deal announcement, adjusted for the spread impact of dollar prices deviating from par. Break performance is computed as the difference between new issue pricing and secondary closing spread on the first day of trading. Current spread of each new issue is abbreviated as Cur Spd (bps).

Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

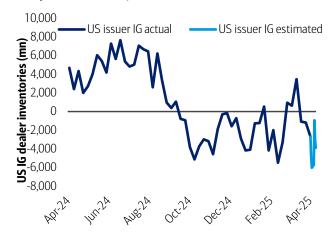


# **Dealer inventories**

Below we estimate dealer inventories for the IG corporate bonds based on TRACE data. The actual inventories of US issuer bonds based on NY Fed survey, as well as the estimated change since the latest Fed report are plotted in Exhibit 62 and Exhibit 63. More details by sector and maturity are available in Exhibit 64 and Exhibit 65.

#### Exhibit 62: Estimated dealer inventories of IG corporate bonds.

We estimate IG dealer inventories of US issuer bonds declined to -\$3.9bn currently from -\$2.7bn on Apr-02.



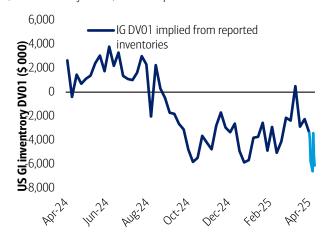
Note: data for US issuer bonds only, maturities 13M or longer. Actual dealer inventory data is from Primary Dealer Statistics survey by the NY Fed. The subsequent change in inventory is estimated based on TRACE and IG ETFs.

Source: BofA Global Research, FINRA, TRACE, Federal Reserve

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# Exhibit 63: Estimated dealer inventory DV01 for IG corporate bonds.

We estimate IG dealer inventory DV01 of US issuer bonds declined to \$6.1mn currently from \$3.4bn on Apr-02.



Note: data for US issuer bonds only, maturities 13M or longer. Actual dealer inventory data is from Primary Dealer Statistics survey by the NY Fed. The subsequent change in inventory is estimated based on TRACE and IG ETFs.

Source: BofA Global Research, FINRA, TRACE, Federal Reserve

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#### Exhibit 64: Estimated changes in IG dealer inventories by maturity and broad sector.

We estimate IG dealer inventories increased -\$396mn today and declined \$1,618mn over the prior week.

		Net de	Net dealer buy (\$mn) Net dealer DV01 change (\$thousand)								Trading volumes on 10-Apr-25 (\$mn)				
Sector	10-Apr	9-Apr	1 W	2 W	4 W	10-Apr	9-Apr	1 W	2 W	4 W	Buy	Sell	Dealer	Total	
High grade (TRACE + ETFs)	-396	-2,184	1,618	-1,585	-2,688	-656	-2,272	-2,686	-3,475	-1,535	14,798	14,488	12,197	41,483	
ETF flow	705	-328	-3,068	-1,229	-2,107	566	-203	-1,710	-473	-941	-	-	-	-	
TRACE net dealer buy	310	-2,512	-1,450	-2,813	-4,796	-90	-2,475	-4,396	-3,949	-2,476	14,798	14,488	12,197	41,483	
<3yr	96	167	1,401	488	-3,574	11	3	190	-78	-833	1,984	1,888	1,427	5,299	
3-5yr	288	-190	-13	-1,389	-2,293	119	-87	-117	-674	-1,072	3,073	2,785	2,448	8,305	
5-11yr	488	-620	1,800	1,257	2,954	274	-457	1,010	654	1,816	6,086	5,599	5,051	16,736	
11+yr	-562	-1,870	-4,639	-3,169	-1,883	-494	-1,935	-5,480	-3,851	-2,388	3,655	4,217	3,271	11,142	
Fin	102	-198	1,702	1,849	104	-189	-527	-41	103	-100	5,159	5,056	3,972	14,187	
Non-Fin	207	-2,314	-3,152	-4,662	-4,900	99	-1,948	-4,355	-4,052	-2,375	9,639	9,432	8,225	27,296	
Fixed	310	-2,512	-1,521	-2,678	-4,650	-90	-2,475	-4,386	-3,841	-2,392	14,798	14,488	12,197	41,483	
Floating	0	0	71	-136	-145	0	0	-10	-107	-84	0	0	0	0	
US issuers	-92	-2,489	-2,276	-3,348	-4,006	-208	-2,135	-3,879	-3,117	-1,015	11,735	11,827	10,029	33,591	
DM Yankees	292	-5	755	383	-1,093	40	-308	-508	-883	-1,510	2,840	2,548	2,051	7,439	
EM Yankees	110	-18	70	152	303	79	-32	-10	52	50	223	113	117	453	

 $Note: data\ for\ maturities\ 13M\ or\ longer.\ Changes\ in\ inventories\ are\ estimated\ based\ on\ TRACE\ and\ IG\ ETF\ flows.$ 

Source: BofA Global Research, FINRA, TRACE, Bloomberg.



