### FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF MINNEAPOLIS

BANKING AND POLICY STUDIES

## Minneapolis Options Report – January 2<sup>nd</sup>

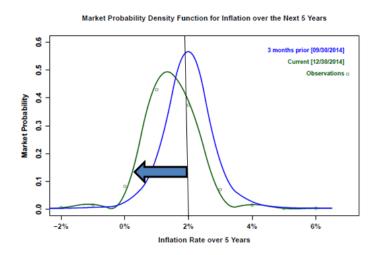
Please find a copy of a new paper on market-based probabilities on our website: <a href="https://www.minneapolisfed.org/banking/mpd/">https://www.minneapolisfed.org/banking/mpd/</a>. The paper discusses the usefulness for policymakers of market-based probabilities imputed from option prices. Feel free to share the link and/or provide comments to: option-report-feedback@mpls.frb.org.

Median inflation rates derived from CPI caps and floors rates fell again. At the same time, MPD skews for five and ten year treasury prices fell over the past two weeks perhaps foreshadowing an end to treasury rate declines in the near term. We further note an increase in the median 3-month LIBOR rate derived from options with three years to expiry.

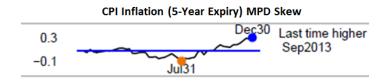
Below we also highlight the positive MPD bias for foreign SIFIs and the rising uncertainty in the oil market. As tail risks for oil continue to rise, MPD skews suggest there is still a bias toward downside price moves.

#### Inflation

• Medians of market-based inflation probability distributions, as derived from caps and floors on the CPI, continue to decline. The median expectations imply CPI inflation near 0% over the next year and less than 1% over the next two years. The median expectation over the next five years is 1.5%. Alternatively, the market probability of inflation *greater* than 3% over the next five years has fallen to a meager 6%.

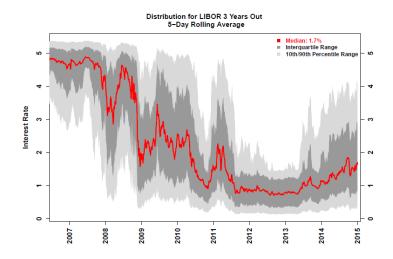


 Market-based uncertainty (MPD standard deviation) related to inflation has lifted but remains at recent low levels. This indicates high conviction related to the median inflation rate expectations. • Currently, the inflation MPDs we calculate are exhibiting skews close to zero indicating no bias toward higher or lower inflation rates. The skews have become less negatively biased over the past six months as shown in the graph below.



#### Interest Rates

• The median 3-month LIBOR rate as derived from options on LIBOR with three years to expiry rose about 20 basis points to 1.67% (see graph below) over the past two weeks. Longer dated options (five years) on the same instrument produced an unchanged median of about 1.62% suggesting increased expectations of rate increases in the nearer term. The MPD standard deviations around these expectations are similar for both expiries while skew is higher for the shorter term MPD. This is consistent with the increased median noted above and for a bias toward rising short rates in the nearer term.



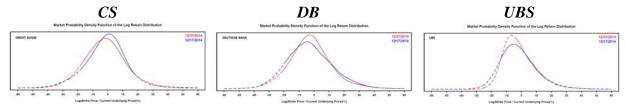
• MPDs derived from options on longer maturity treasury futures exhibited lower skews relative to two weeks ago. The MPD skew for near term changes in the 10-year treasury price remains close to zero indicating relatively little bias for the direction of rate changes in the near term. However, the MPD skew related to 5-year treasury prices has dropped below zero now *suggesting a bias toward rising 5-year rates*.

#### Banks & Insurance Companies

Volumes were light for options on equities including the S&P 500 index, and bank and insurance company stocks. The S&P 500 rallied to record territory increasing 2.3% since our last report. The average of the 17 US banks we follow rose 3.0% and the average of the 11 US insurance companies rose 3.1%. Across the universe of bank and insurance company equities, tail risks as measured by MPD standard deviations *remain low*. The average standard deviation derived from

options on US bank equities fell about -1.4%. The same average based on options on US insurance company equities fell -0.5%.

