

# **US** Rates Watch

# Vol views - A look at the left field

## Scope for the duration selloff...

The 10yT sold off 35bp since early December. It has surpassed the levels reached in the 1Q21 selloff, and is now at levels not since Jan '20, just as the COVID pandemic was starting to make headlines.

In <u>Drivers and scope for the duration selloff</u> we looked at some of the catalysts for this move, and argued for limited scope for further upside in yields near term. We see yields capped by a number of factors, including: (1) a high sensitivity of risky assets to bond yields that may create negative feedback loops between the two asset classes (particularly in the 1.75-2% range for 10yT - see <u>Does a rising tide sink some boats?</u>; (2) relatively balanced portfolio allocation profiles which seem to be typical of periods in the cycle characterized by major policy changes - see <u>USTs and the '22 allocation backdrop</u>; (3) relatively attractive FX-hedged pickups in USTs vs other DM yields (between 60-80bp for EUR, JPY and GBP investors); (4) the persistence of some degree of decoupling of USTs with the Developed Market (DM) component of global yields; and (6) a limited scope for a further terminal re-pricing near term (beyond the 1.75-2% range - see <u>Practical neutral rate: a limit to US yields</u>).

The latter two drivers are linked to a large extent. The lagging beta of 10yT to the DM component of global yields was helped be the anchoring of the terminal rate view around the 1.5-1.75% range as the market priced in a more hawkish Fed (one that may sacrifice the growth outlook to fight inflation). In this context, we can understand the recent bearish move as a catchup of 10yT to the DM component, particularly given some normalization of the terminal rate into the 1.75-2% range. However, as noted above, we see the scope for a terminal repricing > 2% near-term relatively capped, and in fact recommended closing the pay 7y1y OIS recommendation as it reached our 1.8% target.

At the frontend, the potential for more significant repricing is also starting to look rather limited. A quarterly hike schedule starting in March implies c.87.5bp pricing for the 2yT (25 \* (21+18+15+12+9+6+3)/24 = 87.5) to which we can add c.10bp to get a near-term cap around 97.5bp. A further selloff from here implies a more aggressive path from the 25bp/quarter pace. 2yT will continue to move higher, but in a more mechanical fashion with the passage of time. Some consolidation in yields near-term and may help fade recent dislocations in the volatility grid (see <u>Dislocations galore</u>).

#### ... and a look at the left field

Near-term consolidation is hardly exciting view. Looking out at longer term horizons, however, we can see few scenarios that we believe are significantly underpriced, particularly at the 1-2y horizon: (1) consensus seems to be for inflation to fade from the early '22 peak to reach low-3% or 2% handles by end-'22, scenarios where higher inflation persist for longer seem significantly out-of-consensus; (2) the market acknowledges the risky assets sensitivity to bond yield, but scenario where the economy as a whole has a higher sensitivity to tightening, and where recession probabilities increase as the Fed reaches 1.75-2% for fed funds, seem underpriced. We believe it is worth to focus some attention on downside hedges in vol space at a 1-2y horizon.

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ULC - Upper left corner

URC - Upper right corner

LLC - Lower left corner

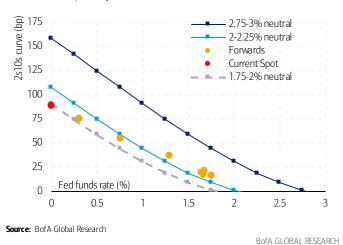
LRC - Lower right corner

ITM – In the money

OTM – Out of the money

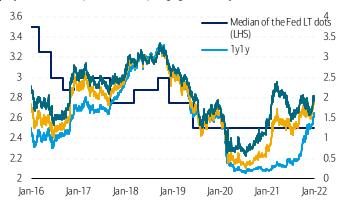
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**Exhibit 1: 2s10s flattening path contingent on terminal/neutral view** Fwds suggest curve flirting with inversion with fed funds <2%, at 18-24m horizon with a quarterly hike schedule



# Exhibit 2: Dispersion of forwards collapses in the transition between the mid- and late-cycle dynamic

Dispersion collapsed in 1H18as market transitioned into a late-cycle dynamic, and dispersion is collapsing again recently



Source: BofA Global Research

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Significantly also in this context, the evolution of the current cycle seems a lot more compressed than what we have seen in recent cycles. It took 5 years from the recession in the last cycle for the Fed to start tapering asset purchases, and 7 years to liftoff. We are two years into the current cycle with taper well under way, the Fed likely to liftoff rates in 1Q, and QT likely to start by year-end.

