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Goodbye negative yields: 10 hot topics for the summer

Macroeconomics

- 1. Lower economic growth
- Inflation likely to remain high
- Central banks committed to deliver

Microeconomics

- 4. Strong corporate credit metrics
- Rating trend remains intact

Technical factors

- 6. Lower bond issuance expected
- 7. Higher new issue premia

Valuation

- Spreads and yields at multi-year highs
- 9. Record amount of low cash price bonds
- 10. How to benefit from this environment



#1. Lower economic growth expected

Macro

New orders in DM still doing well, but China's ...

... lockdowns hurt growth and supply chains.

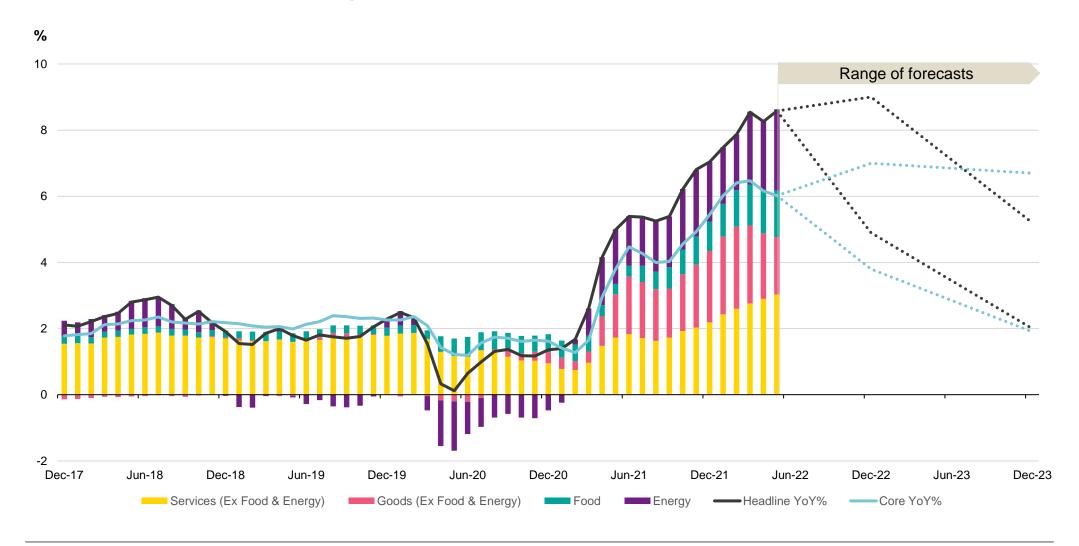




#2. Inflation likely to remain high

Macro

US inflation forecasts remain high and wide but indicate a slow down at some point



