Schroders



February 2024

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Summary

Emerging market (EM) bonds had a mixed start to 2024. Strong US macroeconomic data raised doubts over the timing of Fed rate cuts, and US bond yields picked up, following sharp falls in Q4. Against this backdrop the US dollar strengthened. Continued weakness in China's economy also weighed on broader sentiment towards EM.

Hard currency emerging market debt (EMD):

- Both the sovereign EM bond index yield (slide 8) and, to a lesser extent, spread are elevated versus their long-term history.
- The above-median hard EMD spread is driven by the high yield (HY) sovereign index. The IG spread remains below its historical median and close to its post-GFC low (slide 9).
- In corporate EMD, both the IG and HY corporate spreads are below their historical median (slide 15).

Local currency EMD:

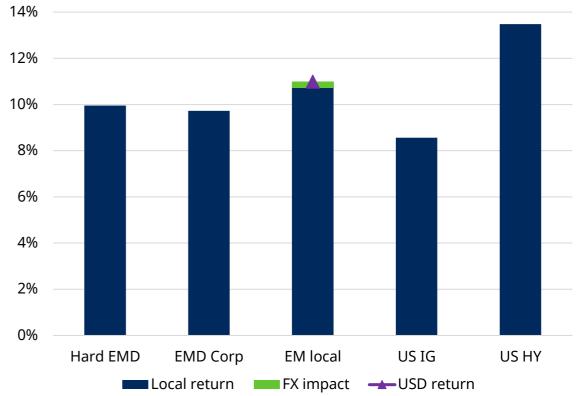
- The average real yield premium of EM over DM has moved up from trough (slide 31). Both the average EM and DM real yields have lifted, with EM well into positive territory again; the average DM real yield is still negative (slide 32).
- The average local EM ex Turkey yield curve is no longer inverted (slide 30).
- There are undervalued **currencies** in all three EM regions (slide 36), but the degree of value varies significantly.

EM bonds made a mixed start to 2024

...only corporate EMD recorded a positive return in US dollar terms



Total return since start 2023



Longer term performance since the start of 2023 remains strong

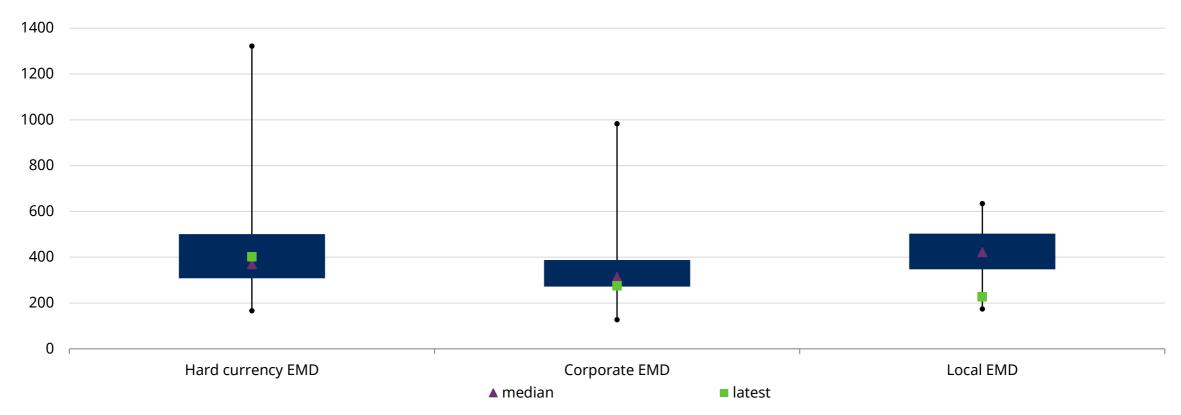
Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated.

Note: Local currency = US dollar for all apart from local EMD which is in the relevant local EM currency. Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream, JP Morgan, Schroders Strategic Research Unit. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

EMD headline valuations

Spread percentiles

Spreads of key EMD indices (basis points)



Hard currency valuations remain cheapest versus history, but there is more to this story (slides 10-11)

Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated.

Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream, J.P. Morgan. Data as at 31 January 2024. Percentiles shows where the current spread is relative to the historical range of spreads, within a range of 0 to 100. The greater the percentile the higher the spread compared to history. Hard EMD =stripped spread, Local EMD =Spread to 5 year UST, Corporate EMD = spread to worst. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.





Emerging market debt:

Hard currency

Summary: hard emerging market debt

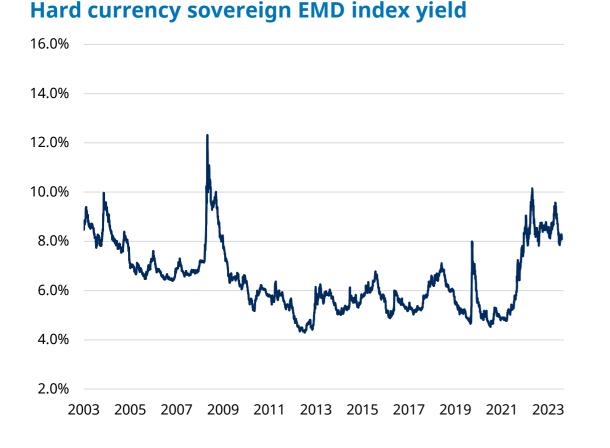
- Hard currency EMD lost value in January, following strong performance in Q4, with the IG component recording the largest falls. Renewed upward pressure in US yields and a pickup in the dollar were headwinds.
- The hard currency sovereign EMD index yield is elevated versus history. The slightly above-median spread is driven by the high yield (HY) index; HY has become the dominant driver of index spread over time.
- Sovereign EMD spreads have trended down since Q4 2022, primarily driven by the HY component, but dispersion between countries remains wide. This is evident at the regional level; despite its small size, Africa is the second largest contributor to spread after Latin America.
- In corporate EMD, both the IG and HY corporate spreads are below their historical median.
- Credit quality worsened post the pandemic and was compounded by the 2022 challenges for issuers included in major sovereign and corporate EMD benchmarks. Market access continues to be a challenge for EM HY issuers.

Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream, JP Morgan, Schroders Strategic Research Unit. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

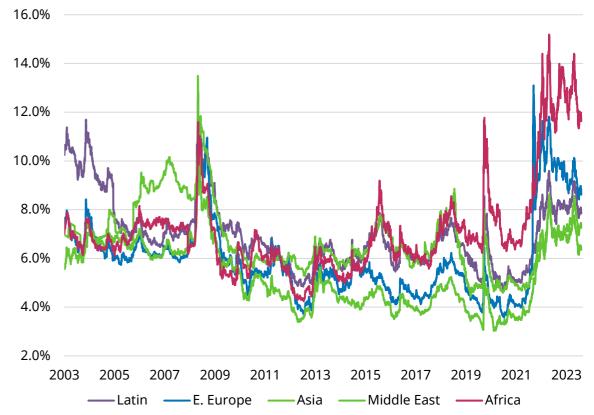


Hard EMD index yield is down from 2023 peak

...but still very elevated when compared to the last 15 years



Hard currency sovereign EMD index yield by region

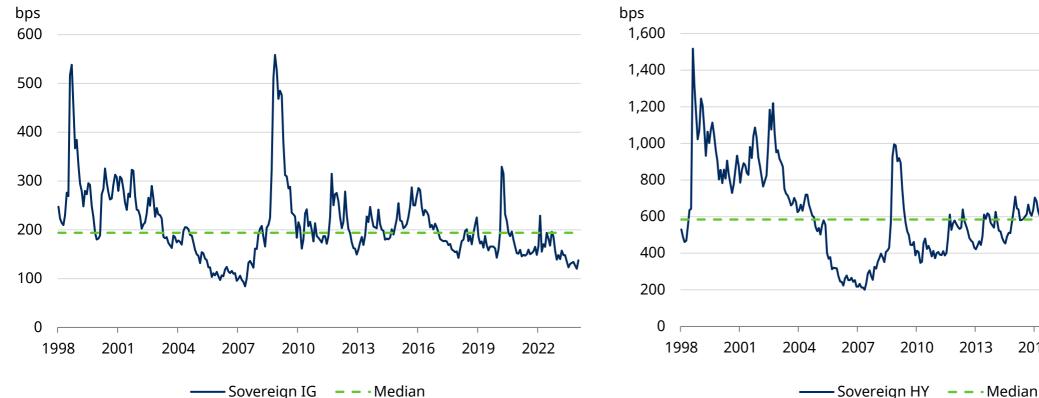


On a regional basis, yields are highest in Africa and Eastern Europe

Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated. Russia was removed from all JP Morgan EMD indices from 31 March 2022. Source: Schroders, JP Morgan. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

A contrasting picture in hard currency sovereign EMD...

IG spreads is well below its historical median, and HY above



Hard currency sovereign EMD HY spread

The IG spread remains close to its post-GFC low

Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated. Source: LSEG Datastream, JP Morgan. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

Hard currency sovereign EMD IG spread

Schroders

2022

2019

2013

2016

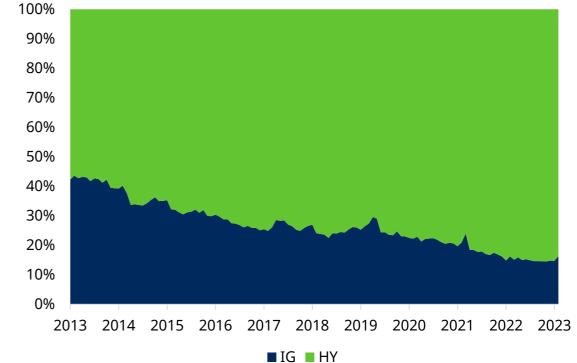
Hard currency spread increasingly driven by HY component

Despite HY and IG index weights remaining relatively stable over the past decade

100% 100% 90% 90% 80% 80% 70% 70% 60% 60% 50% 50% 40% 40% 30% 30% 20% 20% 10% 10% 0% 0% 2021 2022 2013 2014 2015 2016 2018 2019 2020 2023 2017 IG HY

HY and IG index weights relatively stable over time

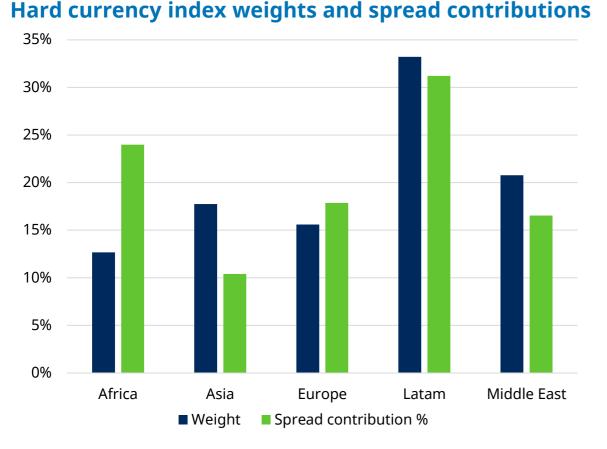
HY share of spread contribution has increased



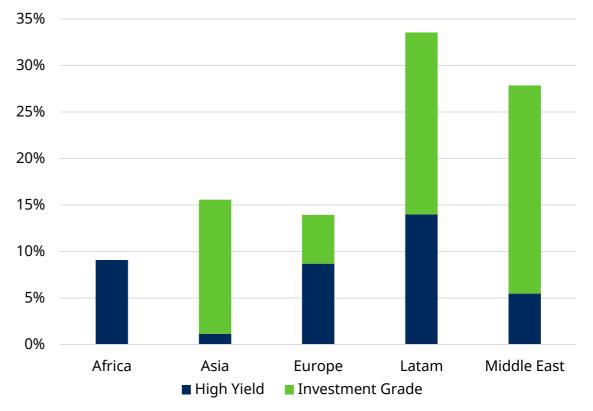
Source: LSEG Datastream, JP Morgan. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41. Spread contribution calculated as HY spread multiplied by index weight, and equivalent for IG. Percentage contribution for IG and HY shown as share of total spread contribution (IG and HY).

Latin America dominates the sovereign hard currency index

But Africa punches well above its weight when it comes to spread contribution...



Hard currency weights split by HY/IG



Schroders

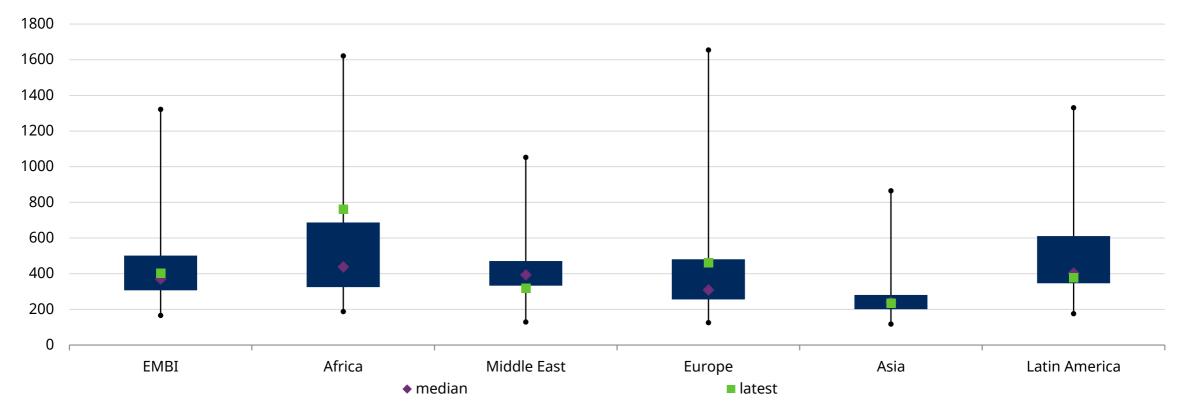
This is explained by the fact that Africa is all HY; Asia/Middle East is largely IG and LatAm more balanced

Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream, ICE Data Indices, JP Morgan. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41. Spread contribution calculated as weight of the region multiplied by the spread of that region.

