

Investment Conference

Investing today | A fine balancing act



#### **Market Overview**

2023 Data

#### **ZURICH**°

#### Market highlights

•	Overall Market	up 13%
•	Broker Market	up 14%
•	Pension - Regular	up 19%



#### 2024 opportunities

Pension - Single

- PRSA business at record levels (again!)
- Return to growth on savings & investments business

up 17%

- SFT increase? Changes to Exit Tax?
- Pension world increasingly complex



# 16% 777% Broker Bancassurance Direct

**Market Distribution Mix** 





# Some thoughts on what matters

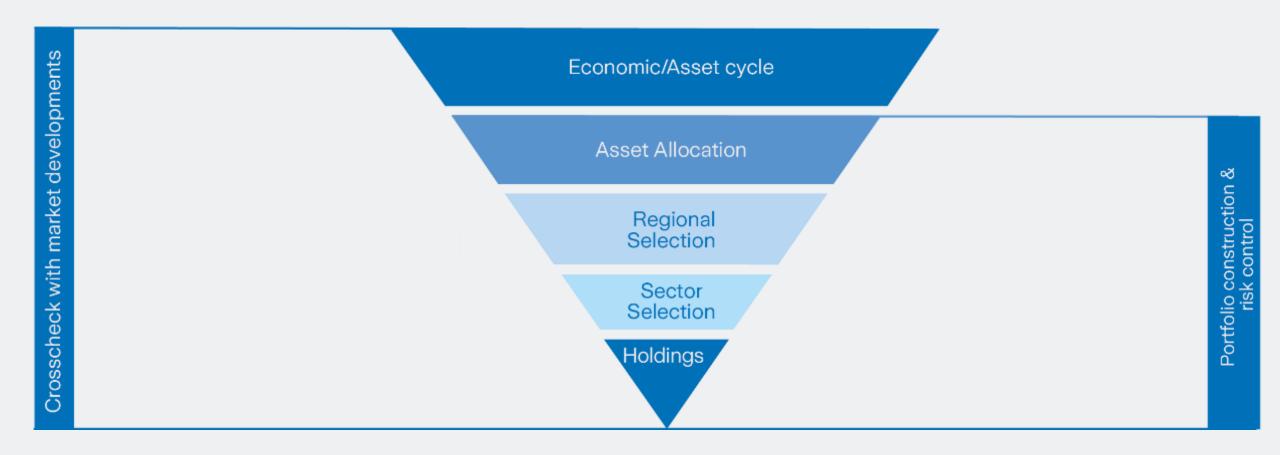
#### **David Warren**

Chief Investment
Officer,
Zurich



#### **Zurich's Top-Down Investment Process**





#### We try to focus on what matters for multi-asset investing



## Outcomes matter

Being right in 'the end' is not enough

## Earnings matter

Earnings are driven by firm-level, structural & macroeconomic factors

## Bonds matter

Top-down government & central bank policies drive long-term interest rates

## Valuations matter

And are inherently volatile

#### **Risk matters**

Our key risk is valuation not volatility

## Judgement matters

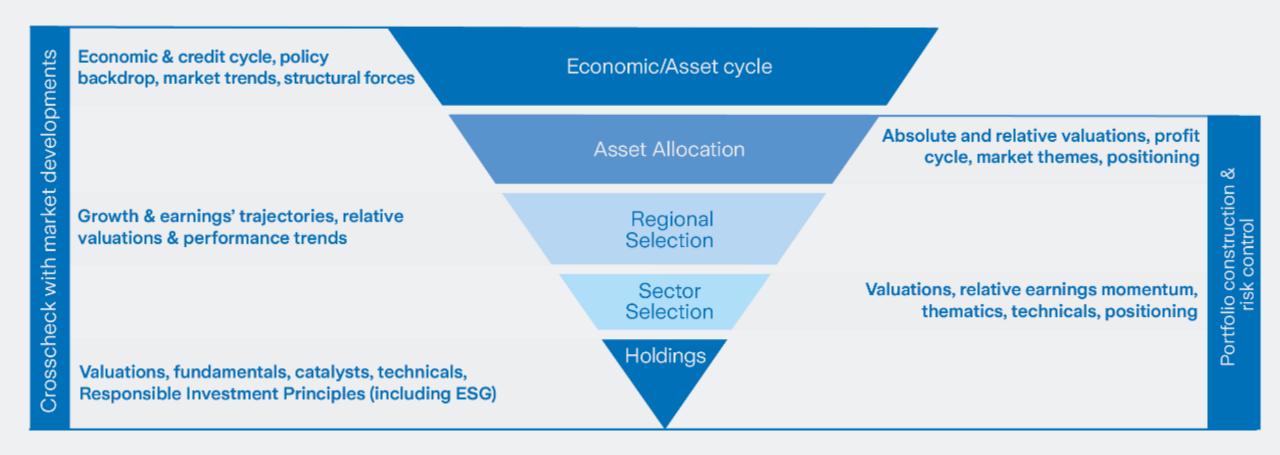
And more so than perfect knowledge; context is key

## Market concentration matters?

Not inherently good or bad

## What matters to us is being ACTIVE managers, ALIGNED with markets and ATTUNED to risks







#### **Key Points**

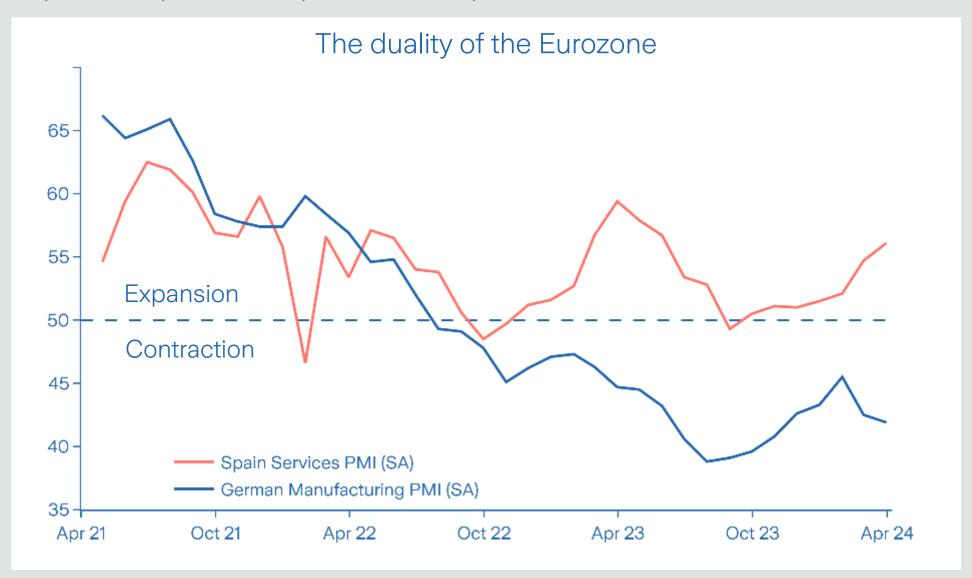


Global economic growth	Core inflation	Key for markets	Government bond yields	Equities offer better return	Political and Geopolitical
is set to be trend- like both this and next year	is expected to close-in on policy targets, but the path will be bumpy	- policy rate cuts are coming, albeit at a measured pace	are becoming stretched to the upside	prospects than credit in both up and down markets	risk remain rife, casting clouds on the horizon

#### Two-speed Europe exemplifies bifurcated global trends



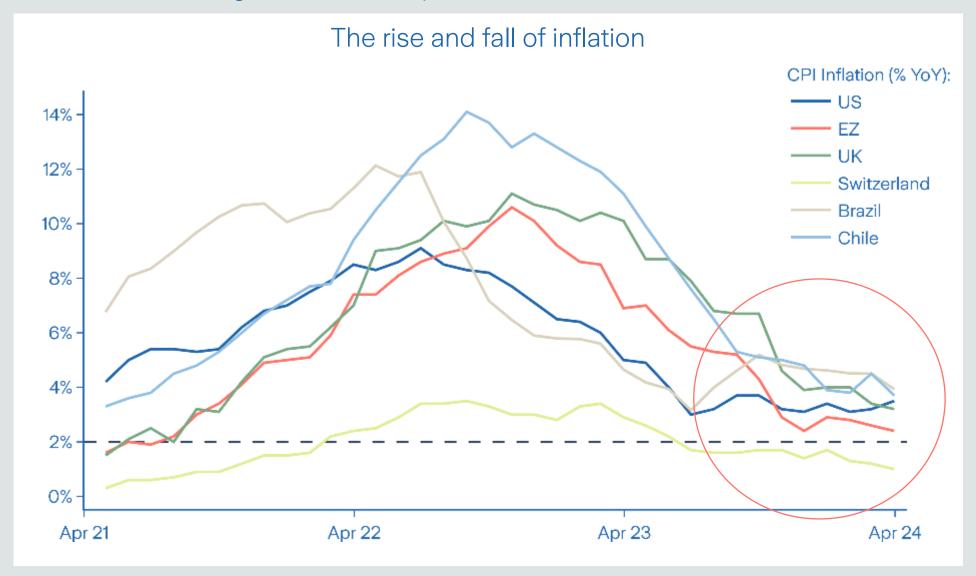
Contrasting the optimism of Spanish service providers and the pessimism of German manufacturers



