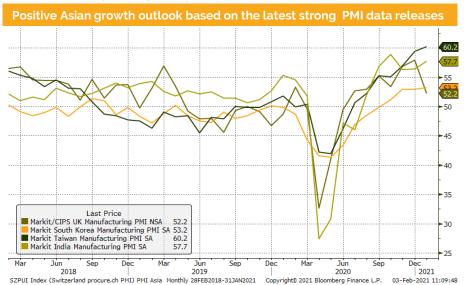


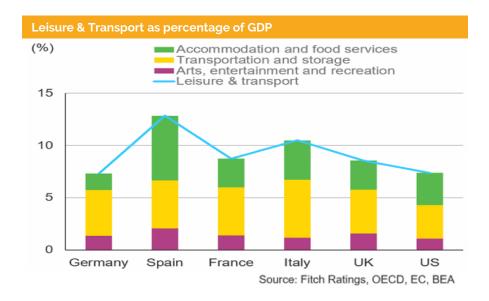




# Macro Update: Solid macro indicators and strong Q4 data in the US and China

- ❖ The strong Q4 macro data from China was followed by the positive indicators from the US. In Q4 US GDP grew by 4% and the economy decreased by 2.5% in 2020. This data was derived from the macro indicators and came as no surprise. However, we remember that in Q2 and Q3 2020 the IMF, the World Bank and the consensus estimates of economists where very bleak and might have surprised some of the forecasters as a result.
- It is not unusual for economists to be late with revising data up or down, and normally, on average, the resilience of the economy is underestimated.
- The production industry was able to adapt fast and to hold up production due to new COVID-19 regulations. Meanwhile, the service industry was hit harder, especially in areas like tourism, leisure and entertainment where we have seen a complete standstill. But it represents only around 7-15% of total GDP. Therefore, its impact on the whole economy is limited, and the data in China and the US confirms that in Q4 2020.
- The core theme for 2021 is the reopening of the economy. We can see that the latest PMI data show slightly lower figures across the globe, but we continue to stay in the growth area.



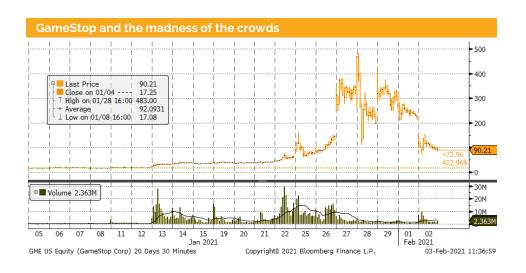


- The official PMI was almost unchanged in China, while the private data, which covers the small and mid-sized businesses (SME), was down from 53 to 51.5. This is still in the growth area, which starts at 50.
- ❖ In the US the ISM PMI data was weaker but stayed in the acceleration area with 58.7. One reason for that is the hope for more fiscal stimulus. It looks like the new president and the republicans in the senate have agreed that the pending package will be bigger than expected by market participants, but also lower than the announced USD 1.9 trillion.
- Meanwhile in Europe the PMI data was lower due to actual lockdowns, and apart from Spain all countries stayed in the growth area. This basically means that after the end of the double dip recession the expectation is that in Q2 and especially Q3 the Eurozone will show a fast and strong recovery.
- The strongest PMI data were seen in Asia with India, South Korea, Taiwan and Australia leading the pack. Together with the good data from China we can expect strong growth in Asia, which should have a positive impact on financial markets



