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# 5th Annual PortfolioConstruction Conference

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Pillars for building better  
quality investor portfolios...

A close-up photograph of several wooden chess pieces on a dark board. The pieces are light-colored wood, and the focus is on a central piece, possibly a king or queen, with others blurred in the background.

# Credit Linked Assets

How to harness credit risk and deliver  
stable returns for investors

**Peter Lucas, Executive Director  
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PortfolioConstruction Conference – 23-24 August 2006

Important: Read the important notice at the start of this presentation



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A close-up photograph of several wooden chess pieces on a board, with a king piece in the foreground and other pieces in the background, slightly out of focus.

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# What is Credit Risk?



# What is Credit Risk?



**The risk that a borrower fails to make repayments of principal and interest.**

- Interest rates
- Collateral requirements
- Covenants



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# How is Credit Risk Assessed?



# How is Credit Risk Assessed?



## A comparison of Rating Agency risk measures

|                                 | <b>Moody's Investor Services</b> | <b>Standard &amp; Poor's</b> | <b>Fitch Ratings</b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Highest credit quality</b>   | Aaa                              | AAA                          | AAA                  |
| <b>Very high credit quality</b> | Aa                               | AA                           | AA                   |
| <b>High credit quality</b>      | A                                | A                            | A                    |
| <b>Investment grade</b>         | Baa                              | BBB                          | BBB                  |
| <b>High yield / Speculative</b> | Ba                               | BB                           | BB                   |
| <b>Highly speculative</b>       | B, Caa                           | B, CCC, CC, C                | B, CCC, CC, C        |
| <b>Default</b>                  | Ca, C                            | D                            | DDD, DD, D           |

Sources: Moody's Investor Services, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings





# How is Credit Risk Assessed?



## What factors determine a rating?

- Qualitative factors
- Quantitative factors
  - Interest Coverage Ratio
  - Debt to Debt plus Equity Ratio

*Interest coverage ratio* is equal to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation for a time period, often one year, divided by interest expenses for the same time period. The lower the interest coverage ratio, the larger the debt burden is on the company.

A measure of a company's financial leverage. **Debt/debt plus equity ratio** is equal to debt divided by common shareholders' equity plus debt. Investing in a company with a higher ratio may be riskier, especially in times of rising interest rates, due to the additional interest that has to be paid out for the debt.



# How is Credit Risk Assessed?



## Quantitative credit factors in real life...

|                                 | <b>Singapore Airlines</b> | <b>Qantas Airways</b> | <b>Delta Air Lines</b> |    |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----|
| <b>S&amp;P Credit Rating</b>    |                           | Not rated             | BBB+                   | CC |
| <b>EBITDA / Total Interest</b>  | 14.47x                    | 3.96x                 | -1.07x                 |    |
| <b>Debt to Debt plus Equity</b> | 14.3%                     | 48.9%                 | -ve equity             |    |
| Financial year end:             | Mar 2006                  | Jun 2005              | Dec 2005               |    |

