



Monthly Capital Market Monitor January 2023

A business of Marsh McLennan

Monthly Capital Market Monitor

January 2023

Markets upbeat as inflation continues to trend lower

Markets started 2023 on an optimistic note. Equities, bonds and alternatives generally rose. Rates and spreads declined and equity market volatility fell to its lowest level in almost a year.

Positive market sentiment was helped by US CPI inflation falling for the sixth month in a row. It also seems to have peaked in other developed countries. Investors are still hoping for an end to the monetary tightening cycle, even if central banks remain cautious. Consumer confidence also improved over the month, as the University of Michigan consumer sentiment index unexpectedly rose to the highest level since April 2022. Forward-looking purchasing manager indices rose in the US, although remained in contraction territory. In the UK and Eurozone, purchasing manager indices also edged higher, as a sharp decline in natural gas prices raised hopes that Europe will avoid a deep recession. Existing home-sales, car sales and retail sales on the other hand hinted at an ongoing economic slowdown. Additionally, a number of high profile lay-offs were announced by large US companies.

Equity returns were strong on receding inflation and falling interest rates. Fundamentals were otherwise unfavorable. The first month of the 2022Q4 earnings season yielded disappointing results from a number of companies in a quarter that could see its first decrease in earnings since 2020Q3. Analysts still expect low digit positive earnings growth for 2023 as a whole.¹

10-year yields in developed countries fell by 20-30 basis points over the month which led to positive returns for defensive fixed income. Falling credit spreads, especially for high yield, were an additional return boost for credit. Inflation expectations in the US, as measured by the 10-year break-even rate, fell to 2.2%, now slightly below the Federal Reserve's long-term target. Falling yields and thus lower opportunity costs for holding gold were a tailwind for the metal which increased by over 6% during the month.

Downward momentum for the US dollar continued as it weakened against most major developed and emerging market currencies. Investors continued to price in falling US inflation and therefore a slower pace of monetary tightening in the US.

Commodities prices were mixed over the month with oil and some industrial metals slightly higher and wheat lower. The global slowdown is expected to be a headwind for commodities going into 2023. Some of this could be offset by China's reopening, which could lead to stronger demand for commodities.

At a Glance Market Returns in % as of end of January 2023 in USD

	-	
Major Asset Class Returns	1M	1Y
MSCI ACWI	7.2%	-8.0%
S&P 500	6.3%	-8.2%
Russell 2500	10.0%	-2.1%
MSCI EAFE	8.1%	-2.8%
MSCI EM	7.9%	-12.1%
Bloomberg Treasury	2.5%	-8.5%
Bloomberg Credit	3.8%	-9.1%
Bloomberg Credit Long	6.7%	-15.6%
Bloomberg Aggregate	3.1%	-8.4%
Bloomberg US TIPS	1.8%	-8.4%
Bloomberg High Yield	3.8%	-5.2%
FTSE WGBI	3.2%	-13.8%
JPM GBI-EM Global Diversified	4.3%	-7.9%
NAREIT Equity REITs	10.1%	-10.3%
NAREIT Global REITs	9.0%	-12.6%
FTSE Global Core Infrastructure 50/50	2.6%	1.4%
Bloomberg Commodity TR	-0.5%	6.2%

Source: Refinitiv; as of 1/31/23 Past performance is no guarantee of future results

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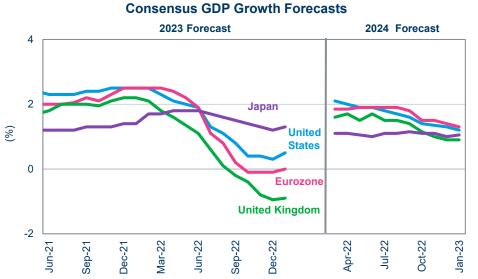
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¹https://insight.factset.com/sp-500-earnings-season-update-january-27-2023?



Economic growth and inflation



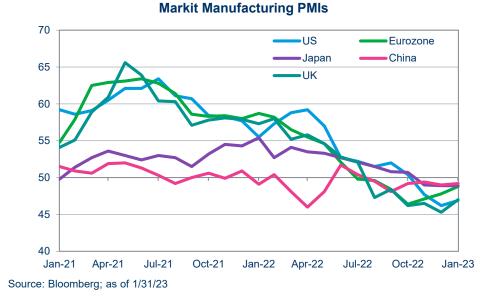
Source: Bloomberg; as of 01/31/23

Month of Forecast

Forecasts provided by third party economists, there can be no guarantee that these forecasts will be accurate.



