



Lazard Insights

Conference Call Series

Kick-off Report: Engaging Risks and Finding Opportunities in 2011

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Global Overview

- Many improving economic data points indicate continued recovery
- Corporate profits are back to 2007 levels and expected to rise by another 11% next year¹
- QE2 improves the relative return potential for risk-based assets
- After very strong flows to fixed income markets over the last two years, we began to see a reversal in November and December 2010
- Stated inflation remains muted in the developed world. Emerging markets inflation, however, is concerning
- Government debt risks, particularly in Europe, remain and intensify
- Policymakers are increasingly focused on structural debt issues, which is generally favorable

¹ Source: ISI Group Weekly Economic Report, 6 December 2010

Key Economic and Investment Drivers

The directionality of several economic variables provides the basis for market viewpoints

Real Economic Growth	<p>Rising</p> <p>Stable</p> <p>Contracting</p>	Global economic growth is gathering momentum and sustainability.
Inflation	<p>Rising</p> <p>Stable</p> <p>Contracting</p>	Accommodative central banks have sparked increased inflationary pressures, particularly in the emerging markets.
Real Interest Rates	<p>Rising</p> <p>Stable</p> <p>Contracting</p>	In spite of quantitative easing, interest rates are rising due to increased inflationary and sovereign credit risks.
U.S. Dollar F/X Value	<p>Rising</p> <p>Stable</p> <p>Contracting</p>	The U.S. dollar will likely rise as relative economic performance improves.
Taxes and Regulation	<p>Rising</p> <p>Stable</p> <p>Contracting</p>	Policymakers are increasingly adopting pro-market initiatives and dealing with fiscal imbalances.
P/E Ratios	<p>Rising</p> <p>Stable</p> <p>Contracting</p>	Investors' appetite for equities will continue to rise, particularly as the economic environment improves and corporate profitability is sustained.
Fixed Income Risk Premiums	<p>Rising</p> <p>Stable</p> <p>Contracting</p>	Continued widening likely among sovereign and other governmental credit risk. Tight spreads will remain among private sector borrowers.
Volatility	<p>Rising</p> <p>Stable</p> <p>Contracting</p>	Volatility has fallen sharply and is likely to remain low as economic news improves.

