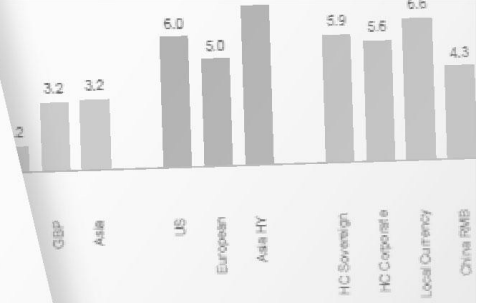


OCTOBER 2016

# Fixed Income Monthly

ary of the medium-term views  
multi-strategy, with portfolio  
for all investment decisions in a  
nes be differences between  
believe in managing portfolios  
d bottom-up, such that no single



Grade  
onds

High Yield

EmergingMarket B

(EMBI Global, CEMBI Composite, GBI EM GD) and BoFA Mem  
ield to worst for high yield indices. \*inflation linked bonds show re  
re as a result of fluctuations.

	6M	YTD	1Y
	1.1	0.9	3.5
	2.3	1.1	7.0
	2.3	0.4	10.7
	0.2	1.2	-0.3
	2.8	3.2	5.8
	4.0	2.5	15.7
	1	1.2	2.9
	0	0.5	4.4
		1.9	9.0
		2.5	5.4
		1.9	3.3
		4.1	1.8
		5.8	4.8
		4.9	5.5
		3.5	0.7
		5.2	3.3
		-3.7	-13.5



**Fidelity**<sup>TM</sup>  
INTERNATIONAL

# Contents

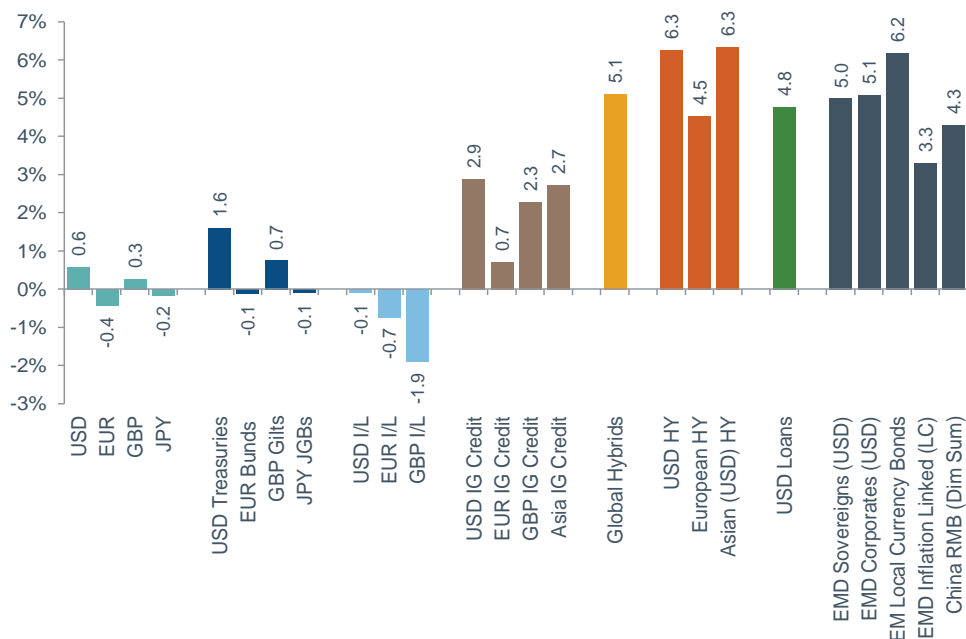
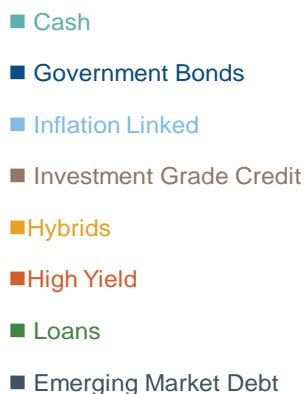
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# Strategy Summary – October 2016

The FIXED INCOME MONTHLY provides a forward-looking summary of the medium-term views from the Fidelity Fixed Income team. Our investment approach is multi-strategy, with portfolio managers given clear accountability and fiduciary responsibility for all investment decisions in a portfolio. Given this discretion, there may at times be differences between strategies applied within a fund and the views shared below. We believe in managing portfolios with a mix of active investment strategies, including top-down and bottom-up, such that no single strategy dominates risk in a fund.

