

Municipal Bond Market Analysis

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Bond Markets, Analysis and Strategies John Wiley & Sons

The definitive new edition of the most trusted book on municipal bonds As of the end of 1998, municipal bonds, issued by state or local governments to finance public works programs, such as the building of schools, streets, and electrical grids, totaled almost \$1.5 trillion in outstanding debt, a number that has only increased over time. The market for these bonds is comprised of many types of professionals—investment bankers, underwriters, traders, analysts, attorneys, rating agencies, brokers, and regulators—who are paid interest and principal according to a fixed schedule. Intended for investment professionals interested in how US municipal bonds work, *The Fundamentals of Municipal Bonds, Sixth Edition* explains the bond contract and recent changes in this market, providing investors with the information and tools they need to make bonds reliable parts of their portfolios. The market is very different from when the fifth edition was published more than ten years ago, and this revision reasserts *Fundamentals of Municipal Bonds* as the preeminent text in the field Explores the basics of municipal securities, including the issuers, the primary market, and the secondary market Key areas, such as investing in bonds, credit analysis, interest rates, and regulatory and disclosure requirements, are covered in detail This revised edition includes appendixes, a glossary, and a list of financial products related to applying the fundamentals of municipal bonds An official book of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) With today's financial market in recovery and still highly volatile, investors are looking for a safe and steady way to grow their money without having to invest in

stocks. The bond market has always been a safe haven, although confusing new bonds and bond funds make it increasingly difficult for unfamiliar investors to decide on the most suitable fixed income investments.

Bonds Now! INVESTING IN MUNICIPAL BONDS: How to Balance Risk and Reward for Success in Today's Bond Market

Using a large sample of municipal bond data from 2001 to 2010 in the U.S., this paper documents the time variation of the value of municipal bond insurance, estimated from the insured and uninsured bonds yield at issue differentials. We find that insured municipal bonds carry significant lower yields at issue compared to those of the equivalent uninsured bonds before 2008. However, this cost saving disappeared with the aftermath of the subprime credit crisis. We find that the supply of bonds and the level of market interest rates to have significant positive impacts on the time-varying value of bond insurance. We also detect asymmetric response of these yield differentials to rises and declines of market interest rates. Economic intuition suggests that the value of municipal bond insurance is a function of business cycles but our tests support the contrary, which may be explained by the habitat preference of municipal bonds issues.

On the Value of Municipal Bond Insurance MIT Press

This is the eBook of the printed book and may not include any media, website access codes, or print supplements that may come packaged with the bound book. An applied

approach to understanding bond markets. Through its applied approach, Fabozzi's *Bond Markets* prepares readers to analyze the bond market and manage bond portfolios without getting bogged down in the theory. This edition has been streamlined and updated with new content, and features overall enhancements based on previous editions' reader and instructor feedback.

Fabozzi: Bond Markets, Analysis and Strategies eBook PDF GE_o8 John Wiley & Sons

The bond market is a key securities market and emerging economies present exciting, new investment opportunities. This timely book provides insights into these emerging bond markets through empirical models and analytical databases, i.e. Bloomberg, Eikon Refinitiv and the Russian Cbonds. The book looks at the dynamics of the development of emerging bond markets, their competitiveness, features and patterns using macro and micro level data. It also takes into consideration various securities type i.e. government, corporate, sub-federal and municipal bonds, to identify respective challenges and risks. The book also analyses factors that may inhibit or stimulate a well-balanced financial market. It includes case studies of Asian, Latin American and Russian bond markets, as also as cross-country comparisons. It will be a useful reference for anyone who is interested to learn more of the bond market and the modelling techniques for critical data analysis.

