

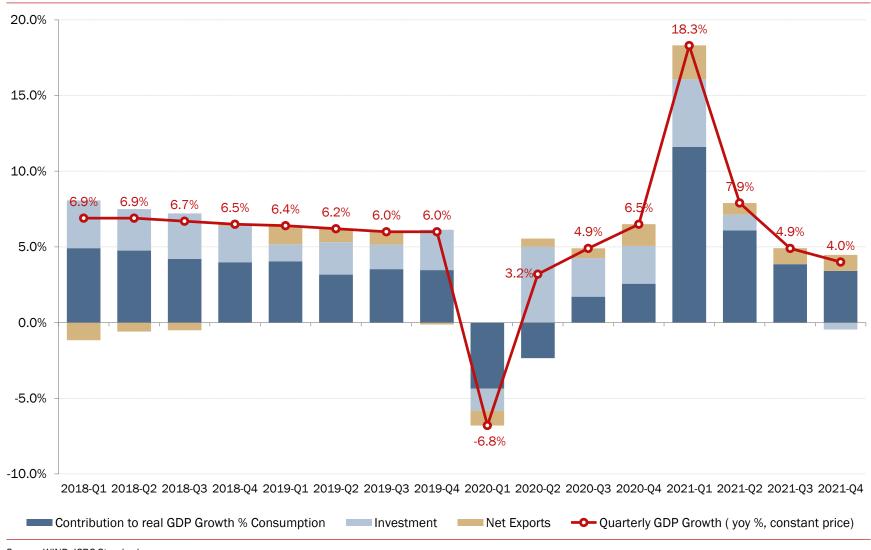
# **China Macro Outlook**

Delivering Relative Stability Amidst Rising Global Uncertainties

March 2022



# 5.5% GDP growth target in 2022 after a soft-landing in H2-21



Investment turned negative in H2-2021 due to unprecedented regulatory reform and restructuring in the property market since July 2021.

#### Fiscal measures are set to lead growth in H1 2022

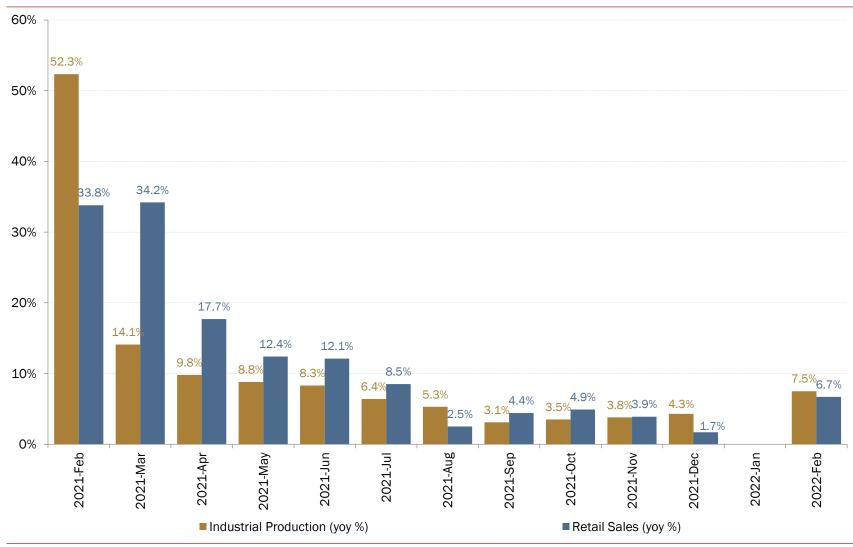
		2022 GWR Targets	2021 GWR Targets	2022 vs 2021
GDP	GDP Target (%)	c. 5.5%	>6.0%	Ļ
	Official Fiscal Deficit (CNY bn)	3,378 (est.)	3,446	Ĺ
	Official Fiscal Deficit Ratio (% GDP)	2.8%	3.2%	Ļ
	Special Bond Quota (CNY bn) *	3,650*	3,650	
	Special Bond Quota (% GDP)	3.0%	c.3.4%	Ļ
Fiscal	Special Fiscal Arrangement (CNY bn)	1) Extra 1,500 Special fiscal transfer payments to local gov. from central gov. 2) A New Financial Stability Fund (tbc)	NA	New
	Broad Fiscal Deficit Ratio (% GDP)	c. 7.0%	c. 6.5% - 7.0%	1
	Tax Cuts (CNY)	Est. CNY 2.5tn tax cut/rebate before year- end	CNY 50,000 VAT free allowance per annum for SMEs	1
	Household Disposable Income Growth (yoy %)	"Same as nominal GDP growth rate" (c. 5.5%)	"Same as nominal GDP growth rate"	
	Urban New Job Creation (mn)	11.00	11.00	
	Unemployment Rate (%)	max. 5.50%	5.50%	
Social	Poverty Reduction (mn)	NA	Social Welfare System (14 <sup>th</sup> FYP by 2025)	NA
	Climate Change Action	<ol> <li>Flexible annual target with the goal to achieve 14<sup>th</sup> FYP target by 2025</li> <li>Energy consumption quota to exclude usage of raw material &amp; renewable energy</li> </ol>	3% reduction in energy intensity	ŧ
	CPI (%)	c. 3.0%	3.0%	
	New Loan Growth for SMEs (%)	NA	> 30%	NA
<b>Nonetary</b>	M2 (yoy %)	"Same as nominal GDP growth rate"		
-	Total Social Financing (yoy %)	"Increase new loan base and lower borrowing cost for real economy"	"Same as nominal GDP growth rate"	

