



Welcome to our September 2023 Recap:

We are pleased to welcome you to our September 2023 month-end report.

Rates go up, markets go up? Nope! That was true a couple of months ago. Rates have gone up, and, just like the blast from Joshua's horn caused the walls to tumble, equity came falling down in response. There is a lot of impassioned hand-wringing. Everyone wants to see the end of the rate increases. On this point, we will side with the lemmings. There is a limit to the immediate pain, woe and misery Mr. Powell will seem to unleash on the markets-especially heading into the electioneering season in the US.

Truth be told, it is the view of this author that interest rates are endogenous (especially in the long run). Given the near failure of the banking system earlier this year, the COVID closure aftermath and oodles of misspent capital, it is a wonder it took this long for rates to adjust. Let us also not forget a long discarded theory of interest rate determination. Namely, there is a fixed amount of savings (low elasticity of supply), and some demand function for loanable funds. With low elasticity of supply and a profligate government, borrowing everything and sundry, the equilibrium interest rates must rise, irrespective of the Fed. The paradox is that the Fed's move probably catalyzed a change that was likely to happen. Mr Powell is pilloried right and left. However, just as Greenspan and Bernanke never earned the praise bestowed upon them, the clean up guy (Powell) doesn't deserve the slings and arrows. With a limited supply of loanable funds in the economy, the Fed will most likely be the backstop in the bond market. They must supply the loanable funds that private sources do not have. This is the tango with the Devil that will be hard to escape. It is the seductive dance that consumed Hungary, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe. Whether the Fed Funds target is raised or lowered, the big risk is the creeping monetization of the debt. We predict that the stable price mandate of the Fed will fade. You can't have omelets if you never break a few eggs. The choice will be between a failed US Government bond market and high inflation. It is easy to see that a few eggs will be broken.

What are the implications for commodities? The moves in commodities have been muted. Yes, oil is up. Some of the oil derivatives are showing signs of life, but this is due more to OPEC+ coordination and less the interest rate policy. We believe that many or most commodities should see a bid. On the other hand, the effect is likely to be complicated because the basis is likely to change dramatically. This interplay between buying pressure as well as the increased financing cost might have all sorts of effects on the shape of price curves. We would expect both realized and implied volatility to rise. Consumers and producers of commodities would do well to consider building a hedging

program now-in a much more forgiving environment. We stand by to offer our help.

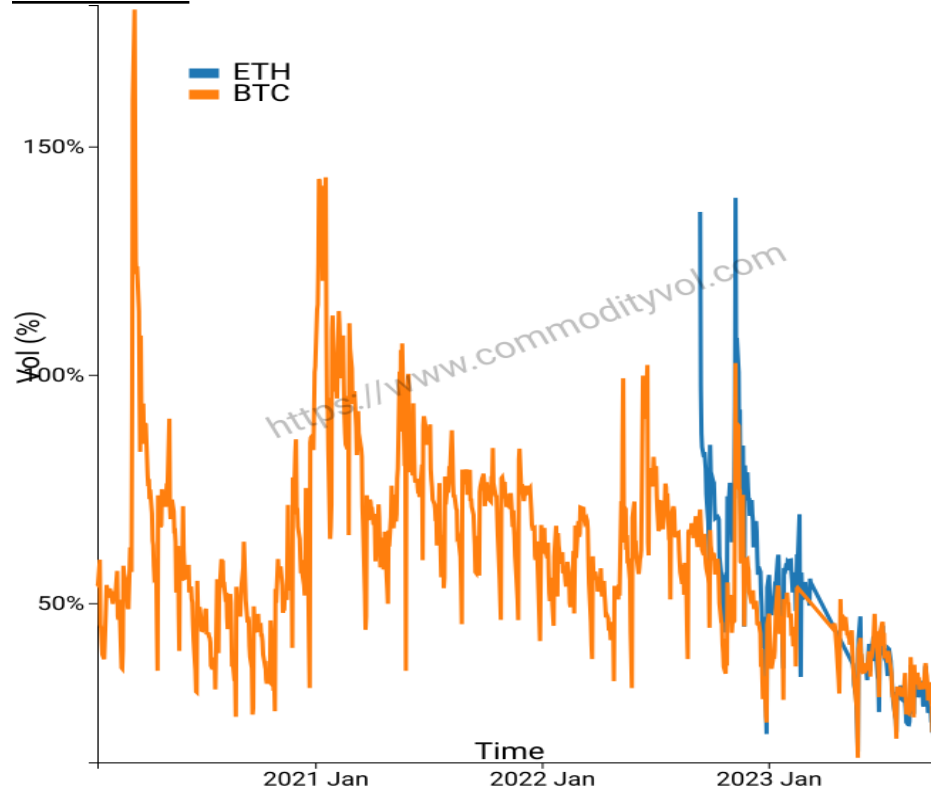
All things in consideration, the FX market seems to be uncertain what direction to take. The Dollar gained slightly against the Yen and the Euro. The crypto futures contracts also gained. Vol was down almost across the board. It is interesting that the Ethereum contract has mirrored closely the BTC contract-with the implied volatility diminishing for both.

[Foreign Exchange ATM](#)

[Bitcoin Detail](#)

[Yen Detail](#)

[Pound Detail](#)



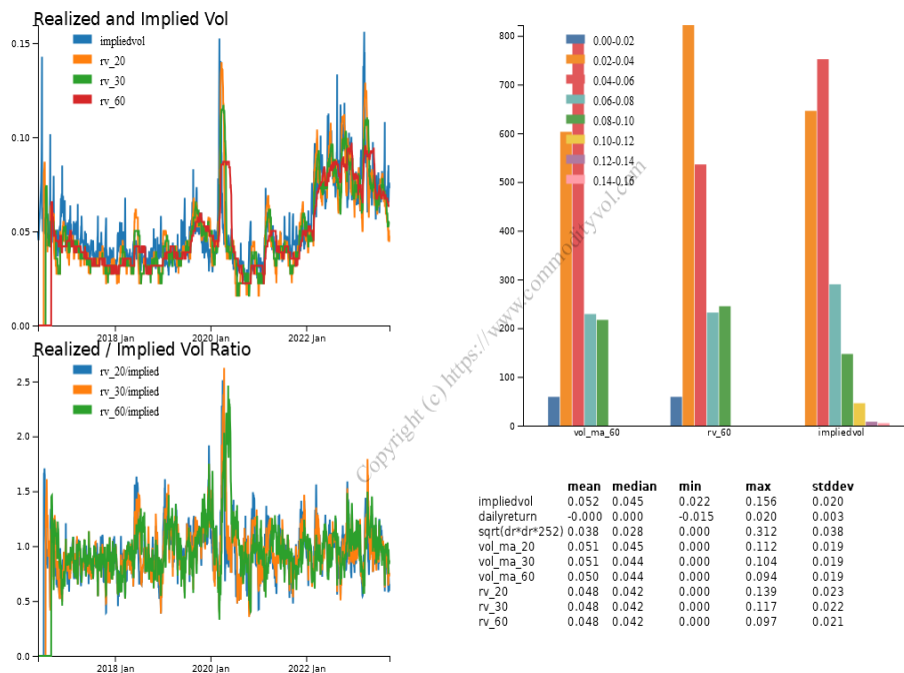
The interest rate picture got an update this past month. The certainty that this Fed Fund rate revision was the last one has collapsed. Unlike the previous times, the curve has sold off and stayed sold off. The move was approximately in line with the maturity of the futures. The biggest move was in the long end of the market. Vol also increased dramatically. Vol increased 10 bps at the short end to about 300 bps at the 30 Year or Ultra Bond contract. Looking at realized to implied ratios in the US Treasury contract, it is easy to see the uncertainty creeping into the picture.

Interest Rates ATM

10 Year Detail

30 Year Detail

10 YR US Treasury Note Options Front Month 50Δ



The index magic came up short this month. S&P 500 was down a bit more than 4%. The Russell Index was down approximately 7%. Vol rocketed up dramatically, but, our view is that vol is below its historical norms. S&P500 vol rallied by 570 bps. The VIX moved up 4.48-which close to the S&P 500. The vol of vol rocketed up. Again, the levels are still very low from a historical perspective. We are also entering the Christmas shopping season. If the reports about diminishing credit quality are true, the holiday season might be another downside catalyst.

EquityIndex ATM

SP500 Detail

VIX Detail

Metals were mostly down. Copper, Gold and Platinum were down significantly. Palladium was the only standout. The feeling seems to be that metals are suffering from the expected slow down as the rates bite. Our view is that this is temporary. The Fed must provide liquidity and that will put upward pressure on prices. Implied vol was up for Gold and Silver, with vol down for Palladium.

Metals ATM

[Copper Detail](#)

[Silver Detail](#)

Except for cattle, almost all agricultural commodities were down. The soybean complex was down aggressively, from 5 to 14%. Wheat was down approximately 10%. Vol was down in most commodities, except for cattle, oats and bean oil. This is a far cry from what was happening a couple of months ago.

[Ags ATM](#)

[Wheat Detail](#)

[Soybeans Detail](#)

[Corn Detail](#)

[Ags Details](#)

Just as the talking heads were sure that the rates would stop rising, they were sure that the OPEC+ cartel would fail. OPEC+ has so far been quite deft in its moves around managing the supply of oil. Brent was up 3.65 and WTI was up about \$5.24. Implied volatility for both contracts showed an unusually healthy bid, rising by 360 bps for Brent and 470 bps for WTI. The decision of Russia to cease exporting diesel has put a floor under diesel. However, the moves have been very sedate. Implied vol is up, but nothing to suggest fear in the market. We shall see how calm things remain into winter. Finally, Natural Gas was up 0.16, with vol continuing to drip away.

[Energy ATM](#)

[US Natty Gas Detail](#)

[Details Energy](#)

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info@commodityvol.com

At The Money Roundup of Products

exch/prod	desc	futures chng [%]	vol chng [%]
CBT/YM	E-Mini Dow	-1157.000 [-3.3%]	+0.032 [+33.2%]
CME/NQ	E-Mini Nasdaq	-649.750 [-4.2%]	+0.052 [+34.7%]
CME/RTO	E-Mini Russell 2000	-124.100 [-6.5%]	+0.056 [+42.5%]
CME/RTM	E-Mini Russell EOM	-143.600 [-7.4%]	+0.036 [+24.3%]
CME/ES	E-Mini S&P 500	-196.000 [-4.3%]	+0.057 [+60.0%]
CBOE/VIX	VIX Volatility Index	+4.430 [+33.8%]	+0.393 [+74.5%]

Energy

exch/prod	desc	futures chng [%]	vol chng [%]
NYMEX/BZO	Brent Crude Oil Margin	+3.650 [+4.1%]	+0.036 [+14.3%]
NYMEX/BE	Brent Euro Style	+4.400 [+5.0%]	+0.032 [+12.3%]
NYMEX/CVR	Chicago Ethanol(platts) Average Price	-0.075 [-3.3%]	+0.028 [+16.5%]
NYMEX/LO	Crude Oil	+5.240 [+6.1%]	+0.047 [+17.6%]
NYMEX/LN	European Natural Gas	+0.164 [+5.9%]	-0.038 [-6.1%]
NYMEX/E7	Henry Hub Financial Last Day	+0.164 [+5.9%]	-0.042 [-6.7%]
NYMEX/ON	Natural Gas	+0.164 [+5.9%]	-0.039 [-6.3%]
NYMEX/OH	NY Harbor ULSD	+0.196 [+6.3%]	+0.013 [+4.1%]
NYMEX/OB	RBOB	-0.192 [-7.4%]	+0.018 [+5.6%]

Forex

exch/prod	desc	futures chng [%]	vol chng [%]
CME/ADU	AUDUSD 2pmfix	+0.000 [+0.0%]	-0.003 [-2.9%]
CME/BTC	Bitcoin	+1400.000 [+5.4%]	-0.025 [-8.1%]
CME/CAU	CADUSD 2pmfix	+0.003 [+0.4%]	+0.005 [+9.1%]
CME/CHU	CHFUSD 2pmfix	-0.030 [-2.6%]	+0.011 [+18.6%]
CME/ETH	Ethereum	+55.500 [+3.4%]	-0.024 [-7.5%]
CME/EUU	EURUSD 2pmfix	-0.017 [-1.6%]	+0.002 [+2.7%]
CME/GBU	GBPUSD 2pmfix	-0.038 [-3.0%]	+0.009 [+14.5%]
CME/JPU	JPYUSD 2pmfix	-0.000 [-1.2%]	-0.004 [-5.3%]
CME/MP	Mexican Peso	-0.002 [-2.8%]	+0.016 [+14.1%]
CME/NE	New Zealand	+0.006 [+1.0%]	+0.003 [+3.1%]

InterestRates

exch/prod	desc	futures chng [%]	vol chng [%]
CBT/26	2 YR US Treasury Note	-0.523 [-0.5%]	-0.001 [-3.2%]
CBT/25	5 YR US Treasury Note	-1.367 [-1.3%]	+0.002 [+4.3%]
CBT/21	10 YR US Treasury Note	-2.516 [-2.3%]	+0.008 [+11.7%]
CBT/17	30 YR US Treasury Bond	-6.563 [-5.5%]	+0.029 [+24.3%]
CBT/UBE	Long Term US Treasury Bond	-9.094 [-7.1%]	+0.038 [+25.8%]
CME/S0	One-year Mid-curve Three-month SOFR	-0.065 [-0.1%]	+0.000 [+1.1%]
CME/SR3	Three-month SOFR	-0.045 [-0.0%]	+0.002 [+64.8%]
CME/S3	Three-year Mid-curve Three-month SOFR	-0.345 [-0.4%]	+0.002 [+13.5%]
CME/S2	Two-year Mid-curve Three-month SOFR	-0.285 [-0.3%]	+0.000 [+2.5%]

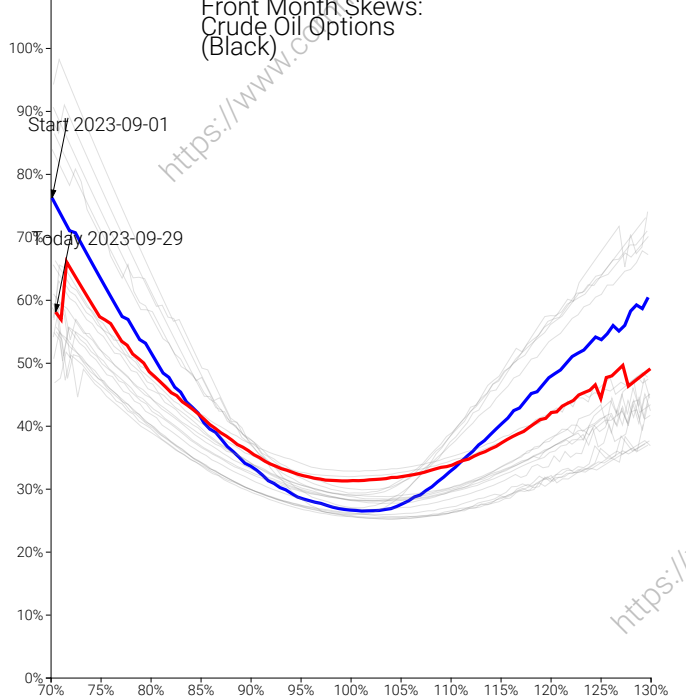
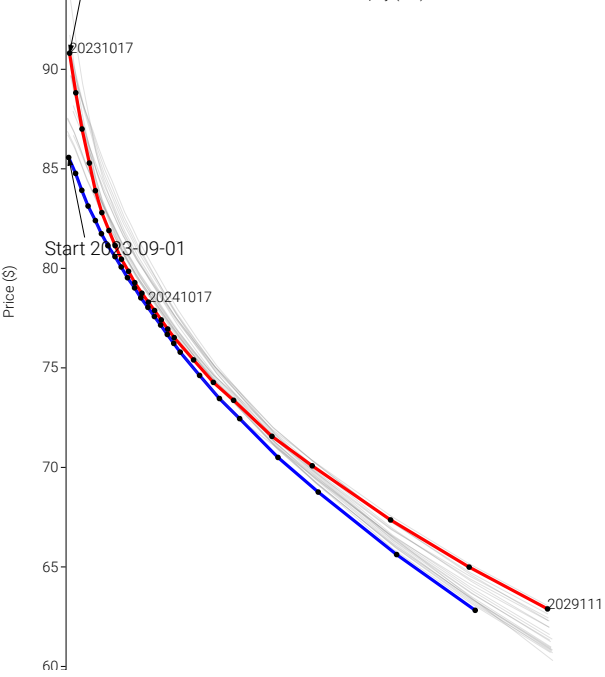
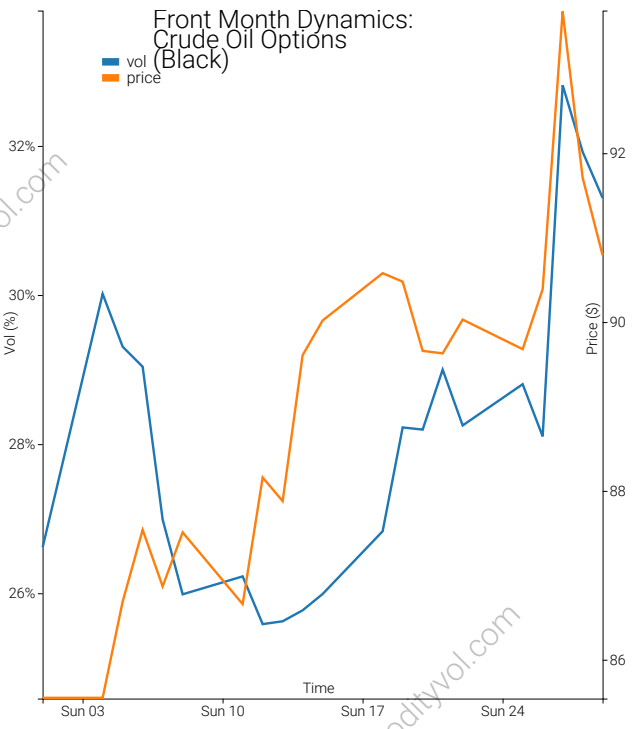
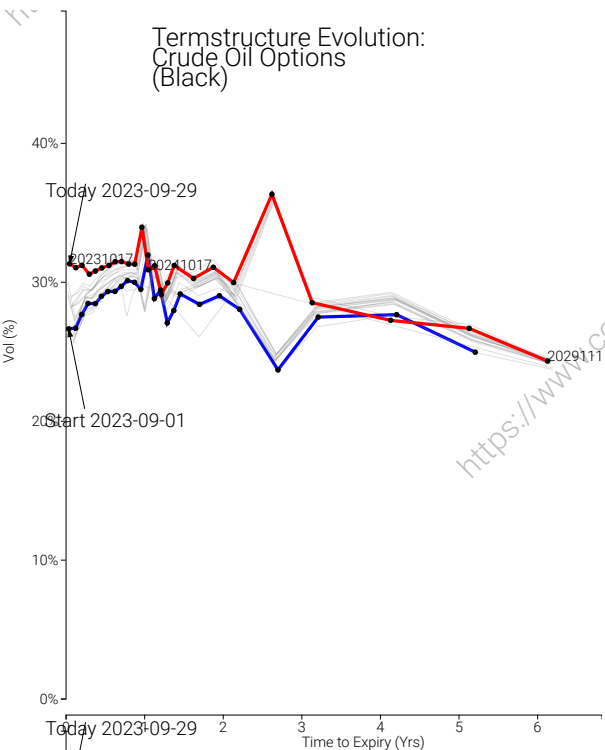
Metals

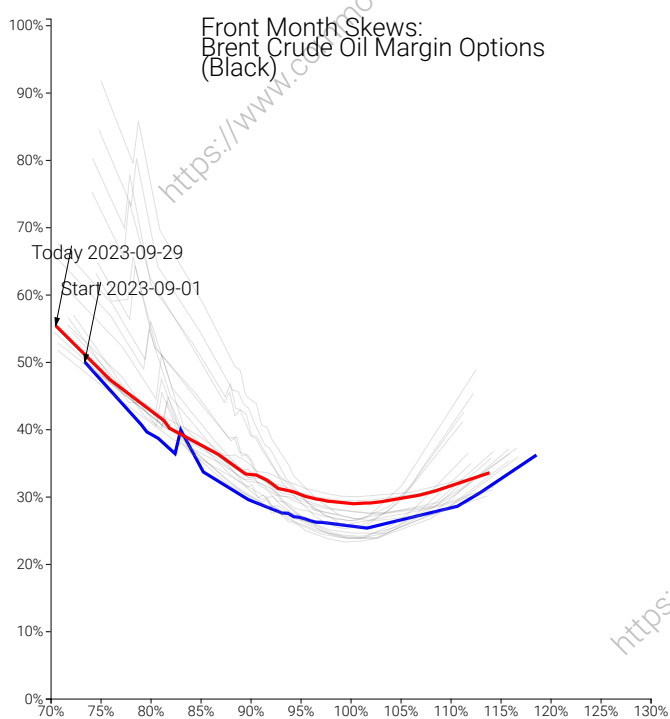
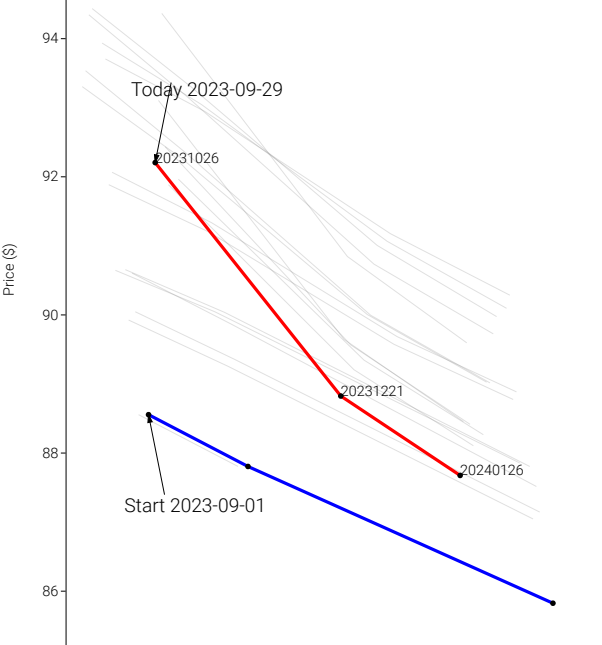
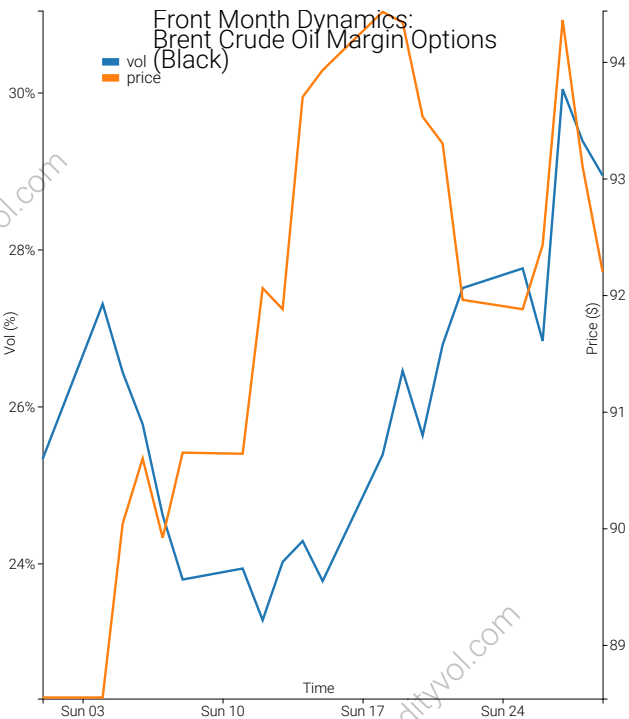
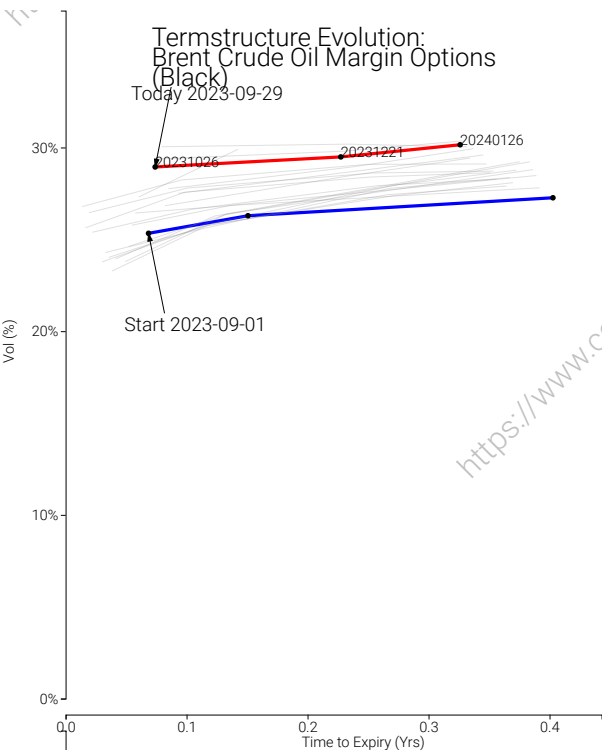
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COMEX/HX	Copper	-0.115 [-3.0%]	+0.004 [+2.4%]
COMEX/OG	Gold	-82.300 [-4.2%]	+0.013 [+13.7%]
NYMEX/PAO	Palladium	+28.600 [+2.3%]	-0.054 [-14.6%]
NYMEX/PO	Platinum	-52.800 [-5.5%]	-0.006 [-2.9%]
COMEX/SO	Silver	-2.112 [-8.6%]	+0.034 [+16.8%]

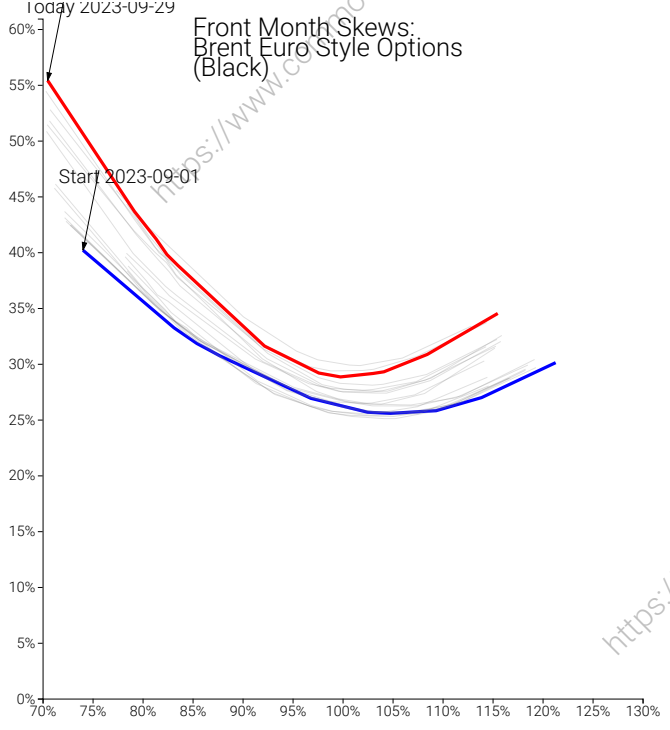
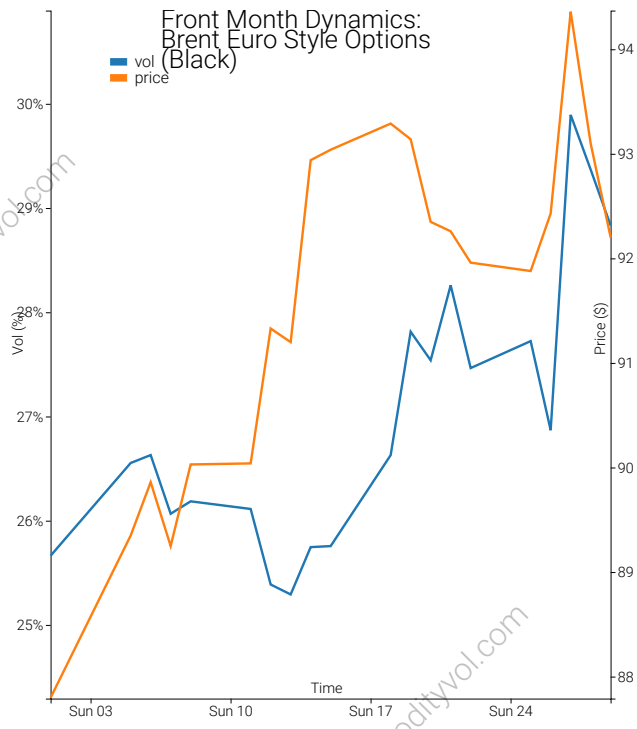
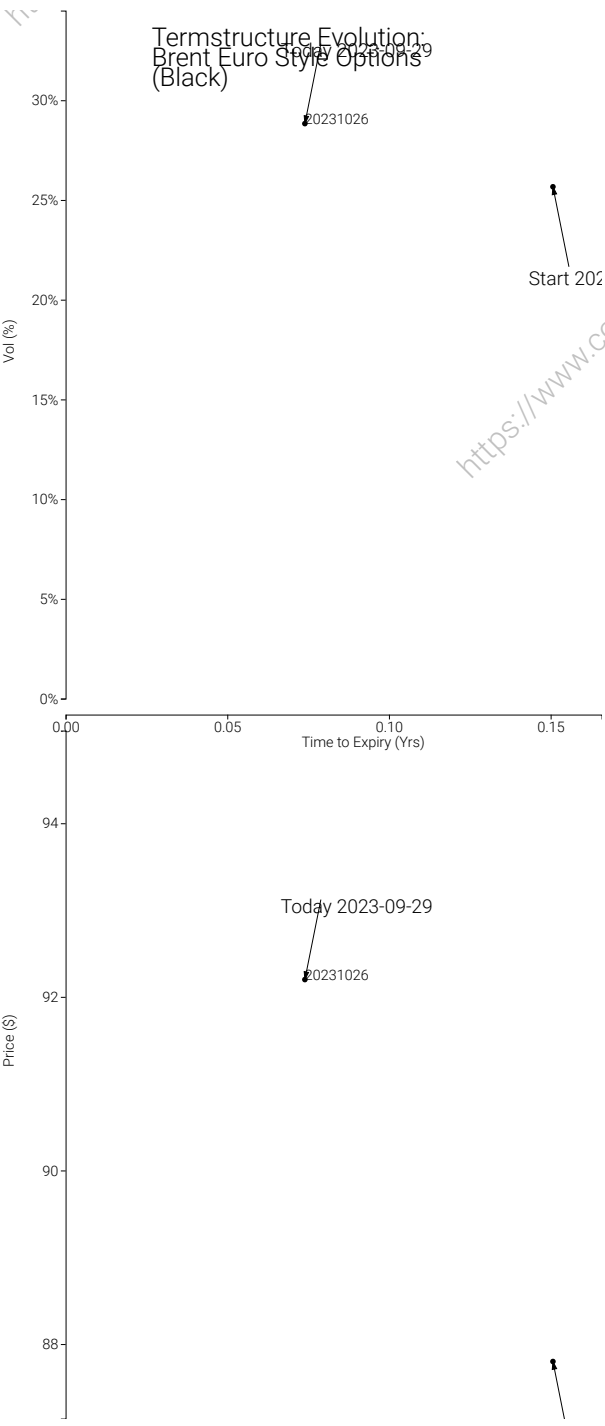
exch/prod	desc	futures chng [%]	vol chng [%]
CME/DK	Class IV Milk	+0.250 [+1.3%]	-0.085 [-75.0%]
CBT/C	Corn	-0.048 [-1.0%]	-0.067 [-26.8%]
CME/62	Feeder Cattle	+0.625 [+0.2%]	+0.021 [+26.0%]
CBT/KW	KC HRW Wheat	-0.590 [-8.2%]	-0.020 [-6.6%]
CME/LN	Lean Hog	-2.850 [-3.4%]	-0.046 [-20.0%]
CME/48	Live Cattle	+4.050 [+2.2%]	+0.009 [+8.7%]
CME/NF	Nonfat Dry Milk	+0.675 [+0.6%]	-0.073 [-82.9%]
CBT/O	Oats	-0.540 [-11.1%]	+0.104 [+24.3%]
CBT/14	Rough Rice	-0.655 [-4.0%]	-0.015 [-8.9%]
CBT/S	Soybean	-0.943 [-6.9%]	-0.010 [-6.0%]
CBT/06	Soybean Meal	-20.000 [-5.0%]	-0.022 [-9.9%]
CBT/07	Soybean Oil	-8.920 [-13.8%]	+0.012 [+4.6%]
CBT/W	Wheat	-0.540 [-9.1%]	-0.021 [-6.6%]

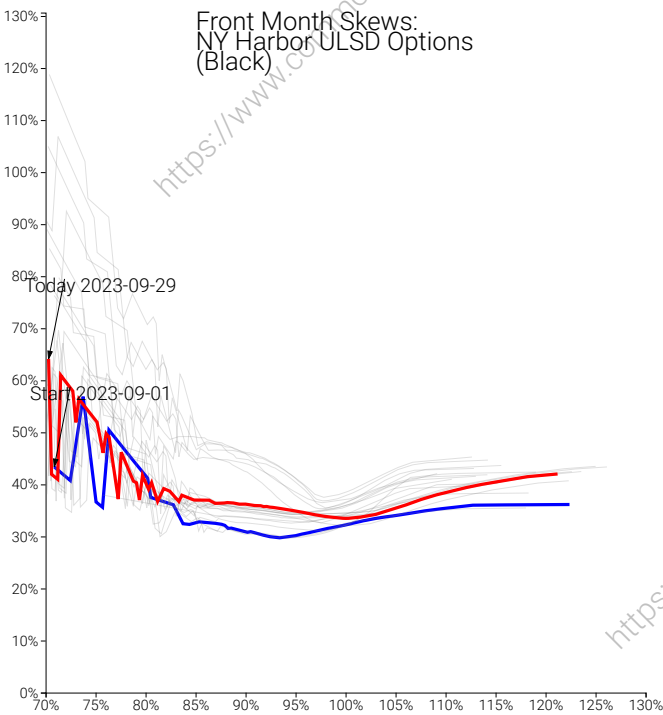
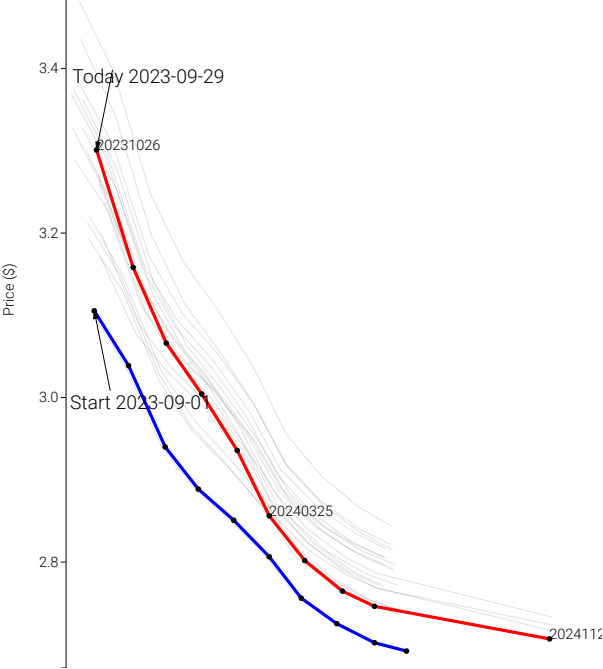
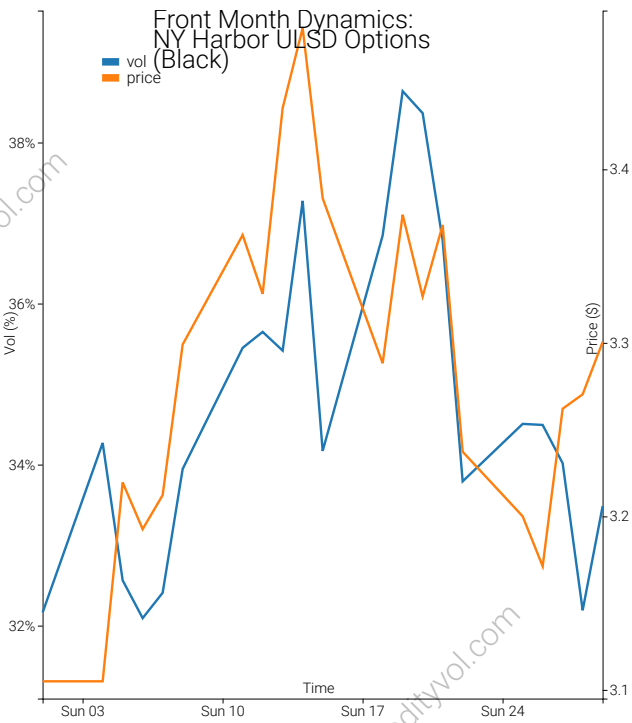
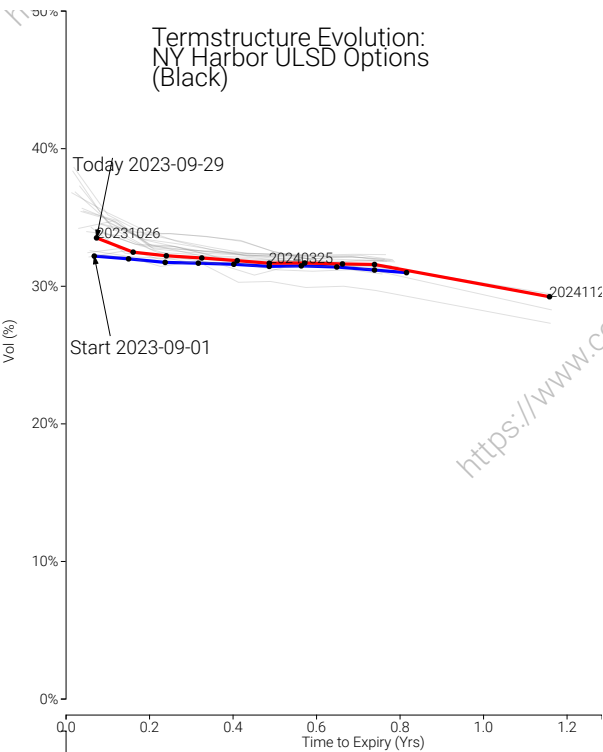
Skews, Termstructures and more

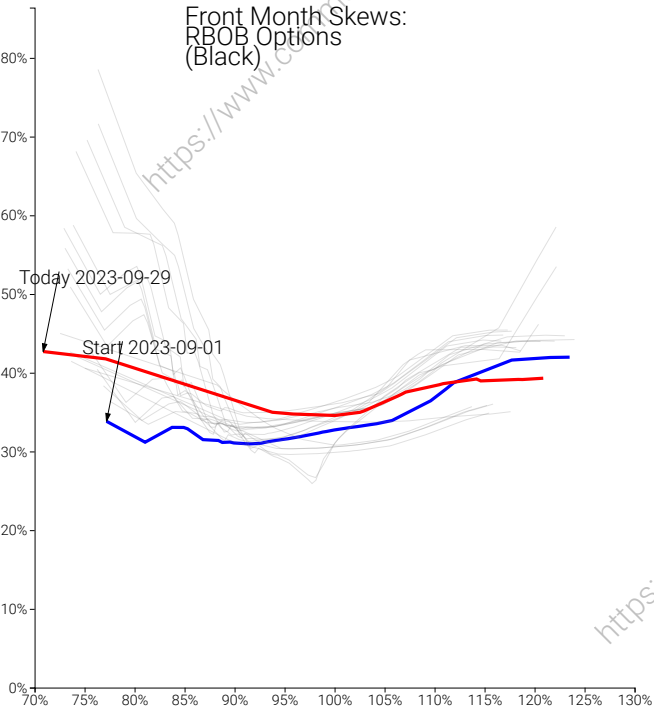
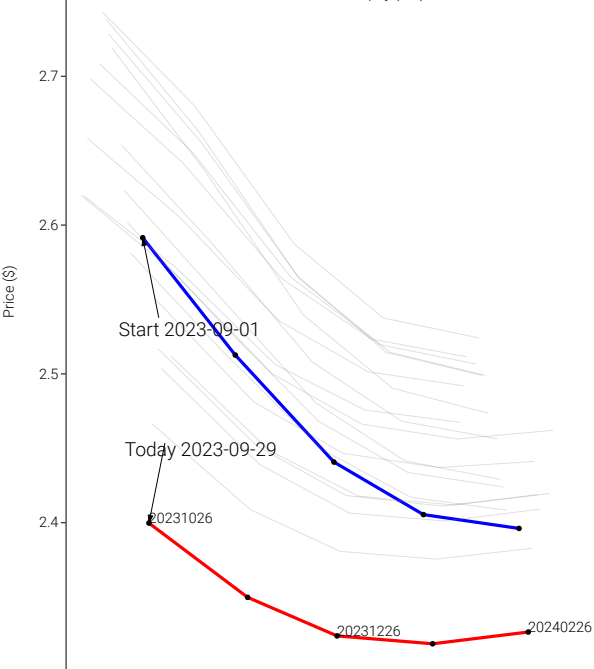
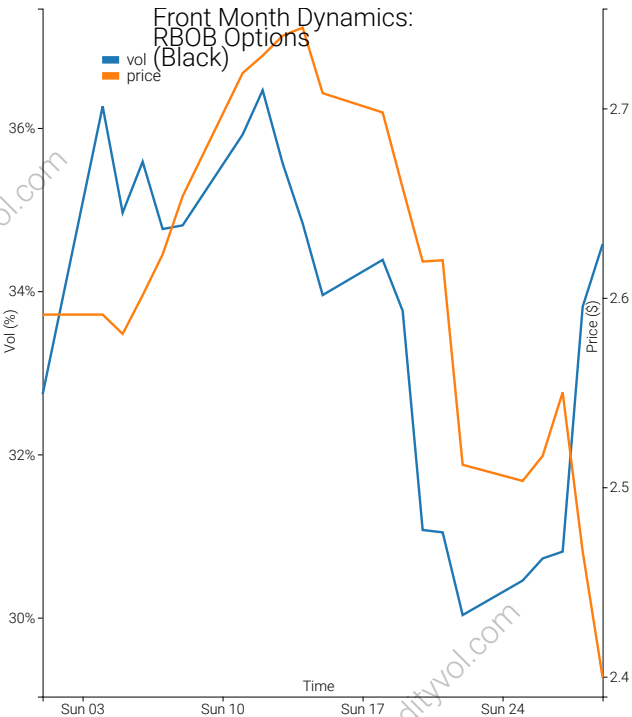
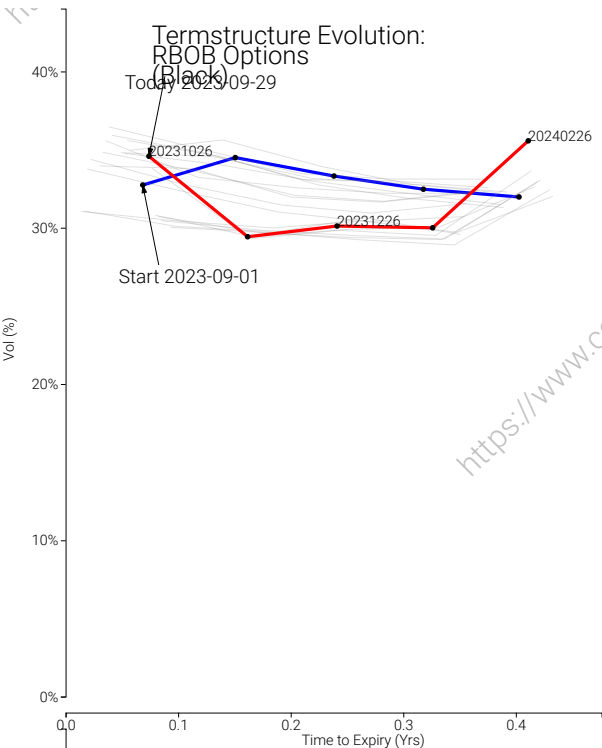
Energy: Crude and Derivatives

