

With the summer holidays nearly upon us,
we'll be taking the odd publishing break!

The next edition of our weekly publication
will be released on **12 July 2023**



Covered Bond & SSA View

NORD/LB Markets Strategy & Floor Research

28 June 2023 ♦ 22/2023

Marketing communication (see disclaimer on the last pages)

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Market overview

Covered Bonds

Authors: Dr Frederik Kunze // Melanie Kiene, CIAA // Stefan Rahaus

Primary market shifts into lower gear following BAUSCH withdrawal

While in the last edition of our weekly publication we reported on nine deals with a total volume of EUR 5.75bn, we were not quite so inundated with new issuances in the past week. Just three issuers approached investors, raising a total of EUR 2.25bn from investors in the process. Italian banks remained active, with Intesa Sanpaolo (ticker: ISPIM) taking the floor on this occasion, demonstrating that issuers from this jurisdiction have significant catch-up potential in comparison with other countries due, as readers will presumably be aware, to the delayed final implementation of the covered bond directive in Italy. On Monday, ISPIM placed its first covered bond deal since 2019 in the amount of EUR 1.25bn for five years at a final spread of ms +50bp. In so doing, it increased the new issuance volume from Italy this year to EUR 6.00bn from five transactions overall. With maturities of EUR 7.25bn in 2023, we are expecting a new issuance volume of EUR 9.0bn from Italy across the full year. Yesterday, Banco BPI (ticker: BPIPL) also made its first appearance on the market since 2019. This was the second deal from Portugal in 2023 and appeared on screens with guidance in the area of ms +60bp. In the end, Banco BPI raised a volume of EUR 500m from investors for five years at ms +58bp. On Wednesday last week, Aegon Bank (ticker: AEGON) issued a covered bond in the amount of EUR 500m with a term to maturity of seven years at ms + 32bp. The total volume of new issuances in EUR benchmark format in 2023 now stands at EUR 138bn, which is comfortably in excess of the level that had been recorded by this point in 2022. On account of this high level of issuing activity, we are seeing investors acting more selectively and with greater consideration towards spreads. As we are still expecting some new issuance activity before the summer recess, the pressure on new issue premiums and therefore also on secondary market prices is likely to persist. Assuming that supply will diminish over the summer months, we expect spreads to stabilise.

Issuer	Country	Timing	ISIN	Maturity	Size	Spread	Rating	ESG
Banco BPI SA	PT	27.06.	PTBPIDOM0031	5.0y	0.50bn	ms +58bp	- / Aa2 / -	-
Intesa Sanpaolo	IT	26.06.	IT0005554578	5.0y	1.25bn	ms +50bp	- / Aa3 / -	-
Aegon Bank	NL	21.06.	XS2642546399	7.0y	0.50bn	ms +32bp	- / - / AAA	-

Source: Bloomberg, NORD/LB Markets Strategy & Floor Research (Rating: Fitch / Moody's / S&P)

Secondary market: spreads increasingly trending wider due to high level of supply

The high level of fresh supply over recent weeks and months as far as covered deals are concerned is also leaving its mark on the secondary market. Renewed flattening trends in connection with yield curves (2y / 10y yield for Germany is currently quoted inversely below the March low at -73.5bp) is not making things any easier for market players and means that the focus is once again increasingly on short maturities. New issues, especially deals that have been priced with a low new issue premium, are no longer enjoying the kind of post-issue demand that had been observed only a matter of weeks ago. In addition, we saw increased exchanges from old to new covered bonds in order to benefit from the higher spread. It would appear that both investors and issuers are longing for the summer break.

Moody's on Canada: stable mortgage rates in Q1 2023 support house prices

Last Friday, the rating agency Moody's published a "Sector Profile" on covered bonds from Canada. In the report, the authors state that stability in mortgage interest rates during the first quarter of 2023 has contributed to reversing the decline in property prices. Rising interest rates (the Bank of Canada [BoC] raised the Overnight Lending Rate from 0.25bp in March 2022 to 4.75%; interest rates on five-year mortgage loans rose from 3.45% at the end of 2021 to 5.90% by the end of 2022, and have trended sideways in the course of the current year) had adversely impacted house prices. These fell by 11% over the course of nine months from their peaks in May 2022 to February 2023, before a recovery of three monthly price rises took place from March to May 2023. The rating experts at Moody's see a correlation with recently stable market interest rates, although due to the predominantly five-year fixed-interest periods, borrowers are only gradually being affected by increased mortgage interest rates. The average interest rate (according to Moody's Canadian Covered Bond Mortgage Tracker) rose to 3.74% at the end of March 2023, having stood at 3.63% as at year-end 2022. Moody's states further that borrower indebtedness – as measured by average loan-to-value (LTV) ratios – remains conservative. Original loan-to-value ratios actually rose marginally in the first half of 2022, but have since consolidated at 66.0%. The indexed LTV ratio (based on data relating to current property prices) rose from 45.6% at the end of 2022 to 47.9% at the end of March 2023, but remains below the pre-pandemic level and is evidence of the fact that equity-debt ratios remain healthy. In our view, these underlying framework conditions suggest that Canada is a little further along in terms of the housing market cycle than is the case for other countries.

Moody's on Ireland: rising mortgage arrears weigh more on legacy non-bank loan portfolios than on covered bonds

The risk experts at Moody's also recently commented on the implications of rising mortgage arrears in Ireland. Accordingly, rising default rates are affecting legacy portfolio securitisations of non-banks in particular. According to the rating agency, these are particularly impacted by rising interest rates and the cost of living crisis. This is due to the fact that a larger proportion of the portfolio was granted to borrowers with poor credit ratings, which accordingly results in a higher risk premium. In addition, a high proportion of these portfolios feature variable interest rates. In contrast, the mortgage arrears linked to credit exposures contained in the cover pools of covered bonds (and high quality RMBS) are much lower. For example, the proportion of loans 90 days in arrears rose from roughly 1.5% in the fourth quarter of 2021 to 2.0% in the first quarter of 2023, while non-banks recorded growth from just in excess of 3.0% to 5.5% across the same period. Moody's expects that the good creditworthiness on the part of borrowers in Ireland and the country's generally favourable macro environment will continue to support the credit quality of covered bonds. There is currently only a single EUR benchmark outstanding from Ireland (EUR 750m issued by the Bank of Ireland), while no issuers from the jurisdiction have yet approached the primary market so far in 2023.

Moody's on the UK: rising interest rates heighten asset and social risks

Persistently high inflation rates led to the Bank of England raising its key rate by 50bp to a current level of 5.00% last week. Yields on UK sovereign bonds (10y) rose to the highs seen last autumn of around 4.5%, with mortgage rates for UK borrowers whose fixed rate agreements expire this year or who have agreed variable rate deals rising to new multi-year highs in the process. Moody's also expects that around 25% of borrowers will have to take out follow-up financing in 2023 and that the interest burden for affected households could triple in many cases. In addition to the risk of possible payment defaults with a corresponding deterioration in the quality of assets in the cover pools, the risk experts at Moody's highlighted the potential of reputational risks for British issuers in the event that they fail to accommodate customers by introducing supportive measures (e.g. reducing or suspending repayments). Conversely, low loan-to-value ratios and pre-existing provisions are supporting cover pool quality. According to Moody's, the volume of credit defaults – and therefore the losses suffered by UK banks – will essentially depend on developments on the labour market and the further course of property price developments. In both cases, the rating agency sees British banks as being relatively well protected. It also expects only a moderate rise in unemployment from a 70-year low of 3.8% in March 2023 to 4.5% and 5.0% in the next couple of years. Further declines in property prices should be protected by comparatively low loan-to-value ratios; more than two-thirds of UK mortgage loans have an LTV ratio of less than 75%.

Fitch identifies high buffers for OC ratios in connection with its ratings for six Pfandbrief programmes of German savings banks

The risk experts from Fitch have awarded ratings to the mortgage Pfandbriefe issued by a total of six German savings banks. The programmes from Sparkasse Bremen, Sparkasse Westmünsterland, Sparkasse Krefeld and Stadtparkasse München boast an "AA+" rating from the agency. The EUR sub-benchmark issuer Sparkasse Hannover and Sparkasse Pforzheim Calw, which has now joined the banks active in the EUR benchmark segment, were awarded the top rating of "AAA". In its current Peer Review covering the six savings banks, Fitch sums up, among other aspects, that the high overcollateralisation (OC) ratios are well above what are known as break-even OCs, which ultimately shows that the ratings of the mortgage Pfandbriefe are significantly protected against negative developments impacting cover assets. For Sparkasse Hannover and Sparkasse Pforzheim Calw, Fitch also states that the mortgage Pfandbriefe each have six unused "notches", which can serve as a buffer against downgrades to the LT issuer default rating - i.e. the relevant issuer rating. The rating agency has also assigned a stable rating outlook to all six programmes.

Fitch publishes update on APAC covered bonds for Q1 2023

Each quarter, the risk experts from Fitch publish an update regarding covered bonds from the APAC (Asia-Pacific) region. The key factors governing developments in the region include interest rate hikes in Australia and New Zealand to 4.1% (AU) and 5.5% (NZ). As a result, Fitch expects payment arrears to increase in 2023, as household debt in these countries is at a high level in relation to disposable income. Pressures linked to the cost of living crisis resulting from inflation and a preponderance of variable rate mortgages have ramped up. Nonetheless, the agency expects only limited deteriorations in cover pool quality in New Zealand and Australia as loans more than 90 days in arrears are exchanged by the issuers. All five NZ covered bond programmes rated by Fitch (ANZ NZ, ASB, BNZ, KWB, WNZL) boast stable AAA ratings. The share of fixed-rate mortgages has also risen recently in comparison with the previous year. The same trend could be observed across 2021 and 2022 in the cover pools of the Australian programmes (ANZ, BEN, BOQ, CBA, IBAL, MBL, NAB, SML, WBC), although this is now starting to decrease again. Fitch is expecting an increased issuance volume for covered bonds from Australia in 2023, as the banks will now be forced to replace central bank funding from the pandemic period (2020 to 2021). From Singapore, Fitch only rates DBS and OCBC, whose programmes the agency also assigns a stable AAA rating. By the end of the year, we expect new issuances in the amount of EUR 2.0bn from Australia and EUR 2.5bn from New Zealand, with the figure for Singapore expected to hit EUR 3.0bn. We have also looked at the jurisdictions of [Singapore](#), [Australia and New Zealand](#) as part of focus articles.

Fitch updates forecast for global property price developments

After property prices declined (more or less in line with Fitch's forecast) in the first half of 2023 due to further increases in mortgage rates, the rating agency has now adjusted its forecast for the rest of the year upwards for four countries (Australia, Canada, Japan and Colombia). In general, demand for property continues to be high, although this is being offset by limited supply. According to the rating experts, property prices are expected to bottom out for the majority of countries in the second half of 2023, with France and the UK representing notable exceptions here due to persistently high interest rates (cf. Moody's on the UK above). The only jurisdiction in which the expected property price developments were revised downwards was Spain. We, too, were and continue to be of the view that property prices in the jurisdictions of the EUR benchmark segment that form part of our coverage are unlikely to go into free fall. In this context, we cited robust labour market developments as an argument to support this position. With this, we are also sticking to our guns that, in general, the quality and value of the assets in the cover pools of covered bond programmes is not likely to be jeopardised.

Market overview

SSA/Public Issuers

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Ukraine: European Commission proposes creation of special facility

“The European Commission is proposing to establish a dedicated financing instrument that will provide coherent, predictable as well as flexible support for the period 2024-2027 to Ukraine, adapted to the unprecedented challenges of supporting a country at war,” as an extract from the press release states. In addition, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, said: “Ukraine is bravely fighting Russia's invasion and needs our stable financial support to face the tremendous costs this entails. The EU has promised to stand by its side as long as it takes, and we are true to our word. Today we are proposing to foresee up to EUR 50bn from 2024 to 2027 to help Ukraine resist the aggression.” The new facility will support the transition towards a green, digital and inclusive economy that is progressively aligned with EU rules and standards. The facility is organised around three pillars: Pillar I – Financial support to the State in the form of grants and loans. This will ensure stable and predictable funding, supporting the sustainability of Ukraine’s finances, while providing a solid framework for the protection of the EU budget. Significant emphasis will be placed on public administration reform, good governance, the rule of law, anti-corruption and sound financial management, reforms which Ukraine intends to undertake anyway as part of its EU accession process. Pillar II – A specific Ukraine Investment Framework designed to attract and mobilise public and private investments for Ukraine’s recovery and reconstruction, in support of the Plan’s implementation. It will complement all existing instruments supporting Ukraine, such as blending and guarantees, with the possibility of scaling up when conditions allow for it. Pillar III – Technical assistance and other supporting measures, including mobilisation of expertise on reforms, support to municipalities, civil society, and other forms of bilateral assistance normally available for pre-accession countries under the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA), also supporting the objectives of the Ukraine Plan. Interest rate subsidies for the cost of loans will also be covered under this pillar. Grants will be mobilised through a new special instrument proposed in the context of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) mid-term review. Similarly to the current financing under the Macro Financial Assistance ‘Plus’ (MFA+), the loans will be guaranteed within the scope of the available room for manoeuvre, similar to. According to the European Commission, the Facility also opens up the possibility to use contributions from other donors as well as revenue generated by frozen and immobilised Russian assets as a contribution to Ukraine’s recovery and reconstruction. Work is ongoing on the possible use of Russian assets for Ukraine’s recovery and reconstruction. The Facility and its implementation will be equipped with a robust framework for transparency, audit and control to ensure the protection of EU financial interests.

EIB: URC 2023 in London and another EUR 840m for Ukraine reconstruction

Together with Ukraine, the UK hosted the International Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC 2023) in London on 21 and 22 June 2023. The Conference started with the European Investment Bank (ticker: EIB) and Ukraine's Ministry for Restoration signing a memorandum of understanding with regard to critical infrastructure. This provides for the provision of EUR 840m in 2023, which is intended for use in the areas of renovation and restoration of municipal infrastructure (especially schools and hospitals), public buildings (taking energy efficiency aspects into account), water supply and waste water infrastructure as well as transport networks and local public transport. The EIB will also financially support the digital transformation and strengthening of cyber security. On 13 June, the EIB and European Commission had already concluded a guarantee agreement for a loan of EUR 100m intended for the repair and restoration of transmission lines to ensure power supplies. Since the start of the Russia-Ukraine war in February 2022, the EIB has made emergency aid amounting to EUR 2.4bn available, of which EUR 1.7bn has already been disbursed. The EIB also features in our [NORD/LB Issuer Guide 2023 – European Supranationals](#).

