

# Society of Actuaries in Ireland

# Perspectives on Cash/Liquidity Management in today's low yield environment

David Furey, Portfolio Strategist, SSgA Global Cash

05.11.13

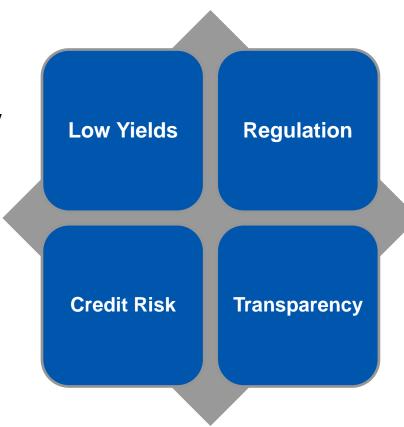
## Agenda

- Major Challenges Affecting Cash Investors Globally
- 2 Understanding the Investment Objectives of Cash Investors
- Money Market Funds Features and Regulations
- 4 Current Investment Landscape and Challenges for Cash Investors
- 5 Summary

# **Major Challenges Affecting Cash Investors Globally**



Deteriorating credit universe and elevated credit risks a major concern for risk-averse cash investors

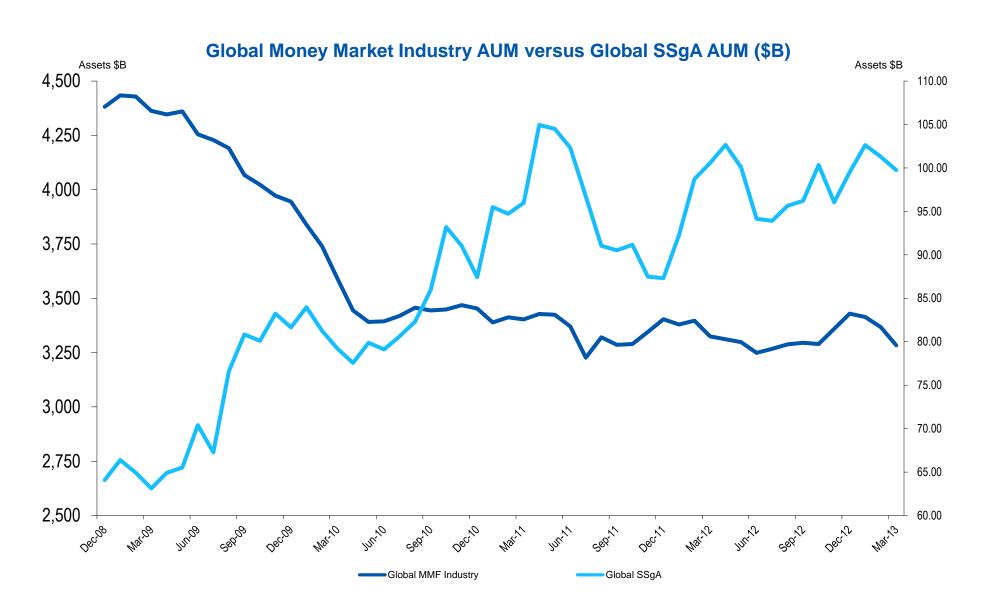


Regulation is threatening the use of the amortised cost approach in MMF valuation.

Forced switch from Constant-NAV to Variable NAV likely

Investors seeking look-through to fund holdings, strategy updates and access to PMs/Analysts

## **Assets in Money Market Funds have stabilized**



# STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS.

# The Investment Objectives of Cash Investors



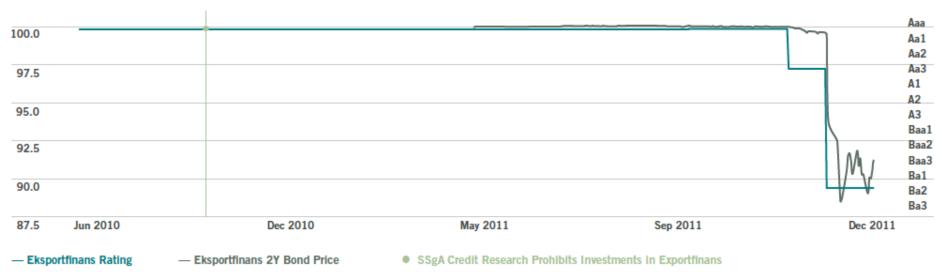
## **Investment Objectives of Cash Investors**

