

This Week In Credit

Downgrades Reach 24-Week High

S&P Global
Ratings

This report does not constitute a rating action.

(Editor's note: This Week In Credit will take a short break. We plan to publish the next update on Jan. 12, 2026)

Dec. 15, 2025

Key Takeaways

- Downgrades rose to 15 last week--their highest weekly total since the end of June. All but one were speculative-grade issuers, with a concentration at the lower end. Four U.S.-based issuers across four sectors were downgraded to the 'CCC' category.
- Upgrades declined from the previous week, totaling six and including predominantly speculative-grade issuers. We added a rising star for the third consecutive week; Spirit AeroSystems Inc. was upgraded to 'BBB-' following its acquisition by Boeing Co., with our rating subsequently withdrawn.
- Defaults jumped to four last week, occurring across four sectors and including three U.S.-based issuers. Distressed exchanges were the reason behind three of the defaults.

Ratings performance trends

Arrows indicate week over week trend ↗ ↘

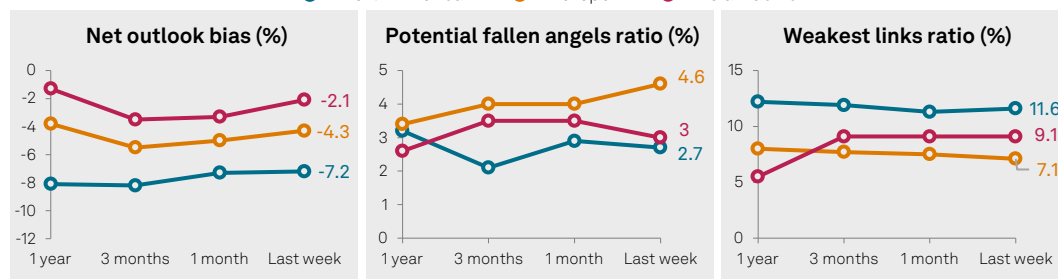
Positive ■ No change ■ Negative ■

Rating actions				Rating transitions			
Upgrades	Downgrades	Positive OLCW changes	Negative OLCW changes	Rising stars	Fallen angels	Risky credits	Defaults
6 ↘	15 ↗	14 ↗	11 ↗	1 ↗	0 ↗	4 ↗	4 ↗

Industries most at risk			U.S. distress ratio (%)
Net outlook bias (%)	Potential fallen angels	Weakest links	
-21.2 Automotive ↗	9 Utilities ↗	40 Consumer products ↗	5.1 ↗

Ratings at a glance

— North America — Europe — Asia-Pacific



Data as of Dec. 11, 2025. Note: Weekly rating actions, weekly transitions, and industries most at risk are all global data. Data excludes structured and public finance. Upgrades and downgrades exclude no-debt corporate rating actions and confidential rating actions. Downgrades exclude transitions to default. Defaults from confidential issuers are included in the default tally. As shown in the "Ratings at a glance" graphic all points reference historical point in time data. OLCW--Outlook/CreditWatch. Source: S&P Global Ratings Credit Research & Insights.

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Related Research

[Credit Trends: U.S. Corporate Bond Yields As Of Dec. 10, 2025](#), Dec. 12, 2025

[Credit Trends: What Will Drive Primary Market Issuance In 2026?](#), Dec. 11, 2025

[CreditWeek: Will There Be More Pain For China's Insurance Market?](#), Dec. 11, 2025

