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**Amundi**  
ASSET MANAGEMENT

# Asset Class Return Forecasts

## Quarterly Update

Medium and Long-Term Return Forecasts | Q3 - 2021

Finalised in July 2021

The first half of 2021 has been witness to exceptional growth in demand fueled in large part fiscal stimulus and waning Covid-related restrictions. Latest data release indicates the major economies may be at the onset of high-water mark of economic acceleration and the growth will slow down worldwide. Uncertainties of future cash infusions paired with ebb and flow from Covid re-openings are likely to be further headwinds to further short-term demand acceleration.

Over the long-term, we confirm a moderation in the trends for all macro and financial. While short to medium-term concerns over inflation volatility remain, we believe it will mostly remain anchored to policy targets under the watchful eye of the monetary authorities.

Markets have reacted strongly to the inflationary fears and yield curves have flattened in the past weeks, most notably in the US 10 year rate down 50bp over the past quarter from a 12-month high of 1.74% and in EU with the German 30 year curve dipping in the negative territory once again. Over the short term, we foresee the normalization to resume, led by the most dynamic markets (US and UK) reaching equilibrium levels short of the 10-year horizon with a slower adjustment in the EU and Japan beyond this timeline. We expect credit spreads to remain steady over the short to medium-term, where the buoyancy of economic rebound is partly offset by the gradual tapering of the asset purchase programs. Equity valuations are tight in absolute but remain favorable versus bonds, with its price moving closer to the fair value due to strong but decreasing EPS growth and some repricing effect.

In the table below we present the simulated forward-looking statistics over the 10-year horizon (expected returns, volatility, and CVaR) compared with historical statistics calculated on 20-year sample. Here CVaR and max drawdown represent the expected and historical shortfall respectively.

Assets in local currency	10 yr Simulated Expected Returns	10 yr Simulated Volatility	10 yr Simulated CVaR 95%	2000-2020 Historical Returns (annualised)	2000-2020 Volatility (annualised)	2000-2020 Max Drawdown
<b>Government Bonds</b>						
US Bond	1.5%	4.3%	7.2%	4.3%	4.7%	6.5%
UK Bond	0.5%	7.0%	13.3%	5.4%	6.1%	8.6%
Japan Bond	0.2%	3.6%	7.3%	1.6%	2.1%	4.8%
EMU Bond All Maturity	0.2%	4.3%	8.3%	4.6%	4.0%	5.8%
<b>Credit Investment Grade</b>						
Euro Corporate IG	0.6%	4.0%	6.9%	4.3%	3.6%	7.2%
US Corporate IG	2.3%	5.0%	8.1%	5.8%	5.7%	16.1%
<b>Credit High Yield &amp; EMBI</b>						
Euro Corporate HY	1.6%	9.8%	23.5%	7.2%	11.0%	37.7%
US Corporate HY	2.7%	11.0%	24.0%	7.6%	9.3%	33.2%
EM Hard Currency Debt*	4.5%	8.9%	19.5%	8.1%	8.6%	21.8%
<b>Equities</b>						
US Equity	6.4%	16.7%	38.9%	8.1%	14.9%	51.1%
Euro zone Equity	6.4%	20.3%	49.5%	3.5%	17.9%	56.2%
UK Equity	6.8%	15.5%	32.9%	4.7%	13.8%	40.3%
Japan Equity	5.5%	20.0%	40.8%	3.6%	17.7%	57.4%
Pacific ex-Japan Equity	7.0%	14.1%	44.4%	7.6%	13.9%	49.6%
Emerging Markets Equity	7.3%	20.3%	49.7%	10.1%	21.2%	51.9%
<b>Real and Alternatives*</b>						
EU Real Estate	4.8%	10.8%	20.8%	7.4%	3.1%	10.7%
EU Private Equity	8.5%	25.4%	61.8%	6.3%	26.7%	77.1%
US Real Estate	5.9%	11.3%	25.6%	8.0%	4.6%	23.9%
US Private Equity	9.0%	28.0%	66.3%	5.3%	29.8%	77.3%
Global Infrastructure	6.0%	11.6%	21.6%	14.3%	11.8%	13.8%
Global Private Debt (Direct Lending)	5.2%	9.8%	23.5%	na	na	na

\*Historical figures on real and alternatives calculated on a quarterly sample, raw data. Our models refer to un-smoothed data if necessary.

