

# **Shadow Always Touches the Feet: Implications of Bank Credit Lines to Non-Bank Financial Intermediaries**

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Viral V. Acharya, Manasa Gopal, Maximilian Jager, Sascha Steffen

May 28, 2024

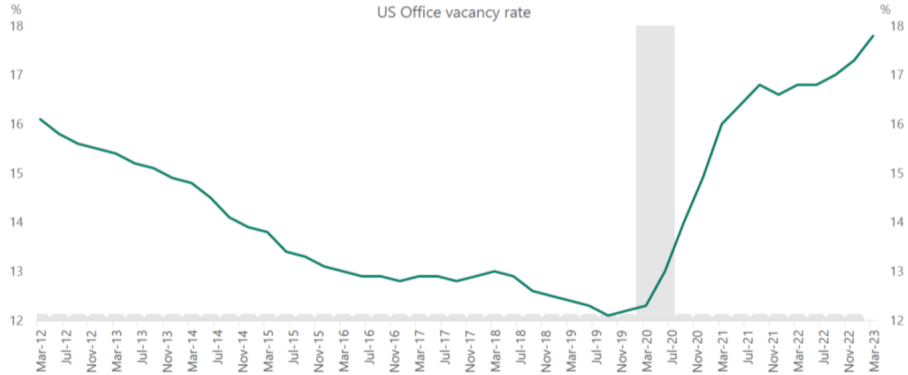
- An increasing share of bank credit lines gets issued to NBFIs borrowers (25% in 2010, 34% in 2022)
- These credit lines expose banks to idiosyncratic risks inherent in NBFIs' asset and liability choice
- Since NBFIs financing is, however, highly cyclical, these credit lines amplify banks' exposure to aggregate liquidity shortages

⇒ In this paper, we use credit lines to REITs as a laboratory to analyze these risks

# COVID-19 to Commercial Real Estate Crisis

APOLLO

## US Office vacancy rate rising

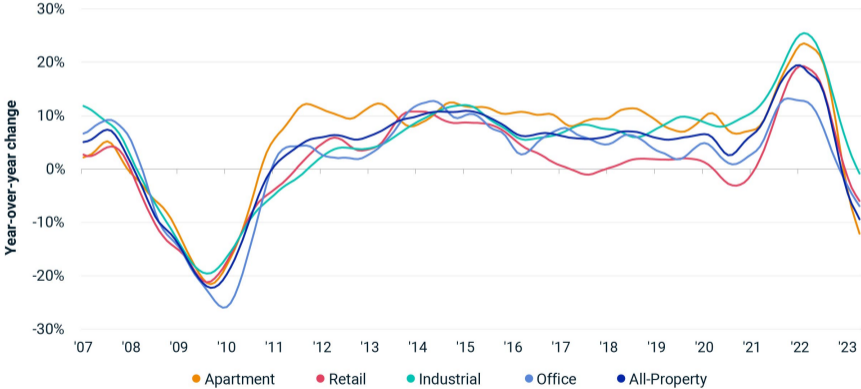


Source

Source: Apollo Global Management

# COVID-19 to Commercial Real Estate Crisis

## Property Values



Source: Apollo Global Management

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REAL ESTATE

## The Clearest Sign Yet That Commercial Real Estate Is in Trouble

Lenders are issuing a record number of foreclosure notices related to risky property loans

Analysis

## FSOC Says CRE Is Big Financial Risk

The 2023 annual report said banks hold about half of \$6 trillion in commercial real estate loans with signs of stress having emerged.

By **Erik Sherman** | December 18, 2023 at 08:12 AM



In its **2023 annual report**, the Financial Stability Oversight Council — a legacy of the Dodd-Frank Act that includes a broad array of federal banking regulators and others — pointed to multiple financial risks for the U.S. First on the list, commercial real estate.



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## Commercial Property Losses Hammer Banks on Three Continents

Banks in the U.S., Japan and Switzerland announced losses tied to troubled real-estate lending

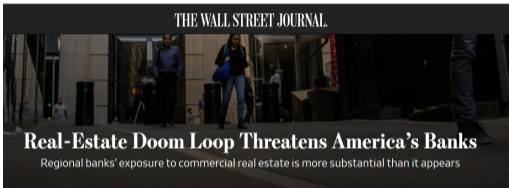
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# Regional Banking Crisis?



240 million loan on 61 Broadway, its 33-story office tower in New York City. MICHAEL BUCHER/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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## How CRE Loans Threaten New York Community Bank and Other Regionals in 2024

*NYCB's losses show that banks probably can't extend commercial real estate loans long enough to avoid enormous fallout*

BY [BRIAN PASCUS](#) FEBRUARY 26, 2024 10:03 AM

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The New York Times

## The Real Estate Crisis Looming Over Banks

A year after the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank, investors are fearing for regional lenders saddled with a mountain of souring commercial mortgages.

