

MEMORANDUM

TO: File No. 4-619

FROM: Smeeta Ramarathnam
Office of Commissioner Luis A. Aguilar

DATE: April 10, 2012

SUBJECT: Meeting with Treasury Strategies

On April 4, 2012, Commissioner Aguilar and Smeeta Ramarathnam, Chief of Staff, met with the following individuals from Treasury Strategies:

- Tony Carfang, Founding Partner;
- Cathy Gregg, Founding Partner; and
- Jacob Nygren, Manager.

Among other things, the discussion included potential regulatory changes to money market funds.

In addition, please see the attached document from Treasury Strategies, as a follow-up to the meeting.

Level-Setting the MMF Debate

Presented To

4



April 5, 2012



**Treasury
Strategies.**

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The Power of Experience®

Understanding a Financial Run

Types of Financial Runs

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Credit-Driven

Credit loss

Liquidity-Driven

Market seizing

Speculative

Uncertainty/misinformation

Understanding a Financial Run

Timing of a Run

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Firestorm

- Panic environment
- Short duration

Prolonged

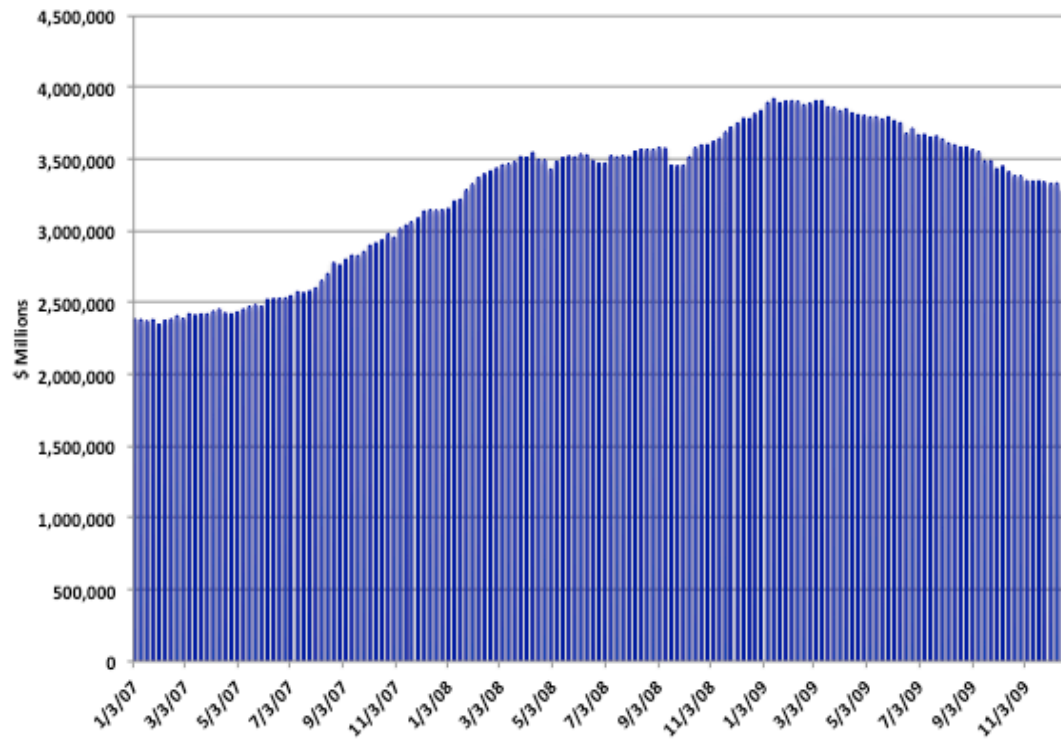
- Extended duration
- Investors cease to rollover or reinvest upon maturity
- Crescendo
- Precipitating event can easily trigger firestorm run



Overview of MMF Total Assets: 2007-2009



Market Total Assets of MMF's
(\$ Millions)