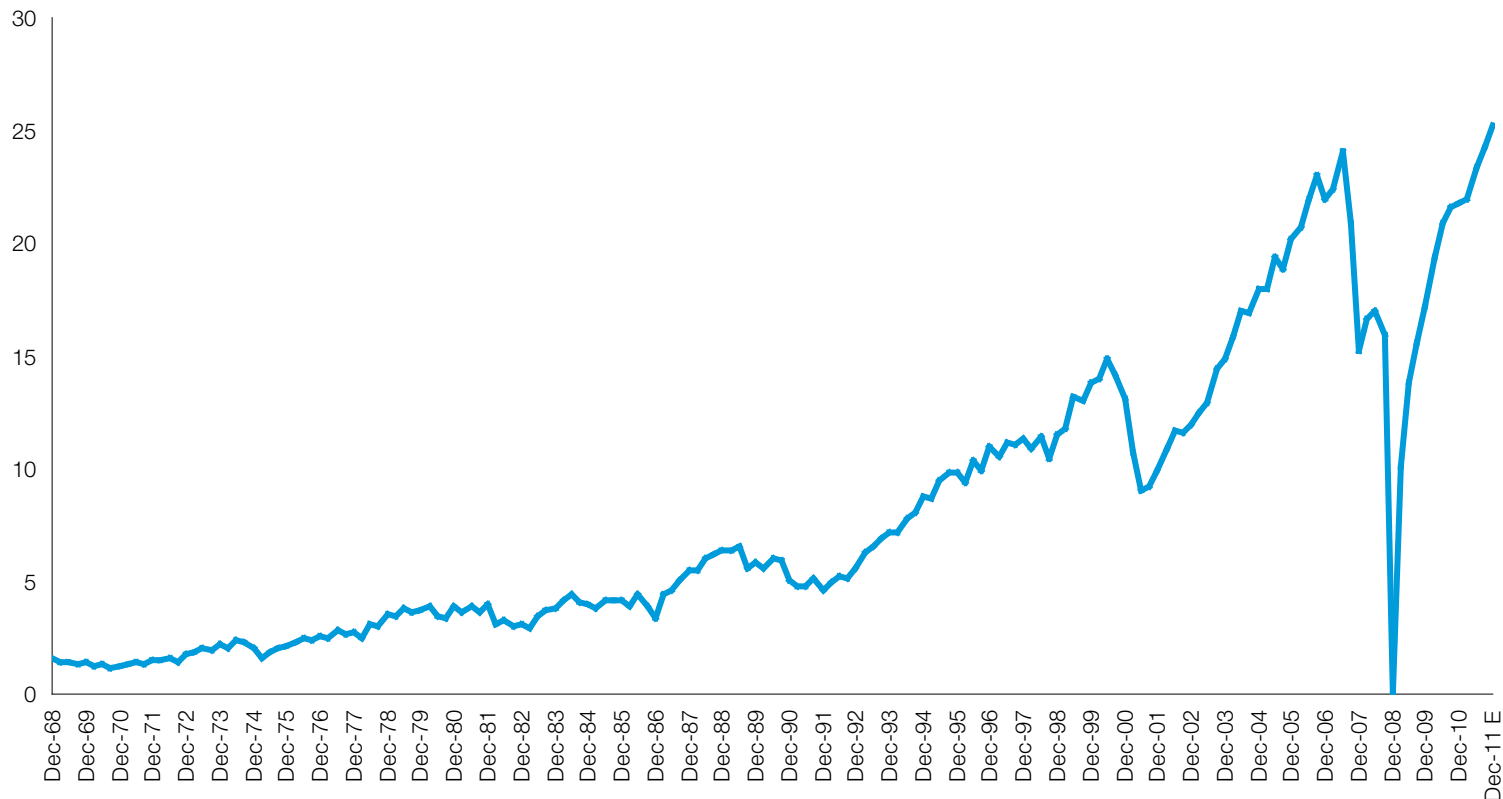
■ = Bullish
 ■ = Neutral
 ■ = Bearish

As of 20 January 2011 and is subject to change

Corporate Profits Rally

- The recovery will not be led by housing or consumers
- Without these drivers, we believe real GDP growth will be 3%-4%

