Institutional investors cash out on defensive bets

BOSTON, December 6th - State Street Global Markets today released the results of the State Street Institutional Investor Indicators for November.

The State Street Risk Appetite Index rose to zero from -0.55, showing that long-term investor flows were balanced, neither adding nor subtracting from risk across asset classes in November (see Figure 1 overleaf).

"Both equity and bond markets rallied impressively in November, but they did so on the back of less positive news on US growth and earnings downgrades. This was a rally once again built on the hope of interest rate reductions to come; a driver that has failed to sustain market gains earlier in 2023. The response of long-term investors was, nevertheless, dramatic. At the beginning of November more than half of the metrics that make up our Risk Appetite index were pointing to defensive behaviour, by the end of it, risk on and defensive behaviour was finely balanced. The improvements in sentiment were especially clear in equity and foreign exchange markets. In particular, flows into safe-haven sectors such as Health Care and Consumer Staples reversed, as did investors' appetite for the US dollar.

So rather than an unbridled rush back into risk, our institutional investors indicators are more consistent with a measured reduction in pessimism, which makes sense given the lingering uncertainty as to whether the 'Fed put' really is back." highlights Michael Metcalfe, Head of Macro Strategy at State Street Global Markets.

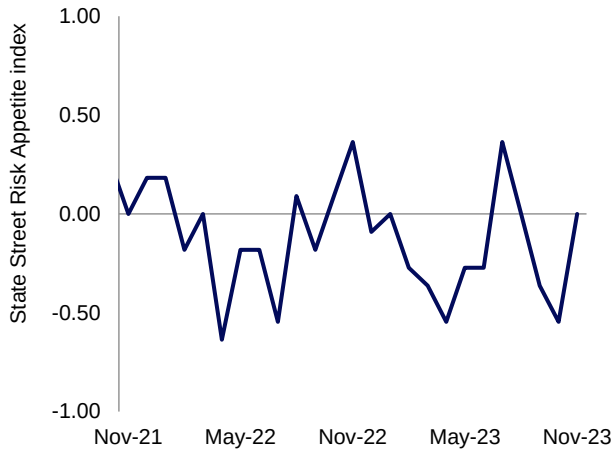
The State Street Holdings indicators showed that long-term investors allocations to equities rose 1.1 percentage points to 51.5%, fixed income allocations fell once again by 0.2% to 28.2% (see Figure 2 overleaf) and cash holdings fell by an even larger 0.9% to 20.2%.

"Cash holdings fell almost a full percentage point in November, but remain more than two percent above their long-term (25-year) average. As spectacular as November's price action, this suggests there remains ample cash on the side-lines, ***if*** the investment environment is compelling enough. We would note that even though year-ahead outlooks from the investment community are chock-full of buy bond recommendations, long-term investor bond holdings remain underweight (see Figure 2-overleaf) and close to a 14-year low " added Michael Metcalfe, Head of Macro Strategy at State Street Global Markets.

About the indicators

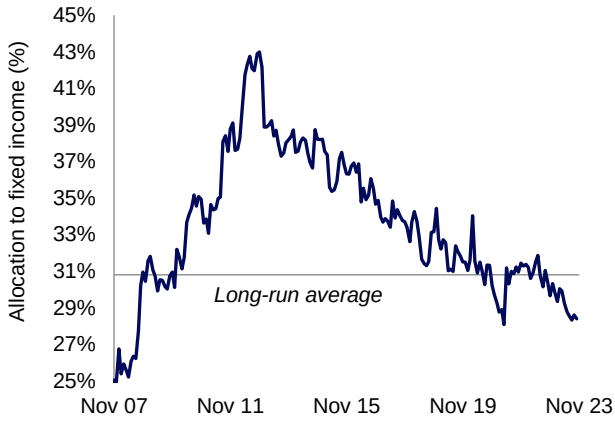
The Institutional Investor Indicators (the three i's) were developed at State Street Associates, State Street Global Markets research and advisory services business. They measure investor confidence or risk appetite quantitatively by analyzing the actual buying and selling patterns of institutional investors derived from State Street's USD40trn[1] in assets under custody and administration (note not investors' balances held at State Street itself). The *Risk Appetite Index* is derived from measuring investor flows in twenty-two different dimensions of risk across equities, FX, fixed income, commodity-linked assets and asset allocation trends. The index captures the proportion of the twenty-two risk elements that saw either risk seeking or risk reducing behavior. A positive reading suggests that on balance investors are adding to their risk exposures, while a negative reading suggests risk reduction. State Street's *holdings indicators* capture the share of investor portfolios allocated toward equity, fixed income and cash going back to 1998.