#### **Exhibit 65: Estimated changes in IG dealer inventories by sector.**

We estimate today IG dealer inventories increased \$118mn for Banks/Brokers and increased \$102mn for Energy.

		Net dea	dealer buy (\$mn) Net dealer DV01 change (\$thousand)						sand)	Trading volumes on 10-Apr-25 (\$mn)					
Sector	10-Apr	9-Apr	1 W	2 W	4 W	10-Apr	9-Apr	1 W	2 W	4 W	Buy	Sell	Dealer	Total	
Aerospace/Defense	66	-69	121	-4	-104	55	-65	-129	-163	-235	320	253	176	749	
Automobiles	33	12	-85	-359	-155	35	-4	-162	-229	-109	388	356	486	1,230	
Banks/Brokers	118	-67	1,596	2,471	1,836	-156	-364	64	517	747	3,480	3,361	2,769	9,610	
Basic Materials	-96	-112	-583	-823	-848	-52	-114	-484	-579	-585	377	474	516	1,367	
Commercial Services	-114	-36	-172	-216	-119	-71	-35	-186	-222	-92	253	367	147	768	
Energy	102	-367	-446	-739	-983	3	-287	-558	-469	-508	1,651	1,549	1,280	4,480	
Finance	-45	-164	-190	-155	-1,206	-21	-115	-144	-122	-491	821	866	599	2,286	
Food, Bev, & Bottling	-42	-455	-883	-1,050	-1,734	13	-357	-748	-848	-917	653	694	781	2,129	
Health Care	190	-225	161	-67	437	81	-175	-165	-238	529	1,528	1,337	1,200	4,065	
Industrial Products	-52	63	251	71	-562	-42	38	97	-11	-379	203	255	182	641	
Insurance	-25	28	52	-412	-379	-37	-19	-21	-202	-224	330	355	282	968	
Media & Entertainment	152	-247	-92	213	-13	112	-160	-51	149	58	562	410	408	1,380	
REITs	54	6	244	-56	-147	26	-29	59	-89	-133	527	474	322	1,323	
Retail	-36	-120	-162	-40	55	-46	-58	-260	-78	266	464	500	454	1,418	
Technology	26	-220	40	270	1,183	35	-141	-33	358	1,166	1,366	1,340	1,095	3,801	
Telecom	31	-219	-366	-338	235	23	-165	-345	-238	161	426	395	248	1,069	
Tobacco	20	-22	77	-37	-198	1	-3	14	-28	-100	189	170	185	543	
Transportation	-97	-6	63	62	3	-80	-31	-22	-31	1	220	317	198	735	
Utilities	71	-255	-1,066	-1,662	-2,000	50	-349	-1,279	-1,450	-1,591	887	816	701	2,405	
Other	-48	-35	-11	58	-97	-18	-41	-45	25	-40	150	199	167	516	

Note: data for maturities 13M or longer. Changes in inventories are estimated based on TRACE.

Source: BofA Global Research, FINRA, TRACE.

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### **Common abbreviations:**

IG: Investment Grade

HG: High Grade

LQD: iShares iBoxx \$ Investment Grade Corporate Bond ETF

DV01: Dollar value of a basis point

CDX IG: The Markit CDX North America Investment Grade Index

CDX HY: Markit CDX North America High Yield Index

ECB: European Central Bank

QE: Quantitative Easing

CSPP: corporate sector purchase programme

CPI: Consumer Price Index

FOMC: The Federal Open Market Committee



# **Disclosures**

### **Important Disclosures**

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BofA Global Research credit recommendations are assigned using a three-month time horizon:

**Overweight:** Spreads and /or excess returns are likely to outperform the relevant and comparable market over the next three months. **Marketweight:** Spreads and/or excess returns are likely to perform in-line with the relevant and comparable market over the next three months. **Underweight:** Spreads and/or excess returns are likely to underperform the relevant and comparable market over the next three months.

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**Buy Protection:** Buy CDS, therefore going short credit risk. **Neutral:** No purchase or sale of CDS is recommended. **Sell Protection:** Sell CDS, therefore going long credit risk.

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