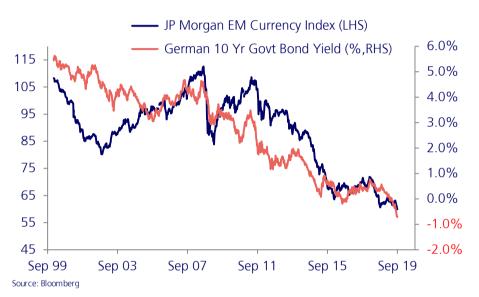


Monthly Investment Insights

Investor pessimism may have gone too far



In the short term, investors appear to have become overly negative regarding the outlook for growth. We therefore expect an unwinding of some of the 'fear premium' seen in safe haven assets. As this fear premium unwinds, there should be a boost to risk assets, especially equities.

Despite our severe concerns about global growth prospects in the long term, short-term investor pessimism seems to have become excessive. This was largely driven by the escalation in US-China trade tensions last month. Consequently, investor angst has caused a jump in safe haven asset prices. 10yr US Treasury bond yields, for example, tightened by 50bps in August alone, while 10yr German Bund yields fell to all-time lows of around -70bps. About 30% of global fixed income trades at negative yields today, with many yield curves already flat to inverted. Gold prices also spiked, while low yielding safe haven currencies, such as the Ja panese yen and the Swiss franc gained. Emerging market currencies have, on the other hand, fallen to new lows. Investors also seem to be expecting central banks to aggressively ease further.

We think it is too early to price in so much pessimism. While the outlook for the economy and markets is decidedly gloomy in the longer term, a downturn is not imminent yet and the jury is still out on whether central bank actions can extend the economic cycle. Geopolitical risks have risen, as seen in Italy and the UK, but trade tensions have now reached a pain point for both the US and China, and further escalation may not be as likely as investors fear. Both the Fed and the ECB are likely to ease policy further this month, and while the US Treasury yield curve is inverted, there can be a significant lag between the inversion and a recession. Equities appear to have upside were the pessimism to dissipate, as investors seem to be lightly positioned in equity markets while government bond valuations seemstretched.

Equities seem not only to have potential upside versus government bonds, but also versus credit. Credit spreads are close to cycle tights, while median leverage is at a record high. Furthermore, credit tends to underperform earlier than equities when the cycle eventually does turn. In addition, further liquidity provisioning by central banks will likely lead to improved shareholder returns in the form of buybacks for example, which is positive for equities but negative for credit. Hence, given the outperformance of credit versus stocks this year, the potential for further relative gains in credit seem limited, while downside could be sizeable.

Market Assessment

Key developments

- Global growth continues to decline amid elevated trade tensions and benign inflation, causing around half of global central banks to ease monetary policy
- The US Treasury curve has inverted, sending an ominous signal that the economy may enter a recession in the medium term
- Excessive pessimism seems to be priced into government bonds, gold and currencies, while equity investors appear lightly positioned

Zurich's view

Global growth is likely to remain lacklustre with risks rising, especially around US-China trade tensions. That said, global central banks are easing policy, which should offer some support.

The inversion of the US yield curve tends to significantly precede to a recession. While investors were spooked by the inversion last month, it may be too early to price in too much pessimism.

Safe haven assets have spiked, with government bond yields looking stretched near term. In comparison to government bonds, equities appear to offer greater upside and should benefit if investor pessimism dissipates.

Equities are also likely to outperform credit, where risk reward seems skewed to the downside. Credit is fundamentally very expensive with spreads per unit of leverage at almost record lows. When the cycle ends and earnings drop, credit could suffer sharp declines due not only to a rise in leverage but also a rise in spreads per unit of leverage. Almost 50% of investment grade companies are rated as BBBs today, a record high, and a downgrade from BBB to high yield tends to cause brutally negative returns.

