

# Consumer Finance

## Return of the Sub-Prime Credit Card? Data Doesn't Show It

**Key Takeaway**

**As several media outlets proclaim the “return of the sub-prime credit card”, we have analyzed 7 years of FICO score data, via credit card securitizations representing roughly one-fourth of total revolving consumer credit outstanding, and have found that lenders continue to reign in risky lending, reducing credit outstanding to sub-prime borrowers (<660 FICO) to the tune of \$15B over the past 12 months, and roughly \$122B since '09.**

**Major Issuers Still Reigning in Lending to Risky Borrowers** - Credit card securitization data shows that over the past 12 months, five major card issuers (JPM, COF, BAC, AXP, DFS - representing 25% of total revolving consumer credit) have continued to reduce outstanding balances to sub-prime borrowers while increasing loans to those borrowers with FICO scores above 660.

**We estimate \$15B in Total Subprime Credit Reduction in LTM** - Extrapolating changes at the credit card trusts to the total outstanding amount of revolving consumer credit, we estimate that ~\$15B in total credit has been removed from <660 FICO borrowers and \$17B has been extended >660 FICO borrowers in the past 12 months.

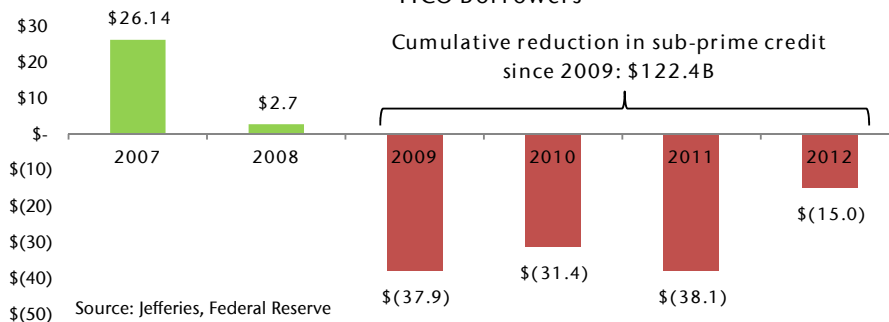
**Riskiest Borrowers See Largest Contraction, Banks Not Likely Coming Back** - Sub-600 FICO balances contracted the most, which we estimate contracted \$12B over the past 12 months. This follows roughly a \$23B outflow in '10 and a \$30B outflow in '11. Although credit contraction to this bottom rung of borrowers appears to be slowing, we don't expect banks and card lenders to meaningfully re-engage with the customers for the foreseeable future due to the CARD act and other issues.

**\$122B in Bank Credit Removed from Subprime Since '09** - We estimate that since 2009, approximately \$122B in sub-prime (<660 FICO) credit availability has been removed, or roughly 2x the total estimated loan production for pawn and payday lenders in 2012.

**Stock Implications:**

COF has double the exposure to sub-prime balances versus the other major issuers – we see higher payroll taxes and delayed tax returns having an out-sized impact on credit metrics in the near term. We expect continued modest loan growth at COF, with AXP and DFS continuing to outpace the industry with a focus on low-yielding, promotional balances. Industry wide net interest margins should remain subdued as higher yielding, riskier accounts remain out-of favor due to the difficulties in re-pricing post CARD act and continued weak performance of the US economy. We expect the underbanked industry (FCFS, CSH, DLLR, RM, CRMT) continues to benefit from incremental customers as banks continue to shift resources away from lower credit quality customers.

Estimated Total Change in Revolving Credit Extended to <660 FICO Borrowers



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Media Points to Return of Sub Prime Lending:

“Credit card lenders gave out 1.1 million new cards to borrowers with damaged credit in December, up 12.3 percent from the same month a year earlier, according to Equifax’s credit trends report released in March.”

*Lenders Again Dealing to Risky Clients, The New York Times, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012*

## Return of the Subprime Credit Card? The Data Disagrees.

### Portfolio Manager’s Summary:

As several media outlets proclaim the “return of the sub-prime credit card”, we have analyzed roughly one-fourth of the total revolving consumer credit outstanding via credit card securitizations, and have found that lenders continue to reign in risky lending, reducing exposure to risky borrowers and increasing exposure to more credit worthy borrowers.

### Data Highlights:

- **Changes in credit card securitization data from five different issuers (representing 25% of the Fed’s total revolving consumer credit estimate) lead us to believe that the total amount of revolving credit extended to borrowers with FICO scores below 660 has been reduced by \$15B in the past year.**
- **We estimate that since 2009, approximately \$122B in sub-prime (<660 FICO) credit availability has been removed, or roughly 2x the total estimated loan production for pawn and payday lenders.**
- **Sub-600 FICO balances contracted the most, which we estimate contracted by \$12B over the past 12 months. This follows roughly a \$23B outflow in ’10 and a \$30B outflow in ’11.**
- **Issuers have INCREASED the percentage of their portfolios comprised of prime balances, or those with FICO scores above 720, now at a multi-year high of 55%, up from just 41% in 2006.**

### Stock/Industry Implications:

- **COF has double the exposure to sub-prime balances – we see higher payroll taxes and delayed tax returns having an outsized impact on credit metrics in the near term.**
- **While the pace of contraction to sub-600 borrowers has slowed, we don’t expect banks or card lenders to meaningfully reengage with these customers for the foreseeable future due to the CARD act and other issues.**
- **We see continued modest loan growth at COF, with AXP and DFS continuing to outpace the industry with a focus on low-yielding promotional balances.**
- **We expect industry wide net interest margins to remain subdued as higher yielding, riskier accounts, remain out-of favor due to the difficulties in re-pricing post CARD act and continued weak performance of the US economy.**
- **We expect the underbanked industry (FCFS, CSH, DLLR, RM, CRMT) continues to benefit from incremental customers as banks continue to shift resources away from lower credit quality customers.**

**Chart 1: FICO Score & DQ Rate**

FICO Score	Est. Delinquency Rate
300-499	87%
500-549	71%
550-599	51%
600-649	31%
650-699	15%
700-749	5%
750-799	2%
800+	1%

Source: myFICO.com

## Our Methodology

Using publicly available data from credit card master trust filings spanning seven years, we have attempted to quantify how lending patterns have changed towards different segments of borrowers, specifically those classified as “unbanked” or “underbanked”, the customer base targeted by many specialty lenders. Given that most filings classify receivables into only four FICO ranges, we have determined these customers would be best represented by the bottom rung, the “<600 FICO” category. The high delinquency rates associated with this category of greater than 50% support our assumption.

For our data set we have included only those trusts that have had recent prospectus filings in 2013 or late 2012, as well as at least one prospectus filing every year since 2006. We estimate our analysis of \$210B+ in credit card receivables captures roughly 25% of the total amount of revolving consumer credit outstanding as calculated by the Federal Reserve’s G.19 release as of Q4’12.