**SAFETY LIQUIDITY YIELD Principal Preservation Yield from Risk Investor's Perspective Maturity Profile Risk Appetite 3rd Objective Horizon Market Liquidity Competitive Return** 

Objectives must be understood and defined properly

## Principal Preservation: Must identify and eliminate risks early

Figure 2: SSgA Credit Research Identifies and Eliminates Weak Issuers Early



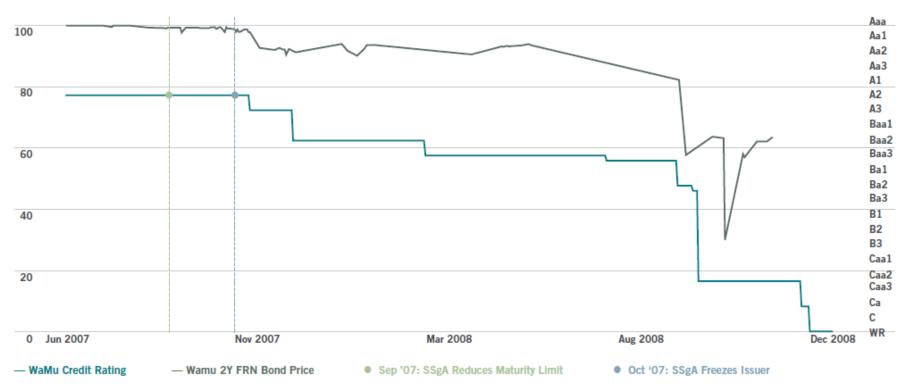
Source: SSgA, Bloomberg, Moody's

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

### Concept of Risk is very different for cash investors

## **Principal Preservation: Staged exit strategy**

Figure 3: The Time-line of Washington Mutual Credit Deterioration

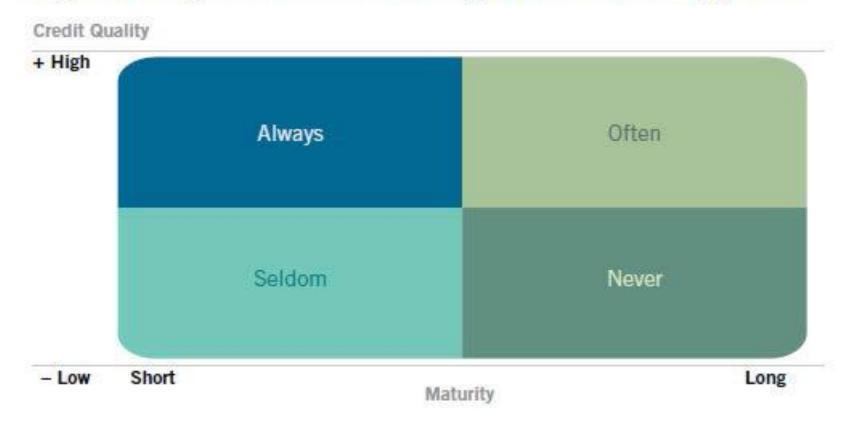


Source: SSgA, Bloomberg, Moody's

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

# SSgA's Two Dimensional Approach to Credit Approval

Figure 2: SSgA's Two-Dimensional Approach to Issuer Approval



## **Investment Objectives of Cash Investors**

#### **Objectives**

(Principal Preservation) 1. SAFETY:

2. LIQUIDITY: (Maturity and Market)

(Competitive Return) 3. YIELD:

#### **SSgA Approach**

- Inherently conservative culture at SSgA
- SSgA Credit Research Approved Issuers list
- Guidelines: IMMFA\*/Rating Agencies
- Primary liquidity source from maturity profile
- Secondary source from strong credits/holdings
- Client engagement to understand requirements
- Understand that yield comes from risk exposure
- Yield only sought once other objectives satisfied
- Construct yield prudently, aim for stable sources