Upcoming Webinars

[Structured Finance U.S. and Canada 2026 Outlook](#), Jan. 15, 2026

Year To This Week

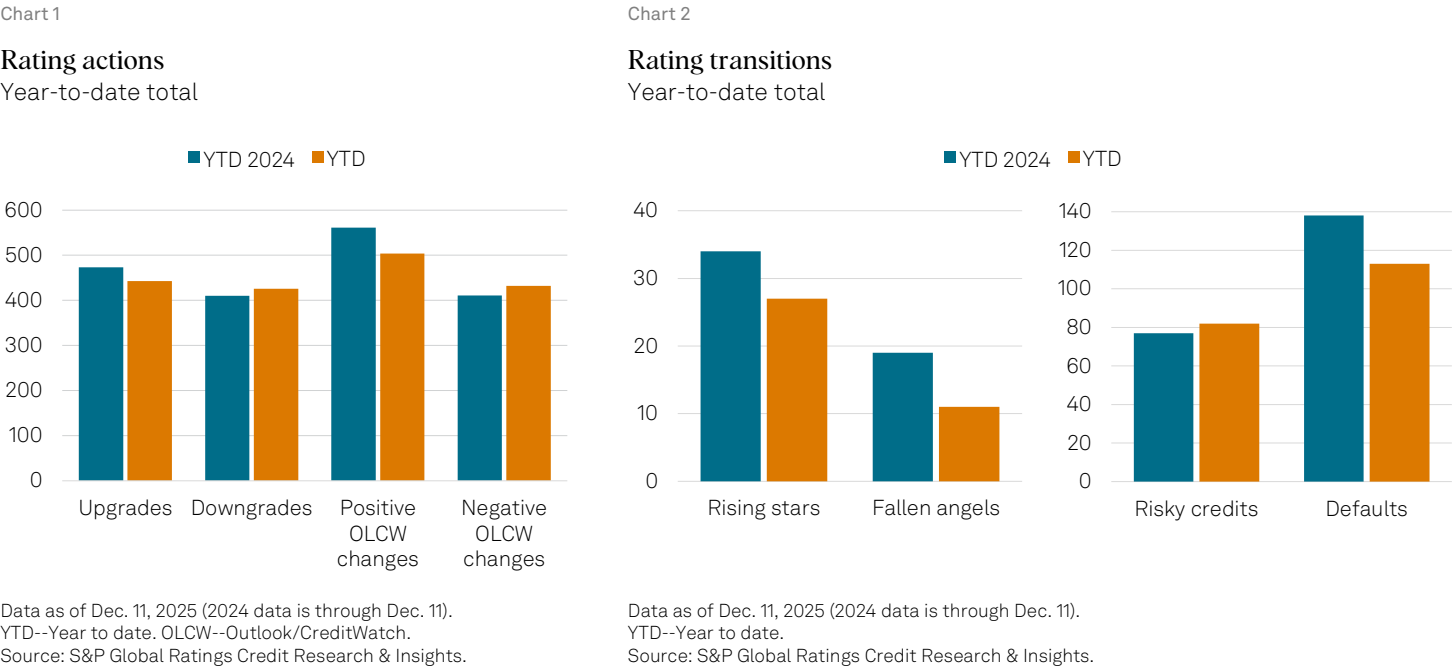
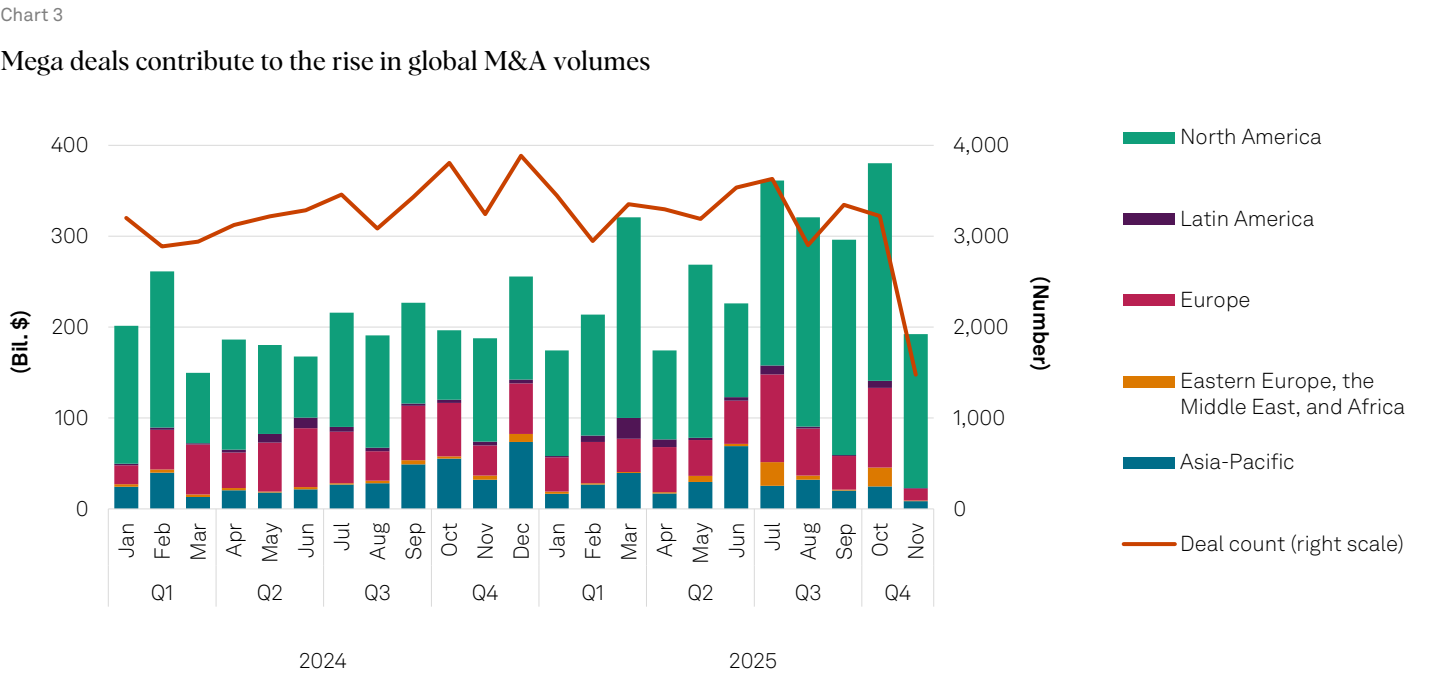


