

Investment Conference 2023

Active Management Matters

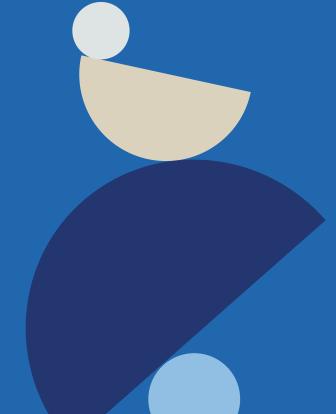
June 2023 Zurich Ireland





Welcome

Jonathan Daly Head of Retail Distribution and Propositions



Market Overview

2022 Data

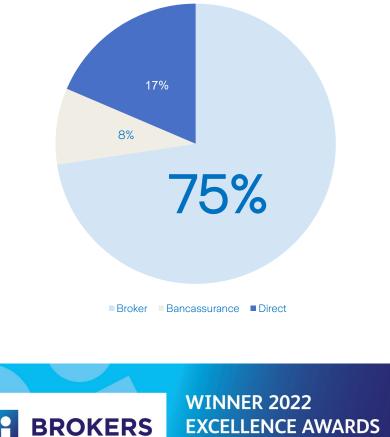
Market highlights

- Overall Market up 10%
- Broker Market up 8%
- Pension Regular Premium business up 21%
- Life Single Premium business down 18%

2023 – The year of the PRSA



Market Distribution Mix





Investment Provider Excellence Pensions Provider Excellence

Making a difference

Financial

Brokers





Prisma Funds - available on all products

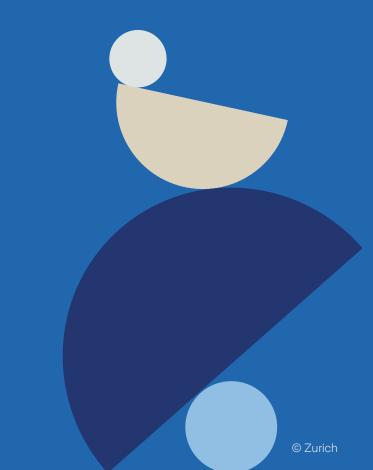
Source: Zurich, June 2023. Based on €100,000 invested on 31/10/2014 to 09/06/2023. 100% allocation, 1.5% annual management charge for all providers)





Macro & Markets Outlook: Threading the Needle

Guy Miller Chief Market Strategist & Economist Zurich Insurance



Key Points



Growth and inflation	China reopening	Strong labour markets	Underlying economic vulnerability	Bifurcated economic activity	Dislocation in banking sector	Equity markets have held in well	Financial markets
Have proven more resilient than expected, forcing additional policy tightening	– and a less severe energy crisis in Europe had improved prospects, but are fading	in many regions and excess savings have fuelled consumption	is becoming evident, with global growth set to fall below trend	with services robust and rate sensitive sectors weak	is not deemed systemic, but will restrict financing further	as investors look to better times ahead, but complacency is building	appear to be under-pricing the risks, with credit and equities expensive



European energy situation improves markedly on mild weather



Economic outlook remains challenging with sentiment and activity weak



The pace of China's economic upswing is fading



Manufacturing remains tepid due to weak Western demand

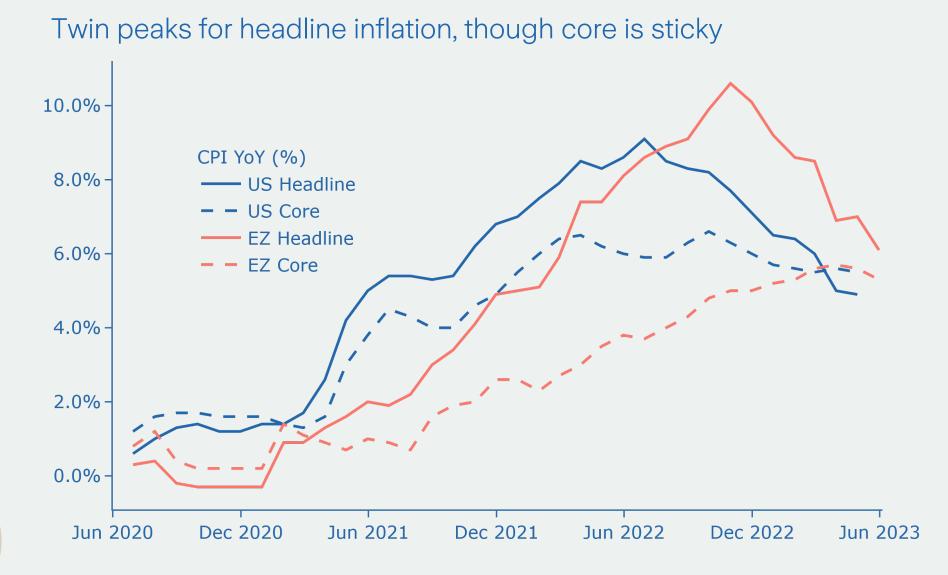




Inflation is still proving to be troubling

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Core readings are forcing a more aggressive policy response

