

Elizabeth Mejia-Ricart, Syed Raza PhD, Julia Deaver, Chase Nielsen, Scott Barton February 8th, 2023

### **Executive Summary – State of US Consumer Credit**

There are both headwinds and tailwinds for consumer credit risk:

### Headwinds

- Delinquencies are increasing or elevated across asset classes, driven by both near prime and subprime worsening.
- Minimum payment amounts continue to increase across asset classes due to higher balances and interest rates.
- Car payments hit record highs due to high interest rates and auto prices, but there is some easing recently with the drop in used car prices and lower inflation rates.
- Millennials are experiencing financial stress due to student loan repayment and housing affordability. We observe higher roll rates into severe delinquency buckets, lower consumption, and pullback in mortgages for this group.
- o Increasing enrollment volumes for Debt Settlement Companies are shifting towards customers who are in earlier stages of delinquency or even current; leading to increased early-stage roll rates and lower contact rates

#### Tailwinds

- Although still high, there are some early signs of delinquency improvement in 2023 vintages compared to 2022.
- Unemployment remains low, and real wage growth has continued to be positive. Historically, employment stress is one of the primary drivers for an increase in consumer credit risk, especially for prime customers.
- As inflation rates cool down, the price pressure on consumers is expected to ease.
- Credit card, personal loan, and auto loan issuers tightened their underwriting. As a result, subprime segments are experiencing delinquency improvements especially for personal loans.

### **Executive Summary - Credit Cards**

### **Credit Cards**

- Card delinquencies are rising and are above pre-pandemic levels. However, the worsening seems to be slowing down as recent vintages are in line with previous ones after adjusting for risk level at origination.
- We continue to see an increase in balances as consumers borrow more, but they are still within the pre-pandemic trendlines.
  - Lower-income and subprime customers have seen a significant increase in their share of balances since H2-2022.
- Utilization and credit limits have increased back to pre-pandemic averages.
- Subprime card origination volumes have dropped since H2-2022 as lenders tightened their underwriting standards.
- Average credit limit has increased and is back to pre-pandemic levels across risk bands.

### **Executive Summary - Personal Loans & Mortgages**

#### **Personal Loans**

- Subprime personal loan delinquencies have flattened, likely driven by credit tightening beginning in the second half of 2022.
- While PL originators raising rates have helped pricing, the loan sale market remains soft.
- Significant tightening in underwriting continues, as seen in higher average origination FICO and income and a decrease in subprime originations.
- Recent vintages are performing better partly due to underwriting tightening.
- Newer loans display higher origination balances in 2023.

### **Mortgages**

- Delinquency rates are trending slightly upwards but still well below pre-pandemic levels.
- High interest rates and increased payment burdens are leading newer vintages to have worse performance than those from 2019-2021.
- High home prices and interest rates led to the lowest number of mortgage originations since 2011. Millennials experienced
  a more significant origination slowdown than other groups.
- We continue to see an increase in subprime HELOC originations.

### **Executive Summary – Auto Loans & Student Loans**

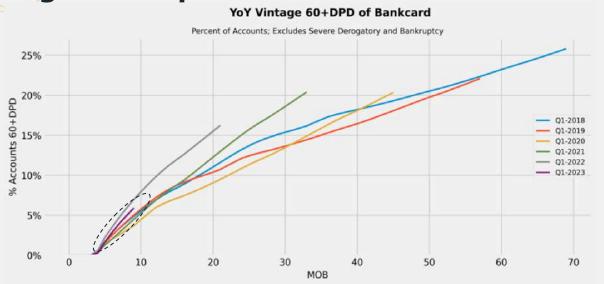
#### **Auto Loans**

- Auto delinquencies increased in Q4 and are higher than pre-pandemic levels. Newer vintages are performing slightly worse
  across all risk segments.
- Sustained higher interest rates and vehicle values have led to record high monthly payments; a record share of new originations have monthly payments over \$1,000.
  - This trend has also led to low cure rate, and high payment-made rates as consumers avoid repossessions.
- Loan-to-value ratio continues to be a key risk differentiator post-COVID.
- Auto lenders are making offers with lower APRs and higher term length to consumers.

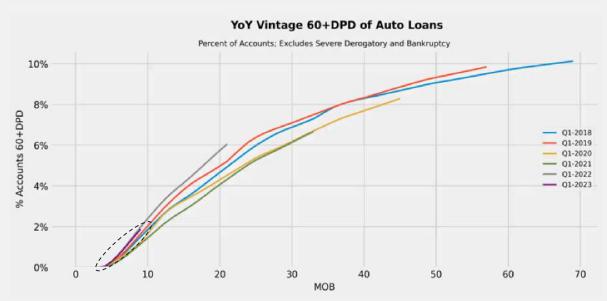
### **Student Loans**

- While servicers are not reporting student loan defaults until September 2024, customers have started paying down their debt as seen in an overall decrease in the aggregate SL balance.
- We do not yet see a significant impact on spending for those consumers with resumed student loan payments, likely due
  to the 'ramp on' period.

Delinquencies are still high compared to the last couple of years, but there are signs of improvement in the most recent vintages







Newer vintages of credit card are in line with previous years after adjusting for Vantage score at time of origination

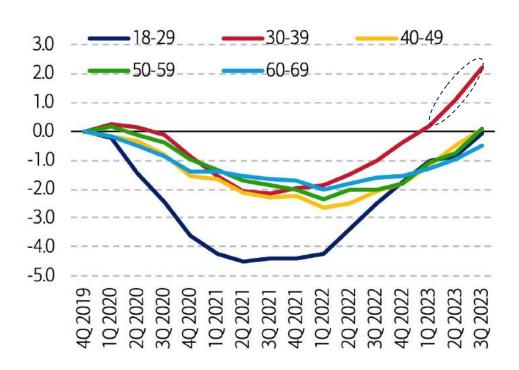


- State of the Consumer
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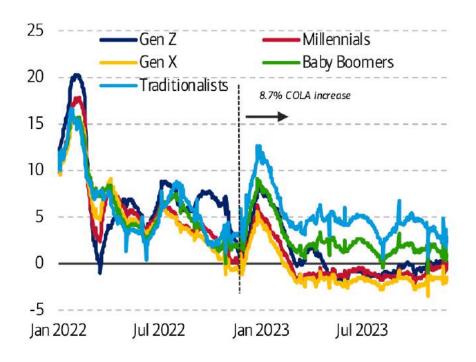


## Millennials are more likely to go delinquent compared to their pre-pandemic levels. Younger cohorts are cutting down their spending more recently.

Transition into 90DPD+ for credit cards by age (percentage change from Q4-2019)\*



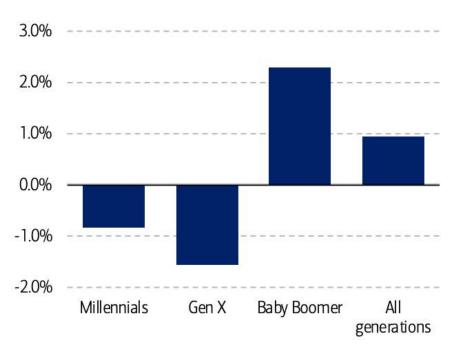
YoY % change in card spending per household by generation



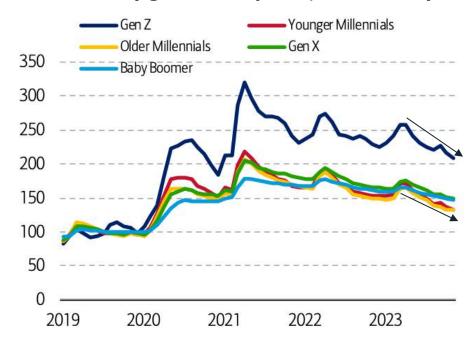
Millennials are disproportionally impacted by SL repayments, a challenging housing market, and rising childcare costs.

