

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Westwood Raises \$300 Million for Oil Bets

By LUIS GARCIA

Westwood Holdings Group raised \$300 million to buy stakes in private-equity funds invested in oil and gas assets, seeking to capitalize on investor desire to cash out energy bets that have overstayed their welcome.

The publicly traded asset manager collected \$174 million

for Westwood Energy Secondaries Fund II and an additional \$126 million for two parallel co-investment vehicles, or twice a \$150 million initial goal for the strategy, said Gregory Reid, president of real assets and a senior portfolio manager with the firm.

Dallas-based Westwood so far has invested \$200 million through the new pool, includ-

ing the purchase of 28 fund stakes, he said. The firm manages or advises on assets of more than \$18 billion across public and private investment strategies, including more than \$3 billion tied up in energy deals.

Westwood seeks to buy stakes in energy-focused funds that would-be sellers have held for seven to 12

years, Reid said. Because of the age of the investments, they typically involve mostly mature businesses with positive cash flows, he added.

"We don't have a J-curve in our funds," Reid said, referring to the typical returns from a private-equity fund. Most primary investment funds create losses in initial years before they can generate gains.

Private-equity firms focused on the oil patch raised substantial capital during most of the 2010s, bolstered by investor enthusiasm over shale development.

But many of their investments hit a snag after publicly traded energy companies became more financially disciplined and largely halted acquisitions of undeveloped oil

fields around 2017. That change forced private-equity firms to abandon buy-and-flip strategies and refocus on operational improvements, including drilling more wells and holding assets longer.

A wave of consolidation among U.S. energy companies in recent years enabled firms to sell many of those long-held producers.

Tokens Spur Crypto, Bank Clash

Continued from page B1
first regulatory framework for all digital assets. The House already passed its version of the bill, but Republicans likely need to win support from

nearly everyone in their party and some Democrats to get 60 votes and pass it in the Senate.

The rewards fight has muddied the process by giving pause to some Republicans on the Senate Banking Committee, such as North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis. It also has concerned some Democrats, who are also pushing for ethics restrictions in the bill to address President Trump's crypto activity and have other questions that could hamper the effort.

JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup

and other big banks are pushing back on stablecoin rewards while simultaneously developing their own plans for cryptocurrency products and partnerships. Some, including

Bank of America, are weighing whether to launch their own stablecoins.

Crypto leaders are accusing

A fight has emerged over annual payouts offered by some digital tokens.

Bonds | wsj.com/market-data/bonds/benchmarks

Tracking Bond Benchmarks

Return on investment and spreads over Treasuries and/or yields paid to investors compared with 52-week highs and lows for different types of bonds

Total return close	YTD total return (%)	Index	Yield (%)			Total return close	YTD total return (%)	Index	Yield (%)		
Latest	Low	High	Latest	Low	High	Latest	Low	High	Latest	Low	High
Broad Market Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices											
2256.94	0.3	U.S. Aggregate	4.310	4.200	4.970	2262.17	0.6	Mortgage-Backed	4.560	4.490	5.340
3459.38	0.4	U.S. Corporate	4.810	4.680	5.550	2219.18	0.6	Ginnie Mae (GNMA)	4.640	4.570	5.410
3386.66	0.2	Intermediate	4.430	4.330	5.290	1338.39	0.6	Fannie Mae (FNMA)	4.540	4.470	5.340
4487.08	0.8	Long term	5.600	5.370	6.150	2064.32	0.7	Freddie Mac (FHLMC)	4.350	4.290	5.250
651.89	0.3	Double-A-rated	4.610	4.410	5.100	n.a.	n.a.	Muni Master	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
949.27	0.4	Triple-B-rated	4.980	4.860	5.810	n.a.	n.a.	7-12 year	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
High Yield Bonds ICE BofA											
n.a.	n.a.	High Yield Constrained	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	12-22 year	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
n.a.	n.a.	Triple-C-rated	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	22-plus year	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Global Government J.P. Morgan											
559.98	0.2	Global Government	3.740	3.380	3.780	845.33	0.4	Canada	3.350	2.820	3.530
366.91	0.5	EMUS	3.279	2.944	3.403	660.77	0.4	France	3.560	3.110	3.670
466.08	0.4	Germany	2.910	2.370	3.010	559.98	0.2	Global Government	3.740	3.380	3.780
251.12	-0.9	Japan	2.570	1.560	2.570	251.12	-0.9	Japan	2.570	1.560	2.570
509.40	0.5	Netherlands	3.090	2.570	3.200	660.77	0.4	France	3.560	3.110	3.670
829.54	1.0	U.K.	4.640	4.460	5.090	466.08	0.4	Germany	2.910	2.370	3.010
1018.80	0.1	Emerging Markets	6.622	6.553	8.038	1018.80	0.1	Emerging Markets	6.622	6.553	8.038

