

Liquid Insight

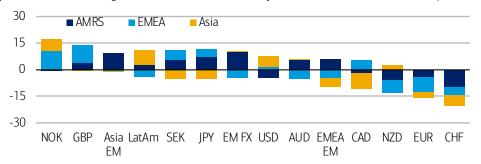
Regional FX flows: EUR and CHF selling

Key takeaways

- In 1Q-3Q last year the USDEM FX buying was a cross-regional theme. This year lacks such a theme. But all have sold EUR & CHF.
- USD supported mainly by Asia investors but AMRS investors skeptical. JPY sold by Asia investors. GBP bought back by EMEA.
- Recent USD rally driven by EMEA and Asia investors. We show recent regional "biases" characterise both HF and RM.

By Michalis Rousakis and Athanasios Vamvakidis

Chart of the day: BofA investor flows by investor domicile until 3Q (sums of weekly z-scores) BofA investors in all regions have sold EUR and CHF this year but this is where similarities stop



Source: BofA Securities. We sum the weekly flows' (2-year) z-scores attaching equal weights to flows by Hedge Funds and Real Money.

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Agreeing is so "last year"

Last year, the USDEM FX buying was a strong, common theme until 3Q across regions. This year lacks a theme as strong as this one (see Chart of the day). BofA investors in all regions have sold EUR and CHF, but that's as far as cross-regional agreements go.

USD and LatAm FX have been supported primarily by Asia-based investors, but AMRS investors have been skeptical. JPY has been favoured by AMRS and EMEA investors but sold by Asia ones. Last year, EMEA investors sold GBP strongly; this year, bought it back.

Regional disagreements are broad-based. For instance, AMRS investors have supported EM FX in all regions this year (less so LatAm), EMEA investors have mostly sold, while Asia investors have bought LatAm and sold EMEA EM.

Consistent with the above, the recent USD rally was driven by EMEA and Asia investors.

Interestingly, this year's key regional "biases" are for both Hedge Funds and Real Money.

12 October 2023

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Global Rates & Currencies Research

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Liquid Insight Recent Publications

11-Oct-23	US rate shock FAQ
10-Oct-23	USD and risk-off – under the
	hood
9-0ct-23	EUR vs US: Cross market trade
	<u>opportunities</u>
5-0ct-23	<u>Japan's policy challenge –</u>
	defend JPY or JGB?
4-0ct-23	FX: A check in on consensus
3-Oct-23	Oil supply shock and FX
29-Sep-23	RBA and RBNZ: a hawkish hold
28-Sep-23	Shutdown concerns in G10 FX
27-Sep-23	Insufficiently restrictive =
	higher rates
26-Sep-23	Real complacency in FX

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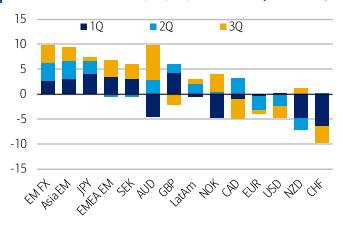
EUR and CHF selling common theme but that's as far as agreements go

Last year, the USDEM FX buying was a strong, common theme across regions (<u>Liquid Insight Regional FX flows – they can't disagree forever 3 Nov 22</u>).

This year lacks such a strong theme. BofA investors in all regions have sold EUR and CHF (from long positions at the start of the year in most instances) but have not agreed on the rest:

- **AMRS-based investors** (Exhibit 1) have also sold USD and NZD (in addition to EUR and CHF), and bought Asia FX (JPY & Asia EM), EMEA EM FX, and SEK.
- **EMEA investors** (Exhibit 2) have sold EMEA EM (esp. in 1H), AUD and NZD in addition to EUR and CHF vs. GBP (throughout all 3 quarters), Scandies, CAD and JPY. In fact, it is EMEA investors that have put the greatest pressure on EUR this year.
- Asia investors (Exhibit 3) have sold JPY, CAD, EMEA EM and SEK in addition to EUR and CHF, and bought USD, LatAm FX and NOK.

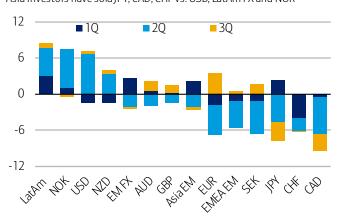
Exhibit 1: BofA AMRS investor FX flows this year (weekly z-scores)AMRS investors have sold USD, EUR, CHF, NZD vs. Asia FX (JPY & Asia EM)



Source: BofA Securities. Note: We sum the 2-year z-scores of the weekly flows for each quarter assigning equal weights to flows by Hedge Funds and by Real Money.

