

# Emerging Markets Key Themes For 2023

Wednesday, November 23 2022

# Disclaimer

THIS COMMENTARY IS PUBLISHED BY FITCH SOLUTIONS COUNTRY RISK & INDUSTRY RESEARCH and is NOT a comment on Fitch Ratings' Credit Ratings. Any comments or data included in the report are solely derived from Fitch Solutions Country Risk & Industry Research and independent sources. Fitch Ratings analysts do not share data or information with Fitch Solutions Country Risk & Industry Research.

# Agenda

**1**

EMs Headed For Slowdown

---

**2**

Commodity Prices Will Weaken

---

**3**

Inflation Will Ease

**4**

Hiking Cycle Almost Over

---

**5**

Industrial Policy Is Back

---

**6**

No Return To EM Golden Age



# 1

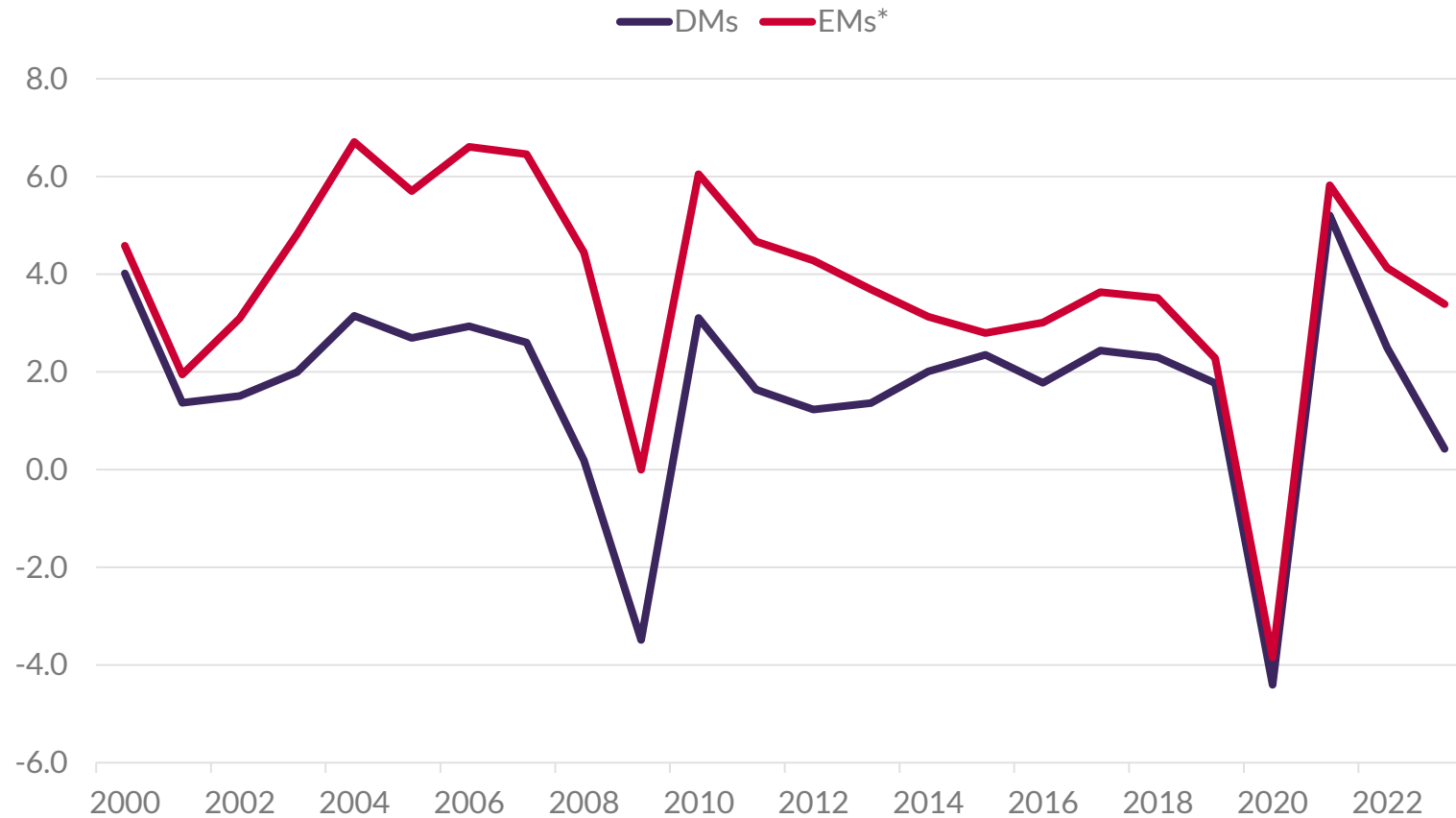
## Economic Growth

Most EMs Headed For  
Slowdown

# Growth: A Very Weak Outlook

## Deceleration Will Continue

Global – GDP Growth, % (2000-2022)



Note: \*EM figure excludes Mainland China, 2022 & 2023 = Fitch Solutions Forecast Source: Fitch Solutions

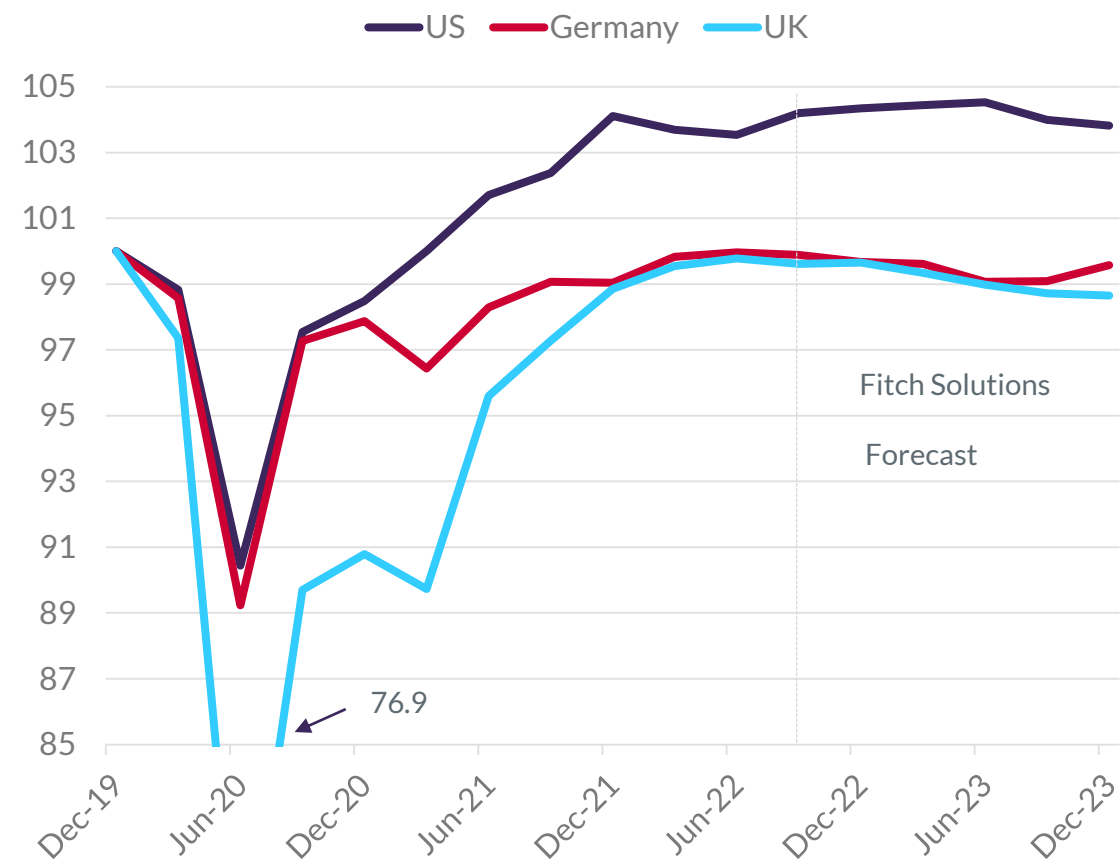
- After briefly rebounding in 2021, emerging market (EM) growth slowed sharply in 2022.
- We expect that growth in most EMs will be even weaker in 2023 due to:
  - Lower commodity prices
  - Recessions in key developed markets (DMs)
  - Increased barriers to trade and investment
- Latin America and EM Europe will be the worst-performing regions.
- Mainland China will be a key exception.



