



TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

TREADING CAREFULLY

A BALANCING ACT FOR 2023

Portfolio Construction and Strategy Insights

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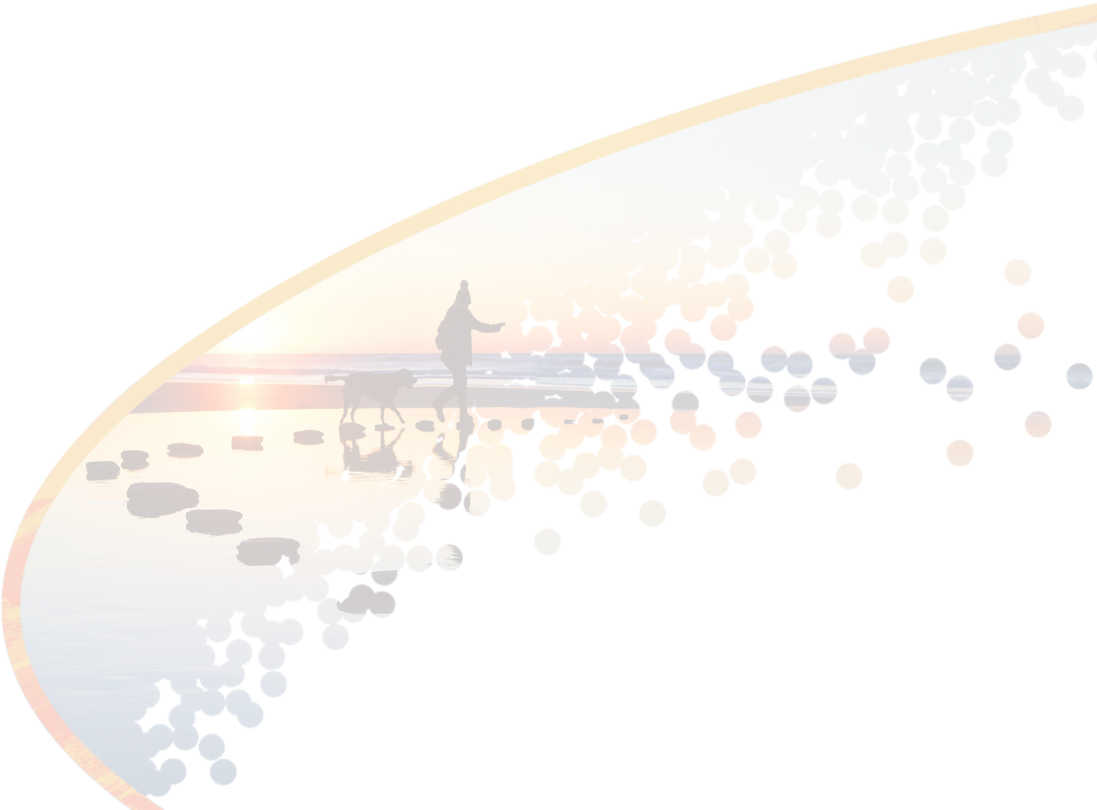
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PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION
AND STRATEGY

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TREADING CAREFULLY

A BALANCING ACT FOR 2023

In our mid-year 2022 instalment of *Trends and Opportunities*, titled “Shock Therapy,” we trained our sights on three profound market shocks that drove an extremely volatile year: slowing growth, inflation, and a historic interest rate reset. The report focused on providing “shock therapy” in the form of portfolio solutions tailored to this new investing paradigm. Now we enter a new era characterised by structurally higher interest rates and fresh discounts across major global asset classes. Investors will need to watch their step as they venture into this new territory.

What does ‘Treading carefully’ mean to you?

Our title for this edition, ‘Treading carefully,’ serves as a Rorschach test: do you read it as meaning investors will fight to stay afloat in murky waters in 2023, or do you think it implies that those who are bold enough to persevere through the volatility may be rewarded?