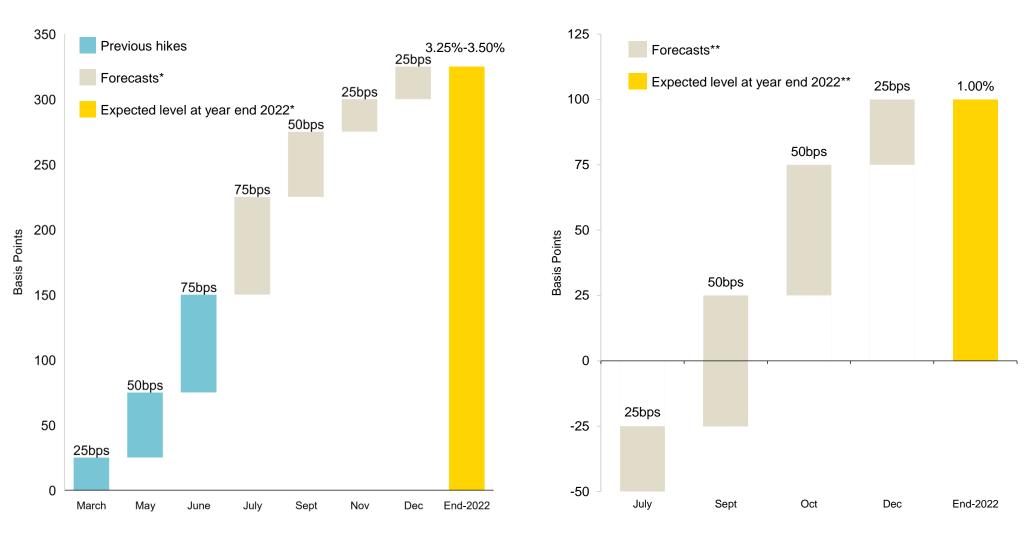


#3. Central banks committed to deliver

Macro

Fed: accelerated rate hikes until summer

ECB: progressive start in summer

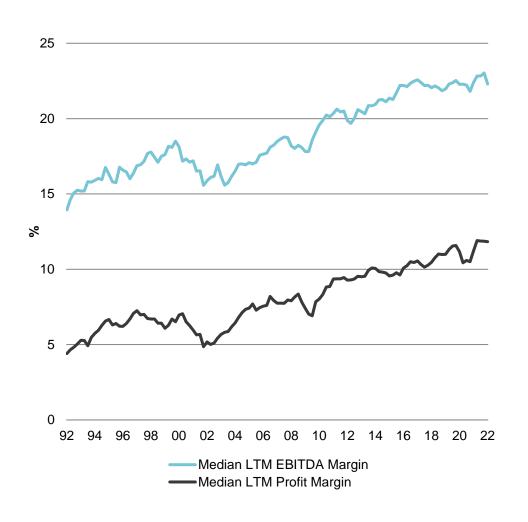




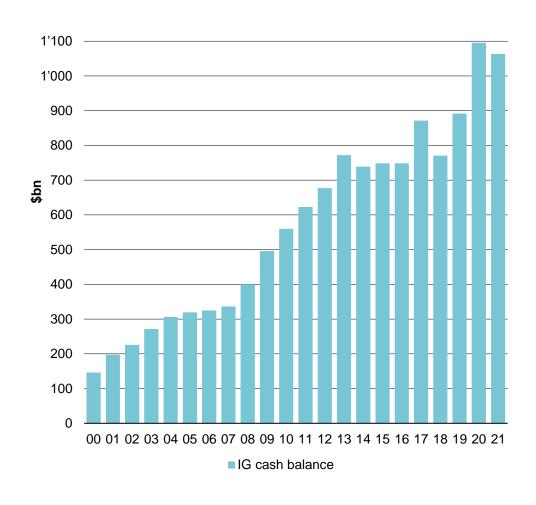
#4. Strong margins and high cash balances, plus...

Micro

Profit margins at strong levels



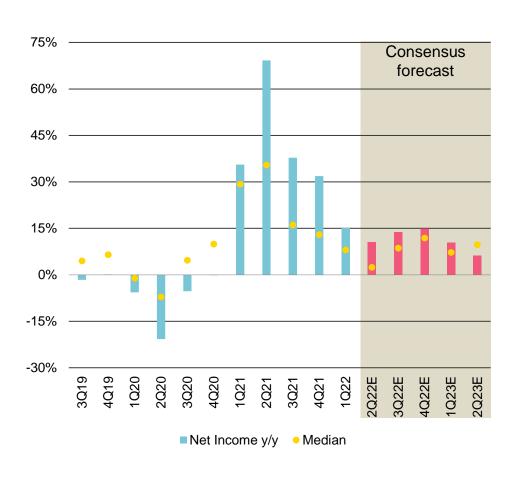
Cash levels remain elevated



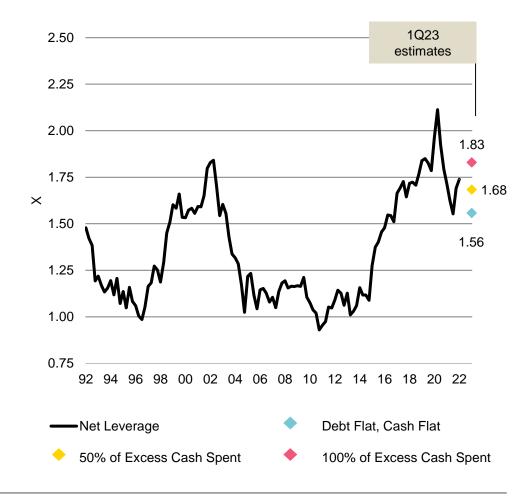
...solid earnings, are expected to keep leverage at moderate levels.

