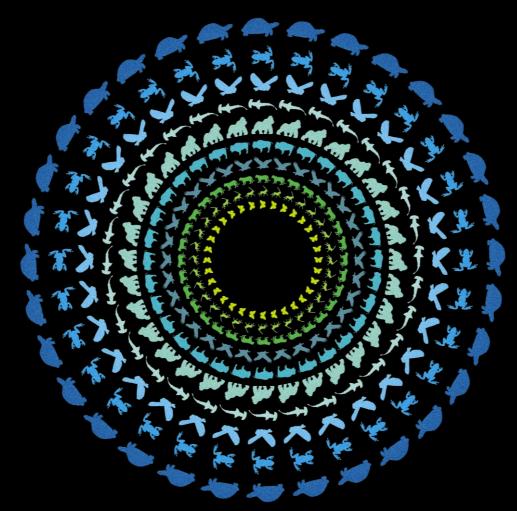
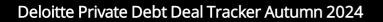
Deloitte.



Emerging from the shell – deal activity picks up as interest rate cuts loom





This issue covers data for the first half of 2024 and includes 371 new private debt deals.

This represents a 12% increase in activity from H2 2023, and a 42% increase in activity compared to H1 2023.

Deloitte Private Debt Deal Tracker Editorial Team



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For future copies of this publication, please sign-up via our link at www.deloitte.co.uk/dealtracker

With special thanks to our contributors



Contents

Introduction	5
Financial Risk Management – Understanding the Coming Months	10
Private Debt Deal Tracker H1 2024 Deals	16
Case Study: Efficio Limited	28
Private Debt Fundraising	32
Private Debt Market Trends, Themes & Human Capital	48
Insights into the European Private Debt Market	55
Deloitte Debt, Capital & Treasury Advisory	63

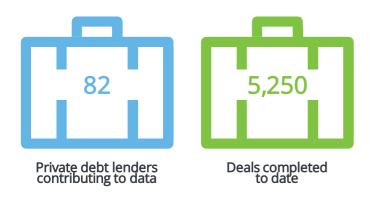
Private Debt Deal Tracker: Introduction



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Our Spring report highlighted the challenge ahead for investors in navigating what was likely to be a turbulent 2024. With elections in countries home to half the world's population – including major superpowers such as the US, UK, France and India – it was always going to take a brave investor to hang their hat on predicting what the global economy and geopolitical landscape would look like moving into 2025.

Six months on from our previous report, and what has changed?

Well, on the surface it feels as though a lot has happened. The UK has turned the page to a new political chapter. The US political environment has been rocked by Joe Biden's decision to step-down as Democrat Presidential candidate and two failed assassination attempts on Republican candidate, Donald Trump. Conflict continues to rumble on in the Middle-East, and between Russia & Ukraine. The price of gold has soared to all-time highs. Artificial Intelligence has exploded onto the scene, with NVIDIA's share price up over 150% (as at the beginning of July) since the start of the year.

However, if we choose to reframe the question to what has changed from the perspective of an investor, the stark reality is that markets continue to be as challenging to predict at the midpoint of the year as they were at the beginning. Inflation levels have largely subsided, however, not as quickly and smoothly as anticipated earlier in the year. The cadence at which Central Banks have been able to cut rates has been slower than forecast. Economic indicators continue to remain conflicted; for example – in the UK in H1 – GDP rose

by 1.3% and housing prices rose by 3.2%¹ despite unemployment increasing from 3.8% to 4.2%². And market indices – such as the S&P500, Dow Jones, Nasdaq, FTSE100, DAX and Nikkei 225 – have largely climbed, despite volatility, with the VIX index spiking at 38 in August (now back at 18 as of time of writing).

Putting it all together, the journey that investors have traversed in H1 has been choppy – and any semblance of stability and normality remains some way off. The debt markets are certainly no exception to this rule – especially after the resurgence of the broadly syndicated loan market in the first half of the year.

Kicking off with the public market, total European syndicated loan volumes maintained formidable momentum following a strong start to 2024, reaching total H1 issuance of €134bn well on track to surpass the €142bn issued in 2021. This resurgence has primarily been underpinned by rampant Collateralised Loan Obligation (CLO) demand from investors, with total European CLO issuance in H1 reaching €24bn putting it on track to exceed the previous 2021 high of €39bn. With limited supply available for new leveraged loan issuances, the focus in the first half of the year shifted to repricings, extensions and refinancings, including an estimated €6.6bn refinanced away from the European private debt market - for deals struck in 2022/23 now outside their non-call protection periods. A number of notable private debt unitranches - such as Norgine, Phenna Group, Ingenico and Normec - were refinanced by the public market, in some cases delivering up-to 200bps of margin savings³. Other public borrowers with impending maturity

walls sought to capitalise on favourable market momentum by either refinancing or extending facilities, with an estimated 70% of maturities now set for 2028-or-later. Sponsors also looked to capitalise on these conditions, with €3.9bn of issuances used to support dividend recaps in Q2 – the highest quarterly volume since Q1 2021. This imbalance between the demand for yield and supply of new financing opportunities has seen margins on Euro-denominated single-B spreads pushed down to [400-425]bps in H1 2024 ([75-100]bps saving compared to 12 months ago) and propped leveraged loan volumes to their highest levels since Russia's invasion of Ukraine – even despite ongoing geopolitical uncertainty and conflicting macroeconomic indicators³.

How about the European private debt market?

Whilst Q1 data initially struck a bearish tone, with even weaker activity levels than in 2023, a rally in Q2 brought deal volumes for the six months to June 2024 (371) back in line with H2 2023 (329) and H2 2022 (347), providing reason for optimism. In Q2, deal activity appeared particularly strong with 252 deals completed, primarily spread across LBOs (32%), refinancings (21%) and bolt-on acquisitions (38%). Despite a selection of notable large unitranche financings, the large-cap segment of the private credit market does, however, now find itself in direct competition with the syndicated loan market (for now!) – in particular those funds now exclusively focused on opportunities >£100m of EBITDA who now find themselves competing in processes where borrowers have opted to run dual-track financing processes⁴.

This shift is best evidenced by the fact that the ratio of European LBOs financed by private debt vs. the syndicated loan market tumbled from 10.5:1 in Q4 2023 to 1.5:1 in Q2 2024. In response to the public market's resurgence, a number of high-profile borrowers have successfully sought to persuade their incumbent private debt lenders to tighten pricing – with notable borrowers, such as Asda and Trescal, successfully able to secure up-to 100bp margin reductions. We expect this theme to continue into the latter half of the year, having already held discussions with a number of borrowers seeking to refinance – not only by necessity, but also as an opportunity to secure cheaper financing packages³.

The market consensus for a long time seems to be that there remains a lot of competition for few high-quality assets at the top end of the mid-market, with lenders having to increasingly look towards lower-mid market assets where the opportunity set is greater, but quality is more varied. This is one of the key driving forces behind processes, on average, taking 4-6 weeks longer to complete. On a positive tone, however, there does seem to be a feeling that buyer-vendor valuation mismatches are gradually becoming bridged & that the pipeline of new opportunities is picking up. This is not only reflected by the uptick in deal volumes in Q2, but also the observation that LBO activity is up year-on-year (39 deals in H1 2024 vs. 16 deals in H1 2023) in the UK and run-rating as 2022 levels⁴.

Shifting our focus to fundraising and, needless to say, the landscape remains complex and fragmented for the longerduration private asset classes. Traditional buyout fundraising is facing headwinds as sponsors, hesitant to sell in a challenging exit environment, hold onto assets for longer than their typical lifecycle. This has led to record levels of dry powder, with an estimated 26% of committed LP capital globally remaining uninvested for at-least four years. Investors are becoming wary of committing fresh capital, further exacerbating challenges for traditional PE funds – fundraising has subsequently slowed, with an estimated \$1 closed for every \$2.40 of new fundraising targeted⁶. In contrast, the more-liquid secondary market, where investors exchange stakes in existing private equity investments, has experienced a surge in activity. Secondary funds raised \$35 billion in Q1 2024, a 6% increase from the \$33 billion raised in Q1 2023⁶.

This follows a strong 2023, in which secondary funds raised a total of \$82 billion globally, marking a significant 124% yearover-year increase⁶. This surge is driven by investors seeking alternative avenues for returns and liquidity amidst the slowdown in traditional PE capital distributions. LPs, feeling the pressure to rebalance portfolios and access liquidity, are increasingly turning to the secondary market, a trend further fuelled by GPs utilising continuation vehicles and, a new trend toward single-asset secondaries. A disconnect between public and private market valuations adds complexity to this market, however, making it challenging to price secondary transactions.

Coupled with the slowdown in sponsor capital distributions is a growing sense of unease amongst LPs as they continue to scrutinise the health of their portfolio investments. There are indications cracks are beginning to appear, not only in

cyclical assets, but also those in more-stable sectors that traditionally attract more leverage. The postponement of sales processes – in a bid to wait for rate cuts – has seen a sharp increase in the use of PIK – through either exchanging cash paid interest to PIK, or by raising new subordinated tranches to re-jig capital structures, as well as NAV loans at the portfolio level, both of which could suggest some underlying performance issues. Investment fragility concerns are further compounded by a rising number of assets in which lenders have been forced to take control.

Uncertainty is driving investors towards the perceived safety of larger, more-established private market funds. Globally, larger PE funds are now attracting the lion's share of capital allocated to the asset class, with c.80% of global fundraising flowing to funds exceeding \$1bn in size⁶. In Europe in 2023, twenty funds alone accounted for c.€95bn of committed capital, averaging c. \in 4.7bn in size⁷. This is not only contained to PE as an asset class, with the trend very much the same in private credit. In early September, ICG announced that it had raised \$17bn for its fifth flagship direct lending fund, marking what - excluding leverage - is thought to be the largest fundraising of its kind in Europe to-date. Other smaller funds have found the environment to be more challenging, even those with a heritage in the asset management industry and the infrastructure that comes with it - the latest casualty in the form of Fidelity's private credit business.

Waterman Stern's analysis – presented later in this report – sets out the number of investment positions held by ten of the most-active lenders operating in the mid-market, as well as respective investment team sizes. Our own interpretation

of this analysis is that, in an event that multiple investments were to experience a performance downturn in portfolios, then the capacity of teams may be stretched in supporting borrowers whilst also being able to drive new origination initiatives. This may also provide some context to the observation of an increasing propensity for private debt funds to club together in deals as a means to share risk.

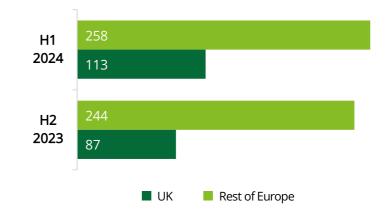
Murmurings of private debt regulation continue to rumble on amidst its increasing interconnectedness with the banking sector. With an estimated 80% of new European private credit funds making use of bank-provided subscription lines in 2023, the potential for risk transmission is apparent⁸. Despite this increased interconnectedness, our perspective is that the aggregate level of risk in the market has not necessarily increased. Banks no longer provide borrowers with the same quantum of leverage facilities as in the past, instead offering capital further up in ownership structures – i.e., subscription lines and NAV facilities.

Private credit funds – which have picked up the slack in lending directly to portfolio company borrowers – continue to remain significantly less levered (even with subscription lines and NAV facilities) overall compared to the banks. Private (debt) by name – private by nature – means a shortage of available data in terms of valuation and returns, which makes it difficult to accurately assess the likelihood of defaults both at the investment and fund level. However, there are arguably early warning signs following Moody's decision to place the bonds of three Business Development Companies (BDCs) on negative outlook in April – a hint at potential challenges set to slowly emerge from the shell⁹.

Total Deals Reported in H1 2024



H1 2024 vs. H2 2023 Comparison



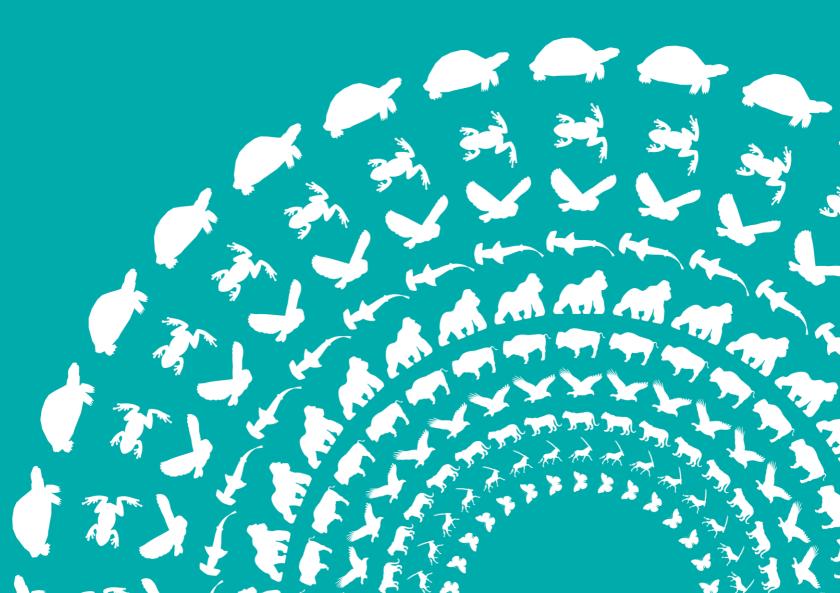
Total Deals Reported Since Deal Tracker Inception



Borrowers access private debt to power growth

Businesses rely on access to growth capital, yet due to risk appetite and stringent regulation, banks are more constrained. Bringing in alternative and flexible capital allows companies to grow, yet the market can be overwhelming with numerous complex loan options offered to borrowers. Private debt lenders can offer effective rates with little or no equity dilution of your business, enabling businesses to make acquisitions, refinance bank lenders, consolidate the shareholder base, and grow activities.

