

# Liquid Cross Border Flows

# Investors chasing the USD lower

#### Key takeaways

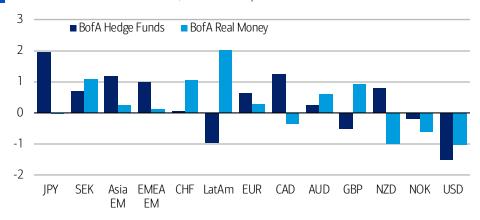
- Investors are now chasing the USD lower. HF selling it vs. Asia FX and EMEA EM FX.
   RM selling it it vs. LatAm and CHF.
- EM FX buying accelerated last week. EM FX flows have been positive the last month, esp. in EMEA, driven by Real Money.
- Amid softer US data, US rates rallied, and USD sold off. But equity flows are a reminder US growth could slow USD softness

#### Chasing the USD lower

BofA investors sold the USD last week, in line with the price action (Exhibit 1). Hedge Funds sold it vs. JPY, Asia EM FX and EMEA EM, while Real Money sold it vs. LatAm and CHF. We look for a softer USD ahead, but the path may be choppy (G10 FX Year Ahead).

#### Exhibit 1: BofA weekly flows (2-year z-score)

BofA investors sold the USD last week, in line with the price action



 $\textbf{Source:} \ \ \mathsf{BofA} \ \ \mathsf{Securities.} \ \ \mathsf{Currencies} \ \ \mathsf{ranked} \ \mathsf{by} \ \mathsf{sum} \ \mathsf{of} \ \mathsf{weekly} \ \mathsf{z}\text{-}\mathsf{scores.}$ 

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Currency Strategy Global

Data Analytics



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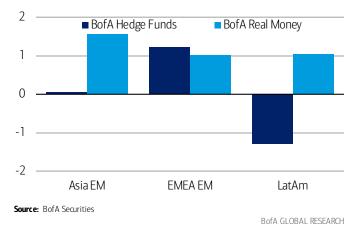
Refer to important disclosures on page 6 to 8.

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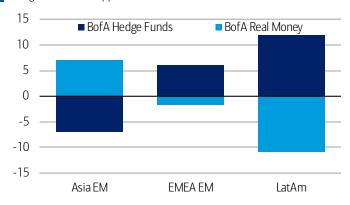
### EM FX becoming a favourite

EM FX buying accelerated last week, led by Hedge Funds in Asia and EMEA and by Real Money in LatAm (Exhibit 1). In the past month, EM flows were positive, esp. in EMEA, driven by Real Money (Exhibit 2). Hedge Funds sold LatAm FX after supporting it earlier in 2023 (Exhibit 3). Looking ahead, we like COP, CZK, ILS, PLN, ZAR (GEMs Year Ahead).

**Exhibit 2: BofA investor EM FX flows in past 4 weeks (2-year z-score)** In the past month EM flows positive, esp. in EMEA, driven by Real Money



**Exhibit 3: Changes in EM FX positioning during Mar 31-Oct 20** Hedge Funds had supported LatAm FX earlier in 2023



**Source:** BofA Securities. +50 (-50) represents max long (short) positioning <u>level</u> vs history.

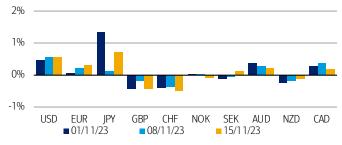
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### US growth outperformance could slow USD softness

Amid softer US data, US rates rallied (Exhibit 4), risk sentiment improved, and the USD sold off. But the stark contrast between US and Eurozone equity flows is a reminder the US growth outperformance could slow down the USD depreciation (Exhibit 5)

# Exhibit 4: G10 4-week bond flow as % of AUM

Amid softer US data, US rates rallied, risk was bid, and USD sold off...

