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Comparison of the main debt instruments

	Bank Loans	Public Market Financing*		Private Credit	Bespoke instruments (public or private)
Typical instruments	Revolving Credit Facilities ("RCF") Term Loans (TLA or TLB, usually the former)	☐ High Yield Bonds ("HYB")	☐ Broadly Syndicated Loans ("BSL")	☐ Unitranche/ Term Loans(TLB)	☐ Loans or Bonds ☐ PIK, PIYC, Convertible, Preferred, other hybrid instruments, 2nd Lien
Providers	Banks	☐ Institutional investors (high yield funds, asset managers, insurance/pension funds, hedge funds, etc)	☐ Institutional lenders (primarily CLOs, followed by other asset managers, separately managed funds, sometimes banks)	☐ Institutional dedicated private credit funds	☐ Institutional lenders/investors, asset managers, providing financing from dedicated junior or opportunistic / higher yielding funds
Typical size	☐ Minimum: None☐ Maximum: Limited by sector, geography, leverage, overall bank lending capacity; It could be difficult to raise significantly in excess of \$/€400m bank financing for sub-investment grade companies, particularly given bank capital requirements	☐ Minimum: €250-300m Europe / \$500m US, to ensure secondary market liquidity and index eligibility ☐ Maximum: Dictated by market conditions, but in the multiple billion area	☐ Minimum: €200-250m Europe / \$400-500m US, to ensure secondary market liquidity ☐ Maximum: Dictated by the market / CLO formation dynamics, in the multiple billion area (slightly lower for a single name vs the HYB equivalent capacity)	☐ Minimum: None ☐ Maximum: Can reach \$1bn+ although there is a wide diversity across funds and highly dependent on credit fundamentals(see examples of multi-billion financings for Ardonagh or AthenaHealth)	☐ Minimum: None☐ Maximum: Bespoke, driven by credit fundamentals
Typical tenor	☐ 5-7 years	☐ 5-10 years	☐ 5-7 years	☐ 5-7 years	☐ 3-5 years
Seniority / Position in the capital structure	☐ Senior secured ☐ RCF sometimes Super Senior	☐ Senior secured ☐ Senior unsecured ☐ 2nd Lien/ Subordinated	☐ Senior secured	☐ Senior secured	☐ Junior / Subordinated
Interest / coupon	☐ Floating rate	☐ Fixed rate ☐ Floating Rate Notes ("FRNs") are a growing but still smaller portion of the market	☐ Floating rate	☐ Floating rate	☐ Fixed rate ☐ Floating rate
Documentation terms	Generally restrictive terms Typically one or more financial covenants	☐ Very flexible ☐ Covenant-lite	☐ Very flexible ☐ Typically covenant-lite(or otherwise covenant-loose)	☐ More restrictive vs public markets ☐ Typically one financial covenant, but can also be covenant-lite in certain situations	☐ Bespoke terms for each transaction ☐ Generally covenant-lite
Prepayment considerations	☐ Prepayable at par at anytime	☐ First 2-3 years "non-call" period☐ Then gradually declining early prepayment premium	☐ Prepayable at par at any time ☐ 6-12 months "soft" call involving a small premium for repricings	☐ First 1-2 years either a "non-call" period or a prepayment premium	☐ Bespoke (either prepayable at any time or subject to an initial non-call period and/or call premium)

^{*} Please refer to our article "The choice of a debt instrument" for more details.