



**Asset
Management**

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

GS Strategic Absolute Return Bond II Portfolio

Portfolio Review

GSAM Global Fixed Income and Liquidity Solutions

December 2018

Table of Contents



**Asset
Management**

-
- I. Executive Summary
 - II. Market Review
 - III. Performance and Attribution
 - IV. Portfolio Positioning
 - V. Macro Outlook
 - Appendix



**Asset
Management**

I. Executive Summary

Executive Summary

As of 31-Dec-2018



Asset
Management

Account Summary

Account Name	London Borough of Tower Hamlets Pension Fund - GS STAR Bond II
Assets	GBP 51mn
Benchmark	3 Month GBP LIBOR
Target Tracking Error	500-600 bps
Target Excess Return	400-500 bps
Performance Inception Date	4-Apr-2016

Performance Summary

	Portfolio Net (%)	Target (Benchmark +4%)	Difference Gross (bps)
Last 1 Months	(0.55)	0.40	(95)
4Q 2018	(0.70)	1.20	(-190)
2018 YTD	(2.62)	4.73	(735)
Since Inception (Ann)	0.06	4.49	(443)

Portfolio Summary

	Portfolio	Benchmark	Difference
Number of Countries	44	0	44
Yield to Maturity (%)	2.53	0.91	1.62
Yield to Worst (%)	2.51	0.91	1.60
Option Adjusted Duration (yrs)	0.37	0.25	0.12
OA Spread Duration (yrs)	2.35	0.25	2.10
Maturity (Bonds, yrs)	6.33	0.00	6.33
Average Life (Bonds, yrs)	3.90	0.00	3.90
Libor OAS (bps)	111	0	111

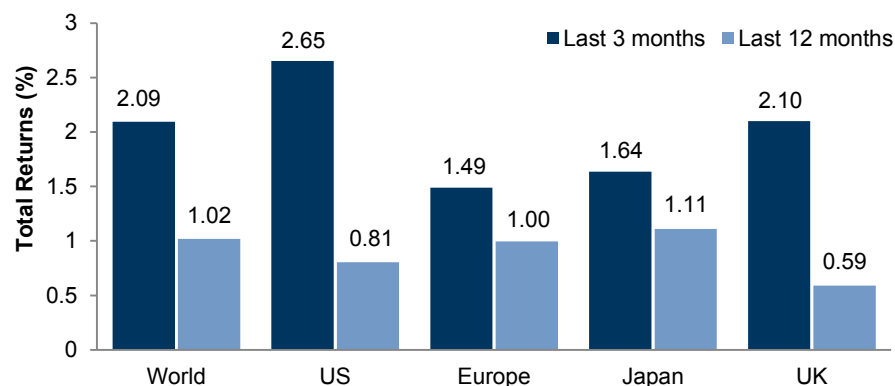
As of 31-Dec-2018. Performance inception date: 4-Apr-2016. **Past performance does not guarantee future results, which may vary.** Targets are subject to change and are current as of the date of this presentation. Targets are objectives and do not provide any assurance as to future results. Please see additional disclosures. The returns are gross and do not reflect the deduction of investment in advisory fees, which will reduce returns. Portfolio holdings and/or allocations shown above are as of the date indicated and may not be representative of future investments. The holdings and/or allocations shown may not represent all of the portfolio's investments. Future investments may or may not be profitable.



**Asset
Management**

II. Market Review

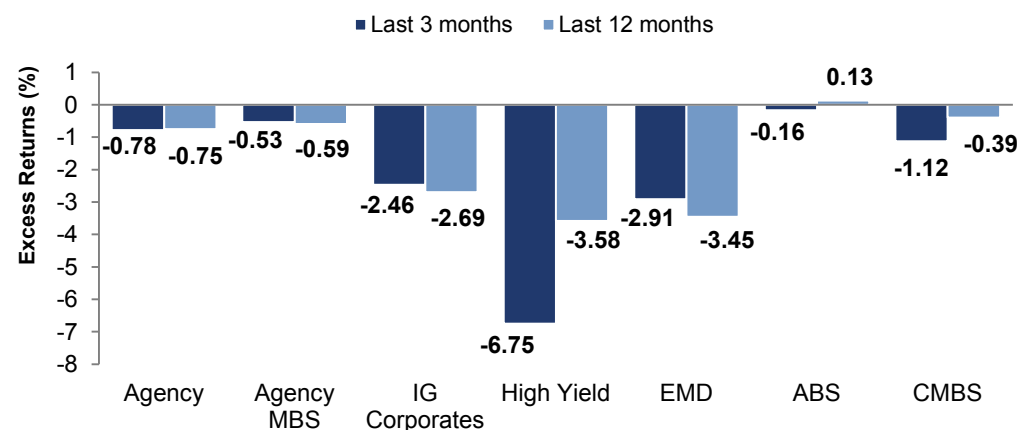
Global Government Markets – Local Currency



Source: Bloomberg

- Global government bonds posted positive returns during the fourth quarter of 2018. The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) delivered the fourth rate hike of 2018 at its meeting in December. The median dot plot projection shifted to two rate hikes in 2019 from three previously.
- Unlike their US counterpart, the Bank of Japan (BoJ) and Bank of England (BoE) kept policy rates unchanged at their December meeting. The BoE noted that UK wages are rising at a faster-than-anticipated pace but also reiterated that rate rises should be gradual and limited. We think limited deflationary risks will lead the ECB to raise rates in the second half of the year (barring a material growth shock). However, in our view, commencing the process of lifting policy rates out of negative territory does not equate to monetary tightening. We think sluggish inflation will require prolonged monetary accommodation.

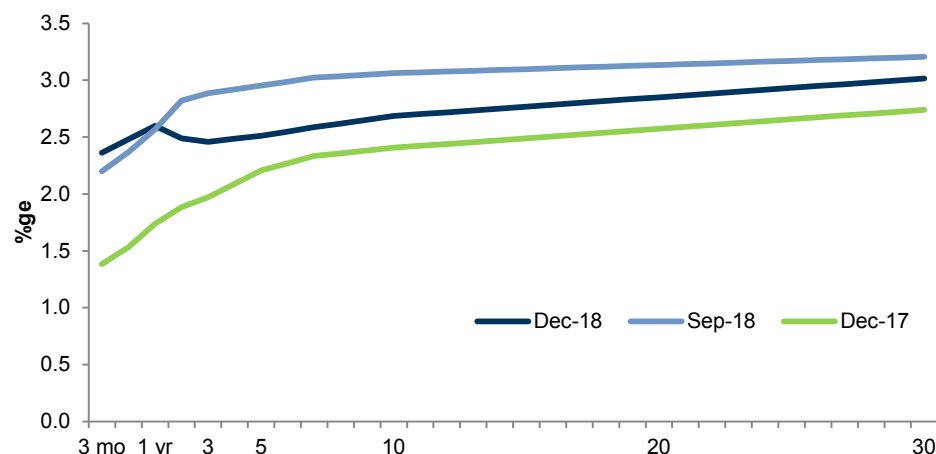
Sector³ Performance (in USD) – Excess Returns² Over Government Bonds



Source: Barclays, Bloomberg

- In the fourth quarter, performance was negative across the spread sectors.
- High yield corporate credit was the worst performing sector and the proportion of US-dollar denominated high yield rated bonds trading below par has risen to the highest level since the financial crisis. Besides concerns about the broader macroeconomic cycle, the decline was driven by corporate profit margin pressures given the rising input and wage costs, company specific events, lower oil prices and prolonged trade concerns.
- Investment Grade corporate credit returns were also negative for similar reasons. IG debt was also under pressure due to earnings expectations, highlighted by Apple revising down Q4 18 revenue guidance.
- Emerging market debt returned to negative territory for the third time in 2018. This was mainly driven by countries, such as Venezuela and Nigeria, affected by the freefall of oil prices in Q3. Argentina was another key underperformer as it grappled with its ongoing macroeconomic adjustments.

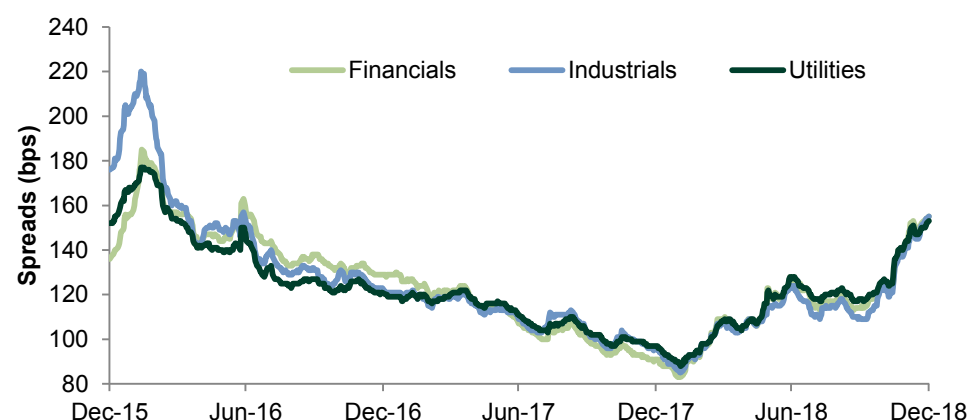
US Treasury Yields (%)



Source: Bloomberg

- The US yield curve steepened slightly over the last quarter of 2018, as the spread between the 2-year and 30-year nodes of the curve increased by 14bps to close at 53bps. 30-year yields decreased by 19bps, whilst 2-year yields decreased by 33bps. The front-end of the curve also inverted for the first time in a decade, with increasing pressure at the front-end paired with medium-term concerns about growth and inflation.
- The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) delivered the fourth rate hike of 2018 at its meeting in December. The median dot plot projection shifted to two rate hikes in 2019 from three previously.
- The US economy added 312,000 jobs in December 2018 and annual growth in average hourly earnings reached a cycle-high of 3.2%. The unemployment rate ticked up from 3.7% to 3.9% though this largely reflects an increase in labor force participation.

Global Investment Grade Corporate Spreads



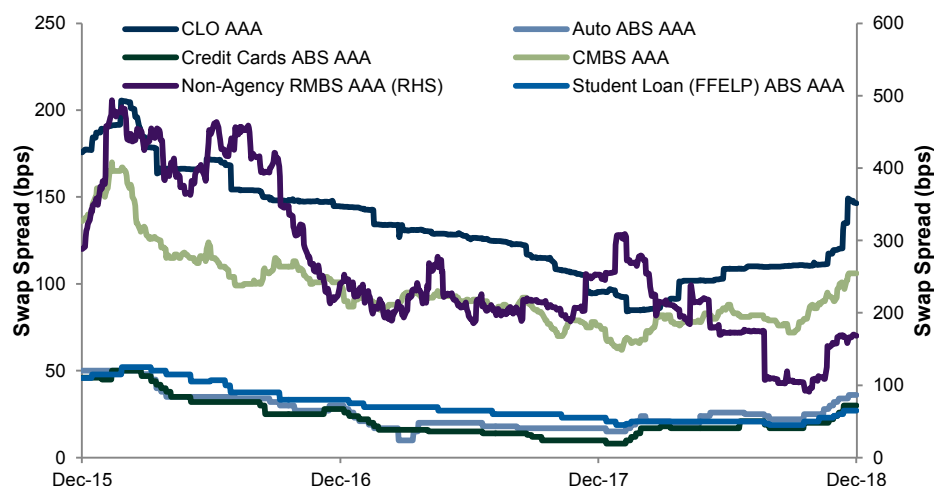
Source: Bloomberg

- Global investment grade corporate spreads widened significantly in the fourth quarter of the year, as spreads on the Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Corporate index rose by 43bps to end at 155bps over sovereigns. This resulted from a combination of investor concerns relating to global trade hostilities, oil prices, decelerating global growth, withdrawal of central bank liquidity and potential “peak” corporate earnings growth. Global Industrials widened the most, by 45bps, whilst Utilities widened the least, by 35bps. Financials widened by 41bps. Regionally, the US underperformed, widening by 47bps to 153bps over Treasuries, whilst Euro corporates widened by 38bps to 152bps over sovereigns.
- New issuance fell quite significantly in both the US and Europe in Q4 2018, with totals amounting to \$202bn and €78bn respectively. New issuance was dominated by Industrials in both regions, in contrast to the preceding quarter when Financials dominated.

GSAM As of December 31, 2018. Past performance does not guarantee future results, which may vary.

For Professional Investors Use Only - Not For Distribution to your clients or the General Public

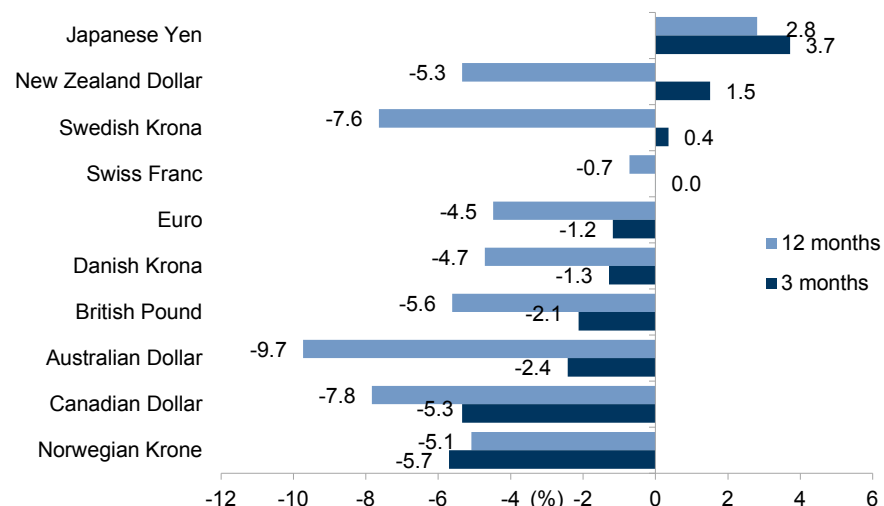
Securitized Credit



Source: JP Morgan, GSAM

- Almost all securitized credit sub-sectors came under spread widening pressure in Q4 2018 in sympathy with corporate credit and ultimately a broader risk-off market tone. Non-agency MBS have outperformed corporate credit over the quarter and the entire year 2018 driven mainly by increased prepayment rates on seasoned collateral, as home prices continue to increase.
- ABS and CLOs ended 2018 with spreads in December at their widest for the year. The ABS market started the year strong on the backdrop of a record-high stock market and investor optimism whereas in December, the ABS and CLO markets closed with increased equity market volatility and heightened investor concerns.

