

Market Insights

Sector Intelligence | U.S. Public Finance

Sept. 11, 2023 | Data as of Aug. 31, 2023

This report does not constitute a rating action.

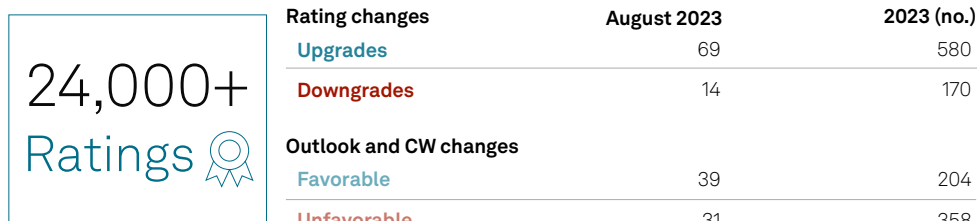
Key Takeaways

- There have been more than 1,310 rating actions in U.S. public finance (USPF) since the beginning of the year.
- Upgrades continue to outpace downgrades year to date, except in the health care sector.

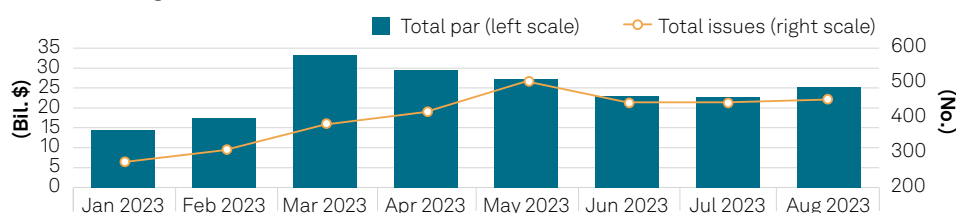
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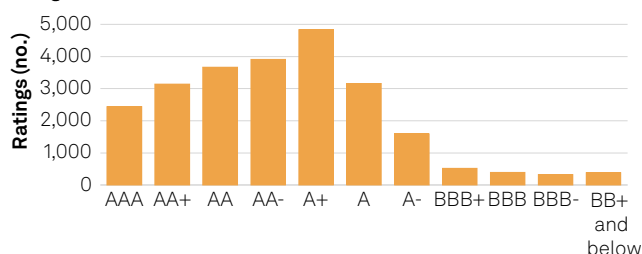
U.S. public finance at a glance



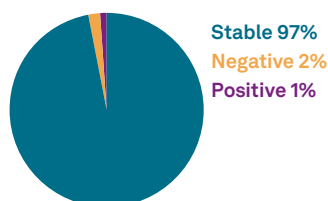
S&P Global Ratings rated new issuance



Rating distribution



Outlook distribution



Recent Research

U.S. Local Governments Credit Brief: California School Districts Means And Medians, Aug. 30, 2023

U.S. Transportation Infrastructure Toll Sector Report Card: Resilient Demand And Higher Tolls Underpin Credit Strength, Aug. 17, 2023

U.S. Not-For-Profit Health Care Rating Actions, July 2023, Aug. 15, 2023

Credit Trends: Improving Finances Drive U.S. Public Finance Credit Quality In The Second Quarter, Aug. 15, 2023

U.S. Not-For-Profit Acute Health Care 2022 Medians: Historically Low Metrics Signify A Long Road To A New Normal, Aug. 7, 2023

U.S. And Canadian Public Port Facilities Ratings And Outlooks: Current List, Aug. 7, 2023

For more Research click here



Source: S&P Global Ratings.

