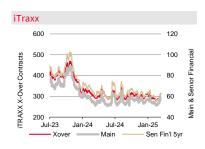


DAILY

# Market Wrap-up

# Credit is more attractive but uncertainty remains high



Today	Change
2.82	-0.06
127.73	0.50
4.30	-0.01
110.50	-0.14
41488.19	674.62
5638.94	117.42
5430.16	25.98
21.86	0.09
68.06	0.88
	2.82 127.73 4.30 110.50 41488.19 5638.94 5430.16 21.86

<sup>\*</sup> Data as of time of writing

Recent spread widening has given the market some breathing space, making credit more attractive (wider spreads/higher yields) than a few weeks ago. Unfortunately, the uncertainty around the damage to be caused by the tariff wars is not over and continues to weigh on sentiment.

# Market highlights

The tone in the markets remained positive but the gains were smaller and more laboured than at the end of last week. The war in Ukraine and tariffs were still in the headlines but equity markets managed to rise gently while sovereign bonds improved decidedly. The 10y Bund yield dropped by 6bp to 2.82% and the 10y OAT – Bund differential dropped to 68bp. The 10y UST yield also gained a little ground, dropping by 1bp at the time of writing. Finally, on the credit side the iTraxx indices improved slightly, with the Main index tightening by almost 1bp to 56.5bp and the X-Over by almost 3bp to drop below 307bp.

The new issue markets sprung to life and we saw healthy volumes led by the IG space, which had been relatively muted in the first half of the month. We also had a few senior financial transactions and, in total, the new issues added  $\epsilon$ 6.9bn to the monthly tally, making this the best day in the past four weeks. The overall total for March now stands at  $\epsilon$ 34.7bn, and activity will have to improve considerably this week and next to just match the  $\epsilon$ 76.4bn we saw in March last year.

Today's new issue	S
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	Issuer	Maturity	CCY	Amount	Tier	Ratings	Pricing
IG	American Honda	4y	EUR	€650m	Sen	A3/A-/nr	MS+90bp
	American Honda	7у	EUR	€750m	Sen	A3/A-/nr	MS+140bp
	Deutsche Post	5y	EUR	€850m	Sen	A2/nr/A-	MS+63bp
	Deutsche Post	9y	EUR	€750m	Sen	A2/nr/A-	MS+95bp
	Deutsche Post	<b>1</b> 5y	EUR	€650m	Sen	A2/nr/A-	MS+130bp
	Sandoz	10y	EUR	€500m	Sen	nr/BBB/nr	MS+138bp
Sen Fins	RBC	2y FRN	EUR	€1500m	Bail-in	A1/A/AA-	€3m+45bp
	Swiss Life Finance	10y	EUR	€500m	Sen	nr/A-/nr	MS+115bp
	Swedbank	4.5y Gr	EUR	€750m	NPS	Baa1/A-/AA-	MS+90bp

Source: Bloomberg, SG Cross Asset Research/Credit

The secondary market in euros was stable on Friday with the iBoxx Corporates index grinding tighter, but the USD market rallied strongly with the iBoxx USD Corporates index tightening by 5bp. Today, the tone in the market remained positive with spreads unchanged to a little better and with financials faring well. Senior bank bonds were around 0.5bp to 1bp tighter while Tier 2 bonds gained 1bp across the board. The AT1 CoCos gained a little ground and rose by 10 cents through the day.





# Market thoughts

Recent volatility in the credit markets has seen spreads give up some ground, and particularly so in the USD markets where spreads are now well above their euro counterparts. Moreover, while the euro indices are still tighter year-to-date, the USD indices are back to levels seen in September last year.

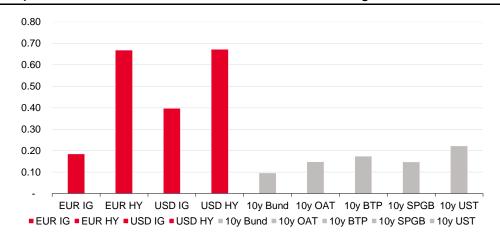
## **USD** indices have suffered since mid-February



Source: SG Cross Asset Research/Credit

In our view, the main reason for the poor performance of the USD indices has been the tariffs war and the uncertainty surrounding it. The good news is that the retracement has made the credit indices increasingly attractive, as they offer even higher yields, for a lower volatility than sovereign bonds – as we can see in the chart below.

Sharpe ratios of credit indices are much more attractive than sovereigns or UST bonds



Source: SG Cross Asset Research/Credit

The less good news is that the uncertainty surrounding the tariff wars seems likely to continue for a while and it is far from clear that the recent spread widening is enough to entice investors to add credit risk more aggressively. We still expect the euro and USD markets to recover, as we have yet to see evidence that credit metrics are deteriorating, at a time when yields are attractive and spreads are less tight, and we see the indices as being on track to hit our most recent targets.

17 March 2025

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17 March 2025



Report completed on 17 March 2025 15:16 CET

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