

Julius Bär

# FINANCIAL MARKET OUTLOOK

18 January 2019

12:00 CET

Please find important legal information at the end of this document.



# HOUSE VIEW SUMMARY

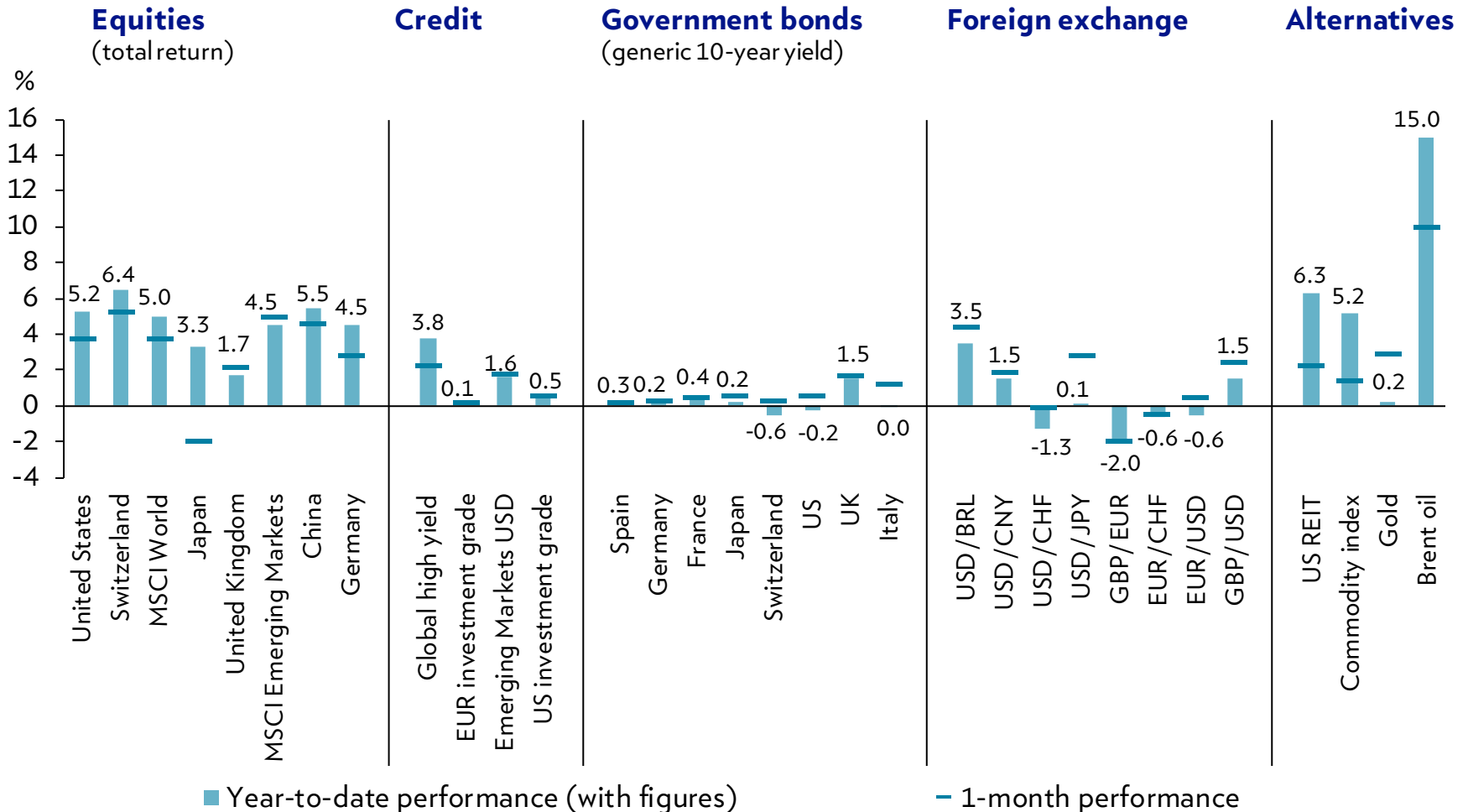
## Conclusions

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- Recent economic indicators suggest that downside risks have increased. Although the global growth dynamic is set to ease, the recession risk remains relatively low for now.
- Against this background, the Federal Reserve's (Fed) statement on 19 December 2018 that quantitative tightening was on 'autopilot' proved to be a policy mistake and triggered an equity market dislocation not seen in a December since the Great Depression.
- Because the US economy has become more sensitive to asset prices than interest rates, the Fed 'blinked' in early January. It signalled patience with further interest rate increases and pledged flexibility to its balance sheet reduction plans, which has led to a rebound in equity markets.
- We took advantage of the significant recovery since the low on 24 December and tactically sold our position in Nasdaq 100 stocks. The proceeds are held in cash and will be reinvested if and when opportunities arise.
- We remain wary that the Fed may return to a more hawkish tone, should equity markets continue to increase sharply. This would be a policy mistake and increase the probability of a US recession.
- In China, economic data has surprised negatively although the effects from the trade conflict with the US have been relatively moderate so far. This indicates that the slowdown is more pronounced than anticipated. The outcome of the ongoing trade negotiations as well as further fiscal and monetary stimulus measures will be crucial for Chinese and global growth.
- Meanwhile, the European Central Bank is cornered, willing to normalise its monetary policy but faced with a slowing economy.

