

Candriam Sustainable Investment Conference.

Amsterdam – 30 September 2025

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Speaker

**Erik Rossen,
CFA.**

Client Portfolio Manager – Fixed Income



Agenda

- 1. Complacency in the face of uncertainty.**
- 2. Sustainable Fixed Income Investment.**
- 3. Conclusion.**
- 4. Appendix.**





1 Complacency in the face of uncertainty.



The new world order.



GEOPOLITICAL RISK

- › Rise of Populism
- › America First policy
- › Increased conflicts (Russia in Ukraine, Taiwan, Middle East etc.)



GLOBAL TRADE WAR

- › Global trade war
- › Local and inward focus (IRA, Made in China etc)
- › Deglobalisation



CLIMATE RISK

- › Volatile commodity markets
- › Food and water scarcity
- › Climate Change



DEBT SUSTAINABILITY

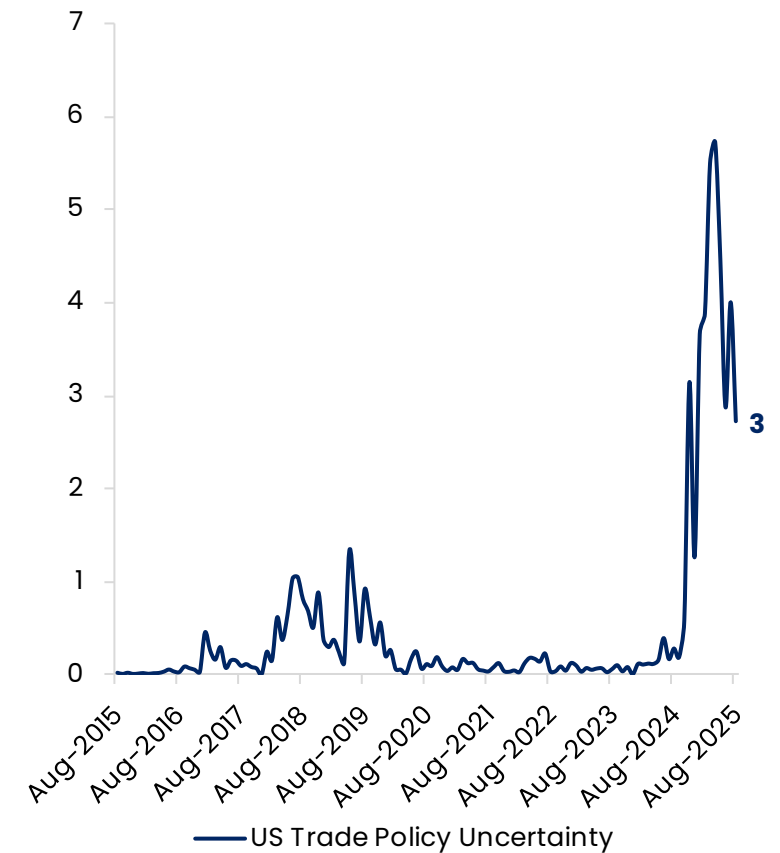
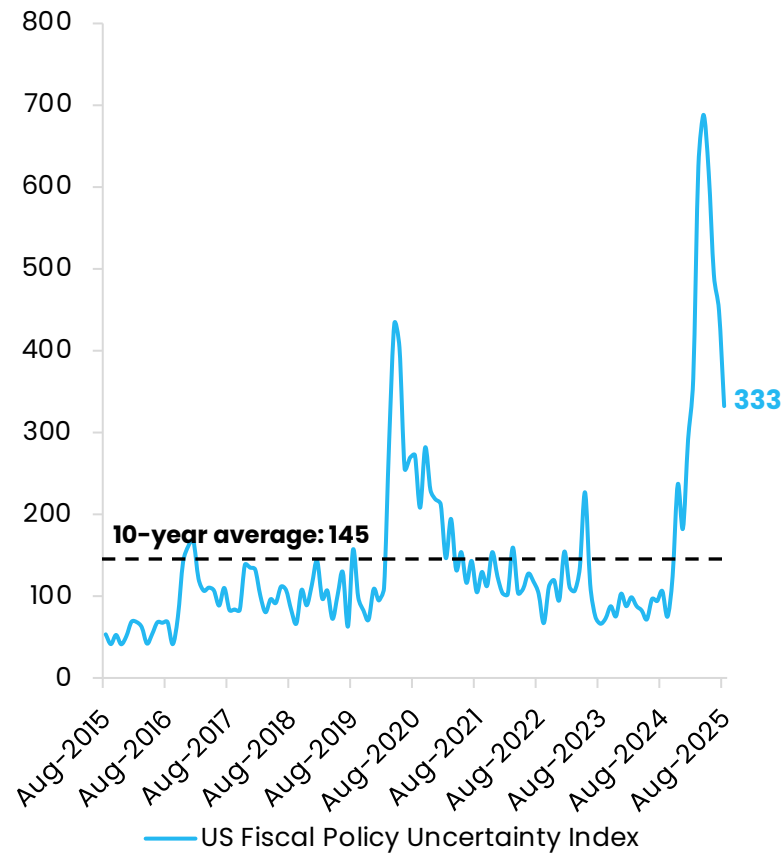
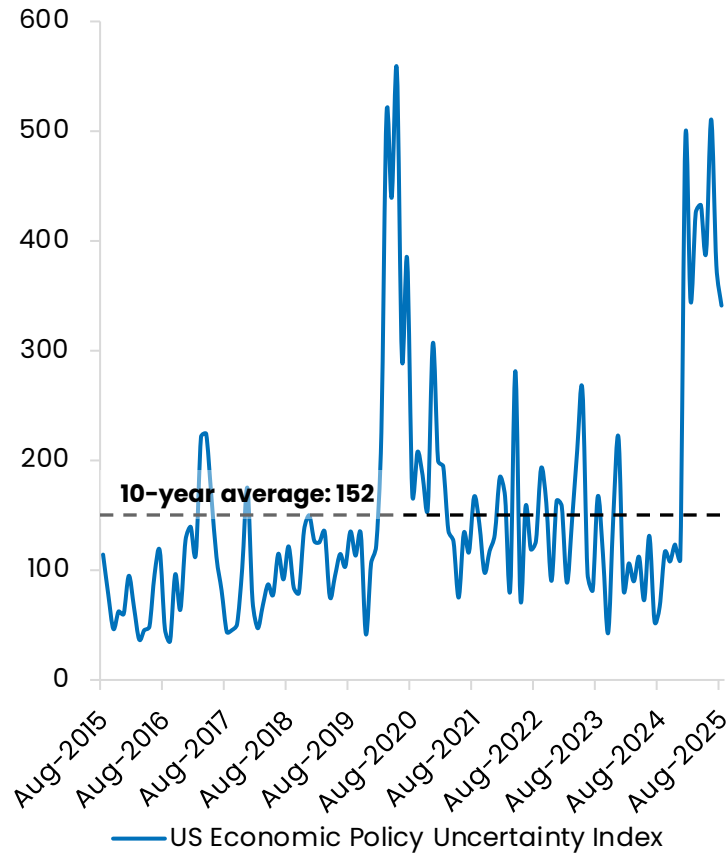
- › Unsustainable deficits
- › High level of debt and higher costs of debt
- › Dollar dominance challenged
- › Fed Independence tested

Source: Candriam – Indicative data may change over time.



Policy uncertainty is high...

Economic, Fiscal and Trade policy all affected



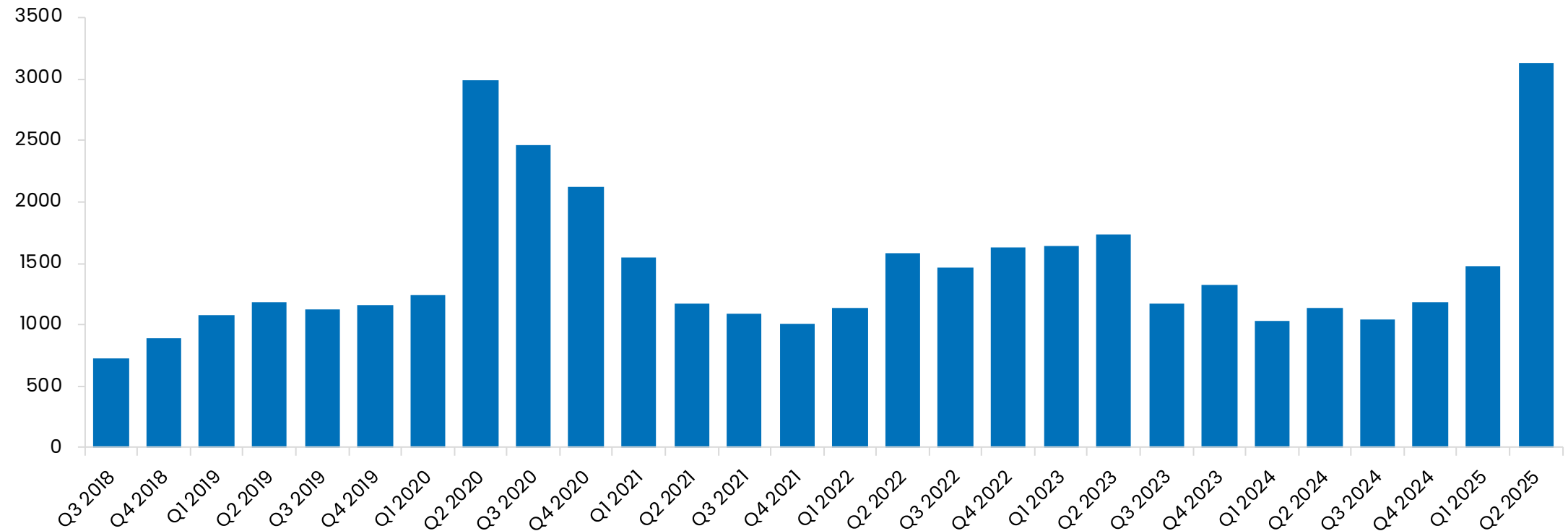
Source: Candriam, Bloomberg®, Baker, Bloom & Davis, as of 31/08/2025.



...and firms are feeling it.

Corporate executives are speaking about uncertainty at levels not seen since Covid

Mentions of "Uncertain, Uncertainty, Uncertainties" in S&P 500 earnings calls

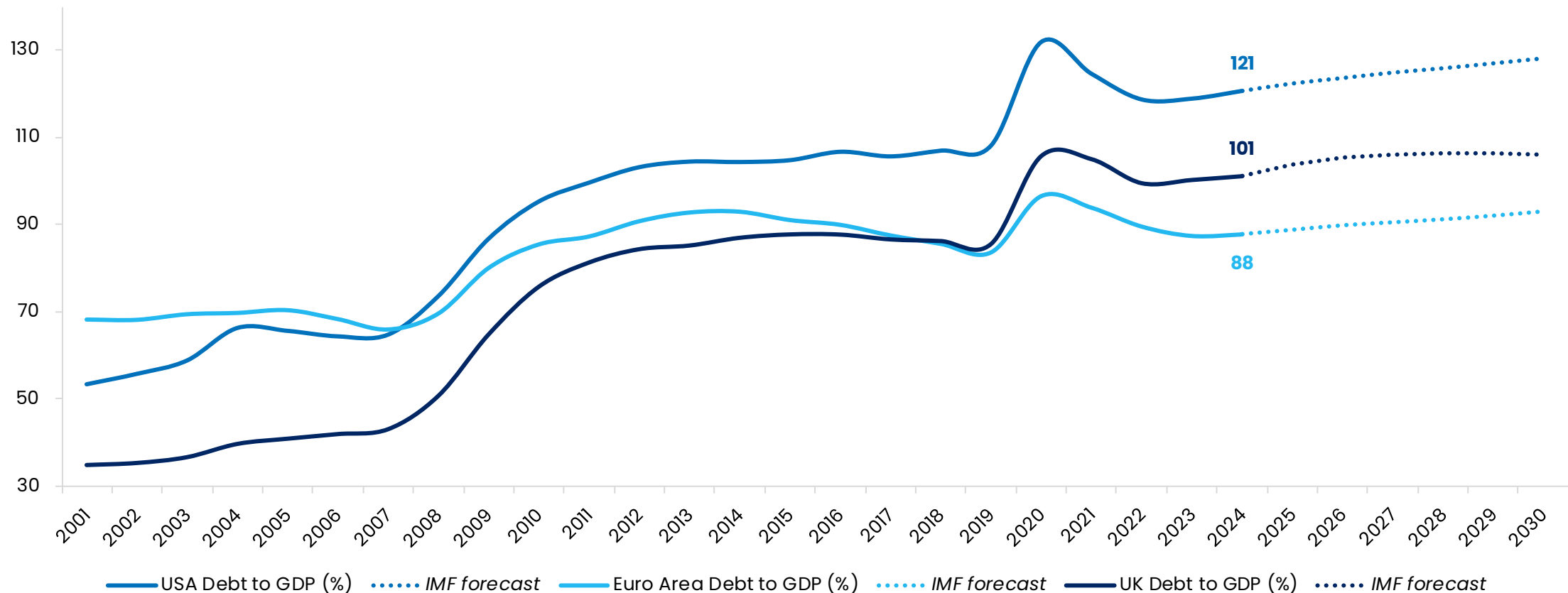


Source: Candriam, Bloomberg®, as of 30/06/2025



Debt levels are elevated...

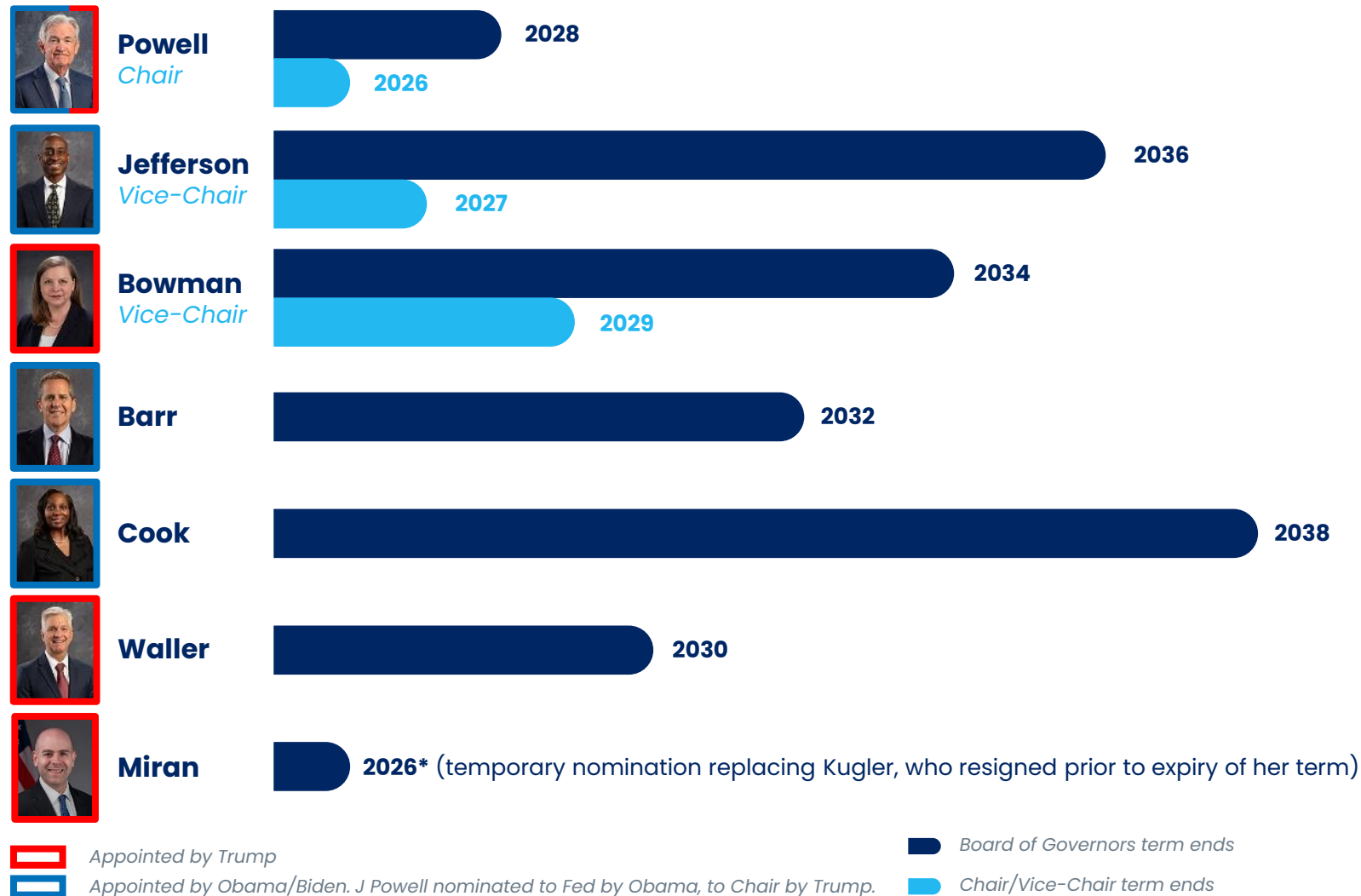
Developed economies national accounts are under pressure



Source: Candriam, Bloomberg®, IMF, as of 31/07/2025



A “power grab” at the Federal Reserve?