Financial Risk Management – Understanding the Coming Months



Financial Risk Management – Understanding the Coming Months

Monetary policy rates are starting to fall; what does this mean for borrowers?

"Inflationary pressures have now eased enough that we've been able to cut interest rates today. But this decision was finely balanced." – Andrew Bailey, post- Monetary Policy Committee meeting on 01 Aug 2024

Written as of: 04 September 2024

The commencement of monetary policy easing

The period heading into the summer saw monetary policy rates across developed market (DM) economies held steady, as global central banks sought to return inflation within their respective jurisdictions to more desired levels. However, that narrative has now changed, with price pressures falling globally, and in some instances (UK headline CPI at 2%) falling to central bank target.

We saw the Bank of Canada become the first movers in the Group of 7 (G7) economies, when they cut their policy rate by 25bps on 05 Jun. The European Central Bank (ECB) followed a day later with a cut of the same magnitude. The Swiss National Bank, Riksbank (Sweden's central bank) and Bank of England (BOE) are the other names in the DM arena to have cut their policy rates and as such, commence their monetary easing cycles. Andrew Bailey's comment above summarised the decision-making process behind the Bank of England's choice to cut its base rate, although it can broadly be used to describe the current situation for the above-mentioned monetary authorities.

The Federal Reserve (Fed) are – at least according to current market pricing – next in line to commence their monetary policy easing. Current estimates – as of the date this article was written – have a rate cut fully priced in from the US central bank, however, the quantum is still up for debate; latest pricing assigns a c.61%-39% split of a 25bps-50bps cut, respectively, at their next meeting on 18 Sep.

Lastly, the Bank of Japan are the clear outlier at this juncture, having increased their policy rate by 15bps to 0.25% at their latest meeting on 01 Aug. Years of deflation, slow economic growth and ultra-loose monetary and fiscal policy have led to the central bank playing 'catch-up' with their DM contemporaries. Their economy is only now being seen in a position to embark on a period of monetary tightening.

Be wary of forecasts

So, what's next? Market participants, as always, are second guessing the future path of interest rates; seldom are these predictions correct. The whiskers chart below, reflecting the past 5 years, shows how market estimates fail to reflect the actual path of future SONIA rate movements, with rate cuts expected – and not materialising – since mid-2022. This trend remains, with latest data – as of the date this article was written – suggesting SONIA will fall to approximately 3.4% in three years' time.

6.0% 5.0% 4.0% 3.0% Historical SONIA Forward curve as at Sep 24 2.0% 1.0% 0.0% (1.0%) Jul-19 Apr-19 Oct-19 Jan-20 Jan-23 Oct-25 Jan-26 Apr-20 Jul-20 Oct-20 Jan-22 Jul-22 Oct-22 Apr-23 Jul-23 Oct-23 Jan-25 Jul-26 Jul-21 Oct-21 Apr-22 Jan-24 Apr-24 Jul-24 Oct-24 Apr-25 Jul-25 Apr-26 Oct-26 an-27 Jan-21 Apr-21 Anr-27

SONIA Whiskers Chart

Note: Dotted lines in the chart above represent the forward curve at the respective dates Source: ICE and Refinitiv, 04 September 2024

This monetary policy cycle has presented myriad opportunities for floating rate borrowers, across jurisdictions, that are contemplating hedging. The inverted forward curve, ever-present since mid-2022, has led to potential savings when comparing the swap rate to the 3-month reference rate; see table overleaf for the maximum for this monetary policy cycle. The savings achievable in the first year(s) of a debt facility can be particularly of interest for borrowers where debt costs are most challenging in the earlier years.

Reference Rate	3-mo. Reference Rate	5-yr. Swap Rate	Delta	Savings (in Year 1)	Date Achieved
SONIA	5.203%	3.302%	1.901%	1,900,900	15/01/2024
SOFR	5.047%	3.096%	1.951%	1,951,000	04/05/2023
EURIBOR	3.925%	2.235%	1.569%	1,569,000	27/12/2023

Potential savings when exchanging floating rate for 5-year fixed rates, on 100m notional¹

Note: ¹Assumes no change in the underlying interest rate environment and defined as the interest expense of the Swap in year 1 versus remaining floating at the respective 3-month reference rate

Source: Refinitiv and Deloitte analysis; 04 September 2024

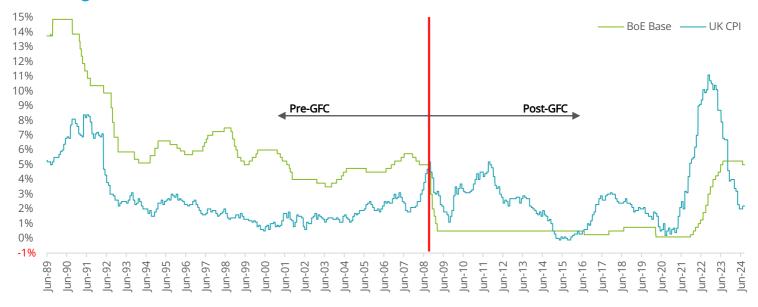
Bank of England

Both May and June's CPI print, the latter published on 17 Jul, hit the target 2.0% level, though missed a 1.9% expected level. Core CPI, which excludes the volatile prices of Energy and Food, as well as Tobacco and Alcohol, still sits stubbornly at 3.5%. Five of the nine members of the BOE's Monetary Policy Committee felt price pressures had subsided enough to warrant a 25bps rate cut at their meeting on 01 Aug. The inflation numbers for July – published on 14 Aug – showed headline inflation ticked higher to 2.2%, although below economists' forecasts of 2.3%. Monetary Policy Committee members will be wary of a further rise in inflation, with headline CPI forecasted to rise to 2.4% by year-end.

In a historical context, current market dynamics puts borrowers in an interesting position. During the 15 years prior to the GFC, the UK Bank rate averaged 5.32%, c. 3.5% above UK CPI, and higher than the current Bank rate of 5.00%, and SONIA at 4.95%.

	Mar-93 - GFC			GFC - Covid			
	UK CPI	UK Bank Rate	Rate Premium	UK CPI	UK Bank Rate	Rate Premium	
High	3.80%	7.50%	3.7%	5.20%	3.00%	-2.2%	
Average	1.84%	5.32%	3.5%	2.24%	0.53%	-1.7%	
Low	0.50%	3.50%	3.0%	-0.10%	0.25%	0.4%	

Post-GFC saw a period of loosened monetary policy, aimed at kickstarting growth, during which time the more volatile inflation levels were not sought to be controlled by the bank's interest rate, per the chart overleaf. If we are to consider that pre-GFC monetary policy was more 'normal' than in the period following, then it stands to reason that the BOE is not 'required' to cut its rate of interest, even though inflation has currently fallen back to the target 2.00%.



Bank of England Base Rate and UK CPI

With SONIA now once again higher than current inflation levels, it is conceivable that UK rates are held at levels well above the current "terminal rate" of circa 3.25% for the foreseeable future, ensuring longer-term borrowing costs remain elevated vis-à-vis the Post-GFC-Covid period and suppressing financial sponsor's returns and underpinning elevated discount rates. Borrowers therefore need to balance the market's expectations that rates might fall back to the lower levels seen post GFC versus the reality they may stay higher when considering whether to hedge floating rate debt.

Let's not forget about volatility, including intra-day volatility

Events since the start of August have seen wild gyrations in the prices of risk assets, with major equity indices swinging noticeably from c.-13% to +10% day-to-day. The moves were predicated by weak US labour market data and subsequent recessionary fears in the world's largest economy. In turn, markets moved to almost fully price in a 50bps rate cut from the Fed at their next meeting in September, further lowering interest rate swap pricing for longer-dated hedges (see above).

It goes without saying that this period of heightened volatility has made predicting future rate moves even more challenging – see comments on whiskers chart above – meaning would-be hedgers are liable to large intraday rate moves. For example, the 06-Aug saw intraday volatility spike 181% (+42 points) versus the market closing levels on 02-Aug. It is exactly at times like these where industry experts should be leveraged to help sift through the market noise.

How can Deloitte help?

Private debt lenders are limited in their ability to provide a substantial range of hedge products. As such, borrowers that consider hedging via a swap may have to leverage existing bank relationships with a credit line – owing to the credit intensive nature of such a product. Where borrowers do not have existing credit relationships, the use of external advisors, can be helpful in finding suitable additional hedge counterparties. Our Hedging Advisory team is ideally positioned in the marketplace, between alternative lender and borrower, to give expert advice on structuring a derivative to match the underlying debt profile and risk appetite of the client. Additionally, our debt advisory team can assist with ensuring a debt facility has sufficient capacity to fund any upfront premiums relevant to interest rate caps.

Deloitte Hedging Advisory

Deloitte's Hedging Advisory and Derivative Execution team has vast experience advising clients on the use of financial derivatives, and collectively executing billions of pounds' worth of hedging transactions for some of the largest private credit fund managers globally. This, coupled with the broader Deloitte service offerings, allows for an integrated approach to managing our clients' risk management requirements.

Authors

Harry Woolman has over 5 years' financial market experience, having devised and executed billions of dollars' worth of FX and interest rate transactions for some of the largest private capital managers and corporate clients globally.

Mark Beckett is a Director in the Hedging Advisory and Derivative Execution team at Deloitte. With over 20 years of experience operating in the financial derivative and consulting environment he is a specialist in advising and executing on financial risk management derivatives. Beyond his consulting and advisory roles, he has spent 4 years on a bank trading floor managing the derivative exposure of his clients and the bank.





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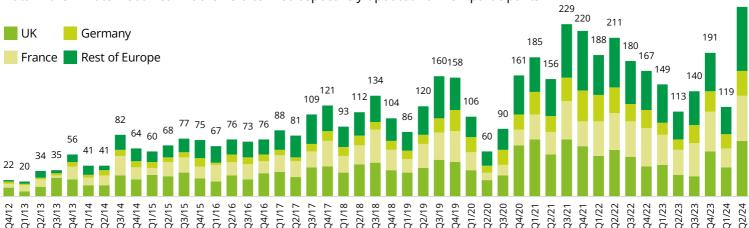
Private Debt Deal Tracker H1 2024 Deals



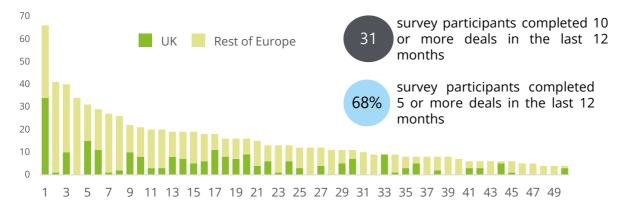
The Private Debt Deal Tracker now covers 82 lenders and reported 5,250 deals

Private Debt Deal Tracker

Currently covers 82 leading private debt lenders. Only UK and European deals are included in the survey. Data in the Private Debt Deal Tracker is often retrospectively updated for new participants



Deals completed by top 50 most active survey participants (Last 12 months)



1,741 UK Deals 3,509

252

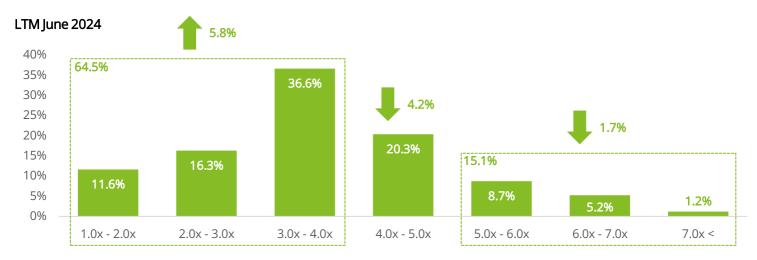
Source: Deloitte Analysis

Note: the number of contributors in the Deal Tracker varies quarter-by-quarter, implying that movements in Deal Volumes occur as Private Debt Deal Tracker Autumn 2024 17 a result of both minor variations in the number of Lenders contributing deal data, as well as underlying market conditions.

