

### **US** Rates Watch

## **Vol views – Grinding lower**

### Fading of near-term risks...

Some of the major risks around the near-term outlook (particularly the perception of systemic risk around the banking sector and debt limit uncertainty) have faded in recent weeks. That has helped fade some of the richness of gamma versus intermediates (Exhibit 12) and the left side of the grid versus the right side (Exhibit 11).

### ... versus macro data resilience

Macro data resilience, however, continues to feed into uncertainty about the Fed policy path (see Exhibit 1). While the timing of the first rate cut continues to get pushed out (now at a 7-month horizon – Exhibit 2), the range of outcomes around the Fed widens, and that supports a sticky richness of the left side of the grid versus the right side (1y10y versus 1y1y vol spread still c.-52bp inverted).

### Conditions for lower vol and lower rates

As we have noted in recent publications, lower data dispersion and a recoupling of macro data to the downside in line with market expectations, along a higher degree of confidence in declining inflation, are necessary for (1) a collapse of the uncertainty around the policy trajectory; (2) a mean reversion of 10yT yields back to steady-state levels around c.3%; and (3) a normalization of the volatility grid.

### Bifurcation of scenarios over 2H23

However, macro scenarios for the US outlook over 2H23 (abstracting from the potential for exogenous shocks) continue to bifurcate between the following:

- Soft landing scenarios or scenarios whereby the slowdown continues to be priced at c.6-month horizons on a rolling basis, which likely support a more credible on-hold stance for the Fed. These scenarios continue to support trading the 3.25-3.75% range for 10yT, with a bullish bias and a slow process of normalization for the volatility grid (1y1y vol towards c.120-130bp and a resteepening of the 1m10y versus 1y10y vol spread into c.-5bp to 5bp levels).
- Re-acceleration scenarios whereby inflation stays sticky near term and the market prices a higher terminal rate for the Fed, which are likely to continue to support the recent distortions on the vol grid for longer.

### Bias still towards slowdown?

Despite the recent data resilience, the dynamic of breakevens (Exhibit 3) continues reflect (1) a recoupling of growth and inflation fundamentals (i.e., higher frequency of moves that reflect positive correlations and causalities between growth and inflation account for c.80% of the recent dynamic – Exhibit 4) and (2) a higher likelihood of lower growth and lower inflation scenarios (50% frequency of bull tightening moves recently – Exhibit 5) versus re-acceleration scenarios (30% frequency of higher growth and higher inflation scenarios, which generally drive a bear widening of breakevens).

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Refer to important disclosures on page 13 to 15.

12569490

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Rates Research United States

Bruno Braizinha, CFA

Rates Strategist BofAS bruno.braizinha@bofa.com

US Rates Research BofAS +1 646 855 8846

See Team Page for List of Analysts

10yT – 10-year Treasury

BE - Inflation breakevens

c. – circa

GFC – Great Financial crisis

ITM – In the money

LLC -Lower left corner

LRC - Lower right corner

OTM – Out of the money

ULC – Upper left corner

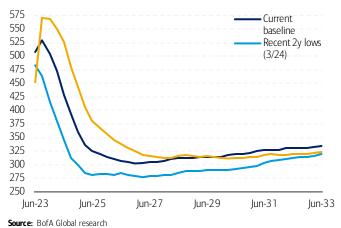
URC - Upper right corner

The market seems to therefore continue to show a bias towards softer landing scenarios or slowdown expectations at a c.6m horizon priced on a rolling basis. These scenarios support buying of duration on dips beyond c.3.75% for 10yT (levels above fair values that are consistent with both US macro fundamentals and global yield levels) and expectations for a slow process of normalization of the vol grid (selling peaks in vol on the left side of the grid and deep richness of gamma versus intermediates).

These scenarios also tend to support carry strategies (see our report, <u>Postcard from Europe</u>). However, (1) we are careful about expressing carry strategies (which are generally short gamma) in rates space and (2) see the current context as a meta-stable equilibrium state whereby the market dynamic may be shocked into relatively wide tail scenarios. These tail scenarios should be hedged on both sides of the distribution of outcomes:

- Higher probabilities of harder landing scenarios (with broader slowdown expectations) whereby risky assets reprice meaningfully lower despite deeper and faster Fed cuts, which may be hedged through bull steepeners on deep out-of-themoney (OTM) puts on risky assets.
- Re-acceleration scenarios noted above whereby growth and inflation expectations stay supported near term and drive a hawkish repricing of Fed expectations, which may be hedged though OTM payers or payer spreads at the front end of the curve.

**Exhibit 1: Recent pricing of the policy path** Policy trough back at c.3% a fade, in our view



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Exhibit 2: Horizon of first Fed cut

Market pricing one cut fully at a 7-month horizon currently

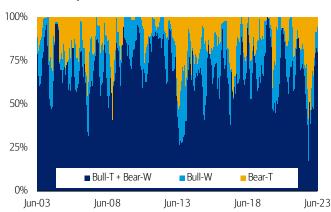


Source: BofA Global research



### Exhibit 3: 10y breakeven dynamic

More orthodox dynamic in 2023 versus 2022

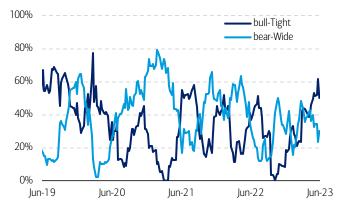


Source: BofA Global research

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# Exhibit 5: Frequencies of bull tightening (lower growth and lower inflation) and bear widening (higher growth and higher inflation) moves over time

Frequency of bull tightening moves on the rise since end of October 2022



**Source:** BofA Global research

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## Exhibit 4: Frequencies of different moves in the recent dynamic of 10y breakevens

