### Schroders



Schroders Emerging
Markets Lens:
Emerging Market Debt

Strategic Research Unit

July 2023

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**Emerging market debt: local currency** 

**Emerging market currencies** 

## Summary

EM bonds and currencies extended YTD gains in Q2, led by local bonds (slide 4). This was despite a backdrop of ongoing pressure in developed market bond yields

#### **Hard currency** emerging market debt (EMD):

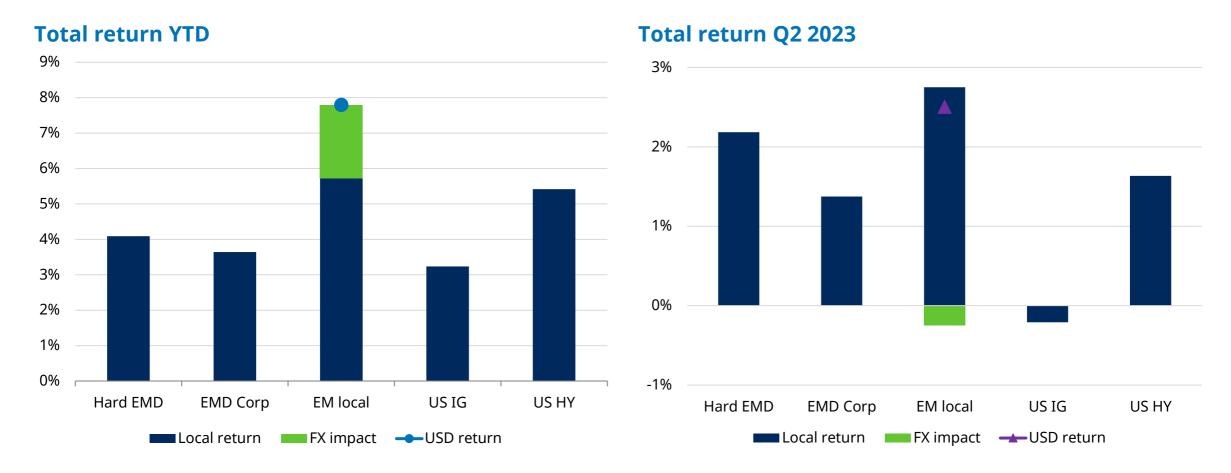
- The hard EM bond index yield and spread is elevated relative to its long term history
- The above median hard EMD spread is attributable to the high yield (HY) sovereign index. The spread on the investment grade (IG) sovereign market is below its historical average, and at a ten year low
- In corporate EMD, the IG spread has fallen below its historical median, while the HY spread is close to its median

#### **Local currency** EMD:

- The real yield pickup over developed market (DM) bonds has fallen to a very low level. This is primarily due to the sharp decrease in EM real yields in the past 12 months, as inflation has increased by more than nominal yields. EM inflation is now falling though, and could provide some relief
- The average local EM yield curve is now inverted (downward sloping)
- There are undervalued **currencies** in all three EM regions. The degree of value in EM currencies varies significantly

## EMD extended gains in Q2, led by local debt

Corporate EMD has been the laggard, but remains positive YTD

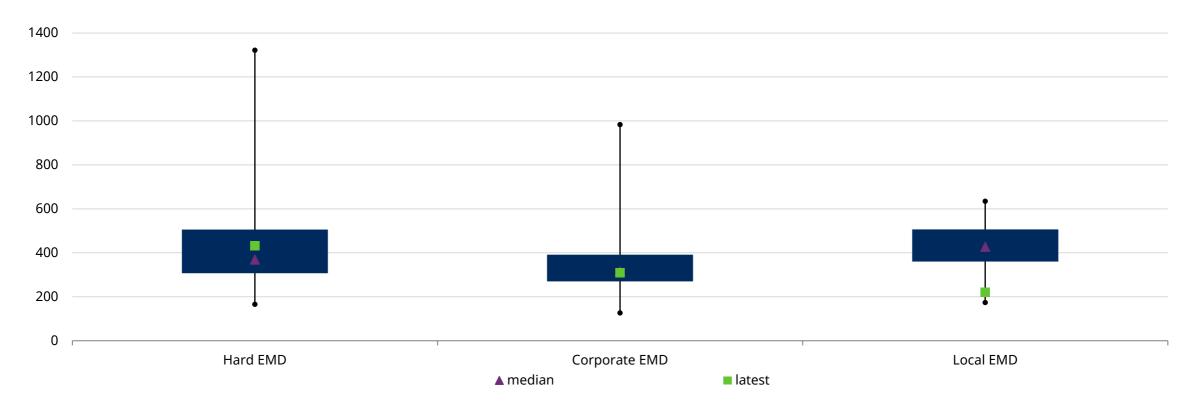


Note: Local currency = US dollar for all apart from local EMD which is in the relevant local EM currency. Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Datastream, JP Morgan, Schroders Strategic Research Unit. Data as at 30 June 2023. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

### **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 than meets the eye...

#### See slides 12-13

Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Datastream, J.P. Morgan. Data as at 30 June 2023. Spreads are adjusted for changes in the distribution of credit ratings within each index over time. Percentiles shows where the current 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. Hard EMD =stripped spread, Local EMD =Spread to 5 year UST, Corporate EMD = spread to worst. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41. **Schroders** 



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# **Emerging market debt:**

Hard currency

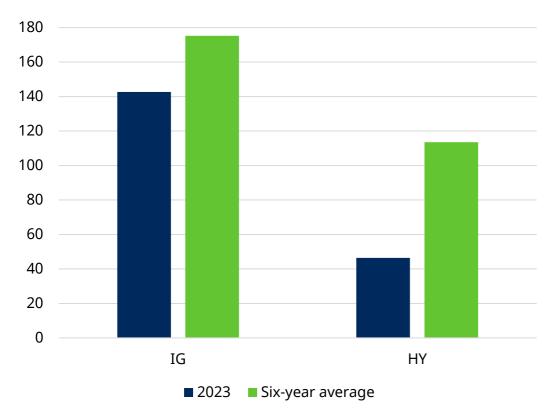
# Summary: hard emerging market debt

- The hard sovereign EMD index yield is elevated relative to its long term history (slide 9)
- In sovereign EMD, the spread dispersion between countries remains wide. Larger countries in general remain steady, but smaller countries are feeling the pain (slides 13-14). Market access continues to be a problem for EM HY issuers.
- The rise in US yields has increased the cost of debt for EM issuers, and the sovereign HY index spread remains at an elevated level (slide 10). The IG spread is at a ten year low, influenced in part by index composition changes over the past six years (slides 11-12)
- In corporate EMD, the IG spread has fallen below its historical median, while the HY spread is close to its median (slide 15)
- Credit quality has worsened since the pandemic. This has been compounded by the 2022 challenges for issuers included in major sovereign and corporate EMD benchmarks. There is some nuance though; the AA rated share of the sovereign hard currency index has increased, as have the share of BB and CCC or lower (slide 16).

