

Capital Market Outlook

September 26, 2022

All data, projections and opinions are as of the date of this report and subject to change.

IN THIS ISSUE

Macro Strategy—*The Growing Exchange Rate Challenge for International Markets:* The 75 basis point (bps) interest rate hike by the Federal Reserve (Fed) was one of many moves to tighten policy across global central banks last week. But with monetary authorities in most major economies trailing behind the Fed's aggressive rate path, exchange rates have been a significant headwind for common currency returns in international equity markets. Though we see a lower chance of the type of crisis episode of past cycles, the energy price shock and unfolding global slowdown may extend the weakness in foreign currencies, with policy and inflation spillovers posing additional risks for international Equities.

Market View—*Five Triggers To Monitor For A New Equity Bull Cycle:* Our long-held view remains that investors should rely on a disciplined approach to asset allocation during periods of uncertainty. However, to aid in the process of rebalancing and potentially putting cash to work in the quarters ahead, investors should be mindful of signs that could ultimately indicate the beginnings of a new equity bull cycle. We explore five triggers specific to this cycle that investors should follow, a combination of which could lay the foundation for the next sustained equity market uptrend.

Thought of the Week—*An Update on China's Property Market:* While the Real Estate sector has been a major source of China's rapid economic growth over the last few decades, it may be starting to show signs of weakening. Developers are experiencing a loss of cash flow leading to incomplete projects, frustrated homebuyers and a government that is trying hard to support growth and contain financial contagion.

MARKET VOLATILITY

Global financial markets experienced significant downside pressure last week, continuing the trend from late August. Recently, however, the downside momentum has gathered speed as central banks around the world, led by the Fed, have raised rates together and have expressed a move toward higher rates than expected and for longer.

In addition to Equities and bonds selling off, Gold and oil prices have also declined, signaling that investors are moving toward an ultra-defensive tone. We remain "on guard" with a defensive tone as well. We believe markets are in a reset phase trying to price in higher rates, a stronger dollar, lower economic growth and earnings, and heightened geopolitical risk all at the same time. This takes time. We expect choppy market action into year end.

We emphasize diversification across and within asset allocation and would look for opportunities in spades in the next 3-6 plus months to rebalance portfolios in order to take advantage of the turn down in inflation, the ultimate pause by the Fed, the peak in the dollar, and finally the stabilization in corporate earnings. This rebalancing also includes considering an increase in duration in Fixed Income portfolios primarily through exposure to long-term government bonds. At that point we believe long-term investors would benefit from a resumption of the long-term uptrend in the U.S. profit cycle, a move lower in long-term bond yields, and equity markets in general.

MACRO STRATEGY ►

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MARKET VIEW ►

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THOUGHT OF THE WEEK ►

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MARKETS IN REVIEW ►

Data as of 9/26/2022,
and subject to change

Portfolio Considerations

We maintain a neutral view on Equities, with a preference for U.S. Equities relative to International, as risks to economic growth and corporate profits remain skewed to the downside. We still expect high-quality Fixed Income to be a diversifier. We continue to emphasize broad portfolio diversification across asset classes, including alternatives for qualified investors where appropriate, as we continue to monitor a post-pandemic cycle that is unlike any other.

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The Growing Exchange Rate Challenge for International Markets

Ehiwario Efejini, Director and Senior Market Strategy Analyst

The 75 bps rate hike by the Fed at its September meeting put further downward pressure on global equity markets and foreign exchange rates last week. But the Fed was just one of many central banks to tighten policy. The Swiss National Bank raised rates by 75 bps; the Bank of England and the Norges Bank tightened by 50 bps; and in Sweden, the Riksbank delivered a surprise rate hike of 100 bps. Above target, persistent inflation across these economies has raised the threshold of growth weakness required to halt or reverse the direction of monetary policy. And though equity markets globally have been in a downtrend all year, we still view non-U.S. markets as the bigger concern going into Q4. As they have since January, and particularly since the Fed's first rate hike in March (Exhibit 1), exchange rates are likely to account for a large share of the return difference.

