

EquiLend D&A Market Digest

September 04, 2025

Market Notes

Average Fee
34.35 bps -12.46%
On Loan Value
\$3.11T +0.00%

Average Utilization
7.14% +0.42%
Total Lendable Value
\$43.59T -0.40%

Major Headlines and What Our Data Shows

Foot Locker Set To Complete Merger With DICK'S Sporting Goods

Foot Locker's merger with DICK'S Sporting Goods is scheduled to close on September 8th after receiving strong shareholder backing, according to company press releases. 92% of investors have elected to take converted shares rather than the cash offering of \$24 per share, underscoring confidence in the long-term potential of the combined business. The deal brings together two major players in athletic retail, with plans to expand market reach and strengthen competitive position against brands and online rivals, according to Foot Locker.

What Our Data Shows:

Since the announcement, EquiLend's Borrow Quantity for Foot Locker (FL) jumped from 5 million shares to stabilize around 16 million shares, indicating that outside parties were engaged in changing ownership of shares before the September 8th deadline. EquiLend's Utilization grew in tandem, increasing from 20% to 75% over the past week.

Weakening U.S. Labor Market Spurs Bets on Fed Rate Cuts

The number of Job openings has fallen below the number of unemployed persons for the first time since April 2021. As labor data continues to weaken, several Federal Reserve officials have signaled a greater openness to easing monetary policy. Soft labor readings, coupled with dovish remarks, have led traders to price a near 100% chance of a quarter-point rate cut at the Fed's September meeting. Equity markets have generally firmed ahead of Friday's payrolls report, reflecting anticipation that policymakers may soon pivot.

What Our Data Shows:

Several large employers saw meaningful increases in shares on loan over the past week, with EquiLend's Borrow Quantity rising by 20 million shares for Ford Motor Co (F), 18 million shares for Southwest Airlines (LUV), and 8.7 million shares for JetBlue (JBLU). All three companies employ large workforces, so a jump in borrow demand may signal that investors are hedging exposure to cyclical industries that could be sensitive to softer labor data and a pullback in discretionary spending.

Long-dated Bond Yields Hit Multi-Year Highs Amid Fiscal Concerns

Long-duration government bond yields across Japan, Britain and the United States have hovered near multi-year highs, driven by concerns over fiscal sustainability. Japan's 30-year yield topped 3%, U.S. 30-year yields briefly touched 5%, and Britain's gilts reached levels not seen since the late 1990s before easing back. These moves underscore the market's anxiety around debt burdens and potential policy shifts.

What Our Data Shows:

Investors appear to be utilizing long-duration Treasury ETFs as hedging vehicles; EquiLend's Borrow Quantity in the iShares 20+ Year (TLT) increased by 3.4 million shares, while the iShares 7-10 year (IEF) and leveraged long-bond funds (TMF) grew by 1.3 million and 2.2 million shares, respectively. EquiLend's Borrow Demand across bond ETFs and rising fees on rate-sensitive real-estate equities could signal that some market participants are positioning for continued volatility in long term interest rates.

Hot & Getting Hotter

Top 5 Stocks with fees > 50,000 bps & rising

Ticker	Company Name	Industry	Price	Fee 1 WoW (bps)
ABVE	ABOVE FOOD INGREDIENTS INC COM NPV	Food, Beverage and Tobacco	\$1.93	+6,312
NAKA	KINDLY MD INC COM	Health Care Providers and Services	\$4.63	+3,765
DGNX	DIGINEX LIMITED COM	Software and Services	\$60.25	+10,844
AEMD	AETHLON MEDICAL INC COM (POST SPLIT)	Health Care Equipment and Supplies	\$1.64	+2,491
HWH	HWH INTERNATIONAL INC COM (POST RV SPT)	Interactive Media & Services	\$4.72	+46,699

Market Technicals & Squeeze Metrics

Ticker	Company Name	Industry	Price	Short Squeeze Score (SSS)	SSS WoW
ASST	ASSET ENTITIES INC COM CL B(PST SPT)	Advertising	\$6.46	81	+31
4722 TT	QUALIPOLY CHEMICAL CORP	Chemicals	\$4.43	79	+7
QMMM	QMMM HOLDINGS LIMITED COM CL A	Advertising	\$6.52	77	+7
PGEN	PRECIGEN INC COM NPV	Biotechnology	\$4.76	76	+2
8105 JP	HOTTA MARUSHO CO NPV	Consumer Durables and Apparel	\$5.2	75	+15

Key Takeaways

- Foot Locker and DICK[™]s Sporting Goods have solidified plans for their merge, setting off a flurry of borrowing activity before the September 8th deadline.
- Labor markets continue to weaken, as job openings fall to their lowest in years, which may be reflected by an increase in borrow demand for consumer discretionary stocks.
- Concerns around Japan, Britain, and the U.S.[™]s fiscal stability have prompted long-duration government bond yields to reach multi-year highs.

Source: EquiLend Data & Analytics