Morgan Stanley

MORGAN STANLEY RESEARCH
ASIA/PACIFIC

Morgan Stanley Australia Limited+
Gerard Minack
Gerard.Minack@morganstanley.com
+61 2 9770 1529

March 11, 2008

Downunder Daily

Darker Again

The outlook keeps darkening. Our US macro team has made material downgrades to its US growth and rate forecasts, and our US strategy team has slashed its S&P earnings forecasts, led by big downgrades to the financials. (For details, see Richard Berner and David Greenlaw, *A Darker US Outlook*; Abhijit Chakrabortti, *The Bank Job – Slashing Financial Sector Earnings*; and from our US bank team: Betsy Grasek, *Lowering EPS on Weaker Markets and Credit; Probability Higher of More Cuts Coming.)*

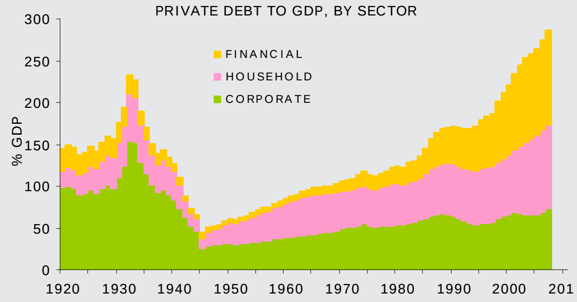
The outlook's dark, in my view, because the sky is thick with chickens coming home to roost. As I've noted before, the US is entering this downturn with the most dangerous combination of high leverage and low rates seen in decades. Private sector leverage (debt relative to GDP) is at an all-time, exceeding even the peak seen in the lead-up to the Great Depression (Exhibit 1).

Importantly, the two sectors with exceptional leverage are the household sector and financial sector itself. (Yes, of course, the latter lends to the former. But it is gross debt, not net debt, that causes problems. We don't rely on Mars for finance, so global gross debt is matched by the lenders' gross assets. The 'net' being zero doesn't stop financial crises.)

The leverage in the financial system falls broadly into two buckets: lending institutions, and institutional investors. The problems that investor leverage can cause are now on display in credit markets.

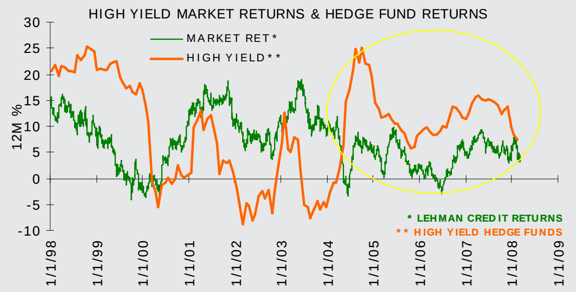
One of the most important reasons that credit markets are behaving so badly relative to other markets is that there are/were many more leveraged investors in that asset class. You can see the fingerprints of that leverage in the returns data. Exhibit 2 shows how for the past three years the average credit hedge fund produced returns that handsomely exceeded the market. This was made possible by leverage: Because the instruments were 'safe' and 'stable,' financiers permitted substantial leverage rates amongst investors.

Exhibit 1
Looks Who's Leveraged



Source: Federal Reserve; Morgan Stanley Research

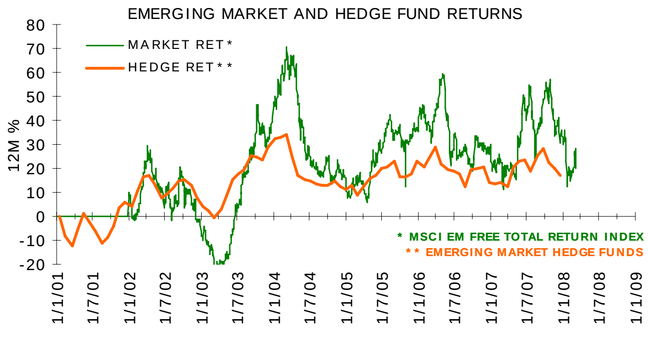
Exhibit 2
Leveraged-driven Out-performance



Source: Lehman Bros, Hennessee Group; Morgan Stanley Research

This has not been the case in other markets. I track several categories of hedge fund returns versus market returns, and credit is the only one where the funds have routinely beaten the benchmark. In other areas the typical pattern is of aggregate under-performance, at least through bull phases (Exhibit 3 shows the comparison for emerging market equity funds).

