

Market Insights

December 2022



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The Grinch stole our Christmas (*and performances*)

After an exhausting year and **two consecutive months in the green for global equities on the back of decelerating inflation**, investors were probably expecting a visit from Santa Claus in December.

They instead saw how a cat-like face, cantankerous, demented **Grinch** visited one last time their broken house. The curmudgeonly protagonist of Dr. Seuss' "*How The Grinch Stole Christmas!*" (1957), unable to stand our risk-on attitude, decided to destroy once for all our portfolios.

It all started well, though, and we were about to open our Christmas presents. **China finally decided to relax its Covid-Zero policy**. The **U.S. CPI report showed that inflation was moderating further** (headline +0.1% in November vs. +0.3% estimates, after a 0.4% jump in October). Several Fed officials (e.g., Evans, Barr, Bowman, Powell, Cook) signaled that the **central bank's pace of increases was likely to slow soon**.

Yet, several events excited our Grinch. The **U.S. ISM Manufacturing PMI dropped into contraction territory for the first time in two and a half years** to 49.0% in November, down from 50.2% in October, reflecting companies' preparing for future lower output. **U.S. PPIs surprised to the upside** amid a jump in the costs of services (+0.3% in November vs. consensus +0.2%, and data for October revised up to +0.3% instead of +0.2%). The **EU and G7 members implemented a price cap on Russian oil**, sparking fears of retaliation. U.S. retail sales fell sharply at the start of the key holiday shopping season (-0.6% in November vs. -0.1% expectations, the biggest drop since December 2021), suggesting that higher borrowing costs and the threat of an imminent recession were starting to have an impact on household spending.

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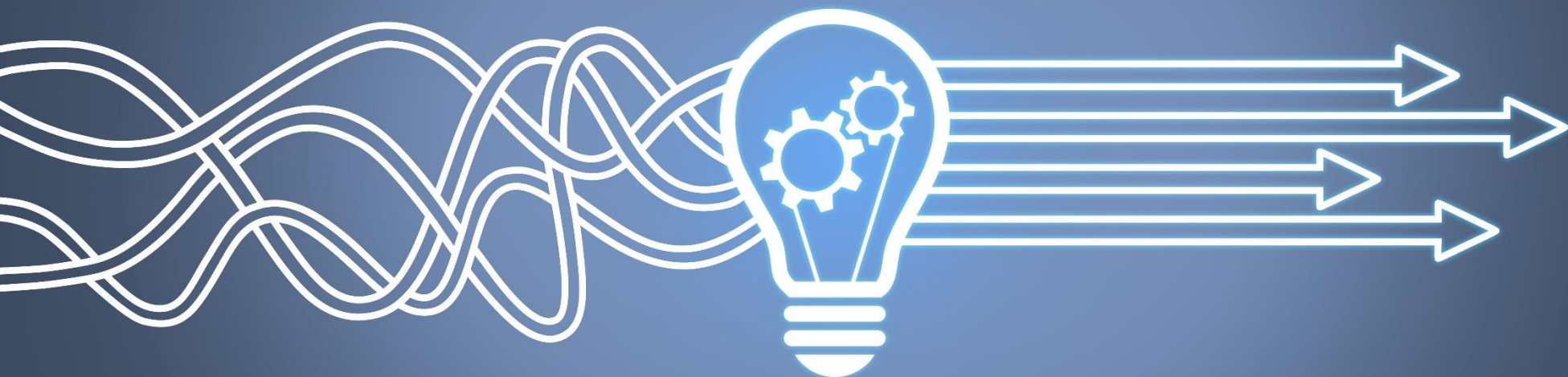
The *coup de grâce* came from our central banks, with the FOMC, the ECB, and the BoE eventually increasing their respective lending rates by 50bp, while emphasizing that their fight against inflation was far from being over, thereby suggesting additional rate hikes well into 2023. The **Fed's SEP showed significant negative revisions**. The median projection for real GDP growth for 2023/2024 came in at 0.5%/1.6% (from 1.2% and 1.7%), respectively. The median unemployment rate forecast has been adjusted to 4.6% (4.4%) for 2023 and 4.6% (4.4%) in 2024. On inflation, the median estimate for core PCE was assumed to be 3.5% (3.1%) in 2023 and 2.5% (2.3%) in 2024. As a consequence, the median projection for the fed funds rate has been lifted to 5.1% (4.6%) in 2023 and 4.1% (3.9%) in 2024.

