

# Economic and Market Update

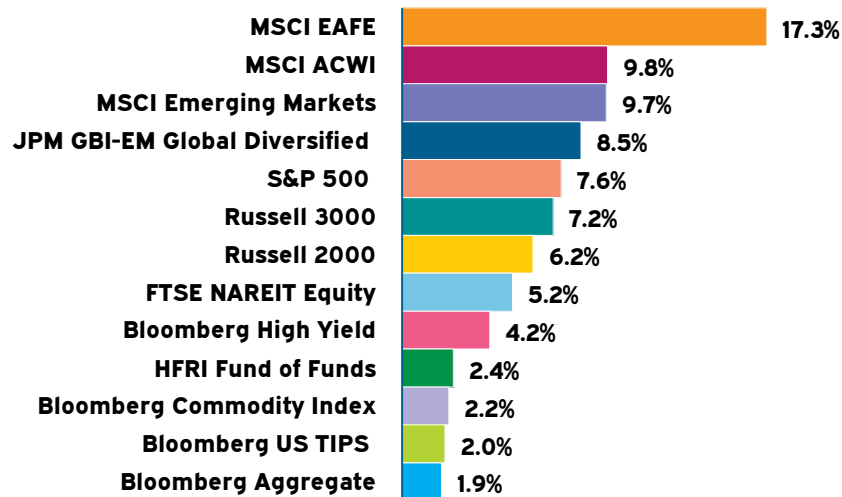
December 2022 Report

### Commentary

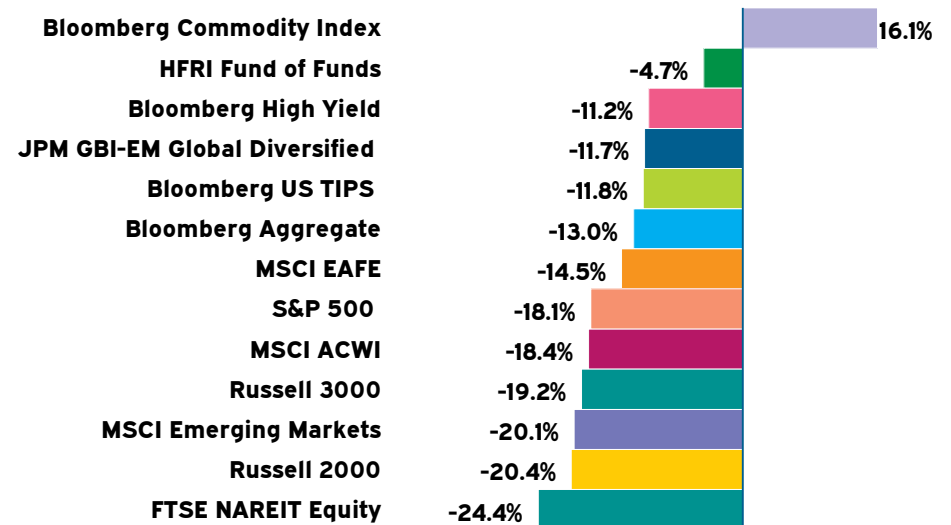
- Ending a very tough year, most asset classes posted gains in the fourth quarter on signs that policy tightening would slow given cooling inflation.
- Chairman Powell's testimony in November reiterated previous messaging on persistent and high inflation and the need for an extended period of monetary tightening weighing on assets in December. Markets remained focused though on signs that inflation is falling and that the size of future Fed rate hikes could be lower.
  - US equity markets sold off (-5.9%) in December but returned 7.2% in the fourth quarter as investors balanced the Fed's caution with improving inflation data.
  - In developed equity markets outside the US, sentiment deteriorated somewhat in December, but they posted a strong fourth quarter return of 17.3% driven by a falling US dollar and results in Europe where inflation started to slow.
  - Emerging market equities declined in December too (-1.4%) but less than the US and also had a strong fourth quarter (+9.7%). A weaker US dollar, declining inflation globally, and signs of China reopening its economy all contributed to the results.
  - Bonds experienced one of the worst years on record given inflation levels and the rapid rise in interest rates. Optimism over declining inflation and a slower pace of policy tightening benefited bonds overall in the fourth quarter though.
- Looking to 2023, the path of inflation and monetary policy, slowing growth globally, China reopening its economy, and the war in Ukraine will all be key.

### Index Returns<sup>1</sup>

#### Fourth Quarter



#### 2022



→ After broad declines in Q3 driven by expectations for further policy tightening, most major asset classes were up in the fourth quarter on hopes of inflation and policy tightening peaking.

→ Outside of commodities, all other public market asset classes declined in 2022. It was the first time since the 1960s that both stocks and bonds declined together in a calendar year.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg and FactSet. Data is as of December 31, 2022.

### Domestic Equity Returns<sup>1</sup>

Domestic Equity	December (%)	Q4 (%)	1 YR (%)	3 YR (%)	5 YR (%)	10 YR (%)
S&P 500	-5.8	7.6	-18.1	7.7	9.4	12.6
Russell 3000	-5.9	7.2	-19.2	7.1	8.8	12.1
Russell 1000	-5.8	7.2	-19.1	7.3	9.1	12.4
Russell 1000 Growth	-7.7	2.2	-29.1	7.8	11.0	14.1
Russell 1000 Value	-4.0	12.4	-7.5	6.0	6.7	10.3
Russell MidCap	-5.4	9.2	-17.3	5.9	7.1	11.0
Russell MidCap Growth	-6.0	6.9	-26.7	3.9	7.6	11.4
Russell MidCap Value	-5.1	10.5	-12.0	5.8	5.7	10.1
Russell 2000	-6.5	6.2	-20.4	3.1	4.1	9.0
Russell 2000 Growth	-6.4	4.1	-26.4	0.6	3.5	9.2
Russell 2000 Value	-6.6	8.4	-14.5	4.7	4.1	8.5

**US Equities: Russell 3000 Index declined 5.9% for December but gained 7.2% for the quarter. Historic inflation and rapidly rising interest rates led to significant declines (-19.2%) for the full year.**

- US stocks fell broadly in December on the Federal Reserve signaling its continued resolve to raise rates but gained overall for the quarter on hopes that interest rates could be peaking soon given slowing inflation.
- All sectors declined during December, led by consumer discretionary and technology with defensive sectors declining less. For the quarter though, most sectors were up led by energy and industrials.
- In a continuation on the overall trend in 2022 value stocks outperformed growth stocks in the fourth quarter given higher interest rates and slowing growth.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Data is as of December 31, 2022.

