Equity Strategy | Global 25 June 2014

If you fear inflation...

The tale of the tape

Excess cash and liquidity are driving asset prices up across the board; zero or negative interest rates are driving big carry-trade outperformance; disappointing data is driving modest outperformance of large cap defensives versus small cap cyclicals.

Buy vol as summer ends

The 2014 risk asset rally started back in February and is incomplete; wait for lower cash levels, lower corporate bond prices and a breach of the magic "8" figure by our Bull & Bear index before buying vol toward the end of summer.

Inflation expectations rising

Our June FMS showed inflation expectations at their highest level since May 2011 and TIPS are outperforming bonds as investors worry about the secular impact of zero rates. The 1970s shows that inflation favors real estate, commodities, value stocks and small cap, and punishes bonds and growth stocks.

Inflation is the contrarian secular trade

The BofAML house view is that inflation will not rise meaningfully in coming years thanks to labor market slack. Contrarian secular investors that beg to differ would be selling bonds and buying deep value in banks and Japanese stocks.

Chart 1: Banks love Inflation



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Investment Strategy, Global Financial Data, Bloomberg

Bank of America Merrill Lynch

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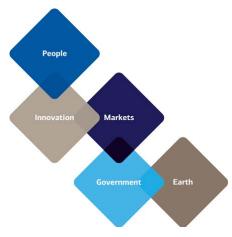
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A Transforming World: Investment Themes



This report is an extract of a report of the same name published 26 June 2014

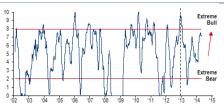
25 June 2014

Table 1: Asset Returns in 2013 and YTD

	2013	YTD
Global Equities	24.4%	6.1%
US	34.9%	6.5%
Europe	26.0%	6.4%
UK	20.9%	5.0%
Japan	26.8%	0.5%
Pacific Rim ex-Japan	5.2%	6.8%
Emerging Markets	-2.3%	6.0%
Frontier Markets	26.6%	19.5%
Global Fixed Income	-2.2%	4.2%
Government	-4.5%	4.1%
US Treasuries	-3.5%	2.8%
Investment Grade Corporate	0.0%	4.9%
High Yield Corporate	8.0%	5.8%
EM Corporate Debt	-0.5%	6.0%
Collateralized Debt	0.4%	3.5%
Commodities	-1.9%	5.7%
Energy	7.9%	6.0%
Industrial Metals	-12.2%	0.5%
Gold	-27.8%	9.8%
Agriculture	-15.4%	6.7%
US Dollar	6.5%	-0.3%

Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Investment, Bloomberg

Chart 3: Bull & Bear Index



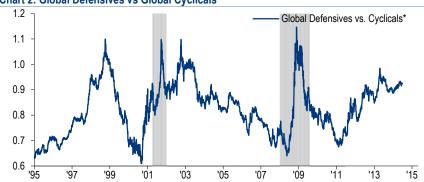
Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Investment

If you fear inflation...

The 2014 scores on the doors: stocks are up 6.1%, with the gains spreads across all regions, with the notable exception of Japan; commodities are up 5.7%, led by precious metals; and global bond returns are lagging very slightly with gains of 4.2% (Table 1).

The 2014 tale of the tape: excess cash and liquidity are driving asset prices up across the board; zero or negative interest rates are driving carry-trade outperformance (e.g. EM debt leads the way in fixed income, the high yielding Utility sector leads the way in equities); and while range-bound economic growth has been a much less decisive driver than record low interest rates, disappointing data is driving modest outperformance of defensives versus cyclicals, a continuation of the trend since 2011 (albeit a similar trend to the 1995-1999 prelude to the tech bubble - Chart 2).