#### Sharp decline in inflation raises hopes of lower rates and resilient growth



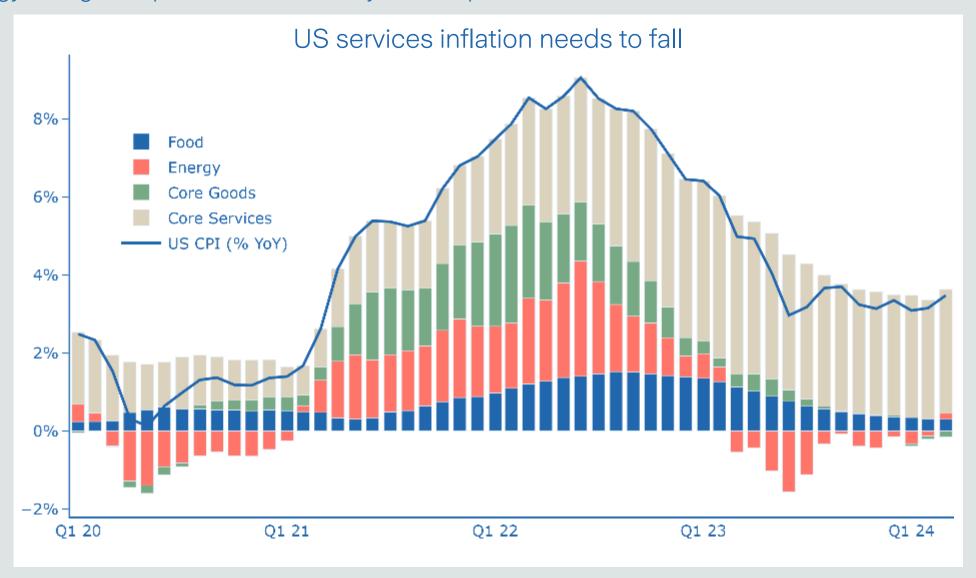
The decline of inflation has been global and lifted optimism, but further falls are needed



#### Inflation targets in key regions hinge on services



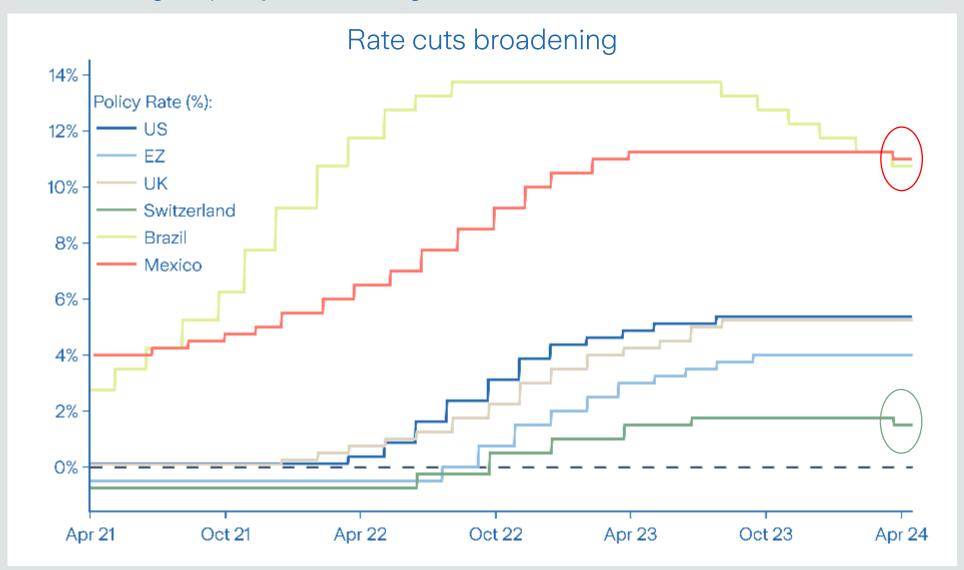
Food, energy, and goods price inflation already back to pre-Covid levels



#### Policy rates have peaked



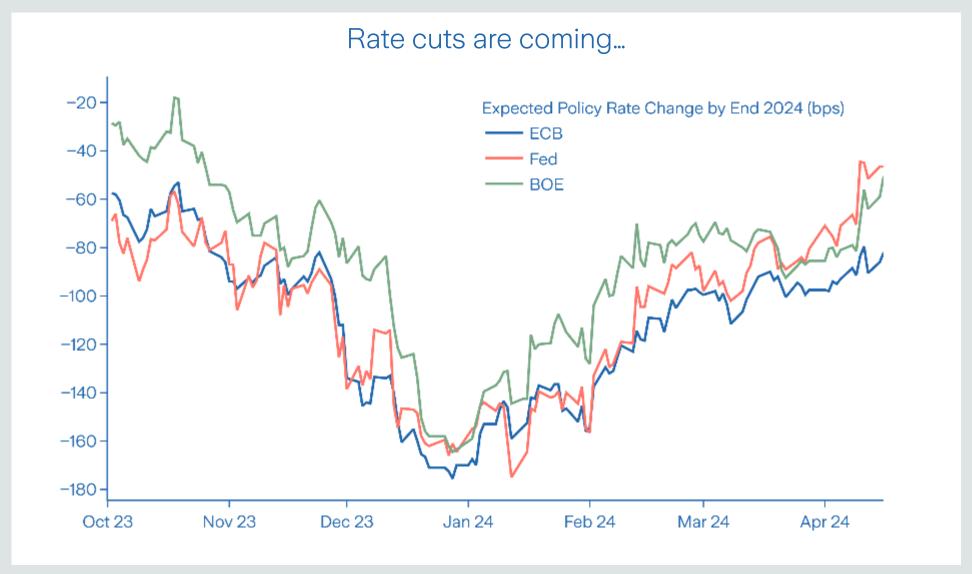
After a relentless march higher, policy is moderating



#### **Expectations of rate cuts have moderated**



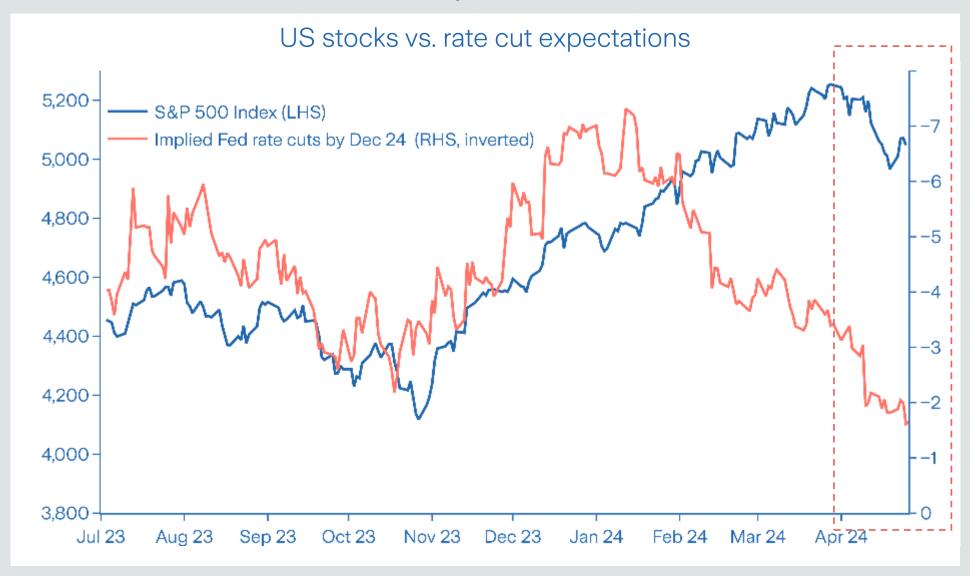
Market pricing is now reasonable



#### Rate cuts again matter to investors



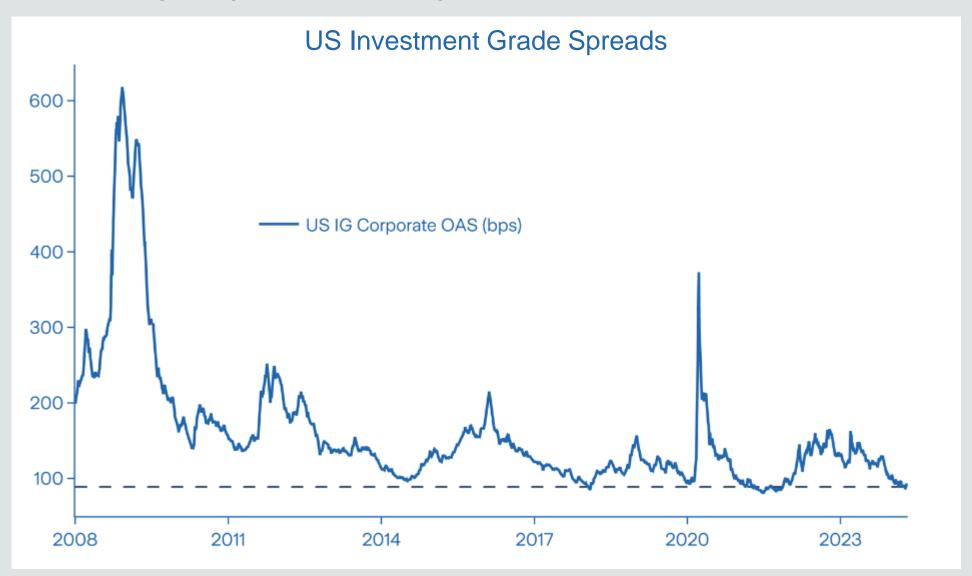
The key is that there are rate cuts, rather than how many