From a yield curve perspective, the flatness of fwds (see Exhibit 1) may indicate a shift from a mid- to a late-cycle dynamic well within the strategic asset allocation horizon of portfolios, and potentially one of the shortest cycles in recent history (as we noted in The curve, the "rock" and the "hard place"). A look at the dispersion of forwards helps further illustrate this point (see Exhibit 2). The dispersion of forwards collapsed in 1H18 as market transitioned into a late-cycle dynamic, and is collapsing again recently as the Fed turns hawkish and the terminal rate stays relatively anchored.

One position that fits with this rationale is to scale into 2y10y receiver spreads with strikes atm-25bp/atm-75bp (c.1.3-1.8% at current levels), financed by selling 2y10y payers atm+75bp. The position is costless (indicative) and has positive carry of 6bp/y. The trade positions for a terminal rate still relatively anchored under 2.25-2.5% (our economists view is for a 2.5% terminal in line with the Fed's own view), and headwinds to growth forming over the next two years. The risk to the trade is a 10y rate selloff beyond the payer strike (c.2.8% currently), with potentially unlimited downside.



# **Levels and Recent Moves**

## **Exhibit 3: ATM Normal Volatility Grid**

78.4bp for 1y10y volatility

	1Y	2Y	3Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	61.8	76.2	78.9	81.5	82.8	82.8	80.3
3M	62.3	76.7	78.9	81.1	81.9	81.9	79.4
6M	66.6	76.4	78.3	80.2	80.2	80.2	77.8
1Y	79.4	80.2	80.1	79.9	79.1	78.4	74.4
2Y	83.1	83.1	81.0	78.8	77.8	76.9	71.1
3Y	83.5	82.2	80.7	78.7	77.0	75.3	68.9
4Y	81.5	80.3	79.2	77.5	75.9	74.0	67.0
5Y	79.2	78.1	77.4	76.2	74.5	72.5	64.9
10Y	70.3	69.3	68.7	67.6	66.3	64.7	56.9
30Y	52.3	51.5	51.1	50.3	49.3	48.1	42.3

Source: BofA Global Research

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### **Table 1: ATM Normal Volatility Grid - CoW**

Left side outperformed on the grid over the last week

	1Y	2Y	3Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	5.6	5.3	4.1	3.0	0.9	0.9	0.1
3M	5.5	5.7	4.1	2.5	0.9	0.9	0.0
6M	4.5	3.2	2.4	1.6	0.4	0.4	0.4
1Y	5.1	3.2	2.1	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.6
2Y	1.6	1.6	1.1	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.8
3Y	1.9	1.9	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.3
4Y	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.4
5Y	0.9	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.4
10Y	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8
30Y	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8

Source: BofA Global Research

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#### Exhibit 5: 1y10y normal vol

65-85bp expected range in '22 (we favor the top half of the range)

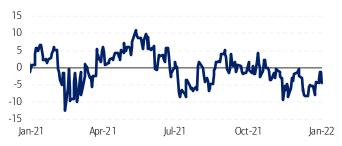


Source: BofA Global Research; Bloomberg

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#### Exhibit 7: 1y10y vs. 1m10yNormal Volatility

Term structure of volatility back to inverted ahead of policy communication



Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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### Exhibit 4: ATM Volatility Grid - 3m Z-Scores

Grid broadly fair on 3m Z-Scores

	1Y	2Y	<b>3Y</b>	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.4	-0.2
3M	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	-0.2
6M	0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.0
1Y	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	-0.3
2Y	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.3	-0.1	0.1	-0.3
<b>3</b> Y	-0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	-0.1
4Y	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0
5Y	-0.5	-0.4	-0.3	-0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1
10Y	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.2
30Y	-0.6	-0.5	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2	0.0	-0.1

Source: BofA Global Research

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## **Table 2: ATM Straddle Premiums**

