



Interest Rate Derivatives Seminar Series

Benchmark reform: | September 2020

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What was Libor then?

- LIBOR = London Interbank Offered Rate
- Invented in the late 1960s to benchmark floating interest rates on a large syndicated bank loan to the Shah of Iran
- In subsequent years Libor was standardized via polling of a panel of large international banks
- Calculated as a trimmed mean of submissions
- “The rate at which an individual Contributor Panel bank could borrow funds, were it to do so by asking for and then accepting inter-bank offers in reasonable market size, just prior to 11.00 London time”

In just U.S. markets, Libor is embedded in nearly \$200tn notional, dominated by the derivatives market

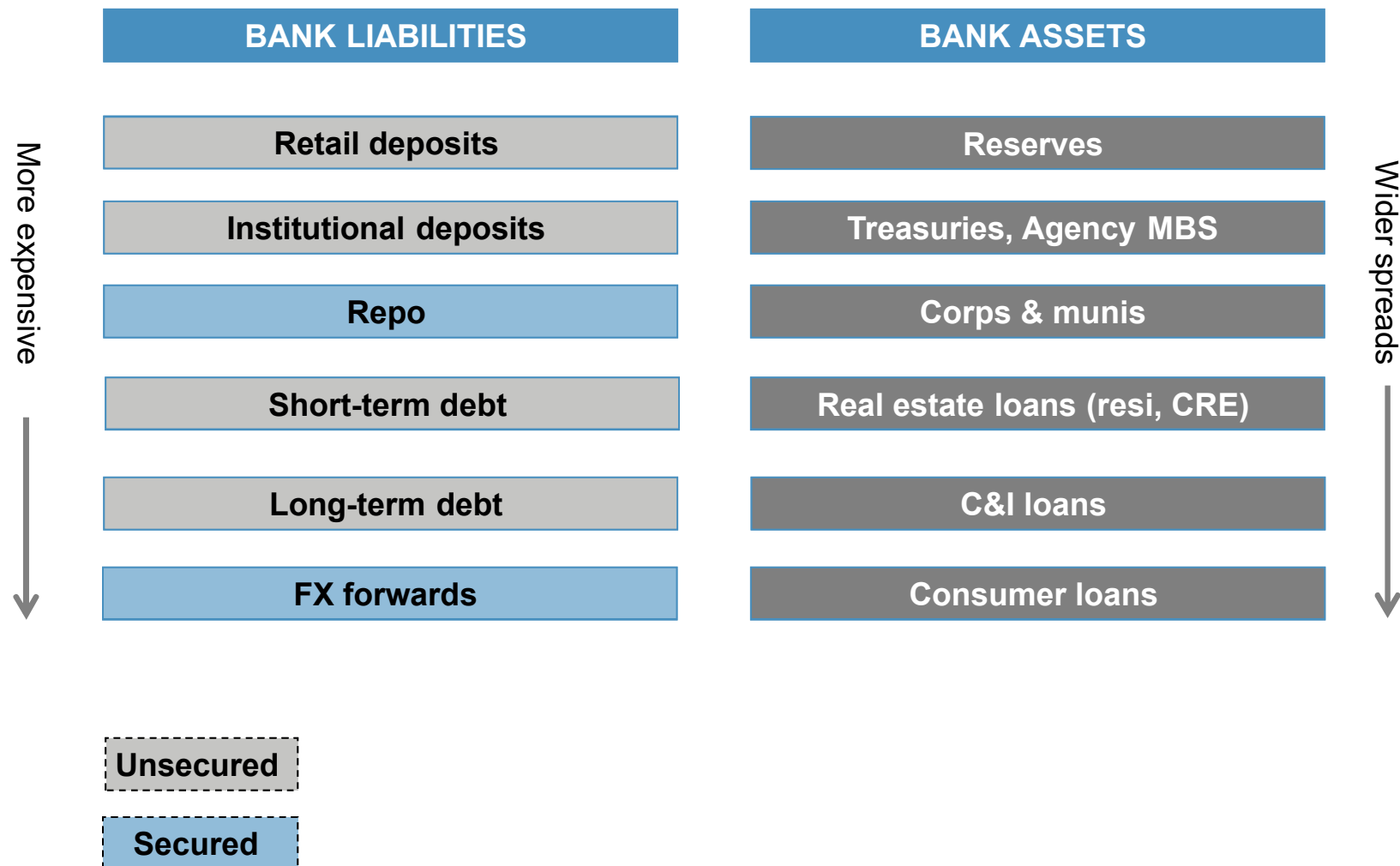
Notional balance (current and future assuming passive evolution); \$bn

Category	Subcategory	Notional (\$bn)	
		Current	End 2021
OTC Derivatives	IRS	\$81,000	\$53,460
	FRAs	\$34,000	\$34,000
	Options	\$12,000	\$7,800
	Xccy swaps	\$18,000	\$15,840
Exchange Traded Derivatives	Futures	\$34,000	\$33,660
	Options	\$11,000	\$10,890
Business loans	Syndicated	\$1,500	\$1,245
	Non-syndicated	\$800	\$688
	CRE/commer	\$1,100	\$913
Consumer loans	Retail mtges	\$1,200	\$684
	Other	\$100	\$0
Bonds	FRNs	\$1,800	\$1,512
Securitizations	MBS & CMOs	\$1,000	\$570
	CLOs	\$400	\$104
	ABS	\$200	\$110
	CDOs	\$200	\$96
Total		\$198,300	\$161,572

Note: Taken from the [ARRC Second Report](#).

Source: J.P. Morgan, ARRC, NYFRB, BIS, Bloomberg, CME, DTCC, FRB

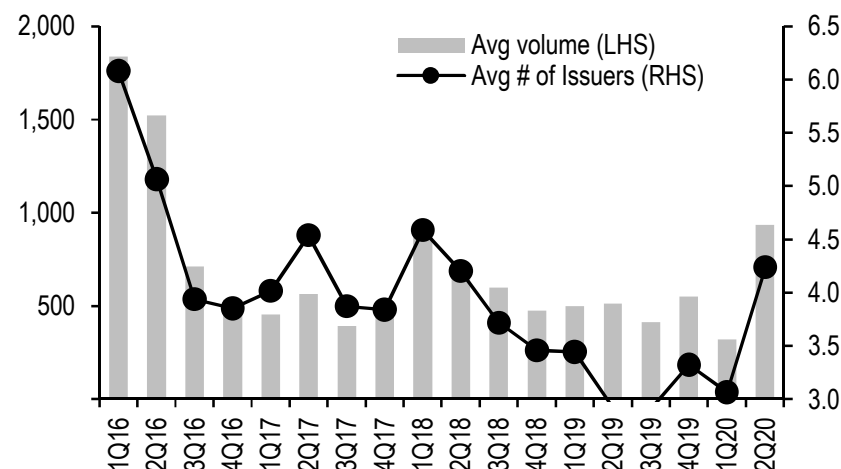
Banks can tap a range of short-term markets to fund themselves



Shifts in market structure have fundamentally changed the nature of Libor submissions...