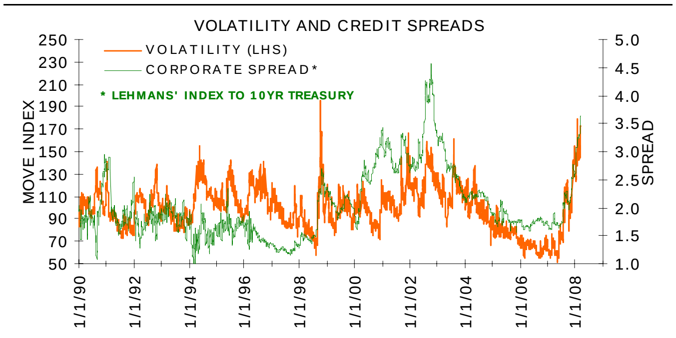
Exhibit 3
Under-performing in a Bull Market



Source: MSCI, Hennessee Group; Morgan Stanley

The problem now, of course, is that the assets proved to be not so safe and not so stable (Exhibit 4). Consequently, finance is being restricted, leading to a self-reinforcing cycle of price declines, margins calls, forced sales, more price falls, and so on. This self-reinforcing process is gathering momentum. Exhibit 5 shows that spreads have widened further in the year to date than they did through all of last year for many credit benchmarks.

Exhibit 4
Wider and Wilder



Source: Bloomberg, Lehman Bros.; Morgan Stanley Research

This matters to all investors. First, and most obviously, the investor deleveraging is undermining credit prices. Second, the decline in prices points to further substantial marked-to-market write-downs that are hammering financial-sector earnings forecasts. Third, the losses are eroding the capital base of lending institutions, clogging the principal transmission mechanism for monetary policy. Fourth, the risk of a system-threatening event seems to be rising daily.

Exhibit 5
Big Moves

	Index	Change in Spreads (bps) 2007	Change in Spreads (bps) 2008 YTD
	HY Index	298	170
	Investment Grade Index	104	45
CMBS	AAA	64	205
	AA	252	571
	A	405	596
	BBB	776	775
	BBB-	944	814
	BB	1212	689
ABX AAA	ABX 06-1	196	88
	ABX 06-2	314	364
	CDX	44	92
HEL floating index (3 years)	Home equity backed security index	233	188

Source: Abhijit Chakrabortti, *The Bank Job – Slashing Financial Sector Earnings*, 9 March; Morgan Stanley Research

The authorities will keep responding to these risks. Dick Berner and Dave Greenlaw have lowered their forecast for the Fed funds rate to 1¾%. They also discuss possible unconventional remedies for the credit crunch. But, as they acknowledge, there is no simple answer. Most of us – including policy-makers – are now in markets we've never experienced before, with the risk of something really bad happening higher than I can remember.

Disclosure Section

The information and opinions in Morgan Stanley Research were prepared or are disseminated by Morgan Stanley Asia Limited (which accepts the responsibility for its contents) and/or Morgan Stanley Asia (Singapore) Pte. (Registration number 199206298Z, regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore, which accepts the responsibility for its contents), and/or Morgan Stanley Asia (Singapore) Securities Pte Ltd (Registration number 200008434H, regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore, which accepts the responsibility for its contents), and/or Morgan Stanley Taiwan Limited and/or Morgan Stanley & Co International plc, Seoul Branch, and/or Morgan Stanley Australia Limited (A.B.N. 67 003 734 576, holder of Australian financial services license No. 233742, which accepts responsibility for its contents), and/or Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited and their affiliates (collectively, "Morgan Stanley").
For important disclosures, stock price charts and rating histories regarding companies that are the subject of this report, please see the Morgan Stanley Research Disclosure Website at www.morganstanley.com/researchdisclosures, or contact your investment representative or Morgan Stanley Research at 1585 Broadway, (Attention: Equity Research Management), New York, NY, 10036 USA.