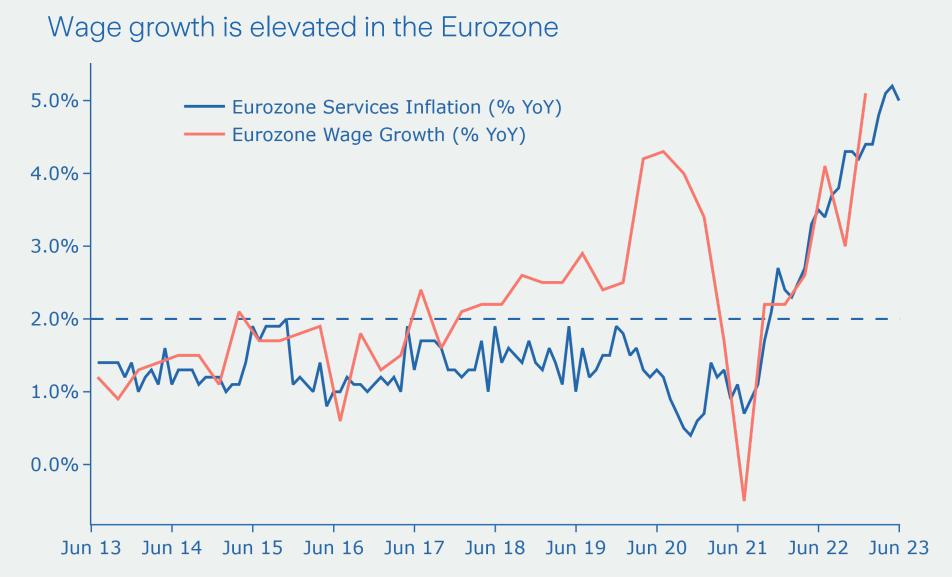


Source: Bloomberg

Strong wage growth is a concern for the ECB

Services and underlying inflation often driven by wage growth

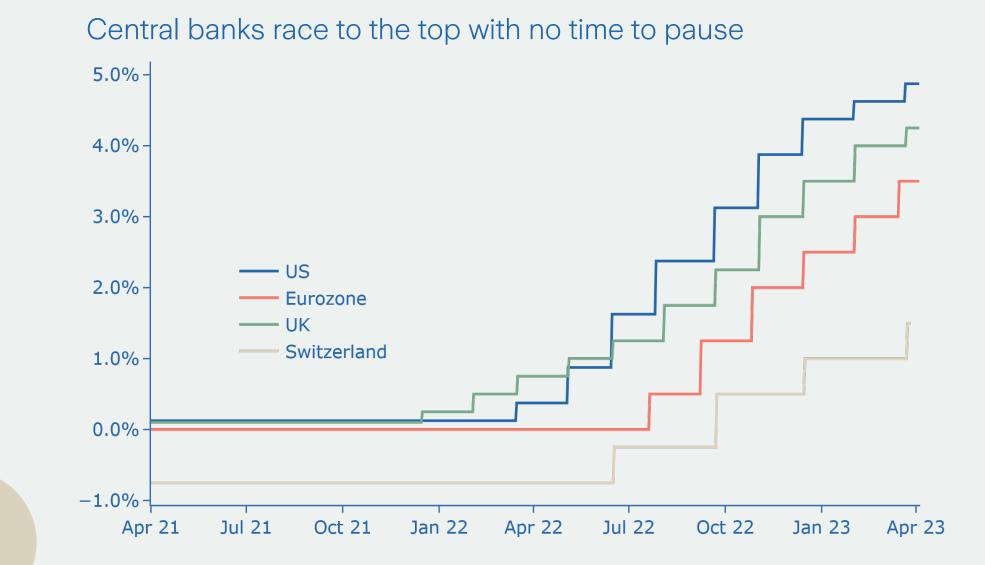




Extreme shift in the policy regime

Pace and scale of tightening is having unintended consequences



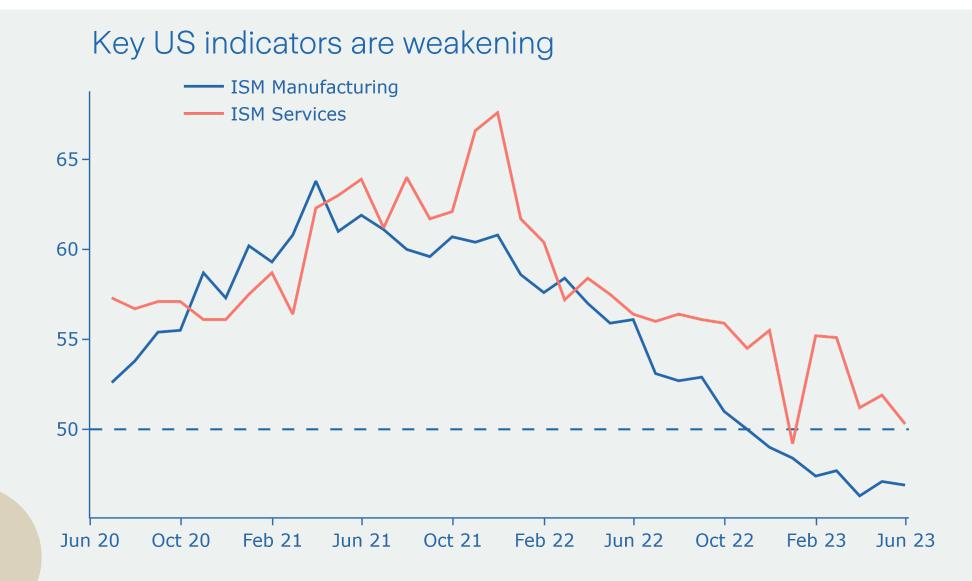


Source: Bloomberg 11 © Zurich

US manufacturing has pointed to recession for some time



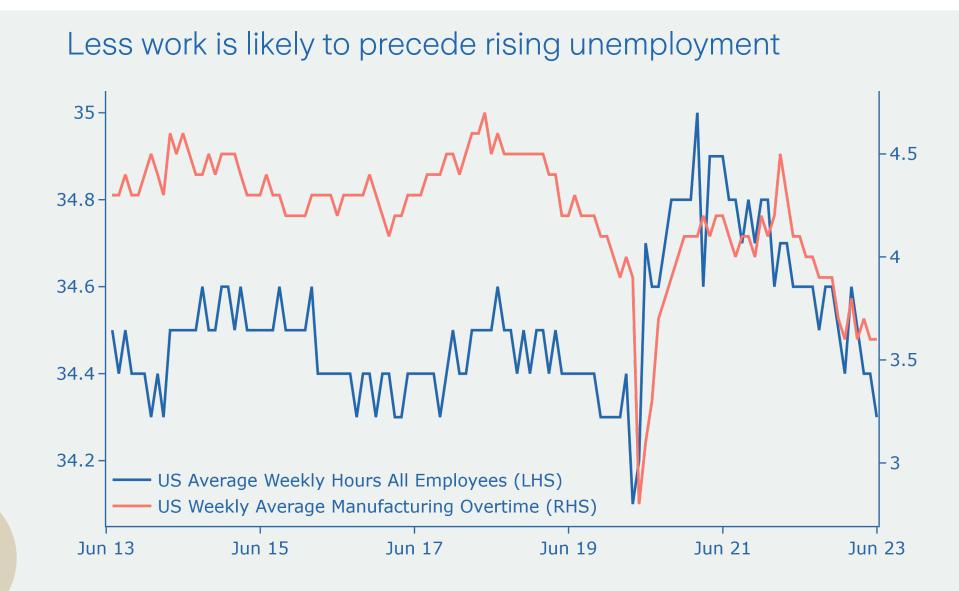
Service activity is now also slowing meaningfully



Tight labour markets, but fewer hours worked



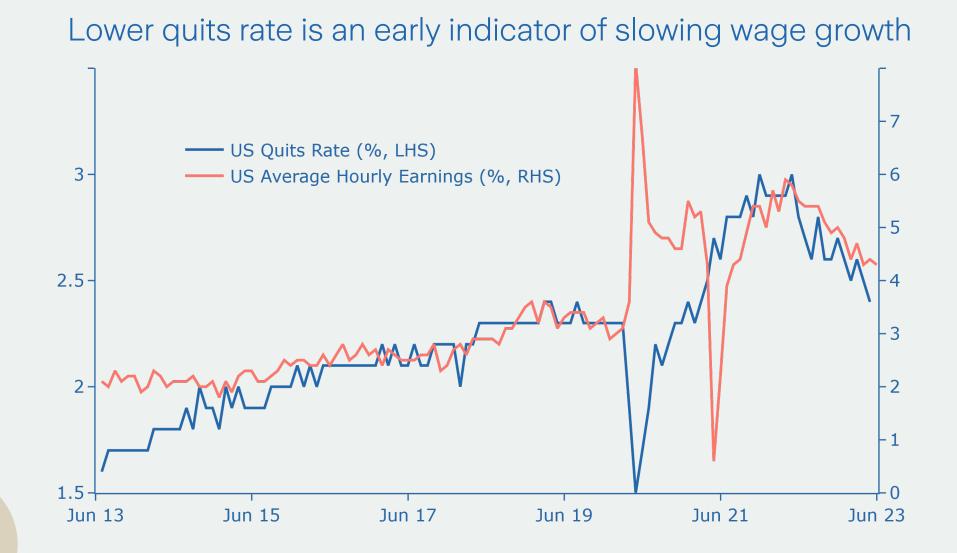
There are increasing signs that the US labour market is weakening



US employees are getting more reluctant to quit...



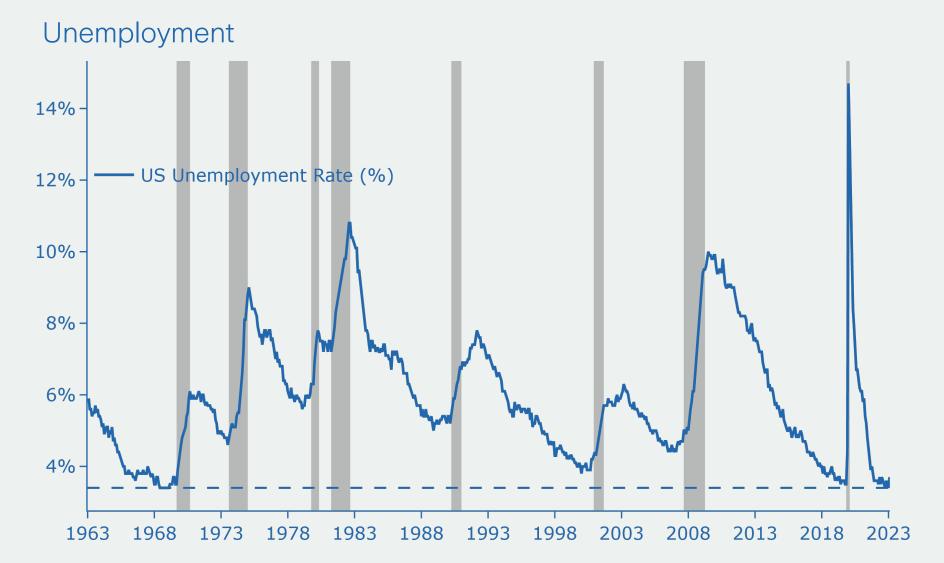
...signalling reduced wage pressure ahead



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Record low unemployment in many regions

Unemployment is a lagging indicator and typically is at its lowest point in the cycle prior to recession

