

Portfolio e-trading grows, while dealer net positions go short

October Data Spotlight: U.S. Credit Trading

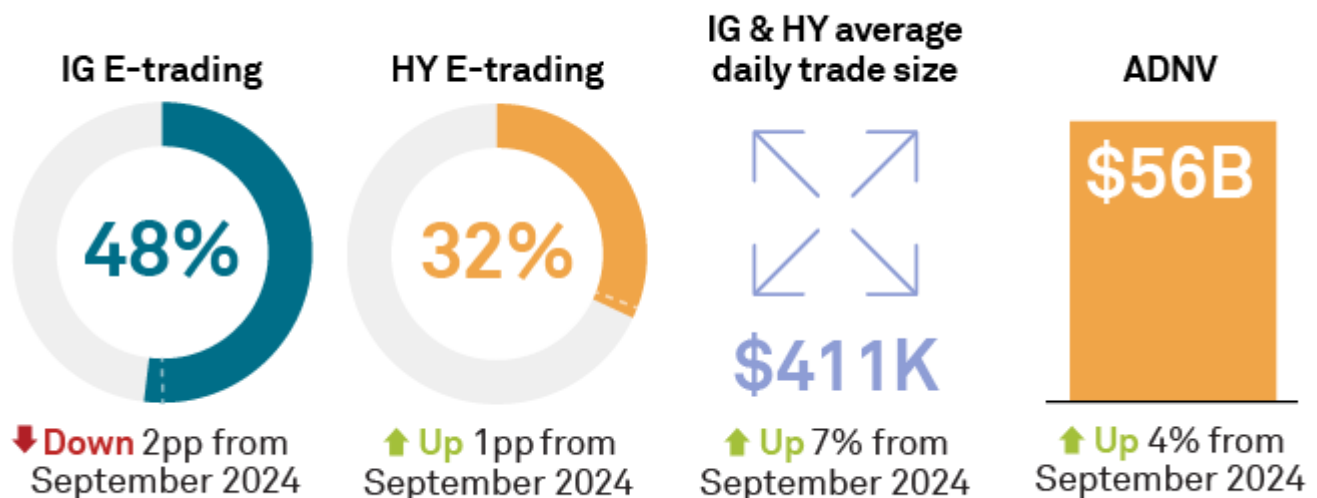
October 20, 2025

Executive Summary:

The credit market's road to year-end started off with a bang. New issuance hit its highest level since May 2020, which supported an average daily notional volume (ADNV) in the secondary market of \$56 billion per day, up 4% year over year. September 30 was the busiest U.S. corporate bond trading day ever, with \$89 billion traded—surpassing the previous record set on April 30.



Key September 2025 Metrics



Source: Greenwich MarketView, MarketAxess

The credit market's road to year-end started off with a bang. New issuance hit its highest level since May 2020, which supported an average daily notional volume (ADNV) in the secondary market of \$56 billion per day, up 4% year over year. September 30 was the busiest U.S. corporate bond trading day ever, with \$89 billion traded—surpassing the previous record set on April 30.

Portfolio trading

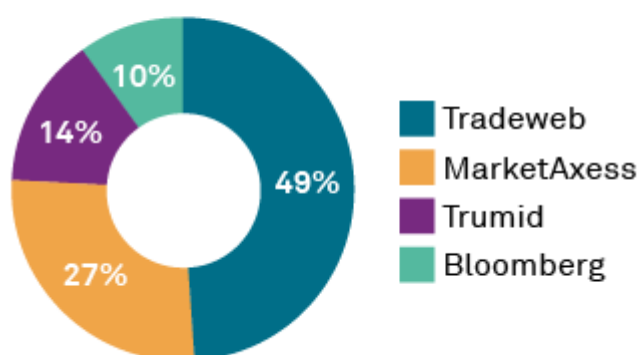
Yet again, portfolio trading played a big part in the month's and month end's volume, with 9.8% of investment-grade and 11.6% of high-yield volume traded via PT over the month, jumping to 18% and 16%, respectively, on month end. Our data suggests that nearly all of that volume was traded or processed via a

trading venue, a notable achievement for the market. More specifically, the roughly \$6 billion of PT reported by the trading venues nearly matches the \$6 billion ADV of PT in TRACE.

While we do treat all platform-reported PT as electronically traded, bilateral communication via IB and phone is still occurring for some of that activity. The complexity and risk that comes with billion dollar transactions often makes a conversation a smart pre-execution step. Nevertheless, despite these caveats and known noise in the data, the industry's full adoption of the available electronic tools in the span of only five years is impressive.

