



ASSET  
MANAGEMENT

# Public and Private Equity Outlook

*Annual Review*

23 January 2023

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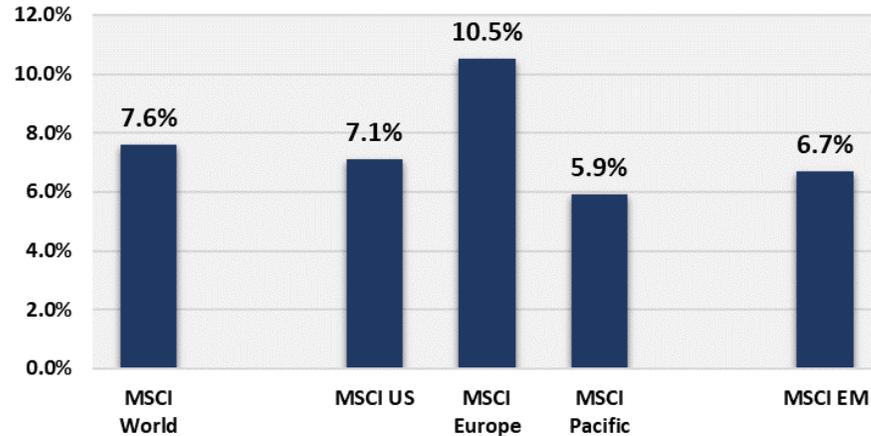
# Recap

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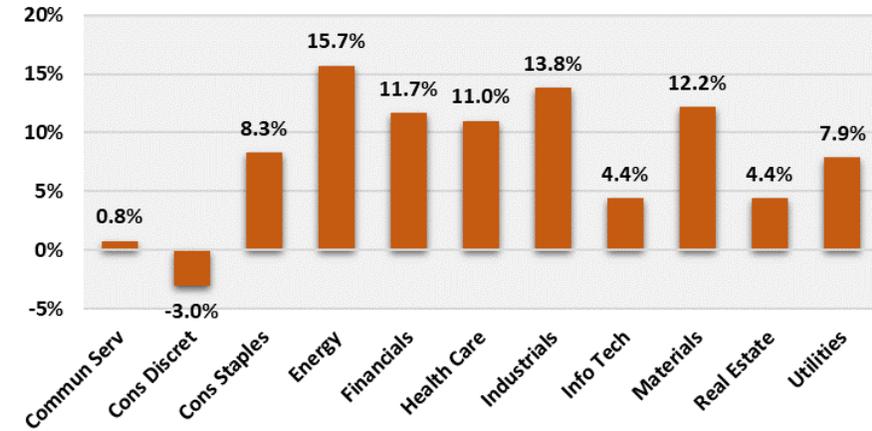


# Equity Market Returns

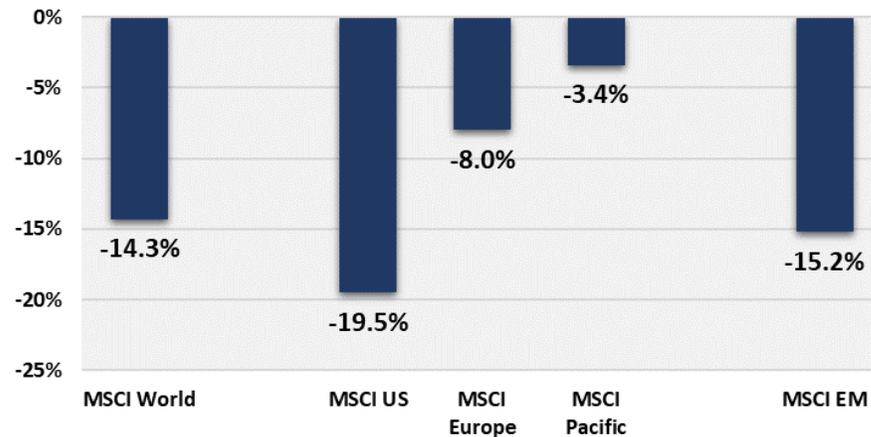
Last 3 Months Returns thru 31 Dec 2022 (Local)



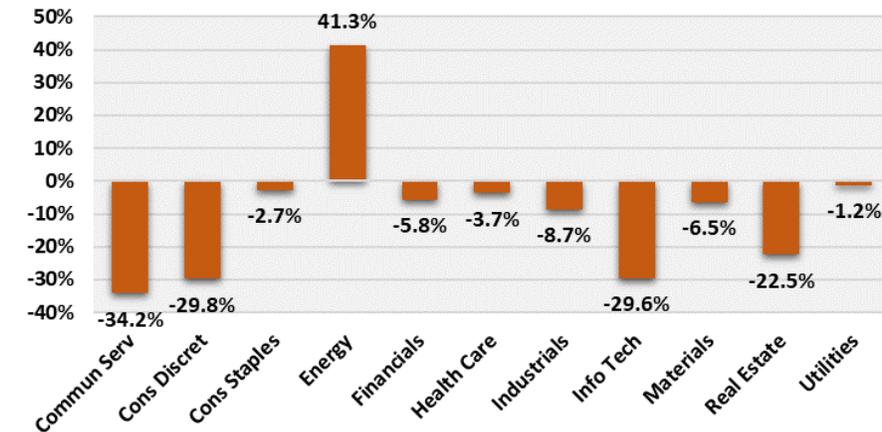
Last 3 Months Returns thru 31 Dec 2022 (ACWI,Local)



TTM Returns thru 31 Dec 2022 (Local)



TTM Returns thru 31 Dec 2022 (ACWI, Local)



