



# Axel Cap

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**JPM PB Challenge 2022 (Date of Submission: 12 April 2022)**



Axel Cap

The background of the slide is a wide-angle aerial photograph of a major city skyline during sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dramatic, wispy clouds. In the foreground, the dense urban landscape of buildings and infrastructure is visible, with a river or bay area to the left.

# Agenda

1. Your Needs

2. 60/40 Allocation

3. Alternatives

4. 2021 Review

5. 2022 Outlook

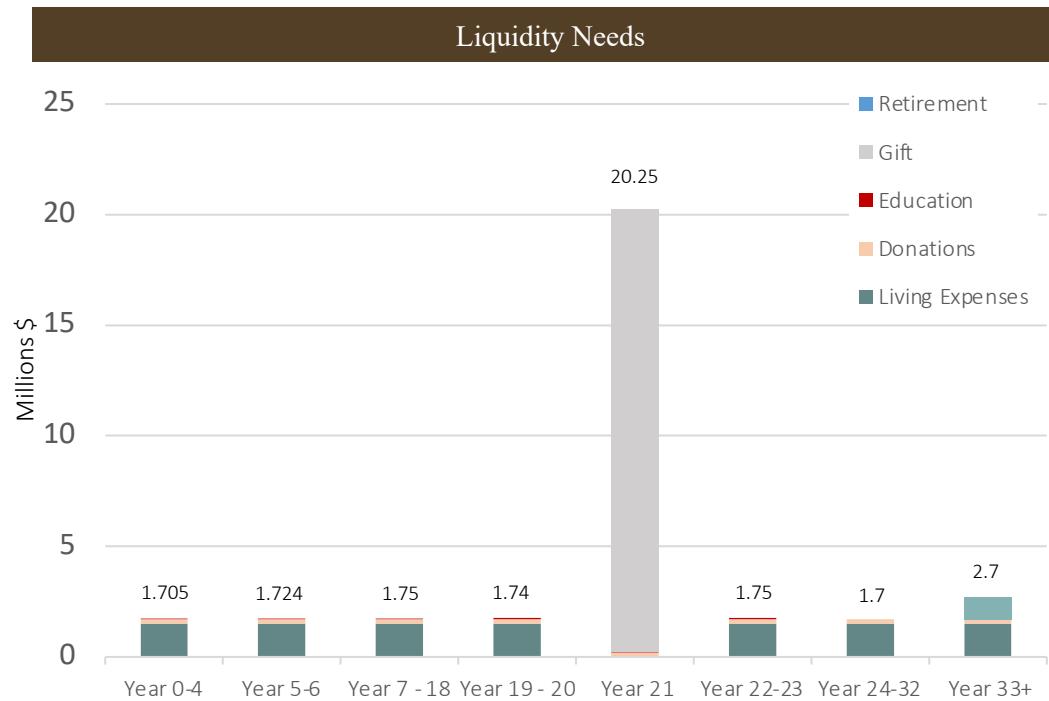
6. Tactical Allocation

7. Risk Management

# Understanding Your Needs

Curating the best suited portfolio for you

Client Profile		Investment Profile		Timeline	
Age	35 Years Old	Investment Objective	1) Capital Appreciation to meet distribution needs 2) Wealth Preservation	Year 0	Year 5
Stage of Life	Working Phase	Investment Horizon	Approximately 32 Years <sup>1</sup> <small><sup>1</sup>Assuming retirement at the age of 67</small>	Year 21	Year 32
Net Worth	USD \$105 Million	Return Objective	Moderate Returns: 5-8%	Large Gift	
Dependents	1 Spouse & 1 Child	Risk Objective	Medium Risk: 7-15% Volatility	Capital Growth	
Liquidity Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Living Expenses</li> <li>Travelling</li> <li>Donations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child's Education</li> <li>Retirement</li> <li>Gifts</li> </ul>		Wealth Preservation	



### Trust Planning

#### Planning to best suit your child's needs

- We believe that the gift of US\$20 million for Emma upon 21 is best distributed in a lifetime trust in order to manage her wealth independently and responsibly.

Upon Turning 21	20%	USD \$4M
22 to 35 years	3% annually	USD \$0.6M
35 years onwards	5% annually	USD \$1M

- Allows Emma to explore financial literacy while continuously developing her independent wealth management skills.

#### Wealth preservation for generations to come

- A lifetime trust will also allow for inter-generational wealth preservation, lasting for generations to come.

### Your Donations

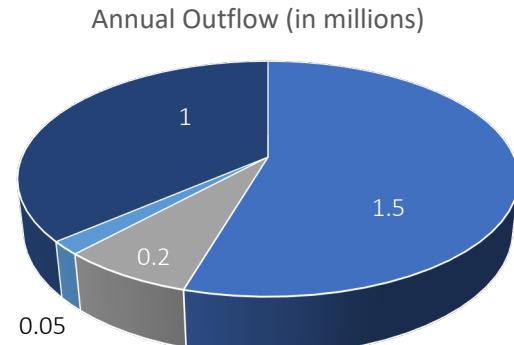
Young Musicians Foundation	USD \$50,000
The Young Musicians' Society	USD \$50,000
NAFA School of Young Talents	USD \$50,000
Young Musicians Unite	USD \$50,000
<b>Emma's Education</b>	
Years 0 – 4: Nursery	USD \$25,000 per annum
Years 5 – 6: Preschool	USD \$25,000 per annum
Years 7 – 18: Primary, Secondary, Pre-University	USD \$40,000 per annum
Years 19 – 23: University	USD \$50,000 per annum

Source: Hawksford

# Understanding Your Needs

Curating the best suited portfolio for you

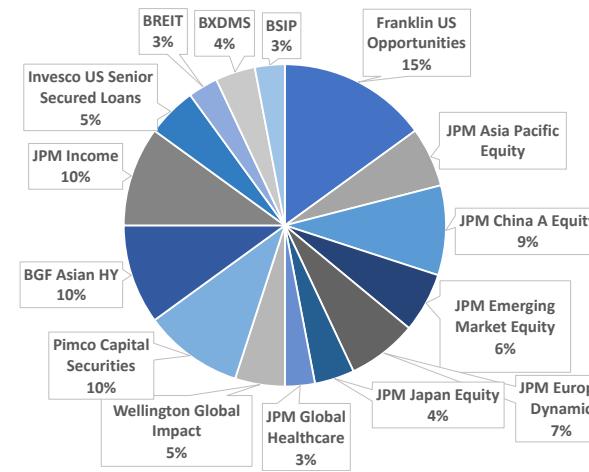
## Summary of Needs



- Living Expenses
- Donations
- Education
- Retirement

+ One-time outflow on USD 20M on Year 21.

