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Scenario Analysis

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Motivation

Scenario analysis is a useful tool to complement portfolio risk management

- Scenario analysis usually relies on a few discretionary forecasts
- Historical data help propagate these forecasts to a variety of market factors, and provide consistent return projections across a broad investment universe
- But! Scenarios can be very different – not always well represented by available historical data
- Examples:
 - ▶ “Japan scenario”
 - Low inflation regime / weak GDP growth
 - ▶ “Monetization scenario”
 - Significant inflation / weak GDP growth
- Important issues:
 - ▶ Time horizon
 - ▶ Scenario and regime
 - ▶ Including macro-variables in stress-scenarios

Case Study

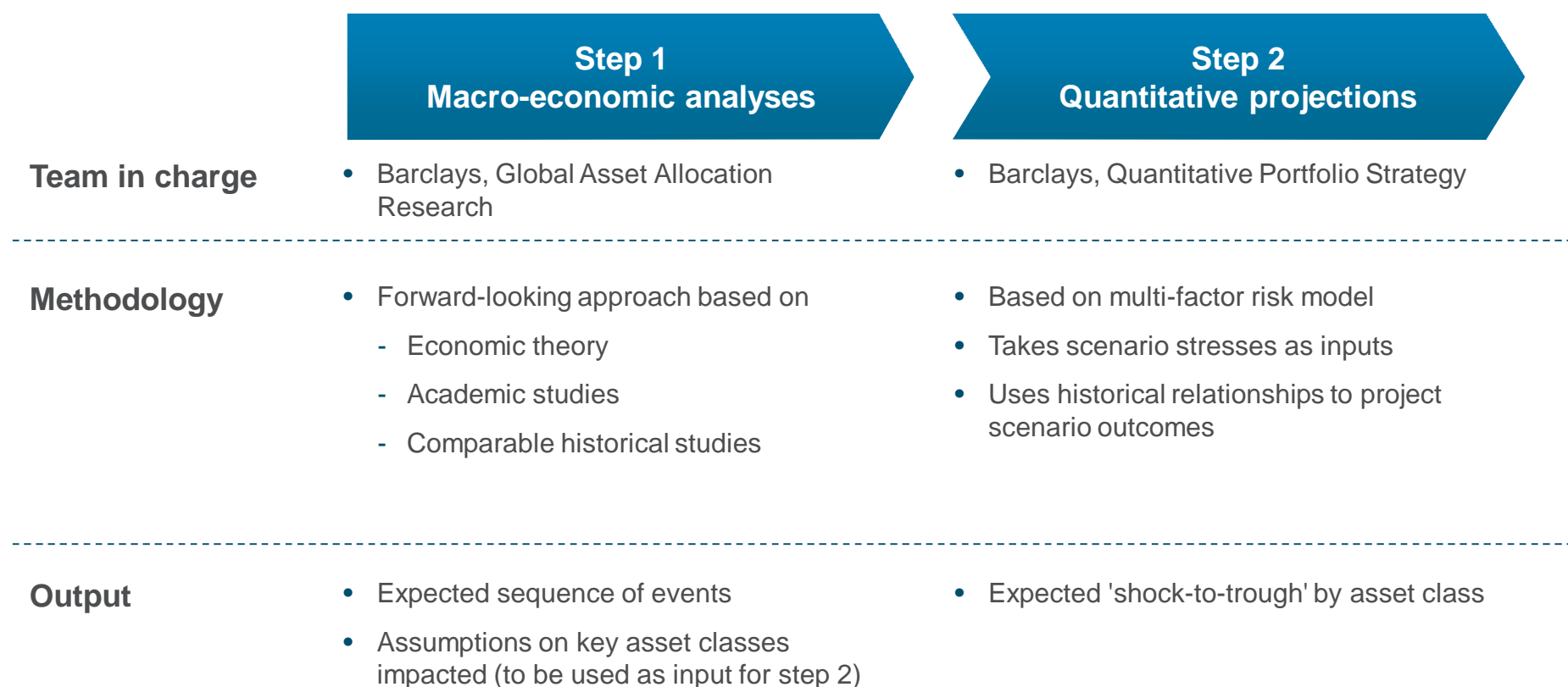
Consider tail-risk scenarios

1	Euro area woes	1a	Mild correction with possibility of a rebound
		1b	Spiral of contagion before stabilising and rebound
		1c	Escalation into a severe bear market
2	Demand-driven commodity shock	2a	Loose monetary policy or resource hungry economies
		2b	Commodity rally feeding into inflation pressure and stifling growth
3	Middle East tensions - Oil price spike driven by supply shock	3a	Threat to oil supply disruption
		3b	Oil price rally feeding headline inflation pressure
4	Geopolitical tensions	4a	Localised conflict, temporary impact
		4b	Regional conflict involving key global players
5	Chinese RMB revaluation	5a	Large unexpected Chinese RMB Revaluation
6	Natural disasters	6a	Pandemics
		6b	Earthquakes

Source: Barclays Research

We look at each scenario using a two-step approach

- Scenario shock defined by a few selected risk factors that are stressed based on a macro-analysis
- Estimate change in asset prices to be expected following the shock
- Note, this analysis is based on market conditions as of end-March 2012.



Scenario 1a – Euro area woes: Mild correction

Macro-economic analysis

Macro Overview

- Fiscal slippage related news triggers risk asset correction
- Focus mainly on European events rather than global growth fears
- Likelihood of a short lived risk asset correction followed by a swift rebound
- Spain and Italy are impacted together initially before spreading to other core countries
- Mild recession in the Euro area due to fiscal constraint. Unchanged outlook with real GDP growth expected at -0.4%/y 2012

View by Asset Class

Fixed income

- Fiscally challenged sovereign spreads widen
- Spanish and Italian yields exceed 6.5%, debt sustainability fears spread
- Spread to safe havens such as Bunds and Gilts widen a further 100bps as safe havens rally
- French and Belgian spread to safe havens widen by 50-100bps
- Euribor – EONIA spreads widen from the usual 20-40bp range to exceed 50bps as solvency fears spill into liquidity concerns. However, latest 3yr LTRO has somewhat mitigated this

Equity

- European equities fall on average by 10%
- S&P 500, NKY and equities of “unaffected” economies fall
- EM equities expected to fall
- VIX and VSTOXX expected to rise

Commodity

- Mild correction in commodities as investors take profits in case of broader global growth impact
- Copper and oil expected to fall