• Three foreign SIFI MPDs currently have *positive skew* implying more expectation for upward price moves than downward price moves in the near term. They are CS, DB, and UBS.

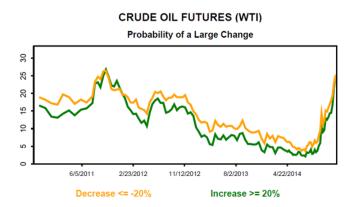


#### Other Commodity Markets

Spot prices were generally lower relative to two weeks ago across the range of commodities we track. Trading generally fell from two weeks ago and was light. Tail risks as measured by MPD standard deviations were down slightly.

#### Additional Details:

• Trading in options on oil futures was down from two weeks ago but remained strong. The standard deviation of the MPD derived from options on oil futures rose considerably and the skew became more negative. This means that future price uncertainty rose substantially as did the market's bias toward *lower prices*.



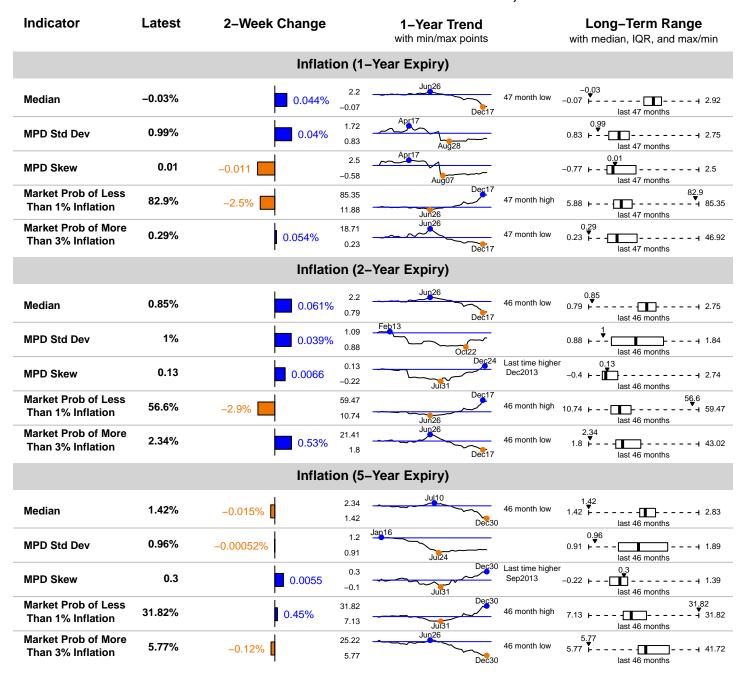
- Trading was light last week in all three currency markets we follow. MPD standard deviations continue to rise indicating greater uncertainty of future exchange rate outcomes. The dollar strengthened against both the Euro and the Yen over the past two weeks.
- Spot prices for corn, soybeans, and wheat futures dropped -2.8%, -1.1%, and -8.7% relative to two weeks ago. Options trading was very light and tail risk, as measured by MPD standard deviations, fell.

- After recent declines, cattle and hog spot prices rallied. Options volume for cattle futures was strong and spot prices rose 4.6% over the past two weeks. The MPD standard deviation derived from options on cattle futures remains near 12 month highs suggesting tail risks remain elevated in this market.
- The DJ US Real Estate Index finished near its four year high. For the year, the MPD derived from options on the real estate ETF has remained very stable despite a price increase near 20%.

