

# **US Banks**

# Idiosyncratic vs. systemic

**Industry Overview** 

## **Higher for longer rates = bad news**

We believe that the sharp sell-off in bank stocks yesterday (large-cap bank index -7.7% vs. -1.7% S&P 500) was likely overdone as investors extrapolated idiosyncratic issues at individual banks to the broader banking sector. However, the sell-off also highlights a (belated) realization among investors that higher for longer interest rates are negative for the sector's EPS outlook. As we noted again recently (click here for report: Earnings & beyond: Bank stocks remain in search of a clearing event 30 Jan 2023) higher for longer rates are negative for 1) net interest margins (due to accelerating funding cost pressures); 2) growth (due to demand destruction); and 3) credit quality (more things likely to break).

## Two sides to the B/S when managing interest rate risk

We believe that the combination of long dated assets disproportionately funded by high velocity deposits is where the risk from accelerating funding costs is most acute. While the entire industry is likely to experience heightened funding cost pressure, we still expect this to be an earnings event for most banks, especially those funded with branch-based retail deposits. Banks are coming into this period with a relatively low loan-to-deposit ratio of 69% at YE22 vs. 80% pre-pandemic (although up from 62% at YE21 prior to the start of Fed tightening). See Exhibit 3-4 for cycle-to-date deposit betas; Exhibit 7-8 for loans+securities/deposits; Exhibit 13-14 for securities/avg. earning assets for BofA's large-cap and mid-cap banks coverage.

#### Commercial Real Estate (CRE) under stress?

As we discussed as part of a panel discussion during BofA's Financial Services conference last month (click here for report page 11: Conference takeaways: Resilient 20 Feb 2023), class B/C office CRE in urban city centers is seen as the most distressed asset class. While all CRE loans will be hurt by rising cap rates, the combination of rising cap rates and rising vacancy rates (as is the case in the office sector) is likely to cause credit migration. However, given the long-dated leases, we expect issues to play out over several quarters/years as opposed to a cliff event in any given quarter. The loss content of these assets is also debatable given personal guarantees that back many CRE loans made by banks. See Exhibit 19-20 for CRE as % of total loans; and Exhibit 21-22 for office CRE exposure (where disclosed) for BofA's large-cap and mid-cap banks coverage.

## Bank stocks to struggle in the absence of clearing event

While bank stocks could bounce in the short term on macro data that soothes inflation concerns, we believe that the group will struggle to shed the late cycle mindset that has taken hold among investors since last year. We remain biased towards maintaining exposure to the sector via mega-cap banks (over regional banks) given their strong liquidity position, diversified revenue profile and credit defensibility.

#### 10 March 2023

Equity United States Banks

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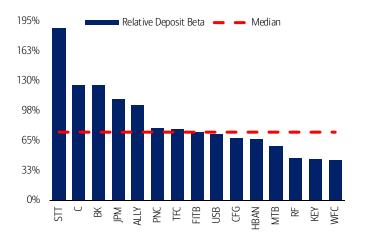
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Refer to important disclosures on page 8 to 10.

### Exhibit 1: Large cap current cycle vs. Prior cycle beta

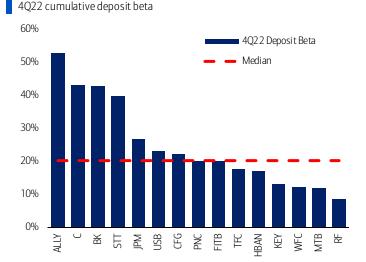
Cumulative total deposit beta, 4Q22 vs 2Q19



Source: BofA Global Research, company filings, S&P Capital IQ Pro

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# Exhibit 3: Large cap deposit beta

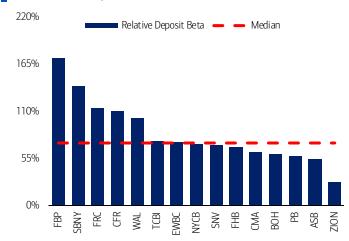


**Source:** BofA Global Research, company filings, S&P Capital IQ Pro

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### Exhibit 2: Mid cap current cycle vs. Prior cycle beta

Cumulative total deposit beta, 4Q22 vs 2Q19

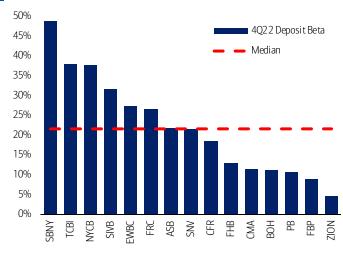


Source: BofA Global Research, company filings, S&P Capital IQ Pro

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### Exhibit 4: Mid cap deposit beta

