

MONTHLY *investment* BRIEF

Tomorrow there will still be time

Let's be clear, the outlook for equity markets has significantly deteriorated since the start of the year. Beyond the global growth trajectory, higher-than-expected inflation is having negative consequences, not only on bonds but also potentially on equities.

What is the relationship between inflation, the neutral rate of central banks and the level of 10-year bonds?

Let's briefly go through the theory to define what the equilibrium point for US rates could be in the medium-term.

Conceptually, the yield on a 10-year government bond should be equal to the sum of potential growth and inflation. In the US, potential growth is around 2%. If long-term inflation is estimated to be around 2.5%, then the long-term value for the yield on the 10-year US Treasury bond should be more like 4% to 4.5%. The US 10-year bond is currently worth 2.75%. So we are far from the mark. Why such a discrepancy?

Central bank activism has played a large part in the financial repression we've been experiencing for the past 10 years, but that's not the only reason. These past years, investors were willing to pay a high price and sacrifice yield to own long-term bonds, resulting in negative term premiums. Indeed, owning bonds offered the prospect of capital gains to offset the loss on equities in the event of an adverse macroeconomic environment. In addition, falling bond yields (especially real ones) pushed equities to new highs in an eviction effect.

However, now that inflation has become a proven macroeconomic risk, the correlation between stock and bond yields could become negative again.

Rising inflation is likely to push up bond yields even as stocks go down. The incentive to hold long-term bonds will decrease as they will no longer play the same "shock-absorbing" role. This will lead to an increase in the term premium.

So the real question is: what can the inflation regime be in the coming years?

We have entered a bullish cycle in commodities. Indeed, commodities are actual resources (food, energy,

metals), and insufficient access to resources cannot be solved with quantitative easing... You can print money but not crude or wheat.

While governments deploy more or less targeted measures to cushion the increases, at the cost of deteriorating fiscal balances, central banks face the dual objective of curbing inflation while preventing bond market dislocation. This heightened uncertainty about monetary policies, - which are increasingly asynchronous -, is generating additional volatility in exchange rates. The need to accelerate energy, health and food independence will push countries to accumulate reserves, no longer of foreign exchange but of basic products. Beyond sovereignty and the need to secure supplies, the just-in-time model is out of date. Inventories will have to be reconstituted, a phenomenon that will also generate inflation that is no longer cyclical but structural.

In the long-term, we hold on to our conviction: long-term rates are too low.

While the trend is clear in the medium-term, recent movements and growth concerns suggest taking partial profits in the short-term. The Fed is unlikely to raise rates as much as anticipated by the market and should remain flexible. So should we. Make no mistake: we remain sellers but in the short-term, we are reducing amounts at stake from a risk management perspective. Remember that the 10-year bond was worth 1.17% on August 31, 2021. It can take a break at 2.75%

What impact will a change in inflation regime have on equity markets?

Inflation in itself is not a bad thing for companies, as long as their productivity gains exceed the rise in unit labour and input costs. But too strong and too sudden an inflation most often comes with economic slowdown. Today, this is our main concern with, as a corollary, its impact on companies' results and therefore, market performance. Equities are a partial hedge against inflation, but do not offer complete protection. Yet, US and European indexes are currently trading at levels higher than those seen before the invasion of Ukraine. The war would therefore be, according to the markets, good news (sic)

We do not share this view.



We are maintaining our slightly bearish bias and are increasing our selling at these levels. We believe investors are too complacent, not about the Ukrainian risk but rather about the trajectory of the global economy and the extent of the consequences of the inflationary shock.

Which asset allocation in this context?

While we take a more cautious directional stance, we are also reshaping our portfolio. We remain buyers of the Swiss franc, the dollar and are also taking advantage of certain market dysfunctions.

1. Discounted companies have seen their beta (market sensitivity) fall significantly relative to the overall equity market. They offer a substantial valuation cushion over growth stocks. We are back to buying value companies.
2. At the other end of the spectrum, defensive stocks with strong balance sheets offer attractive risk/return combinations.

3. Geographically, Chinese stocks offer remarkable entry points for a long-term allocation at the cost of very high volatility. Domestic (A shares) and Hong Kong (H shares) stocks are making a comeback in our portfolios at the expense of some European stocks.
4. We are also returning to Investment Grade credit, considering that credit spreads are now more risk-rewarding than at the beginning of the year, while taking care to actively manage duration. High-yield spreads are still not providing enough protection against risk.

The upcoming earnings sequence and company guidance will certainly dictate our allocation in the coming months. In the meantime, we prefer a perhaps overly cautious positioning to the mantra "TINA (There Is No Alternative)". Circé has warned us to steer clear of the sirens' song.



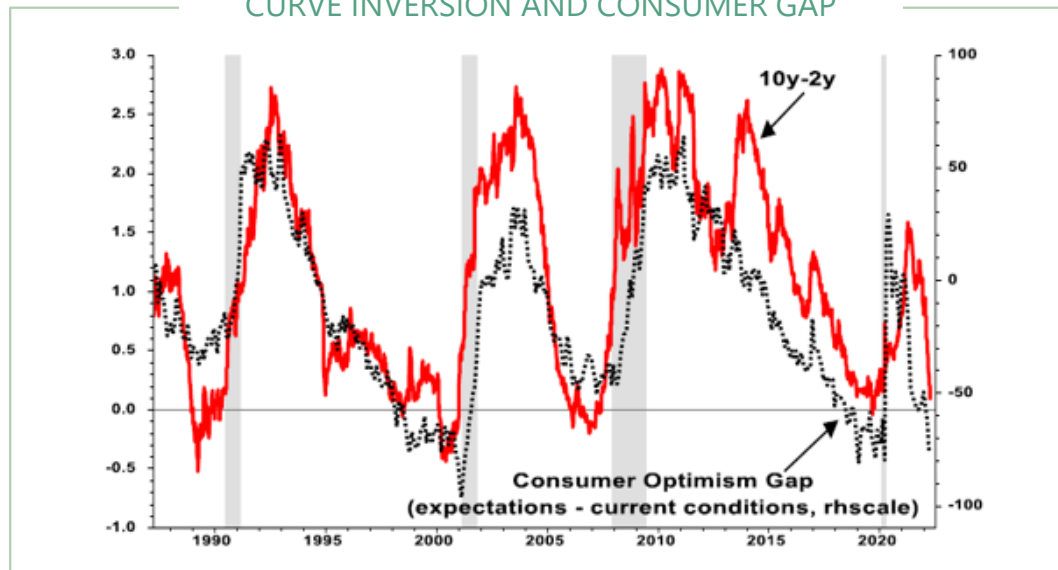
LAURENT DENIZE
Global CIO,
ODDO BHF AM



Curve inversion in the US

A HARBINGER OF RECESSION?

CURVE INVERSION AND CONSUMER GAP



RESULTS OF TIGHTENING IN THE US

U.S. Tightening Window	Change in Risk Free Rate (bps)	NBER First Recession Month	Real GDP Drop	Nominal 10-Year Treasury Return*	Real Estate Price Change
Sep 1965 - Nov 1966	175	-	None	-1.3%	2.4%
Jul 1967 - Aug 1969	540	Jan 1970	-0.6%	0.5%	10.1%
Feb 1972 - Jul 1974	960	Dec 1973	-2.7%	1.3%	12.1%
Jan 1977 - Apr 1980	1300	Feb 1980	-2.2%	5.3%	46.1%
Jul 1980 - Jan 1981	1000	Aug 1981	-2.1%	-14.5%	0.9%
Feb 1983 - Aug 1984	315	-	None	3.7%	6.5%
Mar 1988 - Apr 1989	325	Aug 1990	-1.4%	3.8%	6.5%
Dec 1993 - Apr 1995	310	-	None	-1.2%	2.9%
Jan 1999 - Jul 2000	190	Apr 2001	-0.1%	-1.4%	14.0%
Jun 2004 - Jun 2006	425	Jan 2008	-3.8%	3.4%	22.6%
Oct 2015 - Jan 2019	225	Mar 2020	-10.1%	3.1%	21.1%

Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, Bloomberg | Blinder, Alpine Macro



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MARKET ANALYSIS

EQUITIES
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CURRENT CONVICTIONS





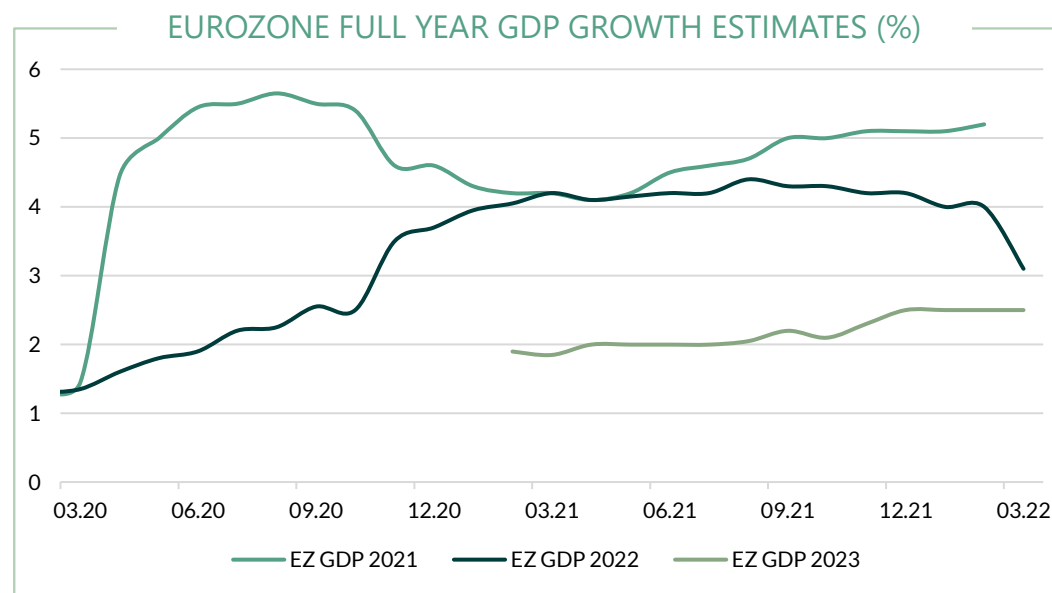
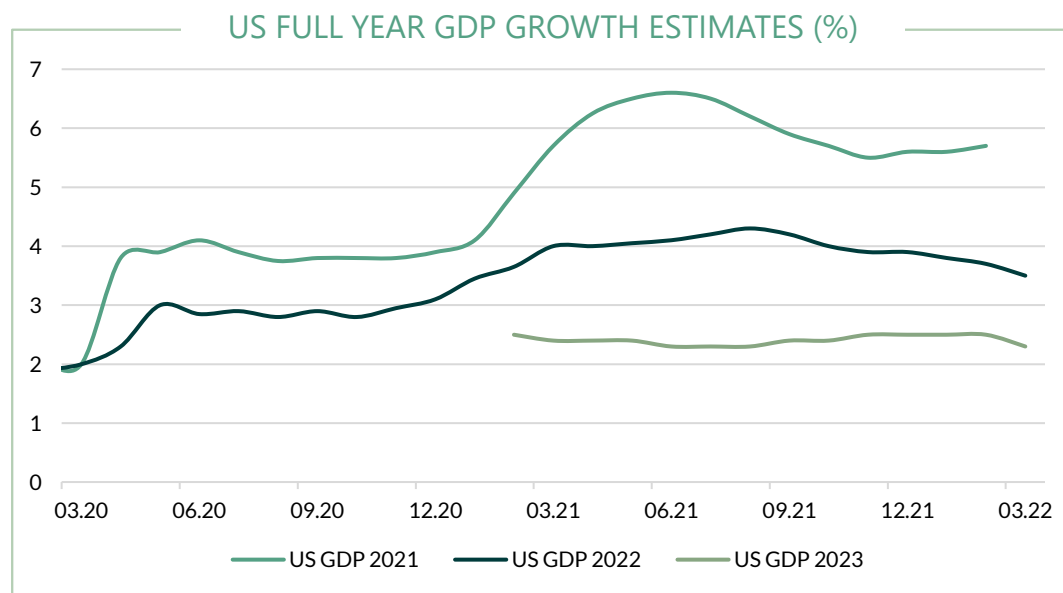
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MACROECONOMIC
outlook



