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# Global Cross Asset Strategy:

## Inflation Woes Spilling Into Confidence Data, Threatening Growth

Various consumer confidence measures are showing warning signs on the future performance of the US consumer. Most recently, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's monthly survey of consumer expectations showed a record high 37.1% of households in March saying they'd be "somewhat worse off" or "much worse off" over the next year. In addition to being a record high, this number compares to 31.9% in the peak of Covid. Consumers are pessimistic according to the consumer confidence board data and Michigan confidence index as well, both of which have been in a strong downtrend. Incomes are not keeping up with inflation, which includes a 25% annualized YTD increase in the prices of food and fuel nation-wide.

We've heard pundits and analysts say because consumption numbers are ok the consumer is holding up and is healthy. Price increases are forcing people to fork over more dollars than they would have a year ago, causing the savings rate to decline, and making the US consumer weaker. Be wary of sectors that are vulnerable to a change in the economic cycle and vulnerable to consumer discretionary spending. Where tactical opportunities that have short time frames may exist, cyclicals and tech/discretionary as sectors are not names to buy and sit in. They are vulnerable to a change in consumer behavior, economic contraction, and rising rates.

Asset	Spot	Chg In Past 2 Weeks	YTD Change	End-2022 Target
USG10Y	2.75	-24bps	+124bps	2.75
USG30Y	2.97	-16bps	+106bps	3.25
JGB10Y	0.24	-1bps	+17bps	0.10
DXY	101.86	-1.99%	6.47%	98.00
EUR	1.07	1.96%	-5.58%	1.18
JPY	126.88	2.81%	-9.31%	115.00
MXN	19.84	2.77%	3.47%	20.50
BRL	4.82	6.53%	15.61%	5.20
SPX	3941	-1.49%	-17.30%	4700
IBOV	110581	7.25%	5.49%	120000
MEXBOL	51304	4.46%	-3.69%	56000
Brazil 10Y	12.40	-17bps	+160bps	11.75
Mexico 10Y	8.64	-39bps	+108bps	8.50
MXEF	1017	0.97%	-17.45%	1450
Gold	1866	1.51%	2.01%	1950
WTI Crude	110.2	10.50%	46.56%	110.0