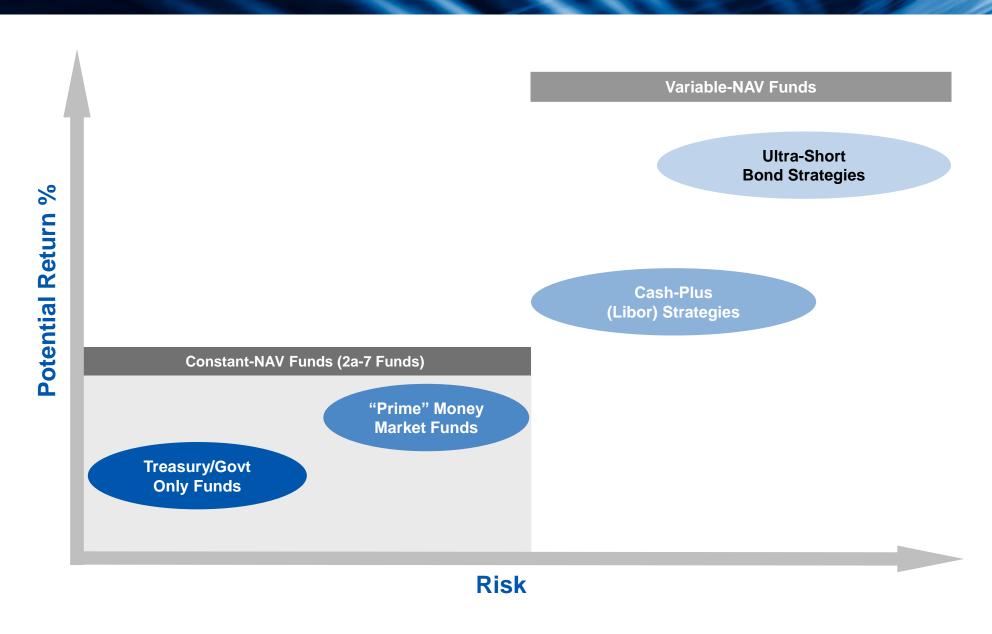
# **Investment Objectives of Cash Investors**

## **Priority of Investment Objectives\***

Types of Cash Investors	Priority of Cash Investment Objectives*		
	Safety	Liquidity	Yield
Sovereign Wealth Funds	1	2	3
Pension Funds	2	3	1
Futures Exchange	2	1	3
Corporations	1	2	3
Insurance Companies	2	3	1
Hedge Funds	2	1	3
Individuals	1	3	2
Liability Driven Investors	1	2	3



## **Cash Investment Spectrum**



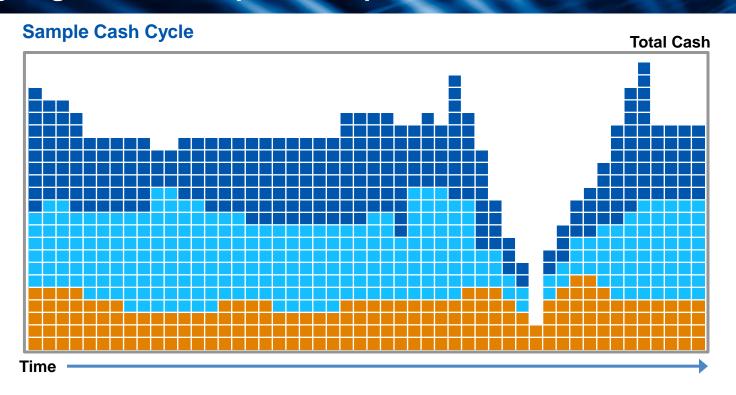
# **Investment Objectives of Cash Investors**

## **Cash Investment Strategies**

Type of Cash	<b>Client Needs</b>	Cash Flow Volatility	WAM	Products
Overnight and Liquid (Operating Cash)	Working capital to fund daily and short-term operations	High (+/- 100%)	1–60	Money Market Funds
Short-term Liquidity (Core Cash)	More stable funds that will likely not be targeted within next 3 to 6 months	Medium (+/- 25%)	90–180	Cash-Plus Funds
Non-operating Core Cash (Strategic Cash)	Strategic cash that will not be required for 6 months or longer	Stable (+/- 0%)	180–240	Ultra-short Bond Funds