**Chart 2: Trusts Included in Our Analysis**

Trust	Latest Refresh Date Available	Total Receivables (\$B)
Chase Issuance Trust	Nov'12	\$ 48.29
Bank of America Master Trust	Jan'13	\$ 62.30
Capital One Multi Asset Execution Trust	Oct'12	\$ 33.69
Discover Card Master Trust	Dec'12	\$ 34.78
American Express Credit Account Master Trust	Sept'12	\$ 31.04
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 210.11</b>
Total Revolving Consumer Credit Outstanding Q4'12		\$ 849.8

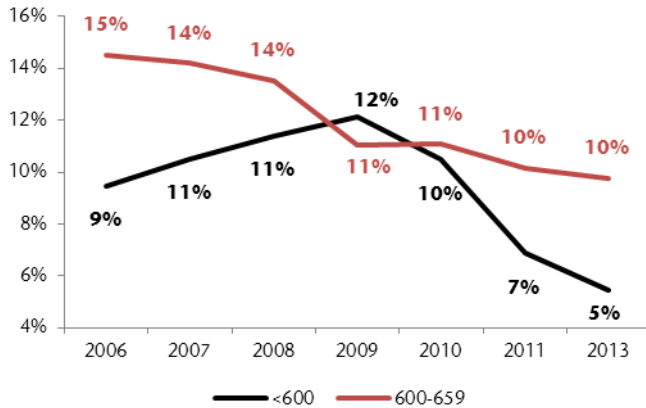
<b>Trust Receivables as a % of Total Revolving Credit</b>	<b>24.7%</b>
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Source: Jefferies, SEC Filings Note: Citi Card Master Trust excluded due to changes in scoring methodology in 2011.

**Then and Now: More Prime Exposure**

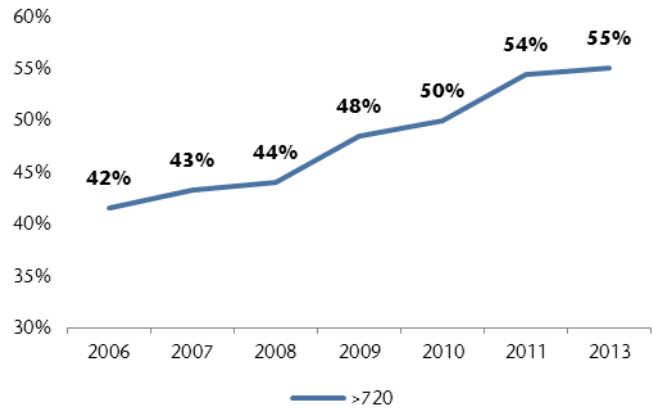
Not surprisingly, over the past several years as credit quality has deteriorated, banks have reduced exposure to the riskiest customers while increasing lending to those with better than average credit. Lending to those with FICO scores above 720 now accounts for almost 55% of trust receivables, up from 42% in 2006. Conversely, lending to borrowers with scores below 600 has declined from about 12% of trust receivables to 5% over the same time frame.

**Chart 3: % of Receivables by FICO Score**



Source: Jefferies

**Chart 4: % of Receivables by FICO Score**

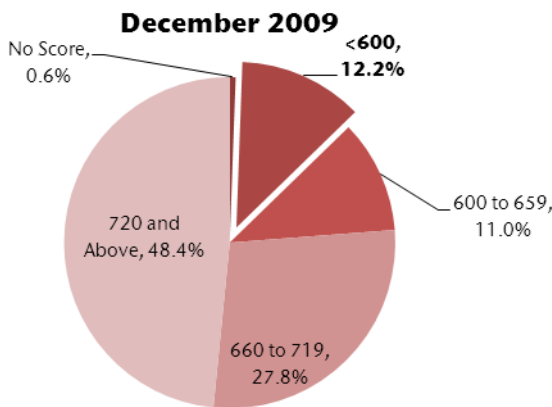


Source: Jefferies

**Sub 600 FICO Sees the Biggest Adjustment**

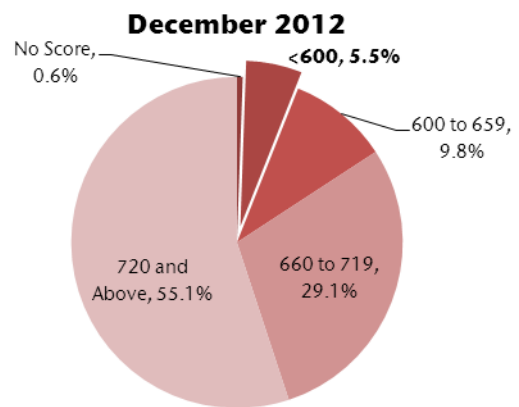
Looking specifically at the <600 bucket, which would encompass most of those customers who might seek specialty loan products, our estimates indicate that subprime credit card lending peaked in 2009 when the percentage of receivables housed within the average master trust was 12.2%. Since 2009 this category has been roughly reduced by half, as the latest data shows the average trust now holds 5.5% of receivables with FICO score below 600.

**Chart 5: Average Credit Card Portfolio Composition – YE'09**



Source: Jefferies

**Chart 6: Average Credit Card Portfolio Composition- YE'12**

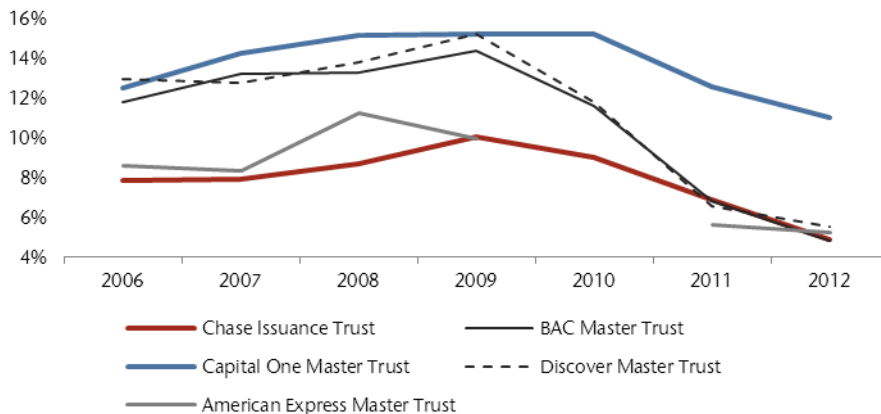


Source: Jefferies

**Most Lenders Readjust Post Crisis, Capital One Maintains Barbell Approach**

Since sub-prime lending peaked in 2009, all card issuers have seen a reduction in the percentage of their portfolios comprised of lower credit quality borrowers. Discover and Bank of America reduced exposure to <600 FICO accounts the most, as the percentage of the trust comprised of sub-600 FICO accounts declined 969bps and 956bps, respectively, from 2009 to 2012. The reduction in sub-600 FICO exposure at Chase (512bps), and American Express (469bps) was less aggressive, while Capital One saw the lowest decline of 424bps.

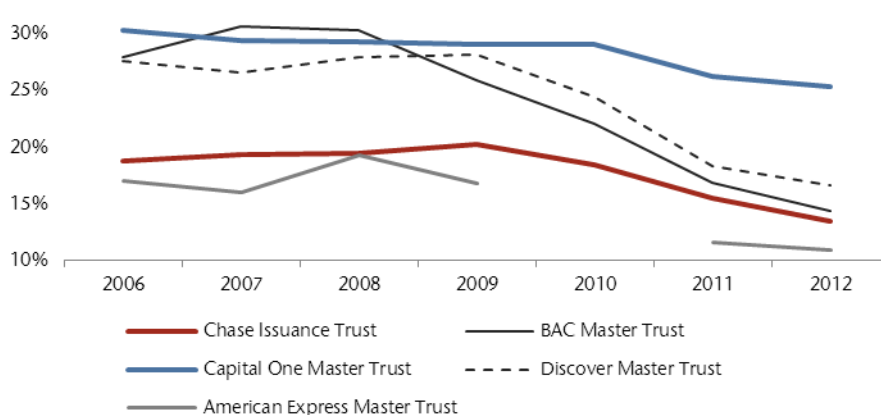
**Chart 7: Percentage of Master Trust Receivables <600 FICO**



Source: Jefferies, SEC Filings. Note: Year End 2010 Data for AXP unavailable.