# MARKET PERFORMANCE (1/3)

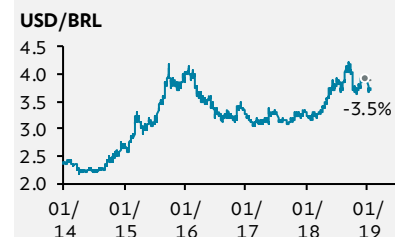
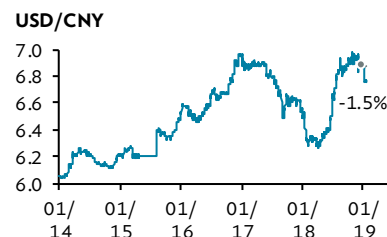
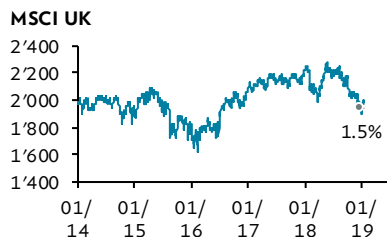
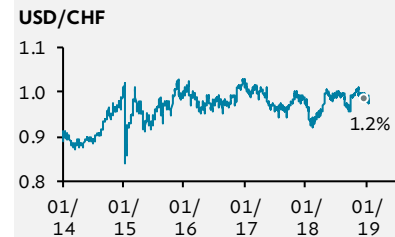
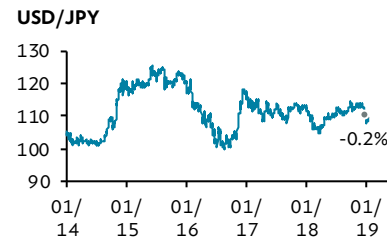
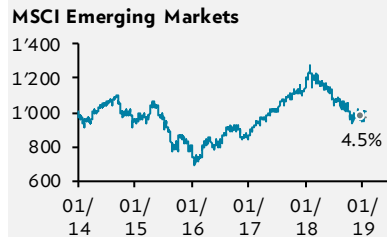
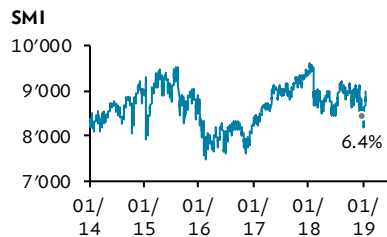
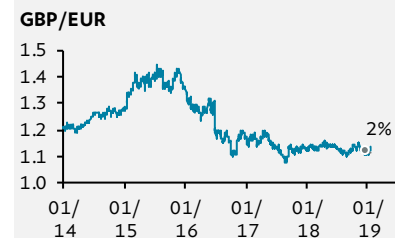
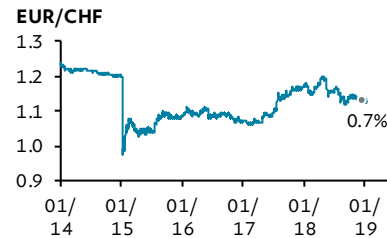
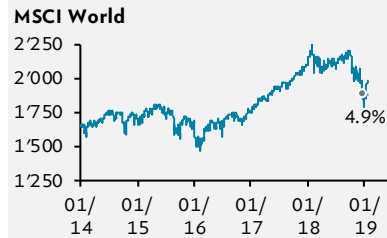
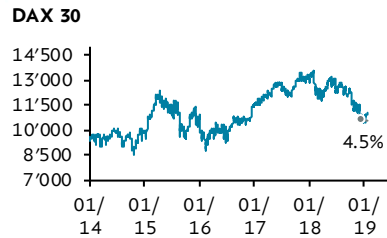
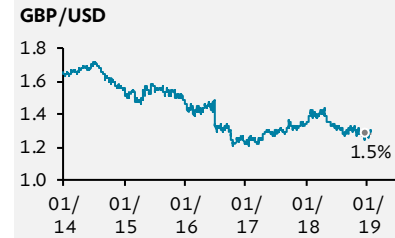
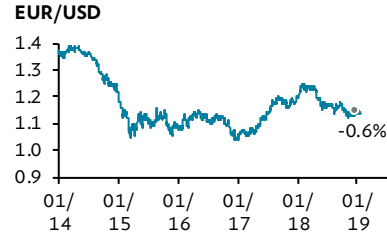
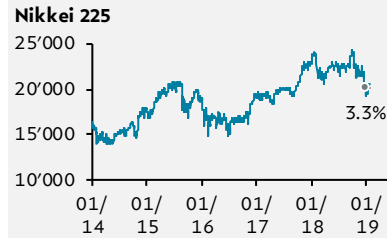
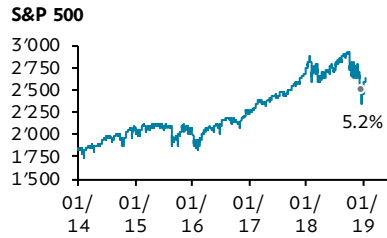
## Review of one-month and year-to-date performance



Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., Julius Baer  
Data as of: 18/01/2019; 11:27 CET