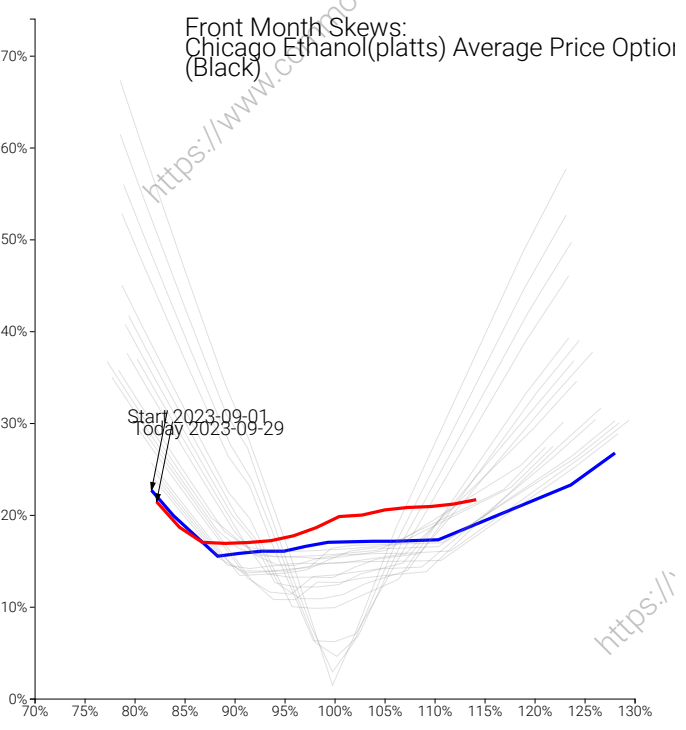
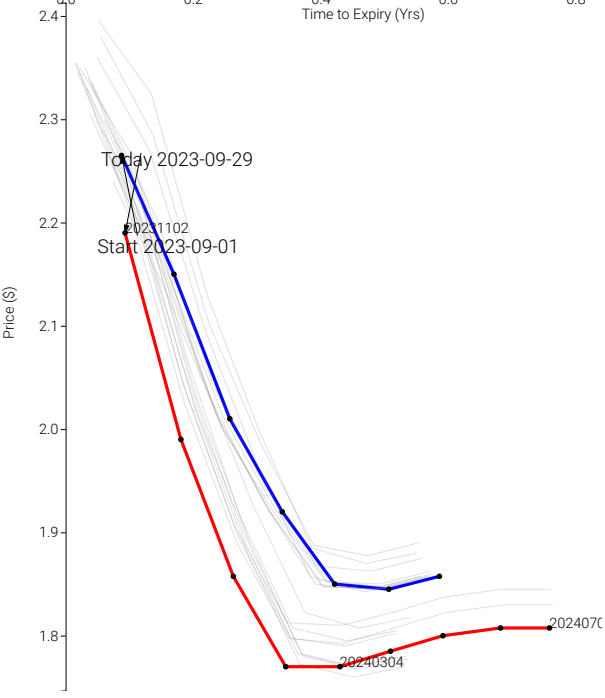
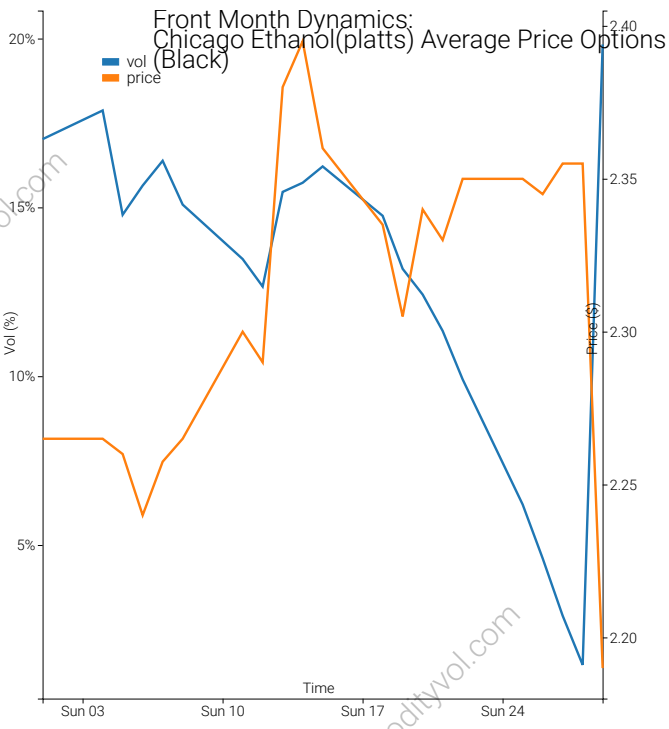
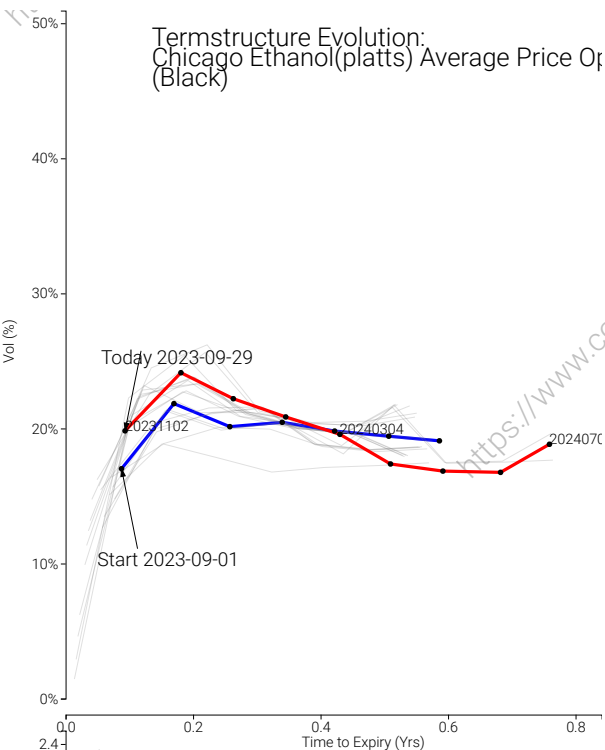




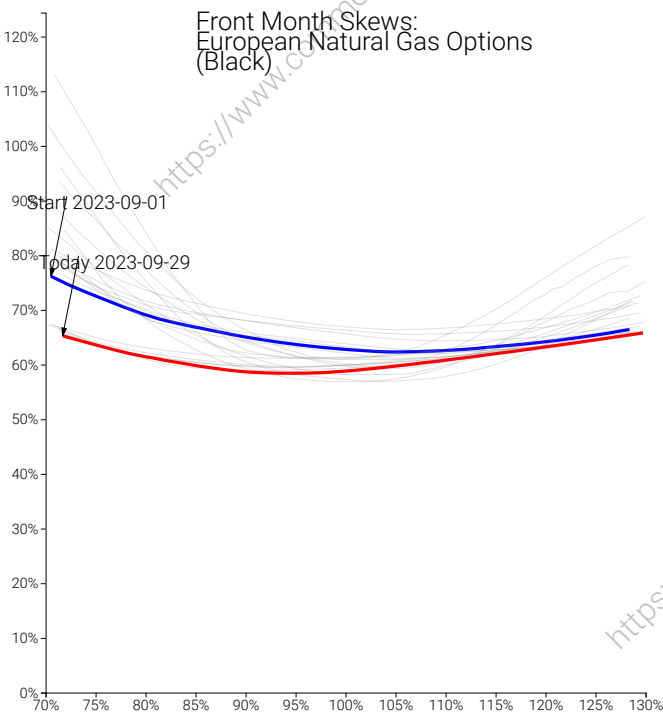
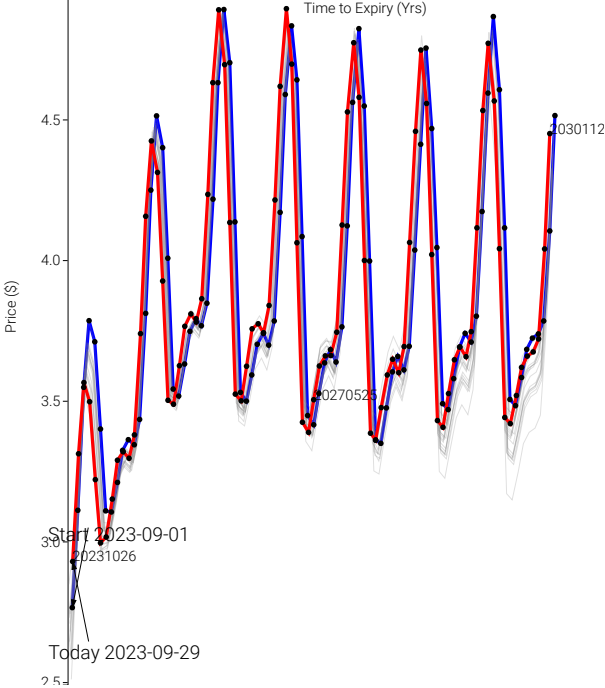
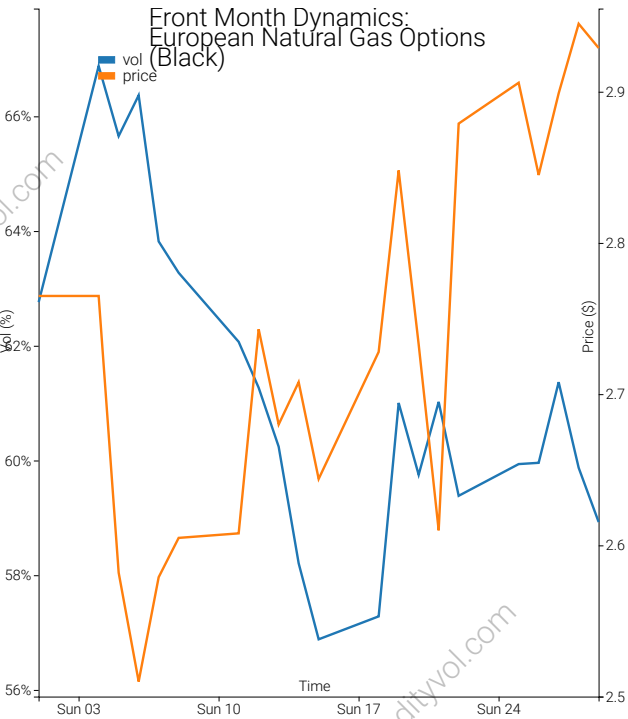
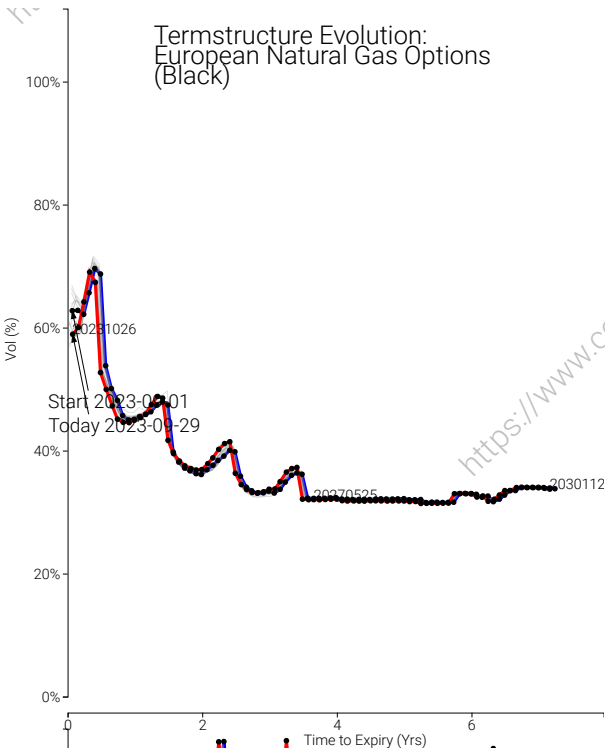


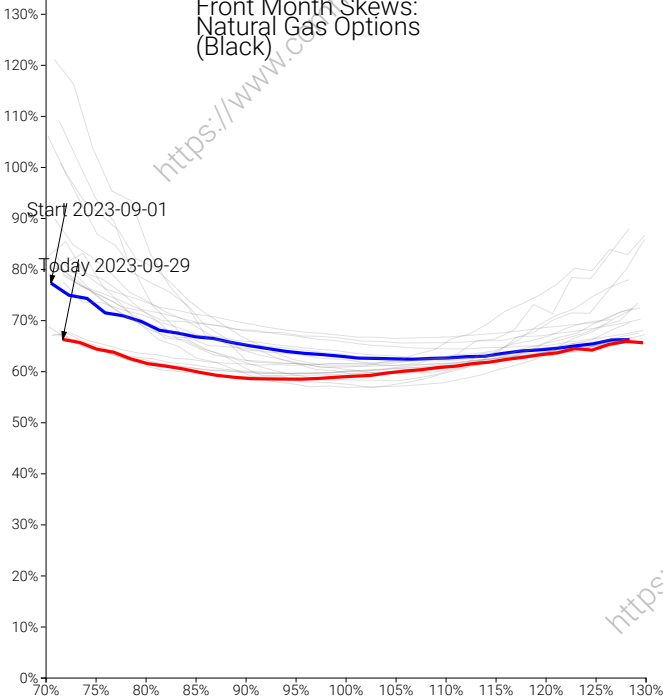
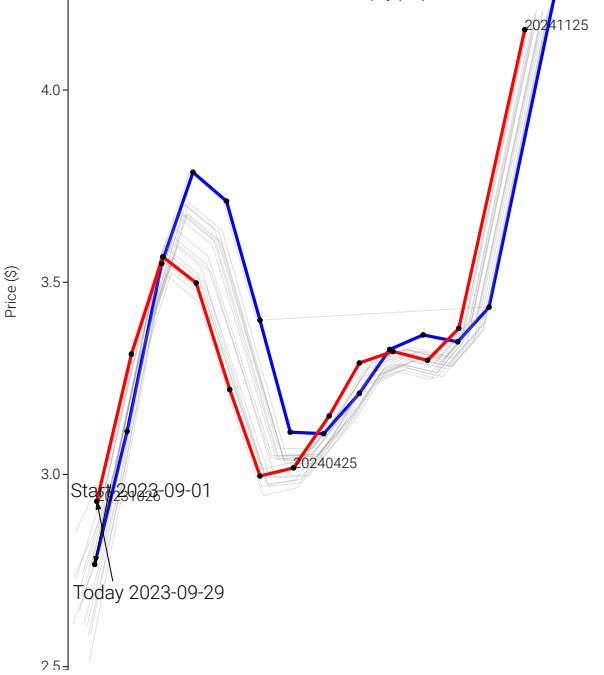
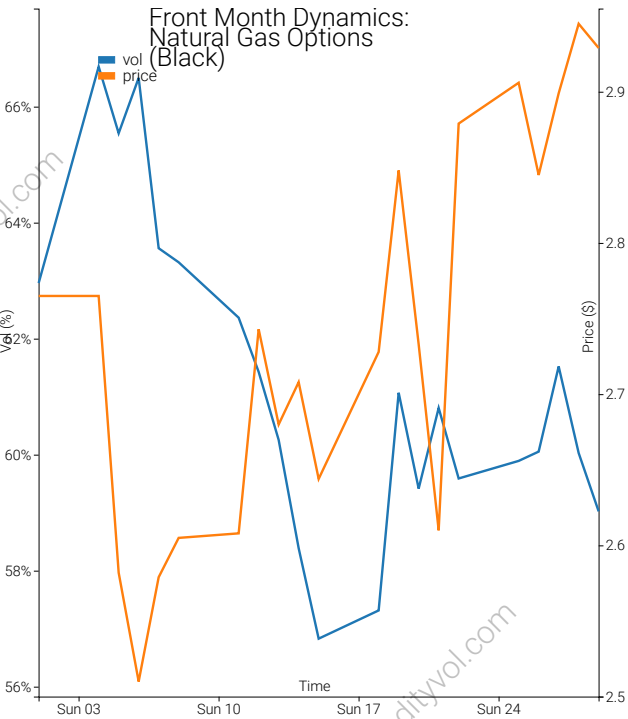
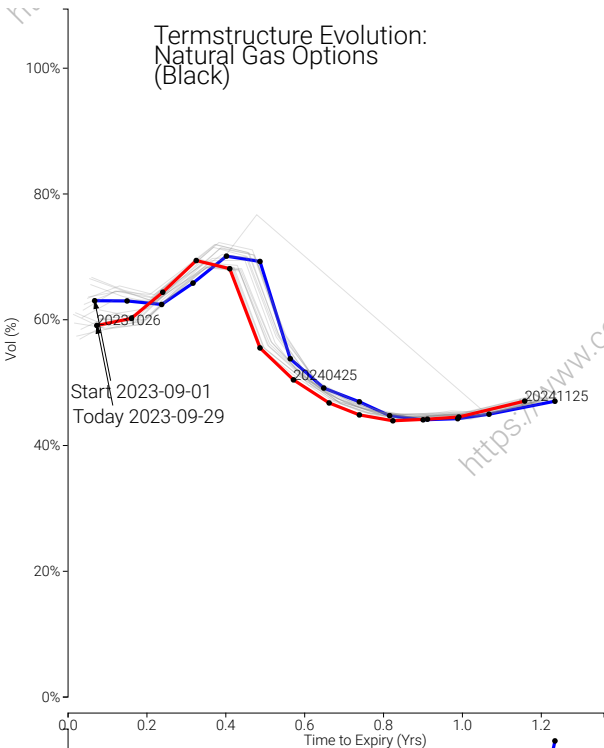


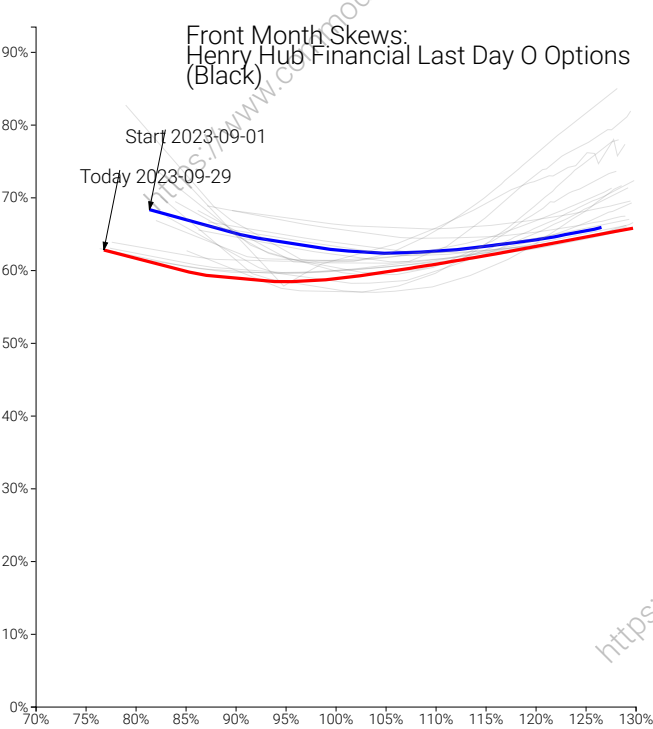
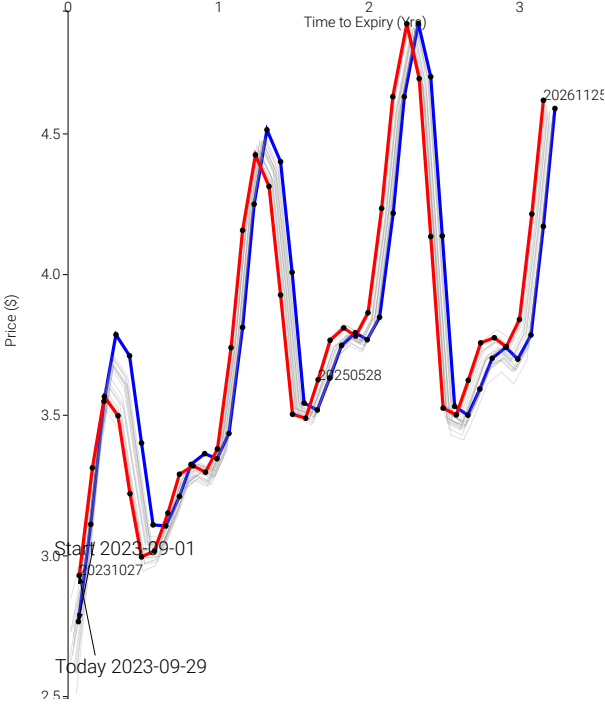
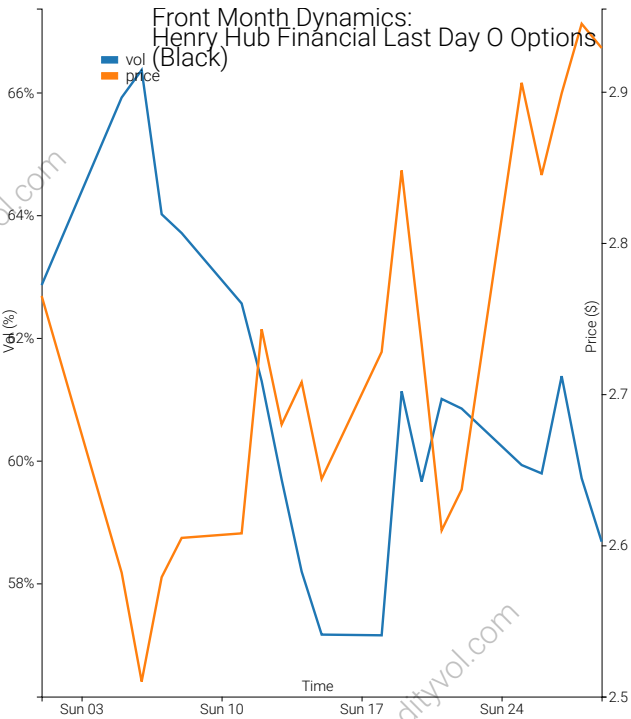
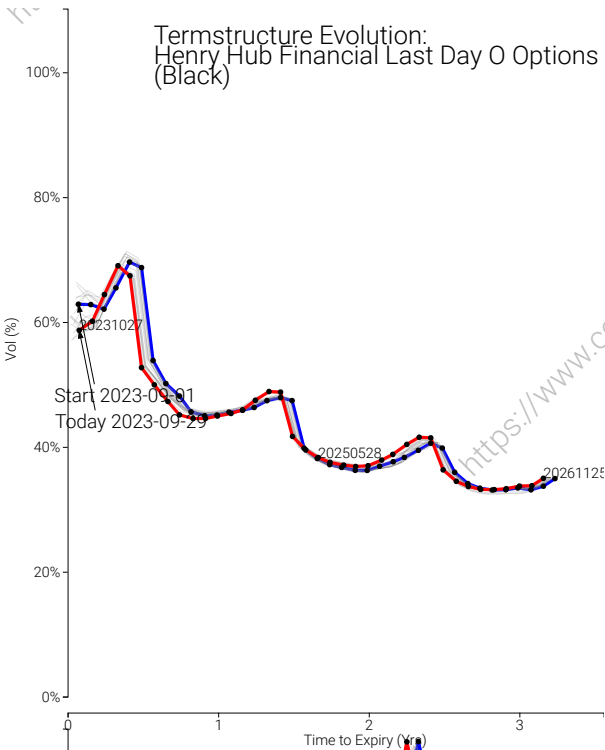




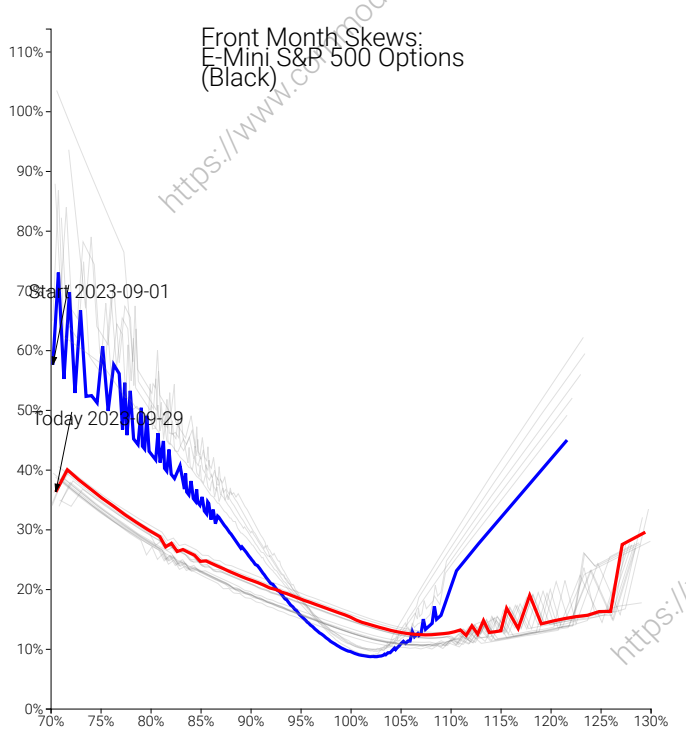
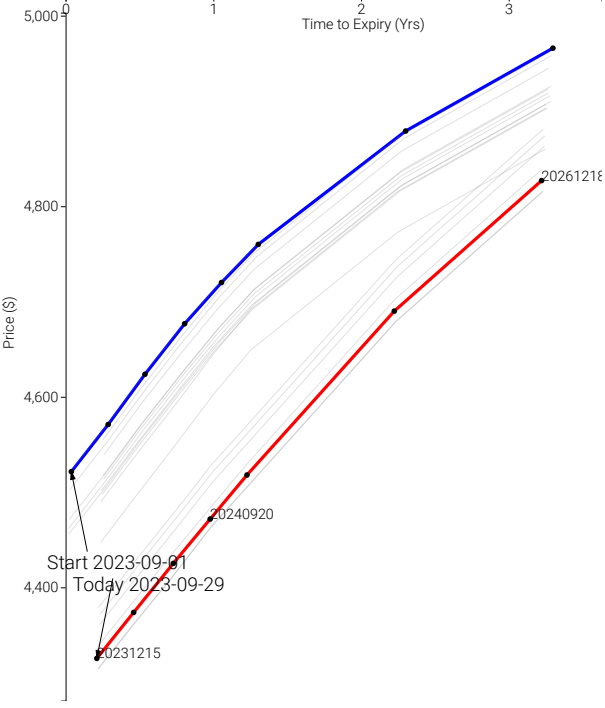
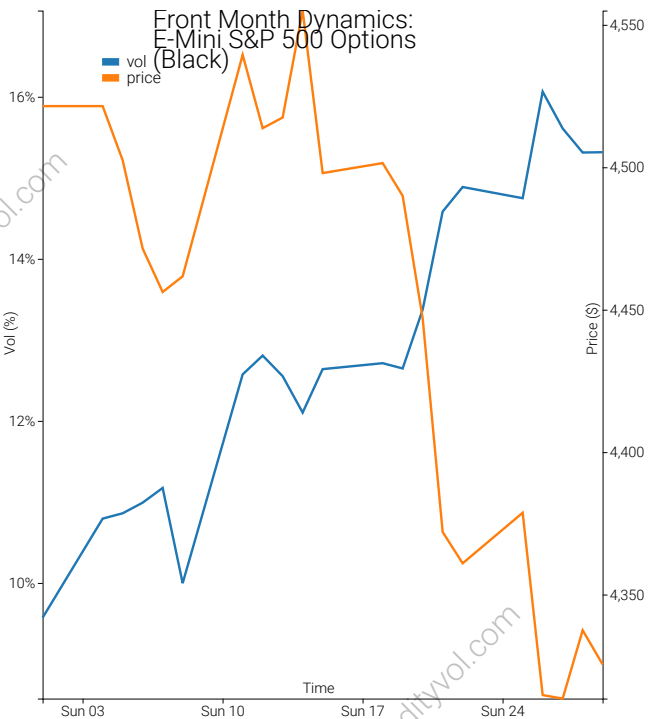
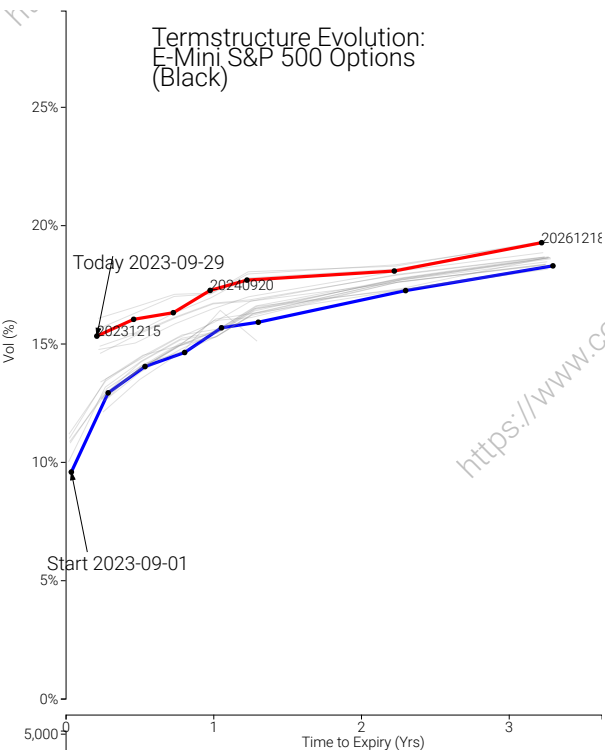
Energy: Natural Gas

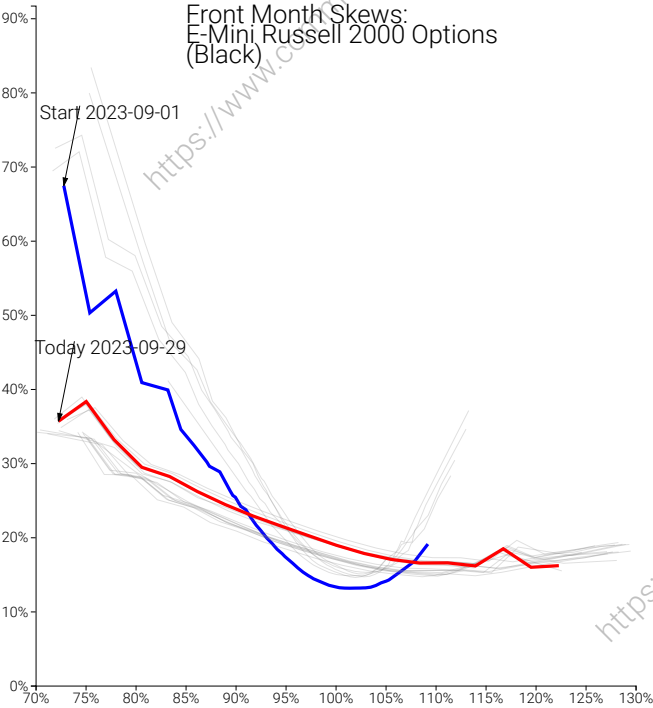
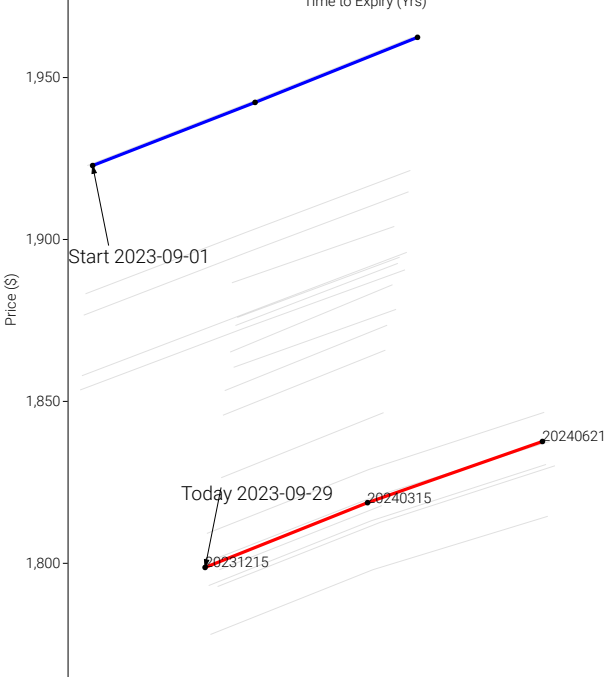
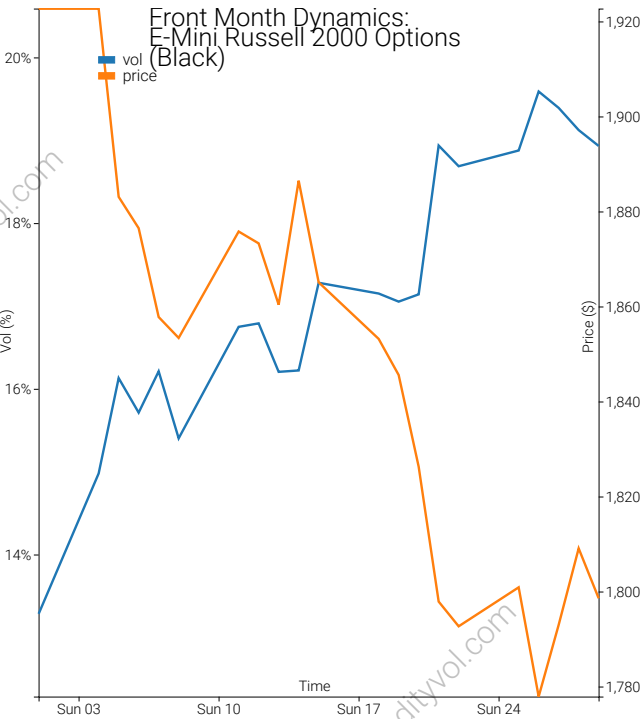
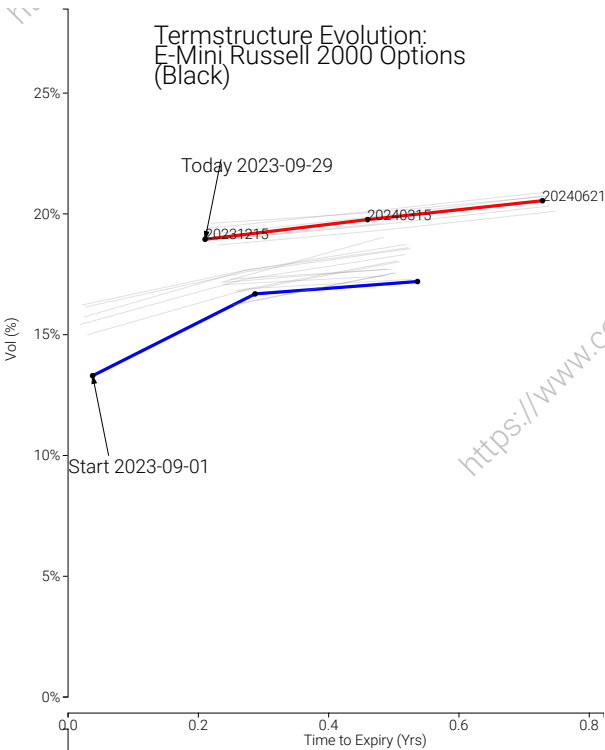


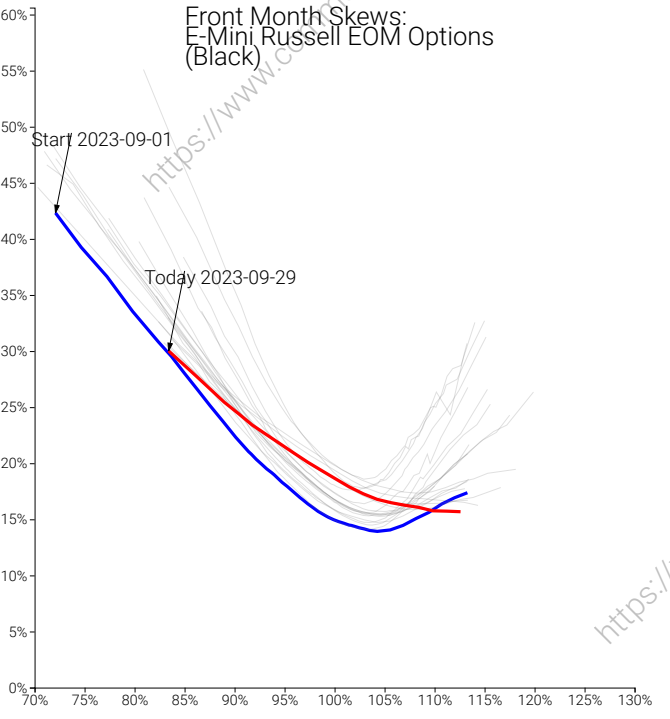
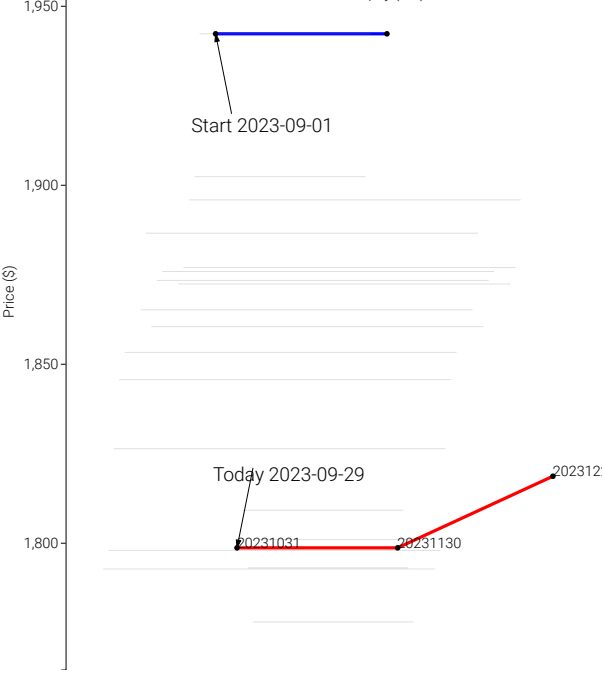
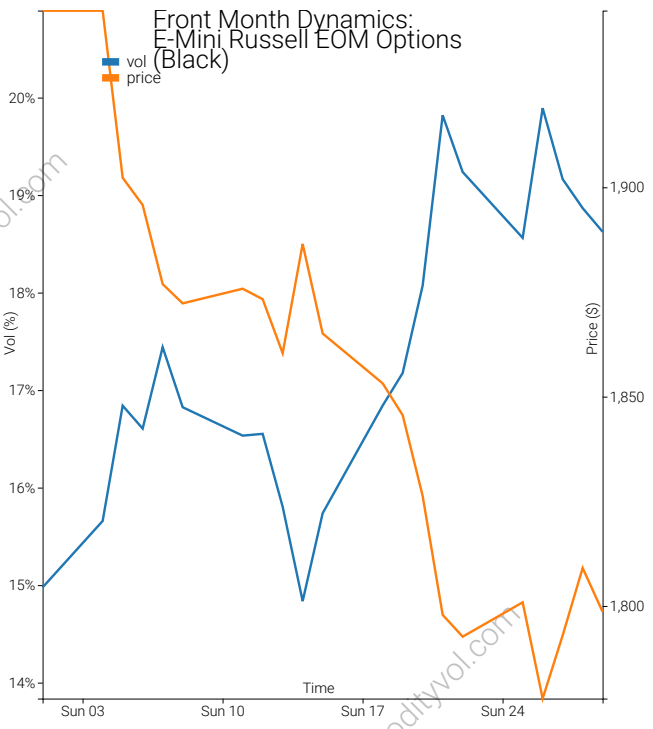
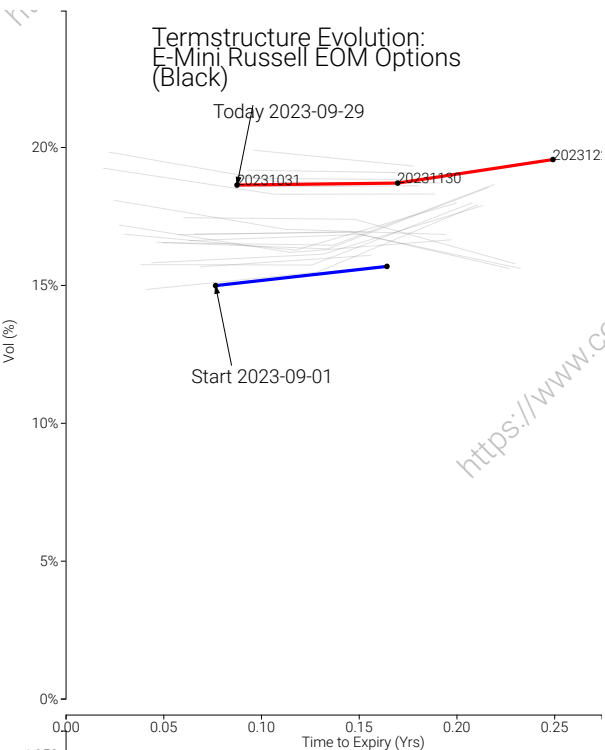


