

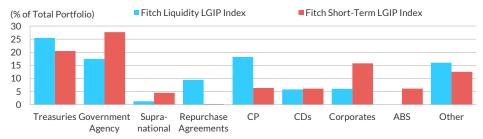
# **Local Government Investment Pools: 2Q20**

LGIP Assets Reach New Highs: Cumulative assets for the Fitch Liquidity LGIP Index and the Fitch Short-Term LGIP Index reached another new high of \$349 billion at the end of 2020, an increase of \$27 billion QoQ and \$56 billion YoY. Similar to 1Q20, asset flows for both indices during the second quarter were again on par with their observed historical cyclical patterns (+10% QoQ for the Fitch Liquidity LGIP Index and +4% QoQ for the Fitch Short-Term LGIP Index). Thus far, the economic downturn caused by the coronavirus has not had a visible impact on asset levels for most LGIPs, particularly as assets typically grow during the second quarter due to tax payment deadlines. However, lower sales, income, and other taxes, along with reduced state support for local municipalities, will lead to smaller future inflows into LGIPs relative to prior expectations.

Net Yields Continue to Fall: The Fitch Liquidity LGIP Index and the Fitch Short-Term LGIP Index ended the quarter with average net yields of 0.34% (a drop of roughly 70bps from March) and 1.15% (down 53bps from March), respectively. These downward trends for LGIP yields should continue as the Fed's interest rate policy is expected to remain in the zerobound territory for a prolonged period. LGIP managers extended their interest rate exposures out slightly during the quarter, with the weighted average maturity of the Fitch Liquidity LGIP Index increasing to 44 days (+2 days) and the duration of the Fitch Short-Term LGIP Index ticking up slightly higher to 1.28 years (up from 1.27 at the end of 1Q20).

LGIPs Positioning Defensively: Given the elevated uncertainty surrounding the economy and future revenues and expenditures of local governments, LGIP managers have actively shifted more of their portfolios to higher quality asset classes this year. The shift in allocation becomes more apparent when comparing positioning to the prior year. In the Fitch Liquidity LGIP Index specifically, exposure to U.S. Treasury debt increased to approximately 20% of the index as of June 2020 from 11% as of June 2019. On the other hand, combined exposure to corporates (commercial paper and corporate bonds) dropped to 24% of the index from 33% last June.

### **LGIP Weighted Average Sector Allocation**



Note: "Other" category includes bank deposits, money market funds, municipal securities, etc. Source: Fitch Ratings.



Brian Jarmakowicz, CFA +16465824586 brian.jarmakowicz@fitchratings.com

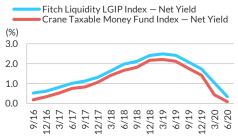


**Greg Fayvilevich** +1 212 908 9151 greg.fayvilevich@fitchratings.com

#### **Total Assets**

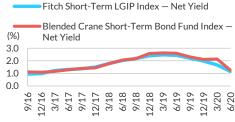


#### Fitch Liquidity LGIP Index — Net Yield Fitch Liquidity LGIP Index — WAM

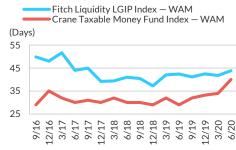


Note: Data reflect average 7-day net yields, or if not available, 30-day yields utilized. Source: Fitch Ratings, Crane Data.

#### Fitch Short-Term LGIP Index — Net Yield

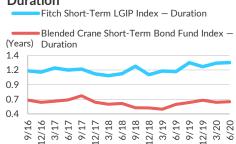


Note: Data reflect average 30-day net yields, or if not available, 7-day yields utilized. Source: Fitch Ratings, Crane Data.



WAM - Weighted average maturity. Source: Fitch Ratings, Crane Data.

#### Fitch Short-Term LGIP Index — Duration



Source: Fitch Ratings, Crane Data.

Special Report | September 21, 2020 fitchratings.com

U.S.A.