## Proposed Core Portfolio



Annual Expected Return **7.16%**

Standard Deviation **13.21%**

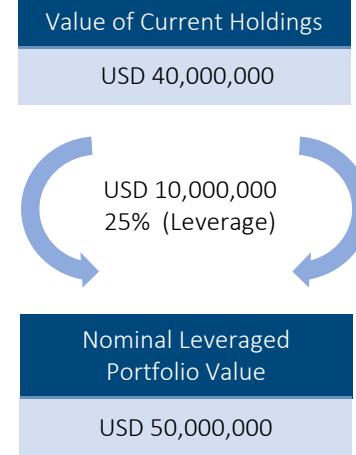
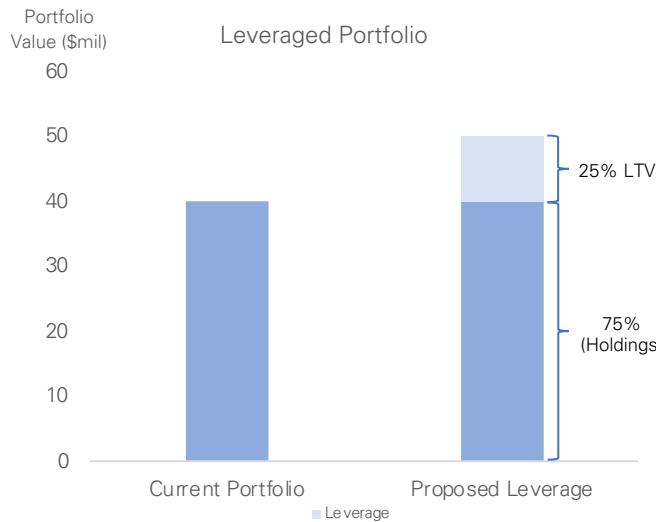
Dividend Yield **4.51%**

Dividend yield **4.51%** → Annual Dividend **US\$1,804,000**

Sufficient dividend yield to meet annual cash liquidity needs

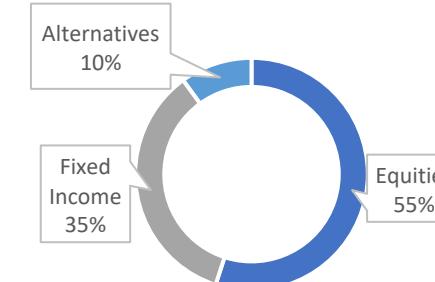
## Lending Leverage

Taking out a loan for leverage using existing holdings as collateral

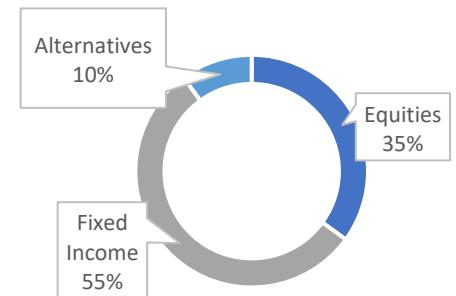


## Growth Phase to Capital Preservation

### Growth Phase



### Capital Preservation



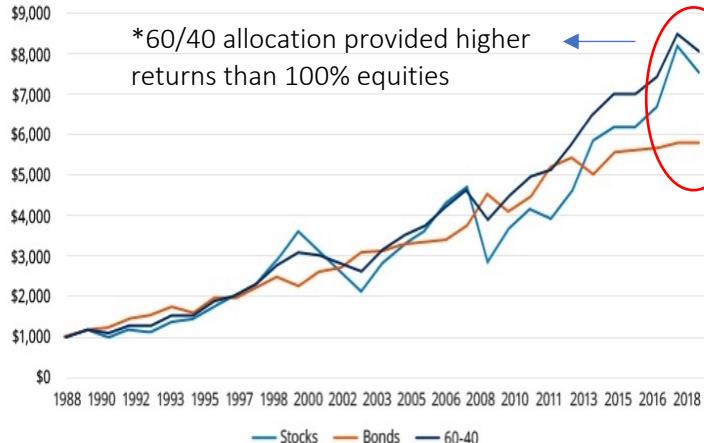
- Larger fixed income allocation → Capital Preservation while ensuring sufficient cash distributions
- Shift to dividend-producing area → Fulfil objective of income generation and lower volatility
- At Year 32, a conservative estimate of your capital would be \$200m → achieving a cash distribution of US\$4million per year (at 2% dividend yield)

Source: Bloomberg, Morningstar and Fund houses

# 60/40 Is Not The Way Forward

A 60/40 asset allocation may have worked in the past but there are key issues which compromise on returns

## Benefits of a 60/40 Allocation



### Balancing risk & return

Equities yielded higher returns during periods of growth; fixed income acted as a hedge



### Fits your needs

40% allocation to income smoothens volatility; apt for moderate risk appetite

## Key Issues

### The “Recency Bias”

The 60/40 Portfolio may not continue to produce sustainable returns just because it has in the past

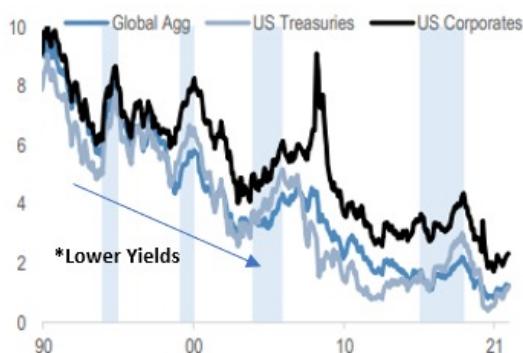
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### Fixed Income: Low yields

