

Division of Economic and Risk Analysis

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission February 19, 2016 The Commission, as a matter of policy, disclaims responsibility for any private publication or statement by any of its employees. The views expressed herein are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission or of the authors' colleagues on the staff of the Commission.





Analysis Supporting the SEC's Rulemaking

Christof W. Stahel Assistant Director

Growth in Assets held in US Mutual Funds

- Assets grew from \$4.4 trillion in 2000 to \$12.7 trillion in 2014
- Proportion invested in equity declined; alternative strategies still small

	2000		201	2014		
	Class Assets	Class Assets (%)	Class Assets	Class Assets (%)	Assets Growth Rate	Assets % Growth
All	4,409,289)	12,678,62 4		7.80%	
US Equity	2,874,681	65.2%	5,642,977	44.5%	4.9%	-2.7%
Foreign Equity	465,336	10.6%	1,956,005	15.4%	10.8%	2.7%
Mixed Strategy	324,303	7.4%	1,737,201	13.7%	12.7%	4.5%
General Bonds	240,067	5.4%	1,690,291	13.3%	15.0%	6.7%
US Municipal Bonds	277,579	6.3%	565,201	4.5%	5.2%	-2.4%
Alternative Strategy	0	0%	333,920	2.6%	n/a	n/a
Foreign Bonds	19,170	0.4%	259,364	2.0%	20.4%	12.2%
Mortgage-Backed Securities	51,865	1.2%	229,546	1.8%	11.2%	2.9%
US Government Bonds	90,610	2.1%	165,527	1.3%	4.4%	-3.4%
US Corporate Bonds	65,678	1.5%	98,592	0.8%	2.9%	-4.4%



Average monthly net flows by strategy





Fund Liquidity Analysis

- Measure the liquidity of U.S. Equity Mutual Funds by asset weighting the liquidity of each holding
 - Liquidity of fund holding *i* during month *t* over *d* trading days

Amihud Liquidity_{*i*,*t*} =
$$-1 \cdot \frac{1}{D} \sum_{d=0}^{D} \frac{|\text{Return}_{i,t-d}|}{\text{Dollar Trading Volume}_{i,t-d}}$$

• Liquidity of fund *j* by asset weighting the liquidity of *i* holdings Fund Liquidity_{*j*,*t*} = $\sum_{i=1}^{N}$ Weight_{*i*,*j*,*t*} · Liquidity_{*i*,*t*}



Liquidity of U.S. Equities: 1999 - 2013



Liquidity of U.S. Equity Mutual Funds: 1999 - 2013





Large outflows and fund liquidity

- Do funds sell portfolio strips or their most liquid assets?
- Model Fund liquidity as:

 $\operatorname{Liq}_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 \operatorname{Liq}_{i,t-1} + \beta_2 \operatorname{Inflow}_{i,t} + \beta_3 \operatorname{Outflow}_{i,t} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} \delta_j \operatorname{C}_{i,j,t-1} + \operatorname{FE} + \varepsilon_{i,t}$

- Where C is a vector of control variables:
 - Fund age
 - Strategy
 - Turnover ratio
 - Expense ratio
 - Assets



How do large outflows affect fund liquidity?

	Equi	ty Mutual Fur	nds	Municipal Bond Funds			
	Amihud Fund Liquidity			Relative Amount of Municipal Bonds			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Outflow	-0.00047	-0.00037		0.035	0.046		
	[-2.18]	[-1.70]		[2.48]	[3.21]		
Inflow	0.00041	0.00047		-0.047	-0.037		
	[2.80]	[3.25]		[-2.64]	[-2.06]		
Outflow > Median Outflow			-0.00077			0.024	
			[-2.17]			[1.33]	
Outflow =< Median Outflow			0.00043			0.095	
			[0.78]			[2.64]	
Inflow > Median Inflow			0.00046			-0.037	
			[1.75]			[-1.40]	
Inflow =< Median Inflow			0.00085			-0.012	
			[1.48]			[-0.34]	
Lipper class FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Year-quarter FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Control variables	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Observations	32,219	32,219	32,219	4,483	4,483	4,483	