Rates	--	-	=	+	++
<b>Duration</b>			●		
UST Rates			●		
EUR Rates - Core		●			
EUR Rates - Periphery			●		
GBP Rates		●			
<b>Inflation</b>	--	-	=	+	++
<b>Developed Markets Inflation</b>				●	
IL – US					●
IL – EUR			→	●	
IL – GBP		→	●		
IL – JPY			●		
<b>Emerging Markets Inflation</b>			●		
<b>Investment Grade Credit</b>	--	-	=	+	++
<b>Investment Grade Credit Beta</b>				●	
USD IG			●		
EUR IG				●	
GBP IG				●	
Asian IG (USD)		●			
<b>Financial and Corporate Hybrids</b>	--	-	=	+	++
<b>Financial and Corporate Hybrids</b>				●	
Contingent Convertibles			●		
Investment Grade Corporate Hybrids				●	
<b>High Yield</b>	--	-	=	+	++
<b>High Yield Credit Beta</b>				●	
US High Yield				●	
European High Yield				●	
Asian High Yield		●			
<b>Emerging Markets</b>	--	-	=	+	++
EM Hard Currency Sovereign Debt			●		
EM Local Currency Debt				●	
EM Hard Currency Corporate Debt				●	
China RMB Debt			●		

## Yields across fixed income asset classes



Source: Fidelity International, Bloomberg, 30 September 2016. Redemption yields based off 10y German Bunds, 10y US Treasuries, 10y UK Gilts and 10y Japan JGBs, JPM (EMBI Global, CEMBI Composite, GBI EM GD), S&P/LSTA U.S. Leveraged Loan 100 B/BB Rating index and BofA Merrill Lynch bond indices (USD 3m Deposit Rate L315, EUR 3m Deposit Rate L3EC, GBP 3m Deposit Rate L3BP, JPY 3m Deposit Rate L3JY, US TIPS All Mats G0QI, Euro All Mats I/L EZJI, UK I/L All Mats G0LI, US Corp Master C0A0, Euro Corp ER00, Sterling Corp Collateral UC00, Asia Dollar Bond IG Corp ACIG, Global Hybrids Index G0EC, Contingent Capital COCO, US HY Master II H0A0, Global HY European Issuers Constrained HQ0C, ACCY 20% Lvl4 Cap 3% Constr Q490, Dim Sum Broad Market CNHJ), shows yield to worst for high yield. Hybrids universe defined as 50% G0EC and 50% COCO indices, Inflation linked bonds show real yields. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

### Summary of returns as at 30 September 2016 (%)

Government	1M	3M	6M	YTD	1Y	3Y (Ann.)
US Treasuries	-0.2	-0.3	1.9	5.3	4.3	3.7
EUR Bunds	0.2	-0.1	2.7	6.7	6.2	5.4
UK Gilts	-2.4	2.4	9.1	14.7	13.2	9.2
<b>Inflation Linked</b>						
USD	0.5	1.0	2.9	7.7	7.1	2.7
EUR	0.5	1.6	3.5	4.7	5.5	5.1
GBP	-0.8	10.0	21.3	28.6	24.7	14.4
<b>Investment Grade Corporate</b>						
USD	-0.3	1.4	5.0	9.1	8.5	5.6
EUR	-0.1	1.9	3.6	6.1	7.4	4.9
GBP	-1.3	6.9	11.6	14.9	15.8	9.2
Asian Dollar	0.0	2.0	4.4	7.7	8.5	6.4
<b>Financial and Corporate Hybrids</b>						
Contingent Convertibles	-0.9	5.2	6.6	3.9	7.7	
Investment Grade Corporate Hybrids	-1.1	4.8	6.6	7.4	10.4	6.7
<b>High Yield</b>						
US	0.6	5.5	11.7	15.3	12.8	5.3
European	-0.1	3.8	6.4	8.8	10.3	6.9
Asia	0.8	4.6	10.5	14.4	17.4	7.6
<b>Emerging Markets</b>						
EM USD Sovereigns	0.4	4.0	9.3	14.8	16.2	8.2
EM USD Corporates	0.1	3.2	7.5	12.1	13.0	6.1
EM Local Currency (USD unhedged)	2.0	2.7	5.5	17.1	17.1	-2.6
China RMB	0.1	1.4	3.7	5.1	7.0	4.4

