

MONTHLY investment BRIEF



The shock wave unleashed by the latest euro zone inflation figures has forced the ECB to tweak its monetary policy and, most importantly, the sequencing of its asset purchases. We'll let the economists draw up new rate-hike scenarios. We are more concerned here with which assets to overweight in this new environment.

What inflation are we talking about?

So far, the wave of inflation in Europe has unfurled mainly through the channels of commodities and supply chains. Little of it has shown up on a national level in second-round effects, as the output gap remains in negative territory.

Hence, for the time being, it makes sense to overweight companies that are situated at an earlier stage of the supply chain, as they theoretically have the greatest capacity to raise prices. Accordingly, B2B (business-to-business) and B2G (business-to-government) companies should be overweighted vs. B2C (business-to-consumer) ones.

As we stated in our investment strategy, we are overweighting industrial companies, as most of them are situated at an early stage of the supply chain. These sectors will benefit from the heavier capital expenditure that is being driven by government stimulus plans. Keep in mind that these companies are willing to raise their capex because their returns on equity are rising. A positive spiral is therefore taking hold, boosted by the operating leverage of these "cyclical" companies.

At the other end of the supply chain, B2C companies will have the greatest difficulties in passing on higher input prices. In the event of significant wage hikes, the impact on their margins, which are already under pressure, will be even greater.

What about the banking sector?

While this is one of our favourite sectors and the first beneficiary of higher interest rates, keep in mind that financial conditions are worsening with widening credit spreads and declining equity prices. But the parameter that is of greatest short-term concern is the 10-year Italy/Germany spread. It has widened considerably over the past weeks and is a perfect illustration of investor nervousness, given the ECB's plans to phase out purchase programmes earlier than expected. So, some short-term caution is in order. At the very least, avoid adding risk to this segment.

Fixed income

We reiterate the message we have hammered home for six months now: reduce your government bond exposure as much as possible, and overweight short-dated highly rated bonds. Meanwhile, we are tactically downgrading high yield from overweight to neutral, as many short-dated investment grade bonds investors have taken on too much exposure to High Yield in a quest for returns. This crowding out effect, which allowed portfolios to offer additional remuneration, has backfired now that spreads are widening. Best to let this wave of selling and changes of hands pass before repositioning. Here again, patience is key, even though the cycle is still structurally favourable to high-yield bonds. Yes, growth is decelerating, but remains far above its potential. We are not worried for the medium term.

Asset allocation

All in all, the sudden change in course by central banks in developed economies requires a marginal adjustment to positions and slightly more cautious positioning (neutral or slightly underweight). But be careful to correctly identify the risks in portfolios. To start with, bonds that are meant to safeguard portfolios (government bonds and medium-/long-term AA and AAA ratings) are no doubt those that will do the most damage, given how sudden and unexpected the shift has been.

As for equities, keep an eye on changes in real rates, which have risen sharply from their October 2021 lows, particularly in the US. This is a trend that, if it continues, would not be good news for tech stocks.

The asymmetry between the probability of a limited rally and a more marked correction is keeping us from returning to a risk-on stance. Even so, growth is still strong, albeit decelerating, and suggests you can hold onto the most cyclical and undervalued stocks in portfolios if you are willing to accept a little more volatility. In fact, volatility is something we will all have to get used to. In short, uncertainty is back and this is not such bad news...



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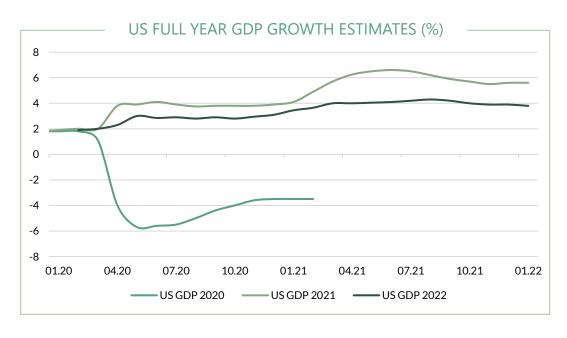
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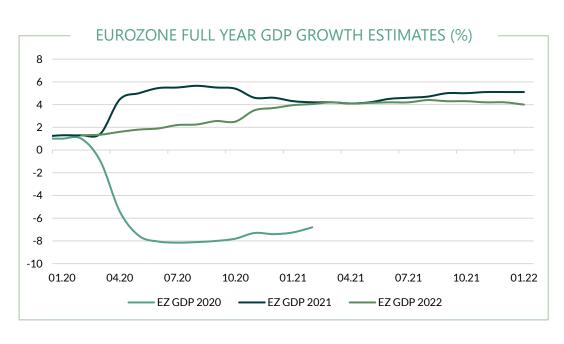






Growth outlook FORECASTS FLATTEN-OUT



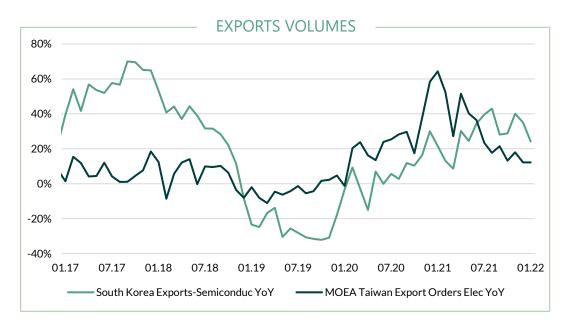


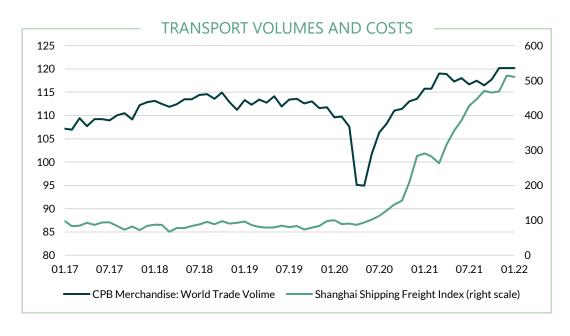
• Consensus GDP expectations have weakened recently on more hawkish Central Banks and the resilience of supply bottlenecks.





