



# Ten CIO convictions for 2024

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## Turning tides in global growth, with US recession in sight for H1 2024

Assuming that the Middle East crisis remains contained, we expect a weaker global economic outlook, mainly driven by the slowdown in Developed Markets (DM). The US will tiptoe into a recession in H1, as tight financial conditions begin to bite on consumption and business sentiment. Eurozone growth remains mildly positive, thanks to healthy household disposable income and despite extraordinary fiscal measures being lifted. In Japan, growth should moderate but stay above potential.

2

## Emerging Markets (EM) resilient but with higher fragmentation, Asia winner in investment flows

A great reallocation, friend/near-shoring, supply chain de-risking, as well as the net zero or technological transition/transformation should continue to direct investments towards Asia. India's economic prospects remain bright amid strong domestic demand and investments. In China, the structural shift and deleveraging will go ahead, with GDP growth slowing to a 3/3.5% target in 2025.

3

## Inflation continues to moderate, but Central Banks remain vigilant

Weaker demand should help inflation converge towards Central Banks' targets by the end of next year, barring a major energy shock. DM Central Banks remain on a hawkish pause for H1, until inflation appears further under control, while EM Central Banks have some room to cut rates. Inflation risks remain tilted to the upside in an era of disorderly energy transition and global reordering (local conflicts, higher protectionist measures, unexpected climate events).

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## Financing the green transition is the main target for fiscal policies

Investments targeting the energy transition continue to be deployed in a constrained fiscal space, with governments trying to regain discipline. In the Eurozone, we see an acceleration in the release of NextGenerationEU (NGEU) funds (less than 30% of these funds have been allocated so far). In the US, more investment will stem from incentives (IRA and CHIPS acts), but not enough to offset the consumption slowdown. Japan is expected to implement similar measures with its Green Transformation policy.

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## Geopolitical realignment at play in 2024

As new challenges to the global order emerge, most countries will continue to prioritise individual needs and improve their positioning. We expect 2024 to be a year of transition, higher tension and growing protectionism, which will benefit countries at the centre of new supply chain routes in Asia but also countries and / or regions rich in natural resources, for example, Latin America.



**Vincent MORTIER**  
Group Chief Investment  
Officer

*“2024 will be about long duration, building income with credit, EM bonds and dividends, and seeking growth in Asia, as well as exploiting structural themes.”*



**Matteo GERMANO**  
Deputy Group Chief  
Investment Officer



6

**Diversification in 60/40 portfolios restored in a low growth/falling inflation scenario, but watch out for volatility increase**

The high disparity in valuations and the drying up of excess liquidity will lead to higher equity volatility. Lower growth/diminishing inflation may favour a return to negative bond-equity correlation, benefitting cross asset strategies. Hedge funds (macro and fixed income) may further add to traditional diversification. Gold can provide protection from geopolitical risk and some commodities can hedge against inflation.

7

**Fixed income is king amid peaking rates**

High debt levels and the normalisation of central bank balance sheets will mean that markets will have to absorb a higher supply of bonds. Yields, at their highest levels in multiple years, may attract long-term investors willing to reload the income engine of their portfolios. Adding duration on entering 2024 will be key, as well as favouring high-quality credit. US high yield may be pressured by high refinancing costs in H1 and could come back when financial conditions ease in H2. Euro HY short-term is already attractive in H1. Currency management will be key next year, with a weaker US dollar on the cards.

8

**Prioritise defensiveness and quality value in equities, then cyclical markets/sectors when the easing cycle starts**

Concentration risk is high as US equity market upside has been driven by just a few names. Entering 2024, favour value in the US and Japan, and sustainable dividends globally. Later, move towards more cyclical markets and sectors, such as Europe. The energy transition, healthcare, capital allocation and artificial intelligence will be themes to watch in equity.

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**EM bonds lifted by peaking rates and inflation, Asia in focus for equities**

A pause, followed by cuts from the Fed and a possible US dollar depreciation, bode well for EM assets. Fixed income hard currency debt is favoured at the start of the year and local currency debt should be in focus when the Fed pivot approaches. An earnings rebound should support equities, particularly in Asia, where we favour countries with policy room and structural stories (India).