5.6% straddle premiums for 1y10y

	1Y	2Y	3Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	0.1%	0.3%	0.5%	0.9%	1.2%	1.7%	4.1%
3M	0.2%	0.6%	0.9%	1.5%	2.1%	2.9%	7.1%
6M	0.4%	0.8%	1.3%	2.1%	2.9%	4.0%	9.8%
1Y	0.6%	1.2%	1.8%	3.0%	4.1%	5.6%	13.2%
2Y	0.9%	1.8%	2.6%	4.1%	5.6%	7.6%	17.6%
3Y	1.1%	2.1%	3.1%	4.9%	6.6%	9.0%	20.6%
4Y	1.2%	2.4%	3.4%	5.5%	7.4%	10.0%	22.7%
5Y	1.3%	2.5%	3.7%	6.0%	8.0%	10.8%	24.3%
10Y	1.5%	2.9%	4.2%	6.8%	9.2%	12.4%	28.1%
30Y	1.4%	2.7%	3.9%	6.4%	8.6%	11.8%	28.0%

Source: BofA Global Research

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#### Exhibit 6: 3m10y vs. 3m2y Normal Volatility

Left side vol still relatively flat to right side vol

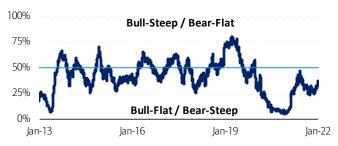


Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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#### Exhibit 8: 5s30s curve directionality 31% dictated by belly

Backend continues to lead vs belly (flattening dynamic)



Source: BofA Global Research



# **Volatility Grid Relative Value**

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

Table 3: 3m Z-Scores w/ PCA framework

Some richness in 7-10y tails, left side shows some cheapness

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

Source: BofA Global Research

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#### Table 5: 6m Z-Scores w/ PCA framework

Some richness in 7-10y tails, left side shows some cheapness

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

Source: BofA Global Research

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### Table 7: 1y Z-Scores w/ PCA framework

Grid broadly fair on 1y Z-Scores

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

Source: BofA Global Research

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## Table 9: 3m Z-Scores w/ modified PCA framework...

Granular approach continues to show richness on the left side...

	1y	2у	3у	5у	7у	10y	30y
1m	1.1	0.9	0.9	-0.7	0.4	1.6	-0.4
3m	2.5	3.1	1.7	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.2
6m	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.0	1.0	-0.1	-0.1
1y	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.0	-0.3
2y	1.2	0.8	1.2	0.9	0.1	0.9	-0.4
3у	0.6	-0.1	0.3	1.0	-0.5	1.8	3.2
4y	0.3	-0.2	-0.6	-0.3	-0.8	1.6	2.6
5y	0.1	2.0	0.3	-0.1	-0.7	-0.8	-0.5
10y	1.3	1.7	0.9	0.8	-0.2	-1.4	-1.1
15y	-0.8	0.0	-0.7	2.1	-0.8	-0.4	0.2
30y	-0.4	-0.2	-0.7	1.5	2.5	2.3	-0.4

Source: BofA Global Research

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# Table 4:3m Z-Scores w/ PCA framework w/o rates directionality

Grid fair when directionality take into account

	1y	2y	3у	5y	7у	10y	30y
3m	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4	-0.6
6m	-0.9	-0.6	-0.4	-0.2	0.1	-0.2	0.0
1y	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.1	-0.1
2у	-0.2	0.0	-0.2	-0.3	-0.1	0.2	-0.2
5y	-0.4	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.3
10y	-0.4	-0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.4

Source: BofA Global Research

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

Left side cheapness more obvious when directionality take into account

	1y	2y	3у	5у	7у	10y	30y
3m	-2.2	-2.5	-2.4	-1.6	-0.7	-0.3	-0.7
6m	-3.0	-2.8	-2.6	-1.6	-1.0	-0.6	-0.7
1y	-2.6	-2.6	-2.6	-2.0	-1.7	-1.3	-1.2
2y	-2.6	-2.4	-2.5	-2.5	-2.1	-1.6	-1.3
5y	-2.4	-2.2	-2.1	-1.9	-1.7	-1.3	-0.7
10y	-1.8	-1.5	-1.3	-0.9	-0.6	-0.2	-0.1

Source: BofA Global Research

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### Table 8: 1y Z-Scores w/ PCA framework w/o rates directionality

Left side cheapness more obvious when directionality take into account

	1y	2y	3у	5y	7у	10y	30y
3m	-1.4	-3.0	-3.3	-2.7	-2.0	-1.4	-1.4
6m	-2.5	-3.8	-3.6	-2.8	-2.2	-1.7	-1.5
1y	-3.6	-3.8	-3.4	-2.9	-2.6	-2.0	-1.5
2y	-3.3	-2.9	-2.9	-2.7	-2.4	-2.0	-1.5
5у	-2.6	-2.6	-2.5	-2.1	-1.9	-1.6	-1.2
10y	-1.9	-1.8	-1.7	-1.5	-1.3	-1.1	-0.9

