

## Brunner Investment Trust

#### Agenda



- Background and performance
- Global outlook and portfolio themes
- Summary

#### Brunner Investment Trust

## RCM informed

#### A bottom-up global stock-picking trust

- Two portfolios managed on a 'bottom up' basis by Lucy Macdonald (Overseas) and Jeremy Thomas (UK)
- Stock-picking philosophy based on fundamental research
- £278 million (total assets)
- Discount of 9.9% ( NAV debt at fair value)
- Global growth sector

## Background



- Move to a more focused approach November 2004 (UK) and August 2005 (Overseas)
- Adoption of new benchmark (March 2008)
- Further reduction in number of portfolio holdings in February 2011
- Equity Portfolio holdings March 2012: 106

UK		
	Previous	Current
Number of Stocks	60 – 70	35 – 45

Global		
	Previous	Current
Number of Stocks	80 – 100	55 - 65

#### **Objectives**

- Increase focus
- Increase target outperformance
- Greater overseas exposure (50:50 FTSE World ex UK: FTSE All Share)

Source: RCM, as at March 2012.

### Performance



#### **1 December 2004 to 28 February 2012**



NAV performance – financial year ending November 2011		
	%	
Brunner	-1.7	
Benchmark	-2.0	

## Performance attribution – Equity Portfolio

#### **30 November 2010 to 30 November 2011**



	Fund %	Benchmark %	+/-
Total Equity*	+2.2	+1.4	+0.8
UK Equity*	+2.8	+3.0	-0.2
Overseas Equity*	+1.6	-0.3	+1.9
NAV Performance**	-1.7	-2.0	+0.3

Attribution	Sector Allocation	Stock Selection
UK Equity*	+2.1	-2.3
Overseas Equity*	+0.4	+1.5

<sup>\*</sup>Based on Wilshire buy and hold methodology total return (equity only)

<sup>\*\*</sup> Capital only

## Performance – Attribution analysis

#### 30 November 2010 to 30 November 2011



## **Best Active Contributors Overseas Portfolio**

Nalco Holding	0.9%
Estee Lauder	0.6%
Philip Morris International	0.6%
Allergan	0.5%
Starbucks	0.5%

#### **UK Portfolio**

GlaxoSmithKline	0.7%
Lloyds Banking Group (underweight)	0.7%
Unilever	0.5%
Diageo	0.5%
BHP Billiton (underweight)	0.5%

#### Worst Active Contributors Overseas Portfolio

SEB	-0.5%
Sony	-0.5%
Genting Singapore	-0.4%
Nidec	-0.4%
Netapp	-0.4%

#### **UK Portfolio**

British American Tobacco (not owned)	-0.5%
Mothercare	-0.5%
Inmarsat	-0.4%
Keller Group	-0.4%
Xchanging	-0.4%

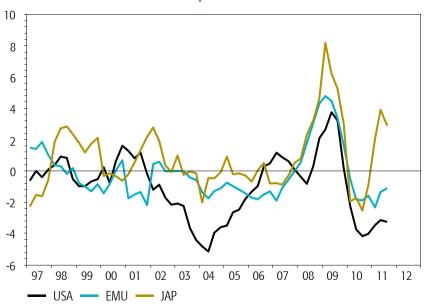
Note: Attribution based on position-based performance attribution (daily buy-and-hold, closing price valuation, no transaction costs). Performance figures shown on this report are approximates. The official performance for funds subject to substantial cash flows or which trade in volatile daily market conditions will vary from these figures.