### Markets in 2021: Currencies, Commodities, Equity & Bond Indices

Bonds	Feb-21	YTD 2021
Bloomberg Barclays Global-Aggregate TR	0.14%	-0.02%
Bloomberg Barclays Euro Aggregate Corporate TR	0.02%	-0.10%
Bloomberg Barclays Pan-European High Yield TR	0.36%	0.94%
Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate High Yield TR	0.26%	0.59%
Bloomberg Barclays Asia USD High Yield TR	0.27%	0.38%
Bloomberg Barclays Global High Yield TR	0.36%	0.94%
JPM Emerging Market Global Bond	0.10%	-1.03%
Equities	Feb-21	YTD 2021
NASDAQ 100 Stock Index	4.11%	4.44%
S&P 500 INDEX	3.02%	1.97%
MSCI World Index	2.64%	1.65%
MSCI Emerging Markets Index	3.89%	6.95%
EURO STOXX 50 Price EUR	3.60%	1.69%
SMI	2.11%	1.03%
DAX	3.35%	1.20%
FTSE 100	1.64%	0.84%
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	3.62%	7.62%
Shanghai Shenzhen CSI 300 A-Shares	2.49%	5.26%
Nikkei 225	3.55%	4.39%
Commodities	Feb-21	YTD 2021
Gold	-1.22%	-3.19%
Copper	-0.61%	0.16%
WTI	2.26%	12.86%
BRENT	1.97%	10.93%
Bloomberg Comodity Index	-0.08%	4.46%
Currencies	Feb-21	YTD 2021
EURCHF	-0.07%	-0.01%
CHFUSD	-0.22%	-1.44%
CHFGBP	-0.10%	-1.26%
EURUSD	-0.28%	-1.55%
EURGBP	-0.17%	-1.40%
GBPUSD	-0.12%	-0.18%
EURRUB	-0.39%	1.09%
USDRUB	2.15%	2.17%



- Reddit with its subforum r/wallstreetbets and Robinhood.com felt the spirit of occupying Wall street and pushed the price of GameStop up from USD 17 USD to USD 483. The sharp decline to USD 90 was around the corner. As a result, hedge fund which was short selling the stock came into trouble and was rescued by other hedge funds. At least that's the official story.
- Rumors are that some other hedge funds went long before the Reddit forum was infiltered with the news about GameStop. It might be the case, but we will never find out. What we can say is that the last holders of the stock, i. e. retail investors will pay the price. The stock dropped in two days from USD 400 to USD 90 and it probably will go further down.
- Meanwhile the "wallstreetbetters" went on to speculate in silver. However, this market is much bigger, and it takes more buying pressure to substantially move the price of silver. Short-term the price went up from around USD 26 to USD 30, but as we speak it is back to USD 26.
- We should probably learn to live with more of such market interventions from the investment forums, but in the situation with GameStop the probability, that based on such actions retail investors will get rich, is very unlikely. On the contrary, they might learn expensive lessons as a group.



## Investment Outlook: The expected equity market pullback was short-lived

#### Liquidity

- CHF has weakened against EUR and USD. The Swiss National Bank has agreed to distribute more of its market profits, which might have put some pressure on CHF.
- EUR has further weakened against the USD but continues to stay above 1.20. This was rather a USD strength than EUR weakness.
- ❖ USD has been strengthening. Historically USD is usually weak before the inauguration but after the president is in power it gets stronger and finally mean reverts. As a result, consensus trade is to be short, but we expect a further weakening only in mid-term.

#### **Equities**

- Global equity markets corrected during the last week of January, pushing most developed market indices into the red. The selloff was mild and happened with low volumes. Meanwhile, most markets have regained most of these losses.
- Asian markets were less affected and are outperforming US and European markets for the year.
- The best performing market since the beginning of December was the Russel 2000. Also, cyclical stocks (mainly small and mid caps) are outperforming their local benchmarks globally.

#### **Fixed Income**

- US government yields have continued to rise over the whole maturity spectrum. However, the yield curve has further steepened, which supports our positive outlook for the US economy.
- The total amount of negative yielding debt has decreased from around USD 18 trillion to around USD 16.3 trillion since the beginning of the year. For all these affected markets the total return was therefore negative.
- On the other hand, corporate non-investment grade bonds continued to perform well due to further spread tightening. We continue to prefer the noninvestment grade area, as the yield to maturity in IG bond benchmarks stayed below 0.35% for USD bonds



#### **Alternative Investments**

- Gold: The price of gold is trapped in a trading range around its 200-day average. We continue to believe that Gold will deliver protection against expected market turbulences and would not sell it even upon depreciation.
- REITS: Both commercial and residential REITs traded in line with equity markets and are now as a group on average up for the year. We still see more downside protection in residential REITS.
- Oil: WTI oil futures have risen further to around USD 56 USD. The main reasons are the OPEC+ countries following the agreed production cut and expected increase of demand during 2021 once the economies reopen.