#### **DJ US Real Estate Index ETF Price**

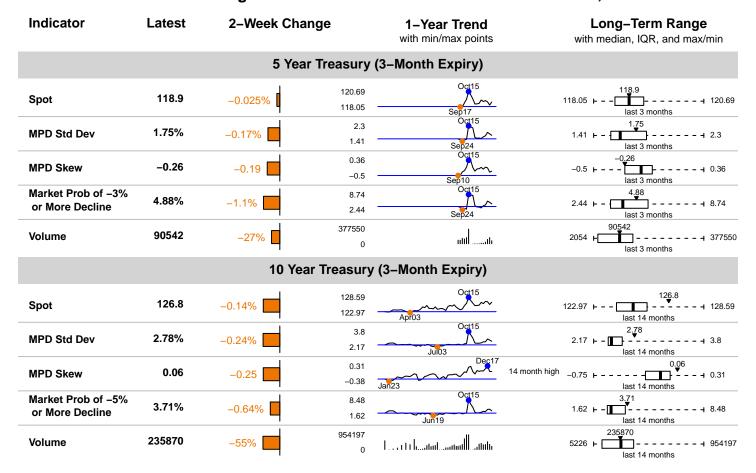


#### Inflation MPD Statistics as of December 30, 2014

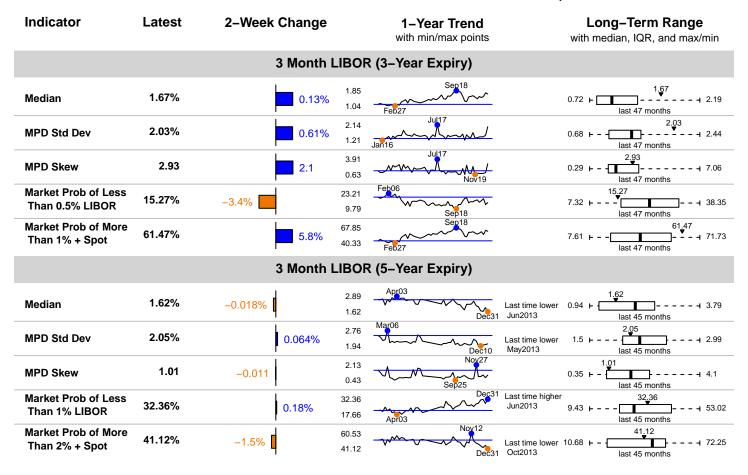


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## Medium-to-Long Bond Price MPD Statistics as of December 31, 2014



## Short Interest Rates MPD Statistics as of December 31, 2014



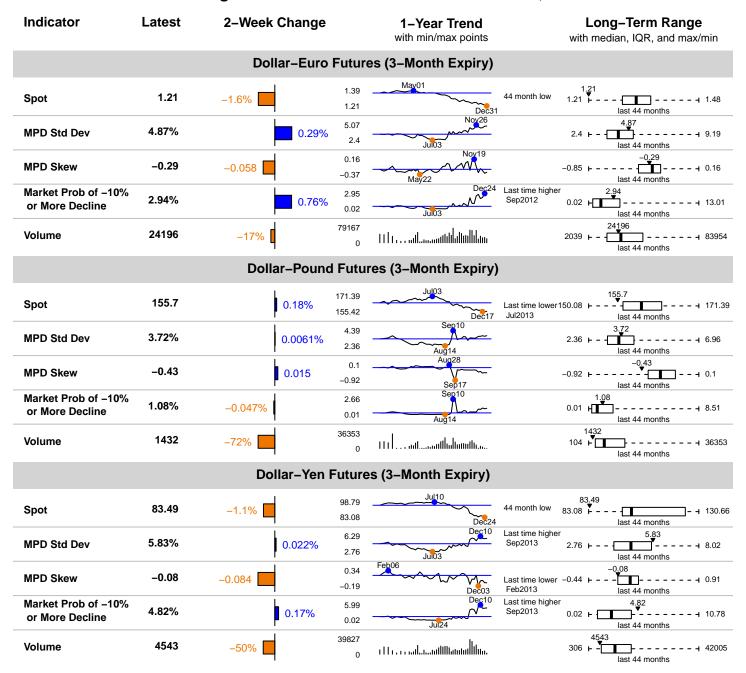
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### Equity Index MPD Statistics as of December 31, 2014



