

MONTHLY *investment* BRIEF



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It's all about timing

After a cataclysmic first half of the year, and with the economic outlook in developed countries deteriorating, prudence would prompt a withdrawal from risky assets in anticipation of a lull. But is caution always a good advice?

Timing is key in equity markets

Fears that developed economies are heading into recession have recently been exacerbated with the US ISM manufacturing index at 53 (56.1 in May), hit by the contraction in new orders and employment. As for the stock markets, the S&P and European indices are down around 20% since the beginning of the year. After this significant decline, the question is whether the market is rewarding risk enough today.

In the US, we put the probability of a recession at 40% (30% mild recession, 10% severe recession) and the probability of an economic slowdown over the next 12 months at 60%. In the event of a scenario that avoids recession, we consider that the market has a strong rebound capacity. Let's look at the earnings trend over the next 12 months.

We have already pointed out that US profit margins are extraordinarily high and will eventually narrow. However, we believe that these adjustments will be slower than investors currently anticipate. Indeed, over the long term, the earnings performance of S&P500 companies has been driven primarily by the information technology sector. The technology sector is now dominated by natural monopolies - companies that benefit from network effects and strong economies of scale. Increased regulation will erode their position over time, but this is likely to be a slow process.

Over the long term, the upward trend in profit margins outside the technology sector is less impressive. As the economy slows, industrial and agricultural commodity prices fall, allowing companies in defensive sectors with strong gross margins, such as food and beverages, to maintain reasonable margin levels. On the other hand, it is true that companies in sectors with low gross margins, such as Retail or Building Materials, face the dual challenge of managing constrained pricing power and a likely decline in volumes.

On balance, US S&P500 company margins are expected to decline but remain at reasonable levels over the next 12 months.

In Europe, the fall in the euro is clearly supporting exports and will limit the decline in profit sequences in the second quarter. The decline is more likely to be felt in the third quarter. But here too, the worst is not certain, as companies are confirming that their order books are full and that they are able to adjust their prices to

compensate for most of the inflation in inputs. Possible social movements with rising wages are to be expected, but the effects will not be felt until later in the year or even in 2023.

The situation in Ukraine remains the main risk for Europe. The cessation or further reduction of gas supplies may call into question the evolution of companies' EPS growth for the coming months.

In conclusion, on the equity markets, we note that valuations are starting to incorporate major stress scenarios. While it is still too early to reposition significantly, entry points are close.

Still a bit early on credit

High yield spreads imply that the market is considering a default rate of 7-8% over the next 12 months. In its worst-case scenario, Moody's estimates it at 6%. In March 2020, the market estimated it at 12%. Part of the risk is therefore clearly in the prices.

It should be noted that the absolute yield is currently above 7.50%. Historically, at this level, the probability of generating a positive return over the next 12 months is beyond 80%. Furthermore, a yield of 7.5% allows for sufficient carry to support an additional spread widening of around 250 basis points... the highest levels reached two years ago.

In conclusion, we believe that the High Yield market needs a final capitulation so that the last weak hands (opportunistic buyers) are replaced by investors with a more strategic view. It will then have achieved sufficient risk premiums to stabilise and return to sound fundamentals.

Close to entry points

As the month of July kicks in, we are a little more constructive. The macroeconomic figures do not bring good news, but the divergence in monetary and fiscal policy in China and Japan should limit the deceleration in global growth. The resilience of companies is impressive. But it is the resilience of consumers that will be tested. Even if savings are plentiful, the least privileged categories, and the broadest base of the population, are suffering from a sharp erosion of their purchasing power. Gale or storm on consumption? It is difficult to say.

In any case, we are approaching entry points in both the equity and high yield markets. The risks remain, of course, but the return already partly reflects the many uncertainties. The low liquidity of the summer months may cause mini market shocks, which would be used for a more significant repositioning.

In the meantime, we wish you a great summer.



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CURRENT CONVICTIONS





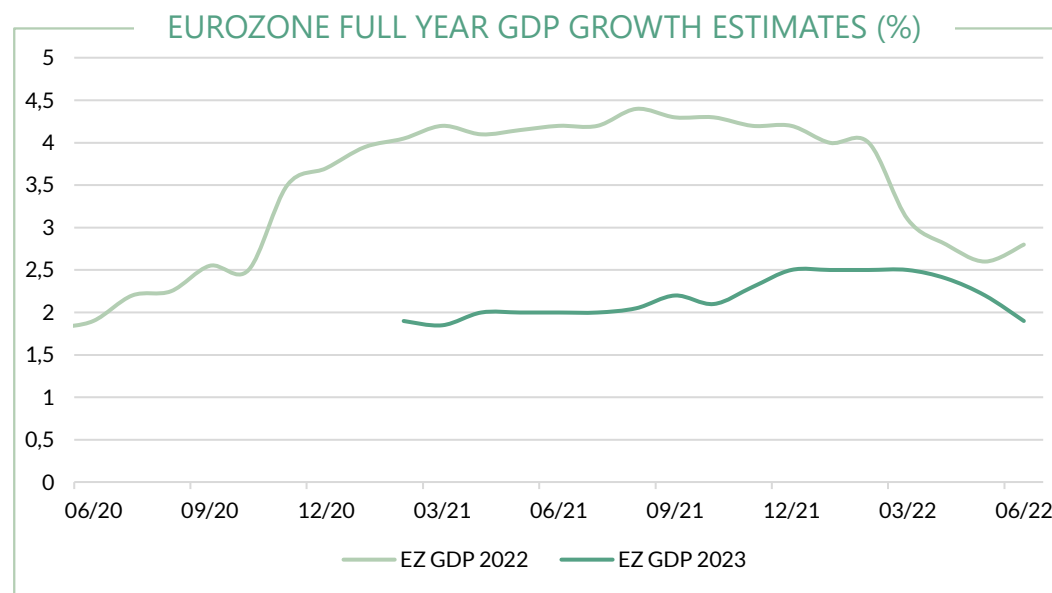
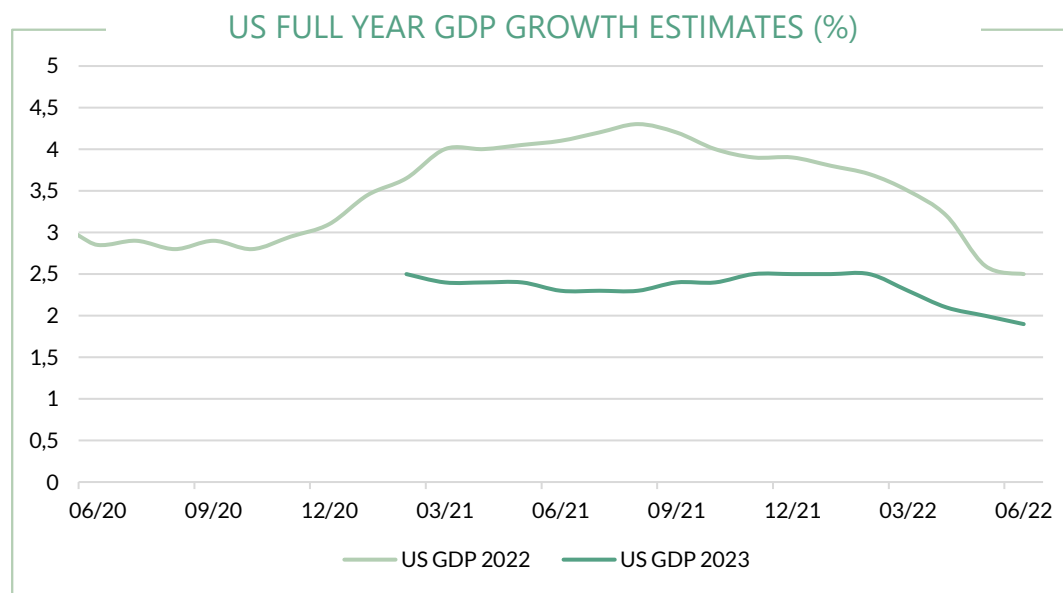
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MACROECONOMIC
outlook



Growth outlook

DOWNGRADES SPILL OVER INTO 2023



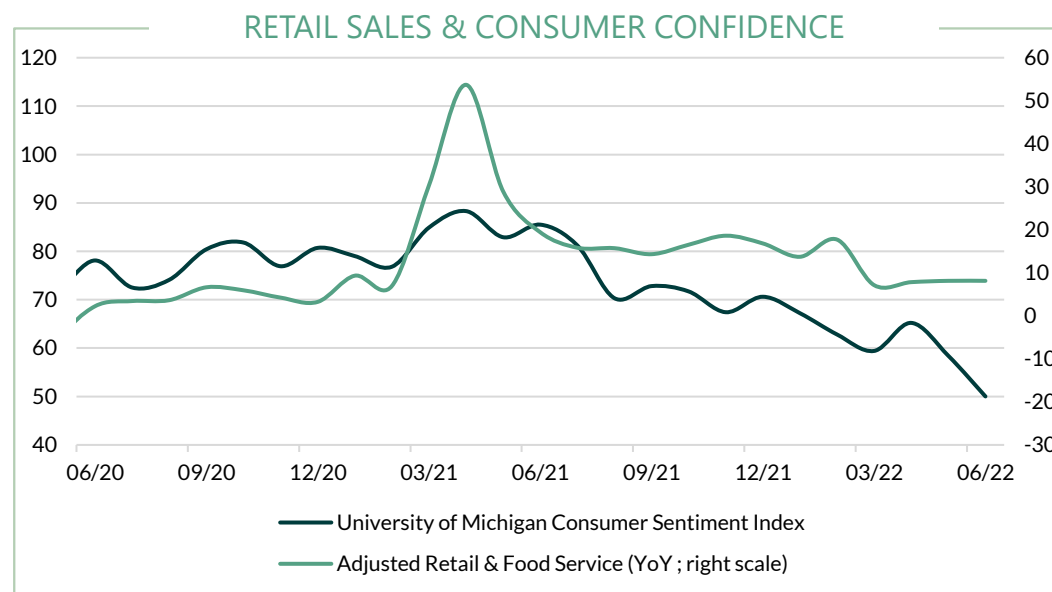
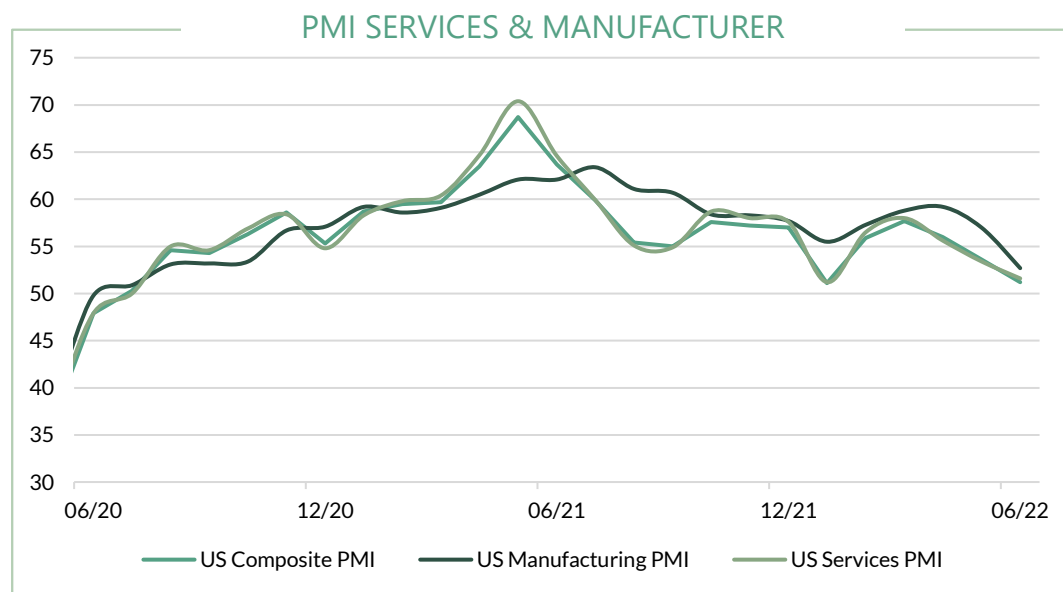
- While cuts in growth expectations for 2022 have come a long way down in the US and Eurozone, now the outlook for 2023 is increasingly cast into question
- Latest improvement in Eurozone expectations to 2.8% just reflects revisions to Q1 from 0.2% to 0.6%
- China saw the biggest decline in the 2022 consensus forecast by 0,4 pp to 4,1% over the recent weeks

Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, Bloomberg, data as of 06/30/2022



