FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF MINNEAPOLIS

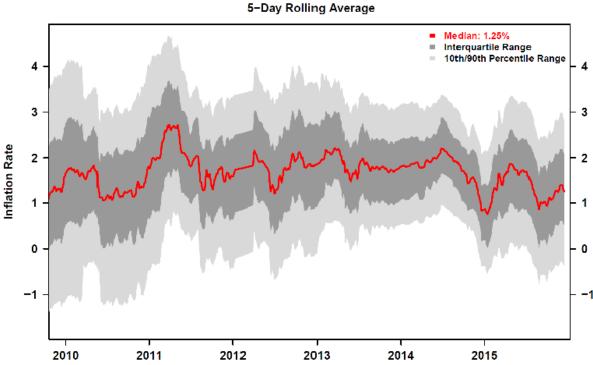
BANKING AND POLICY STUDIES

Minneapolis Options Report – December 18th

Over the past two weeks, market-implied inflation expectations fell across all tenors we follow (1-, 2-, and 5-year periods) as market-based probability distribution (MPD) standard deviations and skews held steady for most inflation tenors. The S&P 500 returned -0.3% and its associated statistics were largely unchanged. The banking firms we follow, on average, outperformed the market with a 0.3% return, while insurance firms underperformed with a -3.1% return. All the currencies we follow, strengthened against the dollar, and notably the statistical skew for the USD-Yen pairing rose to a four year high signaling a comparatively stronger yen in the future. WTI crude lost -9.9% as higher market volatility added to increasing uncertainty as measured by MPD standard deviation.

Inflation

Market-based inflation expectations derived from caps and floors on the CPI for 1-, 2-, and 5-year periods rose over the 2-week period to 1.09%, 1.25% and 1.51%, respectively. This fall is best observed in the 2year tenor, as inflation expectations have recently declined after a multi-month rise.



Distribution for Inflation over 2 Years

Additional detail:

- The probability of low inflation (market probability of less than 1% inflation) remains elevated well above the upper quartile for the 4-year time series.
- The probability of high inflation (market probability of more than 3% inflation) for all tenors has decreased following steady gains. The 2-year tenor best captures this trend in the plot below.

Market Probability of More Than 3% Inflation in Next 2 Years



Interest Rate

Spot prices for all Treasury tenors fell over the two week period, and consequently yields rose. Though MPD skew for the 5-year Treasury experienced a large upward movement, its absolute level continues to signal a neutral bias towards long term rate levels. 3- and 5-year LIBOR tenors rose by 13 and 18 basis points respectively. Uncertainty, as measured by MPD standard deviation has steadily risen for the 5-year tenor since September 23, 2015. Statistical skew for the 3-year LIBOR tenor fell by 20%, closing close to its 4-year low; the measure remains biased towards higher future short term rates.

Banks and Insurance Companies

The S&P 500 lost -0.3% over the past two weeks. The 19 bank firms we follow posted a 0.3% return, outperforming the market. Change in MPD standard deviation, for most firms, was negligible; however 17 out of 19 firms have standard deviations above their 4-year medians. The 11 insurance companies we follow underperformed market, returning - 3.1% on average, and changes in statistical measures were negligible.

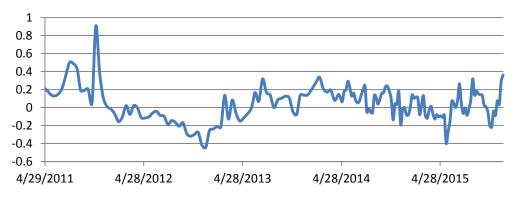
Additional details:

• RF experienced large changes in its MPD standard deviation and tail risk (the market probability of -20% or more decline) statistics over the two week reporting period. The 5% uptick in MPD standard deviation and the 7% uptick in tail risk represented one of the largest moves for this set of statistics in 12 months.

Other Markets

- MPD standard deviation has trended upward for the 12-month-out S&P 500 since November, 2015. This indicates increased market-implied uncertainty about the future equity index price.
- All currencies we follow strengthened against the dollar over the two week reporting period. Statistical skew for the USD-Yen pair moved sharply and posted a new 4-year high signaling bias towards a comparatively stronger yen in the future. Statistical skew is experiencing one of its longest upward climbs and has not been at this absolute level since 2011 as demonstrated in the plot below.