# Growth: DMs Will Drag Down EMs

## DMs Set For Slowdown

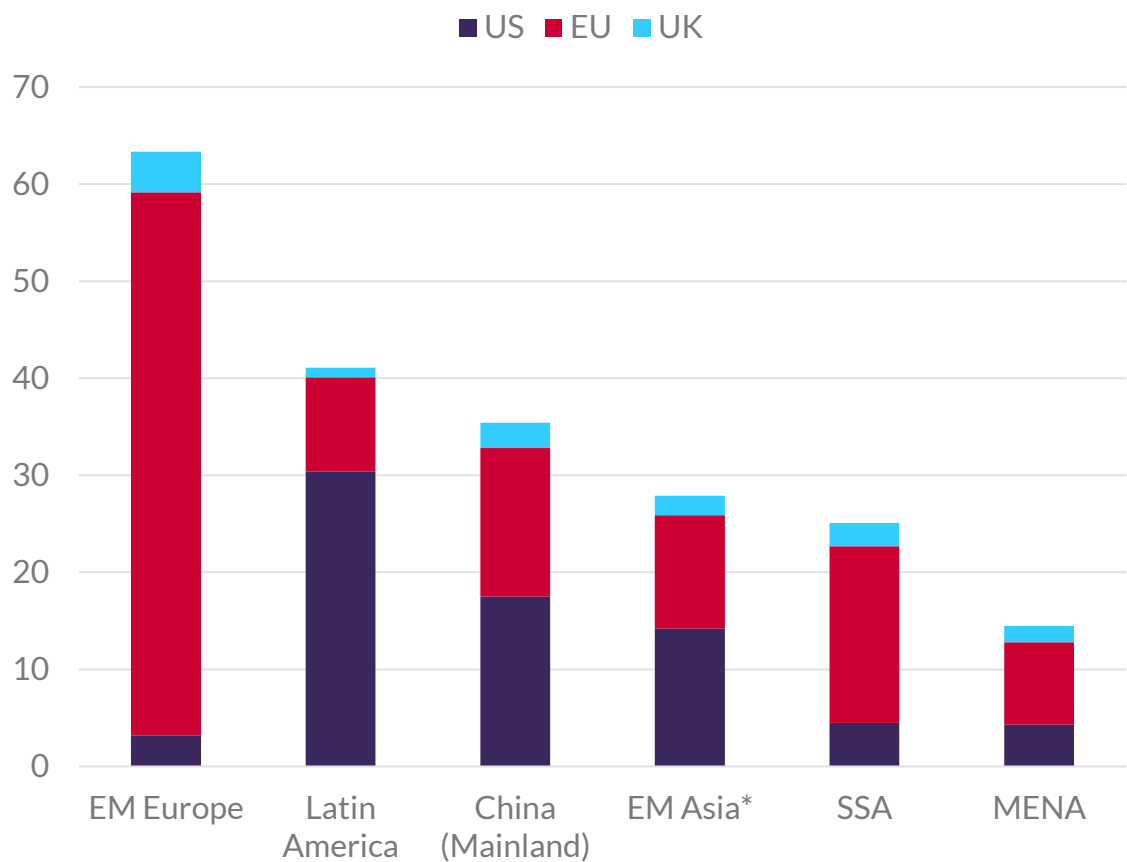
DMs – Real GDP Index, 100 = Q4 2019



Source: Fitch Solutions

## DM Slowdown Most Painful In EM Europe, Latin America

EMs – Exports to DMs, % of total exports



\*Note: Excludes Mainland China. Source: Fitch Solutions

# Growth: EM Europe, Latin America Will Lag Other EMs

## Slowdown Will Be Broad-Based

EMs – Real GDP, %



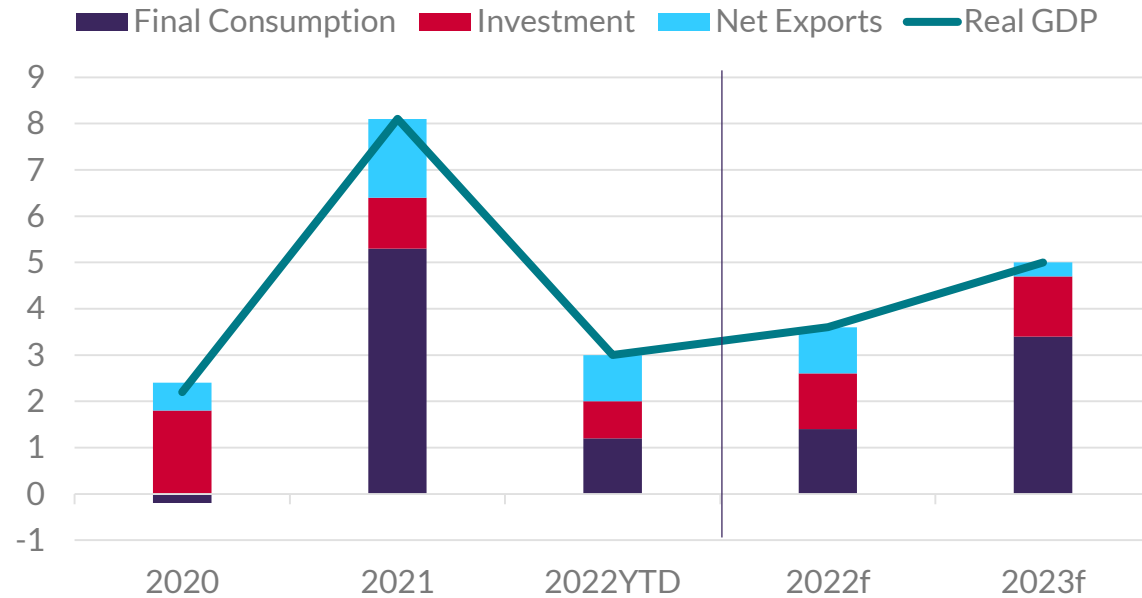
- We expect that almost all EM regions will perform worse in 2023 than they did in 2022
- The sharpest decelerations will be in Latin America and EM Europe
- Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and Mainland China will be the key exceptions
- In SSA, we expect slightly faster growth in South Africa and in East Africa.

Note: \*Excludes Mainland China \*\*Excludes Russia, Ukraine. e/f = estimate/forecast. Source: Fitch Solutions

# Growth: Mainland China Will Pick up

## Economic Recovery To Continue Into 2023

China (Mainland) – Real GDP Growth, %, & Expenditure Contribution, pp

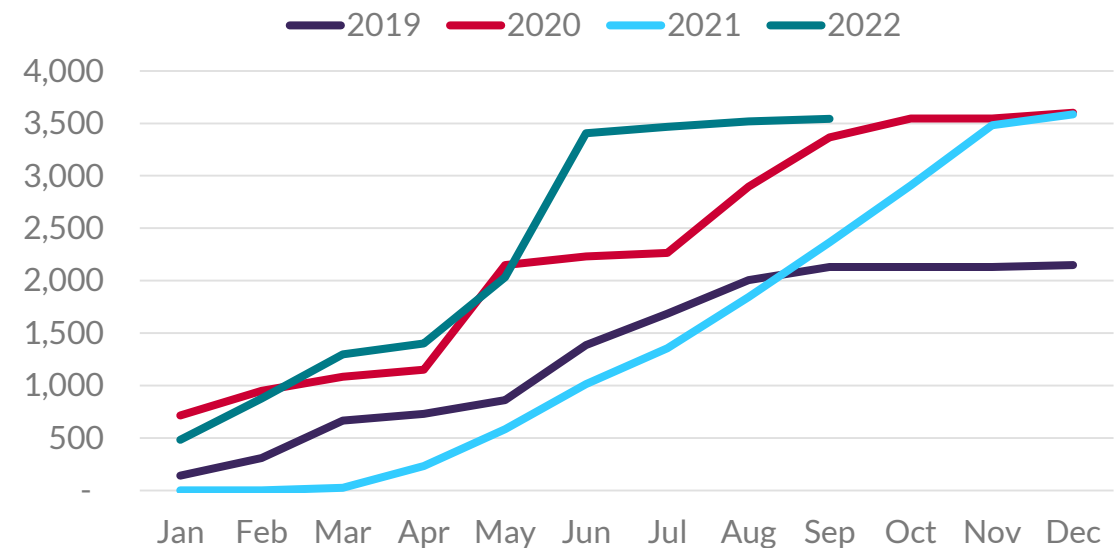


- Real GDP growth rebounded to 3.9% y-o-y in Q3, mainly driven by an improvement in investment and final consumption.
- Taking the latest figures into consideration, we are maintaining our growth forecast for 2022 at 3.6%. We expect real GDP growth to accelerate to 5.0% in 2023.

f= Fitch Solutions forecast. Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Fitch Solutions

## Special Local Government Bond Issuance Accelerated

China (Mainland) – Issuance Of Special Local Government Bonds, CNYbn ytd



- Growing headwinds stemming from a weakening external sector could potentially weigh on growth.
- However, this will be somewhat mitigated by a pickup in domestic economic activity as Covid-19 restrictions are eased and on the back of strong government measures to support the economy.

Source: Wind, Fitch Solutions





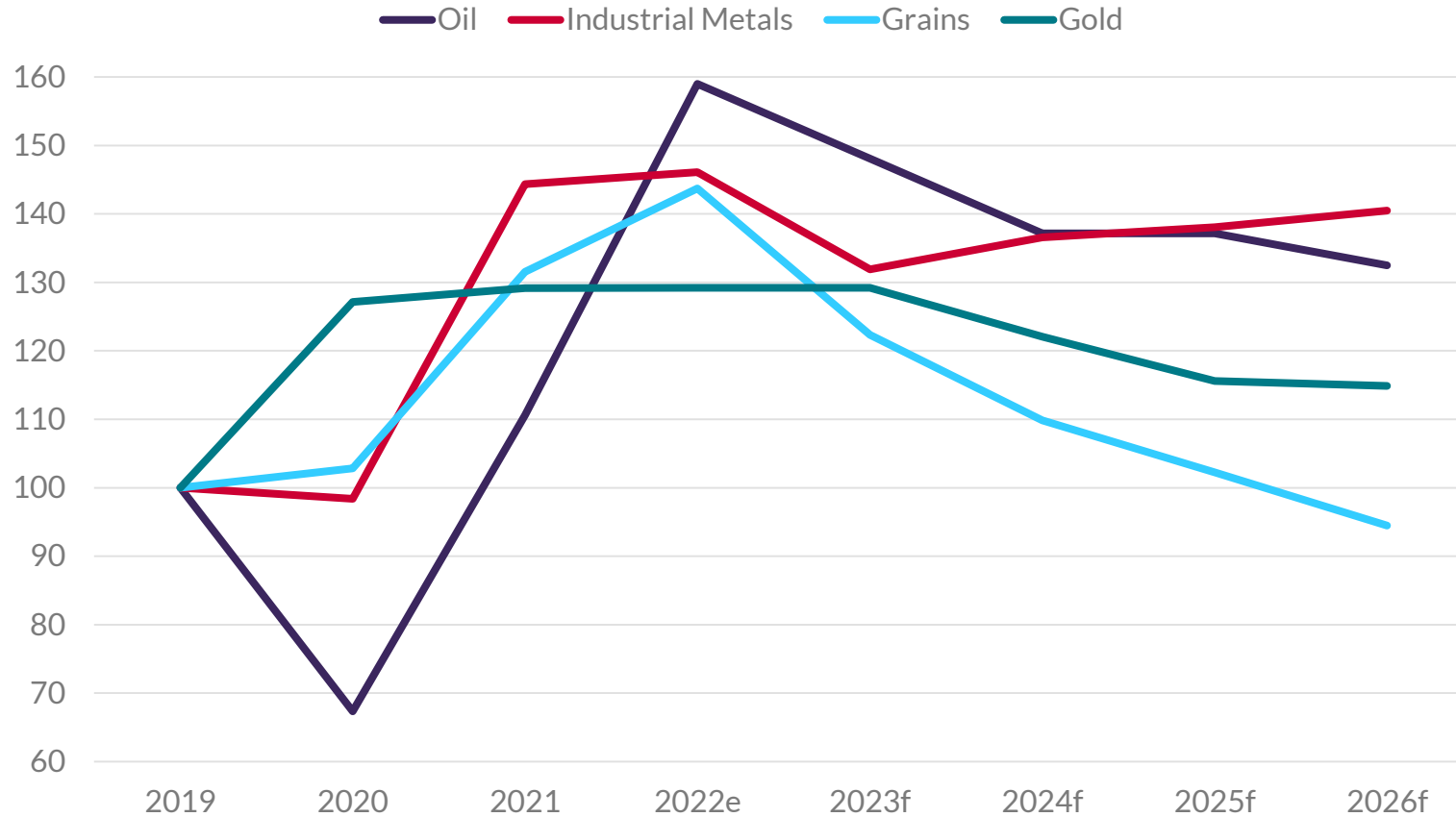
2

# Commodity Prices Headed Down

# Commodities & Energy: Prices Have Peaked

## Heading Down

Global – Commodity Price Indices, 100 = 2019 Average (2019-2024)



e/f = estimate/forecast. Source: Fitch Solutions

- Commodity prices have been highly volatile in recent years.
- Based on our core macro forecasts, we expect that most commodity prices have peaked, and will now gradually decline.
- The decline will be most pronounced for grain prices. Industrial metals, by contrast, will remain higher for longer.
- Lower prices will hit many EM exporters.

