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## **Global Portfolio Flows and Impact on European Markets**

**Investment Implications of a Low Yield Environment** 

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### **Global Portfolio Flows and Their Impact on European Markets**

### An asset yield shock

The asset /liability spread has reversed: investment margins are at decade lows, driving search for yield strategies and increasing diversification

**Little expectation of yield recovery:** inflation markets, forward rates and policy guidance all point to a substantial period of low yields

**PSPP outlook is critical:** forward markets are pricing either PSPP extension or a material further contraction of investor liability costs. Both seem unlikely.

### With an incomplete response

**Asset allocation is constrained:** Pension and life insurers are constrained by regulatory charges (Solvency II) and historically strict investment mandates. While the debate has picked up, substantial change is unlikely in the medium term

A limit to bank diversification strategies: given inevitable information asymmetries in non-listed/private markets

**Global factors also at work:** the hunt for yield is a global phenomenon, though an accelerating one under PSPP.

# Flows are likely to be large and volatile

**Diversification could be temporary:** Incentives to diversify probably reverse materially once yields reach around 2.5%

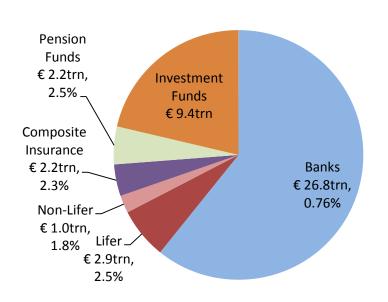
European "natural habitat" in fixed income assets unlikely to change Scale of potential "temporary" flows is in any case very large

### **Structure of Eurozone Financial System**

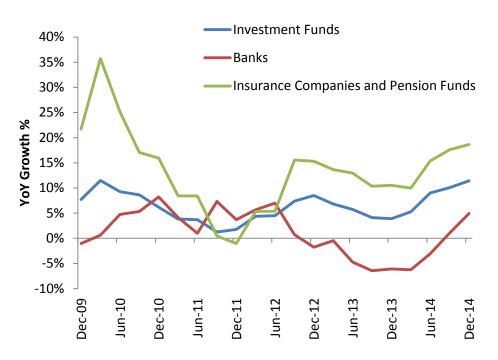
- The Euro-zone financial system is dominated by banks and the insurance and pension sector
- Both sectors have sticky liability costs that drive investment choice plus regulatory constraints
- AuM growth has been solid in recent years, further pressuring yields

# Size and Breakdown of Eurozone Financial System and Respective Cost of Liability,

Blended Average Cost of Liability: 1.1%



#### **Annual Growth Rates of Each Financial Sector**



#### The Low Yield Environment - Banks

- Bank funding costs have fallen meaningfully in recent years and now stand at 15 year lows
- Asset yields, and therefore spreads, are also low by historical standards
- This will lead to increasing competition for higher yielding assets as banks try to reach their cost of equity targets

#### **Average Marginal Funding Cost for Banks**

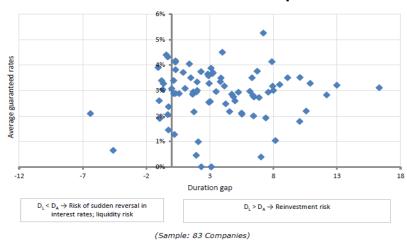


#### **Banks: Lending Profitability Scenarios**

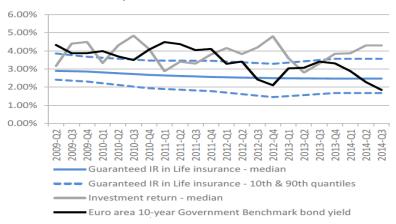
Lending Rate	1.5	2.0	2.5_	_ 2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0
Funding cost	0.9	0.9	(0.9	0.05	0.9	0.9	0.9
Operating cost	0.8	1.1	1.4	<del>-</del> 1.4	1.7	1.9	2.2
Pre tax	-0.2	0.0	0.2	1.1	0.5	0.7	0.9
Tax	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3
Allocated capital	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Net income	-0.2	0.0	0.2	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.6
ROE	-3.2%	0.0%	3.2%	15.1%	6.3%	9.5%	12.6%

## The Low Yield Environment – Insurance Companies

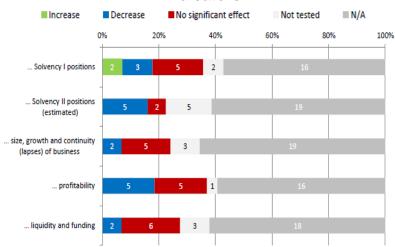
# Insurance Companies: Average Guarantee Rate for Lifers vs Duration Gap



# Life Insurance Guaranteed Rate vs Investment Return, Euro area Govt bond Yield



# Impact of Low Interest Rate Environment on Key Indicators

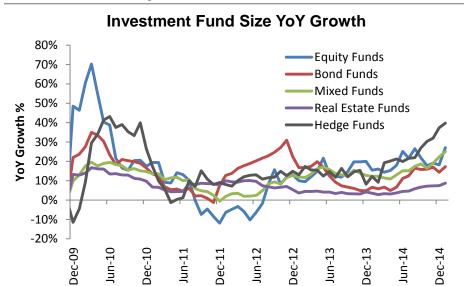


#### **Capital Charges for Each Asset Class**

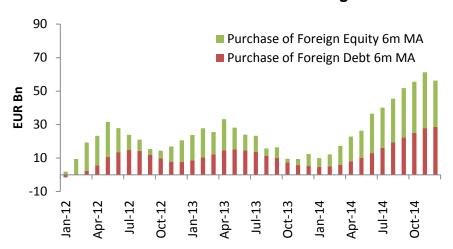
				EM - Local EM - Foreign		
<b>Capital Charges</b>	Rating	Eurozone	US*	Currency*	Currency*	
<b>Govt Bond</b>	A - AAA	0.0%	0-5.5%	0-5.5%	4.5-7.0%	
	BBB	0.0%	7.0%	7.0%	12.5%	
Corp Bond	A - AAA	4.5-7.0%	4.5-7.0%	4.5-7.0%	4.5-7.0%	
	BBB	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	
Equity		39.0%	39.0%	39.0%	39.0%	

