

Investment Grade

Relative value on the curve

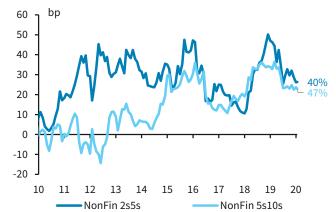
With spreads near our year-end target, we retain a focus on relative value in €-IG credit. This week we look at senior credit curves. While €-IG curves do not look excessively steep or flat in aggregate, we find many examples of 5s10s and 10s20s curves that are high or low in their 6m ranges.

With €-IG spreads now 1bp through our year-end spread forecast of 90bp, and limited near-term catalysts for significant widening or tightening, we continue to expand on our recent theme of focusing on relative value within the European credit market.

At the index level, the steepness of €-IG curves is little changed since the start of this year. Figure 1 and Figure 2 show the 2s5s and 5s10s curve differentials, implied by our €-IG cross-sectional spread model, for non-financial and financial issuers, respectively. These curves all lie in the middle of their 3y range, looking neither excessively steep nor flat in aggregate.

However, when we dig deeper, looking at issuer level curves, we find a number of examples where curves look very flat or very steep, both outright and also relative to their near-term history. We think it makes sense to extend out to longer maturities when curves look steep, especially for names with stronger fundamentals, and to move in the curve to shorter maturities when curves look flat, especially for names with weaker fundamentals.

FIGURE 1. Curves are essentially unchanged YTD...



Implied curve shape from our cross-sectional spread model for €-IG senior bonds. Data labels show where curves sit in their 3y range. Source: Bloomberg, Barclays Research

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FIGURE 2. ... and remain in the middle of their 3y ranges



Implied curve shape from our cross-sectional spread model for €-IG senior bonds. Data labels show where curves sit in their 3y range. Source: Bloomberg, Barclays Research

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We therefore screen for issuer curves that look steep and flat, both outright and versus their 6m range:

- In Figure 3 and Figure 5 we screen for steep 5s10s and 10s20s issuer curves.
- In Figure 4 and Figure 6 we screen for flat 5s10s and 10s20s issuer curves.

FIGURE 3. 5s10s curves that screen as steep

Ticker	Bond 1	Bond 2	Rating	Sector	Country	Bond 1 z- spread	Bond 2 z- spread	Z-Spread differential (bp)	6m range
МО	1.700% 25s	3.125% 31s	BAA2	Cons. Non-Cyc.	US	88	172	84	100%
ВРРЕНХ	2.000% 24s	1.750% 29s	BAA2	Brokerage etc	Luxembourg	74	151	77	91%
ENAPHO	1.659% 24s	2.045% 28s	BAA3	Utility	Czech Rep	100	176	75	93%
ZFFNGR	2.000% 26s	3.000% 29s	BAA3	Cons. Cyc.	Germany	174	239	65	76%
BRITEL	0.875% 23s	1.125% 29s	BAA2	TMT	UK	37	99	62	89%
WNTRDE	0.452% 23s	1.332% 28s	BAA2	Energy	Germany	61	122	61	93%
CKHGTH	0.375% 23s	1.125% 28s	BAA1	TMT	UK	51	108	57	94%
MRLSM	1.750% 25s	2.375% 29s	BAA2	REITs	Spain	71	124	53	100%
FDX	0.450% 25s	1.300% 31s	BAA2	Transport	US	67	118	51	100%
FMEGR	1.500% 25s	1.250% 29s	BAA3	Cons. Non-Cyc.	Germany	39	84	45	89%
DLR	0.625% 25s	1.500% 30s	BAA2	REITs	US	79	124	45	93%
ALB	1.125% 25s	1.625% 28s	BAA2	Basic Indu.	US	76	120	44	79%

Steepest €-IG 5s10s curves that also look steep versus their 6m range (70th percentile or higher). 5y bonds are defined as bonds with 4-6y to maturity. 10y bonds are defined as bonds with 8.5-11.5y to maturity. We exclude bonds issued pre-2017 to restrict our screen to only more liquid bonds. We exclude bonds from issuers for which our fundamental analysts have an Underweight rating. We restrict our screen to one pair per issuer (the steepest).

