Global Market Liquidity Trends

SAFE Investment Center, Mar 2017



Key Points

- ■Liquidity generally worsened due to financial regulation reforms and market structural changes post 2008 crisis.
- ■Buy side firms were less impacted by new regulation, and started playing bigger roles as liquidity providers than before.
- ■We have closely and consistently monitored the liquidity trend, and kept exploring new sources of liquidity.



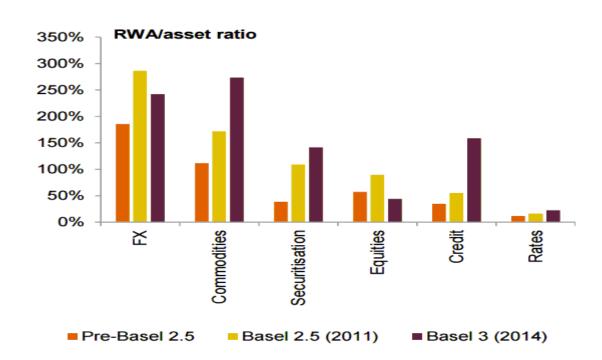
Regulatory Reforms (Basel III, Dodd-Frank Reforms, Liquidity requirement for banks) have negatively impacted market making capability

Bank tier 1 capital ratio spiked due to stricter regulations



Source: FDIC, Bloomberg

Capital cost for market making has risen



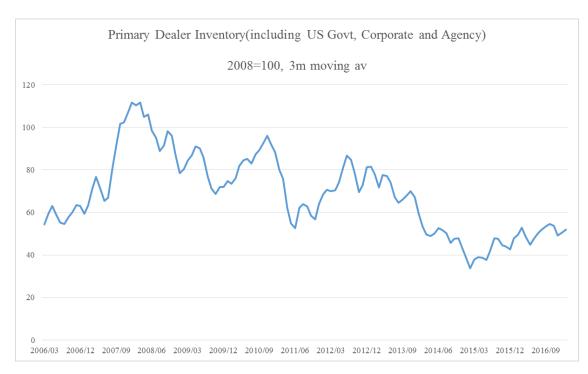
Source: Global financial market liquidity study