Renewed (social) collaboration between EIB and BNG

Following the first successful collaboration between EIB and Bank Nederlandse Gemeenten (ticker: BNG) in 2016, a new cooperation agreement has now been signed. The EIB is making EUR 300m available to BNG, which it undertakes to on-lend on 'favourable terms' to public institutions with a focus on healthcare and educational institutions. As the EIB typically only finances up to 50% of the total cost of a project, so that in conjunction with the BNG a total loan amount of EUR 600m can be granted. The loan agreement follows a memorandum of understanding between the two financial institutions, which stipulates that they will exchange knowledge and experience with the goal of stimulating public investments in the Netherlands.

OeKB: higher coverage ratios for export guarantees

Together with the Austrian Ministry of Finance, Österreichische Kontrollbank (ticker: OKB) has devised a raft of measures to improve export guarantees. These were presented on 24 June and include higher coverage ratios to strengthen the competitiveness of Austria's export sector. Export guarantees are designed to safeguard companies in the export industry from financial losses if buyers face the threat of insolvency for economic or political reasons. Following the current amendment, the coverage ratios have been increased, which means political risks are now generally covered up to 100%, and the previous deductible, including for countries with a higher risk, no longer applies. Economic risk, on the other hand, can now be covered up to 98% for bank-compliant collateralised transactions where the buyer has an adequate credit rating. To widen the group of potential users of the guarantee procedure, the value added rules have been made more flexible: the flat-rate consideration of a company will in future be possible up to a maximum of EUR 20m. Furthermore, the recognition of intermediate inputs from abroad has been aligned with Austrian value added: up to 70% can be recognised from subsidiaries of Austrian export companies. Goods and services from the EU single market are eligible for recognition of up to 20%. It is expected that these measures will promote exports to Ukraine in particular and contribute towards accelerated reconstruction.

MuniFin: long-term funding plan increased by EUR 1bn

Municipality Finance (ticker: KUNTA) presented its revised long-term funding plan on 19 June. Instead of the EUR 8-9bn originally announced, MuniFin now plans to issue an additional EUR 1bn before the end of 2023, bringing the total to EUR 9-10bn. Antti Kontio, Head of Funding and Sustainability, commented as follows: “The increased funding requirement is mainly due to a combination of a higher forecast demand for customer financing and repayments of long-term financings. We have issued around EUR 7.0bn to date and are therefore well-positioned for the second half of the year.” Further details on MuniFin can also be found in our [NORD/LB Issuer Guide 2022 – Scandinavian Agencies](#).

KfW-ifo Barometer for Shortage of Skilled Labour: shortage hampering German economy

On 26 June, KfW presented the findings of its Barometer for Shortage of Skilled Labour for the first half of 2023. These show that in April 2023, 42.2% of businesses in Germany reported that their operations were hampered by a lack of skilled workers. Although this is down 3.5 percentage points from the high of 45.7% in autumn 2022, the skills shortage remains at a high level. KfW’s Chief Economist Fritzi Köhler-Geib commented: “Even though the proportion of companies whose operations are being hampered by a lack of skilled workers has declined as a result of the economic downturn, the fact remains that a skills shortage is still holding back a large part of the German economy in both absolute and historical terms.” Particularly hard hit by a lack of skilled workers is the services industry (47.4%), while the problem is less severe in manufacturing (35.1%). Big businesses (44.0%) are also generally more affected than small and medium-sized companies (41.3%). There are also considerable regional differences, with the skills shortage particularly prevalent in eastern Germany (47.8%). In contrast, the situation is less severe in Hesse, Rhineland-Palatinate and Saarland. KfW cites demographic change as the main reason for these regional variances, with the eastern German states affected especially by demographic decline and an ageing population. However, Dr Köhler-Geib stresses that if the economy gradually recovers from the price shock over the course of the year as forecast, “[...] the shortage of skilled workers is likely to increase again towards the end of the year.” The skills shortage must be countered as a matter of urgency by targeted immigration, mobilisation of the working age population in Germany as well as productivity increases.

ESM: Annual Report 2022 approved

The Board of Governors of the European Stability Mechanism (ticker: ESM) approved the Annual Report for 2022 on 15 June at its Annual Meeting in Luxembourg. Like other institutions, the ESM was not spared by the rapid rise in interest rates and market volatility. As a result of its active and prudent investment strategy, the ESM recorded a limited net loss of EUR 60.2m last year, which was mainly driven by the sharp rise in market interest rates. The ESM’s accumulated reserves continue to be estimated as ‘substantial’. The Board of Governors also discussed the status regarding ratification of the amended ESM Treaty and provided information on the ongoing review of financial assistance instruments, lending capacity and capital adequacy.

Primary market

There is no sign yet of a summer lull in the SSA segment with six new benchmarks in the past week producing a total of EUR 6.3bn. These were joined by a sub-benchmark deal and further mandates and funding plan announcements. Kicking off the week was CADES from France. Sticking to the motto of “go big or go home”, the ESG heavyweight issued another EUR 3bn deal. The social bond has an eight-year maturity, and the order books were full to the brim at EUR 11.6bn. The deal was priced at OAT +26bp with FRTR 0% 11/25/31 serving as the reference bond. This equates to around ms +2bp. This was followed by Spain’s Adif Alta Velocidad. Under its ticker ADIFAL, it issued a 5-year bond worth EUR 600m. The bid-to-cover ratio stood at 4.0x and the deal was priced at 42 basis points above the Spanish curve. The reference bond was SPGB 1.4% 07/30/28. Like so many others this week, Wallonia also opted for an ESG deal, raising EUR 700m with its 15-year green bond. The deal was placed at OLO +44bp or ms +74bp and the books reached a little over EUR 1bn. After France, Spain and Belgium, it was the turn of another French issuer: SAGESS chose a 7-year format and a bond size of EUR 500m. The order books totalled EUR 10.5bn. SAGESS, or Société Anonyme de Gestion de Stocks de Sécurité to give the issuer its full name, manages local oil reserves. Right on cue, Hesse also went to investors with an ESG deal (see also our [SSA lead article](#) later in this report). This bond brings the number of German Laender to launch ESG deals in the market this year to five so far. Hesse already has a green framework in place and therefore only has to decide on maturity, which in this case was the popular 10-year bucket. The deal was more than 2.0x oversubscribed. With initial guidance of ms +2bp area, the bond reached a final price of ms -1bp. The last deal came from Spain’s ICO in the shape of a social bond (5y) with a volume of EUR 500m. Spain is also expected to provide another bond soon as the CASTIL region has selected a consortium to bring the new sustainability bond from the autonomous community of Castile and León (10y) to the market. We expect the order books to open shortly. The region is also featured in our publication [NORD/LB Public Issuer Special – Beyond Bundeslaender: Spanish Regions](#). It also came as a surprise yesterday to find that the funding figures for the EU had been unexpectedly published on its Investor Relations page along with typing errors and inaccurate dates. The Global Investor Call this afternoon (28 June) is supposed to provide initial clarity on activities in the second half of the year. Furthermore, EUR 40bn for the second half of the year is below market expectations. Maturities range from 3 to 30 years as usual. Four syndicated deals are planned before the end of the year and will be flanked by a maximum of five auctions.

Issuer	Country	Timing	ISIN	Maturity	Size	Spread	Rating	ESG
ICO	ES	26.06.	XS2645690525	5.3y	0.50bn	ms +8bp	A- / Baa1 / A	X
HESSEN	DE	26.06.	DE000A1RQEK7	10.0y	1.00bn	ms -1bp	- / - / AA+	X
SAGESS	FR	21.06.	FR001400IWZ3	7.0y	0.50bn	ms +17bp	- / - / AA	-
WALLOO	BE	21.06.	BE0002956374	15.8y	0.70bn	ms +74bp	- / A3 / -	X
ADIFAL	ES	20.06.	ES0200002097	5.1y	0.60bn	ms +32bp	A- / Baa2 / -	-
CADES	FR	20.06.	FR001400IVT8	8.4y	3.00bn	ms +2bp	- / Aa2 / AA	X

Source: Bloomberg, NORD/LB Markets Strategy & Floor Research (Rating: Fitch / Moody’s / S&P)

Covered Bonds

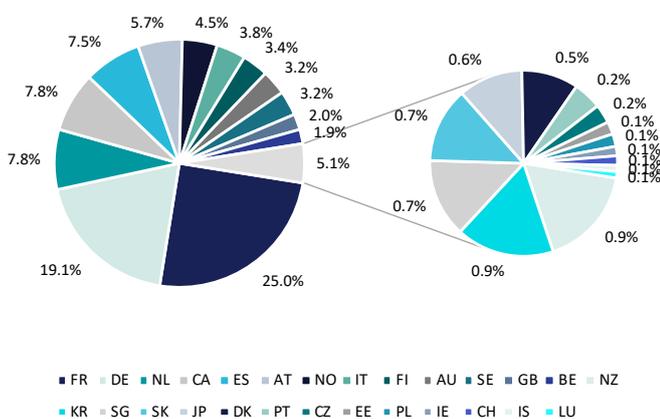
Special publication on LCR classification and risk weights: a (regulatory) overview of the EUR benchmark segment

Author: Dr Frederik Kunze

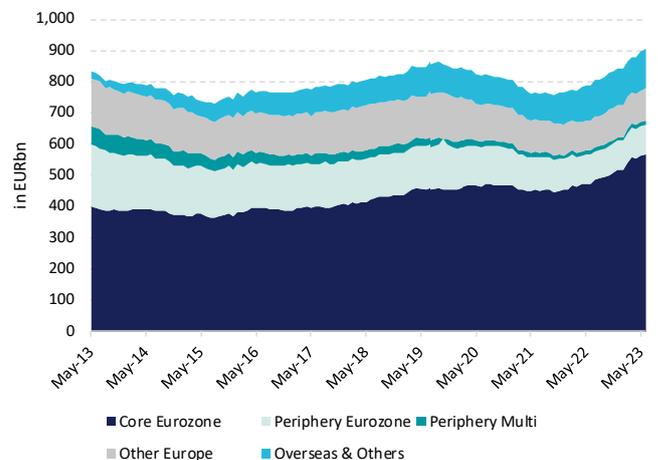
Banks as the most important investor group in the EUR benchmark segment

So far this year, a total of EUR 138bn in fresh covered bonds have been placed in the EUR benchmark format. As a result, the volume of the iBoxx EUR Covered has also increased significantly over the course of the year. From an investor's point of view, this trend is definitely to be welcomed overall, as the dramatic developments of recent years have led to a significant shortage of investable volume. Currently, a stronger selection of orders can be observed on the buyers' side. However, we would warn against equating this with saturation. In terms of investor groups, the "Banks" category again accounted for the largest share in the current year. In fact, with an average share of 52% in 2023 to date, they make up an "absolute majority" of this investor group. Even during the entire period of massive market intervention by the ECB, banks remained the most important investor base for covered bond issuers. In addition to the risk profile of covered bonds, their possible preferential treatment from a regulatory point of view probably plays a significant role in this regard. To help our readers, we regularly publish the [Covered Bond Special – Risk weights and LCR levels of Covered Bonds](#). In this series of publications, we describe the regulatory basis for deriving the risk weight or LCR level and apply these rules to the EUR benchmark segment. In particular, when implementing the EU Covered Bond Directive adjustments were made to the regulatory frameworks that had to be taken into account. Nevertheless, the changes in classifications were limited. We intend to use this present edition of our weekly publication to briefly introduce the "universe" - which underpins the above special report and ultimately describes the most important market for covered bonds.

Composition of iBoxx EUR Covered



Development of volume of iBoxx EUR Covered



Source: Market data, Bloomberg, NORD/LB Markets Strategy & Floor Research

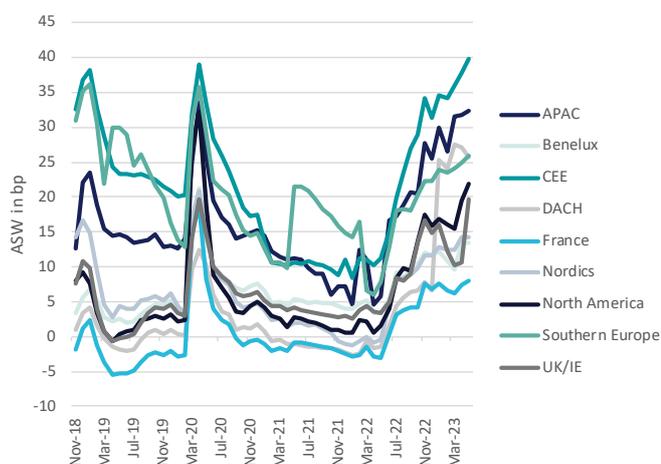
iBoxx EUR Covered: Investment grade rating and minimum volume of EUR 500m

The criteria for the iBoxx EUR Covered provide for the exclusive inclusion of EUR-denominated publicly placed covered bonds with a fixed coupon which have an outstanding volume of at least EUR 500m. In addition, an investment grade rating from the agencies Fitch (\geq BBB-), Moody's (\geq Baa3) or S&P (\geq BBB-) is mandatory, although the mean value method is used if more than one rating is required (see [Markit iBoxx Rating Methodology](#)). The bonds in the iBoxx EUR Covered must also have a remaining term of at least one year, with the original maturity date being decisive for covered bonds with extendable maturities. The composition of the iBoxx EUR Covered is determined on a monthly basis at the close of business on the last working day of the reporting month.

