

CMBS Market Commentary:

Navigating Opportunities in Today's CMBS Market

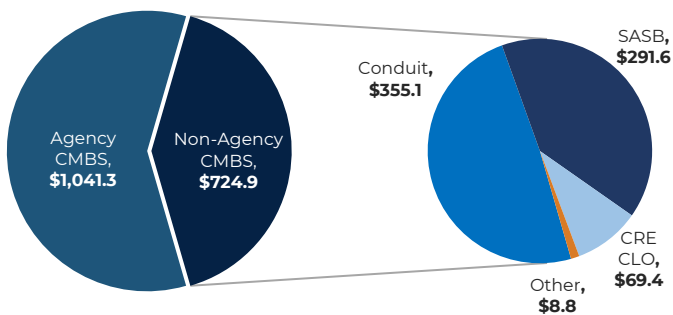
SHELTER GROWTH
CAPITAL PARTNERS

May 2025

The Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities (CMBS) market stands at approximately \$2 trillion in outstanding debt. With over \$230 billion in average annual issuance, and monthly trading volume between \$20-25 billion, CMBS provide investors with both meaningful scale and liquidity.

Non-Agency CMBS transactions are primarily comprised of Single Asset, Single Borrower (SASB) deals or Conduit deals—diversified pools of loans from multiple borrowers. SASB securities typically provide greater asset-level transparency and higher spreads, allowing greater ability to underwrite individual assets directly. Spreads levels vary by collateral type, providing opportunities to target specific risk-return profiles. Incorporating SASB into a broader allocation also adds valuable diversification at the portfolio level.

Size of the Outstanding CMBS Market (\$B)



Market Dynamics

The post-Liberation Day volatility was felt broadly by both debt and equity markets. CMBS spreads widened significantly, echoing movements in broader credit markets. Hotel-backed securities were among the most affected, due largely in part to their daily rent reset structures, with AAA spreads reaching as wide as SOFR +250 basis points. With heightened uncertainty, issuance slowed, and several deals were pulled from the market. In April, new issue volume dropped to \$4.5 billion, down from an average of \$15 billion per month in the first quarter of this year. Though spreads have since largely recovered, they still remain wider than February tightness.

New Issue Spread Changes

SASB AAA	Feb Tights	Post-Lib Day	Current	Chg vs Feb
Industrial/MF	+115	+190	+140	+25
Office	+95	+175	+135	+40
Hotel	+140	+250	+180	+40
Retail	+120	+225	+150	+30
Conduit	+77	+120	+88	+11
IG Corps	+47	+81	+57	+10
HY Corps	+290	+480	+362	+72

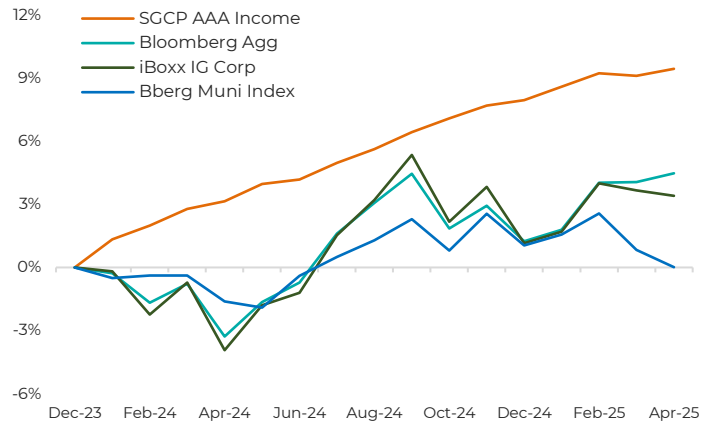
Attractive Entry Point in AAA SASB

We continue to see value in AAA-rated SASB securities as a compelling risk-adjusted carry trade in today's environment, especially for investors focused on maintaining liquidity. With substantial subordination of approximately 50% and high current debt yields (~12% in the hotel sector), we view these as attractive opportunities to add low-leverage, high-carry profiles.

We see particular value in 2021-2022 vintage, higher coupon, floating-rate multi-asset SASB securities trading around par. These securities are typically backed by portfolios of 20 to 100+ assets, all held by a single borrower. As the underlying loans season, higher-performing properties are often sold or refinanced at a premium and released from the collateral pool. The proceeds from these payoffs are used to pay down the AAA bonds first, which can support faster deleveraging and greater price stability for senior tranches.

A disciplined approach to allocating within this segment can allow investors to benefit from the structural advantages offered by these securities. By focusing on 100% floating-rate securities and short spread duration, a portfolio of AAA CMBS can navigate through market volatility.

Cumulative Returns Since 12/23*



Despite broader market uncertainty, we continue to see attractive opportunities within the CMBS space. AAA SASB securities, in particular, offer a compelling blend of income, credit protection, and liquidity in today's fixed income market.

If you are interested in learning more or discussing opportunities in this space, we would be happy to schedule a call.

Source: BofA Research, Bloomberg, JP Morgan, SGCP estimates.

*The net returns reflect the actual gross returns of the Fund net of assumed 0.75% management fees and 0.50% expenses. Those reflect the midpoint of updated and current management fee options and an assumed expense ratio given that the expense ratio can change depending on the size of the Fund. Actual historical net returns to investors were lower due to a previously higher fee structure and higher expense load during early Fund ramp up.

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CONTACT

Scott Barringer
203-355-6109
sbarringer@sgcp.com

Investor Relations
203-355-6100
sgcp_ir@sgcp.com



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