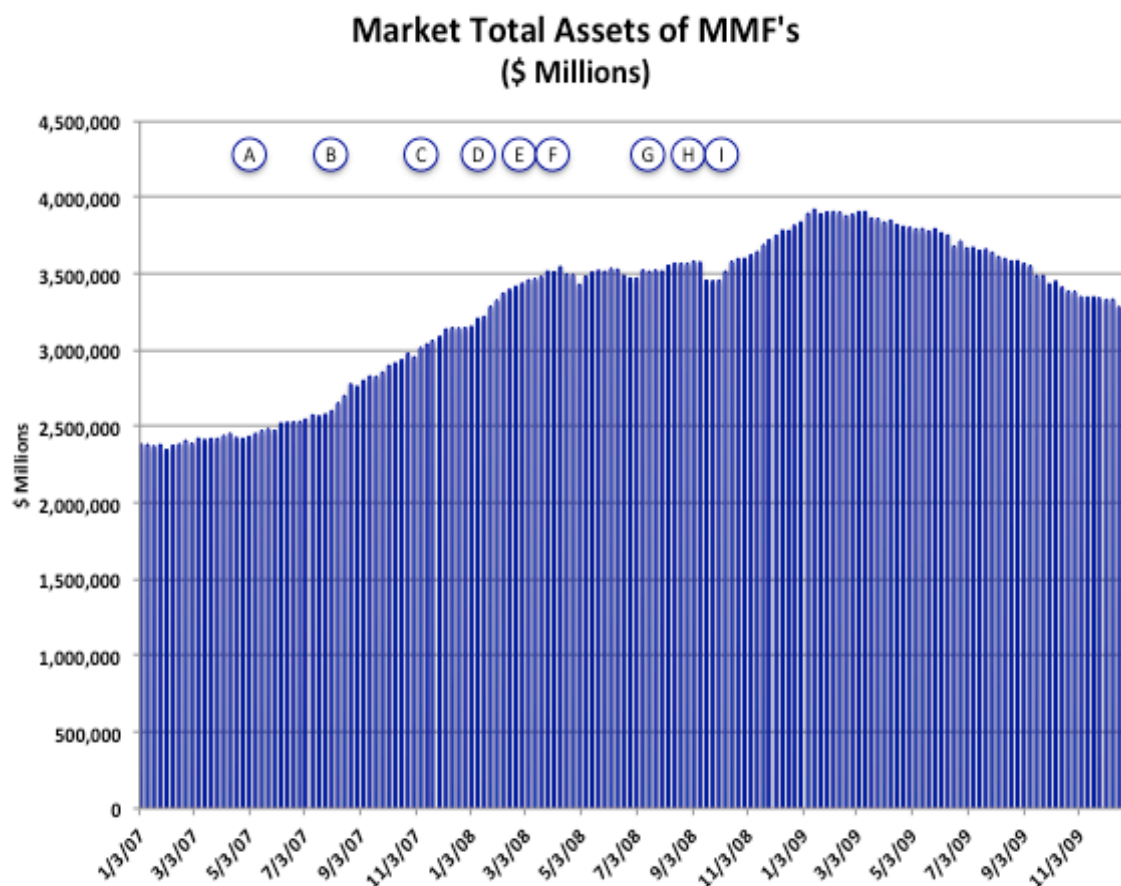


- MMF assets at \$2.4 trillion on January 1, 2007
- Peaked at \$3.9 trillion on January 14, 2009

Source: Investment Company Institute Historical Data & Treasury Strategies, Inc.