Though not particularly active as of last year, issuance by panel banks in short-term unsecured bank funding markets has slowed further...

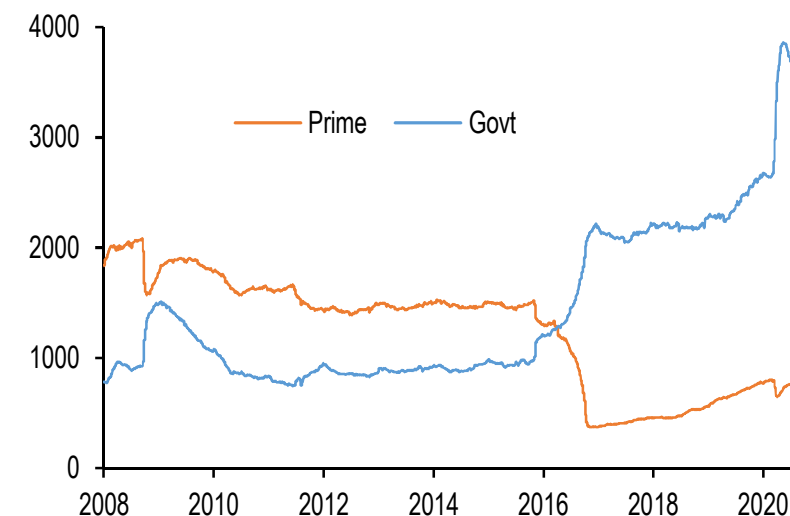
Average daily gross trading volume (LHS; \$mn) and active issuers by count (RHS) grouped by quarter since Jan 2016



Source: J.P. Morgan, DTCC

... reflecting a combination of regulatory incentives and shifts in allocations of cash at the front end in the wake of money market fund reform

AUM of prime and government money market funds; \$bn



Source: J.P. Morgan, iMoneyNet

... and at this point in most maturities, it's mostly tied to other markets...

Libor remains tied to CP/CD rates, but with panel banks less active in this market, the relative impact of moves in other market-based funding indicators has increased

Summary of the Libor submission waterfall from relevant ICE guidelines*

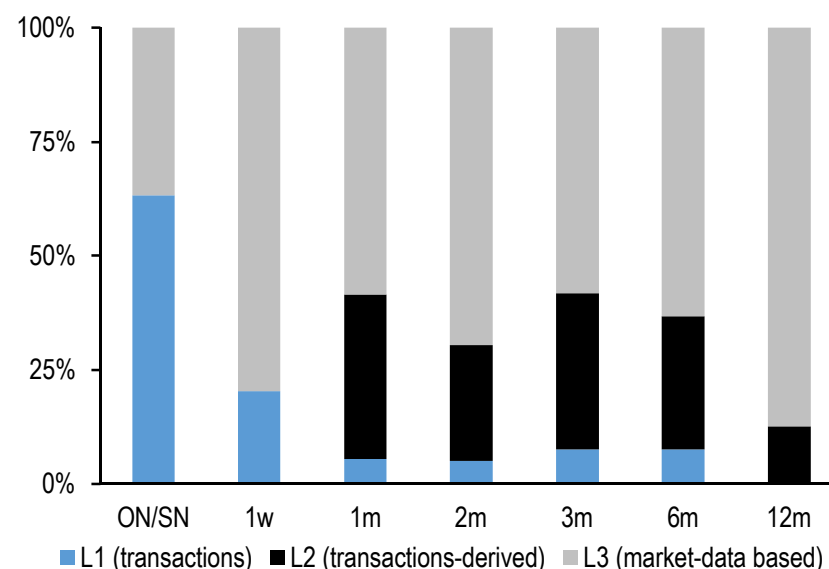
Waterfall	Description	Eligible transactions
Level 1	Transactions	Unsecured deposits New issue CP and CD fixed rates
Level 2	Transactions-derived	Historical level 1 transaction 3d lookback for 1-3M, 5d for 6M & 10d for 12M
Level 3	Market-data based	FRAs/swaps, FRNs, FX fwds, OIS, repo Third party transactions/broker quotes Macro factor, e.g. policy rate changes

Source: J.P. Morgan, ICE

* For details see discussion in [Short-Term Fixed Income 2017 Outlook](#) (A. Roever et al., 11/23/16) [Roadmap for ICE Libor](#) (published 3/18/16), and [Summary of ICE Libor Evolution](#) (published 1/25/17)

Most Libor submissions are not directly transaction-based and rely on some degree of expert judgment

Percentage of submission types for USD Libor panel in Q4 2019

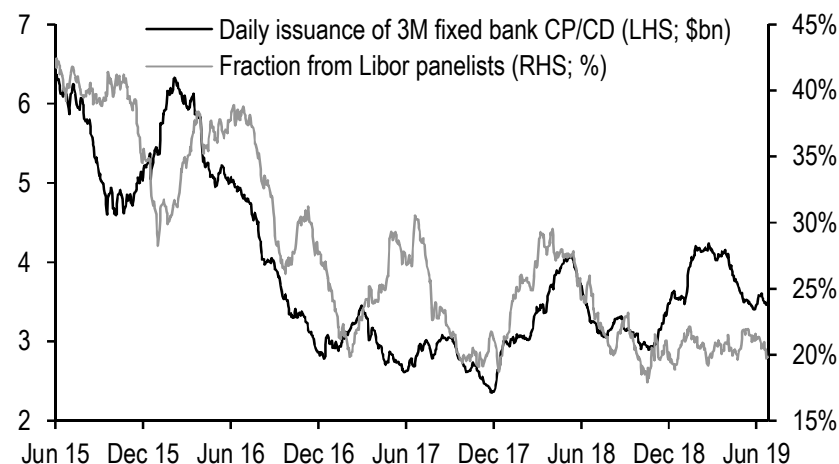


Source: J.P. Morgan, IBA 2019 Q4 Report on Volumes

... and fixings appear decoupled from credit markets more broadly

Banks have relied less and less on unsecured wholesale funding, particularly Libor panelists

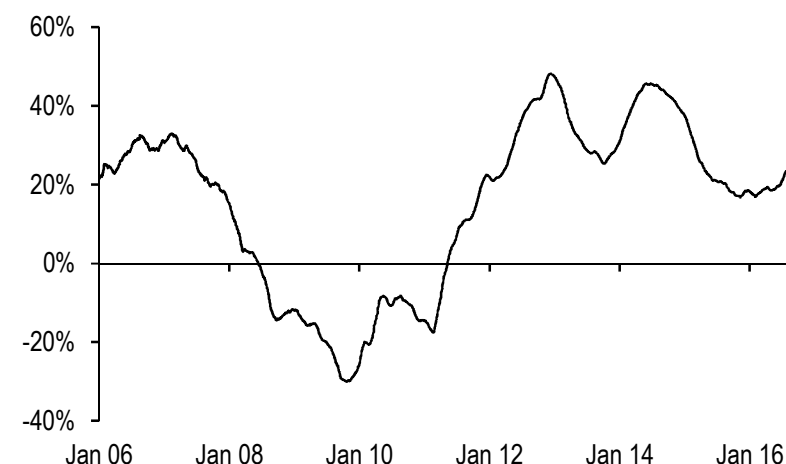
3-month moving average of daily issuance in 3-month fixed-rate bank CP and CDs (LHS; \$bn) and fraction of that from Libor panelists (RHS; %)