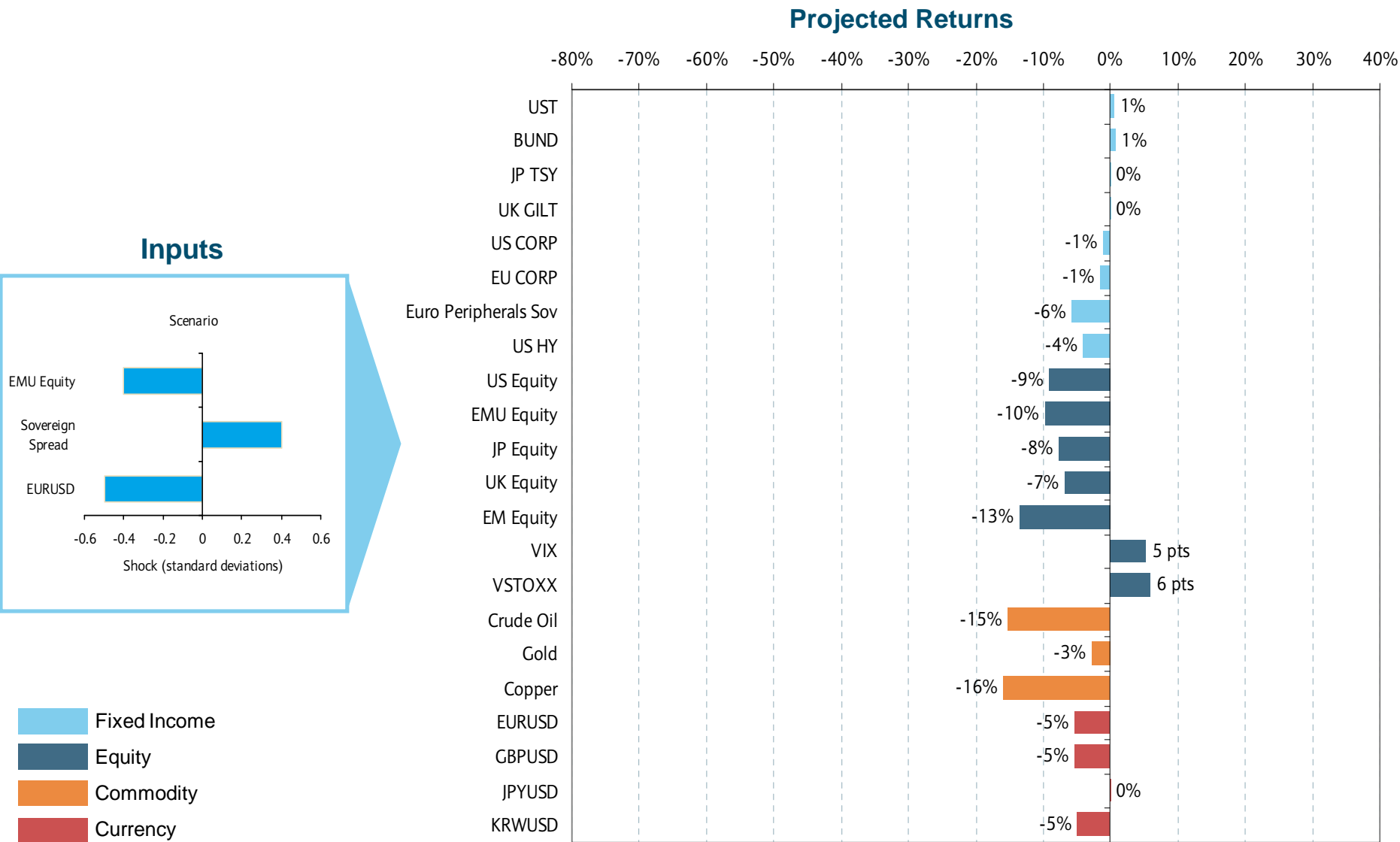
FX

- EURUSD declines less than 5% at this stage

Source: Barclays Research

Scenario 1a – Euro area woes: Mild correction

Quantitative Projections



Source: Barclays Research

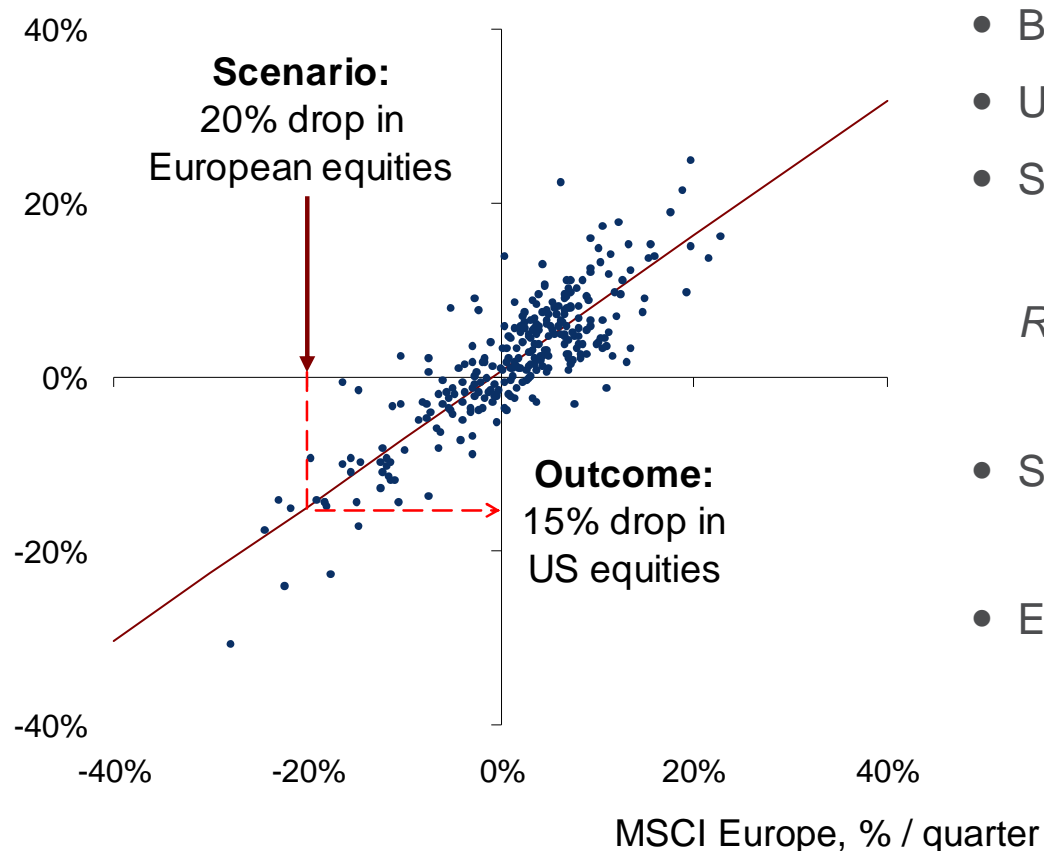
Analysis

Scenario Analysis – Maximum Likelihood Approach

Maximum Likelihood method help to propagate a partially specified scenario to a broad asset universe