10

**ESG investing should focus on net zero and exploring themes that are gaining traction**

The energy transition remains the top focus when it comes to ESG. We expect investments into EM to accelerate with the private sector playing a key role. In equities, we are focusing on the decarbonisation of buildings, food waste reduction, sustainable farming and technologies that can boost the transition. Infrastructure linked to the energy transition should also benefit from government support. Other themes include biodiversity in credit and private debt sustainable-linked financing.

2.5%

Global GDP growth expected for 2024 (down from the 3% expected for 2023)\*.

2.9%

Growth gap between EM and DM in 2024 vs 2.4% in 2023.

150

Basis points of expected cuts in rates by the Fed in 2024.

80%

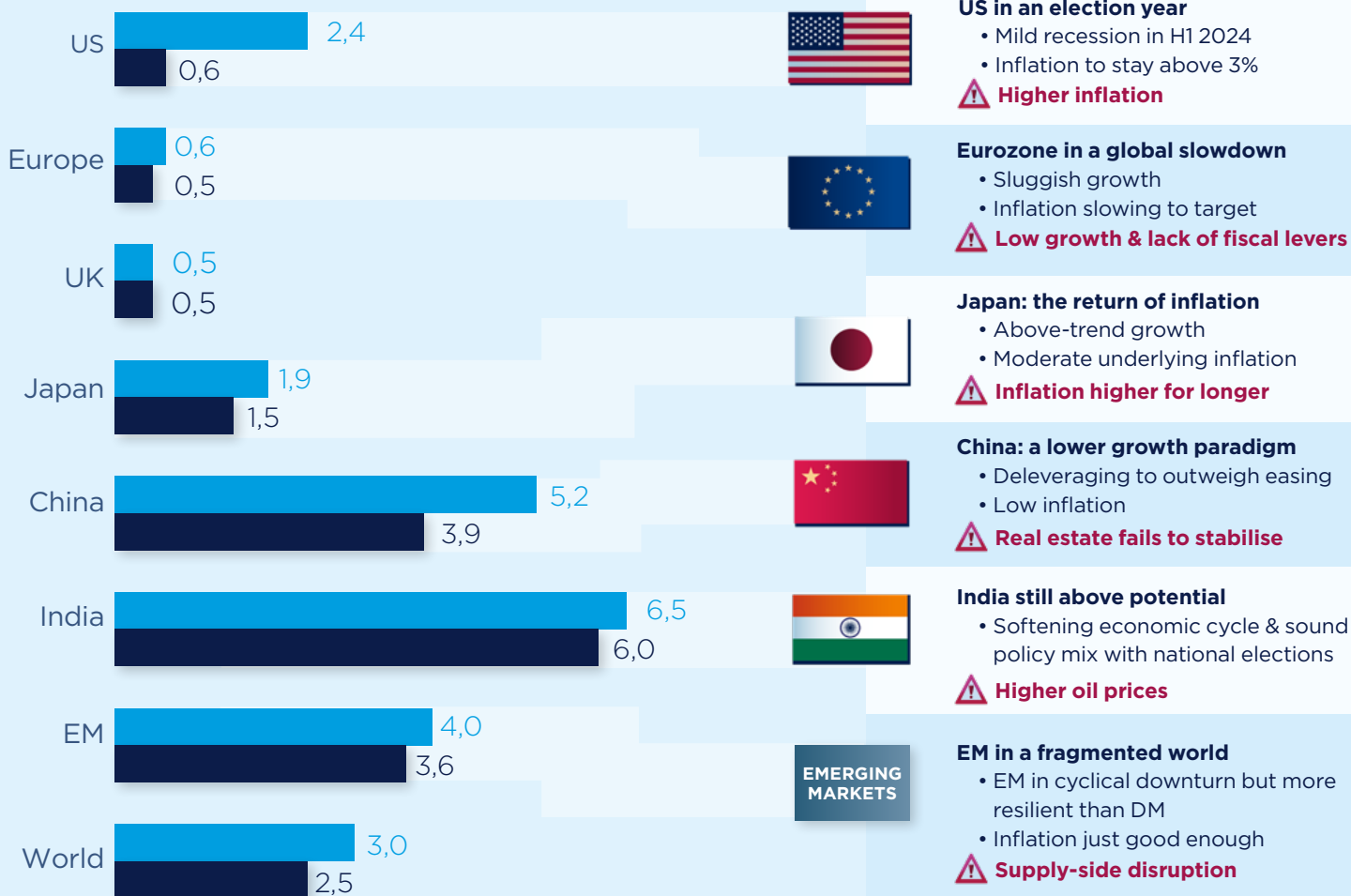
Share of private climate finance in total climate investments needed in EM and DM to reach net zero emissions by 2050 according to IMF.

