ROBECO The Investment Engineers



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Global Investment Outlook 2021



Vaccines, Central Banks and Government stimulus to support macro recovery in 2021



Equities are our favorite asset class



Within Equities, we favor Emerging Markets, North Asia in particular



In Fixed Income, we prefer Credit to Government Bonds



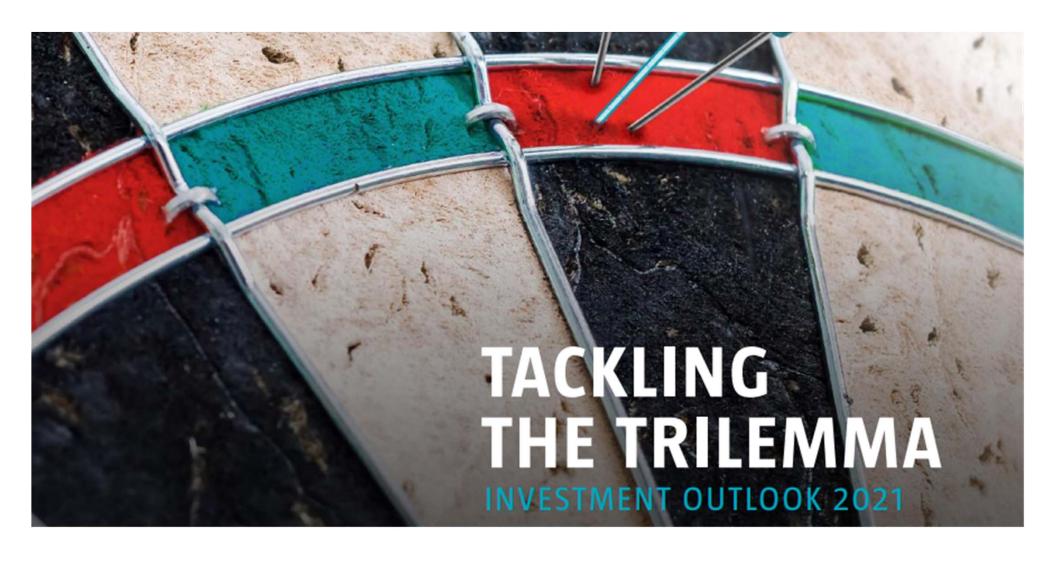
Beat the headline: in Equities, extreme polarization provides ample opportunities



Three clear long-term trends: China, sustainability and a smarter value

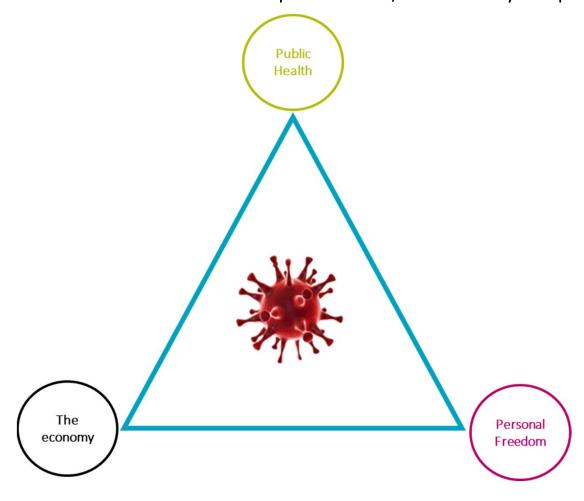


Stay selective: country allocation & stock selection remain key



The policy trilemma

Policy makers are confronted with a trilemma between public health, the economy and personal freedom



It's all about the vaccine

Timeliness, effectiveness and return to new normal will shape 2021





Additional vaccines are approved in H1 2021. Global distribution is largely achieved but not without temporary hick-ups and set-backs. Some social distancing measures remain



Fiscal and monetary policy remain (very) accommodative with a high degree of mutual cooperation



The outbreak is a disinflationary shock, but as economies open up and continue their recovery, inflation starts to turn, earnings rise



US elections: Blue ripple = fiscal expenditure + limited increase in taxes

Key characteristics base, bull and bear case 2021

Vaccine	Timeliness	Effectiveness	Return to new normal
Base	+	+	+
Bull	++	+	++
Bear	-	-	

Other key developments	Fiscal	Monetary	Inflation	Earnings
Base	+	+	=	+
Bull	+	++	+	++
Bear	+	+		

Source: Robeco, November 2020.