In the <660 FICO bucket, again Discover and Bank of America reduced exposure to <660 FICO accounts the most, as the percentage of the trust comprised of sub-660 FICO accounts declined 1162bps and 1151bps, respectively, from 2009 to 2013. The reduction in sub-660 FICO exposure at Chase (676bps), and American Express (584bps) was less aggressive, while Capital One saw a relatively modest decline at 372bps.

**Chart 8: Percentage of Master Trust Receivables <660 FICO**

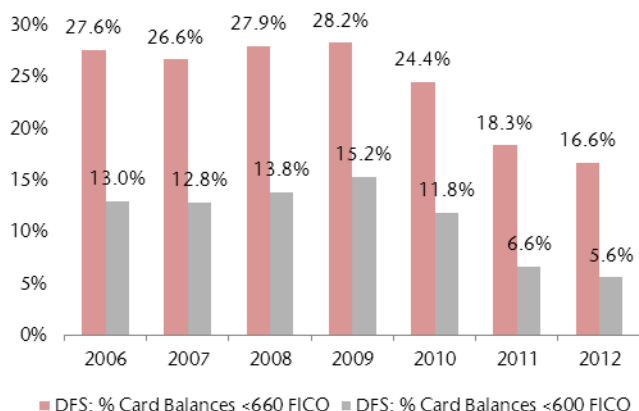


Source: Jefferies, SEC Filings. Note: Year End 2010 Data for AXP unavailable.

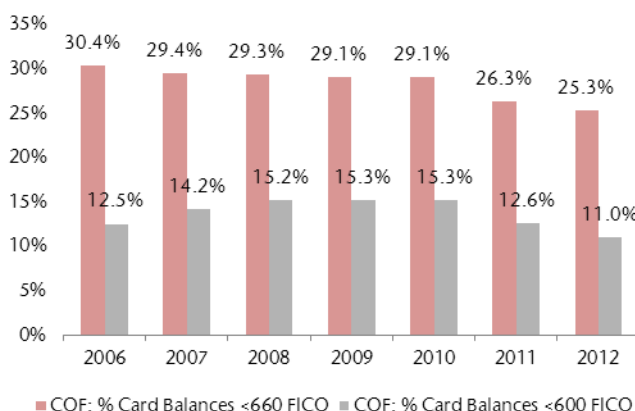
**Capital One Maintains Higher Risk Exposure**

Capital One remains most exposed to the riskiest borrowers with sub-600 FICO exposure roughly 2x that of card issuing peers on average. Further, sub-660 FICO exposure is nearly 2x the peer group, on average, at 25.3%.

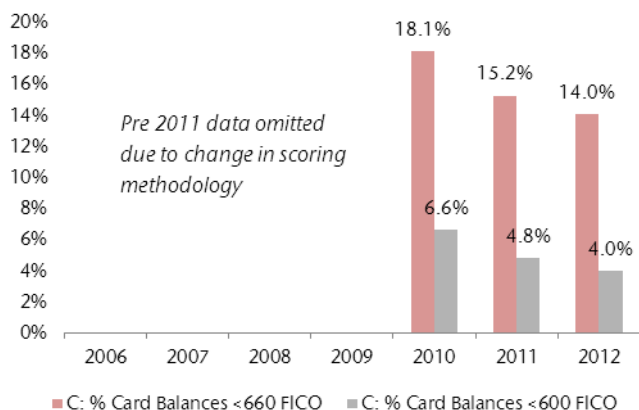
**Chart 9: DFS**



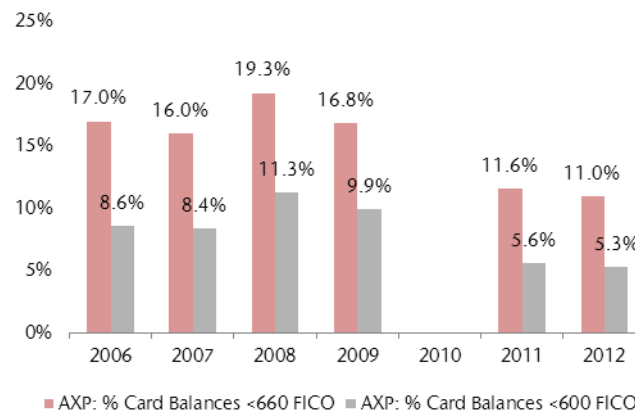
**Chart 10: COF**



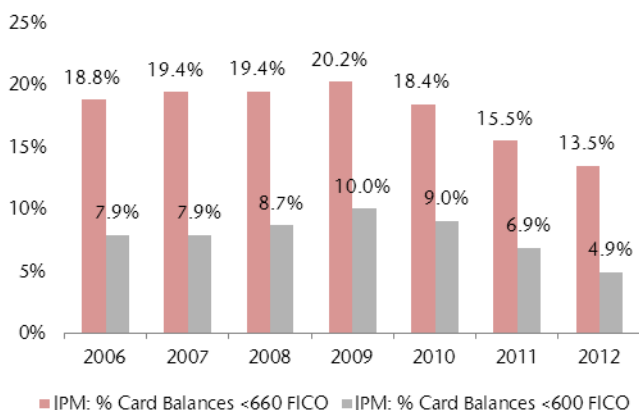
**Chart 11: C**



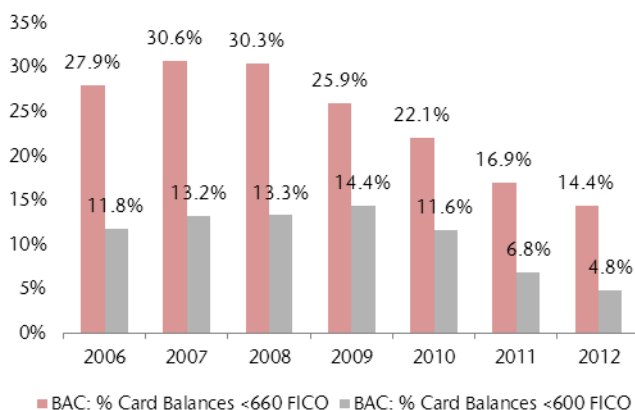
**Chart 12: AXP**



**Chart 13: JPM**



**Chart 14: BAC**



Source: Jefferies, SEC Filings

Source: Jefferies, SEC Filings. Note: AXP YE'10 data unavailable.

**Extrapolating our Findings**

Using the latest Federal Reserve estimate for revolving consumer credit, we can extrapolate changes in the trusts to estimate changes for the entire consumer credit market in the US. While we recognize that not all lenders may have responded to the crisis in the same way, we take comfort in the fact that our sample size represents 24.7% of the total amount of consumer credit outstanding and can serve as a decent proxy for changes in the overall consumer credit market.

By extrapolating our findings from the master trusts to the Fed estimates in Q4'11 and Q4'12, **we estimate that from 2011 to 2012, credit to <600 borrowers has been reduced by nearly \$15B, with ~\$12B removed from <600 FICO borrowers and ~\$3B from 600-659 FICO borrowers.** We estimate that higher FICO borrowers saw an increase of \$17.3B in credit over the same time frame.