Major Currency Movements vs. USD (%)



Source: Bloomberg

- The majority of G10 currencies vs the US dollar depreciated over the quarter, with the Japanese Yen, New Zealand Dollar and Swedish Krona being the outliers. The Yen was the best performing currency over the period. Overall weak performance in risk assets and a subsequent decline in US treasury yields saw flows into haven currencies such as the Yen.
- The Norwegian Krone was the weakest performing G10 currency over the quarter. The currency was predominantly driven by the largest decline in oil prices since 2008 as well as also being impacted by a broader weakness in market sentiment.

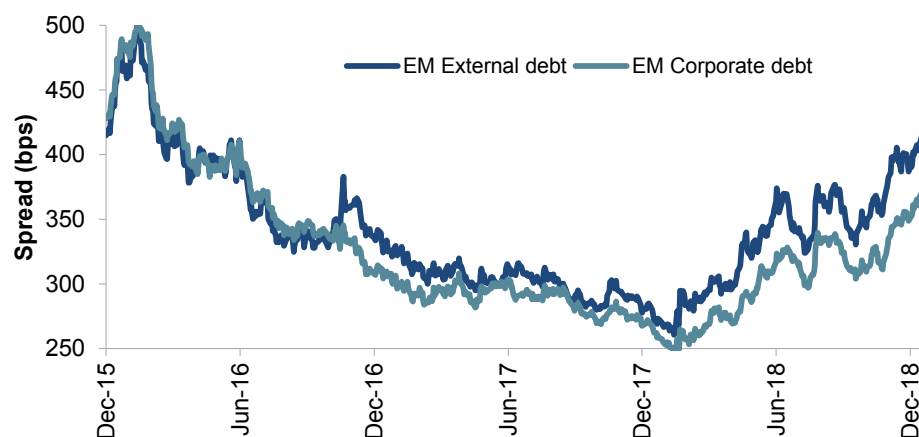
GSAM Source: JP Morgan, GSAM, Bloomberg. CLO AAA : CLO Post AAA Portfolio discount margin; Credit Card ABS AAA : Credit Cards Fixed AAA – 3 Year spread to swap; Non-Agency RMBS AAA : ABX. HE. 07-1. AAA Cashflow spread (base case); Auto ABS AAA : Auto (Prime) Fixed AAA – 3 Year Spread to Swap; CMBS AAA : New issue CMBS 10 year on the run AAA Spread to Swap; Student Loan (FFELP) ABS AAA : Student Loans (FFELP) AAA – 5 year spread to Libor. As of December 31, 2018. **Past performance does not guarantee future results, which may vary.**

Market Review



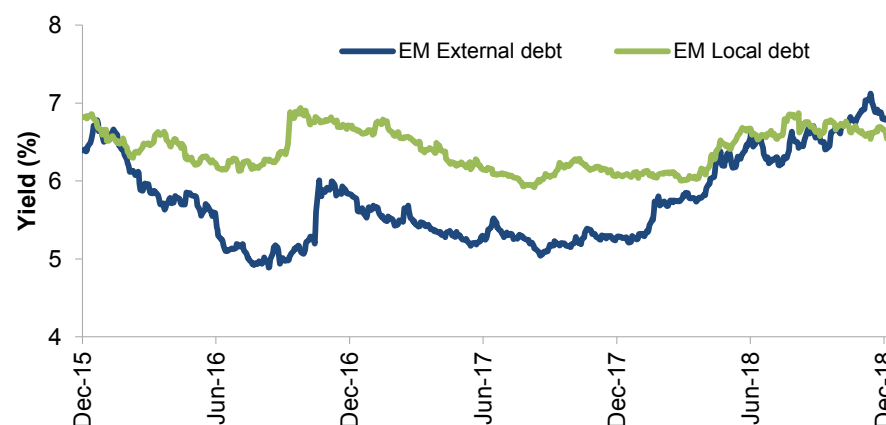
Asset
Management

External Emerging Market Debt Spreads



Source: Bloomberg

Local and External Emerging Market Debt Yields



Source: Bloomberg

- Both EM external and EM Corporate spreads widened over the quarter by 80bps and 61bps, respectively. Spreads on EM external debt ended at 415bps, while EM corporate spreads were 371bps at the end of the quarter. EM external sovereign debt returned -1.26% during the quarter while EM corporate debt returned -0.04%.
- The sell-off in emerging markets continued into the fourth quarter, as global and Chinese growth showed signs of slowing down, US-China trade tensions persisted and global liquidity conditions continued to tighten. Middle East and African credits were the largest underperformers in the JPM EMBI Index as oil prices fell over the quarter. Argentina was another key underperformer as it grappled with its ongoing macroeconomic adjustments.
- The JPMorgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index (unhedged, in US dollars) returned 2.11% in Q4, comprising of -0.82% currency depreciation and 2.93% from local rates. Bouncing back from their severe underperformance in prior months, Turkey and Argentina emerged as the biggest outperformers in the GBI-EM index over the quarter.
- In Turkey, the Finance Minister announced that they will not issue new debt during December in an attempt to lower rates. The central bank kept its policy rates on hold at the meeting in October and subsequently in December that led to a lira rally versus the dollar, which also strengthened on current account improvement driven by weaker oil prices. Meanwhile, Argentine local debt gained mostly in October as Argentina had the standby financing agreement from the IMF increased to \$56.3bn from the original \$50bn agreed, which bolstered the currency. However, the additional funding from IMF requires spending cuts and taxes to bring Argentina's primary fiscal deficit to balance in 2019.

For Professional Investors Use Only - Not For Distribution to your clients or the General Public

EM External represented by the JPM EMBI Global Diversified. EM Local represented by the JPM GBI-EM Global Diversified. EM Corporate represented by JPM CEMBI Broad Diversified. Spreads quoted are over treasuries. **Past performance does not guarantee future results, which may vary.** As of December 31, 2018.



**Asset
Management**

III. Performance and Attribution

London Borough of Tower Hamlets Performance

GS Strategic Absolute Return Bond II Portfolio (I Flat Acc. GBP Hedged Share Class)



Asset
Management

	(%)		(bps)	
As of December 31, 2018	Portfolio (Net)	Benchmark ¹	Target (Benchmark +4%)	Difference vs Target (Net)
Trailing Periods				
Last 1 Year	-2.62	0.73	4.73	-735
Last 6 Months	-0.89	0.42	2.40	-329
Last 3 Months	-0.70	0.22	1.20	-190
Quarters				
1Q18	-0.10	0.14	1.12	-122
2Q18	-1.65	0.17	1.15	-281
3Q18	-0.19	0.20	1.18	-137
4Q18	-0.70	0.22	1.20	-190
Months				
Jul-18	0.94	0.06	0.39	55
Aug-18	-1.75	0.07	0.40	-214
Sep-18	0.63	0.07	0.39	24
Oct-18	-0.17	0.07	0.40	-56
Nov-18	0.01	0.07	0.40	-39
Dec-18	-0.55	0.08	0.40	-95
Since Inception²				
Annualised Return	0.06	0.52	4.49	-443

¹ Benchmark: 3-Month LIBOR (GBP) Benchmark.

² Client performance inception date: 04-Apr-2016.

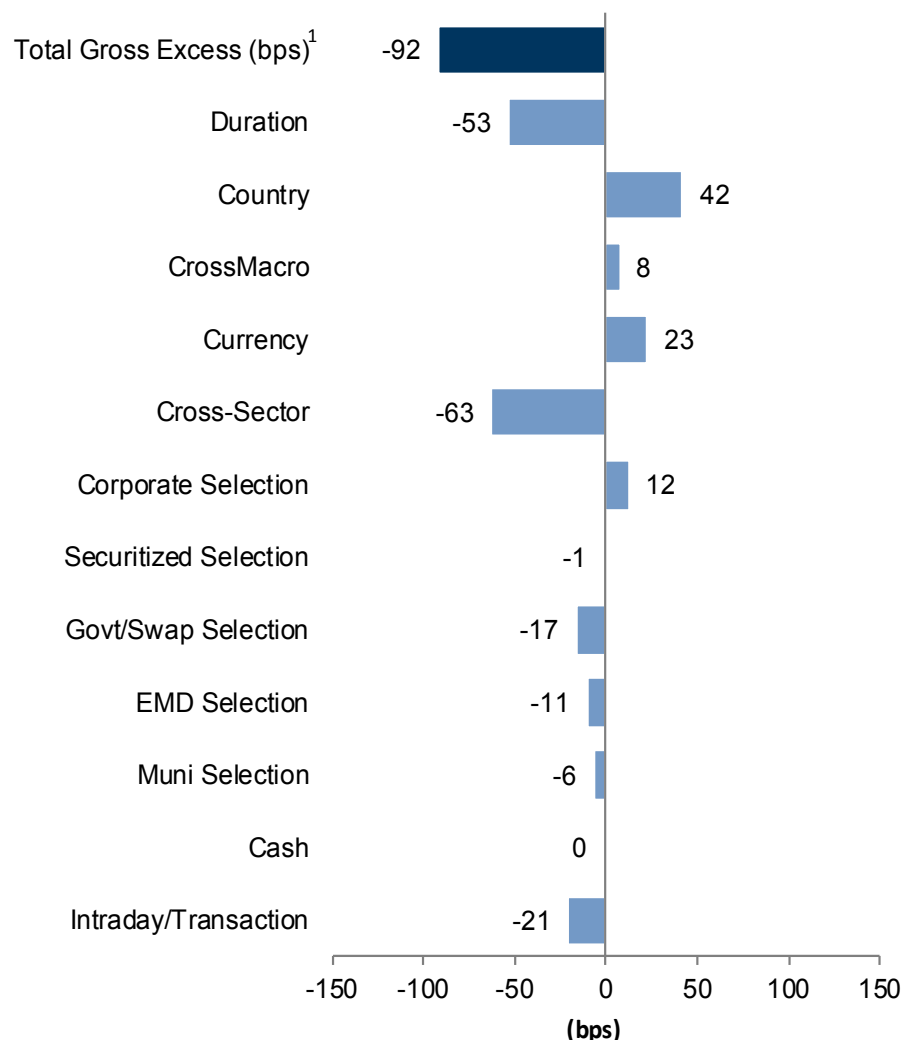
Past performance does not guarantee future results, which may vary.

Performance Attribution

4Q 2018



Asset
Management



Primary drivers of performance

- The portfolio underperformed over the period. This was predominantly due to our Cross-Sector and Duration strategies, whilst the Country and Currency strategies were positive contributors.
- Our Cross-Sector strategy was the largest detractor from performance. Long positions in investment grade and high yield corporates were drivers of this underperformance amidst a risk off environment as the quarter came to a close. Yet, we believe the pronounced spread widening observed in the final quarter of 2018 is excessive relative to the mild deterioration in the outlook for corporate and macro fundamentals. As such, we view recent market re-pricing as an opportunity to add exposure.
- Our Duration strategy was also a detractor during the period as macro growth concerns and trade tensions led to a broad risk-off sentiment toward the end of the period. The rally in U.S. interest rates detracted from our short U.S. rate position.
- Our Country strategy however, contributed to performance during the quarter. In particular, our long Europe vs. Sweden positions were beneficial as the Riksbank raised rates for the first time in seven years, increasing its policy rate to -0.25 percent and signaling a further hike to come over the course of 2019.
- The portfolio's Currency strategy also contributed to performance. Positions in Argentinian Peso were particularly accretive over the period as investors continued to move into the currency amidst short-term government bond issuance at high interest rates.

¹Gross Excess vs the Benchmark

Note: Allocations may not sum to total due to rounding. Residual/Other: The difference between the fixed income proprietary risk and attribution model and the official GSAM performance system may be due to varying pricing, valuation, and data sources, as well as ad hoc custodian and accounting reconciliations. Benchmark: 3 Month GBP LIBOR. **Past performance does not guarantee future results, which may vary.** Portfolio Holdings may not be representative of current or future investments. Future portfolio holdings may not be profitable. The returns presented herein are gross and do not reflect the deduction of investment advisory fees, which will reduce returns.