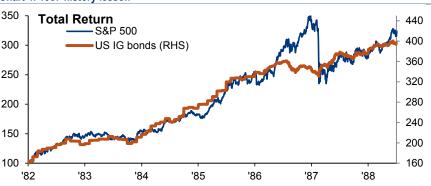
Chart 2: Global Defensives vs Global Cyclicals



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Investment Strategy, MSCI * Cyclicals = materials, industrials, tech & cons disc Defensives = healthcare, staples, utilities & telcos

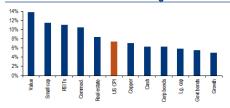
The 2014 risk asset rally started back in February and is incomplete; wait for lower cash levels, lower corporate bond prices and a breach of the magic "8" figure by our Bull & Bear index (Chart 3 –currently at 7.2, below "Greed" level of 8), before buying vol toward the end of summer. Watch credit prices and bank stocks as early warning signals. High yield bond prices rose to new all-time highs this week, but were the "tell" in the run-up to the 1987 crash (Chart 4). Bank stocks are modestly underperforming, but are up in absolute terms YTD.

Chart 4: 1987 history lesson



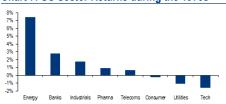
Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Investment, Bloomberg

Chart 6: US Asset Returns during the 1970s



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Investment, Global Financial Data

Chart 7: US Sector Returns during the 1970s



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Investment, Global Financial Data

Within the bond markets, one of the guiet outperformers has been TIPS, up 5.9% this year, which tend to outperform when investors anticipate higher inflation. This seems incongruous with a backdrop of negative GDP prints (US Q1 GDP fell 2.9%) and falling government bond yields. But to paraphrase Minsky, there is nothing more inflationary than a whiff of deflation. Inflation remains far, far from the giddy heights of the early 1980s when inflation rates rose to 14.8% in the US, 21.9% in the UK, 14.0% in France, and 8.7% in Japan. Then again, today's inflation rates have surprised to the upside this year and are above the deflationary rates of -2.1% in the US, -1.6% in the UK, -0.7% in France, -2.5% in Japan printed in 2009 (Chart 5 shows US inflation since 1900).

Chart 5: The US Inflation Rate since 1900 (shown as a 5-year moving average)



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Investment, Global Financial Data

The successful War against Inflation waged by Thatcher/Reagan/Volker et al in the early-1980s was the catalyst for the Great Bull Market in stocks between 1981 and 1999 and the Great Bear Market in bonds between 1981 and 2013. Similarly the successful War against Deflation launched by Bernanke/King et al in 2009 has been the catalyst for the rampant asset price inflation in both corporate bonds and equities of the past 5 years. Should inflation remain low and stable in coming years we think the likelihood of an extended bull market will improve. In contrast, a jump in inflation would be the most obvious catalyst to disrupt the benign backdrop of low rates and high profits that currently persists.

Ethan Harris and the economic team outlook for inflation is very benign. They forecast annual CPI inflation to be 2.1% in 2014, 2.0% in 2015, and 2.2% in 2016. We tend to concur that today's recovery remains deflationary thanks to low wage growth across the world and a major technological disruption that threatens to keep wage growth low for many years to come.

But investor inflation expectations have recently moved higher. Our June FMS showed inflation expectations at their highest level since May 2011 and TIPS are outperforming bonds as investors worry about the secular impact of zero rates. We think the 1970s (a decade of protracted inflation, monetary instability, and spikes in oil prices) offer the best historical example as to which inflation assets do well.

- Winners: real estate, commodities, small-cap stocks, value stocks, the energy sector and REITS
- Losers: bonds, large-cap stocks, growth stocks, and tech & utilities stocks (see Chart 4 & 5)

The BofAML house view is that inflation will not rise meaningfully in coming years thanks to labor market slack. Contrarian secular investors that beg to differ would be selling bonds and buying banks and Japanese stocks. Bonds have been the biggest winner over the last 30 years of disinflation (Chart 8).

Chart 8: Sell Bonds



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Investment, Global Financial Data

In contrast, bank stocks have done poorly over the same period of declining nominal activity. Indeed, the relative performance of banks is close to its lowest level since World War 2. Note the last period of extended outperformance by bank stocks was between 1966 and 1978, a period of rising inflation, high nominal GDP growth and great monetary instability.

