# Arbor – August 2024 CLO Update

Over two-thirds of Arbor's CLO loan book is delinquent and/or modified. DSCR sinks 300bps.

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**August 20, 2024** –This surveillance report of Arbor's CLO for the month of August shows that quality continues to deteriorate. As Arbor continues to effectively wind down this book it will get more toxic: the book is being kept current almost entirely through modifications. For the first time ever, more of Arbor's loans are modified than unmodified.

According to Bloomberg, Arbor is under investigation by the DOJ and FBI. It has been reported the Arbor may be under investigation by the SEC according to a post by X user @Price\_to\_Value.

#### The CLO Surveillance – August 2024

In stark contrast to management's assertions Arbor's loan book is severely distressed as a direct result of the financial ruin of their underlying investments. Arbor has adopted a pervasive strategy of "kicking the can" to put off mass impairments.

August 2024 Update	ARCREN 2021-FL1	ARCREN 2021-FL3	ARCREN 2021-FL4	ARCREN 2022-FL1	ARCREN 2022-FL2	Total		
Total # properties	36	52	101	67	42	298		
< 1 Month	3	8	12	4	1	28		
30 Days	3	4	1	7	2	17		
60 Days	-	-	-	-	-	-		
90+ Days	1	-	8	1	-	10		
Modifications total (#)	22	32	52	40	24	170		
Adjustment for double count*	(2)	(10)	(12)	(6)	(2)	(32)		
Total delinquent & modified	27	34	61	46	25	193		
# of Delinquent properties <30 Days	3	8	12	4	1	28		
# of Delinquent properties >30 Days	4	4	9	8	2	27		
# of Delinquent properties Total	7	12	21	12	3	55		
Total deal balance	499,027,312	1,098,352,439	2,040,137,668	1,834,572,920	963,024,999	6,435,115,339		
< 1 Month	44,350,000	194,970,000	267,581,350	111,000,000	20,300,000	638,201,350		
30 Days	15,320,215	62,875,000	48,733,000	95,024,785	34,000,000	255,953,000		
60 Days	-	-	-	-	-	-		
90+ Days	10,514,731	-	34,500,000	6,759,965	-	51,774,696		
Modified	276,644,386	814,820,000	989,934,035	1,271,082,046	670,131,530	4,022,611,997		
Adjustment for double count*	(41,764,731)	(129,045,000)	(237,543,000)	(98,500,000)	(34,000,000)	(540,852,731)		
Total delinquent & modified	305,064,601	943,620,000	1,103,205,385	1,385,366,796	690,431,530	4,427,688,312		
* Double count adjustment for loans both modified and delinquent. This adjustment was not conducted in previous reports.								
Underlying Revenue	81,358,811	168,665,727	194,437,163	210,735,580	85,748,547	740,945,828		
Underlying Expenses	(43,436,489)	(86,039,811)	(98,554,341)	(111,152,089)	(42,868,075)	(382,050,804)		
Underlying NOI	37,922,322	82,625,916	95,882,823	99,583,491	42,880,472	358,895,023		
Debt Service Amount	(62,951,233)	(135,463,103)	(202,962,414)	(263,287,739)	(69,792,681)	(734,457,169)		
DSCR	0.60	0.61	0.47	0.38	0.61	0.489		

Figure 1 – Viceroy August 2024 CLO Analysis

- Arbor has modified \$4.0b of loans (~170 properties), representing ~68% of its ~\$6.4b CLO portfolio (~298 properties).
  - Modified loans against 32 properties are already delinquent again.
  - The DSCR of modified loans is ~0.42x<sup>1</sup>.
  - A month-on-month review shows loans are being modified multiple times in successive months.
  - A month-on-month review shows that modified loans have not been rehabilitated and will continue to fail.
  - As previously reported Arbor's modifications are being incorrectly reported. This has not been fixed.
- Arbor has provided favorable mezzanine financing to distressed clients to "rehabilitate" their loans.
  - These loans should be considered impaired, as they are non-recoverable.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Both DSCR and LTV are adjusted for various loans against the same property.



- \$945m of loans (~55 properties) in the CLO portfolios are delinquent.
  - The DSCR of the CLO portfolio is ~0.499x, down 300bps from last quarter.
  - Substantially all of the underlying CLO investments are inherently unprofitable and functionally bankrupt.

