

Why Emerging Markets Debt Now?

Emerging markets (EM) debt has underperformed as interest rates have increased, but the tide could be changing.

1

The End of Central-Bank Tightening Could Generate Demand

With disinflation trending globally, central banks may be at the end of their tightening cycles—and this could generate stronger demand for fixed income, driving EM debt inflows.

2

Declining Rates Could Drive Growth in EMs

Inflation in EMs has decelerated, allowing central banks to start reducing interest rates—and that could support economic growth in these countries.

3

High Yields Could Lead to Strong Returns

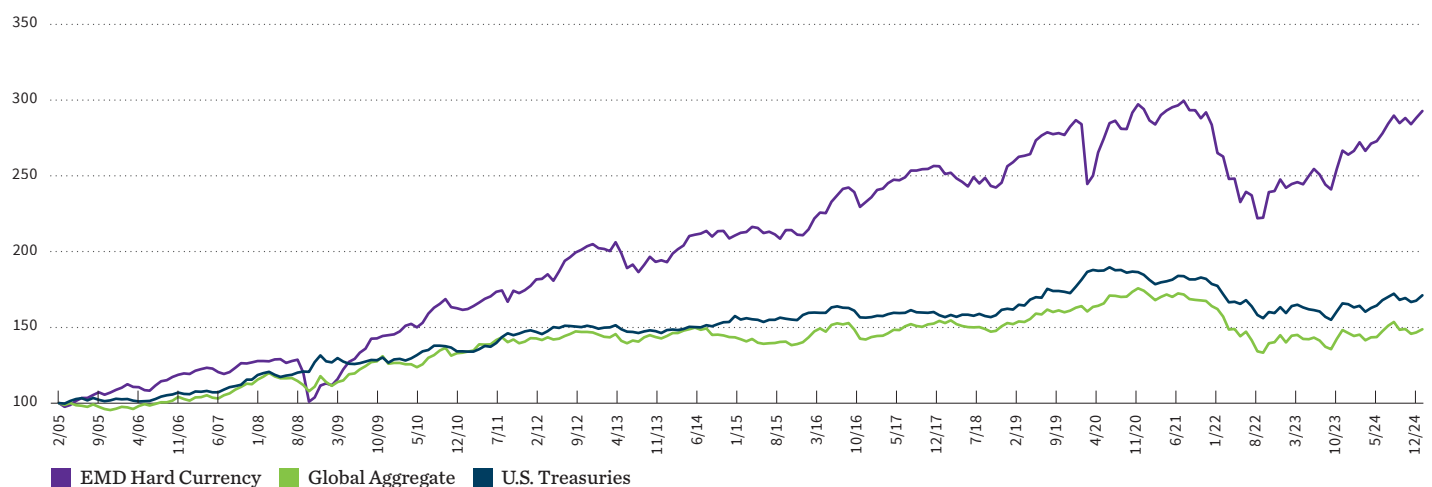
The yield offered by EM debt is relatively high compared to other types of debt (such as U.S. or European credit)—and because investors can potentially earn more income from these bonds, they could see stronger overall returns.

4

Alpha-Generation Opportunities Abound

EM debt is an extremely diversified asset class with ample scope for fundamental differentiation—and we see particular value in higher-yielding frontier markets debt, where we believe investors are mispricing risk premiums.

Historical Market Performance: Cumulative Returns



Sources: Bloomberg and J.P. Morgan, as of February 28, 2025. Past performance is not indicative of future returns.

A direct investment in an unmanaged index is not possible. See next page for index representation.

Important Disclosures

This material is not intended to substitute professional advice on an investment in financial products and any investment or strategy mentioned herein may not be appropriate for every investor. Before entering into any transaction each investor should consider the appropriateness of a transaction to his own situation and, the need be, obtain independent professional advice as to risks and consequences of any investment. William Blair will accept no liability for any direct or consequential loss, damages, costs or prejudices whatsoever arising from the use of this document or its contents.

Any discussion of particular topics is not meant to be complete, accurate, comprehensive, or up-to-date and may be subject to change. Data shown does not represent and is not linked to the performance or characteristics of any William Blair product or strategy. Factual information has been taken from sources we believe to be reliable, but its accuracy, completeness or interpretation cannot be guaranteed. Information and opinions expressed are those of the author and may not reflect the opinions of other investment teams within William Blair. Information is current as of the date appearing in this material only and subject to change without notice. This material may include estimates, outlooks, projections and other forward-looking statements. Due to a variety of factors, actual events may differ significantly from those presented.

Investing involves risks, including the possible loss of principal. Investing in foreign denominated and/or domiciled securities may involve heightened risk due to currency fluctuations, and economic and political risks. These risks may be enhanced in emerging markets. Investing in the bond market is subject to certain risks including market, interest rate, issuer, credit, and inflation risk. High-yield, lower-rated, securities involve greater risk than higher-rated securities. Sovereign debt securities are subject to the risk that an entity may delay or refuse to pay interest or principal on its sovereign debt because of cash flow problems, insufficient foreign reserves, or political or other considerations. Diversification does not ensure against loss.

Index representation for the chart on page 1 is as follows: EMD hard currency, J.P. Morgan EMBI Global Diversified Index; U.S. Treasuries, Bloomberg U.S. Treasury Bills Index; global aggregate, Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index. The **J.P. Morgan EMBI Global Diversified** tracks the total return of U.S.-dollar-denominated debt instruments issued by sovereign and quasi-sovereign entities. (Index information has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable but J.P. Morgan does not warrant its completeness or accuracy. The indices are used with permission. The indices may not be copied, used, or distributed without J.P. Morgan's prior written approval. Copyright 2022, JPMorgan Chase & Co. All rights reserved.) The **Bloomberg US Treasury Bill Index** tracks the market for Treasury bills issued by the U.S. government. The **Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index** is a flagship measure of global investment-grade debt from 24 markets. Indices are unmanaged and do not incur fees or expenses. A direct investment in an unmanaged index is not possible.

This material is not intended for distribution, publication, or use in any jurisdiction where such distribution or publication would be unlawful. This document is the property of William Blair and is not intended for distribution or dissemination, directly or indirectly, to any other persons than those to which it has been addressed exclusively for their personal use. It is being supplied to you solely for your information and may not be reproduced, modified, forwarded to any other person or published, in whole or in part, for any purpose without the prior written consent of William Blair.

Copyright © 2025 William Blair. "William Blair" refers to William Blair & Company, L.L.C., William Blair Investment Management, LLC, and affiliates. William Blair is a registered trademark of William Blair & Company, L.L.C.

4610734 (08/25)

William Blair