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Global Fund Manager Survey

Stagflation, It's So Hot Right Now

BofA November Global Fund Manager Survey

FMS bottom line: sentiment still uber-bearish... FMS cash levels @ 6.2%, BofA Bull & Bear Indicator @ 0, net 77% say global recession, allocation to tech lowest since '06, all manna from heaven for Q4 trading bulls; we say "rent the pivot", fade SPX 4.1k.

FMS on Macro: 92% predict "stagflation" in '23 vs 0% for (bullish) "goldilocks," and just 1% see (bearish) "debt deflation" as tail risk next year; we say probability of latter high on credit events/unemployment but if inflation rates tumble lower in coming months (Chart 1), bulls can wrestle back some control from the bears.

FMS on Rates: US PCE inflation <4% most likely reason for Fed "pivot": investors say Fed funds to peak ~5% in Q2'23; note 2/3 investors expected rate cuts at prior "Big Lows" (see Table 1) but in Nov FMS 1/3 predict lower short rates, i.e. not there yet.

FMS on AA: investors >2sd UW stocks vs 2sd OW cash, long US\$ most crowded trade for 5th month (US\$ overvaluation @ record high), huge Nov rotation into industrials, banks (China + EPS) out of utilities, tech, but asset allocation still v defensive (e.g. long in IG vs HY bonds @ record high, healthcare vs consumer highest since 2006).

FMS on 5-Year Expected Returns: FMS investors say S&P500 returns 6.1% p.a. (takes index to 5321 in '27 & compares with 13.5% return in 2010s), US corp bonds 4.8% (vs 8.2% in 2010s), US govt bonds 4.2% (vs 6.9%)... no negative expectations here.

FMS Contrarian Trades: 1. long EM, short US\$, 2. long HY bonds, short IG, 3. long tech, short energy, 4. long consumer, short healthcare stocks.

Chart 1: Everyone expects lower inflation but not everyone expects rate cuts in 2023 Net % expecting higher global CPI vs % say short term rates lower in next 12 months



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15 November 2022 Corrected

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Notes to Readers

Source for all tables and charts: BofA Fund Manager Survey, DataStream

Survey period $4^{\mbox{\tiny th}}$ to $10^{\mbox{\tiny th}}$ November 2022

309 panellists with \$854bn AUM participated in the November survey. 272 participants with \$790bn AUM responded to the Global FMS questions and 161 participants with \$333bn AUM responded to the Regional FMS questions.

How to join the FMS panel

Investors/clients are encouraged to sign up to participate in the Survey. This can be done by contacting <u>Michael Hartnett</u> or your BofA sales representative.

Participants in the survey will continue to receive the full set of monthly results but only for the relevant month in which they participate.

Charts of the Month



Chart 3: Net % saying recession likely highest since COVID high

Net % saying recession likely next 12m vs net % want companies to improve balance sheets



Macro sentiment remains v bearish... net 73% of FMS investors in November expect the global economy to get weaker over the next 12 months.

Profit expectations eased slightly from
 October levels with net 77% of investors
 expecting profits to deteriorate (down from
 net 83% last month).

Recession the consensus view... net 77% saying a recession is likely over the next 12 months, the most since the COVID high in Apr'20.

Fear of recession keeps CIOs wanting CEOs to improve balance sheets (55%) above increasing capital spending (21%) and buybacks (17%).

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey



Chart 4: "Stagflation" is the consensus view

Which of the following best describes the global economy as you see it over the next 12 months?



Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey

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"Stagflation" (below trend growth, above trend inflation) the overwhelmingly consensus view at 92%.

Few think "stagnation" (below trend growth, below trend inflation) at 7%; no one thinks "goldilocks" (above trend growth, below trend inflation) at 0%.



Chart 5: Inflation staying high the top tail risk, debt deflation the contrarian risk.

What do you consider the biggest 'tail risk'?



Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey

Chart 6: FMS expects bond yields lower...