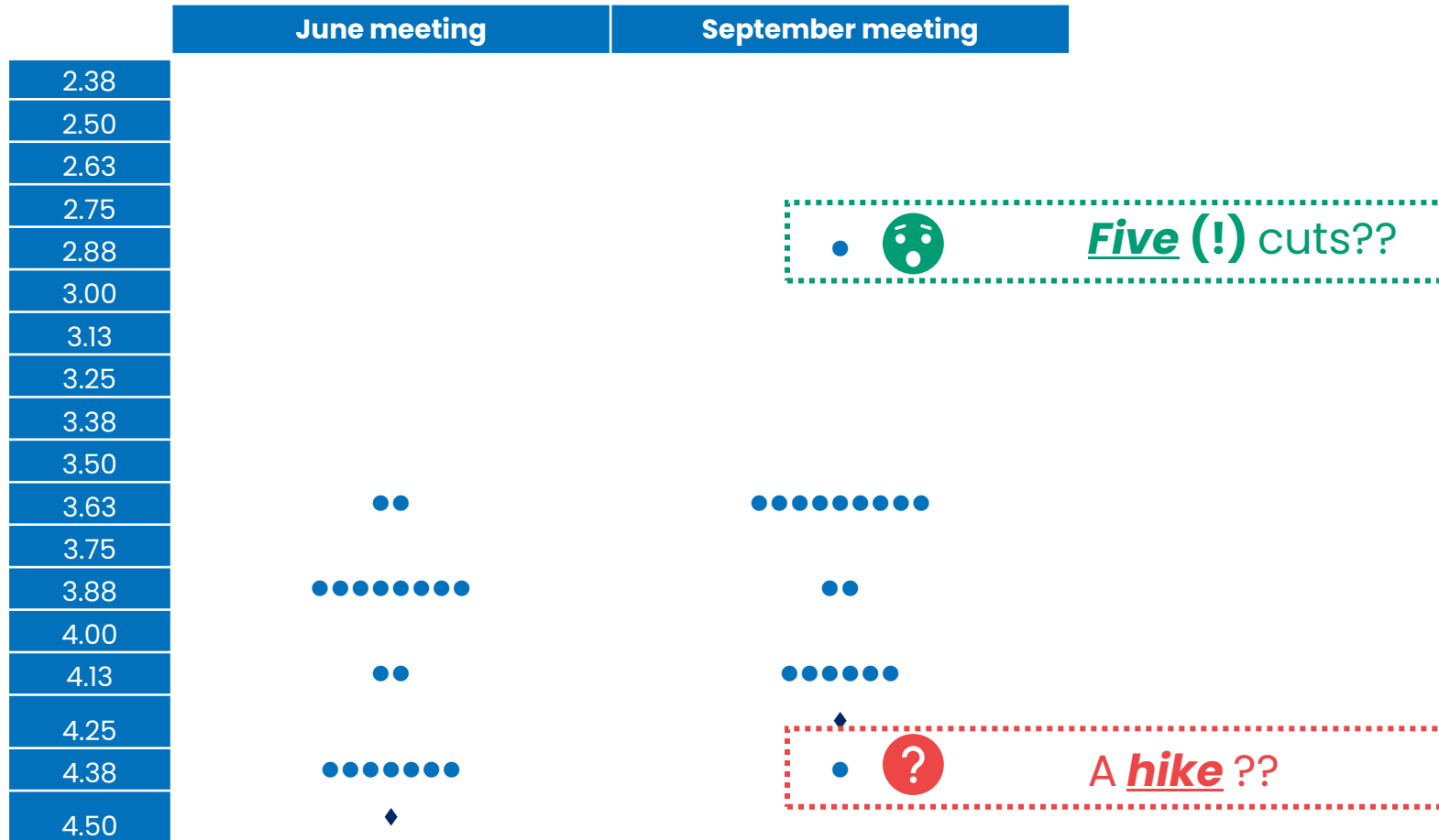


Source: Candriam, as of August 2025



Are the DOTS still useful?

In a politicised environment, Fed members may be using the DOTS to telegraph their opinions



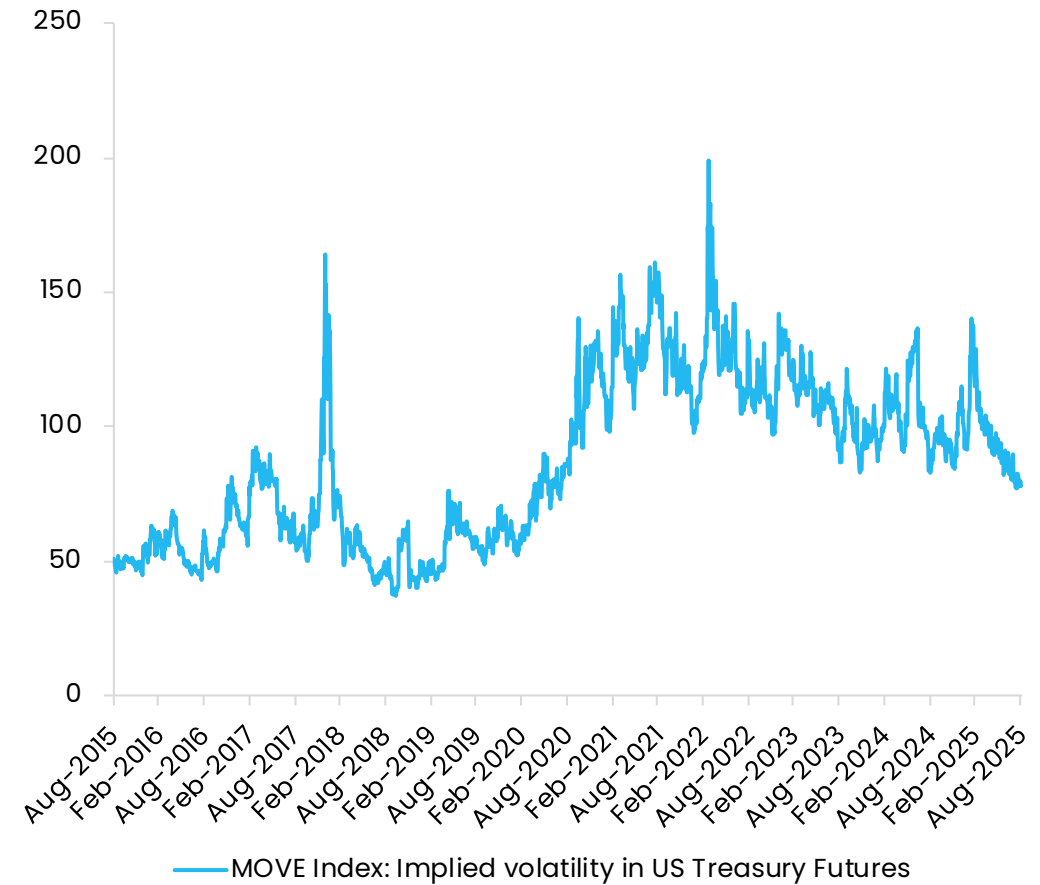
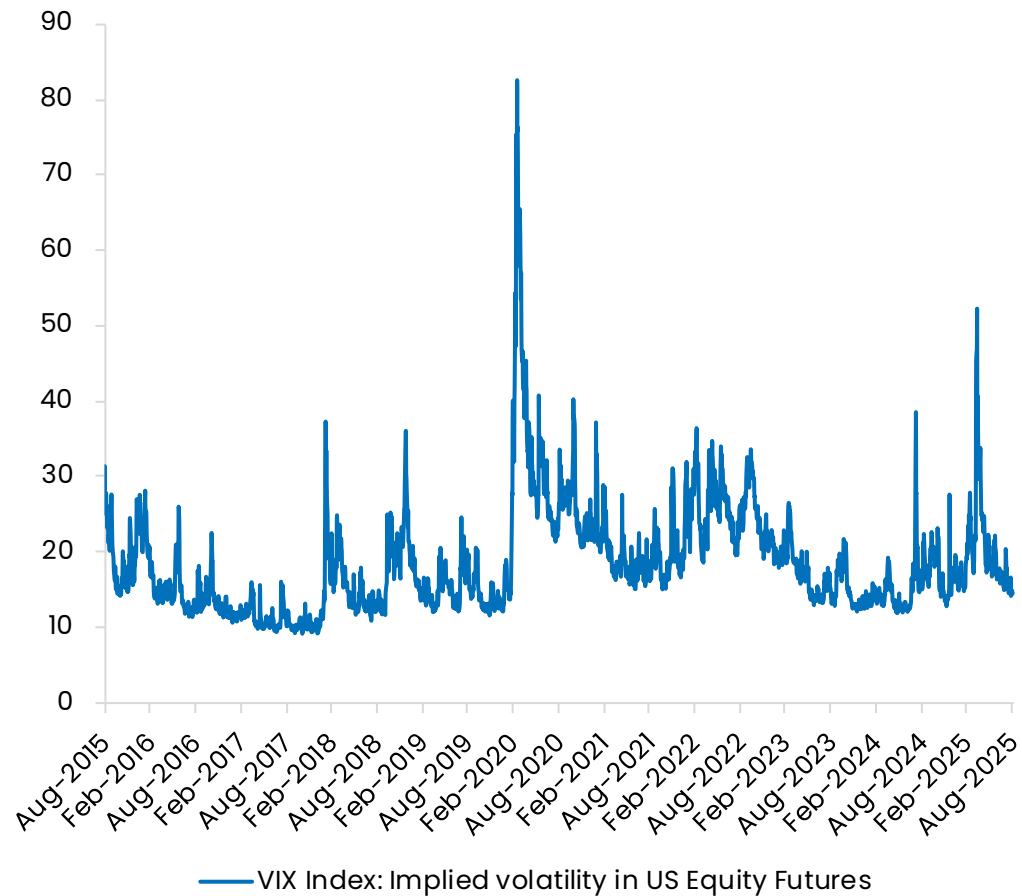
Source: Candriam.

◆ Fed Funds Rate
● Dots Projections



...while volatility expectations are still low.

VIX & MOVE Indices



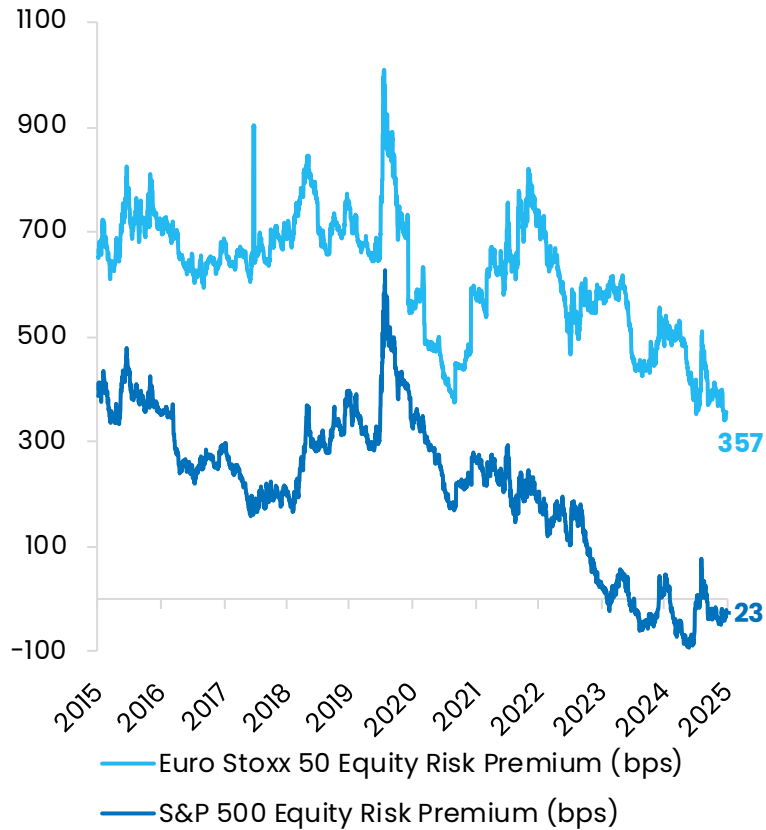
Source: Candriam, Bloomberg®, ICE BofA, as of 29/08/2025



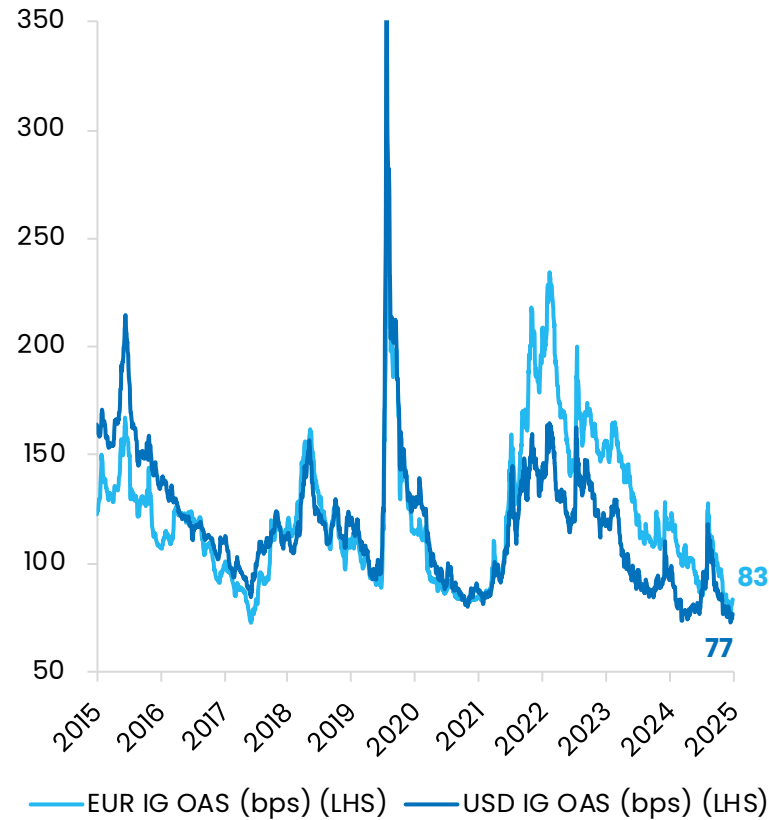
Valuations are stretched.

Across asset classes: nothing is cheap

Equities*



Credit



EMD



Source: Candriam, Bloomberg®, JP Morgan, as of 29/08/2025. *Equity Risk Premium calculated as: Earnings Yield – 7Y Govt Bond Yield (US and Germany, respectively).