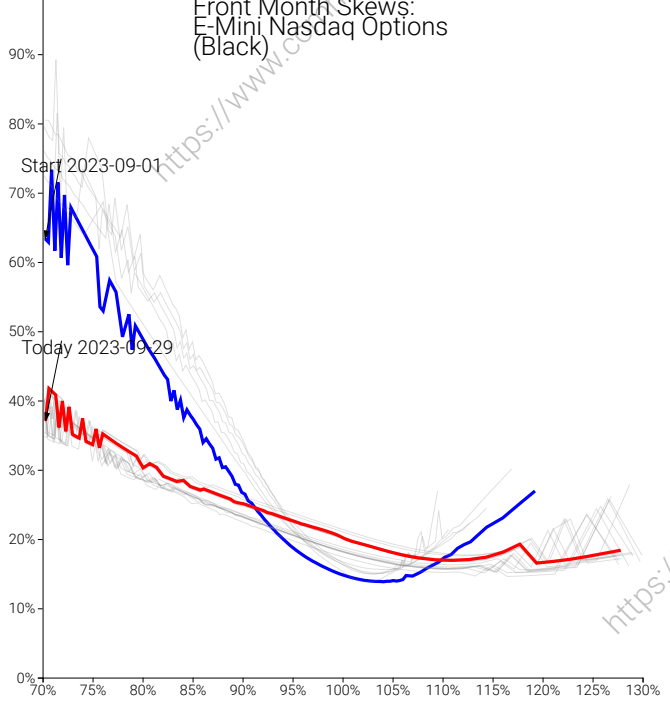
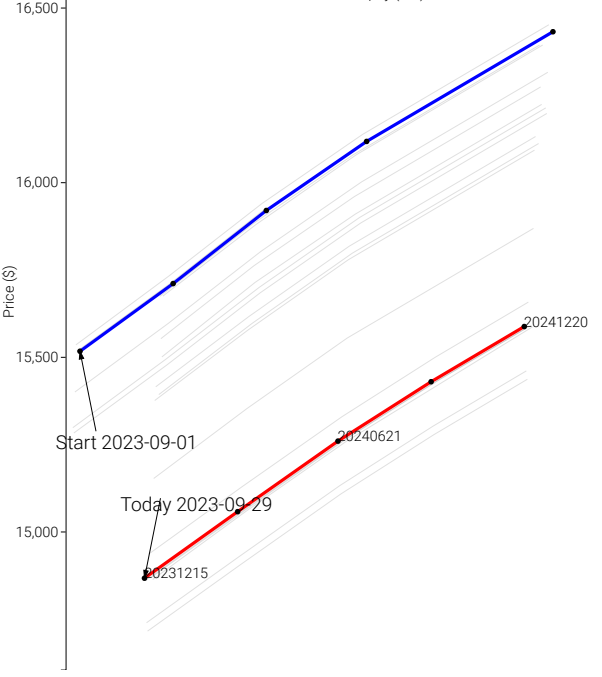
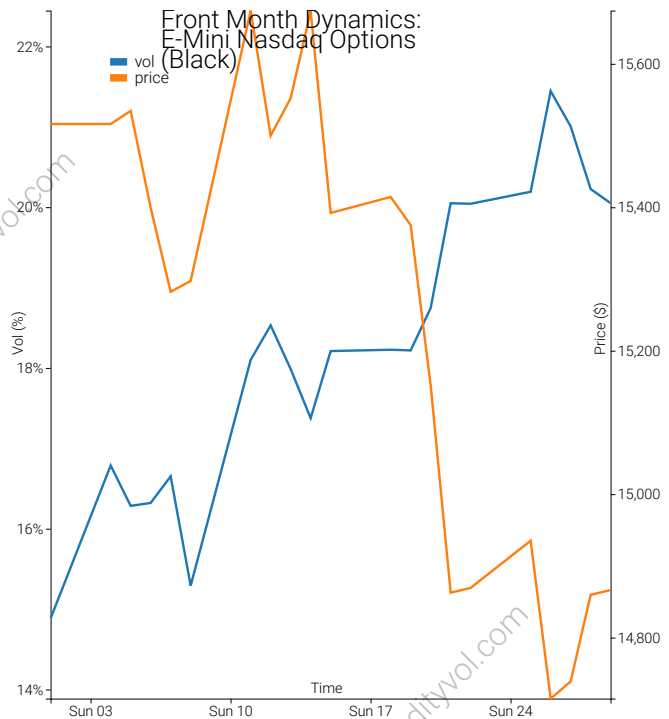
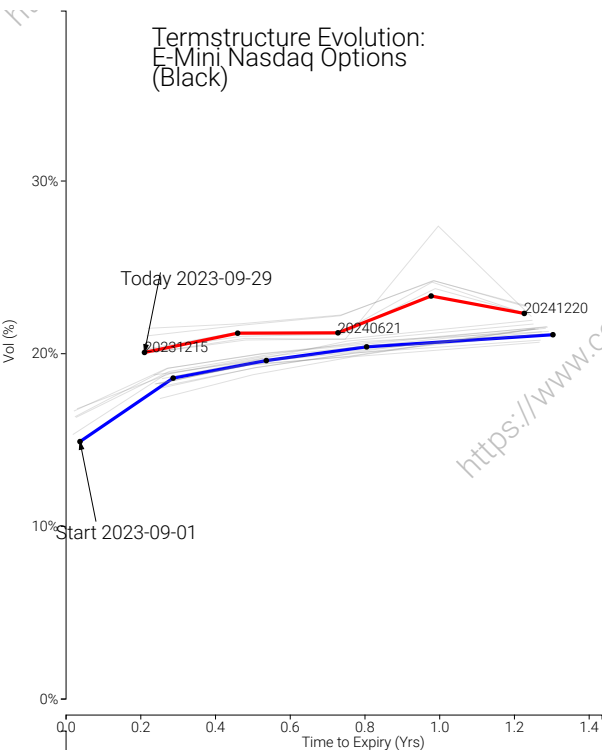


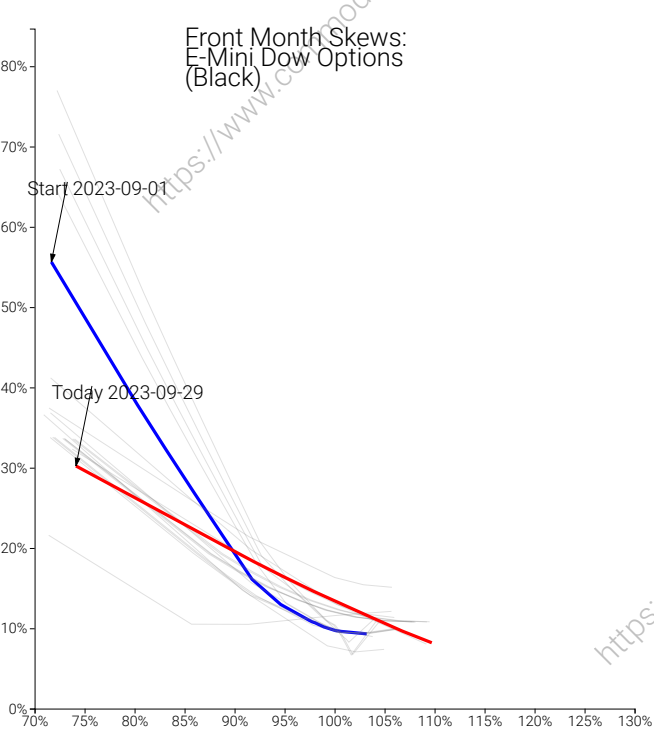
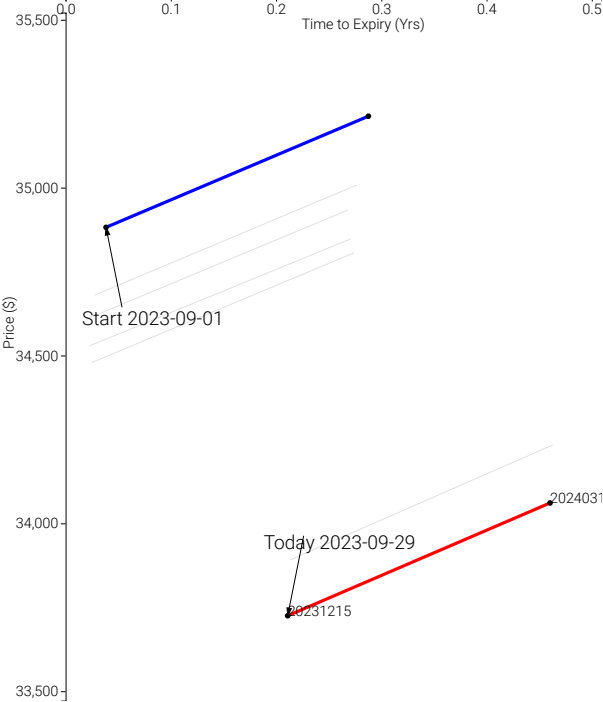
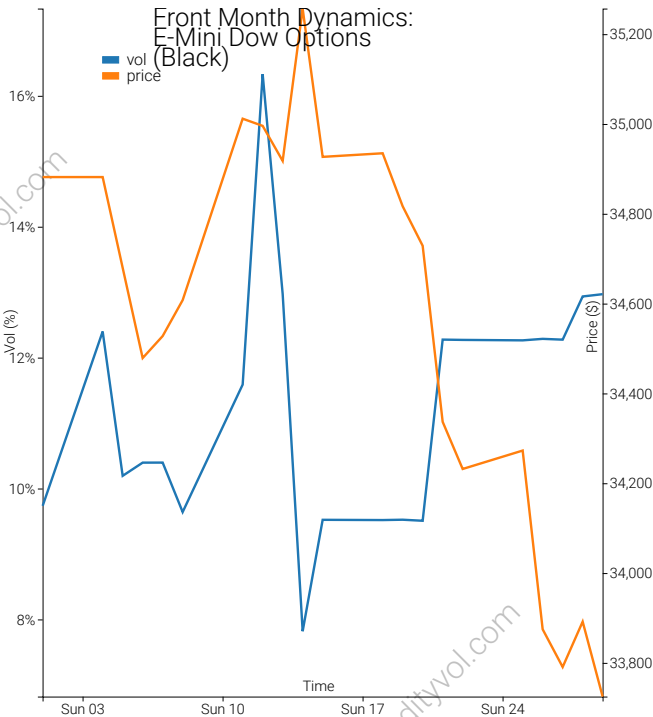
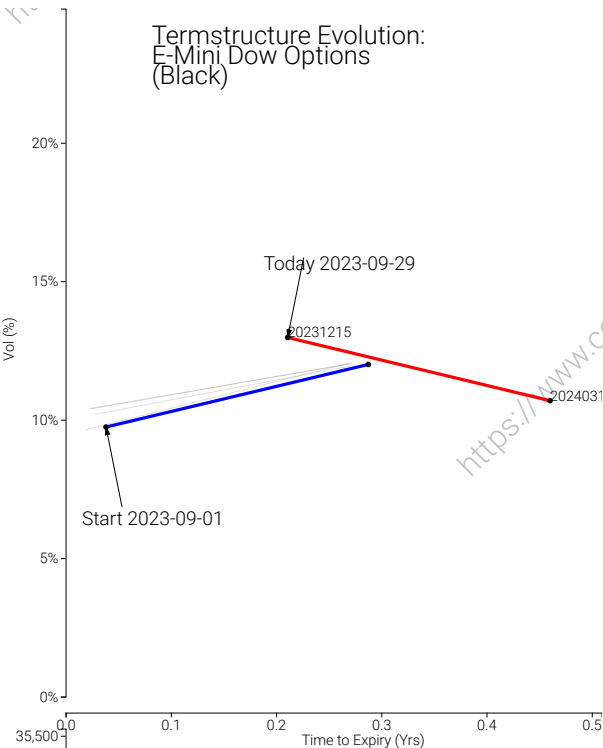
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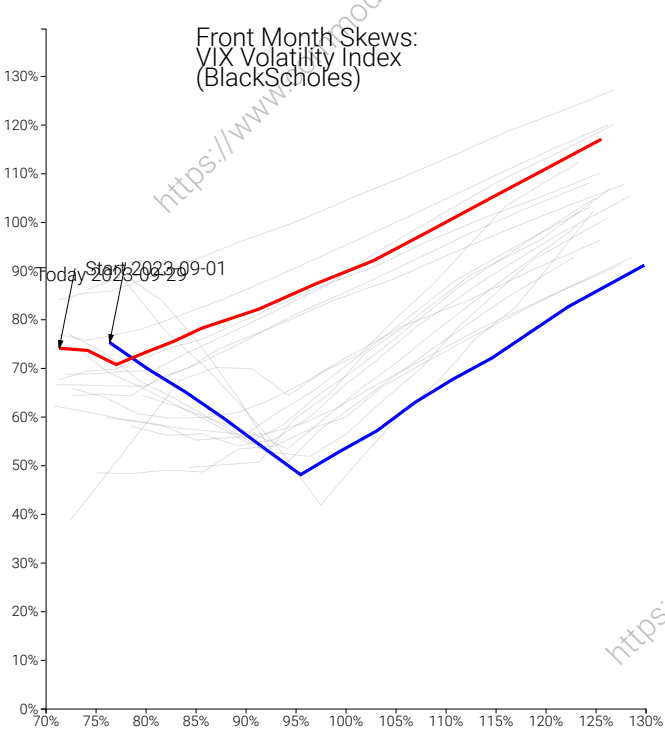
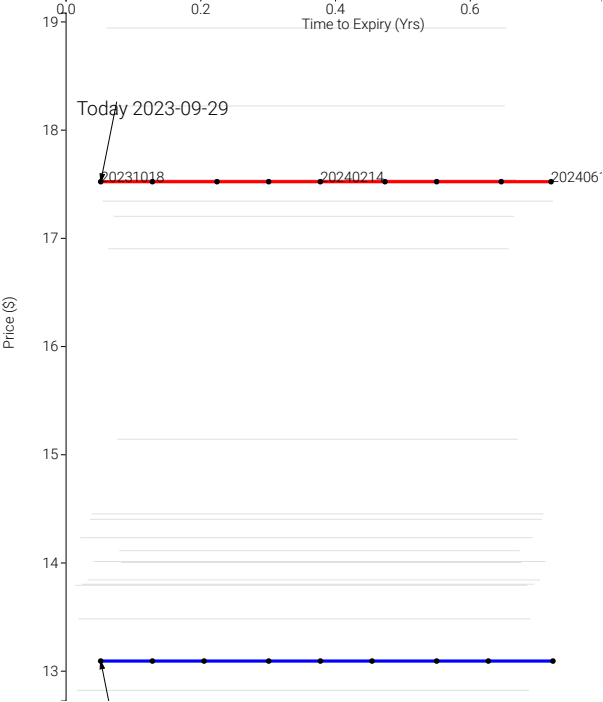
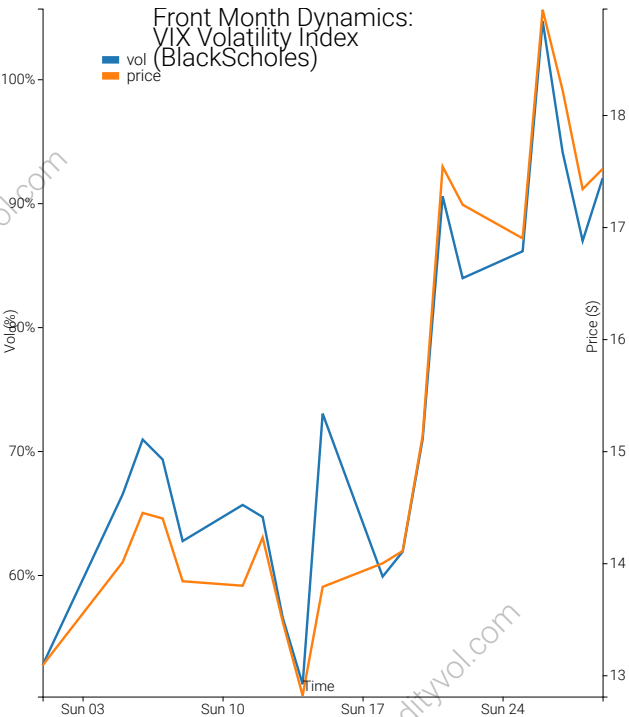
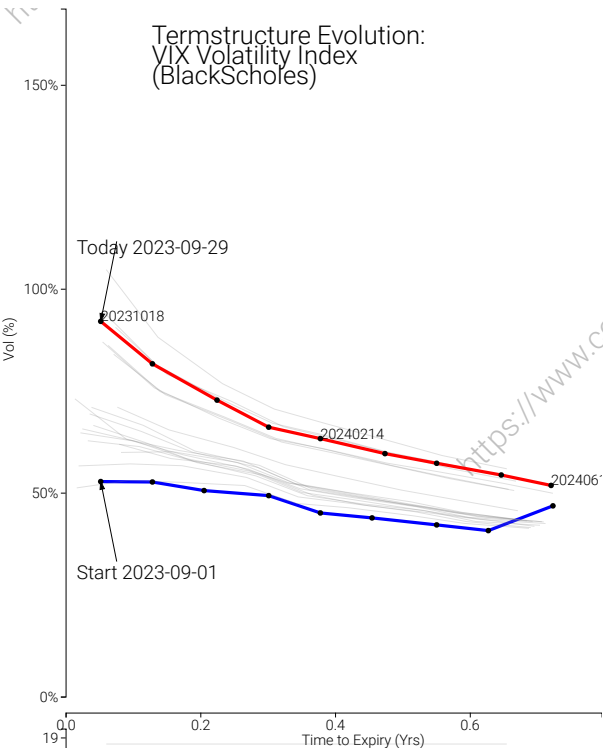




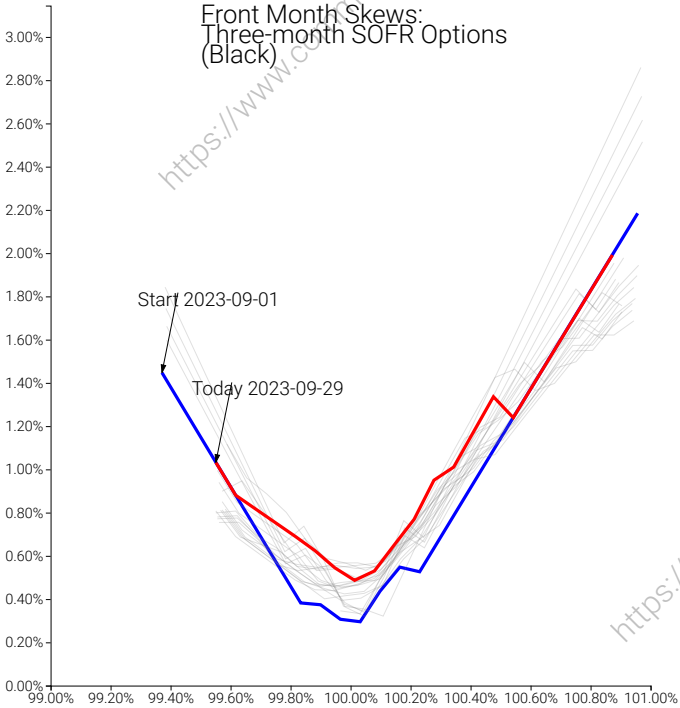
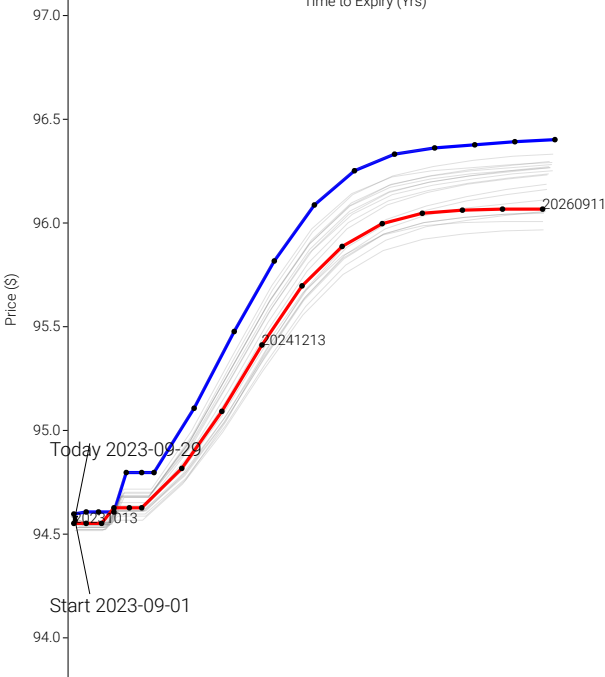
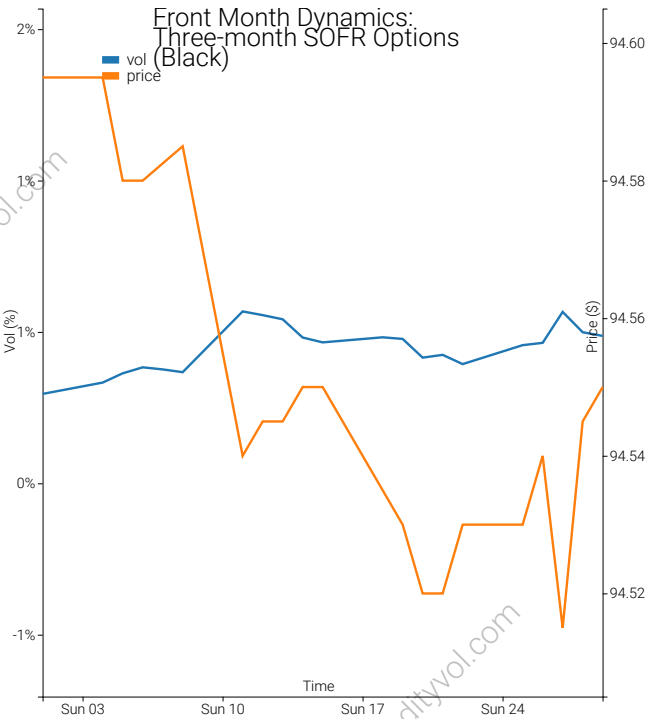
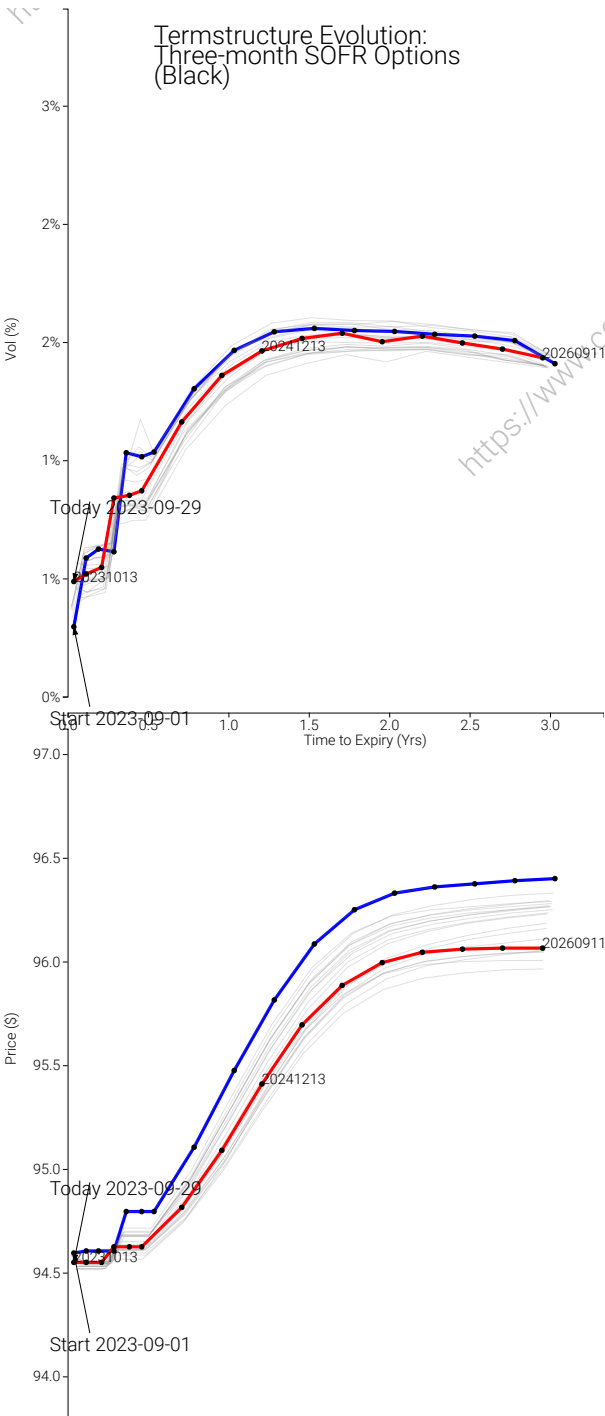


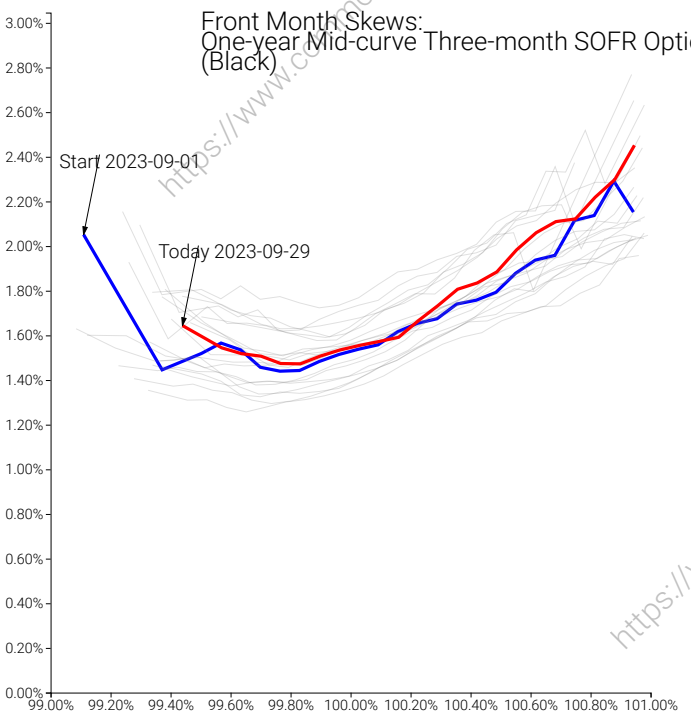
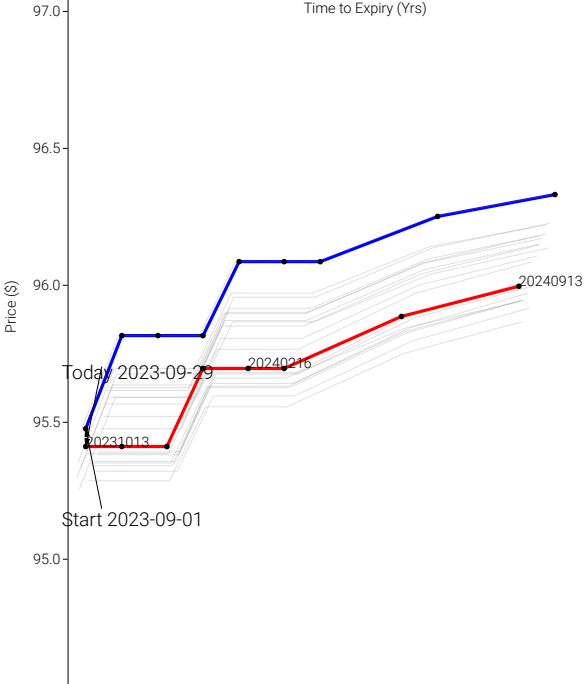
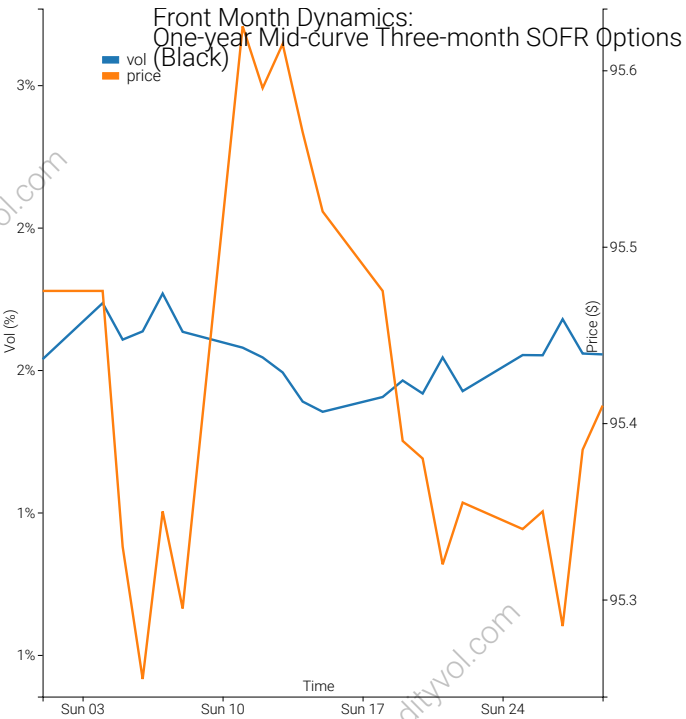
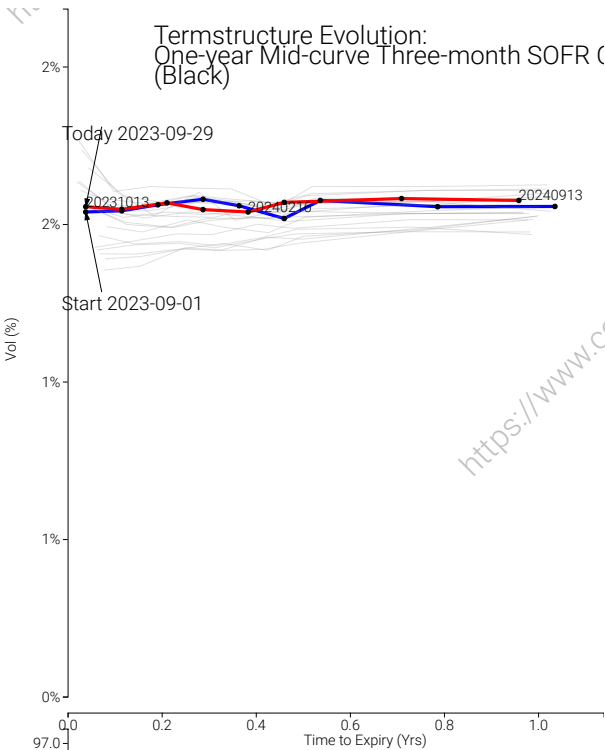


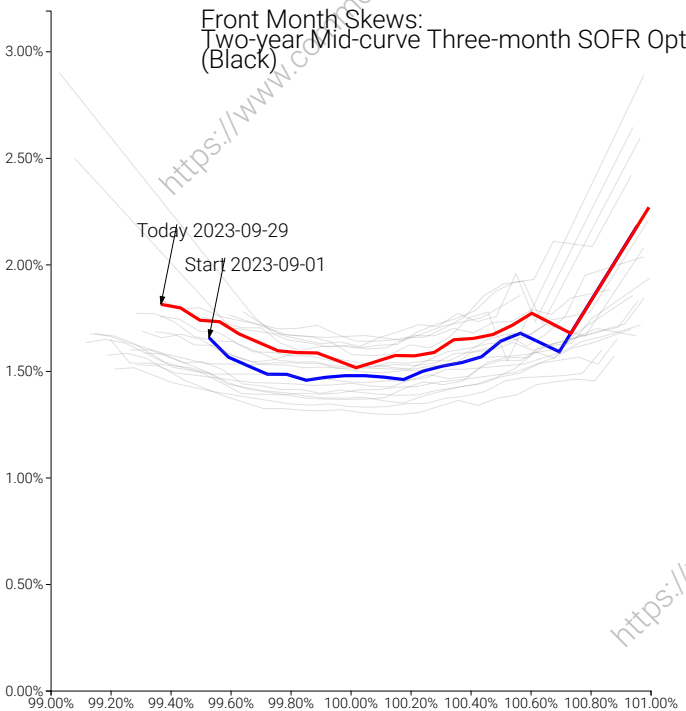
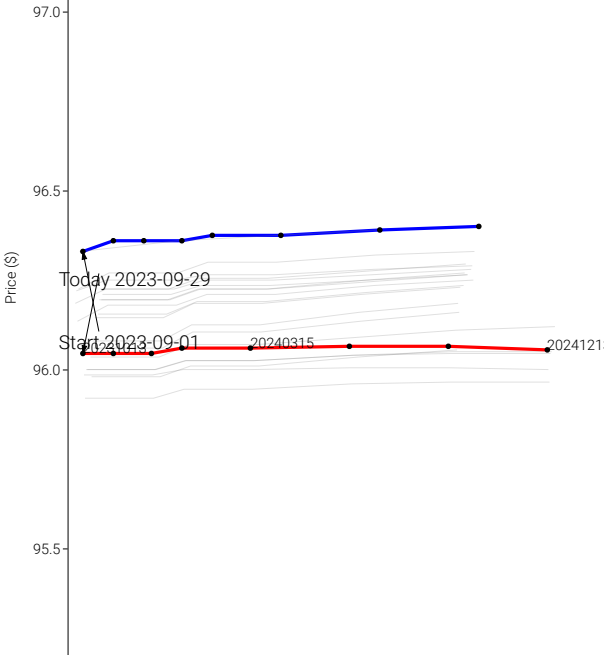
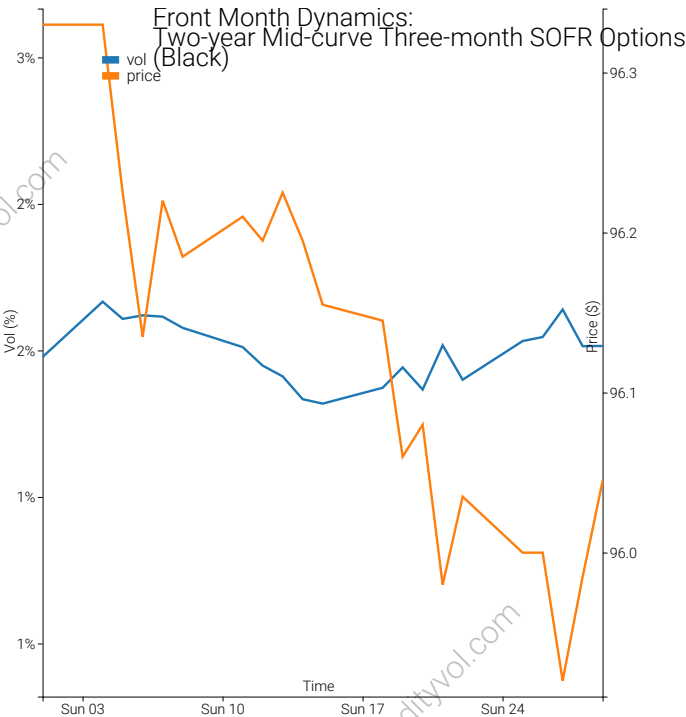
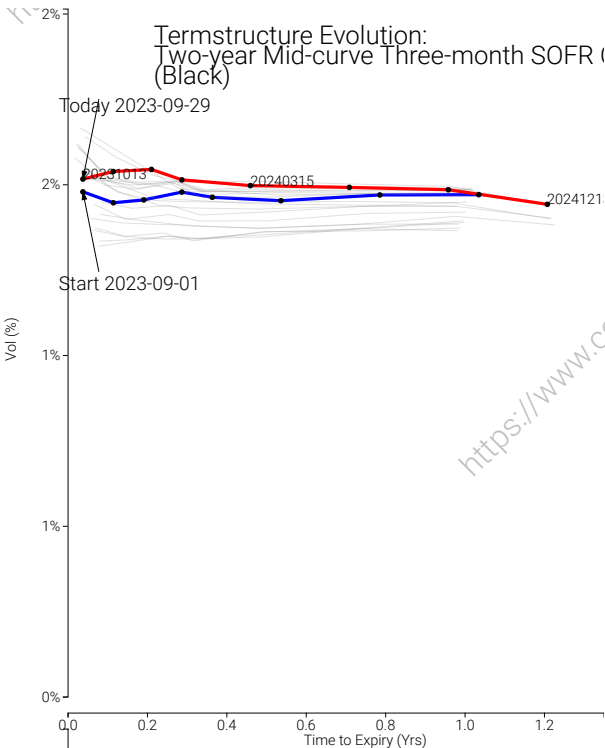


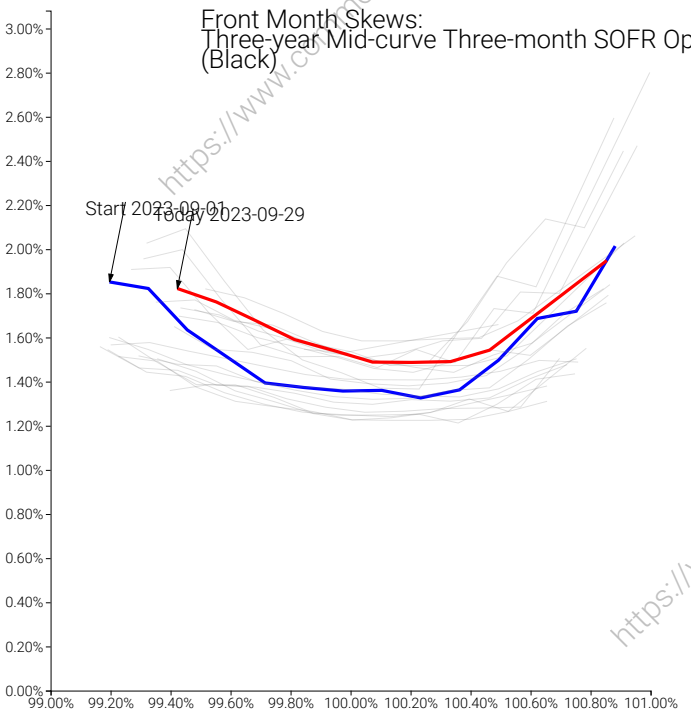
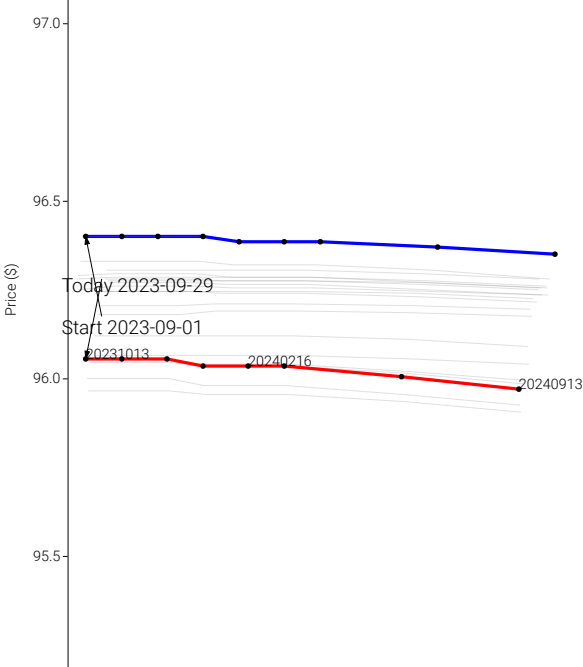
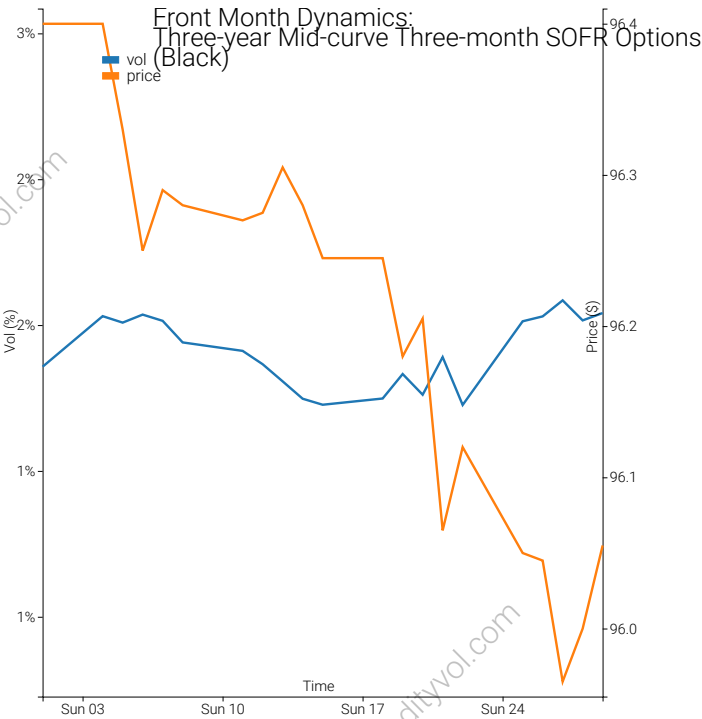
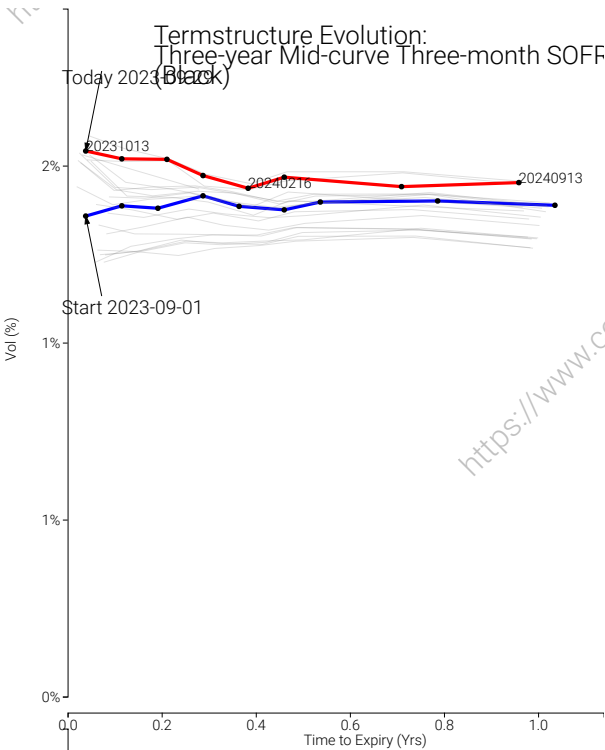