Source: RCM, as at 30 November 2011. 12-10186\P-BIT\RA\120312

## Accommodative monetary policy

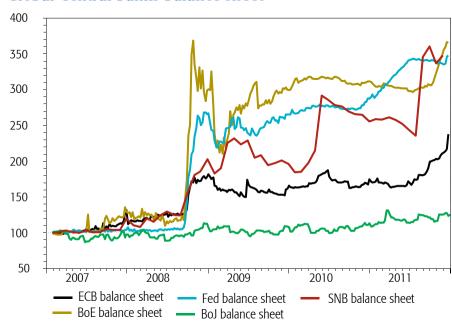


#### **Global Short Interest Rates/GDP**



- For assessing the stance of monetary policy we compare nominal central bank rates to nominal GDP growth rates
- Central bank rates are accommodative in US and EMU

#### **Global Central banks balance sheet**



 Central banks' balance sheets in the DM have expanded massively since the burst of the asset bubble in 2007 – with the exception of Japan

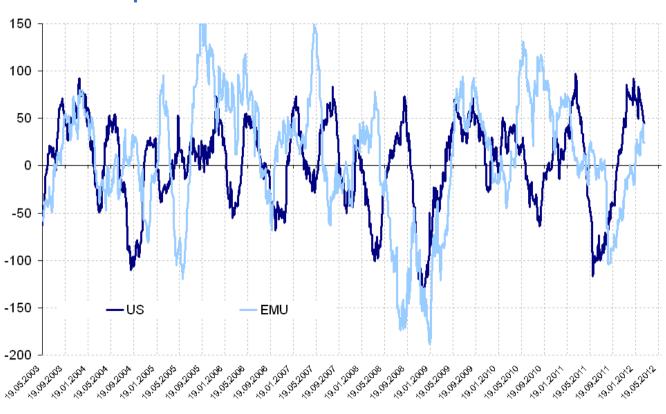
Central bank policy is highly accommodative: rates are very low and ample liquidity is being provided

Source: Thomson Datastream as at 5 January 2012

## Global Economic Surprise Indices peaking?



#### **Citi Economic Surprise Index: US and EMU**



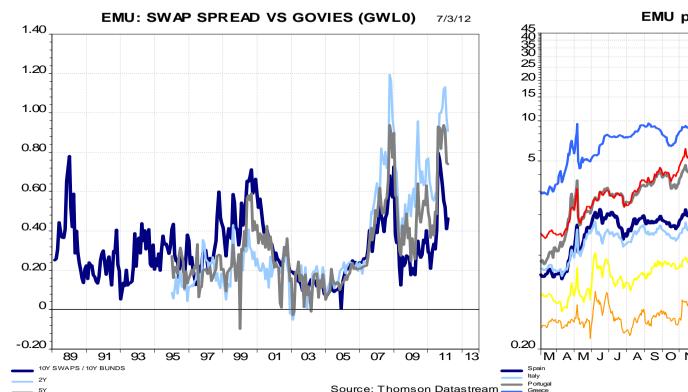
- ESI measure to what extent economic data releases are better or worse than originally estimated by consensus
- The US ESI appears to have peaked
- Europe has recovered from low levels

Global ESI have troughed in late 2011. In various markets they are now at around cyclical peak levels again