Source: BofA Global Research

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#### Table 10: ...and w/o directionality with rates

 $\dots$  persisting even as directionality with rates is removed

	1y	2у	3у	5у	7у	10y	30y
1m	0.4	0.8	1.3	-0.6	0.7	1.5	-0.4
3m	2.5	3.0	1.5	0.0	0.2	0.4	-0.3
6m	1.9	1.8	1.5	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.3
1y	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.6	1.5	0.9	-0.1
2y	1.2	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.2	0.9	0.3
3y	0.7	-0.1	0.3	0.8	-0.5	1.7	3.2
4y	-0.5	-0.3	-0.1	0.1	-0.9	1.6	1.9
5y	0.2	2.4	-0.2	0.0	-0.5	-0.2	-0.8
10y	1.3	1.7	0.8	0.6	-0.7	-0.4	-0.9
15y	-0.9	-0.3	-0.9	2.2	-0.5	-1.0	0.3
30y	-0.4	-0.8	-0.8	1.3	2.6	2.8	-0.9

Source: BofA Global Research



# **Skew Relative Value**

Table 11: Skew 25% delta

Receiver skew RV relatively rich on the left side

	1Y	2Y	<b>3Y</b>	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.8	-0.8	-0.7	1.1
3M	-0.2	-0.4	-0.5	-1.1	-1.0	-0.8	1.9
6M	-0.1	-0.5	-0.6	-0.9	-0.9	-0.8	2.1
1Y	-1.2	-1.1	-1.2	-1.5	-1.4	-1.4	1.6
2Y	-3.9	-3.7	-3.4	-3.0	-2.3	-1.4	1.5
5Y	-4.9	-4.1	-3.4	-2.1	-1.3	-0.3	1.9
10Y	-1.4	-1.1	-0.9	-0.4	-0.1	0.4	1.7
30Y	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.3	2.5	3.8

Source: BofA Global Research

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## Table 13: Breakeven Widths for Costless Receiver Ladders

76bp breakeven width for 1y10y receiver ladders

	1Y	2Y	3Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	18	22	23	23	23	23	24
3M	31	38	39	40	41	41	42
6M	46	53	55	55	56	55	58
1Y	78	79	78	77	77	76	77
2Y	109	109	107	105	105	106	105
5Y	161	161	162	163	162	162	154
10Y	216	215	214	213	211	208	191

Source: BofA Global Research

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# Table 15:3m Z-Score Receiver Skew (w/o direction w/ fwds & ATM)

Receiver skew rich in intermediate expiries

	1Y	2Y	3Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	-0.6	-0.8	-0.4	-0.3	0.1	-0.3	0.1
3M	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	0.4	-0.5	-0.2
6M	-0.2	-0.2	0.1	0.8	1.5	0.3	-0.6
1Y	0.3	0.3	0.2	1.1	1.4	1.1	-0.8
<b>2Y</b>	1.4	1.5	1.8	2.4	2.5	2.0	2.1
5Y	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.0
10V	-03	-0.5	-04	-03	-0.2	-O 1	0.0

Source: BofA Global Research

# Table 17: Ratio of Payer/Receiver BE widths for Costless Ladders

Ratios of payer / receiver breakeven widths broadly above 100%

	1Y	2Y	<b>3</b> Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	107%	107%	105%	107%	106%	106%	98%
3M	112%	111%	110%	112%	111%	110%	98%
6M	119%	115%	114%	114%	113%	114%	100%
1Y	120%	119%	118%	118%	118%	118%	102%
2Y	136%	132%	130%	126%	123%	118%	103%
5Y	141%	136%	133%	125%	121%	116%	102%
10Y	124%	122%	121%	118%	116%	113%	103%

Source: BofA Global Research

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#### Table 12: Skew 75% delta

Payer skew RV shows some richness in left side extending to right

	1Y	2Y	<b>3</b> Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.1	0.2
3M	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.4	1.0
6M	5.5	5.1	4.9	4.5	4.6	4.6	1.7
1Y	6.4	6.1	5.8	5.3	5.2	5.2	2.2
2Y	9.2	8.7	8.0	6.9	6.3	5.5	2.5
5Y	9.3	8.6	8.0	6.9	6.2	5.2	2.5
10Y	6.4	6.1	5.9	5.5	5.1	4.6	2.6
30Y	7.0	6.7	6.5	6.1	5.7	5.2	3.1