Chart Of The Week



This chart was first published in "[What Will Drive Primary Market Issuance In 2026?](#)" on Dec. 11, 2025. Chart includes M&A deals, where the buyer purchased a majority stake in a company or asset and that were announced or completed between Jan. 1, 2024, and Nov. 17, 2025. Q--Quarter. Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Credit Market Conditions

Chart 4

North America 1-month Credit VIX

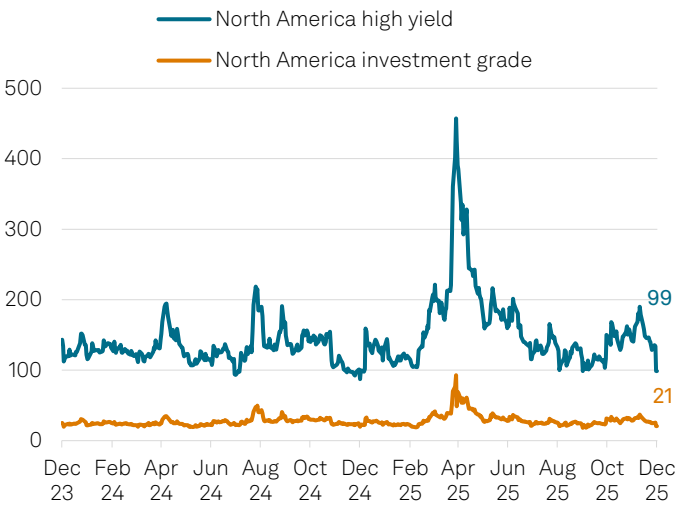
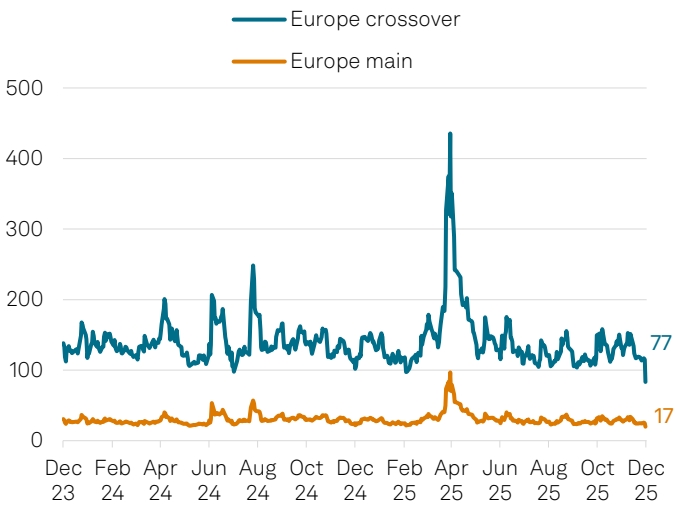