Source: Bloomberg, Barclays Research

FIGURE 4. 5s10s curves that screen as flat

Ticker	Bond 1	Bond 2	Rating	Sector	Country	Bond 1 z- spread	Bond 2 z- spread	Z-Spread differential (bp)	6M Range
DGFP	1.125% 26s	1.625% 29s	А3	Transport	France	30	33	3	0%
AAPL	0.000% 25s	1.375% 29s	AA1	Technology	US	21	27	5	5%
GSK	0.000% 23s	1.375% 29s	A2	Cons. Non-Cyc.	UK	27	33	6	8%
OMVAV	0.000% 25s	1.875% 28s	A3	Energy	Austria	27	38	11	25%
VIEFP	0.892% 24s	1.940% 30s	BAA2	Utility	France	34	45	11	5%
ITW	0.250% 24s	1.000% 31s	A2	Capital Goods	US	34	47	13	16%
TMO	0.125% 25s	1.950% 29s	BAA1	Cons. Non-Cyc.	US	46	59	13	10%
ALVGR	0.000% 25s	1.500% 30s	AA3	Insurance	Germany	17	30	14	15%
TELEFO	1.528% 25s	2.318% 28s	BAA2	TMT	Spain	40	55	15	29%
СКНН	1.250% 25s	2.000% 30s	A2	Other Indu.	UK	70	87	16	20%
MDT	0.250% 25s	1.625% 31s	A3	Cons. Non-Cyc.	US	34	50	17	28%
SAMPFH	1.250% 25s	2.250% 30s	A3	Insurance	Finland	47	65	18	12%

Flattest €-IG 5s10s curves that also look flat versus their 6m range (20th percentile or lower). 5y bonds are defined as bonds with 4-6y to maturity. 10y bonds are defined as bonds with 8.5-11.5y to maturity. We exclude bonds issued pre-2017 to restrict our screen to only more liquid bonds. We exclude bonds from issuers for which our fundamental analysts have an Overweight rating. We restrict our screen to one pair per issuer (the flattest).

Source: Bloomberg, Barclays Research

FIGURE 5. 10s20s curves that screen as steep

Ticker	Bond 1	Bond 2	Rating	Sector	Country	Bond 1 z- spread	Bond 2 z- spread	Z-Spread differential (bp)	6M Range
Т	2.350% 29s	1.800% 39s	BAA2	TMT	US	84	156	73	93%
VOD	1.875% 29s	2.875% 37s	BAA2	TMT	UK	60	131	71	89%
TELEFO	2.318% 28s	1.957% 39s	BAA2	TMT	Spain	55	119	64	99%
VW	3.250% 30s	4.125% 38s	BAA1	Cons. Cyc.	Germany	117	173	55	92%
FIS	2.000% 30s	2.950% 39s	BAA2	Technology	US	93	148	55	83%
ANNGR	2.125% 30s	1.625% 39s	BAA1	Other Fin.	Germany	78	132	54	98%
JABHOL	2.500% 29s	2.250% 39s	BAA1	Cons. Non-Cyc.	Austria	103	156	53	94%
DT	2.000% 29s	2.250% 39s	BAA1	TMT	Germany	66	119	52	72%

Steepest €-IG 5s10s curves that also look steep versus their 6m range (70th percentile or higher). 10y bonds are defined as bonds with 8.5-11.5y to maturity. 20y bonds are defined as bonds with 18-22y to maturity. We exclude bonds issued pre-2017 to restrict our screen to only more liquid bonds. We exclude bonds from issuers for which our fundamental analysts have an Underweight rating. We restrict our screen to one pair per issuer (the steepest).