### Younger generations pulled back on holiday spending and saw a drop in savings, both signs of financial stress





### Monthly median household savings and checking balances by generation (index, 2019 = 100)\*



Gen Z and millennials savings are falling more rapidly than other cohorts, although still above pre-pandemic



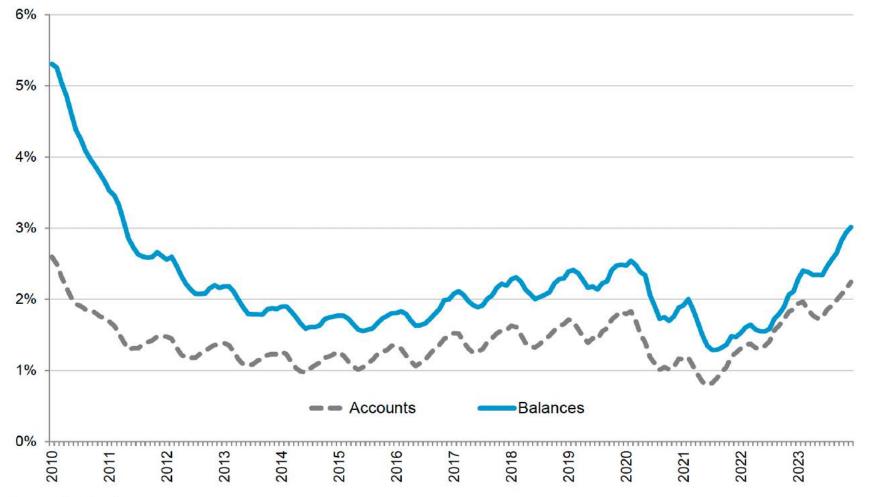
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# Delinquencies are rising and above pre-pandemic levels

### Severe Delinquency Rate

60+ Days Past Due Percent of Accounts and Balances; NSA; Excludes Severe Derogatory and Bankruptcy

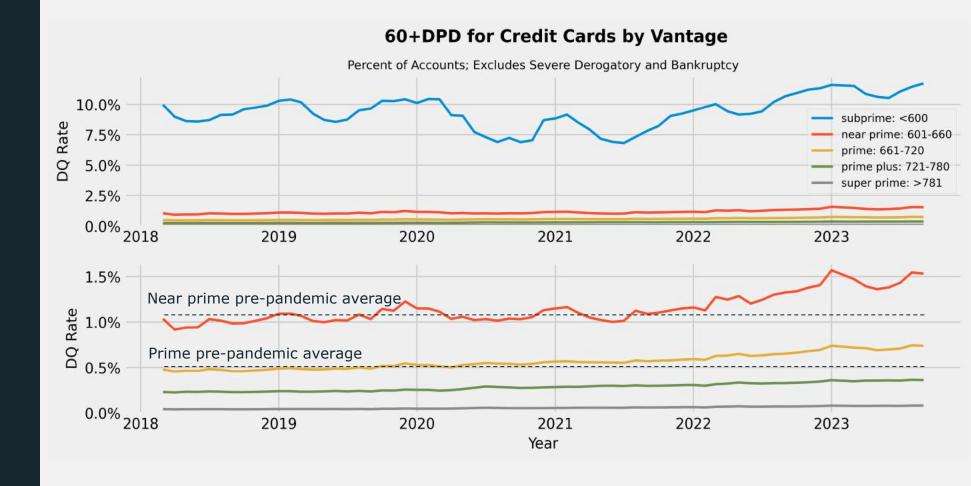


Source: Equifax Inc.

Data as of December 2023

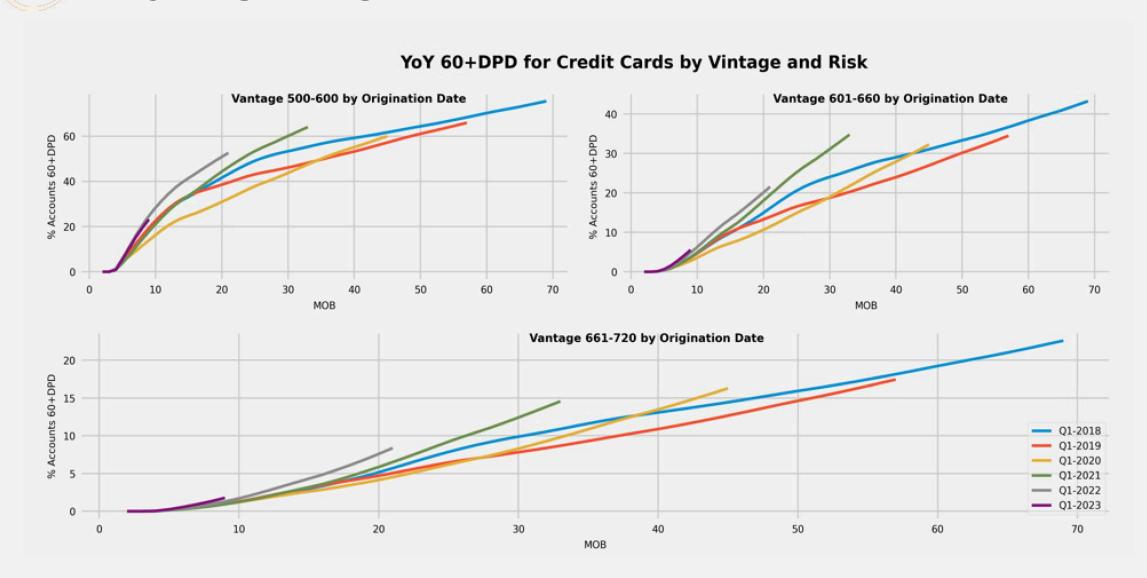
Delinquency rates continue to rise across risk score buckets

**Especially for prime** and near-prime



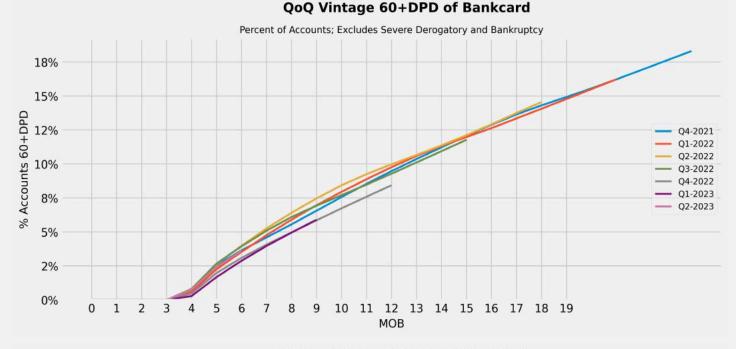
Source: 20S, Equifax Ignite. Data as of December 31, 2023. Vantage buckets are lagged 3 months from the performance date. For more details on methodology, see appendix.

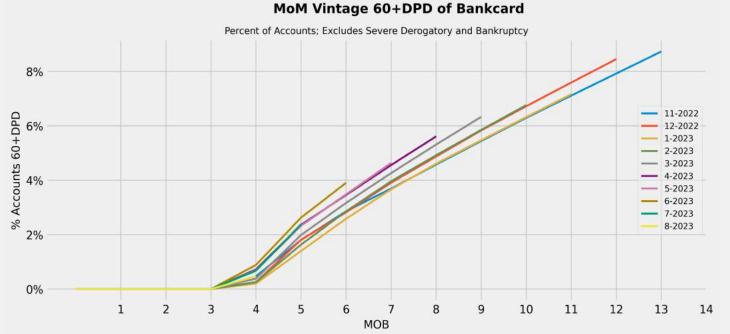
## Delinquencies for recent vintages are in line with previous vintages after adjusting for origination risk score



# 2023 vintages seem to be doing better than 2022

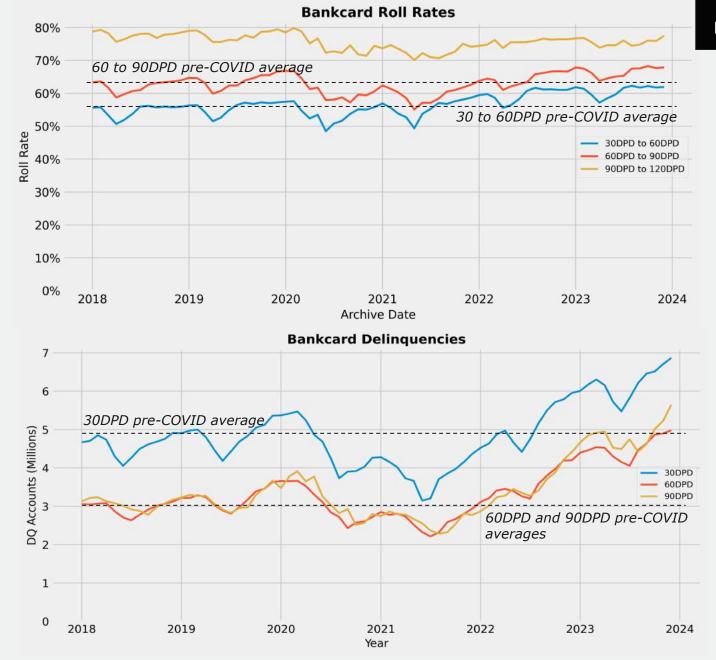
However, the more recent 2023 monthly vintages are performing worse than vintages from early in the year





Source: 20S, Equifax Ignite. Data as of December 31, 2023.

