



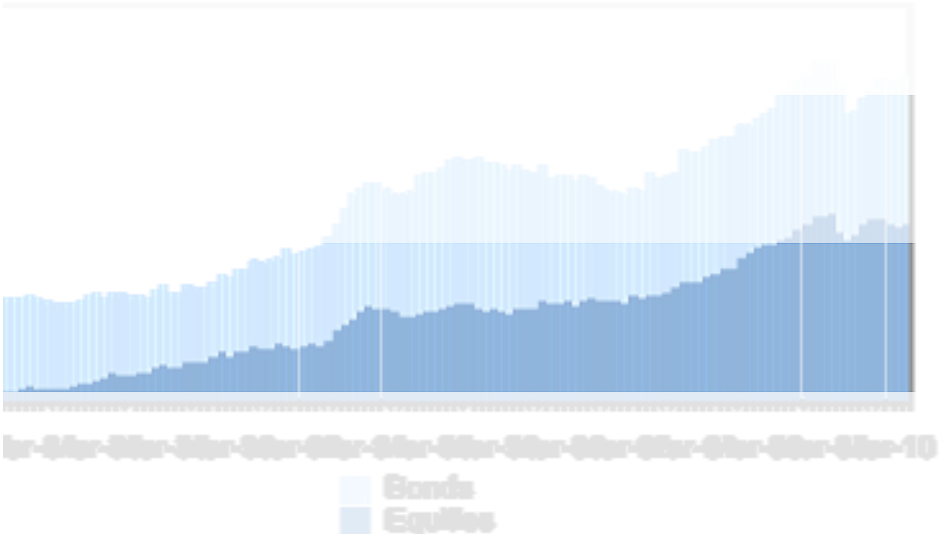
# Currency Risk in US Portfolios

**May 17 2011**

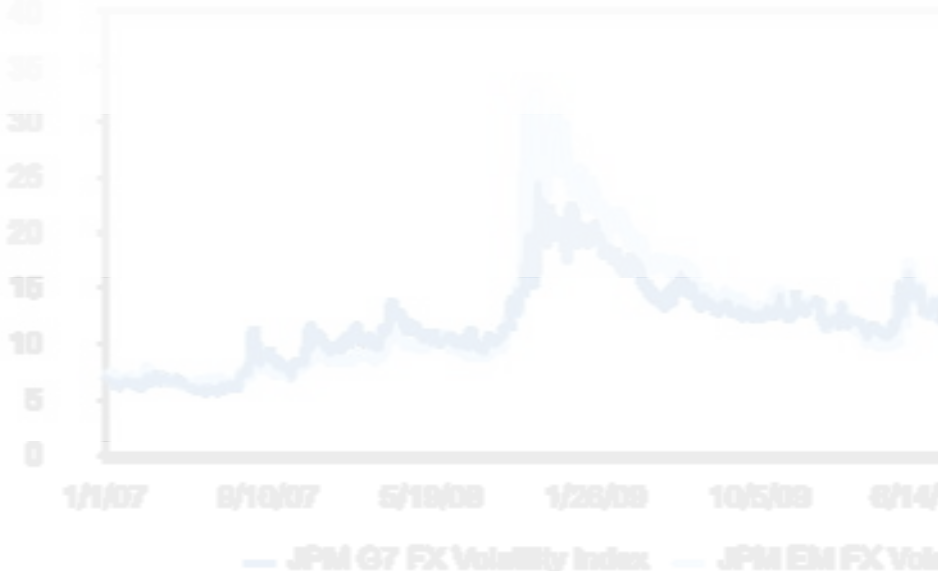
Collin Crossover, Ph.D.  
Global Head of Currency Management



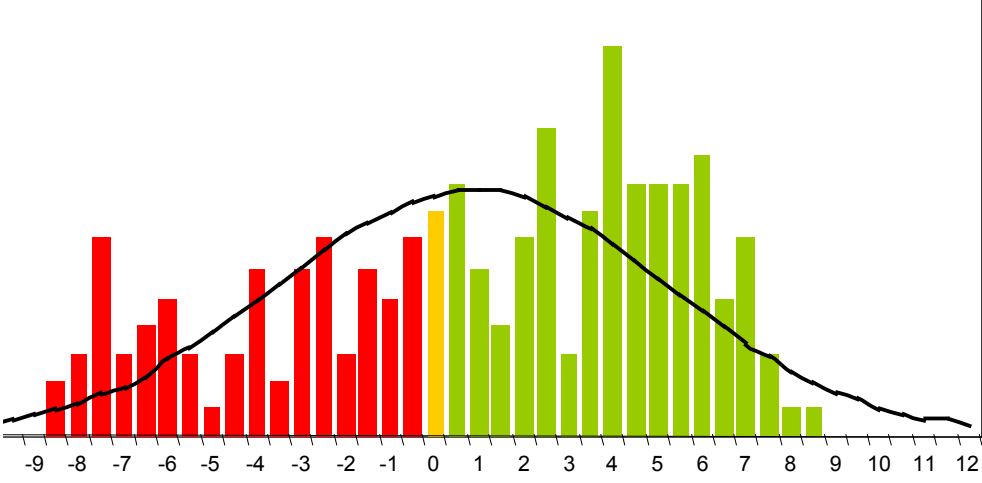
Investors have continued to diversify overseas