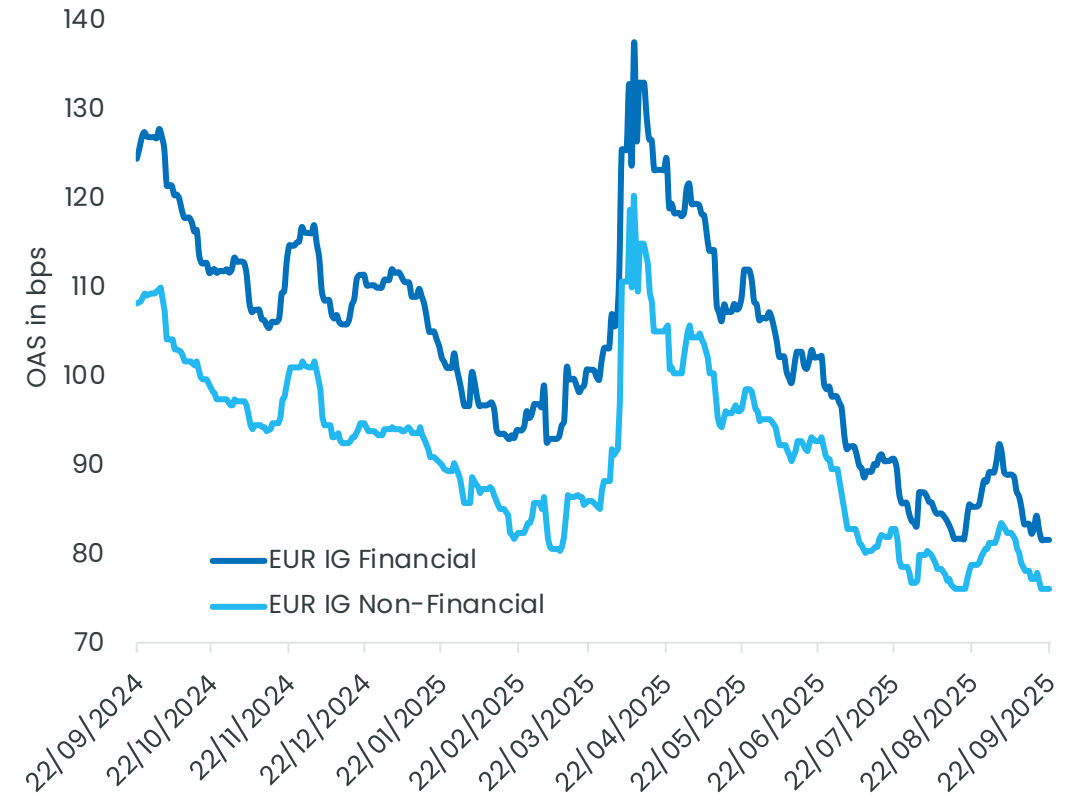


Spreads have been resilient...

Investment Grade Spreads



Investment Grade spreads: Financials vs. Non-Financials

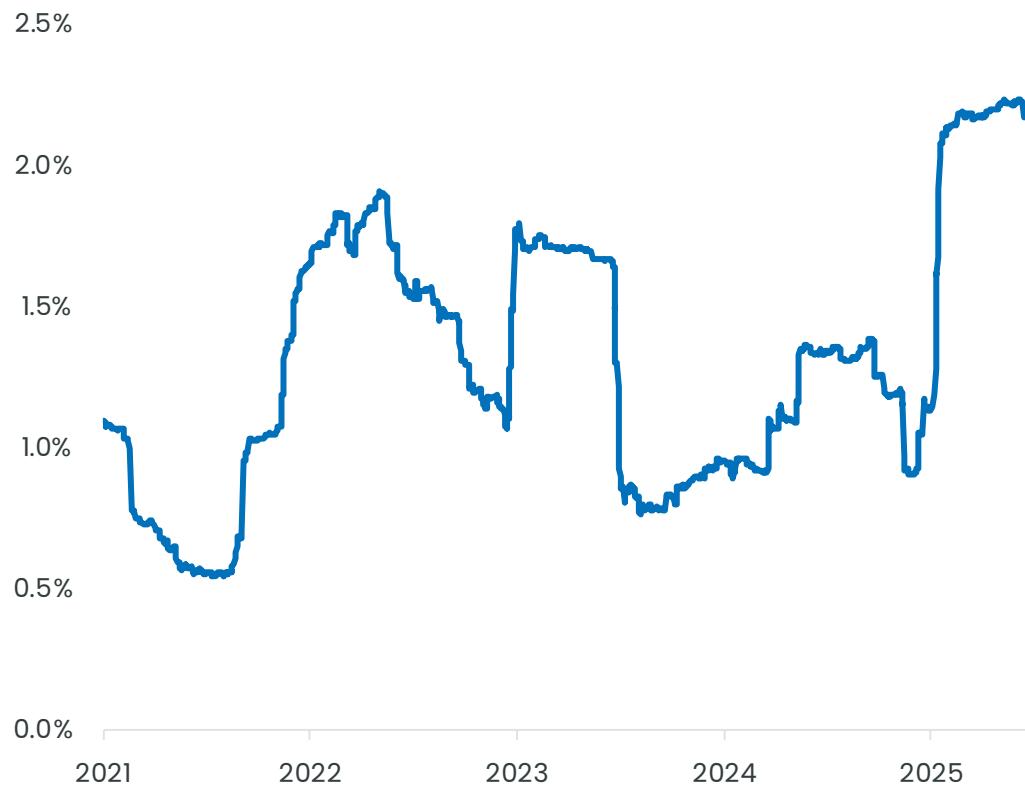


Source: Candriam, Bloomberg®, as of 22/09/2025

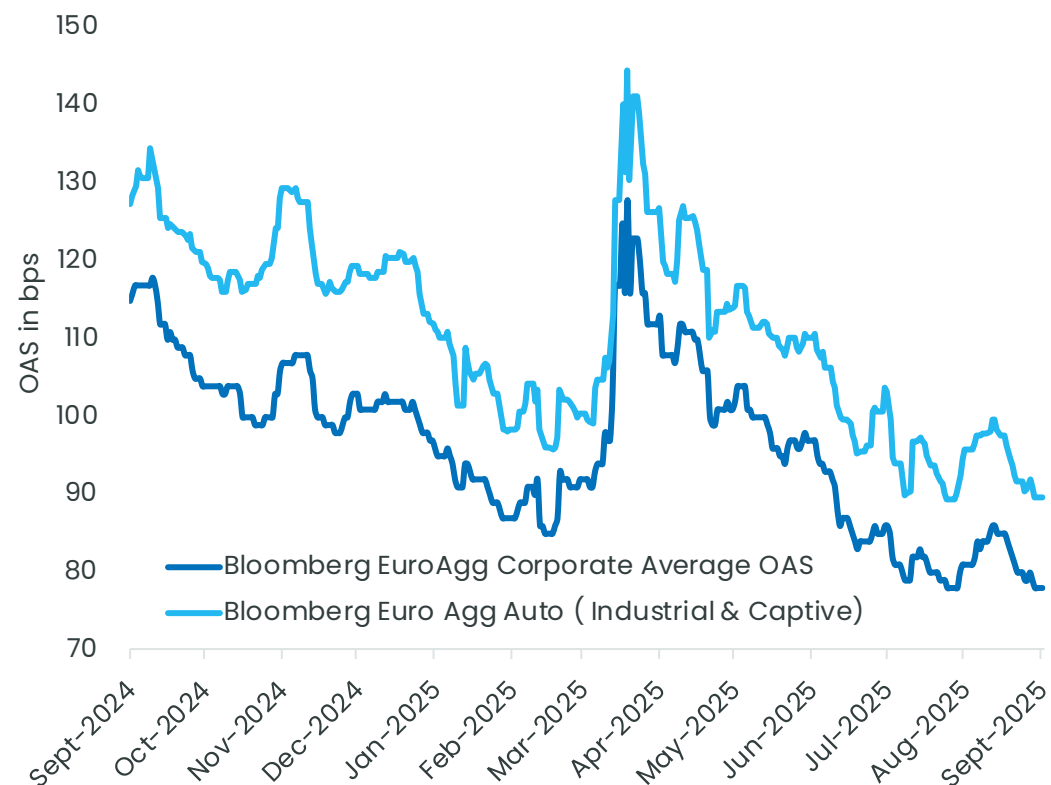


...but are exhibiting volatility and dispersion.

6m standard deviation of daily change in spread



Spreads: Euro IG Auto sector vs Euro IG



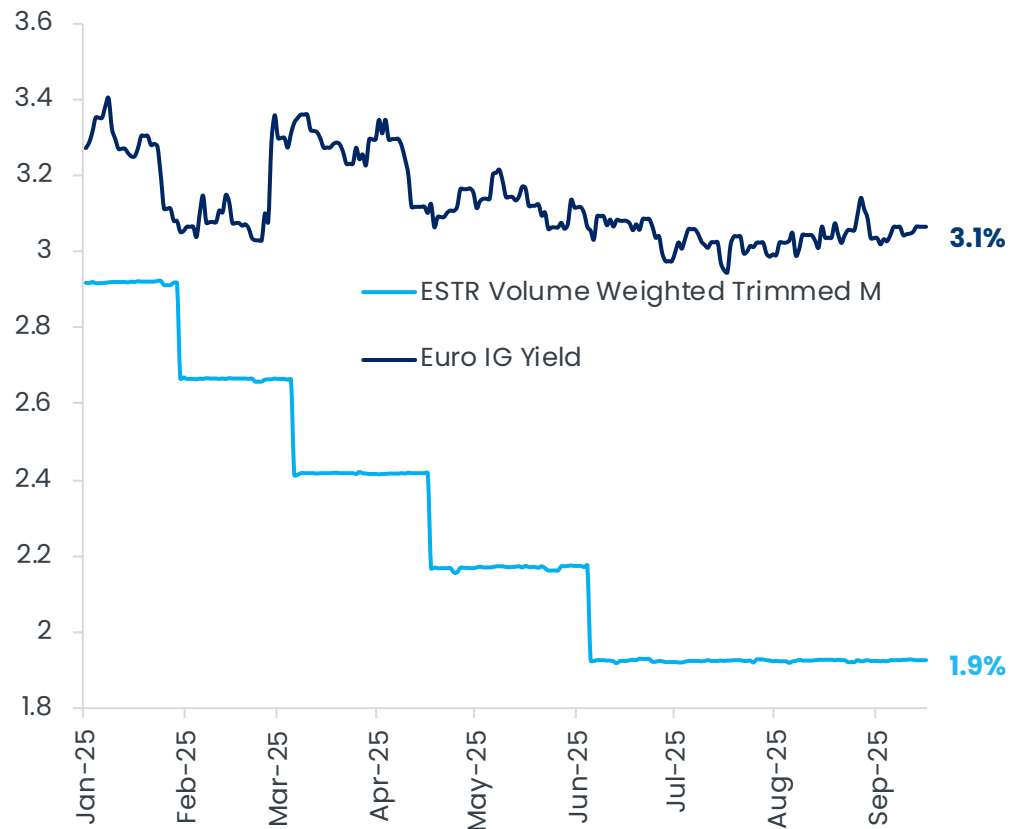
Source: Candriam, Bloomberg®, as of 22/09/2025.



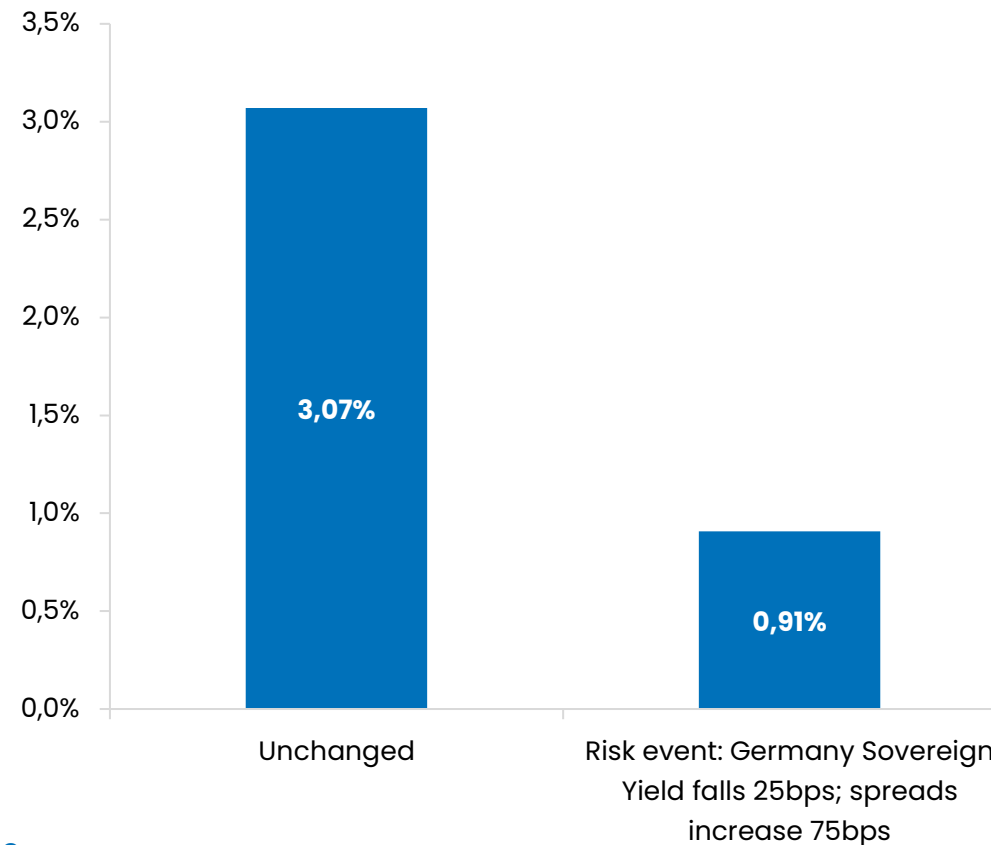
Starting yield protects.

A cushion for future drawdowns

Investment Grade Yield vs. €STER



Expected returns across different scenarios



Past performance is no guarantee of future results and is not constant over time.