**Asset
Management**

IV. Portfolio Positioning

GS Strategic Absolute Return Bond II Portfolio

Current Positioning and Opportunities - Details (Macro)



Asset
Management

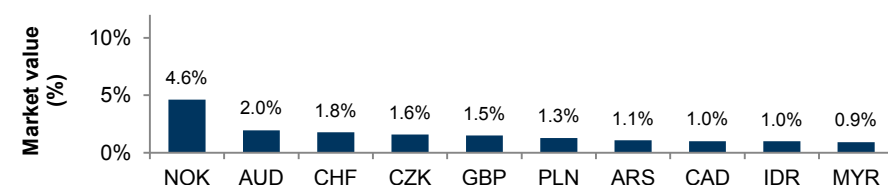
Interest Rate Duration

Total Portfolio Interest Rate Duration¹ :	-1.22 years
Active Duration:	-2.27 years
Country:	-0.18 years
Other ² :	1.23 years

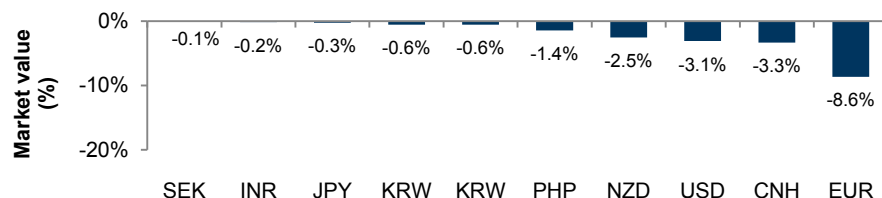
Active Duration Positioning

Active Duration:	-2.27 years
US: -2.32 years	UK: --
Europe: 0.30 years	Sweden: -0.06 years

Top Net Currency Exposure



Bottom Net Currency Exposure



Country Strategy Positioning

Country Strategy:	-0.18 years
US: -0.11 years	Canada: 0.54 years
UK: -1.58 years	Europe: 2.24 years
Sweden: -1.29 years	Other: 0.02 years

Key Cross Macro positions

Relative Financial Conditions:

Overly Restrictive	Too Accommodative	Expression
Europe	UK	Long EUR vs Short UK rates vs. EURGBP Real Yields

Correlated Asset Relative Value (Rates vs FX):

Europe vs. US	Long Europe rates vs. Short US rates vs. EURUSD
Canada vs. US	Long Canada rates vs. Short US rates vs. USDCAD

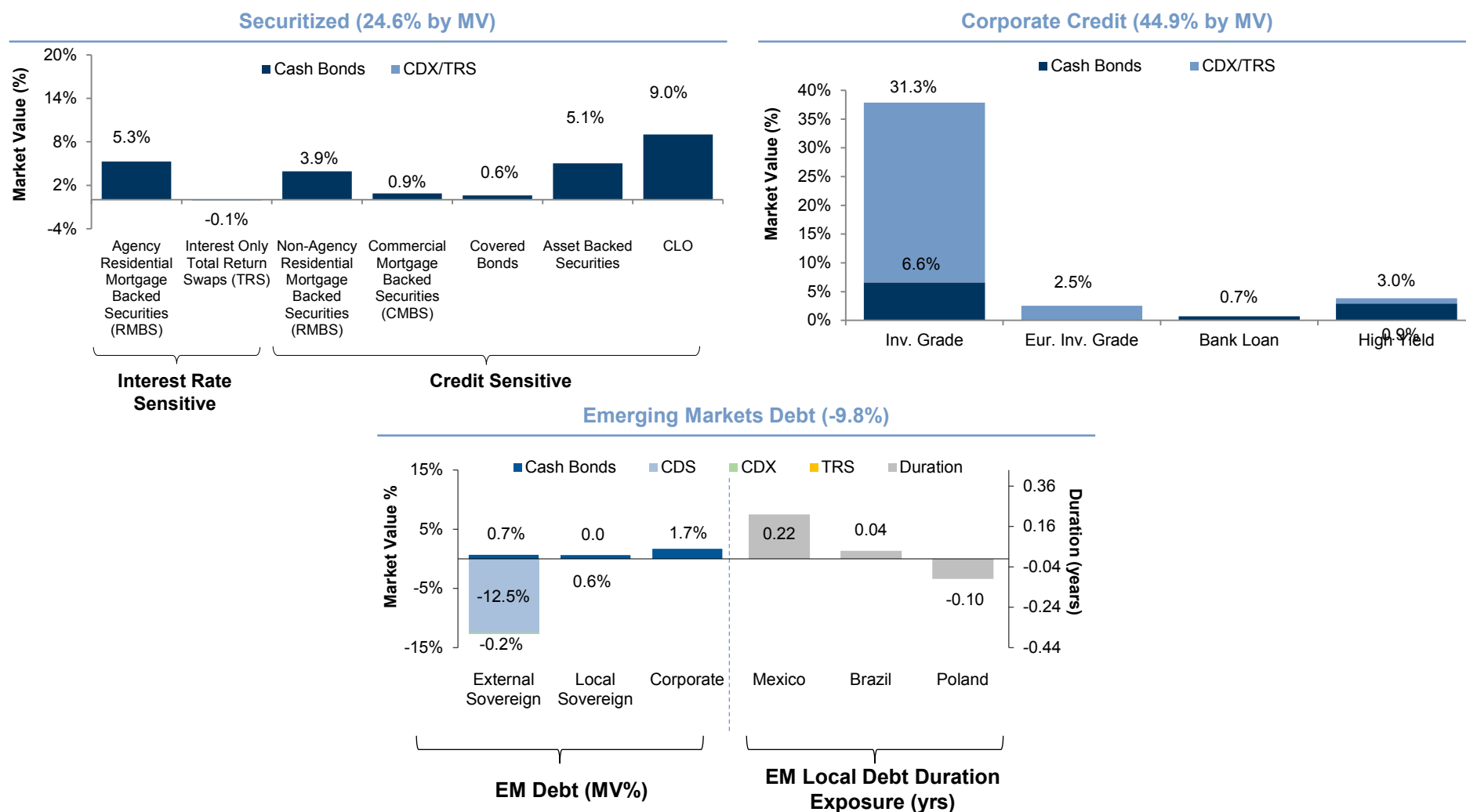
Source: GSAM. Data as of December 31, 2018 and subject to change. Any mention of an investment decision is intended only to illustrate our investment approach and/or strategy, and is not indicative of the performance of our strategy as a whole. It should not be assumed that any investment decisions shown will prove to be profitable, or that any investment decisions made in the future will be profitable or will equal the performance of the investments discussed herein. A complete list of past recommendations is available upon request. Please see additional disclosures. **Past performance does not guarantee future results, which may vary.** ¹ Interest Rate Duration is a modified measure of Total Average Duration that has been estimated by GSAM. This modified measure seeks to take account of the different behaviours of different bond markets around the world by re-expressing all duration exposures to a common US market standard. The goal is to improve the estimate of the portfolio's sensitivity to changes in interest rates. This estimate is guided by historical market observations amongst markets which are themselves subject to change over time and may not necessarily be reflected by the actual outcome. This refers to the duration adjusted for volatility and not raw duration. ² Others comprises of EMD, Cross Sector, Cross Macro and Gov./Swaps strategies. Portfolio holdings and/or allocations shown above are as of the date indicated and may not be representative of future investments. The holdings and/or allocations shown may not represent all of the portfolio's investments. Future investments may or may not be profitable.

GS Strategic Absolute Return Bond II Portfolio

Current Positioning and Opportunities - Details (Sector)



Asset
Management



Source: GSAM. Data as of December 31, 2018 and subject to change. Any mention of an investment decision is intended only to illustrate our investment approach and/or strategy, and is not indicative of the performance of our strategy as a whole. It should not be assumed that any investment decisions shown will prove to be profitable, or that any investment decisions made in the future will be profitable or will equal the performance of the investments discussed herein. A complete list of past recommendations is available upon request. Please see additional disclosures. **Past performance does not guarantee future results, which may vary.** Portfolio holdings and/or allocations shown above are as of the date indicated and may not be representative of future investments. The holdings and/or allocations shown may not represent all of the portfolio's investments. Future investments may or may not be profitable.

Risks

GS Strategic Absolute Return Bond II Portfolio



**Asset
Management**

- **Market risk** - the value of assets in the Portfolio is typically dictated by a number of factors, including the confidence levels of the market in which they are traded.
- **Operational risk** - material losses to the Portfolio may arise as a result of human error, system and/or process failures, inadequate procedures or controls.
- **Liquidity risk** - the Portfolio may not always find another party willing to purchase an asset that the Portfolio wants to sell which could impact the Portfolio's ability to meet redemption requests on demand.
- **Exchange rate risk** - changes in exchange rates may reduce or increase the returns an investor might expect to receive independent of the performance of such assets. If applicable, investment techniques used to attempt to reduce the risk of currency movements (hedging), may not be effective. Hedging also involves additional risks associated with derivatives.
- **Custodian risk** - insolvency, breaches of duty of care or misconduct of a custodian or sub-custodian responsible for the safekeeping of the Portfolio's assets can result in loss to the Portfolio.
- **Contingent Convertible ("Coco") Bond Risk:** Investment in this particular type of bond may result in material losses to the Portfolio based on certain trigger events. The existence of these trigger events creates a different type of risk from traditional bonds and may more likely result in a partial or total loss of value or alternatively they may be converted into shares of the issuing company which may also have suffered a loss in value. Such trigger events may include a reduction in the issuers' capital ratio, determination by a regulator or the injection of capital by a national authority. Investors should be aware that in the event of a financial crisis that action by regulators or the companies themselves may cause concentrations of these trigger events across the Portfolio.
- **Interest rate risk** - when interest rates rise, bond prices fall, reflecting the ability of investors to obtain a more attractive rate of interest on their money elsewhere. Bond prices are therefore subject to movements in interest rates which may move for a number of reasons, political as well as economic.
- **Credit risk** - The failure of a counterparty or an issuer of a financial asset held within the Portfolio to meet its payment obligations will have a negative impact on the Portfolio.
- **Derivatives risk** - certain derivatives may result in losses greater than the amount originally invested.
- **Counterparty risk** - a party that the Portfolio transacts with may fail to meet its obligations which could cause losses.
- **Emerging markets risk** - emerging markets are likely to bear higher risk due to lower liquidity and possible lack of adequate financial, legal, social, political and economic structures, protection and stability as well as uncertain tax positions.
- **High yield risk** - high-yield instruments, meaning investments which pay a high amount of income generally involve greater credit risk and sensitivity to economic developments, giving rise to greater price movement than lower yielding instruments.
- **Leverage risk** - the Portfolio may operate with a significant amount of leverage. Leverage occurs when the economic exposure created by the use of derivatives is greater than the amount invested. A leveraged Portfolio may result in large fluctuations in the value of the Portfolio and therefore entails a high degree of risk including the risk that losses may be substantial.

For full description of risks please refer to the Prospectus.



**Asset
Management**

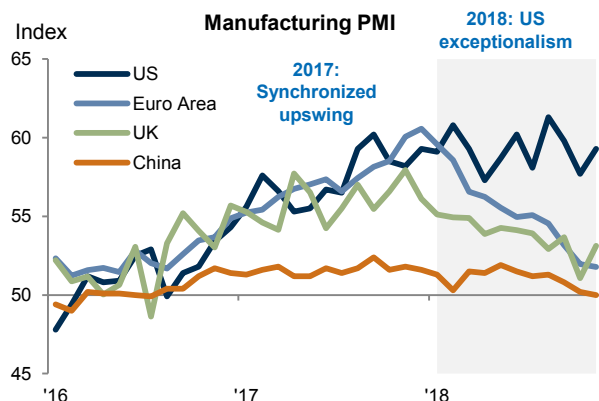
V. Macro Outlook

2018 Review – Snapshot Charts



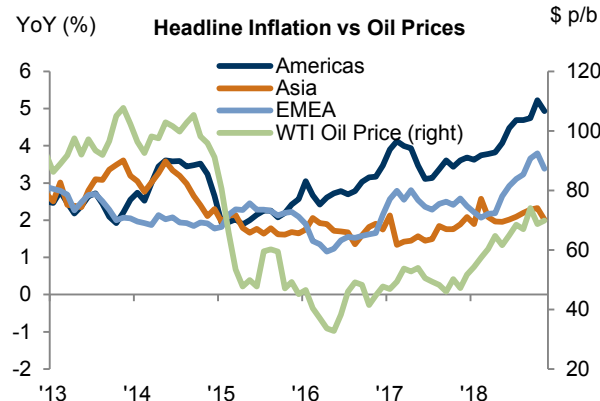
Asset
Management

Growth: Moderation outside the US



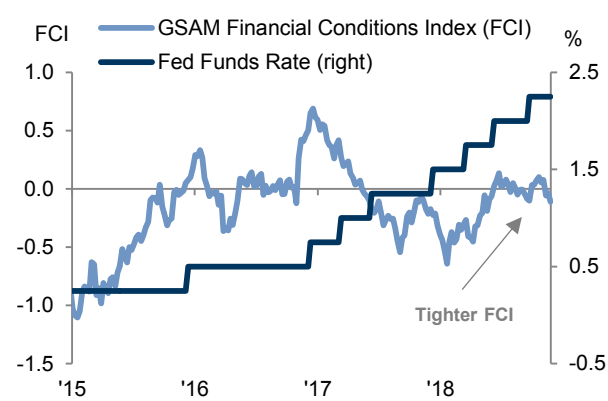
Source: Macrobond, Markit, ISM, NBS. As of November 2018.

Inflation: Lifted by energy prices



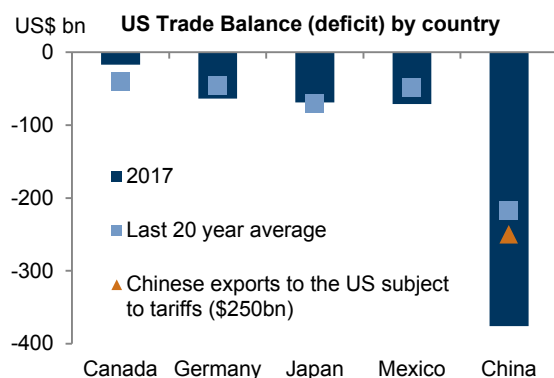
Source: Macrobond. GSAM regional calculations. As of November 2018.

Central Banks: Tighter US FCI



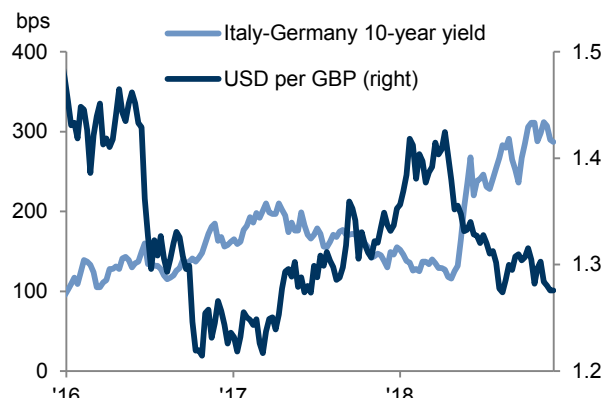
Source: Macrobond, GSAM. As of December 7, 2018.

Trade tensions: US-China Dispute



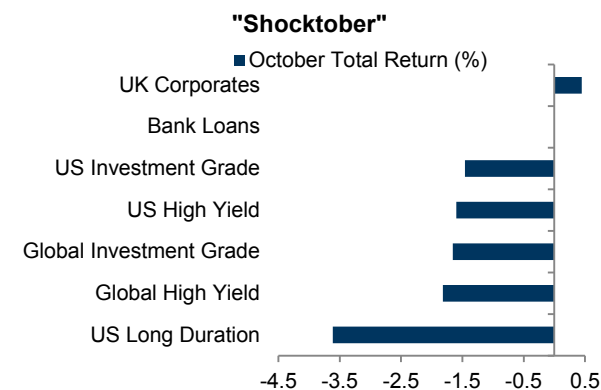
Source: Macrobond. Annual data.

Politics: EM, Italian & UK uncertainty



Source: Macrobond. As of December 7, 2018.