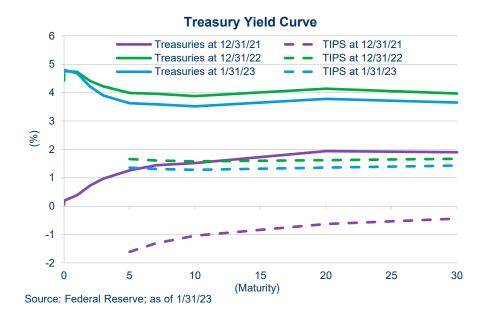
Source: Bloomberg; through 12/31/22

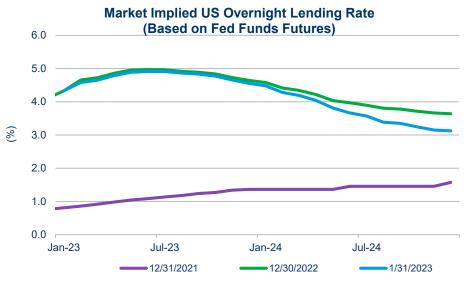


Inflation Breakeven Rate on TIPS 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 (%) 1.5 1.0 5-year 0.5 5-yr / 5 yrs Forward 0.0 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

Source: Bloomberg, Mercer through 1/31/23

Interest rates

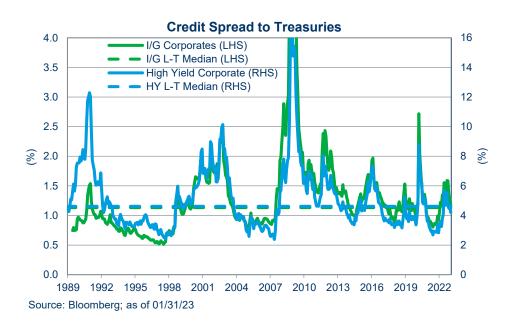




Yield History

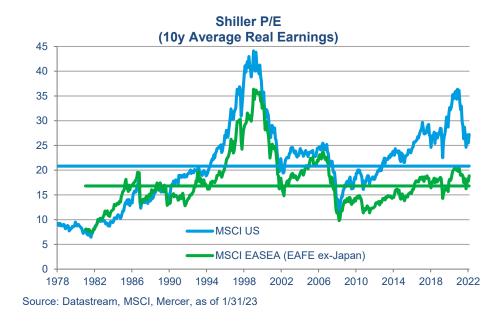


Source: Bloomberg; as of 1/31/23

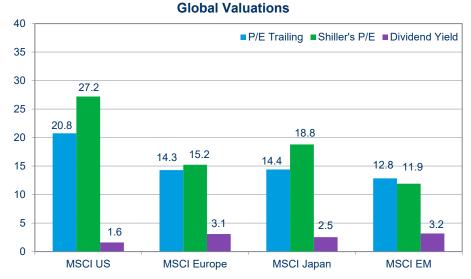


Mercer

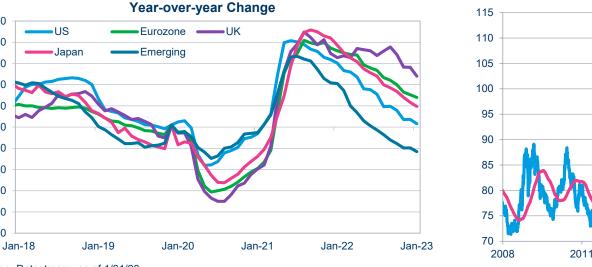
Equities and currencies



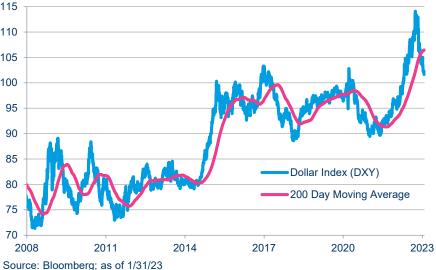
Forward Earnings Estimates



Source: Bloomberg, Datastream, Mercer; as of 1/31/23



US Dollar Index



Source: Datastream; as of 1/31/23

Mercer

50

40

30

20

10

0

-10

-20

-30

-40

-50

Valuations and yields

Ending January 31, 2023

Valuations				
MSCI USA	1/31/2023	12/31/2022	9/30/2022	6/30/2022
Index Level	17989.9	16879.3	15757.5	16534.2
P/E Ratio (Trailing)	20.8	19.4	18.3	18.9
CAPE Ratio	27.2	25.5	24.7	26.6
Dividend Yield	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.7
P/B	4.1	3.9	3.6	3.8
P/CF	13.9	13.0	12.6	14.1
MSCI EAFE	1/31/2023	12/31/2022	9/30/2022	6/30/2022
Index Level	7116.5	6583.4	5610.4	6189.6
P/E Ratio (Trailing)	14.6	13.7	13.0	13.9
CAPE Ratio	14.7	14.7	14.0	15.6
