



Opportunities in High Yield

Threadneedle (Lux) US\$ High Income Bonds

Information for investment professionals

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## **High Yield Market Outlook**

as of September 17, 2012

We acknowledge the considerable macro challenges and lack of major near term catalysts to drive the market tighter, yet we remain constructive on the high yield asset class given the solid corporate fundamentals supporting the sector and risk premiums which compensate for the macro issues and support a positive return outlook.

- Consensus expectations are calling for 2.20% and 2.10% growth rates for the U.S. in 2012 and 2013, respectively, despite recent weakness in economic data points and uncertainty related to the fiscal cliff.
- Corporate fundamentals remain strong in terms of balance sheet liquidity, overall leverage, interest burden and limited amortization requirements over the next several years.
- Corporate earnings have been solid, however earnings have decelerated given the challenges to drive top line growth and maintain margins given the soft economic backdrop. Also, cautious business outlooks have begun to reduce expectations for earnings in the second half of the year.
- Expectations for earnings growth in 2012 have been lowered to 5.7%, this reflects a level reduced by 810bps since June 2011.
- Default forecasts for 2012 and 2013 remain below historical averages given the refinancing that has occurred. This is a result of limited debt maturities over the next 2 years, reduction in leverage and high cash positions, all leading to improvements in company balance sheets.



# High Yield Market Outlook as of September 17, 2012

### However, risks remain to the outlook.

- The continued overhang of high unemployment, slowing U.S. economic data, the looming fiscal cliff, weak housing market and high government deficits are expected to keep growth muted and vulnerable to external shocks.
- Foreign challenges remain as it appears unlikely there will be a near term solution to the ongoing European debt crisis, but likely another "response" or "reaction" to the crisis now that the benefits from the LTRO have worn off as we had originally feared. In addition, concerns related to growth slowdown in China could pressure global growth rates.
- The outcome of the presidential election is likely to have a substantial impact on fiscal and regulatory policy and could prove to be a positive or negative catalyst for the markets. Either way, it will likely result in market volatility.
- Valuations continue to provide additional compensation relative to default expectations. Valuations have recently tightened to +523 bps STW and 6.22% YTW, which is pricing in a roughly 3.9% default rate vs. expectations of 1.47% for 2013 and 2.43% for 2014.
- Investors are requiring a higher risk premium in less liquid/higher risk securities in anticipation of reduced liquidity due to the potential implementation of the Volker rule. Liquidity has already been reduced and we expect liquidity to decrease further if the Volker rule moves forward as planned.



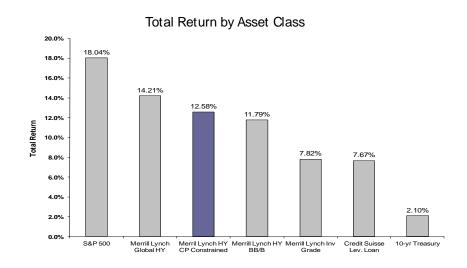
# High Yield Market Outlook as of September 17, 2012

### **Strategy**

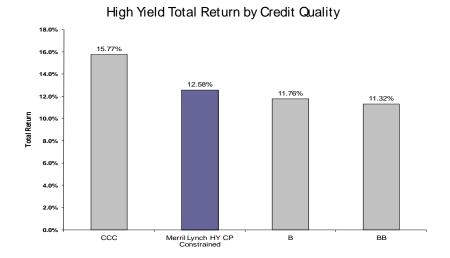
- We continue to recommend high yield as a part of an overall portfolio allocation.
- We believe there are still solid risk adjusted values in the marketplace and will look to invest incremental dollars in the mid to higher quality part of the market. We will continue to be selective in adding risk to the portfolio and may look to reduce risk on the margin if valuations improve and meet our price targets.
- We will stick to our knitting; as always, our disciplined credit selection, based on strong fundamental and rigorous risk management, remains our guiding principle.

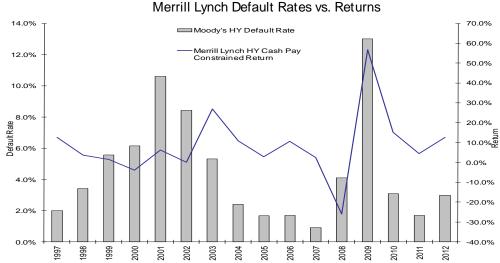


# Year to Date 2012 Performance as of September 17, 2012



- The Merrill Lynch High Yield Cash Pay Constrained Index has returned 12.58% YTD.
- CCC issues have outperformed while BB and B issues trailed the index.
- Best Performing Industries YTD: Multi-Line Insurance and Banking.
- Worst Performing Industries YTD: Electric-Distribution and Integrated Energy.
- High yield spreads have tightened 184 basis points in 2012 to a spread of +523bps.





Source: Bank of America/Merrill Lynch, Moody's. Past performance is not indicative of future results. See the end of the presentation for additional disclosures and index descriptions.