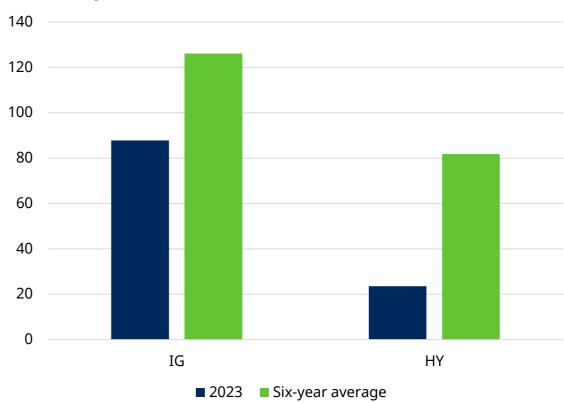
### Hard EMD issuance is below the six-year average

IG issuance YTD is 81% of the six-year average, HY 41%, and corporate HY 29%

#### **Overall hard EMD (USD billion)**



#### **Hard Corporate EMD (USD billion)**



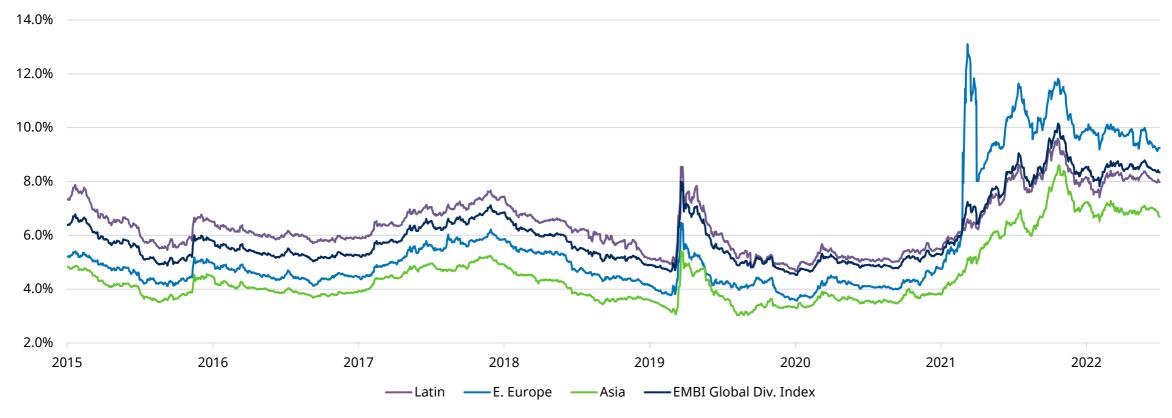
We are currently in the midst of the longest corporate HY issuance drought since data became available

Total sovereign and Corporate hard EMD. Bank of America, data as at 30 June 2023. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

# Hard EMD index yield is elevated relative to history

With only a small 0.2% easing to 8.3% so far this year

#### Hard currency sovereign EMD regional index yield

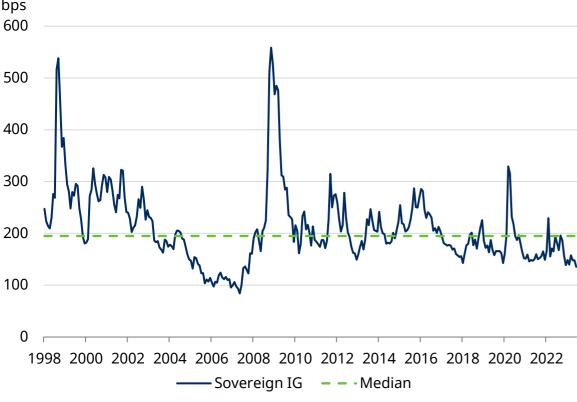


Russia was removed from all JP Morgan EMD indices from 31 March 2022. Source: Schroders, JP Morgan. Data as at 3 July 2023. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

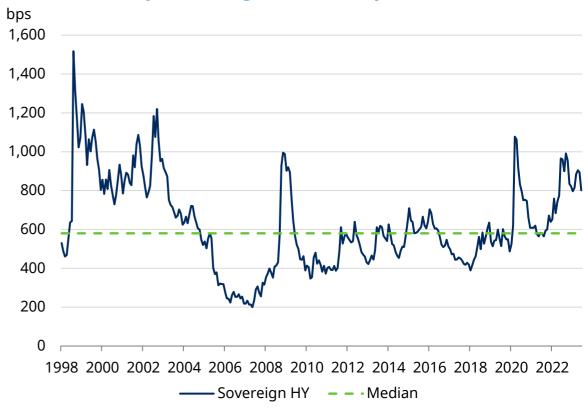
# Valuation of hard currency sovereign EMD

IG spread is at the tightest level in over ten years...





#### Hard currency sovereign EMD HY spread



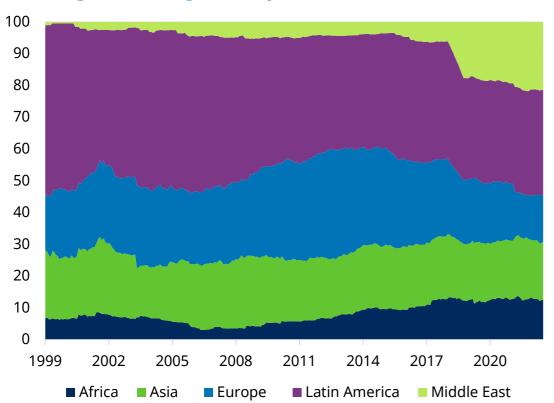
Despite falling in Q2, the HY spread remains elevated relative to history

Source: Refinitiv Datastream, JP Morgan. Data as at 30 June 2023. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

# The rise of the Middle East and the impact on IG spreads

The Middle East region's index weight has quadrupled since early 2017

#### **Sovereign EMD regional split**



#### Sovereign EMD IG-sub index ratings split



#### The Middle East is higher rated, and consequently the average credit quality of the IG index has improved

Source: Refinitiv Datastream, JP Morgan. Data as at 30 June 2023. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

Source: Refinitiv Datastream, JP Morgan. Data as at 30 June 2023. IG sub-index is 51% of JP Morgan EMBIG Diversified Index.