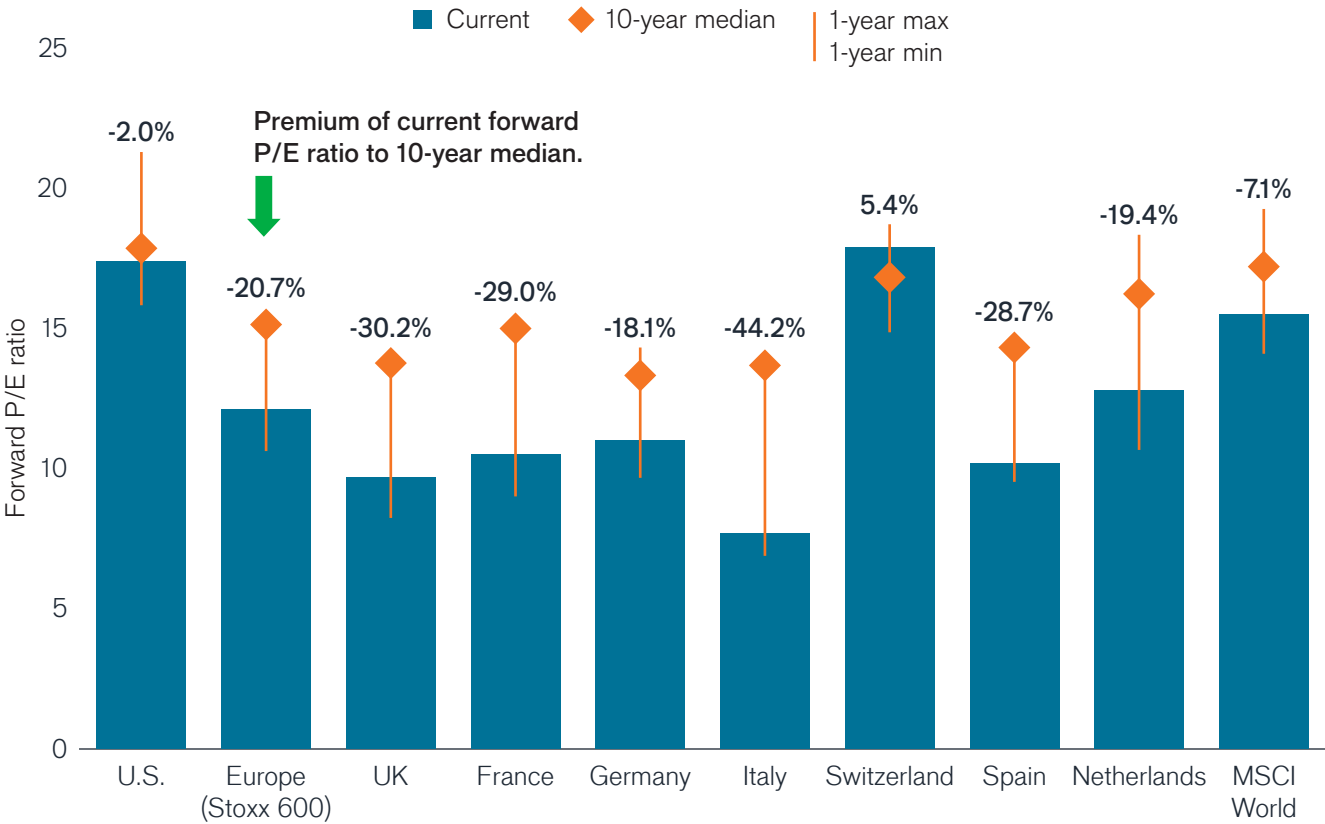
We believe wise investors recognise that both interpretations apply. In our view, 2022’s historic volatility has given rise to two dependable investment themes for the year ahead: 1) Volatility will continue, and 2) that volatility presents a silver lining for those who are bold enough to forge ahead. The new portfolio solutions we highlight in this edition were selected because they have the potential to help portfolios thrive by navigating those themes.

Equity

One of 2022’s many mindbenders was that ‘duration’ became a major risk for equities – not just fixed income. The historic magnitude and speed of rate increases was the primary driver of losses for the S&P 500® Index in 2022, with the silver lining being that the S&P 500 entered 2023 with a P/E of 17.5x – in line with its historical average. The focus for U.S. large-cap investors now shifts from the ‘P’ to the ‘E’: finding resilient earnings amid an economic slowdown. Meanwhile, U.S. small- and mid-cap stocks historically outperform large-caps during the early stages of recoveries.

Looking further afield, unlike U.S. stocks, ex-U.S. developed market equities carry a valuation discount, potentially offering a better ‘margin of safety’ to help absorb some earnings weakness. Couple this discount with their more cyclical, higher-yielding characteristics, and ex-U.S. equities present strong upside potential (Exhibit 1).

Exhibit 1: Global P/E Ratios



Source: Bloomberg, as at 31 December 2022.

Past performance does not predict future returns.

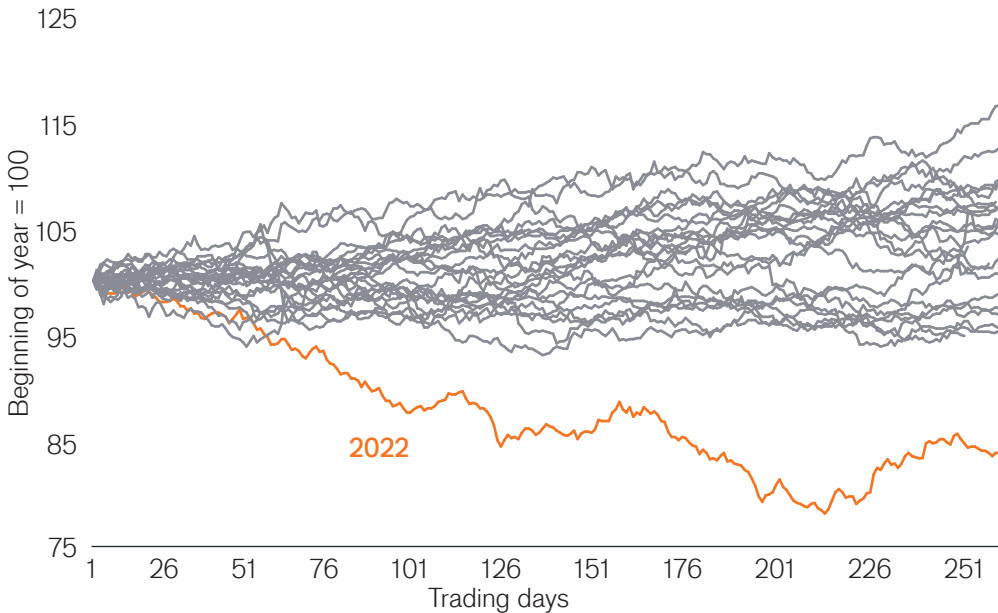
Looking across all global equity sectors, healthcare was the second-best performer in 2022, trailing only the energy sector. While we are looking to healthcare as a whole for its resiliency, we also see biotech as an important subsector that is offering attractive discounts as it potentially recovers from a severe drawdown.

