Investment Institute

February 2024 - Emerging Markets Charts and Views Winners and losers in a pivotal year for Emerging Markets

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Trust must be earned



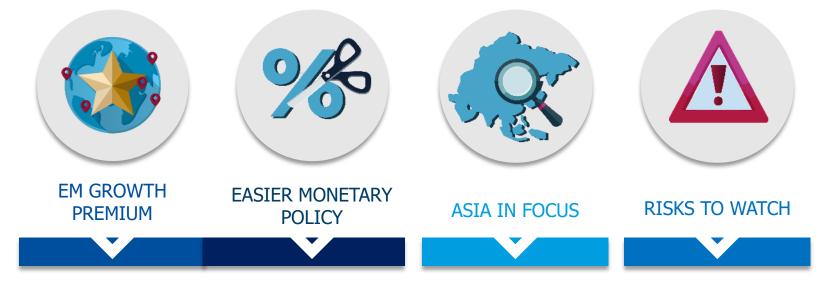
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EM economic outlook for 2024



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Four macro themes for 2024 EM outlook



In a weaker global economic environment, EM look more resilient, but with higher fragmentation and divergences among countries. EM-DM growth differential to stay wide in 2024, at its highest level in five years. Some EM CBs have already started their policy easing and there is still room to cut rates. Moreover, the expected accommodative policy by the Fed is supportive for the EM space. But the inflation battle is not won yet in an era of disorderly energy transition, geopolitical tension and the great reallocation. In the great reallocation, Asia may be the winner for investment flows. India's economic prospects remain bright. In China, the structural shift and deleveraging will go ahead, with GDP growth slowing to around 3% in 2025.

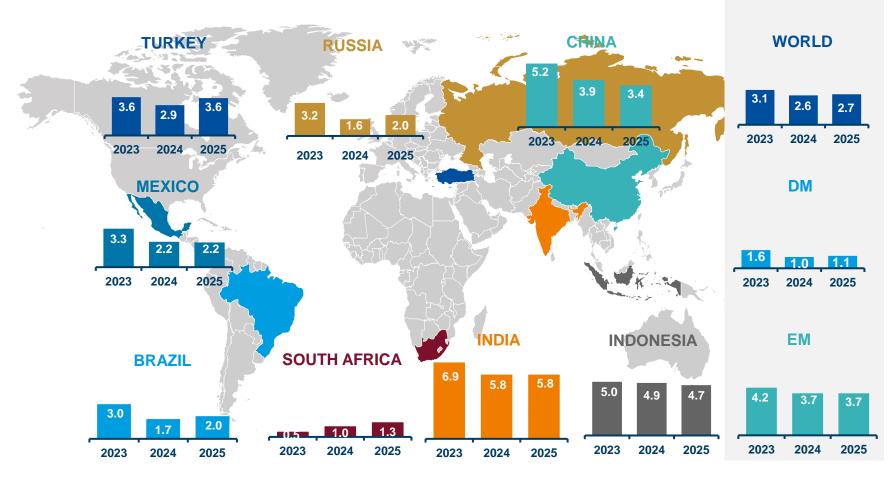
The key risks to watch are the geopolitical risk and significant elections in 2024 (the biggest election year in history). Investors also need to monitor idiosyncratic stories and internal vulnerabilities which could increase EM fragmentation.

Source: Amundi as of January 2024. DM: developed markets. EM: emerging markets. CB: central banks.





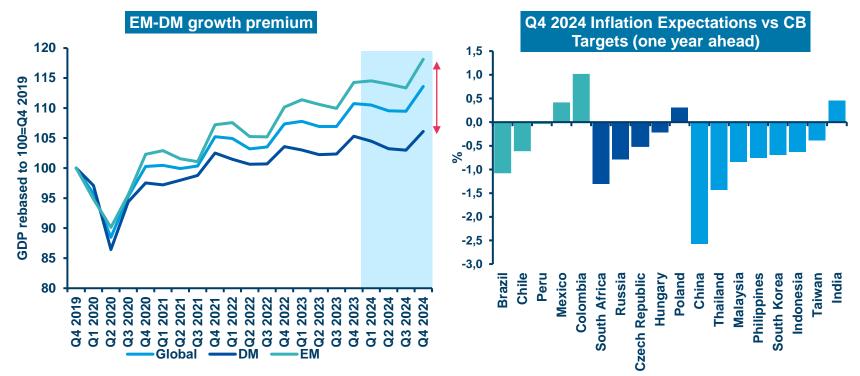
In a weaker global economic outlook, EM look more resilient



Source: Amundi Investment Institute. Data is as of 2 February 2024. Forecasts are by Amundi Investment Institute and are as of 2 February 2024. EM: Emerging Markets. DM: Developed Markets.