Source: J.P. Morgan, DTCC

The rank order of Libor submissions is not particularly well correlated with the CDS spreads of panelists, and has in fact been negative at times

Rolling 1-year average correlation between the rank order of Libor submissions and the same for 1-year CDS spreads for panel banks; %

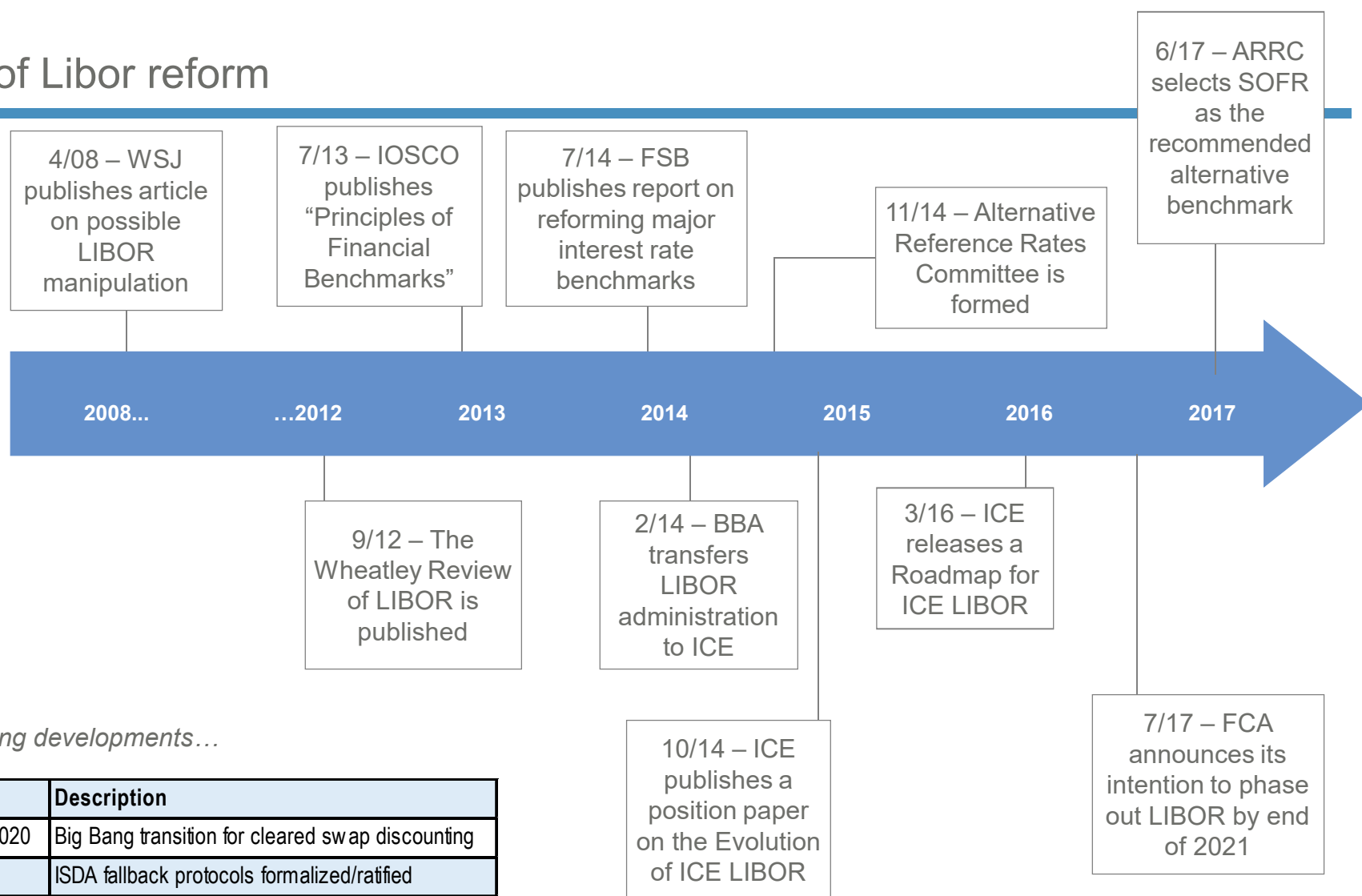


Source: J.P. Morgan, ICE, BBA

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Timeline of Libor reform

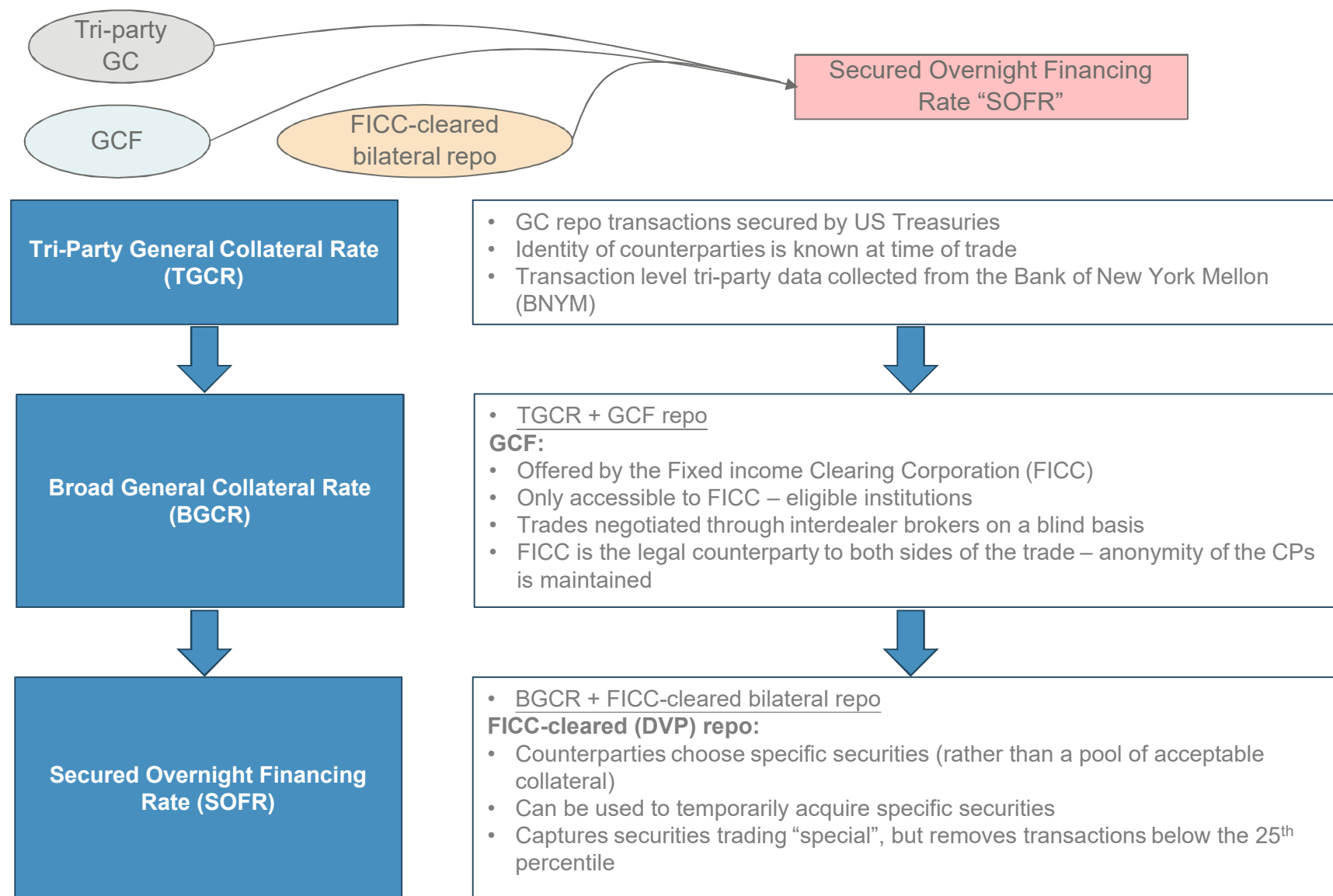


Key upcoming developments...

Date	Description
16th October 2020	Big Bang transition for cleared swap discounting
4Q 2020	ISDA fallback protocols formalized/ratified
4Q 2020 - 4Q 2021	ISDA announcement date for future cessation
4Q 2020	ARRC consultation into SOFR term rate
1st January 2022	Libor cessation, fallbacks effective

Source: J.P. Morgan

What is SOFR?



SOFR is published daily by the New York Fed

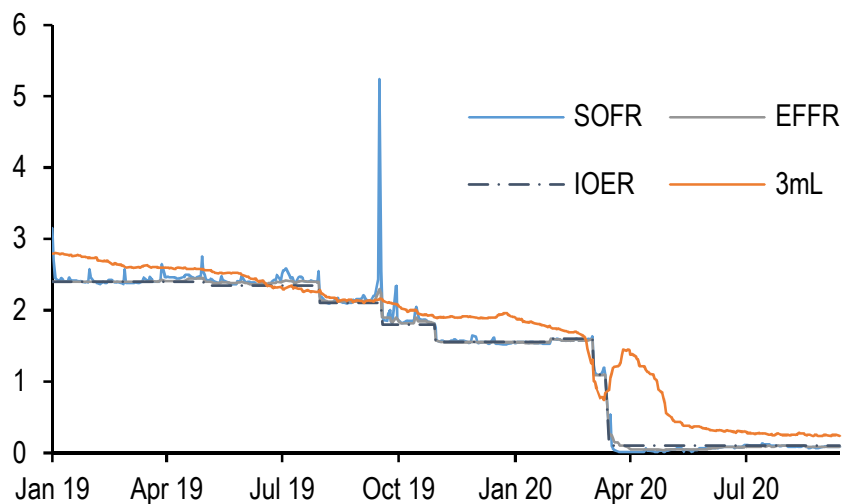
- SOFR is published daily to the New York Fed's website
- The previous day's print is made available at approximately 8:00 a.m. EST
- Also available are the 1st, 25th, 75th and 99th percentiles for SOFR, as well as total daily volume