Liquidity segmentation required to optimise results

# Liquidity segmentation required to optimise results

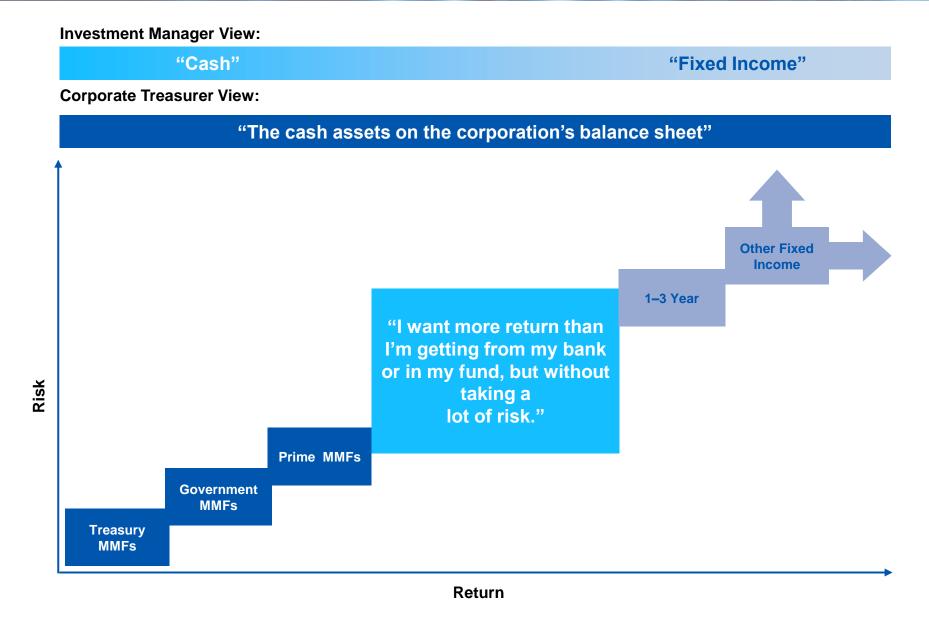


Types of Cash	Investment Objectives	Possible Strategy Options
Liquidity	Daily liquidity and preservation of capital	Money Market Fund
Core Cash	Periodic liquidity and preservation of capital	Cash Plus
Strategic Cash	Extended horizon and no liquidity need identified	Short Duration

## Apple's Cash Pile



# Cash Definition Has Expanded



## **Investment Options**

**Your Perspective** 

**Investment Options** 

Cash is not return seeking

Accept Low Yields

Money Market Funds

Segregate cash strategy

Segment Cash according to liquidity needs

Money Market Funds and Cash Plus Fund

**Optimize cash strategy** 

Increase Risk: Liquidity, Credit and Maturity Short Maturity Strategies
Via Separately Managed Account

#### **Illustrative Example of Cash Segmentation**

Investment	Yield	Example Weights
EUR Liquidity Fund	0.11%	20%
Euribor Plus Fund	0.45%	30%
Short Maturity Strategy	0.75%	50%
Blended Yield	0.53%	100%

# STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS.

# Money Market Funds: Features and Regulations



## **Money Market Funds — Key Features**

Liquidity Same day funds access

Stability Constant NAV

Quality Principal Return Focus
Rating Agencies

Regulation SEC (2a-7), IMMFA, ESMA

Diversification By issuer and investor

Disclosure Detailed fund holdings provided frequently

Access via web sites, portals, telephone

Multiple advantages and attractions of Money Market Funds

Convenience

# **Cash Funds versus Bank Deposits**

	Money Market Fund	Time Deposits
Counterparty Risk	Diversified across a number of issuers	Exposure to one issuer only
Liquidity	Daily access with same day settlement	Non-transferable investment/locked in for a period of time
Rating	Fund as a whole rated AAA based on maturity and credit profile	Rating of bank will likely be lower suggesting higher probability of default
Investment Function	Outsourced to specialist investment manager (portfolio management and credit research)	Counterparty research would need to be done in-house (often purely ratings agency based)