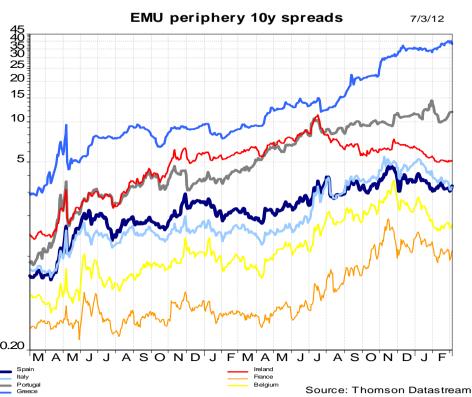
## EMU: mind the spread



#### **EMU swap spreads**



#### **EMU Sovereign spreads vs Germany**



The swap spread tightening is indicating less stress in the financial system

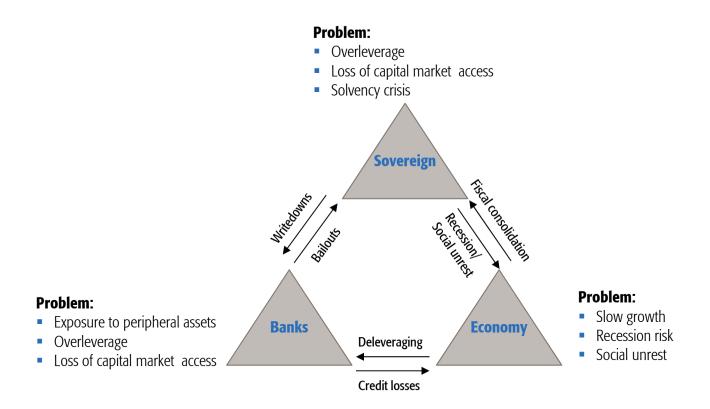
Most sovereign spreads continue to tighten

Reasons for spread tightening: ECB policy (LTRO), EU decisions on Greece, Government changes, better cyclical data, low valuations

## Europe



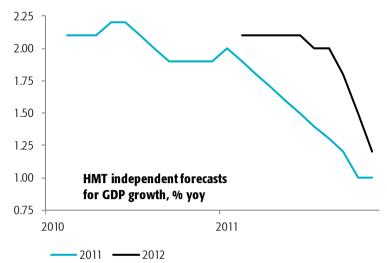
#### Negative feedback loop of sovereign debt, banks and economy

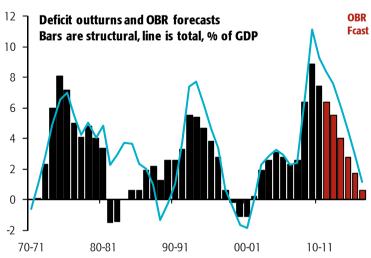


Source: J.P. Morgan/RCM 12-10186\P-BIT\RA\120312 1

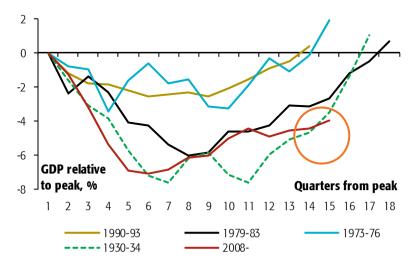
### **UK Economy**

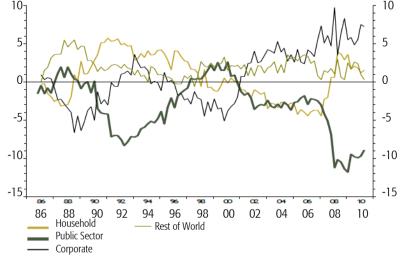
#### A subdued outlook... at best









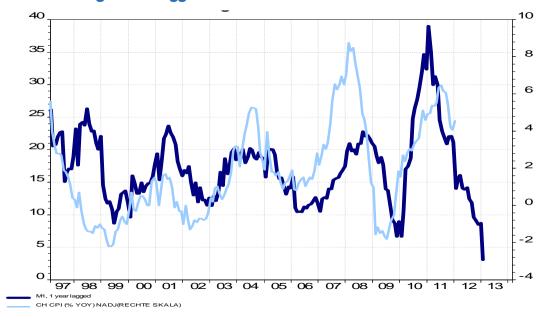


Source: ASR Ltd./ Thomson Reuters Datastream.

