

# **The effects of the post-COVID inflation and the Federal Reserve's policy tightening response on financial markets**

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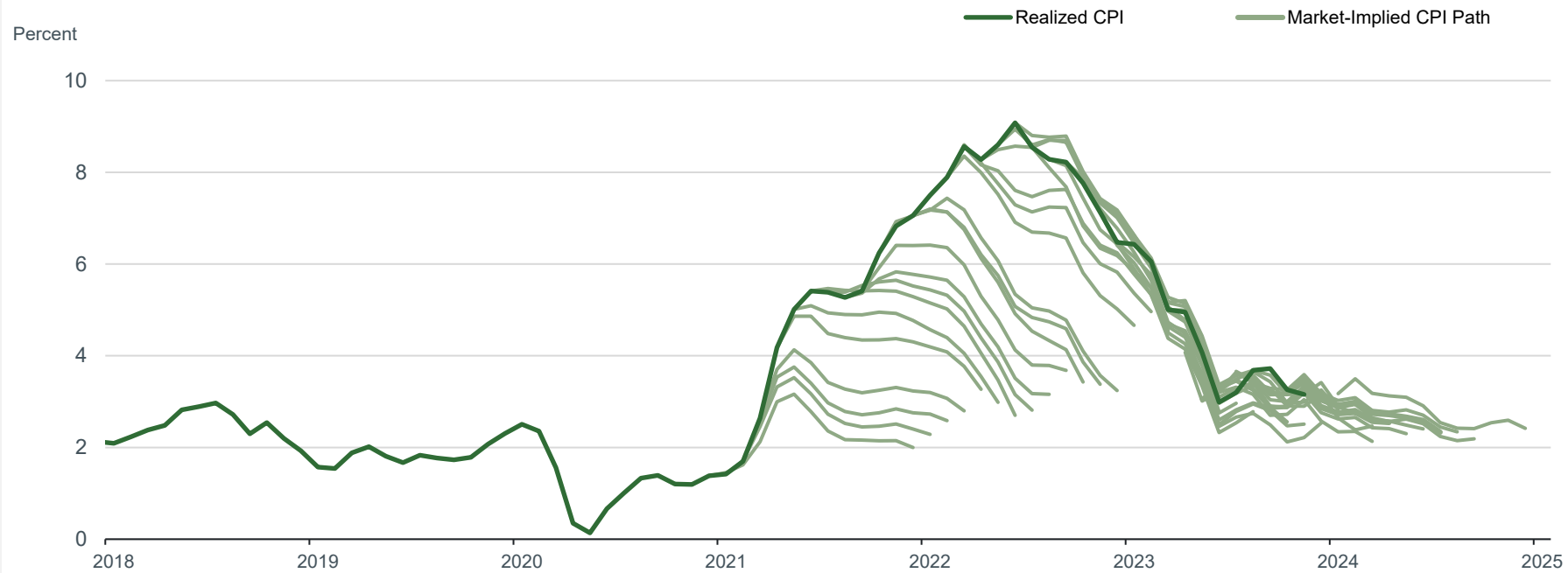
**Peterson Institute for International Economics event: "Monetary policy responses to post-pandemic inflation: What happened and lessons learned"**

**04/19/2024**



# The extent and duration of the recent high inflation notably exceeded market implied expectations and most forecasts

## 1 Realized vs. Market-Implied Headline CPI (Year-on-Year)



Note: Market-implied CPI paths calculated from CPI fixings market.  
Source: Bloomberg L.P., Bureau of Labor Statistics

# The process of moving to a less accommodative stance began with communication and slowing asset purchases

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## Select Federal Reserve Balance Sheet Communications and Actions