Key developments

Zurich's view

Global

- The global economy is vulnerable, with the manufacturing sector in recession and signs of weakness in the services sector starting to emerge
- The latest developments around the US-China trade war are disconcerting, and growth is expected to slow further over the coming months
- Global central banks move swiftly to loosen policy in an attempt to arrest the slowdown, and more rate cuts are forthcoming

The G3 flash manufacturing PMIs fell in August, and this time weak data for the US led the move down. The global manufacturing sector remains in recession, and there are still no signs of a turnaround. Global trade tensions have escalated and this will continue to weigh on business sentiment and capexspending, and we expect global trade to stay weak. Central banks are aggressively loosening policy, with roughly half of major central banks cutting rates in the past three months, and with more cuts set to come, including from the ECB and the Fed. We are encouraged by the swift move of global central banks, but more profound action, both on the monetary and the fiscal front, is required to rebuild confidence in the global economic outlook.

US

- The Fed cuts its target rate by 25bps to a range of 2-2.25% and ends its balance sheet reduction earlier than expected
- Trump announces a 10% tariff on the remaining Chinese imports into the US, though a large part will be postponed to December
- The US 10yr minus 2yr yield slope, a much considered recession signal, inverts for the first time since the financial crisis

The S&P 500 corrected from its all-time high in response to the re-escalation of the US-China trade war and a hawkish sounding Fed chair. Although the Fed did cut its target rate by 25bps as expected, Jerome Powell lowered expectations for an extended cutting cycle. While it is true that a tight labour market and accelerating inflation will make it harder for the Fed to take a very dovish stance, the latest business surveys point to a further growth slowdown, which the Fed should acknowledge and respond to accordingly. In August, the Markit Manufacturing PMI dipped below 50 for the first time in almost a decade, underlining the headwinds for the manufacturing sector. Meanwhile, small business optimism ticked up in July, indicating that domestic business conditions are holding up for now.

UK

- GDP shrinks in Q2 as Brexit uncertainty and the global slowdown weigh on activity
- PM Johnson's call to renegotiate the withdrawal agreement is so far being dismissed by the EU
- The FTSE 100 lags most of its market peers as investors remain cautious despite attractive valuations

The manufacturing sector remains stuck in a downturn entering the third quarter with the Manufacturing PMI at 48.0 in July. Production and new orders fell as the British economy faces double headwinds from Brexit uncertainty and the weak global growth environment. GDP shrank by 0.2% in Q2 as trade and investment were a drag despite household spending holding up. Private consumption remains supported by solid wage growth which accelerated to 3.9% YoY in June, the fastest rate since 2008 and not far from the prerecession average. Nevertheless, with sterling close to its post-referendum lows inflation is likely to pick up, weighing on consumer sentiment. Despite the weak currency the FTSE 100 is struggling to keep up with other major stock markets in Europe and the US.

Eurozone

- Growth slows in Q2, as the trade war and weak confidence increase recession risks
- Manufacturing confidence stabilises, but at very weak levels while the service sector is starting to show vulnerabilities
- Italian bond yields fall as a new coalition government is formed, avoiding fresh elections

GDP growth in the Eurozone slowed from 0.4% QoQ in Q1to 0.2% QoQ. Soft business confidence and signs that the manufacturing slump is spreading to the service sector suggest that growth could slow further, increasing the risk of a recession. Admittedly, there were some signs of stabilisation in the Eurozone manufacturing PMI, but at very weak levels, and, worryingly, hiring intentions in the service sector are softening. In Italy, the Five Star Movement and PD overcame their differences to form a new coalition government in a move welcomed by investors. The new coalition is seen as less aggressive on spending for 2020 and Italian government bond yields fell sharply late in the month. However, Italy still remains vulnerable in a downturn because of its weak growth and debt sustainability.

Switzerland

- The manufacturing PMI falls to the lowest level since 2009, though broader measures of economic activity are holding up better
- The Swiss franc strengthens sharply, amplifying pressure on exporters and inflation, with negative inflation prints likely over the coming months
- The SNB intervenes in forex markets and expectations of a rate cut to counter upcoming ECB stimulus are mounting

The manufacturing sector is in contraction, with the latest PMIs at the lowest level since 2009. Weakness reflects the slowdown in global and, in particular, Eurozone manufacturing activity, but the stronger franc is an additional headwind. Upcoming ECB stimulus, including a further cut to the deposit rate, is once again putting pressure on the franc and Swiss bond yields, and expectations are mounting that the SNB will follow the ECB and cut rates further. In our view, this would not be helpful, given negative side effects on the banking sector and large imbalances in the housing market. For now, we maintain our view that the SNB will resist a further rate cut, but the risk is clearly to the downside.