# Ranked Asset Class Returns

## Ranked Asset Class Return by Year. Green Means You're Beating Inflation

Ranking	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1	REITS (26%)	US 10yr (12%)	MSCI CN (21%)	US Small (37%)	REITS (27%)	MSCI JP (9%)	Commod. (21%)	MSCI CN (51%)	USD Cash (0%)	S&P 500 (29%)	MSCI CN (28%)	REITS (32%)	Commod. (0%)
2	US Small (25%)	TIPS (10%)	MSCI EU (18%)	S&P 500 (30%)	S&P 500 (13%)	REITS (2%)	US Small (19%)	MSCI EM (35%)	US 2yr (0%)	REITS (26%)	US Small (18%)	S&P 500 (20%)	USD Cash (-5%)
3	Commod. (25%)	EM\$ Sov. (6%)	Global HY (18%)	MSCI JP (25%)	US 10yr (8%)	US 10yr (1%)	US HY (15%)	MSCI EU (24%)	US 10yr (-1%)	US Small (23%)	MSCI EM (17%)	Commod. (18%)	US 2yr (-10%)
4	MSCI EM (17%)	US IG (5%)	REITS (18%)	MSCI EU (24%)	MSCI CN (7%)	EM\$ Sov. (1%)	Global HY (12%)	MSCI JP (22%)	US Agg (-2%)	MSCI EU (22%)	S&P 500 (17%)	MSCI EU (9%)	EM Local (-14%)
5	MSCI JP (14%)	US Agg (5%)	MSCI EM (17%)	US HY (6%)	US IG (7%)	S&P 500 (1%)	S&P 500 (10%)	S&P 500 (19%)	TIPS (-3%)	MSCI CN (21%)	MSCI JP (13%)	US Small (7%)	US HY (-17%)
6	US HY (13%)	REITS (4%)	EM\$ Sov. (16%)	Global HY (6%)	EM\$ Sov. (6%)	US 2yr (0%)	MSCI EM (9%)	US Small (12%)	US HY (-4%)	MSCI JP (17%)	Commod. (10%)	TIPS (-1%)	TIPS (-18%)
7	S&P 500 (13%)	US HY (2%)	US Small (14%)	MSCI CN (2%)	US Agg (5%)	US Agg (0%)	EM\$ Sov. (7%)	EM Local (12%)	US IG (-4%)	MSCI EM (16%)	TIPS (10%)	US HY (-2%)	Global HY (-18%)
8	Global HY (13%)	Global HY (0%)	S&P 500 (14%)	REITS (1%)	US Small (4%)	USD Cash (-1%)	REITS (7%)	Global HY (8%)	EM Local (-5%)	US IG (12%)	US 10yr (9%)	MSCI JP (-5%)	US Agg (-19%)
9	EM Local (11%)	S&P 500 (-1%)	US HY (14%)	US 2yr (-1%)	TIPS (3%)	US IG (-1%)	US IG (4%)	EM\$ Sov. (7%)	Global HY (-6%)	US HY (12%)	US IG (8%)	Global HY (-6%)	MSCI EU (-20%)
10	EM\$ Sov. (11%)	US 2yr (-1%)	EM Local (13%)	USD Cash (-1%)	US HY (2%)	TIPS (-2%)	EM Local (4%)	REITS (6%)	REITS (-6%)	EM\$ Sov. (11%)	US Agg (6%)	USD Cash (-7%)	US 10yr (-20%)
11	US 10yr (8%)	EM Local (-3%)	US IG (8%)	US IG (-3%)	US 2yr (0%)	MSCI EU (-3%)	TIPS (3%)	Commod. (5%)	EM\$ Sov. (-6%)	Global HY (10%)	US HY (6%)	US 2yr (-7%)	US IG (-21%)
12	US IG (7%)	USD Cash (-3%)	MSCI JP (7%)	US Agg (-3%)	USD Cash (-1%)	Global HY (-3%)	MSCI JP (1%)	US HY (5%)	S&P 500 (-6%)	Commod. (8%)	Global HY (6%)	US IG (-8%)	MSCI JP (-22%)
13	US Agg (5%)	US Small (-7%)	TIPS (5%)	MSCI EM (-4%)	Global HY (-1%)	US Small (-5%)	US Agg (1%)	US IG (4%)	Commod. (-12%)	EM Local (7%)	MSCI EU (5%)	US Agg (-8%)	EM\$ Sov. (-23%)
14	TIPS (5%)	Commod. (-11%)	US Agg (2%)	EM Local (-6%)	MSCI EM (-3%)	US HY (-5%)	MSCI CN (-1%)	US Agg (1%)	US Small (-13%)	US Agg (6%)	EM Local (4%)	EM Local (-8%)	S&P 500 (-23%)
15	MSCI CN (3%)	MSCI EU (-13%)	US 10yr (2%)	US 10yr (-7%)	EM Local (-3%)	MSCI CN (-8%)	US 2yr (-1%)	TIPS (1%)	MSCI JP (-14%)	US 10yr (6%)	EM\$ Sov. (4%)	MSCI EM (-9%)	MSCI EM (-25%)
16	MSCI EU (3%)	MSCI JP (-17%)	Commod. (2%)	EM\$ Sov. (-7%)	MSCI JP (-4%)	EM Local (-11%)	US 10yr (-1%)	US 10yr (0%)	MSCI EM (-16%)	TIPS (6%)	US 2yr (2%)	EM\$ Sov. (-9%)	US Small (-26%)
17	US 2yr (1%)	MSCI EM (-21%)	US 2yr (-1%)	TIPS (-10%)	MSCI EU (-6%)	MSCI EM (-15%)	USD Cash (-2%)	USD Cash (-1%)	MSCI EU (-16%)	US 2yr (1%)	USD Cash (-1%)	US 10yr (-9%)	MSCI CN (-27%)
18	USD Cash (-1%)	MSCI CN (-21%)	USD Cash (-2%)	Commod. (-10%)	Commod. (-18%)	Commod. (-19%)	MSCI EU (-2%)	US 2yr (-2%)	MSCI CN (-20%)	USD Cash (0%)	REITS (-6%)	MSCI CN (-27%)	REITS (-30%)

Source: Bloomberg, Morgan Stanley Research; Note We compute annual returns minus US headline inflation. Green means returns (in USD) beat inflation, and red means returns trailed inflation. Data as of December 30, 2022.

# Equity Premia Performance & Valuation Summary\*

	Performance		Valuation (z-score)	
	Last 3 Mo.	TTM	Last 10 Yrs	Last 35 Yrs
<b>Value</b>	7.5%	24.4%	-0.6	-1.2
<b>Size (Small)</b>	-0.5%	-4.2%	-0.9	-1.0
<b>Momentum</b>	2.1%	9.8%	-1.2	-0.6
<b>Quality</b>	1.8%	-2.0%	0.0	0.8
<b>Low Volatility</b>	-1.5%	8.0%	-1.2	-0.2

## Highlights

- The Value rally resumed in Q4 and was the best performing factor over the last twelve months by a wide margin.
- Small cap stocks continue to lag despite favorable valuations relative to their history.
- High Momentum stocks have delivered a premium consistent with their history over the last quarter and year; their valuations are still attractive versus history as well.
- Low Volatility stocks have outperformed for the year after a long period of negative performance and are cheap versus their history.

