

Corporate credit can operate in traditional, public or liquid markets or in alternative, private, less liquid forms.

Public Credit

Traditional, Liquid Markets

- Investment-Grade Credit
- High Yield Debt
- Leveraged (or Syndicated) Loans

- **Traditional public credit** includes investment-grade and sub-investment-grade debt in the form of high-yield and broadly syndicated/leveraged loans.
- Public credit is available only to larger established companies; the debt is tradable in liquid markets, and investors can invest via traditional passive or active mutual funds or exchange traded funds.

Private Credit

Alternative, Less Liquid Markets

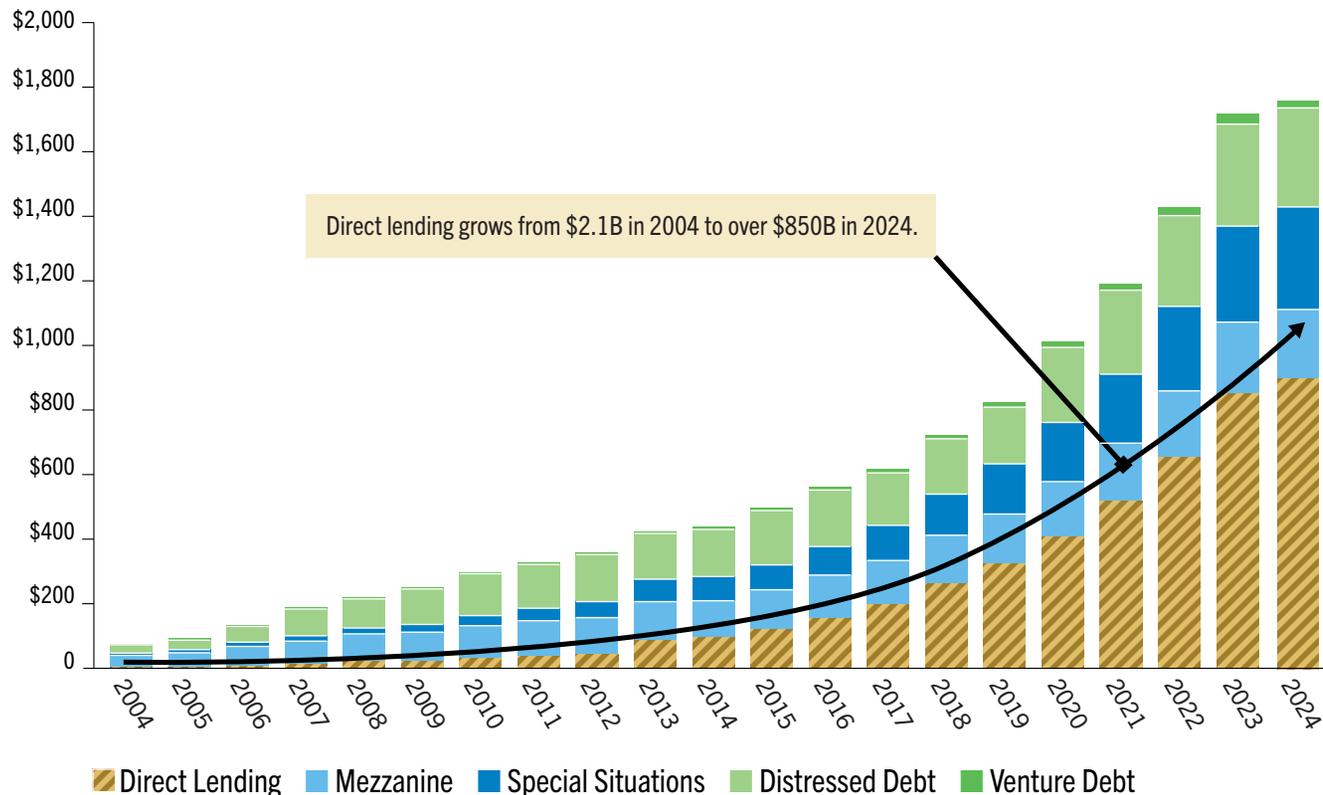
- Direct Lending
- Distressed Debt
- Mezzanine Finance
- Special Situations
- Venture Debt

- **Alternative, private credit** is issued by smaller companies that have been orphaned by public debt markets. It's less liquid and often held to maturity by the lender.
- Private credit strategies take several distinct forms (direct lending is the largest). Investors can access these strategies through private funds, business development companies (BDCs) and other vehicles.

What's in a Name: Unpacking Private Credit

After two decades of growth, direct lending is now the largest sub-category of private credit.