Growth outlook

REVISIONS IN FULL SWING

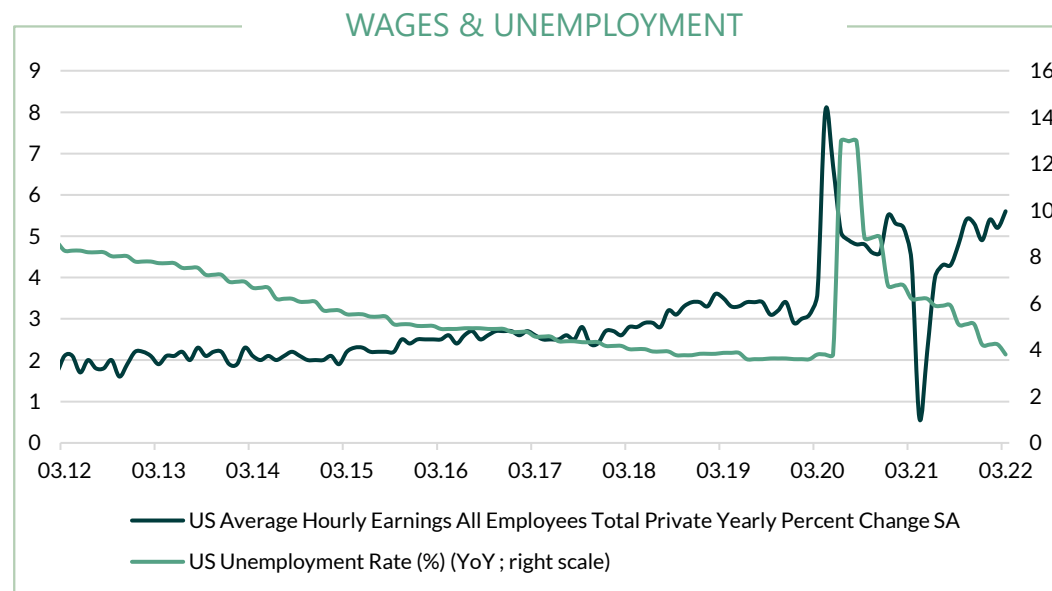
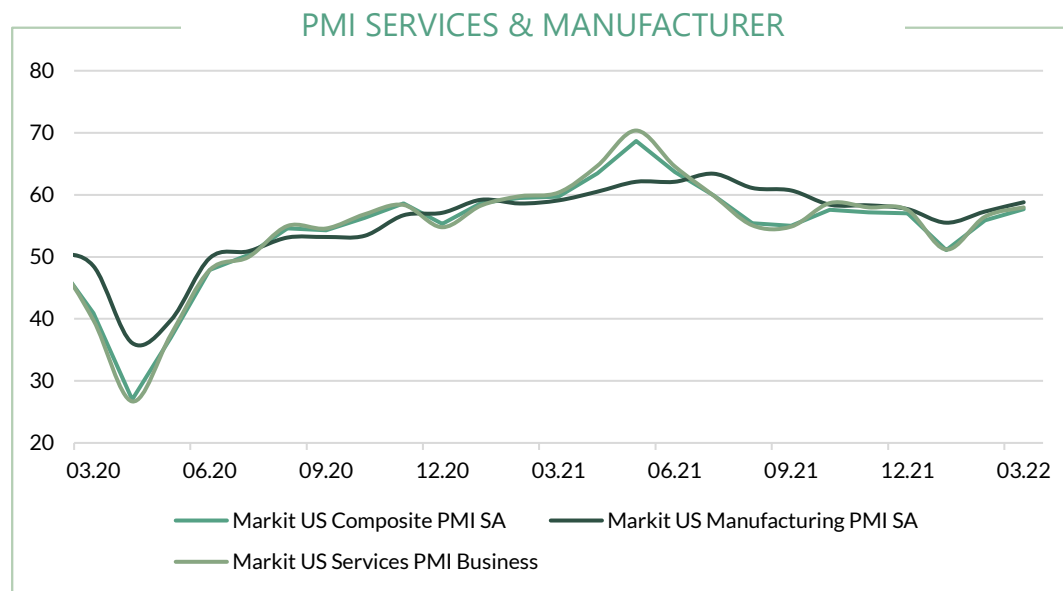


- Revisions especially strong in the Eurozone
- Consensus cut growth expectations by 1.1 points to 3,1% GDP for 2022, while the US saw a 0,5 point decline to still 3.4%
- Risk is still for more downside revisions

Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, Bloomberg | Data as of 03/31/2022



USA IN OVERHEATING MODE



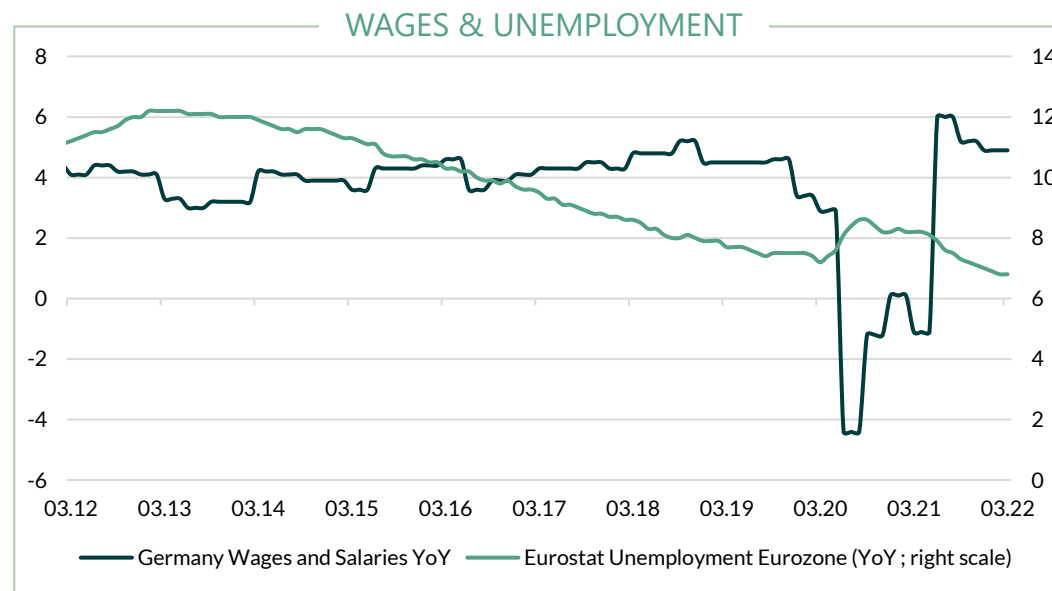
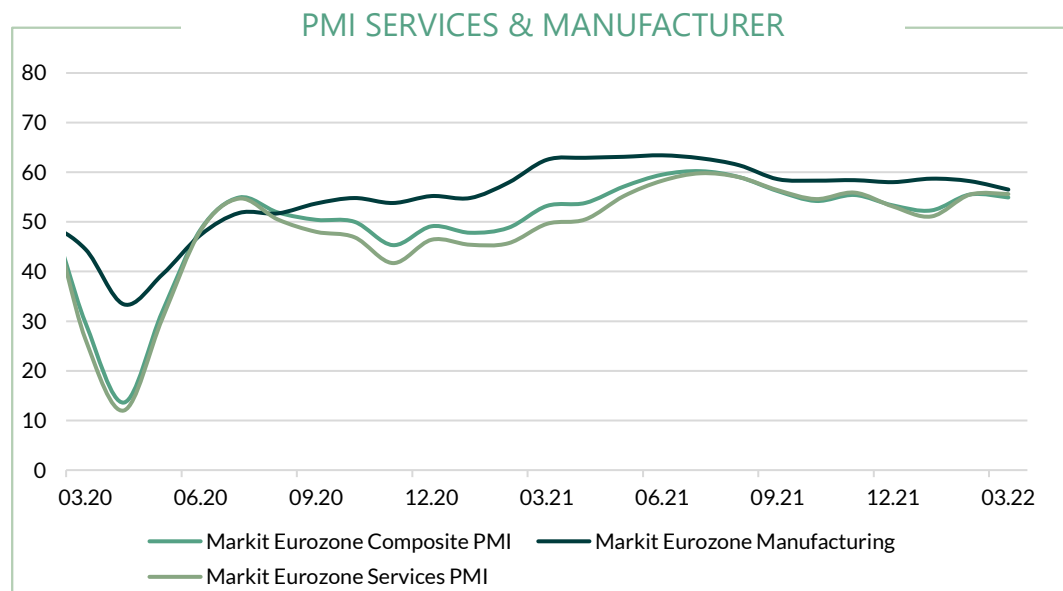
- Red-hot labor market: another solid March NFP with a close to record low unemployment rate of 3.6%
- Red-hot property market: higher yields may even boost housing in the short-term, as investors try to lock-in lending rates
- Red-hot inflation: Fed has to move big time in order to slow excess demand

Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, Bloomberg | Data as of 03/31/2022



Europe

FROM STAGFLATION TO RECESSION?

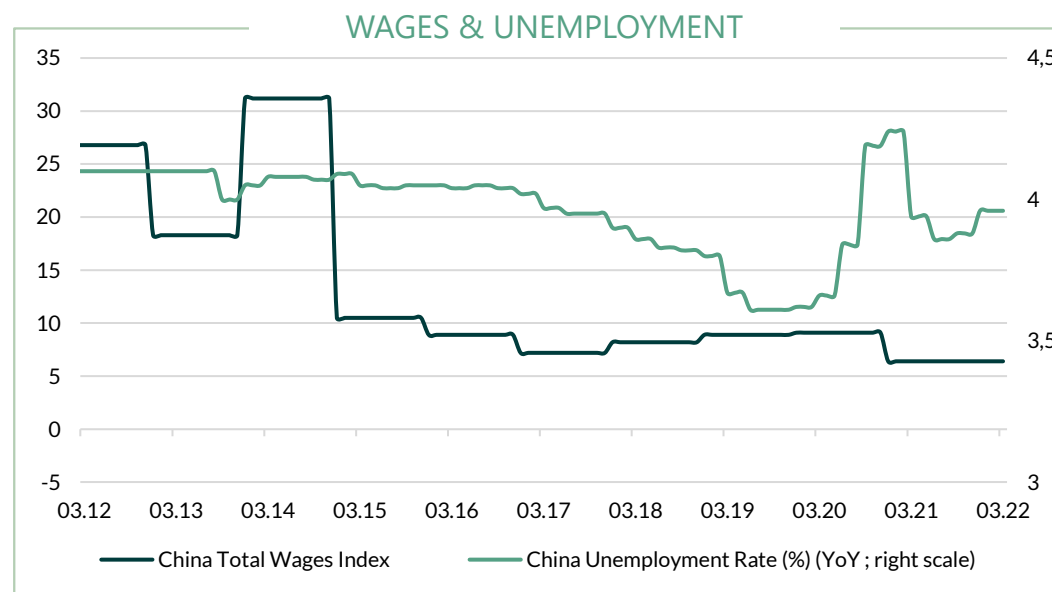
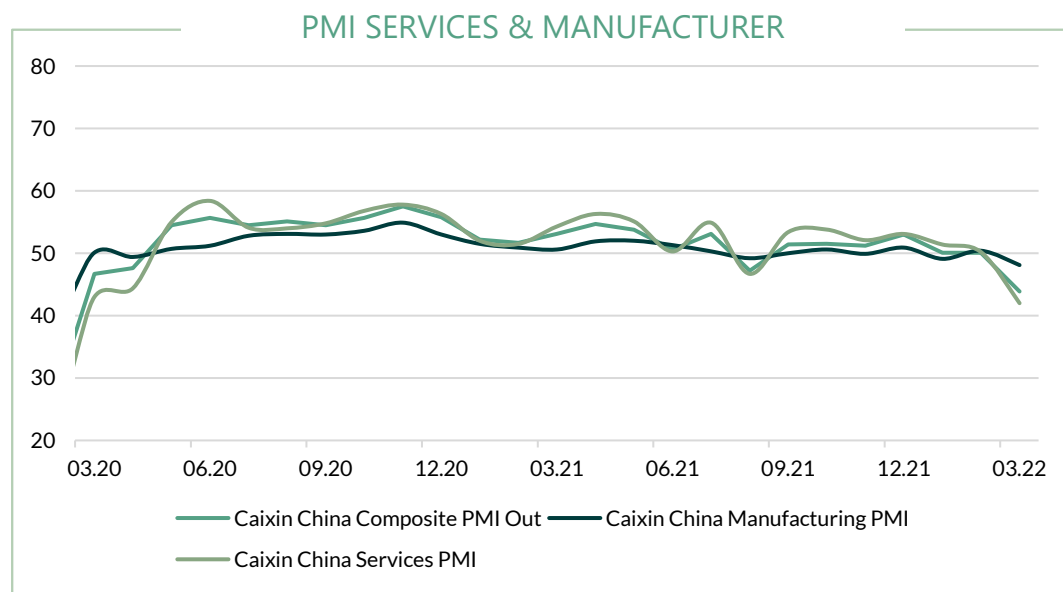


- Significant drag on growth via sentiment channel, production disruptions and energy price spikes
- Stagflation has arrived while recession risks have increased further and are not a tail risk anymore
- A technical recession for Germany is almost a given (Q4 2021 was slightly negative, Q1 2022 likely to follow)
- Healthy consumer balances, increased fiscal responses and omicron relief may buffer some of the downside risk
- A gas embargo, either self-imposed or by Putin would cause a severe recession



China

THE ZERO COVID STRATEGY COMPLICATES THE EQUATION

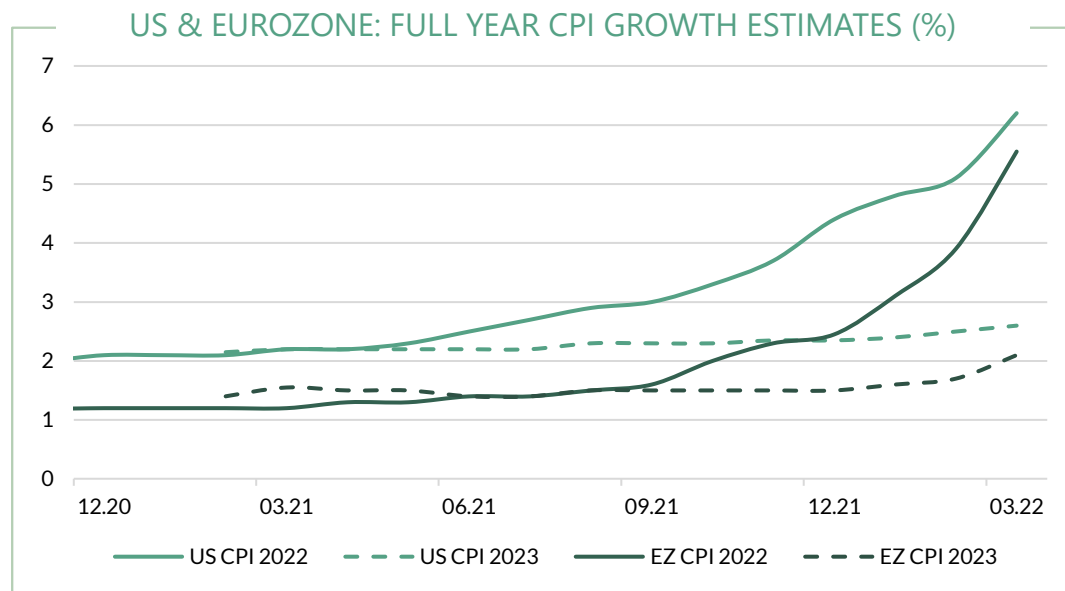


- Composite Caixin PMI slides to lowest level (43.9) since the covid outbreak on the back of a slump in the service component
- Zero-covid strategy with hard lockdowns and the fall-out from the cracked property bubble are putting the 2022 5.5% GDP target at massive risk
- Pivot towards more expansionary policy a positive support, but magnitude probably limited