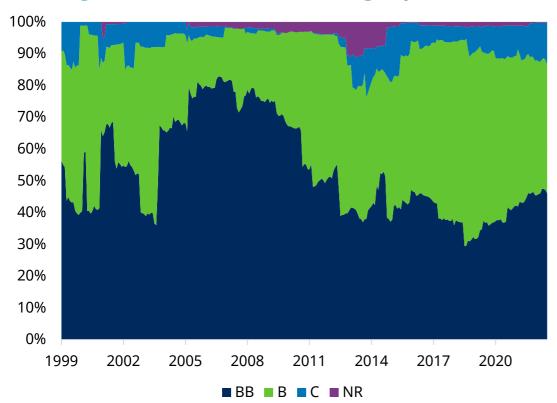
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## The long term evolution of the HY index

### A contrast between the long term and near term credit rating trends in the HY index

#### Sovereign EMD HY-sub index ratings split

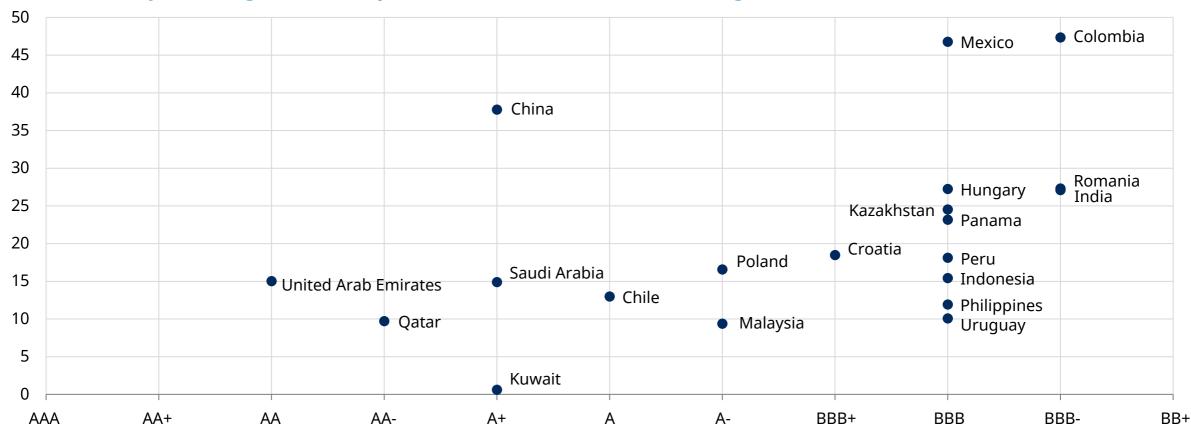


- Average credit quality of the HY index has deteriorated over the medium-to-long term
- Recent trends have been more divergent, with an increase in the share of higher rated issues, but also an increase in the weakest
- Average credit quality has improved more recently, as the former has dominated the latter, but the latter will be leading to some tail risks.

Source: Refinitiv Datastream, JP Morgan. Data as at 30 June 2023. HY sub-index is 49% of JP Morgan EMBIG Diversified Index. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

## Duration adjusted spreads of IG countries

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



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The JPMorgan EMBI Global Diversified Index includes both sovereign and quasi-sovereign bonds.

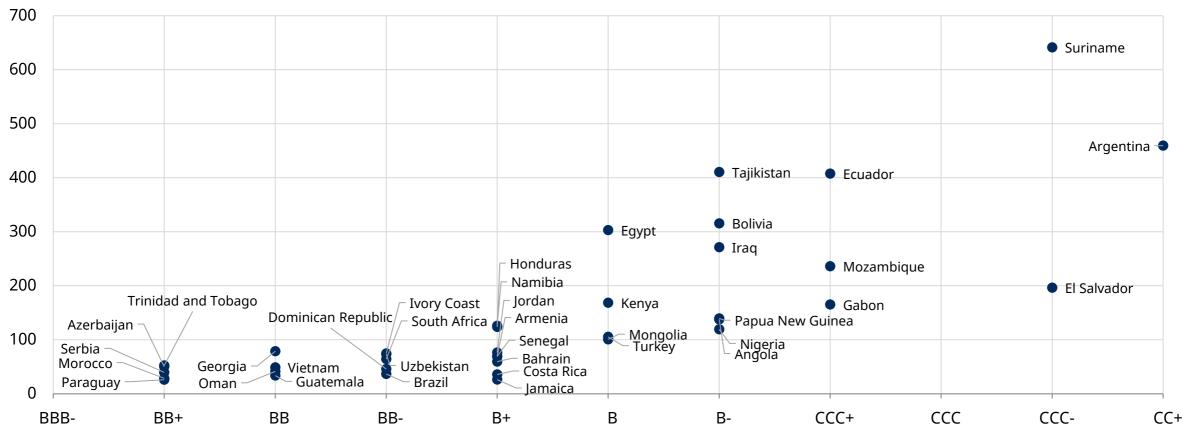
The y-axis shows spread per unit of duration, in basis points.



## Duration adjusted spreads of HY countries

### Significant variability between the countries

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

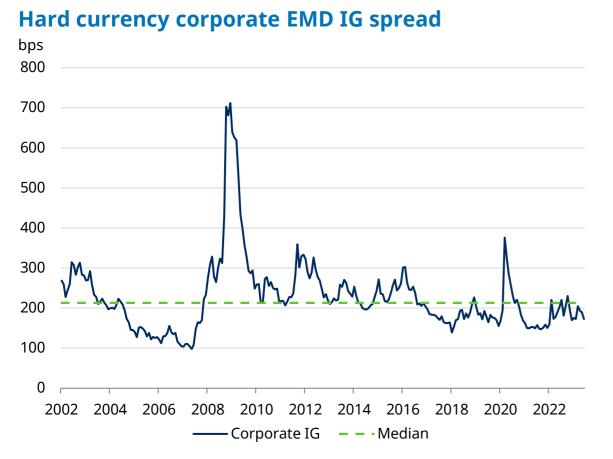


The y-axis shows spread per unit of duration, in basis points. Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Datastream, JP Morgan. Data as at 30 June 2023. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