TREADING CAREFULLY *continued*

Fixed income

The aforementioned ‘magnitude and speed of rate increases’ is a euphemism for what actually happened in fixed income last year: 2022 was the asset class’s worst year in a generation (Exhibit 2).

Exhibit 2: Annual trajectory of Global Aggregate Index since 1999



Source: Bloomberg, as at 31 December 2022. Note: Quarterly returns based on Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index.
Past performance does not predict future returns.

Fortunately, “bonds are math,” as they say, and this historic sell-off creates obvious silver linings. The reset in rates has created a level of yield cushion not seen in many years that may help buffer bond returns during any further rate increases, while the disproportionate increase in shorter-term rates caused short-duration yields to exceed those of intermediate-duration bonds.

Forward returns in corporate credit markets are beneficiaries of both the reset in rates and a moderate amount of spread widening in 2022. If the potential global slowdown in 2023 serves to widen spreads, the high starting yields in corporates may help cushion losses.

Moving forward

Treading carefully requires a delicate balance of defense and offense. The Portfolio Construction and Strategy Team is focused on providing portfolio solutions to help navigate this new environment and address the ubiquitous asset allocation gaps and concentrations we see in investor portfolios through our consultations with financial professionals. Continue reading our Trends and Opportunities report for more details on these portfolio solutions.



In this Trends and Opportunities report, we highlight portfolio solutions focused on:

- ▶ Equity
 - **European equity:** a warmer spring after a cold winter?
 - **Healthcare:** immunity from the downturn?
- ▶ Fixed Income
 - **Duration:** back to basics
 - **Corporate credit:** starting ahead with a strong yield
- ▶ Alternatives
 - **Absolute return:** no time for plaudits

European equities contain more cyclical stocks – typically outperforming during rate rises – and trade at a discount vs. the U.S.

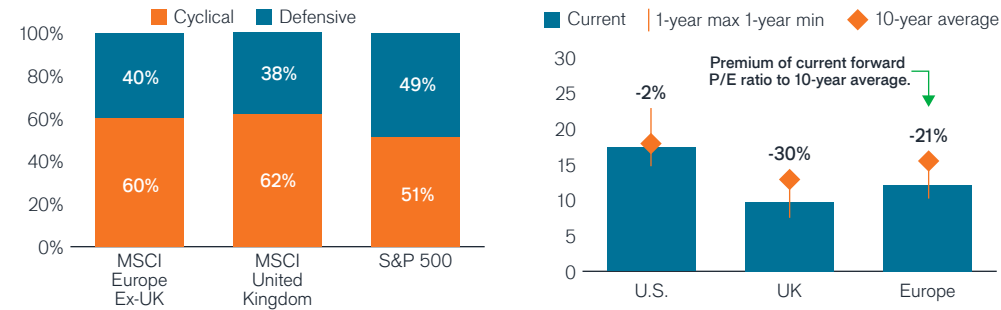
-34%

YoY decrease in portfolio allocation to European equities*

U.S. vs. Europe returns: European cyclical and value potentially poised to outperform in an era of higher interest rates

EUROPEAN EQUITY

A WARMER SPRING AFTER A COLD WINTER?



Source: (LHS) Janus Henderson Portfolio Construction and Strategy, Morningstar. Cyclical sectors include energy, financials, industrials and materials. Defensive includes communication services, consumer discretionary, consumer staples, healthcare, technology, real estate and utilities. As at 31 December 2022. (RHS) Janus Henderson Portfolio Construction and Strategy, Bloomberg. Forward P/E Ratio as at December 2022.



Source: Janus Henderson Portfolio Construction and Strategy, Morningstar, as at December 2022. Stoxx 600, S&P 500 Index, MSCI World Value, MSCI World Growth, total return indices. 10-Year U.S. Treasury yield (%). **Past performance does not predict future returns.**

2022 Recap

- ▶ Inflation, rising bond yields, and the conflict in Ukraine drove the decline in valuation multiples and subsequent drawdown of European equities from January through September, which fell 22% before rallying in the fourth quarter to close out 2022 ahead of U.S. equities.
- ▶ The increase in energy prices was the biggest driver of Euro area inflation, which reached a staggering 10.7% in October 2022 and urged the European Central Bank (ECB) to hike rates.
- ▶ German 10-year bund yields reaching an 11-year high in 2022 marked a new era of rising rates in developed markets, which took a toll on growth-oriented stocks.

Outlook

- ▶ With a potential recession on the horizon, the ECB must delicately navigate rate increases to bring down core inflation in 2023. This will create an environment that should benefit more value-oriented sectors, as well as companies that are an inflation hedge and are less sensitive to rising rates (vs. future earnings for growth stocks).
- ▶ The generally cyclical European market structure, combined with historic valuation discounts, implies that a little bit of good news can go a long way. Europe is potentially well positioned for any relief that might stem from a weaker U.S. dollar, geopolitical resolutions, and/or a continued pickup in post-pandemic demand recovery.

PCS Perspective

- ▶ Europe is likely to enter a recession earlier than other developed markets – a scenario that appears to be increasingly factored into relative market valuations.
- ▶ While impossible to predict the point of recovery, there are strong indications that suggest a recession in the region should be relatively shallow compared to previous experiences. Therefore, we believe it makes sense to look for opportunities to position portfolios for the eventual economic recovery.
- ▶ Irrespective of the timing of a recovery, European equities are paying dividends that are nearly double that of the U.S.¹, thus providing an attractive income opportunity.
- ▶ In our view, the more cyclical nature (i.e., greater exposure to consumers, energy, financials, and materials) of European equities versus the U.S. and their lower relative valuations present strong upside potential.