### Investment grade • Bond

# We appreciate your interest.

### Full scope of information is available for our clients.

### **Disclaimer**

These Bond Recommendations (hereafter «BR») are provided for information purposes only and for the use by the recipient. This document was produced by Blackfort Capital AG (hereafter «BF») with the greatest of care and to the best of its knowledge and belief. Although information and data contained in this document originate from sources that are deemed to be reliable, no guarantee is offered regarding the accuracy or completeness. Therefore, BF does not accept any liability for losses that might occur through the use of this information. The BR does not purport to contain all of the information that may be required to evaluate all of the factors that would be relevant to a recipient considering entering into any transaction at year and any recipient hereof should conduct its own investigation and analysis. In addition, the BR includes certain projections and forward-looking statements. Such projections and forward-looking statements are subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies, many of which are beyond the control. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that such projections and forward-looking statements will be realised. The actual results may vary from the anticipated results and such variations may be material. No representations or warranties are made as to the accuracy or Intals is reasonableness of such assumptions or the projections or forward-looking statements based thereon. This document is expressly not intended for persons who, due to their nationality or place of residence, are not permitted access to such information under local law. It may not be reproduced either in part or in full without the written permission of BF.

mpany

JK (9%)

uent of

and 5%

brganic emand

arket is

of the erity of olio.

Price D

Bond

105 +5.4%

100 +0.38%



### Investment grade • Bond

note to the light of Con

Bond

Price D

104 +3.57%

103 102 +1.58%

101-0.59%

We appreciate your interest.

Full scope of information is available for our clients.

### **Disclaimer**

These Bond Recommendations (hereafter «BR») are provided for information purposes only and for the use by the recipient. This document was produced by Blackfort Capital AG (hereafter «BF») with the greatest of care and to the best of its knowledge and belief. Although information and data contained in this document originate from sources that are deemed to be reliable, no guarantee is offered regarding the accuracy or completeness. Therefore, BF does not accept any liability for losses that might occur through the use of this information. The BR does not purport to contain all of the information that may be required to evaluate all of the factors that would be relevant to a recipient considering entering into any transaction crease and any recipient hereof should conduct its own investigation and analysis. In addition, the BR includes certain projections and forward-looking statements. Such projections and forward-looking statements are subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies, many of which are beyond the control. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that such projections and forward-looking statements will be realised. The actual results may vary from the anticipated results and such variations may be material. No representations or warranties are made as to the accuracy or reasonableness of such assumptions or the projections or forward-looking statements based thereon. This document is expressly not intended for persons who, due to their nationality or place of residence, are not permitted access to such information under local law. It may not be reproduced either in part or in full without the written permission of BF.

refines,

es and

≀%) and

ns and

quidity SD 1.35

which EBIT of

> low for rontier



### Non-investment grade • Bond

Bond

Price D

We appreciate your interest.

Full scope of information is available for our clients.