Global trade STILL ROBUST

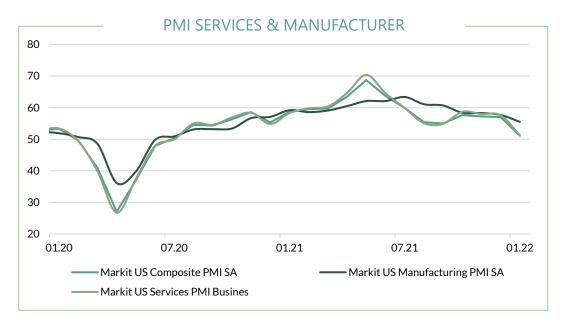


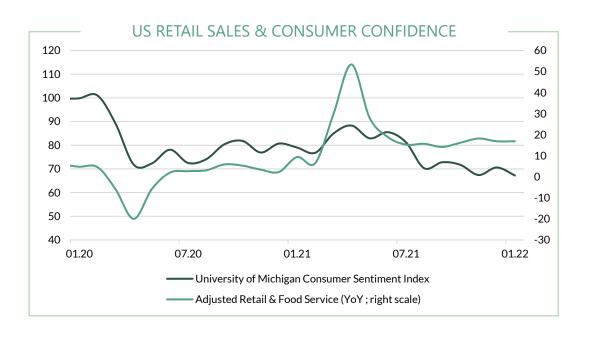


- Trade has been hampered by exploding shipping costs and supply bottlenecks during 2021.
- On some measures there is tentative evidence for a minor relief, but price pressures remain intense.
- China's zero covid strategy can temporarily extend those distortions.



USA LABOR MARKET IS REBOUNDING

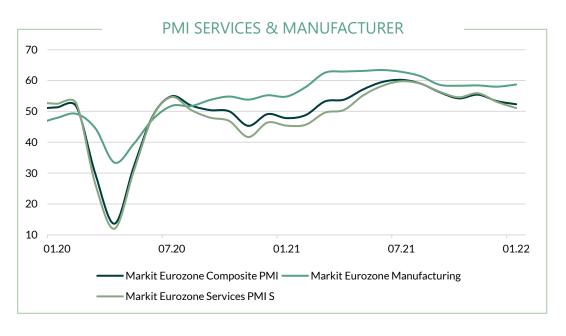




- Non-Farm payrolls jumped by 476k in January, significantly above the consensus.
- With the participation rate also recovering, labor supply pressures may slightly ease.
- However, labor remains very tight as wage growth were up by 5.7% yoy.
- Growth is slightly decelerating but should be supported by extremely healthy consumer balances and the fading omicron wave.



Europe GROWTH DENT SHOULD FADE IN Q2



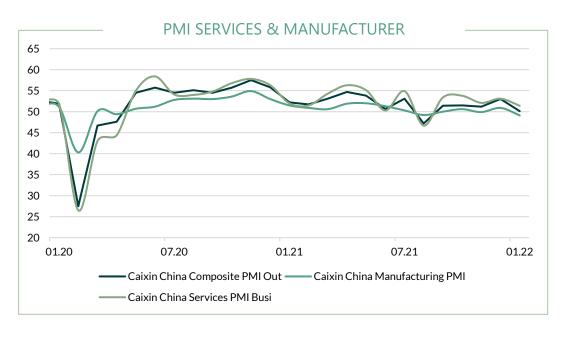


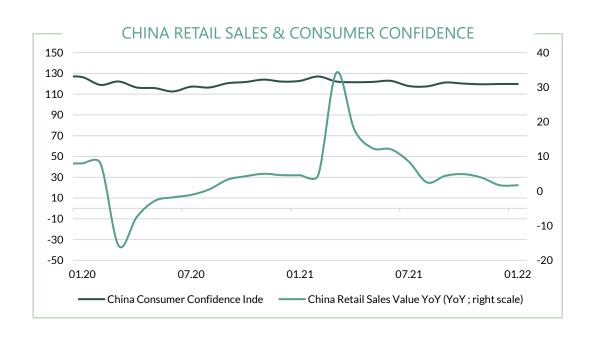
- Q4 2021 GDP came in at a weak 0,3% gog with a wide range of country divergence.
- While France printed a positive reading, Germany, Italy and Spain were behind.
- Production has been mostly resilient over the winter, but delta and later omicron hampered slightly consumer demand.
- The outlook still favors a strong acceleration of growth in Q2 on fading supply bottlenecks and virus fears and pent-up demand.



China

BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

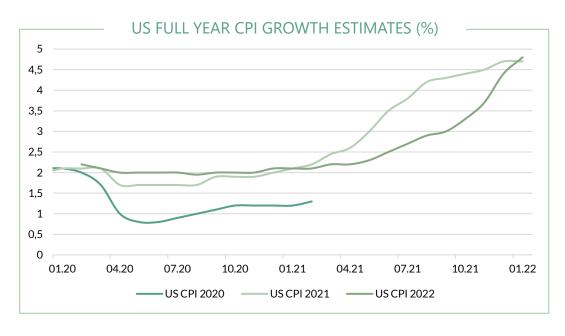


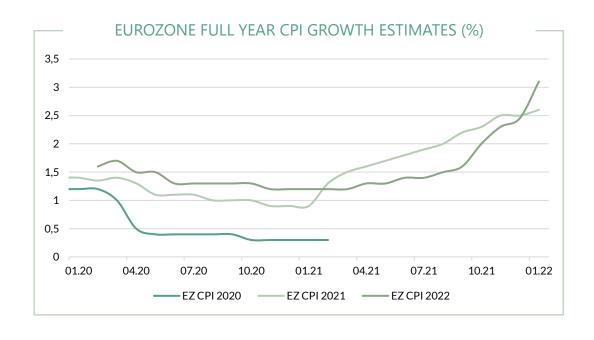


- Growth moderated into the new year.
- Manufacturing PMI point to broad based weakness across the board.
- The Caixin manufacturing index even eased to 49.1, the lowest print since March 2020.
- A deflating property market and the zero-covid policy are adding to economic downside risk.
- Monetary policy has turned expansive again to buffer the negative implications and the credit impulse seems to bottom-out.