Return Scenario for European Equities Translated into Return for US Equities

MSCI USA, % / quarter



- Scenario: -20% return on European equities
- Beta of US equities: 78%
- Use to project US equity expected return
- Similar to OLS regression

$$Ret\ US = Const + Beta \times Scen\ Ret\ EU$$

- Scenario return of US equities: -15%
- Estimation Period: Jan 1988 to Dec 2011

Source: Barclays Research, Bloomberg

Example: Effect of YC Widening on Credit Portfolio

Consider a scenario where treasury yields increase by 100 bp (parallel shift)

Yield Curve Widening Scenario – Implications for the US Corporate Index

Portfolio Rate Exposures		Rate Scenario / Return	
6m KRD	0.07	+ 100 bps	- 0.07
2y KRD	0.60	+ 100 bps	- 0.60
5y KRD	1.68	+ 100 bps	- 1.68
10y KRD	1.66	+ 100 bps	- 1.66
20y KRD	1.50	+ 100 bps	- 1.50
30y KRD	1.35	+ 100 bps	- 1.35
			- 6.86 %



Portfolio Spread Exposure		Spread Scenario / Return	
DTS	15.73	- 15.13 %	+ 2.38 %
			- 4.48 %

- Portfolio: US Corporate Index
- Scenario: 100 bps parallel shift of the YC
- Beta of corporate spreads: -0.15
- Rate return: -6.86%
- Spread return: +2.38%
- Portfolio returns: -4.48%
- Estimation Period: Jan 1990 to Dec 2011

- Factor correlations and volatilities play an important role in translating scenarios into projected returns
- **But correlations can depend on investment horizons, economic regimes, and scenarios**

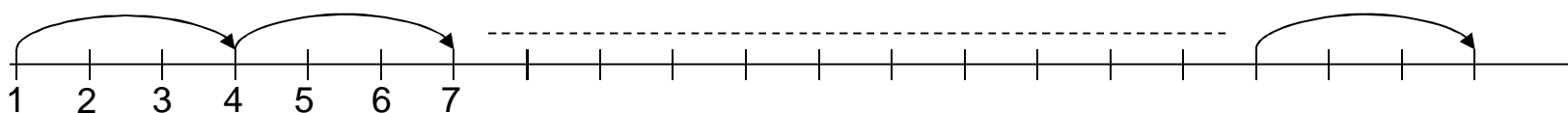
Source: Barclays Research

Correlations and Investment Horizon: Methodology

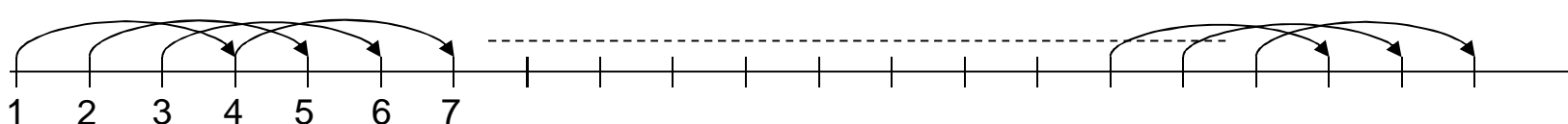
For longer investment horizons volatilities and correlations can be estimated from overlapping samples

Consistent Estimates: Non-Overlapping and Overlapping Samples

3 month non-overlapping sample



3 month overlapping sample



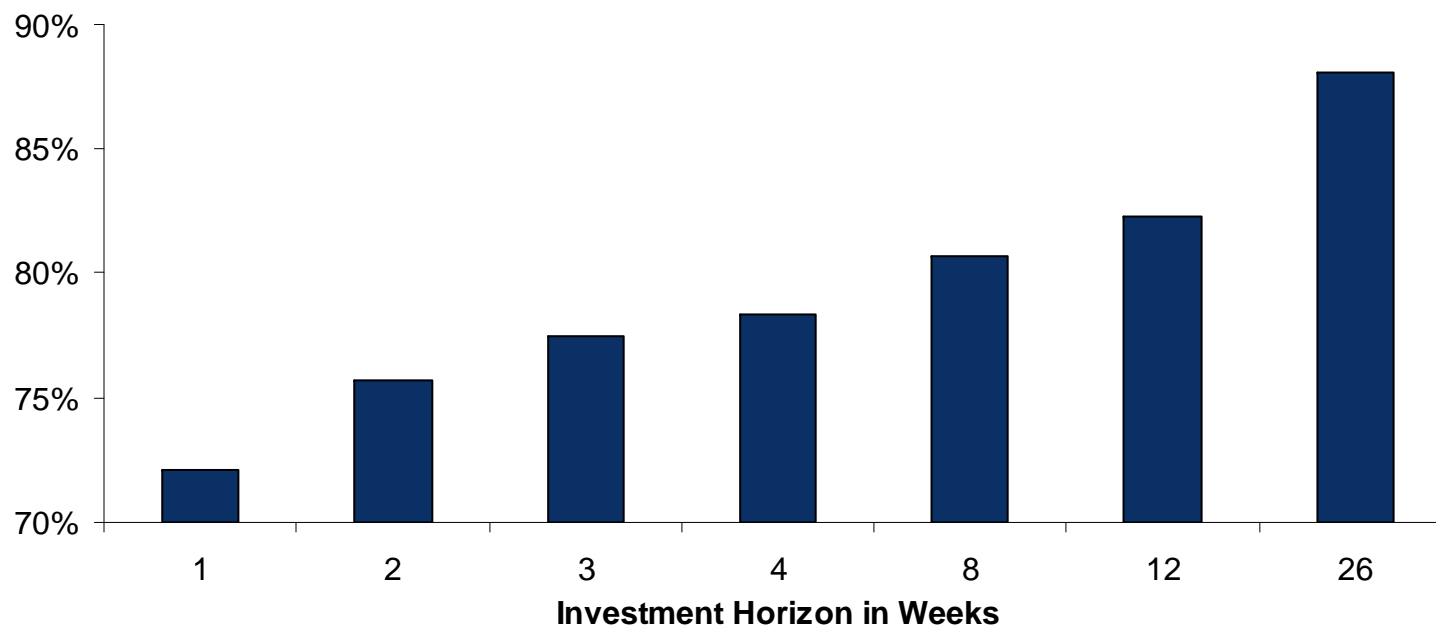
- Data frequency: monthly
- Investor is interested in a longer horizon – e.g. quarterly (3 months)
 - ▶ A) Use non-overlapping samples of 3 months returns – few data points – inefficient
 - From which month to start?
 - 2/3 of possible 3months return realizations are ignored
 - ▶ B) Overlapping samples of 3 months returns
 - Uses all possible 3 months return realizations (larger effective sample)
 - Observations are auto-correlated – wider confidence intervals for estimated parameters
 - **BUT: estimated parameters are still consistent**