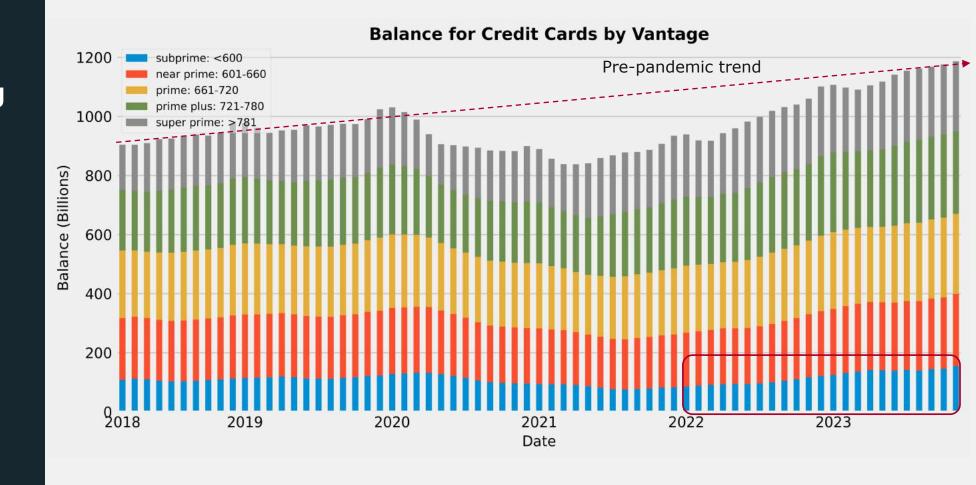
Credit Card roll rates elevated compared to prepandemic



Source: 20S, Equifax Ignite. Data as of December 31, 2023. For more information on methodology, refer to appendix.

Credit card balances are rising but are within the pre-pandemic trendline

Subprime balances have increased since H2-2022

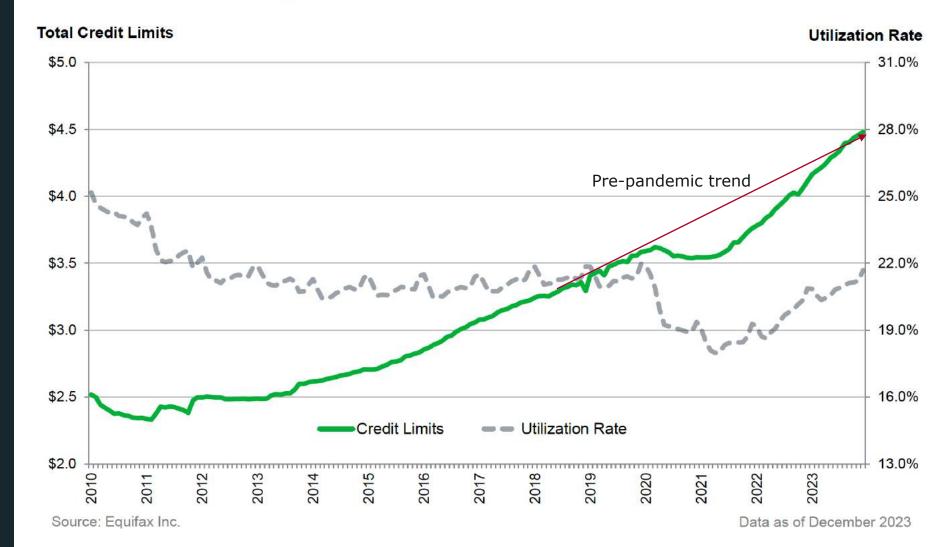


Source: 20S, Equifax Ignite. Data as of December 31, 2023. Vantage buckets at time of origination.

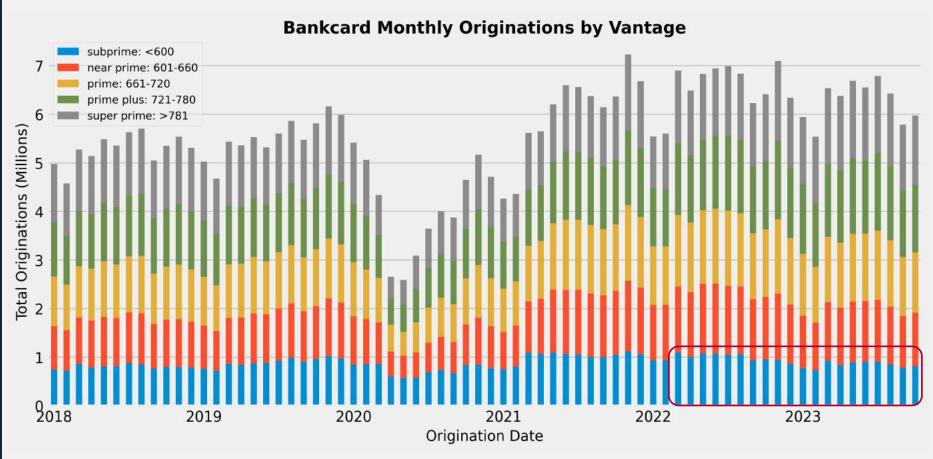
### **Utilization and Credit Limit**

Utilization Rate in %; NSA Total Credit Limit in \$Trillions; NSA

The utilization rate is back to prepandemic levels, and credit limit is within the pre-COVID trendline



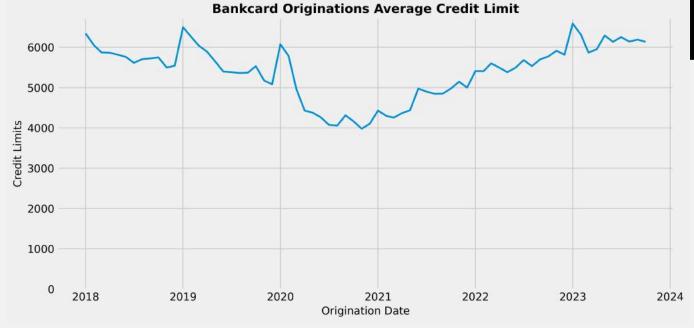
Credit card issuers continue to tighten subprime originations

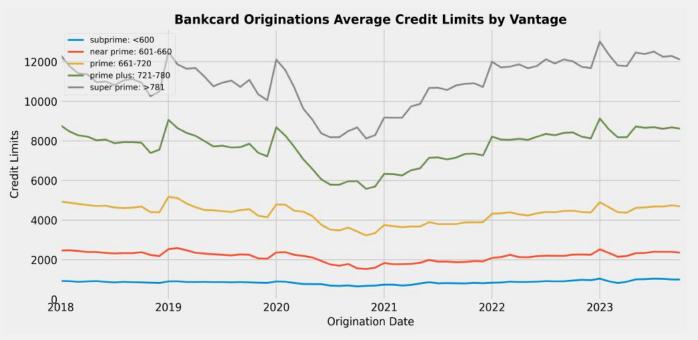


Decrease in subprime originations compared to 2022 levels

Source: 20S, Equifax Ignite. Originations through July 31, reported as of September 30, 2023. Vantage buckets at time of origination.

### Origination credit limits continue to increase and are back to near prepandemic averages





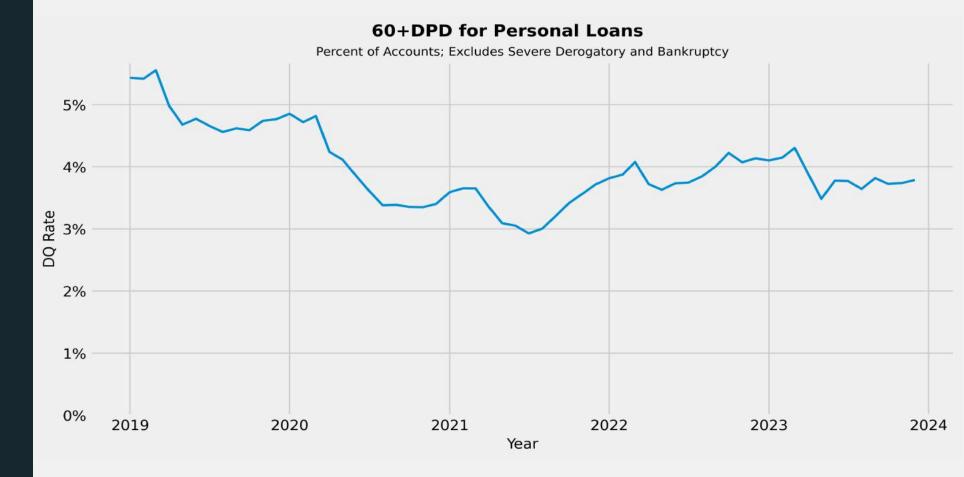
Source: 2OS, Equifax Ignite. Data as of October 31, 2023. Vantage buckets are lagged 3 months from the performance date. For more details on methodology, see appendix.