# Commodities & Energy : Oil Pressures Will Weaken

## Oil Price Will Weaken...

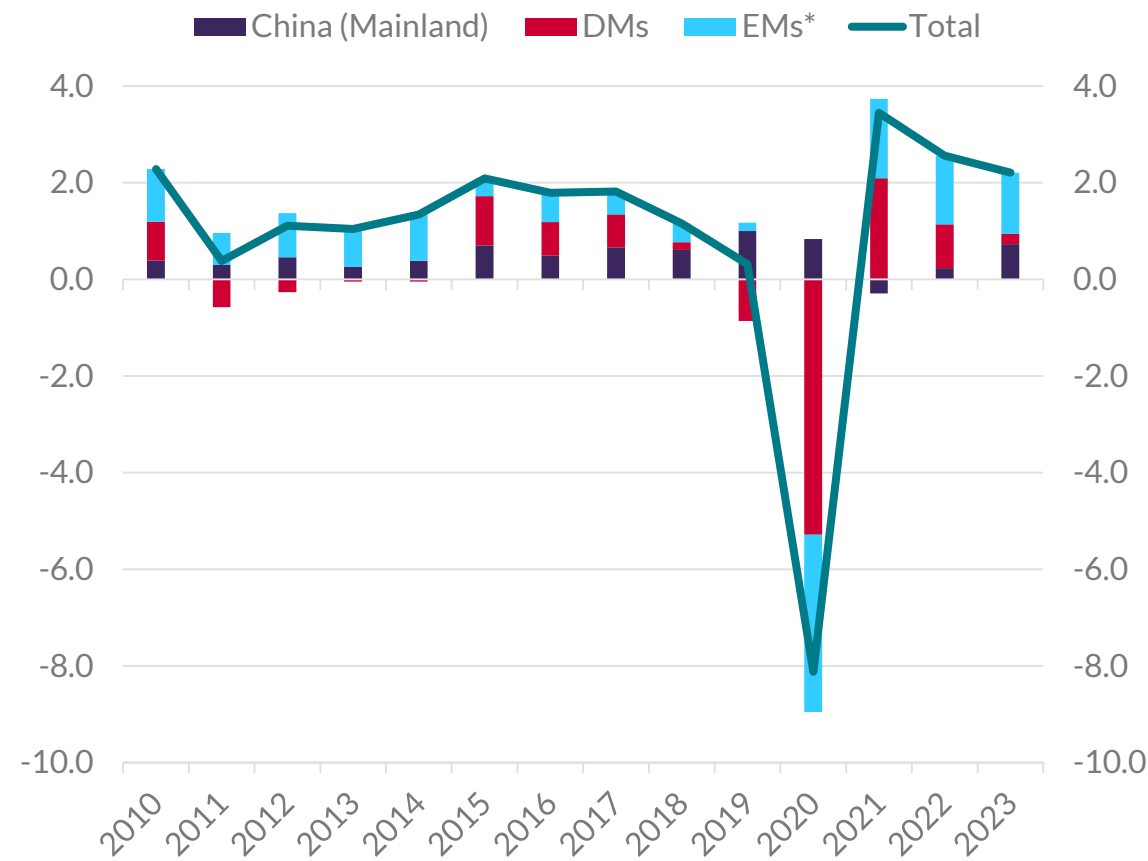
Global – Brent, USD per barrel



Source: Fitch Solutions

## ...As Demand Growth Softens

Global – Change In Global Oil Demand, mn barrels

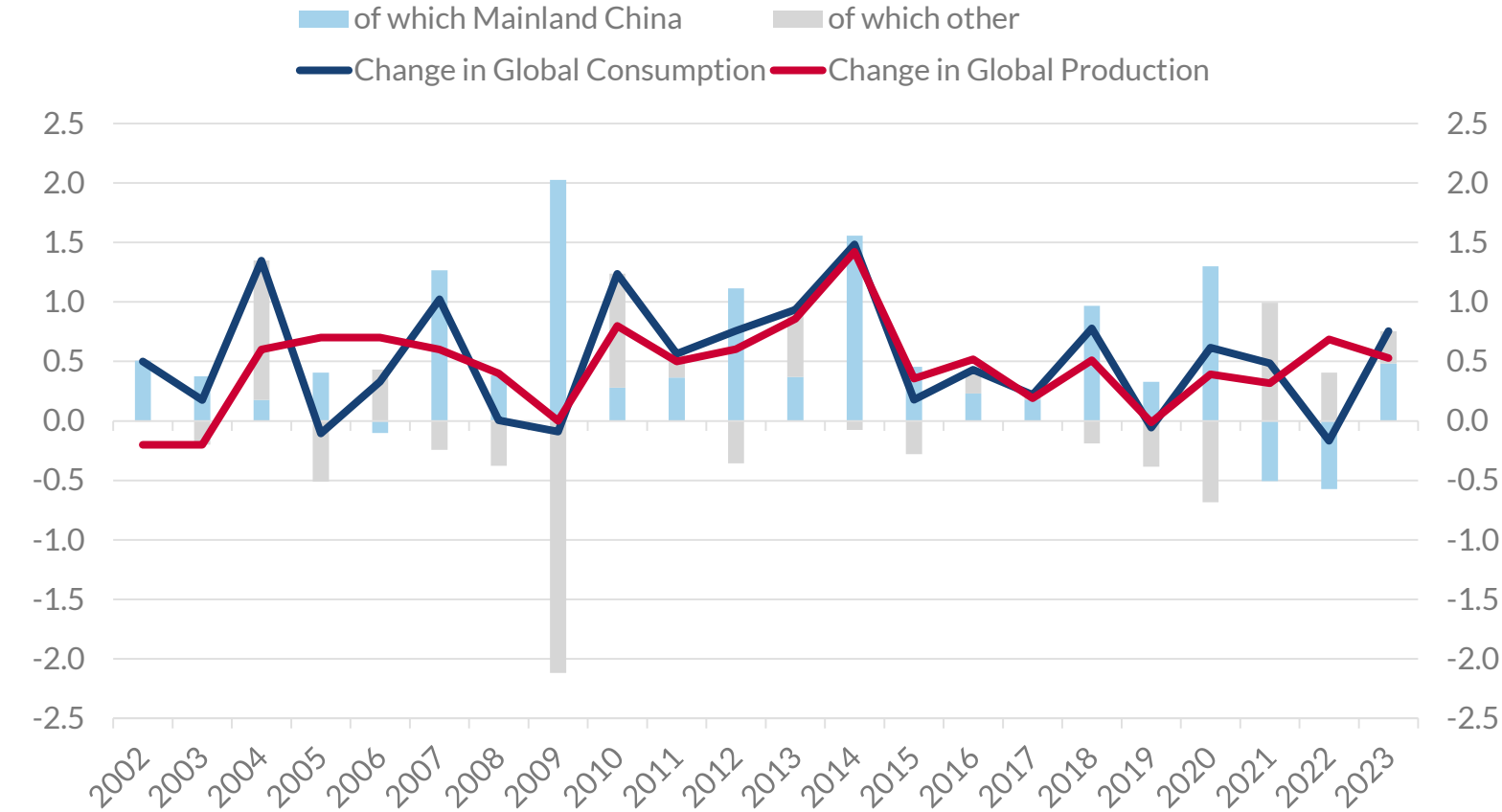


\*Note: Excludes Mainland China. Source: Fitch Solutions

# Commodities: Industrial Metals Prices Will Ease Gradually

## Mainland Chinese Growth Will Boost Copper Consumption

Global – Annual Change In Copper Production & Consumption, mn Tonnes



- Industrial metals prices will be supported by two key factors:
  - Stimulus driven demand in Mainland China.
    - This is particularly important for copper and iron ore
  - Supply constraints caused by limits on Russian exports
    - This is particularly important for nickel



The background features a glowing, semi-transparent globe with a network of orange and blue lines and dots, suggesting a global digital or financial network. The colors are primarily blue and orange, with a soft glow effect.

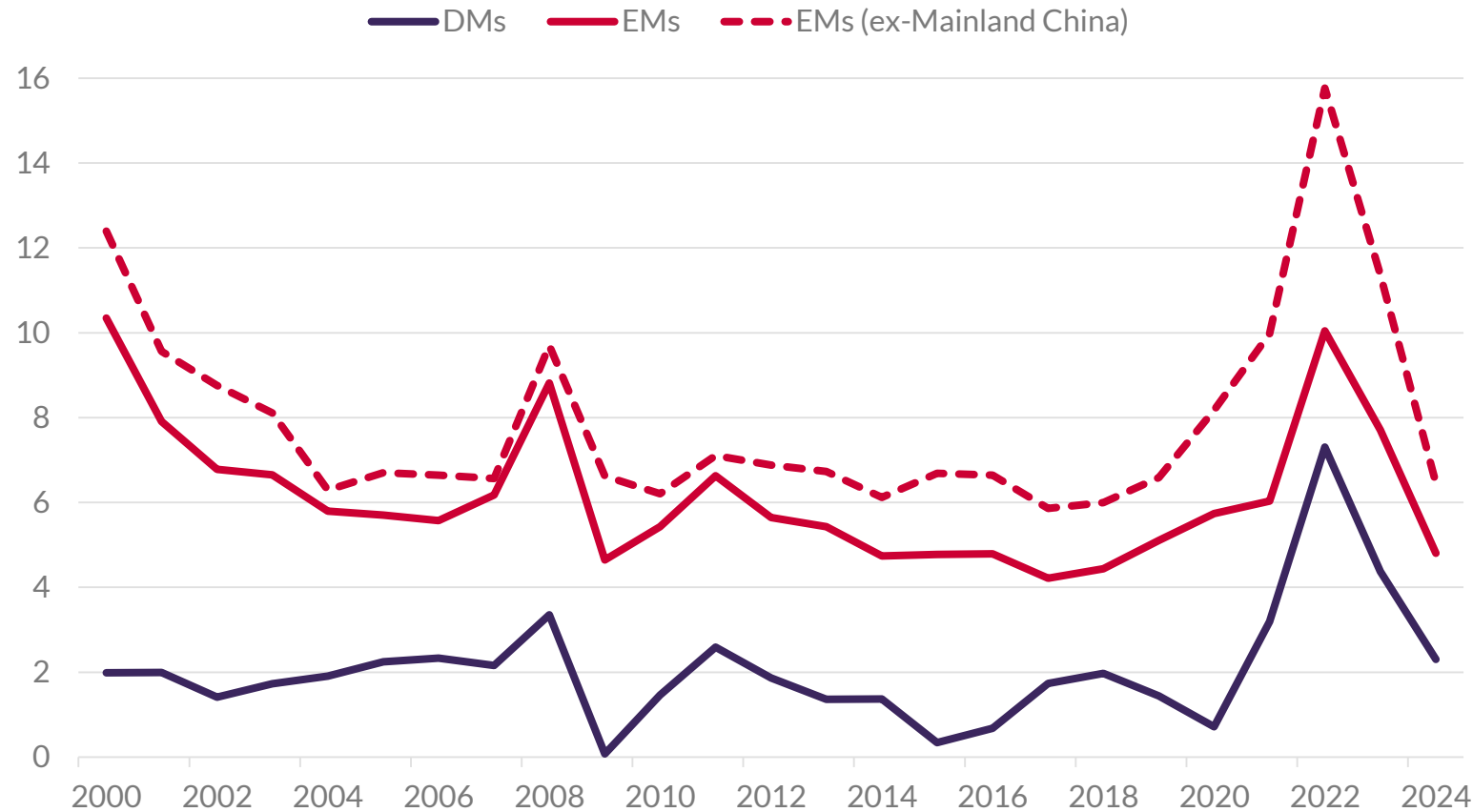
# 3

## Inflation Finally Easing

# Inflation: Price Growth Has Peaked

## Inflation Set to Ease In 2023

Global – Inflation, % (2000-2024)



Source: Fitch Solutions Note: 2022, 2023, 2024 = Fitch Solutions Forecast

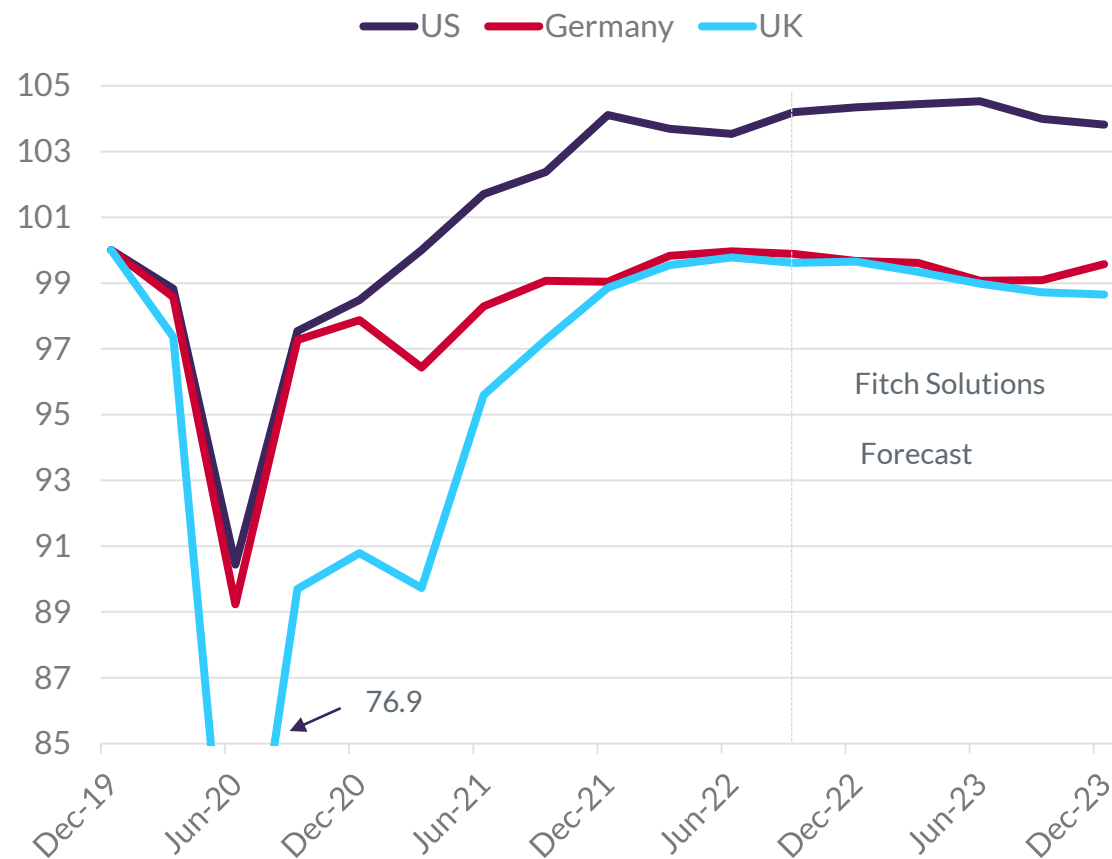
- We expect that inflation will ease across almost all EMs in 2023.
- There are key reasons for this view
  - Lower food & energy prices
  - Weaker demand
  - Reduced supply chain problems
  - A softer USD
- That said, the pace of deflation will differ across the EM world, with low income economies and EM Europe facing inflation for longer.