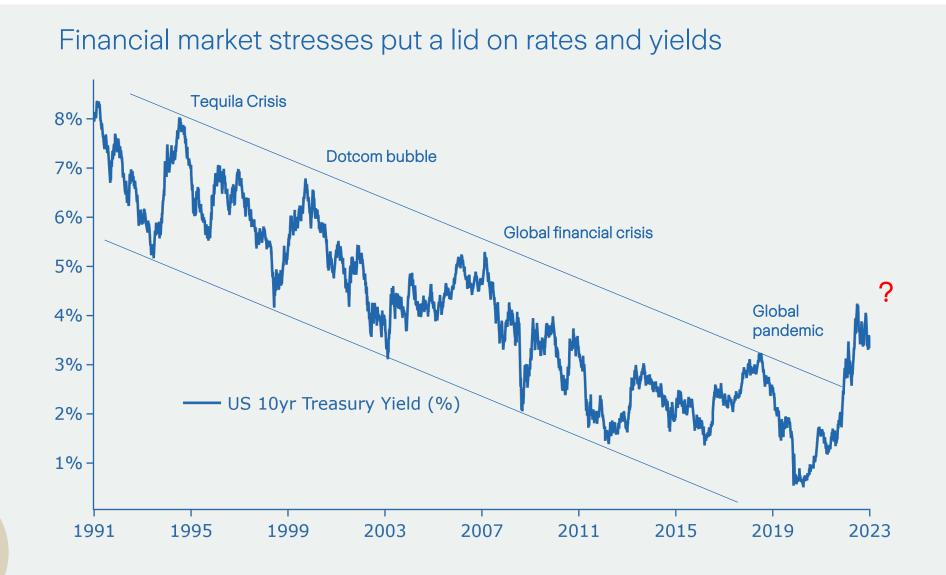


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Government bond yields remain capped

Peaking rates, falling inflation and recession are likely to keep government bond yields in check

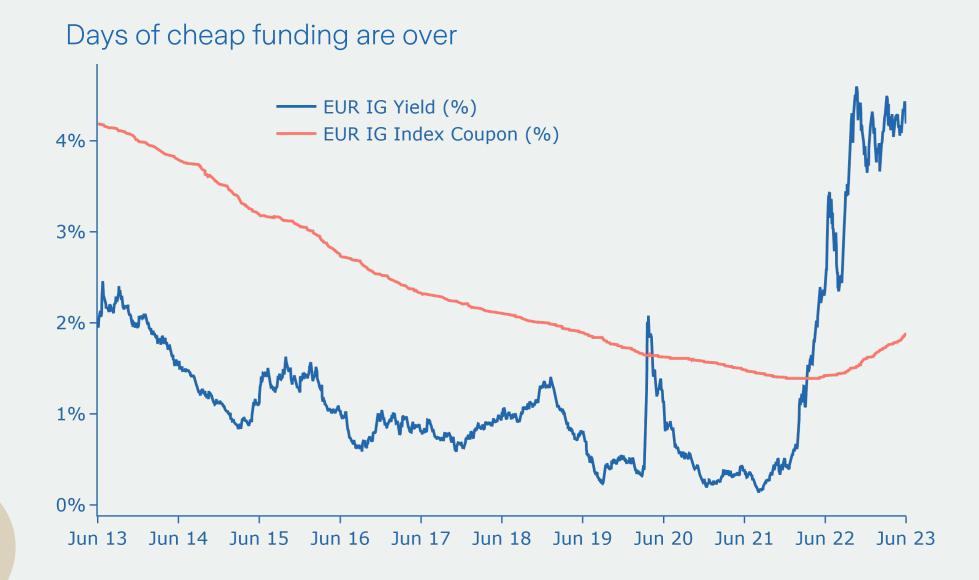




Hidden risks within the corporate sector



Money has a price again and it is starting to hurt

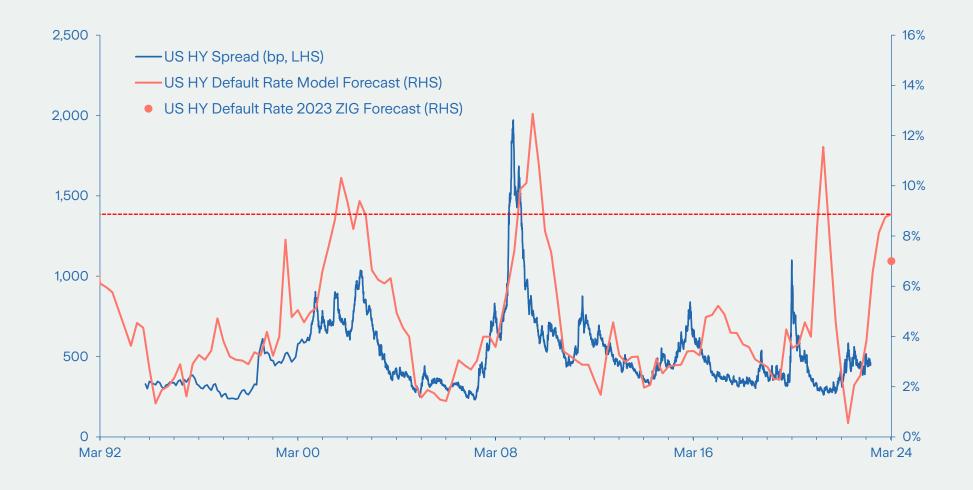


Lending Standards forebode a significant rise in default rates

Given stresses in banks, we have increased our default forecast to 7% from 5% in US high Yield



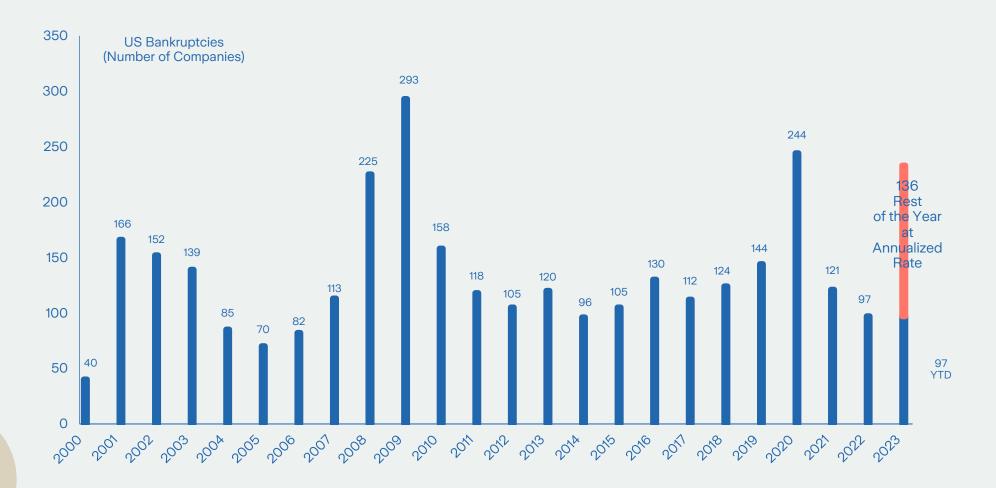
Markets appear sanguine given default prospects



Bankruptcies have risen sharply despite a recession not having started 💋 ZURICH[®]

2023 bankruptcies at an annualised pace rival those of financial crisis and Covid crisis years

The pace of bankruptcies in US has been sharp in 2023



Source: Bloomberg Note: Chapter 7 and 11, private and public companies with liabilities above USD 50m.

Deposit outflows continue unabated

Outflows started in 2022 for large banks but hit smaller banks since SVB collapse



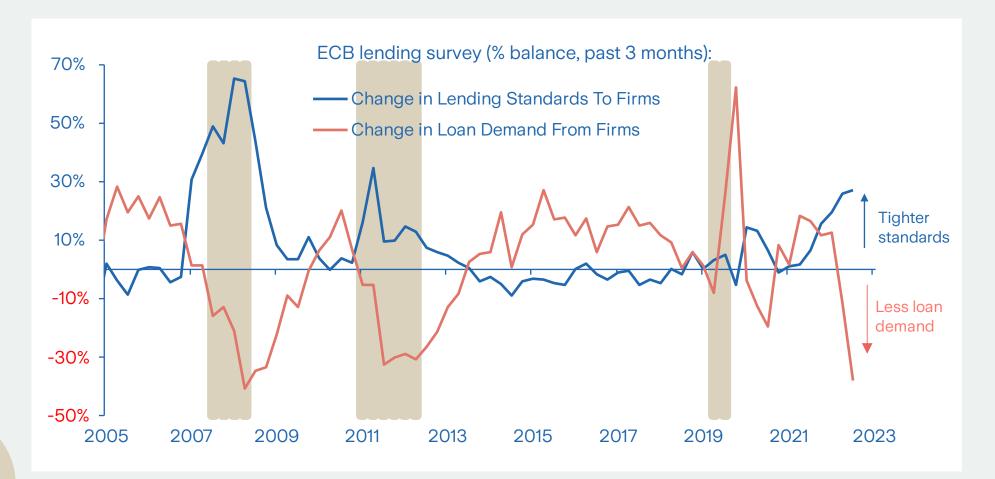
Investors get better yields and lower risk in alternative products 11,600 --5,550 -5,500 11,400 -5,450 11,200 -5,400 -5,350 11,000 -5,300 10,800 Large Domestic Banks (USD bn,LHS) -5,250 Small Domestic Banks (USD bn,RHS) 10,600 -5,200 Jun 2022 Dec 2022 Dec 2021 Jun 2023