Inflation expectations

LONG-TERM STILL ANCHORED



YOY CPI ESTIMATES

YoY	Mar-22	Feb-22	1Y trend	5Y average	20Y average
Canada		5,7		2,5	2,5
U.S.		7,9		1,5	2,9
Brazil		10,5		2,6	7,8
Mexico		7,3		2,4	7,1
Chile		7,8		1,8	
Eurozone	7,5	5,9		1,0	2,2
Germany	7,3	5,1		1,1	1,9
France	4,5	3,6		0,8	1,7
Italy	6,7	5,7		0,8	2,2
Poland	10,9	8,5		1,8	
Sweden		4,3		1,0	1,7
Switzerland	2,4	2,2		0,3	0,6
U.K.		6,2		1,3	2,6
India		6,1		2,4	
Indonesia	2,6	2,1			
Malaysia		2,2		0,5	
Japan		0,9		0,3	0,2
South Korea	4,1	3,7		0,8	3,2
China		0,9			
Hong Kong		1,6		0,9	1,7

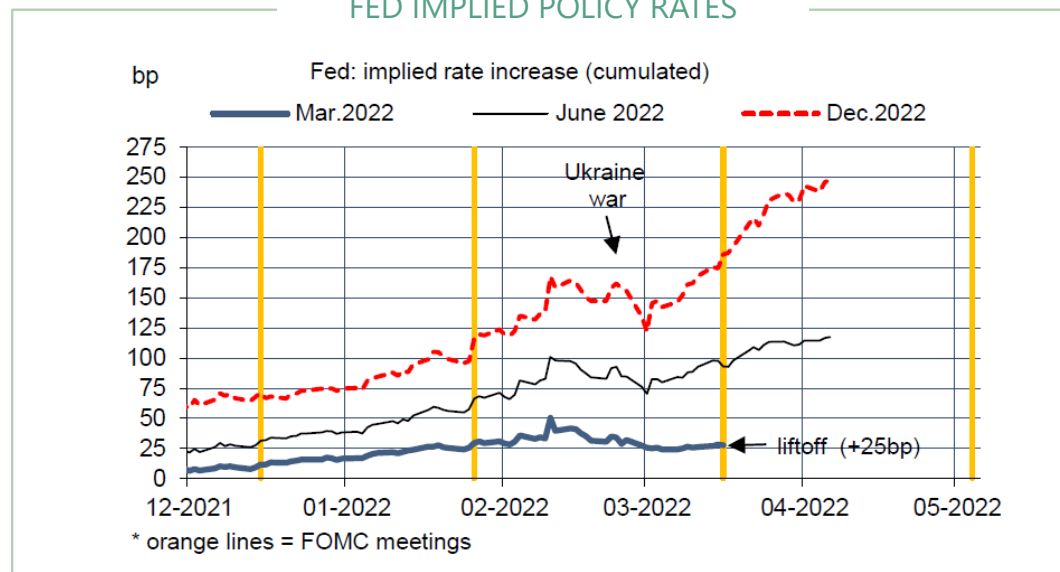
- Near-term inflation expectations are surging with spiking energy and food prices
- Inflation path in the Eurozone does not look promising: even higher from here and more persistent



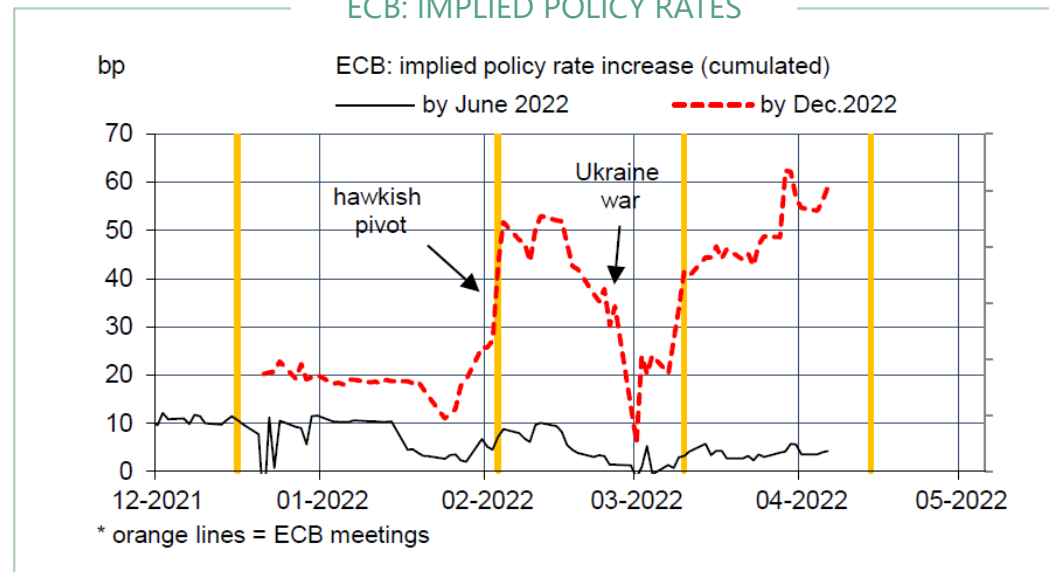
FED & BCE policies

SOFT LANDING AN ILLUSION?

FED IMPLIED POLICY RATES



ECB: IMPLIED POLICY RATES



- Central banks are completely behind inflation curves and will have to navigate a balancing act between an almost unprecedented price level surge and cooling growth
- Market expects now almost 250bp tightening until year-end in the US plus a faster rundown of the balance sheet
- Historical track record of soft landings in the US is not that promising
- ECB priced for almost 60bp hikes until year-end
- For the time being, the focus of the ECB lies on fighting inflation, which could change depending on the hit to growth



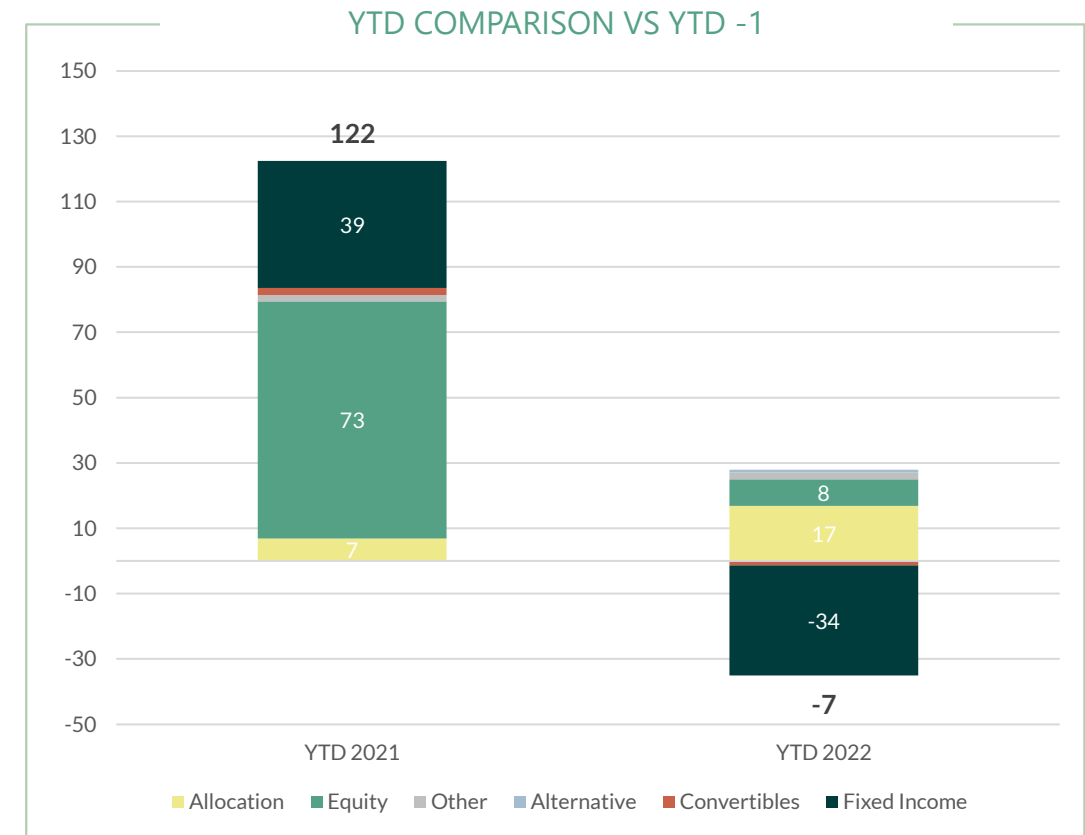
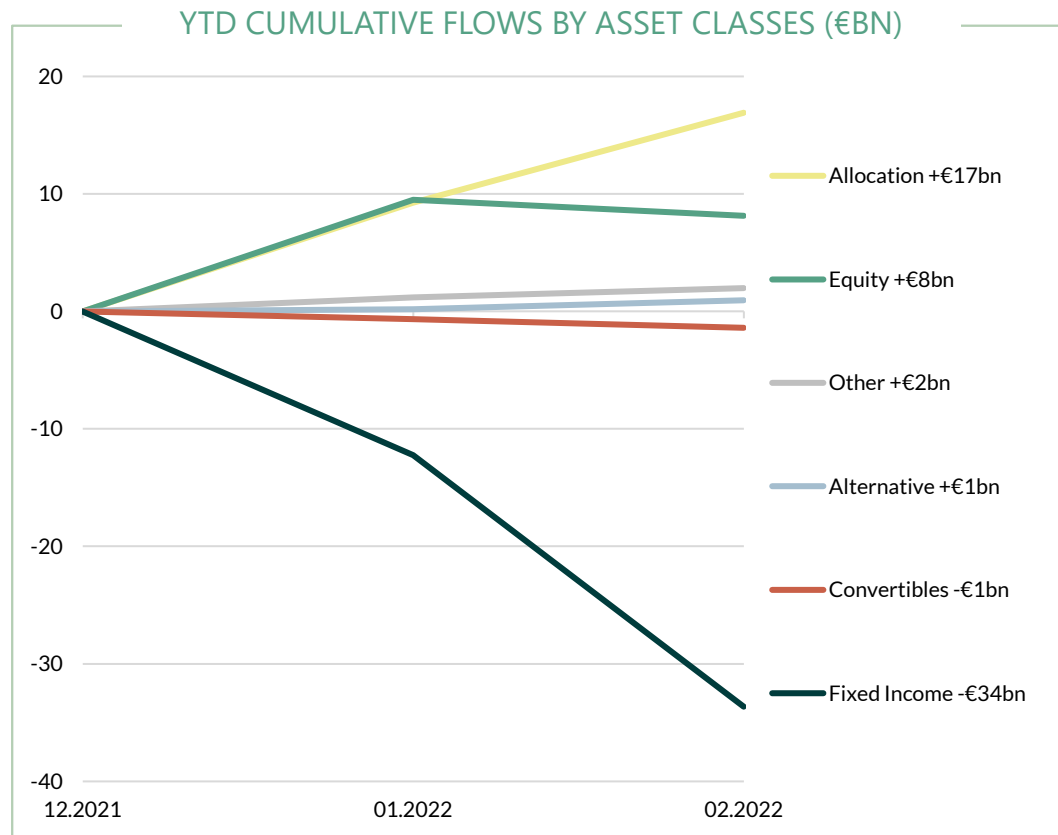
02

MARKET
analysis



YTD European mutual fund flows

INVESTORS CONFIDENCE IS WANING

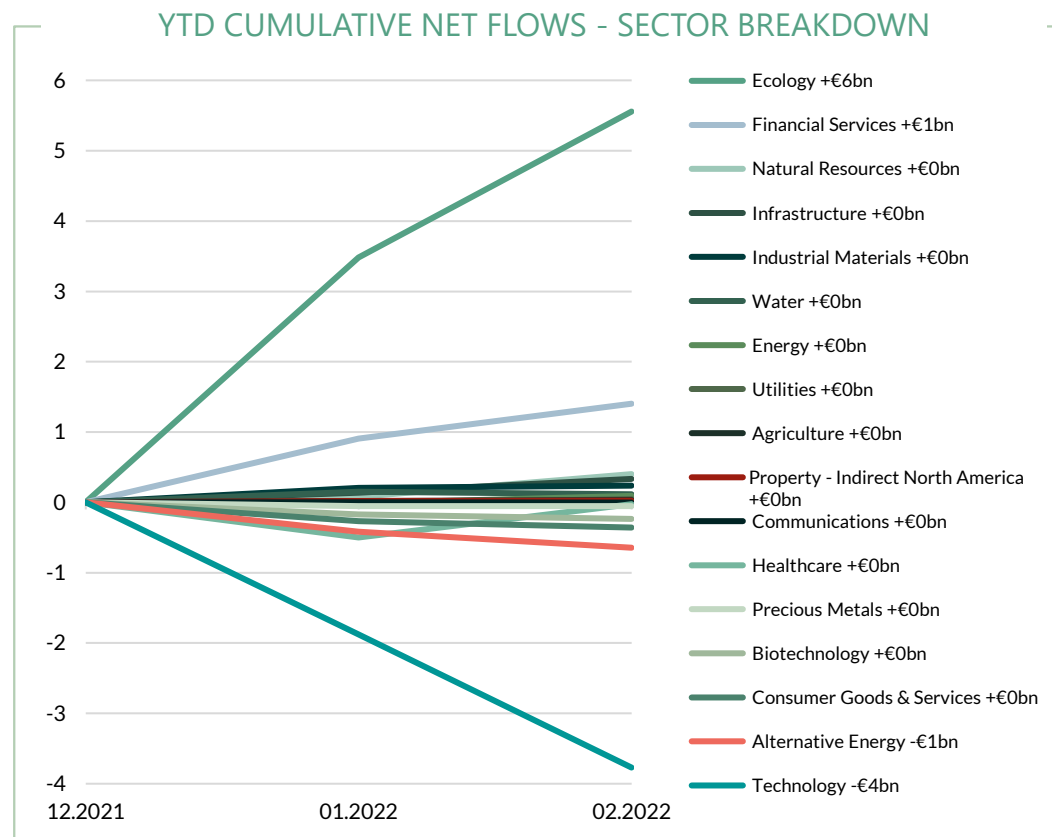
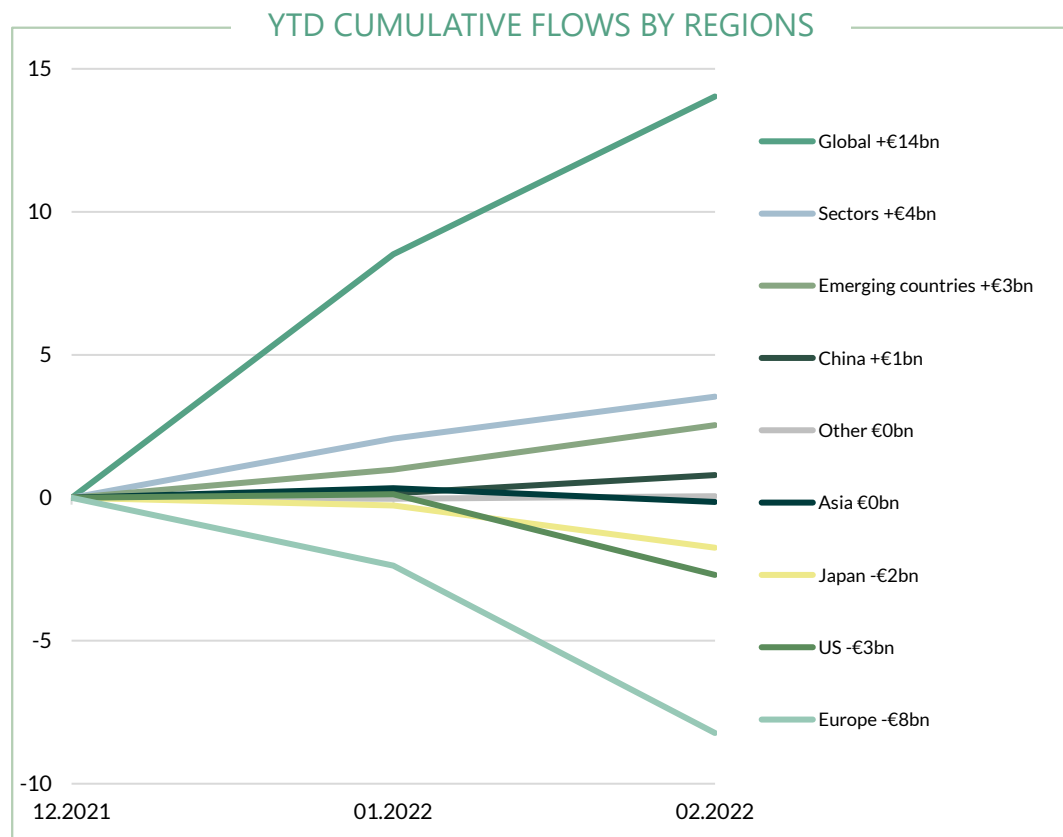