## **Drivers of Change in Money Fund Management**

#### Regulation

- Enhanced guidelines
- ✓ Reporting requirements
- ✓ Stress testing

#### **Client Demands**

- ✓ Increased disclosure
- ✓ Improved transparency
- ✓ Access to portfolio managers /credit analysts

#### **Impact to Fund Providers**

- ✓ Increased liquidity
- ✓ Lower credit risk
- Reduction in permitted investments
- ✓ PMs and credit analysts on client calls
- Frequent, detailed holdings disclosure

A more robust product to deliver on investment objectives

# Money Market Funds — SEC Rule 2a-7 Enhancements : Phase 1

## Enhancements to Rule 2a-7, adopted in February 2010, effective May 2010

#### **Fund Controls**

Credit Quality	Reduced fund exposure limit for second tier (A-2/P-2)securities  Reduced maturity limit for second tier (A-2/P-2)securities to 45 days
Diversification	Tighter issuer limits Tighter collateral rules on Repo
Liquidity	Min 10% in Daily Liquid Assets* Min 30% in Weekly Liquid Assets^ Reduced permitted exposure for "illiquid" securities to 5%
Maturity	Reduced WAM from 90 days to 60 days WAL limit of 120 days introduced Reduced permitted exposure for "illiquid" securities to 5%

#### **Manager Controls**

Transparency	Monthly disclosure of Fund holding on manager website  Monthly disclosure of Fund holdings and additional information (Shadow NAV) to SEC
Risk Management	Portfolio Stress Testing required in fund's policies and procedures
<b>Board Powers</b>	Policies and Procedures in place to suspend redemptions temporarily

<sup>\*</sup> Daily liquid assets include cash, US Treasury securities, and securities readily convertible to cash within one business day.

<sup>^</sup> Weekly liquid assets include daily liquid assets (except convertible to cash within five business days rather than one) as well as US government agency discount notes with remaining maturities of 60 days or less.

## **SEC Money Market Reform Proposals: Phase 2**

#### **US Regulatory Reform**



#### **Alternative 1: Floating NAV**

 Prime institutional money market funds would be required to transact at a floating NAV, not at a \$1.00 stable share price



#### **Alternative 2: Liquidity Fees and Redemption Gates**

 Money market funds would continue to transact at a stable share price, but would be able to use liquidity fees and redemption gates in times of stress

#### **Important Points to Note:**



- The two alternatives are being considered by themselves or can be adopted in some form of combination
- The proposal also includes additional disclosure and investment guideline requirements designed to increase safety and transparency in the portfolios
- The SEC's release of the proposal for public comment is only the beginning of what has
  historically been a long rulemaking process. After the 90 day comment period, the SEC
  will further deliberate on the submitted comments and vote a second time if, in fact, they
  will adopt the new rule. Once the new rule is adopted, there is typically an extensive
  implementation period (18–24 months) for fund providers to enact the changes.

## **European Commission MMF Proposals: Phase 3**

#### **EMEA Regulatory Reform**



3% Capital Buffer for MMFs using amortised cost accounting, other MMFs are prohibited from receiving external sponsor support

 This level of capital is not viable for any MMF provider and will not alone address systematic concerns around 'runs' in MMFs



Investments: Curtailment in the use of reverse repo, ABCP excluded, government securities not included in liquidity calculations

 MMF guideline changes already in place sufficient — further guideline restrictions will not be of any benefit