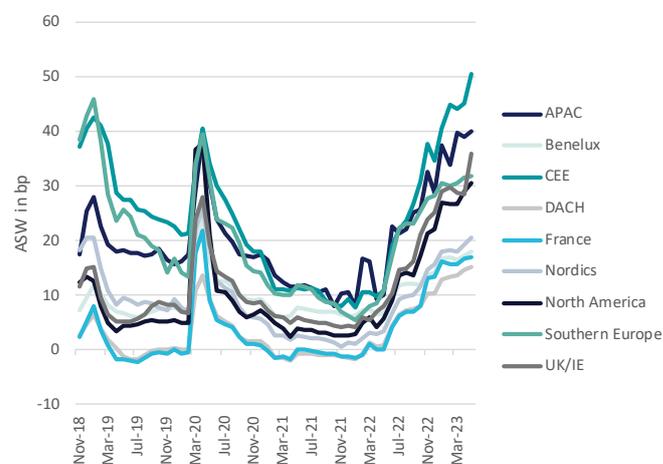
iBoxx EUR Covered comprises an outstanding volume of EUR 902bn

In the composition for the reporting month June 2023, we note an outstanding volume of EUR 902bn. One year ago (in June 2022), the total of the outstanding bonds in the iBoxx EUR Covered was EUR 789bn. The benchmark index now also includes a total of 1,026 bonds spread across 27 jurisdictions. France accounts for the largest volume with EUR 225bn (218 bonds) - followed by Germany (EUR 172bn; 242 bonds), the Netherlands (EUR 71bn; 70 bonds), Canada (EUR 70bn; 51 bonds) and Spain (EUR 67bn; 51 bonds). The share of covered bonds whose issuers are attributable to the Eurozone is 74.5% in June 2023. The issuers' focus on shorter maturities is also evident in the iBoxx composition in terms of residual maturities. Accordingly, the share of bonds with a remaining term of up to five years is 63% – with the split here practically even between “one to three years” (30%) and “greater than three to five years” (33%). In total, 19% is attributable to the maturity range “greater than five to seven years” and 13% to the bucket “greater than seven to ten years”. The category “greater than ten years” accounts for just 6%. The two deals with the longest remaining term (31.9y and 23.2y respectively) both come from France. Overall, institutions from this country dominate the “long end” and make up 33% in this maturity segment. Issuers from the Netherlands account for 28% and from Germany 19%.

Spread history iBoxx EUR Covered (generic; 3y)



Spread history iBoxx EUR Covered (generic; 5y)



Source: Market data, Bloomberg, NORD/LB Markets Strategy & Floor Research

Spread development: regulatory treatment as (one) explanatory variable

The ECB's ultra-expansive monetary policy has also ensured a levelling of spread differences within the iBoxx EUR Covered in recent years. Over the past few months, central bank policymakers have significantly reduced the extent of intervention and charted a course for the ongoing exit. Consequently, spreads have also risen noticeably in the covered bond segment. In the course of the repricing, the price differences between the bonds represented in the iBoxx EUR Covered - which are common but were inevitably masked out over a period of several years - reappeared. An important distinguishing feature between the covered bonds, which explains a significant proportion of the price differences, is the regulatory classification of the individual bonds. The best possible treatment for covered bonds, i.e. the allocation of a risk weight of 10% in accordance with the CRR, the possibility of being used as a Level 1 asset in the context of LCR management, as well as the possibility of being deposited as eligible collateral with the ECB, leads – initially in a view limited to these factors – to higher demand and consequently to comparatively lower spreads. The fact that regulatory treatment is not the only explanatory variable for spread differences should not, in our opinion, be ignored here. National factors alone, such as the “home bias”, and related to this the size of the investor base in the individual jurisdictions, as well as the relative value of, for example, covered bonds and sovereign bonds, can strongly influence prices between jurisdictions. The weaker influence of the Eurosystem on pricing is also evident here, which is reflected in the market by greater differentiation between generic spreads at the level of individual issuing countries.

Conclusion

The covered bond market remains on a growth path. This is also indicated by the steady growth of the benchmark index, the iBoxx EUR Covered, which also forms the basis for our regular analysis of the covered bond market with regard to the regulatory treatment of individual bonds. In the latest edition of our special report on risk weights and LCR levels of covered bonds, we show the regulatory classification for the 149 issuers (183 pools) or 1,022 bonds (excl. multi cédulas) from 27 jurisdictions. In summary, it can be said that even in the most recent edition, the basic classifications have not undergone any significant shifts. In this context, the question of how covered bonds from the UK will finally be handled remains open, as we explain in the special. What has changed considerably, however, is the spread landscape of the iBoxx EUR Covered. The ECB's withdrawal has ensured significant repricing and, in turn, differentiation between the individual jurisdictions.

SSA/Public Issuers

ESG bonds of German Laender - significant further development

Authors: Dr Norman Rudschuck, CIAA // assisted by Lukas-Finn Frese

Green light for ESG bonds from German Bundeslaender

There can be no doubt that ESG bonds have already become a fixture on the international capital markets, with German Bundeslaender refusing to be left behind when it comes to this trend towards bonds with sustainability aspects. For example, North Rhine-Westphalia recognised the potential of this segment as early as 2015, when it issued an inaugural sustainability bond. Since then, NRW has been an annual issuer of sustainability bonds on the primary market. In 2021, two more Bundeslaender joined the ranks of ESG issuers. To start with, Baden-Württemberg issued an inaugural green bond in March 2021, before Hesse also issued a green bond in June of the same year. The German capital Berlin and Saxony-Anhalt are now the fourth and fifth federal states to join the list of ESG issuers. In the short to medium term, we expect further Laender to conduct refinancing activities on the capital market via ESG bonds. The reasons for this are manifold. On the one hand, refinancing costs via sustainability bonds are often several basis points cheaper (key word: greenium), while on the other, the concept of sustainability is part and parcel of the policy approach and the joint shaping of a new era. Hesse, for example, explicitly included this as an objective in its constitution in 2018: “The state, municipalities and associations of municipalities shall take into account the principle of sustainability in their actions in order to safeguard the interests of future generations” (Art. 26c. of the Hessian Constitution). Conversely, the higher costs for more extensive reporting could be a stumbling block for some Bundeslaender, from which the profitability of an ESG issue could suffer.

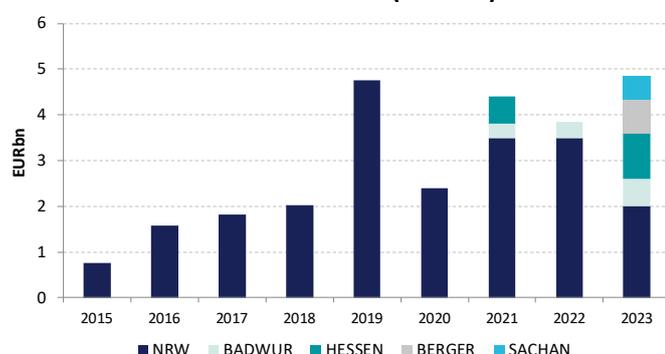
Green, social and sustainability - a classification

Three forms of sustainability bonds in particular have established themselves on the capital market: green bonds, social bonds and sustainability bonds. The respective designation already indicates which primary sustainability goal is to be pursued. In particular, green bonds pursue goals that serve environmental protection. For example, this can take the form of promoting the use of renewable energy or the financing of regional and long-distance public transport through more environmentally friendly drive options. Social bonds, on the other hand, are used (as you might expect) in connection with social projects. These are expressed, for example, in the promotion of social housing, or in measures to reduce unemployment and targeted financing of support measures. Sustainability bonds, on the other hand, are all-rounders and the projects supported can be of both an ecological and social nature. Projects that are fundamentally eligible for financing through sustainability bonds are to be found in the corresponding issuer frameworks. These tend to be closely linked to the respective [Guidelines of the International Capital Market Association \(ICMA\)](#). The goals of the respective frameworks are primarily based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)) and the respective category of the Green Bond Principles ([GBP](#)), Social Bond Principles ([SBP](#)) or Sustainability Bond Guidelines ([SBG](#)). In addition to the corresponding use of proceeds, the respective ICMA guidelines provide additional guidance on the process of project evaluation and selection, management of proceeds and reporting.

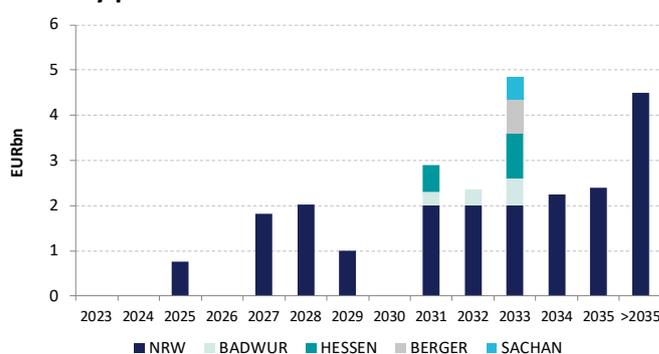
Issuance volume on the rise, but still room for improvement

Since the first sustainability bond was issued by North Rhine-Westphalia in 2015, this segment has enjoyed growing popularity: further bonds have followed annually from [NRW](#). In 2021, the Laender of Hesse (EUR 600m) and Baden-Württemberg (EUR 300m) each issued a green bond. In May 2022, it was once again Baden-Württemberg that placed another green bond (EUR 350m) and offered the prospect of further green issues. In late 2022 and mid-2023, Berlin (EUR 750m) and Saxony-Anhalt (EUR 500m) joined first with their frameworks and then with fresh benchmark bonds. In addition, after offering two sub-benchmarks, in June 2023 BADWUR also succeeded in issuing the first benchmark bond in ESG format. The total volume of ESG bonds issued by the German Bundeslaender currently stands at EUR 26.4bn, with the majority attributable to sustainability bonds from NRW. With efforts to invest more in environmental and social areas, we anticipate that further Laender will opt to issue ESG bonds. We are expecting growing momentum in each of the ESG segments outlined above over the next few years. An upward trend in the volume of ESG bonds issued has already been observed in recent years. While the annual ESG volume issued in 2015 was just EUR 750m, a total of EUR 4.75bn was issued in 2019 and EUR 4.4bn in 2021, with North Rhine-Westphalia again accounting for the lion's share here. The volume in H1 2023 alone already comes to almost EUR 5bn.

ESG issuance volume over time (EUR bn)



Maturity profile of ESG bonds



Source: Bloomberg, NORD/LB Markets Strategy & Floor Research

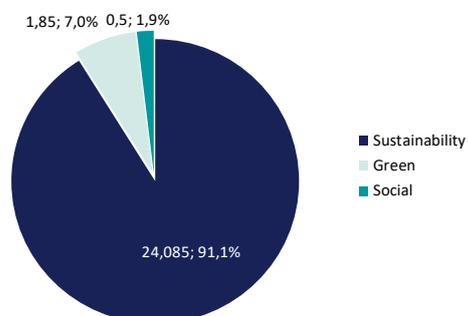
NRW offering long maturities

In terms of the maturity profile of the ESG bonds issued by the Bundeslaender, there is already quite a wide range of different maturities. NRW is unsurprisingly setting the pace in this regard, with the original maturities of the bonds issued ranging from seven years (issued in 2016; maturing in 2023) to 30 years (issued in 2022; maturing in 2052). However, the 10y maturity segment has dominated activities in this segment up to now.

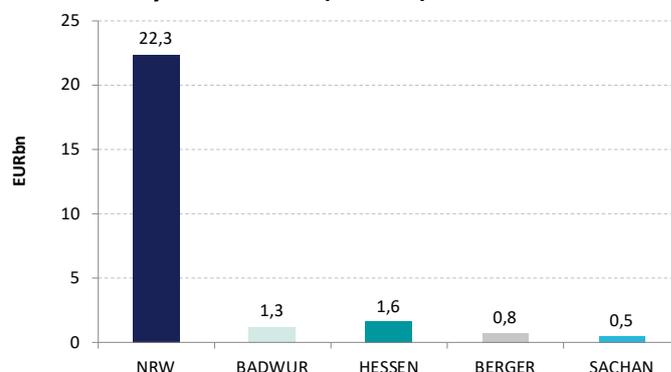
Data situation: as expected, sustainability ahead of green

Due to the early participation of North Rhine-Westphalia in the ESG market in the form of sustainability bonds, it is not surprising that this form of ESG bond boasts by far the largest volume to date (EUR 24.1bn; 91.1%). However, the four green bonds issued since 2021 (purely social bonds were only added by SACHAN in 2023) are probably just the beginning of the story in this context. The volume of EUR 1.9bn issued here so far represents only around 7% of the total volume. The initial lack of social bonds is perhaps misleading. After all, given that NRW and Berlin issue sustainability bonds, social aspects are also included in the use of proceeds here.

Volume by ESG category (EUR bn)



ESG volume by Bundesland (EUR bn)



Source: Bloomberg, NORD/LB Markets Strategy & Floor Research

Frameworks – similarities and differences (I)

The issuers' frameworks are all in line with ICMA Principles. As already mentioned, the Laender of BADWUR and HESSEN (to use their tickers) have issued green bonds and published corresponding green bond frameworks in addition to having had them assessed by a second party opinion. NRW has been through the same process with its Sustainable Bond Framework. The content is therefore structured according to the four ICMA pillars, namely use of proceeds, process of project evaluation and selection, management of proceeds and annual reporting. While HESSEN and BADWUR have a corresponding focus on green finance, NRW can act more flexibly between social and environmental aspects with regard to the use of proceeds. This is also reflected in the project selection to date. Broken down into the categories of the ICMA's Green Bond Principles, for example, the lion's share of Hesse's green bond proceeds went towards "clean transport" (46%), followed by "environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use" (29%). Meanwhile, a total of 14% was allocated to the category of "energy efficiency". A similar distribution of the use of proceeds can also be seen in Baden-Württemberg, with the highest proportion (22%) attributable to the category "energy efficiency", followed by 18% to "environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use". In addition, "Green buildings" account for 17% and "clean transport" for 13%. North Rhine-Westphalia, on the other hand, follows six categories of the Social Bond Principles and eight categories of the Green Bond Principles with its framework. Whereas pre-Covid it was mainly green aspects that played a part in the use of proceeds, NRW has increasingly concentrated on social projects as part of its pandemic response. For example, 47% of the (most recent) sustainability bond No. 10 was used to finance the category "access to basic social services". The total share of green categories in the last issue was nearly 17%. At the end of 2022, Berlin became the fourth federal state to present its Sustainability Bond Framework. From now on, it intends to appear on the capital market as a regular issuer of sustainable bonds. Accordingly, these can be issued in the form of green and/or social aspects. The suitability assessment and final selection of suitable green and social projects for sustainable financing is the responsibility of the Sustainable Financing Coordination Group. With regard to reporting, the Federal Capital undertakes to provide separate information on the use of funds and the sustainability impact in the form of an allocation and impact report. The former is to be published within one year of the respective bond issue and published annually from the year following the issue until the issue proceeds have been fully allocated. The impact report is also to be published at the latest one year after the bond placement.