Figure 1: State Street Risk Appetite Index – Back to balance



Source: State Street Global Markets

Figure 2: State Street Risk Holdings indicator – Bond holdings remain underweight



Source: State Street Global Markets

[1] As of Q3 2023 reported State Street earnings.

Investing involves risk including the risk of loss of principal.

The information provided does not constitute investment advice and it should not be relied on as such. It should not be considered a solicitation to buy or an offer to sell a security. It does not take into account any investor's particular investment objectives, strategies, tax status or investment horizon. You should consult your tax and financial advisor. All material has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. There is no representation or warranty as to the accuracy of the information and State Street shall have no liability for decisions based on such information.

The views expressed in this material are the views of State Street through the period ended Nov 30, 2023 and are subject to change based on market and other conditions.

Information Classification: General

This news announcement contains forward-looking statements as defined by United States securities laws, including statements about the financial outlook and business environment. Those statements are based on current expectations and involve a number of risks and uncertainties, including those set forth in State Street's 2015 annual report and subsequent SEC filings. State Street encourages investors to read the corporation's annual report, particularly the section on factors that may affect financial results, and its subsequent SEC filings for additional information with respect to any forward-looking statements and prior to making any investment decision. The forward-looking statements contained in this press release speak only as of the date hereof, August 31, 2023 and the company will not undertake efforts to revise those forward-looking statements to reflect events after this date.

The whole or any part of this work may not be reproduced, copied or transmitted or any of its contents disclosed to third parties without State Street's express written consent.

© 2023 State Street Corporation - All Rights Reserved

Disclaimers and Important Risk Information [2023.01]

This communication is provided only to professional clients or eligible counterparties or their equivalent by State Street Bank and Trust Company or, where applicable and permissible, its bank and non-bank affiliates ("State Street"). State Street Bank and Trust Company is authorized and regulated by the Federal Reserve Board, registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission as a Swap Dealer, and is a member of the National Futures Association. State Street Bank International GmbH ("SSBI") is regulated by the European Central Bank ("ECB"), the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority ("BaFin") and the Deutsche Bundesbank. Details about the extent of SSBI's regulation by the ECB, the BaFin and Deutsche Bundesbank are available from us on request. Products and services described herein may not be available in all jurisdictions or through all State Street entities. Activities described herein may be conducted from offshore. Information provided is of a general nature only and has not been reviewed by any regulatory authority.

This communication is intended for general marketing purposes, and the information contained herein has not been prepared in accordance with legal requirements designed to promote the independence of investment research. It is for clients to determine whether they are permitted to receive research of any nature. Market commentary provided by trading desks is not investment research. This communication is not intended to suggest or recommend any transaction, investment, or investment strategy, does not constitute investment research, nor does it purport to be comprehensive or intended to replace the exercise of an investor's own careful independent review and judgment regarding any investment decision.

This communication is not intended for retail clients, nor for distribution to, and may not be relied upon by, any person or entity in any jurisdiction or country where such distribution or use would be contrary to applicable law or regulation. This communication or any portion hereof may not be reprinted, sold or redistributed without the prior written consent of State Street. This communication and the information herein does not constitute investment, legal, or tax advice and is not a solicitation to buy or sell securities or any financial instrument nor is it intended to constitute a binding contractual arrangement or commitment by State Street of any kind. The information provided does not take into account any particular investment objectives, strategies, investment horizon or tax status.

The views expressed herein are the views of State Street as of the date specified and are subject to change, without notice, based on market and other conditions. The information provided herein has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable at the time of publication, nonetheless, we make no representations or assurances that the information is complete or accurate, and you should not place any reliance on said information. State Street hereby disclaims any warranty and all liability, whether arising in contract, tort or otherwise, for any losses, liabilities, damages, expenses or costs, either direct, indirect, consequential, special, or punitive, arising from or in connection with any use of this document and/or the information herein.