#### Credit spreads are already priced for perfection



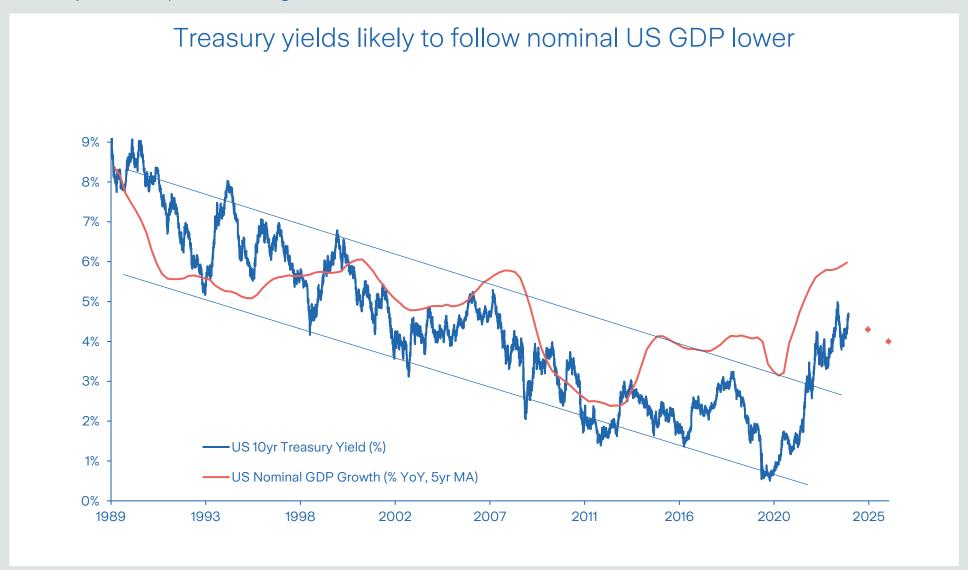
Limited potential for spread tightening, but a lot for widening creates an asymmetric risk profile



#### Government bond yields remain capped



Modest decline in yields expected as growth and inflation slow



Note: markers show ZIG forecasts for 2024 and 2025

#### Geopolitical turmoil has not led to an oil price shock so far



Oil prices have remained rangebound



#### **Conclusions**



Global growth set to hover around trend

Inflation expected to fall towards target over the remainder of the year

> Policy easing spreads to key central banks, but in a measured manner

**Financial** markets will be lumpy, but return prospects are good and favour equities



# Thank you

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#### **Panel Discussion**





Philip Duggan

Deputy CIO & Credit

Specialist



Michael Kelly
Head of European Equities



Damien Meade
Head of North American
Equities

#### German 2 Year Yield





Source: Bloomberg 2024

#### The days of negative yields are gone







#### Some Thematics - More than Al





**Market Broadening** 



Infrastructure Investment



Al Capex Beneficiaries



Decarbonisation

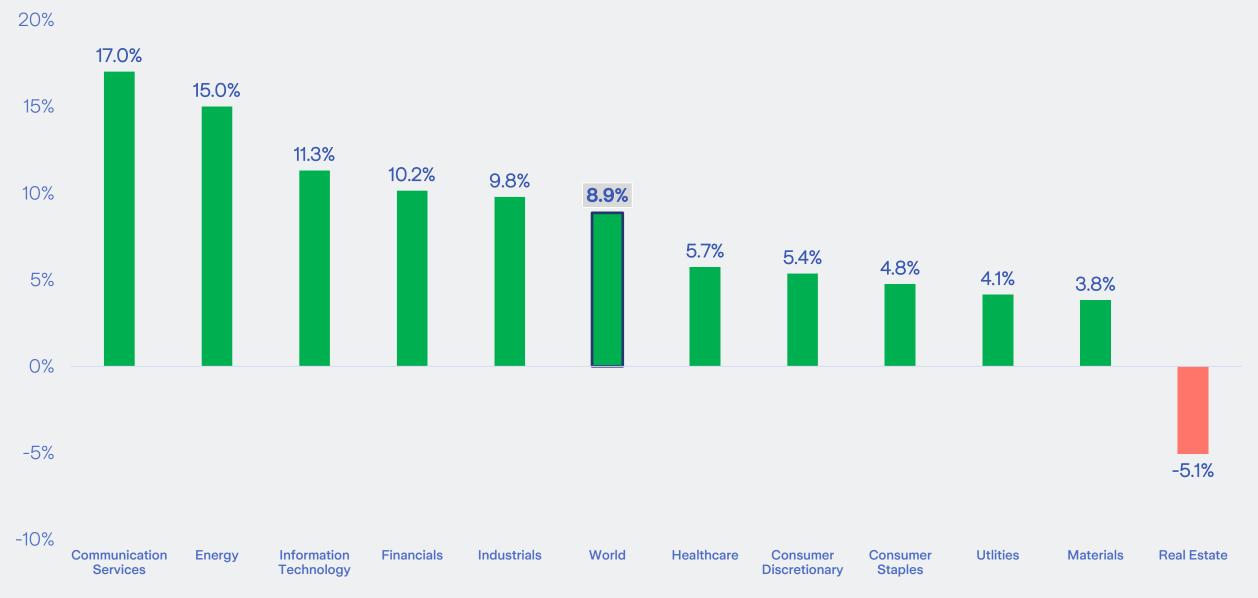


Diabetes/Obesity Drug



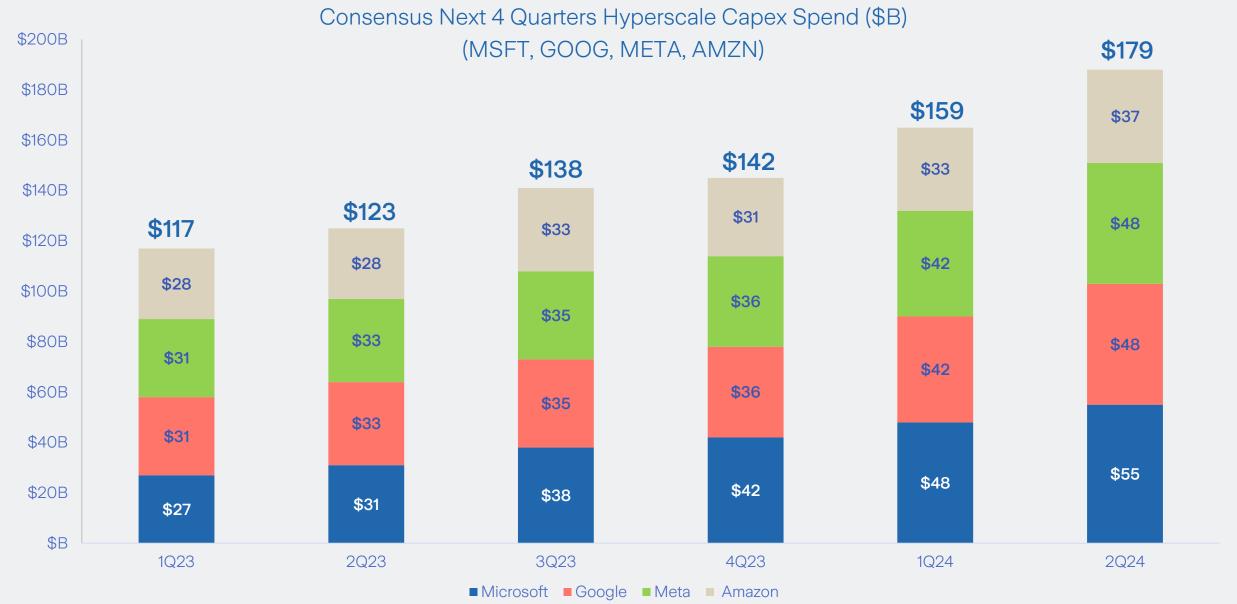
#### **Global Equity Sectors YTD**





#### 4 companies forecasting spending USD179bn on capex





#### Inflation Expectations – New York Fed



Median point prediction three-year ahead inflation rate



#### Gold (USD)





## MSCI USA Vs. Magnificent 7 2023





#### MSCI USA Vs. Magnificent 7



YTD 2024





# Thank you

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#### The need for Advice





Auto-enrolment



PRSA changes



Master Trusts







Cast your mind back....