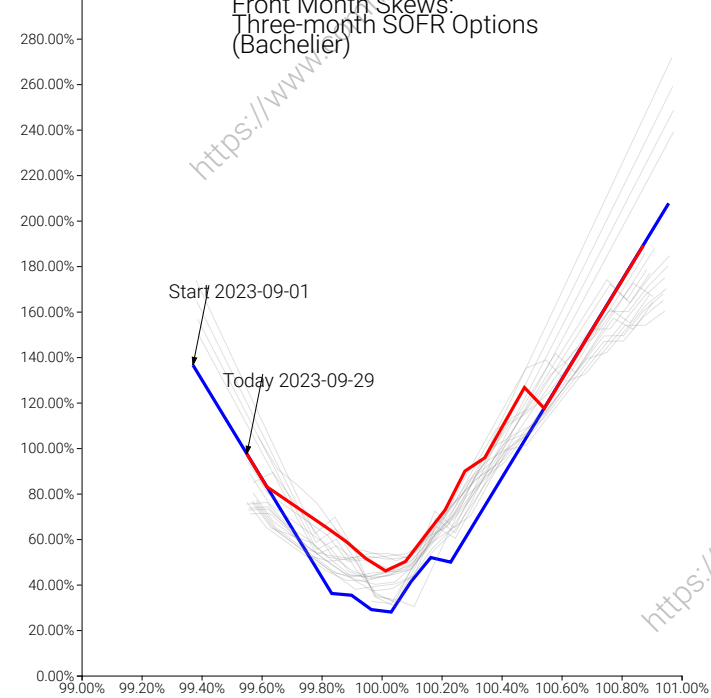
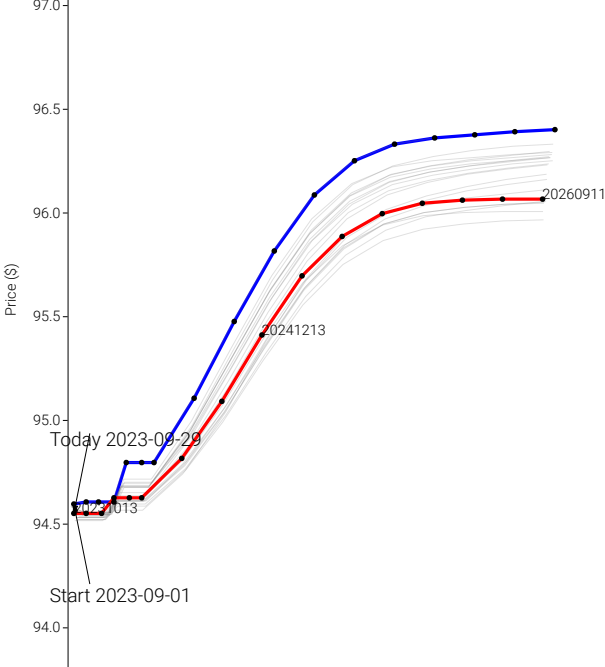
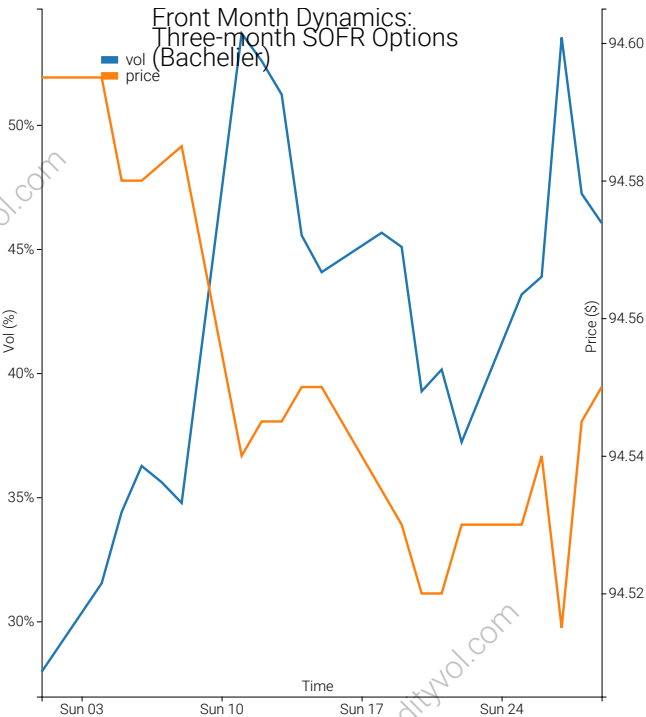
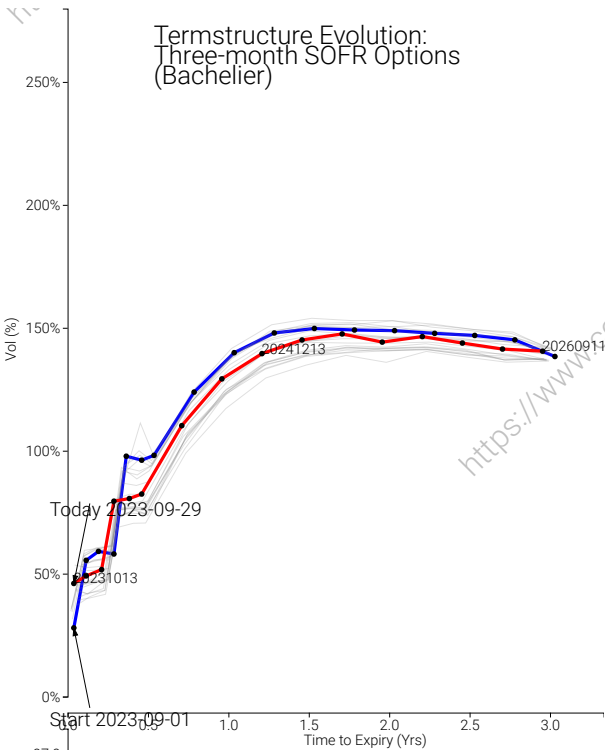
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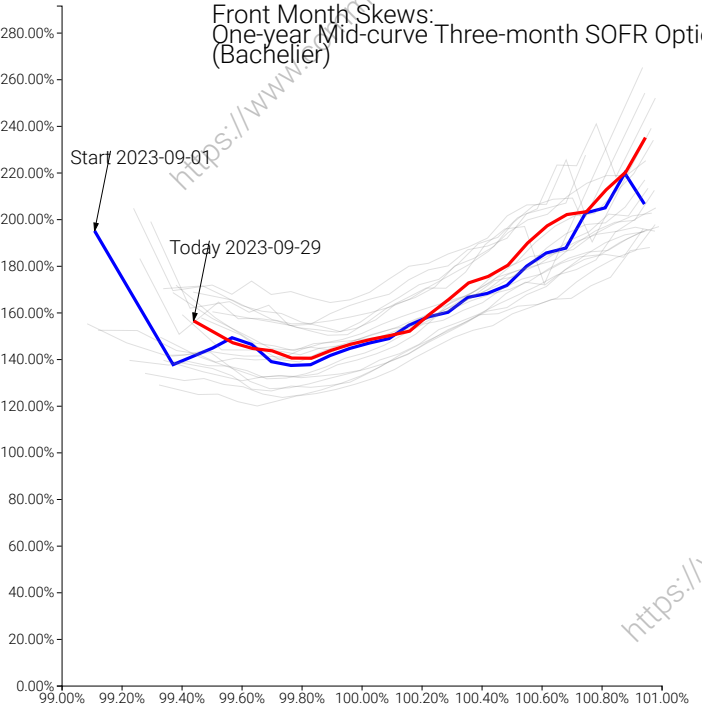
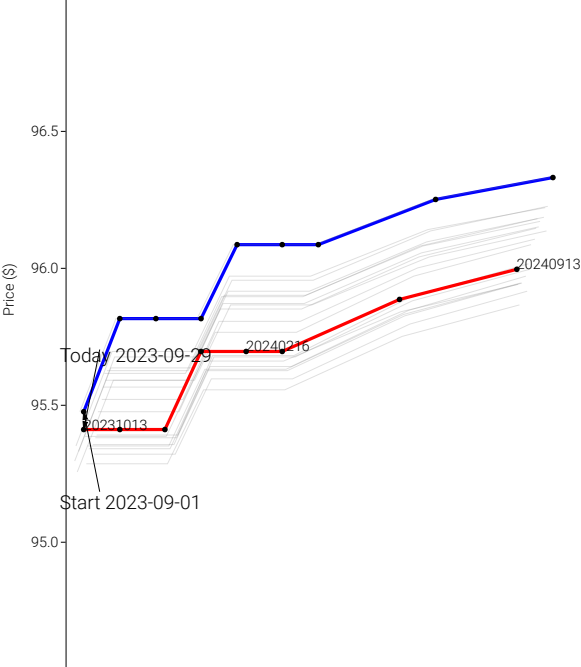
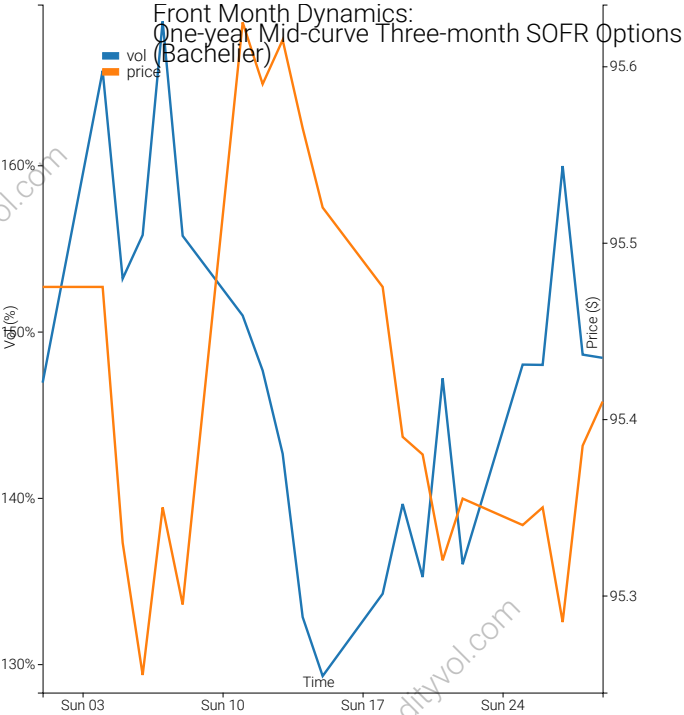
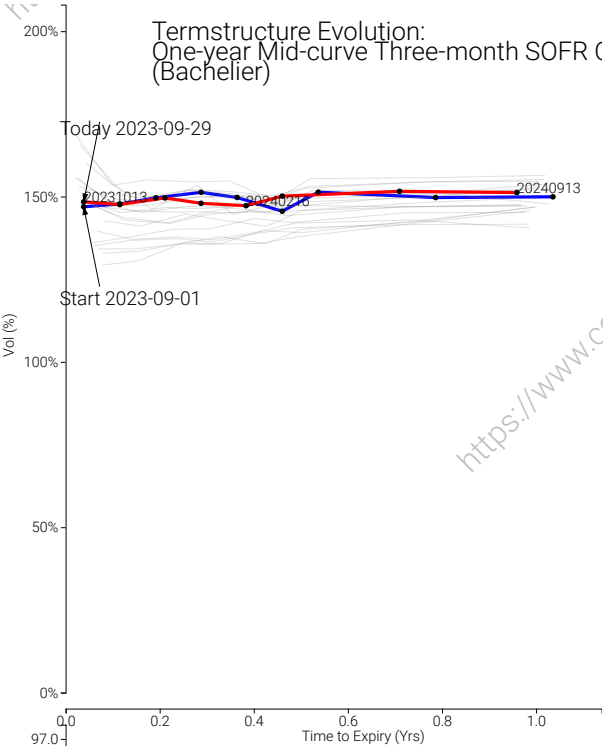


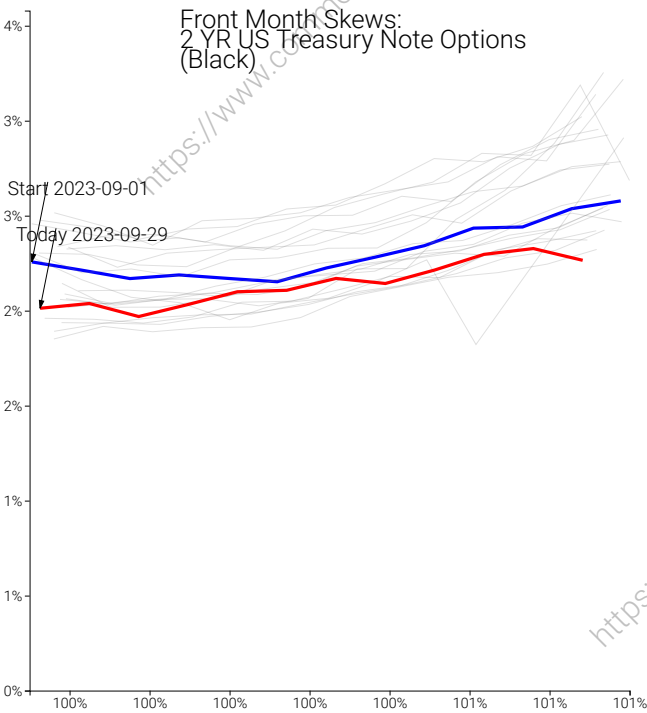
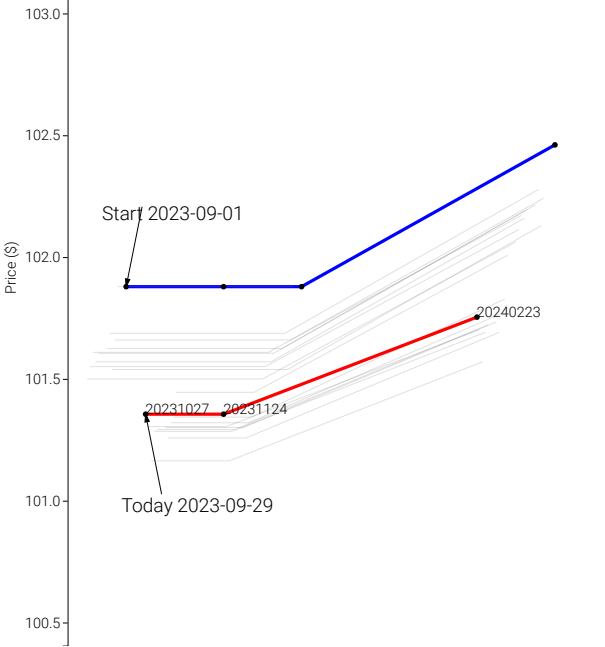
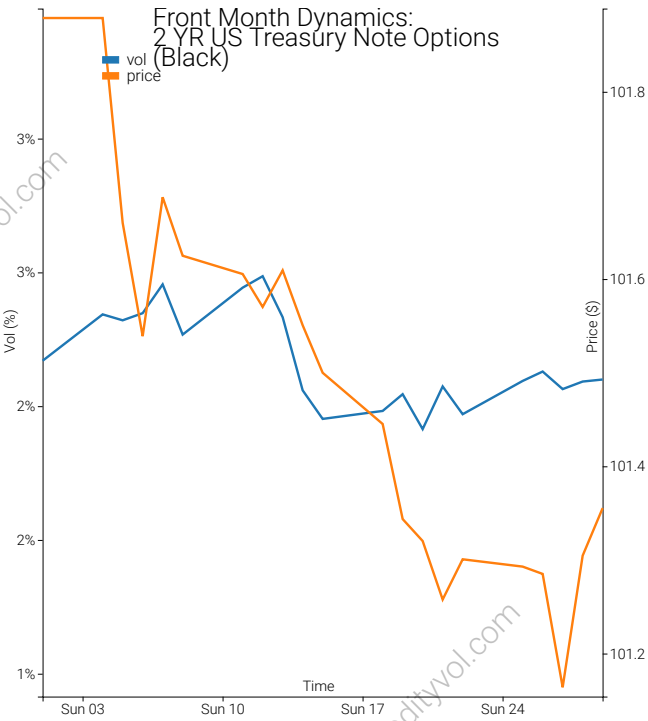
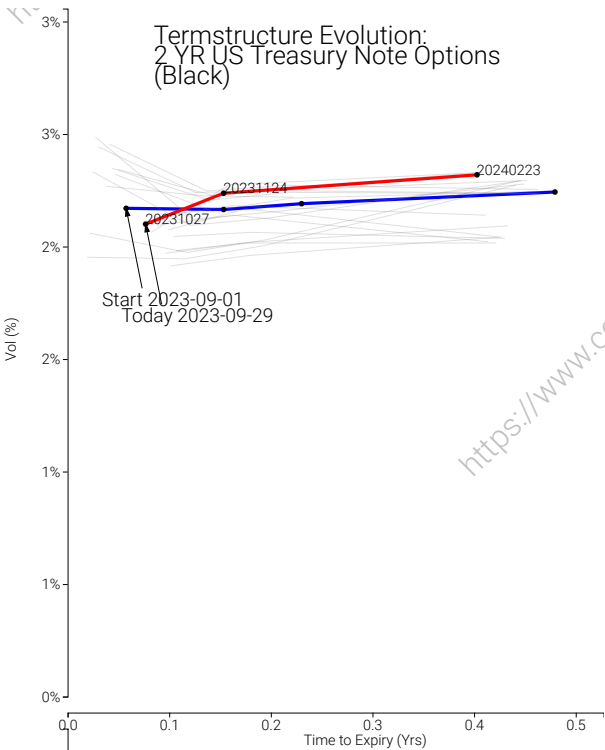


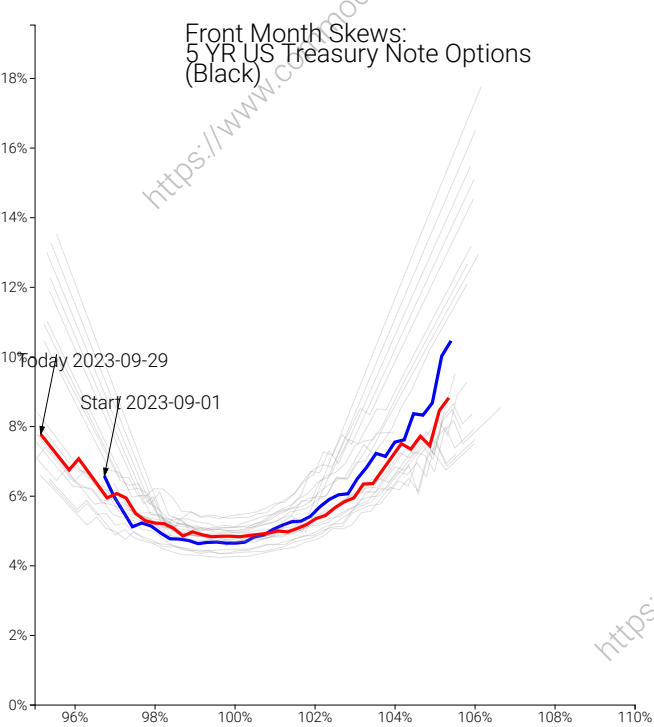
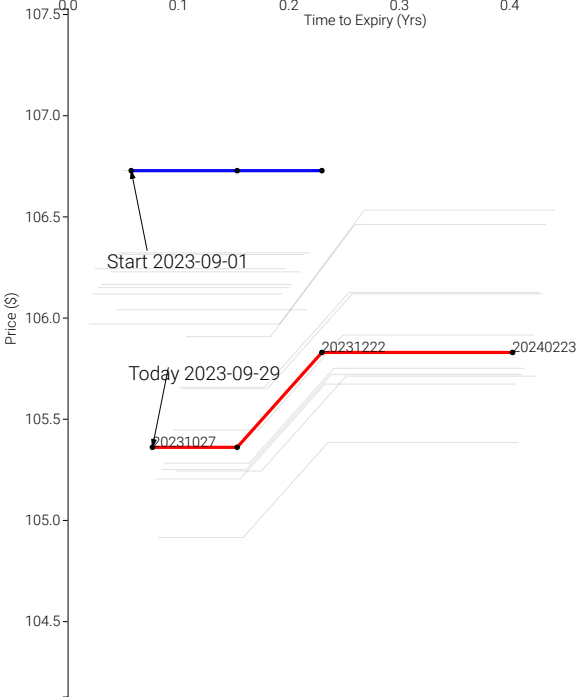
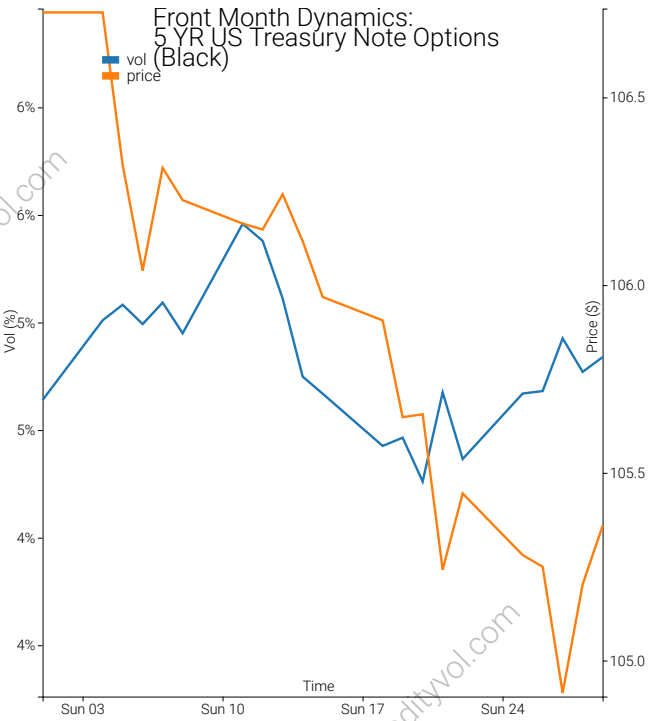
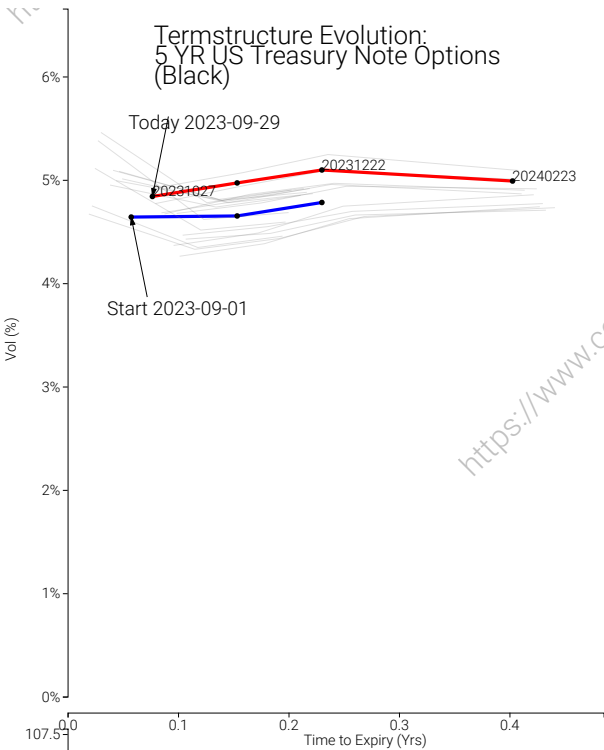


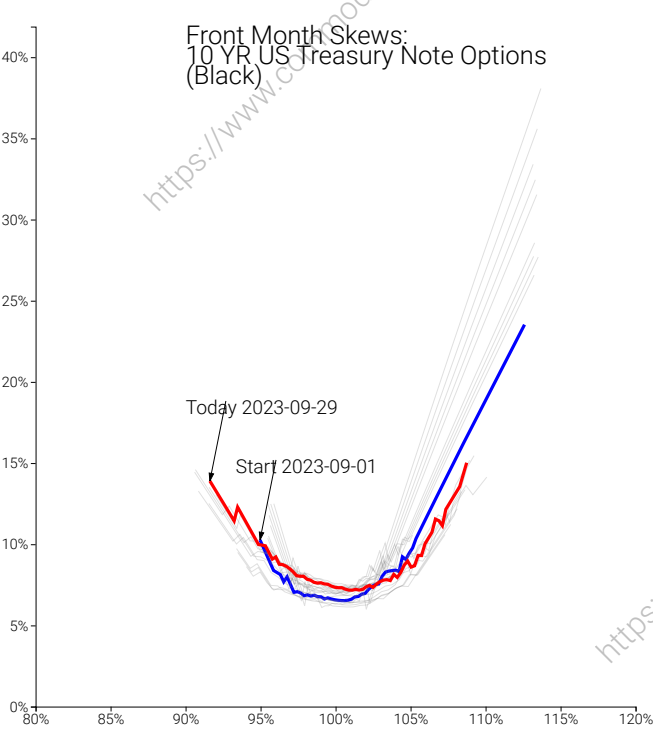
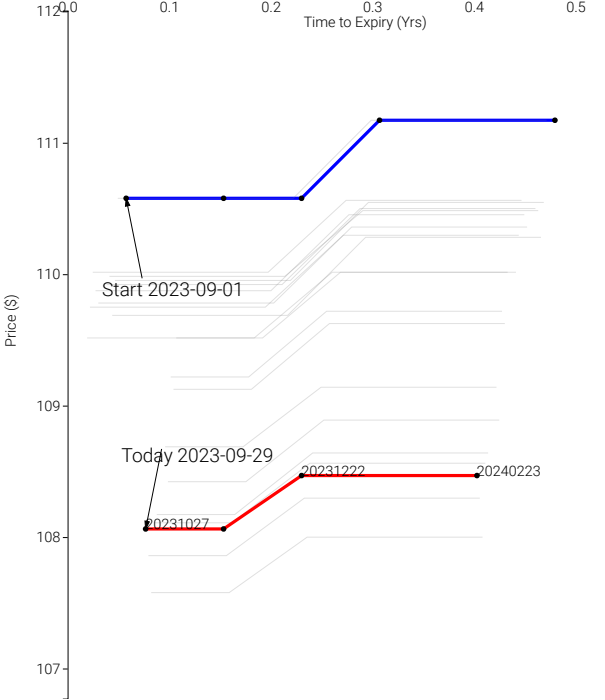
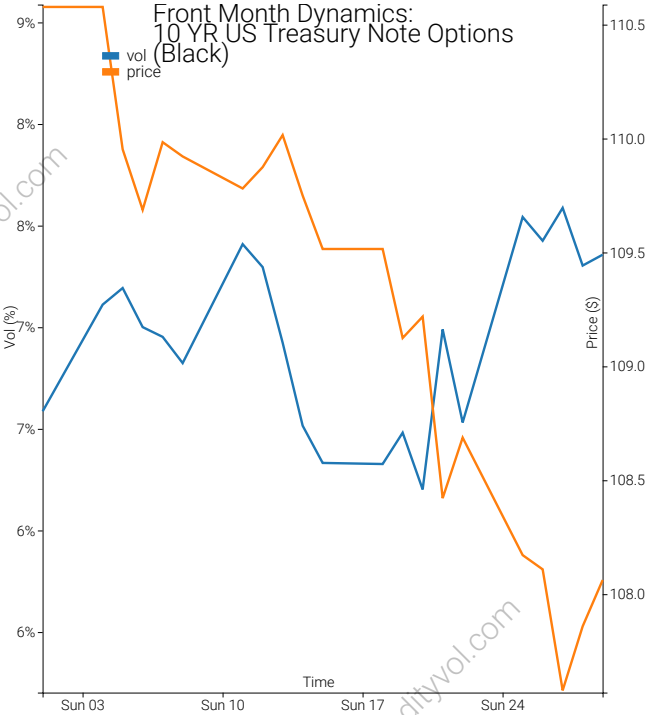
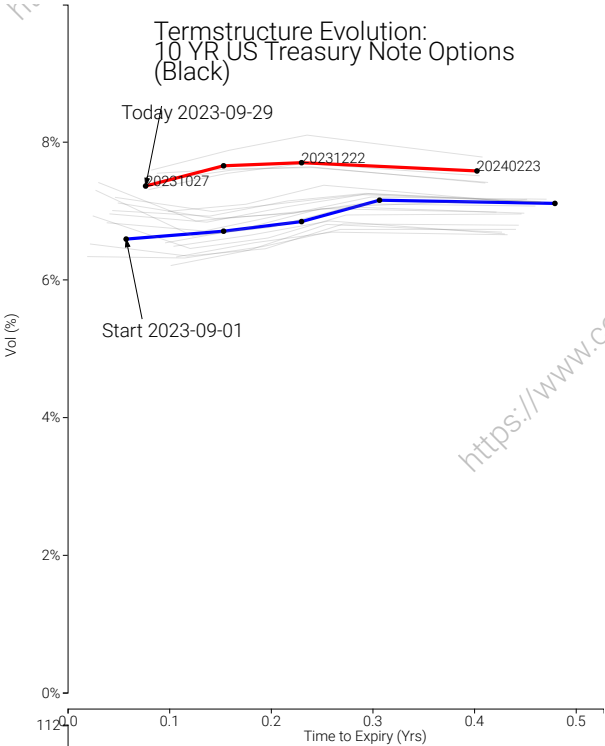


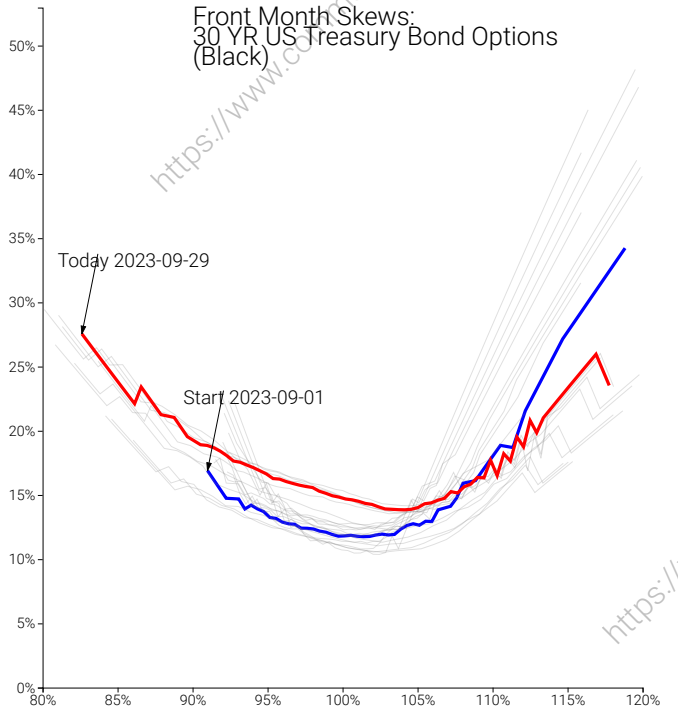
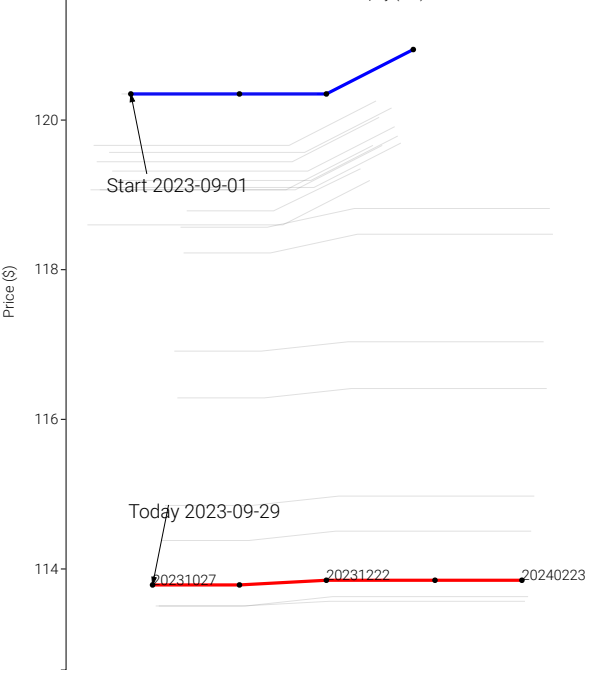
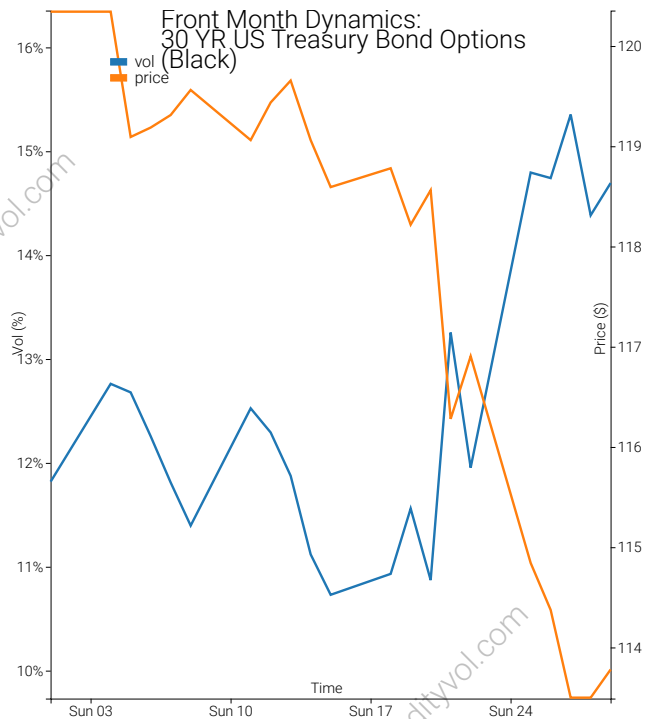
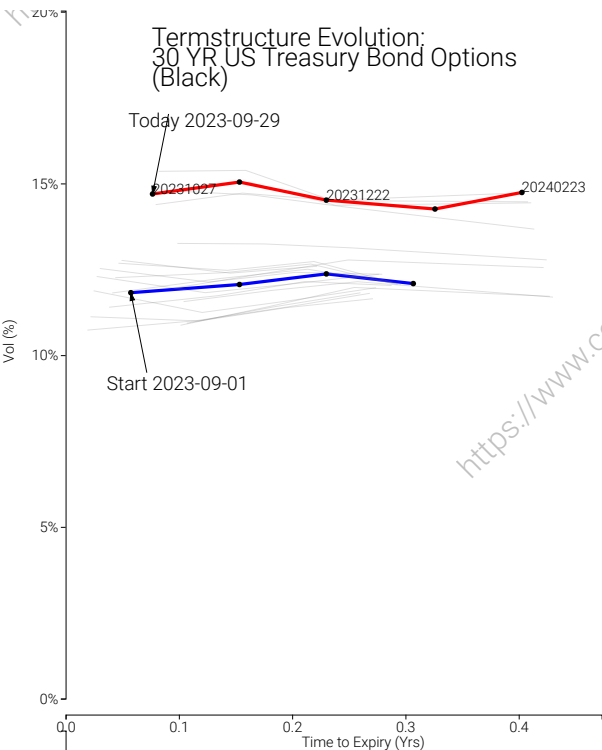


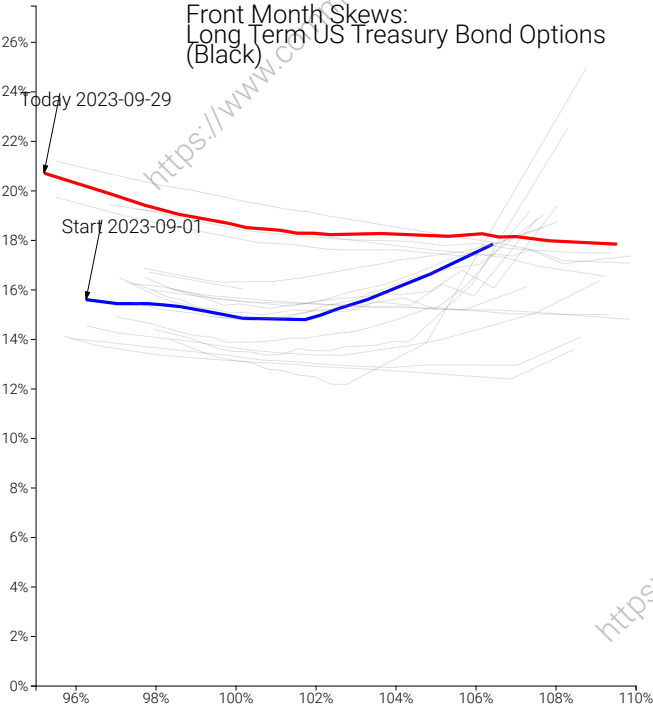
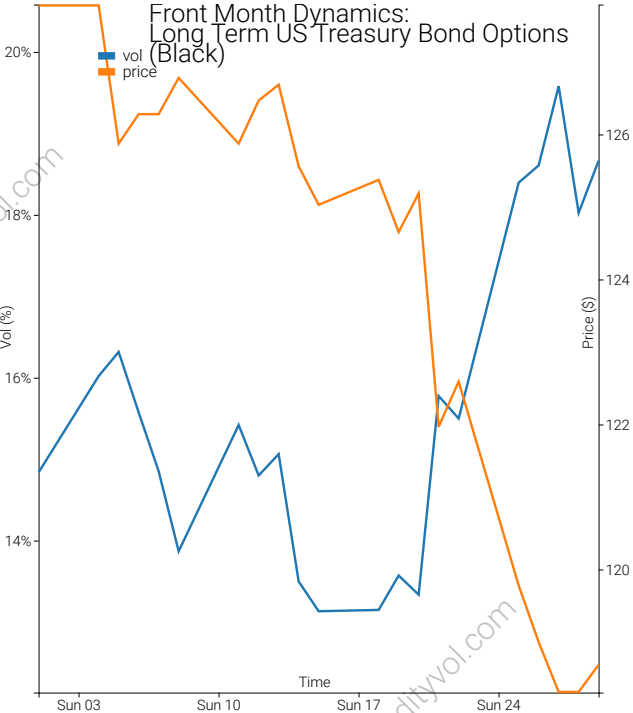
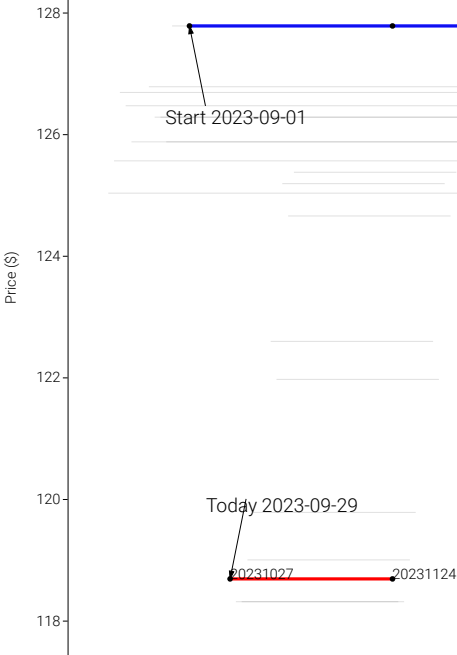
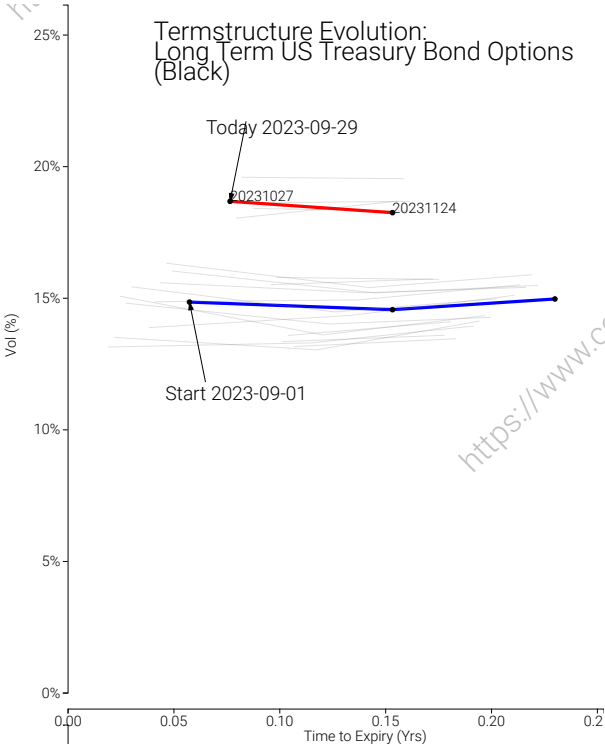




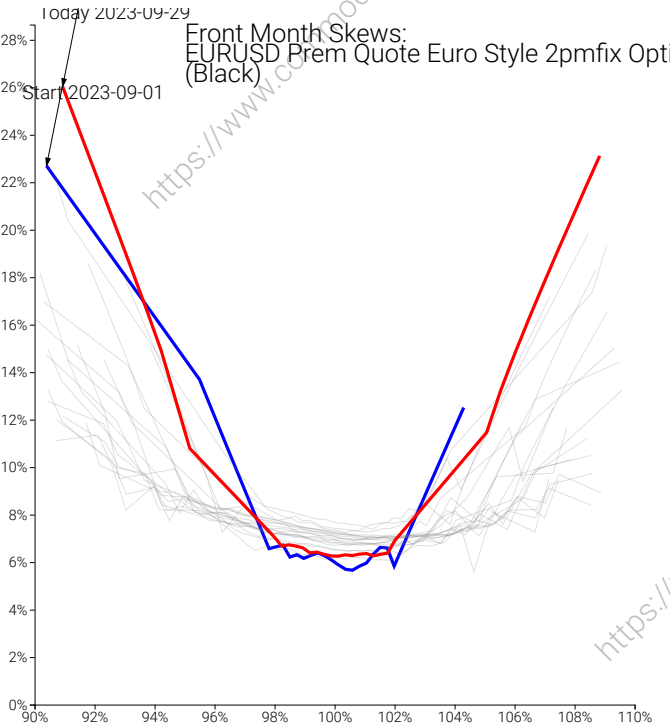
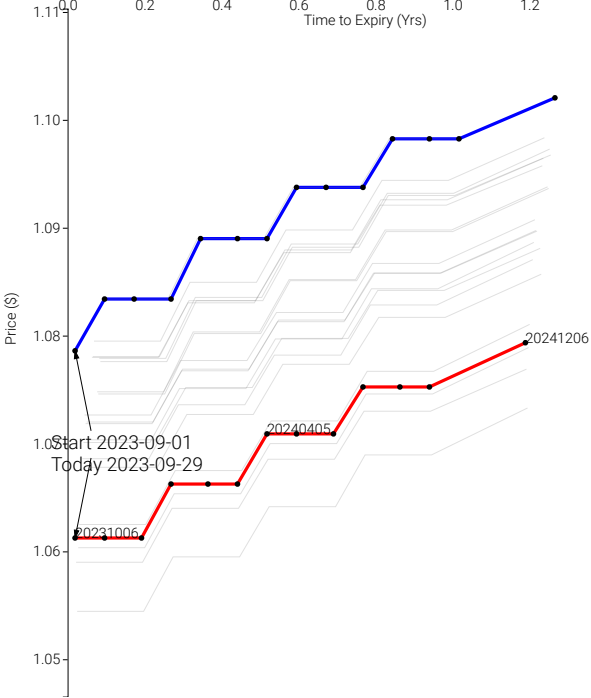
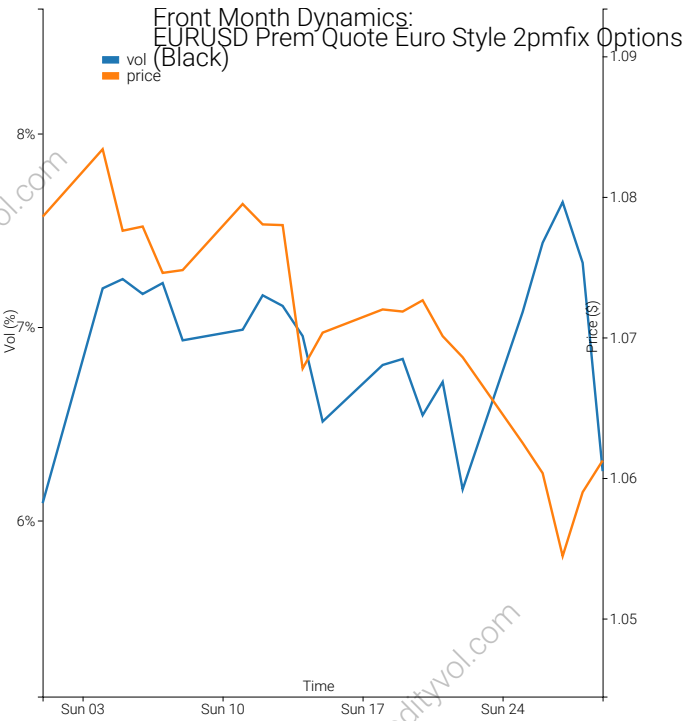
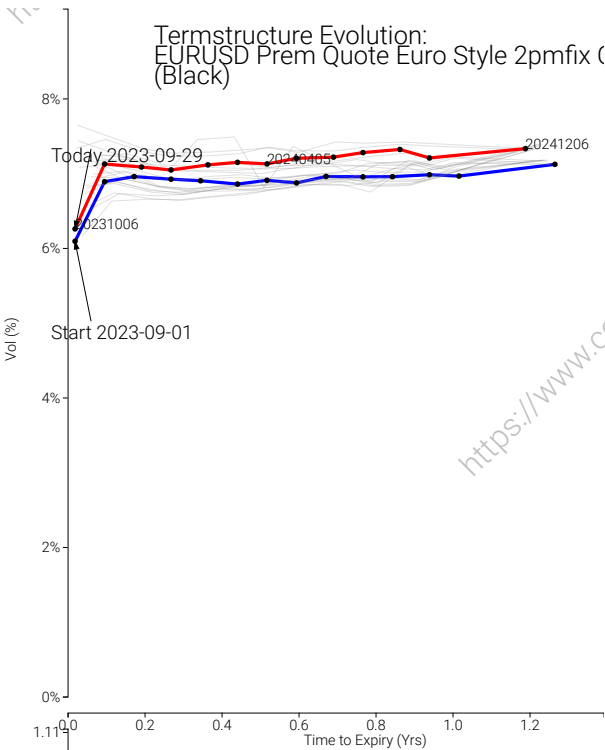