Source: BofA Global Research

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#### Table 14: Breakeven Widths for Costless Payer Ladders

90bp breakeven width for 1y10y payer ladders

	1Y	2Y	3Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	19	23	24	25	25	25	23
3M	35	43	43	45	45	45	41
6M	55	61	62	63	63	63	58
1Y	93	94	92	91	90	90	79
2Y	148	145	139	133	129	125	108
5Y	226	219	214	205	197	187	157
10Y	268	262	258	251	244	235	196

Source: BofA Global Research

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## Table 16: 3m Z-Score Payer Skew (w/o direction w/ fwds & ATM)

Payer skew cheapness mostly in longer expiries, particularly on right side

	1Y	2Y	3Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.5	-0.6	-0.1	0.2
3M	0.2	0.3	0.1	-0.3	-1.0	-1.2	-0.8
6M	0.3	0.1	-0.1	-1.3	-1.6	-1.5	-1.2
1Y	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	-1.4	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6
2Y	-0.9	-1.1	-1.7	-2.2	-2.0	-1.3	-1.7
5Y	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.5	-1.7	-2.0	-2.0
10Y	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.3	-1.3	-1.4	-1.2

Source: BofA Global Research

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#### Table 18: 3m Z-Score Ratio of Payer/Receiver Skew

Z-Scores for the ratios shows broad payer cheapness vs receivers

	1Y	2Y	3Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	30Y
1M	-1.9	-1.8	-2.0	-1.8	-1.9	-0.6	-0.8
3M	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-1.1
6M	-1.7	-1.8	-1.9	-2.3	-2.5	-2.0	-1.0
1Y	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-2.1	-2.1	-2.0	-1.6
2Y	-2.1	-2.3	-2.4	-2.7	-2.6	-2.0	-2.2
5Y	-1.3	-1.4	-1.6	-1.8	-1.9	-1.8	-1.8
10Y	-13	-13	-13	-13	-12	-12	-10

Source: BofA Global Research



# **Conditional Curve Trades**

#### **Exhibit 9: 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	-1.7	-2.1	-1.1	-0.3	0.7	0.9
6M	-2.1	-2.1	-0.9	0.1	1.3	1.3
1Y	0.3	1.5	4.4	1.3	4.2	3.0
1.5Y	3.0	4.6	9.1	1.7	6.2	4.6
2Y	4.4	6.5	12.6	2.1	8.3	6.2

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### **Exhibit 11: 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	1.7	2.1	1.1	0.3	-0.7	-0.9
6M	2.1	2.1	0.9	-0.1	-1.3	-1.3
1Y	-0.3	-1.5	-4.4	-1.3	-4.2	-3.0
1.5Y	-3.0	-4.6	-9.1	-1.7	-6.2	-4.6
2Y	-4.4	-6.5	-12.6	-2.1	-8.3	-6.2

Source: BofA Global Research

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#### Exhibit 13: 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	1.9	2.2	1.1	0.3	-0.7	-0.9
6M	2.2	2.2	0.9	-0.1	-1.3	-1.3
1Y	-0.3	-1.5	-4.4	-1.3	-4.2	-3.0
1.5Y	-3.4	-5.0	-9.3	-1.9	-6.2	-4.6
2Y	-5.2	-7.1	-12.8	-2.2	-8.3	-6.3

Source: BofA Global Research

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#### **Exhibit 15: Bear Steepener (pickup to forwards for ATM)**

Buy longer maturity payer, sell shorter maturity payer

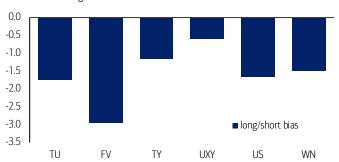
ATM	2/5s	2/10s	2/30s	5/10s	5/30s	10/30s
3M	-1.9	-2.2	-1.1	-0.3	0.7	0.9
6M	-2.2	-2.2	-0.9	0.1	1.3	1.3
1Y	0.3	1.5	4.4	1.3	4.2	3.0
1.5Y	3.4	5.0	9.3	1.9	6.2	4.6
2V	5.2	7 1	12.8	2.2	83	63

Source: BofA Global Research

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#### Chart 1: Analysis of proxies for futures positioning