**Summary Statistics** 

	June 2020	March 2020	QoQ Change
Total Assets (\$ Bil.; Combining Both Indices [46 LGIPs])	349.1	322.6	26.5
Fitch Liquidity LGIP Index			
Total Assets (\$ Bil.)	255.4	232.4	23.0
Average Fund Size (\$ Bil.)	9.1	8.3	0.8
Average WAM (Days)	44	42	2.0
Crane Taxable Institutional Money Fund Average — WAM (Days)	40	34	6.0
Average Net Yield (%)	0.34	1.04	(0.70)
Crane Taxable Institutional Money Fund Average — Net Yield (%)	0.09	0.44	(0.35)
Fitch Short-Term LGIP Index			
Total Assets (\$ Bil.)	93.7	90.2	3.5
Average Fund Size (\$ Bil.)	5.2	5.0	0.2
Average Duration (Years)	1.28	1.27	0.01
Blended Crane Short-Term Bond Fund Index — Duration (Years)	0.61	0.60	0.01
Average Net Yield (%)	1.15	1.68	(0.53)
Blended Crane Short-Term Bond Fund Index — Net Yield (%)	1.26	2.15	(0.89)

Note: The Blended Crane Short-Term Bond Fund Index is a weighted average of the Crane Ultrashort Index and the Crane Conservative Ultrashort Index. Source: Fitch Ratings, Crane Data.

## **Weighted Average Sector Allocation**

		Government		Repurchase					
(%)	Treasuries	Agency	Supranational	Agreements	СР	CDs	Corporates	ABS	Other
Fitch Liquidity LGIP Index									
June 2020	25.5	17.5	1.3	9.5	18.2	5.8	6.1	0.0	16.0
March 2020	13.1	19.4	2.3	9.7	20.2	11.4	8.0	2.8	13.2
QoQ Change	12.4	(1.9)	(1.0)	(0.2)	(1.9)	(5.6)	(1.9)	(2.8)	2.9
Fitch Short-Term LGIP Index									
June 2020	20.5	27.7	4.5	0.2	6.4	6.1	15.8	6.1	12.5
March 2020	18.6	27.5	5.3	0.2	9.2	6.2	17.3	7.1	8.7
QoQ Change	1.9	0.1	(0.7)	0.0	(2.8)	0.0	(1.5)	(0.9)	3.9

Note: Not all LGIPs disclose the same data on a consistent basis. Fitch uses data available at the time to construct the indices. Source: Fitch Ratings.

Special Report | September 21, 2020 fitchratings.com

U.S.A.



**Additional Statistics: Subcategories** 

	June 2020	March 2020	QoQ Change
Liquidity LGIPs (28 LGIPs)			
Total Assets (\$ Bil.)			
Prime (24 LGIPs)	218.7	195.5	23.2
Government (4 LGIPs)	36.7	36.9	(0.2)
Rated (22 LGIPs)	147.2	137.4	9.8
Unrated (6 LGIPs)	108.2	95.0	13.2
Average WAM (Days)			
Prime (24 LGIPs)	45	42	3.0
Government (4 LGIPs)	40	40	0.0
Rated (22 LGIPs)	43	41	2.0
Unrated (6 LGIPs)	48	44	4.0
Average Net Yield (%)			
Prime (24 LGIPs)	0.39	1.12	(0.73)
Government (4 LGIPs)	0.22	0.67	(0.45)
Rated (22 LGIPs)	0.35	1.01	(0.66)
Unrated (6 LGIPs)	0.38	1.18	(0.80)
Short-Term LGIPs (18 LGIPs)			
Total Assets (\$ Bil.)			
Prime (18 LGIPs)	93.7	90.2	3.5
Rated (12 LGIPs)	42.1	41.1	1.0
Unrated (6 LGIPs)	51.6	49.1	2.5
Average Duration (Years)			
Prime (16 LGIPs)	1.28	1.27	0.01
Rated (10 LGIPs)	1.30	1.24	0.06
Unrated (6 LGIPs)	1.25	1.30	(0.05)
Average Net Yield (%)			
Prime (16 LGIPs)	1.15	1.68	(0.53)
Rated (10 LGIPs)	0.99	1.59	(0.60)
Unrated (6 LGIPs)	1.52	1.90	(0.38)

Note: Subcategories above were established by further segmenting the broader population of LGIPs used to create the Fitch Liquidity LGIP and the Fitch Short-Term LGIP indices. As of this edition, publicly sourced data were gathered for 46 individual LGIPs. Government LGIPs invest in U.S. Treasuries, agencies or repos backed by such collateral. Prime LGIPs invest in additional assets beyond government securities, such as corporate CP, bank deposits or ABS.

Source: Fitch Ratings.