## China: tightening cycle has peaked



#### China's M1 growth suggests core inflation should fall



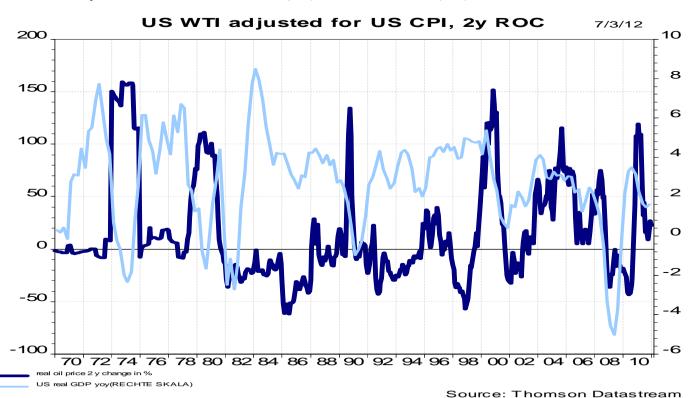
- Recent macro data points out of China have been encouraging
- Inflation has clearly peaked as minimum wage and pork price increases have moderated
- This gives authorities room to ease fiscal and monetary policies if required to sustain GDP growth at an acceptable level
- Going forward, the focus of the economy will be more on domestic demand rather than exports and investments

### A China soft-landing should help global growth remain positive

## Risk: rising oil price



#### US WTI Adjusted for US CPI, 2Y ROC (lhs) vs US real GDP (rhs)



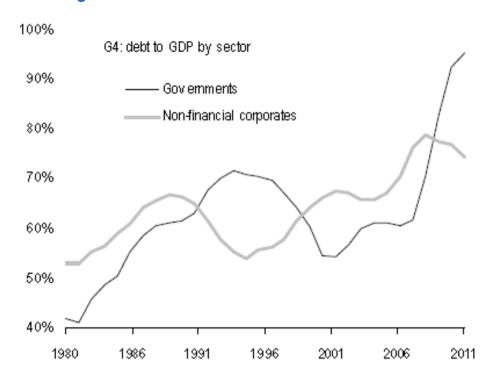
- The oil prices are rising for the following reasons:
  - better cyclical data globally (demand driven)
  - fears around Iran (supply shock)
- low interest rates globally (speculation)
- Price level, reasons for oil price increases and price momentum, matter for economic growth
- At this point we do not believe that the oil price increase is too damaging for growth as it is partly explained by stronger demand
- Price momentum is still moderate

A rising oil price is a significant growth risk if it occurs quickly and as a result of supply disruptions

## Healthy corporate sector



## Corporate balance sheets in the G4 economies\* are in better state than government balance sheets



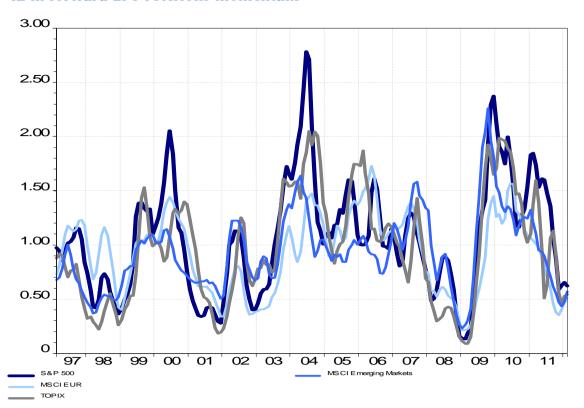
- Unusually, corporate balance sheets in aggregate are less risky than government debt
- Equities provide a long-term hedge against higher inflation expectations, especially if we see more Quantitative Easing

### Positive implications for equity risk premia over bonds

## Global IBES revisions momentum may be close to a bottom



#### 12 m forward EPS revisions momentum



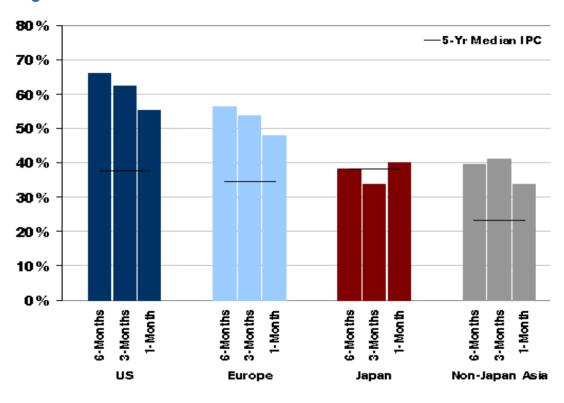
- IBES revisions momentum has potentially seen its bottom in the US, where it has recovered from low levels. In other regions we do not see much improvement yet
- The earnings revisions momentum gives a strong contrarian signal only in times of extreme readings. We are approaching levels similar to the recession troughs of late 2008