Key developments

Zurich's view

Japan

- The manufacturing sector remains under pressure, while retail sales have plunged
- The yen has appreciated as the Bank of Japan has not given any indication of changing its monetary policy
- Japanese equities have started to stabilise in relative terms to the world

While Japan's GDP growth in the first half of this year came in better than expected, the latest economic indicators are not that promising. Even though some front loading demand before the consumption tax is raised from 8-10% on October 1 should already be visible in Q3, most of the July/August data releaseds of ar have been disappointing. Department store and supermarket sales have plunged, partly reflecting unfavourable weather conditions, while the Reuters Tankan Manufacturing index has fallen into negative territory for the first time in six years. Even the outlook for the nonmanufacturing sector has taken a hit. Despite the recent yen appreciation, Japanese equities have started to stabilise relative to global equities, following a steady underperformance so far this year.

China

- China's growth lost steam in July
- The tit-for-tat tariff war with the US is escalating following the announcement of retaliation measures
- Chinese equities performed in a volatile manner, with 'H'-shares hit particularly hard

Economic indicators for July disappointed nearly across the board. Industrial production, fixed asset investment, retail sales and aggregate financing data all came in weaker than expected. Consumer prices continue to rise on higher pork prices, while producer prices startfalling, negatively impacting industrial profits. China has announced higher tariffs for certain US products, retaliating for higher US tariffs on imports from China due in September and December. This was immediately followed by reretaliation measures from the US. China has also been categorised as a currency manipulator by the US following a move of the USDCNY above the 7-mark. August was a volatile month for Chinese equities, with 'H'-shares traded in Hong Kong hit particularly hard.

Australia

- The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) remains on hold, but maintains its dovish tone
- House prices tick up but building approvals drop sharply
- Both stock prices and government bond yields stumble

The RBA remained on hold, but affirmed its dovish stance. This decision was in line with our expectations as the last two consecutive rate cuts need time to materialise before a new round of easing. Meanwhile, the manufacturing PMI moved higher from 49.4 to 51.3, indicating a slight expansion, but the service PMI contracted sharply from 52.2 to 43.9. Both house prices and home loans inched up, suggesting an improvement in housing demand. Conversely, June building approvals slumped by 25.6% YoY. This divergence should support house prices further but the uptrend is limited given subdued economic growth. The MSCI Australia stumbled after marking a record high in July, while bond yields fell to a record low amid rising concerns over global downside risks.

ASEAN

- Central banks cut rates, voicing concerns over intensifying global headwinds
- Subdued growth and muted inflation prevail
- Stock prices tumble over pessimistic global outlook

Five ASEAN central banks cut policy rates in August. Some cuts came as a surprise with a larger-than-expected magnitude. Curbing deteriorating growth is probably a priority for many regional central banks at the moment. CPI data for most economies remained below the central banks' inflation target ranges, while GDP prints weakened further in Q2, driven by lacklustre exports and subdued business investments. Malaysia was the only exception with Q2 GDP up from 4.5% to 4.9% YoY, supported by buoyant private consumption. Although weak growth and muted inflation persists, July PMIs pointed to a stabilisation, indicating a halt in the downturn momentum ahead. The MSCI ASEAN tumbled from its July highs over intensifying trade tensions and the pessimistic global outlook.

Valuation snapshot (MSCI Indices)

Current trailing valuations

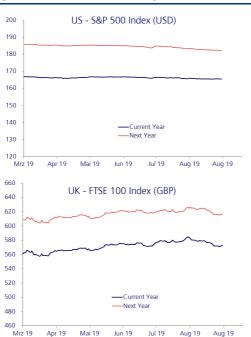
| | US | Europe ex UK | UK | Switzerland | Japan | APAC ex. Japan | China | Brazil | Mexico |
|-------------------|-------|--------------|-------|-------------|-------|----------------|-------|--------|--------|
| 12m Trailing P/E | 20.89 | 16.53 | 13.82 | 20.80 | 12.79 | 14.71 | 13.62 | 15.53 | 15.30 |
| 12m Trailing P/B | 3.48 | 1.80 | 1.72 | 2.92 | 1.22 | 1.62 | 1.67 | 2.22 | 1.99 |
| 12m Trailing P/CF | 13.20 | 8.76 | 8.31 | 10.18 | 7.50 | 9.03 | 7.22 | 9.34 | 6.91 |
| Dividend Yield | 1.92 | 3.33 | 4.52 | 3.06 | 2.51 | 2.83 | 2.12 | 3.37 | 3.19 |
| ROE | 16.66 | 10.90 | 12.43 | 14.05 | 9.57 | 11.03 | 12.24 | 14.27 | 13.03 |