Markets: Volatility and Drawdowns



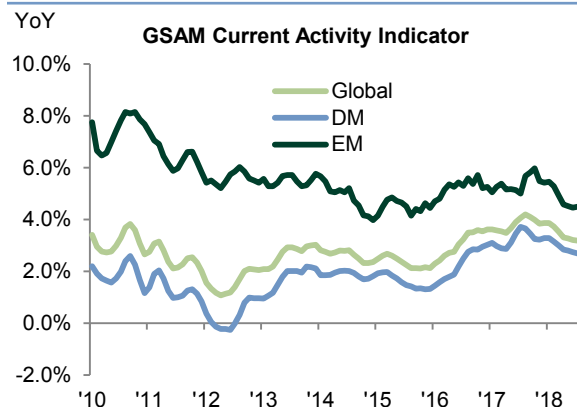
Source: Macrobond, Bloomberg Barclays.

2019 Outlook – Snapshot Charts



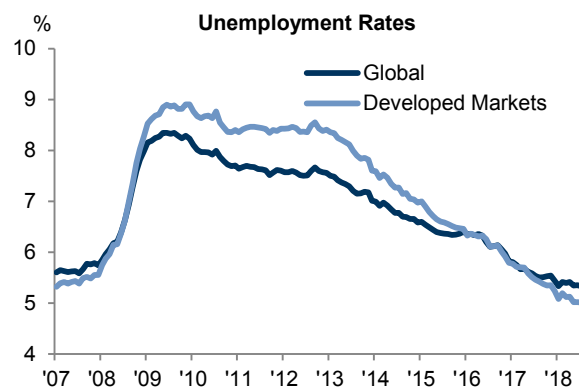
Asset
Management

Growth: Convergence to trend



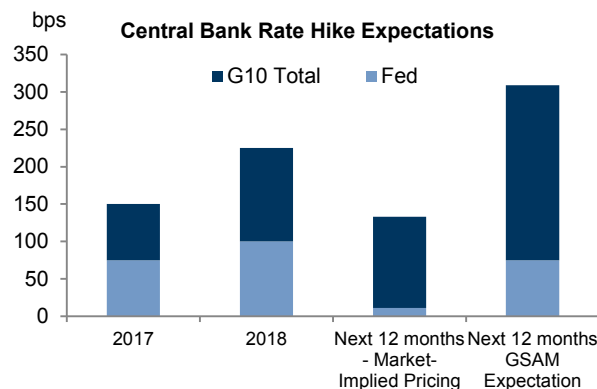
Source: Macrobond, GSAM. As of December 2018.

Inflation: Rising amid tight labor markets



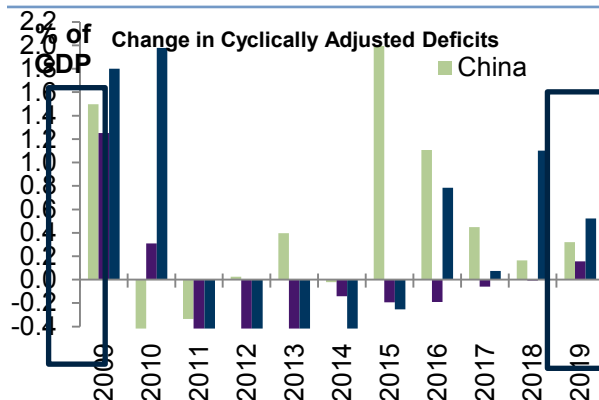
Source: Macrobond, GSAM calculations. As of November 2018.

Central Banks: More Normalisation



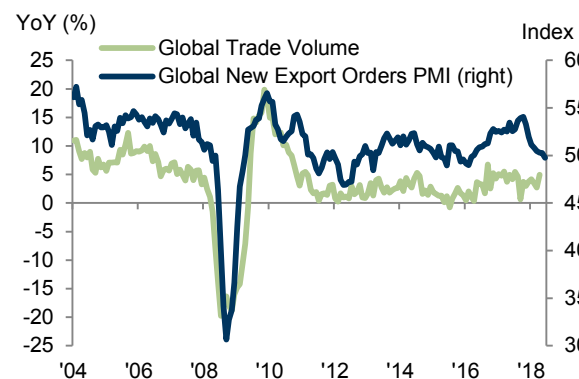
Source: GSAM, Bloomberg. As of December 7, 2017. 2018 assumes 25bps Fed hike in December.

Fiscal: Coordinated stimulus



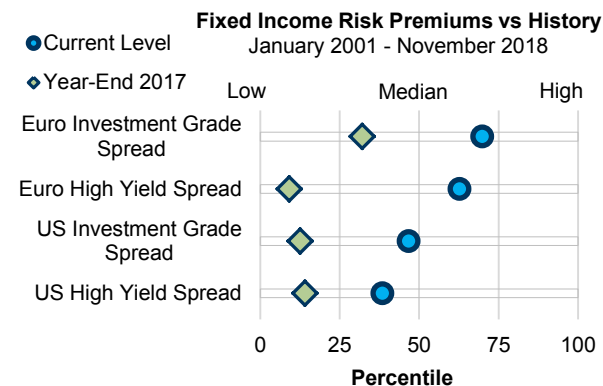
Source: Macrobond. IMF estimates as of October 2018.

Trade Tensions: Weighing on activity



Source: Macrobond. PMI as of December 2018, Trade volume as of October 2018.

Markets: Attractive credit valuations



Source: GSAM, Bloomberg. As of November 2018.

Summary



Asset
Management

Macro Backdrop

Growth

Pace: Slowing toward trend

Level: Still-expansionary

Inflation

Core: Moderating on lower oil prices

Headline: Rising amid tight labor markets

Policy

Monetary: Normalization to broaden out

Fed: Balanced 2019 Outlook

Fiscal: Supportive in key economies

Key Risks

Macro: Upside inflation surprise

Macro: Late-cycle signs

Politics: Populism and Protectionism

Fixed Income

Macro Markets

Sovereign rates: Moving higher

Dollar: Unclear direction in current hiking cycle

Financial Conditions: Responding to Fed rate hikes

Sectors

Corporate credit: Attractive valuations for still-healthy fundamentals

Securitized credit: Underpinned by healthy private sector balance sheets and US housing market

EMD: Medium to long-term potential with room for stabilization or improvement in early-cycle economies

Investment Views

Rates

US front-end: Underweight

Core Europe: Overweight vs other G10s

Currencies

USD: Neutral

EM: Modestly overweight

Cyclical Europe: Overweight

Spread Sectors

US credit: Overweight

Securitized credit: Overweight

Agency MBS: Underweight

External EMD: Modestly overweight

Local EMD: Idiosyncratic exposures

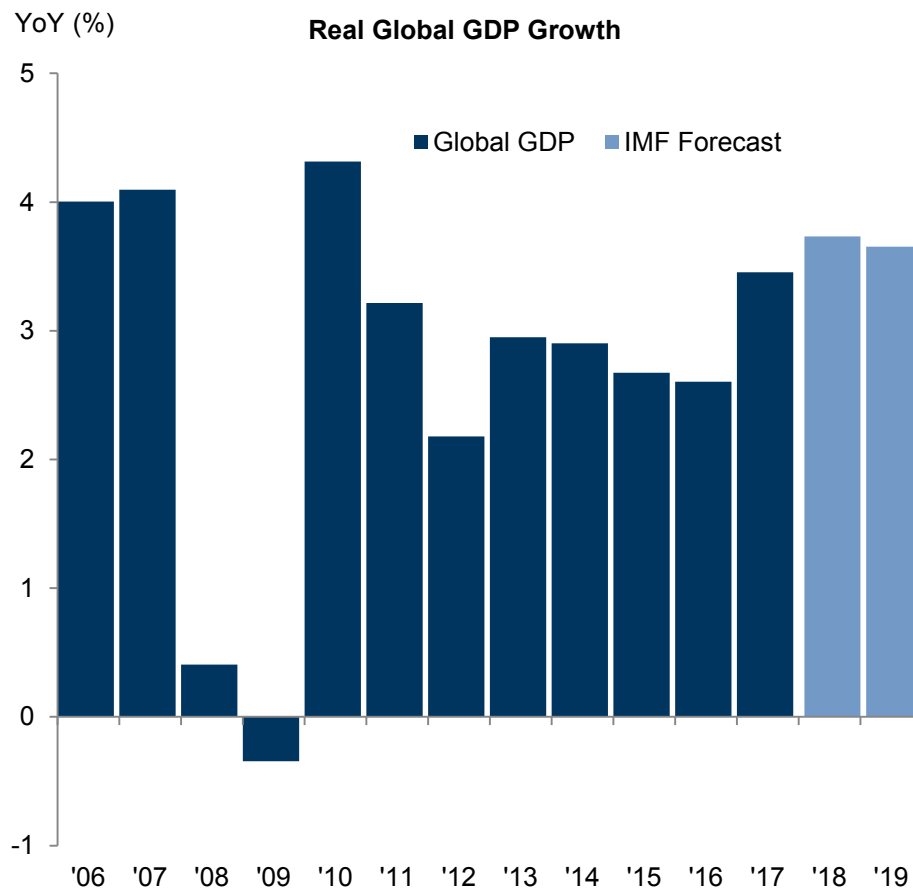
EM Corporate: Idiosyncratic exposures

Growth: Pace is slowing, level is still growing

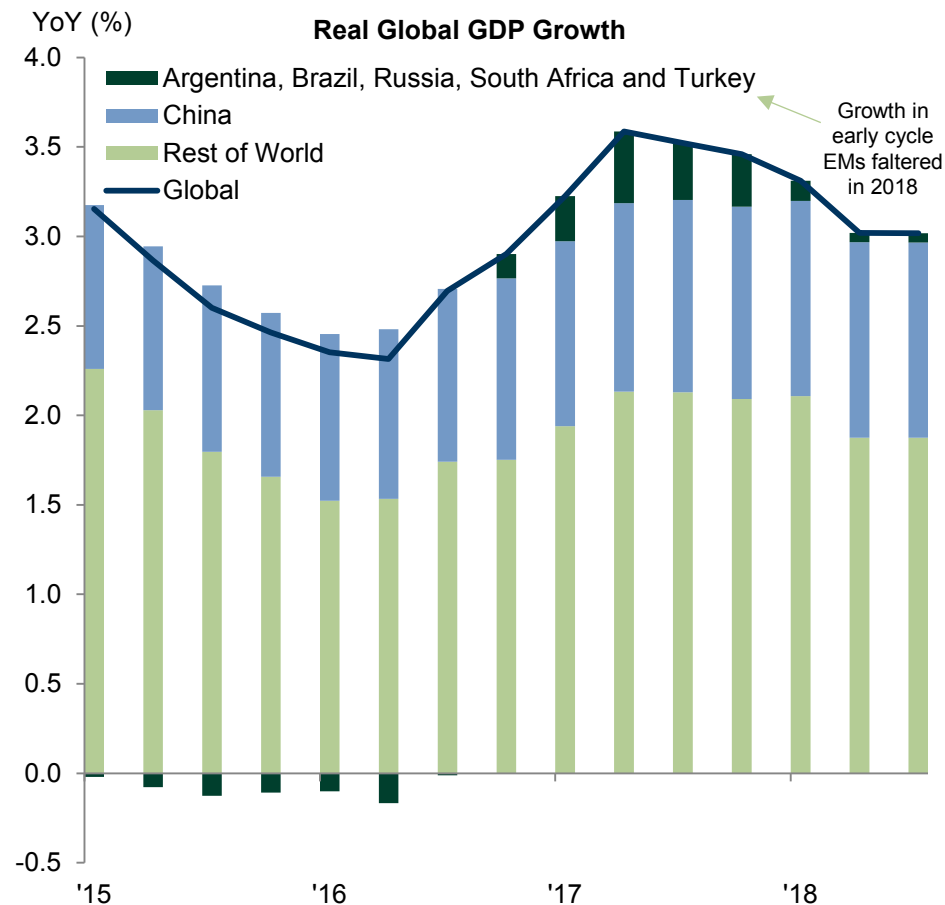


Asset
Management

Global growth: Still strong for the post-crisis period



Country contributions: Rebound potential in early-cycle EMs



Source: Macrobond, GSAM for Global GDP, IMF for 2018 and 2019 forecasts. The economic and market forecasts presented herein are for informational purposes as of the date of this presentation. There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved. Please see additional disclosures at the end of this presentation.

Source: Macrobond, GSAM calculations. As of Q3 2018.

Growth: Improving consumption vs slowing investment and trade



Asset
Management

Consumption: Supported by wage growth and lower oil prices

Investment and Trade: Undermined by trade uncertainty



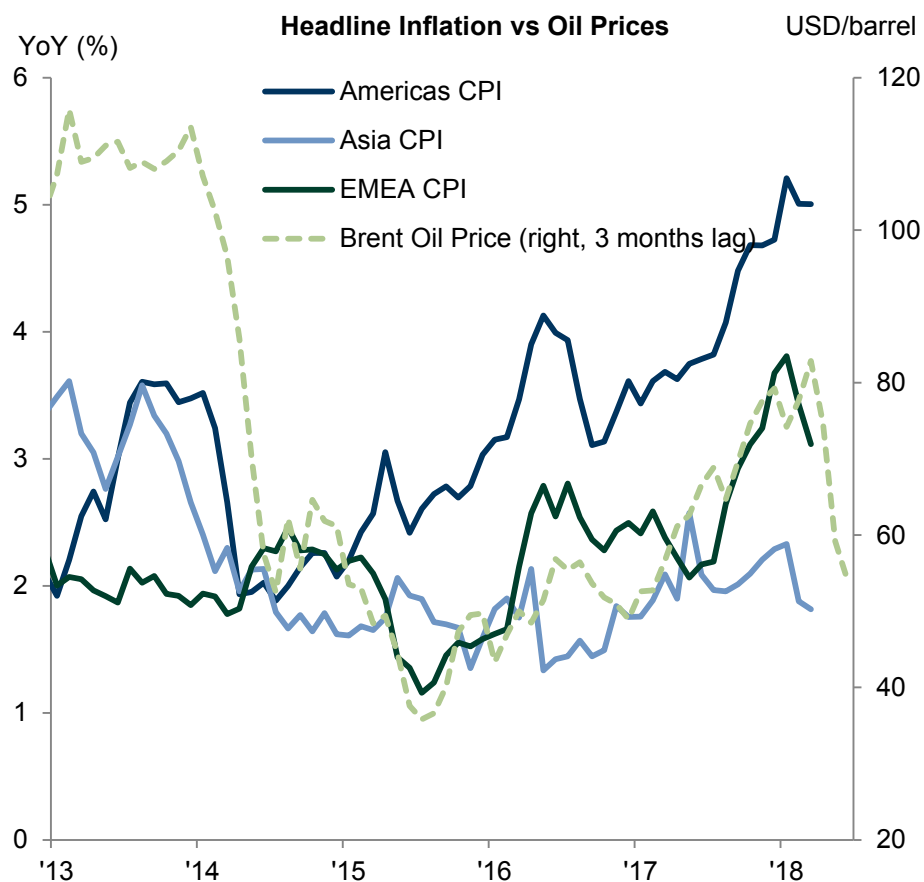
Source: Macrobond. UK average weekly earnings as of October 2018, US private sector average hourly earnings as of December 2018 and Euro area nominal labour cost index (quarterly data) as of Q3 2018.