#### **Modification Errors**

We note that Arbor has, intentionally or not, erroneously reported modification data in their CLO:

- Previously modified loans now appear to have modifications reversed. This is not possible.
- Arbor appears to have backdated modifications to 2023, which would therefore not appear on Viceroy's monthly surveillance reports which have (until now) only tracked loans modified in 2024.
- Loans from ARCLO 2021-FL2, which has been wound down, have been absorbed into other CLOs (ARCLO 2021-FL1 & ARCLO 2021-FL4). These loans are marked as having been modified at various times over the last 12 months, but were never reported as modified in ARCLO 2021-FL2.

Viceroy has not received a satisfactory answer as to why these discrepancies exist. We believe it is prudent that analysts pursue these discrepancies on tomorrow's conference call.

#### 2021-FL1 - Group ID 318992 - Loan ID 43500

In June 2024's CREF report, this loan was marked as being modified on April 1, 2024 (20240401). The modification code is "8", being "Other".

In July 2024's CREF report, this same loan is now marked as being last-modified on 22 February 2023 (20230222). The modification code is "9", being a combination, and presumably proceeding "8".

#### ARCREN 2021-FL4 ID 316977 - Loan ID 316977 - Group

In June 2024's CREF report, this loan was marked as being last-modified on April 3, 2024 (20240403). The modification code is "8", being "Other".

In July 2024's CREF report, this same loan is now marked as being last-modified on April 25, 2023 (20230425). The modification code is "6", being "Capitalization on Interest".

#### 2021-FL4 - Group ID 344376 - Loan ID 344376

In June 2024's CREF report, this loan was marked as being last-modified on April 1, 2024 (20240403). The modification code is "9", being "Combination".

In July 2024's CREF report, this same loan is now marked as never having modified.

#### 2021-FL4 - Group ID 349796 - Loan ID 349796

In June 2024's CREF report, this loan was marked as being last-modified on January 30, 2024 (20240403). The modification code is "AOR", presumably to be confirmed.

In July 2024's CREF report, this same loan is now marked as never having modified.

#### 2021-FL4 - Group ID 360028

This loan appears in 2021-FL4, having previously been a portfolio loan of wound-down 2021-FL2.

In June 2024's CREF report, this loan was marked as having never been modified.

In July 2024's CREF report, this same loan, now in 2021-FL4, is said to have been modified on May 23, 2024 (20240523).

#### Nature of Modifications

Viceroy have adjusted for as many erroneously reported loans as is feasible, however we note that if modified loans are being misreported, the data cannot be relied upon

Not only are recently modified loans falling delinquent once more: Arbor have taken to modifying loans in successive months to preserve the illusion of credit performance.

Modification Summary	Jul-2	4	Aug-24	
	Count	Value	Count	Value
Maturity Date Extension	10	441,295,000	12	454,350,000
Amortization Change	0	-	0	-
Principal Write-Off	0	-	0	-
Temporary Rate Reduction	0	-	0	-
Capitalization on Interest	16	322,270,081	16	322,270,081
Capitalization on Taxes	0	-	0	-
Other	53	1,504,059,833	66	1,816,344,670
Combination	88	1,710,998,083	76	1,565,543,029
Forbearance	1	43,989,000	0	-

Figure 2 – Modification Data

- There has been an enormous upswing in PIK, or "Capitalization on Interest", modifications. These PIK uncollected revenue amounts appear in "Other Assets", and do not appear to be impairment tested.
- We have verified with various distressed syndicates, including Elevate's "The Selena", that Arbor provides mezzanine financing to existing delinquent customers in order to meet rent. These loans are non-recoverable, amount to revenue round-tripping, and have not been impaired.
  - Arbor modified the interest of Elevate's \$32m floating rate The Selena bridge loan to 6%. Elevate
    confirms that they did not purchase a rate-cap. This represents a discount of over 300bps to Arbor's
    book average
  - Elevate created a new CRE Debt investment vehicle to provide "fresh capital" to The Selena in the form of a "rescue loan" carrying interest at 18%. This rescue loan has a 2<sup>nd</sup> ranking lien on the Selena.
  - This "rescue loan" is presumably intended to meet Arbor's interest expenses on the 6% loan in the short term.
  - Arbor has rolled over \$1.9m of outstanding interest and a further \$4.4m mezzanine loan into a 3<sup>rd</sup> ranking lien.