% say long term rates will be lower vs higher in next 12 months



Chart 7: ... and yield curve to steepen

Net % expecting steeper yield curve in 12 months' time



Biggest "tail risks"...

- 1. Inflation stays high... 32%
- 2. Geopolitics worsen (e.g. Russia/Ukraine, China/Taiwan)...18%
- 3. Central banks stay hawkish...18%
- 4. Deep global recession...18%
- 5. Systemic credit event...13%
- 6. Debt deflation...1%

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FMS starting to say "peak yields" coming as net % of FMS investors saying bond yields will be lower in the next 12 months for the first time in FMS history...

... record 42% of respondents expect bond yields to fall vs 40% expecting yields to rise.

Net 8% of FMS expect yield curve to steepen, the most since Nov'21...

... yield curve flattens in anticipation of a recession, but tends to steepen into a recession.

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Chart 8: Investors expect 4.5% US headline CPI inflation next 12 months

What is the likely rate of inflation in the next 12 months?



Table 1: Progress on short rate expectations toward "capitulation" levels Capitulation Watch

	Dotcom Dec'00- Mar'01	GFC Jul-Oct'08	Euro Debt Crisis Nov'11- Apr'12	COVID Mar-Apr'20	Today	Extreme Bear Low
BofA FMS Cash % of AUM	8.0	5.4	5.3	5.9	6.2	\checkmark
BofA FMS Stronger economy	-59	-65	-29	-49	-73	\checkmark
BofA FMS Stronger profits	-52	-74	-41	-64	-77	\checkmark
BofA FMS Lower short term rates*	85	83	30	61	33	Х
BofA FMS Equities net OW %	-	-45	-7	-27	-34	\checkmark
BofA FMS Bonds net OW %	-	26	-23	-13	-19	\checkmark
BofA Bull and Bear Indicator	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	\checkmark
BofA Breadth Rule	-96%	-89%	-96%	-91%	-9%	\checkmark
BofA GWIM equity AA (% AUM)	-	39%	48%	54%	61%	Х
Equity flows (for every \$100 inflow, \$x outflow)	-	-113	-53	-61	(-1)	Х
Total equity outflow (% AUM)	-	6.8%	2.6%	2.8%	0.1%	Х

FMS investors expect US headline CPI inflation to be 4.5% YoY in the next 12 months.

October US headline CPI print 7.7% YoY; assuming next six months follows October monthly print of 0.4% MoM, inflation heading to 4% by summer '23.

Some progress toward "capitulation levels" for short rate expectations, but not quite there yet...

... in November, 1 in 3 investors predict lower short rates vs 2 in 3 in prior "Big Low" moments.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, *absolute response, other FMS responses are net % unless specified

Chart 9: Inflation still the top reason Fed pauses/pivots

What do you think is the most likely reason for the Fed to 'pause' or 'pivot'?

US inflation (PCE deflator) drops below 4% US initial unemployment claims rise above 300k Global credit event S&P500 drops below 3000 HY bond spreads rise back above 600bps 0 10 20 30 40 5 ... and inflation falling below 4% still the most likely reason for the Fed to 'pause' or 'pivot' by a wide margin.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey

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Chart 10: Where is the credit event?

What is the most likely source for a systemic credit event? China real estate US shadow banking European sovereign debt Global pension funds DM real estate EM sovereign debt US corporate debt Nov-22 Euro-area banks Oct-22 Euro-area banks

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Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey

Chart 11: FMS Financial Market Stability Risks Indicator at 8.5

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Most likely source for a credit event...

- 1. China real estate (18%0
- 2. US shadow banking (13%)
- 3. European sovereign debt (13%)
- Global pension funds (11%) 4
- 5. DM real estate (10%)
- 6. EM sovereign debt (9%)
- 7. US corporate debt (7%)
- 8. Euro-area banks (4%)

The FMS Financial Market Stability Risks Indicator has eased slightly to 8.5 (down from last month's record high reading – see page 10 for methodology).

