

Reset Roadmap

Four ideas for considering
resetting bond allocations after
recent market turmoil

October 2022



2022 will be remembered as a year of regime change in bond markets

The shake-up may require investors to consider resetting bond allocations and inform portfolio positioning

**OLD REGIME:
ECONOMIC GROWTH- ORIENTATED**

In the growth-orientated regime, what were considered relatively safe bonds would behave as a hedge to riskier assets.

Investors had grown accustomed to the trend of the past 20 years in which markets associated higher (or lower) rates with stronger (or weaker) economic output and employment .

**NEW REGIME:
INFLATION-FOCUSED**

In 2022, advanced economies entered a phase of higher inflation shocks not seen since the 1970s¹ as policy and markets have become beholden to rising prices.

Year-to-date, the number of public debt markets providing shelter for investors is close to zero.²

¹ Source: Inflation in the US rose to around 14% in 1980, according to Federal Reserve public data, Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis.

² Source: Bloomberg. ICE BofA and JP Morgan indices; Allianz Global Investors. Data as at 31 August 2022.

Signs of some respite after historic losses, but the market shake-up is not yet over

Year-to-date, there have been few places for investors to hide in public debt markets

Indicative market indices	Year-to-date %	September %	Q3 %	Q2 %	Q1 %	Yield-to-Worst %	Duration years
US floating-rate notes	0.24	0.18	0.83	-0.37	-0.22	4.2	0.2
Euro floating-rate notes	-0.57	0.05	0.11	-0.35	-0.33	1.7	0.2
Euro government bonds 1-3 years	-4.10	-1.06	-1.82	-1.29	-1.05	2.1	1.9
US Treasury bonds 1-3 years	-4.57	-1.18	-1.59	-0.50	-2.54	4.3	1.7
China government and policy bank bonds	-7.64	-2.94	-4.39	-4.46	1.12	2.5	4.3
Euro inflation-linked bonds	-11.10	-6.13	-5.32	-7.44	1.44	2.2	1.9
Asian investment grade	-11.72	-2.98	-3.02	-3.78	-5.39	5.6	4.7
US aggregate	-14.61	-4.32	-4.75	-4.69	-5.93	4.8	6.4
US high yield	-14.62	-4.02	-0.68	-9.97	-4.51	9.6	4.3
US fixed-rate preferred securities	-14.74	-3.41	-0.95	-7.72	-6.72	6.9	5.5
Euro investment grade	-15.06	-3.47	-3.28	-7.31	-5.26	4.1	4.8
Euro high yield	-15.43	-3.99	-0.38	-10.81	-4.83	8.3	3.3
Euro aggregate	-16.16	-3.69	-4.59	-7.10	-5.41	3.0	6.7
Global emerging-market corporate bonds	-16.21	-3.83	-2.64	-5.62	-8.82	7.9	4.3
US investment grade	-18.72	-5.26	-5.06	-7.26	-7.69	5.7	7.4
Global convertible bonds	-19.63	-5.62	-1.58	-12.86	-6.28	2.2	2.5
Global aggregate	-19.89	-5.14	-6.94	-8.26	-6.16	3.7	6.9
Global multi-sector credit	-20.82	-5.38	-6.03	-9.07	-7.34	5.9	6.0
Asian high yield	-23.68	-6.35	-6.03	-9.62	-10.14	16.7	2.9
Global emerging-market sovereign bonds	-23.95	-6.36	-4.57	-11.43	-10.02	9.6	6.6
Global government bonds AAA-AA	-24.95	-6.42	-9.72	-10.75	-6.86	3.0	7.6
Global inflation-linked bonds	-25.98	-8.21	-9.96	-13.99	-4.42	0.8	10.0
Global green bonds	-27.31	-6.56	-9.74	-12.34	-8.13	3.9	7.4

Source: Bloomberg, ICE BofA and JP Morgan indices; Allianz Global Investors. Data as at 30 September 2022. Index returns in USD (unhedged) except for Euro indices. Yield-to-worst adjusts down the yield-to-maturity for corporate bonds which can be “called away” (redeemed optionally at predetermined times before their maturity date). Effective duration also takes into account the effect of these “call options”. Past performance does not predict future returns. See the disclosure at the end of the document for the underlying index proxies. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. A rating provides no indicator of future performance and is not constant over time. Index returns are presented as net returns, which reflect both price performance and income from dividend payments, if any, but do not reflect fees, brokerage commissions or other expenses of investing.

