



EM Equity Strategy

Can a weaker US dollar help EM equities?

USD under pressure, but less so this time against EM FX

Since 20 March 2020, the USD has weakened by 8.9% against the DXY index (a basket of DM currencies – see Figure 3). During the past 20 years, there have been nine other periods when the USD had weakened against the DXY index by c9% or more (Figure 5), or by an average of -13%, with the decline against the MSCI EM currency index averaging 10% (Figure 4). Yet, in the current episode, the USD has fallen more modestly against the MSCI EM currency index, by only 2.9%, suggesting that this time it could be different.

In past periods of USD weakness, EM equities increased by 36% on average

Historically, there has been a <u>strong negative correlation</u> (-62%) between EM equities and the US dollar, with the <u>EM index rising on average by 36%</u> during the nine periods of USD weakness (Figure 8) – in line with the current rally. EM equities also outperformed DM equities in eight of the nine episodes, although the current USD weakness has seen the reverse happening with DM equities up 43% versus 36% for EM equities (Figure 12).

Factors that are different this time; UBSe EM FX gain of only 0.2% by end-2020

The underperformance of the MSCI EM currency index relative to the DXY index since March 2020 reflects insufficient carry in several parts of EM FX, slowing globalisation, and a lack of foreign participation so far. Looking ahead, we forecast a modest EM FX gain against the USD of 0.2% by year-end 2020 and 1.2% by year-end 2021 (Figure 7). Factors that could hold back a further rally in EM FX this time include: (1) the best of the China credit expansion is behind us (Figure 28); (2) a resurgence in new pandemic cases/reversal of mobility trends, outside the US (Figure 32); and (3) a larger and longer lasting hit to EM than DM in this Covid-19 shock, especially for EM ex China (Figure 29)

Implied equity implications based on historical trends

We remain cautious on the outlook for EM equities, given the strength of the EM index rally in the current FX episode (Figure 20) and elevated valuations (Figure 23). However, should history repeat itself, and the USD weakens further than we forecast, past episodes show that Cyclicals (up 38% on average) meaningfully outperform Defensives (+28%, Figure 11). By markets, winners have included Hungary (+57%), Indonesia (+54%), and Brazil (+53%) with relative underperformers being Middle-Eastern countries (+4-13%) and Taiwan (+23%, Figure 15), while at the sector level, Materials (+48%) and Energy (+40%) have been consistent winners, with Health Care the key underperformer (+18%, Figure 18).

Figure 1: USD vs MSCI EM performance relative to S&P500



Source: Bloomberg, MSCI, Datastream, UBS

Equity Strategy

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Figure 2: Implied historical equity allocation implications

	Falling USD
EM vs DM	EM > DM
EM Regions	<u>LatAm</u> , EMEA ≻ Asia
EM Markets	Hungary, Indonesia, Peru, Brazil, Turkey, Poland ≻ UAE, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Malaysia, Taiwan
EM Sectors	Materials, Energy, Financials ≻ Health Care, IT, Utilities
EM Styles	Momentum, Cyclicals, Value ➤ Quality, Growth, Defensives
Course: LIDS	

Source: UBS

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EM Equity Strategy

UBS Research THESIS MAP MOST FAVOURED IF USD FALLS

LEAST FAVOURED IF USD FALLS

Hungary, Indonesia, Peru, Brazil, Turkey, Poland UAE, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Malaysia, Taiwan

PIVOTAL QUESTIONS

Q: Do EM equities correlate with the USD?

Yes. Over the past 20 years, there has been a <u>strong negative correlation</u> (-62%) between EM equities and the US dollar, indicating that EM equities tend to perform well in periods of US dollar weakness. <u>Since 20 March 2020</u>, the USD has weakened by 8.9% against the DXY index (a basket of DM currencies), although it has fallen more modestly against the MSCI EM currency index, or by only 2.9%, with the correlation between the USD and EM equities down to -53% in the past five years, albeit it has risen back to -62% over the past 12 months (Figure 9).

Q: How did EM equities perform in previous periods of USD weakness?

Over the past 20 years, there have been <u>nine other episodes</u> where the USD had weakened against the DXY index by c9% or more (Figure 4). During these nine periods, <u>on average, EM equities rose by 36%</u> in USD terms (Figure 8), or <u>26% in local currency terms</u> (in the current period of a weaker USD, EM equities have already risen by 36% in USD terms). In the past, there were <u>four reasons why a weaker USD was positive for EM equities</u>: (1) risk appetite/liquidity effects, as capital left the US to seek other opportunities; (2) translation effects, as the fall in the USD increases the dollar value of given local currency returns; (3) a weak USD tends to boost EPS growth and ROEs due to improved liquidity and translation effects; and (4) a falling USD also supports corporate earnings in EM via higher commodity prices.

Q: In a falling USD environment, who were the winners and losers (style, market, sector)?

In past episodes, Cyclicals (up 38% on average, in USD terms) have meaningfully outperformed Defensives (+28%), while Momentum (+39%) and Value (+37%) have performed marginally better than Quality (36%) and Growth (35%, Figure 11). By markets, winners have included Hungary (+57%), Indonesia (+54%), and Brazil (+53%), with underperformers being Middle-Eastern countries (+4-13%) and Taiwan (+23%, Figure 15). At the sector level, Materials (+48%) and Energy (+40%) have been consistent winners, while Health Care has been the key underperformer (+18%, Figure 18).

WHAT'S PRICED IN?

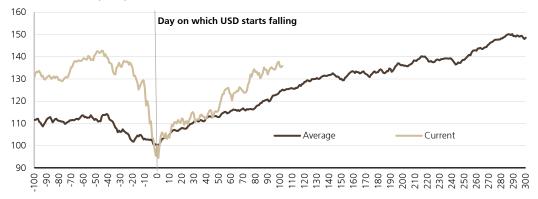
Current valuations suggest the market is expecting a c34% upside to consensus 12-month forward EM EPS to get back to the long-run average <u>12-month forward PE valuation</u>. At 14.9x PE, EM equities are trading more than two standard deviations above their historical mean. On a <u>trailing P/BV</u>, EM trades at 1.8x – in line with the long-term average, but the <u>ROE</u> of 10.1% is well below the historical average of 12.9%.

UBS VIEW

We remain cautious on the outlook for EM equities, given the strength of the EM index rally in the current FX episode (Figure 20) and elevated valuations (Figure 23). We continue to prefer North Asia over EMEA and LatAm, as well as sectors exposed to structural growth opportunities, such as Internet and Tech, for which Covid-19 is proving to be a positive catalyst.