Dividend Yield	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.4
P/B	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6
P/CF	9.0	7.3	5.5	6.4
MSCI EM	1/31/2023	12/31/2022	9/30/2022	6/30/2022
Index Level	524.4	486.1	443.1	501.1
P/E Ratio (Trailing)	12.8	12.2	11.5	12.5
CAPE Ratio	11.9	11.0	10.1	11.6
Dividend Yield	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.1
P/B	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.7
P/CF	8.7	8.2	6.7	7.6

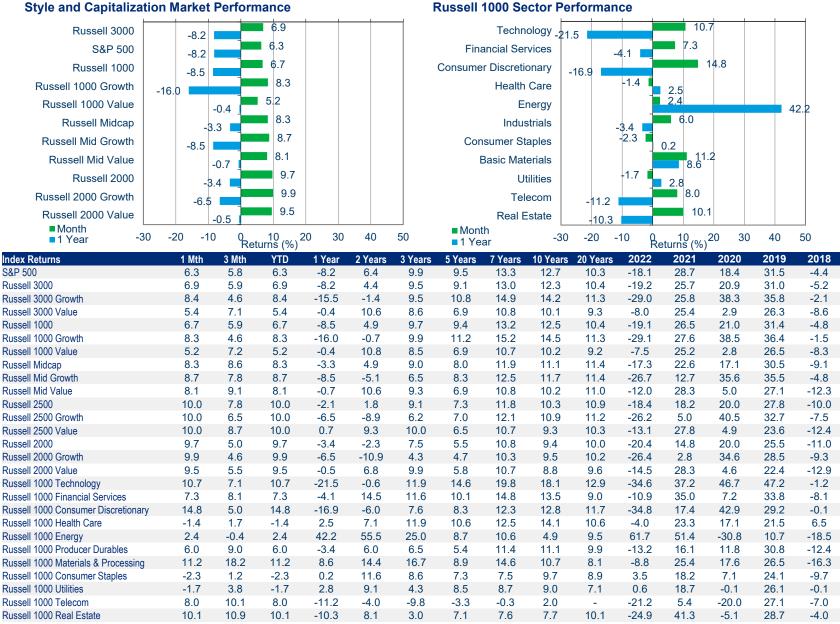
Source: Bloomberg, Thomson Reuters Datastream Past performance is no guarantee of future results

Yields				
Global Bonds	1/31/2023	12/31/2022	9/30/2022	6/30/2022
Germany – 10Y	2.29	2.57	2.11	1.34
France – 10Y	2.75	3.12	2.72	1.92
UK – 10Y	3.33	3.67	4.09	2.23
Switzerland – 10Y	1.28	1.62	1.23	1.07
Italy – 10Y	4.16	4.72	4.52	3.26
Spain – 10Y	3.28	3.66	3.29	2.42
Japan – 10Y	0.50	0.42	0.24	0.23
Euro Corporate	3.95	4.32	4.24	3.24
Euro High Yield	7.52	8.32	9.01	8.08
EMD (\$)	8.11	8.55	9.57	8.56
EMD (LCL)	6.61	6.86	7.31	7.06
US Bonds	1/31/2023	12/31/2022	9/30/2022	6/30/2022
3-Month T-Bill	4.70	4.42	3.33	1.72
10Y Treasury	3.52	3.88	3.83	2.98
30Y Treasury	3.65	3.97	3.79	3.14
10Y TIPS	1.28	1.58	1.68	0.65
30Y TIPS	1.43	1.67	1.74	0.91
US Aggregate	4.30	4.68	4.75	3.72
US Treasury	3.86	4.18	4.13	3.09
US Corporate	4.96	5.42	5.69	4.70
US Corporate High Yield	8.14	8.96	9.68	8.89