FX volatility is expected to remain high u other asset classes

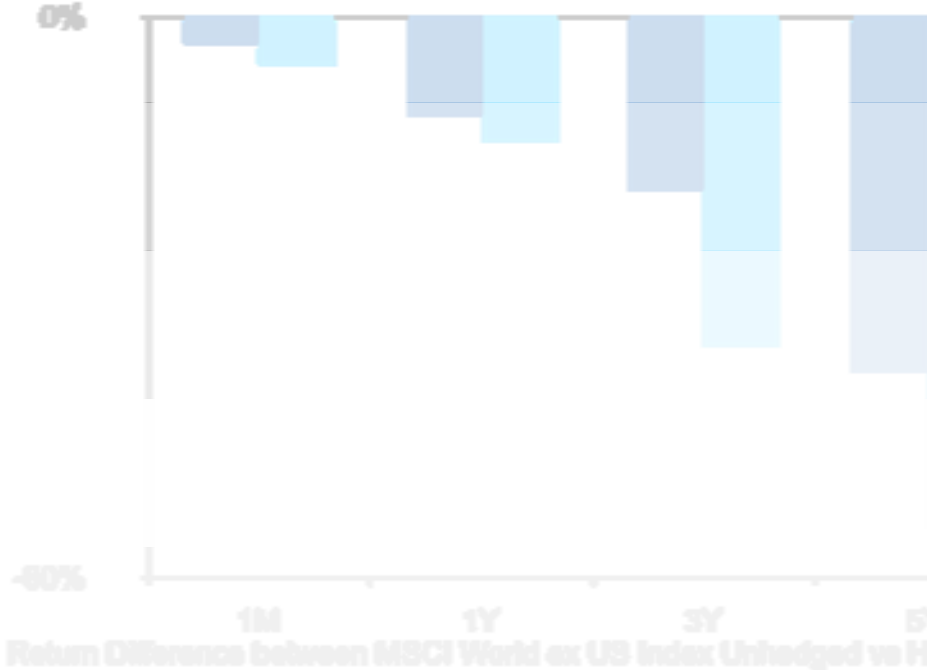


Currency risk is not symmetrical



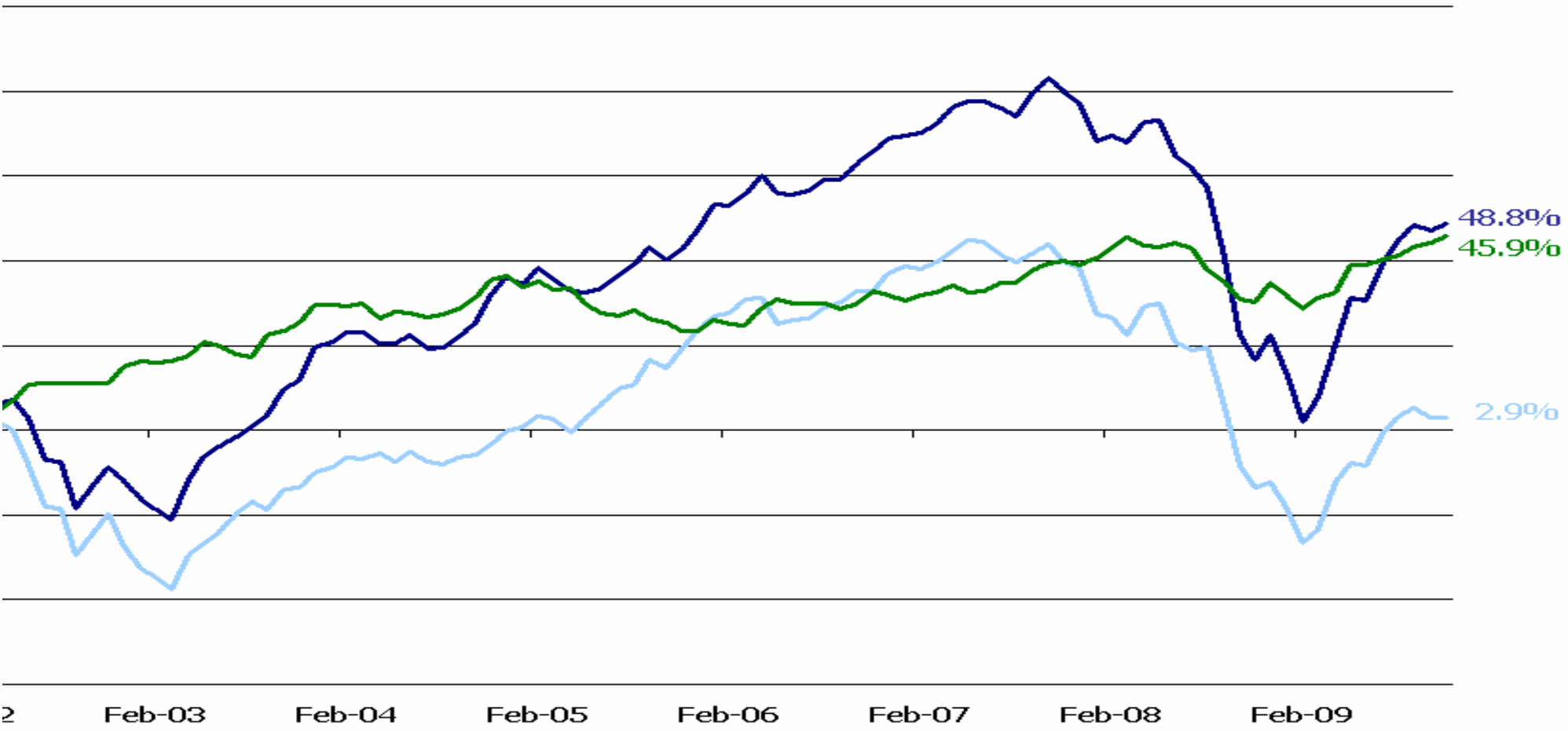
Histogram of 5 Year Currency Returns on MSCI World ex US Index, 1987-2009 (%)