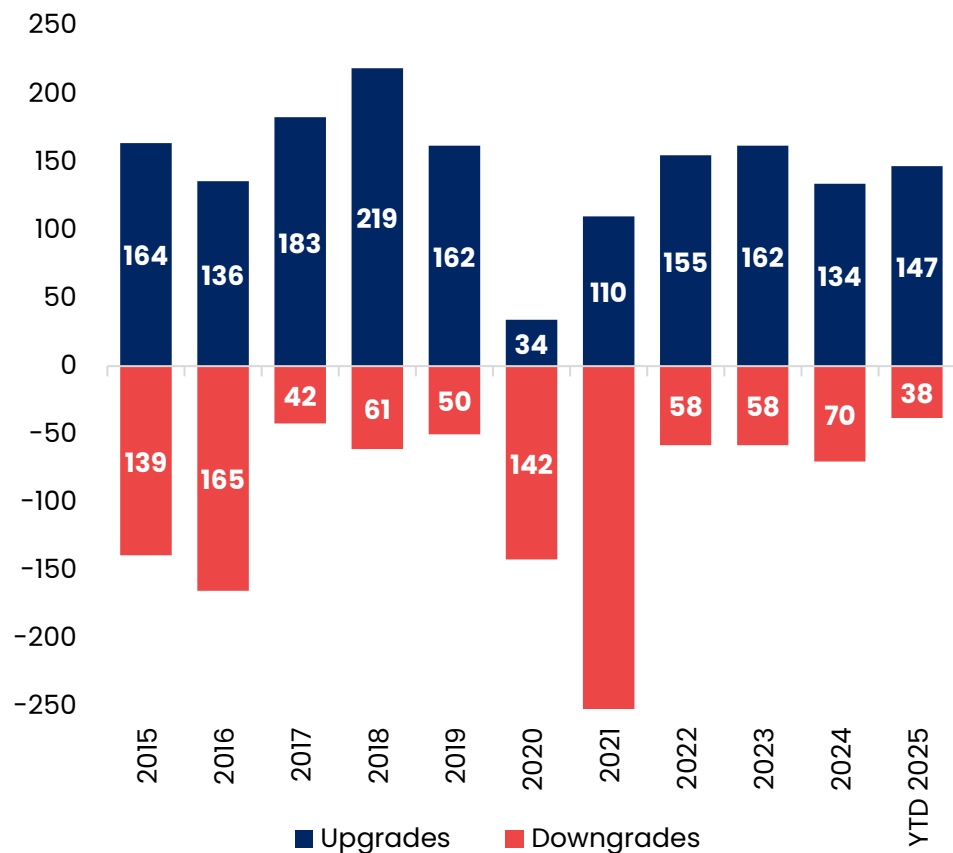
Source: Candriam, Bloomberg®, ICE BofA® au 22/09/2025. The scenarios presented are an estimate of future performance based purely on a mechanical calculation and are not an exact indicator. Based on the simplified assumption yields do not move at all and suddenly move 1 day before the end of the 12 month period. **These modelisations of possible performance scenarios do not predict future returns.**



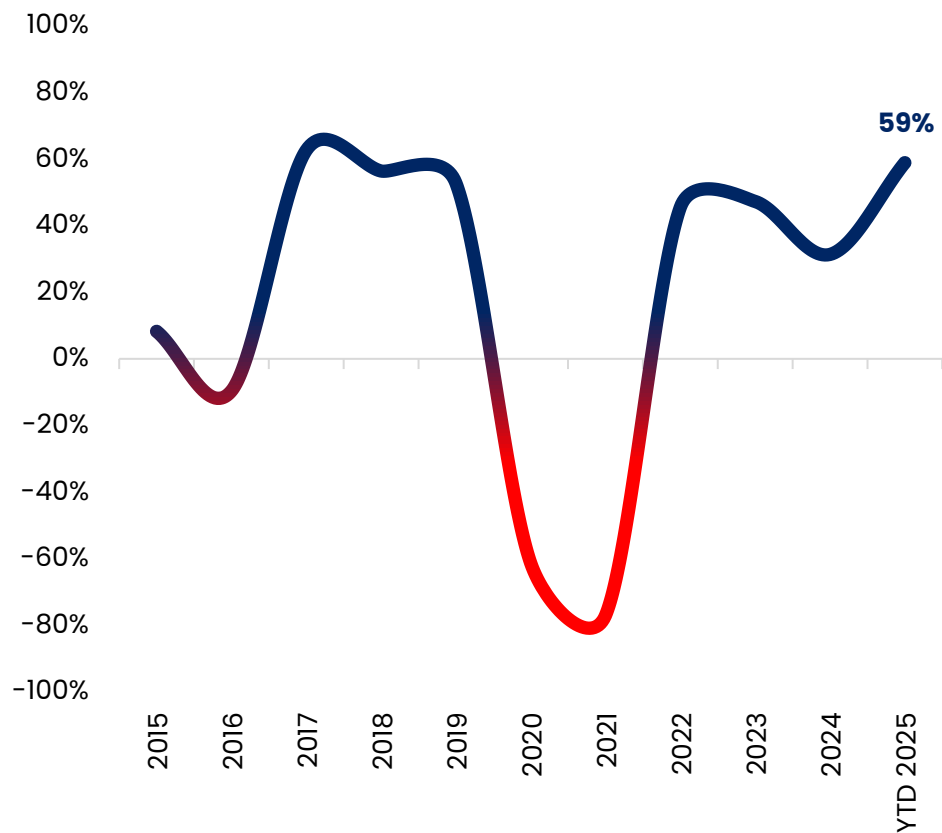
Fundamentals are stable.

Ratings drift is favourable

Euro Investment Grade: Downgrade & Upgrade



Euro Investment Grade: Rating drift



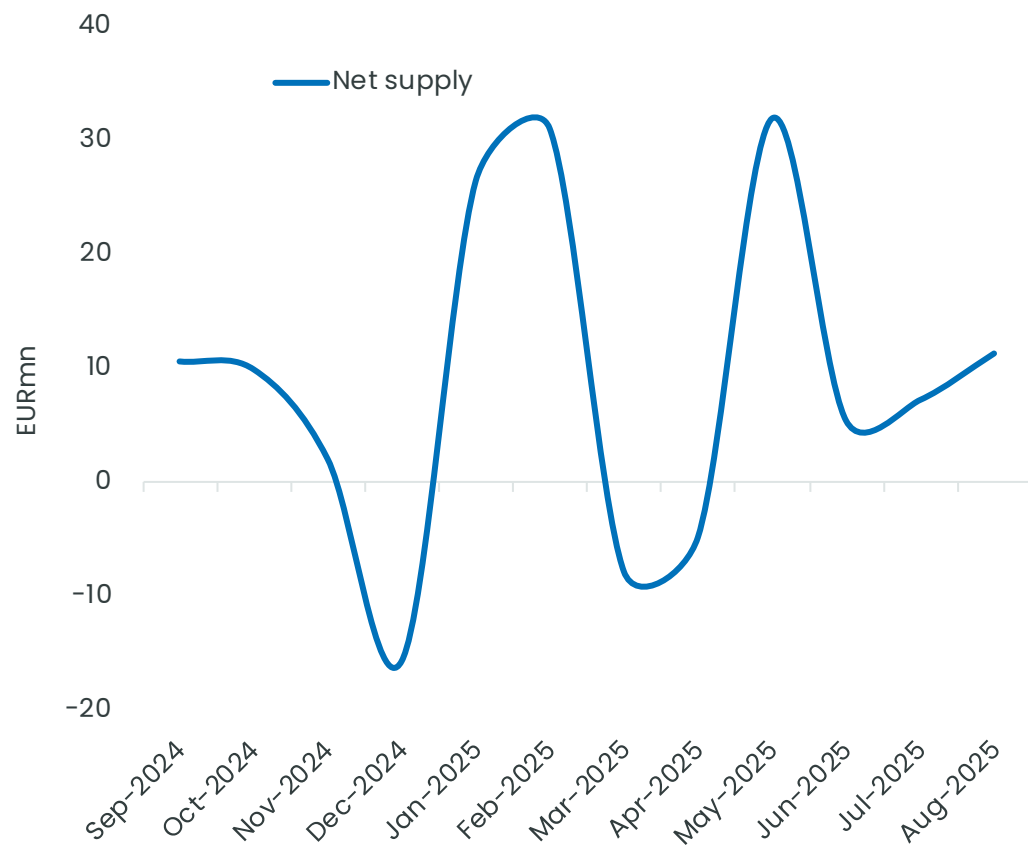
Source: Candriam, Bloomberg©, S&P, as of 31/08/2025.



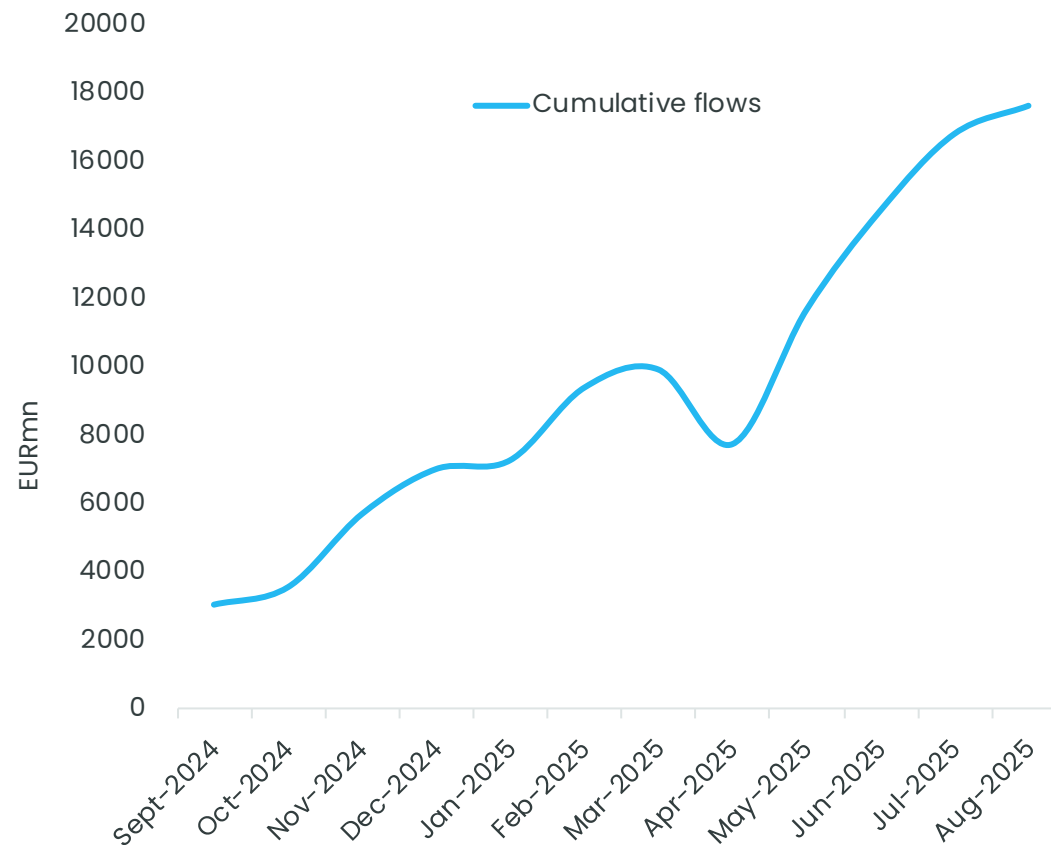
Technicals are broadly supportive.

Strong flows present to absorb issuance

IG Net Issuance



Flows into EUR IG – focussed funds

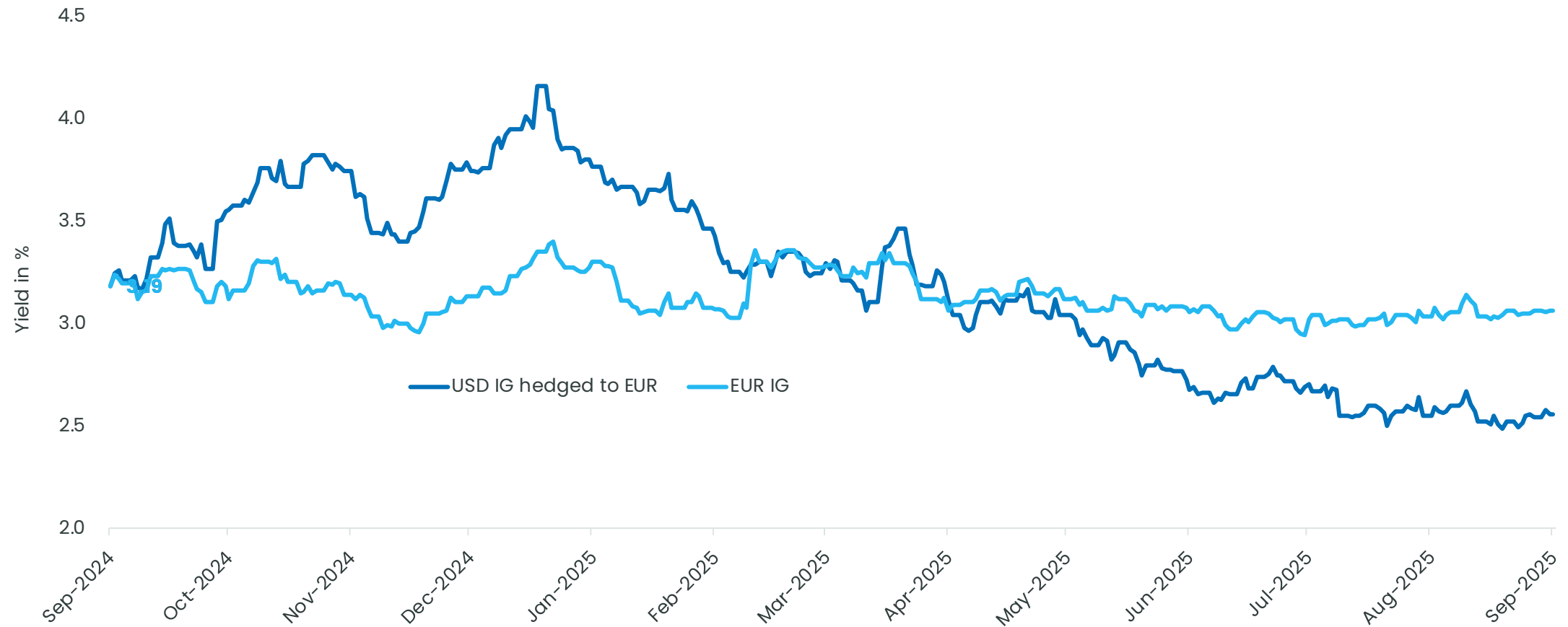


Source: Candriam, Bloomberg®, as of 31/08/2025.



EUR credit vs. US credit hedged to €.

Euro IG is more attractive.



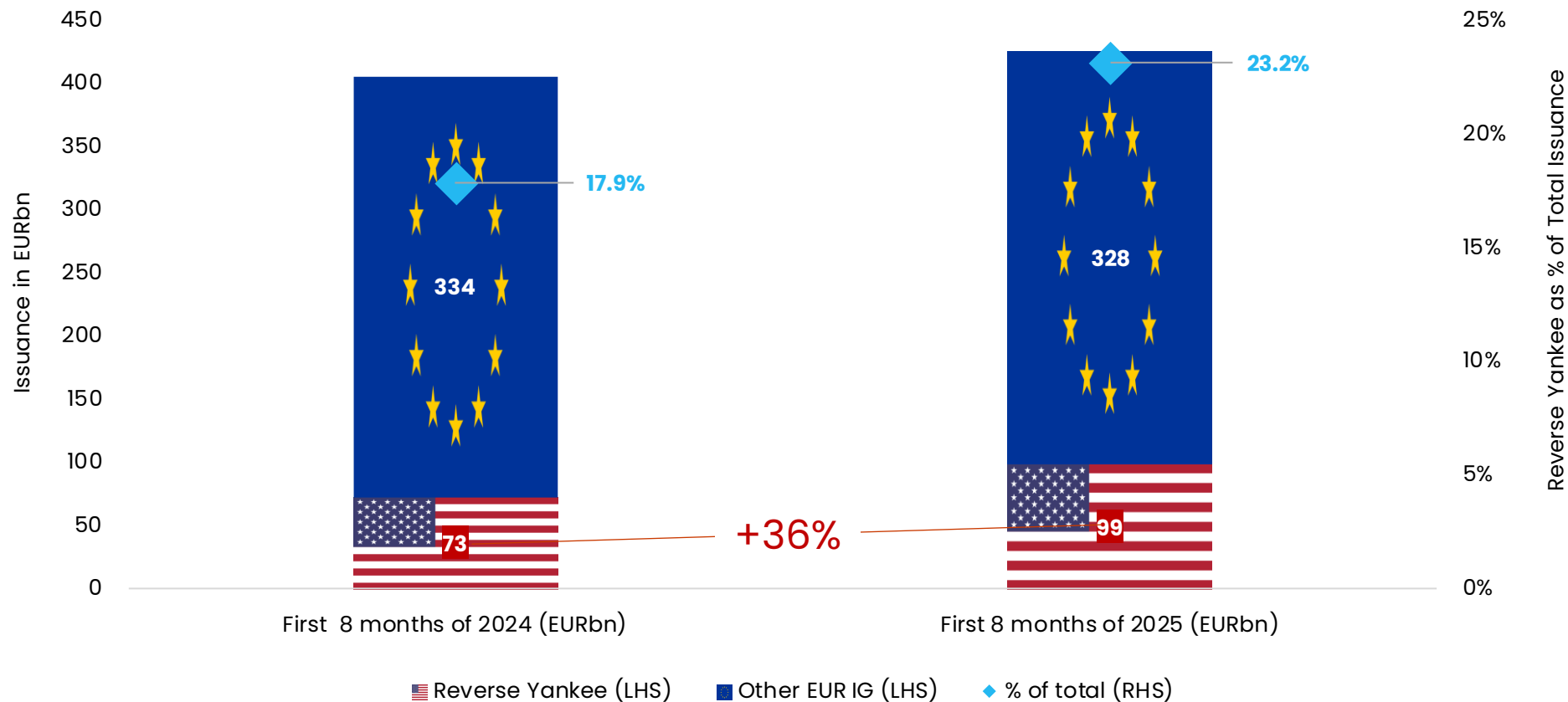
Past performance is no guarantee of future results and is not constant over time.