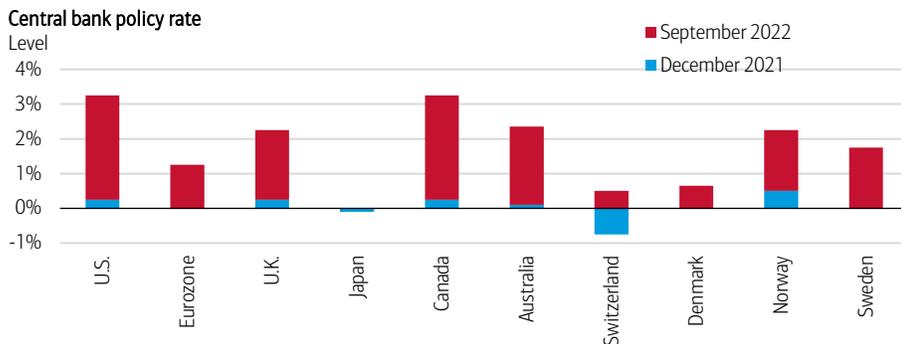
Exhibit 1: Exchange Rates Driving Large Share Of Returns In International Equity Markets.



Source: Bloomberg. Data as of September 21, 2022. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Most developed market central banks have trailed behind the Fed's aggressive rate path this year, and last week's policy moves saw the U.S. gap widen further against much of the rest of the world. The U.S. has now hiked policy rates by 300 bps in 2022, compared to 125 bps in the eurozone, 200 bps in the U.K., 225 bps in Australia and 300 bps in Canada (Exhibit 2). Japan has been the biggest laggard across the major economies in maintaining its near-zero rate policy. And the depreciation effect on its exchange rate may put yet more exchange rate pressure on regional competitors, most notably South Korea, in industries such as autos, machinery and robotics. On top of this, the ongoing energy shock benefits a relatively small number of oil and gas net exporters but is a balance of payments negative for the majority of countries worldwide that are net importers. And the rising probability of a global recession should also direct more capital toward U.S. assets and away from the rest of the world.

Exhibit 2: International Central Banks Trailing The Fed On Monetary Tightening.



Source: Bloomberg. Data as of September 22, 2022.

Investment Implications

Exchange rates have been a major headwind for international market returns this year, and this trend is likely to continue as the Fed raises rates further, the energy price shock persists, and global growth slows. Policy and inflation spillovers are likely to put additional pressures on international markets over the remainder of the year, reinforcing our relative preference for U.S. over non-U.S. Equities.

For investors in most non-U.S. developed markets, exchange rates should therefore remain a headwind for common currency returns, and the potential competitiveness benefits to these markets are likely to be offset by the rise in local energy prices and other import costs, higher core inflation, higher interest rates and slower global demand. Should this trend continue, it raises the risk of escalating competition between global central banks to avoid excessive currency weakness, with even the Bank of Japan intervening last week to slow the pace of yen depreciation for the first time since 1998. As a growing number of monetary authorities around the world express concern over domestic exchange rates, the coming G20 summit in mid-November could take on more significance as an event for global investors to watch in case of any coordinated response.

For emerging markets in particular, Fed tightening cycles have been an important trigger for past crises, including the Latin American debt crisis of the 1980s and the series of crises during the 1990s in Mexico, Asia and Russia. But conditions across many of these markets have improved in recent years. Currency pegs have been abandoned, a greater share of debt has been issued in local currency, and central banks have accumulated larger stockpiles of international reserves. This has afforded local equity markets and local exchange rates a new relative resilience in more recent crises, including those of 2008 and 2020. And in the decade since the 2013 taper tantrum, current account balances have improved significantly, which has also reduced external funding pressures. At the time of the 2013 episode, around 45% of the market capitalization of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index was in deficit compared to roughly 25% today. And across these deficit countries, the share with large deficit-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratios of 3% or more accounted for 34% of index market capitalization compared to just 3% today. Individual frontier markets such as Sri Lanka and Pakistan have already struggled under the weight of higher import and commodity prices, and some smaller emerging markets such as Egypt and Turkey also appear particularly vulnerable in an environment of tightening dollar liquidity. But they are not representative of the broader emerging market universe.