Where are the cheap valuations in hard currency EMD?

Africa and Europe offer the highest spreads versus history

Spreads of key regional hard currency EMD indices (basis points)

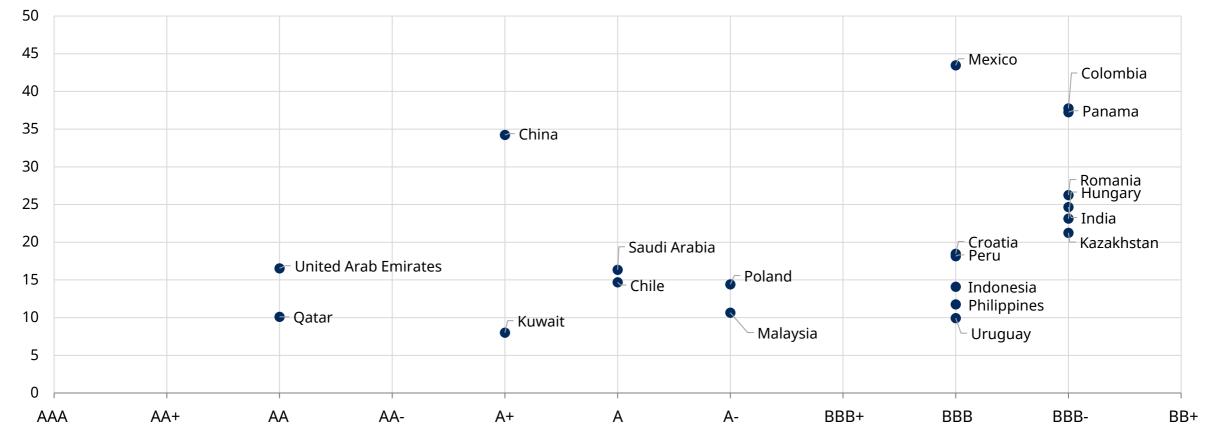


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Percentiles shows where the current stripped spread is relatively to the historical range of spreads, within a range of 0 to 100. The greater the percentile the higher the spread compared to history. Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream, ICE Data Indices, JP Morgan. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

Duration adjusted spreads of IG countries

Hard currency sovereign EMD IG: spread vs. duration vs. credit rating



¹The JPMorgan EMBI Global Diversified Index includes both sovereign and quasi-sovereign bonds.

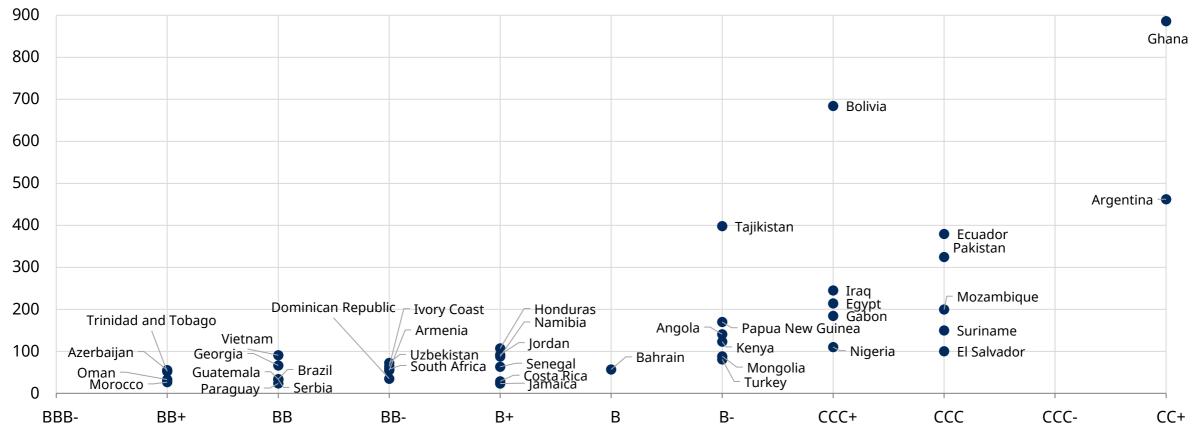
The y-axis shows spread per unit of duration, in basis points.

Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream, JP Morgan. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

Duration adjusted spreads of HY countries

Significant variability between the countries

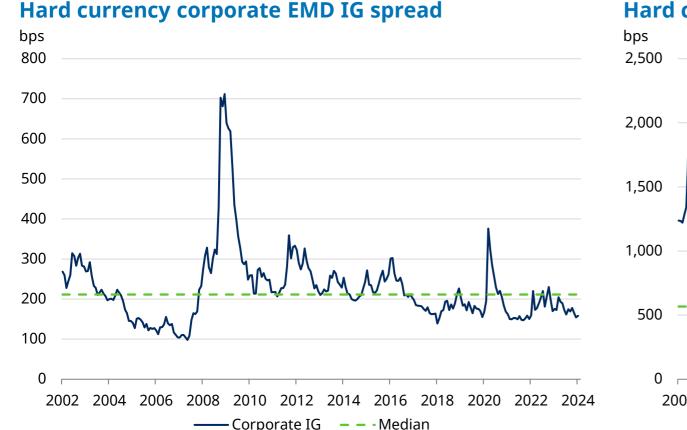
Hard currency sovereign EMD HY: spread vs. duration vs. credit rating



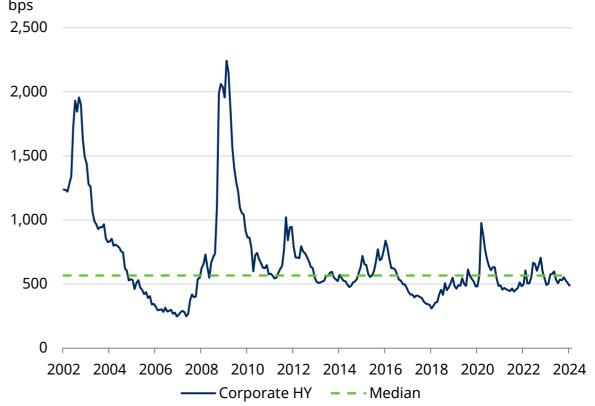
The y-axis shows spread per unit of duration, in basis points. Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream, JP Morgan. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