The Fundamentals of Municipal Bonds McGraw Hill Professional

"Cities require infrastructure as they grow and persist; infrastructure requires funding, typically from the bond market. But the bond market is not a neutral player. In this groundbreaking book, Destin Jenkins suggests that questions of urban infrastructure are inherently also questions of justice because infrastructure requires financial mechanisms to come into being. Moreover, these mechanisms abstract cities into investments controlled from afar, which exacerbates local inequalities of race, wealth, and power. Ultimately, Jenkins opens up far larger questions, such as why it is that American social welfare is

predicated on the demands of finance capitalism in the first place"--
The Handbook of Municipal Bonds
 Routledge
 Maximize profits with the perfect balance between risk and reward Municipal bonds have traditionally given investors a reliable investment while providing state and local governments with an essential tool for funding public infrastructure projects. Now, the threat of municipalities defaulting and dramatic changes to the muni market's fundamental operations have created an attractive hotbed of opportunity for today's top institutional investors. Investing in Municipal Bonds is the retail investor's road map to the lucrative market that is fueling the digital and physical highways of the future. Only Dr. Philip Fischer can offer such a brilliantly practical amalgam of big-picture financial theory and nuts-and-bolts bond calculations. His crystal-clear explanation of the muni market covers every aspect, including the various "personalities" and traits of different types of bonds. His hands-on strategies for earning more from your money will keep this book at your fingertips as you customize a profitable municipal bond portfolio to achieve your financial goals. Political and business leaders as well as financial professionals seek Dr. Fischer's knowledge and firsthand insights into municipal securities, from day-to-day trading to milestone events like the 2008 financial crisis. Investing in Municipal Bonds shows you how it's done on Wall Street, providing a wealth of pertinent examples from the real world. You can rely on this powerful guidebook for the know-how and skill set you need to confidently: Invest in fixed-rate and variable-rate bonds, including Variable Rate Demand Obligations (VRDOs) Identify different types of bonds and determine how they will be repaid Execute municipal bond-yield calculations Navigate the derivatives market, including LIBOR interest-rate swaps Weigh the benefits of taxable municipal bonds Research municipal securities using the online database of the Municipal Securities Rule Making Board (MSRB) Bond yields will eventually rebound from these historic lows and bring increased risk. Investing in Municipal Bonds will give you the knowledge you need to adjust your risk and balance profit for continued success toward your financial goals. Praise for Investing in Municipal Bonds: "In addition to an accessible discussion of this unique market's financial structures, Fischer provides the historical context for why the market evolved the way it did—and how that history may influence municipal bond investments in an era of slow economic growth and rising costs for retirees."
 —MICHAEL STANTON, Publisher, *The Bond Buyer* "If there were a graduate program in Municipal Finance, Dr.

Fischer's treatise would quickly climb to the top of the syllabus." —JAMES T. COLBY III, Senior Municipal Strategist/Portfolio Manager, Van Eck Global "Dr. Fischer brings a 'what you need to know' approach to the novice and the experienced practitioner alike. He poignantly relates how the very nuanced market structure influences and prices this market. Even with my over 25 years in the business, this book earns a trophy spot on my muni reference shelf."
 —JOSEPH CAMPAGNA, Senior Vice President, BayernLB, Financial Institutions & Sovereigns "A well-written, thorough, and meticulous primer to the history, the instruments, and the segments that comprise the municipal bond market." —PROFESSOR JOHN CHALMERS, Abbott Keller Distinguished Research Scholar, Associate Professor of Finance, Charles H. Lundquist College of Business, University of Oregon "If you would like to learn more about municipal bonds so that you know how to check off each item on the checklist, I highly recommend buying Investing in Municipal Bonds."
 —DAVID WARING, LearnBonds
Investing in the High Yield Municipal Market Financial Markets and Investme
 A practical guide to profiting from the high yield municipal market This unique guide to the high yield municipal bond market sheds some much-needed light on this esoteric but profitable corner of the fixed-income world. It fills the void between the general reference handbooks on municipal bonds and the superficial treatment of do-it-yourself bond guides, with an emphasis on practical trading applications. Having witnessed the beginning of the modern high yield tax-exempt institutional market, author Triet Nguyen documents its historical evolution, outlines a conceptual framework for high yield tax-free investing, one that takes into account both interest rate and credit cycles, and reviews the latest historical data on municipal defaults, including for the first time the non-rated sector. Current distressed opportunities are also discussed. Along the way, Nguyen takes the time to discuss in detail the pros and cons of investing in pre-packaged high yield vehicles—from mutual funds to hedge funds to exchange-traded funds—with frank and objective insider tips on how these slickly marketed products really work. For the truly committed investor who wants to do his or her own homework, Nguyen and a group of industry experts go over the key investment considerations for several major classes of high yield tax-exempt bonds. Offers unique insights