MMFs are prevented from soliciting or financing an external credit rating

A sudden withdrawal of ratings will cause difficulty to investors



#### Six month transition period

Not sufficient time to execute anticipated changes

# **Money Market Funds — Ratings Agencies**

## **Summary of Ratings Agency rules governing Triple-A Money Market Funds**

Maturity Limits	S&P	Moody's	Fitch
Portfolio Max — WAM*	60	60	60
Portfolio Max — WAL^	90–120	60–90	120
Security Max (non-sovereign)	397		397
Security Max (sovereign)	762		730
Liquidity Constraints			
Overnight maturities and other eligible assets		20%	10%
Seven-day maturities and other eligible assets			25%
Overnight Investments to Top 3 Investors		90%	
Max in non-Liquid/illiquid investments	10%		
Diversification			
Max per Issuer rated 'A-1+' or 'F1+'	10%		10%
Max per Issuer rated A-1 or P-1 or F1	5%	5%	5%
Max per Sovereign Issuer rated 'AA-' or better	100%		
Max per Sovereign Issuer rated 'A+' < 1week	10%		
Max per 'A-1' rated Bank for overnight deposit/cash	10%		
Portfolio Credit Quality			
Min 'A-1+' as well as 'A-1' investments < 5days	50%		
Max A-1 investments > 5 days	50%		
Min F1+ or F1			100%
A-2 or F-2 rated issuers	0%		0%
NAV Stress Testing and Shadow NAV			
Tolerance to withstand defined stress tests	+/- 0.25%	+/- 0.25%	

<sup>\*</sup> WAM — Weighted Average Maturity: To next coupon reset date for FRNs.

<sup>^</sup> WAL — Weighted Average Life: To final maturity.

# STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS.

# **Money Market Instruments**



# **Money Market Instruments — Types and Features**

Instrument	Short Name	Seniority	Liquidity	Coupon Features
Treasury Bills	Bills	Government	Extremely High	Discount Notes — Zero Coupons
Bank Deposits	Depos	Senior Unsecured	Non-Tradable	Coupon bearing (Fixed)
Commercial Paper	СР	Senior Unsecured	High	Discount Notes — Zero Coupons
Certificates of Deposits	CDs	Senior Unsecured	High	Coupon bearing (Fixed, Floating or Zero)
Repurchase Agreements	Repo	Secured by Collateral	Non-Tradable	Coupon bearing, set rate
Floating Rate Notes	FRNs	Senior Unsecured	Medium/High	Floating Coupon, typical quarterly resets to Libor
Corporate and Bank Notes	Bonds	Senior Unsecured	Medium/High	Fixed Coupon
Asset Backed Securities	ABS	Secured by Collateral	Varied	Fixed and Floating
Asset-Backed Commercial Paper	ABCP	Secured by Collateral	High	Discount Notes — Zero Coupons

## Repurchase Agreements: Overview

## Overview

- A Repurchase Agreement (Repo) is basically a secured deposit
- Used extensively by investment banks to convert securities inventory into cash
- The other side of this Trade is known as a Reverse Repo: (deposit cash, receive securities)
- Many types of collateral (security types) are accepted and traded
- Lower credit ratings of investment banks necessitates secured approach to their funding

## Repurchase Agreements — Key Features

 Central Banks — as lenders of last/(first) resort **Participants**  Investment banks, Leveraged investors Real Money Managers, Money Market Funds Bilateral Repo Type Tri-party Overnight **Maturity** Term Open AAA Sovereigns to BB Corporates Collateral Equities Margin Proportionate to the risk of collateral used (Haircut)

# STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS.

# **Current Investment Landscape and Challenges** for Cash Investors



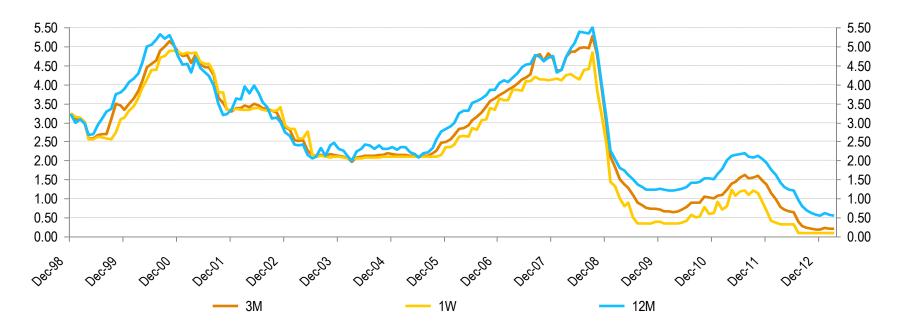
# **Key Developments**

Policy Initiative	Actions taken	Market impact	Consequences for Cash Investors
LTRO  Long-Term Refinancing Operations	Unlimited 3-year funding for Eurozone banks	<ul> <li>Eliminate funding pressures for Eurozone banks</li> <li>Buy time to deleverage slowly</li> <li>Excess market liquidity</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Distorted cash rates</li><li>Lower funding levels</li><li>Reduce/postpone default risk</li></ul>
OMT Outright Monetary Transactions	Conditional support for Sovereign bonds	<ul><li>Credible backstop to</li><li>Reduce tail risks</li><li>Prevent speculative attacks</li><li>Stabilize bond markets</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Reduces Sovereign — Bank linkage</li> <li>Improved sentiment</li> <li>Selective peripheral funding</li> </ul>
Greece	Debt restructuring PSI* — 70% loss OSI* — maturity extensions and rate reductions	<ul> <li>Remove Greece as headline risk</li> <li>Remove Greek refinance risk</li> <li>Provide longer adjustment period</li> </ul>	Secondary effects eliminated



## **EUR Interest Rates**

#### **Ultra-low rate environment in EUR**



- New and prolonged period of ultra-low rates for EUR cash investors
- · Low rates accompanied by higher risks elsewhere; credit, political, sovereign etc
- Challenging environment for risk-averse investors

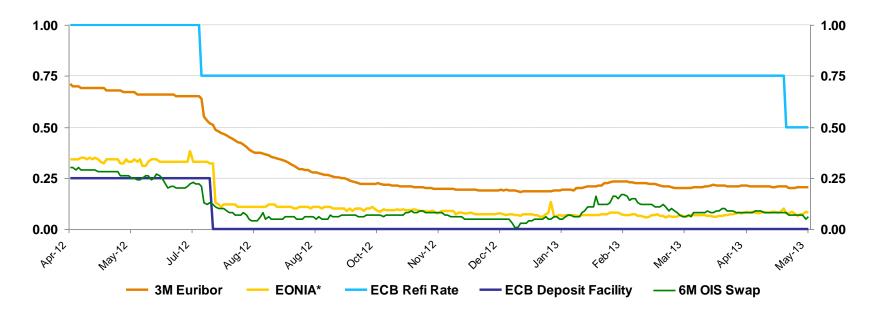
Source: SSgA, Bloomberg as at March 2013

<sup>\*</sup> EONIA: Effective overnight index average

<sup>^</sup> OMT: Outright Monetary Transactions

## **EUR Interest Rates**

#### Ultra-low rate environment to prevail



- Latest ECB rate cut largely symbolic—little impact on market rates
- LTRO paybacks significant but excess liquidity remains very high
- Forward OIS swaps indicate rates on hold
- 0% deposit rate key to avoiding negative rates

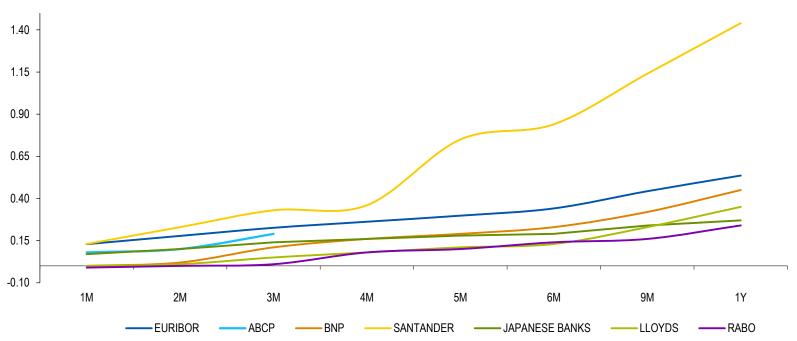
Source: SSgA, Bloomberg as at May 2013

<sup>\*</sup> EONIA: Effective overnight index average

## **Issuer Funding Levels in EUR**

#### **Significant dispersion persists**

#### **Issuer Funding Curves in EUR**



- Pronounced dispersion and distortion due to LTRO\* excess liquidity
- Many SSgA approved issuers funding at zero to negative rates out to one months
- Euribor; a poor average of the haves (A1/P1) and the have-nots (A2/P2, A3/P3)
- Some recent improvement in issuer levels and supply in short maturities

Source: SSgA, Bloomberg,

<sup>\*</sup> LTRO: Long-Term Refinancing Operations.