## **Opportunity in High Yield Bonds**

Strong corporate fundamentals and below average default expectations continue to make a compelling case for high yield. Consider the following factors:

- Fundamentals Leveraged issuers have increased cash levels, deleveraged their balance sheets and refinanced looming maturities. Amortization requirements over the next two years are quite manageable and will likely help keep default rates below historical averages.
- Valuations Although valuations are less attractive than they were to start the year and yields are at new all time lows given the low absolute level of interest rates, there is still adequate compensation for credit and default risks.
- Low growth environment History shows that performance in high yield is not contingent on strong economic growth and that in low growth environments, high yield bonds tend to perform reasonably well.
- Reduced interest rate sensitivity High yield is an asset class that tends to be less interest rate sensitive relative to other fixed income alternatives and the key driver to performance is credit fundamentals.



### **Fundamentals**

- Corporations are well positioned to manage through a period of slow growth, which supports our constructive outlook for the high yield asset class.
- The fundamental improvements companies have made in terms of balance sheet liquidity, overall leverage, interest burden, and amortization requirements over the next several years will likely keep default rates below historical averages for the next two years.
- The maturity schedule is much less ominous today than it was in 2008, as maturities are more laddered out and this is a key to keeping default levels low over the next several years, which is supportive of the high yield asset class.
- Over the next two years, we expect default rates to remain well below their long-term average of 4.2%.



## High Yield Bond and Leveraged Loan Maturity Schedule

- Meaningful refinancing activity since 2009 has reduced the maturity schedule through 2014 by \$715 billion since 12/31/08.
- Maturities in 2014 are the next hurdle, particularly in leveraged loans.
- Data as of 6/11/12.

#### **Bond and Loan Maturities**



Note: As of June 11, 2012. Sources: J.P. Morgan; Markit.

#### **Bond Maturity Refinancing**



Note: Change is measured between December 31, 2008 and June 11, 2012. Sources: J.P. Morgan: Markit.

#### **Combined Bond and Loan Maturity Refinancing**



Note: Change is measured between December 31, 2008 and June 11, 2012. Sources: J.P. Morgan: Markit..

#### **Loan Maturity Refinancing**



Note: Change is measured between December 31, 2008 and June 11, 2012.

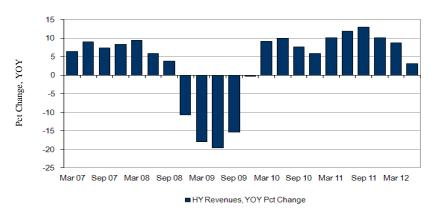
Sources: J.P. Morgan; Markit.



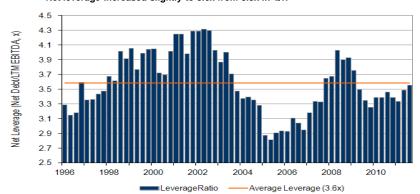
## **High Yield Issuer Fundamentals**

- High Yield issuer fundamentals remained stable, however, earnings growth slowed during the quarter. According to the Bank of America sample set\*, YOY revenue growth was at 3.1% for the 2nd quarter, down from the 1st quarter rate of 8.7% while EBITDA growth also slowed, growing at an average rate of 3.7%, down from 10.4% in Q1.
- Consensus 2012 expectations call for S&P 500 revenue growth of 1.8% and 5.6% earnings growth. 2012 expected earnings growth rates have declined over 8.2% since June of 2011 and more recently 2.6% since the beginning of the 2nd quarter.

High Yield revenue growth slowed to 3.1% YOY in Q2.

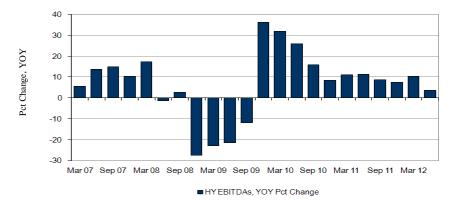


Net leverage increased slightly to 3.6x from 3.5x in Q1.

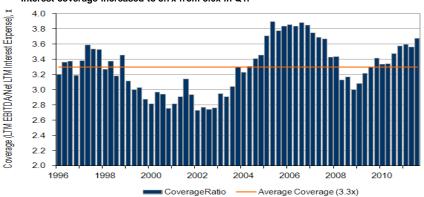


Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Research \*Bank of America sample set is approximately 500 HY issuers.

HY EBITDAs also slowed to 3.7% YOY from recent trends of upper single digit growth.



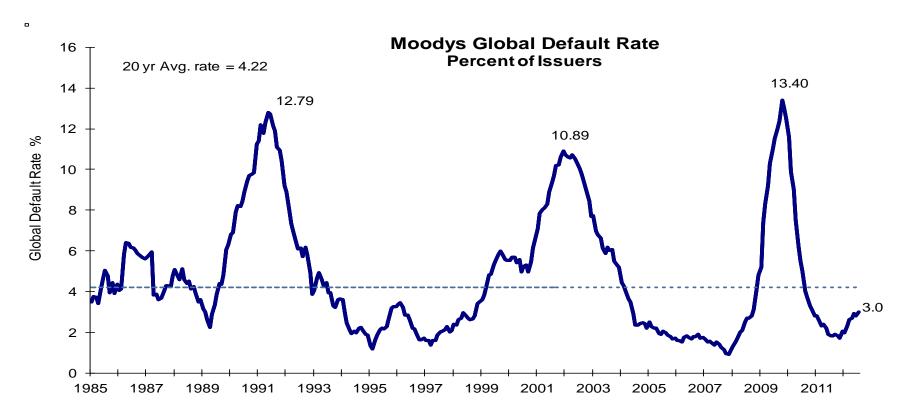
Interest coverage increased to 3.7x from 3.6x in Q1.