### **Largest Companies in 1994**









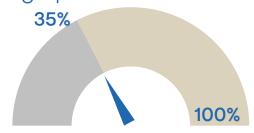
7.49%

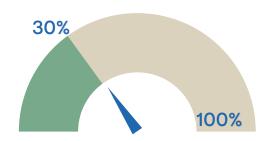
Irish mortgage rate in 1994

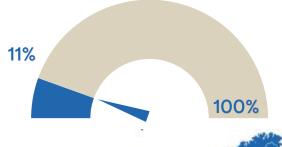
1 Irish Punt
Was worth 67
US cents

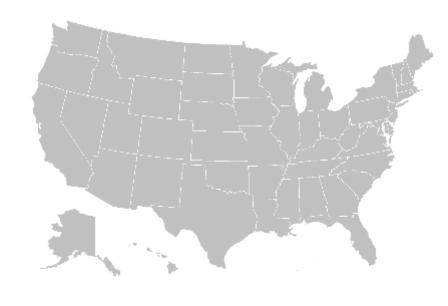
### The Global stock market

Top geographical areas 1994



















 $\textbf{ZURICH}^{^{\text{o}}}$ 





## The 30 year old

Starting a new job

Has to control pension

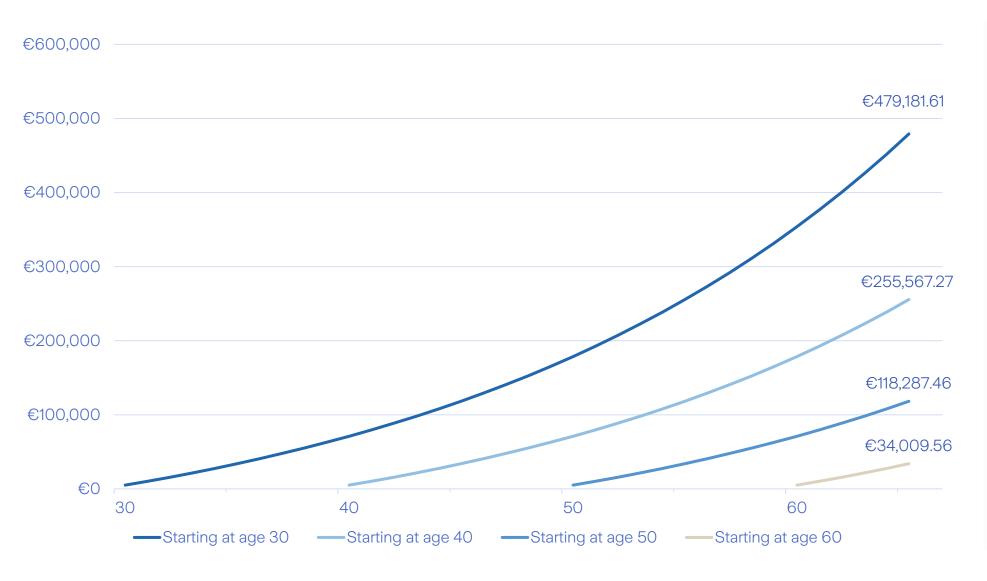
Understands it

But not convinced

## Invest early and often

€5,000 invested annually with 5% growth per annum





# OVER A 35 YEAR PERIOD

- •A 30-year-old generates an 88% greater return than a person starting at 40 years of age.
- •Yielding a 305% greater return than a 50-year-old.



The 30 year old

Starting a new job

Has to control pension

Understands it

But not convinced

Invests monthly
Agrees to index it
1% AMC













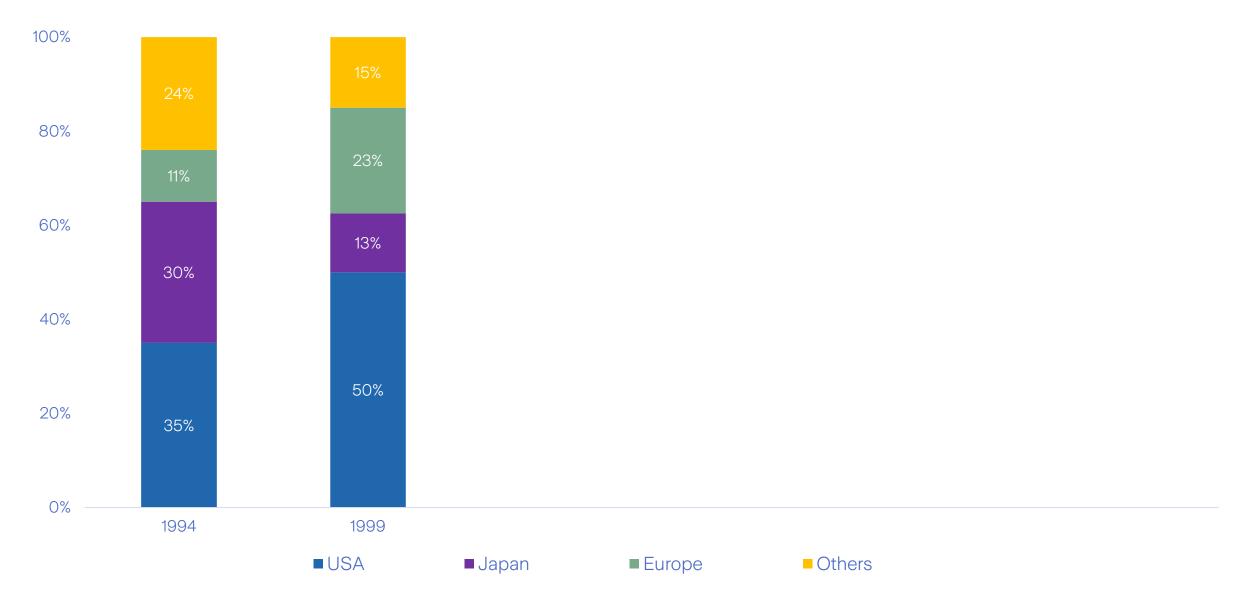




12
No. of NASDAQ stocks with a 1,000%+ return

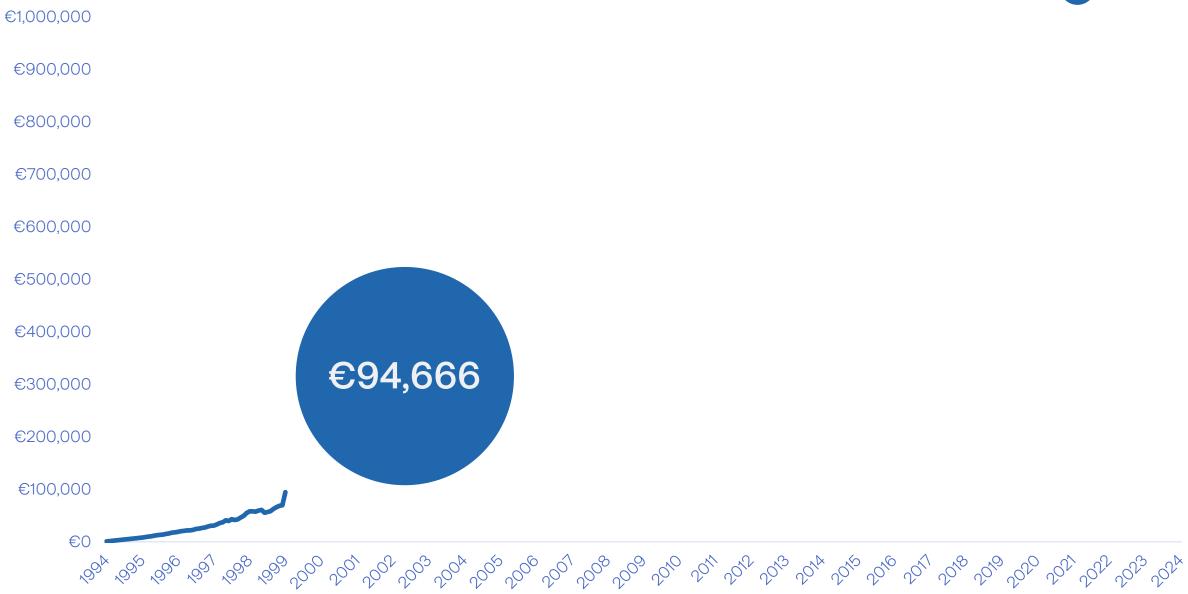
#### **Global Stock Market Evolution**





#### Flash forward to 1999





## **Long Term Returns Slide**

Real Investment Returns (%pa)



Asset Class	10 years	20 years	50 years	97 years
Equities	8.0%	6.8%	5.8%	6.6%
Bonds	-2.0%	1.4%	3.0%	2.1%
Cash	-1.9%	-1.3%	0.4%	0.3%