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Exhibit 3: BofA Asia investor FX flows this year (weekly z-scores) Asia investors have sold JPY, CAD, CHF vs. USD, LatAm FX and NOK

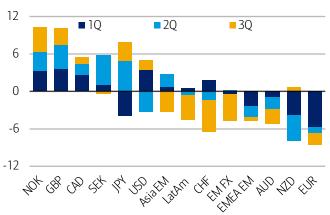


Source: BofA Securities. Note: We sum the 2-year z-scores of the weekly flows for each quarter assigning equal weights to flows by Hedge Funds and by Real Money.

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Exhibit 2: BofA EMEA investor FX flows this year (weekly z-scores)

 ${\sf EMEA}\ investors\ have\ sold\ {\sf EUR}, {\sf EMEA}\ {\sf EM}, {\sf AUD}, {\sf NZD}\ vs.\ {\sf GBP}, {\sf Scandies}, {\sf CAD}$

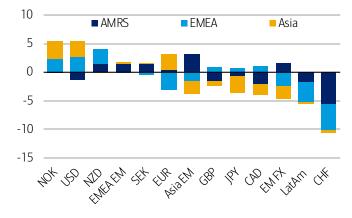


Source: BofA Securities. Note: We sum the 2-year z-scores of the weekly flows for each quarter assigning equal weights to flows by Hedge Funds and by Real Money.

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Exhibit 4: BofA investor flows in Aug-Sep by region

EMEA and Asia investors (not AMRS) drove the USD higher after July



Source: BofA Securities. Note: We sum the 2-year z-scores of the weekly flows for August and September assigning equal weights to flows by Hedge Funds and by Real Money.

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EMEA and Asia investors (not AMRS) drove the USD higher after July

EMEA and Asia investors likely drove the USD higher in August-September, not AMRS (Exhibit 4). EMEA investors bought the USD vs. EUR, CHF and LatAm FX, while Asia investors bought it vs. Asia FX (JPY & Asia EM) and CAD.

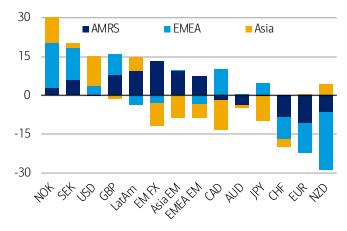
Some recent regional "biases" characterise both Hedge Funds and Real Money

A key difference in our proprietary investor flows between 1Q-3Q of this year and last is that, this year, Hedge Funds have supported USD as Real Money slightly sold it while, last year, Real Money (strongly) supported the USD as Hedge Funds were neutral.

But this is not to say that decomposing flows by region ceases to matter. On the contrary...

- AMRS Hedge Funds have remained largely neutral on USD this year (Exhibit 5) unlike their peers in Asia and, to some extent, EMEA. Meanwhile, it is AMRS Real Money that have put some pressure on the USD (Exhibit 6).
- EUR has been under pressure by both Hedge Funds and Real Money in EMEA, while GBP has been bought back by both investor types.
- Asia Hedge Funds have sold JPY, while Asia Real Money are the only ones to not have bought it.
- EM FX has been bought by both AMRS Hedge Funds and Real Money but was under some pressure by their EMEA peers.

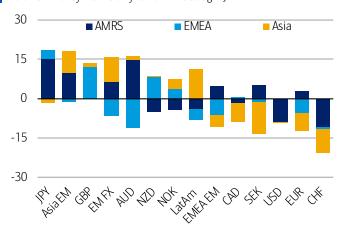
Exhibit 5: BofA Hedge Funds FX flows this year (1-week z-scores)AMRS Hedge Funds have remained largely neutral on USD this year



Source: BofA Securities. Note: We sum the 2-year z-scores of this year's weekly flows by region.

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Exhibit 6: BofA Real Money FX flows this year (1-week z-scores) Asia Real Money are the only to not have bought JPY



Source: BofA Securities. Note: We sum the 2-year z-scores of this year's weekly flows by region.

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Notable Rates and FX Research

- Global Rates, FX & EM Year Ahead 2023 Year Ahead 2023: Pivot ≠ Peak, 20 Nov 2022
- The rates sell-off Global FX Weekly, 06 Oct 2023
- Yield or fight Global Rates Weekly, 06 Oct 2023
- As the dust settles after the USD rally, Liquid Cross Border Flows, 02 Oct 2023

Rates, FX & EM trades for 2023

For a complete list of our open trade recommendations, as well as our trade recommendations closed over the past 12 months, see the reports below:

Global FX weekly: The rates sell-off 06 October 2023

Global Rates Weekly: Yield or fight on 06 October 2023



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