

# Swiss Construction Index

Index as of Q4 2021: 150 points

Change on previous quarter: +3.7%

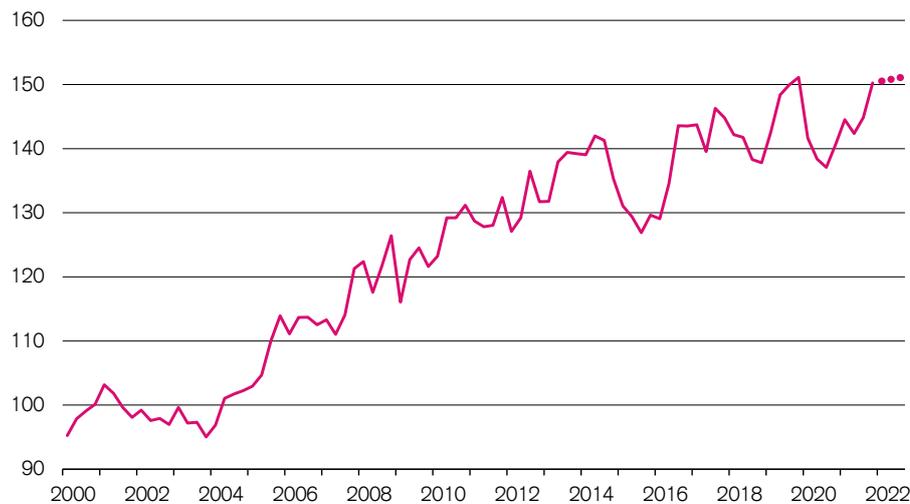
Change on same quarter in previous year: +6.8%



Q4 2021

## Swiss Construction Index: The state of the construction industry at a glance

Q1 1996 = 100, seasonally adjusted, nominal, points = trend outlook



The Swiss Construction Index is published jointly by Credit Suisse and the Swiss Contractors' Association (SCA) each quarter. It serves as a leading indicator for the state of Switzerland's construction sector by forecasting the turnover in the main construction trade in the current quarter as well as the trend for the next few quarters. The indicator, which is computed by Credit Suisse, is based primarily on the quarterly survey conducted by the SCA among its members. Additional data are sourced from the Swiss Federal Statistical Office and the Baublatt. Whereas the construction index provides an outlook for the fourth quarter 2021, the SCA quarterly survey provides detailed information on the third quarter of 2021.

Contact persons:

**Fabian Waltert**

Credit Suisse, Swiss Real Estate Economics  
 Kalanderplatz 1, CH-8045 Zurich  
 Tel. +41 (0)44 333 25 57  
 fabian.waltert@credit-suisse.com

**Martin Maniera**

Swiss Contractors' Association  
 Weinbergstrasse 49, CH-8006 Zurich  
 Tel. +41 (0)58 360 76 40  
 mmaniera@baumeister.ch

The Construction Index appears on a quarterly basis. It can be obtained from Credit Suisse free of charge: <https://www.credit-suisse.com/ch/en/unternehmen/unternehmen-unternehmer/publikationen.html>

Detailed results of the SCA quarterly survey, which is published at the same time as the construction index, together with further facts and figures on the main construction trade, can be found at <http://www.baumeister.ch/de/politik-wirtschaft/wirtschaftsdaten>

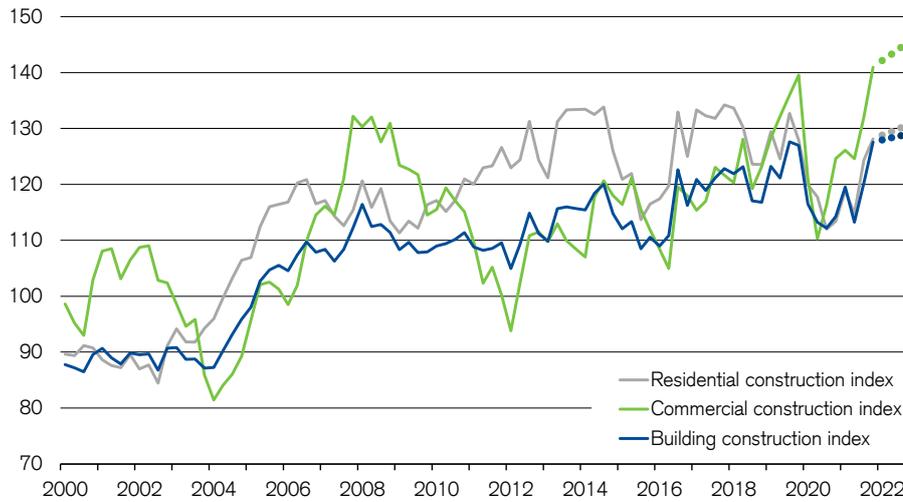
## Construction industry moves on from the coronavirus crisis

The construction index has risen once again in the fourth quarter of 2021. When adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects, we are expecting a sales increase of around 3.7% compared to the prior quarter (building construction: +6.0%, civil engineering: +1.5%). The sales of the main construction trade should have recovered fully from the pandemic-driven decline of last year, not least due to a surprisingly strong third quarter. The strong economic recovery (GDP forecast for 2021: +3.5%) and the evident persistence of the negative interest rate environment are boosting demand for construction. Infrastructure projects in both the narrower and wider sense (e.g. data centers, hospitals, logistics premises) are stepping into the breach left by lackluster construction activity in connection with office and retail properties, while refurbishment and renovation projects are doing the same for residential newbuilds. One risk factor for the continued recovery remains the problem of building material supply shortages, which are in some cases leading to delays in construction projects as well as rising construction prices. Accordingly, some of the current sales growth is attributable to inflation rather than higher production. Furthermore, demand for workers is also rising against a backdrop of economic recovery, and the existing shortage of specialist labor could become even more acute.

	Year:	2019				2020				2021				Forecast turnover growth compared to	
	Quarter:	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	3rd Q 2021	4th Q 2020			
<b>Construction index</b>		151	142	138	137	141	145	142	145	<b>150</b>	<b>+3.7%</b> ↗	<b>+6.8%</b> ↗			
<b>Building construction index</b>		127	117	113	112	114	120	113	120	<b>128</b>	<b>+6.0%</b> ↗	<b>+11.6%</b> ↗			
Residential construction		128	120	118	112	113	119	115	124	<b>128</b>	<b>+3.0%</b> ↗	<b>+13.0%</b> ↗			
Commercial construction		140	121	110	116	125	126	125	132	<b>141</b>	<b>+6.8%</b> ↗	<b>+13.1%</b> ↗			
<b>Civil engineering index</b>		186	178	175	173	179	181	185	180	<b>183</b>	<b>+1.5%</b> ↗	<b>+2.4%</b> ↗			

**Development of the sub-indicators**

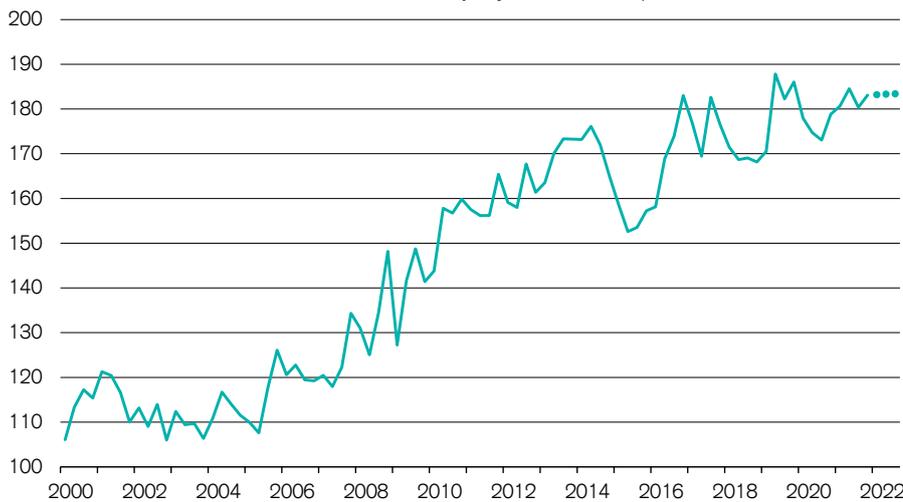
**Building construction index** Q1 1996 = 100, seasonally adjusted, nominal, points = trend outlook



