

GLOBAL ECONOMY SHIFTING INTO LOWER GEAR

Global trade tensions, Italian fiscal risk and rising interest rates are just some of the issues world equity markets have faced this year. Only a select few countries, including the U.S., have managed to deliver positive returns. Portfolio diversification has not been very helpful—global bond markets have also delivered negative returns year-to-date. The global economic cycle is settling into a weaker path as we move into a late expansion phase, yet growth will remain above potential.

EQUITIES VERSUS FIXED INCOME

Geopolitical risks are receding but not disappearing. With the cyclical outlook more supportive, we see a window of opportunity for equities to perform well, with increased volatility.

TRADE WAR VIEWS (SPECIAL SECTION)

Moving from the old NAFTA to the new USMCA trade agreement is not likely to radically change the North American economic landscape. However, from an investor's perspective, this new trade agreement is an important development, as it substantially alleviates the uncertainty relating to building trade tensions.

For the Bank of Canada, NAFTA uncertainty was one of the reasons that justified its unusually slow pace of policy renormalization. It will likely be delivering rate hikes at a faster pace (or at least signal its intention to do so), providing more support to the Canadian dollar over the short term.

LOONIE

The Canadian dollar remains structurally challenged, limiting its potential to appreciate over the longer term. However, in light of dissipating concern over housing and trade risks and an improving cyclical backdrop, the short-term outlook for the Canadian dollar has improved.

REGIONAL MARKETS

U.S.: Earnings growth is very strong in the U.S. this year, thanks to robust economic activity, tax cuts and share buybacks, but the valuation argument against the U.S. is still very strong. The S&P 500 is the most overvalued developed equity market.

Canada: Earnings should remain relatively strong, but decelerate as the bulk of the boost from higher commodity prices is behind us. In the context of equity market valuation, Canada is relatively attractive, especially when compared to the U.S.

International Developed Markets: On average, EAFE countries trade slightly above our fair value, but are more attractive than the U.S. However, international equities have weaker growth prospects than North American markets.

Emerging Markets: After outstanding returns in 2017, emerging markets (EM) have had a difficult year in 2018. Shorter-term indicators point to EM weakness for the immediate future, although a lot of the bad news seems to be already priced in.

EXPECTED RETURNS

Expected returns for the one-year period beginning October 1, 2018.

| | IN CANADIAN DOLLARS | | | IN LOCAL CURRENCY | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| | Global Reflation | Policy Renormalization | Global Recession | Global Reflation | Policy Renormalization | Global Recession |
| Probabilities | 20.0% | 50.0% | 30.0% | 20.0% | 50.0% | 30.0% |
| Canada Money Market | 2.2% | 1.9% | 1.3% | 2.2% | 1.9% | 1.3% |
| Canadian Bond | -0.3% | 1.3% | 5.8% | -0.3% | 1.3% | 5.8% |
| Canadian Federal Govt. Bond | -0.3% | 1.4% | 7.0% | -0.3% | 1.4% | 7.0% |
| Canadian Corp. Bond | 2.0% | 2.0% | 2.6% | 2.0% | 2.0% | 2.6% |
| Canadian RRB | -0.8% | -0.6% | 2.0% | -0.8% | -0.6% | 2.0% |
| Canadian High Yield | 4.5% | 3.3% | -8.0% | 4.5% | 3.3% | -8.0% |
| International Govt. Bond | -4.4% | 0.1% | 14.6% | -2.6% | -0.8% | 6.2% |
| Canada Equity | 15.7% | 8.0% | -16.3% | 15.7% | 8.0% | -16.3% |
| United States Equity | 5.9% | 2.8% | -10.7% | 10.9% | 4.6% | -15.7% |
| International Equity | 15.5% | 9.0% | -15.4% | 14.1% | 6.3% | -20.5% |
| Emerging Equity | 22.9% | 9.8% | -24.7% | 19.4% | 9.4% | -23.9% |

Source: © 2018 CIBC Asset Management Inc. is a member of the CIBC Group of Companies. CIBC Asset Management is a Registered Trademark of CIBC

ASSET ALLOCATION OUTLOOK

as at October 1, 2018

| ASSET CLASS | UNDERWEIGHT | | NEUTRAL | OVERWEIGHT | |
|--|--|----------|---------|------------|-------------|
| | SIGNIFICANT | MODERATE | | MODERATE | SIGNIFICANT |
| EQUITY RELATIVE TO FIXED INCOME | | | | | |
| FIXED INCOME | Canadian Money Market | | | | |
| | Canadian Government Bond | | | | |
| | Canadian Corporate Bond | | | | |
| | International Government Bond | | | | |
| EQUITY | Canadian Equity | | | | |
| | U.S. Equity | | | | |
| | International Equity (Developed Markets) | | | | |
| | Emerging Markets | | | | |
| CURRENCY (VERSUS U.S. DOLLAR) | UNDERWEIGHT | | NEUTRAL | OVERWEIGHT | |
| | SIGNIFICANT | MODERATE | | MODERATE | SIGNIFICANT |
| Canadian Dollar | | | | | |
| Euro | | | | | |
| Japanese Yen | | | | | |
| British Pound | | | | | |
| Swiss Franc | | | | | |
| Australian Dollar | | | | | |
| Emerging Markets | | | | | |

This document has been prepared for the general information of our clients and does not constitute an offer or solicitation to buy or sell any securities, products or services and should not be construed as specific investment advice. The information contained in this document has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but we do not represent that it is accurate or complete and it should not be relied upon as such. All opinions and estimates expressed in this document are as of the time of its publication and are subject to change.

CIBC Asset Management Inc. uses multiple investment styles for its various investment platforms. The views expressed in this publication are the views of the Asset Allocation team and may differ from the views of other teams within CIBC's integrated investment platform.

The content of this presentation is proprietary and should not be further distributed without prior consent of CIBC Asset Management Inc.

For our complete economic views and forecasts, please request the full Perspectives report.