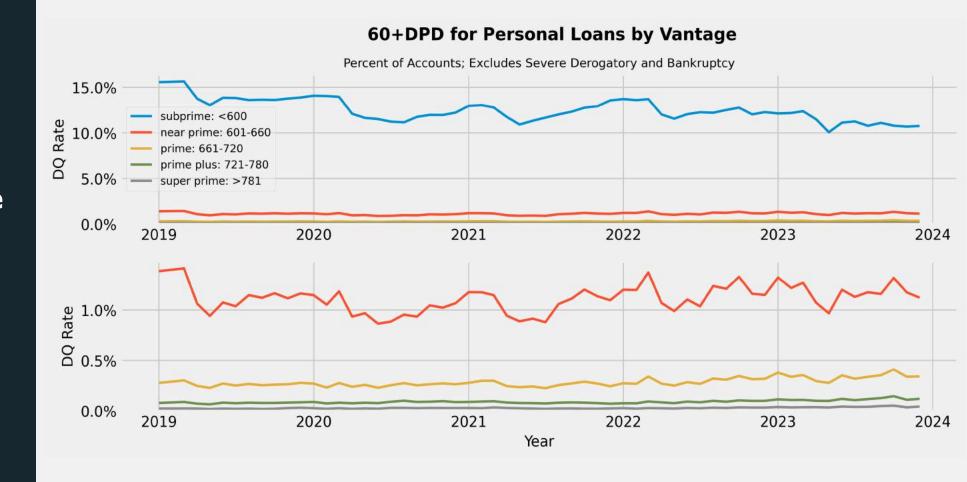
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Delinquencies have flattened in the past couple of months



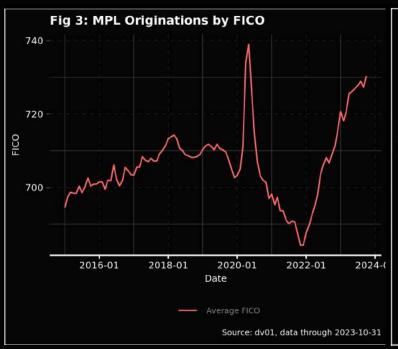
# Delinquencies have flattened across risk bands

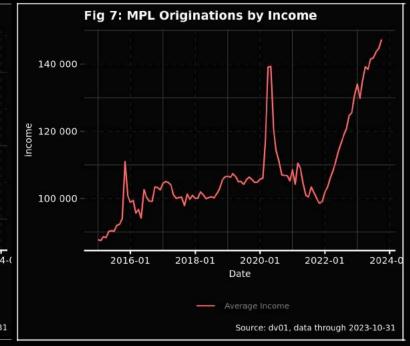


Source: 20S, Equifax Ignite. Data as of December 31, 2023. Vantage buckets are lagged 3 months from the performance date. For more details on methodology, see appendix.

# Underwriting continues to tighten significantly

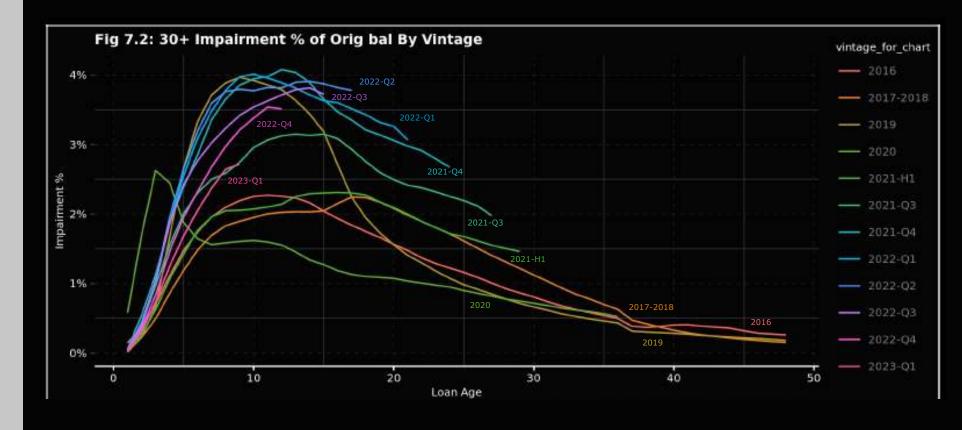
Average FICO and income at origination continue to increase





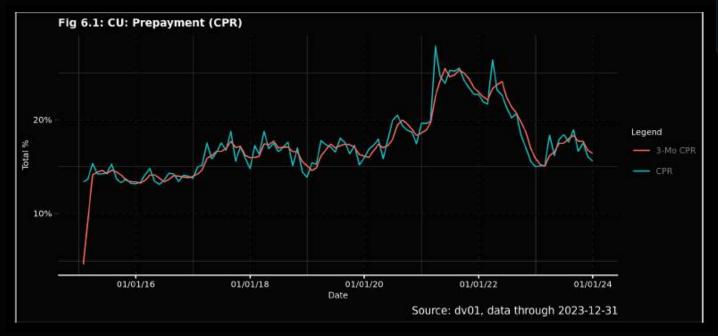
Recent PL vintages are performing better, partially due to significant tightening in underwriting

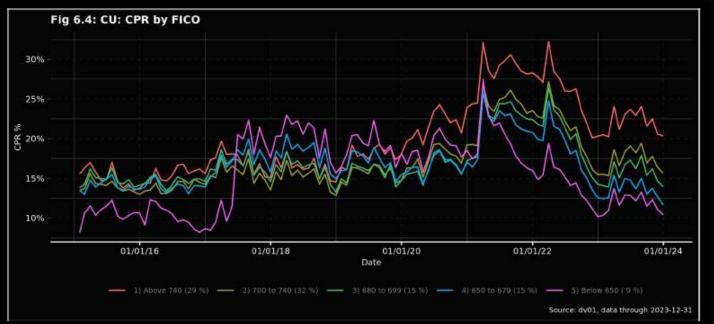
### Impairment = DQ + Modification



Prepayments fell slightly in December, in line with seasonal trends. Levels are near pre-COVID averages.

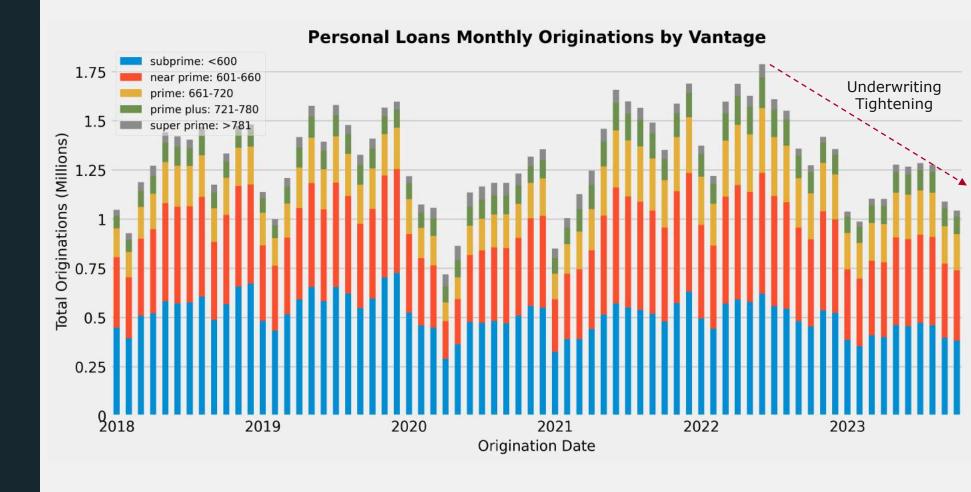
Prepayments on subprime loans are still below pre-COVID trends