# Credit Trends as of August 31, 2012

- Based on Moody's covered issuers, 43 defaults have occurred in 2012, compared to only 16 in the same period during 2011. The 12 month default rate increased to 3.0% from 2.8% in July.
- Moody's expects a slight increase in the default rate to 3.1% by year end then a decline to 3.0% by July 2013. Moody's measures defaults as a percentage of issuers.
- The Moody's 20 yr. average default rate is 4.22%.



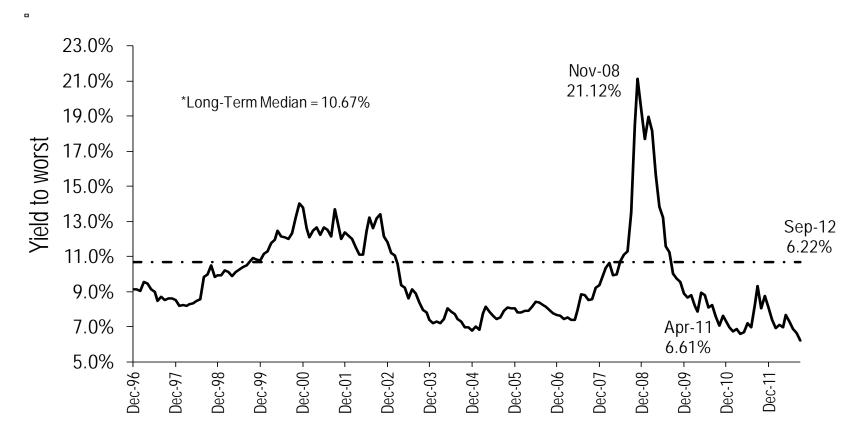


# High Yield Market Valuation as of August 31, 2012

- Valuations are less attractive than they were to start the year as spreads have tightened by 184 bps to +523 bps and are now approaching historic medians.
- Yields, on the other hand, are at new all time lows given the low absolute level of interest rates.
- The liquidity programs from central banks have reduced tail risk in the marketplace resulting in reduced risk premiums from macro related issues.
- High yield is now pricing in a 3.9% default rate versus 7.0% at the start of the year.
- Given the move in valuations from the recent wides, we have adjusted our expected return for the high yield market to be more in line with a coupon type return for the next 12 months, with modest spread tightening potential.



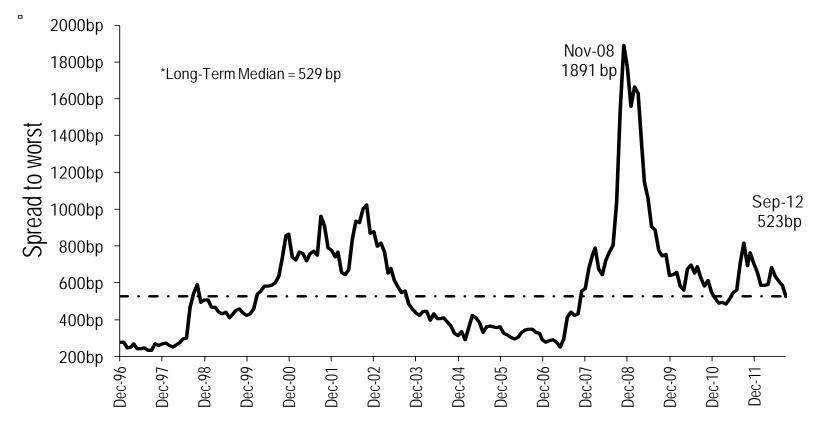
High yield bond yields decreased have decreased 43bp MTD September. Yields have decreased 186bps YTD and 377bps since the highs of early October '11.



\*Long-Term Median using JP Morgan data series, which has a longer history. JP Morgan data is available since 1/31/87.