The macro backdrop remains emerging market-friendly



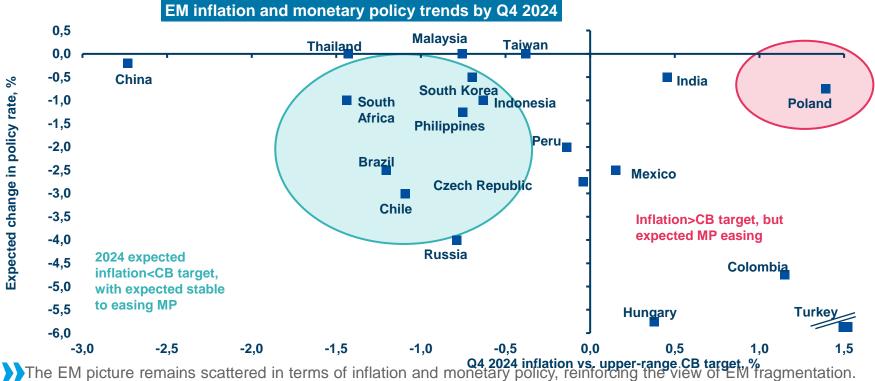
At a time when the growth outlook for advanced economies is gloomy, EM shows growth resilience for 2024, with the EM-DM growth premium remaining in favour of EM and widening to its highest gap in 5 years. At the same time, inflation is trending lower allowing for a continuation of the easing cycle that EM Central Banks initiated in 2023.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute. Data is as of 2 February 2024.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute, Bloomberg, CEIC, Last data available is as of 18 January 2024.



Constructive inflation-monetary policy mix, easing stance reinforced



The EM picture remains scattered in terms of inflation and monetary policy, reinforcing the view of EM fragmentation. However, some countries are well advanced in their monetary policy normalisation. In this such respect, LatAm launched the easing cycle, with Brazil, Chile and Peru cutting rates in 2023 amid lower inflation and a decelerating economic cycle.

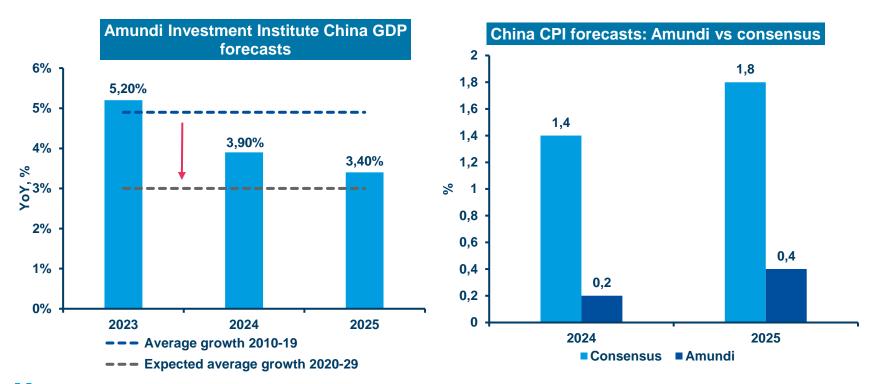
Source: Amundi Investment Institute on Bloomberg Intelligence data. Data is as of 31 January 2024. EM includes CB from: Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand, and Turkey. DM: developed markets. EM: emerging markets. Fed: Federal Reserve. MP: monetary policy. Turkey's inflation is expected at 44,28% in Q4 2024, while Turkey's policy rate is expected to cut by 1000pbs in Q4 2024.



MONETARY POLICY

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China: a new growth paradigm in a low-flation era



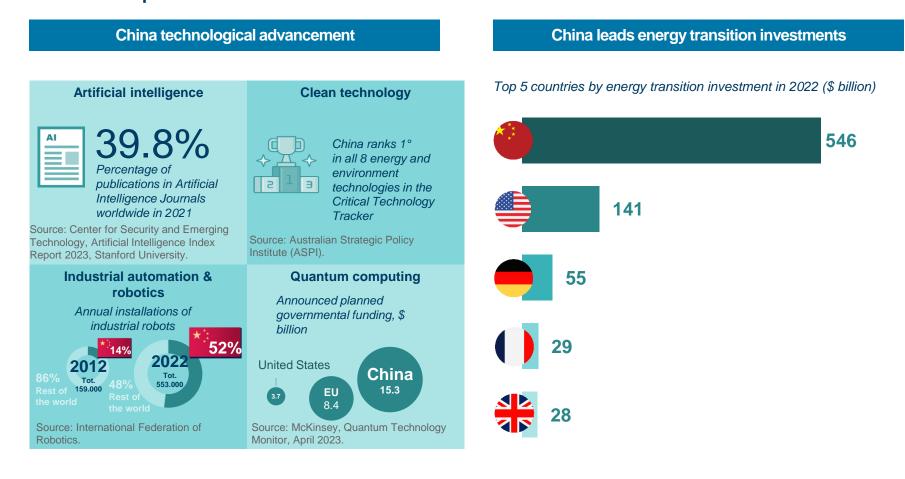
We expect the Chinese economy to move towards lower growth levels and a shift to a 3% growth rate over the next three years appears imminent. This deceleration is not merely a statistical inevitability; it is part of China's strategic recalibration towards sustainability and quality in its economic model. With regard to prices, we expect low inflation, with CPI forecasts significantly below consensus, mainly impacted by income and wealth shocks, but we are not calling for outright deflation.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute. Data is as of 15 January 2024. Forecasts are by Amundi Investment Institute as of 15 January 2024.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute. Data is as of 15 January 2024. Forecasts are by Amundi Investment Institute as of 15 January 2024.



China technological advancement and energy transition leadership role



Source: Amundi Investment Institute CEIC. Latest available data is as of end of December 2023.