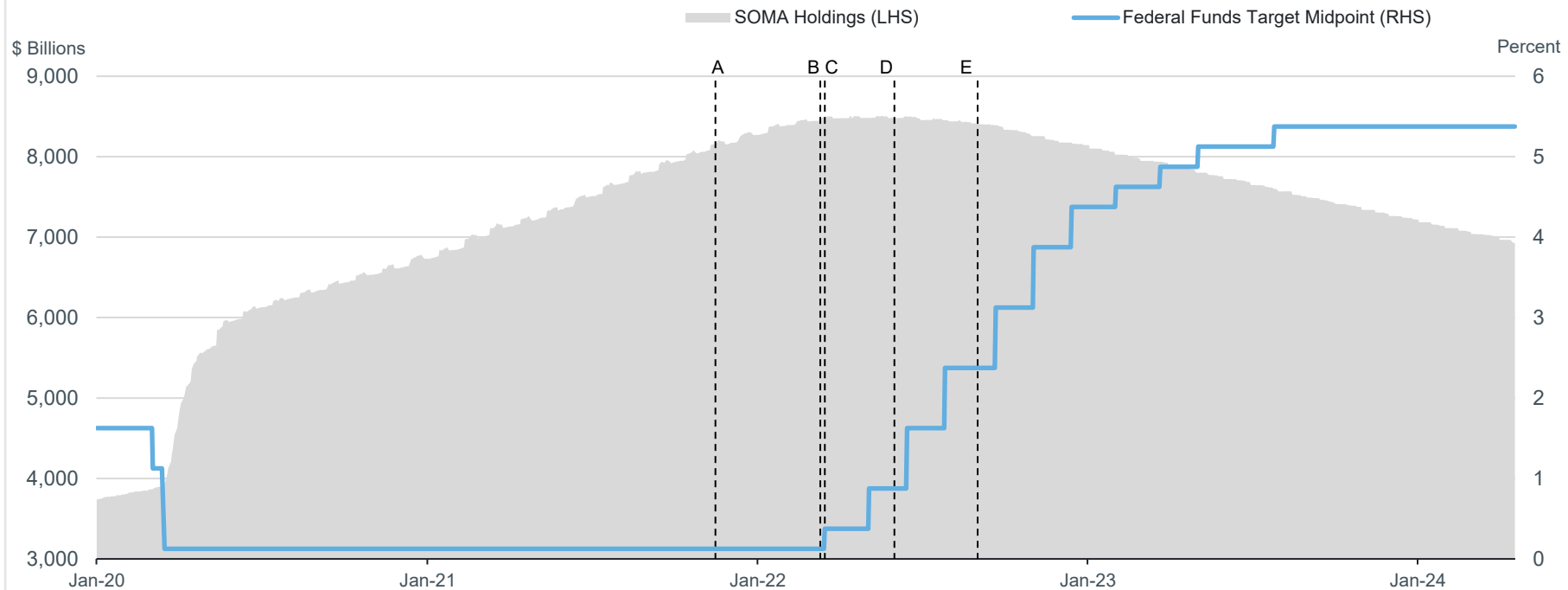
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|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| September 22, 2021 | Announce moderation in pace of asset purchases may soon be warranted   |
| November 3, 2021   | Announce reduction in pace of asset purchases  |
| December 15, 2021  | Accelerate reduction in pace of asset purchases, implying end in early March   |
| January 26, 2022   | Release "Principles for Reducing the Size of the Federal Reserve's Balance Sheet"; confirm end of asset purchases in early March |
| March 16, 2022     | Begin Policy Rate Tightening   |
| May 4, 2022        | Release "Plans for Reducing the Size of the Federal Reserve's Balance Sheet"; announce balance sheet reduction to begin in June  |
| June 1, 2022       | Implement securities redemptions, subject to monthly caps  |
| September 1, 2022  | Increase monthly redemption caps   |

**Rate hikes began in March 2022, soon after QE ended. The pace was initially moderate, then accelerated, and later moderated again in response to inflation.**

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### SOMA Holdings and Federal Funds Target Midpoint