Robeco Investments Outlook 2021

Expected Returns

Expected returns outlook 2021

	Base	Bull	Bear
Equities	10%-16%	>20%	<-10%
High yield	6%-8%	>10%	<0%
Investment grade	2%-3%	4%-6%	<0%
Emerging market debt	5%-7%	>10%	<0%
Commodities	8%-12%	>20%	<-10%
Government bonds	-3%< - <-1%	-5% <- <-2%	2%-4%



Fixed Income positioning The year will be boring or bearish

Positioning credit strategies

		Constructive	Neutral	Cautious
Fundamentals	~	✓		
Valuations	~	*		
Technicals		~		
IG credit		~		
HY credit		~		
Financials	~			
Non-financials				
Emerging				

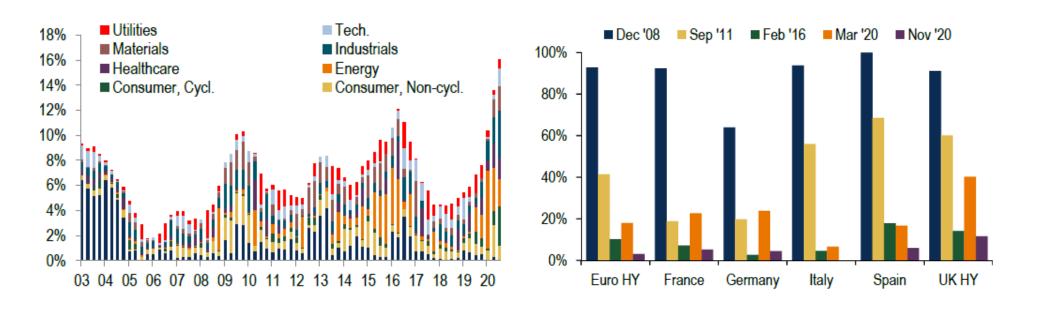
Source: Robeco, December 2020 These examples are for information purposes only and not intended to be an investment advice in any way.

Fundamentals

Rise of zombie companies

European "zombies" with interest coverage <1x. Euro Stoxx 600 index

Distressed ratio – amazingly low for such a painful recession



Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg. Share of SXXP index with interest coverage <1x, market cap weighted. 4q-moving average

Source: BofA Global Research, ICE Data Indices. % HY yielding above 10%.





Fundamental Equities Outlook 2021

Beat the headline effect











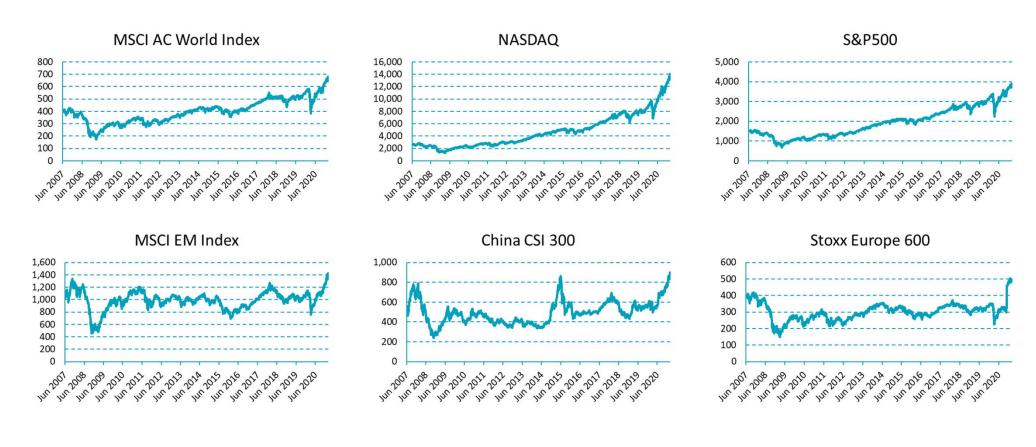
Covid-19: shift from infection to vaccination rate

We favor EM followed by Europe. Interesting but selective opportunities in Japan Within EM: North Asia but we are also beginning to see other opportunities Extreme
polarization of
headline vs
fundamentals offers
ample opportunities

We like Technology, the enablers of Sustainability, Materials, Healthcare, Discretionary Consumption and higher quality Financials

Can you spot the bubble?

Not all markets have run ahead of fundamentals

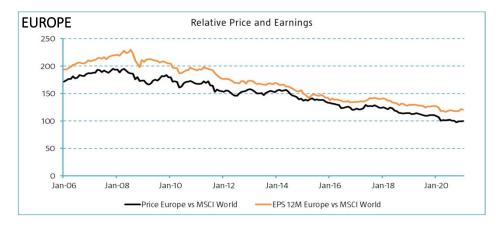


Source: Bloomberg, MSCI, 11 February 2021, all figures in USD.