Statistical Skew for US-Yen Currency Pair

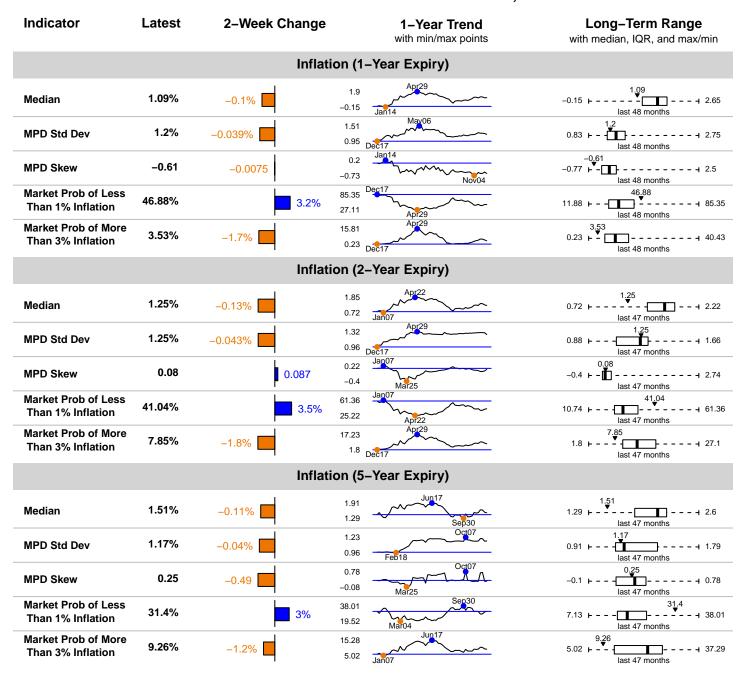


- The iShares US Real Estate Index outperformed the market with a 1.2% return over the two week period. MPD skew fell by -0.76, ending below its 4-year median value.
- Spot prices for gold and silver rose above fresh 4-year lows by 2.2% and 1.8%, respectively. MPD skew for silver posted a sharp change of 0.24; however, it remains negative, signaling bias towards lower future silver prices.
- MPD standard deviation for corn and soybeans moved lower over the two week period. Corn set a new 4-year low at 12.4% and soybeans ended at 11.3% (slightly above its 4-year low of 10.9%).
- WTI crude lost -9.9% over the two week period as oil, once again, set a new 4-year low. MPD standard deviation and options volume are well above their respective 4-year median values. Statistical skew continues to increment closer to its 4-year high signaling a reduction in bias towards lower future oil prices (see chart below).

Metal and Energy Commodity MPD Statistics as of December 16, 2015

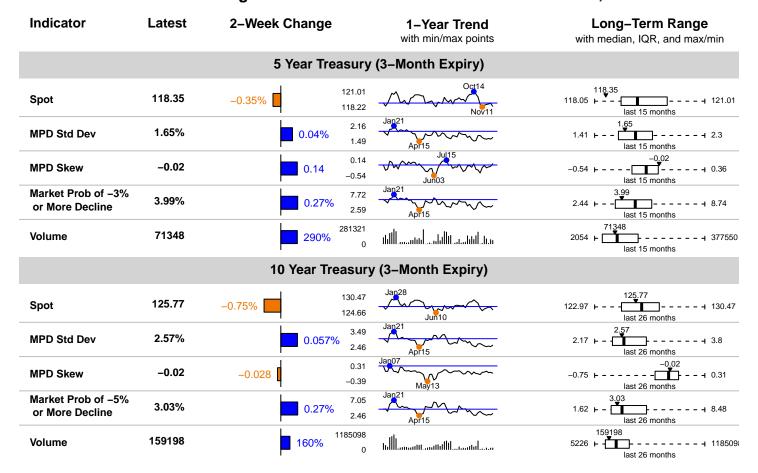
Indicator	Latest	2-Week Change		1-Year Trend with min/max points	Long-Term Range with median, IQR, and max/min
		West Texas Interm	ediate	Crude (6-Month Expiry)	
MPD Std Dev	28.77%	0.46%	32.63 22.03	Dec24 Jun10	28,77 10.25 + 32.63
MPD Skew	-0.25	0.032	-0.24 -0.76	Nov25 Mar04	-0,25 -0.81 •
Market Prob of −20% or More Decline	25.42%	0.067%	27.63 17.51	Sep02 May20	25,42 3.65 • • • • • • 27.63 last 48 months
Volume	42436	96%	99667	<u> </u>	42436 165 ——————— 180997 last 48 months