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### Exchange Rate MPD Statistics as of December 31, 2014



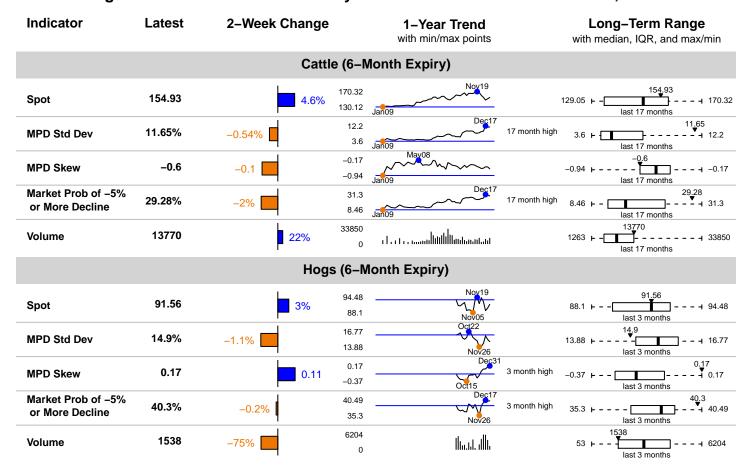
### Metal and Energy Commodity MPD Statistics as of December 31, 2014