# MARKET PERFORMANCE (2/3)

## Review of five-year and year-to-date performance



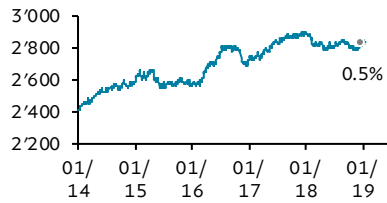
Data as of: 18/01/2019; 11:27 CET

Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., Julius Baer

# MARKET PERFORMANCE (3/3)

## Review of five-year and year-to-date performance

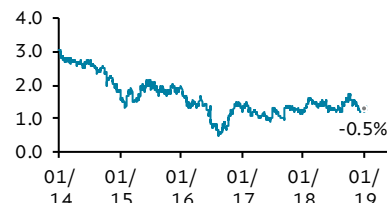
**US Investment Grade**



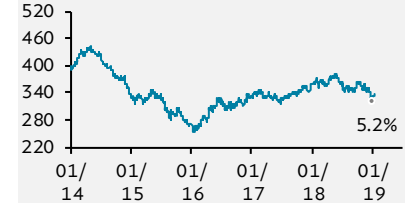
**Treasury (10-year) \*\***



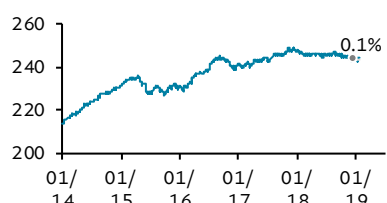
**UK (10-year) \*\***



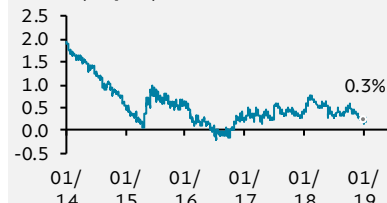
**Bloomberg Commodity Index**



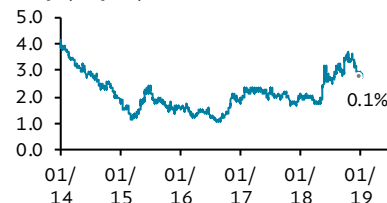
**EU Investment Grade**



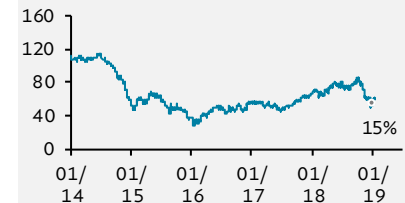
**Bunds (10-year)\*\***



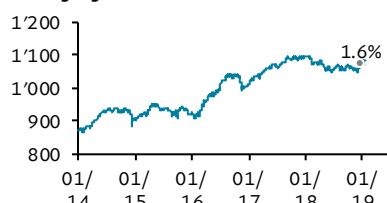
**Italy (10-year)\*\***



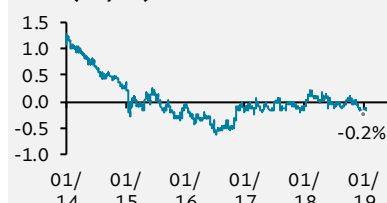
**Crude oil (USD/barrell)**



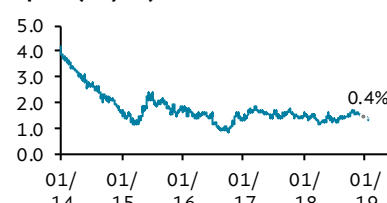
**Emerging Markets USD**



**Swiss (10-year)\***



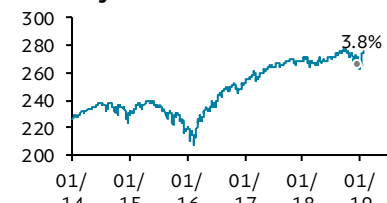
**Spain (10-year)\***



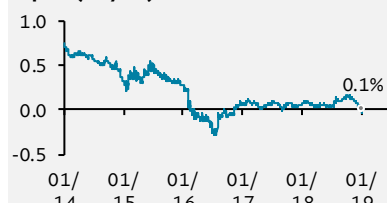
**Gold (USD/ounce)**



**Global High Yield**



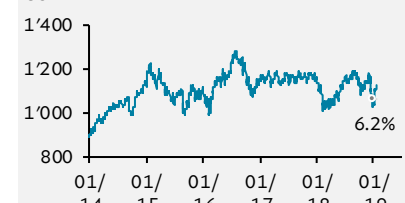
**Japan (10-year)\***



**France (10-year)\***



**US REIT**



Data as of: 18/01/2019; 11:27 CET

Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., Julius Baer

\*\*Returns depict investment yield; REIT = Real Estate Investment Trust

# HOUSE VIEW

## Key views per asset class

### Asset class views

View	Asset class	Risk category	Focus on ...	Avoid ...
▶	<b>Cash</b>			
▶	<b>Bonds</b>	Conservative	Inflation-protected securities	Core European government bonds
		Quality	USD money market instruments	EUR corporate bonds
		Opportunistic	USD mid-duration Baa bonds with yield above 4%, Chinese investment-grade real estate bonds	
		Speculative	Chinese high-yield real estate bonds, short-duration US high-yield bonds, emerging market hard-currency bonds	
▲	<b>Equities</b>	Conservative	Healthcare	Consumer defensives, utilities; US dividend growers
		Medium	Japan, Chile; financials, information technology, oil & gas, industrials; European small caps, European high dividend	Consumer cyclicals, real estate
		Opportunistic	Philippines, Vietnam	India, Russia
▶	<b>Commodities</b>		Gold, silver	Iron ore
▶	<b>Currencies</b>		USD, CHF, CAD, INR, KRW	JPY, GBP, CNY, HUF, ZAR
	<b>Next Generation</b>	Thematic	Asian tourism, Cleaner China, Cloud computing & Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Digital commerce, Digital content (video games), Digital health, FinTech (digital payments), Future mobility, Genomics 3.0, Global education, Healthy China, Made in China 2025	

**Vietnam:** Julius Baer makes no offering in local markets.

**Philippines:** For locals residents, investments into the local market are bound by legal restrictions.

**Source:** Julius Baer; ▲ = positive, ▶ = neutral, ▼ = negative; equity sector classification: JBFI (Julius Baer Financial Instruments)

# CURRENT ASSET ALLOCATION

Current asset allocation of the Income, Balanced and Growth mandates

## Asset classes

	Income (portfolio weights)	Balanced (portfolio weights)	Growth (portfolio weights)
<b>Cash</b>	7%	8%	10%
<b>Bonds</b>	61%	43%	20%
Investment grade	41%	20%	0%
Inflation linked	4%	4%	0%
High yield	2%	3%	0%
Growth markets	7%	7%	5%
Subordinated	2%	4%	4%
Unconstrained	5%	5%	11%
<b>Equities</b>	28%	44%	64%
Home bias	7%	12%	20%
Core: Global	14%	20%	27%
Core: Special Focus	5%	6%	9%
Satellites	2%	6%	8%
<b>Alternative Investments</b>	4%	5%	6%