# Long Term Return & Risk Assumptions

<b>Asset Class</b>	<b>Market Return</b>	<b>Volatility</b>	Note: Last 10 Yrs Return
<b>Developed Market Equity</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>17%</b>	10.6%
<b>Emerging Market Equity</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>25%</b>	5.0%
<b>Private Equity</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>30%</b>	19.2%

# Changes over the Quarter

	<b>30-Sep-22</b>	<b>30-Dec-22</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>S&amp;P 500 Index</b>	<b>3585.62</b>	<b>3839.50</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>S&amp;P 500 P/E</b>	<b>20.0x</b>	<b>20.5x</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>S&amp;P 500 2023 Est. EPS</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>-3.6%</b>
<b>US 10 Yr Yield</b>	<b>3.83%</b>	<b>3.88%</b>	<b>+5 bps</b>
<b>High Yield Spread</b>	<b>585 bps</b>	<b>509 bps</b>	<b>-76 bps</b>
<b>US CPI YoY</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>-110 bps</b>

# Outlook

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# Public Equity – Factors Driving Outlook - Summary

Factors	Comments	Historical Range
Valuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valuations moderate globally from 2022 bear market to levels at or below more historical averages for many measures.</li> <li>Rising bond yields have begun to narrow the relative attractiveness of stocks.</li> </ul>	
Fundamentals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consensus earnings expectations for the remainder of 2022 and for 2023 have recently been revised down but remain positive.</li> <li>Increasingly gloomy expectations driven by hawkish central banks and high (but falling) inflation.</li> <li>Companies have so far been able to pass along higher costs, resilience may be put to the test should inflation persist.</li> </ul>	
Technicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equity outflows resumed after 2021 respite.</li> <li>Most sentiment surveys have swung to strong pessimism.</li> <li>Past large drawdowns have often been followed by periods of above-average equity returns.</li> <li>Household stock ownership percentage no longer in extreme territory.</li> </ul>	
Macro Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>End of the low-rate, low-inflation environment that underpinned equity valuation expansion?</li> <li>Hopeful signs of success in inflation fight.</li> <li>Moderating expectations for global growth threatens equity fundamentals.</li> <li>No break from geo-political tensions.</li> </ul>	
	<h2>9 – 12 Month View</h2>	

# Private Equity – Factors Driving Outlook – Summary

Factors	Comments	Historical Range
Valuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deal multiples continued their rise in 2022 while public equity valuations moderated.</li> <li>Leverage levels not extreme, however.</li> </ul>	
Fundamentals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple expansion has been the biggest driver of PE returns in recent years; PE unlikely to be immune to compression seen in public stocks.</li> <li>High yield bond default rates remain very low, but rising financing costs should impact deal economics, dampen activity.</li> <li>LBO debt market softens but remains open.</li> </ul>	
Technicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deal activity well off 2021 record pace but still healthy. Exit activity slowed considerably in 2022.</li> <li>Fundraising resilient, esp. for larger firms.</li> <li>Increasing share of PE-sponsored deals in exit market.</li> </ul>	
Macro Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rising rates and inflation threaten to disrupt PE environment.</li> <li>Potential for increased regulation eased with Republican House control.</li> <li>Cash conservation strategies likely to become more popular as growth slows.</li> </ul>	
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> <p>● Current Quarter</p> <p>X Last Quarter</p> </div> </div>	<p>9 – 12 Month View</p>	

# Need to Change Inputs to Outlook Based on Drivers & Catalysts?

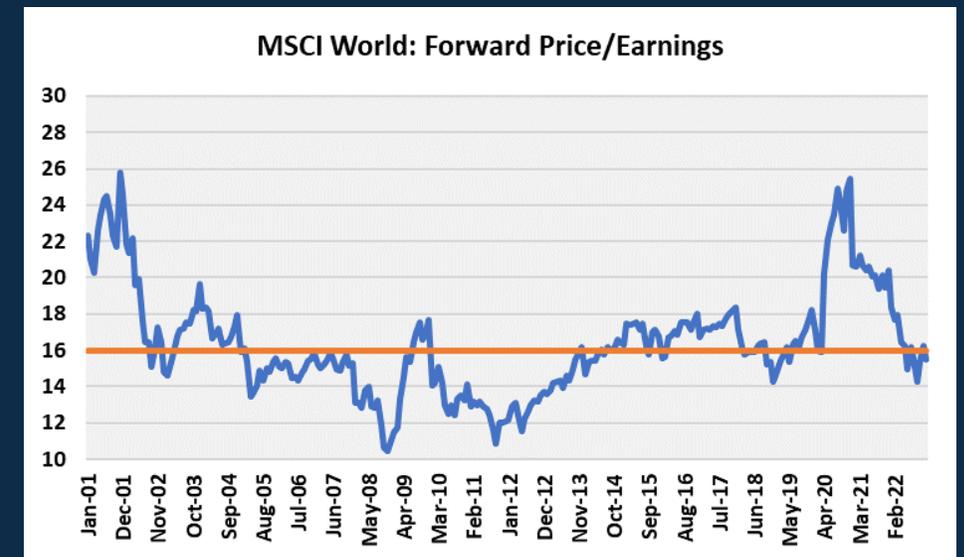
The next 5 years return forecast remained unchanged from last quarter and is still well below long-term expectations, primarily due to an expectation for continued P/E contraction.