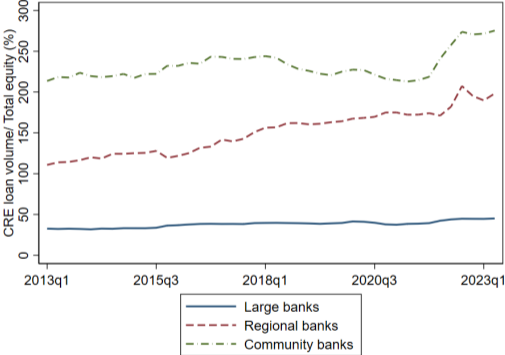
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Feb. 7, 2024

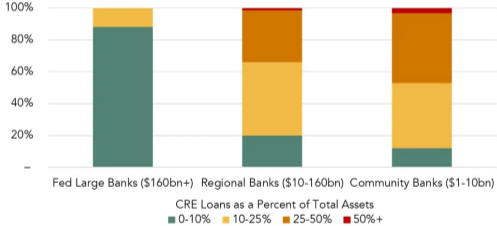
To summarise the latest takeaway from UBS: If smaller regional banks cut back on lending because of CRE pressures, they still aren't responsible for a large enough share of credit provision that they would single-handedly slow the broader US economy.

# Regional Banking Crisis?



## Smaller Banks Have Greater Concentrations of CRE Loans than Larger Banks

Proportion of Banks (Y-Axis) with Varying CRE Loan Concentrations (Color), by Bank Size (X-Axis)



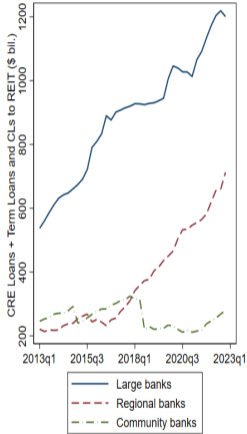
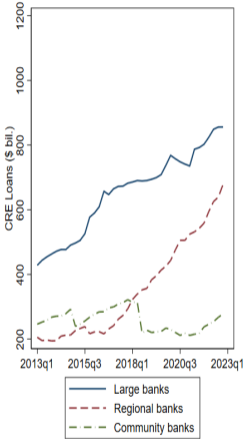
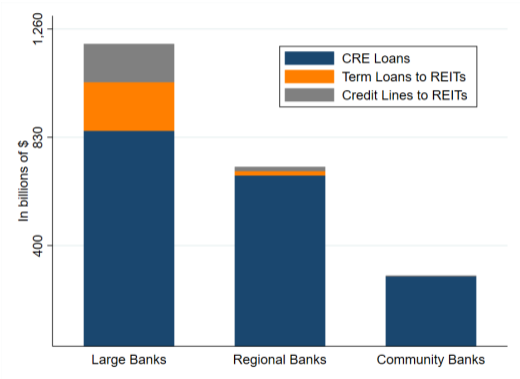
Source: FDIC, Moody's Analytics, Mar. 2023

## But is this the full story?

- Popular narrative seems to be commercial real estate risks are not a big concern for banks
- If banks are at risk, most of the risks seem to be at smaller banks
- And small bank losses may not impact the overall economy?
  
- But we show in this paper that this is not the whole story
- Banks have exposure to commercial real estate indirectly through credit lines that seem to have been ignored



# Banks' Total Exposure to CRE



# Credit Lines and Bank Performance

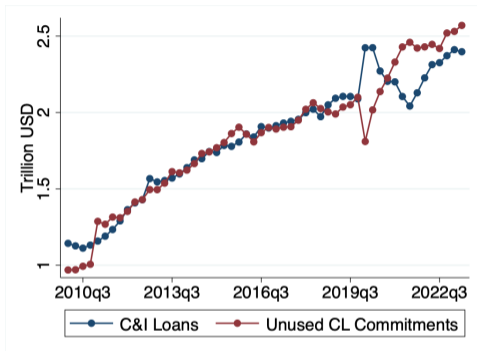
Banks serve a big role in the economy as providers of credit lines

What is a credit line?

- Lender commits to provision of credit at pre-arranged terms (interest rate etc.)
- Borrower decides if and when to use the provided credit (“drawdown”)
- Borrower decides when to repay the provided credit
- Usual properties: 5 year maturity, complex fee structure, often syndicated

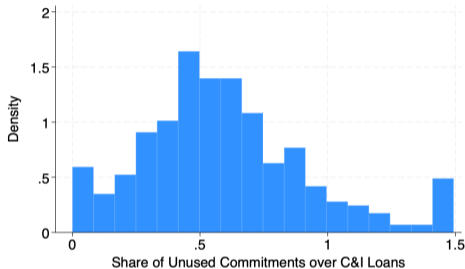
Firms use credit lines as a primary defense against financing stress and negative shocks that hinder access to financial markets

# Credit Lines - relevance for banks



Source: FR Y-9C.