¹ Source: Morningstar as at 31 December 2022.

Global equity sector
returns for 2022

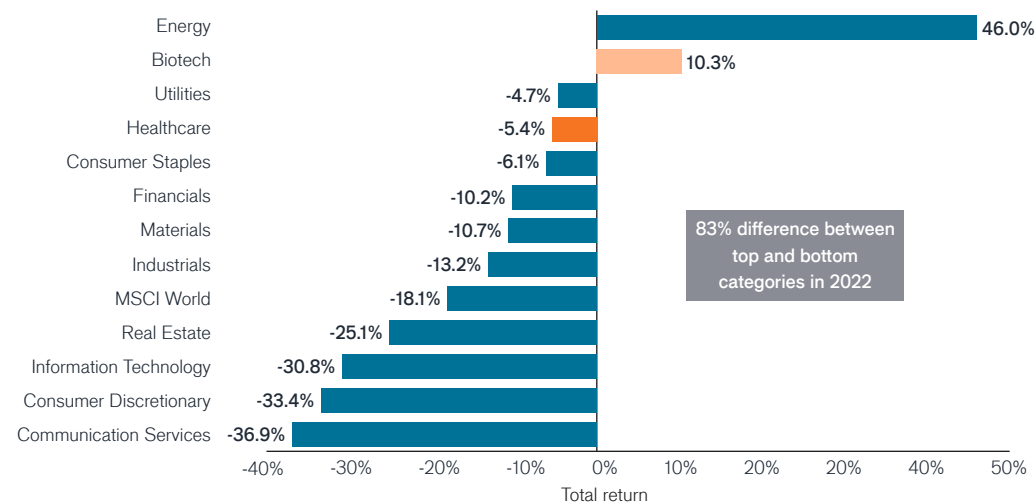
13.6%

average portfolio
allocation to healthcare
in 2022*

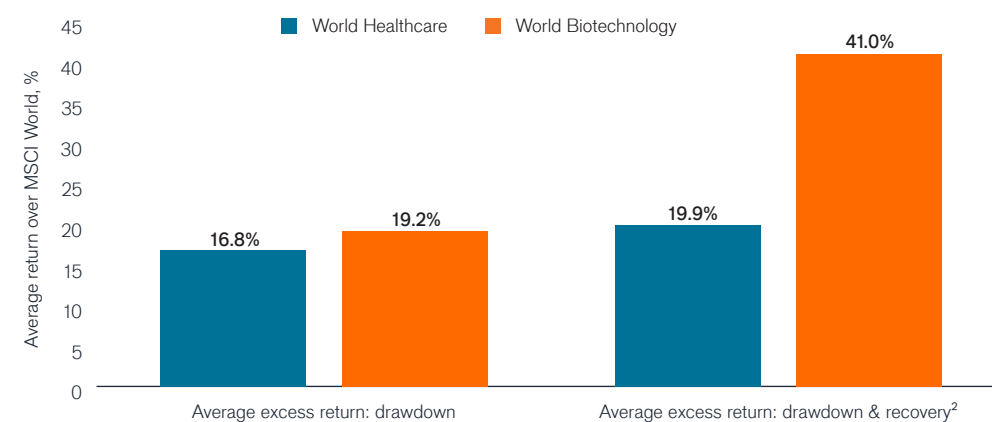
Healthcare and biotech
have been resilient in
market downturns and
recoveries

SECTOR EQUITY: HEALTHCARE

IMMUNITY FROM THE DOWNTURN?



Source: Morningstar using MSCI World Index sub-sector returns as of 31 December 2022.



² Last market downturn period recovery and full-cycle end date is as of 31 December 2022.

Source: Morningstar, global equity sectors and sub-sectors based on MSCI World Index. Average of downturn periods are 4/1/00 – 10/9/02, 11/1/07 – 3/9/09, 5/3/11 – 10/4/11, 2/13/20 – 3/23/20, 1/5/22 – 10/12/22. Recovery periods are based on MSCI World, for the final period 12/31/22 in the case of the recent recovery.

2022 Recap

- ▶ In a year marked by supply-chain disruptions, persistent inflation, and historically sharp rate hikes, equity sector dispersion across global equity markets was staggering. But healthcare broadly – and the biotech sector specifically – were somewhat insulated from the pain.
- ▶ Biotech began to recover in the second half of 2022 following the worst drawdown in the sector's recent history (-64% vs. average biotech drawdown of -32%).³
- ▶ Innovation in healthcare accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic and continues to drive the sector forward. Novel drug approvals by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are at decades-high annual averages since 2018.⁴

Outlook

- ▶ Given the uncertainty surrounding the severity of the impending economic slowdown, volatility is expected to persist in 2023.
- ▶ For the past two decades, the healthcare sector has proved resilient during market downturns, exhibiting lower average volatility and downside than global equities.
- ▶ At the same time, the sector continues to trade at a discount to longer-term averages, with many biotech companies in particular trading below levels of cash on their balance sheets, providing the potential for growth regardless of the recession outlook.
- ▶ In biotech, the ability to understand the science behind pending drug approvals, as well as the business impact of those approvals in the market, is critical to finding winners that can take advantage of the speed of innovation happening in the sector.

PCS Perspective

- ▶ Taking a balanced approach to assessing both the defensive and growth characteristics of the healthcare index can help investors navigate the volatility ahead.
- ▶ Healthcare and the narrower biotech sub-sector have outperformed the broader market through the drawdown and recovery phases of the past five sell-offs.
- ▶ Paying close attention to near-term cash flows, valuations, and revenue generation is increasingly important in an environment where inflation may persist and rates remain higher than in the previous decade.
- ▶ An active and nimble approach incorporating sector and portfolio construction expertise can help investors take advantage of the many long-term tailwinds healthcare can provide.