\*Amundi Investment Institute forecasts.

# Slowing and fragmented growth

Amundi Investment Institute Projections at 7 November 2023

(Real GDP growth, annual percent change) ■ 2023 ■ 2024



## Central Banks: assessing the time for a dovish turn



**FED**

Recent bond market-driven tightening adding to monetary policy-lagged effects.

Fed cycle likely to turn mid-next year (first cut in May/June), with inflation moving towards target in H2 and shallow recession in H1.

We expect 150bp of overall cuts in 2024 and the Fed's Quantitative Tightening to keep going.

Inflation has fallen markedly but most of the effect of monetary policy is still to come.

ECB cycle likely to turn mid-next year (first cut in June) on current and expected macro deterioration and lower inflation.

We expect 125bp of overall cuts in 2024 and ECB to continue its balance sheet reduction.



**ECB**

# The Sequence for 2024

The landing sequence for the global economy

## Starting point

### Slowing GDP amid weakening fundamentals

- Lower consumption and sticky inflation in Developed Markets (DM)
- DM Central Banks (CB) on hold
- China on a weakening path amid structural changes to its economic model
- Limited fiscal support

## 2024 evolution

### Mild recession in the US, weak global demand





- Slowdown in DM labour market, real consumption, investments
- Inflation resumes its disinflationary trend
- Central Banks start to ease moving into H2

## Landing point

### Extension of below-potential growth

- Weak fundamentals, but improving consumption and investment trends
- Inflation lands around target
- Central Banks in easing cycle

## The investment sequence

	Start 2024	End 2024
 <b>Dynamic asset allocation when tides are turning</b>	Start with a conservative allocation including hedges, and play diversification across alternative assets and strategies (gold, volatility)	Gradually add to equities and rotate from govies to credit
 <b>Bonds' appeal amid peaking rates</b>	Gradually add duration and focus on quality credit, EM focus on HC debt and Euro HY short-term	Add high yield and EM local currencies after the Fed starts cutting rates and USD weakens
 <b>Seek resilience in equities</b>	Stay defensive entering 2024 with focus on dividends, quality and add low volatility. Favour Global to play regional divergencies and Japan, US equal-weighted (concentration risk)	Turn towards more cyclical markets when Fed starts cutting rates. Rotate into Europe, EM and small caps
 <b>EM winners in a fragmented world</b>	Look at long-term winners (India), nearshoring stories across EM, winners in the energy transition (commodities) and technological advances (China)	
 <b>Energy transition and structural themes</b>	Despite delays and a more disorderly trajectory towards net zero, energy transition remains in focus with: sustainable infrastructure, water, sustainable building and green bonds. Other relevant long-term themes are: ageing population and artificial intelligence	

## Macro factors to watch



- Energy costs
- US Labour market dynamics
- China's deleveraging and stimulus
- Policy mistakes
- Geopolitical tensions
- Less fiscal support

## Financial risks



- High inflation with low growth
- Risk premium repricing
- Debt rating (US/Europe)
- Extreme valuations in some sectors/stocks
- Credit spiral

# Amundi asset class views

	Asset class	Stance as of 7 Nov. 2023	Direction of views for H1 2024	
<b>EQUITY PLATFORM</b>	<b>United States</b>	-/=	=	<b>Improving</b>
	<i>US value</i>	+	+	<b>Stable</b>
	<i>US growth</i>	--	-	<b>Improving</b>
	<b>Europe</b>	-/=	=	<b>Improving</b>
	<b>Japan</b>	=	=/+	<b>Improving</b>
	<b>China</b>	=	=	<b>Stable</b>
	<b>Emerging markets ex-China</b>	=/+	+	<b>Improving</b>
<b>FIXED INCOME PLATFORM</b>	US govies	=/+	+	<b>Improving</b>
	US IG corporate	=/+	=/+	<b>Stable</b>
	US HY corporate	-	-	<b>Stable</b>
	European govies (core)	=	=/+	<b>Improving</b>
	European govies (peripherals)	=	=	<b>Stable</b>
	Euro IG corporate	=/+	=/+	<b>Stable</b>
	Euro HY corporate	-	=	<b>Improving</b>
	China govies	=	=	<b>Stable</b>
	EM bonds HC	=/+	+	<b>Improving</b>
	EM bonds LC	=/+	=/+	<b>Stable</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>Commodities</b>	=/+	=/+	<b>Stable</b>
	<b>Currencies (USD vs. G10)</b>	-	-	<b>Stable</b>

--- **Negative**
= **Neutral**
+++ **Positive**

Source: Amundi as of 7 November 2023. Direction of views for H1 2024 refers to the possible evolution of stance on each asset class during the period.