### Equities: Stretched Valuations

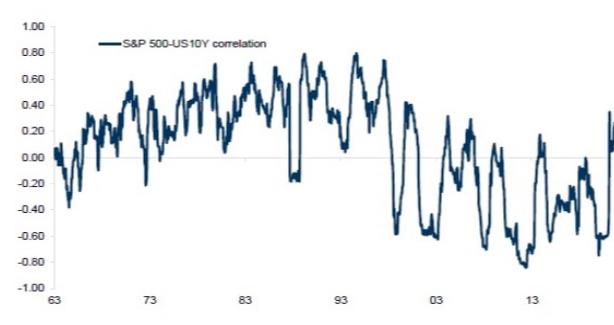
## Fixed Income: Current Low Yields Reduces Diversification Benefits

Bond yields have fallen steadily in the past decades, currently nearing the zero-bound



Correlation between stocks and fixed income were largely negative since the GFC; recently turned positive

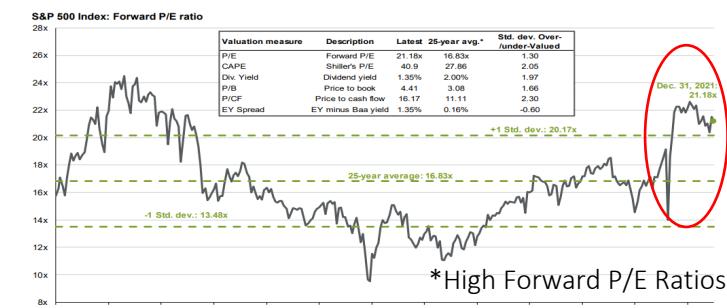
Exhibit 10: The correlation between S&P 500 and US10Y has become positive once again in recent times  
12-month S&P 500/US10Y correlation of monthly returns



## Rates near effective lower bound limits diversification potential

- Inverse correlation between stocks and bonds turning positive in recent times
- Rates unlikely to drop in inflationary environment, does not provide diversification

## Equities: Stretched Valuations



Stretched valuations and other headwinds will negatively affect your stock-heavy portfolio

Source: JP Morgan

# End Of The 40-Year Bond Bull?

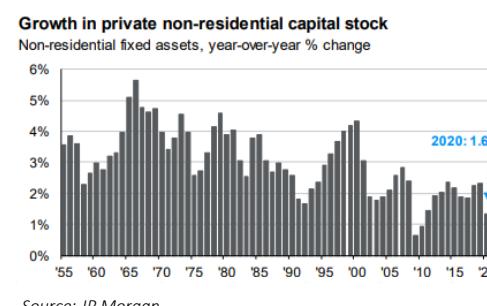
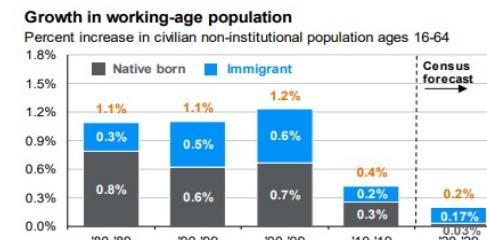
We still recommend incorporating Fixed Income into your portfolio, but rebalancing is required

Does Fixed Income still have a role to play?

- **Source of Income:** Fixed Income still provides a steady stream of income that allow for yearly payouts in your portfolio
- **Diversifier:** While rates hover near the effective lower bound, there is still room to lower rates in response to growth shocks. Repricing of global yields also mean distribution of risk is now two-way

Lower yield world means Fixed Income still critical

- Poor long term growth drivers:
  - Falling trend productivity growth
  - Population ageing
  - Higher demand for safe assets
  - Rising inequality



Rebalancing required within Fixed Income portfolio



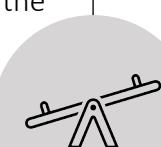
## Duration Management

- Market volatility and hawkish policy likely to pose larger risk to longer duration bonds
- We have a bias towards short duration in the near term due to the rising rate environment



## Floating Rates

- Floating rates decent hedge against inflation
- Within the fixed income space, we are overweight products like US Senior Secured Loans and Floating Rate funds



## Selecting Defensive Credit

- Selection of higher quality credit allow an investor to be insulated from current market and geopolitical volatility



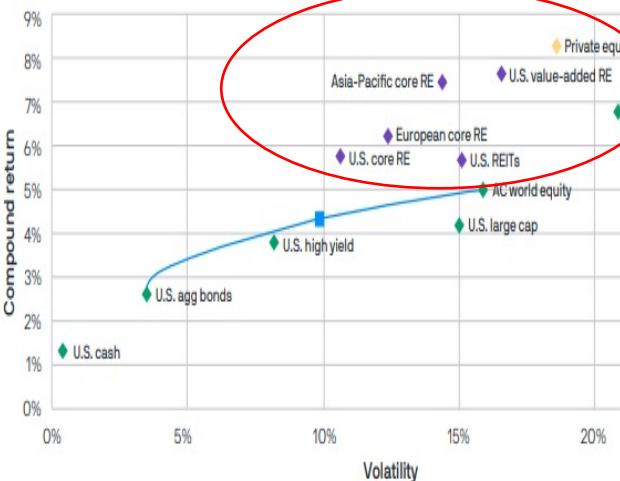
## Bond Ladder Strategy

- Purchasing of bonds with successive maturity dates to allow the investor to respond relatively quickly to interest rate changes

# The Age Of Alternatives

Alternatives provide non-correlated returns in order to better diversify your portfolio, smooth out return profile and minimize large fluctuations