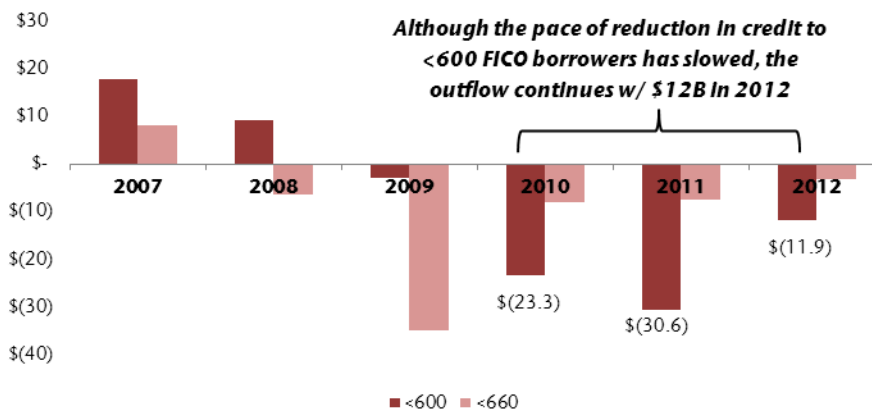
**Chart 15: Est. Change in Total Revolving Consumer Credit YE'11-YE'12(\$B)**



Source: Jefferies, Federal Reserve

**Looking back to 2009, while the pace of reduction in credit to <600 FICO borrowers has slowed,** we don't expect banks and card lenders to meaningfully re-engage with these customers for the foreseeable future.

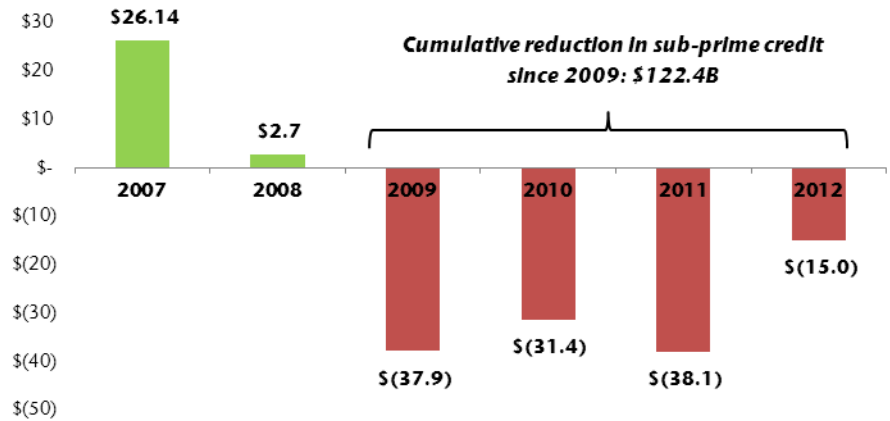
**Chart 16: Est. Change in Revolving Credit Extended to <660 FICO Borrowers**



Source: Jefferies, Federal Reserve

**Looking back to 2009, we estimate that the total decline in credit availability to <660 FICO borrowers to be approximately \$122B**, with the majority (\$77B) coming out of the hands of <600 FICO borrowers. We note that over the same time, the Fed's G:19 revolving credit has decreased by a total of \$160B. Thus, the reduction in credit to sub-prime borrowers represents about 76% of the total.

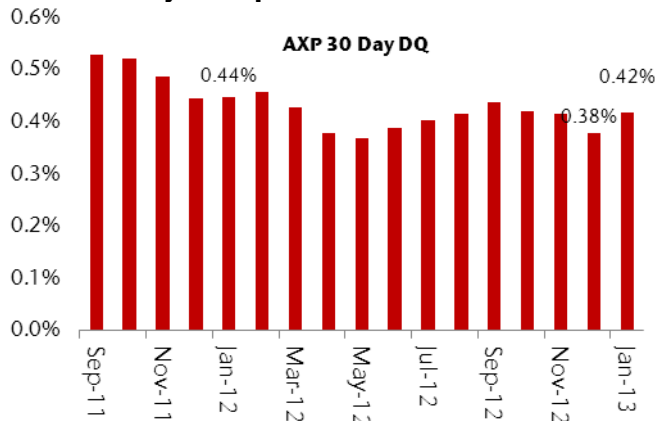
**Chart 17: Est. Change in Revolving Credit Extended to <660 FICO Borrowers**



Source: Jefferies, Federal Reserve

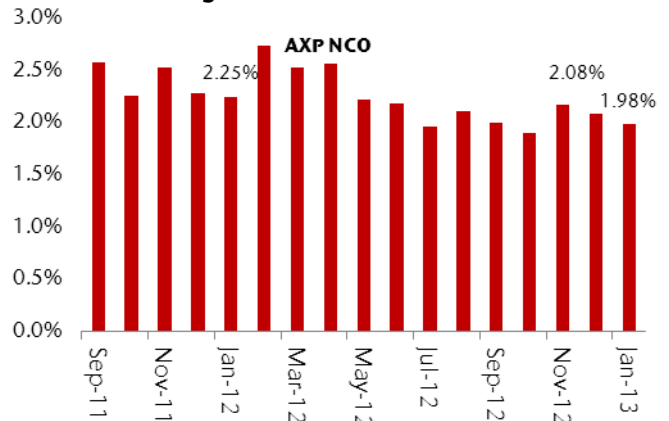


**Chart 18: 30-Day Delinquencies**



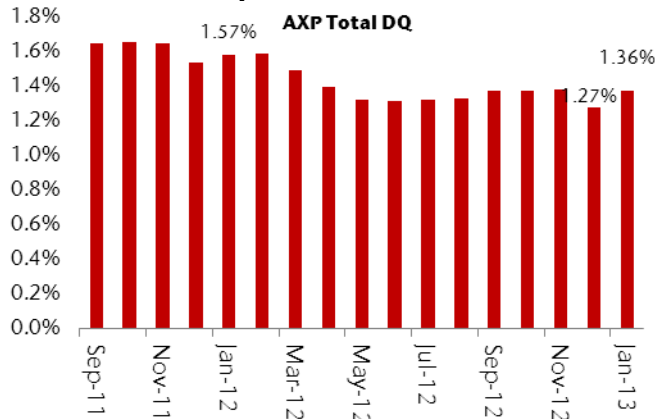
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 19: Net Charge-Offs**



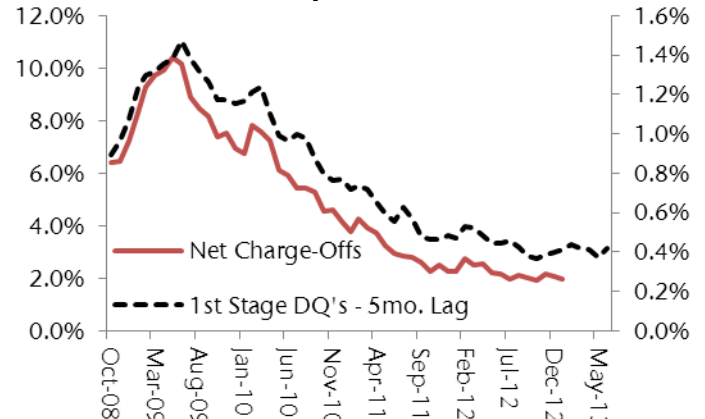
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 20: Total Delinquencies**



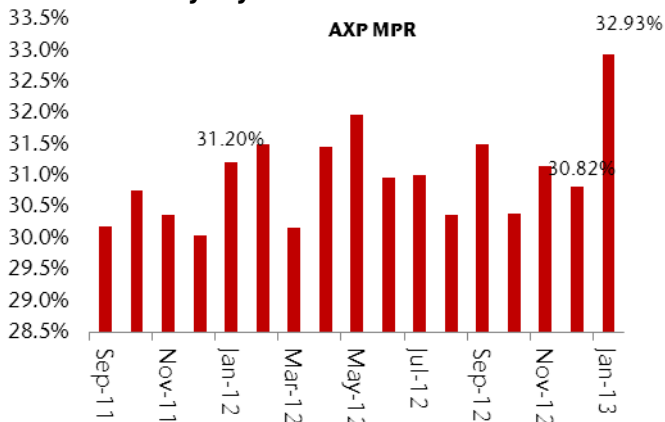
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 21: Forward Loss Expectations**



