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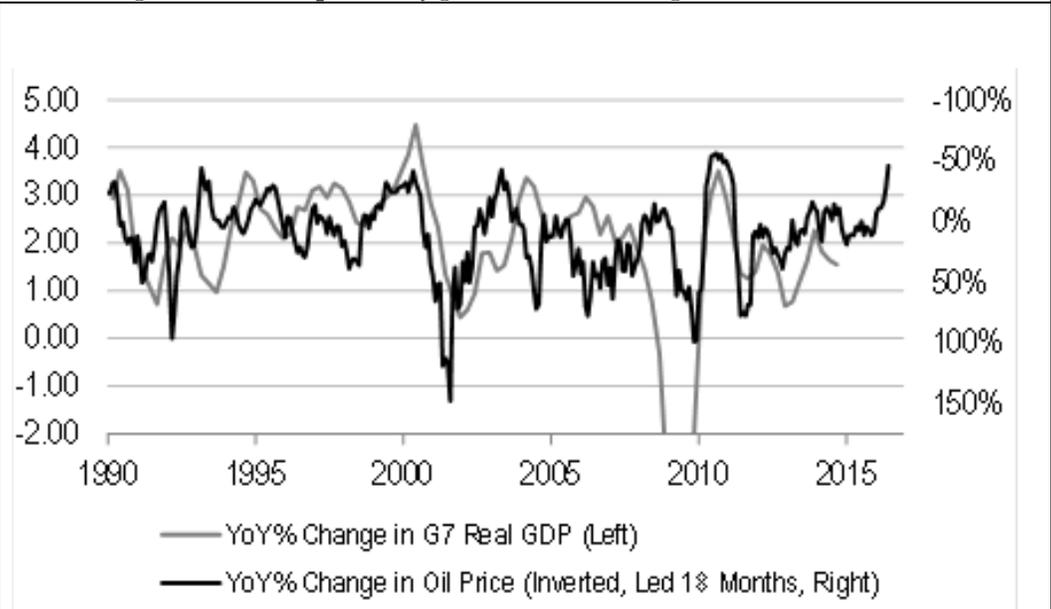
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## Grease Is More Important Than Greece

- Declining oil prices have significant negative implications for selected Emerging Markets, and selected sectors within Developed Markets
- Ultimately, lower oil prices are unequivocally positive for Developed World growth
- Investment markets should improve from Q2 2015 in anticipation of the continued global economic recovery.

This view has Tactical Investment Implications for Asset Allocation and Country Allocation.

Lower oil prices are unequivocally positive for Developed Markets...



Sources: Bloomberg; Deltec International Group

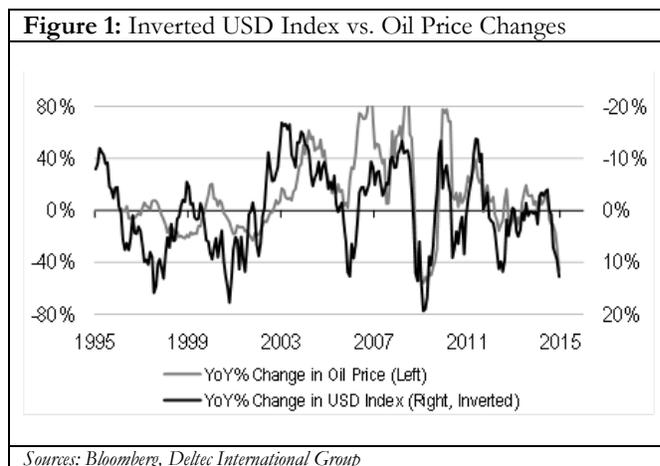


### The Negative Impact of Lower Oil Prices

With oil prices having declined by approximately 50% over the past year, there are significant negative implications across the world. The areas which feature most heavily in consensus arguments are oil producing Emerging Markets and energy capex exposed sectors in Developed Markets.

As discussed in our recent Investment Research, [An Emerging Crisis](#), in addition to the declining USD liquidity growth, which negatively impacts Emerging Markets, the resultant stronger USD also has a negative impact on Emerging Markets who are commodity exporters, given the negative impact of a rising USD on commodity prices.