READYING FOR THE RESET

Theme 1: a way to protect portfolios against market volatility

Realised and implied bond volatility are high and highly unstable

Measures of expected and realised bond volatility have come down from their recent peaks, but are still high.



Where to Focus

- Strategies combining cash bonds with futures and options that help guard against rate and spread volatility could be considered. There can be associated cash outlay and performance costs.
- Floating-rate notes could help offer protection from rising rates. Keep in mind that floater yields tend to be lower than fixed-rate corporate bond yields.

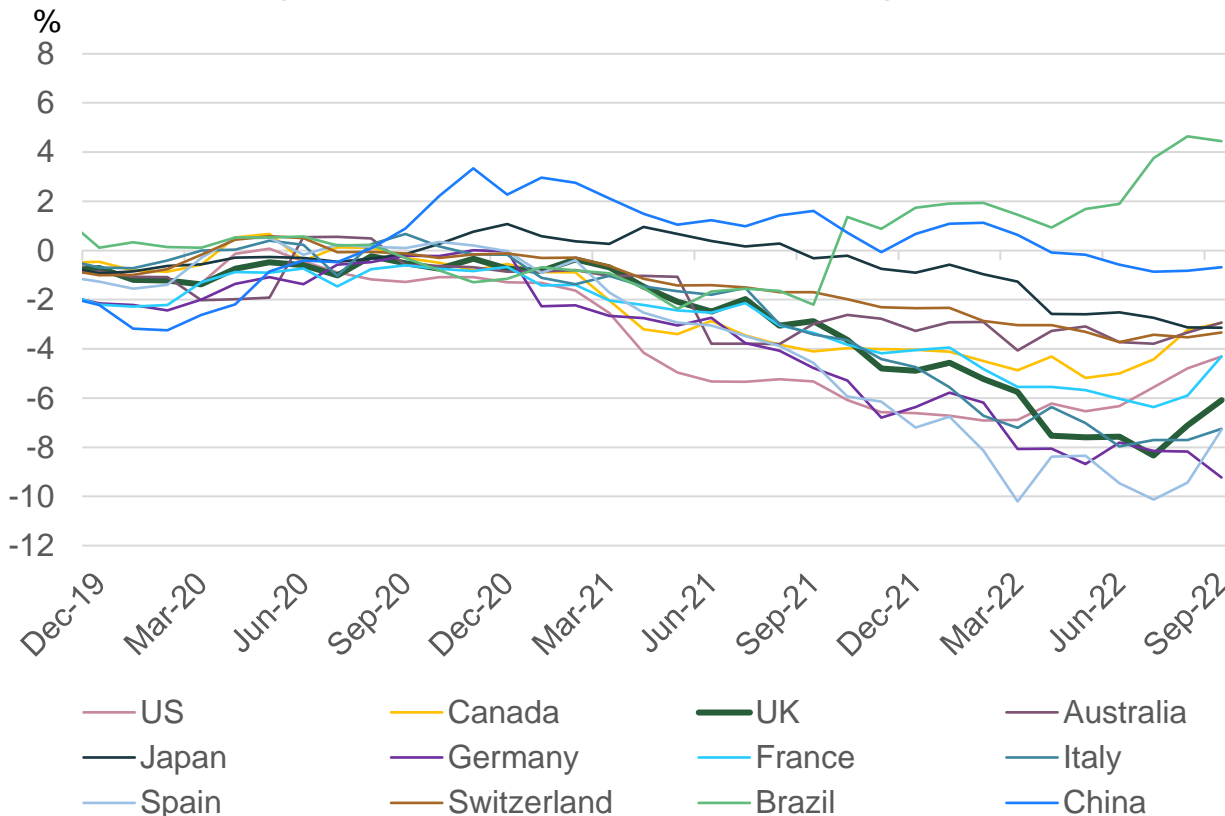
Source: Bloomberg and ICE BofA indices. Allianz Global Investors. Data as at 30 September 2022. Index returns in USD (hedged). Realised volatility (30 days trailing) is annualised. IG= bonds rated Investment Grade. lhs=left-hand-side axis. rhs=right-hand-side axis. The rhs axis represents the value of the MOVE, which is a yield curve-weighted index of the normalised implied volatility on 1-month Treasury options on the 2. 5. 10 and 30-year contracts over the next 30 days. A higher MOVE value means higher option prices. Past performance does not predict future returns. See the disclosure at the end of the document for the underlying index proxies and important risk considerations. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. Index returns are presented as net returns, which reflect both price performance and income from dividend payments, if any, but do not reflect fees, brokerage commissions or other expenses of investing.