In China, yields on 10-year government bonds were surpassed last quarter by U.S. Treasury yields of equivalent maturity for the first time since 2010 (after U.S. yields collapsed in the wake of the global financial crisis). The 2010 turning point led to a move by the People's Bank of China (PBoC) to loosen its currency peg and allow the yuan to appreciate against the U.S. dollar. But in recent weeks as U.S. yields have trended upward, the PBoC has had to set a higher daily fixing rate in order to push against yuan depreciation. This depreciation pressure is likely to increase over the coming months as the Fed raises rates further, while growth headwinds from weaker construction activity, ongoing pandemic shutdowns and weaker external demand (particularly from Europe) potentially force the PBoC into more monetary easing.

But the biggest challenges may be faced by Europe. The aggregate eurozone inflation rate remains above the U.S. level, while the cyclical slowdown is already further ahead. This unfavorable mix stems in large part from the local surge in retail energy prices, which is unlikely to see any material turnaround in the near term, particularly going into the winter months. The fiscal support measures implemented or planned by governments in major European markets such as Germany, Spain, France and the U.K.—primarily through price caps and fiscal transfers—should to some extent insulate consumers and industry from the full effect of natural gas supply shortages. But they may also have at least two unintended consequences. They could prop up energy demand, limiting the degree to which prices can adjust lower. And they could also lead to a further deterioration in government budgets, putting additional downward pressure on already weak exchange rates. Both could keep inflation higher than it would have been otherwise, requiring the European Central Bank to maintain a tighter interest rate policy for longer, undermining economic growth and placing a larger discount on local equity markets.

Five Triggers To Monitor For A New Equity Bull Cycle

Niladri Mukherjee, Managing Director and Head of CIO Portfolio Strategy

Emily Avioli, Assistant Vice President and Investment Strategist

Risk assets have come under some stress recently as an upside surprise to August's consumer inflation numbers have led investors to price in more resolute Fed tightening and therefore higher interest rates for longer. Barring a significant pullback in core inflation (unlikely in our opinion), portfolio returns in the quarters ahead are likely to underwhelm, and market volatility should rise, as growth and corporate earnings disappoint.

Our long-held view remains that investors should rely on a disciplined approach to asset allocation during periods of uncertainty and fade the tendency to time market developments, as the opportunity cost is vast. However, to aid in the process of rebalancing and potentially putting cash to work in the quarters ahead, investors should be mindful of signs that could ultimately indicate the beginnings of a new equity bull cycle. In last week's report, we analyzed past bear markets and explored signals that have historically helped determine a bottom.¹ Every late to down market cycle is different—in duration and severity, core stress factors, health of businesses and consumers, and in the ability and willingness of policy makers to respond. This week, we explore five triggers specific to this cycle that investors should follow, a combination of which could lay the foundation for the next sustained equity market uptrend.

Trigger 1—Core inflation moves closer to the Fed's target: With inflation well above its 2% target, the Fed is (rightly so) continuing to tighten monetary policy at a historic pace. Core inflation is currently at 5% to 6% levels and is likely to glide lower as we move through 2023. However, Equities are likely to begin a new cycle when the Fed pivots to a balanced focus on inflation and growth as opposed to its singular focus today on crushing inflationary pressures. It may do this if inflation has moved reasonably closer to its target (perhaps in the 3% range) and is directionally trending lower. Given that monetary policy works with a lag, Fed officials may assume at some point that cumulative tightening already in the system will eventually get them to a 2% inflation target. They may also be encouraged by the steadily declining inflation expectations—the five-year breakeven inflation rate has fallen to 2.6%, down from 3.7% in March, while University of Michigan five-year inflation expectations have fallen to 2.8%.² BofA Global Research now expects the Fed to raise its policy rate by .75% in November and .50% in December, followed by two .25% rate hikes in February and March of next year, resulting in a terminal target range for the funds rate of 4.75% to 5%.