S&P 500 Index Earnings Per Share

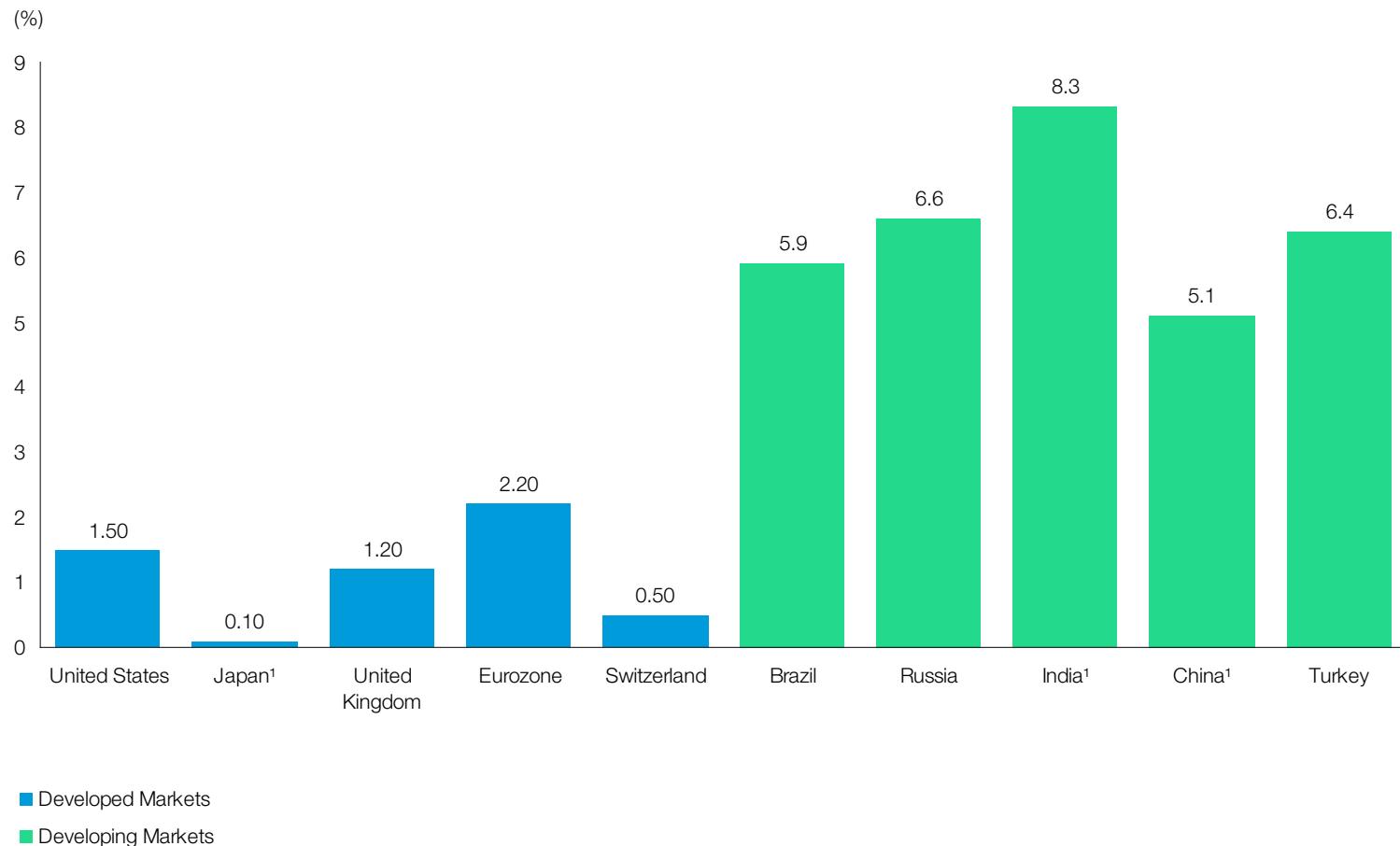


As of 31 December 2010
Source: ISI Group

Inflation

Inflation differentials exist between developed and emerging markets

Consumer Price Index YoY % Change

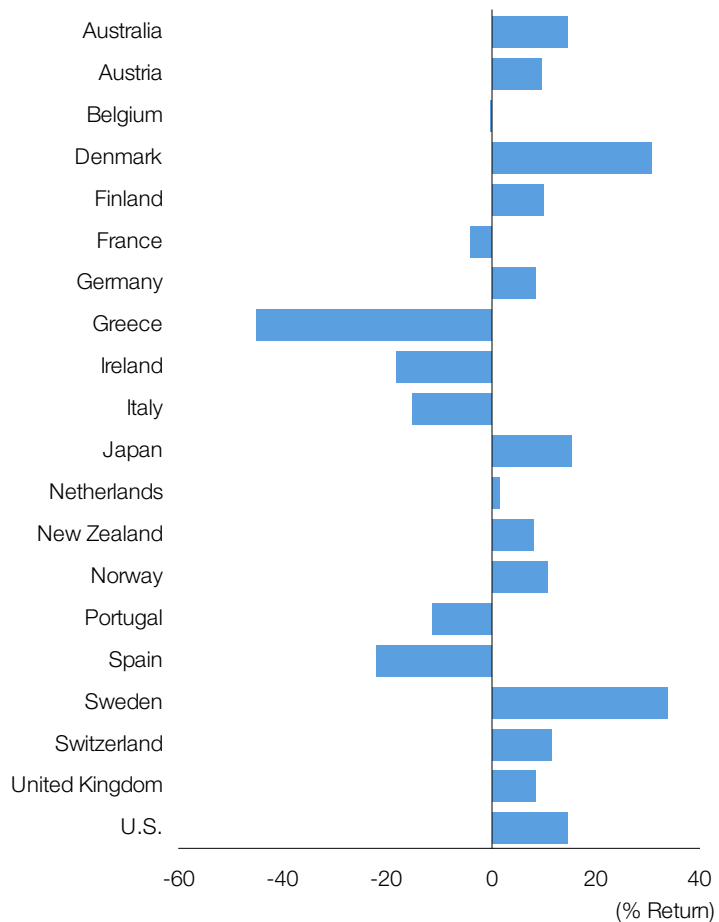


As of 31 December 2010
1 As of 30 November 2010
Source: Bloomberg

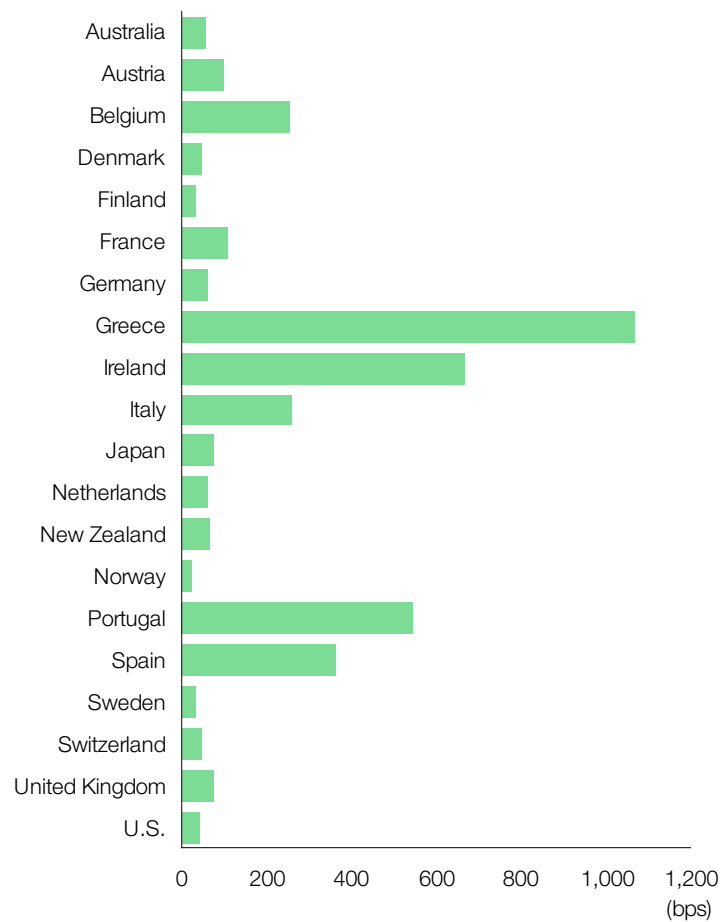
Fiscal Discipline Matters: Disparity Reigns