DIVERGING PATHS AHEAD

Theme 2: navigating out-of-sync policies and economies

The divergence is feeding through to government bond markets

Local currency government bond yields adjusted for inflation suggest that economies and policies may be shifting in how and when they might exit the current inflation-led regime.



Where to Focus

- The shift to an inflation-led regime may favour flexible bond strategies that could benefit from pricing discrepancies across global markets but also bring varying degrees of risks.
- It makes sense to consider allocating incrementally to those rates markets that could potentially benefit from flight to safety.

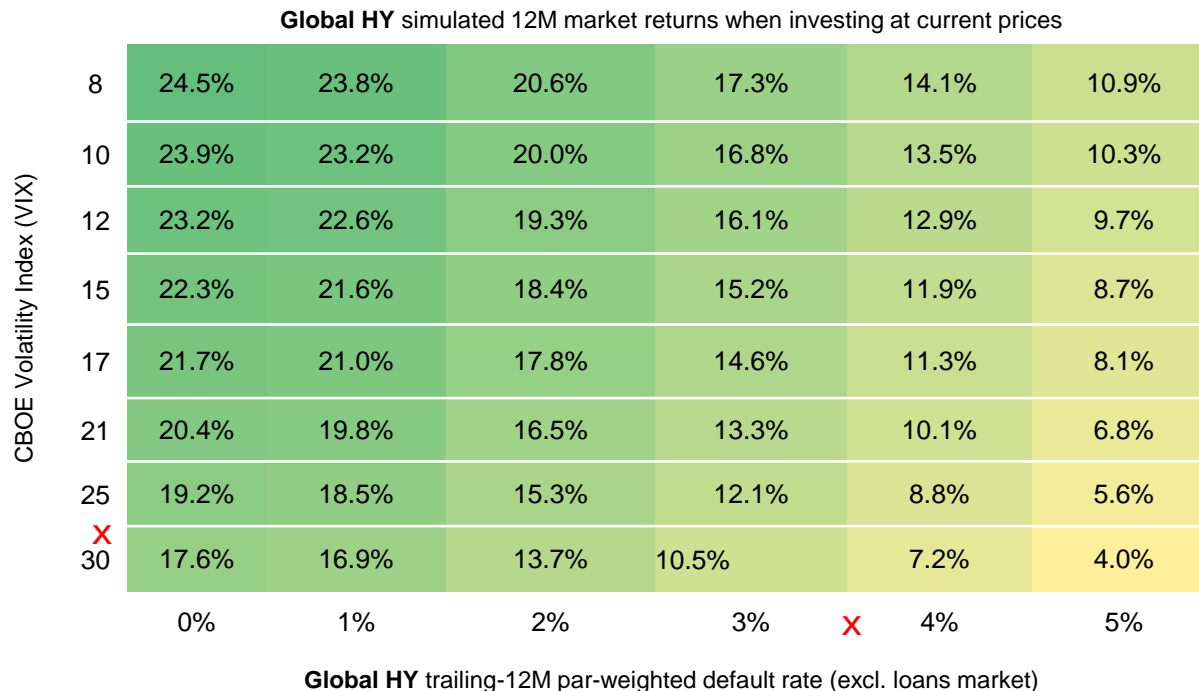
Source: Bloomberg. Allianz Global Investors. Yield data as at 30 September 2022. Latest available official inflation data for the month of August 2022. Month-end 1-year government bond yields (local currency) adjusted for monthly headline consumer price inflation (year-on-year, not seasonally adjusted). Past performance does not predict future returns.

REGAINING VALUE IN HIGH-INCOME

Theme 3: a way to capture the value rebound in high-income assets

Once core rates and inflation stabilise, we believe high-income assets should follow soon after

At current yields, high-yield corporates and emerging-market sovereigns could offer a good income cushion and upside.