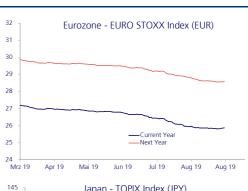
Current trailing valuations relative to MSCI world

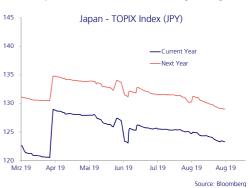
| | US | Europe ex UK | UK | Switzerland | Japan | APAC ex. Japan | China | Brazil | Mexico |
|-------------------|------|--------------|------|-------------|-------|----------------|-------|--------|--------|
| 12m Trailing P/E | 1.19 | 0.94 | 0.79 | 1.19 | 0.73 | 0.84 | 0.78 | 0.89 | 0.87 |
| 12m Trailing P/B | 1.52 | 0.79 | 0.75 | 1.27 | 0.53 | 0.71 | 0.73 | 0.97 | 0.87 |
| 12m Trailing P/CF | 1.24 | 0.82 | 0.78 | 0.95 | 0.70 | 0.85 | 0.68 | 0.88 | 0.65 |
| Dividend Yield | 0.77 | 1.34 | 1.82 | 1.23 | 1.01 | 1.14 | 0.85 | 1.35 | 1.28 |
| ROE | 1.27 | 0.83 | 0.95 | 1.07 | 0.73 | 0.84 | 0.94 | 1.09 | 1.00 |

Source: Datastream

Earnings estimates - Full fiscal years







Historical margins









Dividends and shares buybacks









Source: Bloomberg

Overbought / Oversold

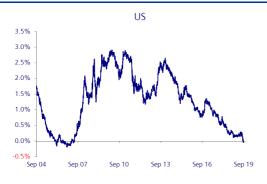


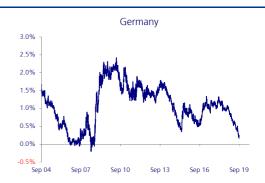


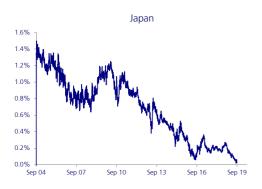


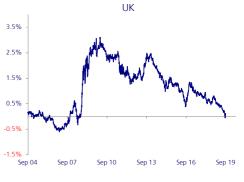


Yield Curve Steepness (2yr-10yr)









Source: Bloomberg

Spread Snapshot

Generic Government Yields (10yr)



Generic Government Yields (10yr)

| | | Spread over Ger | man Bund (bps) | |
|-------------|--------|-----------------|----------------|---------|
| Country | Sep-19 | 1m ago | 3m ago | 1yr ago |
| France | 3 | 0 26 | 39 | 36 |
| Netherlands | 1 | 5 12 | 18 | 13 |
| Belgium | 3 | 6 33 | 45 | 38 |
| Austria | 2 | 6 23 | 32 | 23 |
| Ireland | 6 | 53 | 61 | n/a |
| Italy | 16 | 6 204 | 272 | 291 |
| Spain | 8 | 74 | 87 | 115 |
| Portugal | 8 | 79 | 93 | 160 |