Orthodox moves (that contain positive correlation and causality between growth and inflation) now account for 80% of the 10y BE dynamic; bull tightening frequencies (which reflect lower growth and lower inflation expectations) still dominate the 10y BE dynamic

	bull-Tight	bear-Wide	bull-Wide	bear-Tight
Current	50%	30%	14%	5%
1m	40%	34%	13%	13%
2m	27%	32%	13%	27%
3m	29%	33%	13%	25%

Source: BofA Global research



## **Levels and Recent Moves**

### **Exhibit 6: ATM Normal Volatility Grid**

104.7bp for 1y10y volatility

	1Y	2Y	3Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	154.5	173.2	160.2	144.9	125.9	109.8	86.2
3M	146.9	162.3	152.6	137.2	121.8	108.9	86.0
6M	154.3	158.1	148.5	131.6	118.6	108.1	85.9
1Y	156.9	145.5	137.3	123.0	113.1	104.7	83.7
2Y	136.1	128.3	123.3	113.4	106.5	99.5	81.1
3Y	122.2	117.4	113.8	106.5	101.0	94.7	77.6
4Y	114.7	110.5	107.3	101.0	96.1	90.7	74.9
5Y	108.4	104.7	101.9	96.3	92.2	87.3	72.5
10Y	85.9	83.6	82.0	78.9	76.4	73.2	62.2
30Y	61.7	60.2	59.0	56.8	54.8	52.1	47.1

Source: BofA Global Research

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#### Exhibit 8: ATM Normal Volatility Grid - CoW

ULC underperformed on the grid over the last week

	1Y	2Y	<b>3Y</b>	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	-6.1	-9.2	-5.7	-2.3	-1.6	-0.9	6.5
3M	-12.5	-11.8	-8.7	-5.6	-4.4	-3.1	0.9
6M	-14.3	-10.3	-7.7	-5.1	-4.1	-3.0	-0.8
1Y	-7.9	-5.9	-4.8	-3.6	-3.4	-3.1	-2.5
2Y	-3.7	-2.8	-2.8	-2.6	-2.4	-2.3	-1.9
3Y	-2.6	-1.5	-1.8	-2.3	-2.0	-1.6	-1.3
4Y	-1.4	-1.6	-1.5	-1.2	-1.3	-1.3	-1.1
5Y	-0.8	-1.0	-1.0	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-0.9
10Y	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4
30Y	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.4

Source: BofA Global Research

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#### Exhibit 10: 1y10y vol dynamic since the COVID recession

Fair 1y10y volversus c.100-120bp expected range for 2023

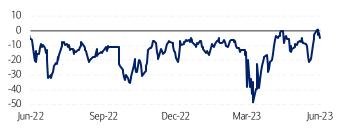


Source: BofA Global Research; Bloomberg

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### Exhibit 12: 1y10y versus 1m10y normal volatility

Vol inversion faded over the last week to virtually flat levels



Source: BofA Global Research; Bloomberg

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### Exhibit 7: ATM Volatility Grid - 3m Z-Scores

Grid broadly cheap on 3m Z-Scores

	1Y	<b>2Y</b>	<b>3Y</b>	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	-0.9	-0.8	-0.7	-0.7	-0.8	-1.0	-0.7
3M	-1.1	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-1.2	-1.2	-1.0
6M	-1.0	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.3	-1.4	-1.2
1Y	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.2	-1.3	-1.6
2Y	-0.8	-1.1	-1.0	-1.1	-1.3	-1.3	-1.5
3Y	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.3	-1.3	-1.6
4Y	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9	-1.1	-1.2	-1.3	-1.5
5Y	-0.7	-0.8	-0.9	-1.1	-1.3	-1.3	-1.4
10Y	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1
30Y	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.4	-0.9	-0.8	0.0

Source: R BofA Global Research

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### **Exhibit 9: ATM Straddle Premiums (indicative only)**

6.7% straddle premiums for 1y10y

	1Y	2Y	<b>3Y</b>	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	0.3%	0.7%	1.0%	1.4%	1.7%	2.0%	3.6%
3M	0.6%	1.2%	1.7%	2.5%	3.0%	3.6%	6.5%
6M	0.8%	1.7%	2.3%	3.3%	4.0%	5.0%	9.2%
1Y	1.2%	2.1%	3.0%	4.3%	5.3%	6.7%	12.4%
2Y	1.4%	2.5%	3.6%	5.4%	6.8%	8.7%	16.4%
3Y	1.5%	2.8%	4.0%	6.0%	7.7%	9.8%	18.7%
4Y	1.5%	2.9%	4.2%	6.4%	8.2%	10.5%	20.3%
5Y	1.6%	3.0%	4.3%	6.6%	8.5%	11.0%	21.4%
10Y	1.5%	2.9%	4.2%	6.4%	8.5%	11.1%	22.8%
30Y	1.1%	2.0%	3.0%	4.6%	6.2%	8.2%	20.2%

Source: BofA Global Research

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### Exhibit 11: 3m10y versus 3m2y normal volatility

Left side lost some richness versus right side over the last week

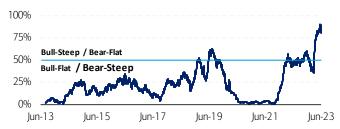


Source: BofA Global Research; Bloomberg

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### Exhibit 13: 2s10s directionality 81% front end driven over last 3 months

... 54% over the last 2 weeks Fed on hold starting to anchor front end?