State Street may from time to time, as principal or agent, for its own account or for those of its clients, have positions in and/or actively trade in financial instruments or other products identical to or economically related to those discussed in this communication. State Street may have a commercial relationship with issuers of financial instruments or other products discussed in this communication.

This communication may contain information deemed to be forward-looking statements. These statements are based on assumptions, analyses and expectations of State Street in light of its experience and perception of historical trends, current conditions, expected future developments and other factors it believes appropriate under the circumstances. All information is subject to change without notice.

Participating in trading any financial instrument, including but not limited to foreign exchange, equities, futures, fixed income or derivative instruments, or investments in non-liquid or emerging markets, or digital assets, or participating in securities lending, repurchase transactions or other collateral services present risks, which may include but are not limited to counterparty, collateral, investment loss, tax, and accounting risks. Where applicable, returns may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. Derivatives may be more volatile than the underlying instruments. Certain foreign exchange business, including spot and certain forward transactions, may not be regulated in all jurisdictions. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Please contact your State Street representative for further information.

To learn how State Street looks after your personal data, visit: https://www.statestreet.com/utility/privacy-notice.html.

© 2023 State Street Corporation – All Rights Reserved

Global Markets Research Disclaimer Supplement [2023.01]

Australia: This communication is provided to wholesale clients by State Street Bank and Trust Company (Australian Business Number 70 062 819 630, Australian Financial Services License 239679).

Brazil: The products in this marketing material have not been and will not be registered with the Comissão de Valores Mobiliários - the Brazilian Securities and Exchange Commission ("CVM"), and any offer of such products is not directed to the general public within the Federative Republic of Brazil ("Brazil"). The information contained in this marketing material is not provided for the purpose of publicly soliciting investments from investors residing in Brazil and no information in this marketing material should be construed as a public offering or unauthorized distribution of the products within Brazil, pursuant to applicable Brazilian law and regulations.

Israel: State Street Bank and Trust Company is not licensed under Israel's Regulation of Investment Advice, Investment Marketing and Portfolio Management Law, 1995. This communication may only be distributed to or used by investors in Israel which are "eligible clients" as listed in the First Schedule to Israel's Regulation of Investment Advice, Investment Marketing and Portfolio Management Law 1995.

Japan: This communication is made available in Japan by State Street Bank and Trust Company, Tokyo Branch, which is regulated by the Financial Services Agency of Japan and is licensed under Article 47 of the Banking Act.

Oman: State Street Bank and Trust Company is not a bank or financial services provider registered to undertake business in Oman and is not regulated by the Central Bank of Oman or the Capital Market Authority.

Qatar: The information in this communication has not been reviewed or approved by the Qatar Central Bank, the Qatar Financial Markets Authority or the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority, or any other relevant Qatari regulatory body.

Singapore: This communication is made available in Singapore by State Street Bank and Trust Company, Singapore Branch ("SSBTS"), which holds a wholesale bank license by the Monetary Authority of Singapore. In Singapore, this communication is only distributed to accredited, institutional investors as defined in the Singapore Financial Advisers Act 2001 ("FAA") and its regulations. Note that SSBTS is exempt from Sections 27 and 36 of the FAA. When this communication is distributed to overseas investors as defined in the FAA, note that SSBTS is exempt from Sections 26, 27, 29 and 36 of the FAA. This advertisement has not been reviewed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

South Africa: State Street Bank and Trust Company is authorized in South Africa under the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act, 2002 as a Category I Financial Services Provider; FSP No. 42671.

United Arab Emirates: The information contained within this communication is not intended to lead to the conclusion of any contract of whatsoever nature within the territory of the United Arab Emirates.

United Kingdom: State Street Bank and Trust Company is authorised and regulated by the Federal Reserve Board of the United States, authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority ("PRA") and subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and limited regulation by the PRA. Details about the extent of our regulation by the PRA are available from us on request.

State Street Bank International GmbH is authorised and regulated by the European Central Bank and the BaFin, deemed authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority, and subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and limited regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority. Details of the Temporary Permissions Regime, which allows EEA-based firms to operate in the UK for a limited period while seeking full authorisation, are available on the Financial Conduct Authority's website.