Trigger 2—Labor market weakness peaks: Despite tightening financial conditions and growing concerns about the economic outlook, the labor market has remained exceptionally tight this year. The unemployment rate remains low at 3.7%, and wages are rising at a brisk 5%, with the economy adding over 350,000 jobs on average every month in the last three months.³ There are, however, some signs of it cooling, with many prominent companies announcing plans to freeze hiring and even to institute layoffs. While jobless claims have been trending lower since July, our expectation is that they will begin to rise in the months ahead as the economy further loses momentum. A sustained rise in jobless claims is likely to cool wage pressures at the expense of the economy, adding to the volatile and uncertain environment for risk assets. Once the adjustment in the supply/demand imbalance in the labor market has run its course, jobless claims should eventually peak when employers see improving prospects for top line growth and hire again, providing a tailwind for Equities.

Trigger 3—Corporate earnings downgrades stabilize: Earnings surprised to the upside in Q2, with over three-quarters of companies in the S&P 500 Index beating consensus estimates.⁴ But looking forward, cracks are emerging in the earnings picture as downgrades are finally beginning to come through for the back half of 2022. Consensus estimates for Q3 decreased by an above-average rate of 5.4% from June 30 to August 31,

Investment Implications

While Equity market weakness can be a good time for long-term investors to deploy excess cash, we continue to recommend a disciplined approach to asset allocation based on each individual's financial goals, liquidity needs, risk tolerance and time horizon, and diversification to help weather periods of uncertainty.

¹ Chief Investment Office Capital Market Outlook, "Signals at Bear Market Bottoms," September 19, 2022.

² Bloomberg, September 16, 2022.

³ Bureau of Labor Statistics, September 2, 2022.

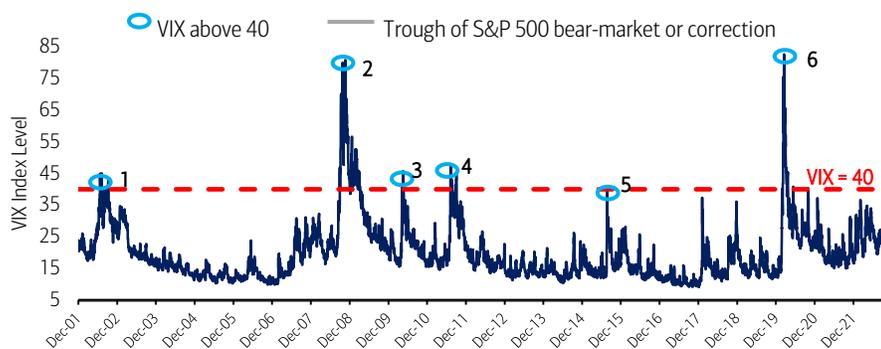
⁴ FactSet, September 8, 2022.

marking the largest decrease in estimates during the first two months of a quarter since Q2 2020.⁵ Estimates are also falling for 2023, but they remain far above our forecast levels which assume a decline of 8%. Importantly, equity markets, to a large extent, may not yet be factoring in weakening earnings dynamics—the drawdown in the S&P 500 Index has been almost exclusively attributed to multiple compression, with valuations slipping by over 20% this year. Equity returns are likely to be dampened by downward earnings revisions over the next several months but will ultimately recover once earnings revisions first stabilize and then begin a new uptrend.