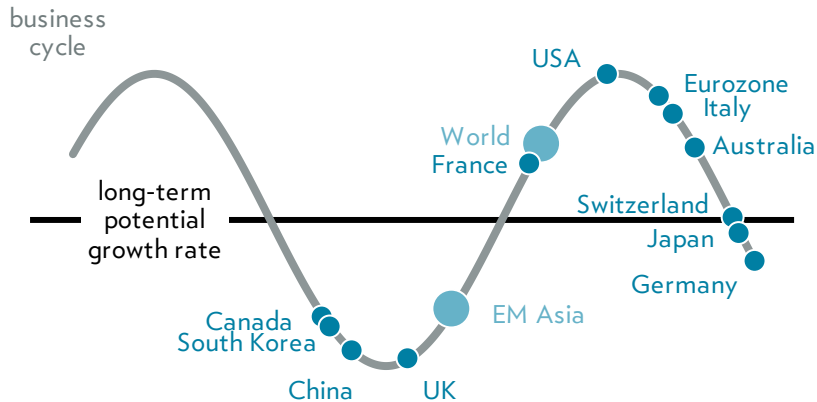
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Source: Julius Baer

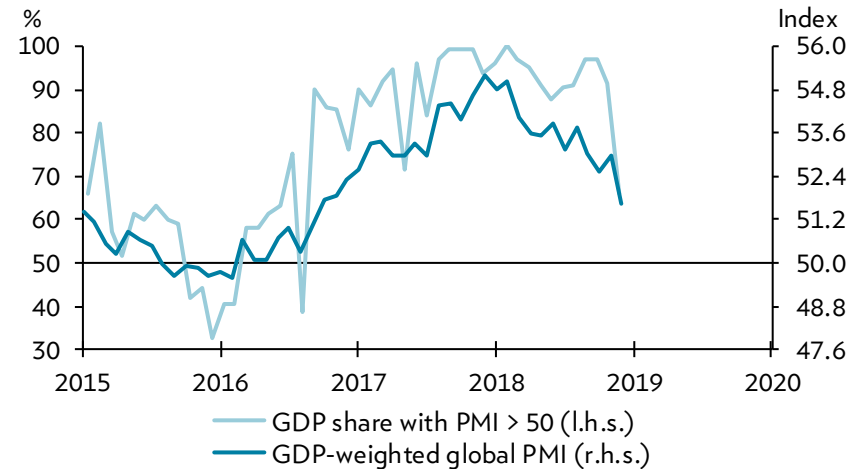
# MACROECONOMIC OUTLOOK

## Year of transition, but not of recession

### Global business cycle



### Economic momentum: Downtrend continues



- Further deterioration of leading indicators shows that the global cooling continues in early 2019.
- Fears of an unfolding recession this year appear overdone. The slowdown is triggered by capacity constraints in labour markets and production, not by inherent weakness in consumption.

- Weakness is increasingly evident in the major European economies, as well as in China.
- The US economy is still showing resilience and is yet to peak in the first half of 2019, before convergence to the downside will likely set in later this year.

Source: Julius Baer

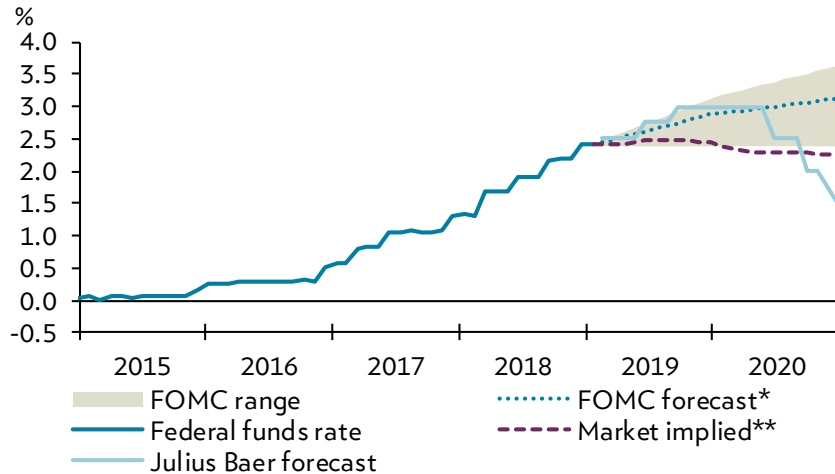
Source: Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB), Julius Baer



# MACROECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Monetary policy banks adopt wait-and-see stance in early 2019

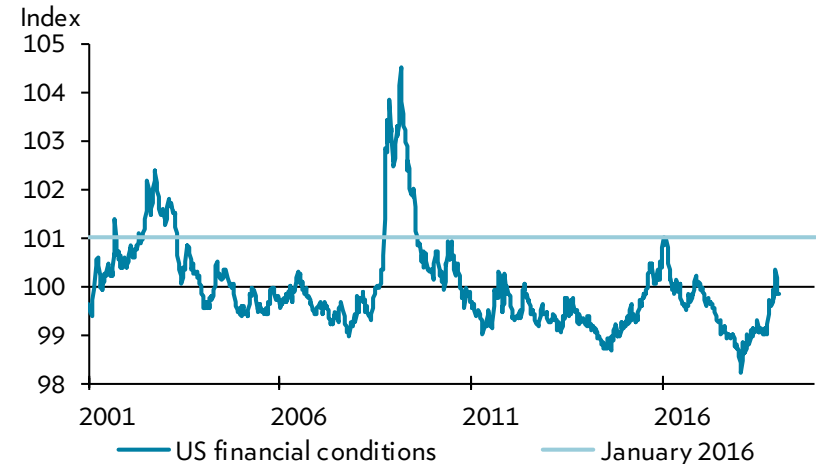
## Fed rate outlook: Pause in the first half of 2019



- The bleaker global growth outlook causes the large central banks to pause interest rate normalisation.
- Despite markets being positioned otherwise, we expect interest rate hikes by the US Fed to resume in summer, as inflation pressure from the labour market remains present.