USA

SOFT LANDING BECOMES INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY



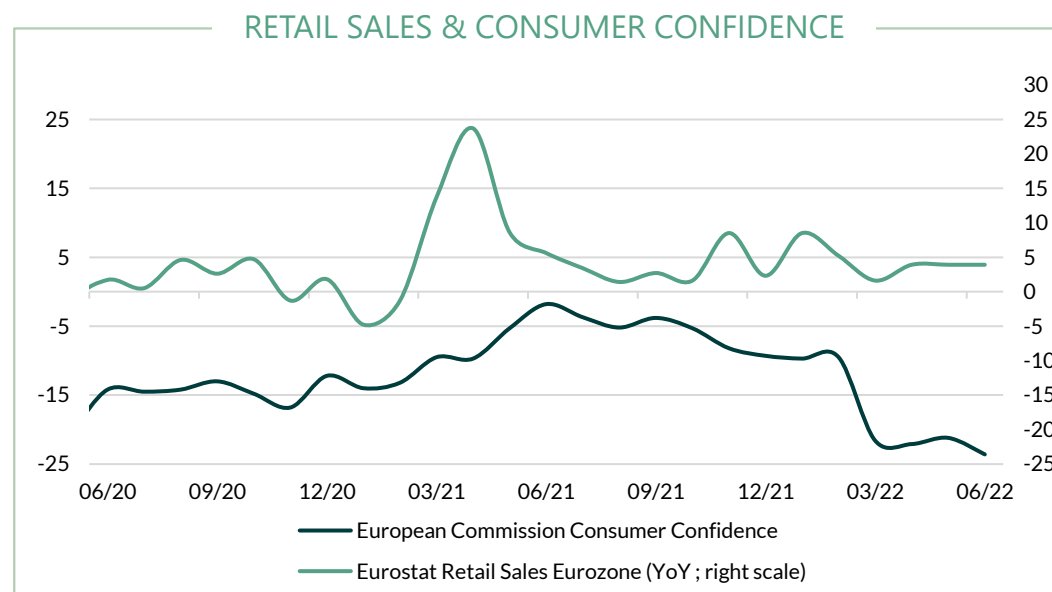
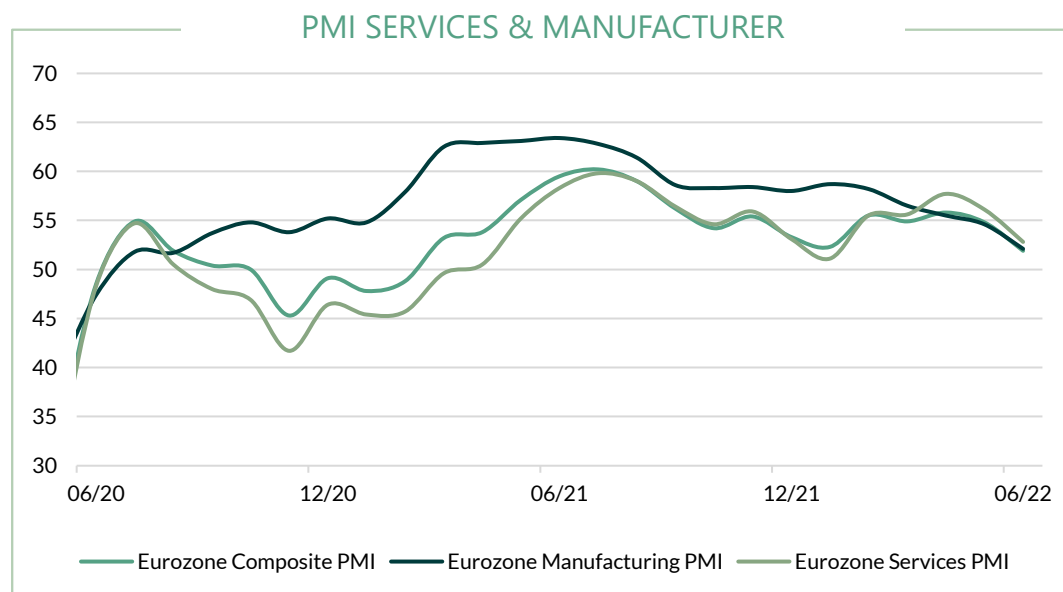
- ISM manufacturing PMI softens 3.1 points to 53, with subcomponents like new orders already below the 50 mark (49.2)
- Regional Fed surveys pointing to recessionary levels
- Consumer sentiment indicators have partly collapsed to multi-decade lows, but retail sales and consumer spending reflect resilience for the time being
- Labor market is still red-hot, but with tentative signs of slightly easing pressure (e.g. decreasing growth in JOLT job openings)

Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, Bloomberg | data as of 06/30/2022



Europe

AT THE EPICENTRE OF RISKS

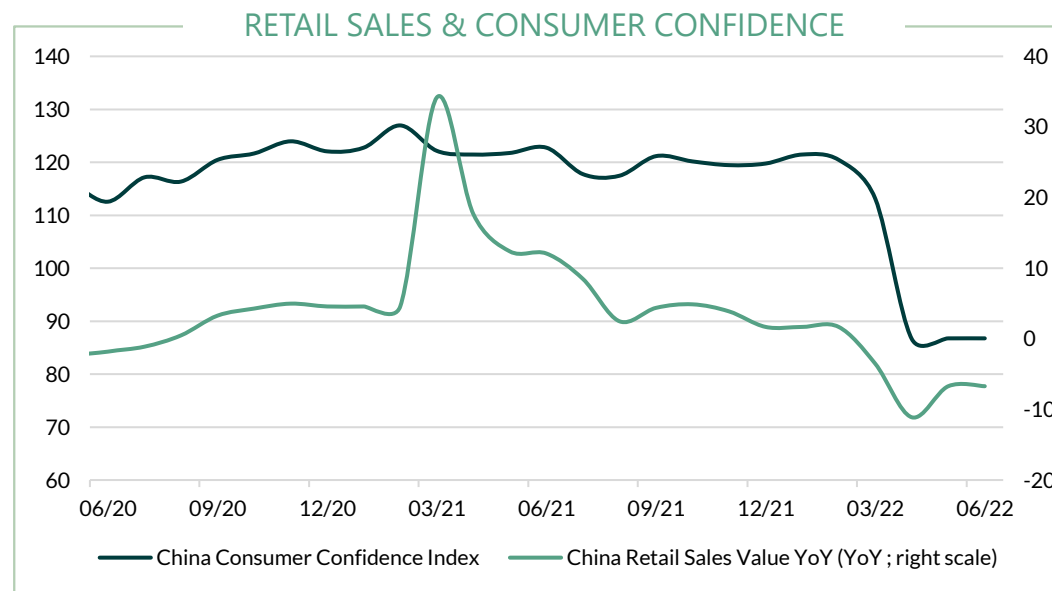
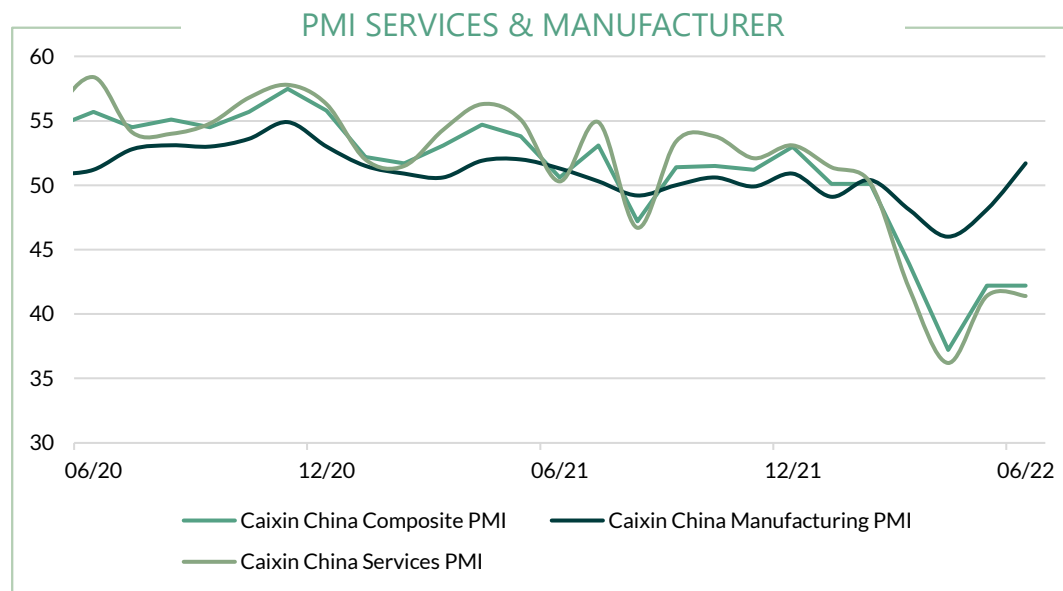


- June composite PMI dipped 3 points to 52, a 16th month low but still decent level
- Some subcomponents flashed additional warning signals like new orders or manufacturing output which were at the 50 mark or slightly below it
- Measures of weak consumer sentiment and manufacturing surveys added to negative readings
- Gas supply issues remain a Damokles sword with the maintenance close of the Nordstream 1 pipeline from 11th of July to the 21st a source for heightened concerns regarding the continuation of further flows after that



China

COVID REBOUND UNFOLDING



- Another strong increase in the PMI due to the activity pick-up as covid restrictions have been partly lifted
- The Caixin composite PMI jumped 13 points to 55.3, mostly fueled by the services component
- While the credit impulse has turned decidedly positive, the downswing in the global economy and the retrenching property market still put a lid on any economic recovery

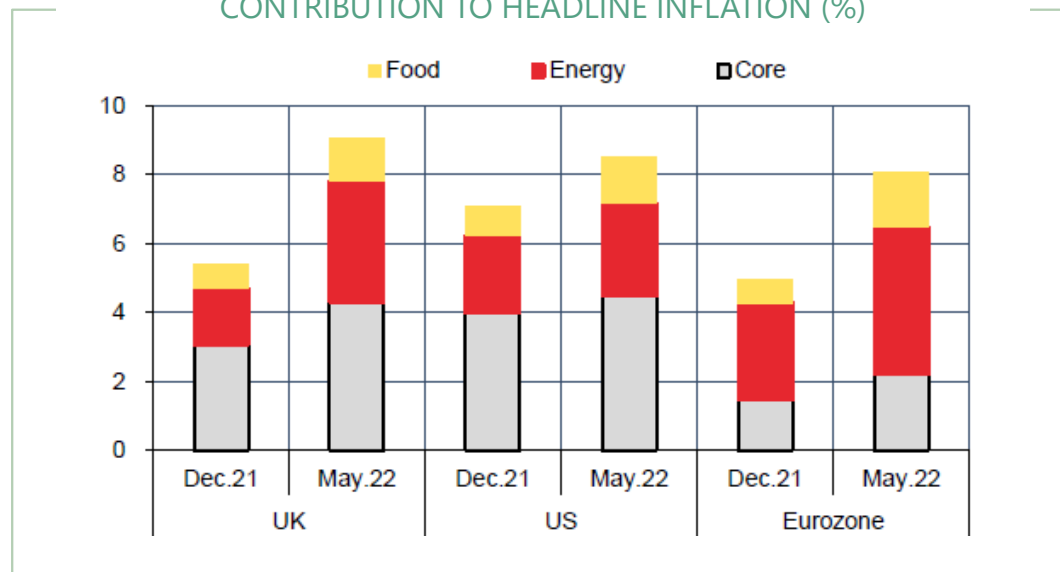
Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, Bloomberg | data as of 06/30/2022



Inflation expectations

TENTATIVE SIGNS OF EASING PRESSURE

CONTRIBUTION TO HEADLINE INFLATION (%)



INFLATION EXPECTATIONS



- Commodity and energy price pressure have eased a lot recently with the exception of gas prices
- Also, food prices show signs of ebbing stress
- Break-even inflation measures have collapsed in June as recession angst is increasingly priced
- Longer lasting indicators like US conference board long-term inflation expectations remain anchored around 3%, except for a brief spike in the previous month to 3.3%

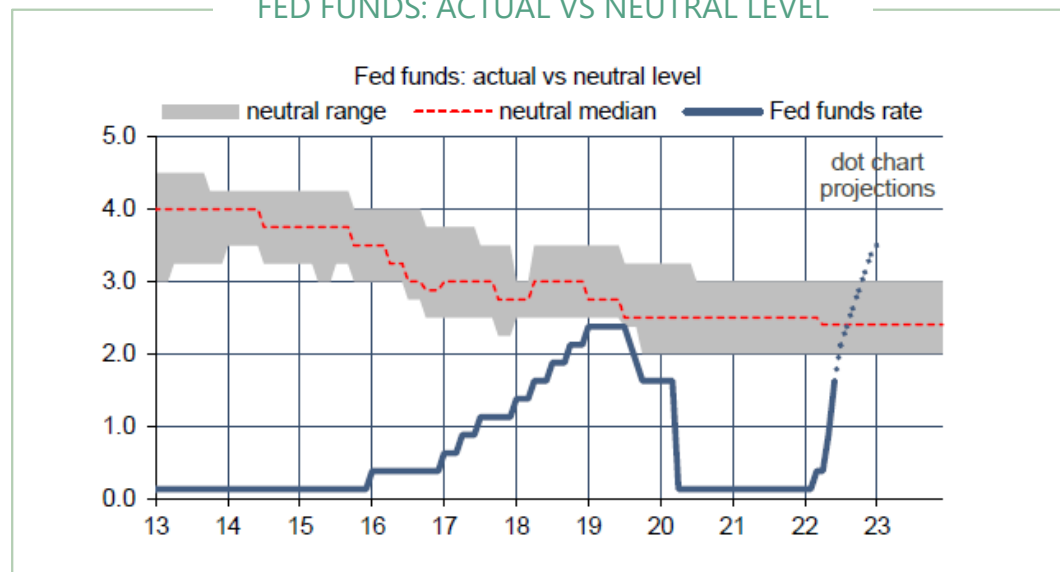
Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, ODDO BHF Securities, Thomson Reuters, Bloomberg