DATE	RATE (PERCENT)	PERCENTILES				VOLUME (US\$ BILLIONS)
		1ST (PERCENT)	25TH (PERCENT)	75TH (PERCENT)	99TH (PERCENT)	
09/14	0.09	0.06	0.07	0.12	0.18	881
09/11	0.09	0.06	0.07	0.12	0.18	900
09/10	0.09	0.06	0.07	0.13	0.19	924
09/09	0.09	0.06	0.07	0.12	0.18	937
09/08	0.09	0.06	0.07	0.13	0.19	957
09/07	Holiday, no data.					
09/04	0.09	0.06	0.07	0.13	0.18	935
09/03	0.10	0.06	0.06	0.12	0.17	955
09/02	0.09	0.05	0.06	0.12	0.17	947
09/01	0.09	0.05	0.06	0.12	0.17	969
08/31	0.09	0.06	0.07	0.13	0.19	934
08/28	0.07	0.04	0.05	0.10	0.16	881

Replacing Libor: Introducing the Secured Overnight Financing Rate Index (SOFR)

Recently, SOFR has traded at the lower end of the policy rate corridor, but over the long run is mostly in line with Fed funds effective...

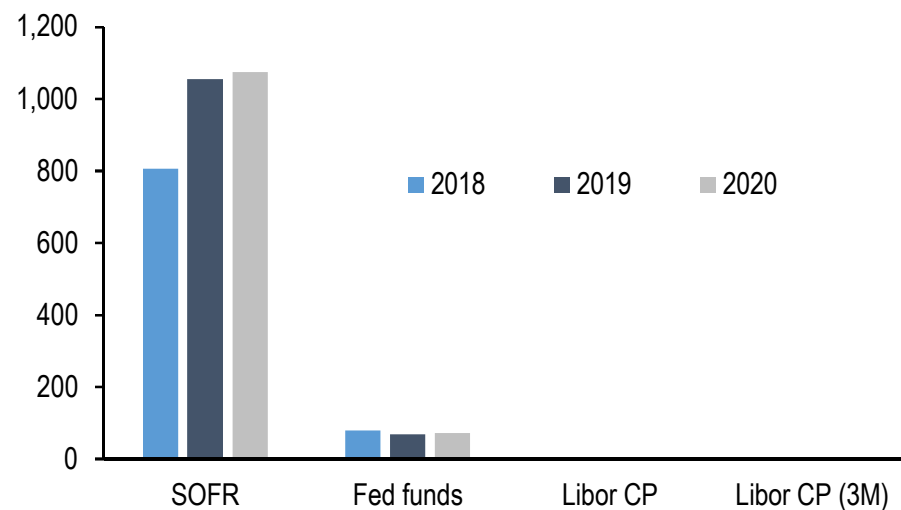
3-month Libor, IOER, Fed funds effective and SOFR*; bp



Source: J.P. Morgan, FRBNY

... and is based on a much larger universe of transactions than Fed funds and especially bank CP markets

Average daily trading volume by year* for transactions underlying SOFR, Fed funds effective, and fixed-rate CP/CD issuance by Libor panel banks