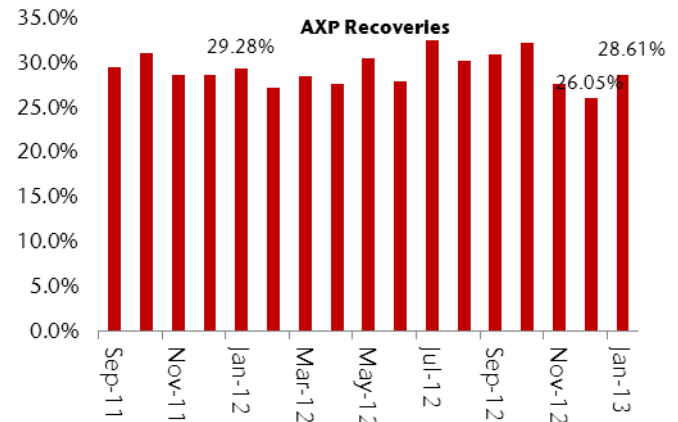
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 22: Monthly Payment Rate**



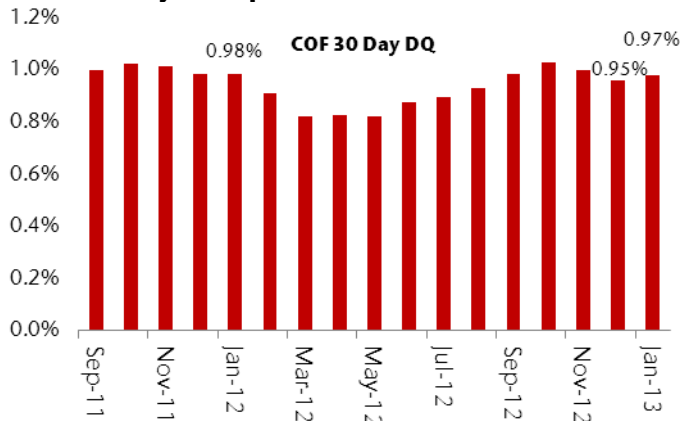
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 23: Loss Recoveries**



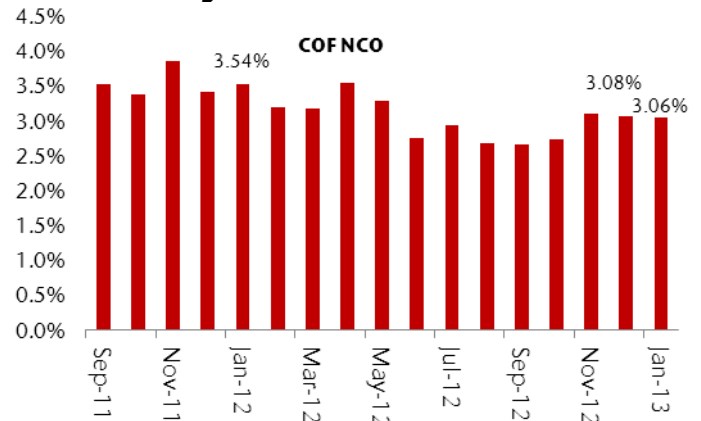
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 24: 30-Day Delinquencies**



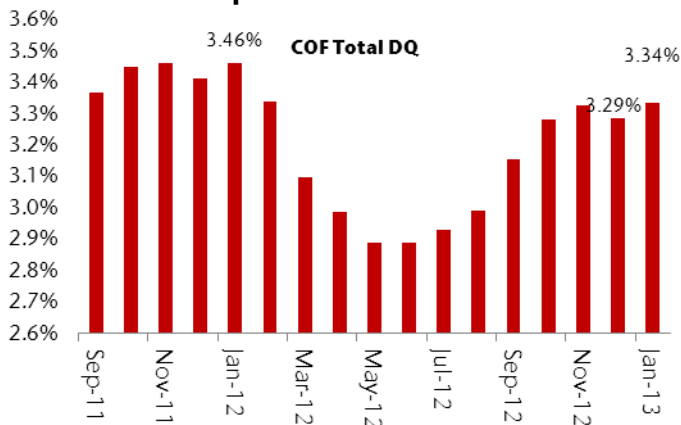
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 25: Net Charge-Offs**



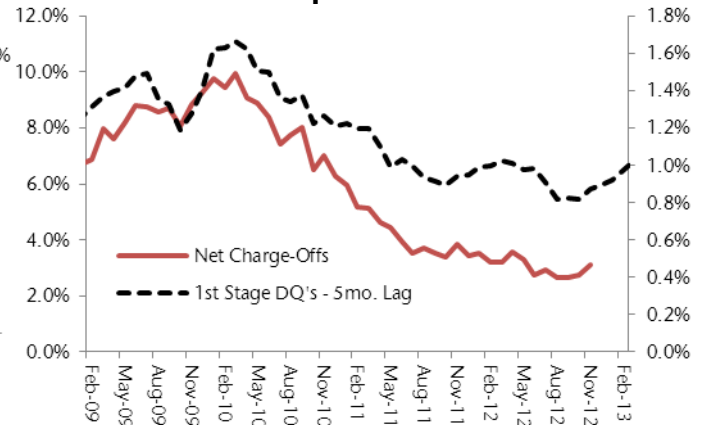
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 26: Total Delinquencies**



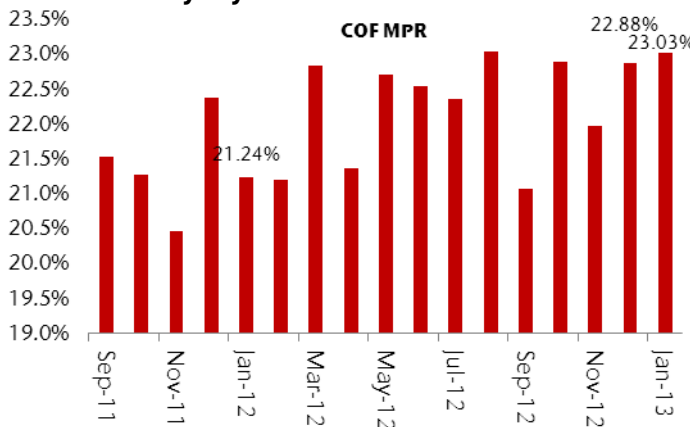
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 27: Forward Loss Expectations**



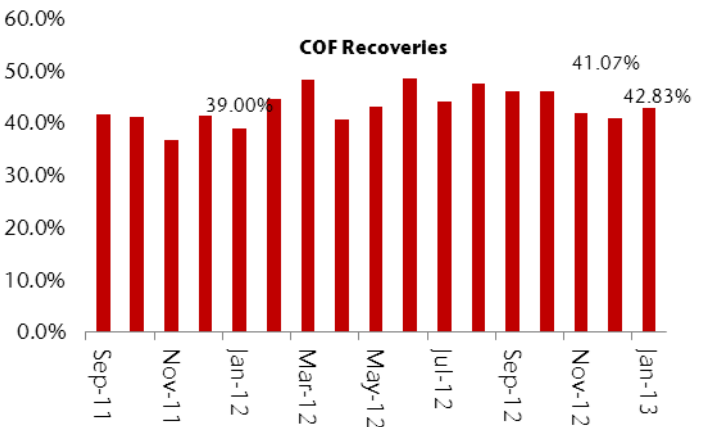
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 28: Monthly Payment Rate**



