### PIMCO

Your Global Investment Authority

Economic outlook

# Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association

22 October 2015







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# Biographical information

#### R. Matthew Clark, CFA

Mr. Clark is a senior vice president and account manager in the Newport Beach office with a focus on institutional client servicing. Prior to joining PIMCO in 2002, he served as an officer in the U.S. Army for eight years, achieving the rank of captain. He has 14 years of investment experience and holds an MBA from Harvard Business School. He received an undergraduate degree from Trinity University, San Antonio.

#### **Christian Stracke**

Mr. Stracke is a managing director in the Newport Beach office, a member of the Investment Committee, and global head of the credit research group. The group covers all levels of the debt capital structure for targeted industries, including investment grade and high yield bonds, bank debt and convertibles. Prior to joining PIMCO in 2008, he was a senior credit strategist at CreditSights and also held positions as head of Latin America fixed income strategy with Commerzbank Securities and head of Latin America local markets strategy with Deutsche Bank. He has 16 years of investment experience and holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago.

#### Sasha Talcott, CFA

Ms. Talcott is a vice president and account manager in the Newport Beach office, focusing on institutional client servicing. Prior to joining PIMCO in 2012, she was director of communications and outreach for Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, a research center that focuses on topics ranging from international security to energy policy. Previously, she was a business reporter for the Boston Globe, where she covered the banking and insurance sectors. She holds an MBA from MIT Sloan School of Management and received an undergraduate degree from Northwestern University.

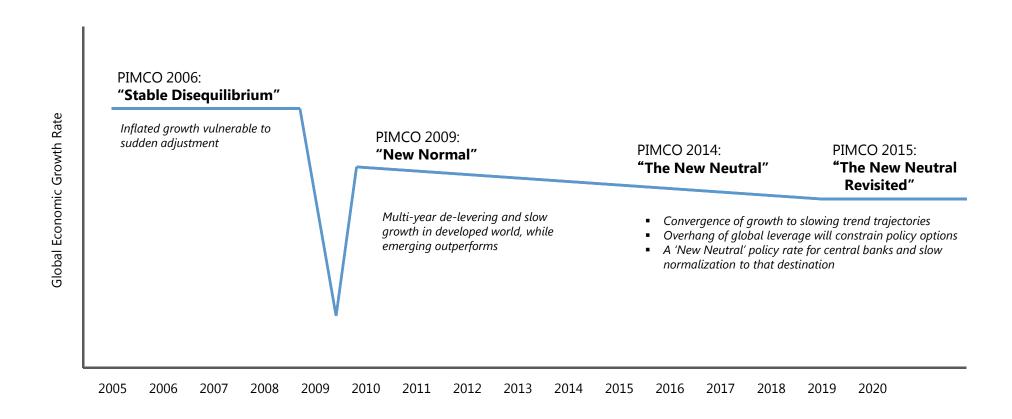
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# Agenda

- 1. PIMCO's economic outlook
- 2. Opportunities in public credit markets
- 3. Opportunities in private markets
- 4. Summary
- 5. Appendix

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# The global landscape over the secular horizon



For illustrative purposes only

As of 31 May 2015 SOURCE: PIMCO

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# Key themes and tail risks in The New Neutral® Revisited

	Six themes driving global markets	Tail risks		
1.	Converging to New Neutral potential growth rates in developed and emerging economies	1.	A global recession as few countries can maneuver to deploy countercyclical policy	
2.	Evolving to a re-regulated, <b>better capitalized global banking system</b>	2.	<b>Flash crashes,</b> air pockets and trading volatility, which have a greater likelihood amid diminished liquidity	
3.	Moving from energy scarcity to <b>energy abundance</b> unlocked by the shale revolution	3.	Weaker aggregate demand as "winners" from declining commodity prices save their windfall gains	
4.	Accelerating from deflation toward targeted 2% inflation in the major economies	4.	A breakout of inflation to the upside of central bank inflation targets	
5.	A narrowing in global imbalances as the global savings glut abates	5.	"Disaster risk" relating to <b>geopolitical conflicts</b>	
6.	Implementing <b>better economic policy</b> in key emerging as well as developed economies	6.	Policy failures due to fractured politics or implementation challenges	

As of 30 June 2015 Refer to Appendix for additional outlook and risk information

### Investment implications of The New Neutral® Revisited

#### **DEVELOPED COUNTRY DURATION**

#### A cautious stance

- U.S. not enough Fed tightening risk priced in
- Europe secularly rich, but subject to downward pressure

#### **GLOBAL EQUITIES**

The New Neutral will support valuations

- A New Neutral for risk-free rates will likely impact all asset classes
- In particular, it should support higher equity multiples

#### **CORPORATE CREDIT**

Seek out secular winners, one company at a time

- Credit market valuations are fair, but certainly not cheap
- Bottom-up security selection, framed by our secular views, is key

#### **EMERGING MARKETS**

Forget the acronyms, do the homework

- In a multi-speed world, country-by-country analysis (vs. broad exposure to BRICs) is key
- Compared with developed markets, EM currently offers attractive secular valuations

#### **CURRENCIES**

U.S. dollar-strength to continue

- Expectations for further appreciation, while more modest, remain
- Central bank policy is key

