



Live Webinar  
Starting Shortly

## Investment Regime Change

Now is the time for flexible asset allocation



Rob Spanjaard



Simon Sylvester



Brian du Plessis

The logo for REZCO, featuring a large white 'R' on the left and the word 'REZCO' in a white, sans-serif font on the right.

REZCO

# REGIME CHANGE

The future won't look like the past,  
Why investors need to be flexible.

# BASE MARKET ASSUMPTION FROM 2009 TO 2022

## INFLATION IS DEAD, WORRY ABOUT DEFLATION

**THEREFORE:**

2008 to 2022: The great QE experiment  
Pushed down interest rates. Print Money.

**THEREFORE:**

## CASH IS TRASH

**THEREFORE:**

**TINA** There Is No Alternative To Equities (and Debt)  
Fiscal policies such as: Modern Monetary Theory (Just print money)

**BUT**

**The inflation zombie is alive**  
**Cash can get 5% - great alternative**

# THE COUNTER VIEW

The extra cash in the system keeps the economy rolling along

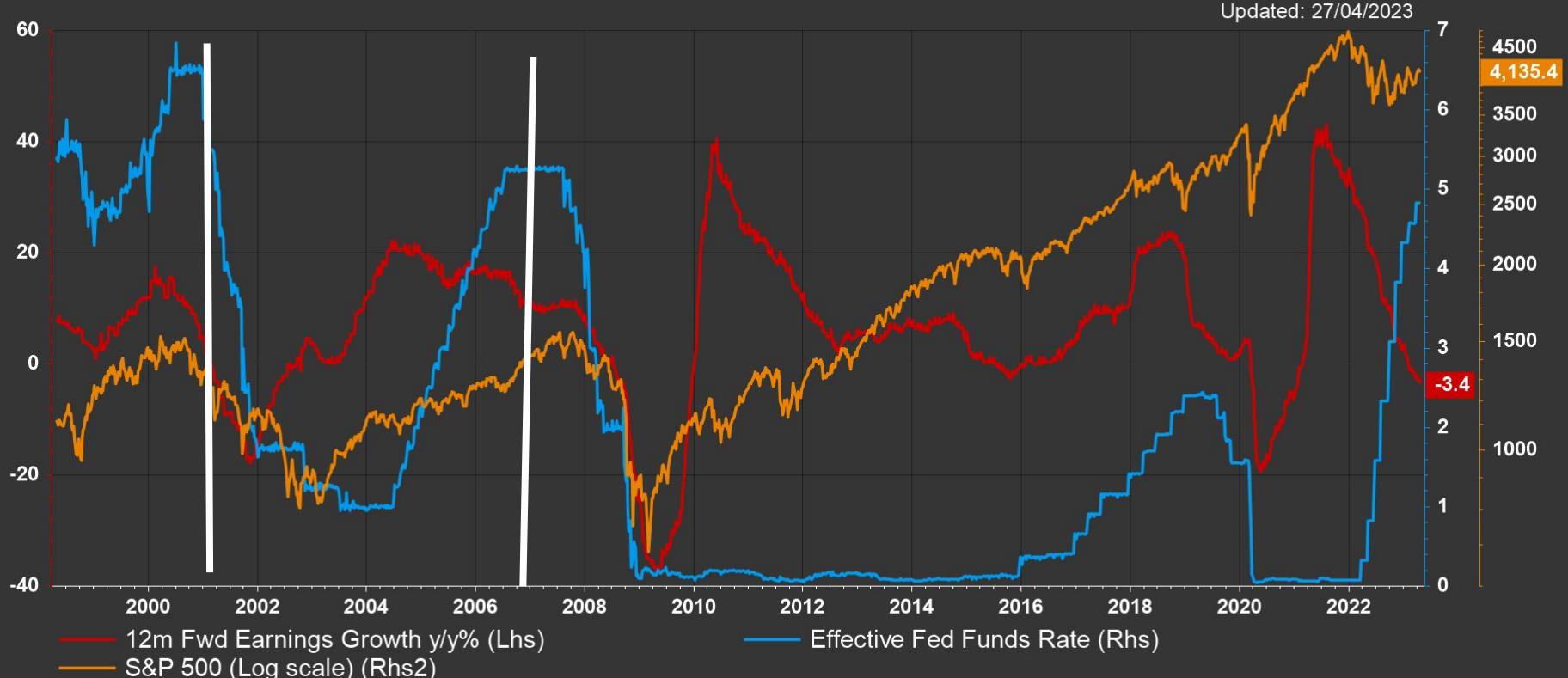
Everyone is expecting a recession - but the economy is not really slowing and neither are company earnings.

Does this mean soft landing or that the Fed and other Central Banks have to squeeze even harder.

# INTEREST RATES AND MARKETS

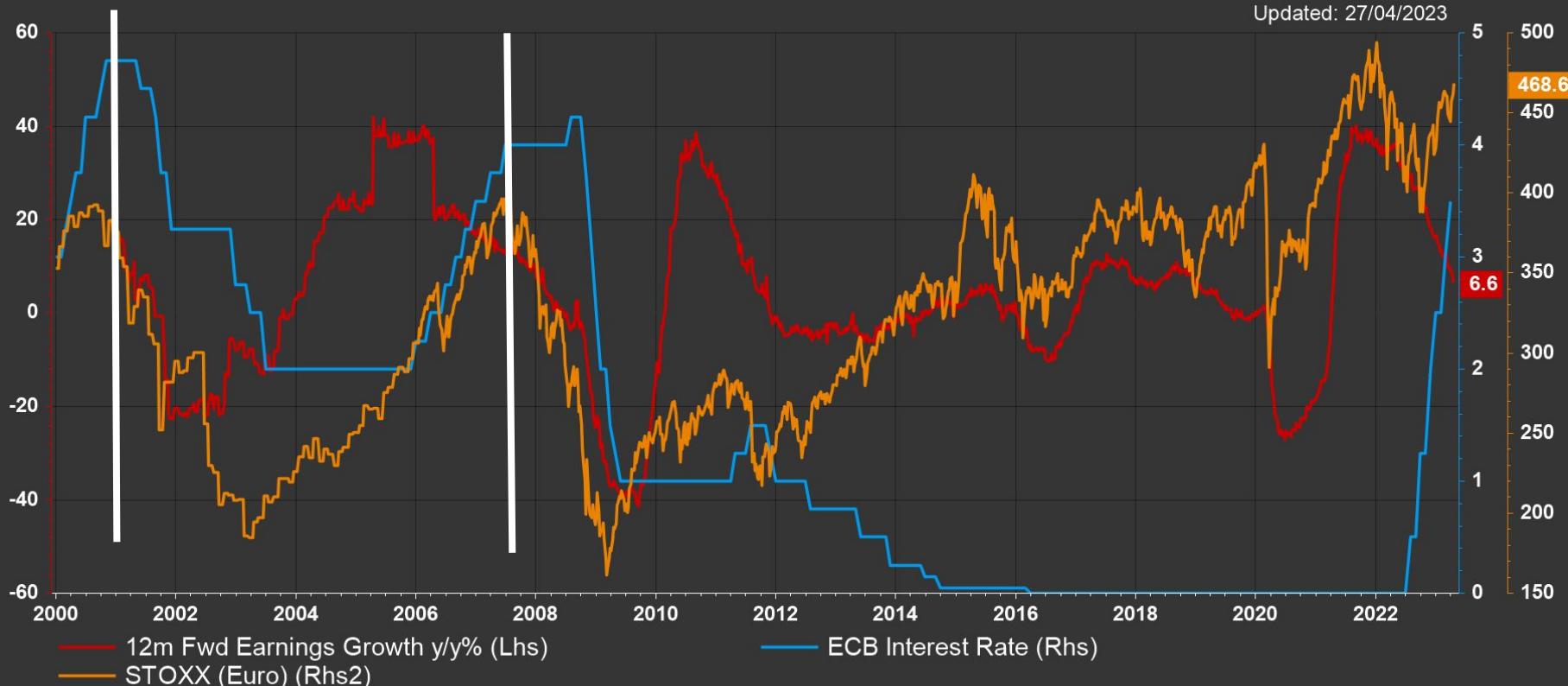
The bear/recession only starts after rates pause

US MARKET



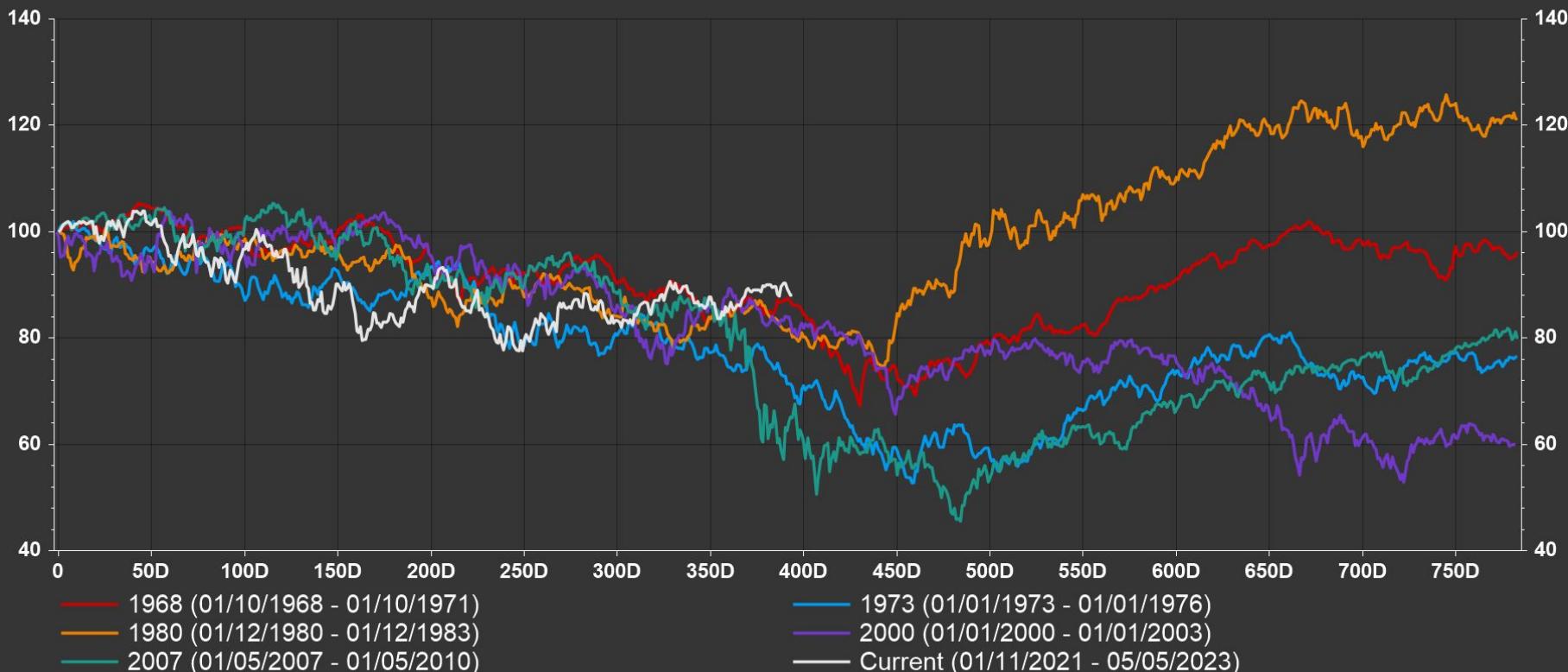
# EUROPE: SAME PICTURE

## EUROPEAN MARKET



# BEAR MARKETS HAVE AN EXPIRY DATE

S&P THROUGH RECESSIONS (REBASED)



Source: Refinitiv Datastream / Rezco

# MAYBE 2022 WASN'T THE BEAR MARKET

## Just correcting the 2021 over-earning

S&P Historical EPS, USA Nominal GDP, & S&P 500

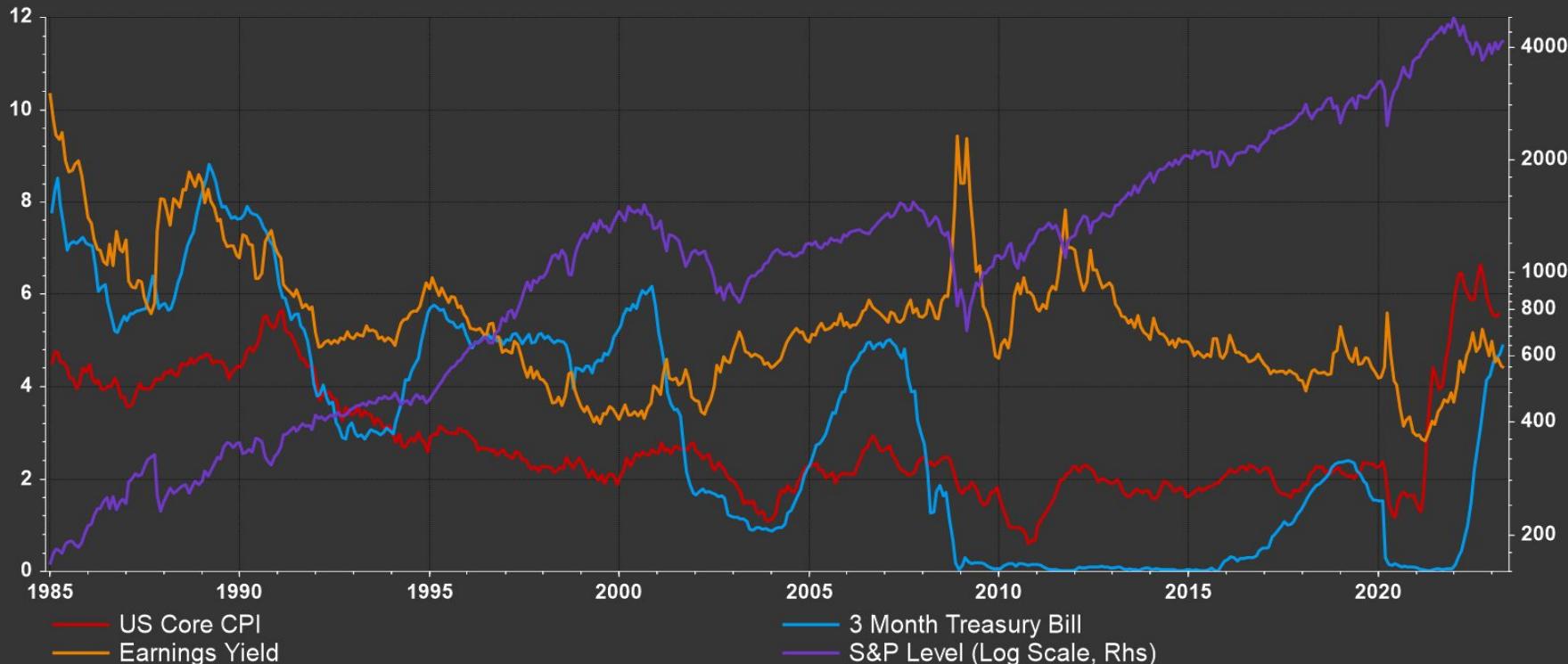


Source: Refinitiv Datastream / Rezco

# MARKET IS MOST EXPENSIVE SINCE 2002 -

Relative to interest rates.