Source : Morningstar. Data as of 28.02.2022 (Europe OE ex ETF ex MM ex FoF ex Feeder (domiciled, most compr.)



European mutual fund flows – YTD equity flows

EUROPE SUFFERS FROM THE UKRAINIAN CRISIS

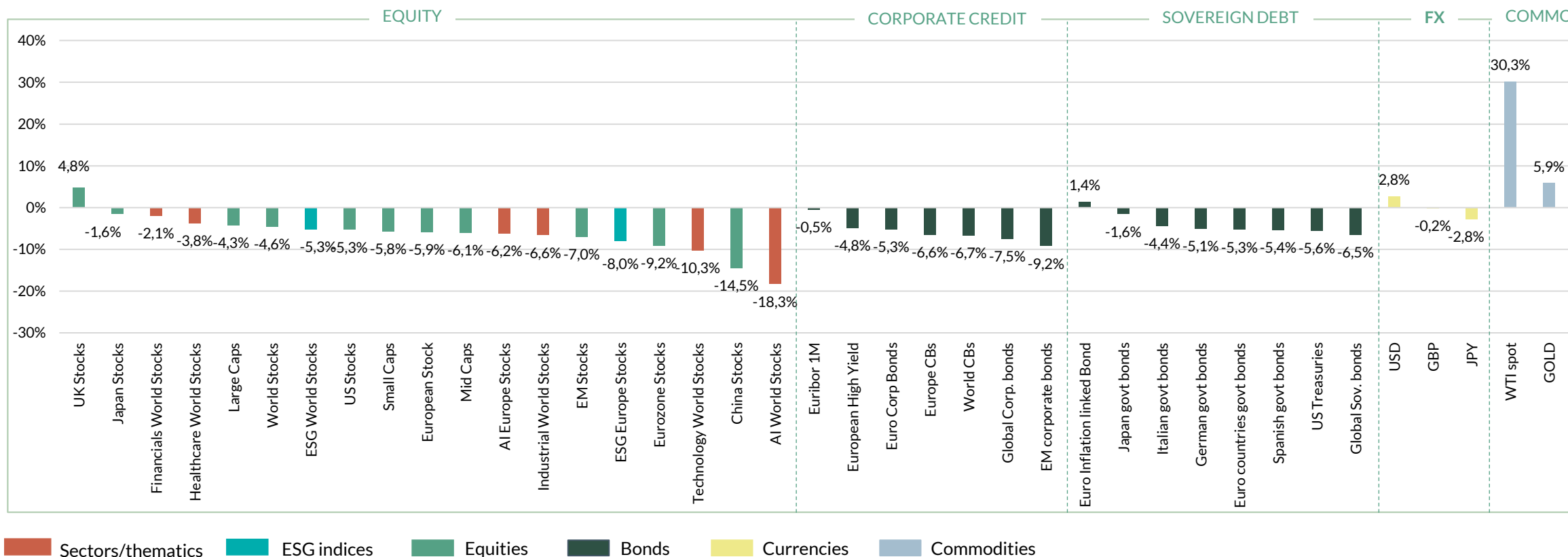


Source : Morningstar. Data as of 28.02.2022 (Europe OE ex ETF ex MM ex FoF ex Feeder (domiciled, most compr.))



Year-to-date performances of asset classes

NOT MANY PLACES TO HIDE APART FROM COMMODITIES



Past performances are not a reliable indicator of future performances and are not constant over time.
 Sources: Bloomberg and BoA ML as of 03/31/2022; performances expressed in local currencies

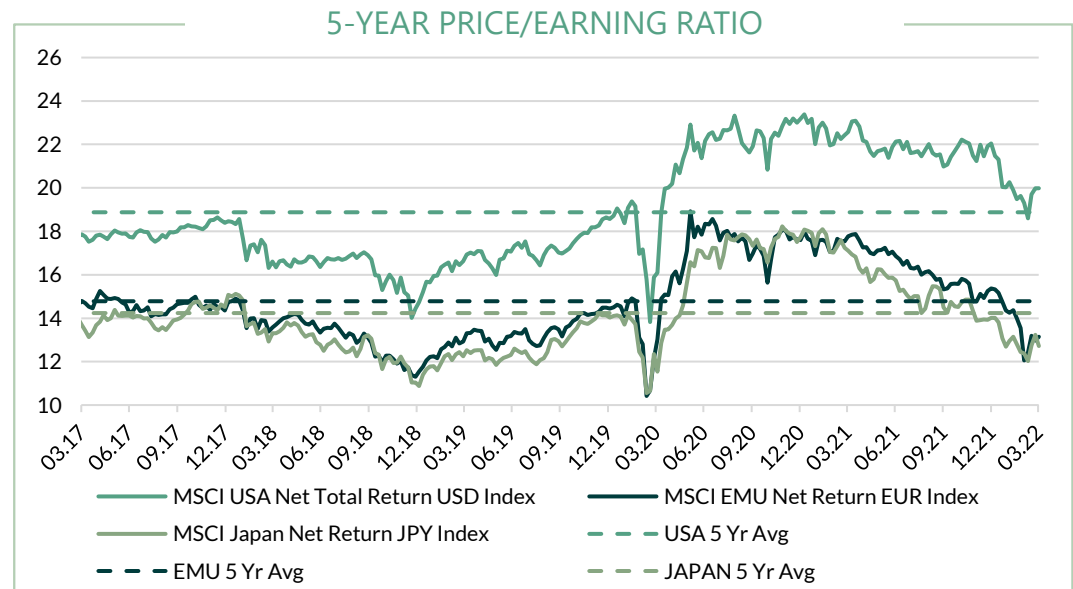
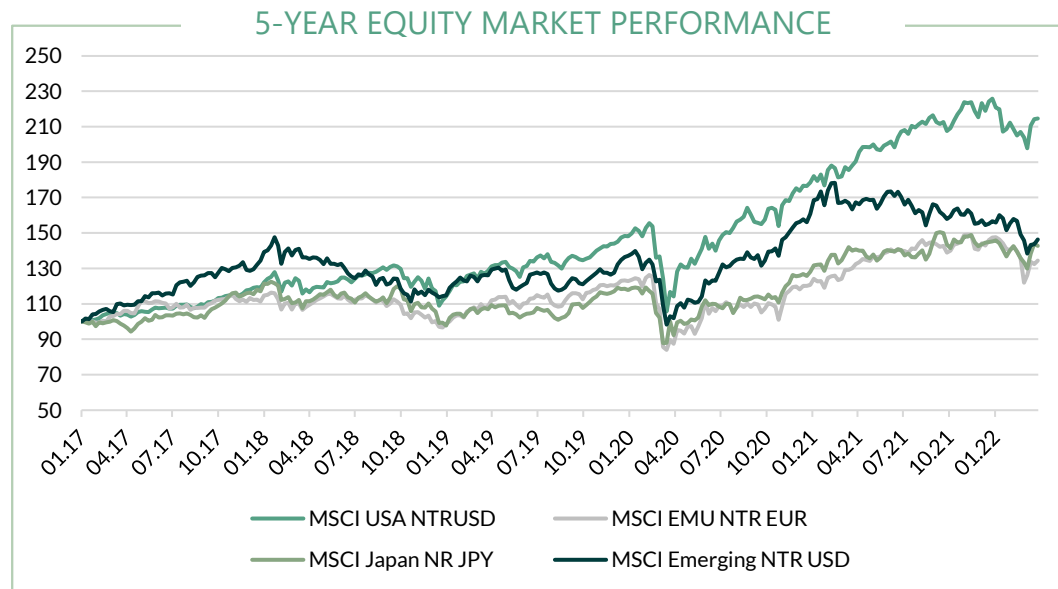


EQUITIES



Equities

UNEQUAL REBOUNDS



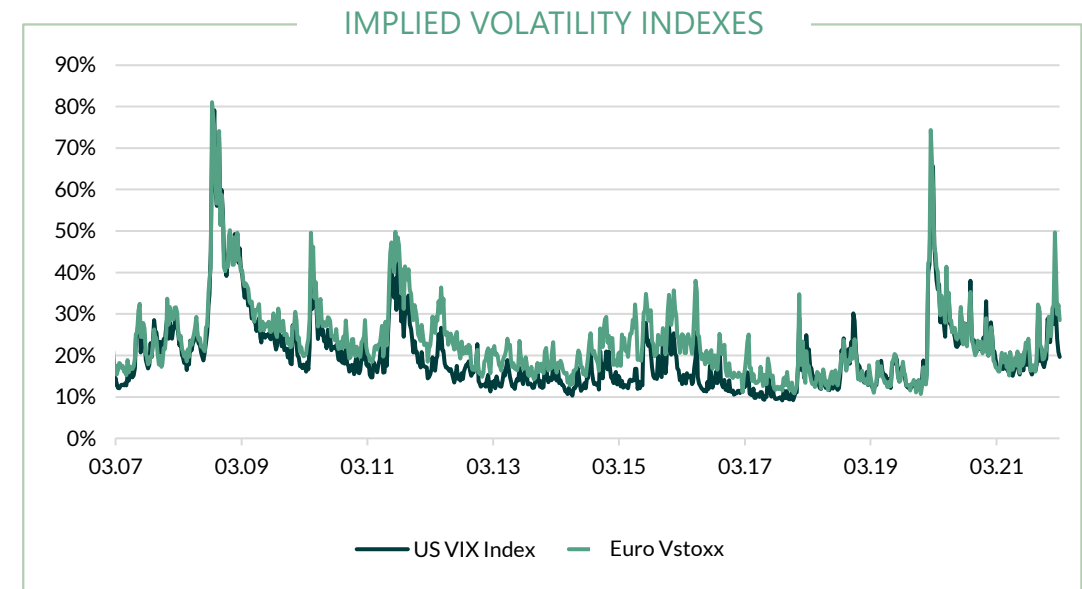
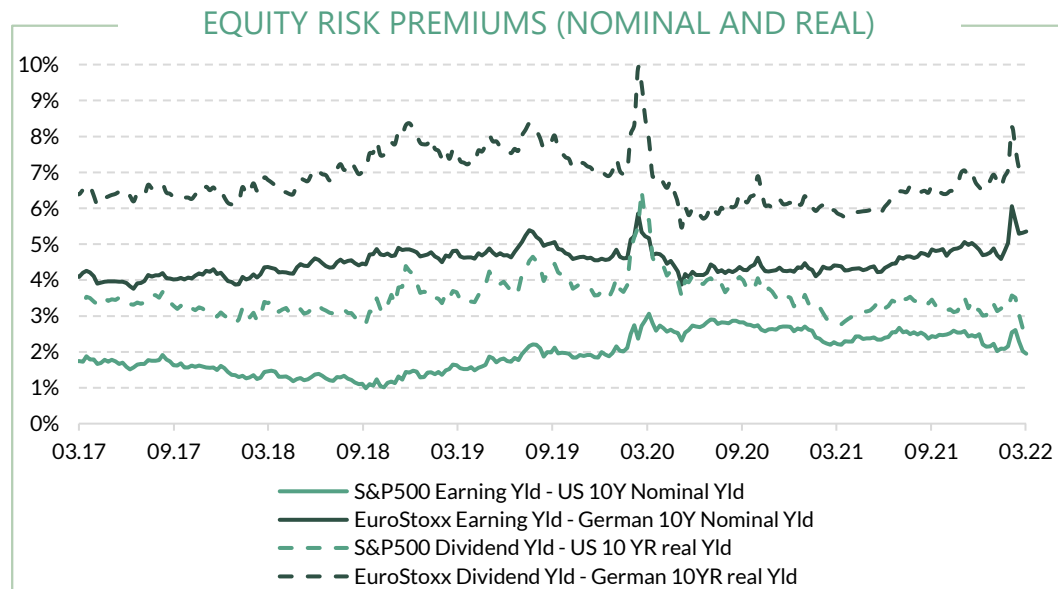
- After renewed sell-offs early March, global equities sharply rebounded and most indexes post slight monthly gains
- With new developments in Ukraine, and a strong increase of energy and raw materials' prices, dispersion was logically high among countries. Europe lagged developed peers
- In the meantime, expected earning (by analysts' consensus) remained surprisingly resilient