Inflation expectations NOT SO TRANSITORY ANY MORE

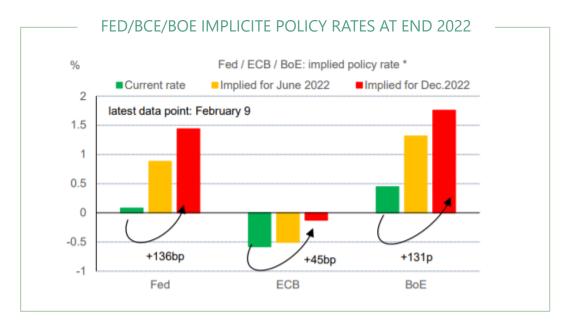


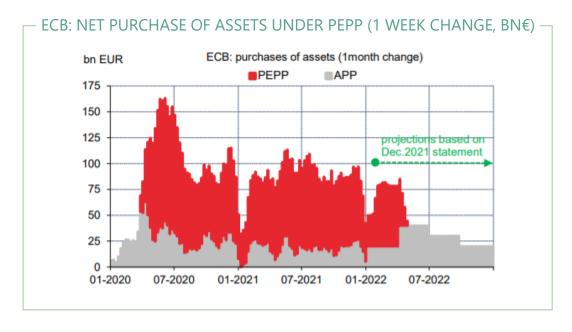


- Inflation expectations for 2022 have been revised up sharply.
- But longer-term inflation gauges are still anchored.



FED & BCE policies NOT SO PATIENT ANY MORE

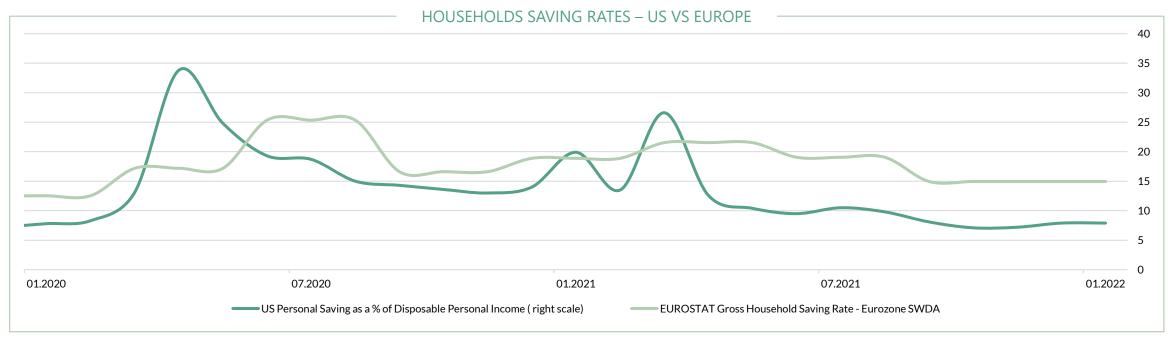




- In a surprisingly hawkish February meeting the ECB opened up the door for rate hikes in 2022.
- Money markets are pricing almost two hikes until year-end.
- That may be a bit too aggressive, but the rate path has become quite data dependent.
- APP will most likely end mid-year to give the ECB flexibility.
- FED on a path to hike 5-6 times this year.

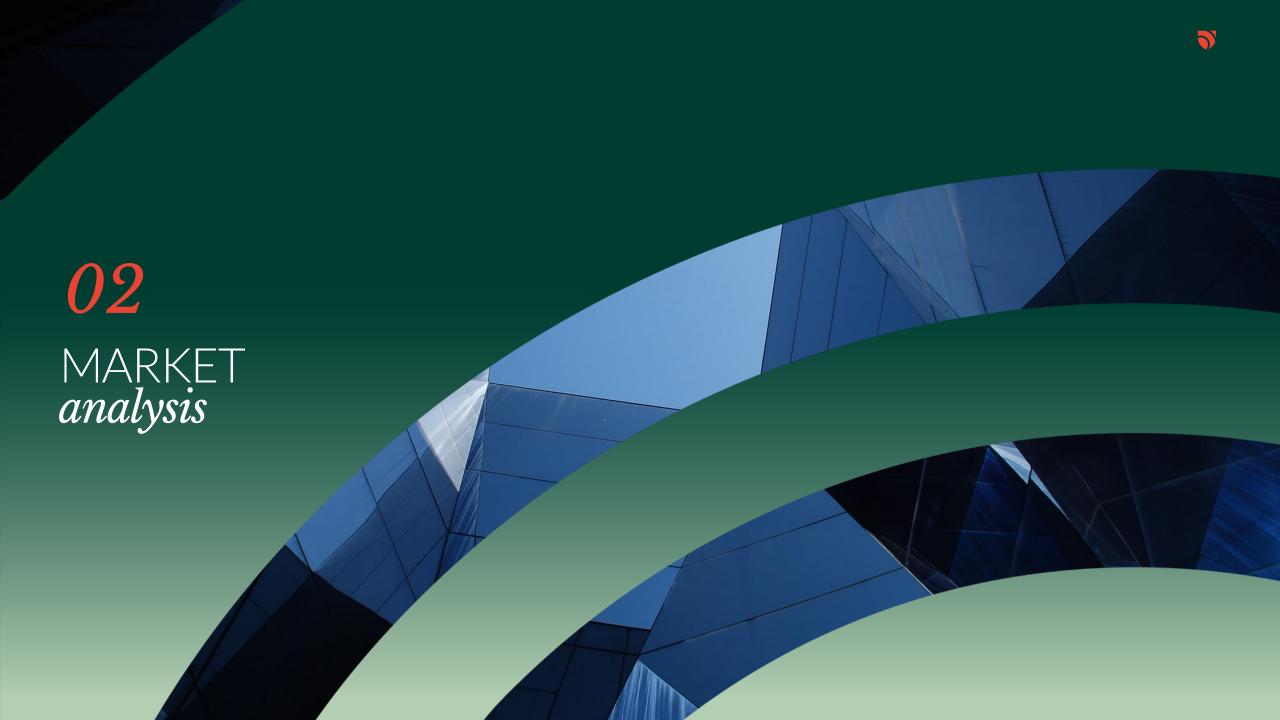


Savings STILL A LOT TO SPEND



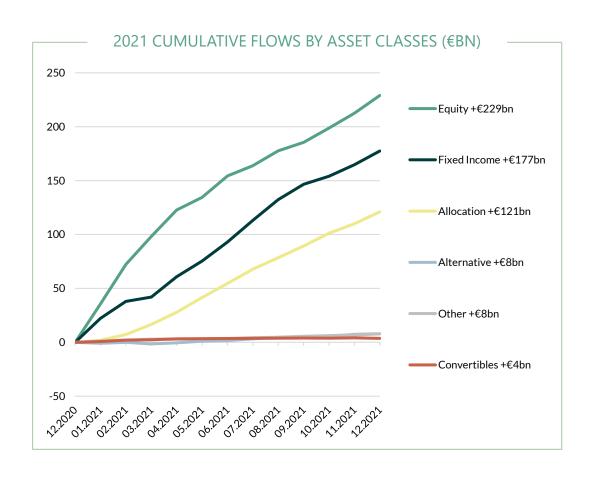
- US households have accumulated 2.2 tr since the start of the pandemic thanks to fiscal transfers and are starting to tap their reserves
- In the Eurozone the savings rate hovers around a stunning 15%
- Those healthy household balances should support demand for quite some time even as economic growth starts to falter in H2

