

US Rates Watch

USD funding: limited bank stress, so far

Few signs of broad bank funding stress

Banks are back in the headlines and clients have asked if recent bank headlines have spilled over into broader bank funding stress. We are not seeing broad signs of bank stress in US funding markets but we will keep monitoring. We monitor several factors in funding markets to determine if there is stress, including (1) money market fund inflows, which could reflect bank deposit outflows (2) FHLB debt issuance, which likely reflects increased bank demand for advances (3) emergency Fed lending activity (4) unsecured credit pricing, including 90-day financial CP and CD pricing. Detail on each below.

Money market funds: inflows pace does not reflect stress

Recent money market mutual fund inflows have been in-line with prior weeks and do not indicate large scale deposit outflows. Over the week ending Feb 7 MMF AUM increased \$7b, following a \$37b inflow the prior week (Exhibit 1). Inflows were into retail MMFs while institutional MMFs saw minor outflows. These inflows are in-line with recent weeks and are small in relation to the March '23 bank stress (Exhibit 2).

FHLB debt issuance: higher but small vs '23

FHLB debt has increased \$38b MTD after a \$4b increase in January (Exhibit 3). We use FHLB debt as a proxy for bank demand for FHLB advances. The growth in debt outstanding suggests FHLB advance demand has increased since month-end but remains subdued in relation to March '23.

Around month end fed funds (FF) volumes dropped sharply, likely reflecting increased FHLB advance demand. Recall, the FHLBs are the dominant lender in the FF market; when FHLBs make unexpected advances they have less excess cash to lend in FF. The recent drop in FF volumes implies FHLBs likely faced unexpected advance demand for a few days (Exhibit 5). Recent FF volume stabilization likely suggests a stabilization in FHLB advance demand as well.

Emergency Fed lending not seeing increased take-up

Fed balance sheet data (Exhibit 6) for the week ending Feb 7, showed no change in BTFP take-up and a \$0.855b decline in borrowing from the discount window. Limited BTFP & DW borrowing suggests limited signs of broad bank funding stress. We acknowledge that BTFP & DW borrowing may have stigma and would be a less preferred borrowing source for liquidity strained banks.

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Abbreviations:

BTFP: bank term funding program FHLB: Federal Home Loan Banks MMF: Money market funds

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Limited upward pressure in CP or CD rates

Financial CP rates and CD rates do not reflect increased demand for funding from banks with rates little changed (Exhibit 7, Exhibit 8). We have also not seen an increase in financial CP or CD issuance, which suggests limited spillover risk across financials.

Bottom line: USD funding markets suggest limited signs of bank liquidity stress. Money fund inflows are in-line with recent weeks and do not suggest widespread bank deposit outflows. FHLB advance activity has likely increased over recent days but is limited vs March '23. Emergency Fed lending & unsecured funding markets shows no sign of increase. We will continue to monitor for any signs of change.

Exhibit 1: Daily Crane MMF AUM (\$bn)

MMF AUM grew \$7b WoW as of Feb 7, with inflows into retail MMFs

										Prime	Gov't
Dates		Total	Prime	Gov't	Tax exempt	Retail	Institutional	Prime Institutional	Gov't Institutional	Retail	Retail
	12/29/2023	6,300	1,308	4,862	131	2,232	3,937	616	3,322	692	1,540
	1/31/2024	6,394	1,360	4,907	127	2,284	3,984	644	3,340	716	1,568
	2/7/2024	6,401	1,363	4,911	128	2,295	3,979	641	3,338	722	1,573
	WoW change	7	3	3	1	11	-5	-3	-2	6	5
	YTD change	101	55	49	-3	63	42	25	16	30	33

Source: Crane Data

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Exhibit 2: Changes in ICI MMF AUM (\$bn)

MMFs have seen limited inflows

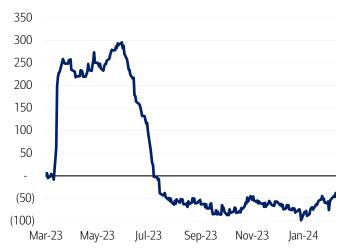
\$bn	Inst	Retai
Since Jan 31 '24	3.1	13.6
Weekly Av Since End Jul '23	7.1	11.5
St Dev Since End Jul '23	32.1	8.2
Weekly Av in Mar '23	59.0	16.5

Source: Bloomberg

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Exhibit 3: Cumulative growth in FHLB debt since March 1 (\$bn)

FHLB debt issuance has picked up over the last week



Source: Bloomberg, FHLB Office of Finance. Note: we use estimates of daily net issuance

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Exhibit 4: FHLB debt issuance (\$bn)

FHLB debt is a proxy for bank advance demand



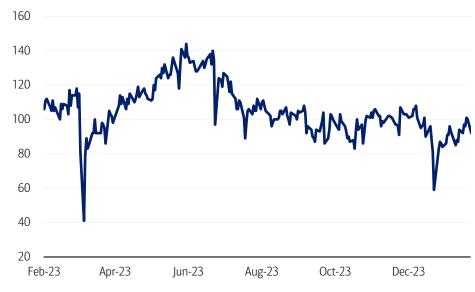
Source: BofA Global Research, FHLB Office of Finance

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Exhibit 5: Fed funds volumes (\$bn)

FF volumes dropped around bank headlines



Source: Bloomberg

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Exhibit 6: Fed balance sheet, selected assets & liabilities (\$bn, Wednesday comparison data)

There has been no pickup in Fed emergency lending

1	Assets					Liabilities							
Dates	Securities	Repo	Discount Window	BTFP	FX Swaps	Other	Currency	Foreign RRP	ON RRP	TGA	Reserves	Other	Total
12/27/2023	7,225	0	2	136	1	399	2,345	347	819	713	3,434	106	7,764
1/31/2024	7,112	0	3	165	0	399	2,327	362	615	865	3,412	98	7,680
2/7/2024	7,112	0	2	165	0	402	2,327	337	553	822	3,556	87	7,682
WoW Change	0	0	-1	0	0	3	0	-25	-62	-44	144	-11	2
YTD Change	-113	0	0	29	-1	3	-17	-10	-266	109	122	-19	-81

Source: BofA Global Research, Federal Reserve

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Exhibit 7: Rate on 90day AA Financial CP

Limited upward pressure in AA Financial CP rates

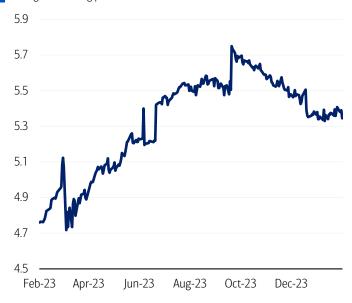


Source: Federal Reserve, Bloomberg

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Exhibit 8: Rate on 3-month certificate of deposits

No sign of funding pressure in CD rates



Source: Bloomberg

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