Correlations and Investment Horizon

Asset correlations can change according to the investment horizon

Correlation between US and UK Equities for various Investment Horizons

Correlation between MSCI US and MSCI UK



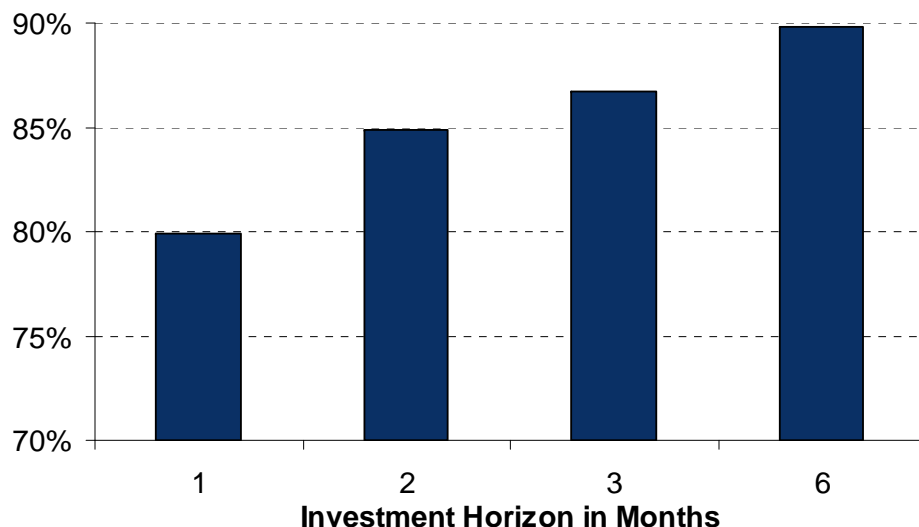
- Correlation between MSCI US and MSCI UK increases with the investment horizon
 - From 72% for 1-week returns
 - To almost 90% for 26-week returns
- Calibration period: 01 Jul 1988 - 30 Dec 2011

Source: Barclays Research, Bloomberg

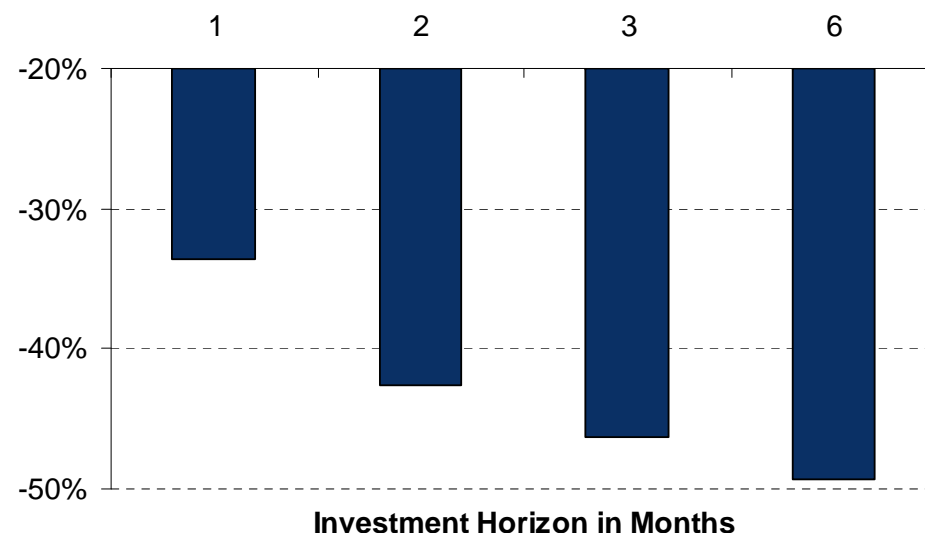
Correlations and Investment Horizon (cont)

Asset correlations can change according to the investment horizon

US Financials vs. Non-Financials



US Corporates vs. US Equity

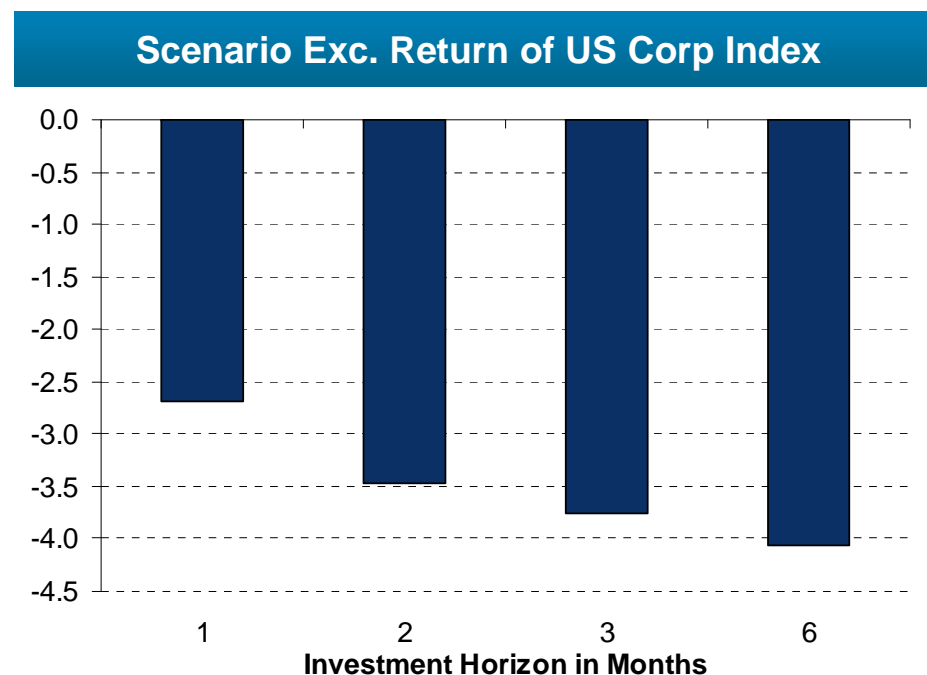
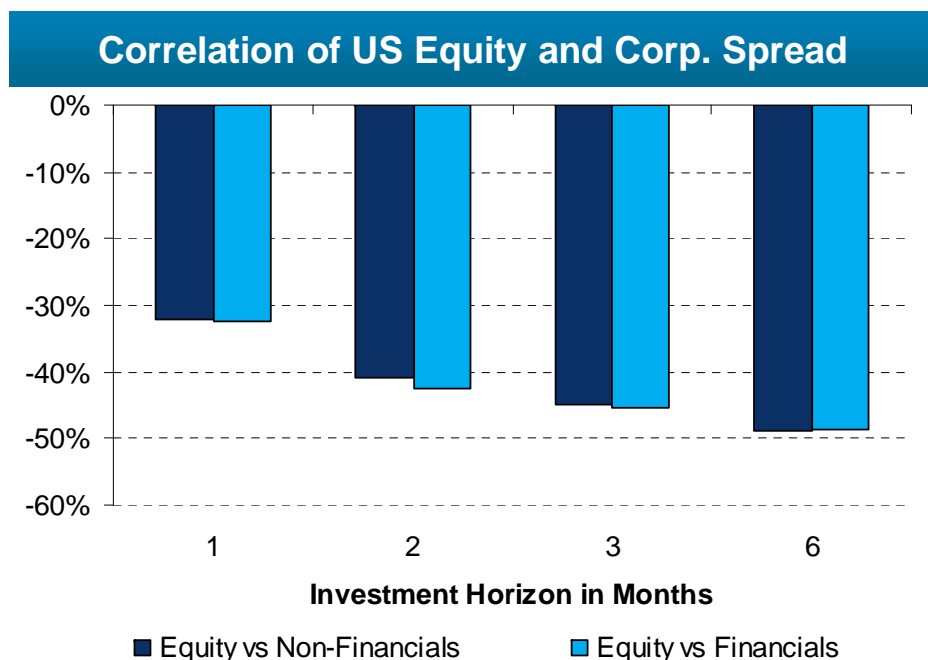