Source: Fidelity International, Datastream, 30 September 2016. Total Returns based off JPM (JCBBCOMP Index, JGENVUUG Index and JPEGCOMP Index) and BofA Merrill Lynch bond indices (G0Q0, G0D0, G0L0, G0Q1, EZJI, G0LI, C0A0, ER00, UC00, ACIG, G0EC, COCO, CNHJ, H0A0, HQ0C, Q490).

# Macro and Rates Overview

## Monthly Review

- Despite the market pricing in a higher probability of a rate hike by the FOMC in December, US Treasury yields were little changed over the month of September.
- The positive technical backdrop supported German Bunds, with 10yr yields 6bp lower on the month.
- Gilts lost ground and underperformed other core government bonds as stronger than expected macroeconomic data and expectations of further supply ahead weighed on the asset class.

## Strategy

	--	-	=	+	++
<b>Duration</b>			●		
UST Rates			●		
EUR Core		●			
EUR Periphery			●		
GBP Rates		●			

## Outlook

Central banks have been very much in the spotlight in September, providing food for thought to investors. Looking ahead, monetary policy actions and political events will shape what is potentially going to be a very volatile final quarter of the year.

Investors are once again wondering whether we may have reached the limits of monetary policy. The latest central bank rhetoric, particularly by the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Bank of Japan (BoJ), shows that some of these doubts are slowly being echoed by policymakers. Central banks have the challenging task of balancing monetary stimulus with the negative impact that further accommodation may have on the financial sector and on spending decisions of income-starved savers.

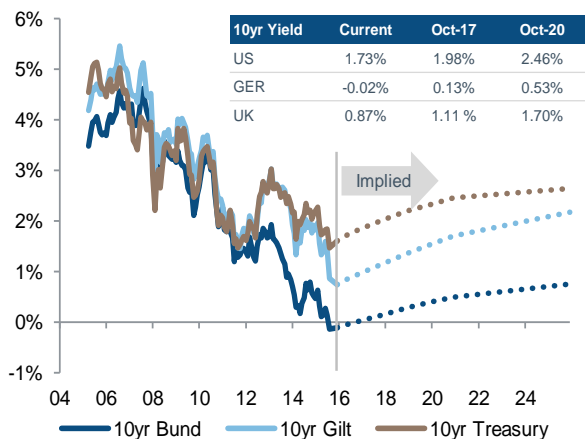
We do acknowledge that monetary policy may struggle on its own to revive economic growth and inflation and the “Taper talk” is likely to continue in the next few weeks and months. However, beyond the headlines and commentary the macro backdrop remains challenging, with low growth and subdued inflation. In this environment, the room for central banks to intentionally tighten policy appears very limited. Policymakers will remain engaged, in line with their mandates, and will experiment further with unorthodox monetary policy.

The BoJ once again pushed the boundaries of what can be considered “standard practice” by central banks, adding an explicit yield curve target to its QQE arsenal. The BoJ will aim to keep the slope of the JGB yield curve relatively stable, likely at mid-September levels, and the yield on 10yr JGBs not too far from zero, higher than it was before the September meeting. The new plan will not be easy to implement and will surely be closely watched by other central banks, particularly in Europe.

The ECB is reviewing its monetary policy toolkit and an announcement of the changes is expected at the December meeting. With the issue of bond scarcity firmly on the radar, and more negative rates seen as a drag rather than a stimulus due to the effect on banks margins, the Governing Council has a difficult balance to strike if they wish to extend the programme beyond March 2017. While politically costly, more flexibility around the capital key will sooner or later be required, and this will likely be reflected in the December announcement. Any decision in this sense will benefit European peripheral government bonds over Core, with the negative yields on the latter offering an asymmetric risk-reward and no cushion against capital losses. Peripheral debt, while in a better position than Core largely thanks to its positive yield, will suffer should we see a pick-up in volatility, warranting a neutral rather than overweight, stance.