X = current levels of US equity volatility and defaults

Where to Focus

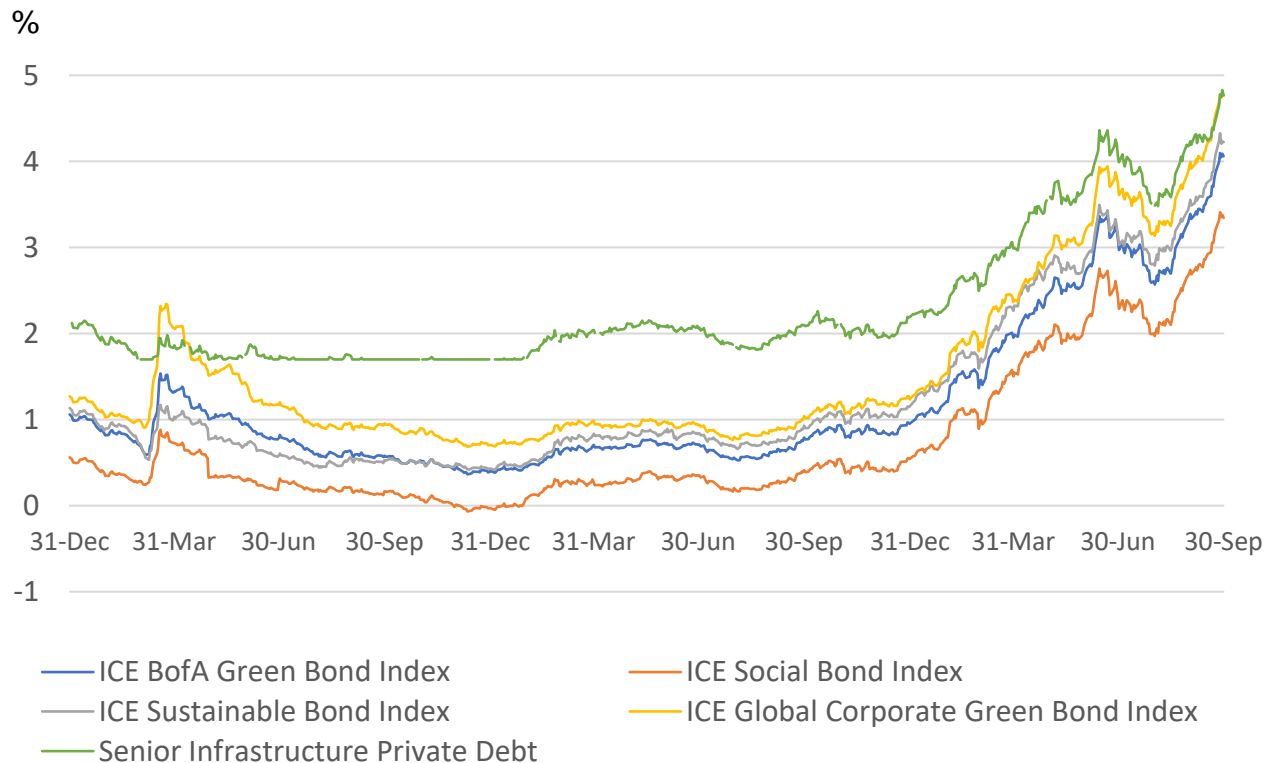
- Global high-yield corporate bonds and emerging-market external sovereign debt could offer a good income cushion and potentially attractive long-term returns. Such assets may pose increased volatility and default-rate risks.
- We favour a tilt towards higher-quality issuers and allocating freely across geographies.

CLOSING THE SUSTAINABILITY GAP

Theme 4: a way to benefit from the sustainable investing push

The energy crisis is boosting demand and yield for green and social financing

Yields offered by sustainability-labelled bonds have reset to more competitive levels.



Where to Focus

- Sustainable use-of-proceeds bonds and Sustainable Development Goals-aligned credit strategies.
- Surging power prices should potentially benefit a socially-responsible transition to a lower-carbon economy.

Source: Bloomberg, Allianz Global Investors. The yields for the ICE BofA indices represent the weighted average of the yields of the constituent bonds denominated in their local currency. The yield for investment-grade infrastructure private debt is an approximation, composed of the EUR 15-year mid-swap as a reference rate (with a floor at zero when it goes negative) + 170 basis points. Past performance does not predict future returns. See the disclosure at the end of the document for the underlying index proxies and important risk considerations. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.