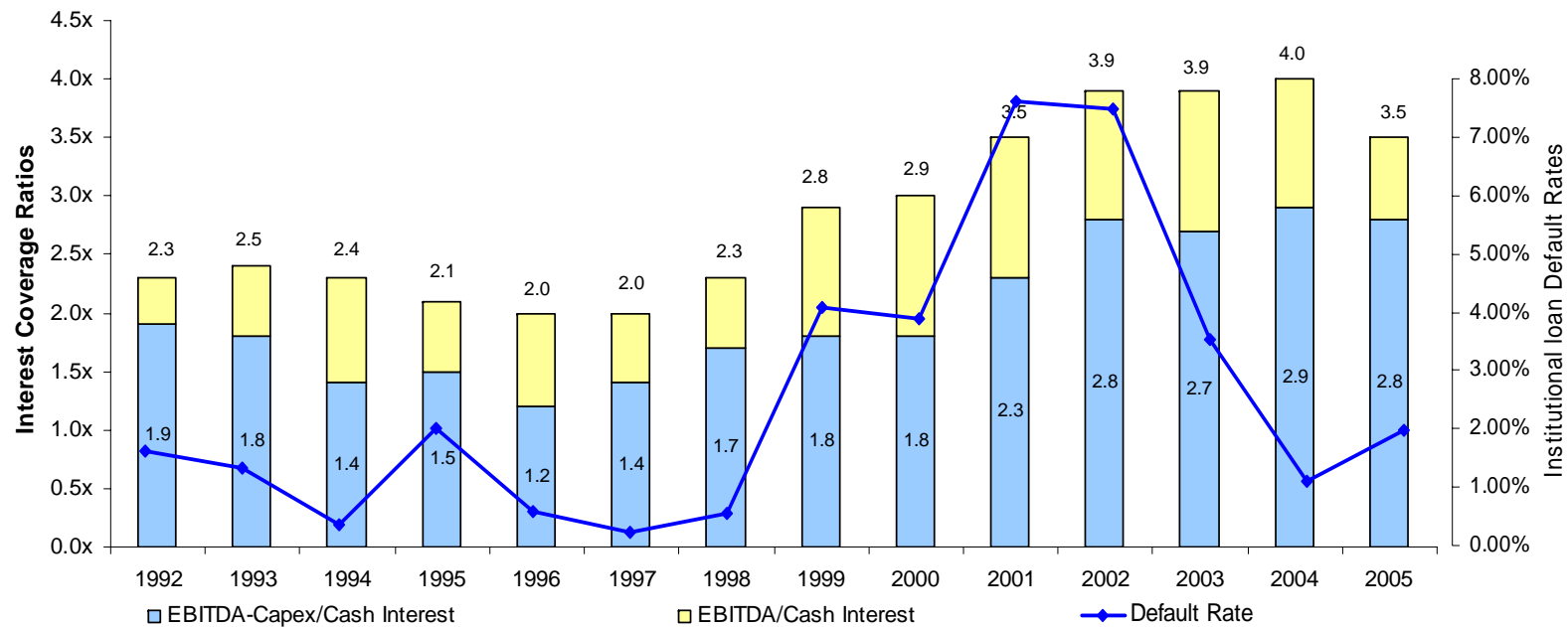
Source: Bloomberg



# How is Credit Risk Assessed?



## Interest Coverage Ratios and US Senior Loan Default Rates: 1992 - 2005



Source: Standard and Poor's Leveraged Commentary and Data, Standard and Poor's/LSTA Leveraged Loan Index, Credit Suisse: Credit Suisse 'Leveraged Finance Strategy Outlook 2006'.



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# Credit Linked Assets



# Credit Linked Assets



|                                | Interest or Class | S&P Ratings | Security | Historic Default Rate | Historic Recovery Rate |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Investment Grade Bonds</b>  | Fixed             | BBB-↑       | No       | 0.3%                  | 45.0%                  |
| <b>High Yield Bonds</b>        | Fixed             | BB+↓        | No       | 3.7% <sup>1</sup>     | 41.5% <sup>1</sup>     |
| <b>Senior Secured Loans</b>    | Floating          | BB+↓        | Yes      | 2.6%                  | 82.0%                  |
| <b>Asset Backed Securities</b> | RMBS / HELS       | BBB-↑       | No       | 0.2% <sup>2</sup>     | 73.3% <sup>2</sup>     |
|                                | RMBS / HELS       | BB+↓        | No       | 1.3% <sup>3</sup>     | 59.5% <sup>3</sup>     |
| <b>Emerging Markets Debt</b>   | Fixed             | -           | No       | 1.2% <sup>4</sup>     | -                      |