Source: Candriam, Bloomberg®, as of 22/09/2025.



US firms are tapping EUR bond markets.

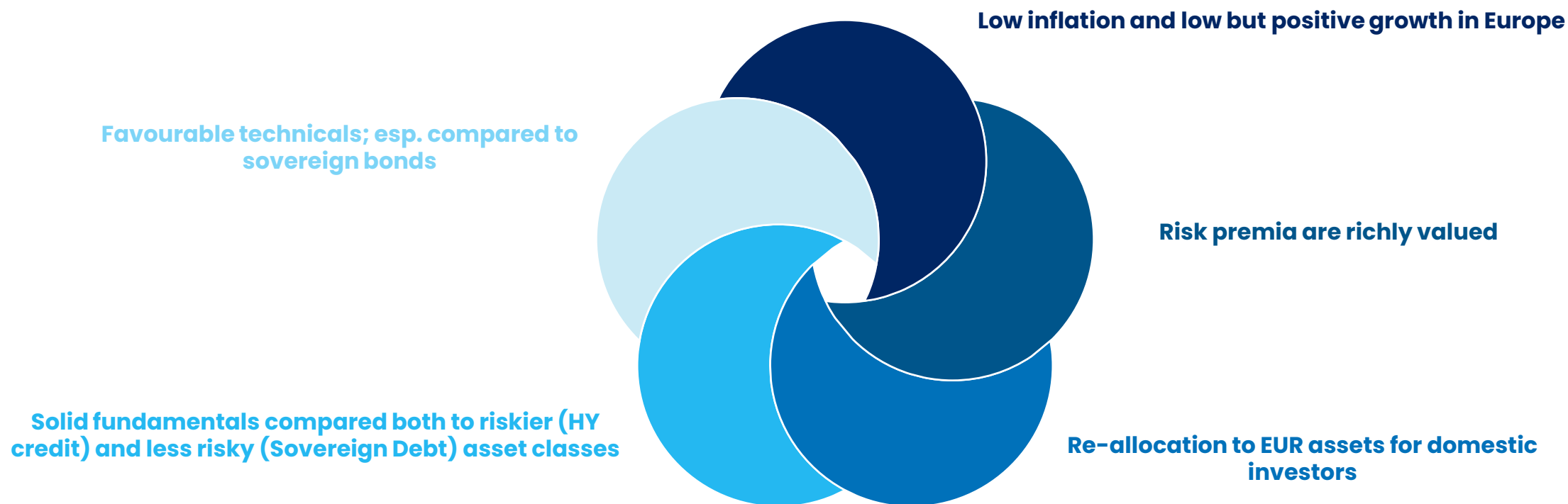
“Reverse Yankee” issuance picked up noticeably from 2024 to 2025



Source: Candriam, Bloomberg®, ICE BofA®, as of 31/08/2025



We believe EUR Investment Grade offers one of the best risk/return profiles in fixed income.



Source: Candriam, Bloomberg®, Baker, Bloom & Davis, as of 31/08/2025.





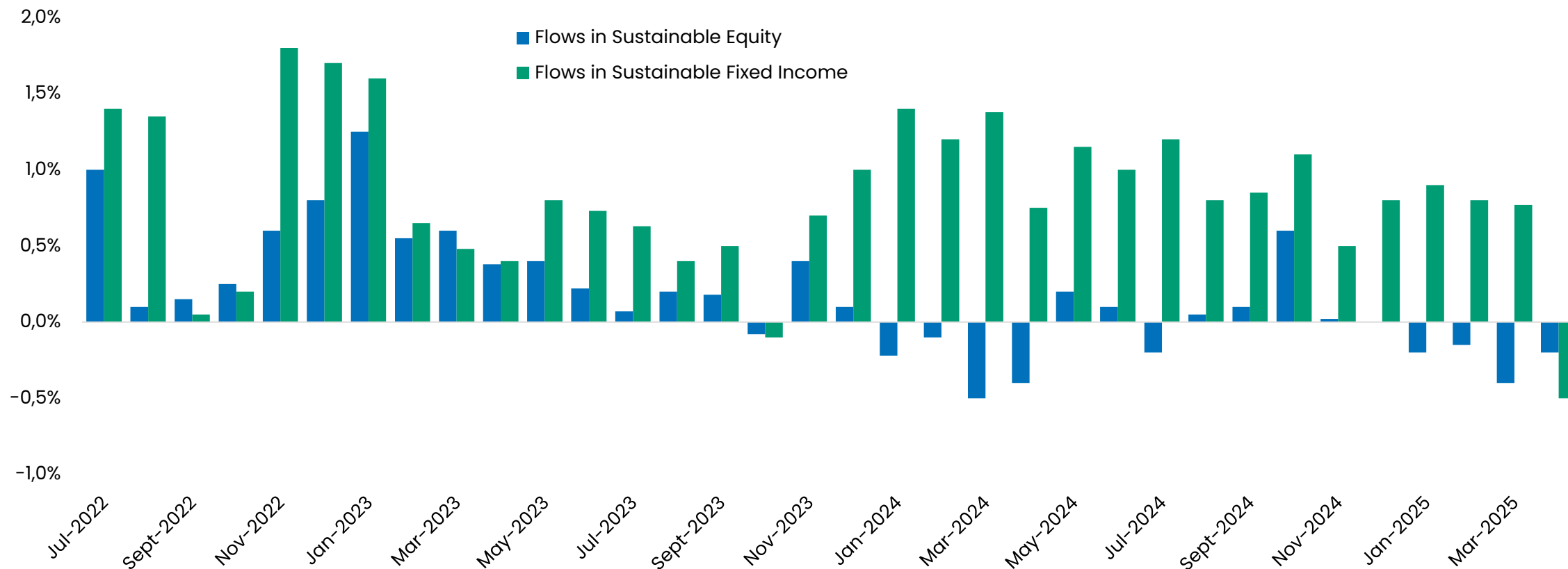
2 Sustainable Fixed Income Investment.



Sustainable fixed income is still in fashion.

Asset class divergence

Global flows in sustainable AuM (% of total)



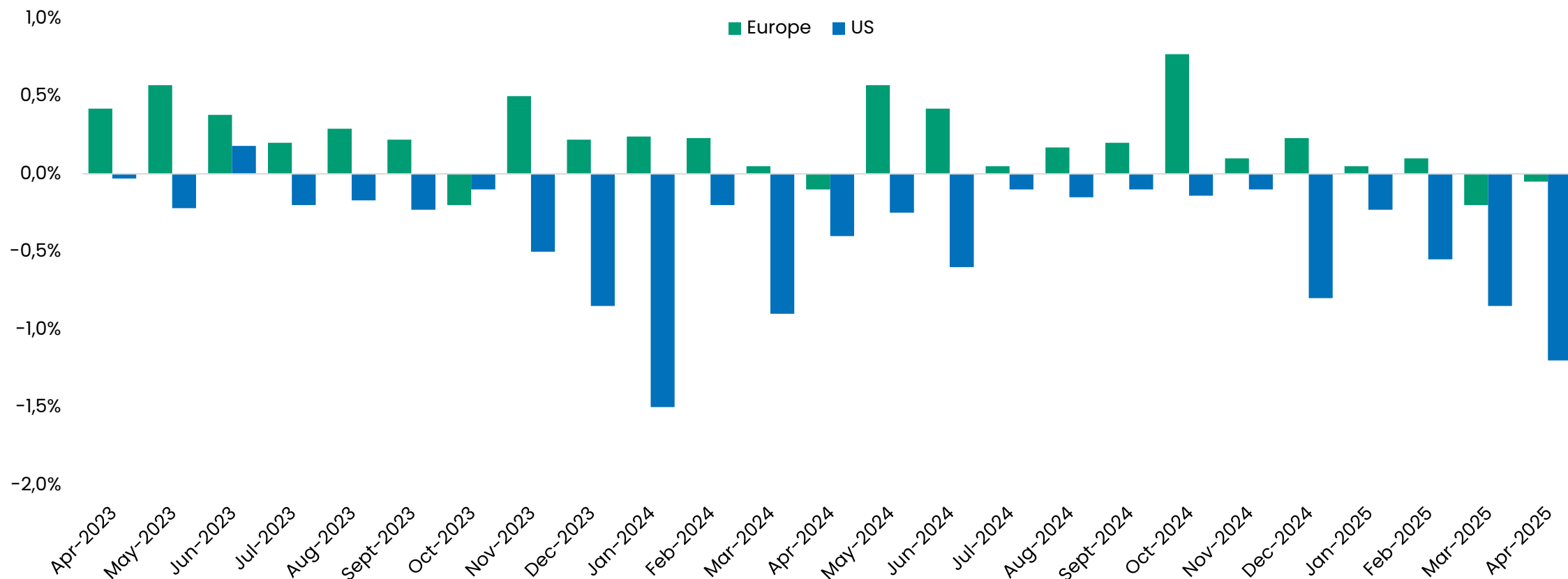
Source: Sustainable Funds Monthly Chartbook®, JPMorgan® as of May 2025.



Sustainability is not out of favour in Europe.

Regional divergence

Global flows in sustainable AuM (%)

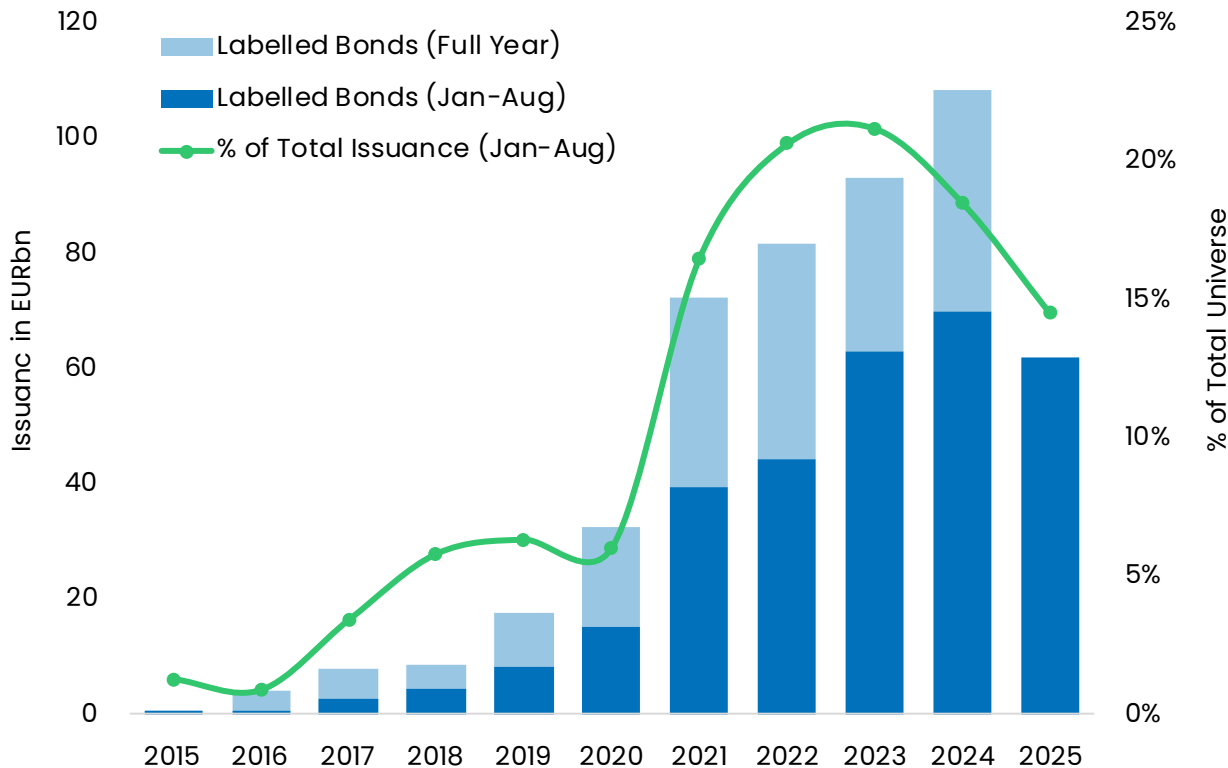


Source: Sustainable Funds Monthly Chartbook®, JPMorgan® as of May 2025.

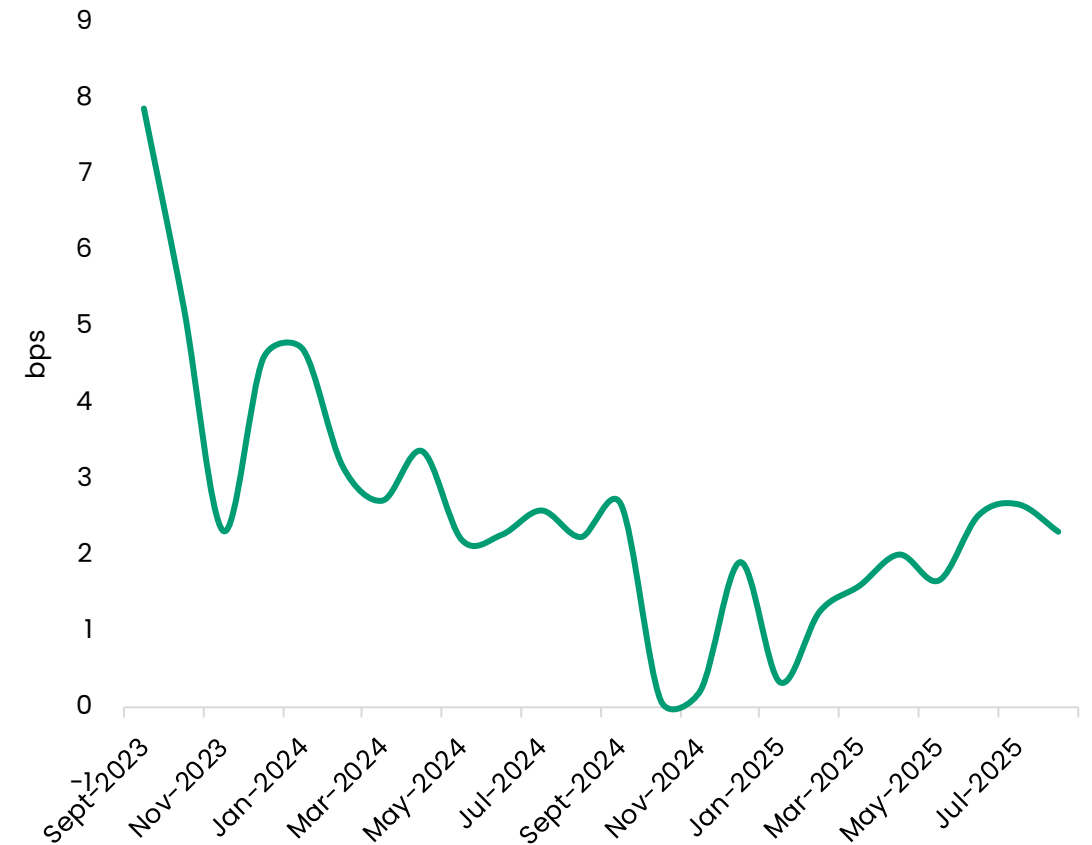


Sustainable (labelled) bonds are still being issued.