Source: Bloomberg, Thomson Reuters Datastream

Mercer

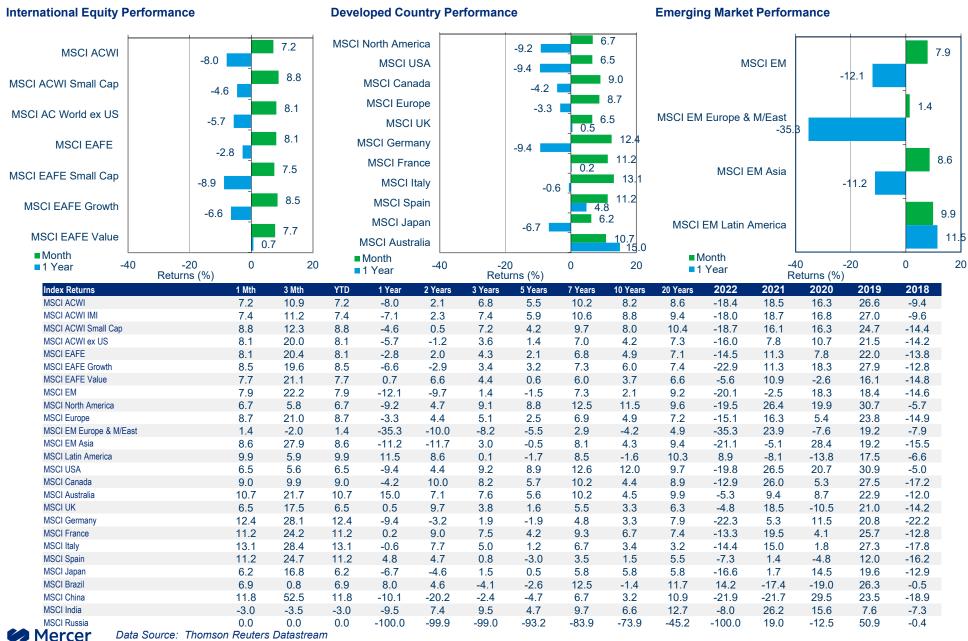
US Equity ending January 31, 2023



Data Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream

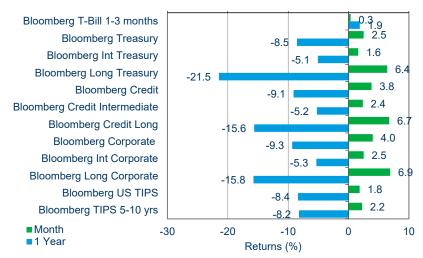


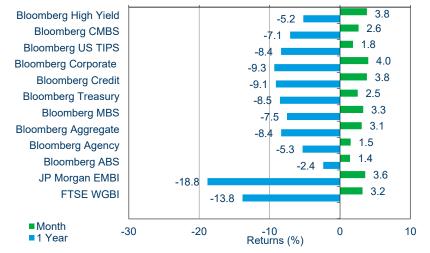
International Equity ending January 31, 2023