### Foreign Equity Returns<sup>1</sup>

Foreign Equity	December (%)	Q4 (%)	1 YR (%)	3 YR (%)	5 YR (%)	10 YR (%)
MSCI ACWI ex. US	-0.7	14.3	-16.0	0.1	0.9	3.8
MSCI EAFE	0.1	17.3	-14.5	0.9	1.5	4.7
MSCI EAFE (Local Currency)	-3.0	8.7	-7.0	3.6	3.8	7.6
MSCI EAFE Small Cap	1.1	15.8	-21.4	-0.9	0.0	6.2
MSCI Emerging Markets	-1.4	9.7	-20.1	-2.7	-1.4	1.4
MSCI Emerging Markets (Local Currency)	-2.0	6.6	-15.5	0.1	1.3	4.6
MSCI China	5.2	13.5	-21.9	-7.5	-4.5	2.4

Developed international equities (MSCI EAFE) rose 0.1% in December and an impressive 17.3% in the fourth quarter. Emerging markets (MSCI EM) fell -1.4% in December but gained 9.7% for the quarter. Inflation and rising rates also weighed on international equities last year, as well as a strong US dollar for most of the year.

- International developed market equities, specifically Europe, held up better relative to the rest of the world in December with the MSCI EAFE up 0.1%. In the fourth quarter, they returned a significant 17.3% due in part to the recent weakness in the US dollar (they returned only 8.7% in local terms) leading to lower declines for the year.
- In December emerging markets outperformed the US but trailed developed market equities as China's rally was not enough to offset weakness elsewhere (e.g., India -5.5%). For the quarter, a weakening US dollar and China reopening led to strong results (+9.7%), but emerging markets remained the weakest for 2022 due to China.
- Like the US, value outpaced growth globally in 2022.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Data is as of December 31, 2022.

**Fixed Income Returns<sup>1</sup>**

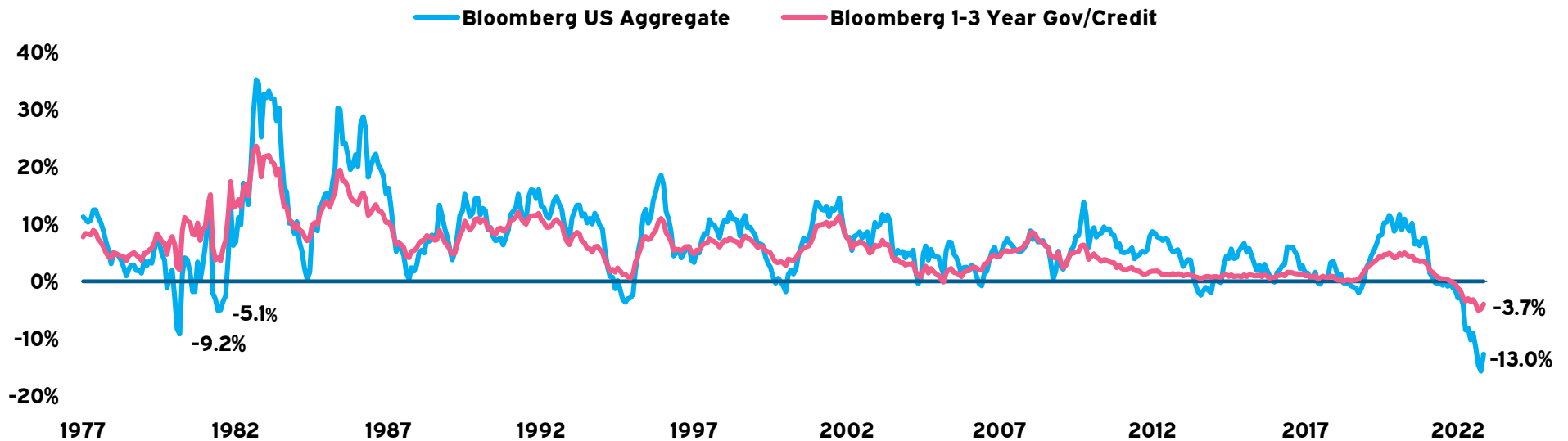
Fixed Income	December (%)	Q4 (%)	1 YR (%)	3 YR (%)	5 YR (%)	10 YR (%)	Current Yield (%)	Duration (Years)
Bloomberg Universal	-0.3	2.2	-13.0	-2.5	0.2	1.3	5.1	6.2
Bloomberg Aggregate	-0.5	1.9	-13.0	-2.7	0.0	1.1	4.7	6.4
Bloomberg US TIPS	-1.0	2.0	-11.8	1.2	2.1	1.1	4.4	6.7
Bloomberg High Yield	-0.6	4.2	-11.2	0.0	2.3	4.0	9.0	4.4
JPM GBI-EM Global Diversified (USD)	2.2	8.5	-11.7	-6.1	-2.5	-2.0	5.8	4.9

**Fixed Income: The Bloomberg Universal fell -0.3% in December but rose 2.2% for the fourth quarter. Last year was one of the worst on record, with the broad bond market declining 13%.**

- The Federal Reserve reconfirming its commitment to tighten policy in the face of high inflation weighed on US fixed income in December. For the quarter though the broad US bond market (Bloomberg Aggregate) was up 1.9% on hopes that inflation would continue to decline and corresponding expectations for the slowing of policy rate hikes.
- TIPS produced similar results to the broad US bond market for the quarter but outperformed for the year given their inflation adjustment.
- Riskier bonds outperformed for the quarter due to improving risk sentiment with emerging market bonds performing particularly well.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. JPM GBI-EM data is from InvestorForce. Data is as of December 31, 2022. The yield and duration data from Bloomberg is defined as the index's yield to worst and modified duration respectively.