Reset Roadmap series – four ideas for considering resetting bond allocations after recent volatility

Series of four articles

AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

1. Ready for the reset

Focus: protecting portfolios against market volatility



Ready for the reset

September 2022



Frank Diemer
Global COO
Fixed Income

Fixed-income turmoil has tested investor resolve as bond markets shift to an inflation-focused environment after years orientated around economic growth. In the first of four articles uncovering how investors can reset bond allocations and inform portfolio positioning, we explore ideas for protecting against volatility.

Key takeaways:

- Investors are adjusting to a volatile shift in bond market regimes: from growth- to inflation-orientated
- The Fed's message that inflation, not growth, remains the chief tail risk for policymakers has hastened the most recent bond price drops
- With bond markets choppy, strategies combining cash bonds with futures and options that help guard against rate and spread volatility can be considered
- Floating-rate notes can help investors seeking exposure to credit get better protection from rising rates



Georgios Georgiou
Global Head of
Fixed Income
Product Specialists

2022 will be remembered as a year of regime change in bond markets. Advanced economies entered a phase of higher inflation shocks not seen since the 1970s oil shocks¹. Inflation had not attracted such attention since the 1970s. But it has zoomed back into focus in 2022 as policy and markets have become beholden to the twists and turns of rising prices. A return to what may feel to some like an unfamiliar regime has led bond indices to historically outsized losses. Year-to-date, the number of public debt markets that could provide at least some shelter for investors was close to zero (see Exhibit 1).

¹ Source: Inflation in the US rose to around 14% in 1980 according to Federal Reserve public data. Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis.

The rout has come as a shock for most investors. Many had grown accustomed to the trend of the past 20 years in which markets associated higher (or lower) rates with stronger (or weaker) economic output and employment. In that growth-oriented regime, what were considered relatively safe bonds would generally behave as a good hedge to riskier assets. In contrast, the current environment echoes the pre-2000 period when fear of inflation reigned supreme and drove rates higher. Then, as in now, the outlook for bonds and stocks would brighten in tandem as consumer prices and monetary policy eased but then suffer as inflation and rates rose.

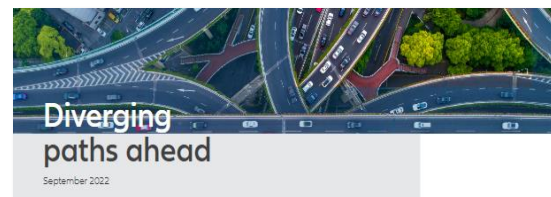
So, with few places to hide in bond markets where should investors turn for signposts of the way forward?

The bad news is that, at the core of the current inflation-focused regime, nothing much has changed in recent months that offer better clues – on when and how this choppy cycle might start to turn. It is tricky at this stage to narrow the range of economic and policy outcomes. But the good news is that, on the margins, four compelling themes stand out that can help reset bond allocations and inform portfolio positioning for the remainder of 2022. We'll explore these themes in a series of articles, starting with how investors can protect their portfolios against market volatility.

AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

2. Diverging paths ahead

Focus: navigating out-of-sync policies and economies



Diverging paths ahead

September 2022



Frank Diemer
Global COO
Fixed Income

Diverging economic and monetary policy paths are feeding through to government bond markets, presenting risks and opportunities for investors. In the second of four articles exploring ways that investors can reset bond allocations, we discuss ideas for navigating the divergence in central bank policy, inflation, currency risks and economic performance.

Key takeaways:

- Economies and policies are shifting from broadly in-sync to deeply out-of-sync
- Investors should watch out for divergent recession risks, a possible blowout in riskier bond yields in the euro area, and the chance of stagflation in the UK
- Fear of inflation becoming entrenched is motivating some central banks to frontload rate hikes
- Investors could consider flexible bond strategies and adding incrementally to core rates markets likely to benefit from flight to safety



Georgios Georgiou
Global Head of
Fixed Income
Product Specialists

From Germany to Brazil, and the UK to China, economies are moving at different speeds as monetary policy and growth begin to diverge in the wake of the turmoil created by the Covid-19 pandemic. This contrasts with the Covid-19 pandemic era when central

banks across advanced and emerging-market economies converged in their willingness to over-loosen policy and let inflation overshoot for a while to bring down unemployment.