Chart 5

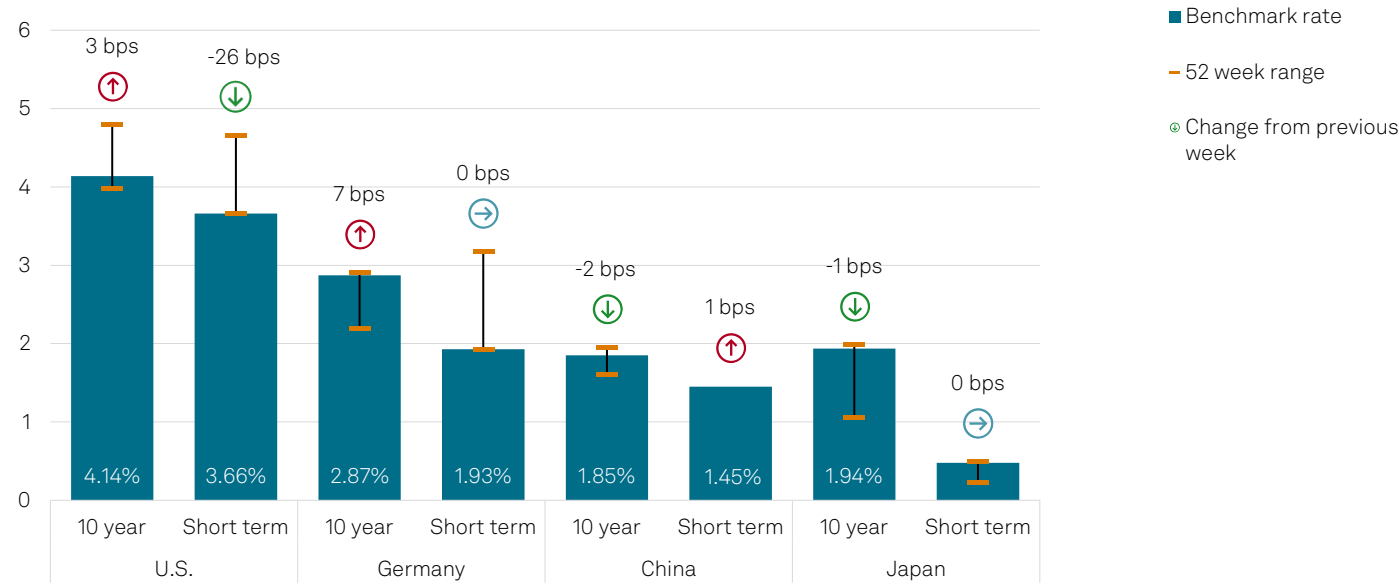
Europe 1-month Credit VIX



Data as of Dec. 11, 2025. Note: Europe Crossover--iTraxx/Cboe Europe Crossover 1-Month Volatility Index (BP Volatility); Europe Main--iTraxx/Cboe Europe Main 1-Month Volatility Index (BP Volatility); North America high-yield--CDX/Cboe NA High-yield 1-Month Volatility Index (BP Volatility); North America investment-grade--CDX/Cboe NA Investment-grade 1-Month Volatility Index (BP Volatility). The launch date of the indices was Oct. 13, 2023. Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC's Credit Volatility Indices (Credit VIX).