### LIQUIDITY AND ACTIVE MANAGEMENT

Seek out opportunities amid on-going volatility

- Growing role for private credit vehicles that aim to capture credit and liquidity premia
- Modest expected returns increase the importance of alpha and active management

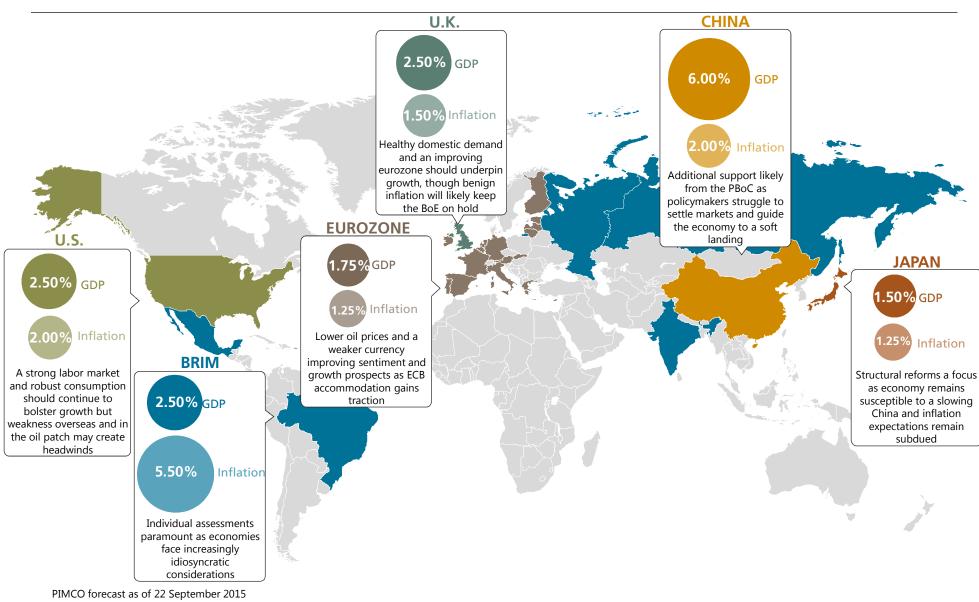
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As of 30 June 2015

Refer to Appendix for additional investment strategy, outlook and risk information.

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# PIMCO's cyclical outlook

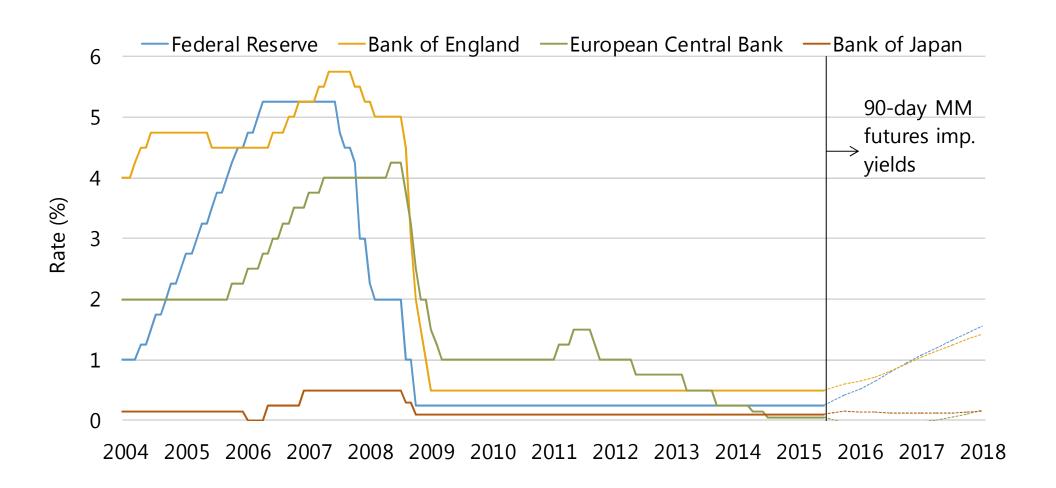


BRIM is Brazil, Russia, India and Mexico

Real GDP and inflation projections reflect the midpoints of PIMCO's forecasts for the four quarters ending Q3 2016 Refer to Appendix for additional forecast and outlook information.

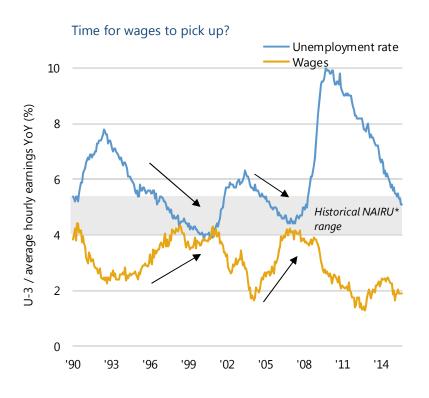
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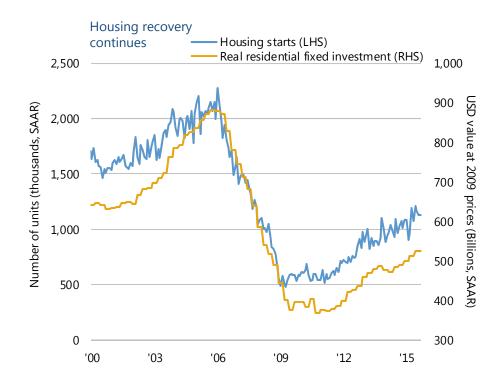
# Rate expectations reflect economic divergence



As of 30 September 2015 SOURCE: Bloomberg Refer to Appendix for additional forecast information.