Source: Barclays Research 47 © Zurich









# **E**XonMobil





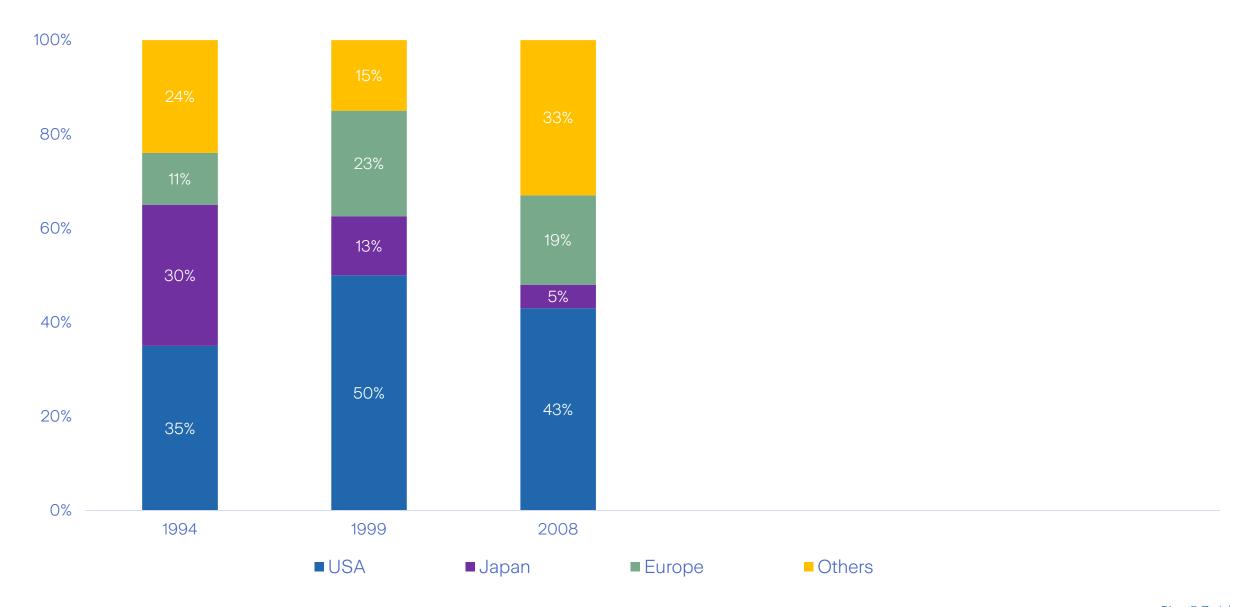
VIX
peaked intraday at
89.53 in October

\$147.27 the all-time high price of oil

Source: Bloomberg, MSCI, 2024

#### **Global Stock Market Evolution**

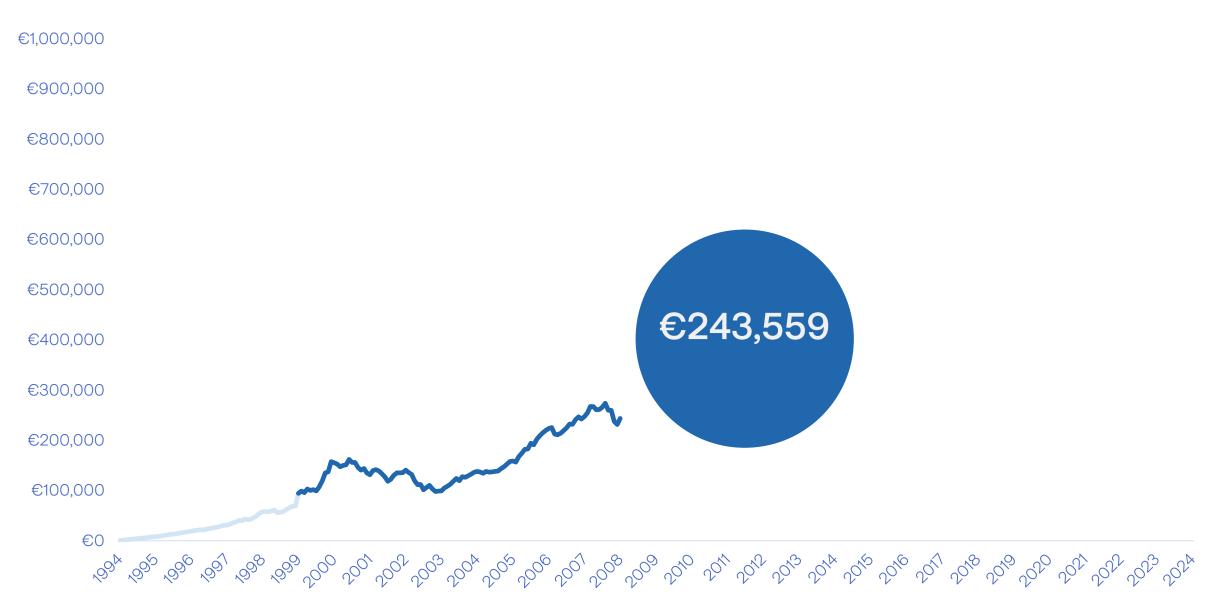




Source: MSCI All World Index; ResearchGate

#### Flash forward to 2008





Source: Zurich, April 2024



# Spotlight on Stocks

The following stocks are included (at time of going to print) in the Eagle Star funds, including the 5★5 Global Fund.

## Healthcare, Personal Care & Leisure Sector

Teva is the world's largest generic drug company, with sales forecast. to exceed \$9 billion in 2007 and the largest pipeline in the industry. Teva sells hundreds of generic drugs in more than 50 countries; key markets include North America, Europe, Israel, and Latin America. Teva's proprietary drug arm includes MS drug Copaxone, recently launched Azilect for Parkinson's and some early-stage original drug candidates. Teva is headquartered in Israel with 27,000 employees worldwide. Teva will benefit from the wave of patent expines on big selling drugs over the next couple of years and the focus of governments worldwide on spiralling healthcare costs. Teva's cost leadership is a big competitive advantage. Teva's valuation is attractive relative to its forecast growth rate.

## Resources and Infrastructure Sector

Barrick Gold Corp. is the world's largest gold miner following its successful acquisition of Placer Dome in January 2006. It has core operations in Nevada, Peru, Australia, and Tanzania. For the foreseeable future Barnick should maintain annual production of about 8 million ounces of gold at slightly above industry average cash costs. Reserves of roughly 125 million ounces are the largest in the industry. Barrick benefits from having the highest balance sheet. rating in the industry, though this is offset by off balance sheet hedge Eabilities. It is benefiting from the increase over the gold price as its hedge book is decreasing as a percentage of reserves. The stock has lagged the commodity price and should outperform it going forward. The valuation is attractive relative to its net asset value.

#### Information and Communication Technology Sector

IBM is the world's largest IT company and is a significant player in virtually every major segment of the IT industry, including services, servers, storage, semiconductors, and software. IBM is benefiting from improving IT services fundamentals, services cost reductions

due to restructuring, and product cycles in Microelectronics and Servers. Services bookings grew for the third straight year in 2007 following a 22% decline in 2004, and services margins are benefiting from a 10,000 - 13,000 reduction in European headcount. Earnings growth is being driven by a decline in pension expense as the company converts its pension scheme to defined contribution. The recurring revenue nature of the IT services business means it is less sensitive to an economic downturn. The valuation of the stock is attractive relative to the market.

#### Finance Sector

Standard Chartered is an international bank, whose focus is retail and corporate banking and treasury activities, predominantly in Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and Africa, where it has established strong franchises over the last 50 to 100 years. Although domiciled in the UK, its biggest single concentration of customers and profits is in Hong Kong. The group's strategy is to continue to develop its consumer banking franchises, while maximising profitability in its historical wholesale operations, its share price has been supported by strong earnings momentum and stake building by one of the Sovereign Wealth Funds - Temasek.

#### Consumer Sector

Nestle is one of the largest fast-moving consumer gr companies in the world today its core operations encor beverages (such as coffee, water and dairy), pet food, and (such as confectionery, milk powder and culinary). Major include Nescale, Vittel and KitKat chocolate. The comp exposure to specialist eye-care and pharmaceuticals th ownership stake of Alcon. In addition, Nestlè also own the leading cosmetic manufacturer L'Oreal. In the lac market conditions in Western Europe and higher con materials, Nestlé has been able to increase its operthrough more efficient operational management of and the ability to increase prices.

# Monthly Investment Review

This mortiful irrustment review is produced by Eagle Star for professional anurance Intermediates. It covers the following mortiful and makes the modern remains an makes. This morthly investment review is produced by Eagle Star for professional insurance intermediaries. It could not be a second characteristic of major stock markets, comment on markets, Eagle Star ascet allocations, so collected characteristics and fund naviorage contaction. feature on selected stocks, global outlook and fund performance statistics.