Frameworks – similarities and differences (II)

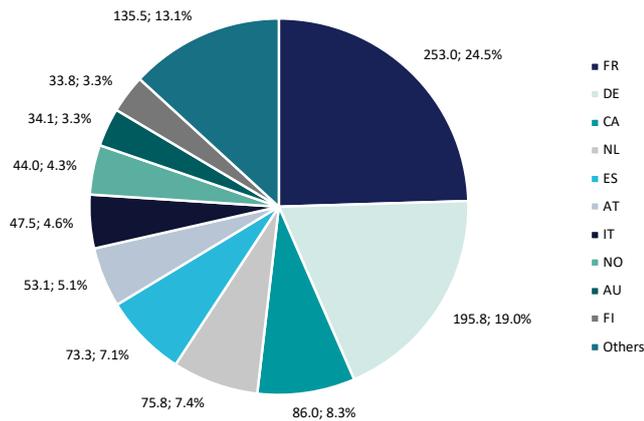
In the field of social bonds, Saxony-Anhalt then presented itself with a corresponding social bond framework from mid-2023. It emphasises that the issue proceeds will be used for social projects related to combating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and future pandemic resilience. These include better access to basic social services, job creation and unemployment prevention programmes, as well as the development of affordable basic infrastructure. Accordingly, a significant part of the expenditure underlying the Framework comes from the special Covid-19 fund of 15 December 2021. The 60 individual projects already included in it - divided into individual years - trigger payment flows within five years until 2027. Reporting on payment outflows as well as project statuses is the task of the Landtag.

Comment

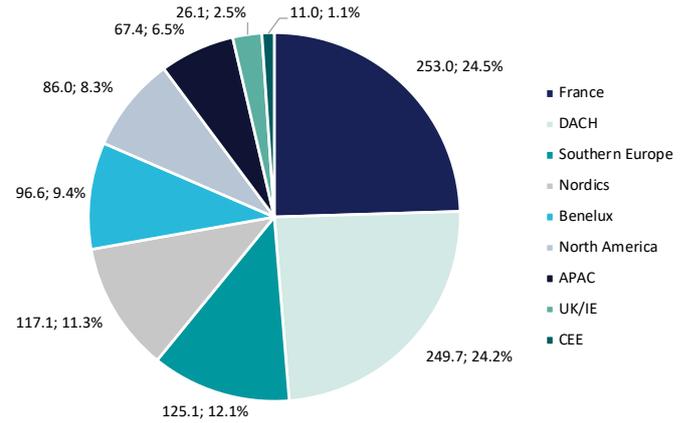
Despite the increasing volume in recent years, we believe that there remains significant additional untapped growth potential in the ESG segments of the German Bundeslaender. In this way, what was once a niche product with bonds just from NRW could ultimately be transformed into an established market with many players. Critical to this is the ever-increasing need for financing, due, among other aspects, to amendments to the energy transition and climate protection laws of the individual Laender. The ICMA principles provide solid guidelines containing core recommendations, while external audits also safeguard the use of proceeds with constant monitoring processes in place. The fact that only five of the 16 German Laender have a framework alone underlines the inherent catch-up potential for the vast majority of the Bundeslaender.

Charts & Figures Covered Bonds

EUR benchmark volume by country (in EURbn)



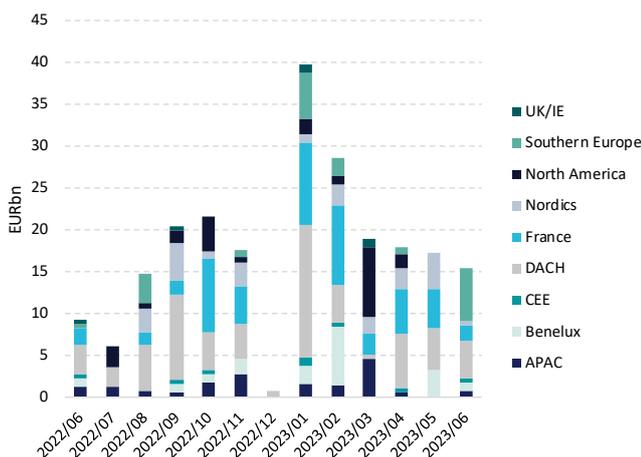
EUR benchmark volume by region (in EURbn)



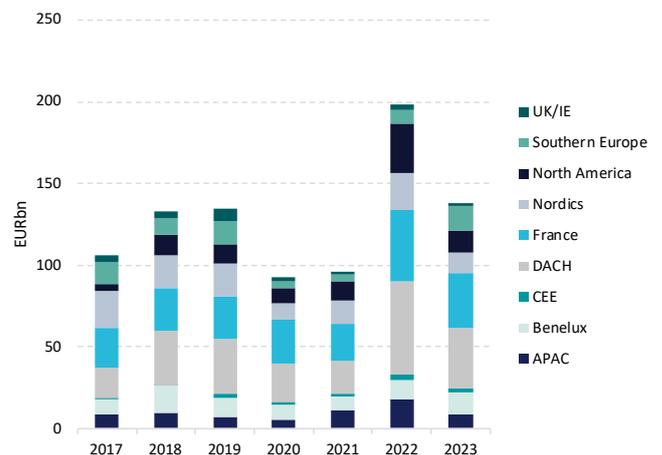
Top-10 jurisdictions

Rank	Country	Amount outst. (EURbn)	No. of BMKs	There of ESG BMKs	Avg. issue size (EURbn)	Avg. initial maturity (in years)	Avg. mod. Duration (in years)	Avg. coupon (in %)
1	FR	253.0	243	19	0.97	9.6	5.2	1.21
2	DE	195.8	280	34	0.65	8.0	4.3	1.04
3	CA	86.0	64	0	1.32	5.5	2.9	0.93
4	NL	75.8	76	2	0.93	10.9	6.7	1.08
5	ES	73.3	58	6	1.15	11.2	3.6	1.95
6	AT	53.1	90	4	0.58	8.4	5.1	1.27
7	IT	47.5	57	2	0.81	9.0	3.8	1.41
8	NO	44.0	53	12	0.83	7.4	4.0	0.62
9	AU	34.1	33	0	1.03	7.3	3.5	1.35
10	FI	33.8	37	3	0.89	7.2	3.8	1.10

EUR benchmark issue volume by month

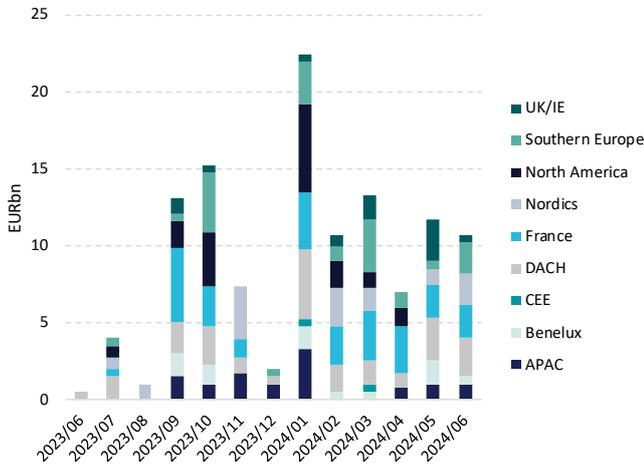


EUR benchmark issue volume by year

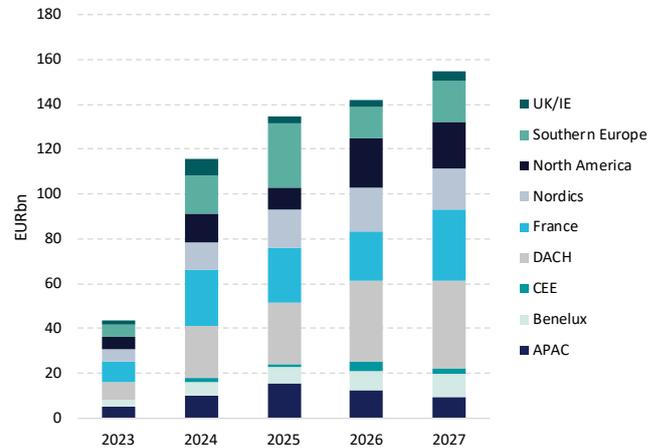


Source: market data, Bloomberg, NORD/LB Markets Strategy & Floor Research

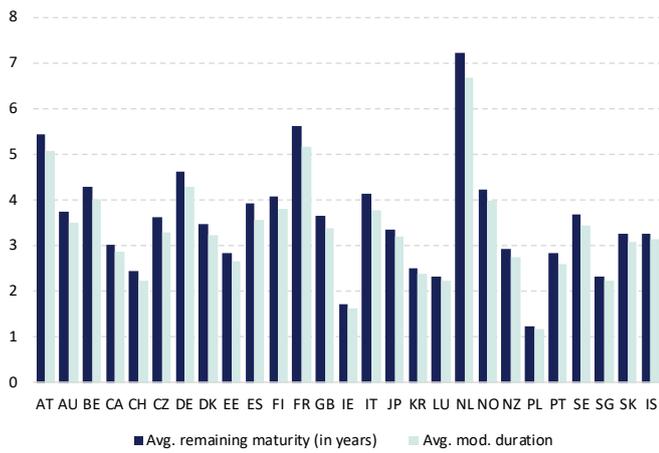
EUR benchmark maturities by month



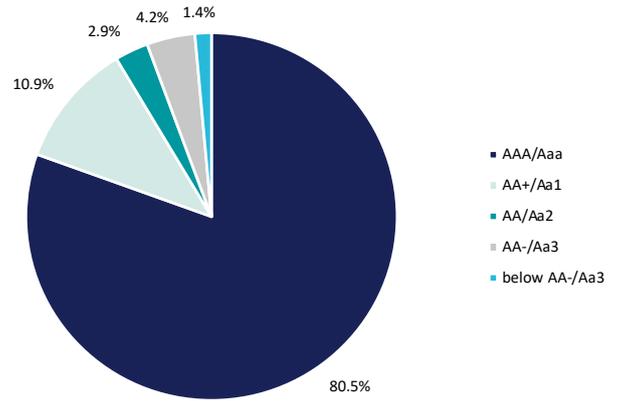
EUR benchmark maturities by year



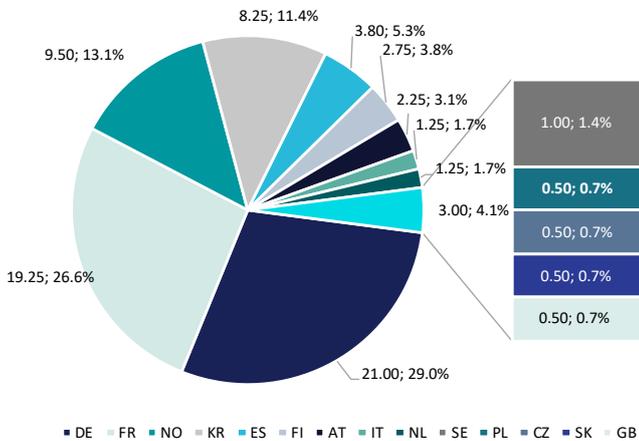
Modified duration and time to maturity by country



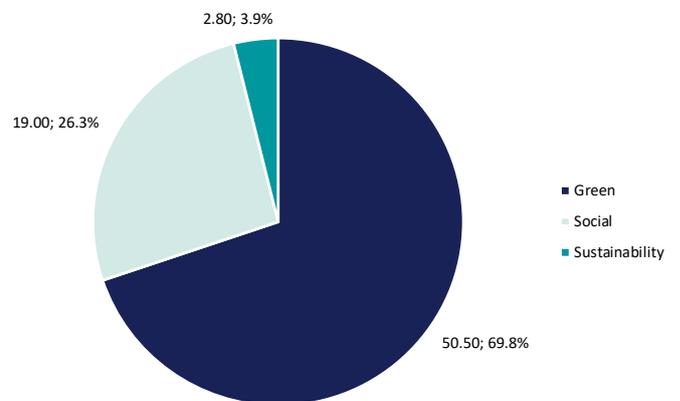
Rating distribution (volume weighted)



EUR benchmark volume (ESG) by country (in EURbn)

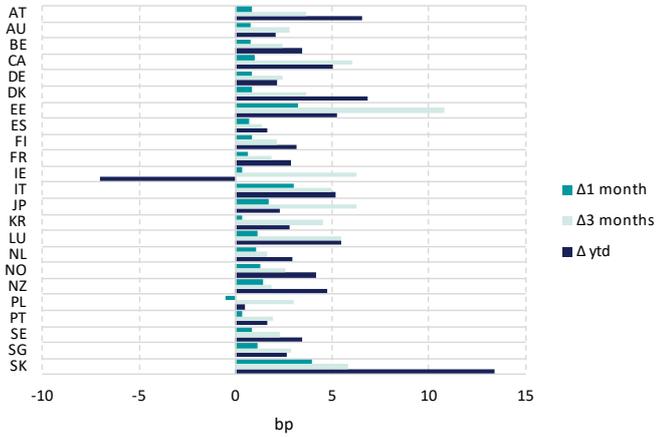


EUR benchmark volume (ESG) by type (in EURbn)