(a) US-wide loans and commitments

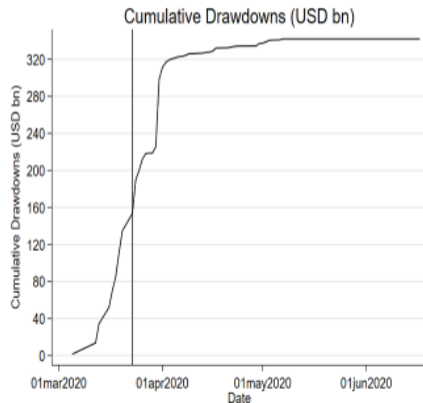


Source: FR Y-9C.

(b) Cross-section as of 2019Q4

- Banks have roughly as much corporate credit committed (off-balance sheet) as they have on their balance sheet

## Credit Line Drawdown - COVID-19

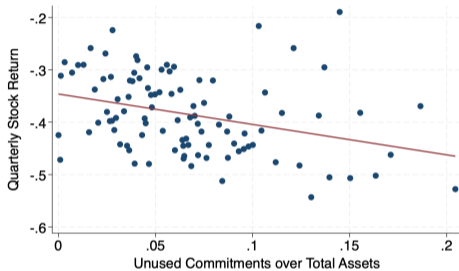


Source: Acharya and Steffen (2020)

## What happens when firms draw down on their credit lines?

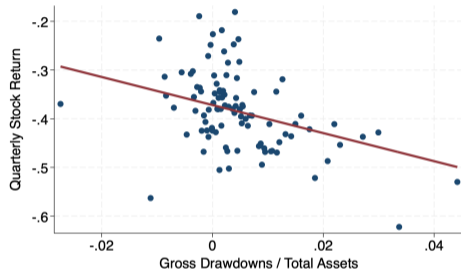
- Credit line commitments are reported “off-balance sheet”
- When credit lines are drawn, it becomes a loan on the bank’s balance sheet
- Banks have to finance these loans - increase liabilities or reduce other assets
- Also, banks need to hold additional capital when loans come on-balance sheet
- If there are correlated drawdowns (like during COVID-19), it may put pressure on bank balance sheets and affect bank performance

# Credit lines and bank performance



Sources: FR Y-9C, CRSP.

**(a)** Stock return vs. commitments



Sources: FR Y-9C, CRSP.

**(b)** Stock return vs. drawdowns

## Bank exposure to commercial real estate

- Banks are exposed directly to the commercial real estate market through loans
- This risk seems to be concentrated among smaller banks
- But, banks are also exposed to CRE through credit lines to *non-banks* that hold commercial real estate



# Background

Financial system has two broad categories of financial institutions - banks and nonbanks

Banks - Regulated institutions that (typically) take deposits to finance lending

Nonbanks or shadow banks - lightly regulated financial institutions

- Do many of the same activities as banks - e.g. lending to consumers, small businesses, large corporations
- But, do not take deposits

After the 2008 financial crisis, increased bank regulation led to growth in unregulated nonbanks - across multiple markets

## Background - REITs

Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) - own or finance real estate; anyone can invest in the REIT and get exposure to real estate markets – organized like a mutual fund

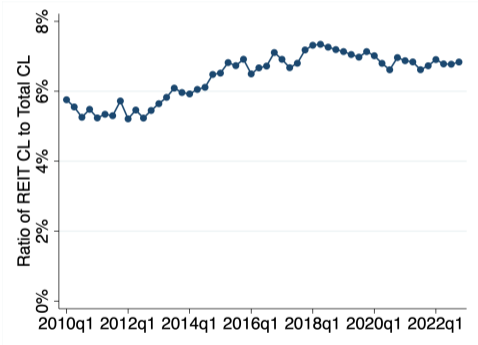
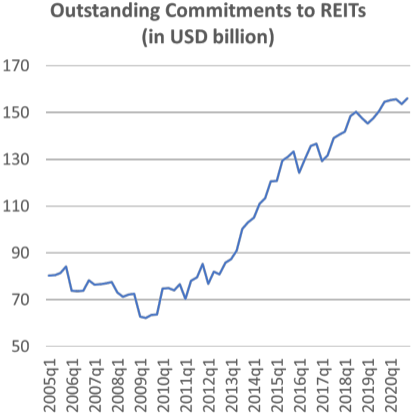
- 1100 REITs own more than \$4 trillion in assets across the U.S
- Investors can purchase stock of an individual company or through an exchange-traded fund
- 170 million Americans have exposure to REITs through retirement/ investment accounts

REITs make money through rent or interest income

Distributes profits as dividends (min. 90% of profits need to be paid out)

>95% of REIT holdings are in commercial real estate

# Bank exposure to REITs



What are the implications of banks providing credit lines to REITs (and other financial institutions)?

- ... for banks themselves (risk management, profits)?
- ... for financial stability (contagion, systemic risk)?

