



FedFin Daily Briefing

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

Progressives Target Fed Attack Directly on Powell

With a [new letter](#) from progressive Democrats ahead of the FOMC release, it is clear that the campaign not just against Fed rate hikes, but now also Chairman Powell, is gaining strength on the left. Long-time Fed critic Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) is joined here by Sens. Sanders (D-VT) – who has spoken out before and Sens. Whitehouse (D-RI) and Merkley (D-OR). The letter is also signed by seven progressive House Democrats – a small minority of Democrats to be sure, but still significant in terms of the Democratic base. All of them urge the Fed to forbear on grounds that higher rates are already having adverse employment and global-growth consequences. Perhaps most interesting is the letter's shift from criticizing the Fed to directly pointing to statements from Chairman Powell, cataloging numerous quotes to which they take considerable exception. The letter also poses a series of question to be answered by November 14 on issues such as the distributional effects of various job-loss scenarios and whether tough inflation fighting is now necessitated by embedded expectations.

Recent Files Available for Downloading

The following reports and analyses have been sent to retainer clients recently. Copies are also available to retainer clients on the Archives section of Federal Financial Analytics' website: www.fedfin.com or clients may obtain the reports/analyses by e-mailing info@fedfin.com giving the requested item name, firm, and e-mail address. To learn more about *GSE Activity Reports*, click [here](#).

- **[OVERDRAFT11](#)**: In conjunction with a Presidential speech and new White House initiative against “junk fees,” the CFPB has accelerated its own efforts in this arena with two new policy directives.
- **[GSE-102522](#)**: As we noted [yesterday](#), FHFA has decided not only to [unbundle](#) second and high-dollar loans from its flat-fee paradigm, but now to do the same for about one in five conventional conforming purchase loans outside these categories.
- **[DEPOSITINSURANCE116](#)**: The FDIC has finalized its proposal largely unchanged to raise base Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) assessments by two basis points (bps) to replenish the DIF by the statutory deadline to reflect deposit inflows that the FDIC no longer expects to be temporary.
- **[RESOLVE48](#)**: The FRB and FDIC have moved beyond the resolution-planning requirements mandated in the Dodd-Frank Act then implemented over the years to what could be a new resolution regime for banking organizations considered category II or III companies under the inter-agency tailoring rules.
- **[MERGER11](#)**: [As promised](#), this analysis focuses on the [OCC](#) and [FRB](#) approvals of the acquisition by U.S. Bancorp of MUFG's Union Bank in California.
- **[DEPOSITINSURANCE115](#)**: The FDIC board today voted 3-0 to increase DIF assessment rates by 2bps, finalizing its proposal ([see FSM Report DEPOSITINSURANCE114](#)) and rejecting industry arguments on grounds that a small DIF premium increase now would make a more damaging procyclical assessment increase under adverse economic conditions less likely.
- **[CRYPTO34](#)**: Speaking for global banking, securities, and insurance regulators, the Financial Stability Board has taken its firmest stand to date on cryptoassets and outlined high-level and often principles-based global standards to govern them going forward.

- **[INTERCHANGE11](#)**: Leaving its interchange-fee restrictions intact – at least for now – the Federal Reserve has finalized its proposal expanding on its existing requirement that all debit- card transactions must be enabled for processing on at least two unaffiliated payment-card networks for card-not-present transactions.
- **[GSE-100622](#)**: FHA's [request for input](#) on small-dollar loans could mean much for this equality-essential product or little beyond a lot more public debate.
- **[CRYPTO33](#)**: In this report, we build on our [initial assessment](#) of FSOC's conclusion that cryptoassets now pose systemic risk and the Council's recommendations about what should be done to curtail it.
- **[GSE-100422](#)**: Although one witness at the FHFA listening session on the Home Loan Banks took strong issue with their mission and meaning, another who called them the “most successful program of the last hundred years” pretty much summed up today's testimony.
- **[GSE-100322](#)**: Our take on the first two days of FHFA's FHLB “listening session” last week is that battle lines are shaping up much as we expected with the exception of a couple of powerful groups with new ideas about how the System could be put to better use for themselves and/or the public interest.