Inflation, T-Bill, EY & Market: 1985-Present



Source: Refinitiv Datastream / Rezco

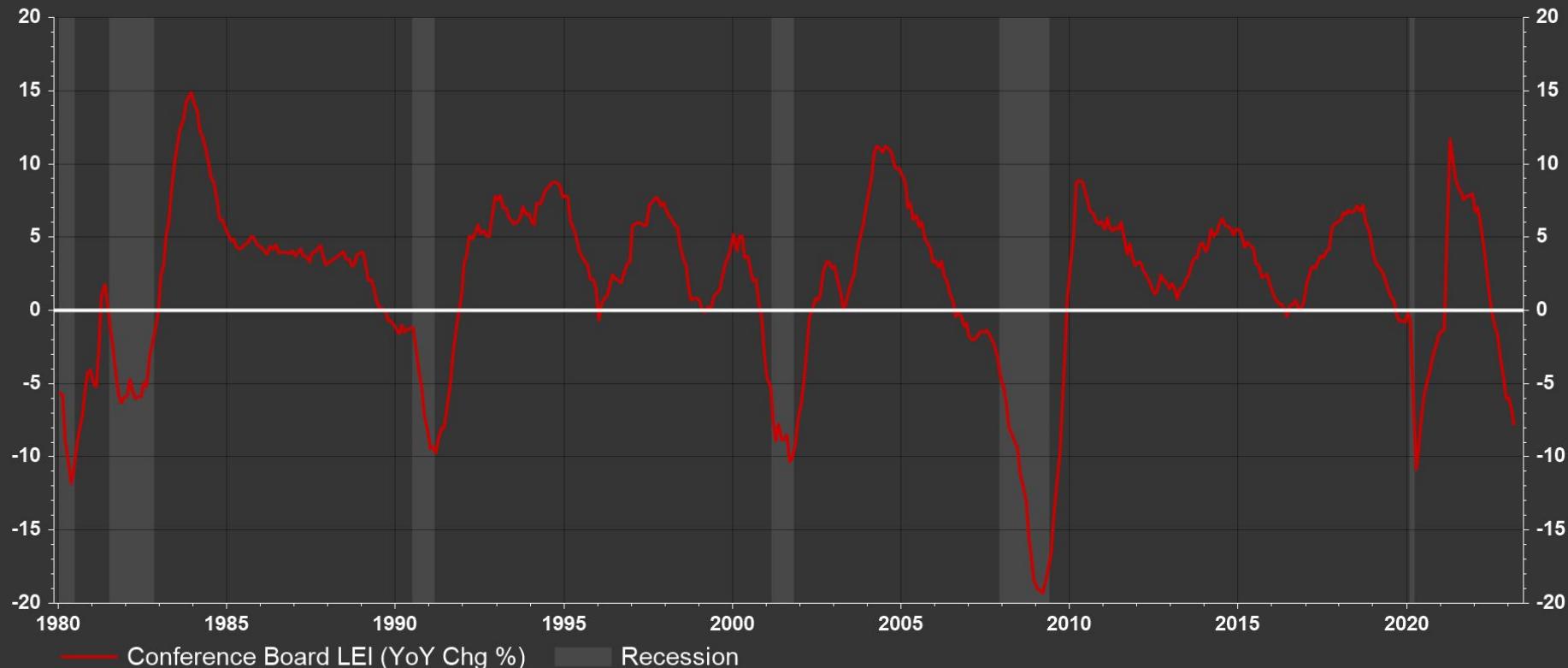


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HOW ARE THINGS PLAYING  
OUT?

# THE MOST CONSENSUS RECESSION.....

Change in Leading Economic Indicators (YoY % Change)

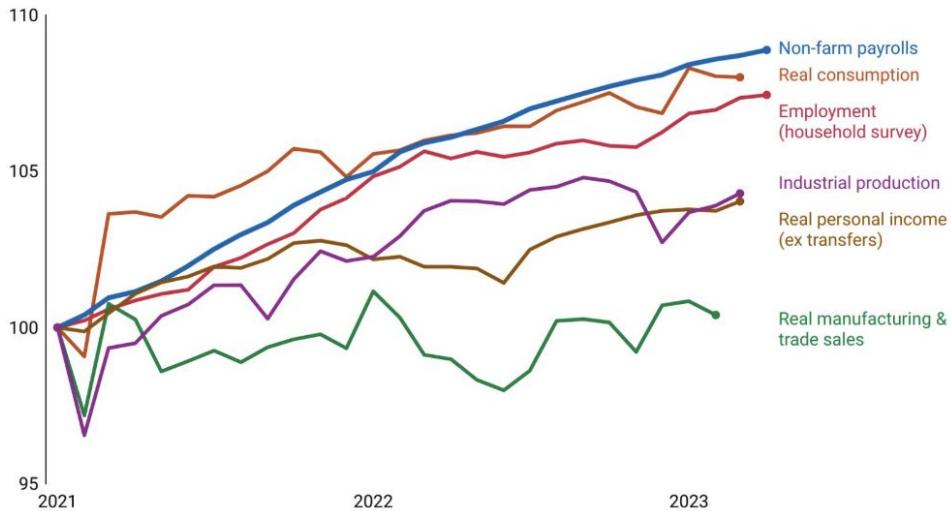


# .....THAT JUST ISN'T HAPPENING

## Warning: Backward looking data

### Monthly indicators used to determine whether the economy is in recession

Index: Jan 2021=100



The NBER defines a recession as: "a significant decline in economic activity that is spread across the economy and that lasts more than a few months."

Source: University of Michigan

# JANUARY 2023 PRESENTATION:

## REZCO SCENARIOS FOR 2023

SCENARIO	OPTIMISTIC	BASE	FAT TAIL
PROBABILITY	30%	60%	10%
EARNINGS IMPACT	0% to 5%	-10% to -25%	-25% to -45%
DESCRIPTION	Inflation falls to target while wages decelerate, corporates tighten up but profits are stable and balance sheets strengthened	The Fed needs a recession to break inflation, unemployment rises to curb wage increases, services inflation is stickier and requires a recession to cool demand	Something breaks due to: 1) impact of rapidly increased interest rates; or 2) geopolitical shock eg Ukraine and nuclear tensions; or 3) inflation remains sticky

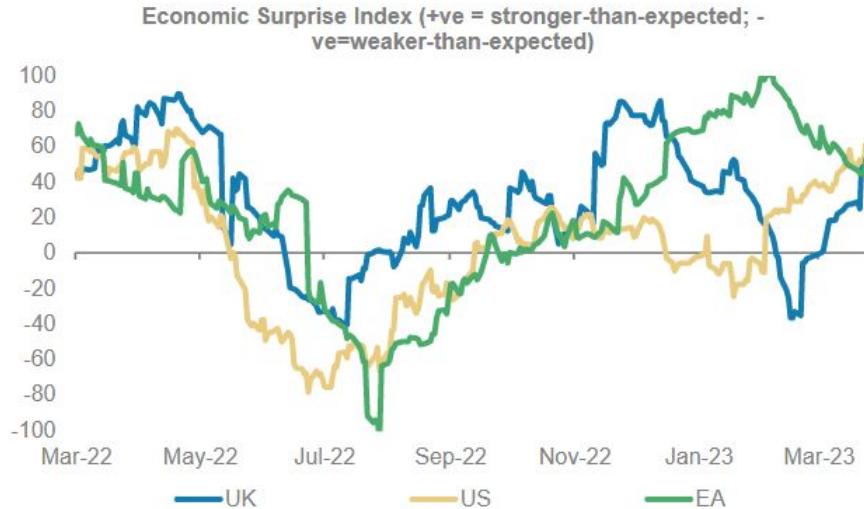
# JAN 2023: EXPECTING A RECESSION

But hard data is coming out too strong  
GDP Revisions have turned positive



# EUROPE & UK ALSO MUCH STRONGER THAN EXPECTED

**Exhibit 3:** UK data outperforming (bleak) expectations from mid-1Q23



Source: Bloomberg, Morgan Stanley Research

# AND INFLATION FORECASTS ARE RISING!

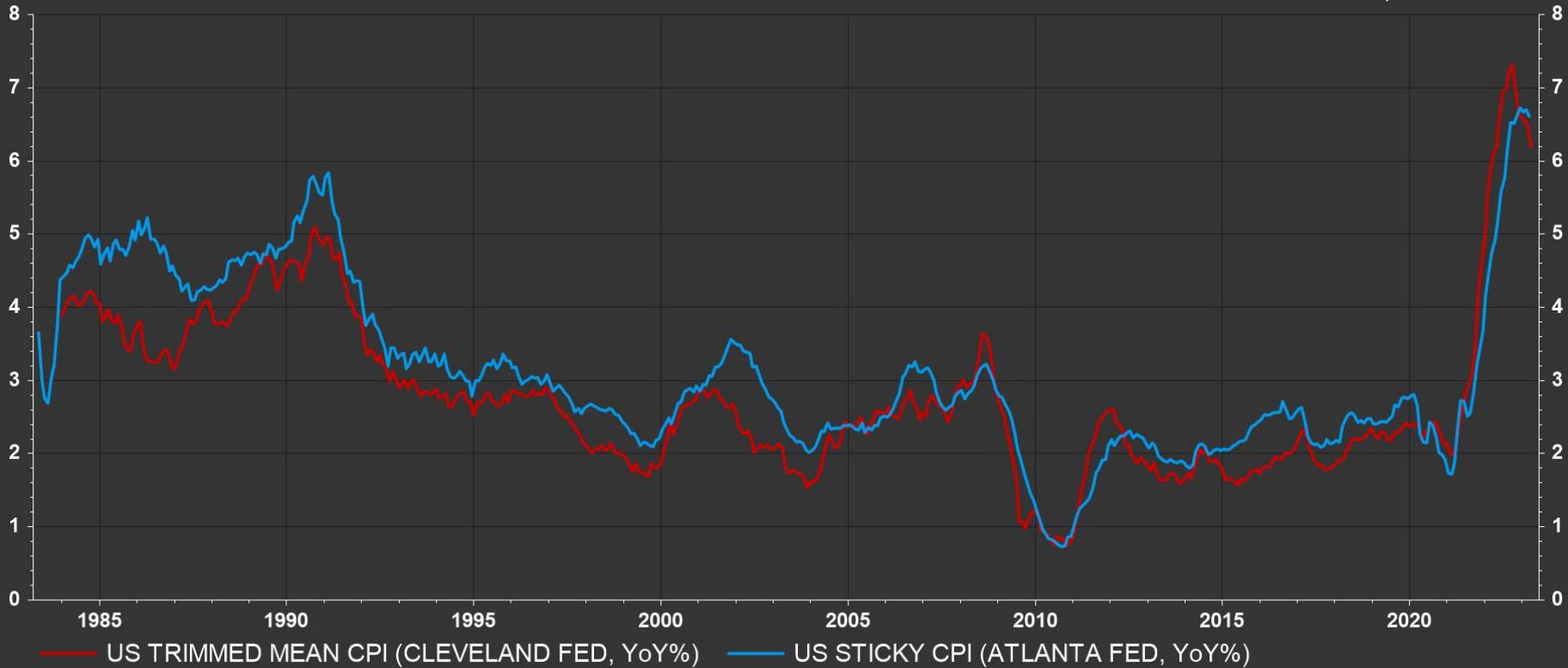
Professional forecasters 2023 Calendar Year Core CPI revisions through time for US