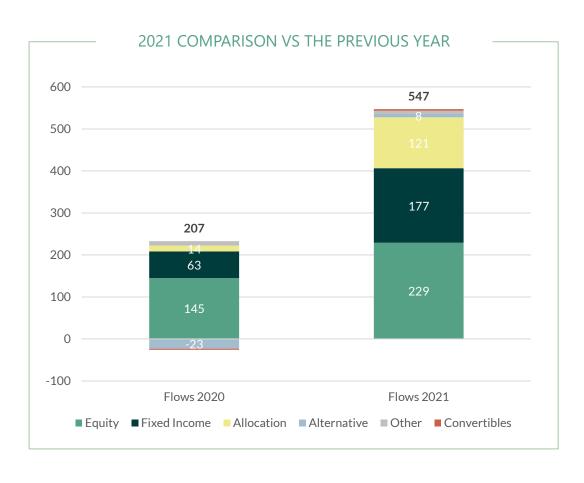






2021 European mutual fund flows EQUITIES HAVE BEEN THE WINNER

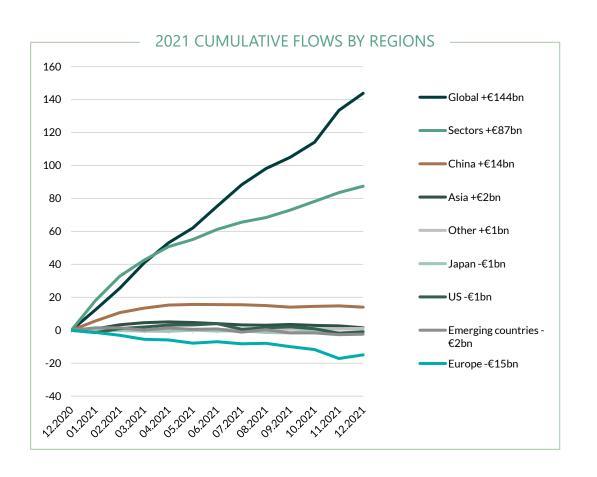


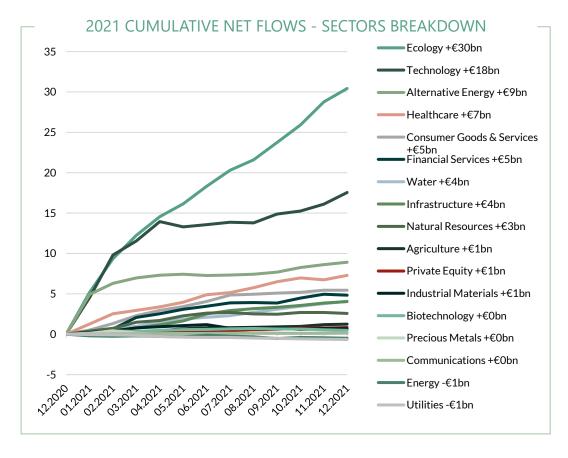


Source: Morningstar. Data as of 31.12.2021 (Europe OE ex ETF ex MM ex FoF ex Feeder (domiciled, most compr.)



European mutual fund flows - 2021 equity flows FLOWS INTO EUROPE SHOULD PICK-UP

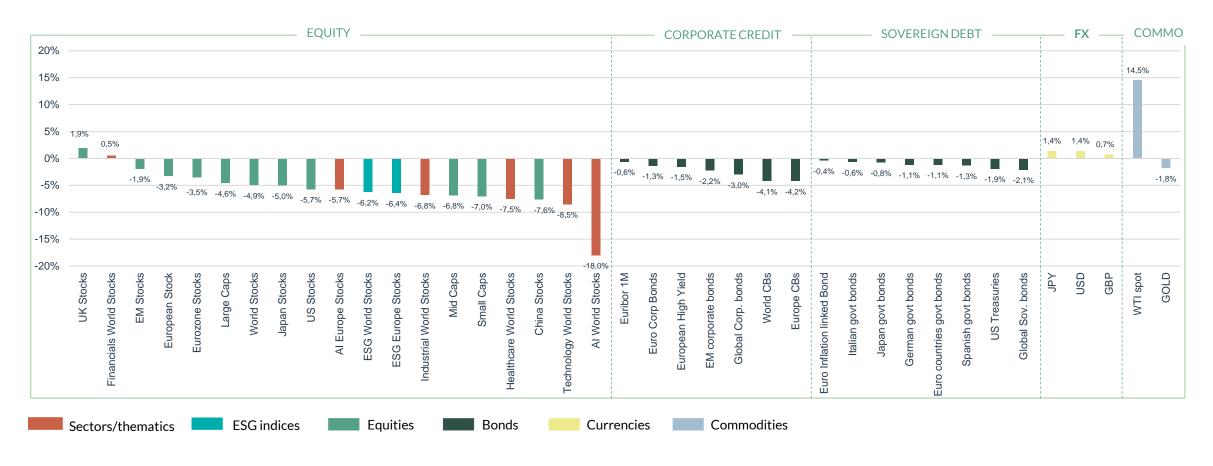


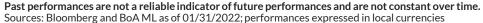


Source: Morningstar. Data as of 31.12.2021 (Europe OE ex ETF ex MM ex FoF ex Feeder (domiciled, most compr.)