- Correlation between relative spread changes of US Financial and Non-Financial sectors increases with the investment horizon (from 80% to 90%)
- Correlation between relative spread changes of US Corporates and returns of S&P 500 drops with the investment horizon (from 34% to 50%)
- Calibration period: Jul 1973 - Dec 2011

Source: Barclays Research, Bloomberg

Example: Credit Portfolio and Equity Market Crash

How does the excess return of a corporate portfolio change according to investment horizon in a 20% equity drop scenario?



- Scenario: 20% drop in S&P500
- How are excess returns of US corporate bonds affected?
- The equity-spread correlation declines with the investment horizon
- A longer horizon implies a larger drop in corporate excess returns in the considered scenario
- -2.6% for 1 month horizon vs -4.1% for 6 month horizon
- Calibration period: Jul 1973 - Dec 2011

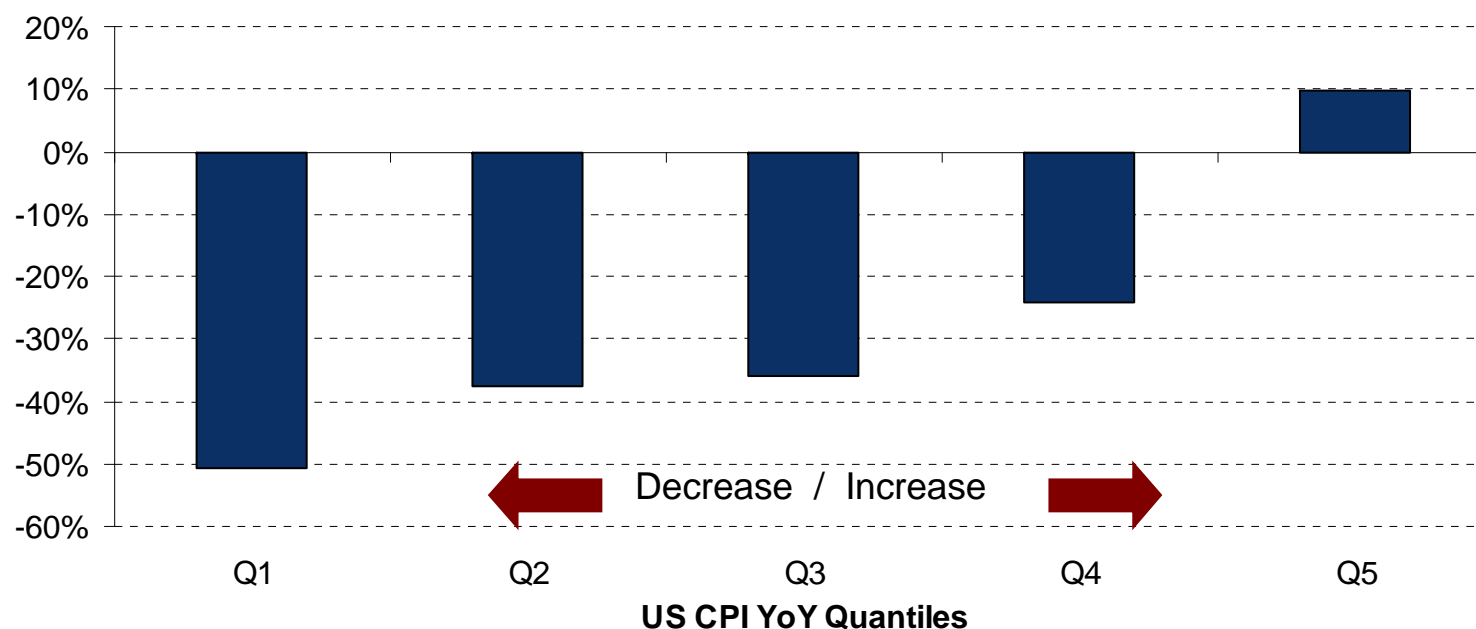
Source: Barclays Research, Bloomberg

Scenario Analysis and Economic Regimes

Asset correlations can change in different economic regimes

- Correlation: US corporate bond excess returns vs US treasury returns
 - ▶ Low and negative when inflation is low
 - ▶ Can turn positive when inflation is high
 - ▶ Think of “Japan” vs. “Monetization” scenarios
- Calibration period: Feb 1973 - Dec 2011

Correlation Between Treasury Returns and US Corp ER in Different Inflation Regimes