**Infrastructure projects step into the breach**

In the fourth quarter of 2021, the building construction index increases by 6.0% compared to the previous quarter. Residential construction, which suffered a sharp sales decline in 2020, can be expected to maintain its recovery trajectory (+3.0%). Pandemic-related delays and growing demand for services in the refurbishment, renovation and finishing areas are likely to have led to a significant rise in the order backlog, despite declining newbuild approvals over the last few quarters. We are expecting commercial construction to exhibit even greater sales growth (+6.8%). This trend can be expected to continue over the next few quarters too. Infrastructure, data center and logistics premises construction projects are stepping into the breach left by weakening construction activity in connection with office and retail premises. Of the ten largest building construction projects for which a planning application was submitted or approved over the last 12 months, six relate to real estate projects from the healthcare, sports/leisure, data center, education, and logistics areas.

**Civil engineering index** Q1 1996 = 100, seasonally adjusted, nominal, points = trend outlook

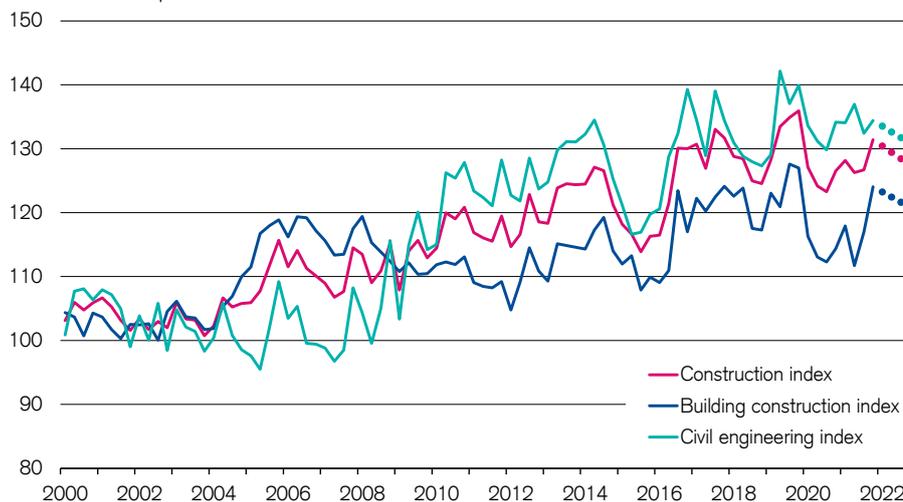


**Recovery in civil engineering continues**

Seasonally-adjusted civil engineering sales are likely to record a slight quarter-on-quarter rise in the fourth quarter of 2021 (+1.5%). Furthermore, public sector civil engineering in particular continues to look healthy, as the need for newbuild investment and infrastructure maintenance remains high, and funding is to a large extent secured in this area by special financing arrangements. Transport infrastructure remains a key driver in this regard: In September 2021, work on the major project for the second Gotthard tunnel kicked off in the form of a symbolic explosive blast. Some CHF 2.1 billion is to be invested in this tunneling project between now and its scheduled opening in 2029. Delays and price increases due to the shortage of certain construction materials have also been apparent in civil engineering, however. According to the construction price index published by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, construction prices in the area of road-building, for example, have risen by 1.7% within a year. This trend should also persist into the new year.

**Development in real terms: seasonally and price-adjusted construction index**

Q1 1999 = 100, points = trend outlook

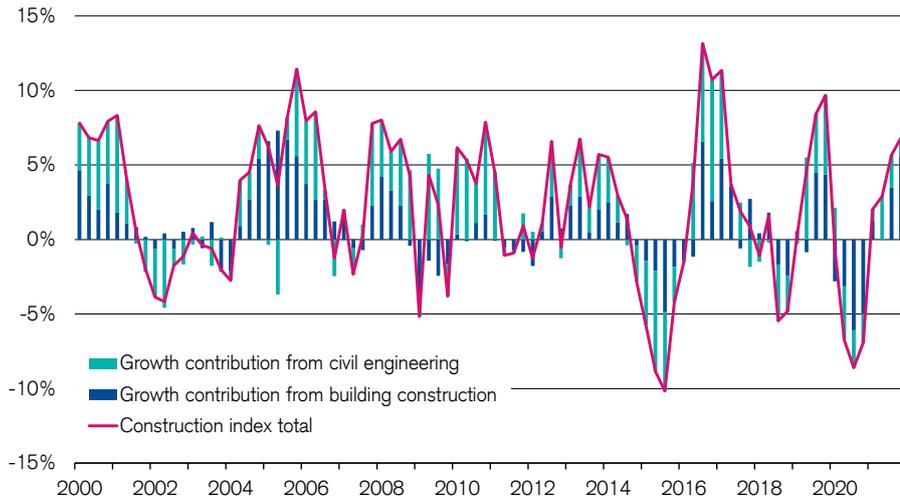


**Construction prices set to keep rising for now**

Adjusting the construction index to take account of inflation in construction prices recorded since 1999 (Swiss Federal Statistical Office) neutralizes trends attributable to price-related turnover increases. Construction prices recorded a year-on-year rise of 1.2% in April – a rate not seen since 2011. Building construction and civil engineering have been equally affected by price rises. The main reason for the latest increases in construction prices, which come after many years of stagnation, is the global scarcity of certain building materials – a problem that has become more pronounced and is likely to persist well into the new year. The growth in sales (nominal development) is therefore currently greater than the actual level of production (real development). As profit margins in the main construction trade are low generally, the higher prices will have to be passed on to clients, at least in part.

**Construction index year-on-year**

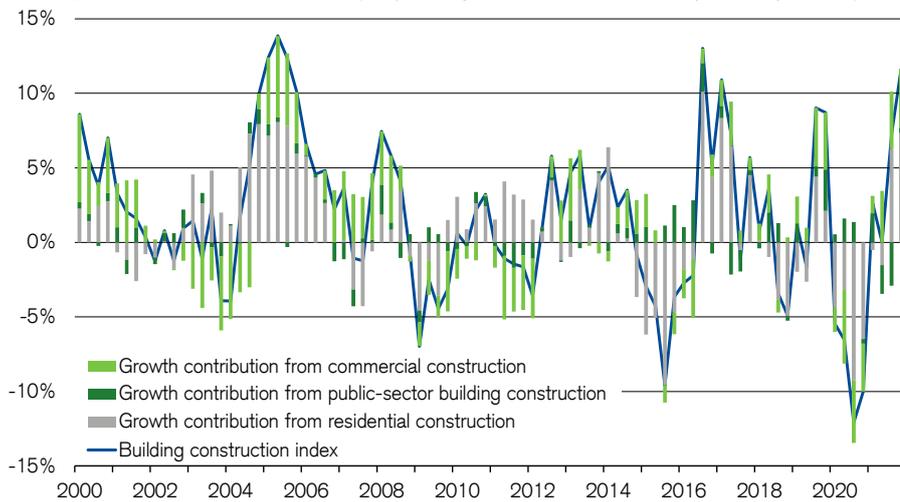
**Construction index**, seasonally adjusted, growth rates versus same quarter in previous year



**Economic lull caused by COVID-19 now over**

In the fourth quarter of 2021, the construction index increased by 6.8% compared to the prior-year quarter. The civil engineering segment, which was little affected by pandemic-related declines in sales in the previous year, rose by 2.4%, while we are anticipating a year-on-year sales increase of 11.6% for building construction. Thanks to a surprisingly strong third quarter, the total sales of the main construction trade look set to not just recover in 2021 but even exceed the pre-crisis level reported in 2019. However, this growth is attributable not just to greater production but also higher construction prices (cf. p. 2). Since higher building material construction prices cannot always be fully passed on to end clients due to the fiercely competitive environment, developers are unlikely to convert the full extent of sales increases into earnings growth.