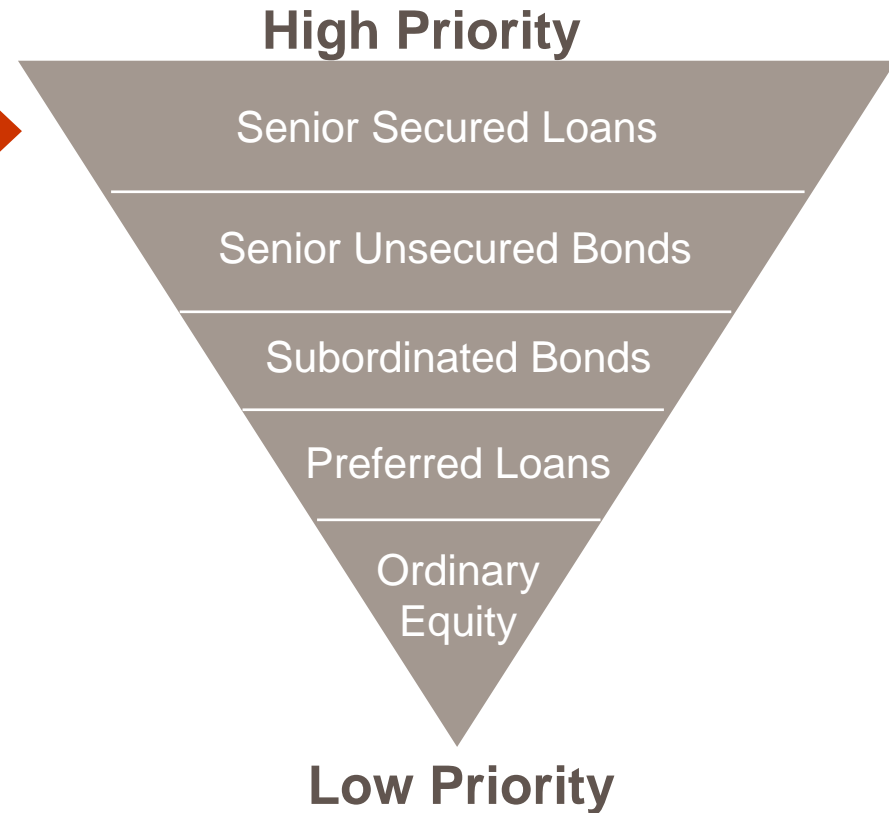
All are large, liquid markets, lending themselves to active management.

IG, HY, SnrSec source: Standard & Poor's LossStats™ and Credit Suisse 'Leveraged Finance Strategy Outlook 2006': 1982 – 2004 & (1) 1977-2005.  
 ABS source: Moody's Special Comment 'Default & Loss Rates of Structured Finance Securities': (2) 1993-2004 & (3) 1987-2004.  
 EM source: Standard & Poor's 'Sovereign Defaults: Heading Lower into 2004': (4) 1973-2003.



## US Senior Secured Loans

- Collateral
- Current assets
- Cash
- Accounts receivable
- Inventory
- Property, plant & equipment
- Intangibles
- Stock