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performance of the major equity markets over the month of The returns are shown in both local and euro currencies. The bond index is the Mernil Lynch over 5 year Euro Government Bond Index



## Investment Comment

• Equity markets fell for the firth month in a row as sentiment deteriorated equity mances terror me tran month in a new as semiment deteriorated further. Stocks did, however, raly in the second half of the month Turner Stocks day, however, rany in the second nam of the manual following the Bear Steams ballout. World equities (in euro terms) fell by over 5% in Mandy, resulting in a regative total return of almost 16% over 5 % in March, resuming in a regainse total neuron or amost retro for the first quarter of 2008, A steeple portion of the moneyly decline for the less quarter or 2000, A subside posteri of the inchesy decision for executive investors was due to the strength of the euro against the ar europore intersets was use to the sorrigin or ore euro against one US noda; stering and the Australian dodar. Markets continued to worry so rose, source are measurement to an inverse contract to warry about the effects of the sub-prime metrower on the banking system, ations are enects at the samplesse messages or the canning system, the degree of slowdown in the US economy and the transporting of are origine or supposed as the us recovery one one are opening or corporate profit growth. In addition, stubbornly high food and energy prices continue to put pressure on heading relation numbers. There process continue to purchase on monome entouring monotons trave-tions a wide distinguisher as country performances during March in local carercy terms, the US was the standous relative outperformer (+1%). Cestile the closm, the positives for equities are that valuation levels appear reasonable, short-term interest rates look set to move lower appear resonance, soormann species range accessed to move some and the US Federal Reserve is keely to make further moves to improve

The Fed funds rate, which had already been out from 5,25% to the real states rate, weight rate among trees that from 5 x 5 % to 3.0%, was reduced by a further 0.75%, during March and further sale cuts are especied by year end, maybe even during April, futures markets expect eurocone rates to fall by around 0.75% to 3.25% by Geomber, despite somewhat hawkish rhetroic from the ECB Sectorwise, there was a mixed picture between defensive and cyclical
 Sectorwise, there was a mixed picture between defensive and cyclical
 Sectorwise, there was a mixed picture between defensive and cyclical
 Sectorwise, there was a mixed picture between defensive and cyclical

dollar, however, does have some valuation support against European

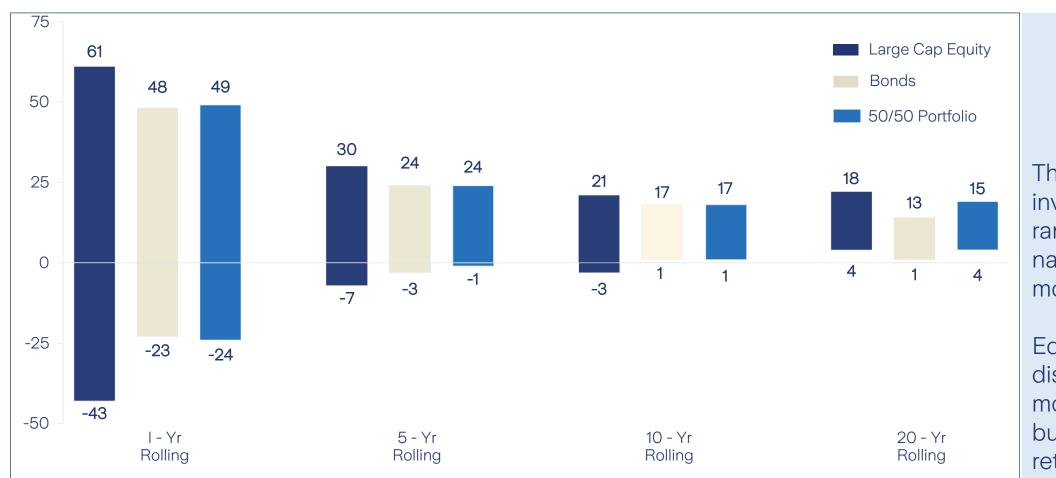
#### Eagle Star Asset Allocation The funds are neutral in bonds and equities.

Equities
Countries & Markets: Overweight & Underweight positions The fixed managers maintained a slightly underweight equity position the nase managers maintained a signify assertioning in the first half of the month, increasing it back to neutral at money in the test hair or the moral, increasing a tack to heating as the month was a end. The main change in regional weightings obeing the month was a one, the man change in regions marganing solarly one month man sight increase in the US weighing end a corresponding reduction in the sugne increase in the Us weighting and a corresponding recognition in the Pacific Basic weighting. The funds' main positions at the evid of Manis poore many weighing the times man posters at the ever of status uses diversedged the US, cardiovelegal related and lapari and close to mere mereveren me un, unmerveegn metarus and super and cose so neutral in the Pacific Sasin, the UK and Europe. The US position has been neuran in the racine waste, the use and cumple. The us pool out has over-increased over the last seven months on the back of significant interest

Sectors: Overweight & Underweight positions Due to ongoing changes in the economic environment, the ordical has of Use to ongoing changes in the economic environment, the cyclical bias or the portfosos has been reduced over the last three quarters, while there one partitions has been reduced over the last times charges, weare there has been a corresponding increase in defension dricks. There were no has there a consequency increase in demonstration with the significant socional changes during Merck, Overal, underweight postions significant sectoral changes during warren. Overar, underweigen pusanen were mantained in financials and retailers. Consumer staples and oil & gas were manua rea in innarious and retailers. Consumer stapes and or a gas stocks remained slightly overweight. Other sectoral positions continue to

## Long term investors get rewarded







The longer we invest, the ranges get narrower and move upwards.

Equities display the most volatility, but the better returns.

Source: JP Source: Strategas/Ibbotson, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Large cap equity represents the S&P 500 Composite and Bonds represents the Strategas/Ibbotson US Government Bond Index and US Long-term Corporate Bond Index. Returns shown are per annum and are calculated based on monthly returns from 1950 to latest available and include dividends. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current and future results. *Guide to the Markets - Europe*. Data as of 31 March 2024.