Source: Macrobond. Investment growth reflects GSAM calculations as of Q3 2018. PMI as of December 2018.

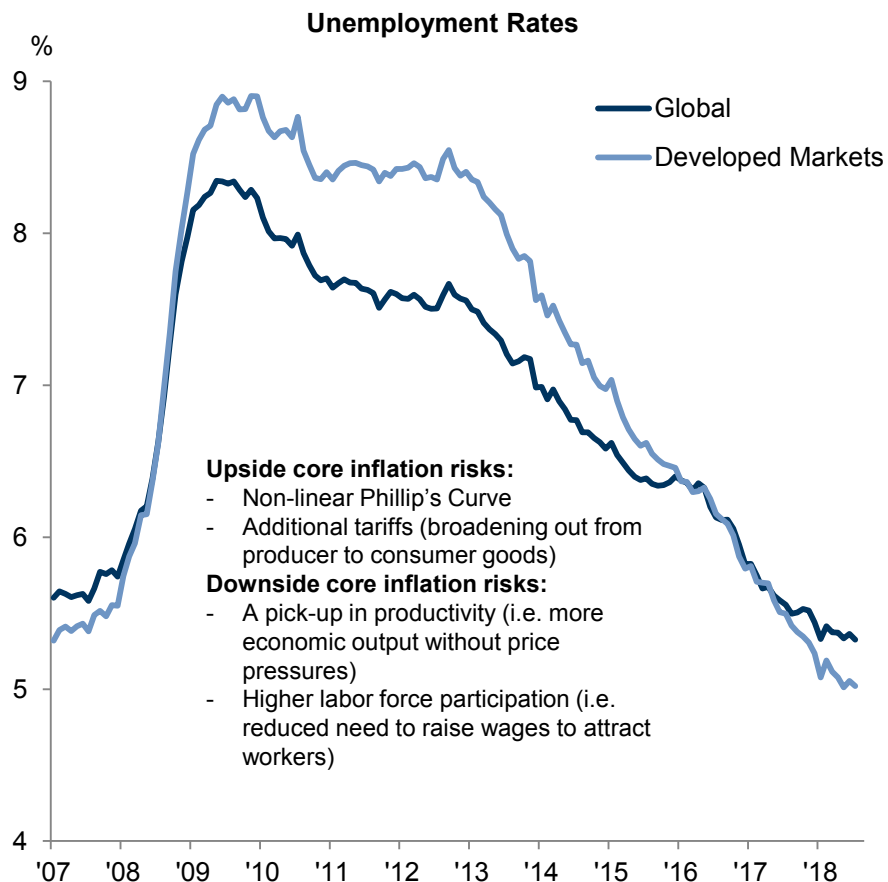
Inflation: Rotating from headline to core measures

Headline inflation: Firmer on oil and 2018 EM FX weakness



Source: Macrobond. Monthly data. Regional headline inflation as of November 2018. Brent oil prices as of December 2018.

Core inflation: Steady rise amid tight labor markets



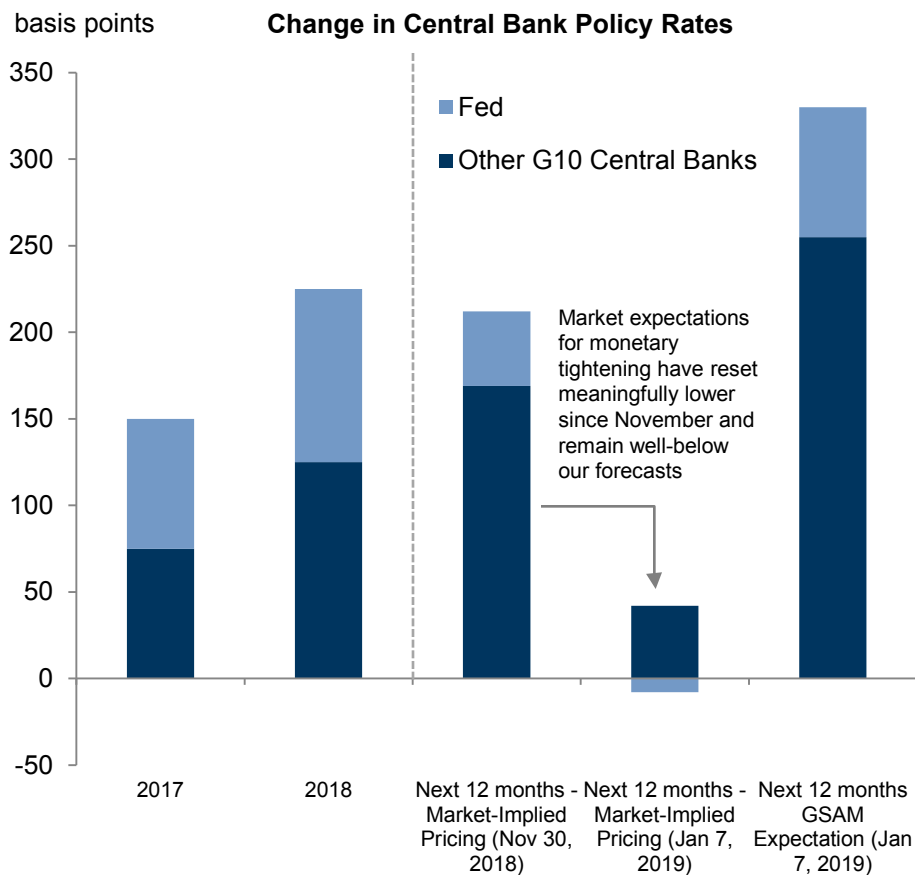
Source: Macrobond, GSAM calculations. As of November 2018.

Monetary Policy: Broadening out beyond the Fed



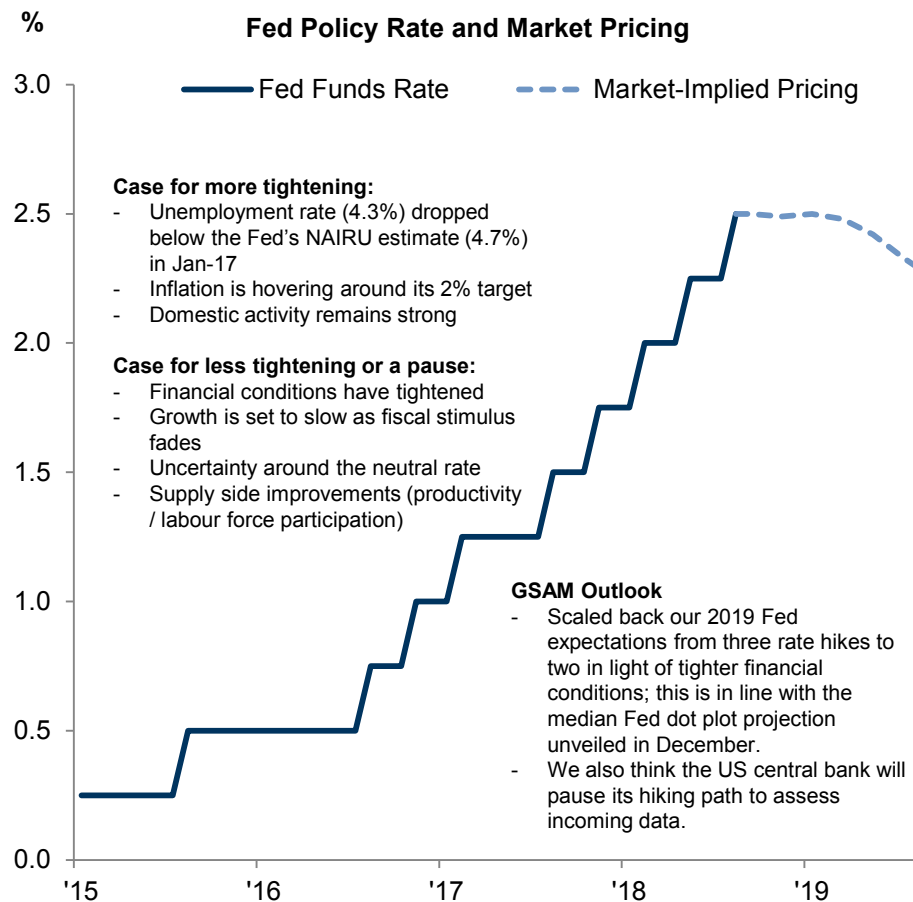
Asset
Management

G10: More normalization ahead



Source: GSAM, Bloomberg. As of December 7, 2017. 2018 assumes 25bps Fed hike in December.

Fed: Balanced 2019 Outlook

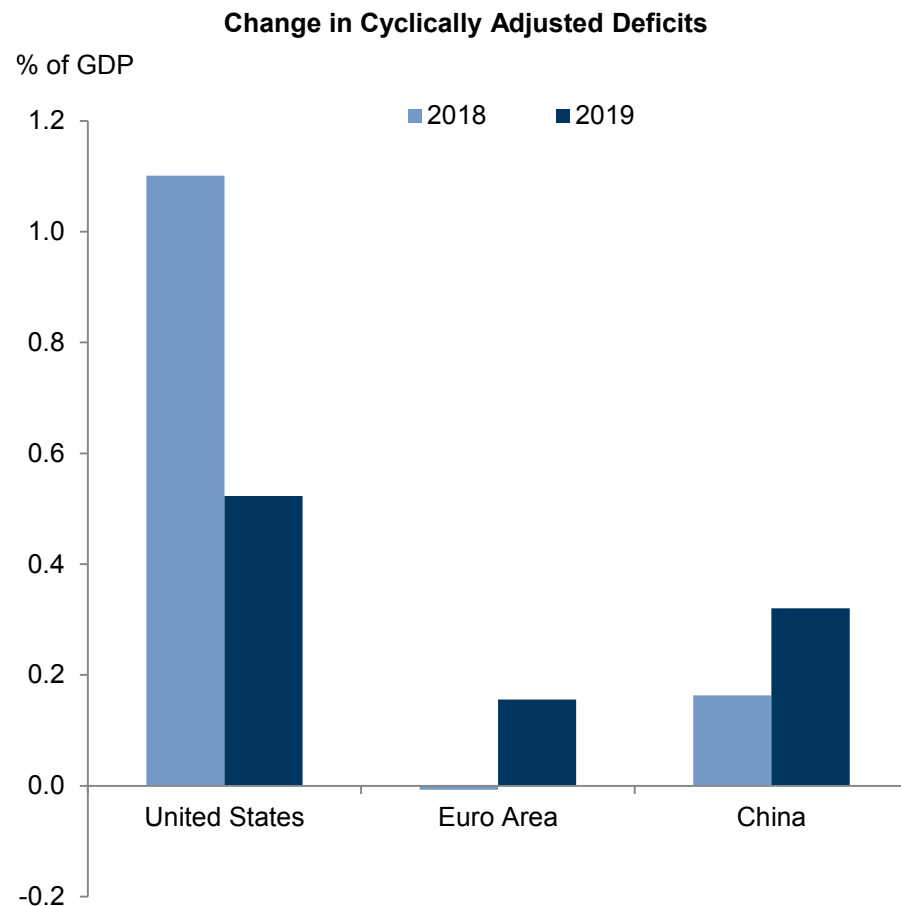
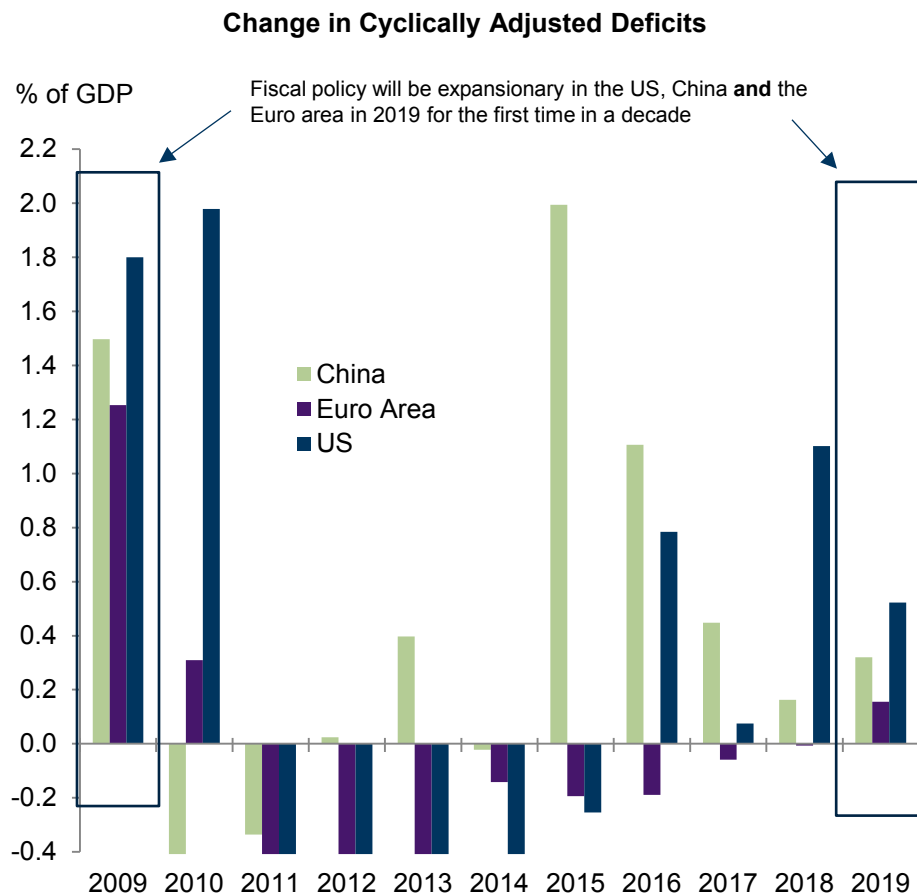


Source: Macrobond, GSAM, Bloomberg. Market-implied pricing as of January 9, 2019. GSAM Outlook as of January 2019.