- Markets have punished nations that have not appropriately managed their fiscal affairs
- Is this a risk or an opportunity?

2010 Equity Return:¹



5-year CDS Spread:²



1 As of 31 December 2010

2 As of 10 January 2011

Performance presented in U.S. dollars. Performance quoted represents past performance. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.
Source: Lazard, MSCI, Bloomberg

Policy Issues Remain Paramount

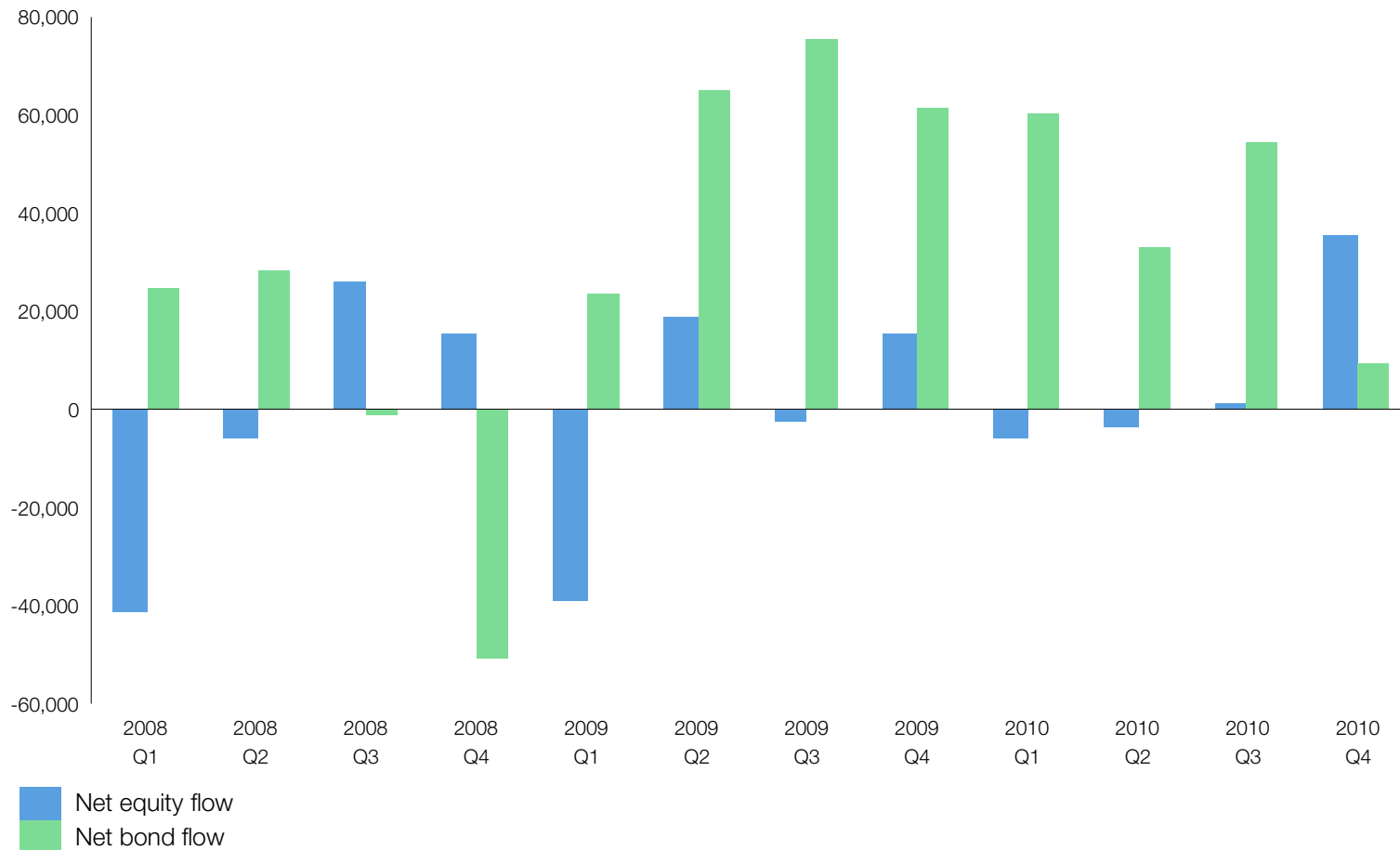
Fiscal policy is transforming at a rapid pace