Trigger 4—The U.S. dollar weakens: The U.S. Dollar Index is hovering near multi-decade highs and several factors supporting dollar strength are unlikely to fade in the near term. Tightening monetary policy, a global slowdown, geopolitical tensions and growing investor risk aversion are keeping the dollar elevated, as it is generally seen by investors as a “safe haven” during times of economic uncertainty. For the dollar to turn around, we would likely need some combination of a peak Fed tightening cycle, less stress in the global financial system, some stability in leading indicators for global growth, and a potential return of investor risk appetite. This could manifest in Equities ultimately finding their footing, especially in the case of International Developed and Emerging Markets.

Trigger 5—Volatility spikes: Technical indicators like the Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE) Volatility Index (VIX) are not yet at a level that would be considered a turning point for Equities. One reason volatility, as per the VIX, may be low is that investors still assume that the Fed may take its foot off the brakes when the economy deteriorates more broadly. In our view, volatility is dormant but not dead and is likely to rise when the Fed counters this investor perception by keeping policy tighter for longer. In the past, when the VIX has topped 40, a trough in an S&P 500 bear market or correction has closely followed (Exhibit 3). During major equity market selloffs like the 2008/2009 Global Financial Crisis and the beginning of the pandemic, the VIX went as high as 80. But the VIX only reached a high of around 35 this year during March and has since collapsed to 27, suggesting that more volatility may be ahead before we can contemplate a new Equity uptrend.

Exhibit 3: The VIX May Need To Move Higher Before A New Equity Bull Cycle Can Begin.



Note: The numbered bear markets and corrections were related to the following events: 1) Post dot-com bubble, 2) Global financial crisis, 3) Europe sovereign debt crisis, 4) U.S. credit downgrade, 5) China currency devaluation, 6) Coronavirus pandemic. Sources: Chief Investment Office; Bloomberg; Yardeni. Data as of September 21, 2022.

Conclusion

Reviewing these factors in aggregate, it is our view that there may be more market churn before Equities eventually converge back into a secular bull market trend. For long-term investors, reset periods such as these are good opportunities to put capital to work in a disciplined manner. Investors could consider adding to risk assets in seasonally weak periods like September and October and then again as earnings estimates start to get reset toward the end of 2022. There could be opportunities in the first half of 2023, as the Fed begins to balance both its inflation and growth mandates (in words and certainly in action). In the meantime, there are good opportunities for yield in the bond market and for sustainable dividends in areas like Energy and Healthcare. Qualified investors could also consider using alternative strategies like Equity Hedge and Global Macro for its diversification benefits.

⁵ FactSet Earnings Insight. September 2, 2022.

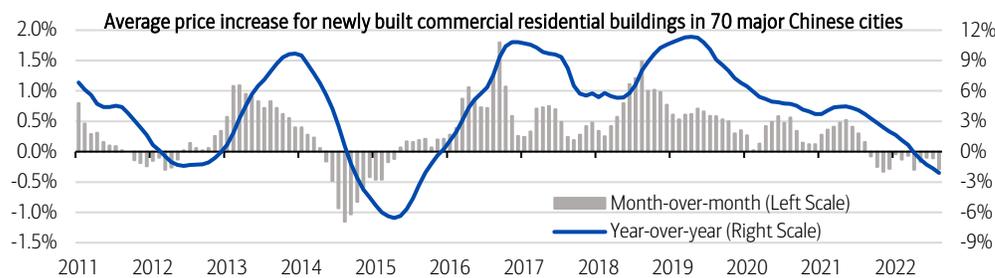
An Update on China's Property Market

Kirsten Cabacungan, Assistant Vice President and Investment Strategist

While the Real Estate sector has been a major source of China's rapid economic growth over the last few decades, it may be starting to show signs of weakening. Developers are experiencing a loss of cash flow leading to incomplete projects, frustrated homebuyers and a government that is trying hard to support growth and contain financial contagion.