Source: Amundi Asset Management CASM Model, Amundi Asset Management Quant Solutions and Research Teams, Bloomberg. Data as of 27 July 2021. Macro figures as of last release. Data updated as of 30 June 2021. Figures shown are in local currency. Returns on credit asset are comprehensive of default losses. Regarding real assets, the table represents the modelling of core (moderate risk) real estate and direct lending on the private debt side. **The expected returns do not consider the potential alpha, generated by portfolio management that can be significant above all for real and alternative assets.**

Forecasts for annualised returns are based upon estimates and reflect subjective judgments and assumptions. These results were achieved by means of a mathematical formula and do not reflect the effect of unforeseen economic and market factors on decision making. **The forecast returns are not necessarily indicative of future performance, which could differ substantially.**

Asset Class Return Forecasts

10 Year Expected Returns Ranges

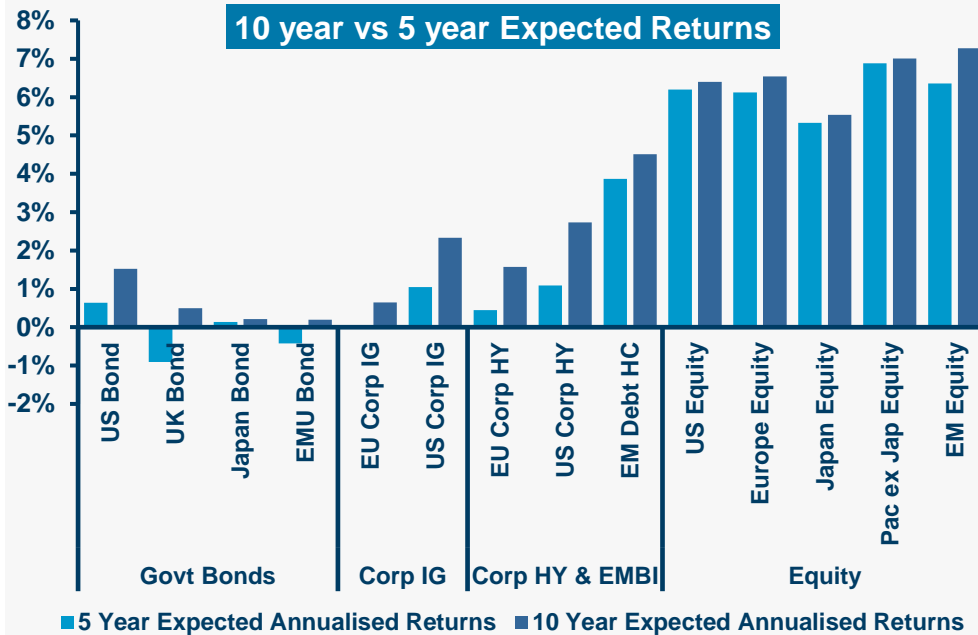


In the chart, we represent the ranges for the expected returns where we excluded the tail scenarios.

Fixed income assets are centered on low positive average returns, where low carry and/or high duration implies negative returns (a downside maximum of -2%) in the left side of the distribution

On the equity side, the upside potential is double digits for most of the asset classes, but implies left tail extends into the negative returns as the time can only partially diversify equity risk.

10 year vs 5 year Expected Returns



As a result of the recent correction on interest rates, **fixed income assets could deliver lower returns** in the medium term horizon compared to last quarter. From the medium to long-term returns can benefit from the higher carry moving returns back to **the positive territory on the 10 year horizon across the regions.**

On credit we factor in a **downward trend in default rates**, almost offset on the negative side by the lower carry (spreads and yield). **The normalization of the tight valuations will weight on medium term returns.**

**Improving valuations for equity across the universe and moving to a long-term perspective, as an evolution towards a more neutral stance is predominant.**

*Over the long-term, we confirm the low trend observed for all macro and financial variables. Despite some temporary pick-up, we are outlining a convergence to a weak growth potential, slightly lower when compared to the past, while inflation is more sustained but remaining under control around central bank targets*

Source: Amundi Asset Management CASM Model, Amundi Asset Management Quant Solutions and Research Teams, Bloomberg. Data as of 27 July 2021. Macro figures as of last release. **Data updated as of 30 June 2021.** Equity returns based on MSCI indices. Reference duration are average figures. Local Currency. Returns on credit asset are comprehensive of default losses.

**Forecast and fair values up to 3 years horizon provided by Research team (macro, yields, spread and equity).** Forecasts for annualised returns are based upon estimates and reflect subjective judgments and assumptions. These results were achieved by means of a mathematical formula and do not reflect the effect of unforeseen economic and market factors on decision making.

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## Asset Class Return Forecasts

In the following table, we present our annualised return forecasts across different asset classes, calculated as the average of simulated returns, on different forward-looking horizons (at 5 and 10 years). We also report historical figures for annualised returns and volatility calculated on the last 20 years, a sample including the two big crises (GFC and Covid -19).