But we are now seeing a divergence in banks' resolve to over-tighten, to bring down inflation at the expense of economic growth and jobs. The division is creating risks, but also opportunities for those investors prepared to be flexible, as well as seek out potential safe havens.

There's now a stark contrast in inflation (real) yields across many government bond markets. Consider the more than 3% yield for Brazil's local currency bonds at the end of August, compared to the -0% for Spain's equivalent after relatively little yield difference during the pandemic's onset (see Exhibit 1). This mixed picture suggests that economies and policies are becoming deeply out-of-sync regarding how and when they might exit the current inflation-led regime.

One reason for this divergence is that the range of economic outcomes differs materially across borders.

¹ Source: Bloomberg, Allianz Global Investors. Yield data as at 21 August 2022. Latest available official inflation data for the month of July 2022.

COMING SOON

3. Regaining value in high-income

Focus: any stabilisation in inflation and rates should potentially help high-income assets

COMING SOON

4. Closing the sustainability gap

Focus: sustainable debt investing is evolving to encompass social issues

Disclosures indices

US aggregate (represented by the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index): The Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index tracks the investment-grade, USD-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market. The index includes treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, fixed-rate agency MBS, ABS and CMBS (agency and non-agency); US investment grade (Bloomberg US Corporate Bond Index): The Bloomberg US Corporate Bond Index tracks the investment-grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market. It includes USD-denominated securities publicly issued by US and non-US issuers; US High Yield (ICE BofA US High Yield Index): The ICE BofA US High Yield Index tracks USD-denominated below investment-grade corporate debt publicly issued in the US domestic market; US floating-rate notes (Bloomberg US Floating Rate Notes Index): The Bloomberg US Floating Rate Notes Index tracks USD-denominated, investment-grade, floating-rate notes across corporate and government-related sectors; US fixed-rate preferred securities (ICE BofA Fixed Rate Preferred Securities Index): The ICE BofA Fixed Rate Preferred Securities Index tracks fixed-rate, USD-denominated, investment-grade exchange-traded preferred securities (\$25 par) with outstanding market values of at least USD100 million issued in the US domestic market; Euro aggregate (Bloomberg Euro Aggregate Bond Index): The Bloomberg Euro Aggregate Bond Index tracks the investment-grade, EUR-denominated, fixed-rate bond market, including treasuries, government-related, corporate and securitized issues; Euro investment grade (ICE BofA Euro Corporate Index): the ICE BofA Euro Corporate Index tracks EUR-denominated investment-grade corporate debt publicly issued in the euro domestic or eurobond markets; Euro high yield (ICE BofA Euro High Yield Index): The ICE BofA Euro High Yield Index tracks EUR-denominated below investment-grade corporate debt publicly issued in the euro domestic or eurobond markets; Euro floating-rate notes (Bloomberg Euro Floating Rate Notes Index): The Bloomberg Euro Floating Rate Notes Index tracks EUR-denominated, investment-grade floating-rate notes across corporate and government-related sectors; Asian investment grade (JP Morgan Asia Credit Index – Investment Grade): The JP Morgan Asia Credit Index – Investment Grade tracks fixed-rate, USD-denominated investment-grade bonds issued by Asia sovereigns, quasi-sovereigns, banks and corporates; Asian high yield (JP Morgan Asia Credit Index – Non-Investment Grade): The JP Morgan Asia Credit Index – Non-Investment Grade tracks fixed-rate, USD-denominated below investment-grade bonds issued by Asia sovereigns, quasi-sovereigns, banks and corporates; China government & policy bank bonds (Bloomberg China Treasury and Policy Bank 1-10 Year Index): The Bloomberg China Treasury and Policy Bank 1-10 Year Index tracks CNY-denominated bonds issued by the Ministry of Finance of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), and debt issued by Chinese policy banks (PRC government agencies which are not guaranteed by the government), that are listed on the China Interbank Bond Market (CIBM); Global emerging market sovereign debt (JP Morgan Emerging Market Bond Index (EMBI) Global Diversified): The JP Morgan EMBI Global Diversified Index tracks liquid, USD-denominated emerging market fixed- and floating-rate debt instruments issued by sovereign and quasi-sovereign entities; Global government bonds AAA-AA (Bloomberg Global Government AAA-AA Capped Index): The Bloomberg Global Government AAA-AA Capped Index tracks local currency bonds with a minimum AA rating issued by governments of developed countries worldwide; Global inflation-linked bonds (Bloomberg Global Inflation-Linked Index): The Bloomberg Global Inflation-Linked Index tracks investment-grade, government inflation-linked debt from 12 different developed market countries; Global green bonds (Bloomberg MSCI Global Green Bond Index): The Bloomberg MSCI Global Green Bond Index tracks the global market for fixed income securities issued to fund projects with direct environmental benefits. An independent research driven methodology is used to evaluate index-eligible green bonds to ensure they adhere to established Green Bond Principles and to classify bonds by their environmental use of proceeds; Global convertible bonds (ICE BofA Global 300 Convertibles Index): The ICE BofA Global 300 Convertibles Index includes 300 convertible securities and is considered generally representative of the global convertible market; Global emerging market corporate debt (JP Morgan Corporate Emerging Market Bond Index (CEMBI) Broad Diversified): The JP Morgan CEMBI Broad Diversified Index tracks the performance of USD-denominated bonds issued by emerging market corporate entities; Global aggregate (Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index): The Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index tracks the performance of the global investment-grade, fixed-rate bond markets and includes government, government-related and corporate bonds, asset-backed, mortgage-backed and commercial mortgage-backed securities from both developed and emerging markets issuers; Euro inflation-linked bonds (Bloomberg Euro Government Inflation-Linked Bond All Maturities Index): The Bloomberg Euro Government Inflation-Linked Bond All Maturities Index tracks the performance of EUR-denominated investment-grade inflation-linked bonds issued by governments of the euro area across the whole yield curve.