Year-to-date performances of asset classes A BUMPY START





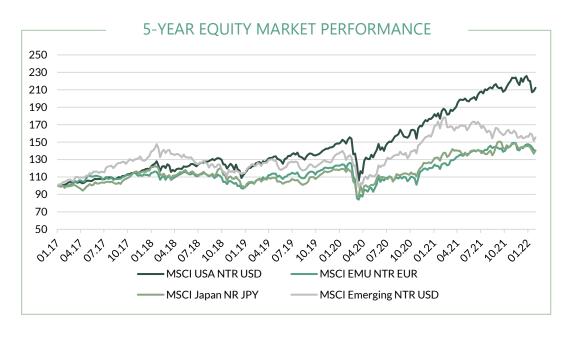


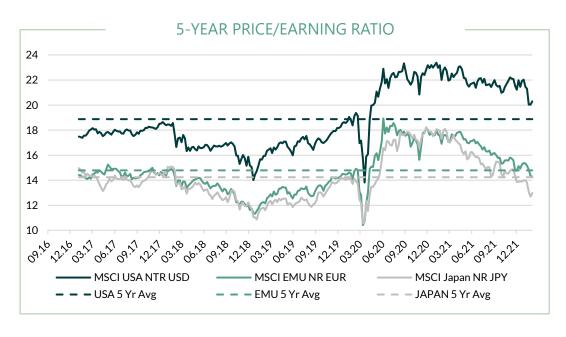


EQUITIES



Equities A ROUGH MONTH OF JANUARY

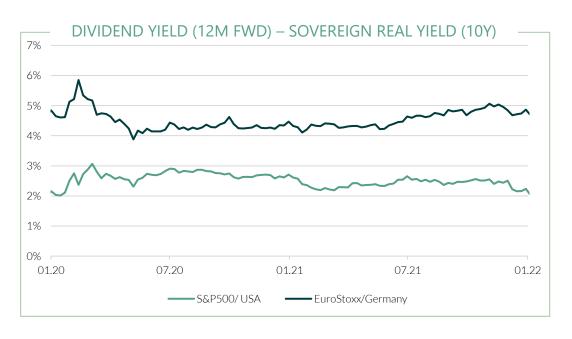


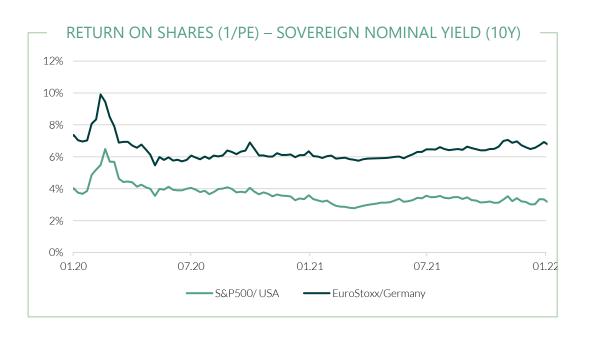


- In spite of a decent start for the q1 earnings season, equity indexes suffered significantly as the Fed pivoted into a more restrictive stance and yields globally kept rising.
- January somewhat appears like a reversal of 2021 trends, with underperformance of US indexes vs developed peers.
- Emerging indexes overperformed, with some "value" biased markets rising significantly.



Risk premiums Stable Equity Risk premia

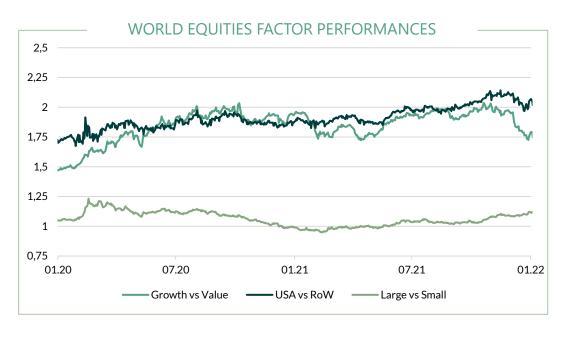




- Bonds' sell-off explained most of equity indexes negative monthly performance.
- Magnitude of equity declines appears coherent with the size of upward moves in EUR and USD nominal yields.
- With long term inflation expectations moving lower in the US, equity risk premia vs real yields declined slightly.



Equities performances – styles differential "LOW DURATION" EQUITIES OVERPERFORMED





- Stocks with lower PE and high dividends tend to be less sensitive to yields.
- The "value" factor logically overperformed, while tech stock underperformed as long term yields rose.
- Small-caps also underperformed (Russell 2000 -10%) as global liquidity slightly diminished.



European equities – sectors overview A REVERSAL OF 2021 TRENDS

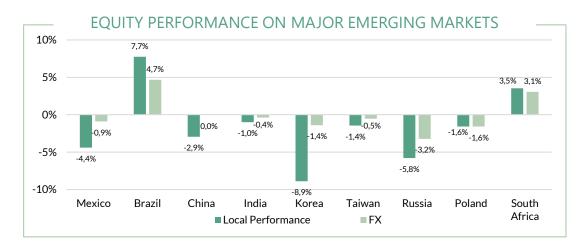
EUROPEAN SECTORS	P/E Next 12 months as of 02/2022	Rerating P/E	EPS growth 2021	EPS growth 2022	Rev 3m EPS22	Div Yield	Perf YTD
STOXX Europe 600	15,0 x	8,9%	71%	6%	3,8%	3,1%	-3,9%
Commodities							
Basic Resources	8,4 x	-35,6%	162%	-19%	7,6%	5,8%	2,0%
Energy	9,2 x	-10,6%	1429%	10%	12,3%	4,5%	8,6%
Cyclicals							
Automobiles & Parts	7,0 x	-31,1%	510%	10%	-1,4%	4,5%	0,0%
Chemicals	18,0 x	15,9%	80%	4%	5,7%	2,5%	-5,9%
Construction & Materials	15,8 x	1,7%	45%	14%	1,8%	2,9%	-7,6%
Consumer Products and Services	24,3 x	n/a	81%	16%	3,7%	1,9%	-6,7%
Industrial Goods & Services	17,3 x	11,3%	80%	18%	4,9%	2,4%	-8,8%
Media	17,6 x	6,4%	18%	17%	2,6%	2,5%	-4,9%
Technology	24,7 x	28,9%	34%	13%	5,9%	1,1%	-12,4%
Travel & Leisure	30,4 x	85,4%	64%	157%	-14,6%	1,4%	-1,4%
Financials							
Banks	9,3 x	-19,6%	123%	-4%	3,3%	5,1%	7,0%
Insurance	10,9 x	2,3%	35%	7%	2,4%	5,0%	5,0%
Financial Services	12,1 x	-23,8%	57%	-3%	19,8%	2,9%	-7,7%
Real Estate	20,1 x	10,8%	11%	9%	8,1%	3,3%	-3,7%
Defensives							
Food Beverage & Tobacco	18,2 x	2,3%	8%	8%	1,7%	3,0%	-3,4%
Health Care	18,3 x	18,2%	11%	9%	-0,9%	2,4%	-6,9%
Personal Care Drug and Grocery Stores	18,0 x	13,6%	3%	8%	-0,6%	3,0%	-4,2%
Retail	17,7 x	14,0%	220%	18%	3,4%	2,8%	-5,4%
Telecommunications	14,8 x	-2,3%	11%	-21%	-1,5%	4,3%	2,6%
Utilities	15,5 x	20,2%	18%	6%	0,0%	4,3%	-2,8%