*As of 05/24/2022*

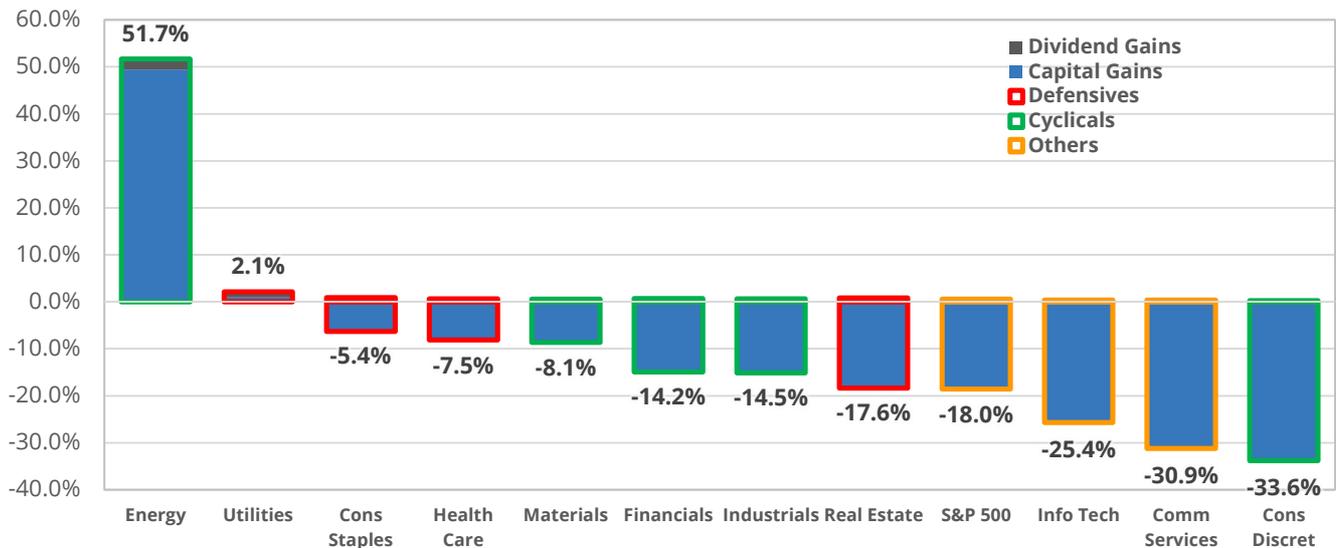
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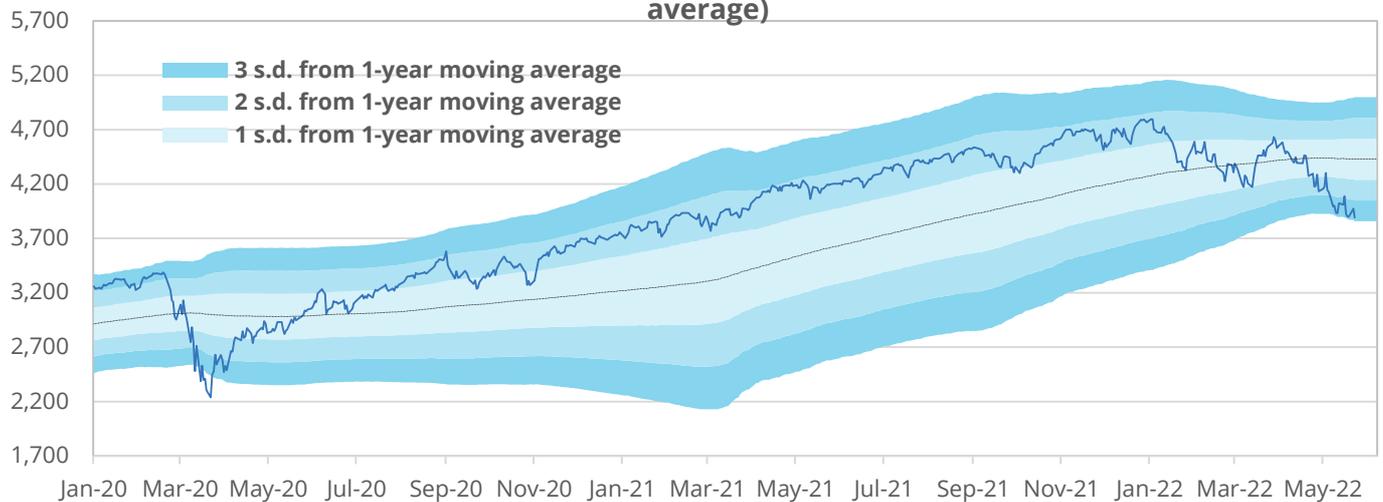
US sector equity performance is consistent with our top picks and sector recommendations coming into the year with Energy, Utilities, Staples, and Healthcare outperforming year-to-date. These have been our OW sector picks and remain so. As forecasted, the bottom performers have been discretionary, comm services, and info tech.

### S&P Total Sector Returns Since 12/30/2021



We have never counted on the “soft landing” promised by the Fed but instead have consistently recommended clients portfolios brace for a steep economic slowdown and extended, sticky inflation. Recession risks are rising. We like defensive sectors within the SPX, gold, cash, alternatives positioning in a diversified portfolio. Inflation in the US (and globally) will remain above-target. After a near 20% drop year-to-date, S&P 500 valuations have cheapened dramatically. However, they can get cheaper if the Fed does not in fact nail the soft landed they have asserted.