Banks are tightening lending standards

Demand for loans slumps, as property markets cool and investment opportunities weaken



Rapidly changing credit environment



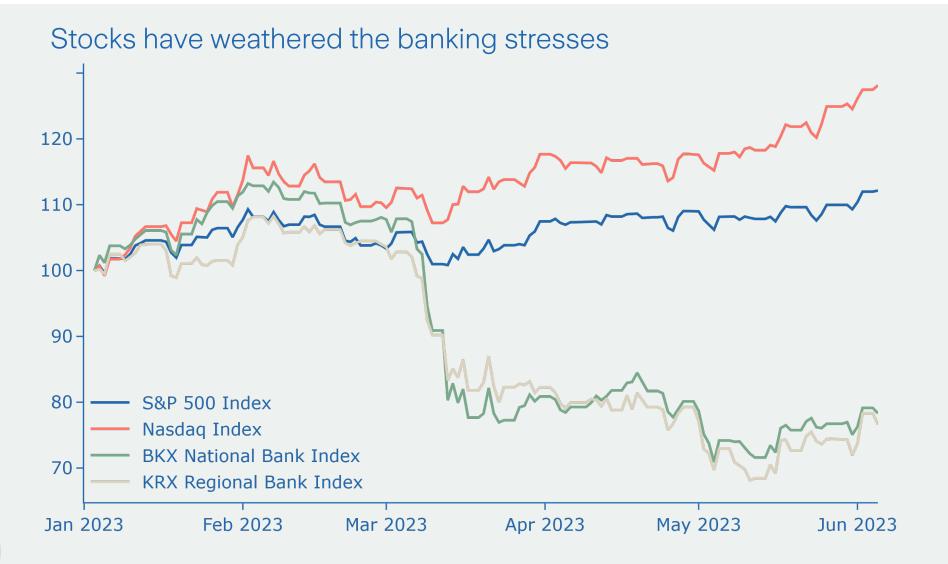
Note: Bars show Eurozone recession periods (at least two quarters with negative quarterly growth), ECB Lending Survey shows balance of lending institutions reporting tightened lending standards/weakening loan demand over the past 3 months

Source: ZIG, Bloomberg

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Global equities have a strong first half

Lower bond yields and hopes of a policy pivot have encouraged investors despite sector divergencies

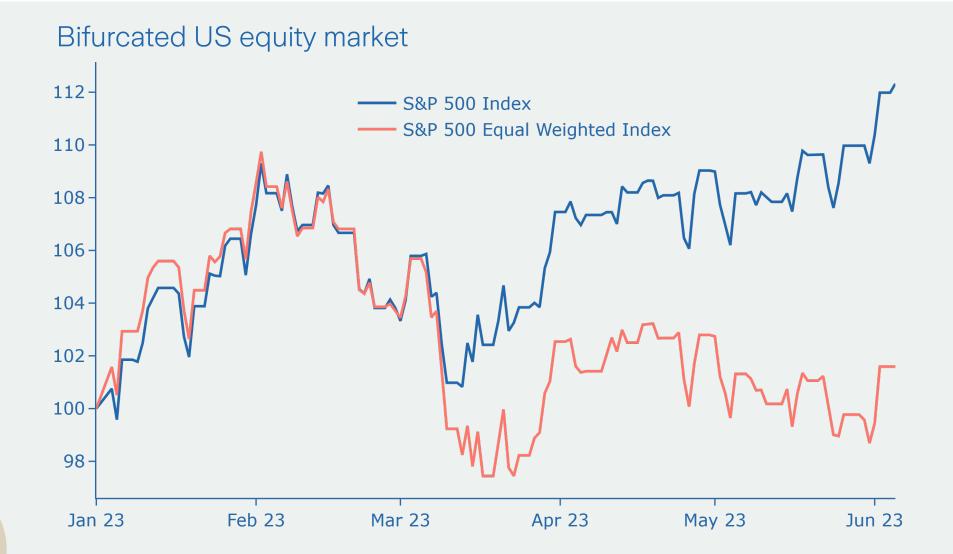




US equity rally is rather misleading

Large-cap tech skews the index, with most stocks lagging

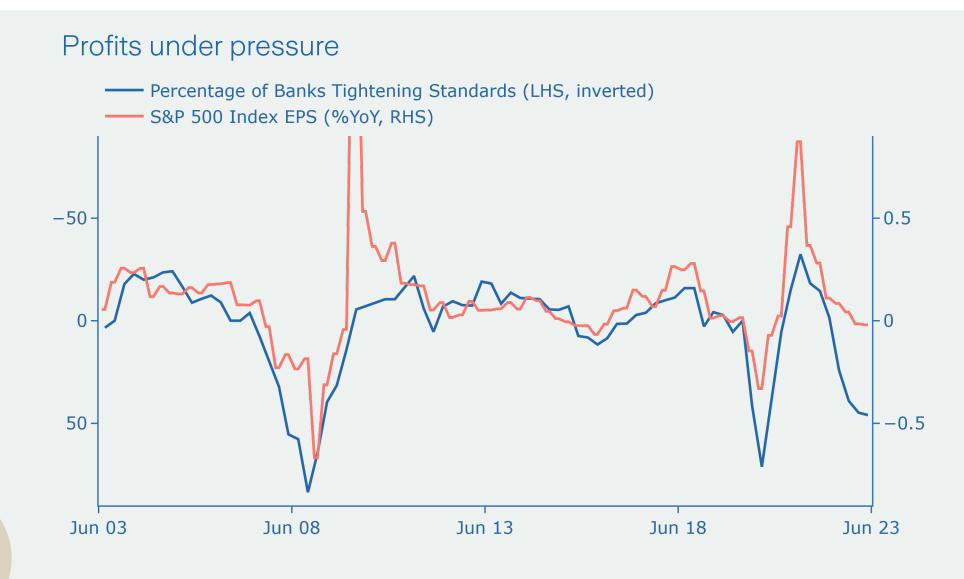




Tighter credit standards are a bad omen for corporate profits



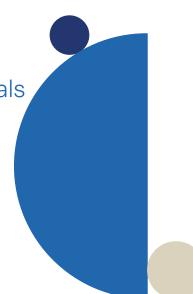
Earnings are expected to face further headwinds



Conclusions



- Risk of monetary policy overshoot is rising as focus is on squeezing out inflation
- Economic vulnerabilities are becoming more obvious with banks and SMEs in the front line
- Inflation is expected to ratchet lower, while a US recession is still on the cards
- Global imbalances seem manageable softening the impact of contractions
- While bond yields have priced in more hawkish policy, yields are capped by growth faltering
- Equity and credit markets are vulnerable having ignored rising rates and weakening fundamentals





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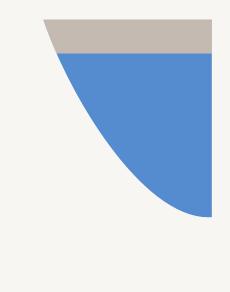