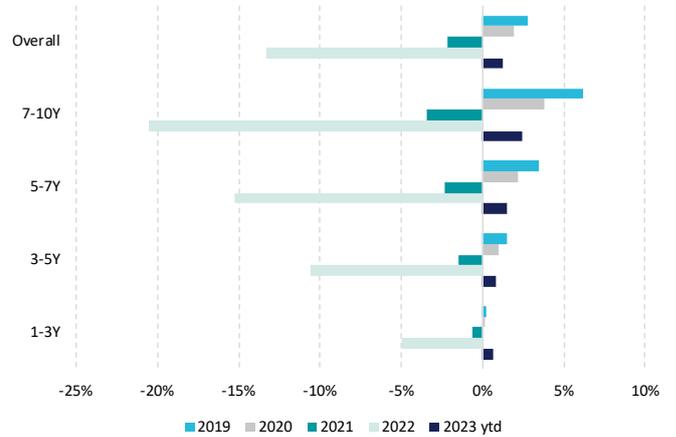


Source: market data, Bloomberg, NORD/LB Markets Strategy & Floor Research

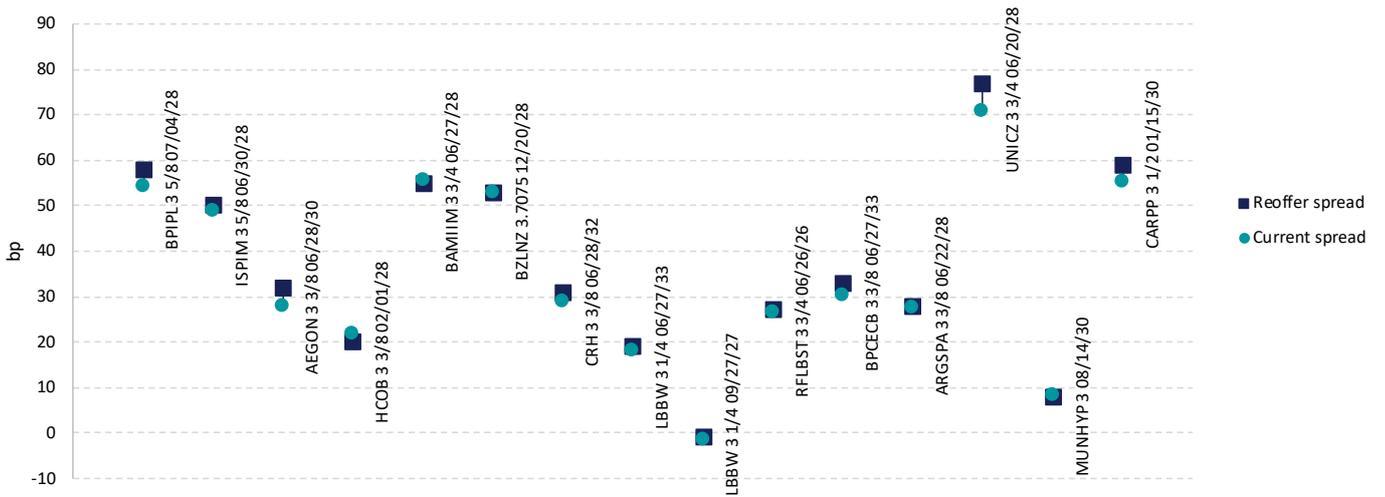
Spread development by country



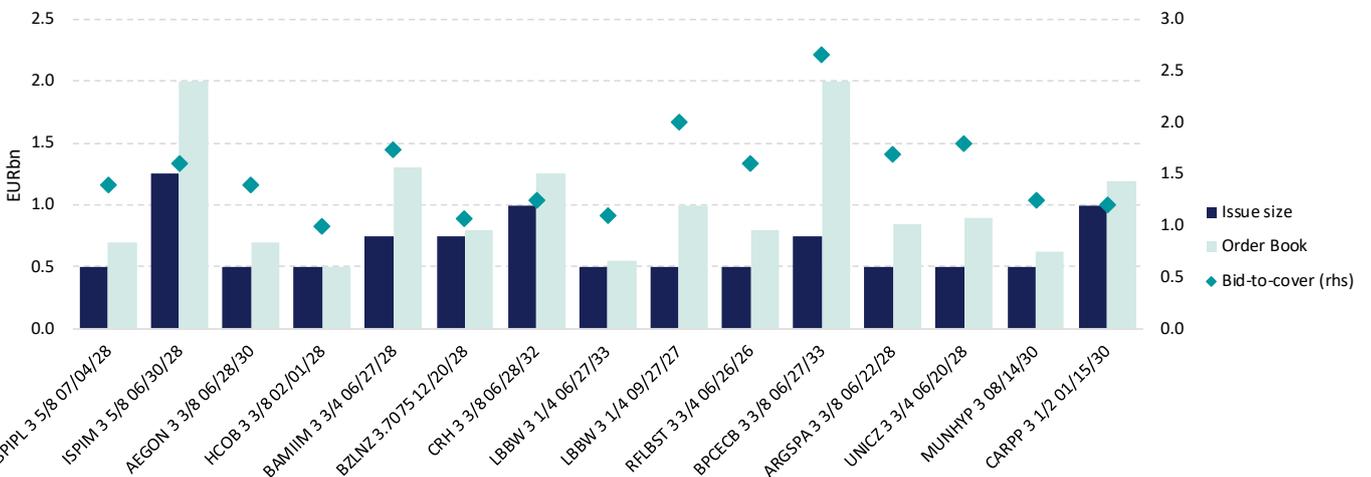
Covered bond performance (Total return)



Spread development (last 15 issues)

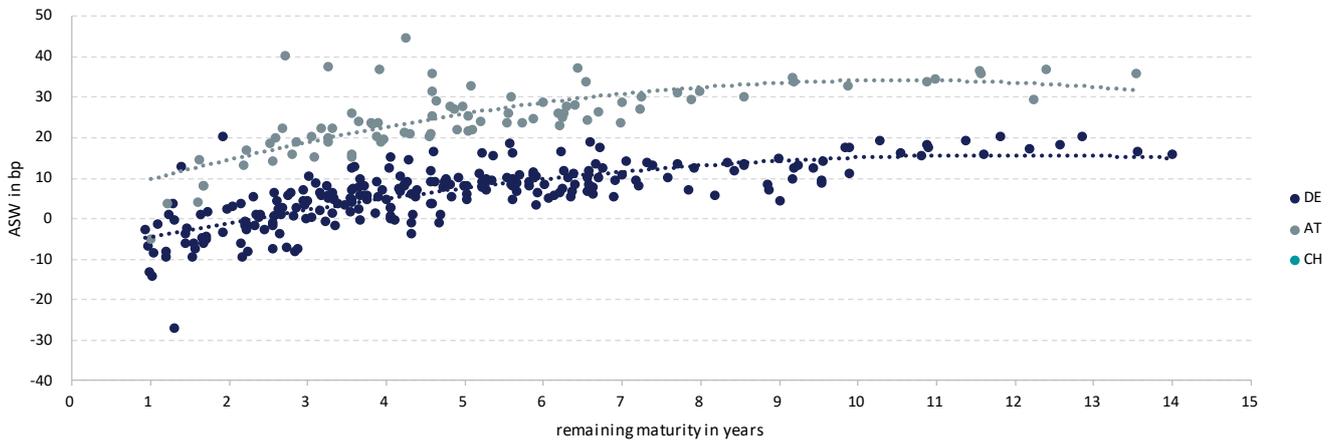


Order books (last 15 issues)

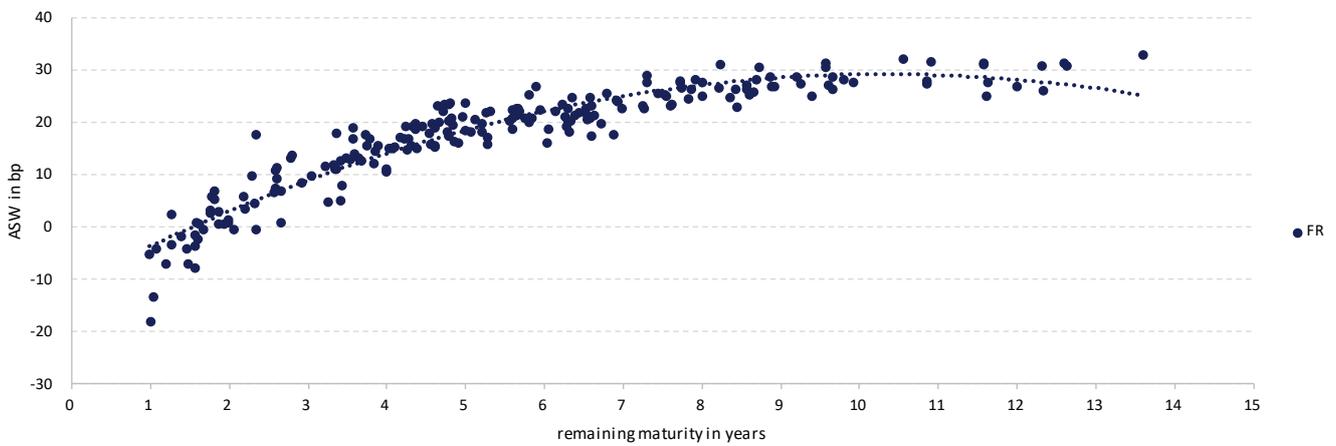


Spread overview¹

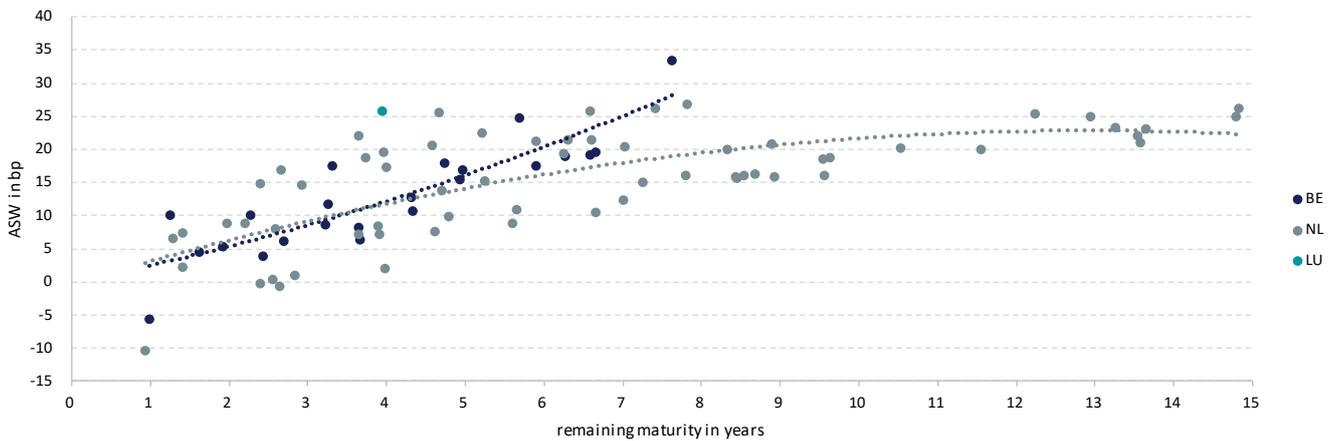
DACH 



France 

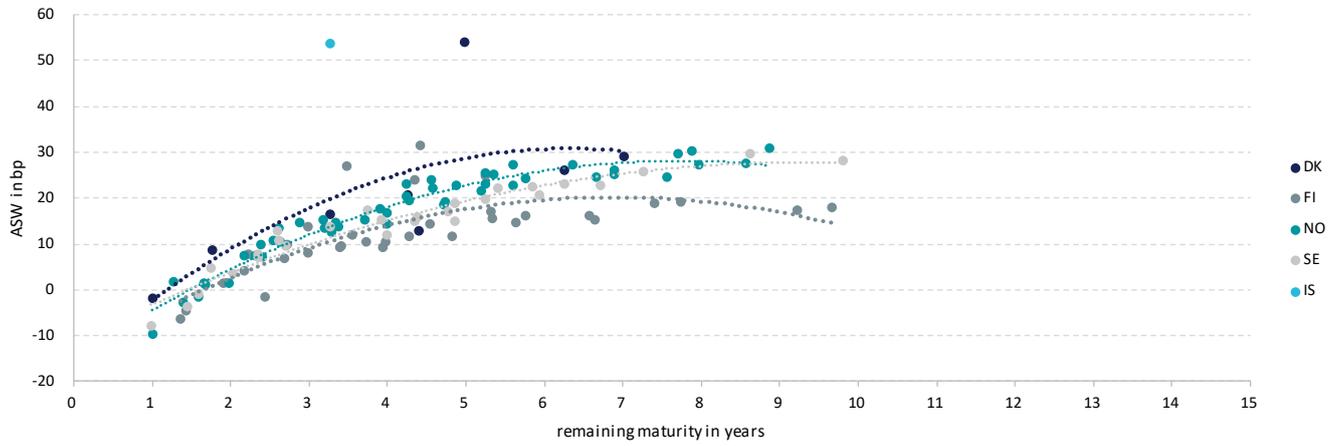


Benelux 

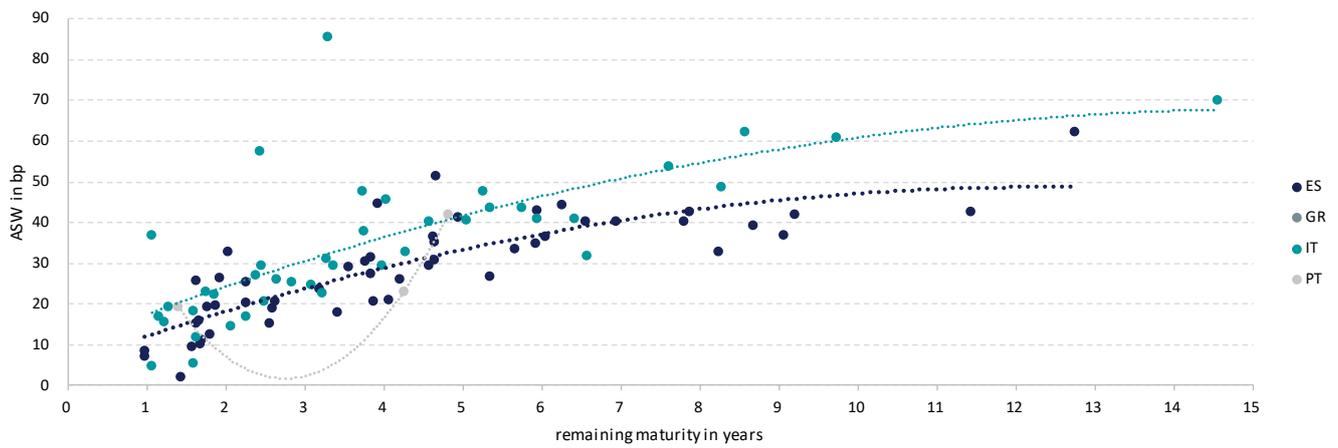


Source: market data, Bloomberg, NORD/LB Markets Strategy & Floor Research ¹Time to maturity 1 ≤ y ≤ 15