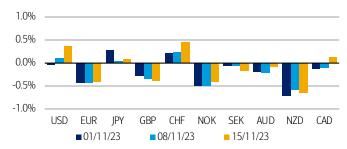


Source: EPFR, BofA Global Research

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# Exhibit 5: G10 4-week equity flow as % of AUM

...but US growth outperformance could slow down USD depreciation



Source: EPFR, BofA Global Research

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#### For more information and data files on flows and positioning, please see

<u>Liquid Cross Border Flows: Flows data 20 November 2023</u> <u>Liquid Cross Border Flows: Positioning data 20 November 2023</u> <u>Liquid Cross Border Flows: Charts and Tables 20 November 2023</u>



# **Snapshot of flows**

### Exhibit 6: Snapshot G10 FX flows (z-score)

BofA proprietary FX flows in the past four weeks

	Total				Corporate					Official				Hedge funds				Real money			
	t-3	t-2	t-1	t	t-3	t-2	t-1	t	t-3	t-2	t-1	t	t-	3	t-2	t-1	t	t-3	t-2	t-1	t
USD	1.19	-0.67	-0.49	-1.36	1.06	0.69	-0.08	0.01	-1.66	-3.44	-2.23	-0.35	0.6	58	0.20	0.10	-1.52	0.62	-0.88	0.26	-1.04
EUR	-1.53	-1.73	0.59	0.62	-1.17	-1.43	-0.02	0.25	-1.30	0.46	-0.21	0.47	0.0	)7	0.43	0.80	0.63	-0.63	-1.48	0.83	0.29
JPY	0.81	0.86	-1.49	0.77	-0.46	1.72	0.27	-0.62	0.45	1.91	-0.04	1.43	1.3	36	-0.11	-0.84	1.97	0.41	-0.22	-1.39	-0.04
GBP	0.59	0.58	-0.03	0.73	0.68	-0.38	0.35	0.47	-0.12	0.39	-0.56	-0.32	-0.	98	-0.58	0.21	-0.51	0.58	1.46	-0.29	0.94
CAD	-0.87	1.73	-0.26	-0.34	0.13	0.09	0.11	-0.59	-0.12	-0.72	-0.12	-0.35	-1.	12	0.79	-0.77	1.24	-0.87	3.03	-0.02	-0.35
AUD	-2.56	-0.33	-0.52	0.73	-4.00	-0.95	0.18	0.18	0.02	0.02	0.27	-0.02	0.2	27	1.41	-1.39	0.26	-0.37	-0.29	-0.22	0.61
NZD	-3.18	-0.28	0.58	-0.19	0.93	-0.86	-0.01	0.68	-0.28	0.24	-0.04	0.38	-2.	22	0.82	1.08	0.79	-2.17	-0.82	-0.08	-1.00
CHF	0.85	-0.73	-0.92	0.63	1.39	-0.12	0.08	-0.42	-0.19	-0.21	-0.62	1.05	0.3	39	0.04	-0.35	0.05	-0.64	-0.79	-0.96	1.05
NOK	0.26	-0.35	0.17	-1.00	-0.62	-0.34	1.89	-0.90	0.24	0.23	0.19	-0.07	0.	13	-0.97	-0.10	-0.21	0.43	0.55	-0.61	-0.62
SEK	-0.07	-0.76	-0.41	-0.16	-0.33	-0.84	-0.63	-1.37	-0.12	-0.56	0.01	-0.03	1.1	19	-0.16	0.08	0.69	-0.34	0.13	0.16	1.10
G10-xUSD	-1.63	-0.64	-0.34	1.06	-1.27	-1.14	0.19	0.00	-0.78	0.49	-0.43	0.36	0.0	)4	0.54	-0.26	1.53	-0.62	-0.04	-0.47	0.72
EM																					
Asia	0.36	2.77	2.08	0.48	-0.14	0.97	0.19	-0.42	2.48	4.00	4.00	0.08	-0.	39	-0.72	0.03	1.18	-0.18	1.87	1.05	0.25
EMEA	2.40	0.67	1.23	0.70	0.74	-1.04	0.99	1.04	4.00	-0.02	-0.04	-0.09	0.0	)5	0.21	1.78	1.00	0.36	1.23	0.44	0.11
LatAm	0.07	0.01	-1.88	0.94	0.13	-0.41	-1.56	0.75	0.49	-0.15	0.63	-0.17	-0.	67	-0.08	-1.22	-0.99	0.52	0.49	-0.97	2.02

**Source:** BofA Securities

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#### Exhibit 7: Snapshot of EM Flows (Z-score)