³ Biotech performance is for SPDR® S&P® Biotech ETF (XBI). 64% drawdown occurred from 8 February 2021 through 11 May 2022 vs. average biotech drawdowns going back to 31 January 2006.

⁴ "New Drugs at FDA: CDER's New Molecular Entities and New Therapeutic Biological Products." U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 27 January 2022.

Note: Janus Henderson makes no representation as to whether any illustration/example mentioned is now or was ever held in any portfolio. Illustrations are only for the limited purpose of analysing general market or economic conditions and demonstrating the research process. References to specific securities should not be construed as recommendations to buy, sell or hold any security, or as an indication of holdings.

DURATION

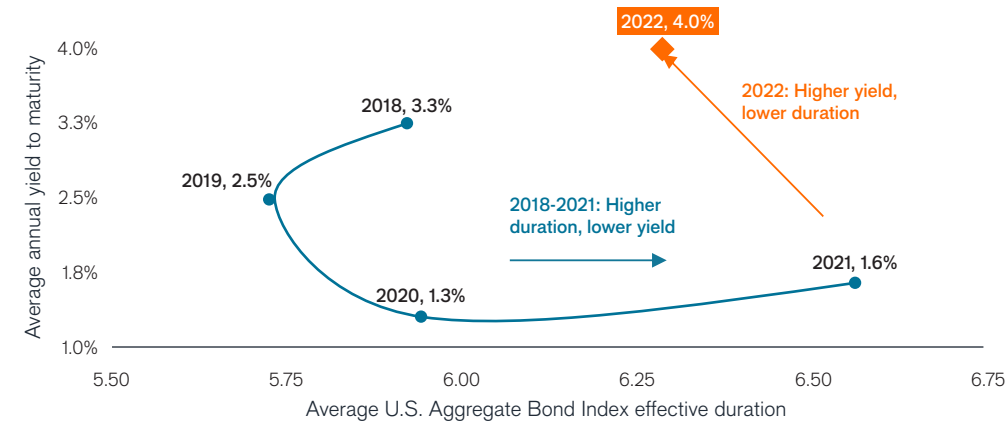
BACK TO BASICS WITH INTERMEDIATE DURATION

Yield duration trade-off
more favourable

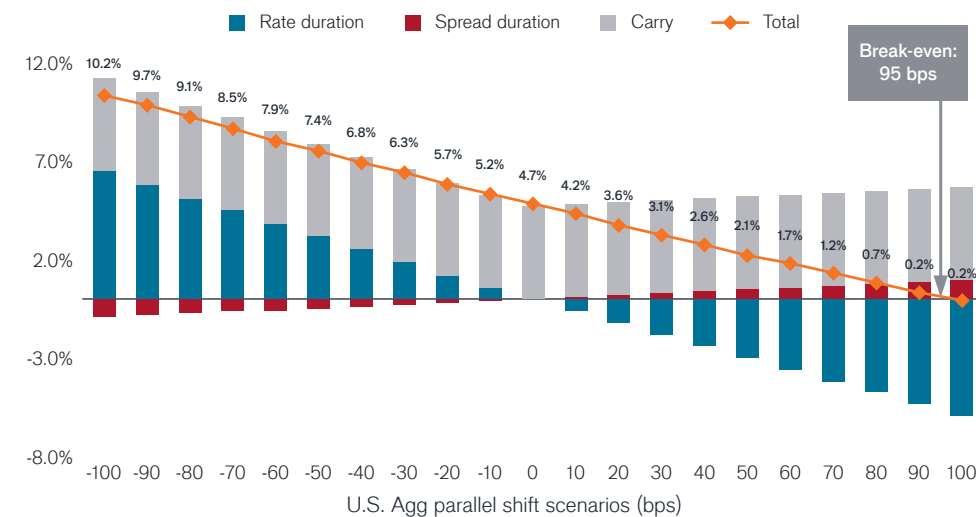
-36%

allocated to intermediate
duration bonds in 2022
vs. 2021*

Break-even rates have
reset much higher



Source: Morningstar, as at 31 December 2022.



Source: Janus Henderson, assuming a 1-year holding period, as at 31 December 2022.

2022 Recap

- ▶ Duration-sensitive fixed income generated the worst drawdown in recent history on fears of runaway inflation. For the second year in a row, core bonds were a detractor to the 60/40 portfolio.
- ▶ This unprecedented repricing, while painful, has led to a much more favourable yield/duration trade-off for intermediate bonds.
- ▶ Toward the latter half of 2022, intermediate duration began to demonstrate periods of impressive return as the market pondered the impact of the Federal Reserve (Fed) pausing its rate-hiking cycle to assess the severity of a potential economic slowdown.

Outlook

- ▶ At the start of the new year, many investors are focused on how to source positive returns during what could be a continued market drawdown.
- ▶ Historically, duration has provided a ballast when equity earnings sell off, including during the sharp COVID drawdown in early 2020, when U.S. Treasuries returned 5.3% despite the 10-year yield starting 232 basis points (bps) lower than where it sits today.
- ▶ Persistent inflation has caused yields to stay elevated and decouple from the declining growth trajectory. Should inflation continue its downward trend, we believe rates will recover along with growth, leading to an attractive environment for core bonds.