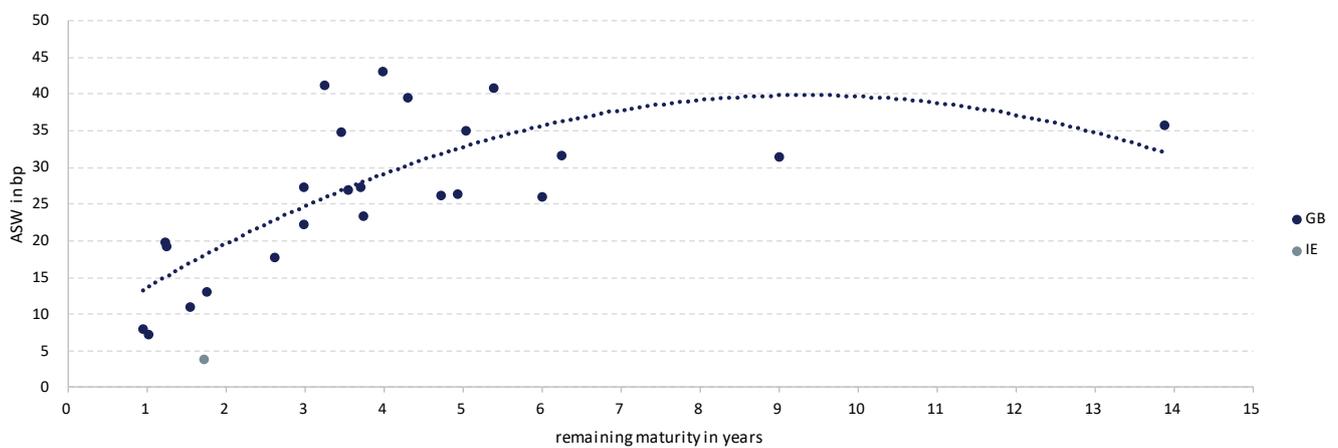
Nordics 🇩🇰 🇫🇮 🇳🇴 🇸🇪 🇮🇸



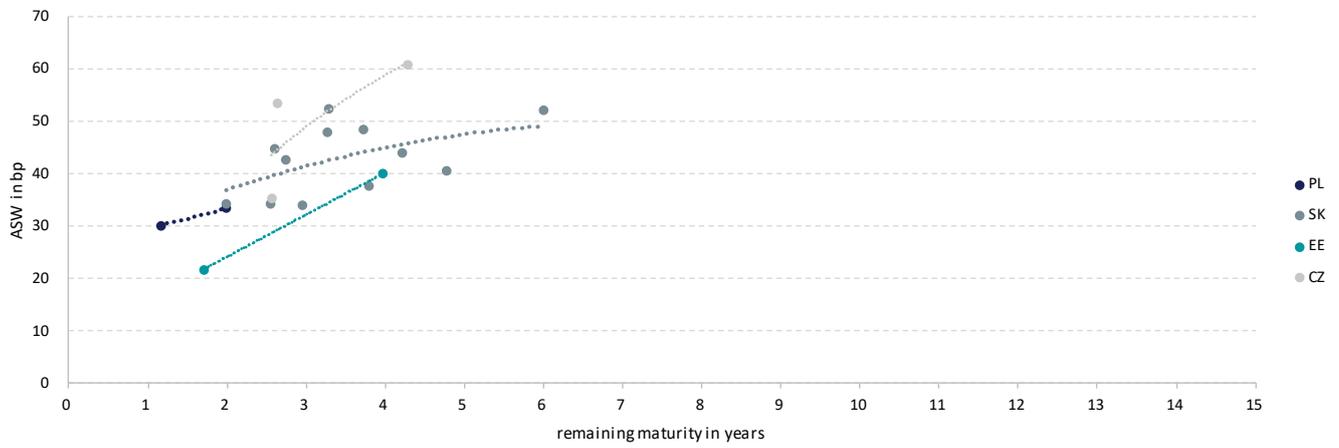
Southern Europe 🇪🇸 🇬🇷 🇮🇹 🇵🇹



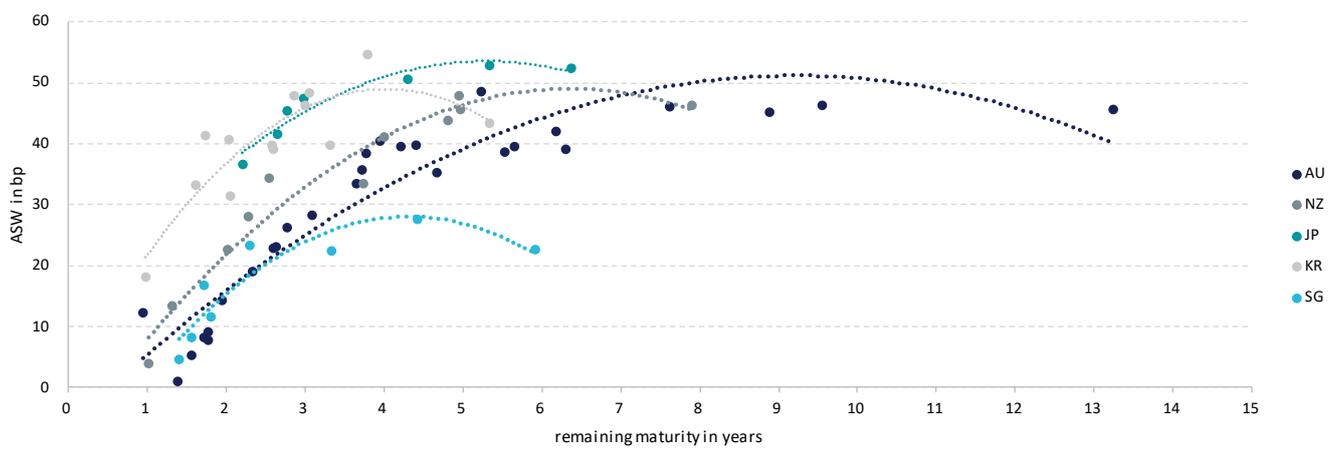
UK/IE 🇬🇧 🇮🇪



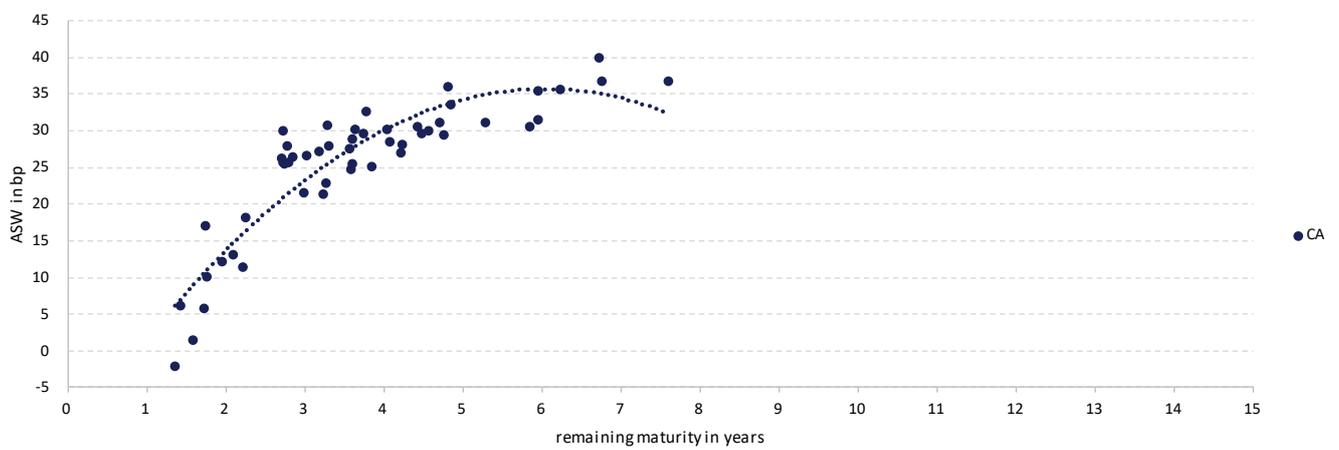
CEE 



APAC 



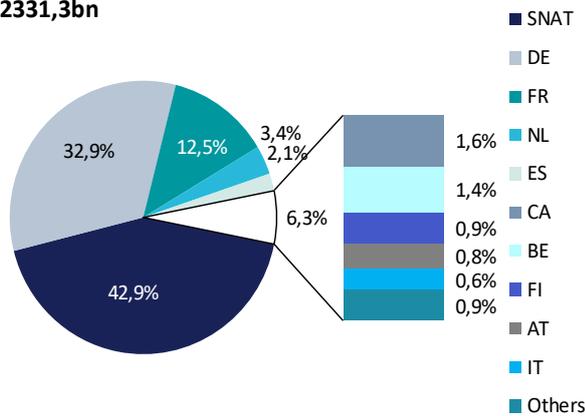
North America 



Charts & Figures SSA/Public Issuers

Outstanding volume (bmk)

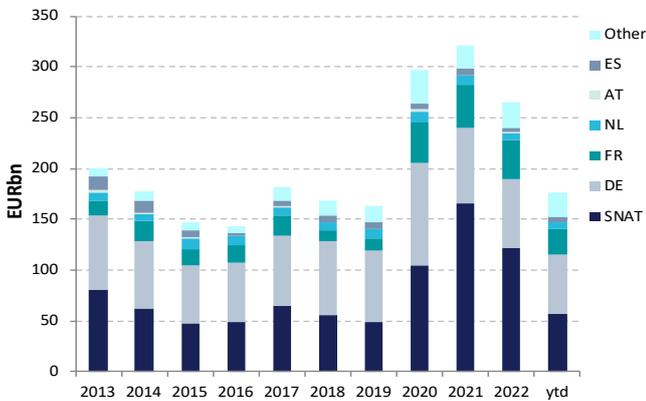
EUR 2331,3bn



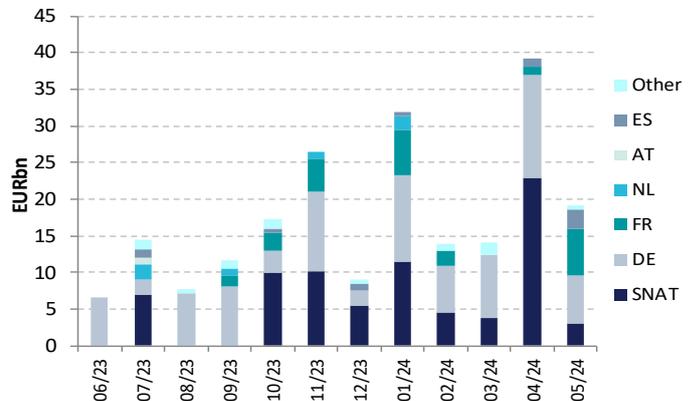
Top 10 countries (bmk)

Country	Vol. (€bn)	No. of bonds	ØVol. (€bn)	Vol. weight. ØMod. Dur.
SNAT	1.000,7	225	4,4	8,1
DE	766,4	566	1,4	6,3
FR	290,6	195	1,5	6,2
NL	79,5	69	1,2	6,6
ES	48,1	66	0,7	4,8
CA	37,2	26	1,4	4,4
BE	32,5	36	0,9	11,1
FI	22,0	24	0,9	5,1
AT	17,8	21	0,8	4,5
IT	15,0	19	0,8	4,8

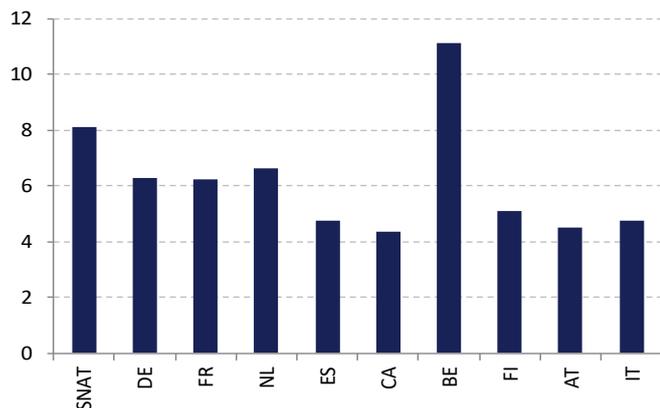
Issue volume by year (bmk)



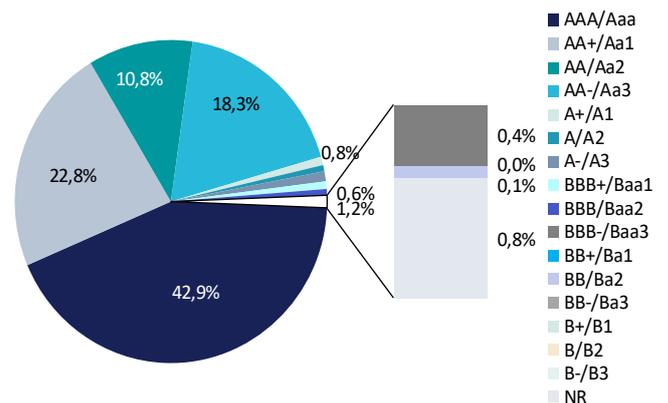
Maturities next 12 months (bmk)