Left tail currency risk can be sizeable



February 2002 until November 2009, well over 90% of foreign equity returns were due to currency  
due 45.9% from currency, only 2.9% from foreign equity!  
goes up can come down...

### Decomposition of MSCI EAFE Cumulative Returns

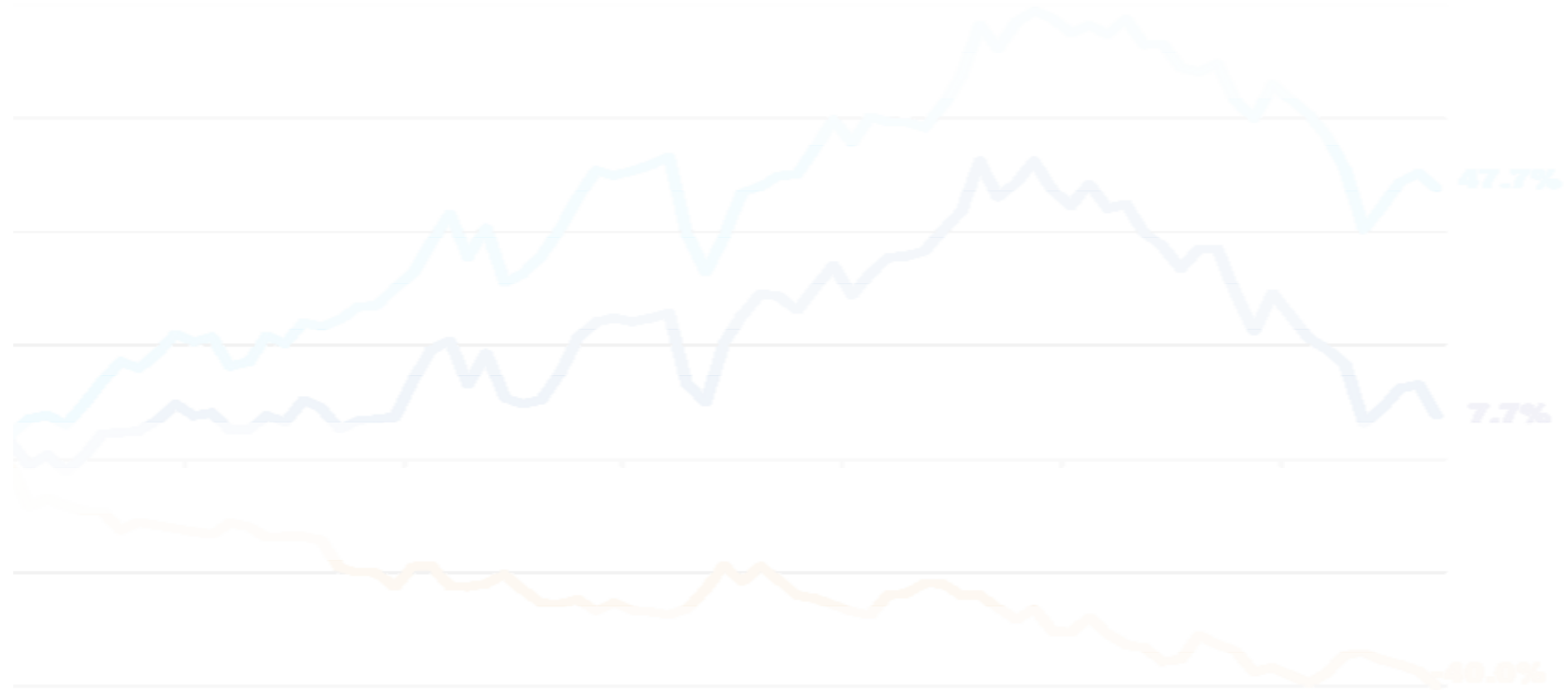


has come down historically

May 1995 until January 2002, currency eroded 40% of the 47% local equity return

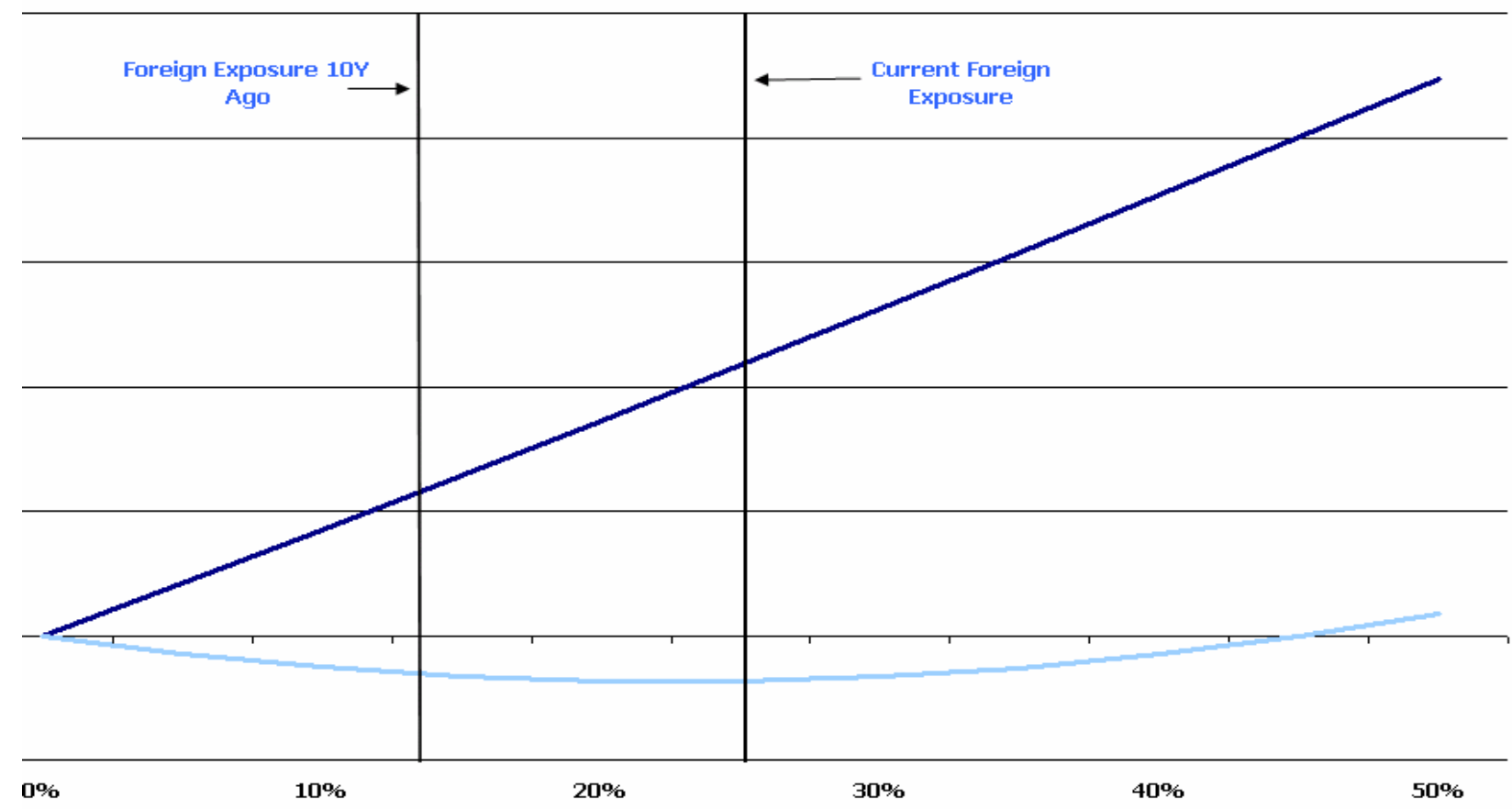
ink we are nearing the end of the USD bear cycle and the future will look like the chart below

## Decomposition of MSCI EAFE Cumulative Returns



00, currency exposures slightly decreased overall portfolio risk  
10, currency exposures add significant risk  
: changed? (higher currency volatility and – primarily – less diversification)

### 10-Year Currency Risk from a Global Equity Mandate for Varying Levels of Foreign Exposure: Today versus 10 Years Ago





# **Emergency Management Solutions**

## Static Hedging

## Dynamic Strategic Hedging

## Active Currency Strate

### Investment Objective

Reduce currency volatility i.e. smooth out fluctuations in currency gains and currency losses

Reduce maximum drawdown  
Reduce frequency and size of currency losses, without entirely eliminating the opportunity to add excess return versus a static hedge ratio  
Reduce currency volatility

