



Q3 2026 Catastrophe Bond & ILS Market Report

Cat bond market keeps record
pace after above-average Q3

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INTRO

The Artemis Q3 2026 catastrophe bond and related ILS market report dissects an above-average \$948 million issuance period for the sector following on from the record first-half, and also analyses issuance for the first nine-months of the year, which set a new record of \$18.9 billion.

This quarter's \$948 million of new issuance came from 10 transactions comprised of 15 tranches of notes. Repeat sponsors dominated issuance in terms of volume, driven by the two largest deals of the quarter from global reinsurers Swiss Re and Hannover Re. However, US insurer Porch Group entered the market for the first time in Q3, and Bermuda-based Nectaris Re sponsored its first cat bond, taking the number of new sponsors so far this year to 14.

\$845.5 million of rule 144A and 144A eligible property cat bonds dominated Q3 2026 issuance, accounting for more than 89% of quarterly issuance, with the remaining \$102.4 million, or 11%, privately placed, or cat bond lite transactions. This quarter, no deals came to market covering non-catastrophe risks, which is in line with last year.

Although Q3 2026 itself failed to break any cat bond market records, it has helped to set new records for the first nine months of the year, notably total issuance, which stands at \$18.9 billion at the end of September, up from last year's previous record of \$18.6 billion, meaning the market is still on track for another record year. 9M rule 144A property cat bond and total rule 144A issuance have also hit new heights in 2026.

In this report, we analyse and compare year-on-year, quarterly and nine-month 2026 issuance by peril and trigger, explore pricing dynamics and the size of deals, upcoming maturities, and trends between rule 144A property cat bonds, private deals, and those covering non-cat risks.

Despite being an above-average quarter, the size of the outstanding cat bond market is now slightly smaller than it was at the end of Q2, at \$65.5 billion, but has still grown by 7% from the end of 2025, making it the second-largest outstanding market size at the end of any quarter.

Transaction Recap

10 transactions comprised of 15 tranches of notes were issued in the third quarter of 2026. The majority, six deals with a combined value of \$845.5 million, were syndicated cat bonds, with the remaining four deals, or \$102.4 million of issuance, being privately placed.

Large European reinsurers Swiss Re and Hannover Re returned to the market in Q3 and sponsored the two largest deals of the quarter, covering US and Canada earthquake and named storm risks.

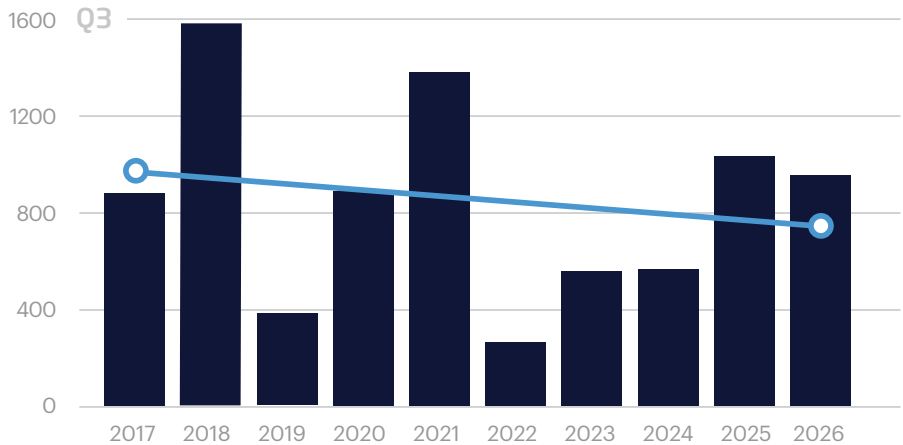
American Coastal Insurance also returned with its latest and smallest Armor Re issuance, bringing Florida named storm exposure to market, while the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power sponsored its fourth and joint largest California wildfire transaction.

More often than not, Q3 is the least active quarter of the year for cat bond issuance, but despite this, two new sponsors entered the market between July and October this year; Nectaris Re Ltd., a Bermuda-based rated reinsurance platform backed by Leadenhall Capital Partners, and Porch Group, a US vertical software and homeowners insurance platform.

ISSUER / TRANCHE	SPONSOR	PERILS	\$M	DATE
Artex Axcell Re - PI0055 Grantham notes	Unknown	Unknown property cat risks	20	Aug
Armor Re II Ltd. (Series 2026-2)	American Coastal Insurance	Florida named storm	25.5	Aug
Artex Axcell Re (Series FE0004)	Unknown	Unknown property cat risks	60	Jul
Seaside Re (Series 2026-61)	Unknown	US property cat risks	14.94	Jul
3264 Re Ltd. (Series 2026-1)	Hannover Re	International multi-peril	200	Jul
Harbor Crest Re Ltd. (Series 2026-1)	Porch Group	US multi-peril	100	Jul
Matterhorn Re Ltd. (Series 2026-3)	Swiss Re	International multi-peril	345	Jul
123 Lights Re Ltd. (Series 2026-1)	LA Department of Water & Power	California wildfire	100	Jul
LI Re (Series 2026-3)	Unknown	Unknown property cat risks	7.47	Jul
Arthur Re Ltd. - Tranquil Re 2026-1	Nectaris Re	US multi-peril	75	Jul

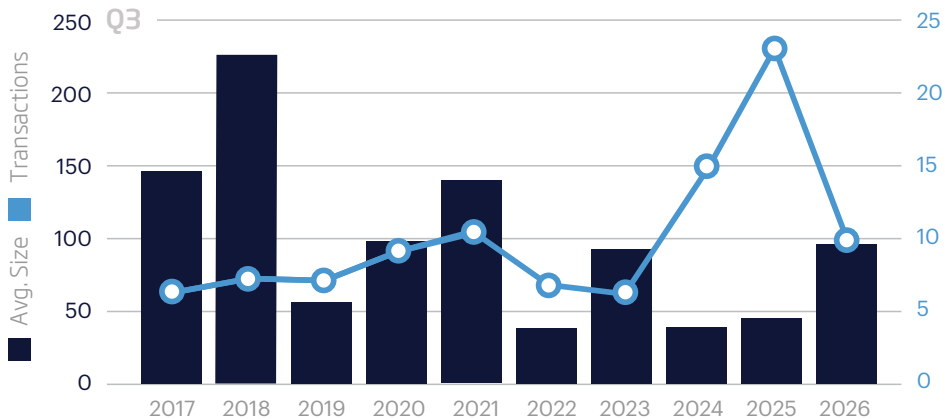
Q3 issuance by year (\$M)

Third quarter 2026 cat bond issuance is approximately \$100 million above the previous 10-year average for the quarter, but has declined by \$88 million, or approximately 9%, from last year's \$1.036 billion, to \$948 million. It is still the fourth-largest Q3 of the past decade, with Q3 issuance only exceeding \$1 billion three times since 2017, peaking at \$1.6 billion in 2018. As ever, the proximity to the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to November 30, is a factor in the drop in activity quarter-over-quarter.