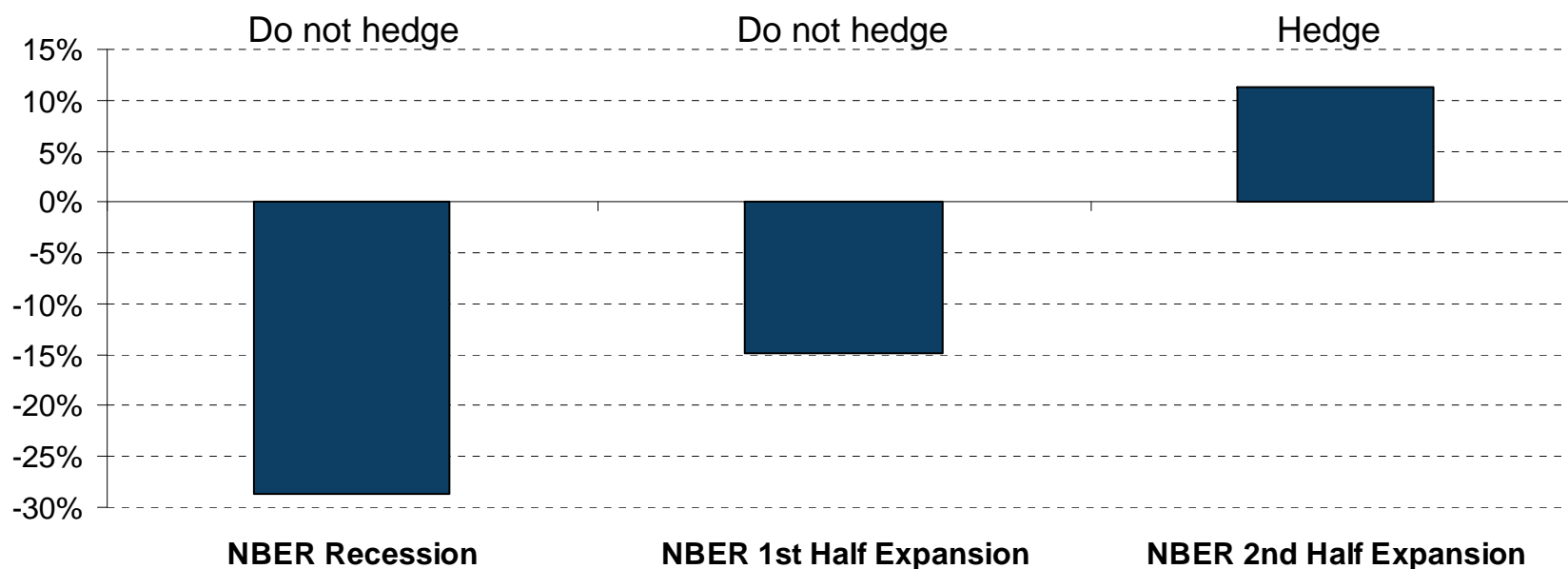
Source: Barclays Research, Bloomberg, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Economic Regimes: Hedging FX Exposure

Should the FX exposure of a US equity portfolio be hedged by a European investor?

- Depends on the correlation between returns of EURUSD and US equities
 - ▶ Negative / Low correlation -> do not hedge
 - ▶ Positive / High correlation -> hedge
 - ▶ Estimate possible losses in a bearish scenario for the US equity market
- Calibration period: Jan 1973 - Dec 2011

Correlation Between returns of USD-EUR Exchange Rate and MSCI USA



Source: Barclays Research, Bloomberg, NBER

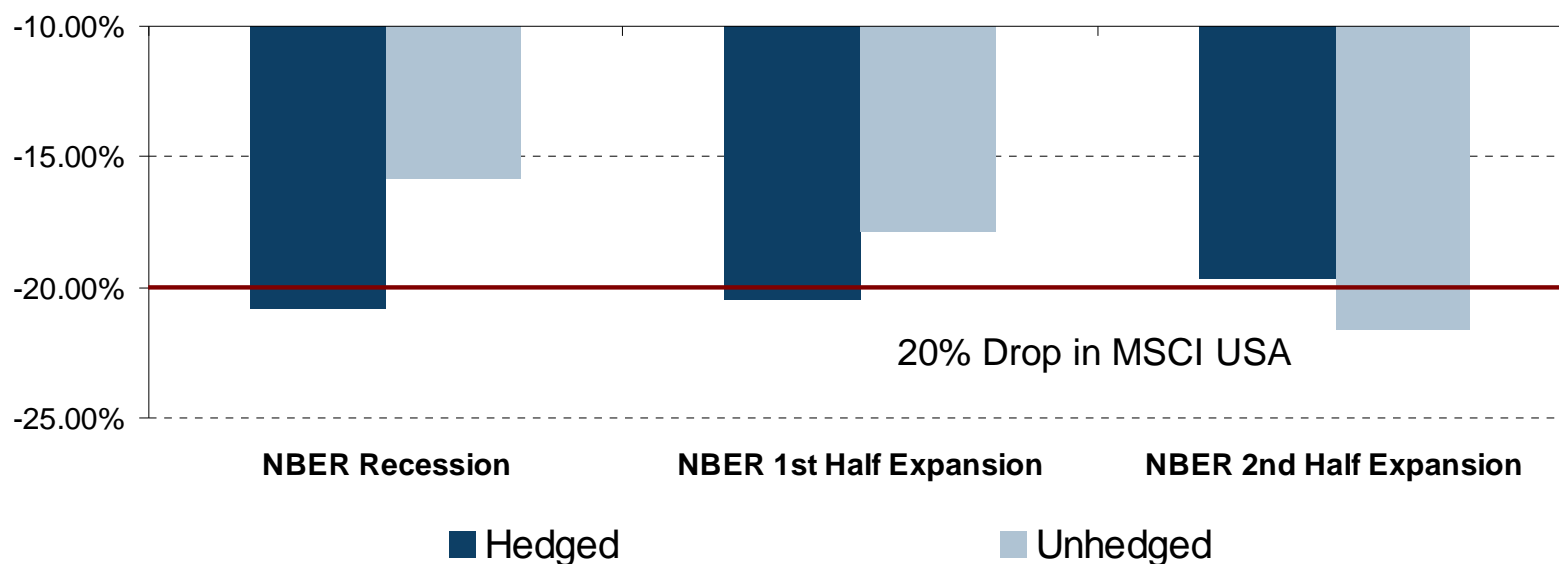
Economic Regimes: Hedging FX Exposure (cont)

Estimate losses for FX hedged/unhedged portfolios in a bearish equity scenario

- **Scenario: US equities drop by 20%**

- ▶ Losses for hedged/unhedged portfolios in different NBER regimes for a European investor?
- ▶ In NBER Recessions USD exposure diversifies portfolio risk:
 - EUR loss for unhedged portfolio is smaller
 - Hedged portfolio turns out to be over-hedged by 20%, so overall losses are even higher
- ▶ The opposite is observed in NBER expansion (2nd half)
- ▶ Calibration period: Jan 1973 - Dec 2011