Seeks to add excess returns

### Investment Philosophy

Reduce currency risk in a portfolio in order to increase the risk budget available for other asset classes in a portfolio

Maximum drawdown and currency losses from static hedging can be reduced, and excess returns can be added versus a static hedge

Excess returns can be generated by exploiting inefficiencies in the currency market

### Investment Universe

Developed and Emerging Markets

Developed and Emerging Markets

Developed and Emerging Markets



# ic Hedging

states of holding unhedged currency exposures often rely on analysis by Froot (1999) which suggests that exchange rates mean revert and provide a “natural hedge” for investors over the long run. Therefore hedging only benefits investors with 1 quarter – 1 year investment horizons. This is a generalization of Froot’s limited analysis of the impact of US investments from the perspective of Sterling based investors based on data prior to Bretton Woods and free-floating exchange rates.

More recent and far reaching research by the IMF (2010)<sup>2</sup> contradicts Froot’s findings and concludes that the case for hedging generally does not decrease with the investment horizon.

It analyzed the impact of hedging the currency risk on foreign stock and bonds from the perspective of US dollar, Euro, Sterling and Japanese investors over 1975 to 2009.

The correlations of currencies with other assets are unstable over time, for example, during the credit crunch from 2007 to 2009.

It cautions against determining the optimal hedge ratios calibrated on historical data for practical purposes.

Hedging currency risk is equivalent to replacing the very volatile and stochastic currency return on international investment returns with the ex ante, known and much less volatile forward premium.

Impact on Volatility



Impact on Maximum Drawdown





# amic Strategic Hedging

ative to manage currency risk but there are inherent limitations of static hedges

ated 'optimal' long term static hedge ratios can be inappropriate over the medium term, especially in periods of high volatility and/or when currencies have deviated significantly from their long term fair value

Static hedges are primarily designed to reduce currency volatility indiscriminately i.e. to smooth out the fluctuations in currency gains and currency losses but in practice the greatest concern among clients is the risk of currency losses

Dynamic Strategic Hedging is a valuation-based approach to currency management, designed to provide three benefits

To reduce the significant tail risk of unmanaged currency exposures

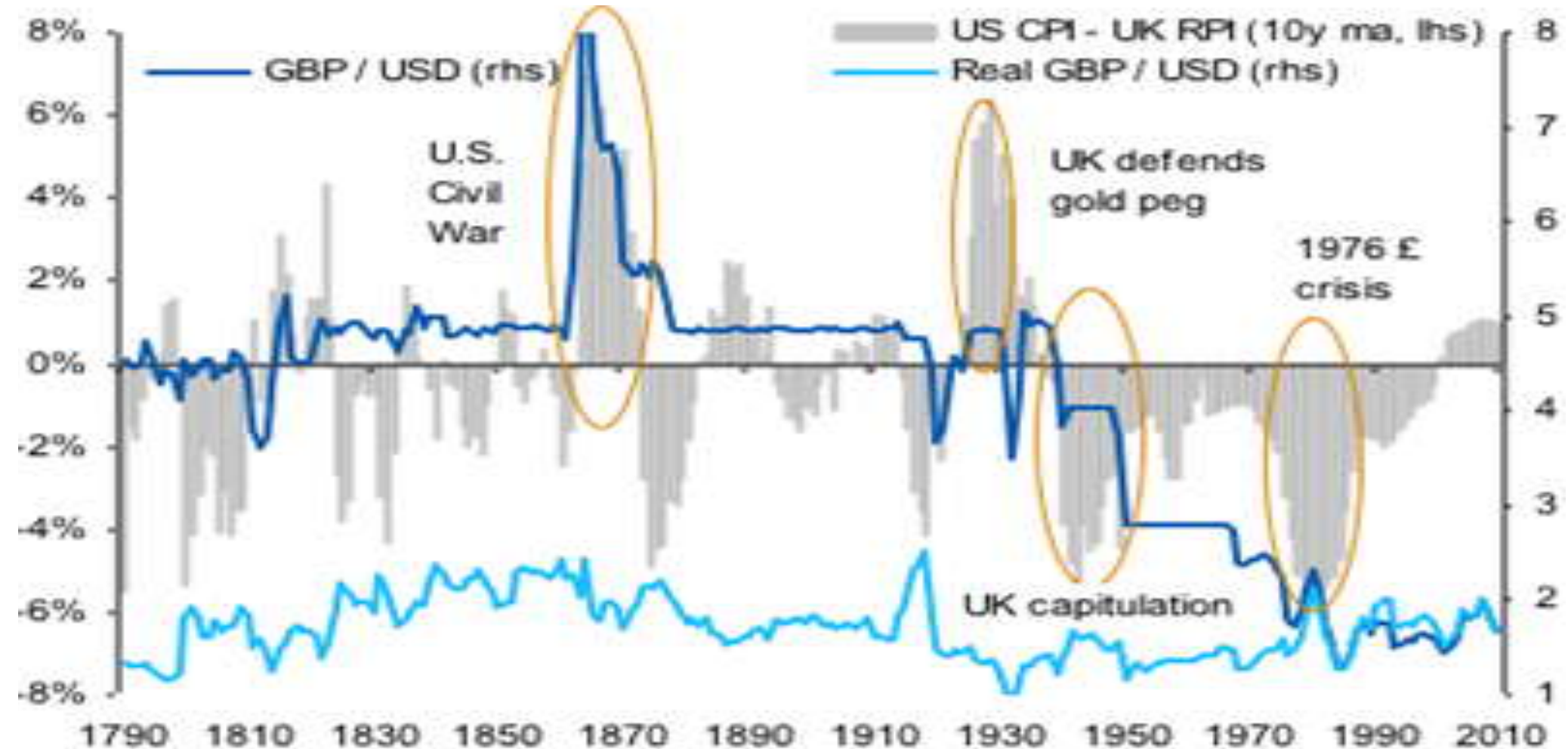
To allow for upside participation when foreign currencies appreciate