Economic data

US

| ISM Manufacturing (Index) | 60.8 | 59.5 | 57.5 | 58.8 | 54.3 | 56.6 | 54.2 | 55.3 | 52.8 | 52.1 | 51.7 | 51.2 | | down |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------|------------|
| ISM Non-Manufacturing (Index) | 58.8 | 60.8 | 60.0 | 60.4 | 58.0 | 56.7 | 59.7 | 56.1 | 55.5 | 56.9 | 55.1 | 53.7 | | down |
| Durable Goods (% MoM) | 4.2 | 1.5 | -4.4 | 0.6 | 1.1 | 0.5 | -2.6 | 1.7 | -2.8 | -2.3 | 1.8 | 2.1 | | up |
| Consumer Confidence (Index) | 134.7 | 135.3 | 137.9 | 136.4 | 126.6 | 121.7 | 131.4 | 124.2 | 129.2 | 131.3 | 124.3 | 135.8 | 135.1 | up |
| Retail Sales (% MoM) | 6.3 | 3.9 | 4.8 | 4.0 | 1.4 | 2.6 | 1.9 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.4 | | up |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.7 | | down |
| Avg Hourly Earnings YoY(% YoY) | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.3 | | down |
| Change in Payrolls ('000, MoM) | 282.0 | 108.0 | 277.0 | 196.0 | 227.0 | 312.0 | 56.0 | 153.0 | 216.0 | 62.0 | 193.0 | 164.0 | | down |
| PCE (% YoY) | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.6 | | down |
| GDP (%, QoQ, Annualized) | | 2.9 | | | 1.1 | | | 3.1 | | | 2.0 | | | |
| UK | Aug-18 | Sep-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18 | Jan-19 | Feb-19 | Mar-19 | Apr-19 | May-19 | Jun-19 | Jul-19 | Aug-19 | Trend* |
| PMI Services (Index) | 54.3 | 53.9 | 52.2 | 50.4 | 51.2 | 50.1 | 51.3 | 48.9 | 50.4 | 51.0 | 50.2 | 51.4 | - 5 | up |
| Consumer Confidence (Index) | -7.0 | -9.0 | -10.0 | -13.0 | -14.0 | -14.0 | -13.0 | -13.0 | -13.0 | -10.0 | -13.0 | -11.0 | -14.0 | down |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.9 | | | down |
| CPI (% YoY) | 2.7 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 | | up |
| GDP (% YoY) | | 1.6 | | | 1.4 | | | 1.8 | | | 1.2 | | | |
| Eurozone | Aug-18 | Sep-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18 | Jan-19 | Feb-19 | Mar-19 | Anr-19 | May-19 | Jun-19 | Jul-19 | Aug-19 | Trend* |
| PMI Manufacturing (Index) | 54.6 | 53.2 | 52.0 | 51.8 | 51.4 | 50.5 | 49.3 | 47.5 | 47.9 | 47.7 | 47.6 | 46.5 | 47.0 | down |
| PMI Services (Index) | 54.4 | 54.7 | 53.7 | 53.4 | 51.2 | 51.2 | 52.8 | 53.3 | 52.8 | 52.9 | 53.6 | 53.2 | 53.4 | up |
| IFO Business Climate (Index) | 103.8 | 104.0 | 102.9 | 102.4 | 101.3 | 99.8 | 98.9 | 99.8 | 99.3 | 98.2 | 97.4 | 95.8 | 94.3 | down |
| Industrial Production (% MoM) | 1.2 | -0.5 | -0.1 | -1.2 | -1.0 | 1.7 | 0.0 | -0.2 | -0.5 | 0.8 | -1.6 | | | down |
| Factory Orders GE (% MoM) | 1.4 | 0.1 | 0.1 | -0.7 | 0.9 | -2.2 | -3.8 | 0.5 | 0.5 | -2.0 | 2.5 | | | up |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 8.0 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 7.7 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 7.5 | 7.5 | | down |
| M3 Growth (% YoY, 3 months MA) | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 4.1 | 3.7 | 4.1 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.5 | 5.2 | | up |
| CPI (% YoY) | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.0 | down |
| Core CPI (% YoY) | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.9 | down |
| GDP (% QoQ) | | 0.2 | | | 0.2 | | | 0.4 | | | 0.2 | | | |
| | | | | | | | ı | | | ı | | ı | ı | |
| Switzerland | Aug-18 | Sep-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18 | Jan-19 | Feb-19 | Mar-19 | Apr-19 | May-19 | Jun-19 | Jul-19 | Aug-19 | Trend* |