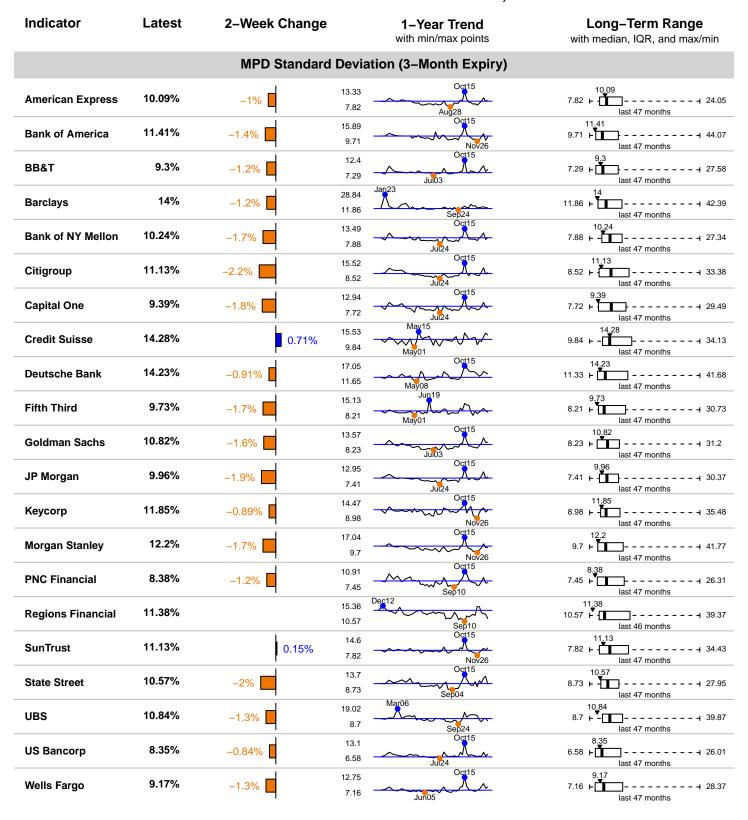


### Agricultural Crop Commodity MPD Statistics as of December 31, 2014

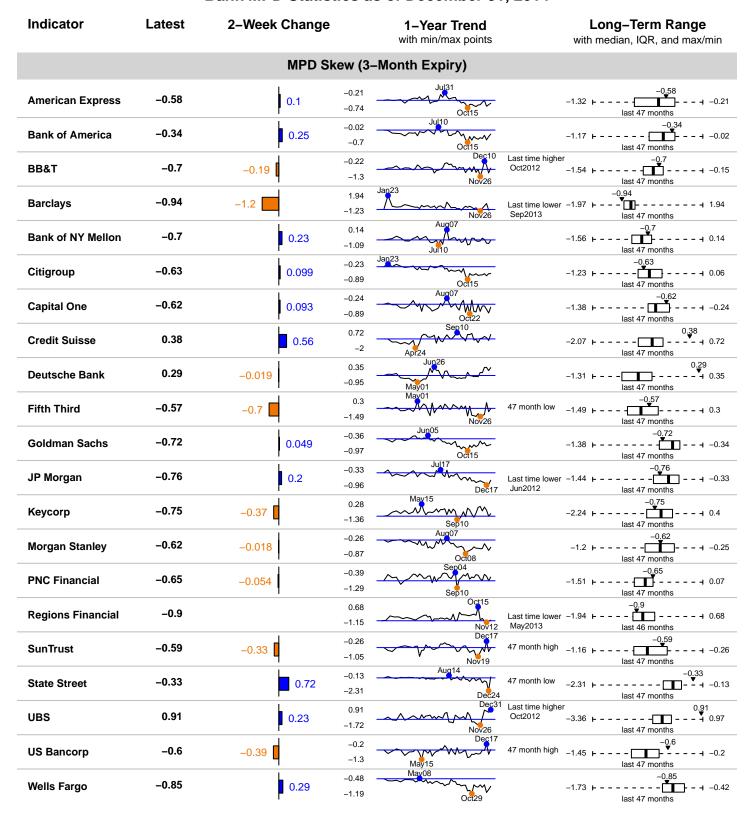


## Agricultural Livestock Commodity MPD Statistics as of December 31, 2014

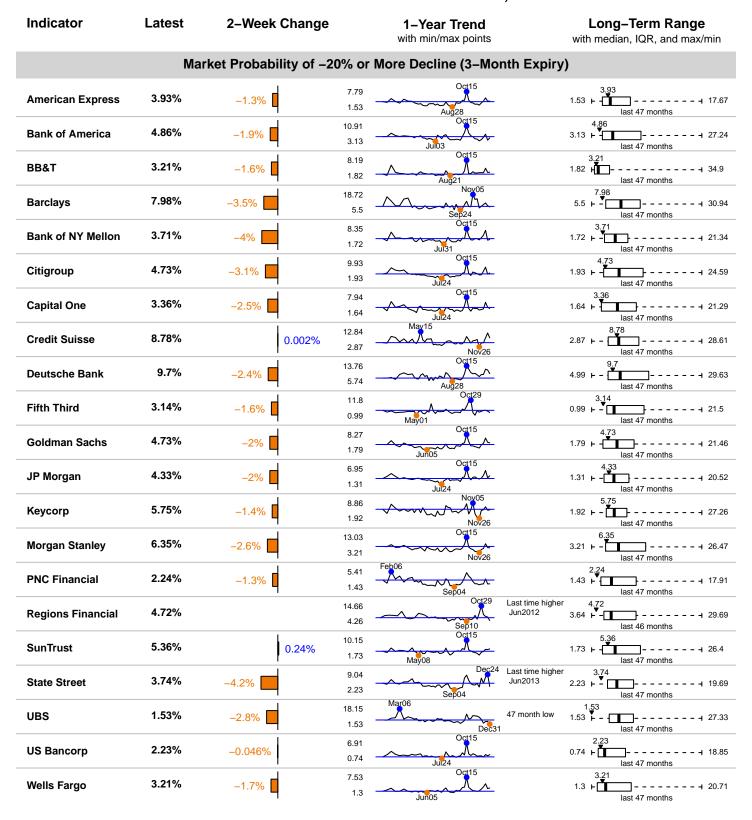




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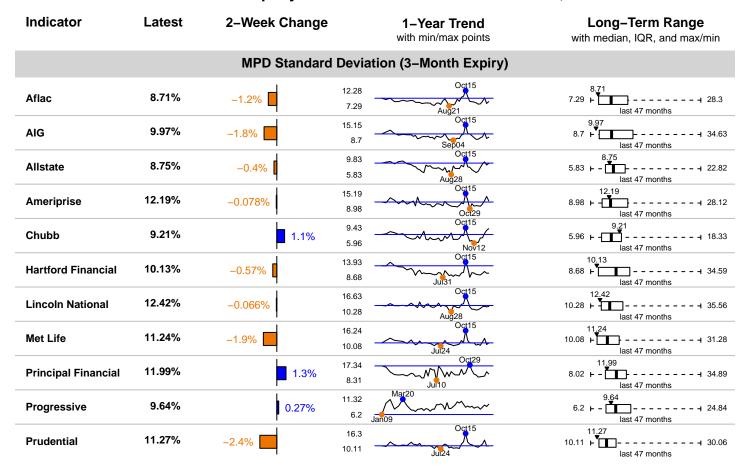
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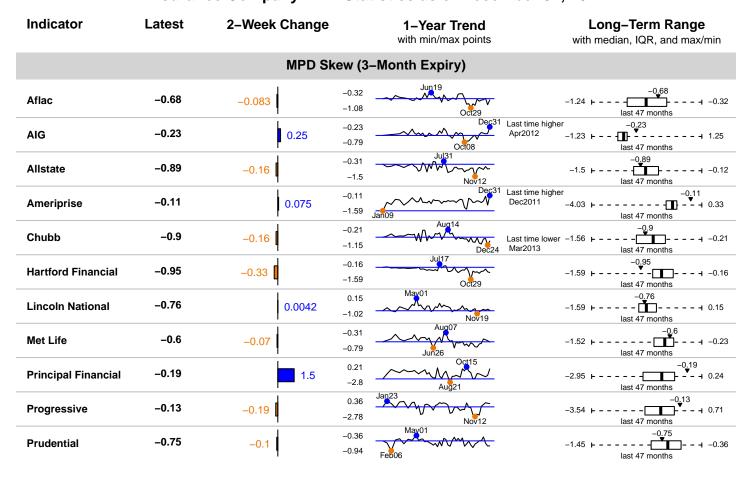
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Indicator	Latest	2-Week Change		1–Year Trend with min/max points	Long-Term Range with median, IQR, and max/min			
Volume (3–Month Expiry)								
American Express	2395	7.8%	10151 0	rtirihaldicaaaldidddhlaa	2395 623 + Last 47 months			
Bank of America	67992	64%	132589 0	1+1+1+ aloualaathilaloaadi	67992 7419 + 1 363160 last 47 months			
BB&T	788	-39%	6490 0	H cort Manamathtantainaide	788 190 6903 last 47 months			
Barclays	780	86%	11011 0		780 13 <b> 1</b> 15208 last 47 months			
Bank of NY Mellon	307	<b>-95%</b>	15678 0		307 59 H 17091 last 47 months			
Citigroup	12879	<b>-61%</b> [	78527 0		12879 1104 + 1 284278 last 47 months			
Capital One	420	-86%	6644 0	Thritithaanahaaaaltuala	420 164 <b>1</b>			
