Investment Strategy

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Bank of America Merrill Lynch

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10 reasons for a 10% correction

Still cautious short-term...10 reasons for a tactical 10% correction in global equities:

- 1. CPI: headline will be 3-4% in Q2
- 2. PPI: headline will be 6-7% in Q2
- 3. ECB hikes in April; Portuguese bond yields at new highs; Euro banks breaking down (Chart 1)
- 4. QE2 ends in June; Fed likely to test market reaction
- ISM peaking...EPS momentum peaking
- 6. GDP estimates heading lower this key reason
- 7. FMS cash levels low, equity allocations high
- 8. CCMP: tech leadership fading (it's not a party without the chips Chart 2)
- 9. Oil: big rotation from cyclicals to defensives; compare sector performance between a. Jackson Hole and Libya and b. since oil>\$95/b see Materials in particular (Charts 3 and 4)
- 10. UST, US\$: inability of bonds to rally was key reason for Feb equity resilience; bonds now rallying & US dollar finally catching a bid (and metals down)

3 reasons equities may not correct much:

- 1. Hedge fund pain trade is up
- 2. China CPI peak
- 3. Oil falls \$10-20

ECB hikes in April; Portuguese bond yields at new highs; Euro banks breaking down

Chart 1: Euro banks breaking down



Source: Bofa Merrill Lynch Global Equity Strategy, Bloomberg

CCMP: tech leadership fading (it's not a party without the chips)

Chart 2: Tech leadership fading



Source: Bofa Merrill Lynch Global Equity Strategy, Bloomberg



Oil: big rotation from cyclicals to defensives

Compare sector performance between a) Jackson Hole and Libya and b) since oil>\$95/b - see Materials in particular

Chart 3: Sector performance (from Jackson Hole to Libya)



Source: Bofa Merrill Lynch Global Equity Strategy, Bloomberg

Chart 4: Sector performance (since oil > \$95/b)



Source: Bofa Merrill Lynch Global Equity Strategy, Bloomberg



Link to Definitions

Macro

Click $\underline{\text{here}}$ for definitions of commonly used terms.



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