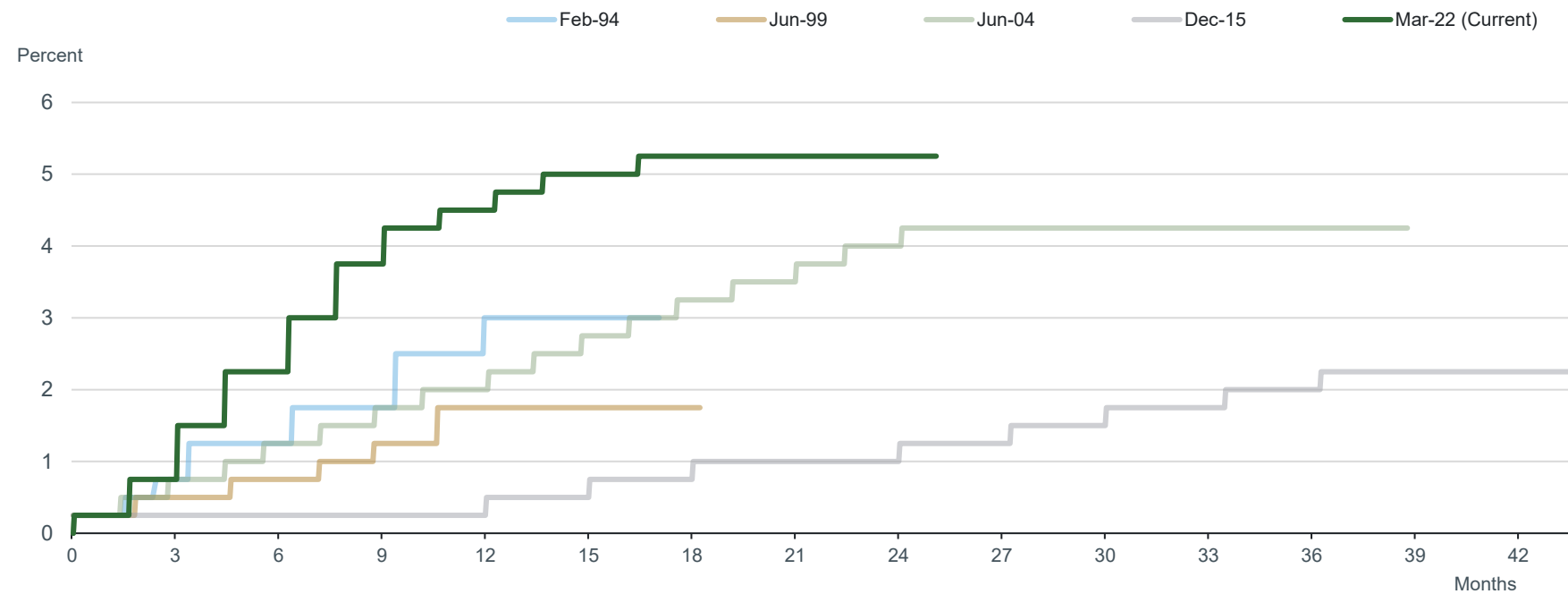


Note: A: Implementation of Asset Purchase Tapering, B: End of Asset Purchases, C: Policy Rate Liftoff, D: Start of Redemptions, E: Increase of Redemption Caps. Includes inflation compensation on TIPS holdings.  
Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

# The rate hiking cycle that started in March 2022 was the most aggressive in decades

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## Cumulative Change in Federal Funds Rate During Select Hiking Cycles