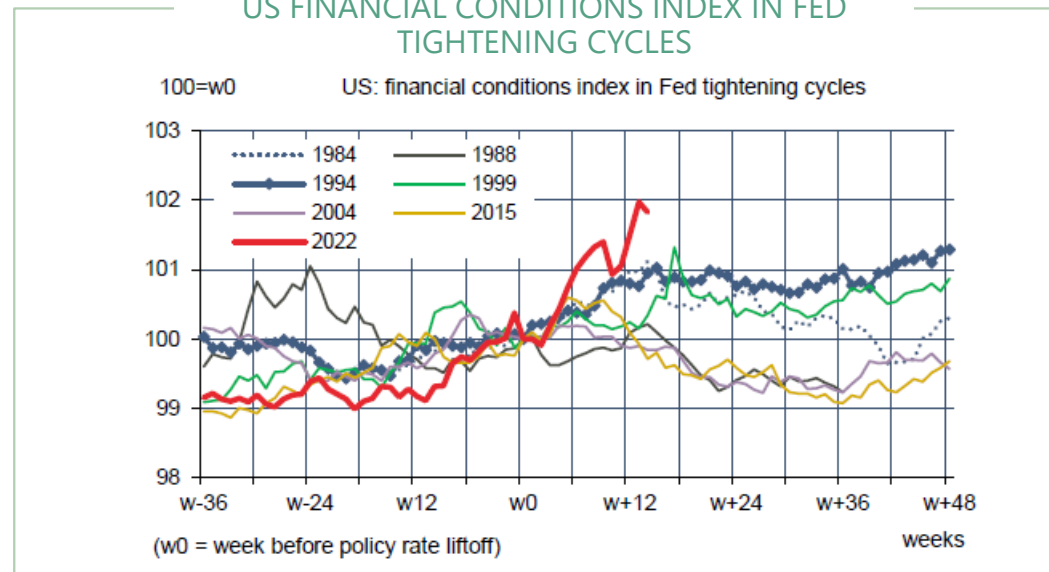
FED policy

SOFT LANDING IS A RARE EVENT

FED FUNDS: ACTUAL VS NEUTRAL LEVEL



US FINANCIAL CONDITIONS INDEX IN FED TIGHTENING CYCLES



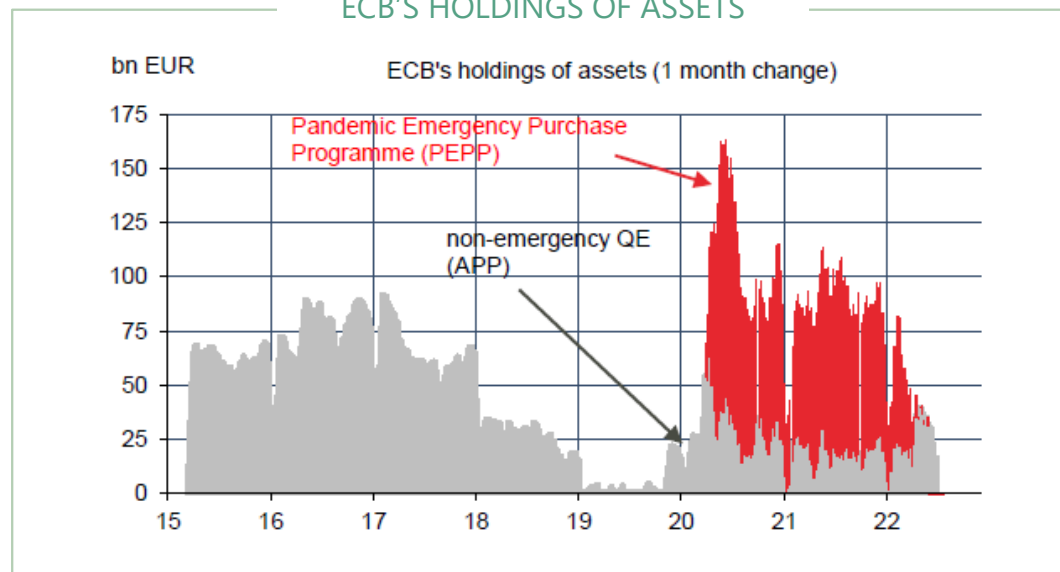
- FED hike expectations now seen peaking around March at 3,4% or around 1.9 pp higher from current levels
- This expected path seems reasonable, but the risk is for higher FED funds given the determination of the central bank to break inflation dynamics
- Soft landing is a historically rare event and even harder to achieve under today`s conditions of 70`s style inflation levels and an economy which is deflating after the covid boost



ECB policy

HIKING INTO A WEAKENING ECONOMY

ECB'S HOLDINGS OF ASSETS



CREDIT SPREADS



- ECB starts lift-off by 25bp this month, followed by a most likely 50bp hike in September
- Further rate path appears blurry, because heightened recession probability contrasts with sticky and high inflation for the time being
- Most likely scenario could be hikes to around 75-100bp until year-end and then a wait-and-see attitude in order to evaluate inflation and recession dynamics
- In an emergency meeting after the regular event, the ECB addressed fragmentation issues (i.e. elevated peripheral spreads) via their upcoming crisis tool
- Yet, details about this tool are lacking



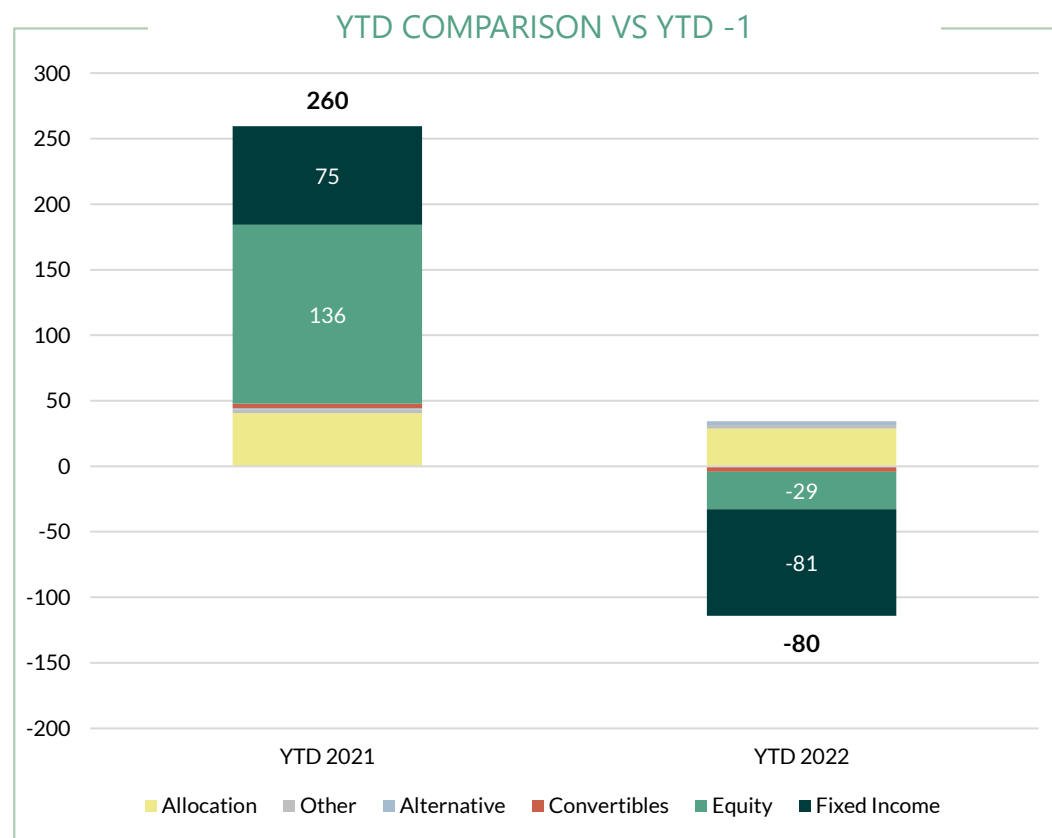
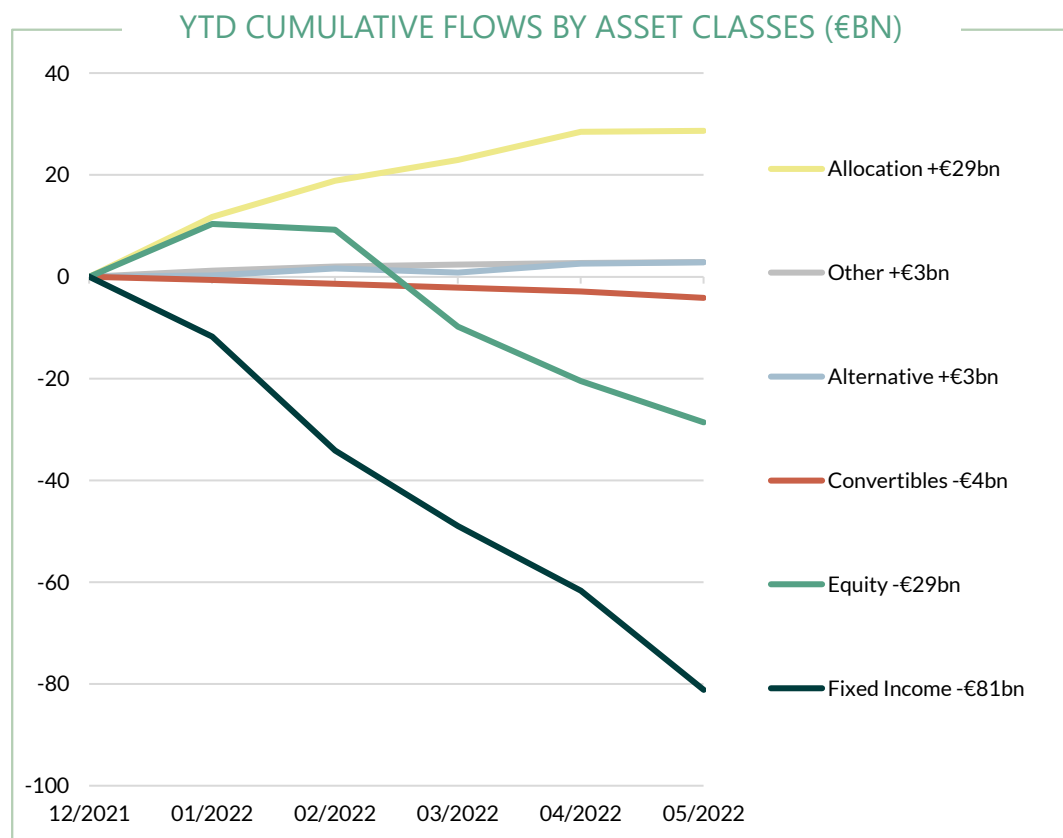
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MARKET
analysis