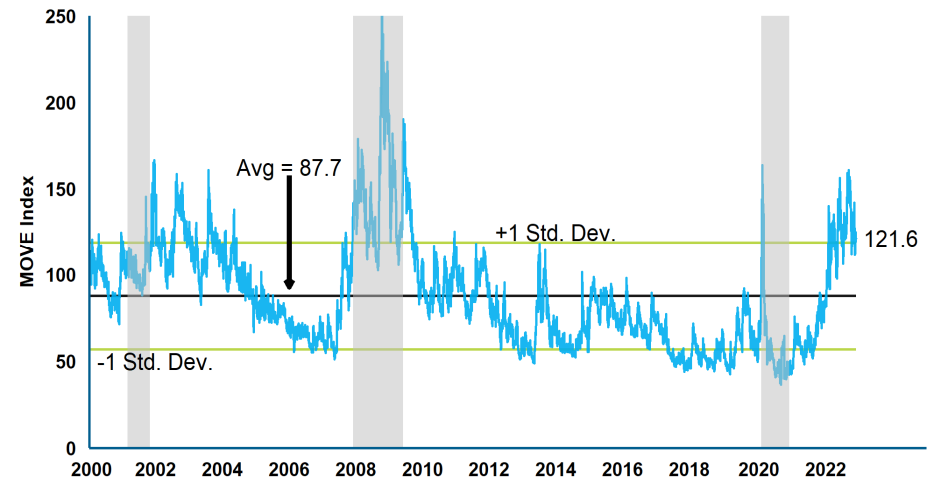
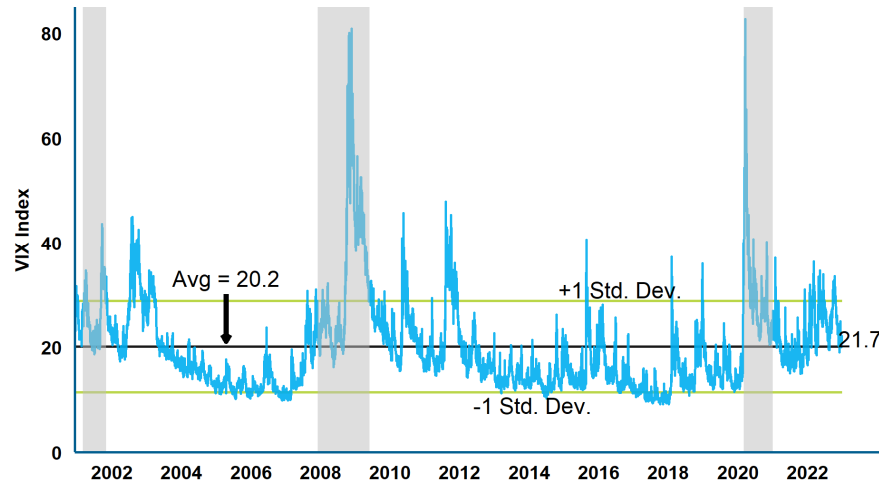
### Fixed Income Rolling One-year Returns<sup>1</sup>



- Last year was one of the worst return periods for the US bond market given the historic inflation levels and the corresponding rapid rise in interest rates.
- The broad bond market (Bloomberg US Aggregate) declined 13% in 2022 making it one of the worst periods on record.
- Short-term bond declines were far smaller (-3.7%) last year, but also were one of the worst on record.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Data is as of December 31, 2022.