### S&P 500 Index (with 1, 2, and 3 Standard Deviations from 1-year moving average)



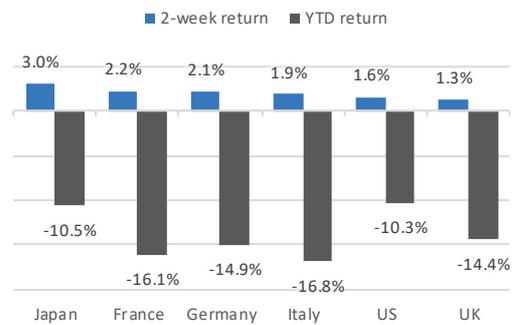
Source: Bloomberg, Bulltick



## Fixed Income Strategy:

- Amid another bout of risk-off sentiment, as well as indications of economic headwinds, saw yields fall sharply** on Tuesday. Already off recent highs above 3.00%, the US10Y bond yield fell another 10bps, to 2.72%, following the release of disappointing home sales data and below-consensus manufacturing PMI data, both suggestive of a possible slowdown in economic growth more broadly.
- This is in keeping with a broader theme in fixed income, where investors are increasingly pricing in credit risk,** versus previous concerns which centered around inflation risk. This is discernable in the fact that while yields are stable or even falling in USTs, inflation breakevens have behaved similarly, while spreads on high-yield debt have risen sharply. Inflation risk, while very real and perhaps even still underpriced, is at least mostly priced into asset prices. A full-fledged recession or steep slowdown in growth and earnings, has not.
- Investors are weighing the possibility that a sharper slowdown in economic activity may alter the path of Fed hikes,** and indeed Fed-policy-sensitive parts of the yield curve - those of shorter duration - led the bond rally, with yields falling by 16bps on the 2Y. We expect that a recession will be avoided over the medium term, but that growth will slow markedly compared to recent prints.
- Despite risk-wariness broadly, we believe there is some value in some EM names,** including those with outsized exposure to commodities, including quasi-sovereign energy companies and local-currency bonds in Brazil, given our constructive view on the BRL.

Developed Markets 10Y Total Returns



EM Local Currency Bond Total Returns



EM USD-Denominated Bond Total Returns



Benchmark Asset	Begin-2022	Current	YTD Interest	YTD Capital	YTD Forex	Total YTD	2022 Target	2022
	YTM	YTM	Gains, %	Gains, %	Gains, %	Return, %	YTM	Return, %
UST 10Y	1.51	2.82	0.56%	-10.84%	-	-10.28%	3.00	-11.33%
German 10Y	-0.18	0.94	0.00%	-9.89%	-5.57%	-14.90%	-0.20	4.02%
Japan 10Y	0.07	0.22	0.04%	-1.46%	-9.24%	-10.53%	0.10	-0.14%
Mexico MBONO 2031	7.56	8.66	3.06%	-6.85%	3.36%	-0.55%	8.50	1.72%
Mexico USD, 2031	2.95	4.69	1.09%	-12.68%	-	-11.60%	3.10	1.48%
Brazil BRL 2031	10.84	12.39	4.18%	-3.76%	15.65%	16.14%	11.75	17.14%
Colombia TES 2031	6.34	11.20	2.80%	-26.05%	3.69%	-20.41%	8.00	1.37%
Chile CLP 2032	5.65	6.41	2.32%	-3.01%	2.60%	1.90%	6.00	9.33%
Argentina ARS, 2026	49.55	55.10	14.54%	-10.47%	-13.40%	-9.88%	50.00	-6.05%
Peru Soberano 2031	5.90	7.76	2.58%	-11.76%	8.05%	-1.87%	6.00	8.54%

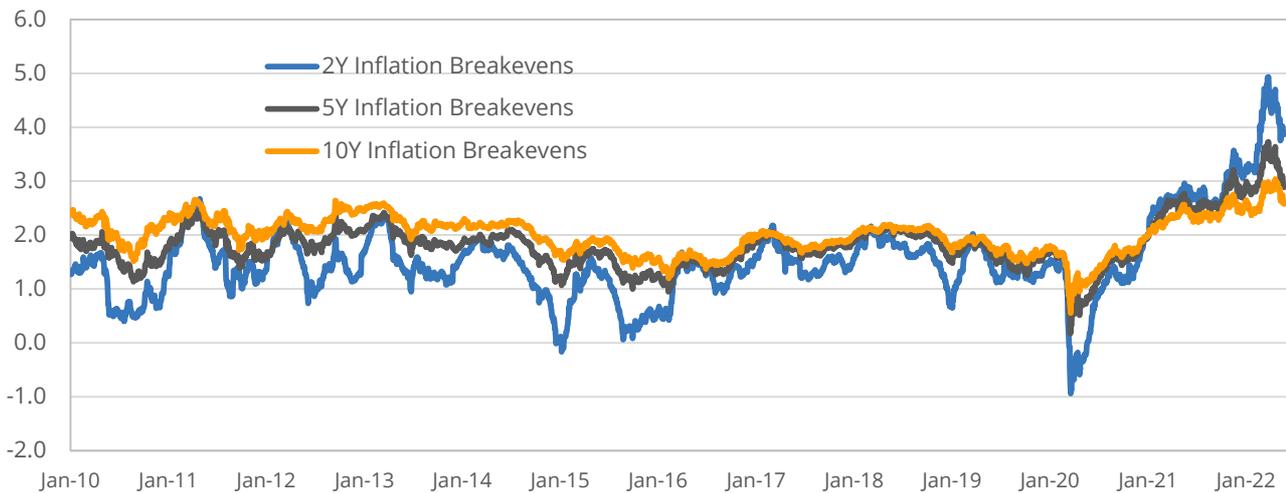
Source: Bloomberg, Bulltack. All returns are in USD