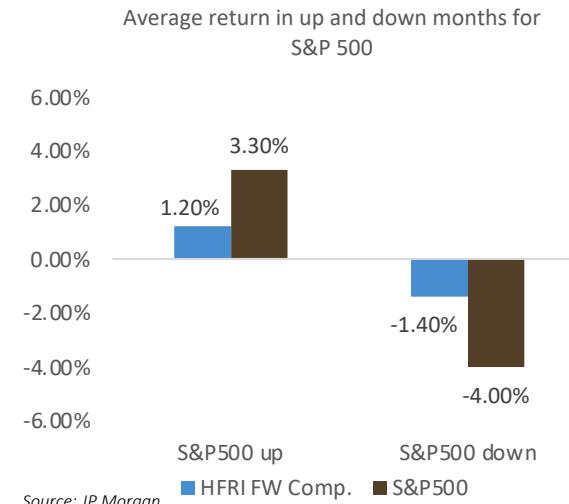
## Real Estate



Source: JP Morgan

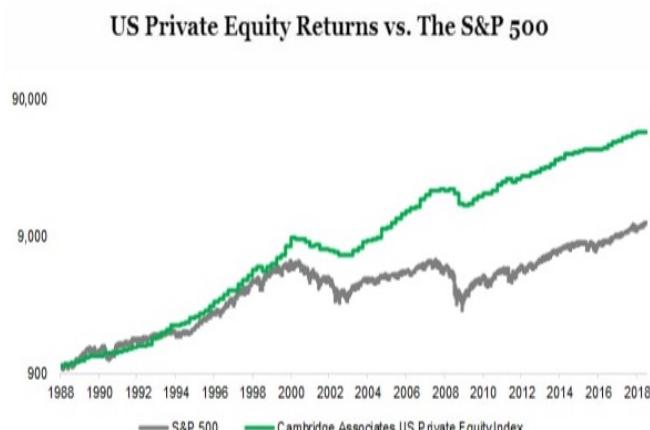
- Inflation Hedge:** Returns more closely correlated to inflation than other asset class
- Multiple Layers of Diversification:** Real estate markets are determined by regional demand and supply dynamics more strongly than other asset classes

## Hedge Funds



- Risk Offset Strategies:** In a highly volatile climate with high dispersion of returns, active management by experienced professionals offered by hedge funds are key in producing outsized returns
- Targeted Alpha Sources:** Access to complex strategies that provide diversified and uncorrelated sources of alpha (e.g., thematic funds, trend following, merger arb, etc.)

## Private Equity & Venture Capital



Source: Cambridge Associates

- Strong Returns:** Private Equity alone has produced annualized returns of 10.48% over 20 years despite illiquidity
- Capitalizing on Opportunity:** Aggressive growth of private markets in recent years has led to more high-quality companies ripe for investment staying private

## Strategy



Real Estate provides steady income and reduces reliance on fixed income



Investing in Hedge Funds will allow you to capitalize on high-growth strategies



High returns from PE & VC funds provides capital appreciation and reduces risk on equities

We recommend at least 10% of your portfolio invested into Alternatives

# The Search For Yield

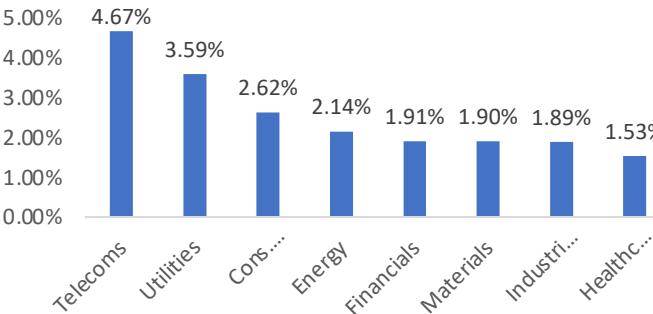
Alternative ways to generate income

Risk Rating: ★★★



## High Dividend-Yielding Equities ★★★

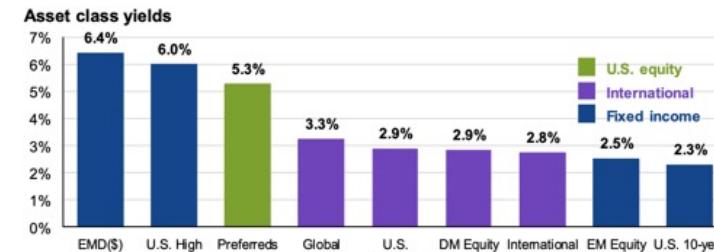
- Companies/sectors that generate and distribute a consistent source of income to shareholders



- Examples:** REITs, Commodity Producers, Financials
- Risks:** Recession, Equity Underperformance

## High Yield Fixed Income ★★☆

- Moving down the credit curve to purchase higher-yielding fixed income instruments to boost cashflow.



- Examples:** US High Yield, Emerging Markets Debt
- Risks:** Credit Risk, Duration Exposure

## FX Carry ★★☆

- Earning income from borrowing in a currency with lower interest rates and lending at one with higher rates to earn the interest rate differential.

BUYING / SELLING

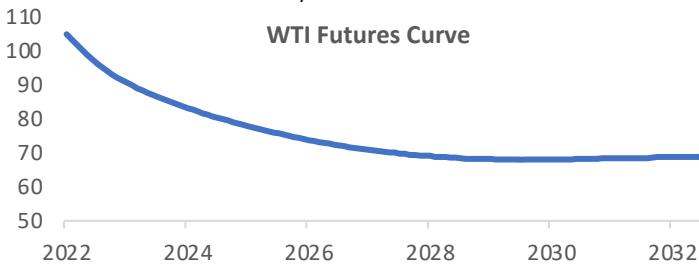
Target Currency / Funding Currency

BRL / JPY

Interest Rate / Interest Rate

## Commodity Carry ★★★

- Benefiting off difference in prices between the front-month and deferred commodity futures contracts



- Examples:** iShares Commodity Curve Carry Strategy ETF, Bloomberg GSAM Commodity Carry Index
- Risks:** Volatility, Geopolitical Risk

## Cryptocurrencies ★★★

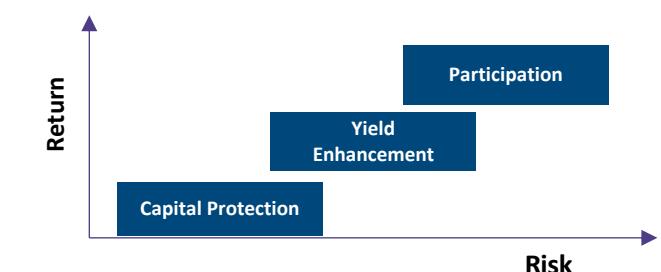
- Putting idle crypto-assets to work, gaining a reward (yield) for providing liquidity or participating in consensus.