### Equity and Fixed Income Volatility<sup>1</sup>

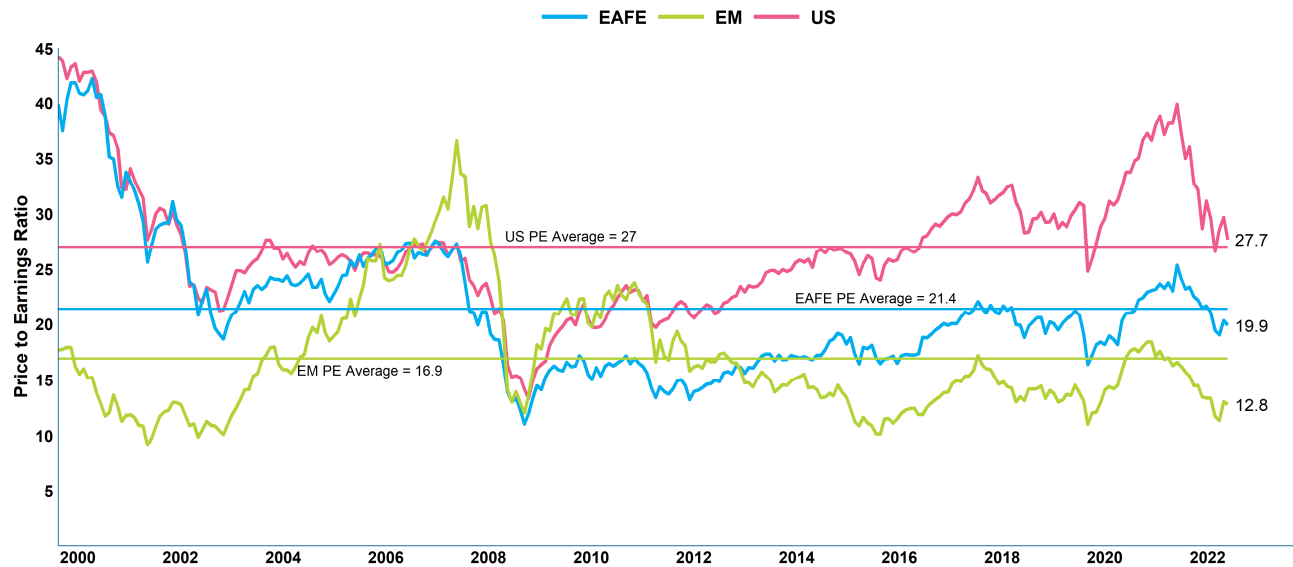


- Volatility in equities (VIX) finished the year down from its highs and near its long run average as investors anticipated the potential end of Fed rate hikes this year.
- Fixed income (MOVE) remained elevated and well above its long-run average at year-end due to the uncertain path of US interest rates as the Federal Reserve continues its hawkish stance on inflation.

<sup>1</sup> Equity and Fixed Income Volatility – Source: Bloomberg. Implied volatility as measured using VIX Index for equity markets and the MOVE Index to measure interest rate volatility for fixed income markets. Data is as of December 2022. The average line indicated is the average of the VIX and MOVE values between January 2000 and the recent month-end respectively.

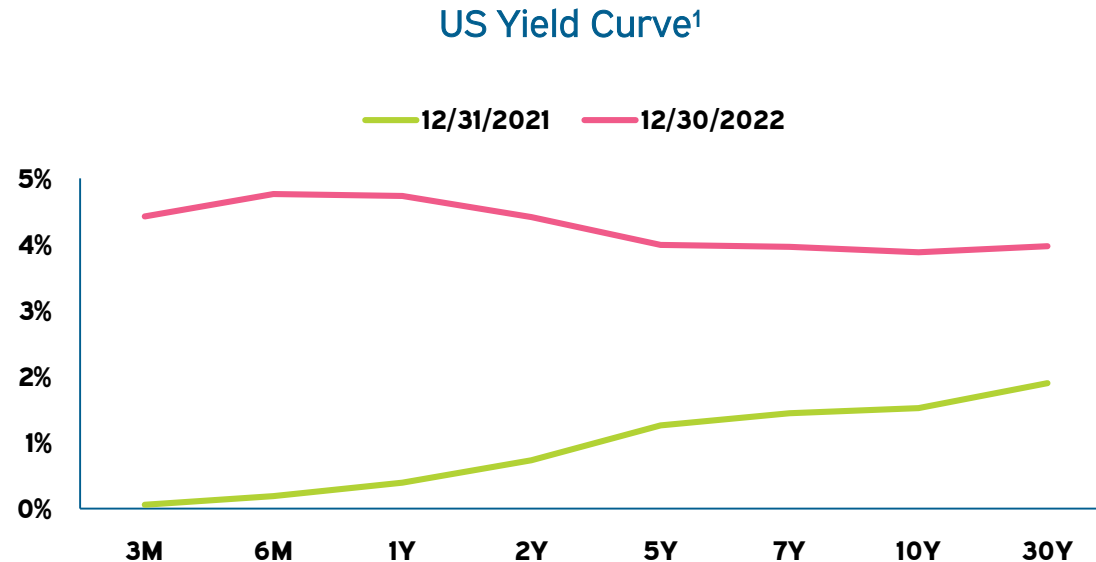


### Equity Cyclically Adjusted P/E Ratios<sup>1</sup>



- After December’s sell-off, US equity price-to-earnings ratio finished the year near its long-term (21st century) average.
- International developed market valuations rose but remain below their own long-term average, with those for emerging markets the lowest and well under the long-term average.
- Price declines have been the main driver of recent multiple compression as earnings have remained resilient. Concerns remain over whether earnings strength will continue in the face of slowing growth.

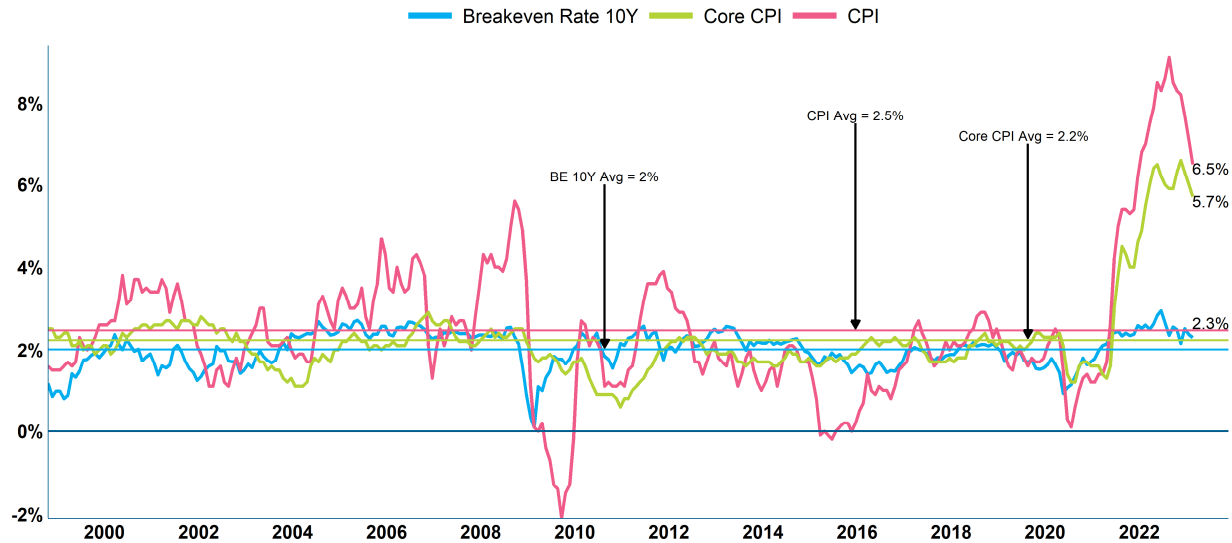
<sup>1</sup> US Equity Cyclically Adjusted P/E on S&P 500 Index. Source: Robert Shiller, Yale University, and Meketa Investment Group. Developed and Emerging Market Equity (MSCI EAFE and EM Index) Cyclically Adjusted P/E – Source: MSCI and Bloomberg. Earnings figures represent the average of monthly “as reported” earnings over the previous ten years. Data is as of December 2022. The average line is the long-term average of the US, EM, and EAFE PE values from December 1999 to the recent month-end respectively.