The FMS Financial Market Stability Risks Indicator is intended to be an indicative metric only and may not be used for reference purposes or as a measure of performance for any financial instrument or contract, or otherwise relied upon by third parties for any other purpose, without the prior written consent of BofA Global Research. The FMS Financial Market Stability Risks Indicator was not created to act as a benchmark.





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The chart shows the individual z-scores of each response to how FMS investors rated potential risks to financial market stability since '07.

Net 91% of FMS investors view monetary risk as above normal, the highest on record.

Source: BofA Global Investment Strategy, BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, EPFR



Chart 14: Record net 72% believe the US dollar is overvalued...

Chart 13: FMS investors kept cash levels high in November





Bearish sentiment kept investors' cash levels high at 6.2%, down slightly from last month's 6.3% (highest since Apr'01) and still well above the long-term average of 4.9%.

Net 72% of FMS investors believe the US dollar is overvalued, the most on record...

... and Long US dollar is the #1 most crowded trade for the 5th consecutive month.

Chart 15: ... and Long US dollar the most crowded trade for the 5th consecutive month What do you think is currently the most crowded trade?



Most crowded trades in Nov'22...

- Long US dollar (58%) 1.
- Short China equities (13%) 2.
- 3. Long oil (10%)
- Short EU equities (7%) 4.
- 5. Long ESG assets (6%)
- 6. Long T-bills (2%)

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Bloomberg





In November, FMS investors were net 19% underweight tech (the most net underweight since Aug'06).





FMS investors were still net 22% overweight energy in November, the 18th consecutive month of net FMS overweight in energy (longest streak since 2012).

Chart 18: Relative net overweight in healthcare vs consumer the highest since 2006

Net % overweight healthcare vs net % OW consumer



Defensive>cyclical... the relative overweight in healthcare vs consumer rose to the highest since 2006.





This chart shows FMS investor positioning relative to the average positioning of the past 10 years.

> Relative to the past 10 years, investors are long cash, defensives (utilities, staples, healthcare), bonds...

... and underweight equities, tech, Eurozone equities, and cyclicals.

Chart 20: November saw FMS move into industrials, equities and out of utilities, tech MoM ppt change in investor positioning



This chart shows FMS investor MoM changes in allocation.

In the past month, FMS investors have rotated out of utilities, tech, cash, telecoms...

... and into industrials, equities, bonds, banks.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, EPFR

Chart 21: FMS investors most OW cash, UW equities on an absolute basis

Absolute net % OW (sectors, asset classes, regions)



This chart shows FMS absolute investor positioning (net%) for assets & sectors.

- Bullish: cash, healthcare, energy, staples
- Bearish: equities, consumer, Eurozone/UK equities



Chart 23: FMS bearish all regions... most bearish UK, least bearish US







- Least bearish: US (net -7%)
- Most bearish: UK (net -25%)

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey



This chart shows FMS absolute investor positioning (net %) for sectors.

- Bullish: healthcare, energy, staples
- Bearish: discretionary, telecoms, tech

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey

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FMS Financial Market Stability Risks Indicator

Methodology: The FMS Financial Market Stability Risks Indicator is the sum of z-scores of a historical series of responses to the question "At this time how would you rate these potential risks to Financial Market Stability?" from the BofA Global Fund Manager Survey. The FMS Financial Market Stability Risks Indicator considers the net % of responses (simple subtraction of responses saying above normal minus those saying below normal) to seven risks: Emerging Market Risk, Credit (Default) Risk, Business Cycle Risk, Monetary Risk (i.e. higher rates, more volatile FX), Counterparty Risk, Protectionist Risk, and Geopolitical Risk (individual historical z-score components included below). The responses on "Market structure" are excluded as the question has only been asked to participants since August 2017. Questions relative to all other (seven) potential risks were first asked in July 2007.

Chart 25: FMS investors' perception of risk has levelled-off in Nov'22 from the record high of Oct'22 FMS Financial Market Stability Risks Indicator



Disclaimer: The FMS Financial Market Stability Risks Indicator is intended to be an indicative metric only and may not be used for reference purposes or as a measure of performance for any financial instrument or contract, or otherwise relied upon by third parties for any other purpose, without the prior written consent of BofA Global Research. The FMS Financial Market Stability Risks Indicator was not created to act as a benchmark.