Past performances are not a reliable indicator of future performances and are not constant over time
Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, Bloomberg | Data as of 03/31/2022



Risk premiums & volatility

A MODERATE REACTION TO BONDS' VOLATILITY



- After initially peaking, equity indexes' implied volatilities normalized quite significantly while in the FX and bonds universe, volatilities remains quite elevated
- As sovereign yields moved up sharply, equity risk premia diminished materially. Now at post-Covid lows for the US market

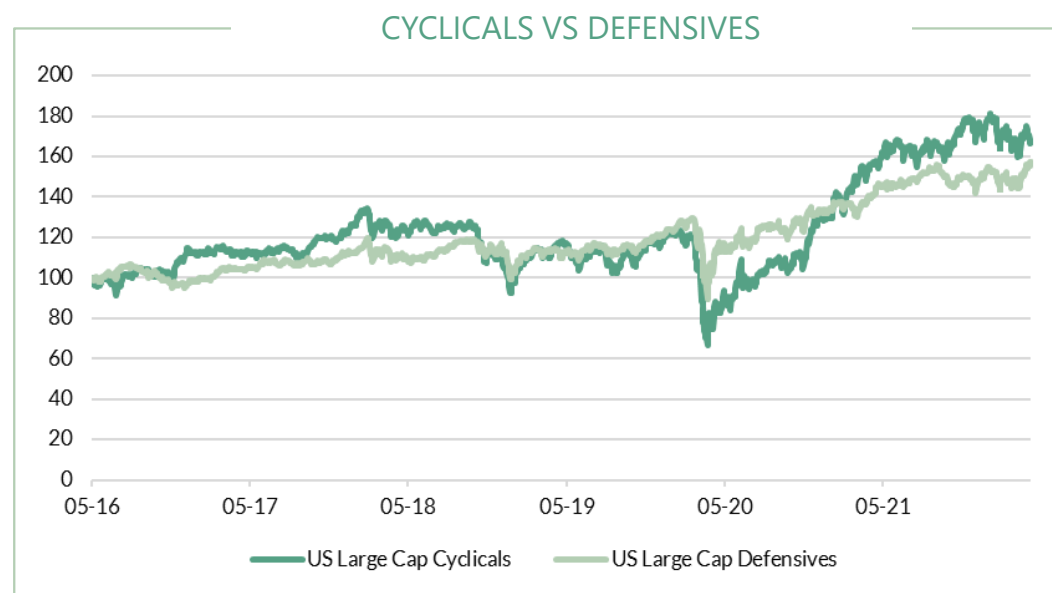
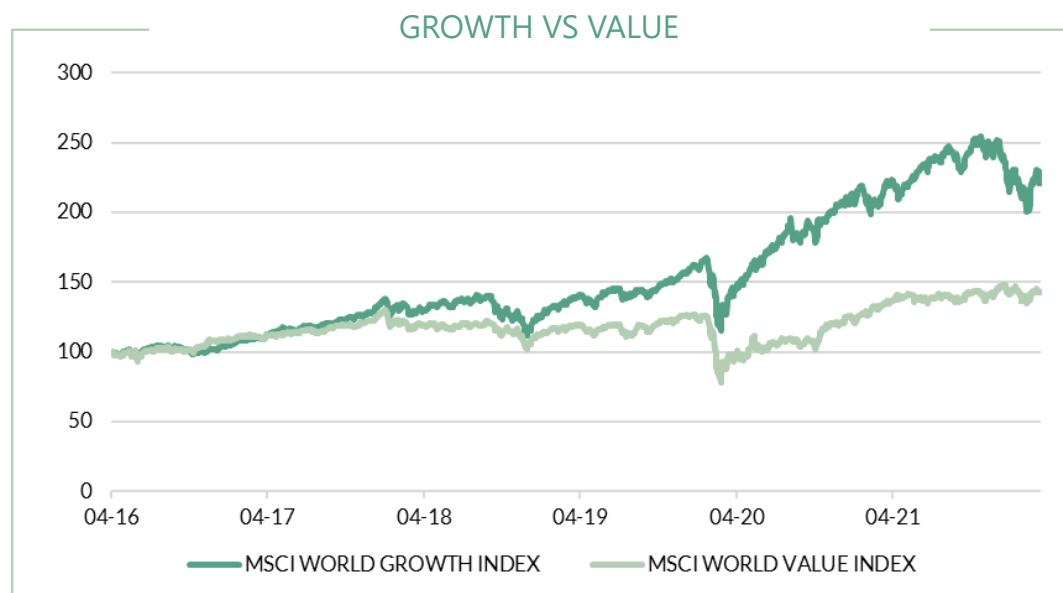
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Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, Bloomberg | Data as of 03/31/2022



Equities performances – styles differential

ECONOMIC TRAJECTORY AS A KEY DRIVER OF FACTOR PERFORMANCE



- Classical factors were not good at explaining performances' dispersions over this month
- The most obvious theme was Oil & Energy: producers vs consumers
- In an environment of accrued uncertainty, defensive tended to overperform

Past performances are not a reliable indicator of future performances and are not constant over time

Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, Bloomberg | Data as of 03/31/2022



European equities – sectors overview

FINANCIALS AND COMMODITIES TOOK THE LEAD

EUROPEAN SECTORS	P/E Next 12 months as of 04/2022	Rerating P/E	EPS growth 2022	EPS growth 2023	Div Yield	Perf YTD	Perf 1 Month
STOXX Europe 600	14,0 x	2%	9,9%	5,9%	3,2%	-6,0%	3,6%
Commodities							
Basic Resources	7,6 x	-41%	3,8%	-25,5%	5,9%	18,1%	6,7%
Energy	7,7 x	-25%	45,4%	-9,2%	4,2%	15,5%	6,0%
Cyclicals							
Automobiles & Parts	6,1 x	-40%	-1,1%	12,1%	5,3%	-12,8%	-1,6%
Chemicals	17,2 x	10%	-4,7%	2,2%	2,7%	-8,0%	5,3%
Construction & Materials	15,1 x	-3%	-0,7%	11,6%	3,1%	-11,3%	2,2%
Consumer Products and Services	21,8 x	n/a	16,1%	13,5%	2,2%	-16,0%	1,0%
Industrial Goods & Services	16,4 x	5%	18,5%	5,8%	2,6%	-12,7%	3,0%
Media	17,7 x	7%	11,4%	13,2%	2,6%	-4,6%	3,4%
Technology	24,0 x	25%	13,7%	18,5%	1,2%	-17,1%	2,9%
Travel & Leisure	29,5 x	80%	150,3%	127,3%	1,4%	-10,6%	-0,4%
Financials							
Banks	8,2 x	-30%	-4,7%	11,3%	5,5%	-4,3%	3,9%
Insurance	10,5 x	-1%	10,0%	9,8%	5,3%	2,0%	9,3%
Financial Services	12,3 x	-23%	-17,2%	9,2%	2,9%	-8,0%	10,0%
Real Estate	19,4 x	7%	7,3%	7,9%	3,4%	-5,8%	3,3%
Defensives							
Food Beverage & Tobacco	18,2 x	2%	8,5%	9,8%	3,0%	-3,6%	0,5%
Health Care	19,2 x	24%	7,4%	12,5%	2,3%	-1,5%	5,6%
Personal Care Drug and Grocery Stores	17,2 x	9%	0,5%	9,3%	3,3%	-9,7%	-2,1%
Retail	14,9 x	-4%	8,5%	12,6%	3,6%	-24,6%	-7,6%
Telecommunications	14,6 x	-3%	54,8%	11,7%	4,3%	1,1%	4,9%
Utilities	14,9 x	16%	13,9%	4,5%	4,4%	-3,3%	1,8%

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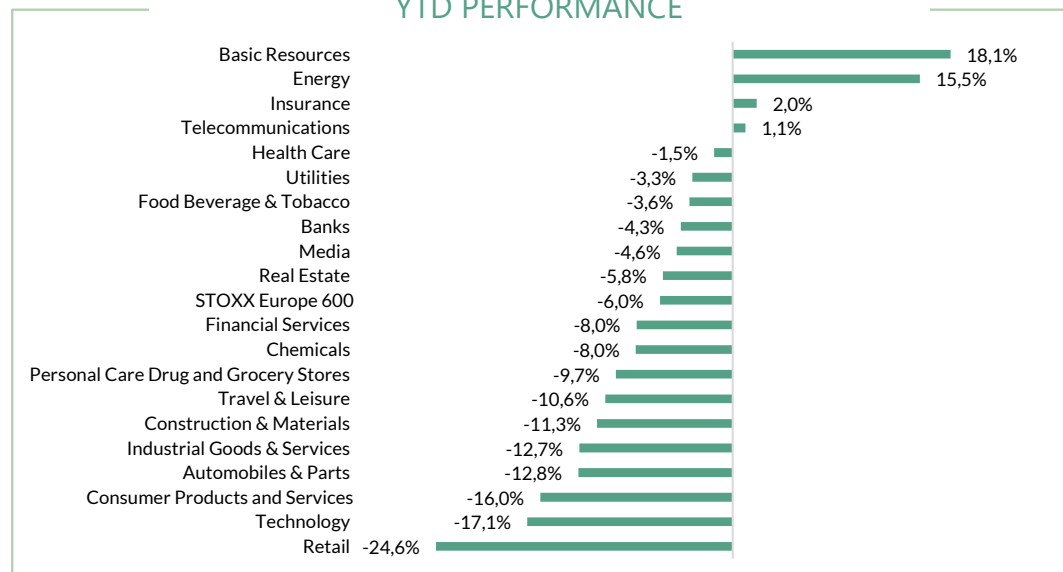
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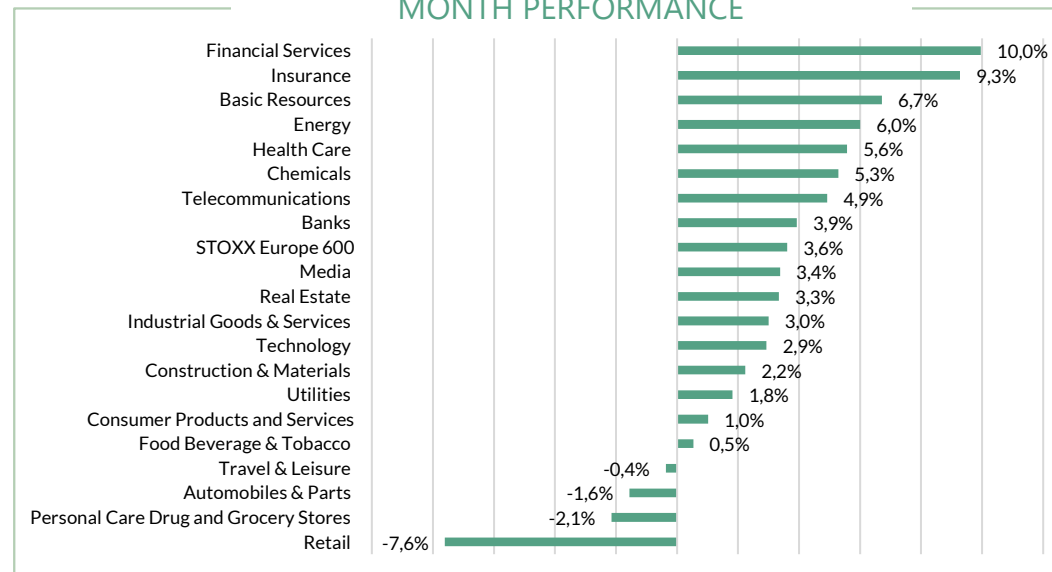
European equities – sectors performance

RETAIL IS NOT POPULAR, THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY SUFFERS FROM VARIOUS TROUBLES

YTD PERFORMANCE



MONTH PERFORMANCE



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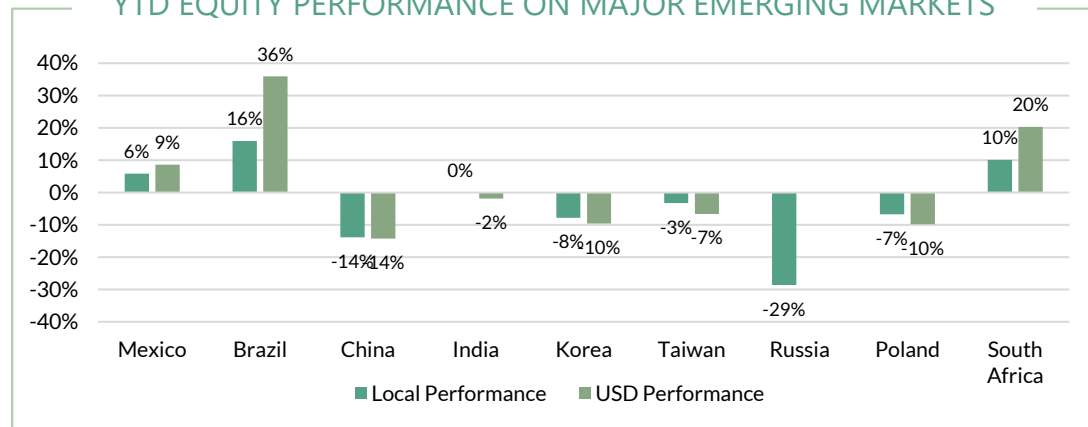
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Emerging markets

INCREASINGLY DECORRELATED

YTD EQUITY PERFORMANCE ON MAJOR EMERGING MARKETS

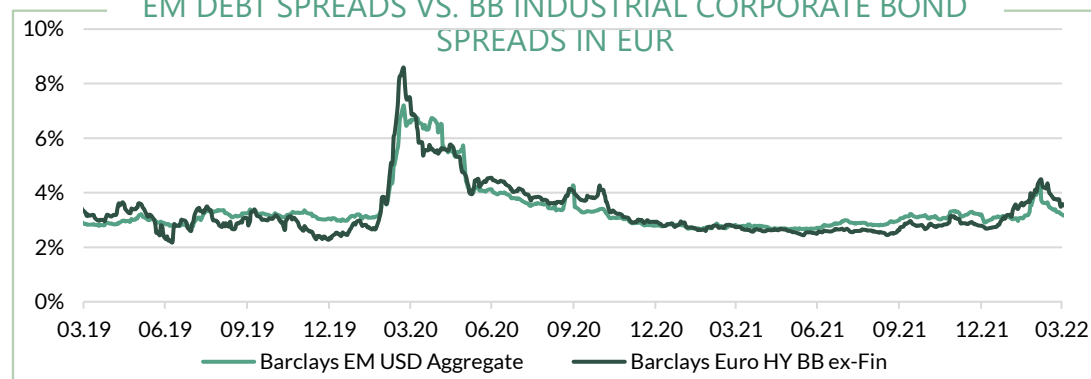


EPS (INCLUDING LOSSES) GROWTH & PE (LOCAL CURRENCY)