# U.S.: Domestic engines of growth continue to show progress





 The unemployment rate is reaching the range where wage pressures have built historically  Momentum in the housing market should continue amid pent-up demand and historically low mortgage rates

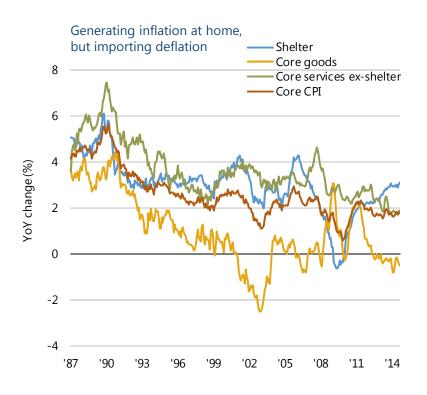
### A healthy labor market and healing housing sector should support growth

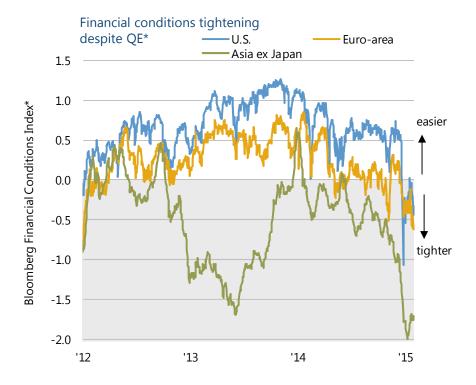
As of 30 September 2015 SOURCE: Bloomberg, PIMCO

\* NAIRU represents the Non-Accelerating Inflation Rate of Unemployment. Refer to appendix for additional outlook and risk information.

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### U.S.: International factors have held the Fed back





Core goods prices have been weighed down by the strong dollar, but domestic components (e.g., rent) likely to increase

 The tightening in domestic and global financial conditions has contributed to Fed caution

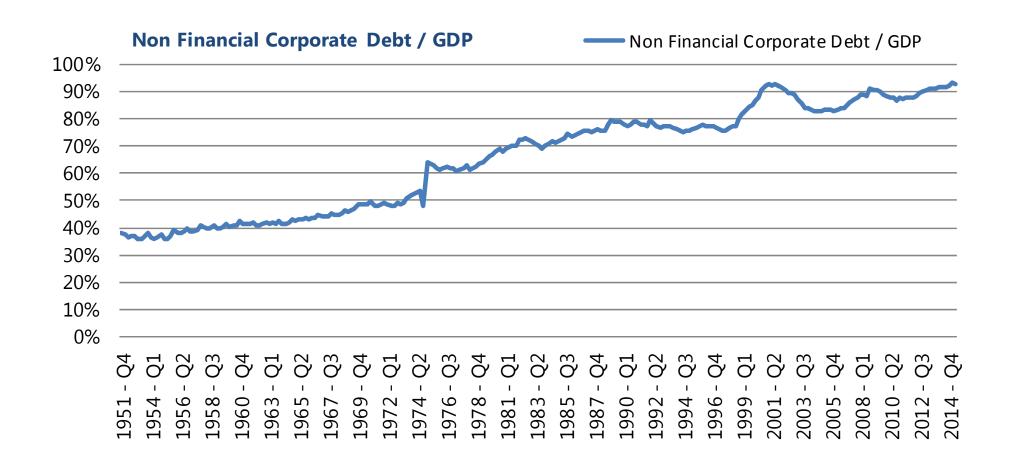
### The Fed wants to move off zero soon but is wary of spillover risks emanating from abroad

As of 30 September 2015. SOURCE: Bloomberg, PIMCO

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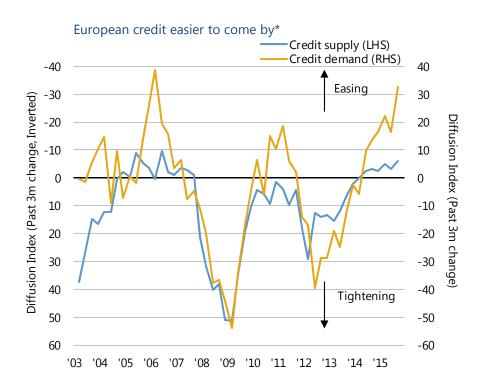
The Bloomberg Financial Conditions indices track the overall level of financial stress in money, bond, and equity markets to help assess the availability and cost of credit. A positive value indicates accommodative financial conditions, while a negative value indicates tighter financial conditions relative to pre-crisis norms. Refer to appendix for additional outlook and risk information.