## **Investment Strategy in EUR**

#### **Liquidity:**

- Balancing act to maintain high liquidity ratios but avoid zero/negative yields
  - Ensure portfolio maturity laddering
  - Selectively increase Repo investments as an overnight asset with positive yield

#### **Credit Quality:**

- Maintain focus on highest quality issuers and avoid/limit exposure to weaker regions
  - Key strategy is to move up in credit quality as we move out in maturity
  - Govt/Agency issuers at longer dates to lock in rates and within acceptable credit risks
  - Major headwinds for Eurozone banks focus on highest rated only in stronger countries

#### **Diversification:**

- Expand selectively into new issuers, sectors and regions
  - Close to 30 Corporate names now approved by SSgA Credit Research for cash portfolios
  - Increasing diversification by geography and sector
  - Continue to favour issuers with strong balance sheets in resilient economies

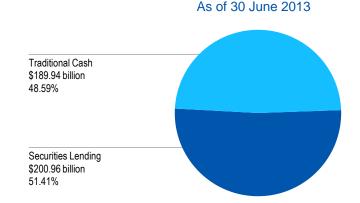
Prudent approach to deliver upon the objectives of Cash investors

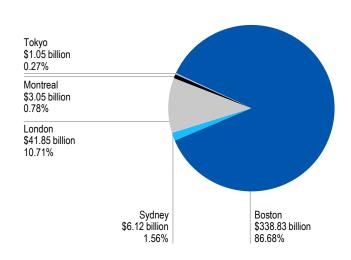
## **SSgA AUM and Competitive Advantages**

As one of the world's largest Cash managers, SSgA is able to provide the following benefits to our clients:

\$390.90 Billion\* in Global Cash Assets

- Priority treatment from dealers
  - Information flow
  - Access to product
- Price breaks for large tickets
  - Complete flow-through to clients
- First look at new structures
- Access to liquidity
- Well known by issuers
  - Reverse inquiry
- Well known by rating agencies
- Access to company management
  - Conformity with Regulation FD





GLSTND-0842

Numbers are based on Par Value of the underlying securities (converted to USD). Numbers do not include Fund of Fund positions in SSgA managed money market funds. Source: SSgA Assets Under Management reporting system.

Investing involves risk including the risk of loss of principal.

<sup>\*</sup> Includes Cash and Lending. All umbrella funds and as of funds assets have been removed from the calculations.

Global Fixed Income assets under management include those Strategies managed by SSgA's Asset Allocation Team.

All calculations are unaudited.

## Recap

**Investment Objectives** 

Stability, Liquidity, Yield

Understand objectives to optimise results

**Money Market Funds** 

• Tighter regulations in place post crisis

Variety of future proposals

**Investment Landscape** 

Ultra-low yields

Credit Deterioration

Market Distortions

**Implications** 

Re-examine Objectives

C-NAV versus V-NAV

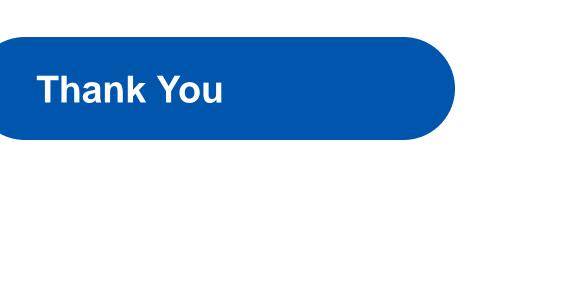
**Cash Investing** 

Conservative, Challenging and Complex

Questions...

Comments...

Queries...



## **Biographies**



**David Furey** 

David is a Vice President of State Street Global Advisors and a Senior Portfolio Strategist in the Global Cash investment team. In this role, David acts as a key link between the cash investment team and SSgA's cash clients and distribution teams.

David joined State Street Global Advisors Ireland Limited in July 2007 as a Senior Portfolio Manager responsible for the management of Enhanced Cash strategies as well as European Investment Grade credit portfolios. Previously, David spent five years in a similar role with Butterfield Asset Management in Bermuda. David began his career with AIG in London in 1993 as a fixed income portfolio manager managing active and liability driven bond strategies for AIG and other institutional clients.

David is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, and of the Smurfit Graduate School of Business at UCD.