40% of annual quota for local government special purpose bond (CNY 1.46bn) is scheduled to be front-loaded before end-April 2022.

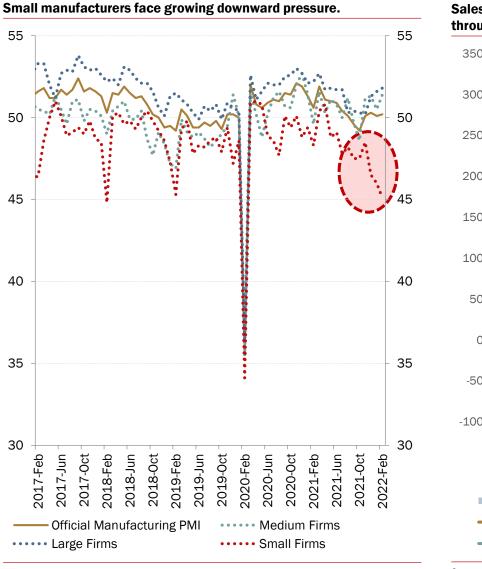
Source: WIND, ICBC Standard

\* Note: C. CNY 450bn worth of the pre-approved local government special purpose bond issuance quota (nearly 1/3 of CNY 1.46bn) have already been materialised by end-January. Market expects another issuance peak in late March/early April 2022 as local governments rush to meet the front-loading requirement.

# "Zero-Covid" policy poses persistent pressure on household consumption

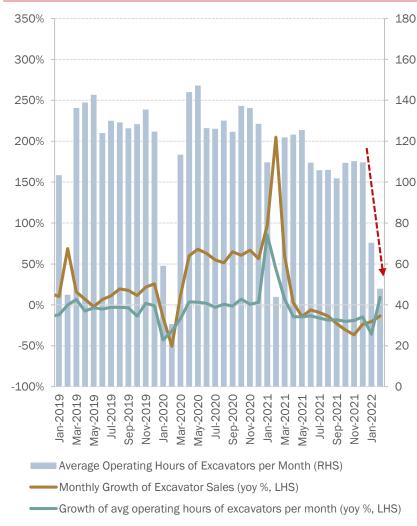


Official manufacturing PMIs have broadly recovered in Q4-21 from the power crunch, but consumption remains a laggard.