Refer to Figure 1, showing the change in the USD Index (inverted) vs. the change in oil prices:

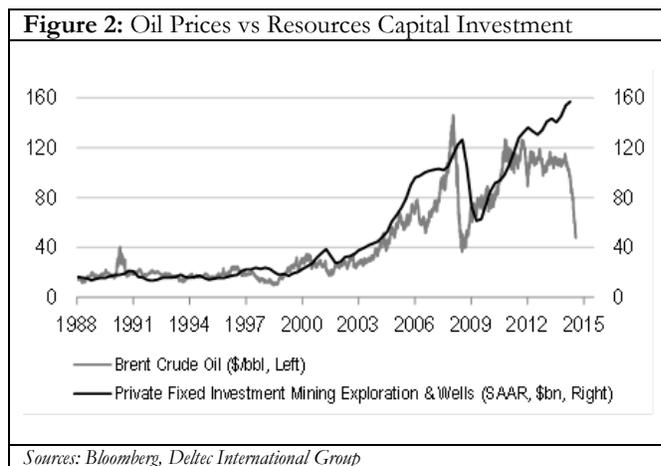


Whilst there is no doubt that Emerging Market economies such as China, India, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey and Indonesia – all large net importers of oil – will benefit from lower oil prices, several oil producing Emerging Markets will be significantly negatively impacted, as lower trade balances and national income removes a further level of support for already challenged economies. Those economies that are significant net exporters of oil are significantly negatively impacted – particularly where government budgets require oil prices significantly above the current level to remain in balance. This dangerous dynamic has amplified our concerns for Emerging Markets. Analyzing a selected set of countries that require oil prices above current levels to balance their budgets, we identify those economies most negatively impacted.

From a Developed Market perspective, there are a number of sectors that are negatively impacted by lower oil prices. Most acutely, capital spending on energy exploration and production will be negatively impacted as capex plans are postponed or cancelled. Indeed, the decline in oil prices to date suggests that further cuts to resources capex is highly likely.



Refer to Figure 2, showing Resources Capital Investment vs. Oil Prices:



Notwithstanding the clear downside risk that exists to resources capital investment due to lower oil prices, it is important to put this into context in the broader US economy. Energy capex comprises approximately 1% of US nominal GDP, with spending on Mining Equipment and Mining Exploration of approximately \$183bn, within US Nominal GDP of approximately \$17,555bn.

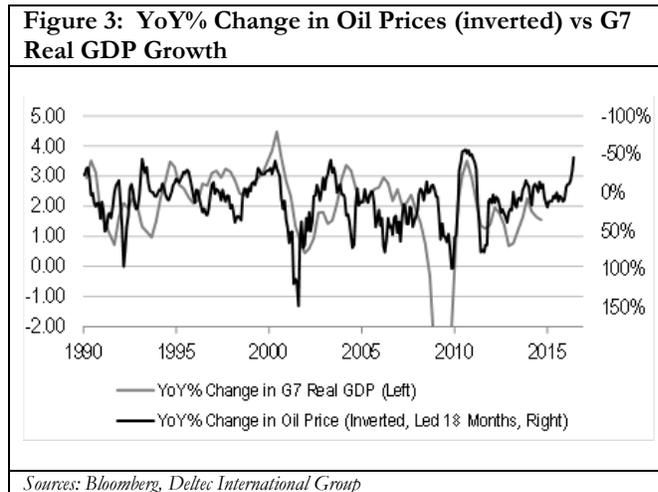
This sole statistic obviously masks the ancillary beneficiaries of energy production in areas such as financial services, real estate and other trades in oil producing states within the economy, however it also masks the benefits of lower oil prices to the overall economy via the positive impact of lower gasoline prices on consumer spending, which impacts the overall economy and is a larger part of the economy.

### The Positive Impact of Lower Oil Prices

Lower oil prices are unequivocally positive for developed market growth. Despite these highly specific negative impacts from lower oil prices, there is a clear, broad positive impact on Developed Market GDP growth. Through time, changes in oil prices lead G7 real GDP growth by approximately 18 months. At present the approximately 50% decline in oil prices over the past year is consistent with G7 real GDP growth rising to almost 4% over the next 18 months, well above the approximate 1.5% rate of growth currently being achieved.