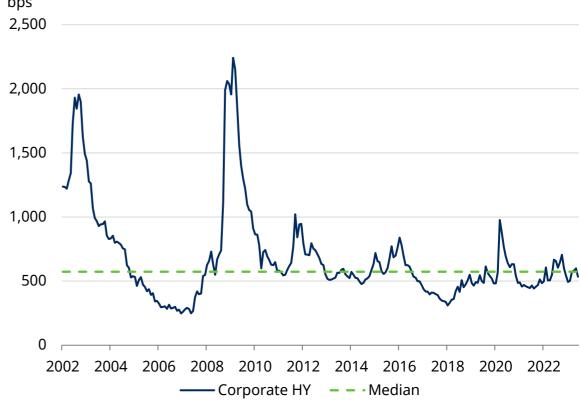


# Valuation of hard currency corporate EMD

IG corporate spreads have fallen below their historical median







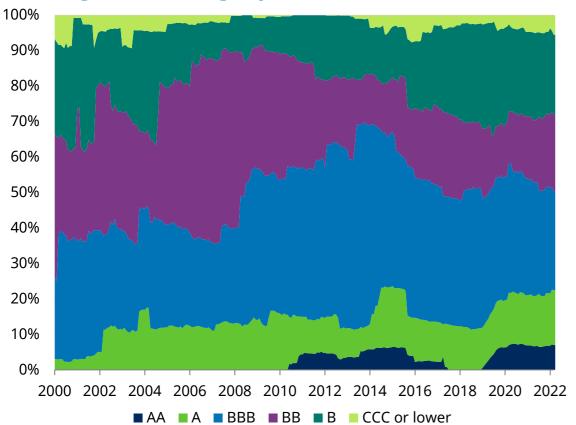
IG spread has fallen below its historical median, and the HY spread is close to its median

Source: Refinitiv Datastream, JP Morgan. Data as at 30 June 2023. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

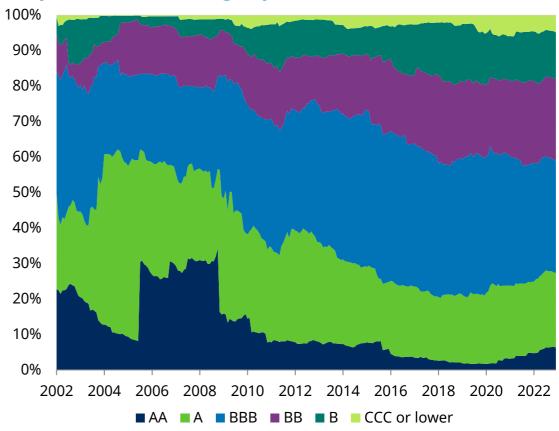
### EMD historical ratings split

Share of IG bonds has fallen in the sovereign and corporate indices in the last 10 years

#### Sovereign EMD ratings split



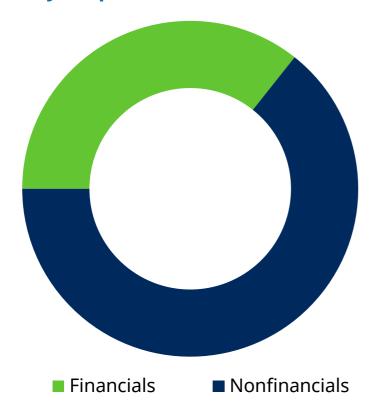
#### **Corporate EMD ratings split**



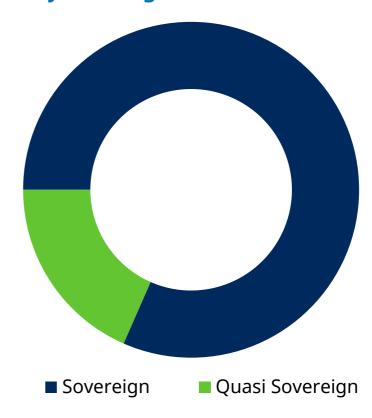
Source: Schroders, JP Morgan. Data as at 30 June 2023. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

# Characteristics of EM hard currency issuers

#### **Hard currency corporate issuers**



#### **Hard currency sovereign issuers**

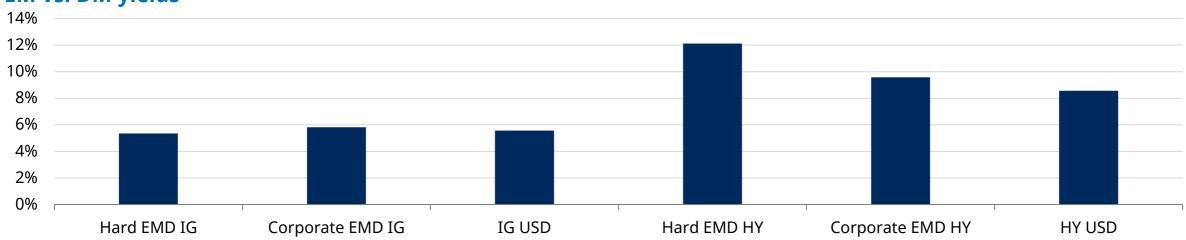


Source: Refinitiv Datastream, JP Morgan. Data as at 30 June 2023. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

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

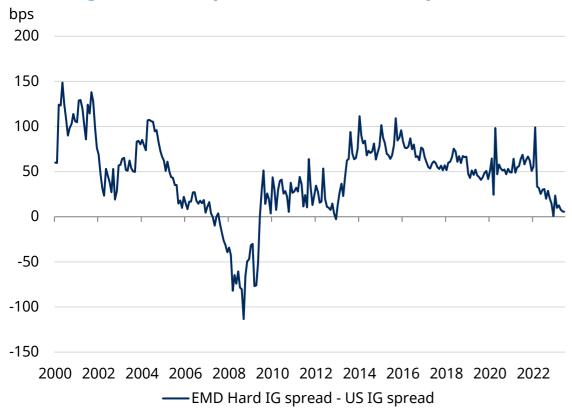
	Hard EMD IG	Corporate EMD IG	IG USD	Hard EMD HY	Corporate EMD HY	HY USD
Yield	5.3%	5.8%	5.6%	12.1%	9.6%	8.6%
Spread (bps)	135	172	130	802	535	405
Duration	8.1	4.8	7.1	5.4	3.3	4.2
Rating	A3	A3	A3	B1	B1	B1
Percentage of EMD index	50.9%	58.1%	-	49.1%	41.9%	-