# Inflation: Weaker Demand, Supply Chain Problems Will Ease

## DMs Set For Slowdown

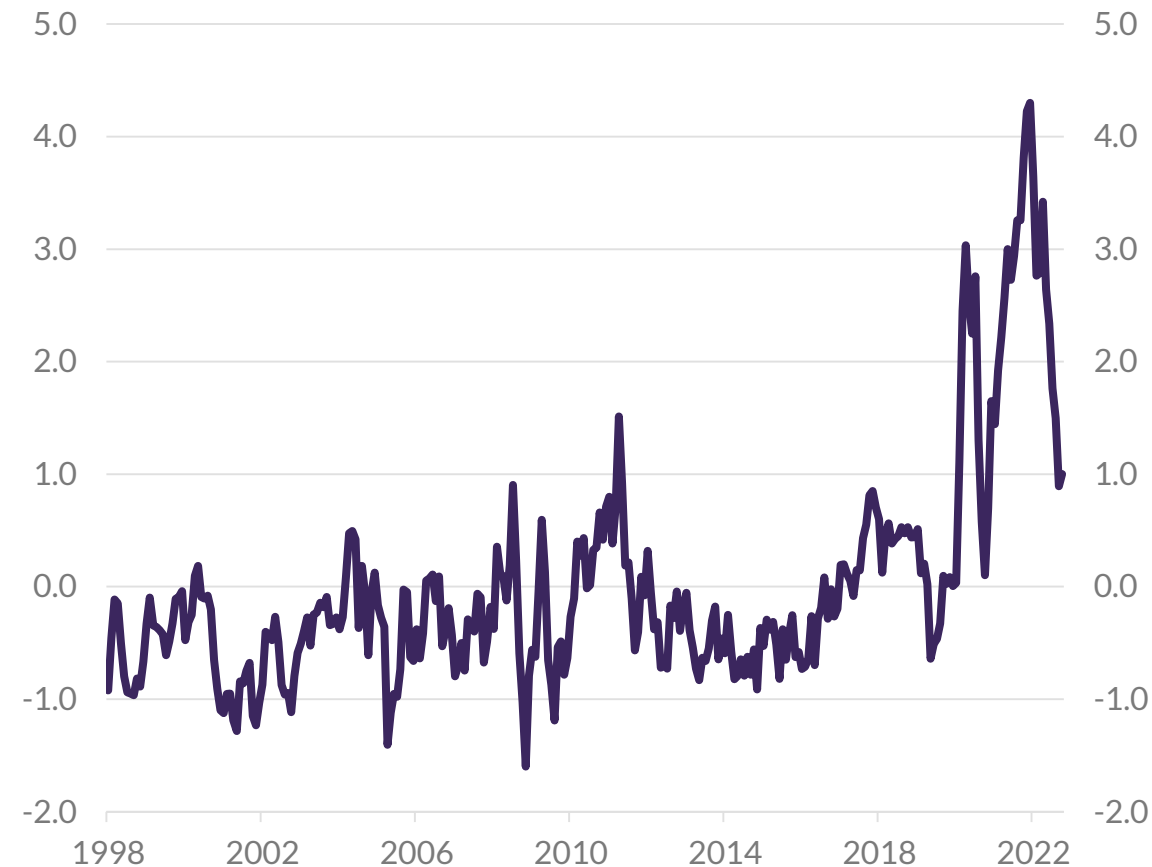
DMs – Real GDP Index, 100 = Q4 2019



Source: Fitch Solutions

## Supply Chain Issues Fading

Global – Global Supply Chain Pressure Index



Source: Fitch Solutions

# Inflation: External Factors Will Ease Up

## Greenback Has Peaked...

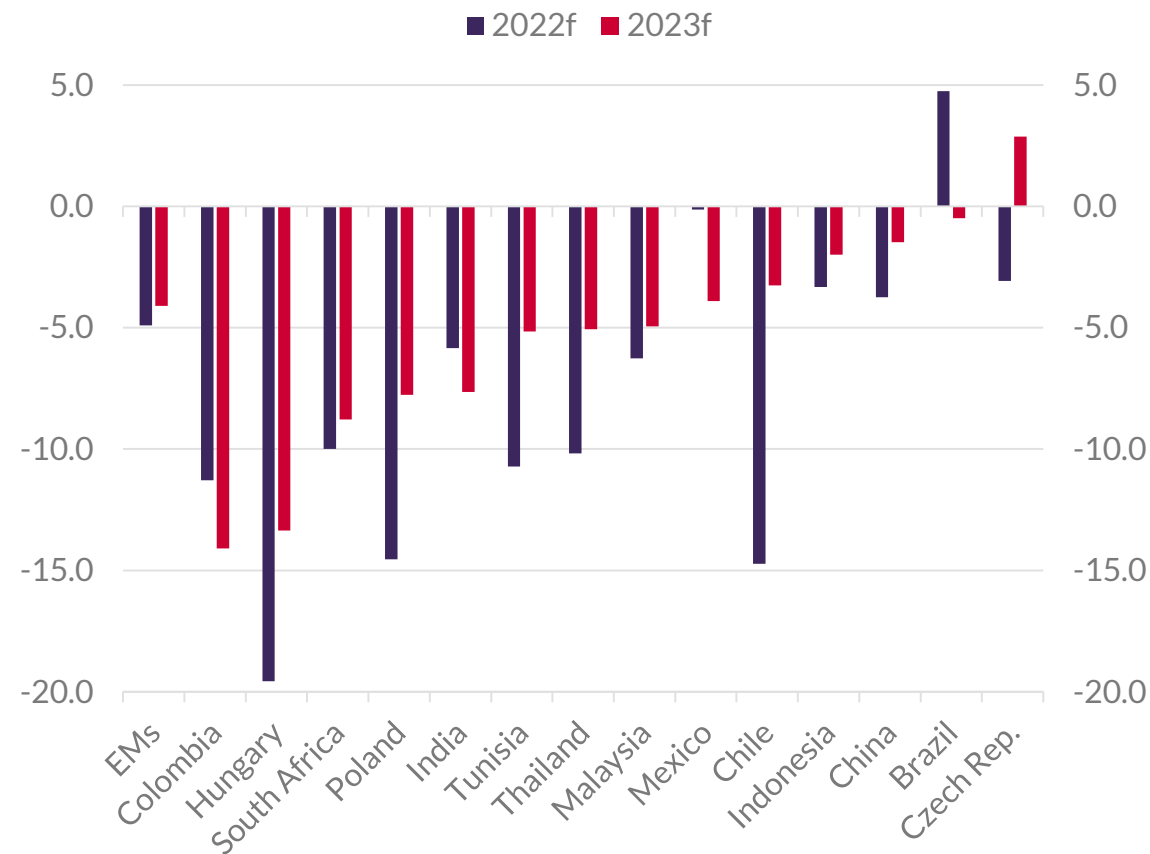
US – DXY Index



Source: Fitch Solutions

## ...Taking Pressure Off EM Currencies

EMs – Average Exchange Rate vs USD, % Change

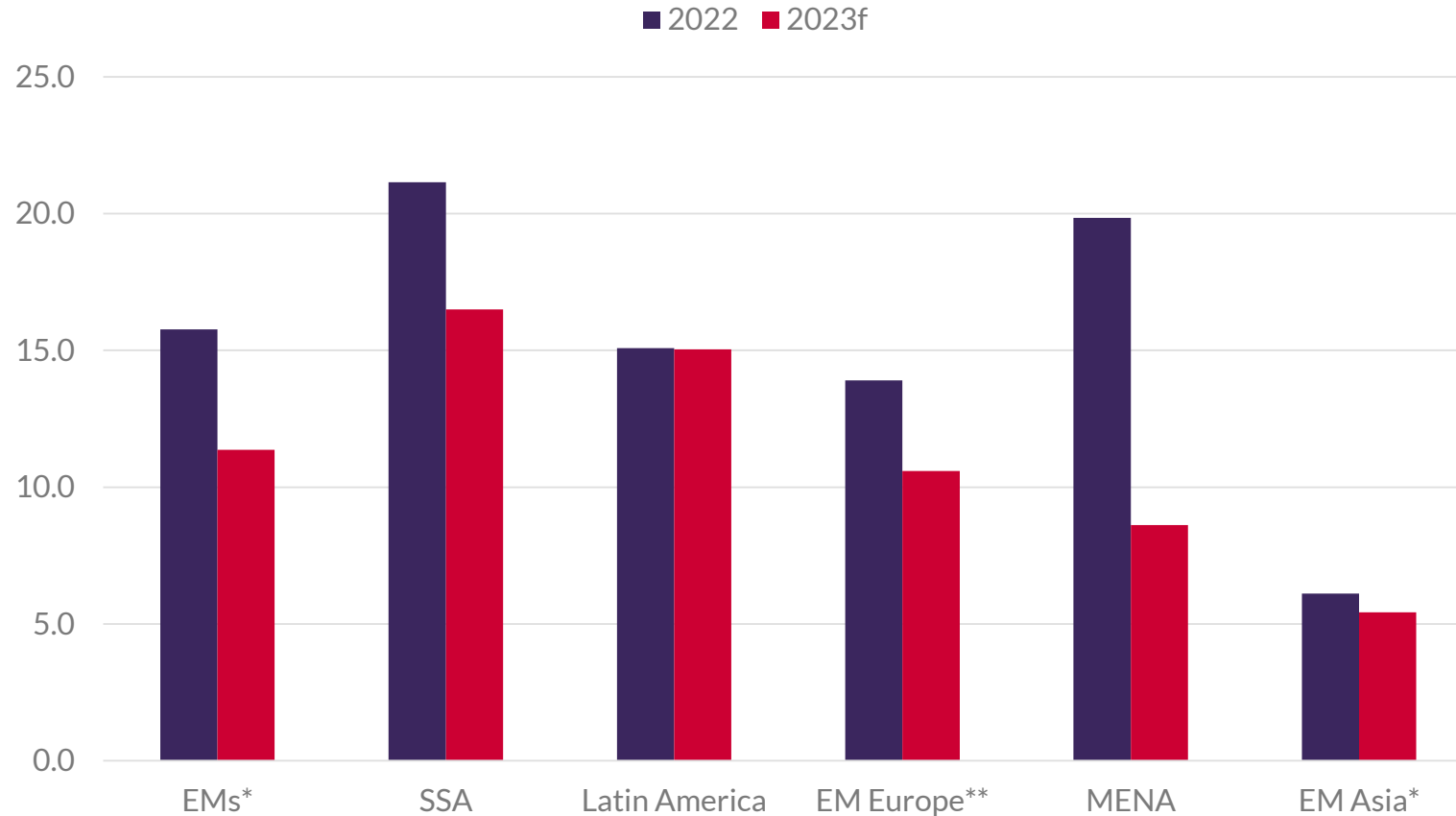


Source: Fitch Solutions

# Inflation: Significant Regional Variation

## Pace Of Disinflation Will Vary

Global – Inflation, %



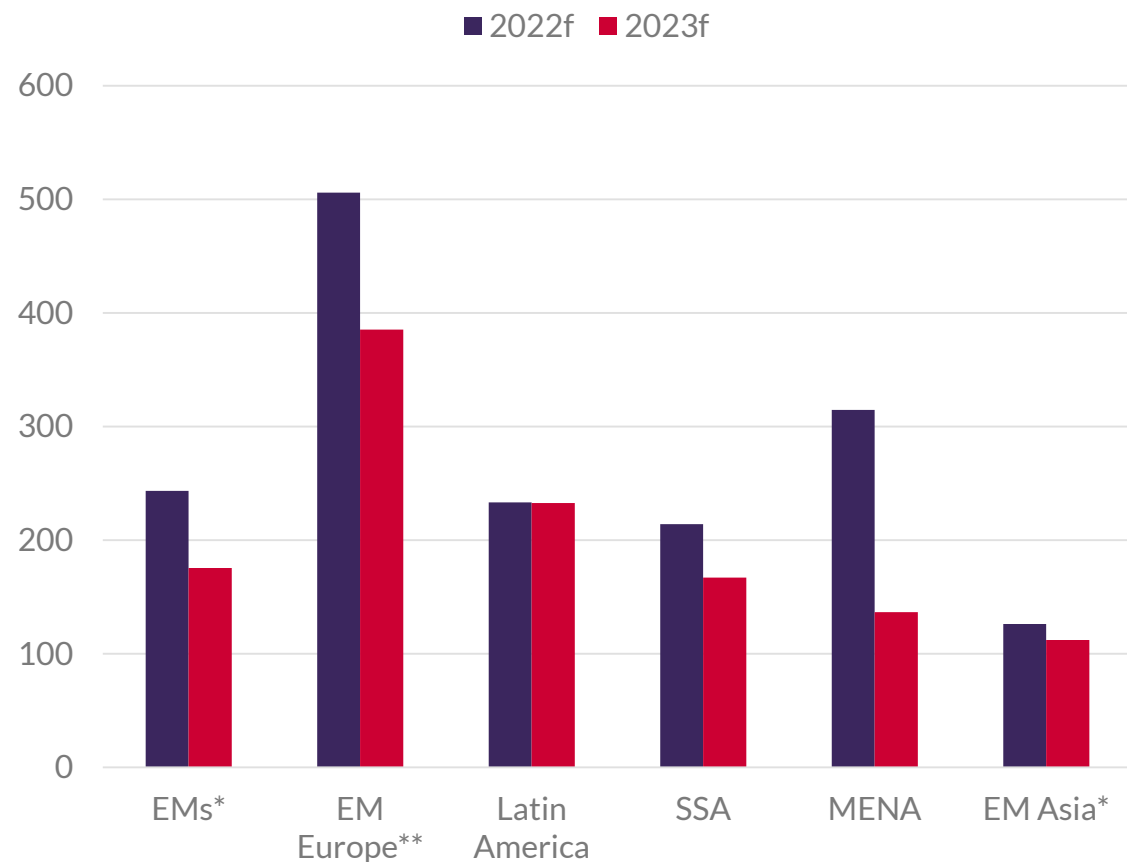