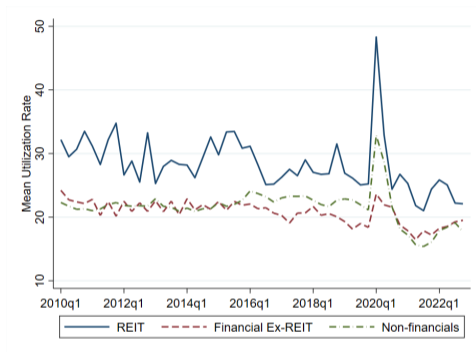
⇒ Important to understand the contingent/insurance-type linkages from banks to non-banks to understand how risks can be transmitted

## Related literature

- Credit line business poses substantial risks for banks ([Acharya and Mora, 2015](#); [Ippolito, Peydró, Polo and Sette, 2016](#); [Kapan and Minoiu, 2021](#); [Chodorow-Reich, Darmouni, Luck and Plosser, 2022](#); [Acharya, Engle, Jager and Steffen, forthcoming](#)) → We show that these risks are amplified for credit lines to REITs
- NBFIs growth in many (credit) markets ([Buchak, Matvos, Piskorski and Seru, 2018](#); [Fleckenstein, Gopal, Gutierrez and Hillenbrand, 2023](#); [Chernenko, Erel and Prilmeier, 2022](#); [Gopal and Schnabl, 2022](#)) was to a large extent made possible by liquidity insurance through banks ([Acharya, Cetorelli and Tuckman, 2024](#); [Cetorelli and Prazad, 2024](#)) → We show a specific linkage between banks and REITs that transmits CRE risk to the banking sector
- CRE markets present a risk to banks both historically ([Cole and White, 2012](#)) and recently because of WFH policies and interest rate hikes ([Gupta, Mittal and Van Nieuwerburgh, 2022](#); [Jiang, Matvos, Piskorski and Seru, 2023](#)) → We show that particularly large banks are indirectly exposed to the CRE market and its risks

# Credit Line Utilization of REITs

# Differential drawdowns of REITs



Sources: Capital IQ, Compustat.

- REITs draw down more than non-financial corporations on average
- REITs have other spikes and cyclicity as well

## Differential drawdowns of REITs - Summary Statistics

	All	AAA-A	BBB	Non-IG	Unrated
Number of REITs in a quarter	92.55	6.92	46.13	27.07	125.05
REIT - Total CL commitments (\$ mil.)	634.14	2,089.38	996.33	725.87	412.33
REIT - Avg. Utilization (%)	29.87	8.15	20.89	26.37	34.97
REIT - Wt. Avg. Utilization (%)	28.19	11.91	23.17	31.29	32.96
Number of Financial Ex-REIT in a quarter	830.53	56.07	75.59	39.22	964.78
Financial Ex-REIT - Total CL commitments (\$ mil.)	553.32	2,639.54	1,574.40	932.02	285.11
Financial Ex-REIT - Avg. Utilization (%)	21.58	11.02	17.64	23.25	22.62
Financial Ex-REIT - Wt. Avg. Utilization (%)	22.37	13.92	20.11	32.76	27.83
Number of Non-financials in a quarter	1,647.47	141.02	293.43	546.37	2,218.80
Non-financial - Total CL commitments (\$ mil.)	496.01	1,780.32	1,369.49	571.78	229.72
Non-financial - Avg. Utilization (%)	22.47	5.20	10.04	19.40	26.79
Non-financial - Wt. Avg. Utilization (%)	17.00	3.25	9.89	26.16	24.26



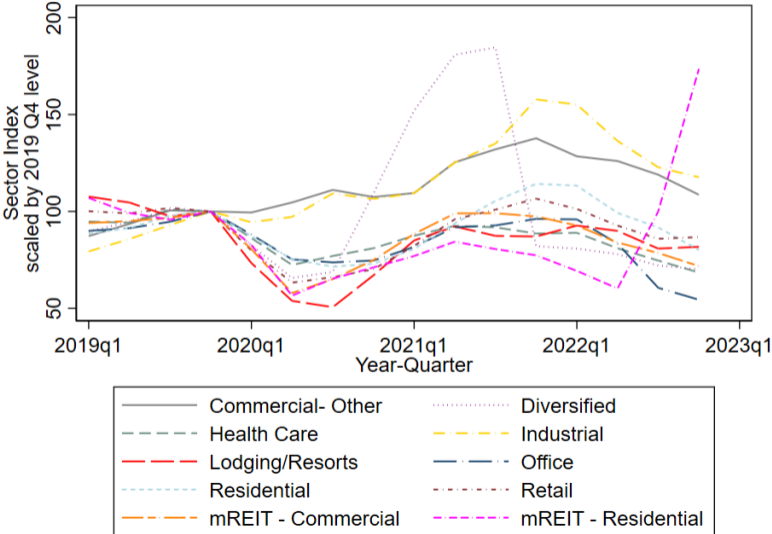
## Differential drawdowns of REITs - Crisis vs. Normal Times