Source: BofA Global Research

## **Volatility Grid Relative Value**

#### **PCA Z-SCORES**

### Exhibit 14: 3m Z-Scores w/PCA framework

Right side cheap 3m Z-Scores, left side show some richness

	1y	2y	3у	5у	7у	10y	30y
3m	-1.6	1.3	0.3	0.2	-0.4	-0.6	1.2
6m	-0.3	1.2	0.6	-0.3	-1.2	-1.4	-0.8
1y	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.1	-1.0	-1.4	-2.2
2у	0.7	-0.4	-0.3	-0.8	-1.3	-1.2	-1.8
5у	0.7	0.6	0.3	-0.3	-0.8	-0.9	-1.1
10y	0.2	0.2	0.1	-0.1	-0.4	-0.2	-0.3

Source: BofA Global Research

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#### Exhibit 16: 6m Z-Scores w/ PCA framework

Left side richness on 6m Z-Scores, right side fair to cheap

	1y	2y	3у	5y	7у	10y	30y
3m	-1.0	1.0	-0.7	-0.2	-1.1	-1.2	-0.4
6m	0.7	1.1	-0.6	0.4	-0.4	-1.4	-0.7
1y	0.4	-0.7	-0.8	1.4	1.0	0.4	-1.6
2y	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.4	-1.8
2y 5y	1.7	1.6	1.2	0.2	-0.2	-0.5	-1.2
10v	0.9	0.8	0.5	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.5

Source: BofA Global Research

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### Exhibit 18: 1y Z-Scores w/ PCA framework

Grid broadly fair to rich on 1y Z-Scores, except URC

	1y	2y	3y	5у	7у	10y	30y
3m	-1.2	0.5	0.1	0.0	-0.9	-1.5	-1.1
6m	-0.3	1.8	0.9	0.7	-0.5	-1.3	-1.3
1y	-0.8	0.7	0.7	1.4	1.0	0.2	-1.4
2y	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.4	-0.9
5y	1.5	1.3	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.0
10y	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.5

Source: BofA Global Research

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### Exhibit 20: 3m Z-Scores w/modified PCA framework ...

Grid broadly fair to cheap except specific tenors (e.g., 1y3y or 3y10y)

	1y	2y	3у	5у	7у	10y	30y
1m	0.2	-0.4	0.0	0.4	-3.3	-1.7	-0.1
3m	1.0	0.2	-0.3	-1.1	-1.4	-1.9	0.9
6m	0.3	0.1	-0.3	0.1	-0.8	-1.0	-1.3
1y	-0.7	-0.7	1.6	-1.0	-2.0	-0.4	-1.4
2y	-0.3	-1.0	-1.0	-0.7	-1.2	-1.1	-1.5
3у	-1.0	1.0	-1.5	-0.6	-0.5	1.9	-0.1
4y	-0.5	-0.8	-1.4	-0.8	0.7	-0.7	-0.1
5y	0.1	-2.3	-1.4	-0.6	-0.4	-1.7	-1.6
10y	2.1	-0.4	-3.0	1.1	-0.4	-1.2	-1.0
15y	-2.0	-1.5	-0.7	2.1	-1.5	-1.2	0.3
30y	-0.4	0.0	0.6	1.5	1.1	-0.7	-0.5

Source: BofA Global Research

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### Exhibit 15: 3m Z-Scores w/ PCA framework w/o rates directionality

Grid broadly cheap when directionality considered

	1y	2y	3у	5у	7у	10y	30y
3m	-0.5	-0.4	-0.8	-0.8	-1.0	-1.1	-1.0
6m	-0.5	-0.5	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2	-1.4	-1.3
1y	-0.7	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.3	-1.4	-1.7
2у	-0.9	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.4	-1.4	-1.5
5у	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.3	-1.3	-1.4
10y	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.1	-1.1

Source: BofA Global Research

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### Exhibit 17: 6m Z-Scores w/PCA framework w/o rates directionality

ULC slightly rich vs right side cheap when directionality considered

	1y	2y	3y	5y	7у	10y	30y
3m	0.2	0.3	0.1	-0.1	-0.7	-1.3	-1.3
6m	0.4	0.4	0.1	-0.3	-0.8	-1.2	-1.4
1y	0.3	0.0	-0.3	-0.5	-0.8	-1.1	-1.5
2y	-0.3	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.1	-1.5
5y	-0.7	-0.8	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2	-1.2	-1.4
10y	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2

Source: BofA Global Research

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## **Exhibit 19: 1y Z-Scores w/PCA framework w/o rates directionality**ULC slightly rich vs right side cheap when directionality considered

	1y	2y	3у	5у	7у	10y	30y
3m	0.4	0.6	0.4	-0.3	-1.2	-1.8	-2.0
6m	0.6	0.7	0.4	-0.5	-1.3	-1.8	-2.1
1y	0.7	0.1	-0.3	-1.0	-1.4	-1.6	-2.1
2y	-0.5	-1.0	-1.1	-1.4	-1.5	-1.7	-2.0
5y	-1.2	-1.2	-1.3	-1.4	-1.5	-1.6	-1.7
10y	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-0.9

Source: BofA Global Research

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### Exhibit 21: ... and w/o directionality with rates

Grid broadly fair to cheap except specific tenors

	1y	2y	3у	5y	7у	10y	30y
1m	1.1	-0.2	-0.3	0.5	-3.2	-1.9	-0.4
3m	0.5	-0.4	-0.2	-0.9	-1.2	-1.9	1.0
6m	0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.4	-1.0	-0.7	-1.7
1y	-1.0	-0.7	1.4	-0.8	-1.5	-0.3	-1.3
2y	-0.5	-1.3	-0.9	-1.0	-1.2	-0.8	-1.3
3y	-1.0	1.1	-1.2	-1.8	-0.6	0.5	-0.8
4y	-0.8	-0.7	-1.2	-1.2	0.7	-1.2	-0.4
5y	0.2	-1.0	-1.0	-0.6	-1.2	-1.8	-1.7
10y	1.9	-0.5	-2.0	1.0	-0.6	-0.8	-1.2
15y	-3.2	-1.4	-1.2	2.3	-1.5	-0.9	0.5
30y	-0.2	-0.5	0.6	1.4	0.0	-0.8	0.5