<sup>\*</sup> Assume FX hedged, otherwise 25% charge for currency mismatch

# **Investment Implications**



#### **Eurozone Investors' Purchase of Foreign Assets**



#### **Investment Universe**

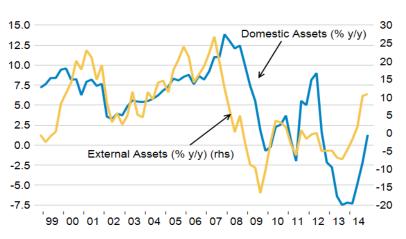
Yield	Rating	Current	2013	2010
<b>Govt Bond</b>	A or above	0.4%	1.5%	3.4%
	BBB- or above	0.8%	2.3%	3.6%
Corp Bond	A or above	0.9%	2.0%	3.6%
	BBB or above	1.1%	2.3%	4.0%
Equity *		3.0%	3.6%	3.3%

<sup>\*</sup> Dividend yield

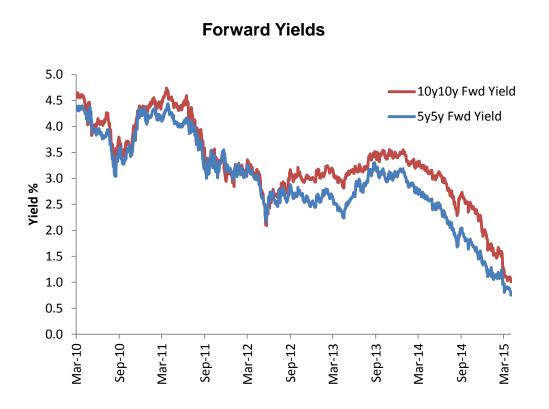
Size (EUR Bn)	Rating	Current	2013	2010
<b>Govt Bond</b>	A or above	3,653	3,063	3,964
	BBB- or above	5,783	4,830	3,990
Corp Bond	A or above	917	857	997
	BBB or above	1,573	1,374	1,344
Equity *		8,744	7,396	6,712

<sup>\*</sup> MSCI Europe Market Cap

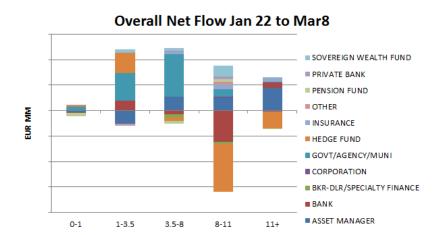
#### **Banks' External Asset Growth**



# **Investment Implications**

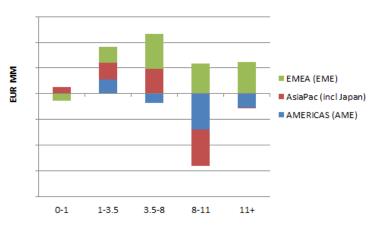


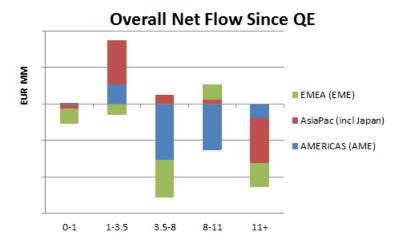
## **Investor Net Buying/Selling Flow**



#### **Overall Net Flow Since QE** SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND ■ PRIVATE BANK **■ PENSION FUND ■ OTHER** ■ INSURANCE EUR MM ■ HEDGE FUND ■ GOVT/AGENCY/MUNI ■ CORPORATION ■ BKR-DLR/SPECIALTY FINANCE ■ BANK ■ ASSET MANAGER 0-1 1-3.5 3.5-8 8-11 11+

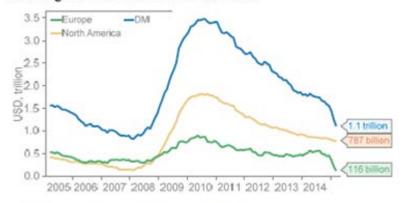
#### Overall Net Flow Jan22 to Mar8





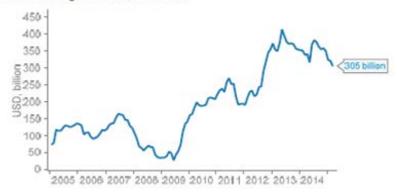
### **Appendix**

#### Sovereigns: G10 + EU 12M Net Issuance



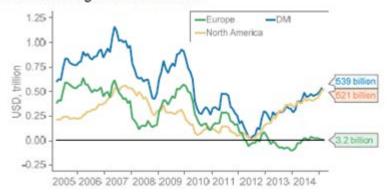
Source: Dealogic, Macrobond, Morgan Stanley Research

#### **EM Trailing 12M Net Issuance**



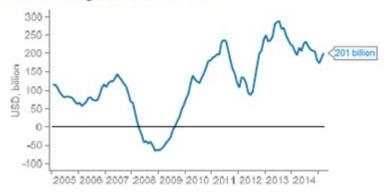
Source: Dealogic, Macrobond, Morgan Stanley Research

#### DM IG Trailing 12M Net Issuance



Source: Dealogic, Macrobond, Morgan Stanley Research

#### DM HY Trailing 12M Net Issuance



Source: Dealogic, Macrobond, Morgan Stanley Research

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