EVIDENCE

MSCI EM index (USD) - rebased to 100



Source: MSCI, Datastream, UBS. Note: Average is the simple average for the previous nine periods of USD decline.

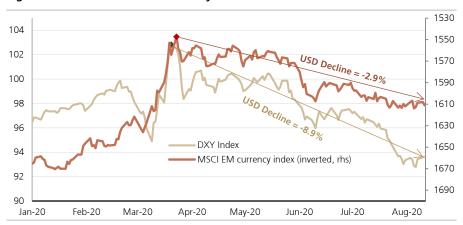
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We would like to thank **Sonam Jagga** and **Sagarika Asrani**, our research support service professionals, for their assistance in preparing this research report.

Periods of US dollar weakness

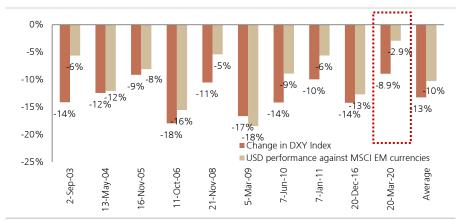
Figure 3: DXY and MSCI EM currency indexes YTD



Since 20 March 2020, the USD has weakened by ~9% relative to the DXY index (a basket of DM currencies, such as the EUR, JPY, GBP, CAD, SEK, CHF). Over the same period, the USD fell by 2.9% against the MSCI EM currency index. In July 2020 alone, the USD declined by 4.2% against the DXY index – the most in one month since 2010.

Source: Bloomberg, UBS. Note: DXY index used for dollar performance

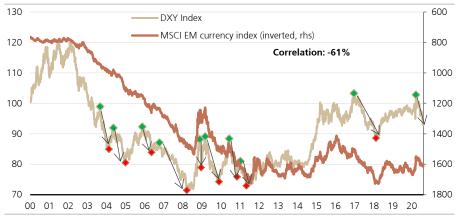
Figure 4: Dollar performance against DM and EM currencies



In the past 20 years, there have been nine episodes where the USD has weakened by c9% or more against the DXY index, with the average fall being 13%. Over the same period, the USD declined on average by 10% versus the MSCI EM currency index.

Source: Bloomberg, UBS. Note: DXY index used to measure USD performance against DM currencies; MSCI EM currency index used to measure USD performance against EM currencies. X axis dates show the date at which the USD started to decline for the respective periods.

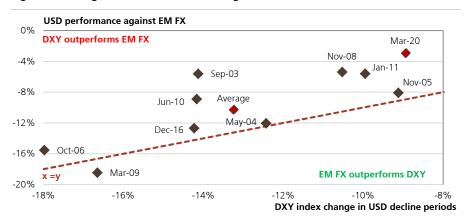
Figure 5: Dollar performance since 2000; 9 episodes of USD/DXY weakness



Source: Bloomberg, UBS. Note: DXY index used for dollar performance.

In the past 20 years, there has been a strong negative correlation (-61%) between the DXY and MSCI EM currency indexes: when the DXY goes up (i.e. USD strengthens versus DM FX), EM FX weakens (i.e. USD strengthens versus EM). Since January 2015 and over the past 12 months, the correlation has weakened to -46% and -41% respectively.

Figure 6: Changes in DXY index vs changes in MSCI EM FX



Source: Bloomberg, MSCI, UBS

Based on the past nine periods, when DXY depreciates by 10%, EM FX appreciates by ~6.6% versus 2.9% this time (since 20 March 2020).

An aggregation of UBS FX forecasts by markets (Figure 7) implies EM FX appreciation of only 0.2% by the end of 2020 and of 1.2% by the end of 2021, underpinning our view of limited upside to EM FX versus USD. By region, LatAm is expected to show the strongest FX appreciation followed by EMEA with Asia lagging.

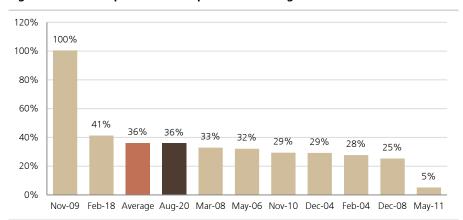
Figure 7: EM currencies expected appreciation

	Woight %			Exchange rates		Exp	ected apprecia	tion
Market	Weight, %	Currency	Current	Dec-20	Dec-21	2020	Next 12 months	2021
Argentina	0.1%	ARS	73.0	90.0	113.0	-19%	-29%	-35%
Brazil	5.1%	BRL	5.4	5.0	4.6	10%	15%	18%
Chile	0.6%	CLP	792	800	770	-1.0%	1.3%	2.8%
China	41%	CNY	6.9	7.0	7.0	-0.8%	-0.8%	-0.8%
Colombia	0.2%	COP	3,752	3,850	3,950	-2.6%	-4.1%	-5.0%
Czech Republic	0.1%	CZK	22.2	21.7	20.3	2.2%	6.3%	9.0%
Egypt	0.1%	EGP	16.0	16.5	16.5	-3.3%	-3.3%	-3.3%
Greece	0.1%	EUR	0.85	0.83	0.81	1.8%	3.3%	4.3%
Hungary	0.2%	HUF	293	292	289	0.4%	1.0%	1.4%
India	8.2%	INR	74.8	75.0	77.0	-0.2%	-1.8%	-2.8%
Indonesia	1.4%	IDR	14,760	15,000	15,000	-1.6%	-1.6%	-1.6%
Korea	12%	KRW	1,185	1,180	1,150	0.4%	2.0%	3.1%
Malaysia	1.7%	MYR	4.2	4.3	4.2	-1.3%	-0.6%	-0.2%
Mexico	1.7%	MXN	22.4	23.5	22.0	-4.8%	-0.8%	1.7%
Pakistan	0.0%	PKR	168	168	168	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Peru	0.2%	PEN	3.6	3.5	3.4	2.6%	3.9%	4.7%
Philippines	0.8%	PHP	48.9	50.0	50.0	-2.1%	-2.1%	-2.1%
Poland	0.7%	PLN	3.7	3.8	3.6	-0.4%	2.6%	4.4%
Qatar	0.8%	QAR	3.7	3.7	3.7	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Russia	3.1%	RUB	73.7	70.0	66.0	5.2%	9.1%	12%
Saudi Arabia	2.5%	SAR	3.8	3.8	3.8	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
South Africa	3.5%	ZAR	17.4	17.3	18.0	0.5%	-1.9%	-3.4%
Taiwan	13%	TWD	29.5	29.5	29.0	-0.1%	0.9%	1.6%
Thailand	2.0%	THB	31.1	31.5	31.0	-1.3%	-0.3%	0.3%
Turkey	0.4%	TRY	7.3	7.3	8.0	0.9%	-5.0%	-8.6%
UAE	0.5%	AED	3.7	3.7	3.7	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
MSCI-weighted a	verage							
EM						0.2%		1.2%
EM Asia	80%					-0.5%		0.0%
EM EMEA	12%					1.5%		2.2%
EM LatAm	8%					5.1%		12%

Source: MSCI, Datastream, Bloomberg, UBS. Note: UBS forecasts used for December 2020 and December 2021, unless specified otherwise. Bloomberg consensus forecasts used for Egyptian Pound. Fixed exchange rates for Qatari Riyal, Saudi Riyal and UAE Dirham. No forecasts available for Pakistani Rupee.