**Building construction index**, seasonally adjusted, growth rates versus same quarter in previous year

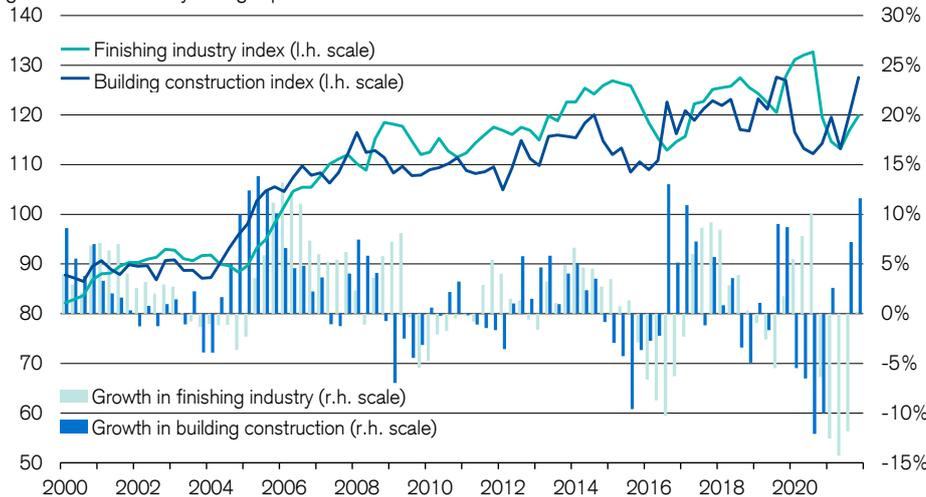


**Building construction resurgent**

Within the resurgent building construction area (forecast for Q4 2021 compared to prior-year quarter: +11.6%), residential construction (+13.0%), commercial construction (+13.1%), and the volatile public-sector construction area (+2.7%) have all picked up again. Sales for the year as a whole can be expected to come close to the pre-crisis level recorded in 2019. Full order books point to the recovery trajectory continuing next year too. The economic outlook for building construction has also improved from a medium-term perspective. The value of planned construction volumes as per planning applications over the last 12 months is some 12.1% above the level of the prior-year period. 36% of this growth is attributable to conversion, renovation, and expansion projects. Developments in the planning of residential newbuild projects are less dynamic.

**Situation in the finishing industry**

**Finishing industry and building construction index: Q1 1996 = 100**, seasonally adjusted, nominal; growth rates versus year-ago quarter

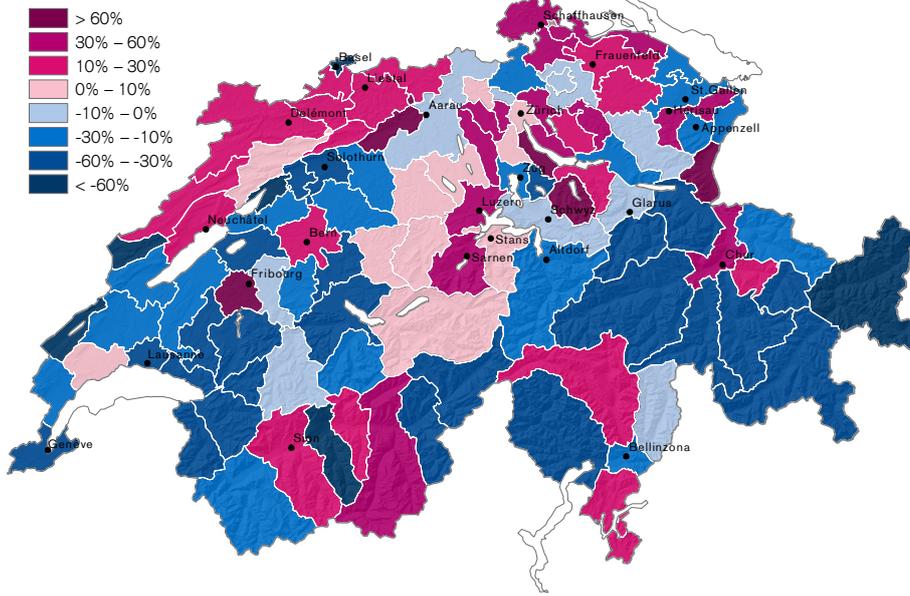


**Finishing trade benefits from the conversion trend**

The finishing index estimates turnover in the finishing industry in the current quarter and lags the building construction index by two to four quarters. In the fourth quarter of 2021, the finishing index is set to rise by 2.4% against the previous quarter to a level that almost matches that of the prior-year quarter (+0.2%). The recovery can be expected to continue over the next few quarters, above all due to the recent resurgence in planning applications for projects in the area of refurbishment, finishing, and renovation (cf. next page). Energy-related renovations can also be expected to remain in demand in the longer term, despite the electorate's rejection of the total revision of the CO<sub>2</sub> Act.

**Regional demand focus in building construction**

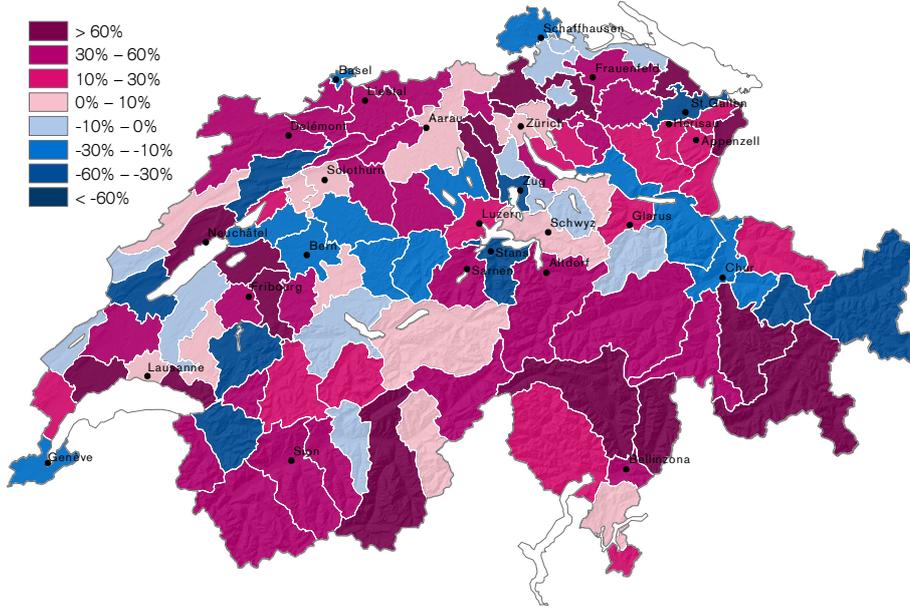
**Applications for new-build projects:** deviation in the volume of planning applications submitted in last 6 months from 10-year average, by economic region\*



**Focus of newbuild projects**

The investment volume of building permit applications indicates regional demand for construction services. In the economic regions marked in red, plans for new-build projects exceed the average for the last ten years; in the regions marked in blue, planning is below this average. Projected activity across Switzerland over the last six months equates to a volume of CHF 18.3 bn. Although this figure is some 0.8% below the 10-year average, it is significantly higher than the level of the prior-year period (+8.6%). Planning activity has picked up once again in a number of urban centers and the surrounding areas, such as Zurich, Lucerne, and Bern. Construction activity also appears to be vibrant along the Jura Arc from Fricktal to Canton Neuchâtel, as well as in Cantons Thurgau and Schaffhausen. However, recent planning data points to below-average construction activity going forward in 61 of the 110 economic regions. These include the area between Lakes Geneva and Neuchâtel, but also large parts of Graubünden.