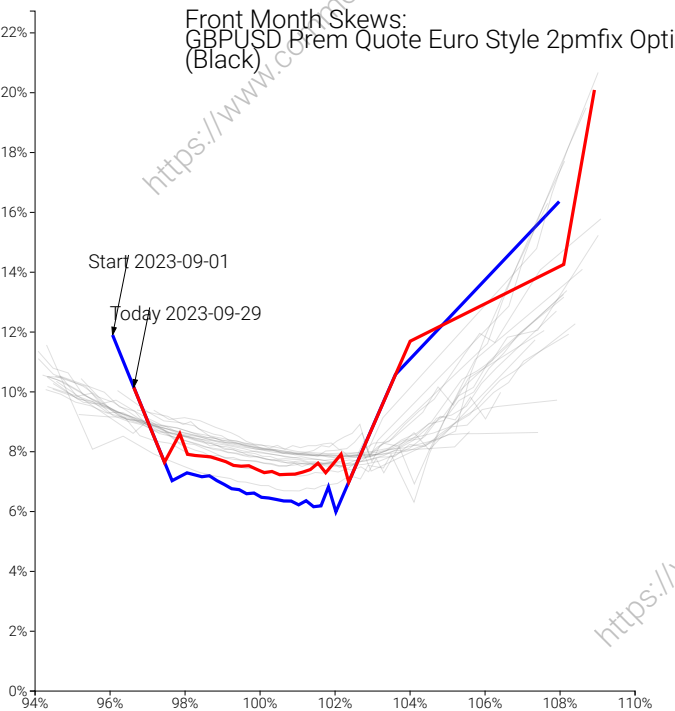
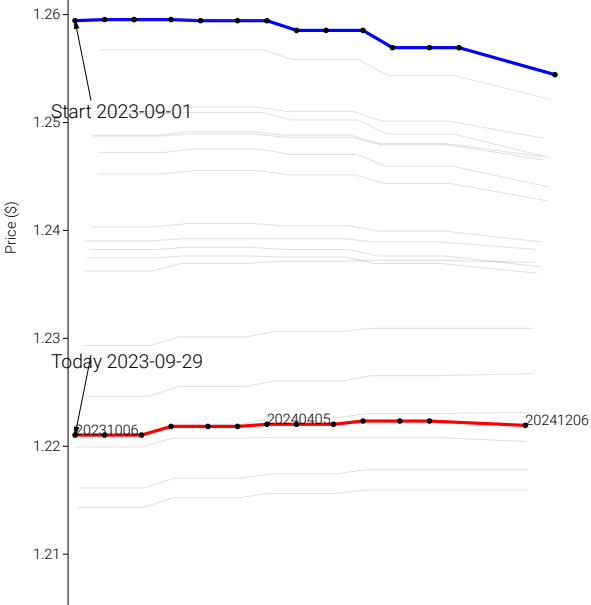
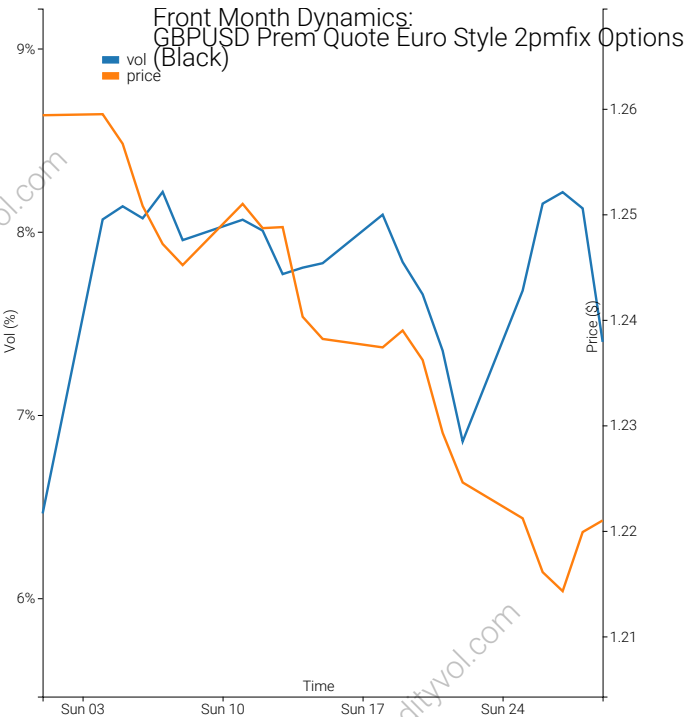
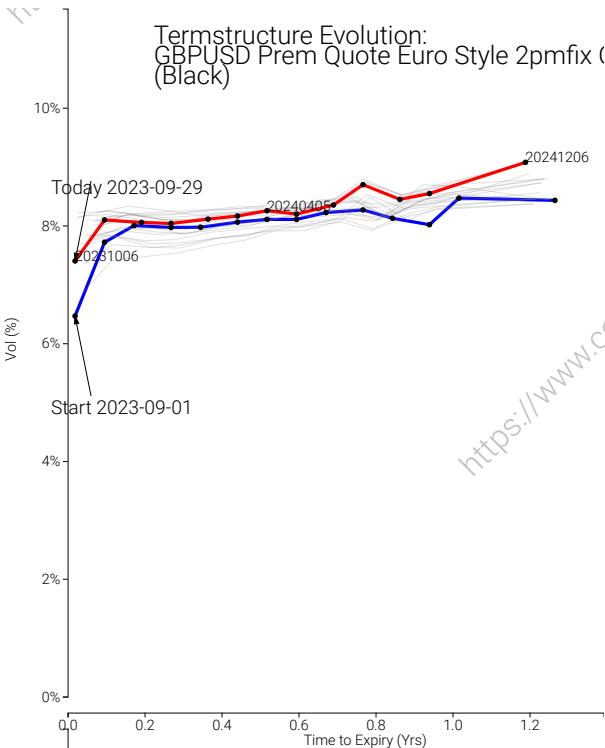


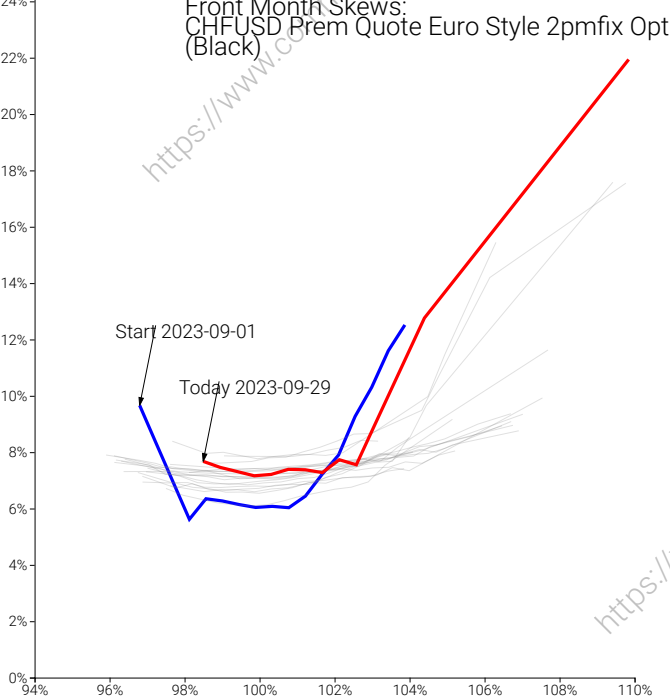
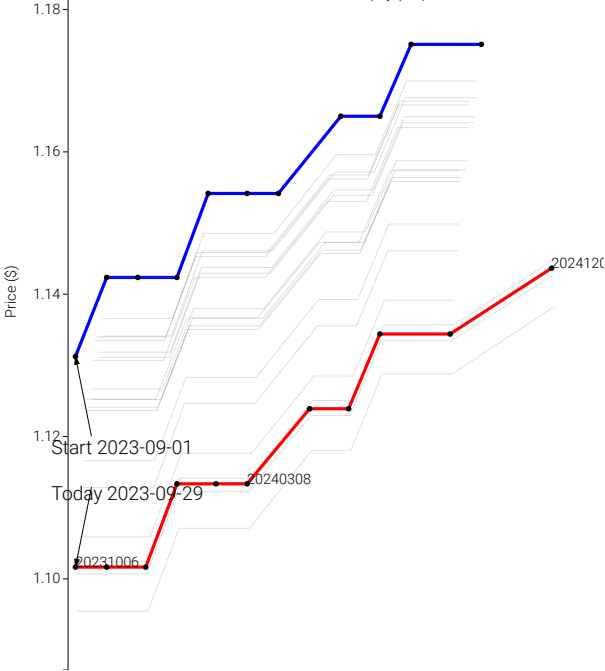
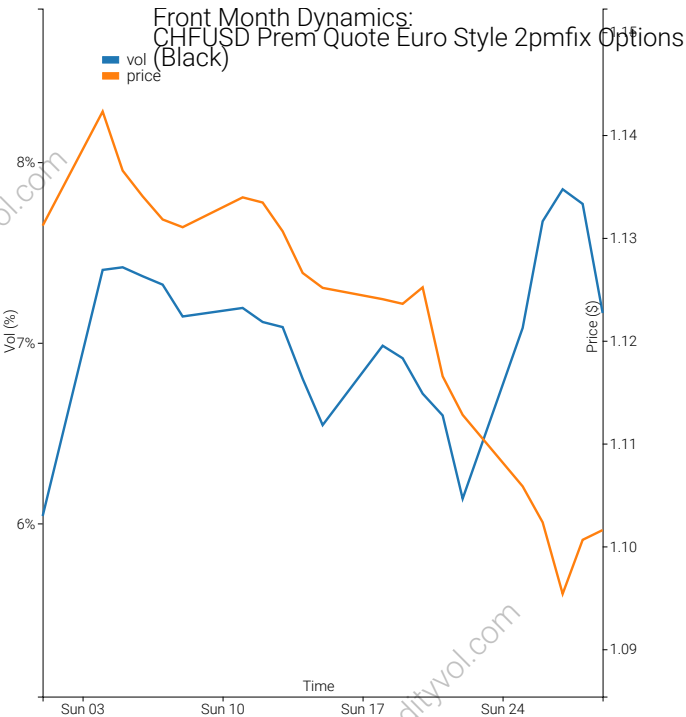
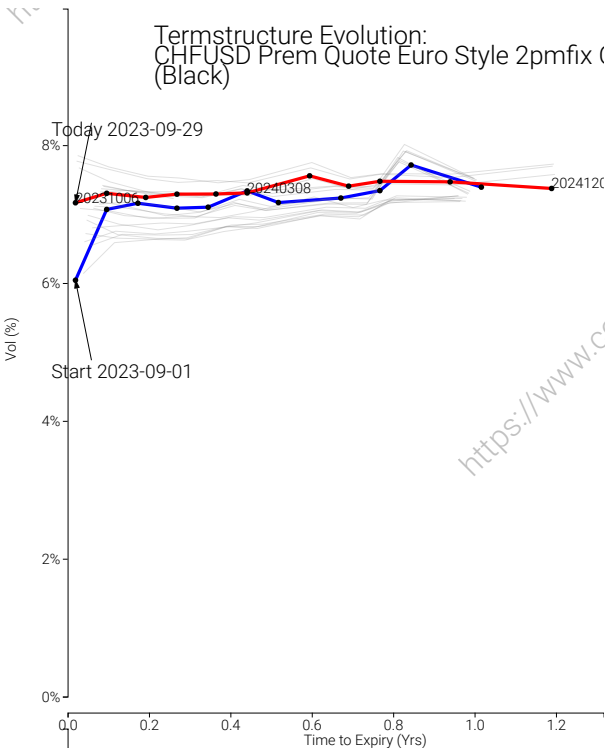


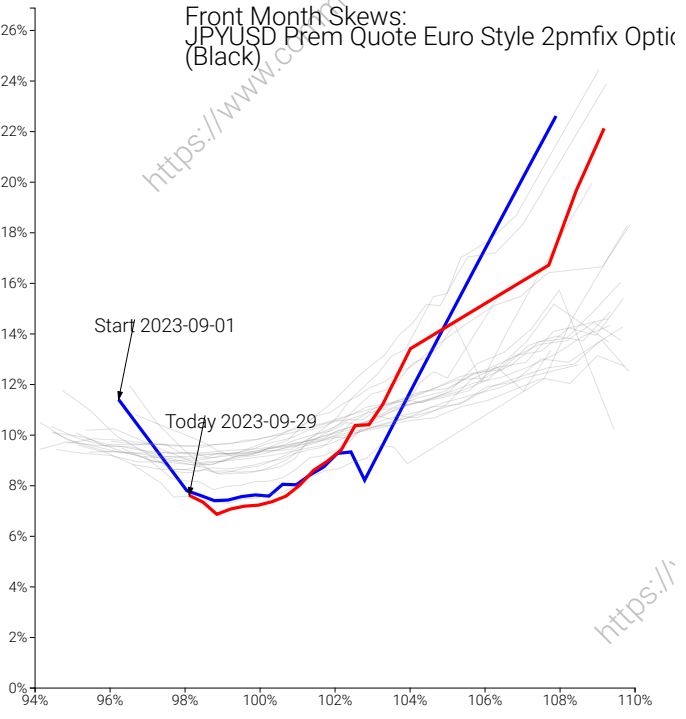
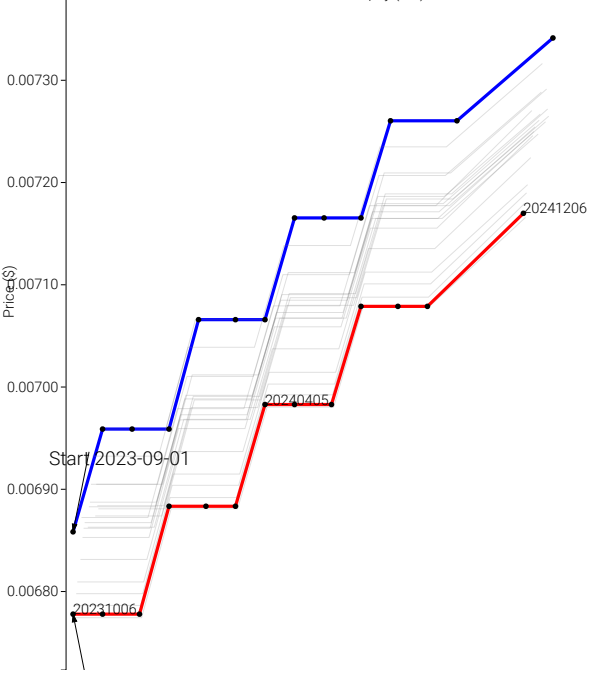
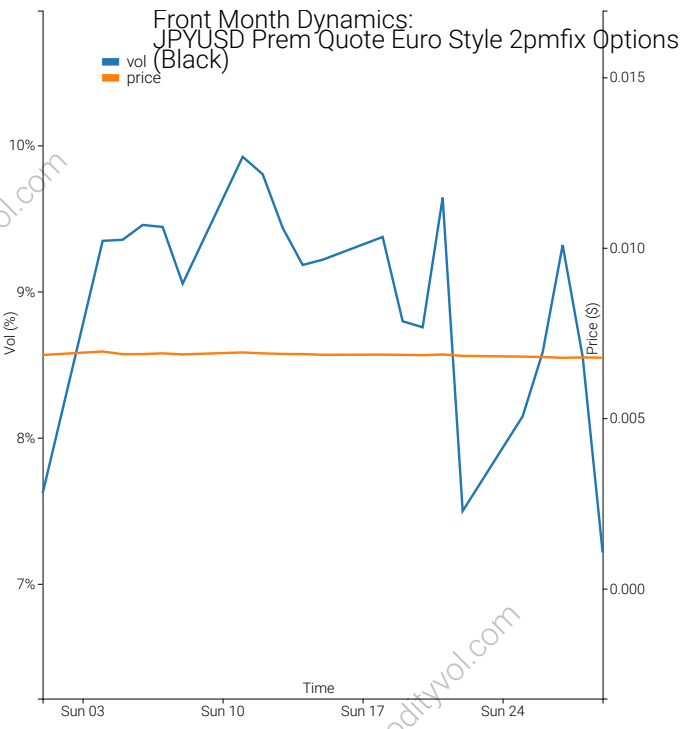
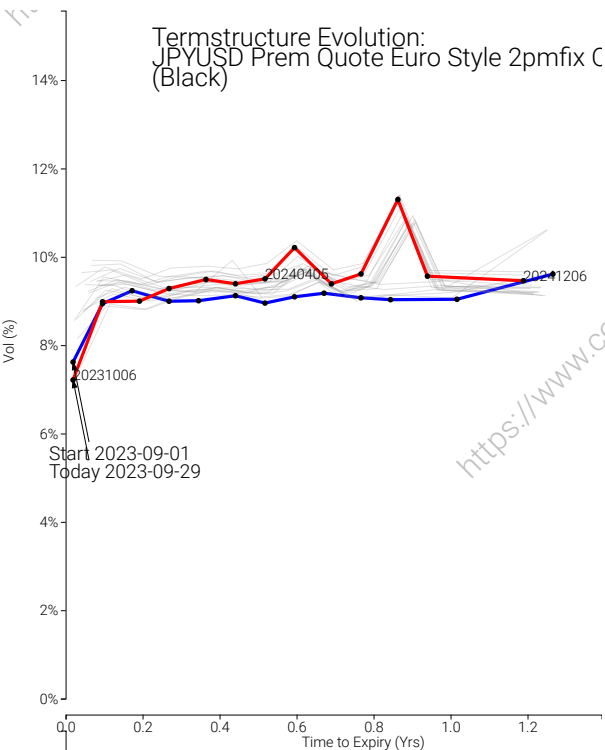


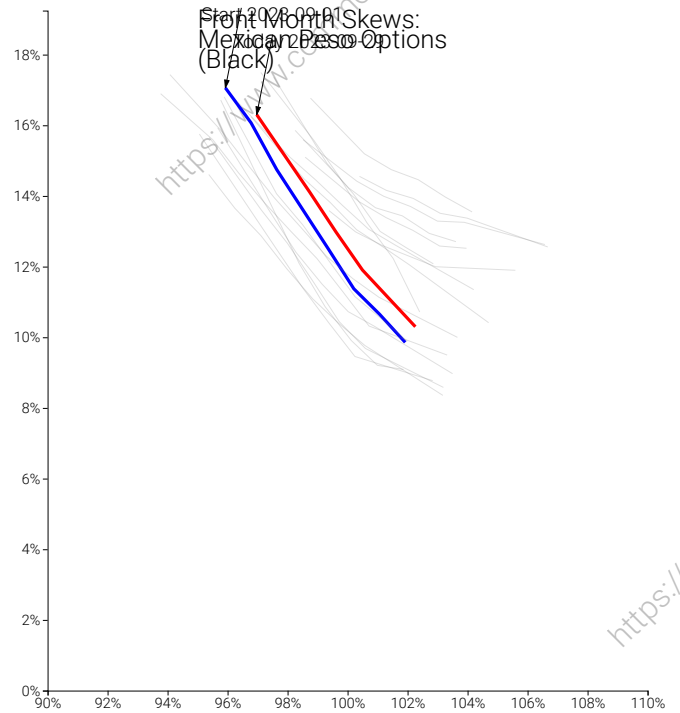
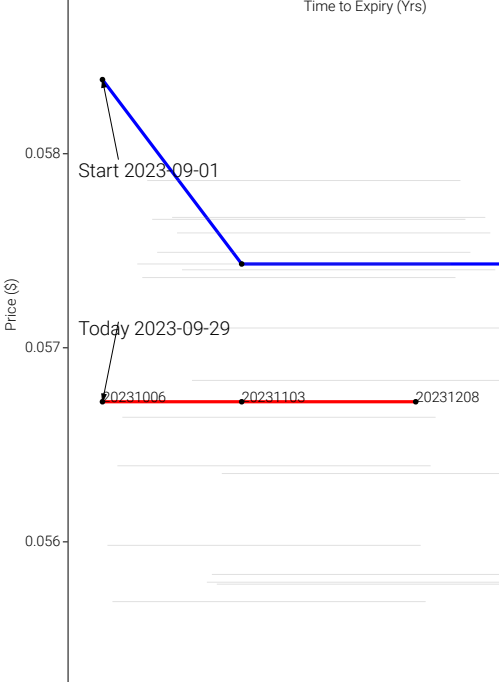
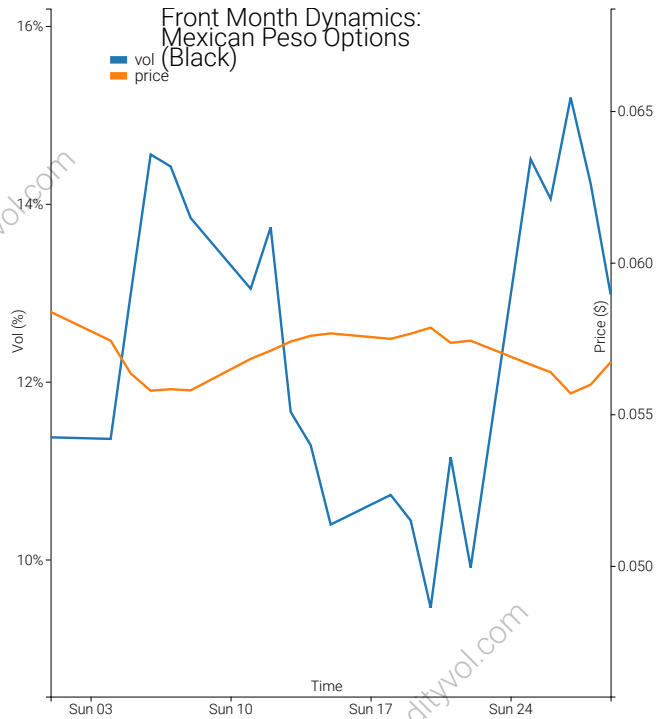
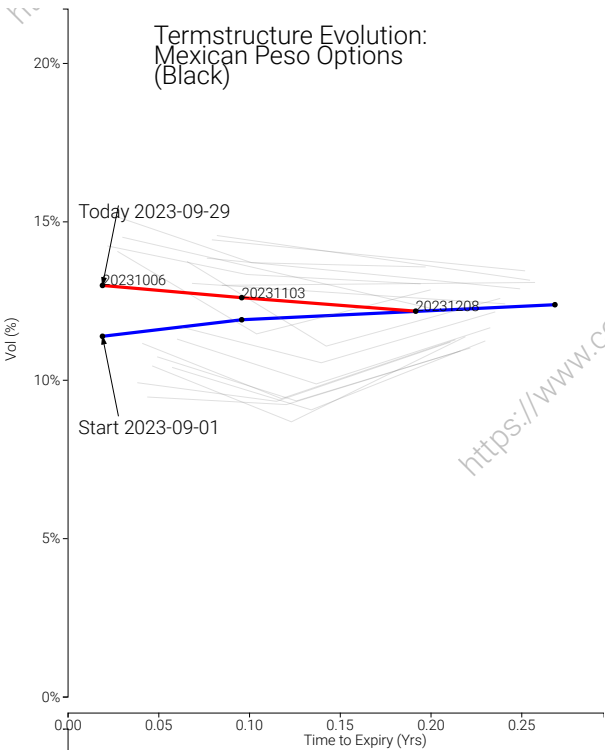
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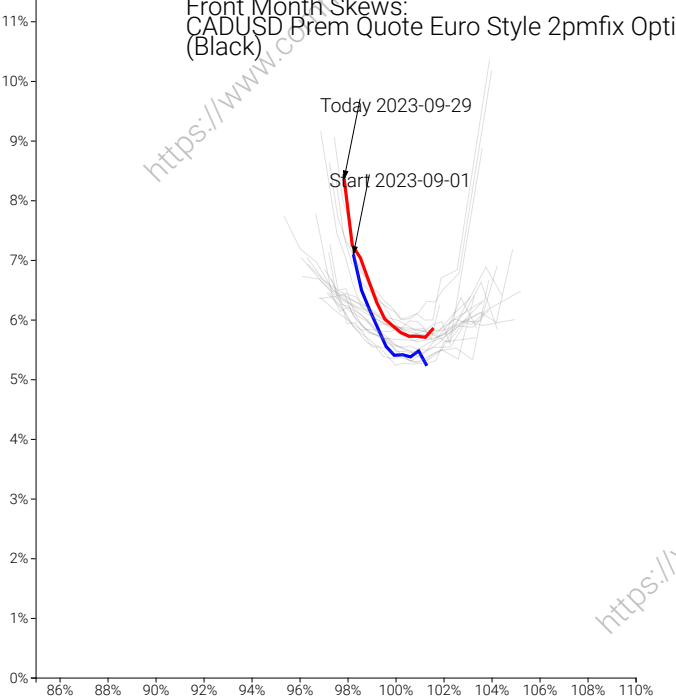
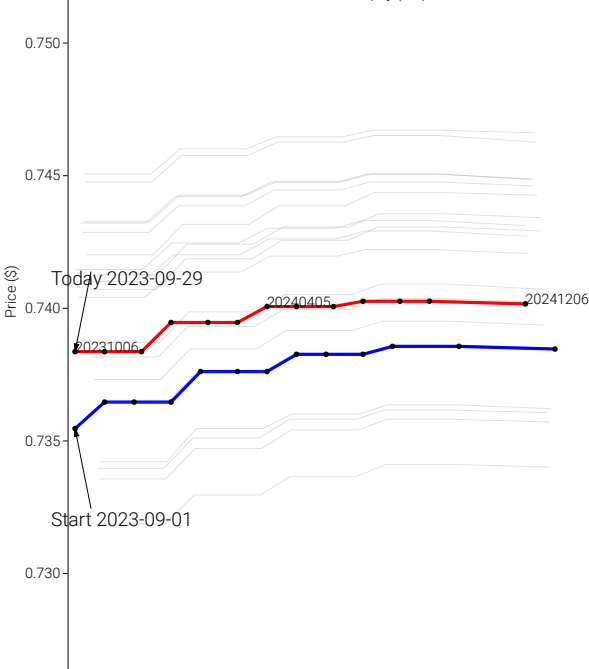
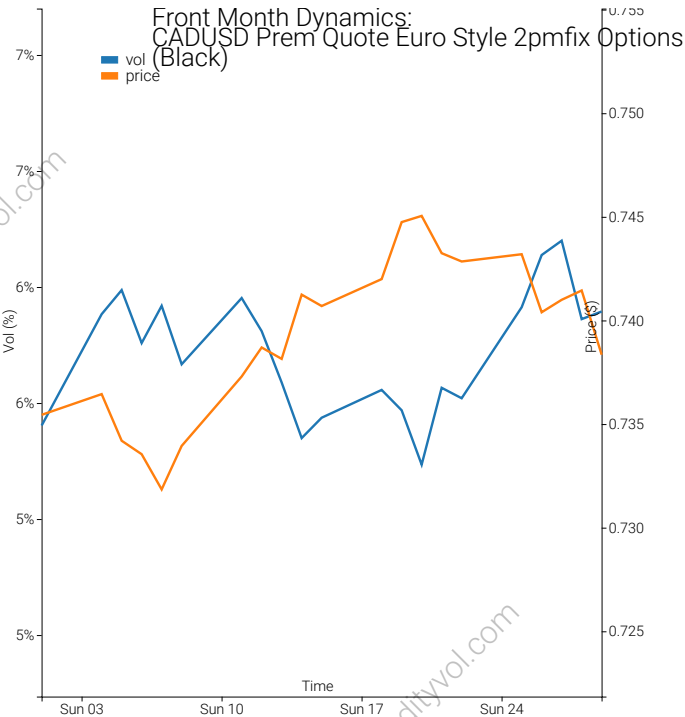
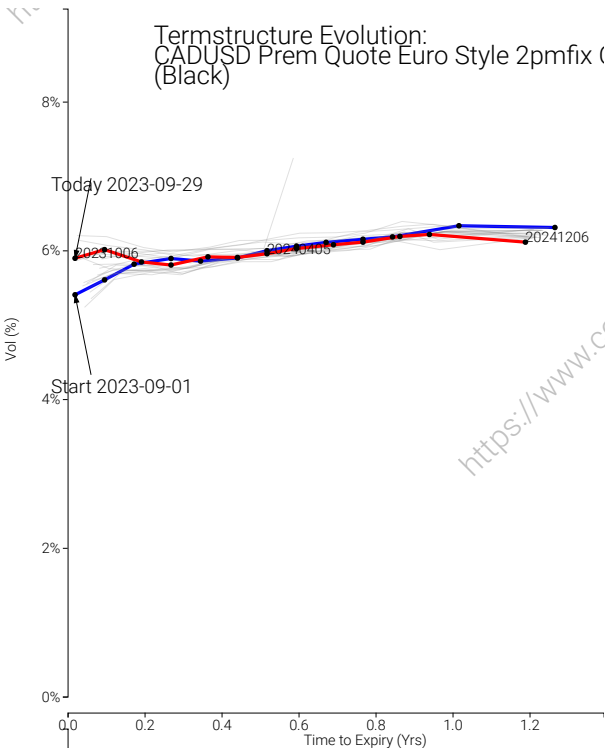


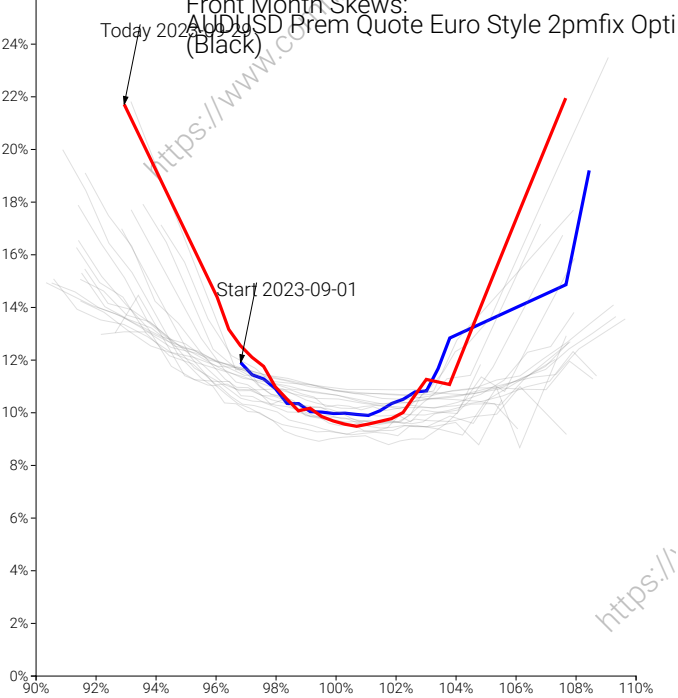
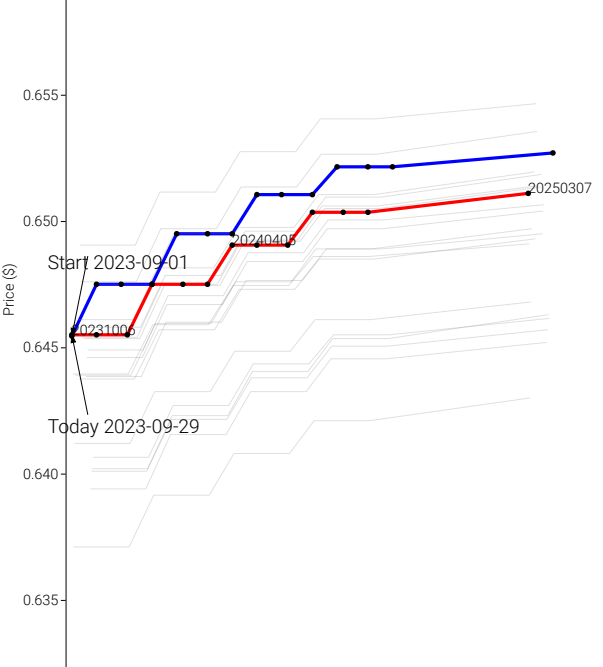
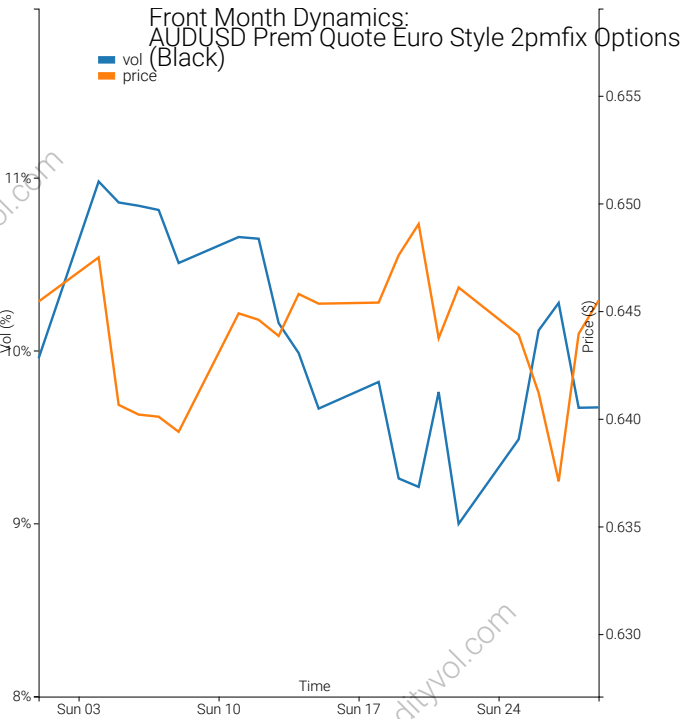
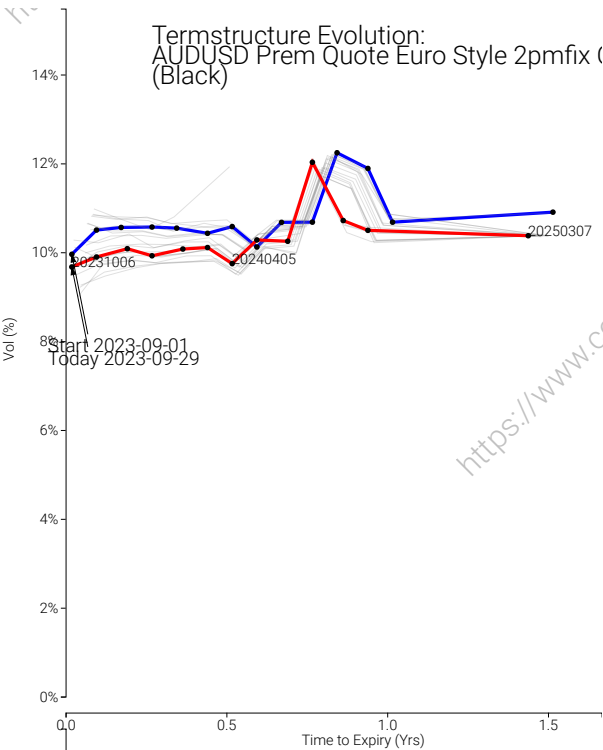


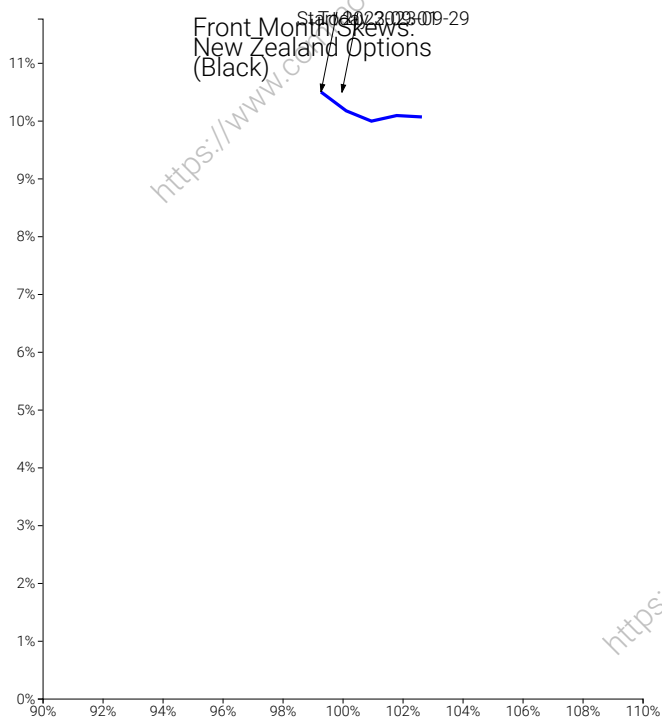
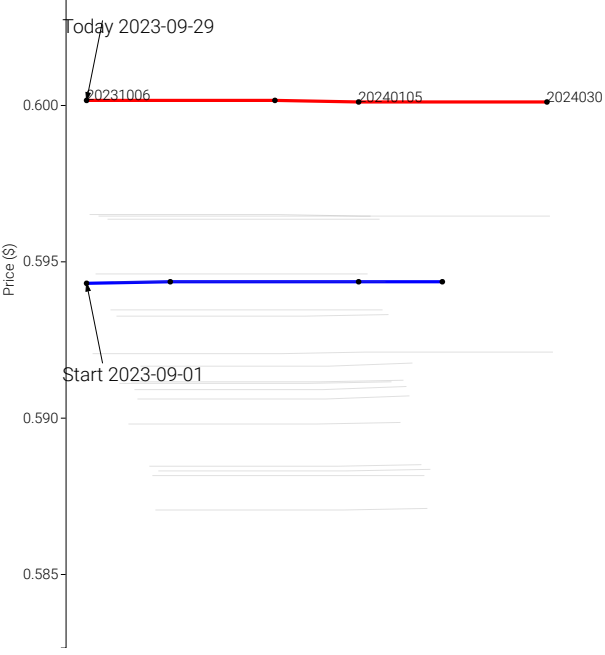
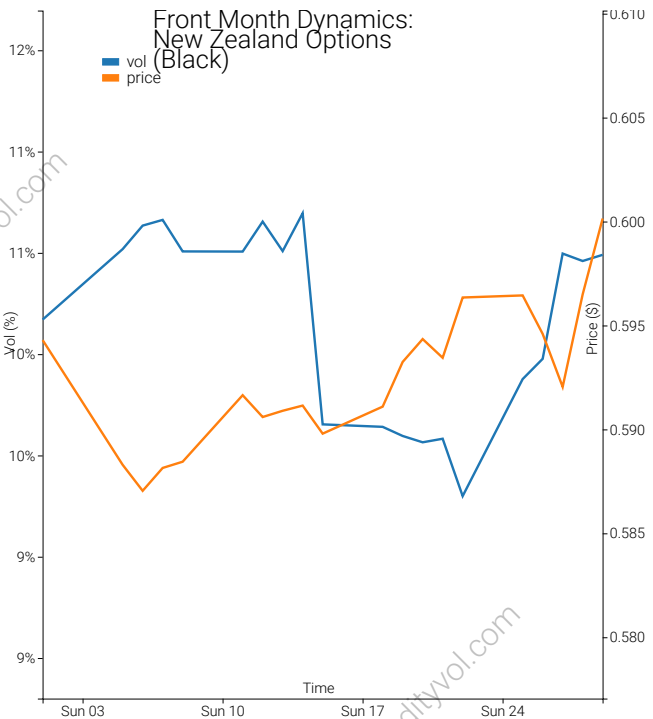
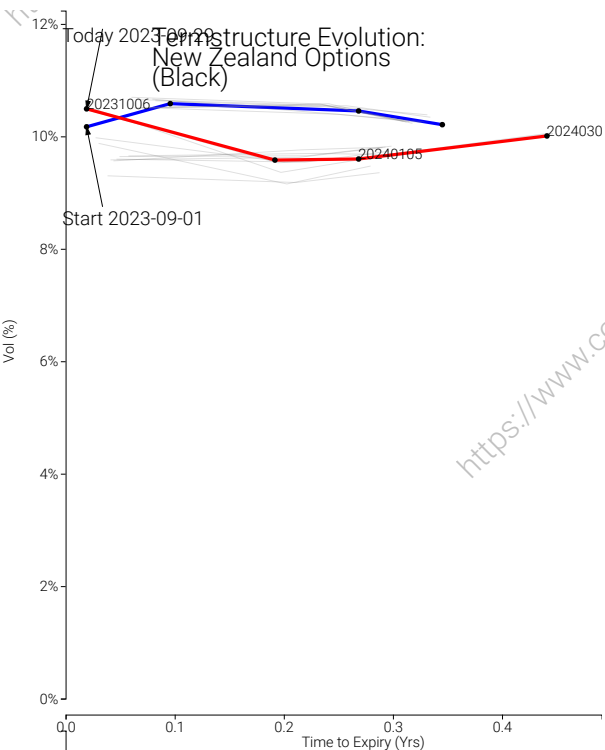