MSCI World	Long-Term Assumption	Last 5 Years	Next 5 Years Est.
<b>Nominal EPS Growth</b>	4.2%	8.2%	3.9%
<i>Real Earnings Growth</i>	2.2%	3.9%	1.9%
<i>Inflation</i>	2.0%	4.3%	2.0%
<b>P/E Multiple Expansion/(Contraction)</b>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>-3.0%</u>	<u>-3.4%</u>
<b>Annual Price Gain</b>	4.2%	5.2%	0.5%
<b>Dividend Yield</b>	<u>2.8%</u>	<u>2.2%</u>	<u>2.8%</u>
<b>Total Return (Local)</b>	7.0%	7.4%	3.3%

Data as of 31 December 2022

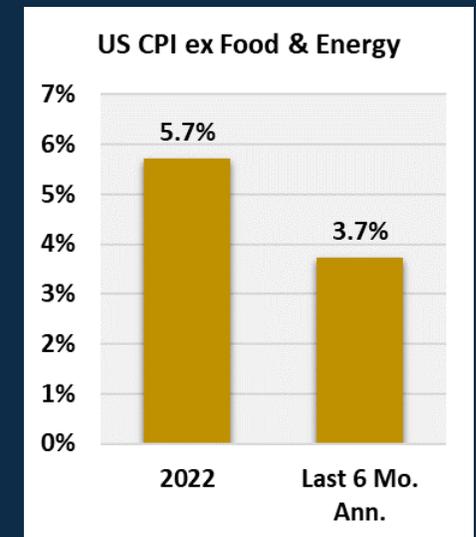
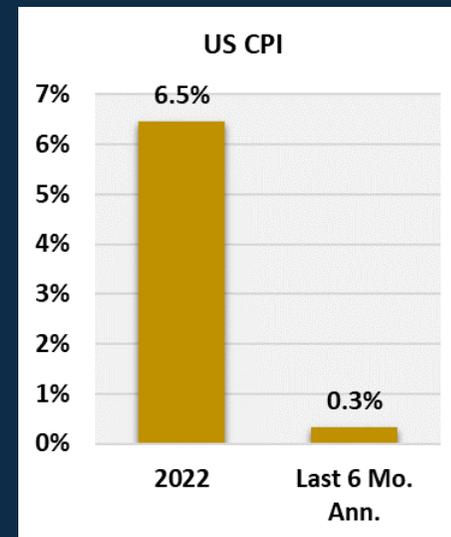
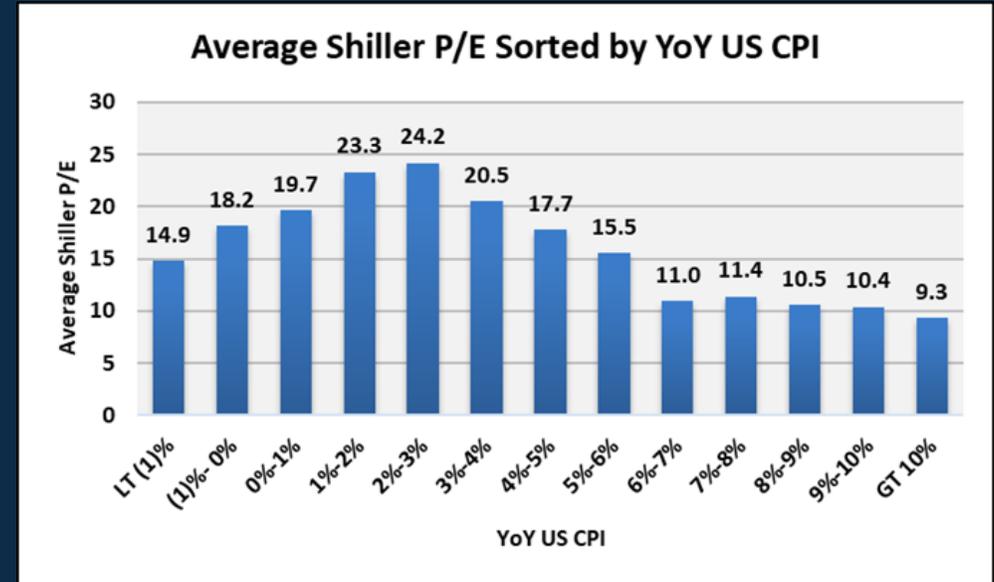
# MSCI World Price/Earnings Ratio

- The end-of-year (EOY) P/E for MSCI World of 16.7x was well below the median level of 20.1x since 1995.
  - 14.0x forecast of long-term mean reversion
  
- And MSCI World's Forward P/E of 15.4x is slightly lower than its median of 16.0x since the inception of the time series in 2001.



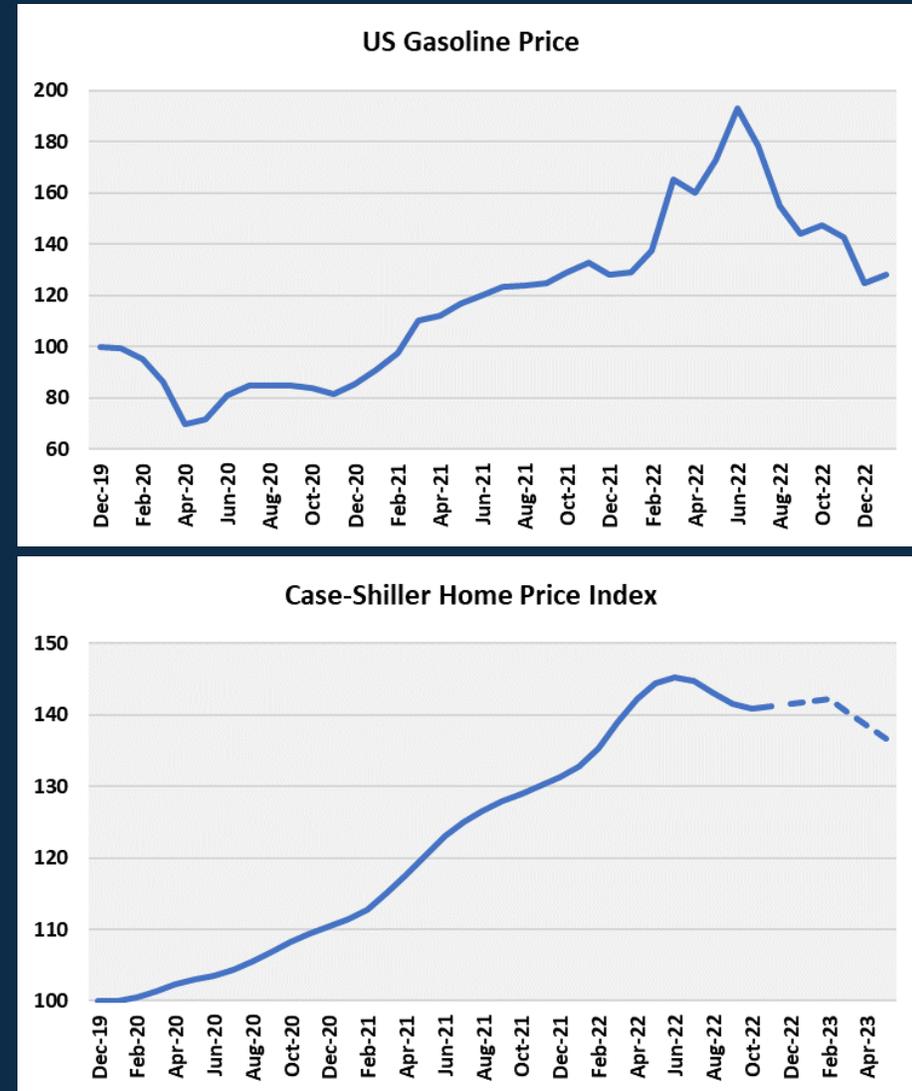
# Inflation – Transitory After All?