Micro

Earnings set to normalize



Net leverage improved



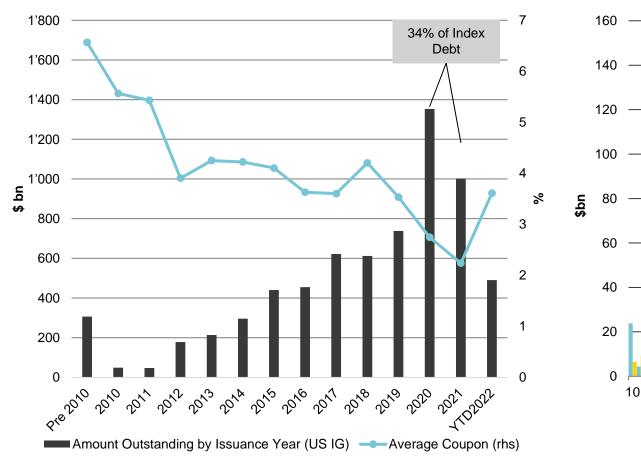


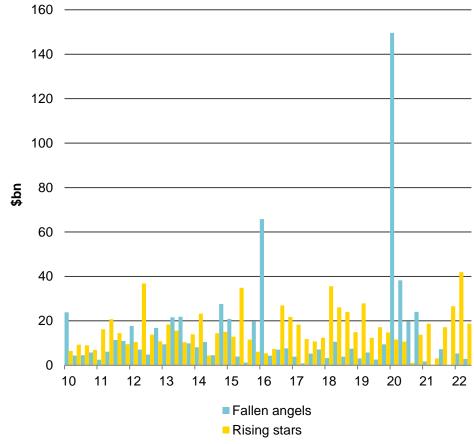
#5. Cheap funding was secured and rating trend remains intact

Micro

Record issuance with the lowest coupon

Rating trend remains favorable



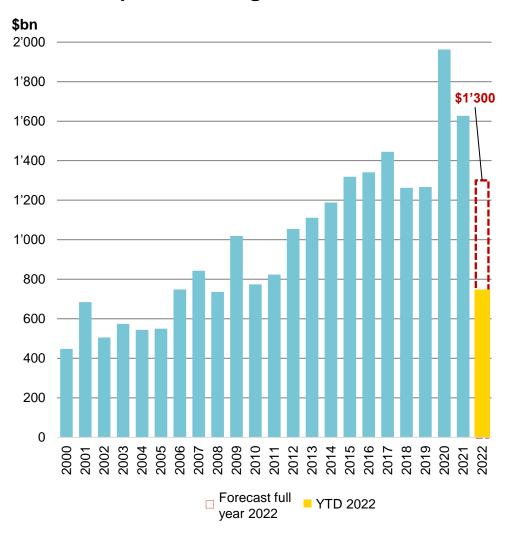




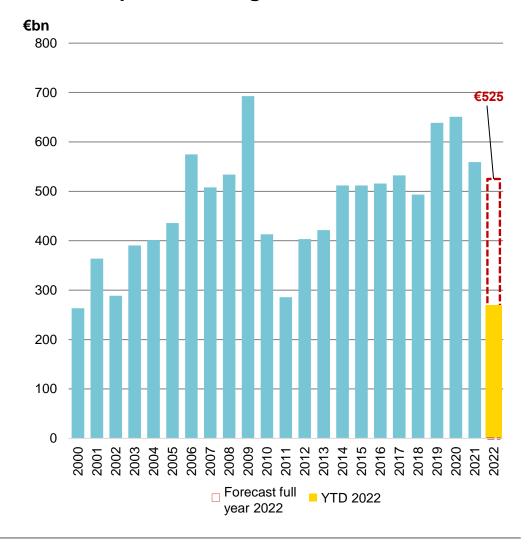
#6. Bond issuance is expected to decline globally, also as...