Credit Suisse	581	35%	4011 0	Le ce calcutanatuta ta man	581 0 Helion 14201 last 47 months			
Deutsche Bank	5360	190%	25112 0	1	5360 62 Ң			
Fifth Third	1645	520%	6299 0	d Altalaannhan atal a	1645 28 <b>⊣</b> 19127 last 47 months			
Goldman Sachs	1197	<b>-73%</b> [	21840 0	ctrt . Mutthmannandialhtaan.	1197 296 - 1 - 1 43413 last 47 months			
JP Morgan	14868	73%	52517 0	111 c 11 hatmaaltilaaarattissaar	14868 943 <b>⊢                                   </b>			
Keycorp	228	3.6%	3014 0	rtradilmaniamanallaadi.	228 44 <b>1</b>			
Morgan Stanley	1954	<b>-70%</b>	48955 0	ct cool hard acathonia the titla ac	1954 327 84281 last 47 months			
PNC Financial	567	-33%	4810 0	detet damidaanimissed	567 83 <b>⊢</b> 12224 last 47 months			
Regions Financial	850		4635 0	. 11 11 I Militimanilialia	850 20 + 19649 last 46 months			
SunTrust	512	21%	4232 0	r I - r - r - mahanadishadishlitar.na	512 61 + 13788 last 47 months			
State Street	1088	480%	5339 0	1.1.11. dilumhamandistrassat	1088 42 <b>⊢</b>			
UBS	103	<b>-74%</b>	2034	rad III. tuuradiinutaaaana araa.	103 6 HT 6502 last 47 months			
US Bancorp	3606	64%	6376 0	1.11.11 bhalabhaaatudd	3606 172 ⊢☐☐☐ 29201 last 47 months			
Wells Fargo	3103	-61% <b>[</b>	62697 0	cretenaharanaanhilihna	3103 950 FIII 1 167820 last 47 months			