# INFLATION: A STICKY ROLLOVER

Fed's CPI Measurement: Trimmed Mean & Sticky CPI

Updated: Mar 23



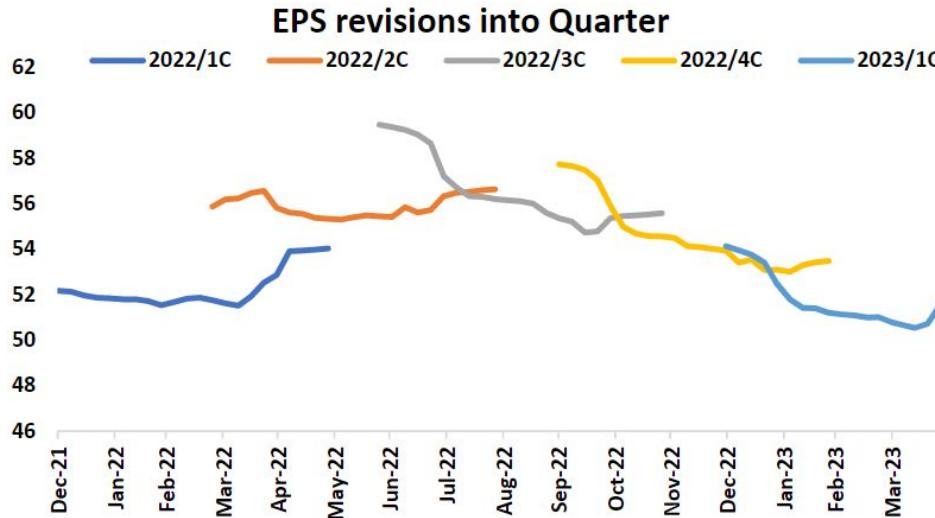
# LABOUR IS STILL TIGHT

US Wage Growth, Core Inflation & Service Inflation (%)



# COMPANY EARNINGS HAVE BEEN MORE RESILIENT THAN EXPECTED

## Exhibit 42: EPS Revisions Path into Quarter

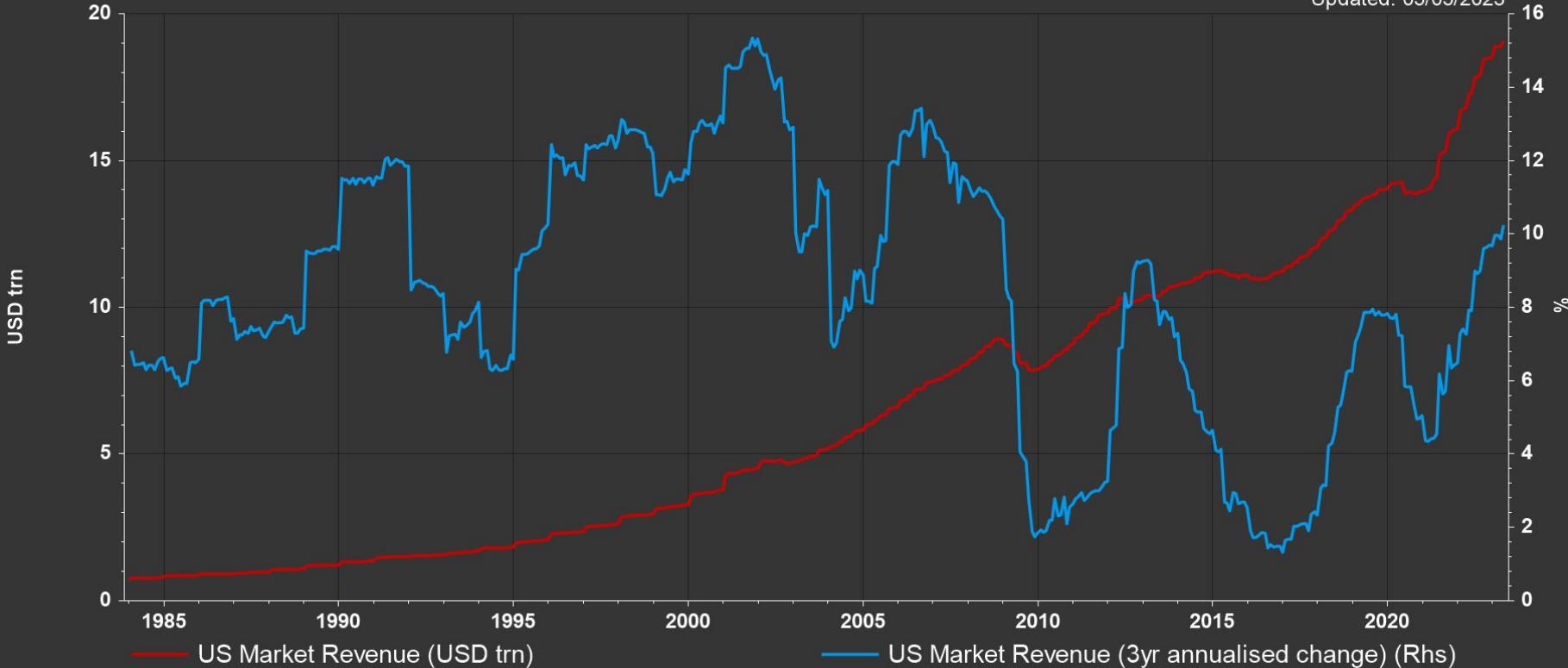


Source: Factset, Morgan Stanley Research

# USA REVENUE GROWTH

US Market Revenue (Long Term)

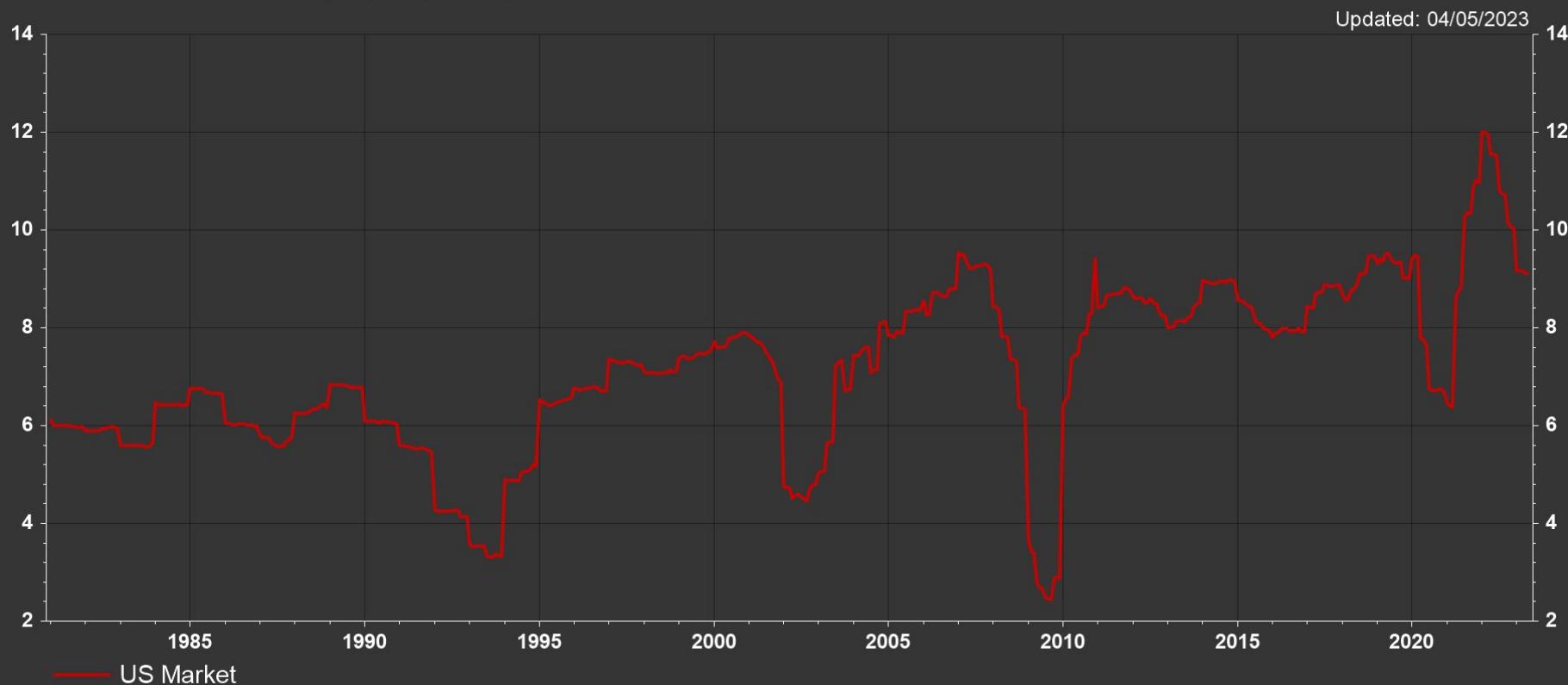
Updated: 05/05/2023



Source: Refinitiv Datastream / Rezco

# USA CORPORATES HAVE MANAGED TO PASS ON PRICE INCREASES IN A STRONG ECONOMY - ALSO KNOWN AS INFLATION

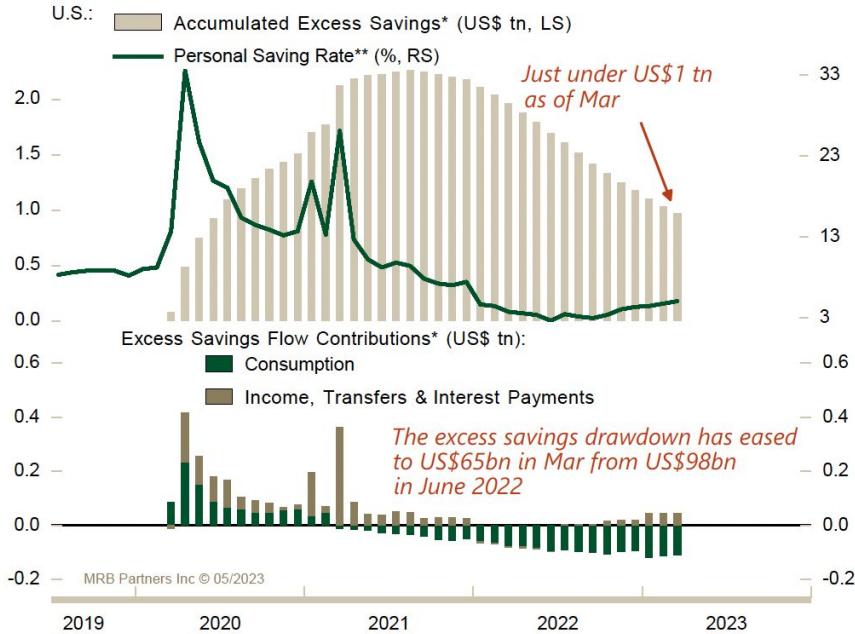
US Market Net Profit Margin (Long Term)



Source: Refinitiv Datastream / Rezco

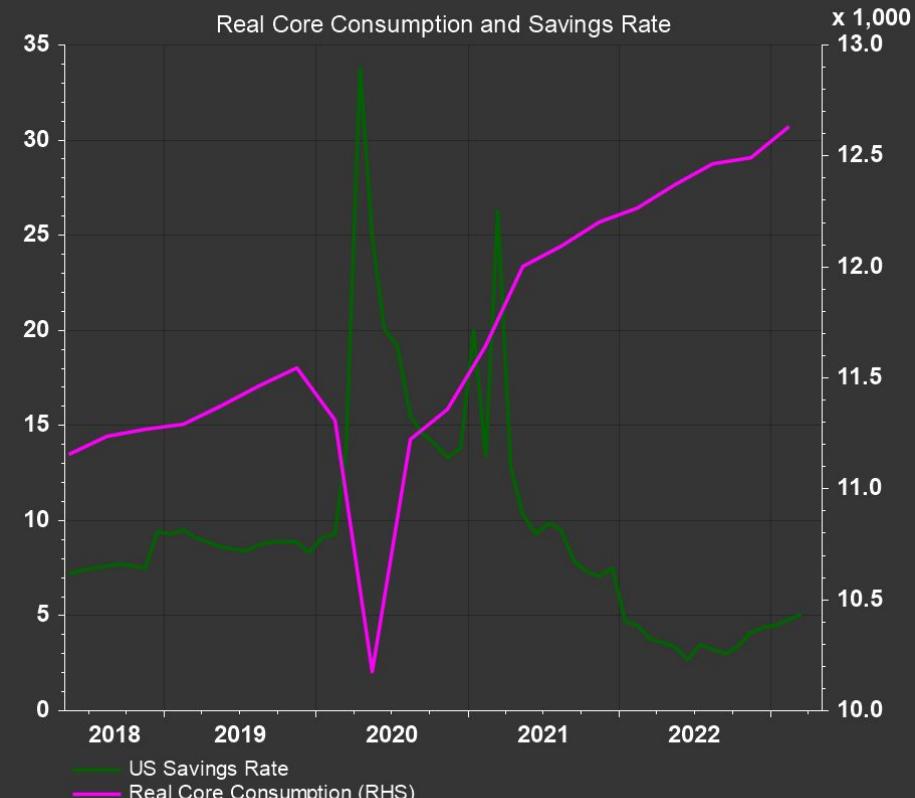
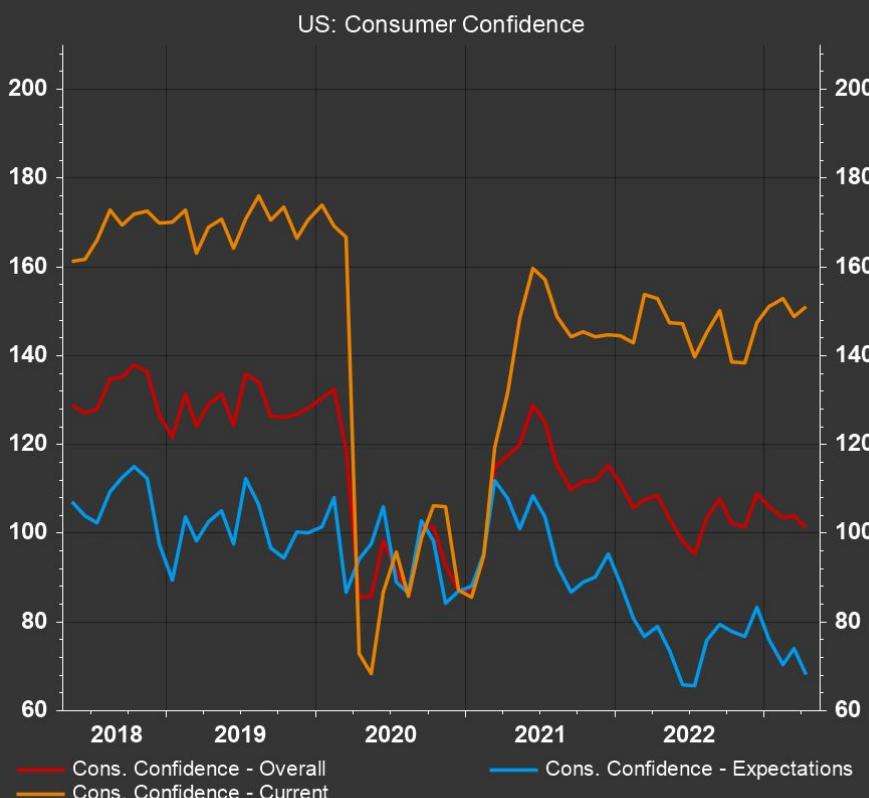
# THERE IS STILL PLENTY CASH IN THE SYSTEM