# U.S. corporate debt/GDP

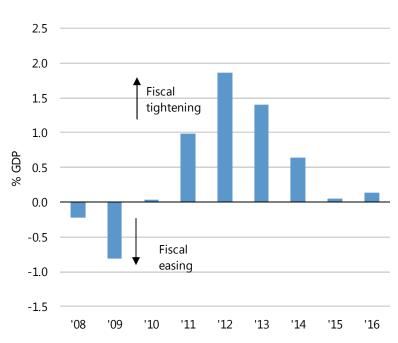


As of 31 December 2014 SOURCE: PIMCO

# Eurozone: Growth prospects brightening amid ECB QE







 The impact of ECB accommodation is visible in a marked improvement in credit conditions  Over the cyclical horizon euro area austerity will finally be less of a drag than in recent years

Tailwinds from low oil prices and a weaker currency should support demand, while fiscal policy moves back to neutral

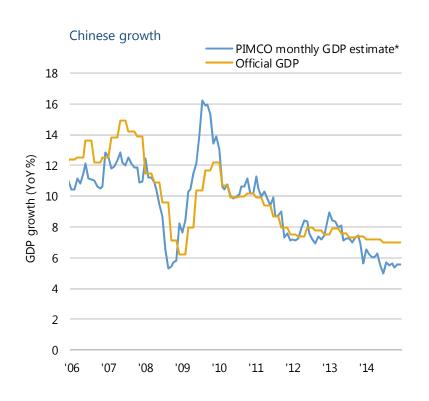
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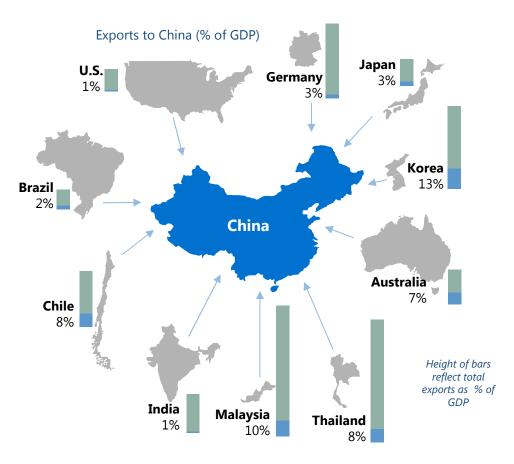
SOURCE: PIMCO, Eurostat, European Commission, IMF, National Governments, Bloomberg.

\* From ECB Euro Area Bank Lending Survey of credit standards and conditions at 120 euro area banks. Refer to appendix for additional outlook and risk information.

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# China: Concerns over slowdown and policymakers' effectiveness build





Regardless of what the "real" growth rate is, China has been slowing for some time

Exposures to China vary depending on geography and the extent of commodity production

Chinese policymakers recognize the need to do more to support growth, but skepticism has risen over implementation

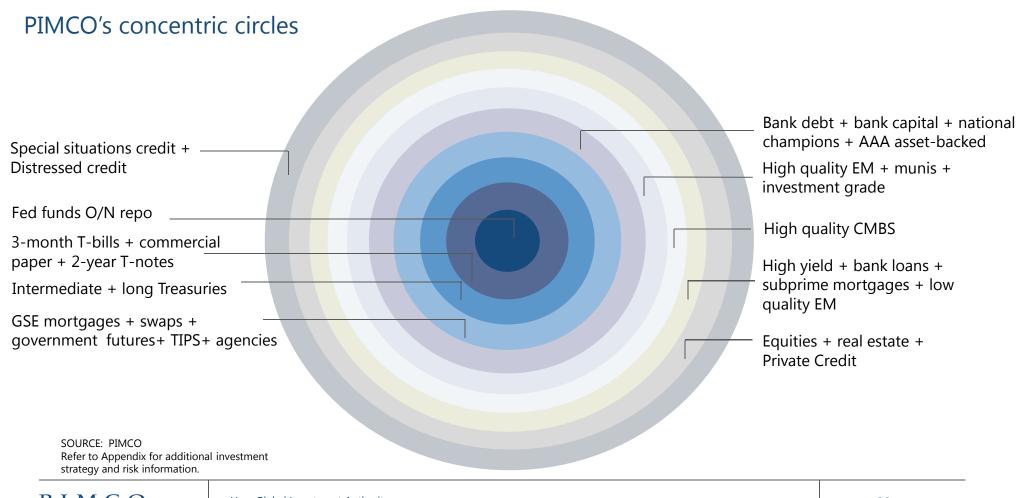
As of 30 September 2015. Countries not drawn to scale. SOURCE: Bloomberg, HAVER, PIMCO

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The PIMCO monthly GDP Estimate uses a weighted average of underlying economic indicators such as bank loans, railway, electricity production, and others. Refer to appendix for additional forecast, outlook and risk information.