- Equity markets got slammed in 2022 as valuations compressed with inflation rearing its head, consistent with past inflationary periods.
  - S&P 500 was down 18% in 2022; its P/E fell 23%, from 26.6x at beginning-of-year to 20.5x at end-of-year
  - 2022 EPS are expected to increase by 4.5%, assuming Q4 comes in at consensus.
  
- But early results show inflation has been easing.
  - Although YoY US CPI is still high at 6.5%, the level of inflation has come down in 2H22; annual run-rate based on last 6 months is 0.3%.
  - Core CPI down to 5.7% YoY, annualized run rate of 3.7% based on last six months.



# Inflation – Transitory After All?

- Index components that spiked during the pandemic (and as a result of war in Ukraine), such as gasoline prices and home prices are also in retreat.
  - Gasoline prices peaked in June 2022 and are down 34% since but remain 28% above year-end 2019 level.
- Home prices also rolled over in June and are down ~3% since with the futures market anticipating declines over the next couple of quarters.

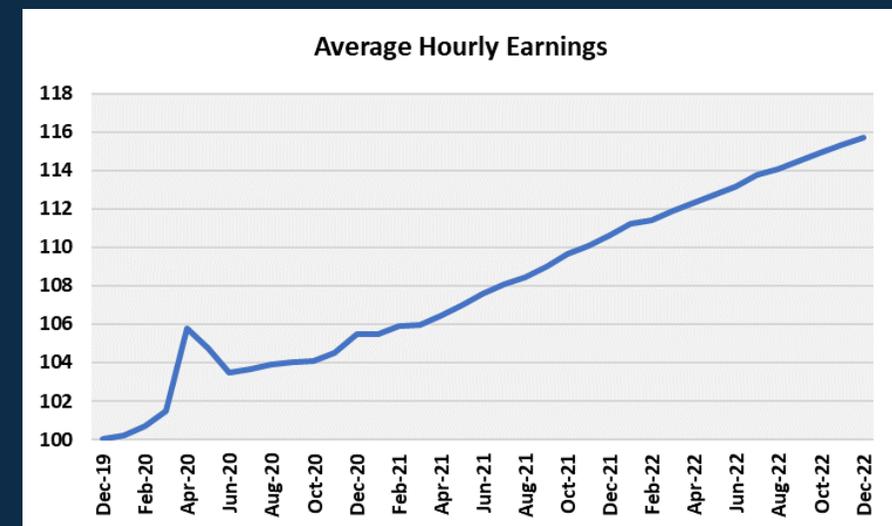
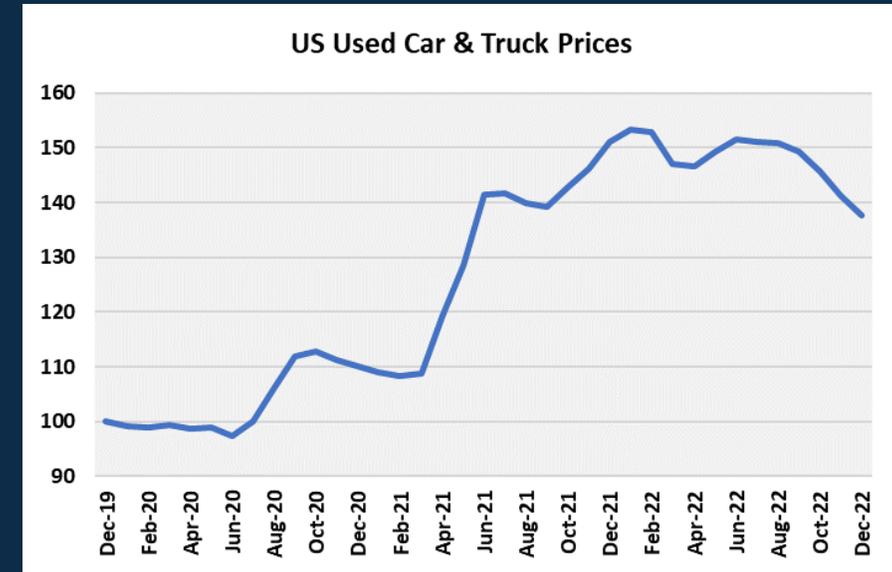


Sources: Federal Reserve Economic Database, SECOR. As of December 31, 2022.

# Inflation – Transitory After All?

- Used car prices peaked in Jan. 2022 and have fallen 10% since then; prices are still 40% above year-end 2019 level however.
- Hopeful signs from the labor market - Hourly wages grew 4.6% in Dec. YoY after peaking at 5.6% in Mar. 2022; current rate, however, is still above the average growth rate of 2.9% for the five years ending 2019.

