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# Resilient Loans, Undervalued Bonds

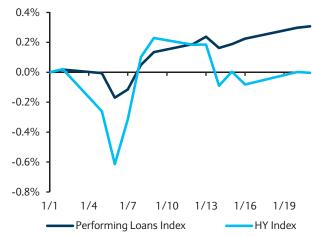
Loans have outperformed high yield so far in 2015, although it admittedly has not taken much, with the High Yield Index having returned exactly 0% through Wednesday (Figure 1). Meanwhile, the Performing Loans Index has increased \$0.12 and generated total returns of 0.31%. The smaller weight of energy names in the loans universe has been the primary reason for the discrepancy, as we have highlighted in previous reports (*All Eyes on Oil*, December 19, 2014).

In keeping with this week's theme of ex-energy opportunities (see the focus article), we concentrated on non-energy credits that present opportunities for outperformance. Specifically, we ran a screen to identify intra-capital structure pairs of secured bonds and loans that we believe are dislocated and offer attractive yield pickup. As discussed in detail in *Loans versus Bonds: Secured Showdown*, August 8, 2014, we favor a measure we call "effective yield" to compare the relative value between bonds and loans. The effective yield of a loan adds its current yield to a "pull-to-par" effect over the shorter of three years or the loan's maturity date. Analogously, for bonds, the measure combines current yield and a "pull-to-redemption price," with the redemption price and date determined based on the bond's workout date and call structure. Using the more traditional yield-to-worst for bonds would not materially change the results, as the difference between the two measures is small.

In aggregate, the current gap between secured bonds and loans remains large (Figure 2). Secured bond effective yields have widened to 7.3%, compared with a loan effective yield mark of 5.9%. While part of that differential is compensation for rate risk, we believe a 140bp spread is much more than enough, with high yield likely to absorb most of the move given a near 510bp spread.

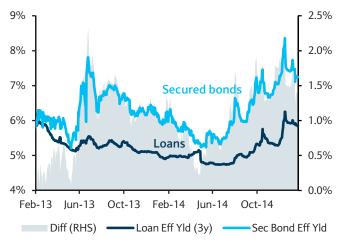
Indeed, the significant additional compensation is evident at the micro level, and we believe there are many opportunities to swap into bonds and pick up compensation. Figure 3 presents a list of such loan-bond pairs, sorted by the difference in effective yields. These pairs are duration matched and exclude credits that our fundamental analysts rate Underweight. Furthermore, none of the credits in Figure 3 are in the energy sector, making these opportunities especially compelling as the market differentiates the winners and losers in a low oil price environment, a process that we believe will begin once oil finds a new range.

FIGURE 1 Year-to-Date Total Return of High Yield and Performing Loans Indices



Source: Barclays Research

FIGURE 2
Effective Yield of Secured Bonds and Loans



Note: Index-wide levels for High Yield Secured Index and Performing Loans Index. Source: Barclays Research

FIGURE 3
Swaps Out of Loans into Secured Bonds Present Opportunities for Yield Pickup

Bond						Loan					Differences				
Ticker	Cpn (%)	Mat Date	Redeem Date	Par (\$mn)	Price (\$)	Eff. Yield (%)	S&P Rating	Cpn (%)	Mat Date	Par (\$mn)	Price (\$)	Eff. Yield (%)	S&P Rating	Price (\$)	Eff. Yield (%)
DYN	6.75	Nov-19	May-19	290	101.50	6.30	B+	4.01	Apr-20	788	98.86	4.43	ВВ	2.64	1.87
AVYA	9.00	Apr-19	Apr-17	290	101.25	8.32	В	4.74	Oct-17	2,102	95.79	6.46	В	5.46	1.86
INEGRP	8.38	Feb-19	Feb-18	285	105.50	6.15	BB-	3.76	May-18	2,491	97.09	4.83	BB-	8.41	1.32
INEGRP	7.50	May-20	May-18	1,400	104.82	5.68	BB-	3.76	May-18	2,491	97.09	4.83	BB-	7.73	0.85
AVYA	7.00	Apr-19	Apr-19	1,400	96.50	8.09	В	6.51	Mar-18	1,124	98.13	7.25	В	-1.63	0.84
WMG	6.00	Jan-21	Jan-19	1,600	101.00	5.69	B+	3.76	May-20	1,294	95.78	5.32	B+	5.22	0.37
HCA	3.75	Mar-19	Mar-19	1,000	101.25	3.40	BBB-	2.99	May-18	2,343	99.71	3.09	ВВ	1.54	0.31
FRP	8.75	Aug-19	Feb-18	650	102.00	7.93	В	7.51	Feb-19	630	99.73	7.62	В	2.28	0.31
VMED	5.375	Apr-21	Apr-19	625	103.25	4.44	BB-	3.51	Jun-20	2,755	98.23	4.16	BB-	5.02	0.28

Source: Barclays Research

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## Quarterly Institutional Leveraged Loan Issuance (\$bn)



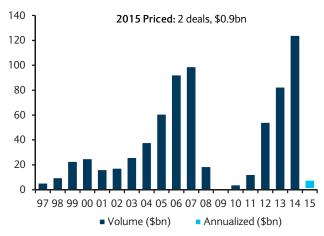
Source: S&P LCD, Barclays Research

## Loan Index Price Distribution by Par



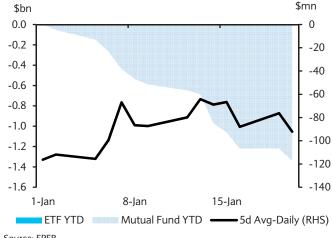
Source: Barclays Research

## **Annual CLO Issuance**



Source: S&P LCD, Creditflux

#### Flows to Loan Mutual Funds and ETFs



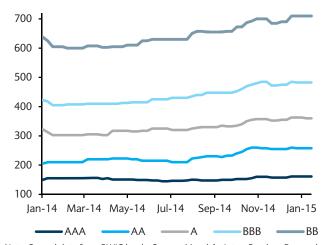
Source: EPFR

## Barclays Performing Loan Index Yield and Spread



Note: Yield and spread calculation assumes a three-year paydown period, amortizing any premium or discount to par accordingly. Source: Barclays Research

## U.S. CLO 2.0 Spread Performance by Rating (bp)



Note: Spread data from BWIC levels. Source: Moody's, Intex, Barclays Research

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Market Weight (MW): The analyst expects the six-month total returns of the issuer's rand-denominated fixed rate notes or floating rate notes (as applicable) to be in line with the six-month expected total returns the South African Credit Fixed Market Index (CFIX95) or the South African Credit Floating Market Index (CFL020), respectively...

**Underweight (UW):** The analyst expects the six-month total returns of the issuer's rand-denominated fixed rate notes or floating rate notes (as applicable) to be below the six-month expected total returns the South African Credit Fixed Market Index (CFIX95) or the South African Credit Floating Market Index (CFL020), respectively..

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