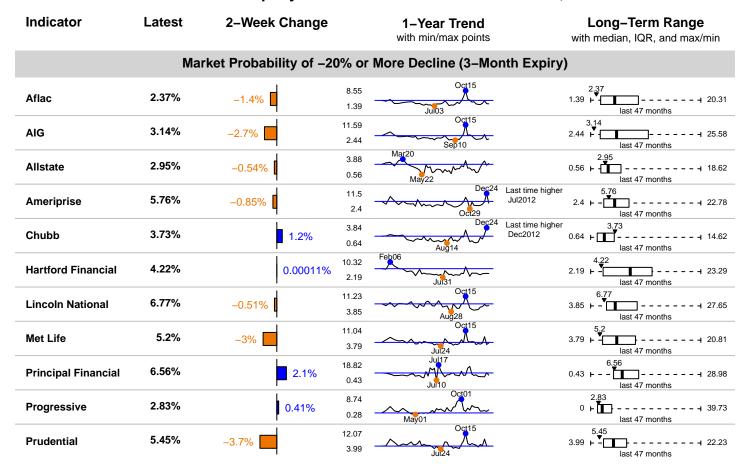
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Indicator	Latest	2-Week Change		1-Year Trend with min/max points	Long-Term Range with median, IQR, and max/min			
Volume (3-Month Expiry)								
Aflac	1393	-23%	13324 0	111+11-maturantalallallanatarati	1393 405 + 22718 last 47 months			
AIG	2221	<b>−73%</b>	38744 0	t . Hr. allutturadama	2221 432 + 1 103998 last 47 months			
Allstate	128	-19%	5708 0	ett la canhonomilanomitatore	128 76 <b>1</b> 68926 last 47 months			
Ameriprise	60	-89%	1071 0	et el contamidatamida sila	5 F last 47 months			
Chubb	66	<b>-71%</b>	2541 0		66 11 1 11114 last 47 months			
Hartford Financial	285	-62%	13441 0	1111 H	285 65 H∏ 37285 last 47 months			
Lincoln National	291	36%	8403 0		291 51			
Met Life	1831	-94%	29248 0	. 1111-14.	1831 319 📗 161416 last 47 months			
Principal Financial	140	<b>-41%</b>	310 0	. (11) - (dillossadolasdou) (1	140 2 ∰ 3846 last 47 months			
Progressive	56	<b>-72%</b>	474 0	111.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1	0 1 4 4283 last 47 months			
Prudential	560	<b>−34%</b>	13225 0	. i i daankalakalanaka. taa	560 222 ┡			

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