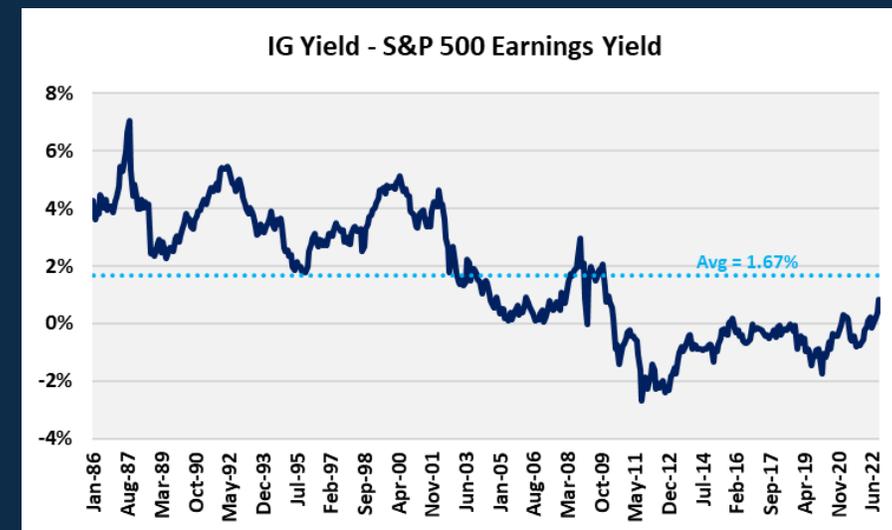
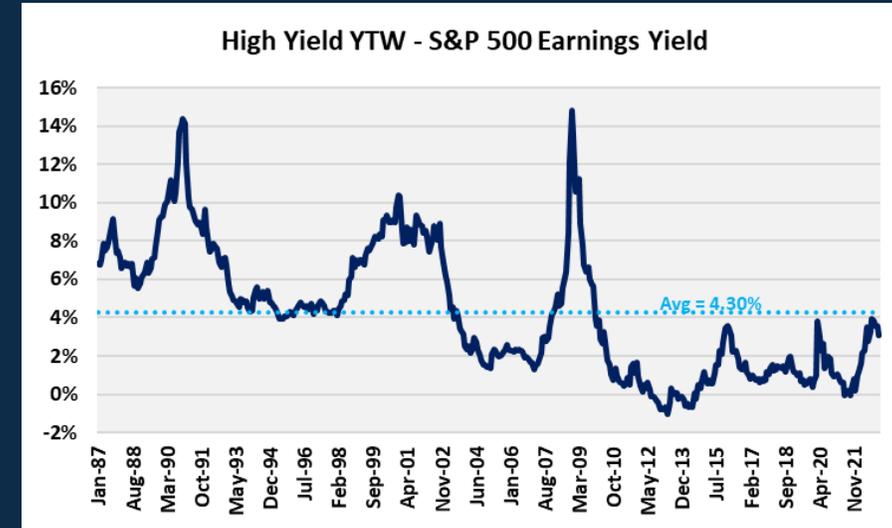
Sources: Federal Reserve Economic Database, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, SECOR. As of December 31, 2022.



# US Equity versus Credit

- **With the narrowing high yield bond spread in Q4, the spread between high yield yield-to-worst (YTW) and the US equity Earnings Yield is now below average.**
  - The spread between High Yield YTW (8.35%) and the S&P 500 Earnings Yield (5.27%) stood at 308 bps at 10-Jan-2023, below the average of 430 bps since 1987 (44<sup>th</sup> percentile).
  - The spread has expanded from ~0 one year ago.
- **The spread between the Investment Grade (IG) Yield and the equity Earnings Yield, however, remains below average.**
  - The spread between the IG Yield (5.63%) and the S&P 500 Earnings Yield (5.27%) stood at 36 bps at 10-Jan-2023, below the average of 166 bps since 1986 (and 36<sup>th</sup> percentile).
  - This spread has also expanded from a year ago when the earnings yields exceeded the IG yield by ~-70 bps.

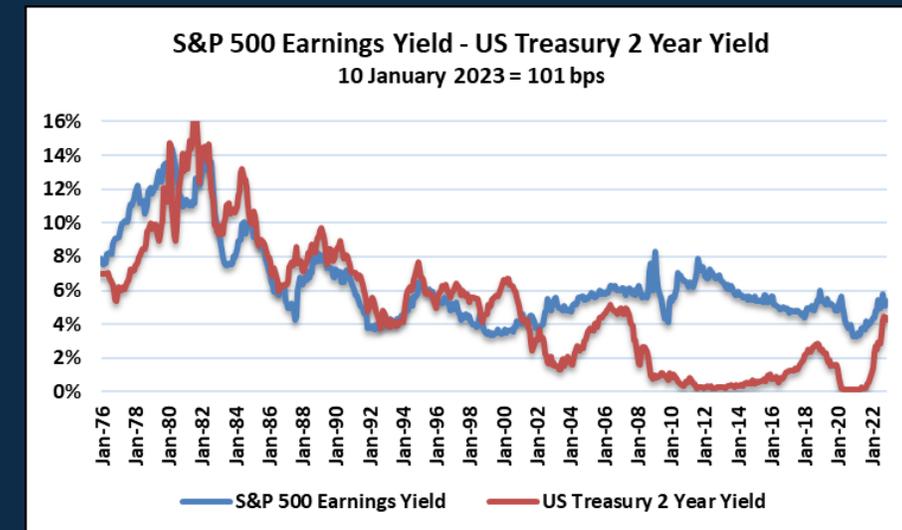
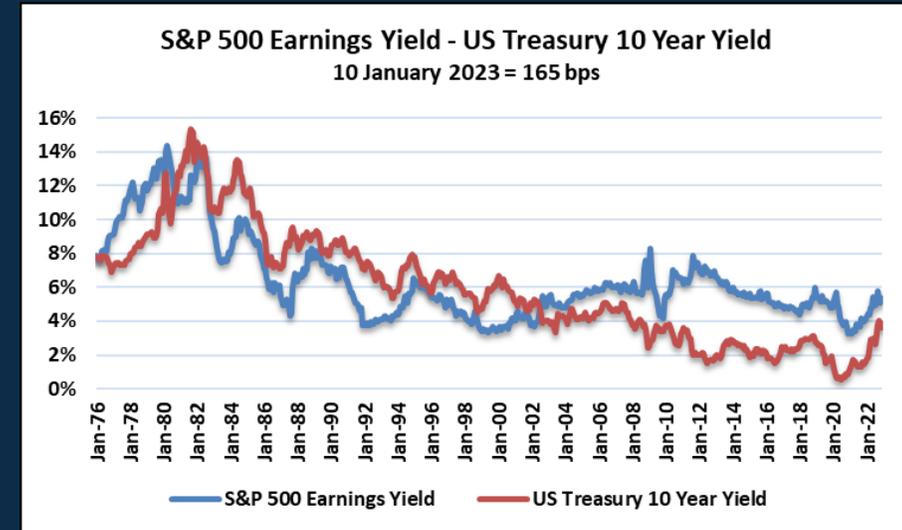
Sources: CS BarCap, Federal Reserve Economic Database, Moody's, Standard & Poor's, Bloomberg. As of December 31, 2022.