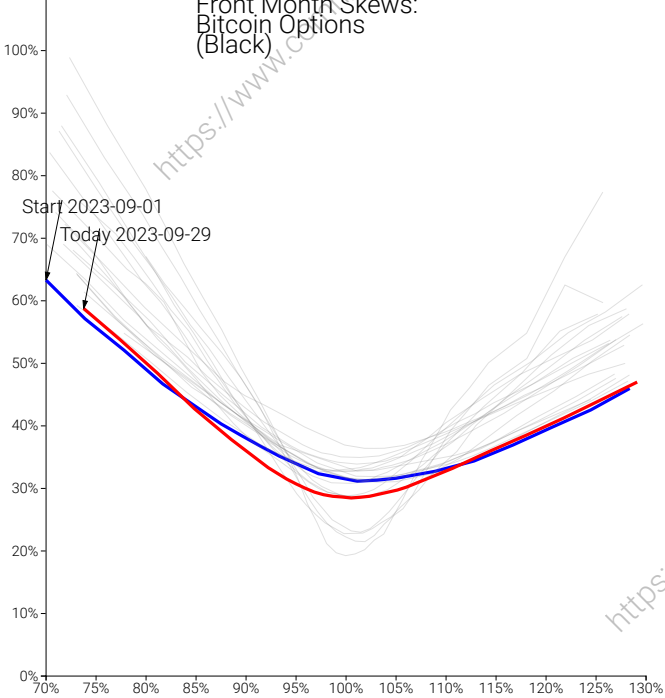
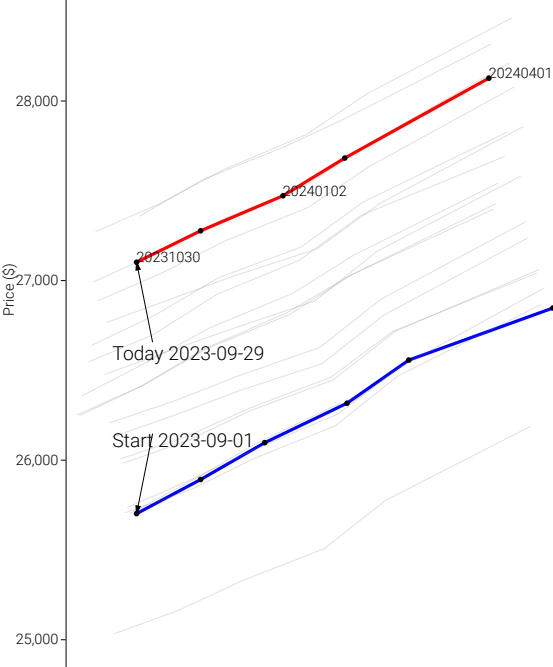
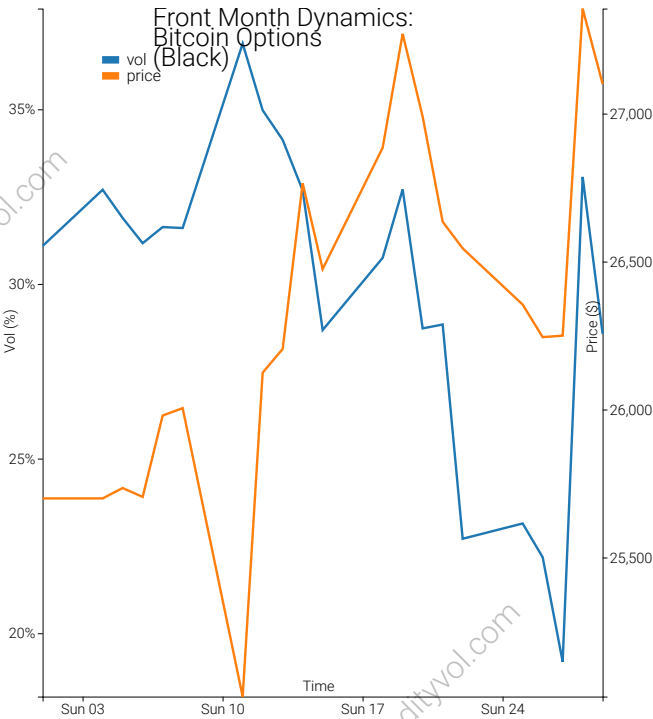
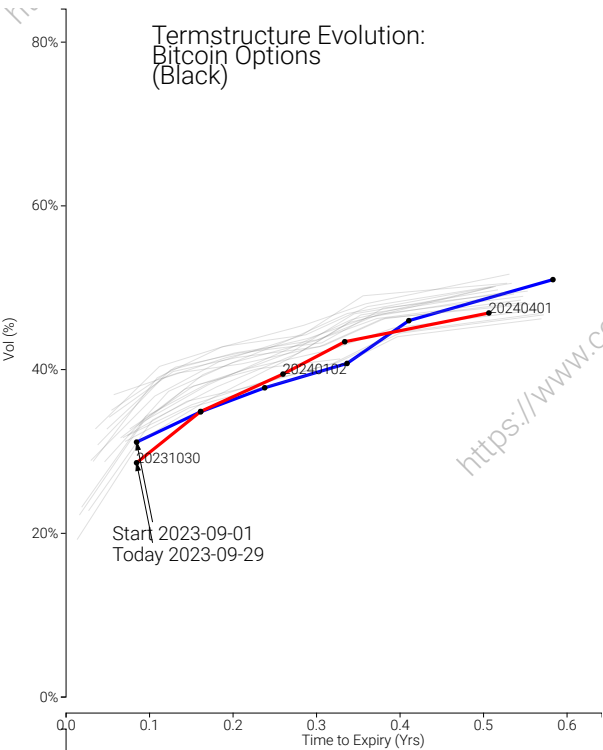


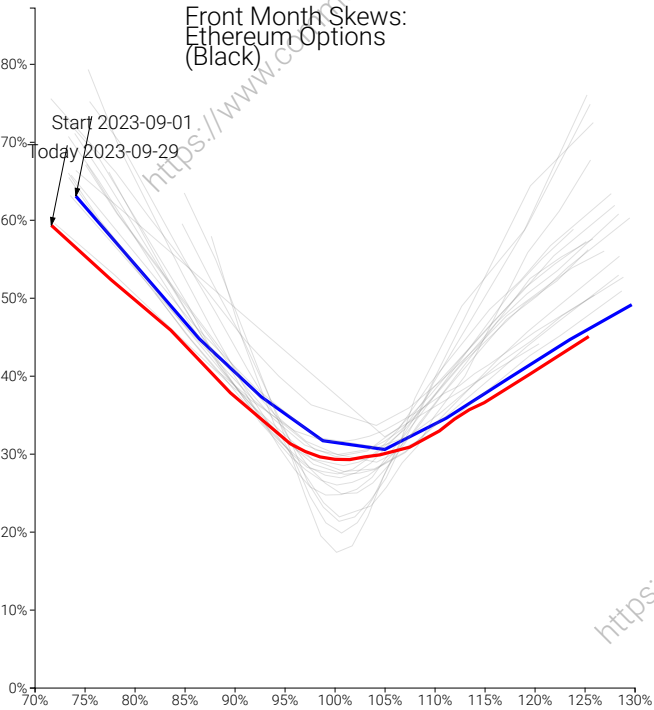
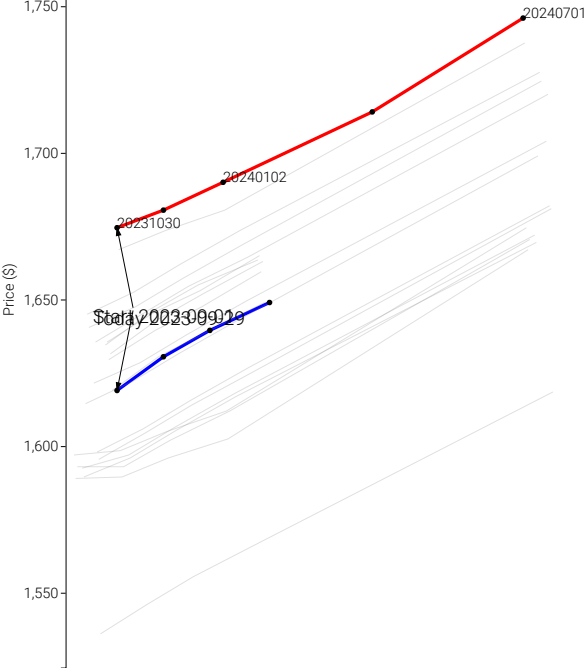
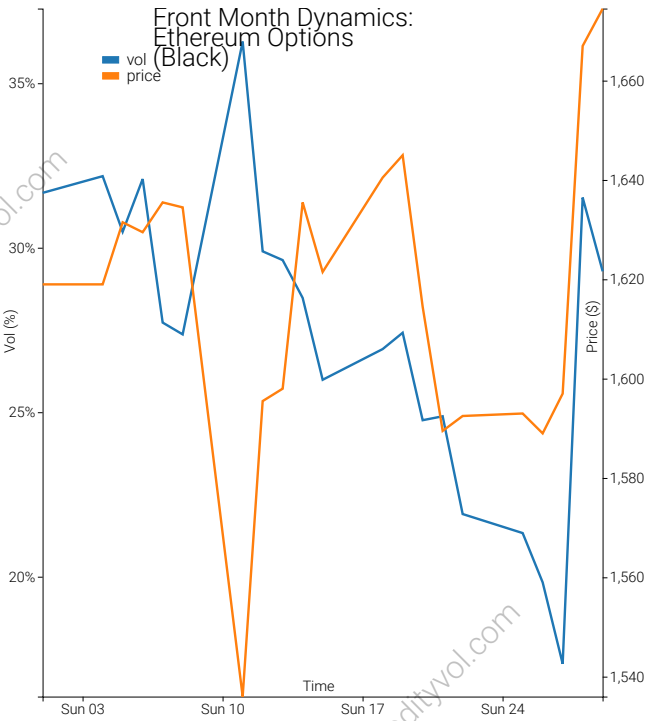
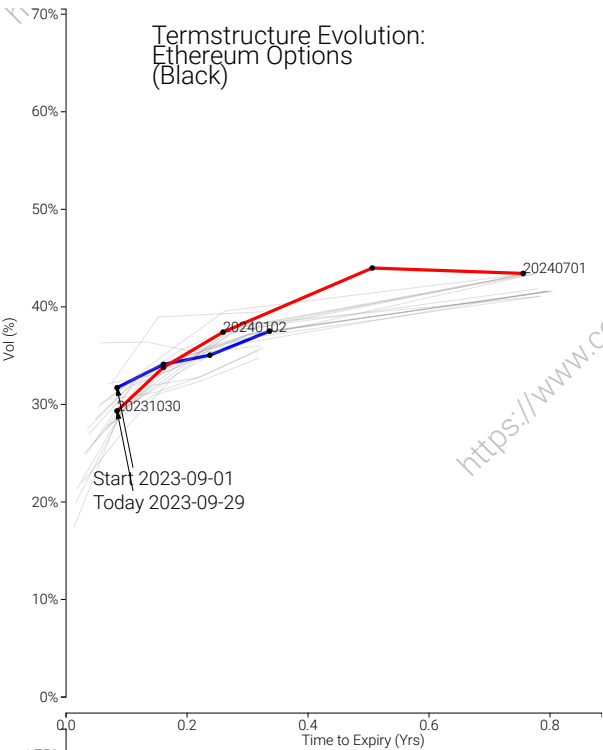




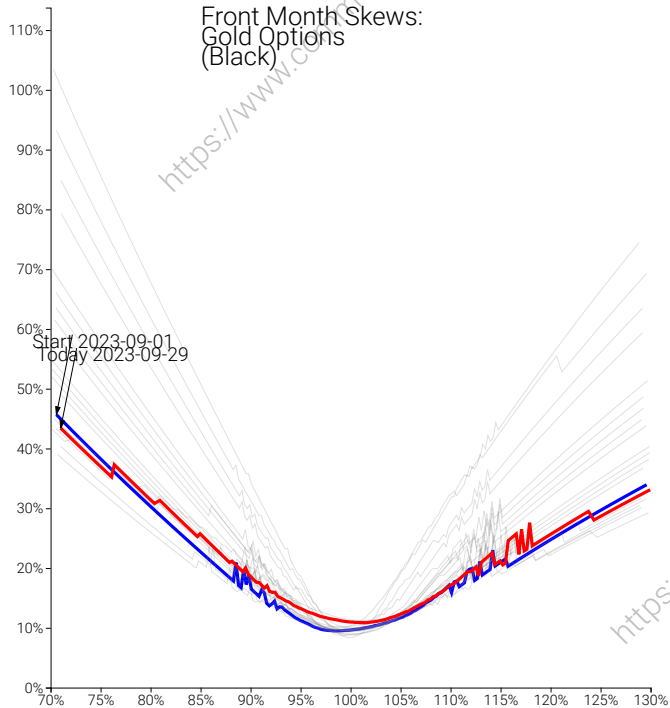
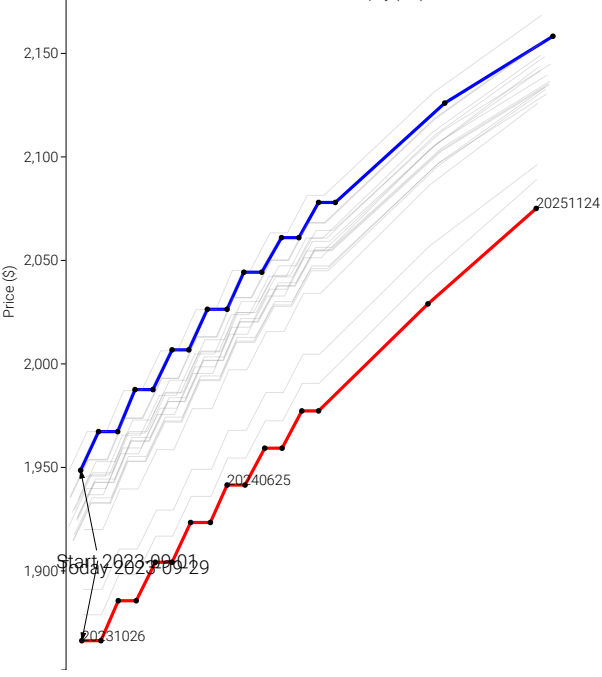
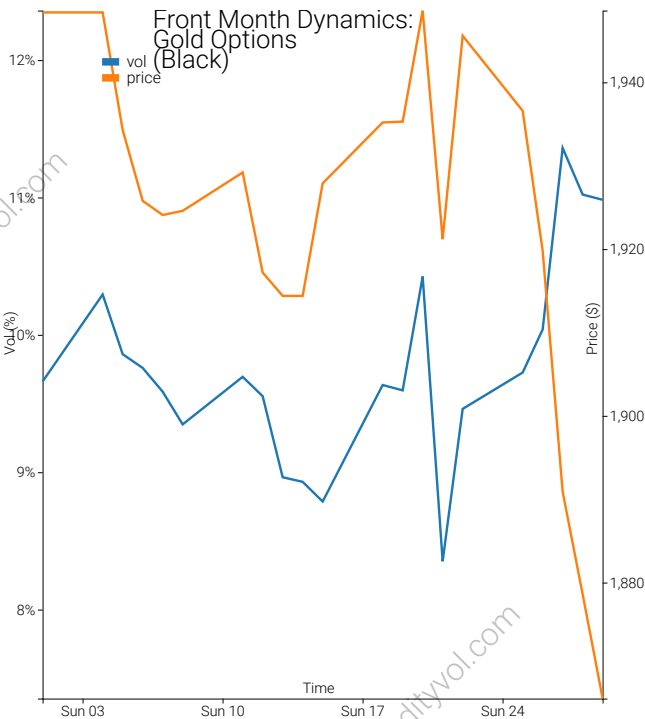
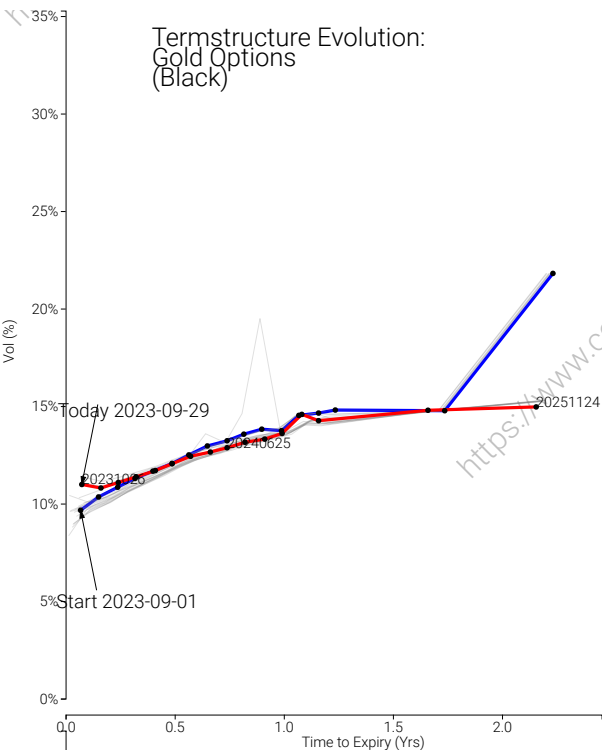


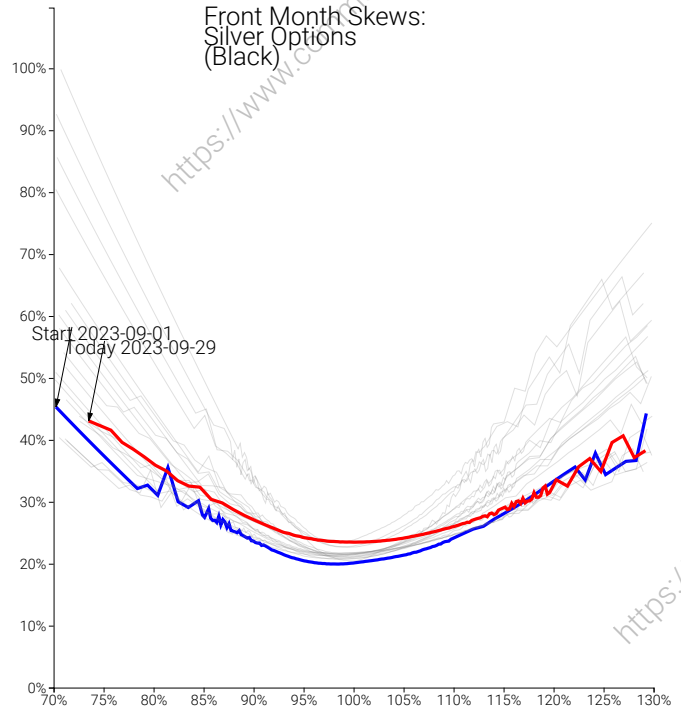
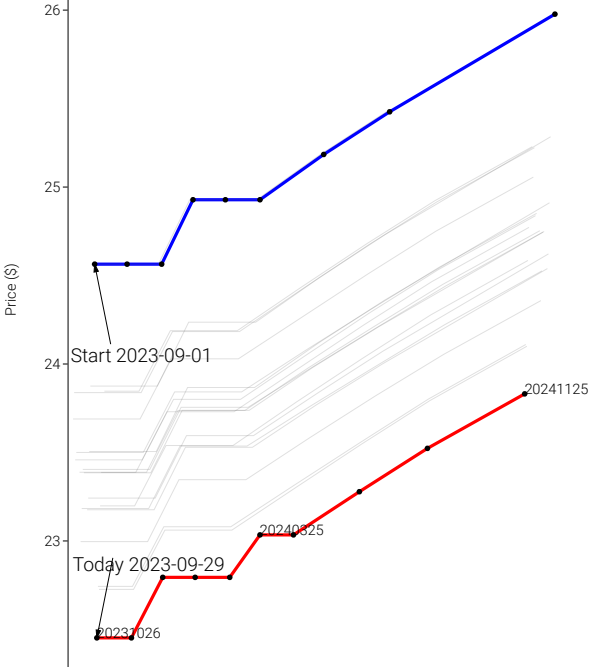
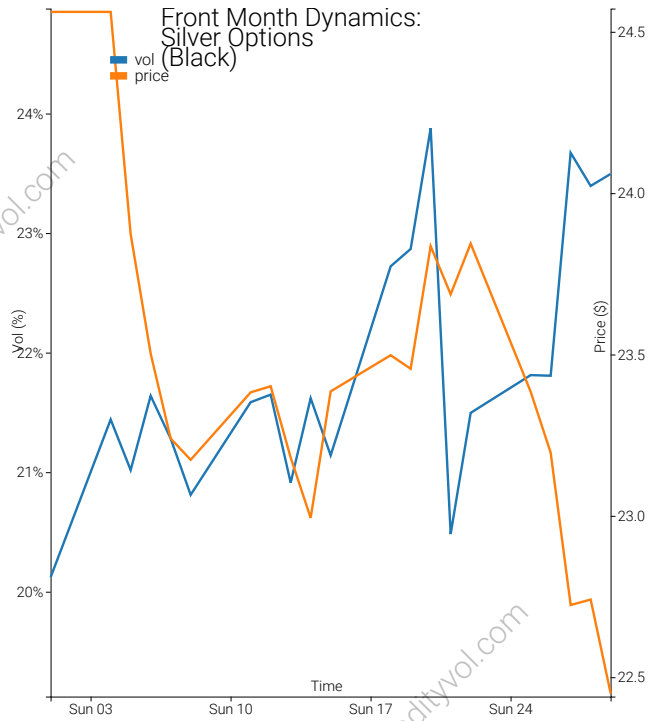
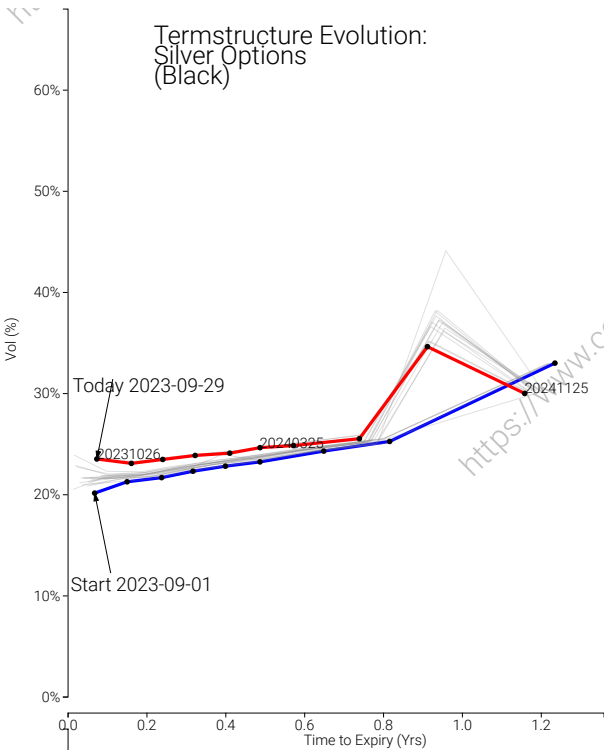


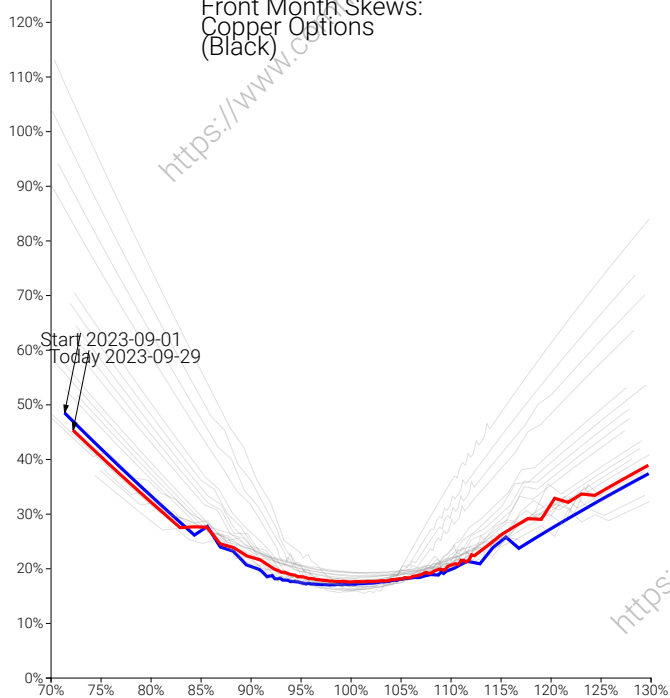
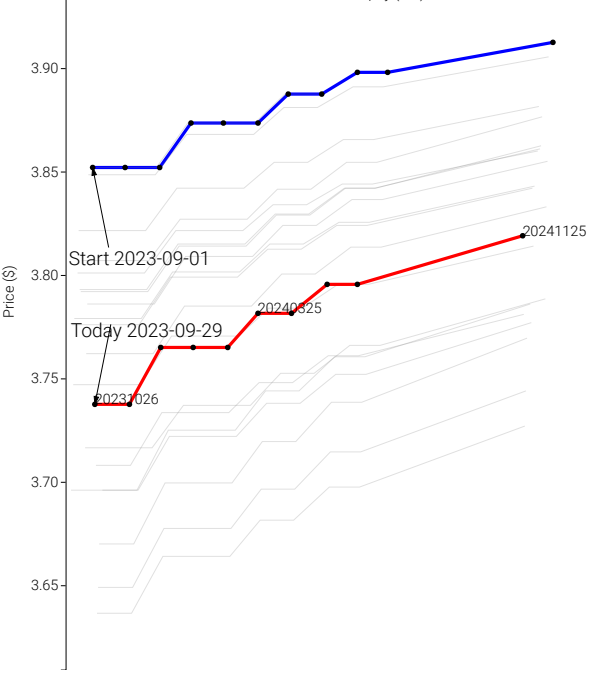
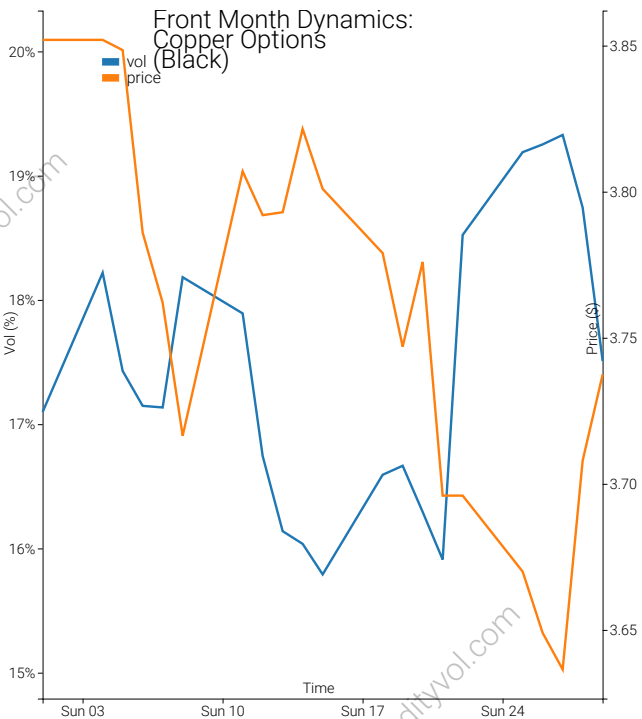
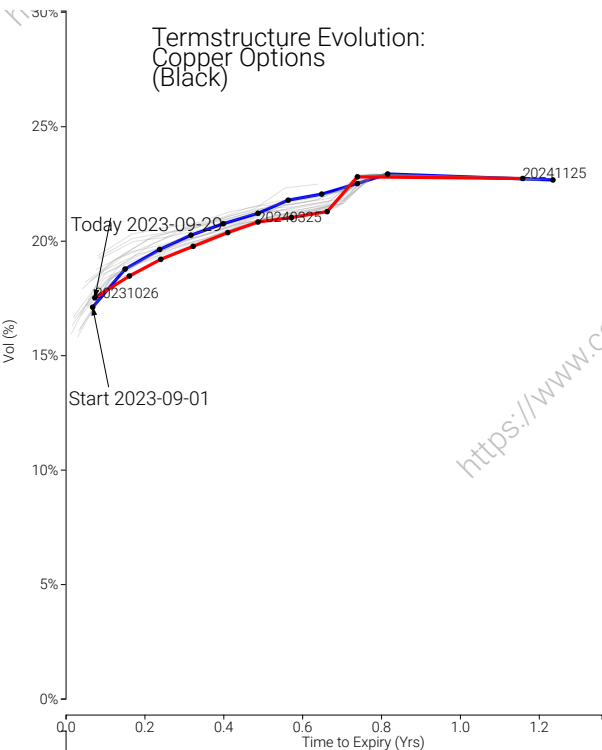


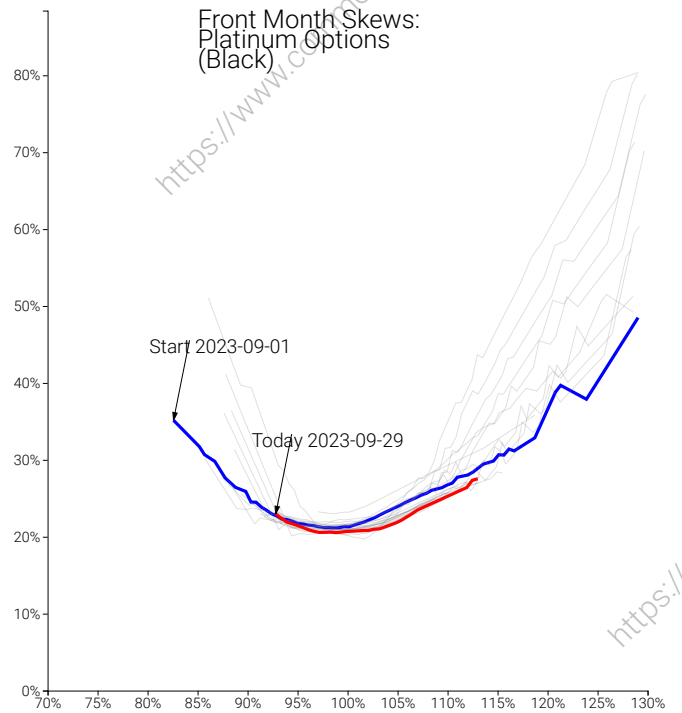
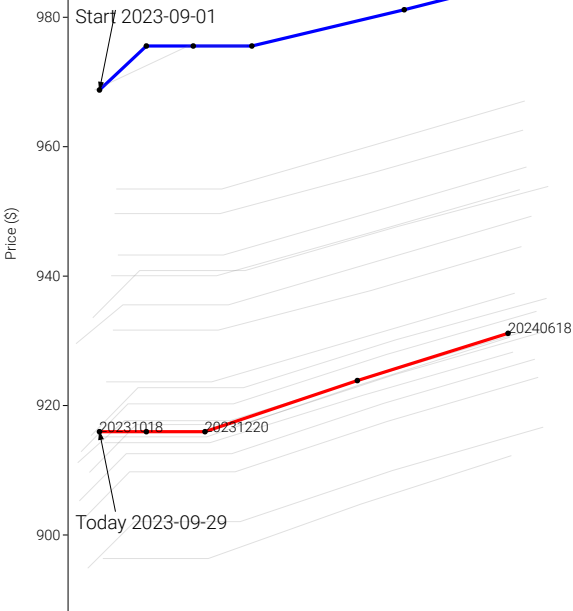
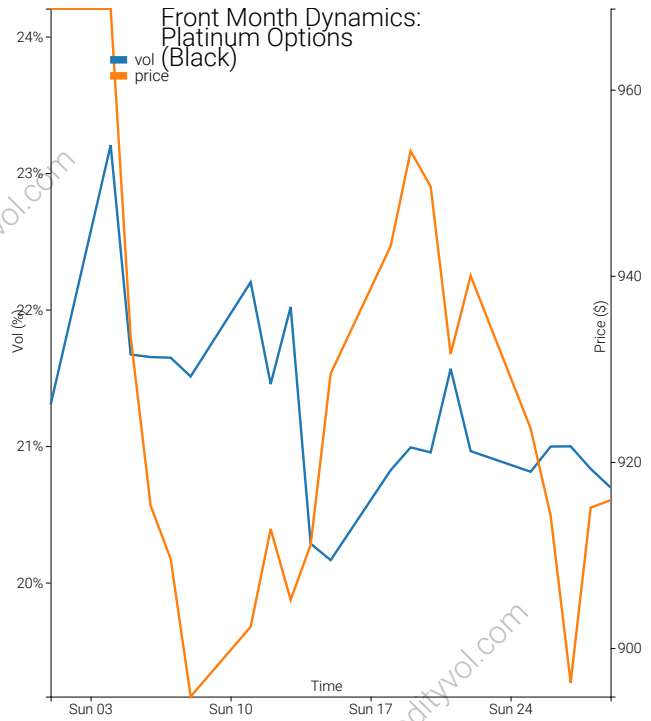
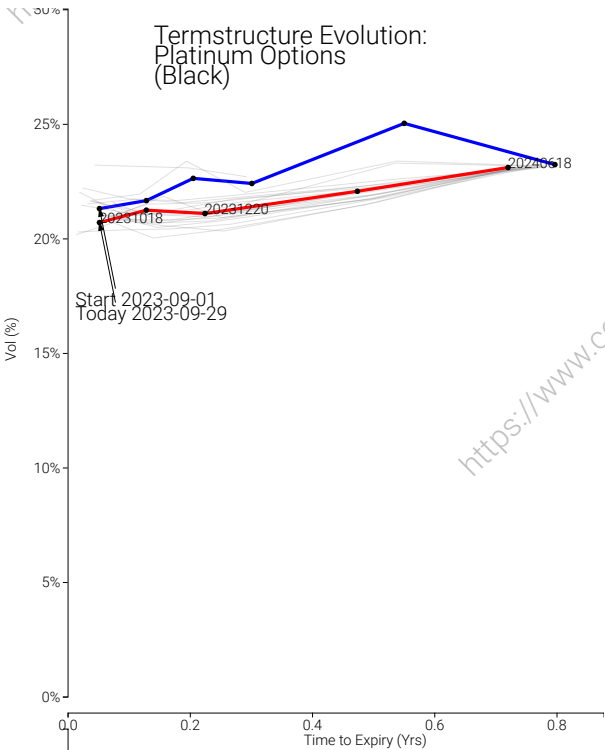


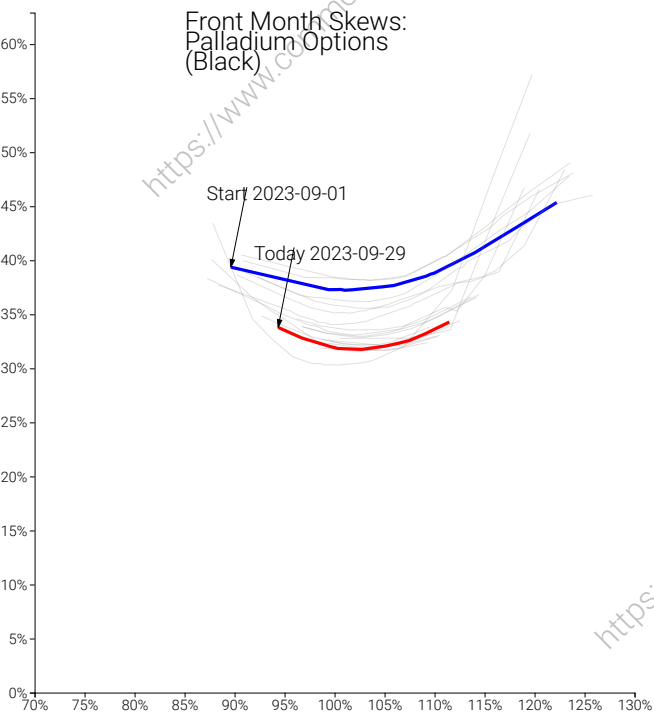
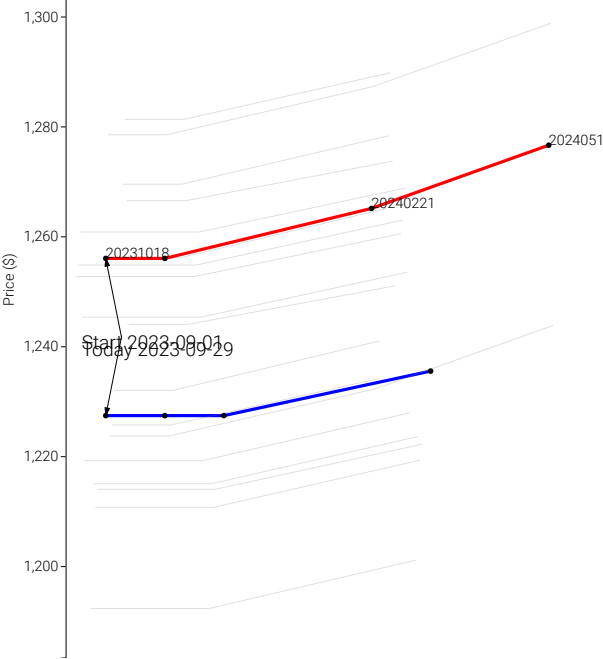
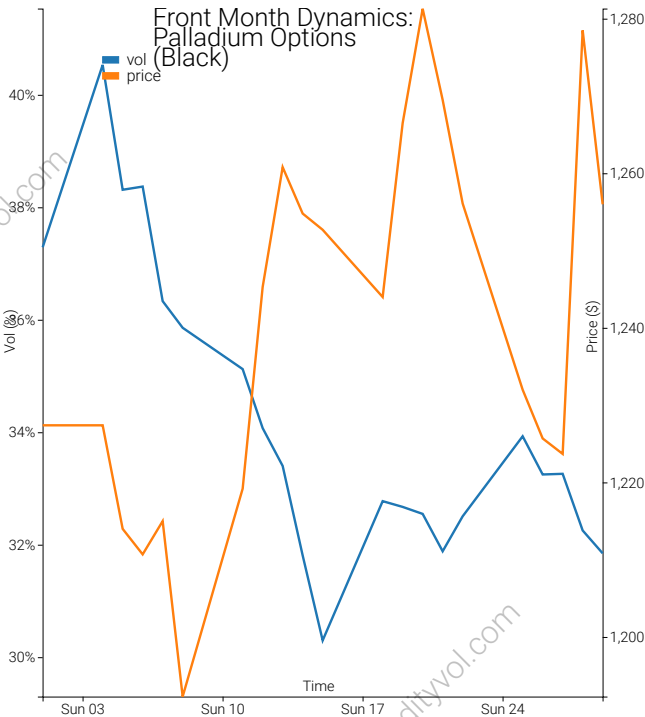
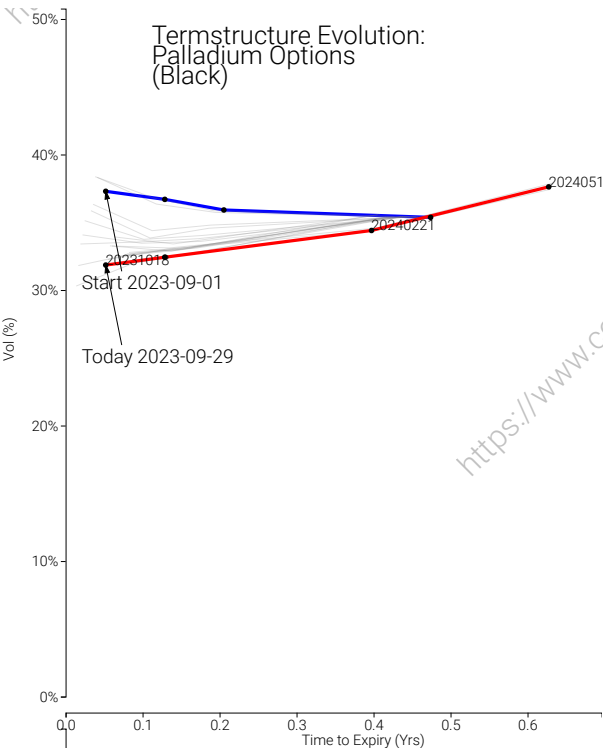
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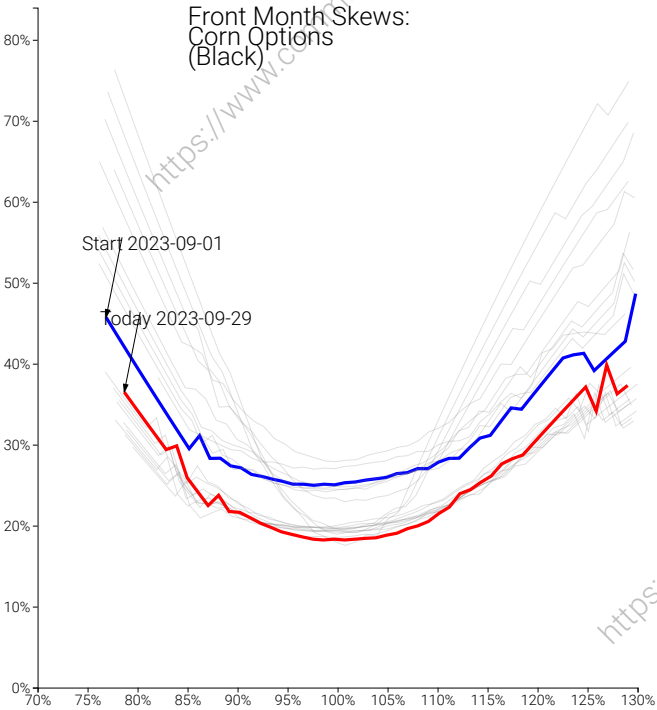
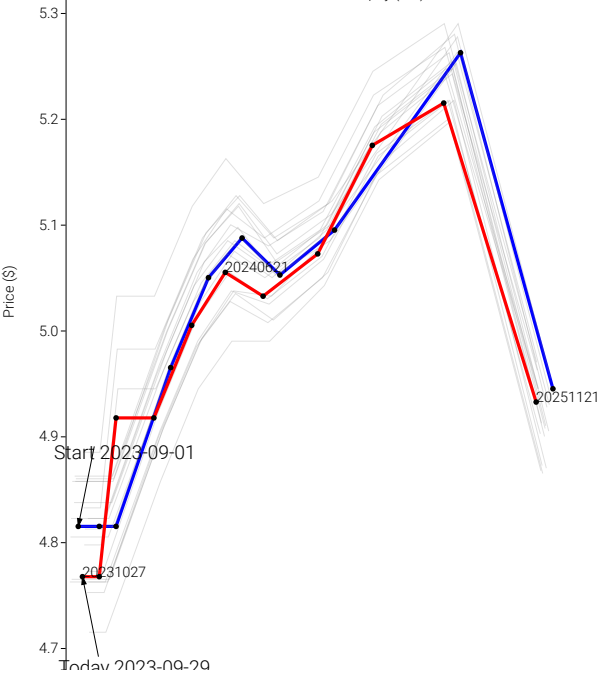
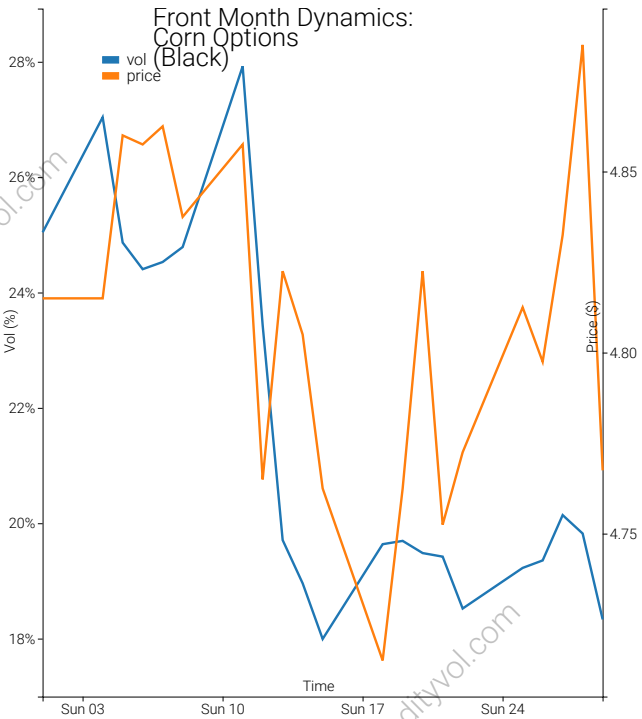
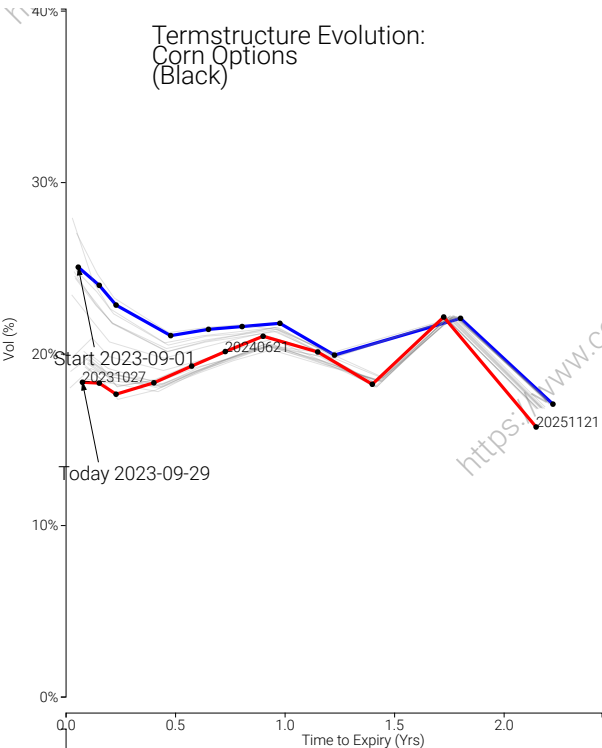