into the risk/return, trading, and liquidity characteristics of high yield municipal instruments Includes interesting case studies to fully illustrate the high yield investing process Written by an insider of both the asset management industry and the broker-dealer community Investing in the High Yield Municipal Market will put you in a better position to profit in this arena and help you excel in today's tough financial environment.
 Efficiency in the Municipal Bond Market John Wiley & Sons
 Financial Markets & Institutions Quick Study Guide & Workbook: Trivia Questions Bank, Worksheets to Review Homeschool Notes with Answer Key PDF (Financial Markets Self Teaching Guide about Self-Learning) includes revision notes for problem solving with 550 trivia questions. Financial Markets and Institutions quick study guide PDF book covers basic concepts and analytical assessment tests. Financial Markets and Institutions question bank PDF book helps to practice workbook questions from exam prep notes. Financial markets quick study guide with answers includes self-learning guide with 550 verbal, quantitative, and analytical past papers quiz questions. Financial Markets trivia questions and answers PDF download, a book to review questions and answers on chapters: Bond markets, financial markets and funds, foreign exchange markets, introduction to financial markets, money markets, mortgage markets, security valuation, world stock markets worksheets for college and university revision notes. Financial Markets interview questions and answers PDF download with free sample book covers beginner's questions, textbook's study notes to practice worksheets. Finance study material includes high school workbook questions to practice worksheets for exam. Financial Markets workbook PDF, a quick study guide with textbook chapters' tests for CFP/CFA/CMA/CPA/CA/ICCI/ACCA competitive exam. Financial Markets book PDF covers problem solving exam tests from business administration practical and textbook's chapters as: Chapter 1: Bond Markets Worksheet Chapter 2: Financial Markets and Funds Worksheet Chapter 3: Foreign Exchange Markets Worksheet Chapter 4: Introduction to Financial Markets Worksheet Chapter 5: Money Markets Worksheet Chapter 6: Mortgage Markets Worksheet Chapter 7: Security Valuation

Worksheet Chapter 8: World Stock Markets Worksheet Solve Bond Markets study guide PDF with answer key, worksheet 1 trivia questions bank: Types of bonds, types of international bonds, treasury bonds, convertible bonds, corporate bonds, Brady and Sovereign bonds, bond market participant, bond market participants, bond market securities, bond markets definition, characteristics of bonds, convertible bond analysis, default risk, financial markets, foreign bonds, mortgage bond, municipal bonds, municipal bonds yields, stock warrants, trading process in bond markets, trading process, corporate bond, trading process, municipal bond, and treasury inflation protected securities. Solve Financial Markets and Funds study guide PDF with answer key, worksheet 2 trivia questions bank: Financial markets, loanable funds demand, loanable funds, supply of loanable fund, default or credit risk, financial security, and time value of money. Solve Foreign Exchange Markets study guide PDF with answer key, worksheet 3 trivia questions bank: Foreign exchange transactions, and inflation rates. Solve Introduction to Financial Markets study guide PDF with answer key, worksheet 4 trivia questions bank: Financial markets, financial institutions and services, financial risk management, risk management and financial institutions, financial security, foreign exchange markets, money market and capital market, mortgage backed securities, primary versus secondary markets, and types of financial institutions. Solve Money Markets study guide PDF with answer key, worksheet 5 trivia questions bank: Money market participants, money market securities, bankers' acceptance, bond markets definition, certificates of deposits, commercial paper, Eurodollar market, federal fund rate, federal funds, repurchase agreement, secondary market issues, and secondary market trading process. Solve Mortgage Markets study guide PDF with answer key, worksheet 6 trivia questions bank: Mortgage backed securities, and primary mortgage markets. Solve Security Valuation study guide PDF with answer key, worksheet 7 trivia questions bank: Security value, financial security, bond market securities, impact of financial maturity, maturity impact, and types of bonds. Solve World Stock Markets study guide PDF with answer key, worksheet 8 trivia questions bank:

Stock markets, primary and secondary stock markets, stock market index, caps floor and collars, common stock, derivative securities market, options in stock markets, preferred stock, stock market securities, swaps, option values, and types of trading. Major Work Stoppages John Wiley & Sons
 Praise for SURVIVING THE BOND BEAR MARKET "A confluence of events are converging to produce a rise in bond yields and a decline in bond prices. Authors Cohen and Malburg call the emerging bear market in bonds . . . 'Bondland's Nuclear Winter.' I call shorting bonds . . . 'The Trade of the Decade.' But whatever it is called, this book articulates the root cause of the developing crisis by taking you through a journey of strong analysis, great anecdotes, and visual stories." Doug Kass, founder and President, Seabreeze Partners Management "Baby Boomers beware the thirty-year bond bull market is finished. Marilyn Cohen describes the bond market's coming nuclear winter and what investors must do to protect themselves. This book comes with an automated workbook to help you manage your bond investments like the pros. Learn to build a bond market bomb shelter and pick the green shoots when it is safe to come out again. Cohen prepares you for the worst, even as she hopes for the best." Jane Bryant Quinn, author of Linkages between Housing and Municipal Bond Markets John Wiley & Sons
 Everything on Treasuries, munis, bond funds, and more! The bond buyer's answer book—updated for the new economy "As in the first two editions, this third edition of The Bond Book continues to be the ideal reference for the individual investor. It has all the necessary details, well explained and illustrated without excessive mathematics. In addition to providing this essential content, it is extremely well written." —James B. Cloonan, Chairman, American Association of Individual Investors
 "Annette Thau makes the bond markets interesting, approachable, and clear. As much as investors will continue to depend on fixed-income securities during their retirement years, they'll need an insightful guide that ensures they're appropriately educated and served. The Bond Book does just that." —Jeff Tjerne, Research Director, U.S. and Canada, Lipper, Thomson Reuters "Not only a

practical and easy-to-understand guide for the novice, but also a comprehensive reference for professionals. Annette Thau provides the steps to climb to the top of the bond investment ladder. The Bond Book should be a permanent fixture in any investment library!" —Thomas J. Herzfeld, President, Thomas Herzfeld Advisors, Inc. "If the financial crisis of recent years has taught us anything, it's buyer beware. Fact is, bonds can be just as risky as stocks. That's why Annette Thau's new edition of The Bond Book is essential reading for investors who want to know exactly what's in their portfolios. It also serves as an excellent guide for those of us who are getting older and need to diversify into fixed income." —Jean Gruss, Southwest Florida Editor, Gulf Coast Business Review, and former Managing Editor, Kiplinger's Retirement Report About the Book The financial crisis of 2008 caused major disruptions to every sector of the bond market and left even the savviest investors confused about the safety of their investments. To serve these investors and anyone looking to explore opportunities in fixed-income investing, former bond analyst Annette Thau builds on the features and authority that made the first two editions bestsellers in the thoroughly revised, updated, and expanded third edition of The Bond Book. This is a one-stop resource for both seasoned bond investors looking for the latest information on the fixed-income market and equities investors planning to diversify their holdings. Writing in plain English, Thau presents cutting-edge strategies for making the best bond-investing decisions, while explaining how to assess risks and opportunities. She also includes up-to-date listings of online resources with bond prices and other information. Look to this all-in-one guide for information on such critical topics as: Buying individual bonds or bond funds The ins and outs of open-end funds, closed-end funds, and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) The new landscape for municipal bonds: the changed rating scales, the near demise of bond insurance, and Build America Bonds (BABs) The safest bond funds Junk bonds (and emerging market bonds) Buying Treasuries without paying a commission From how bonds work to how to buy and sell them to what to expect from them, The Bond Book, third edition, is a must-read for individual investors and financial advisers who want to enhance the

fixed-income allocation of their portfolios.