| KOF Leading Indicator (Index) | 98.9 | 102.4 | 100.2 | 98.9 | 96.3 | 96.2 | 93.1 | 97.2 | 96.2 | 93.8 | 93.8 | 97.0 | 97.0 | up |
| PMI Manufacturing (Index) | 64.6 | 59.9 | 57.8 | 57.7 | 57.5 | 54.3 | 55.4 | 50.3 | 48.5 | 48.6 | 47.7 | 44.7 | 47.2 | down |
| Real Retail Sales (% YoY) | 1.0 | -2.9 | 1.4 | -0.4 | -0.4 | -0.2 | -0.1 | -0.7 | -0.7 | -1.1 | 0.7 | 1.4 | | up |
| Trade Balance (Billion, CHF) | 2.2 1.2 | 2.3 1.0 | 3.5 1.2 | 4.7 0.9 | 2.0 0.7 | 3.0 0.6 | 2.9 0.6 | 3.1 0.7 | 2.3 0.7 | 3.2 0.6 | 4.0 0.6 | 3.6 0.3 | | up |
| CPI (% YoY) | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.5 | | down |
| Japan | Aug-18 | | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18 | Jan-19 | Feb-19 | Mar-19 | Apr-19 | May-19 | Jun-19 | Jul-19 | Aug-19 | |
| Nomura Manufacturing PMI (Index) | 52.5 | 52.5 | 52.9 | 52.2 | 52.6 | 50.3 | 48.9 | 49.2 | 50.2 | 49.8 | 49.3 | | 49.6 | down |
| Machine Orders (% YoY) | 12.6 | -7.0 | 4.5 | 0.8 | 0.9 | -2.9 | -5.5 | -0.7 | 2.5 | | -3.7 | | | neutral |
| Industrial Production (% YoY) | 0.6 | -2.5 | 4.2 | 1.9 | -2.0 | 0.7 | -1.1 | -4.3 | -1.1 | -2.1 | | -4.1 | | up |
| ECO Watchers Survey (Index) | 48.1 | 47.3 | 47.7 | 49.0 | 48.2 | 44.8 | 46.7 | 46.7 | 47.0 | 44.3 | | 43.3 | | down |
| Jobs to Applicants Ratio (Index) | 1.6 | 1.6 0.7 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 1.5 | 1.6 -0.6 | 1.6 -0.7 | 1.6 -1.3 | 1.6 -0.3 | 1.6 | -0.5 | 1.6 | | down |
| Labour Cash Earnings (% YoY) | 0.6 -0.2 | -3.0 | 1.6 | -0.6 | -0.7 | -2.9 | 0.4 | 0.1 | -1.1 | -0.8 | -0.5 | -0.9 | | down |
| Department Store Sales (% YoY) Money Supply M2 (% YoY) | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.6 | | 2.3 | | down |
| CPI Ex Food & Energy (% YoY) | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.3 | | 0.3 | | down |
| Exports (% YoY) | 6.5 | -1.4 | 8.2 | 0.1 | -3.9 | -8.4 | -1.2 | -2.4 | -2.4 | -7.8 | | -6.6 | | down |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| China | Aug-18 | _ | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18 | Jan-19 | Feb-19 | Mar-19 | Apr-19 | May-19 | Jun-19 | Jul-19 | Aug-19 | |
| PMI Manufacturing (Index) | 51.3 6.1 | 50.8 5.8 | 50.2 5.9 | 50.0 5.4 | 49.4 5.7 | 49.5 | 49.2 | 50.5 8.5 | 50.1 5.4 | 49.4 5.0 | 49.4 | 49.7 6.3 | 49.5 | down |
| Industrial Production (% YoY) Retail Sales (% YoY) | 9.0 | 9.2 | 8.6 | 8.1 | 8.2 | | | 8.7 | 7.2 | 8.6 | | 9.8 | | down |
| PPI (% YoY) | 4.1 | 3.6 | 3.3 | 2.7 | 0.9 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 0.6 | | 0.0 | | up down |
| Exports (% YoY) | 9.6 | 13.9 | 14.3 | 3.9 | -4.4 | 9.3 | -20.8 | 13.8 | -2.7 | 1.1 | | -1.3 | | up |
| CPI (% YoY) | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.7 | | 2.7 | | down |
| RRR (%) | 15.5 | 15.5 | 14.5 | 14.5 | 14.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | | 2.7 | 13.5 | down |
| GDP (% YoY) | | 6.5 | | | 6.4 | | | 6.4 | | | 6.2 | | | down |
| PMI Non Manufacturing (Index) | 51.3 | 50.8 | 50.2 | 50.0 | 49.4 | 49.5 | 49.2 | 50.5 | 50.1 | 49.4 | | | 49.4 | down |
| Aggregate Financing (Billions, CNY) | 1442.8 | 1180.2 | 592.8 | 1363.7 | 1151.5 | | | | | | | | | neutral |
| Datasource: Bloomberg | - | • | • | • | • | | • | • | | *Trend = La | st 3m - Previo | us 3m | • | , |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Aug-18 | Sep-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18 | Jan-19 | Feb-19 | Mar-19 | Apr-19 | May-19 | Jun-19 | Jul-19 | Aug-19 | Trend*