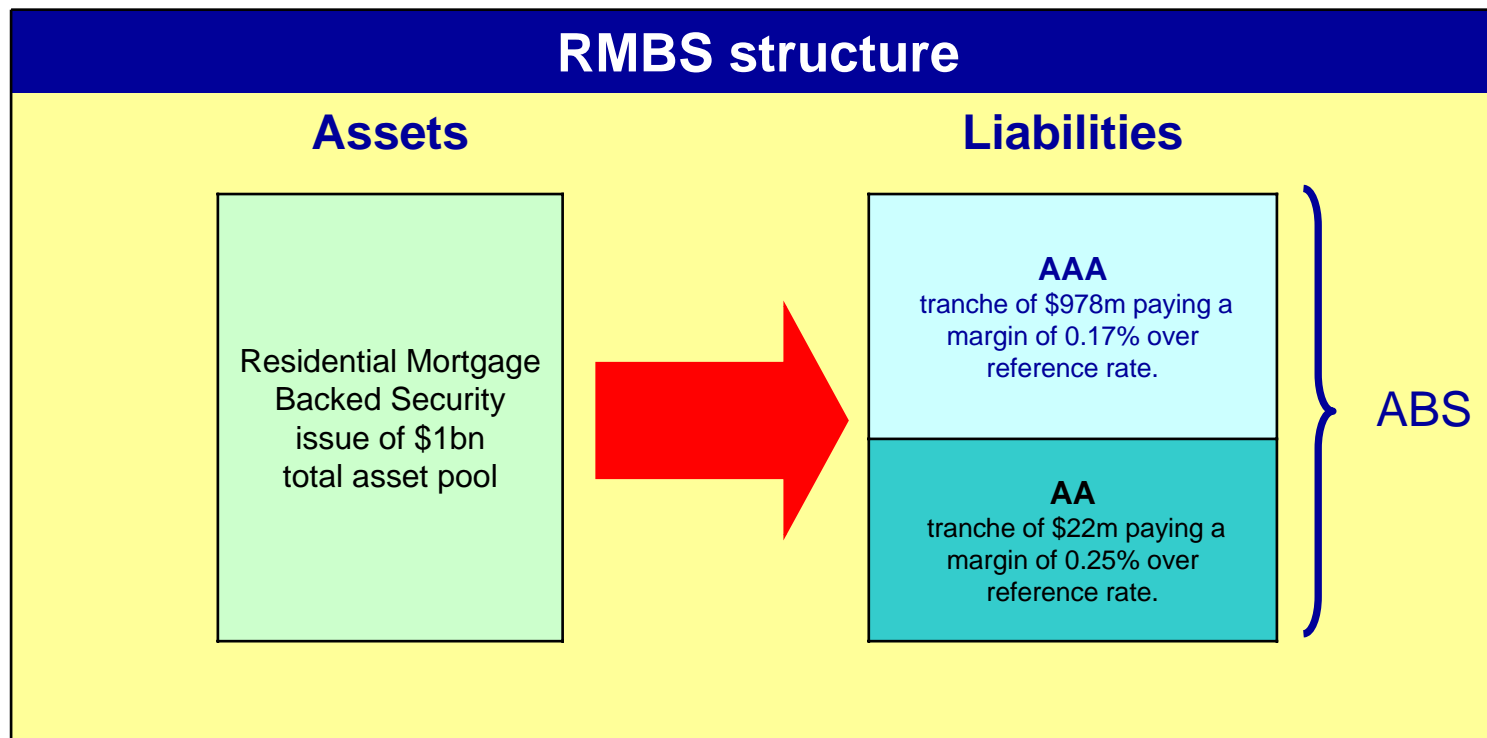
Financial covenants provide early warning and opportunity for intervention



# Credit Linked Assets



## Asset Backed Securities



Source: Macquarie Bank Limited



# Credit Linked Assets



## Emerging Markets Debt

- Examples include Brazil, Russia, South Africa, India, Mexico, China
- Sovereign debt but with higher default risk
- Fixed rate and long term, funds used to build infrastructure etc
- History of sovereign debt restructuring
- High returns but high volatility