#### **EM vs. DM yields**



## EM dollar debt: sovereign EMD vs. US corporates

#### Sovereign EMD IG spread minus US IG spread



#### Sovereign EMD HY spread minus US HY spread



Sovereign HY spread minus US HY spread is close to the top of long term range



# EM dollar debt: corporate EMD vs. US corporates

#### Corporate EMD IG spread minus US IG spread



#### **Corporate EMD HY spread minus US HY spread**





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# **Emerging market debt:**

Local currency

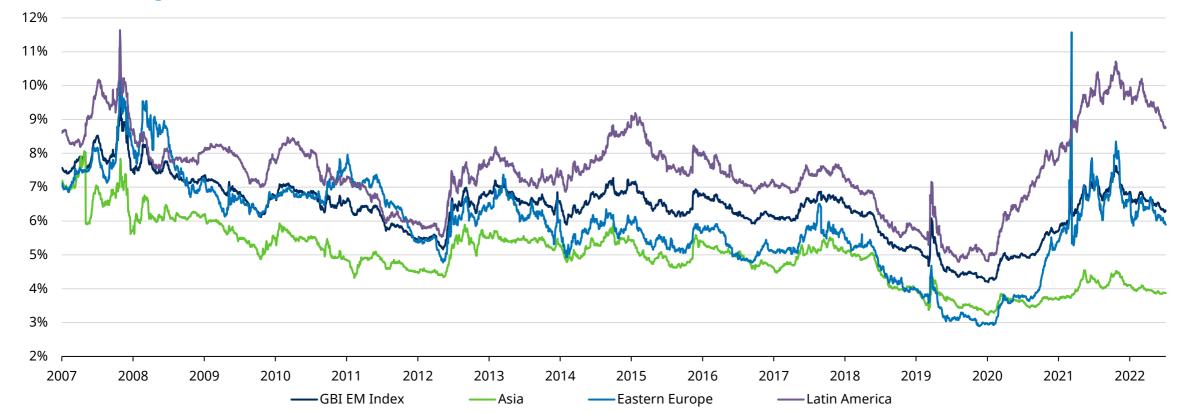
# Summary: local currency emerging market debt

- The local EM index yield has continued to fall from the top of its ten year range, although remains a lot higher than in previous years. This masks significant variation between regions (slide 23)
- Various EM central banks have continued rate hiking cycles in 2023. The average EM policy rate is at its highest level since 2008 (slide 24)
- Headline and core EM inflation remain above target almost everywhere ex China. However, average EM inflation has turned, and is now falling (slides 26-27)
- The average local EM yield curve is now inverted (downward sloping) (slide 30)
- The real yield premium of EM over DM is at the bottom-end of its post-GFC range (slide 31). This is primarily due to the sharp decrease in EM real yields over the past 12 months, as inflation has increased by more than nominal yields. EM inflation is now falling though, and could provide some relief

### EM local currency index yield is down 0.6% YTD

It has declined by 1.3% from a peak in October last year

#### **Yields of EM regions**

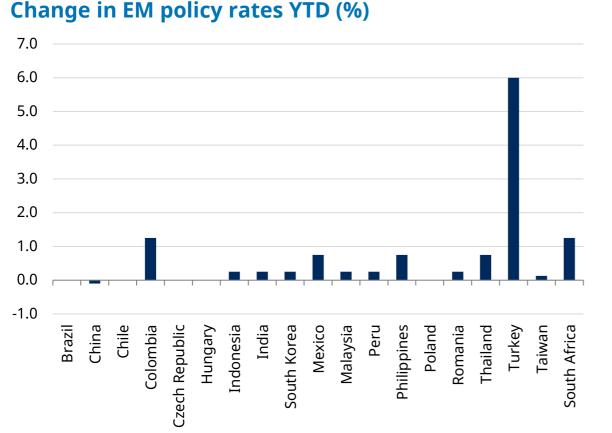


Yields vary significantly by region, and are notably higher in Latin America relative to the EM index

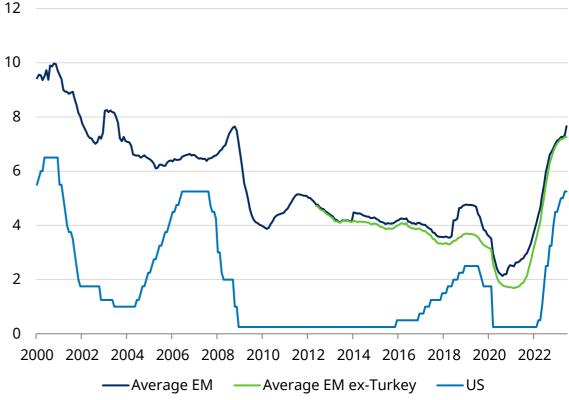
Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Datastream. Data as at 3 July 2023. Russia was removed from all JP Morgan EMD indices from 31 March 2022. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

# **EM** policy rates

### Average EM policy rate is close to its 2008 high



# Average EM policy rate<sup>1</sup> (%)

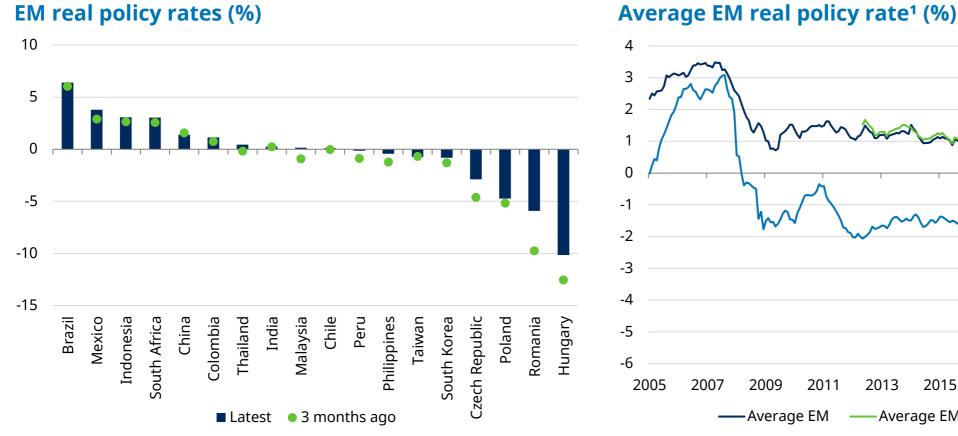


Turkey's central bank changed course in June, hiking rates by 6%

Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Datastream. Data as at 30 June 2023. ¹Based on 19 major EM countries. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

## Various EM real policy rates are still negative

### ...especially in Eastern Europe





<sup>1</sup>Based on 19 major EM countries. Turkey has very high inflation at the moment, with the annual core inflation at 47%. Despite the large rate hike in June, Turkey's policy rate is well below core inflation at 15%. Hence, Turkey's real policy rate is very negative at -32%, skewing the EM average.