EM equities versus falling US dollar

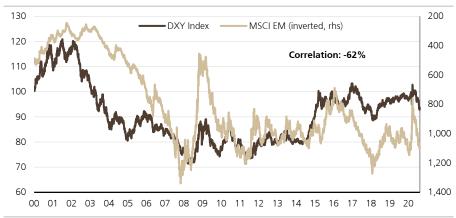
Figure 8: MSCI EM price return in periods of falling dollar



Source: MSCI, Datastream, UBS. Note: The dates on the x axis show the bottom for the USD decline in the period. For the current period, the latest data is as of 11 August 2020. The average price return does not include the current period.

During the nine previous episodes of USD weakness, EM equities rose by 36% on average, in line with the current episode of USD weakness, with the strongest (USD) performance in November 2009 (at 100%) and the smallest in May 2011 (at 5%). Excluding the outlying periods (i.e. November 2009 and May 2011), the average EM performance was 31%. In local currency terms, the average EM performance during the nine episodes was 26% or 23% excluding the two outlying periods.

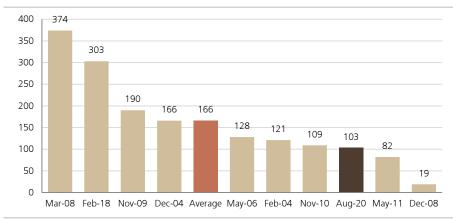
Figure 9: MSCI EM USD index and dollar



Over the past 20 years, there has been a strong negative correlation between EM equities and the US dollar (-62% correlation), indicating that EM equities tend to perform well in periods of US dollar weakness. In the past five years, this correlation has weakened to -53%, although it has risen to -62% over the past 12 months.

Source: Bloomberg, MSCI, Datastream, UBS

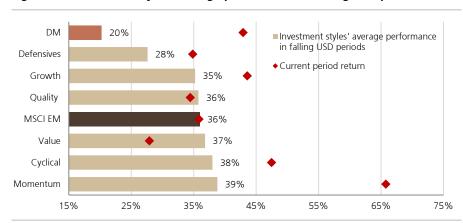
Figure 10: # of trading days of dollar decline



Source: MSCI, Datastream, UBS. Note: The dates on the x axis show the bottom for the USD decline in the period. For the current period, the latest data is as of 11 August 2020. The average price return does not include the current period.

The current period of USD weakness started on 20 March 2020 and, so far, has lasted 103 trading days. Over the previous nine episodes, USD weakness on average lasted 166 days, implying that the current episode could extend further.

Figure 11: Investment styles' average performance in falling USD periods



Source: MSCI, Datastream, UBS. Note: Returns are price returns. The average returns are for the previous nine periods of the USD fall.

Figure 12: Investment styles' performance in past falling USD periods

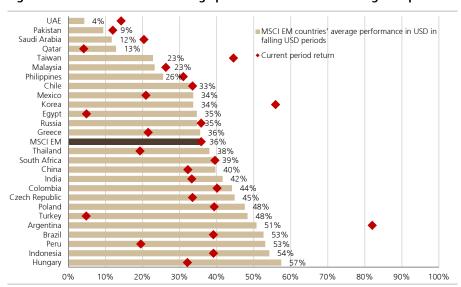
Dates	DXY	MSCI EM	Value	Growth	Quality	Momentum	DM	Cyclical	Defensives
17-Feb-04	-14.1%	28%	31%	25%	23%	33%	18%	28%	26%
30-Dec-04	-12.4%	29%	33%	26%	31%	34%	16%	25%	31%
12-May-06	-9.1%	32%	34%	31%	34%	38%	14%	36%	22%
17-Mar-08	-18.0%	33%	39%	28%	43%	43%	0%	35%	40%
17-Dec-08	-10.5%	25%	26%	24%	26%	20%	17%	28%	18%
25-Nov-09	-16.7%	100%	106%	96%	94%	78%	67%	108%	61%
4-Nov-10	-14.2%	29%	28%	31%	29%	36%	21%	29%	24%
2-May-11	-10.0%	5%	5%	5%	6%	13%	9%	7%	4%
15-Feb-18	-14.2%	41%	31%	52%	35%	54%	21%	47%	22%
11-Aug-20	-8.9%	36%	28%	44%	34%	66%	43%	47%	35%
Average	-13%	36%	37%	35%	36%	39%	20%	38%	28%

Source: MSCI, Datastream, UBS. Cyclicals include Materials, Industrials, Energy, IT and Consumer Discretionary, Defensives include Communication Services, Consumer Staples, Utilities and Health Care. The dates show the bottom for the USD decline in the period. For the current period, the latest data is as of 11 August 2020.

During previous episodes of USD weakness, EM equities (up 36% on average) outperformed DM equities (up 20%), although the reverse has happened in the current episode with DM equities currently up 43%. Cyclicals have meaningfully outperformed **Defensives, while Momentum and** Value have performed marginally better than Quality and Growth. the current episode, Momentum has outperformed strongly, suggesting less scope for upside, while Value has lagged.

Across investment styles, Momentum has been the clear winner, outperforming in seven of the nine previous episodes, and continuing to do so in the current episode. In contrast, Defensives have underperformed in six of the nine periods, including the last five episodes. DM has also underperformed EM in eight of the nine periods of USD weakness.