### Small manufacturers and construction weigh on activity

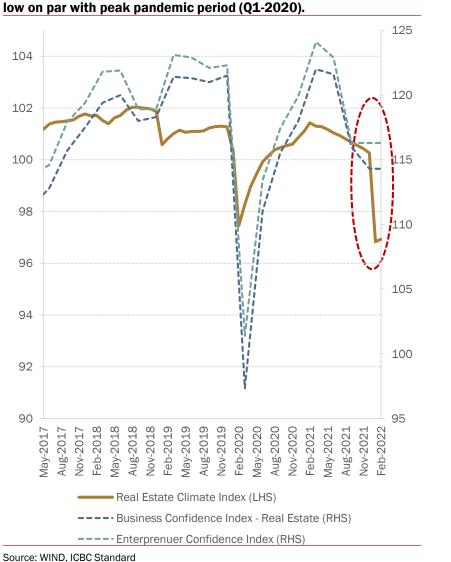
Sales and occupancy rate of excavators confirm limited passthrough effect of infrastructure and public investments.



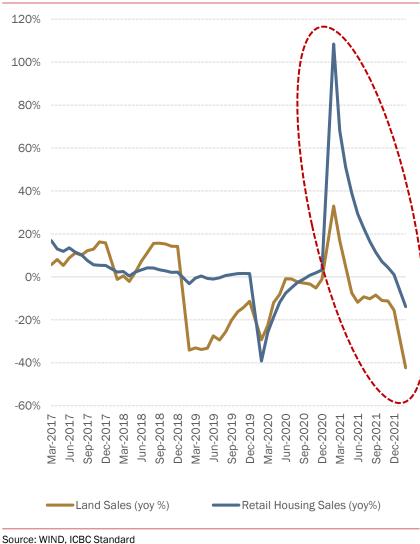
Source: WIND, ICBC Standard

Business sentiment over real estate sector plummeted to record

### Slowdown in property market remains a hindrance to growth



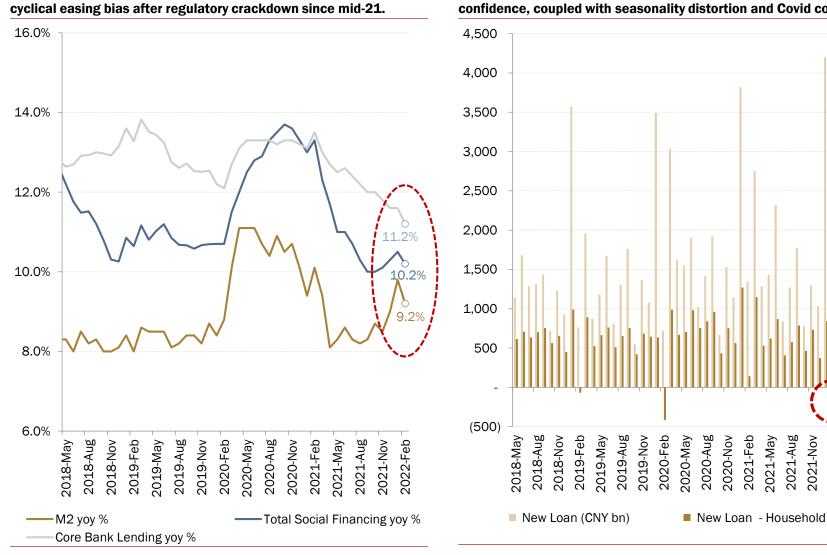
Ongoing slowdown in land and retail housing sales weighed on local government revenue income and private investment sentiment.



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Mild rebound of credit conditions in Q4 reflected Beijing's counter-

# Credit policy faces setback on sluggish private borrowing appetite



Negative Feb household loans demonstrates weak homebuyer' confidence, coupled with seasonality distortion and Covid concerns.