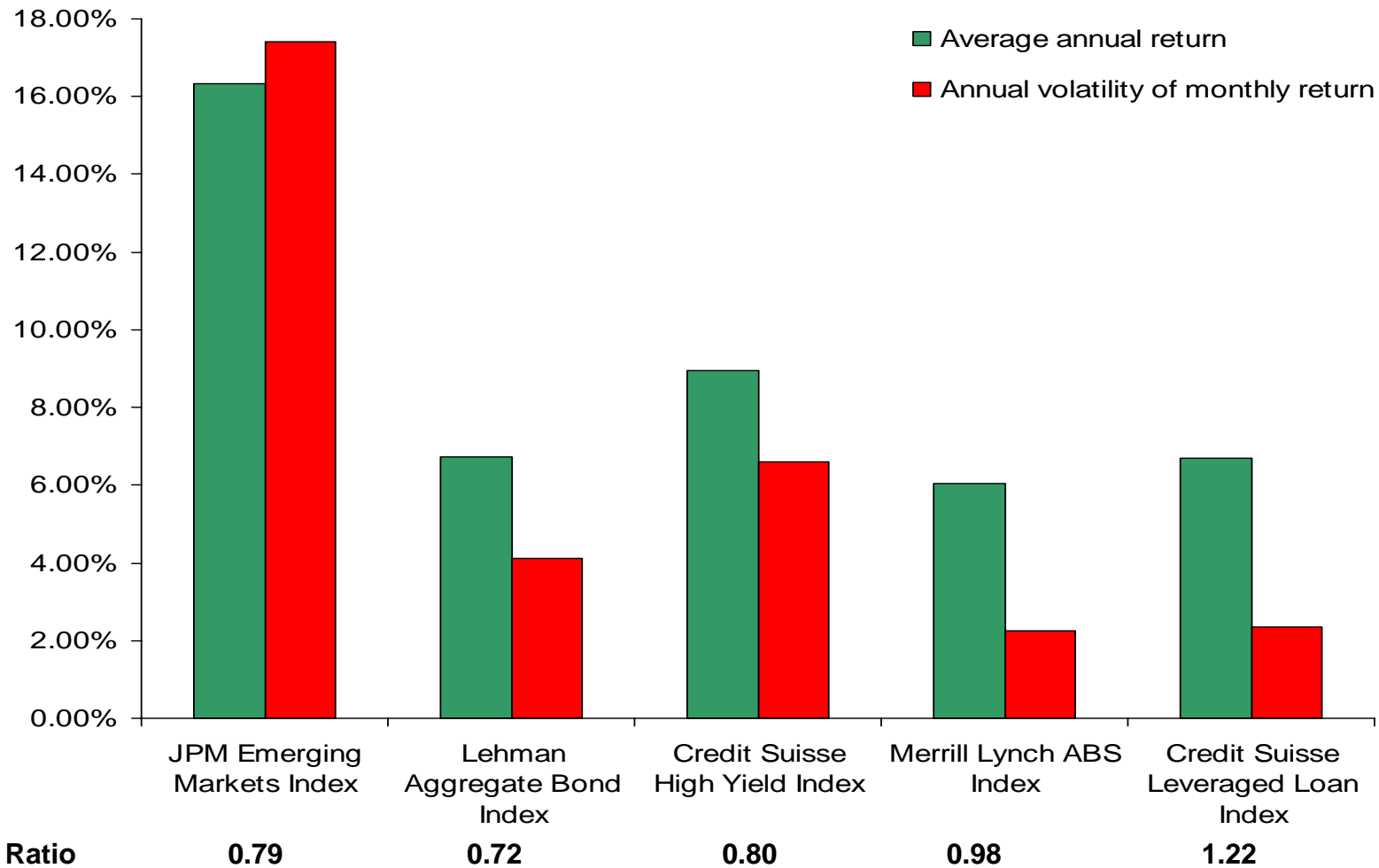




# Credit Linked Assets



**Annual Asset Class return and volatility: 1992 - 2005**



Source: Credit Suisse, Ibbotson Associates, Bloomberg: Credit Suisse 'Leveraged Finance Strategy Outlook 2006'



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# Leveraging Credit Risk



# Leveraging Credit Risk



“Leveraging credit risk, are you crazy?”

| ‘The Big Four’ | Capital Adequacy Ratio* |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| ANZ            | 10.5                    |
| CBA            | 9.75                    |
| NAB            | 10.5                    |
| WBC            | 9.4                     |

**How much leverage is appropriate?**

- A case study using Four Corners Capital Management...
- actual unleveraged returns from February 2002 to May 2006
- returns are post MER and account for cost of leverage



# Leveraging Credit Risk



## Leveraging a portfolio of US Senior Secured Loans

| <b>Analysis of the impact of leverage on returns</b> |                                    |                                    |                                     |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|  | <b>1:1 leverage<br/>(50% debt)</b> | <b>6:1 leverage<br/>(83% debt)</b> | <b>12:1 leverage<br/>(92% debt)</b> |
| <b>Average monthly return</b>                        | 8.22%                              | 20.13%                             | 37.99%                              |
| <b>(p.a.)<br/>Worst rolling 12 month<br/>return</b>  | 5.21%                              | 9.02%                              | 14.74%                              |
| <b>Volatility of returns (p.a.)</b>                  | 2.16%                              | 6.66%                              | 13.43%                              |
| <b>Sharpe ratio</b>                                  | <b>2.76</b>                        | <b>2.68</b>                        | <b>2.66</b>                         |

But what happens under stress testing?