Valuation of hard currency corporate EMD

The IG and HY corporate spreads are below the historical median



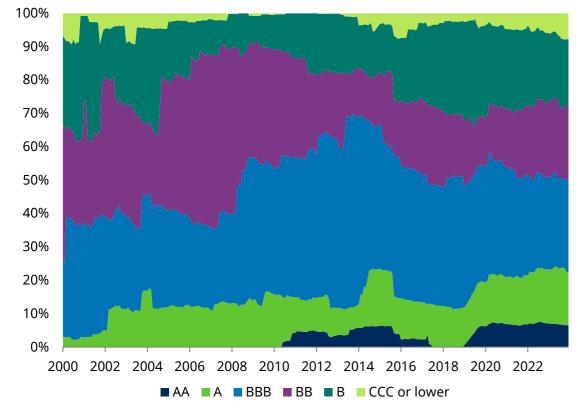
Hard currency corporate EMD HY spread



Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated. Source: LSEG Datastream, JP Morgan. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

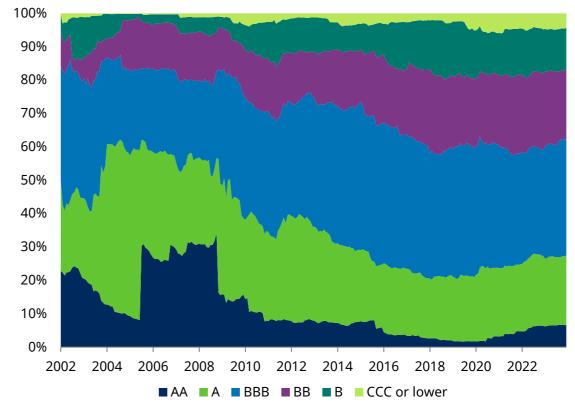
EMD historical ratings split

Share of IG bonds has fallen in the sovereign and corporate indices in the last decade



Sovereign EMD ratings split

Corporate EMD ratings split



Source: Schroders, JP Morgan. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

Characteristics of EM hard currency issuers

Hard currency corporate issuers Nonfinancials Financials Sovereign Quasi Sovereign

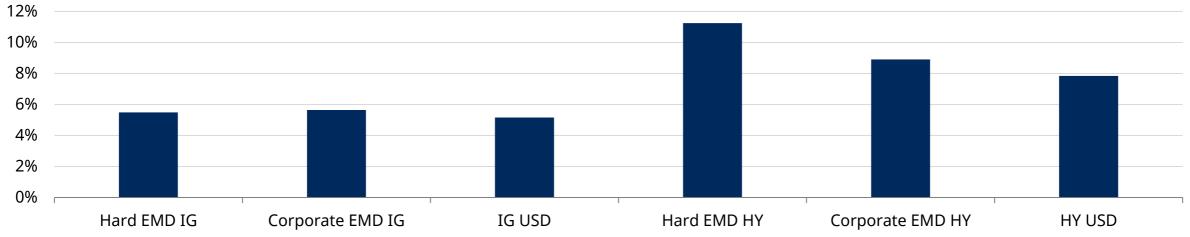
Hard currency sovereign issuers

Source: LSEG Datastream, JP Morgan. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

Hard and corporate EMD offer a yield and spread pick-up over equivalent rated US corporate debt

	Hard EMD IG	Corporate EMD IG	IG USD	Hard EMD HY	Corporate EMD HY	HY USD
Yield	5.5%	5.6%	5.2%	11.3%	8.9%	7.8%
Spread (bps)	138	158	102	723	489	359
Duration	7.8	4.8	7.0	5.5	3.3	4.1
Rating	A3	A3	A3	B1	B1	B1
Percentage of EMD index	50.7%	59.5%	-	49.3%	40.5%	-

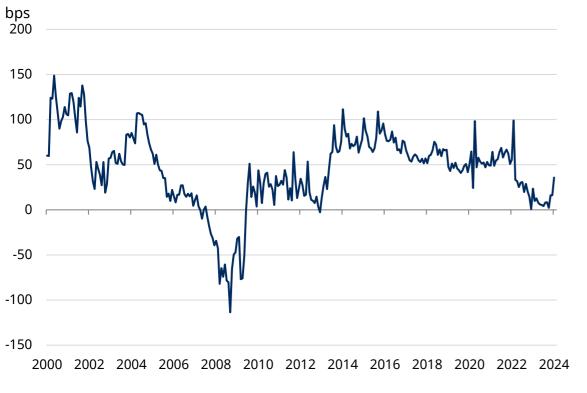
EM vs. DM yields



Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream, ICE Data Indices, JP Morgan. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

EM dollar debt: sovereign EMD vs. US corporates

Sov. EMD IG spread premium to US corp. has picked up; due to falling US IG spread



Sovereign EMD IG spread minus US IG spread

——EMD Hard IG spread - US IG spread

Sovereign EMD HY spread minus US HY spread

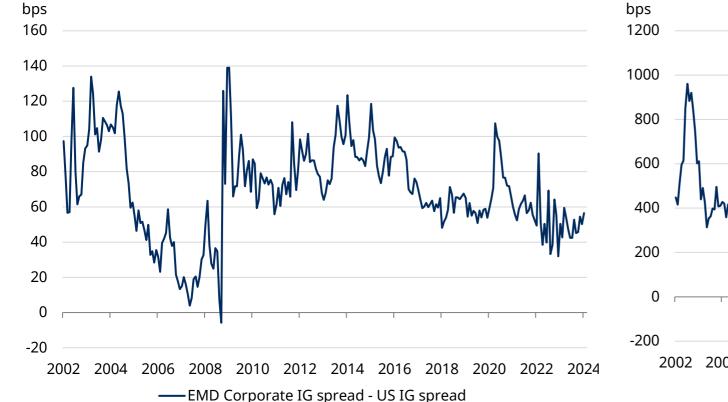


Sovereign EMD HY spread premium versus US remains elevated versus history

Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated.

Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream, ICE Data Indices, JP Morgan. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

EM dollar debt: corporate EMD vs. US corporates



Corporate EMD IG spread minus US IG spread

Corporate EMD HY spread minus US HY spread



Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated.

Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream, ICE Data Indices, JP Morgan. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.





