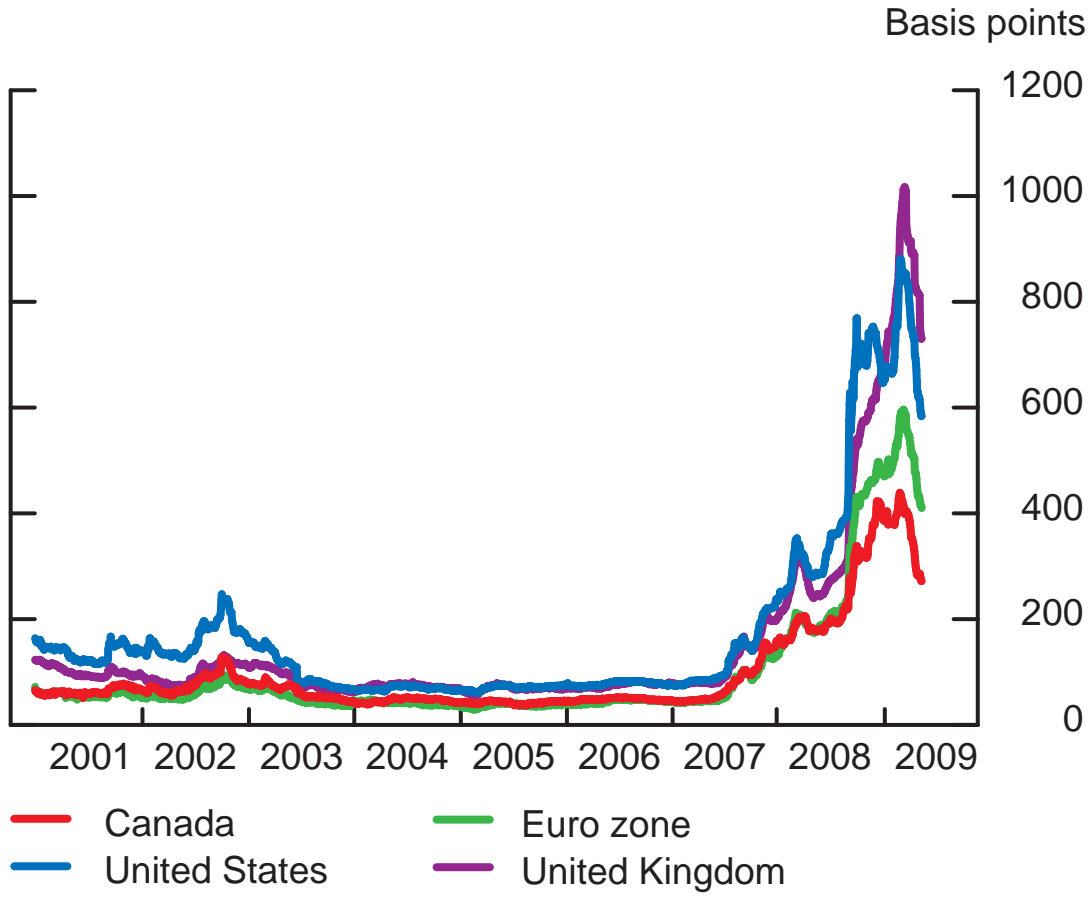


**Chart 2: Yield spreads for investment-grade financial issuers are down from historic highs**



Sources: Bloomberg and Merrill Lynch

Last observation: 25 May 2009