Source: dv01, data as of December 31, 2023

A significant tightening in underwriting continues compared to last year



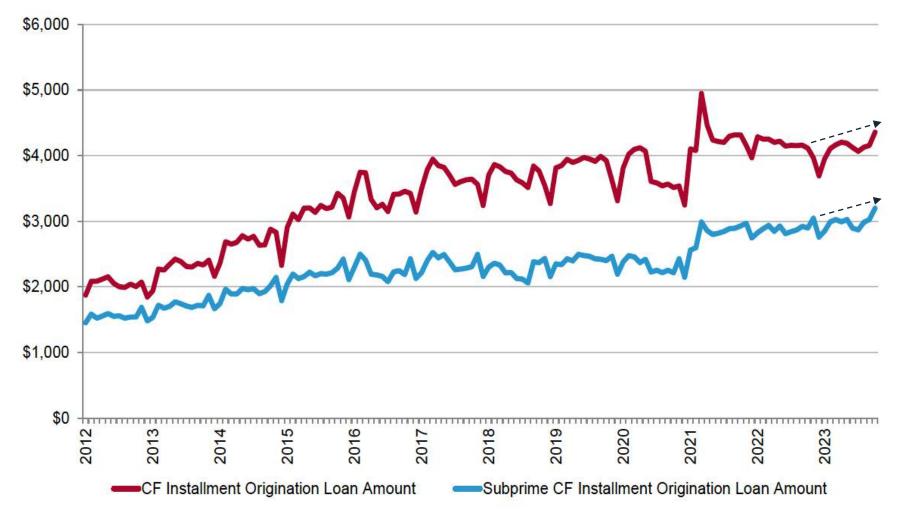
# Average origination balances have increased in the

last year

Subprime customers have also seen a 10% YoY increase

### CF Installment Loan Average Origination Balance

Average Origination Balance Over Time; NSA Subprime accounts defined as those with borrower's origination VantageScore® 3.0 credit score less than 620



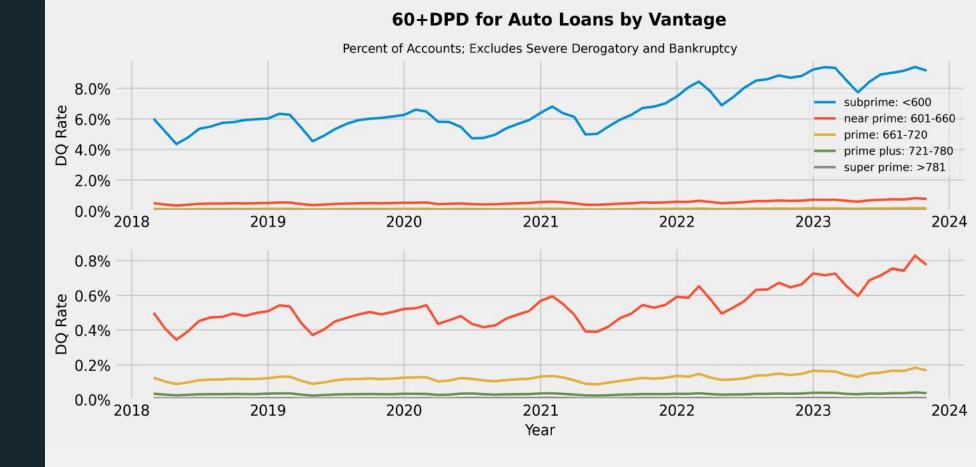
Source: 20S, Equifax Ignite. Originations through October 31, 2023 reported as of December 31, 2023.



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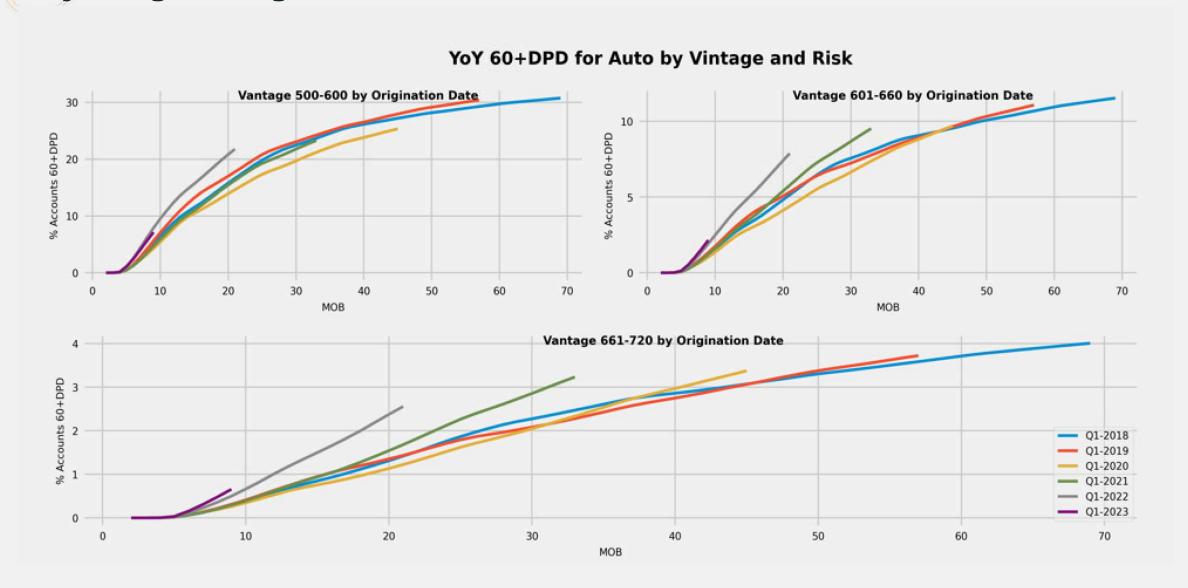


# Delinquencies are elevated across risk bands



Source: 20S, Equifax Ignite. Data as of December 31, 2023. Vantage buckets are lagged 3 months from the performance date. For more details on methodology, see appendix.

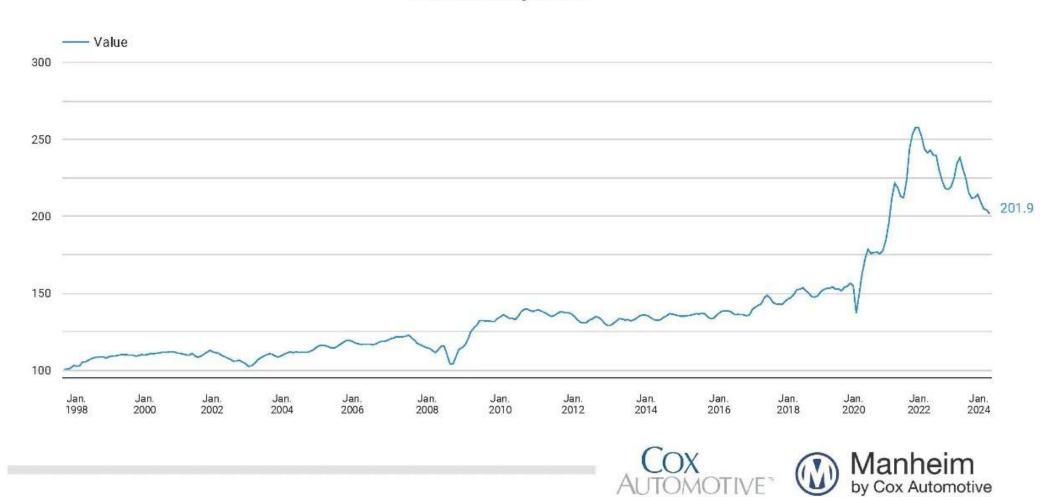
## Recent vintages are in line or slightly worse than previous ones, adjusting for origination risk scores



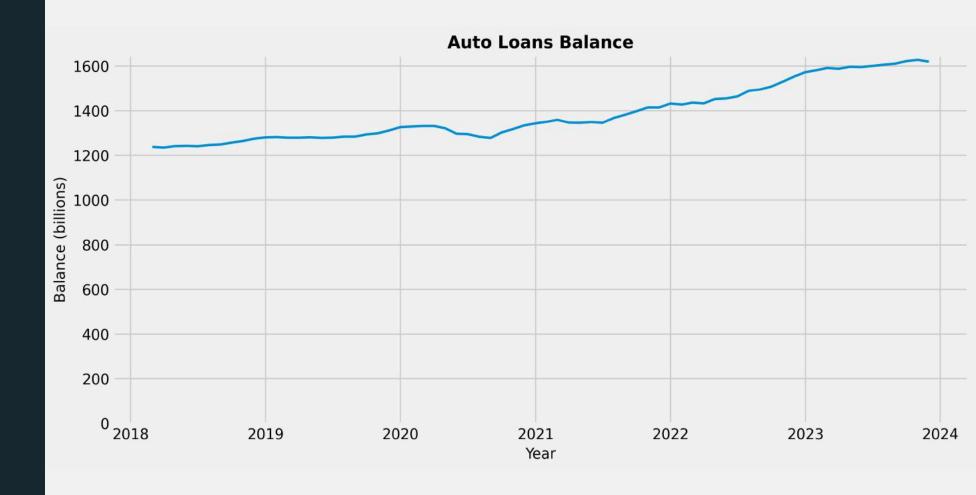
### Wholesale used-vehicle prices have decreased since H2-2023 but remain historically elevated