Chart 9: Buy Banks



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Investment, Global Financial Data

The secular contrarian worried about inflation would also be buying the Japanese stock market. Deflation has crippled the performance of Japan since 1990. Higher inflation, particularly in combination with higher land prices in Japan, would be positive for Japanese equities.

Chart 10: Buy Japan



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Investment, MSCI



Asset allocation and positioning

Table 2: Asset allocation

Asset class	Core view (3-6 months)	Action	Benchmark
Equities	Bullish		MXWD
North America	Bullish	YE'14 S&P 500 target is 2000; OW tech, energy & industrials; UW discretionary, utilities, & telecom	MXNA
Europe	Neutral	Expect macro slowdown; OW low-beta/high quality/high growth; defensives over cyclicals	MXEU
UK	Neutral		MXGB
Japan	Bullish	2015/04 forecast 1,420 for TPX, & 17,500 for NKY; bullish capital good stocks on US capex pick-up	MXJP
Pacific Rim	Bearish	OW Australia, Taiwan & Indonesia; UW Philippines, Malaysia Thailand & Hong Kong	MXPCJ
EM Equities	Bearish	OW Russia, South Africa, India, Brazil, UW: Mexico, Poland, Chile	MXEF
Fixed Income	Bearish		GFIM
Government	Bearish	10y expected to end 2014 at 3.50%; Short duration bias	W0G1
Quasi Sovereign	Bearish		G0LQ
Investment Grade	Bearish	Prefer HY to IG; within IG, OW utilities; UW REITs	G0LC
High Yield	Bullish	EU over US credit; hedge US HY downside risk with total return swap;	HW00
EM debt	Bearish	EM Sovereigns: OW Argentina, Venezuela & Russia; UW Turkey & Ukraine	IM00
Collateralized Debt	Bearish		G0LL
Commodities	Bearish		
Energy	Bearish	2014 forecast: Brent crude to average \$106/bbl and WTI to average \$94/bbl; slightly bearish bias	
Industrial Metals	Neutral	Downward revisions to 2014 forecast:: Copper to avg \$6,821/t	
Precious Metals	Bearish	Gold to underperform platinum and silver	
Agriculture	Neutral		
Cash	Bearish		G0B1

Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Investment Strategy

How to implement our Asset Allocation

We rank our core views as Bullish (OW), Neutral (N) or Bearish (UW). Our recommendations are benchmark independent. Absolute return investors may wish to treat OW recommendations as longs and UW recommendations as shorts. Meanwhile those with a benchmark may wish to treat our recommendations as tilts against their own strategic benchmark, and according to any single asset class limits they may have. For most benchmarked investors, an UW is unlikely to translate to a zero, or negative weight in an asset class, and an OW is unlikely to imply any leverage.

BofAML versus consensus in 2014

Table 3: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Research forecasts versus consensus