**Applications for refurbishment projects:** deviation in the volume of planning applications submitted in last 6 months from 10-year average, by economic region\*



**Focus of refurbishment work**

The volume of submitted conversion applications has increased further. It amounted to CHF 6.9 billion in total over the last six months, which is 11.6% above the 10-year average. The volume of planned activity in conversion and renovation projects has exhibited above-average growth in 76 of the 110 regions. Even a number of rather less centrally located regions such as the north-west Mittelland and the Jura are currently experiencing increased demand for refurbishment and finishing work. This is likely to be attributable in part to the coronavirus crisis: In the wake of the pandemic, demand for residential property has risen. At the same time, the greater proportion of time spent working from home means that many buyers can increase their search radius which was already reflected last year in net migration to the urban periphery in many regions. But as the supply of newbuild properties remains very modest, considerable investment is likely to find its way into existing stock. This effect is even more pronounced in a number of tourist regions, where the Second Homes Act limits the supply of newbuilds. This is partly also reflected in the strong price growth of owner-occupied property. In a number of regions of Graubünden and the Valais, for example, prices of residential property have risen by as much as 10% year-on-year or more

\*Credit Suisse has defined these economic regions based on the Mobilité Spatiale regions used by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office. Political borders play less of a role in the definitions than economic phenomena, geographical and demographic features, and mobility patterns. Consequently, some of these economic regions straddle cantonal borders.

## Important Information

This report represents the views of the Investment Strategy Department of CS and has not been prepared in accordance with the legal requirements designed to promote the independence of investment research. It is not a product of the Credit Suisse Research Department even if it references published research recommendations. CS has policies in place to manage conflicts of interest including policies relating to dealing ahead of the dissemination of investment research. These policies do not apply to the views of Investment Strategists contained in this report. Please find further important information at the end of this material. Singapore: For accredited investors only. Hong Kong: For professional investors only. Australia: For wholesale clients only

## Risk warning

Every investment involves risk, especially with regard to fluctuations in value and return. If an investment is denominated in a currency other than your base currency, changes in the rate of exchange may have an adverse effect on value, price or income.

This document may include information on investments that involve special risks. You should seek the advice of your independent financial advisor prior to taking any investment decisions based on this document or for any necessary explanation of its contents. Further information is also available in the information brochure "Risks Involved in Trading Financial Instruments" available from the Swiss Bankers Association.

**Past performance is not an indicator of future performance. Performance can be affected by commissions, fees or other charges as well as exchange rate fluctuations.**

### Financial market risks

Historical returns and financial market scenarios are no reliable indicators of future performance. The price and value of investments mentioned and any income that might accrue could fall or rise or fluctuate. You should consult with such advisor(s) as you consider necessary to assist you in making these determinations.

Investments may have no public market or only a restricted secondary market. Where a secondary market exists, it is not possible to predict the price at which investments will trade in the market or whether such market will be liquid or illiquid.

### Emerging markets

Where this document relates to emerging markets, you should be aware that there are uncertainties and risks associated with investments and transactions in various types of investments of, or related or linked to, issuers and obligors incorporated, based or principally engaged in business in emerging markets countries. Investments related to emerging markets countries may be considered speculative, and their prices will be much more volatile than those in the more developed countries of the world. Investments in emerging markets investments should be made only by sophisticated investors or experienced professionals who have independent knowledge of the relevant markets, are able to consider and weigh the various risks presented by such investments, and have the financial resources necessary to bear the substantial risk of loss of investment in such investments. It is your responsibility to manage the risks which arise as a result of investing in emerging markets investments and the allocation of assets in your portfolio. You should seek advice from your own advisers with regard to the various risks and factors to be considered when investing in an emerging markets investment.

### Alternative investments

Hedge funds are not subject to the numerous investor protection regulations that apply to regulated authorized collective investments and hedge fund

managers are largely unregulated. Hedge funds are not limited to any particular investment discipline or trading strategy, and seek to profit in all kinds of markets by using leverage, derivatives, and complex speculative investment strategies that may increase the risk of investment loss.

Commodity transactions carry a high degree of risk, including the loss of the entire investment, and may not be suitable for many private investors. The performance of such investments depends on unpredictable factors such as natural catastrophes, climate influences, hauling capacities, political unrest, seasonal fluctuations and strong influences of rolling-forward, particularly in futures and indices.

Investors in real estate are exposed to liquidity, foreign currency and other risks, including cyclical risk, rental and local market risk as well as environmental risk, and changes to the legal situation

### Private Equity

Private Equity (hereafter "PE") means private equity capital investment in companies that are not traded publicly (i.e. are not listed on a stock exchange), they are complex, usually illiquid and long-lasting. Investments in a PE fund generally involve a significant degree of financial and/or business risk. Investments in private equity funds are not principal-protected nor guaranteed. Investors will be required to meet capital calls of investments over an extended period of time. Failure to do so may traditionally result in the forfeiture of a portion or the entirety of the capital account, forego any future income or gains on investments made prior to such default and among other things, lose any rights to participate in future investments or forced to sell their investments at a very low price, much lower than secondary market valuations. Companies or funds may be highly leveraged and therefore may be more sensitive to adverse business and/or financial developments or economic factors. Such investments may face intense competition, changing business or economic conditions or other developments that may adversely affect their performance.

### Interest rate and credit risks

The retention of value of a bond is dependent on the creditworthiness of the Issuer and/or Guarantor (as applicable), which may change over the term of the bond. In the event of default by the Issuer and/or Guarantor of the bond, the bond or any income derived from it is not guaranteed and you may get back none of, or less than, what was originally invested.

## Investment Strategy Department

Investment Strategists are responsible for multi-asset class strategy formation and subsequent implementation in CS's discretionary and advisory businesses. If shown, Model Portfolios are provided for illustrative purposes only. Your asset allocation, portfolio weightings and performance may look significantly different based on your particular circumstances and risk tolerance. Opinions and views of Investment Strategists may be different from those expressed by other Departments at CS. Investment Strategist views may change at any time without notice and with no obligation to update. CS is under no obligation to ensure that such updates are brought to your attention.

From time to time, Investment Strategists may reference previously published Research articles, including recommendations and rating changes collated in the form of lists. The recommendations contained herein are extracts and/or references to previously published recommendations by Credit Suisse Research. For equities, this relates to the respective Company Note or Company Summary of the issuer. Recommendations for bonds can be found within the respective Research Alert (bonds) publication or Institutional Research Flash/Alert – Credit Update Switzerland. These items are available on request or from <https://investment.credit-suisse.com>. Disclosures are available from [www.credit-suisse.com/disclosure](http://www.credit-suisse.com/disclosure).

# Global disclaimer / important information

The information provided herein constitutes marketing material; it is not investment research.