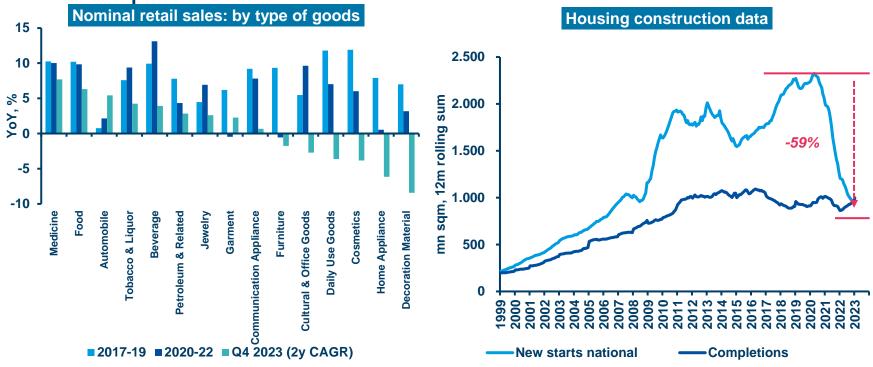
Source: Bloomberg NEF, NEO Net Zero Investment, May 2023



3

CHINA

Short-term outlook is still about real estate and weak consumption



The correction for the real estate sector is not over yet. The ongoing decline in new housing starts signals a weak early-stage construction cycle. We believe the scale of fiscal easing is not enough to cancel out the drag from ongoing deleveraging in the real estate sector and the new debt discipline imposed on local governments. Deleveraging has already started, but it still has a long way to go.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute CEIC. Latest available data is as of end of December 2023.

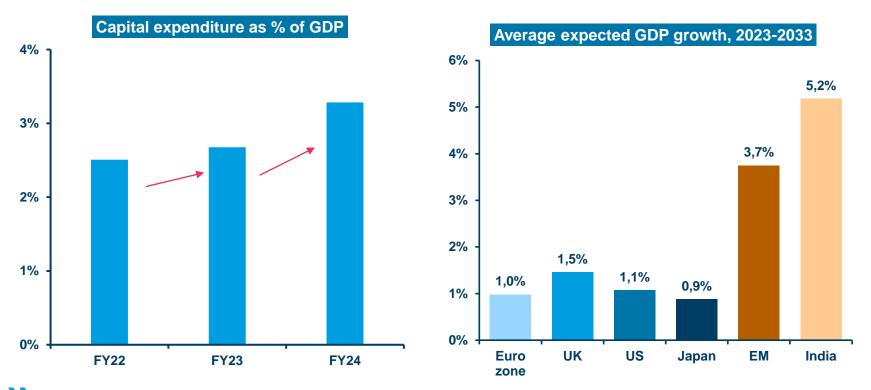
Source: Amundi Investment Institute CEIC. Latest available data is as of end of December 2023.



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India: the emerging power, with bright 2024 outlook



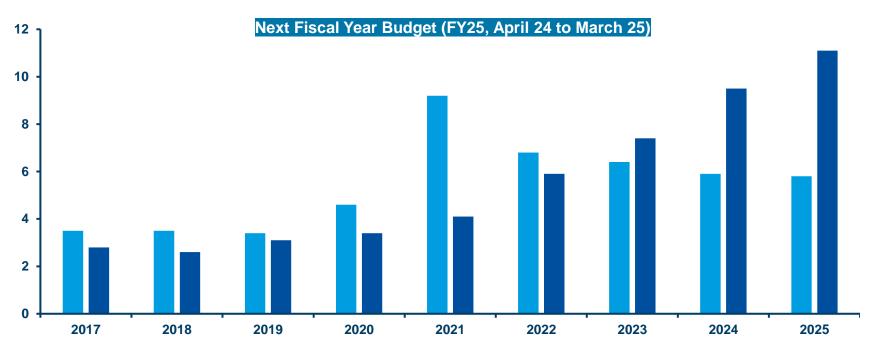
India's economy is gaining momentum boosted by government and private capital spending and remains one of the fastest-growing emerging economies. We expect more than 6% economic growth for the next fiscal year. On a long-term basis, India's strong demographics and rising middle class make it an appealing market.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute, Bloomberg and Ministry of Finance. Data is as of 26 October 2023.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute central scenario forecasts as of 3 May 2023.



India Budget: between growth and macro financial stability



Fiscal Deficit (% of GDP)

Capital Expenditure (Indian rupee trillions)

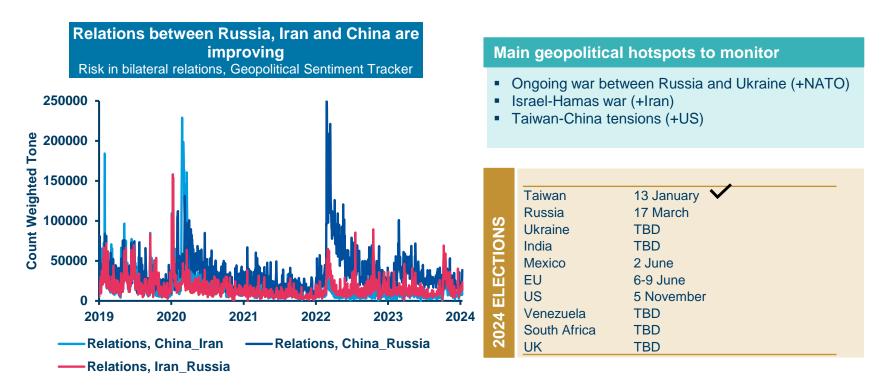
India's next Fiscal Year Budget seeks to sustain growth and offer a stronger commitment to fiscal consolidation. Capital Expenditure continues to rise with significant investment for highways, electrification, port traffic and airports. In line with the commitment made in the budget for FY22 (Fiscal Deficit at 4.5% by FY26), the Ministry of Finance is also committing to a large fiscal consolidation in FY25: FD at 5.1% from 5.8%.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute, Government of India. Data is as of February 2024.



