

Asia Equity Strategy

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Are we seeing signs of capitulation?

Figure 1: Net foreign selling in Emerging Asia (ex. China), US\$ mn

Tactical	Net foreign selling	Net foreign selling		
corrections	(US\$ mn)	(as a % of market cap)		
May 2004	-2,444	-0.2		
March-April 2005	-4,530	-0.3		
October 2005	-4,351	-0.3		
May-July 2006	-14,451	-0.7		
March 2007	-3,442	-0.1		
February 2010	-2,598	-0.1		
Average	-5,303	-0.3		
May 2010	-8,322	-0.2		

Source: Various stock exchanges, Credit Suisse estimates

- Heading towards one of the biggest months ever for net foreign selling. Figure 2 highlights that net foreign selling in Emerging Asia (ex. China, ex. Malaysia) has reached US\$8.3 bn as of 18 May. This already makes May 2010 the biggest month for net foreign selling since October 2008 (which was associated with US\$11.3 bn). However, if we assume the same selling rate continues for the rest of May (eight more trading days), we are potentially looking at net foreign selling of US\$14 bn. The record month previously for net foreign selling was US\$17.5 bn in August 2007.
- Prior to 2008, most tactical corrections associated with US\$2.4 bn to US\$14.5 bn. While the bear market of 2007/08 was associated with a year of net foreign selling, most tactical corrections (10-15%) in MXASJ (MSCI Asia ex. Japan) were associated with net foreign selling ranging from US\$2.4 bn in May 2004 to US\$14.5 bn in May-July 2006. Tactical corrections were associated with net foreign selling ranging from 0.1% to 0.7% of market capitalisation versus 0.2% so far in May 2010. See Figure 1 above.
- MXASJ of 430, we believe, provides an attractive entry level. With Asian sovereign balance sheets in good shape, a fair degree of foreign investor capitulation, we believe a 15% correction to 430 on MXASJ (currently 458) provides an attractive entry level to the Credit Suisse house view of no global double dip. Please see our reports on 10 May, Lessons from the 1997/98 Asian financial crisis and 17 May, So far, none of our seven lead indicators suggest a global double dip for details.

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Focus charts

Figure 2: Net foreign buying/ selling in Emerging Asia (ex. China), US\$ mn

		aying/ sciii			•	•	EM Asia ex.
	India	Indonesia	Korea	Philippines	Taiwan	Thailand	China & Malaysia
Monthly data							
Jul-09	2,284	306	4,680	44	2,629	265	10,208
Aug-09	1,008	135	3,030	-16	281	88	4,526
Sep-09	3,811	94	4,138	200	4,564	680	13,487
Oct-09	1,948	-330	1,354	-174	-307	20	2,510
Nov-09	1,183	190	1,683	93	725	-395	3,480
Dec-09	2,199	406	1,991	29	3,294	-136	7,783
Jan-10	-94	46	605	48	-12	-227	367
Feb-10	270	-215	-24	65	-2,856	164	-2,598
Mar-10	4,372	536	4,747	44	3,501	1,371	14,571
Apr-10	2,099	169	4,883	197	3,802	-127	11,023
May-10	-769	-130	-3,853	56	-2,574	-1,051	-8,322
Annual data							
2010 (YTD)	5,877	406	6,358	411	1,860	130	15,042
2009	17,176	1,303	24,386	408	15,611	1,110	59,994
2008	-15,674	2,893	-35,531	-1,060	-15,743	-4,845	-69,960
2007	17,236	3,531	-29,294	1,243	2,066	1,610	-3,609
2006	8,006	1,823	-12,657	1,351	16,611	1,857	16,991
2005	10,546	-1,741	-3,584	355	24,389	2,976	32,940
						Last u	pdate: 18 May 2010

Net foreign selling in Emerging Asia (ex. China, ex. Malaysia) has reached US\$8.3 bn as of 18 May

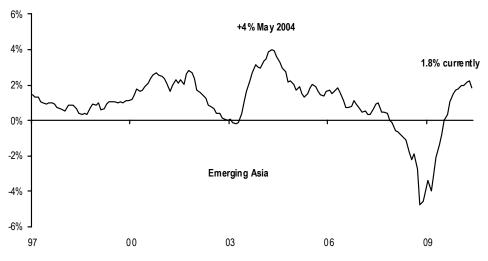
If this pace continues, it could be close to the biggest month ever