PCS Perspective

- ▶ In our global proprietary database of financial professional portfolios, allocations to intermediate bonds were down 36% year over year as investors smartly moved to the shorter end of the yield curve to help insulate their portfolios from rate increases.
- ▶ Last year's historic losses in intermediate duration make for a compelling current yield profile that can help provide cushion against potential future rate volatility.
- ▶ In a slowing growth environment, duration also provides ample opportunity for capital appreciation should rates move lower.
- ▶ Longer-duration assets have historically been a better ballast in true risk-off environments and can act as a diversifier to a short-duration allocation. As a result, we think it may now make sense to get back to basics in core fixed income with intermediate duration.

Pricing in investment grade credit (IG) better reflects recession risk

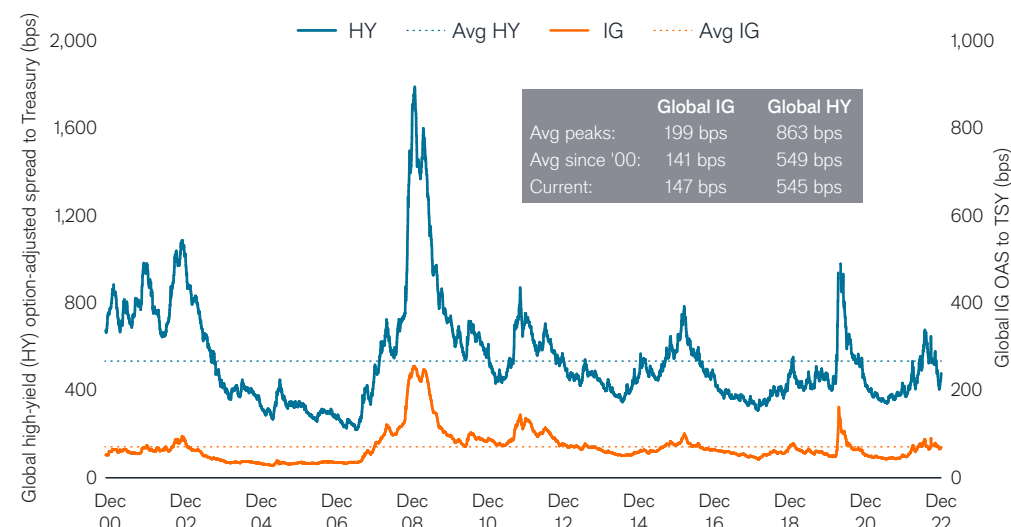
60/36/4

average portfolio allocations to equity/fixed income/alternatives in 2022*

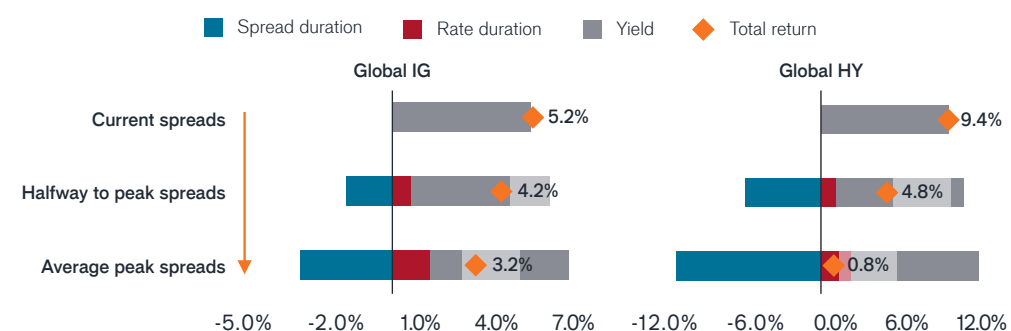
A higher starting yield can help weather spread widening

CORPORATE CREDIT

STARTING AHEAD WITH A STRONG YIELD



Source: Bloomberg as at 31 December 2022. Investment-Grade (IG) credit and high yield (Non-IG) credit represented by Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate TR USD and Bloomberg Global High Yield TR USD, respectively. Avg peak spreads ex '08 and COVID.



Source: Janus Henderson, as at 31 December 2022, assuming 1-year holding period.

2022 Recap

- ▶ As the Federal Reserve (Fed) dramatically raised rates last year, investment-grade (IG) credit sold off more than high-yield (non-IG) credit due to its greater sensitivity to interest rate volatility.
- ▶ While the Fed's efforts to combat inflation dominated headlines in 2022, the labour market has remained surprisingly resilient, with companies' earnings yet to show significant strain at the start of the new year. Credit spreads have therefore not yet widened to the levels typically seen during a recession.
- ▶ Investment-grade spreads, however, have priced in more of a slowing growth environment, while high-yield spreads remain below their 10-year historic averages.

Outlook

- ▶ In the face of a looming growth slowdown, IG and non-IG spreads remain relatively tight by historical standards, and thus are vulnerable to further widening.
- ▶ Even during a slowdown, credit remains attractive since high current yields and interest rate sensitivity can counterbalance – or possibly exceed – potential losses from spread widening.
- ▶ Furthermore, an uncertain economic outlook should lead to a lighter supply of credit, as most companies have already locked in low-coupon, longer-duration bonds. These technical trends should be supportive for both investment-grade and high-yield credit.