To provide diversification, particularly in risk averse market environments

Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) is a simple concept of equilibrium nominal exchange rates based on the idea that real exchange rates should be stable over time

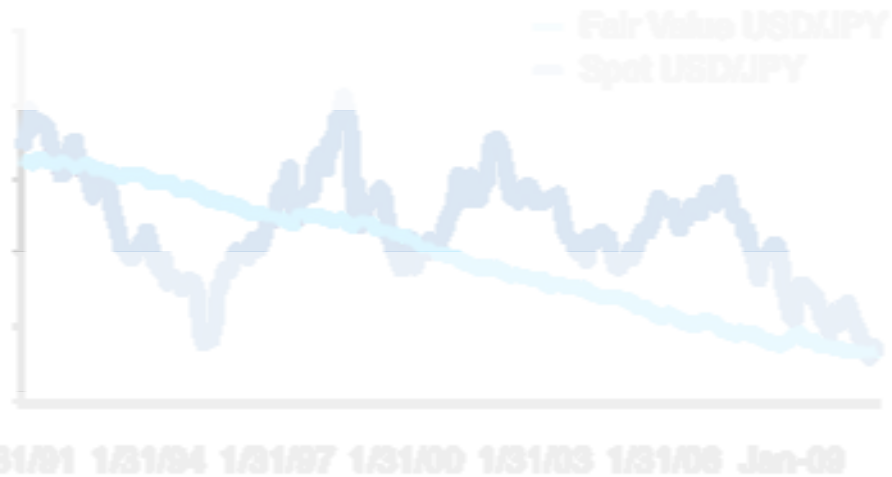
historical evidence supporting PPP is remarkable (light blue line)

nominal exchange rate changes for a particular currency need not revert over time (dark blue line)



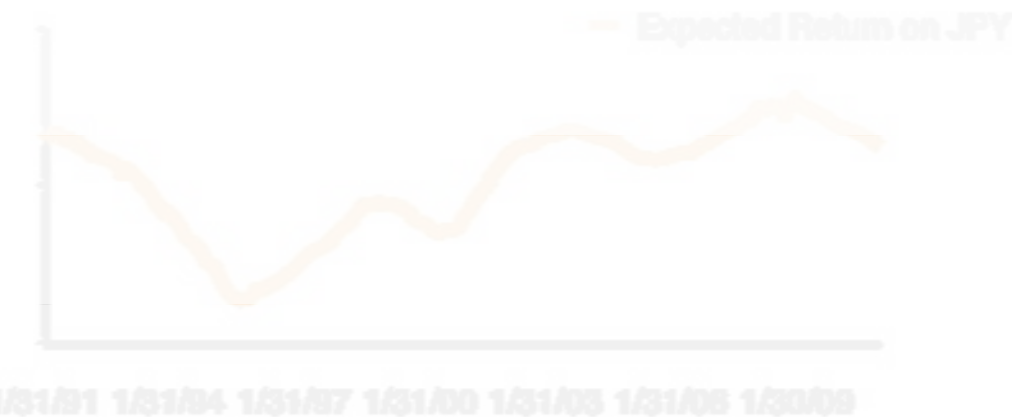
## Is USD/JPY Over or Under Valued?