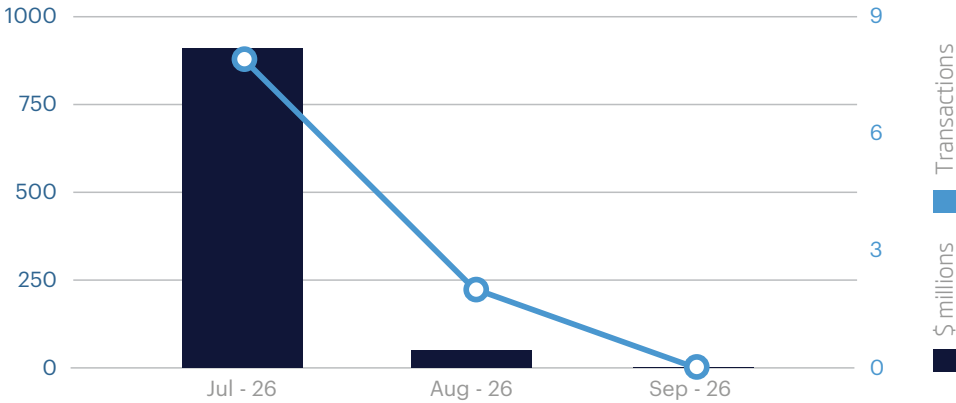
Q3 average transaction size & number of transactions by year (\$M)

The average size of transactions issued in the third quarter over the past decade is \$97.2 million, which is slightly above this quarter's average size of \$95.8 million. However, the average size of deals in Q3 2026 is the highest since 2021, and far above last year's \$45 million, a quarter dominated by private deals, some of which were just \$5 million in size or smaller. 10 transactions came to market this quarter, which is in line with the 10-year average for the quarter, but significantly lower than the 23 issued in Q3 2025. 10 or more transactions have featured in four of the past 10 years, including 2024, 2025, and 2026, suggesting the quarter has become more active in terms of the number of deals.



Number of transactions and volume issued by month (\$M)

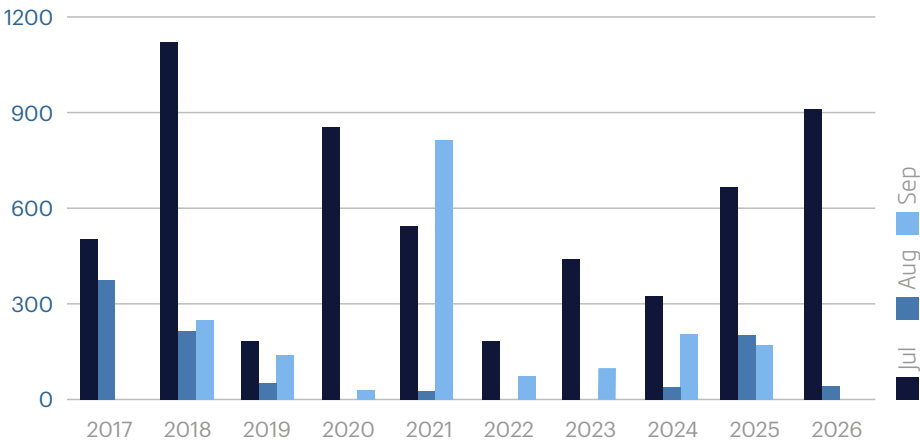
Year-on-year, July 2026 issuance increased by 36% to \$902 million from eight transactions, making it one of the largest Julys for issuance in the market's history, as July issuance has only surpassed \$1 billion on two occasions. The 10-year average for the month is \$572 million, which July 2026 issuance beat comfortably, signalling a strong start to the quarter after the record-breaking first half of the year.



Q3 issuance by month & year (\$M)

The remaining two transactions came to market in August, a \$20 million private deal and American Coastal's \$25.5 million transaction. August issuance over the past decade has averaged \$97 million, so the \$45.5 million issued in the month this year is 53% below average, and approximately \$157 million lower than August 2025 issuance, which was a particularly busy August.

While rare, over the past decade, August, September and October have seen no new cat bond transactions come to market, with the most recent being August 2023. However, this was the case for September 2026 issuance, the first time this has happened in the month since 2017. The 10-year average for September cat bond issuance is \$179 million, so it's typically the second busiest month of the quarter.



COMMINGLING OF RISKS: THE NEW FLAVOUR OF THE CAT BOND MARKET - BRAD ADDERLEY, APPLEBY

As catastrophe bond sponsors grow more confident with the asset class, companies are increasingly combining different peril structures within individual transactions, all of which leads Brad Adderley, Managing Partner at law firm Appleby, to say that this commingling of risks is becoming the new flavour of the cat bond market.

In recent years, cat bond issuance volume has routinely featured multi-peril structures, bundling various regional natural perils under single or composite triggers.

Recognising this trend, Adderley said, "More sponsors are now blending different risks within single coverages. Where we once saw mostly pure property cat deals, sponsors are increasingly combining property cat with cyber or specialty lines. Rather than introducing entirely new perils, this commingling of risks seems to be the new flavour of the ILS market."

Another growing topic that's emerged across the re/insurance industry has been how impactful the global data centre build-out will be for the industry, with many industry figures indicating that the ILS market could play a key role as this market continues to grow.

Addressing this, Adderley said, "These data centres are going to cost billions and billions, and nobody is going to take on that whole risk alone. Reinsurers will want to slice and dice the risk with other reinsurers. Given that ILS are fully collateralized, the question is how much managers are willing to take on. We could see ILS only taking a small portion of the risk.

"On a leverage basis, traditional reinsurers can take on more risk than ILS. Will ILS play a part in the build-out? Yes. Can they take on the whole load? No, because I doubt companies will have 100% reinsurance or insurance coverage against the total value."

Adderley continued: “While ILS firms might cover up to 50% of the protection, the overall exposure is simply too large to be subsumed by the ILS market alone. ILS will play a part, but it can’t carry the whole load.

“Data centres will clearly be a key market driver moving forward, though it remains uncertain when they will fully impact the ILS space.”

Over the past decade, Q3 cat bond issuance has averaged \$848 million. With Q3’26 delivering \$948 million, we asked Adderley whether an above average Q3 indicates that 2026 will see a strong end to the year for issuance?

“We have way more deals coming to us from different clients, and we have not seen a slowdown.

“September has come to an end, and I think we will see plenty of new deals being announced and completed. There are always some deals announced in November, too. But, if you don’t hear about them in October, they don’t really have much of a chance to get completed before year-end,” Adderley explained.

“Considering all of this, I don’t see why Q4 won’t have the same amount of deals as it did last year,” he added.

To end, Adderley highlighted that whilst casualty sidecars are gaining more traction, the level of discussion doesn’t appear to match up with the number of transactions that are actually being completed.

“Last year, I was involved in four or five casualty sidecars, and of that, only two ultimately came to market. While casualty sidecars remain a popular topic of discussion, actual transaction activity has yet to match the level of market interest,” Adderley said.

“Perhaps there are a number of reasons why these casualty sidecars are not all being completed. They are difficult to close, they are time-consuming to execute, and they’re plagued by uncertainty surrounding the level of tail risk that goes into them,” Adderley concluded.