Fixed Income ending January 31, 2023

Bond Performance by Duration



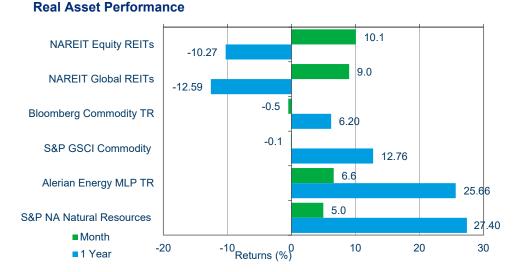


Sector, Credit, and Global Bond Performance

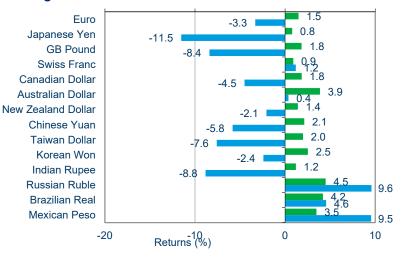
Index Returns	1 Mth	3 Mth	YTD	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	5 Years	7 Years	10 Years	20 Years	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Bloomberg Aggregate	3.1	6.4	3.1	-8.4	-5.7	-2.3	0.9	1.1	1.4	3.3	-13.0	-1.5	7.5	8.7	0.0
Bloomberg Treasury	2.5	4.7	2.5	-8.5	-5.9	-2.6	0.7	0.5	0.9	2.8	-12.5	-2.3	8.0	6.9	0.9
Bloomberg Int Treasury	1.6	3.1	1.6	-5.1	-3.9	-1.3	1.0	0.6	0.9	2.5	-7.8	-1.7	5.8	5.2	1.4
Bloomberg Long Treasury	6.4	12.0	6.4	-21.5	-13.7	-7.5	-0.3	0.0	1.6	4.4	-29.3	-4.6	17.7	14.8	-1.8
Bloomberg Credit	3.8	8.5	3.8	-9.1	-6.2	-2.4	1.4	2.4	2.3	4.2	-15.3	-1.1	9.4	13.8	-2.1
Bloomberg Credit Intermediate	2.4	5.4	2.4	-5.2	-3.9	-0.9	1.7	2.1	2.0	3.8	-9.1	-1.0	7.1	9.5	0.0
Bloomberg Credit Long	6.7	15.0	6.7	-15.6	-10.1	-5.0	0.8	3.4	3.0	5.4	-25.3	-1.2	13.3	23.4	-6.8
Bloomberg Corporate	4.0	8.9	4.0	-9.3	-6.3	-2.4	1.4	2.6	2.4	4.3	-15.8	-1.0	9.9	14.5	-2.5
Bloomberg Int Corporate	2.5	5.7	2.5	-5.3	-3.9	-0.9	1.8	2.2	2.2	3.9	-9.4	-1.0	7.5	10.1	-0.2
Bloomberg Long Corporate	6.9	15.3	6.9	-15.8	-10.1	-4.8	0.8	3.6	3.2	5.4	-25.6	-1.1	13.9	23.9	-7.2
Bloomberg Gov/Credit	3.0	6.2	3.0	-8.7	-6.0	-2.4	1.0	1.4	1.5	3.3	-13.6	-1.7	8.9	9.7	-0.4
Bloomberg US TIPS	1.8	2.6	1.8	-8.4	-2.6	1.1	2.7	2.7	1.4	3.9	-11.8	6.0	11.0	8.4	-1.3
Bloomberg TIPS 5-10 yrs	2.2	3.2	2.2	-8.2	-2.7	1.3	2.9	2.8	1.4	4.0	-11.9	5.8	11.5	8.6	-0.9
Bloomberg T-Bill 1-3 months	0.3	1.0	0.3	1.9	0.9	0.8	1.3	1.1	0.8	1.2	1.5	0.0	0.6	2.2	1.8
Bloomberg ABS	1.4	3.1	1.4	-2.4	-1.7	0.0	1.5	1.4	1.4	2.6	-4.3	-0.3	4.5	4.5	1.8
Bloomberg Agency	1.5	3.0	1.5	-5.3	-3.9	-1.4	1.0	0.9	1.1	2.7	-7.9	-1.3	5.5	5.9	1.3
Bloomberg CMBS	2.6	5.4	2.6	-7.1	-4.9	-1.6	1.5	1.7	1.8	3.8	-10.9	-1.2	8.1	8.3	0.8
Bloomberg MBS	3.3	7.0	3.3	-7.5	-5.1	-2.4	0.3	0.5	1.1	3.0	-11.8	-1.0	3.9	6.4	1.0
Bloomberg Municipal Bond	2.9	8.0	2.9	-3.2	-2.6	-0.4	2.1	1.9	2.4	3.8	-8.5	1.5	5.2	7.5	1.3
Bloomberg High Yield	3.8	5.4	3.8	-5.2	-1.6	1.3	3.0	5.9	4.3	7.3	-11.2	5.3	7.1	14.3	-2.1
FTSE WGBI	3.2	7.7	3.2	-13.8	-10.8	-5.3	-2.2	-0.3	-0.8	2.4	-18.3	-7.0	10.1	5.9	-0.8
JP Morgan EMBI	3.6	12.1	3.6	-18.8	-12.9	-7.9	-3.1	0.0	0.2	5.7	-24.7	-4.5	7.1	-12.6	-5.3
JP GBI-EM Global Div. (local)	4.3	14.1	4.3	-7.9	-7.8	-4.4	-2.5	2.1	-1.7		-11.7	-8.8	2.7	13.5	-6.2