The Grinch took notice. Global equities pulled back significantly on the last month of 2022 (S&P 500 -5.9%, Nasdaq-100 -9.1%, Stoxx Europe 600 -3.4%). Credit spreads widened again (iTraxx XOVER 5yr 474bps i.e. +15bps, CDX 5yr 484bps i.e. +31bps). WTI and Brent futures declined, too (-0.5% and -1.2% to \$80.3/bbl and \$85.9/bbl respectively). **The only positive news is perhaps that we close, once for all, this turbulent year.** Crippled by the war in Ukraine, runaway inflation and unprecedented monetary tightening policies compressing valuations, a weakening outlook for corporate earnings amid recessionary fears, as well as China's failing Covid strategy, most gauges have finished deep in the red (S&P 500 -19.4%, Nasdaq-100 -33.0%, Stoxx Europe 600 -12.9%, Nikkei 225 -9.4%, HSCEI -18.6%).

Wishing you a **happy and (more) prosperous year,**

Hans Itburrun

What keeps me up at night



An Engineered Recession – They’re all Hawks now!

December took market by surprise as a spate of G10 central banks tune in a concerted hawkish speech and killed all hope of a Santa Claus rally. It came at surprise since most leading indicators were already showing the impact of the tight monetary policies on real economy. The leading economic indicators, consumer confidence, PMI were all showing serious sign of softening voire recession signal. Inflation has peaked, real GDP in negative territory and the house market is in full correction dial. Still, the G10 central banks came out, as a look-liked coordinated move, to blow out a hawkish speech and firmly committing a big fight against the devil=inflation and if one reads between their lines – it sounds as “whatever it takes!”, even if it cost to be in recession – rather an engineered recession. Why so hard? Why now! Even the bank of Japan “de-mummified” and came out with a hawkish rhetoric after decades of being in the dovish camp.

Our interpretation of this sudden “coordinated” hawkishness will be our groundswell of our 2023 strategy.

We segment our 2023 strategy “En deux Actes” (a two-act play) : First Act 2023 will be through winter and the Second Act will be spring onwards. What the G10 can not afford is an energy price shock through this winter given inflation is already at an unbearable level for the populace. ***Demand destruction remains the only serious alternative.*** In the beginning, US Fed decided to go on its own to play the tough guy fighting inflation – the Fed credibility was at stake! USD and US real rate spikes following Mr Powell aggressive tone crushing all other currencies exporting a wave of extra inflation internationally through its strong dollar. Despite the flaking of the US dollar hegemony, most commodities trades and global transactions are still primarily in USD which appreciated by nearly 16% since January 2022. Imagine Brent picking up 45% and added to the 16% USD appreciation will most certainly clog most emerging markets economy. Even US allies, Europe, was starting to badly feel the pain with an increasing risk of being de-credibilise by markets especially after the “gaffe” of Bank of England & Downing Street. If the Fed would had continued with an asynchronously super hawkish tone leaving his other G9 central banks fellows with their hesitant tighter monetary policies we would have witnessed a major financial catastrophe! ***We are in war time and can not afford a re-questioning of Capitalism!***

Following market warning to UK central bank & Mrs Liz Truss end September 2022, which nearly blow up the Gilt market, UK pension funds and pound sterling, we suddenly saw USD plateauing and even softening. Switzerland was the first to officially announce tapping the USD swap line and I am sure many other central banks have subscribed to this facility too. We also unexpectedly saw all G9 central banks harmonizing their monetary policies on the similar decisiveness as the Fed. ***I see the G10 embracing a coordinated tighter monetary policy to engineer a global recession.*** They are targeting commodity prices mainly energy prices which can only be seriously tamed through demand destruction. Capping Russian energy price is another tool in the arsenal to shield against energy price shock this winter but not enough setback to rely solely on this measure.