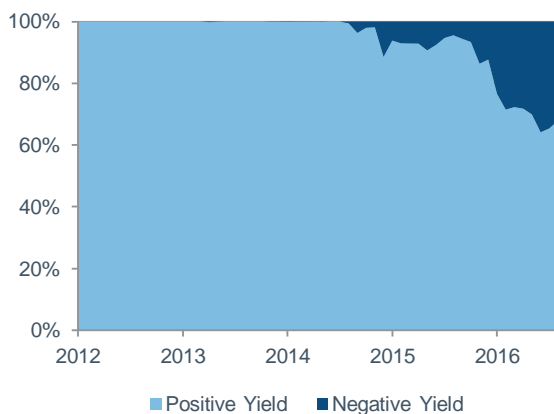
The Federal Reserve delivered a mixed message at the September monetary policy meeting. While on one hand the consensus around a December rate hike is gradually building and a 60% chance of a hike by year-end is now priced in, at the latest meeting, the Fed acknowledged a lower rate path over their forecast horizon. The Committee now expects to hike rates only twice in 2017, rather than three times as previously forecasted. Moreover, the Committee lowered its long-term rate forecast to 2.875% from 3%. The FOMC is gradually aligning itself with market expectations of a slow and shallow rate hiking cycle ahead. Given an already very flat yield curve in US Treasuries, we hold a neutral stance waiting for better levels before re-engaging.

## 10 year government bond yields



Source: Fidelity International, Bloomberg, 6 October 2016

## 32% of global government bonds are negative yielding



Source: Fidelity International, BAML Global Government Index (W0G1). 30 September 2016. Shows % of full market value in USD.

# Inflation-Linked Bonds

## Monthly Review

- Inflation-linked bonds posted mixed returns in September but outperformed nominal government bonds.
- Inflation breakevens widened across major regions. August inflation data beat market expectations in the US, with headline US CPI rising 1.1% on an annualised basis.

Strategy	--	-	=	+	++
<b>DM Inflation</b>				●	
IL – US					●
IL – EUR			→	●	
IL – GBP			→	●	
IL – JPY				●	
<b>EM Inflation</b>				●	

## Outlook

Inflation-linked bonds posted another month of outperformance relative to their nominal counterparts, with breakevens widening as a result. The rebound in commodity prices supported performance, with oil and coal prices in particular helping sentiment towards the asset class.

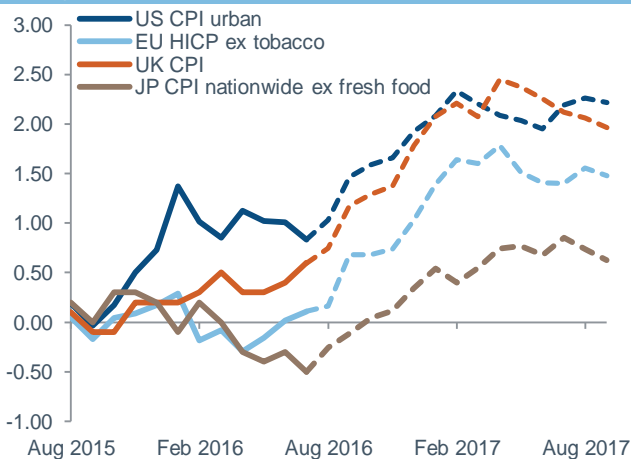
August headline US CPI surprised to the upside, 1.1% compared to market expectations of 1.0% thanks to rising medical costs. Other components of the inflation basket also remain on a solid footing. This marks the beginning of a rapid acceleration in headline inflation in the US and we expect it to reach above 2% by Q1 2017. US breakevens have begun to factor in the positive outlook for US prices but, at 1.61% 10yr US breakevens still have room to widen further.

There were very few surprises on the inflation front in Europe last month, with Eurozone HICP inflation flat at 0.2% and Core HICP inflation back down at 0.8%. While Eurozone prices remain relatively stable at a low level, base effects from oil prices will soon start to materialize and feed through into higher inflation, which we forecast at 1.3% by Q1 2017. Within Europe, regional breakevens, particularly in periphery, appear cheap and we therefore move to a more constructive stance.