Regional allocation: Where to go? Relative regional performance has coincided with forward earnings gap









Source: IBES, as of January 2021.

The earnings growth forecasts for US vs other regions doesn't warrant the valuation disparity Even in a declining earnings environment

	Earnings growth 2020	Earnings growth 2021	P/E 2020	P/E 2021
US	-10.7%	21.3%	28.8x	23.7x
Europe	-31.0%	38.3%	24.2x	17.5x
Japan	-3.8%	36.7%	24.0x	17.6x
EM	-4.0%	35.3%	21.7x	16.0x
China	2.6%	18.4%	19.3x	16.3x

> As long as the earnings expectations differential does not worsen

Source: MSCI, IBES, 14 January 2021.

Beat the headline

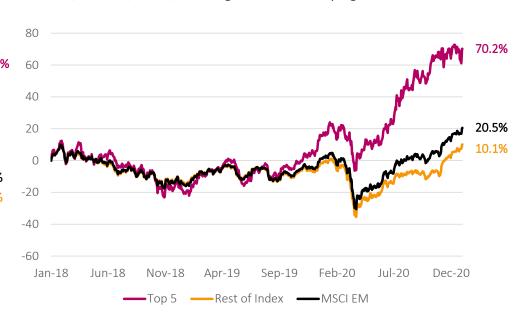
Active opportunities from extreme polarization

The rally after the COVID-19 sell-off in March was driven by a handful of mega-cap tech names

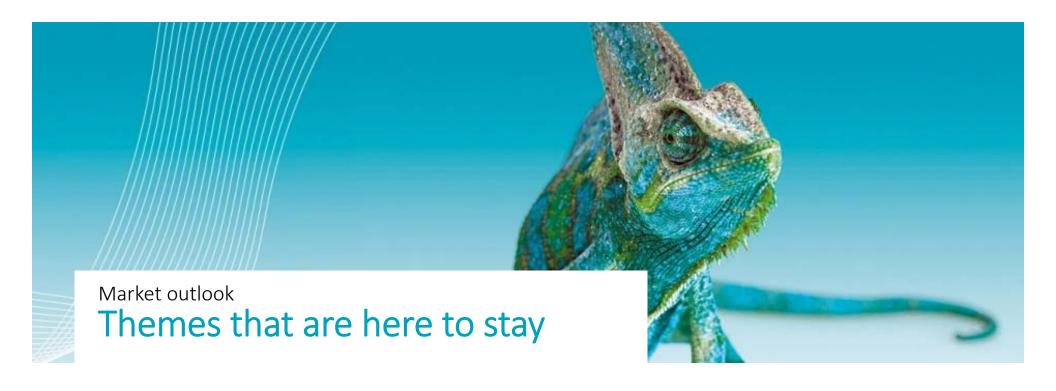
> Still plenty of opportunities for active investors willing to look beyond the headlines

Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Microsoft & Google dominate DM

Alibaba, Tencent, TSMC, Samsung & Meituan Dianping dominate EM



Source: Robeco, FactSet, MSCI. Cumulative returns in USD, over the period January 2018 to December 2020. DM Top 5: Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Microsoft & Google. EM Top 5: Alibaba, Tencent, Taiwan Semi, Samsung & Meituan Dianping.