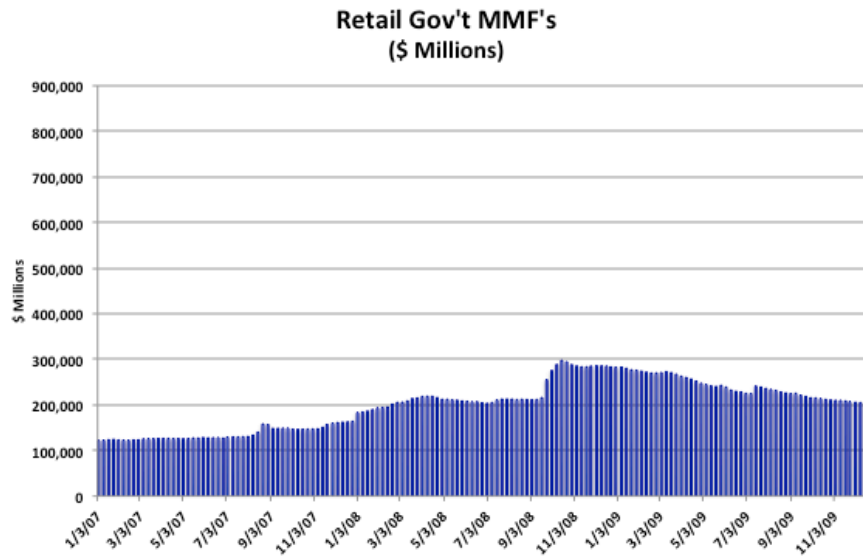
Overview of MMF Total Assets: 2007-2009



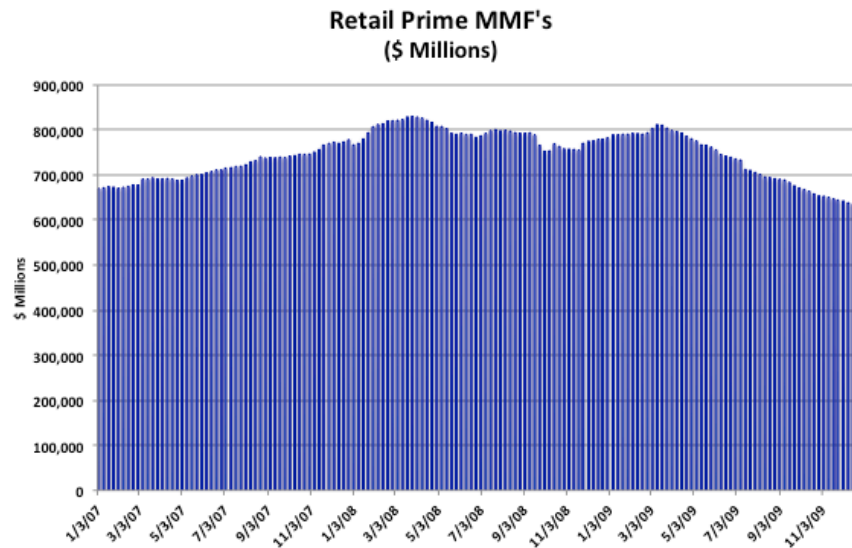
- A) Bear Stearns RE fund fails
- B) Major ABCP downgrades
- C) GE fund moves to floating NAV and enhanced cash funds freeze
- D) Countrywide rescued
- E) Auction-rate securities freeze
- F) Bear Stearns rescued
- G) Indy Mac Bank fails
- H) Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac fail
- I) Lehman fails, Merrill rescued, Reserve fails, AIG rescued, WaMu \$16B run

Source: Investment Company Institute Historical Data & Treasury Strategies, Inc.

Retail Money Market Funds



- Assets grew steadily as crisis unfolded from June 2007-September 2008
- Run *into* Government MMFs week of September 15, 2008