Issuance of Green, Social, Sustainability EUR IG Corporates



EUR IG "Greenium" in bps (senior issues)

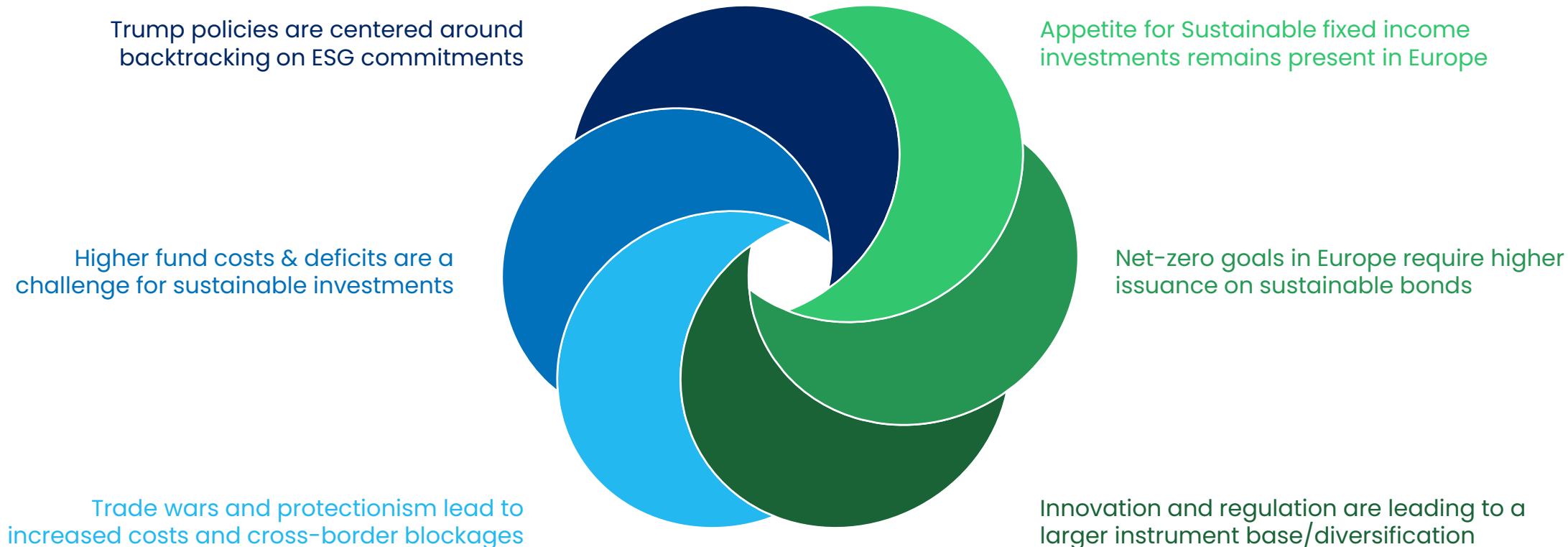


Source: Candriam, Bloomberg®, as of end August 2025



Sustainable investments.

Navigating headwinds and opportunities



Source: Candriam – Indicative data may change over time.





3 Our approach.



A unique approach.

Based on structural convictions on bond markets



Source: Candriam – Indicative data may change over time.



Our focus on sustainability.

Different level across the Fixed Income range

ESG INTEGRATION

Integration of ESG factors in our sovereign and credit analysis

ESG Committees between ESG analysts and fund managers

Identifying risks and capturing true credit worthiness

SUSTAINABLE BEST-IN-UNIVERSE

Best-in-universe based on ESG Scores

Includes corporate issuer with a rating between ESG 1 to ESG 5

Excludes the 25% lowest rated sovereign issuer

Aims to obtain a pure high quality investment universe



IMPACT INVESTING

Companies and governments are selected for their ambition to transform the world

Bond proceeds dedicated to specific SDG in order to support a low carbon economy

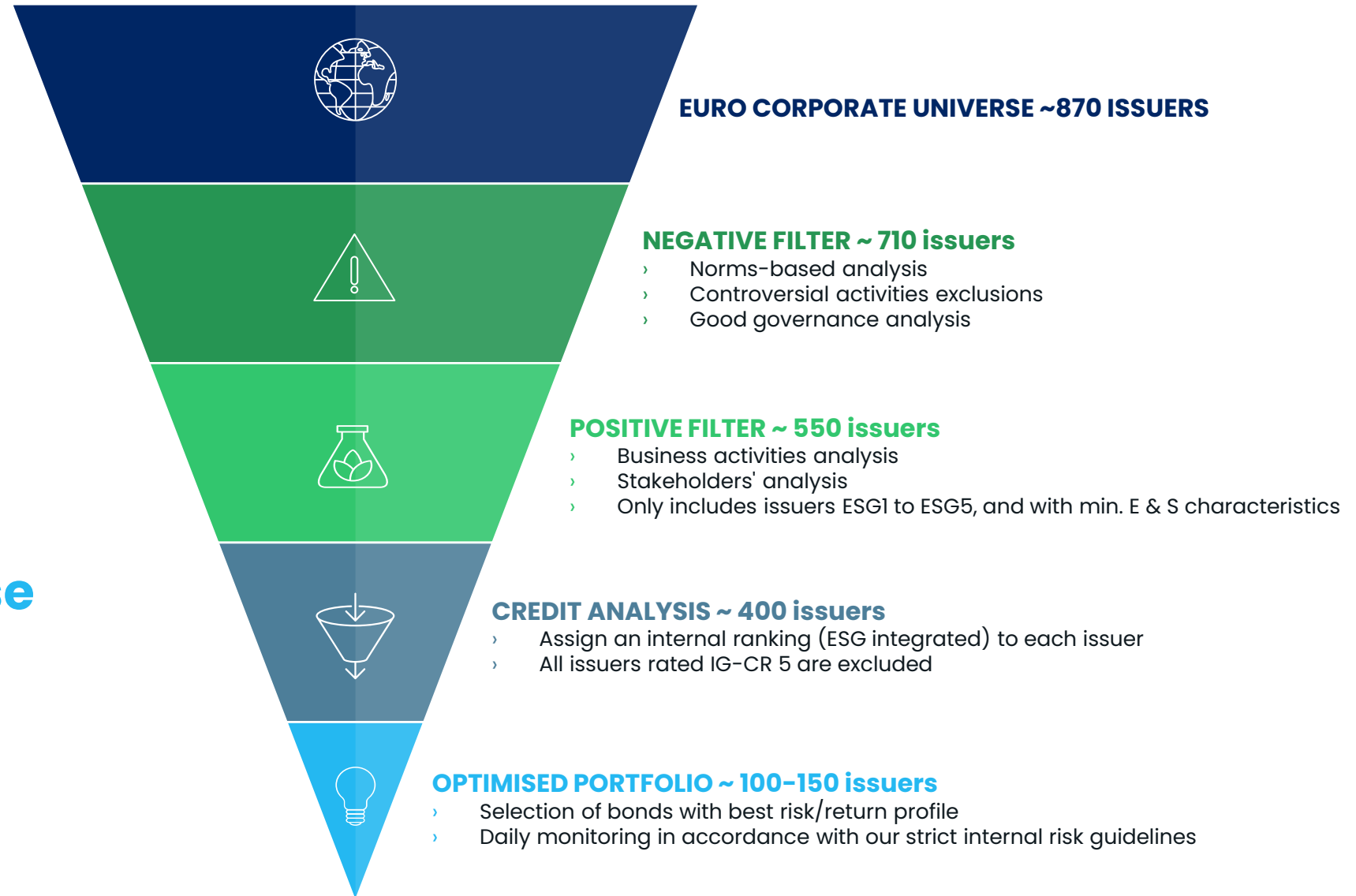
Aims to create a positive and measurable impact through sustainable investments

Source: Candriam – Indicative data may change over time.



Candriam Sustainable Bond Euro Corporate.

From an initial investment universe to an investable universe



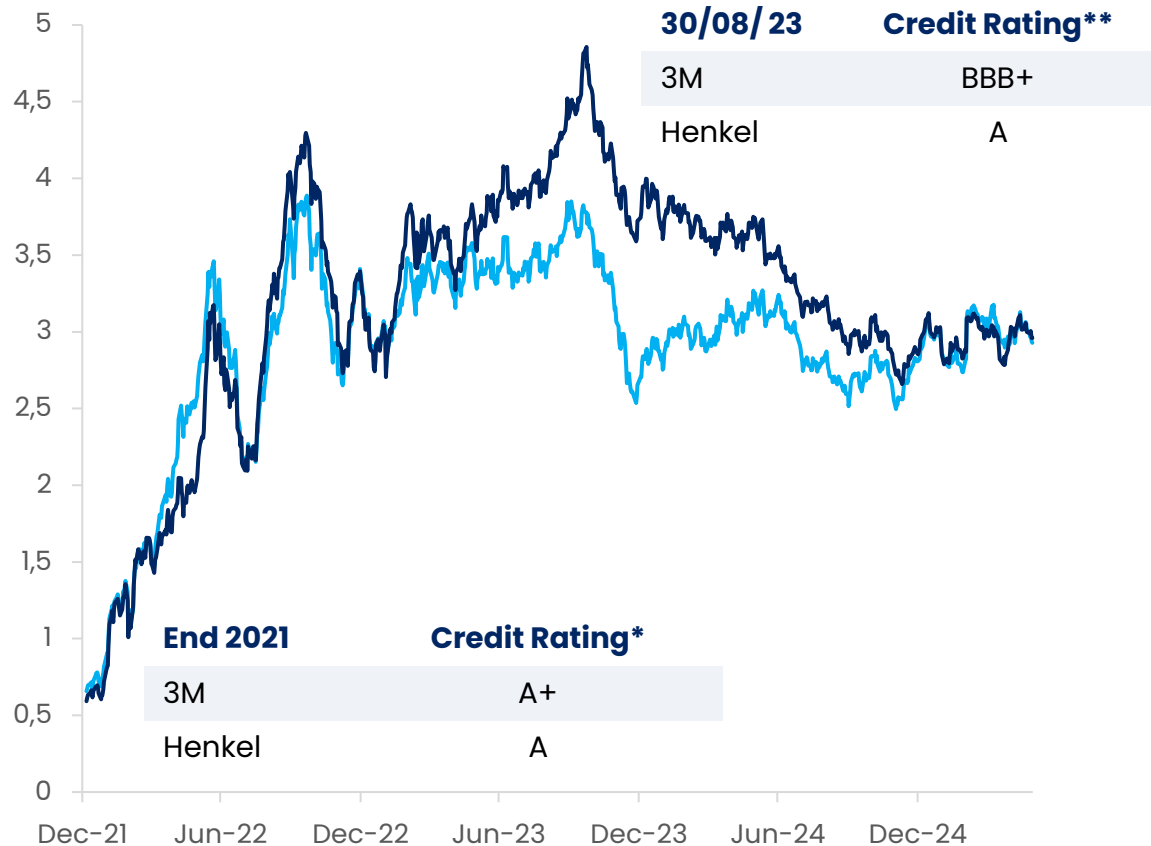
Source: Candriam – Indicative data may change over time.



Positive filter: A risk management tool.

ESG Score

3M vs. Henkel (YTM in %)



Source: Candriam, Bloomberg© as of 06/05/2025.
 *Rating from Standard & Poors as of end 2021, ** rating from Standard & Poors as of end 2023

3M

ESG 6

- › Global Manufacturer of healthcare products.
- › Strong Diversification by product, market and Geography
- › Above-average profitability, strong liquidity, positive FCF
- › **Sustainability:**
 - › **PFAS Contamination Lawsuits**
 - › **2023: Settlement announced, over \$10 billion in outlays**
 - › **Credit rating downgrade, impacting business significantly**

Henkel

ESG 4

- › Market-leading positions with strong brands
- › Strong diversification, Mix of business segments, geographical footprint
- › Low leverage, conservative financial profile, strong FCF
- › **Sustainability strengths, no controversies or litigation, strong environmental management**

Past performance is no guarantee of future results and is not constant over time.



Green bond analysis example.

ABN Amro, S&P Credit Rating: A

STEP 1

NORMS-BASED: IN ✓

CONTROVERSIAL ACTIVITIES: IN ✓

ESG SCORE: ESG 5 ✓

STEP 2

ENVIRONMENT



- › **Climate strategy** aiming at controlling risks.
- › Measure **carbon intensity** with **scenario analysis**.
- › **No evidence of fossil fuel** involvement.

PROCEEDS



- › **Net proceeds are allocated to eligible assets.**
- › ABN Amro can **replace ineligible assets** with other eligible assets on a best effort basis.

PROJECTS



- › Bond issued to finance **energy efficiency, renewable energy projects**.
- › **Projects and criteria subject to agreement**

REPORTING



- › **Quarterly report with the Global Treasury Support.**
- › **Reports** providing assets breakdown & transactions
- › Annual Impact report, with **independent models**.

Source: Candriam – Indicative data may change over time.

Bonds detained in the portfolio: ABN Amro 0 ½ 09/23/29 (XS2389343380).



Active management: A source of alpha.

HOCHTIEF: Global infrastructure group, BBB-

NORMS-BASED: **IN** ✓

CONTROVERSIAL ACTIVITIES: **IN** ✓

ESG SCORE: ESG 4 ✓

Business profile: satisfying

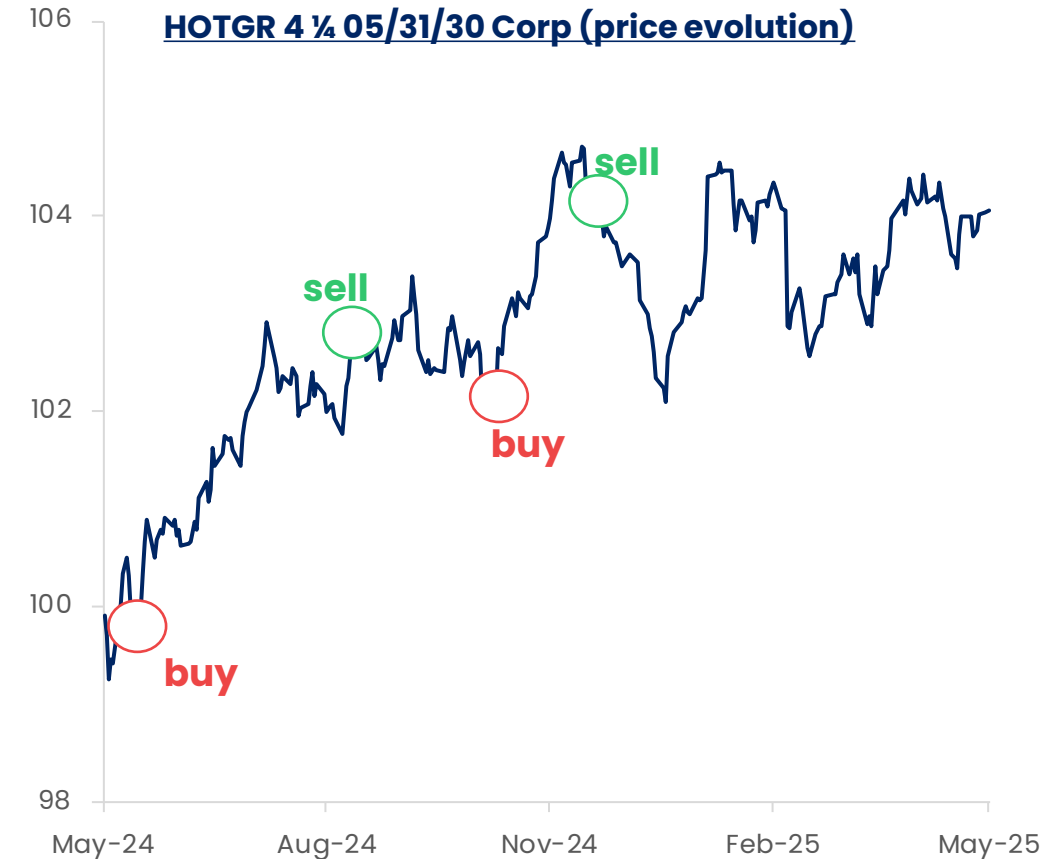
- › Strong leadership position
- › Strong geographical diversification
- › Management has proven track record

Financial profile: aggressive

- › EBITDA margin has gradually improved
- › Deleveraging strategy
- › Sufficient liquidity

Event risk

- › Cyclical sector
- › Elevated rates in dev. markets



Source: Candriam, Bloomberg® - Indicative data may change over time.