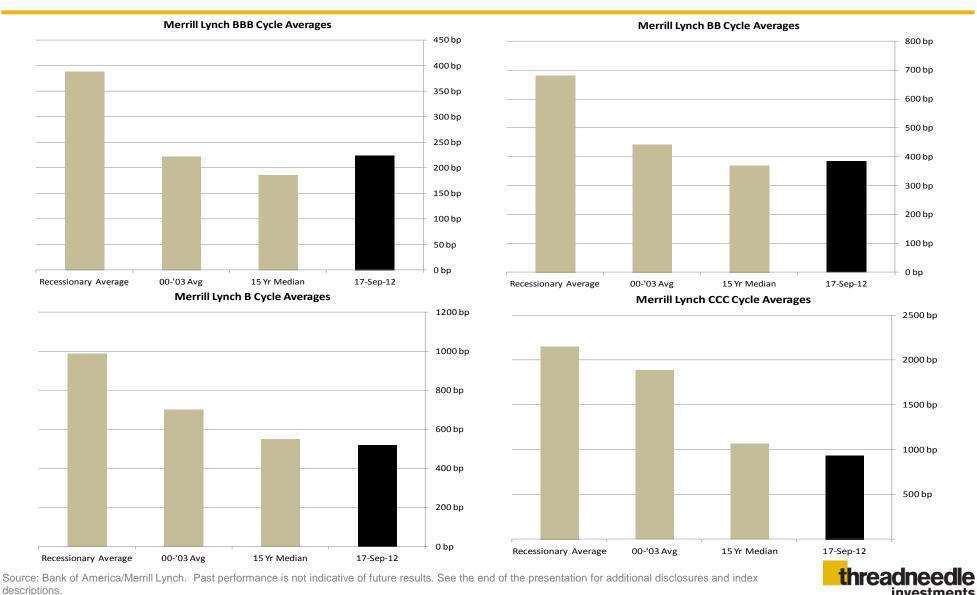


High Yield spreads have tightened 65bps September MTD and have tightened 184bps YTD. Spreads have tightened 374 bps since wides of the past twelve months posted on October 4th, 2011.



\*Long-Term Median using JP Morgan data series, which has a longer history. JP Morgan data is available since 1/31/87.

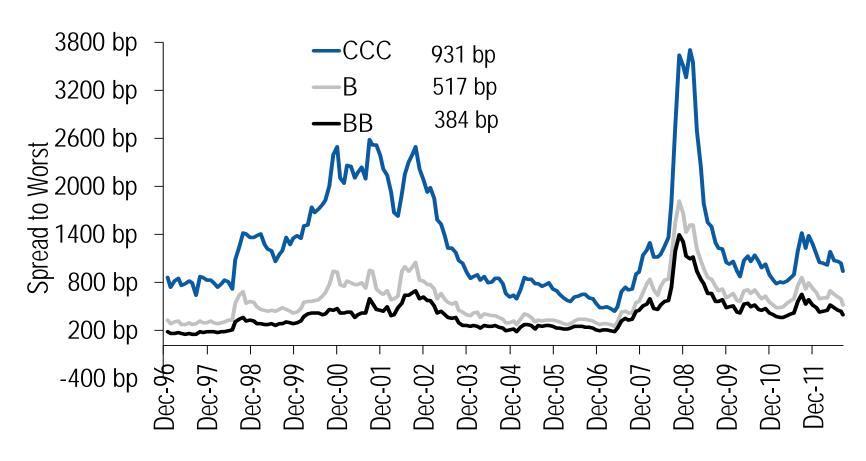




## **High Yield Market Valuation**

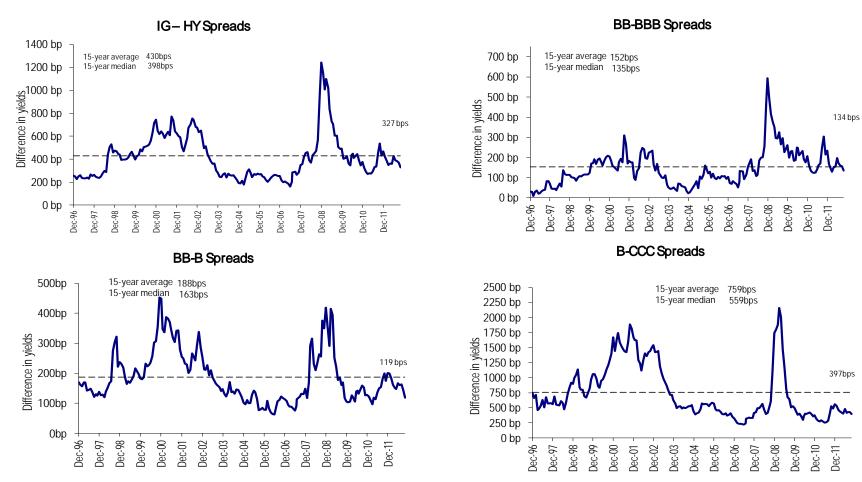
## as of September 17, 2012

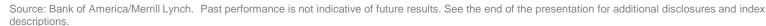
### Merrill Lynch High Yield Cash Pay Constrained Index by Rating





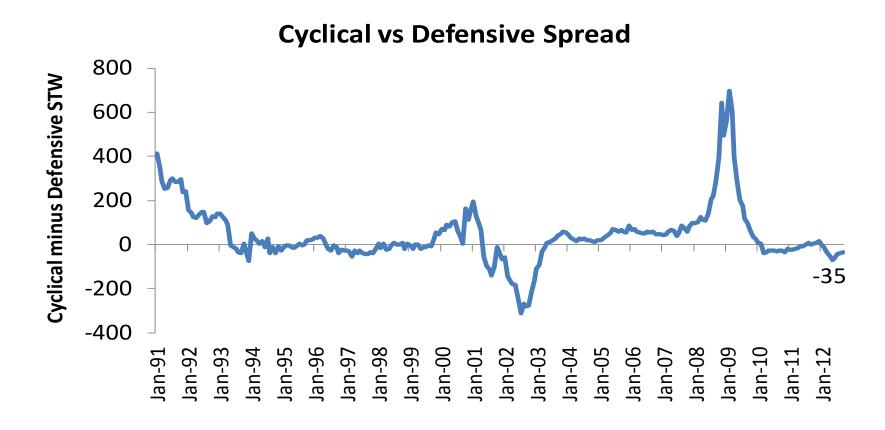
Quality spreads have tightened considerably in September MTD, leaving all quality spreads below long-term averages.