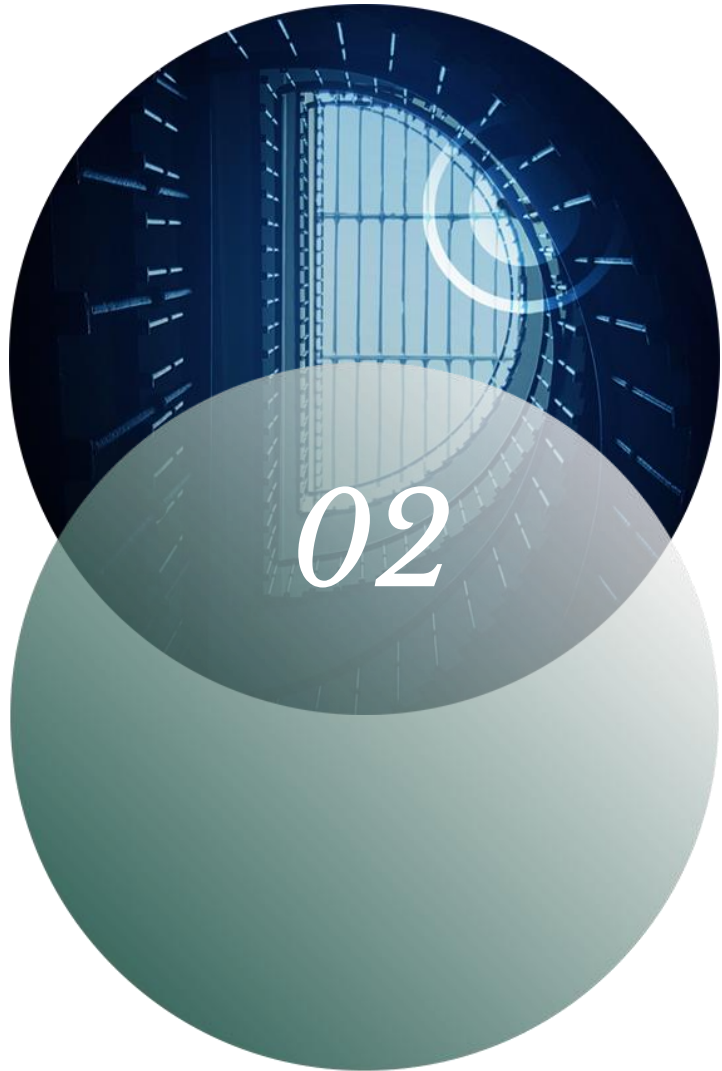
Emerging	PE 12mth fwd	EPS Growth 2022e	EPS Growth 2023e	Dividend Yield
MSCI EM	12,3	-1%	11%	3,0%
MSCI CHINA	11,4	12%	17%	2,4%
MSCI KOREA	9,8	9%	13%	2,1%
MSCI INDIA	22,0	20%	16%	1,4%
MSCI INDONESIA	16,2	10%	10%	3,1%
MSCI PHILIPPINES	18,5	22%	21%	1,7%
MSCI MALAYSIA	16,0	7%	13%	3,6%
MOEX Russia Index	3,3	24%	-6%	16,6%
WSE WIG INDEX	9,8	-10%	2%	3,5%
MSCI TURKEY	4,9	39%	0%	7,6%
MSCI SOUTH AFRICA	10,0	13%	13%	4,3%
MSCI BRAZIL	7,3	9%	-6%	7,7%
MSCI COLOMBIA	9,3	13%	8%	5,8%
MSCI MEXICO	14,4	13%	11%	3,4%

- Russian markets reopened, with the help of Central Bank. Ruble rebounded sharply: EUR/RUB trading close to pre-war level
- Latin-American equity markets kept overperforming Asian peers
- Mainland Chinese A-Shares suffered the most
- In the fixed-income universe, emerging sovereign debts were quite resilient

EM DEBT SPREADS VS. BB INDUSTRIAL CORPORATE BOND SPREADS IN EUR



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Sources: Bloomberg, ODDO BHF AM SAS | Data at 03/31/2022

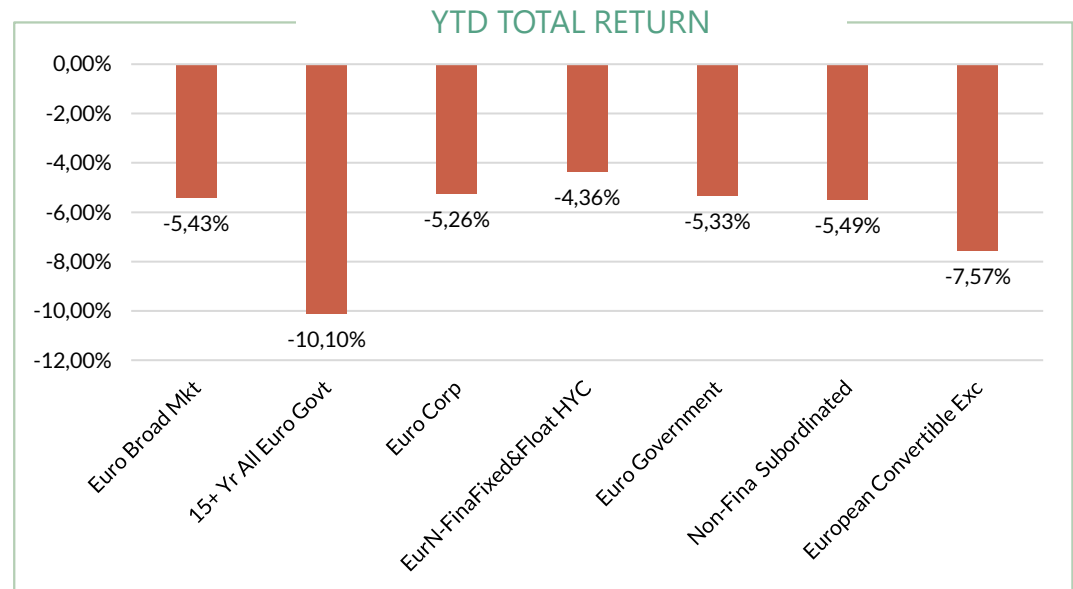
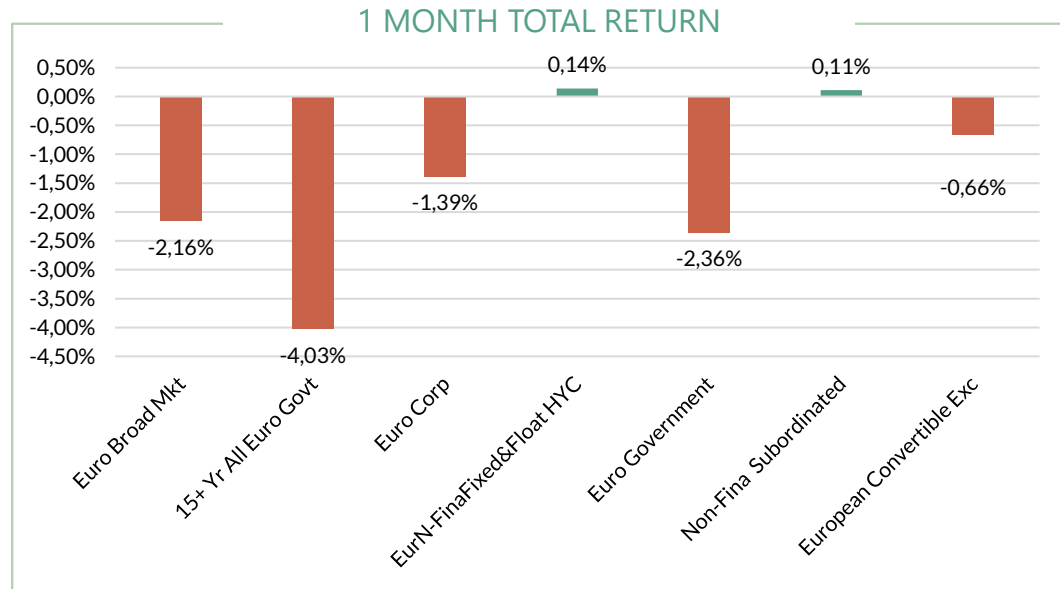


FIXED INCOME



Performance fixed income segment

HISTORICAL CAPITAL LOSSES

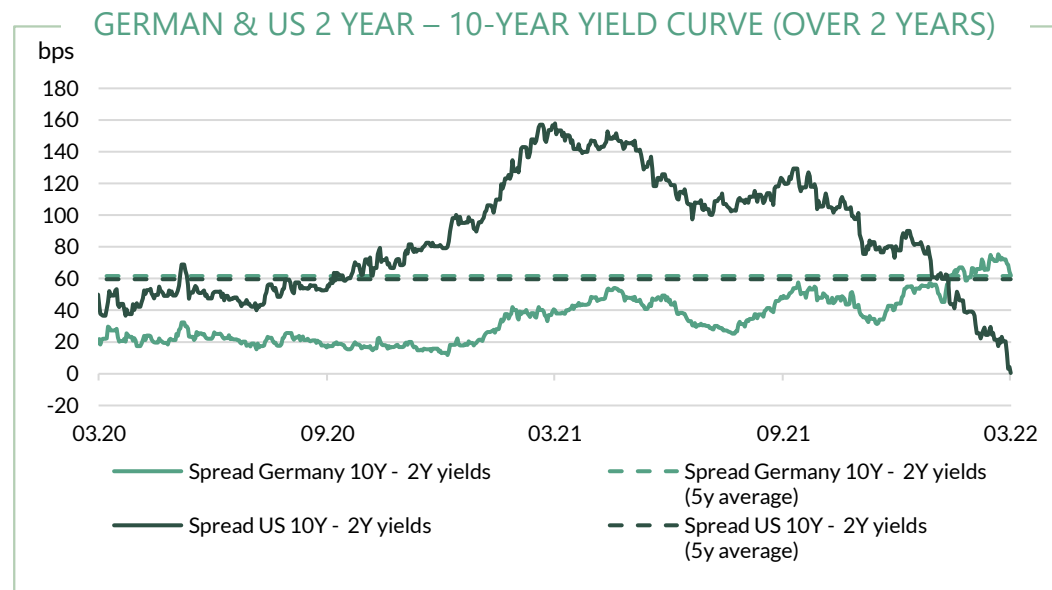
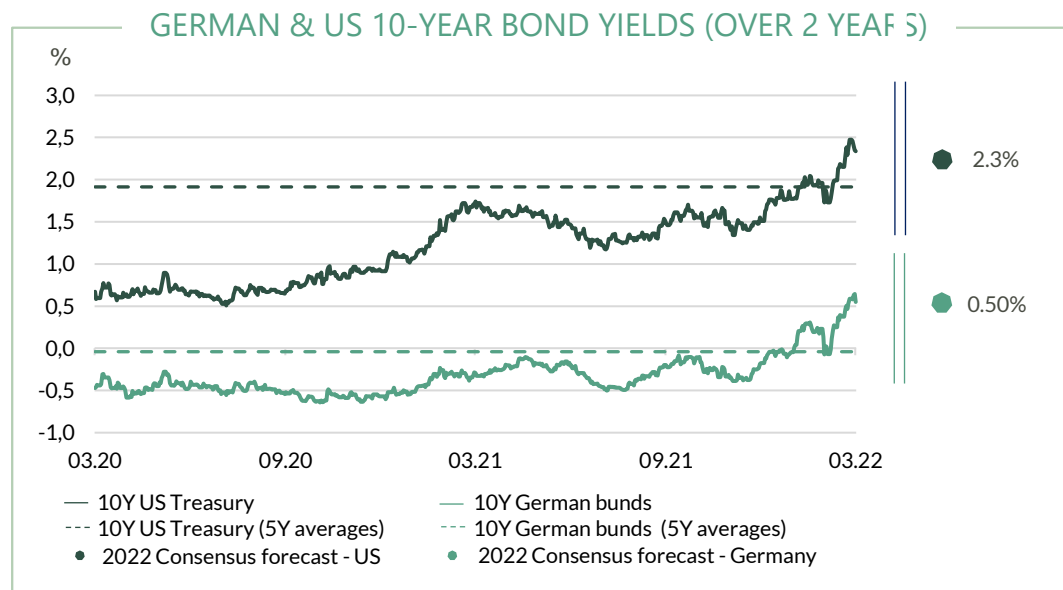


Past performances are not a reliable indicator of future performances and are not constant over time
 Source: ODDO BHF AM, Bloomberg, data as of 03/31/2022



Rates

US CURVE INVERSION TO SIGNAL RECESSION IN 2023?