YTD European mutual fund flows

WAITING FOR THE REVERSAL

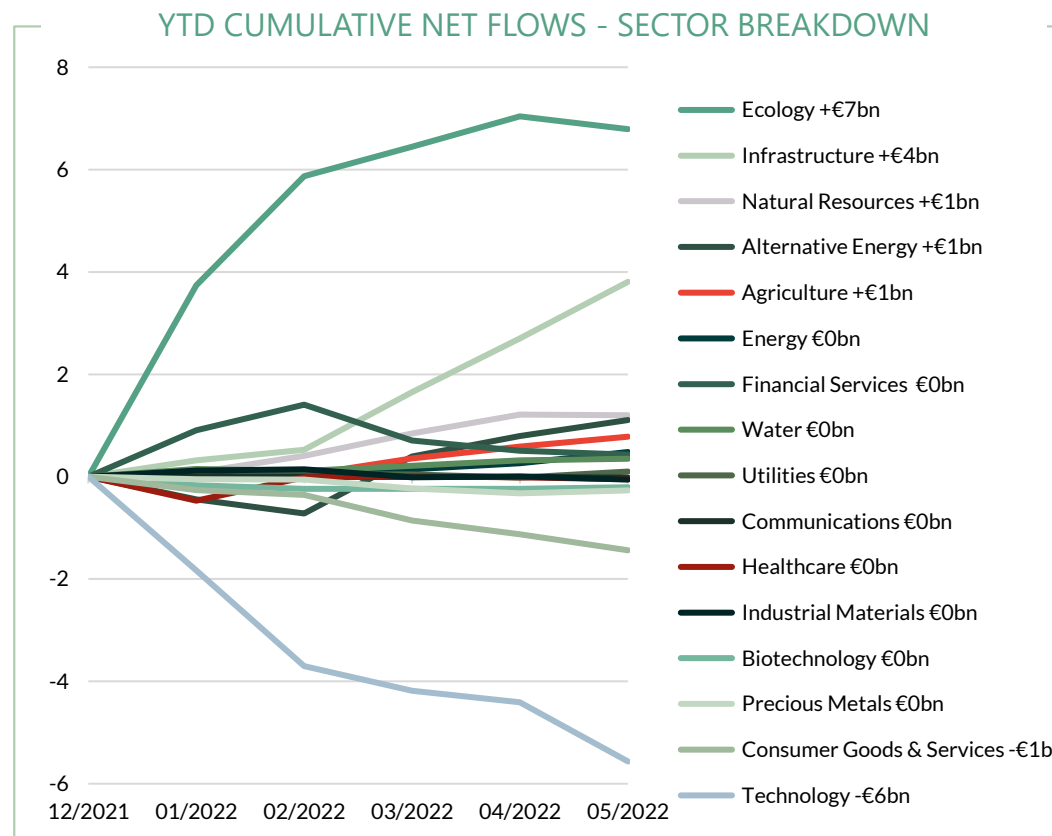
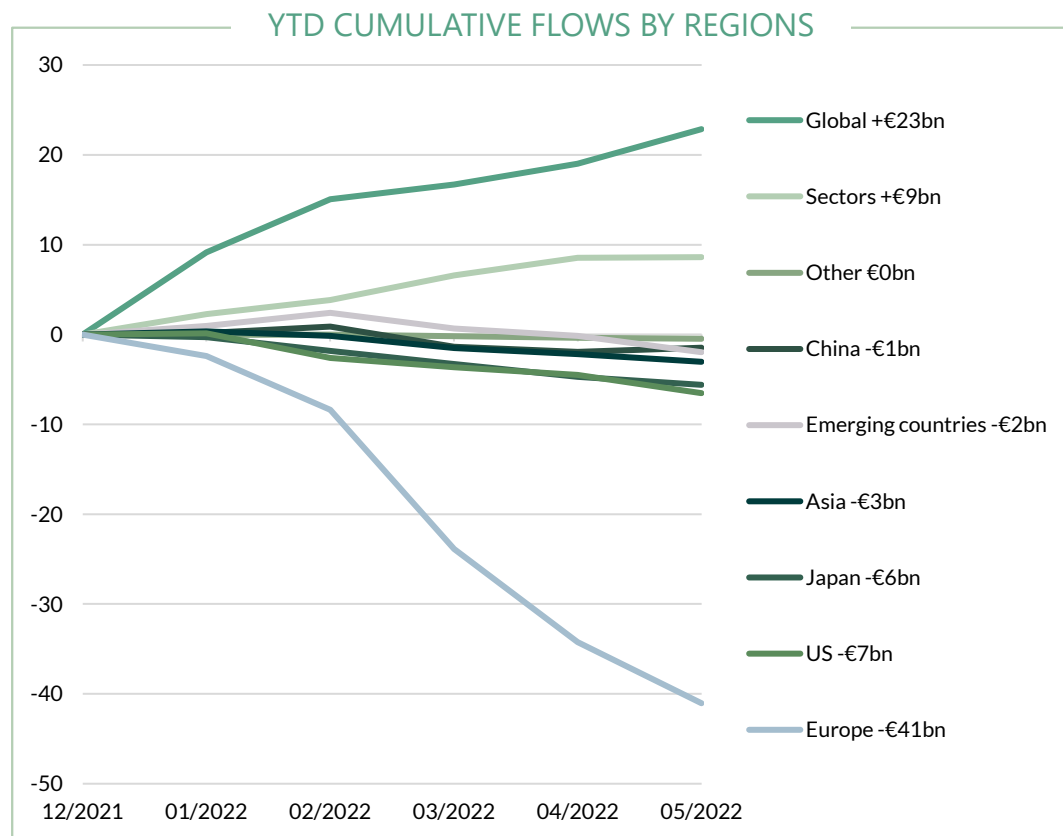


Source : Morningstar. Data as of 30.06.2022 (Europe OE ex ETF ex MM ex FoF ex Feeder (domiciled, most compr.))



European mutual fund flows – YTD equity flows

EUROPEAN EQUITIES SUFFER THE MOST

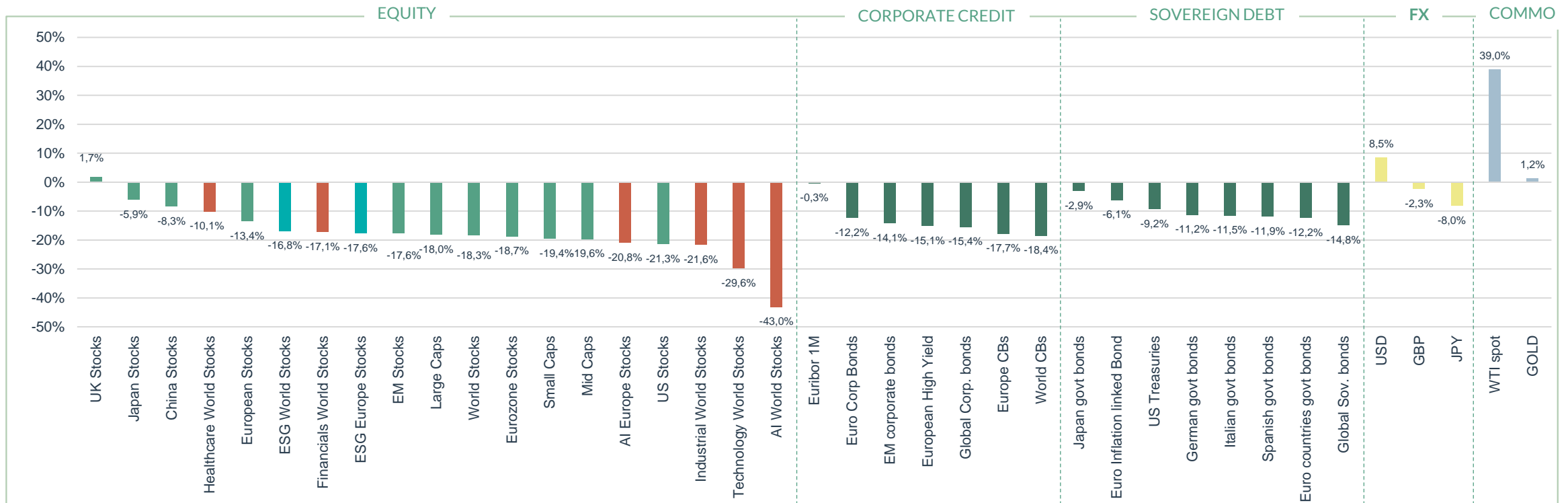


Source : Morningstar. Data as of 31.05.2022 (Europe OE ex ETF ex MM ex FoF ex Feeder (domiciled, most compr.))



Year-to-date performances of asset classes

STILL NO SAFE HAVEN



■ Sectors/thematics
 ■ ESG indices
 ■ Equities
 ■ Bonds
 ■ Currencies
 ■ Commodities

Past performances are not a reliable indicator of future performances and are not constant over time.
 Sources: Bloomberg and BoA ML as of 06/30/2022; performances expressed in local currencies

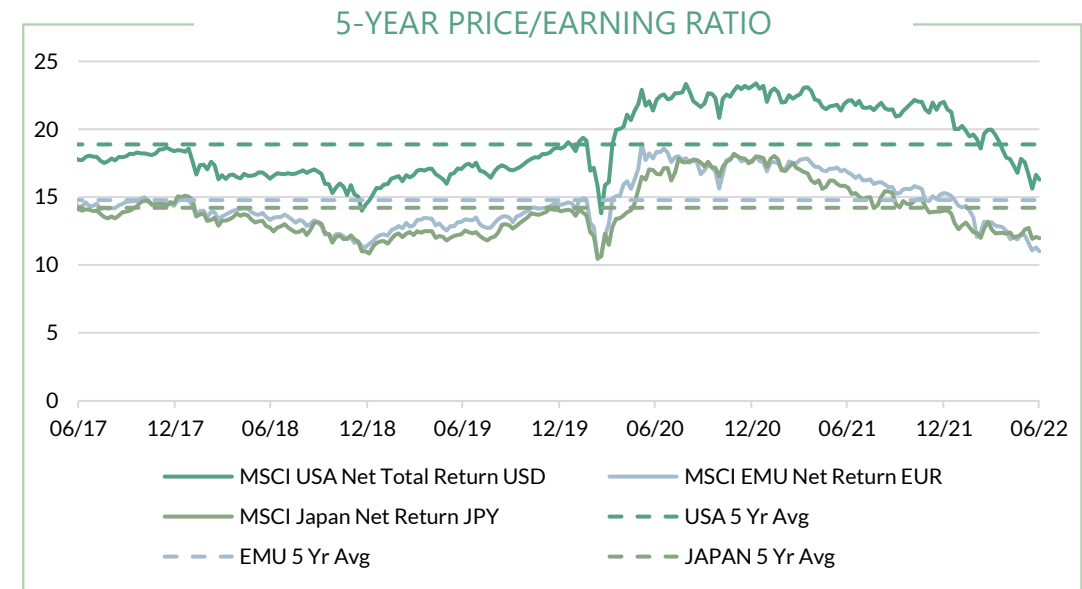
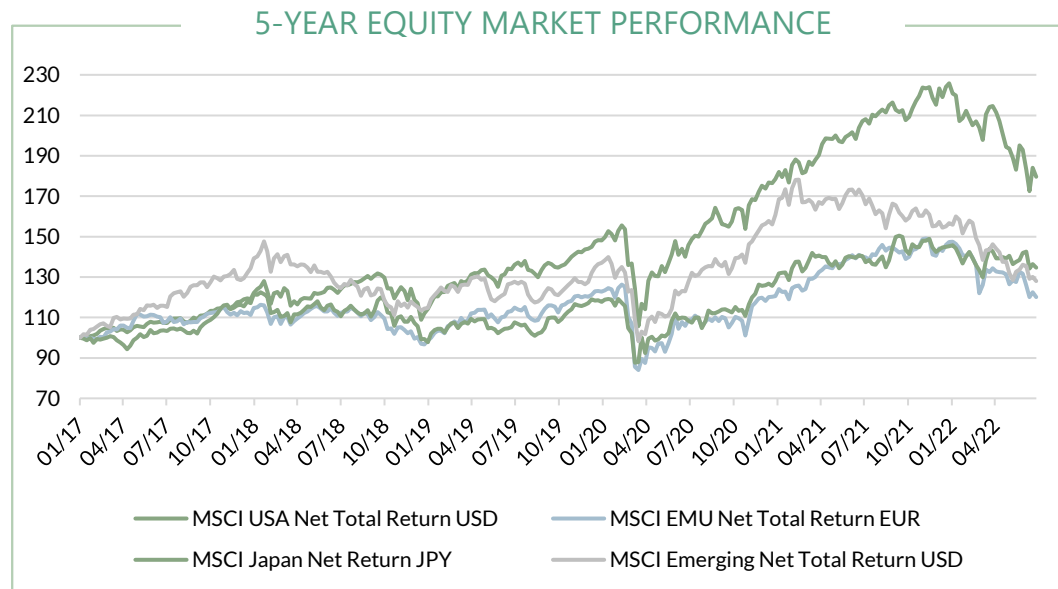


EQUITIES



Equities

PER ESTIMATES CLOSE TO DECADE LOWS



- The sell-side consensus has not revised down yet aggregated earning of indexes
- With some residual growth still expected for next year, the 12 month forward earning level for Eurozone large cap indexes is still moving up slightly!
- With declining markets, valuations based on expected earnings have reached levels similar with those of March 2020
- The incoming Q2 publication season will bring some light on the realness of sell-side expectations, and hopefully investors will get better guidance from companies regarding supply-chains improvements, even if H2 2022 macroeconomic environment remain a big unknown

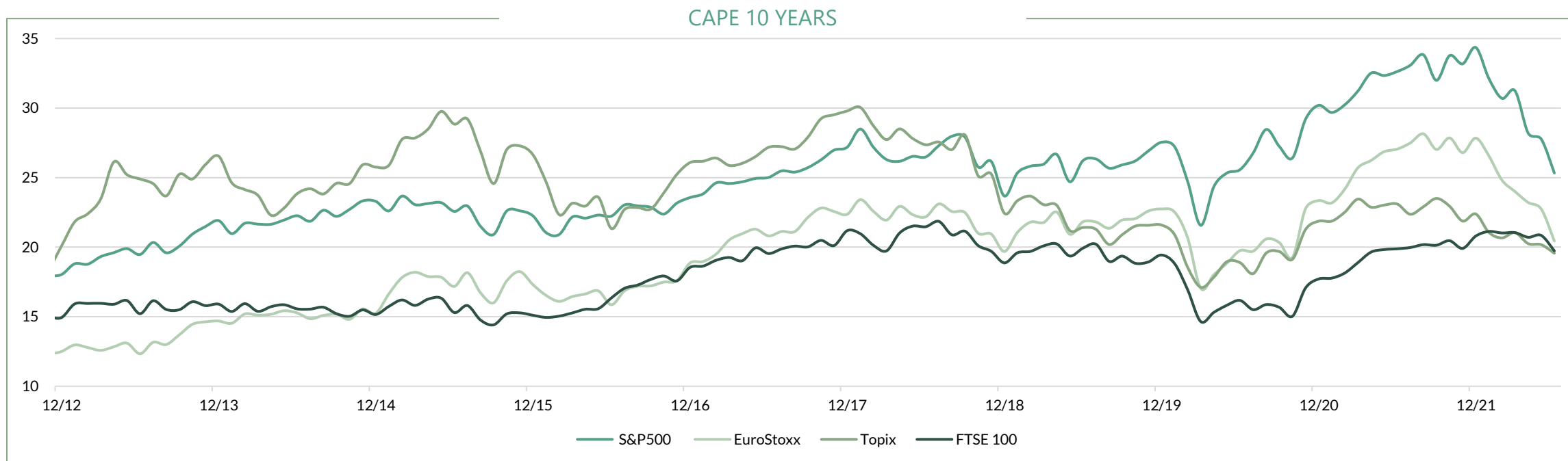
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Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, Bloomberg | Data as of 06/30/2022