Leverage has continued to slowly taper, with a 5.8pp uplift in deals less than/equal to 4.0x

Leverage

LTM Comparison



LTM December 2023



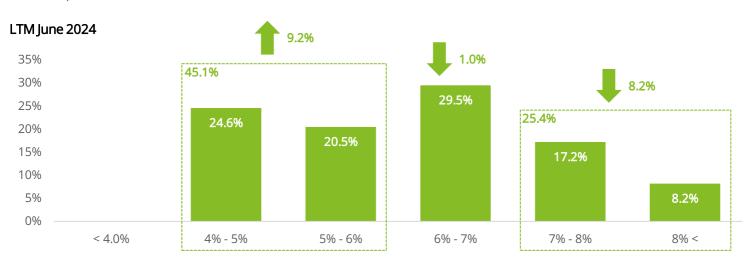
Source: Deloitte Analysis

Note: based on a [25-30]% submission rate across all deals in covered period

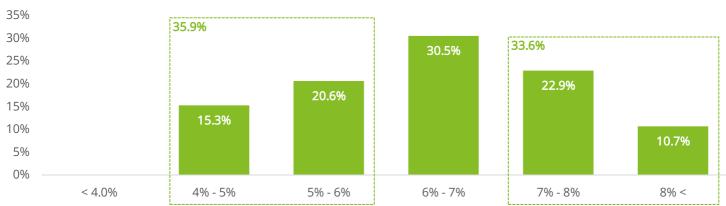
Margin has started to decrease, with a 9.2pp reduction in deals pricing above 6%

Margin

LTM Comparison



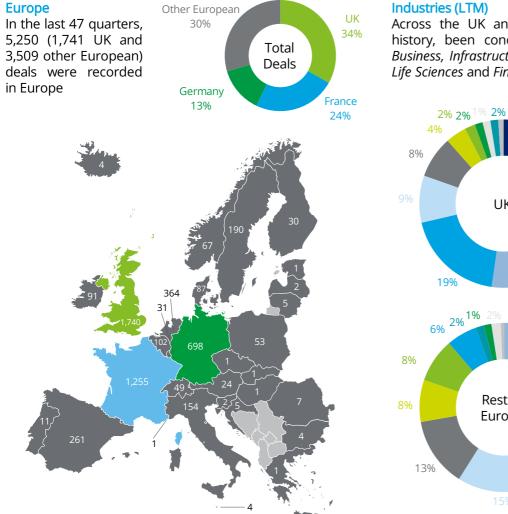
LTM December 2023



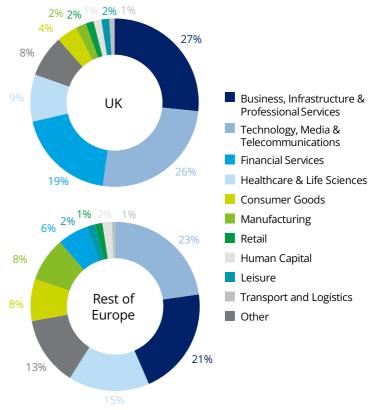
Source: Deloitte Analysis

Note: based on a [15-20]% submission rate across all deals in covered period

Private debt lenders continue to increasingly seek to diversify geographies



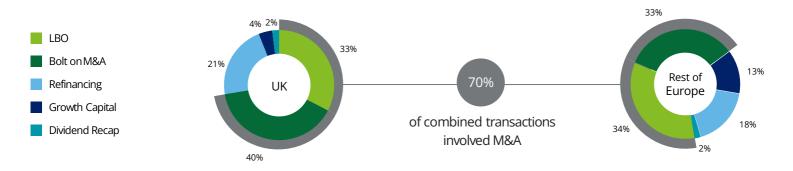
Across the UK and Europe, private debt has, in recent history, been concentrated across four industries: *TMT*, *Business, Infrastructure & Professional Services, Healthcare & Life Sciences* and *Financial Services.*



M&A remains the key driver for private debt deals following a notable increase in bolt-ons

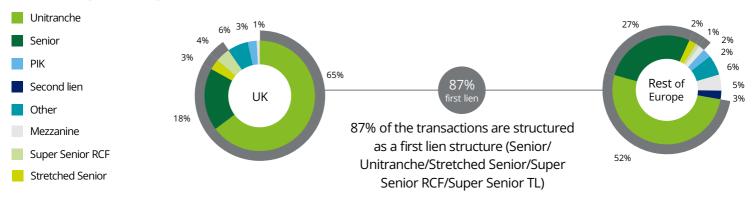
Deal Purpose (LTM)

The majority of deals remain M&A focused, with 70% of activity revolving around an acquisition. Of the 702 deals in the last 12 months, only 101 did not involve a private equity sponsored asset.



Structures (LTM)

Unitranche is the dominant structure, representing 65% of UK transactions and 52% of European transactions. Subordinated structures represent only 13% of total transactions.



*For the purpose of the deal tracker, we classify senior only deals with pricing S + 650bps or above as Unitranche. Pricing below this hurdle is classified as Senior Debt.

Source: Deloitte Analysis

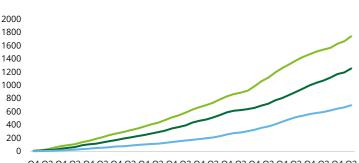
The UK still leads as the main source of deal volume for private debt lenders in Europe...

Cumulative Number of Deals per Country

The number of deals is increasing at different rates across Europe. The graphs below show countries that have completed five or more deals until June 2024

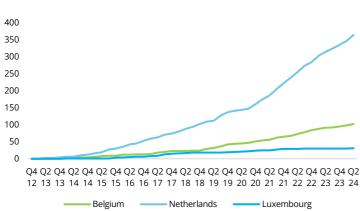
Nordics

Largest Markets



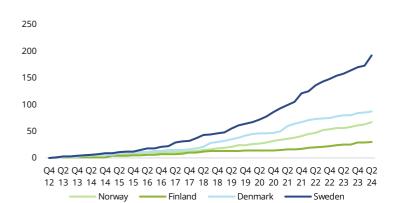
Q4 Q2 12 13 13 14 14 15 15 16 16 17 17 18 18 19 19 20 20 21 21 22 22 23 23 24

UK — France — Germany

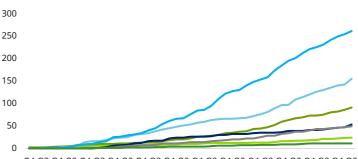


Benelux





Other European



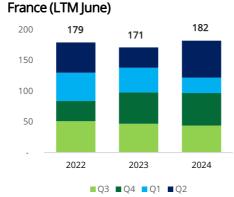
Q4 Q2 12 13 13 14 14 15 15 16 16 17 17 18 18 19 19 20 20 21 21 22 22 23 23 24



...however, its prevalence has slowly declined over time following stiff competition for new opportunities in other European jurisdictions

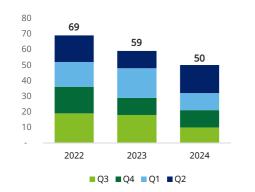
Comparison of deals for the last three years on an LTM basis for selected European countries



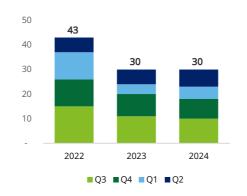


Germany (LTM June)

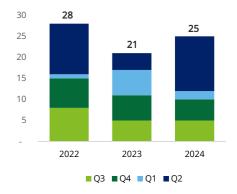
Netherlands (LTM June)



Spain (LTM June)



Italy (LTM June)



Source: Deloitte Analysis

Landmark unitranche deals reported since Deal Tracker inception

Selected Landmark Unitranche Deals (> EUR/GBP 450m)

Borrower	Country	Unitranche in €m	Private Debt Lenders	Sponsor	Date
Adevinta	Norway		Arcmont, Blackstone Credit, SMBC	√	Dec-23
Access	UK		Park Square, SMBC, Bain, Blackstone, Apollo, HPS, Arcmont, CVC, Golub	~	Jun-22
Envalior	Germany		CVC, Pemberton	\checkmark	May-23
Datix	UK		Bain Capital, Golub Capital	\checkmark	Apr-24
ISP	Spain		Arcmont, Macquarie, SMBC	\checkmark	Jul-21
Dechra	UK		Blackstone Credit, Guggenheim, SMBC, Park Square, Permira Credit, KKR	\checkmark	Jun-23
ETC	France		Pemberton, CVC, Permira Credit	\checkmark	Oct-22
VFS Global	Switzerland		Blackstone Credit	√	Jun-24
PIB	UK		Blackstone Credit, Apollo	\checkmark	Jun-24
Iris Software	UK		Blackstone Credit	√	Mar-24
Davies	UK		Blackstone Credit	\checkmark	Jun-24
SumUp	Germany		Apollo, Deutsche	-	Jun-24
FNZ	UK		Goldman Sachs Private Debt, HPS Partners, Arcmont, Hayfin, Bain	\checkmark	Dec-21
Vetpartners	UK		Ares	\checkmark	Oct-23
PIB	UK		KKR, Apollo, Bain Capital, Golub	\checkmark	Mar-21
Ardonagh	UK		Ares, KKR	√	Jun-20
Datix	UK		Bain Capital, Golub Capital	\checkmark	Sep-18
Aareon	Germany		Blackstone Credit	√	Jun-24
CFC Underwriting	UK		Park Square, KKR, Blackstone Credit	\checkmark	May-22
Civica	UK		Macquarie, KKR, Golub Capital, SMBC, Guggenheim, CVC	√	Sep-23
Fortenova	Croatia		HPS	-	Sep-19
Corden Pharma	Germany		Arcmont, MV Credit, SMBC, KKR	√	Aug-22
Hermes UK	UK		KKR	\checkmark	Jul-21
Fidelis	UK		Blackstone Credit	\checkmark	Jan-23
Evelyn Partners	UK		Northleaf, Apollo	\checkmark	Jun-24
IRCA	Italy		Carlyle, CVC, Goldman Sachs Private Debt	\checkmark	Sep-22
Envirotainer Ltd	Sweden		Blackstone Credit, CVC, Goldman Sachs Private Debt, KKR	\checkmark	Jul-22
IVIRMA	Spain		Park Square, SMBC, Guggenheim	√	Sep-22
Clarion	UK		Hayfin	\checkmark	Feb-24
GGW Holding	Germany		Blackstone Credit	\checkmark	Dec-23
April	France		Park Square, SMBC, Apollo, CVC, Permira Credit	\checkmark	Dec-22
Ideagen	UK		Golub Capital, Hayfin, Five Arrows, Bridgepoint Credit	√	Sep-23
Davies	UK		Blackstone Credit	√	Aug-21
European Camping Group	France		Ares, Tikehau	√	Sep-21
One.com	Sweden		CVC, MV Credit, SMBC	√	Apr-23

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Add-ons

Source: LCD, an offering of S&P Global Market Intelligence, Deloitte research and other publicly available sources

Landmark unitranche deals reported since Deal Tracker inception

Selected Landmark Unitranche Deals (> EUR/GBP 450m)

Borrower	Country	Unitranche in €m	Private Debt Lenders	Sponsor	Date
Phenna	UK		Arcmont	√	Dec-22
Doc Generici	Italy		CVC, KKR, Blackstone Credit, HPS	\checkmark	Oct-22
European Dental Group	Netherlands		Ares	\checkmark	Dec-23
Sanoptis	Germany		Arcmont, Barings	\checkmark	Jul-22
Reconomy	UK		Bain Capital, Hayfin, Macquarie	\checkmark	Jun-22
Azets	UK		Hayfin, Deutsche, Permira Credit	\checkmark	Oct-22
ESDEC	Netherlands		Blackstone Credit, Apollo	\checkmark	Aug-23
Neopharmed Gentili	Italy		Macquarie, Arcmont, CVC	√	Mar-23
Asda	UK		Apollo	\checkmark	Oct-23
EuroTechnoCom	France		Pemberton	√	Sep-23
Sitecore	Denmark	-	Guggenheim	✓	Nov-23
Biofarma	Italy		CVC	\checkmark	Jul-23
Acrotec	Switzerland		Blackstone Credit, CVC	\checkmark	Apr-23
SumUp	Germany		Bain Capital, Goldman Sachs Private Debt	-	Feb-21
Industria Chimica Emiliana Srl	Italy		KKR	\checkmark	Sep-19
Daisy	UK		Ares	-	Jan-19
Eureka	France		Barings	\checkmark	Sep-23
Sykes Holiday Cottages	UK		Ares	√	Apr-22
Zellis	UK		Northleaf, Blackstone Credit	\checkmark	Jun-24
Dojo	UK		CVC	-	Oct-23
Norgine	Netherlands		Hayfin, MV Credit	\checkmark	Mar-24
Forterro	Sweden		Arcmont, CVC, Blackstone Credit, Macquarie	\checkmark	Jul-22
Polynt Reichhold	Italy	-	Blackstone Credit	\checkmark	May-16
Trescal	France		KKR, Park Square, SMBC, Apollo, CVC	\checkmark	Mar-23
Flowbird	France	-	Arcmont, Ares	\checkmark	Nov-21
BMS	UK		Ares	\checkmark	Mar-23
Parkdean	UK	-	Ares	\checkmark	Mar-23
Odealim	France		Arcmont, Goldman Sachs Private Debt, Macquarie	\checkmark	Sep-22
Theramex	UK	-	CVC, SMBC	\checkmark	Aug-22
ASPI	Italy	-	Blackstone Credit	\checkmark	Apr-22
Vizrt	Norway	-	Blackstone Credit	\checkmark	Mar-22
Gruppo Florence	Italy		Apollo	✓	Oct-23
EG Group	UK		Apollo	✓	Nov-23
Madison	UK		Carlyle	✓	Mar-23
ECF	France		SMBC, Ares	✓	Oct-23

1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000

Add-ons

Source: LCD, an offering of S&P Global Market Intelligence, Deloitte research and other publicly available sources