As of 05/24/2022



Breakeven inflation rates have eased significantly, partially explaining the reversion of UST yields, with the US10Y yield falling from a high of 3.13% on May 6, to 2.75% at the time of writing.

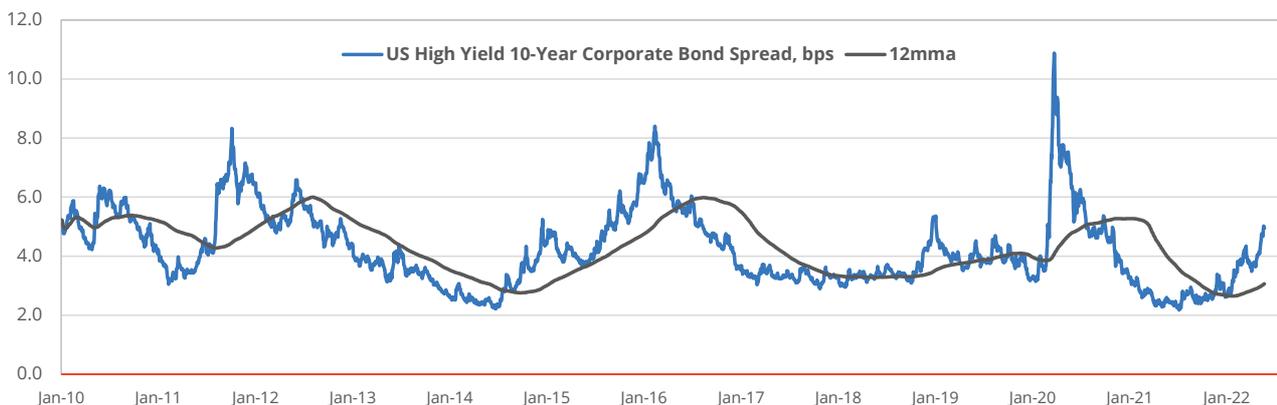
### US Inflation Breakeven Rates, %



Source: Bloomberg, Bulltick

Nevertheless, even as inflation concerns have eased (or, perhaps more precisely, have been more adequately priced in), credit risk concerns have yet to peak, as illustrated by HY corporate bond spreads over USTs, which have continued to climb. As growth concerns increasingly accompany inflation concerns in the minds of investors, we expect such trends to persist.