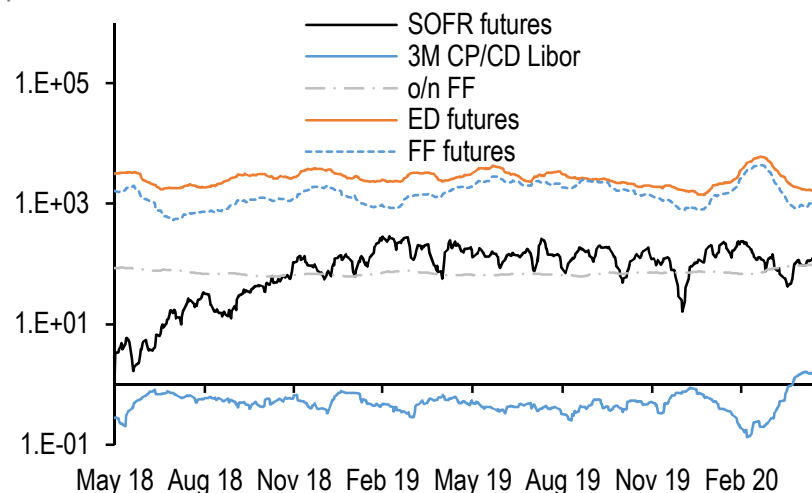


Source: J.P. Morgan, FRBNY, DTCC

Trading activity in exchange-traded SOFR derivatives has not meaningfully increased in a while, but unlike OTC swaps has not declined materially either

SOFR futures volume has rebounded off its March lows, as volumes have moderated in Eurodollar and Fed fund futures

Daily transaction volume in 3M CP/CD among Libor panel banks, SOFR futures*, overnight Fed funds, and Fed Funds and Eurodollar futures; \$bn in powers of 10

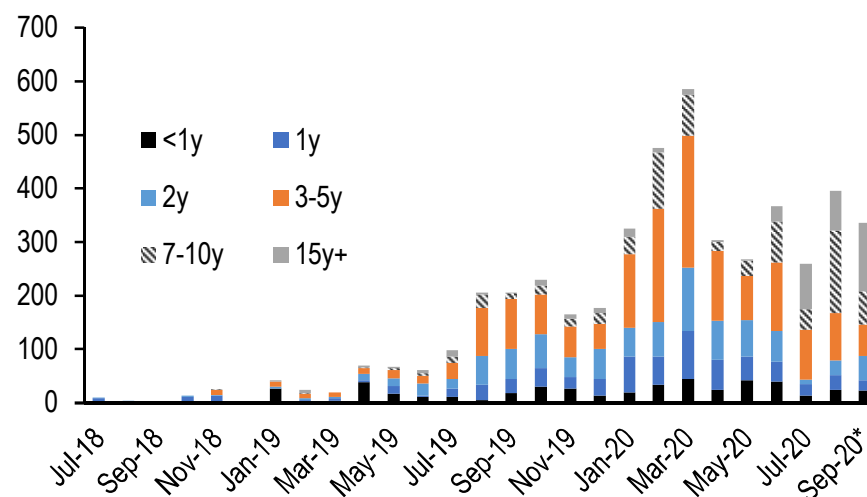


* Consistent with their matched DV01s to ED and FF futures, we assume \$1mn and \$5mn for quarterly and monthly CME SOFR futures, respectively; contract size for ICE SOFR futures is \$12mn.

Source: CME, ICE, NY FRB, J.P. Morgan

Volumes in the SOFR OTC market remain weak following the volatility in March

Monthly notional traded in SOFR OTC derivatives by original maturity (LHS; count) and breakdown of trade type (inset; %)



Source: J.P. Morgan, Bloomberg SDR

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Key challenges

- Transition to SOFR discounting on cleared swaps (October 16th)
- Discounting on uncleared derivatives
- Transition of cash market to SOFR instruments
- Fallbacks for derivatives and cash products
- Term SOFR?

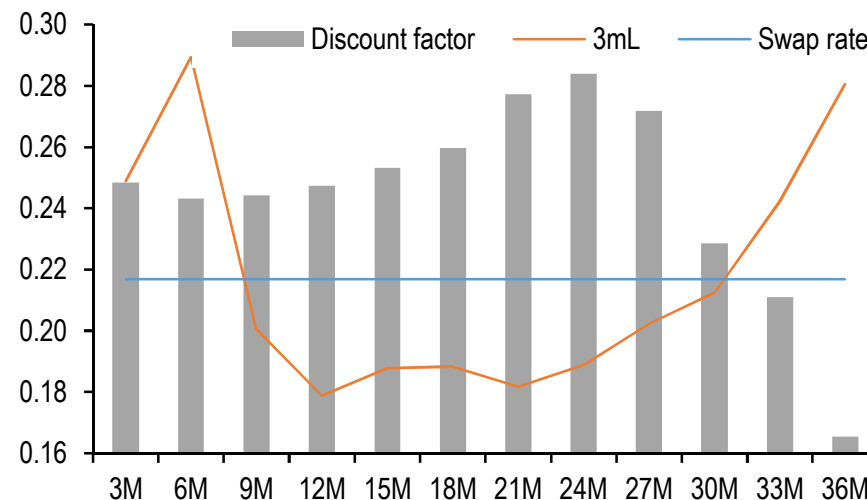
Transition of discounting on cleared swaps

What is discounting risk?

- Discounting risk arises from differences in the reference rate for computing cash flows and discount factors on the pricing of a swap or other derivative
- Cleared USD swaps are (currently) discounted off the Fed funds effective (EFFR) OIS curve
- Bilateral swaps without a CSA are discounted to Libor, those that are discounted vs FF-OIS
- OTC swaptions tend to be uncleared, but deliver into cleared swaps
- As of October 16th, 2020, the major clearing houses are switching discounting from FF-OIS to SOFR-OIS

For a swap not at par, shifts in the discount factor will carry PV implications

Forward 3mL rates (LHS; %), 3Y swap rate (LHS; %) and discount factors (RHS; unitless)