## The Excess Savings Buffer Is Still Sizeable



Source: MRB

# CONSUMER SPENDING INDICATORS



Source: Refinitiv Datastream / Rezco

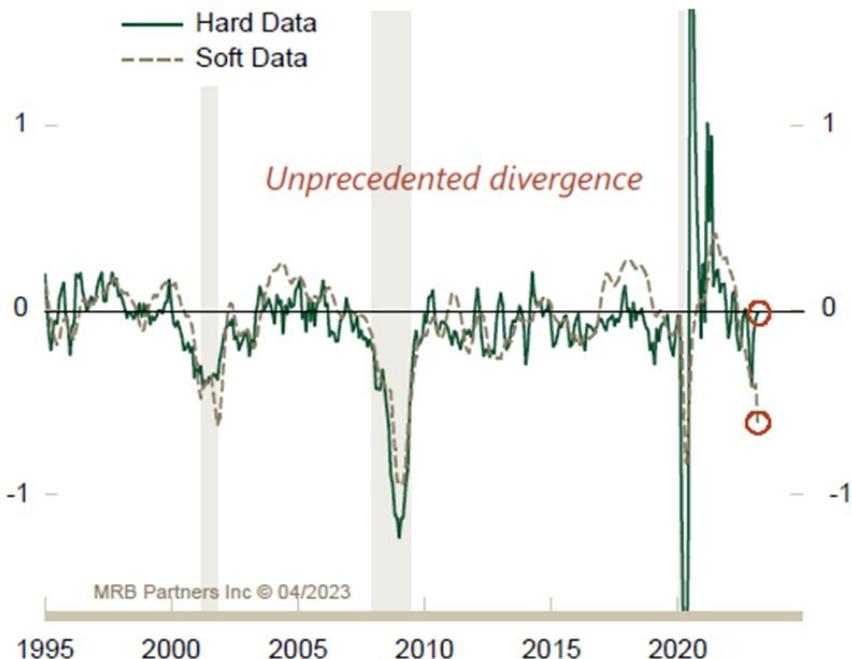
# THE CRUX OF THE ISSUE IS SENTIMENT VS HARD DATA:

## MRB NON CONSENSUS VIEW

Chart 9 Unlike Sentiment, Hard Data Has Improved In Q1

U.S. Economic Data Trend Indexes\*:

— Hard Data  
- - - Soft Data



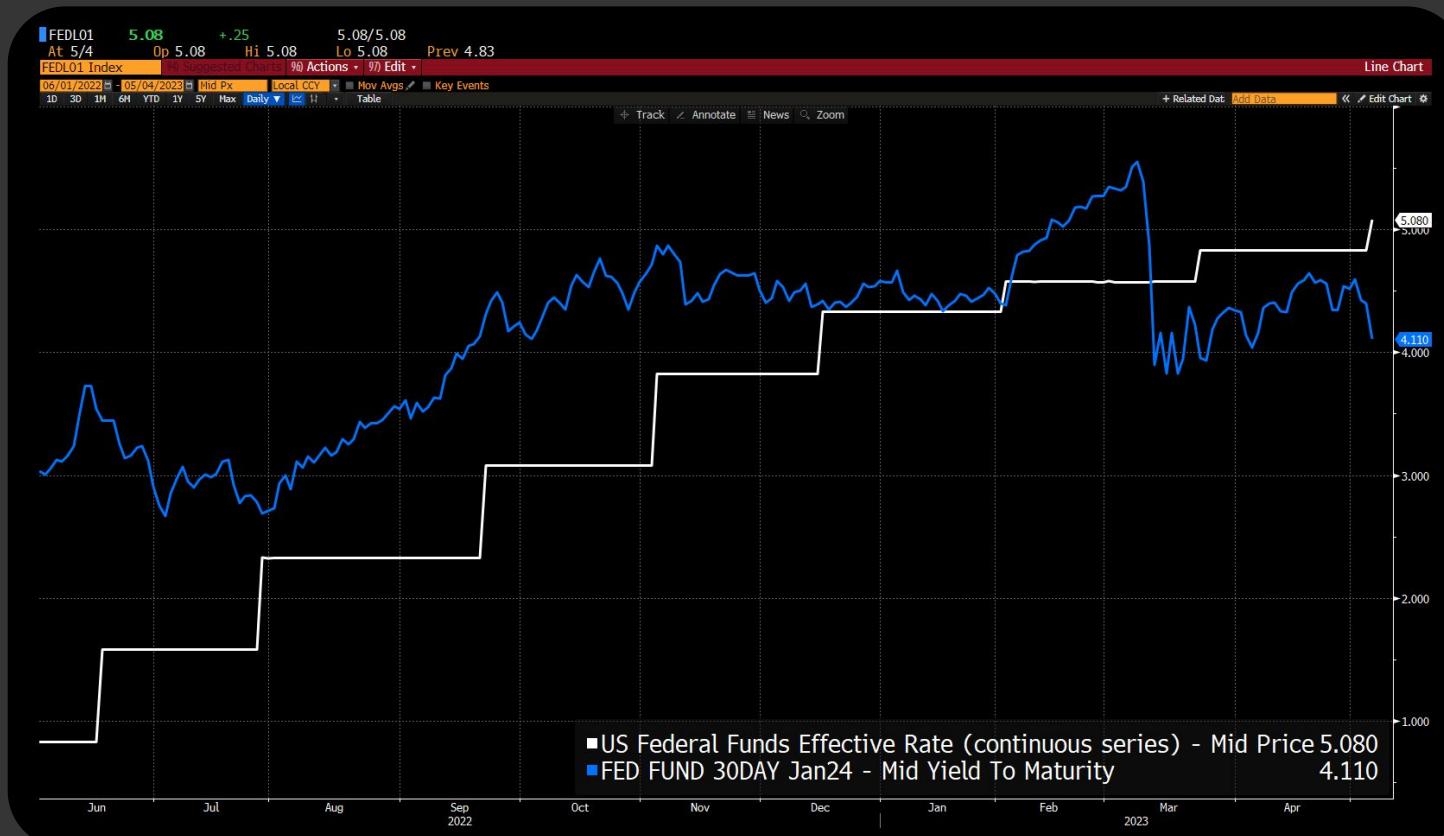
MRB Partners Inc © 04/2023

\* First principal component of standardized data; MRB calculation based on 580 underlying data series; truncated above/below +/- 1.5

Note: Shaded for NBER-designated U.S. recessions

Source: MRB

# MARKET IS DISCONNECTED FROM THE FED (STARTED WITH THE SVB COLLAPSE)



# HOW WILL THIS IMPASSE RESOLVE?

*Market is pricing this resolves by the Fed cutting from Sept*

Labour doesn't want to take the hit (and it is political suicide to suggest they do)

Companies prices are not regulated, they are protecting margins

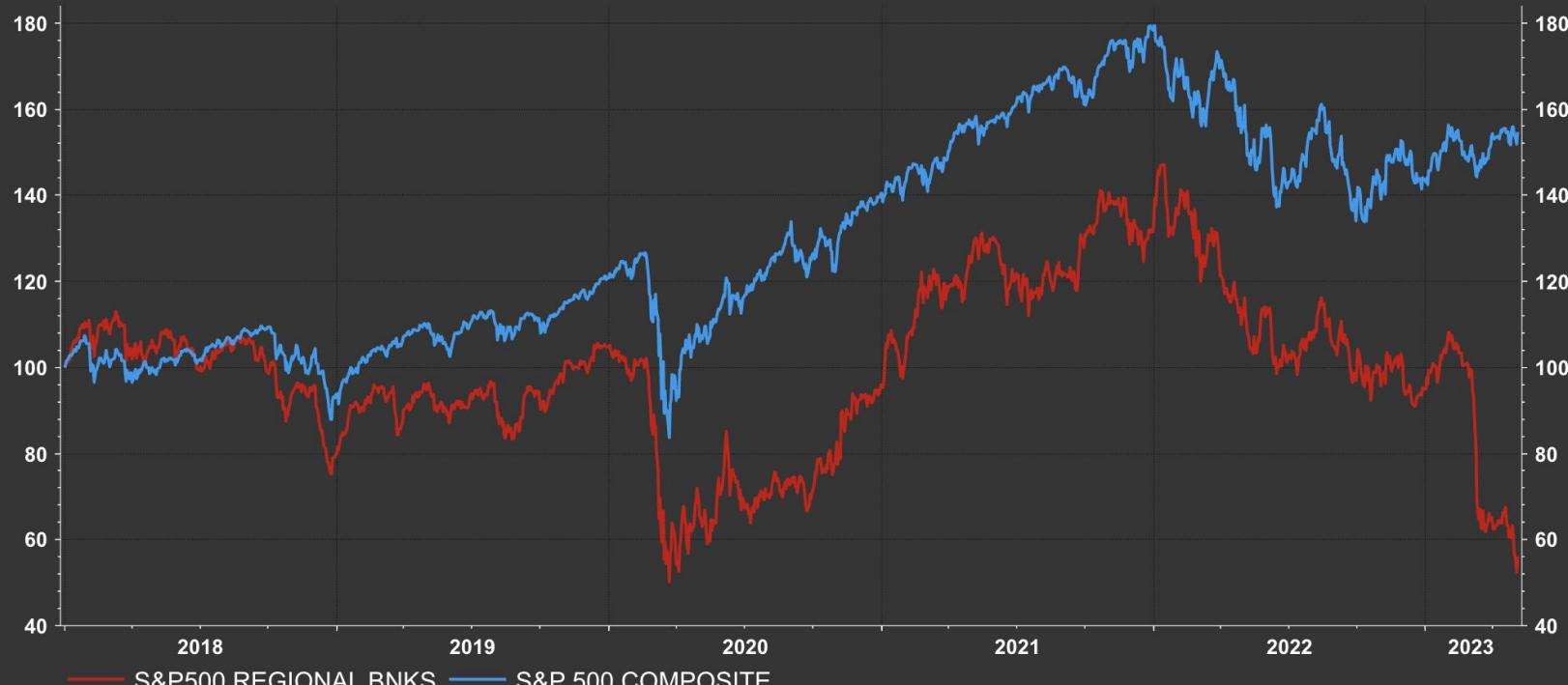
Politicians are well known to avoid short term pain at the expense of the long term good

