Reflation and “Bond tantrum”, key risks for 2021: the increase in long-term interest rates could test the resilience of the financial system, possibly leading to a repricing of risk and a tightening in financial conditions.

Risk of asynchronous recovery between AEs and EMs amplified by the rise in long-term US rates while many EMs will face daunting refinancing needs.

Risks of unintended consequences from the unprecedented policy support call for pressing actions to avoid legacy of vulnerabilities.
Global Financial Conditions Have Remained Accommodative

**Financial Conditions Indices**
(standard deviation from the mean)

- United States
- Euro area
- China
- Other advanced economies
- Other emerging market economies

**Near-Term Growth-at-Risk Forecasts**
(Percentile rank)
The Rise In Yields This Year Has Triggered A Spike In Interest Rate Volatility

Global Sovereign Yield Curve (Percent)

Implied Volatility (Index)

Cumulative Changes in US Rates during Tantrum Episodes (Basis points)
“Reflation Risk” Takes Center Stage As US Recovery Gains Momentum

Forecasts have been sharply revising up their inflation forecasts through Q1 2022

Both consumers and Fed officials express higher than normal levels of uncertainty around inflation forecasts

Inflation has become the biggest tail risk for investors

Forecasts have been sharply revising up their inflation forecasts through Q1 2022

Consumer and Fed FOMC Inflation Uncertainty (Median IQR, left scale; diffusion index, right scale)

BofA Investor Survey: Biggest Tail Risk (percent of respondents)

*NY Fed Survey of Consumer Expectations, March ‘21 Fed SEP
Market-Based Measures Point To Higher Inflation In The US

**US Long-term Forward Rates**
(Percent, 5y-5y forward)

**Inflation Swaps**
(percent)

**Option Implied Probability of Average Inflation above 3% over 5y**
(probability)
Interplay Between Inflation Breakeven And Real Yields in AEs

5Y inflation breakeven has risen sharply, real yield has remained low

In contrast, real yield over the 5Y5Y segment has risen sharply

A consistent trend in AEs: Inflation breakevens rising in near term, real yields in the long term

Decomposition of US 5Y and US 5Y5Y nominal yield
(Percent)

Decomposition across major AEs
(Percentage Point)

nominal yield = real yield + inflation breakeven
Understanding Drivers of US Inflation Breakevens

5Y inflation breakeven driven by rise in expected inflation and inflation risk premia

In the 5y5y segment, inflation risk premia have risen sharply

IRP appears to be the key driver of longer-term inflation breakeven

Decomposition of US 5Y and US 5Y5Y inflation breakeven
(Percent)

Relative contribution of expected inflation and risk premia
(Latest time period is highlighted in bold)

\[ \text{inflation breakeven} = \text{expected inflation} + \text{inflation risk premium} \]

* The analysis is adjusted for liquidity distortions
Are Investors Prepared for a Possible Rise in Rates?

Inflationary pressures likely to be temporary in the US

Forward Breakeven Curve
(percent, 1y forward)

Investors have reduced their short position on Treasuries

CFTC Speculative Positions on Treasuries
(net, thousands of contracts)

OIS rates edged higher after recent CPI, with the first hike priced in early 2023

Policy Expectations
(USD OIS 1 month)

Inflationary pressures likely to be temporary in the US

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Forward Breakeven Curve
(percent, 1y forward)

CFTC Speculative Positions on Treasuries
(net, thousands of contracts)

Policy Expectations
(USD OIS 1 month)
EM LC Rates Most Directly Affected By The US Rates; Credit Resilient So Far

**US and Median EM 10-year Yields**

**EM and Frontier Hard Currency Sovereign Credit Spreads**

**US and EM Hard Currency Corporate Credit Spreads**
Portfolio Flows Can Help EM Financing Needs

**Portfolio Flows**
(Percent of asset under management)

**Portfolio Flows-at-Risk**
(Probability density function)

**Change in Domestic Sovereign Bond Holdings**
(Cumulative, billions of US dollars)

- **Hard Currency Fund Flows**
- **Local Currency Fund Flows**

- **Worse fundamentals**
- **Better fundamentals**

- **Probability of outflow**
  - 25%
  - 15%

- **Capital flows at risk**

- **Flows as a percent of GDP**

- **January 2020**
- **February 2020**
- **March 2020**
- **April 2020**
- **May 2020**
- **June 2020**
- **July 2020**
- **August 2020**
- **September 2020**
- **October 2020**
- **November 2020**
- **December 2020**

**Legend:**
- Banks
- Central banks
- Nonresident
- Other
Search For Yield Continues Amid Stretched Valuations

Pension Allocations to Alternative Assets and Cash (Percent)

Proxy for Retail Trading Activities (Off-exchange volume as % of total US equity trading volume)

US Equity Market Misalignment (Deviation from fair value per unit of risk)
High Leverage Amplifies The Intertemporal Policy Tradeoff

Increase in Non-financial Corporate Leverage, 2019Q4 – 2020Q3
(Debt-to-GDP, percentage points)

- Contribution of debt
- Contribution of GDP
- Leverage increase

Effect of Easing Financial Conditions on GDP Growth at the 10th Percentile
(Percentage points)

Note: Includes 19 Advanced Economies (AE) and 10 Emerging Markets (EM).
Corporate Solvency Risk Are Still Elevated

Share of Debt at Firms with High Solvency Risk
(Percent of total debt at all firms in these segments)

- Sectors in the bottom quartile (least affected)
- Median sector
- Sectors in the top quartile (most affected)

Share of Debt at Firms with High Solvency Risk, by Size and Viability
(Percent of total debt at all firms in these segments; averages across all sectors)
Commercial Real Estate Sector Hit Hard in COVID

Growth in CRE Price
(Percent yoy, 2020:Q2 and latest)

Response of CRE Prices to a Permanent Shock to the Vacancy Rate
(Percent)

Distribution of Projected Bank Capital Losses with a Permanent Shocks to Vacancy Rates
(Percent of risk-weighted assets)
Weak Lending Appetite on Concerns about Asset Quality and Policy Withdrawal

**Expected Lending Standards and Loan Demand for SME**

(Standard deviation)

**Capital Impact of Withdrawal of Policy Support**

(Basis point of RWA)

**NFC Demand (Expected)**

**NFC Lending Standards (Expected)**

- **Easing**
- **Tightening**

- **Weak**
- **Strong**

**Capital impact from policy withdrawal**

(basis points of RWA)

(CET1 Capital + Reserves - expected loan losses) / RWA
Share of Banks Clearing Different Levels of Hurdles to Use Buffers (Percent of bank market capitalization)

- **Supervisory hurdle**: is capital buffer sufficiently large enough?
- **Supervisory hurdle**: ability to rebuild the buffer organically & within a reasonable time (otherwise supervisors may not allow buffer draw-down).
- **Management hurdle**: generate sufficient return by using the buffers