Short bias still significant at the frontend of the curve



Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### Exhibit 10: 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	-2.4	-3.0	-3.4	-0.7	-0.7	-0.1
6M	-2.8	-3.0	-2.8	-0.1	0.3	0.3
1Y	0.3	1.9	4.4	1.5	4.0	2.4
1.5Y	3.4	5.0	9.5	1.7	6.0	4.2
2Y	5.0	6.7	13.0	1.9	8.1	6.3

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## Exhibit 12: 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	2.4	3.0	3.4	0.7	0.7	0.1
6M	2.8	3.0	2.8	0.1	-0.3	-0.3
1Y	-0.3	-1.9	-4.4	-1.5	-4.0	-2.4
1.5Y	-3.4	-5.0	-9.5	-1.7	-6.0	-4.2
2Y	-5.0	-6.7	-13.0	-1.9	-8.1	-6.3

**Source:** BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### Exhibit 14: 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	2.8	3.2	0.1	0.3	-2.4	-2.8
6M	2.8	3.0	-0.7	0.1	-3.4	-3.4
1Y	-0.5	-2.2	-7.5	-1.7	-6.9	-5.6
1.5Y	-4.6	-7.1	-13.6	-2.6	-9.5	-7.3
2Y	-6.7	-9.9	-17.9	-3.4	-12.2	-9.1

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Exhibit 16: Bear Steepener (pickup to forwards for +25bp OTM)

Buy longer maturity payer, sell shorter maturity payer

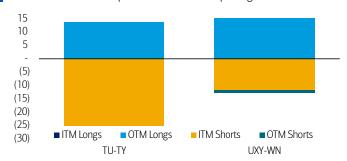
+25bp	2/5s	2/10s	2/30s	5/10s	5/30s	10/30s
3M	-2.8	-3.2	-0.1	-0.3	2.4	2.8
6M	-2.8	-3.0	0.7	-0.1	3.4	3.4
1Y	0.5	2.2	7.5	1.7	6.9	5.6
1.5Y	4.6	7.1	13.6	2.6	9.5	7.3
27	6.7	99	17 9	3.4	12.2	91

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

### Chart 2: Proxies for futures positioning across the curve

Frontend ITM short expose curve to bull steepening



Source: BofA Global Research



# **Forward Volatility**

#### Table 19: 6m Forward Volatility

73.8bp for 6m fwd 1y10y

	1y	2y	5у	10y	30y
1m	71.7	73.6	76.1	74.8	72.2
3m	74.8	74.6	75.3	73.8	70.7
6m	80.3	78.3	75.9	73.9	70.0
1y	78.5	79.8	75.0	73.8	69.2
2y	80.1	79.3	75.1	73.0	67.1
5у	75.7	74.7	73.4	70.1	62.2
10y	68.4	67.4	65.9	63.0	55.1

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## **Table 22: 1y Forward Volatility**

72.1bp for 1y fwd 1y10y

	1y	2y	5у	10y	30y
1m	72.9	77.2	71.5	71.2	67.6
3m	71.8	77.9	71.5	71.5	67.8
6m	77.3	80.6	72.6	72.2	67.7
1y	80.7	80.7	72.9	72.1	66.2
2y	80.1	78.2	74.5	71.3	65.0
5у	74.6	73.7	72.3	68.9	60.4
10y	67.4	66.4	64.9	62.0	53.8

Source: BofA Global Research

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## **Table 25: 2y Forward Volatility**

70.0bp for 2y fwd 1y10y

	1y	2y	5у	10y	30y
1m	86.4	84.0	75.1	71.2	64.3
3m	85.7	82.8	75.1	70.4	64.1
6m	82.5	81.5	75.8	70.3	64.1
1y	77.6	80.1	75.8	70.0	63.7
2y	81.3	79.7	75.5	70.4	62.7
5y	73.4	72.3	70.3	66.9	57.6
10y	65.6	64.5	63.3	60.3	51.7

Source: BofA Global Research

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# Table 28: 3y Forward Volatility

71.2bp for 3y fwd 1y10y

	1y	2у	5у	10y	30y
1m	83.0	81.2	78.0	71.7	63.0
3m	82.4	80.7	77.0	71.5	63.1
6m	81.2	80.9	77.2	71.9	63.0
1y	79.3	79.5	76.1	71.2	62.0
2y	77.4	75.9	74.7	69.7	59.9
5y	72.4	71.3	69.4	65.8	55.4
10y	63.9	62.8	61.9	58.7	49.8

Source: BofA Global Research

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### Table 20: 6m Fwd vol as % ATM

