



MUNICIPAL MARKET STATISTICS					
	03-01-22	02-01-22	03-01-21	03-01-19	03-01-17
10-Year AAA BVAL Municipal	1.59%	1.52%	1.11%	2.12%	2.27%
10-Year US Treasury	1.83%	1.79%	1.42%	2.72%	2.39%
10-Year Muni vs. Treasury	87%	85%	78%	78%	95%
IG Fund Flows YTD	(\$5.4B)	(\$3.1B)	\$20.7B	\$5.8B	(\$5.9B)
HY Fund Flows YTD	(\$2.9B)	(\$1.7B)	\$4.8B	\$2.7B	\$1.3B
IG (LMBITR) Total Return YTD	(3.17%)	(2.74%)	(0.96%)	1.30%	1.36%
HY (LMHYTR) Total Return YTD	(3.10%)	(2.80%)	1.07%	1.22%	3.82%
New Issue Calendar YTD	\$28B	\$27B	\$61B	\$45B	\$54B

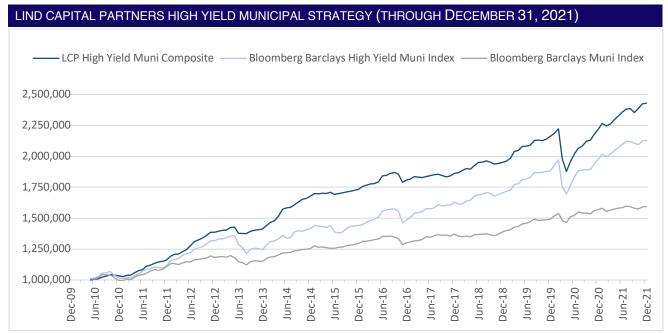
LIND CAPITAL PARTNERS MARKET COMMENTARY

The steady march to higher rates in the municipal and US Treasury markets was interrupted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In early February, economists were forecasting aggressive action by the Federal Reserve to combat the highest inflation since 1982. 10-year UST rates rose from 1.78% to 2.04% before geopolitical instability and the subsequent invasion of Ukraine resulted in a flight to quality with 10 year rates falling to 1.83% at month end. Municipal rates responded in kind, rising from 1.52% to 1.70% before settling at 1.59%. Municipal mutual funds and ETFs experienced weekly outflows (both IG and HY) bringing YTD combined total to (\$8.3B) with HY funds continuing to experience a disproportionate share of the flows. We expect this trend to continue through spring as the Fed initiates their anticipated tightening cycle. Additionally, investor appetite for municipal bonds tends to fade towards federal tax filing in April. As stated previously, we view any dislocation resulting from mutual fund outflows as an investment opportunity for investors. The retail dominated municipal market tends to move with a herd mentality, outflows begetting additional outflows. To meet investor redemption demands, mutual fund portfolio managers providing daily liquidity are often forced into selling portfolio assets into an illiquid market at distressed prices. This was evident, to the extreme, in March 2020. While we do not expect a recurrance of the COVID stress on the market, we do expect continued volatility and resultant opportunity.

LIND CAPITAL PARTNERS HIGH YIELD MARKET COMMENTARY

As referenced above, the municipal high yield market experienced continued outflows throughout February. High yield remained orderly and actually outperformed the investment grade market, slightly. The lack of a significant primary market offset fund outflows and contributed to relative outperformance. Given the current volatility across all asset classes and geopolitical instability, we think the high yield municipal market provides a safe harbor. We currently estimate new portfolios will be constructed with tax-exempt yields between 5.50% and 6.00%, or 9.25% to 10.15% taxable equivalent (for maximum federal tax bracket investors). We also think the high yield **credit** landscape is considerably more stable today than at anytime since the onset of the COVID crisis. Unlike March 2020, it seems the current outflow cycle is not credit related but rather driven by concerns regardingt rising interest rates. Retail selling creates opportunity for investors. With taxable equivalent yields approaching 10%+, the relative attractiveness of the high yield municipal market is clear.

While uncertainty persists regarding interest rates and inflation, the interest rate markets do provide some guidance with respect to market expectations. 30-year inflation expectations are currently hovering around 2.25% and the flattening of the US Treasury curve is forecasting a slowing economy going forward. Economists have been cutting their forecasts for the number of rate hikes in the future. Corporate high yield has sold off considerably and CDX has widened substantially. But, the corporate high yield market often has credit issues that the municipal high yield market does not typically encounter. Exposure to international markets, technology risk, take-over or buyout risk and refinancing risk are but a few of the significant differences between the two markets. Municipal finance is, by definition, project related. High yield projects are often secured by a first mortgage on the asset, as well as rate and additional bond covenants and debt service reserve funds. Municipal high yield borrower risks tend to be measurable and can be monitored on an ongoing basis. The combination of rising rates, a growing new issue calendar and waning retail investor demand create a very interesting environment for a long-term investor seeking to maximize after-tax returns.



The chart above shows the increase in value of \$1,000,000 invested in the LCP composite at inception (net of management fees and expenses) vs. the benchmark, the Bloomberg High Yield Muni (LMHYTR) as well as the Bloomberg Muni (LMBITR) indices (it is not possible to invest in either Bloomberg Index). Please contact us with questions regarding credit profile, returns, taxable equivalent yields or further portfolio information. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

DISCLOSURE

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