**E**%onMobil

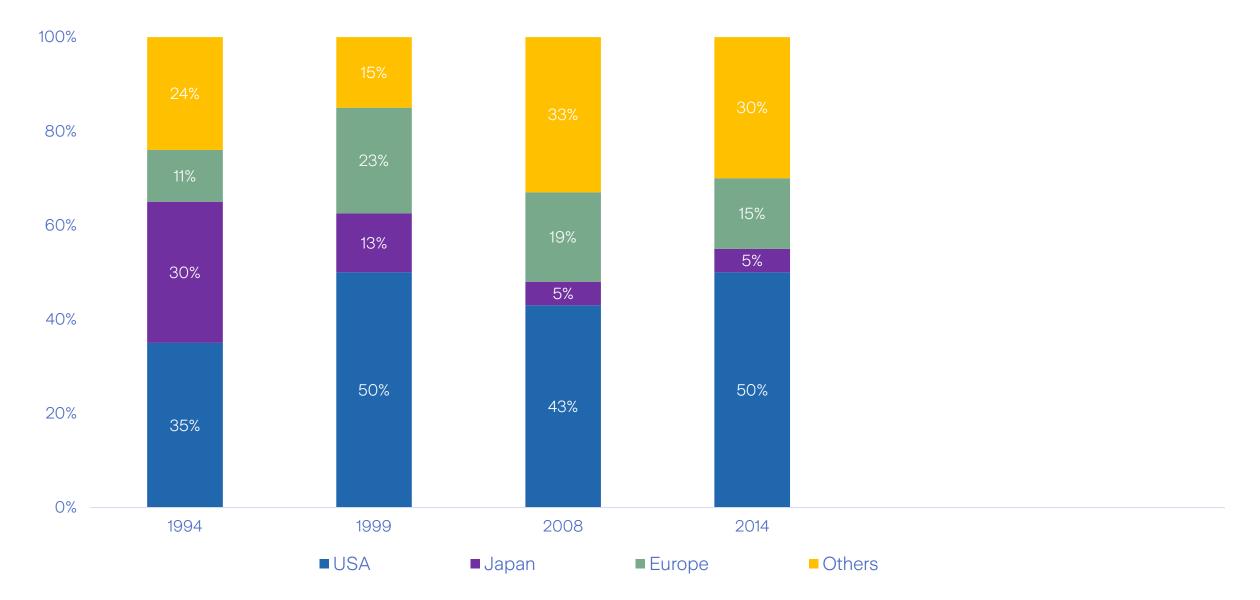
Google



2.9%
10-year Irish
Bond Yield

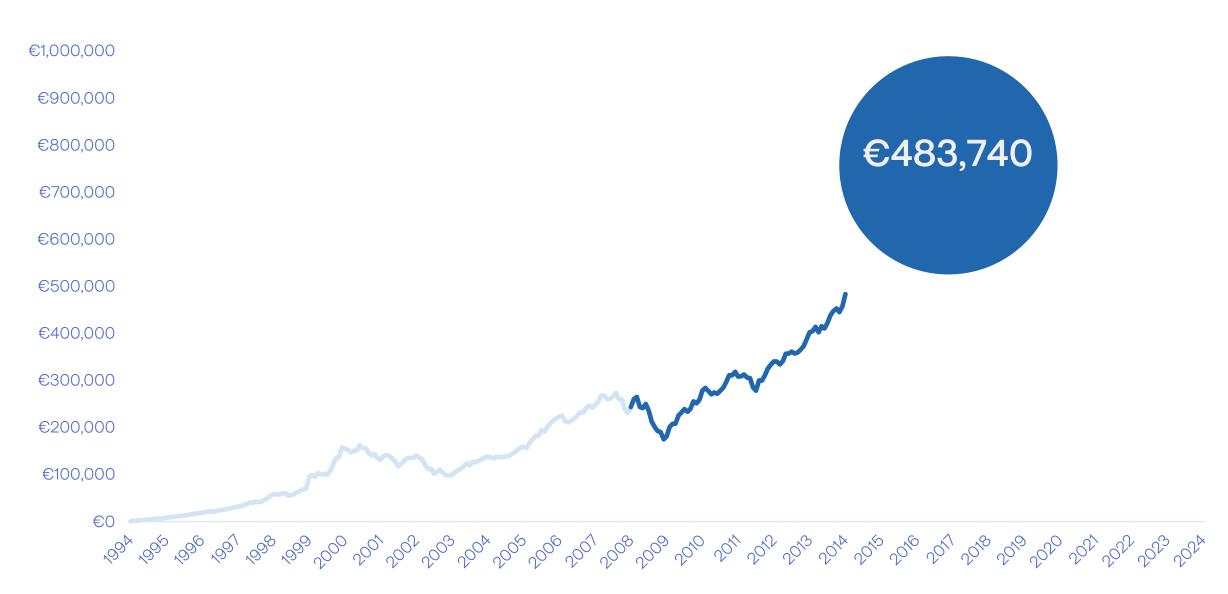
#### **Global Stock Market Evolution**





#### Flash forward to 2014





Source: Zurich, April 2024

### Zurich Funds Calendar Year Performance 2014 - 2023

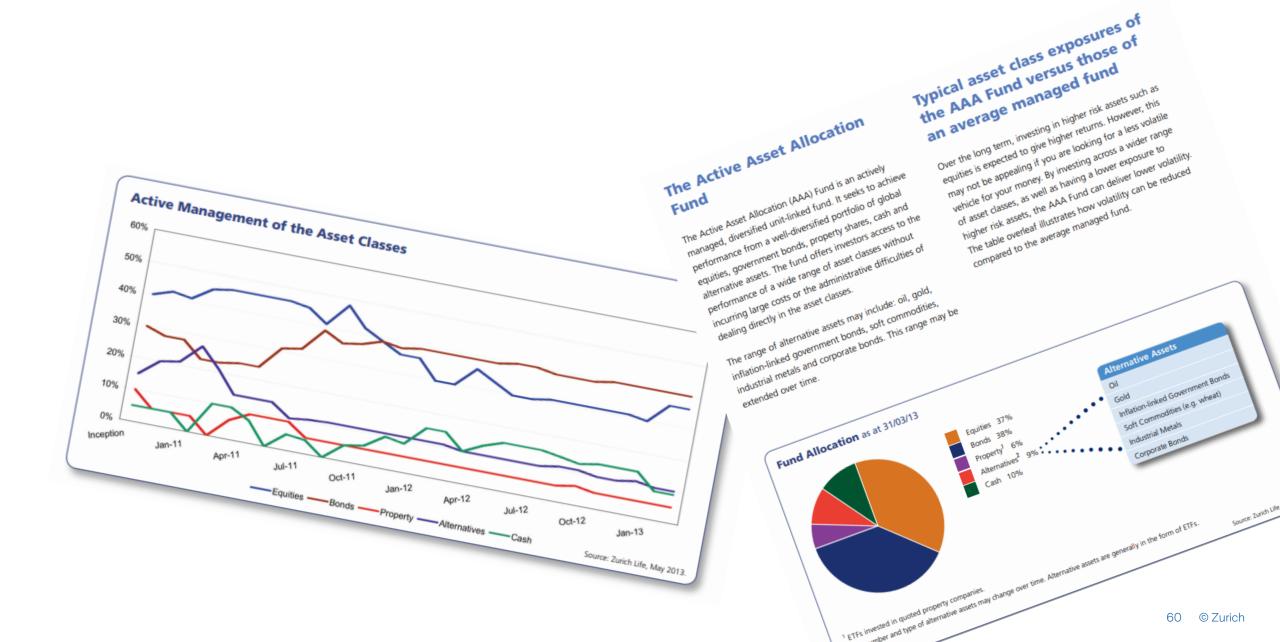


2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
5 Star 5 Americas 28.80%	5 Star 5 Americas 11.80%	5 Star 5 Americas 14.10%	International Equity 9.30%	Gold 3.00%	5 Star 5 Americas 33.60%	5 Star 5 Americas 23.30%	5 star 5 Americas 35.50%	Gold 5.70%	5 Star 5 Americas 28.00%
Long Bond 28.20%	International Equity 10.70%	Gold 12.30%	Prisma 5 7.70%	5 Star 5 Americas 1.50%	International Equity 28.90%	International Equity 15.40%	International Equity 26.10%	Cash -1.00%	International Equity 22.80%
Active Fixed Income 20.40%	Prisma 5 6.20%	Prisma 5 11.30%	Active Asset Allocation 5.90%	Long Bond 1.30%	Gold 19.70%	Gold 13.00%	Prisma 5 23.90%	Prisma 3 -8.60%	Prisma 5 18.30%
International Equity 17.70%	Active Asset Allocation 4.90%	International Equity 10.00%	Prisma 4 5.70%	Active Fixed Income 0.40%	Active Asset Allocation 19.00%	Prisma 5 10.90%	Active Asset Allocation 18.60%	Active Asset Allocation -15.00%	Prisma 4 13.50%
Prisma 5 16.00%	Prisma 4 4.90%	Prisma 4 8.50%	Prisma 3 2.20%	Cash -0.90%	Prisma 4 17.80%	Long Bond 8.50%	Prisma 4 16.80%	Prisma 4 -13.30%	Active Asset Allocation 12.90%
Active Asset Allocation 14.60%	Prisma 3 2.60%	Active Asset Allocation 8.10%	5 Star 5 Americas 2.10%	Prisma 3 -2.40%	Prisma 5 16.50%	Active Asset Allocation 7.40%	Prisma 3 7.60%	Active Fixed Income -15.00%	Gold 9.40%
Prisma 4 14.20%	Long Bond 1.80%	Long Bond 6.30%	Cash -0.80%	Prisma 4 -4.60%	Long Bond 11.50%	Prisma 4 6.90%	Gold 3.60%	Prisma 5 -16.70%	Long Bond 8.70%
Gold 12.80%	Active Fixed Income 1.00%	Active Fixed Income 4.70%	Active Fixed Income -1.10%	Active Asset Allocation -4.90%	Prisma 3 8.30%	Prisma 3 3.40%	Cash -0.09%	International Equity -19.70%	Prisma 3 8.60%
Prisma 3 7.10%	Cash -0.50%	Prisma 3 4.10%	Long Bond -1.70%	International Equity -5.50%	Active Fixed Income 5.40%	Active Fixed Income 3.20%	Active Fixed Income -3.80%	5 Star 5 Americas -24.90%	Active Fixed Income 7.10%
Cash -0.20%	Gold -2.30%	Cash -0.80%	Gold -2.60%	Prisma 5 -6.20%	Cash -0.80%	Cash -1.00%	Long Bond -6.60%	Long Bond -27.20%	Cash 2.70%