Landmark unitranche deals reported since Deal Tracker inception

Selected Landmark Unitranche Deals (> EUR/GBP 450m)

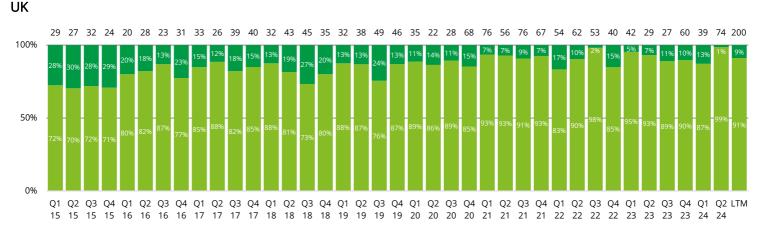
Borrower	Country	Unitranche in €m	Private Debt Lenders	Sponsor	Date
Questel	France	_	SMBC, Park Square, Barings, Bridgepoint Credit, Capza	✓	Dec-20
Zenith	UK		Goldman Sachs	\checkmark	Mar-17
ION Corporates	Ireland		HPS	-	Sep-19
Unither	France		Barings, Arcmont	\checkmark	Mar-23
Open Health	UK		MV Credit, CVC	\checkmark	Sep-22
Markerstudy	UK		CVC	\checkmark	Oct-23
Audiotonix	UK	_	Alcentra, Arcmont	\checkmark	Sep-22
A2Mac1	France		Macquarie, Arcmont	\checkmark	Mar-23
DWS	UK	-	Ares	\checkmark	Dec-20
MRHT	Germany		Macquarie, Bain Capital	\checkmark	Mar-23
Outcomes First Group	UK		Barings, HPS, Five Arrows, CVC, Apollo	\checkmark	Sep-19
BPP	UK		Blackstone Credit	\checkmark	Jun-23
WFC	France	-	Barings	\checkmark	Nov-18
Kyriba	France		Sixth Street	\checkmark	Apr-19
Ocorian / Estera	UK		Ares	\checkmark	Jan-20
IDH Group	UK		Ares	\checkmark	May-21
TES Global	UK		Macquarie, Bain Capital, Deutsche	\checkmark	Feb-22
QSPR	Germany		Ares	\checkmark	Mar-20
Sogelink	France		Blackstone Credit	\checkmark	Nov-23
D&B Audiotechnik	Germany		Hayfin, Arcmont	\checkmark	Aug-23
Aareon	Germany		KKR, Pemberton, Blackstone Credit	\checkmark	Sep-23
Acqua & Sapone	Italy		Pemberton, Carlyle	\checkmark	Oct-21
НКА	UK		Park Square, SMBC, KKR	√	Sep-22

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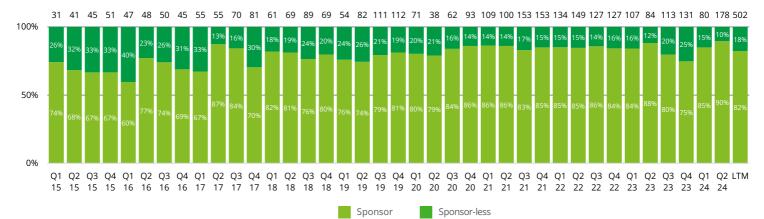
Add-ons

Sponsor-backed opportunities continue to make up the majority of private debt deals

Sponsor-backed versus private deals As % of total deals per quarter



Rest of Europe



Source: Deloitte Analysis

Case Study: Efficio Limited

23

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Management-owned businesses are tapping into private debt markets to capitalise on the increased flexibility

Efficio Limited, the leading global supply chain and procurement consultancy, has completed a refinancing agreement with four institutions.

Efficio is the world's largest independent procurement and supply chain expert, with 1,300 staff across Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and North America. The business identifies, delivers, and sustains business improvements for its clients by managing supply chain risk, resilience, and sustainability, reducing costs, and transforming their procurement functions.

Efficio has continued to grow exceptionally well, and consistent with its corporate principles, the board decided to undertake a financing process to reward employees and allow them to share in the combined success of the business.

Efficio chose an innovative First-Out Last-Out (FOLO) structure provided by Deutsche Bank Direct Lending, Pricoa Private Capital, HSBC, and Siemens. This structure provides significant capacity for future growth while optimising overall cost of capital. The loan is ESG-ready, with appropriate targets to be agreed upon by the providers. As an important part of Efficio's strategy, management is proud to be held accountable to the highest standards of corporate responsibility.



CEO, Efficio Limited

"We're delighted to partner with these globally renowned institutions as Efficio moves to the next stage of its journey. The financing package put in place will support our strategic aims and grow the business, while continuing to reward our people who make that possible. The capacity brought by the addition of new partners has prepared the company for the next stage of growth."



James Blastland Partner, Deloitte Debt, Capital and Treasury Advisory

"It was a privilege to support Efficio on this financing, which provides the flexibility and capital required for the business to continue its journey. Jens and the team are first-class, and we can't wait to see what the next stage of their growth will look like." Throughout the process, the business approached a range of different providers and gathered responses from banks and funds alike allowing the board to fully assess the merits of the different options available to them. This approach ultimately led to a deal that fulfilled a number of important criteria for the business, bespoke to its situation as an employee owned corporate.

The flexibility offered by Efficio's structure demonstrates how private debt markets have sought to develop their offerings over several years to provide the most competitive financing offers. While FOLO structures have been present in the market for some time, other financing structures, such as those involving PIK (Payment-in-Kind) tranches or subordinated holdcos, are now offered as cost-effective alternatives to equity investment for fast-growing management owned companies. As the availability of capital in the private debt markets continues to grow, it's likely that the range of products and complexity will continue to increase as lenders fight to secure the best deals. Deloitte was delighted to advise on this transaction, which marks one of several sponsorless transactions completed this year. Increasingly, management-owned businesses are looking to utilise private debt markets to access capital while retaining control and direction over their businesses. Deloitte's knowledge of these markets, underpinned by the research done as part of the Private Debt Deal Tracker, allows us to navigate a range of solutions for all our clients.

Authors

Will Durgan is an Assistant Director in Deloitte's Private Equity Debt Advisory team working closely with CFO's and Private Equity investors to provide them with independent advice. He has over 7 years' corporate financial advisory experience, having worked in the Debt, Capital & Treasury Advisory and M&A Advisory units at Deloitte.

Jake Banton has spent 2.5 years in Deloitte's Private Equity Debt Advisory team including a 6-month secondment to the Nordic Debt & Capital Advisory team. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant (ACA) in Deloitte's audit practice.



Will Durgan

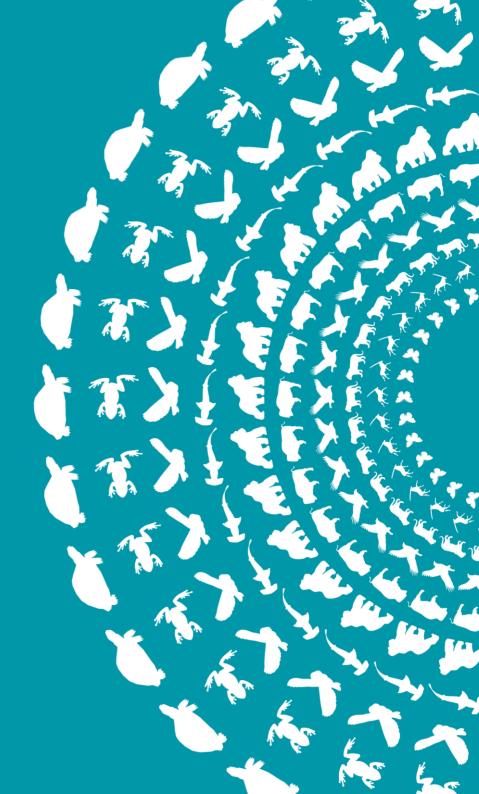
Assistant Director Debt, Capital & Treasury Advisory +44 7787 978 705 wdurgan@deloitte.co.uk



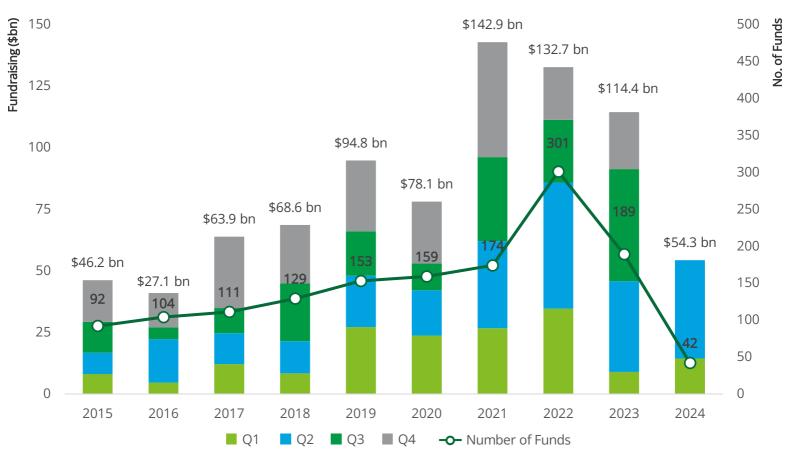
Jake Banton

Manager Debt, Capital & Treasury Advisory +44 7778 268 239 jbanton@deloitte.co.uk

Private Debt Fundraising



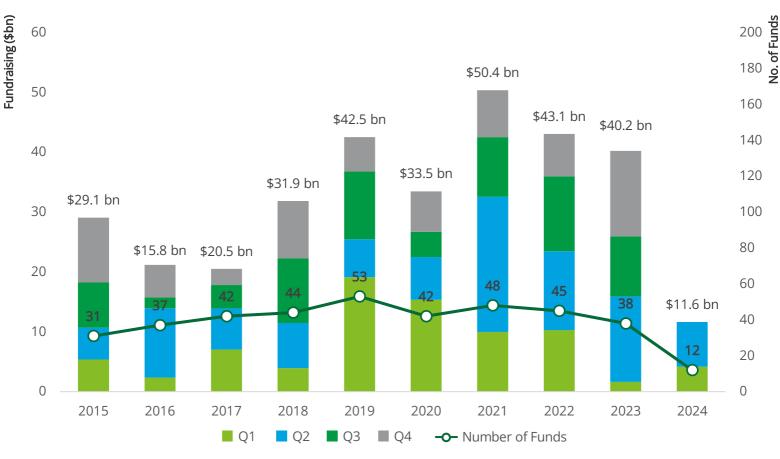
Global direct lending fundraising by quarter¹



Select largest funds raised in H1 2024

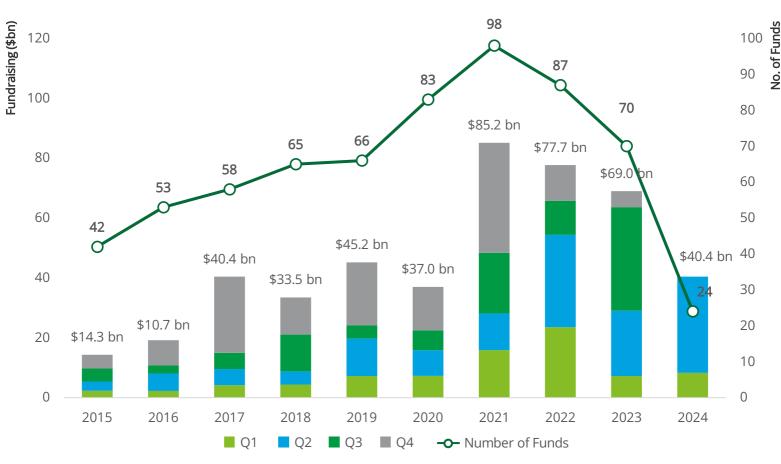
- West Street Loan Partners V **\$13,100m**
- HPS Specialty Loan Fund VI **\$10,400m**
- Benefit Street Partners Debt Fund V **\$4,700m**
- CAPZA 6 Private Debt \$2,702m
- Pemberton Strategic Credit Fund III **\$2,488m**
- Blue Torch Credit Opportunities Fund III \$2,332m
- GEMS Fund 6 \$2,000m
- Kartesia Senior Opportunities II \$1,945m
- PCP Corporate Credit Fund V **\$1,817m**
- PineBridge Private Credit III **\$1,700m**

Europe direct lending fundraising by quarter¹



Select largest funds raised in H1 2024

- CAPZA 6 Private Debt **\$2,702m** ٠
- Pemberton Strategic Credit Fund III **\$2,488m** ٠
- Kartesia Senior Opportunities II **\$1,945m** ٠
- PCP Corporate Credit Fund V **\$1,817m** ٠
- West Street European Middle Market Credit \$1,460m Alder Corporate Credit DAC \$63m ٠
- Sona Capital Solutions II \$800m
- Alcántara Short-Term Lending— \$162m
- Talde Deuda Alternativa \$108m
- The Netherlands Unitranche Fund **\$90m**