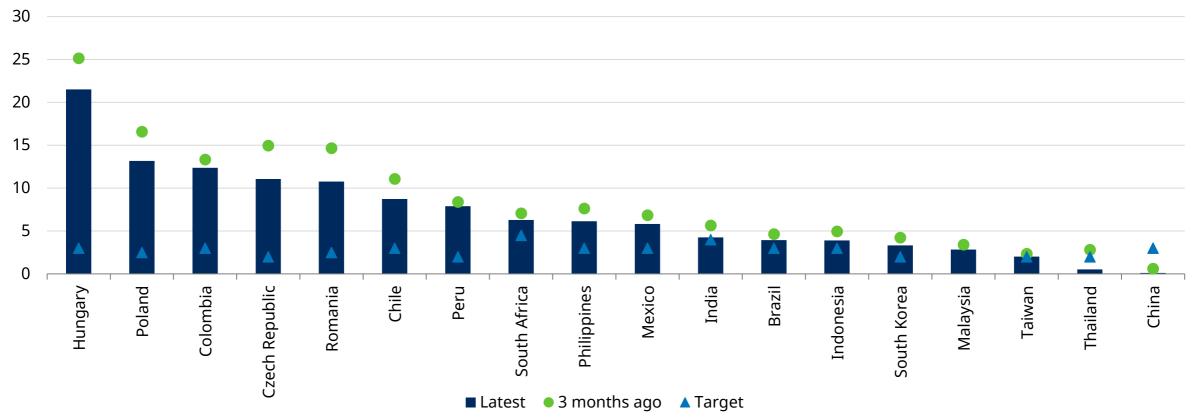
Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Datastream. Data as at 30 June 2023. Nominal policy rate minus annual core inflation. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.



### **EM** inflation

### Headline inflation is above target in most EM ex. China

#### **Headline inflation (%)**



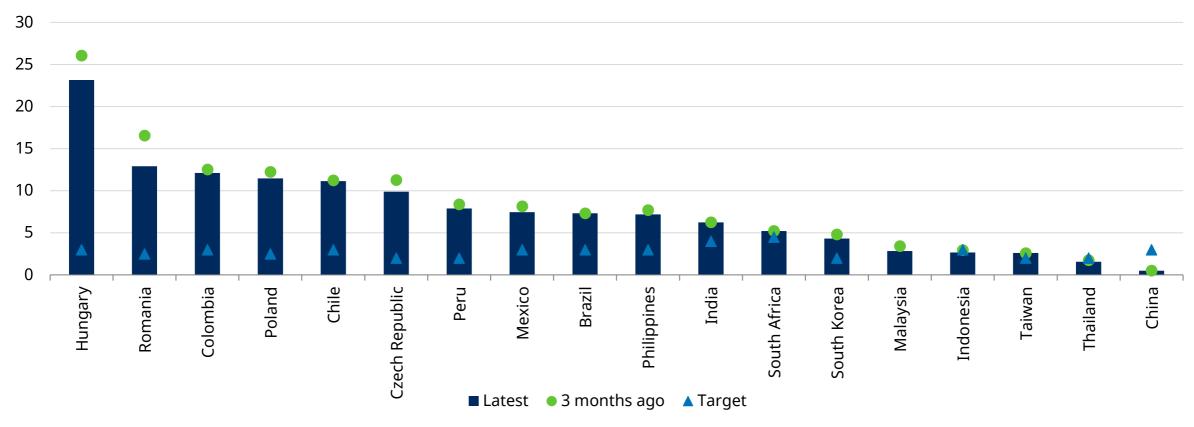
There are now signs of disinflation in most EM

Turkey's annual headline inflation (38%) omitted from the figure. Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Datastream. Data as at 30 June 2023. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

### EM core inflation

Core inflation is also above target in EM ex. China, Thailand, and Indonesia

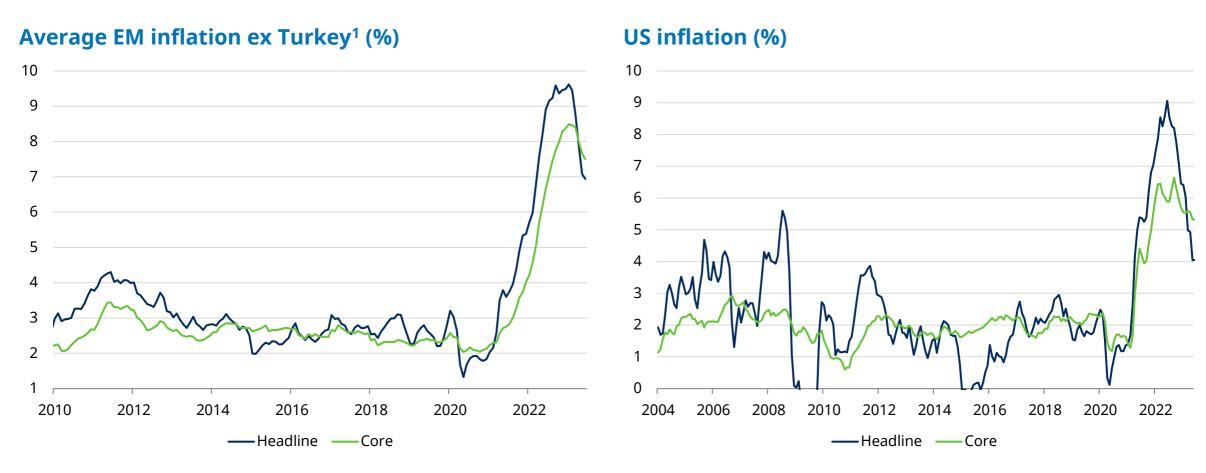
#### **Core inflation (%)**



Turkey's annual core inflation (47%) omitted from the figure. Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Datastream. Data as at 30 June 2023. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

### Headline EM inflation has started to fall

### ...and core is now coming down too



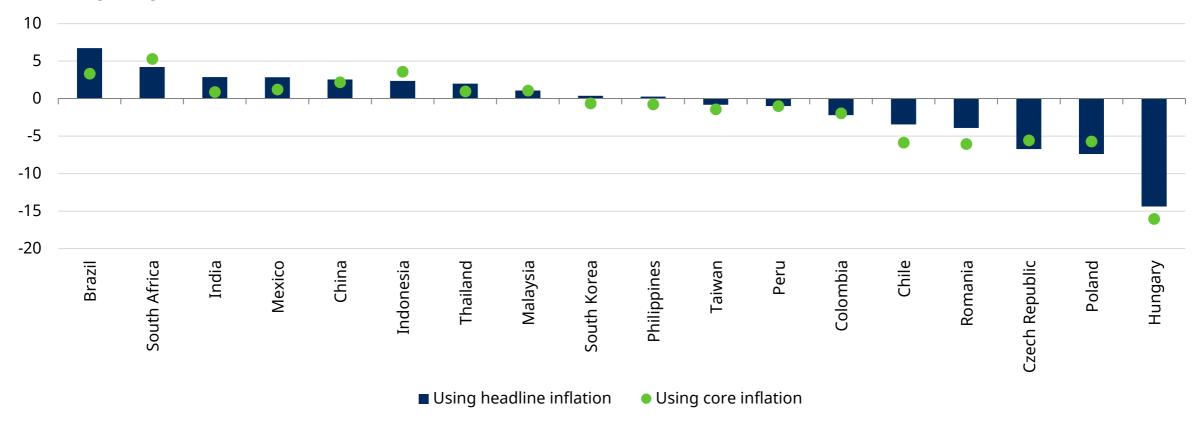
Read more: Falling EM inflation points to rate cuts, but is El Nino a risk?