**Source:** Source: Federal Reserve, Bloomberg Finance L.P., Julius Baer; FOMC= Federal Open Market Committee; \* median of 'dots'; \*\* implied by the OIS curve

## US financial conditions: Not historically tight

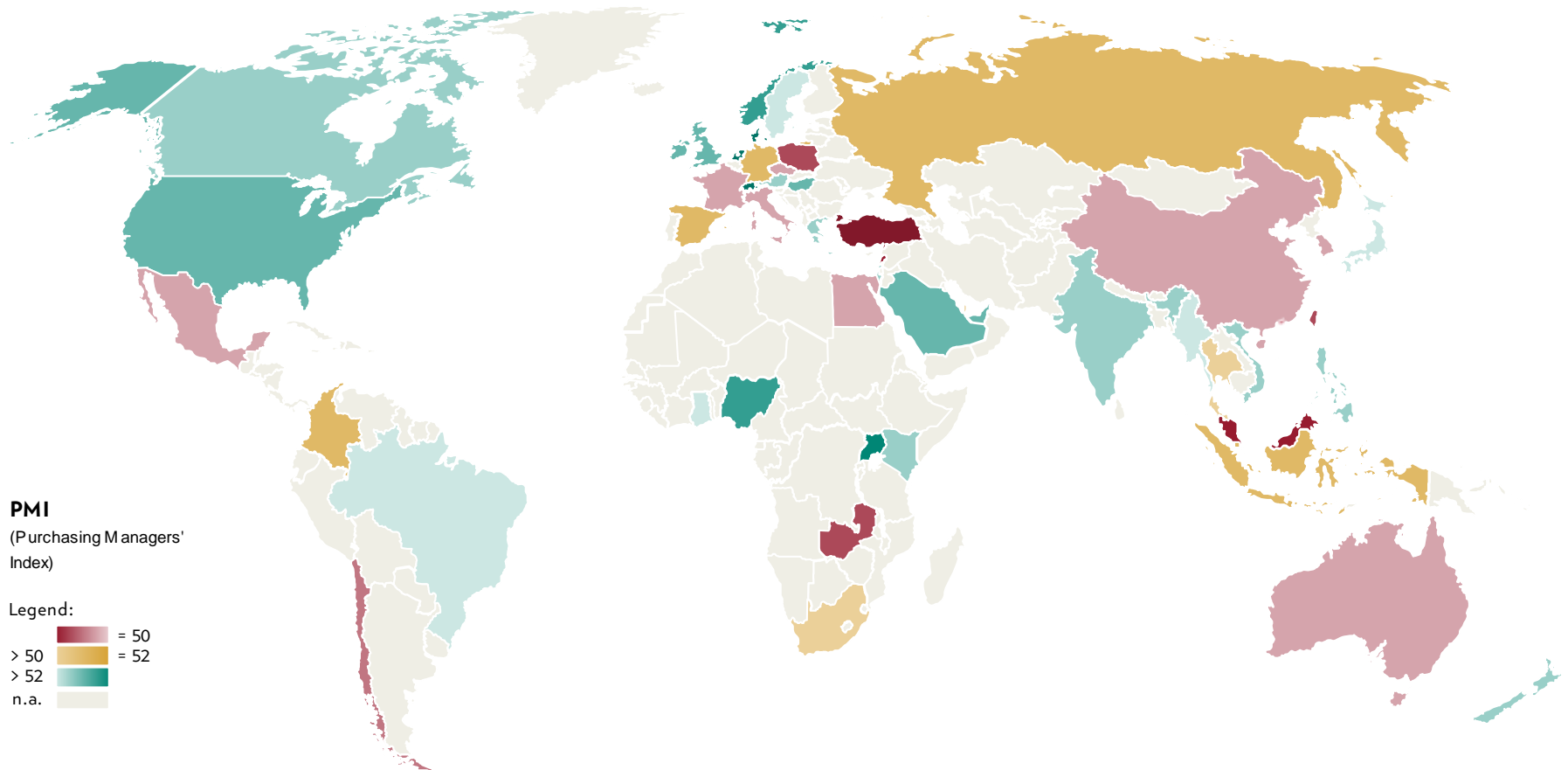


- Besides structural and political risks, concerns are rising that the Fed has been overly ambitious with regards to monetary policy normalisation.
- While the federal funds target has indeed tightened financial conditions considerably, levels do not yet indicate the triggering of a recession.

**Source:** Goldman Sachs, Julius Baer

# PMI WORLD MAP – DECEMBER 2018

Cyclical weakness increasingly evident in developed European economies



**Source:** Markit Economics, Datastream, Bloomberg Finance L.P., Julius Baer. November 2018 values: Israel, New Zealand. Values > 50 signal economic expansion, values < 50 signal economic contraction.

# CURRENCIES

USD is now the most attractive safe-haven currency

## G10 currency views

	Bearish	Neutral	Bullish
USD (United States dollar)			█
EUR (Euro)		█	
JPY (Japanese yen)	█		
GBP (UK pound sterling)	█		
CHF (Swiss franc)			█
SEK (Swedish krona)		█	
NOK (Norwegian krone)		█	
CAD (Canadian dollar)			█
AUD (Australian dollar)		█	
NZD (New Zealand dollar)		█	

- A soft global economy supports the USD. Federal funds rate outlook repricing went to extremes.
- The JPY is no longer the most attractive safe-haven currency, as it became expensive recently.
- Although we are long-term Bullish on the GBP, the market seems complacent on hard-Brexit risks.