Assets in local currency	Reference Index	Duration	Average Annualised Expected Returns		2001-2021 Historical Returns (annualised)	2001-2021 Volatility (annualised)
			5 year Expected Returns	10 year Expected Returns		
<b>Cash</b>						
Euro Cash	JPCAUEU3M index	0.3	-0.5%	0.1%	1.5%	0.5%
US Cash	JPCAUS3M index	0.2	0.5%	1.5%	1.9%	0.5%
<b>Government Bonds</b>						
US Bond	JPMTUS Index	6.3	0.6%	1.5%	4.3%	4.7%
UK Bond	JPMTUK Index	11.4	-0.9%	0.5%	5.4%	6.1%
Japan Bond	JPMTJP index	10.0	0.1%	0.2%	1.6%	2.1%
Emu Bond - Core	JPMTWG index	7.6	-0.9%	-0.4%	4.1%	4.0%
Emu Bond - Semi Core (France)	JPMTFR index	8.1	-0.4%	0.0%	4.4%	4.3%
Italy Bond	JPMTIT index	7.0	-0.2%	0.7%	5.2%	5.8%
Spain Bond	JPMTSP index	7.3	-0.4%	0.5%	5.0%	5.2%
EMU Bond All Maturity	JPMGEMUI Index	7.6	-0.4%	0.2%	4.6%	4.0%
Barclays Global Treasury	BTSYTRUU Index	8.0	0.3%	0.8%	4.6%	6.5%
<b>Credit Investment Grade</b>						
Euro Corporate IG	ER00 index	5.2	0.0%	0.6%	4.3%	3.6%
US Corporate IG	C0A0 index	7.0	1.0%	2.3%	5.8%	5.7%
Barclays Euro Aggregate	LBEATREU Index	6.8	-0.3%	0.3%	4.3%	3.4%
Barclays US Aggregate	LBUSTRUU Index	5.8	0.8%	1.9%	4.6%	3.4%
Barclays Global Aggregate	LEGATRUU Index	6.9	0.5%	1.2%	4.7%	5.5%
<b>Credit High Yield</b>						
Euro Corporate HY	HE00 index	3.6	0.4%	1.6%	7.2%	11.0%
US Corporate HY	H0A0 index	4.0	1.1%	2.7%	7.6%	9.3%
<b>Emerging Market Debt</b>						
EM Hard Currency Debt*	JPGCCOMP Index	6.7	3.9%	4.5%	8.1%	8.6%
EM-Global Diversified**	JGENVUUG Index	5.3	4.7%	5.3%	6.3%	11.8%
<b>Convertible Bond</b>						
Europe Index (Eur Hedged)	UCBIFX20 Index		2.1%	2.8%	4.7%	8.7%
<b>Equities</b>						
US Equity	NDDLUS Index		6.2%	6.4%	8.1%	14.9%
Europe Equity	NDDLE15 index		6.1%	6.5%	4.5%	15.1%
Euro zone Equity	NDDLEMU Index		6.1%	6.4%	3.5%	17.9%
UK Equity	NDDLUK Index		6.2%	6.8%	4.7%	13.8%
Japan Equity	NDDLJN Index		5.3%	5.5%	3.6%	17.7%
Pacific ex-Japan Equity	NDDLXJ Index		6.9%	7.0%	7.6%	13.9%
Emerging Markets Equity	NDLEEGF index		6.4%	7.3%	10.1%	21.2%
World Equity	NDDLWI index		6.1%	6.4%	6.6%	14.2%
AC World Equity	NDLEACWF Index		6.2%	6.5%	6.8%	14.1%

EM sovereign index are EMBI Global Diversified and EM-GBI Global diversified: \* Hard Currency USD, \*\* USD Unhedged, including the USD currency expectation towards EM currencies. EM Local starting date is 31/12/2002.

Source: Amundi Asset Management CASM Model, Amundi Asset Management Quant Solutions and Research Teams, Bloomberg. Data as of 27 July 2021. Macro figures as of last release. **Data updated as of 30 June 2021.** Equity returns based on MSCI indices. Reference duration are average figures. Local Currency. Returns on credit asset are comprehensive of default losses.

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## Cascade Asset Simulation Model (CASM)

This medium- and long-term return forecast report is intended to provide some guidance for investor expectations. The time horizon under consideration is 10 years, a timeframe deemed to be appropriate and during which long-term trend factors and issues can reasonably be expected to play out, and therefore, market returns should accurately reflect this information. We use a Monte Carlo methodology in order to generate possible changes in different risk factors for the time horizon considered, representing the future states of these factors under objective measures. The model is then used to price the instruments in line with these factor scenarios.

In order to determine possible interest rate scenarios, we analysed the changes in the major economic DM regions and EM aggregate. We used a cascade-style modelling technique to simulate the different term structures, using risk factors such as the GDP cycle, inflation, real rates and slope for each of the economic regions in question.

Moving into spread-related assets (EM bonds and corporate bonds), we focused on implied volatility, quality, default and recovery rates, together with economic cycles, to estimate a

forward-looking path for EM bonds (hard currency), EU corporate (IG and HY) and US corporate (IG and HY).

Our framework on equity focuses on earnings growth and price earnings, as a determinant of capital gains and dividend yields, to represent the income effect; these variables are analysed together with the macroeconomic pillars of the model (the economic and inflation cycle).

Our medium/long-term model, known as CASM, is updated on a quarterly basis to incorporate new starting points, the change in our short-term outlook and medium term expectations along with long-term trends, the significance of which is verified on an annual basis.

Our CASM model focuses on key factors, which drive this change over the medium to long-term; the resulting forecasts look at the comparison between current and medium to long-term readings for the key factors included in the model.

Note that these are simulated figures only and may not represent actual asset class returns. Actual returns are based on many factors, and may vary substantially from modelled ones.

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