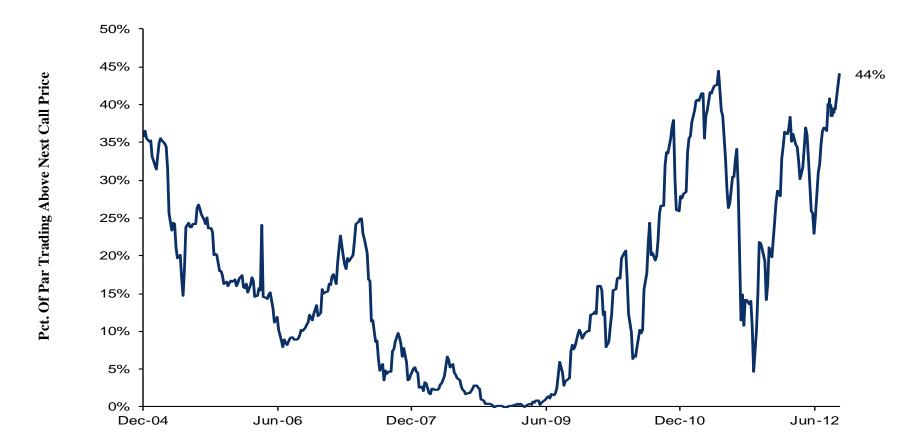
Cyclical issues continue to trade at a premium to defensive issues.





# High Yield Trading Above Next Call Price as of September 12, 2012

 Currently, 44% (par weighted) of high yield bonds are trading above their next call price, meeting the peak for this measure of 44% seen in May 2011.



### **Technicals**

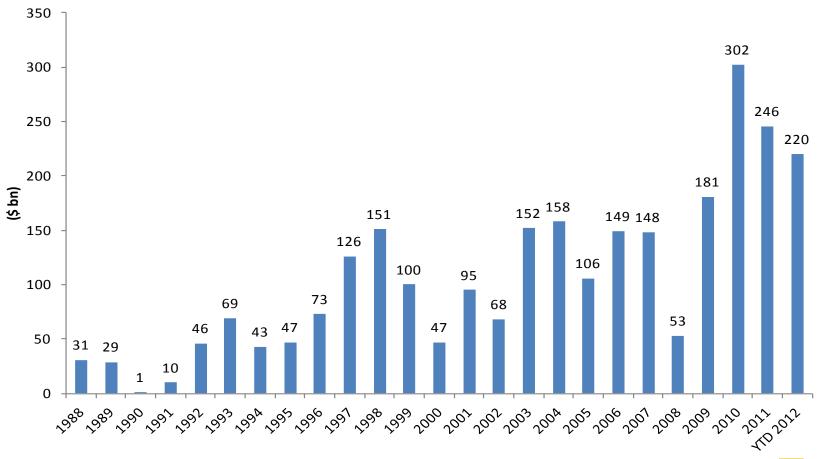
- Strong corporate fundamentals and attractive valuations are further supported by a positive technical backdrop for the asset class.
- Demand has continued to be strong as investors are convinced the asset class can do well in a sub trend GDP growth environment.
- Retail flows into the asset class have been positive at \$32.6 billion year-to-date. This is the largest net inflow period the market has experienced since \$32 billion of inflows during 2009.
- The primary market has offered over \$235 billion in new issuance, of which 62% has been for refinancing.



## **High Yield Bond New Issuance**

As of August 31, 2012

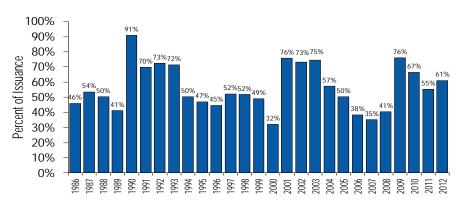
High yield new issue activity pick up in August, recording the busiest August on record with \$36bn of new issuance, leaving the YTD total at \$220bn compared to \$201bn over the same period in 2011.



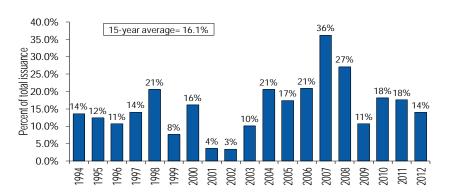
# New Issue Review as of August 31, 2012

- YTD new issue volume is \$220B, of which \$31B has been lower rated.
- Refinancing still remains the primary use of proceeds at 61% YTD, slightly above the 58% seen YTD prior year.
- Lower rated issuance YTD is trending below recent years at 14%.

