

# Multimanager-Strategies zweiplus Quarterly Report

## Rieter Fischer Partners AG

### Bond market

In the first quarter of the new investment year, most of the markets for top-quality government bonds consolidated at low return levels. Returns on German and Japanese government bonds in particular only changed marginally. However, there was a slight increase in returns for government bonds in the UK, Switzerland and the USA. Returns for these ten-year government bonds increased in the period under review by around 0,2 %, which depressed these bond prices slightly.

Even though returns on the world's most important bond markets only changed marginally, there were some major events in Europe. The European Central Bank once again became highly active and provided regional banks with strong support. For the second time in just a brief period the banks were able to refinance at very favorable conditions from the ECB for three years. There was strong uptake for this offering, and it made a major contribution to calming the markets in the eurozone. Concerns were not only dissipated regarding the refinancing ability of individual banks, but government bonds for some individual Southern European countries were supported, with a not unsubstantial amount flowing from the banks directly into these government bonds. This was one of the reasons why, for example, the returns for Italian government bonds fell by almost 2 %, and are now at a level comparable to that seen last summer.

There was also once again a strong focus on Greece. The second recovery package for the crisis-hit country was finally passed after endless rounds of negotiations. As part of this recovery package, a "voluntary" debt cut was also performed, in which creditors had to waive a very large proportion of their receivables from Greece.

### Equity market

The global equity markets got off to a flying start in the New Year. US equities in particular were able to benefit from the price recovery, and recorded an increase of around 8 % (in CHF). Performance for European equities was a little more laid back, however they also reported an increase of around 6 %. European small-caps enjoyed particularly strong performance, increasing by more than 12 %. The increase on the equity markets was not only supported by excellent corporate figures, but also by increasing confidence that the global economy would be able to develop at a better pace than had been feared a few months previously.

### Currencies

Global currency trading was comparatively quiet in the past quarter, in particular compared to the movements in exchange rates last year. Only the US dollar lost slightly compared to most of the other key currencies. Swiss francs continued to be traded against the Euro

### Disclaimer

This publication is intended for information purposes only. The document contains selective information and is by no means exhaustive. It is based on publicly accessible information and data (hereinafter referred to as "information") that should be regarded as accurate, reliable and complete. bank zweiplus ltd (hereinafter referred to as "bzip") has not verified the accuracy and completeness of the information presented in this document and therefore cannot provide a guarantee. Any errors or lack of completeness in this information constitutes no basis for liability, express or implied, on the part of bzip for direct, indirect or consequential damages. In particular, neither bzip, nor its shareholders or employees, accepts any liability regarding the relevance of the opinions, plans and strategies conveyed herein. The opinions expressed in this document as well as figures, data and forecasts referred to herein are subject to change at any time. A positive historical performance or simulation represents no guarantee for a positive future trend. Deviations may arise versus bzip's financial analysis or other publications that refer to the same financial instruments.

This document in no way represents investment advice, nor constitutes a solicitation, offer, or an invitation to make an offer to buy or sell any securities or other specific financial instruments, or other products or services. Furthermore, it does not take the place of individual advice and risk clarification by a qualified financial, legal or tax advisor. bzip accepts no liability whatsoever for any losses arising from the subsequent use of this information (or parts thereof).

© Copyright bank zweiplus ltd. All rights reserved.

in a very narrow bandwidth. As a result, the Swiss National Bank's investment policy has been very successful to date, even though the euro exchange rate is still oscillating at around the lower threshold set by the SNB of CHF 1.20.

### Outlook and strategy for the 2nd quarter of 2012

Many of the issues which we dealt with in the last quarters will also have a material impact on the markets in 2012. We continue to assume that the global economy will not slide into a recession. We are pleased to note that economists' growth forecasts for this year have increasingly been raised in recent months. There are an increasing number of signs that the weakening economy has already bottomed out, and that we are now in an environment with low but stable growth. The pace of global economic growth thus continues to be above-average, which is why we assume that the majority of central banks will continue to employ expansive monetary policy in order to support the economy. Absolute interest rates are thus at a historic very low level. For money market investments, this continues to mean very low interest income, which makes investments in this segment appear unattractive.

We only see a danger for the bond market if the central banks' expansive monetary policy is stopped or if global inflationary tendencies become recognizable. We believe that it will only be possible to perceive both scenarios to a limited extent, which is why investments in top quality bonds ought to be relatively secure for the next few months.

Even after the recovery in prices in the past few months, equities are still valued favorably in a historic comparison. If we listen to what companies are saying, we do not find a mood of pessimism, but at most of caution. Many companies have been able to record not only very pleasing margins and profits, but also have an above-average high degree of organic financing. If confidence in stable economic growth also improves, this would lead to a perceptible increase in share prices. However, it is still the case that the stock markets are currently being influenced by politicians and central bankers to a greater extent than usual.

### Performance (in %)

from 01.01.2012 to 31.03.2012

Strategy	CHF	EUR
Conservative	-	-
Balanced	6,68 %	7,91 %
Growth	8,95 %	10,11 %