- In December, policy-sensitive interest rates at the front-end of the curve continued to rise with the two-year Treasury yield increasing from 4.3% to 4.4%. Longer dated ten-year Treasury yields also increased (3.6% to 3.9%). For the year, the yield curve rose dramatically across maturities and moved from steep to inverted.
- The Fed remains strongly committed to fighting inflation, as it increased rates another 50 basis points to a range of 4.0% to 4.5% at its December meeting. This brought the total number of increases for 2022 to seven.
- The yield spread between two-year and ten-year Treasuries narrowed somewhat to -0.54% after finishing November at -0.70%. The more closely watched measure by the Fed of three-month and ten-year Treasuries also remained inverted. Historically, inversions in the yield curve have often preceded recessions.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Data is as of December 31, 2022.

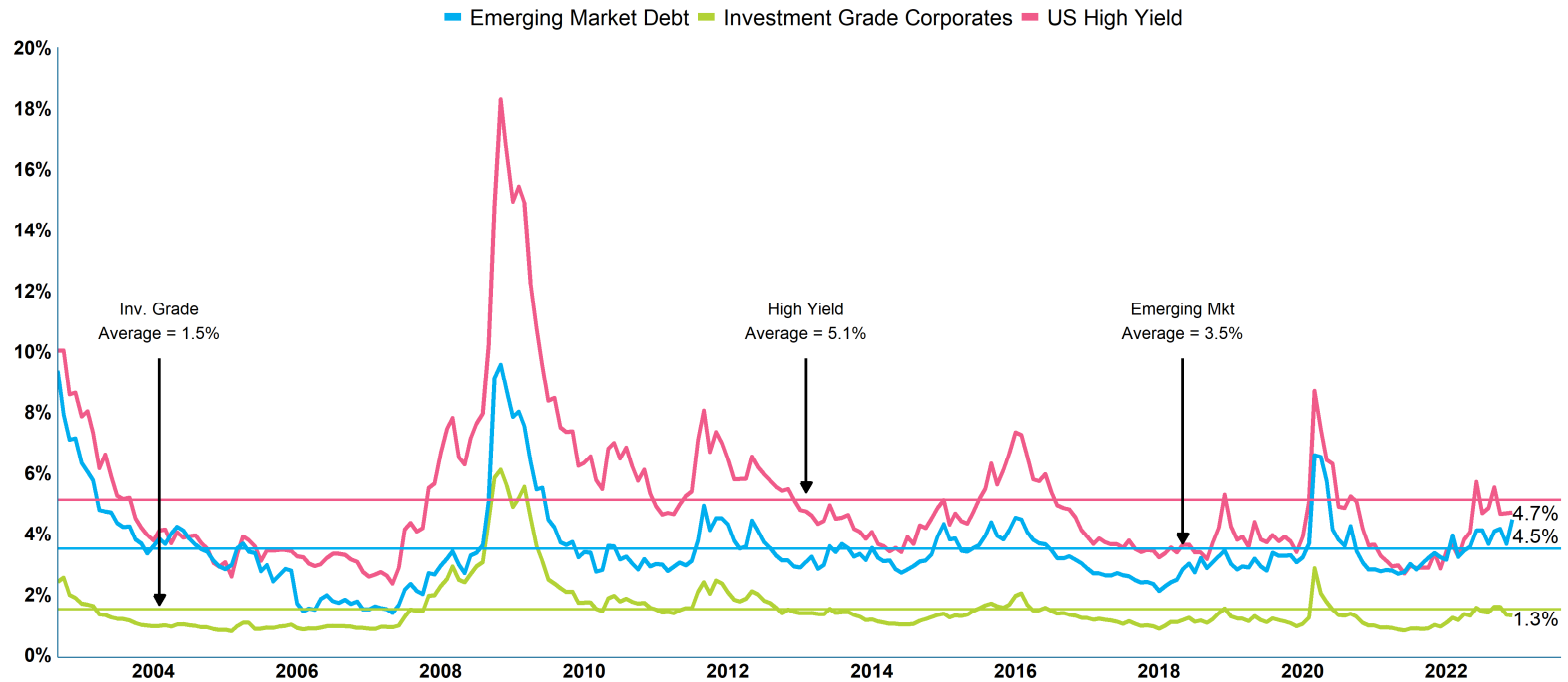
### Ten-Year Breakeven Inflation and CPI<sup>1</sup>



- In December inflation continued to decline (6.5% versus 7.1%) matching expectations and providing support for the Fed to slow the pace of policy tightening. Energy prices fell again for the month but remain up 7.3% from a year prior, while food prices fell slightly, and stickier service prices continued to increase.
- Core inflation – excluding food and energy – also continued to decline in December (5.7% versus 6.0%) and matched estimates.
- Inflation expectations (breakevens) declined slightly for the month (2.3% versus 2.4%) and remain well below current inflation levels as investors anticipate a significant moderation in inflation.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Data is as of December 2022. The CPI and 10 Year Breakeven average lines denote the average values from August 1998 to the present month-end respectively. Breakeven values represent month-end values for comparative purposes.