Shading the U.S. Municipal Bond Market Green Pearson Higher Ed
This dissertation focuses on the municipal bond market. Chapter 1 first introduces the classification of municipal bonds, then summarizes the literature that talk about the determinants of municipal bond yields, and finally classifies the determinants into three classes: the economic status of the state where the bond is issued, the demographic characteristics of the state, and the financial status of the state or the local government where the bond is issued. Chapter 2 introduces two nonparametric econometric techniques, including nonparametric regressions and gradient boosting. Compared with traditional ordinary least square methods, these two techniques can help us capture both nonlinearity and potential random interactions among key determinants in the analysis of municipal bond yields. Chapter 3 performs a comprehensive analysis on the determinants of general obligation municipal bond yields and examines the impact of the recent financial crisis on the underlying relations. A systematic comparison of the relations before and after the 2008 financial crisis shows that the economic and financial health of local governments has become markedly more diverse since the crisis began. The relation between the municipal bond yields and the economic and financial health of the local governments has also become stronger because of the larger differentiation among the local governments and hence larger signal to noise ratio, as well as closer scrutiny by market participants on the economic fundamentals of municipal governments. Chapter 3 also provides a new prediction framework and shows that accommodating nonlinearities and random interaction effects can significantly enhance the predictive performance on the municipal bond yields.

The Determinants of Municipal Bond Yields McGraw Hill Professional

The updated edition of a widely

used textbook that covers fundamental features of bonds, analytical techniques, and portfolio strategy. This new edition of a widely used textbook covers types of bonds and their key features, analytical techniques for valuing bonds and quantifying their exposure to changes in interest rates, and portfolio strategies for achieving a client's objectives. It includes real-world examples and practical applications of principles as provided by third-party commercial vendors. This tenth edition has been substantially updated, with two new chapters covering the theory and history of interest rates and the issues associated with bond trading. Although all chapters have been updated, particularly those covering structured products, the chapters on international bonds and managing a corporate bond portfolio have been completely revised. The book covers the basic analytical framework necessary to understand the pricing of bonds and their investment characteristics; sectors of the debt market, including Treasury securities, corporate bonds, municipal bonds, and structured products (residential and commercial mortgage-backed securities and asset-backed securities); collective investment vehicles; methodologies for valuing bonds and derivatives; corporate bond credit risk; portfolio management, including the fundamental and quantitative approaches; and instruments that can be used to control portfolio risk. The Fundamentals of Municipal Bonds Bushra Arshad
Debt Markets and Investments provides an overview of the dynamic world of markets, products, valuation, and analysis of fixed income and related securities. Experts in the field, practitioners and academics, offer both diverse and in-depth insights into basic concepts and their application to increasingly intricate and real-world situations. This volume spans the entire spectrum from theoretical to practical, while attempting to offer a useful balance of detailed and user-friendly coverage. The volume begins with the basics of debt markets and investments, including basic bond terminology and market sectors.