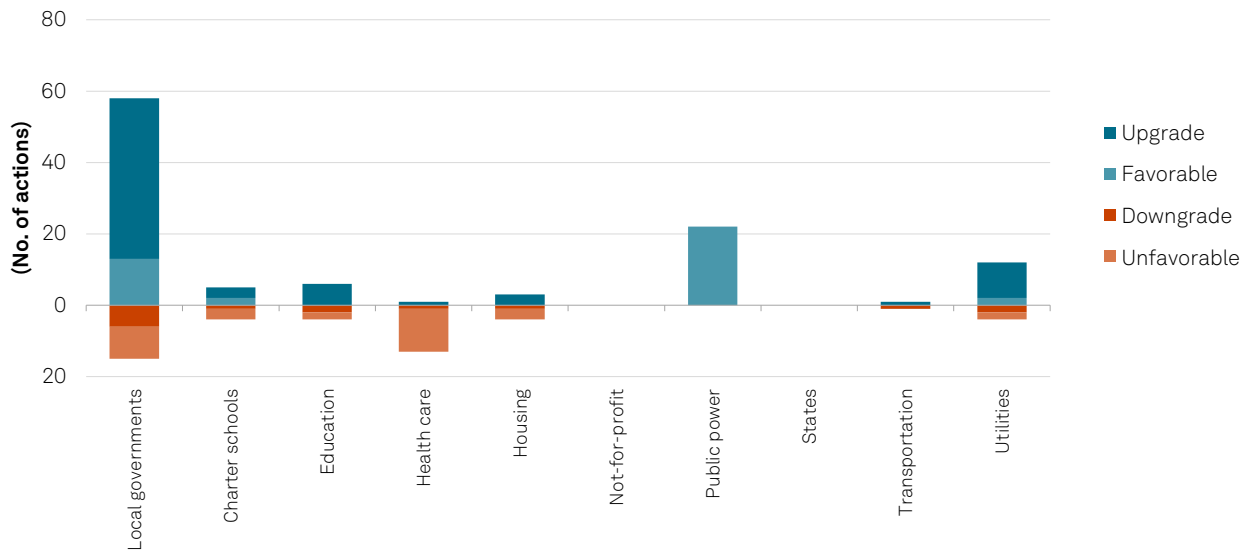
An Excel workbook containing a master list of rating actions by security type and by issues year to date can be downloaded [here](#).

Note: In this report, we define "rating changes" as rating upgrades and downgrades; "rating actions" as rating changes, in addition to outlook changes and CreditWatch assignments or resolutions; "favorable" actions as outlook changes to stable from negative and to positive from stable, or placement of a rating on CreditWatch with positive implications; and "unfavorable" actions as outlook changes to negative from stable and to stable from positive, or placement of a rating on CreditWatch with negative implications. For local governments, we exclude school program rating actions tied to state rating actions. As of May 2023, community college districts are now reported under the education sector coinciding with the release of our revised criteria for [Global Not-For-Profit Education Providers](#), published April 24, 2023. The revised criteria consolidate our approach for U.S. and non-U.S. private and public colleges and universities, community colleges and districts, independent schools, and their various security pledges.