This document is not directed to, or intended for distribution to or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or other jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law or regulation or which would subject CS to any registration or licensing requirement within such jurisdiction.

References in this document to CS include Credit Suisse AG, the Swiss bank, its subsidiaries and affiliates. For more information on our structure, please use the following link: <http://www.credit-suisse.com>

**NO DISTRIBUTION, SOLICITATION, OR ADVICE:** This document is provided for information and illustrative purposes and is intended for your use only. It is not a solicitation, offer or recommendation to buy or sell any security or other financial instrument. Any information including facts, opinions or quotations, may be condensed or summarized and is expressed as of the date of writing. The information contained in this document has been provided as a general market commentary only and does not constitute any form of regulated investment research financial advice, legal, tax or other regulated service. It does not take into account the financial objectives, situation or needs of any persons, which are necessary considerations before making any investment decision. You should seek the advice of your independent financial advisor prior to taking any investment decisions based on this document or for any necessary explanation of its contents. This document is intended only to provide observations and views of CS at the date of writing, regardless of the date on which you receive or access the information. Observations and views contained in this document may be different from those expressed by other Departments at CS and may change at any time without notice and with no obligation to update. CS is under no obligation to ensure that such updates are brought to your attention. .

**FORECASTS & ESTIMATES:** Past performance should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of future performance, and no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made regarding future performance. To the extent that this document contains statements about future performance, such statements are forward looking and subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. Unless indicated to the contrary, all figures are unaudited. All valuations mentioned herein are subject to CS valuation policies and procedures. **CONFLICTS:** CS reserves the right to remedy any errors that may be present in this document. CS, its affiliates and/or their employees may have a position or holding, or other material interest or effect transactions in any securities mentioned or options thereon, or other investments related thereto and from time to time may add to or dispose of such investments. CS may be providing, or have provided within the previous 12 months, significant advice or investment services in relation to the investments listed in this document or a related investment to any company or issuer mentioned. Some investments referred to in this document will be offered by a single entity or an associate of CS or CS may be the only market maker in such investments. CS is involved in many businesses that relate to companies mentioned in this document. These businesses include specialized trading, risk arbitrage, market making, and other proprietary trading. **TAX:** Nothing in this document constitutes investment, legal, accounting or tax advice. CS does not advise on the tax consequences of investments and you are advised to contact an independent tax advisor. The levels and basis of taxation are dependent on individual circumstances and are subject to change. **SOURCES:** Information and opinions presented in this document have been obtained or derived from sources which in the opinion of CS are reliable, but CS makes no representation as to their accuracy or completeness. CS accepts no liability for a loss arising from the use of this document. **WEBSITES:** This document may provide the addresses of, or contain hyperlinks to, websites. Except to the extent to which the document refers to website material of CS, CS has not reviewed the linked site and takes no responsibility for the content contained therein. Such address or hyperlink (including addresses or hyperlinks to CS's own website material) is provided solely for your convenience and information and the content of the linked site does not in any way form part of this document. Accessing such website or following such link through this document or CS's website shall be at your own risk. **DATA PRIVACY:** Your Personal Data will be processed in accordance with the Credit Suisse privacy statement accessible at your domicile through the official Credit Suisse website <https://www.credit-suisse.com>. In order to provide you with marketing materials concerning our products and services, Credit Suisse Group AG and its subsidiaries may process your basic Personal Data (i.e. contact details such as name, e-mail address) until you notify us that you no longer wish to receive

them. You can opt-out from receiving these materials at any time by informing your Relationship Manager.

## Distributing entities

Except as otherwise specified herein, this report is distributed by Credit Suisse AG, a Swiss bank, authorized and regulated by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority

**Bahrain:** This report is distributed by Credit Suisse AG, Bahrain Branch, a branch of Credit Suisse AG, Zurich/Switzerland, duly authorized and regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) as an Investment Business Firm Category 2. Related financial services or products are only made available to Accredited Investors, as defined by the CBB, and are not intended for any other persons. The Central Bank of Bahrain has not reviewed, nor has it approved, this document or the marketing of any investment vehicle referred to herein in the Kingdom of Bahrain and is not responsible for the performance of any such investment vehicle. Credit Suisse AG, Bahrain Branch is located at Level 21, East Tower, Bahrain World Trade Centre, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. **Brazil:** This report is distributed in Brazil by Credit Suisse (Brasil) S.A. Corretora de Títulos e Valores Mobiliários or its affiliates. **Chile:** This report is distributed by Credit Suisse Agencia de Valores (Chile) Limitada, a branch of Credit Suisse AG (incorporated in the Canton of Zurich), regulated by the Chilean Financial Market Commission. Neither the issuer nor the securities have been registered with the Financial Market Commission of Chile (Comisión para el Mercado Financiero) pursuant to Law no. 18.045, the Ley de Mercado de Valores, and regulations thereunder, so they may not be offered or sold publicly in Chile. This document does not constitute an offer of, or an invitation to subscribe for or purchase, the securities in the Republic of Chile, other than to individually identified investors pursuant to a private offering within the meaning of article 4 of the Ley de Mercado de Valores (an offer that is not "addressed to the public in general or to a certain sector or specific group of the public"). **DIFC:** This information is being distributed by Credit Suisse AG (DIFC Branch). Credit Suisse AG (DIFC Branch) is licensed and regulated by the Dubai Financial Services Authority ("DFSA"). Related financial services or products are only made available to Professional Clients or Market Counterparties, as defined by the DFSA, and are not intended for any other persons. Credit Suisse AG (DIFC Branch) is located on Level 9 East, The Gate Building, DIFC, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. **France:** This report is distributed by Credit Suisse (Luxembourg) S.A. Succursale en France (the "France branch") which is a branch of Credit Suisse (Luxembourg) S.A., a duly authorized credit institution in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg with registered address 5, rue Jean Monnet, L-2180 Luxembourg. The France branch is subject to the prudential supervision of the Luxembourg supervisory authority, the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF), and of the French supervisory authorities, the Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel et de Résolution (ACPR) and the Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF). **Germany:** This report is distributed by Credit Suisse (Deutschland) Aktiengesellschaft regulated by the Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht („BaFin“). **Guernsey:** This report is distributed by Credit Suisse AG Guernsey Branch, a branch of Credit Suisse AG (incorporated in the Canton of Zurich), with its place of business at Helvetia Court, Les Echelons, South Esplanade, St Peter Port, Guernsey. Credit Suisse AG Guernsey Branch is wholly owned by Credit Suisse AG and is regulated by the Guernsey Financial Services Commission. Copies of the latest audited accounts of Credit Suisse AG are available on request. **India:** This report is distributed by Credit Suisse Securities (India) Private Limited (CIN no. U67120MH1996PTC104392) regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India as Research Analyst (registration no. INH 000001030), as Portfolio Manager (registration no. INP000002478) and as Stock Broker (registration no. INZ000248233), having registered address at 9th Floor, Ceejay House, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai – 400 018, India, T- +91-22 6777 3777. **Israel:** If distributed by Credit Suisse Financial Services (Israel) Ltd. in Israel: This document is distributed by Credit Suisse Financial Services (Israel) Ltd. Credit Suisse AG, including the services offered in Israel, is not supervised by the Supervisor of Banks at the Bank of Israel, but by the competent banking supervision authority in Switzerland. Credit Suisse Financial Services (Israel) Ltd. is a licensed investment marketer in Israel and thus, its investment marketing activities are supervised by the Israel Securities Authority. **Italy:** This report is distributed in Italy by Credit Suisse (Italy) S.p.A., a bank incorporated and registered under Italian law subject to the supervision and control of Banca d'Italia and CONSOB. **Lebanon:** This report is distributed by Credit Suisse (Lebanon) Finance SAL ("CSLF"), a financial institution incorporated in Lebanon and regulated by the Central Bank of Lebanon ("CBL") and having a financial institution license number 42. Credit Suisse (Lebanon) Finance SAL is subject to the CBL's laws and circulars as well as the laws and regulations of the Capital Markets Authority of Lebanon ("CMA"). CSLF is a subsidiary of Credit Suisse AG and part of the Credit Suisse Group (CS). The CMA does not accept any responsibility for the content of the information included in this report, including the accuracy or completeness of such information. The liability for the content of this report lies with the issuer, its directors and other persons, such as experts, whose opinions are included in the report with their consent. The CMA has also not assessed the suitability of