- US 10-2 year curve inversion has been a relatively reliable indicator of an upcoming recession in the US . But announcement of rapid rundown of the Fed balance sheet has resulted in a curve resteepering for now
- With more than 70bp ytd, 10-year Bunds experience sharpest move since 2015
- Still low real yields and inflation pressure suggests that yields have room to normalize further
- However, given the already sharp move, a deeply oversold market stance and quite progressed rate hike pricing , there might be a stabilization or even rebound in the short-term

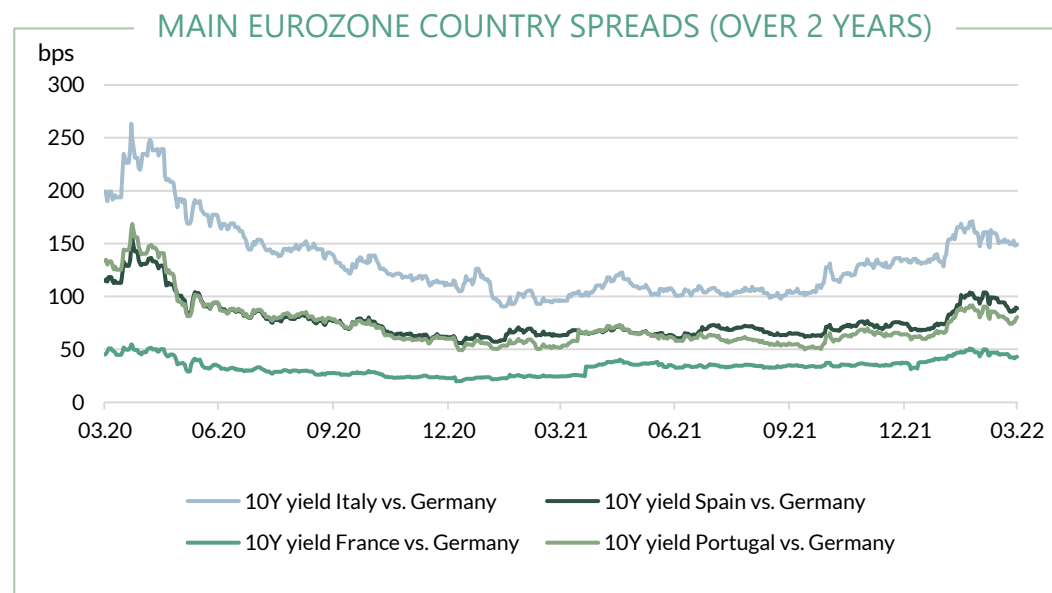
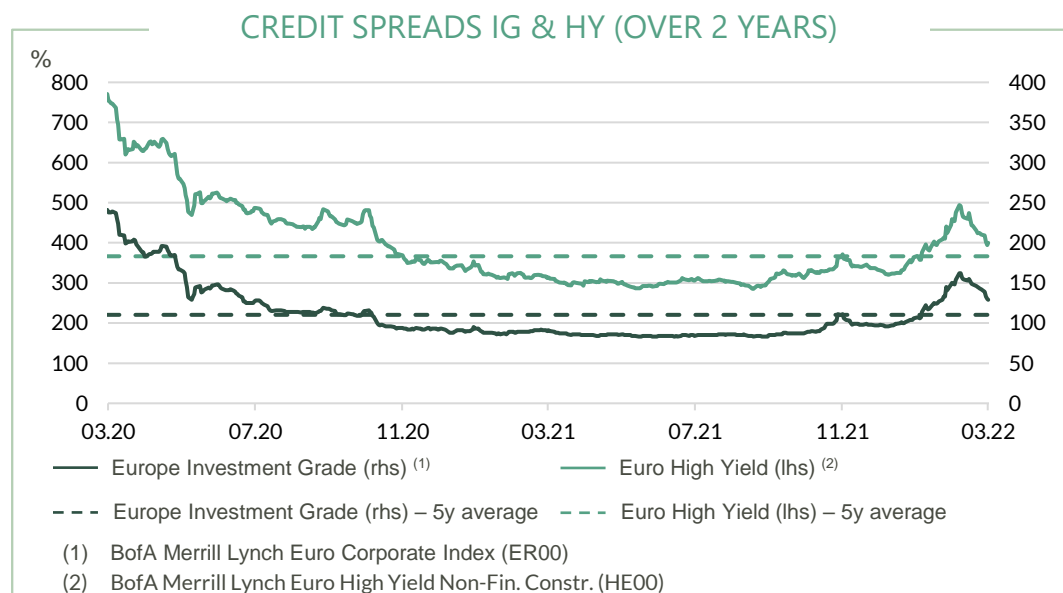
Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance and is not constant over time.

Bloomberg Economic Forecast | Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, Bloomberg | LHS: Data as of 03/31/2022; RHS: Data as of 03/31/2022



Credit Spreads

RISKS FROM ILLIQUIDITY?



- Investment Grade spreads tightened sharply by approx. 30bp from their early March wides to 130bp (April 7th)
- Given the rebound, spreads appear slightly vulnerable to clouded growth prospects and diminishing liquidity
- In High Yield space this risk is more pronounced than in investment grade
- Peripheral spreads had retightened in tandem with corporate spreads, but widening trend has legs with fast fading support from ECB QE

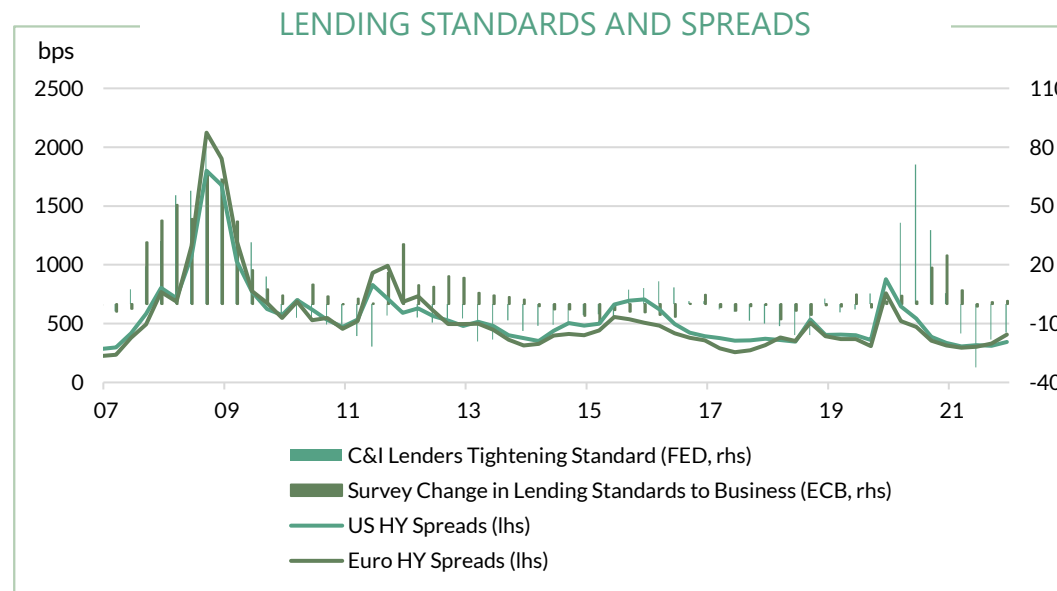
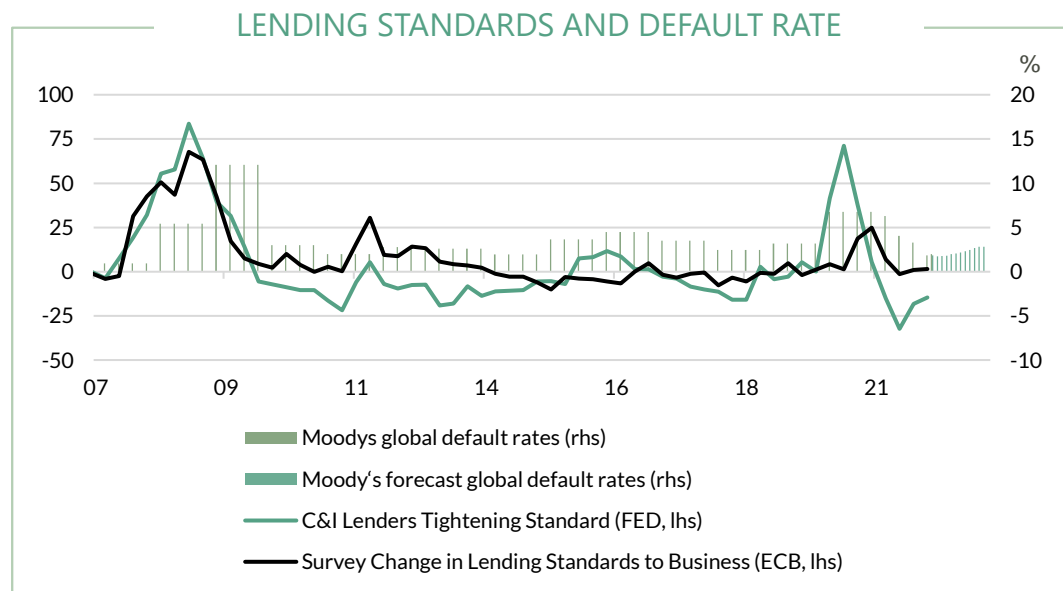
Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance and is not constant over time.

Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, Bloomberg | Data as of 03/31/2022



Financial conditions

A TIGHTENING THAT REMAINS LIMITED FOR THE TIME BEING



- Financial conditions have even eased over the last weeks thanks to tighter spreads and upbeat equity markets
- That poses a problem especially for the Fed and explains the hawkishness in recent comments made by Fed members

Source: Fed, ECB, Bloomberg | Moody's as of 02/28/2022, Lending Standard & Survey Change as of 03/31/2022, Spreads as of 03/31/2022

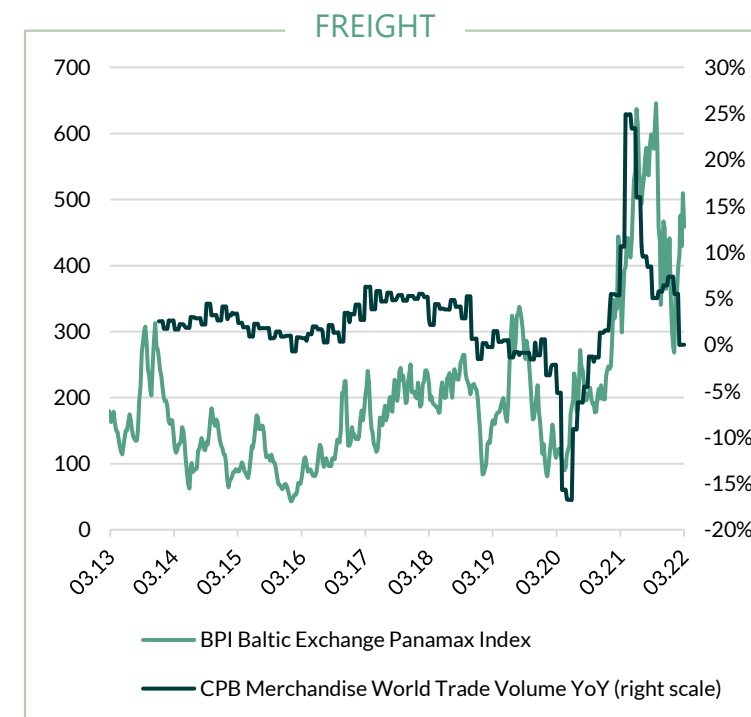
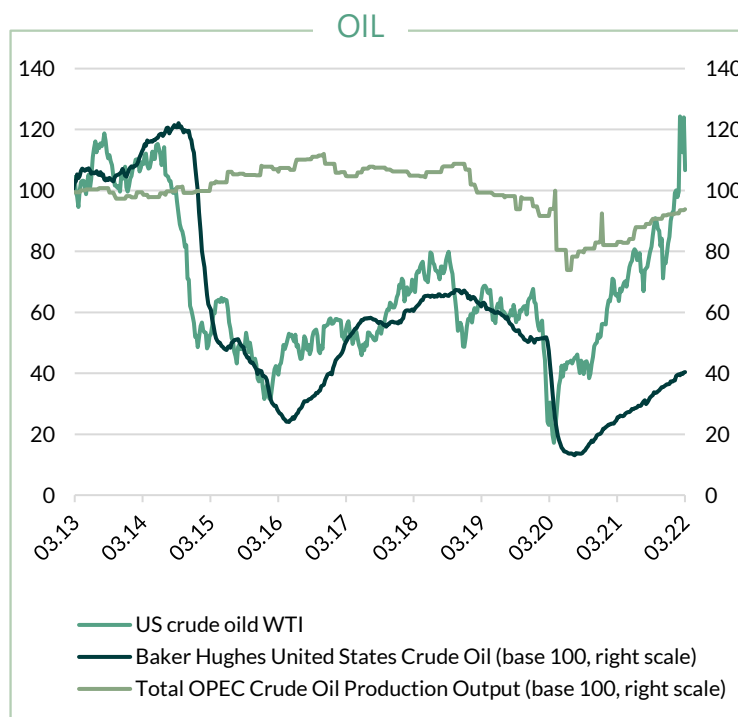
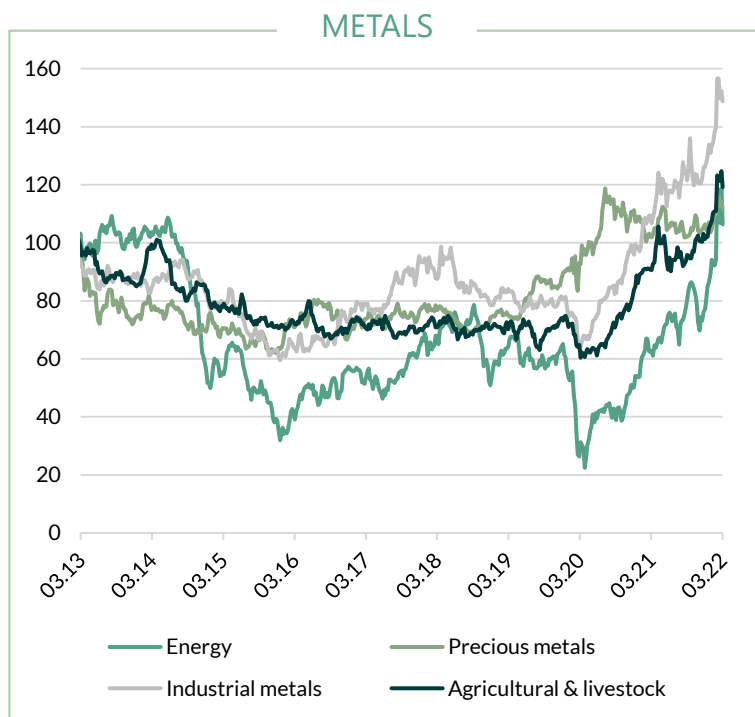


COMMODITIES & CURRENCIES



Commodities

NO SIGNIFICANT EASING TO BE EXPECTED



- International freight prices appear to stabilize on average
- The increase in oil prices is taking place in an excessively volatile environment