- Fair value of currency pair is based on purchasing power parity model
- Assumption that the exchange rate changes based on cumulative inflation differentials from select period



## Expected Return on JPY

- Expected return has three components
  1. Magnitude of the misvaluation
  2. Duration of the misvaluation
  3. Interest rate differentials

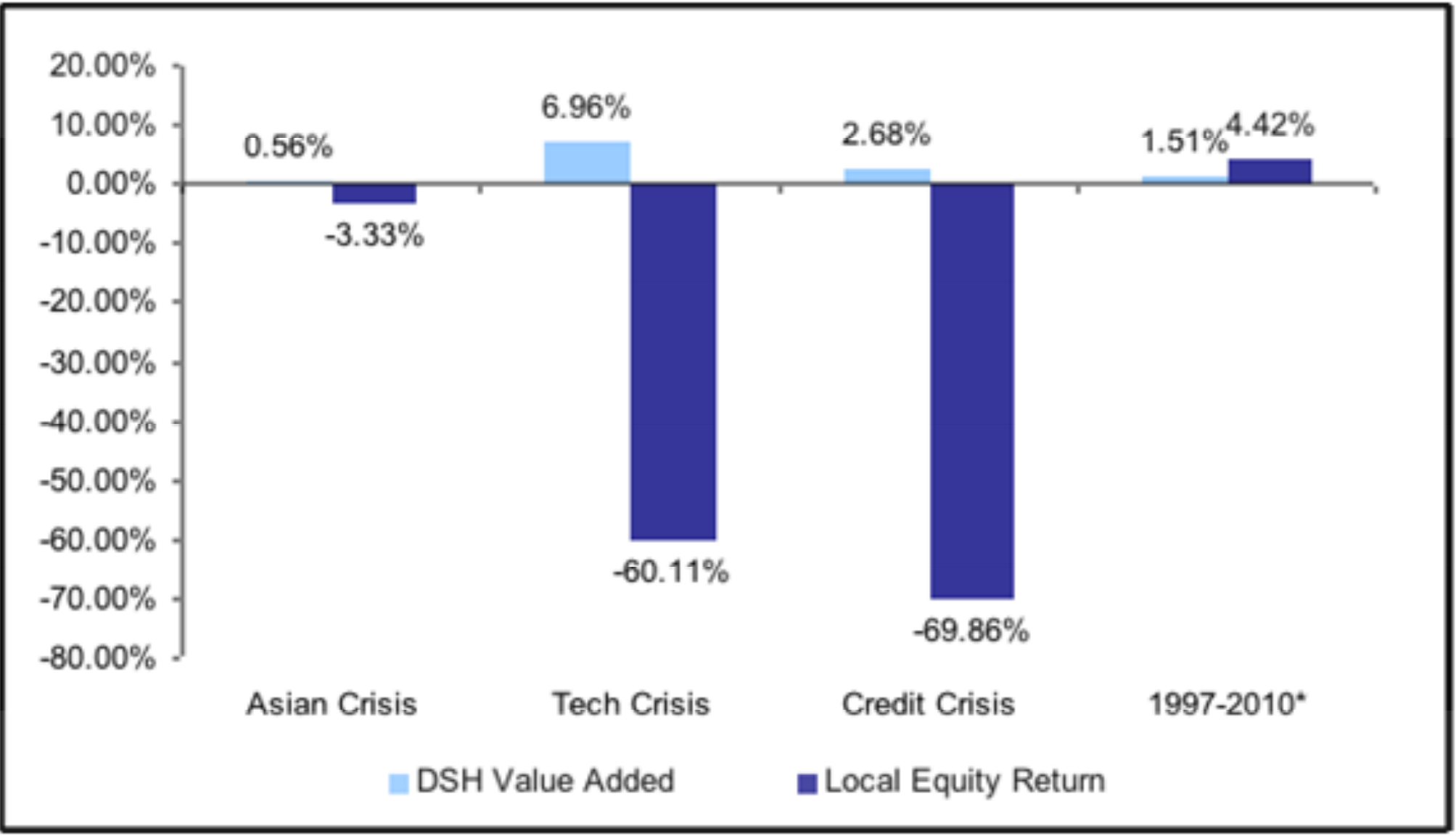


## Optimal Hedge Ratio

- Hedging model establishes larger currency positions when a currency pair's deviation from fair value is more extreme
- Hedge ratio moves inversely to the current expected return



# ted Returns on MSCI ACWI and DSH



is defined here as the period over August 1997 – August 1998  
 is defined here as the period over April 2000 – March 2003  
 is defined here as the period over November 2007 – February 2009  
 SSGA as of 30 September 2010. Total currency returns on the Dynamic Strategic Hedge based on a benchmark static hedge ratio of 50%. Based on an unconstrained static hedge ratio of 0% to 100% with a benchmark of a 50% static hedge ratio. The hypothetical performance information is based upon the performance of SSGA's Dynamic Strategic Hedge which invests primarily in forward foreign exchange contracts. These results are gross of transaction costs and fees. The performance shown was created by the SSGA Currency Team. Source MSCI/SSGA as of 30 September 2010. The hypothetical performance information is based on a hypothetical unconstrained US Dollar investor in the Dynamic Strategic Hedge with ratio limits of 0% to 100% and a benchmark of a 50% static hedge ratio. This strategy invests primarily in forward foreign exchange contracts. The simulation was computed by the SSGA currency group and results are gross of transaction costs and fees. The results shown do not represent

## Hedge Ratio on Foreign Currency

	AUD	CAD	CHF	EUR	GBP	JPY	NOK	NZD	SEK
D		0.4	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0
D	0.6		0.6	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.0
F	0.4	0.4		0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0
R	0.6	0.6	0.8		0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.0
P	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.8		0.5	0.8	0.7	0.3
Y	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.5		0.7	0.7	0.4
K	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.2	0.3		0.5	0.0
D	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.5		0.1
K	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.9	
D	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.2