Fiscal policy is leaning towards stimulus, monetary policy remains timid



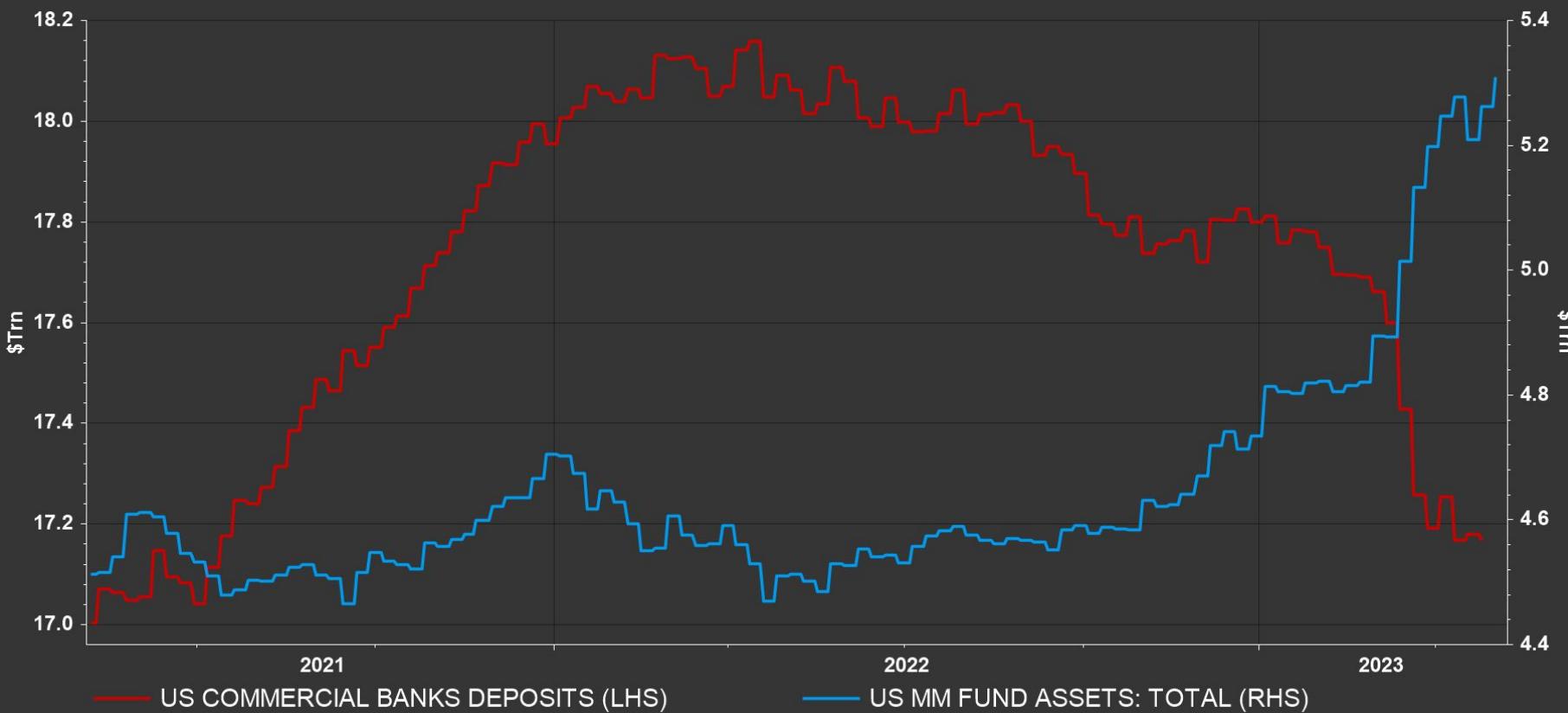
# DOES THE FED NEED A BANKING CRISIS OR JUST CREDIT TIGHTENING? OR A RECESSION

*Sentiment not enough to cool inflation*



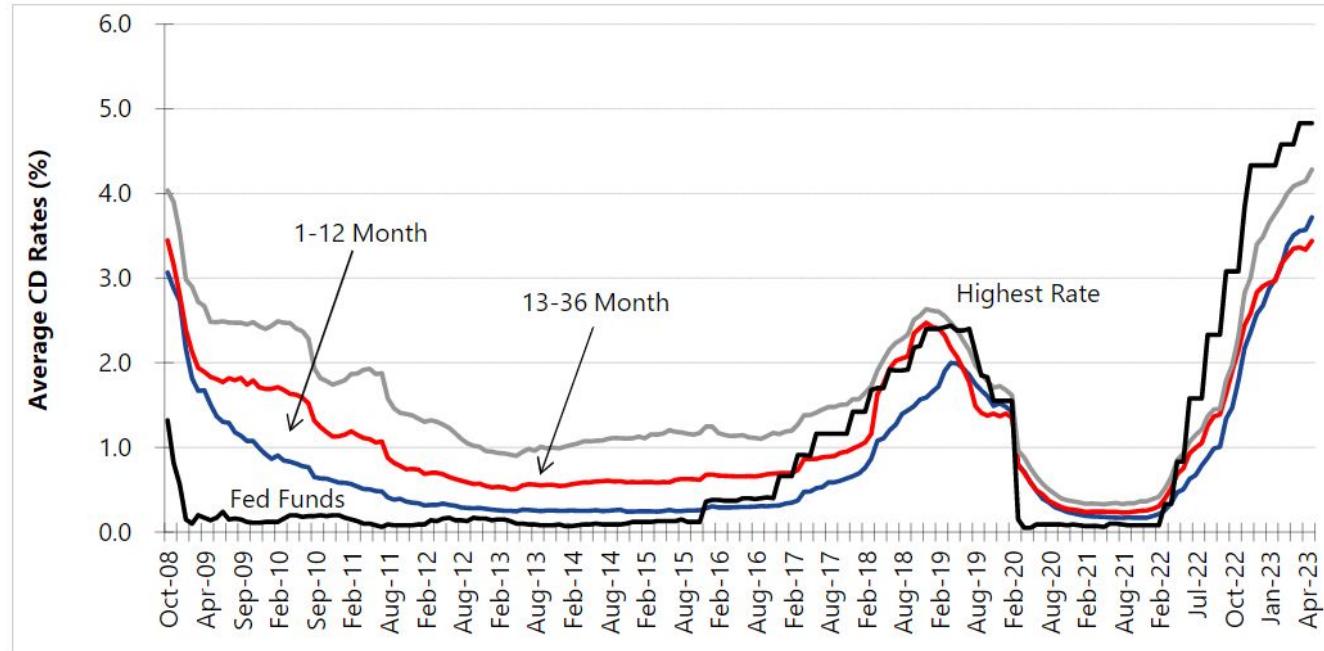
# A BANK WALK IS MORE LIKELY THAN A BANK RUN (CRISIS)

Which in turn is unlikely to tame inflation.



# UNSUSTAINABLE TO HAVE FED FUNDS RATE THE HIGHEST

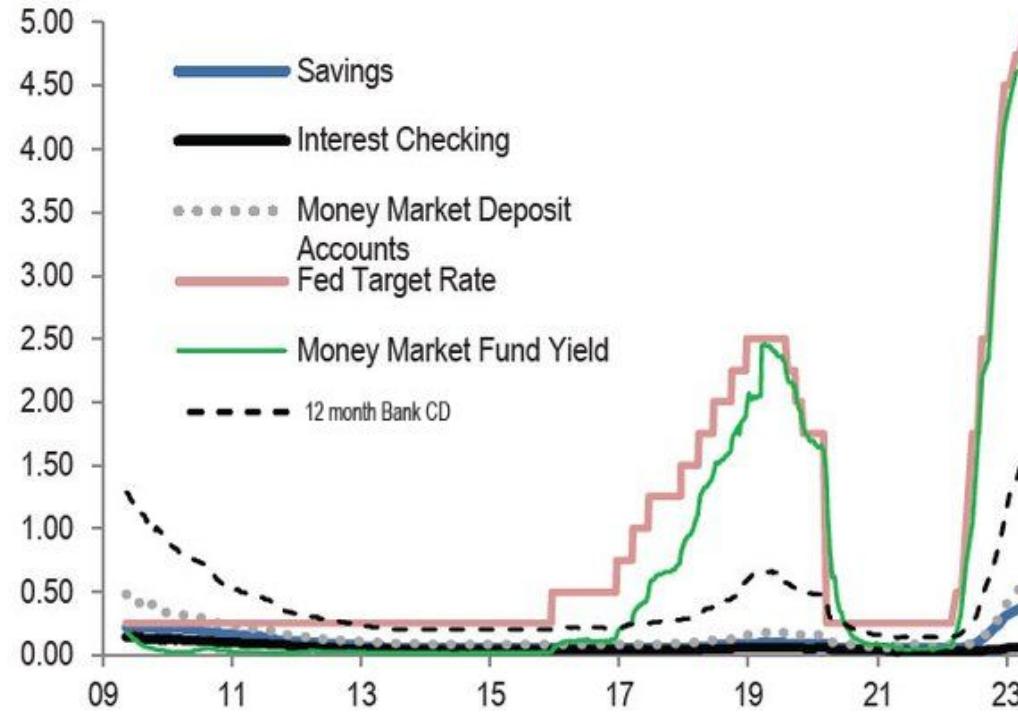
Historical CD Rates



Source: Company data, Federal Reserve, Morgan Stanley Research

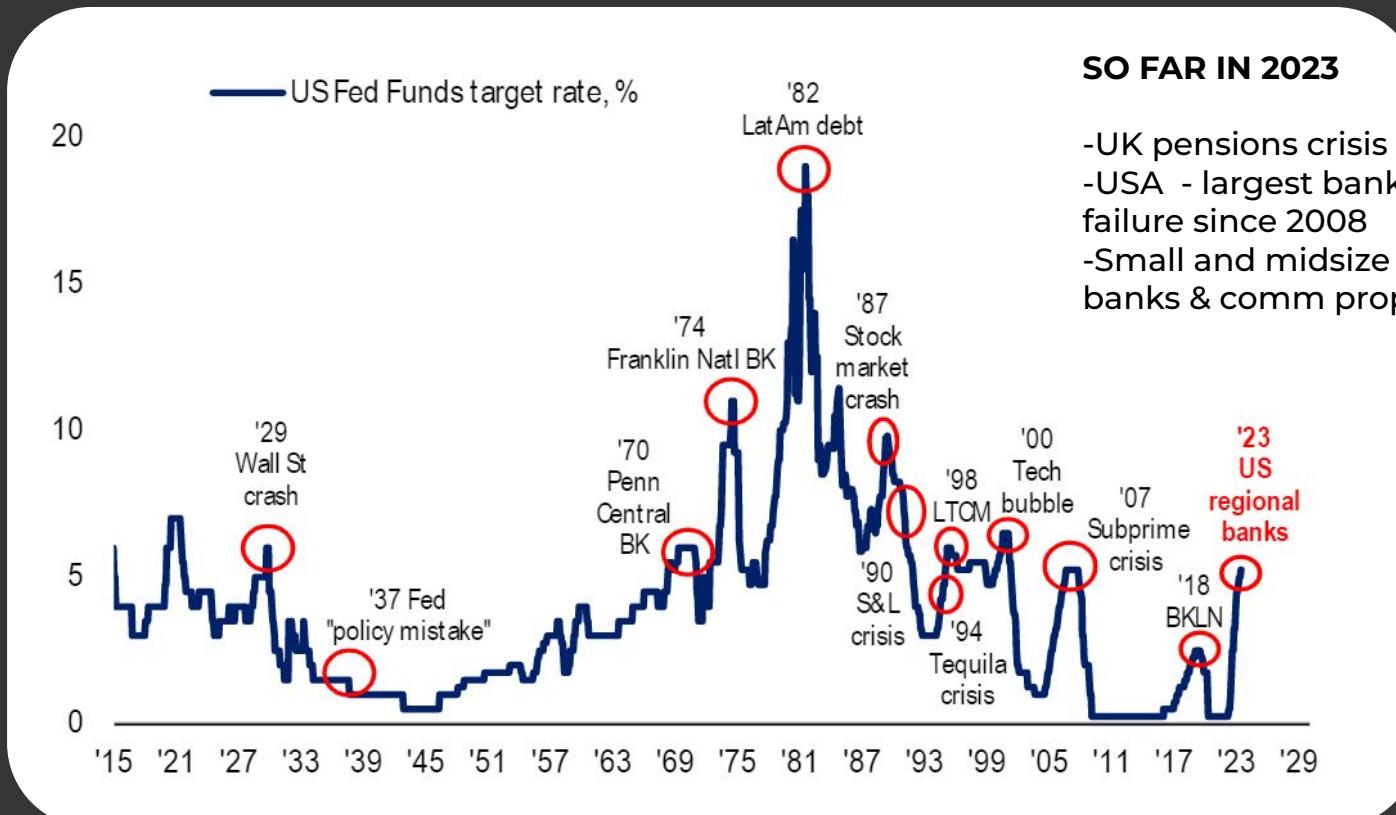
# UNSUSTAINABLE SITUATION

Figure 11: US Money Market Fund yields vs US bank deposit rates



Source: FIDIC, J.P. Morgan.

# FAST HIKING CYCLES: SOMETHING BREAKS



# REZCO SCENARIOS FOR 2023

SCENARIO	TRAJECTORY	OPTIMISTIC	BASE	FAT TAIL
	No Landing	Soft Landing	Normal Recession	Hard Recession or Shock
PROBABILITY	15%	15%	45%	25%
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DESCRIPTION	The Fed hasn't done enough to cool inflation, the market is pricing that the economy can operate with steep negative sloping yield curve, strong economic data, strong consumers and corporate earnings, high wage inflation, but declining CPI	Inflation falls to target while wages decelerate, corporates tighten up but profits are stable and balance sheets strengthened	The Fed needs a recession to break inflation, unemployment rises to curb wage increases, services inflation is stickier and requires a recession to cool demand	Something breaks due to: 1) impact of rapidly increased interest rates; or 2) geopolitical shock eg Taiwan/Ukraine and nuclear tensions; or 3) inflation remains sticky - Fed hasn't done enough



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HOW ARE THINGS PLAYING  
OUT IN SOUTH AFRICA?