Data Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream

Alternatives ending January 31, 2023



Performance of Foreign Currencies versus the US Dollar



Index Returns	1 Mth	3 Mth	YTD	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	5 Years	7 Years	10 Years	20 Years	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
NAREIT Equity REITs	10.1	10.9	10.1	-10.3	8.1	3.0	7.1	7.6	7.7	10.1	-24.9	41.3	-5.1	28.7	-4.0
NAREIT Global REITs	9.0	13.3	9.0	-12.6	2.8	-1.5	2.4	4.7	4.5	8.5	-24.4	27.2	-8.2	23.1	-4.7
Bloomberg Commodity TR	-0.5	-0.3	-0.5	6.2	19.6	15.4	5.9	6.7	-1.6	1.0	16.1	27.1	-3.1	7.7	-11.2
Goldman Sachs Commodity Indx	-0.1	-3.1	-0.1	12.8	29.7	14.8	5.7	7.8	-3.7	-0.8	26.0	40.4	-23.7	17.6	-13.8
Alerian Energy MLP TR	6.6	2.7	6.6	25.7	36.0	13.9	4.2	7.1	1.4	9.1	30.9	40.2	-28.7	6.6	-12.4
Oil	-1.7	-8.9	-1.7	-10.5	22.9	15.2	4.0	13.0	-2.1	4.4	6.7	55.0	-20.5	34.5	-24.8
Gold	6.5	18.6	6.5	8.3	2.5	7.0	7.7	8.3	1.6	8.7	-0.1	-3.5	24.4	18.9	-2.1
S&P NA Natural Resources	5.0	4.5	5.0	27.4	39.5	20.3	7.7	10.9	4.0	8.7	34.1	39.9	-19.0	17.6	-21.1
JPM Emerging Markets FX INDEX	2.7	5.1	2.7	-3.9	-5.2	-5.0	-6.5	-3.3	-6.1	-	-5.1	-9.2	-5.7	-2.0	-10.0
Euro	1.5	9.9	1.5	-3.3	-5.4	-0.7	-2.6	0.0	-2.2	0.0	-5.9	-6.9	8.9	-2.3	-4.4
Japanese Yen	0.8	14.3	0.8	-11.5	-10.3	-5.9	-3.4	-1.0	-3.5	-0.4	-12.2	-10.3	5.2	0.9	2.8
GB Pound	1.8	7.4	1.8	-8.4	-5.2	-2.3	-2.8	-2.1	-2.5	-1.4	-10.6	-1.1	3.1	3.9	-5.6
Swiss Franc	0.9	9.3	0.9	1.2	-1.4	1.7	0.3	1.6	-0.1	2.0	-1.3	-3.0	9.3	1.4	-0.7
Canadian Dollar	1.8	2.4	1.8	-4.5	-2.0	-0.2	-1.5	0.7	-2.8	0.7	-6.8	0.8	2.0	5.0	-7.8
Australian Dollar	3.9	9.6	3.9	0.4	-4.1	1.5	-2.7	-0.1	-3.8	0.9	-6.6	-5.8	9.9	-0.7	-9.5
New Zealand Dollar	1.4	10.7	1.4	-2.1	-5.4	-0.1	-2.6	-0.1	-2.6	0.8	-7.0	-5.0	6.6	0.3	-5.2
Chinese Yuan	2.1	8.1	2.1	-5.8	-2.5	0.9	-1.4	-0.4	-0.8	1.0	-7.9	2.7	6.7	-1.2	-5.4
Taiwan Dollar	2.0	7.3	2.0	-7.6	-3.5	0.3	-0.6	1.6	-0.2	0.7	-9.6	1.3	6.5	2.2	-3.0
Korean Won	2.5	15.7	2.5	-2.4	-4.6	-1.2	-2.7	-0.3	-1.3	-0.2	-6.0	-8.7	5.7	-3.3	-4.3
Indian Rupee	1.2	1.2	1.2	-8.8	-5.6	-4.3	-4.9	-2.6	-4.2	-2.6	-10.0	-1.9	-2.3	-2.5	-8.2
Russian Ruble	4.5	-12.1	4.5	9.6	3.6	-3.2	-4.4	1.0	-8.2	-3.9	1.4	-1.0	-16.3	12.6	-17.3
Brazilian Real	4.2	2.1	4.2	4.6	3.8	-5.5	-8.9	-3.3	-8.9	-1.8	5.4	-6.8	-22.6	-3.4	-14.7
Mexican Peso	3.5	5.2	3.5	9.5	4.6	0.0	-0.2	-0.6	-3.9	-2.7	5.2	-3.0	-4.8	3.8	0.0
BofA ML All Convertibles	5.8	4.1	5.8	-8.0	-5.8	9.2	9.9	12.0	10.2	8.9	-18.7	6.3	46.2	23.2	0.2
60%S&P 500/40% Barc Agg	-3.6	5.4	-15.8	-15.8	-1.2	3.8	5.8	7.2	7.8	7.0	15.9	14.6	21.7	-2.7	13.8
Data Source: Thomson Bouters	Detectroom														

Month

1 Year

Data Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream



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