Source: BofA Global Research

## **Skew Relative Value**

#### Exhibit 22: Skew 25% delta

Receiver skew rich on ULC (3m Z-Scores)

	1Y	2Y	<b>3Y</b>	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	14.8	14.0	10.5	3.9	1.8	0.4	0.3
3M	18.2	16.5	12.4	5.4	3.1	1.3	1.4
6M	19.6	16.1	12.0	5.2	3.2	1.1	1.5
1Y	11.2	8.3	6.2	1.8	-0.1	-0.6	0.5
2Y	-5.4	-4.7	-4.0	-3.4	-3.3	-2.9	-0.5
3Y	-9.8	-8.6	-7.5	-6.2	-5.2	-4.0	-1.0
4Y	-10.2	-8.8	-7.6	-6.1	-5.3	-4.0	-1.3
5Y	-9.3	-8.2	-7.4	-5.9	-5.2	-3.9	-1.0
10Y	-3.9	-3.4	-2.4	-3.3	-3.4	-3.7	-1.5
15Y	-1.7	-1.5	-0.9	-1.6	-1.8	-2.4	-0.9
30Y	0.1	0.4	0.9	0.5	-0.2	-0.6	-0.1

Source: BofA Global Research

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### Exhibit 24: Breakeven Widths for Costless Receiver Ladders

103bp breakeven width for 1y10y receiverladders

	1Y	2Y	<b>3Y</b>	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	52	56	51	42	36	31	24
3M	96	101	91	75	65	57	45
6M	143	139	124	101	90	79	64
1Y	182	164	151	127	113	103	86
2Y	182	172	166	153	144	133	113
2Y 5Y	212	207	203	195	188	181	158
10Y	250	244	244	230	221	210	188

Source: BofA Global Research

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### Exhibit 26: 3m Z-Score Receiver Skew (w/o fwds & ATM direction)

Receiver skew fair to cheap broadly across the grid

	1Y	2Y	3Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	-1.0	-1.2	-0.5	-1.0	-0.9	-0.8	-1.4
3M	-1.3	-0.8	-0.1	-0.8	-0.8	-1.3	-1.3
6M	-0.5	0.0	-0.1	-1.2	-0.7	-2.5	-2.3
1Y	-0.4	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5	-1.0	-1.4
2Y	-1.0	-0.8	-0.8	-1.3	-1.4	-2.1	0.0
5Y	-0.3	0.1	0.2	-1.3	-1.6	-2.1	-1.1
10Y	-1.6	-1.8	-0.6	-3.8	-3.9	-3.9	-3.2

Source: BofA Global Research. Fwds = forwards.

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### Exhibit 28: Ratio of Payer/Receiver BE widths for Costless Ladders

Ratios of breakeven widths < 100% on the ULC and belly

	1Y	2Y	<b>3Y</b>	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	73%	77%	82%	95%	99%	102%	103%
3M	65%	72%	78%	93%	98%	103%	101%
6M	66%	73%	81%	95%	99%	107%	104%
1Y	83%	88%	93%	106%	112%	115%	108%
2Y	124%	124%	123%	123%	123%	125%	115%
5Y	155%	153%	152%	147%	145%	142%	125%
10Y	155%	154%	150%	157%	159%	163%	140%

Source: BofA Global Research

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### Exhibit 23: Skew 75% delta

Payer skew rich on longer date expiries and gamma on the right side (on 3m Z-Scores)

	1Y	2Y	3Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	-14.6	-12.7	-8.4	-1.1	0.8	1.9	1.4
3M	-17.2	-13.5	-8.2	-0.3	1.6	2.8	1.9
6M	-16.1	-10.6	-5.4	1.7	3.2	4.7	3.2
1Y	-4.6	-1.4	1.1	5.1	6.5	6.5	4.4
2Y	10.9	10.3	9.9	9.0	8.6	8.2	5.0
3Y	14.9	14.1	13.4	12.1	11.4	10.0	6.2
4Y	15.6	14.6	13.9	12.4	12.0	11.0	6.9
5Y	15.2	14.5	14.1	12.7	11.9	11.1	7.1
10Y	13.6	13.3	12.7	13.0	12.8	12.6	8.4
15Y	12.8	12.6	12.3	12.4	12.2	11.4	7.7
30Y	12.2	12.0	11.8	11.7	10.7	10.5	7.0

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 25: Breakeven Widths for Costless Payer Ladders

119bp breakeven width for 1y10y payer ladders

	1Y	2Y	3Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	38	44	41	40	36	32	25
3M	62	72	71	70	64	58	46
6M	94	102	100	97	90	85	67
1Y	150	144	140	134	127	119	92
2Y	225	212	204	188	177	167	131
5Y	328	316	307	286	272	256	197
10Y	386	376	365	361	352	342	263

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 27: 3m Z-Score Payer Skew (w/o direction w/ fwds & ATM)

... payer skew fair to rich broadly across the grid

	1Y	2Y	3Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	0.3	0.2	-0.5	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.6
3M	1.1	0.6	0.0	1.1	1.0	1.7	1.7
6M	0.7	-0.1	0.1	1.3	1.1	1.9	2.0
1Y	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.1	1.3	1.0
2Y	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.4
5Y	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.1
10Y	1.6	1.6	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 29: 3m Z-Score Ratio of Payer/Receiver Skew