# US Equity versus Bonds

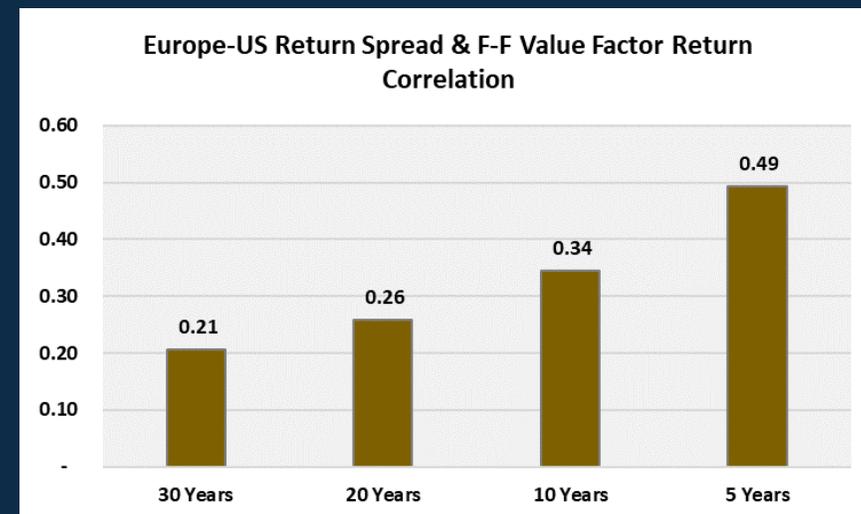
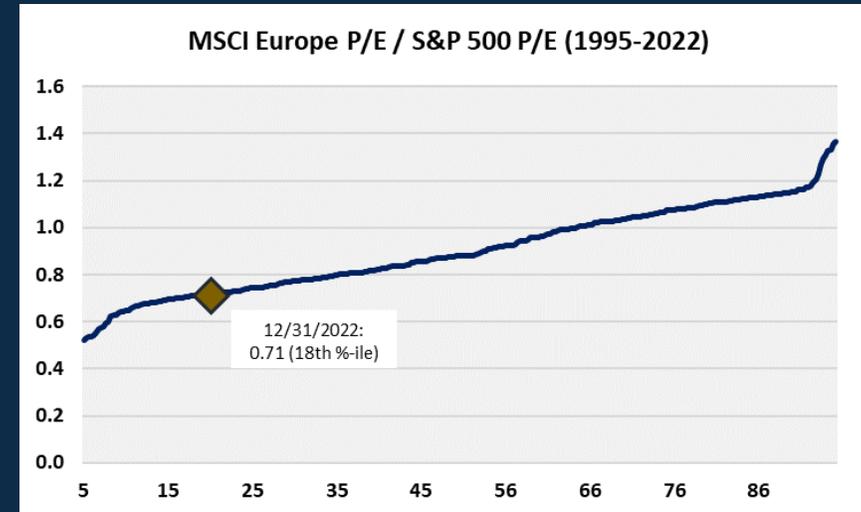
- The spread between the equity earnings yield and the US 10 Year yield remains wide by historical standards but has narrowed recently.
  - The spread of 165 bps as of 10-Jan-2023 compares to a median of 77 bps from 1976.
  
- And the spread between the equity yield and the yield on the US 2 Year Note (101 bps) is at its narrowest since 2007 and narrower than long-term median of 131 bps.
  - TINA (There Is No Alternative) → TARA? (There Are Reasonable Alternatives)

Sources: Standard & Poor's, Bloomberg. As of December 31, 2022.



# Europe Equity over US Equity

- **European stocks appear attractively valued relative to US stocks.**
  - EOY MSCI Europe P/E = 14.6x
  - EOY S&P 500 P/E = 20.5x
  - EOY P/E relative of 0.71 ranks in the 18<sup>th</sup> percentile of relative valuation since 1995.
  
- **The return spread between Europe and the US has become increasingly related to the performance of the global Value factor.**
  - Due to sector differences between the two regions, Europe has become more of a Value market in comparison to the US.



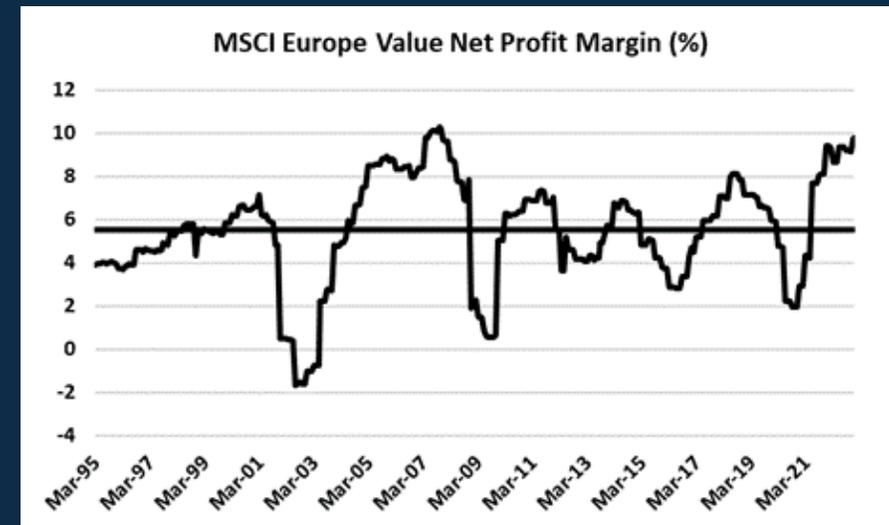
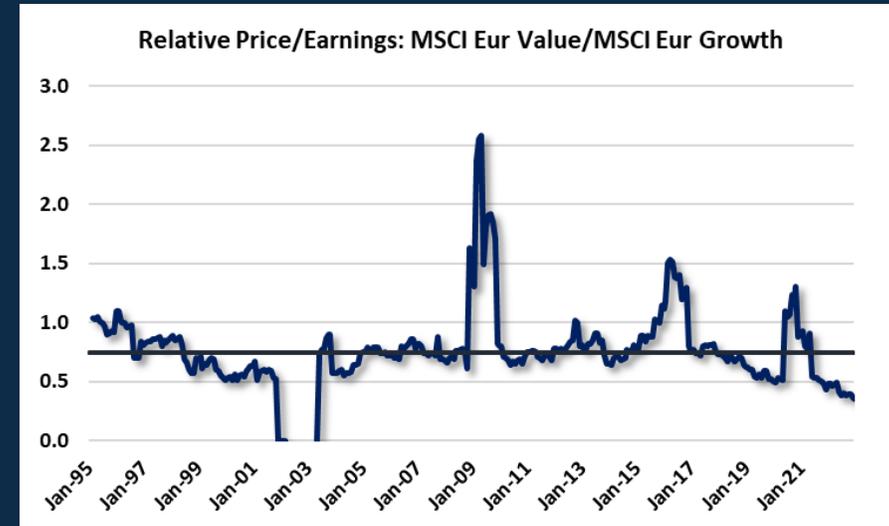
# Europe Value

- **And the perceived cheapness of Europe is driven by its Value stocks.**

- EOY Europe Value P/E = 10.5
- EOY Europe Growth P/E = 29.2
- P/E relative to Growth of 0.36 is well below the median of 0.74 since 1995.