- Examples:** Yield Farming, Staking, Liquidity Mining
- Risks:** Smart Contract Risk, Counter-Party Risk, Impermanent Loss

## Yield Enhancement Structured Products ★★★

- Allows clients to achieve a pre-defined yield in return for a certain amount of downside risk



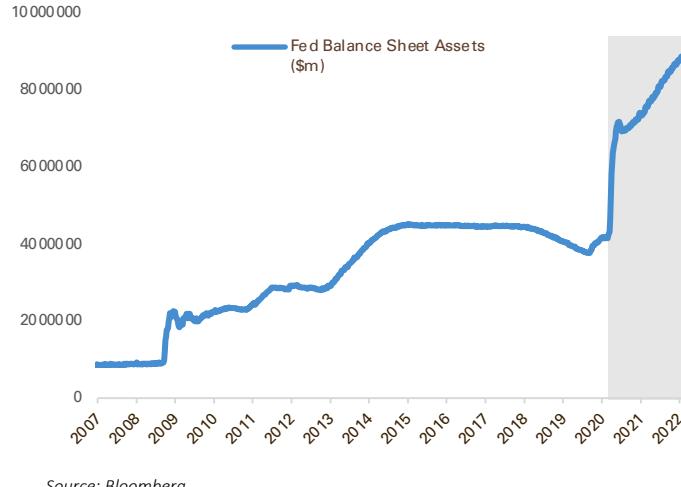
- Examples:** Equity Linked Notes, Fixed Income Notes, Daily Range Accrual
- Risks:** Principal Risk, Credit Risk, Liquidity

# 2021 – Red-Hot Pandemic Exit

Unprecedented combination of loose fiscal and monetary policy has culminated in decades-high inflation prints across the world

Combination of extremely easy monetary and fiscal policy created a global economic boom...

**With interest rates near the zero-bound, governments across the world turned to fiscal levers to stimulate the economy**



**In the US, personal incomes and household net-worth actually rose throughout the pandemic**



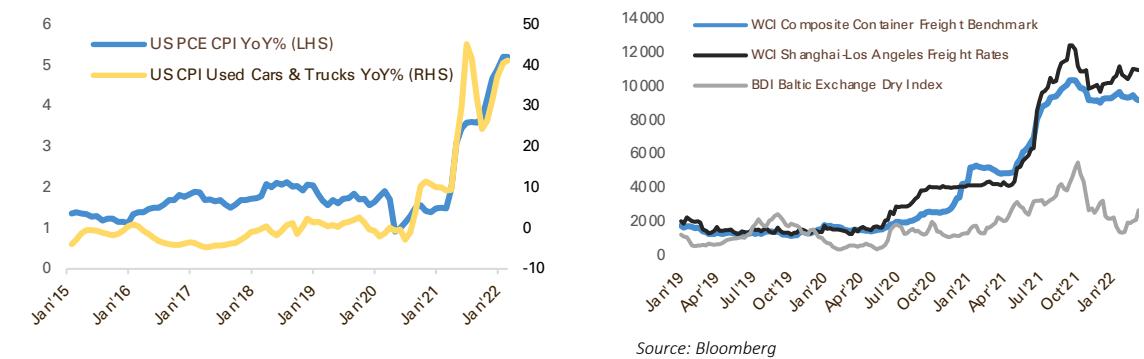
Different from last time

Post-GFC	Post-COVID
US\$11 trillion lost in U.S. net worth, from fall in housing and stock prices, taking years to recover	Most major indices, commodities breaking above pre-COVID highs
Federal Reserve's balance sheet rose by \$3 trillion in 3 months. ECB and BOJ's balance sheets also bloated significantly	
Stimulus went towards recapitalizing banks, which did not boost velocity of money	Much of stimulus went to consumers and small businesses (i.e., the real economy). Sharp rise in M2 and real incomes

...causing inflation to rear its ugly head after decades

As economies reopened in the early part of the year, growing inflation pressures were waved away as "transitory" and ascribed to energy, supply chain disruptions, etc.

**A red-hot reopening saw goods demand skyrocket, which was initially explained away by central banks as a result of supply chain disruptions and an energy price rebound**



However, signs of inflation staying for an extended period appeared as the year went on  
**In the latter of the year, a booming housing market and tight labor conditions resulted in an acceleration in sticky components of CPI such as wages and rents**



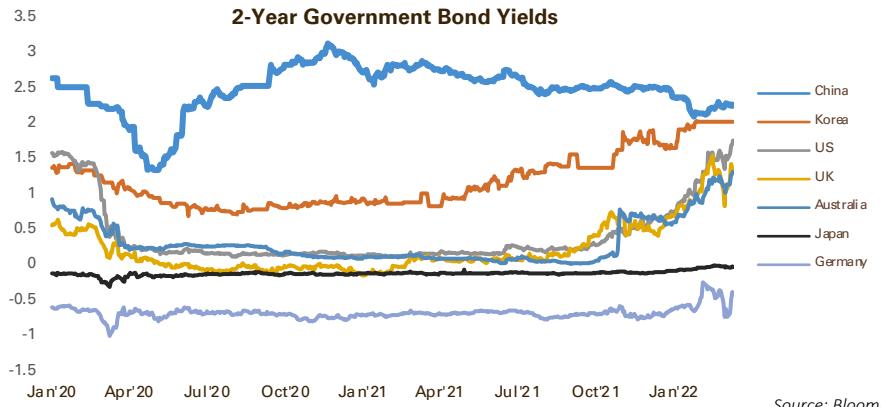
# 2021 – Central Bank Divergence

Strong growth and inflationary pressures have prompted central banks to pull forward policy normalization

