

Leveraged Lending Market Report Quarterly Commentary Q4 2015

Relatively light leveraged finance volume in Q4 2015 to close out a sluggish 2015...

- Full year 2015 new-issue activity was \$420.7 billion, a four-year low, down from \$528.1 billion in 2014 and a record \$607.1 billion in 2013
 - New-issue volume was relatively light at \$73.5 billion in Q4 2015, down from \$113.2 billion in Q3, but up from \$66.7 billion in Q4 2014
- HY new-issue volume dropped to a four-year low of \$36.3 billion in Q4 from \$39.8 billion in Q3 and \$61.5 billion in Q4 2014
- Total 2015 returns for investment grade and HY credit were (0.75%) and (5.56%), respectively
- Loans had only the second negative return in the past 19 years (outperformed HY in 2015)
- Weakening technical conditions negatively impacted loan prices the S&P/LSTA Index fell 2.1% during Q4 2015, the lowest quarterly return since Q3 2011
- While demand declined during Q4, supply grew as repayments fell to a three-quarter low of \$36.7 billion and a number of large deals drove loan supply

...Corporate M&A activity expanded while PE-backed issuance declined...

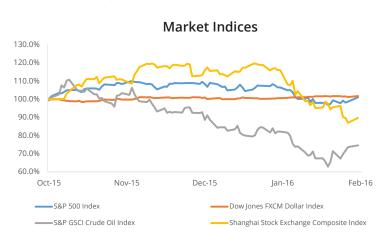
- In Q4, M&A-driven loan volume was \$53.6 billion, down from \$83.1 billion in Q3 but up from \$38.1 billion in Q4 2014
- Acquisition-related leveraged loan volume increased to \$256.5 billion in 2015, slightly above 2014's total of \$252.8 billion
- Corporate issuers closed \$144.6 billion of acquisition-related leveraged loans in 2015, up from \$95.8 billion in 2014 and 2007's prior high of \$110.2 billion
 - A number of jumbo BB loans, including those led by Avago, DollarTree, Cablevision, Staples and Valeant, drove nonsponsored issuers activity
- While corporate activity grew in 2015, private equity deals declined largely due to regulatory pressure on leverage multiples and historically high purchase price multiples
 - Loans backing LBOs fell to a three-year low of \$68.5 billion in 2015, from \$85.3 billion in 2014
 - M&A-related loans for PE-backed entities totaled \$111.9 billion in 2015, a three-year low, and down from \$156.9 billion in 2014

...Punch bowl seems to be running low

- Most Q1 2016 activity thus far focused on well-rated M&A trades that supported volume in 2015, with private equity facing historically high purchase multiples and regulatory constraints – corporate M&A represented 43% of LCD's year-end forward calendar
- We believe there are several factors that will impact the trajectory of the leveraged finance market:
 - Recession risk / pace of economic growth and capital markets performance
 - Interest rate movements
 - Trajectory of oil prices
 - Number of defaults outside of the energy sector
- We have consistently warned that the issuer friendly market won't last forever and there are now clear signs that the dynamic may be shifting

Significant Market Volatility

- A number of factors drove market volatility during Q4 2015 and early 2016
 - Drop in oil prices
 - Slowing Chinese economy
 - Decline in commodities such as copper and other metals, and emerging markets
 - Robust U.S. dollar
 - Fed's plan regarding interest rates uncertainty eased as Fed ultimately raised rates slightly in December 2015



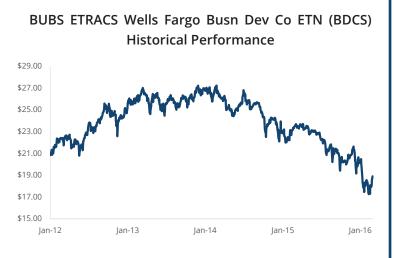
Fed Increased Interest Rates Modestly

- In December 2015, the Federal Reserve raised its key interest rate from a range of 0% to 0.25% to a range of 0.25% to 0.5%
- Rate hike is a small one, but it will affect millions of Americans, including investors, home buyers and savers
- Savers should eventually see a little more interest on their deposits at the bank
- Mortgage rates should rise gradually
- Fed indicates that there will be continued gradual increases in interest rates in 2016, however, the outlook is cloudier than it was four months ago



Things to Monitor in 2016

- Clarity around Fed action
- Continued weakness in oil and basic materials could limit potential for a stock market rally
- Levels of energy and emerging market exposure of large and regional banks
- Increased regulations on bank lending and pressures on speculative-grade debt
- The average high-yield BDC (publicly traded middle market fund) is currently trading at a 40% discount to book value with a dividend yield of 17.7% – this indicates to us that investors see higher risk of defaults and higher cost of capital
- U.S. default rates which Moody's predicts will reach a sixyear high of 4.4% in 2016





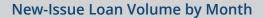
Leveraged Lending Market Report February 2016