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Source: WIND, ICBC Standard

Source: WIND, ICBC Standard

2021-Aug

2021-Nov

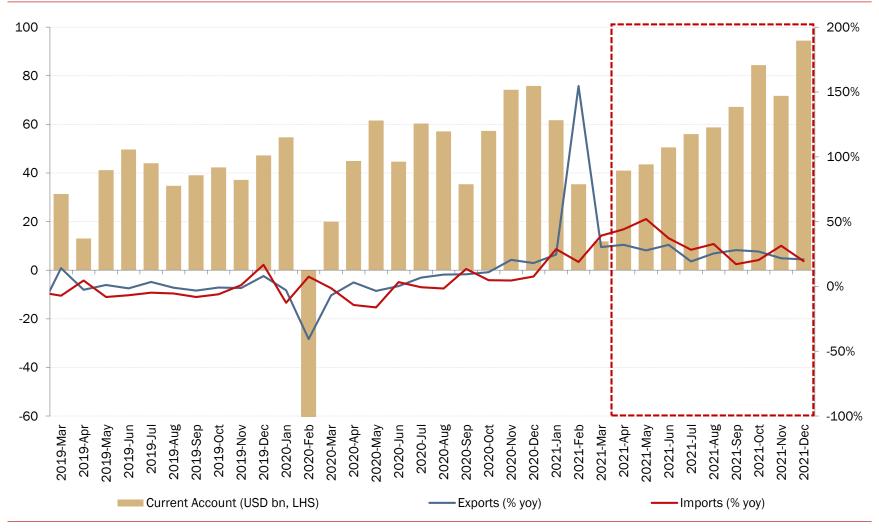
2021-May

2021-Feb

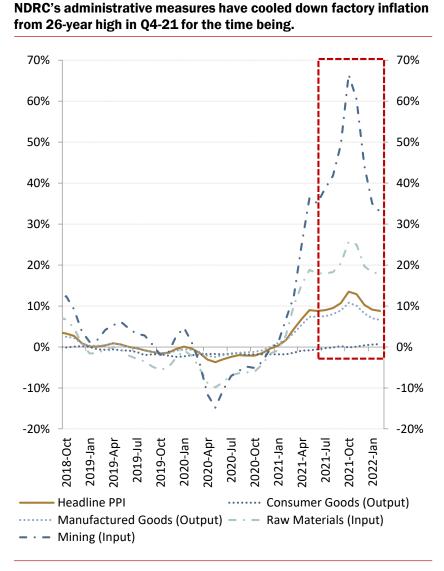
2022-Feb

### Trade surplus is set to narrow on inflation pressure and geopolitical shock

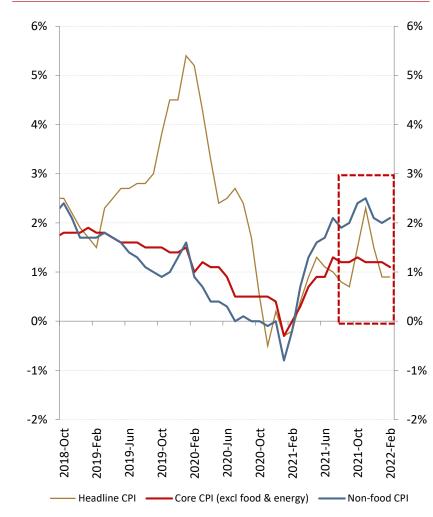
While exports remain resilient in the first two months of 2022, non-energy related imports reflect sustained weakness in domestic demand. Geopolitical turmoil is likely to bring further logistical and supply-chain disruptions to China's trade with Europe and other partners in H2-22.



#### Inflation pressure mildly eases on extensive NDRC-led interventions

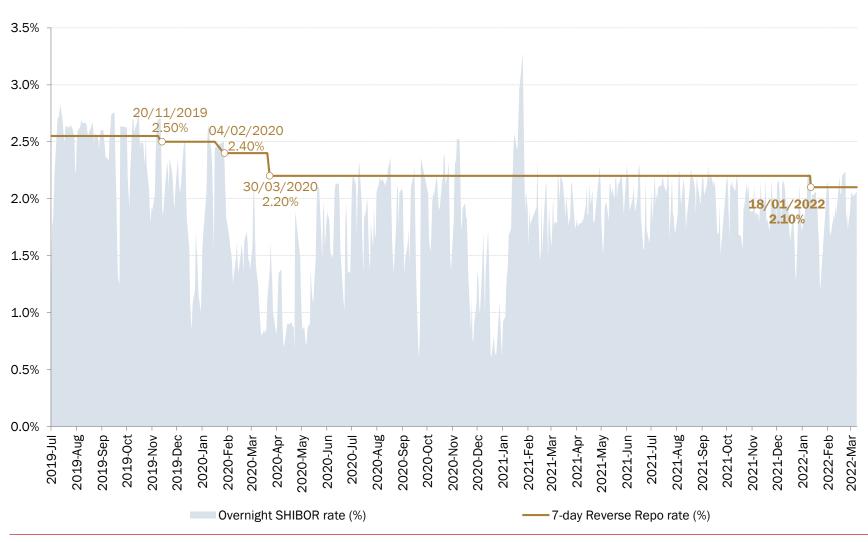


Higher commodity prices have had modest impact on headline CPI so far, but core CPI points to sluggish demand.