USPF Rating Activity

Chart 1

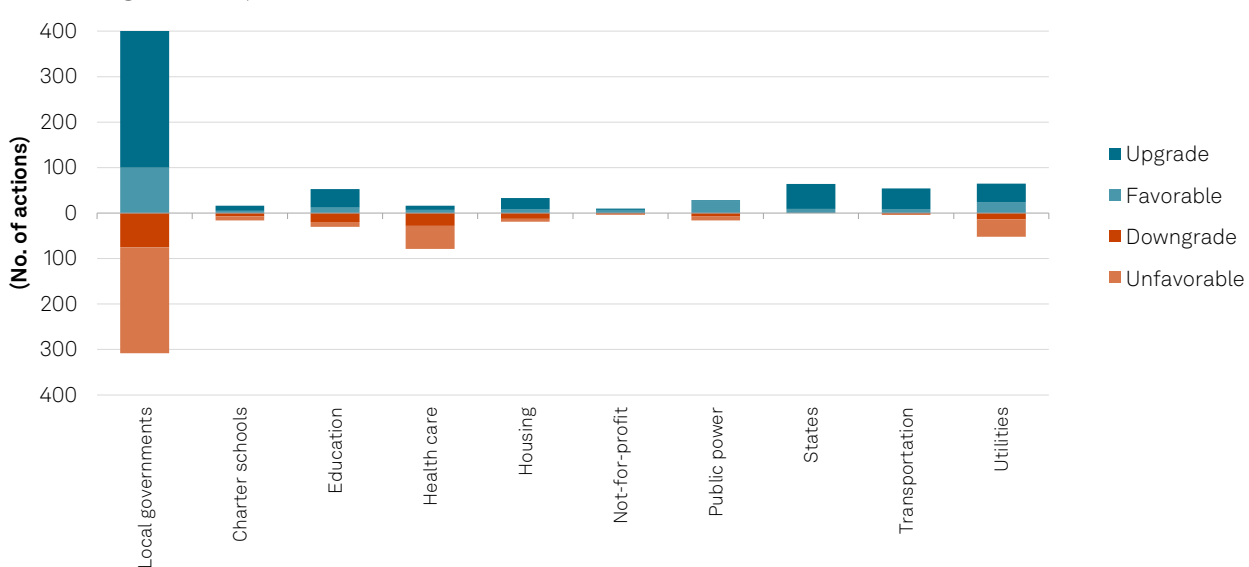
USPF August rating actions by sector



Source: S&P Global Ratings.