Three clear trends unravel as path to normalization continues

China, sustainability and value

China is destined to become a core allocation

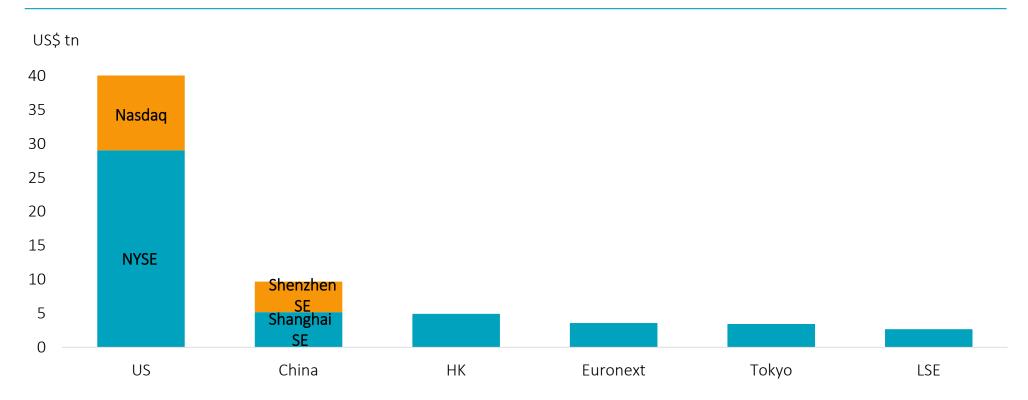
Smart value will come back

Follow the green signs as Covid-19 has increased the stakes

China is destined to become a core allocation

Investors cannot ignore China anymore

Second-largest equity market in the world, by market cap

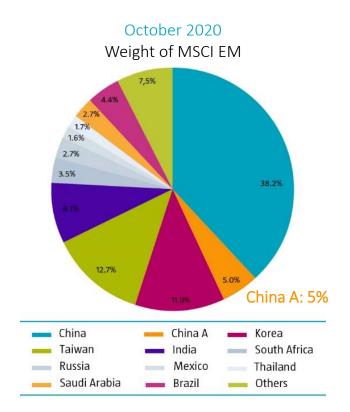


Source: Bloomberg, Robeco, as of August 2020. SE = Stock Exchange.

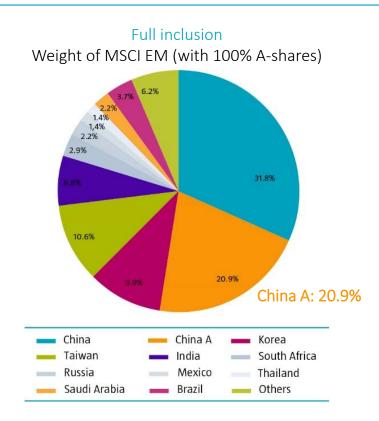
China is destined to become a core allocation

Investors cannot ignore China anymore

Increasing level of inclusion in international benchmarks

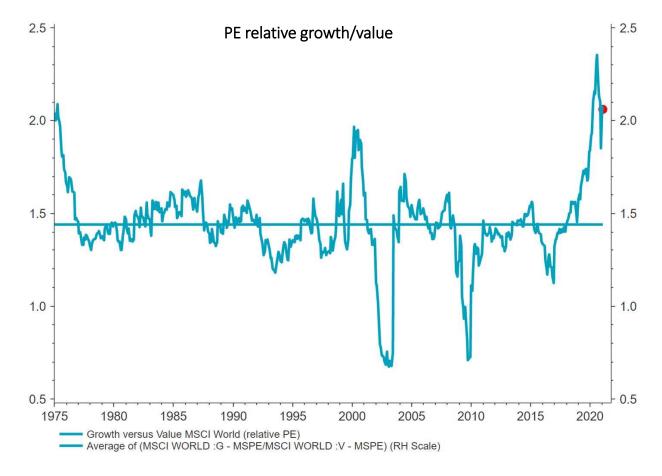


Source: Factset, MSCI, RIMES, Morgan Stanley Research. As of end-Oct 2020.



The rotation has begun, but value must be "smart": we remain selective

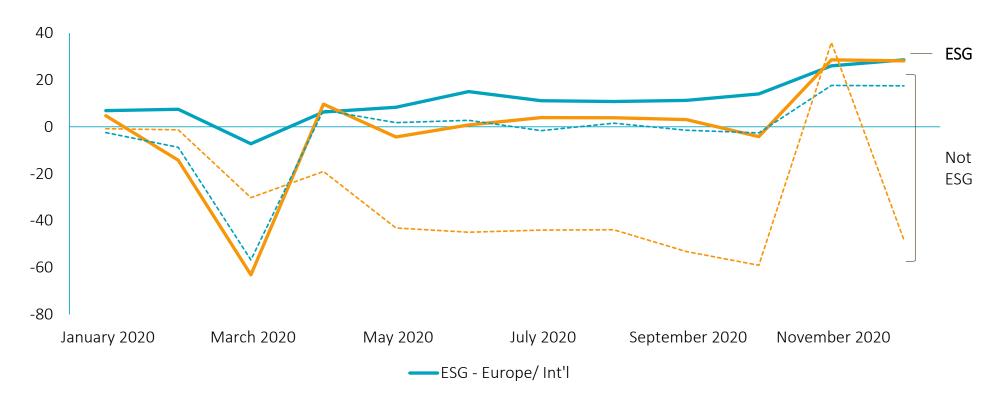
2020 was a bear market rally, 2021 is not perfect but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel



Source: Refinitiv Datastream, Robeco, January 2021.

Investors are following the green signs

Total Equity Funds: 12-Month Flows (bln)



Source: Broadridge GMI. 12-month trailing net flows, active and passive flows

THANK YOU!



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