### MANHEIM USED VEHICLE VALUE INDEX

Mid-January 2024



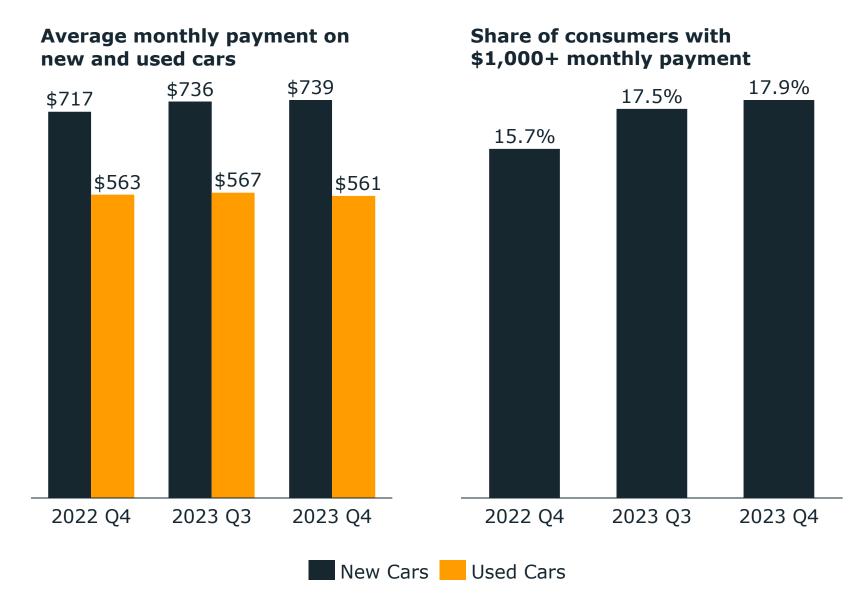
Auto balances remain elevated due to high prices and interest rates



Source: 20S, Equifax Ignite. Data as of December 31, 2023.

Higher interest rates and vehicle prices are driving high monthly payments

The share of consumers with \$1,000+ monthly payments reached record highs

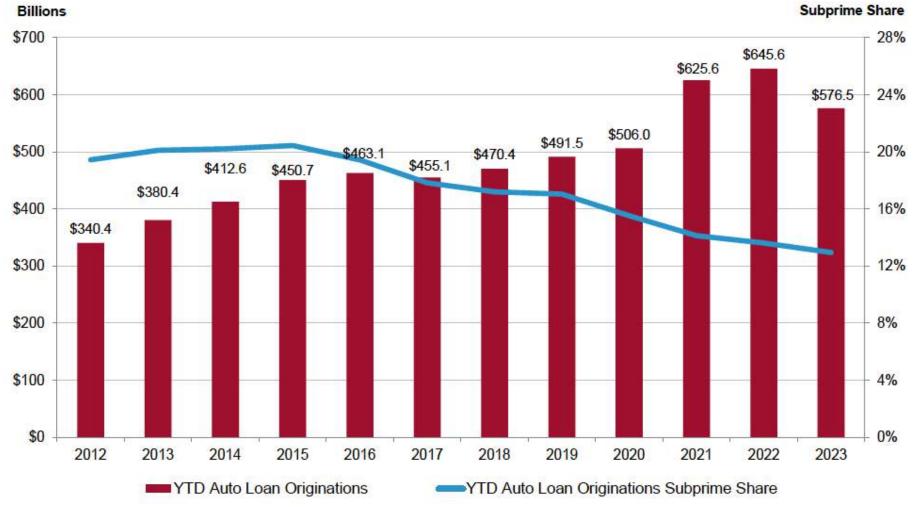


### Auto Loan Originations Year-to-date

Total Originations in \$Billions; NSA

Subprime accounts defined as those with borrower's origination VantageScore® 3.0 credit score less than 620

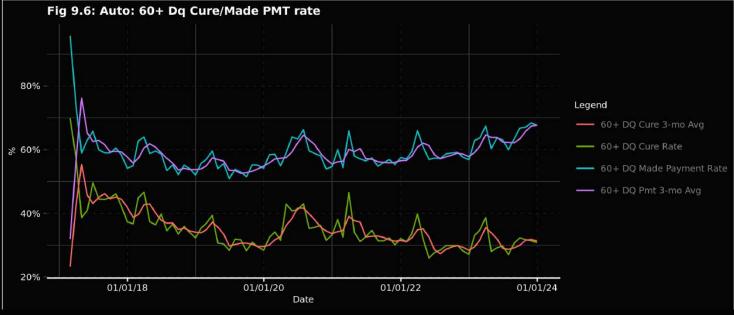
The subprime share of auto originations reaches decade level lows as lenders tightened underwriting

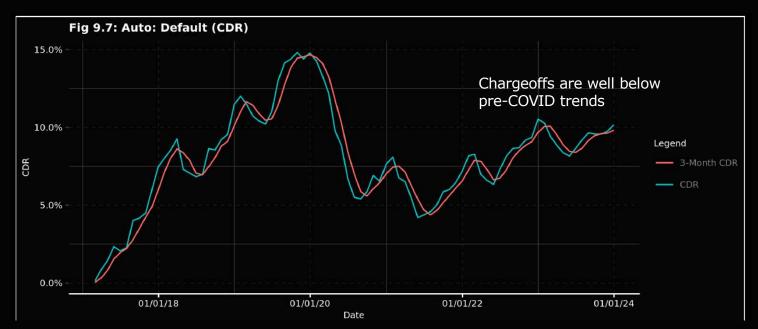


Source: 20S, Equifax Ignite. Originations through October 31, reported as of December 31, 2023.

Elevated car prices incentivize subprime consumers to maintain some level of payment to avoid chargeoffs and repos

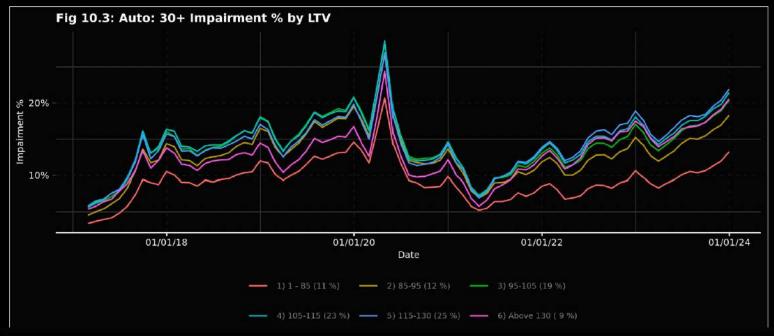
### Subprime Auto Performance





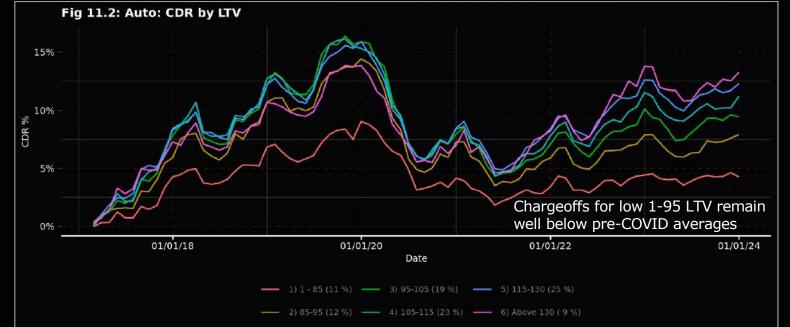
Source: dv01, data as of December 31, 2023

### LTV continues to be a key differentiator in impairment and chargeoffs



**Subprime Auto** 

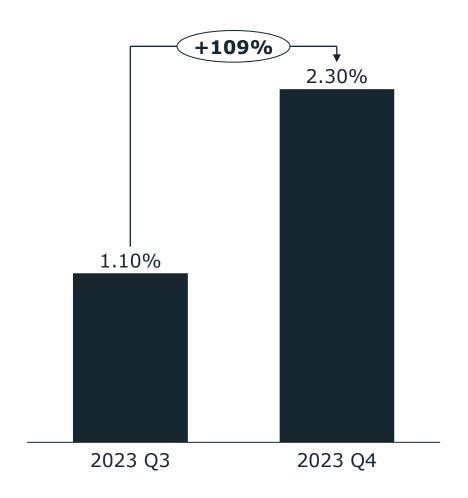
**Performance** 



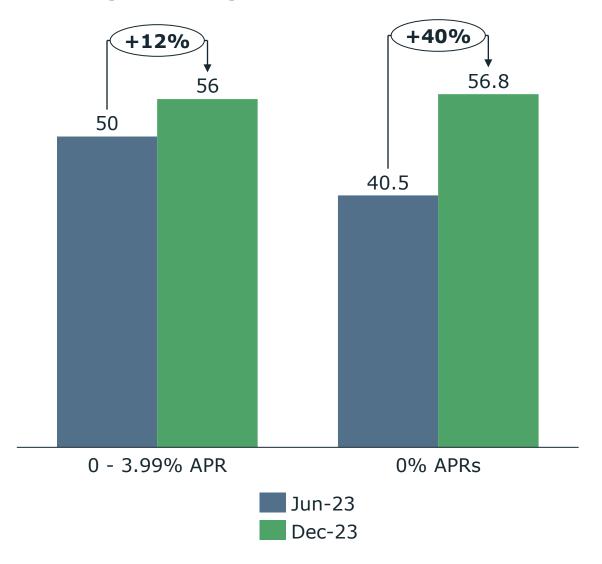
Source: dv01, data as of December 31, 2023