<sup>1</sup>Based on 19 major EM countries. Turkey excluded because of significantly higher inflation in the country compared to the rest of the EM. Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Datastream. Data as at 30 June 2023. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

# Real bond yields are deeply negative in certain EM

EM Europe real bond yields are firmly negative relative to core inflation

#### Real 10 year yield



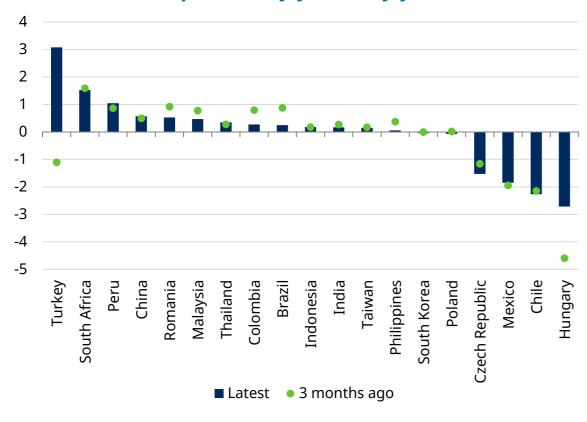
Real bond yields are positive in Brazil and South Africa in particular

Nominal 10 year yield minus annual headline or core inflation. Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Datastream. Data as at 30 June 2023. 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)<sup>1</sup>



The average local EM yield curve is now inverted (downward sloping)

<sup>1</sup>Based on 19 major EM countries.

Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Datastream. Data as at 30 June 2023. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

# EM/DM real yield differential

### EM local currency bond valuation

#### **EM/DM real yield differential (%)**



### Real yield differential is back to a post-GFC low

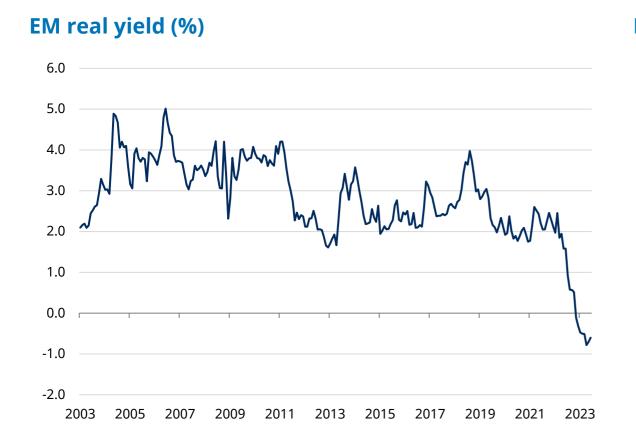
Past performance is not a guide to future performance and may not be repeated.

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.



### EM and DM real yields

### Individual drivers of the real yield differential



#### DM real yield (%)



### EM real yield has moved into negative territory

Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Datastream, ICE Data Indices, JP Morgan. Data as at 30 June 2023. 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** 

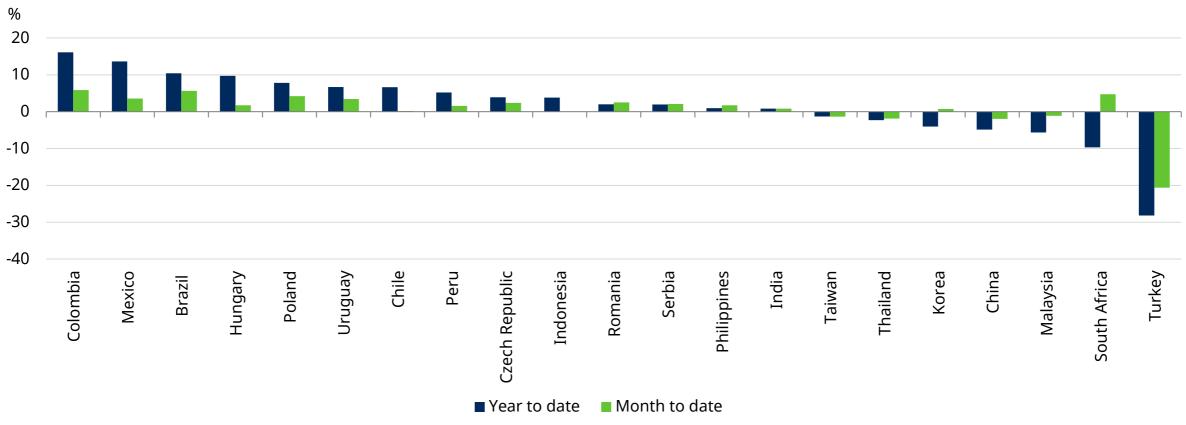
### Summary: emerging market currencies

- EM currency performance versus the US dollar has been varied YTD
- 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, and to a lesser extent in India are also expensive versus history. Turkey, Serbia, and South Africa 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 because of EM rate hikes but has faded

# EM currency performance vs. US dollar

### EM currency performance has been varied YTD

#### **EM currency returns (%)**



Latin currencies have seen the most appreciation so far this year

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

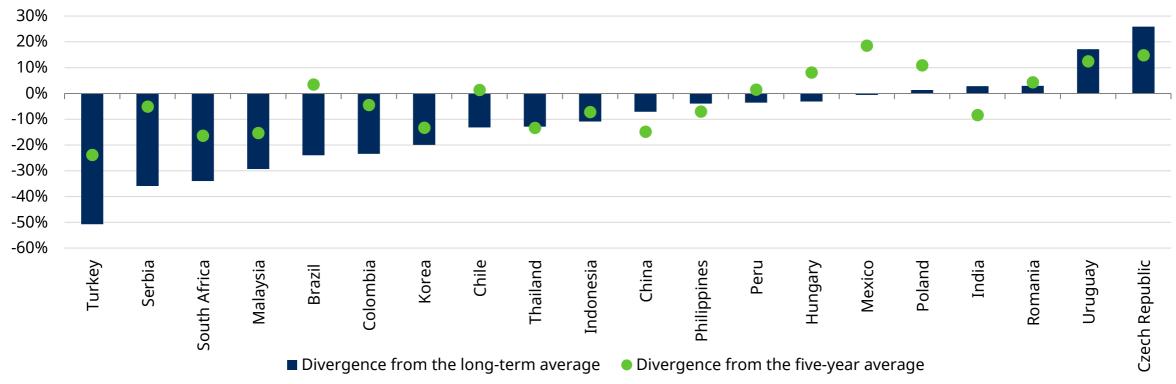
Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Datastream. Data as at 30 June 2023. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.