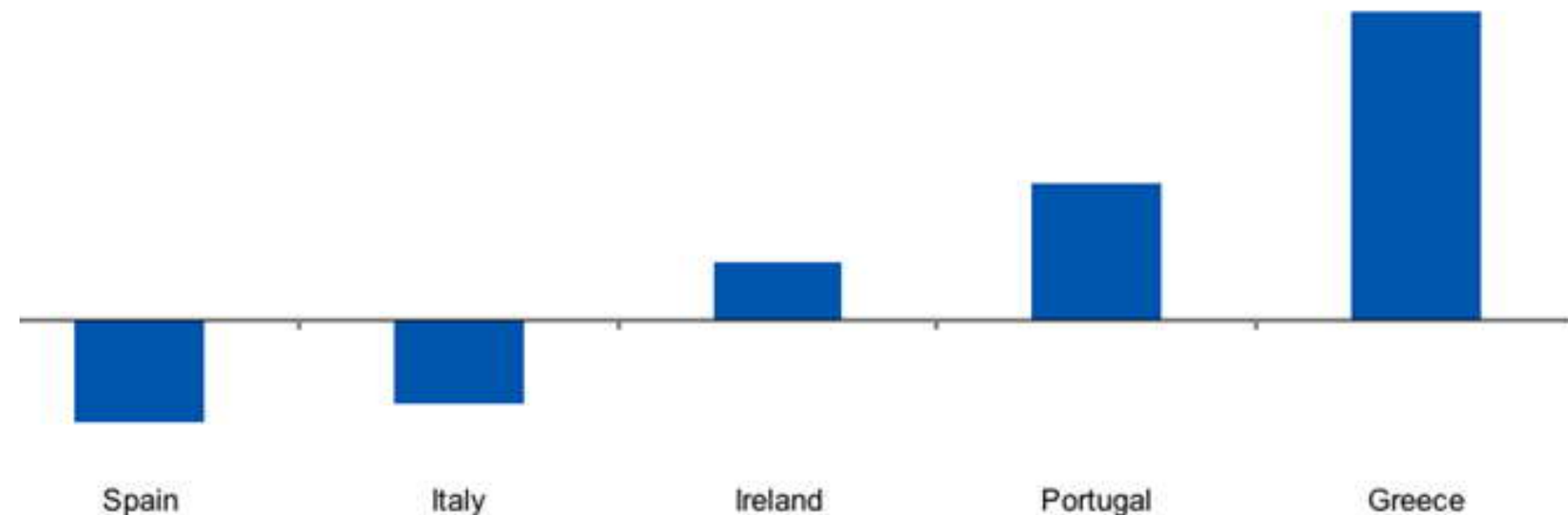
Assets	0% Hedge Ratio	50% Hedge Ratio	Dynamic Strategic Hed
Return %	1.66	0.75	
Volatility %	7.63	3.80	
Max Loss %	-41.63	-16.40	
Value at Risk, Annual	-11.09	-4.81	
Sharpe Ratio	N.A.	N.A.	

## CREDIT RISK FOR EUROZONE:

market viewed the Eurozone as having 2 tiers in 2010, the core and periphery, a third tier is emerging as the credit risk premium of Spain and Italy de-couple from Ireland, Greece, and Portugal.

de-coupling suggests that the market believes that the bailout packages will successfully contain the credit crisis as a result the Euro has been one of the strongest currencies of 2011

2011 YTD Change of 5 Year CDS Spreads



significant risks remain

the success of austerity measures designed to stabilize levels of sovereign debt are not expected in the near future, we must wait and see. Success is not guaranteed.

a majority of Spanish home and property mortgages are variable rate and will be directly impacted by 3 rate hikes. That may further damage the housing market in Spain and further impair Spanish economic growth.

## Issue 2: Global Monetary/Fiscal Tightening and the Sustainability of Growth

Monetary and fiscal tightening has begun, or soon will, in many developed and emerging economies. Investment Impact: Increased economic uncertainty. We are entering the moment of truth, will the recovery be self-sustaining once the monetary accommodation is removed?

## Issue 3: US Dollar Weakness? Or, Recovery?

The US Dollar is near the lows of its 9 year bear market and is the sole funding currency for cross-currency carry trades. Yet, unlike 2002, the USD is cheap to long term fair value, relative growth is robust, structural problems abound but are not much worse than in the Eurozone, UK, and Japan. Investment Impact: Beware of a US Dollar rally, especially in 2H 2011. There is a growing risk that some USD short positions will be closed if (when) the FED hints at policy normalization.

Investors should be nimble and open minded, do not become too attached to short term trends. In 2011, global economic uncertainty and the sensitivity of currencies to that uncertainty will be elevated relative to history.

Consequently, currency trends may reverse frequently and perhaps violently.