Shifting from a uniform and predictable easy policy stance to a period of policy divergence

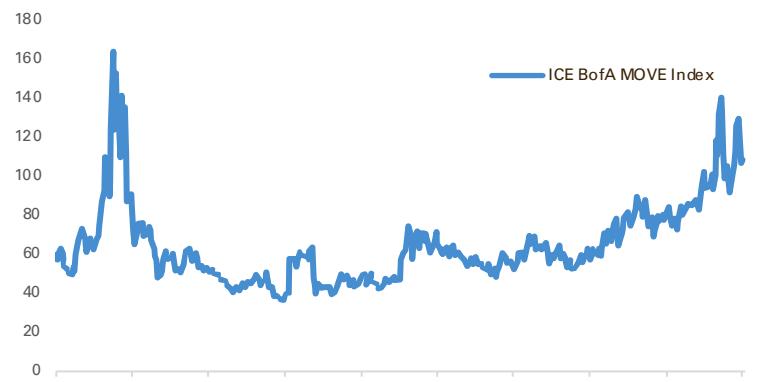
Rising inflation and tight labor markets brought forward plans for policy normalization

Markets have been pricing in increasing tightening for many countries



Consequently, volatility in the rates space has significantly increased, signaling high levels of uncertainty in the markets.

Rates vol increased steadily throughout 2021, almost reaching pandemic highs in early '22



Source: Bloomberg

China's common prosperity crackdown

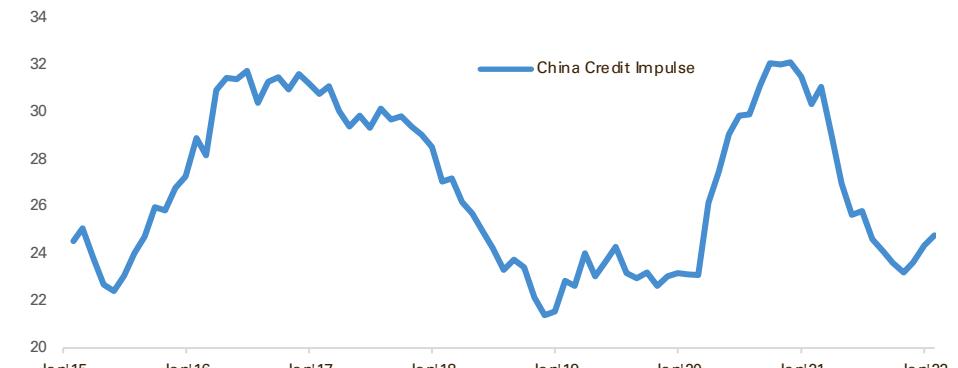
Crackdowns on the tech, property, and education sectors wiped more than \$1 trillion off the market caps of some of the country's largest companies

2021 saw a bear market for Chinese assets, with the collapse of large property developers, led by Evergrande, causing fears of systemic contagion



Monetary policy was tight in the first half of the year, before starting to ease in H2'21

Chinese credit impulse bottomed in the second half of the year



Source: Bloomberg

# 2022 – Volatility Here To Stay

Ukraine-Russia top of mind now, before revisiting inflation and growth themes

## On the Ukraine-Russia Conflict

### Higher inflation, lower growth

- Surrounding regions to bear brunt of impact
- Global commodity inflation likely to persist, increasing pressure on central banks to tighten policy

### European unity

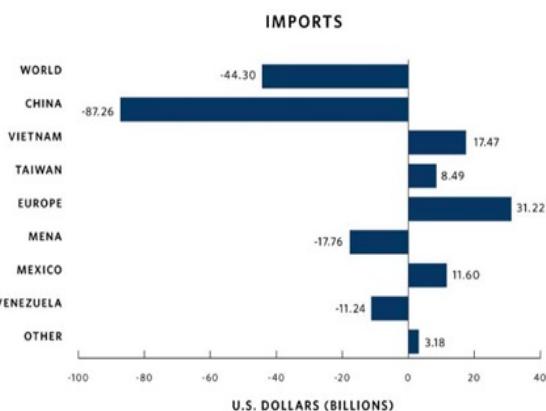
- Increased cooperation within the EU, higher fiscal spending and shift to alternative energy sources (renewables, nuclear, hydrogen)

### Further deglobalization and bipolarization of global power.

- ASEAN likely to benefit as substitutes to China/Russia for the west, and as trade partners for China

**ASEAN nations have been significant beneficiaries of trade flows in past episodes of US-China trade tensions**

**U.S. Merchandise Trade: 2019 Versus 2018**



**Chinese Merchandise Trade: 2019 Versus 2018**

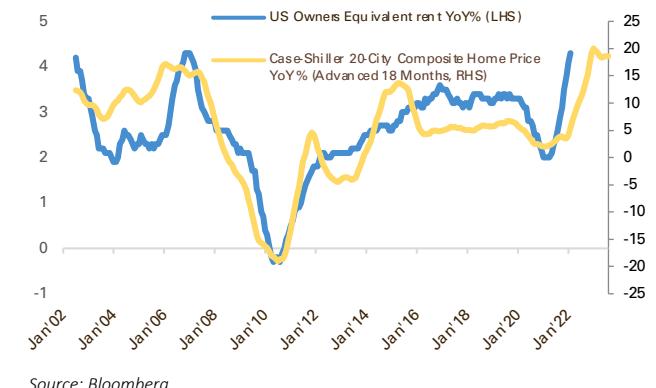


Source: Carnegie Endowment, International Monetary Fund

## Inflationary spiral? Recession risk?

- Leading indicators show signs of supply chain and housing pressures abating
- Reopening economies and strong private and corporate balance sheets to sustain growth momentum
- Against that backdrop, recession not our base case, with central banks obscuring bond market function and real yields still deeply negative.