Among the topics covered are the relationship between fixed income and other asset classes as well as the differences in fundamental risk. Particular emphasis is given to interest rate risk as well as credit risks as well as those associated with inflation, liquidity, reinvestment, and ESG. Authors then turn to market sectors, including government debt, municipal bonds, the markets for corporate bonds, and developments in securitized debt markets along with derivatives and private debt markets. The third section focuses on models of yield curves, interest rates, and swaps, including opportunities for arbitrage. The next two sections focus on bond and securitized products, from sovereign debt and mutual funds focused on bonds to how securitization has increased liquidity through such innovations as mortgaged-and asset-backed securities, as well as collateralized debt-, bond-, and loan obligations. Authors next discuss various methods of valuation of bonds and securities, including the use of options and derivatives. The volume concludes with discussions of how debt can play a role in financial strategies and portfolio creation. Readers interested in a broad survey will benefit as will those looking for more in-depth presentations of specific areas within this field of study. In summary, the book provides a fresh look at this intriguing and dynamic but often complex subject.

An Analysis of the Municipal Bond Market John Wiley & Sons

The housing recession has multiple flow-through effects, among them a potential for negatively impacting the financial condition of some municipalities, and therefore parts of the municipal bond market. We explore linkages between housing and municipal bond markets at the county level using a unique data-set. To control for systematic or macro effects, we use yield spreads and isolate periods of rising and declining home prices. We further control for amount of debt outstanding and credit rating to refine our analysis. Our principal findings are: The theoretical relationship between home prices and municipal bond spreads does exist empirically, but in an asymmetric fashion. That is, when home prices are stable or rising, there is little effect on spreads. But when home prices decline, there is a negative correlation with spreads. Counties with greater home price declines have experienced higher yield spreads.

Ratings have discriminatory ability, with counties having lower rated debt being more sensitive to declining home prices. Counties with larger house price declines are those with greater indebtedness. Thus, they have had to incur higher than average increase in municipal funding costs. We believe that this creates a powerful negative feedback mechanism.

State Fiscal Institutions and the U.S. Municipal Bond Market Jai Press

This is the eBook of the printed book and may not include any media, website access codes, or print supplements that may come packaged with the bound book. For students enrolled in Fixed Income Securities Courses or Bond Markets Courses. A Practical Approach to Analyzing Bond Markets Fabozzi's Bond Markets, Analysis and Strategies offers students practical advice for analyzing bonds and proven portfolio strategies for achieving client objectives. Using an applied approach, Bond Markets helps students quickly grasp and apply key concepts without getting bogged down in theory. Th.

Essays on the Municipal Bond Market World Bank Publications

Green municipal bonds are a growing segment of the US municipal bond market. As they face increasing demand, there have been questions about the performance of green muni bonds relative to their conventional counterparts. In this paper, we perform yield curve analysis on a selection of green-labelled muni bonds that were issued at the same time as conventional muni bonds by the same issuers. We further refine this down to a pair-wise analysis to check the yield differential between pairs of bonds that are identical except for the green label. We find that there is a growing trend towards green premium in both the primary and secondary markets in both the series trend analysis and in the pair-wise analysis.

Surviving the Bond Bear Market

International Monetary Fund

This paper assesses liquidity risk for the United States (U.S.) bond mutual funds industry and performs a range of analyses to identify which fund categories are more vulnerable to distress than others, and how sales from funds can impact financial stability. We develop a new measure to identify vulnerable categories based on expected outflows labelled 'Flows in Distress'. Overall, most U.S. mutual funds are resilient yet high yield (HY) and loan funds would face a liquidity shortfall when faced

with severe redemption shocks. Combined sales from funds can have a sizeable price impact. Finally, our contagion analysis using data on fund flows and returns shows that Investment Grade (IG) corporate bonds funds, municipal bond funds and government bond funds are more likely to spread distress to other fund categories than HY, EM and loan funds. When the first type of funds experiences stress, other funds categories are likely to experience stress as well.

Bond Markets, Analysis, and Strategies, tenth edition Academic Press

A money-making formula for navigating the bond market's new rules of fixed income investing The credit meltdown has completely reshaped the market for government bonds, Treasury bonds, T-bills, and high yield bond funds. Investors are flocking to corporate bonds and municipal bonds. Tax advantaged bonds have become the safe haven of choice. But you have to know where to look. Bonds Now! shows you. Bonds Now! offers rare insight into safely investing in fixed income vehicles while maintaining necessary liquidity and meeting yield targets. It doesn't waste a lot of time on the elementary basics, but instead, jumps right in and shows you how to build a safe bond portfolio designed to weather turbulent economic downturns.