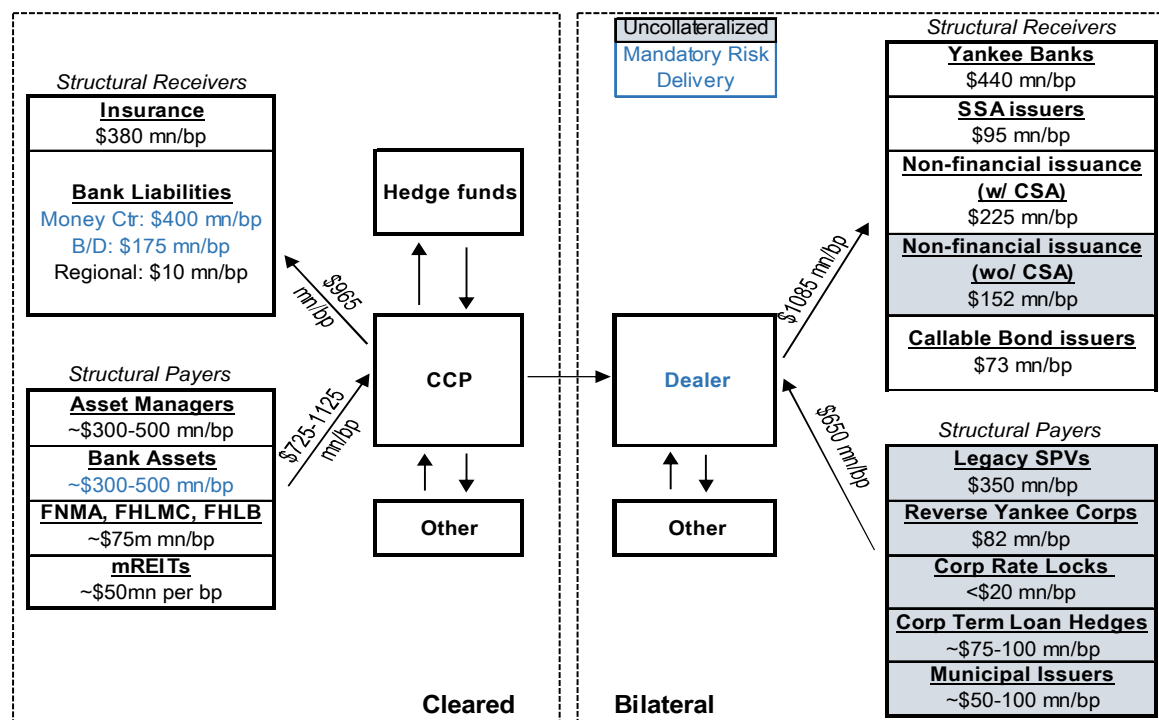


Source: J.P. Morgan

The topography of discounting risk

A schematic of the swaps market for both cleared and bilateral positions

Arrows indicate pay-fixed direction, duration estimates* from a variety of sources; \$mn



* All swaps assume par coupons as of trade date. Insurance positions from NAIC disclosure of line-item derivatives (retrieved from SNL Financial 2Q19 disclosure [the most recent data] with manual overlays to indicate direction, dollar duration, and moneyiness assuming no significant re-coupons or changes to positions since that time). Bank issuance data from JULI constituents, and SSAs from public issuance data assuming all fixed deals are swapped. Asset managers assumes 5-10% of the ~\$10tn notional of debt securities owned by mutual funds and households as of 1Q 2020 (Fed Z.1 data) is duration hedged with swaps at a 7-year WAM. All U.S. banks are assumed to clear, while Yankee issuance is assumed to be mostly packaged with cross-currency hedges in a bilateral format. FHLBs from recent [estimates](#) and FNMA/FHLMC recent retained portfolio balance (~\$144bn) with duration equal to the J.P. Morgan Agency MBS Index. Bank asset swappers assumes ~50% of debt securities (ex-MBS) that mature/re-price more than 5-years forward are swapped at a ~5-year hedge duration. REITs from AGNC and NLY 1W 2020 disclosure (found in Investor Presentations) for swap hedges, scaled up to the overall universe. Non-financial corporates also from JULI constituents assuming swapping rates based on comparing SDR to issuance data and CSA/non-CSA assigned based on J.P. Morgan estimates. Within that category Yankee issuance is assumed to be swapped back to home currency via a bilateral fixed/float swap with embedded cross-currency cashflows. Within Reverse Yankee issuance corps are assumed to be swapped back to USD fixed and financials to USD float. Formosa issuance assumes par callable swap strike rates as of the announcement date using Bloomberg lockout and maturity information as available, and accounts for calls of outstanding debt as well as new issuance. Rate locks assume 3% of the forward calendar is hedged for notional, using recent majority composition to estimate PVB for calculating dollar duration. Bank term loan hedges from [Fed data](#) as of Q1 2020, including lending by depository institutions with <1% default risk, 50% hedge ratio and 5-year maturity. Municipal hedges assume 25% of the current stock of VRDNs (~\$125bn) are swapped to fixed. Legacy SPVs from Intex data on CDOs and other structured products with embedded swap hedges.

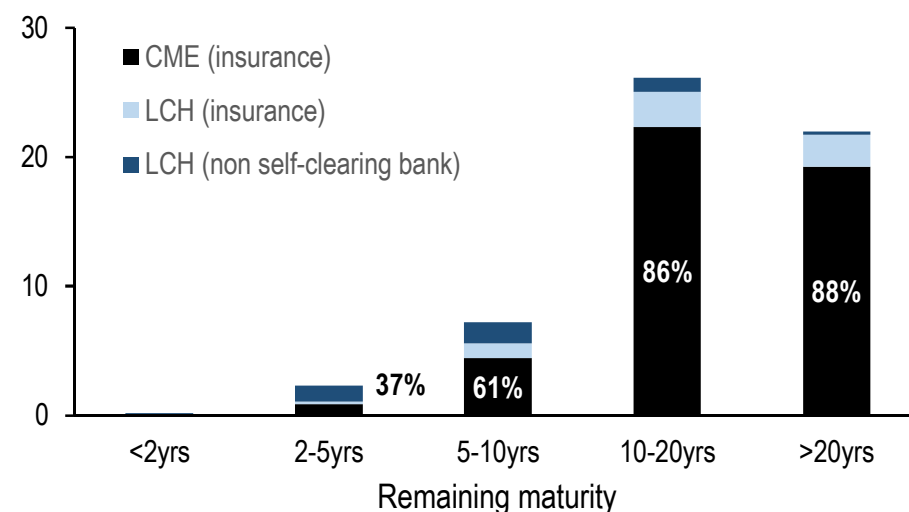
The Big Bang process...

How does the discounting switch work?

- A SOFR curve is constructed and used to compute the change in present value on swaps evaluated versus the old and new curves
- All participants get a transfer to compensate for this change
- SOFR/FF basis swaps are delivered to compensate accounts for the change in their discounting risk
- Non-dealers have the opportunity to opt out of these swaps
- An auction process is carried out among dealers to allocate the residual “opted-out” risk
- CME & LCH plans differ in some details of this process

The likely opt-out risk comes mostly via the insurance community, skewed to the long end and towards CME

Discounting risk by remaining maturity bucket and clearinghouse among potential opt-out counterparties; \$mn per bp