Note: \*Excludes Mainland China, \*\*Excludes Russia, Ukraine, and Turkiye. f = forecast. Source: Fitch Solutions

- We expect that inflation will ease in almost all EM regions.
- If Mainland China is excluded, EM inflation will slip from an average of 15.8% in 2022 to an average of 11.4% in 2023.
- The pace of the deceleration of price growth will vary significantly, with price growth slowing fastest in Middle East and North Africa.
- Inflation will remain fastest in SSA.

# Inflation: Lasting Inflation Challenges In Europe

## Inflation Remaining Farther Above Trend

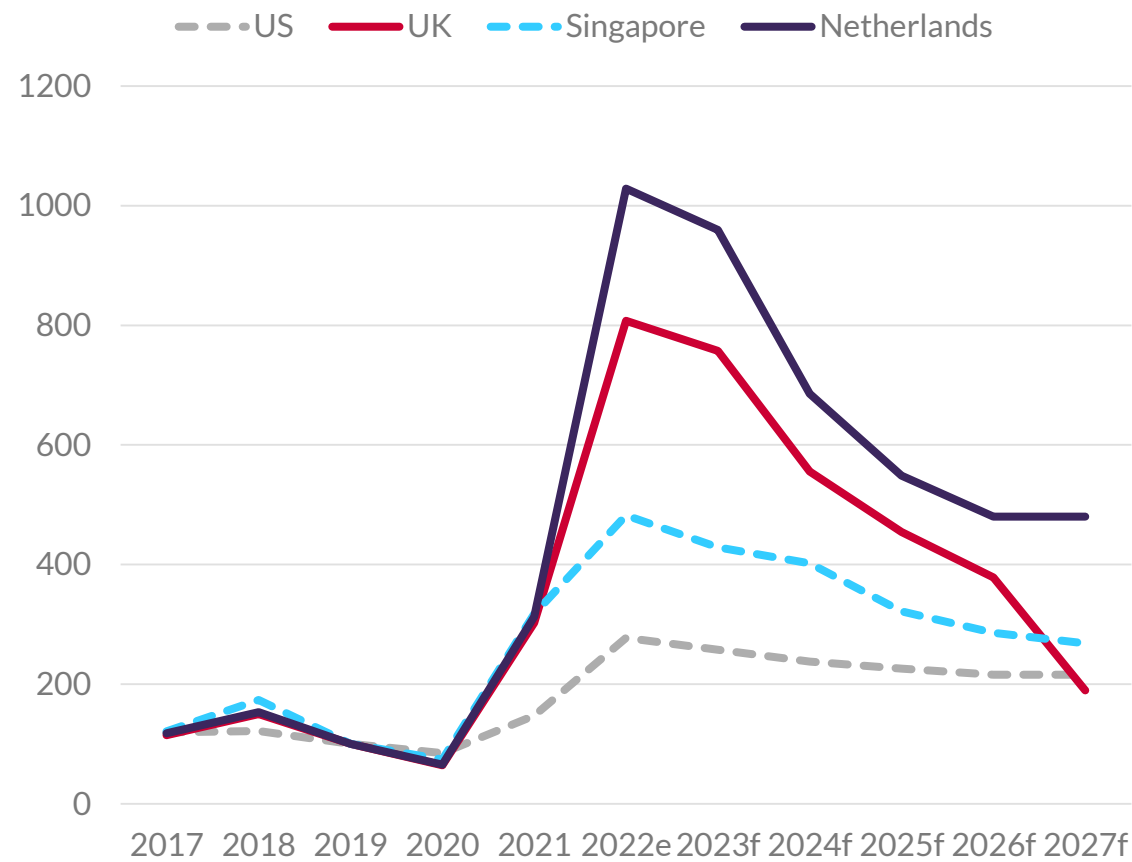
EMs – Average Inflation Compared, 100 = 2010-2019 Average



Note: \*Excludes Mainland China, \*\*excludes Russia, Ukraine, and Türkiye. f = forecast. Source: Fitch Solutions