An Engineered Recession – They all Hawks now!

In this environment crushing the markets become a necessity and animal spirits should be bound to inhibit speculative capital flowing in commodity markets. Maintaining a defensive position in all asset classes except short rates and Gold is the wise. In the short term value/defensive companies make sense. Cash will be king!

We see an unwinding of this coordinated tighter monetary policy playing out as warm weather kicks in and no serious Russian blow hits NATO. This will not automatically translate into rate cut but rather a plateauing of rate and clear forward guidance of rate path by central banks. ***Market can cope with Volatility but hates Uncertainty!*** With rate to be announced to hit the top and rate path traced, market will be able to adjust and will take off. The damage which will be caused by this engineered recession will need to be quickly remedied before it gets too entrenched. It will be time to bite risk again starting from emerging markets (both bonds, Equity & their currencies), longer duration equity & all commodities. Structural inflation will be higher on the 3% to 4% range raising cost of money and making bonds an interesting long term investment. USD will weaken, Gold shining and carry trades will be back. Defensive stocks will be too dear to hold, be discipline to take profit before winter ends.. The curve will normalize with the short end chilling and the long end of curve reflecting government intervention, the big hands, redirecting local economies ***in preparation of the new world order***. The higher cost of money will ensure a healthy price discovery mechanism in the markets which in turn will favor actively managed funds including hedge funds

On a portfolio construction level, core positioning will be more a basket of niche trades rather the traditional broad market or style approach. Strategic moves by government will influence priorities in the G10 economies – ***Focus on Safety, Energy and Reshoring***.

Stay away from companies relying too much on globalization and having difficulty to adjust to the changing world order. Higher sand for long cost of money will be nightmare to over-indebted companies or those relying heavily on debt or leverage!!!! Stay away. High yield spread is too complacent.

Listen to governments, as they back more than ever, Follow the Fed, as usual, but until then send buckle up as winter will be choppy.

Hans Hburrin

Market review



The Fed's Summary of Economic Projections, released in December, showed significant negative revisions. The median projection for real GDP growth for 2023/2024 came in at 0.5%/1.6% (from 1.2% and 1.7%), respectively. The median unemployment rate forecast has been adjusted to 4.6% (4.4%) for 2023 and 4.6% (4.4%) in 2024. On inflation, the median estimate for core PCE was assumed to be 3.5% (3.1%) in 2023 and 2.5% (2.3%) in 2024. As a consequence, the median projection for the fed funds rate has been lifted by officials to 5.1% (4.6%) in 2023 and 4.1% (3.9%) in 2024.

The outlook for the €-area has deteriorated somewhat, with weaker growth and higher and more persistent inflation than envisaged in the September 2022 ECB staff macroeconomic projections. The ongoing energy crisis, high inflation, elevated uncertainty, the global slowdown and tighter financing conditions are all dragging down economic activity and have already led to a sharp slowdown in real GDP growth in 3Q22. Overall, annual average real GDP growth is expected to slow down markedly, from 3.4% in 2022 to 0.5% in 2023, and then to rebound to 1.9% in 2024 and 1.8% in 2025. Compared with the Sept 2022 projections, the outlook for GDP growth has been revised up by 0.3pp for 2022, owing to positive surprises over the summer, and revised down by 0.4pp for 2023, while it is unchanged for 2024.