Source: Datastream, Julius Baer; Fed = Federal Reserve

## Emerging market currency views

	Bearish	Neutral	Bullish
CNY (Chinese yuan renminbi)	█		
INR (Indian rupee)			█
IDR (Indonesian rupiah)		█	
KRW (Korean won)			█
SGD (Singapore dollar)		█	
BRL (Brazilian real)		█	
MXN (Mexican peso)		█	
HUF (Hungarian forint)	█		
PLN (Polish zloty)		█	
RUB (Russian rouble)		█	
TRY (Turkish lira)		█	
ZAR (South African rand)	█		

- Looser monetary policy in China will weaken the CNY, once the USD has overcome the drag from the repricing of the federal funds rate path.
- Global liquidity stress due to a strong USD and higher rates remains a headwind for emerging market currencies.

Source: Datastream, Julius Baer

# FIXED INCOME

## Turning somewhat more risk friendly

### Fixed Income views

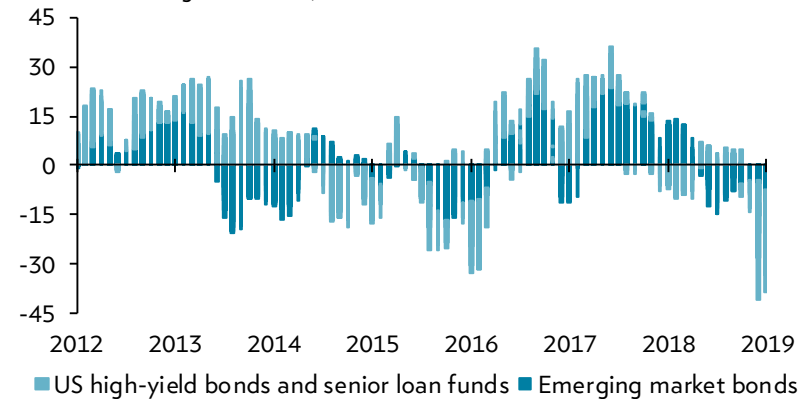
	Underweight	Neutral	Overweight
USD 10-year government bond			
TIPS*			
Investment-grade corporate bonds			
High-yield bonds			
Emerging market bonds			
EUR 10-year Germany			
Investment-grade corporate bonds			
High-yield bonds			
GBP 10-year government bond			
Investment-grade corporate bonds			
CHF 5-year Switzerland			
High-quality corporate bonds			
A/BBB-rated corporate bonds			
Emerging market bonds local currency			

- 2018 ended in a heavy correction, leaving investors with more opportunities to start with in 2019. We turn tactically more risk friendly.
- We have upgraded US high-yield bonds to Neutral from Underweight and favour low-grade issuers in the investment grade segment.

Source: Julius Baer; \*TIPS = Treasury inflation-protected securities

### Funds fled from riskier segments

12-week trailing fund flows, USD bn



- Risk assets had their stress test in December 2018, leading to huge fund outflows.
- The underlying US corporate debt problem and vulnerabilities, such as surging credit costs, are still present but risk compensation improved as well.

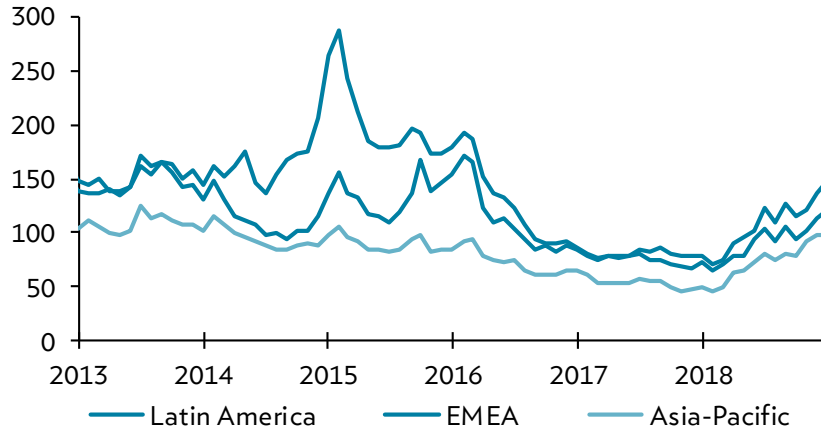
Source: ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Julius Baer

# FIXED INCOME

## Credit risk favourites: EM hard-currency and US low-grade debt

### EM credit compensation edged higher in 2018

Spread per turn of Leverage (basis points/x)

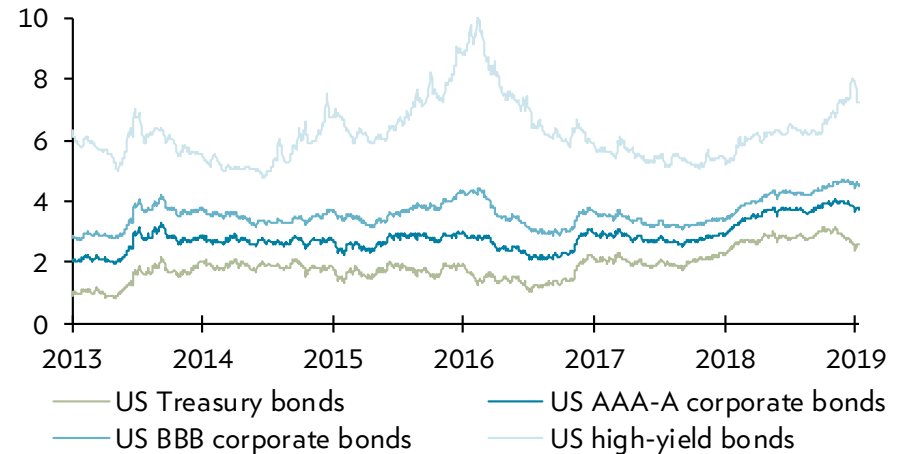


- Emerging market (EM) credit spreads are surprisingly resilient and provide a cushion against moves in the US Treasury curve.
- We keep our Overweight stance on EM hard-currency debt but shift our focus from Latin America to Asia.