In the UK, we pared back our underweight exposure to GBP breakevens. The asset class remains expensive on a fundamental basis, with the UK economy likely to face headwinds as the Brexit process begins, while domestic food prices remain under pressure. Technicals however, trump fundamentals for the time being, with currency weakness that will continue to be reflected into wider breakevens. We therefore move to a more neutral position waiting for better levels before re-engaging.

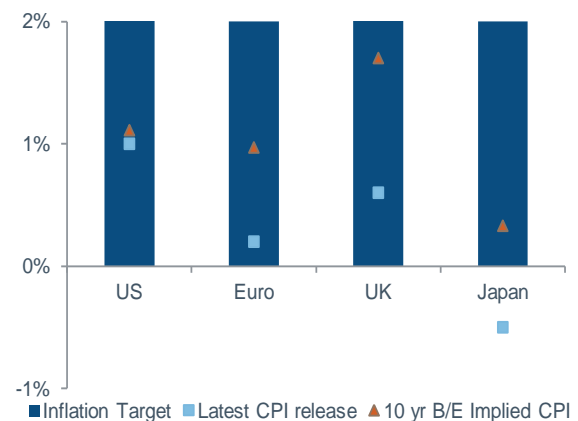
The impact of the BoJ announcement on Japanese breakevens has been muted, with the asset class remaining under pressure following the disappointing August CPI ex fresh food release (-0.5% yoy vs -0.4% expected). The inflation outlook going forward remains heavily dependent on how far the BoJ is willing to go to boost prices, and the impact of any further measures on the Japanese Yen. We do acknowledge that some signs of recovery are gradually appearing, with PMIs now above 50 and fiscal stimulus will soon start to show up in the data. However, given the uncertainty around the effectiveness of the BoJ's measures we prefer to wait until we get more clarity before changing our neutral stance.

## Fidelity Inflation Forecasts



Source: Fidelity International, 3 October 2016.

## Inflation expectations vs. central bank targets



Source: Fidelity International, 3 October 2016. Assumes 100bp wedge between UK RPI and UK CPI and a 50bp wedge between US CPI Urban and US PCE.

# Investment Grade Credit

## Monthly Review

- Investment grade (IG) corporate bonds posted negative returns in September, and their performance relative to government bonds was mixed across regions.
- Record levels of supply weighed on US IG credit, with spreads 5bp wider over the month.
- The credit spread on EUR IG credit was also marginally wider, by 8bp, due to volatility in financials.

## Strategy

Strategy	--	-	=	+	++
<b>IG Credit Beta</b>				●	
USD IG			●		
EUR IG				●	
GBP IG				●	
Asian IG (USD)		●			

## Outlook

The pick-up in interest rate volatility induced by central banks in September weighed on investment grade (IG) corporate spreads, although the widening was marginal considering the sharp uptick in supply.

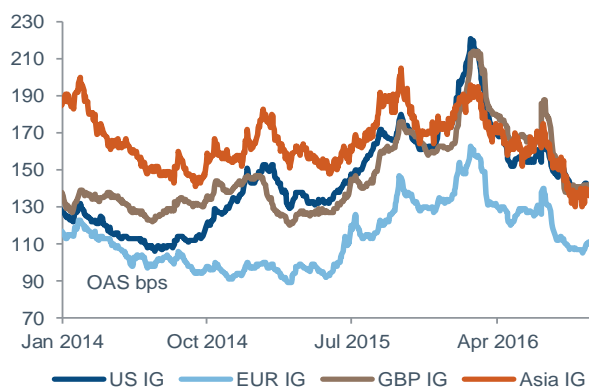
US IG primary markets were in full swing following the summer lull, with year to date supply reaching USD 1.3 trillion as of the end of September. US corporates continue to gradually re-lever, taking advantage of the cheap funding levels available. The Fed's cautious stance on interest rates should continue to support the market, as will the ongoing stimulus by other global central banks. On a fundamental basis however, we are keeping a close eye on evidence of further active re-leveraging by US corporates, with the market now entering a more mature stage of the credit cycle. Moreover, the recent increase in US Libor rates could dampen marginal demand by non-US investors as they see their hedging costs rise. A neutral stance to US IG therefore seems appropriate, on balance, with better opportunities in other areas of the credit market.