Chart 2

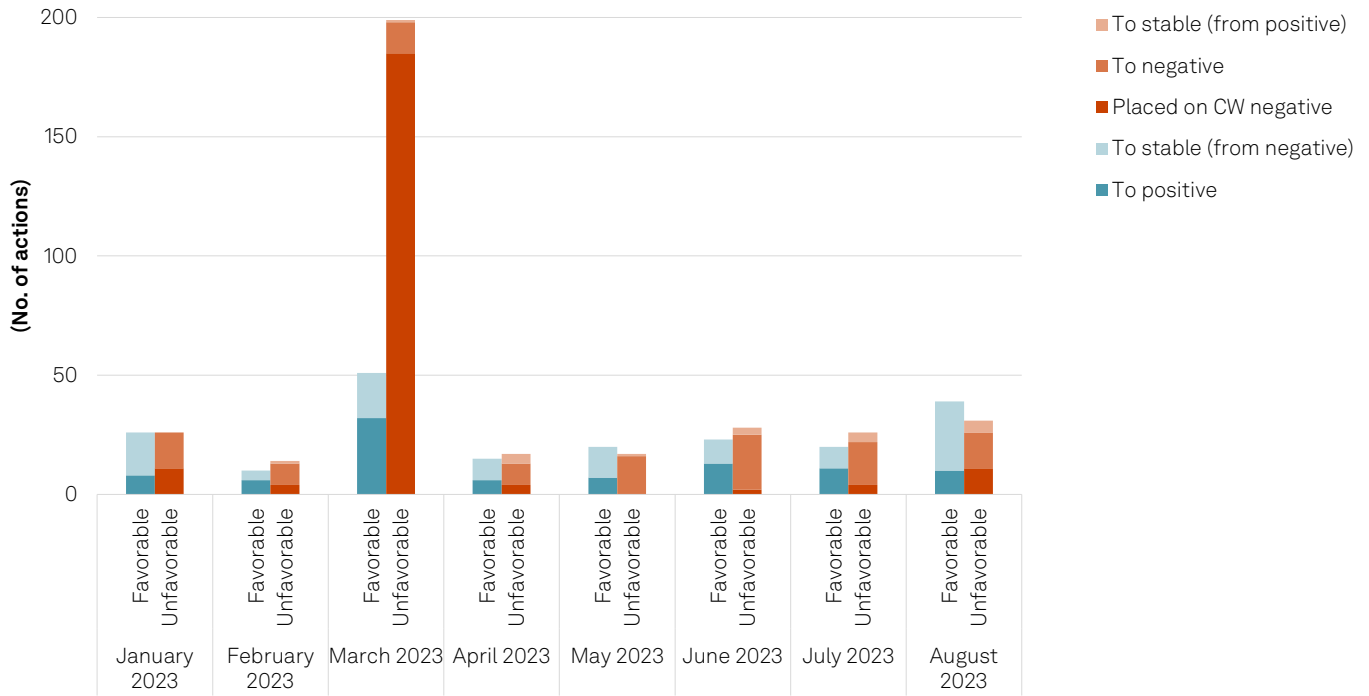
USPF rating actions by sector YTD 2023



Source: S&P Global Ratings.

Chart 3

USPF outlook and CreditWatch actions by month



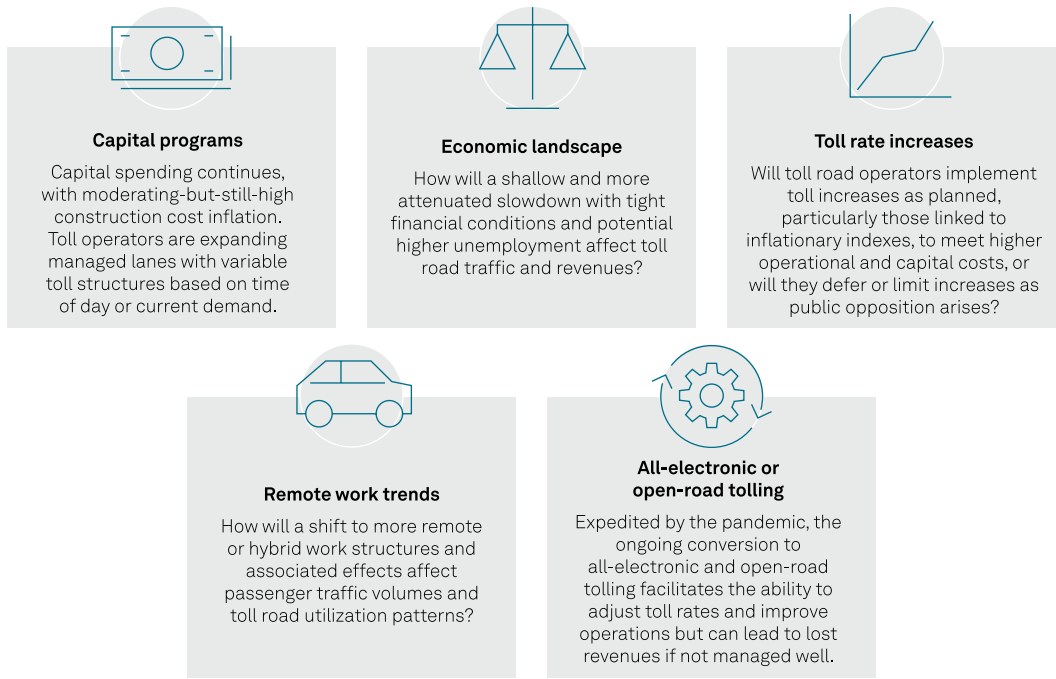
CW—CreditWatch. Source: S&P Global Ratings.

Sector Spotlight—U.S. Transportation, Infrastructure Toll Sector

In August, we published our report card for the toll sector. We believe U.S. toll operators will maintain strong coverage, healthy financial margins, increasing liquidity, and overall credit quality despite potential headwinds.