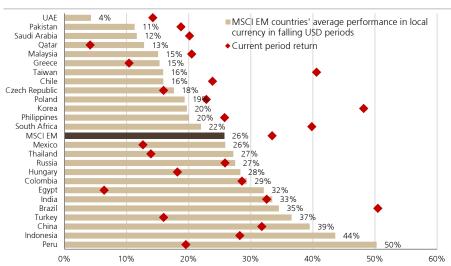
Figure 13: MSCI EM markets' average performance in USD in falling USD periods



Source: MSCI, Datastream, UBS

By markets, the winners across the nine previous episodes have included Hungary (up on average 57% in USD terms; typically considered a beta play on a strong Europe/euro), Indonesia (+54%), Peru (+53%) and Brazil (+53%) with relative underperformers being Middle-Eastern countries, such as UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar (+4-13%), as well as Taiwan (+23%) and Malaysia (+23%). China (+40%) performed slightly above the EM average.

Figure 14: MSCI EM markets' average performance in local currency in falling USD periods



In local currency terms, China's average equity performance of 39% ranks it third highest in EM by market with Hungary (+28%) moving down to the middle of the pack.

Source: MSCI, Datastream, UBS

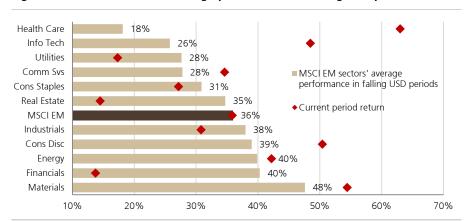
Figure 15: MSCI EM markets' average performance in USD in falling USD periods

	Feb-04	Dec-04	May-06	Mar-08	Dec-08	Nov-09	Nov-10	May-11	Feb-18	Aug-20	Average
DXY	-14%	-12%	-9%	-18%	-11%	-17%	-14%	-10%	-14%	-9%	-13%
MSCI EM	28%	29%	32%	33%	25%	100%	29%	5%	41%	36%	36%
Asia	25%	18%	32%	25%	23%	95%	28%	5%	44%	37%	33%
EMEA	28%	40%	34%	26%	24%	99%	31%	11%	32%	28%	36%
LatAm	35%	50%	30%	66%	33%	117%	32%	0%	39%	34%	45%
Argentina	50%	45%	45%	30%	33%	110%	83%	-16%	77%	82%	51%
Brazil	38%	68%	36%	93%	36%	124%	30%	1%	48%	39%	53%
Chile	35%	40%	7%	50%	7%	63%	45%	7%	46%	34%	33%
China	41%	22%	40%	52%	29%	83%	25%	2%	63%	32%	40%
Colombia	60%	85%	26%	19%	27%	108%	49%	3%	21%	40%	44%
Czech Republic	29%	67%	28%	73%	33%	84%	22%	26%	42%	33%	45%
Egypt	58%	75%	12%	83%	18%	79%	6%	-30%	11%	5%	35%
Greece	41%	33%	30%	14%	10%	105%	29%	15%	44%	22%	36%
Hungary	26%	69%	22%	17%	38%	227%	40%	33%	46%	32%	57%
India	40%	26%	46%	36%	15%	147%	31%	-2%	37%	33%	42%
Indonesia	50%	37%	75%	55%	42%	156%	30%	15%	29%	39%	54%
Korea	23%	21%	27%	7%	31%	114%	29%	13%	39%	56%	34%
Malaysia	15%	12%	17%	44%	2%	62%	29%	1%	28%	26%	23%
Mexico	30%	35%	25%	24%	32%	112%	25%	0%	20%	21%	34%
Pakistan	-2%	2%	28%	29%	-16%	59%	5%	0%	-21%	12%	9%
Peru	41%	23%	33%	127%	47%	124%	53%	-16%	46%	20%	53%
Philippines	18%	19%	29%	27%	17%	55%	41%	2%	22%	31%	26%
Poland	9%	67%	42%	22%	21%	134%	51%	23%	59%	39%	48%
Qatar	-	-	-36%	46%	15%	65%	16%	-2%	-13%	4%	13%
Russia	23%	-1%	64%	21%	26%	130%	20%	17%	12%	36%	35%
Saudi Arabia	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	12%	20%	12%
South Africa	29%	53%	36%	24%	29%	96%	34%	6%	47%	40%	39%
Taiwan	14%	6%	27%	15%	16%	74%	26%	5%	23%	45%	23%
Thailand	52%	21%	27%	41%	18%	82%	48%	9%	44%	19%	38%
Turkey	76%	75%	14%	21%	37%	122%	52%	2%	37%	5%	48%
UAE	-		-52%	-4%	-6%	77%	18%	-2%	0%	14%	4%

Source: MSCI, Datastream, UBS

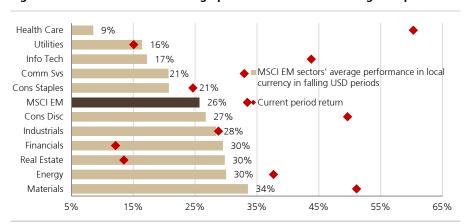
Region wise, LatAm (+45%) and EMEA (+36%) have outperformed Asia (+33%). By market, Brazilian equities outperformed the EM equity index in eight of the nine previous periods **USD** weakness, with an average performance of 51% in USD terms. Indonesian equities also outperformed EM in eight of the nine previous occasions, having failed to do so during the last episode in February 2018. In contrast, the UAE market underperformed EM on all seven occasions since its inception.

Figure 16: MSCI EM sectors' average performance in falling USD periods



Source: MSCI, Datastream, UBS

Figure 17: MSCI EM sectors' average performance in LC in falling USD periods



Source: MSCI, Datastream, UBS.

Sector wise, Materials (up on average 48% in USD terms), and, to a lesser extent, Energy (+40%) have been consistent winners. benefitting from higher prices as commodity prices are quoted in USD, while Health Care has been the key underperformer (+18%). In the current episode, we see downside risk in the Health Care sector (+18% versus the +64% rally in the current episode), and most potential upside Financials (40%) with further USD weakness.

We see similar trends in local currency terms: Materials, on average, increased 34% with Energy up 30% in the nine previous episodes. In contrast, Health Care only posted an average performance of 9% versus 61% in the current period of USD weakness.

