



PRIVATE CAPITAL

Private Credit Quarterly Update

Second Quarter 2023

Introduction

MetLife Investment Management's¹ Private Credit Group manages over \$130 billion² in assets as of March 31, 2023 and brings over 100 years of investing in the asset class. We offer exceptional access to investment grade deals due to our significant scale, long-standing market relationships, and sector expertise. Given our standing in the infrastructure and corporate private placement markets we often fund an entire deal or become the cornerstone of the deal, which can lead to larger allocations for our clients. Our investment decisions are informed by a team-based risk culture with a time-tested approach to managing risk, combined with proprietary research, and layered independent oversight. We have more than 70 seasoned industry specialists working together to develop customized portfolio solutions to help meet client needs.

Corporate Private Placement Market

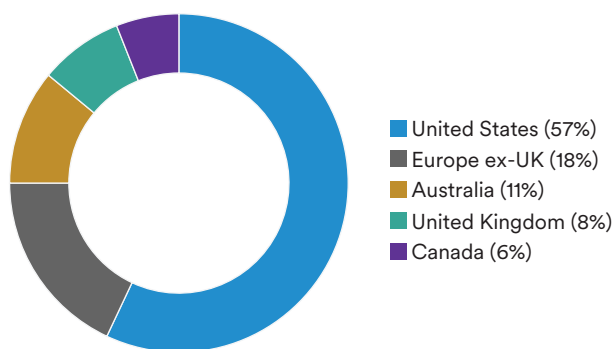
Corporate Private Placement Market:³ 2Q 23 market origination reached an initial total of \$19.5 billion, roughly in-line with the same period last year and an increase over 1Q 23 of \$16 billion. The average deal size for the quarter was larger than typical at \$336 million across 58 transactions. Volume was led by activity in North America which comprised 65% of total issuance. European and Australian deal volume ticked upwards from last quarter at 26% and 8% respectively and 1% was out of Japan. USD led the currency issuance at 77% followed by 16% in EUR, 4% in GBP, 2% in CAD and 1% in AUD.

Spreads and Treasuries³: The public markets had an active quarter with YTD volume now on track with 2022. Public spreads in aggregate have tightened roughly 30 bps from the wide mark in March during the regional bank issues where the OAS was at 163 bps. Countering the spread tightening was the increasing yield of the 10-year UST by 33 bps to end the quarter at 3.82%, keeping total public coupons relatively flat. Private spreads lagged the public tightening through the quarter and provided good relative value.

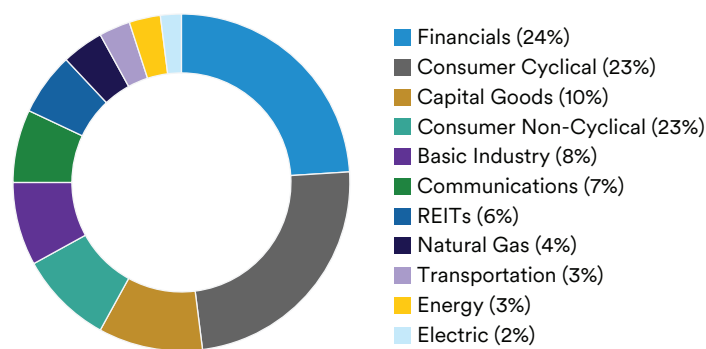
MIM Corporate Private Placement Activity: Origination for 2Q 23 totaled \$0.9 billion versus \$1.9 billion for the same period last year. We attribute the lower transaction volume to being very selective in the financial industry passing on Business Development Cos and REITs where numerous deals in the market were executed. MIM remained disciplined in pricing and avoided transactions where premiums were below expectations given the level of risk and uncertainty in the general economy. Although origination was lower, the transactions that MIM originated remain at highly attractive spread levels compared to previous quarters.

MIM's Outlook: MIM's current expectation is an increase of the chance of a US recession in 2024. We anticipate the Fed funds rate to peak at 5.25-5.50% as the Fed hikes rates one additional time in 2023. MIM no longer expects the Federal Reserve to cut rates in 2023 given the stickiness of inflation, but we expect a substantive rate cut cycle to begin in the first half of 2024. We believe the peak in yields for this cycle may have occurred and expect a 10-year U.S. Treasury yield of 4.00% at year-end 2023. We see treasury yields reducing through 2024 as inflation decelerates and the Fed cuts rates, flipping the yield curve positive. Through the economic uncertainty, MIM continues to maintain a long-term perspective and strongly believes that private market issuance is offering well structured transactions with highly attractive yields, even in the case of an economic recession.