Fiscal Policy: Turning Supportive in Key Economies

Global fiscal policy: Turning supportive

Country-level: US declining, China and Europe rising



Source: Macrobond, IMF Fiscal Monitor as of October 10, 2018. Cyclically adjusted deficit reflects government spending in excess of revenues adjusted for the impacts of real GDP changes. The economic and market forecasts presented herein are for informational purposes as of the date of this presentation. There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved. Please see additional disclosures at the end of this presentation.

Risks: Late-cycle challenges and ‘The known unknowns’



Asset
Management

Late-cycle challenges: **Not yet worrisome**

Macro: Higher Inflation, Slower Growth

- **GSAM view:** Growth is still expansionary and the rise in core inflation is gradual not rapid
- **Risks:** External growth shock (e.g. trade wars) or non-linearity of the Philip's Curve as DM economies move beyond full employment.

Macro: Central Bank Policy Misstep

- **GSAM view:** QE withdrawal has been well-telegraphed and rate hikes are gradual (given uncertainty around neutral rates, NAIRU and output gaps).
- **Risks:** Sharp shift in central bank reaction functions which results in rates rising too quick or too high.

Micro: Contracting Corporate Profit Margins

- **GSAM view:** Wages and input costs are rising (partly due to tariffs) but many corporates are protecting profit margins through pricing power.
- **Risks:** Tariffs broadening out from producer to consumer goods which in turn weighs on consumption and investment activity.

Micro: Private Sector Imbalances

- **GSAM view:** US households have de-levered in this cycle and a build-up of debt in the corporate sector presents idiosyncratic not systemic risks.
- **Risks:** Weak balance sheets may not have encountered a rate hiking cycle (e.g. millennials or new corporate issuers) , though we think this is a challenge for beyond 2019.

The known unknowns: **Trade tensions are a key risk**

Trade Tensions

- **GSAM view:** Direct macro impacts for both the US and Chinese economies from tariffs enacted thus far appear manageable and are being somewhat offset by policy support in the latter.
- **Risks:** Indirect impacts (via lower sentiment) could have broader global growth implications.

Populist Politics

- **GSAM view:** Populist policies such as anti-immigration measures, trade protectionism and lax fiscal policies are rising in popularity but are not yet mainstream.
- **Risks:** Prolonged Brexit and Italian budget negotiations which hinder UK and Euro area activity.

Market Structures

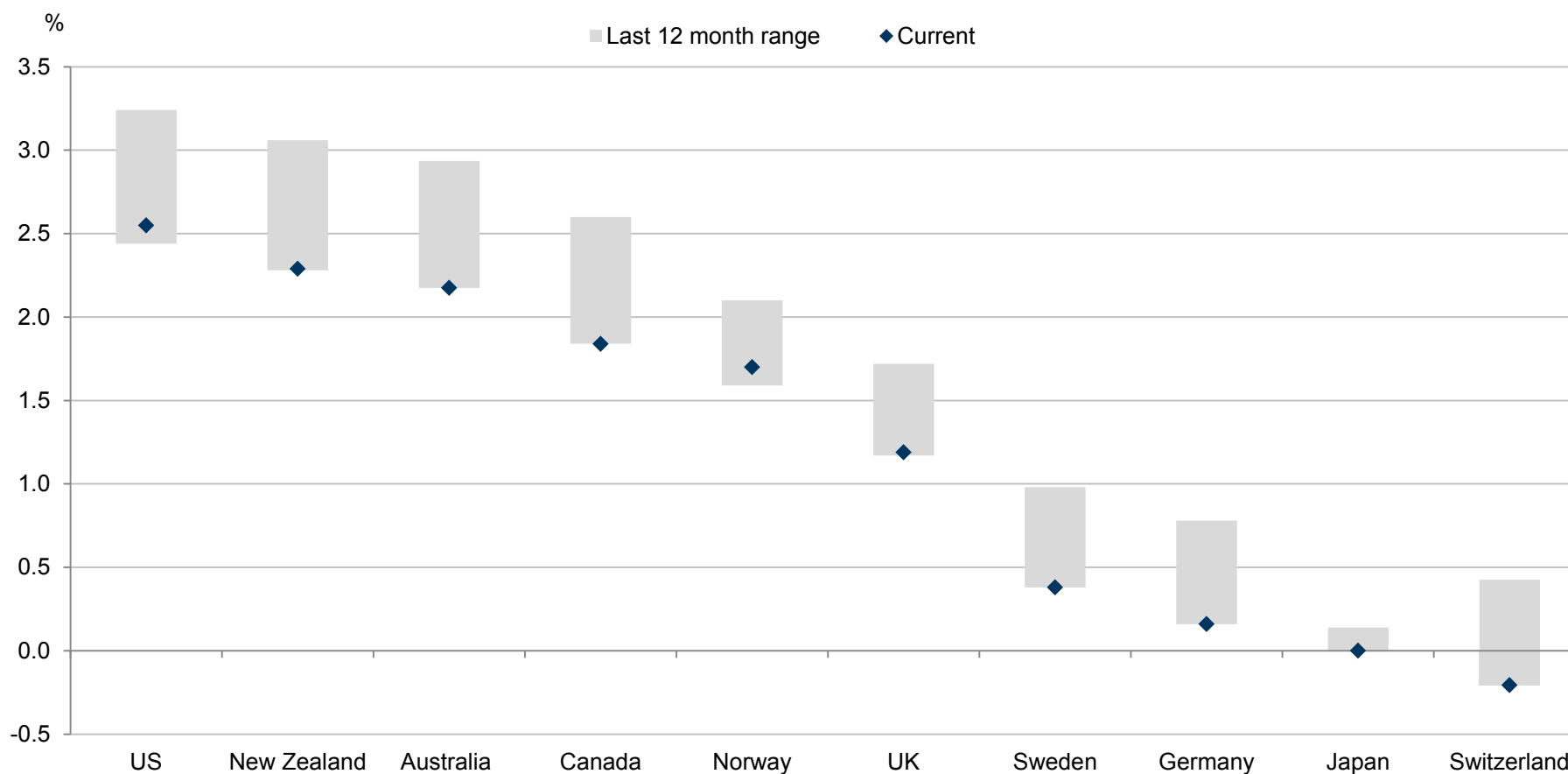
- **GSAM view:** Regulatory changes, QE and the advent of systemic trading strategies have changed the liquidity landscape across assets, but market direction is still broadly guided by fundamentals.
- **Risks:** Magnitude of market moves being amplified by systemic trading strategies (e.g. February sell-off) and resulting in premature investor de-risking.

Sovereign Yields: Moving higher



Asset
Management

Sovereign 10-Year Yields: Recently declined on growth concerns but direction of travel is higher



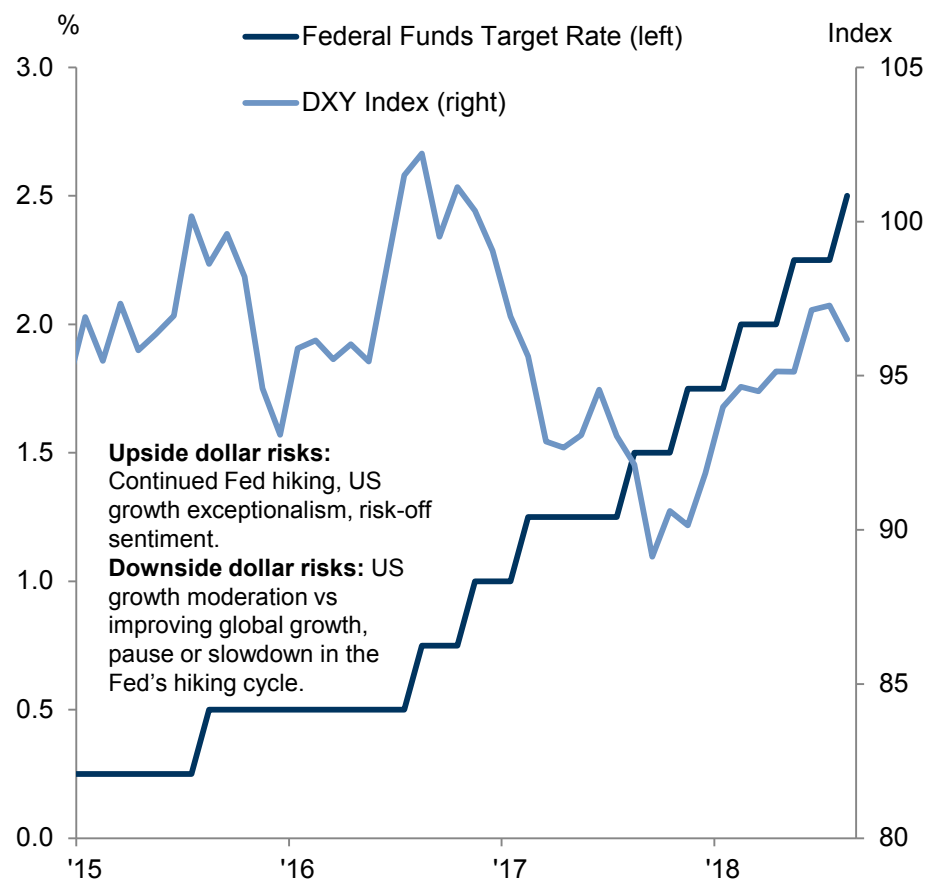
Source: Macrobond, GSAM. As of January 3, 2019.

Currencies: Directionless Dollar vs Undervalued EM



Asset
Management

US dollar: Unclear direction in this hiking cycle



Source: Macrobond. As of December 2018.

EM currencies: Cheap relative to fundamentals



Source: GSAM, Bloomberg, as of September 2018.

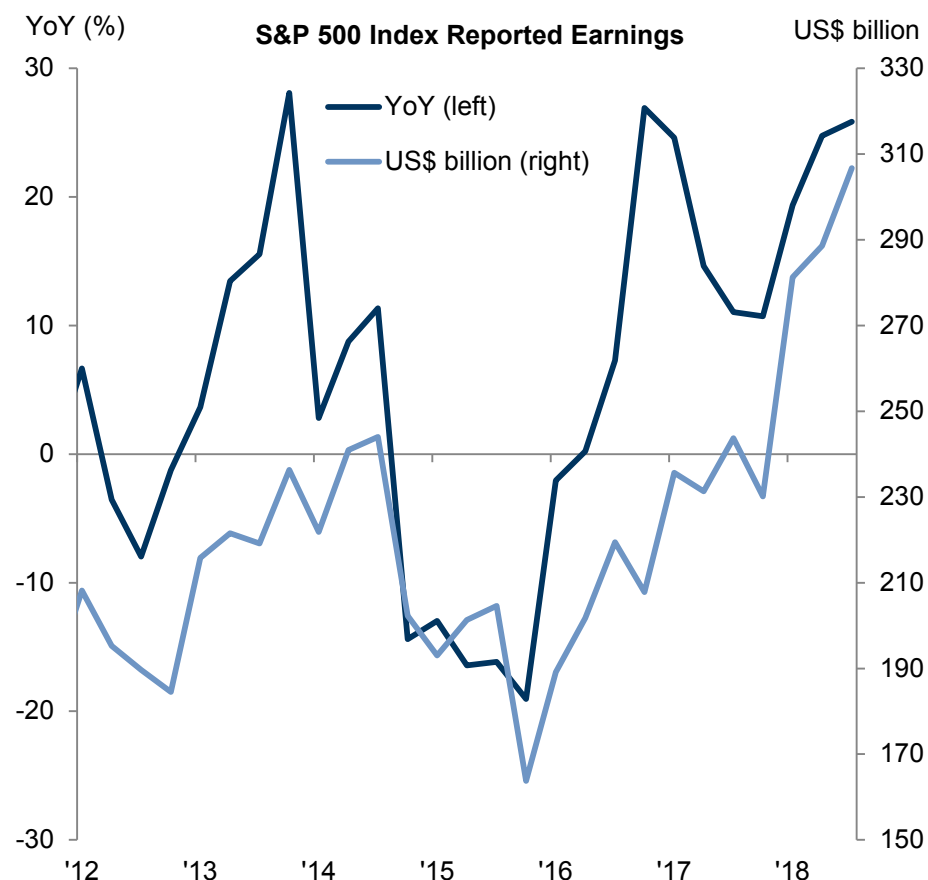
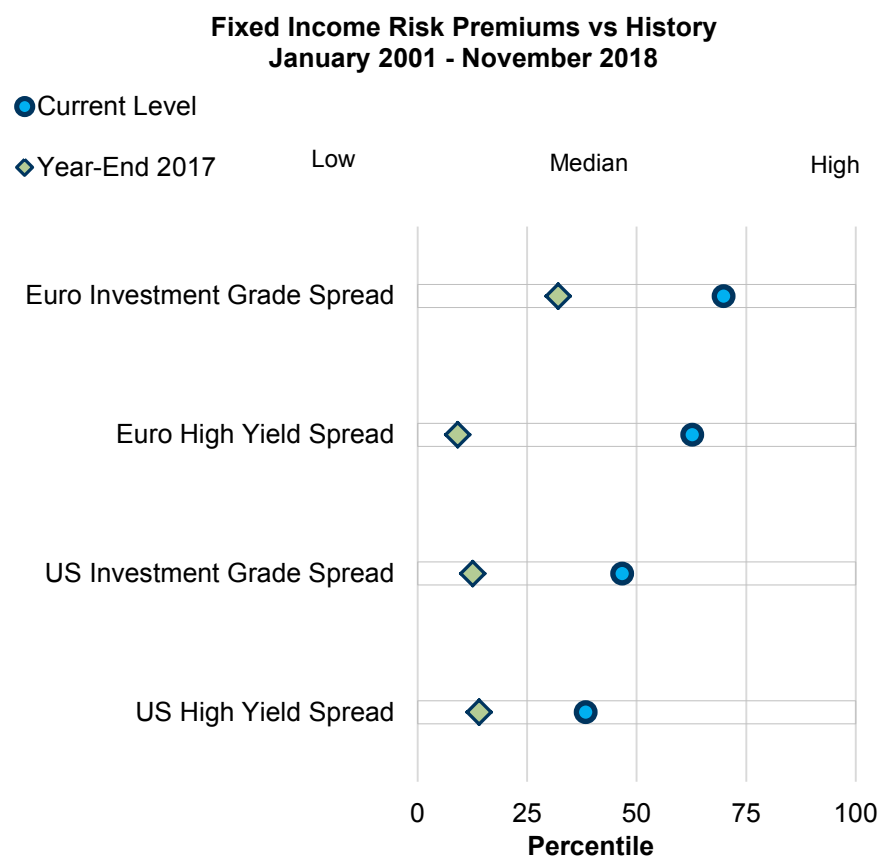
Corporate Credit: Attractive valuations for healthy fundamentals



Asset
Management

Corporate Credit: Adding exposure on attractive valuations

Corporate Credit: Still-healthy fundamentals



Source: GSAM, Bloomberg. As of November 2018.