CAPE (SHILLER P/E)

LESS SUPPORTIVE VALUATIONS



- Once adjusted for the cycle, PE multiples do not show extreme cheapness
- Japan and China indexes' valuations are nevertheless also close to their historical lows once cycle considered

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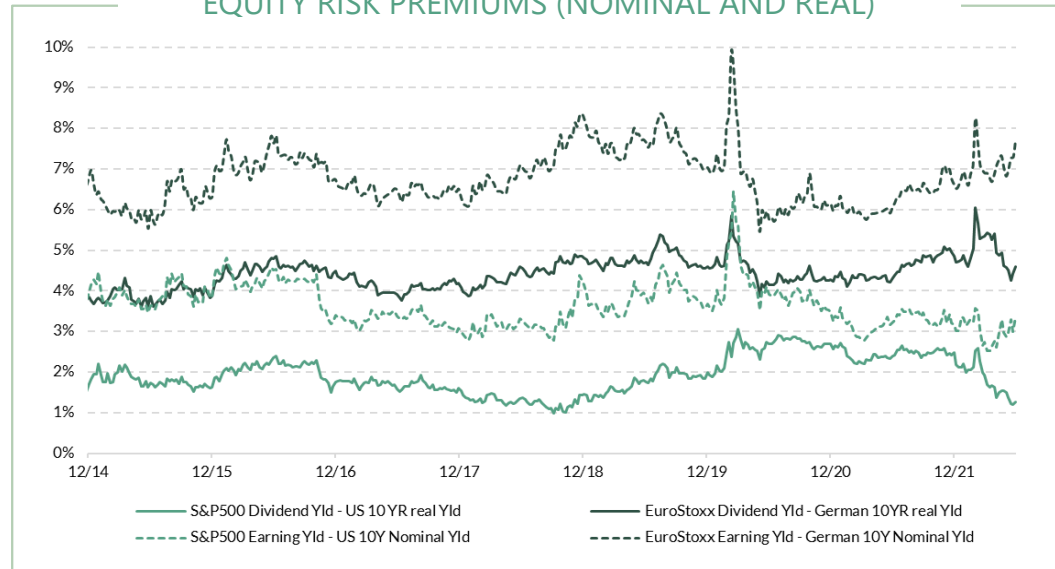
Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, Bloomberg | Data as of 06/30/2022



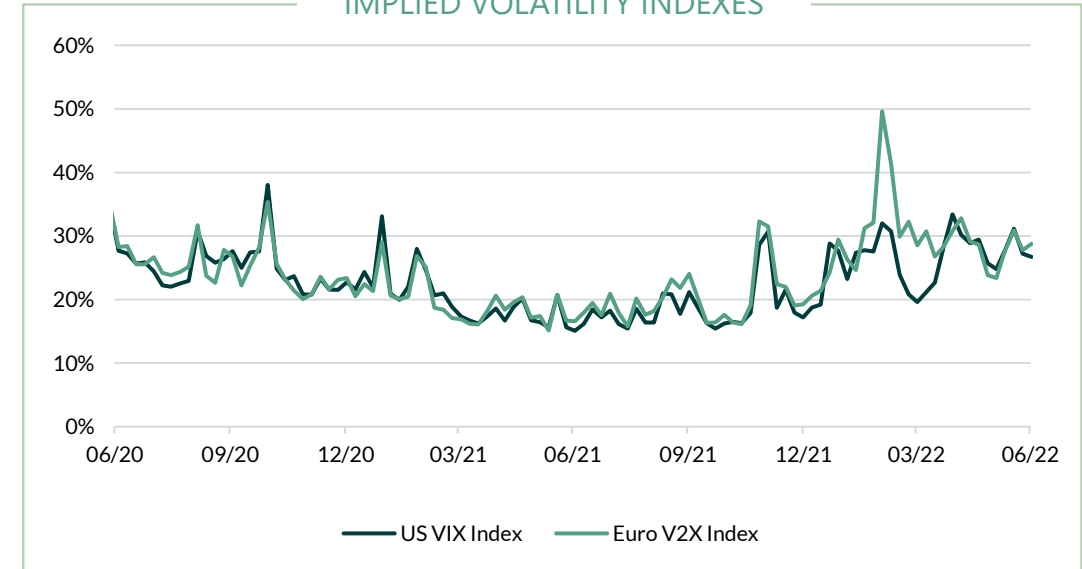
Risk premiums & volatility

VOLATILITY REMAINS HIGH

EQUITY RISK PREMIUMS (NOMINAL AND REAL)



IMPLIED VOLATILITY INDEXES



- The fall in US equity indexes was broadly in line with the move up in yields, estimated risk premia remained quite stable
- With US yields moving up and inflation breakevens having moderated significantly, the dividend yield vs real yields premium moved closer to recent lows
- While equity volatility remained high, it was more resilient than in the FX or bonds universes

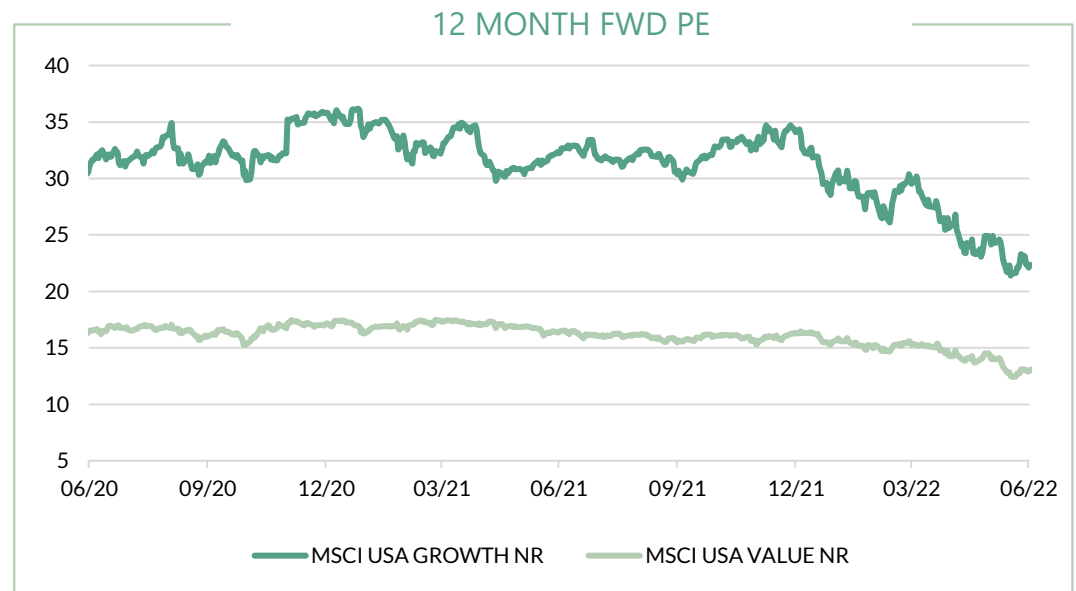
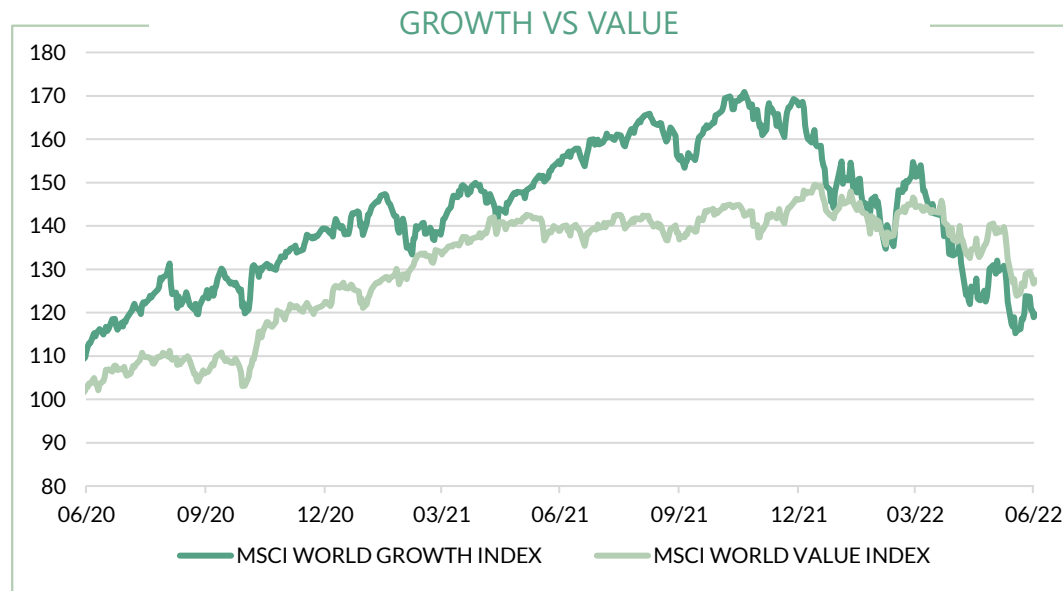
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Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, Bloomberg | Data as of 06/30/2022



Equities performances – styles differential

FEW PLACES TO HIDE



- Markets kept experiencing heavy sector rotations on a short term basis due to extreme volatility of sovereign yields curve
- Over the month, both value and growth lost some ground
- The value space has also been subject to significant derating over the quarter, despite a theoretical smaller sensitivity to yields moves

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 Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, Bloomberg | Data as of 06/30/2022



European equities – sectors overview

ENERGY, COMMODITIES AND EURO REAL ESTATE FELL SHARPLY

European Sectors	Stoxx 600	YTD return	2022e EPS Growth	2023e EPS Growth	2022e Sales growth	2023e Sales growth	Dividend yield	P/B value
	Weight	%	%	%	%	%	NTM*	LTM**
Automobiles & parts	2,9	-20,7%	-0,4%	4,8%	6,4%	6,8%	6,6	0,6
Banks	7,0	-10,3%	-3,9%	13,1%	-	-	6,5	0,6
Basic Resources	3,0	-4,0%	17,8%	-27,2%	26,8%	-10,6%	7,9	1,3
Chemicals	4,2	-17,9%	9,3%	1,4%	15,0%	-0,8%	3	2,3
Construction & Materials	3,0	-24,6%	-1,1%	10,4%	10,8%	4,4%	3,7	1,8
Consumer products & Services	5,9	-25,3%	16,4%	13,5%	14,6%	8,4%	2,5	3,4
Energy	6,2	15,3%	126,0%	-12,7%	44,4%	-6,3%	4,6	1,4
Financial Services	3,7	-24,1%	-47,9%	29,1%	-	-	3,5	1
Food Beverages & Tobacco	8,5	-5,7%	10,5%	9,5%	12,2%	5,4%	3,1	3,1
Health Care	17,7	-4,6%	11,4%	10,7%	11,1%	5,1%	2,5	3,7
Industrial Goods & Services	11,8	-25,8%	15,7%	4,1%	10,8%	2,8%	3	2,7
Insurance	4,7	-6,8%	3,9%	17,4%	-	-	6,1	1
Media	1,6	-16,8%	6,6%	12,1%	9,9%	6,1%	2,8	2,9
Personal Care Drug and Grocery	3,1	-12,4%	-0,7%	8,7%	7,4%	3,6%	3,5	3,1
Real Estate	1,5	-29,7%	10,5%	5,8%	-	-	4,8	0,8
Retail	0,8	-35,5%	-1,2%	9,5%	8,1%	5,3%	4,2	2,4
Technology	5,7	-31,8%	12,2%	19,7%	15,5%	9,0%	1,4	3,9
Telecommunications	3,6	2,6%	12,3%	8,9%	3,2%	1,7%	4,5	1,6
Travel & Leisure	1,0	-24,7%	-	-	63,3%	16,8%	1,8	2,7
Utilities	4,1	-10,8%	8,5%	12,1%	1,4%	-2,7%	5,1	1,7
Stoxx 600		-14,6%	13,5%	5,4%	15,0%	1,2%	3,7	1,7

*Next Twelve Months

**Last Twelve Months

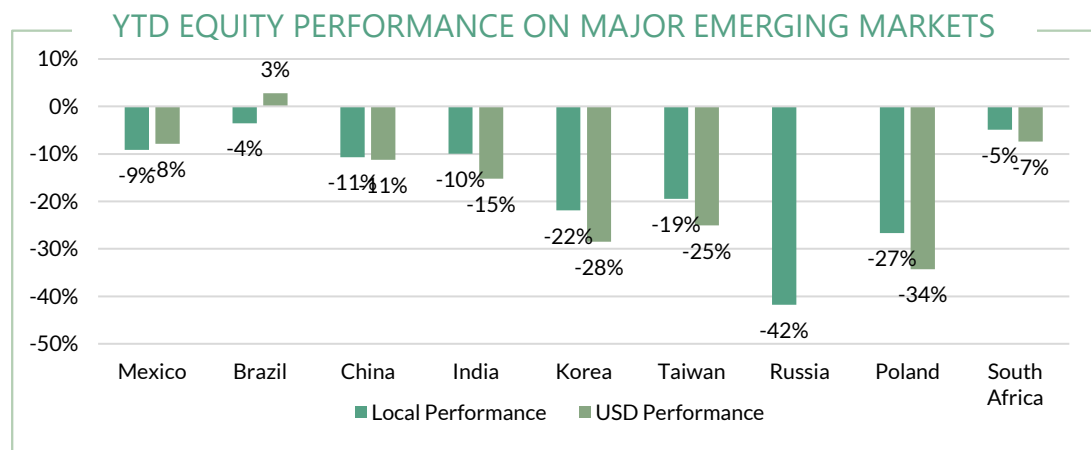
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Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, Goldman Sachs