Inflation MPD Statistics as of December 16, 2015

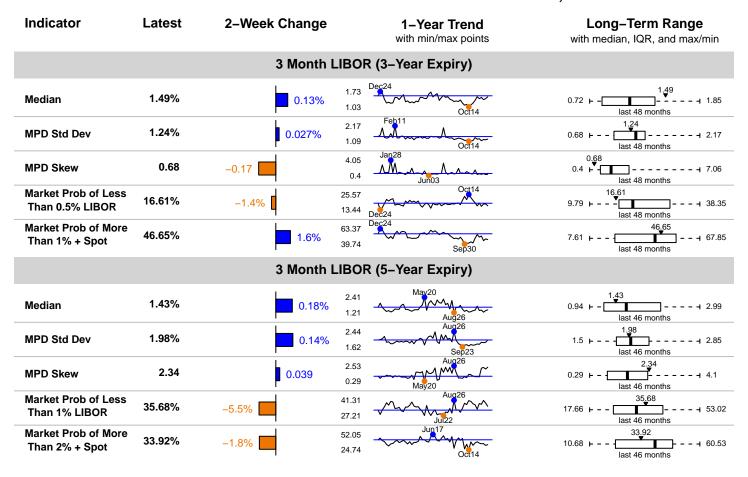


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Medium-to-Long Bond Price MPD Statistics as of December 16, 2015