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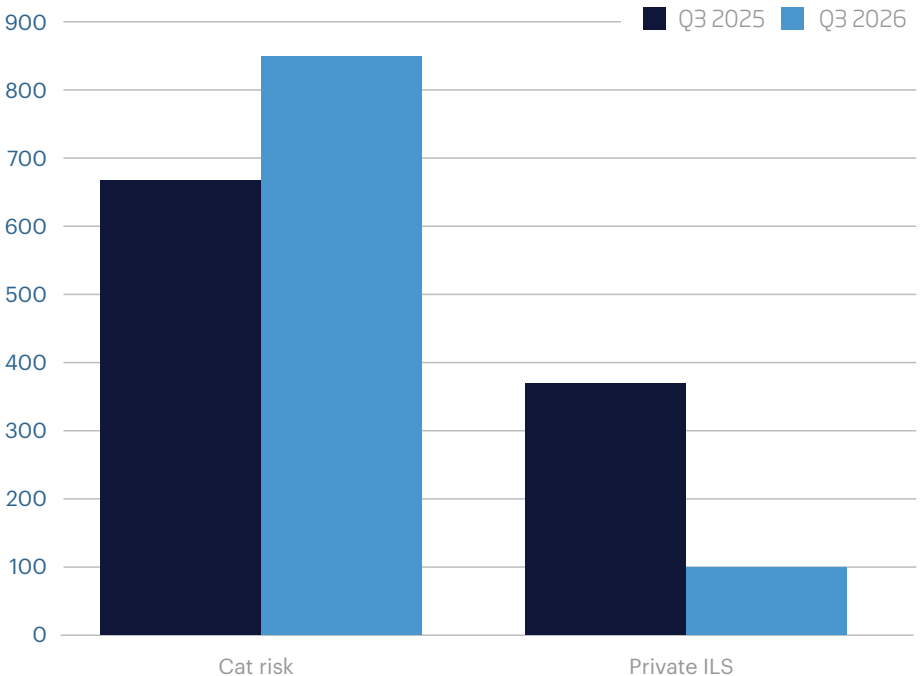
BRAD ADDERLEY

BERMUDA MANAGING PARTNER

Q3 issuance by type

Like last year, all of the deals sponsored in the third quarter of 2026 cover catastrophe risks, with Q3 2024 being the last time other exposures, such as cyber or terrorism, and also mortgage risk, featured in a third quarter.

Year-on-year, rule 144A and 144A-eligible property cat bond issuance rose by \$180.5 million, or 27%, to \$845.5 million, compared with \$665 million last year. Artemis' data shows that this is the largest third quarter for these types of deals since 2021, when almost \$1.2 billion of rule 144A property cat bond issuance came to market.



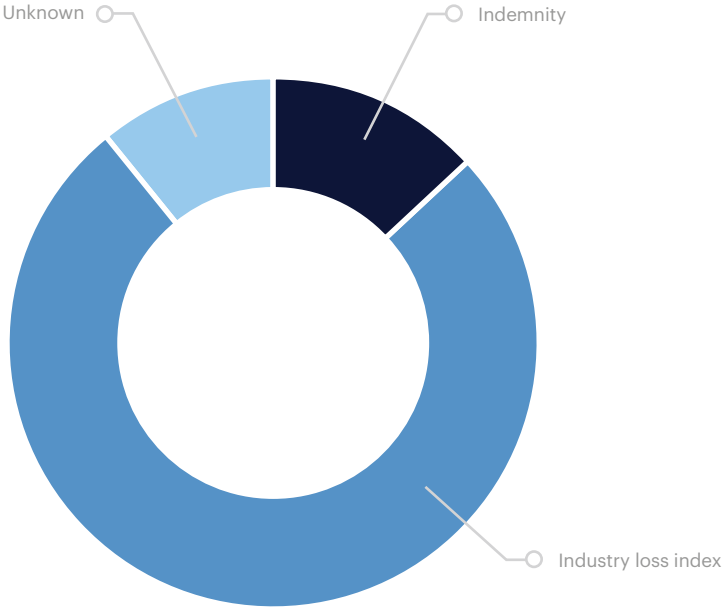
Private, or cat bond lite issuance was notably strong in Q3 2025 at more than \$371 million, and has decreased by approximately 72%, or \$269 million year-on-year, to \$102.4 million in Q3 2026.

Q3 issuance by trigger

For consecutive third quarters, cat bonds with an industry loss trigger structure dominated issuance, as nine tranches of notes with a combined value of \$720 million utilised this trigger.

This is notable as it's rare in any quarter for indemnity structured transactions not to account for the majority of issuance. But in Q3 2026, indemnity structured deals accounted for just over 13%, or \$125.5 million of issuance from two tranches of notes.

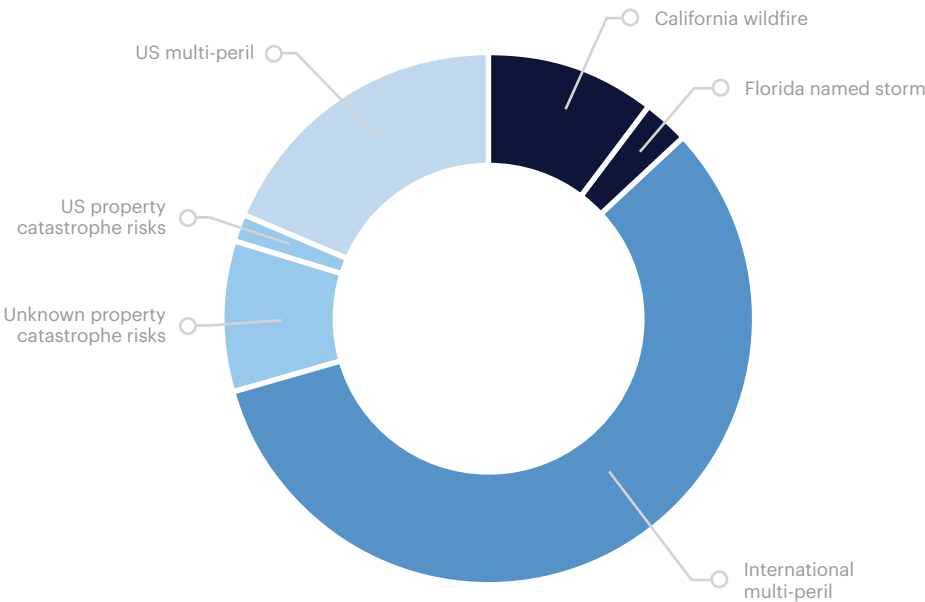
The remaining four tranches of notes, amounting to \$102.4 million, or nearly 11% of quarterly issuance, were privately placed transactions, and therefore we do not have trigger information for them.



Q3 issuance by peril

Third quarter 2026 cat bond issuance was dominated by US perils, as all the rule 144A property cat bonds featured US exposures. This includes the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power's \$100 million California wildfire issuance, the \$25.5 million Florida named storm deal from American Coastal Insurance, Porch Group's inaugural \$100 million transaction, which covers multiple US perils, and the \$75 million US multi-peril deal sponsored by Nectaris Re.

Swiss Re and Hannover Re, two of Europe's big four reinsurers, sponsored a \$345 million and \$200 million sized transaction, respectively, which both cover US and Canada named storm and earthquake exposures.



Information for the remaining four private, or cat bond lite deals is limited, although we know that the almost \$15 million Seaside Re transaction covers US property cat risks, and assume that the remaining three deals, totalling approximately \$87.5 million, cover unknown property cat risks.

For consecutive years, no transactions came to market in Q3 2026 covering non-catastrophe risks. The last time risk diversification outside of the catastrophe space featured in a Q3 was in 2024, when specialist insurer Beazley sponsored a \$210 million cyber risk deal.