BofA proprietary FX flows in the past four weeks

	Total				Corporate					Official				Hedge funds				Real money			
	t-3	t-2	t-1	t	t-3	t-2	t-1	t	t-3	t-2	t-1	t	t-3	t-2	t-1	t	t-3	t-2	t-1	t	
LatAm	0.07	0.01	-1.88	0.94	0.13	-0.41	-1.56	0.75	0.49	-0.15	0.63	-0.17	-0.67	-0.08	-1.22	-0.99	0.52	0.49	-0.97	2.02	
BRL	0.62	0.16	-1.19	0.65	0.40	-0.32	-0.62	0.66	0.23	0.23	-	-	-0.99	-0.32	-0.94	-0.45	1.58	0.94	-0.86	0.89	
MXN	-0.51	-1.02	-1.97	0.29	-0.54	-1.62	-3.21	0.30	-0.09	-0.77	0.49	-0.81	-0.63	0.09	-0.57	-0.58	0.20	-0.21	-0.21	0.81	
CLP	-0.61	1.08	0.09	-0.04	-0.97	2.40	0.64	-0.25	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.02	-0.88	0.87	0.18	-0.35	0.40	-0.31	-0.33	0.39	
COP	0.25	-0.11	0.08	0.82	1.83	0.51	1.49	0.42	0.71	0.18	0.42	-	1.62	0.00	-1.19	-1.16	-2.65	-0.49	0.42	2.11	
PEN	-0.19	0.16	-1.26	1.24	-0.83	0.57	0.35	0.53	-	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.70	-1.45	-0.76	-0.09	-0.47	0.89	-0.92	1.21	
ARS	0.01	-0.03	-0.02	0.00	0.33	0.22	0.31	0.31	-	-	-	-	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.23	-0.23	-0.24	-0.24	-0.22	
Asia	0.36	2.77	2.08	0.48	-0.14	0.97	0.19	-0.42	2.48	4.00	4.00	0.08	-0.39	-0.72	0.03	1.18	-0.18	1.87	1.05	0.25	
CNY	-0.04	0.38	3.14	2.79	-0.27	0.29	-0.07	0.20	-0.03	-	4.00	4.00	-0.20	0.16	-0.30	-0.74	0.71	0.13	1.46	1.40	
CNH	-0.52	-0.15	-0.76	-2.14	-0.30	-0.29	0.65	-1.92	-0.12	-0.13	-4.00	-4.00	-0.23	-0.56	0.63	0.38	-0.35	1.15	-0.99	-0.92	
INR	1.88	3.63	4.00	0.22	0.02	0.58	0.11	0.66	2.86	4.00	4.00	0.30	0.08	-0.29	-0.46	-1.00	0.41	-0.57	2.22	0.09	
KRW	-0.50	1.17	-0.37	1.31	0.10	0.73	0.41	0.38	-	-	-	0.28	-1.57	0.85	-1.11	0.78	-0.59	1.11	-1.41	2.56	
IDR	0.59	0.27	-0.27	-1.72	-0.60	0.33	-0.31	0.53	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1.68	0.44	-1.07	2.02	0.04	-0.09	0.38	-3.28	
MYR	0.40	1.06	2.88	-2.61	-1.41	1.56	-0.29	-4.00	0.99	-	-0.41	2.87	-0.89	1.03	1.84	-0.07	2.15	-0.31	4.00	0.93	
SGD	-0.39	0.34	0.96	1.03	-0.49	0.11	0.09	0.05	0.07	0.65	0.02	0.03	0.17	-0.76	0.31	0.55	-0.68	1.16	1.15	0.98	
TWD	-0.27	1.48	-0.47	1.36	0.43	1.78	-1.70	-0.06	-	0.08	-	0.14	-0.90	-1.71	0.43	2.31	0.04	2.07	0.25	0.00	
THB	1.00	0.34	-0.72	-0.17	1.21	-0.24	-1.26	-0.70	-0.12	-0.12	-0.13	-2.69	1.45	0.72	-0.82	2.61	-0.31	0.10	0.38	-0.35	
<b>EMEA</b>	2.40	0.67	1.23	0.70	0.74	-1.04	0.99	1.04	4.00	-0.02	-0.04	-0.09	0.05	0.21	1.78	1.00	0.36	1.23	0.44	0.11	
TRY	0.72	-0.01	1.30	0.20	0.67	-0.25	0.49	0.43	-0.32	-0.41	-0.26	-0.28	0.28	0.22	1.41	0.38	0.19	0.22	0.85	-0.56	
HUF	-0.38	0.58	2.04	-0.38	0.29	-0.12	1.35	-0.92	0.17	0.20	0.18	0.18	-1.66	-0.10	2.14	-0.20	0.19	0.75	0.90	-0.03	
PLN	0.05	0.45	0.63	0.98	-0.98	-2.03	0.63	1.31	0.21	0.28	0.26	0.27	0.62	1.33	0.92	0.30	0.04	0.52	0.06	0.59	
ILS	4.00	-0.46	-0.10	0.41	1.81	-0.97	-1.18	0.53	4.00	-0.12	-0.12	-0.12	0.73	-0.58	1.21	1.65	0.25	0.35	-0.45	-0.83	
CZK	-0.13	-0.70	-0.22	0.03	0.20	0.10	0.21	-0.11	0.14	0.20	0.14	0.18	0.25	-1.23	0.67	0.06	-0.60	0.01	-1.19	0.02	
ZAR	0.34	1.68	0.64	0.43	-0.03	1.68	0.64	0.86	-0.02	-0.04	-0.11	-0.53	-0.50	0.67	-0.31	0.64	0.82	1.33	0.92	-0.05	
KEY:																					
	Z>2			2 > Z > 1.5 1.5 > Z > 1					1 > Z > -1				-1 > Z > -1.5 -1.5 > Z > -2				Z<-2				