MIM 2Q 2023 Origination by Region*



MIM 2Q 2023 Origination by Sector*



Source: MIM, Private Placement Monitor

*Includes origination activity on behalf of the MetLife general account and unaffiliated investors.

Infrastructure Debt Market

Infrastructure Debt Market:³ Global Infrastructure activity saw a 12.4% slowdown for 1H2023 with nearly \$778 Billion issuance across 1,677 deals compared to 1H2022¹. Greenfield and refinancing transaction activity continued to remain on pace with prior year. Broader macro uncertainty, inflationary concerns as well as higher interest rates resulted in slower M&A activity. EMEA represented 39.5% of transactions followed by North America (37.4%), APAC (16.4%), and Latin America (6.7%). Sectors continued to remain diversified with Power & Renewables representing 39.7% of activity followed by Energy (19.6%), Telecom & Digital (15.6%), Transport (7.9%), with water, mining, and social comprising the remainder.⁽¹⁾

Global Sector Highlights

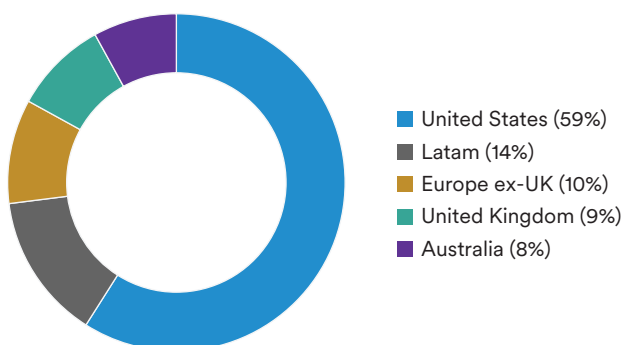
- United States:** 1H2023 continued to remain strong with activity in renewable, transportation, social, transmission and digital infrastructure transactions. Banking market disruptions in first half allowed MIM to source unique floating rating opportunities. Should bank balance sheets remain constrained, we expect that trend to continue for 2H. The impact of the Inflation Reduction Act remains muted in terms of deal flow but there is strong, positive momentum on tax equity and financing structures to accelerate growth in renewables and energy transition in the near term. The pipeline remains strong with a focus on traditional core infrastructure projects including renewable, power, transportation, energy, digital, water and social infrastructure.

- **EMEA:** Activity across UK and Europe was mixed for the 1H23. There continues to be activity in the digital and renewable space, with transport, particularly ports and airports making a resurgence. Issuers continue to seek tenors in the 7 to 12-year range given the higher rate environment. For certain sectors (e.g. digital), issuers have preferred to use the bank market for shorter term floating rate loans. Deal activity is mixed across the UK and continental Europe, however, seeing more opportunities arise in Eastern Europe.
- **Latin America:** The market remained competitive with several countries resuming activity in transportation, power, and energy. Renewable transactions continue to be active with several transactions in Chile and Peru. MIM is seeing higher deal activity compared to 2022, with an active pipeline in the toll road, renewables, generation, transmission and digital sectors.
- **Australia:** Market activity continues to increase in 2023 after the market slowdown experienced through the pandemic. The pipeline remains strong in core infrastructure sectors including transportation (ports, airports, roads) and renewable/power transactions. There are also several active public-private-partnerships procurements in social and economic infrastructure assets. The local market remains highly competitive in the shorter part of the credit curve.

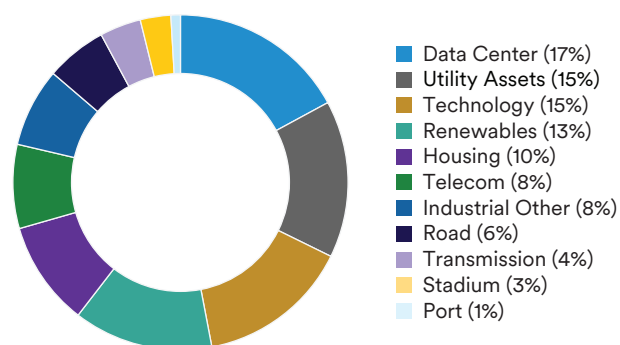
MIM Infrastructure Debt Activity: Origination was lower for 2Q 23 at \$0.7 billion versus \$1.0 billion for the same period last year. While origination activity was lower across the market, the transactions that MIM originated were at attractive spread levels compared to previous quarters.