Technicals

USD IG corporate bond gross issuance



EUR IG corporate bond gross issuance

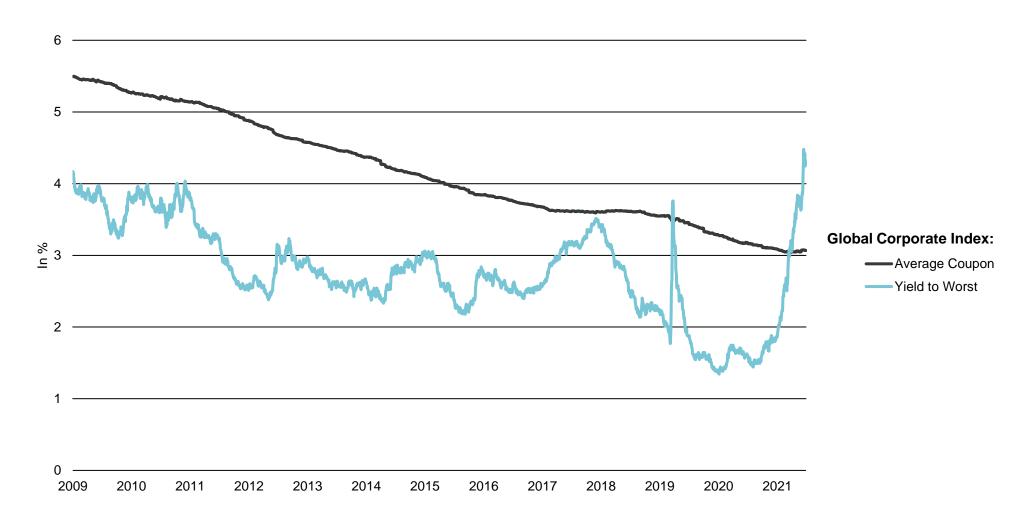




...refinancing is more expensive now, while...

Technicals

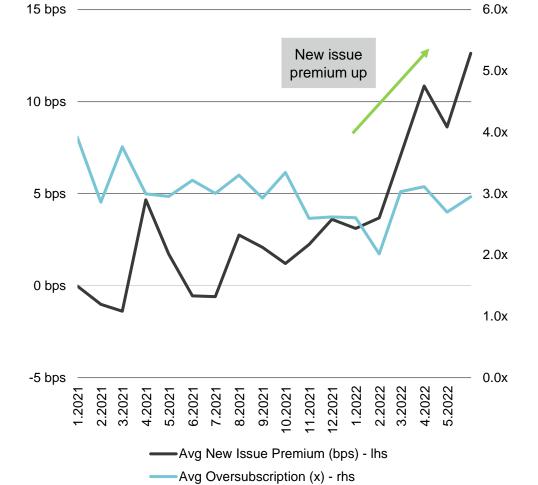
Less supply to be expected as yields moved higher



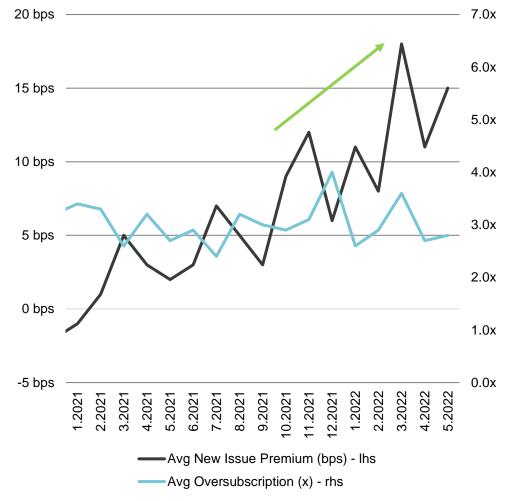
#7...investors can benefit from more favorable market conditions.

Technicals

USD IG primary market



EUR IG primary market

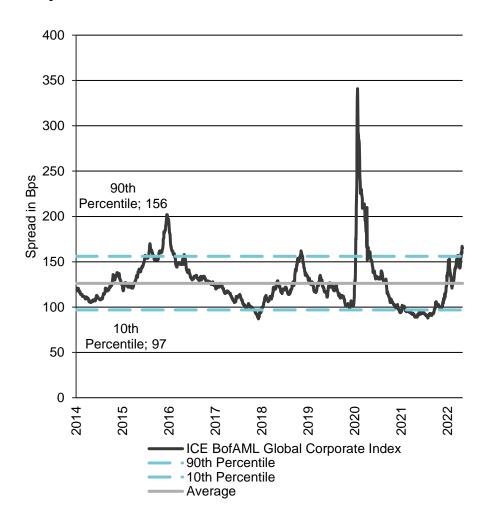




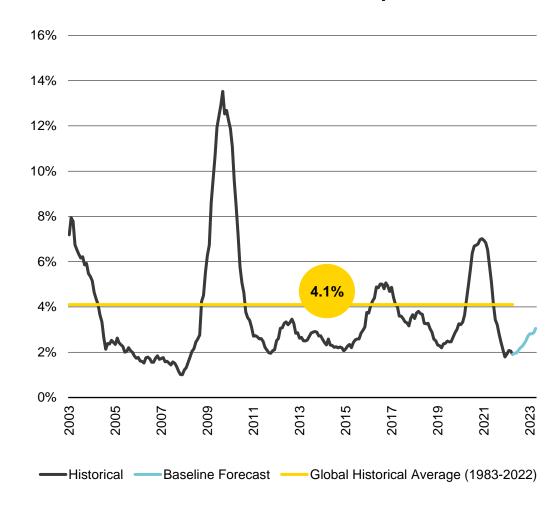
#8. Spreads should be tighter when compared to default rates