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 01/31/2022



Emerging markets

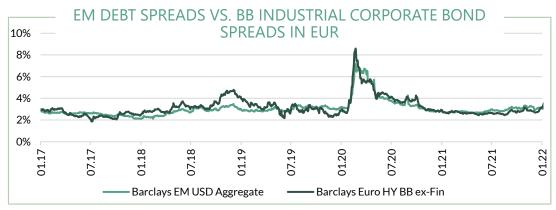
EMERGING MARKETS RATHER RESILIENT IN JANUARY



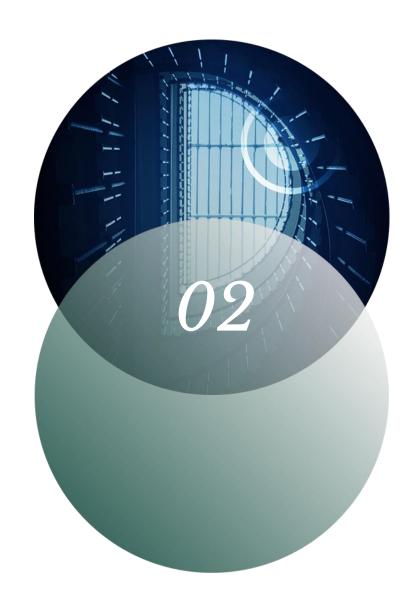


Emerging	PE 12mth fwd	2021 EPS Growth	2022e EPS Growth	Dividend Yield
MSCI EM	12,4	68%	10%	3,1%
MSCI CHINA	12,3	23%	15%	2,2%
MSCI KOREA	9,8	106%	12%	2,1%
MSCI INDIA	25,3	88%	20%	1,2%
MSCI INDONESIA	15,7	53%	12%	3,2%
MSCI PHILIPPINES	18,5	93%	21%	1,6%
MSCI MALAYSIA	14,9	47%	9%	3,9%
MSCI RUSSIA	5,3	180%	-7%	10,6%
WSE WIG INDEX	10,7	156%	2%	3,2%
MSCITURKEY	4,9	171%	8%	7,5%
MSCI SOUTH AFRICA	10,6	84%	15%	4,3%
MSCI BRAZIL	7,8	202%	-2%	7,3%
MSCI COLOMBIA	8,8	344%	13%	5,0%
MSCI MEXICO	13,4	159%	11%	3,8%

- EM assets are often described as being especially at risk during FED hiking cycles.
- This time, with already low valuation ratios on average, EM equity indexes mostly overperformed.
- With local yields already above 11%, Brazilian equities didn't react to US yields' "tension" and posted an impressive +8% perf (13% in USD).





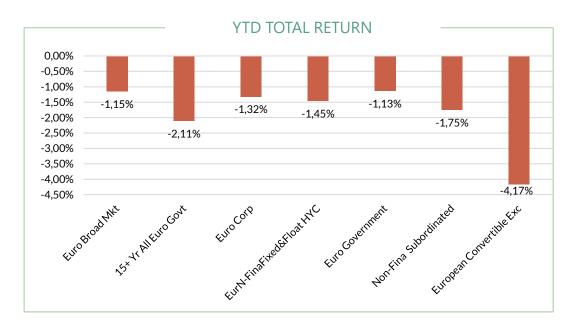


FIXED INCOME



Performance fixed income segment RATES SURRENDER TO INFLATION



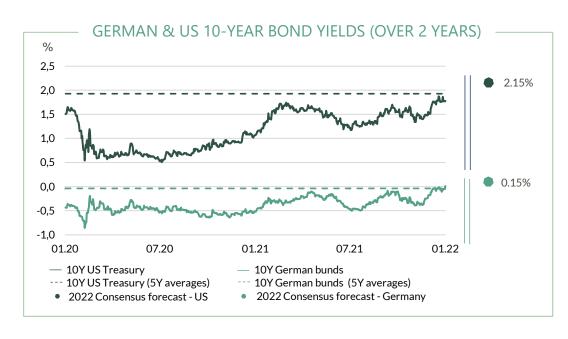


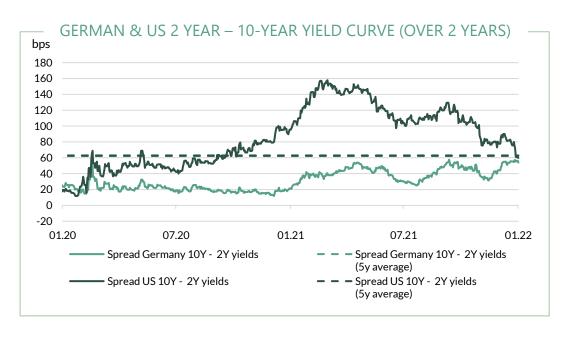
- Following the pivot of central banks and surging inflation prints, yields have seen a massive increase.
- Core country bonds like Germany fared better than peripheral and corporate bonds as spreads widened.