Figure 18: MSCI EM sectors' average performance in falling USD periods

Dates	DXY	MSCI EM	Cons Disc	Cons Staples	Energy	Financials	Health Care	Industrials	Info Tech	Materials	Comm Svs	Utilities	Real Estate
17-Feb-04	-14.1%	28%	27%	21%	36%	28%	15%	32%	19%	33%	32%	23%	29%
30-Dec-04	-12.4%	29%	35%	31%	25%	42%	3%	37%	3%	40%	37%	36%	26%
12-May-06	-9.1%	32%	23%	29%	53%	34%	10%	36%	23%	42%	19%	30%	56%
17-Mar-08	-18.0%	33%	10%	30%	46%	21%	15%	46%	-6%	78%	53%	36%	34%
17-Dec-08	-10.5%	25%	20%	15%	35%	28%	7%	26%	17%	36%	21%	18%	29%
25-Nov-09	-16.7%	100%	143%	92%	102%	129%	40%	93%	93%	123%	50%	66%	73%
4-Nov-10	-14.2%	29%	42%	32%	22%	35%	31%	44%	16%	35%	20%	19%	25%
2-May-11	-10.0%	5%	9%	4%	12%	3%	0%	2%	4%	5%	4%	4%	-6%
15-Feb-18	-14.2%	41%	42%	24%	28%	42%	42%	26%	63%	37%	13%	17%	47%
11-Aug-20	-8.9%	36%	50%	27%	42%	14%	63%	31%	48%	54%	35%	17%	14%
Average	-13%	36%	39%	31%	40%	40%	18%	38%	26%	48%	28%	28%	35%

Source: MSCI, Datastream, UBS. Note: Conditional formatting is by rows.

In seven of the nine previous **USD** periods of weakness, Materials outperformed the EM equity index with Energy **Financials** doing SO six occasions, although it is interesting to note that both **Materials** and Energy underperformed EM during the last episode in February 2018. In contrast, IT, having underperformed in the first eight episodes, meaningfully outperformed EM in February 2018 and is continuing to do so in the current episode.

Figure 19: MSCI EM sectors' beta in falling USD periods

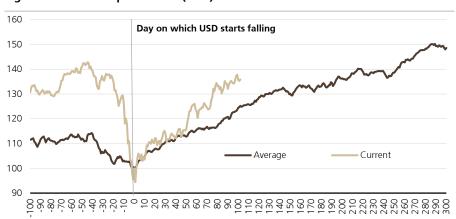
High	Low	# of weeks	MSCI EM	Cons Disc	Cons Staples	Energy	Financials	Health Care	Industrials	Info Tech	Materials	Comm Svs	Utilities	Real Estate
2-Sep-03	17-Feb-04	24	-0.6	-0.4	-0.6	-0.9	-0.7	0.2	-0.4	-0.2	-0.6	-1.2	-0.9	-0.7
13-May-04	30-Dec-04	34	-0.8	-0.7	-0.6	-0.7	-0.9	-0.5	-0.6	-0.7	-1.0	-0.8	-0.5	-0.3
16-Nov-05	12-May-06	26	-0.9	-0.5	-0.6	-1.3	-1.0	-0.7	-0.6	-0.7	-1.0	-1.1	-0.7	-0.6
11-Oct-06	17-Mar-08	75	-0.8	-0.5	-0.4	-1.2	-0.5	-0.4	-0.5	-0.8	-1.2	-0.6	-0.6	-1.0
21-Nov-08	17-Dec-08	5 1	-3.9	-3.5	-2.7	-5.3	-3.5	-0.4	-4.1	-4.2	-5.5	-2.7	-2.8	-2.3
5-Mar-09	25-Nov-09	39	-1.2	-1.0	-0.8	-2.0	-1.2	-0.6	-1.3	-0.4	-1.7	-0.9	-1.0	-1.3
7-Jun-10	4-Nov-10	23	-0.9	-1.0	-0.7	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-0.8	-0.7	-1.0	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7
7-Jan-11	2-May-11	18	-0.7	-0.3	-0.3	-1.2	-0.5	-0.4	-0.5	-0.8	-1.0	-0.3	-0.3	0.2
20-Dec-16	15-Feb-18	61	-1.0	-1.1	-0.7	-0.8	-1.1	-1.2	-0.7	-1.0	-1.0	-0.9	-0.6	-1.4
20-Mar-20	11-Aug-20	21	-1.8	-1.8	-1.3	-1.2	-2.2	-1.3	-2.2	-2.0	-2.3	-0.9	-1.7	-2.1

The current episode of USD weakness has one of the highest beta between the MSCI EM index and the USD. By sector, the highest beta is for Materials and Financials with the lowest in Communication Services, largely in line with historical trends.

Source: MSCI, Datastream, Bloomberg, UBS. Note: Conditional formatting is by rows.

Performance, earnings, valuations when USD falls

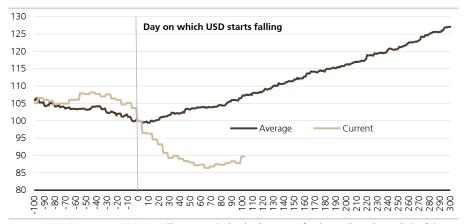
Figure 20: MSCI EM price index (USD) - rebased to 100



Source: MSCI, Datastream, UBS. Note: The average is the simple average for the previous nine periods of the USD decline.

The current EM equity rally has been much stronger than previous rallies in periods of USD weakness. Although we forecast limited EM FX gains for the rest of the year (see Figure 7), past episodes indicate upside of another c10% by the end of the year, should the USD weaken further.

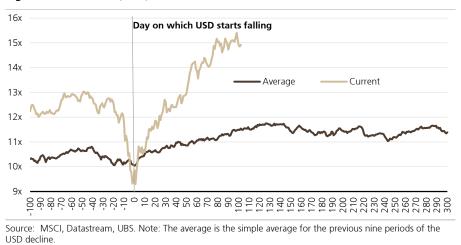
Figure 21: MSCI EM (USD) 12-month forward EPS - rebased to 100



Source: MSCI, Datastream, UBS. Note: The average is the simple average for the previous nine periods of the USD decline.

In previous periods of USD weakness, EM EPS was not really impacted. The growth rate was largely unchanged. In the current episode, EM EPS has fallen sharply, largely due to Covid-19-driven economic shocks, albeit it has recently started to stabilise.

Figure 22: MSCI EM (USD) 12-month forward PE



In past episodes, EM PE multiples expanded modestly, from 10x to 11.7x on average, whereas in this episode, they have broken out to the current peak level.

EM valuation summary

Figure 23: MSCI EM 12-month forward PE



EM equities are currently trading at peak PE multiples. At 14.9x PE, EM is now more than two standard deviations above its historical mean.

Source: IBES, MSCI, Datastream, UBS

Figure 24: MSCI EM trailing P/BV



Source: MSCI, Datastream, UBS

In terms of trailing P/BV, EM equities are trading in line with their long-term average of 1.8x, but ROE of 10.1% is well below the historical average of 12.9%.