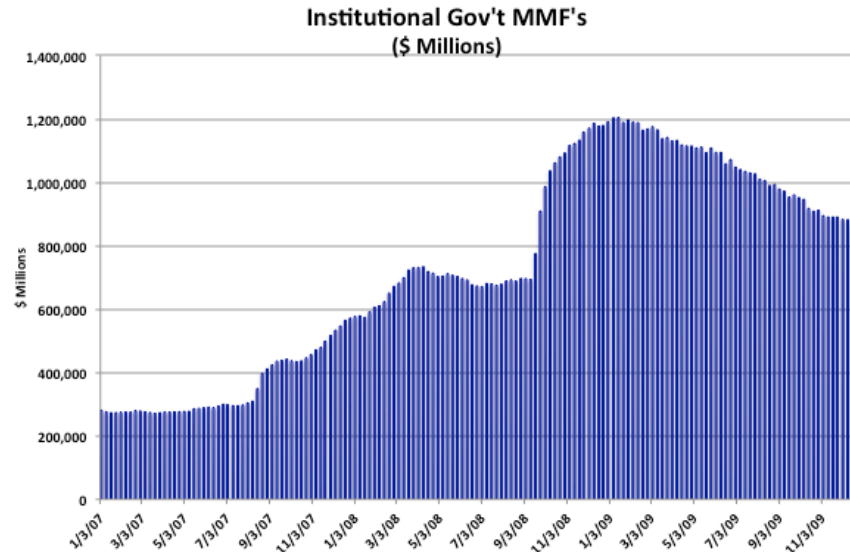


- Assets grew steadily as crisis unfolded from June 2007-September 2008
- Small decline during the week of September 15, 2008

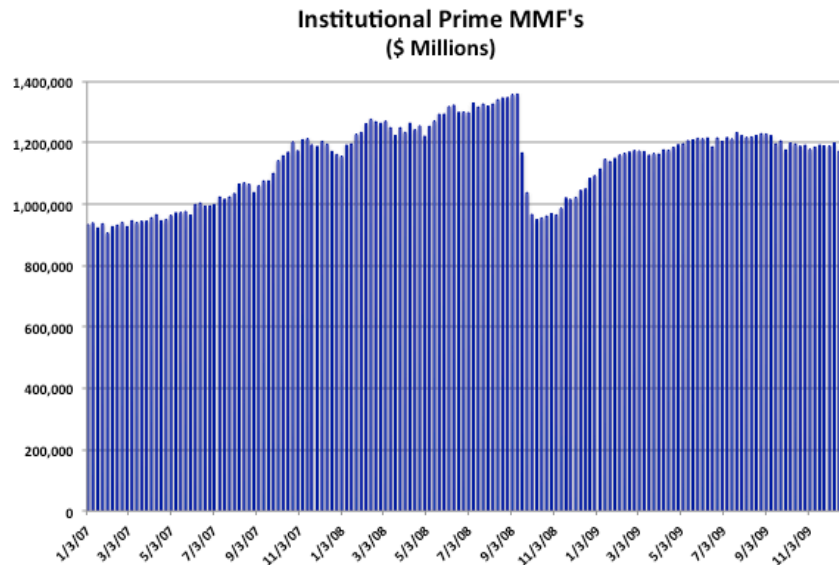
Source: Investment Company Institute Historical Data & Treasury Strategies, Inc.