### Outer perimeter assets have been well-rewarded

- Global central bank policies and investors' reach for yield make it harder to find high absolute returns
- Investment opportunities exist in industries and firms with high barriers to entry and less liquid sectors
- Future investment success will likely depend on bottom-up analysis



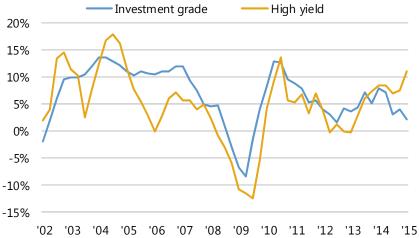
### Private sector growth has supported corporate balance sheets

 Earnings have been supportive for balance sheet strength

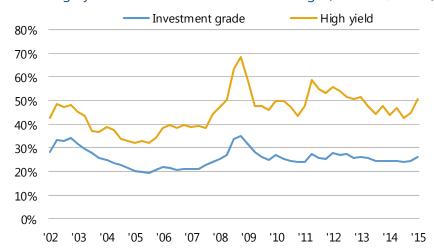
 Growth and multiple expansion have been supportive for deleveraging

As of 30 June 2015 SOURCE: Capital IQ, PIMCO, CDX companies Investment Grade represented by IG CDX, High Yield represented by HY CDX Refer to Appendix for index and risk information.

High yield and Investment Grade EBITDA growth

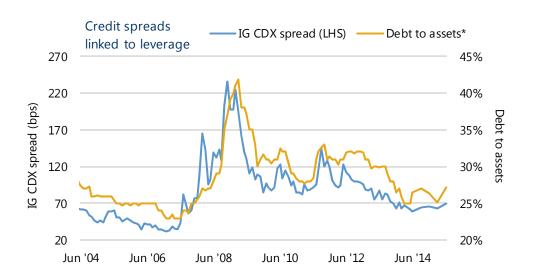


High yield and Investment Grade Leverage (net debt/assets)

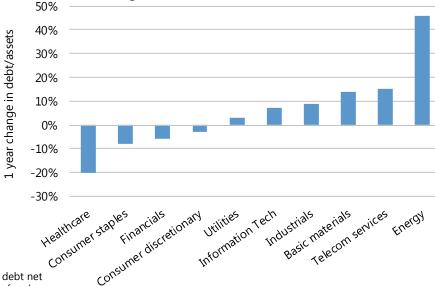


# Growth and rising asset prices generally support spread narrowing

 Assets on corporate balance sheets have risen faster than liabilities for several years



 Commodity sensitive sectors have seen leverage increase where consumer and financial companies have seen leverage fall



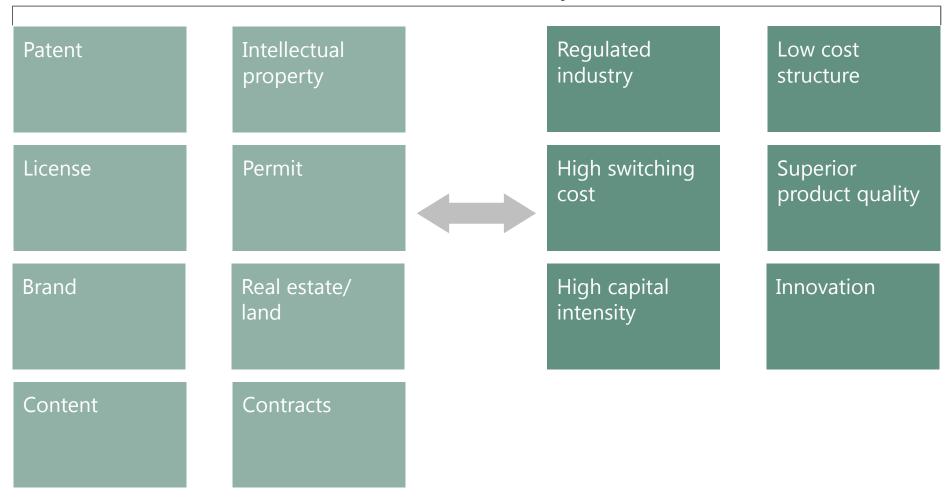
De-levering varies across industries

As of 30 June 2015 SOURCE: Bloomberg, S&P Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) for various sub-industry groups. IG CDX spread represented by on-the-run IG CDX markit

\* Debt to assets = net debt to enterprise value. The numerator uses the balance sheet debt net of cash and the denominator includes market cap, plus debt and preferred stock net of cash. Refer to Appendix for additional investment strategy, outlook and risk information.

# What company specific attributes can create long-term advantages?

### Barriers to entry



Refer to Appendix for additional investment strategy and risk information.  $\label{eq:continuous}$ 

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# Sectors with high barriers to entry and growth

### **Industry or sector**

- Banks/financials
- Healthcare/hospitals/pharma
- Wireless/cell towers/cable
- REITs/lodging
- Airlines
- Pipelines

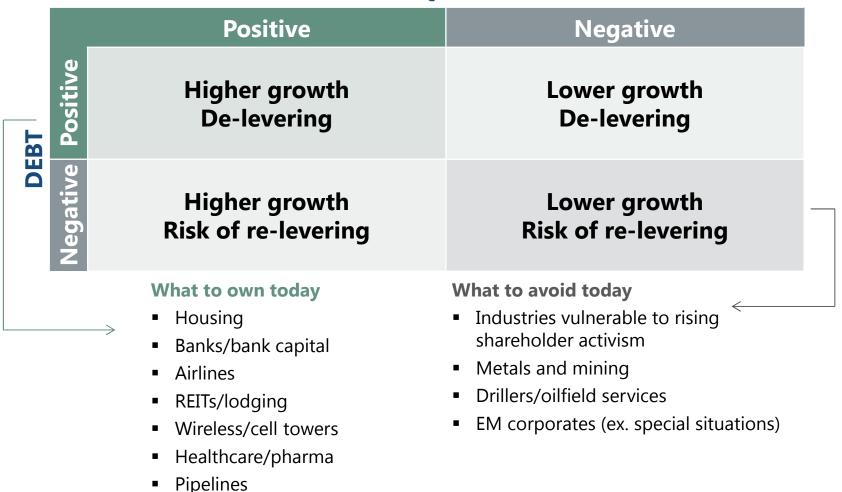
### **Barrier to entry**

- Regulatory/re-capitalization
- Patents/licenses
- Licenses/industry consolidation
- Real estate/zoning
- Routes/regulation/gate access
- Permits/real estate

Refer to Appendix for additional outlook and risk information.