Figure 25: MSCI EM trailing return on equity (%)



The current trailing ROE of 10.1% in EM is in line with the trough level during the GFC in November 2009. Previously, it was this low in July 2002 when EM was trading on 1.5x trailing P/BV.

Source: MSCI, Datastream, UBS. Latest data as of 31 July 2020.

Investment strategy

Figure 26: Implied historical equity allocation implications

	Falling USD
EM vs DM	EM > DM
EM Regions	LatAm, EMEA ➤ Asia
EM Markets	Hungary, Indonesia, Peru, Brazil, Turkey, Poland ➤ UAE, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Malaysia, Taiwan
EM Sectors	Materials, Energy, Financials ➤ Health Care, IT, Utilities
EM Styles	Momentum, Cyclicals, Value ➤ Quality, Growth, Defensives

Source: UBS

Figure 27: UBS EM sector and market ratings

	Overweight	Neutral	Underweight
Sectors			
	Financials	Utilities	Materials
	Comm Svs	Energy	Industrials
	Cons Staples	Cons Disc	Real Estate
	Info Tech		Health Care
Markets			
	Korea	China	Taiwar
	Poland	India	South Africa
	Peru	Brazil	Thailand
	Hungary	Russia	Philippine
	Mexico	Malaysia	Chile
		Indonesia	
		Turkey	
		Colombia	
		Greece	
		Czech Republic	

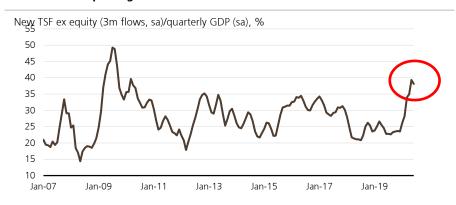
Source: UBS

Should history repeat itself, EM equities should outperform DM equities with LatAm and EMEA beating Asia. Markets that have beaten the EM benchmark include Hungary, Indonesia, Peru and Brazil with sector winners being Material and Energy, while Momentum, Cyclicals and Value have been the best-performing investment styles.

We remain cautious on the outlook for EM equities given the strength of the EM index rally in the current FX episode and elevated valuations. We continue to prefer North Asia over EMEA and LatAm, as well as sectors exposed to structural growth opportunities, such as Internet and Tech, for which Covid-19 is proving to be a positive catalyst.

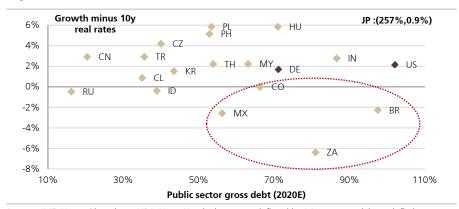
Risks to current EM rally

Figure 28: Sequential measures of Chinese credit growth may now be peaking after a robust upswing



Source: MSCI, Datastream, UBS

Figure 29: Public debt % of GDP 2020E vs spread over real GDP growth over 10y real rate

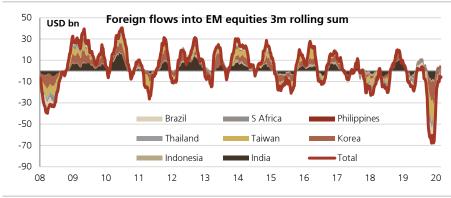


Source: IMF, Haver, Bloomberg, UBS. Note: Nominal rates are deflated by 24m exponential core inflation to obtain real yields. Data for Korea and China shows central government debt.

With China's equity and property markets recovering, and interbank rates risina, our economists expect credit growth to now sequentially slow. In fact, faster moving measures of credit flow may have already peaked in May. If this is correct, historical precedent would suggest that EM FX appreciation, credit spread compression, and equity outperformance versus DM will begin to level off by September (see EM Navigator: What China's slowing credit growth means for **EM**).

While public debt stocks higher still in DM, DM significantly stronger capacity to finance that higher debt: real interest rates in general are well below trend growth rates for those economies. For many parts of EM, the opposite is true. Thus, debt sustainability can unravel faster. Higher public amid particularly structurally weaker global trade, implies lower savings to fund future (trend) growth.

Figure 30: Foreign flows into EM equities

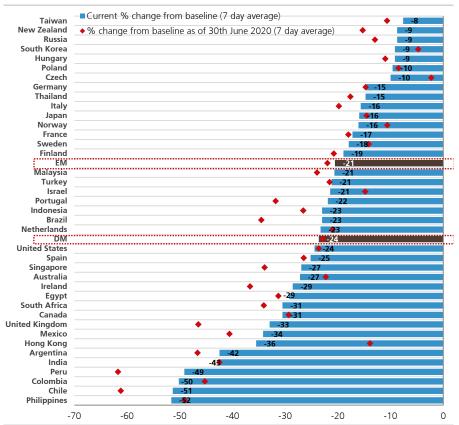


Source: Macrobond, UBS estimates.

Assuming no new major waves of Covid-19, foreign investor positioning markets in equity should be less negative technical factor for markets. While the 37% drop in MSCI EM up to 23 March was accompanied by US\$55bn of foreign outflows, foreign participation in subsequent 43% recovery been absent, with a further net US\$5.7bn of outflows. Recently, foreign flows into Taiwan and India have recovered more clearly than in Korea, Thailand and Brazil.

Mobility trends

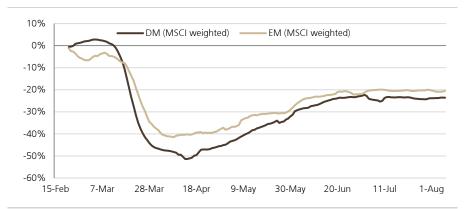
Figure 31: Mobility trends in major EM and DM markets



EM's MSCI weighted seven-day moving average mobility is currently 21% below pre-Covid-19 normal, worsened by 1.4pp since June-end. While for DMs it is 24% below baseline, 0.7pp down in the same period.

Source: UBS Evidence Lab, UBS. Access Dataset. Note: (1) Average mobility is the simple average of the percentage change from the baseline in the mobility of retail and recreation, transit stations and workplaces. (2) DM and EM averages are MSCI World and MSCI EM ex-China market cap weighted averages, respectively. (3) Latest data as of 7 August 2020.