A much-changed landscape

David Warren Chief Investment Officer Zurich Investments

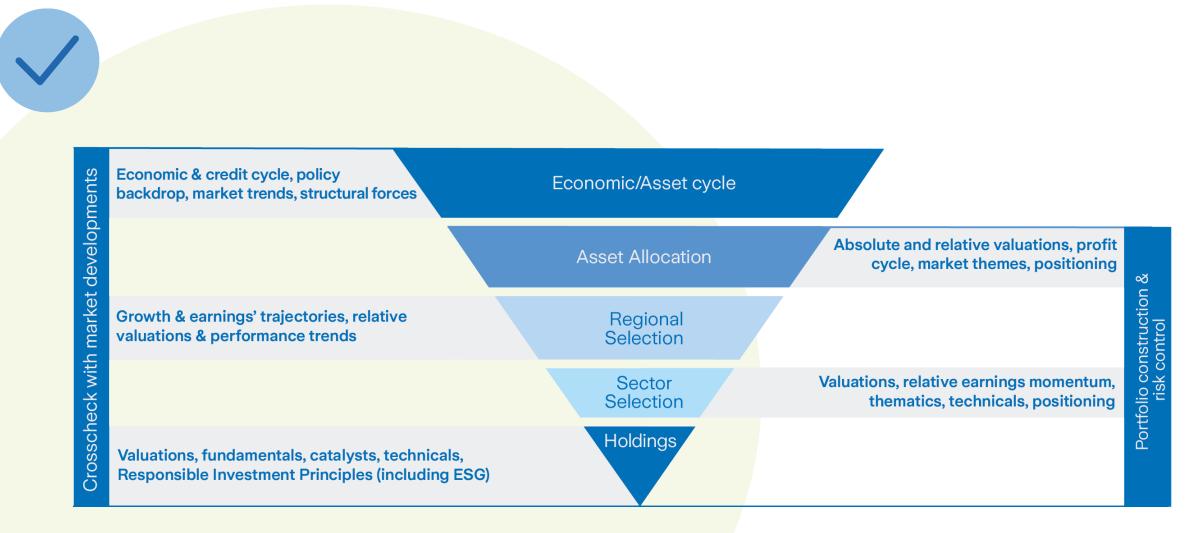
This is how we aim to invest





This is how we aim to invest

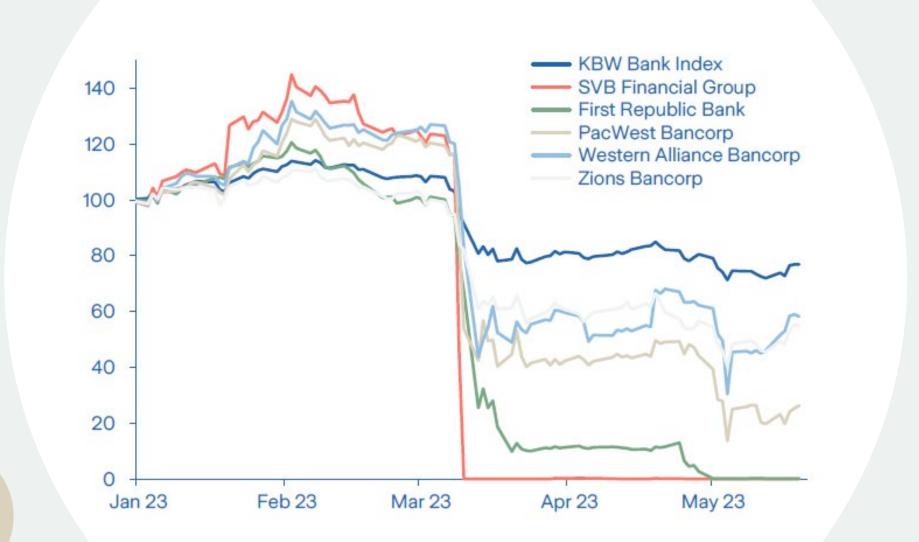




Shocks!

Regional banks are not out of the woods

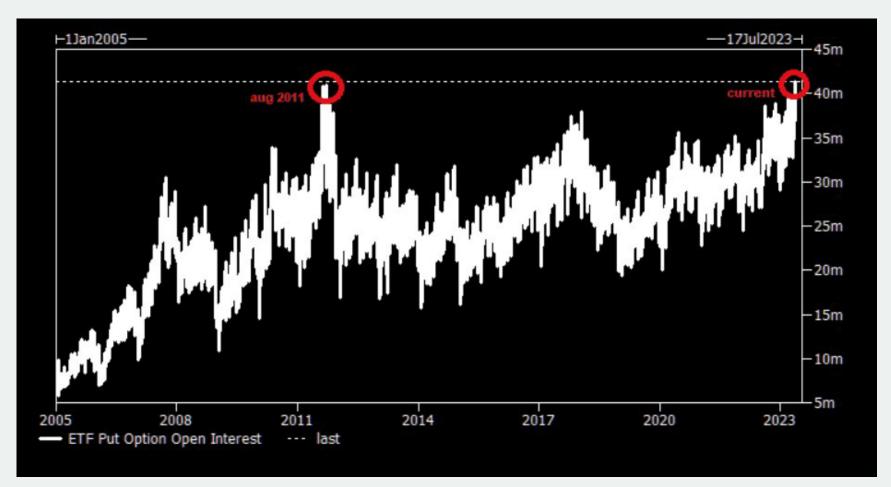




Equity strategy – caution abounds

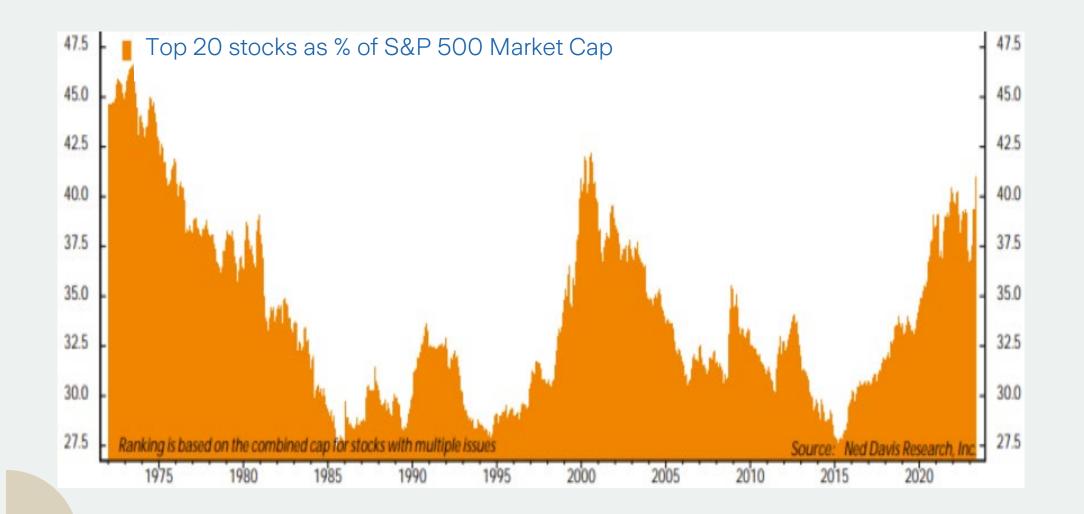


Listed Put Option Total Open Interest



The equity market and profits are concentrated

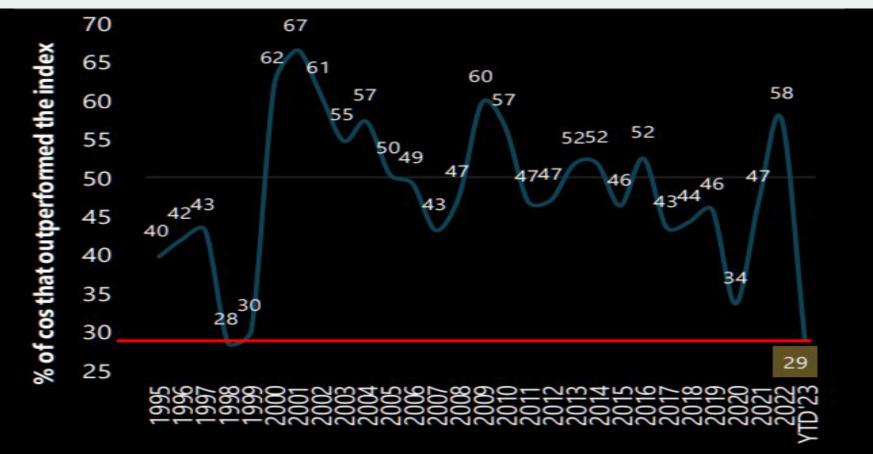




Narrowness of equity market to get resolved upwards?







Real rates higher on better growth so that's ok for risk assets?





Source: Bloomberg, 01/06/2018-01/06/2023 34 © Zurich

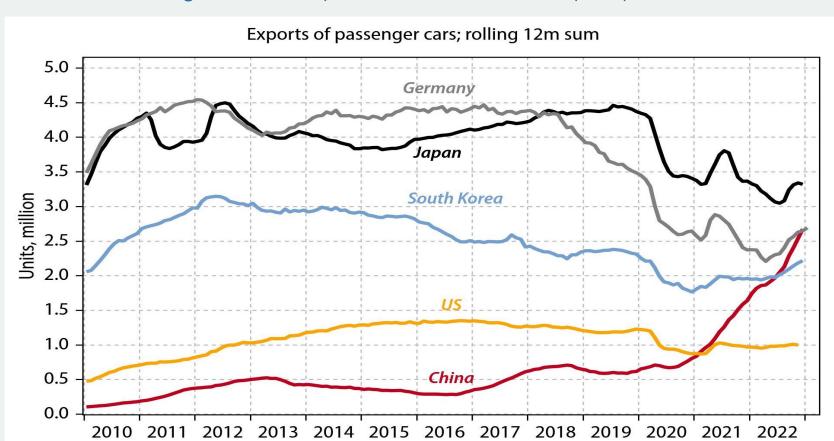
Inflation Expectations are Key to Medium Term Outlook for Risk Assets 💋 ZURICH[®]





Autos – going to get very competitive





China has emerged from the pandemic as an auto export powerhouse

Other topics of interest



Geopolitics: Always something to worry about. What about Taiwan?