94% of ATM for 6m fwd 1y10y

	1y	2у	5у	10y	30y
1m	116%	97%	93%	90%	90%
3m	120%	97%	93%	90%	89%
6m	121%	103%	95%	92%	90%
1y	99%	100%	94%	94%	93%
2y	96%	95%	95%	95%	94%
5y	96%	96%	96%	97%	96%
10y	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%

Source: BofA Global Research

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## Table 23: 1y Fwd vol as % ATM

92% of ATM for 1y fwd 1y10y

	1y	2y	5у	10y	30y
1m	118%	101%	88%	86%	84%
3m	115%	102%	88%	87%	85%
6m	116%	105%	90%	90%	87%
1y	102%	101%	91%	92%	89%
2y	96%	94%	95%	93%	91%
5y	94%	94%	95%	95%	93%
10y	96%	96%	96%	96%	94%

Source: BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## Table 26: 2y Fwd vol as % ATM

89% of ATM for 2y fwd 1y10y

	1y	2y	5y	10y	30y
1m	140%	110%	92%	86%	80%
3m	138%	108%	93%	86%	81%
6m	124%	107%	94%	88%	82%
1y	98%	100%	95%	89%	86%
2y	98%	96%	96%	92%	88%
5y	93%	93%	92%	92%	89%
10y	93%	93%	94%	93%	91%

Source: BofA Global Research

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## Table 29: 3y Fwd vol as % ATM

91% of ATM for 3y fwd 1y10y

	1y	2у	5у	10y	30y
1m	134%	106%	96%	87%	79%
3m	132%	105%	95%	87%	79%
6m	122%	106%	96%	90%	81%
1y	100%	99%	95%	91%	83%
2y	93%	91%	95%	91%	84%
5у	91%	91%	91%	91%	85%
10y	91%	91%	92%	91%	88%

Source: BofA Global Research

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## Table 21:3m Z-Score of 6m Fwd vol % ATM

0.4 Z-Score for 6m fwd 1y10y

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

Source: BofA Global Research

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# Table 24: 3m Z-Score of 1y Fwd vol % ATM

0.7 Z-Score for 1y fwd 1y10y

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

Source: BofA Global Research

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# Table 27: 3m Z-Score of 2y Fwd vol % ATM

1.0 Z-Score for 2y fwd 1y10y

	1y	2y	5y	10y	30y
1m	-0.9	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.5
3m	-0.7	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.8
6m	-0.4	0.5	1.0	0.7	1.0
1y	-0.5	1.2	1.5	1.0	1.4
2y	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.1	1.7
5y	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.6
10y	0.7	0.7	1.2	1.3	1.4

Source: BofA Global Research

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# Table 30: 3m Z-Score of 3y Fwd vol % ATM

0.9 Z-Score for 3y fwd 1y10y

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

**Source:** BofA Global Research

# Ratios implied/delivered

#### Table 31: Implied vs. Delivered (21d) Ratio

Ratios > 100% in virtually across the grid except for LRC

	1y	2y	3у	5у	7у	10y	30y
1m	183%	167%	150%	130%	117%	109%	107%
3m	163%	161%	146%	126%	114%	108%	105%
6m	147%	141%	133%	117%	107%	102%	102%
1y	136%	127%	119%	105%	98%	95%	95%
2y	114%	109%	100%	90%	88%	88%	89%

Source: BofA Global Research

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# Table 33: 3m Z-Scores for Implied vs. Delivered (21d) Ratio

Richness on left side vs 1m history ...

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

Source: BofA Global Research

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#### Table 32: Implied vs. Delivered (63d) Ratio

Ratios > 100% concentrated on ULC

	1y	2у	3у	5у	7у	10y	30y
1m	157%	119%	109%	101%	98%	95%	95%
3m	129%	110%	103%	98%	95%	93%	93%
6m	103%	97%	95%	92%	90%	89%	90%
1y	90%	88%	87%	85%	84%	83%	85%
2y	85%	84%	81%	78%	78%	79%	79%

Source: BofA Global Research

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## Table 34: 3m Z-Scores for Implied vs. Delivered (63d) Ratio

.... But cheapness across the grid on 3m history

	1y	2у	3у	5у	7у	10y	30y
1m	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1
3m	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.0
6m	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.0
1y	-0.8	-0.9	-0.9	-1.1	-1.1	-1.0	-1.0
2y	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.2	-1.1	-1.0	-0.9