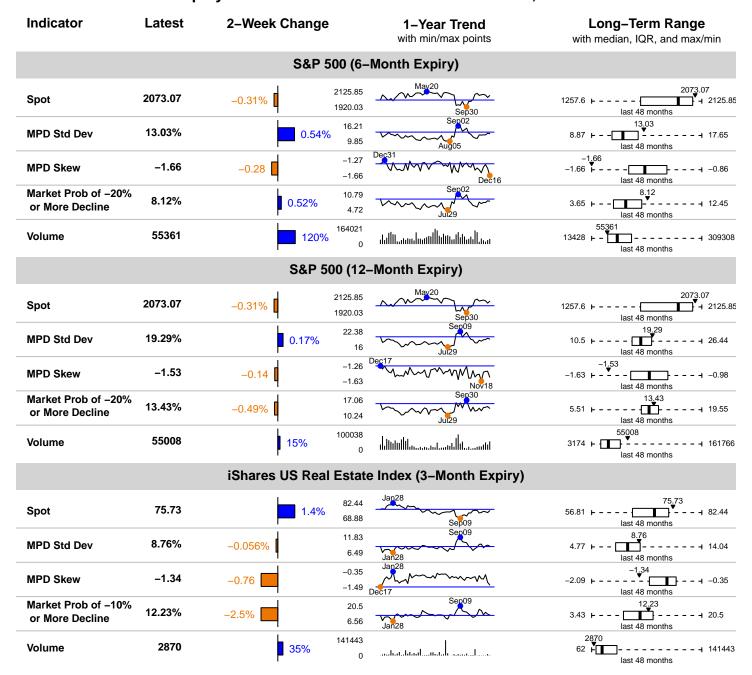


Short Interest Rates MPD Statistics as of December 16, 2015



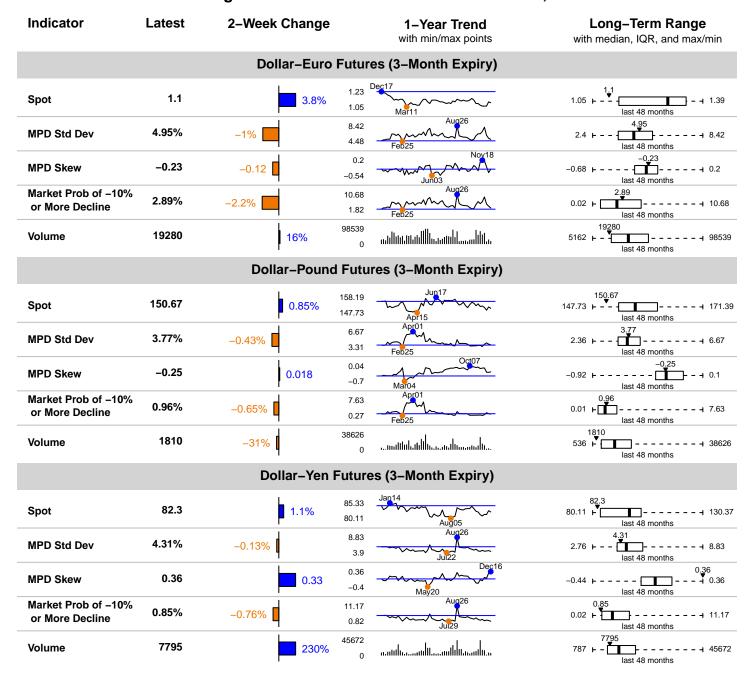
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Equity Index MPD Statistics as of December 16, 2015



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Exchange Rate MPD Statistics as of December 16, 2015



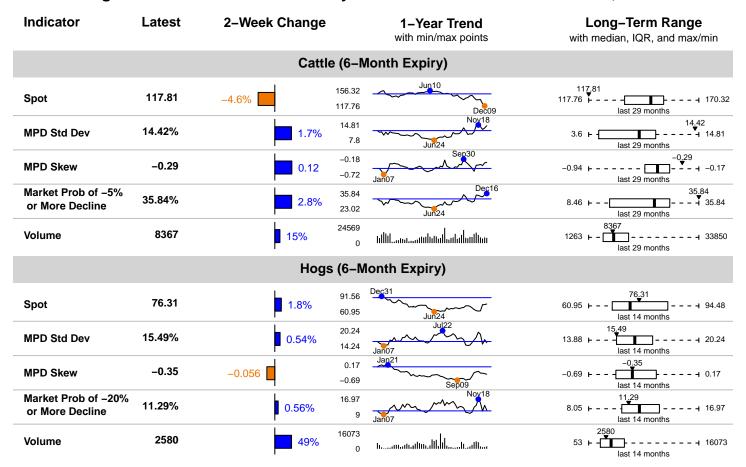
Metal and Energy Commodity MPD Statistics as of December 16, 2015