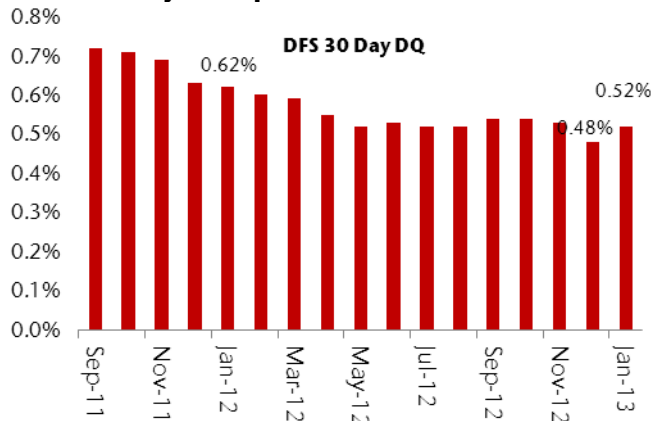
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 29: Loss Recoveries**



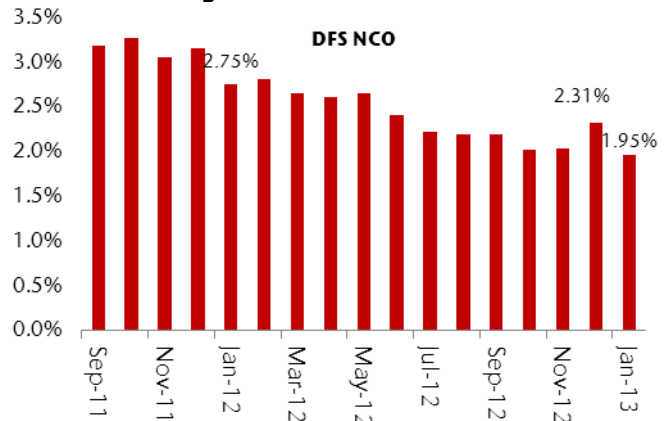
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 30: 30-Day Delinquencies**



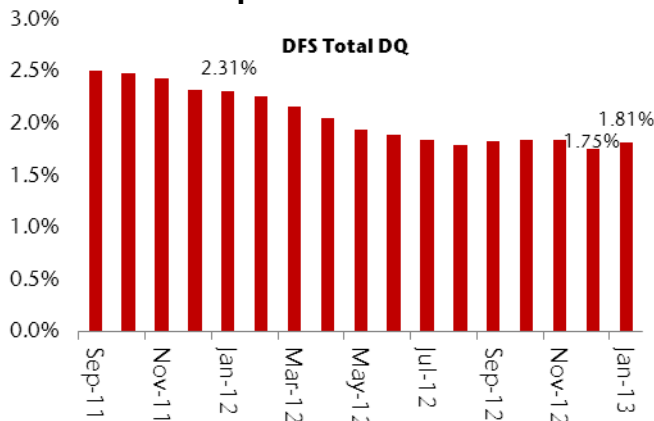
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 31: Net Charge-Offs**



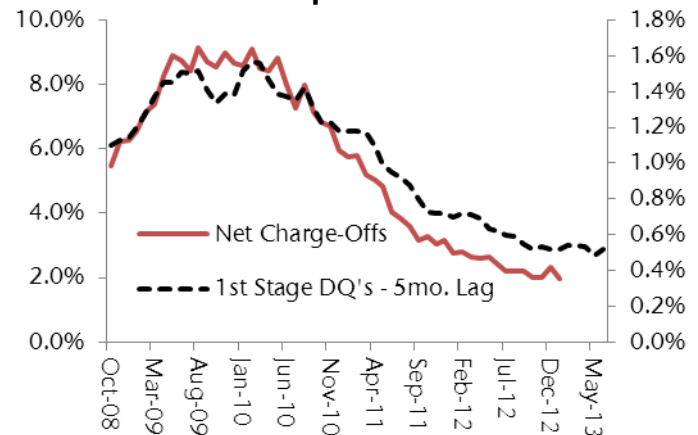
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 32: Total Delinquencies**



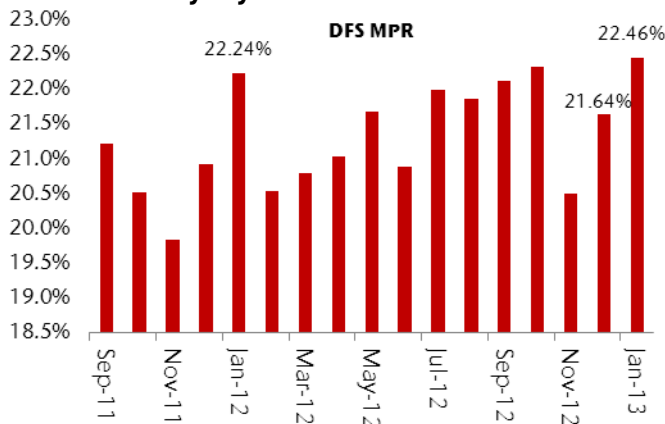
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 33: Forward Loss Expectations**



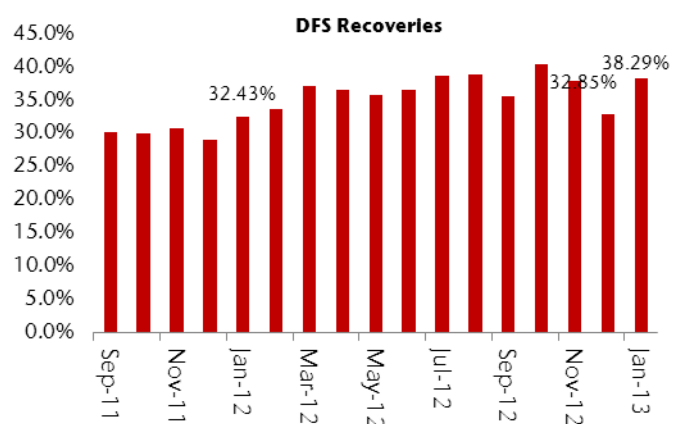
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 34: Monthly Payment Rate**



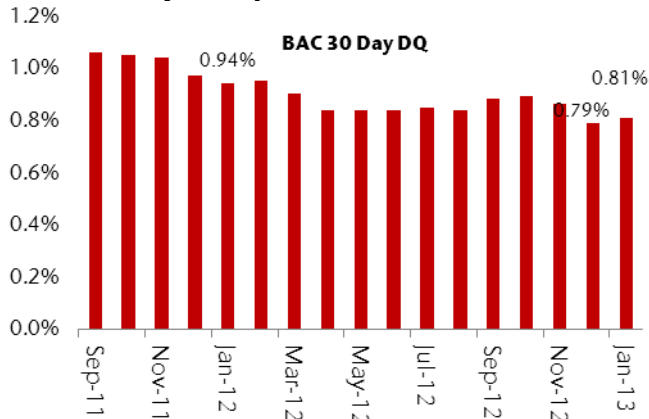
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 35: Loss Recoveries**



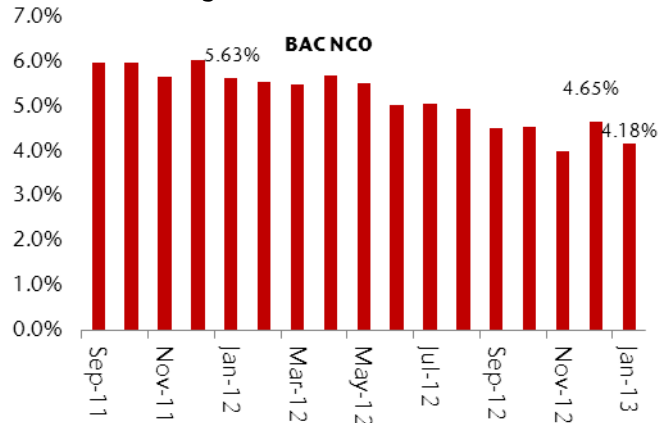
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 36: 30-Day Delinquencies**