# PIMCO's framework for uncovering credit opportunities

### **EQUITY**



As of 18 September 2015

For illustrative purposes only

Refer to Appendix for additional investment strategy, outlook and risk information.

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# Investment process links the bottom-up and the top-down with valuations

#### **MACRO RISKS MATTER MORE THAN EVER**

Investments are evaluated within the context of PIMCO's investment committee views

### Top-down evaluation

- Assess country-level macro risks
- Evaluate regulatory environment / regime

### Bottom-up evaluation

- Scour debt agreements and work with legal counsel to understand risks and opportunities
- Independently stress test banks for capital adequacy
- Meet with senior management of banks
  - Financials analysts evaluate balance sheet strength, sustainable profitability, management quality etc.

#### Valuation

- Identify the most attractive instruments:
  - Across currencies
  - Across capital structures

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- Cash vs. CDS
- Equity vs. Debt

SOURCE: PIMCO

Refer to Appendix for additional investment strategy and risk information.

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# Responding to key changes in market intermediation

	Market capability/development	PIMCO strategy
2004	Over 30 year history of macro research and discretionary portfolio management	Launched discretionary global macro hedge fund <sup>1</sup>
2006	Expanding credit derivatives market	Launched credit relative value hedge fund
2008	Mortgage credit at the epicenter of the financial crisis	Began deploying the first in a series of mortgage credit and real estate funds
2010	Contraction in middle market corporate credit	Launched distressed corporate fund
2011	Banks retreat from proprietary trading	Launched volatility relative value hedge fund
2013	Banks exit commodity businesses	Launched commodity relative value hedge fund
2015	Re-leveraging of corporate credit	Launching an opportunistic corporate credit fund

As of 31 August 2015.

Refer to Appendix for additional investment strategy, risk and strategy availability information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Original inception date of the fund was April 2002 and at such time it was named the Global Relative Value Fund. The fund was restructured, renamed PARS IV, and re-launched on 30 September 2004. The portfolio manager, strategy, and guidelines were also changed at that time.

The above illustrates only certain fund launches in response to certain market developments, and does not include all alternative funds launched by PIMCO.

# Multiple catalysts for compelling investments

### Capital markets

- Middle market leverage multiples are at all-time highs and valuations are increasingly distorted
- BDCs and CLOs are leading the way in increasingly aggressive lending

### Industry

- Technology-driven disruption fundamentally changing industries: e.g. energy, retail, transportation
- Elevated price volatility in commodities and energy

### Regulatory

- Regulatory aggressiveness has redefined the financing landscape
- Financing gap is most acute in Europe

### Economic

- The path to policy normalization is expected to be bumpy and expose companies with weak financials
- Economic recession may occur during the Fund's investment period

### Multiple sources for continued dislocation

As of 30 June 2015

Refer to Appendix for additional outlook and risk information.

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# Opportunities go beyond the default cycle

### Company

- Capital structure policy
- Failed mergers and/or acquisitions
- Legacy costs / liabilities
- Litigation / fraud / aggressive accounting

### Industry

- Changes in input costs / pricing power
- Supply disruptions
- Shifts in consumer preferences
- LBO activity / consolidation

Dislocation and mispriced assets

### Cyclical

- Global economy / business cycle
- Central bank policy / FX volatility
- Capital markets access
- Natural disasters / weather