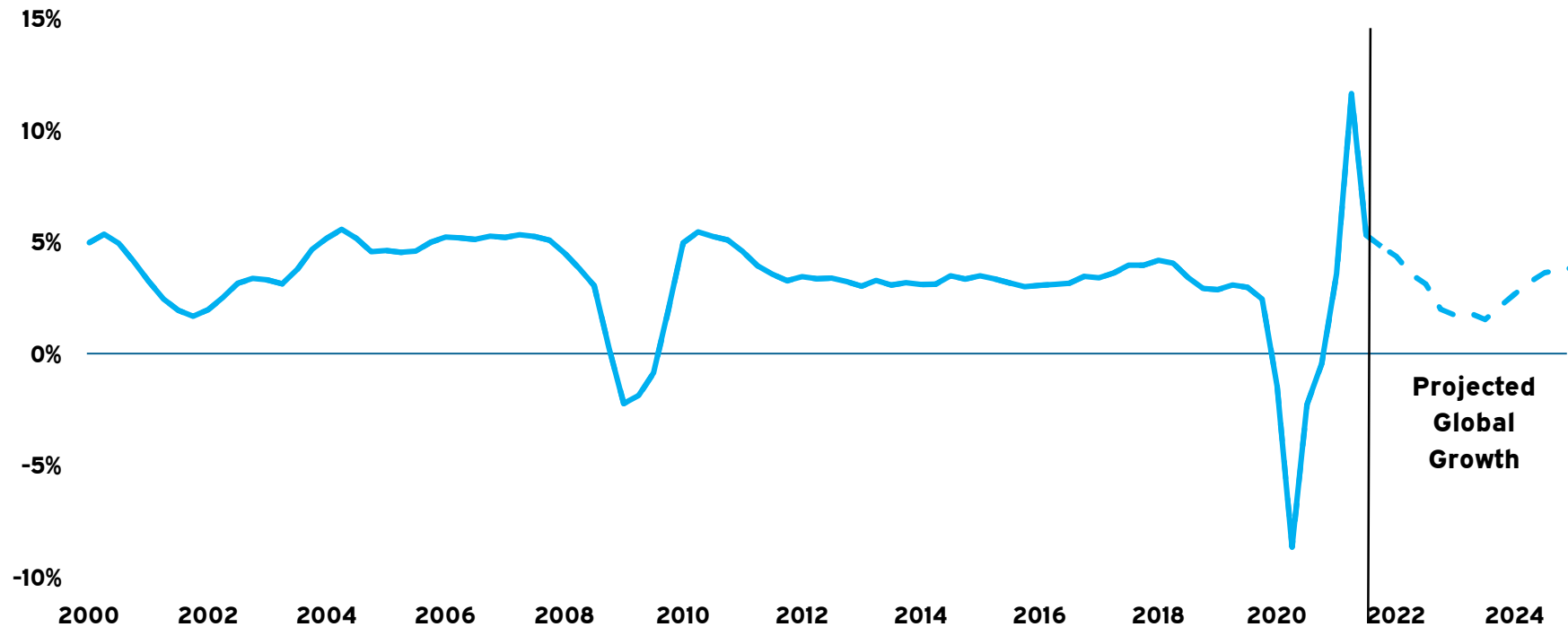
### Credit Spreads vs. US Treasury Bonds<sup>1</sup>



- High yield spreads (the added yield above a comparable maturity Treasury) finished December at 4.7% (the same as the end of November) remaining below their long-run average.
- Investment grade spreads also held steady at 1.3% as attractive yields and strong balance sheets continued to attract investors, while emerging market spreads rose (4.5% versus 3.6%) due to concerns regarding slower growth and lower commodity prices.

<sup>1</sup> Sources: Bloomberg. Data is as of December 31, 2022. Average lines denote the average of the investment grade, high yield, and emerging market spread values from August 2000 to the recent month-end respectively.

### Global Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Growth<sup>1</sup>

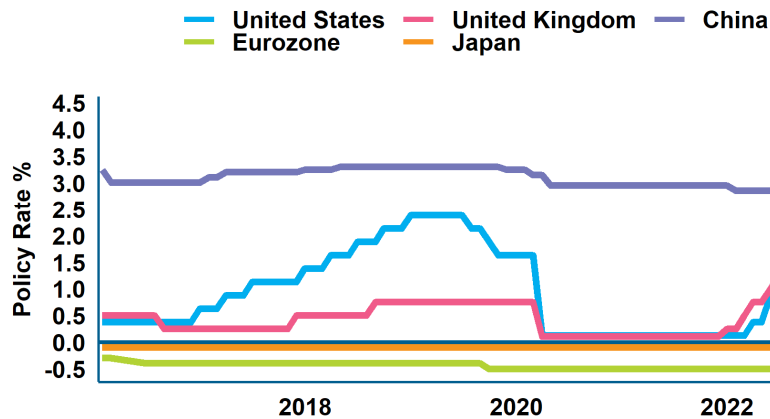


- Global economies are expected to slow in 2023 compared to 2022, with risks of recession increasing given persistently high inflation and related tighter monetary policy.
- The delicate balancing act of central banks trying to reduce inflation without dramatically impacting growth will remain key.