GEC

Geopolitics: More risks in 2024



Geopolitics will be a crucial factor for investors to watch in 2024, amid intensifying ongoing conflicts. At the same time, 2024 will be an election-heavy year, with national elections representing over 40% of the global population (around half of the world if we also consider the European Parliament elections), including important elections in the EM space.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute Geopolitical Sentiment Tracker. Data is as of 12 January 2024. Spikes indicate higher risk in the bilateral relation. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, relations to Russia (measured through negative sentiment keywords in media) deteriorated; however, they have since improved as Iran, Russia and China became closer geopolitical allies.



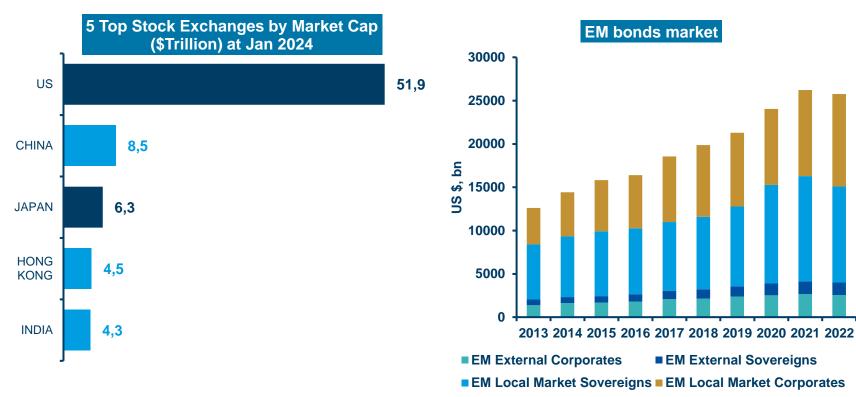
02

Investment opportunities in EM



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EM are increasingly relevant for global investors



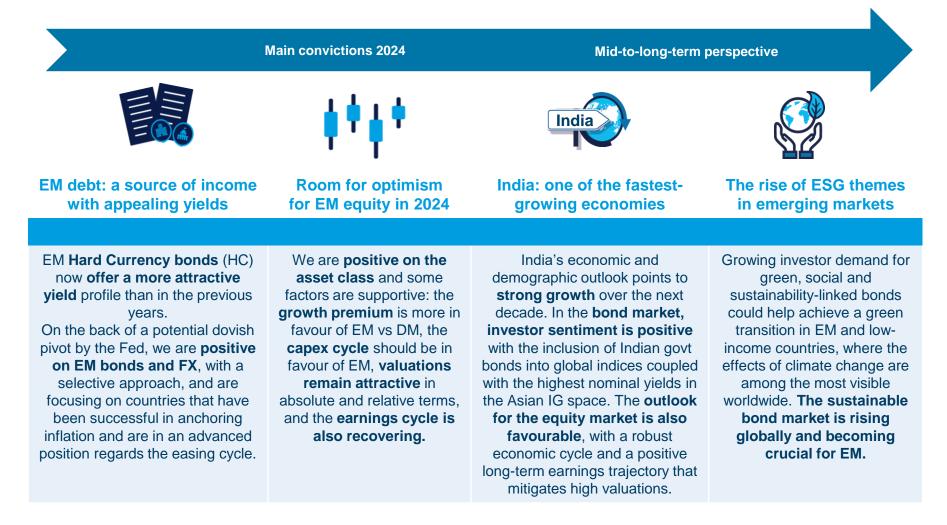
Emerging Markets represent a significant size of global equity and bond universe, to such respect, EM debt accounts for around 30% of global debt as at the end of 2022 vs 5% in 2002. Investors have the opportunity to invest in a fast-growing economies with the potential for an attractive returns in mid-to-long term horizon.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute, Bloomberg. Data is as of 30 January 2024 and refers to yield to worst for the Bloomberg Emerging Markets Hard Currency Aggregate Index that includes USD-denominated debt from sovereign, quasi-sovereign, and corporate EM issuers.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute. Analysis on Bloomberg data. Data is as of 30 January 2024. Government and EM indices are from JP Morgan. Euro and US credit indices are from ICE-BofA. LC: local currency. IG: investment grade. HY: high yield. ST: short-term. Yield for EM Corp ST is JP Morgan CEMBI Broad Diversified 1-3 Year while duration is JP Morgan CEMBI IG+ 1-3 Years.Em



EM high-conviction ideas

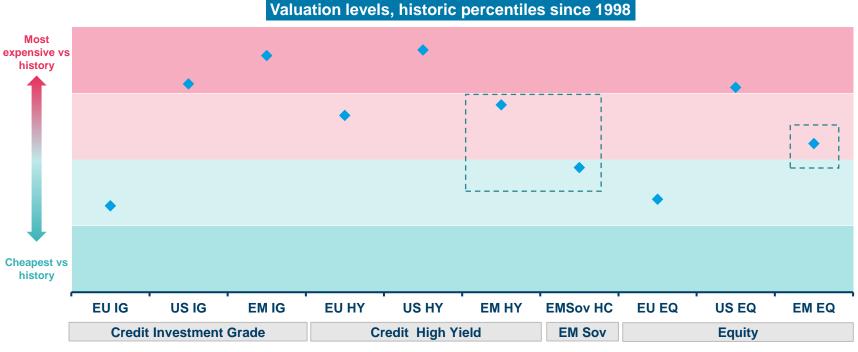


Source: Amundi Institute as of 30 January 2024. EM: Emerging Markets. HC: Hard Currency. LC: Local Currency.