### US HY Corp 10Y Bond Spread Over UST



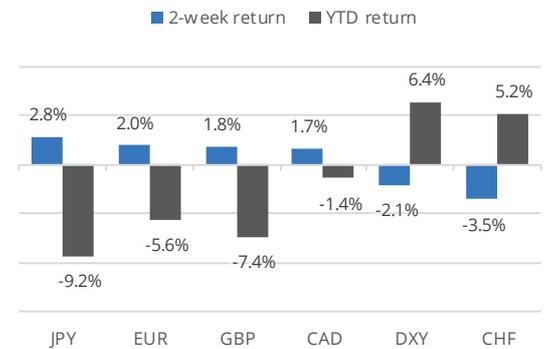
Source: Bloomberg, Bulltick



## FX Strategy:

- **While remaining above the 100 threshold, the DXY Index has fallen about 5%** since its recent highs, tracking a similar decline in yields as US growth concerns have increased. Indeed, the top performer among DMFX over the past two weeks has been the JPY, which often tracks the performance of USTs as it similarly acts as a safe haven asset globally.
- **We expect that yields will begin to pick back up as the Fed continues to hike rates, offering some support to the dollar** over the medium term. We expect that as inflation falls and some apprehension on this front subsides, the dollar will edge lower, such that our end-year target is below the current spot, at 95.0.
- **The Chinese yuan has been a major theme in EMFX, losing more than 6% of its value** over the course of less than a month from mid-April to mid-May. This has been a result of dollar strength, growing concerns regarding Chinese economic expansion, and specifically the disruptions to the critical export markets amid widespread COVID lockdowns. We expect these concerns as a group will subside, while the PBoC has also stepped in to support the currency and stem further depreciation, indicating that at least a tentative 'central bank put' exists for the currency. However, saber-rattling on Taiwan may spur a further bout of depreciation, unless Beijing eases concerns about a potential escalation of tensions.
- **In LatAm, we continue to like the BRL**, which we favored at the outset of the year and which ranks head and shoulders above the rest of the region. Nevertheless, LatAm in general has benefitted from strong commodity prices, and all major currencies are up solidly ytd.

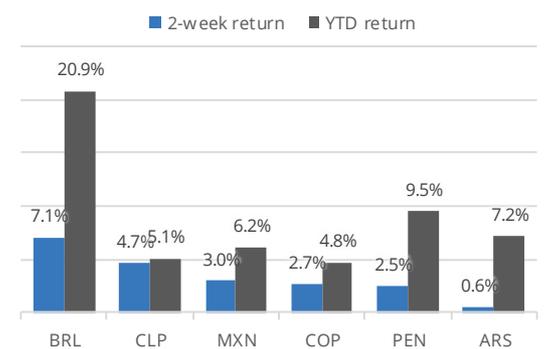
### Developed Markets, FX Spot Returns



### Emerging Markets, FX Spot Returns



### Emerging Markets, FX Carry Returns



Asset	Begin 2022	Current	YTD Spot Return	YTD Interest Gains	End-2022 Target	2022 Expected Spot Return	2022 Expected Total Return
DXY	95.7	101.8	6.4%	-	95.0	-0.7%	-
USD/EUR	1.14	1.07	-5.6%	-0.19%	1.18	3.8%	3.3%
JPY/USD	115.1	126.8	-9.2%	-0.03%	115.0	0.1%	0.0%
CNY/USD	6.36	6.65	-4.5%	-	6.50	-2.2%	-
MXN/USD	20.52	19.85	3.4%	2.97%	20.50	0.1%	7.8%
BRL/USD	5.57	4.82	15.7%	4.69%	5.20	7.1%	23.6%
COP/USD	4,122	3,975	3.7%	2.37%	3900	5.7%	13.7%
CLP/USD	852.0	830.4	2.6%	2.74%	800.0	6.5%	14.2%
PEN/USD	4.00	3.70	8.0%	1.61%	3.90	2.6%	9.0%
ARS/USD	103.09	119.05	-13.4%	24.57%	140.00	-26.4%	9.4%