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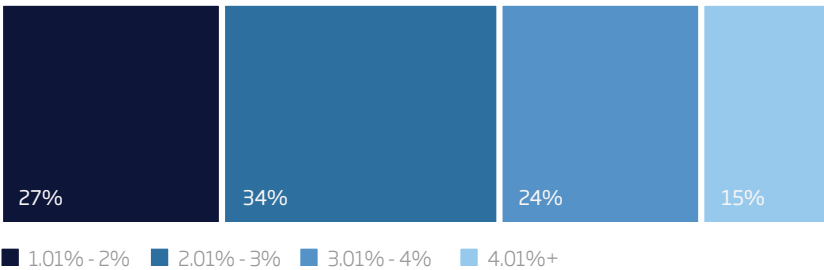


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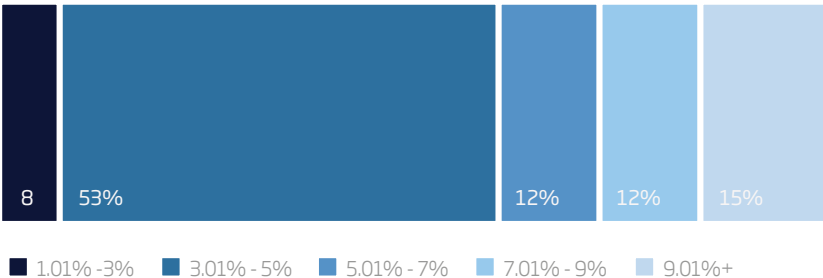
Q3 issuance by expected loss

We have full pricing data for 10 of the 15 tranches of notes issued in the quarter, amounting to \$820 million. Of this, 27% had an expected loss of more than 1% but less than 2%, and 34% had an expected loss above 2% but below 3%. 24% of quarterly issuance had an expected loss between 3% and 4%, and 15% of issuance had an expected loss above 4%. The highest expected loss was 7.19% from the Arthur Re Ltd. – Tranquil Re 2026-1, and the lowest of the quarter was 1.08%, from the Class A tranche of Matterhorn Re notes.



Q3 issuance by spread pricing

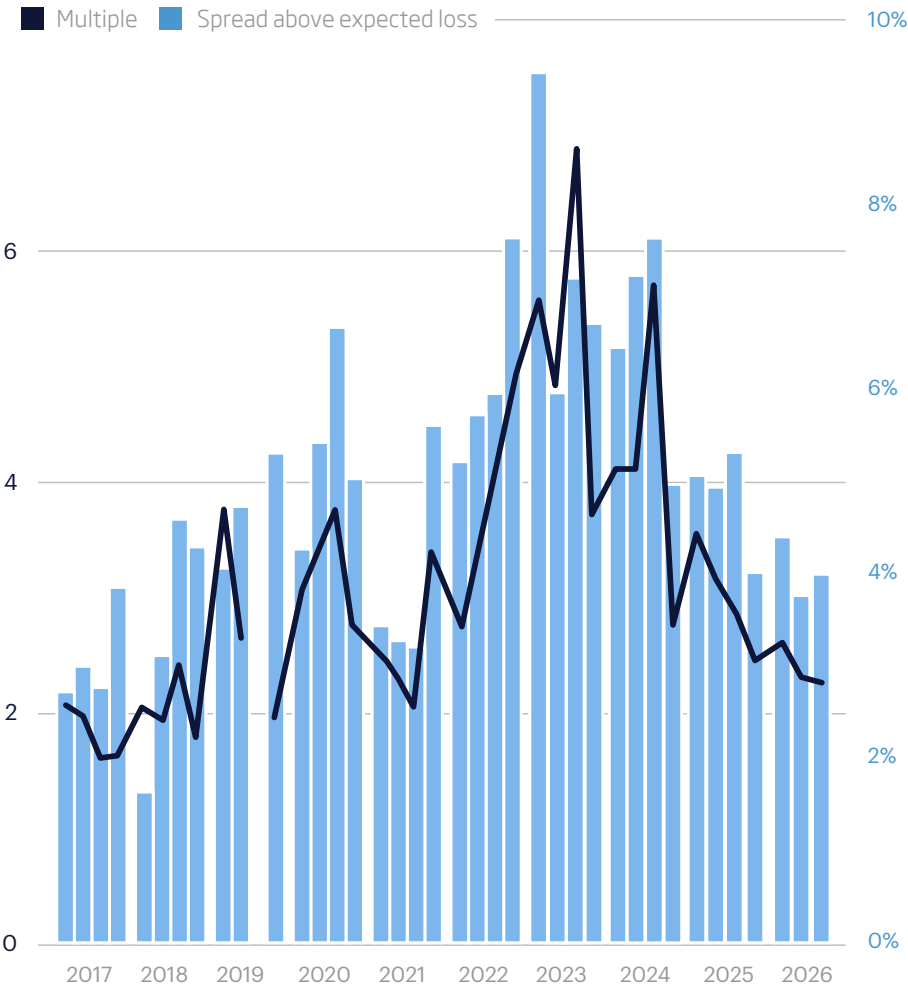
For the same 10 tranches of notes that we have full pricing data for, 53%, or \$435 million, paid a spread of more than 3% but less than 5%, while 8%, or \$60 million, of issuance paid a spread below 3% but above 1%. \$100 million, or 12% of issuance, paid a spread between 5.01% and 7%, and another 12% paid a spread between 7.01% and 9%. Two tranches of notes placed in the quarter, amounting to \$125 million, or 15% of issuance, paid a spread of more than 9%. The highest spread of the quarter was 22.5% from the Class B tranche of 3264 Re notes, and the lowest was 2.5% from the Class A tranche of Matterhorn Re notes.



Multiple and spread above expected loss by quarter

The average multiple (spread divided by expected loss) of third quarter 2026 issuance fell by 0.57 year-on-year to 2.27, but is only slightly below the Q2 2026 average multiple of 2.29. Nevertheless, it's a further signal of continued reinsurance market softening, notably in the property catastrophe space, as the average multiple continues to fall further away from the highs of 2023, and remains below 3 for the fifth consecutive quarter.

The average spread above expected loss increased by 0.23 percentage points to 3.97% in Q3 2026, so is above Q2 2026's 3.74%, but below last year's Q3 average spread above expected loss of 5.31% by some distance. It's the second quarter in a row this metric has been below 4%, which hasn't happened since Q2 and Q3 2021, which was during the previous soft market cycle.

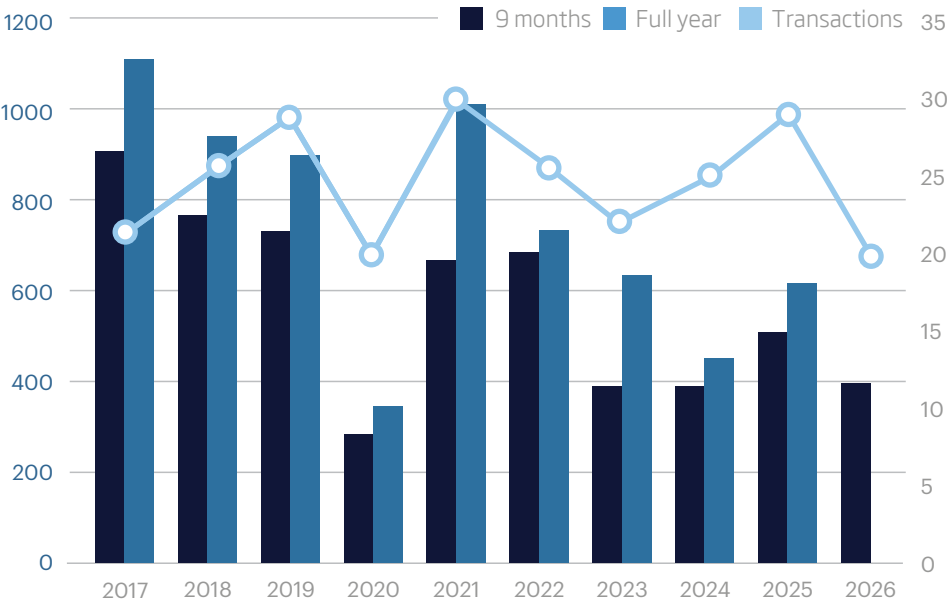


Private ILS issuance

This chart tracks the issuance of privately placed, or cat bond lite transactions over the past 10 years, with the bars representing nine-month and full-year issuance and the line representing the number of transactions placed each year.