# Leveraging Credit Risk



## Stress test – Leverage 6:1

|                              | <b>Default Rate</b> | <b>0.00%</b> | <b>1.00%</b> | <b>1.50%</b> | <b>2.00%</b> | <b>5.00%</b> | <b>7.00%</b> | <b>9.00%</b> |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Average Credit Margin</b> | <b>2.10%</b>        | 7.96%        | 6.64%        | 5.98%        | 5.32%        | 1.35%        | -1.29%       | -3.93%       |
|                              | <b>2.30%</b>        | 9.15%        | 7.83%        | 7.17%        | 6.50%        | 2.54%        | -0.10%       | -2.74%       |
|                              | <b>2.50%</b>        | 10.33%       | 9.01%        | 8.35%        | 7.69%        | 3.73%        | 1.09%        | -1.56%       |
|                              | <b>2.70%</b>        | 11.52%       | 10.20%       | 9.54%        | 8.88%        | 4.91%        | 2.27%        | -0.37%       |
|                              | <b>2.90%</b>        | 12.71%       | 11.39%       | 10.73%       | 10.07%       | 6.10%        | 3.46%        | 0.82%        |

## Stress test – Leverage 12:1

|                              | <b>Default Rate</b> | <b>0.00%</b> | <b>1.00%</b> | <b>1.50%</b> | <b>2.00%</b> | <b>5.00%</b> | <b>7.00%</b> | <b>9.00%</b> |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Average Credit Margin</b> | <b>2.10%</b>        | 10.57%       | 7.93%        | 6.61%        | 5.29%        | -2.64%       | -7.92%       | -13.21%      |
|                              | <b>2.30%</b>        | 12.95%       | 10.30%       | 8.98%        | 7.66%        | -0.26%       | -5.55%       | -10.83%      |
|                              | <b>2.50%</b>        | 15.32%       | 12.68%       | 11.36%       | 10.04%       | 2.11%        | -3.18%       | -8.46%       |
|                              | <b>2.70%</b>        | 17.70%       | 15.05%       | 13.73%       | 12.41%       | 4.48%        | -0.80%       | -6.09%       |
|                              | <b>2.90%</b>        | 20.07%       | 17.43%       | 16.11%       | 14.78%       | 6.86%        | 1.57%        | -3.72%       |

Assumes: Recovery Rate of 77.5%, BBSW of 5.60%, MER of 0.90%, Leverage cost of 0.75%



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# Portfolio Construction



# Portfolio Construction



**Correlations among various credit linked assets: 1992 – September 2005**

|   | <b>US Long<br/>Term<br/>Govt<br/>Debt</b> | <b>Merrill<br/>Lynch<br/>ABS Index</b> | <b>Lehman<br/>Aggregate<br/>Bond Index</b> | <b>JPM<br/>Emerging<br/>Markets Index</b> | <b>Credit Suisse<br/>High Yield<br/>Index</b> |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Merrill Lynch<br/>ABS Index</b>                | 0.81                                      |  |  |   |   |
| <b>Lehman<br/>Aggregate Bond<br/>Index</b>        | 0.94                                      | 0.91                                   |  |   |   |
| <b>JPM Emerging<br/>Markets Index</b>             | 0.32                                      | 0.31                                   | 0.4  |   |   |
| <b>Credit Suisse<br/>High Yield Index</b>         | 0.11                                      | 0.06                                   | 0.2  | 0.5                                       |   |
| <b>Credit Suisse<br/>Leveraged Loan<br/>Index</b> | -0.05                                     | -0.14                                  | -0.06                                      | 0.04                                      | 0.48  |

Source: Credit Suisse, Ibbotson Associates: Credit Suisse 'Leveraged Finance Strategy Outlook 2006'



# Portfolio Construction



## Credit Linked Assets...

- A wealth of choice
- Broad spectrum of risk / reward investments
- Historically modest returns with less risk than traditional assets

*Period: 1992 – September 2005*

|                                  | <i>Return</i> | <i>Volatility</i> |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| → <b>US Senior Secured Loans</b> | <b>6.71%</b>  | <b>2.36%</b>      |
| → <b>S&amp;P500</b>              | <b>10.31%</b> | <b>15.49%</b>     |
| → <b>Gold</b>                    | <b>2.20%</b>  | <b>13.12%</b>     |
| → <b>ASX200*</b>                 | <b>8.15%</b>  | <b>12.34%</b>     |

- Selective application of leverage can deliver higher returns, with less risk than some traditional assets classes





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# Question s



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