

Vontobel Fund - TwentyFour Asset Backed Securities

This Commentary is a marketing communication for professional UK investors only

Fund Commentary | 29 August 2025

Market Commentary

- **Summary:** During August, with a seasonal lull in secondary and primary activity, the demand technical intensified, particularly in asset-backed security (ABS) markets. The narrative from macroeconomic and geopolitical headlines was mixed, but had little impact on securitised spreads. Although ABS issuance was muted, collateralised loan obligations (CLOs) remained active throughout August, with year-to-date issuance across products reaching €98.3bn. In the absence of significant primary supply, investors were active in lifting secondary offers and facilitating tightening across credit curves. UK AAA residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS) tightened by 3-5 basis points (bp) over the month and BBB consumer paper tightened 10bp to 1.4% over Euribor. In the CLO market, secondary activity was concentrated in AAAs, with shorter bonds at 0.9% over Euribor, likely pricing in upcoming refinancings.
- **ABS:** August was quiet for ABS primary markets, with just €6.5bn of supply, which was concentrated in the last week of the month. As already mentioned, the demand technical continued to support spread performance in ABS markets. Bank11 issued a full capital structure German automotive loan transaction, with BBBs at 1.4% over Euribor (the tranche was nine times oversubscribed), the tightest level in the year to date. Momentum in the commercial mortgage-backed security (CMBS) market continued, with a €1bn transaction backed by UK holiday parks. The large transaction saw AAAs at 1.35% over SONIA. The pipeline for September looks significant. However, given strong flows into the market, spreads are expected to remain firm.
- **CLO:** During August, global CLO markets welcomed modest supply, driven by reset activity. In the European CLO market, new issuance totalled €4.7bn (including €4bn of refinancing/reset), with an active pipeline into September. The same was seen in the US, where markets absorbed \$50bn of supply (including \$32bn of refinancing/reset). In Europe, spreads remained firm during the month, with AAAs and BBBs at 1.3% and 3.2% over Euribor, respectively. Participation from overseas accounts in European CLOs continued to increase, as relative value remained strong. Given spread momentum, reset activity is expected to continue, accelerating reinvestment deadlines for investors. At spreads around 130bp, AAA primary CLOs looked attractive versus both investment grade corporate bonds and European mezzanine ABS. The European leveraged loan index was relatively flat, falling 0.3 points to 97.4, while loan issuance was muted.

Portfolio Commentary

- August was a quiet month for the Fund.
- The portfolio managers continued to allocate to mezzanine positions in UK RMBS transactions from established lenders, including BBB bonds at 1.5% over SONIA.
- The Fund's positioning remains relatively liquid because of ongoing trade and geopolitical risk. The upcoming primary pipeline in ABS and CLOs should allow the portfolio managers to rotate the investment book into high-yielding primary opportunities.

Market Outlook and Strategy

September will be an active month for ABS and CLO issuance. The portfolio managers are constructive on European and UK fundamentals and view consumers and corporates as generally well positioned. However, the team is cautious about vulnerable borrowers and newer lenders, where collateral could underperform as economic data weakens, particularly the slow degradation of the labour market. The portfolio managers see the best value in AAA bank-issued ABS and CLOs, with the summer pipeline likely to create attractive opportunities. Away from AAAs, BBB and BB rated CLOs continue to stand out in terms of relative value versus corporate bonds. The technical remains healthy across securitised products and is likely to intensify, given proposed regulatory changes to capital charges for banks and insurance investors. With mixed geopolitical and macroeconomic data points, the team continues to favour established lenders with strong collateral performance and expects spreads to remain tight in the medium term. However, they are cautious about unexpected and imported volatility, and therefore favour liquid and flexible positioning. While the risks are skewed to the downside and spread upside is more limited, the high carry provided by ABS and CLOs should continue to be the main driver of returns and provide protection from market-to-market volatility.

Cumulative Performance	1m	3m	6m	1y	Annualised				10y	Since Inception*
					3y	5y				
I EUR Acc	0.42%	1.12%	1.70%	4.31%	5.39%	3.28%			N/A	2.06%
3 month Euribor	0.17%	0.50%	1.08%	2.57%	3.06%	1.64%			N/A	0.86%

Discrete Performance	YTD	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
I EUR Acc	2.58%	6.70%	8.43%	-4.54%	1.73%	-0.14%	2.05%	-1.14%	N/A	N/A	N/A
3 month Euribor	1.51%	3.65%	3.49%	0.34%	-0.55%	-0.42%	-0.36%	-0.32%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. The performance figures shown are on a mid-to-mid basis inclusive of net reinvested income and net of all fund expenses. Performance data does not take into account any commissions and costs charged when shares of the fund are issued and redeemed. The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise as a result of market and currency fluctuations and you may not get back the amount originally invested. *Inception date 27/06/2017. Euribor used as a proxy for cash as a performance reference for illustration purposes only, there is no specific return objective or benchmark for the fund.

Key risks

- Limited participation in the potential of single securities
- Investments in foreign currencies are subject to currency fluctuations
- Success of single security analysis and active management cannot be guaranteed
- It cannot be guaranteed that the investor will recover the capital invested
- Derivatives entail risks relating to liquidity, leverage and credit fluctuations, illiquidity and volatility
- Interest rates may vary, bonds suffer price declines on rising interest rates
- The structure of ABS/MBS and the pools backing them might not be transparent which exposes the sub-fund to additional credit and prepayment risks (extension or contraction risks) depending on which tranche of ABS/MBS is purchased by the sub-fund
- The sub-fund's investments may be subject to sustainability risks. The sustainability risks that the sub-fund may be subject to are likely to have an immaterial impact on the value of the sub-fund's investments in the medium to long term due to the mitigating nature of the sub-fund's ESG approach
- The sub-fund's performance may be positively or negatively affected by its sustainability strategy
- The ability to meet social or environmental objectives might be affected by incomplete or inaccurate data from third-party providers
- Information on how environmental and social objectives are achieved and how sustainability risks are managed in this sub-fund may be obtained from [Vontobel.com/SFDR](https://www.vontobel.com/SFDR)

Important information

Further information on fund charges and costs are included on our website at www.twentyfouram.com

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