Valuation

IG spreads at wide levels



Default rate is at half its historical print





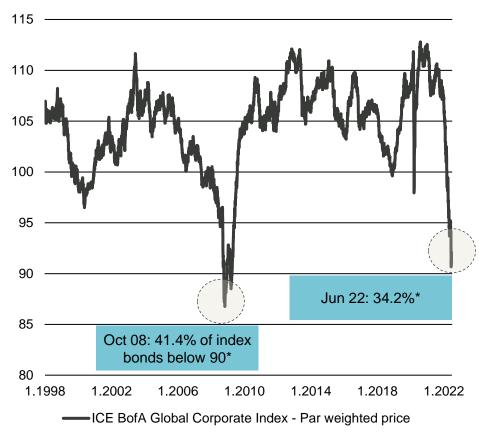
#9. Yields up significantly and bond prices down...

Valuation

Yields up since the start of 2021



Record amount of low cash price bonds

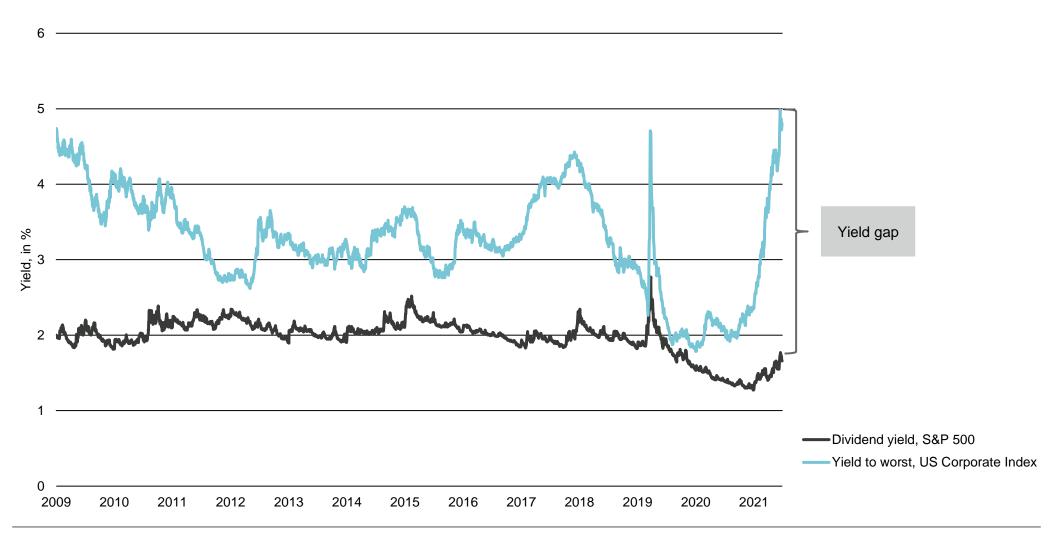


Percentage figures in the boxes correspond to the percentage of index value of bonds trading below 90 cash price.

...and the yield gap widening: corporate bond yield ahead of dividend yield.

Valuation

IG yields are at decade highs



#10. How to benefit from this environment?

How does the world look?

Macroeconomics:

More fragile due to lower growth and high inflation, requiring central banks to act.

Microeconomics:

Strong improvement of credit metrics, leaving corporates in a robust position.

Technicals:

Lower issuance and still solid demand for corporate bonds.

Valuation:

Higher yields and wider spreads. Valuation starts being attractive vs. default rates.

How can investors extract value?

Diversify risks on a **global scale**. Take an active approach and **protect** portfolios. Benefit from rating upgrades and potential rising stars. Screen for defensive sectors.

New issues as an attractive source of performance as new issue premia increased.

Screen for mispricing's and also low cash price bonds.

This is not the end...

...as there are obviously more hot topics on investors' minds and we are more than happy to share our thoughts with you.



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