## EM currency value

### Some currencies are significantly undervalued

#### Real exchange rate: deviation from average



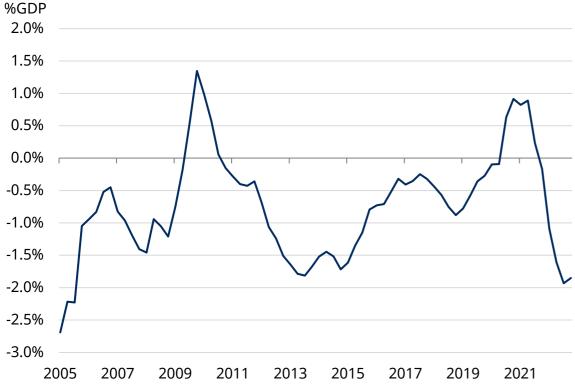
Turkey, Serbia and South Africa are among the cheapest currencies; Czech Republic, Uruguay, Romania, and India have real exchange rate above the long term average

Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Datastream. Data as at 30 June 2023. 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.

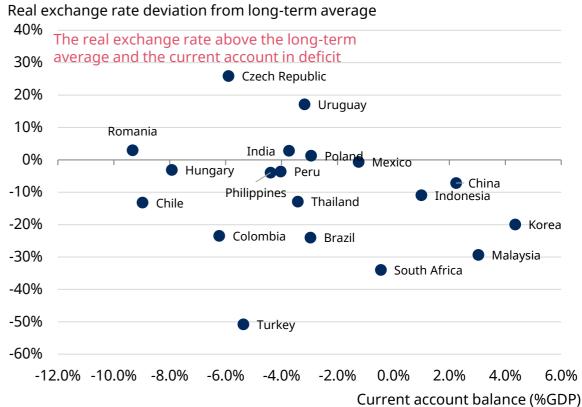
# EM fundamentals: current account vs. currency valuation

### Current accounts of commodity importers have deteriorated

#### Average EM current account balance<sup>1</sup>



#### EM currency value<sup>2</sup> vs. current account balance

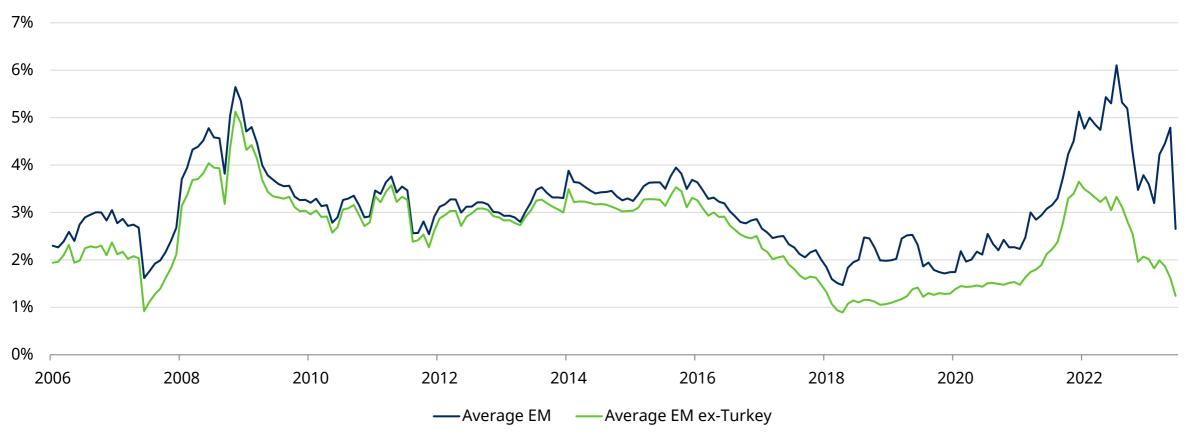


#### Czech Republic, Uruguay and Romania are among the most vulnerable to currency weakness

<sup>1</sup>Based on the historical country weights of the JPM GBI-EM Global Diversified Index. <sup>2</sup>Currency value is the deviation of the real exchange rate from the long-term average since 1995. Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Datastream. Current account data as at Q4 2022, currency value data as at 30 June 2023. 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

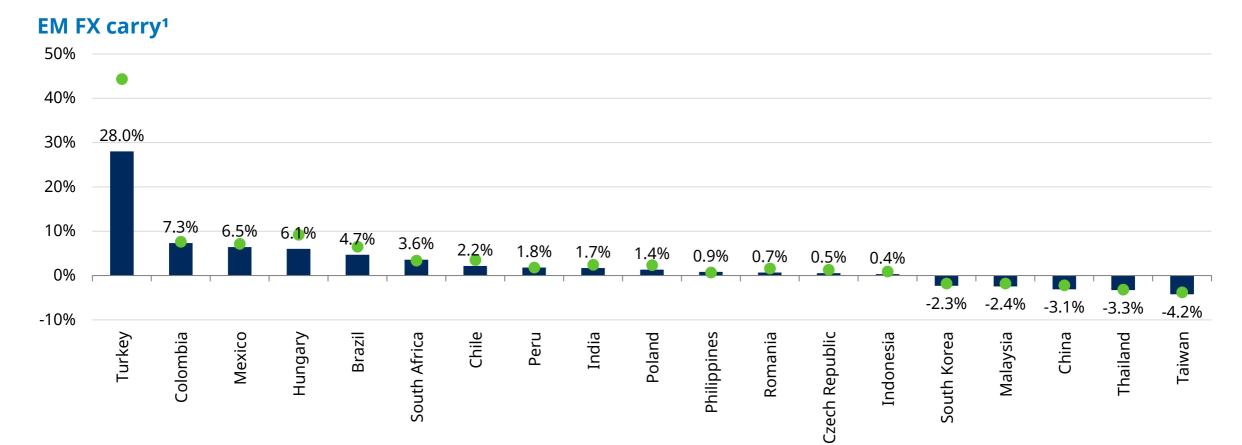
#### **Average EM carry**<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>The return of holding 1-year FX forward vs. US dollar to maturity. Based on 19 major EM countries. Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Datastream. Data as at 30 June 2023. Please see relevant disclaimers on page 41.

# FX Carry varies significantly between the countries

FX carry trade in Turkey has fallen significantly in the past three months



3 months ago

Nominal



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The return of holding 1-year FX forward vs. US dollar to maturity. Source: Schroders, Refinitiv Datastream. Data as at 30 June 2023. 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

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