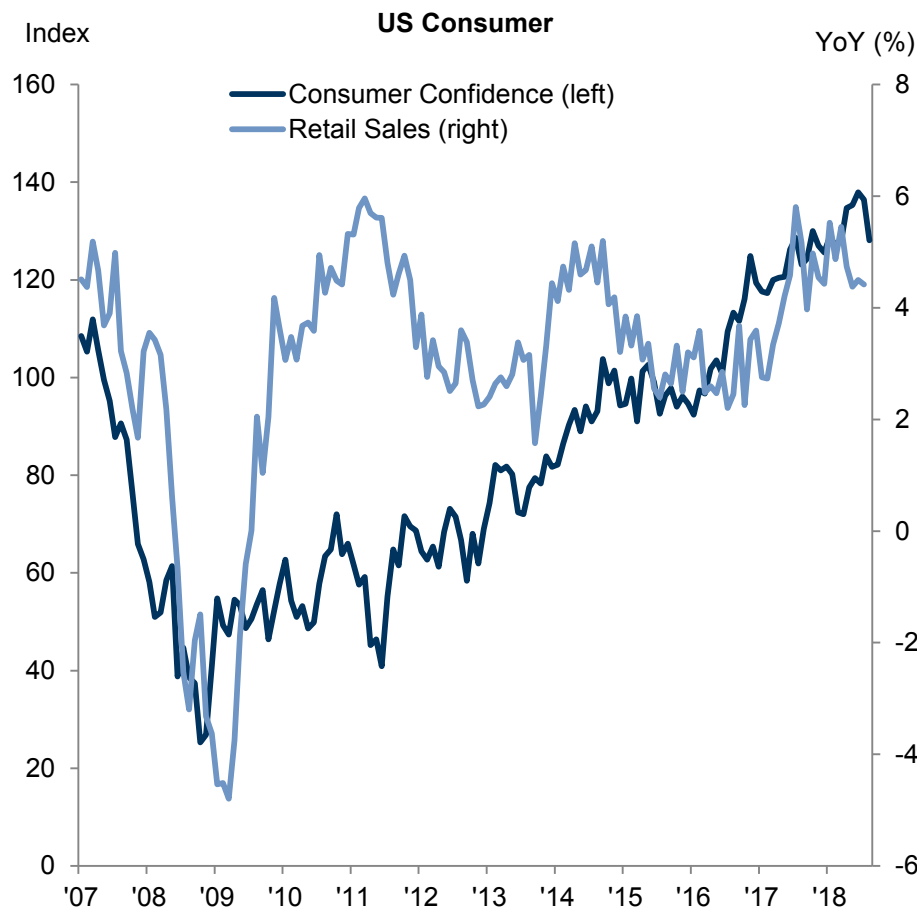
Source: Macrobond. As of Q3 2018.

US: Robust domestic activity in 2018, moderating in 2019



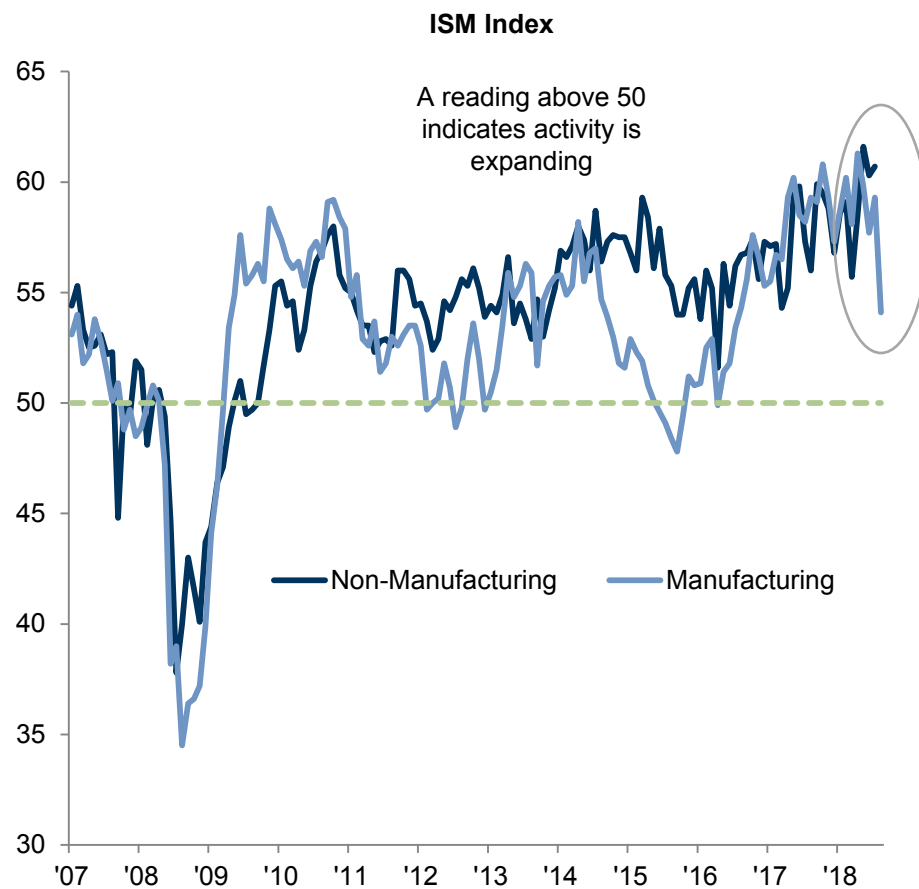
Asset
Management

US Consumer: Confidence moderates from a cycle-high



Source: Macrobond. Conference Board Consumer confidence as of December 2018. Retail sales (control group) as of November 2018.

US Businesses: Activity is still expanding but has slowed



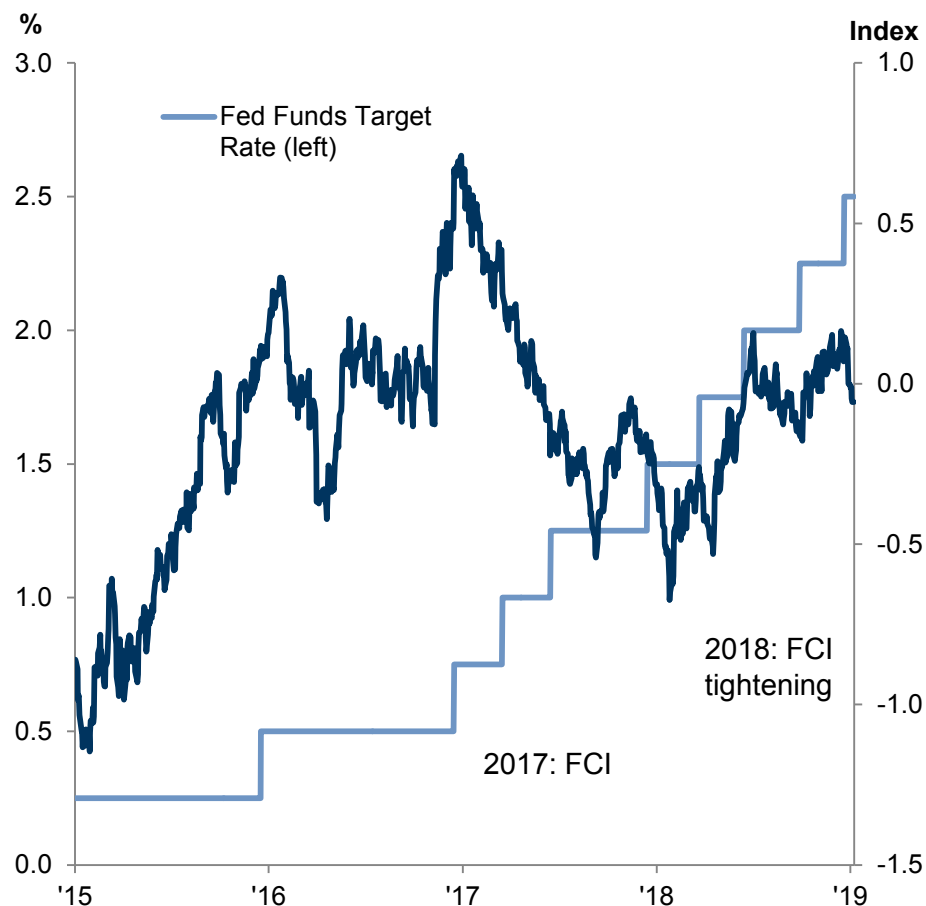
Source: Macrobond. Manufacturing as of December 2018. Non-manufacturing as of November 2018.

US: Growth set to slow in 2019 but remain above-trend



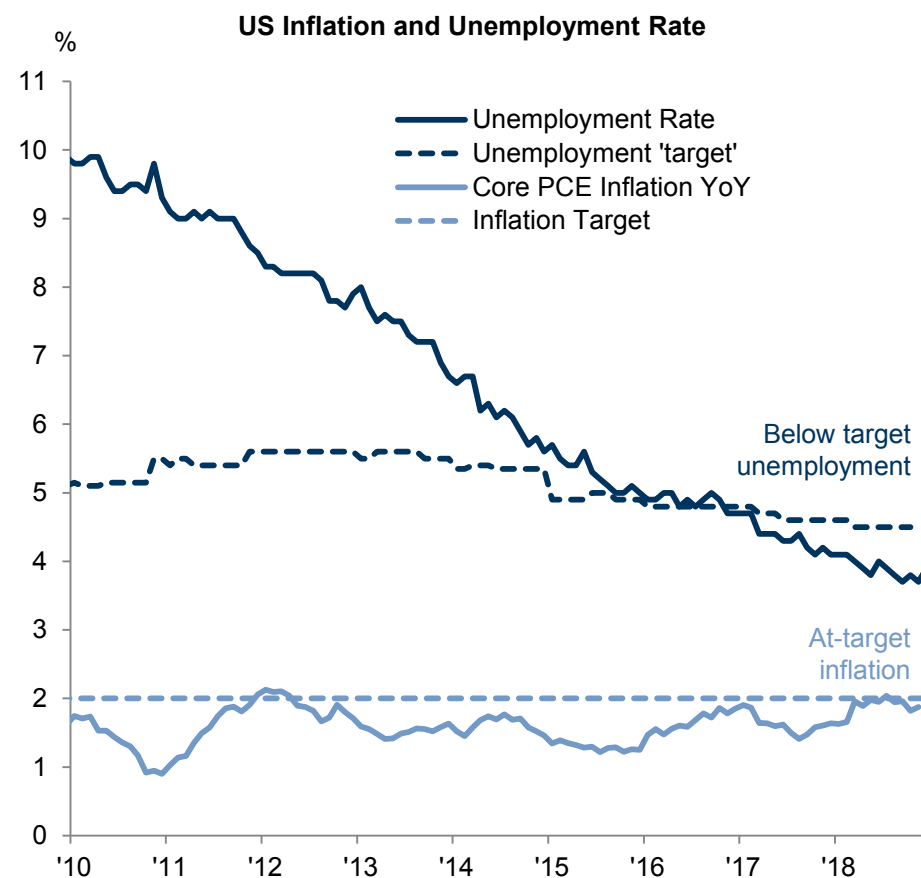
Asset
Management

Growth: Slowing on tighter FCI and as fiscal fades



Source: Macrobond, GSAM. As of December 7, 2018.

Fed mandate: Good progress on inflation and unemployment



Source: Macrobond. Unemployment as of December 2018, PCE Inflation as of November 2018. Unemployment 'target' reflects the Fed's estimate of long-run structural unemployment.