Chart 4

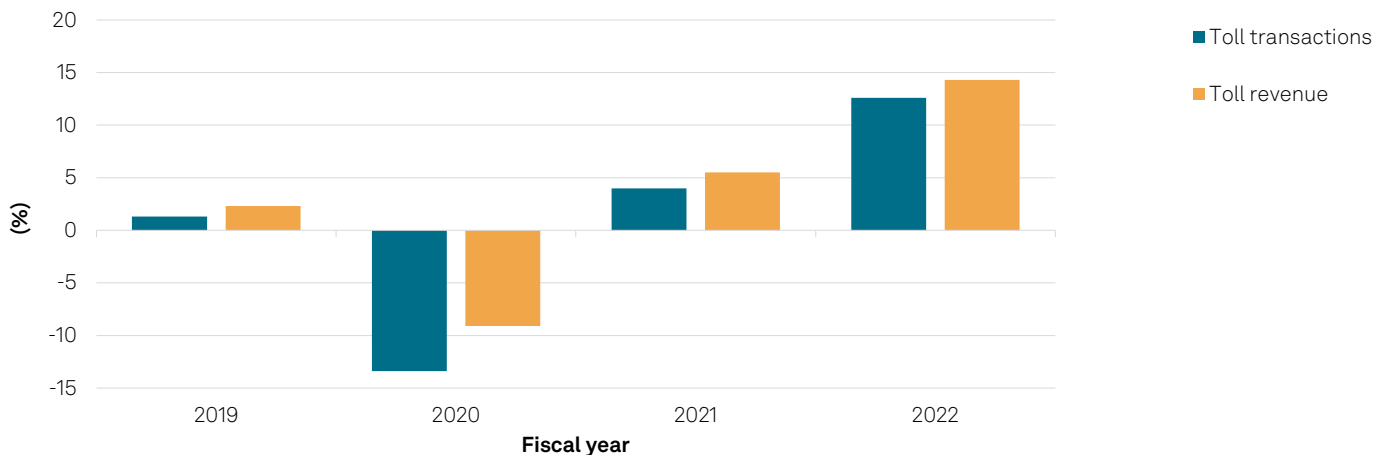
What we're watching



Source: S&P Global Ratings.

Chart 5

Median annual toll transaction and revenue percentage growth (2019 – 2022)



Does not include start-up toll roads in ramp-up or not yet open. For 52 rated toll road operators, not adjusted for varying audited fiscal year ends. Source: S&P Global Ratings.

Recent Research

[U.S. Transportation Infrastructure Toll Sector Report Card: Resilient Demand And Higher Tolls Underpin Credit Strength, Aug. 17, 2023](#)

[U.S. And Canadian Public Port Facilities Ratings And Outlooks: Current List, Aug. 7, 2023](#)

[Reliable Funding Continues To Support Stable GARVEE Sector View Amid Stubborn Construction Cost Inflation, April 27, 2023](#)

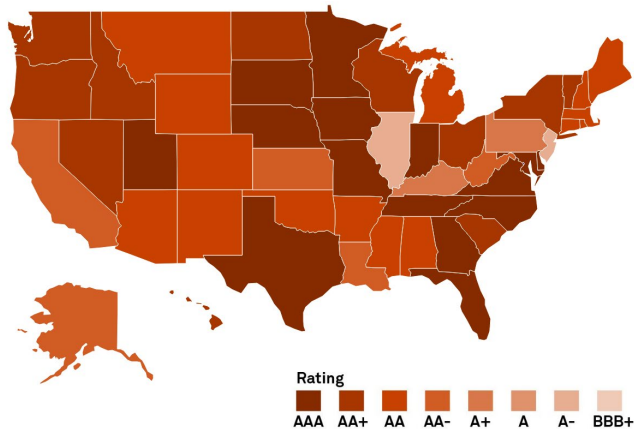
[Outlook For U.S. Not-For-Profit Transportation Infrastructure: COVID In The Rearview Mirror, Yet Transit Stuck In Second Gear, Jan. 11, 2023](#)

U.S. State Ratings

Ratings represented in table 1 are the state general obligation debt ratings or issuer credit ratings. Ratings on other debt issued by the state will vary based on the security backing the bonds. For more information, see our [History Of U.S. State Ratings](#), published July 21, 2023, and [U.S State Ratings And Outlooks: Current List](#), published July 21, 2023.