- Fiscal stimulus is no longer viable
- Long-term structural debt reform is a reality for many governments
- Expect debate on the U.S. tax code
- Public pension reform
- Re-evaluation of Obamacare
- Regulatory reform

Historic Asset Flows

Net Investor Flows to Equity and Bond Markets

Investors have used fixed income securities to insure against equity market volatility



As of 31 December 2010
Source: Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Gold as a Diversification Tool

As the prospects for fixed income investments diminish, utilizing alternative diversification tools will be important

Gold versus Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index



As of 31 December 2010
Source: Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Asset Class Viewpoints

Investors need to employ an active and tactical viewpoint to take advantage of dispersion and volatility

	Attractive	Fair Valued	Unattractive
EQUITY			
Cap	Large Cap	Small Cap Mid Cap	
Region	U.S.	Japan United Kingdom Asia-Pacific ex-Japan Continental Europe	Emerging Markets
Style	Non-traditional	Value Growth	
FIXED INCOME	Non-traditional	Cash Credit	Sovereign Debt

For illustrative purposes only and is subject to change.

Non-traditional Investment Ideas

Specialized investments
to capture excess return
or correlation benefits

- Continued global growth
 - Technology
 - Agribusiness and water
 - Materials
 - Commodity producers
 - Oil and oil and gas services
- Diversification Assets
 - Gold
 - Private sector credit
 - Avoidance of interest rate risk
 - Volatility hedging

Summary

- Improved economic environment validates an increased exposure to equity investments and other growth-oriented assets
- Fixed income markets are increasingly unattractive, as interest rates remain near historical lows and fundamental risks are increasing
- U.S. investments are increasingly attractive among developed-market opportunities
- European debt crisis remains messy, reducing current opportunities for investment
- Although many risks have diminished, pockets of market volatility will be likely in 2011, potentially creating investment opportunities
- Investors need to employ an active and tactical viewpoint to take advantage of dispersion and volatility

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Securities in certain non-domestic countries may be less liquid, more volatile, and less subject to governmental supervision than in one's home market. The values of these securities may be affected by changes in currency rates, application of a country's specific tax laws, changes in government administration, and economic and monetary policy. Emerging market securities carry special risks, such as less developed or less efficient trading markets, a lack of company information, and differing auditing and legal standards. The securities markets of emerging market countries can be extremely volatile; performance can also be influenced by political, social, and economic factors affecting companies in emerging market countries.

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