

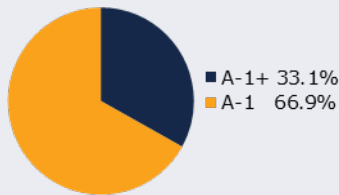
# West Virginia Money Market Pool

## Portfolio Overview as of 02/28/2023

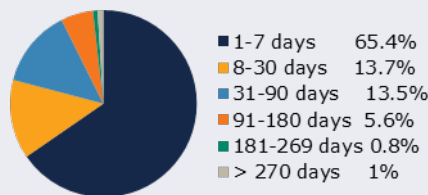
### Pool Assets

\$9.4 billion

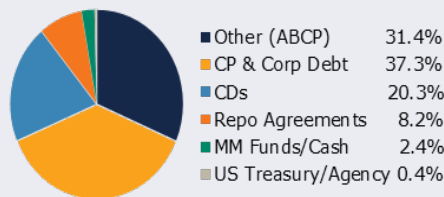
### Credit Quality Composition (%)



### Maturity Schedule (%)



### Portfolio Composition (%)



### Weighted Average Maturity

23 Days

### Top Holdings (%)

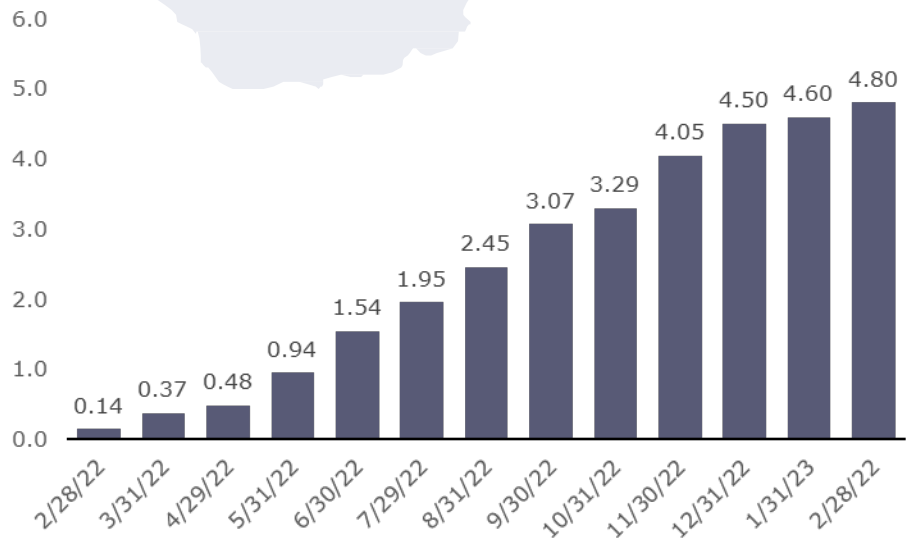
Credit Agricole	4.5%
Natixis Financial	4.4%
Bank of America Securities	4.1%
DZ Bank	3.5%
Mizuho Bank LTD	2.8%
KBC Bank	2.7%
Bank of Nova Scotia	2.7%
Bank of Montreal	2.6%
National Australia Bank	2.6%
Sumitomo Mitsui Trust NY	2.6%
<b>Total % of Portfolio</b>	<b>32.5%</b>

The West Virginia Money Market Pool is a money market portfolio created to invest the majority of the state and local government operating funds. The objective of the portfolio is to maintain sufficient liquidity to meet the needs of the participants while striving to earn a return above inflation. The risk factor is low and managed through numerous maturity restrictions, diversification, guidelines, and credit limits.

### Pool Features and Benefits:

- » Professional management is provided by the West Virginia Board of Treasury investments' staff and professional investment advisors (Federated Hermes and UBS Global Asset Management).
- » Rated AAAM by Standard & Poor's.
- » Seeks to maintain a net asset value (NAV) of \$1 per share.
- » Investment yields are competitive with other money market accounts.
- » Easy access is provided through the State Treasurer's Office online system.
- » Account can be opened for as little as \$100 with no limit on the number of transactions.
- » Contributions and withdrawals are allowed daily.
- » Income is distributed on a daily basis.

### 7-Day Simple Money Market Yield (%)



To learn how to make the West Virginia Money Market Pool work for your cash investing needs call: 304-340-1564 or visit: [wvbt.org](http://wvbt.org)

Portfolio holdings and composition are shown as of the date indicated. Since market conditions fluctuate suddenly and frequently, the portfolio holdings may change and this list is not indicative of future portfolio composition. These portfolio holdings are not intended to be and do not constitute recommendations that others buy, sell, or hold any of the securities listed.

An investment in the Pool is not insured or guaranteed by any government or government agency. Although the manager of the Pool seeks to preserve principal, it is possible to lose money by depositing money in the Pool.

A AAAM rating by Standard & Poor's is obtained after S&P evaluates a number of factors, including credit quality, market price exposure and management. Ratings are subject to change and do not remove market risk.

## Commentary

Acceptance is hard, and the financial markets have struggled with it this year. Investors turned relief about moderating inflation and a slowing pace of Federal Reserve rate hikes into the expectation that the conclusion of the tightening cycle is imminent. Stocks and bonds rallied further when the January Federal Open Market Committee meeting resulted in an even lower hike, with the Treasury yield curve indicating policymakers would cut rates in the fourth quarter.

We didn't buy this narrative. The markets crossed the fine line between expectations and wishful thinking. But investors checked that fantasy within the shortest month of the year. Indeed, change can come quickly after acceptance. In addition to a correction in equities and fixed-income, the yield curve shifted upward in February to reflect the likelihood the Fed will take the fed funds rate higher and hold it there at least into 2024. The change is corroborated by futures trading that places the terminal rate in the 5.25-5.5% range.

Recent inflation data supports this reality check. The rule of thumb is to pay attention to the core version of price measurements because they exclude short-term fluctuations of energy and food costs. But it's also better to focus on the month-over-month (m/m) changes rather than year-over-year. The latter can be misleading, especially when the previous year's figures are substantially different—the so-called base-effect phenomenon.

Case in point, the annualized core Consumer Price Index slipped from 5.7% in December to 5.6% in January, but rose 0.4% m/m. While annualized core Personal Consumption Expenditures Index (PCE) rose from 4.6% in December to 4.7% in January, it climbed 0.6% m/m.

The takeaway here is that the descent from a peak is often faster than the rest of the downward journey. If you listened to Fed Chair Jerome Powell's comments in the press conference following the January FOMC meeting, you heard him reiterate that policymakers pay close attention to "core PCE services ex-housing." They consider it an excellent judge of price pressures because the housing market reacts much quicker to shifts in rates than the rest of the economy. The bad news is that it has accelerated lately, jumping 0.6% m/m in January. Inflation is proving sticky once again.

Another factor is the debt-ceiling debacle. We haven't changed our opinion that it will be resolved in some form, most likely with another kick of the proverbial can. But we think the supply of Treasury bills will dwindle as we get close to the X-date this summer, reversing the trend of the last few months, and that securities maturing near it will be cheap. But the big picture is that we expect yields of liquidity products to keep climbing.