From 2000 to 2018, China's middle-class population skyrocketed from 3.1% to 50.8% of the total population,⁶ leading to increased amounts of wealth in the hands of consumers and set off a migration from rural to urban areas.⁷ The expanding consumer base led to a surge in home purchases, forcing developers to build rapidly to meet demand. It also set off a practice of "pre-selling" unfinished homes, which became a major source of funding for developers for further expansion. Amid the booming real estate market, the Chinese government turned its focus in recent years to limiting financial risk in the sector by imposing strict regulations for developer borrowing. But these reforms, coupled with weaker housing demand amid coronavirus shutdowns, have exacerbated cash flow problems and even led to defaults for some developers. In August, property investment declined 13.8% year-over-year (YoY), new home starts contracted 47.2% YoY, home sales decreased 20.8% YoY, and home prices fell for the 12th straight month (Exhibit 4).⁸ Furthermore, over the summer, homebuyers staged a mortgage payment strike as pre-sold home projects remained stalled and incomplete. According to the S&P Global, the boycott could concern nearly ¥974 billion (\$139 billion), or about 2.5% of China's mortgage loans.

Exhibit 4: Chinese Property Prices Are On A Downward Trajectory.



Sources: Bloomberg; China National Bureau of Statistics. Data as of September 22, 2022.

As the Real Estate sector accounts for around 30% of China's GDP, a potential property downturn presents a major headwind to China's economy, especially if financial stress spreads to other sectors.⁹ China's economic outlook has already weakened considerably, with analysts downgrading their 2022 expectations. BofA Global Research expects China's GDP growth to decelerate to 3.5% for 2022, slowing down from 2021's rate of 8.1%. The Chinese government has taken steps to try to mitigate the negative impact of the property crisis on the economy; it plans to provide ¥200 billion (\$29 billion) in loans to complete halted housing developments and increase regulation for home pre-sales.¹⁰ In August, the PBoC also lowered both the five-year loan prime rate, a reference for mortgages, from 4.45% to 4.3%, and the one-year medium-term lending facility loans (given to financial institutions) from 2.85% to 2.75% to further help spur demand.¹¹

China is in a unique predicament as it tries to rebalance its property market, keep the pandemic under control, and maintain an acceptable level of growth and employment. While China's current measures to resolve the property dilemma have yet to come to fruition, all eyes will be on the 20th Party Congress meeting on October 16 to gauge the plan of action as it heads into 2023.

Investment Implications

Ongoing uncertainty about China's economic outlook, especially as risks to the property market persist, remains a headwind for Emerging Markets (EM) Equities. Despite near-term challenges, we remain neutral on EM, as we still believe a strategic allocation is appropriate given the structural rise in the EM consumer, which should support economic growth and boost corporate earnings over the longer term.

⁶ Based on the Pew Research Center's income band classification of the middle class; individuals earning \$3,650-\$18,250.

⁷ Center for Strategic & International Studies, "How Well-Off is China's Middle Class?" September 30, 2021.

⁸ BofA Global Research, Data as of September 16, 2022.

⁹ The New York Times, "China's Once-Sizzling Property Market Has Started to Cool," June 20, 2022.

¹⁰ Bloomberg, "China Plans \$29 Billion in Special Loans to Troubled Developers," August 22, 2022.

¹¹ Bloomberg, Data as of September 22, 2022.

Equities

	Total Return in USD (%)			
	Current	WTD	MTD	YTD
DJIA	29,590.41	-4.0	-6.0	-17.3
NASDAQ	10,867.93	-5.1	-8.0	-30.1
S&P 500	3,693.23	-4.6	-6.5	-21.6
S&P 400 Mid Cap	2,239.29	-5.9	-7.8	-20.3
Russell 2000	1,679.59	-6.6	-8.8	-24.5
MSCI World	2,438.50	-5.1	-7.1	-23.6
MSCI EAFE	1,688.02	-5.6	-8.1	-26.1
MSCI Emerging Markets	905.84	-4.0	-8.7	-24.7

Fixed Income[†]

