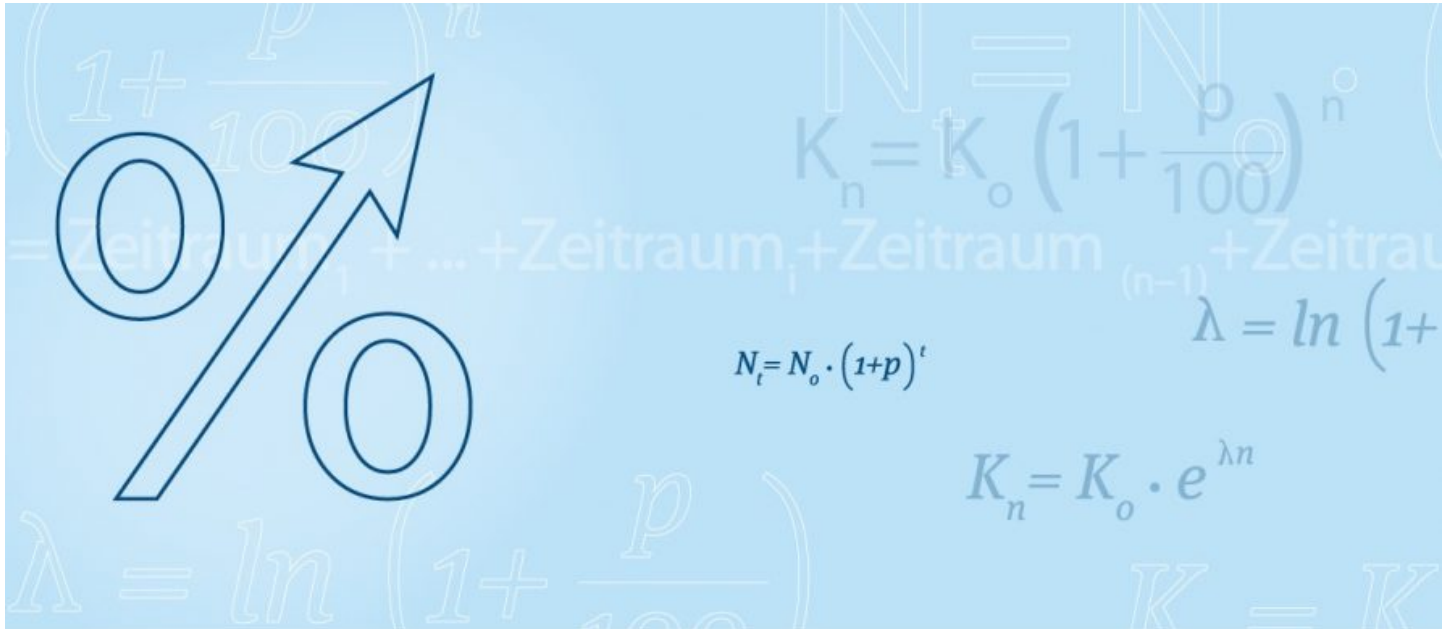


<http://blog.en.erste-am.com/?p=2717>

YIELD RADAR: January 2018

Paul Severin



The strong economy together with the good sentiment on financial markets supports the preference of the investors towards riskier asset classes. Inflation in the developed economies remains subdued. Many market participants expect inflation to moderately pick up during the course of the year. US Federal Reserve bank will continue its policy of moderate rate increases. At least three more interest rate hikes are realistic in 2018. For the Eurozone a first increase of the base rate is expected in the coming year at the earliest.

Valuation leads to a more differentiated view with respect to riskier asset classes. Namely high yield bonds suffered in their attractiveness due to its excellent performance. Emerging market bonds are still interesting. Sovereign bonds in the Eurozone and in the US are exposed to higher risk due to the outlook for higher yields during the course of this year.

	Yield per 29 December 2017	Reference funds	SRRI
Euro Base Rate	0.00%	ECB Euro Base Rate	
Euro Money Market	0.3%	ESPA RESERVE EURO PLUS	2
US Federal Funds Rate	1.25%	Federal Reserve Base Rate	
Euro Bonds Responsible	0.95%	ERSTE RESPONSIBLE BOND	3
Euro Government Bonds	1.13%	ESPA BOND COMBIRENT	3
Euro Corporate Bonds Responsible	1.2%	ERSTE RESPONSIBLE BOND EURO CORPORATE	3
European Corporate Bonds	1.21%	ESPA BOND EURO CORPORATE	3
Corporate Hybrid Bonds	1.85%	ERSTE BOND CORPORATE PLUS	3
US Mortgage Bonds	2.78%	ESPA MORTGAGE	3
Corporate Bonds Rating BB	2.49%	ESPA BOND CORPORATE BB	3
European High Yield	2.93%	ESPA BOND EUROPE HIGH YIELD	3
CEE sovereigns	3.3%	ERSTE BOND DANUBIA	4
Emerging Corporate Bonds Responsible	4.24%	ERSTE RESPONSIBLE BOND EMERGING CORPORATE	3
Emerging Sovereigns Hard Currency	4.64%	ERSTE BOND EMERGING MARKETS	4
Emerging Corporate Bonds	4.73%	ERSTE BOND EMERGING MARKETS CORPORATE	3
Emerging Sovereigns Local Currency	6.39%	ERSTE BOND LOCAL EMERGING	4

Money market and short term maturities

Bonds with good and very good ratings

High interest rate bonds and mixed ratings

Source: ERSTE-SPARINVEST; www.erste-am.at; Data as of 29 December 2017; Fund-Ratio: Yield – see footnote 1)

1) NB: the fund ratio “yield” equals the average yield of the securities held by a fund prior to costs for forex hedging; please bear in mind that this ratio is not equivalent to the fund performance. For the fund performance (i.e. the development of the value) of the aforementioned funds, please refer to the overview table on page three. The above-cited table does also not account for any fees reducing return such as the management fee or individual account or depositary fees.