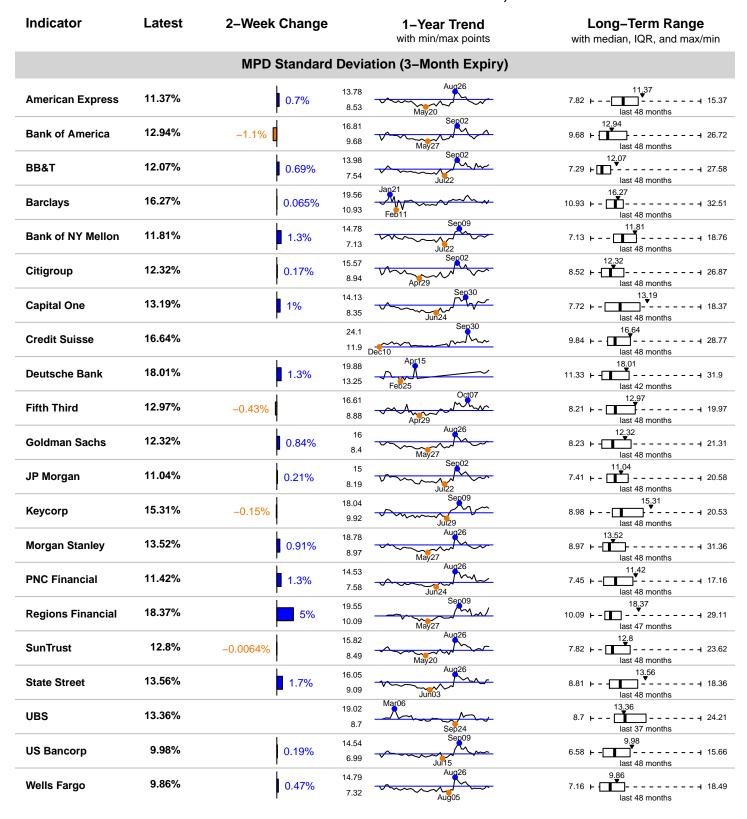


Agricultural Crop Commodity MPD Statistics as of December 16, 2015



Agricultural Livestock Commodity MPD Statistics as of December 16, 2015

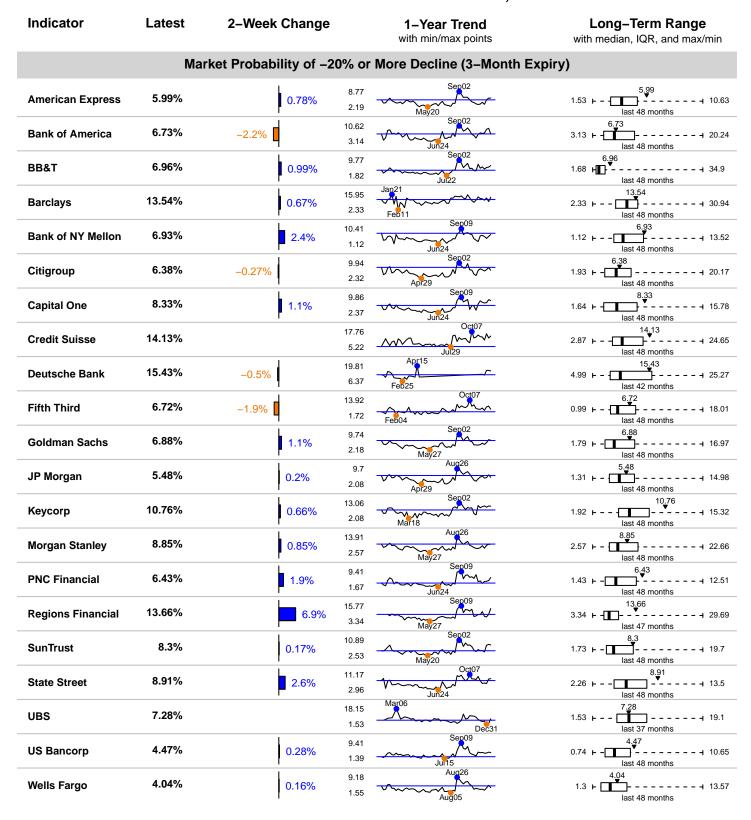




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Indicator	Latest	2-Week Change	1–Year Trend with min/max points	Long-Term Range with median, IQR, and max/min		
MPD Skew (3-Month Expiry)						
American Express	-0.86	-0.34	0.32 Apr15 0.96 Sep02	-0.86 -1.27		
Bank of America	-0.31	0.045	0.07 Mar25 0.99 Sep02	-0.31 -1.01 +		
BB&T	-0.9	0.14	0.31 Sep09 Nov04	-0.9 -1.56 +		
Barclays	0.07	0.37	0.6 Dec09 2.51 Feb25	-2.51 + I 0.07 -2.51 + I 1.94 last 48 months		
Bank of NY Mellon	-0.93	-0.46	0.32 Jan ²⁸ 1.39 Nov11	-0.93 -1.39 + 1 0.32 last 48 months		
Citigroup	-0.74	-0.067	0.37 Aug26 Oct14	-0.74 -1.23 -0.23 last 48 months		
Capital One	-1.02	-0.12 ■	1.09 Julo8 Sen30	-1.02 -1.09 + Last 48 months		
Credit Suisse	0.64		1.81 Apr01 Deg02	0.64 -2.07 1.81 last 48 months		
Deutsche Bank	-0.54	-0.96	0.41 De002 1.06 Mar18 Feb04	-0.54 -1.31 1.31 1.31 1.31 1.31 1.31 1.31		
Fifth Third	-0.87	-0.19	2.19 Oct28 Noy25	-0.87 -1.6 + 11 2.19 last 48 months		
Goldman Sachs	-0.74	-0.2	1.09 Sep02	-0.74 -1.21		
JP Morgan	-0.89	-0.18	0.46 1.16 Sep02	-0.89 -1.33		
Keycorp	-0.81	0.062	1.59 May 13	-0.81 -2.24 + 0.28 last 48 months		
Morgan Stanley	-0.83	-0.49	1.12 Sep02	-0.83 -1.16 +		
PNC Financial	-0.95	-0.24	1.84 Oct28	-0.95 -1.84 +		
Regions Financial	-0.55	0.00092	1.54 Feb25	-0.55 -1.94 F 0.68 last 47 months		
SunTrust	-0.58	0.56	1.14 Dec02	-0.58 -1.16 +		
State Street	-0.86	-0.22	0.28 Sep30 2.31 Dec24 Dec31	-0.86 -2.31 +		
UBS	-0.04	·	1.72 Nov26	-0.04 -3.36 +		
US Bancorp	-1.27	-0.22	1.55 Nov04	-1,27 -1.55 0.2 last 48 months		
Wells Fargo	-0.78	-0.13	0.56 -1.3 Sep02	-1.34		