Attractive relative valuations in the EM space



◆ Dec-23

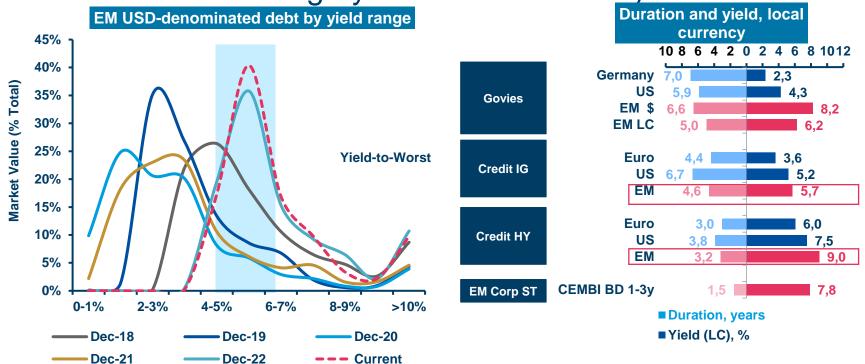
EM assets offer compelling valuations in absolute and relative terms, especially EM sovereigns which are trading at reasonable valuations. Moreover, the asset class has attractive relative growth prospects in 2024.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute, Bloomberg, Datastream, latest monthly data as of 29 December 2024. EU IG, US IG, EM IG, EU HY, US HY, EM HY are ICE BofA corporate bond indices. IG: investment grade. HY: high yield. EM Sov HC: JP Morgan EMBI Global Diversified. EU EQ, US EQ, EM EQ are MSCI indices for equity markets. All indices refer to a specific region (EU: Europe, US: United States, EM: emerging markets. Analysis is based on spreads for bond indices and on twelve-month forward PE ratio for equity indices. Valuation are in historic percentile since 1998. Cheapest means is in the first quartile, Most expensive is in the fourth quartile.

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EM bonds set to benefit from a favourable backdrop with the start of the easing cycle and attractive yields



EM monetary policy normalisation is at an advanced stage compared to DM; in this respect, some CBs already started to cut rates in 2023. Moreover, an expectation for a potential dovish pivot by the Fed provides a buying opportunity for EM debt, which offers appealing yields and spreads.

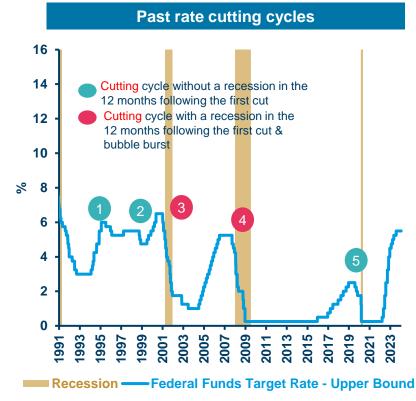
Source: Amundi Investment Institute, Bloomberg. Data is as of 30 January 2024 and refers to yield to worst for the Bloomberg Emerging Markets Hard Currency Aggregate Index that includes USD-denominated debt from sovereign, quasi-sovereign, and corporate EM issuers.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute. Analysis on Bloomberg data. Data is as of 30 January 2024. Government and EM indices are from JP Morgan. Euro and US credit indices are from ICE-BofA. LC: local currency. IG: investment grade. HY: high yield. ST: short-term. Yield for EM Corp ST is JP Morgan CEMBI Broad Diversified 1-3 Year while duration is JP Morgan CEMBI IG+ 1-3 Years.





EM bonds have performed well when the Fed cuts rates and the economy does not fall into a deep recession



1	2	3	4	5
First cut Jul 1995	First cut Sep 1998	First cut Jan 2001	First cut Sep 2007	First cut Jul 2019
Returns 12 Months After First Rate Cut				
EMBI	ЕМВІ	US Agg	Global Agg	US Agg
31,78%	29,27%	8,44%	7,66%	8,74%
Global HY	Global HY	Global HY	US Agg	Global Agg
17,88%	13,51%	2,26%	5,86%	4,22%
US Agg	Global Agg	Global Agg	ЕМВІ	EMBI
5,02%	1,90%	1,57%	5,37%	2,96%
Global Agg	US Agg	ЕМВІ	Global HY	Global HY
4,15%	0,80%	1,42%	0,25%	-1,97%

From a historical perspective, EM bonds have shown a positive absolute and relative performance during periods when the Fed has cut rates.