Chart 6

Benchmark yields



Data as of Dec. 11, 2025. Short-term rates: U.S., SOFR; Germany, euro short-term rate; China, DR007; and Japan, uncollateralized overnight call rate. Sources: S&P Global Ratings Credit Research & Insights, Refinitiv, ICE Data Indices, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Economics & Country Risk, S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Chart 7

Secondary market credit spreads

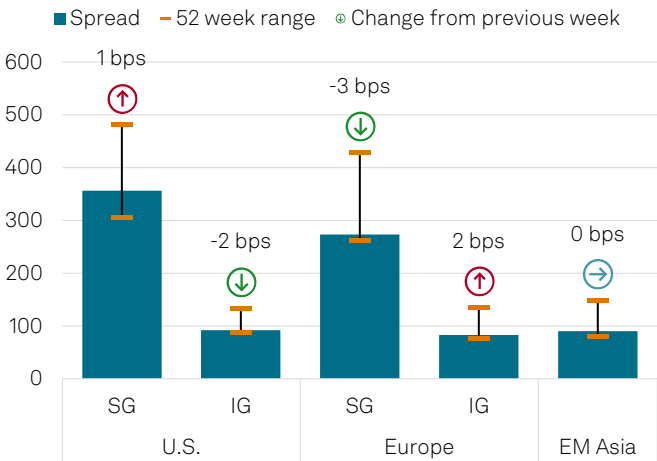
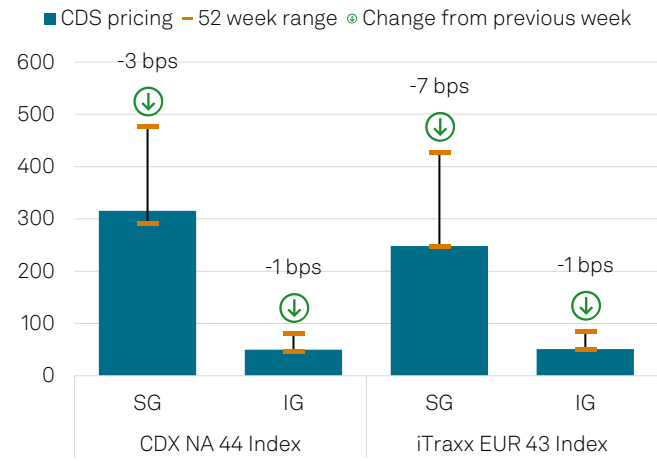


Chart 8

CDS pricing



Data as of Dec. 11, 2025. The arrows indicate weekly trends. SG--Speculative-grade. IG--Investment-grade. EM--Emerging market. Sources: S&P Global Ratings Credit Research & Insights, ICE Data Indices LLC, ICE BofA Euro High-Yield Index Option-Adjusted Spread, retrieved from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, S&P Dow Jones Indices.

This Week In Credit: Downgrades Reach 24-Week High

Table 1

Top 10 upgrades and downgrades by debt

Date	Action	Issuer	Industry	Country	To*	From*	Debt volume (mil. \$)
Dec. 5, 2025	Downgrade	Altice International S.a.r.l.	Telecommunications	Luxembourg	CCC/Negative	CCC+/Negative	9,577
Dec. 5, 2025	Downgrade	Bellis Finco PLC	Retail/restaurants	U.K.	B/Stable	B+/Negative	4,863
Dec. 11, 2025	Upgrade	Spirit AeroSystems Inc.	Aerospace and defense	U.S.	BBB-/Stable	B/WatchPos	4,294
Dec. 10, 2025	Upgrade	Gates Industrial Corp. PLC	Capital goods	U.K.	BB/Stable	BB-/Positive	3,450
Dec. 10, 2025	Downgrade	Oscar AcquisitionCo LLC	Forest products and building materials	U.S.	CCC+/Negative	B-/Stable	2,670
Dec. 10, 2025	Upgrade	Q-Park Holding I BV	Utilities	Netherlands	BB/Stable	BB-/Stable	2,221
Dec. 8, 2025	Downgrade	AL GCX Holdings LLC	Utilities	U.S.	B+/Stable	BB/Stable	1,973
Dec. 8, 2025	Downgrade	Burgess Point Purchaser Corp.	Automotive	U.S.	CCC+/Negative	B-/Negative	1,666
Dec. 8, 2025	Downgrade	Weekley Homes LLC	Homebuilders/real estate co.	U.S.	BB-/Stable	BB/Stable	1,600
Dec. 11, 2025	Downgrade	Artera Services LLC	Capital goods	U.S.	CCC+/Negative	B-/Negative	1,530