	All	AAA-A	BBB	Non-IG	Unrated
REIT - Utilization (%) - normal times	28.77	6.99	19.98	25.52	33.94
REIT - Utilization (%) - GFC	38.04	20.43	27.18	32.05	41.81
REIT - Utilization (%) - Covid-19	48.30	24.04	43.88	56.29	51.36
Financial Ex-REIT - Utilization (%) - normal times	21.14	10.31	16.48	22.88	22.26
Financial Ex-REIT - Utilization (%) - GFC	25.30	16.29	29.19	25.80	25.69
Financial Ex-REIT - Utilization (%) - Covid-19	23.64	9.44	22.50	29.75	24.26
Non-financial - Utilization (%) - normal times	21.73	4.37	8.90	18.23	26.35
Non-financial - Utilization (%) - GFC	27.24	12.38	19.08	27.06	29.33
Non-financial - Utilization (%) - Covid-19	32.89	12.48	18.43	39.62	35.30

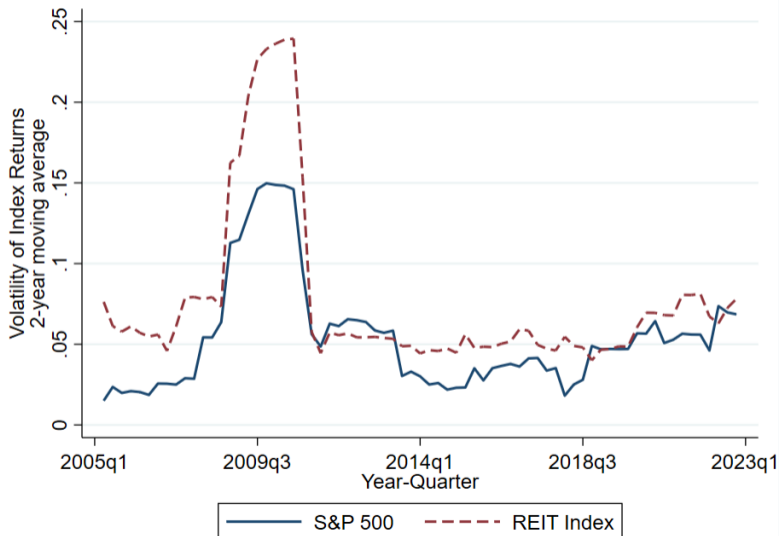
# Differential drawdowns of REITs

	Utilization Rate (%)				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
REIT Dummy	7.606*** (0.276)	9.569*** (2.040)	9.590*** (2.090)	9.552*** (2.092)	10.207*** (2.519)
Log(Assets in mil.)		-3.336*** (0.323)	-3.353*** (0.294)	-3.362*** (0.294)	-3.581*** (0.427)
Cash/Assets		-43.414*** (7.224)	-43.040*** (7.398)	-43.066*** (7.372)	-43.518*** (8.093)
Debt/Equity		0.457*** (0.127)	0.448*** (0.125)	0.429*** (0.126)	0.404*** (0.121)
Rating Notch FE	N	Y	Y	N	N
Rating Group FE	N	N	N	Y	Y
Year-Quarter FE	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Sample					2010-2019
Obs.	246,872	217,281	217,281	217,281	124,821
R <sup>2</sup>	0.003	0.108	0.115	0.113	0.118