## European Energy Prices Will Be Higher For Longer

Global – Natural Gas Price Index, 100 = 2019 Average



f = forecast. Source: Fitch Solutions

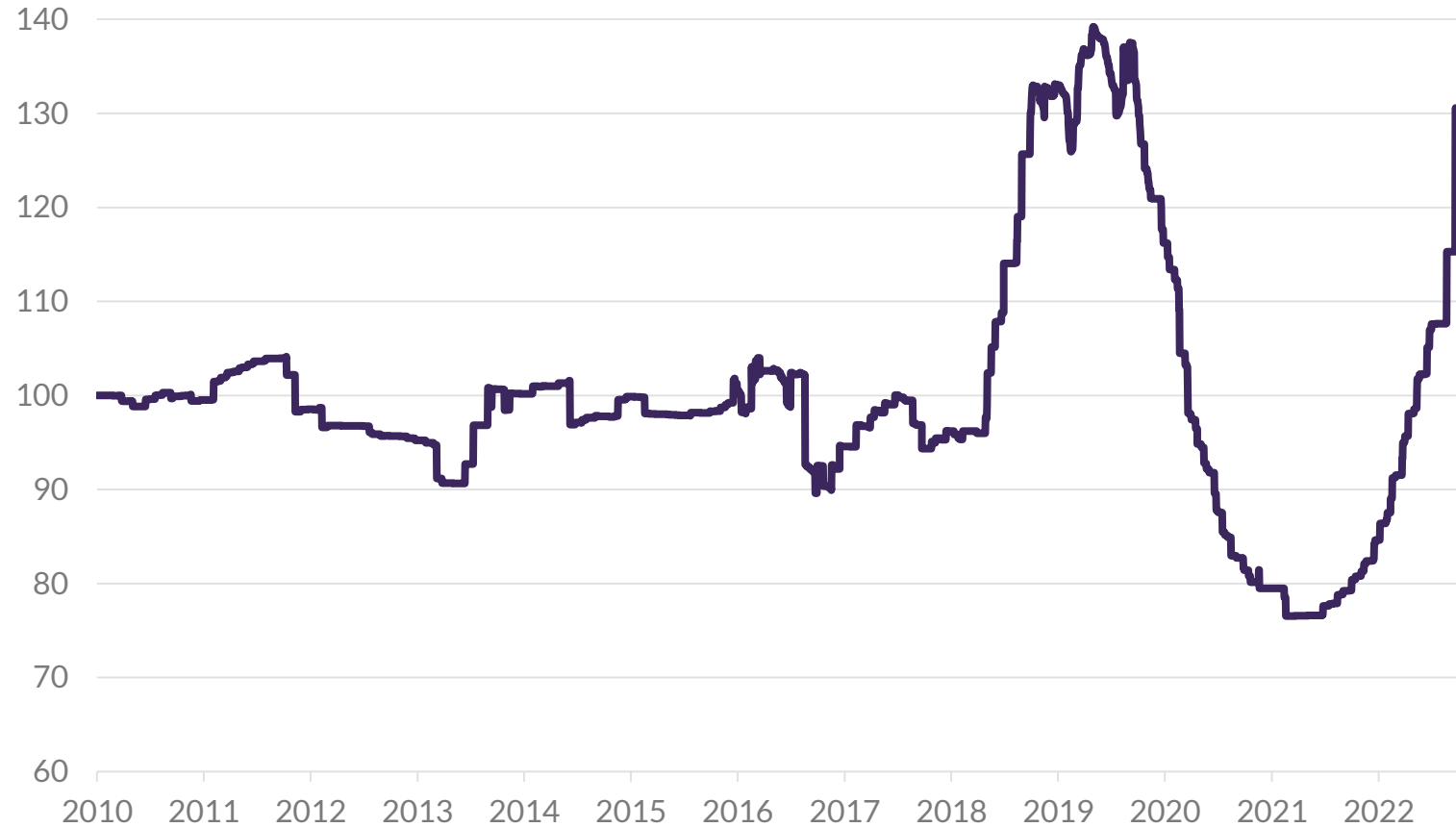
# 4

## **Policy Rates** Hiking Cycle Ending

# Policy Rates: Cycle Nearing Its End

## EM Rates Now Near Their Pre-Crisis Peak

EM Interest Rates – GDP-Weighted Index, 2010 = 100



Source: Macrobond, Fitch Solutions

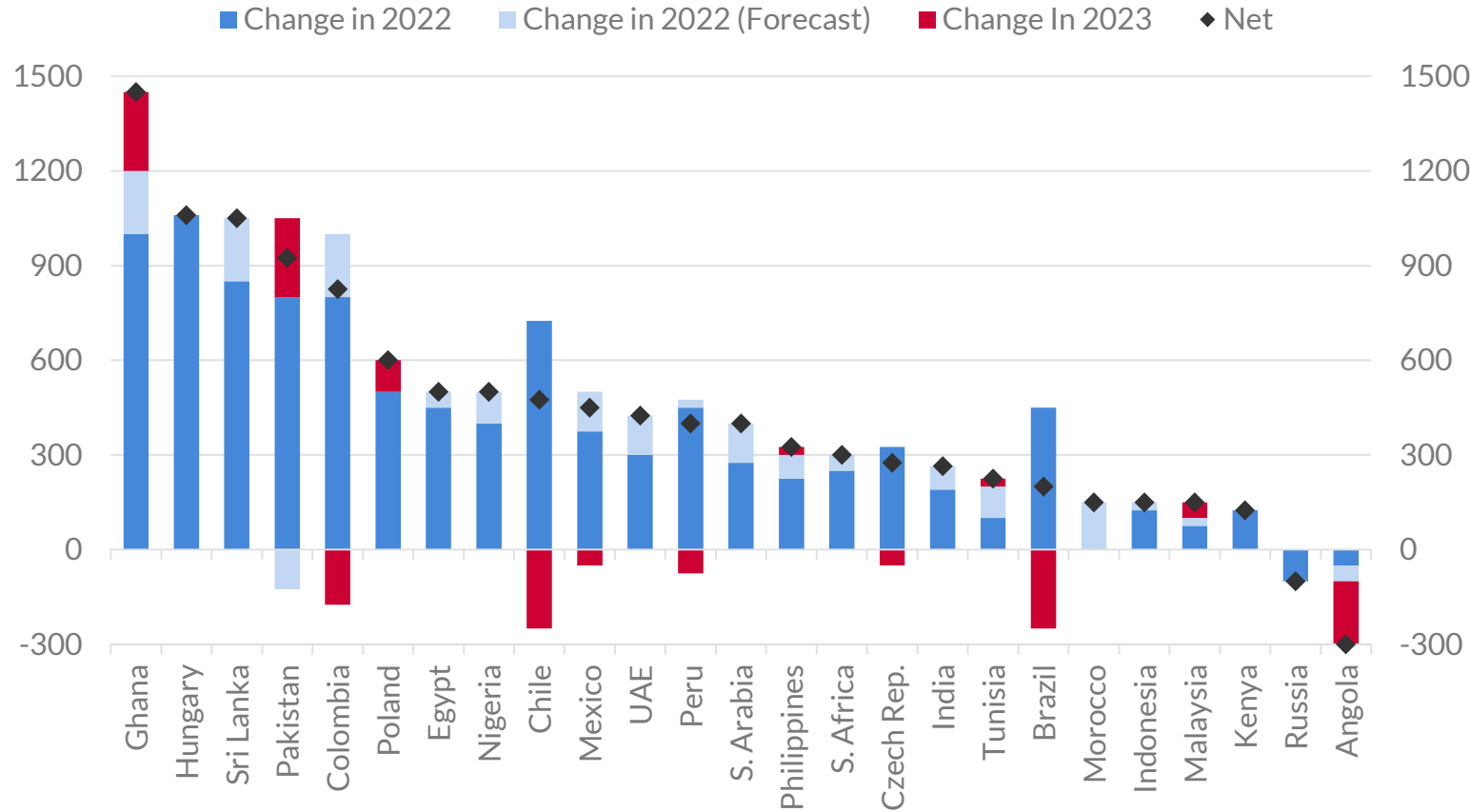
- EM central bankers cut their policy rates sharply in 2020 in an effort to provide stimulus.
- Starting with Latin America, EMs then began an aggressive sharp hiking cycle in 2021.
- In aggregate, rates are now almost as high as they were before the crisis.
- We expect that most banks are near the end of their cycle.
- A few EMs will begin loosening policy next year.



# Policy Rates: Cycle Nearing Its End

## Hiking Cycle Mostly Over

EMs – Change In Policy Rate Since Jan 1 2022, Basis Points



Source: Macrobond, Fitch Solutions

- EM policymakers are almost all of the way through their hiking cycle.
- We expect more hikes in a few economies, including Poland, Egypt, South Africa, and the USD-pegged economies of the GCC.
- Most rates will be kept on hold in 2023.
- In a few markets – mostly in Latin America – we expect that policymakers will actually begin to cut their key rates in 2023.



5

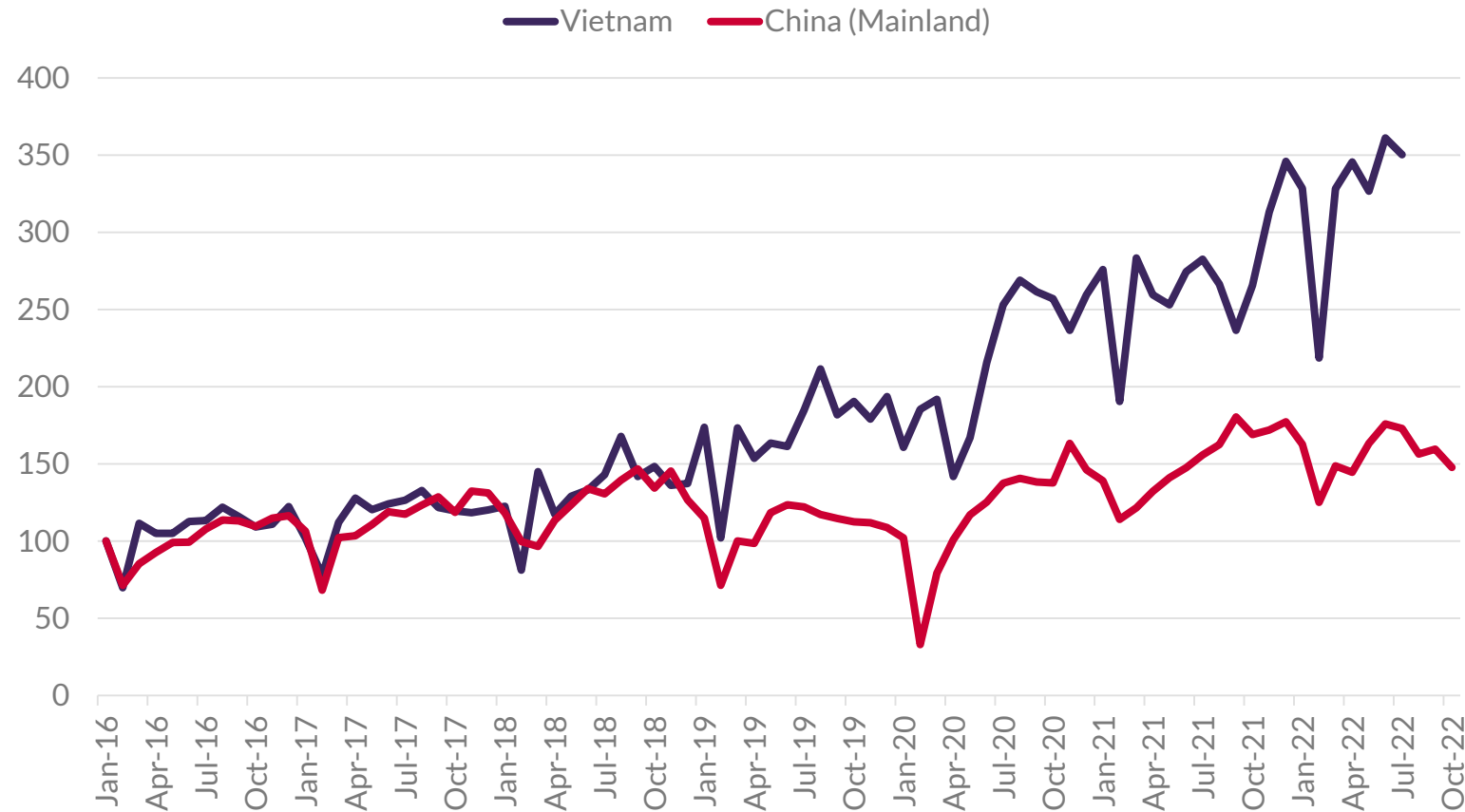
# Industrial Policy

More Interventions

# Industrial Policy: The Visible Hand Reaches In

## Someone Always Wins

EMs – Index of Exports To US, January 2016 = 100



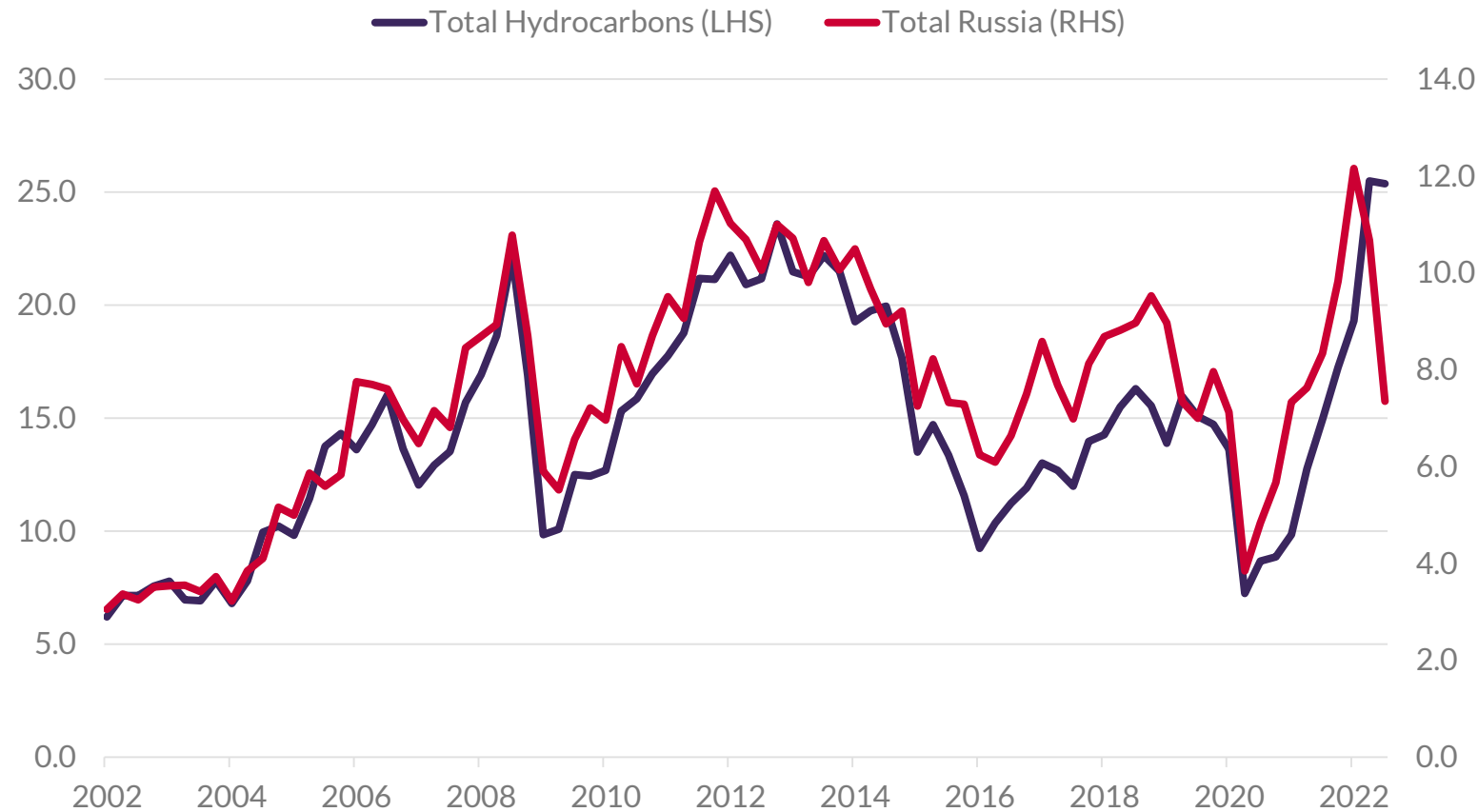
Source: Macrobond

- Worries about sourcing key inputs and increased tension between major economies will increase protectionism across DMs and EMs.
- Western sanctions and trade barriers will create headwinds for Mainland China and Russia.
- The displacement effects of these measures may have both positive and negative spill-over effects for other EMs.