Asia IG has been resilient to the latest bout of interest rate volatility thanks to the technical support from the local investor base. Demand for USD-denominated IG paper by Asian investors is extremely strong, and this is unlikely to change in the near future given the Fed's cautious stance on interest rates. While the asset class continues to act as a very good diversifier in global portfolios, valuations have adjusted considerably particularly against US IG, and we therefore keep a small underweight.

Unlike their US counterparts, European corporates show little appetite to re-lever their balance sheets despite the very favourable funding conditions available in the market. We may see some pick-up in issuance over the next 6-12 months, but the evolution of the credit cycle in Europe will be very slow keeping fundamentals stable relative to other IG markets. Supply year to date has not picked up meaningfully despite the support provided by the ECB's CSPP programme, and we are likely to see a reduction in EUR-denominated supply by US corporates in reaction to higher EUR/USD hedging costs. With ECB purchases likely to continue beyond March 2017 and a dearth of positive yielding assets in Europe, the technical picture remains solid. Valuations have adjusted since the beginning of the year, and we are seeing demand flowing towards non-CSPP eligible bonds in search for higher yield. While idiosyncratic issues around some European financials may lead to some short term volatility, we retain our overweight stance towards EUR IG with spreads that are unlikely to widen meaningfully from here.

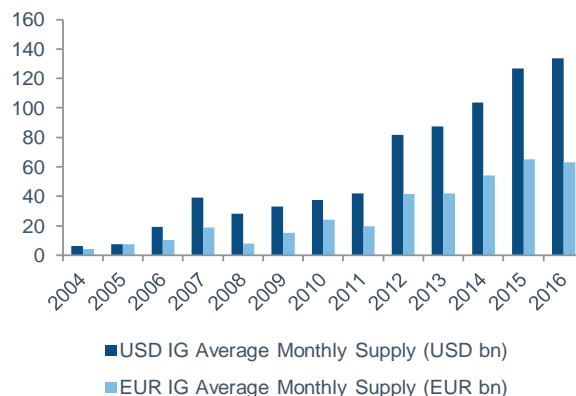
GBP IG spreads have tightened from the year-to-date wides recorded in mid-February. As we receive more details around what shape the Brexit process will take, we may see some volatility in both interest rates and spreads. Compared to UK Gilts, which will face headwinds from increasing issuance and rising risk premium, GBP credit will find stronger support in the BoE's corporate bond buying programme, which continues at a regular pace. In contrast with the initial concerns around GBP IG liquidity once central bank purchases begin, the BoE has shown flexibility and awareness of the liquidity challenges that differentiate GBP IG from other, bigger credit markets. Supply on the other hand, has been subdued. We will continue to monitor political developments and will change our positive stance in the event of a sharp pick up in volatility or a deterioration of credit fundamentals.

## Investment Grade Spreads



Source: Fidelity International, BofA Merrill Lynch, Bloomberg, 30 September 2016.

## US IG printing record supply. EUR IG supply more stable



Source: Fidelity International, Bloomberg, 4 October 2016. Includes fins and non-fin issuers.

# High Yield

## Monthly review

- High yield (HY) corporate bonds posted mixed returns in September. US and Asian Dollar HY bonds gained ground while European HY posted negative returns.
- US HY credit spreads tightened by 13bp over the month, driven by a rebound in energy prices.
- Most US HY sectors ended in the positive territory in September. Energy and commodity sectors outperformed the broader market, while media and transportation lagged.

## Strategy

	--	-	=	+	++
<b>High Yield Credit Beta</b>				●	
US High Yield				●	
European High Yield				●	
Asian High Yield		●			

## Outlook

High yield (HY) credit had another month of solid performance in September, with credit spreads tightening across all regional markets. Going into the final quarter of the year, we remain overweight HY credit beta. The asset class is one of the last bastions of income available for investors facing ever lower yields in other areas of the credit market, Easy monetary policy and a macro environment characterised by low growth, low inflation and low volatility, have contributed to the very strong performance that all regional high yield markets have posted year to date. Moreover, given the “Taper talk” and rates volatility that we have seen in September, HY credit offers an appealing income-generating, short duration alternative for investors concerned about a rise in government bond yields.

Looking ahead our favourite regions remain the US and Europe.