Scenario Losses of FX Hedged and Unhedged Portfolios in Different NBER Regimes



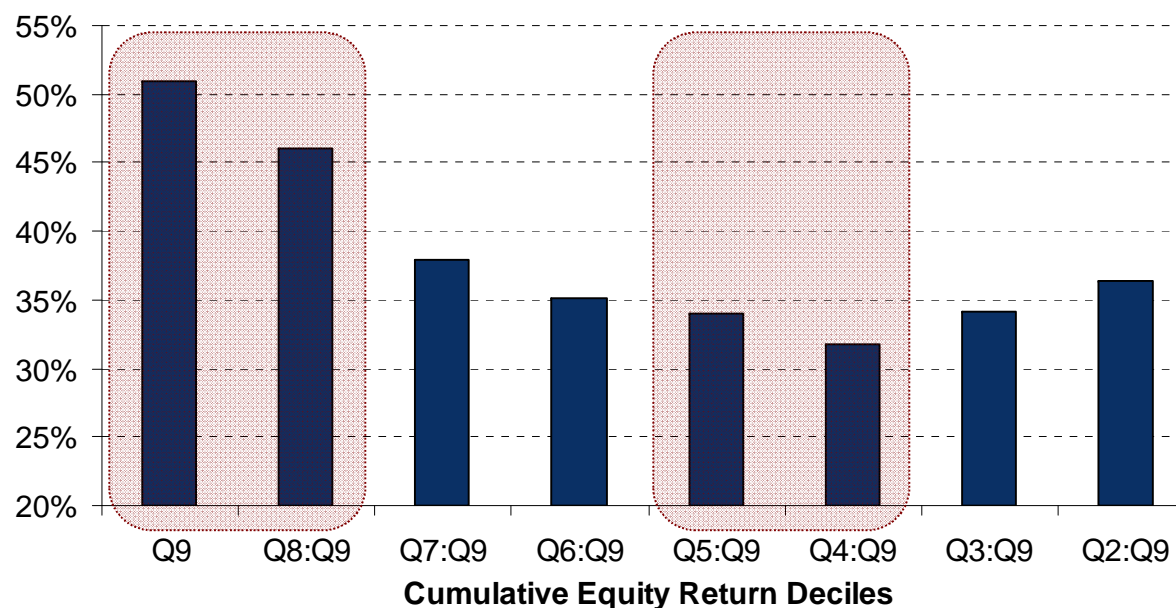
Source: Barclays Research, Bloomberg, NBER

Scenario Correlations

Asset correlations can depend on the scenario considered

- A familiar phenomenon: higher correlations in extreme market events
- Example:
 - Return scenarios in the context of various US equity market returns (from bearish to bullish)
 - Correlation: relative corporate spread changes vs treasury returns
- Correlation breaks down when equity market declines
- Period: Feb 1973 - Dec 2011

Correlation between % Corporate Spread Changes and Long Treasury Returns



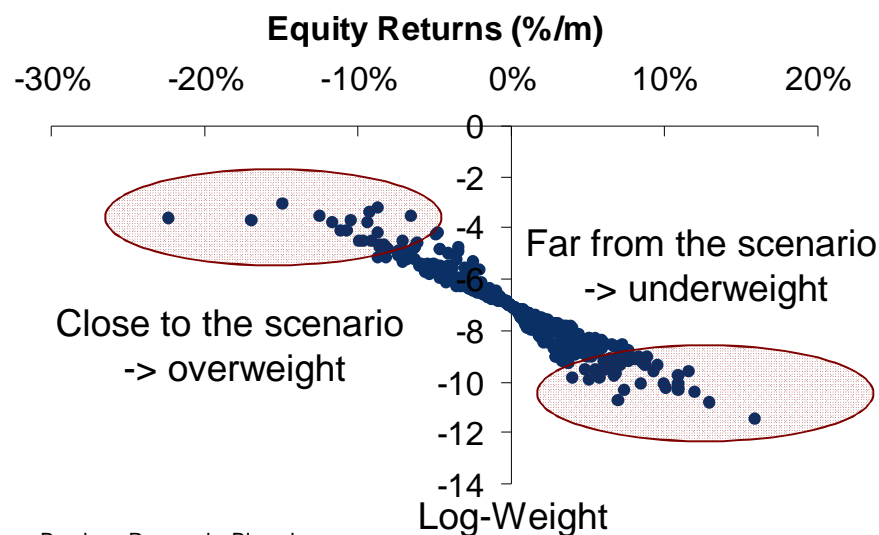
Source: Barclays Research, Bloomberg

Scenario Correlations – How to Adjust?

Historical observations can be weighted by their proximity to the chosen scenario

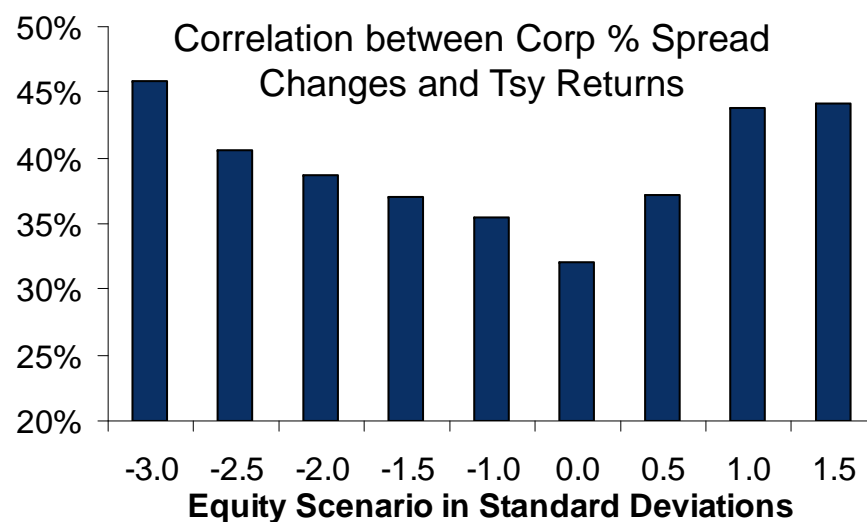
- How to ensure that the asset correlation matrix is consistent with the chosen scenario?
- Weight observations by their proximity to the scenario
- Example Scenario: -3 standard deviations in equity returns = -16% / month
 - Observations with comparable equity returns are given large weights:
 - Sep 1974: -12.4%
 - Aug 1998: -15%
 - Sep 2008: -9.2%, etc.
 - Estimated correlations rely more on observations closer to the chosen scenario
- Period: Feb 1973 - Dec 2011