# Lenders are offering better deals on new cars in Q4 with lower interest rates and longer-term lengths

#### Share of new-vehicles sales with 0% APR



#### Average term lengths for low APR, June vs Dec 2023

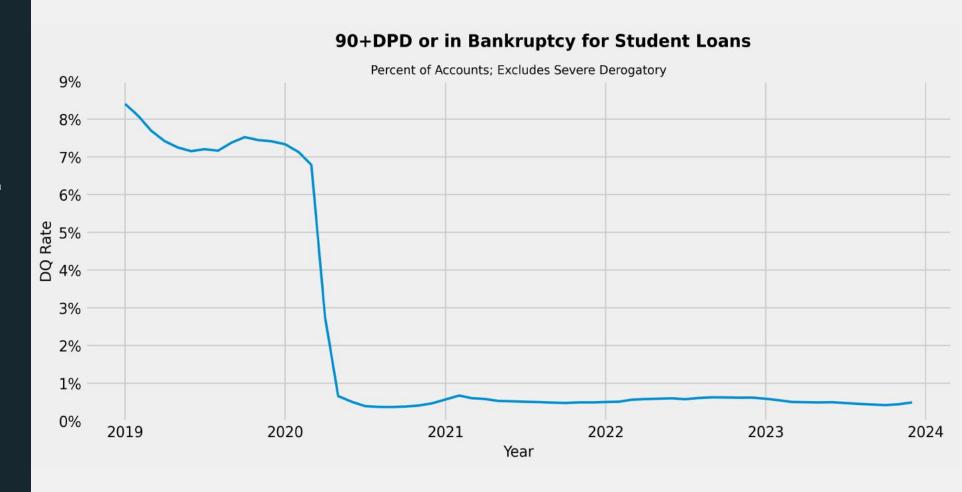




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Federal SLs
resumed payments
in September 2023.
However, servicers
will not start
reporting
delinquencies to
bureaus until
September 2024.

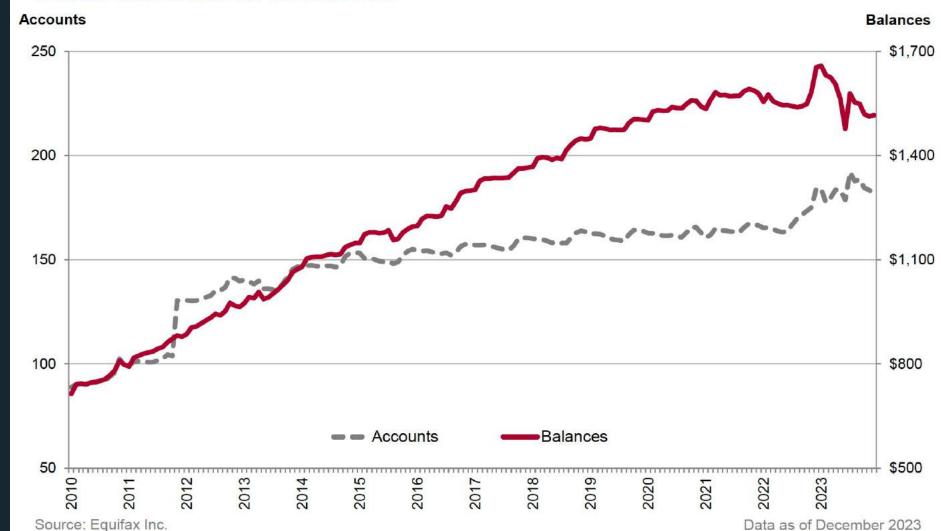


Source: 20S, Equifax Ignite. Data as of December 31, 2023.

# Outstanding Loans

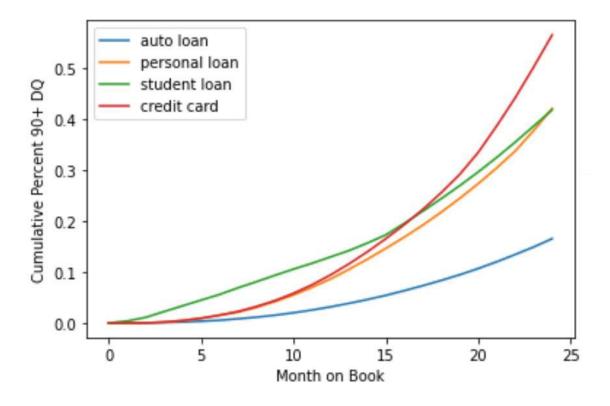
Number of Accounts in Millions; NSA Balances in \$Billions; NSA Includes Deferred and Non-deferred Loans

SL balance decreased in 2023, as more consumers are paying off their loans after the end of forbearance



# Student Loans are ahead of credit cards in payment hierarchy, suggesting the end of Student Loan forbearance will most affect credit card repayment

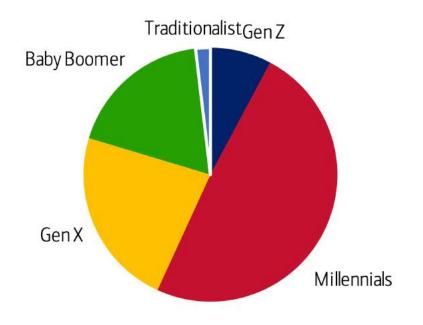
# Serious Delinquency for borrowers with many asset types Across Asset Types: February 2018-2020



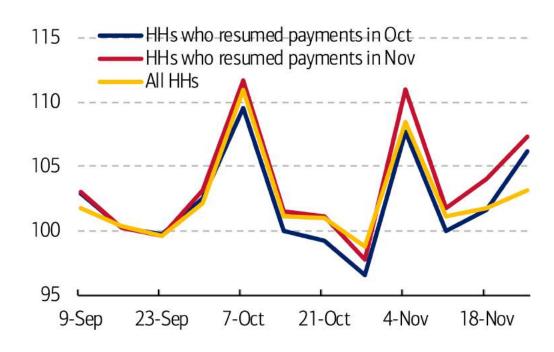
Source: 20S, Equifax Ignite Cohort includes a random sample of borrowers who had all 4 displayed loan types open in February 2018 and were current on their payments.

# Millennials are disproportionately impacted by the resumption of SL repayments

# Share of households making student loan repayments by generation\*



# Total card spending per household by group (index, Sep 23 average = 100)



SL repayments don't show adverse impact to spending yet for those that have resumed, likely because of the "on ramp" period



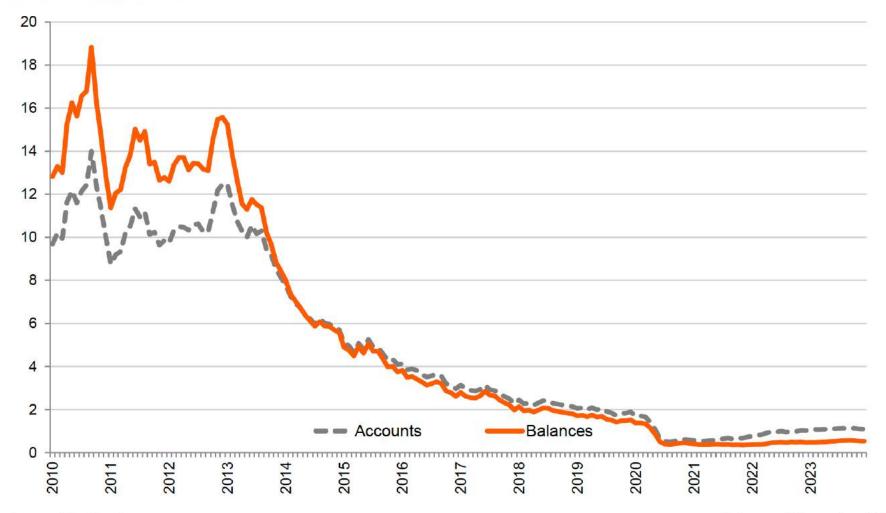
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# Write-off rates are increasing but are well below prepandemic averages

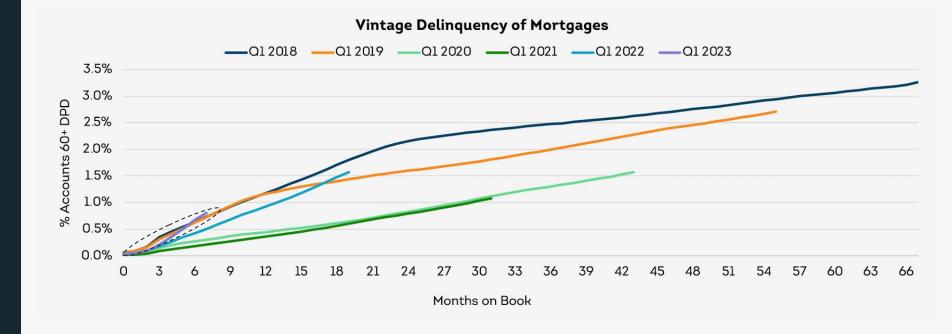
### Write-Off Rates

Accounts terminated in Severe Derogatory status
Share of Accounts and Balances in Basis Points; 3-Month Moving Average, NSA, Not Annualized Excludes Bankruptcy



Source: Equifax Inc.