Private transactions remain an important part of the cat bond universe, routinely adding hundreds of millions of dollars to annual issuance levels, and on the odd occasion surpassing the \$1 billion mark. They provide sponsors with a streamlined way of accessing the market, and some might test the waters with a private deal before sponsoring a full rule 144A cat bond.

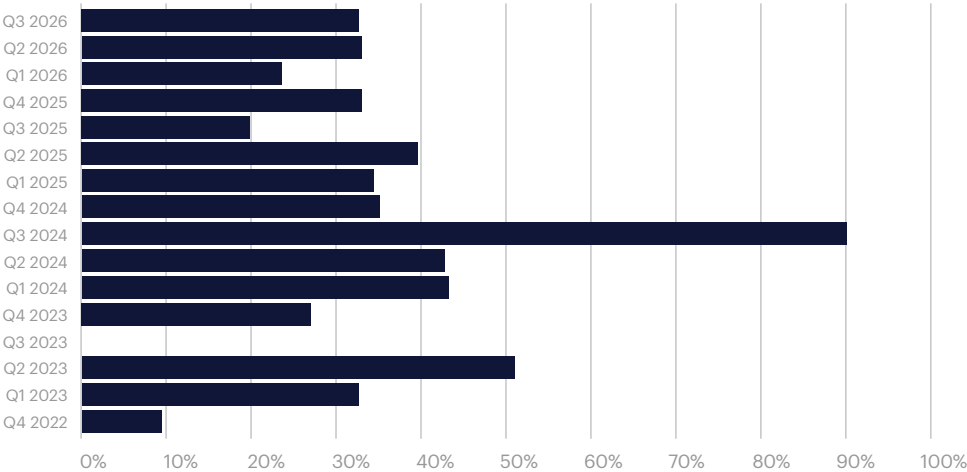
In the nine-month period ending September 30th 2026, just over \$403 million of private cat bond issuance came to market from 20 transactions. In terms of issuance volume, this is lower than the same period in 2025, but higher than both 2024 and 2023. 9M 2026 cat bond lite issuance is also below the 10-year average for the period of \$579 million.



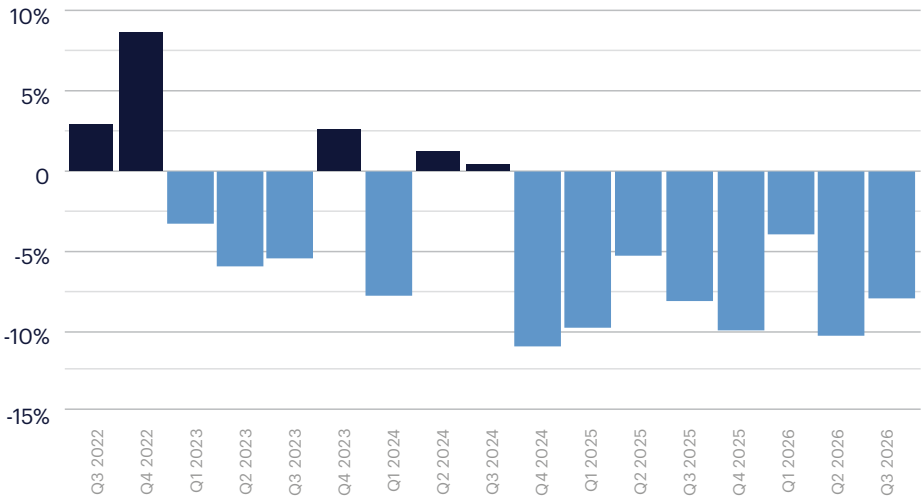
20 privately placed transactions in the first nine months of the year is strong, and with a full-year average of 24.7 deals over the past decade, it's likely that 2026 will be an above-average year in terms of the number of deals. However, full-year private cat bond issuance has averaged \$728 million over the past decade, so it will require a very strong end to the year for these types of deals in order for this year to be above-average for issuance volume as well. That being said, some cat bond lites are now much larger than they used to be, with numerous deals approaching or hitting \$100 million in recent times.

Issuance size and spread changes

Although from a much smaller sample of deals than in Q2 2026, for the 10 tranches of 144A notes issued in the third quarter that we have full size and pricing data for, the average increase in size while marketing was 31.5%, in line with the previous quarter's 31.6%. Six tranches of notes closed at a greater size than their initial target, including two tranches that increased in size by 100%. The remaining four tranches of notes settled at their initial target size, with no decreases seen this quarter.



In terms of pricing, just two tranches of notes priced above the midpoint of initial guidance in the third quarter of 2026, with eight pricing below, resulting in an average price change of -8.2%. This is less of an average decrease than Q2 2026's -10.2%, and compares with a -8% decline in Q3 2025. Q3 2026 is the eighth consecutive quarter in which the average price change from the mid-point of initial guidance is negative, signalling a continuation of strong deal execution. While another sign of rate softening, issuance remains strong, so investors clearly feel that the risk-return trade-off remains sufficient.



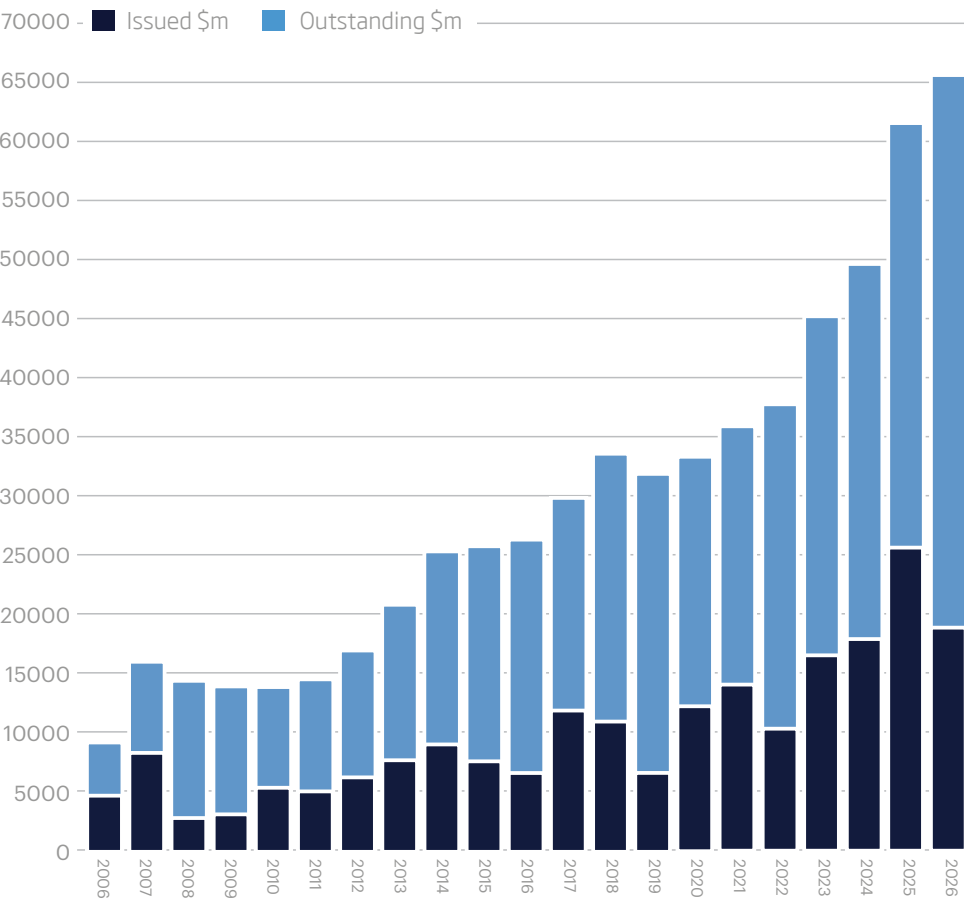
Issued / outstanding to September 30th 2026

Despite Q3 2026 cat bond issuance falling \$88 million year-on-year, the record first-half issuance and a robust Q3 pushed nine-month issuance to a new high of \$18.9 billion. This is above last year's previous nine-month record of \$18.6 billion, cementing 2026 as the second-largest year ever for cat bond issuance, a feat already achieved at the end of Q2.