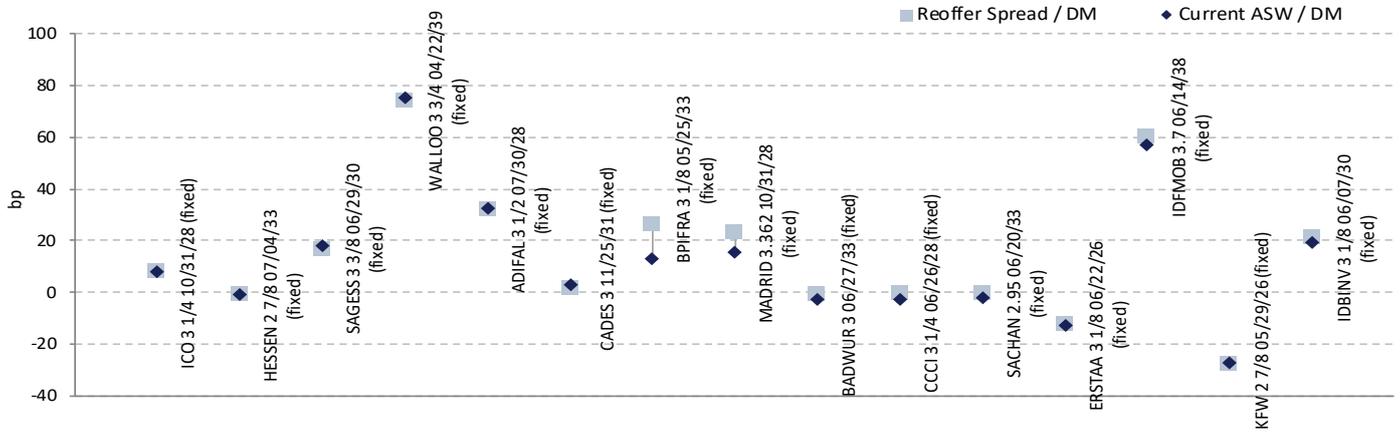
Avg. mod. duration by country (vol. weighted)



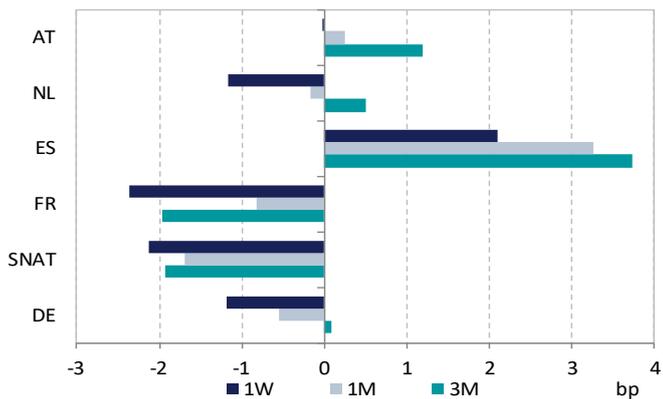
Rating distribution (vol. weighted)



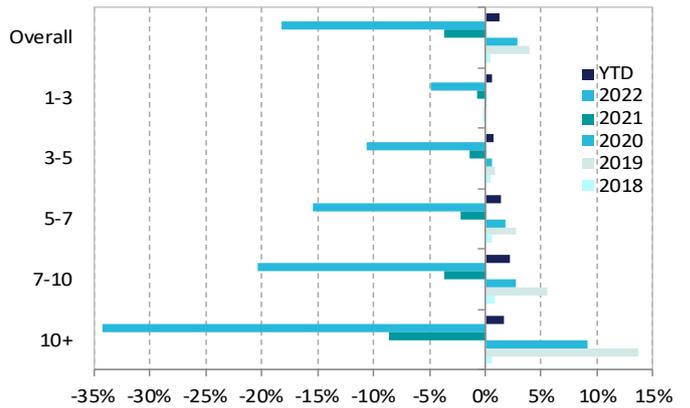
Spread development (last 15 issues)



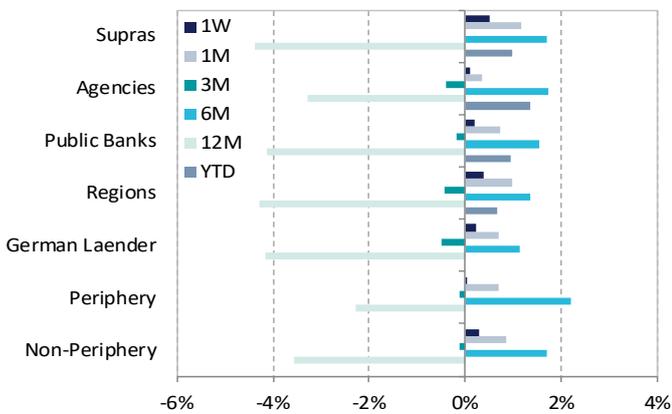
Spread development by country



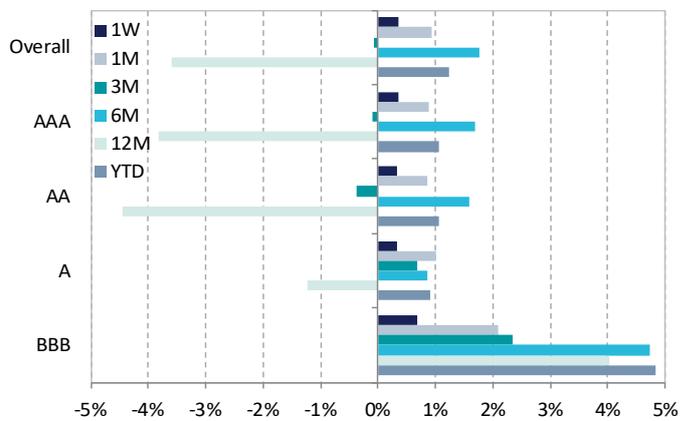
Performance (total return)



Performance (total return) by segments

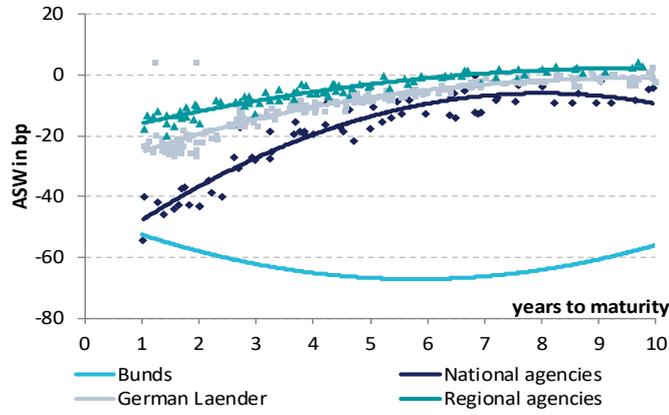


Performance (total return) by rating

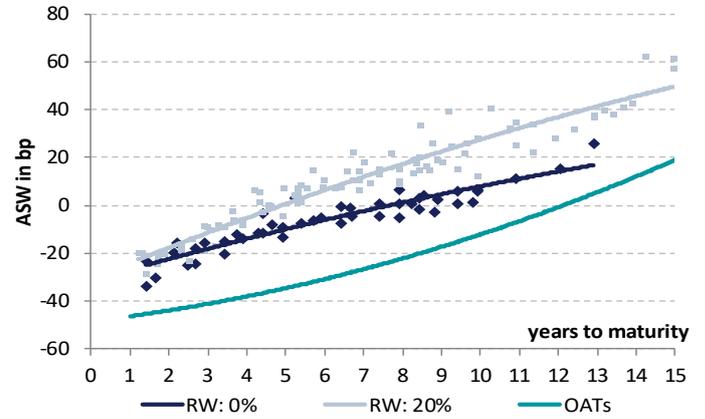


Source: Bloomberg, NORD/LB Markets Strategy & Floor Research

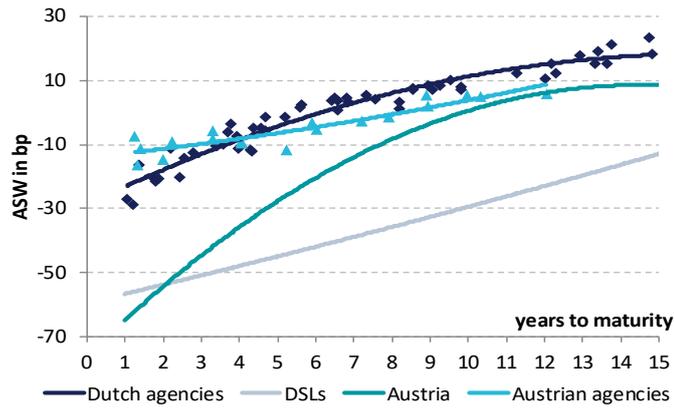
Germany (by segments)



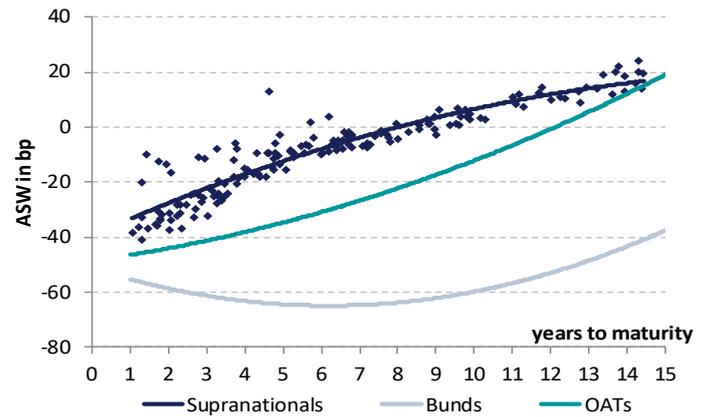
France (by risk weight)



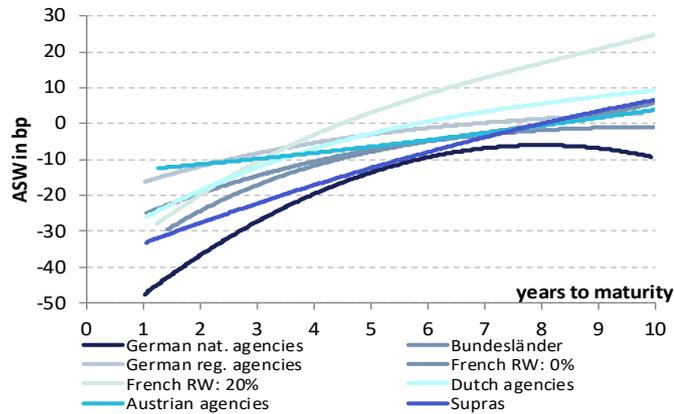
Netherlands & Austria



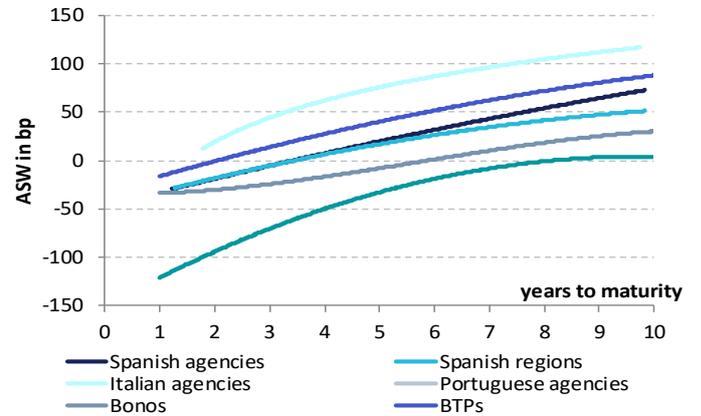
Supranationals



Core



Periphery



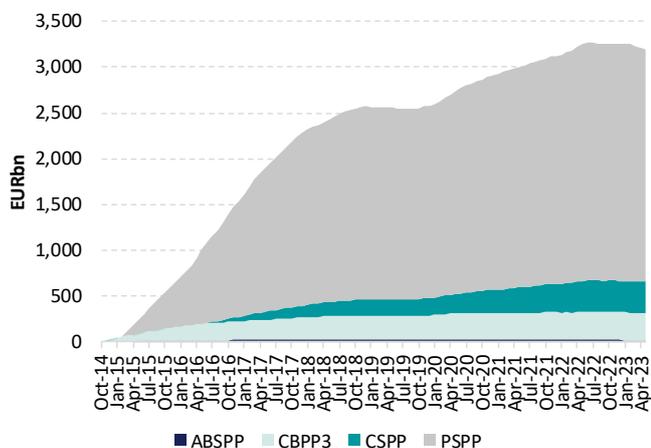
Source: Bloomberg, NORD/LB Markets Strategy & Floor Research

ECB tracker

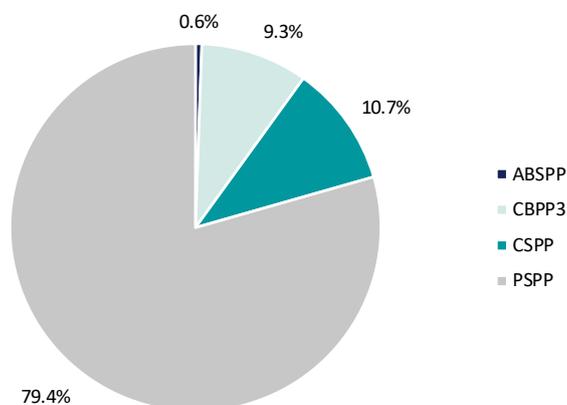
Asset Purchase Programme (APP)

	ABSPP	CBPP3	CSPP	PSPP	APP
Apr-23	18,462	298,627	341,574	2,557,798	3,216,461
May-23	17,821	299,134	341,010	2,543,603	3,201,568
Δ	-641	+507	-564	-14,195	-14,893