### **Disclaimer**

These Bond Recommendations (hereafter «BR») are provided for information purposes only and for the use by the recipient. This document was produced by Blackfort Capital AG (hereafter «BF») with the greatest of care and to the best of its knowledge and belief. Although information and data contained in this document originate from sources that are deemed to be reliable, no guarantee is offered regarding the accuracy or completeness. Therefore, BF does not accept any liability for losses that might occur through the use of this information. The BR does not purport to contain all of the information that may be required to evaluate all of the factors that would be relevant to a recipient considering entering into any transaction sure to and any recipient hereof should conduct its own investigation and analysis. In addition, the BR includes certain projections and forward-looking statements. Such projections and forward-looking statements are subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies, many of which are beyond the control. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that such projections and forward-looking statements will be realised. The actual results may vary from the anticipated results and such variations may be material. No representations or warranties are made as to the accuracy or 1% Also. reasonableness of such assumptions or the projections or forward-looking statements based thereon. This document is expressly not intended for persons who, due to their nationality or place of residence, are not permitted access to such information under local law. It may not be reproduced either in part or in full without the written permission of BF.

o large

s 950+

2 bn as

√ lower

tic and mbank tution). (2017),

nces of olitical leader reased



### USA markets • Equity

Equity

٠ ٠

Price [

200 +65.41% 175 +44.74%

150 +24.08%

1257

# We appreciate your interest.

### Full scope of information is available for our clients.

### **Disclaimer**

These Bond Recommendations (hereafter «BR») are provided for information purposes only and for the use by the recipient. This document was produced by Blackfort Capital AG (hereafter «BF») with the greatest of care and to the best of its knowledge and belief. Although information and data contained in this document originate from sources that are deemed to be reliable, no guarantee is offered regarding the accuracy or completeness. Therefore, BF does not accept any liability for losses that might occur through the use of this information. The BR does not purport to contain all of the information that may be required to evaluate all of the factors that would be relevant to a recipient considering entering into any transaction and any recipient hereof should conduct its own investigation and analysis. In addition, the BR includes certain projections and forward-looking statements. Such projections and forward-looking statements are subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies, many of which are beyond the control. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that such projections and forward-looking statements will be realised. The actual results may vary from the anticipated results and such variations may be material. No representations or warranties are made as to the accuracy or reasonableness of such assumptions or the projections or forward-looking statements based thereon. This document is expressly not intended for persons who, due to their nationality or place of residence, are not permitted access to such strategic information under local law. It may not be reproduced either in part or in full without the written permission of BF.

lients

across

IEA (6%).

the shift second sactions.

a more already 19 level. ountries

d by the orted by rnment's



## We appreciate your interest.

## Full scope of information is available for our clients.

#### tch Country 3B- US B+ RU

#### **Disclaimer**

Αd

SOV

SYN

AGI

CAF

These Bond Recommendations (hereafter «BR») are provided for information purposes only and for the use by the recipient. This document was produced by Blackfort Capital AG (hereafter «BF») with the greatest of care and to the best of its knowledge and belief. Although information and data contained in this document originate from sources that are deemed to be reliable, no guarantee is offered regarding the accuracy or completeness. Therefore, BF does not accept any liability for losses that might occur through the use of this information. The BR does not purport to contain all of the information that may be required to evaluate all of the factors that would be relevant to a recipient considering entering into any transaction and any recipient hereof should conduct its own investigation and analysis. In addition, the BR includes certain projections and forward-looking statements are subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies, many of which are beyond the control. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that such projections and forward-looking statements will be realised. The actual results may vary from the anticipated results and such variations may be material. No representations or warranties are made as to the accuracy or reasonableness of such assumptions or the projections or forward-looking statements based thereon. This document is expressly not intended for persons who, due to their nationality or place of residence, are not permitted access to such information under local law. It may not be reproduced either in part or in full without the written permission of BF.