This record level of 9M issuance came from 93 transactions, which is less than the 95 seen at this stage last year. More than 90 cat bonds have now been issued for four years running, and it's very likely that the 100-deal threshold will be breached again in 2026, after a record 122 deals in 2025.

While Q3 issuance is above average, more than \$1 billion of deals matured, meaning the outstanding cat bond market size decreased from the end of Q2 by \$71 million. This marks the third consecutive year of contraction between Q2 and Q3. Given the market's growth in recent years and the multi-year nature of cat bonds, large maturity volumes are inevitable in some quarters, and it won't always be the case that issuance keeps pace. That said, at \$65.5 billion, the outstanding market at the end of Q3 is still the second largest it's been at the end of a quarter, behind \$65.6 billion at the end of Q2 2026.

Last year, cat bond issuance surpassed \$20 billion for the first time, setting a record of \$25.6 billion. In Q4 2026, just \$1.1 billion is needed to exceed \$20 billion for a second consecutive year, while \$6.7 billion of issuance would set a new annual record. Q4 issuance has averaged \$3.2 billion over the past decade, with Q4 2025's \$7 billion the record. So, while \$20 billion is almost certain to be reached again, a new annual record requires the second-largest Q4 in the market's history.



If you want to see full details of every catastrophe bond and ILS transaction included in the data in this report please visit www.artemis.bm/deal_directory/

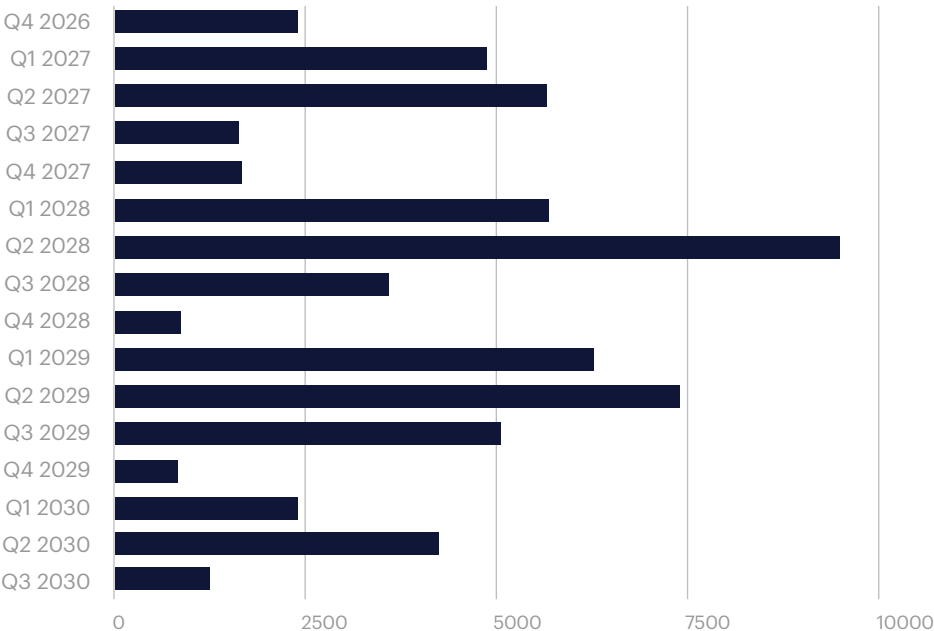
Upcoming maturities by quarter

Based on data from the Artemis Deal Directory, this chart, which shows upcoming cat bond and related ILS maturities by quarter, is a good way to gauge how much new issuance is needed in the months and years ahead to sustain market growth.

Just over \$1 billion of deals matured in the third quarter, which, as discussed previously, outpaced fresh issuance, leading to the market contracting by \$71 million. In contrast, and despite more than \$8.5 billion of maturities in the second quarter, issuance for the nine-month period of \$18.9 billion comfortably outpaced a significant \$14.7 billion in maturities. This ensured that the market grew by \$4.2 billion from the end of 2025 to the end of Q3 2026.

In Q4 2026, almost \$2.5 billion of transactions are scheduled to mature, and as the chart shows, the third and fourth quarters have fewer maturities than the first and second quarters in the years ahead, driven by more deals coming to market in the first half of the year.

The data reveals that cat bond and related ILS issuance in the first half of 2027 will need to be strong again to outpace the \$10.6 billion in scheduled maturities, and even stronger the following year when a huge \$15.2 billion of deals mature. It's a similar story for 2029 when the first half has \$13.7 billion of scheduled maturities. Currently, H1 2030 has just \$6.6 billion of deals set to mature, although this is expected to increase with the issuance of deals in the first half of 2027; by how much remains to be seen.



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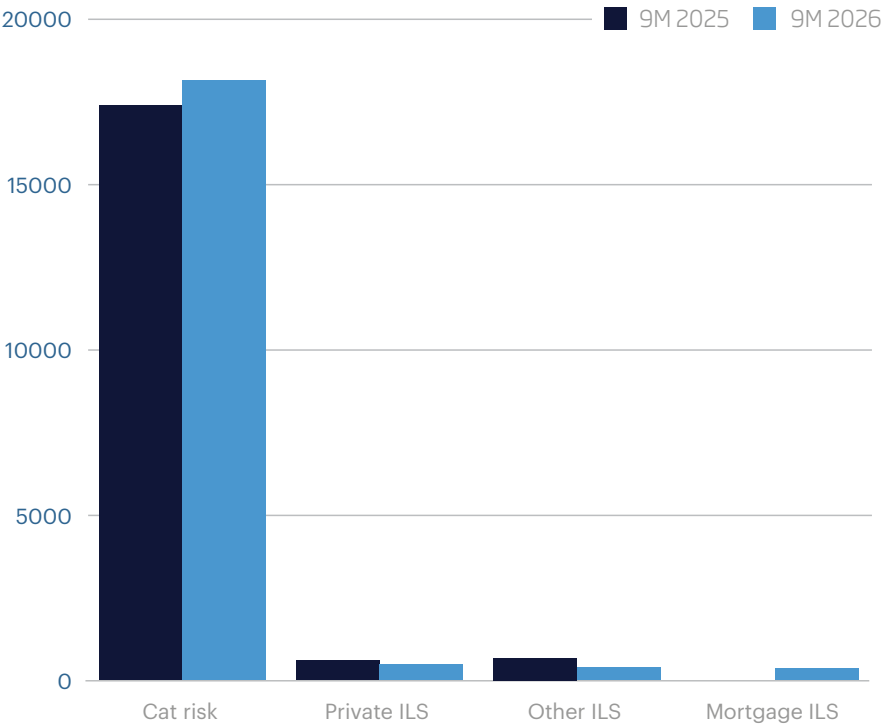
Nine-month issuance by type

2026 has set new nine-month records for overall issuance, as previously discussed, and also rule 144A property cat bond issuance and total rule 144A issuance, so including deals covering non-catastrophe risks.