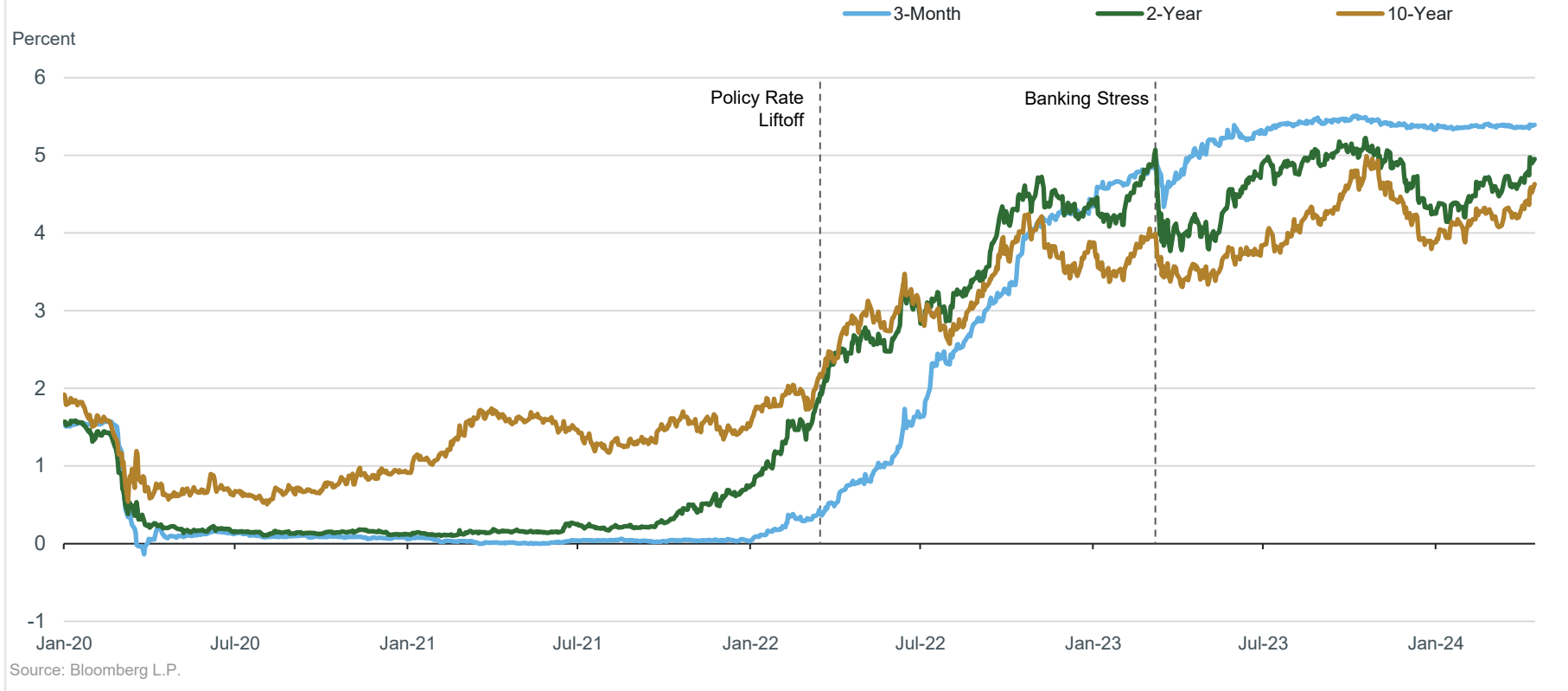


Note: For prior cycles, chart shows cumulative change from start of policy rate tightening to first cut.  
Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

**Shorter-dated yields rose in anticipation of tighter policy. Longer-dated yields also rose, but by a lesser amount, and the yield curve inverted significantly.**

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### Nominal U.S. Treasury Yields



# Near-dated inflation compensation was volatile, largely tracking changes in actual inflation. Forward measures remained consistent with the Fed's target.