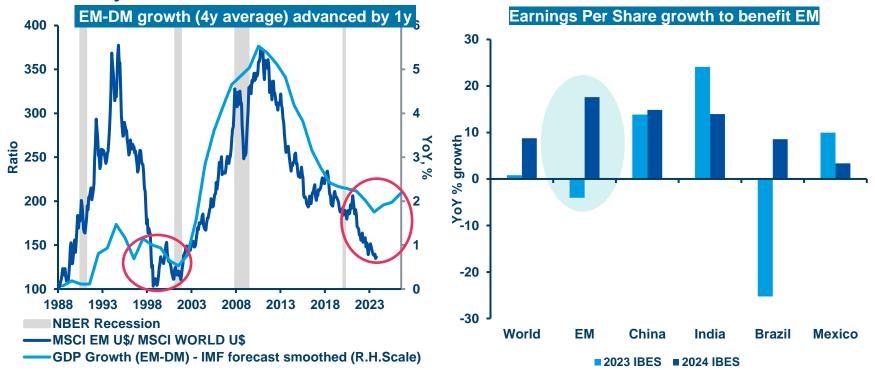
Source: Amundi Investment Institute, Bloomberg. Data as of 24 January 2024.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute, Bloomberg. Data as of 24 January 2024. Analysis on monthly data and Total Return Net indices in local currency. **Past performance is not indicative of future returns.**





EM equity: favoured by growth differential and earnings recovery



The first point supporting the call for the asset class is the constructive growth differential between EM and DM. In addition, earnings are also supportive, indicating a good recovery for 2024.

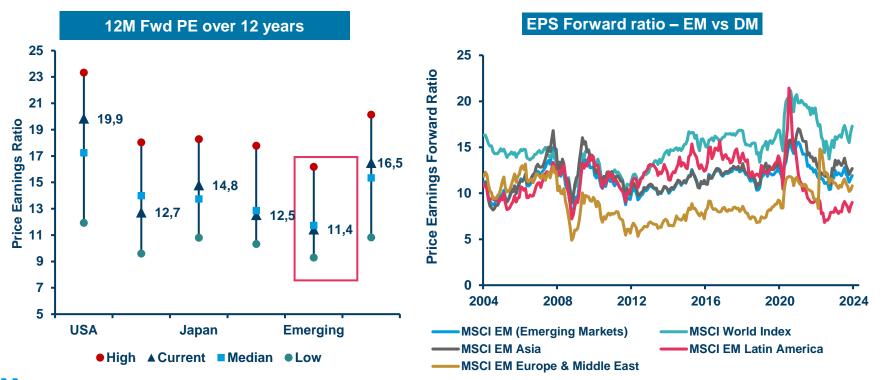
Source: Amundi Investment Institute, Datastream. Data is as of 26 January 2024. EM: emerging markets. DM: developed markets.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute, Datastream. IBES forecasts are subject to be reviewed due to earnings season update. Data is as of 11 January 2024.





...with compelling valuations



EM equity markets are at historically cheap levels if you look at the valuation metrics, offering interesting entry points on a standalone basis and relative to DM for global investors. However, a dedicated approach is required in a fragmented EM universe.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute, Datastream. Data as of 26 January 2024.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute, Factset. Data is as of 31 December 2023. Monthly data.





Equities: opportunities in Asia

China – *neutral*

Tactically cautious as magnitude of recovery has been disappointing and there is further downside risk to GDP growth due to housing sector and resulting weak consumption; this is offset by significant excess savings accumulated during the Covid period, and policy put (a pro-growth government stance with capacity to further support property and private sector). Valuations are attractive after last year's pullback, however, the longer-term risk-reward appears more attractive for domestic vs offshore markets amid gradual escalation of geopolitical risk.

Indonesia – positive

Favour domestic names such as banks, as well as green materials-related names.

Vietnam – positive

Now the largest in the MSCI Frontier Index. It could benefit from an upgrade to EM status in MSCI indices and "China+1" opportunity. Favour banks and real estate. India – *positive* Digital transformation, Made in India, financialisation of savings and increasing weight in indices with more IPOs to come in new economy sectors. A robust economic cycle helps mitigate still high valuations, while we still find plenty of value in some sectors (financials/healthcare) and select names.

Hong Kong – positive

Focus on reopening plays. Still favour travel-related consumer names and insurance. Cautious on real estate.

> The Philippines – *cautious* Cautious on sectors exposed to domestic consumption and

property.

6 Cautious on sectors exposed to domestic consumption and

Cautious

to domestic consumption and investment; turning more constructive on exporters (IT).

Neutral

Thailand – *cautious* Tourism to benefit from earlier-than-expected China reopening. Cautious on banks.

Malaysia – *cautious*

4

Colours indicate Amundi equity view on the country for Q1 2024

Taiwan – neutral

Turning more constructive on

semiconductors (logic and analog chips),

with inventories normalising together with

significant cuts. Selective opportunities in

the earnings cycle turning around after

cyclical tech vs generative AI-related

Turning more constructive on

Al rally. Potential escalation of

5

geopolitical risk.

semiconductors (memory chips) with

the earnings cycle turning around after

significant cuts. Selective opportunities

related names following the generative

in cyclical memory vs generative AI-

South Korea – neutral

names following the generative AI rally.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute. Data is as of 24 January 2024. EM: Emerging Markets.





Positive

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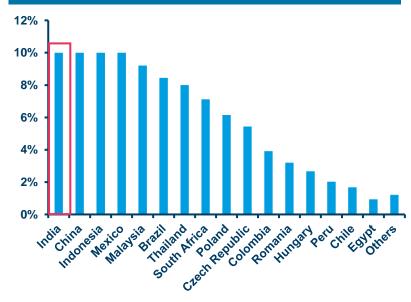
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India's bond market: another index inclusion in sight

India is expected to be among the highest weighted countries in the GBI-EM, with a capped weight of 10%



Some key long-term facts about India



Active democracy with political stability



Large and fast-growing economy: with US\$3.2tr GDP and a population of 1.4bn people



Demography and demand: one of the biggest workforce suppliers.