Central banks: Full knowledge and full control?

Public debt: Is it the great landmine beneath us?

ESG & AI:

Can we have a discussion without mentioning them?

Why is **populism** not more popular?



Thank you

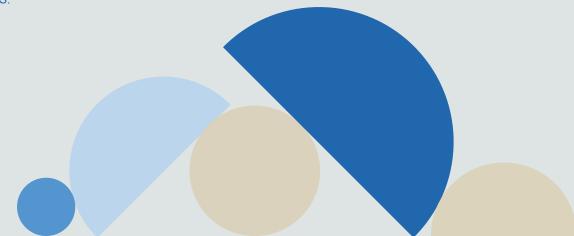
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Exploring the investment landscape

Panel Discussion





Anthony Conroy Head of Equity Allocation



John McDermott

Head of Unit-linked Bonds, ALM & Derivatives





Damien Meade Head of North American Equities

Major regions indices (in Euro)

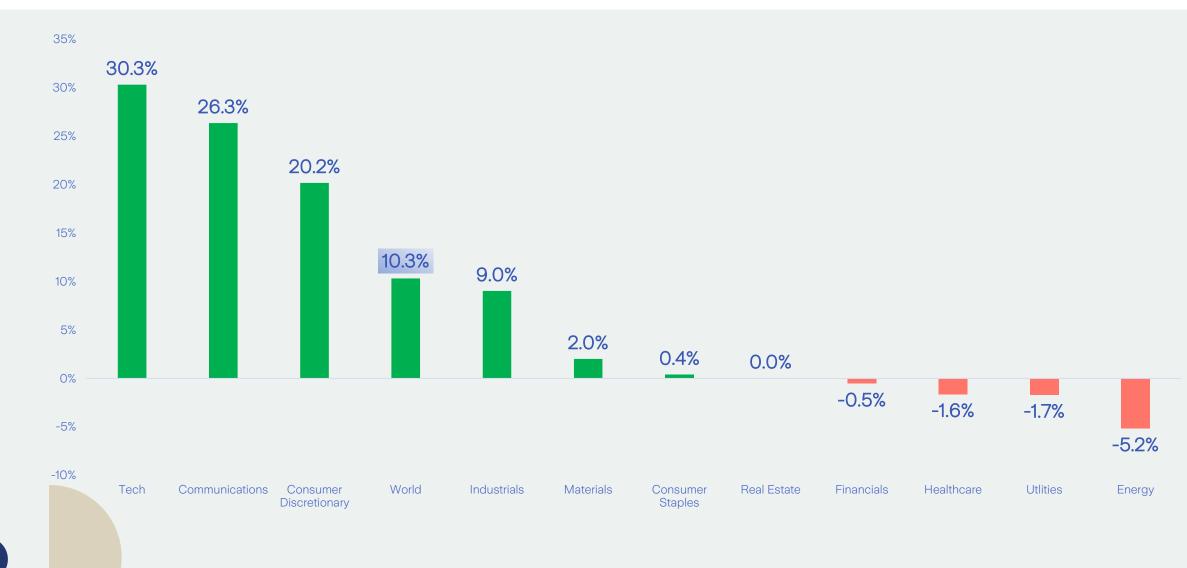
US now leading (AI)





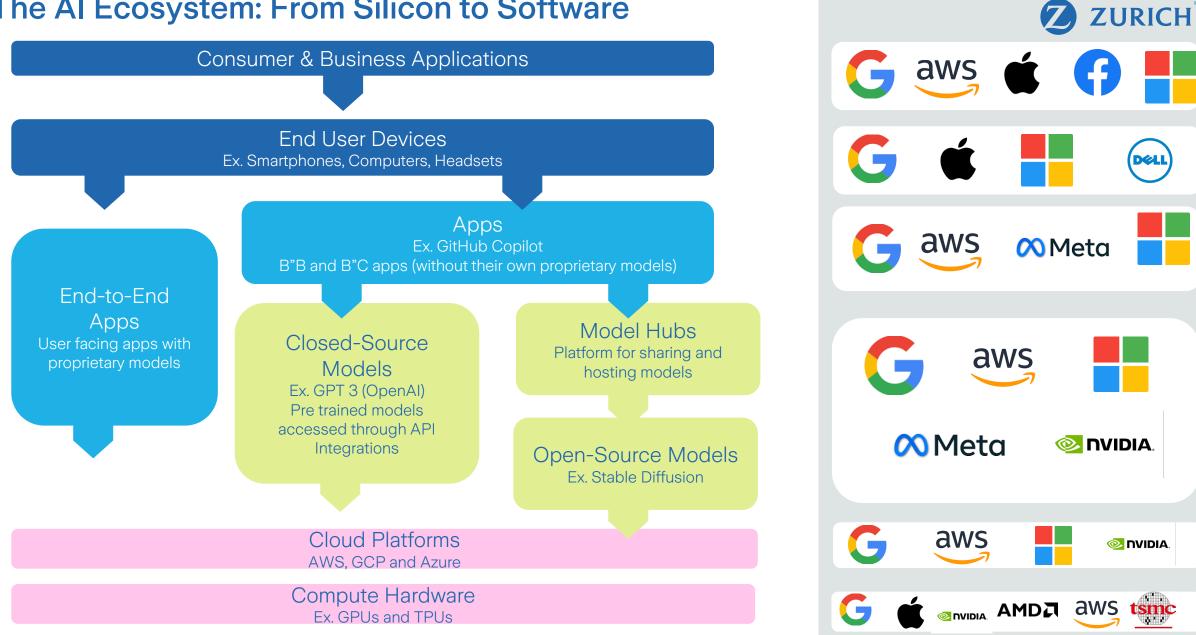
Sectors YTD

Growth leading Value





The AI Ecosystem: From Silicon to Software



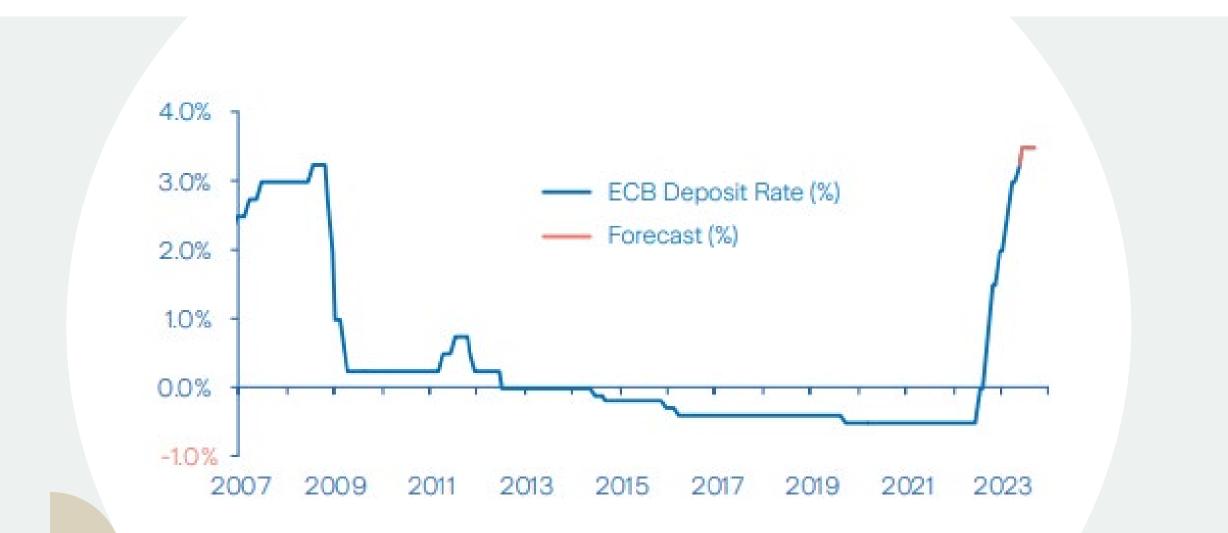
Headline inflation falls but core is sticky