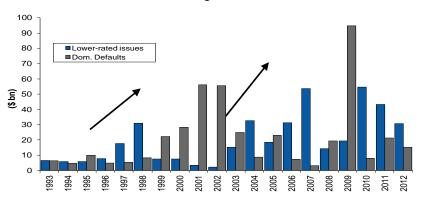
#### Percent of Total Issuance with Refinancing as a Use of Proceeds



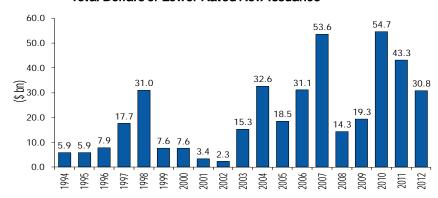
#### Lower Rated Issuance as a Percent of Total Issuance



#### Lower Rated Issuance – Leading Indicator of Default Trends



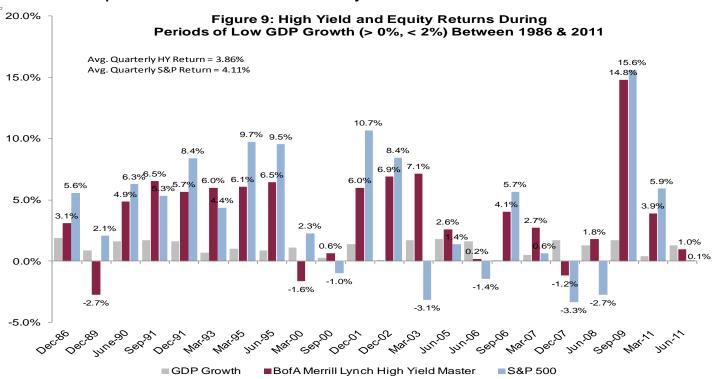
#### Total Dollars of Lower Rated New Issuance





### **Low Economic Growth Environment**

- History shows that performance in high yield is not contingent on strong economic growth and that in low-growth environments, high yield bonds tend to perform reasonably well
- In previous periods when the growth rate was between 0% and 2%, high yield bonds returned 3.86% on average, with a standard deviation of 8.52% as compared to an average return from equities of 4.11% and a standard deviation of 15.70%
- Although equities experienced slightly higher average returns, high yield bonds were able to achieve a similar return profile with half the volatility





# **High Yield Market Valuation High Yield – Rising Rate Environment**

				12 Mon	th Total Re	eturns
12 months	Beginning	Change in	Change in	JPM	JPM	S&P
ending:	<b>HY Spreads</b>	Tsy Yields	<b>HY Spreads</b>	<b>HY Bonds</b>	IG Bonds	500
Sep-87	444*	+217	-93	6.00%	0.20%	43.40%
Feb-89	458	+115	-52	7.30%	4.70%	11.90%
Oct-94	432	+238	-42	1.20%	-4.80%	3.90%
Jan-00	579	+201	-75	1.60%	-2.60%	10.30%
Mar-04	729	+128	-269	13.20%	-0.50%	18.30%
Jun-06	405	+122	-51	5.10%	-2.20%	8.60%
Dec-09	1,731	+163	-1,074	58.90%	16.70%	26.50%

High Yield returns have tended to
outperform Investment Grade in 12
Month Periods when U.S. Treasury
Rates Increase at least 100 bps.

- Absolute returns for high yield can be impacted by beginning level of high yield spreads.
- 12 Month Total Returns 12 months Merrill Lynch High Yield Beginning Change in Change in ending: HY Spreads Tsy Yields HY Spreads CCC Sep-87 444\* +217 -93 NΑ NA NΑ Feb-89 458 +115 -52 NA NA NA Oct-94 432 +238 -42 10.95% 12.33% 14.05% Jan-00 0.73% 1.16% 579 +201 -75 -1.36% Mar-04 729 18.23% 19.72% 41.04% +128 -269 2.31% 5.90% Jun-06 405 +122 -51 8.93% 1,731 +163 -1,07445.21% 47.64% 96.78% Dec-09



The BB rated segment tends to underperform B and CCC rated segments in rising rate environments.

<sup>\*</sup> Spread as of 1/87

## **Asset Class Correlations**

### Returns to High Yield Bonds Have a Low Correlation to U.S. Treasury Returns

### Correlations among various asset classes over the past 25 years

	5-year	10-year	LB Aggregate	Investment- grade	High-yield		Wilshire	Russell	
	Treasury	Treasury	Bond Index	bonds	bonds	S&P 500	5000	2000	Gold
10-year Treasury	0.94								
LB Aggregate Bond Index	0.90	0.92							
Investment-grade bonds	0.70	0.74	0.90						
High-yield bonds	-0.08	-0.07	0.21	0.45					
S&P 500	-0.09	-0.07	0.12	0.26	0.58				
Wilshire 5000	-0.12	-0.09	0.09	0.24	0.60	0.99			
Russell 2000	-0.20	-0.17	0.00	0.16	0.62	0.82	0.89		
Gold	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.10	0.05	-0.08	-0.05	0.01	
US Inflation	-0.12	-0.17	-0.12	-0.15	0.01	-0.03	-0.03	-0.05	0.02

Note: As of February 29, 2012.

Source: J.P. Morgan.