Emerging markets

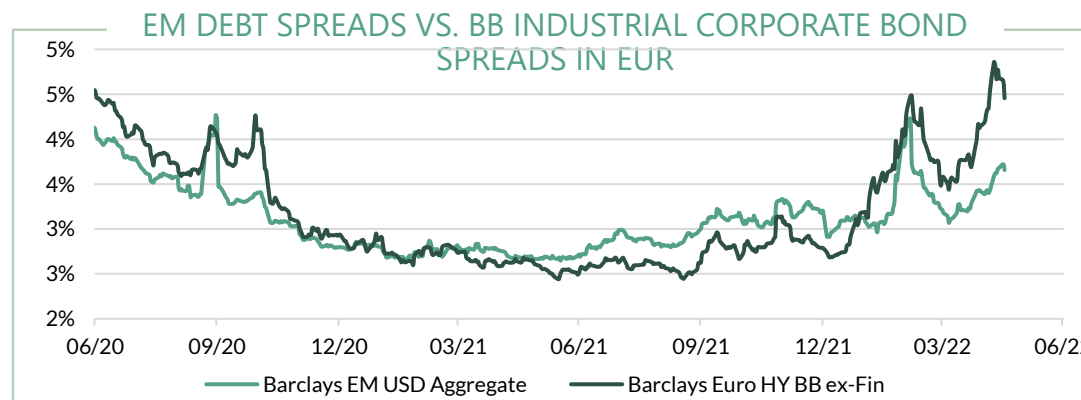
CHINA OVERPERFORMING



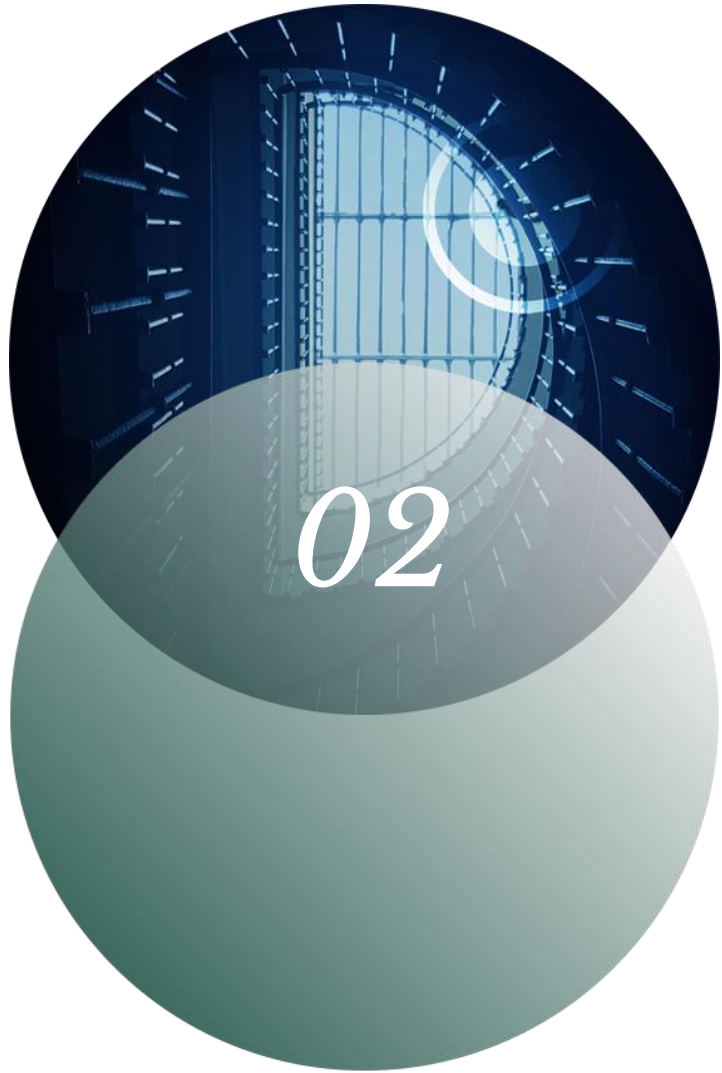
EPS (INCLUDING LOSSES) GROWTH & PE (LOCAL CURRENCY)

Emerging	PE 12mth fwd	2022/2021 est EPS Growth	2023/2022 est EPS Growth	Dividend Yield (trailing 12m)
MSCI EM	11.2	-4%	11%	3.0%
MSCI CHINA	12.8	2%	16%	2.1%
MSCI KOREA	8.4	7%	8%	2.1%
MSCI INDIA	19.3	19%	17%	1.4%
MSCI INDONESIA	13.7	17%	8%	3.2%
MSCI PHILIPPINES	16.2	26%	22%	2.1%
MSCI MALAYSIA	14.0	11%	12%	4.5%
MOEX Russia Index	3.1	23%	-7%	7.3%
WSE WIG INDEX	6.2	15%	-8%	3.3%
MSCI TURKEY	3.5	88%	-5%	4.3%
MSCI SOUTH AFRICA	8.4	17%	6%	4.3%
MSCI BRAZIL	5.3	7%	-9%	10.1%
MSCI COLOMBIA	5.2	42%	79%	9.0%
MSCI MEXICO	12.2	17%	9%	3.6%

- With rebounding economic indicators, budgetary and monetary stances getting more expansionary, Chinese indexes overperformed
- Shanghai CSI 300 jumped 10% over the month while HK HSCEI gained 2%
- Other Northern Asian markets were battered with Taiwan TAIEX and Korean KOSPI lost -12% and -13% respectively, over fears of cyclical downturn



Past performances are not a reliable indicator of future performance and are not constant over time. Sources: Bloomberg, ODDO BHF AM SAS | Data at 06/30/2022



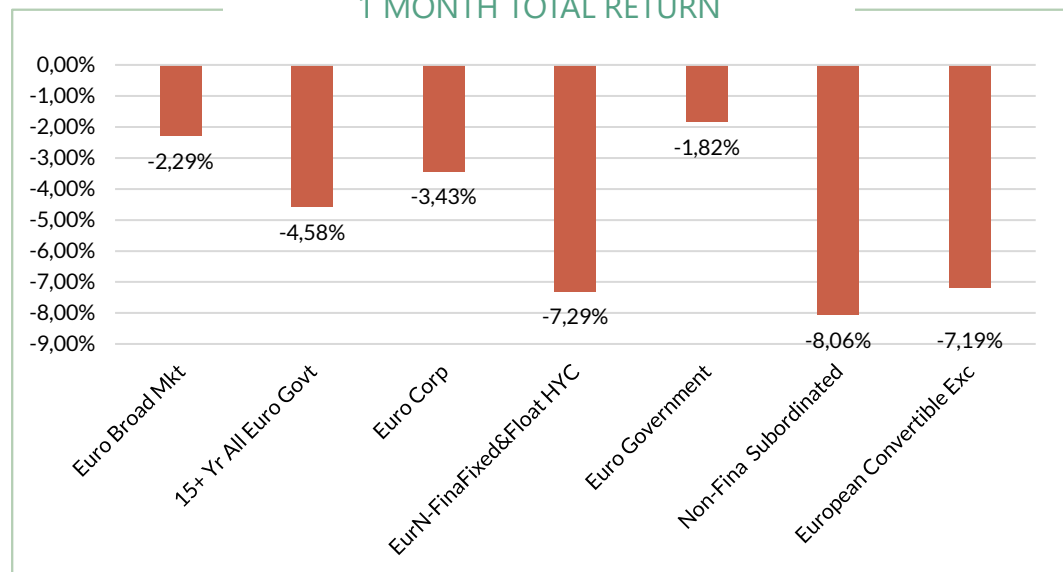
FIXED INCOME



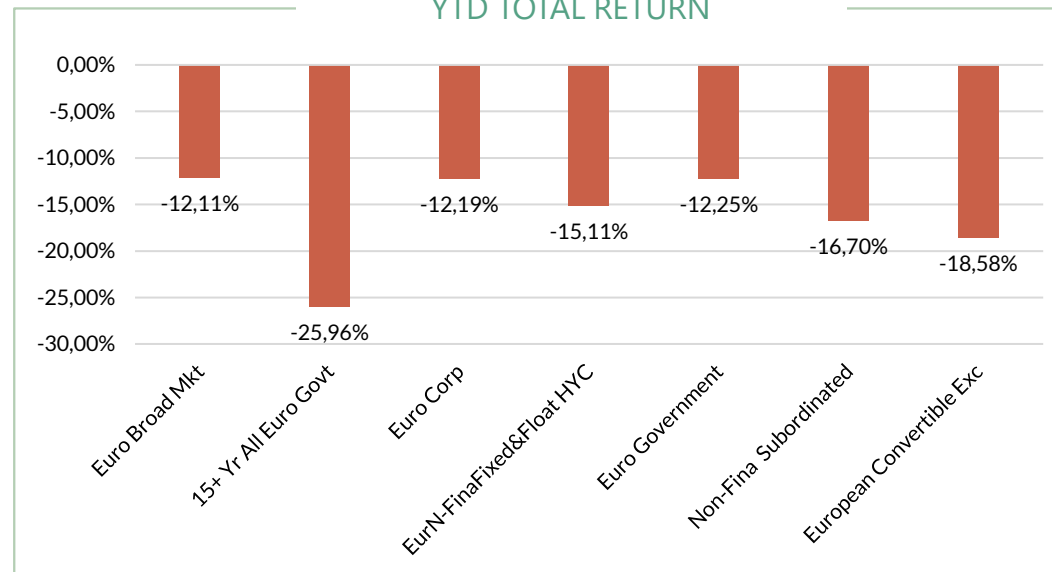
Performance fixed income segment

PERFORMANCE GAPS AS SPREADS ARE UNDER STRESS

1 MONTH TOTAL RETURN



YTD TOTAL RETURN



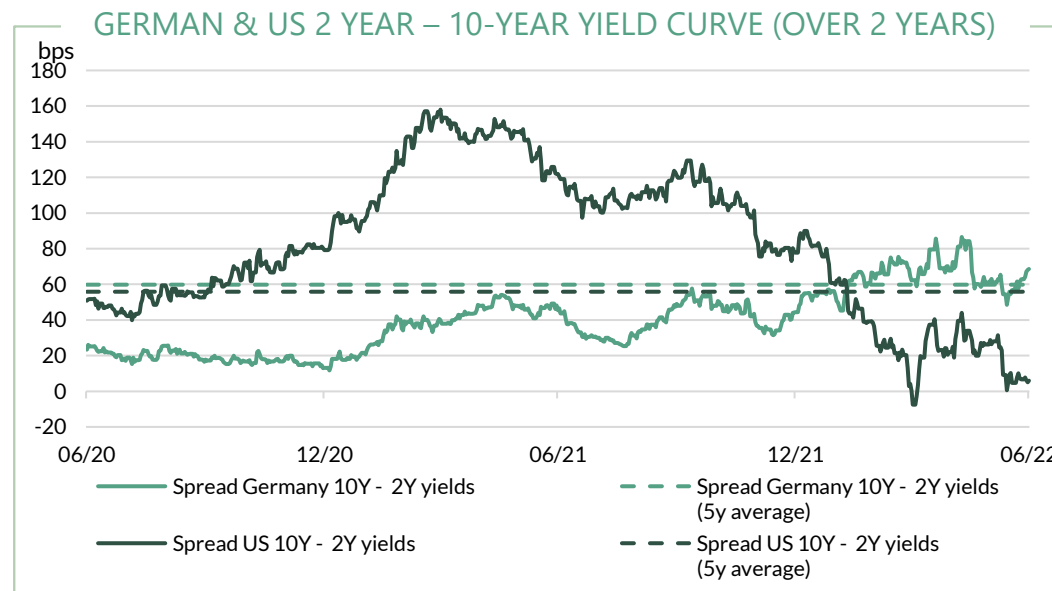
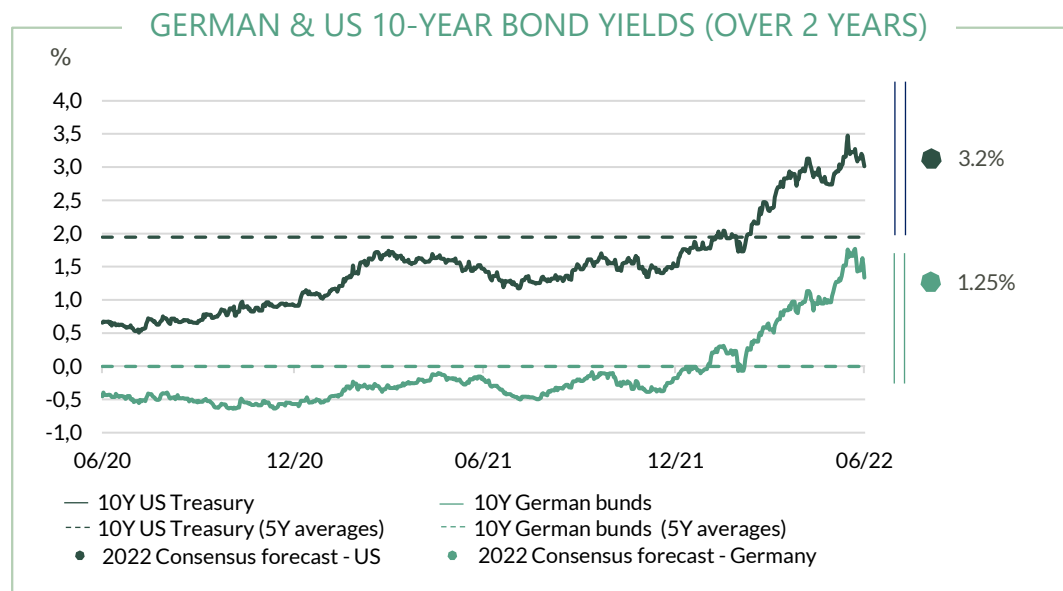
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Source: ODDO BHF AM, Bloomberg, data as of 06/30/2022



