



## MACROECONOMIC UPDATE

Three weeks after election day, the General Services Administration finally designated Joe Biden as the winner of the US election. President Donald Trump suffered legal setbacks in challenging the results. He confirmed that he will give up power after the Electoral College vote on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

The pandemic will obviously be a top priority for President-Elect Biden. His first appointment in his incoming administration relates to a coronavirus task force team. Two of these advisers oppose a national lockdown and would favor local targeted measures to slow the pandemic. Daily cases went above 100'000 for several days in a row with the average daily death rate reaching the highest level since the beginning of the outbreak.

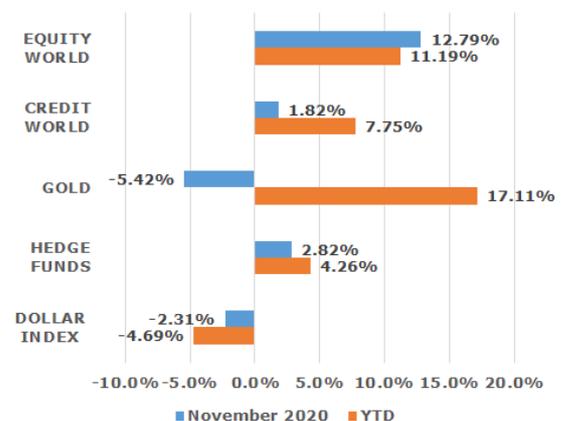
At least brighter days are ahead with several pharmaceutical companies announcing successful vaccine trials.

A vaccine developed by Pfizer Inc. created an overwhelmingly positive reaction from markets. Moderna Inc. also announced a vaccine with 90% effectiveness. The company starts its production at the end of November.

In Europe, tightened restrictions and a round of lockdowns pushed the Euro-zone into another contraction, with Markit's composite Purchasing Managers' Index printing at 45.1 versus 50 in October. The manufacturing sector helped Germany stay in the expansion area (above 50). Both France and the UK have seen their output contract. The Bank of England announced a higher than expected new round of quantitative easing to counter the economic effect of a national lockdown and Brexit uncertainties.

## GMG'S POSITIONING AND MARKET PERFORMANCES

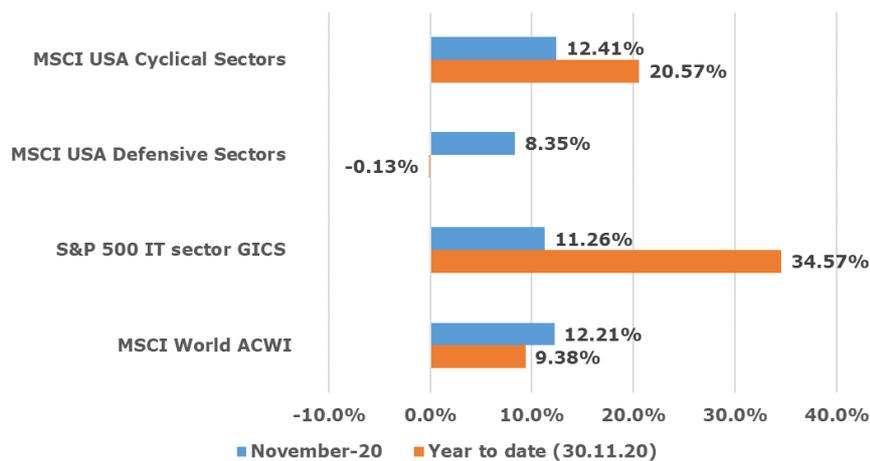
<b>Equities</b>	US	↑
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### GMG Investment Solutions SA

## FOCUS: Value rotation

November produced one of the best monthly performances for equity markets. As an example, the MSCI World ACWI posted its best monthly return since its creation in 1989 (12,21%). The US elections reduced market uncertainty at the beginning of the month. However, the key driver of this high performance was the announcement of a 90% effective Covid-19 vaccine by Pfizer. As markets are now expecting a return to normality sooner than expected, some slower sectors caught up with those that benefitted from the stay-at-home policy. Furthermore, the news of a vaccine reduced the risk of a smaller than expected US fiscal stimulus as the electoral Blue Wave did not materialize.



The cocktail of ultra-accommodative fiscal and monetary policies and the availability of a vaccine provided strong support for equities in the medium term. Industries most impacted by lockdowns last year, like energy and travel, should accelerate economic recovery. In 2021, we expect cyclical stocks to lead earnings per share growth, thereby reducing their relative growth differential with defensive growth stocks.

However, in our opinion, the cyclical bull run in November has been too high and too fast. Indeed, commonly used sentiment indicators such as the Relative Strength Index signal that some cyclical industries are overheating and trading in overbought territory.

Furthermore, in the past, sustainable market rotations from defensive to cyclical have correlated strongly with rising yields. Cyclical rallies tend to occur during recovery periods in economic cycles which are accompanied by rising yield environments. During November, the 10-year US Treasury yield widened by a maximum of 19.6 bps from November 5<sup>th</sup> to November 10<sup>th</sup>. It closed the month 3 bps lower. Negative news on Covid-19 daily cases in the US and stricter restriction policies in Europe pulled market sentiment lower at the end of the month.

To summarize our views, we believe that the cyclical rotation still has some way to go next year as economies reopen and corporate earnings recover. However, in the medium term, the low growth, low yields and low inflation environment might persist which would still favor the growth factor versus value.

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