Chart 26: Perception of Emerging Market Risk eased MoM in Nov'22, but remains 0.94x std deviation above its long-term average FMS investors on Emerging Market Risk



Chart 28: Perception of Credit Risk levelled-off MoM in Nov'22, first MoM decline since June'22 (1.15x std dev above its long-term average) FMS investors on Credit Risk



Chart 30: Perception of Counterparty Risk dropped MoM in Nov'22,

and is now 0.60x std deviation above its long-term average

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Chart 27: Perception of Business Cycle Risk eased MoM in Nov'22, but remains 1.36x std deviation above its long-term average

FMS investors on Business Cycle Risk



Chart 29: Perception of Monetary Risk deteriorated further in Nov'22, to a record high (2.10x std deviation above its long-term average) FMS investors on Monetary Risk



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Chart 31: Perception of Protectionist Risk ticked-up MoM in Nov'22, and is now 0.60x std deviation above its long-term average FMS investors on Protectionist Risk





Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey.



Chart 33: Evolution of Global FMS "biggest tail risk"

History of Global FMS "biggest tail risk" answers



Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey

- This chart shows the full history of the biggest "tail risk" for markets from BofA's monthly Global Fund Manager Survey.
- The dominant concerns of investors since 2011 have been Eurozone debt & potential breakdown; Chinese growth; populism, quantitative tightening & trade wars, global coronavirus; now inflation/bond tantrum and central bank rate hikes.
- Inflation stays high as top "tail risk" at 32% of FMS investors for 5th month in a row; #2 Geopolitics worsen (e.g. Russia/Ukraine, China/Taiwan), #3 Central banks stay hawkish, #4 Deep global recession.

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Chart 34: Evolution of Global FMS "most crowded trade"

History of Global FMS "most crowded trade" answers



Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey

- This chart shows the full history of the most "crowded trade" according to BofA's monthly Global Fund Manager Survey.
- The market leadership has been relatively narrow since 2013, shifting from high yielding debt; long US\$; long Quality; long Tech; long Emerging Markets; long US Treasuries, long US tech & growth stocks, long Bitcoin, long commodities, long tech, long commodities, long US dollar.
- Long US dollar is top for the 5th month in a row with 59% of FMS investors saying it is the most "crowded trade"; #2 Short China equities, #3 Long oil, #4 Short EU equities.

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BofA Global FMS Rules & Tools

The Global FMS Rules & Tools are designed to help investors determine risk appetite, rotation opportunities, and tactical entry points.

Table 2: BofA Global FMS Cash Rule and Bull & Bear Indicator

Current reading of BofA Global FMS Cash Rule and Bull & Bear Indicator

	Category	Current reading	Current signal
BofA Global FMS Cash Rule	Contrarian	6.2%	Buy
Buy global equities when cash at or above 5.0%; sell when cash at or below 4.0%			
BofA Bull & Bear Indicator	Contrarian	0.0	Buy
Buy global equities when the indicator falls below 2.0; sell when it rises above 8.0			
Source: BofA Global Investment Strategy			

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Disclaimer: The indicators identified as BofA Global FMS Cash Rule and BofA Bull & Bear Indicator above are intended to be indicative metrics only and may not be used for reference purposes or as a measure of performance for any financial instrument or contract, or otherwise relied upon by third parties for any other purpose, without the prior written consent of BofA Global Research. These indicators were not created to act as a benchmark.

For full details please see: Global Investment Strategy: The BofA Global FMS Rules & Tools, 12 November 2020.



Investors on the Macro



October FMS showed net 73% of investors expecting a weaker economy in next 12 months, up 1ppt MoM and near record high levels.