Economic data

| Australia | Aug-18 | Sep-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18 | Jan-19 | Feb-19 | Mar-19 | Apr-19 | May-19 | Jun-19 | Jul-19 | Aug-19 | Trend* |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| AiG Manufacturing (Index) | 55.9 | 57.1 | 54.7 | 50.8 | 50.0 | 52.5 | 54.0 | 51.0 | 54.8 | 52.7 | 49.4 | 51.3 | 53.1 | down |
| AiG Service (Index) | 52.2 | 52.5 | 51.1 | 55.1 | 52.1 | 44.3 | 44.5 | 44.8 | 46.5 | 52.5 | 52.2 | 43.9 | | up |
| Westpac Consumer Confidence (% MoM) | -2.3 | -3.0 | 1.0 | 2.8 | 0.1 | -4.7 | 4.3 | -4.8 | 1.9 | 0.6 | -0.6 | -4.1 | 3.6 | up |
| Building Approvals (% YoY) | -14.1 | -12.6 | -13.4 | -33.8 | -20.9 | -27.1 | -11.1 | -24.7 | -22.9 | -18.7 | -25.0 | | | up |
| Employment Change ('000, MoM) | 45.5 | 12.7 | 25.7 | 39.4 | 18.3 | 36.4 | 10.9 | 20.0 | 39.9 | 45.2 | -2.3 | 41.1 | | up |

| Brazil | Aug-18 | Sep-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18 | Jan-19 | Feb-19 | Mar-19 | Apr-19 | May-19 | Jun-19 | Jul-19 | Aug-19 | Trend* |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| CPI (% YoY) | 4.2 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 4.6 | 4.9 | 4.7 | | 3.4 | | down |
| Industrial Production (% YoY) | 4.1 | 1.7 | -2.3 | 0.7 | -1.1 | -3.6 | -2.2 | 2.1 | -6.2 | -3.9 | | 7.1 | | up |
| Retail Sales (% YoY) | -1.0 | 4.0 | 0.1 | 1.9 | 4.5 | 0.6 | 1.9 | 4.0 | -4.4 | 1.8 | | 1.0 | | up |
| Trade Balance (Millions, USD) | 3775.0 | 4971.0 | 6121.0 | 4062.0 | 6639.0 | 2192.0 | 3673.0 | 4990.0 | 6061.0 | 6422.0 | | 5019.0 | | down |
| Budget Balance Primary (Billions, BRL) | -76.9 | -39.2 | -6.1 | -50.6 | -68.0 | 26.0 | -45.0 | -62.2 | -28.0 | -47.6 | | -30.1 | | up |