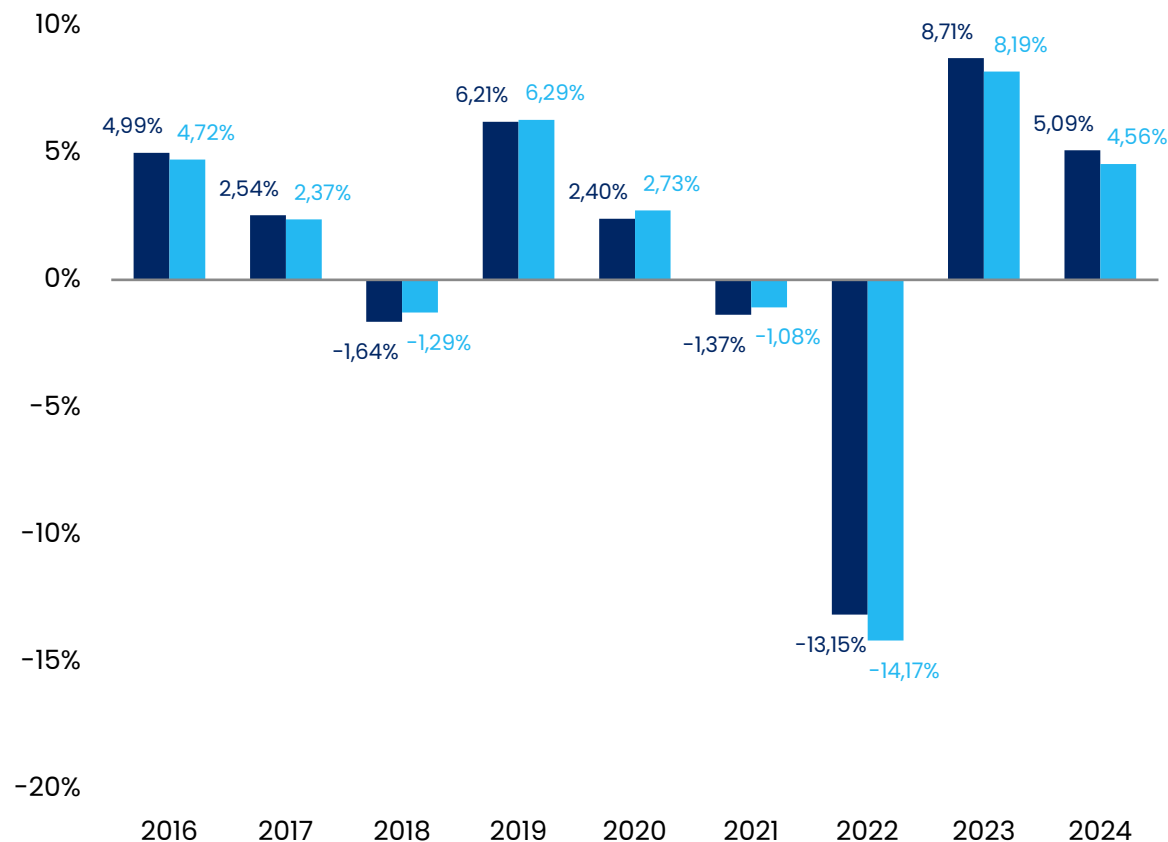
Bond: HOCHTIEF 4 ¼ 05/31/30 Corp



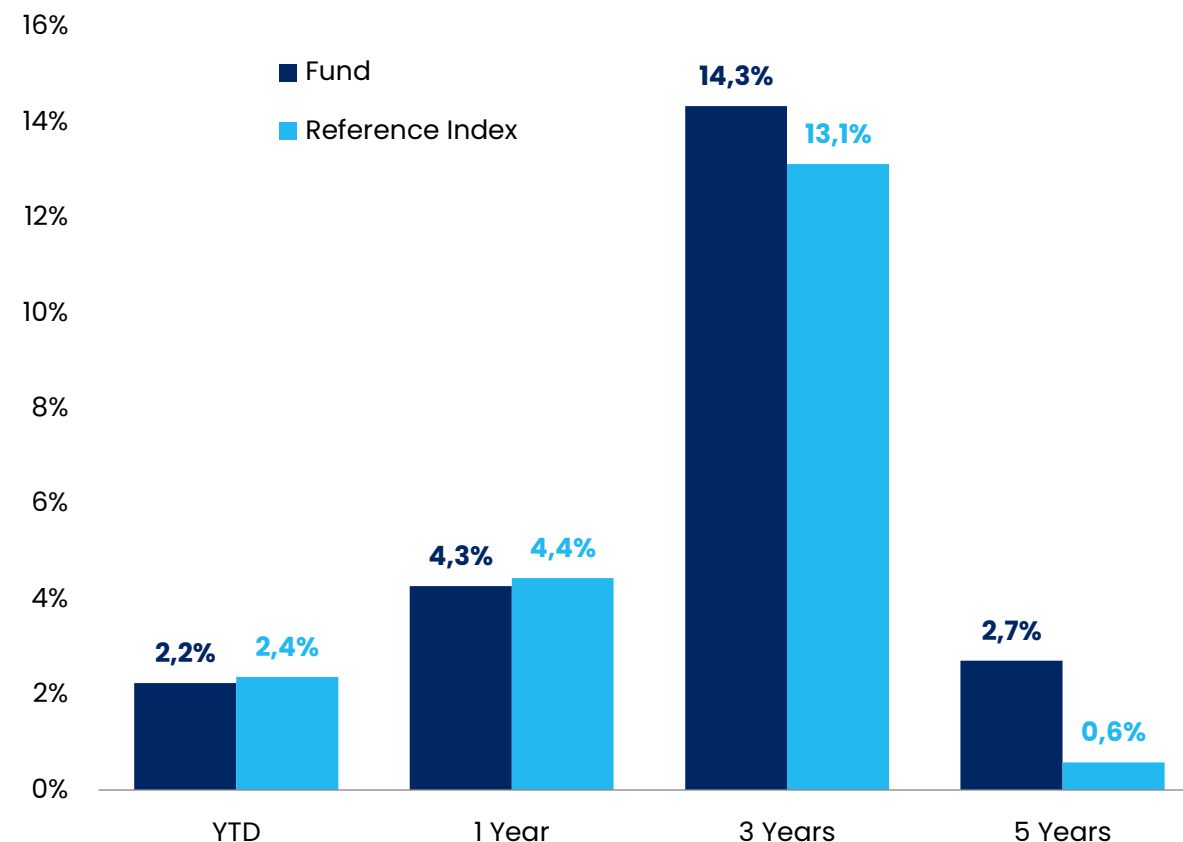
Candriam Sustainable Bond Euro Corporate.

Net Performance Review

Annual Returns



Total Returns (non-annualised)



Past performance is no guarantee of future results and is not constant over time.

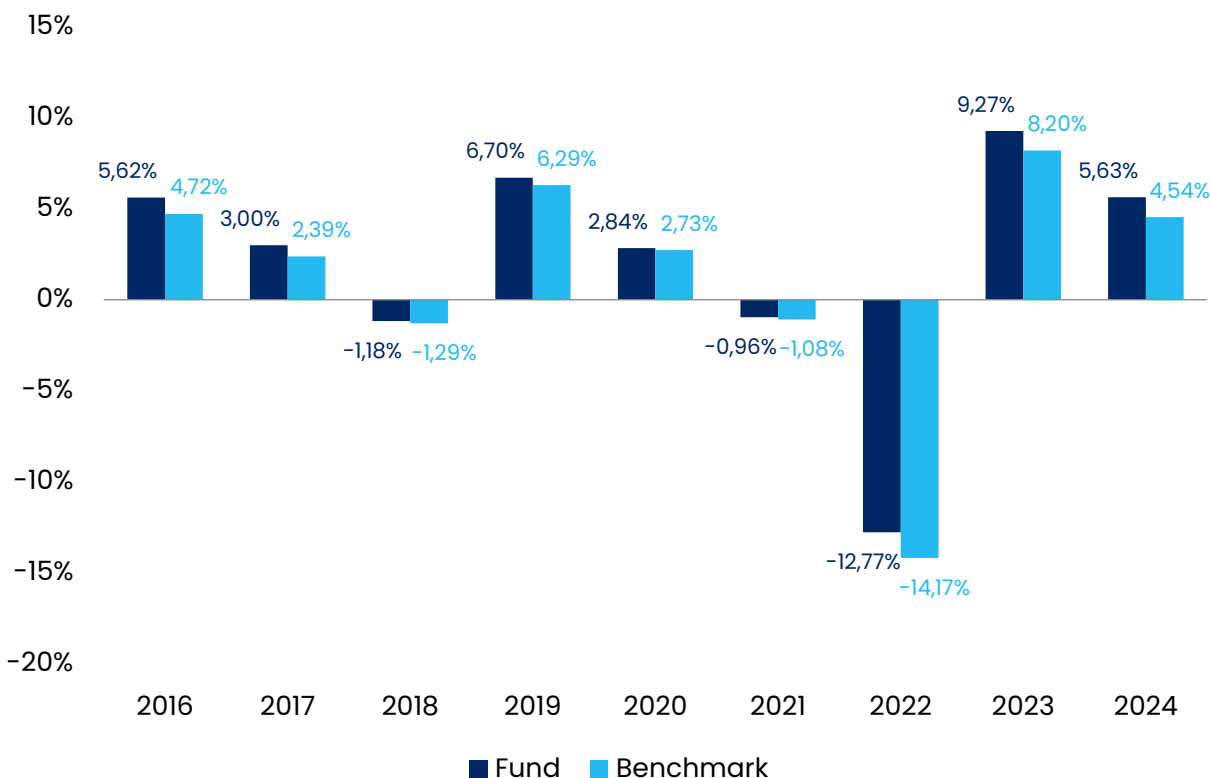
Source: Candriam, monthly data as of 31/08/2025. Showing I-Cap share class. The fund is actively managed, and the investment process implies referring to a benchmark index iBoxx EUR Corporates (Total Return)©. Performances expressed in a currency other than that of the investor's country of residence are subject to exchange rate fluctuations, with a negative or positive impact on gains. If the present document refers to a specific tax treatment, such information depends on the individual situation of each investor and may change.



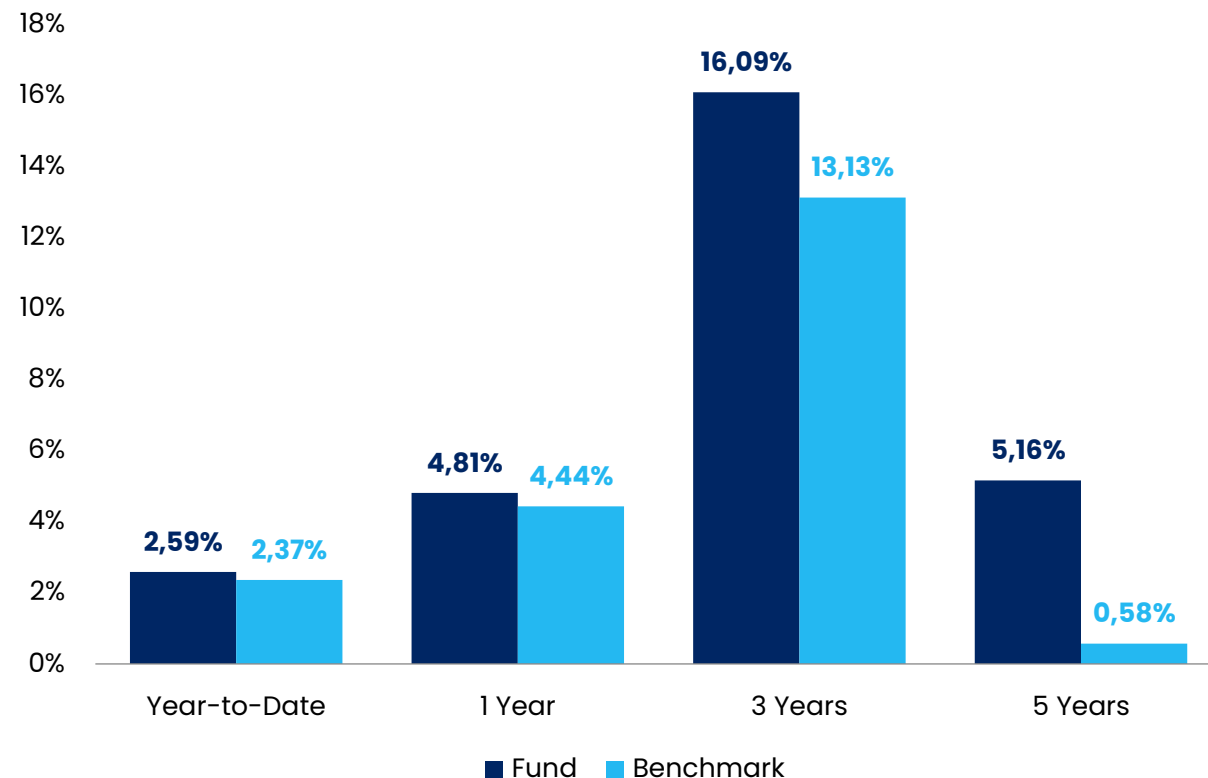
Candriam Sustainable Bond Euro Corporate.

Gross Performance Review

Annual Returns



Total Returns (non-annualised)



Past performance is no guarantee of future results and is not constant over time.

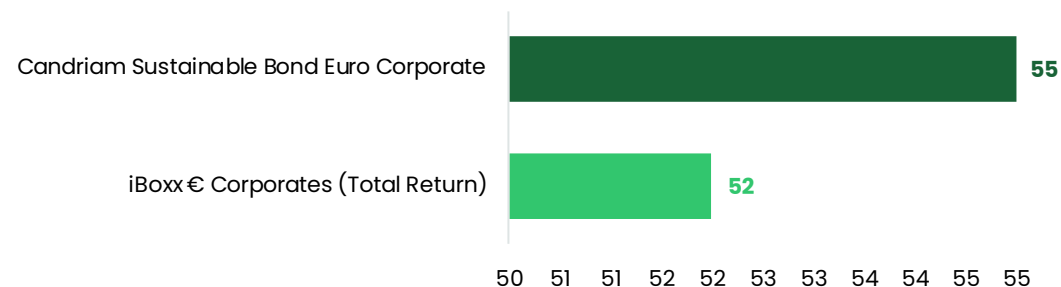
Source: Candriam, monthly data as of 31/08/2025. The fund is actively managed, and the investment process implies referring to a benchmark index iBoxx EUR Corporates (Total Return)®. Performances expressed in a currency other than that of the investor's country of residence are subject to exchange rate fluctuations, with a negative or positive impact on gains. If the present document refers to a specific tax treatment, such information depends on the individual situation of each investor and may change.