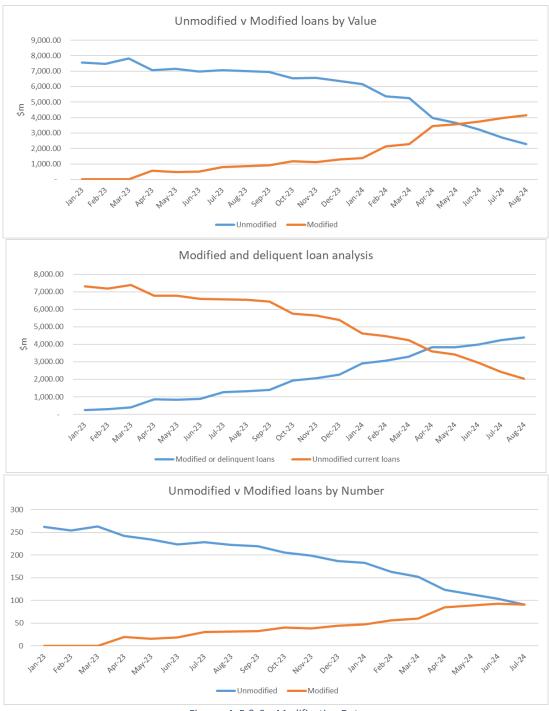
Last Dollar %	Capital Stack Going Forward		Viceroy Notes:	
57%	Arbor A Loan	\$32,000,000	Fixed at 6.0% rate. Secured by first deed of trust on the Property	
64%	Rescue Loan	\$3,865,000	18% rate per year. Second ranking security. "Interest fully accrued until sale". Third ranking security.	
76%	Arbor B Loan	\$6,277,340		
100%	Existing Equity	\$13,511,995		
	Total	\$55,654,335		

Figure 3 – Extract from "The Selena" forecast provided by Elevate & Viceroy notes

**Modified loans appear non-recoverable**. Arbor has simply kicked the can and created a *worse* financial position for the defrauded LPs of The Selena, who will no doubt be capital-called to continue funding this functionally bankrupt project.

### Visualizing modifications

To better understand the size of modified loans, its worth visualizing them over time:



Figures 4, 5 & 6 – Modification Data

- Larger loans are more likely to require modification than smaller loans.
- The trend of modifying loans to keep them current shows no signs of slowing down.
- Because modifications are incorrectly reported, these charts under-represent the number and value of modified loans<sup>2</sup>.
- There is a ~2-month lag between Figure 4 and Figure 5 supporting our belief that Arbor is systematically modifying delinquent loans to keep them current.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://viceroyresearch.org/2024/07/25/arbor-realty-july-2024-surveillance-report/

## Arbor Investigations

In addition to the previously reported investigations by the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation it is now highly likely that the company is also under investigation by the SEC. X user @Price\_to\_Value's FOIA request to the SEC was denied, with the SEC citing interference with ongoing enforcement actions as justification

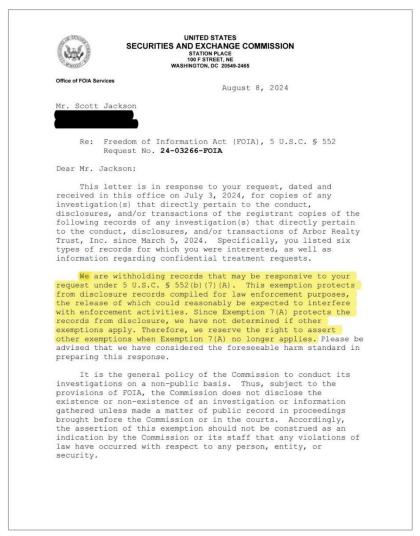
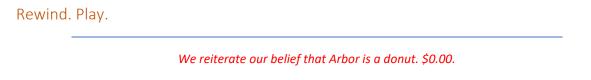


Figure 7 – SEC FOIA Response

Viceroy notes that the reported inquiries are in line with our reporting into Arbor's fabricated loan book performance.



Our original report, published on November 16, 2023, together with subsequent notes, can be found here:

https://viceroyresearch.org/arbor-realty-research/



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Viceroy encourage any parties with information pertaining to misconduct within Arbor Realty Trust, its affiliates, or any other entity to file a report with the appropriate regulatory body.

We also understand first-hand the retaliation whistleblowers sometimes face for championing these issues. Where possible, Viceroy is happy act as intermediaries in providing information to regulators and reporting information in the public interest in order to protect the identities of whistleblowers.

You can contact the Viceroy team via email on viceroy@viceroyresearch.com.

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