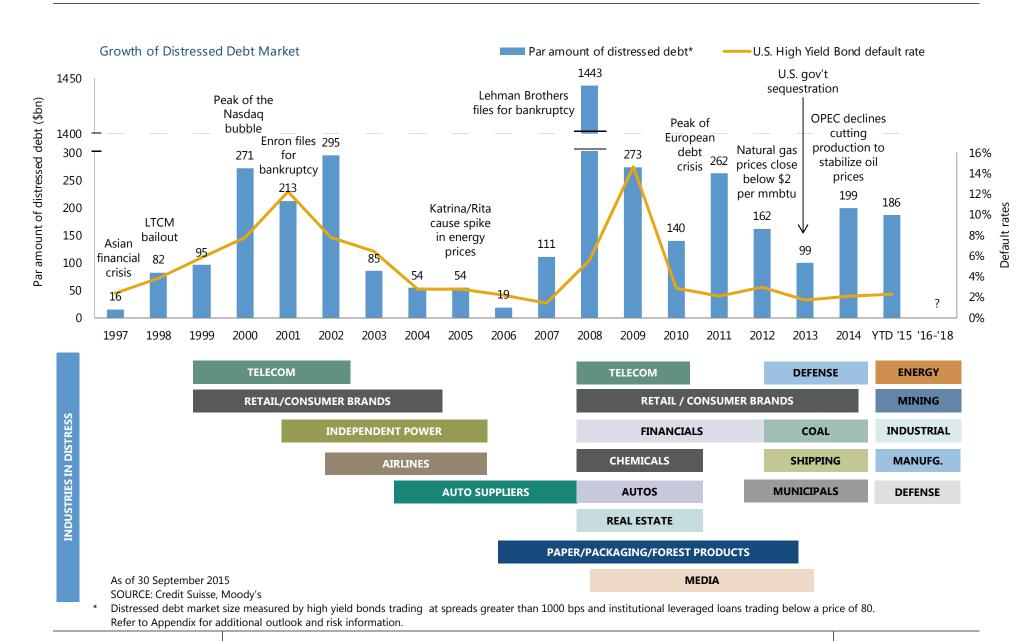
### Secular

- Regulatory environment
- Global competition
- Demographic shifts
- Disruptive innovations

Refer to Appendix for additional investment strategy, outlook and risk information.

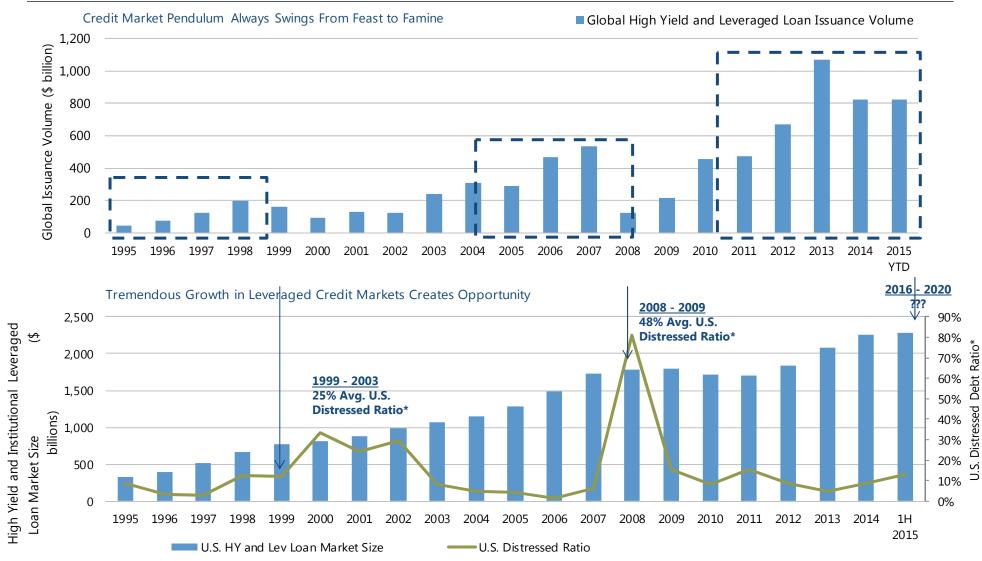
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# Multiple industries are in distress at any given time



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# Seeds of the next default cycle



As of 30 September 2015

SOURCE: J.P. Morgan, Credit Suisse, Bank of America

\*Distressed debt ratio calculated by dividing the size of the U.S. High Yield and Leveraged Loan markets by the size of the U.S. distressed debt market defined as high yield bonds trading at spreads greater than 1000 bps and institutional leveraged loans trading below a price of 80.

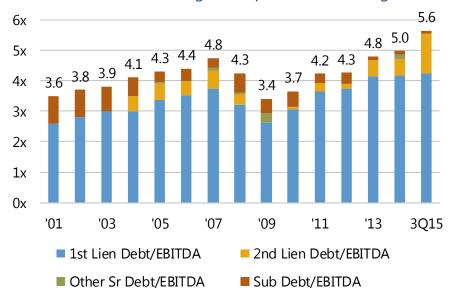
Refer to Appendix for additional investment strategy, outlook and risk information.

# Heightened financial risk in an already inefficient middle market

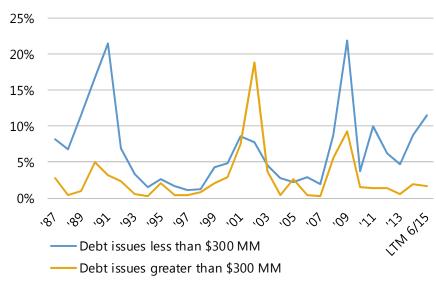
### Drivers of middle market inefficiency

- Defaults historically 2x-4x higher than the traditional market
- Technical factors restrict demand for broader investor universe
- Information asymmetries

### Middle market leverage multiples at all-time high



### Middle market default rates persistantly higher



### The middle market opportunity is greater than \$1 trillion globally

As of 30 September 2015 SOURCE: S&P LCD, Credit Suisse

Refer to Appendix for additional investment strategy, outlook and risk information.

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### Summary and conclusion

### PIMCO's economic outlook

- Growth rates positive but converging to lower levels
- Implications: "lower for longer" for policy rates

### Opportunities in public credit markets

Emphasize sectors with high barriers to entry and growth

### Opportunities in private markets

Middle market companies offer a multitude of opportunities not dependent on default cycle

Refer to Appendix for additional investment strategy, outlook and risk information.