**Source:** BofA Securities, Note: The z-score is calculated as the weekly flow minus the 2-year average flow, divided by the 2-year standard deviation of flows. A positive (negative) number does not necessarily suggest buying (selling), as it is expressed relative to the 2-year average flow and depends on whether the latter is a positive or a negative number. In this context, the arrows indicate whether our flow, and not the z-score, is positive or negative, suggesting buying or selling. Weeks with no flow are marked with '-'.

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# **Positioning Scorecard**

**Exhibit 8: G10 FX Positioning Scorecard** 50 (-50) represents a max long (short) positioning relative to history

Currency	BofA HF	BofA RM	FXRS	сот	TFF LF	TFF AM	EPFR	Aggregate Positioning Signal	Change in positioning	MAA I	Breadth
NOK	32	19	13	-	-	-	42	21	$\downarrow$	-6	<b>↓</b>
EUR	-8	25	-11	14	1	41	27	10	<b>↑</b>	7	$\uparrow \uparrow$
AUD	6	28	50	-35	-3	-44	49	7	$\downarrow$	3	$\leftrightarrow$
USD	16	-6	13	9	7	-16	50	3	$\downarrow$	-1	$\leftrightarrow$
GBP	26	18	-19	-15	6	-33	45	0	$\downarrow$	0	$\leftrightarrow$
JPY	16	17	3	-40	-26	-15	49	-1	$\downarrow$	-9	$\downarrow\downarrow$
SEK	3	-7	-16	-	-	-	37	-7	<b>↑</b>	9	<b>↑</b> ↑
CAD	8	-16	15	-33	-19	-33	48	-9	<b>↑</b>	-6	$\downarrow$
NZD	-22	-32	7	-26	-2	-39	48	-18	$\downarrow$	-1	$\leftrightarrow$
CHF	-12	-37	-	-32	-5	-36	42	-23	<b>↑</b>	4	<b>↑</b>

Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg, EPFR Global; See appendix for details; HF: Hedge Fund, RM Real Money, FXRS: FX and Rates Sentiment Survey Note: Aggregate positioning is the unweighted average of BofA HF, BofA RM, FXRS, TFF LF and TFF AM

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### **Exhibit 9: EM FX Positioning Scorecard**