# Turning tides in growth, inflation and monetary policy



**Monica DEFEND**  
Head of Amundi  
Investment Institute

*“Price pressure from energy prices could complicate Central Banks’ job.”*

2024 will see the tide turn for the economic and monetary policy outlooks, while fiscal policy may experience constrained consolidation **with the focus remaining on the energy transition (see table below).**

### A fragmented outlook, with low tide on growth

**We expect a gradual weakening of global growth, while inflation is expected to temper** but stay above Central Bank (CB) targets. We call this a **fragmented outlook, marked by divergent economic trajectories.**








**The United States (US) is expected to face a recession in H1** as stringent financial conditions begin to impact consumers and businesses. In H2, we expect growth to stabilise below its potential and inflation to move closer to its target. In the **Eurozone, growth should remain low** with heterogeneous dynamics across countries, as fiscal policy becomes progressively more restrictive on top of already tight monetary policy. **In China, we observe an ongoing structural shift towards lower growth** (just above 3% by 2025), and, despite some additional fiscal stimulus at play, we do not expect the bigger picture to change. In this fragmented outlook, India is emerging as a new power.

### Inflation is cooling down, but Central Banks need to remain vigilant

US inflation will influence the Federal Reserve’s (Fed) response and, consequently, determine whether **we witness a gentle recession or a hard one. Our outlook assumes that energy prices will remain contained and that recent geopolitical risks will be confined to specific regions.** A surge in energy prices would significantly impact headline inflation, although less than in previous periods amid a lower dependency on oil. The risk would be significant if higher headline inflation spreads to services and core inflation. Monetary policy is currently sufficiently restrictive and expected to remain so with ongoing balance sheet normalisation, which should prevent a price-wage spiral. In the Eurozone, weak domestic conditions would help reduce demand-related inflationary pressures and core inflation dynamics will progressively moderate.



## With limited fiscal space, energy transition policies become a tool to support growth

	 <b>US</b>	 <b>EU</b>	 <b>CHINA</b>
 <b>Main Measures</b>	Tax credits and other incentives, loans.	Carbon pricing, electricity market reform, industrial policy, state aid, treatment of investment in the expected new fiscal rules.	Soft incentives.
 <b>Policies</b>	Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), CHIPS and Science Act.	NGEU (RRF) to finance REPowerEU, Fit for 55.	5-year plan.
 <b>Size</b>	IRA: \$750bn tax, energy & healthcare package with \$370bn in energy security and climate investments. Chips Act: \$280bn of incentives for domestic semiconductor invest. and R&D.	The main component of NGEU is the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), €723bn available (€338bn in grants; €385bn in loans).	Energy investments rose to \$130 billion in H1 2023. Installed capacity of wind and solar power to reach over 1,200GW by 2030 from 760GW in 2022.
 <b>Views</b>	In 2024 further roll-out of existing measures.	Less than 25% of the total package has been mobilised, leaving €220bn in grants and €329bn in loans to be deployed.	

Source: Amundi Investment Institute, data as of 25 October 2023.

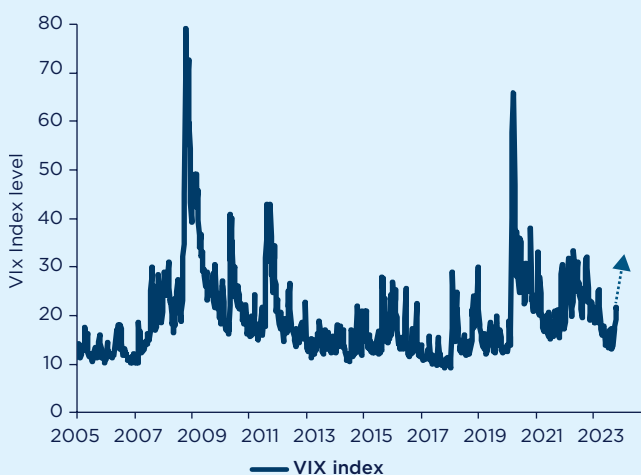
**The process of disinflation is ongoing in emerging markets.** Several countries, particularly in Eastern Europe and to some extent in Latin America (especially Colombia), still have room for further disinflation. In Asia, barring a few exceptions, inflation is less of a concern. In the other two regions, inflation is likely to land around the upper bounds set by Central Banks. **This leaves EM Central Banks with some space for easing, but little room for error.** Reaching the inflation target is one thing, structurally re-anchoring inflation is another. A surge in energy and food prices can halt, if not reverse, the benign process in place, limiting Central Banks' easing in an already challenging global financial environment.