# Differential performance across REITs - COVID-19



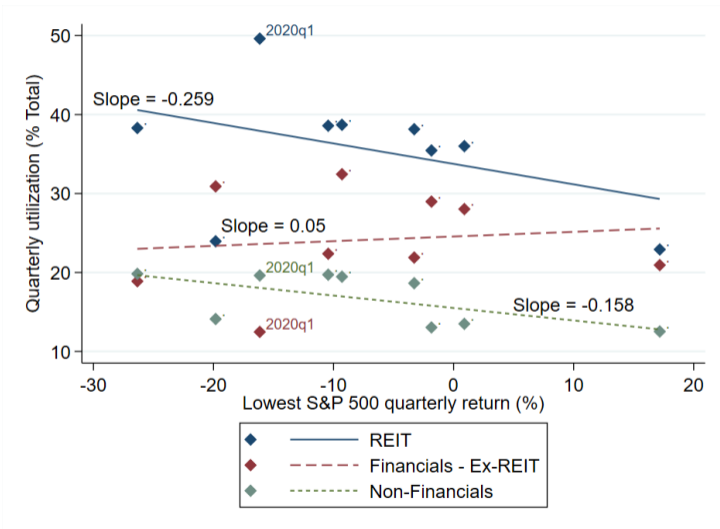
## Co-movement of S&P500 and REIT Index



# Differential drawdowns of REITs as a function of stock performance

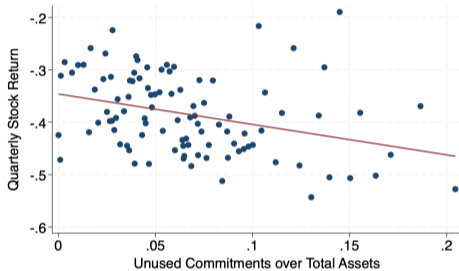
	Utilization Rate (%)				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
REIT	9.768*** (1.585)	9.798*** (1.583)	9.280*** (1.708)	9.452*** (1.814)	9.459*** (1.815)
REIT x S&P 500 return	-1.429*** (0.553)			-0.335 (0.763)	-1.344** (0.606)
REIT x VIX		1.333* (0.722)			
REIT x Crisis			4.007* (2.355)		
REIT x Sub-sector return				-2.108*** (0.776)	
REIT x Sub-sector return (orthogonalized to S&P500)					-2.108*** (0.776)
Controls	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rating Group FE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Year-Quarter FE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Obs.	211,042	211,042	211,042	142,228	142,228
R <sup>2</sup>	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.094	0.094

# Utilization rates of REITs vs non-financials in crises



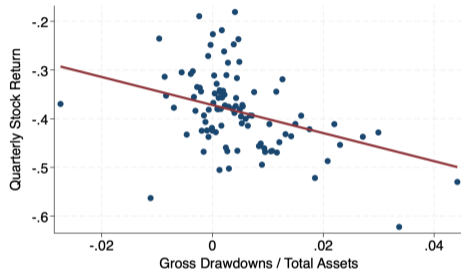
- REITs draw down more than other firms, in general
- REITs are more sensitive to market stress than others, and have greater sensitivity to their own performance compared to non-financial firms

# Effect on banks



Sources: FR Y-9C, CRSP.

**(a)** Stock return vs. commitments



Sources: FR Y-9C, CRSP.

**(b)** Stock return vs. drawdowns



# Impact on Banks

The Benchmark from Acharya et. al. (2023):

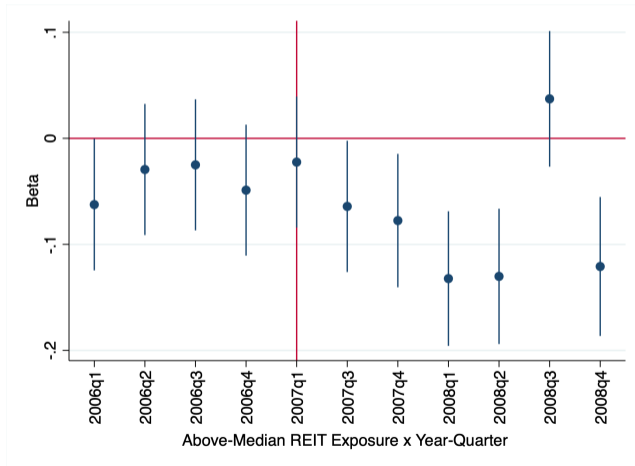
	(1)	(2)	(3)
	Stock Return	Stock Return	Stock Return
Overall Commitment Above Median	0.00346 (0.138)	0.00442* (0.060)	0.00427* (0.068)
Crisis Dummy	-0.0613*** (0.000)	-0.0165*** (0.001)	-0.0195*** (0.000)
Overall Commitment Above Median x Crisis Dummy	-0.0260*** (0.000)	-0.0199*** (0.002)	-0.0196*** (0.003)
Constant	0.0358*** (0.000)	0.00509*** (0.005)	0.00704*** (0.000)
R-squared	0.232	0.234	0.236
Number obs.	30994	30994	30994
Specification	OLS	FF-3 Factors	FF-5 Factors

# Effect on banks

	Quarterly bank stock returns (%)					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
High REIT CL Share	1.087** (2.57)	-0.189 (-0.48)	-0.288 (-0.72)	-0.430 (-1.01)	-0.219 (-0.52)	0.166 (0.34)
High REIT CL Share x Crisis	-4.348*** (-2.73)	-3.256*** (-2.88)	-2.824** (-2.36)	-3.021** (-2.41)	-5.889*** (-4.47)	-3.832*** (-2.62)
High Overall Commitments			0.334 (1.50)	0.336 (1.51)	0.197 (0.91)	-0.195 (-0.87)
High Overall Commitments x Crisis			-1.360* (-1.81)	-1.345* (-1.78)	-0.556 (-0.76)	-0.818 (-1.03)
High REIT TL Share				-0.626 (-0.93)	-0.428 (-0.65)	-0.462 (-0.60)
High REIT TL Share x Crisis				-1.727 (-0.86)	-2.567 (-0.98)	-2.587 (-0.98)
High CRE Exposure					0.854*** (3.70)	2.112*** (8.78)
High CRE Exposure x Crisis					-9.752*** (-14.61)	-7.102*** (-10.22)
Constant	13.40*** (9.29)	0.642 (0.49)	0.758 (0.57)	1.214 (0.89)	-1.345 (-1.05)	-5.636*** (-2.79)
Controls (small set)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Controls (large set)	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Fama-French 3 Factor	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Obs.	27,291	27,291	27,251	27,251	27,251	23,492
R <sup>2</sup>	0.029	0.228	0.229	0.229	0.239	0.259