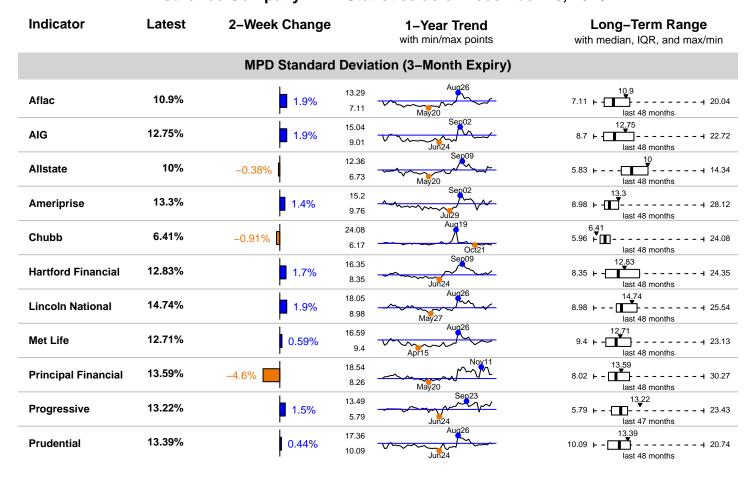
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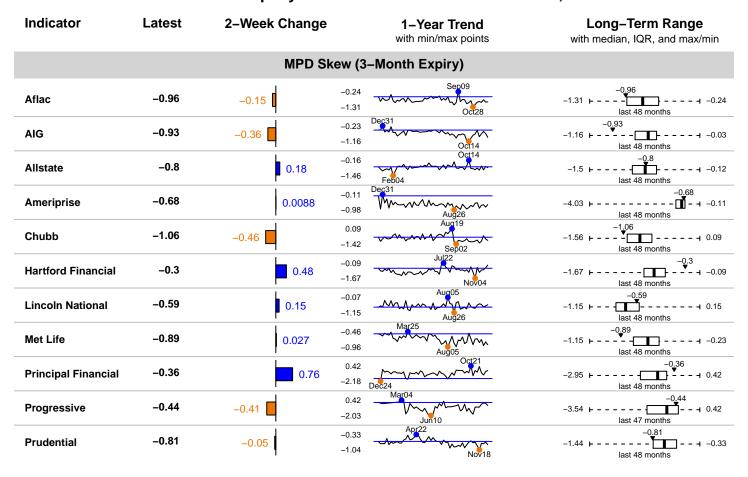
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Indicator	Latest	2-Week Change		1-Year Trend with min/max points	Long-Term Range with median, IQR, and max/min	
Volume (3-Month Expiry)						
American Express	2606	140%	32713 0		2606 623 + 1 32713 last 48 months	
Bank of America	187673	120%	187673 0	andraditalhainutahaiahdl	187673 7419 ⊢ 	
BB&T	1080	-31%	6459 0	dahumut.dardda.ladaa	1080 126 F - 6490 last 48 months	
Barclays	789	-8.8%	4055 0	atanahalladaa. maaaaa	789 8 H 11011 last 48 months	
Bank of NY Mellon	2501	1500%	13099	talaataalaaaaaaaaaa	2501 44 HID* 15678 last 48 months	
Citigroup	14908	82%	140439		14908 1104 + 150972 last 48 months	
Capital One	2707	600%	6937 0	taillaanalitaalitalaaanaa.aat	2707 136 H 16299 last 48 months	
Credit Suisse	1		15145 0		0 1 1 15145 last 48 months	
Deutsche Bank	639	-62%	7280 0	Alltotat.anl on.	639 182 HTT + 25112 last 42 months	
Fifth Third	1359	110%	7607 0		1359 28 H 19127 last 48 months	
Goldman Sachs	4437	240%	19311 0	natanatanantaanaa.lliithliilt.ii	4437 296 F - last 48 months	
JP Morgan	8243	35%	132116 0		8243 943 + 1 1 132116 last 48 months	
Keycorp	1282	520%	3300 0	.tatlanalamaadanaadataalat	1282 44 76270 last 48 months	
Morgan Stanley	9191	730%	36166 0	nataliaumalidadtiti.ii	9191 327 - 1 69872 last 48 months	
PNC Financial	949	580%	3466 0	dalladandalmadadalaman	949 42 ⊢ 	
Regions Financial	1073	84%	47940 0		1073 20 1 47940 last 47 months	
SunTrust	772	81%	4808 0	ddu.luad.a.a.a.htmadal.a	772 61 H	
State Street	599	840%	2086 0	ahalihadiranananahaliharaanaa	599 19 ⊢ 11 5339 last 48 months	
UBS	124		2034	r I III a toonaataltootkaataanan oraasaa	124 6 HT + 6502 last 37 months	
US Bancorp	1001	230%	9927 0	hillinhalilahintanah	1001 52 H 29201 last 48 months	
Wells Fargo	7316	-10%	55478 0	and the control of th	7316 950 + 121351 last 48 months	