- **But those valuations are based on cyclical-peak earnings for Value.**

- European Value stock profitability is near a 30-year peak with a net profit margin of 9.8%, more than 4% above its median as cyclicals rebounded from COVID disruptions.



# Europe Profit Margins

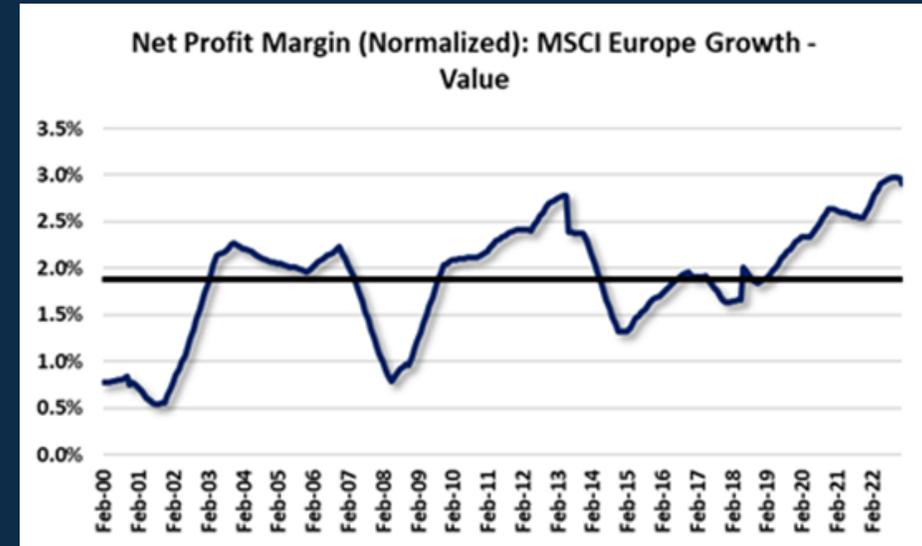
- Unlike Value margins that expanded in 2022, Growth margins contracted by ~5% in 2022 to pre-COVID levels, but still well above historical average.
- Value stocks finished the year with a higher net margin than Growth stocks – a rare occurrence.
  - EOY spread favoring Value by 0.4% compares to a longer-term average of a 1.9% advantage for Growth.



Sources: MSCI, Bloomberg, SECOR. As of December 31, 2022.

# US Equity versus Europe

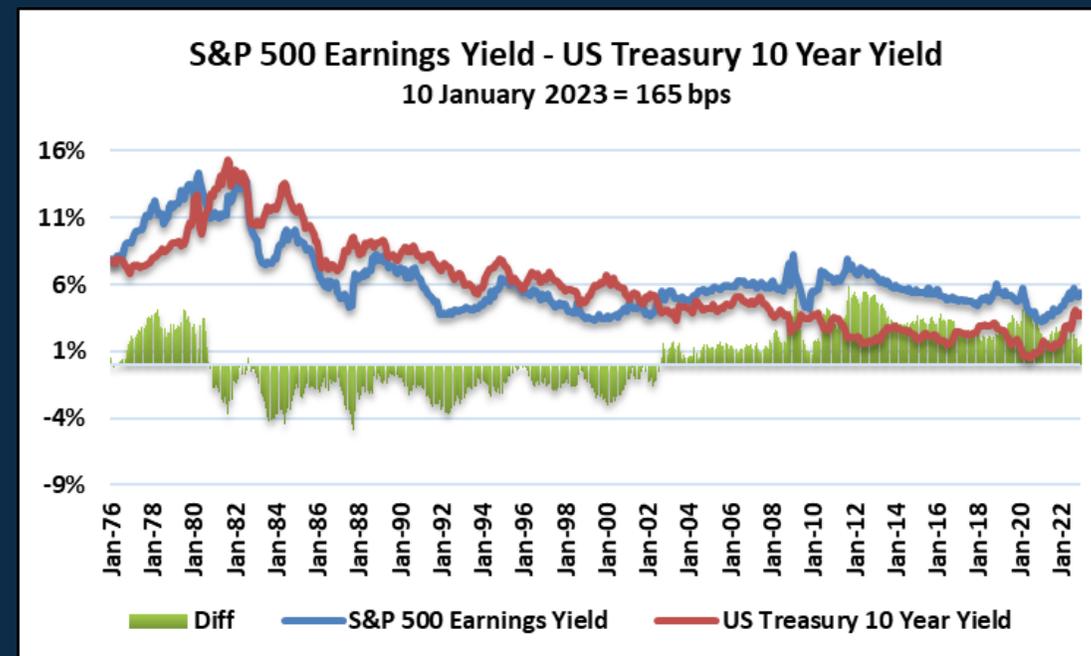
- On a normalized basis, though, the profit margin advantage of Growth over Value stocks remains wide.
- Both Value and Growth stocks in Europe are delivering slightly more profitability per P/E point on a normalized basis, neither supportive of a large under-pricing of European equities.



Sources: MSCI, Standard & Poor's, Bloomberg, Professor Ken French Data Library, SECOR. As of December 31, 2022.

## Three Catalysts That Could Change Our View

1. The attractiveness of equities relative to other assets reverses.
  - The spread between the earnings yield and yields on bonds and credit continues to favor stocks
2. Inflation cools quickly and we re-enter the era of hyper-dovish central banks making equities at today's valuations attractive.
3. Geopolitical shock: Russia resorts to nuclear weapons, China attacks Taiwan; equities look very expensive under this scenario.



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