Z-Scores show broadly rich payer vs receiver skew

	1Y	2Y	<b>3Y</b>	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	1.3	1.7	0.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.4
3M	0.5	0.7	0.4	1.7	2.0	2.4	2.1
6M	0.2	0.0	0.3	1.3	1.0	1.8	1.3
1Y	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.6
2Y	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.0
5Y	1.0	0.7	0.7	1.4	1.2	1.2	0.5
10Y	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3

Source: BofA Global Research



## **Conditional Curve Trades**

### Exhibit 30: Bull Flattener (pickup to forwards for ATM)

Buy longer maturity receiver, sell shorter maturity receiver

ATM	2/5s	2/10s	2/30s	5/10s	5/30s	10/30s
3M	9.7	18.5	24.5	10.4	17.3	8.3
6M	14.2	24.3	32.7	12.2	22.0	11.4
1Y	16.5	28.0	39.7	13.2	26.7	14.9
1.5Y	16.7	29.2	43.3	14.0	29.8	17.1
2Y	14.9	27.8	43.8	14.0	31.2	18.5

Source: BofA Global Research. ATM = at the money.

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 32: Bull Steepener (pickup to forwards for ATM)

Sell longer maturity receiver, buy shorter maturity receiver

ATM	2/5s	2/10s	2/30s	5/10s	5/30s	10/30s
3M	-9.7	-18.5	-24.5	-10.4	-17.3	-8.3
6M	-14.2	-24.3	-32.7	-12.2	-22.0	-11.4
1Y	-16.5	-28.0	-39.7	-13.2	-26.7	-14.9
1.5Y	-16.7	-29.2	-43.3	-14.0	-29.8	-17.1
2Y	-14.9	-27.8	-43.8	-14.0	-31.2	-18.5

**Source:** BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 34: Bear Flattener (pickup to forwards for ATM)

Sell longer maturity payer, buy shorter maturity payer

ATM	2/5s	2/10s	2/30s	5/10s	5/30s	10/30s
3M	-9.3	-18.7	-24.7	-10.4	-17.5	-8.5
6M	-13.8	-25.1	-33.3	-12.6	-22.4	-11.6
	-17.1	-29.8	-41.1	-14.4	-27.8	-15.7
1.5Y	-18.3	-32.1	-45.6	-15.7	-31.3	-18.3
2Y	-16.9	-31.2	-46.4	-15.9	-33.3	-19.8

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 36: Bear Steepener (pickup to forwards for ATM)

Buy longer maturity payer, sell shorter maturity payer

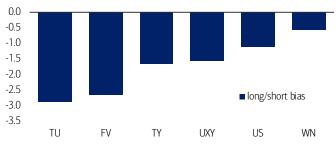
ATM	2/5s	2/10s	2/30s	5/10s	5/30s	10/30s
3M	9.3	18.7	24.7	10.4	17.5	8.5
6M	13.8	25.1	33.3	12.6	22.4	11.6
1Y	17.1	29.8	41.1	14.4	27.8	15.7
1.5Y	18.3	32.1	45.6	15.7	31.3	18.3
2Y	16.9	31.2	46.4	15.9	33.3	19.8

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### **Exhibit 38: Analysis of proxies for futures positioning**

... short bias across the curve, particularly at the front end



Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 31: Bull Flattener (pickup to forwards for -25bp OTM)

Buy longer maturity receiver, sell shorter maturity receiver

-25bp	2/5s	2/10s	2/30s	5/10s	5/30s	10/30s
3M	14.9	27.1	35.3	15.1	24.9	12.2
6M	19.6	32.7	43.1	16.3	29.0	14.9
1Y	20.8	34.7	48.5	16.5	32.5	18.3
1.5Y	19.8	34.5	50.5	16.7	34.7	20.0
2Y	16.7	31.5	49.3	16.1	35.4	21.0

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 33: Bull Steepener (pickup to forwards for -25bp OTM)

Sell longer maturity receiver, buy shorter maturity receiver

-25bp	2/5s	2/10s	2/30s	5/10s	5/30s	10/30s
3M	-14.9	-27.1	-35.3	-15.1	-24.9	-12.2
6M	-19.6	-32.7	-43.1	-16.3	-29.0	-14.9
1Y	-20.8	-34.7	-48.5	-16.5	-32.5	-18.3
1.5Y	-19.8	-34.5	-50.5	-16.7	-34.7	-20.0
2Y	-16.7	-31.5	-49.3	-16.1	-35.4	-21.0

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 35: Bear Flattener (pickup to forwards for +25bp OTM)

Sell longer maturity payer, buy shorter maturity payer

+25bp	2/5s	2/10s	2/30s	5/10s	5/30s	10/30s
3M	-9.5	-21.8	-30.6	-13.4	-23.7	-12.6
6M	-14.4	-28.0	-39.2	-14.9	-28.2	-15.9
1Y	-18.5	-33.3	-47.8	-16.5	-33.7	-20.0
1.5Y	-20.2	-36.4	-52.8	-18.3	-37.6	-22.8
2Y	-19.4	-35.8	-54.0	-18.5	-39.4	-24.3

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 37: Bear Steepener (pickup to forwards for +25bp OTM)

Buy longer maturity payer, sell shorter maturity payer

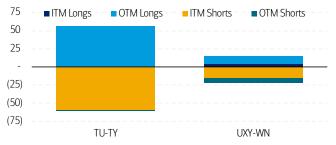
+25bp	2/5s	2/10s	2/30s	5/10s	5/30s	10/30s
3M	9.5	21.8	30.6	13.4	23.7	12.6
6M	14.4	28.0	39.2	14.9	28.2	15.9
1Y	18.5	33.3	47.8	16.5	33.7	20.0
1.5Y	20.2	36.4	52.8	18.3	37.6	22.8
2Y	19.4	35.8	54.0	18.5	39.4	24.3