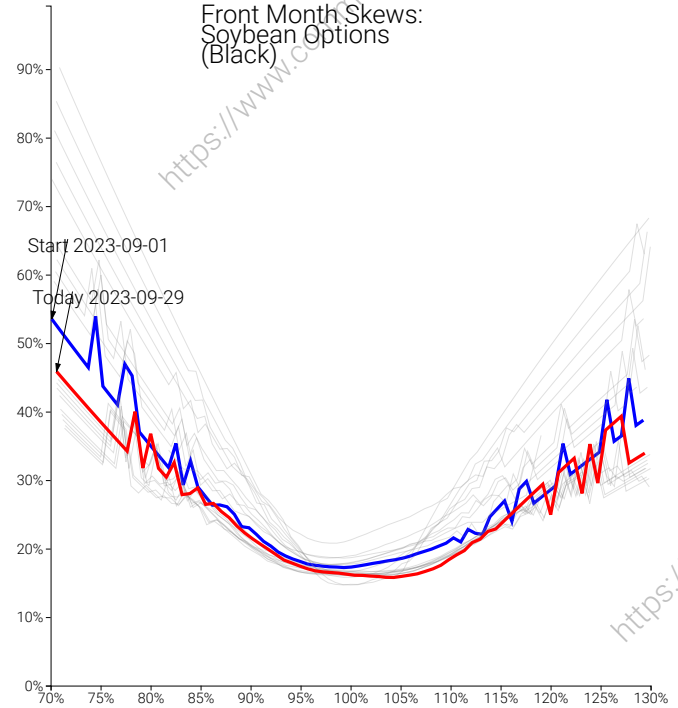
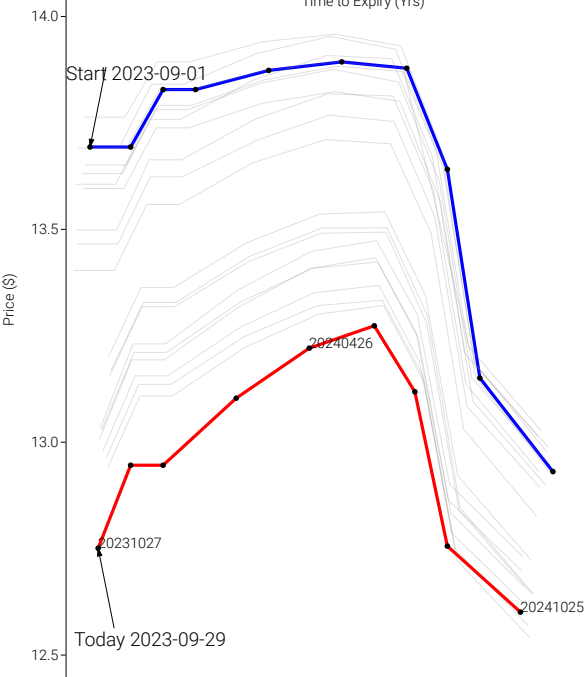
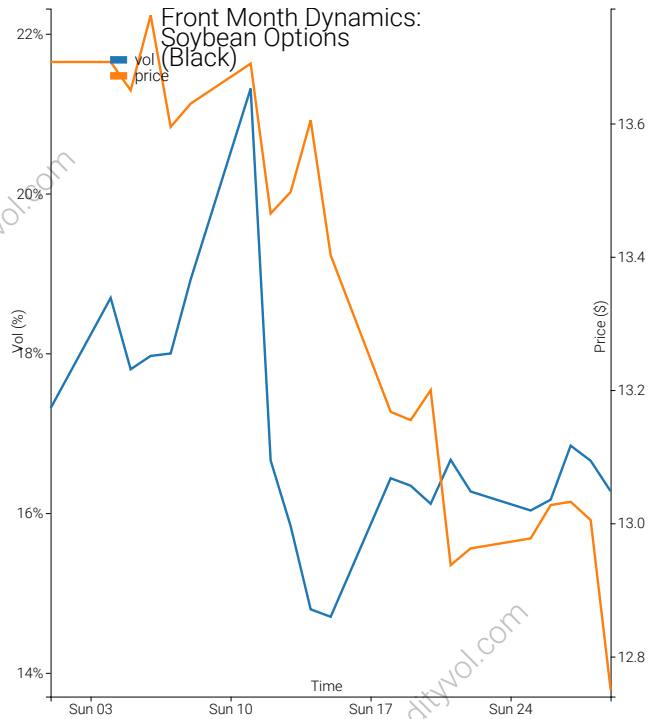
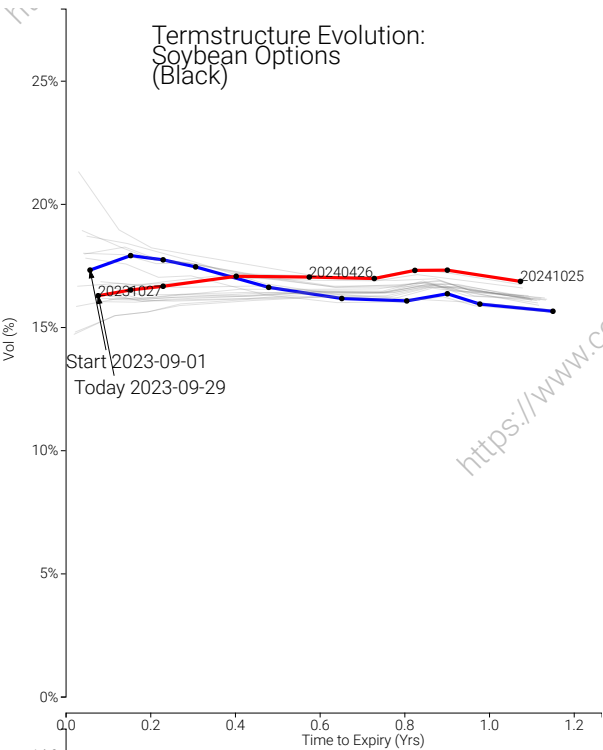


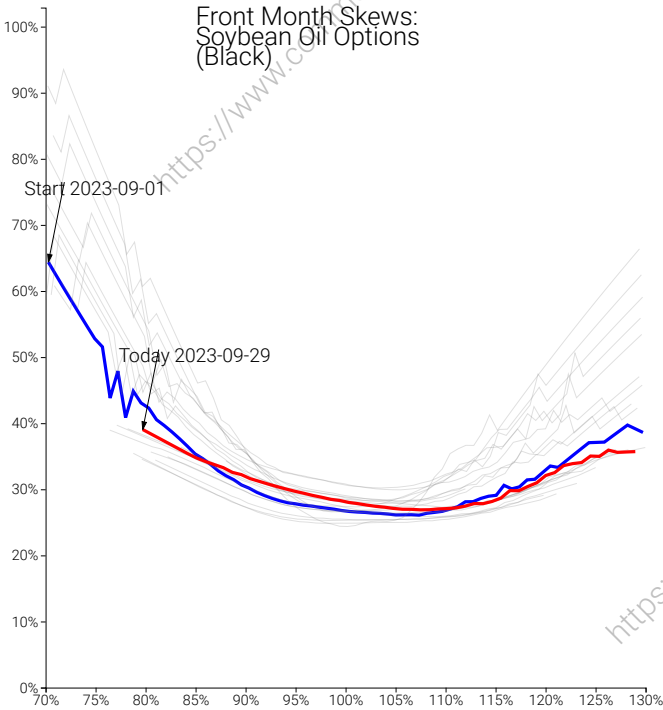
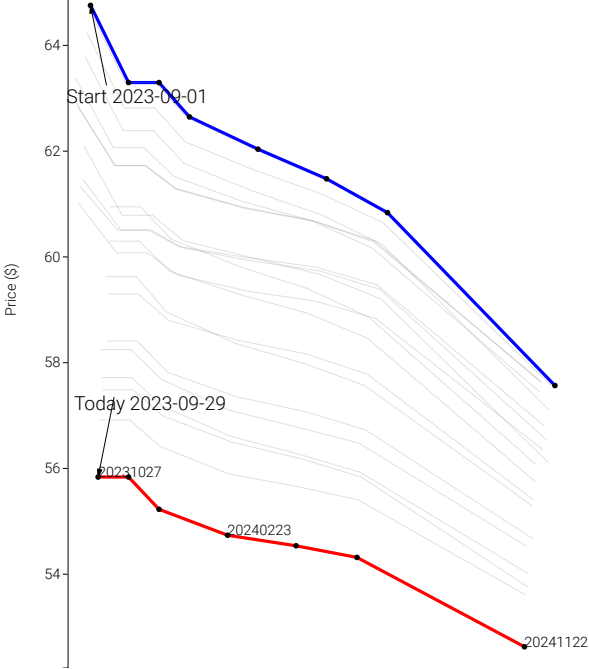
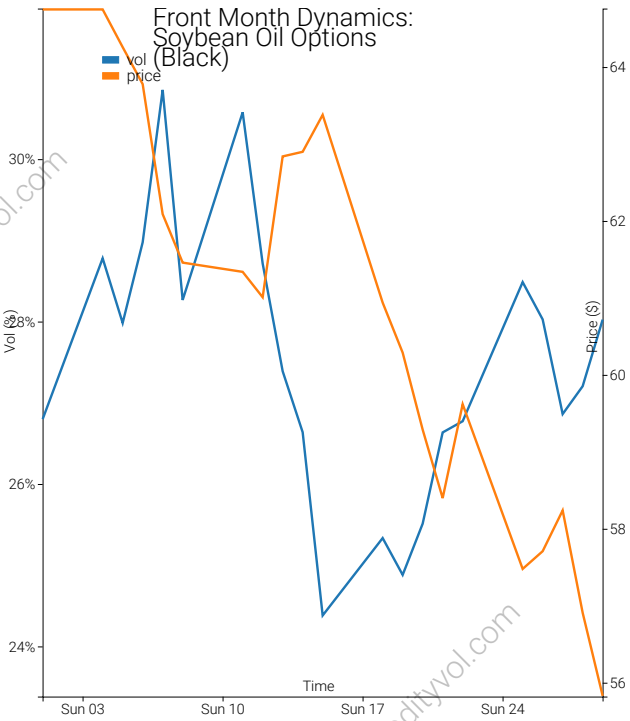
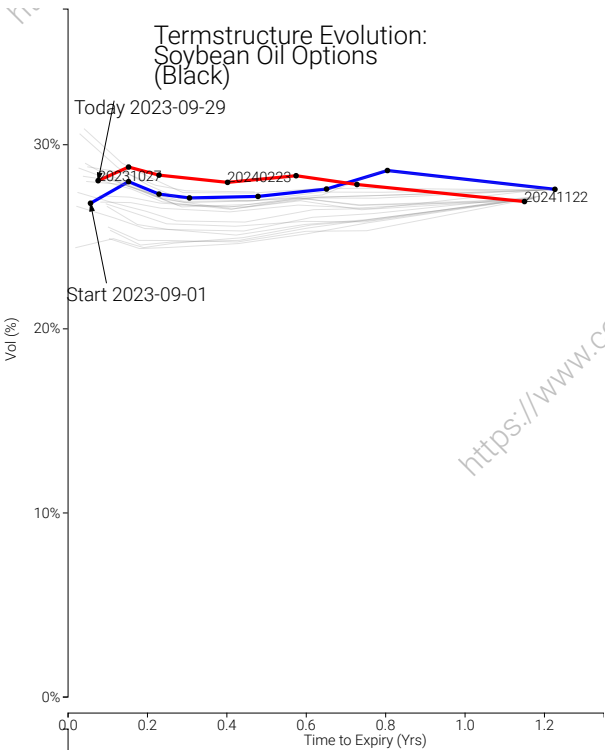


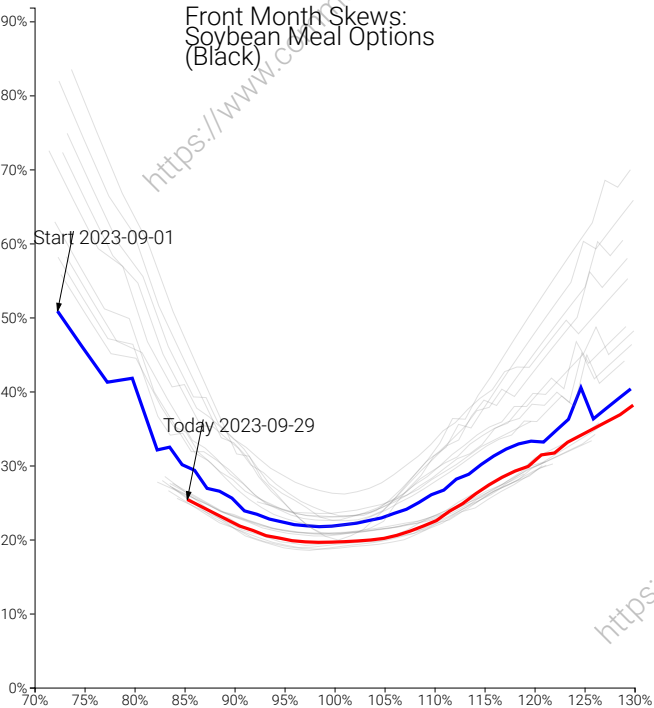
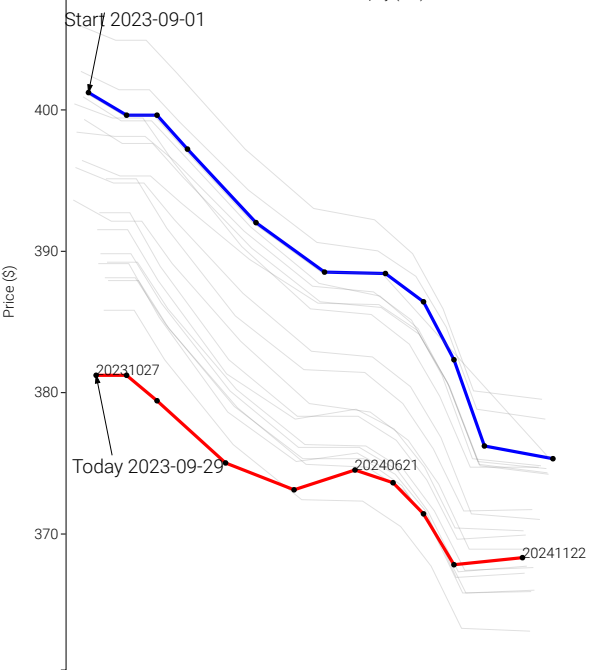
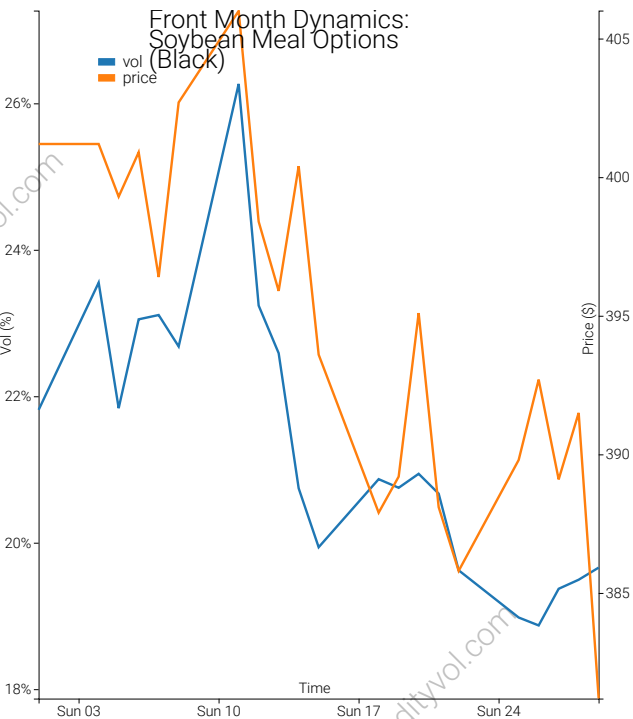
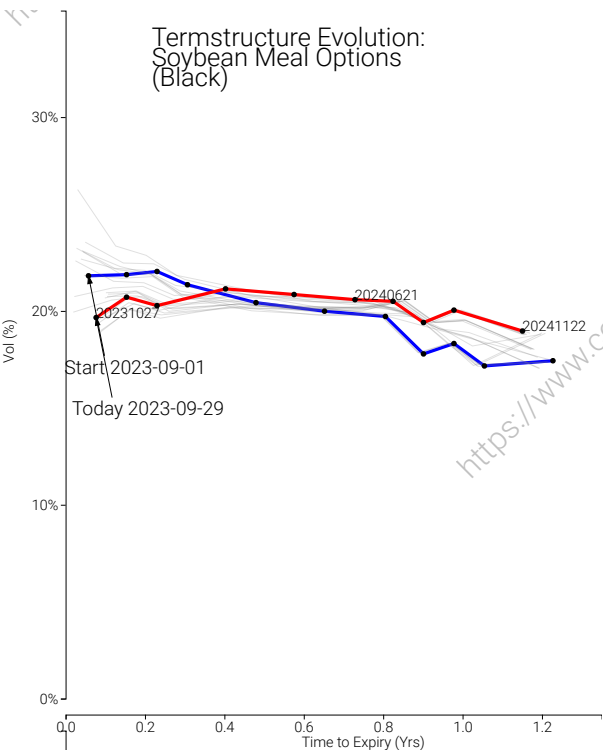


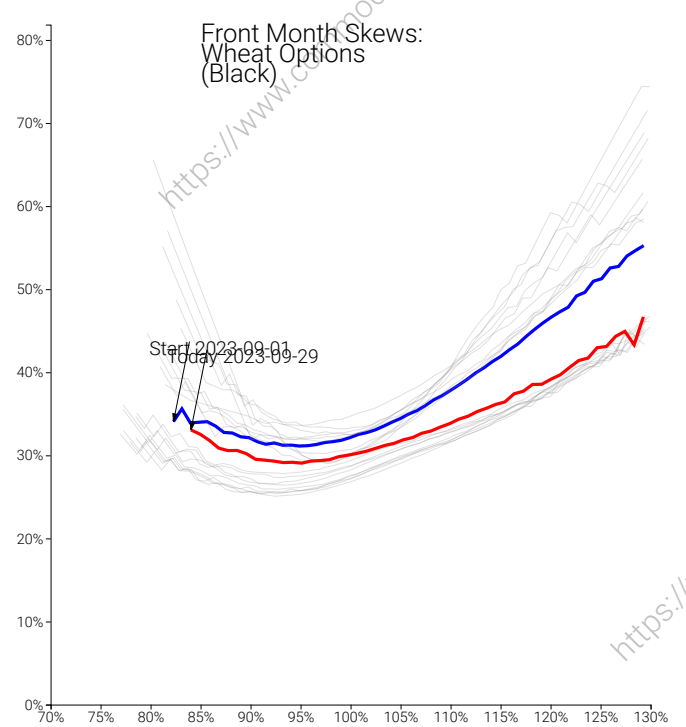
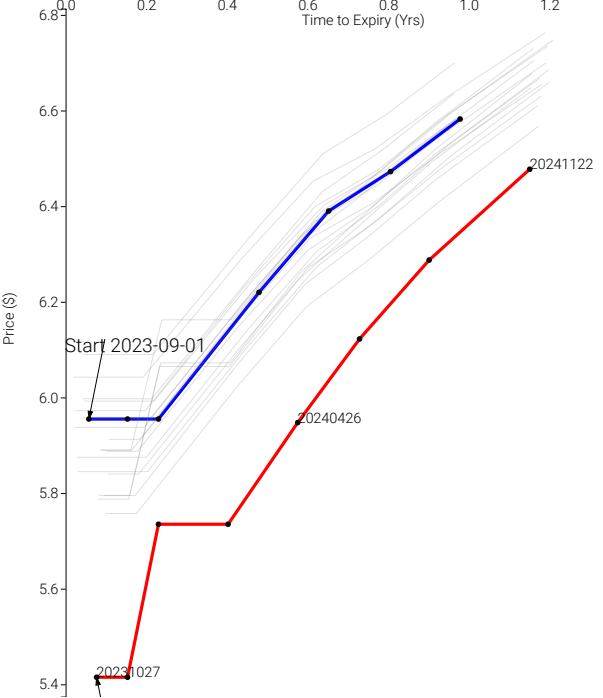
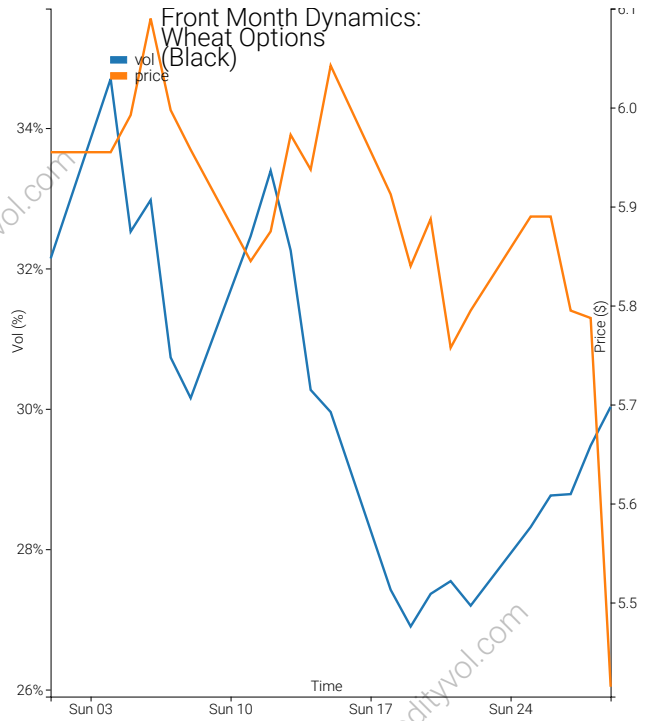
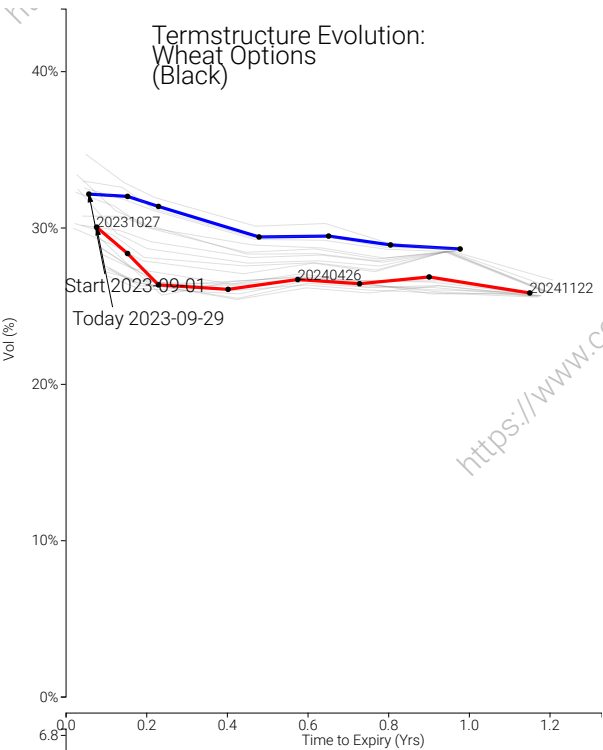
Ags: Grains, Oilseeds, and so forth

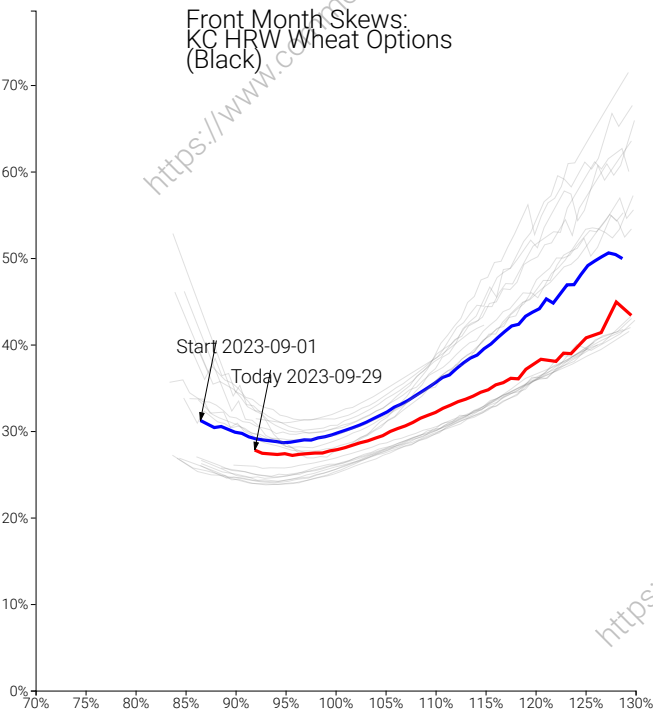
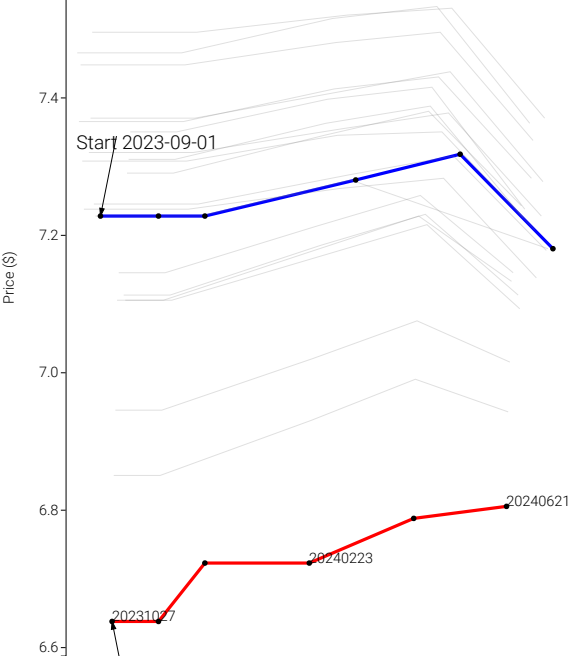
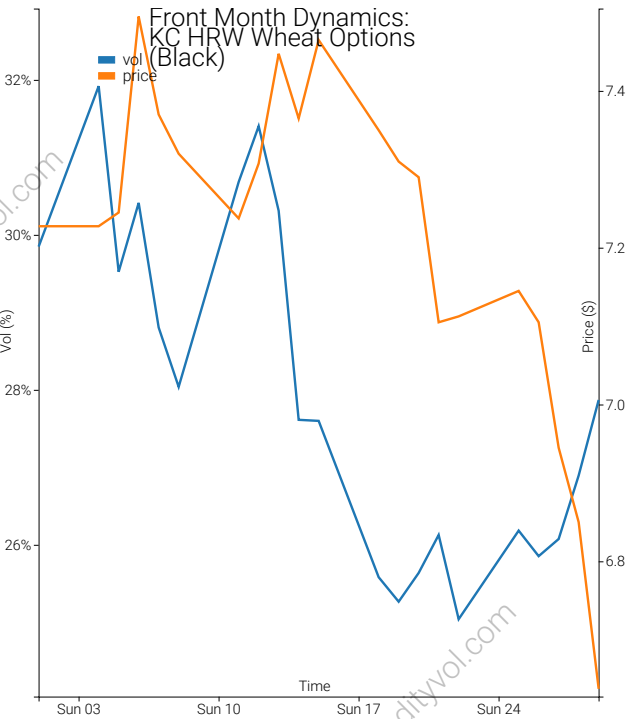
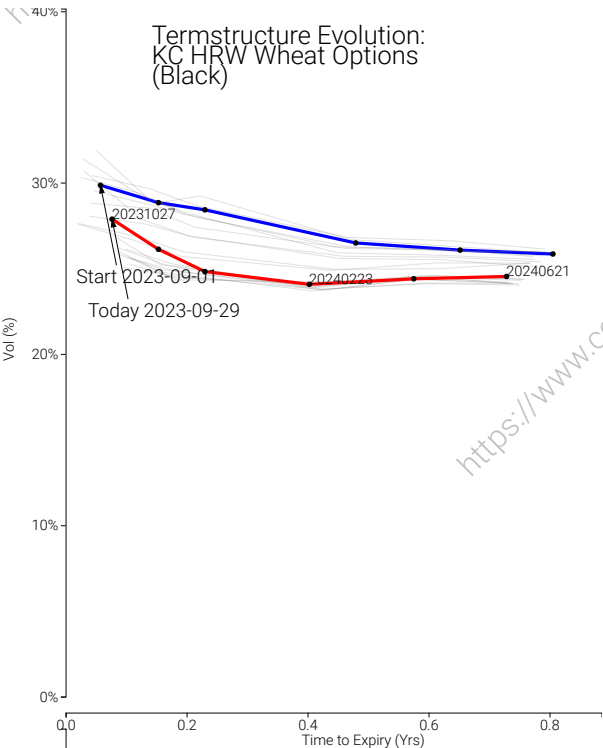


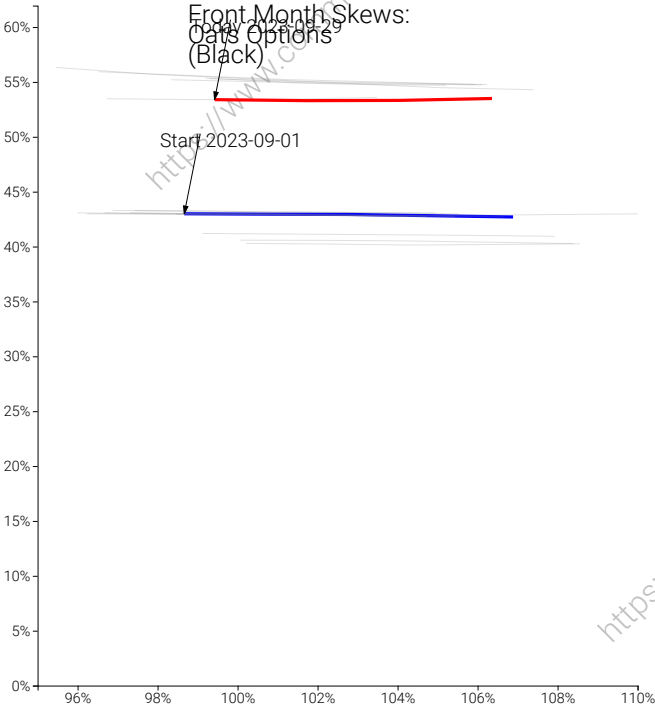
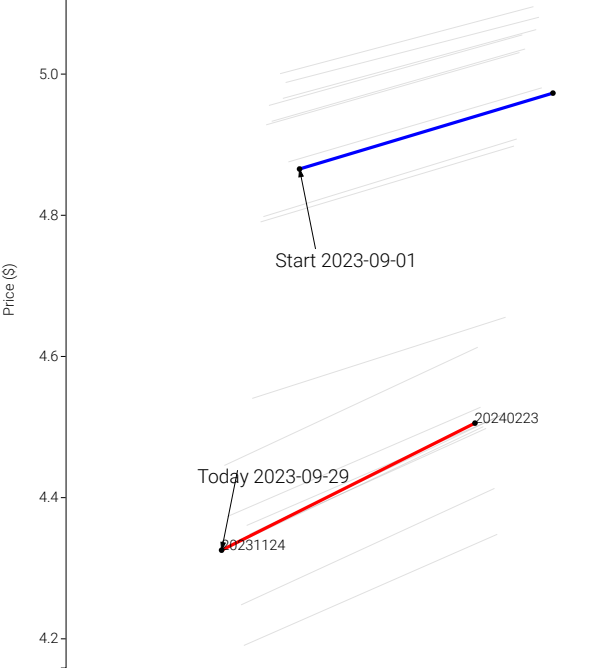
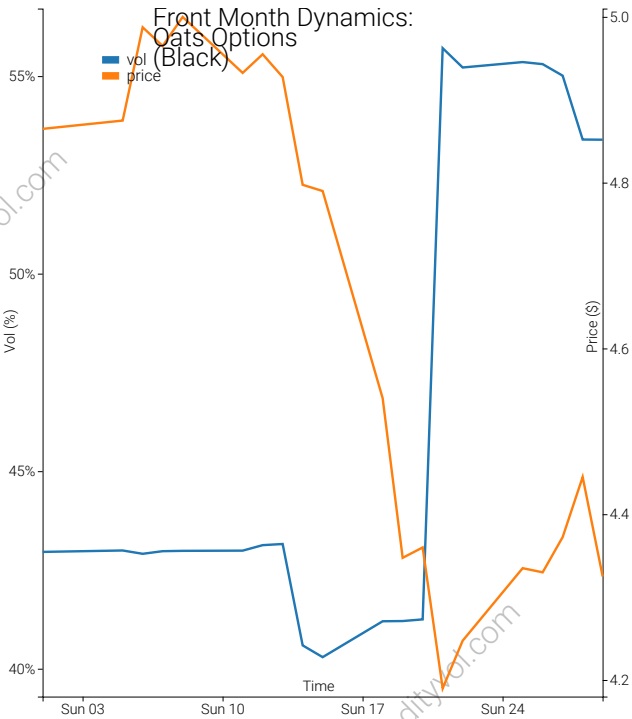
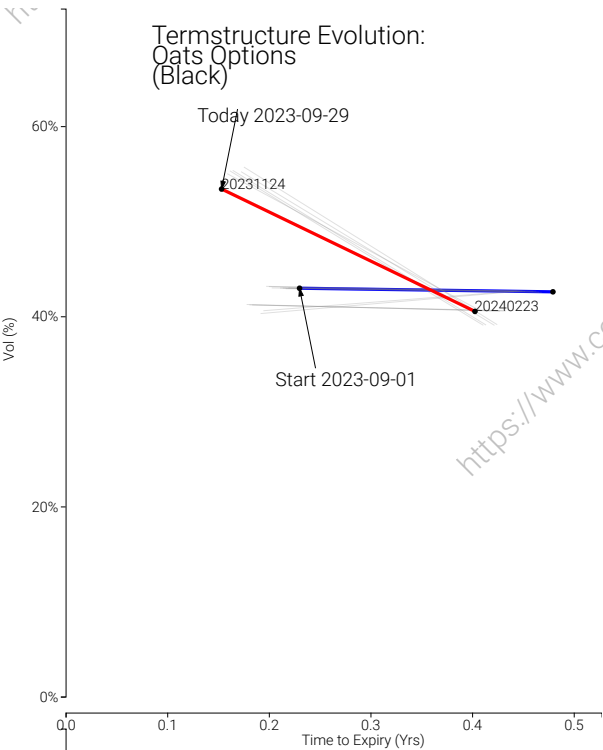


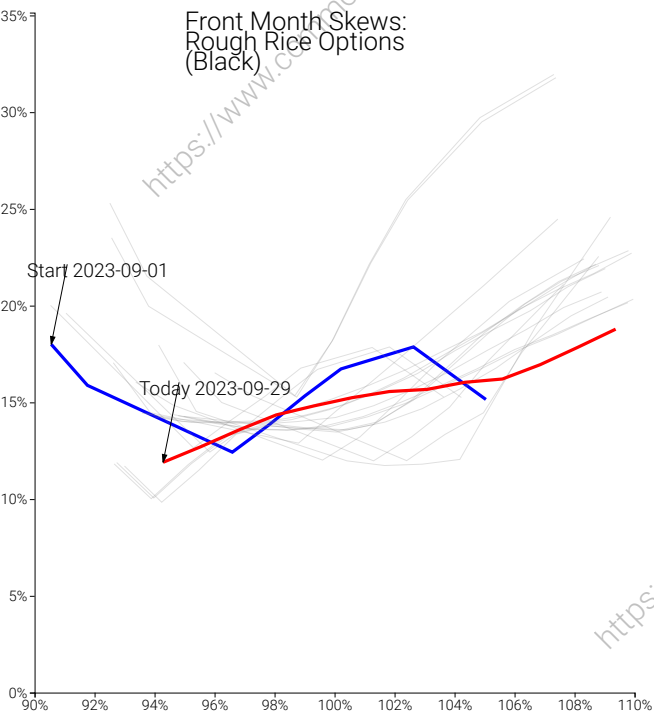
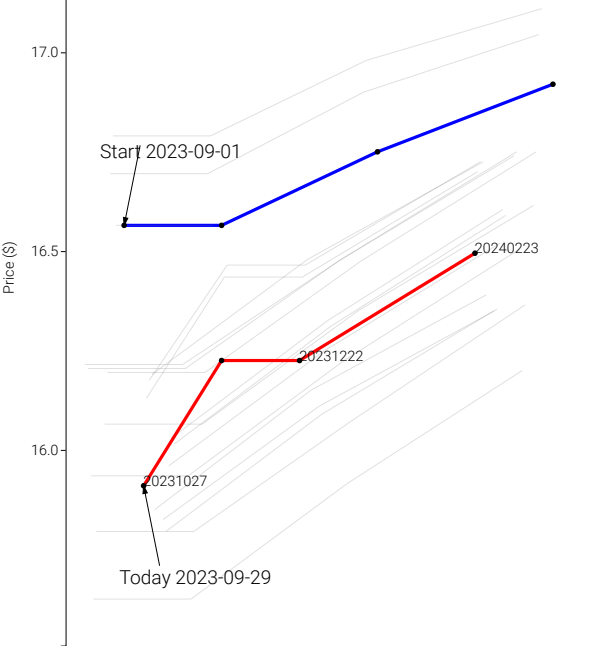
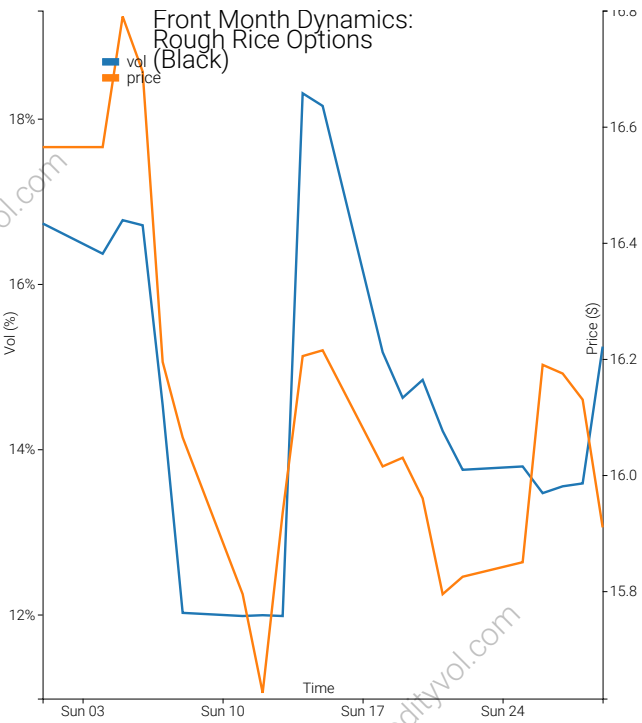
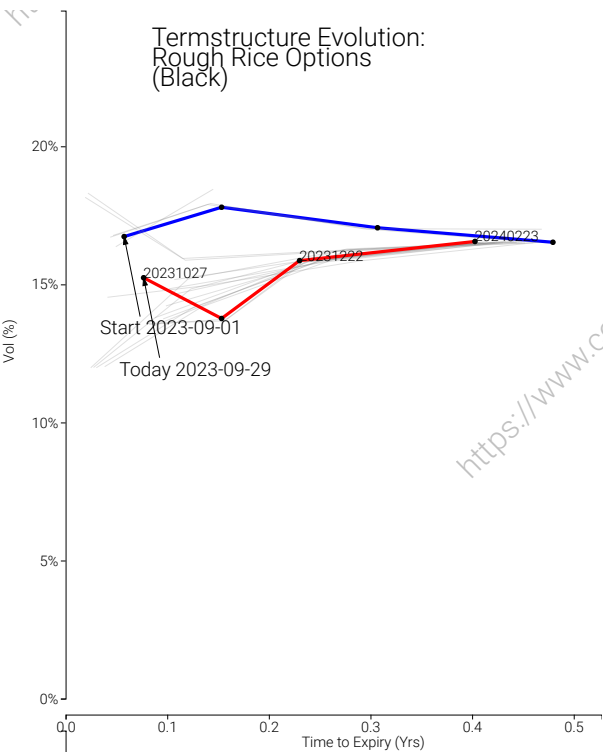