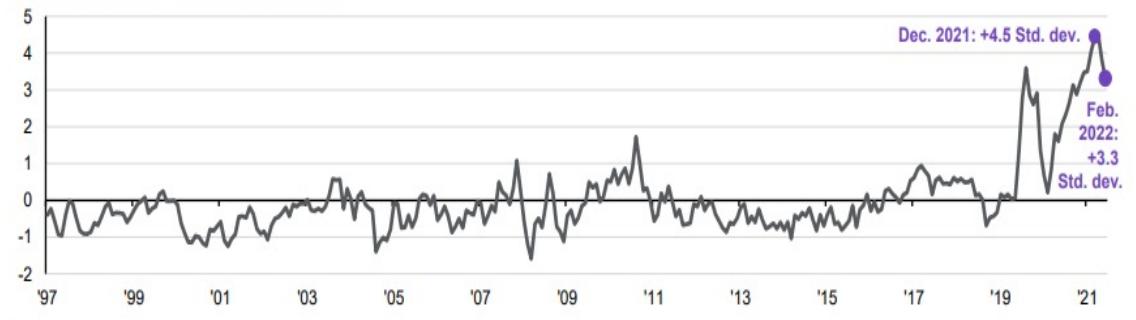
**Housing prices (which lead OER by 18 months) looks to have peaked**



**Global supply chains showing signs of having peaked**

**Fed Global Supply Chain Pressure Index\***

Standard deviation from average value



Source: JPMorgan, Federal Reserve Bank of New York

# 2022 – Global Macro Outlook

Ours views for the next 12 months



United States

Neutral

## Strong tailwinds for a pro risk sentiment

- Despite lowering growth expectations, healthy consumer and corporate balance sheets, sustained consumer demand and strong labor markets are supportive of growth in the short term.

## Uncertainty around quantitative tightening and Fed's aggressive hiking policy

- Quantitative tightening poses an immense threat to liquidity and the Fed's aggressive hiking outlook poses an uncertain and volatile future for US assets in the medium term. Ideal entry point after analyzing the impacts of Quantitative tightening on the markets.

Europe

Underweight

## Prolonged Russia-Ukraine Tensions

- A longer and escalated war between Russia and Ukraine is likely to result in severe disruptions in energy flows, causing more uncertainty and hurt growth.

## France's election frenzy

- France's presidential election has already started affecting European markets with widening spreads. Le Pen's political agenda of nationalizing industries, anti immigrant stance, cynicism of the EU and links to Putin pose a threat to European economic stability.

Japan

Neutral

## Weak economic fundamentals

- Slow vaccination and an anemic economic recovery does not bode well for Japanese equities in the short to medium term

## Continuity of supportive economic policy

- Kishida's efforts to push for greater than expected fiscal stimulus packages, an ultra-accommodative BoJ, and the open nature of Japan's market is likely to attract foreign investment.

China

Overweight

## Easing policy stance

- Unlike other central banks, the PBOC is moving more towards easing, with the bottoming of the credit cycle and acceleration in fiscal spending offsetting the growth shock from the zero-covid policy and property crisis and move towards the 2025 GDP goal of 5.5%.

## Relatively insulated from global inflationary pressures

- With supply chain disruptions showing signs of abating, China's self-sufficiency in commodities combined with sufficient national stockpiles largely insulate them from food and energy inflation that could spur policy tightening and hurt growth.

Emerging Markets

Neutral

## Commodity super-cycle provides significant boost to exporters

- Many EM net-exporters of commodities should see boost to balance of payments and terms of trade.

## Laggard policy and currency risk

- Emerging Markets have been laggard in terms of economic reopening due to less agile central banking policies, trading liquidity and USD exposure risk.

Asia Ex-Japan

Overweight

## Rapid reopening of the region

- Travel and tourism heavy regions of Asia are set to see massive increases in inflows and GDP after three years of economic closure, coupled with increases in economic activity.