Private Credit Assets Under Management



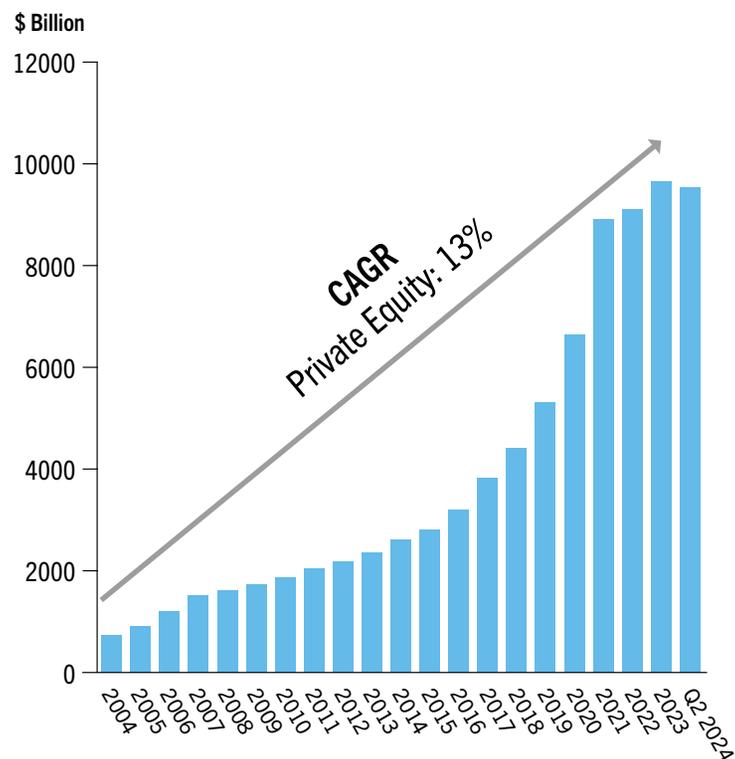
Private Credit... aka... Direct Lending?

- In 2004, the Private Credit category had just \$50 billion in assets and was dominated by Distressed and Mezzanine Debt investing. Direct Lending amounted to just over \$2 billion in assets at the time.
- Since then, Direct Lending has grown rapidly and today has over \$850 billion in assets invested across Private Funds and Business Development Companies (BDCs).
- Direct Lending now represents about half of the total assets in the entire Private Credit category, and for some, it's become synonymous with Private Credit as a whole.

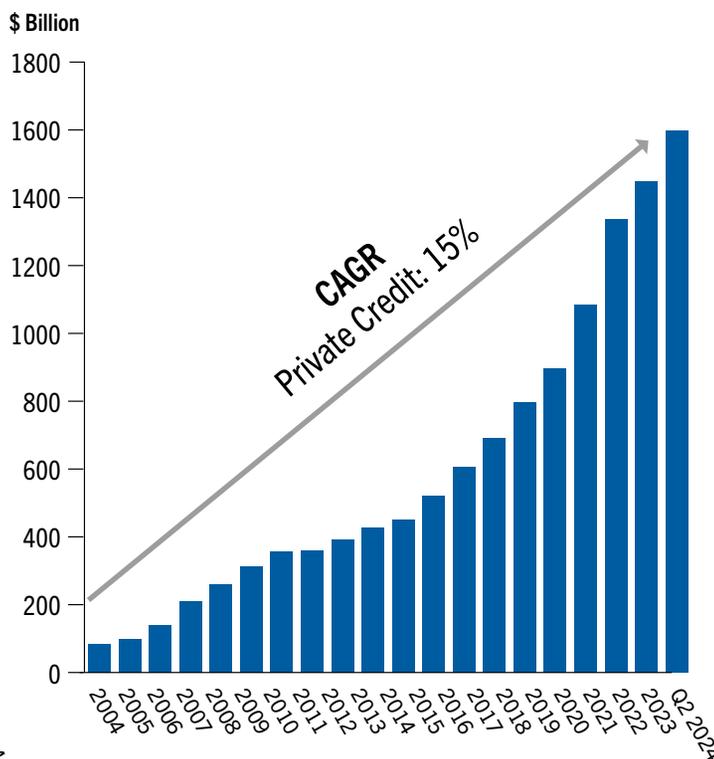
The Symbiosis of Private Equity and Private Credit

Private credit has grown in parallel with private equity as sponsors turn increasingly to private lenders for their debt capital solutions.

Growth of Private Equity



Growth of Private Credit



Hand in Hand

- The dramatic rise in popularity of private equity took shape over the first two decades of this century—with assets rising from around \$800 billion in 2004 to over \$9.5 trillion by 2023.
- This growth was driven by PE's return advantage over public markets, which drew interest from allocators of all stripes.
- Less often noted is the coincident path of PE's natural sidekick—private credit—indicated by their nearly identical growth rates over that period.

Source: Preqin. As of June 2024.

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