Rates

RECESSION FEARS SPARK RALLY IN CORE RATES



- As the pendulum has swung from inflation fears to recession angst, yields were sent markedly lower from their peaks at the end of June
- After the recent plus 50bp decline for 10-year Bunds, the move seems to be too exaggerated as inflation in the Eurozone has still not peaked
- However, we see at least a rangebound trading for US Treasuries and thus went neutral on an increasing recession probability and peak inflation as well as peak hawkishness expectations for the FED
- The Eurozone curve has steepened further and appears to be out-of-whack with current fundamentals. We expect a flattening trend for 10-2 years like in the US where the curve entered an inversion and thus flags recession risks

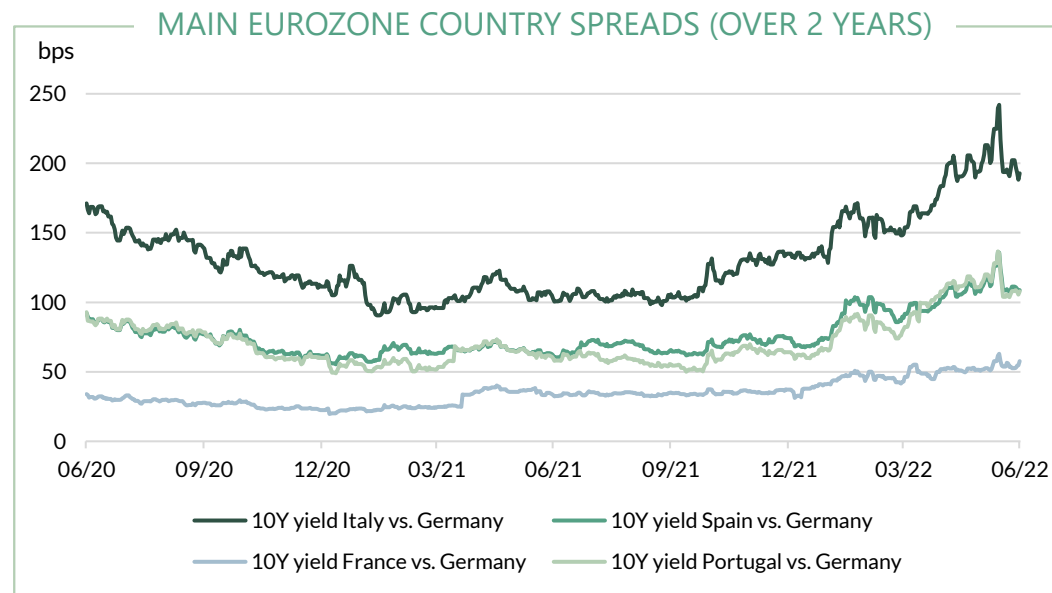
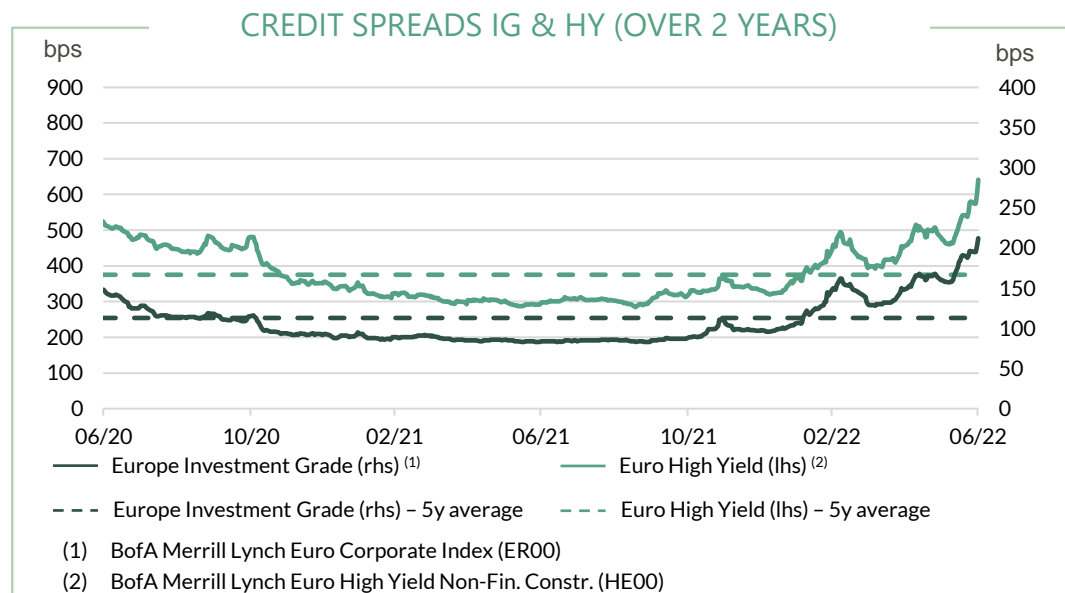
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Bloomberg Economic Forecast | Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, Bloomberg | LHS: Data as of 06/30/2022; RHS: Data as of 06/30/2022



Credit Spreads

SPREADS LEAPING HIGHER ON RECESSION CONCERNS



- Credit spreads surged to levels of more than 210bp for Investment Grade and 670 for Eurozone High Yield bonds (7th July)
- The fragile economic backdrop and waning liquidity send warning signals, but medium-term carry and break even offer value
- Peripheral spreads tightened meaningfully on the back of the promise by the ECB to tackle fragmentation by its crisis tool
- However, we remain cautious on peripheral spreads as the tool is still opaque as are the possible levels which might compel the ECB to act

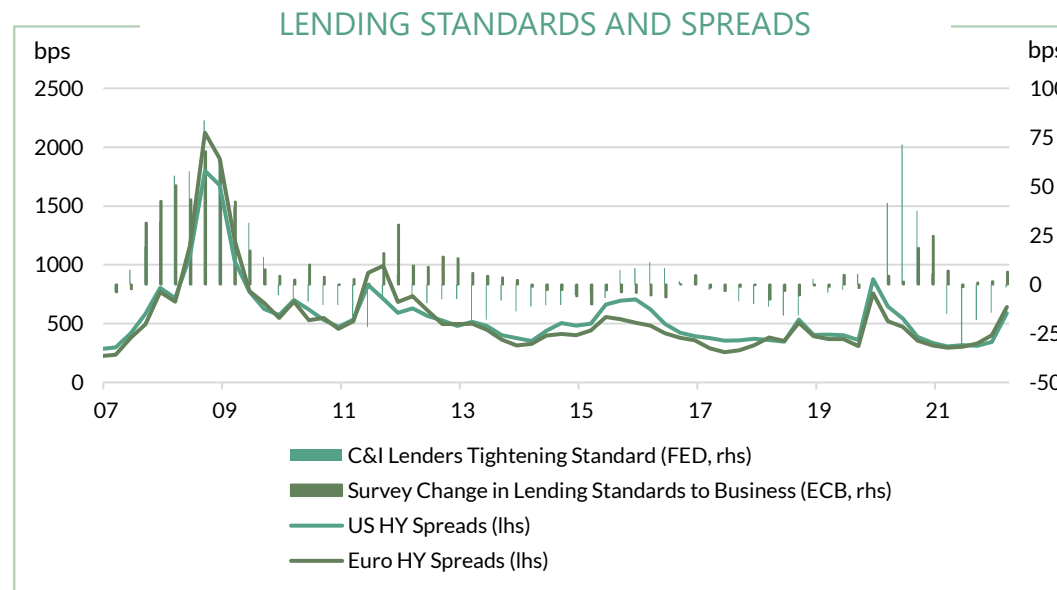
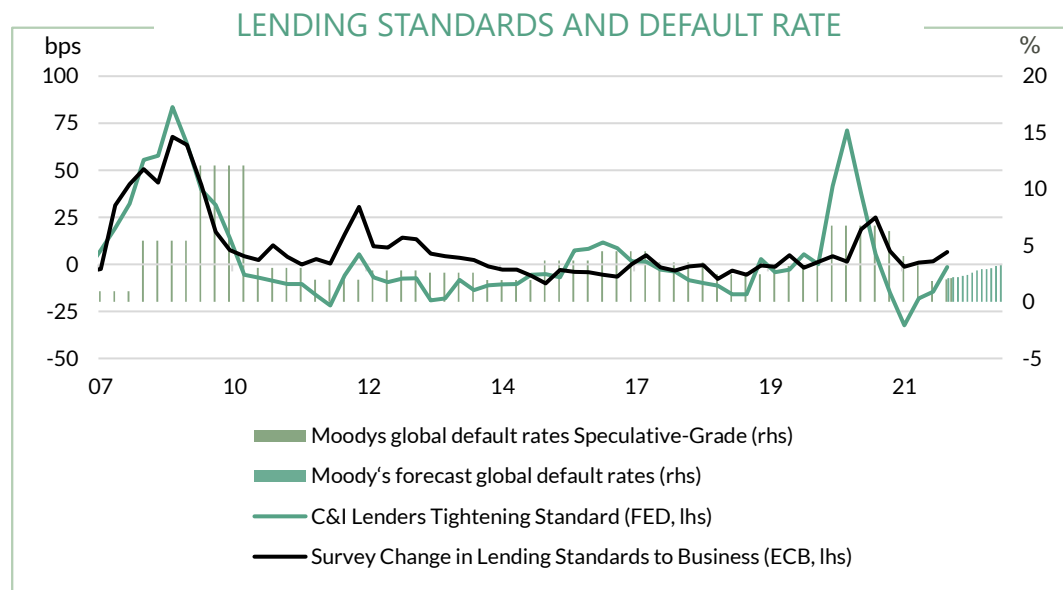
Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance and is not constant over time.

Sources: ODDO BHF AM SAS, Bloomberg | Data as of 06/30/2022



Financial conditions

THE PROBLEM IS NOT THE LEVEL BUT THE SPEED



- Very rapid tightening of financial conditions and market liquidity
- While the overall level is within historical norms, the quick deterioration poses a problem

Source: Fed, ECB, Bloomberg | Moody's as of 05/31/2022, Lending Standard & Survey Change as of 06/30/2022, Spreads as of 06/30/2022