Institutional Money Market Funds



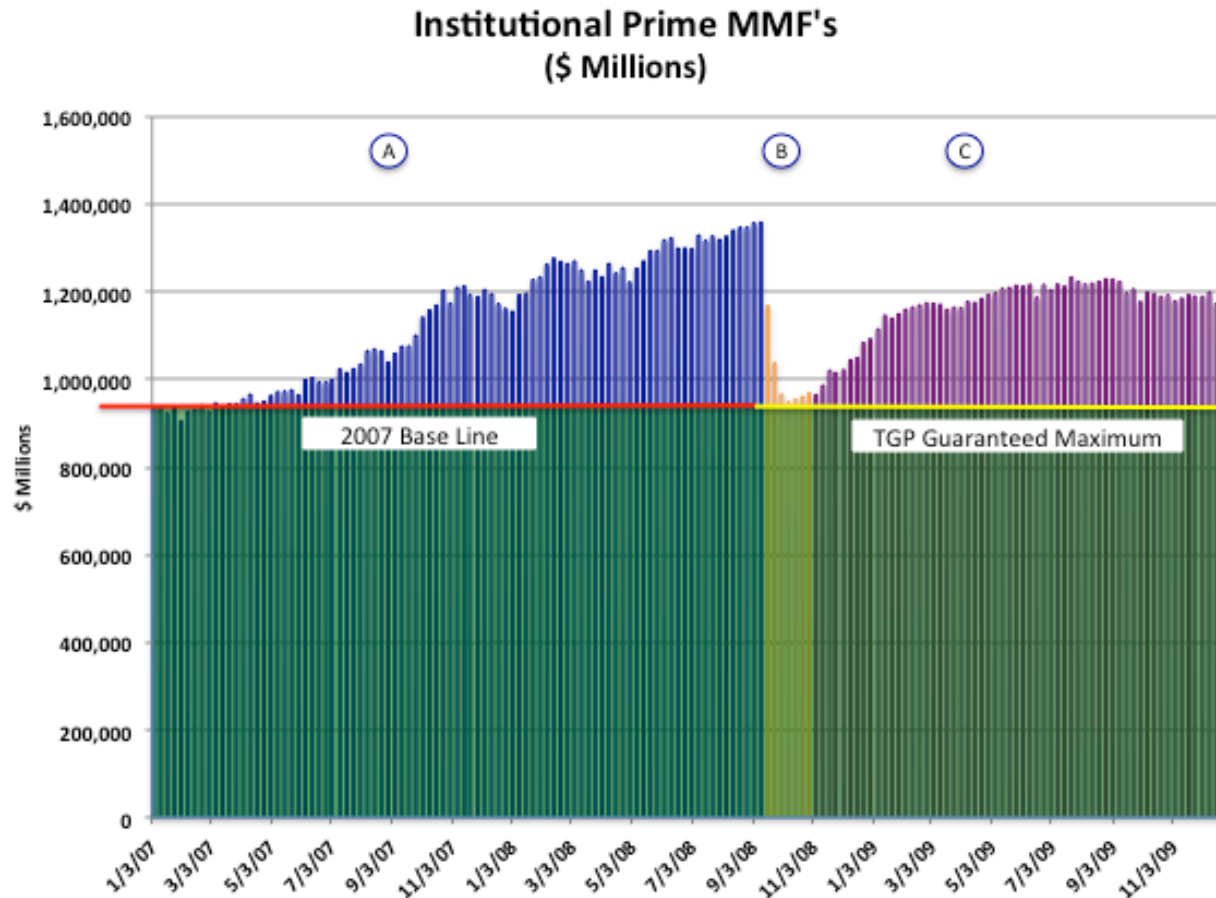
- Major inflow of assets from June 2007-September 2008
- Run *into* Government MMFs during the week of September 15, 2008



- Major inflow of assets from June 2007-September 2008
- Decline of assets to early-2007 baseline during the week of September 15, 2008
- Growth of non-guaranteed assets beginning October 2008

Source: Investment Company Institute Historical Data & Treasury Strategies, Inc.

Institutional Prime MMFs



- A) Prolonged run from other impaired liquidity asset classes into institutional prime 6/07-9/08
- B) Assets revert to original baseline week of September 15, 2008
- C) New non-guaranteed inflows from 10/08-7/09

Source: Investment Company Institute Historical Data & Treasury Strategies, Inc.

The Week of September 15, 2008

□

8/28-9/12	-0.9	Fannie & Freddie fail est. \$200B Merrill Lynch rescued
9/15	-60.9*	Run on WaMu \$16.4B Lehman Brothers fails as Fed guarantees \$138B Reserve Primary Fund halts redemptions
9/16	-37.0*	Reserve Primary Fund "officially" breaks the buck with \$785M loss on Lehman <i>After the market closes, AIG unexpectedly fails \$85B</i>
9/17	-129.9	
9/18	-93.9	
9/19	-24.8	Temporary Guarantee Program implemented
9/22-12/31	+132.4	Cash inflows above the guarantee level