*Constrained indexes limit individual issuer concentrations to 2%; the High Yield 100 are the 100 largest bonds

¹In local currency \$ Euro-zone bonds

^{**}EMBI Global Index

Sources: ICE Data Services; Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices; J.P. Morgan

Global Government Bonds: Mapping Yields

Yields and spreads over or under U.S. Treasuries on benchmark two-year and 10-year government bonds in selected other countries; arrows indicate whether the yield rose (▲) or fell (▼) in the latest session

Country/	Country/	Maturity, in years	Latest(0)	1	2	3	4	5	6	Previous	Month ago	Year ago	Spread Under/Over U.S. Treasuries, in basis points
Coupon (%)										Latest	Prev	Year ago	
3.375	U.S.	2	3.513	▼						3.527	3.529	4.364	
4.000		10	4.139	▼						4.170	4.194	4.787	
2.750	Australia	2	4.028	▲						4.026	4.032	4.009	50.6
4.250		10	4.711	▲						4.701	4.747	4.625	56.9
0.750	France	2	2.244	▼						2.266	2.376	2.523	-127.9
3.500		10	3.494	▼						3.524	3.587	3.476	-64.8
2.000	Germany	2	2.078	▼						2.099	2.160	2.324	-144.4
2.900		10	2.819	▼						2.850	2.862	2.629	-132.3
2.100	Italy	2	2.169	▼						2.202	2.294	2.698	-135.3
3.450		10	3.457	▼						3.493	3.560	3.838	-68.5
1.100	Japan	2	1.179	▲						1.165	1.071	0.684	-234.4
2.100		10	2.186	▲						2.167	1.955	1.244	-195.6
2.400	Spain	2	2.205	▼						2.227	2.179	2.471	-131.7
3.200		10	3.223	▼						3.244	3.318	3.327	-91.9
3.750	U.K.	2	3.627	▼						3.660	3.758	4.608	10.5
4.250		10	4.344	▼						4.402	4.525	4.895	20.2

Source: Tullett Prebon, Tradeweb FTSE U.S. Treasury Close

Corporate Debt

Prices of firms' bonds reflect factors including investors' economic, sectoral and company-specific expectations

Investment-grade spreads that tightened the most...

Issuer	Symbol	Coupon (%)	Yield (%)	Maturity	Current	One-day change	Last week
Jackson National Life Global Funding*	...	4.550	4.45	Sept. 9/30	74	-14	54
El Paso Natural Gas	...	3.500	4.72	Feb. 15/32	100	-10	n.a.
Macquarie Bank	...	4.331	3.81	June 12/28	30	-10	42
New York Life Global Funding	...	4.250	4.19	Jan. 9/31	48	-9	56
Mutual of Omaha Companies Global Funding	...	5.000	4.37	April 11/30	65	-7	n.a.
Home Depot	HD	5.875	4.79	Dec. 16/36	65	-6	70
CenterPoint Energy Resources	...	6.625	5.28	Nov. 1/37	115	-5	n.a.</td