В

ABJA ADA AGIL AGIL AKEF ALCO ALCO

ARCO ATEN B2W BAN BAN

BRAS BUKI CALF CARI CEM CEM CEM CHIN CHIN CIFI I

CIFI

CIKA

CREI DELL

# We appreciate your interest.

## Full scope of information is available for our clients.

#### **Disclaimer**



R

FORI FORI FORI FORI GOLI GREE

GREE GRUI GTLK GTLK GTLK HEAL

HOW HPCI HUN INDI INEC JAGL JSW JSW JUBII KOC LEVI LOG/ LOG/

LS FI

MAR

# We appreciate your interest.

## Full scope of information is available for our clients.

#### **Disclaimer**



# We appreciate your interest.

## Full scope of information is available for our clients.

#### **Disclaimer**

MILL MUR

MUR MX F NAV NEX/

PETR PETR PETR PETR REPL

SASC

SLM

SOU

STAN

TEGN

T-M(

UNIF

UZBE

YUZH YUZH

BRIG

GAZ

GEN

# We appreciate your interest.

## Full scope of information is available for our clients.

#### **Disclaimer**

These Bond Recommendations (hereafter «BR») are provided for information purposes only and for the use by the recipient. This document was produced by Blackfort Capital AG (hereafter «BF») with the greatest of care and to the best of its knowledge and belief. Although information and data contained in this document originate from sources that are deemed to be reliable, no guarantee is offered regarding the accuracy or completeness. Therefore, BF does not accept any liability for losses that might occur through the use of this information. The BR does not purport to contain all of the information that may be required to evaluate all of the factors that would be relevant to a recipient considering entering into any transaction and any recipient hereof should conduct its own investigation and analysis. In addition, the BR includes certain projections us and forward-looking statements. Such projections and forward-looking statements are subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies, many of which are beyond the control. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that such projections and forward-looking statements will be realised. The actual results may vary from the anticipated results and such variations may be material. No representations or warranties are made as to the accuracy or so reasonableness of such assumptions or the projections or forward-looking statements based thereon. This document is expressly not intended for persons who, due to their nationality or place of residence, are not permitted access to such information under local law. It may not be reproduced either in part or in full without the written permission of BF.

RU

US

untry MY

co

CN

IN

US

US

CN

US

IN

CL

US

ΚZ

US

ΑU

ΑE

MX

ΑU

MAC

MAJ

NEW

NISS

# We appreciate your interest.

## Full scope of information is available for our clients.

#### **Disclaimer**

CA

тт

untry

MX

US

## We appreciate your interest.

## Full scope of information is available for our clients.

#### **Disclaimer**



В

Appl Activ Broa Micr

Broa Micr Orac NVIE Intel HP Ir Ama Alph AT& Cisco Face JD.co

Netf Viac Walt Berk Mas Gold NIKE Stark Tesla Walr Amg Este Mon John Proc Peps Unit

Bake

Exxo Halli

Deer Berk JPM Bank New

# We appreciate your interest.

## Full scope of information is available for our clients.

#### **Disclaimer**

Rio T

BHP

Baye

Airbu Siem

# We appreciate your interest.

## Full scope of information is available for our clients.

#### **Disclaimer**

## Contacts



Blackfort Capital AG · Talstrasse 61 · 8001 Zürich · Switzerland Tel. +41 44 585 78 78 · info@blackfort.ch · www.blackfort.ch

## Disclaimer

This Bi-Weekly (hereafter «BW») is provided for information purposes only. This document was produced by Blackfort Capital AG (hereafter «BF») with the greatest care and to the best of its knowledge and belief. Although information and data contained in this document originate from sources that are deemed to be reliable, no guarantee is offered regarding the accuracy or completeness. Therefore, BF does not accept any liability for losses that might occur using this information. BW does not purport to contain all the information that may be required to evaluate all the factors that would be relevant for entering into any transaction and anyone hereof should conduct their own investigation and analysis. In addition, the BW includes certain projections and forward-looking statements. Such projections and forward-looking statements are subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies, many of which are beyond the control. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that such projections and forward-looking statements will be actualized. The real results may vary from the anticipated results and such variations may be material. No representations or warranties are made as to the accuracy, or reasonableness of such assumptions, or the projections, or forward-looking statements based thereon. This document is expressly not intended for persons who, due to their nationality or place of residence, are not permitted to access such information under local law. It may not be reproduced either in part or in full without the written permission of BF.

© Blackfort Capital AG. All Rights reserved.