*Including approx. \$54 billion from Reserve



Regulatory Landscape



Changes to Rule 2a-7 implemented in 2010:

- More robust fund liquidity measures
- Stronger portfolio quality standards
- Shorter maturity limits
- Increased transparency of portfolio holdings and valuations
- Independent ratings and reporting requirements

Discussion of additional regulation:

- Floating NAV
- Capital
- Holdback





Floating NAV



Treasury Strategies concerns with the floating NAV proposal for MMFs:

- Volatility of capital
- Accounting/tax reporting complexities
- Administrative challenges
- Legal and investment policy constraints
- Operational inconveniences
- Unpredictability for cash forecasting purposes
- Failure of similar floating NAV instruments





Capital Requirement



Treasury Strategies' concerns with the capital requirement proposal for MMFs:

- Reduced transparency for investors
- Confusion leading to more risk averse/panic-prone investors
- Increased moral hazard for fund companies and investors
- Asset management firms and bank advisors exiting the business
- Increased volatility
- Increased costs and decreased yields, especially for retail investors and smaller fund companies
- Increased concentration of assets into the largest banks
- Creation of new AIG-like systemic risks





Redemption Holdback



Treasury Strategies' primary concerns with the redemption holdback proposal for MMFs:

- Will create a “thirty-day look ahead” phenomenon that will trigger a speculative firestorm run at the first sign of financial stress in an instrument in any market
- Will not eliminate a first-mover advantage
- Will result in a vast, if not total, reduction of assets in MMFs, crippling the industry and cutting off a primary source of credit for corporate and municipal borrowers
- Will not treat all shareholders equally

Additional Treasury Strategies concerns:

- Maturity extension without yield increase
- Restricted liquidity for investors
- Disenfranchised fiduciaries
- Movement of funds into unregulated instruments and exacerbation of “too big to fail”
- Operational infeasibility
- Penalties for retail investors
- Ineffective solution in eliminating first-mover advantage
- Problems with omnibus accounts
- Restricted financing for borrowers





Other Major Regulatory Changes



Other recent regulatory changes impacting corporate and institutional investors:

- Derivatives regulations
- Basel III
- Volcker Rule
- Unlimited FDIC insurance
- Repeal of Reg Q
- Fees on daylight overdrafts
- Interest on reserve balances

Can the market digest all these changes simultaneously?





Seriously...



A *prolonged* run occurred throughout the entire financial system during 2007 and the first eight months of 2008

- from several impaired liquidity asset classes.
- into prime and government MMFs.

Reserve Primary Fund experienced a contained, credit-driven run as a result of the failure of Lehman Brothers.

The unexpected failure of AIG sparked a speculative firestorm run across the entire financial system

- from all non-government backed liquidity asset classes.
- into government securities and government guaranteed bank accounts.

Within one month, the flow of assets into non-government guaranteed institutional prime funds resumed.



The Way Forward

□

Credit-Driven

Credit loss

Tightened credit standards

Increased diversification

Liquidity-Driven

Market seizing

Shortened maturity structure

Instituted liquidity requirement

- 10% next day
- 30% weekly

Speculative

Uncertainty/misinformation

Reporting of holdings

Reporting of shadow NAV

Therefore, no further changes are necessary.



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Data from Investment Company Institute, Crane Data, iMoneyNet, and Federal Reserve





About Treasury Strategies, Inc.



Who We Are

Treasury Strategies, Inc. is the leading treasury consulting firm working with corporations and financial services providers. Our experience and thought leadership in treasury management, working capital management, liquidity and payments, combined with our comprehensive view of the market, rewards you with a unique perspective, unparalleled insights and actionable solutions.

What We Do

Corporations

We help you maximize worldwide treasury performance and navigate regulatory and payment system changes through a focus on best practices, technology, liquidity and controls.

Treasury Technology

We provide guidance through every step of the technology process. Our expert approach will uncover opportunities to optimize the value of your treasury through fully integrated technology solutions.

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