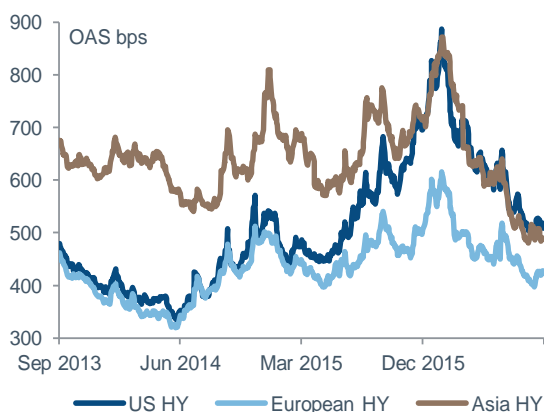
After the oil-induced scare in mid-February, US HY has rebounded sharply with the spread versus government bonds 200bp tighter year to date. Looking at fundamentals, US corporate leverage remains elevated, although we are seeing some marginal deleveraging following the capex cuts forced upon energy companies by the oil rout earlier in the year. As oil prices continue to recover, what has been one of the main headwinds for the asset class last year will gradually dissipate.

Valuations are fair to slightly expensive compared to recent history, with implied default rates now below trailing realised defaults. Technical factors remain firmly in the driving seat however, trumping fundamentals for the time being. We are unlikely to see a dramatic widening in spreads given that US growth is arguably at or above trend, the Fed is keeping a cautious tone and other global central banks are retaining an easing bias. On the other hand, it will be very difficult for US HY to repeat the exceptional returns recorded year to date and coupon income will likely be the main driver of performance going forward.

Central bank purchases and demand by yield-hungry investors paint a positive technical picture for European HY, which has outperformed all other European asset markets year to date. Compared to the US HY market, European HY also benefits from a more constructive fundamental backdrop. Leverage metrics are stable and interest cover ratios are high. Looking at supply, the primary pipeline is rather active, but not overwhelming. We continue to monitor changes in the supply and demand picture for any indications that this positive dynamic is shifting materially.

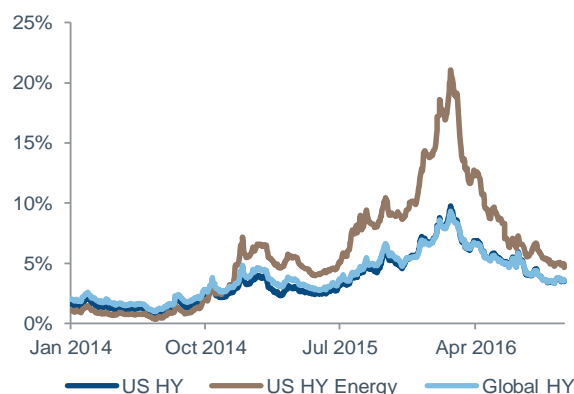
Lastly, Asia HY continues to provide the local investor base with high income dollar denominated paper. With US monetary policy on a very gradual tightening path, inflows by income-seeking investors will continue to support total returns. Nevertheless, from a Global HY perspective, Asia HY may face some headwinds due to increasing supply and tighter fiscal policy by some of the larger governments in the region, while valuations now look tight compared to the larger and more liquid US HY market. We therefore keep an underweight stance for the time being, waiting for an improvement in relative valuations before reengaging.

## High Yield Spreads



Source: Fidelity International, BofA Merrill Lynch. 30 September 2016.

## High Yield Implied Default Rates



Source: Fidelity International, 30 September 2016. The table shows an approximation of the default rate priced into OAS, with assumptions about required liquidity premium and recovery rates. Reference indices BofA Merrill Lynch Global HY (HW00), US HY (H0A0), US HY Energy (H0EN) index.



# Emerging Markets

## Monthly review

- Emerging market (EM) bond posted positive returns in September, with Local Currency outperforming Hard Currency bonds
- The increase in government bond volatility and the steepening of yield curves in core markets triggered some initial pressure on EM assets. Markets, however, rebounded with EM credit spreads flat on the month.

## Strategy

	--	-	=	+	++
Hard Currency Sovereign			●		
Local Currency Debt				●	
Hard Currency Corporates				●	
China RMB			●		

## Outlook

Emerging Markets staged an impressive rebound in 2016, with EM Hard Currency Sovereign debt leading the way (+15.2% ytd). Spreads have tightened considerably from 500bp in February 2015 to 340bp currently.