Chart 6

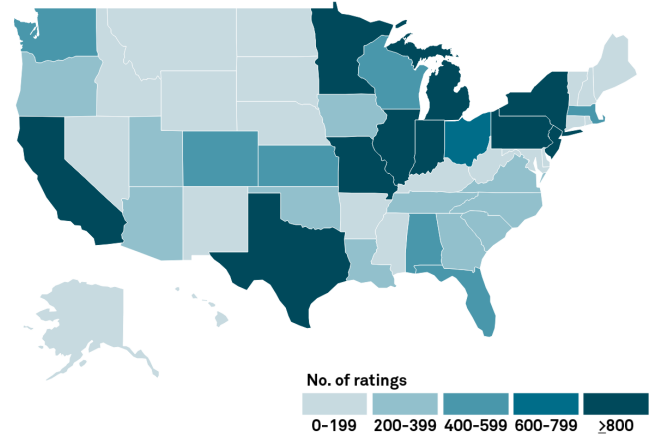
U.S. state ratings



The chart includes all sectors. Source: S&P Global Ratings.

Chart 7

No. of ratings by state



The chart includes all sectors. Source: S&P Global Ratings.

Table 1

U.S. state rating actions in 2023

State	Rating action	Outlook action	Current rating	Previous rating	Current outlook	Previous outlook	Date of rating action
Oklahoma	Affirmation	Outlook to positive	AA	AA	Positive	Stable	July 20, 2023
Kentucky	Upgrade	Outlook to stable	A+	A	Stable	Positive	June 29, 2023
Massachusetts	Upgrade	Outlook to stable	AA+	AA	Stable	Positive	April 14, 2023
New Jersey	Upgrade	Outlook to stable	A	A-	Stable	Positive	April 12, 2023
Louisiana	Affirmation	Outlook to positive	AA-	AA-	Positive	Stable	March 31, 2023
Kansas	Affirmation	Outlook to positive	AA-	AA-	Positive	Stable	Feb. 28, 2023
Illinois	Upgrade	No change	A-	BBB+	Stable	Stable	Feb. 23, 2023

Source: S&P Global Ratings.

Appendix

Table 2

Number of rating actions by sector August 2023

Sector	Rating changes		Outlook changes			CW changes	
	Upgrade	Downgrade	Outlook to positive	Outlook to negative	Outlook to stable	Placed on CW negative	Removed from CW
Charter schools	3	1			4	1	
Education	6	2		1	1		
Health care	1	1		8	1	3	1
Housing	3	1		2		1	
Local governments	45	6	8	3	6	5	6
Not-for-profit							
Public power					22		
States							
Transportation	1	1					
Utilities	10	2	2	1		1	1

CW—CreditWatch. Source: S&P Global Ratings.

Table 3

Number of rating actions by sector YTD 2023

Sector	Rating changes		Outlook changes			CW changes	
	Upgrade	Downgrade	Outlook to positive	Outlook to negative	Outlook to stable	Placed on CW negative	Removed from CW
Charter schools	11	7	2	5	6	1	1
Education	41	20	3	8	10	1	
Health care	9	28	4	40	7	7	6
Housing	25	13	1	2	9	2	2
Local governments	345	75	56	38	51	188	119
Not-for-profit	3	3	4		4		
Public power	3	8	1	6	24	2	3
States	55		9				
Transportation	46	2	3	2	5		
Utilities	42	14	10	17	14	20	14

CW—CreditWatch. Source: S&P Global Ratings.

Editor's note

In this report we present rating actions at the debt type level (e.g., general obligation, sales tax, parking revenue, etc.) rather than at the issuer level. Therefore, an issuer may have multiple rating actions associated with it in different sectors in the tables and charts.

Because we present the rating actions at the debt level, the metrics presented in this above may not be comparable to other research published by S&P Global Ratings or by other S&P Global divisions.

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