Discusses how to quickly analyze a bond as well as buy and sell them Examines what it takes to build an impregnable fortress around your bond portfolio Reveals how to develop a sixth sense for trouble and sell your bond position while there's still time There is only one way to guarantee you're getting the right information-get it yourself. Bonds Now! shows you how and where, but even more importantly, this reliable resource clearly explains what to do with it once you have it. This is a knockout formula with proven results. It is the only way to guarantee the bond market won't steal your money. Today's explosive financial environment demands that investors find a safe haven for their money. Using Bonds Now! as your guide, the bond market is that

place. Buy this book today and start your own journey to economic recovery.

Chaos in the Municipal Bond Market Pearson Education India

Because of the trend toward decentralization in more than 70 countries where the World Bank is active, subnational entities (states regions, provinces, counties and municipalities, and the local utility companies owned by them) are now responsible for delivering services and investing in infrastructure. And infrastructure investments are growing rapidly to meet increasing urban demand. How should the World Bank Group help?

An Analysis of the Municipal Bond Market, Factors Influencing Municipal Bond Participation University of Chicago Press The municipal bond market is a financial market that does not draw much attention from academics, researchers, the government or practitioners. However, that changed recently when the largest recession since the Great Depression impacted the U.S. economy. Now everyone is struggling to understand two major questions: 1) How do we mark to market bonds in illiquid markets? and 2) Why are 50% of new issues insured in a market that has the lowest default rate of any bond market other than the treasury market? This dissertation examines those questions in three parts. The first part, The Effect of Insurance on Municipal Bond Yields, studies the difference between insured and uninsured municipal bond yields. I find that although some of that difference is attributable to the effect of insurance, another channel comes from self selection to insure -- municipalities that choose to insure differ significantly from municipalities who choose not to insure. Without accounting for the latter self selection the insurance benefit appears undervalued. By focusing on municipalities with both outstanding insured and uninsured bonds (mixed municipalities), I identify that in the pre-crisis period insurance for such municipalities reduces municipal bond yields by 8 basis points. But analysis of

homogeneous municipalities reveals the self selection effect raises yields by 6 basis points. However, during the recent financial crisis, insurance continued to lower yields by 8 bps, whereas the self selection effect increased yields by 18 basis points. Thus, my work explains the recent initially puzzling phenomenon when insured yields rose above uninsured yields. The second part, *The Effect of Insurance on Liquidity*, examines liquidity in the municipal bond market during the recent financial crisis. I analyze the effects of insurance on liquidity for municipal bonds and estimate how the effects of insurance change when the insurers face a loss of capital and rating downgrades. I measure liquidity in the three ways most suited for illiquid markets: the Amihud measure, Roll's bid-ask measure, and turnover. By all three measures, both before and after the financial crisis, bonds with insurance are less liquid than bonds without insurance. I also find that the liquidity of bonds with insurance decreases over the financial crisis. These findings indicate that insurance does not improve liquidity. The third part, *A Municipal Bond Market Index Based on a Repeat Sales Methodology*, introduces a repeat sales methodology to create an index for the municipal bond market based on transactional prices, because the current indices are based on estimated bond prices. The repeat sales methodology can calculate an index for any municipal bond characteristic. I create and analyze indices for the municipal bond market and separate indices by rating, maturity, and characteristics such as insurance and bond type (i.e. General Obligation or Revenue). Repeat sales methodology is based on the assumption that characteristics of the bond do not change over time which means the movements in bond prices are due to evolving market conditions. I compare the repeat sales indices with the existing municipal bond indices and find the repeat sales indices highly correlated with the current indices with a correlation of .8.