

Monthly commentary / 30.4.2026

Vontobel Fund – TwentyFour Asset Backed Securities

Marketing document for institutional investors in: AT, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, IT, LI, LU, NL, NO, SE, SG (Professional Investors only).

Investors in France should note that, relative to the expectations of the Autorité des Marchés Financiers, this fund presents disproportionate communication on the consideration of non-financial criteria in its investment policy.

Summary

- Once again, sentiment was dominated by events in the Middle East. April was a positive month for risk assets, with spread compression across European securitised products, particularly among higher beta. Primary asset-backed securities (ABS) issuance €13.9bn, alongside €2.6bn of collateralised loan obligation (CLO) supply. April was also characterised by a familiar theme from commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS), which saw three borrowers struggle to issue.
- April was a relatively quiet month for the Fund. In the CLO market, the team have rolled positions in AAA bonds at Euribor + 1.26%. In the ABS market, the focus has been in the RMBS market, where secured collateral continues to perform well. The team have added BBB UK RMBS at SONIA + 170bp. The Fund remains in a flexible position given ongoing geopolitical risk.
- Conflict in the Middle East has anchored expectations of higher rates and inflation, with lower growth forecasts. While low rate volatility and higher carry will support the ABS and CLO bondholders, the changing macroeconomic environment will resurface performance concerns for consumers. Given the lower probability weighting to a significant military escalation from the US, we have reduced cash positions while still holding highly liquid assets. We expect an active month in primary markets for both ABS and CLO to come.

Market developments

Summary: Despite the continuing conflict in the Middle East and elevated oil prices, April proved to be a strong month for risk assets. We observed a degree of spread compression across European securitised products, more pronounced in higher beta segments. Issuance remained healthy, with improving arbitrage in the collateralised loan obligation (CLO) market supporting new issue supply. We saw €13.9bn of new ABS issuance, complemented by €2.6bn of CLO refinancing and reset activity. Secondary activity declined across both asset-backed securities (ABS) and CLO markets, as expected following broader volatility in March. In ABS, execution remained strong across products, with AAA UK Prime tightening by 5 basis points (bp). Lower beta CLO profiles continued to perform well, with support for investment-grade mezzanine tranches from international accounts, though a meaningful spread differential remains relative to higher beta transactions. A familiar soft spot reemerged, with three commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) deals reporting troubles. The first was a failed repayment of the loan at maturity, the second a declined extension proposal on a green French office deal, and finally, a troubled Finnish transaction has continued selling properties at a loss.

ABS: ABS markets recorded a healthy level of issuance in April, despite supply at times falling short of expectations. The €13.9bn of issuance was concentrated in UK residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS), complemented by solid issuance in the auto segment. Demand for UK assets remained strong, as reflected in the AAA print from Lendco at SONIA +

82bp, representing a significant tightening from initial guidance in the high 80bp. We continue to see robust demand across the mezzanine curve, evidenced by 5–10x oversubscription for the Stellantis UK Auto transaction, with final BBB spreads at 145bp. We expect a healthy issuance pipeline to continue, supported by strong demand technicals.

CLO: Although issuance remains below the run rate seen at the start of the year, supportive demand technicals and a recovery in the loan market encouraged activity throughout April. Over the month, €3.4bn of new issuance and €2.6bn of resets and refinancings were recorded. The U.S. market was muted and volume dropped compared to previous month with \$4.7bn of new issuance and \$2.7bn of refinancing and reset activity. We observed particularly strong demand for investment-grade mezzanine tranches in Europe from international accounts, with AA tranches tightening by approximately 15bp over the month. Spreads in the BB primary market have tightened by around 50bp, with new issue levels now at approximately Euribor + 5.25%. Despite this tightening bias, the war in the Middle East has renewed concerns around cyclical sectors, given the risk of inflation shocks and weaker growth. As such, a return to the spread levels seen at the start of the year appears unlikely in the near term. The European loan index recovered significantly to 95.75 points, up 1.25 points from the end of March. This has supported MVOC test levels relevant for CLO deals. However, dispersion remains across the credit market, and a focus on prudent management will be critical for CLO performance, particularly for transactions beyond their reinvestment periods.

Portfolio review

April was a relatively quiet month for the Fund. In the CLO market, the team have rolled positions in AAA bonds at Euribor + 1.26%. In the ABS market, the focus has been in the RMBS market, where secured collateral continues to perform well. The team have added BBB UK RMBS at SONIA + 170bp. The Fund remains in a flexible position given ongoing geopolitical risk.

Performance analysis

The Fund remains in a flexible position given ongoing geopolitical risk.

Outlook

In April, European securitised products were supported by strong income and a tightening bias across most of the market. The demand technical has persisted, where credit curves remain flat, particularly in the European auto and consumer segments.

The ongoing war in the Middle East has anchored expectations of higher inflation and rates from here, with a drag on global growth also expected. While low rate volatility and higher carry will support the ABS and CLO bondholders, the changing macroeconomic environment will resurface performance concerns for consumers. Although we do not expect a significant deterioration for securitised asset pools, we will continue to prioritise established issuers with a proven track record. The UK local elections on May 7 will likely create further rate volatility, although we see little immediate impact to the securitised market.

We have reduced cash positions in the funds, given the lower probability weighting to a significant military escalation from the US, although assets remain highly liquid across funds, given the expectation of persistent volatility. We expect a busy month in primary, in both the ABS and CLO markets.

Fund characteristics

Fund name	Vontobel Fund – TwentyFour Asset Backed Securities
ISIN	LU1602255561
Share class	I EUR
Reference index	–
Inception date	27.6.2017

Historical performance (net returns, in %)

Time period	Fund	Ref. index	Time period	Fund	Ref. index
MTD	0.6%	–	2025	3.5%	–
YTD	1.0%	–	2024	6.7%	–
1 year	3.8%	–	2023	8.4%	–
3 yrs p.a.	5.4%	–	2022	-4.5%	–
5 yrs p.a.	3.0%	–	2021	1.7%	–
10 yrs p.a.	–	–	2020	-0.1%	–
ITD p.a.	2.1%	–	2019	2.0%	–
			2018	-1.1%	–
			2017	–	–
			2016	–	–

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future performance.

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