Figure 32: EM vs DM 7-day moving average mobility deviations from normal

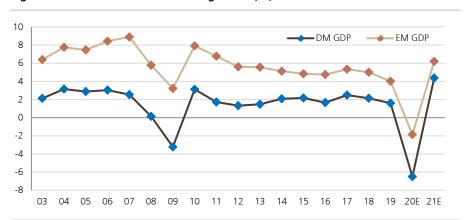


Source: UBS Evidence Lab, UBS. <u>>Access Dataset</u>. Note: (1) average mobility is the simple average of the percentage change from the baseline in the mobility of retail and recreation, transit stations and workplaces. (2) DM and EM averages are MSCI World and MSCI EM ex-China market cap weighted averages, respectively. (3) Latest data as of 7 August 2020.

Average mobility has recovered in both DM and EM from trough levels in mid-April 2020. Currently, seven-day moving average mobility in EM stands at c21% below pre-Covid-19 levels while in DM, this is at -24%.

A snapshot: DM versus EM

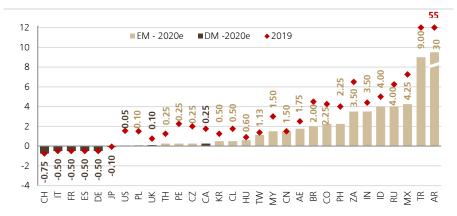
Figure 33: EM vs DM real GDP YoY growth (%)



Our economics team estimates a sharp rebound in economic activity in 2021 with GDP growth estimated at 4.4% in DM, up from -6.5% in 2020, and 6.2% in EM, up from -1.9%. In EM, China is expected to be a dominant driver of the recovery with GDP growth in 2021 forecast at 7.6% – up from 2.5% in 2020.

Source: UBS estimates

Figure 34: Year-end policy rates for 2019 and 2020E (%)



Policy rates have come down sharply in recent months. Today, several DM markets have negative rates, with a number of EM markets have record low rates. While rates are close to bottoming out in several markets, they are also expected to remain lower for longer.

Source: UBS estimates

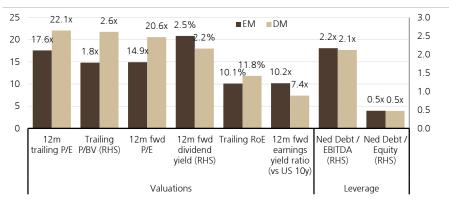
Figure 35: MSCI EM and DM weight in ACWI and composition

	EM	DM
MSCI Index as % of ACWI	12%	88%
Energy + Materials as % of index	13%	8%
IT + Internet + E-commerce as % of index	39%	31%
Sector weights		•
Cons Disc	18.2%	11.3%
Cons Staples	6.3%	8.2%
Energy	5.8%	3.1%
Financials	18.1%	12.7%
Health Care	4.3%	13.7%
Industrials	4.6%	10.4%
Info Tech	18.2%	21.1%
Materials	7.2%	4.5%
Comm Svs	12.8%	8.8%
Utilities	2.1%	3.3%
Real Estate	2.5%	2.9%

Source: MSCI, Datastream, UBS. Note: Internet and E-commerce is the sum of the media and entertainment industry group, and internet and direct marketing retail industry. Conditional formatting is by column.

The global equity universe is dominated by DM (88%), with the US accounting for 58% of it. Tech is now the largest sector for both DM and EM. In EM, Consumer Discretionary and Financials are the next largest, while in DM, Health Care and Financials are next largest.

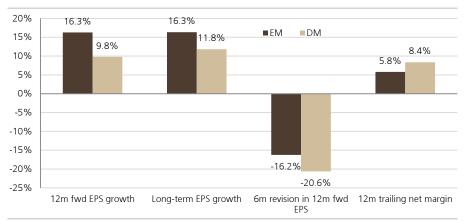
Figure 36: Valuations and leverage: MSCI EM vs DM



Although EM is trading at peak PE multiples, it still remains at a 20% discount to DM. The discount to DM is largest when looking at trailing P/BV (31%) or 12-month forward PE (28%), although profitability is also lower in EM with ROE at 10.1% versus 11.8% in DM.

Source: Bloomberg, IBES, MSCI, Datastream, UBS

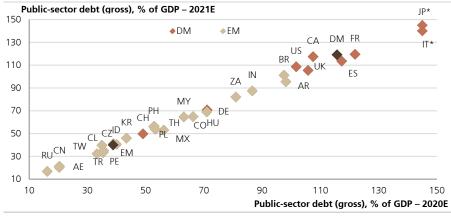
Figure 37: Earnings and margins – MSCI EM vs DM



EM also offers a superior earnings growth outlook compared with DM, both in the short and longer term, while the recent earnings shock from the Covid-19 crisis has also been less. In line with its inferior ROE, EM's net margins have been lower than those in DM.

Source: IBES, MSCI, Datastream, UBS

Figure 38: Gross public-sector debt as a % of GDP



Source: UBS estimates. *JP: x = 257%, y = 256%. IT: x = 160%, y = 155%.

Covid-19-driven fiscal stimuli are raising public debt levels in both DM and EM. In DM, UBS forecasts public debt/GDP to rise from 116% in 2020 to 119% in 2021, while in EM, we estimate this at 39% in 2020, rising to 40% in 2021.

Figure 39: USD vs MSCI EM performance relative to S&P 500



Over the past 20 years, there has been a -85% correlation between the performance of EM equities relative to the S&P 500 and the DXY index. This indicates that in periods of a falling USD relative to other DM currencies, EM equities outperform the S&P 500.

Source: Bloomberg, MSCI, Datastream, UBS

Figure 40: MSCI EM and sector valuations

	VTC	\f	Wt. in EM				12m	fwd				Earnings (Growth (%)
	TIL) perf	Wt. In EW	P/E (x)	Z score	%ile	P/BV (x)	Z score	%ile	RoE (%)	DY (%)	2020E	2021E
GEMs		-2.1%		14.9	2.9x	100%	1.6	0.1x	63%	10.7	2.5	-8.8	31.0
Info Tech		16%	18.2%	17.2	0.8x	94%	2.2	0.7x	75%	12.8	2.6	24.6	28.6
Cons Disc		15%	18.2%	26.4	4.4x	99%	3.1	4.5x	100%	11.7	0.5	-1.3	49.3
Financials		-24%	18.1%	8.3	-0.9x	13%	0.9	-1.4x	2%	10.5	4.4	-10.1	13.3
Comm Services		15%	12.8%	22.5	3.1x	99%	3.0	1.9x	93%	13.3	1.5	8.4	21.9
Materials	- 1	-2%	7.2%	13.1	1.2x	87%	1.4	-0.2x	62%	10.8	3.8	-6.8	55.8
Cons Staples		-3%	6.3%	24.2	1.8x	100%	3.4	1.2x	94%	14.1	2.2	6.8	18.9
Energy		-22%	5.8%	15.2	4.3x	100%	0.8	-0.6x	37%	5.4	3.8	-77.2	226.2
Industrials		-11%	4.6%	13.3	0.4x	62%	1.1	-0.9x	10%	8.5	2.4	-12.4	37.3
Health Care		36%	4.3%	37.0	4.0x	100%	4.6	1.9x	99%	12.3	0.8	24.4	26.9
Real Estate		-21%	2.5%	6.4	-1.0x	12%	0.9	-1.4x	8%	14.1	5.7	4.9	20.3
Utilities		-18%	2.1%	10.6	-0.6x	27%	1.0	-0.7x	21%	9.2	4.1	5.2	18.2