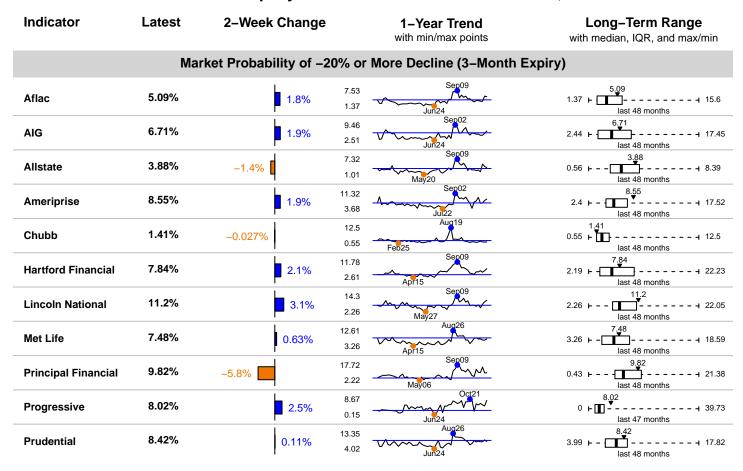
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Indicator	Latest	2-Week Change		1-Year Trend with min/max points	Long-Term Range with median, IQR, and max/min	
Volume (3-Month Expiry)						
Aflac	2410	240%	13168 0	aanahaaadala	2410 88 - 11 22718 last 48 months	
AIG	6875	210%	69392 0		6875 110 H∭ 1 103998 last 48 months	
Allstate	359	-78%	4626 0		359 63 4 1 10621 last 48 months	
Ameriprise	351	470%	881 0	latanan allina anatahan ana ar	351 5 ⊢ □ □ □ − − − − − − − − 1114 last 48 months	
Chubb	52	250%	9027		3 1 1 11114 last 48 months	
Hartford Financial	2769	2100%	9444		2769 16	
Lincoln National	501	520%	2635 0		5 <u>0</u> 1 51 - 1 − − − − − − − − − − − − − − − − − − 	
Met Life	3317	-22%	29248 0	hallhanta.atutalanana.aut.anahan	3317 319 ∰ 1 161416 last 48 months	
Principal Financial	82	360%	545 0	raaalaantaa araalaallanira	82 2 🜓 1 2956 last 48 months	
Progressive	863	520%	2216 0	at aadun adalut arrat	863 0 ¶ 4283 last 47 months	
Prudential	2466	-8.2%	17185 0	aundhudalduradra ta ta da ara	2466 222 ⊢∭ 17185 last 48 months	

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