Chart 36: Inflation expectations

Net % of FMS investors expecting higher inflation



FMS investors expecting lower global CPI in the next 12 months increased to 85% MoM from 79% in Oct,

Expectations for lower global CPI are now at record high, above Dec'08 level of 82%.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey.

Investor Risk Appetite

Chart 37: What level of risk do you think you're currently taking in your investment? Net% of FMS investors taking higher than normal risk levels



Net 56% of FMS investors say they are currently taking lower-than-normal risk levels, flat MoM, slightly below the record high two months ago.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey

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Chart 38: Over the next 12 months, how likely do you think it is that...

Over the next 12 months, net % FMS investors think...



Most FMS investors continue to favour quality over junk at 72%, although down 11ppt MoM from the 83% record high in Oct.

Net 43% think high grade will outperform high yield bonds, a record high.

Net 61% think high dividend yield stocks will outperform low dividend yield stocks, up 7ppt MoM.

Net 49% think low volatility will outperform high volatility stocks, down 3ppt MoM.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey

Investors on EPS & Leverage



FMS investors expecting global profits to worsen over the next 12 months decreased 6ppt MoM to net 77%.

Net% of FMS investors saying companies are overleveraged



The net percentage of FMS investors saying companies are overleveraged increased 2ppt MoM to net 22%, highest since Jul'21.

Chart 41: What would you most like to see companies do with cash flow?

What FMS investors would most like to see companies do with cash flow



Improve balance sheets (e.g. repay debt, address pension liabilities) 90

Return cash to shareholders (share buybacks / dividend payments / cash- or debt-financed M&A) 80



55% of FMS investors want corporates to improve balance sheets over increasing capital spending (21%) or returning cash to shareholders (17%).



FMS Asset Allocation



FMS equity allocation increased 15ppt MoM to net 34% underweight this month, from the record underweight two months ago.

Current allocation is 2.4 stdev below its long-term average.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Datastream



FMS investors' bond allocation increased 13ppt MoM to net 19% underweight.

Current allocation is 1.3 stdev above its long-term average.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Datastream



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FMS cash allocation decreased 8ppt MoM to net 51% overweight, down from the record overweight two months ago.

Current allocation is 2.0 stdev above its long-term average.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Datastream

Chart 45: Net % AA Say they are overweight Real Estate

Net% of FMS investors overweight Real Estate



Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Datastream

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Chart 46: Net % AA Say they are overweight Commodities Net% of FMS investors overweight commodities -10 -20 -30 -40 Bloomberg Commodities Index vs 60-30-10 Basket, rhs Net % Overweight

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Datastream.

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Allocation to commodities decreased 2ppt MoM to net 13% overweight.

Current allocation is 0.8 stdev above its long-term average.



Current allocation is 0.3 stdev below its long term average.



Currencies extremes



FMS investors saying the US\$ is overvalued up 4ppt MoM to net 72%, highest reading on record.

Current valuations are 2.1 stdev above the long-term average.



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FMS investors saying EUR is undervalued down 6ppt MoM to net 34%.

Current valuations are 1.5 stdev below the long-term average.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Datastream



Chart 49: GBP valuation and Trade weighted index

FMS investors saying GBP is undervalued down 8ppt MoM to net 16%.

⁴⁰ Current valuations are 0.8 stdev below the an long-term average.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Datastream

Investor Regional Equity Allocation







Allocation to US equities increased 2ppt MoM to 7% underweight.

Current allocation is 0.3 stdev below its long term average.

Allocation to Eurozone increased 9ppt MoM to net 23% underweight.

Current allocation is 1.5 stdev below its long-term average.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Datastream



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Allocation to EM equities decreased 3ppt MoM to net 9% underweight.

Current allocation is 1.3 stdev below its long-term average.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Datastream

Chart 53: Net % AA Say they are overweight Japanese Equities

Net% of FMS investors overweight Japanese equities



FMS allocation to Japanese equities decreased 7ppt MoM to net 11% underweight.

Current allocation is 0.7 stdev below its long-term average.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Datastream



FMS allocation to UK equities increased 8ppt MoM to net 25% underweight.