Zone	Item	2021a	2022e	2023e
US	Real GDP (YoY%)	5.6	1.9	0.3
	Industrial Production (YoY%)	5.6	4.1	-0.4
	CPI (YoY%)	4.7	8.0	4.0
	Unemployment (%)	5.4	3.7	4.4
	Current Account (% of GDP)	-3.4	-3.9	-3.5
	Fiscal Bal. (Budget, % of GDP)	-12.4	-4.4	-4.4
China	Real GDP (YoY%)	8.0	3.0	4.8
	Industrial Production (YoY%)	9.8	4.0	5.0
	CPI (YoY%)	1.0	2.1	2.3
	Unemployment (%)	3.9	4.1	4.0
	Current Account (% of GDP)	1.9	2.2	1.5
	Fiscal Bal. (Budget, % of GDP)	-4.9	-5.7	-5.0
EU	Real GDP (YoY%)	5.4	3.3	0.1
	CPI (YoY%)	2.6	9.1	6.5
	Unemployment (%)	7.1	6.6	6.9
	Current Account (% of GDP)	2.4	1.0	1.3
	Fiscal Bal. (Budget, % of GDP)	-6.8	-3.5	-3.6

Global equities pulled back significantly (S&P 500 -5.9%, Nasdaq-100 -9.1%, Stoxx Europe 600 -3.4%), with (i) the U.S. ISM Manuf. PMI dropping into contraction territory for the first time in 2-1/2 years to 49.0% in Nov, down from 50.2% in Oct, reflecting companies' preparing for future lower output, (ii) market participants cognizant of imminent rate hikes, after U.S. PPI numbers surprised to the upside amid a jump in the costs of services (+0.3% in Nov vs. expectations of +0.2%, and data for Oct revised up to +0.3% instead of 0.2% as previously reported), (iii) renewed geopolitical uncertainty following the EU and G7's decision to implement a price cap on Russian oil, (iv) U.S. retail sales dropping sharply at the start of the holiday shopping season (-0.6% in Nov vs. -0.1% expectations, the biggest drop since Dec '21), suggesting that higher borrowing costs and the threat of an imminent recession were having an impact on household spending, and (v) the FOMC and the ECB increasing their lending rates by 50bp, while emphasizing that their fight against inflation was far from being over, thereby suggesting additional rate hikes into 2023. Equities soared in the middle of the month, after (i) China confirmed the relaxation of its zero-Covid policy, and (ii) the U.S. CPI report showed that inflation was moderating (headline +0.1% in Nov vs. +0.3% estimates, after a 0.4% jump in Oct), but the relief rally turned out to be short-lived.

From a sectoral point of view, the renewed hawkish rhetoric weighed on long-duration tech stocks (S&P 500 / Stoxx Europe 600 Info Tech. -8.4%/-7.2%). Defensives such as Utilities and Healthcare fared a bit better (S&P 500 / Stoxx Europe 600 Utilities -0.8%/-1.9%, S&P 500 / Stoxx Europe 600 Healthcare -2.0%/-1.8%).

	As of 30/12/2022	1-month perf.	Year-to-date perf.
S&P 500	3 839.50	-5.9%	-19.4%
Nasdaq 100	10 939.76	-9.1%	-33.0%
Euro STOXX 50	3 793.62	-4.3%	-11.7%
STOXX Europe 600	424.89	-3.4%	-12.9%
SMI	10 729.40	-3.6%	-16.7%
DAXX	5 692.03	-3.3%	-15.2%
CAC 40	6 473.76	-3.9%	-9.5%
FTSE MIB	23 706.96	-3.7%	-13.3%
IBEX 35	8 229.10	-1.6%	-5.6%
Nikkei 225	26 094.50	-6.7%	-9.4%
MSCI EM	956.38	-1.6%	-22.4%
HSCEI	6 704.94	5.2%	-18.6%
IBOVESPA	109 734.60	-2.4%	4.7%

Credit spreads slightly widened last month (iTraxx XOVER 5yr 474bps i.e. +15bps, CDX 5yr 484bps i.e. +31bps). The trailing 12-month global speculative grade corporate default rate was 2.6% as of the end of Nov, according to Moody's. Under a baseline scenario, the rating agency predicts that the default rate will rise to 2.9% at the end of 2022 and will climb to 4.9% by Nov 2023, a substantial regression vs. pre-summer forecasts but still below the LT average of 4.1%.