**Build an asymmetric risk profile to benefit from the turning tide of monetary policy**

From a cross asset perspective, our 2024 fragmented economic outlook will have three main implications:

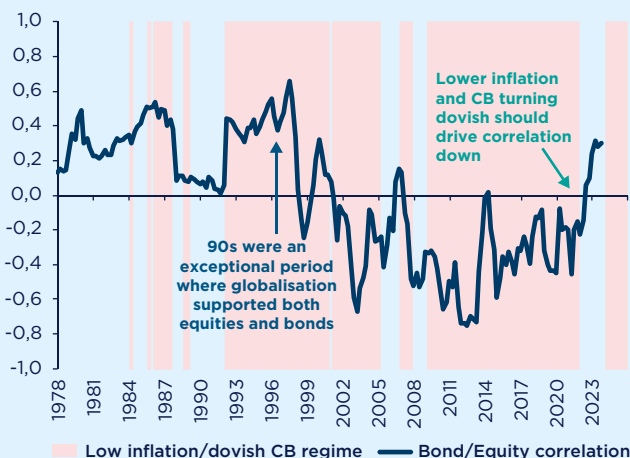
- 1. Investors should seek to build an asymmetric profile by limiting exposure to areas with excess valuations and not properly priced for a global slowdown** (US growth, US high yield and cyclicals) and **gradually increase exposure to risky assets** that could benefit from a Fed pivot (EM, Europe, selective high yield) during the year. In this search, **quality bonds are the favoured asset class entering into 2024** as their downside is limited (should yields rise further), while they should benefit from lower inflation and dovish Central Banks during the year. Euro high yield short-term also offers an interesting asymmetric profile, amid attractive yields.
- 2. Investors should combine long-term structural themes** (green transition, geopolitical realignment driving friend/near-shoring dynamics, and innovation with decent valuations) **with cyclical rotations** which will materialise at country and sector levels. Beneficiaries of these short and long-term dynamics include India (supported by the investment cycle, positive EPS outlook, digital transformation and relocation trend) and Brazil (cyclical improvement in EPS and a potential winner in the energy transition from commodities and biomass production), industrials exposed to capex and relocation.
- 3. Lastly, the return of volatility in risk assets is on the horizon and correlation dynamics could also change.** The pronounced disparities in valuations and the drying up of excess liquidity will lead to a more turbulent environment but, at the same time, markets will be more fundamentally driven. This could limit strong directional views in equities at the start of the year but should offer more room for selection in stocks and sectors amid a higher dispersion of returns. On the correlation front, the challenging positive bond-equity correlation dynamic experienced over the past year could be reversed. We are moving towards a phase of lower inflation and more dovish Central Banks which in the past have been usually associated with negative bond-equity correlation. Hence, **the 60-40 paradigm may be back, but with some nuances.** Increasing exposure to Emerging Markets and adding real and alternative assets are strategic to enhancing long-term risk/return potential, while flexibility, liquidity and risk management will be the guide that enables investors to navigate these short-term tumultuous times.

**Equity volatility**



Source: Amundi Investment Institute, Bloomberg. Data is as of 25 October 2023. VIX index is an indicator of volatility in the S&P500.