| Chile | Aug-18 | Sep-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18 | Jan-19 | Feb-19 | Mar-19 | Apr-19 | May-19 | Jun-19 | Jul-19 | Aug-19 | Trend* |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| IMACEC Economic Activity Index (% YoY) | 2.70 | 2.07 | 4.36 | 3.33 | 3.12 | 1.84 | 1.08 | 1.82 | 2.11 | 2.29 | 1.30 | | | down |
| CPI (% YoY) | 2.60 | 3.10 | 2.90 | 2.80 | 2.60 | 2.21 | 2.20 | 2.48 | 2.43 | 2.76 | 2.70 | 2.57 | | up |
| Retail Sales (% YoY) | 1.72 | 8.02 | -0.12 | 1.57 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.94 | -0.72 | 3.28 | | -0.90 | | | down |
| Industrial Production (% YoY) | -1.77 | -3.15 | 2.00 | 0.36 | 1.60 | -0.90 | -3.55 | -0.80 | 0.69 | -0.17 | -2.94 | 2.63 | | up |
| Unemployment (%) | 7.30 | 7.10 | 7.10 | 6.80 | 6.70 | 6.80 | 6.70 | 6.90 | 6.90 | 7.10 | 7.10 | 7.20 | | up |

| Mexico | Aug-18 | Sep-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18 | Jan-19 | Feb-19 | Mar-19 | Apr-19 | May-19 | Jun-19 | Jul-19 | Aug-19 | Trend* |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| PMI (Index) | 51.3 | 51.0 | 50.0 | 49.8 | 49.1 | 50.0 | 53.8 | 50.7 | 51.9 | 49.2 | | 49.0 | | down |
| CPI (% YoY) | 4.9 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.4 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 4.4 | 4.3 | | 4.0 | | down |
| Retail Sales (% YoY) | 1.7 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 3.8 | -0.5 | 0.7 | 2.5 | 1.6 | 1.6 | | 2.8 | | | down |
| Indutrial Production (% YoY) | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 1.6 | 0.2 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 2.8 | -0.4 | | 0.7 | | | down |
| Remittances (Millions, USD) | 2883.3 | 2718.9 | 2944.0 | 2893.2 | 2929.1 | 2399.7 | 2378.1 | 2882.3 | 2861.1 | | 3203.1 | | | down |

Datasource: Bloomberg *Trend = Last 3m - Previous 3m

Disclaimer and cautionary statement

This publication has been prepared by Zurich Insurance Group Ltc and the opinions expressed therein are those of Zurich Insurance Group Ltd as of the date of writing and are subject to change without notice.

This publication has been produced solely for informational purposes. The analysis contained and opinions expressed herein are based on numerous assumptions conceming anticipated results that are inherently subject to significant economic, competitive, and other uncertainties and contingencies. Different assumptions could result in materially different conclusions. All information contained in this publication have been compiled and obtained from sources believed to be reliable and credible but no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made by Zurich Insurance Group Ltd or any of its subsidiaries (the 'Group') as to their accuracy or completeness.

Opinions expressed and analyses contained herein might differ from or be contrary to those expressed by other Group functions or contained in other documents of the Group, as a result of using different assumptions and/or criteria.

The Group may buy, sell, cover or otherwise change the nature, form or amount of its investments, including any investments identified in this publication, without further notice for any reason.

This publication is not intended to be legal, underwriting, financial investment or any other type of professional advice. No content in this publication constitutes a recommendation that any particular investment, security, transaction or investment strategy is suitable for any specific person. The content in this publication is not designed to meet any one's personal situation. The Group hereby disclaims any duty to update any information in this publication.

Persons requiring advice should consult an independent adviser (the Group does not provide investment or personalized advice).

The Group disclaims any and all liability whatsoever resulting from the use of or reliance upon publication. Certain statements in this publication are forward-looking statements, including, but not limited to, statements that are predictions of or indicate future events, trends, plans, developments or objectives. Undue reliance should not be placed on such statements because, by their nature, they are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties and can be affected by other factors that could cause actual results, developments and plans and objectives to differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements.

The subject matter of this publication is also not tied to any specific insurance product nor will it ensure coverage under any insurance policy.

This publication may not be reproduced either in whole, or in part, without prior written permission of Zurich Insurance Group Ltd, Mythenquai 2, 8002 Zurich, Switzerland. Neither Zurich Insurance Group Ltd nor any of its subsidiaries accept liability for any loss arising from the use or distribution of publication. This publication is for distribution only under such circumstances as may be permitted by applicable law and regulations. This publication does not constitute an offer or an invitation for the sale or purchase of securities in any jurisdiction.

Zurich Insurance Company Ltd Investment Management Mythenquai 2 8002 Zurich