the investment for any particular investor or type of investor. It is hereby expressly understood and acknowledged that investments in financial markets may involve a high degree of complexity and risk of loss in value and may not be suitable to all investors. The suitability assessment performed by CSLF with respect to this investment will be undertaken based on information that the investor would have provided to CSLF as at the date of such assessment and in accordance with Credit Suisse internal policies and processes. It is understood that the English language will be used in all communication and documentation provided by CS and/or CSLF. By accepting to invest in the product, the investor expressly and irrevocably confirms that he fully understands, and has no objection to the use of the English language.

**Luxembourg:** This report is distributed by Credit Suisse (Luxembourg) S.A., a duly authorized credit institution in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg with registered address 5, rue Jean Monnet, L-2180 Luxembourg. Credit Suisse (Luxembourg) S.A. is subject to the prudential supervision of the Luxembourg supervisory authority, the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF).

**Mexico:** This document represents the vision of the person who provides his/her services to C. Suisse Asesoría México, S.A. de C.V. ("C. Suisse Asesoría") and/or Banco Credit Suisse (México), S.A., Institución de Banca Múltiple, Grupo Financiero Credit Suisse (México) ("Banco CS") so that both C. Suisse Asesoría and Banco CS reserve the right to change their mind at any time not assuming any liability in this regard. This document is distributed for informational purposes only, and does not imply a personal recommendation or suggestion, nor the invitation to celebrate any operation and does not replace the communication you have with your executive in relation to C. Suisse Asesoría and/or Banco CS prior to taking any investment decision. C. Suisse Asesoría and/or Banco CS does not assume any responsibility for investment decisions based on information contained in the document sent, as the same may not take into account the context of the investment strategy and objectives of particular clients. Prospectus, brochures, investment regimes of investment funds, annual reports or periodic financial information contain all additional useful information for investors. These documents can be obtained free of charge directly from issuers, operators of investment funds, in the Internet page of the stock exchange in which they are listed or through its executive in C. Suisse Asesoría and/or Banco CS. Past performance and the various scenarios of existing markets do not guarantee present or future yields. In the event that the information contained in this document is incomplete, incorrect or unclear, please contact your Executive of C. Suisse Asesoría and/or Banco CS as soon as possible. It is possible that this document may suffer modifications without any responsibility for C. Suisse Asesoría and/or Banco CS. This document is distributed for informational purposes only and is not a substitute for the Operations Reports and/or Account Statements you receive from C. Suisse Asesoría and/or Banco CS in terms of the General Provisions Applicable to Financial Institutions and other Legal Entities that Provide Investment Services issued by the Mexican Banking and Securities Commission ("CNBV"). Given the nature of this document, C. Suisse Asesoría and/or Banco CS does not assume any responsibility derived from the information contained therein. Without prejudice to the fact that the information was obtained from or based on sources believed to be reliable by C. Suisse Asesoría and/or Banco CS, there is no guarantee that the information is either accurate or complete. Banco CS and/or C. Suisse Asesoría does not accept any liability arising from any loss arising from the use of the information contained in the document sent to you. It is recommended that investor make sure that the information provided is in accordance to his/her personal circumstances and investment profile, in relation to any particular legal, regulatory or fiscal situation, or to obtain independent professional advice. C. Suisse Asesoría México, S.A. de C.V. is an investment adviser created in accordance with the Mexican Securities Market Law ("LMV"), registered with the CNBV under the folio number 30070. C. Suisse Asesoría México, S.A. de C.V. is not part of Grupo Financiero Credit Suisse (México), S.A. de C.V., or any other financial group in Mexico. C. Suisse Asesoría México, S.A. de C.V. is not an independent investment adviser as provided by LMV and other applicable regulations due to its direct relationship with Credit Suisse AG, a foreign financial institution, and its indirect relationship with the entities that make up Grupo Financiero Credit Suisse (México), S.A. de C.V.

**Netherlands:** This report is distributed by Credit Suisse (Luxembourg) S.A., Netherlands Branch (the "Netherlands branch") which is a branch of Credit Suisse (Luxembourg) S.A., a duly authorized credit institution in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg with registered address 5, rue Jean Monnet, L-2180 Luxembourg. The Netherlands branch is subject to the prudential supervision of the Luxembourg supervisory authority, the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF), and of the Dutch supervisory authority, De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB), and of the Dutch market supervisor, the Autoriteit Financiële Markten (AFM).

**Portugal:** This report is distributed by Credit Suisse (Luxembourg) S.A., Sucursal em Portugal (the "Portugal branch") which is a branch of Credit Suisse (Luxembourg) S.A., a duly authorized credit institution in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg with registered address 5, rue Jean Monnet, L-2180 Luxembourg. The Portugal branch is subject to the prudential supervision of the Luxembourg supervisory authority, the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF), and of the Portuguese supervisory authorities, the Banco de Portugal (BdP) and

the Comissão do Mercado dos Valores Mobiliários (CMVM). Qatar: This information has been distributed by Credit Suisse (Qatar) L.L.C., which is duly authorized and regulated by the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority (QFCRA) under QFC License No. 00005. All related financial products or services will only be available to Eligible Counterparties (as defined by the QFCRA) or Business Customers (as defined by the QFCRA), including individuals, who have opted to be classified as a Business Customer, with net assets in excess of QR 4 million, and who have sufficient financial knowledge, experience and understanding to participate in such products and/or services. Therefore this information must not be delivered to, or relied on by, any other type of individual.

**Saudi Arabia:** This document is being distributed by Credit Suisse Saudi Arabia (CR Number 1010228645), duly licensed and regulated by the Saudi Arabian Capital Market Authority pursuant to License Number 08104-37 dated 23/03/1429H corresponding to 21/03/2008AD. Credit Suisse Saudi Arabia's principal place of business is at King Fahad Road, Hay Al Mhamadiya, 12361-6858 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Website: <https://www.credit-suisse.com/sa>. Under the Rules on the Offer of Securities and Continuing Obligations this document may not be distributed in the Kingdom except to such persons as are permitted under the Rules on the Offer of Securities and Continuing Obligations issued by the Capital Market Authority. The Capital Market Authority does not make any representation as to the accuracy or completeness of this document, and expressly disclaims any liability whatsoever for any loss arising from, or incurred in reliance upon, any part of this document. Prospective purchasers of the securities offered hereby should conduct their own due diligence on the accuracy of the information relating to the securities. If you do not understand the contents of this document, you should consult an authorised financial advisor. Under the Investment Fund Regulations this document may not be distributed in the Kingdom except to such persons as are permitted under the Investment Fund Regulations issued by the Capital Market Authority. The Capital Market Authority does not make any representation as to the accuracy or completeness of this document, and expressly disclaims any liability whatsoever for any loss arising from, or incurred in reliance upon, any part of this document. Prospective subscribers of the securities offered hereby should conduct their own due diligence on the accuracy of the information relating to the securities. If you do not understand the contents of this document you should consult an authorised financial advisor.