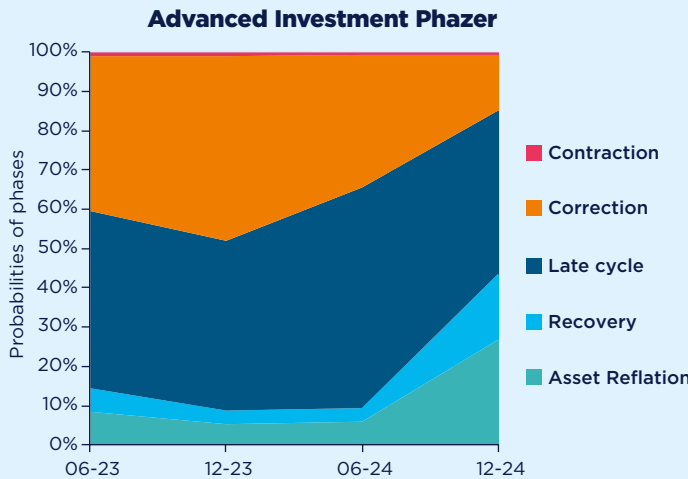
**Bond/equity correlation could reverse in 2024**



Source: Amundi Investment Institute, Bloomberg. Data is as of 31 October 2023. Correlation between S&P500 and Bloomberg US Treasury Index. 1 year correlation is on weekly data. Low inflation is US CPI YoY < 3%.

# Dynamic Asset Allocation (DAA)

- The economic environment remains highly uncertain entering into 2024; moving ahead, our model for assessing financial market phases (Advanced Investment Phazer) indicates an increased probability of a late-cycle phase, which is more supportive for risky assets.
- On the inflation front, while the most likely scenario is a return towards more normal levels, we still see a significant probability of inflation persisting in 2024, requiring allocations to be tilted towards more inflation-resilient businesses.



Growth		Inflation	Monetary policy	Leverage, financial conditions
GDP	EPS			
▼▼	▼▼	▼▼	▲▲	▼
▼	▼	▼▼	▲	◁▷
▲	◁▷	◁▷	◁▷	◁▷
▲▲	▲▲	▲	▼	▲
◁▷	▲	▼	▲	▲

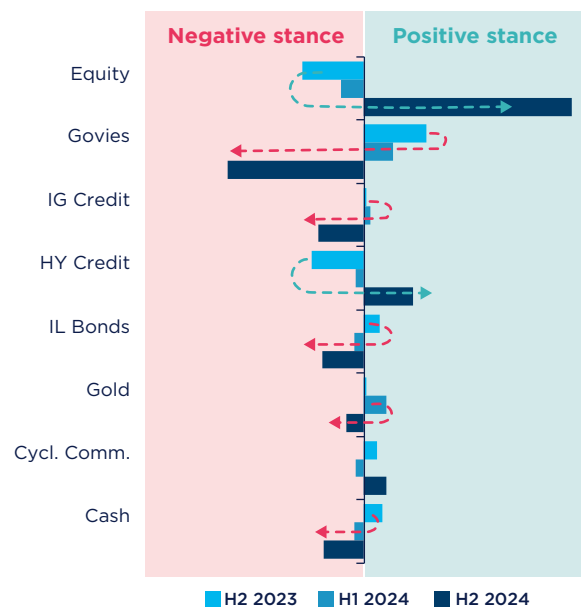
## A late cycle could favour risk assets in H2

- Start with a defensive AA (short risky assets, long duration, gold IG & cash neutral).
- At the beginning of 2024, move to a more traditionally defensive AA for bear markets and Fed pivot (short risky assets, increasing duration, adding gold, shorting cyclical commodities and IL).
- In the second part of 2024, go for a pro-risk Asset Allocation. Inflationary pressure is hedged by commodities tilt (with commodities rotation).

Source: Amundi Investment Institute. **For illustrative purposes only.** Growth variables (GDP, Unemployment, Sales, EPS), inflation variables (consumer prices, produced prices, unit labour costs), Monetary Policy variables (M1–M2–M3, CBS G4 Total assets as & of GDP, policy rates, credit spreads), Leverage variables (household debt, public debt, corporate debt). Red (green) indicates: Growth/ Inflation trending lower (higher), tightening (easing) monetary policy, tighter (easier) financial conditions. IL bonds = Inflation linked bonds. As of 10 October 2023.

The allocation rotation chart shows indications of absolute preferences on a risk adjusted basis derived from the forecasted financial regimes. They are not intended to be relative allocation versus a benchmark.