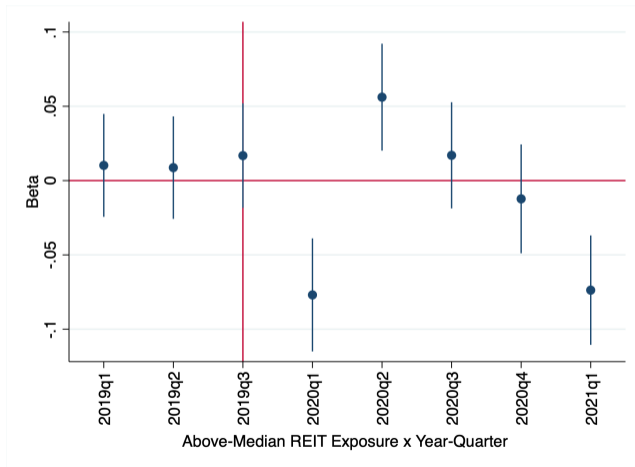
# Bank Performance by REIT Exposure - GFC

$$\text{BankStockReturn}_{it} = \beta_{it} \text{High REIT CL Share}_j \times \mathbf{1}_t + X_{it} + \alpha_j + \gamma_t + \epsilon_{it},$$



# Bank Performance by REIT Exposure - COVID-19

$$\text{BankStockReturn}_{it} = \beta_{it} \text{High REIT CL Share}_i \times \mathbf{1}_t + X_{it} + \alpha_i + \gamma_t + \epsilon_{it},$$



### Take-Aways:

- Banks with higher REIT exposure face higher drawdowns
- Banks with higher REIT exposure suffer more in crisis times
- This effect goes beyond the general systemic/aggregate drawdown risk
- REIT exposure does not boost stock returns outside of crises!

⇒ If credit lines to financial borrowers (REITs) hurt banks they should be more expensive!

## Are banks pricing the risk they are exposed to?

	All in drawn spread (bps)				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
REIT	-51.03*** (0.000)	-23.75*** (0.000)	-14.11*** (0.000)	-12.24*** (0.000)	-27.51*** (0.000)
Financial (Ex-REIT)	-52.87*** (0.000)	-48.46*** (0.000)	-34.22*** (0.000)	-29.26*** (0.000)	-29.14*** (0.000)
Constant	219.2*** (0.000)	190.3*** (0.000)	182.9*** (0.000)	188.8*** (0.000)	190.9*** (0.000)
Rating Group FE	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Loan Controls	N	N	N	Y	Y
Lender x Year-Quarter FE	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Obs.	74,941	47,008	37,424	35,805	35,805
$R^2$	0.021	0.093	0.507	0.532	0.533

- Financial borrowers pay less, even though they pose more risk and are, regulatorily speaking, more expensive!

# Systemic Risk



## Panel A – Estimated parameters

$E[Utilization^{REIT}   Crisis]$	$E[Utilization^{Non-REIT}   Crisis]$	$\gamma^{REIT}$	$\gamma^{Non-REIT}$
0.448	0.294	-2.35	-0.26
$E[Utilization^{All}   Crisis]$		$\gamma^{All}$	
0.301		-0.26	

## Panel B – No heterogeneity in borrowers

Bank (Group)	SRISK <sup>LRMES</sup>	SRISK <sup>CL</sup>	SRISK <sup>Total</sup>
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.	10.0	6.6	16.6
BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATION	9.2	7.5	16.7
WELLS FARGO & COMPANY	4.3	4.8	9.1
MORGAN STANLEY	2.5	1.9	4.4
GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP, INC., THE	4.1	2.7	6.8
Top 10	44.6	35.2	79.8
All	54.1	41.8	95.8

## Panel A – Estimated parameters

$E[Utilization^{REIT}   Crisis]$	$E[Utilization^{Non-REIT}   Crisis]$	$\gamma^{REIT}$	$\gamma^{Non-REIT}$
0.448	0.294	-2.35	-0.26
$E[Utilization^{All}   Crisis]$		$\gamma^{All}$	
0.301		-0.26	

## Panel C – Reflecting REIT vs non-REIT borrowers

Bank (Group)	SRISK <sup>LRMES</sup>	SRISK <sup>CL</sup>	SRISK <sup>Total</sup>
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.	14.0	6.6	20.6
BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATION	13.6	7.6	21.2
WELLS FARGO & COMPANY	6.4	4.8	11.3
MORGAN STANLEY	4.9	1.9	6.9
GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP, INC., THE	5.7	2.7	8.4
Top 10	69.0	35.6	104.6
All	88.9	42.4	131.3

## Panel A – Estimated parameters

$E[Utilization^{REIT}   Crisis]$	$E[Utilization^{Non-REIT}   Crisis]$	$\gamma^{REIT}$	$\gamma^{Non-REIT}$
0.448	0.294	-2.35	-0.26
$E[Utilization^{All}   Crisis]$			$\gamma^{All}$
0.301			-0.26