PIMCO Your Global Investment Authority pg **27**  Additional information

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# Global corporate research team

#### HEAD OF GLOBAL CREDIT RESEARCH

Christian Stracke

HEAD OF EUROPEAN CREDIT RESEARCH	HEAD OF ASIA CREDIT RESEARCH
Philippe Bodereau	Raja Mukherji

60 CREDIT ANALYSTS: U.S. 39 U.K. 8 GERMANY 2 ASIA 9 SOUTH AMERICA 2

FINANCIALS		INDUSTRIALS	INDUSTRIALS		CONSUMER PRODUCTS	
Del Anderson	Jiaying Huang	Yishan Cao	Ronald Jin	Tyler Blackwell	Nima Shayeg	
Matteo Bertolo	Ray Huang	Tracy Chin	Maren Proeve	Yishan Cao	ZJ Shao	
Suhasini Bhargava	Matthieu Loriferne	Juergen Dahlhoff	Nima Shayeg	Mark Chin	Joseph Silva	
Philippe Bodereau	Takanori Miyoshi	Natalia Lima	Michael Watchorn	Juergen Dahlhoff	Jackson Thies	
Dorris Chen	Christian Stracke	Jules Naters	Charles Watford	David Gluckman	Michael Watchorn	
Tracy Chin	David Werthan	John Pollakowski	Alexis Yannas	Jiaying Huang	Charles Watford	
Richard Hofmann	Taosha Wang	Maiko Tamura	Charles Zhang	Ronald Jin	Elizabeth Wegener	
		Jessica Tom		Joe Pattaphongse	Jinhy Yoon	
				Steve Pawliczek		

TELECOM / MEDIA	ENERGY	UTILITIES	MUNICIPALS	SPECIALISTS	METALS/MINING	DISTRESSED CREDIT
Suhasini Bhargava	Alessandro Baldoni	Tyler Blackwell	Steven Chuang	Commercial paper	Emily Au-Yeung	Sai Devabhaktuni
Yishan Cao	Tyler Blackwell	David Gluckman	Sean McCarthy	Sean McCarthy	Alessandro Baldoni	Adam Gubner
Armen Karakashian	Zeljka Bosner	Christian Schuetz	Michael O'Connor	Workouts	David Gluckman	Greg Kennedy
Jackson Thies	John Devir	Joseph Silva	Laura Robinson	David Behenna	Raja Mukherji	Chris Neumeyer
Christian Wild	David Gluckman	Scott Striegel	Matthew Sinni	Special situations	Maren Proeve	Ethan Schwartz
Elizabeth Wegener	Mirette Kouchouk	Taosha Wang		Zubin Kapadia	Jinhy Yoon	
Jinhy Yoon	Christian Schuetz					

As of 30 September 2015

ZJ Shao Joseph Silva Taosha Wang

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### Appendix

Past performance is not a guarantee or reliable indicator of future results.

#### **FORECAST**

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#### **INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

There is no quarantee that these investment strategies will work under all market conditions and each investor should evaluate their ability to invest for a long-term especially during periods of downturn in the market. No representation is being made that any account, product, or strategy will or is likely to achieve profits, losses, or results similar to those shown. Investors should consult their investment professional prior to making an investment decision.

#### OUTLOOK

Statements concerning financial market trends or portfolio strategies are based on current market conditions, which will fluctuate. There is no guarantee that these investment strategies will work under all market conditions, and each investor should evaluate their ability to invest for the long-term, especially during periods of downturn in the market. Outlook and strategies are subject to change without notice.

#### **RISK**

The funds are not be subject to the same regulatory requirements as mutual funds. The funds may be, and are expected to be, leveraged and may engage in speculative investment practices that may increase the risk of investment loss. The funds' performance could be volatile; an investor could lose all or a substantial amount of its investment. A fund's manager will have broad trading authority over a fund. The use of a single adviser applying generally similar trading programs could mean lack of diversification and, consequently, higher risk. There is no secondary market for a fund's interest and none is expected to develop. There will be restrictions on transferring interests in a fund and limited liquidity provisions. A fund's fees and expenses may offset its trading profits. The funds will not be required to provide periodic pricing or valuation information to investors. A substantial portion of the trades executed for certain funds are in **non-U.S. securities** and take place on non-U.S. exchanges. Certain funds may invest in **non-publically traded securities** which may be subject to illiquidity risk. **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; portfolios that invest in them may be subject to greater levels of credit and liquidity risk than portfolios that do not. Mortgage and asset-backed securities may be sensitive to changes in interest rates, subject to early repayment risk, and while generally supported by a government, government-agency or private guarantor there is no assurance that the guarantor will meet its obligations.

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# Appendix

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Investing in distressed loans and bankrupt companies are speculative and the repayment of default obligations contains significant uncertainties. Tail risk hedging may involve entering into financial derivatives that are expected to increase in value during the occurrence of tail events. Investing in a tail event instrument could lose all or a portion of its value even in a period of severe market stress. A tail event is unpredictable; therefore, investments in instruments tied to the occurrence of a tail event are speculative.

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