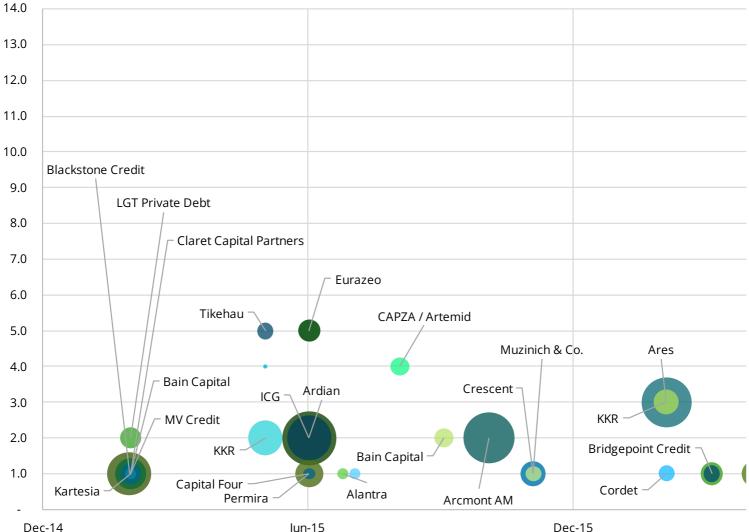
North America direct lending fundraising by quarter¹

Select largest funds raised in H1 2024

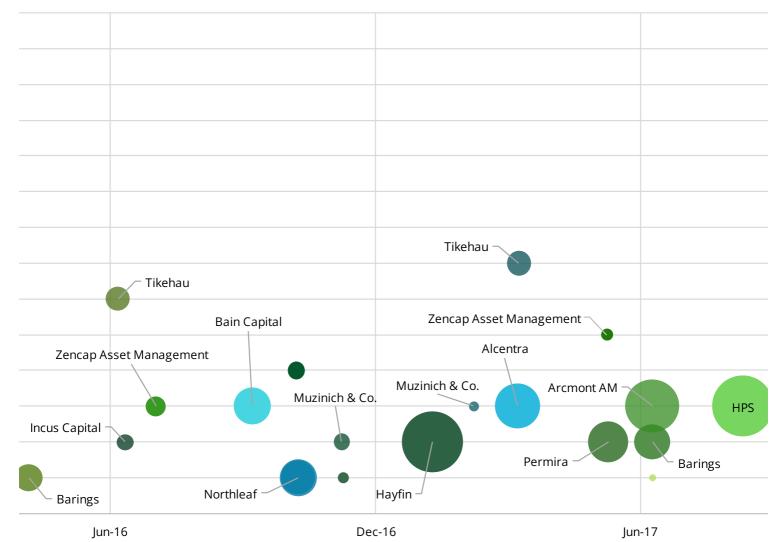
- West Street Loan Partners V **\$13,100m**
- HPS Specialty Loan Fund VI **\$10,400m**
- Benefit Street Partners Debt Fund V **\$4,700m**
- Blue Torch Credit Opportunities Fund III \$2,332m
- GEMS Fund 6 **\$2,000m**

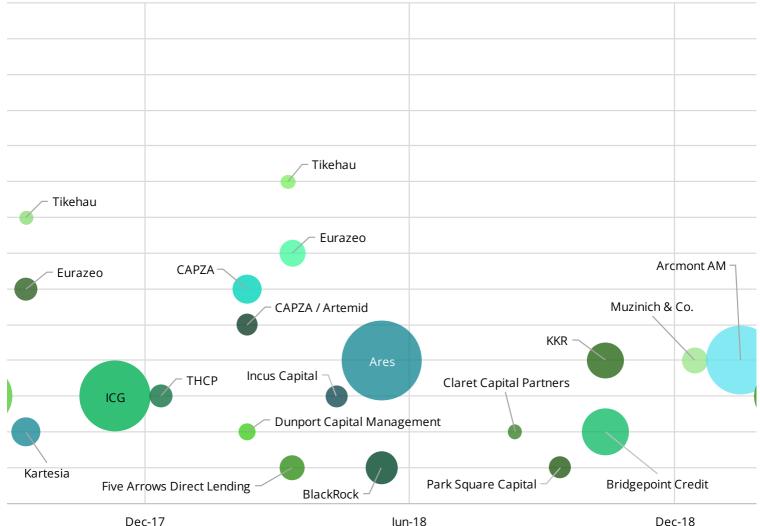
- PineBridge Private Credit III \$1,700m
- GoldenTree Private Credit Fund \$1,350m
- Golub Capital Partners 14 \$1,162m
- MidOcean Tactical Credit Fund III \$765m
- Sagard Senior Lending Partners \$741m

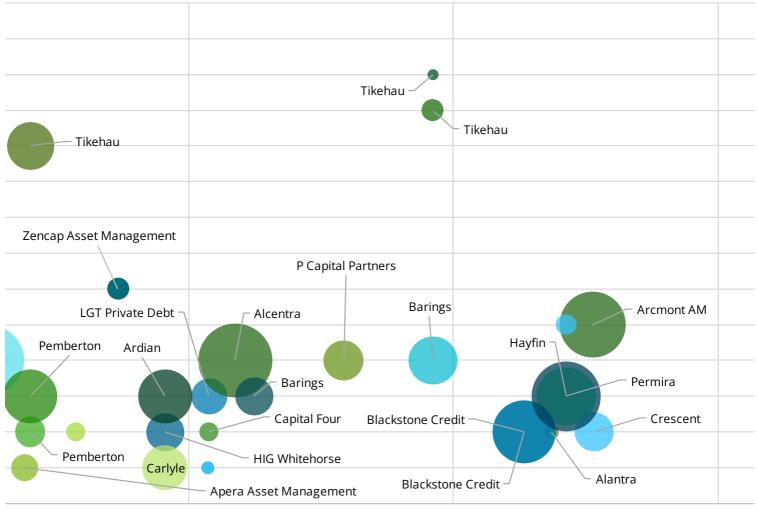
Senior Direct Lending fundraising by vintage and manager



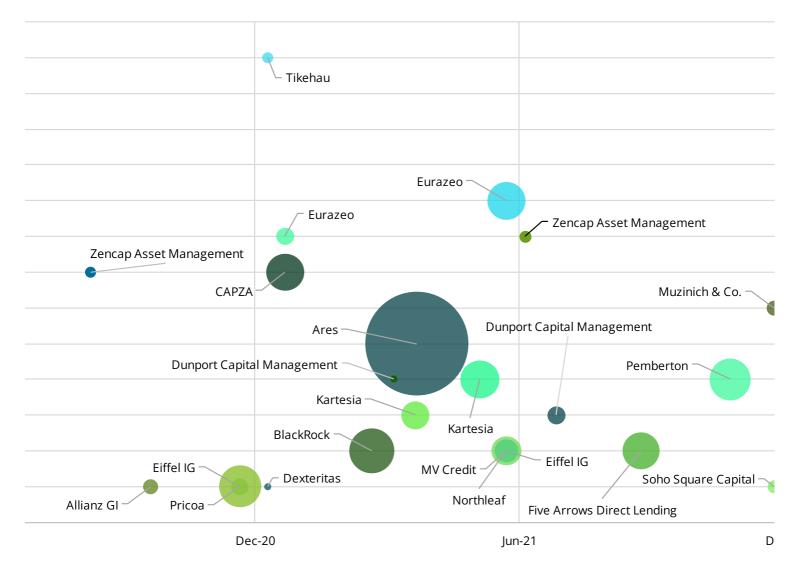


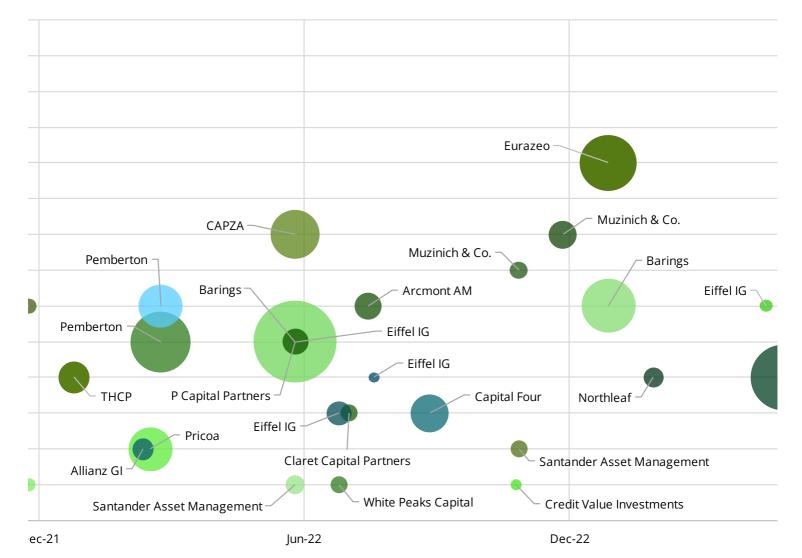


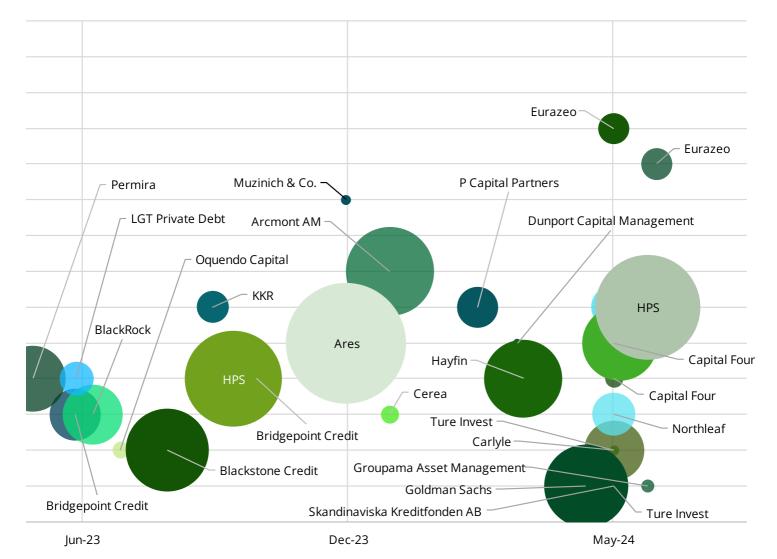


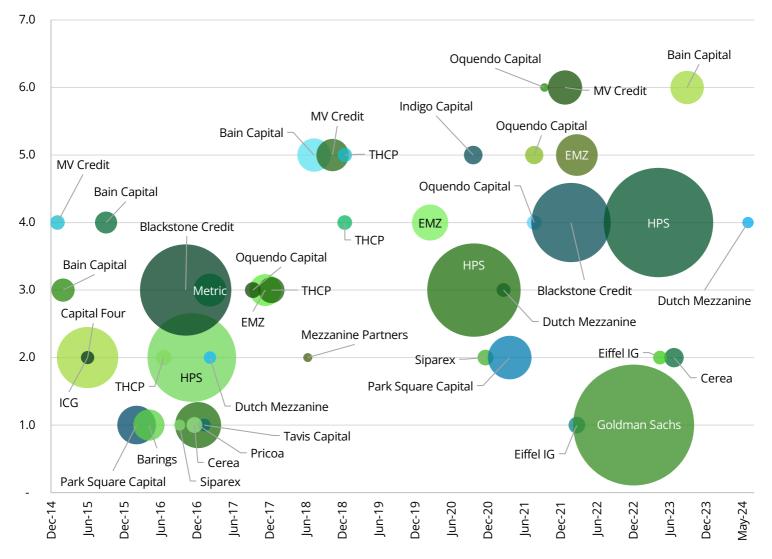


Jun-19









What funds have been raised by private debt managers?