Portfolio trading — market share

Notional volume



Source: Greenwich MarketView

While Tradeweb remains the market share leader, handling over half of the PT notional traded, Bloomberg, MarketAxess and Trumid all gained share in September. Usability and analytics that support the trading process will be the primary driver of client retention or defection over time, something all involved are heavily investing in. Clients tend to center most if not all of their PT on a favorite platform, while dealers generally go wherever their clients are. The only true deterrent for market participants using a platform is fees, but clearly, the benefits of a non-Excel transaction are, in most cases, outweighing those costs.

Dealers going short

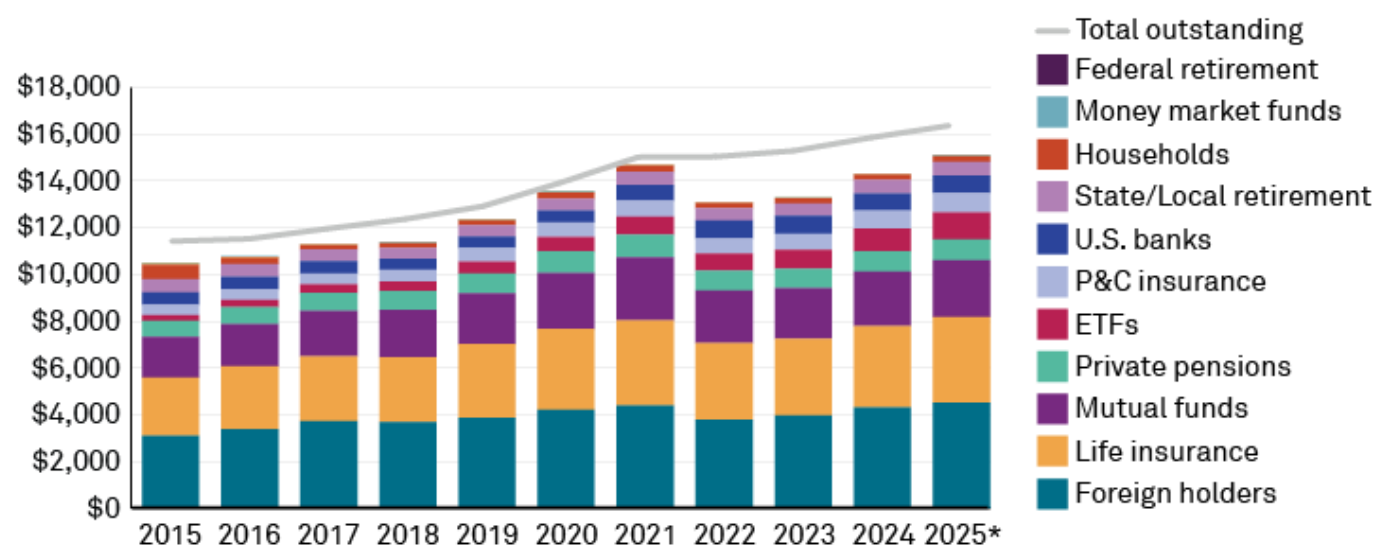
Amid the heavy overall volume and PT, corporate bonds on primary dealers' balance sheets have continued moving more short. Their average \$9.5 billion net short positions in bonds with greater than 5 years duration in September overtakes their \$7.4 billion net long positions in bonds 5 years or less. There are many factors that encourage dealer holdings in general and explain why dealers are currently net short longer-duration bonds. The focus on longer dated bonds suggests a reduction in DV01. Longer dated bonds have a higher cost of carry. Some banks might see credit spreads today as too tight, and so are positioning for an expected widening.

That all said, an expectation of declining rates has seen investors and insurance companies looking to lock in today's rates for longer. This can leave dealers short who are working to fulfill client demand. While rate-cut expectations have come and gone many times over the past year, and dealers have been partially short the whole time, the growth of the short position since June has been notable, suggesting an inflection point is upon us.

Who is holding the bonds

A different data set from the Fed that captures holders of corporate bonds more broadly shows that U.S. bank (not just primary dealers) corporate bond holdings have declined each year since 2022. More interestingly, as of Q2 2025, the total value of corporate bonds held by the bond holders tracked by the Fed has finally grown above its pre-ratecut peak of 2021. The biggest buyer? Exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Following the sharp decline in value at the hand of higher rates in 2022, ETFs have seen their holdings in notional terms grow by 58% between 2022 and 2025 via an additional \$425 billion of corporate bonds, compared to 9% growth across all holders. So, while still fifth on the list of biggest corporate bond holders, the importance of ETFs in the bond market continues its ascent.

Corporate bond holdings by sector — annual notional values



Note: *2025 represents average of Q1 and Q2 only.
Source: Federal Reserve, Crisil Coalition Greenwich

Market Structure & Technology Head of Research [Kevin McPartland](#) and Neha Jain are co-authors of this report.

The data underlying this analysis, which includes but is not limited to e-trading levels, platform market share and total market volumes, is available to subscribers of Greenwich MarketView. MarketView provides continuous access to these metrics, updated at least monthly, based on the frequency of the source data.