### The momentum of earnings revisions is on low levels. A rebound is possible

## Stock correlations: trending down



#### **Regional Intra-Portfolio Correlation Trends**



- Realized correlations in Europe, the US, and Non-Japan Asia have declined over the past few months from near peak levels. However, correlation levels remain elevated relative to history
- We anticipate a further drop as sentiment recovers from the extreme levels seen in 2H11 and due to seasonal, cyclical and structural factors (e.g., year-end portfolio rebalancing, Q4 earnings announcements)

Lower correlations imply more emphasis on company fundamentals

## Our global view



- Global economic growth will remain positive but outcomes are disparate and visibility is low
- Deleveraging and fiscal austerity vs. monetary stimulus and negative real interest rates.
- Better liquidity conditions in Europe but growth uncertainty remains.
- U.S. economy has surprised on the upside but may have peaked.

## Our global view (cont.)



- China will likely avoid a hard landing
- Oil poses a significant growth risk if prices rise rapidly
- Markets supported by valuations and corporate liquidity; correlations have declined
- Quality companies that profitably capture secular global growth opportunities should outperform

## Investment themes: global reach, pricing power, corporate liquidity



- Health Care
  - Celgene, GlaxoSmithKline, Allergan
- Branded consumer goods and services with global reach
  - Apple, Unilever, Diageo, Adidas, Starbucks
- Oil services
  - National Oilwell Varco, AMEC
- Asia/EM growth
  - Standard Chartered, Rio Tinto, AIA Group



# Investment themes: global reach, pricing power, corporate liquidity (cont.)

- Technology (software, search and services)
  - Google, Baidu, Accenture
- Global travel
  - Amadeus, priceline.com
- Balance sheets and yield
  - Royal Dutch Shell, Centrica, Reed Elsevier

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Resolution 1 - to receive and adopt the Annual Financial Report

For	Discretion	Against	Withheld
20,348,889	6,657	0	28,118



Resolution 2 - to declare and approve a final dividend

For	Discretion	Against	Withheld
20,347,963	6,657	926	28,118



Resolution 3 - to re-elect Mr W R Worsley as a Director

For	Discretion	Against	Withheld
19,329,748	6,657	925,184	122,075



Resolution 4 - to re-elect Mr K E Percy as a Director

For	Discretion	Against	Withheld
19,288,183	6,657	969,940	118,884



Resolution 5 - to approve the Directors' Remuneration Report

For	Discretion	Against	Withheld
19,212,319	6,657	1,038,403	126,285



**Resolution 6** - to re-appoint Deloitte LLP as Auditors

For	Discretion	Against	Withheld
20,282,585	6,657	11,951	82,471



### The Brunner Investment Trust PLC

## **Annual General Meeting, 16th March 2012**

Resolution 7 - to authorise the Directors to determine the remuneration of the Auditors

For	Discretion	Against	Withheld
20,272,109	6,657	31,280	73,618



Resolution 8 - to renew the Directors' authority to allot Ordinary Shares

For	Discretion	Against	Withheld
19,382,052	6,657	960,507	34,448



**Resolution 9** - to disapply pre-emption rights

For	Discretion	Against	Withheld
19,273,948	6,657	1,051,478	51,581



## The Brunner Investment Trust PLC

## **Annual General Meeting, 16th March 2012**

Resolution 10 - to authorise the Company to make market purchases of Ordinary Shares

For	Discretion	Against	Withheld
19,303,850	37,826	1,007,408	34,580