Rates

THE RETURN OF INTEREST RATES

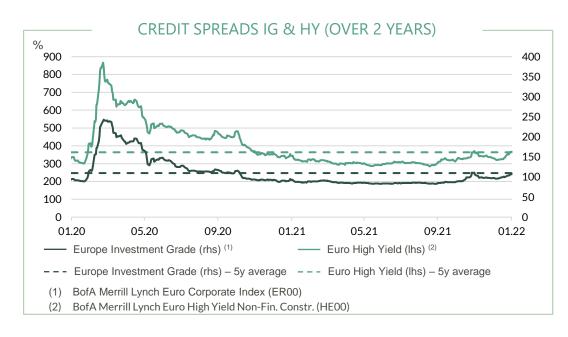


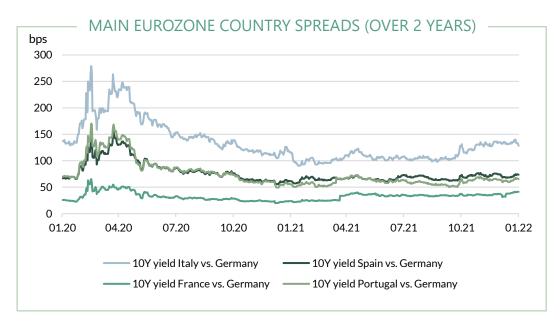


- Yields rose significantly above the zero threshold in 10-year Bunds for the first time since April 2019.
- Curves steepened at the front end (2-5 year), but flattened further out (10-30 year).
- Although medium-term pressure remains, the market appears oversold and hike expectations for the ECB are too aggressive.
- Inflation data over the next weeks will be key as central banks have become very data dependent.

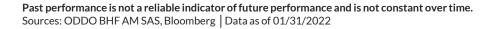


Credit Spreads WIDER



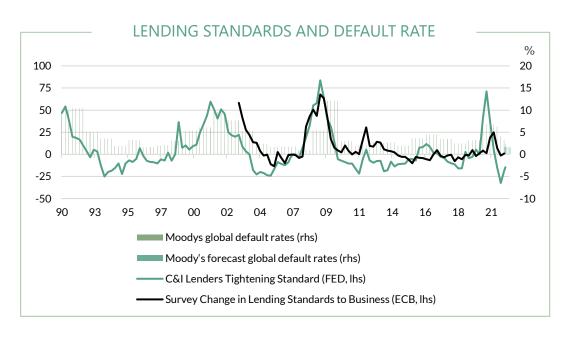


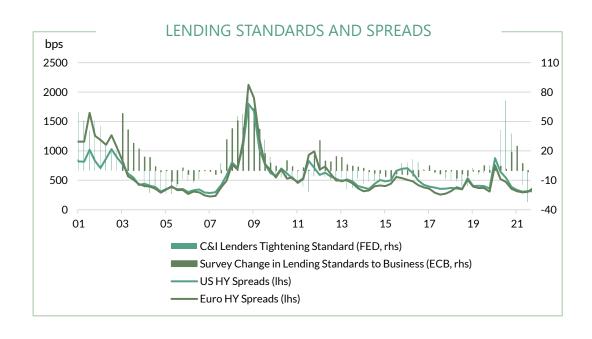
- Surging yields and increased rate volatility drove spreads in credit and peripheral bonds wider.
- Expectations for a much faster end to QE also weighed on the market.
- Given the foggy exit path for the ECB, risks are tilted to a continuation of higher volatility and bouts of spread widening.
- However, corporate fundamentals remain healthy and growth is likely to rebound strongly in Q2 and Q3 so that widening episodes may offer attractive buying opportunities.





Financial conditions STILL AMPLE





- Despite the recent risk-off mode, financial conditions are still favourable.
- Only a much more pronounced sell-off and rate rise would deter central banks from their tightening path.

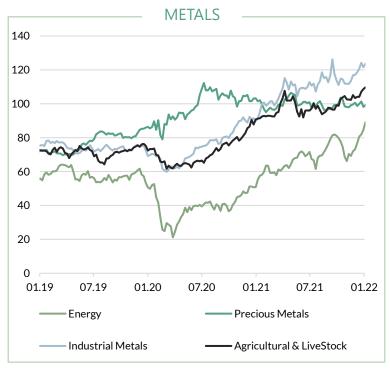


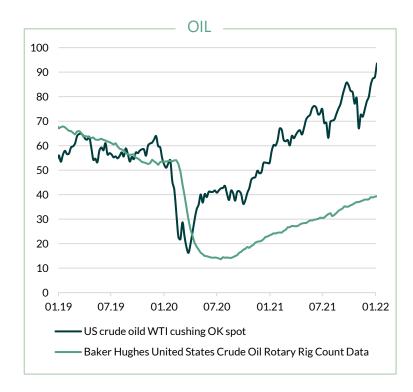


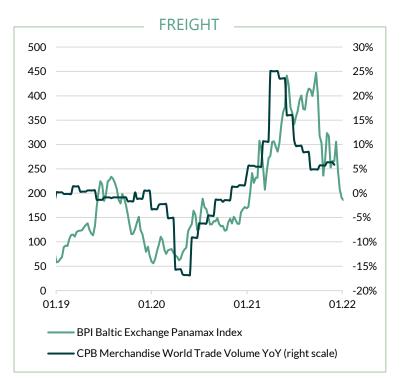
COMMODITIES & CURRENCIES



Commodities STILL GRINDING HIGHER



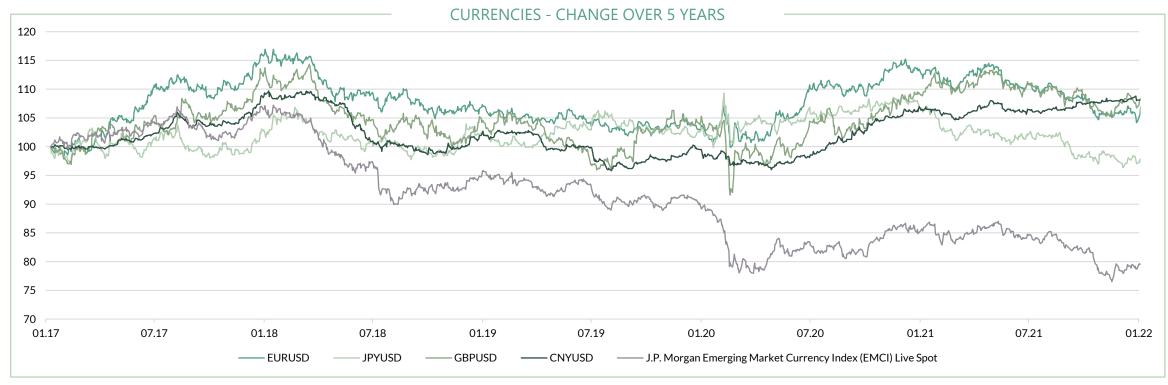




- Oil and agricultural commodities kept appreciating.
- Freight indexes were rather stable (Chinese containerized freight) or declined (Baltic dry).