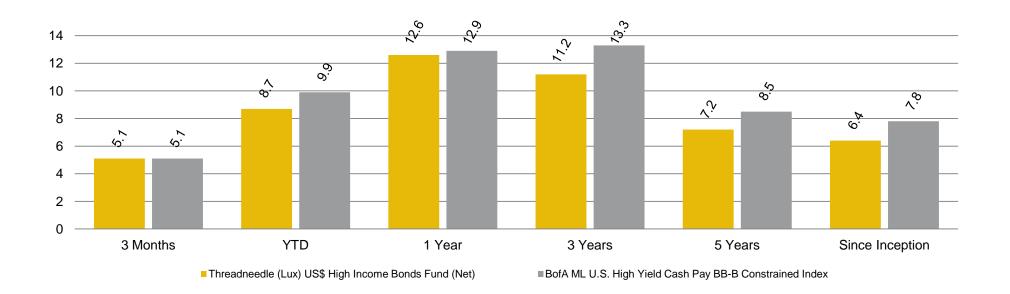
<sup>\*</sup>The LB Aggregate Bond Index is now known as the Barclay's Aggregate Bond Index.

## **Fund Performance**

## as of August 31, 2012

Inception Date: December 12, 2003

	3 Months	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inception
Threadneedle Lux US\$ High Income Bonds Fund (Net)	5.1	8.7	12.6	11.2	7.2	6.4
BofA ML U.S. High Yield Cash Pay BB-B Constrained Index	5.1	9.9	12.9	13.3	8.5	7.8



Note: All performance figures relate to the Acc Class A (Retail) USD share class. Source: Copyright © 2012 Morningstar UK Limited. Fund performance (Net) is net of assumed fees and expenses (but this does not reflect the sales charge maximum of 2%).



# Threadneedle (Lux) US\$ High Income Bonds Fund Risk/Return Characteristics

### Risk/Return Characteristics (Since Inception Ending 8/31/2012)

	Threadneedle (Lux) US\$ High Income Bonds Fund	BofA ML U.S. High Yield Cash Pay BB- B Constrained Index
Relative Return	0.96%	
Tracking Error	2.07%	
Information Ratio	0.46	
Alpha	1.55%	
Beta	0.87%	
R-Squared	0.96%	1.00%
Standard Deviation	8.45%	9.51%
Sharpe Ratio	0.79	0.60

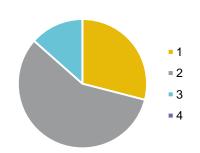
Source: Columbia Management Investments Adviser, LLC. Please refer to the Client Performance and Holdings disclosures at the end of this presentation for more information.



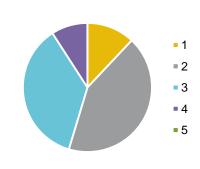
# Threadneedle (Lux) US\$ High Income Bonds Fund Portfolio Characteristics

### Internal Ratings Exposure as of 8/31/2012

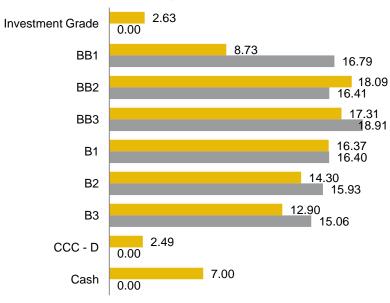
Risk Ratings	% Market Value		
1	27.96%		
2	55.37%		
3	12.97%		
4	0.00%		
Total	100.00%		



Relative Value Ratings	% Market Value
1	11.60%
2	41.20%
3	35.00%
4	8.80%
5	0.00%
Total	100.00%

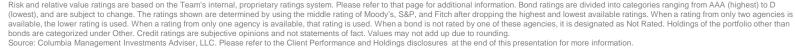


### Comparative Ratings as of 8/31/2012



■Threadneedle (Lux) US\$ High Income Bonds Fund

■ BofA ML U.S. High Yield Cash Pay BB-B Constrained Index





# Threadneedle (Lux) US\$ High Income Bonds Fund Risk/Return Characteristics

### Risk/Return Characteristics (Since Inception Ending 8/31/2012)

Portfolio Characteristics as of 5/31/2012	Threadneedle (Lux) US\$ High Income Bonds Fund	BofA ML U.S. High Yield Cash Pay BB- B Constrained Index
Number of Issuers	183	782
Number of Issues	306	1,645
Yield to Worst (YTW)	5.15%	5.69%
Average Effective Duration	4.38 yrs	4.06 yrs
Option Adjusted Spread (OAS)	424 bps	485 bps
Years to Maturity	7.02 yrs	7.39 yrs
Average Credit Quality	Ba3	Ba3
Average Price	108	105

Risk and relative value ratings are based on the Team's internal, proprietary ratings system. Please refer to that page for additional information. Bond ratings are divided into categories ranging from AAA (highest) to D (lowest), and are subject to change. The ratings shown are determined by using the middle rating of Moody's, S&P, and Fitch after dropping the highest and lowest available ratings. When a rating from only two agencies is available, the lower rating is used. When a bond is not rated by one of these agencies, it is designated as Not Rated. Holdings of the portfolio other than bonds are categorized under Other. Credit ratings are subjective opinions and not statements of fact. Values may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Columbia Management Investments Adviser, LLC. Please refer to the Client Performance and Holdings disclosures at the end of this presentation for more information.