Table 3: Both Merrill Lynch Global Res	•				
Asset Class	Latest	2014 BAML Forecast	2014 Consensus Forecast		
Economics (Latest value is most recent YoY					
Global GDP	NA	3.2%	NA		
US GDP	1.5%	2.0%	2.2%		
Euro area GDP	0.9%	1.1%	1.1%		
EM GDP	NA	4.5%	NA		
China GDP	7.4%	7.2%	7.4%		
US Home Prices	10.8%	5.0%	NA		
Equities					
MSCI ACWI	427	444	NA		
S&P 500	1960	2000	1950		
S&P 500 EPS	NA	\$118	\$117		
Stoxx 600	342	n/a	360		
Euro Stoxx 50	3,252	n/a	3,300		
FTSE	6,734	n/a	NA		
DAX	9,868	n/a	NA		
TOPIX	1261	1420	1450		
Credit (Latest value is current spread, forecas	st is total return for 2014)				
US IG	106bp	1.5%	NA		
US HY	337bp	4 - 5%	NA		
EU IG	98bp	1.5 - 2%	NA		
EU HY	300bp	4 - 4.5%	NA		
Commodities (Forecasts are period averages	· 5)				
Brent Crude Oil	\$109/bbl	\$106/bbl	\$108/bbl		
WTI Crude Oil	\$107/bbl	\$94/bbl	\$100/bbl		
Gold	\$1,319/oz	\$1,298/oz	\$1,260/oz		
Copper	\$6,919/t	\$6,821/t	\$6,890/t		
Currencies					
EUR-USD	1.36	1.30	1.31		
USD-JPY	102	108	106		
USD-CNY	6.23	6.10	6.15		
AUD-USD	0.94	0.88	0.90		
USD-BRL	2.21	2.50	2.40		
Rates					
2 year UST	0.48%	0.65%	0.74%		
2 year Bund	0.03%	0.13%	0.17%		
2 year Gilt	0.82%	0.90%	1.40%		
2 year JGB	0.09%	0.07%	0.12%		
10 year UST	2.56%	3.10%	3.11%		
10 year Bund	1.26%	1.72%	1.74%		
10 year Gilt	2.65%	3.50%	3.22%		
10 year JGB	0.57%	0.65%	0.78%		
Fed Funds Rate	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%		

Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Research, Bloomberg



The Prop Desk: Rules & Tools

Our longer-term sentiment indicators, including the Global Wave and Sell-Side Indicator are bullish on equities on a 12-month view.

Table 4: BofA Merrill Lynch Rules and Tools

Proprietary indicators	Current signal	Current reading	Duration of signal
Short-term	, and the second second		
BofAML Global FMS Cash Indicator	Buy	4.5%	4 weeks
Buy when cash at or above 4.5%; Sell when cash at or below 3.5%			
BofAML Global Flow Trading Rule	Neutral	-0.2%	4 weeks
Buy when outflows from global LO equities > 0.9% AUM over 5wks; Sell when inflows > 0.5% AUM over 5wks			
BofAML EM Flow Trading Rule	Neutral	0.46%	4 weeks
Buy when outflows from EM equities > 3.0% of AUM over 4 wks; Sell when inflows > 1.5% of AUM over 4 wks			
BofAML Global Breadth Rule	Neutral	-64%	4-5 weeks
Buy when net 88% of markets in MSCI ACWI trading below 200-day moving & 50-day moving averages			
BofAML Model for Duration through Econ Scoring (MODES)	Short	-1.4	4 weeks
Increase duration when index closer to +10 (max long); decrease when index closer to -10 (max short)			
BofAML Bull & Bear Index (B&B)	Neutral	7.2	1-3 months
Sell when investor sentiment > 8.0; Buy when investor sentiment < 2.0			
GFSI Critical Stress Signal	Off	-	1-3 months
A binary "Risk-Off" signal that tells us when risk of contagion is high and it's prudent to hedge			
Long-term Cong-term			
BofAML Sell-Side Indicator	Bullish	51.3	12 months
Contrarian bullish signal when indicator <54			
BofAML Global Wave	Bullish	Rising	12 months
Rullish when indicator troughs		· · ·	

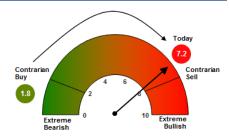
Bullish when indicator troughs

Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Investment Strategy

BofAML Bull & Bear Index (B&B)

Bull & Bear Index rose to 7.2 this week from 7.1 last week. The Index is still close to the "Greed" signal of >8.0, but still suggests that the current market rally has some room to run.