Sell side firms have cut balance sheet commitment

US primary dealer inventory has fallen 50% compared to 2008

UST repo outstanding has fallen 45% compared to 2008



Source: Haver



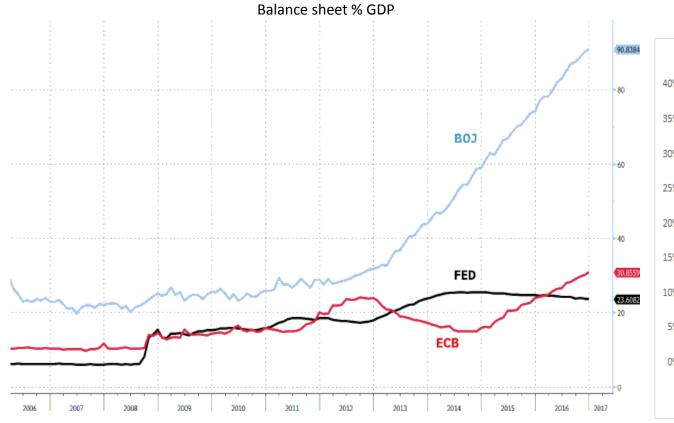
Source: SIFMA

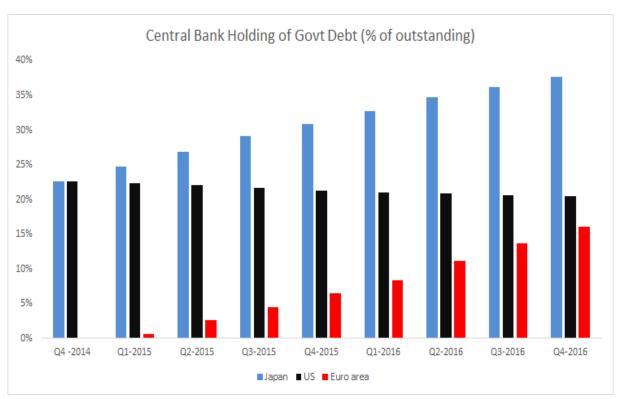


Key central banks have been deeply involved in fixed income market recently

Key Central Banks deployed huge QE program post 2008 crisis

Key Central Banks sovereign holding % of outstanding



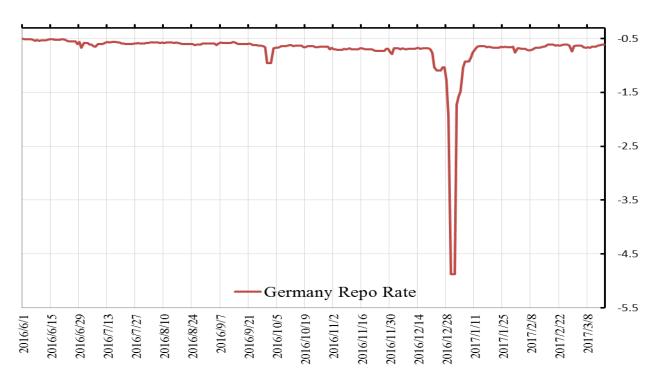


Source: Bloomberg Source: Bloomberg



EU core country government bond scarcity

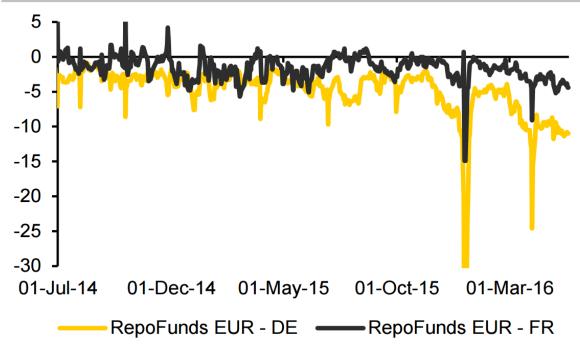
German 3m repo rate (%)



Source: Bloomberg

Scarcity effects emerging in Bund repo markets ...

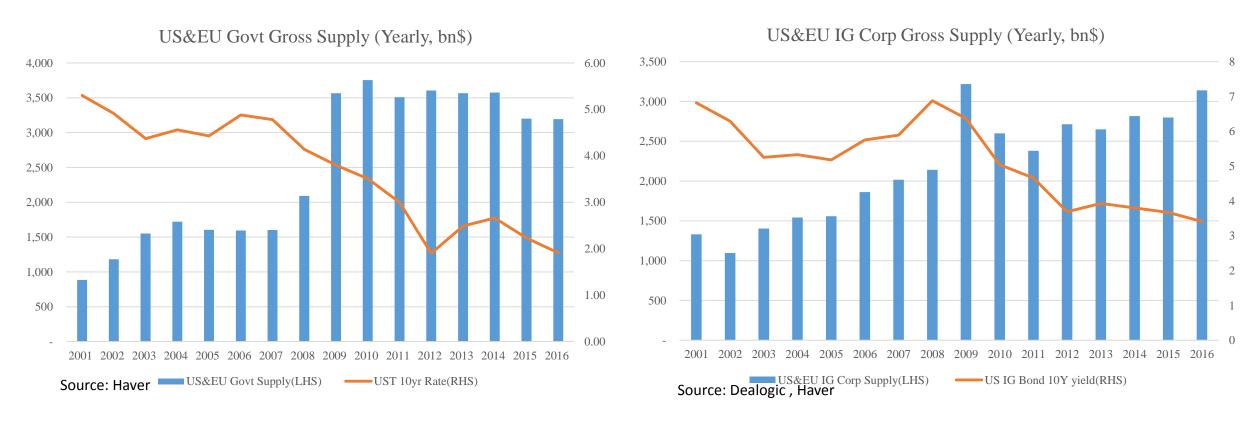
Single sovereign vs EUR sovereign RepoFundRates spreads, in bp



Source: Bloomberg, RepoFundsRate, Commerzbank Research



Elevated government and corporate new issuance in the low yield environment changed liquidity dynamics further



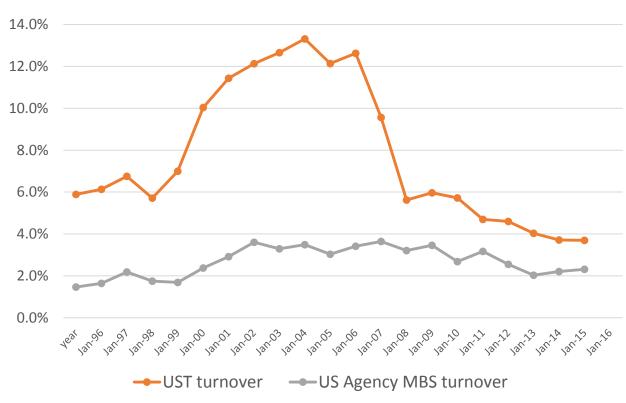
The daily market liquidity could be seriously affected by these activities.