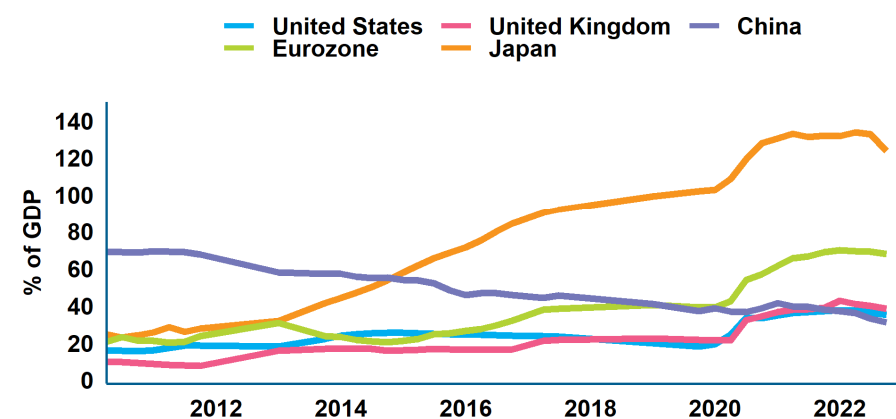
<sup>1</sup> Source: Oxford Economics (World GDP, US\$ prices & PPP exchange rate, real, % change YoY). Updated December 2022.

### Central Bank Response<sup>1</sup>

#### Policy Rates



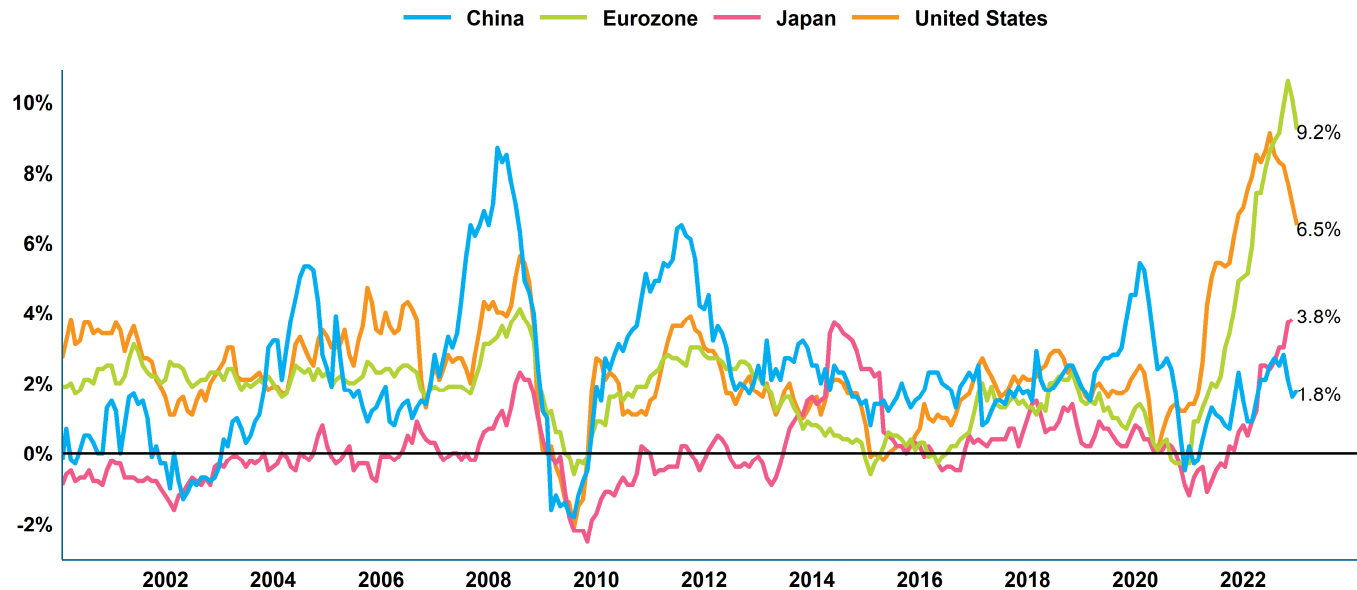
#### Balance Sheet as % of GDP



- In 2022 many central banks aggressively reduced pandemic-era policy support in the face of high inflation with the US taking a more aggressive approach.
- In December, the Bank of Japan relaxed its target yield for the 10-year bond which may mark an incremental step toward policy normalization after eight years of quantitative easing.
- The one notable central bank outlier is China, where the central bank has lowered rates and reserve requirements in response to slowing growth.
- The risk remains for a policy error, particularly overtightening, as record inflation and aggressive tightening to date could heavily weigh on global growth. The Federal Reserve's policy rate path could diverge from others this year given their strong early start to tightening.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Policy rate data is as of December 31, 2022. China policy rate is defined as the medium-term lending facility 1 year interest rate. Balance sheet as % of GDP is based on quarterly data and is as of December 31, 2022.

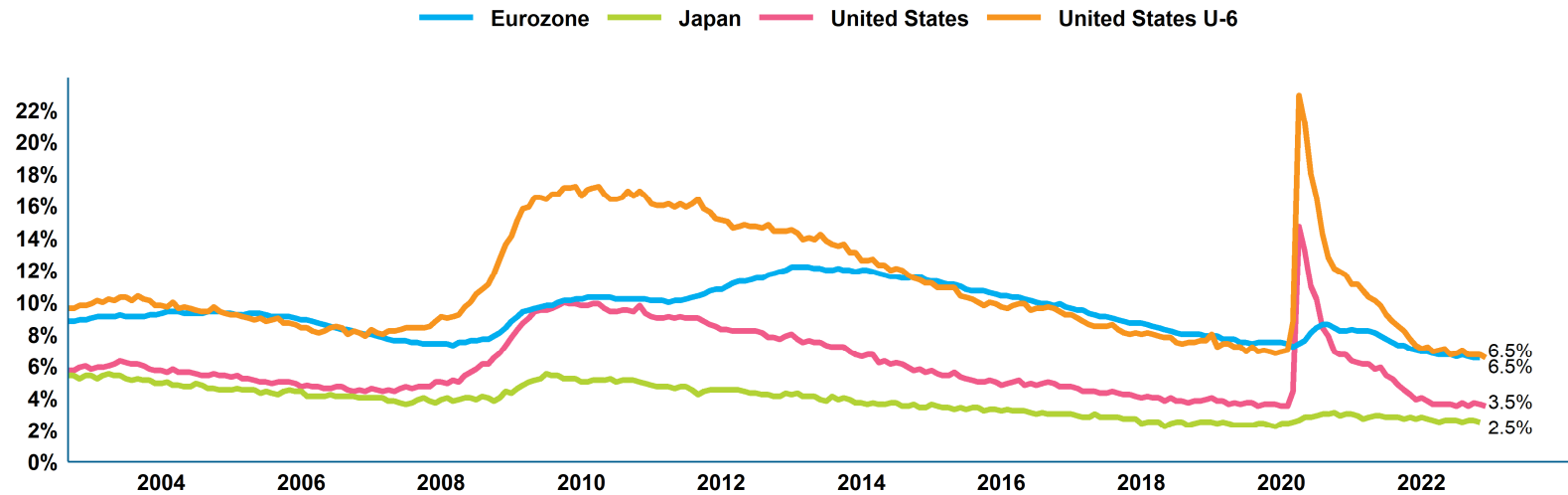
**Inflation (CPI Trailing Twelve Months)<sup>1</sup>**