# Industrial Policy: A Different Sort Of Energy Transition

## Conscious Uncoupling

Germany – Monthly Imports, EURbn



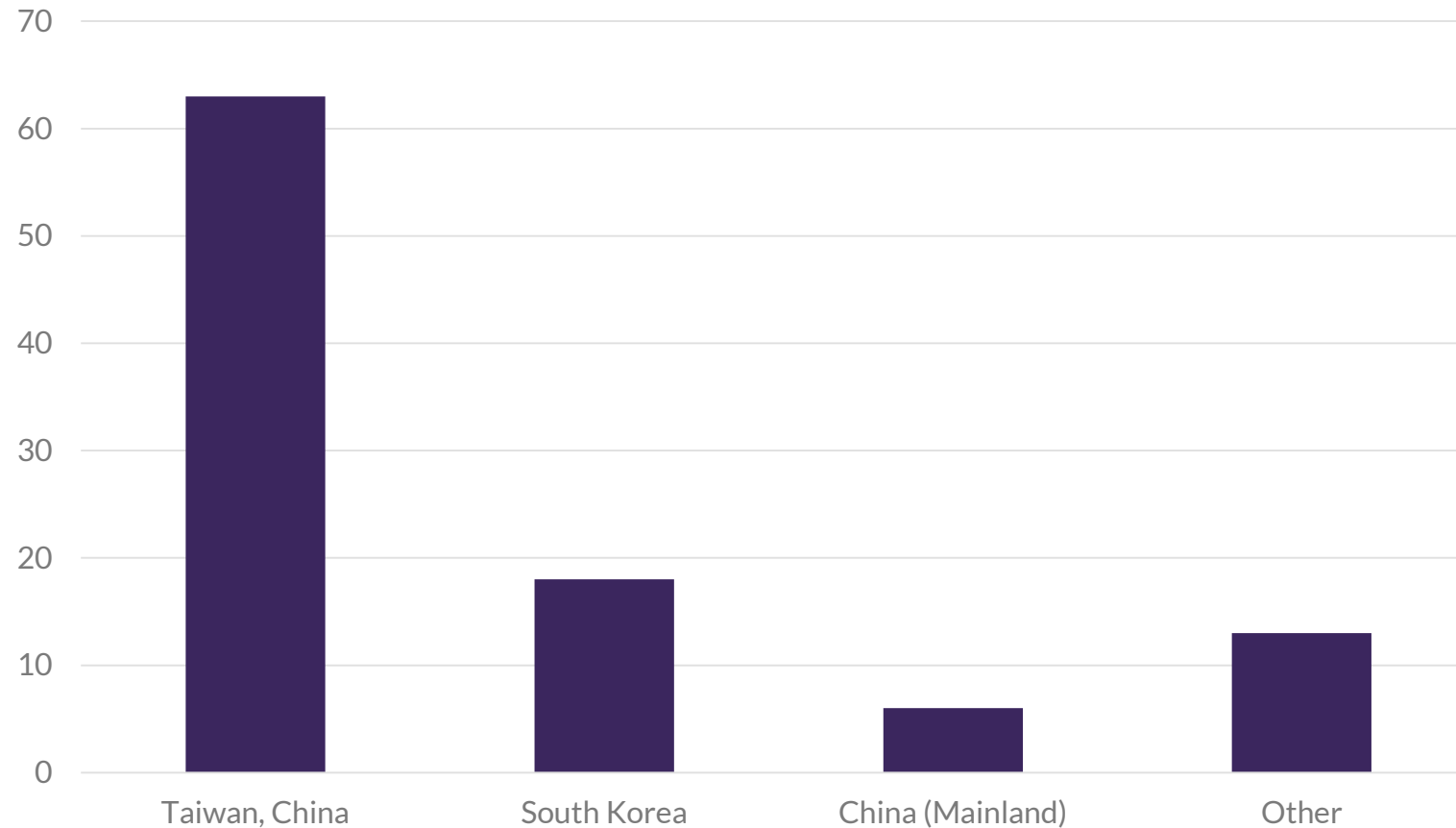
Source: Macrobond

- One key driver of policy-driven trade disruption will be the EU's move away from Russian energy exports.
- The bloc has already made significant progress, and we expect that this will accelerate.
- This transition has potentially significant benefits for other oil and gas suppliers, notably in Africa.
- However, LNG importers elsewhere will face a more competitive market. This poses risks for EMs like Turkey and India.

# Industrial Policy: The Battle Over Chips

## A Crucial Industry, Concentrated

EMs – Global Semiconductor Revenue, %



Source: TrendsForce, Fitch Solutions

- Political tensions between Washington and Beijing will have a significant effect on the technology sector.
- We expect that more governments will attempt to source key components domestically, or at least from friendly countries.
- This will reduce efficiencies from trade.
- Trade policies usually have unintended consequences.



The background is a dark blue and teal abstract image. It features a glowing globe on the left side, composed of a grid of points and lines. The globe is partially obscured by a network of lines and dots that extend across the entire frame, creating a sense of global connectivity and digital infrastructure.

6

# Structural Headwinds

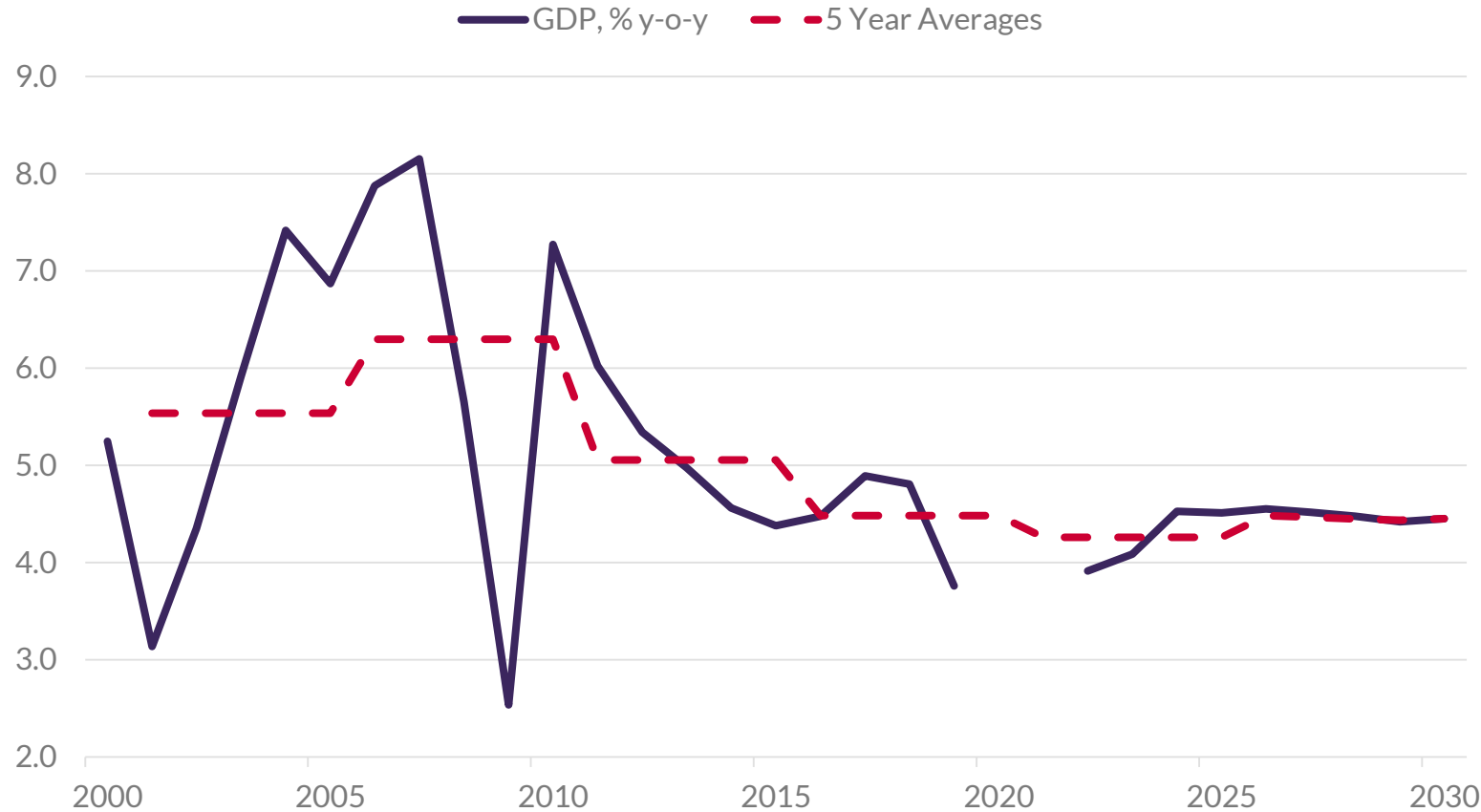
Building



# Structural Headwinds: EM Growth Has Peaked

## EM World Will Gradually Slow

EMs – Real GDP, % y-o-y



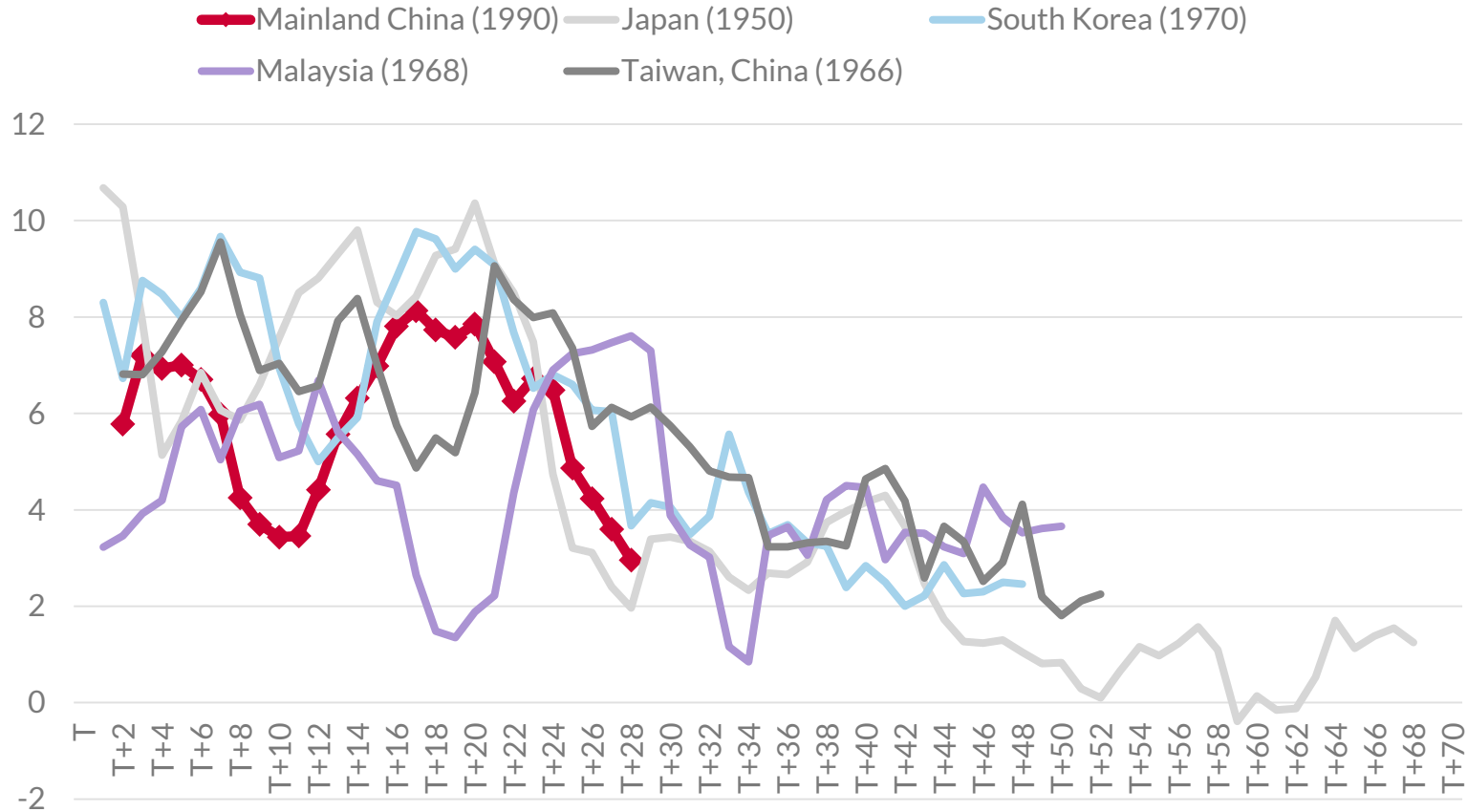
Source: Macrobond, Fitch Solutions (Note: Fitch Solutions Forecasts, 2020 & 2021 excluded for scale)

- While we expect that headline EM GDP growth will accelerate in 2024, we do not think that it will regain its pre-crisis pace.
- The structural slowdown that began in 2010 will continue over the coming decade.
- Several key factors will drive this:
  - Slower growth in China
  - Reduced commodity demand
  - Convergence with DM income levels
  - Weakening demographic tailwinds

# Structural Headwinds: China, Other EMs Converging

## Best Days Behind Them?

EMs – Real GDP Per Capita, % y-o-y (Rolling 5-year Average)