## Panel D – Percentage increase from considering REITs

Bank (Group)	SRISK <sup>LRMES</sup>	SRISK <sup>CL</sup>	SRISK <sup>Total</sup>
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.	40.12%	0.06%	24.22%
BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATION	48.60%	0.82%	27.12%
WELLS FARGO & COMPANY	48.79%	0.80%	23.60%
MORGAN STANLEY	98.78%	2.37%	57.06%
GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP, INC., THE	39.96%	0.67%	24.38%
Top 10	54.61%	1.14%	31.06%
All	64.28%	1.52%	36.94%

Why do REITs draw down on Credit  
Lines?

## Credit Line Use by REITs

- REITs have to pay out at least 90% of income in the form of dividends (SEC regulations)
- Have very low cash buffers – credit lines important source of short-term liquidity
- Local projections to estimate why REITs use credit lines

$$Y_{i,t+h} - Y_{i,t-1} = \alpha \text{Drawdown}_{i,t} + \beta \text{Drawdown}_{i,t} * \text{Crisis}_t + \alpha_t + \alpha_i + \epsilon_{i,t},$$

- When REIT drawdowns increase, their investments increase, cash falls, dividends go up

## Investments

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	h=0	h=1	h=2	h=3	h=4
Drawdown/ Assets	0.00836*** (0.000)	0.00531*** (0.006)	0.00444 (0.134)	0.00519** (0.021)	0.00784*** (0.004)
Drawdown/Assets x Crisis	0.0162 (0.554)	-0.00282 (0.883)	0.00558 (0.659)	0.00324 (0.789)	-0.00150 (0.876)
Constant	0.0212*** (0.000)	0.0411*** (0.000)	0.0615*** (0.000)	0.0802*** (0.000)	0.0999*** (0.000)
Obs.	11,418	11,039	10,711	10,461	10,098
$R^2$	0.079	0.113	0.144	0.165	0.203

# Cash

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	h=0	h=1	h=2	h=3	h=4
Drawdown/ Assets	-0.0690*** (0.000)	-0.0499*** (0.000)	-0.0461*** (0.000)	-0.0477*** (0.000)	-0.0374*** (0.000)
Drawdown/Assets x Crisis	0.161*** (0.000)	0.0826*** (0.001)	0.0455* (0.098)	0.0301 (0.294)	0.0744*** (0.008)
Constant	0.0124*** (0.000)	0.0304*** (0.000)	0.0465*** (0.000)	0.0668*** (0.000)	0.0883*** (0.000)
Obs.	12118	11753	11427	11115	10806
$R^2$	0.0422	0.0445	0.0580	0.0695	0.0775

## Dividends

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	h=0	h=1	h=2	h=3	h=4
Drawdown/ Assets	0.00779*** (0.003)	0.00599*** (0.006)	0.00618** (0.025)	0.00588** (0.017)	0.00594** (0.014)
Drawdown/Assets x Crisis	0.00997 (0.583)	-0.000111 (0.995)	-0.00760 (0.690)	0.00119 (0.958)	-0.0124 (0.577)
Constant	0.00730*** (0.000)	0.0144*** (0.000)	0.0200*** (0.000)	0.0206*** (0.000)	0.0171*** (0.000)
Obs.	10,123	9,774	9,431	9,220	8,865
$R^2$	0.064	0.093	0.130	0.165	0.194



## Recent Examples of REIT Drawdowns

- High redemption by BREIT and Sreit investors in recent months
- BREIT > 100 bill. in assets, Sreit - 25 bil. in assets
- 2022- BREIT was hit with large redemption requests. BREIT (not publicly traded) limited redemptions at 2% of (NAV) per month.
- May 2024, FT reported Sreit had used 84% of its credit line to satisfy redemptions
- More broadly, redemptions of fund shares can impact the drawdown behavior of REITs

## REIT Redemptions and Credit Line Utilization

	$\Delta$ Drawn CL Volume			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
$\Delta$ Shareholder Equity	-0.330** (0.160)	-0.407** (0.178)	-0.381** (0.174)	-0.451** (0.198)
Controls	N	N	N	Y
REIT FE	N	Y	Y	Y
Year-Quarter FE	N	N	Y	Y
Obs.	6,589	6,583	6,583	2,408
$R^2$	0.003	0.026	0.057	0.133

## Conclusion and Outlook

- Banks are exposed to (systemic) risks through intra-financial credit lines
- CRE crisis can impact banks through their exposure to REITs (in addition to direct bank exposure to CRE)
- This risk for large banks seems to have been ignored in recent discussions in the press and by policymakers
- This slide deck focuses on REITs, but credit lines to NBFIs can transfer risks to the banking sector more broadly (hedge funds, broker dealers, mutual/pension funds etc.)
- The links between the banking and shadow banking system need to be more tightly scrutinized for financial stability

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