Disclosures indices continued & simulated performance

Global multi-sector credit (Bloomberg Global Multiverse Credit Index): The Bloomberg Global Multiverse Credit Index provides a broad-based measure of the global corporate bond market.. representing the union of the Global Aggregate Index and the Global High Yield Index and captures investment grade and high yield securities in all eligible currencies. Euro government bonds 1-3 years (Bloomberg Euro-Aggregate Treasury 1-3 Year): The Bloomberg Euro-Aggregate Treasury 1-3 Year Index measures the performance of the euro area government bond market and includes only bonds issued in euros or legacy euro currencies with a maturity between 1 and up to (but not including) 3 years. US Treasury bonds 1-3 years (JP Morgan Government Bond Index United States 1-3 Year Select Maturity): The JP Morgan Government Bond Index United States 1-3 Year Select Maturity Index tracks the performance of eligible fixed-rate, USD-denominated treasury bonds issued by the US Government with time to maturity between 1 and 3 years. The ICE BofA US Bond Market Option Volatility Estimate Index (MOVE) measures US bond market yield volatility by tracking a basket of over-the-counter options on US Treasury notes and bonds. The basket is comprised of at-the-money one-month options on the current 2-year, 5-year, 10-year and 30-year Treasuries. The Index value is equal to the average of the implied normal yield volatility of the four options, where the 10-year option is given a 40% weight and the other basket components each hold a 20% share. The ICE BofA Global High Yield Index tracks the performance of USD, CAD, GBP and EUR denominated below investment grade corporate debt publicly issued in the major domestic or eurobond markets. The ICE BofA Green Bond Index tracks the performance of investment grade-rated securities issued for qualified green purposes. Qualifying bonds must have a clearly designated use of proceeds that is solely applied toward projects or activities that promote climate change mitigation or adaptation or other environmental sustainability purposes as outlined by the ICMA Green Bond Principles. The index includes debt of sovereign, quasi-government and corporate issuers, but excludes securitized and collateralized securities. The ICE BofA Global Corporate Green Bond Index is a subset of the ICE BofA Global Corporate Index that tracks the performance of securities issued for qualified green purposes as outlined by the ICMA Green Bond Principles. The ICE BofA Social Bond Index tracks the performance of investment grade-rated securities issued for qualified social purposes. Qualifying bonds must have a clearly designated use of proceeds that is solely applied toward projects or activities that directly aims to address or mitigate a specific social issue and/or seeks to achieve positive social outcomes as outlined by the ICMA Social Bond Principles. The index includes debt of sovereign, quasi-government and corporate issuers, but excludes securitized and collateralized securities. The ICE BofA Sustainable Bond Index tracks the performance of securities issued for qualified sustainable purposes. Qualifying bonds must have a clearly designated use of proceeds that is solely applied toward projects or activities that promote a combination of climate change mitigation, adaptation or other environmental sustainability purposes, and that directly aims to address and mitigate a specific social issue and/or seeks to achieve positive social outcomes as outlined by the ICMA Sustainability Bond Guidelines. The index includes debt of sovereign, quasi-government and corporate issuers, but excludes securitized and collateralized securities.