Source: Bloomberg, Barclays Research

FIGURE 6. 10s20s curves that screen as flat

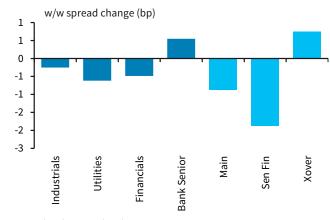
Ticker	Bond 1	Bond 2	Rating	Sector	Country	Bond 1 z- spread	Bond 2 z- spread	Z-Spread differential (bp)	6M Range
MLFP	1.750% 30s	2.500% 38s	А3	Cons. Cyc.	France	33	46	13	20%
СВ	0.875% 29s	2.500% 38s	A2	Insurance	United States	74	96	21	1%
ENGIFP	0.500% 30s	2.000% 37s	А3	Utility	France	39	64	24	20%

Flattest €-IG 5s10s curves that also look flat versus their 6m range (20th percentile or lower). 10y bonds are defined as bonds with 8.5-11.5y to maturity. 20y bonds are defined as bonds with 18-22y to maturity. We exclude bonds issued pre-2017 to restrict our screen to only more liquid bonds. We exclude bonds from issuers for which our fundamental analysts have an Overweight rating. We restrict our screen to one pair per issuer (the flattest).

Source: Bloomberg, Barclays Research

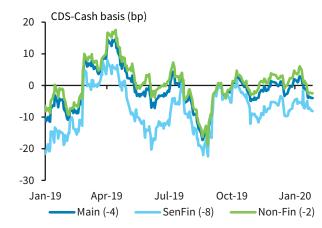
IG credit at a glance

FIGURE 7. Week-on-week change in bond and CDS indices



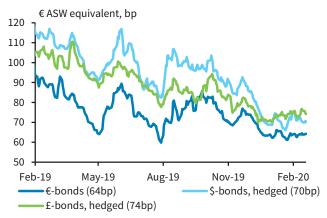
Note: Wednesday-to-Wednesday. Source: Barclays Research

FIGURE 8. CDS-Cash basis



Source: Barclays Research

FIGURE 9. Cross-currency RV (hedged to EUR using xccy basis)



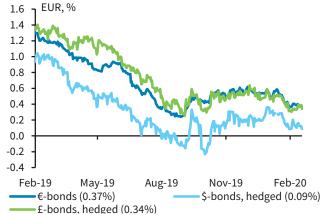
Source: Barclays Research

FIGURE 11. €-IG and £-IG issuance trends

	EUR Fin (€bn)	EUR Non-Fin (€bn)	EUR total (€bn)	GBP total (£bn)
Last week	1.7	6.9	8.6	0.8
MTD	12.4	31.1	43.5	6.2
YTD	60.8	52.2	113.0	15.6
Year/Year	31%	1%	15%	74%
Net YTD	19.9	20.2	40.0	11.3
FY19 f/c	280	370	650	60.0
Remaining Issu	ance (foreca	st)		
Gross	219.2	317.8	537.0	44.4
Net	61.3	142.5	203.8	15.9

Note: Volumes taken at COB on Wednesday. Source: Dealogic, Barclays Research

FIGURE 10. Cross-currency RV (hedged to EUR using 3m FX forwards)



Source: Barclays Research

FIGURE 12. €-IG issuance trends

€bn	2019 Issuance	2020 Issuance	2019 Redemptions	2020 Redemptions
Jan	61.1	69.6	39.9	46.8
Feb	55.6	43.5	23.2	31.7
Mar	56.0		42.9	45.2
Apr	40.8		34.9	30.1
May	55.2		25.1	28.5
Jun	73.8		27.1	35.6
Jul	34.3		23.8	37.0
Aug	37.3		18.6	20.8
Sep	80.4		35.7	32.1
Oct	59.4		27.4	23.5
Nov	66.5		27.3	45.1
Dec	11.0		19.5	21.7

Note: Volumes taken at COB on Wednesday. Source: Dealogic, Barclays Research

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