Analyst Certification

The following analysts hereby certify that their views about the companies and their securities discussed in this report are accurately expressed and that they have not received and will not receive direct or indirect compensation in exchange for expressing specific recommendations or views in this report: Gerard Minack.
Unless otherwise stated, the individuals listed on the cover page of this report are research analysts.

Global Research Conflict Management Policy

Morgan Stanley Research has been published in accordance with our conflict management policy, which is available at www.morganstanley.com/institutional/research/conflictpolicies.

Important US Regulatory Disclosures on Subject Companies

The research analysts, strategists, or research associates principally responsible for the preparation of Morgan Stanley Research have received compensation based upon various factors, including quality of research, investor client feedback, stock picking, competitive factors, firm revenues and overall investment banking revenues.
Certain disclosures listed above are also for compliance with applicable regulations in non-US jurisdictions.

STOCK RATINGS

Morgan Stanley uses a relative rating system using terms such as Overweight, Equal-weight or Underweight (see definitions below). Morgan Stanley does not assign ratings of Buy, Hold or Sell to the stocks we cover. Overweight, Equal-weight and Underweight are not the equivalent of Buy, Hold and Sell. Investors should carefully read the definitions of all ratings used in Morgan Stanley Research. In addition, since Morgan Stanley Research contains more complete information concerning the analyst's views, investors should carefully read Morgan Stanley Research, in its entirety, and not infer the contents from the rating alone. In any case, ratings (or research) should not be used or relied upon as investment advice. An investor's decision to buy or sell a stock should depend on individual circumstances (such as the investor's existing holdings) and other considerations.

Global Stock Ratings Distribution

(as of February 29, 2008)

For disclosure purposes only (in accordance with NASD and NYSE requirements), we include the category headings of Buy, Hold, and Sell alongside our ratings of Overweight, Equal-weight and Underweight. Morgan Stanley does not assign ratings of Buy, Hold or Sell to the stocks we cover. Overweight, Equal-weight, and Underweight are not the equivalent of buy, hold, and sell but represent recommended relative weightings (see definitions below). To satisfy regulatory requirements, we correspond Overweight, our most positive stock rating, with a buy recommendation; we correspond Equal-weight to hold and Underweight to sell recommendations, respectively.

	Coverage Universe		Investment Banking Clients (IBC)		
Stock Rating Category	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total IBC	% of Rating Category
Overweight/Buy	**1039**	**44%**	**322**	**45%**	**31%**
Equal-weight/Hold	**974**	**41%**	**300**	**42%**	**31%**
Underweight/Sell	**356**	**15%**	**100**	**14%**	**28%**
Total	**2,369**		**722**		

Data include common stock and ADRs currently assigned ratings. An investor's decision to buy or sell a stock should depend on individual circumstances (such as the investor's existing holdings) and other considerations. Investment Banking Clients are companies from whom Morgan Stanley or an affiliate received investment banking compensation in the last 12 months.

Analyst Stock Ratings

Overweight (O or Over) - The stock's total return is expected to exceed the total return of the relevant country MSCI Index, on a risk-adjusted basis over the next 12-18 months.
Equal-weight (E or Equal) - The stock's total return is expected to be in line with the total return of the relevant country MSCI Index, on a risk-adjusted basis over the next 12-18 months.
Underweight (U or Under) - The stock's total return is expected to be below the total return of the relevant country MSCI Index, on a risk-adjusted basis, over the next 12-18 months.
More volatile (V) - We estimate that this stock has more than a 25% chance of a price move (up or down) of more than 25% in a month, based on a quantitative assessment of historical data, or in the analyst's view, it is likely to become materially more volatile over the next 1-12 months compared

with the past three years. Stocks with less than one year of trading history are automatically rated as more volatile (unless otherwise noted). We note that securities that we do not currently consider "more volatile" can still perform in that manner.
Unless otherwise specified, the time frame for price targets included in Morgan Stanley Research is 12 to 18 months.