Simulated performance data have many inherent limitations, only some of which are described as follows:(i) They are designed with the benefit of hindsight, based on historical data, and do not reflect the impact that certain economic and market factors might have had on the decision-making process, if a client's portfolio had actually been managed. No simulated performance can completely account for the impact of financial risk in actual performance.(ii) They do not reflect actual transactions and cannot accurately account for the ability to withstand losses.(iii) The information is based, in part, on hypothetical assumptions made for modelling purposes that may not be realised in the actual management of portfolios. No representation or warranty is made as to the reasonableness of the assumptions made or that all assumptions used in achieving the returns have been stated or fully considered. Assumption changes may have a material impact on the model returns presented. Investors should not assume that they will experience a performance similar to the simulated performance shown. Material differences between simulated performance results and actual results subsequently achieved by any investment strategy are possible.

Exhibit 4. Simulation methodology for global high-yield corporate bonds: To calculate returns, we first take the current effective yield of the ICE BofA Global High Yield Index. High-yield spreads are a function of expected default rates with an assumed 35% recovery rate, plus an illiquidity premium that is correlated to the VIX. We compute what spreads should be under the default and VIX scenarios in the table. We then look at the change in spread from the current level for the Index and multiply this by the duration of the Index. This impact is added to/subtracted from the Index's effective yield. Finally, we take the default rate less the 35% recovery rate, and then deduct that number from the return calculation to give us the expected Index returns. Note that we make no assumptions on changes in interest rates.

Simulation methodology for emerging-market external sovereign bonds: Index returns for emerging-market external sovereign bonds are composed of moves in US Treasury yield, moves in emerging-market credit spreads, and the carry from being long the Index over the holding period. We look at the change in yield and spread, multiplied by the duration of the Index, and add/subtract this figure to/from the yield of the Index to calculate the expected Index returns.

Important risk considerations

This presentation describes certain product capabilities of Allianz Global Investors U.S. LLC (“AllianzGI US”). These strategies involve selling and buying derivatives including futures and swaps and may not be suitable for every investor. No assurance can be given that any particular investment objective will be achieved. Among the risks specific to these strategies that AllianzGI US wishes to call to the attention of prospective investors are the following:

The use of derivatives involves risks different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the investments underlying the derivatives. Derivatives can be more volatile and involve significant risk and can disproportionately increase losses and reduce opportunities for gains.

Derivative transactions may produce effects similar to leverage and expose an account to related risks. Consequently, an adverse change in the relative price level can result in a loss of capital that is more exaggerated than would have resulted from an investment that did not involve the use of leverage inherent in the derivative contract.

For each strategy, the collateral requirement may vary depending on the use of an active or passive underlying portfolio, and on the extent to which the strategy uses derivatives. For each strategy, securities from the passive or active underlying portfolio may be pledged as collateral in order to implement the derivative positions. The collateral rules are based on the greater of Reg T rules (standard collateral rules defined by the CBOE and the SEC) and requirements of counterparties. When collateral is used to implement derivative positions, it is possible that a decline in market value of the positions could force the portfolio to cover any shortfall by liquidating non-cash assets. The timing of such liquidation may be adverse.

The account may be required to sell investments at times it would not otherwise choose to do so in order to settle derivatives. Such sales may result in losses on such investments and will, in addition, involve transaction costs.

Options on indices may not correlate perfectly with the underlying investments and may not act as expected. Such transactions may not achieve their objectives and may result in (or add to) losses to the account.

Strategies described herein are dependent on the smooth functioning of the markets for the particular instruments being purchased or sold. If such markets do not operate as expected, the strategies described herein could be adversely affected.

Swap agreements involve the risk that the party with whom a client has entered into the swap will default on its obligation to pay the client and the risk that the client will not be able to meet its obligations to pay the other party to the agreement. Collateral for swaps is determined by each counterparty under ISDA agreements.

Past performance does not predict future returns. Performance may be volatile.

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