## ASEAN to benefit from continued bipolarization of global power

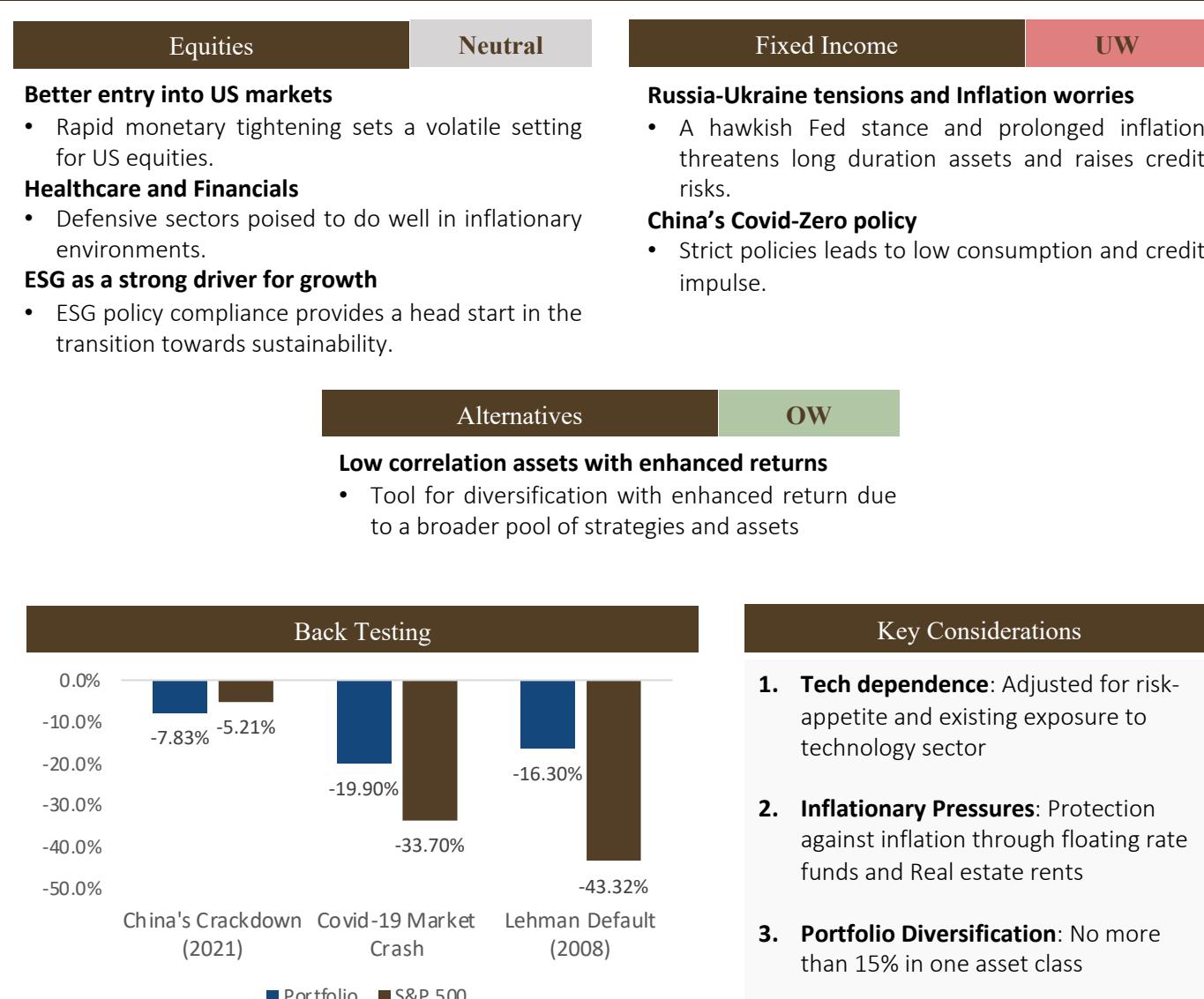
- ASEAN is a key substitute for the west for Chinese and Russian supply chains, while also benefitting from increased trade with China during periods of international trade tensions

# Tactical Allocation

Adjusting for risks and opportunities in the short to medium term

	Fund Name	Strategic Allocation (%)	% Change	Tactical Allocation (%)
<b>Equities</b>		<b>55</b>	+0%	<b>55</b>
US	Franklin US Opportunities	15	-2	13
Asia ex Japan	JPM Asia Pacific Equity	6	+1	7
China	JPM China A Equity	9	+1	10
EM	JPM Emerging Market Equity	6	-1	5
Europe	JPM Europe Dynamic	7	-1	6
Japan	JPM Japan Equity	4	0	4
Healthcare	JPM Global Healthcare	3	+1	4
Thematic (ESG)	Wellington Global Impact	5	+1	6
<b>Fixed Income</b>		<b>35</b>	-10%	<b>25</b>
Financials	Pimco Capital Securities	10	-3	7
High Yield	BGF Asian High Yield	10	-4	6
Global Bonds	JPM Income	10	-3	7
Senior Loans	Invesco US Senior Secured Loans	5	0	5
<b>Alternatives</b>		<b>10</b>	+10%	<b>20</b>
Real Estate	Blackstone REIT (BREIT)	3	+3	6
Hedge Fund	Blackstone Diversified Multi Strategy (BXDMS)	4	+4	8
Private Infrastructure	Brookfield Super-Core Infrastructure Partners (BSIP)	3	+3	6

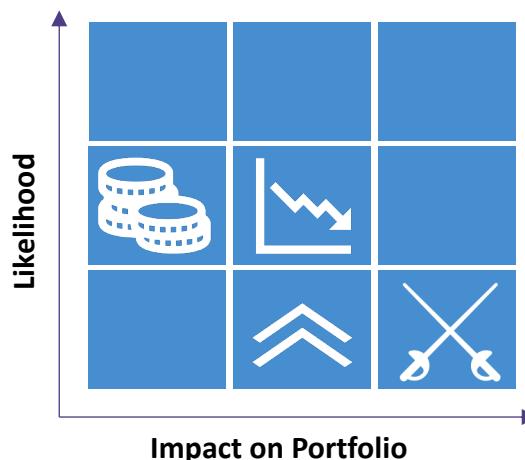
Data from JPM Long-Term Capital Market Assumptions



# Risk Management

Scenario Analysis and Stress Testing to reduce downside risk

	Risk	Trigger Points	Change
	Protracted escalation of Russia-Ukraine tensions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Systemic crises could threaten outsized and prolonged drawdowns in risk assets</li> <li>Disruptions in energy supply, coupled with incredibly tight inventories pre-conflict could cause recession, akin to the energy crises of 1973 and 1979.</li> </ul>	Defensive positioning in the short-term, through sector and asset class selection, as well as convexity hedges, at least until tensions abate.
	Policy normalization – Rising yields and balance sheet reductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rising rates around the world could be a drag on valuations and multiples, with larger impacts on long duration assets such as growth equities and long bonds.</li> </ul>	Reducing duration exposure while allocating to sectors that historically outperform in rising rate regimes.
	Increased Funding Costs and Margin Calls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rising interest rates can make borrowing expensive</li> <li>Drastic drawdowns in portfolios can lead to margin calls</li> </ul>	Deleverage the portfolio during volatile markets and during the transition towards the capital preservation phase.
	Global Slowdown and Stagflation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High levels of costs coupled with loose labor markets, weaker manufacturing and lower consumption could cause a stagflationary scenario that causes weakness in portfolio assets</li> </ul>	Using leading indicators of market fragility and credit risk to adjust hedges such as flatteners and protection, and reallocate to safe-haven assets



Employing quantitative methods such as leading credit risk indicators, inflation indicators allow us to look out for potential risks

 Active management ensures we keep up to speed with market changes, and capitalize on them to generate excess returns

 Regular Portfolio reviews and asset rebalancing using proprietary risk management models that aligns with client's and the firm's risk tolerance

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