The FOMC delivered a widely anticipated 50bp rate hike at its Dec meeting, raising the funds target range to 4.25%-4.50%. The hawkish tone came through the SEP, with a median Fed dots for 2023 shifting higher to 5.125%, up from 4.625% in Sep, and a broad consensus for this view with 17 out of the 19 FOMC participants on the same line. The median dots for 2024 and 2025 also moved up 20bp. The Committee still sees a first cut in 2024 as the most likely outcome, and projects 200bp of cumulative cuts between 2023 and the end of its forecast horizon of 2025.

The ECB on Dec 15 opted for a similar downshift, taking its key rate from 1.5% to 2%. It also delivered a hawkish policy message, with Lagarde repeatedly emphasizing that “significant” further rate rises at a “steady pace” were still to come in order to tame inflation, largely telegraphing another 50bp increment at the next meeting in Feb. Justifying the pledge for more hikes, the ECB's new projections showed inflation above the ECB's 2% target through 2025.

	As of 30/12/2022	1-month perf.	Year-to-date perf.
ESTR	1.89	+50 bp	+248 bp
Euribor 3M	2.13	+16 bp	+270 bp
Libor USD 3M	4.77	-1 bp	+456 bp
Germany 2yr yield	2.76	+64 bp	+338 bp
Germany 10yr yield	2.57	+64 bp	+275 bp
US 2yr yield	4.43	+12 bp	+369 bp
US 10yr yield	3.87	+27 bp	+236 bp
France 10yr spread vs. Germany	+54 bp	+7 bp	+17 bp
Portugal 10yr spread vs. Germany	+102 bp	+7 bp	+37 bp
Spain 10yr spread vs. Germany	+109 bp	+8 bp	+35 bp
Italy 10yr spread vs. Germany	+214 bp	+20 bp	+80 bp
iTraxx Main 5yr	+91 bp	-1 bp	+43 bp
iTraxx Crossover 5yr	+474 bp	+15 bp	+232 bp
iTraxx Financials Senior 5yr	+99 bp	-4 bp	+44 bp
CDX IG 5yr	+82 bp	+6 bp	+32 bp
CDX HY 5yr	+484 bp	+31 bp	+191 bp

WTI and Brent futures declined (-0.5% and -1.2% to \$80.3/bbl and \$85.9/bbl resp.). Prices initially swung between gains and losses as market participants assessed more signals that China may be softening its Covid-Zero policy, but they quickly fell off the cliff, as (i) G7 members and the EU formally set the highly anticipated price cap on Russian oil at \$60/bbl (applicable from Dec 5) - the functioning of the price cap mechanism will be reviewed every two months to respond to developments in the market, and will be set at least 5% below the average market price for Russian oil and petroleum products, (ii) data from the IEA showed U.S. distillate stocks, which include diesel and heating oil, increased by 6.2mn bbl in the week ended Dec 2, far exceeding estimates for a 2.2mn bbl rise, while gasoline inventories climbed 5.3mn bbl against expectations for an increase of 2.7mn bbl - surprisingly large builds, suggesting weakening demand in the country. Futures nonetheless took some support in the middle of the month, as (i) a prolonged, technical outage at a key Canada-U.S. oil pipeline (Keystone) pointed to some tightening in supply (depriving the U.S. market of 620kb/d of Canadian crude), while (ii) Russia threatened to slash oil production by 5-7% in early 2023 (equivalent to 500-700kb/d) and halt sales to countries supporting a price cap on its crude and oil products, and (iii) Fed's plans to slow the pace of interest rate rises were bolstered as inflation eased (headline CPI +0.1% in Nov vs. +0.3% estimates, after a 0.4% advance in Oct).

Gold edged higher (spot +3.1%) and held above the \$1,800/oz pivot, helped by a dip in the dollar (DXY -2.3%) and expectations of slower rate hikes following moderating inflation.