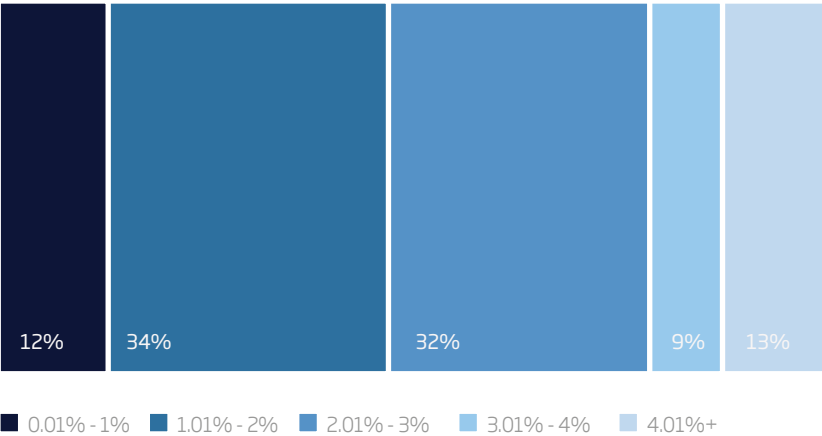
144A property cat bond issuance stands at \$18.1 billion for the nine-month period, above the previous 9M record set in 2025 of \$17.4 billion by around \$700 million. At the half way stage of the year, 2026 was already the second-largest year ever for these types of deals, and Q3 has added to the volume, meaning that now a little over \$5.7 billion of these deals is required in Q4 if 2026 is to break the full-year record of \$23.9 billion set in 2025.

It's a similar story for total 144A cat bond and related ILS issuance in 9M 2026, which, at \$18.5 billion, is a record for the period. It's above the previous 9M record for these types of deals set last year by \$434 million. 2026 is also the second-largest year ever for these types of deals, behind the full-year record of \$25 billion set last year. Issuance for these types of deals was driven by property cat bonds, as the \$704 million year-on-year growth here more than offset a year-on-year decrease of \$271 million in other ILS issuance.

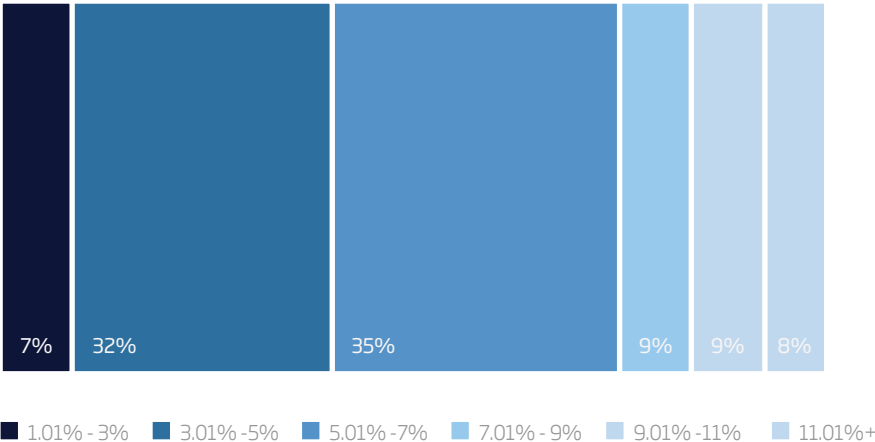
Private ILS issuance decreased by \$108 million year-on-year in 9M 2026 to \$403 million, but as discussed earlier in the report, was robust.