We see three key drivers that contributed to the rally. First, a more pragmatic Fed and a repricing in US rate expectations have led to a pause in the USD rally that had tightened EM financial conditions for the previous three years. Second, after three years of deterioration the growth differential between EM and developed markets has finally stabilised. Lastly, the search for yield and the low realized volatility has been a strong tailwind for a high beta, high income asset class such as EM debt.

Looking ahead, we prefer to allocate capital to EM Hard Currency Corporates and Local Currency debt, while keeping a neutral stance towards EM Hard Currency Sovereign debt.

EM Sovereign spreads appear fair compared to fundamentals, although they are still 90bp above where they were in mid 2014. With the search for yield ongoing, there is scope for further spread compression, although the risk/reward trade off is clearly not as compelling as it was at the beginning of the year.

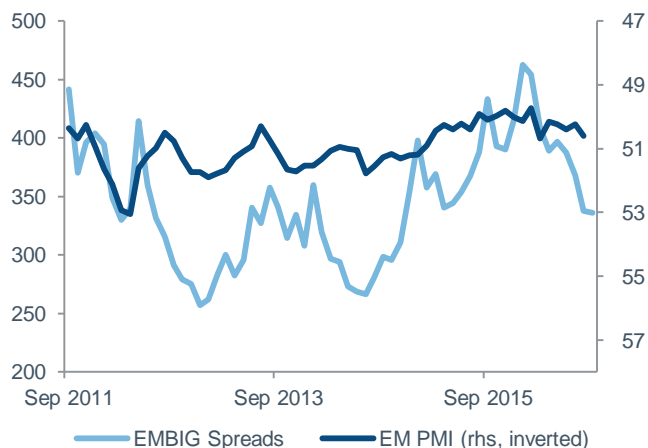
The technical picture remains constructive, particularly considering that year-to-date inflows into the asset class represent only a fraction of the AUM that left the asset class in the previous three years. We estimate that EM Hard Currency debt has attracted at least USD 20 billion in net inflows this year, roughly evenly split between ETFs and non-ETF vehicles.

Fundamentals have been relatively stable but we do note a mild deterioration in sovereign credit quality, although historically credit ratings have been lagging rather than leading indicators of EM sovereign credit performance.

In the Local Currency space, EM central banks continue to benefit from a backdrop of easy global monetary policy. This provides them with some welcome room to cut rates and support growth. In this context, Local Currency duration looks reasonably attractive with the asset class still under-owned by global investors.

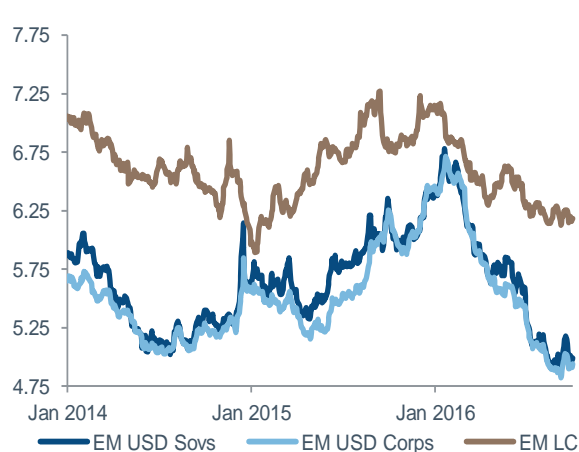
EMFX will likely trade as a function of US monetary policy, with any hawkish surprise weighing on EM currencies. After the strong appreciation this year, we advocate a more cautious stance on EMFX, keeping a close eye on interest rate differentials and inflation. By the same token, we prefer EM Hard Currency Corporate debt to EM Hard Currency Sovereign, with the former offering exposure to export-oriented companies that stand to benefit from weaker EM currencies.

## EMBIG Spreads vs. EM PMI



Source: Fidelity International, Bloomberg, Markit, 30 September 2016.

## Yields Across EM Asset Classes



Source: Fidelity International, Bloomberg, JP Morgan bond indices, 30 September 2016

**Author:**

**Andrea Iannelli**, Investment Director – Fixed Income  
andrea.iannelli@fil.com +44 (0)20 7074 5481

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