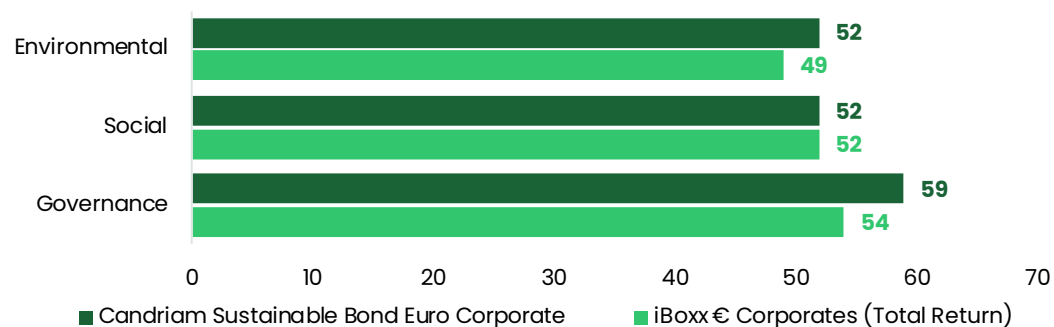
Candriam Sustainable Bond Euro Corporate.

Extra-financial performance

ESG Score

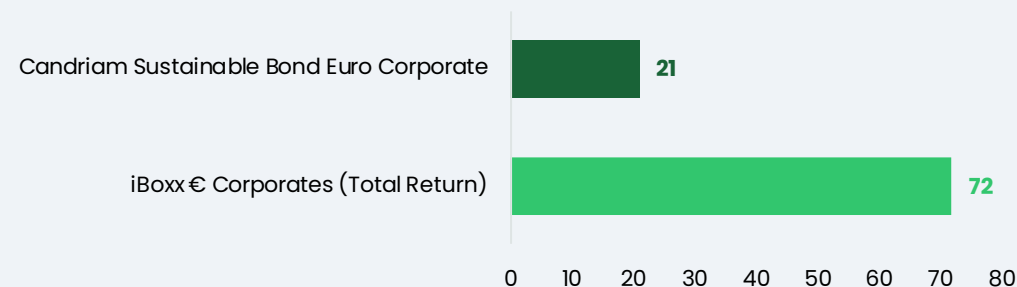


ESG Score breakdown



Sources: Candriam, Trucost®.
Coverage rate (Fund/Benchmark): 100% / 97.4%.

Carbon Footprint (tons CO2eq per million € invested)



Sources: Candriam, Trucost®.
Coverage rate (Fund/Benchmark): 95.0% / 97.2%.

Green Bonds

25%

Source: Candriam as of 31/08/2025. The fund is actively managed, and the investment process implies referring to a benchmark index iBoxx EUR Corporates (Total Return)®.

Candriam Sustainable Bond Euro Corporate.

> Type of fund

- UCITS – Compartment of the SICAV Candriam Sustainable

> Objective

- The aim of the Sub-Fund is to enable shareholders to benefit from the growth of euro denominated corporate bonds markets, with an investment in securities selected by the portfolio management team on a discretionary basis and to outperform the benchmark. The selection is based on the securities characteristics, growth prospects and proprietary analysis of ESG criteria. The fund's sustainable investment objective is to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through specific targets as well as the integration of climate related indicators in issuer and securities analysis. The fund also aims to have long-term positive impact on environment and social objectives. The fund may be appropriate for investors who are aware of, understand and are able to bear the specific risks of the fund. The investment horizon is 3 years. The fund is actively managed, and the investment process implies referring to a benchmark index. For further information on the risks or the benchmark and its use, please consult the fund's Key Information Document (KID).

> Principal assets traded

- Bonds and other debt securities denominated in euro, issued by private sector issuers (companies) and rated at least BBB-/Baa3 (or equivalent) by one of the rating agencies (i.e., reputedly good quality issues) or considered as equivalent by the Management company.



Source: Candriam – April 2025



Risk Profile – Candriam Sustainable Bond Euro Corporate.



Lower risk

Higher risk

The fund presents a risk of capital loss,

the net asset value of the fund may decrease in particular because of its exposure to the risk associated with the use of derivatives instruments

- › The summary risk indicator ("SRI") is an indicator with a rating ranging from 1 to 7 and corresponds to increasing levels of risk and return. The methodology for calculating this regulatory indicator is available in the KID.
- › **The summary risk indicator ("SRI") is a guide to the level of risk of this product compared to other products.**
- › It shows how likely it is that the product will lose money because of movements in the markets or because we are not able to pay you



Source: Candriam. Risk Level date of calculation: March 2025.

For further details on risks associated with investing in this fund, a general description and explanation of the various risk factors is available in the section Risk Factors of the Prospectus [The prospectus is available on Candriam Fund's Details.](#)



Risk profile – Candriam Sustainable Bond Euro Corporate.

Investors should be aware of the significant risks below, which may not necessarily be adequately considered by the indicator:

- › **Credit risk:** the fund is exposed to the risk of default of an issuer in terms of honouring the payment of coupons and/or the repayment of the amount borrowed. This risk is higher as the fund may invest in high-yield debt issues whose issuers are considered risky.
- › **Counterparty risk:** The fund may use OTC derivative products and these may represent a counterparty risk, i.e. the inability of the counterparty to honour its commitments to the fund. This counterparty risk could be fully or partially hedged by the receipt of guarantees.
- › **Risk related to financial derivative instruments:** their use implies risk associated with the underlying assets and can accentuate downward movements via the resulting leverage effect. Hedging strategies using derivatives may not be perfect. Some derivatives may be difficult to value under exceptional markets circumstances.
- › **Liquidity risk:** the fund may invest in securities and/or market segments which may prove to be less liquid, particularly under certain market conditions, and it may therefore be the case that the securities cannot be sold quickly and at reasonable prices.

Risk factors specific to the sub-fund

- › Risk of loss of capital
- › Interest rate risk
- › Credit risk
- › ESG investment risk
- › Liquidity risk
- › Derivatives risk
- › Counterparty risk
- › Equity risk
- › Foreign exchange risk
- › Emerging markets risk
- › Risk of changes made to the reference index by the index provider
- › Risk associated with external factors
- › Share class hedging risk
- › Sustainability risk

Source: Candriam. Risk Level date of calculation: March 2025.

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4 Conclusion.



Candriam Sustainable Bond Euro Corporate.

A long only ESG focused approach on the Euro investment grade market

Economic environment



- Euro credit in a **favourable position vs US**
- IG markets continues to exhibit **stable fundamentals**

Strategy



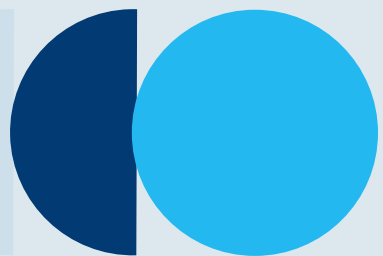
- Selective approach based on **fundamental and pure ESG approach**
- Diversify through **sustainable** investments
- Focus on **active management** and **extended investable universe**

Team



- An integrated and **experienced team** working in close collaboration with our +20 ESG analysts.
- **>€5bn AuM** in active credit strategies





Thank you for your attention.





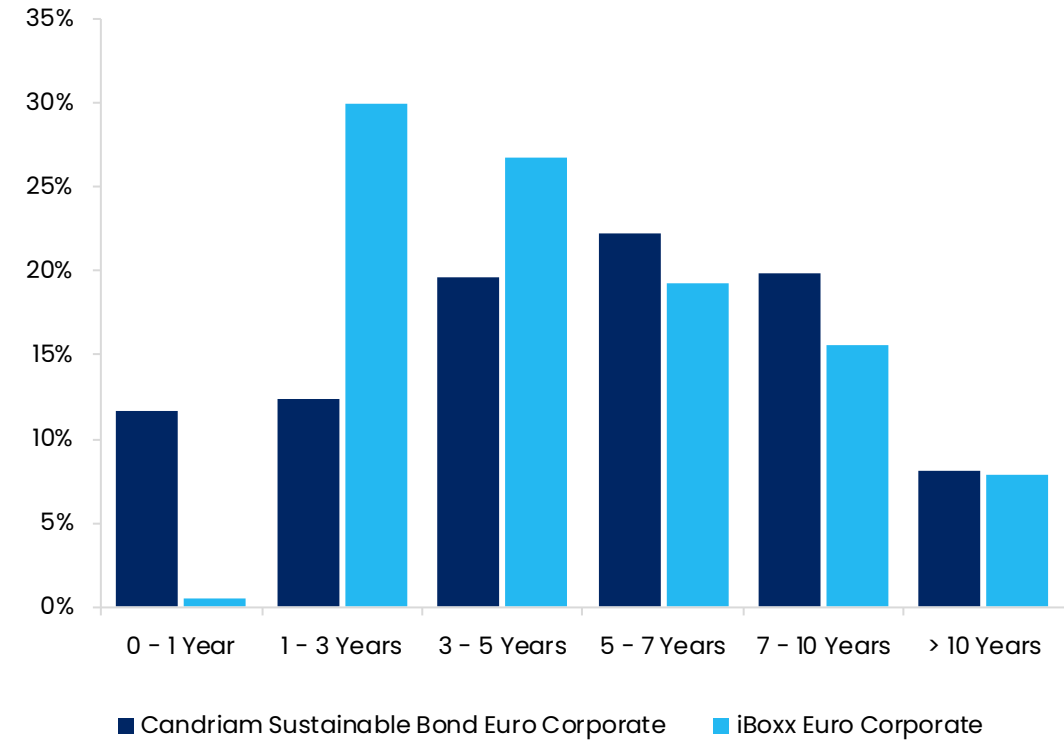
5 Appendix.



Positioning.

	Candriam Sustainable Bond Euro Corporate	iBoxx EUR Corporate
# Issuers	150	940
Modified Duration to Worst	4.69	4.40
Yield to Worst	3.55%	3.07%
Beta DTS	1.16	-
Average Rating*	BBB+	BBB+
Net HY exposure*	4.91%	0.37%

Maturity breakdown

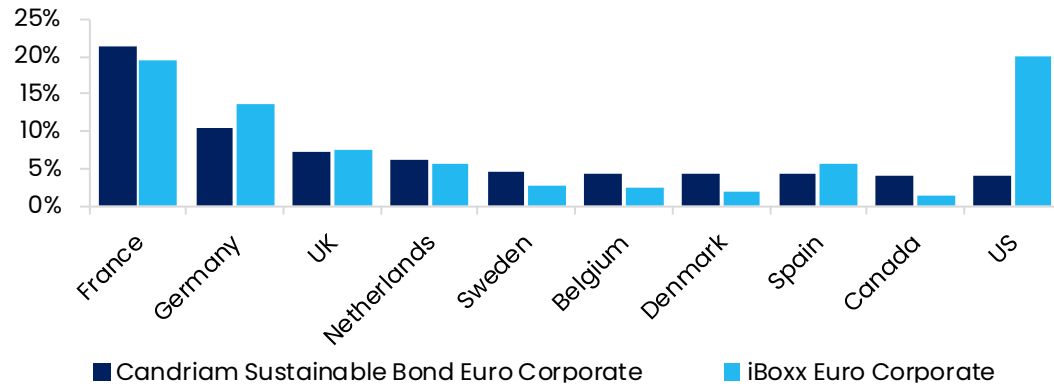


Source: Candriam as of 31/08/2025.

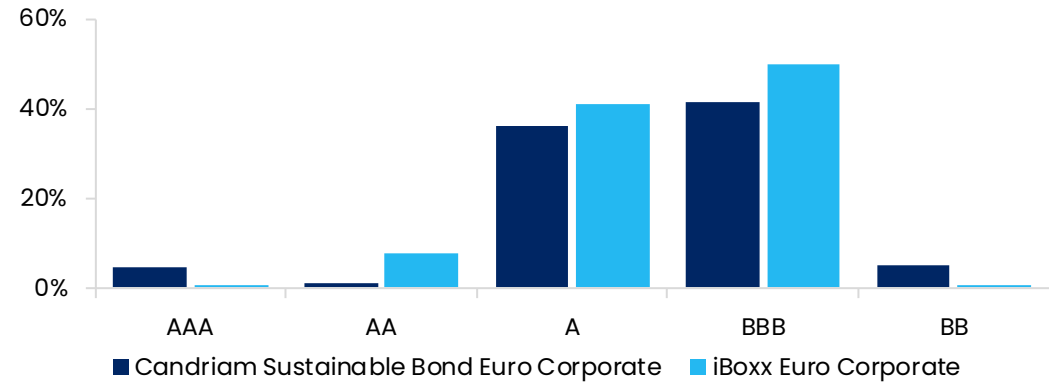


Positioning.

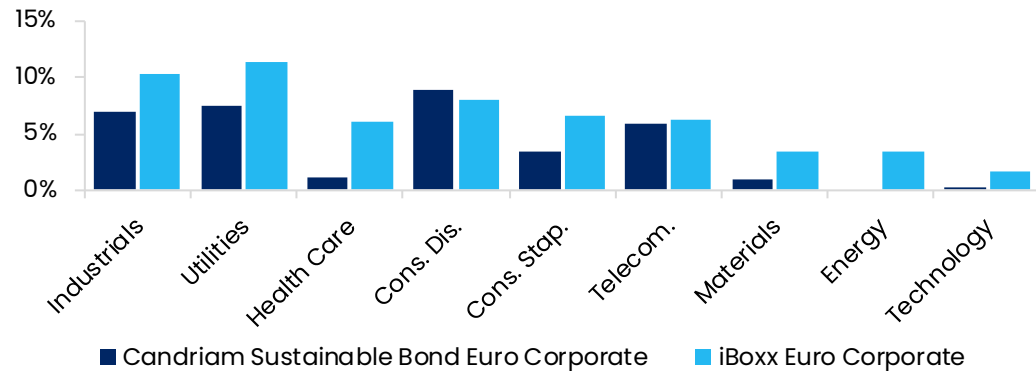
Top 10 country breakdown



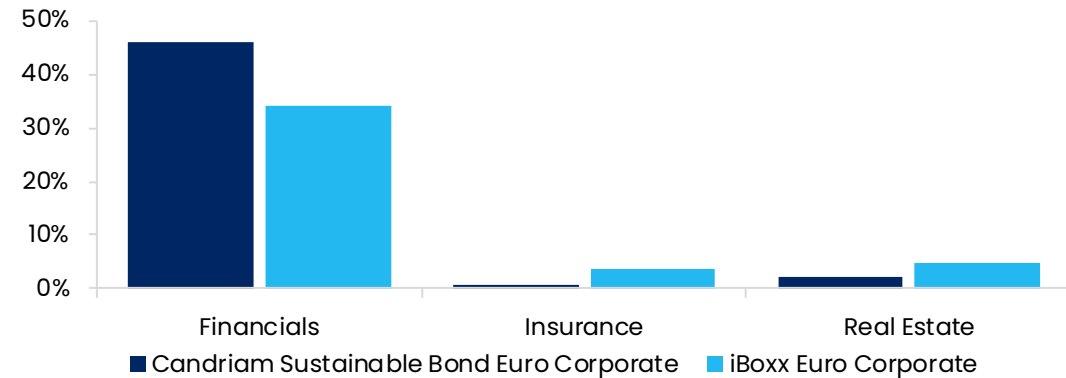
Rating breakdown (second best)



Sector breakdown – Non-financials



Sectoral breakdown – Financials



Source: Candriam as of 31/08/2025.



Glossary.

Abbreviation	Full Term
IRA	Inflation Reduction Act
IMF	International Monetary Fund
OAS	Option-Adjust Spread
YTM / YTW	Yield to Maturity / Yield to Worst
€STR	Short-Term EUR cash benchmark
IG	Investment Grade
AuM	Assets under Management
ESG	Environmental, Social, Governance
IG-CRX	Internal investment grade credit ranking (scale 1 – 5)
FCF	Free Cash Flow
PFAS	Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

Source: Candriam.



Disclaimer.

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