# CAUTION: LOAD SHEDDING CONVERSATION AHEAD!

**Don't be that guy at the braai – are you one of these 6 worst characters found around the fire?**

FOOD24



by **Katy Rose** — October 12, 2018 in Features

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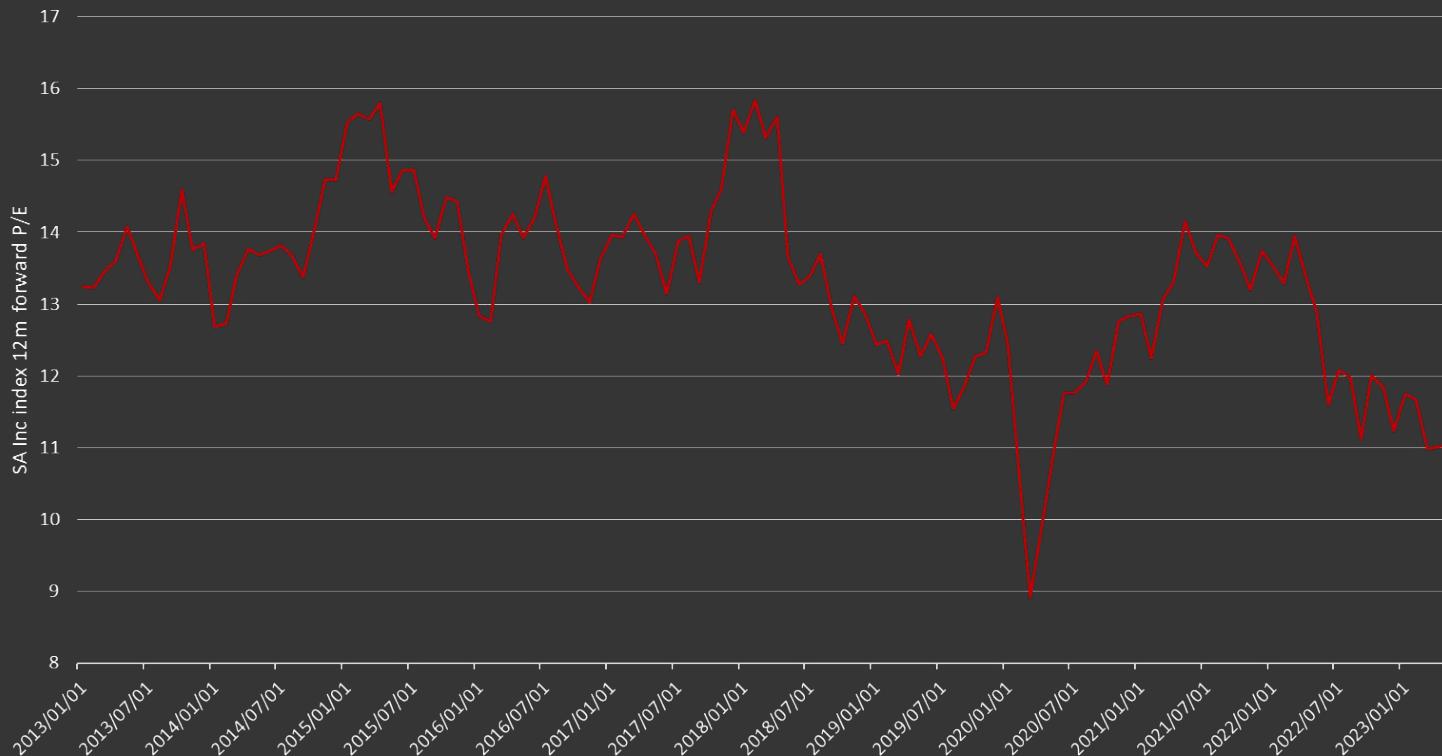


“If we can just get through this winter then everything will be fine as solar rolls out” = wrong answer >>> NEED MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS

# SA INC VALUE, OR VALUE TRAP

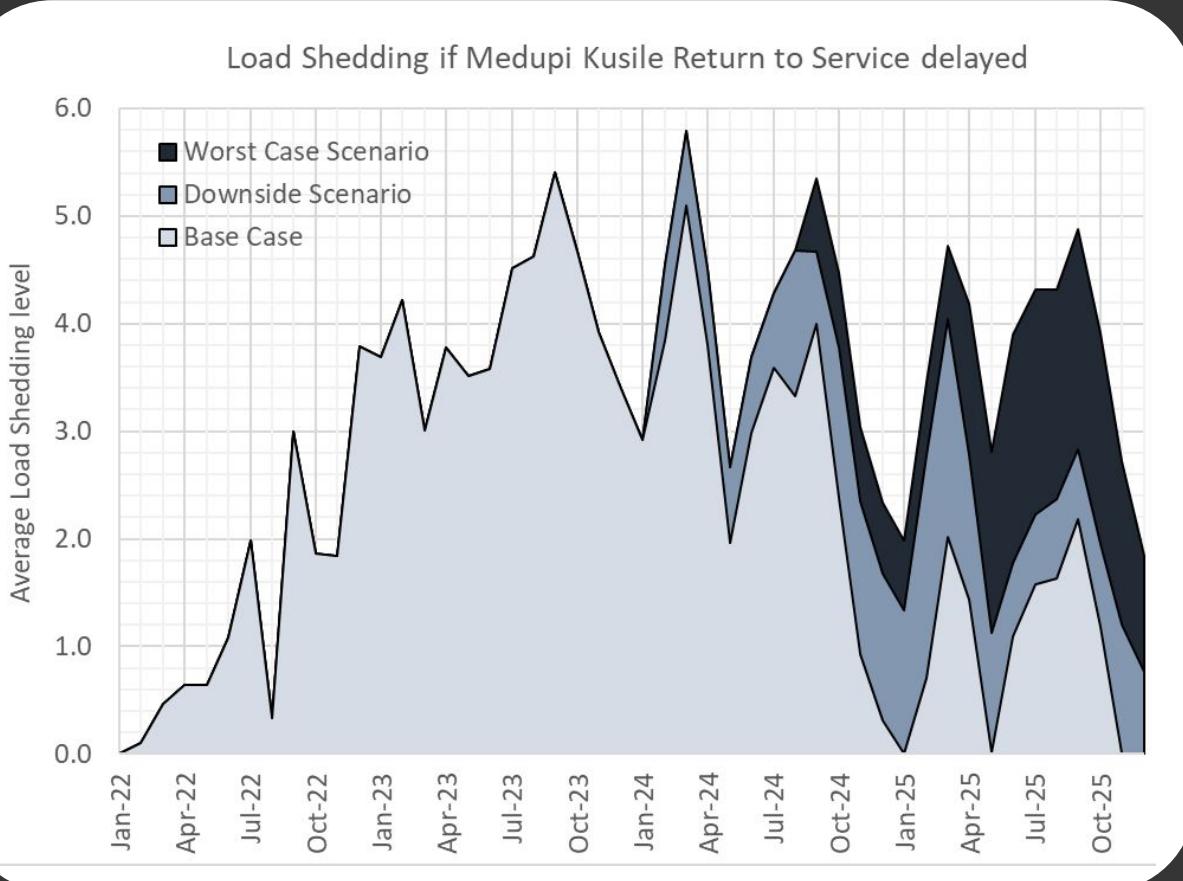
## ENERGY SUPPLY IS KEY HERE

SA Inc Top 40 Equally weighted 12m forward P/E



Source: Refinitiv Datastream. Construction: Equally weighted consensus forward P/Es of the largest 40 largest JSE stocks each month, excluding miners, oil, paper producers or where a majority of the stocks earnings are derived from outside South Africa.

# CONSENSUS IS MAKING A BIG ASSUMPTION



## Base Case:

- Medupi # 4 back
  - Oct 2024
- Kusile # 1-3 back
  - Feb 2024
  - Aug 2024
  - Feb 2025

## Downside scenario:

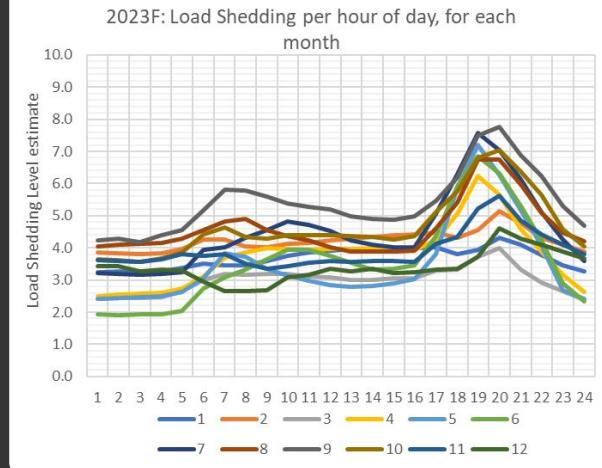
- Medupi # 4 back
  - Apr 2025
- Kusile # 1-3 back
  - Sept 2024
  - May 2025
  - Jan 2026

## Worst Case:

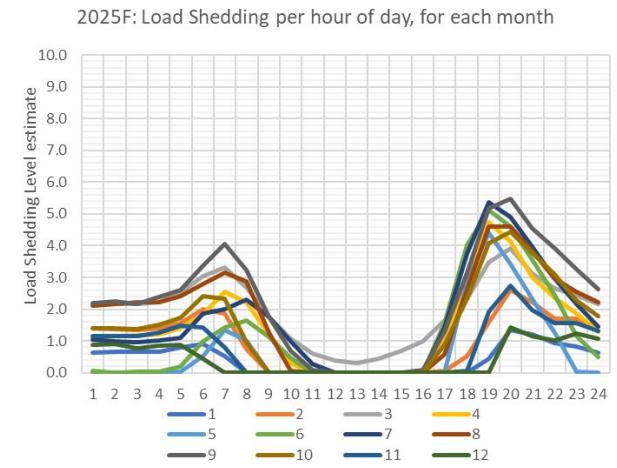
- No failed units back by Dec 2025
- (Kusile # 5,6 both on during 2024)