Data as of Dec. 11, 2025. Note: Rating actions include financial and nonfinancial corporates and sovereign issuer credit ratings. Excludes no-debt corporate rating actions and confidential rating actions. *Long-term issuer credit rating/outlook or CreditWatch status. Downgrades exclude defaults. Source: S&P Global Ratings Credit Research & Insights.

Table 2

Last week's rising stars and fallen angels

Date	Action	Issuer	Industry	Country	To*	From*	Debt volume (mil. \$)
Dec. 11, 2025	Upgrade	Spirit AeroSystems Inc.	Aerospace and defense	U.S.	BBB-	B	4,294

Data as of Dec. 11, 2025. Note: Rising stars--Issuers upgraded to investment-grade from speculative-grade. Fallen angels--Issuers downgraded to speculative-grade from investment-grade. Rating actions include financial and nonfinancial corporates and sovereign issuer credit ratings. Excludes no-debt corporate rating actions and confidential rating actions. *Long-term issuer credit rating/outlook or CreditWatch status. Source: S&P Global Ratings Credit Research & Insights.

Table 3

Last week's defaults

This Week In Credit: Downgrades Reach 24-Week High

Date	Parent company	Subsector	Country/ Market	To	From	Reason
Dec. 5, 2025	Petra Diamonds Ltd.	Metals, mining, and steel	Bermuda	SD	CC	Distressed exchange
Dec. 9, 2025	Newfold Digital Holdings Group Inc.	High technology	U.S.	D	CCC	Distressed exchange
Dec. 10, 2025	Superior Industries International Inc.	Automotive	U.S.	SD	CC	Distressed exchange
Dec. 11, 2025	PECF USS Intermediate Holding III Corp.	Chemicals, packaging, and environmental services	U.S.	D	CCC	Missed payments

Data as of Dec. 11, 2025. Excludes local currency defaults. Preliminary data. SD--Selective default. D--Default. Sources: S&P Global Ratings Credit Research & Insights, S&P Global Market Intelligence's CreditPro®.

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Glossary And Abbreviations

Ratings Performance Trends

Fallen angels--Issuers downgraded to speculative-grade from investment-grade.

Investment-grade (IG)--Issuers rated 'BBB-' or above.

Negative bias--Percentage of issuers with a negative outlook or on CreditWatch.

Net outlook bias--Percentage of issuers with a positive bias minus those with a negative bias.

OLCW--Outlooks and CreditWatch placements.

Positive bias--Percentage of issuers with a positive outlook or CreditWatch placement.

Potential fallen angels--Issuers rated 'BBB-' with either a negative outlook or CreditWatch placement.

Potential fallen angel ratio--The number of potential fallen angels divided by the population of issuers rated in the 'BBB' category.

Rising stars--Issuers upgraded to investment-grade from speculative-grade.

Risky credits--Issuers in the 'CCC' rating category.

Speculative-grade (SG)--Issuers rated 'BB+' or below.

U.S. distress ratio--Proportion of speculative-grade issues with option-adjusted composite spreads of more than 1,000 basis points relative to U.S. Treasury bonds.

Weakest links--Issuers rated 'B-' and below with either a negative outlook or CreditWatch placement.

Weakest links ratio--The number of weakest links divided by the total speculative-grade ratings population.

Credit Market Conditions

CDS--Credit default swaps.

DR007--Seven-day repurchase rate for depository institutions.

SOFR--Secured overnight financing rate.

Note: For definitions of ratings, outlooks, CreditWatch status, and other credit terms, see: "S&P Global Ratings Definitions."

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