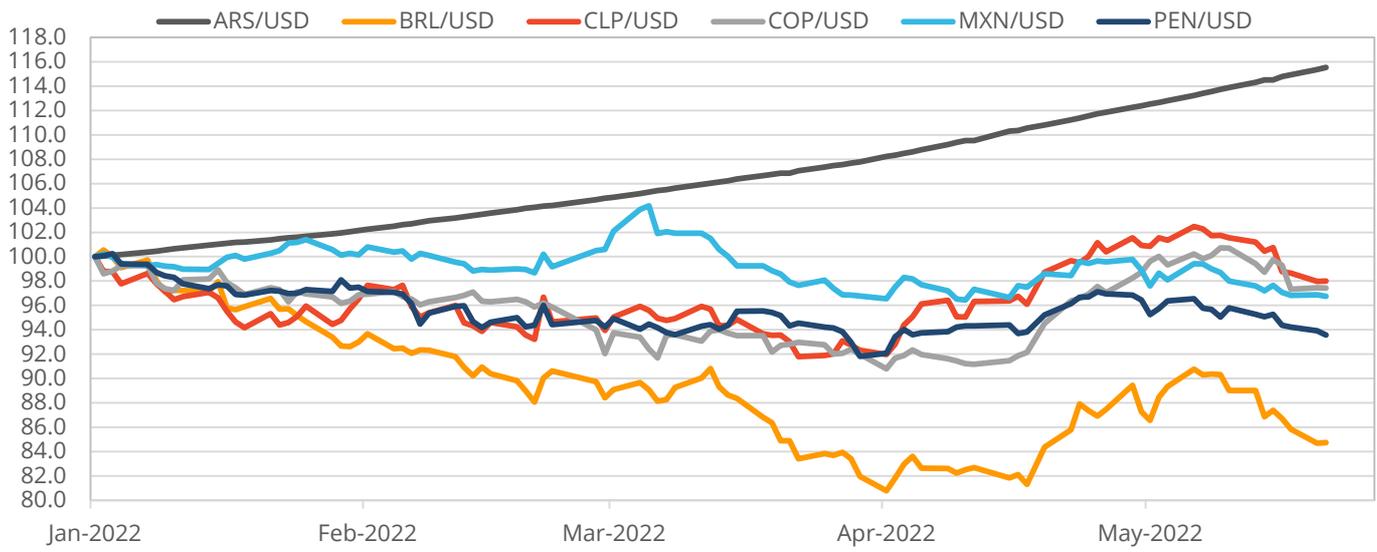
Source: Bloomberg, Bulltick. Note: Total returns include 3m deposit (or comparable) interest gains. Carry gains incorporate interest rate differential with US rates. All FX returns are against USD

As of 05/24/2022



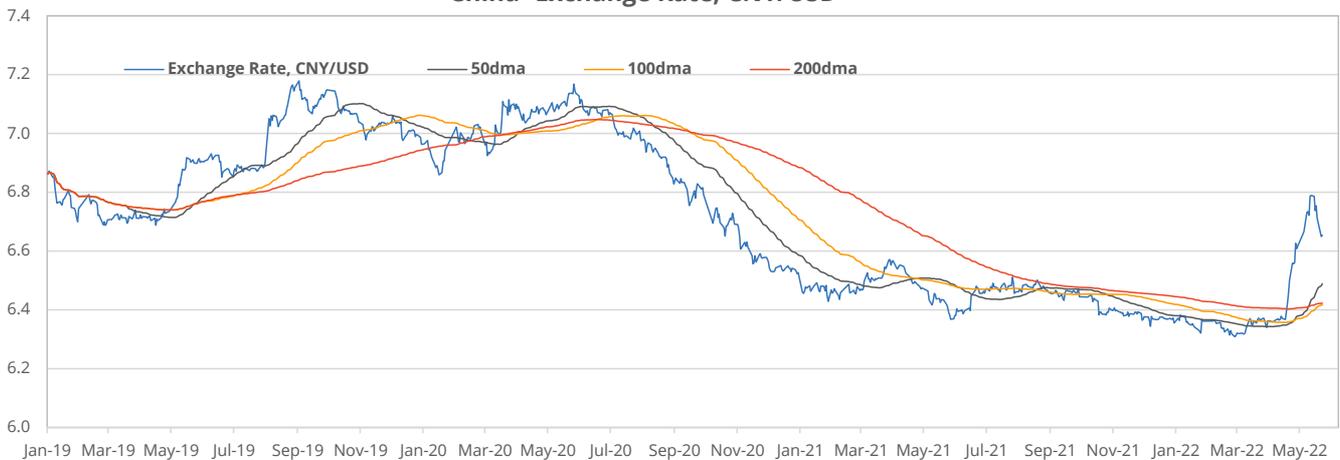
Latin American currencies, with the exception of the managed-depreciation of the Argentine peso, have in general firmed against the dollar over the course of the year, bolstered by strong commodity prices amid high US and global inflation. The BRL has strengthened the most, but we believe it has yet further to run.