An overview of some of the largest funds (> 1bn) raised in the market

Private Debt Lenders	Date	Size (m) w/o leverage	Investment Strategy	Geography
Alcentra				
European Direct Lending Fund III	Q3 19	€ 5,500	Senior and Junior	Europe
Direct Lending Fund	Q1 17	€ 2,100	Senior and Junior	Europe
Arcmont Asset Management				
Arcmont Direct Lending Fund IV	Q4 23	€ 10,000	Senior and Junior	Europe
Arcmont Senior Fund II	Q1 20	€ 4,400	Senior	Europe
Arcmont Direct Lending Fund III	Q1 19	€ 4,900	Senior and Junior	Europe
Arcmont Senior Loan Fund I	Q3 17	€ 2,900	Senior	Europe
Arcmont Direct Lending Fund II	Q4 15	€ 2,700	Senior and Junior	Europe
Ardian				
Ardian Private Debt Fund V	Q4 22	€ 3,962	Senior and Junior	Europe
Ardian Private Debt Fund IV	Q2 19	€ 3,000	Senior and Junior	Europe
Ardian Private Debt Fund III	Q3 15	€ 2,026	Senior and Junior	Europe
Axa Private Debt Fund II	Q2 10	€ 1,529	Senior and Junior	Europe
Ares				
ACE VI	[Ongoing]	€ 15,000	Senior	Europe
ACE V	Q2 21	€ 11,000	Senior	Europe
Ares Special Opportunities Fund, L.P.	Q2 20	€ 3,500	Senior	Europe
ACE IV	Q2 18	€ 6,500	Senior	Europe
ACE III	Q2 16	€ 2,536	Senior and Junior	Europe
Bain Capital				
Bain Capital Middle Market Credit 2022	Q3 23	\$ 1,000	Junior	Global
Bain Capital Middle Market Credit 2018	Q3 18	\$ 1,000	Junior	Global
Bain Capital Specialty Finance	Q4 16	\$ 1,406	Senior	Global
Bain Capital Middle Market Credit 2014	Q4 13	\$ 1,382	Junior	Global
Bain Capital Middle Market Credit 2010	Q2 10	\$ 1,017	Junior	Global
Barings				
Global Private Loan Fund IV	Q1 23	\$ 3,000	Senior	Global
European Private Loan Fund III	Q2 22	€ 5,900	Senior	Europe
Global Private Loan Fund III	Q4 19	\$ 2,400	Senior and Junior	Global
European Private Loan Fund II	Q3 19	€ 1,500	Senior and Junior	Europe
Global Private Loan Fund II	Q3 17	\$ 1,300	Senior and Junior	Global

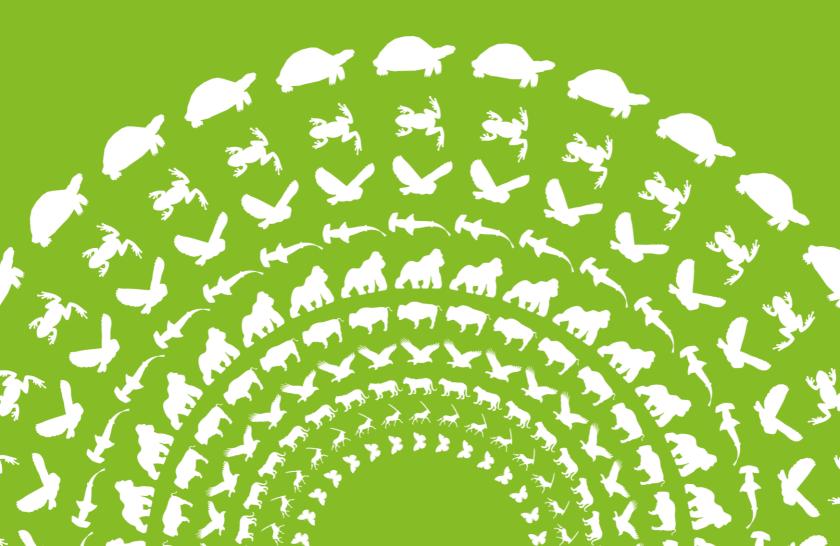
Private Debt Lenders	Date	Size (m) w/o leverage	Investment Strategy	Geography
Blackrock				
BlackRock European Middle Market Private Debt Fund III	Q2 23	€ 3,682	Senior	Europe
BlackRock European Middle Market Private Debt Fund II	Q1 21	€ 2,100	Senior	Europe
BlackRock European Middle Market Private Debt Fund I	Q2 18	€ 1,100	Senior	Europe
Blackstone Credit				·
Blackstone Green Private Credit Fund III	Q3 23	\$ 7,130	Senior and Junior	Global
Capital Opportunities Fund IV	Q1 22	\$ 5,017	Junior	Global
GSO European Senior Debt Fund II	Q1 20	€ 4,088	Senior	Europe
Capital Opportunities Fund III	Q4 16	\$ 6,639	Junior	Global
European Senior Debt Fund	Q4 15	€ 1,965	Senior	Europe
Capital Opportunities Fund II	Q1 12	\$ 4,120	Junior	Global
Bridgepoint Credit				
Bridgepoint Direct Lending II	Q4 20	€ 2,300	Senior	Europe
Bridgepoint Direct Lending III	Q2 23	€ 2,749	Senior	Europe
Bridgepoint Credit Opportunities IV	Q4 23	€ 1,095	Senior and Junior	Europe
Capital Four				
Capital Four—Private Debt III—Senior	Q2 22	€ 1,440	Senior	Europe
Capital Four - Private Debt V - Senior	[Ongoing]	€ 2,000	Senior	Europe
Capzanine	[
Capza 5 Private Debt	Q1 21	€ 1,414	Senior and Junior	Europe
Capza 6 Private Debt	Q2 22 (first close)	€ 2,500	Senior and Junior	Europe
Carlyle	X X			
Carlyle Credit Opportunities Fund II, L.P.	Q2 23	€ 3,674	Senior and Junior	Global
Carlyle Credit Opportunities Fund, L.P.	Q2 19	€ 2,093	Senior and Junior	Global
EMZ				
EMZ 10	Q1 22	€ 1,384	Senior and Junior	Europe
EMZ 9	Q1 20	€ 1,043	Senior and Junior	Europe
Eurazeo	X ·	,		
Eurazeo Private Value Europe 3	Q2 24	€ 1,000	Senior and Junior	Europe
Eurazeo Private Debt VI	Q123	€ 3,300	Senior and Junior	Europe
Eurazeo Private Debt V	Q1 21	€ 1,500	Senior and Junior	Europe
Five Arrows	X · = ·	,		
Five Arrows Debt Partners III	Q3 21	€ 1,420	Senior and Junior	Europe
Goldman Sachs	2021	0.17.20		
West Street Loan Partners V	Q2 24	€ 7,192	Senior	Global
West Street Mezzanine Partners VIII	Q4 22	\$ 11,657	Junior	Global
Hayfin	~		Janioi	
Direct Lending Fund IV	Q1 24	€ 6,200	Senior	Europe
Direct Lending Fund III	Q1 20	€ 5,000	Senior	Europe
Direct Lending Fund II	Q1 17	€ 3,900	Senior	Europe
Direct Lending Fund I	Q1 14	€ 3,000	Senior	Europe
	Q1 14	€ 3,000	Jenioi	Luiope

Private Debt Lenders	Date	Size (m) w/o leverage	Investment Strategy	Geography
HIG				
H.I.G. Bayside Loan Opportunity Fund V (Europe)	Q2 19	\$ 1,500	Senior and Junior	Europe
HPS Investment Partners				
Core Senior Lending Fund II	Q2 24	\$ 7,300	Senior	Global
Specialty Loan Fund V	Q3 23	\$ 11,700	Senior	Global
Strategic Investment Partners V	Q2 23	\$ 12,000	Junior	Global
Mezzanine Partners Fund 2019	Q4 20	\$ 9,000	Junior	Global
Specialty Loan Fund 2016	Q3 17	\$ 4,500	Senior	Global
Mezzanine Partners Fund III	Q4 16	\$ 6,600	Junior	Global
Highbridge Specialty Loan Fund III	Q2 13	€ 3,100	Senior	Global
Mezzanine Partners Fund II	Q1 13	\$ 4,400	Junior	Global
Highbridge Specialty Loan Fund II	Q2 10	€ 1,100	Senior	Global
Mezzanine Partners Fund I	Q1 08	\$ 2,100	Junior	Global
ICG				
Senior Debt Partners III	Q4 17	€ 5,200	Senior	Europe
Senior Debt Partners II	Q3 15	€ 3,000	Senior	Europe
ICG Europe Fund VI	Q1 15	€ 3,000	Junior	Europe
Senior Debt Partners I	Q2 13	€ 1,700	Senior	Europe
ICG Europe Fund V	Q1 13	€ 2,500	Junior	Europe
Kartesia				
Kartesia Senior Opportunities II	Q2 24	€ 1,840	Senior	Europe
Kartesia Credit Opportunities V	Q2 21	€ 1,500	Senior and Junior	Europe
KKR				
KKR US Direct Lending Fund	[On-going]	\$ 1,972	Senior	Global
KKR Lending Partners IV L.P. ("KKRLP IV")	Q3 23	\$ 1,063	Senior	Global
KKR Lending Partners III L.P. ("KKRLP III")	Q4 18	\$ 1,385	Senior	Global
KKR Lending Partners II L.P. ("KKRLP II")	Q2 15	\$ 1,235	Senior	Global
LGT Private Debt				
CEPD III	Q2 23	€ 1,166	Senior and Junior	Europe
CEPD II	Q3 19	€ 1,350	Senior and Junior	Europe
Northleaf				
Northleaf Senior Private Credit	Q2 24	\$ 1,900	Senior	Global
Northleaf Private Credit	Q4 16	\$ 1,400	Senior and Junior	Global
Park Square Capital				
Park Square Capital Partners IV SCSp	Q2 21	€ 1,513	Junior	Europe
Park Square Capital Partners III, LP	Q1 16	€ 1,185	Junior	Europe
Pemberton				
Pemberton Senior Loan Fund	Q1 22	€ 1,920	Senior	Europe
Pemberton European Mid-Market Debt Fund III	Q1 22	€ 3,803	Senior	Europe
Pemberton European Strategic Credit Opportunities Fund II	-	€ 1,742	Senior and Junior	Europe
Pemberton European Mid-Market Debt Fund II	Q1 19	€ 3,056	Senior	Europe
European Mid-Market Debt Fund	Q4 16	€ 1,195	Senior	Europe

Source: Deloitte Analysis

Private Debt Lenders	Date	Size (m) w/o leverage	Investment Strategy	Geography
Permira				
Permira Credit Solutions V	Q2 23	€ 4,500	Senior and Junior	Europe
Permira Credit Solutions IV	Q3 20	€ 3,500	Senior and Junior	Europe
Permira Credit Solutions III	Q2 17	€ 1,700	Senior and Junior	Europe
Pricoa				
PGIM Senior Loan Opportunities I	Q1 22	€ 1,985	Senior	Global
PGIM Capital Partners VI, L.P.	Q4 20	€ 1,819	Senior and Junior	Global
Pricoa Capital Partners V	Q1 17	€ 1,696	Senior and Junior	Global
P Capital Partners				
P Capital Partners V	Q1 24	€ 1,710	Senior and Junior	Europe
P Capital Partners	Q4 19	€ 1,670	Senior and Junior	Europe
P Capital Partners III	Q4 14	€ 1,300	Senior and Junior	Europe
Tikehau				
Tikehau Direct Lending VI Vintage	[On-going]	€ 2,000	Senior and Junior	Europe
Tikehau Direct Lending V	Q3 22	€ 3,300	Senior and Junior	Europe
Tikehau Direct Lending IV	Q1 19	€ 2,300	Senior and Junior	Europe

Private Debt Market Trends, Themes & Human Capital



ES ES

Fund data for European direct lenders – an analysis conducted by <u>Waterman Stern</u>

Fund	Year Active	European Inv. Team Size	Total Capital Deployed (€bn)	DL Portfolio Positions	Avg. Capital Deployed / Year (€bn)
Arcmont	2011	40	€ 30.0	115	€ 4.5
Ares	2007	86	€ 68.0	190	€ 7.5
Barings	2004	30	€ 23.0	119	€ 3.0
BlackRock	2017	31	€ 12.0	88	€ 2.0
Bridgepoint	2014	26	€ 12.0	82	€ 2.25
CVC	2014	37	€ 12.0	91	€ 3.5
Eurazeo	2008	29	€ 10.0	121	€ 1.5
ICG	2012	32	€ 24.0	60	€ 4.0
Permira	2008	30	€ 15.0	70	€ 2.5
Tikehau	2010	32	€ 12.0	92	€ 2.0

Annual Average Capital Deployed (€bn) vs. Total Deployment & Team Size



Summary

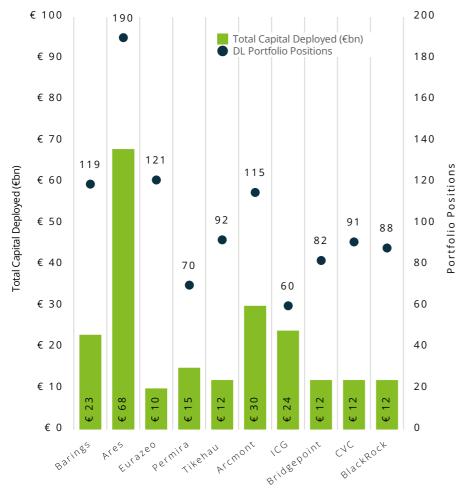
This presentation is a visual representation of the European Direct Lending community. We have highlighted key metrics such as average yearly deployment, and total capital deployed since inception, showing where some of the leading European Direct Lending managers stand today.

The figures in the above dataset reflect Waterman Stern's understanding of 5 key metrics. We also break down the geographic presence of each lender, showing the locations where investment professionals are occasionally or permanently based. Many lenders have investment professionals based in the UK but spend half their time in another geography. This chart indicates where lenders have a permanent office, but it does not stipulate how much time Investment professionals spend in these offices.

The specific number of team members dedicated to direct lending may be subject to interpretation. Some managers will include their special situations investment teams and NAV financing professionals in these numbers, whilst others will only show individuals specifically focused on Direct Lending. Therefore, the exact team numbers could change should you add ancillary investment professionals, IC members or US Investment professionals who assist European efforts.

Total capital deployed & number of portfolio positions since inception – <u>Waterman Stern</u>

Total capital deployed (€bn) & direct lending portfolio positions since year active



2004 2007 2008 2008 2010 2011 2012 2014 2014 2017

Summary

This chart illustrates the inception year for each of the leading European direct lending funds, showing when they initiated their efforts in mid-market direct lending. The start year does not necessarily indicate when each manager raised their first dedicated fund for mid-market unitranche lending. In some cases, these managers were lending from credit opportunities funds before raising dedicated funds, however, it does show how long each manager has been present and relevant in this space.