Emerging market debt:

Local currency

Summary: local currency emerging market debt

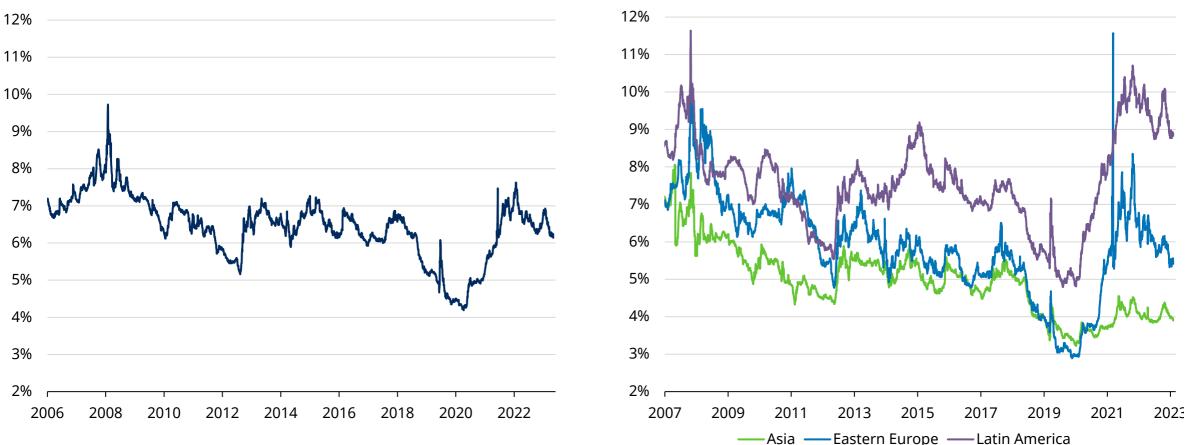
- Local EM bonds posted a negative return in January, with US dollar strength a key drag.
- The yield on the local EM bond index was stable at 6.2%, but there remains significant variation between regions.
 Yields in Latin America are markedly higher than in EM Asia.
- EM ex Turkey inflation continues to fall, after a solid decline in 2023. This has opened the door to interest rate cuts, led by Latin America, but also underway in EM Europe.
- Turkey is the exception, where a renewed vein of orthodoxy saw the central bank hike its policy rate by almost 37
 percentage points between June and January 2024. It has now signalled a peak in the hiking cycle.
- The average local EM ex Turkey yield curve is no longer inverted.
- The average real yield premium of EM over DM has moved up from its trough. Both the average EM and DM real yields have lifted, with EM well into positive territory again; the average DM real yield is still negative.

Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream, JP Morgan, Schroders Strategic Research Unit. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

EM local currency index yield was stable at 6.2% in January

Yields vary by region, but are notably higher in Latin America

Local EMD index yield



Local EMD yield by region

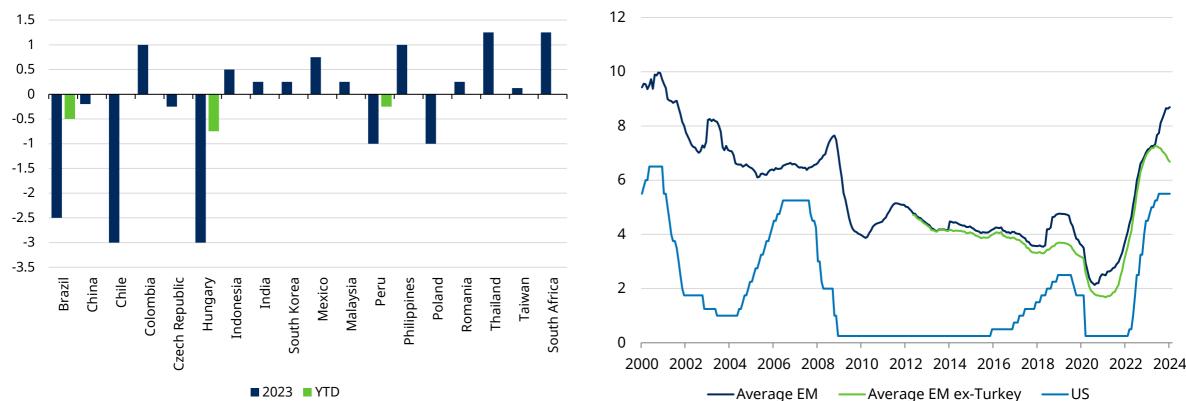
Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated.

Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream. Data as at 31 January 2024. Russia was removed from all JP Morgan EMD indices from 31 March 2022. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

EM ex Turkey policy rates are falling

EM central banks have begun easing cycles...

Change in EM policy rates 2023/YTD(%)*



Average EM policy rate¹ (%)

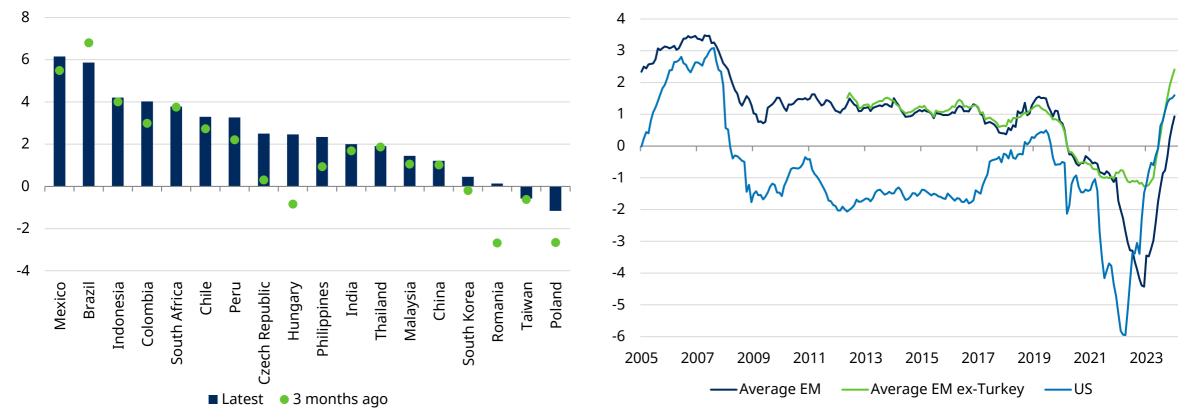
Turkey's central bank has signalled the end of its hiking cycle after lifting rates by almost 37 percentage points

Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream. Data as at 31 January 2024. ¹Based on 19 major EM countries. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41. *Turkey is excluded from the bar chart due to scale of hikes compared to the rest of EM.

Majority of EM real policy rates have turned positive

Eastern Europe real rates have lagged, but are catching up

EM real policy rates (%)



¹Based on 19 major EM countries. Turkey has very high inflation at the moment, with the annual core inflation at 71%. Despite large rate hikes recently, Turkey's policy rate of 45.0% is well below core inflation. Hence, Turkey's real policy rate is very negative at -26%, skewing the EM average. Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream. Data as at 31 January 2024. Nominal policy rate minus annual core inflation. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

Average EM real policy rate¹ (%)

EM headline inflation is moving towards target in most EM

China and Thailand are notable exceptions where inflation is below target

Headline inflation (%)



Turkey's annual headline inflation (65%) omitted from the figure.

Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

Core inflation is also falling in most EM

Core inflation in China, as well as in Thailand and Indonesia, is below target

Core inflation (%)

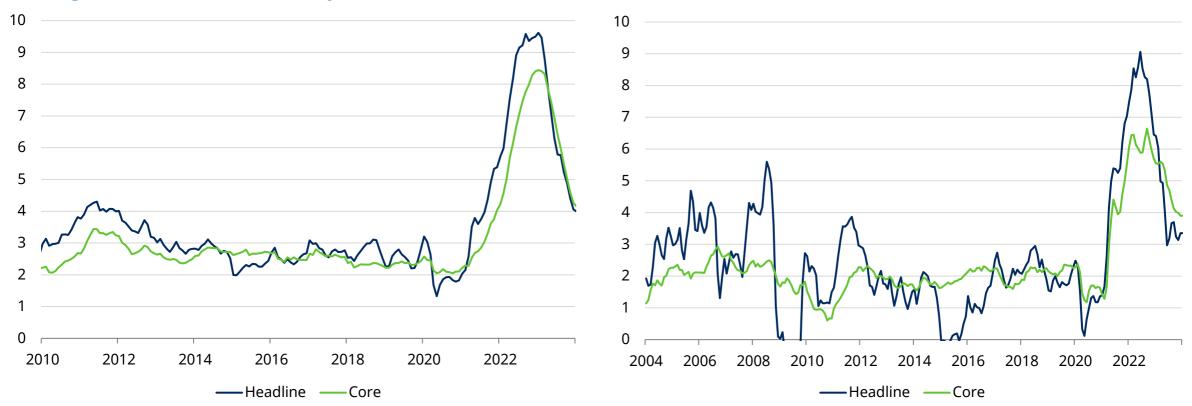


Turkey's annual core inflation (71%) omitted from the figure.

Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

Headline and core EM inflation has fallen significantly

...but remains above the range seen over the last decade



US inflation (%)

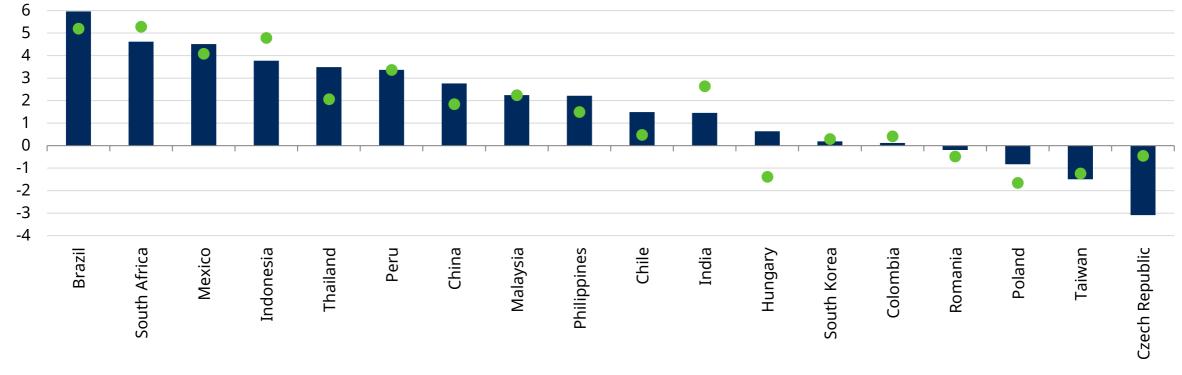
Average EM inflation ex Turkey¹ (%)

¹Based on 19 major EM countries. Turkey excluded because of significantly higher inflation in the country compared to the rest of the EM. Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

Real bond yields are positive in most EM...

EM Europe and Taiwan are the exceptions

Real 10-year yield

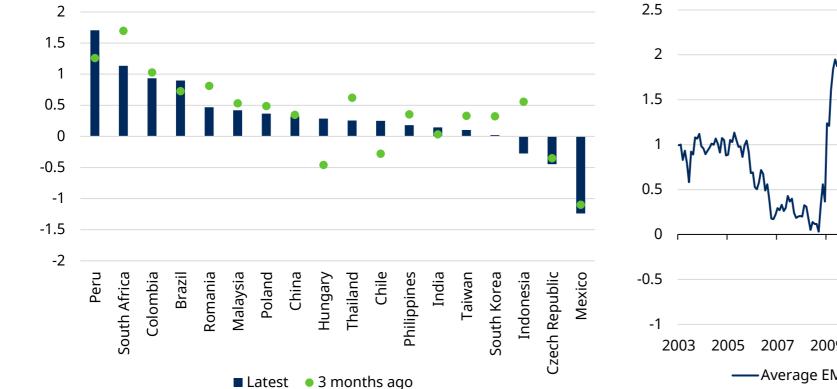


■ Using headline inflation ● Using core inflation

Real bond yields are highest in Brazil, South Africa, and Mexico

Nominal 10 year yield minus annual headline or core inflation. Turkey's real 10-year yield (-40% using headline inflation and -45% using core) omitted from the figure. Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

EM yield curve shape



Yield curve steepness (10y yield – 2y yield)

Average EM yield curve steepness (10y yield – 2y yield)¹



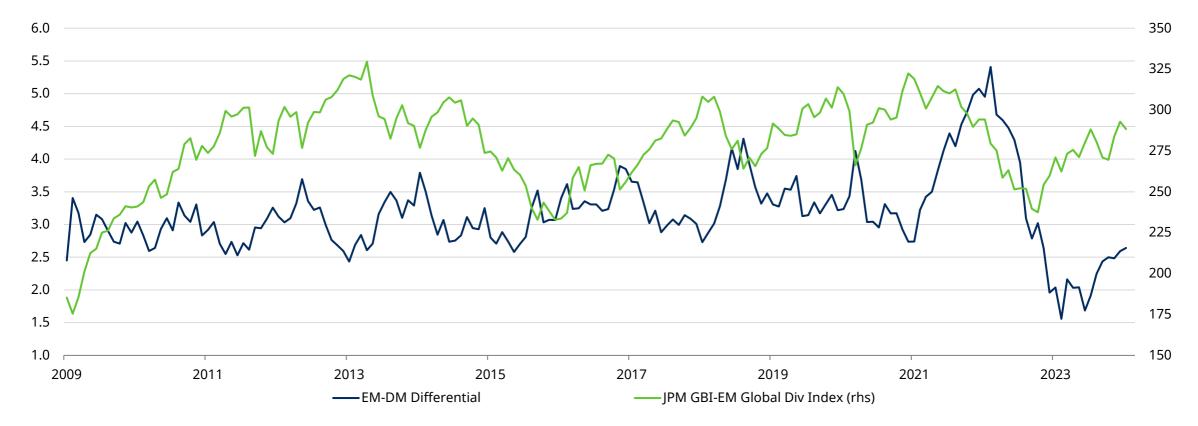
The average local EM ex Turkey yield curve is no longer inverted