# Threadneedle (Lux) US\$ High Income Bonds Fund Portfolio Characteristics

### Top 10 Issuers\* as of 8/31/2012

#### % Portfolio % Index Issuer SPRINT NEXTEL CORP 2.98% 1.99% CENTURYLINK INC 2.85% 1.38% ALLY FINANCIAL INC 1.81% 2.40% 1.39% CIT GROUP INC 2.17% LYONDELLBASELL INDUSTRIES NV 2.03% 0.50% **EL PASO CORPORATION** 1.86% 0.67% **HCA INC** 1.81% 2.00% UNITED RENTALS NA INC 1.55% 0.59% CONTINENTAL RESOURCES INC 0.22% 1.46% INTERNATIONAL LEASE FINANCE CORP 1.42% 1.95%

### Industry Over/Underweights as of 8/31/2012

Overweights	Underweights	Market Weights
Energy	Consumer Cyclical	Financial Services
Telecommunications	Basic Industry	Consumer Non-Cyclical
Capital Goods	Services	Technology & Electronics
Automotive	Utility	Insurance
Media	Banking	Healthcare
		Real Estate

Source: Columbia Management Investments Adviser, LLC. Please refer to the Client Performance and Holdings disclosures at the end of this presentation for more information.



<sup>\*</sup>Excludes cash

## Threadneedle (Lux) US\$ High Income Bonds - Summary

- Based on an established and successful strategy run by Columbia Management, a US-based asset management company also owned by Threadneedle Investment's parent company, Ameriprise Financial
- A deep and stable team of high yield specialists striving to deliver consistent and repeatable investment results through
  - A disciplined and well-defined credit selection process that seeks to maximise the return per unit of risk
  - Rigorous, independent, in-house credit research and a proprietary rating system
  - Tactical portfolio management to exploit varying market conditions
  - A constant focus on downside risk management



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## Columbia Management High Yield Fixed Income Advantage

- A deep and stable team of high yield specialists striving to deliver consistent and repeatable investment results through:
  - A disciplined and well-defined credit selection process that seeks to maximize the return per unit of risk
  - Rigorous, independent, in-house credit research and a proprietary rating system
  - Tactical portfolio management to exploit varying market conditions
  - A constant focus on downside risk management
- A commitment to client-driven, customized investment solutions and service



### **Disclosures**

The JP Morgan default rate is calculated by taking the outstanding high yield defaulted debt as a percentage of the total domestic high yield market for each rolling 12-month period.

The 10 Year Treasury is issued and backed by the United States Government.

The views expressed are as of the date provided and are subject to change at any time based on market and other factors.

Some of the data shown has been derived using available data from third party sources. Information provided by third parties is deemed to be reliable but may be derived using methodologies or techniques that are proprietary or unique to the third party source.

#### **Index Descriptions:**

The Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Market Index is an unmanaged list of common stocks frequently used as a measure of market performance and is not necessarily similar to our institutional portfolios. The JP Morgan Global High Yield Index is an unmanaged index used to mirror the investable universe of the U.S. dollar global high yield corporate debt market of both developed and emerging markets. The securities used to create the index are not necessarily similar to our high yield portfolios.

JPM Emerging Markets Global is represented by the JP Morgan EMBI Global, which tracks total returns for United States Dollar denominated debt instruments issued by emerging market sovereign and quasi-sovereign entities, Brady bonds, loans, Eurobonds, and local market instruments. This index only tracks the particular region or country.

JPM Investment Grade is represented by the JP Morgan JULI High Grade Index which is a cash pay USD denominated index that includes corporate bonds rated investment grade by both S&P and Moody's with a minimum rating of BBB- and Baa3, respectively.

The Barclays Capital Bank Loan Index (formerly Lehman Brothers Bank Loan Index or Lehman HY Loan) provides broad and comprehensive total return metrics of the universe of syndicated term loans. To be included in the index, a bank loan must be dollar denominated, have at least \$150 million funded loan, a minimum term of one year, and a minimum initial spread of LIBOR+125.

The Merrill Lynch BB/B, Constrained High Yield Index (HUC4) comprises all securities in the U.S. Master that are rated BB1 to B3 as measured by a composite of S&P, Moody's and Fitch. Issuer weights are constrained to a 2% maximum market value.

The Merrill Lynch High Yield Master II Index tracks the performance of below investment grade U.S. dollar-denominated corporate bonds publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market.

The Barclays Capital Aggregate Bond Index is a market-value-weighted index that tracks the daily price, coupon, pay-downs and total return performance of fixed-rate, publicly placed, dollar-denominated and nonconvertible investment-grade debt issues with at least \$250 million par amount outstanding and with at least one year to final maturity.

The Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index is an unmanaged market capitalization-weighted index frequently used as a measure of U.S. dollar denominated loan market performance and is not necessarily similar to our Floating Rate portfolios.

The Wilshire 5000 Measures the performance of all U.S. equity securities with readily available price data. Over 5,000 capitalization weighted security returns are used to adjust the index. The Wilshire 5000 base is its December 31, 1980 capitalization of \$1,404.596 billion.

The Russell 2000 Index measures the performance of the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. The Russell 2000 Index is a subset of the Russell 3000® Index representing approximately 8% of the total market capitalization of that index.

The Dow Jones World EM Stock Index measures the performance of stocks that trade in emerging markets. It represents approximately 95% of the float-adjusted market capitalization of the countries covered by the index.

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