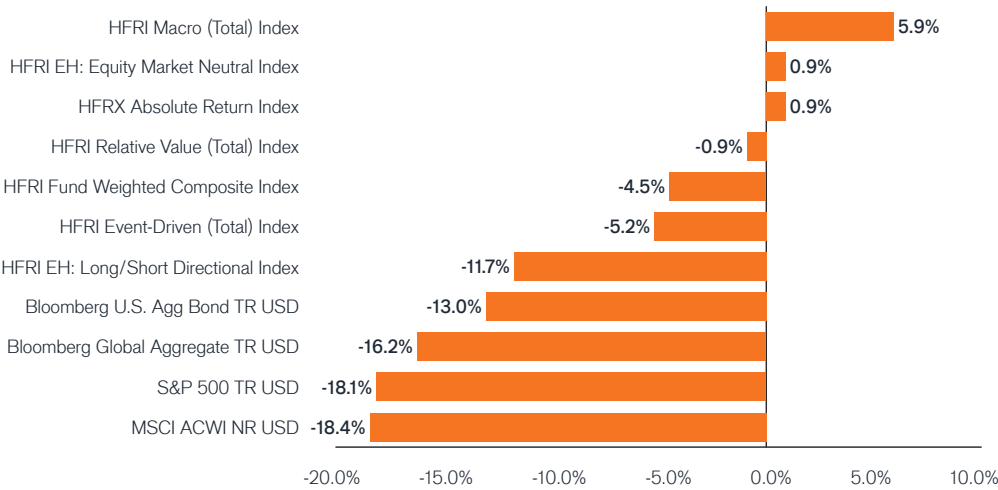
PCS Perspective

- ▶ The high-quality nature of IG credit translates to lower risk of significant earnings deterioration compared to non-IG. With spreads above historical averages and starting yields at over 5.0%, careful IG credit security selection may provide opportunities for defensive total return.
- ▶ Non-IG high-yield spread widening can generate larger losses than its IG counterparts. However, the higher starting level of carry – almost 9.5% as at 31 December 2022 – means non-IG spreads would have to widen to historical non-crisis peak levels (i.e., ex-COVID and Global Financial Crisis) before leading to negative total return.
- ▶ Active managers with the ability to identify strong fundamentals can help navigate volatility and default risk, potentially making an allocation to credit an attractive risk-adjusted opportunity in a year where the outlook for equities is uncertain.

2022 returns:
Alternatives versus
major market indices

LIQUID ALTERNATIVES

ABSOLUTE RETURN: NO TIME FOR PLAUDITS



Source: HFR and Morningstar. Data as at 31 December 2022.

The effect of Absolute
Return in a 60/40
portfolio

	Global Bonds	Global Equities	Absolute Return	Portfolio 1 ⁵	Portfolio 2 ⁶	Capture of Port. 2 vs Port. 1
Lowest 5 Year Return	-2.38%	-4.49%	-4.33%	-1.01%	-0.52%	51%
Average 5 Year Return	3.83%	7.48%	1.13%	6.23%	5.61%	90%
Highest 5 Year Return	8.31%	20.45%	6.49%	14.91%	13.43%	90%

Source: Morningstar, analysis by Janus Henderson PCS. Data as at 31 December 2022.

Note: Table shows 5-year rolling annualised returns based on all 5-year periods from Jan 1990 to Dec 2022. Global Bonds = Bloomberg Global Aggregate TR USD; Global Equities = MSCI ACWI NR USD; Absolute Return = HFRX Absolute Return Index.

⁵ Portfolio 1 = 60% Global Equities 40% Global Fixed Income

⁶ Portfolio 2 = 50% Global Equities 40% Global Fixed Income 10% Absolute Return.

2022 Recap

- ▶ In a year marked by weaker growth, high inflation, and multiple geopolitical risks, bonds and equities sold off concurrently, something that has happened on only three previous occasions since 1928.
- ▶ Besides having lower correlations, liquid alternatives have shown lower volatility and drawdowns than stocks and bonds, with equity-diversifying strategies like absolute return producing small, albeit positive returns.
- ▶ Portfolios with exposure to liquid alternative strategies such as absolute return generally fared better than those without, highlighting that a strategic allocation to liquid alternatives should be considered, regardless of an investor's investment horizon.

Outlook

- ▶ Global central banks battled inflation by aggressively raising rates. We expect further, yet smaller increases, with terminal rates set to be higher than in the recent past, triggering further equity market volatility.
- ▶ Tighter conditions suggest that that we should expect greater divergence in market returns compared to recent years, with as many companies that are winners as losers.
- ▶ Stock/bond correlations have markedly increased, while absolute return/equity correlations have moved significantly lower. This is a trend we expect to hold well into 2023.

PCS Perspective

- ▶ With higher correlations across major asset classes and volatility expected to remain elevated, investors' appetite for alternatives has increased.
- ▶ Harnessing volatility will be key for equity absolute return strategies when taking advantage of opportunities on the short and long sides.
- ▶ The short side is expected to be driven by consumers and corporates adjusting to higher costs, while demand likely weakens; the long side could present opportunities among companies with sound fundamentals, able to absorb shocks, which now show lower valuations.
- ▶ Absolute return strategies can adapt to unusual situations by managing their net market exposure, providing some potential for downside protection when the market turns, while opportunistically capturing returns throughout the market cycle.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

*Values are based on Janus Henderson's proprietary database of financial professional portfolios as at 31 December 2022.

Glossary:

10-Year Treasury Yield is the interest rate on U.S. Treasury bonds that will mature 10 years from the date of purchase.

A **yield curve** plots the yields (interest rate) of bonds with equal credit quality but differing maturity dates. Typically bonds with longer maturities have higher yields.

An **inverted yield curve** occurs when short-term yields are higher than long-term yields.

Basis point (bp) equals 1/100 of a percentage point. 1 bp = 0.01%, 100 bps = 1%.

Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is a broad-based measure of the investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market.

Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate Bond Index measures global investment grade, fixed-rate corporate bonds.

Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index is a broad-based measure of the global investment grade fixed-rate debt markets.