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## Inflation Compensation

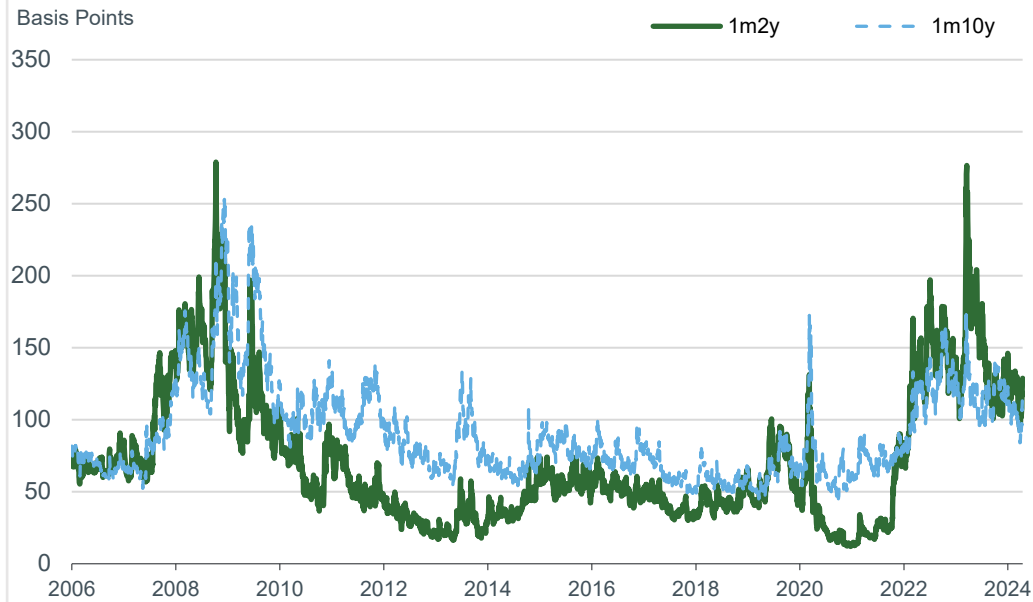


Source: Bloomberg L.P.

# Implied interest rate volatility rose notably. Treasury market liquidity was challenged but overall was consistent with the elevated levels of volatility.

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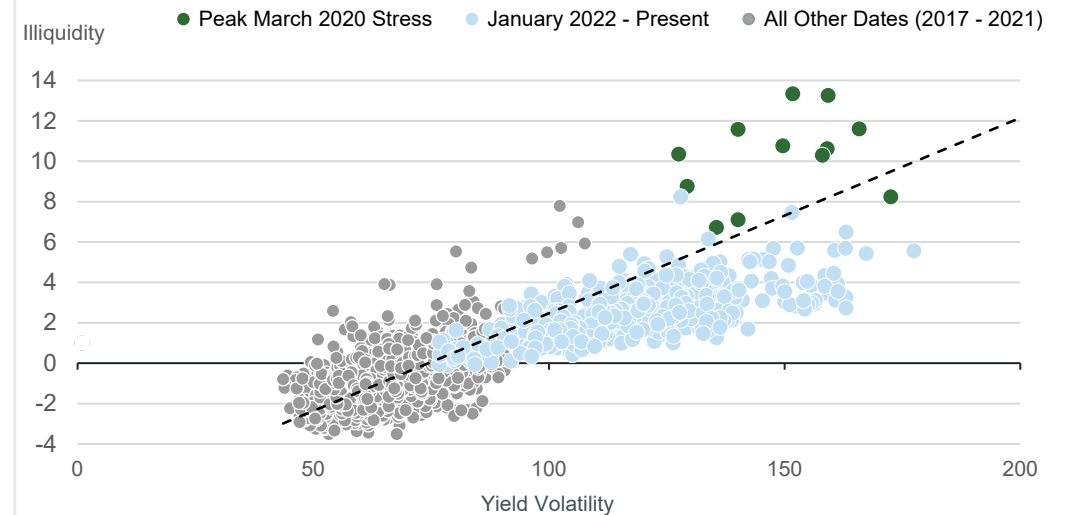
## Swaption-Implied Interest Rate Volatility



Source: Bloomberg L.P., J.P. Morgan

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## 10-Year Treasury Illiquidity versus Volatility: 2017 to Present