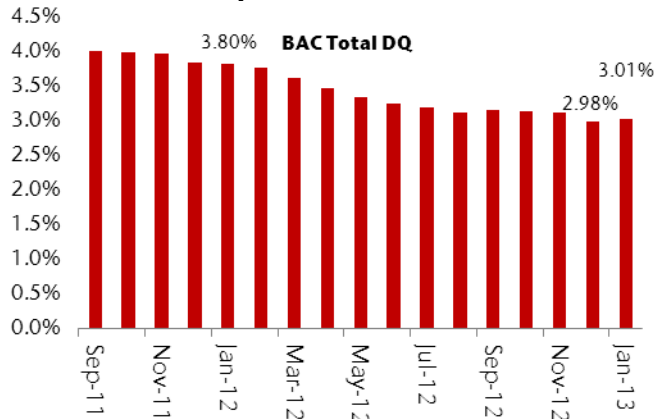
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 37: Net Charge-Offs**



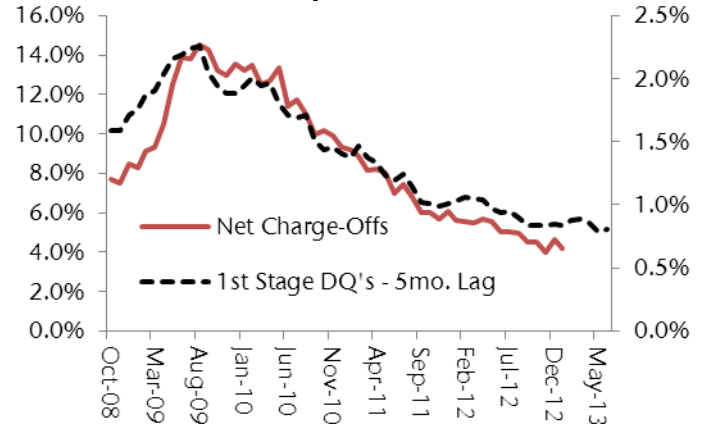
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 38: Total Delinquencies**



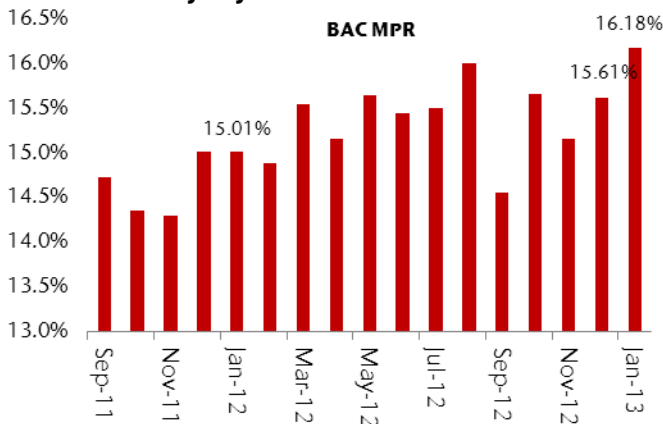
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 39: Forward Loss Expectations**



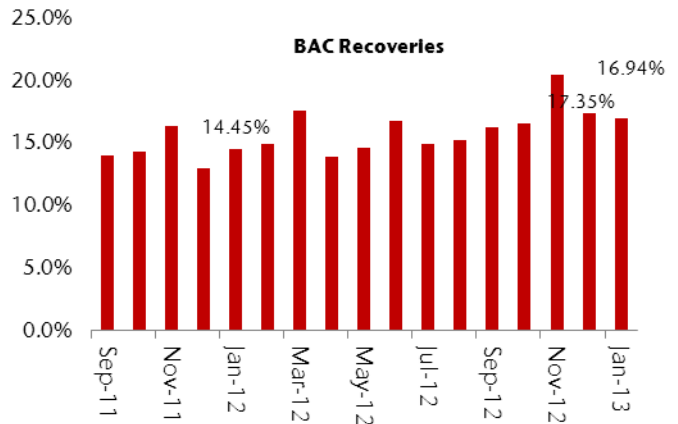
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 40: Monthly Payment Rate**



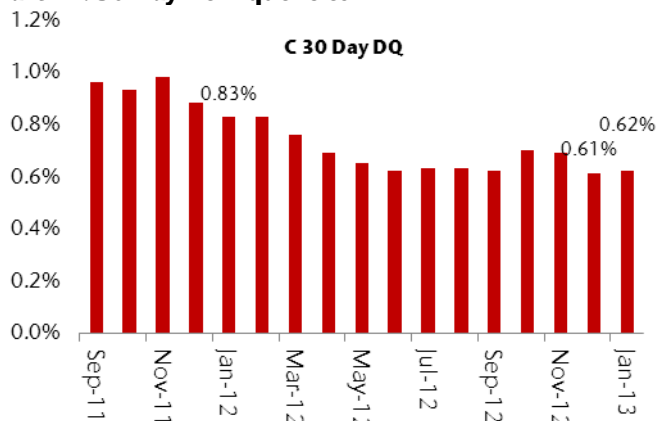
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 41: Loss Recoveries**



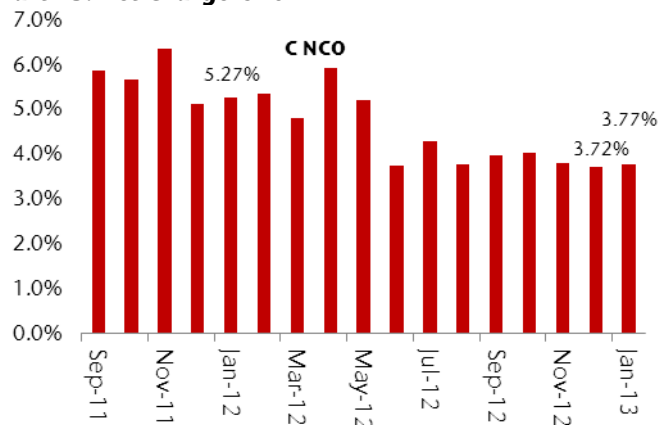
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 42: 30-Day Delinquencies**



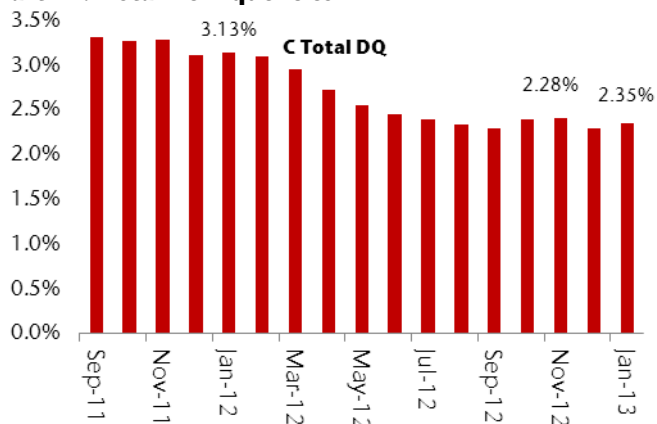
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 43: Net Charge-Offs**