Current allocation is 0.8 stdev below its long-term average.







Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Datastream

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Investor Sector Allocation

Chart 55: Global sector sentiment

% saying overweight - % saying underweight



October saw FMS investors buying into industrials and banks while selling out of tech and telecom.

FMS investors are the most (net) overweight pharma and energy, and most (net) underweight consumer discretionary and telecom.





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Allocation to banks increased 11ppt MoM to net 7% overweight, from net 4% underweight.

Current reading is 0.4 stdev above its long-term average.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Datastream

Chart 57: Global Technology



Allocation to technology decreased 9ppt MoM to net 19% underweight, the most underweight since Aug'06.

Current reading is 2.2 stdev below its long-term average.



Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Datastream

Chart 58: Global Utilities



Allocation to utilities decreased 10ppt MoM to net 14% underweight.

Current reading is 1.0 stdev above its longterm average.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Datastream



Chart 59: Global Consumer Staples

Allocation to staples decreased 4ppt MoM to net 14% overweight.

Current reading is 1.3 stdev above its longterm average.

Chart 60: Global Industrials



Net % of FMS investors overweight industrials

Allocation to industrials increased 20ppt MoM to net 6% overweight (from net 14% underweight), the highest since Mar'22.

Current reading is 0.2 stdev below its longterm average.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Datastream

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Chart 61: Global Healthcare



Allocation to healthcare increased 4ppt MoM to net 42% overweight. Note that FMS investors have kept their net overweight on healthcare continuously since Jan'18.

Current reading is 1.8 stdev above its longterm average.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Datastream

Chart 62: Global Materials

Net% of FMS investors overweight materials



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Allocation to materials increased 5ppt MoM to net 2% underweight.

Current reading is in line with its long term average.

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Datastream



Chart 63: Global Energy Net% of FMS investors overweight energ

Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey, Datastream

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Allocation to energy increased 1ppt MoM to net 22% overweight, biggest overweight since May'22.

Current reading is 0.6 stdev above its long-term average.



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Global survey demographics data

Table 3: Position / Institution / Approach to Global Equity Strategy Position / Institution / Approach to Global Equity Strategy

	Nov-22	Oct-22	Sep-22
Structure of the panel - by position			
Chief Investment Officer	43	59	35
Asset Allocator / Strategist / Economist	65	88	59
Portfolio Manager	147	161	109
Other	17	18	9
Structure of the Panel - by expertise			
Global Specialists Only	148	182	119
Regional Specialists With a Global View	124	144	93
Total # of Respondents to Global Questions	272	326	212
Which of the Following Best Describes the Type Money You are Running?	of		
Institutional funds (e.g. pension funds / insurance companies)	90	106	63
Hedge funds / proprietary trading desks	42	58	32
Mutual funds / unit trusts / investment trusts	104	122	94
None of the above	36	40	23
What Do You Estimate to be the Total Current Value of Assets Under Your Direct Control? Up to \$250mn Around \$500mn Around \$1bn Around \$2.5bn Around \$2.5bn Around \$55n Around \$7.5bn Around \$10bn or more No funds under my direct control Total (USD bn)	42 36 46 50 18 8 44 28 790	48 38 57 54 21 15 53 40 971	32 23 34 44 12 11 31 25 616
ווע עכט און	750	571	010
What best describes your investment time horizon at this moment?			
3 months or less	95	123	66
6 months	67	83	60
9 months	31	24	18
12 months or more	75	91	67
Weighted average	7.0	6.8	7.2
Don't know	4	5	1
Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey			BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Disclosures

Important Disclosures

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Investment rating	Total return expectation (within 12-month period of date of initial rating)	Ratings dispersion guidelines for coverage cluster ^{R1}
Buy	≥ 10%	≤ 70%
Neutral	≥ 0%	≤ 30%
Underperform	N/A	≥ 20%

^{R1}Ratings dispersions may vary from time to time where BofA Global Research believes it better reflects the investment prospects of stocks in a Coverage Cluster.

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