The ECB raises rates aggressively

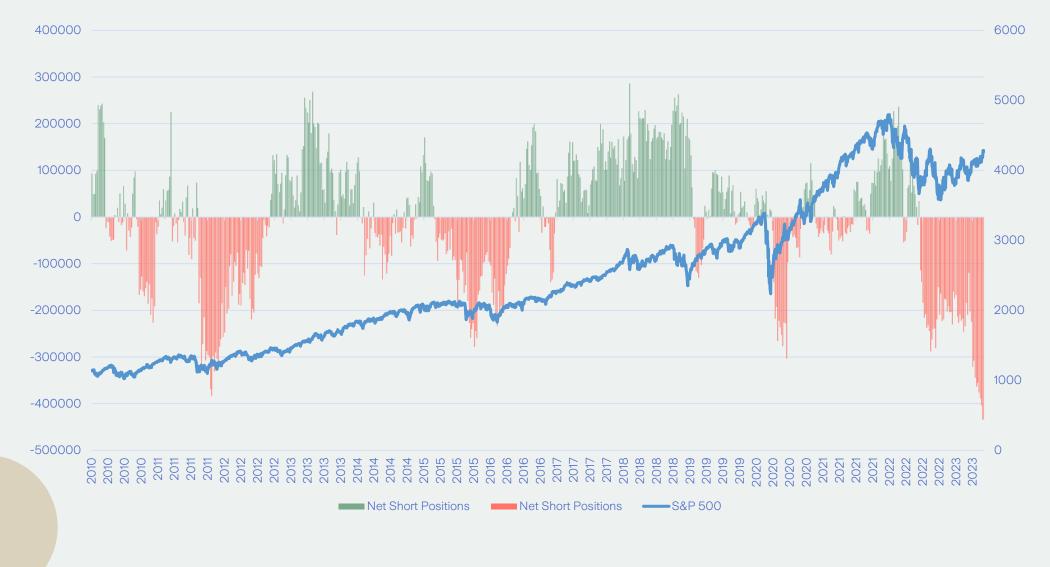




Source: Bloomberg, Market forecasts 45 © Zurich

Net short positions vs S&P 500 Level





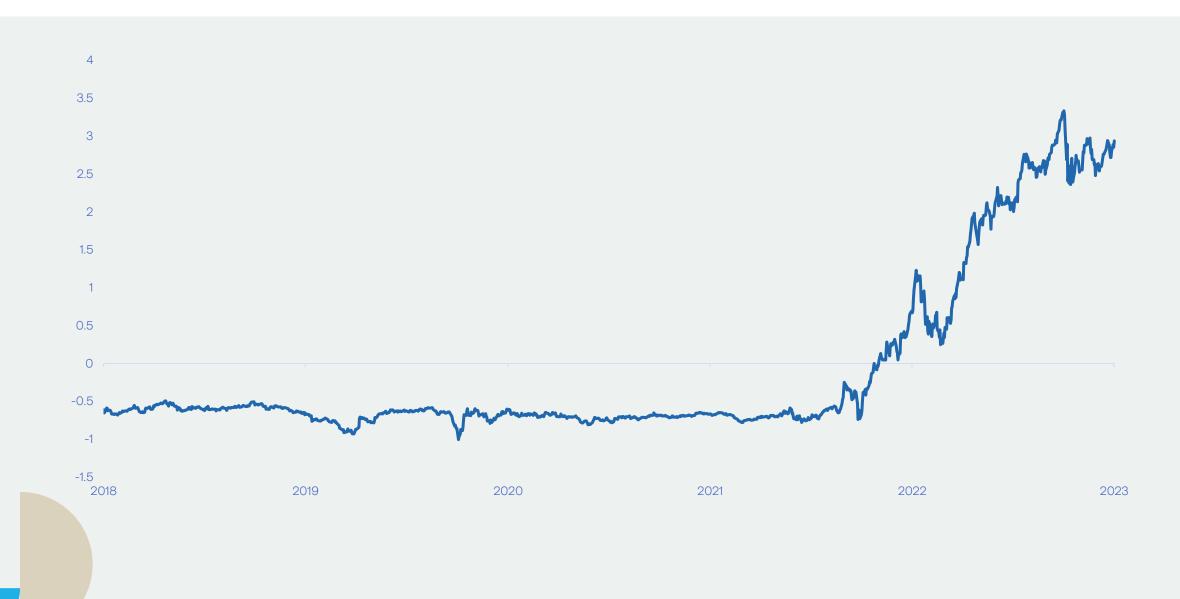
Eurozone Services and Manufacturing PMIs diverge





German two-year interest rate

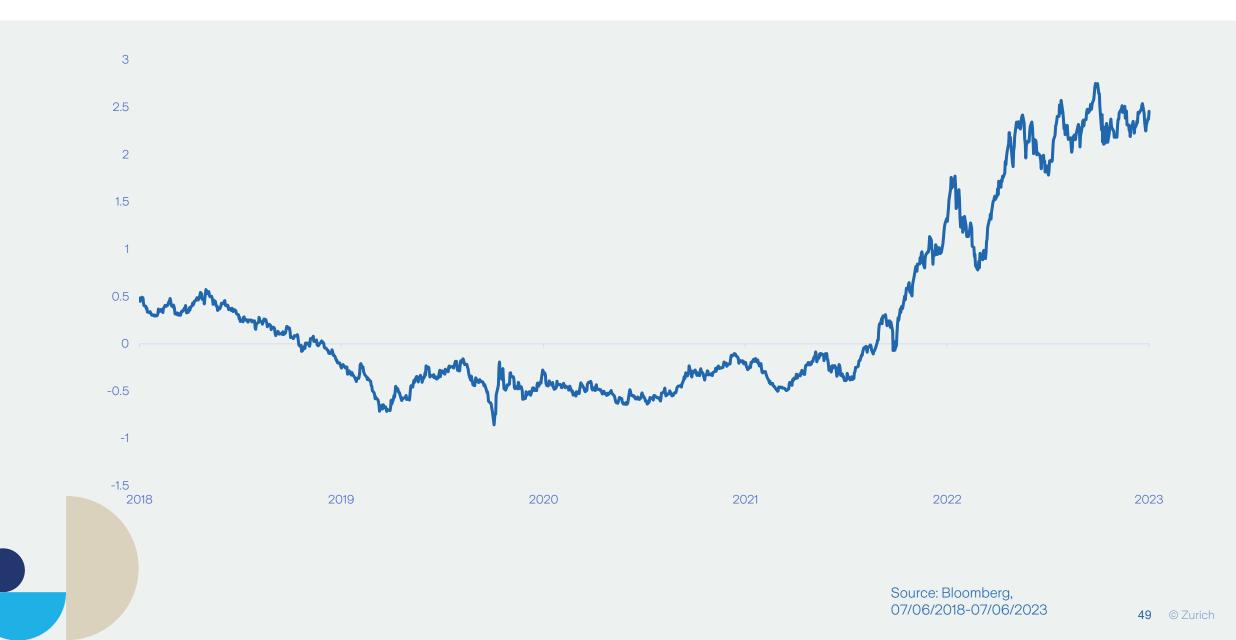




Source: Bloomberg, 07/06/2018-07/06/2023 48 © Zurich

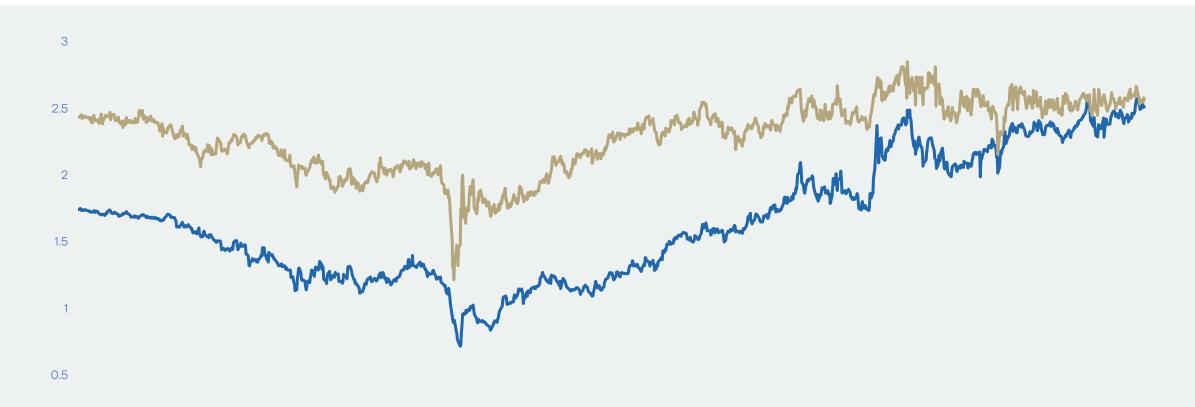
German ten-year interest rate





Inflation Expectations









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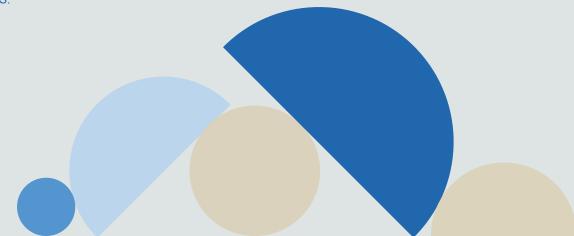
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Why good investment management matters: Look beneath the headlines