Source: ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Julius Bär

### US credit: We turn slightly more risk friendly

Yield of 5- to 7-year note, %



- With only low recession probability, a more cautious Fed and higher investor compensation, we add to our credit risk exposure.
- We like US low-investment-grade debt and have upgraded US high-yield bonds back to Neutral.

Source: ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Datastream, Julius Bär

# EQUITIES

Stock market has overreacted albeit recession risk has slightly increased

## Developed market views

	Underweight	Neutral	Overweight
United States		█	
Eurozone		█	
United Kingdom		█	
Switzerland		█	
Japan			█
Emerging markets		█	

- Start of a bear market has historically required a recession, which we do not expect this year.
- S&P 500 has, on average, returned +17% whenever the de-rating was between 20%–30%.
- We upgraded UK equities amid record low relative valuations, while earnings revisions are stabilising.

Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., Julius Baer

## Global sector views

	Underweight	Neutral	Overweight
Oil & gas			█
Materials		█	
Industrials			█
Consumer cyclical	█		
Consumer defensive	█		
Healthcare			█
Financials			█
Real estate	█		
Information technology		█	
Communications		█	
Utilities	█		

- We maintain our cyclical tilt but become more defensive to take into account the reduced visibility going forward.
- We upgrade healthcare to Overweight in light of low valuations, a strong secular growth story and solid balance sheets.

Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., Julius Baer; Equity sector classification: Julius Baer Financial Instruments

# EQUITIES

## Emerging markets – ‘DonXi’ put\*

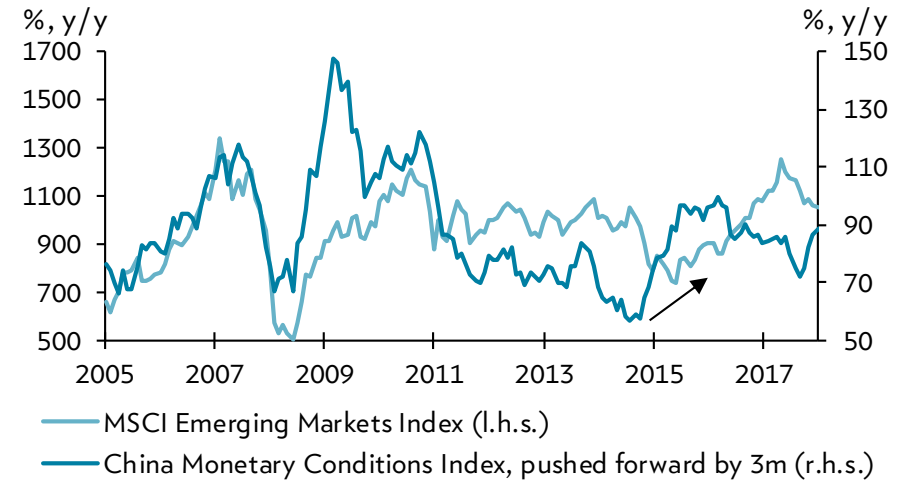
### Emerging market views

	Underweight	Neutral	Overweight
South Africa		█	
Russia	█		
Turkey		█	
Poland		█	
Brazil		█	
Mexico		█	
China		█	
South Korea			█
Taiwan		█	
India	█		
Indonesia			█
Thailand		█	
Vietnam (Frontier Market)			█

- EM equities started to outperform recently amid USD weakness and progress in trade talks.
- A tariff deal between the US and China before the March deadline is largely priced in.
- We upgraded the EMEA region to Overweight in light of low valuations and diminishing headwinds.

**Source:** Datastream, Julius Baer; EMEA = Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa

### EM dependent on Chinese monetary conditions



- Given the recent weak economic data from China, we expect more fiscal and monetary support measures to be announced in the near term.
- While Chinese equities are likely to trade range-bound and react highly sensitive to new economic data, the long-term investment case is still intact.

**Source:** Datastream, International Monetary Fund, Julius Baer; \* The expression suggests the leaders of China and the US will act to prevent a global sell-off.

# COMMODITIES

## In the eye of slowdown storm

### Commodity rating overview

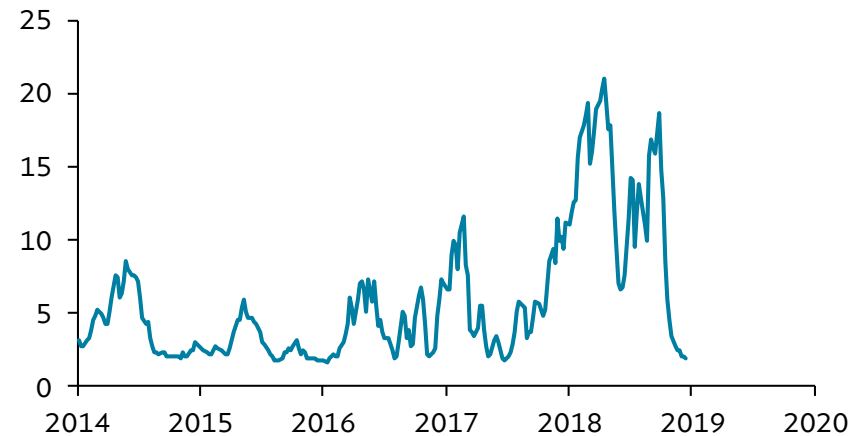
	Bearish	Neutral	Bullish
Crude oil		█	
Natural gas		█	
Aluminium		█	
Copper		█	
Iron ore	█		
Palladium		█	
Platinum			█
Gold			█
Silver			█
Corn		█	
Soybeans		█	
Sugar		█	
Wheat		█	

- Growth pessimism caused a commodity sell-off late last year. We see no immediate recession, but growth is neither strong nor soft enough to provide a clear price trend for the asset class.
- A brightening mood lends tailwinds, while the political noise keeps uncertainty high.