Source: IBES, MSCI, Datastream, UBS. Note: The Z-score and latest percentiles are calculated on weekly data since December 2004.

Figure 41: MSCI EM and markets valuations

	VTD = o=f	\A/4 : FM				12m	fwd				Earnings (Growth (%)
	YTD perf	Wt. in EM	P/E (x)	Z score	%ile	P/BV (x)	Z score	%ile	RoE (%)	DY (%)	2020E	2021E
GEMs	-2.1%		14.9	2.9x	100%	1.6	0.1x	63%	10.7	2.5	-8.8	31.0
China	12%	40.8%	14.6	1.2x	90%	1.8	0.1x	67%	12.1	1.8	1.5	19.6
Taiwan	12%	12.9%	17.7	1.4x	94%	2.1	2.2x	99%	12.0	3.5	9.4	14.6
Korea	6%	12.2%	13.1	2.8x	100%	1.0	-0.6x	34%	7.7	2.3	15.1	43.9
India	-7%	8.2%	23.3	3.0x	100%	2.7	0.1x	60%	11.5	1.6	-11.1	40.9
Brazil	-34%	5.1%	15.8	2.7x	99%	2.0	0.6x	76%	12.4	3.2	-58.9	159.1
S. Africa	-23%	3.5%	11.7	-0.3x	45%	1.8	-0.6x	20%	15.2	3.0	1.9	38.8
Russia	-21%	3.1%	8.5	0.8x	80%	0.7	-0.4x	53%	8.3	7.5	-49.3	51.2
Saudi Arabia	-13%	2.5%	19.6	2.2x	100%	1.8	0.2x	60%	9.0	4.1	-13.5	20.9
Thailand	-22%	2.0%	18.3	2.8x	100%	1.6	-1.0x	11%	8.5	2.9	-32.3	27.9
Malaysia	-5%	1.7%	17.9	2.4x	99%	1.5	-1.3x	9%	8.3	3.2	-18.8	26.6
Mexico	-24%	1.7%	15.0	0.1x	55%	1.8	-1.3x	11%	11.8	3.3	-28.0	60.1
Indonesia	-23%	1.4%	16.4	1.4x	97%	2.1	-1.4x	6%	12.7	3.1	-24.4	29.3
Qatar	-11%	0.8%	13.8	0.9x	89%	1.7	-0.2x	47%	12.4	3.9	-15.3	18.4
Philippines	-21%	0.8%	15.3	-0.2x	42%	1.5	-1.8x	3%	9.6	2.1	-24.8	30.5
Poland	-15%	0.7%	12.5	0.4x	64%	0.9	-1.2x	4%	7.6	3.2	-14.2	9.5
Chile	-22%	0.6%	15.6	-0.1x	52%	1.1	-2.1x	2%	7.1	2.8	-32.8	49.7
UAE	-20%	0.5%	10.4	-0.3x	44%	0.9	-1.9x	3%	8.5	4.4	-35.1	20.8
Turkey	-28%	0.4%	6.2	-1.5x	13%	0.8	-1.9x	1%	12.1	5.1	-14.1	55.2
Peru	-29%	0.2%	15.4	0.9x	92%	1.6	-0.7x	9%	10.1	3.3	-46.0	76.2
Hungary	-25%	0.2%	9.8	0.1x	50%	1.0	-0.6x	32%	10.3	3.3	-38.8	39.1
Colombia	-45%	0.2%	8.9	-1.6x	3%	1.1	-0.3x	7%	11.9	3.7	-29.7	40.7
Greece	-37%	0.1%	12.5	0.1x	49%	2.2	0.8x	77%	18.0	6.3	-27.0	42.7
Argentina	-3.3%	0.1%	1,536.1	-0.2x	100%	2.1	0.4x	75%	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0
Egypt	-23%	0.1%	7.7	-1.0x	18%	1.5	-0.6x	35%	19.1	3.8	-7.9	21.2
Czech Republic	-21%	0.1%	11.9	-0.4x	41%	1.0	-1.5x	2%	8.3	7.4	-13.5	-0.7
Pakistan	-23%	0.0%	8.3	0.0x	59%	0.9	-1.3x	3%	10.9	7.8	-0.3	-2.2

Source: IBES, MSCI, Datastream, UBS. Note: Z-score and latest percentiles are calculated on weekly data since December 2004.

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In addition to industry- and company-specific risk, we point out to investors the potential risks inherent in investing in companies with significant assets and business operations in emerging markets. Potential EM-related risks include the volatile nature of the currency, regulatory and sociopolitical risk, and abrupt potential changes in the cost of capital and economic growth outlook. Valuations can also be impacted by 'contagion' from developments in other emerging markets. Each of the above has the potential to significantly impact company/industry performance.

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12-Month Rating	Definition	Coverage ¹	IB Services ²
Buy	FSR is > 6% above the MRA.	49%	32%
Neutral	FSR is between -6% and 6% of the MRA.	39%	30%
Sell	FSR is > 6% below the MRA.	13%	20%
Short-Term Rating	Definition	Coverage ³	IB Services ⁴
Short-Term Rating Buy	Stock price expected to rise within three months from the time the rating was assigned because of a specific catalyst or event.	Coverage ³ <1%	IB Services ⁴ <1%

Source: UBS. Rating allocations are as of 30 June 2020.

- 1:Percentage of companies under coverage globally within the 12-month rating category.
- 2:Percentage of companies within the 12-month rating category for which investment banking (IB) services were provided within the past 12 months.
- 3:Percentage of companies under coverage globally within the Short-Term rating category.
- 4:Percentage of companies within the Short-Term rating category for which investment banking (IB) services were provided within the past 12 months.

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