Log-Weights in -3-Sigma Scenario



Source: Barclays Research, Bloomberg

Scenario-Weighted Correlations

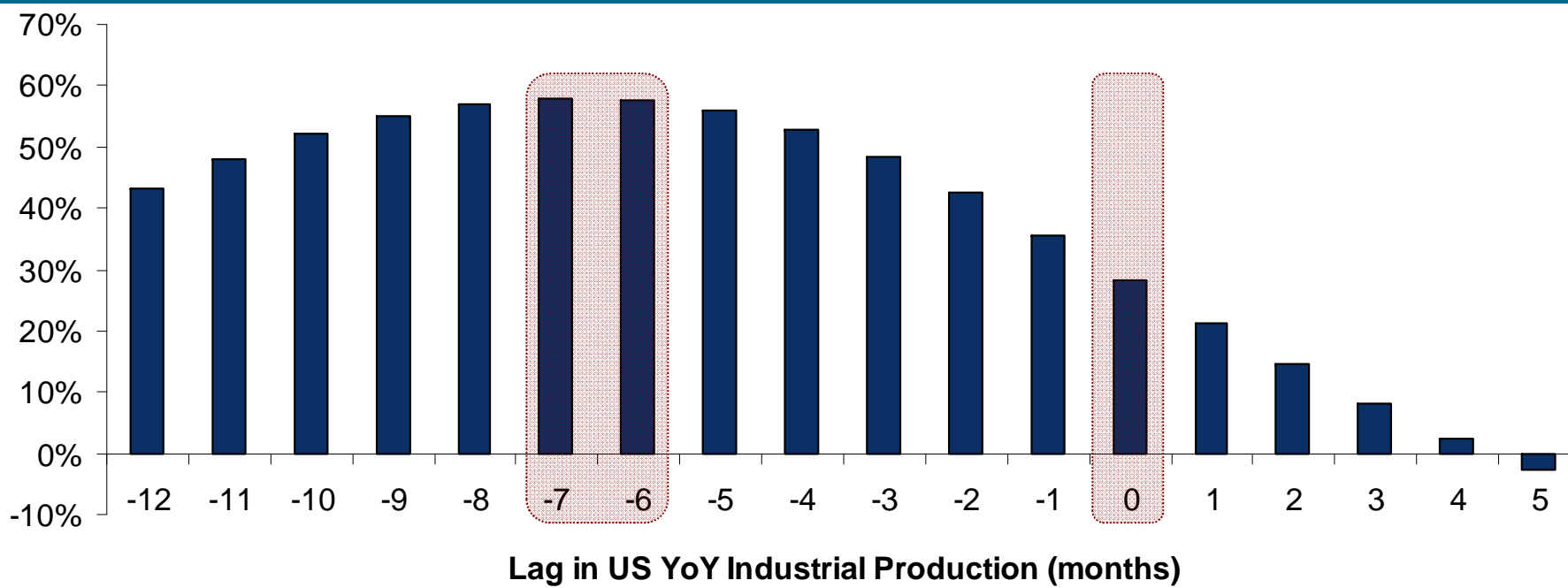


Scenarios in Macro Variables

Changes in macro-variables generally lag changes in market prices

- Official macro-statistics frequently lag the market
- Illustration:
 - ▶ US YoY Industrial Production lags annual return of S&P 500 by about 6-7 months
 - ▶ Correlation between S&P YoY returns and the US YoY Industrial Production is highest at the 6-7 month lag
 - ▶ Period: March 1962 – Dec 2011

Correlation Between S&P 500 YoY Returns and US YoY Industrial Production

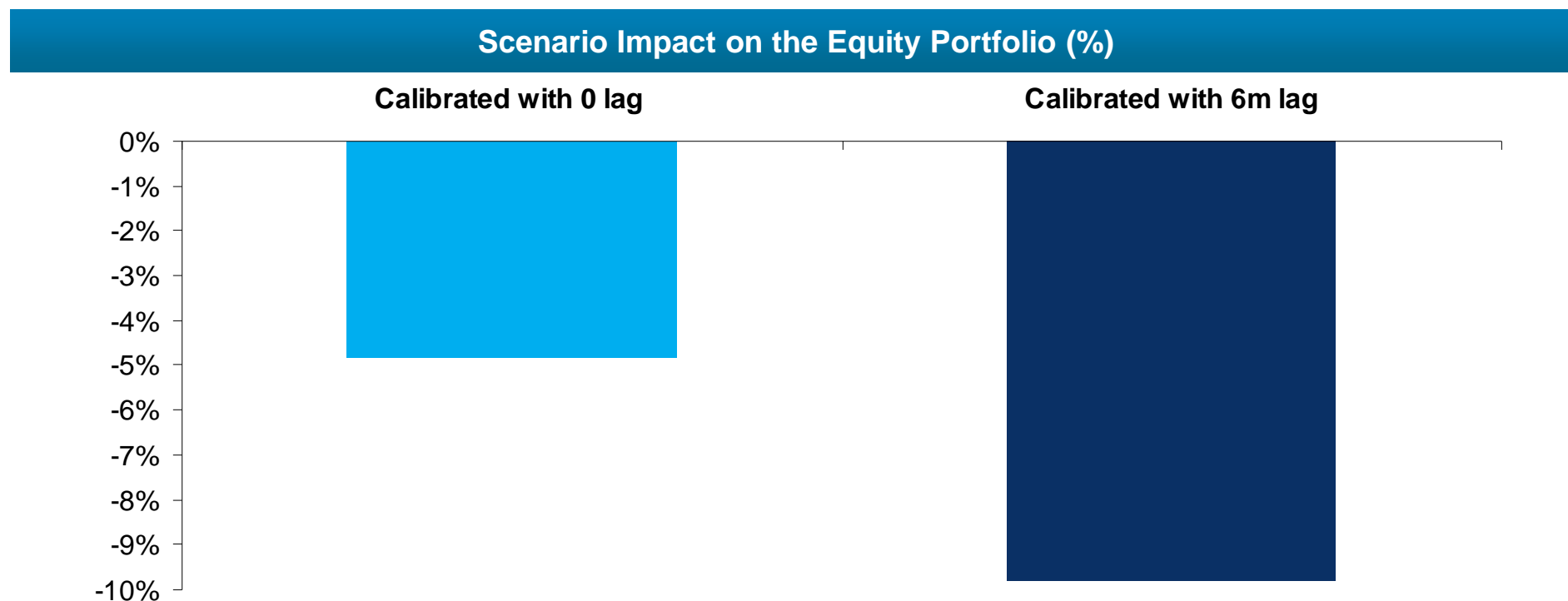


Source: Barclays Research, Bloomberg, Federal Reserve

Example: Macro Scenario

How does a decline in industrial production affect equities?

- **Scenario: 5% decline in US industrial production**
- Impact on the equity portfolio (S&P 500)?
 - ▶ Case 1: Correlation is calibrated with 0 lag between Industrial Production and Equity returns
 - ▶ Case 2: Correlation is calibrated with 6 months lag between Industrial Production and Equity returns
 - ▶ Loss for the equity portfolio doubles (from -4.8% to -9.8%) when the 6 months lag is taken into account
- Period: March 1962 – Dec 2011



Source: Barclays Research, Bloomberg, Federal Reserve

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