### LCY/USD, YTD Normalized (Up Is Depreciation)



The sharp decline in the value of the Chinese yuan was arrested by the PBoC, which changed the foreign currency holding requirements of Chinese banks, reducing demand for hard currency, signaling a willingness to react to a sliding yuan, and ultimately resulting in a bounce in the currency from recent weakness. We expect that a return of the trade strength will support the yuan over the medium term, and barring another major disruption (with Taiwan being an obvious potential flashpoint), that the value of the currency will firm from here to the end of the year.

### China--Exchange Rate, CNY/USD



Source: Bloomberg, Bulltick



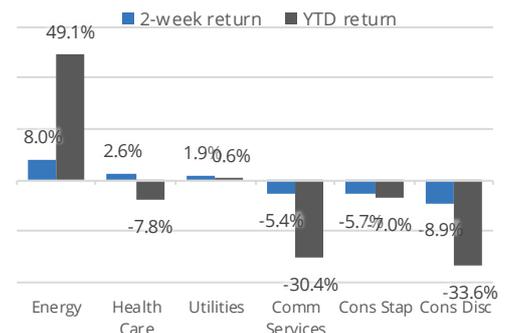
## Equities Strategy:

- The selloff in the S&P 500 has taken valuations to increasingly attractive levels.** However, this doesn't mean these metrics couldn't get even more attractive. The Fed got us here and it is the Fed that will continue to move markets. This time, however, there is no cushion for accommodative policy. The combination of sticky high inflation, hawkish comments, war, oil prices, stagflation and threat of recession, have taken the benchmark US bourse down 18.4% year-to-date, bested in the developed market only by Europe, which is down 19.7%.
- This Fed has a double-barreled tightening requirements** rate hikes and balance sheet draw-down. And inflation rates give no room for anything other than tight policymaking. The markets should not expect rate cuts any time soon. We have been surprised to hear serious market participants even mention this possibility. All to the contrary: balance sheet drawdown will see incremental increases to get to US\$95bn in roll-offs per month and a 75bps rate hike is not off the cards.
- Emerging Markets are starting to catch a bid not for fundamentals improvements but rather because everything has a price** and much of the worst case scenario has already been priced in. Anything better than the worst case scenario would lead to renewed outperformance in this seeking alpha trade. We like LatAm over Asia or Emerging Europe and within LatAm we favor Brazil and Colombia. Within Asia we like China consumer.

### Developed Market Equity Returns



### Select S&P 500 Sectors Returns



### Emerging Market Equity Returns



Asset	Div Yld	Begin 2022 Price	Current Price	Cap Gains (LCY, YTD)	Cap Gains (USD, YTD)	Target 2022	2022 Expected		Total Returns	
							LCY	w/Div	USD	w/Div
S&P 500	1.7%	4,766	3,892	-18.4%	-18.4%	4,700	-1.4%	-0.1%	-1.4%	-0.1%
Euro Stoxx	3.6%	4,298	3,653	-15.0%	-19.7%	4,200	-2.3%	0.5%	1.4%	4.3%
German DAX	3.5%	15,885	13,945	-12.2%	-17.1%	15,500	-2.4%	0.2%	1.3%	4.0%
Nikkei 225	2.2%	28,792	26,748	-7.1%	-15.4%	29,500	2.5%	4.3%	2.6%	4.4%
Shanghai Comp	3.0%	3,640	3,071	-15.6%	-19.4%	4,100	12.6%	15.0%	10.1%	12.4%
MSCI India	1.6%	2,037	1,886	-7.4%	-11.0%	2,250	10.5%	11.7%	6.9%	8.1%
MSCIEM	3.3%	1,232	1,035	-16.0%	-16.0%	1,450	17.7%	20.5%	17.7%	20.5%
MSCI World	2.3%	755	631	-16.3%	-16.3%	775	2.7%	4.5%	2.7%	4.5%
Mexican Bolsa	3.7%	53,272	51,076	-4.1%	-1.0%	56,000	5.1%	7.9%	5.2%	8.0%
Brazilian Bovespa	8.3%	104,822	108,817	3.8%	20.6%	120,000	14.5%	22.1%	22.6%	30.8%
Colombia COLCAP	6.2%	1,411	1,478	4.8%	8.7%	1,400	-0.8%	2.6%	4.9%	8.5%

Source: Bloomberg, Bulltick. Chart returns are in USD, excluding dividends

As of 05/24/2022



SPX valuations have cheapened dramatically after the near bear market the bourse has entered.