	As of 30/12/2022	1-month perf.	Year-to-date perf.
Brent (\$/bbl)	85.91	-1.2%	19.2%
WTI (\$/bbl)	80.26	-0.5%	16.7%
Gold (\$/toz)	1 826.20	3.8%	-1.0%
Silver (\$/toz)	24.04	10.4%	1.7%
Platinum (\$/toz)	1 082.90	4.1%	+10.4%
Palladium (\$/toz)	1 798.00	-3.6%	-6.5%
Copper (\$/MT)	8 373.01	1.6%	-12.6%
Iron Ore Fines62% (\$/MT)	117.15	17.4%	7.2%
Corn (c/bu)	678.50	1.7%	22.6%
Wheat (c/bu)	792.00	-0.4%	2.6%
Soybean (c/bu)	1 524.00	3.3%	21.7%
Coffee (c/lb)	167.30	-1.5%	-24.8%
Cocoa (\$/mt)	2 600.00	4.1%	2.3%

After a tepid rise triggered by stronger-than-expected hiring numbers (nonfarm payrolls +263k in Nov vs. +200k estimates), the dollar tumbled for the third month in a row in Dec (DXY -2.3%), following (i) comments from several officials noting that the Fed's pace of increases is likely to slow soon, (ii) moderating inflation (core PCE +0.2% in Oct vs. +0.3% estimates, a stark deceleration vs. the +0.5% recorded in Sep; CPI +0.1% in Nov vs. +0.3% estimates, after advancing 0.4% in Oct), and (iii) ISM Manufacturing PMI dropping into contraction territory to 49.0% in Nov, down from 50.2% in Oct, reflecting companies' preparing for future lower output. One of the biggest movers in G10FX was actually the yen (USDJPY -5.0%), which rallied after a surprise policy tweak by the BoJ. The central bank decided to change its "yield curve control" policy indeed, letting 10-yr yields move 50bps either side of its 0% target, wider than the previous 25bp band.

Within the EM FX complex, the ruble underperformed (USDRUB +21.2% to 74.2), amid fears that sanctions on Russian oil will hit the country's export revenue. On Dec 3, G7 members formally set the highly anticipated price cap on Russian oil at \$60/barrel indeed. Information about preparations to introduce a "ceiling" on the price of gas, too, from the start of 2023, added to concerns.

	As of 30/12/2022	1-month perf.	Year-to-date perf.
EUR/USD	1.07	2.9%	-5.8%
USD/JPY	131.12	-5.0%	13.9%
EUR/GBP	0.89	2.6%	5.2%
USD/CHF	0.92	-2.2%	1.3%
EUR/CHF	0.99	0.6%	-4.6%
GBP/USD	1.21	0.2%	-10.7%
USD/CAD	1.36	1.1%	7.3%
USD/CNY	6.90	-2.7%	8.5%
USD/INR	82.74	1.6%	11.3%
USD/BRL	5.28	1.7%	-5.3%
USD/TRY	18.71	0.5%	40.6%
USD/ARS	177.13	5.9%	72.4%
USD/RUB	74.19	21.2%	-1.3%
DXY Index	103.52	-2.3%	8.2%

The Month Ahead: Economic Calendar

After several hikes over the past meetings, central banks will remain in mute mode this month. Key economic data releases over the next few days for the U.S. include the ISM manufacturing index (Jan 4), the non-farm payrolls (Jan 6) and the CPI report (Jan 6). Dec Flash inflation prints for the euro-area will be released on Jan 6.