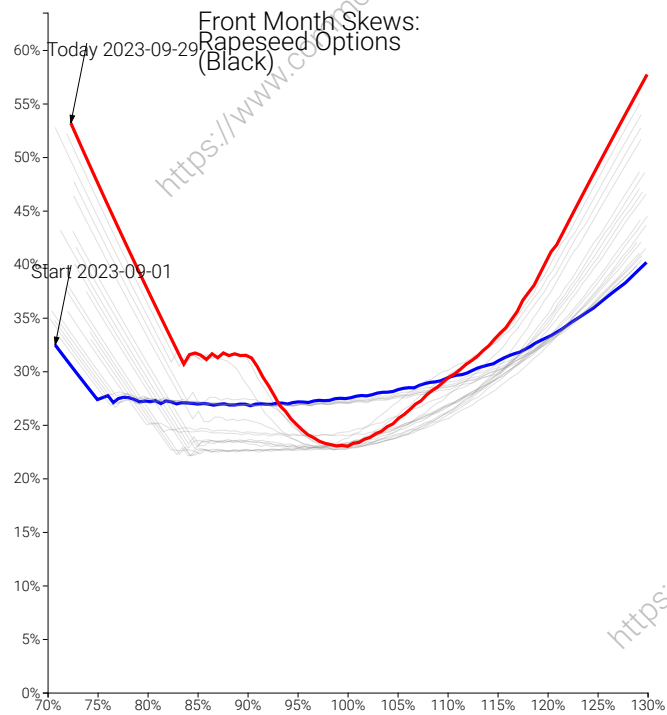
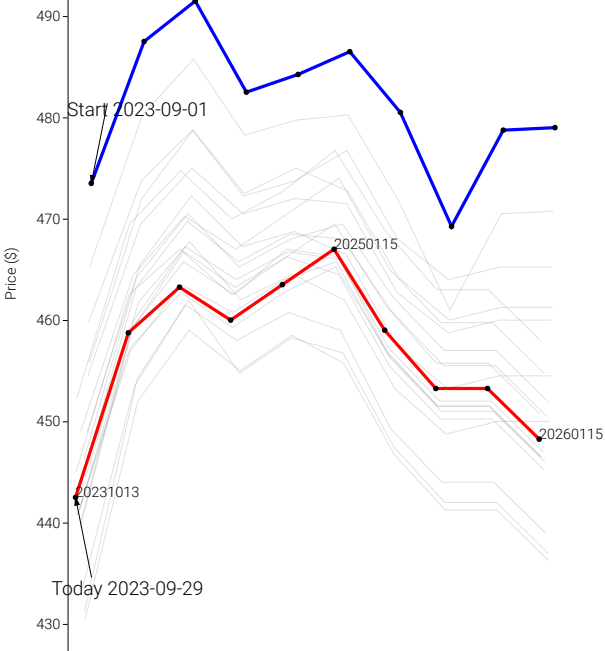
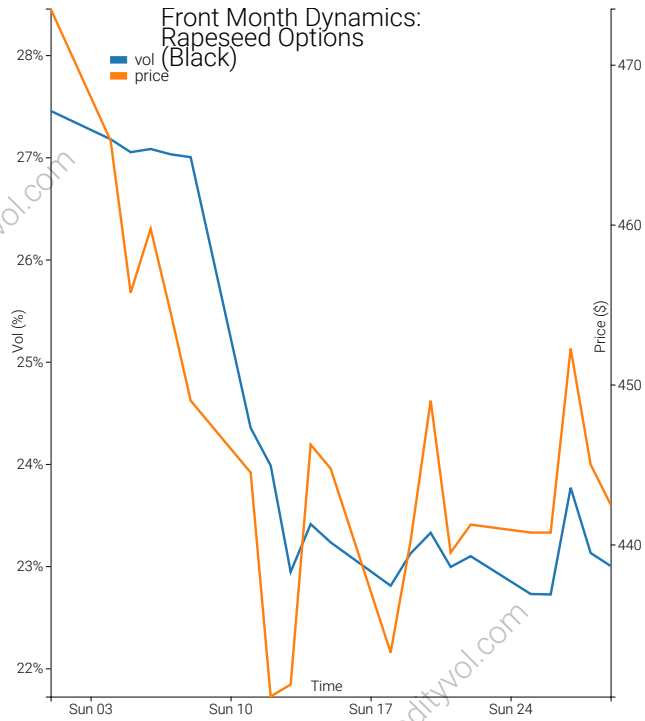
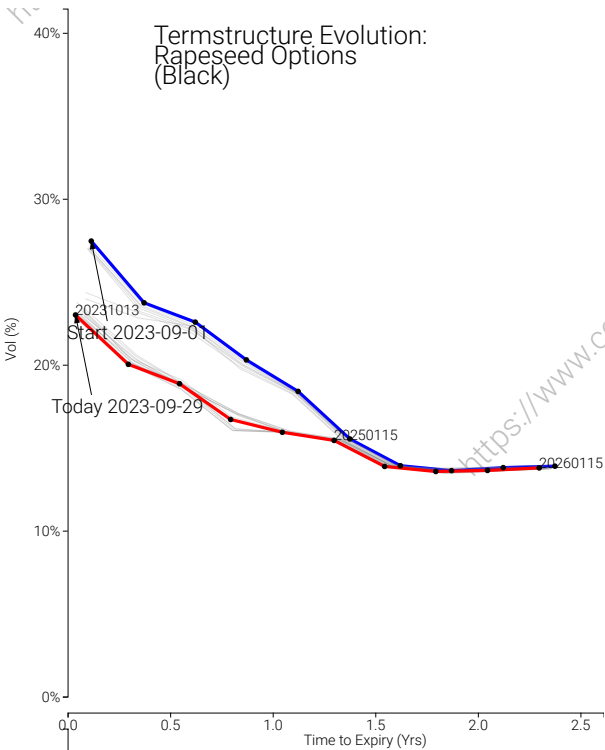




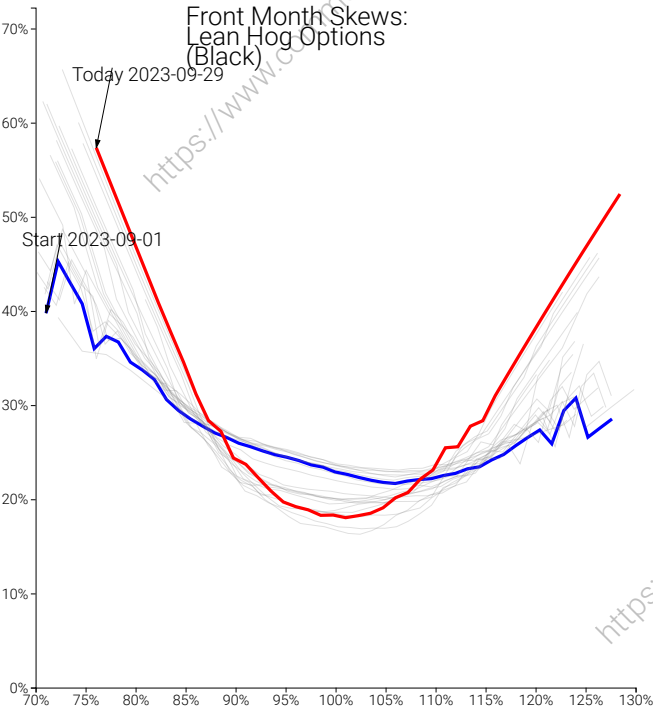
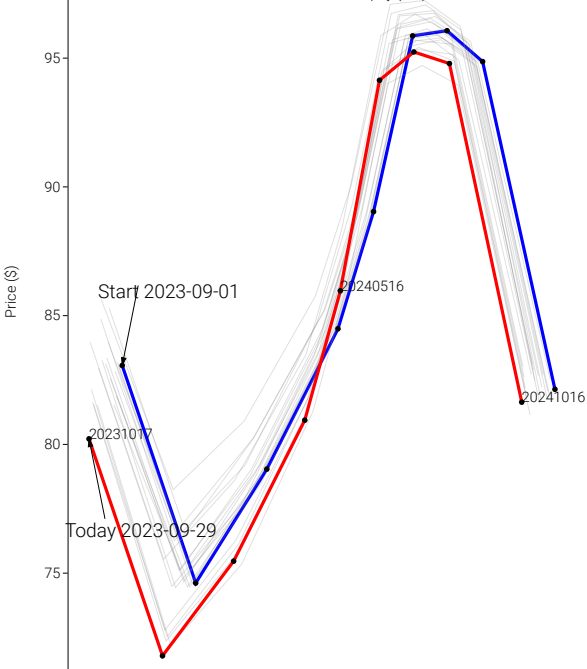
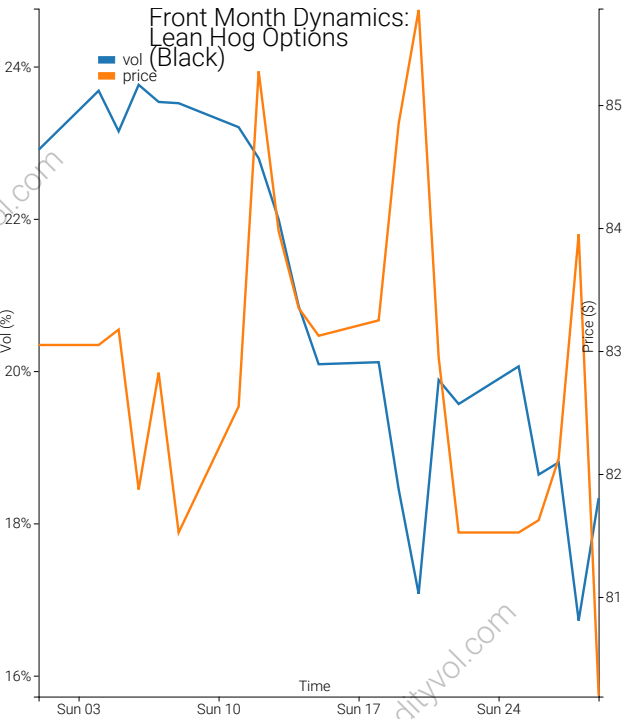
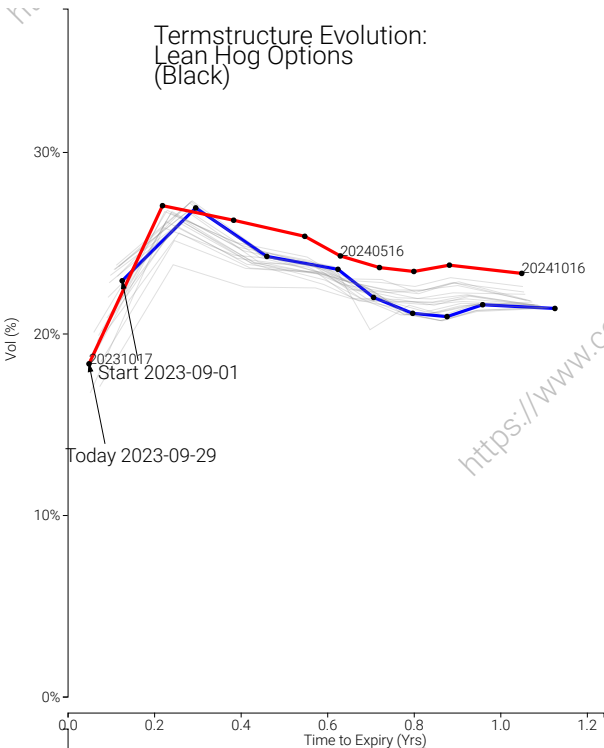


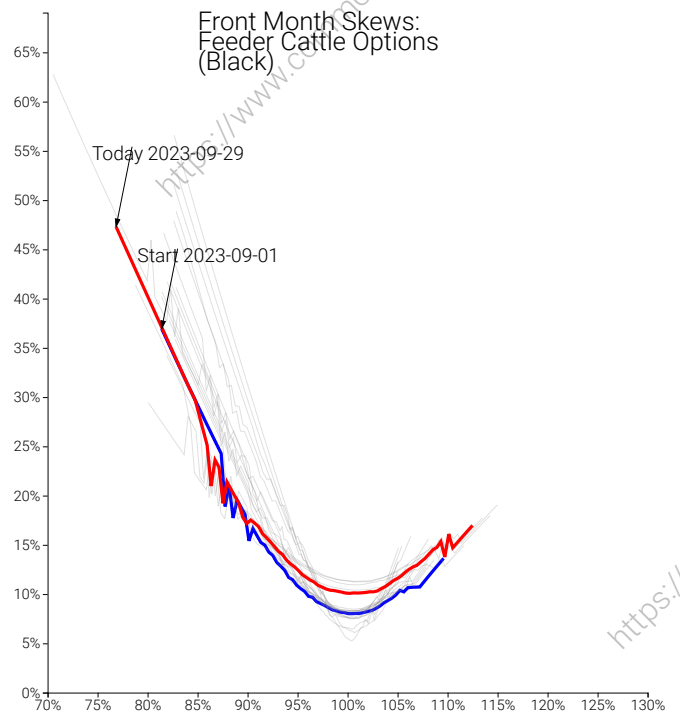
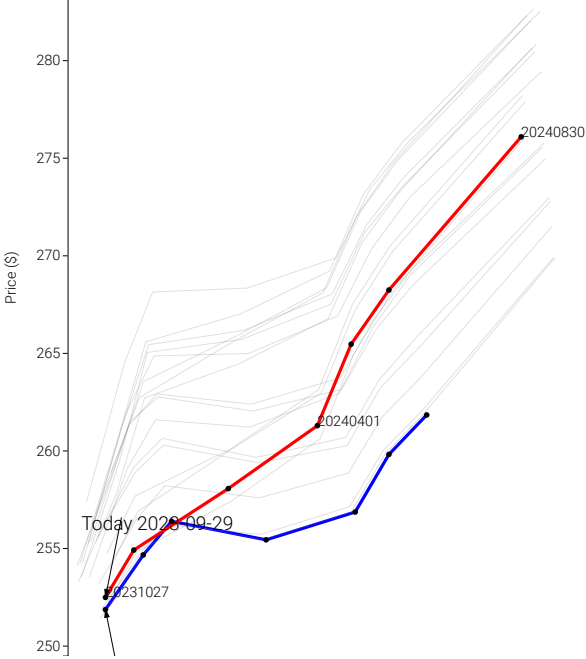
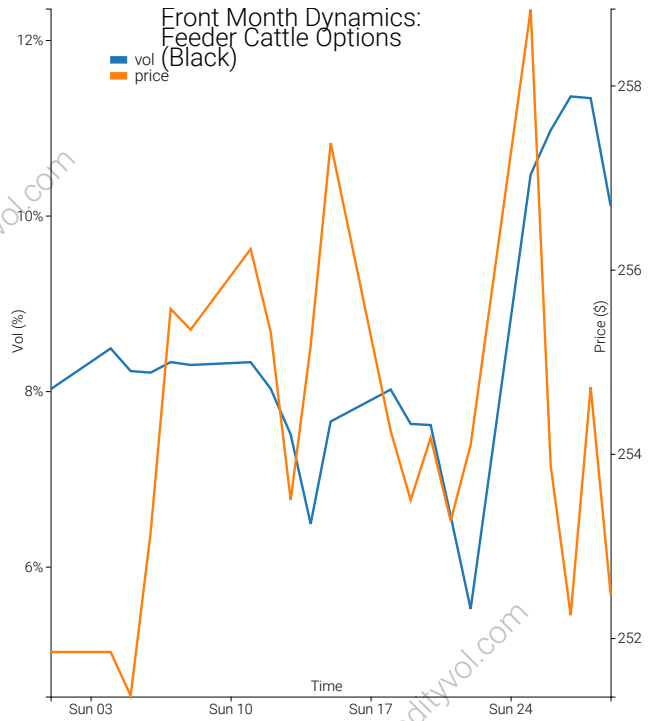
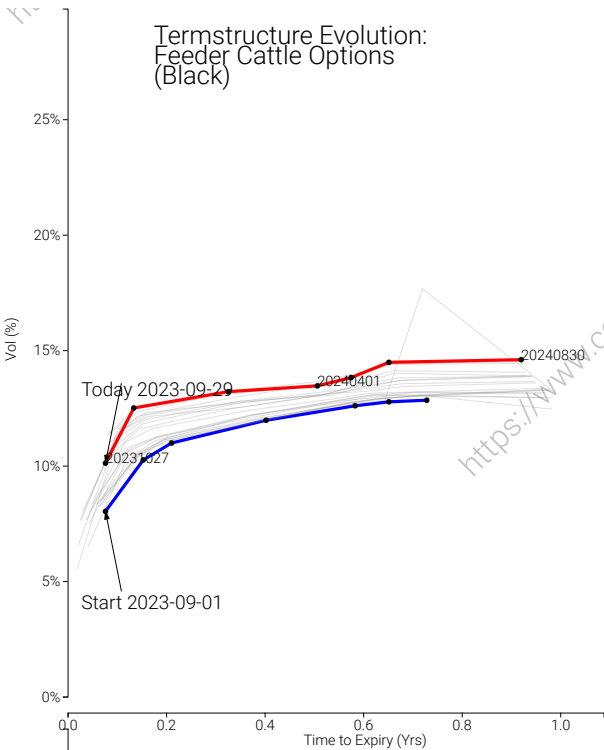


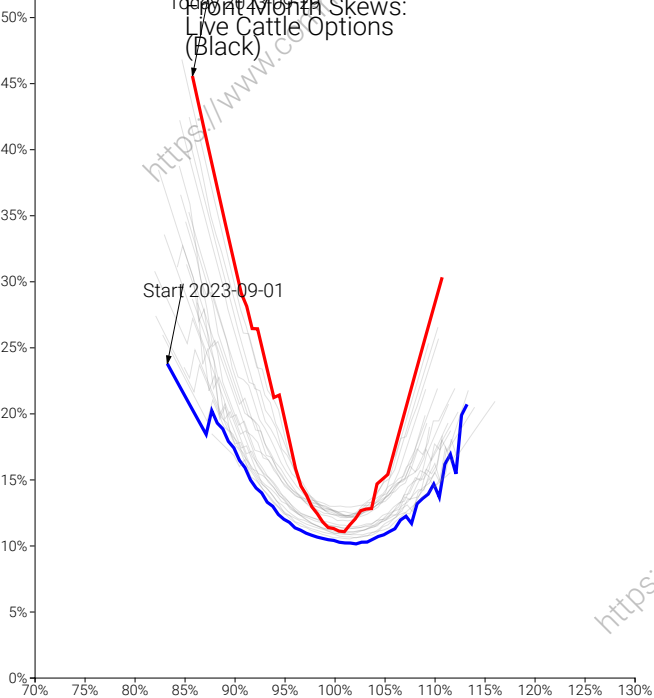
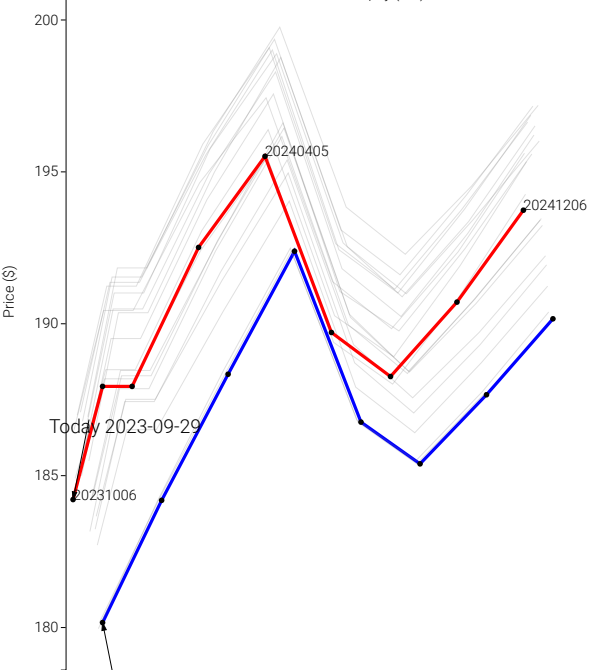
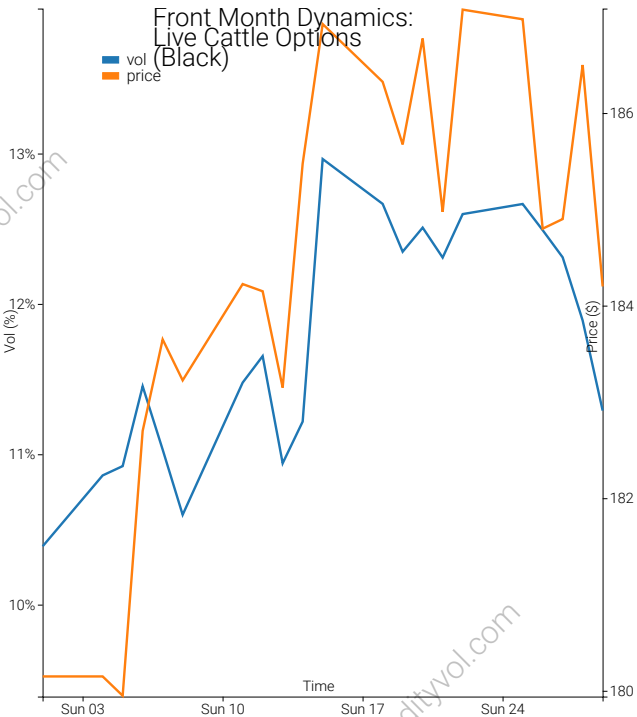
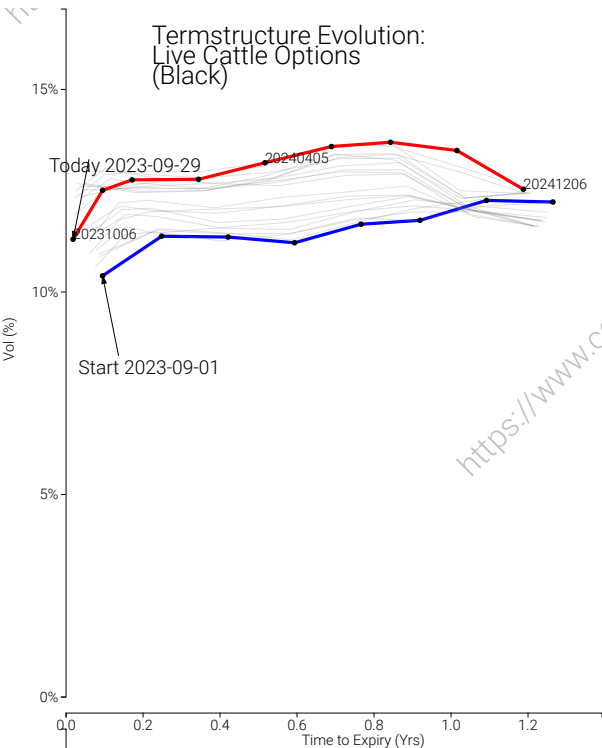


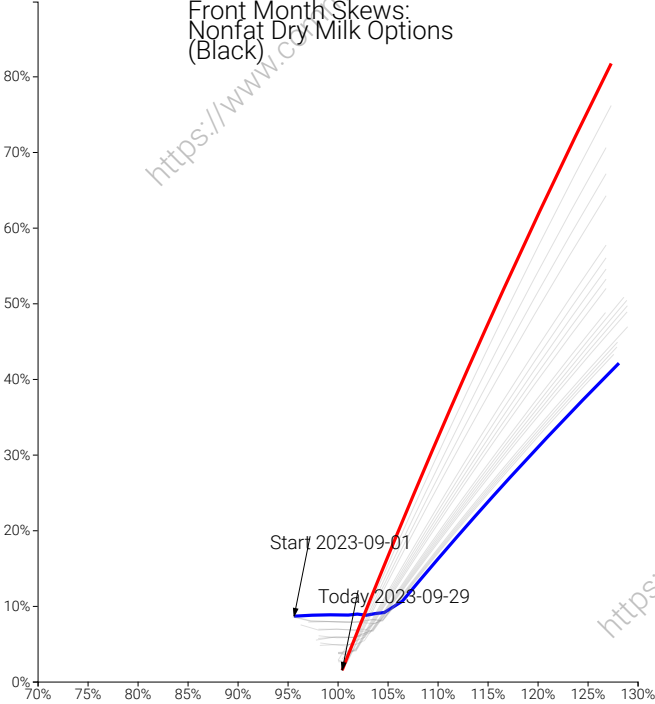
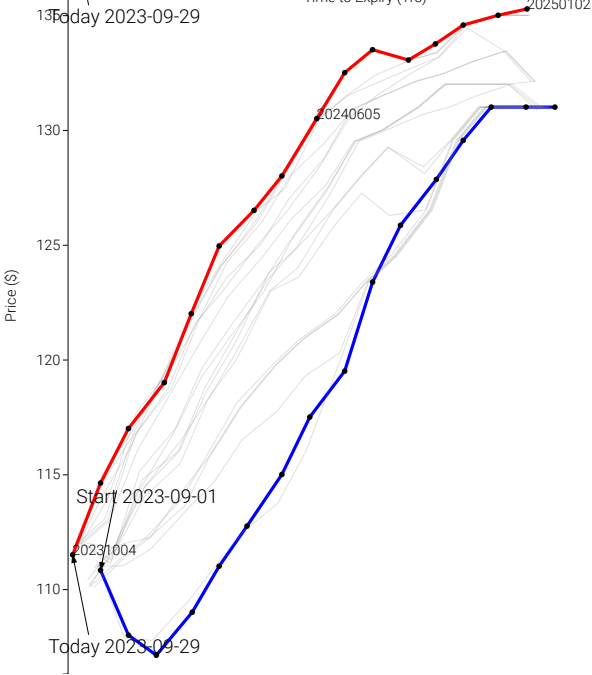
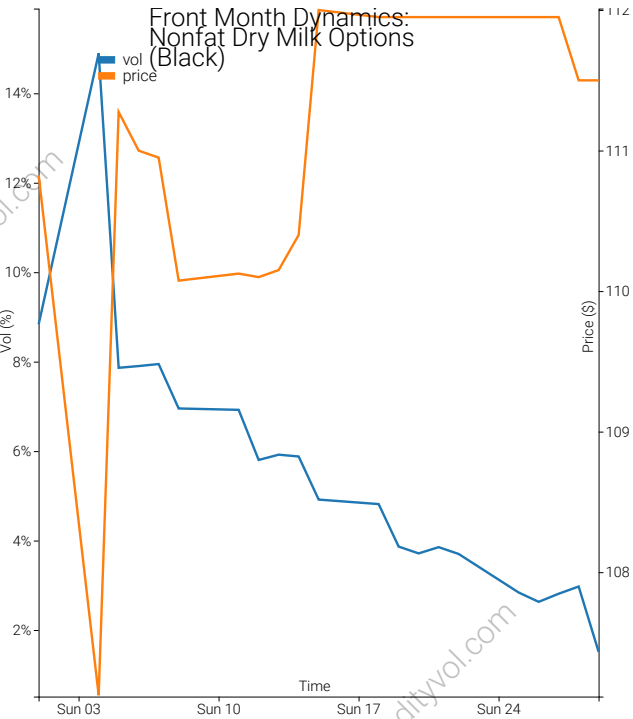
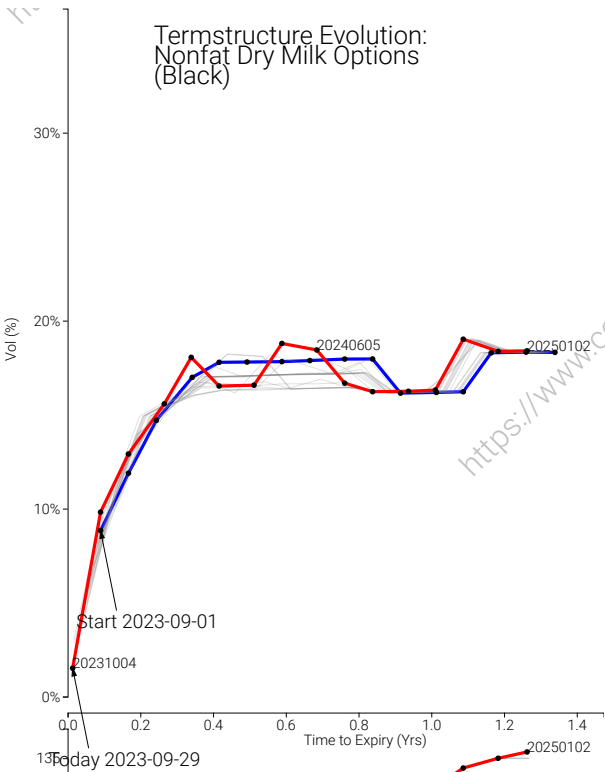


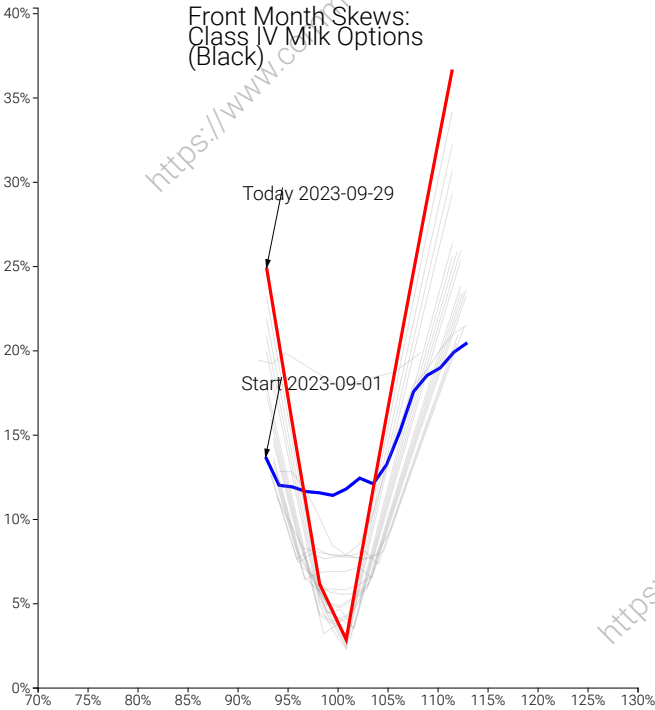
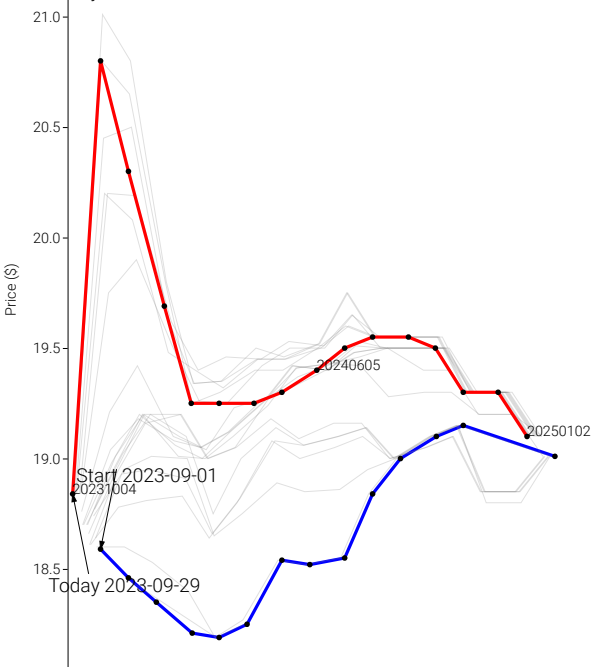
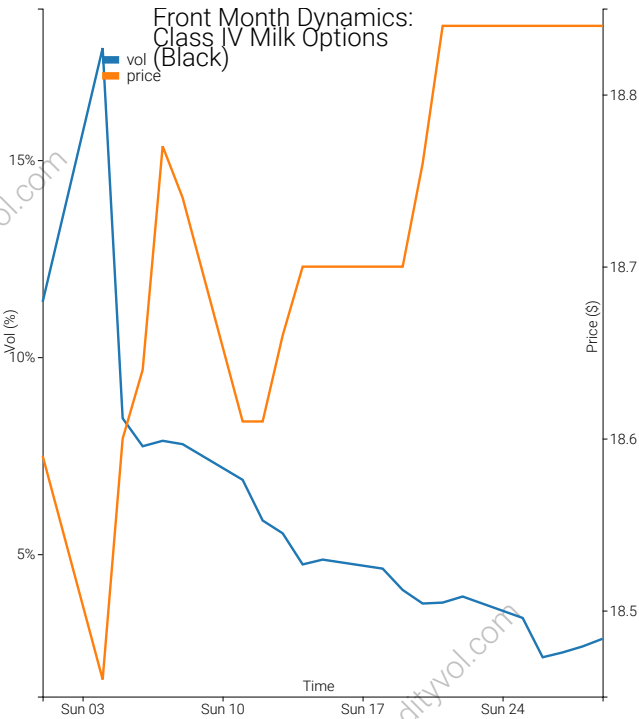
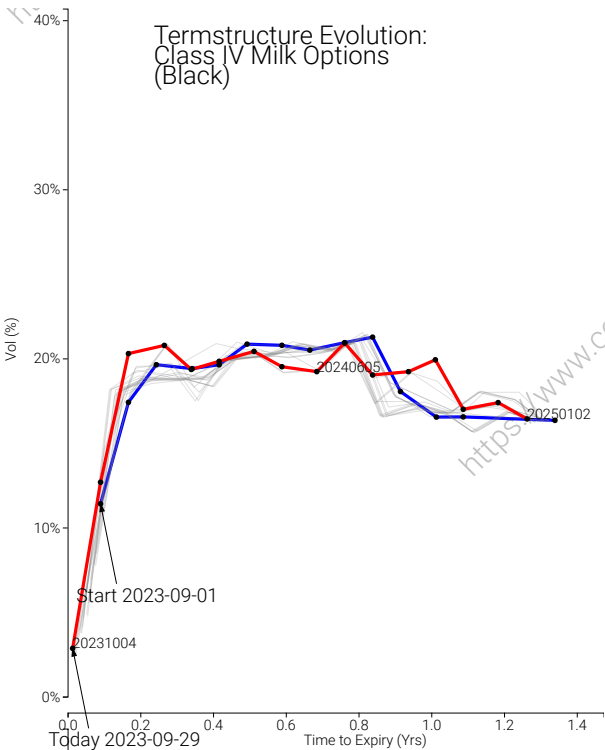
Ags: Proteins, Meats and so forth









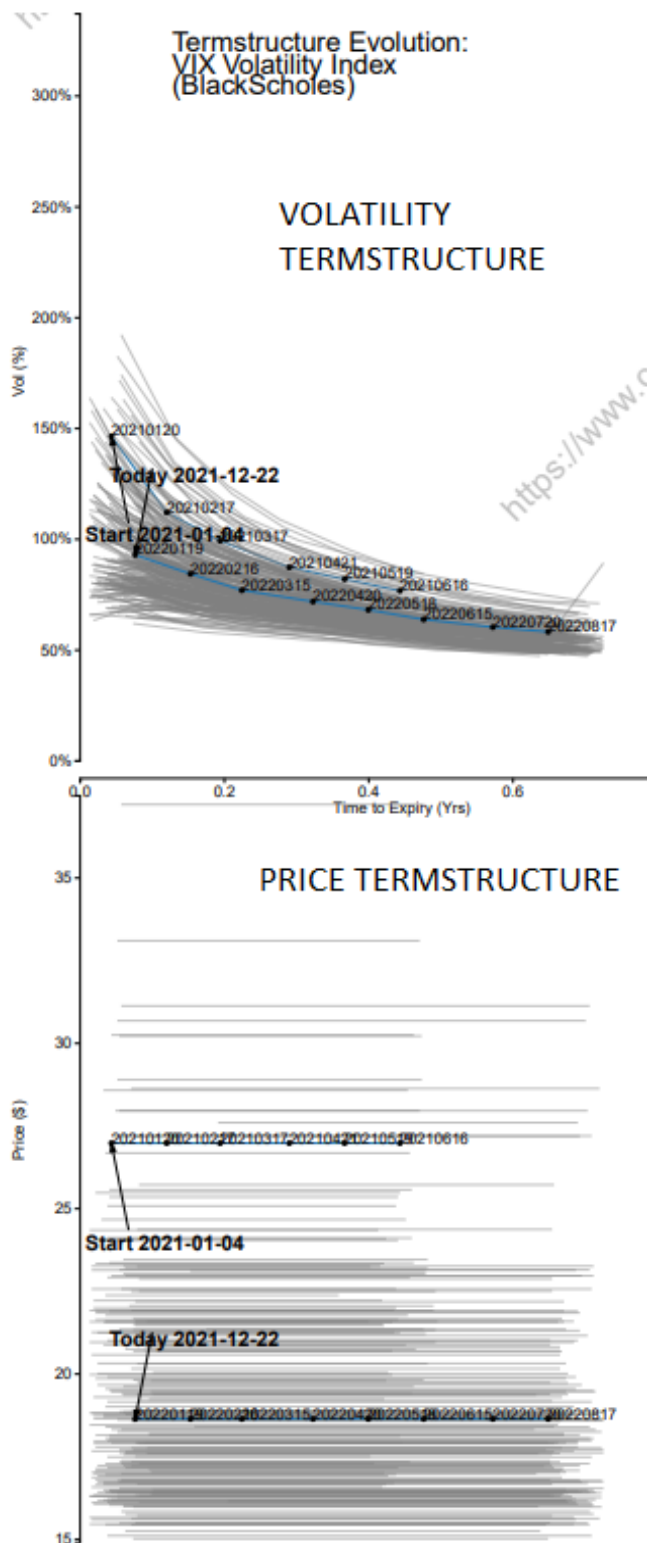


Explanation:

The document is composed of two parts. There is a tabular portion which summarizes the changes in front month futures prices and the changes in the at the money front month implied volatility. The results are presented as raw differences and percentage changes. The plots in this document try to give a feel for the evolution of the futures and options for each product type. The skew/termstructure/xyplots are broken out by major asset classes: Indexes, Fixed Income and so on.

At the Money Volatility and Price Term Structures:

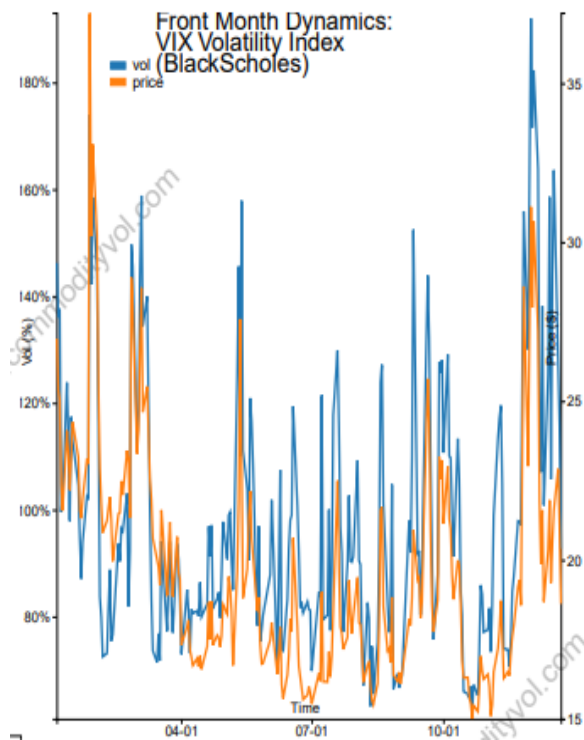
Stacked on top of the other on the left hand side, see the termstructures of vol and the (underlying) futures contract price.



The starting curve is the termstructure at the beginning of the period. This curve is labelled start and is typically colored blue. The ending curve is typically colored red and denoted by the text: Today. The greyed out lines are the termstructures for each day of the period. The hope is that the range of movements becomes apparent.

Front Month At the Money Volatility and Front Month Price Over the Year:

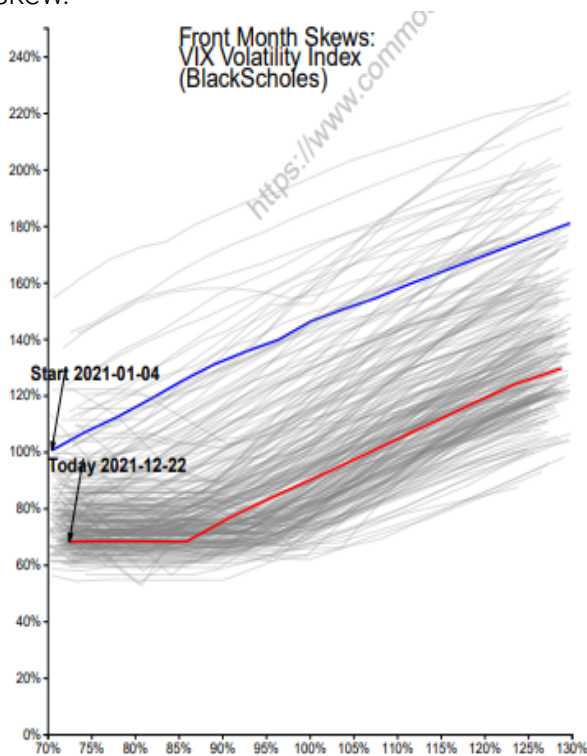
On the right hand panel we have the price and implied volatility of the front month contract.



At the money implied volatility is shown in blue and the axis on the left should be used to read off the values. The front month futures price is in orange and the right hand axis is where its value can be read.

Front Month Skew:

On the right hand in the bottom panel we have the starting front month skew and the ending front month skew.



The front month skew is shown for the starting date. The starting curve is labelled as 'Start' and captioned with the date. The starting curve is blue. Conversely, the ending curve is shown in red and labeled Today. The y-axis shows the implied volatility and the x-axis shows the moneyness. The moneyness is a way to normalize the skew so that it is comparable across time.

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