Source: Zurich Life, 2024 59 © Zurich

### The Active Asset Allocation Fund













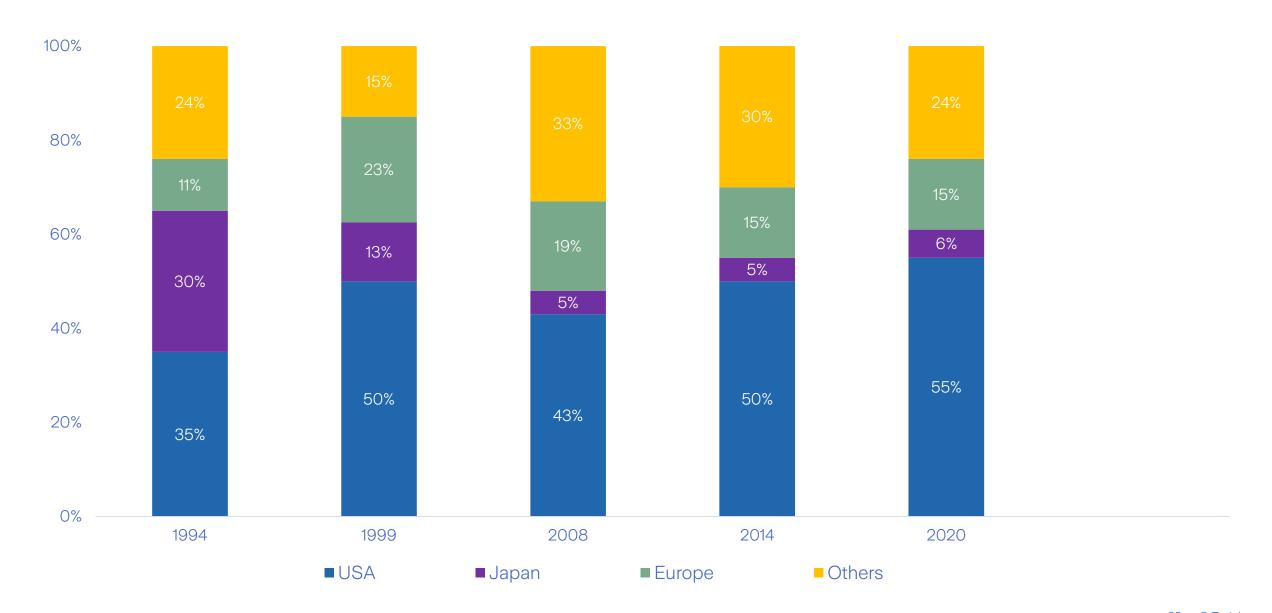






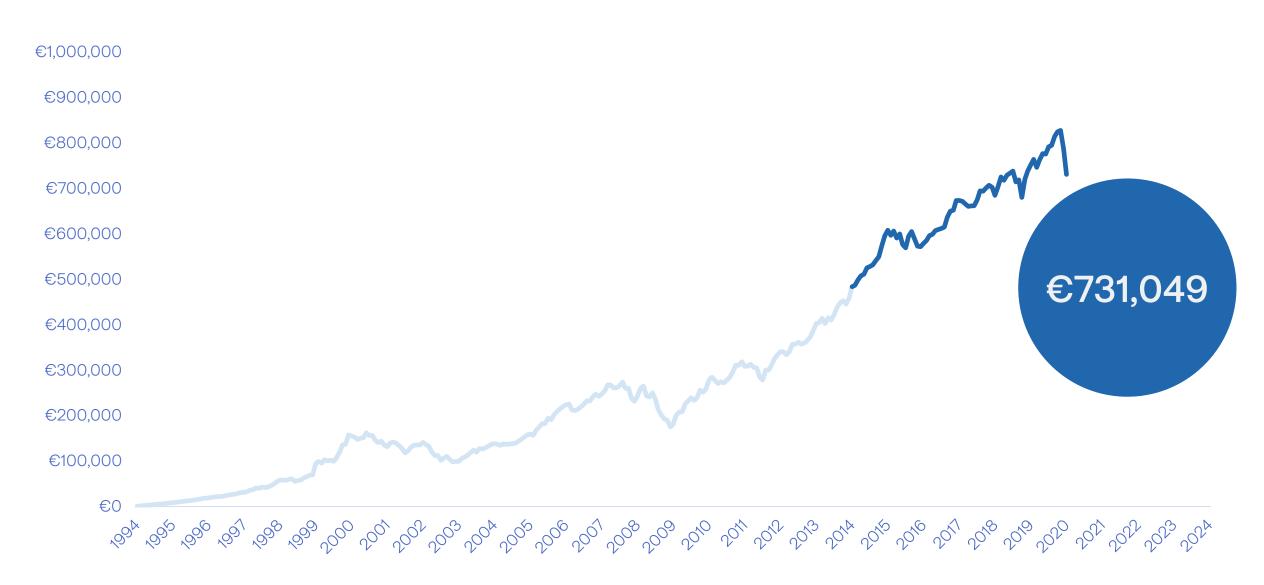
#### **Global Stock Market Evolution**





#### Flash forward to 2020



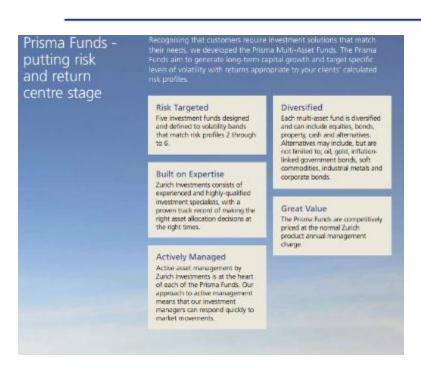


Source: Zurich, April 2024

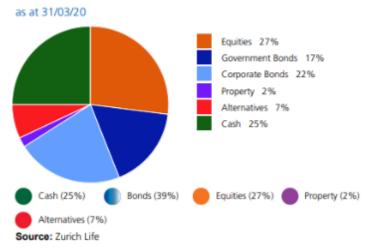


#### The Prisma Fund Range Process

The purpose of this document is to outline how the highly popular range of Prisma Funds is constructed. Prisma is Zurich's range of risk-targeted multi-asset funds which were launched in 2013 and to date the Prisma Funds have attracted €4bn in policyholder funds. There are five Prisma Funds with different levels of risk. Each Prisma Fund reflects the asset allocation preferences expressed in Zurich's Active Asset Allocation (AAA) Fund. The AAA Fund and the Prisma Fund range are managed by Zurich Investments.



#### Asset Distribution (%)





March 2020



#### The Fund Guide

Investing your money with confidence



#### 2020-2024

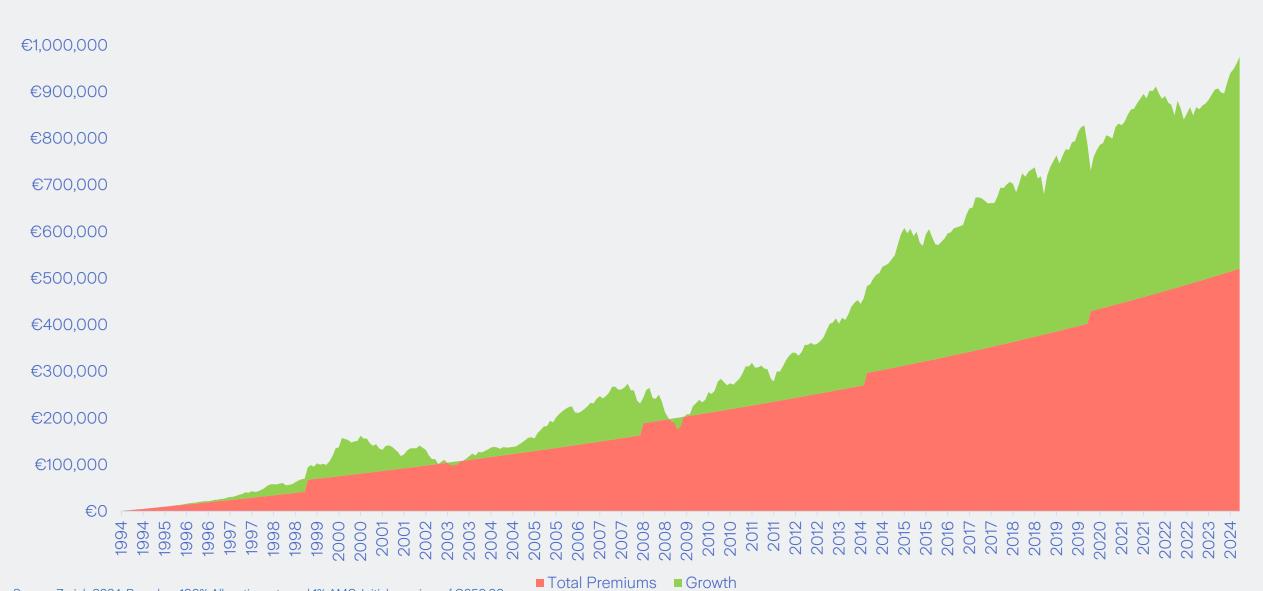




Source: Zurich, April 2024

#### Flash forward to 2024





## Outperformance compounds over time



## Cumulative outperformance, but also instances of outperformance



12 month performance from 1st April 1994

1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023

30 periods – and outperformed in 23



When we did underperform, it was on average -1.5%

And when we outperformed it was on average 3%

#### Investment Returns but also Investor Returns



#### Recency bias

Overweight the importance of recent observations

#### Illusion of control

Overestimate one's ability to control events

#### Loss aversion

Prefer avoiding losses over acquiring gains

#### Anchoring Bias

Cling to arbitrary price levels

#### Mental Accounting

Mentally sort funds into separate "accounts,"











### And there's plenty more....





#### The 'at retirement' conversation



#### Drawdown Calculator

Compares the relative income and benefits of an investment in an Approved Retirement Fund (ARF) with those of an Annuity.

#### **Fund Choices**

We have a wide range of funds to suit your investment needs.

#### **Tactical Fund** Drawdown

To see which option might be more suitable for you at retirement based on the information you provide.

#### Rebalancing Tool

Changing the weighting of assets in a portfolio as they drift, to maintain the initial preference.





Active

Management







# Thank you

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Warning: The value of your investment may go down as well as up.

Warning: If you invest in this product you may lose some or all of the money you invest.



## **Closing Thoughts**



Good Products



# Great Customer Outcomes



# Thank you

Please join us for a spot of lunch



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