**Asset
Management**

Appendix

Global Fixed Income and Liquidity Solutions



**Asset
Management**

Co-Heads: Jonathan Beinners¹ & Andrew Wilson

Co-CIOs: Sam Finkelstein & Ashish Shah

<div>FISG</div> <div>11 Investors</div> <div>Jonathan Beinner Andrew Wilson Jonathan Bayliss Simon Dangoor Sam Finkelstein Chris Hogan Iain Lindsay Ashish Shah Michael Swell Mark Van Wyk Whitney Watson</div> <div>24+ yrs avg experience*</div> <div>Oversees portfolio strategy, key risk positions, investment process, medium to long-term themes and outlook</div>	<div>Top-Down Strategy Teams</div> <div><div>Macro Rates (Jonathan Bayliss)</div><div><div>Duration</div><div>Country</div><div>Cross-Macro</div></div><div><div>Jonathan Bayliss +4 professionals 18+ yrs avg experience*</div><div>Simon Dangoor +3 professionals 15+ yrs avg experience*</div><div>Jonathan Bayliss +6 professionals 22+ yrs avg experience*</div></div><div><div>Anticipates direction of markets and changing shape of yield curve using fundamental, quantitative and technical analysis</div><div>Develops individual country views using a “balance sheet” research approach, using quantitative tools as an overlay to the process</div><div>Invests across asset classes to take advantage of market inefficiencies arising from investor segmentation between assets & to get efficient exposure to specific macro themes via a basket of assets</div></div><div><div>Currency</div><div>Sam Finkelstein +7 professionals 15+ yrs avg experience*</div><div>Employs a flexible, economics-based process to determine the relative attractiveness of currencies</div></div><div><div>Commodities</div><div>Michael Johnson +1 professional 15+ yrs avg experience*</div><div>Alpha strategies: timing, curve shape, relative value, and volatility trades Beta strategies: seek exposure to commodities index and manage roll on futures or enhanced swaps</div></div><div><div>Cross-Sector</div><div>Ashish Shah +5 professionals 21+ yrs avg experience*</div><div>Employs top-down fundamental analysis in allocating capital to bottom-up strategies</div></div></div>					<div>Portfolio Managers</div> <div>Multi/Single Sector</div> <div>Michael Swell Iain Lindsay Ronald Arons Angus Bell Hugh Briscoe Jeremy Cave Sabriyah Denham Russell Gao Rachel Golder Michael Goosay Matthew Howden Matthew Kaiser Michael Kashani Nini Lakew Alex Lawson</div> <div>Matthew Maciaszek Avik Mittal Philip Moffitt Jonathon Orr Owi Ruivivar Jasper Sagoo Diana Sands Paul Seary Jason Singer Ben Trombley Jonathan Tung Tetsuya Ukai Ayumu Urata Weiliang Zhang</div>
<div>Global Portfolio Construction & Risk</div> <div>Whitney Watson +7 professionals 6+ yrs avg experience*</div> <div>Monitors portfolio construction and provide risk oversight</div>	<div>Bottom-Up Strategy Teams</div> <div><div>Securitized</div><div>Government / Swaps</div><div>Municipals</div><div>EMD</div><div>Liquidity Solutions</div></div> <div><div>Chris Creed / Chris Hogan +8 professionals 15+ yrs avg experience*</div><div>Mark Van Wyk +12 professionals 11+ yrs avg experience*</div><div>Ben Barber +16 professionals 15+ yrs avg experience*</div><div>Sam Finkelstein +24 professionals 13+ yrs avg experience*</div><div>Dave Fishman +15 professionals 13+ yrs avg experience*</div></div> <div><div>Agency mortgage selection and analysis Securitized credit selection and analysis</div><div>Duration & curve Relative Value Issuer /Issue Selection Interest rate hedging</div><div>Taxable & tax-exempt Tax adjusted return and income Rates and curve strategies Municipal credit analysis</div><div>External and local sovereign, quasi-sovereign, corporate debt and EM currencies Fundamental research of country balance sheets Long-term orientation</div><div>Provide investment solutions for all liquidity tiers Incorporate liquidity issues with strategic view to determine optimum curve exposure</div></div>					<div>Liquidity Solutions</div> <div>Dave Fishman +5 professionals 19+ yrs avg experience*</div> <div>Portfolio construction and customized investment solutions</div>
<div>Product Management</div> <div>Alicia Keenan +39 professionals</div> <div>Provides product support across all strategies</div>	<div>Insurance</div> <div>Matthew Armas +17 professionals 13+ yrs avg experience*</div> <div>Portfolio construction and customized investment solutions for insurance clients</div>					
<div>Quantitative Research and Strategists</div> <div>Ersen Bilgin Fred van der Wyck +22 professionals</div> <div>Build proprietary research and analysis platforms to support investment teams</div>	<div>Global Corporate Credit Team (Ashish Shah)</div> <div><div>Investment Grade</div><div>High Yield & Bank Loan</div></div> <div><div>PM / Trading Ben Johnson +11 professionals 12+ yrs avg experience*</div><div>Research Stephen Waxman +16 professionals 13+ yrs avg experience*</div><div>PM / Trading Michael Goldstein / Rachel Golder +13 professionals 17+ yrs avg experience*</div><div>Research Rob Magnuson +18 professionals 14+ yrs avg experience*</div></div>					<div>Stable Value</div> <div>David Westbrook +5 professionals 16+ yrs avg experience*</div> <div>Customized capital preservation solutions for retirement plans and other investors</div>

Source: GSAM. As of January 1, 2019. *Average years of experience includes investment professionals, VP and above.

¹Effective March 29, 2019, Jonathan Beinners will be retiring from the firm and Andrew Wilson will become the head of GSAM Global Fixed Income & Liquidity Solutions

This material is provided at your request solely for your use.

Views and opinions expressed are for informational purposes only and do not constitute a recommendation by GSAM to buy, sell, or hold any security. Views and opinions are current as of the date of this presentation and may be subject to change, they should not be construed as investment advice.

Past performance does not guarantee future results, which may vary. The value of investments and the income derived from investments will fluctuate and can go down as well as up. A loss of principal may occur.

Index Benchmarks

Indices are unmanaged. The figures for the index reflect the reinvestment of all income or dividends, as applicable, but do not reflect the deduction of any fees or expenses which would reduce returns. Investors cannot invest directly in indices.

The indices referenced herein have been selected because they are well known, easily recognized by investors, and reflect those indices that the Investment Manager believes, in part based on industry practice, provide a suitable benchmark against which to evaluate the investment or broader market described herein. The exclusion of “failed” or closed hedge funds may mean that each index overstates the performance of hedge funds generally.

Although certain information has been obtained from public sources believed to be reliable, without independent verification, we do not guarantee its accuracy, completeness or fairness. We have relied upon and assumed without independent verification, the accuracy and completeness of all information available from public sources.

This information discusses general market activity, industry or sector trends, or other broad-based economic, market or political conditions and should not be construed as research or investment advice. This material is not financial research and was not prepared by Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research (GIR). It was not prepared in compliance with applicable provisions of law designed to promote the independence of financial analysis and is not subject to a prohibition on trading following the distribution of financial research. The views and opinions expressed may differ from those of GIR or other departments or divisions of Goldman Sachs and its affiliates. Investors are urged to consult with their financial advisors before buying or selling any securities. This information may not be current and GSAM has no obligation to provide any updates. Views and opinions expressed are for informational purposes only and do not constitute a recommendation by GSAM to buy, sell, or hold any security. Views and opinions are current as of the date of this presentation and may be subject to change, they should not be construed as investment advice.

Non-US: Goldman Sachs does not provide legal, tax or accounting advice to its clients. All investors are strongly urged to consult with their legal, tax, or accounting advisors regarding any potential transactions or investments. There is no assurance that the tax status or treatment of a proposed transaction or investment will continue in the future. Tax treatment or status may be changed by law or government action in the future or on a retroactive basis.

US: Goldman Sachs does not provide accounting, tax, or legal advice. Notwithstanding anything in this document to the contrary, and except as required to enable compliance with applicable securities law, you may disclose to any person the US federal and state income tax treatment and tax structure of the transaction and all materials of any kind (including tax opinions and other tax analyses) that are provided to you relating to such tax treatment and tax structure, without Goldman Sachs imposing any limitation of any kind. Investors should be aware that a determination of the tax consequences to them should take into account their specific circumstances and that the tax law is subject to change in the future or retroactively and investors are strongly urged to consult with their own tax advisor regarding any potential strategy, investment or transaction.

References to indices, benchmarks or other measures of relative market performance over a specified period of time are provided for your information only and do not imply that the portfolio will achieve similar results. The index composition may not reflect the manner in which a portfolio is constructed. While an adviser seeks to design a portfolio which reflects appropriate risk and return features, portfolio characteristics may deviate from those of the benchmark.

United Kingdom and European Economic Area (EEA): In the United Kingdom, this material is a financial promotion and has been approved by Goldman Sachs Asset Management International, which is authorized and regulated in the United Kingdom by the Financial Conduct Authority.

APEJ: Please note that neither Goldman Sachs Asset Management (Hong Kong) Limited ("GSAMHK"), nor any other entities involved in the Goldman Sachs Asset Management (GSAM) business maintain any licenses, authorisations or registrations in the People's Republic of China ("PRC"), Thailand, Philippines, or Indonesia nor are any of the GSAM funds registered in the PRC, Thailand, Indonesia or the Securities and Exchange Commission of the Philippines under the Securities Regulation Code. The offer and sale of securities within Thailand and the provision of investment management services in Thailand or to Thai entities may not be possible or may be subject to legal restrictions or conditions. To the extent that GSAMHK is providing a financial service in Australia, GSAMHK is exempt from the requirement to hold an Australian financial services license for the financial services it provides in Australia to "wholesale clients" for the purposes of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth). GSAMHK is regulated by the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong under Hong Kong laws, which differ from Australian laws.

Not all services or products can be made available in Taiwan. Any particular offer of securities may not have been and may not be registered with the Securities and Futures Bureau, Financial Supervisory Commission of Taiwan pursuant to relevant securities laws and regulations and may therefore not be capable of being sold or publicly offered in Taiwan. The Goldman Sachs companies involved in any such promotion may not maintain any licenses, authorisations or registrations in Taiwan.

These materials are provided solely for your information and consideration, and are not intended as a solicitation in respect of the purchase or sale of instruments or securities, or the provision of services.

This material has been issued or approved for use in or from Hong Kong by Goldman Sachs Asset Management (Hong Kong) Limited and in or from Singapore by Goldman Sachs Asset Management (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. (Company Number: 201329851H).

This material is distributed by Goldman Sachs Asset Management Australia Pty Ltd ABN 41 006 099 681, AFSL 228948 ('GSAMA') and is intended for viewing only by wholesale clients for the purposes of section 761G of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).

The portfolio risk management process includes an effort to monitor and manage risk, but does not imply low risk.

Portfolio Holdings may not be representative of current or future investments. The securities discussed may not represent all of the portfolio's holdings and may represent only a small percentage of the strategy's portfolio holdings. Future portfolio holdings may not be profitable.

High-yield, lower-rated securities involve greater price volatility and present greater credit risks than higher-rated fixed income securities.

Emerging markets securities may be less liquid and more volatile and are subject to a number of additional risks, including but not limited to currency fluctuations and political instability.

The currency market affords investors a substantial degree of leverage. This leverage presents the potential for substantial profits but also entails a high degree of risk including the risk that losses may be similarly substantial. Such transactions are considered suitable only for investors who are experienced in transactions of that kind. Currency fluctuations will also affect the value of an investment.

The strategy may include the use of derivatives. Derivatives often involve a high degree of financial risk because a relatively small movement in the price of the underlying security or benchmark may result in a disproportionately large movement in the price of the derivative and are not suitable for all investors. No representation regarding the suitability of these instruments and strategies for a particular investor is made.

Economic and market forecasts presented herein reflect a series of assumptions and judgments as of the date of this presentation and are subject to change without notice. These forecasts do not take into account the specific investment objectives, restrictions, tax and financial situation or other needs of any specific client. Actual data will vary and may not be reflected here. These forecasts are subject to high levels of uncertainty that may affect actual performance. Accordingly, these forecasts should be viewed as merely representative of a broad range of possible outcomes. These forecasts are estimated, based on assumptions, and are subject to significant revision and may change materially as economic and market conditions change. Goldman Sachs has no obligation to provide updates or changes to these forecasts. Case studies and examples are for illustrative purposes only.

Any mention of an investment decision is intended only to illustrate our investment approach or strategy, and is not indicative of the performance of our strategy as a whole. Any such illustration is not necessarily representative of other investment decisions.

Targets are subject to change and are current as of the date of this presentation. Targets are objectives and do not provide any assurance as to future results.

Confidentiality

No part of this material may, without GSAM's prior written consent, be (i) copied, photocopied or duplicated in any form, by any means, or (ii) distributed to any person that is not an employee, officer, director, or authorized agent of the recipient.

1. Our clients' interests always come first. Our experience shows that if we serve our clients well, our own success will follow
2. Our assets are our people, capital and reputation. If any of these is ever diminished, the last is the most difficult to restore. We are dedicated to complying fully with the letter and spirit of the laws, rules and ethical principles that govern us. Our continued success depends upon unswerving adherence to this standard
3. Our goal is to provide superior returns to our shareholders. Profitability is critical to achieving superior returns, building our capital, and attracting and keeping our best people. Significant employee stock ownership aligns the interests of our employees and our shareholders
4. We take great pride in the professional quality of our work. We have an uncompromising determination to achieve excellence in everything we undertake. Though we may be involved in a wide variety and heavy volume of activity, we would, if it came to a choice, rather be best than biggest
5. We stress creativity and imagination in everything we do. While recognising that the old way may still be the best way, we constantly strive to find a better solution to a client's problems. We pride ourselves on having pioneered many of the practices and techniques that have become standard in the industry
6. We make an unusual effort to identify and recruit the very best person for every job. Although our activities are measured in billions of dollars, we select our people one by one. In a service business, we know that without the best people, we cannot be the best firm
7. We offer our people the opportunity to move ahead more rapidly than is possible at most other places. Advancement depends on merit and we have yet to find the limits to the responsibility our best people are able to assume. For us to be successful, our men and women must reflect the diversity of the communities and cultures in which we operate. That means we must attract, retain and motivate people from many backgrounds and perspectives. Being diverse is not optional; it is what we must be
8. We stress teamwork in everything we do. While individual creativity is always encouraged, we have found that team effort often produces the best results. We have no room for those who put their personal interests ahead of the interests of the Firm and its clients
9. The dedication of our people to the Firm and the intense effort they give their jobs are greater than one finds in most other organisations. We think that this is an important part of our success
10. We consider our size an asset that we try hard to preserve. We want to be big enough to undertake the largest project that any of our clients could contemplate, yet small enough to maintain the loyalty, the intimacy and the esprit de corps that we all treasure and that contribute greatly to our success
11. We constantly strive to anticipate the rapidly changing needs of our clients and to develop new services to meet those needs. We know that the world of finance will not stand still and that complacency can lead to extinction
12. We regularly receive confidential information as part of our normal client relationships. To breach a confidence or to use confidential information improperly or carelessly would be unthinkable
13. Our business is highly competitive, and we aggressively seek to expand our client relationships. However, we must always be fair competitors and must never denigrate other firms
14. Integrity and honesty are at the heart of our business. We expect our people to maintain high ethical standards in everything they do, both in their work for the firm and in their personal lives