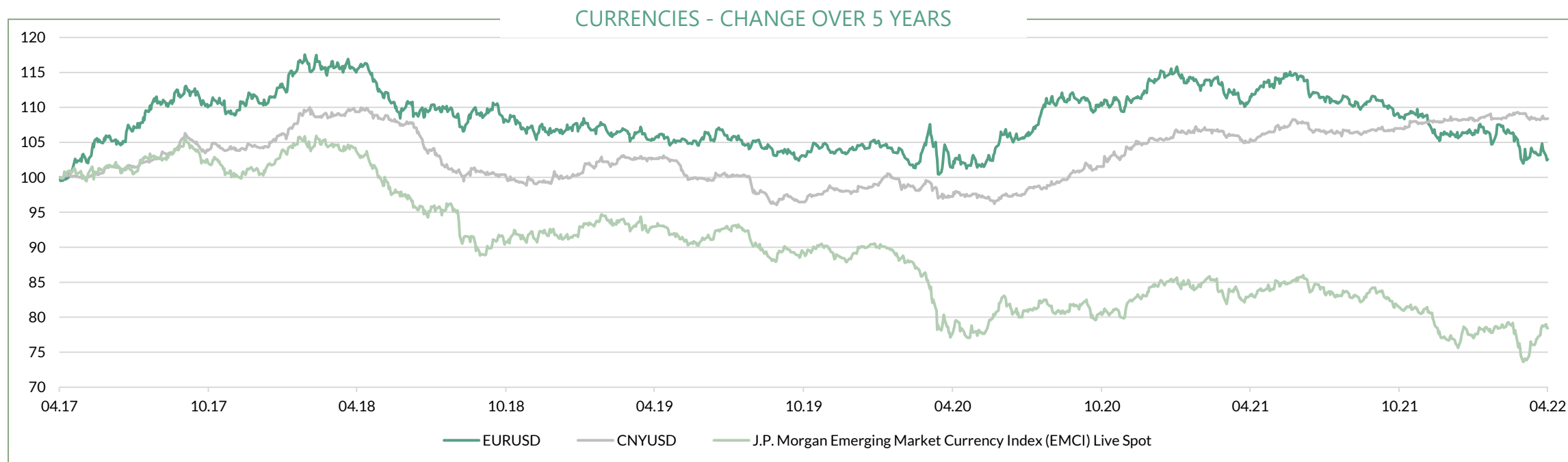
Past performances are not a reliable indicator of future performance and are not constant over time.

Sources: Bloomberg, ODDO BHF AM SAS | Data at 03/31/2022



Currencies

EUR AND JPY LOSING SOME MORE GROUND



- USD moved up against most developed currencies as FED gets even more hawkish.
- Commodity exporters' currencies kept appreciating: AUD, CAD, Brazilian Real and Mexican Peso

Past performances are not a reliable indicator of future performance and are not constant over time.
Sources: Bloomberg, ODDO BHF AM SAS | Data at 03/31/2022



03

CURRENT CONVICTIONS





Scenarios

OUR 6-MONTH VIEW

01 Central scenario

Global GDP negatively impacted by the escalation of the Russian/Ukrainian situation, mainly through the resulting energy crisis, sanctions and their impact on sentiment as well as supply chain disruptions. Corporate margins suffer from broadening and acceleration of inflation.

EUROPE

- Growth slowing vs 2021 and recession risk increasing due to geopolitical tensions. To some extent, this is offset by the improving Covid-19 situation and less health restrictions
- Inflation stays highly elevated, driven by higher energy prices, intensifying second-round effects and supply-chain disruptions
- Increasing pressure on ECB to reduce monetary support, despite elevated macroeconomic uncertainty

US

- With inflation acceleration, wage pressure and overheating of the economy, management of the monetary policy will be in the focus
- Corporate fundamentals remain strong for the moment, but are increasingly impacted by higher commodity prices and margin pressure
- Still elevated equity valuations pose risks to the market

STRATEGY

- Flexibility, increased liquidity buffers
- Hedging (options, gold...)
- Currencies for further diversification

OVERWEIGHT

- Short Duration IG
- Cash

UNDERWEIGHT

- Equities
- High Yield Credit

55%

02 Alternative scenario #1

Massive negative impact from Russian/ Ukrainian conflict resulting in a recession

- Surging commodity prices and their second-round effects, disrupted supply chains and loss of business confidence due to geopolitical tensions
- Central banks' actions slowed due to growth fears, but dilemma situation given overshooting inflation
- Increased market volatility and pressure on valuations

OVERWEIGHT

- Sovereigns
- Alternative strategies
- Cash

UNDERWEIGHT

- Equities
- Credit

30%

03 Alternative scenario #2

Upside scenario

- Easing geopolitical tensions result in improvement of the sentiment and decreasing commodity prices
- Consumption remains strong due to wage increases, lower savings and less health restrictions, positive for corporate margins
- China: Additional stimulus, change in Covid-strategy and less supply chain disruptions add to global growth
- Inflation remains high, but under control and central bank actions are perceived well

OVERWEIGHT

- Equities, incl. Emerging Markets
- High Yield

UNDERWEIGHT

- Sovereigns

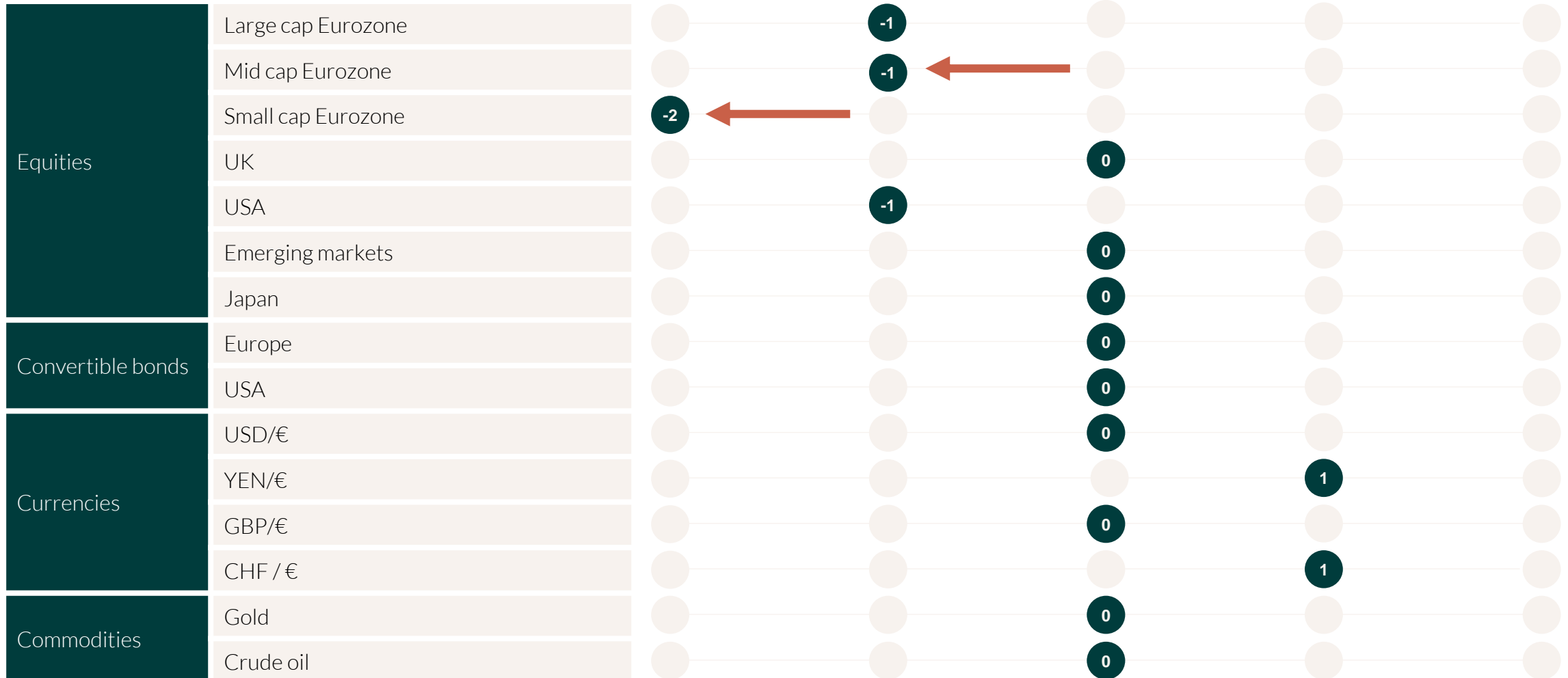
15%



Our current convictions

FOR EACH ASSET CLASS

Change from the previous month

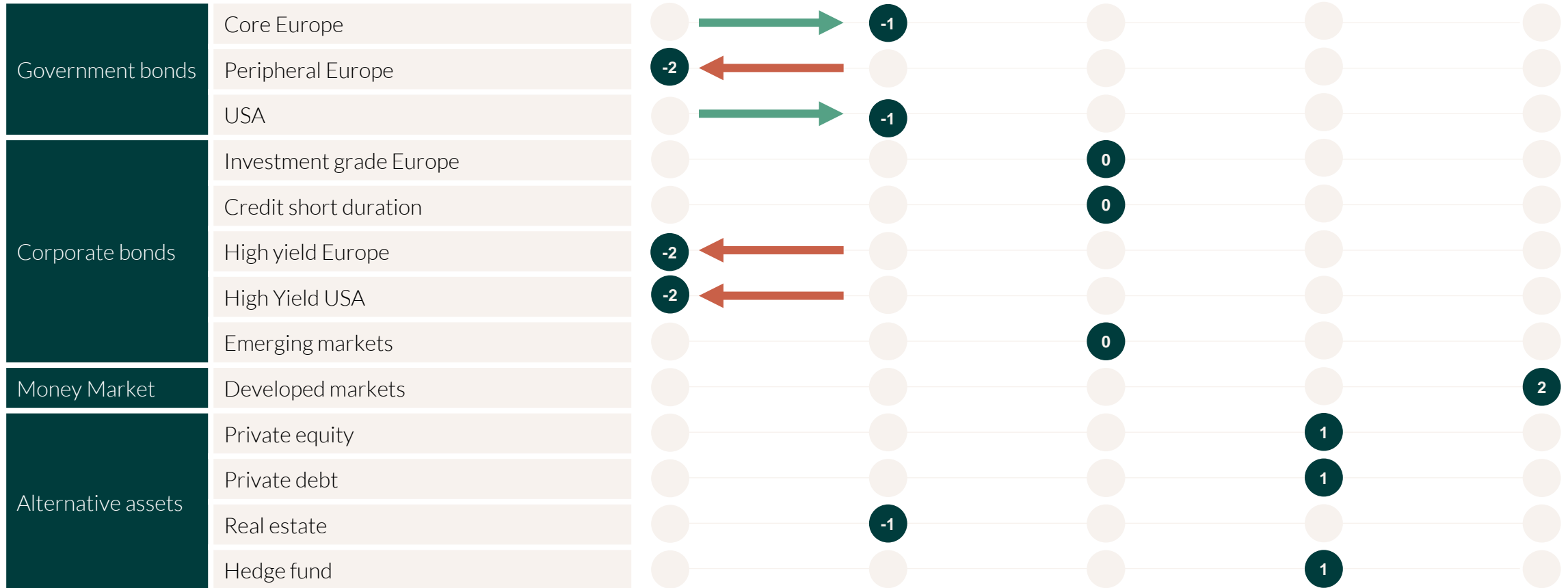


Source: ODDO BHF AM, as of 04/06/2022



Our current convictions FOR EACH ASSET CLASS

Change from the previous month



Source: ODDO BHF AM, as of 04/06/2022



HOW PERFORMANCE ARE CALCULATED

Cumulative fund performance is calculated based on dividends reinvested. Annualised performance is determined on an annual, 365-day actuarial basis. A fund's performance relative to its benchmark index is expressed as arithmetic difference. Static indicators are generally calculated on a weekly tick that is taken on Fridays, or failing that, on the day prior to valuation.

VOLATILITY

Volatility is a risk indicator measuring the level of fluctuations observed in a portfolio (or index) over a defined period. It is calculated as annualised standard deviation of absolute returns within a defined period of time.

CREDIT SPREAD (CREDIT PREMIUMS)

The credit spread is the risk premium or the difference between the yields of corporate bonds and that of sovereign bonds with the same characteristics.

INVESTMENT GRADE

Investment-grade bonds are bonds issued by issuers rated between AAA to BBB- by Standard & Poor's or the equivalent.

HIGH YIELD

High-yield bonds are speculative bonds rated lower than BBB- (Standard & Poor's) or the equivalent.

PE (PRICE-EARNINGS RATIO)

A stock's price-earnings ratio is equal to the stock's price divided by the issuing company's earnings per share. It is also called the "earnings multiple". It depends mainly on three factors: the company's forecast earnings growth, the risk associated with these forecasts, and the level of interest rates.



Our latest publications



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MONTHLY INVESTMENT BRIEF

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NICOLAS CHAPUT

Global CEO
ODDO BHF AM

EMMANUEL CHAPUIS, CFA

Co-head of fundamental equities
ODDO BHF AM

MATTHIEU BARRIERE, CFA

Multi asset portfolio manager
ODDO BHF AM SAS

MATTHIAS LACKMANN

Asset Manager Corporate Credit IG
ODDO BHF AM GmbH

LAURENT DENIZE

Global CIO
ODDO BHF AM

MAXIME DUPUIS, CFA

Global Head of Marketing & Products
ODDO BHF AM

BJOERN BENDER, CFA

Head of fixed income products
ODDO BHF AM GmbH

ROMAIN GAUGRY

Fund manager – asset allocation
ODDO BHF AM SAS

GUNTHER WESTEN

Global Head of Asset Allocation
ODDO BHF AM

EUGÉNIE LECLERC

Marketing & Strategy
ODDO BHF AM SAS

JÉRÉMY TRIBAUDEAU, CFA

Head of Equity Products
ODDO BHF AM SAS

ALEXANDER MEN

Head of asset allocation products
ODDO BHF AM GmbH



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ASSET MANAGEMENT

ODDO BHF Asset Management SAS (France)

A portfolio management firm certified by the French Financial Markets Authority (AMF) under n°GP 99011. Established in the form of a simplified joint-stock company with authorised capital of €21,500,000. Entered into the Paris Register of Trade and Companies under number 340 902 857.

12. boulevard de la Madeleine - 75440 Paris Cedex 09, France - Tel. : 33 (0)1 44 51 85 00