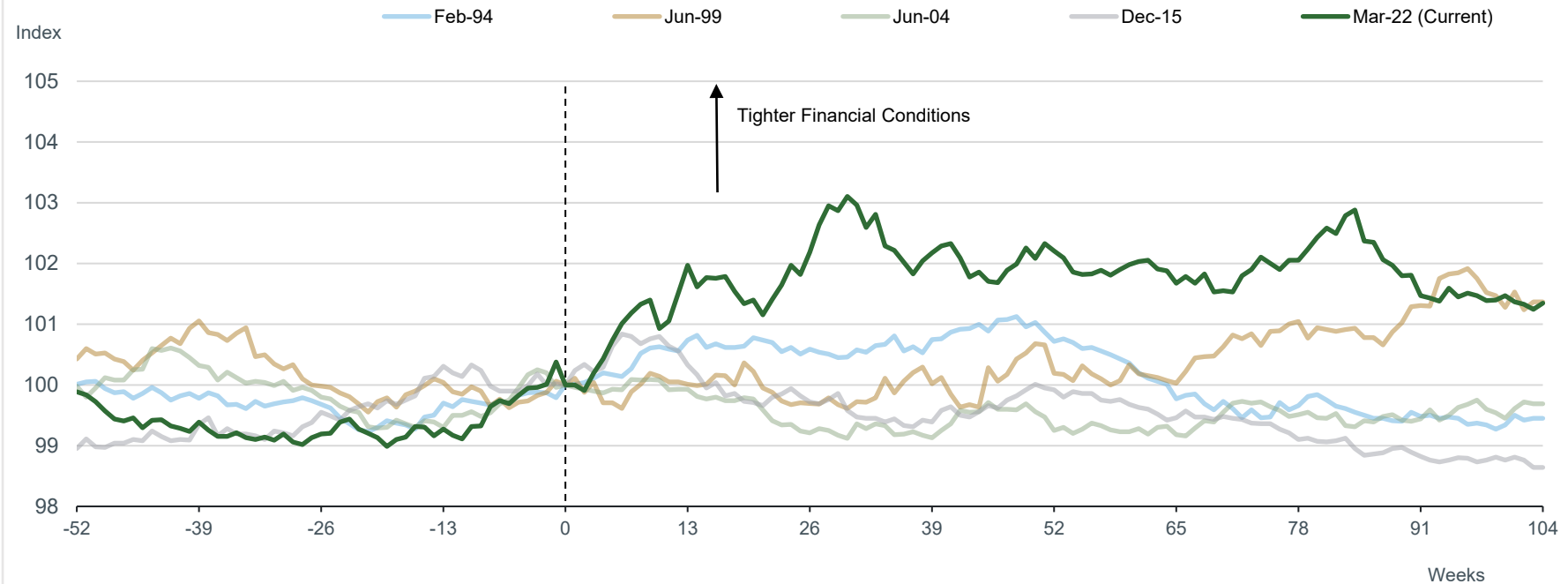
Note: The illiquidity index for the 10-year Treasury note is constructed using principal component analysis using a variety of liquidity metrics calculated from BrokerTec data. The index itself is the first component (PC1). SOFR-based implied 1M10Y volatility is used for data from 8/6/2021 onwards; LIBOR-based implied volatility is used earlier. Source: Bloomberg L.P., CME Group Inc. (BrokerTec), FRBNY Staff Calculations



# Overall financial conditions tightened at a rapid pace. Still, the transmission of tighter policy varied across markets and economic sectors.

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## Goldman Sachs FCI During Select Hiking Cycles



Note: Zero indicates the week of the first rate hike in each tightening cycle. FCI re-indexed to 100 at start of each cycle.  
Source: Goldman Sachs

# The Fed's policy implementation framework worked well. Rate control remained very strong, with the fed funds rate always within the target range.

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## Administered and Overnight Rates (Spread to Bottom of Target Range)