Financialisation of savings: Foreign Institutional Investment and Domestic Institutional Investment flows have been robust.

The inclusion of Indian Govt Bonds into the JPM GBI EM Index in June 2024 and Bloomberg's EM Local Currency Index in September will drive passive inflows into the asset class over the next 15 months. At the same time, the nominal yield is attractive, with the highest nominal sovereign yields among Asian IG countries. Moreover, with India's RBI on hold since early 2023 and core inflation pressures moderating, we may be on the cusp of a rate-cutting cycle.

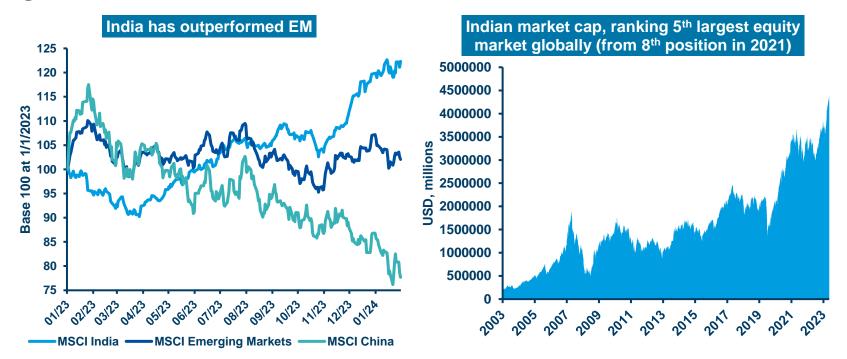
Source: Amundi Investment Institute, Bloomberg and JP Morgan. Data is as of 6 October 2023. EM: emerging markets. GBI-EM: Government Bond Index - Emerging Markets. The index is provided by JP Morgan.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute,. Data is as of 6 October 2023.





Indian equity: a robust economic cycle helps mitigate high valuations



The Indian equity market is reaping the benefits of its relative geopolitical stability and realignment, the fastest GDP growth rate among major economies and the continuation of domestic tailwinds including easing inflation and improvements in domestic demand. Furthermore, the long-term earnings trajectory continues to be encouraging, the consensus expects 17.6% EPS growth CAGR for the Nifty over FY23-FY26.

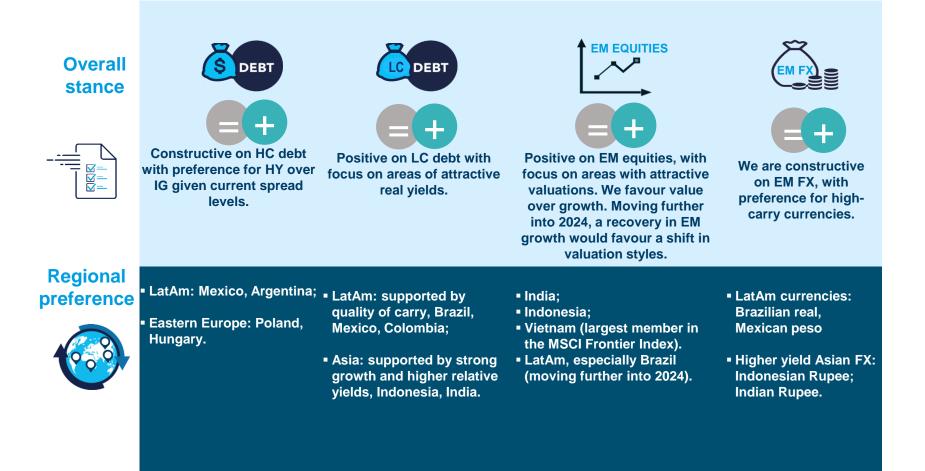
Source: Amundi Investment Institute, Bloomberg and JP Morgan. Data is as of 6 October 2023. EM: emerging markets. GBI-EM: Government Bond Index - Emerging Markets. The index is provided by JP Morgan.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute, Bloomberg, data is as of 31 January 2024. The market capitalization is calculated from all shares outstanding, data does not include ETFs and ADRs as they do not directly represent companies, including only actively traded.





To sum up: EM top convictions

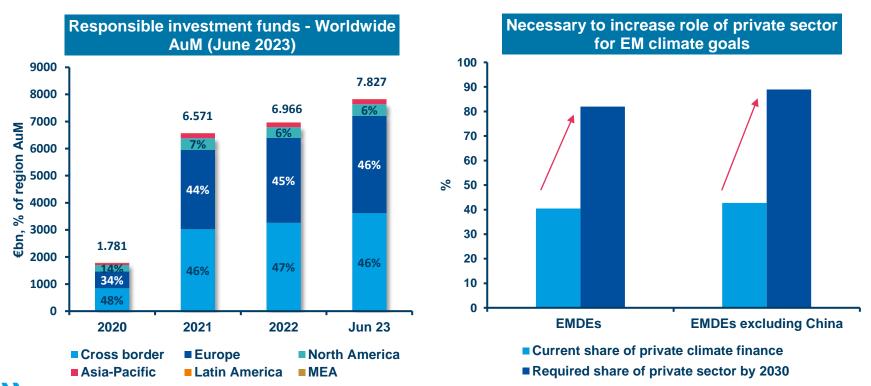


Source: Amundi Investment Institute 2 February 2024 EM: Emerging Markets; HC: Hard Currency; LC: Local Currency.