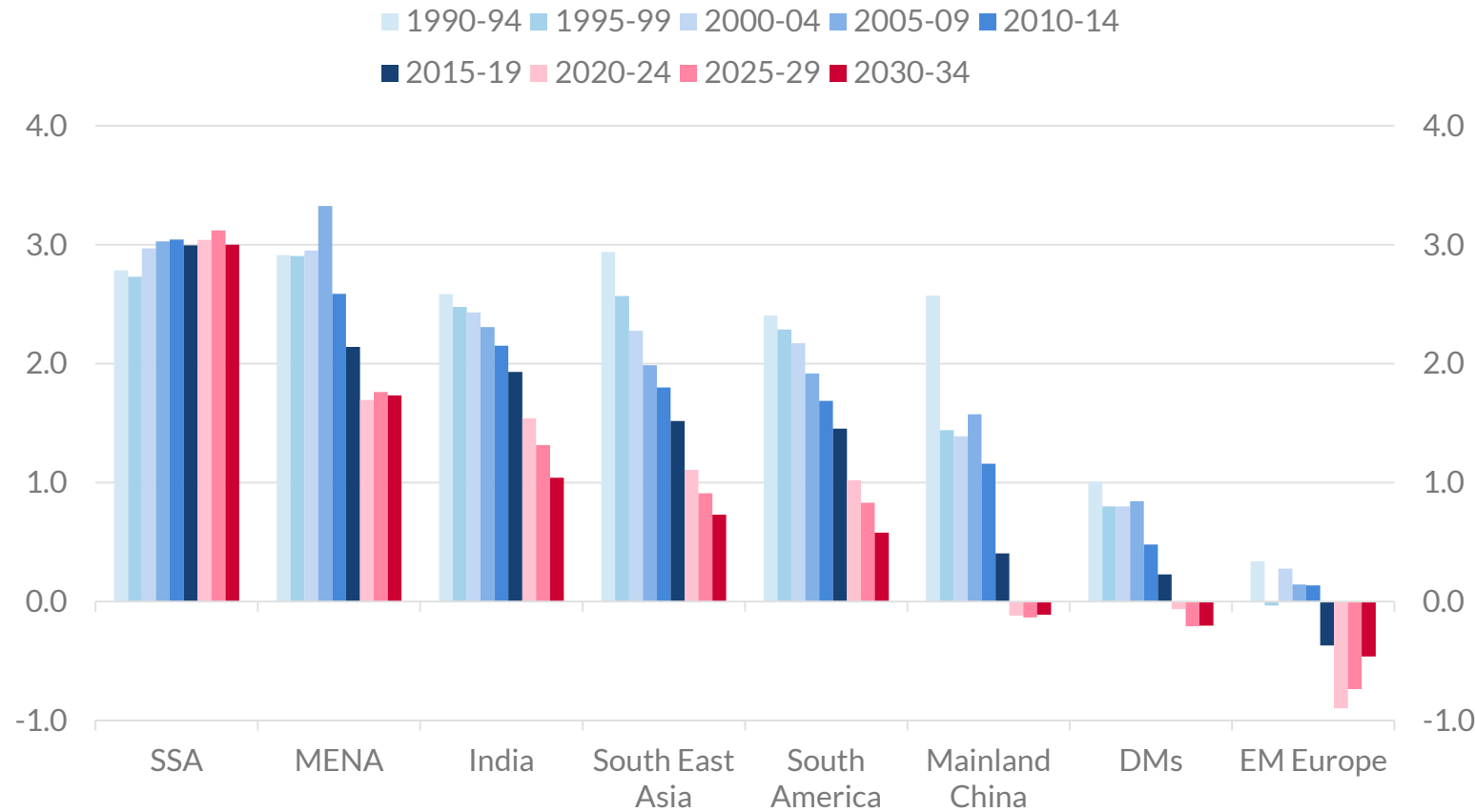
Note: Figures are show in Years since T; when GDP/capita = USD3,000 per capita in 2011 prices. Source: Angus Maddison Database

- While Mainland China's scale makes its rise unique, the economy is following a well-worn path.
- As incomes rise, potential growth is slowing, as it did in other rapidly-developing Asian economies.
- Similar trends are also at play in other EMs, though their transitions will mostly be slower.
- Potential growth will remain higher in SSA and parts of South Asia.

# Structural Headwinds: Demographic Tailwinds Fading

## Best Days Behind Them?

EMs – Working Age Population Growth, %



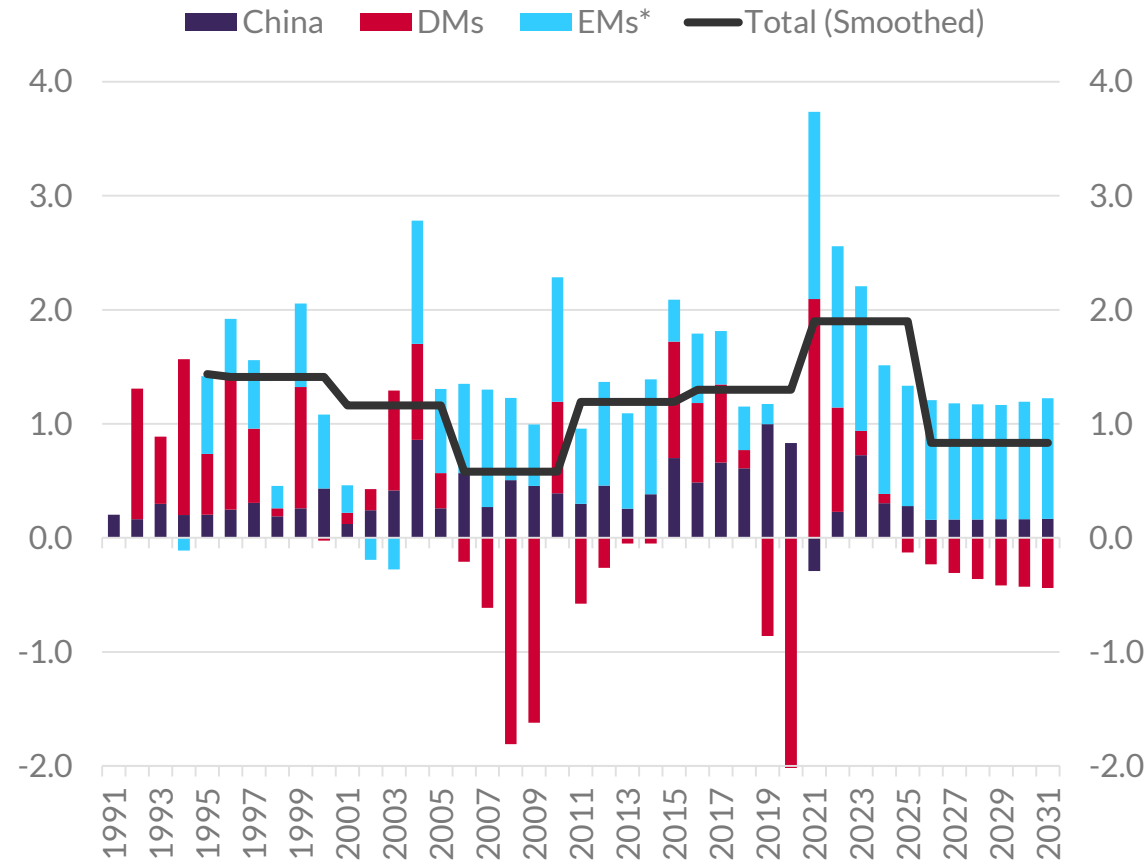
Source: UN Population Report

- Demographic tailwinds boosted EM growth in the 1990s and early 2000s.
- In most regions, the growth of the working-age population has already slowed, and will now slow further.
- In Mainland China and EM Europe, the working age population will begin to fall.
- While short-term measures can boost the labour force, this will create a significant tailwind and leave growth dependent on rising productivity.

# Structural Headwinds : Commodity Demand Will Ease

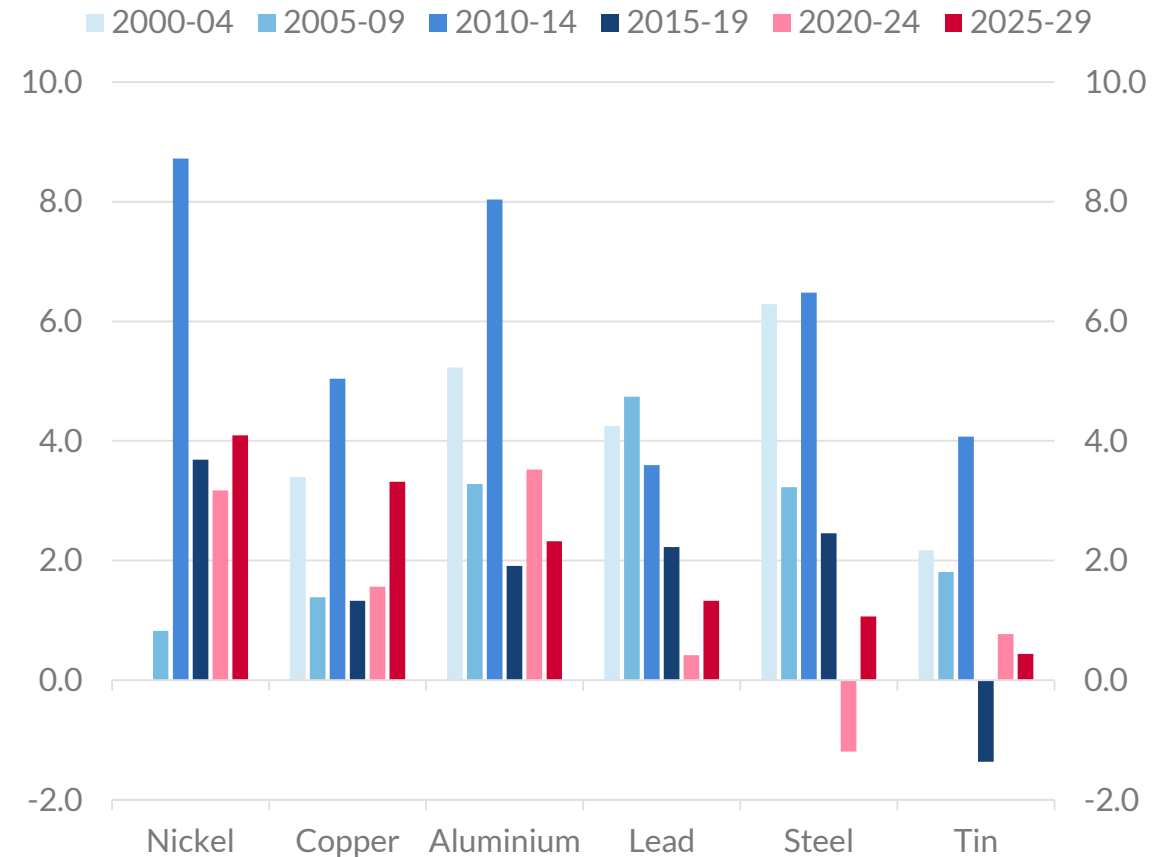
## Oil Transition Will Be Painful For Many EMs

Global – Change In Oil Consumption, mn b/d



## China's Building Boom Will Not Be Repeated

Global – Commodity Demand, % y-o-y





# Q&A



# Country Risk & Industry Research

Make clear-sighted business decisions and understand the opportunities and risks in markets where reliable information is hard to find and even harder to interpret.

Find out more at [fitchsolutions.com/products/country-risk-and-industry-research](https://fitchsolutions.com/products/country-risk-and-industry-research)



# Learn More

Fitch Solutions helps clients to excel at managing their credit risk, gain deeper insights into the debt and fixed income markets, and get comprehensive intelligence about the macroeconomic environment.

Powered by Fitch Connect, our Country Risk & Industry Research expertise helps you make clear-sighted business decisions and understand the opportunities and risks across global markets.

To find out more, please contact your Account Manager or a member of our Client Services Team.

## New York

T +1 212 908 0800

[usaclientservices@fitchsolutions.com](mailto:usaclientservices@fitchsolutions.com)

## London

T +44 (0)20 3530 2400

[emeaclientservices@fitchsolutions.com](mailto:emeaclientservices@fitchsolutions.com)

## Hong Kong

T +852 2263 9999

[asiaclient.services@fitchsolutions.com](mailto:asiaclient.services@fitchsolutions.com)

## Tokyo

T +81 3 6897 8986

[asiaclient.services@fitchsolutions.com](mailto:asiaclient.services@fitchsolutions.com)

## Singapore

T +65 6796 7231

[asiaclient.services@fitchsolutions.com](mailto:asiaclient.services@fitchsolutions.com)



[fitchsolutions.com](https://fitchsolutions.com)

New York  
33 Whitehall Street  
New York, NY  
10004

London  
30 North Colonnade  
Canary Wharf  
London, E14 5GN