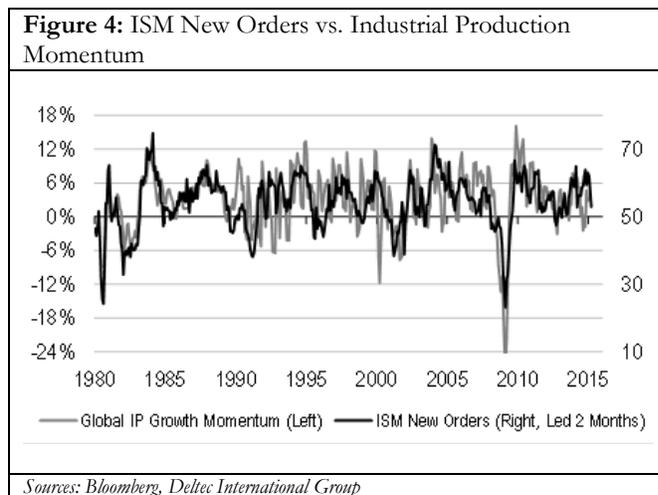
Refer to Figure 3, showing the change in Oil Prices (inverted) vs G7 Real GDP Growth through time:



### Global Growth and Investment Markets

At present, global industrial production growth momentum has peaked and is set to experience a mild cyclical slowdown, as evidenced by the US ISM New Orders index, which leads global industrial production growth momentum (growth in the rate of growth, calculated as 3M / 3M % Change in Global Industrial Production) by 2 months through time.

Refer to Figure 4, showing US ISM New Orders Index vs. Global Industrial Production growth momentum through time:

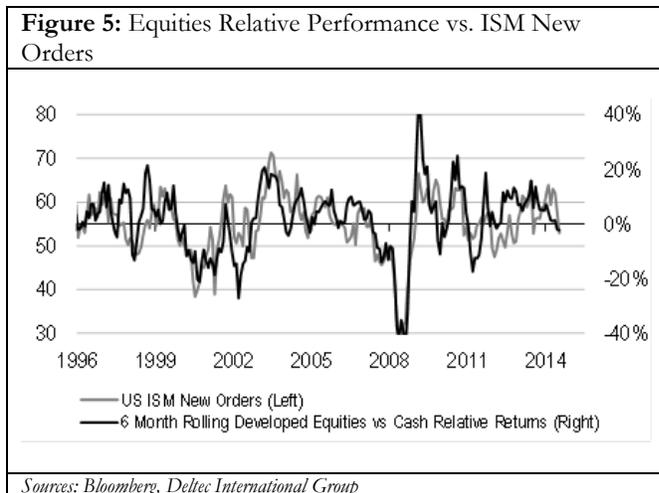


In recent months, Equities have underperformed Government Bonds and slightly underperformed Cash, in anticipation of this typical cyclical slowdown. This growth momentum decline is not yet over, however in the coming months, we expect global



growth momentum will trough and then increase in response to the benefits of lower oil prices. As this occurs, we would expect Equities to rise, outperforming both Bonds and Cash.

Refer to Figure 5, showing Equities to Cash relative performance vs US ISM New Orders through time:



### Positioning for the Benefit of Lower Oil Prices

Our current Tactical Investment Positioning reflects the current declining global growth momentum, and the coming recovery in developed market growth – we have a preference for selected Developed Market Equities and Cash over Fixed Income. Within Developed Market Equities, we have a preference for the US, increasingly Europe on a currency hedged basis, and Japan.

As global growth momentum troughs and increases, and as lower oil prices lead to a strong Developed Market economic growth recovery, we anticipate increasing exposure to Developed Market Equities. In this regard, allocations to US Consumer Discretionary, European Consumer Discretionary and Japan Exporters and Technology will be selectively increased and exposure to Cash will be reduced.

### Conclusions

Whilst lower oil prices are negative for Emerging Markets and specific sectors within Developed Markets, they are unequivocally positive for Developed Market growth. Lower oil prices are likely to assist in a Developed Market growth momentum troughing and recovery in the coming months. As this process occurs, Developed Market Equities will benefit, significantly.



## Tactical Investment Implications and Opportunities

This view has Tactical Investment Implications for Asset Allocation and Country Allocation.

- **Asset Allocation: Preference for Developed Market Equities and Cash over Fixed Income.** As global growth momentum troughs and increases, Equities will likely recover sharply, outperforming Cash and Fixed Income.
- **Country Allocation: Preference for Developed Markets over Emerging Markets.** Whilst Emerging Market Equities have declined significantly in recent months and will therefore experience a sharp rebound, Developed Market Equities are likely to offer more attractive risk adjusted returns, with greater longevity and lesser idiosyncratic risk. Within Developed Market Equities, we have a preference for the US, increasingly Europe on a currency hedged basis, and Japan. As Equities become more attractive, allocations to US Consumer Discretionary, European Consumer Discretionary and Japan Exporters and Technology will be selectively increased. We continue to actively avoid those economies that are heavily exposed to Commodity prices, including Australia, Canada, Brazil and oil producing Emerging Markets.

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