Huge private investment is needed to achieve net zero



Development of sustainable capital markets in EM and Developing economies through blended finance and reforms of international finance institutions will be crucial going forward. According to the IMF, the share of private sector climate finance in those economies will have to rise significantly to reach the net zero transition goals.

Source: Amundi Investment Institute, IMF and IEA on Climate Policy Initiative with staff calculations. The estimation share of private climate finance to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 is based on public climate financing share in total public investment that increases by a factor of 1.5 until 2030. Bloomberg. Data is as of 30 October 2023. EMDEs: Emerging Markets and Developing Economies.

Source: Amundi business intelligence based on Broadridge data. Data is as of June 2023.



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Indices reference and definitions

Bond Indices (JPMorgan)

Sov. HC HY = JPM EMBI Global Diversified High Yield; Sov. HC = JPM EMBI Global Diversified Composite; Sov. HC IG = JPM EMBI Global Diversified Inv. Grade; Local FX = JPM GBI-EM Global Diversified FX Return; Local HC = JPM GBI-EM Global Diversified Composite Unhedged USD; Local Euro = JPM GBI-EM Global Diversified FX Return in EUR; Local Rates = JPM GBI-EM Global Diversified Composite LOC; Corp. HC HY = JPM Corporate Broad EMBI Diversified High Grade.

Equity Indices (MSCI)

Argentina = MSCI Argentina Net Total Return; Brazil = MSCI Brazil Net Total Return; China = MSCI China Net Total Return; Czech Republic = MSCI Czech Republic Net Total Return; Colombia = MSCI Colombia Net Total Return; Egypt = MSCI Egypt Net Total Return; India = MSCI India Net Total Return; Indonesia = MSCI Indonesia Net Total Return; Mexico = MSCI Mexico Net Total Return; Peru = MSCI Peru Net Total Return; Philippines = MSCI Philippines Net Total Return; Poland = MSCI Poland Net Total Return; Russia = MSCI Russia Net Total Return; South Africa = MSCI South Africa Net Total Return; South Korea = MSCI Korea Net Total Return; Taiwan = MSCI Taiwan Net Total Return; Thailand = MSCI Thailand Net Total Return; Turkey = MSCI Turkey Net Total Return; Emerging Markets = MSCI Emerging Net Total Return.

Yield & Duration Indices

German Govt Bonds = JP Morgan GBI Germany Index; US Govt Bonds = JPMorgan GBI US Index; Euro IG Bonds = Bloomberg Barclays Pan European Aggregate Corporate; US IG Bonds = Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Credit; Euro HY bonds = Bloomberg Barclays Pan-European High Yield ISMA; US HY Bonds = Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate High Yield; EMBI Div = JPMorgan EMBI Global Diversified Blended; CEMBI BD = JPMorgan CEMBI Div Broad Composite Blended; CEMBI BD HY = JPMorgan CEMBI Broad Div High Yield; Euro Corp Short Term = Bloomberg Barclays Euro Corporate 1-3Yr; US Corp Short Term = Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate 1-3Yr; EMBI Short Term = JPMorgan EMBIG Diversified 1-3Yr.



Definitions

- Basis points: one basis point is a unit of measure equal to one one-hundredth of one percentage point (0.01%).
- Carry: the carry of an asset is the return obtained from holding it.
- Correlation: the degree of association between two variables; in finance, it is the degree to which assets or asset class prices have moved in relation to each other. Correlation is expressed by a correlation coefficient that ranges from -1 (perfectly negative correlated) through 0 (absolutely independent) to 1 (perfectly positive correlated).
- Credit spread: differential between the yield on a credit bond and the Treasury yield. The option-adjusted spread is a measure of the spread adjusted to take into consideration possible embedded options.
- Default rate: The share of issuers that failed to make interest or principal payments in the prior twelve months. Default rate based on BofA indices. Universe consists of issuers in the corresponding index twelve months prior to the date of default. Indices considered for corporate market are ICE BofA.
- Diversification: Diversification is a strategy that mixes a variety of investments within a portfolio, in an attempt at limiting exposure to any single asset or risk.
- Duration: a measure of the sensitivity of the price (the value of principal) of a fixed income investment to a change in interest rates, expressed as a number of years.
- EPS (Earnings per share): This is a company's profit divided by the outstanding shares of its common stock. The resulting number serves as an indicator of a company's profitability.
- External vulnerability index: this index is built by aggregating five different indicators that can monitor a country's dependence on overseas economies and capital flows.
- FX: FX markets refer to the foreign exchange markets where participants are able to buy and sell currencies.
- Green bonds: A green bond is a type of fixed-income instrument that is specifically earmarked to raise money for climate and environmental projects.
- Investment grade: Refers to securities issued by an issuer of negotiable debt securities (Treasury bonds...) or bonds for which the Standard & Poor's rating is greater than or equal to BBB-. 'Investment grade' bonds are considered by the various rating agencies as having a low risk of non-repayment.
- High yield: High yield paying bond with a low credit rating due to the high risk of default of the issuer.
- P/E ratio: The price-to-earnings ratio (P/E ratio) is the ratio for valuing a company that measures its current share price relative to its pershare earnings (EPS).
- Quasi sovereign: companies wholly or partially owned by the government.
- Social bonds: Social bonds are use-of-proceeds bonds that raise funds for new and existing projects with positive social outcomes.
- **Spread**: the difference between two prices or interest rates.
- Volatility is a statistical measure of the dispersion of returns for a given security or market index. Usually, the higher the volatility, the riskier the security/market.



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