Downtrend in fixed income market turnover continues

US key bond market turnover ratios

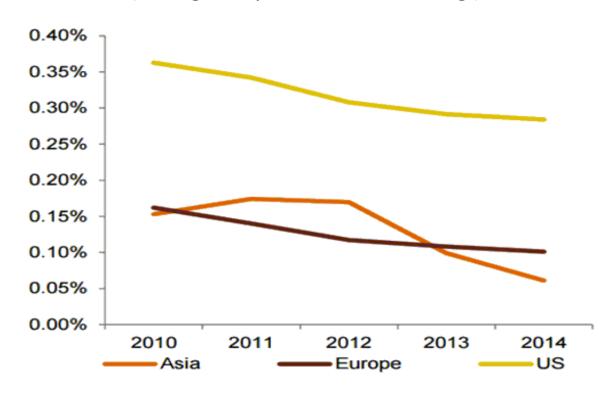
(average daily volume/outstanding)



Source: SIFMA

Corporate bond turnover ratios

(average daily volume/outstanding)

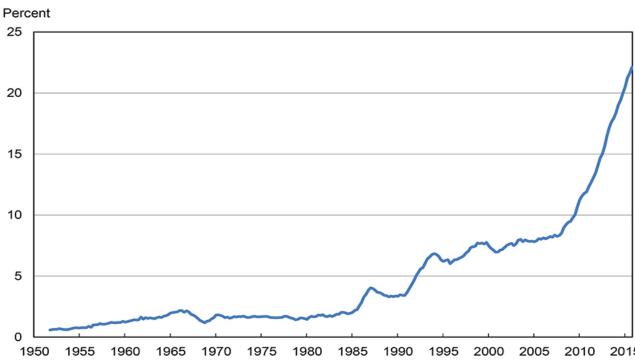


Source: Asian Development Bank, Trax, SIFMA, PwC analysis



Buy side firms started playing bigger roles as liquidity provider

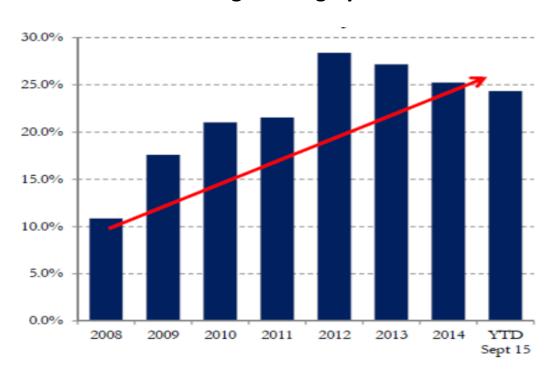
US mutual fund holding % of corporate bond outstanding



Source: FRBNY staff calculations, based on data from the Financial Accounts of the United States (Flow of Funds), obtained through Haver Analytics.

Note: The exhibit plots mutual fund holdings of corporate and foreign debt as a percent of total corporate and foreign debt outstanding.

US mutual fund holding % of high yield bond outstanding

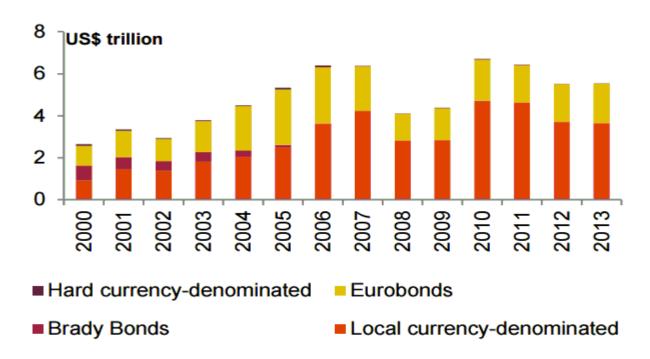


Sources include: JP Morgan, NY Fed. Please see Notes & Disclosures.