50 (-50) represents a max long (short) positioning relative to history

Currency	BofA HF	BofA RM	FXRS	СОТ	TFF LF	TFF AM	EPFR	Aggregate Positioning Signal	Change in positioning	MAA trend
CLP	36	11	-	-	-	-	46	24	<b>↑</b>	$\leftrightarrow$
INR	30	14	-	-	-	-	37	22	$\downarrow$	<b>↑</b>
CZK	22	20	-	-	-	-	43	21	<b>↑</b>	<b>↑</b>
HUF	20	20	-	-	-	-	21	20	<b>\</b>	$\downarrow$
CNH	-4	28	-	-	-	-	0	12	<u> </u>	Ö
MYR	21	-2	-	-	-	-	40	10	<u>†</u>	$\leftrightarrow$
PLN	1	14	-	-	-	-	-14	8	· 1	1
MXN	-29	10	-	11	7	40	46	7	·	j
COP	41	-35	-	-	-	-	46	3	<u>,</u>	j
THB	-12	18	-	-	-	-	32	3	· 1	j
ILS	-16	19	-	-	-	-	50	2	·	Ţ
BRL	-48	9	-	28	-6	38	42	-2	<u>,</u>	j
IDR	23	-31	-	-	-	-	15	-4	j	$\leftrightarrow$
PEN	-36	24	-	-	-	-	36	-6	<u> </u>	$\leftrightarrow$
ARS	-43	14	-	-	-	-	48	-14	<u>,</u>	<b>↑</b>
TWD	-23	-19	-	-	-	-	34	-21	· 1	$\leftrightarrow$
KRW	-18	-24	-	-	-	-	46	-21	·	1
TRY	-38	-5	-	-	-	-	11	-21	j	<u> </u>
ZAR	-22	-22	-	-	-	-	47	-22	<b>†</b>	j
CNY	-8	-41	-	-	-	-	46	-25	· ↑	
SGD	-48	-35	-	-	-	-	47	-42	↑	<b>1</b>

Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg, EPFR Global; See appendix for details; HF: Hedge Fund, RM Real Money, FXRS: FX and Rates Sentiment Survey

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# **Data appendix**

BofA Securities Proprietary FX Flows represent the aggregated net base notional of spot and forward trades for sales-only data on a firm-wide basis for the 31 major currencies we track. We filter the data by customer type, which we categorize as Hedge Funds, Corporates, Real Money and Official Institutions. For the purposes of this report we exclude interbank flows, which would include commercial banks, proprietary trading, broker/dealer and affiliates. Indexed data is available upon request.

The currencies used in building this report are defined as:

- G10: USD, EUR, JPY, AUD, NZD, CAD, GBP, CHF, NOK, SEK
- LatAm: BRL, MXN, CLP, COP, PEN, ARS
- ASIA: CNH, CNY, INR, KRW, IDR, MYR, SGD, TWD, THB
- EMEA: TRY, HUF, PLN, ILS, CZK, ZAR, RUB

**Emerging Markets** is defined as the sum of LatAm, Asia and EMEA.

**Public/Official:** Central Banks, Government – including federal, state and local municipality clients – and Sovereign Wealth Funds.

**Real Money:** Pension Funds, REITs, Small Institutions/Trusts, Insurance, Asset Management and Finance Companies. RM clients will often trade FX to facilitate transactions in Fixed Income or Equities rather than to take a view on FX itself.

**Hedge Funds:** Usually limited-partnership funds with diverse, often leveraged strategies designed to maximize returns. HF flow is speculative in nature, and many HF trade FX as an asset class

**Corporates:** Businesses across all industries whose investment efforts focus mostly on operative activities, such as hedging and M&A. Corporate FX flow is not speculative in nature but arises as a 'by-product' of normal business operations.

**EPFR GLOBAL data** on country flows combine the respective fund flow and country weightings data to track the flow of money into world stock and bond markets. Fund flow reports track the amount of cash flowing into and out of the investment funds monitored world-wide. Country weightings reports track fund manager allocations at month-end across the various markets they invest in. By combining these two data sets we are able to estimate the flow of cash into and out of various stock and bond markets.

#### Note on Aggregate Positioning

We calculate aggregate positioning using a number of different inputs:

- (i) Proprietary BofA Securities FX flows data for hedge funds and real money
- (ii) Futures data, using the TFF (Traders in Financial Futures) data for leveraged funds and asset managers separately.
- (iii) BofA Global Research <u>FXRS: FX and Rates Sentiment Survey</u> data

The signals are all considered relative to the start of 2012 (i.e. an expanding window) and each signal is scaled to be between +50 and -50. The aggregate signal is the simple average of all the inputs.

+50 (-50) represents a max long (short) positioning relative to history.

For more detail on the construction and use of this report, please see our LCBF Primer



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