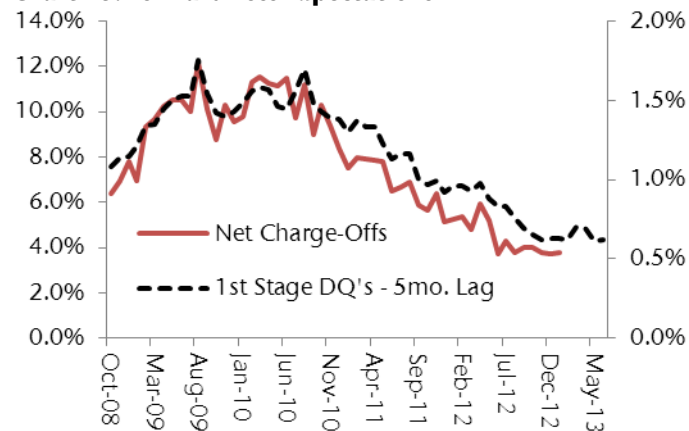
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 44: Total Delinquencies**



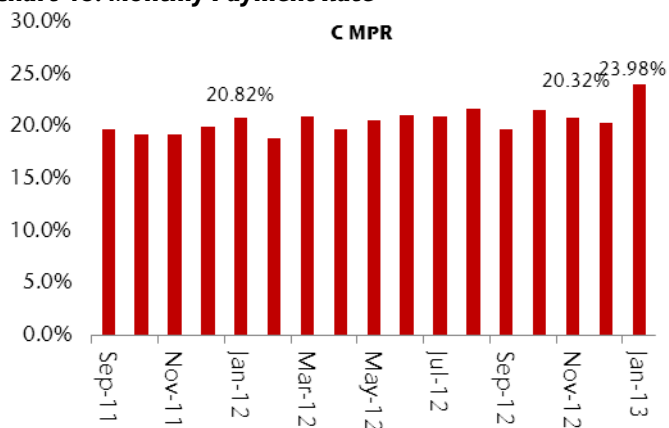
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 45: Forward Loss Expectations**



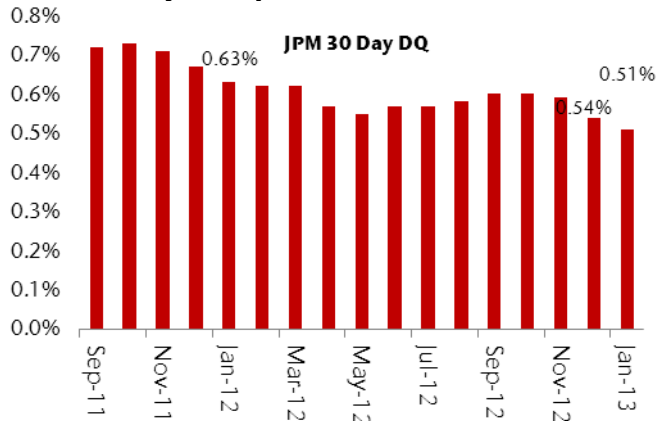
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 46: Monthly Payment Rate**



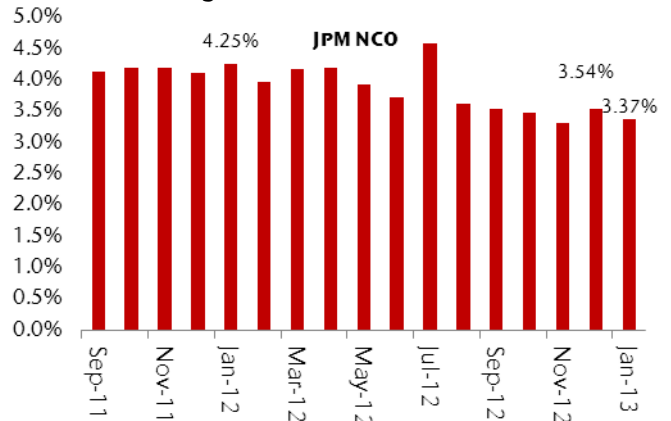
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 47: 30-Day Delinquencies**



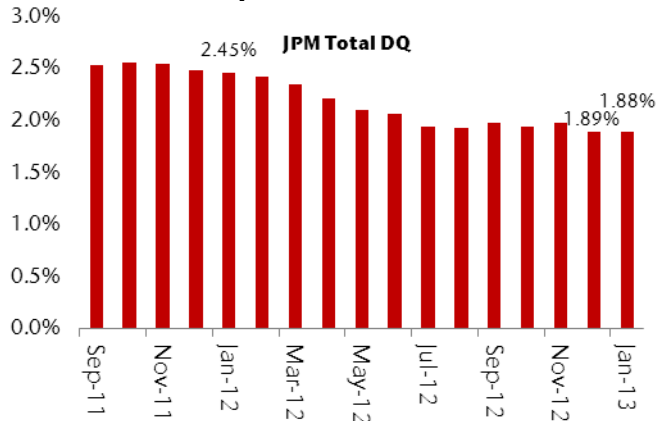
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 48: Net Charge-Offs**



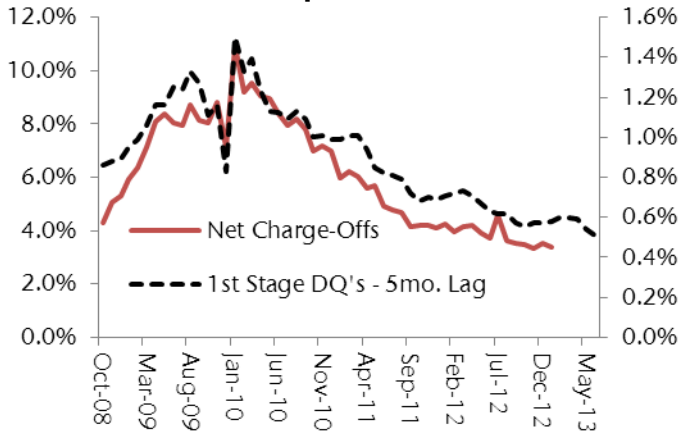
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 49: Total Delinquencies**



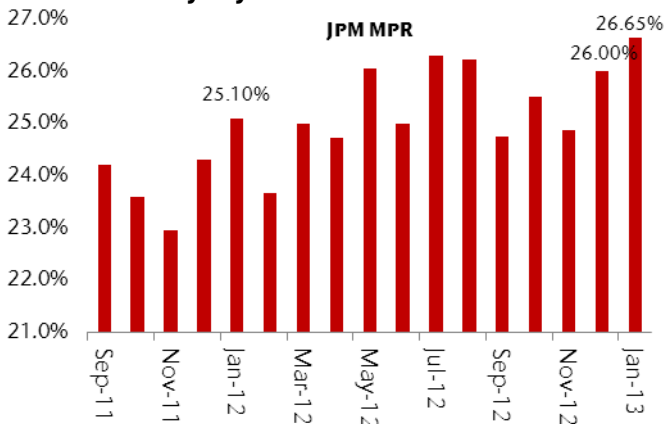
Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 50: Forward Loss Expectations**



Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

**Chart 51: Monthly Payment Rate**



Source: Jefferies & Company Inc. and Company Financials

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7. Performance is calculated in US dollars on an equally weighted basis and is compared to MSCI World AC US\$.
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9. Transaction fees are not included.
10. All corporate actions are taken into account.

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- American Express Co. (AXP: \$61.54, HOLD)
- Capital One Financial Corporation (COF: \$52.21, BUY)
- Cash America International, Inc. (CSH: \$51.00, HOLD)
- DFC Global Corp. (DLLR: \$19.16, HOLD)
- Discover Financial Services (DFS: \$38.33, BUY)
- First Cash Financial Services, Inc. (FCFS: \$54.42, BUY)
- Regional Management Corporation (RM: \$17.47, BUY)

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Rating	Count	Percent	IB Serv./Past 12 Mos.	
			Count	Percent
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HOLD	723	45.56%	84	11.62%
UNDERPERFORM	131	8.25%	2	1.53%

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