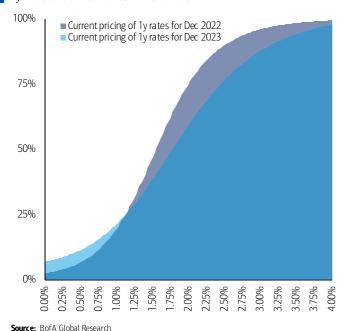
Source: BofA Global Research

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# Rates probability distributions

## Exhibit 17: CDF for 1y rates at end-2022 and end-2023

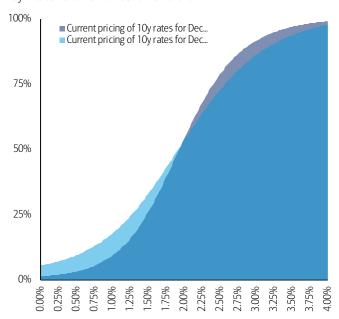
1y rate cumulative distribution functions



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## Exhibit 18: CDF for 10y rates at end-2022 and end-2023

10y rate cumulative distribution functions



Source: BofA Global Research



# **Trade activity**

# **Exhibit 19: Payer volumes over the last week (\$m notionals)**Demand for payers over the last week

Payers	1y	2y	<b>3Y</b>	4Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	20Y	30Y	
<1m					390		980			1370
1m	1000	350	1020		5045	1070	6042	30	240	14797
3m	1000	1582		25	5210	520	3769	476	714	13296
6m	500		960		1080	25	1128	35	25	3753
1y	3100	898			1567		2817	524	1393	10299
2y	1100	1520			510		1403		604	5136
3Y		460		6	106		258			830
4Y		660			96		42		3	801
5Y					692		652		1181	2525
7Y							1		120	121
10Y							861	100	38	999
20Y										
30Y										
	6700	5470	1980	31	14696	1615	17954	1165	4318	53929

Source: BofA Global Research; SDR; Bloomberg

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## Exhibit 20: 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	10	125	305	20	190		470			1120
1m	1500	200	1020		3130	510	2881		270	9511
3m		500			1435	340	2310	664	1210	6459
6m	750	750	240		720		1883	35	420	4798
1y		2263	70		441		1732	201	1236	5943
2y		1815	75	20	240		671		554	3374
3Y		460		6			200			666
4Y							0		3	3
5Y					400		550	100	513	1563
7Y							1		120	121
10Y							771	100	38	909
20Y										
30Y										
	2260	6113	1710	46	6556	850	11470	1100	4364	34469

Source: BofA Global Research; SDR; Bloomberg

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# **Exhibit 21: Straddle volumes over the last week (\$m notionals)**Demand for payers over the last week

Straddles	1y	2у	3Y	4Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	20Y	30Y	
<1m							29			29
1m		200					1546		375	2121
3m		1210			1020		1715		335	4280
6m		2820					1443		270	4533
1y	2000	2360			611		1532		230	6733
2y	1870	940			655		1063		298	4826
3Y		300	80		209		268		40	897
4Y		150			190		336		44	720
5Y		100			687		582		350	1719
7Y							350			350
10Y	500	150					895	40		1585
20Y										
30Y										
	4370	8230	80		3372		9759	40	1942	27793

Source: BofA Global Research; SDR; Bloomberg



# Formosa issuance

#### Exhibit 22: 2021 Formosa issuance (\$m)

37.7bn total issuance for the year

	2	5	7	10	15	20	25	30
1				958	30			220
2				284	45			
3					130			125
4					90			
5						50		19855
7								
10								920
15								
20								
25								
30								15000

Source: BofA Global Research

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### Exhibit 23: 2021 Formosa issuance YTD (\$m)

5.5bn issuance YTD

	2	5	7	10	15	20	25	30
1				108	20			
2				65				
2 3								125
4								
4 5 7						125		5070
7								
10								
15								
20 25 30								
25								
30								

Source: BofA Global Research

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#### Exhibit 24: Formosa issuance (\$m) since 2014

Peak issuance concentrated on the 5y30y tenor

	2	5	7	10	15	20	25	30
1		205		1586	492	840		18274
2				503	45	1485		22177
3					130	240	225	15661
4					90	25	275	2441
5					400	1452	273	126357
7								5624
10								5021
15								
20								
25								
30								20500

Source: BofA Global Research

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# Exhibit 25: Total issuance per year since 2014 (\$bn)

5.5bn issuance YTD '22



Source: BofA Global Research

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