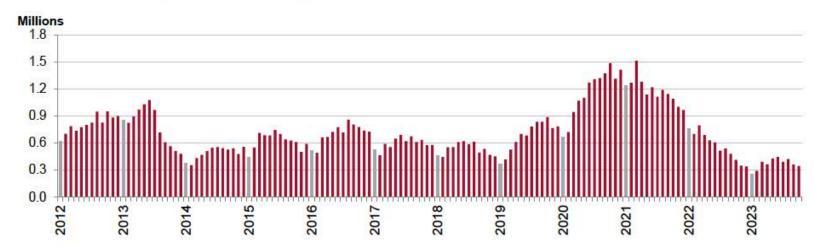
Newer vintages are experiencing higher delinquencies



Source: Transunion. Data as of December 31, 2023.

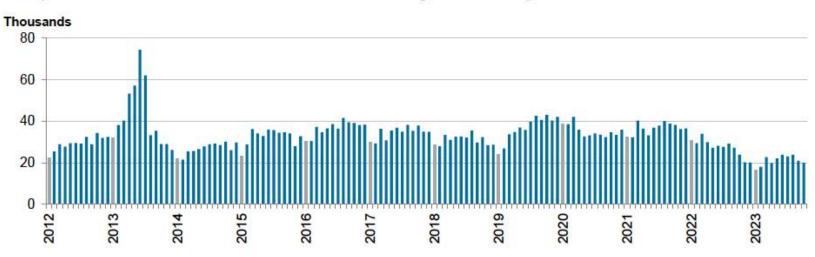
# First Mortgage Originations: Accounts

Number of Accounts in Millions; NSA



# Subprime FM Originations: Accounts

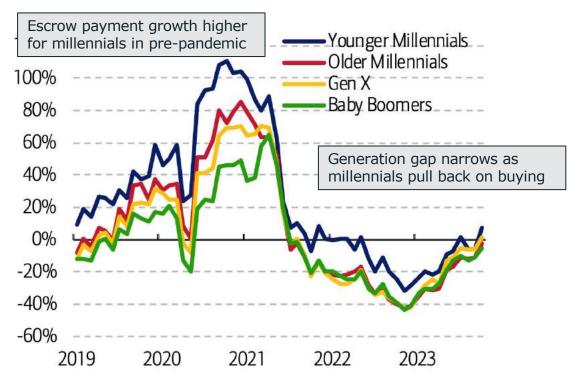
Number of Accounts in Thousands; NSA Subprime accounts defined as those with borrower's origination VantageScore® 3.0 less than 620



High home prices and interest rates are leading to low mortgage originations

# Millennials are experiencing a bigger originations slowdown than older generations

### YoY growth on number of households with an escrow payment, by generation\*



#### Share of first-time home buyers and all cash sales among all buyers



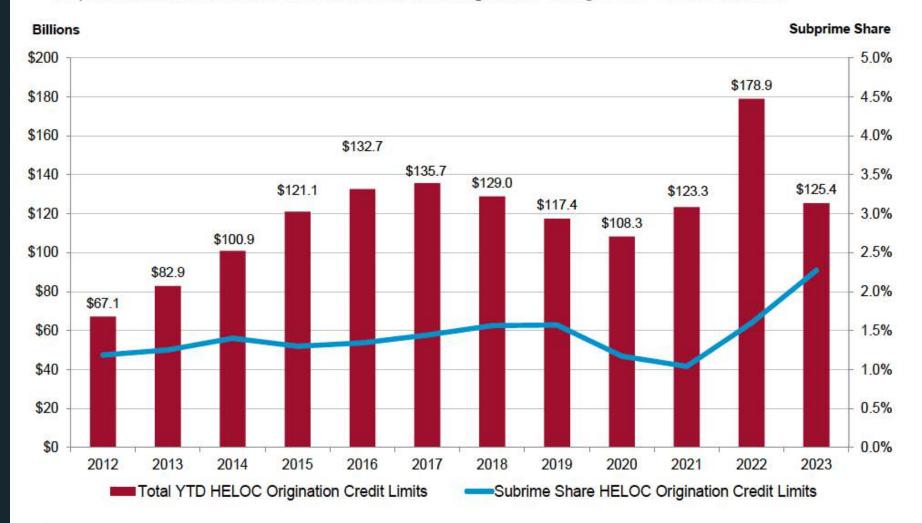
Home sales to younger generations decreased. The share of all-cash sales, which skews toward an older population, increased.

# High equity values and favorable rates for HELOCs compared to CCs and PLs drove HELOC originations to pre-COVID averages

The subprime share of origination CL has reached decade highs

# YTD HELOC Origination Credit Limits

Year-to-Date Total Credit Limits in \$Billions; Subprime Share of Total Origination Credit Limits (%); NSA Subprime accounts defined as those with borrower's origination VantageScore® 3.0 less than 620



#### **Acknowledgments**

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- Scott Barton is the Founder and Managing Partner at 2nd Order Solutions; he has led hundreds of initiatives for major banks and fintechs, including overhauls of Collection strategies, overarching model redesigns, and major architectural changes to organizational credit risk assessment. He previously was one of a handful of Senior Credit Officers at Capital One and led several business units, including Partnerships, Collections, Recoveries, and Fraud.

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#### About 20S

2nd Order Solutions (2OS) is a boutique credit risk advisory firm that specializes in solving the world's most challenging credit problems. 2OS was founded 12 years ago and consults to a wide range of banks, card issuers, fintechs, and specialty finance companies in the US and abroad.

20S has deep experience with lending businesses across Card, Auto, Small Business, and Personal Loans, at all points in the credit lifecycle. 20S partners have vast expertise in all aspects of Collections, both as operating executives and as consultants.

For more insights and commentary on the lending industry, visit us at <a href="https://2os.com/insights/">https://2os.com/insights/</a>



#### **Equifax Ignite Definitions**

**Active Accounts:** This includes all accounts that have a reported status in the most recent three months. Accounts categorized as closed or delinquent were included in the month in which the status is first reported and are excluded from active accounts thereafter. For student loans, we only considered those non-deferred accounts. A deferred student loan refers to no payment being required and generally pertains to students still in school up until 6 months after graduation. Non-deferred student loans relate to students that have already graduated where a payment is required.

**Definition of delinquency:** For credit cards, auto loans, and personal loans, we considered accounts as delinquent if they were 60+ days past due. Specifically, we included accounts in 60-90 DPD, 90-120 DPD, and 120+ DPD buckets; we excluded charged off and bankrupt accounts. For student loans, we considered accounts as delinquent if they were 90+ days past due. We included accounts in 90-120 DPD, 120+ DPD, and bankruptcy buckets; we excluded charged off accounts.

**Definition of Personal Loans:** We define personal loans as those accounts labeled as personal finance and installment loan.

**Vantage bucket timing:** To better observe movements within Vantage 3.0 buckets (and reduce the effect of reclassification of accounts across buckets), we lagged the date when the vantage bucket is observed by 3 months from the current archive date when looking at performance charts.

**Origination timing:** Originations are lagged by 2 months from the current archive date. Hence, the most recent origination datapoint is from October 31, 2023.

**Roll Rate Methodology:** Roll rates are calculated as the percentage of accounts that transition into a higher delinquency bucket in the next month. 30DPD bucket refers to those customers that transitioned into 30-59 days delinquent. Similarly, 60DPD refers to those customers 60-89 days delinquent; 90DPD are those customers 90-119 days delinquent; 120DPD are those customers 120+ days delinquent that have not charged off.