The biggest month ever (our data starts from 1996) was US\$17.5 bn in August 2007

Half the net foreign selling this month has been borne by Korea (US\$3.85 bn)

Source: Various stock exchanges, Credit Suisse estimates

Figure 3: Cumulative 12-month net foreign buying in Emerging Asia as a % of market cap



On a rolling 12-month basis, net foreign buying is 1.8% of market capitalisation

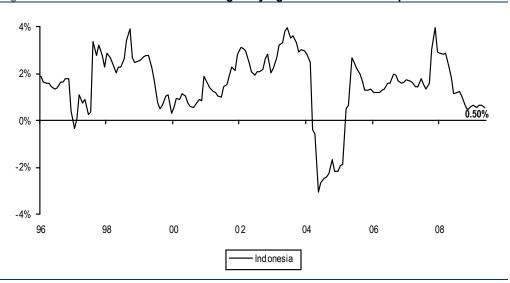
Source: Various stock exchanges, Credit Suisse estimates



Who is under-owned on a flow basis?

While we believe Korea is under-owned on a stock basis, we believe Indonesia is the most under-owned on a flow basis. We define flow basis as cumulative net foreign buying over the last 12 months as a percentage of market capitalisation. On this measure, Indonesia stands at 0.5% versus the Philippines and Thailand at 0.6%.

Figure 4: Cumulative 12-month net foreign buying as a % of market capitalisation



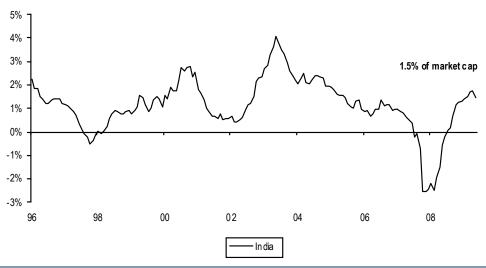
Indonesia looks underowned on a flow basis

Cumulative net foreign buying over the last 12 months is only 0.5% of market cap

Source: Various stock exchanges, Credit Suisse estimates

While India has seen only US\$769 mn of net foreign selling as of 18 May, or only 9% of net foreign selling in Emerging Asia ex. China of US\$8.3 bn, Figure 5 highlights that on a rolling 12-month basis, cumulative net foreign buying is 1.5% of market cap.

Figure 5: Cumulative net foreign buying in India as a % of market capitalisation



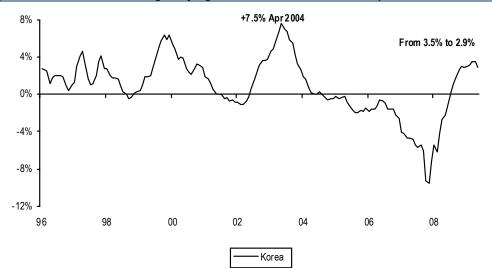
Net foreign buying in India is 1.5% of market cap

Source: Various stock exchanges, Credit Suisse estimates

While Korea has already seen net foreign selling of US\$3.9 bn, or almost half of the net foreign selling out of Emerging Asia this month, we note that over the last 12 months, Korea has received the largest inflows as a percentage of market capitalisation. Figure 6 highlights that cumulative net foreign buying over the last 12 months is now 2.9% of market cap, down from 3.5% last month.



Figure 6: Cumulative net foreign buying in Korea as a % of market cap

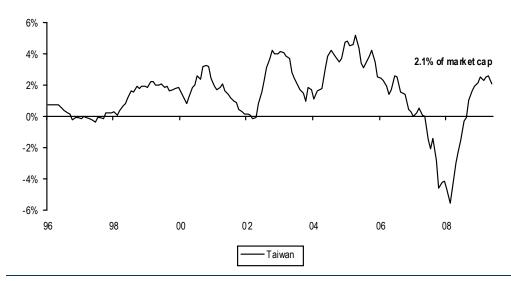


Cumulative net foreign buying in Korea as a percentage of market cap has dropped from 3.5% in April to 2.9% in May

Source: Various stock exchanges, Credit Suisse estimates

On a flow basis, Taiwan is the second highest, at 2.1% of market cap, for cumulative net foreign buying over the last 12 months.

Figure 7: Cumulative net foreign buying in Taiwan as a % of market cap



Cumulative net foreign buying in Taiwan is 2.1% of market cap

Source: Various stock exchanges, Credit Suisse estimates



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