Currencies VOLATILITY CAME BACK IN THE FX MARKET



- Uncertainties regarding central bankers reactions to inflation increased and decoupling of economic and monetary cycles is getting more obvious.
- With the unusual situation of YoY CPI being higher in the US than in South Africa or India, and 3x higher than in Indonesia (where 10Y still yields 7%...), emerging currencies did not fell in spite of the FED hawkish turn.
- CNY stopped appreciating vs USD, while the PBOC pivoted towards a more dovish stance.

Past performances are not a reliable indicator of future performance and are not constant over time. Sources: Bloomberg, ODDO BHF AM SAS | Data at 01/31/2022





Highlights & Making of ODDO BHE LIVE 2022

On January 10th and 11th, the shapers of tomorrow's world met at ODDO BHF Live. For two days, ODDO BHF offered its clients and partners an exclusive live broadcast and 100% digital experience: 50 internationally renowned decisionmakers decrypted the major economic, political and financial trends that will shape 2022.

Alongside Al Gore (former Vice President of the United States), Catherine MacGregor (CEO of Engie) or Ola Källenius (CEO of Daimler), great entrepreneurs and top-notch speakers from business and political fields joined our experts to share their visions of the future: the competition between China and the USA, the impact of climate change, the future of finance, technology and food...

In partnership with BBVA and Natixis, ODDO BHF sets the tone for the new year: Make every day an opportunity.





Scenarios **OUR 6-MONTH VIEW**

Central scenario

Global GDP growth above long-term average but slowing. Less fiscal and monetary support. Still positive earnings momentum. China with limited contribution to global GDP growth. Supply chain issues slowly resolving, but highly dependent on a change in China zero-Covid policy

EUROPE

- Growth slowing vs 2021, but still above long-term
- Inflation should decline over the course of the year, when energy crisis and supply chains normalize, but pressure on ECB is increasing
- Monetary support is getting less but still supportive, especially for corporate bonds.
- Positive corporates earnings momentum continues. low default rates

US

- With inflation acceleration, wage pressure and potential overheating of the economy, management of the monetary policy will be in the focus
- Accelerated balance sheet run off and interest rate normalization are not too late.
- Corporate fundamentals remain strong

STRATEGY

- Flexibility, increased liquidity buffers
- Hedging (options, gold...)

OVERWEIGHT

- Euro Equities (focus on valuation is key)
- Credit

UNDERWEIGHT

- High growth, expensively valued equities

(1) Alternative scenario #1

Central banks fall behind the curve with significant negative effects on growth

- Central banks', esp. the FED's reaction function are too slow
- Reduction of growth potential
- Increased market volatility and pressure on valuations

OVERWEIGHT

- Alternative strategies
- Cash

UNDERWEIGHT

- Eauities
- Credit
- Sovereigns

03 Alternative scenario #2

Upside scenario

- Pandemic recedes quickly due to Omicron
- Consumption remains strong due to wage increases and lower savings, positive for corporate margins
- China: Additional stimulus, change in Covidstrategy 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

Source: ODDO BHF AM, comments as of 02/02/2022



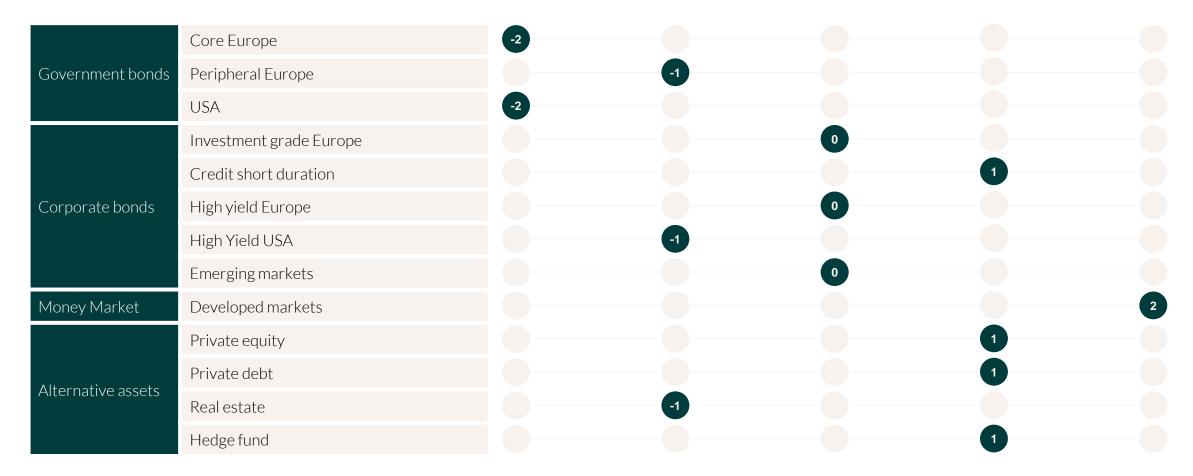
Our current convictions FOR EACH ASSET CLASSES

	Large cap Eurozone
Equities	Mid cap Eurozone
	Small cap Eurozone
	UK
	USA
	Emerging markets
	Japan
Convertible bonds Currencies Commodities	Europe
	USA
	USD/€
	YEN/€
	GBP/€
	CHF/€
	Gold
	Crude oil

Source: ODDO BHF AM, as of 02/02/2022



Our current convictions FOR EACH ASSET CLASSES







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



INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

Jan. 22 • Make 2022 an opportunity

Sept.21 • "Breathless?"



MONTHLY INVESTMENT BRIEF

Dec. 21 • Long term "transitory "inflation

Nov. 21 • All you need is prising power

Oct.21 • Navigating a market in transition

July 21 • Reflation in ambush

June 21 • A recovery without overheating



MARKETVIEWS

23.08.21 • Bretton Woods, 50 years on

05.07.21 • China: stop or again

21.06.21 • Bitcoin: tech innovation or pure hype

17.05.21 • When the chips are down



VIDEOS

#LeadWith • Investment Brief H12022

#Moments • ODDO BHF Fund Range

ODDO BHF Green Planet: the ecological transition, a sustainable #Moments

investment opportunity

#TalkWith Ecological transition: challenges & opportunities



SUSTAINABLE INVESTING

Sustainable investing - ODDO BHF AM's approach

The ecological transition: a sustainable investment opportunity

Human Capital - a factor of resilience & differentiation

ESG: the key to unlocking opportunities in small caps





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



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