GLOBAL IMPACT: RISING RATES AROUND THE WORLD

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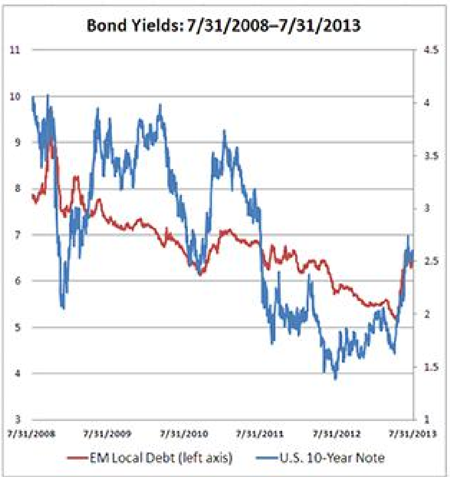
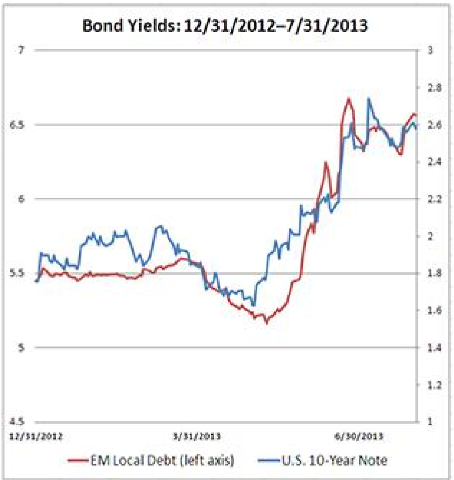
Bond investors around the world have had a difficult run the past couple of months. While many market prognosticators have decried the end of the bond market, we believe there is still value in taking a diversified approach to fixed income. Although the recent past has seen yields rise across virtually all fixed income sectors, we do not believe that this period of heightened correlations is set to continue indefinitely. For the past couple of years, beta ran equity markets, and we're seeing some investors make the same claims about bonds. As globally minded investors, we do not believe that the same factors and fundamentals that drive returns are comparable between the United States and emerging market (EM) countries. For U.S. Treasury investors this year, the 10-Year Note bottomed at 1.63% on a closing basis on May 2, 2013. Just over two months later, the 10-Year was yielding 2.74%![1] Talk of tapering by Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke was interpreted by markets to mean that imminent Fed tightening would occur sooner than anticipated. On the back of this, yields across the emerging markets rose in concert. To many, it seemed as though the cost of capital was increasing around the world. In fact, while Treasury yields rose by over 1.11%, yields in emerging markets actually increased by 1.45%. As the graphs below show, this strong positive relationship has not been the historical norm.





EM Local Debt represented by the J.P. Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index.
Past performance is not indicative of future results. You cannot invest directly in an index.

For definitions of terms and indexes in the charts, please visit our Glossary. However, this risk of rising rates needs to be carefully qualified and examined. On a total-return basis, an investment in the 10-Year Treasury Note resulted in a decline of 8.16% during this period[2]. Due to its lower duration, the larger move in interest rates in emerging markets[3] resulted in a loss of just over 5% (5.05%). However, duration has accounted for only a part of the emerging markets story. U.S. dollar strength accounted for additional negative performance for investors in emerging market debt. In fact, losses from currency actually accounted for –6.64%, easily outpacing the decline from higher interest rates[4]. Interestingly enough, the move in emerging market currencies has been partially attributable to slowing growth in China, yet the Chinese yuan continues to be one of the top-performing emerging market currencies in 2013. However, the question that investors should be asking themselves is, do I believe the U.S. dollar will remain strong indefinitely against cleaner balance sheets and faster-growing economies of emerging markets? While the U.S. economy has recently surprised many economists with stronger earnings data and gross domestic product figures, we do not believe that EM has completely lost its luster in the medium and long term. Total returns for domestic fixed income will come under pressure and experience periods of volatility. Total returns for emerging market fixed income are not immune to global rebalancing. As bond investors, we care principally about generating attractive levels of income per unit of risk. In our opinion, market sentiment for many EM economies continues to heavily discount the emerging market story. China may slow, South Africa may be facing a period of social unrest, and India may continue to be mired in short-term setbacks, but all three of these economies have overwhelmingly positive growth trajectories. We could just as easily highlight the two credit ratings upgrades in the Philippines(and one for Turkey) that now create yields in excess of the U.S. high yield market in a much higher credit-quality portfolio[5]. Ultimately, emerging markets will undoubtedly continue to be met with challenges and volatility. But should investors continue to believe in their long-term trajectories, some assets may prove to be attractive long-term buying opportunities once market sentiment begins to turn. [1]Source: Bloomberg, 2013. [2]As represented by the Ryan Labs 10 Year Bond Index, Bloomberg. [3]As represented by the J.P. Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index. [4]Sources: JPMorgan, Bloomberg, 2013. [5]Source: WisdomTree, 7/31/2013.

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DEFINITIONS

Correlation : Statistical measure of how two sets of returns move in relation to each other. Correlation coefficients range from -1 to 1. A correlation of 1 means the two subjects of analysis move in lockstep with each other. A correlation of -1 means the two subjects of analysis have moved in exactly the opposite direction.

Beta : A measure of the volatility of a security or a portfolio in comparison to a benchmark. In general, a beta less than 1 indicates that the investment is less volatile than the benchmark, while a beta more than 1 indicates that the investment is more volatile than the benchmark.

Duration : A measure of a bond's sensitivity to changes in interest rates. The weighted average accounts for the various durations of the bonds purchased as well as the proportion of the total government bond portfolio that they make up.