4Q22 cumulative deposit beta

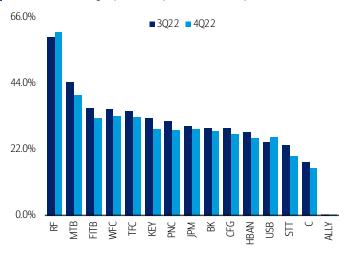


**Source:** BofA Global Research, company filings, S&P Capital IQ Pro



#### Exhibit 5: Large cap banks deposit mix continuing to shift

Non-interest-bearing deposits as a percent of total deposits

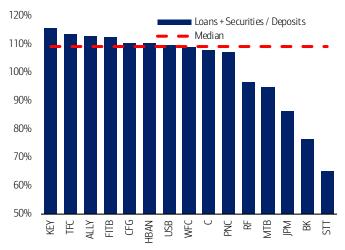


Source: BofA Global Research, company filings

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#### Exhibit 7: Large cap loans + securities / deposits

As deposits run-off some banks may see this ratio move higher...

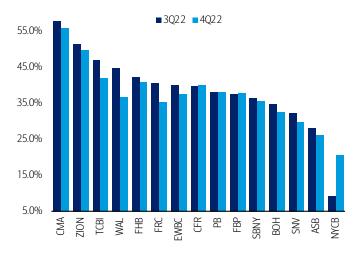


**Source:** BofA Global Research, company filings, S&P Capital IQ Pro

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#### Exhibit 6: Mid cap banks deposit mix continuing to shift

Non-interest-bearing deposits as a percent of total deposits

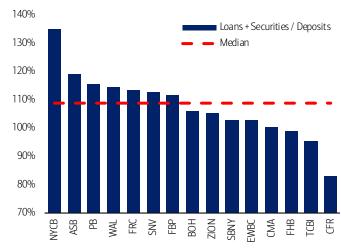


**Source:** BofA Global Research, company filings Note: NYCB includes Flagstar acquisition

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#### Exhibit 8: Mid cap loans + securities / deposits

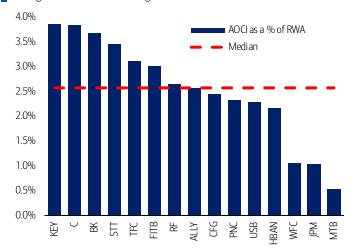
...but the sector is coming into this period with relatively low ratios



**Source:** BofA Global Research, company filings, S&P Capital IQ Pro

#### Exhibit 9: Large cap AOCI as a % of RWA

Rising interest rates have a negative effect on AOCI...

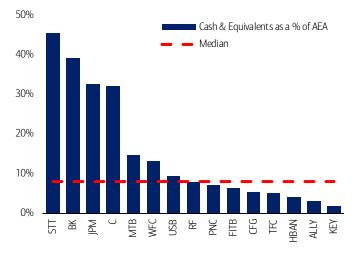


**Source:** BofA Global Research, company filings, S&P Capital IQ Pro

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#### Exhibit 11: Large cap Cash & Equivalents as a % of AEA

Some banks have maintained more dry powder...

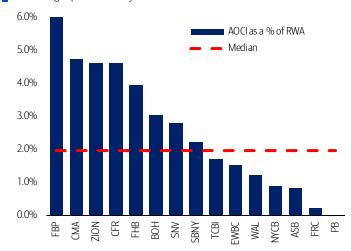


Source: BofA Global Research, company filings, S&P Capital IQ Pro

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### Exhibit 10: Mid cap AOCI as a % of RWA

...reducing capital flexibility for some banks

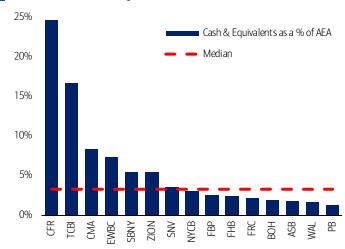


Source: BofA Global Research, company filings, S&P Capital IQ Pro

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#### Exhibit 12: Mid cap Cash & Equivalents as a % of AEA

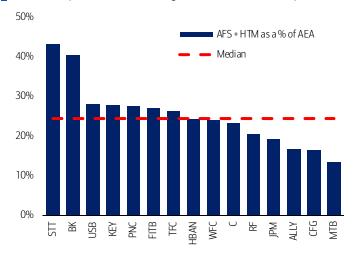
...while others maintain higher asset levels



Source: BofA Global Research, company filings, S&P Capital IQ Pro

#### Exhibit 13: Large cap AFS + HTM as a % of AEA

Trust banks' portfolios are more weighted towards securities vs peers...