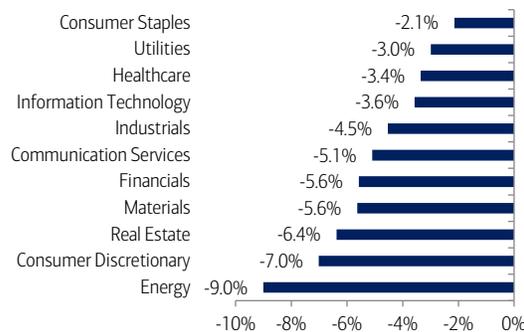
	Total Return in USD (%)			
	Current	WTD	MTD	YTD
Corporate & Government	4.56	-1.32	-2.99	-14.13
Agencies	4.34	-0.92	-1.86	-8.29
Municipals	3.87	-1.35	-2.91	-11.28
U.S. Investment Grade Credit	4.62	-1.56	-3.36	-13.75
International	5.43	-1.61	-3.43	-17.15
High Yield	9.25	-1.75	-2.64	-13.57
90 Day Yield	3.18	3.09	2.90	0.03
2 Year Yield	4.20	3.87	3.49	0.73
10 Year Yield	3.68	3.45	3.19	1.51
30 Year Yield	3.61	3.51	3.29	1.90

Commodities & Currencies

	Total Return in USD (%)			
	Current	WTD	MTD	YTD
Commodities	242.37	-3.7	-7.4	14.4
Bloomberg Commodity	78.74	-7.5	-12.1	4.7
WTI Crude \$/Barrel ^{††}	1643.94	-1.9	-3.9	-10.1

	Total Return in USD (%)			
	Current	Prior Week End	Prior Month End	2020 Year End
Currencies	0.97	1.00	1.01	1.14
EUR/USD	143.31	142.92	138.96	115.08
USD/JPY	7.14	7.00	6.91	6.36

S&P Sector Returns



Sources: Bloomberg; Factset. Total Returns from the period of 9/19/2022 to 9/23/2022. [†]Bloomberg Barclays Indices. ^{††}Spot price returns. All data as of the 9/23/2022 close. Data would differ if a different time period was displayed. Short-term performance shown to illustrate more recent trend. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

Economic Forecasts (as of 9/23/2022)

	2021A	Q1 2022A	Q2 2022A	Q3 2022E	Q4 2022E	2022E
Real global GDP (% y/y annualized)	6.1	-	-	-	-	3.3
Real U.S. GDP (% q/q annualized)	5.7	-1.6	-0.6	1.0	0.5	1.6
CPI inflation (% y/y)	4.7	8.0	8.6	8.2	7.0	7.9
Core CPI inflation (% y/y)	3.6	6.3	6.0	6.2	6.1	6.2
Unemployment rate (%)	5.4	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
Fed funds rate, end period (%)	0.07	0.33	1.58	3.13	4.38	-

The forecasts in the table above are the base line view from BofA Global Research. The Global Wealth & Investment Management (GWIM) Investment Strategy Committee (ISC) may make adjustments to this view over the course of the year and can express upside/downside to these forecasts. Historical data is sourced from Bloomberg, FactSet, and Haver Analytics. **There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved. Economic or financial forecasts are inherently limited and should not be relied on as indicators of future investment performance.**

A = Actual. E/* = Estimate.

Sources: BofA Global Research; GWIM ISC as of September 23, 2022.

Asset Class Weightings (as of 9/6/2022)

Asset Class	CIO View		
	Underweight	Neutral	Overweight
Global Equities	●	●	●
U.S. Large Cap Growth	●	●	●
U.S. Large Cap Value	●	●	●
U.S. Small Cap Growth	●	●	●
U.S. Small Cap Value	●	●	●
International Developed	●	●	●
Emerging Markets	●	●	●
Global Fixed Income	●	●	●
U.S. Governments	●	●	●
U.S. Mortgages	●	●	●
U.S. Corporates	●	●	●
High Yield	●	●	●
U.S. Investment Grade Tax Exempt	●	●	●
U.S. High Yield Tax Exempt	●	●	●
International Fixed Income	●	●	●
Alternative Investments*	●		
Hedge Funds	●		
Private Equity	●		
Real Assets	●		
Cash	●		