# SOLAR WILL HELP PROTECT THE ECONOMY IN 2025

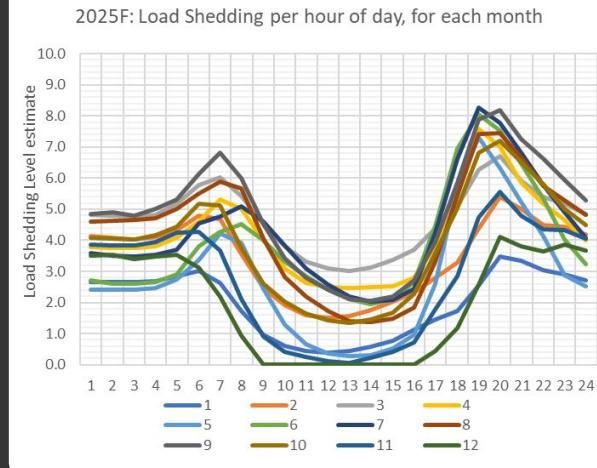
Base Case 2023



Base Case 2025



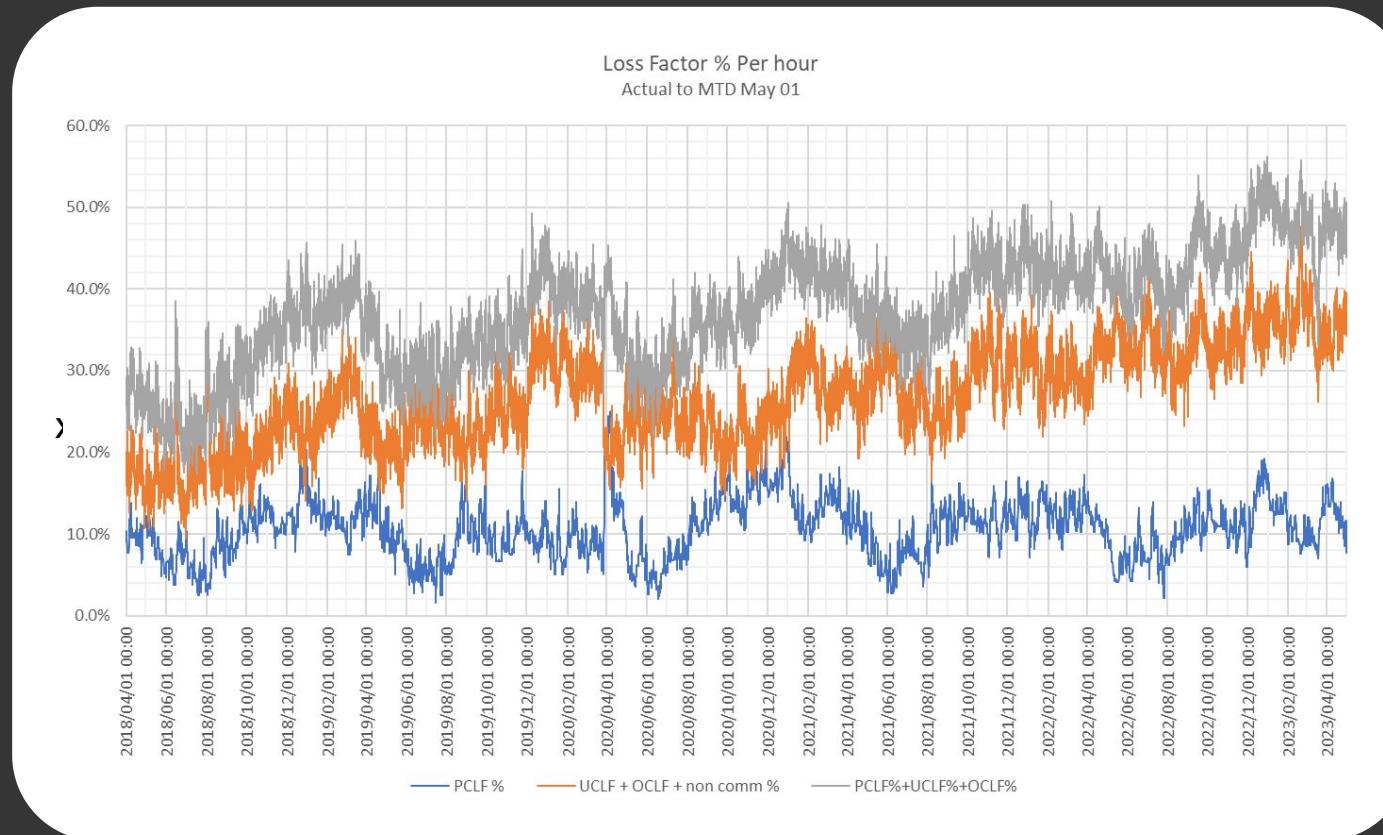
Worst Case 2025



**The PV fallacy:** PV does reduce load shedding **during daylight hours** (i.e, a good thing)

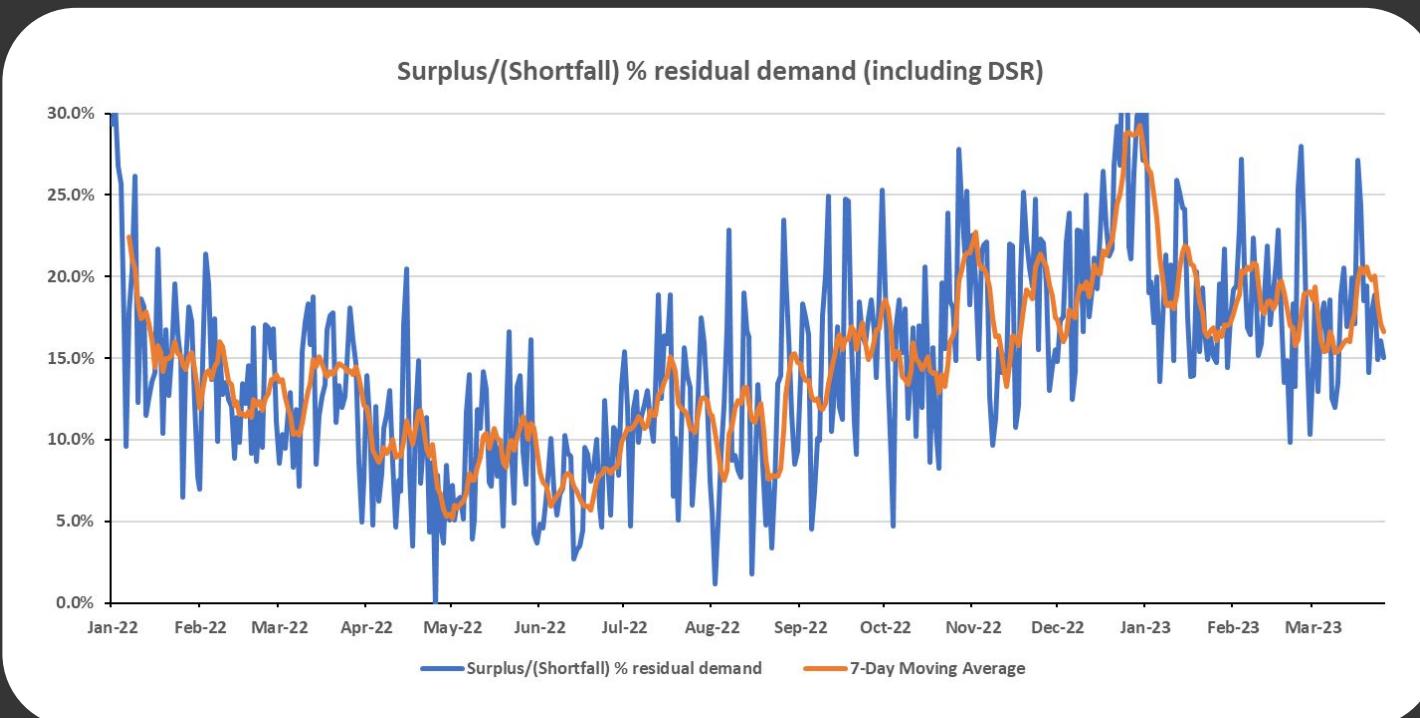
But at 8pm, load shedding in 2025 will be up to **level 5 (base case), or worst case level 8**

# THE SYSTEM IS DETERIORATING NOT MEAN REVERTING



# GRID RISK IS THE FAT TAIL

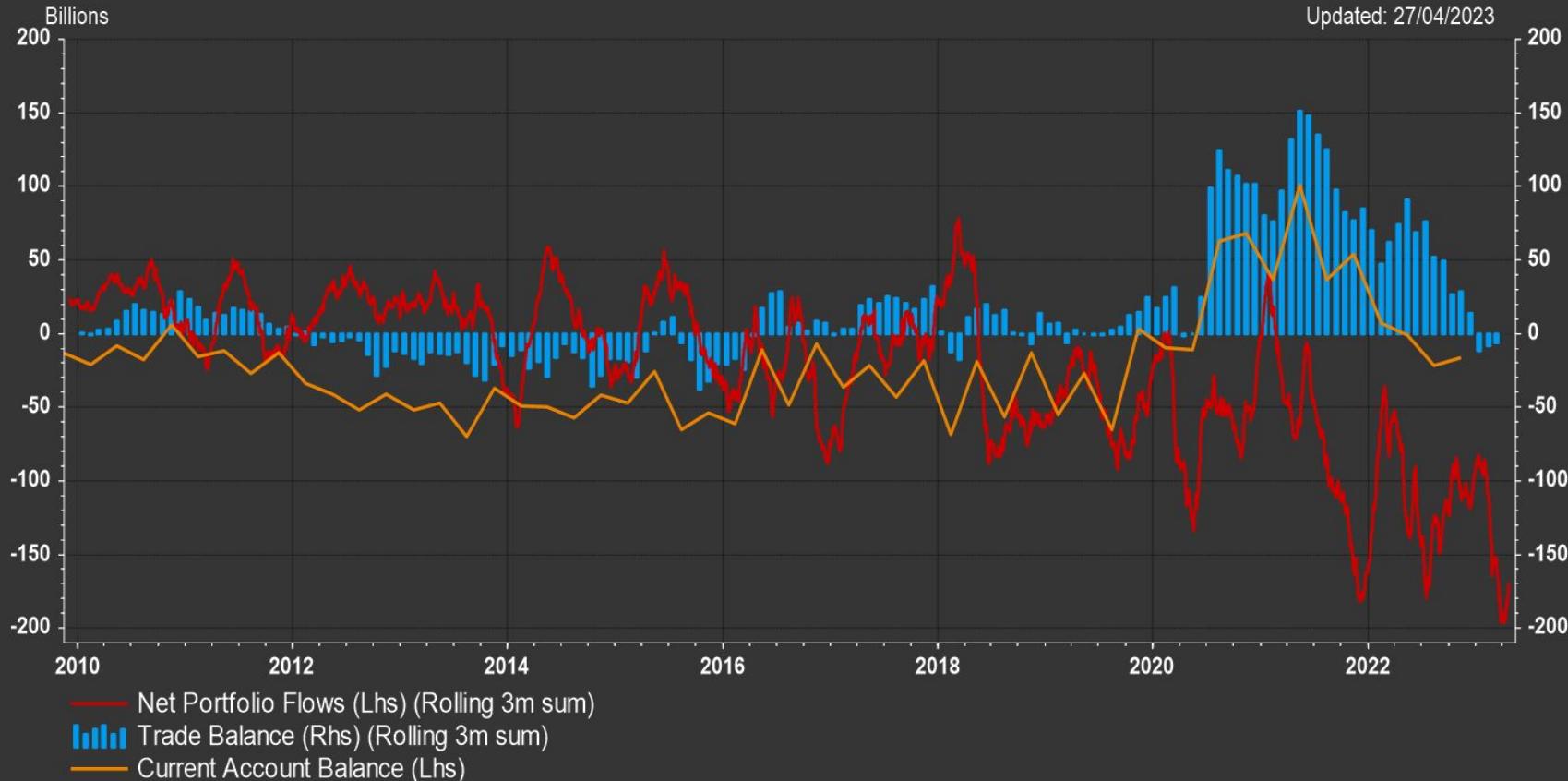
YTD 2023 TSO has maintained total reserve\* of 15%



\* note: Total Reserve = Operating Reserve + Emergency Reserve + Supplemental Reserve

# THE BIG PICTURE ON THE ZAR

## SA TRADE BALANCE





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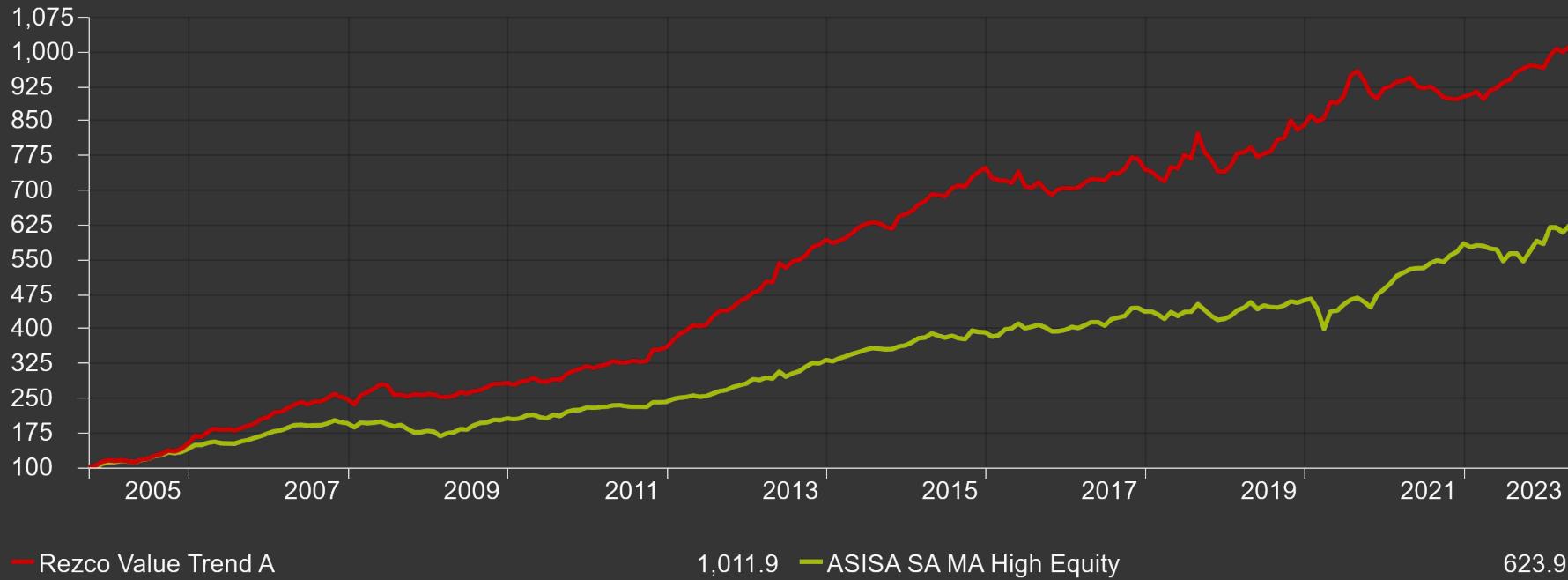
WHY BE FLEXIBLE?

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# LONG TRACK RECORD OF MANAGING RISKS THROUGH DIVERGENT SCENARIOS

Time Period: Since Common Inception (10/1/2004) to 4/30/2023

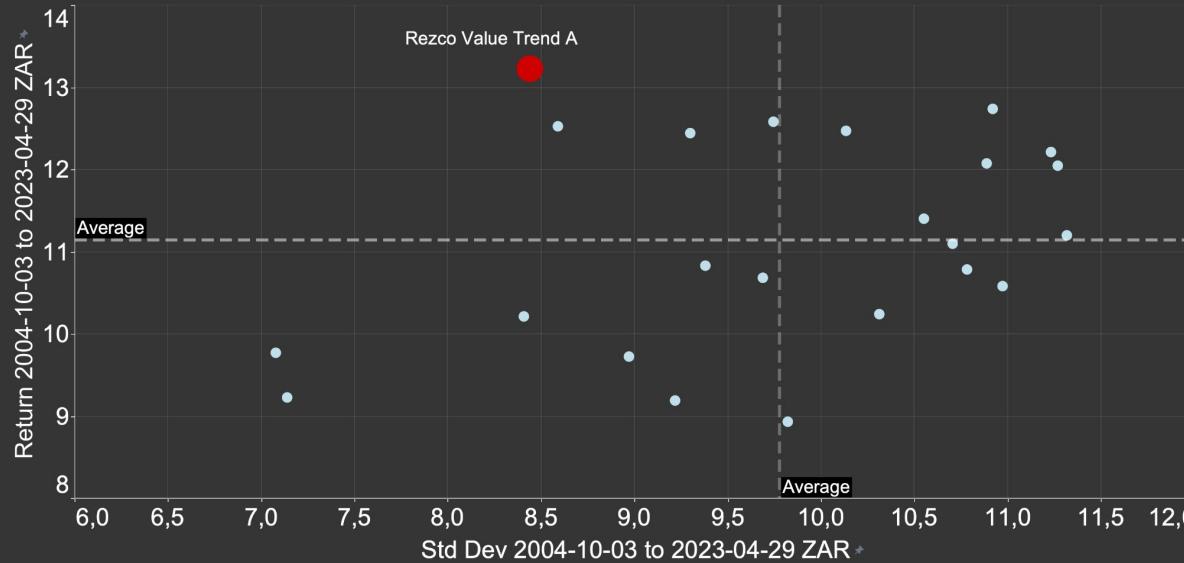
Currency: South African Rand    Source Data: Total Return