**South Africa:** This information is being distributed by Credit Suisse AG which is registered as a financial services provider with the Financial Sector Conduct Authority in South Africa with FSP number 9788 and / or by Credit Suisse (UK) Limited which is registered as a financial services provider with the Financial Sector Conduct Authority in South Africa with FSP number 48779.

**Spain:** This document is a marketing material and is provided by Credit Suisse AG, Sucursal en España, legal entity registered at the Comisión Nacional del Mercado de Valores for information purposes. It is exclusively addressed to the recipient for personal use only and, according to current regulations in force, by no means can it be considered as a security offer, personal investment advice or any general or specific recommendation of products or investment strategies with the aim that you perform any operation. The client shall be deemed responsible, in all cases, for taking whatever decisions on investments or disinvestments, and therefore the client takes all responsibility for the benefits or losses resulting from the operations that the client decides to perform based on the information and opinions included in this document. This document is not the result of a financial analysis or research and therefore, neither it is subject to the current regulations that apply to the production and distribution of financial research, nor its content complies with the legal requirements of independence of financial research.

**Turkey:** The investment information, comments and recommendations contained herein are not within the scope of investment advisory activity. The investment advisory services are provided by the authorized institutions to the persons in a customized manner taking into account the risk and return preferences of the persons. Whereas, the comments and advices included herein are of general nature. Therefore recommendations may not be suitable for your financial status or risk and yield preferences. For this reason, making an investment decision only by relying on the information given herein may not give rise to results that fit your expectations. This report is distributed by Credit Suisse Istanbul Menkul Degerler Anonim Sirketi, regulated by the Capital Markets Board of Turkey, with its registered address at Levazim Mahallesi, Koru Sokak No. 2 Zorlu Center Terasevler No. 61 34340 Besiktas/Istanbul-Turkey.

**United Kingdom:** This material is distributed by Credit Suisse (UK) Limited. Credit Suisse (UK) Limited, is authorized by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Where this material is distributed into the United Kingdom by an offshore entity not exempted under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 the following will apply: To the extent communicated in the United Kingdom ("UK") or capable of having an effect in the UK, this document constitutes a financial promotion which has been approved by Credit Suisse (UK) Limited which is authorized by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority for the conduct of investment business in the UK. The registered address of Credit Suisse (UK) Limited is Five Cabot Square, London, E14 4QR. Please note that the rules under the UK's Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 relating to the

protection of retail clients will not be applicable to you and that any potential compensation made available to “eligible claimants” under the UK’s Financial Services Compensation Scheme will also not be available to you. Tax treatment depends on the individual circumstances of each client and may be subject to changes in future.

### Important regional disclosure information

Pursuant to CVM Resolution No. 20/2021, of February 25, 2021, the author(s) of the report hereby certify(ies) that the views expressed in this report solely and exclusively reflect the personal opinions of the author(s) and have been prepared independently, including with respect to Credit Suisse. Part of the author(s)’s compensation is based on various factors, including the total revenues of Credit Suisse, but no part of the compensation has been, is, or will be related to the specific recommendations or views expressed in this report. In addition, Credit Suisse declares that: Credit Suisse has provided, and/or may in the future provide investment banking, brokerage, asset management, commercial banking and other financial services to the subject company/companies or its affiliates, for which they have received or may receive customary fees and commissions, and which constituted or may constitute relevant financial or commercial interests in relation to the subject company/companies or the subject securities.

UNITED STATES: NEITHER THIS REPORT NOR ANY COPY THEREOF MAY BE SENT, TAKEN INTO OR DISTRIBUTED IN THE UNITED STATES OR TO ANY US PERSON (within the meaning of Regulation S under the US Securities Act of 1933, as amended).

## APAC - IMPORTANT NOTICE

The information provided herein constitutes marketing material; it is not investment research. For all, except accounts managed by relationship managers and/or investment consultants of Credit Suisse AG, Hong Kong Branch: This material has been prepared by Credit Suisse AG (“Credit Suisse”) as general information only. This material is not and does not purport to provide substantive research or analysis and, accordingly, is not investment research or a research recommendation for regulatory purposes. It does not take into account the financial objectives, situation or needs of any person, which are necessary considerations before making any investment decision. The information provided is not intended to provide a sufficient basis on which to make an investment decision and is not a personal recommendation or investment advice. Credit Suisse makes no representation as to the suitability of the products or services specified in this material for any particular investor. It does not constitute an invitation or an offer to any person to subscribe for or purchase any of the products or services specified in this material or to participate in any other transactions. The only legally binding terms are to be found in the applicable product documentation or specific contracts and confirmations prepared by Credit Suisse. For accounts managed by relationship managers and/or investment consultants of Credit Suisse AG, Hong Kong Branch: This material has been prepared by Credit Suisse AG (“Credit Suisse”) as general information only. This material is not and does not purport to provide substantive research or analysis and, accordingly, is not investment research for regulatory purposes. It does not take into account the financial objectives, situation or needs of any person, which are necessary considerations before making any investment decision. Credit Suisse makes no representation as to the appropriateness of the products or services specified in this material for any particular investor. It does not constitute an invitation or an offer to any person to subscribe for or purchase any of the products or services specified in this material or to participate in any other transactions. The only legally binding terms are to be found in the applicable product documentation or specific contracts and confirmations prepared by Credit Suisse. For all: In connection with the products specified in this material, Credit Suisse and/or its affiliates may:

- (i) have had a previous role in arranging or providing financing to the subject entities;
- (ii) be a counterparty in any subsequent transaction in connection with the subject entities; or
- (iii) pay, or may have paid, or receive, or may have received, one-time or recurring remuneration from the entities specified in this material, as part of its/their compensation. These payments may be paid to or received from third parties.

Credit Suisse and/or its affiliates (including their respective officers, directors and employees) may be, or may have been, involved in other transactions with the subject entities specified in this material or other parties specified in this material which are not disclosed in this material. Credit Suisse, for itself and on behalf of each of its affiliates, reserves the right to, provide and continue to provide services, and deal and continue to deal with the subject entities of the products specified in this material or other parties in connection with any product specified in this material. Credit Suisse or its affiliates may also hold, or may be holding, trading positions in the share capital of any of the subject entities specified in this material.

For all, except accounts managed by relationship managers and/or investment consultants of Credit Suisse AG, Hong Kong Branch: A Credit Suisse affiliate may have acted upon the information and analysis contained in this material before being made available to the recipient. A Credit Suisse affiliate may, to the extent permitted by law, participate or invest in other financing transactions with the issuer of any securities referred to herein, perform services or solicit business from such issuers, or have a position or effect transactions in the securities or options thereof. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Credit Suisse and its affiliates and each of their respective directors, employees and consultants do not accept any liability arising from an error or omission in this material or for any direct, indirect, incidental, specific or consequential loss and/or damage suffered by the recipient of this material or any other person from the use of or reliance on the information set out in this material. None of Credit Suisse or its affiliates (or their respective directors, officers, employees or advisers) makes any warranty or representation as to the accuracy, reliability and/or completeness of the information set out in this material. The information contained in this material has been provided as a general market commentary only and does not constitute any form of regulated financial advice, legal, tax or other regulated service. Observations and views contained in this material may be different from, or inconsistent with, the observations and views of Credit Suisse’s Research analysts, other divisions or the proprietary positions of Credit Suisse. Credit Suisse is under no obligation to update, notify or provide any additional information to any person if Credit Suisse becomes aware of any inaccuracy, incompleteness or change in the information contained in the material. To the extent that this material contains statements about future performance, such statements are forward looking and subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