Chart 11: B&B Index (scale from 0 to 10)



Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Investment Strategy

Chart 12: BofAML Global Financial Stress Index

3.0
2.5
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0
0.7
07
08
09
10
11
11
12
13
14
15

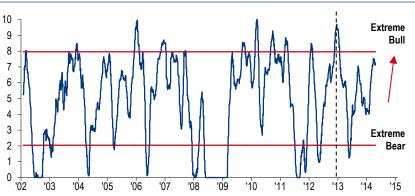
Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Research

Table 5: Components of BofAML Bull/Bear Index

Components	Percentile	Sentiment			
Credit market technicals	97%	V Bullish			
HF positioning	89%	V Bullish			
Equity market breadth	67%	Bullish			
Bond flows	57%	Neutral			
LO positioning	53%	Neutral			
Equity flows	51%	Neutral			

Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Investment Strategy, Bloomberg, EPFR Global, Lipper FMI, Global FMS, CFTC, MSCI

Chart 13: Bull & Bear Index



 $Source: BofA\ Merrill\ Lynch\ Global\ Investment\ Strategy,\ Bloomberg,\ EPFR\ Global,\ Lipper\ FMI,\ Global\ FMS,\ CFTC,\ MSCI$



Winners & losers

Past week		Past month		Past three months		Year to date		Past year	
1 Russia Equities	5.7%	1 Russia Equities	6.1%	1 Turkey Equities	30.8%	1 Greece Govt Bonds	28.3%	1 Greece Govt Bonds	88.3%
2 Russia Govt Bonds	4.4%	2 Japan Equities	5.7%	2 Russia Equities	20.9%	2 Turkey Equities	21.1%	2 Greece Equities	72.5%
3 S. Africa Govt Bonds	3.6%	3 Spain Equities	3.8%	3 Brazil Equities	16.5%	3 India Equities	21.0%	3 Spain Equities	62.7%
4 S. Africa Equities	2.9%	4 Greece Equities	3.5%	4 Turkey Govt Bonds	16.4%	4 Israel Equities	20.9%	4 Italy Equities	55.0%
5 Japan Equities	2.5%	5 Russia Govt Bonds	3.0%	5 India Equities	15.6%	5 Indonesia Equities	20.2%	5 Ireland Equities	43.7%
6 Turkey Equities	2.1%	6 Canada Equities	2.9%	6 Spain Equities	12.8%	6 Italy Equities	16.8%	6 S. Africa Equities	35.0%
7 Greece Govt Bonds	2.0%	7 Portugal Equities	2.9%	7 Russia Govt Bonds	10.6%	7 Brazil Govt Bonds	15.0%	7 France Equities	34.9%
8 Brazil Govt Bonds	1.8%	8 Taiwan Equities	2.8%	8 Korea Equities	10.4%	8 Portugal Govt Bonds	14.4%	8 Germany Equities	34.2%
9 Turkey Govt Bonds	1.5%	9 US Equities	2.8%	9 Taiwan Equities	10.4%	•		9 India Equities	33.6%
10 Brazil Equities	1.4%	10 Greece Govt Bonds	2.6%	10 Japan Equities		10 Brazil Equities		10 Israel Equities	32.1%
11 Mexico Equities	1.4%	11 Brazil Equities	2.4%	11 Brazil Govt Bonds		11 Turkey Govt Bonds		11 Korea Equities	30.9%
12 Israel Equities		12 Australia Govt Bonds	2.3%	12 S. Africa Equities		12 Portugal Equities		12 Switzerland Equities	29.1%
13 Spain Equities		13 Global Equity Index		13 Canada Equities		13 S. Africa Equities		13 Portugal Govt Bonds	28.6%
14 Canada Govt Bonds		14 Korea Govt Bonds		14 Singapore Equities		14 India Govt Bonds		14 Portugal Equities	28.4%
15 Mexico Govt Bonds		15 Brazil Govt Bonds		15 Mexico Equities		15 Canada Equities		15 UK Equities	28.4%
16 France Govt Bonds		16 Ireland Govt Bonds		16 Korea Govt Bonds		16 Australia Govt Bonds		16 Poland Equities	28.0%
17 Australia Equities		17 China Equities		17 Hong Kong Equities		17 Taiwan Equities		17 Canada Equities	27.3%
18 Korea Govt Bonds		18 Italy Equities		18 China Equities		18 Australia Equities		18 US Equities	27.0%
19 Australia Govt Bonds		19 China Govt Bonds		19 UK Equities		19 Indonesia Govt Bonds		19 Global Equity Index	26.6%
20 Switzerland Govt Bonds		20 China IG Corp Bonds		20 Global Equity Index		20 Spain Govt Bonds		20 Taiwan Equities	24.8%
21 Italy Govt Bonds		21 Canada Govt Bonds		21 Italy Equities		21 Mexico Govt Bonds		21 Australia Equities	22.8%
22 Spain Govt Bonds		22 Mexico Equities		22 Australia Govt Bonds		22 Switzerland Equities		22 Spain Govt Bonds	22.2%
23 Germany Govt Bonds		23 India Equities		23 Greece Govt Bonds		23 Korea Govt Bonds		23 Brazil Equities	21.8%
24 Ireland Govt Bonds		24 US HY Corp Bonds		24 Mexico Govt Bonds		24 Greece Equities		24 Korea Govt Bonds	21.3%
25 Switzerland Equities		25 Spain Govt Bonds		25 Canada Govt Bonds		25 Italy Govt Bonds		25 China Equities	20.8%