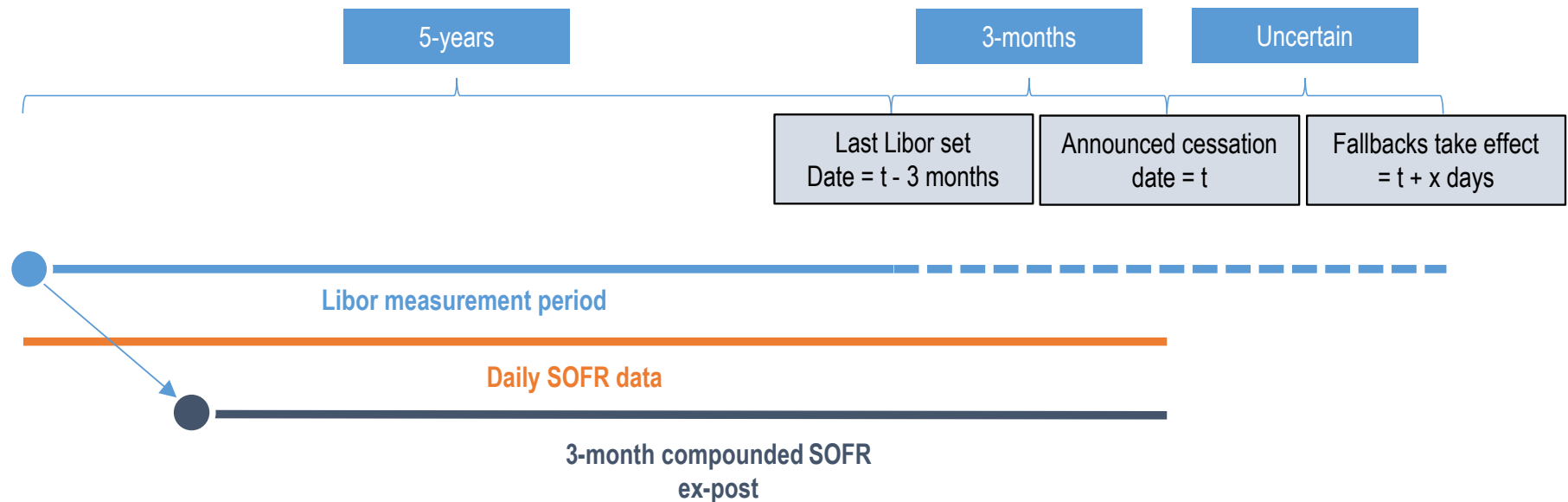
Note: We assume all bank issuance hedgers are on LCH.

Source: J.P. Morgan, NAIC, SNL

The recently published Bloomberg Rulebook governs the calculation of ISDA fallback spreads, which are set as of an FCA announcement that Libor will be non-representative but only affect cash flows when that designation is effective

The choice of cessation date, or a pre-cessation event, pins down the 5-year window for the fallback spread calculation

Schematic of ISDA fallback methodology for 3-month Libor

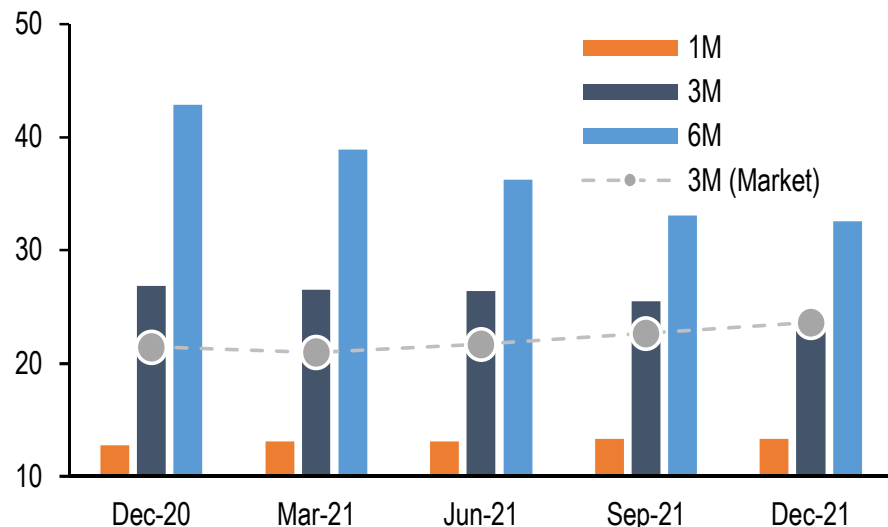


Source: J.P. Morgan

Given the placement of MMF reform in the lookback window, an earlier setting of fallback spreads means wider swaps pricing

Winding back the likely cessation date for Libor leads to higher Libor/SOFR fallbacks...

Libor/SOFR ISDA fallback spreads by cessation date and Libor/SOFR market level; bps

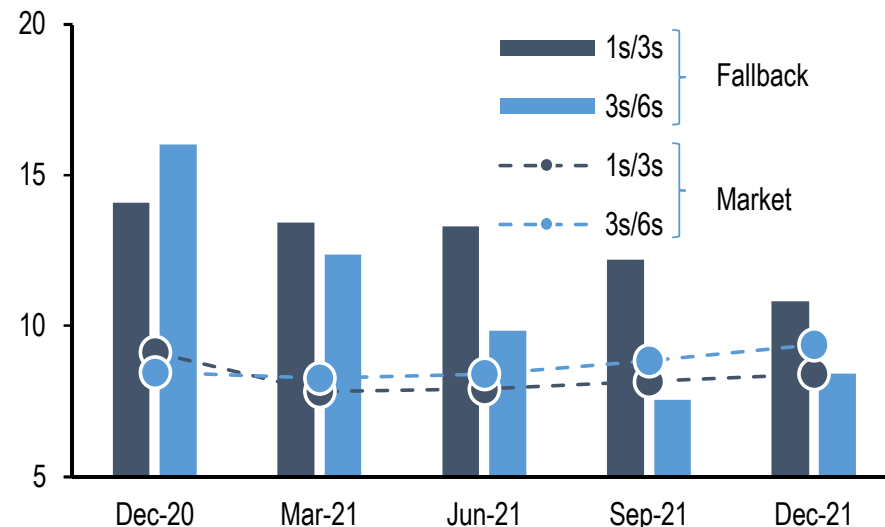


Note: Market levels reflect 1-year swaps forward starting as of the date shown along the x-axis.

Source: J.P. Morgan

... increasing as a function of tenor, which implies wider 1s/3s and 3s/6s

Implied 1s/3s and 3s/6s basis from ISDA fallbacks by cessation date and market levels; bps