Source: Morningstar Direct

# REZCO VALUE TREND FUND

## SINCE COMMON INCEPTION VS PEER GROUP



Time Period: Since Common Inception (2004/10/01) to 2023/04/30 Source Data: Total, Monthly Return Peer Group: Funds - ASISA Sector (South Africa) - (ASISA) South African MA High Equity

	Total Return	Std Dev	Max Drawdown	Max Drawdown Months to Recovery	Down Capture Ratio	Up Capture Ratio	Sortino Ratio
Rezco Value Trend A	13.3	8.7	-10.1	10	19.3	53.9	1.3
FTSE/JSE All Share	14.2	15.4	-40.4	20	100.0	100.0	0.8
(ASISA) South African MA High Equity	10.4	8.2	-16.8	8	40.7	55.9	0.6

Source: Morningstar Direct

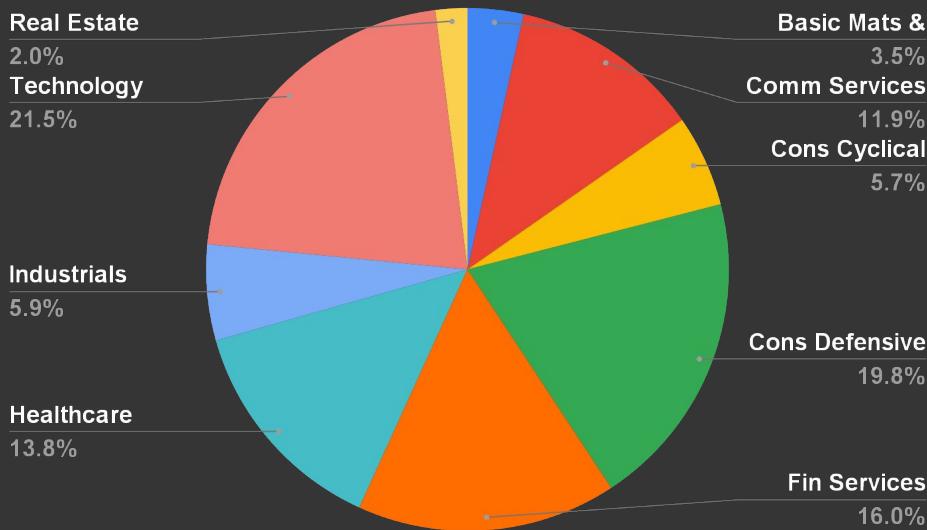
# FUNDS POSITIONED FOR MANAGING RISK

	Managed Plus	Value Trend	Stable	SA Equity	Global Flexible
SA Equity	24%	16%	16%	95%-97%	
Global Equity	24%	11%	7%		43%
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>23%</b>		<b>43%</b>
SA Gov Bonds (Duration)	22%	29%	31%		
SA Floating Rate Notes & Cash	9%	16%	27%		
Global Short Duration	17%	25%	15%		57%
ialis AI Market Neutral Fund	4%	4%	4%		
Direct Offshore	45%	40%	27%		

# GLOBAL EQUITY EXPOSURE

## 100% BASIS

### Sector Allocation



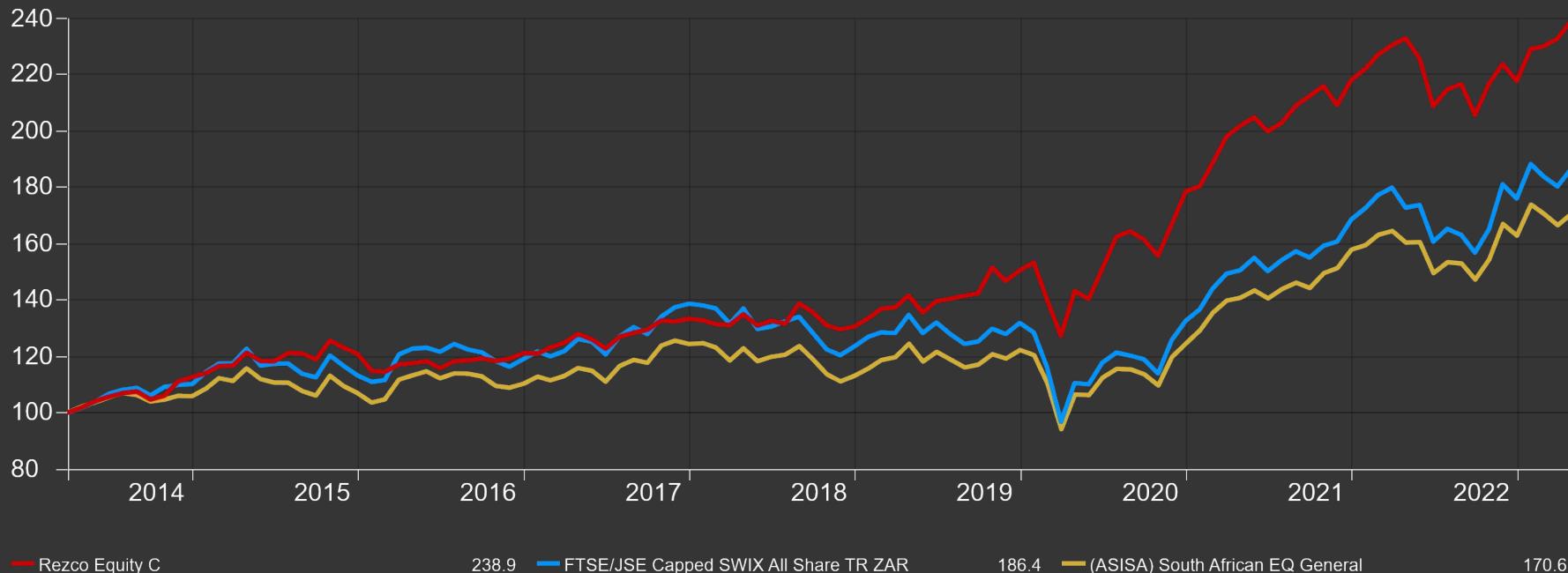
FACTOR	METRIC
12 Month Forward PE	19.7
EPS Growth FY1-FY2	13.7%
3 Month EPS Revisions FY1	9.6%
Debt / MV	20.7%
FCF Yield	6.6%
Ex Ante Beta	1.08
Alis Machine Learning Score	75

# REZCO EQUITY FUND SINCE INCEPTION

Time Period: Since Common Inception (4/1/2014) to 4/30/2023

Currency: South African Rand

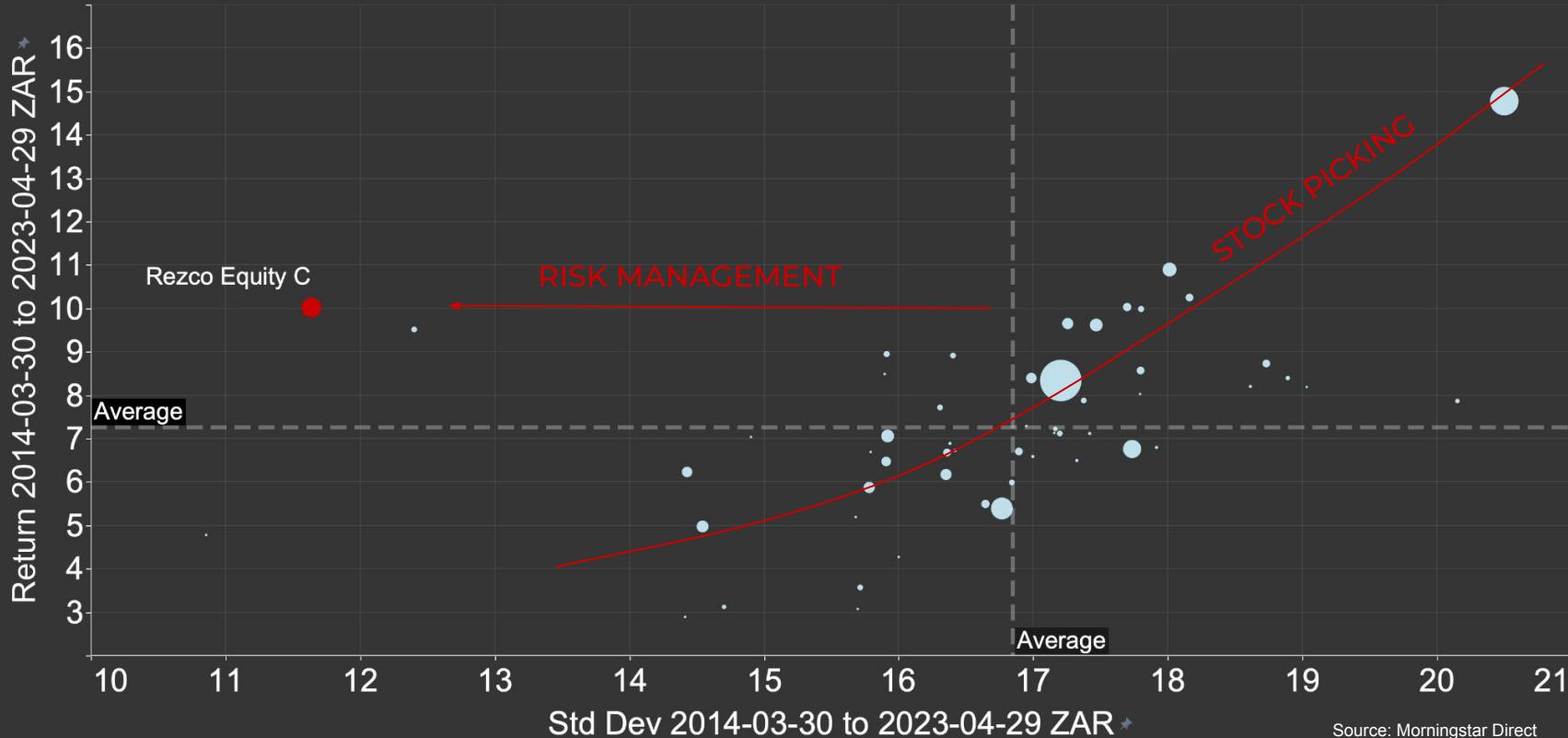
Source Data: Total Return



Source: Morningstar Direct

# REZCO EQUITY FUND

Funds in the ASISA SA Equity General category (SA Only Mandates)



# THE DANGERS OF THE CAPPED SWIX ANG(USD) & GFI(USD) VS GLOBAL GOLD SHARES

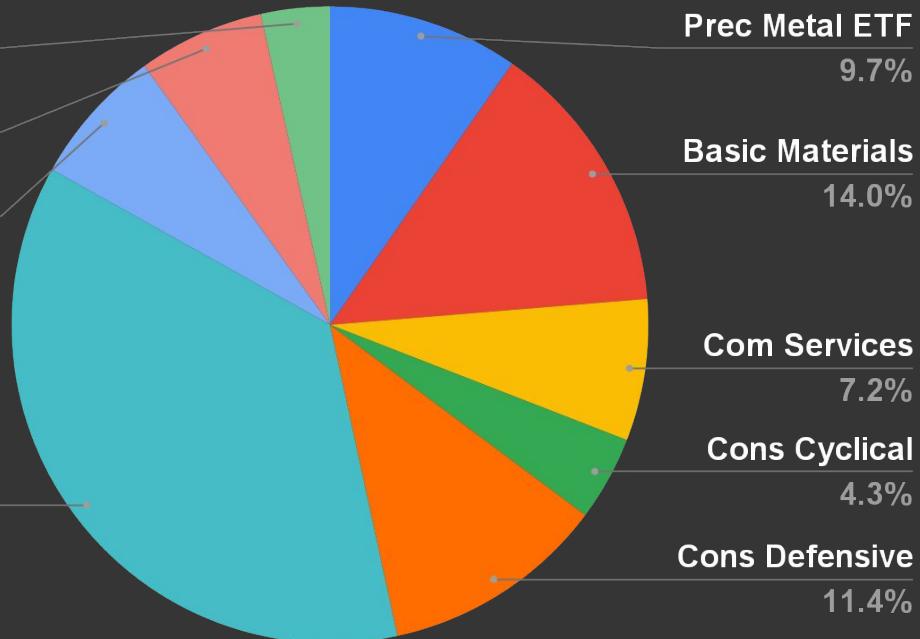


# SA EQUITY EXPOSURE

## REZCO EQUITY FUND

### SECTOR ALLOCATION

Cash  
3.5%  
Industrials  
6.4%  
Healthcare  
7.0%



FACTOR	METRIC
12 Month Forward PE	11.1
EPS Growth FY1-FY2	10.8%
3 Month EPS Revisions FY1	1.40%
Debt / MV	27.1%
Ex Ante Beta	0.77

# REZCO SCENARIOS FOR 2023

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# FLEXIBILITY THROUGH VOLATILITY

Key points to wrap up

- **Decreasing** our probability of a recession this year
- **Increasing** the probability of a negative tail event
- **The market is over-discounting** a soft landing or a soft Fed
- We see the Fed taking action and hiking in H2 vs market pricing in rate cuts (absent a banking crisis)
- **Strong economic data and sticky inflation** will not be tolerated by the Fed
  - we see the disconnect between bond and equity markets resolving through higher yields, flatter yield curve and lower equity prices
- **It is important for investors to stay flexible**
  - **the high probability outcomes are divergent**, with no option for the average - must be able to handle all probable outcomes



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# THANK YOU

Please stay for our usual 'coffee chat'



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