Terence Deacon Senior Client Relationship Manager Zurich Corporate





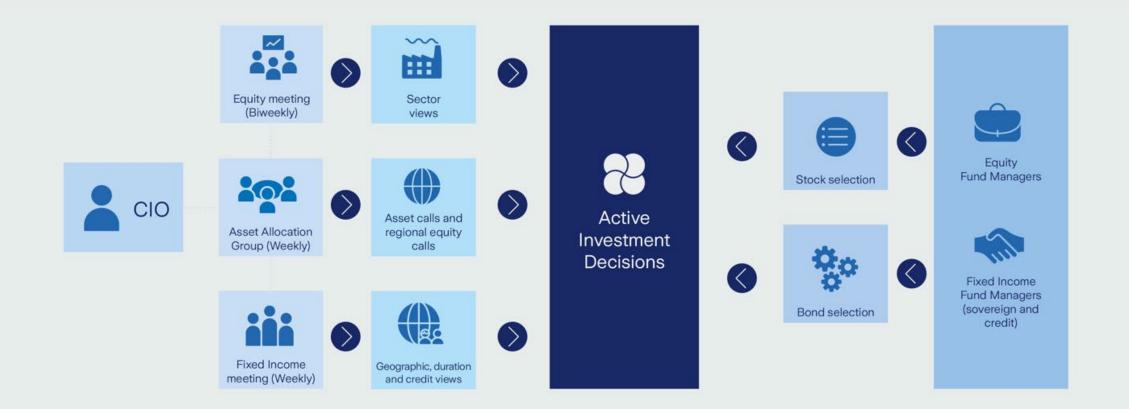
People + Process (+Prudence) = Performance



Investment Management Process

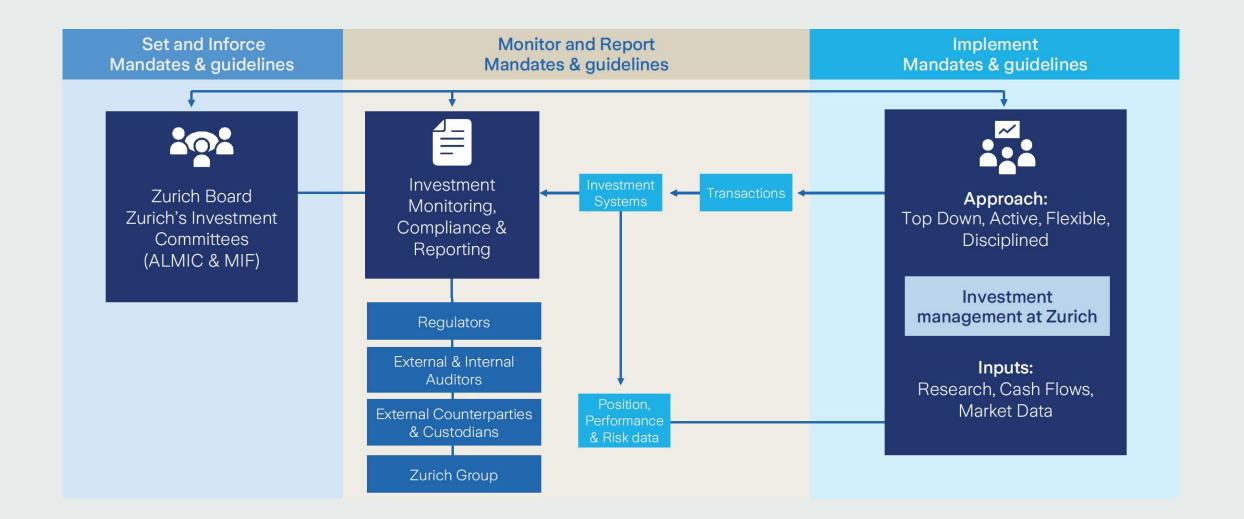
Investment Management at Zurich





Governance & Oversight of Zurich Investments



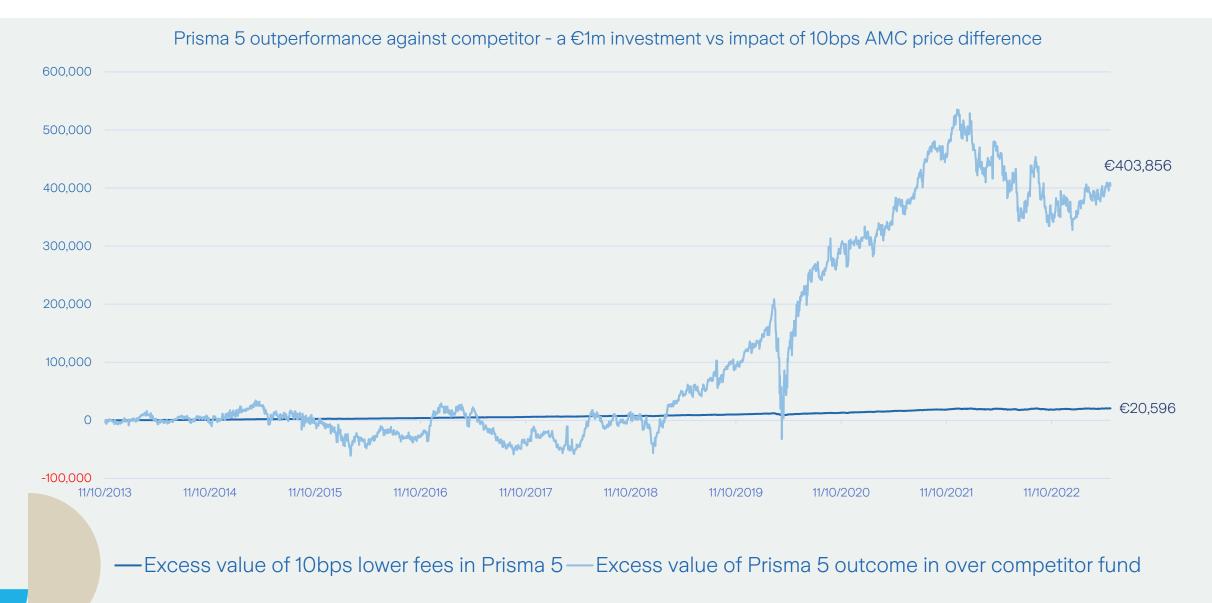






Prisma 5 - Better Outcomes or Reduced Fee?





Source: Zurich Life, June 2023 57 © Zurich



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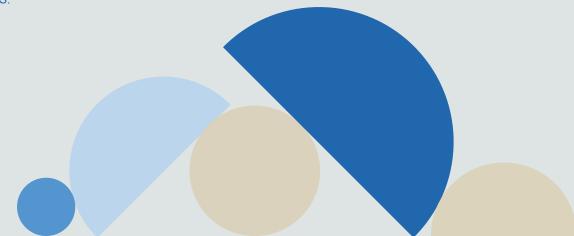
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Investment Governance & Risk Management: The bedrock of a Master Trust

Panel Discussion





Tom Vandamme

Chief Auditor / Key Audit Function Holder of Zurich Master Trust



Lisa Buckley

Head of Pensions & Benefits / Director of Zurich Master Trust





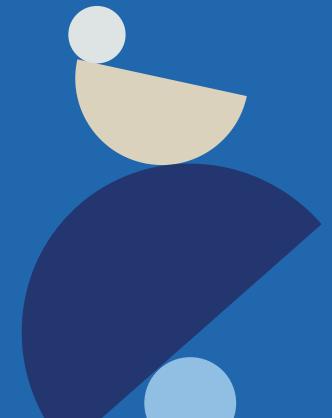
Rose Leonard

Head of Corporate Distribution & CRM / Director of Zurich Master Trust



Closing thoughts: A much-changed landscape?

David Warren Chief Investment Officer Zurich Investments



Closing Thoughts



Markets at an interesting juncture

Active Management Matters

Remain constructive medium term

Attentive to risks



Thank you

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