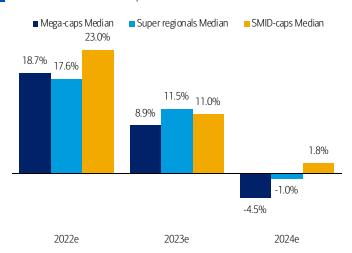


Source: BofA Global Research, company filings, S&P Capital IQ Pro

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### Exhibit 15: BofA net interest income growth estimates

We estimate that NII will be pressured in 2023 and 2024...

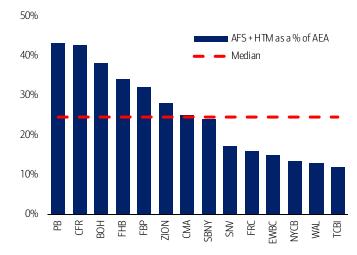


Source: BofA Global Research, company filings

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#### Exhibit 14: Mid cap AFS + HTM as a % of AEA

...while the mortgage heavy regional names are less weighted to securities

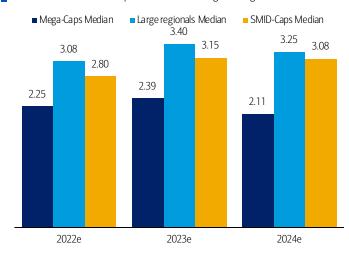


Source: BofA Global Research, company filings, S&P Capital IQ Pro

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## **Exhibit 16: BofA NIM estimates**

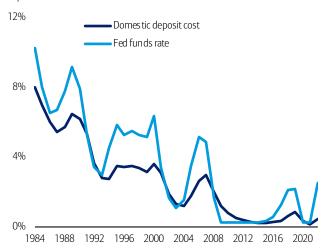
...as NIMs continue to be pressured from rising funding costs



Source: BofA Global Research, company filings

#### Exhibit 17: Deposit costs vs. Fed funds rate

Deposit costs and Fed funds rate are correlated

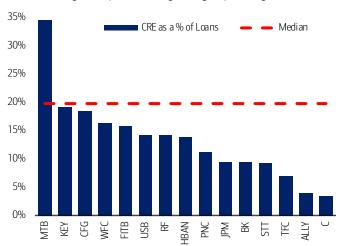


Source: BofA Global Research, FDIC

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#### Exhibit 19: Large cap CRE as a % of loans

MTB has the highest exposure among our large cap coverage

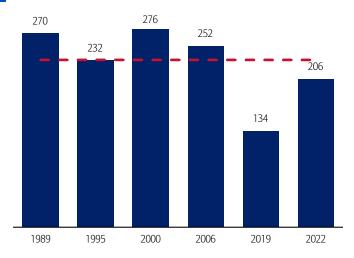


Source: BofA Global Research, company filings

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# Exhibit 18: Spread (bp) between peak deposit costs and peak Fed funds rate by cycle

2019-2022 are below the median

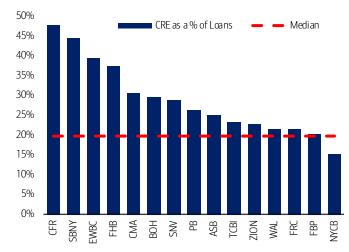


Source: BofA Global Research, FDIC

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#### Exhibit 20: Mid cap CRE as a % of loans

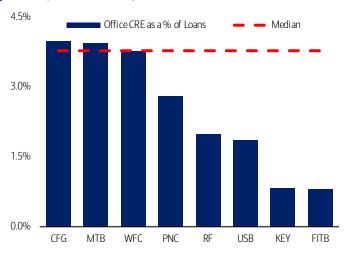
CFR has the highest exposure among our mid cap coverage



Source: BofA Global Research, company filings

## Exhibit 21: Large cap office CRE as a % of loans

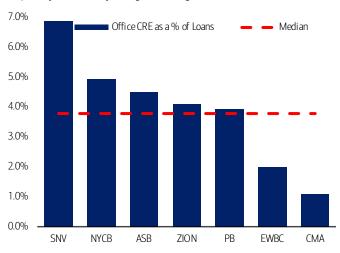
Office exposure has been top of mind for investors...



Source: BofA Global Research, company filings

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# **Exhibit 22: Mid cap office CRE as a % of loans** ...especially as rates may be higher for longer



Source: BofA Global Research, company filings



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|-------------------|---|--|
|                   | rating)   |  |

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 ≤ 70%

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