Bloomberg Global High Yield Index is a broad-based measure of the global high-yield fixed income markets.

Bloomberg 1-3 Year U.S. Treasury Index measures U.S. Treasury securities with maturities between 1-3 years.

Bloomberg 1-3 Year U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is a broad-based measure of the investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market with maturities between 1-3 years.

Bloomberg 1-3 Year U.S. Corporate Bond Index measures the investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market.

Capture Ratio measures the percentage of index (market) performance an investment “captured” during periods when the index achieved gains (up capture) or declined (down capture). A capture ratio of 100% means investment performance went up or down exactly the same amount as the index.

Carry is the excess income earned from holding a higher yielding security relative to another.

Credit Spread is the difference in yield between securities with similar maturity but different credit quality. Widening spreads generally indicate deteriorating creditworthiness of corporate borrowers, and narrowing indicate improving.

Duration measures a bond price's sensitivity to changes in interest rates. The longer a bond's duration, the higher its sensitivity to changes in interest rates and vice versa.

J.P. Morgan CLO AAA Index is designed to track the AAA-rated components of the USD-denominated, broadly syndicated CLO market.

MSCI Europe ex UK IndexSM reflects the equity market performance of developed markets in Europe, excluding the United Kingdom.

MSCI United Kingdom IndexSM reflects the equity market performance of developed markets in the United Kingdom.

MSCI World Growth IndexSM reflects the performance of growth stocks from global developed markets.

MSCI World IndexSM reflects the equity market performance of global developed markets.

MSCI World Value IndexSM reflects the performance of large and mid cap equity securities exhibiting value style characteristics across global developed markets.

Option-Adjusted Spread (OAS) measures the spread between a fixed-income security rate and the risk-free rate of return, which is adjusted to take into account an embedded option.

Price-to-Earnings (P/E) Ratio measures share price compared to earnings per share for a stock or stocks in a portfolio.

Russell 1000[®] Index reflects the performance of U.S. large-cap equities.

Russell 2000[®] Index reflects the performance of U.S. small-cap equities.

Russell 2500TM Growth Index reflects the performance of U.S. small to mid-cap equities with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values.

Russell 3000[®] Index reflects the performance of broad U.S. equities.

Russell Midcap[®] Index reflects the performance of U.S. mid-cap equities.

S&P 500[®] Index reflects U.S. large-cap equity performance and represents broad U.S. equity market performance.

STOXX[®] Europe 600 Index represents large, mid and small capitalisation companies across 17 countries in the European region.

U.S. Treasury securities are direct debt obligations issued by the U.S. Government. With government bonds, the investor is a creditor of the government. Treasury Bills and U.S. Government Bonds are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States government, are generally considered to be free of credit risk and typically carry lower yields than other securities.

Volatility measures risk using the dispersion of returns for a given investment.

Yield cushion, defined as a security's yield divided by duration, is a common approach that looks at bond yields as a cushion protecting bond investors from the potential negative effects of duration risk. The yield cushion potentially helps mitigate losses from falling bond prices if yields were to rise.

Risks:

Actively managed portfolios may fail to produce the intended results. No investment strategy can ensure a profit or eliminate the risk of loss.

Collateralised Loan Obligations (CLOs) are debt securities issued in different tranches, with varying degrees of risk, and backed by an underlying portfolio consisting primarily of below investment grade corporate loans. The return of principal is not guaranteed, and prices may decline if payments are not made timely or credit strength weakens. CLOs are subject to liquidity risk, interest rate risk, credit risk, call risk and the risk of default of the underlying assets.

Diversification neither assures a profit nor eliminates the risk of experiencing investment losses.

Equity securities are subject to risks including market risk. Returns will fluctuate in response to issuer, political and economic developments.

Fixed income securities are subject to interest rate, inflation, credit and default risk. The bond market is volatile. As interest rates rise, bond prices usually fall, and vice versa. The return of principal is not guaranteed, and prices may decline if an issuer fails to make timely payments or its credit strength weakens.

Foreign securities are subject to additional risks including currency fluctuations, political and economic uncertainty, increased volatility, lower liquidity and differing financial and information reporting standards, all of which are magnified in emerging markets.

Growth stocks are subject to increased risk of loss and price volatility and may not realise their perceived growth potential.

Health care industries are subject to government regulation and reimbursement rates, as well as government approval of products and services, which could have a significant effect on price and availability, and can be significantly affected by rapid obsolescence and patent expirations.

High-yield or “junk” bonds involve a greater risk of default and price volatility and can experience sudden and sharp price swings.

Securitised products, such as mortgage- and asset-backed securities, are more sensitive to interest rate changes, have extension and prepayment risk, and are subject to more credit, valuation and liquidity risk than other fixed-income securities.

Smaller capitalisation securities may be less stable and more susceptible to adverse developments, and may be more volatile and less liquid than larger capitalisation securities.

Sovereign debt securities are subject to the additional risk that, under some political, diplomatic, social or economic circumstances, some developing countries that issue lower quality debt securities may be unable or unwilling to make principal or interest payments as they come due.

Value stocks can continue to be undervalued by the market for long periods of time and may not appreciate to the extent expected.

ABOUT THE PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION AND STRATEGY TEAM

The PCS Team performs customised analyses on investment portfolios, providing differentiated, data-driven diagnostics. From a diverse universe of thousands of models emerge trends, themes and potential opportunities in portfolio construction that we believe will be interesting and beneficial to any investor.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT [JANUSHENDERSON.COM](https://www.janushenderson.com)

Janus Henderson
INVESTORS

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