Where to Access MarketView

My Content

All Reports

All Market Trends

MarketView

All Content

Saved Content

By Coverage Area:

- Any -

By Region:

- Any -

By Topic:

- Any -

By Keyword:

Type here...

By Type:

- Any -

Search

Reset

My Access

Subscribed to Equities, Fixed Income, FX, Market Structure & Technology



Methodology:

Crisil Coalition Greenwich continuously gathers data and insights from credit market participants, including market makers, primary dealers and trading platforms. The data, once aggregated, normalized and enhanced, is analyzed by our market structure research team who identify the key trends of trading in the credit markets, with a focus on corporate bond electronic trading and trading platform market share.



www.greenwich.com | ContactUs@greenwich.com

Coalition Greenwich, a division of CRISIL, an S&P Global Company, is a leading global provider of strategic benchmarking, analytics and insights to the financial services industry.

We specialize in providing unique, high-value and actionable information to help our clients improve their business performance.

Our suite of analytics and insights encompass all key performance metrics and drivers: market share, revenue performance, client relationship share and quality, operational excellence, return on equity, behavioral drivers, and industry evolution.

About CRISIL

CRISIL is a leading, agile and innovative global analytics company driven by its mission of making markets function better. It is majority owned by S&P Global Inc., a leading provider of transparent and independent ratings, benchmarks, analytics, and data to the capital and commodity markets worldwide.

CRISIL is India's foremost provider of ratings, data, research, analytics, and solutions with a strong record of growth, culture of innovation, and global footprint.

It has delivered independent opinions, actionable insights and efficient solutions to over 100,000 customers through businesses that operate from India, the U.S., the U.K., Argentina, Poland, China, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

For more information, visit www.crisil.com

Disclaimer and Copyright

This Document is prepared by Crisil Coalition Greenwich, which is a part of Crisil Ltd, a company of S&P Global. All rights reserved. This Document may contain analysis of commercial data relating to revenues, productivity and headcount of financial services organisations (together with any other commercial information set out in the Document). The Document may also include statements, estimates and projections with respect to the anticipated future performance of certain companies and as to the market for those companies' products and services.

The Document does not constitute (or purport to constitute) an accurate or complete representation of past or future activities of the businesses or companies considered in it but rather is designed to only highlight the trends. This Document is not (and does not purport to be) a comprehensive Document on the financial state of any business or company. The Document represents the views of Crisil Coalition Greenwich as on the date of the Document and Crisil Coalition Greenwich has no obligation to update or change it in the light of new or additional information or changed circumstances after submission of the Document.

This Document is not (and does not purport to be) a credit assessment or investment advice and should not form basis of any lending, investment or credit decision. This Document does not constitute nor form part of an offer or invitation to subscribe for, underwrite or purchase securities in any company. Nor should this Document, or any part of it, form the basis to be relied upon in any way in connection with any contract relating to any securities. The Document is not an investment analysis or research and is not subject to regulatory or legal obligations on the production of, or content of, investment analysis or research.

The data contained in the Document is based upon a particular bank's scope, which reflects a bank's data submission, business structure, and sales revenue Reporting methodology. As a result, any data contained in the Document may not be directly comparable to data presented to another bank. For franchise benchmarking, Crisil Coalition Greenwich has implemented equal ranking logic on aggregate results i.e., when sales revenues are within 5% of at least one competitor ahead, a tie is shown and designated by = (where actual ranks are shown). Entity level data has no equal ranking logic implemented and therefore, on occasion, the differences between rank bands can be very close mathematically.

The data in this Document may reflect the views reported to Crisil Coalition Greenwich by the research participants. Interviewees may be asked about their use of and demand for financial products and services and about investment practices in relevant financial markets. Crisil Coalition Greenwich compiles the data received, conducts statistical analysis and reviews for presentation purposes to produce the final results.

THE DOCUMENT IS COMPILED FROM SOURCES CRISIL COALITION GREENWICH BELIEVES TO BE RELIABLE. CRISIL COALITION GREENWICH DISCLAIMS ALL REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO THIS DOCUMENT, INCLUDING AS TO THE VALIDITY, ACCURACY, REASONABLENESS OR COMPLETENESS OF THE INFORMATION, STATEMENTS, ASSESSMENTS, ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS, ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE ARISING OUT OF THE USE OF ALL OR ANY OF THIS DOCUMENT. CRISIL COALITION GREENWICH ACCEPTS NO LIABILITY WHATSOEVER FOR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE OF ANY KIND ARISING OUT OF THE USE OF ALL OR ANY OF THIS DOCUMENT.

Crisil Coalition Greenwich is a part of Crisil Ltd., an S&P Global company. ©2025 Crisil Ltd. All rights reserved.

greenwich.com

ContactUs@greenwich.com

Ph +1203.625.5038