Nine-month issuance by expected loss



Nine-month issuance by spread pricing

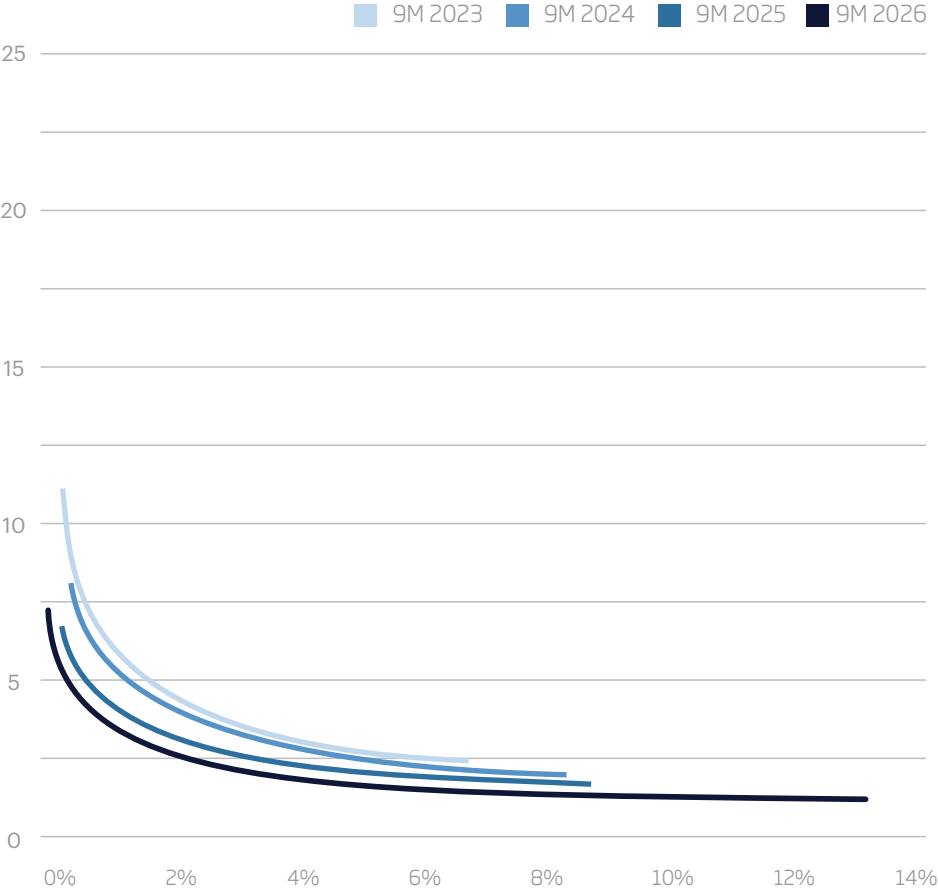


Nine-month expected loss & multiple year-on-year

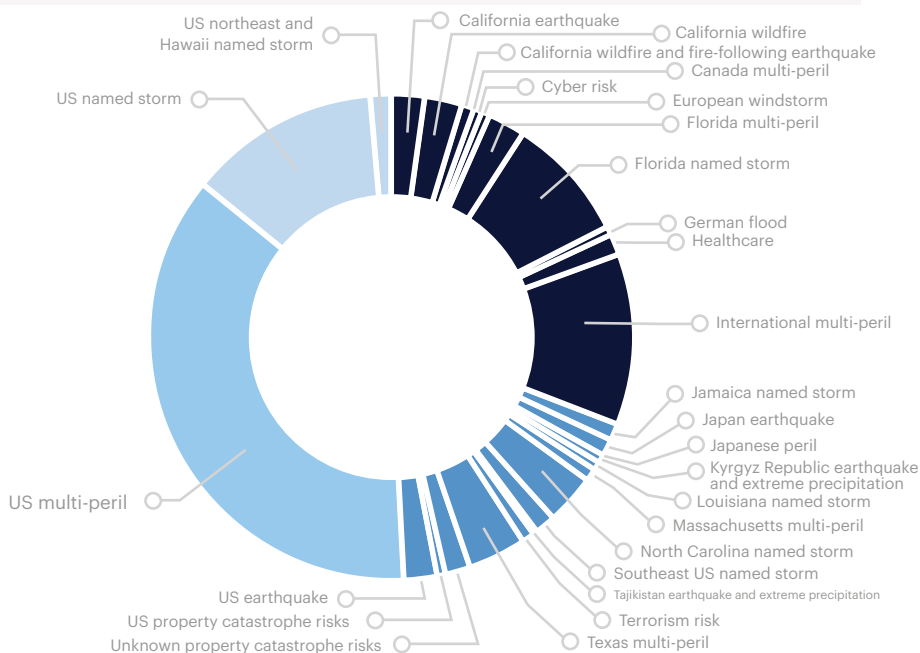
This chart plots the expected loss and multiple of tranches of notes issued in the first nine months of 2023 (lightest blue line), 2024 (lighter blue line), 2025 (dark blue line), and 2026 (darkest blue line).

It depicts a clear softening trend since the peak of the hard market phase of the cycle in 2023, with multiples for a similar expected loss declining on average year-over-year.

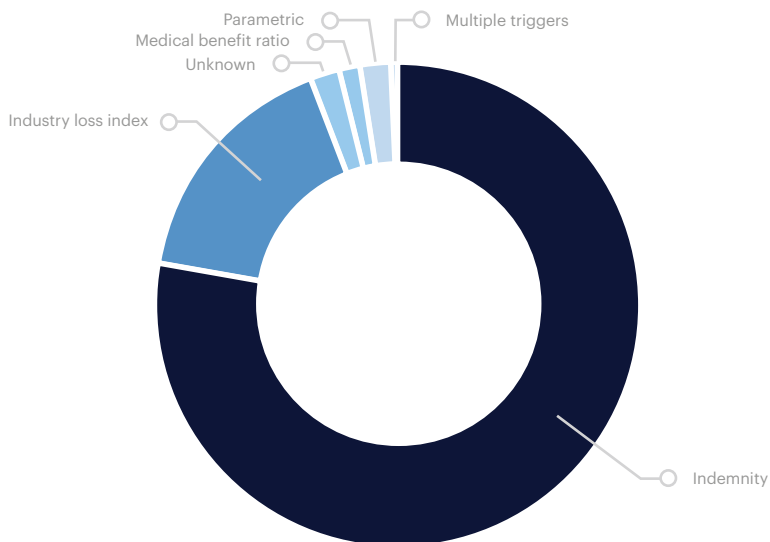
According to Artemis' data, the average expected loss of tranches of notes issued in 9M 2026 is 2.85%, the average spread is 6.83%, the average multiple is 2.4, and the average spread above expected loss is 3.98%. This compares with 2.22%, 7.23%, 3.26, and 5.01%, respectively, in 2025. The previous year, the figures were 2.22%, 9.19%, 4.14, and 6.97%, respectively, and in 2023 were 1.7%, 8.76%, 5.15, and 7.06%, respectively. So, on average, for 9M issuance, the expected loss has increased, and the spread has decreased over the past four years, leading to the average multiple falling by 2.75 over this period.



Nine-month issuance by peril



Nine-month issuance by trigger



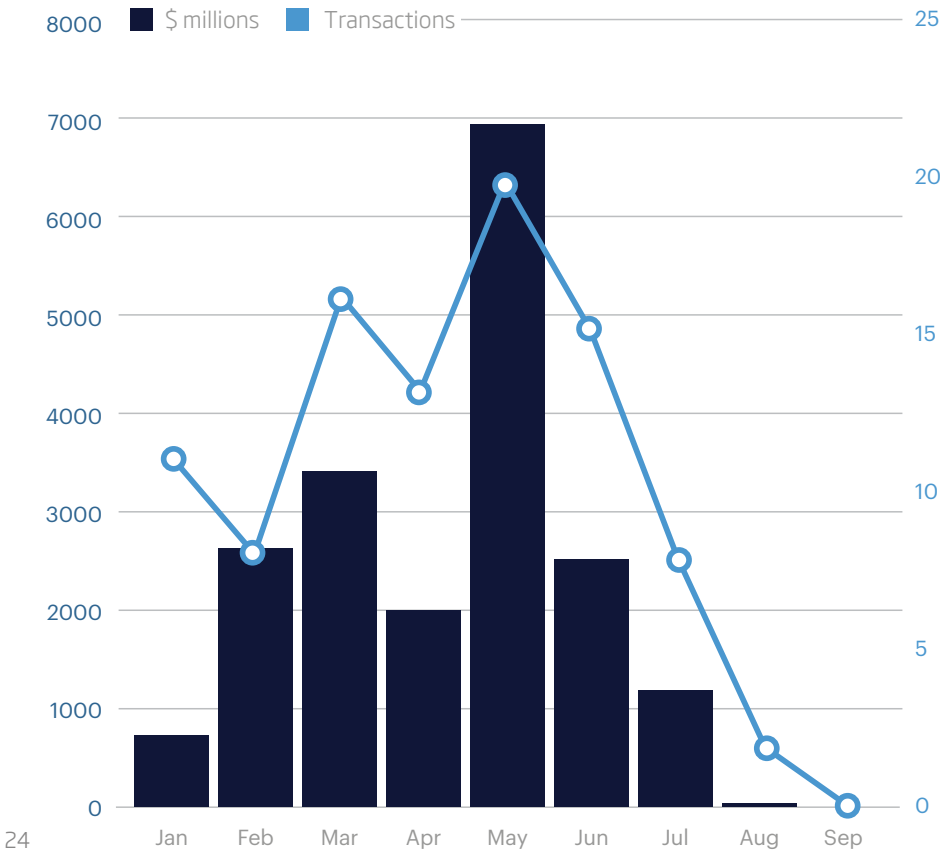
Nine-month number of transactions and volume issued by month

93 cat bond and related ILS transactions were issued in the first nine months of 2026, which is behind only 9M 2025's 95 transactions, a year which holds the annual record for the most deals at 122.

When compared with 2025, the start to this year was slower, with \$683 million of issuance in January from 11 transactions, compared with \$1.4 billion from 14 transactions in 2025. February issuance was flat year-on-year at \$2.6 billion, but this year came from eight deals compared to seven in 2025. In March 2026, issuance accelerated, and 16 transactions brought a monthly record \$3.4 billion of new risk capital to market, the second March in a row to see more than \$3 billion of issuance.

After the second-largest Q1 in the market's history, Q2 2026 was an extremely busy period for the cat bond marketplace and, at \$11.3 billion, is the biggest quarter of issuance ever. April issuance of \$1.9 billion is more than \$350 million above the average for the month and came from 13 transactions. May 2026 is the busiest single month ever for the cat bond market, as 20 deals bought a massive \$6.9 billion of risk capital to market. June issuance was also strong, although slightly below the prior year's high, at \$2.5 billion from 15 transactions.

As we've dissected in this report, Q3 2026 started strongly with above-average July issuance of \$902 million from eight transactions, although things slowed down in August with just two deals and \$45.5 million of issuance, while no deals featured in September for the first time in a decade.





All catastrophe bond and ILS issuance data sourced from the Artemis Deal Directory.

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