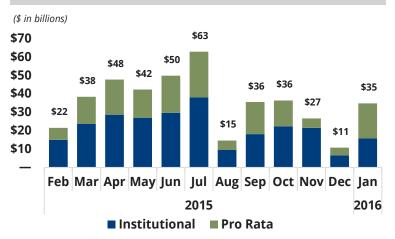
Key Market Indicators

	Jan		2015		Jan
	2016	Dec	Nov	Oct	2015
Indices					
10-Year Treasury	1.94%	2.27%	2.21%	2.16%	1.68%
DJIA	16,466	17,425	17,720	17,664	17,165
S&P 500	1,940	2,044	2,080	2,079	1,995
NASDAQ	4,614	5,007	5,109	5,054	4,635
iShares HY Corporate Bond Fund	78.6	80.0	82.6	85.2	90.1
iShares Barclays Aggregate	109.3	107.8	108.8	109.3	112.4
Bond Index					
Total Return*					
10-Year Treasury	3.59%	(0.95%)	(0.43%)	(0.82%)	4.81%
DJIA	(5.39%)	(2.47%)	0.71%	8.67%	(3.58%)
S&P 500	(4.96%)	(2.63%)	0.30%	8.21%	(3.00%)
NASDAQ	(7.82%)	(2.79%)	1.28%	9.27%	(2.06%)
iShares HY Corporate Bond Fund	(1.60%)	(2.69%)	(2.50%)	3.90%	0.70%
iShares Barclays Aggregate	1.24%	(0.54%)	(0.39%)	(0.01%)	2.51%
Bond Index					

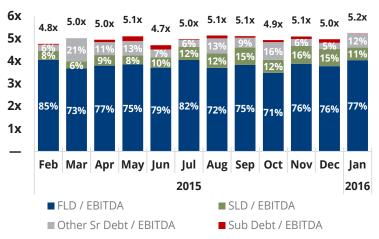
	Jan	2015			Jan
	2016	Dec	Nov	Oct	2015
Commodities					
Crude Oil	\$33.62	\$37.04	\$41.65	\$46.59	\$48.24
Natural Gas	\$2.30	\$2.34	\$2.24	\$2.32	\$2.69
Gold	\$1,116	\$1,060	\$1,065	\$1,141	\$1,279
<u>Currencies</u>					
GBP in USD	\$1.42	\$1.47	\$1.51	\$1.55	\$112.37
EUR in USD	\$1.08	\$1.09	\$1.06	\$1.10	\$1.13
USD in JPY	121.13	120.20	123.23	120.76	117.42
USD in CNY	6.58	6.49	6.40	6.32	6.25
Average New-Issue P	ricing - B+/B				
Total Spread	545.2	545.0	592.5	586.2	592.1
YTM	5.99%	5.92%	6.09%	6.07%	6.13%

*Includes dividend / interest payments, when applicable

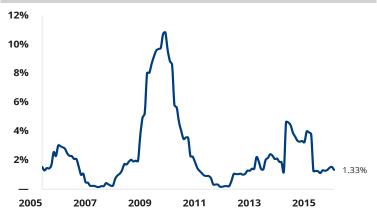




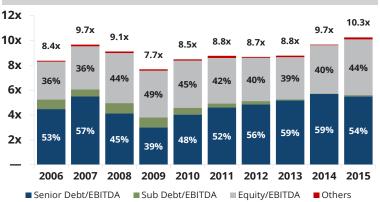
Average Debt Multiples of Highly Leveraged Loans (% of Total)



Default Rates of Leveraged Loans



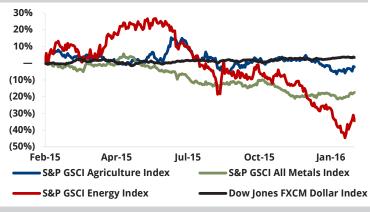
LBO Purchase Price Multiples - All (% of Total Purchase Price)



Sources: S&P LCD, Barclays Capital, Bloomberg, TM Capital

Stock Market Indices 20% 40 **Market Indices** 15% Volatility (VIX) 30 10% 5% 20 10 (5%) (10%) Jan-16 Feb-15 Apr-15 Jun-15 Aug-15 Nov-15 NASDAQ VIX S&P 500

Commodities Prices



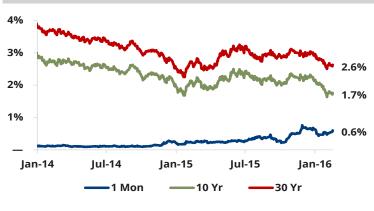
Consumer Confidence Index & % Change in DPI



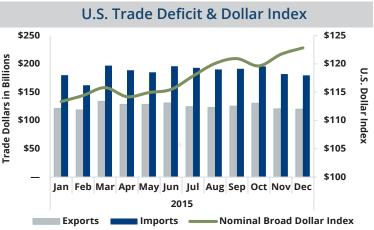
Sources: S&P LCD, Capital IQ, US Census Bureau, TM Capital

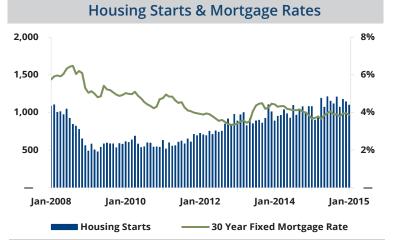
Recent TM Capital Financing Experience





U.S. Treasury Yields





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