For accounts managed by relationship managers and/or investment consultants of Credit Suisse AG, Hong Kong Branch: A Credit Suisse affiliate may have acted upon the information and analysis contained in this material before being made available to the recipient. A Credit Suisse affiliate may, to the extent permitted by law, participate or invest in other financing transactions with the issuer of any securities referred to herein, perform services or solicit business from such issuers, or have a position or effect transactions in the securities or options thereof. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Credit Suisse and its affiliates and each of their respective directors, employees and consultants do not accept any liability arising from an error or omission in this material or for any direct, indirect, incidental, specific or consequential loss and/or damage offered by the recipient of this material or any other person from the use of or reliance on the information set out in this material. None of Credit Suisse or its affiliates (or their respective directors, officers, employees or advisers) makes any warranty or representation as to the accuracy, reliability and/or completeness of the information set out in this material. The information contained in this material has been provided as a general market commentary only and does not constitute any form of legal, tax or other regulated service. Observations and views contained in this material may be different from, or inconsistent with, the observations and views of Credit Suisse’s Research analysts, other divisions or the proprietary positions of Credit Suisse. Credit Suisse is under no obligation to update, notify or provide any additional information to any person if Credit Suisse becomes aware of any inaccuracy, incompleteness or change in the information contained in the material. To the extent that this material contains statements about future

performance, such statements are forward looking and subject to a number of risks and uncertainties.

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. For all: This material is not directed to, or intended for distribution to or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of, or is located in, any jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to applicable law or regulation, or which would subject Credit Suisse and/or its subsidiaries or affiliates to any registration or licensing requirement within such jurisdiction. Materials have been furnished to the recipient and should not be redistributed without the express prior written consent of Credit Suisse. For further information, please contact your Relationship Manager. To the extent that this material contains an appendix comprising research reports, the following additional notice applies to such appendix.

## ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR APPENDIX

The reports in the Appendix ("Reports") have been authored by members of the Credit Suisse Research department, and the information and opinions expressed therein were as of the date of writing and are subject to change without notice. Views expressed in respect of a particular security in the Reports may be different from, or inconsistent with, the observations and views of the Credit Suisse Research department of the Investment Banking division due to the differences in evaluation criteria. These Reports have been previously published by Credit Suisse Research on the web:

Credit Suisse does and seeks to do business with companies covered in its research reports. As a result, investors should be aware that Credit Suisse may have a conflict of interest that could affect the objectivity of these Reports.

For all, except accounts managed by relationship managers and/or investment consultants of Credit Suisse AG, Hong Kong Branch: Credit Suisse may not have taken any steps to ensure that the securities referred to in these Reports are suitable for any particular investor. Credit Suisse will not treat recipients of the Reports as its customers by virtue of their receiving the Reports. For accounts managed by relationship managers and/or investment consultants of Credit Suisse AG, Hong Kong Branch: Credit Suisse may not have taken any steps to ensure that the securities referred to in these Reports are appropriate for any particular investor. Credit Suisse will not treat recipients of the Reports as its customers by virtue of their receiving the Reports. For all: For a discussion of the risks of investing in the securities mentioned in the Reports, please refer to the following Internet link:

<https://research.credit-suisse.com/riskdisclosure>

For information regarding disclosure information on Credit Suisse Investment Banking rated companies mentioned in this report, please refer to the Investment Banking division disclosure site at:

<https://rave.credit-suisse.com/disclosures>

For further information, including disclosures with respect to any other issuers, please refer to the Credit Suisse Global Research Disclosure site at:

<https://www.credit-suisse.com/disclosure>

**AUSTRALIA** This material is distributed in Australia by Credit Suisse AG, Sydney Branch solely for information purposes only to persons who are "wholesale clients" (as defined by section 761G(7) of the Corporations Act). Credit Suisse AG, Sydney Branch does not guarantee the performance of, nor make any assurances with respect to the performance of any financial product referred herein. In Australia, Credit Suisse Group entities, other than Credit Suisse AG, Sydney Branch, are not authorised deposit-taking institutions for the purposes of the Banking Act 1959 (Cth.) and their obligations do not represent deposits or other liabilities of Credit Suisse AG, Sydney Branch. Credit Suisse AG, Sydney Branch does not guarantee or otherwise provide assurance in respect of the obligations of such Credit Suisse entities or the funds. **HONG KONG** This material is distributed in Hong Kong by Credit Suisse AG, Hong Kong Branch, an Authorized Institution regulated by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and a Registered Institution regulated by the Securities and Futures Commission, and was prepared in compliance with section 16 of the "Code of Conduct for Persons Licensed by or Registered with the Securities and Futures Commission". The contents of this material have not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in Hong Kong. You are advised to exercise caution in relation to any offer. If you are in any doubt

© Credit Suisse AG / SCA

about any of the contents of this material, you should obtain independent professional advice. No one may have issued or had in its possession for the purposes of issue, or issue or have in its possession for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, any advertisement, invitation or material relating to this product, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public of Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than where this product is or is intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to "professional investors" as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) of Hong Kong and any rules made thereunder. **SINGAPORE:** This material is distributed in Singapore by Credit Suisse AG, Singapore Branch, which is licensed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore under the Banking Act (Cap. 19) to carry on banking business. This report has been prepared and issued for distribution in Singapore to institutional investors, accredited investors and expert investors (each as defined under the Financial Advisers Regulations ("FAR")) only. Credit Suisse AG, Singapore Branch may distribute reports produced by its foreign entities or affiliates pursuant to an arrangement under Regulation 32C of the FAR. Singapore recipients should contact Credit Suisse AG, Singapore Branch at +65-6212-2000 for matters arising from, or in connection with, this report. By virtue of your status as an institutional investor, accredited investor or expert investor, Credit Suisse AG, Singapore Branch is exempted from complying with certain requirements under the Financial Advisers Act, Chapter 110 of Singapore (the "FAA"), the FAR and the relevant Notices and Guidelines issued thereunder, in respect of any financial advisory service which Credit Suisse AG, Singapore branch may provide to you. These include exemptions from complying with:

- i) Section 25 of the FAA (pursuant to Regulation 33(1) of the FAR)
- ii) Section 27 of the FAA (pursuant to Regulation 34(1) of the FAR); and
- iii) Section 36 of the FAA (pursuant to Regulation 35(1) of the FAR).

Singapore recipients should contact Credit Suisse AG, Singapore Branch for any matters arising from, or in connection with, this material. If you have any queries/objections relating to the receipt of marketing materials from us, please contact our Data Protection Officer at [dataprotectionofficer.pb@credit-suisse.com](mailto:dataprotectionofficer.pb@credit-suisse.com) (for Credit Suisse AG, HK Branch) or [PDPO.SGD@credit-suisse.com](mailto:PDPO.SGD@credit-suisse.com) (for Credit Suisse AG, SG Branch) or [csau.privacyofficer@credit-suisse.com](mailto:csau.privacyofficer@credit-suisse.com) (for Credit Suisse AG, Sydney Branch).

(for Credit Suisse AG, HK Branch) or [PDPO.SGD@credit-suisse.com](mailto:PDPO.SGD@credit-suisse.com) (for Credit Suisse AG, SG Branch) or [csau.privacyofficer@credit-suisse.com](mailto:csau.privacyofficer@credit-suisse.com) (for Credit Suisse AG, Sydney Branch).

The entire contents of this document are protected by copyright law (all rights reserved). This document or any part thereof may not be reproduced, transmitted (electronically or otherwise), altered or used for public or commercial purposes, without the prior written permission of Credit Suisse. © 2021, Credit Suisse Group AG and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved. Credit Suisse AG (Unique Entity Number in Singapore: S73FC2261L) is incorporated in Switzerland with limited liability.

21C014A\_IS