EM bond market liquidity has moved from where it was

EM fixed income trading volume is down from peak level

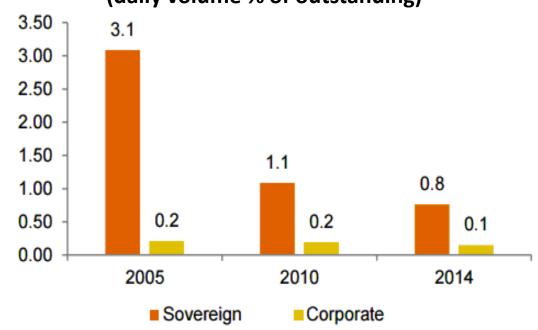


Source: EMTA

Turnover ratio declined in key EM countries like Brazil,

Turkey, Mexico and India

(daily volume % of outstanding)



Source: BIS, EMTA



Fixed income market liquidity trends

 Fixed income market has experienced diminishing liquidity mainly due to shrunk commitment from traditional market makers

 Unconventional monetary policy from key central banks and heavy bond supply have distorted the daily market liquidity balance.

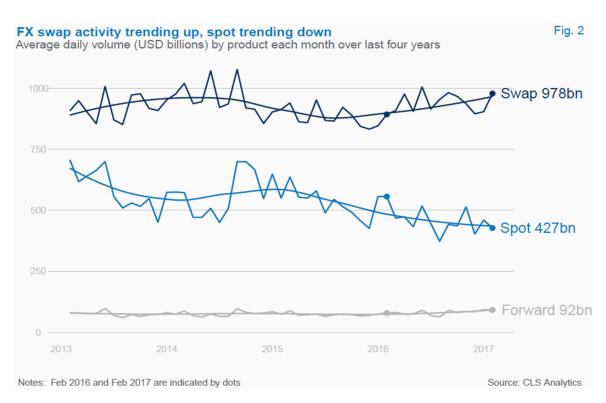
• While buy side institutions have become more active in liquidity providing than before.



FX spot transaction volume is falling

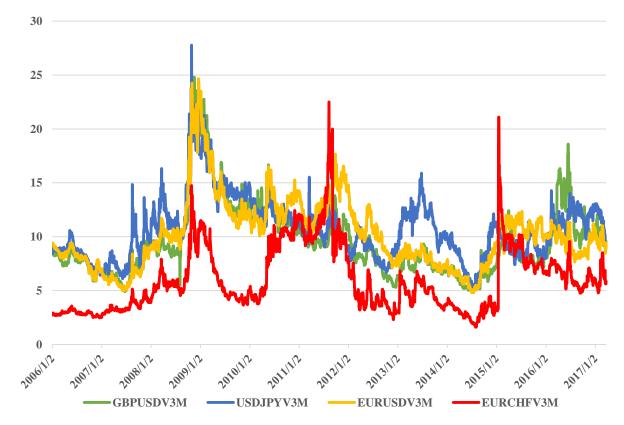
Key reason: Banks reassessing the profitability of prime broker business under additional regulation

FX swap, FX spot transaction volume trend



Source: BIS

Event risks caused sudden spikes of FX volatility, and damped the risk appetite of Primary FX Brokers



Source: Bloomberg



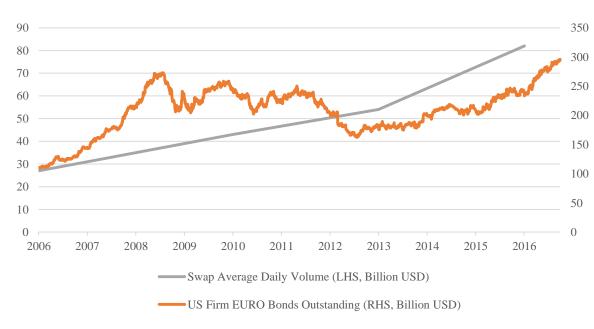
FX swap volume picked up due to rising FX hedged bond new issuance and active currency basis trading

XCCY basis vs Swap Volume



Source: BIS, Bloomberg

Corp Cross Currency Bond vs Swap Volume

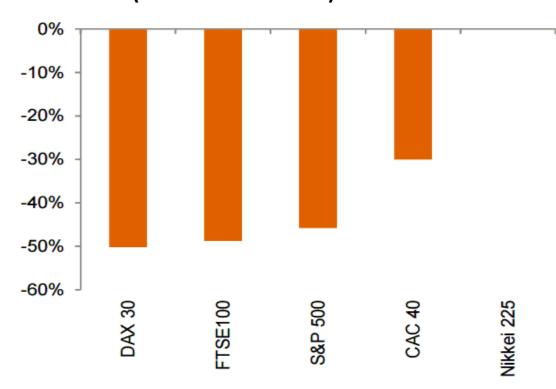


Source: BIS, Barclays Point



Equity Market liquidity conditions generally worsened

Declining trading volume of major equity indices (from 2008 to 2015)



Source: Thomson Reuters

US Corporates prefer stock buyback program





Source: FactSet