CIO Equity Sector Views

Sector	CIO View		
	Underweight	Neutral	Overweight
Energy	●	●	●
Utilities	●	●	●
Healthcare	●	●	●
Financials	●	●	●
Real Estate	●	●	●
Information Technology	●	●	●
Consumer Staples	●	●	●
Industrials	●	●	●
Materials	●	●	●
Consumer Discretionary	●	●	●
Communication Services	●	●	●

*Many products that pursue Alternative Investment strategies, specifically Private Equity and Hedge Funds, are available only to qualified investors. CIO asset class views are relative to the CIO Strategic Asset Allocation (SAA) of a multi-asset portfolio. Source: Chief Investment Office as of September 6, 2022. All sector and asset allocation recommendations must be considered in the context of an individual investor's goals, time horizon, liquidity needs and risk tolerance. Not all recommendations will be in the best interest of all investors.

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Securities indexes assume reinvestment of all distributions and interest payments. Indexes are unmanaged and do not take into account fees or expenses. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Indexes are all based in U.S. dollars.

S&P 500 Index includes a representative sample of 500 leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy. Although the index focuses on the large-cap segment of the market, with approximately 75% coverage of U.S. equities, it is also an ideal proxy for the total market.

U.S. Dollar Index (DXY) is an index of the value of the United States dollar relative to a basket of foreign currencies, often referred to as a basket of U.S. trade partners' currencies.

MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a selection of stocks that is designed to track the financial performance of key companies in fast-growing nations.

Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE) Volatility Index (VIX) is a real-time market index representing the market's expectations for volatility over the coming 30 days

MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI) ex-U.S. is a float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure the combined equity market performance of large- and mid-cap securities in developed and emerging market countries excluding the United States.

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Asset allocation, diversification, dollar cost averaging and rebalancing do not ensure a profit or protect against loss in declining markets.

Dividend payments are not guaranteed, and are paid only when declared by an issuer's board of directors. The amount of a dividend payment, if any, can vary over time.

Investments have varying degrees of risk. Some of the risks involved with equity securities include the possibility that the value of the stocks may fluctuate in response to events specific to the companies or markets, as well as economic, political or social events in the U.S. or abroad. Investing in fixed-income securities may involve certain risks, including the credit quality of individual issuers, possible prepayments, market or economic developments and yields and share price fluctuations due to changes in interest rates. When interest rates go up, bond prices typically drop, and vice versa. Treasury bills are less volatile than longer-term fixed income securities and are guaranteed as to timely payment of principal and interest by the U.S. government. Bonds are subject to interest rate, inflation and credit risks. Investments in foreign securities involve special risks, including foreign currency risk and the possibility of substantial volatility due to adverse political, economic or other developments. These risks are magnified for investments made in emerging markets. Investments in a certain industry or sector may pose additional risk due to lack of diversification and sector concentration.

Alternative Investments are speculative and involve a high degree of risk.

Alternative investments are intended for qualified investors only. Alternative Investments such as derivatives, hedge funds, private equity funds, and funds of funds can result in higher return potential but also higher loss potential. Changes in economic conditions or other circumstances may adversely affect your investments. Before you invest in alternative investments, you should consider your overall financial situation, how much money you have to invest, your need for liquidity and your tolerance for risk.

Nonfinancial assets, such as closely-held businesses, real estate, fine art, oil, gas and mineral properties, and timber, farm and ranch land, are complex in nature and involve risks including total loss of value. Special risk considerations include natural events (for example, earthquakes or fires), complex tax considerations, and lack of liquidity. Nonfinancial assets are not in the best interest of all investors. Always consult with your independent attorney, tax advisor, investment manager, and insurance agent for final recommendations and before changing or implementing any financial, tax, or estate planning strategy.

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