¹Based on 19 major EM countries. Turkey omitted from chart on left due to degree of inversion – latest yield curve steepness is -11.6 percentage points. Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

Real yield differential has moved off long term lows

EM local currency bond valuation

EM-DM real yield differential (%)



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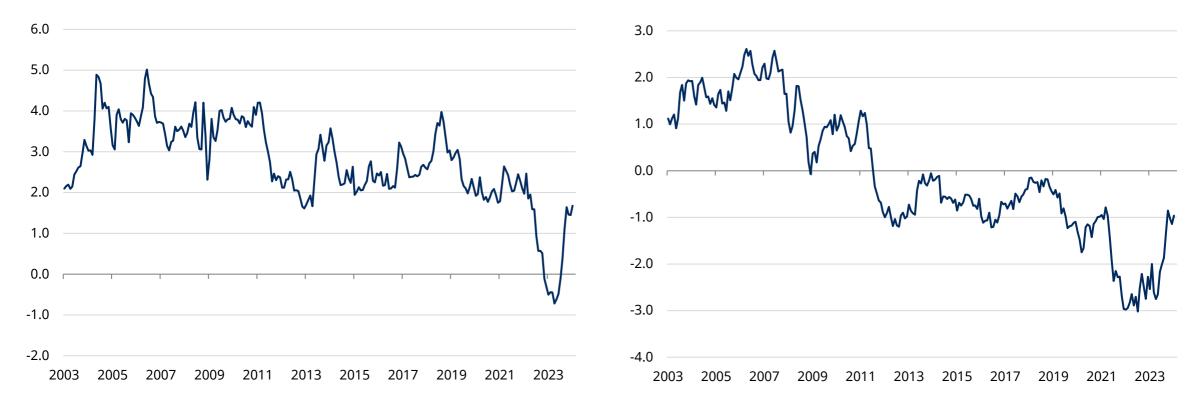
EM real yield is weighted average of individual JPM GBI-EM index nominal yields deflated by core inflation. DM real yield is 5Y government bond yields of US, UK, Euro zone, Japan deflated by core inflation, weighted by the size of individual government bond market.

Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream, ICE Data Indices, JP Morgan. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

Average EM and DM real yields have picked up

Individual drivers of the real yield differential

EM real yield (%)



DM real yield (%)

Schroders

Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream, ICE Data Indices, JP Morgan. Data as at 31 January 2024. EM real yield is weighted average of individual JPM GBI-EM index nominal yields deflated by core inflation. DM real yield is 5Y government bond yields of US, UK, eurozone, Japan deflated by core inflation, weighted by the GDP PPP of each country. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

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Emerging market currencies

Summary: emerging market currencies

- EM currency performance versus the US dollar has been broadly weak YTD. Indian rupee was the only currency to
 eke out a positive return in January.
- There are undervalued currencies in all three EM regions, though the degree of value in EM currencies varies significantly.
- The Czech koruna is notably above its long term and five-year averages. Currencies in Uruguay, Romania and India are also expensive versus history. Turkey, South Africa, and Malaysia are among the cheapest EM currencies relative to the long-term average.
- EM FX carry, the strategy of buying higher-yielding EM currencies against lower-yielding currencies to earn the interest rate differential, made a comeback in 2022 because of EM rate hikes but has faded.

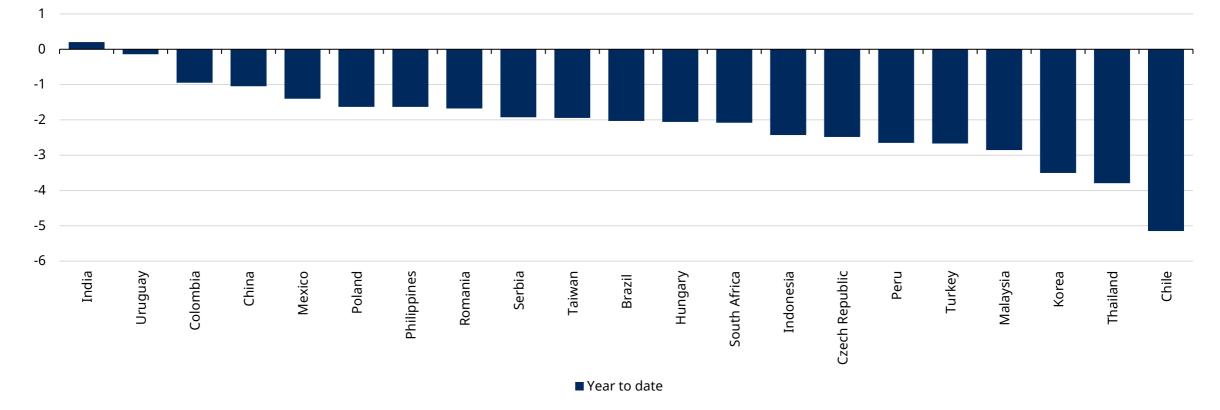
Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream, JP Morgan, Schroders Strategic Research Unit. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.



EM FX broadly weak YTD

EM currency performance vs. US dollar

EM currency returns (%)



Indian rupee the most resilient EM currency YTD

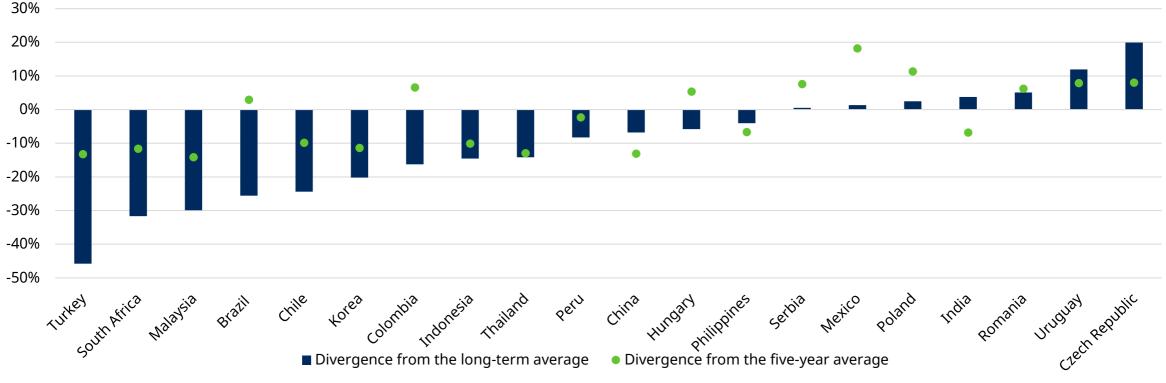
Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated.

Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

Some currencies are significantly undervalued

Notably EMEA and Latin American currencies

Real exchange rate: deviation from average

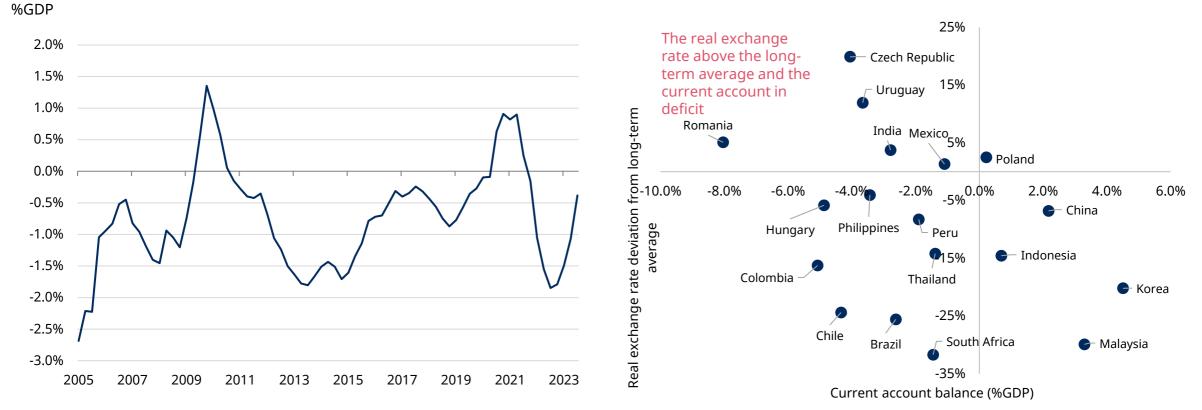


Turkey, South Africa and Malaysia are among the cheapest currencies; Czech Republic, Uruguay, and Romania have real exchange rates well above the long-term average

Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream. Data as at 31 January 2024. Real exchange rate is the nominal dollar exchange rate deflated by the consumer price index (CPI) of each EM country vs. US. Long-term average is since January 1995. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

EM fundamentals: current account vs. currency valuation

Romania, Czechia, and Uruguay are among most vulnerable to currency weakness

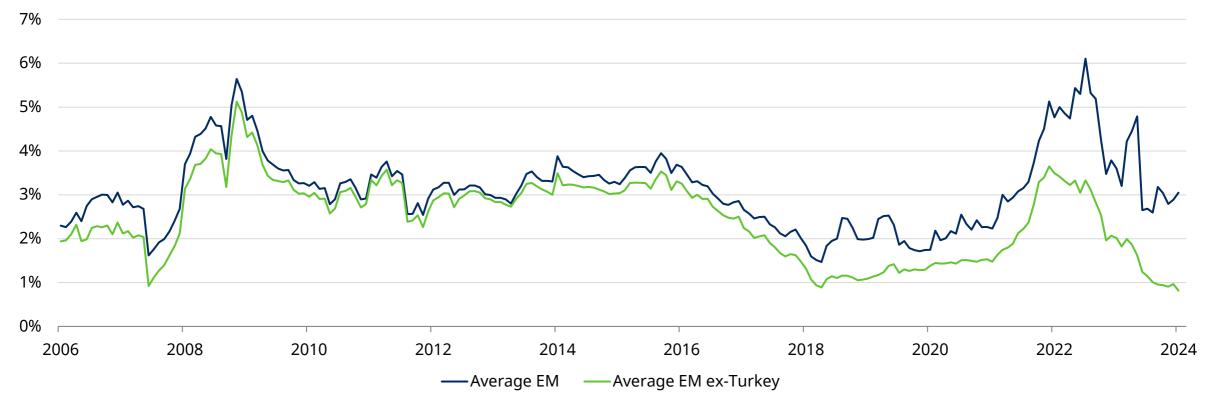


Average EM current account balance1EM currency value2 vs. current account balance

¹Based on the historical country weights of the JPM GBI-EM Global Diversified Index. ²Currency value is the deviation of the real exchange rate from the long-term average since 1995. Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream. Current account data as at Q3 2023, currency value data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

The EM FX carry trade made a comeback on the back of EM rate hikes but has faded

Average EM carry¹

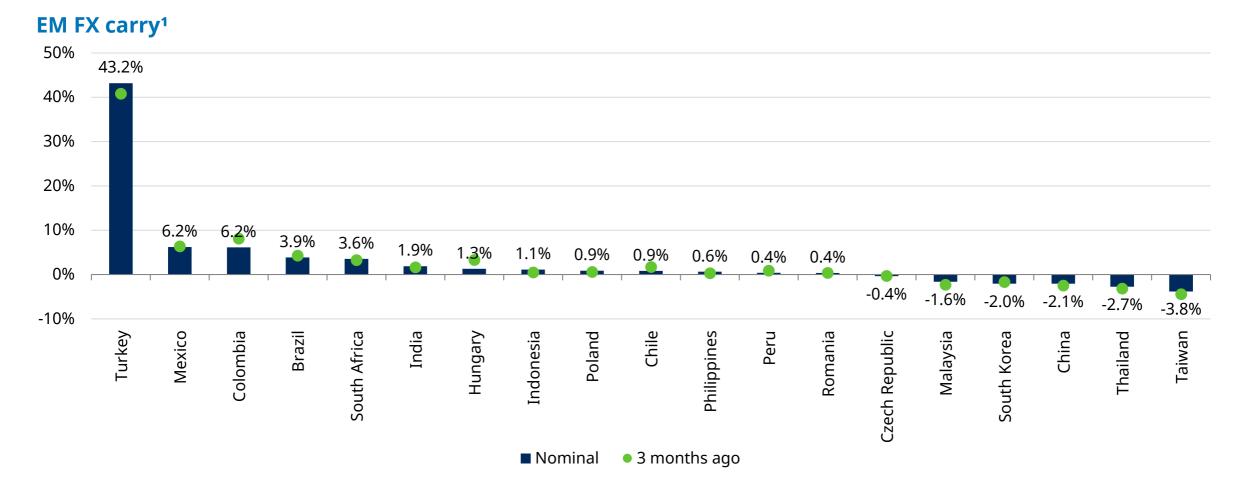


Average EM ex-Turkey carry is close to multi-decade lows

¹The return of holding 1-year FX forward vs. US dollar to maturity. Based on 19 major EM countries. Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

FX Carry varies significantly between the countries

FX carry trade in Turkey remains elevated, despite recent decrease



¹The return of holding 1-year FX forward vs. US dollar to maturity.

Source: Schroders, LSEG Datastream. Data as at 31 January 2024. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

List of indices

- **Sovereign EMD** The JPM EMBI Global Diversified Composite Index
- **Corporate EMD** The JPM CEMBI Broad Diversified Index
- Local EMD The JPM GBI-EM Global Diversified Index
- **US IG** ICE BofA US High Yield Index
- **US HY** ICE BofA US Corporate Index

Relevant Disclosures

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