Source: Julius Baer

### Oil futures positions hit rock bottom

Long-short ratio (hedge funds)



- Oil should settle in a range. Supply curbs and a brightening mood are positive near term, but the shale boom keeps a lid on prices longer term.
- The equity sell-off underpinned gold's safe-haven status. Prices and sentiment recovered, but we still recommend buying gold for the long term.

Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., Julius Baer



# KEY FORECASTS

## Key forecasts per asset class

### Gross domestic product

(real, % yearly growth)

	2017	2018E	2019E
World	3.5	3.6	3.2
United States	2.2	2.9	2.6
Eurozone	2.5	1.8	1.2
Germany	2.2	1.5	1.1
Switzerland	1.7	2.6	1.2
Japan	1.9	0.7	0.9
United Kingdom	1.8	1.4	1.1
China	6.9	6.6	5.9

### Inflation

(consumer price index, %)

	2017	2018E	2019E
World	3.9	4.0	4.2
United States	2.1	2.4	1.9
Eurozone	1.5	1.7	1.5
Germany	1.7	1.9	1.8
Switzerland	0.5	0.9	0.9
Japan	0.5	1.0	0.7
United Kingdom	2.7	2.5	2.2
China	1.5	1.9	2.6

### Yields & Currencies

	Spot	3m	12m
US 10y Treasuries	2.77	3.10	3.50
EUR 10y Bund	0.27	0.65	1.10
EUR/USD	1.14	1.13	1.17
EUR/CHF	1.13	1.12	1.15
EUR/GBP	0.88	0.92	0.86
USD/JPY	109.5	113.0	115.0

### Equities & Commodities

	Spot	3m	12m
S&P 500	2'636	2'670	2'900
Eurostoxx 50	3'105	3'125	3'300
MSCI UK	1'976	2'000	2'050
Gold (USD/oz)	1'285	1'300	1'350
Oil Brent	61.9	65.0	60.0

Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., Julius Baer; E = Estimate

Data as of: 18/01/2019, 11:27 CET

# IMPORTANT LEGAL INFORMATION (1/8)

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## IMPRINT

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## APPENDIX

### Analyst certification

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Countries, sectors and investment styles are rated 'Overweight', 'Neutral' or 'Underweight'. These ratings are based on our expectations for relative performance versus regional and global benchmark indices.

Overweight	Expected to outperform regional or global benchmark indices in the coming 9-12 months, unless otherwise stated.
Neutral	Expected to perform in line with regional or global benchmark indices in the coming 9-12 months, unless otherwise stated.
Underweight	Expected to underperform regional or global benchmark indices in the coming 9-12 months, unless otherwise stated.

Equity investments are divided into three different risk segments. Risk here is defined as the historical five-year volatility based on monthly returns in CHF. Based on the data of all segments considered (developed markets, emerging markets, global sectors, investment styles) the following distinction is made:

Conservative	Investments whose historical volatility is in the bottom quartile of the universe described above.
Medium	Investments whose historical volatility is in the middle two quartiles of the universe described above.
Opportunistic	Investments whose historical volatility is in the top quartile of the universe described above.

## Risk categories for fixed income research

Conservative	Incorporates supranational issuers, top-rated sovereign issuers and bodies that are directly and fully guaranteed by these institutions. These issuers are most likely to preserve their top rating throughout the business cycle.
Quality	Incorporates sovereigns and corporate issuers that are very likely to service and repay debt within a five-year credit scenario. They are likely to preserve their investment grade rating throughout a normal business cycle.
Opportunistic	Incorporates issuers that are quite likely to service and repay debt within the five-year credit scenario. Such issuers have an attractive risk/return profile in the current credit scenario but are subject to rating downgrade risk and, thus, might be exchanged periodically.
Speculative	Incorporates sub-investment-grade issuers in Europe and the USA as well as local issuers in emerging markets. Issuers are likely to service and repay debt in the current credit scenario. Investors must note that these issuers are subject to a higher downgrade and default frequency and that an active management of these positions is crucial.

# IMPORTANT LEGAL INFORMATION (3/8)

## Fixed income market segment ratings

Overweight	Segments that are expected to yield a return that is above the ten-year historical average.
Neutral	Segments that are expected to yield a return that is in line with the ten-year historical average.
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	Moody's	Standard & Poor's	Fitch/IBCA	Credit rating definition
Investment-grade	Aaa	AAA	AAA	Obligations rated Aaa are judged to be of the highest quality, with minimal credit risk.
	Aa1	AA+	AA+	Obligations rated Aa are judged to be of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk.
	Aa2	AA	AA	
	Aa3	AA-	AA-	
	A1	A+	A+	Obligations rated A are considered upper-medium grade and are subject to low credit risk.
	A2	A	A	
	A3	A-	A-	
	Baa1	BBB+	BBB+	Obligations rated Baa are subject to moderate credit risk. They are considered medium-grade and as such may possess certain speculative characteristics.
	Baa2	BBB	BBB	
	Baa3	BBB-	BBB-	
Non-investment-grade	Ba1	BB+	BB+	Obligations rated Ba are judged to have speculative elements and are subject to substantial credit risk.
	Ba2	BB	BB	
	Ba3	BB-	BB-	
	B1	B+	B+	Obligations rated B are considered speculative and are subject to high credit risk.
	B2	B	B	
	B3	B-	B-	
	Caa1	CCC+	CCC+	Obligations rated Caa are judged to be of poor standing and are subject to very high credit risk.
	Caa2	CCC	CCC	
	Caa3	CCC-	CCC-	
	Ca	CC C	CC C	Obligations rated Ca are highly speculative and are likely in, or very near, default, with some prospect of recovery of principal and interest.
C	D	D	Obligations rated C are the lowest rated class of bonds and are typically in default, with little prospect for recovery of principal or interest.	

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