**S&P 500 Monthly Forward PE Ratio, Including 60-month moving average**



Japan is outperforming DM peers in recent weeks, with broad Europe underperforming all comparables. The ECB is set to take rates out of negative territory this summer despite lofty recession risks and geopolitical hostility. China, meanwhile, has fallen more than 20% and we see opportunities in the Chinese consumer discretionary sector, particularly for long term portfolios.

**China Cons Discretionary Vs China Broad Index--Comparative Performance (Jan 2019=100)**



Source: Bloomberg, Bulltick



## Alternative Investments

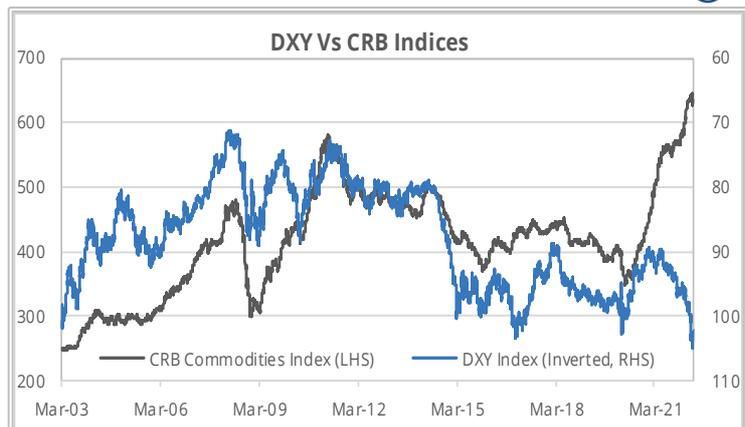
#1

① **Alternative investments should have a relevant position in a client's diversified portfolio**, particularly in times of high correlations between asset classes and global volatility. We like positions in precious metals as we suspect fiat money may find itself in crises and as Bitcoin itself loses its luster - all gold and silver positive.



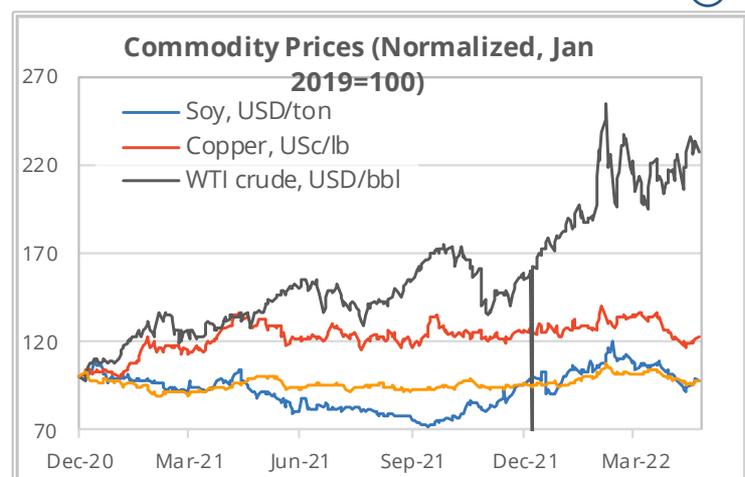
#2

② **Broader commodities face forces of a strengthening USD** in the near-term and economic deceleration in US, China, Europe. Oil prices also face headwinds from additional inventory, investments in production and E&P, investments in alternative energy, as well as economic recession risks.



#3

③ **The European Union is said to be unlikely to approve a ban on Russian oil** when the bloc's leaders meet next week, which would keep oil prices from skyrocketing further (throwing Europe into recession first). The US is likely to move on reserves, with the Biden administration said to consider tapping a diesel fuel reserve to offset a supply crunch. While minimal, the reserves should help avoid spot outages in the Northeast during the summer months (and in the run-up to mid term elections).





# About us & contacts

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