Zone	Item	Date	Survey	Prior
CH	Caixin Manuf. PMI (Dec)	Jan 3	49.0	49.4
US	ISM Manuf. PMI (Dec)	Jan 4	48.5	49.0
CH	Trade Balance (USD) (Dec)	Jan 5	\$77.0bn	\$69.8bn
US	Initial Jobless Claims	Jan 5	230k	225k
EC	CPI MoM (Dec)	Jan 6	-0.1%	-0.1%
US	Nonfarm payrolls (Dec)	Jan 6	200k	263k
CH	Industr. prod. (YoY) (Dec)	Jan 10	-	2.2%
US	CPI (YoY) (Dec)	Jan 12	6.7%	7.1%
CH	GDP SA QoQ (Q4)	Jan 13	-	3.9%
GE	ZEW Eco. Sentiment (Nov)	Jan 17	-	-
US	Retail Sales (MoM) (Nov)	Jan 18	-	-0.6%
EC	S&P Manuf. PMI (Jan)	Jan 24	-	47.8
US	GDP Ann. QoQ (4Q)	Jan 26	-	3.2%
US	Core PCE (MoM) (Dec)	Jan 27	-	0.2%

Invest with our Thematics



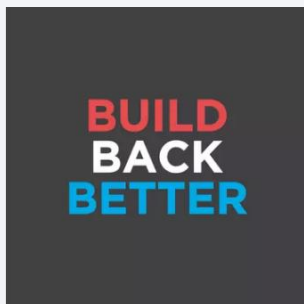
Invest with our Thematics



Solid Balance Sheets in Europe & in the US

Actively Managed Certificates • Participation • Available in EUR, USD

Our proposal is to exploit the well-known Altman Z-Score framework in order to take refuge in the companies currently exhibiting the most solid balance sheets in Europe and in the US. The latter will resist better in the current environment marked by the pandemic, stress in the oil market and macro deceleration.



Global Jobs & Economic Recovery

Actively Managed Certificates • Participation • Available in USD

The Strategy objective is to benefit from global governmental policies helping people who have lost their job due to COVID-19 to go back to work. US has launched the “Build Back Better” scheme and similar political agendas are prescribed in other part of the world to accelerate job creation. The index invests mainly in Small and Mid-Cap companies which are the biggest employers on a size-adjusted basis which is true globally. Allocation between different regions will be actively managed and run from a Top-Down perspective while the Bottom-Up stock picking will be delegated to active fund managers. The strategy provides exposure to a broad sector allocation. Passive vehicles may be used to add momentum on any major political moves to put people back to work. The short leg of the index aims, first and mainly, to hedge beta exposure whenever the index sponsor deems necessary. On opportunistic and specific cases, short positions may be used to add value. The net exposure will at all-time be net long.



Resocialising & Reopening beneficiaries

Actively Managed Certificates • Participation • Available in USD

Many sectors have been harmed by Covid-induced measures such as international travel bans and social distancing: Travel, Leisure, Restaurants, Airlines, Aerospace among others. The extraordinary vaccination campaign on the one hand, and unprecedented, synchronized fiscal & monetary stimuli on the other have been helping the most negatively affected companies to be able to benefit from the ongoing global recovery.

Our proposal is, therefore, to build a comprehensive exposure to segments severely impacted by the pandemic but poised to reap the benefits of a rebounding economy through an Actively Managed Certificate.

Invest with our Thematics



Macro Long-Biased Asia

Actively Managed Certificate • Participation • Available in USD

Our Macro Long-Biased Asia strategy is a selection of the best convictions identified by Macquarie's Research department. Using a bottom up approach, a committee of experienced analysts individually review and analyze each Asian (ex Japan) stock with a buy recommendation to select only the best opportunities on the market. Long/Short approach with the weighting of the short list decided by the Bank's Investment Committee.



Energetic Security

Actively Managed Certificate • Participation • Available in USD

The war in Ukraine is proving to be a wake-up call for Europeans and the whole world. At the very least, alternatives to natural gas must be found. Nuclear power will be re-examined and carbon sequestration will have to be accelerated, as the exit from coal will be delayed. This crisis has highlighted the importance for states to ensure their energy independence.

The certificate invests mostly in stocks that will benefit from this trend. Direct exposure to commodities is allowed for up to 20% of the portfolio.



The **connoisseur's** choice in Swiss Private Banking

We have been helping people manage their wealth since the 1700s. Today we cater to a select private and professional clientele who turns to us for personalized portfolio management, advisory and wealth services.

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