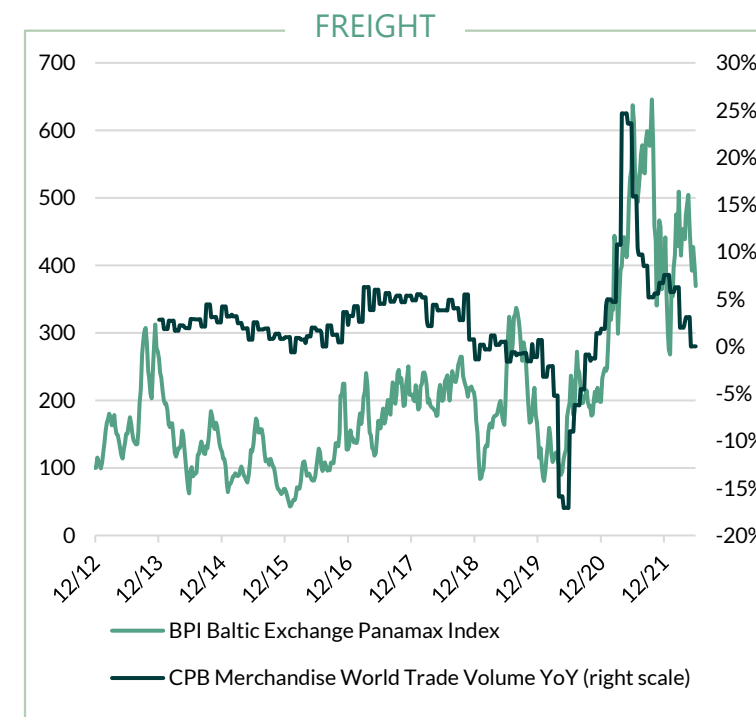
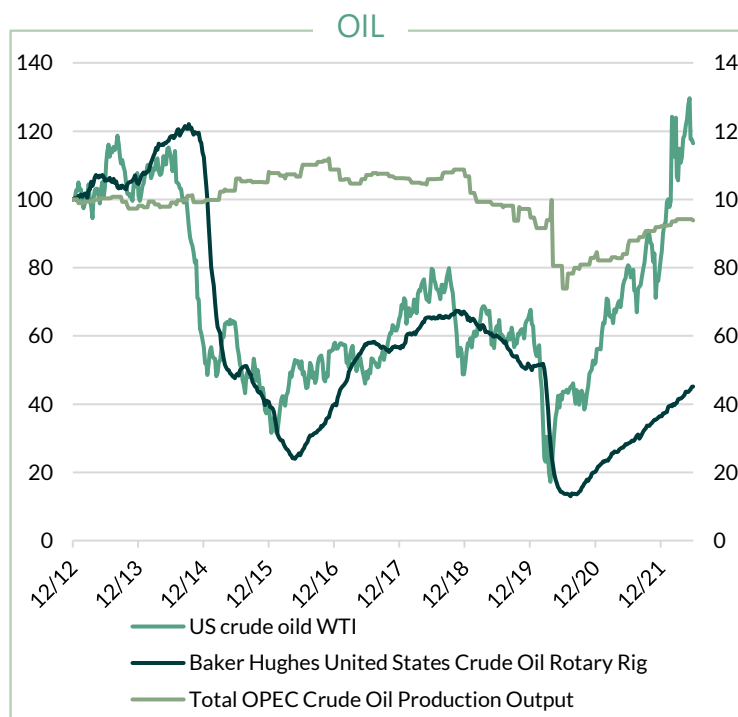
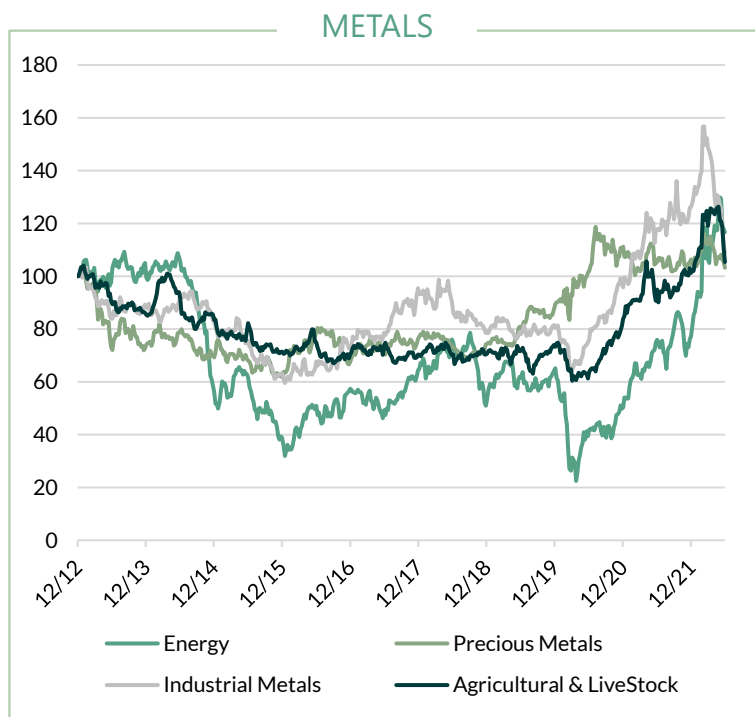


COMMODITIES & CURRENCIES



Commodities

FEARING RECESSIONS



- Commodities fell strongly over the month, apart from energy
- The industrial metals space led the decline, and most metals are now down YtD (Copper -15%, Steel -10%, Aluminium -13%)
- Food prices are still strongly up over the last quarters, but some stress is evaporating wheat lost ~30% since peaking in May

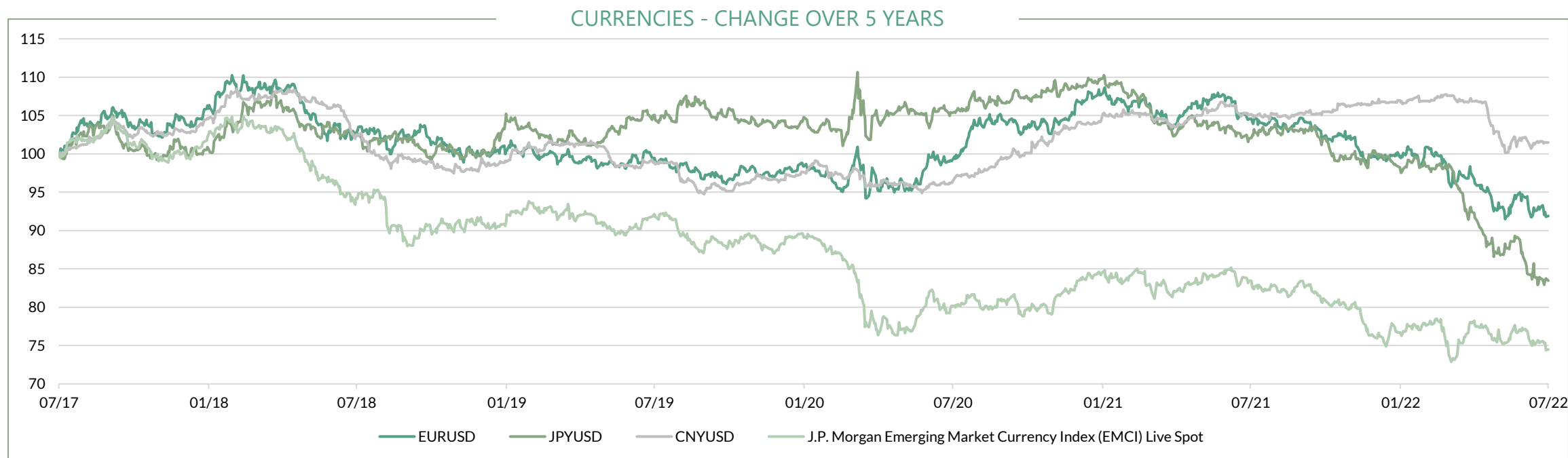
Past performances are not a reliable indicator of future performance and are not constant over time.

Sources: Bloomberg, ODDO BHF AM SAS | Data at 06/30/2022



Currencies

CASH USD IS KING



- USD keeps on rallying vs almost every currencies
- JPY (-5% vs USD) lost some more ground as the BoJ successfully calmed investors after an unusual bout of volatility on Japanese sovereign bonds
- As recession fears weighted heavily on cyclicals, Brazilian Real lost -10% vs USD, and is now close to flat YtD after a ~25% surge during Q1

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

Sources: Bloomberg, ODDO BHF AM SAS | Data at 06/30/2022



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
- Potential cessation of Russian gas supply as a binary event
- 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

35%

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

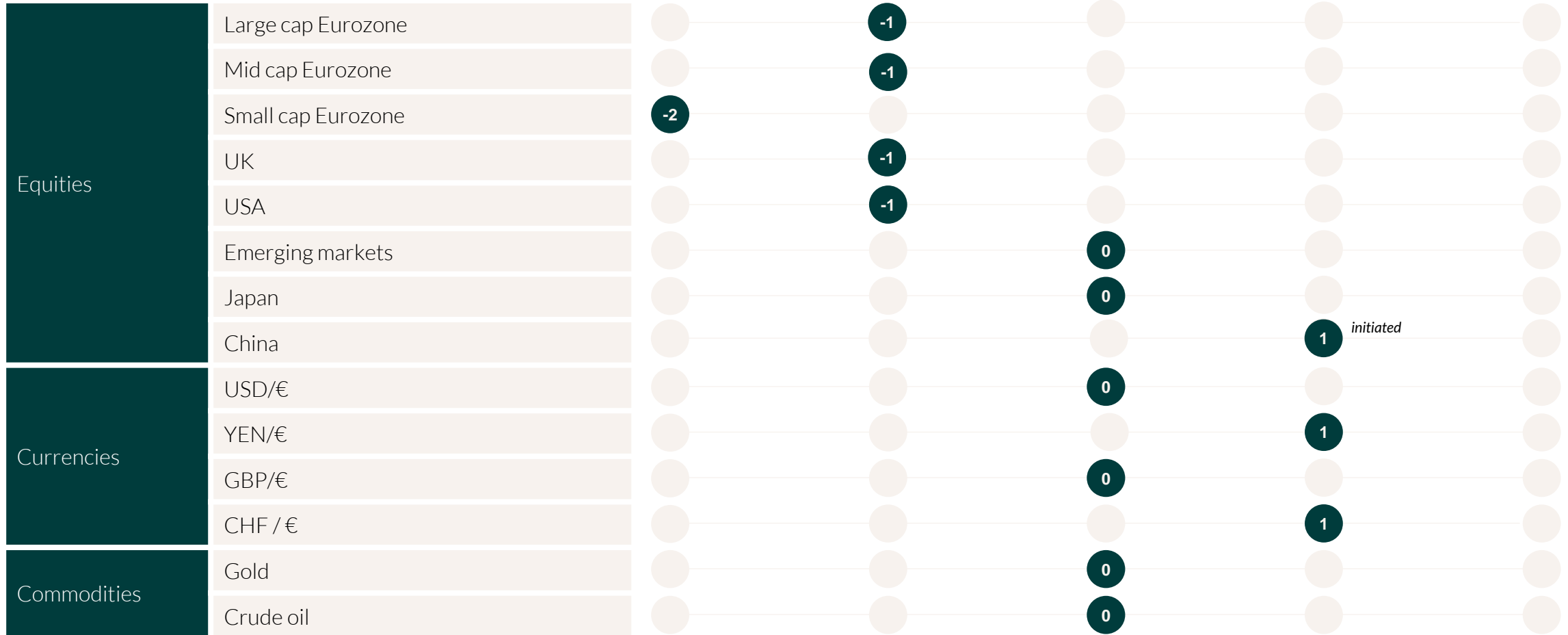
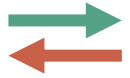
- Sovereigns

10%



Our current convictions FOR EACH ASSET CLASS

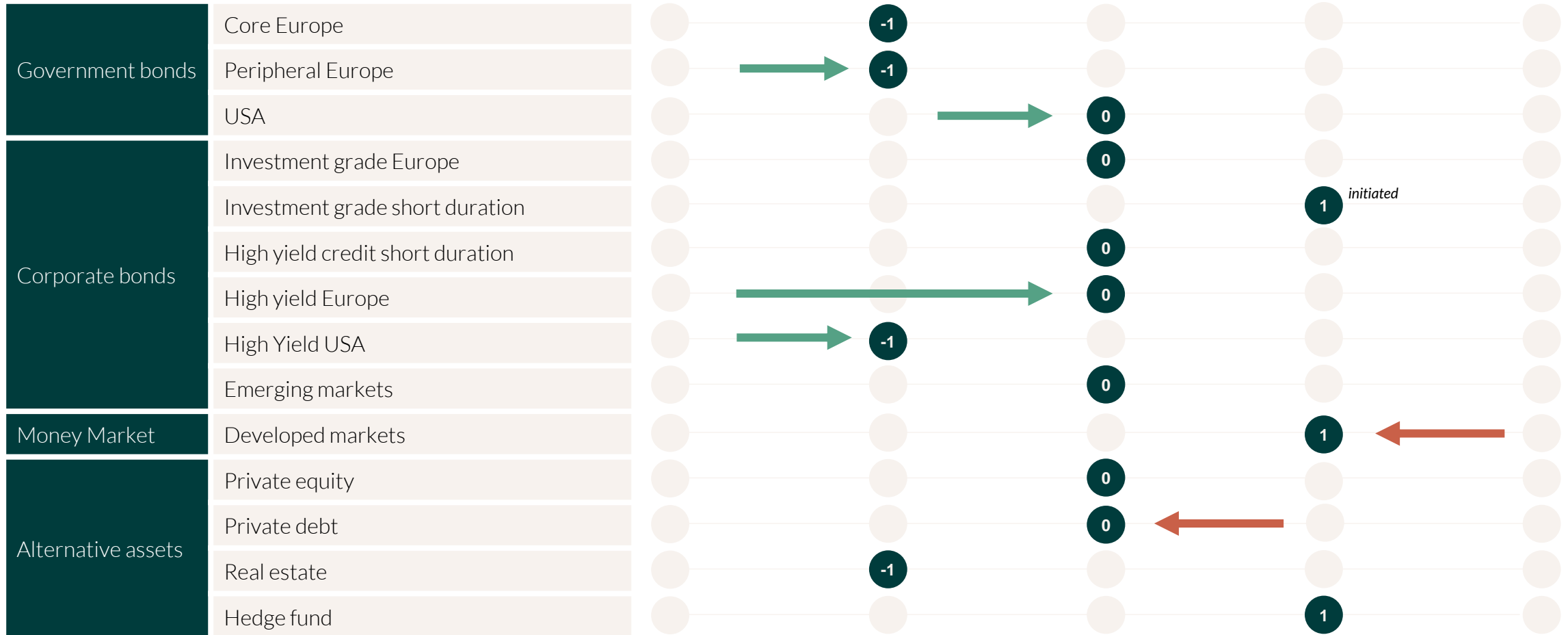
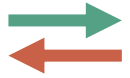
Change from the previous month





Our current convictions FOR EACH ASSET CLASS

Change from the previous month



Source: ODDO BHF AM, as of 07/06/2022



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



INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

- Jan. 22 • [Make 2022 an opportunity](#)
- Sept. 21 • [“Breathless?”](#)



MONTHLY INVESTMENT BRIEF

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- May. 22 • [A complex equation](#)
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VIDEOS

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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.

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