Analyst Industry Views

Attractive (A): The analyst expects the performance of his or her industry coverage universe over the next 12-18 months to be attractive vs. the relevant broad market benchmark, as indicated below.
In-Line (I): The analyst expects the performance of his or her industry coverage universe over the next 12-18 months to be in line with the relevant broad market benchmark, as indicated below.
Cautious (C): The analyst views the performance of his or her industry coverage universe over the next 12-18 months with caution vs. the relevant broad market benchmark, as indicated below.
Benchmarks for each region are as follows: North America - S&P 500; Latin America - relevant MSCI country index or MSCI Latin America Index; Europe - MSCI Europe; Japan - TOPIX; Asia - relevant MSCI country index.

.

Other Important Disclosures

Morgan Stanley produces a research product called a "Tactical Idea." Views contained in a "Tactical Idea" on a particular stock may be contrary to the recommendations or views expressed in this or other research on the same stock. This may be the result of differing time horizons, methodologies, market events, or other factors. For all research available on a particular stock, please contact your sales representative or go to Client Link at www.morganstanley.com.

For a discussion, if applicable, of the valuation methods used to determine the price targets included in this summary and the risks related to achieving these targets, please refer to the latest relevant published research on these stocks.

Morgan Stanley Research does not provide individually tailored investment advice. Morgan Stanley Research has been prepared without regard to the individual financial circumstances and objectives of persons who receive it. The securities/instruments discussed in Morgan Stanley Research may not be suitable for all investors. Morgan Stanley recommends that investors independently evaluate particular investments and strategies, and encourages investors to seek the advice of a financial adviser. The appropriateness of a particular investment or strategy will depend on an investor's individual circumstances and objectives. The securities, instruments, or strategies discussed in Morgan Stanley Research may not be suitable for all investors, and certain investors may not be eligible to purchase or participate in some or all of them.

Morgan Stanley Research is not an offer to buy or sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any security/instrument or to participate in any particular trading strategy. The "Important US Regulatory Disclosures on Subject Companies" section in Morgan Stanley Research lists all companies mentioned where Morgan Stanley owns 1% or more of a class of common securities of the companies. For all other companies mentioned in Morgan Stanley Research, Morgan Stanley may have an investment of less than 1% in securities or derivatives of securities of companies and may trade them in ways different from those discussed in Morgan Stanley Research. Employees of Morgan Stanley not involved in the preparation of Morgan Stanley Research may have investments in securities or derivatives of securities of companies mentioned and may trade them in ways different from those discussed in Morgan Stanley Research. Derivatives may be issued by Morgan Stanley or associated persons

Morgan Stanley and its affiliate companies do business that relates to companies/instruments covered in Morgan Stanley Research, including market making and specialized trading, risk arbitrage and other proprietary trading, fund management, commercial banking, extension of credit, investment services and investment banking. Morgan Stanley sells to and buys from customers the securities/instruments of companies covered in Morgan Stanley Research on a principal basis.

With the exception of information regarding Morgan Stanley, research prepared by Morgan Stanley Research personnel are based on public information. Morgan Stanley makes every effort to use reliable, comprehensive information, but we make no representation that it is accurate or complete. We have no obligation to tell you when opinions or information in Morgan Stanley Research change apart from when we intend to discontinue research coverage of a subject company. Facts and views presented in Morgan Stanley Research have not been reviewed by, and may not reflect information known to, professionals in other Morgan Stanley business areas, including investment banking personnel.

Morgan Stanley Research personnel conduct site visits from time to time but are prohibited from accepting payment or reimbursement by the company of travel expenses for such visits.

The value of and income from your investments may vary because of changes in interest rates or foreign exchange rates, securities prices or market indexes, operational or financial conditions of companies or other factors. There may be time limitations on the exercise of options or other rights in your securities transactions. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Estimates of future performance are based on assumptions that may not be realized. Unless otherwise stated, the cover page provides the closing price on the primary exchange for the subject company's securities/instruments.

To our readers in Taiwan: Information on securities/instruments that trade in Taiwan is distributed by Morgan Stanley Taiwan Limited ("MSTL"). Such information is for your reference only. The reader should independently evaluate the investment risks and is solely responsible for their investment decisions. Morgan Stanley Research may not be distributed to the public media or quoted or used by the public media without the express written consent of Morgan Stanley. Information on securities/instruments that do not trade in Taiwan is for informational purposes only and is not to be construed as a recommendation or a solicitation to trade in such securities/instruments. MSTL may not execute transactions for clients in these securities/instruments.