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 39: Proxies for futures positioning across the curve

OTM longs in belly/front-end expose curve to bear flattening



Source: BofA Global Research

## **Forward Volatility**

### **Exhibit 40: 6m Forward Volatility**

104.0bp for 6m fwd 1y10y

	1y	2y	5у	10y	30y
1m	152.5	147.1	131.6	110.4	86.0
3m	149.0	139.8	125.7	107.1	83.7
6m	154.5	137.6	123.0	105.9	82.8
1y	145.5	138.2	121.5	104.0	82.1
2y	135.3	129.1	113.6	98.0	78.5
5y	107.4	103.8	94.5	84.9	70.2
10y	83.3	80.8	76.4	71.5	61.2

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### **Exhibit 43: 1y Forward Volatility**

100.3bp for 1y fwd 1y10y

	1y	2y	5y	10y	30y
1m	149.1	139.1	124.5	105.5	82.5
3m	144.4	139.7	124.3	104.8	82.2
6m	146.0	138.5	122.3	103.4	81.5
1y	142.9	132.3	117.4	100.3	80.0
2у	126.1	122.0	109.6	93.9	75.6
5у	102.5	99.4	90.8	81.8	67.6
10y	80.8	78.1	74.3	69.6	59.3

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 46: 2y Forward Volatility

90.0bp for 2y fwd 1y10y

	1y	2y	5у	10y	30y
1m	109.6	112.0	105.9	90.7	71.6
3m	110.9	111.3	105.3	90.1	71.1
6m	115.8	112.3	105.6	90.1	71.3
1y	122.6	113.9	105.9	90.0	71.4
2y	111.7	109.1	100.1	85.6	69.1
5y	94.8	92.2	85.0	76.5	63.7
10y	77.5	74.1	70.7	67.0	56.8

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### **Exhibit 49: 3y Forward Volatility**

83.8bp for 3y fwd 1y10y

	1y	2у	5у	10y	30y
1m	97.4	100.1	96.2	83.8	67.1
3m	98.9	100.6	95.6	83.1	66.6
6m	104.8	104.3	96.6	83.5	66.9
1y	115.7	109.1	97.5	83.8	67.2
2y	106.6	101.3	92.3	79.9	65.4
5y	89.2	86.7	80.6	73.0	60.2
10v	74 5	71 4	693	65.0	55.0

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 41: 6m Fwd vol as % ATM

99% of ATM for 6m fwd 1y10y

	1y	2y	5у	10y	30y
1m	99%	85%	91%	101%	100%
3m	101%	86%	92%	98%	97%
6m	100%	87%	94%	98%	96%
1y	93%	95%	99%	99%	98%
2y	99%	101%	100%	98%	97%
5y	99%	99%	98%	97%	97%
10y	97%	97%	97%	98%	98%

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 44: 1y Fwd vol as % ATM

96% of ATM for 1y fwd 1y10y

	1y	2y	5у	10y	30y
1m	96%	80%	86%	96%	96%
3m	98%	86%	91%	96%	96%
6m	95%	88%	93%	96%	95%
1y	91%	91%	95%	96%	95%
2y	93%	95%	97%	94%	93%
5y	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%
10y	94%	93%	94%	95%	95%

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 47: 2y Fwd vol as % ATM

86% of ATM for 2y fwd 1y10y

	1y	2у	5у	10y	30y
1m	71%	65%	73%	83%	83%
3m	75%	69%	77%	83%	83%
6m	75%	71%	80%	83%	83%
1y	78%	78%	86%	86%	85%
2y	82%	85%	88%	86%	85%
5y	87%	88%	88%	88%	88%
10y	90%	89%	90%	91%	91%

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 50: 3y Fwd vol as % ATM

80% of ATM for 3y fwd 1y10y

	1y	2у	5у	10y	30y
1m	63%	58%	66%	76%	78%
3m	67%	62%	70%	76%	77%
6m	68%	66%	73%	77%	78%
1y	74%	75%	79%	80%	80%
2y	78%	79%	81%	80%	81%
5y	82%	83%	84%	84%	83%
10y	87%	85%	88%	89%	88%

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 42: 3m Z-Score 6m Fwd vol % ATM

3.0 Z-Score for 6m fwd 1y10y

	1y	2y	5y	10y	30y
1m	0.6	0.5	0.8	1.2	0.6
3m	1.0	0.7	1.5	1.8	1.1
6m	0.9	0.7	2.0	2.2	1.2
1y	1.5	2.4	2.6	3.0	2.4
2y	2.7	3.0	3.1	3.2	2.4
5y	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.1	2.7
10y	3.5	3.5	3.0	2.6	2.6

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## Exhibit 45: 3m Z-Score 1y Fwd vol % ATM

3.0 Z-Score for 1y fwd 1y10y

	1y	2y	5у	10y	30y
1m	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.2
3m	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.6	1.9
6m	2.5	2.6	2.9	3.4	2.4
1y	3.1	2.6	2.5	3.0	2.6
2y	1.7	2.1	2.7	2.8	2.0
5y	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.4
10y	3.6	3.3	2.9	2.1	2.0

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 48: 3m Z-Score 2y Fwd vol % ATM

1.2 Z-Score for 2y fwd 1y10y

	1y	2y	5y	10y	30y
1m	1.7	1.3	0.9	1.4	0.7
3m	2.1	1.4	1.4	1.9	0.9
6m	1.9	1.2	1.4	2.0	0.9
1y	1.2	0.8	0.8	1.2	0.7
2y	0.8	0.0	0.9	1.3	0.9
5y	0.7	0.7	1.1	1.2	1.7
10v	2.5	1.7	0.5	1.5	1.4