Portfolio development

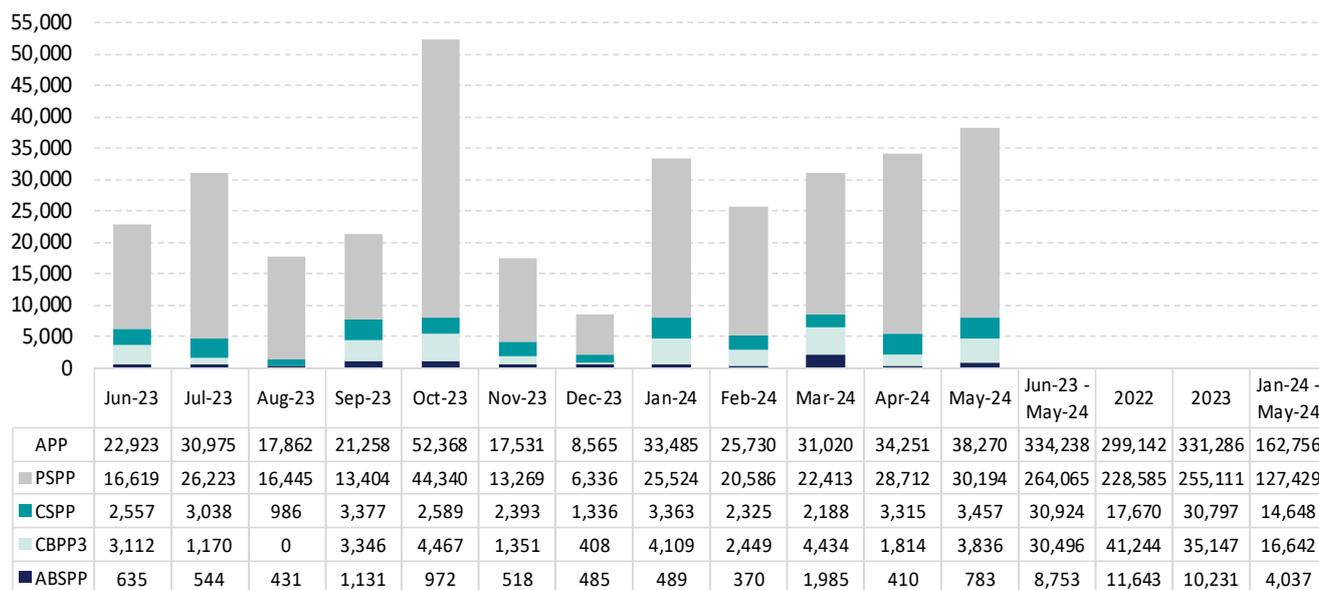


Portfolio structure



Source: ECB, NORD/LB Markets Strategy & Floor Research

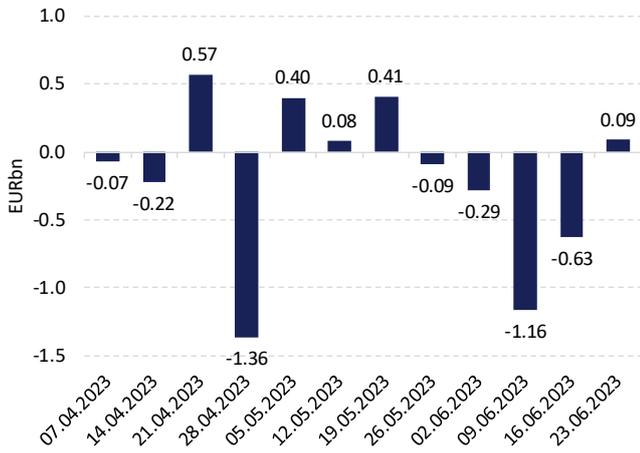
Expected monthly redemptions (in EURm)



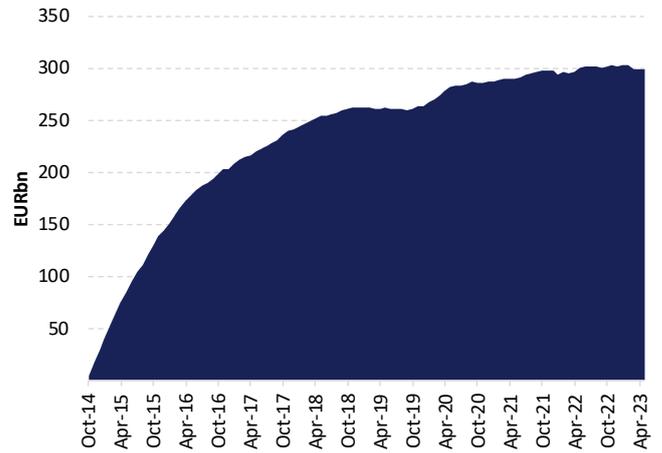
Source: ECB, Bloomberg, NORD/LB Markets Strategy & Floor Research

Covered Bond Purchase Programme 3 (CBPP3)

Weekly purchases



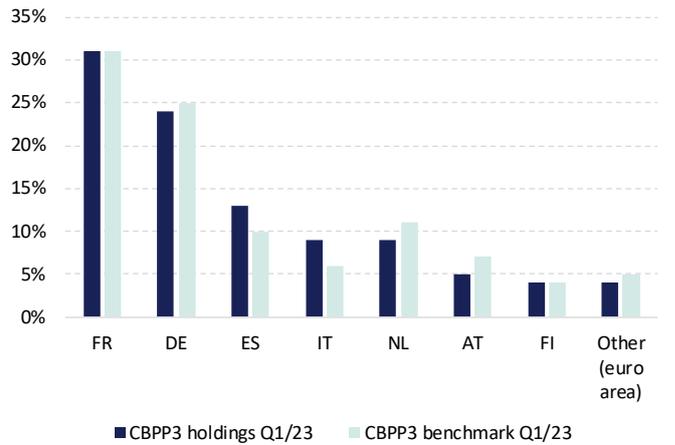
Development of CBPP3 volume



Change of primary and secondary market holdings

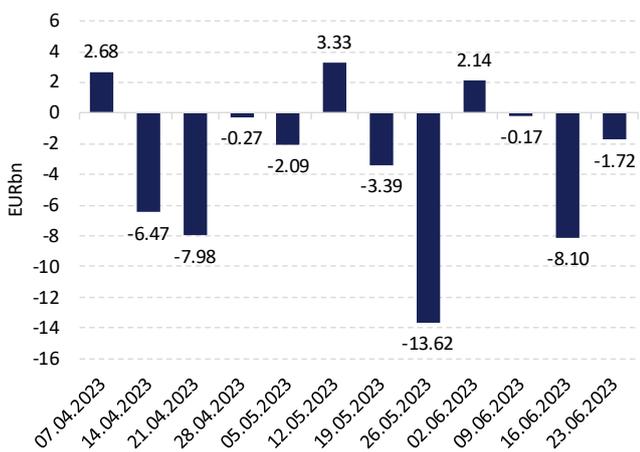


Distribution of CBPP3 by country of risk

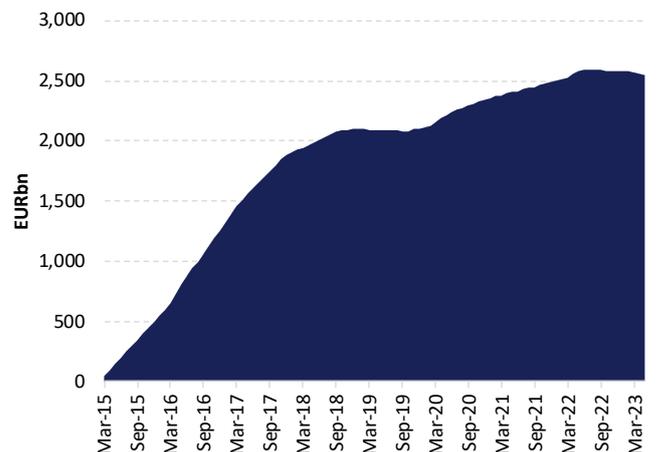


Public Sector Purchase Programme (PSPP)

Weekly purchases

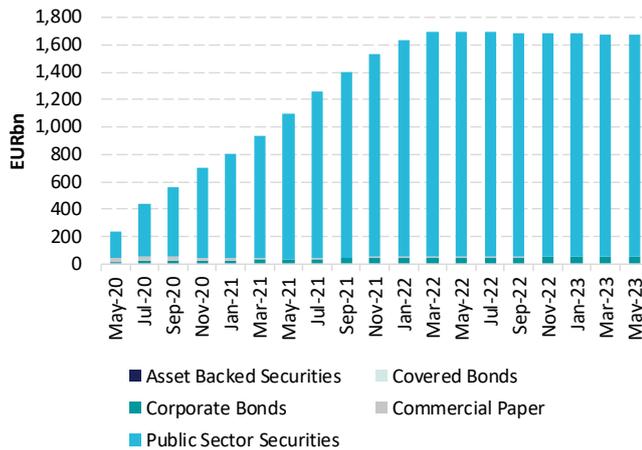


Development of PSPP volume

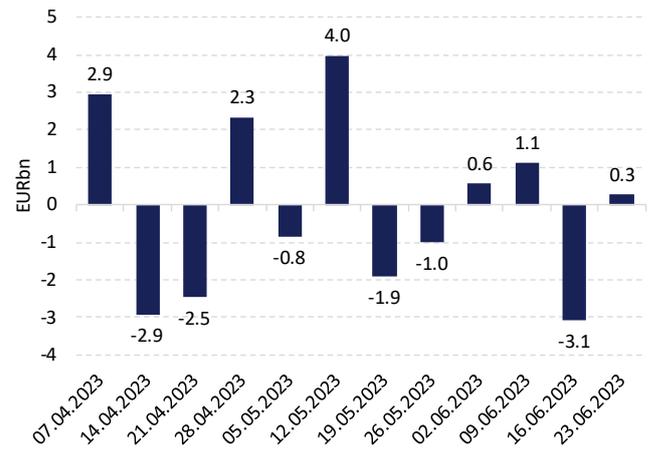


Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme (PEPP)

Portfolio development



Weekly purchases



Breakdown of public sector securities under the PEPP

Jurisdiction	Holdings (in EURm)	Δ Holdings previous period	Adj. distribution key ¹	PEPP share	Deviations from the adj. distribution key ²	Current WAM ³ (in years)	WAM of eligible universe ⁴ (in years)
AT	44,688	1,070	2.6%	2.7%	0.1%	7.3	7.8
BE	57,078	630	3.3%	3.4%	0.2%	6.1	9.4
CY	2,543	0	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	8.0	8.5
DE	396,449	627	23.7%	23.9%	0.1%	6.8	7.0
EE	256	0	0.3%	0.0%	-0.2%	7.0	7.0
ES	194,312	2,502	10.7%	11.7%	1.0%	7.3	7.4
FI	26,195	-64	1.7%	1.6%	-0.1%	7.6	7.7
FR	294,956	-4,954	18.4%	17.8%	-0.6%	7.6	7.8
GR	38,150	-34	2.2%	2.3%	0.1%	8.4	9.2
IE	25,280	-893	1.5%	1.5%	0.0%	9.1	9.7
IT	292,896	2,069	15.3%	17.6%	2.3%	7.1	6.9
LT	3,237	49	0.5%	0.2%	-0.3%	9.3	8.7
LU	1,955	19	0.3%	0.1%	-0.2%	5.7	8.6
LV	1,801	44	0.4%	0.1%	-0.2%	8.3	7.6
MT	607	0	0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%	10.1	8.5
NL	81,957	-1,771	5.3%	4.9%	-0.3%	7.7	9.1
PT	33,861	54	2.1%	2.0%	-0.1%	7.0	7.5
SI	6,406	-283	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%	8.7	9.1
SK	7,918	-192	1.0%	0.5%	-0.6%	8.2	8.4
SNAT	150,090	1,000	10.0%	9.0%	-1.0%	10.1	9.0
Total / Avg.	1,660,635	-127	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	7.5	7.7

¹ Based on the ECB capital key, adjusted to include supras ² Based on the adjusted distribution key

³ Current WAM of public sector securities holdings under the PEPP ⁴ WAM of eligible universe of public sector securities holdings under the PEPP

Source: ECB, Bloomberg, NORD/LB Markets Strategy & Floor Research

Appendix

Overview of latest Covered Bond & SSA View editions

Publication	Topics
21/2023 ♦ 21 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESG covered bonds: a look at the supply side Increasing exposure of e-supras to Ukraine
20/2023 ♦ 14 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moody's covered bond universe – an overview Beyond Bundeslaender: Spanish regions
19/2023 ♦ 07 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECB Preview: ECB's 25th anniversary and is still going strong Focus on legal requirements for covered bonds
18/2023 ♦ 24 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repayment structures on the covered bond market: an update Stability Council convenes for 27th meeting
17/2023 ♦ 17 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESG update 2023 in the spotlight Development of the German property market Transparency requirements §28 PfandBG Q1/2023
16/2023 ♦ 10 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ECB and the covered bond market: influences old and new Update: Joint Laender (Ticker: LANDER)
15/2023 ♦ 26 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECB preview: caught in two minds? EBA Risk Dashboard paints solid picture of Q4 2022
14/2023 ♦ 19 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lending in the Eurozone and Germany The French agency market – an overview
13/2023 ♦ 05 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply forecast requires no great adjustment Current risk weight of supranationals & agencies
12/2023 ♦ 29 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Moody's covered bond universe – an overview NGEU: Green Bond Dashboard
11/2023 ♦ 22 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covered Bonds: Under the spell of the banking crisis and ECB hawks? ESG: EUR-benchmarks 2023 in the SSA segment (ytd)
10/2023 ♦ 15 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transparency requirements §28 PfandBG Q4/2022 Credit authorisations of the German Laender for 2023
09/2023 ♦ 08 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECB preview: Soft landing lets ECB play hard ball with key rates Where does the Pfandbrief stand within the covered bond universe?
08/2023 ♦ 01 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The covered bond market and the ECB: a gradual farewell? Beyond Bundeslaender: Focus on Greater Paris (IDF and VDP)
07/2023 ♦ 22 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Italian market for EUR benchmark covered bonds European supranationals – an overview
06/2023 ♦ 15 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maturity premiums on covered bonds Development of the German property market Spotlight on the EU: a mega issuer spawned by the crisis

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[SSA/Public Issuer Research](#)

Bloomberg:
[RESP NRDR <GO>](#)

Appendix Publication overview

Covered Bonds:

[Issuer Guide Covered Bonds 2022](#)

[Covered Bond Laws](#)

[Covered Bond Directive: Impact on risk weights and LCR levels](#)

[Risk weights and LCR levels of covered bonds](#) (updated semi-annually)

[Transparency requirements §28 PfandBG Q1/2023](#) (quarterly update)

[Covered bonds as eligible collateral for central banks](#)

SSA/Public Issuers:

[Issuer Guide – German Laender 2022](#)

[Issuer Guide – German Agencies 2022](#)

[Issuer Guide – Dutch Agencies 2022](#)

[Issuer Guide – European Supranationals 2023](#)

[Issuer Guide – French Agencies 2023](#)

[Beyond Bundeslaender: Belgium](#)

[Beyond Bundeslaender: Greater Paris \(IDF/VDP\)](#)

[Beyond Bundeslaender: Spanish regions](#)

Fixed Income Specials:

[ESG-Update 2023](#)

[ECB rates: We can fly so high that we can touch the sky](#)

[ECB interest rate decision: All new in May... Or: The force of past rate hikes!](#)

[ECB interest rate decision: Backbone in times of turmoil?!](#)

Appendix

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