2) The risk classification of investment funds is based on the SRRI-indicator. The calculation is based on European regulatory requirements and forms an integral part of the Key Investor Document and gives the historical volatility of the fund unit price on a scale from 1 to 7, with 7 being the highest risk. More information about the calculation of the indicator:

fundglossary.erste-am.com/srri/

Development of bond yields of US- and EUR-Government-Bonds and EUR-Corporate-Bonds Investment-Grade (12/2012-12/2017)



Development of bond yields of European High-Yield-Bonds compared with global High-Yield-Bonds and Emerging-Markets-Corporate-Bonds (12/2012-12/2017)



Please note:

The development of historic yields is not a reliable indicator for future developments of a specific asset category or asset class. The charts above do not include any fees or costs.

Ratio-Overview (more information can be found at www.erste-am.com)

Fund-Name (Performance in %)	Since	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	Front-Load-Fee	Mgmt-Fee	Fund-Volume in EUR Mio.	Risk-classification acc. KID	Volatility	Warning notice
ESPA RESERVE EURO PLUS	0,1	0,0	0,4	2,3	1,1	3,3	0,75%	0,24%	491	2	0,9%	A, B
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE BOND	0,7	3,4	0,5	11,8	-1,6	9,7	3,50%	0,60%	105	3	2,9%	none
ESPA BOND COMBIRENT	-0,9	3,3	0,3	8,1	1,5	13,1	2,50%	0,50%	317	3	4,4%	B
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE BOND EURO-CORPORATE *	1,8	-0,3	2,6	3,7	-0,6	10,6	3,50%	0,60%	146	3	3,1%	none
ESPA BOND EURO CORPORATE	2,0	1,8	2,4	12,6	1,8	10,4	3,50%	0,60%	810	3	3,1%	none
ERSTE BOND DANUBIA	1,7	0,1	-0,2	3,2	-3,7	1,2	3,50%	0,72%	338	4	4,9%	B
ESPA BOND EUROPE HIGH YIELD	5,1	-0,5	2,0	6,9	-4,4	19,3	3,50%	1,20%	280	3	4,4%	none
ERSTE BOND EMERGING MARKETS	6,7	6,1	3,1	2,0	7,2	21,6	3,50%	1,20%	249	4	4,9%	none
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE BOND EMERGING CORPORATE **	3,8	5,4	0,2	6,1	-6,4	16,0	3,50%	0,96%	112	3	3,1%	none
ESPA BOND EMERGING MARKETS CORPORATE	6,4	8,4	2,2	3,7	-0,2	16,7	3,50%	0,96%	504	3	4,8%	none
ERSTE BOND LOCAL EMERGING	-0,7	8,1	-0,4	7,8	-14,1	11,2	3,50%	0,96%	214	4	11,6%	none
ESPA BOND CORPORATE BB	4,5	11,3	-0,7	2,8	6,1	13,3	3,50%	1,20%	173	3	4,8%	none
ERSTE BOND CORPORATE PLUS	8,5	-	-	-	-	-	3,50%	0,60%	213	3	-	

Data as of 29.12.2017.

The performance and volatility (3 years) is calculated in accordance with the OeKB method. It already includes the management fee. However, the illustration is net of the one-off load of up to 3.50%, which falls due at the time of purchase, and of other fees that reduce the return as well as of the individual account and deposit fees. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of the future performance of a fund.

1) Risk notes according to 2011 Austrian Investment Fund Act

A ESPA RESERVE EURO PLUS may make significant investments in demand deposits or time deposits with a maximum maturity of 12 months pursuant to section 72 of the 2011 Austrian Investment Fund Act.

B In accordance with the fund provisions approved by the Austrian Financial Market Authority (FMA), ESPA RESERVE EURO PLUS, ESPA BOND COMBIRENT and ERSTE BOND DANUBIA intend to invest more than 35% of their assets in securities and/or money market instruments of public issuers. A detailed list of these issuers can be found in the prospectus, para. II, point 12.

Legal note:

Prognoses are no reliable indicator for future performance.

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Paul Severin

Paul Severin has worked at Erste Asset Management since April 2008. Until 2012 he was responsible for the company's product management; he has directed communications and PR activities since April 2012. From 1992 to 2008, he was director of equity fund management and deputy director for institutional funds at Pioneer Investments Austria in Vienna.

His career in the securities business began in 1992 at Constantia Privatbank as a portfolio manager and analyst. He worked as primary analyst at Creditanstalt Investmentbank in Vienna from 1994 to 1999.

He studied international business at Innsbruck University and Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI, USA. Before his university studies, he worked at Dornbirner Sparkasse in letters of credit and export financing.

Paul Severin is a member of the board at ÖVFA (Austrian Association for Financial Analysis and Asset Management) and a CEFA charter holder.