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 51: 3m Z-Score 3y Fwd vol % ATM

1.2 Z-Score for 3y fwd 1y10y

	1y	2y	5y	10y	30y
1m	1.4	1.1	0.5	0.9	0.5
3m	2.0	1.3	0.8	1.2	0.6
6m	1.7	1.4	0.8	1.2	1.0
1y	1.2	1.5	0.6	1.2	1.5
2y	1.8	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.9
5y	0.6	0.5	1.1	1.7	1.8
10y	1.2	0.5	1.2	1.1	1.5

Source: BofA Global Research



## Ratios implied/delivered

### Exhibit 52: Implied vs. Delivered (21d) Ratio

Ratios of Implied to 21d delivered >100% broadly across the grid

	1y	2y	3y	5y	7у	10y	30y
1m	155%	136%	126%	123%	119%	118%	136%
3m	125%	120%	116%	116%	115%	116%	135%
6m	106%	110%	109%	109%	111%	115%	135%
1y	96%	99%	102%	105%	109%	115%	133%
2у	103%	105%	107%	112%	115%	120%	132%

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 53: Implied versus Delivered (63d) Ratio

Ratios of Implied to 63d delivered < 100% except right side

	1y	2y	3у	5y	7у	10y	30y
1m	87%	94%	93%	96%	95%	97%	111%
3m	72%	84%	87%	90%	92%	96%	110%
6m	72%	82%	85%	87%	91%	97%	111%
1y	77%	81%	84%	88%	93%	100%	111%
2y	87%	89%	92%	98%	103%	108%	113%

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 54: 3m Z-Scores for Implied versus Delivered (21d) Ratio

Ratios of implied/21d delivered rich across the grid

	1y	2у	3у	5у	7у	10y	30y
1m	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.0	1.3
3m	1.7		1.5	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.1
6m	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.1
1y 2y	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.8	1.0
2y	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 55: 3m Z-Scores for Implied versus Delivered (63d) Ratio

Ratios of implied/63d delivered fair to rich across the grid

	1y	2y	3у	5у	7у	10y	30y
1m	1.1	1.0	0.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	1.9
3m	1.2	0.9	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.2	2.7
6m	1.5	0.9	0.2	-0.1	0.2	1.0	3.6
1y	1.2	0.1	-0.1	0.2	1.2	2.5	4.2
2y	0.3	0.2	0.4	1.9	3.0	3.9	4.4

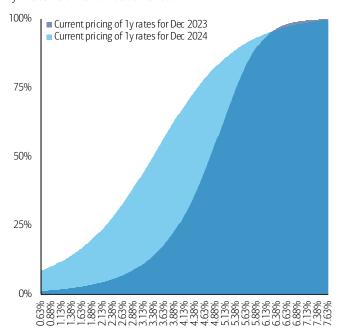
Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## Rates probability distributions

### Exhibit 56: CDF for 1y SOFR rates at end-2023 and end-2024

1y rate cumulative distribution functions

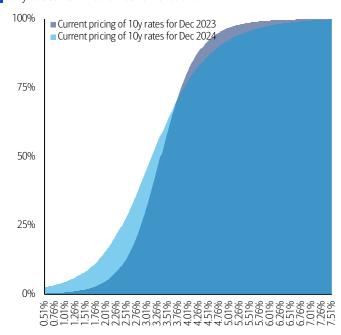


Source: BofA Global Research

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### Exhibit 57: CDF for 10y SOFR rates at end-2023 and end-2024

10y rate cumulative distribution functions



Source: BofA Global Research



## **Trade activity**

### Exhibit 58: Payer volumes over the last week (\$m notionals)

Demand for payers over the last week

Payers	1y	2у	3Y	4Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	20Y	30Y	
<1m	250	240			920		653		495	2963
1m	960	1160	240		850		3439	260	1028	9360
3m	2630	2950			500		1590	36	527	8833
6m	4166	700	200		500		1717	87	595	11825
1y	6750	2810	640		871	126	1148	358	379	13082
2y	1750	678			440		1015	50	61	3994
3Y	2300	195	12		1119		1061	270	155	5112
4Y		100			190		540	138	80	1048
5Y	1930				150		210	100	30	2420
7Y	430	150					120		254	954
10Y							1200	47	400	1647
20Y							25		120	145
30Y										
-	21166	8983	1092		5540	126	12718	1346	4124	61383

Source: BofA Global Research; SDR; Bloomberg

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 59: Receiver volumes over the last week (\$m notionals)

Demand for payers over the last week

Receivers	1y	2y	<b>3Y</b>	4Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	20Y	30Y	
<1m	3010	240			540		737	305	70	5211
1m	960	240	240		880	196	2772	260	1108	7529
3m	2630	2710			610		1540	310	784	9059
6m	2855	980	215		400		1921	137	605	7333
1y	7000	3060	640		826	126	1488	358	329	14007
2y	1750	678	110		440		1015	50	50	4093
3Y	2300	150	12		1119	12	1141	270	155	5159
4Y		100			190		540	138	80	1048
5Y	1930				150		210	100	30	2420
7Y	430	150					120		254	954
10Y							1116	47	400	1563
20Y							185		120	305
30Y										
	22865	8308	1217		5155	334	12785	1975	3985	58681

Source: BofA Global Research; SDR; Bloomberg

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Exhibit 60: Straddle volumes over the last week (\$m notionals)