**Rotation towards risky assets in 2024**





FORECASTS



# Macroeconomic forecasts

Macroeconomic forecasts as of 7 November 2023

Annual averages, %	Real GDP growth, YoY, %			Inflation (CPI, YoY, %)		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
<b>Developed countries</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.1</b>
United States	2.4	0.6	1.6	4.2	2.6	2.1
Eurozone	0.6	0.5	1.2	5.7	2.6	2.2
Germany	-0.2	0.4	0.9	6.3	2.7	2.2
France	0.9	0.5	1.2	5.8	2.8	2.2
Italy	0.8	0.5	1.0	6.3	2.3	2.1
Spain	2.3	0.8	1.7	3.5	2.8	2.2
United Kingdom	0.5	0.5	1.3	7.4	2.9	2.3
Japan	1.9	1.5	1.4	3.3	2.0	1.1
<b>Emerging countries</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>4.2</b>
China	5.2	3.9	3.4	0.4	1.1	1.6
India	6.5	6.0	5.2	5.8	5.8	6.0
Indonesia	5.0	4.9	4.7	3.7	3.3	3.6
Brazil	3.0	1.5	2.0	4.6	3.8	3.6
Mexico	3.4	2.1	2.2	5.6	4.5	4.0
Russia	2.1	1.5	2.0	5.6	5.7	4.5
South Africa	0.6	1.0	1.3	5.9	4.5	3.6
Turkey	3.4	3.0	3.5	53.3	57.0	23.5
<b>World</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>3.4</b>

Central bank official rates forecasts, %

	7 November 2023	Amundi Q2 24	Consensus Q2 24	Amundi Q4 24	Consensus Q4 24
United States*	5.50	4.50	5.30	4.00	4.74
Eurozone**	4.00	3.75	3.85	2.75	3.21
United Kingdom	5.25	4.75	5.30	4.00	4.79
Japan	-0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19
China***	3.45	3.45	3.40	3.25	3.40
India****	6.50	6.50	6.30	6.25	5.90
Brazil	12.25	10.00	9.75	9.25	9.00
Russia	15.00	14.00	12.20	11.00	9.80

Source: Amundi Investment Institute. Forecasts are as of 7 November 2023. CPI: consumer price index. \*: Upper Fed Funds target range. \*\*: Deposit rate. \*\*\*: One-year loan prime rate. \*\*\*\*: Repurchase rate. Q2 2024 indicates end of June 2024; Q4 2024 indicates end of December 2024.

FORECASTS

# Financial market forecasts

## Bond yields

### Two-year bond yield forecasts, %

	7 November 2023	Amundi Q2 24	Forward Q2 24	Amundi Q4 24	Forward Q4 24
United States	4.93	3.80-4.00	4.61	3.60-3.80	4.39
Germany	3.00	2.50-2.70	2.61	2.20-2.40	2.31
United Kingdom	4.65	3.60-3.80	4.25	3.40-3.60	4.13
Japan	0.12	0.10-0.20	0.22	0.10-0.20	0.30

### Ten-year bond yield forecasts, %

	7 November 2023	Amundi Q2 24	Forward Q2 24	Amundi Q4 24	Forward Q4 24
United States	4.56	3.70-3.90	4.57	3.70-3.90	4.56
Germany	2.63	2.40-2.60	2.63	2.30-2.50	2.62
United Kingdom	4.26	3.80-4.00	4.26	3.70-3.90	4.29
Japan	0.86	0.80-1.00	0.97	0.80-1.00	1.07

### Equities forecast at Q4 2024

MSCI index levels at	US	Europe	EMU	UK	Japan	Pacific ex-Japan	World	World AC
7 November 2023	4145	1797	252	2125	1419	1212	2884	663
Lower bound	3970	1780	250	2100	1340	1110	2770	620
Upper bound	4590	2000	280	2380	1560	1330	3170	750

## Exchange rates

	7 November 2023	Amundi Q2 24	Consensus Q2 24	Amundi Q4 24	Consensus Q4 24
EUR/USD	1.07	1.09	1.09	1.15	1.11
EUR/JPY	161	153	152	155	151
EUR/GBP	0.87	0.88	0.88	0.89	0.89
EUR/CHF	0.96	0.98	0.98	1.03	1.00
EUR/NOK	11.97	11.89	11.12	11.76	10.70
EUR/SEK	11.69	11.83	11.35	11.92	11.25
USD/JPY	150	141	140	135	134
AUD/USD	0.64	0.65	0.67	0.69	0.70
NZD/USD	0.59	0.59	0.62	0.62	0.63
USD/CNY	7.32	7.20	7.15	6.90	6.95

Source: Amundi Investment Institute. Forecasts are as of 7 November 2023. Q2 2024 indicates end of June 2024; Q4 2024 indicates end of December 2024.

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