26 Global Equity Index		26 Israel Equities		26 Australia Equities		26 Ireland Govt Bonds		26 Italy Govt Bonds	20.2%
27 Canada Equities		27 Italy Govt Bonds		27 Switzerland Equities		27 France Equities		27 Mexico Equities	20.1%
28 US IG Corp Bonds		28 Poland Govt Bonds		28 Israel Equities		28 US Equities		28 Ireland Govt Bonds	20.1%
29 Portugal Govt Bonds		29 Portugal Govt Bonds		29 Germany Equities		29 Global Equity Index		29 Hong Kong Equities	19.7%
30 Germany Equities		30 Mexico Govt Bonds		30 US Equities		30 US HY Corp Bonds		30 Poland Govt Bonds	17.3%
31 Poland Govt Bonds		31 UK Equities		31 S. Africa Govt Bonds		31 UK Govt Bonds		31 Russia Equities	16.9%
32 US Equities		32 France Govt Bonds		32 France Equities		32 US IG Corp Bonds		32 Singapore Equities	14.6%
33 Global Govt Bond Index		33 UK Govt Bonds		33 India Govt Bonds		33 Ireland Equities		33 Brazil Govt Bonds	13.9%
34 Taiwan Equities		34 US IG Corp Bonds		34 Poland Equities		34 UK Equities		34 Mexico Govt Bonds	13.6%
35 US Govt Bonds		35 Germany Equities		35 China Govt Bonds		35 Singapore Equities		35 UK Govt Bonds	13.5%
36 Singapore Govt Bonds		36 Global Govt Bond Index		36 China IG Corp Bonds		36 Japan Govt Bonds		36 US HY Corp Bonds	13.0%
				37 UK Govt Bonds		37 France Govt Bonds		37 Japan Equities	12.6%
37 US HY Corp Bonds 38 UK Equities		37 Singapore Govt Bonds 38 Poland Equities		38 Portugal Equities		38 Poland Equities		38 France Govt Bonds	11.7%
•		·		• .					8.5%
39 UK Govt Bonds		39 S. Africa Equities 40 Switzerland Govt Bonds		39 Poland Govt Bonds 40 Ireland Govt Bonds		39 Global Govt Bond Index		39 US IG Corp Bonds	8.4%
40 China IG Corp Bonds			1 1 1 1			40 China IG Corp Bonds		40 Switzerland Govt Bonds	8.3%
41 Singapore Equities 42 China Govt Bonds		41 Germany Govt Bonds 42 France Equities		41 US HY Corp Bonds		41 Japan IG Corp Bonds 42 Poland Govt Bonds		41 Germany Govt Bonds 42 Australia Govt Bonds	7.4%
43 Hong Kong Govt Bonds				42 US IG Corp Bonds 43 Spain Govt Bonds				43 Singapore Govt Bonds	6.6%
		43 Japan Govt Bonds				43 Korea Equities		• .	6.5%
44 Japan IG Corp Bonds		44 Australia Equities		44 Portugal Govt Bonds		44 China Govt Bonds		44 Turkey Equities	
45 Japan Govt Bonds		45 Japan IG Corp Bonds		45 Singapore Govt Bonds		45 Germany Govt Bonds		45 Global Govt Bond Index	5.6% 3.2%
46 Korea Equities		46 Singapore Equities		46 Italy Govt Bonds		46 Switzerland Govt Bonds		46 S. Africa Govt Bonds	
47 France Equities		47 Hong Kong Equities		47 France Govt Bonds		47 Singapore Govt Bonds		47 Russia Govt Bonds	2.4%
48 Poland Equities		48 Hong Kong Govt Bonds		48 Global Govt Bond Index		48 US Govt Bonds		48 China IG Corp Bonds	2.3%
49 India Govt Bonds		49 US Govt Bonds		49 US Govt Bonds		49 Hong Kong Equities		49 US Govt Bonds	2.3%
50 Hong Kong Equities		50 Korea Equities		50 Hong Kong Govt Bonds		50 S. Africa Govt Bonds		50 India Govt Bonds	1.8%
51 India Equities		51 Switzerland Equities		51 Indonesia Equities		51 Germany Equities		51 Hong Kong Govt Bonds	1.7%
52 Indonesia Govt Bonds		52 Turkey Govt Bonds		52 Japan Govt Bonds		52 Canada Govt Bonds		52 Turkey Govt Bonds	1.3%
53 Portugal Equities		53 India Govt Bonds		53 Japan IG Corp Bonds		53 Hong Kong Govt Bonds		53 Canada Govt Bonds	1.3%
54 China Equities		54 Turkey Equities		54 Germany Govt Bonds		54 Mexico Equities		54 China Govt Bonds	0.6%
55 Greece Equities		55 S. Africa Govt Bonds		55 Switzerland Govt Bonds		55 Japan Equities		55 Japan Govt Bonds	-1.3%
56 Italy Equities		56 Indonesia Govt Bonds		56 Indonesia Govt Bonds		56 Russia Equities		56 Japan IG Corp Bonds	-2.7%
57 Indonesia Equities		57 Ireland Equities		57 Ireland Equities		57 China Equities		57 Indonesia Equities	-2.9%
58 Ireland Equities	-3.4%	58 Indonesia Equities	-6.2%	58 Greece Equities	-9.1%	58 Russia Govt Bonds	-2.7%	58 Indonesia Govt Bonds	-15.7%

Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Investment Strategy, Bloomberg



Link to Definitions

Macro

Click <u>here</u> for definitions of commonly used terms.



Important Disclosures

FUNDAMENTAL EQUITY OPINION KEY: Opinions include a Volatility Risk Rating, an Investment Rating and an Income Rating. VOLATILITY RISK RATINGS, indicators of potential price fluctuation, are: A - Low, B - Medium and C - High. INVESTMENT RATINGS reflect the analyst's assessment of a stock's: (i) absolute total return potential and (ii) attractiveness for investment relative to other stocks within its Coverage Cluster (defined below). There are three investment ratings: 1 - Buy stocks are expected to have a total return of at least 10% and are the most attractive stocks in the coverage cluster; 2 - Neutral stocks are expected to remain flat or increase in value and are less attractive than Buy rated stocks and 3 - Underperform stocks are the least attractive stocks in a coverage cluster. Analysts assign investment ratings considering, among other things, the 0-12 month total return expectation for a stock and the firm's guidelines for ratings dispersions (shown in the table below). The current price objective for a stock should be referenced to better understand the total return expectation at any given time. The price objective reflects the analyst's view of the potential price appreciation (depreciation).

Investment rating Total return expectation (within 12-month period of date of initial rating) Ratings dispersion guidelines for coverage cluster*

Buy	≥ 10%	≤ 70%
Neutral	≥ 0%	≤ 30%
Underperform	N/A	≥ 20%

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