The number of current portfolio positions is reflective of our understanding of new platform deals and does not include additional financing to existing borrowers. We are unable to show the averaged debt quantum per position, as with every new fund raise, most managers will change their average and minimum ticket hold size and target EBITDA. Nevertheless, we feel that comparing the current number of portfolio positions to the total capital deployed since inception offers an interesting analysis.

Having closely followed this market for the past 15 years, Waterman Stern has observed distinct trends, including lenders expanding their geographic footprint. For many years and even today, some of these lenders in this report and others not included have operated mostly from the UK. It appears that LPs prefer managers to have a local presence, however, based on our understanding, far more work is done in the UK than is commonly understood to be the case. A local office does not necessarily mean a full-time local presence.

Fund sizes continue to increase, however, in some cases, it is taking twice as long to raise these funds. Across these managers, the increase in a new fund raise is mostly comparable in percentage terms, therefore we expect to see total capital deployed figures to increase at an even level over the next 12-24 months. This is not a full overview of the entire market of course. For a more comprehensive analysis covering the entire direct lending community, from Lower Middle Market (LMM) to Large Cap lenders, please reach out to the team at Waterman Stern.

Overview of recent hiring – Waterman Stern

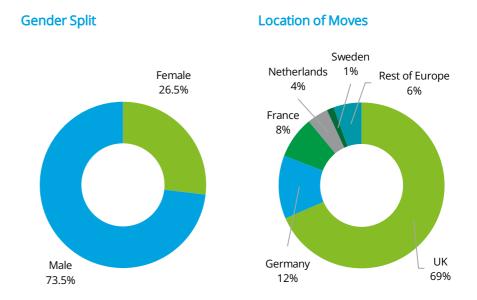
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Waterman Stern has previously produced a thorough and detailed diversity report of the entire European leveraged finance market. In this report, we analysed DEI in banking leveraged finance, direct lending, CLO, and special situations teams.

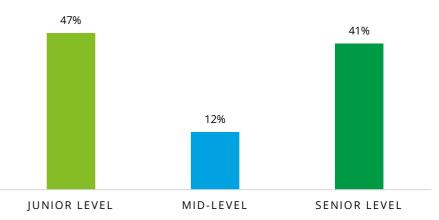
We demonstrated that the average percentage of female professionals working in the direct lending community sits at 14.4%, whereas within leverage finance banking teams the percentage is a little higher at 17.8%. Therefore, seeing a percentage move of 26.5% shows that DEI is a strong factor in the decision-making of hiring firms. Diversity is a focus and desire of most hiring firms, however, from a statistical perspective it remains mathematically improbable we will ever see this gender split reach 50/50 unless female investment professionals enter the industry at a far higher rate, or start to move roles a far more frequent basis. From our experience the opposite is true; female professionals within the industry tend to have longer tenures than male professionals.

Location of Moves

We track all SME lenders, venture debt funds, lower midmarket, mid-market, and large-cap lenders daily, recording all people moves. When looking at SME and LMM lenders, you tend to find more local offices and funds operating in a single region. When looking at largecap and mid-market lenders, the majority of investment professionals sit in London, so it is not surprising to see more moves in the UK than we do in other geographies. Another key inference from the geographic breakdown of recent people moves to note is that Germany has seen more moves than any other geography, which we believe to be reflective of the current environment, as outside of the UK. our clients have mostly focused on the DACH and the Benelux regions from a deployment perspective. We believe hiring is simply a reflection of this market dynamic.



Spread of Hires at Different Seniority Levels (%)



People moves in H1 2024 – Waterman Stern

Notable Senior People Moves

Name	From	То	Title
Emmanuel Deblanc	Allianz Global	M&G	CIO of Private Markets
Jorg Sallaerts	Ares	Arcmont	Head of Benelux
Joseph Plank	Ardian	Barings	MD
Nakul Sarin	Bridgepoint	Blackstone	MD
Derek Jackson	CPP Investments	Apax Credit	Head of Europe
Marcus Herbig	DWS Group	Retired	Head of DL
Camille De Lamotte	Goldman Sachs	BlackRock	Co-Head of France & Spain
Luke Gillam	Goldman Sachs	Albacore	Head of Senior Private Credit
Matthew Cestar	ICG	Arini	President
Emmanuel Paillaud	J.P. Morgan	GoldenTree	MD
James Pearce	M&G	Jefferies	Head of European DL
Daniel Leiter	Morgan Stanley	Blackstone	Head of International (BXCI)
Martin Siml	ODDO BHF	Barings	MD, Head of DACH

Other Moves

Name	From	То	Title
Charlotte Brown	AshGrove Capital	Investec	Associate
Lydia Ladbrooke	Bank of America	CVC Credit	Investment Executive
Valentine Rousseau	Bank of America	Park Square Capital	Analyst
Charly Baudin	Barclays	Crescent Capital Group	Analyst
Lily Danson	Barings	Arcmont Asset Management	Analyst
Jake Taylor	Beechbrook Capital	HSBC	Director
Richard Österdahl	Beechbrook Capital	Tresmares Capital	Principal
Michaela Campbell	BlackRock	Hayfin	MD, Head of Portfolio Monitoring
Daniel-Andre Zando	Blackstone	Goldman Sachs	Associate
Angele De Leusse	Bridgepoint	KKR	Associate
Federico D'Addario	Bridgepoint	Ambienta	Associate
Diego Lucaussy	Bridgepoint	Permira	Investment Professional
Ennis Mechmetali	CAPZA	Apera Asset Management	Associate
Valeri Mdivani	Citi	Temasek	Senior Associate
Polina Georgieva	Citi	Permira	Investment Professional
Kurran Tailor	Citi	Pemberton Asset Management	Investment Professional

Other Moves (Continued)

Name	From	То	Title
Herman Hannisdal	Cordet Capital Partners	Ambienta	Associate
Marina Gual Catá	CPP Investments	Ontario Teachers Pension Plan	Associate
Wolfgang Bauer	Credit Suisse	Golub Capital	Vice President
Axel Rotthier	Eight Advisory	Kartesia	Associate
Matthias Kazmierczak	Fidelity	Tikehau Capital	Director
Yue Wu	Goldman Sachs	Bridgepoint	Associate
Gabriele Cecchi	Goldman Sachs	Hayfin	Associate
Luisa Stobbe	Goldman Sachs	Hayfin	Associate
Barbara Simoes	Goldman Sachs	Golub Capital	Associate
Rob De Bruin	H.I.G Capital	Left Fund	Principal
Konstantinos Samaras	H.I.G Capital	EMK Capital	Associate
Javier Castañeda	HPS Investment Partners	Ture Invest	Director
Stephen White	Investec	Left Fund	Head of Origination
Vilija Kudirkaite	J.P. Morgan	Ontario Teachers Pension Plan	Associate
Eirini Adam	J.P. Morgan	ICG	Associate
Andrea Cesare Pasi	Jefferies	Ontario Teachers Pension Plan	Associate
Rok Kejzar	Kartesia	Golding Capital Partners	Senior Associate
Shaole Hu	LGT	Pemberton Asset Management	Associate
Tom Rankin	M&G	Jefferies	Director
Heyuan (lucia) Gao	Moelis & Co	ICG	Associate
Jacqueline af Ugglas	Morgan Stanley	Ares	Vice President
Anisha Kandira	Nomura	Hayfin	Associate
Somit Guha	Partners Group	Barings	Director
Marvin Schlimpen	Permira	Hayfin	Associate
David Ohlund	PJT Partners	CPP Investments	Analyst
Philip Huan	Rothschild & Co	Golub Capital	Senior Associate
Saul Proctor	Santander	Tresmares Capital	Director
Damian Polok	Silicon Valley Bank	BlackRock	Director
James Cunnah	Sixth Street	AshGrove Capital	Vice President
Masha Kiryanova	The Carlyle Group	BlackRock	Director
Joaquin Visquert Pitarch	Tresmares Capital	Kartesia	Associate Director
Gloria Tamburrino	UBS	Pemberton Asset Management	Associate
			Private Debt Deal Tracker Autump 2024

Private Debt Deal Tracker Autumn 2024 53

Other Moves (Continued)

Name	From	То	Title
Jonas Buckhardt	UBS	Permira	Associate
Nicolas Castiglioni	UBS	CDPQ	Associate
Ludwig Loehle	UBS	Ares	Associate, PM
Leopold Kostner	UniCredit	Golding Capital Partners	Director
Daniele Piai	UniCredit	ODDO BHF	Director
Mark Schmidt	Weber Inc.	Golding Capital Partners	Senior Associate

About Waterman Stern Executive Search & Recruitment

Waterman Stern is a leading London based Executive Search firm specialised in Private & Public Credit. Dale Shorey, Founder of Waterman Stern since 2017 has been running credit fund management hires for over 20 years. We support Private Equity firms, Hedge Funds and Alternative Investment Managers on front office investment management & asset raising hires. Our team places across the seniority spectrum and the markets we operate mostly in are; liquid and illiquid corporate & asset backed credit, real estate debt and private equity.

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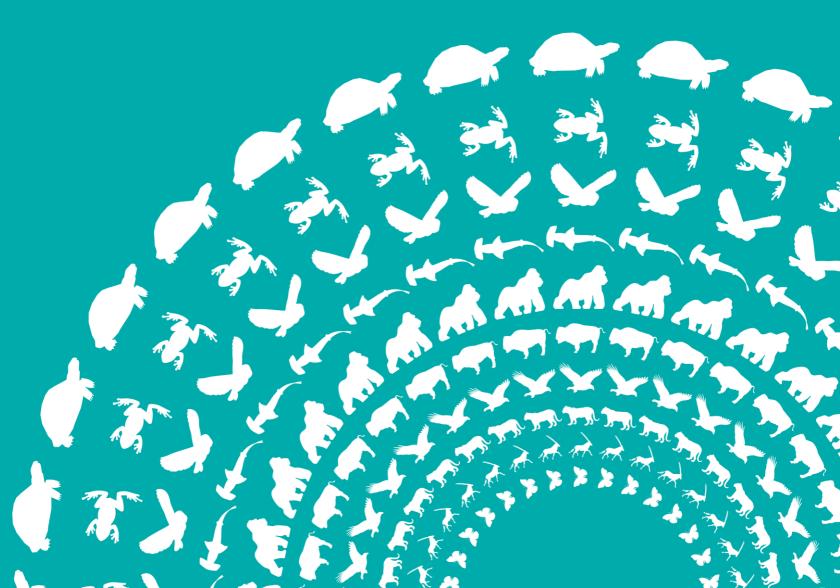


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Insights into the European Private Debt Market



Private debt '101' guide

Who are private debt providers and why are they becoming more relevant?

Private debt consists of a wide range of non-bank institutions with different strategies including direct lending, mezzanine, opportunity and distressed debt.

Who are private debt providers?

These institutions range from larger asset managers diversifying into private debt to smaller funds newly set up by ex-investment professionals. Most of the funds have structures comparable to those seen in the private equity industry with a 3-5 year investment period and a 10 year life with extensions options. The limited partners in the debt funds are typically insurance, pension, private wealth, banks or sovereign wealth funds.

Over the last three years a significant number of new funds have been raised in Europe. Increased supply of Private Debt capital has helped to increase the flexibility and optionality for borrowers.

Key differences to bank lenders?

- Access to non amortising, bullet structures
- Ability to provide more structural flexibility (covenants, headroom, cash sweep, dividends, portability, etc.).
- Access to debt across the capital structure via senior, second lien, unitranche, mezzanine and quasi equity.
- Increased speed of execution, short credit processes and access to decision makers.
- Potentially larger hold sizes for leveraged loans (€30m up to €1bn+).
- Deal teams of funds will continue to monitor the asset over the life of the loan.

However

Funds are not able to provide clearing facilities and ancillaries. Funds will target a higher yield for the increased flexibility provided.

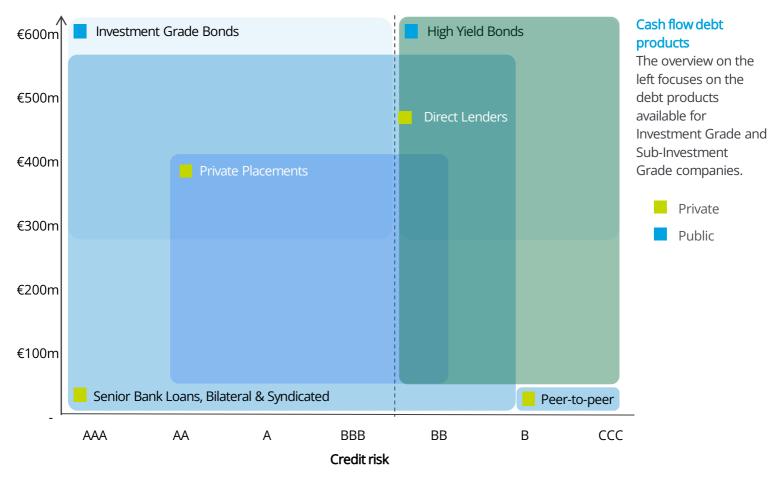


When to use private debt?