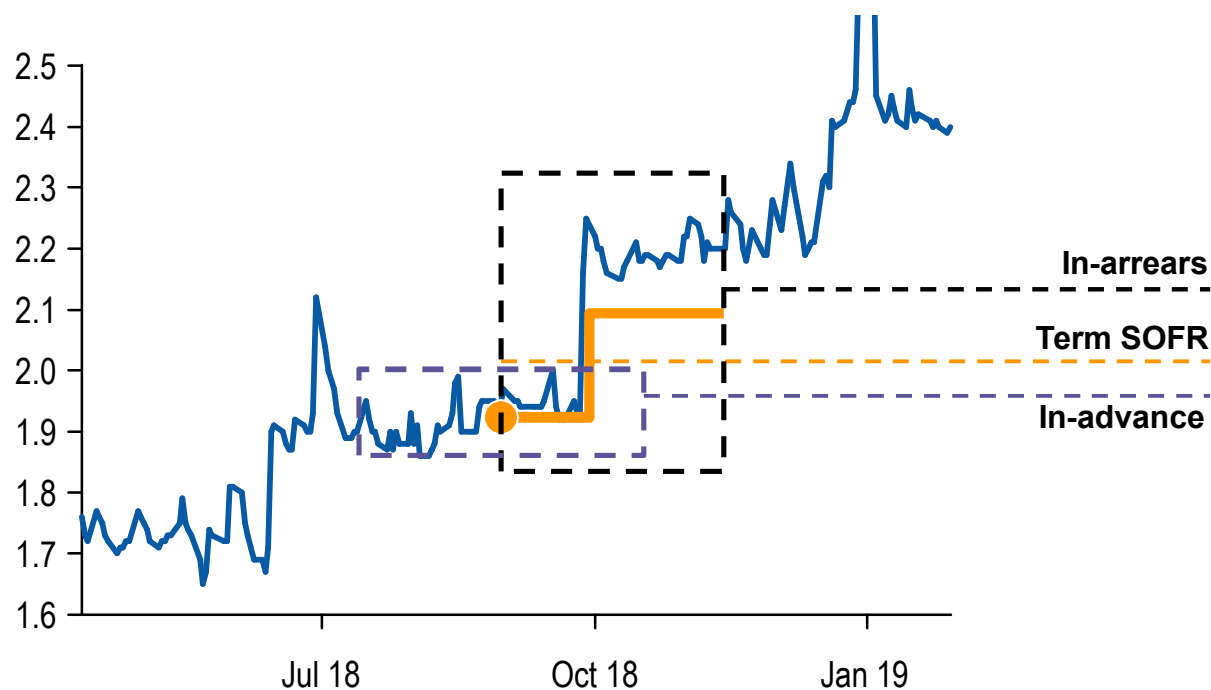


Note: Market levels reflect 1-year tenor basis swaps forward starting as of the date shown along the x-axis. Source: J.P. Morgan

Term SOFR

- Since an early round of proposals in 2019, news flow on term SOFR has been slow...
- The initial proposal provided by the FRBNY was to use monthly and quarterly SOFR futures to infer forward-looking term rates, i.e., an expectation of compounded overnight SOFR sets over a given period
- More recently, the ARRC released an RFP “*seeking a potential administrator to publish forward-looking SOFR term rates*” – without necessarily committing to a guarantee that a term rate would ultimately be recommended or not
- There are also some private sector proposals for an alternative term rate that includes a credit component, these include:
 - The **Bank Yield Index**: Administered by ICE and based off both primary CP/CD funding as well as short-dated secondary market transactions; looks at transactions across short-dated tenors and then fits a curve
 - **AXI (Across-the-curve credit spread index)**: Uses primary and secondary market TRACE data to fit a single short-term point that captures credit spreads
 - **Ameribor**: Transaction volume weighted average rate of overnight unsecured loans from a larger community of borrowers

Different coupon conventions



in arrears:

- average of observed overnight rates
- most accurately reflects funding rates over interest period
- coupons unknown until just before payment

term SOFR:

- inferred from SOFR futures pricing (forward-looking)
- reflects anticipated funding rates over interest period (market's best guess)
- coupons known at the start of interest period, well in advance

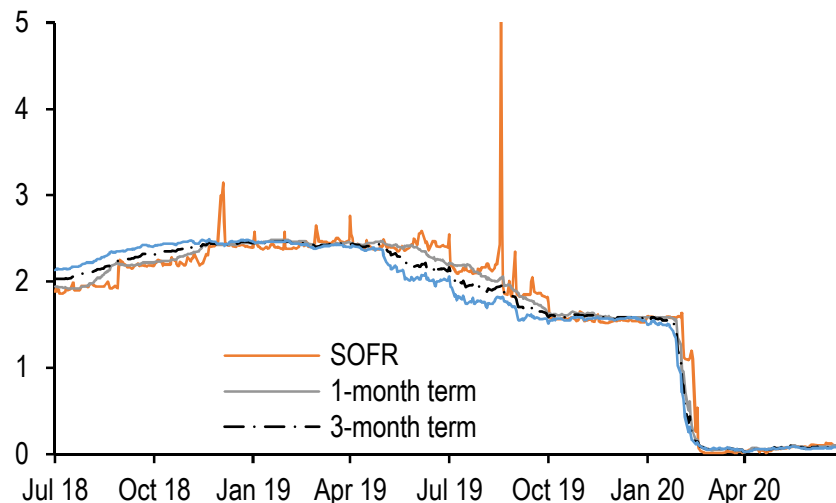
in advance:

- average of observed overnight rates *well ahead* of coupon date (e.g., 45 days)
- reflects previously seen overnight rates, which can diverge from future settings
- coupons known in advance, by construction

Term SOFR is well behaved, both versus overnight rates and term Libor...

While overnight SOFR itself has featured large month- and quarter-end turns, consistent with dynamics in the broader repo market of late, the proposed term rates prove far less volatile...

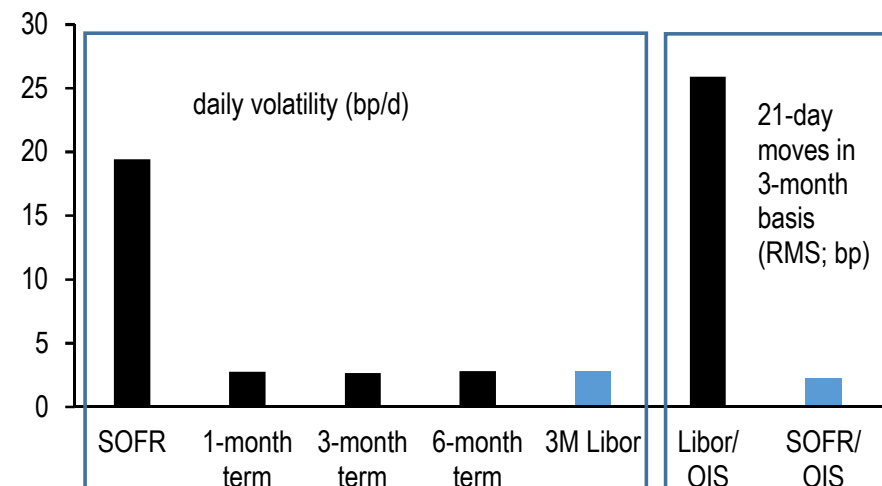
Forward-looking term 1M, 3M and 6M SOFR computed via SOFR futures*, compared to daily SOFR; %



*Computed using 1M and 3M CME SOFR futures; see Inferring term rates from SOFR futures prices, E. Heitfield and Y. Park, 2/5/19 for details
Source: J.P. Morgan, NY FRB

... and over longer periods, 3M SOFR/OIS is far better behaved than Libor/OIS

Daily volatility in SOFR, the Fed's proposed term SOFR from futures*, and in 3-month Libor (LHS; bp/day); root-mean-square of month-on-month moves in 3M SOFR/OIS† and Libor/OIS



* Computed using 1M and 3M CME SOFR futures; see Inferring term rates from SOFR futures prices, E. Heitfield and Y. Park, 2/5/19 for details
† 3M SOFR/OIS is a comparison of term 3M SOFR* versus a spot 1M Fed funds OIS

Source: J.P. Morgan, NY FRB

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