MIM's FY 2023 Outlook: The pipeline and outlook for 2H2023 remains strong, we expect greenfield activity to remain robust and continue to see opportunities to support select M&A activity. MIM expects a pipeline driven by opportunities focused on renewables, transportation, pipelines, public-private-partnerships, digital infrastructure, and energy transition assets globally.

MIM 2Q 2023 Origination by Region*



MIM 2Q 2023 Origination by Sector*



Source: MIM, Private Placement Monitor

*Includes origination activity on behalf of the MetLife general account and unaffiliated investors.

Private Structured Credit Market

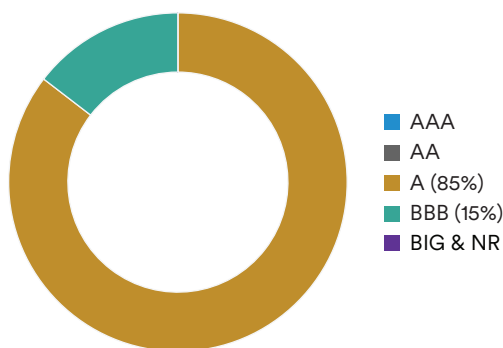
2Q 2023 in Review:³ After a strong start to the year, private structured credit pipeline slowed as market volatility increased with the collapse of SVB and regional banking crisis. The credit stress and rising recession risk put pressure on spreads across all credit sectors largely erasing the spread compression experienced earlier in the year. Within several PSC sectors, we saw lack of compelling relative value as private markets are typically slow to follow public market moves. Credit spreads have held firm recently with improved investor interest even on esoteric assets as yield and spreads remain near or above decade highs.

Looking to 3Q 2023: As we enter Q3, we expect esoteric ABS spreads to remain under pressure amid the macro backdrop and see potential spread widening as an attractive buy opportunity while being highly selective on the credit front. Our pipeline of new transactions should be active although slightly slower than earlier in the year with a mix of potential opportunities in the consumer, commercial and residential credit sectors.

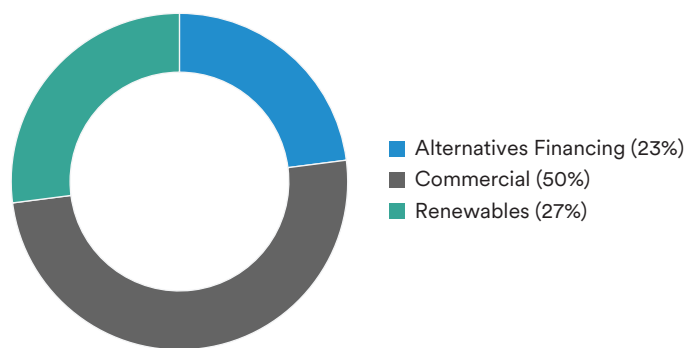
On the fundamental side, consumer performance is expected to remain weak in the near term. With high rates, inflationary pressure, and potential weakness in employment, we expect delinquencies and defaults to rise in the coming months, especially within asset classes exposed to non-prime borrowers. In addition, student loan payments are scheduled to resume which could add additional pressure on consumers and ABS performance. Although delinquencies are rising across the board, subprime asset classes are experiencing worse consumer performance, and delinquencies in some deals have now exceeded historical averages. We continue to believe that our private ABS deals remain structurally protected from downside risk.

MIM Private Structured Credit Transaction Activity¹: MIM activity for Q2 2023 was healthy with \$430 million in committed investments in the commercial and renewables sectors.

MIM YTD 2Q 2023 Origination by Rating*



MIM YTD 2Q 2023 Origination by Sector



*Based on total commitment size. Includes origination activity on behalf of the MetLife general account and unaffiliated investors.

Endnotes

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- ² At estimated fair value as of 06/30/2023. Includes MetLife general account and separate account assets and unaffiliated/third party assets.
- ³ MetLife Investment Management, Private Placement Monitor

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For more information, visit: investments.metlife.com

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