Demand for payers over the last week

Straddles	1y	2y	3Y	4Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	20Y	30Y	
<1m		480								480
1m	1000	150					65		60	1283
3m	920						6		25	951
6m							50			50
1y	1000						135			1135
2у		200		240		300	50			790
3Y										
4Y							270			270
5Y					45					45
7Y							90			90
10Y							200			200
20Y										
30Y										
	2920	830	<u> </u>	240	45	300	866	<u> </u>	85	5294

Source: BofA Global Research; SDR; Bloomberg



### Formosa issuance

#### Exhibit 61: 2022 Formosa issuance (\$m)

14.8bn total issuance for the year '22

	2	5	7	10	15	20	25	30
1			75	513	20			
2		40		640				
3				110	20			125
4		15		179	50			
4 5 7				20	45	220	80	10,226
7			30					
10				2,000				363
15								
20								
25								
30								

Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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### Exhibit 63: Formosa issuance (\$m) since 2014

Peak issuance concentrated on the 5y30y tenor

	2	5	7	10	15	20	25	30
1		205	75	1033	462	840		18054
2		40		1134		1485		22177
3		40		110	20	240	225	15536
4		197		339	50	25	275	2441
5				155	445	1497	368	111658
7			30					5624
10				2000				4489
15								
20								
25								
30								6500

Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

US Eqty LC

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### Exhibit 62: 2023 Formosa issuance YTD (\$m)

Limited issuance YTD

	2	5	7	10	15	20	25	30
1								
2				340				
3		40						
4		182		160				
5				135			15	
7								
10								25
15								
20								
25 30								
30								1000

Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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### Exhibit 64: Total issuance per year since 2014 (\$bn)

Rough 1.94bn issuance YTD



Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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### Allocation bias from ETF flows

## **Exhibit 65: Allocation bias from ETF flows – week ending 6/9** Short equity vol bias persists as short duration bias decreases slightly

US Eqty SC
Japan Eqty
Europe Eqty
EM Eqty
China Eqty
US Bonds
US Tsy 1-3y
USTsy 7-10y
USTsy 20+
TIPS
EM Bonds
US IG
US HY
Gold

-4.0-3.5-3.0-2.5-2.0-1.5-1.0-0.5 0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0

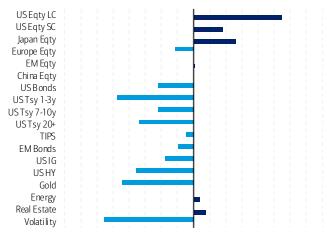
Source: BofA Global Research

Energy

Real Estate Volati li ty

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## **Exhibit 66: Allocation bias from ETF flows – week ending 6/2** Risk on bias suggested by proxies of position obtained from ETFs



-4.0-3.5-3.0-2.5-2.0-1.5-1.0-0.5 0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0

Source: BofA Global Research

### **Notes**

**Exhibit 13**: We classify the moves on the 2s10s or 5s30s curve every day in either one of these: bear flattening & bull steepening (where the 2y or 5y leg leads) or bear steepening & bull flattening (where the 10y or 30y leg leads). We sum each one of those columns over the last 2 or 3 months and divide by the absolute value of the curve moves to get a % index for each of the 4 different curve dynamics. We sum up the bear flattening + bull steepening indices into a new index - when this index = 0 the entire dynamic of the 2s10s or 5s30s curve is driven by the longer leg (10y or 30y leg respectively - corresponds to periods of forward guidance for example).

**Exhibit 14/15/17**: We calculate the principal components of the vol grid (the Eigen vectors of the covariance matrix) and take only the first 2/3 that represent around 90% of the variance in the data. We transpose the PCA transformation to recover vols from only these 2/3 components and obtain models for the vols. We calculate the residual of these models to the original series, and the Z-Score of these residuals.

**Exhibit 15/16/18**: Instead of taking the first 2/3 principal components of the vol grid and apply the transpose of the PCA transformation to them, we first regress each of these vol PCs on the principal components of rates and apply the transpose of the vol PCA transformation to these models for the vol PCs. This way we remove the directionality between vol and rates from the vol dynamic, and obtain a purer Z-Score RV signal on vol.

**Exhibit 24/24**: In a payer/receiver ladder, one buys the ATM strike and then sells ATM+/-x and ATM+/-2x. In the terminal payoff diagram, the position starts losing money when the forwards move past ATM+/-3x, which we call the downside breakeven on the payer/receiver ladder.

We calculate the x (gap between strikes) daily such that the premium one has to pay for the payer/receiver ladder is zero (any vol structure that has unlimited downside can always be structured to be costless). These breakeven widths are therefore costless downside breakeven widths. When payer/receiver skew richens, this width increases - one needs to sell higher strikes ATM+/-(x+delta) and ATM+/-2(x+delta) to pay for the ATM strike bought. By looking at how these costless downside breakeven widths change over time, one can measure how payer/receiver skew has richen/cheapen over time.

**Exhibit 26/26**: Skew is directional with forwards and with the level of vol. We regress the costless downside breakeven widths (for receivers and payers) on the forwards and ATM vol and look at the residuals of that regression to get a purer skew RV signal.



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## **Research Analysts**

Ralph Axel Rates Strategist BofAS

ralph.axel@bofa.com

Bruno Braizinha, CFA

Rates Strategist BofAS

bruno.braizinha@bofa.com

Mark Cabana, CFA

Rates Strategist

**BofAS** 

mark.cabana@bofa.com

Katie Craig

Rates Strategist BofAS

katie.craig@bofa.com

**Meghan Swiber, CFA**Rates Strategist
BofAS

meghan.swiber@bofa.com

Anna (Caiyi) Zhang

caiyi.zhang@bofa.com

Rates Strategist BofAS

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