To our readers in Hong Kong: Information is distributed in Hong Kong by and on behalf of, and is attributable to, Morgan Stanley Asia Limited as part of its regulated activities in Hong Kong. If you have any queries concerning Morgan Stanley Research, please contact our Hong Kong sales representatives.

Certain information in Morgan Stanley Research was sourced by employees of the Shanghai Representative Office of Morgan Stanley Asia Limited for the use of Morgan Stanley Asia Limited.

Morgan Stanley Research is disseminated in Japan by Morgan Stanley Japan Securities Co., Ltd.; in Hong Kong by Morgan Stanley Asia Limited (which accepts responsibility for its contents); in Singapore by Morgan Stanley Asia (Singapore) Pte. (Registration number 199206298Z) and/or Morgan Stanley Asia (Singapore) Securities Pte Ltd (Registration number 200008434H), regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore, which accepts responsibility for its contents; in Australia by Morgan Stanley Australia Limited A.B.N. 67 003 734 576, holder of Australian financial services licence No. 233742, which accepts responsibility for its contents; in Korea by Morgan Stanley & Co International plc, Seoul Branch; in India by Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited; in Canada by Morgan Stanley Canada Limited, which has approved of, and has agreed to take responsibility for, the contents of Morgan Stanley Research in Canada; in Germany by Morgan Stanley Bank AG, Frankfurt am Main, regulated by Bundesanstalt fuer Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht (BaFin); in Spain by Morgan Stanley, S.V., S.A., a Morgan Stanley group company, which is supervised by the Spanish Securities Markets Commission (CNMV) and states that Morgan Stanley Research has been written and distributed in accordance with the rules of conduct applicable to financial research as established under Spanish regulations; in the United States by Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, which accepts responsibility for its contents. Morgan Stanley & Co. International plc, authorized and regulated by Financial Services Authority, disseminates in the UK research that it has prepared, and approves solely for the purposes of section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, research which has been prepared by any of its affiliates. Private U.K. investors should obtain the advice of their Morgan Stanley & Co. International plc representative about the investments concerned. In Australia, Morgan Stanley Research, and any access to it, is intended only for "wholesale clients" within the meaning of the Australian Corporations Act. RMB Morgan Stanley (Proprietary) Limited is a member of the JSE Limited and regulated by the Financial Services Board in South Africa. RMB Morgan Stanley (Proprietary) Limited is a joint venture owned equally by Morgan Stanley International Holdings Inc. and FirstRand Investment Holdings Limited, which is wholly owned by FirstRand Limited.

The information in Morgan Stanley Research is being communicated by Morgan Stanley & Co. International plc (DIFC Branch), regulated by the Dubai Financial Services Authority (the DFSA), and is directed at wholesale customers only, as defined by the DFSA. This research will only be made available to a wholesale customer who we are satisfied meets the regulatory criteria to be a client.

The information in Morgan Stanley Research is being communicated by Morgan Stanley & Co. International plc (QFC Branch), regulated by the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority (the QFCRA), and is directed at business customers and market counterparties only and is not intended for Retail Customers as defined by the QFCRA.

The trademarks and service marks contained in Morgan Stanley Research are the property of their respective owners. Third-party data providers make no warranties or representations of any kind relating to the accuracy, completeness, or timeliness of the data they provide and shall not have liability for any damages of any kind relating to such data. The Global Industry Classification Standard ("GICS") was developed by and is the exclusive property of MSCI and S&P.

Morgan Stanley

MORGAN STANLEY RESEARCH

The Americas
1585 Broadway
New York, NY 10036-8293
United States
Tel: +1 (1) 212 761 4000

Europe
25 Cabot Square, Canary Wharf
London E14 4QA
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7 425 8000

Japan
4-20-3 Ebisu, Shibuya-ku
Tokyo 150-6008
Japan
Tel: +81 (0) 3 5424 5000

Asia/Pacific
Three Exchange Square
Central
Hong Kong
Tel: +852 2848 5200