Special Report | September 21, 2020 fitchratings.com



#### **Index Construction Methodology**

Fitch Liquidity Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) Index: The LGIPs comprising the Fitch Liquidity LGIP Index resemble MMFs that adhere to Rule 2a-7 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. These LGIPs seek to operate with a stable net asset values (NAV) and follow most, although not all, of the SEC regulations applicable to MMFs (such as maturity restrictions). The LGIPs included in this index invest in high credit quality securities and aim to maintain a weighted average maturity (WAM) of less than 60 days and a WA life (WAL) of less than 120 days. Fitch constructed the index using information made available through LGIP public reporting.

Fitch Short-Term LGIP Index: The LGIPs comprising the Fitch Short-Term LGIP Index are comparable to SEC-regulated short-term bond funds. These strategies will typically have longer maturities, higher yields and sometimes lower credit quality than the liquidity LGIPs, although this differs by pool. The LGIPs included in the Fitch Short-Term LGIP Index operate with variable NAVs and maintain durations in the range of approximately one to three years. Fitch constructed the index using information made available through LGIP public reporting.

ALL FITCH CREDIT RATINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN LIMITATIONS AND DISCLAIMERS. PLEASE READ THESE LIMITATIONS AND DISCLAIMERS BY FOLLOWING THIS LINK: HTTPS://FITCHRATINGS.COM/UNDERSTANDINGCREDITRATINGS. IN ADDITION, RATING DEFINITIONS AND THE TERMS OF USE OF SUCH RATINGS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE AGENCY'S PUBLIC WEB SITE AT WWW.FITCHRATINGS.COM. PUBLISHED RATINGS, CRITERIA, AND METHODOLOGIES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS SITE AT ALL TIMES. FITCH'S CODE OF CONDUCT, CONFIDENTIALITY, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, AFFILIATE FIREWALL, COMPLIANCE, AND OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE CODE OF CONDUCT SECTION OF THIS SITE. FITCH MAY HAVE PROVIDED ANOTHER PERMISSIBLE SERVICE TO THE RATED ENTITY OR ITS RELATED THIRD PARTIES. DETAILS OF THIS SERVICE FOR RATINGS FOR WHICH THE LEAD ANALYST IS BASED IN AN EU-REGISTERED ENTITY CAN BE FOUND ON THE ENTITY SUMMARY PAGE FOR THIS ISSUER ON THE FITCH WEBSITE.

Copyright © 2020 by Fitch Ratings, Inc., Fitch Rati

The information in this report is provided "as is" without any representation or warranty of any kind, and Fitch does not represent or warrant that the report or any of its contents will meet any of the requirements of a recipient of the report. A Fitch rating is an opinion as to the creditworthiness of a security. This opinion and reports made by Fitch are based on established criteria and methodologies that Fitch is continuously evaluating and updating. Therefore, ratings and reports are the collective work product of Fitch and no individuals, or groupid individuals, as solely responsible for a rating or a report. The rating does not address the risk of loss due to risks other than credit risk, unless such risk is specifically mentioned. Fitch is not engaged in the offer or sale of any security. All Fitch reports have shared authorship, individuals, are named for contact purposes only. A report providing a Fitch rating is neither a prospectus nor a substitute for the information assembled, verified and presented to investors by the issuer and its agents in connection with the sale of the securities. Ratings may be changed or withdrawn at any time for any reason in the sole discretion of Fitch. Fitch does not provide investment advice of any sort. Ratings are not a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any security. Ratings do not comment on the adequacy of market price, the suitability of any security or a particular investor, or the tax-exempt nature or taxability of payments made in respect to any securities. Such fees generally vary from US\$1,000 to US\$750,000 (or the applicable currency equivalent) per issue. In certain cases, Fitch will rate all or a number of issues issued by a particular insurer or guarantor, for a single annual fee. Such fees are expected to vary from US\$1,000 to US\$1,500,000 (or the applicable currency equivalent). The assignment, publication, or dissemination of a rating by Fitch shall not constitute a consent by Fitch to use its name a

For Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan and South Korea only: Fitch Australia Pty Ltd holds an Australian financial services license (AFS license no. 337123) which authorizes it to provide credit ratings to wholesale clients only. Credit ratings information published by Fitch is not intended to be used by persons who are retail clients within the meaning of the Corporations Act 2001.

Special Report | September 21, 2020 fitchratings.com