- Inflation increased dramatically from the lows of the pandemic, particularly in the US and Eurozone where it has reached levels not seen in many decades.
- Inflation pressures are slowly declining in the US, but they remain elevated, while in Europe they have reached historic levels due to skyrocketing energy prices and a weak euro.
- Supply issues related to the pandemic, record monetary and fiscal stimulus, strict COVID-19 restrictions in China, and higher commodity prices driven by the war in Ukraine have been key global drivers of inflation.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Data is as of December 2022. The most recent Japanese inflation data is as of November 2022.

### Unemployment<sup>1</sup>

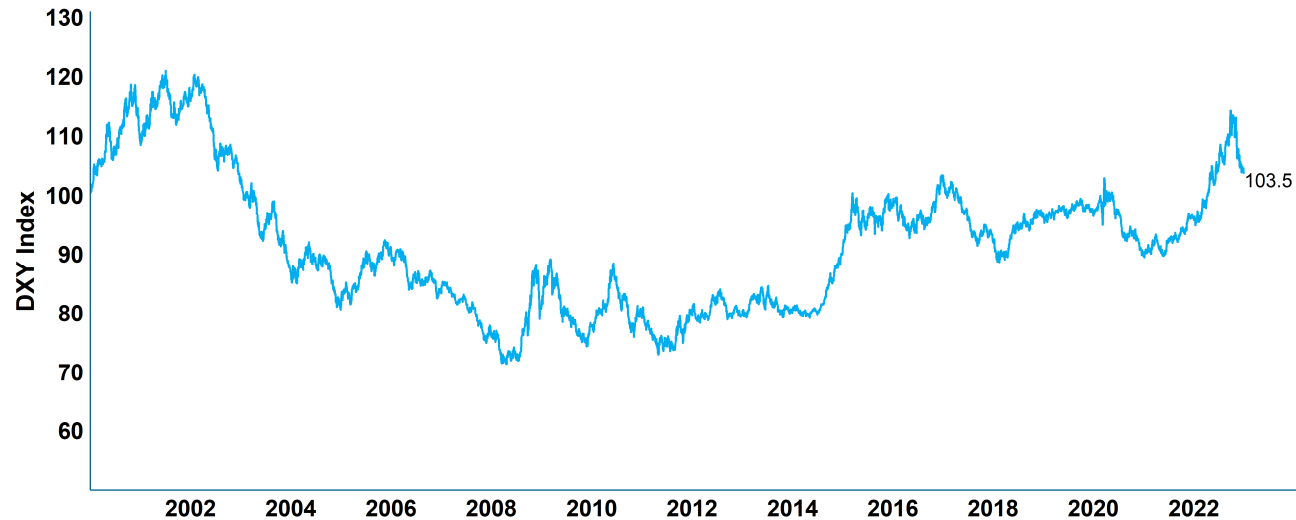


- As economies have largely reopened, helped by vaccines for the virus, improvements have been seen in the labor market.
- Despite slowing growth and high inflation, the US labor market remains a bright spot. Unemployment in the US, which experienced the steepest rise from the pandemic, has remained in a tight 3.5%-3.7% range for most of the year.
- The strong labor market and higher wages, although beneficial for workers, motivates the Fed's efforts to fight inflation, likely leading to higher unemployment.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Data is as December 31, 2022, for the US. The most recent data for Eurozone and Japanese unemployment is as of November 30, 2022.



US Dollar versus Broad Currencies<sup>1</sup>



- Overall, the US dollar continued to weaken from its recent peak in December as declining inflation supported the case for the Federal Reserve to slow its tightening.
- The dollar finished the year much higher than it started though due to the increased pace of policy tightening, stronger relative growth, and safe-haven flows.
- As we look to 2023, the track of inflation across economies and the corresponding monetary policy will likely be key drivers of currency moves.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bloomberg. Data as of December 31, 2022.

## Summary

### Key Trends:

- The impacts of record high inflation will remain key, with market volatility likely to stay high.
- Monetary policy could diverge in 2023 with the Fed pausing and others continuing to tighten. The risk of policy errors in both directions remains.
- Growth will continue to slow globally next year, with many economies likely falling into recessions. Inflation, monetary policy, and the war will all be key.
- In the US the end of many fiscal programs is expected to put the burden of continued growth on consumers. Higher energy and food prices could weigh on consumer spending.
- Valuations have significantly declined in the US to around long-term averages, largely driven by price declines. The key going forward will be whether earnings can remain resilient if growth continues to slow.
- Outside the US, equity valuations remain lower in both emerging and developed markets, but risks remain, including potential continued strength in the US dollar, higher inflation particularly weighing on Europe, and China's rushed exit from COVID-19 restrictions and on-going weakness in the real estate sector.

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