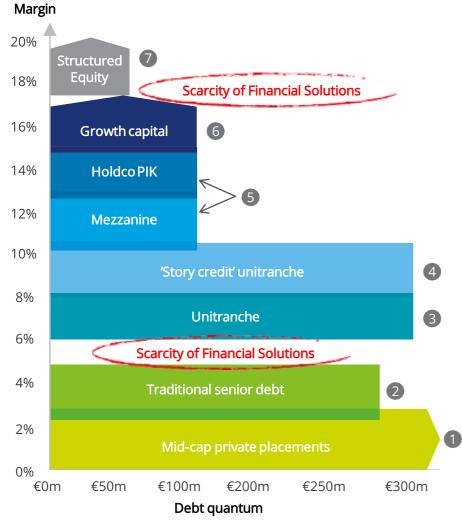


How do private debt providers compare to other cash flow debt products?

Debt size



What are the private debt strategies?



We have identified seven distinctive private debt strategies in the mid-market:

- Mid-cap Private Placements
 Traditional senior debt
 Unitranche
 'Story credit' unitranche
 Subordinated (mezzanine/PIK)
- 6 Growth capital
- **7** Structured equity

There is a limited number of Lenders operating in the S+450bps to S+600bps pricing territory.

A number of large funds are now actively raising capital to target this part of the market.

Direct Lenders approach the mid-market with either a niche strategy (mainly new entrants) or a broad suite of Direct Lending products to cater for a range of financing needs.

The latter is mostly the approach of large asset managers.

Note: Distressed strategies are excluded from this overview

How do private debt investment strategies compare to one another?

Fund strategy	Description	Target return (Gross IRR)	Investment period	Fund term	Management fee	Preferred return	Carried interest
Direct senior lending	Invest directly into corporate credit at senior levels of the capital structure	5–10%	1–3 years	5–7 years (plus 1–2 optional one-year extensions)	Typically, around 1% on invested capital	5-6%	10%
Specialty lending/credit opportunities	Opportunistic investments across the capital structure and/or in complex situations Typically focused on senior levels of the capital structure	12-20%	3–5 years	8–10 years (plus 2–3 optional one-year extensions)	Typically, 1.25–1.50% on invested capital or less than 1% on commitments	6-8%	15%-20%
Mezzanine	Primarily invest in mezzanine loans and other subordinated debt instruments	12-18%	5 years	10 years (plus 2–3 optional one-year extensions)	1.50–1.75% on commitments during investment period, on a reduced basis on invested capital thereafter	8%	20%
Distressed	Invest in distressed, stressed and undervalued securities Includes distressed debt-for-control	15-25%	3–5 years	7–10 years (plus 2–3 optional one-year extensions)	Various pending target return and strategy: 1.50–1.75% on commitments or 1.50% on invested capital	8%	20%

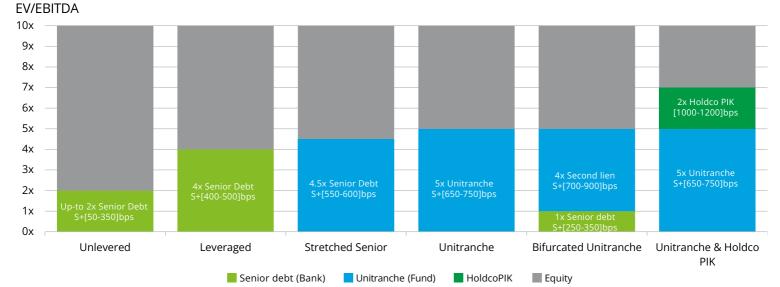
Management fee—an annual payment made by the limited partners in the fund to the fund's manager to cover the operational expenses

Preferred return (also hurdle rate)—a minimum annual return that the limited partners are entitled to before the fund manager starts receiving carried interest

Carried interest—a share of profits above the preferred return rate that the fund manager receives as compensation which is based on the performance of the investment

What debt structures are available in the market?

Structures



Weighted Average Cost of Debt (WACD)—based on mid-point average range

S+[50-350]bps	S+450bps	S+575bps	S+700bps	S+700bps	S+815bps
Pros and Cons per st	tructure				
 Lowest pricing Relationship bank Low leverage Shorter tenor (3-5 years) 	 ✓ Increased leverage ✓ Club of relationship banks × More restrictive terms × Partly amortising 	 ✓ Increased leverage ✓ Bullet debt ✓ Lower Equity contribution × More restrictive terms than Unitranche 	 ✓ Stretched leverage ✓ Flexible covenants ✓ One-stop shop solution ✓ Speed of execution ✓ Relationship lender 	 Stretched leverage Flexible covenants Greater role for bank Reach more liquid part of the unitranche market 	 ✓ Stretched leverage ✓ Flexible covenants ✓ Lower equity contribution ✓ No Intercreditor
		 Higher pricing than bank debt Need for RCF lender 	 Higher pricing 	 Higher pricing Intercreditor/AAL 	 Higher pricing

Note: the structures and pricing presented are indicative and only for illustrative purposes

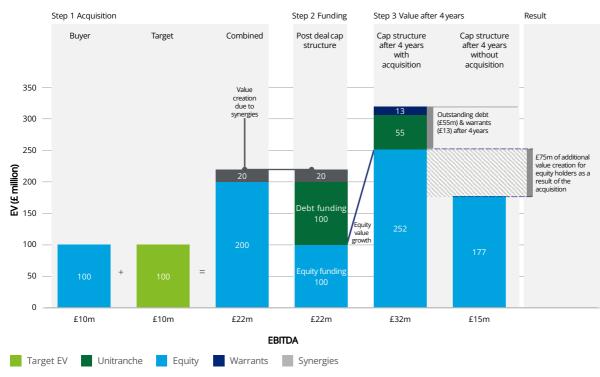
Unlocking transformational acquisitions for privately owned companies

Indicative calculations

- The calculations on this page illustrate the effect of value creation through acquisitions financed using Private Debt
- In this example the equity value is growing from £100m to £252m in 4 years time. Without the acquisition, the equity
 value would have been only £177m, using the same assumptions and disregarding any value creation as a result of
 multiple arbitrage.

Value creation through M&A

Indicative calculations



* EV is c.£147m and with c.£30m cash on balance sheet brings the equity value to c.£177m

Assumptions

- Both business generate £10m
 EBITDA with £2m
 potential
 Synergies
- No debt currently in the business
- Cost of debt is 8% with 5% penny warrants on top
- 10% EBITDA growth pa; 75% Cash conversion; 20% Corporate tax rate
 - No transaction costs

Deloitte Debt, Capital & Treasury Advisory

What do we do for our clients?

Debt and Capital Advisory

Independent advice



- We provide independent advice to borrowers across the full spectrum of debt markets through our global network
- Completely independent from providers of finance—our objectives are fully aligned with those of our clients
- Global resources & execution expertise
- A leading team of over 200
 debt professionals based in 31
 countries including Europe,
 North America, Africa and Asia,
 giving true global reach

 Our expertise ranges from the provision of strategic advice on the optimum capital structure and available sources of finance through to the execution of raising debt

Market leading	,
team	

- Widely recognised as a Global leader with one of the largest Debt Advisory teams
- We pride ourselves on our innovative approach to challenging transactions and the quality of client outcomes we achieve, using our hands on approach

Demonstrable track record

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AAR



- In the last 12 months, we have advised on over 130 transactions with combined debt facilities in excess of €10bn
- Our target market is debt transactions ranging from €25m up to €750m

Debt and Capital Services provided

Refinancing	Acquisitions, disposals, mergers	Restructuring or negotiating	Treasury
 Maturing debt facilities Rapid growth and expansion Accessing new debt markets Recapitalisations facilitating payments to shareholders Asset based finance to release value from balance sheet Off balance sheet finance Assessing multiple proposals from lenders 	 Strategic acquisitions, involving new lenders and greater complexity Staple debt packages to maximise sale proceeds Additional finance required as a result of a change in strategic objectives FX impacts that need to be reflected in the covenant definitions Foreign currency denominated debt or operations in multiple currencies 	 Real or potential breach of covenants Short term liquidity pressure Credit rating downgrade Existing lenders transfer debt to a private debt group Derivatives in place and/or banks hedging requirements to be met 	 Operations in multiple jurisdictions and currencies creating FX exposures Develop FX, interest rate and commodity risk management strategies Cash in multiple companies, accounts, countries and currencies Hedging implementation or banks hedging requirements to be met
Depth and breadth of expertise in a variety of situations			

64

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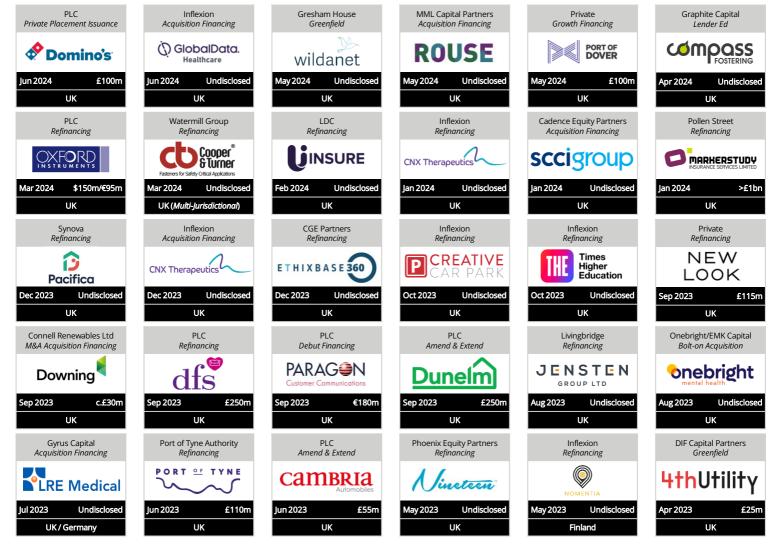


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Debt and Capital Advisory Credentials

Recent Debt and Capital Advisory Transactions

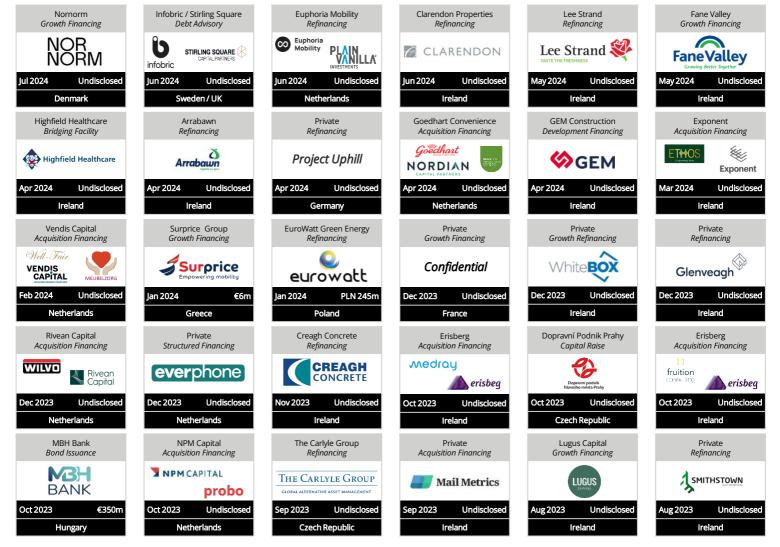
United Kingdom



Debt and Capital Advisory Credentials

Recent Debt and Capital Advisory Transactions

Mainland Europe



Debt and Capital Advisory Credentials

Recent Debt and Capital Advisory Transactions Other International

Growth Financing

China / Hong Kong

Undisclosed

Jul 2023

Public Bond Offering

Israel

Jul 2023

KALKAN CAPITAL.

NIS 160m

Private Shufersal Fourth Partner Energy Private Fourth Partner Energy Private Growth Financing Project Financing Project Financing Acquisition Financing Growth Financing Refinancing VISION Ŵ_ͳ͵∖ℚ͵∖ ESOM FOURTH PARTNER Project Bolton FOURTH PARTNER ∕┣┨╢ שופרסל EL SEU Jun 2024 INR 1436Cr May 2024 Undisclosed May 2024 \$400m Apr2024 NIS 1.5bn Apr 2024 INR 513Cr Apr 2024 \$600m USA Saudi Arabia India Saudi Arabia India Israel Mutek Limited Kerrv Mahle Behr Kerry Ingredients Private Private Sustainable Capital Structure TPOD TPOD TPOD Refinancing Growth Financing MAHLE KERRY KERRY serentica **///Sterlite** Power Mar 2024 Undisclosed Feb 2024 Undisclosed Dec 2023 Undisclosed Dec 2023 Undisclosed Dec 2023 INR 1860Cr Sep 2023 INR 3485Cr South Africa South Africa South Africa South Africa India India Paz Ashdod Refinery Paz Ashdod Refinery Private Private Scotiabank Interland Group Growth Financing Growth Financing Capital Raise Bank Financing Public Bond Issuance **BESS Financing** subterra ▲interland serentica PAZ PAZ serentica REFINERY REFINERY Sep 2023 INR 2580Cr Sep 2023 INR 3081Cr Aug 2023 Aug 2023 NIS 3bn NIS 580m Jul 2023 NIS 1bn CAD 47m Aug 2023 India India Canada Israel/UK Israel Israel Kalkan Capital Private

Notes

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