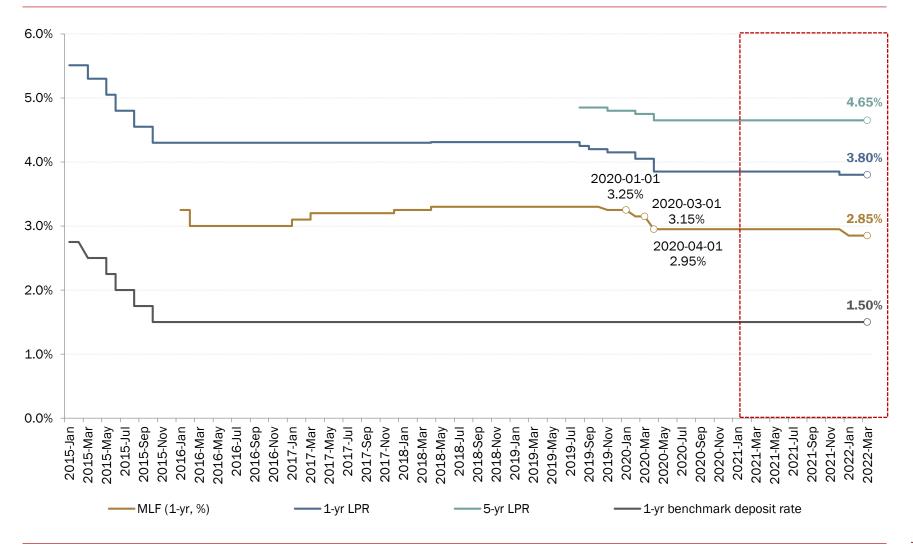
Source: WIND, ICBC Standard

# Short-term interbank liquidity closely monitored by the central bank



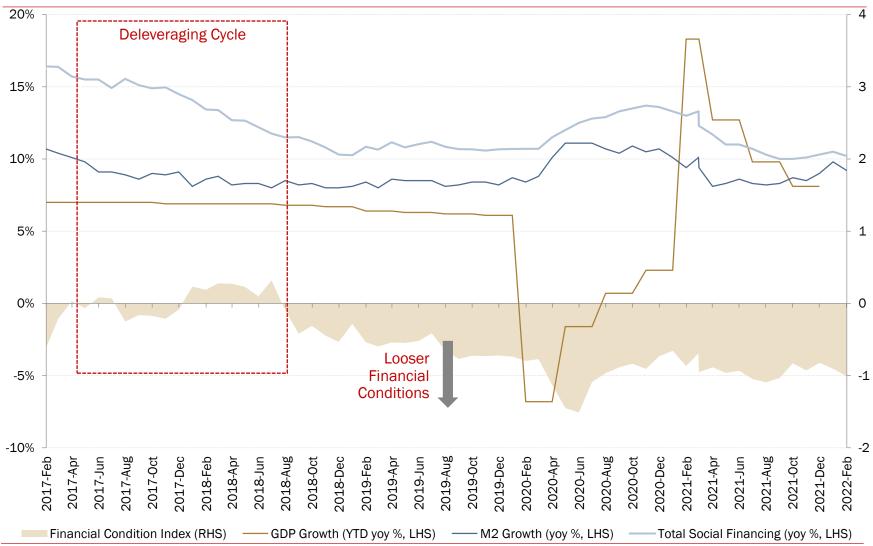
Front-end interbank rates stay well below the 2.10% 7d-OMO rates.

# PBoC's January rate cuts eased concerns but market expects more in H1



The 10bps cut in both 1yr MLF and 1yr LPR were pre-emptive moves to restore confidence, but more easing is needed to help ease pressure.

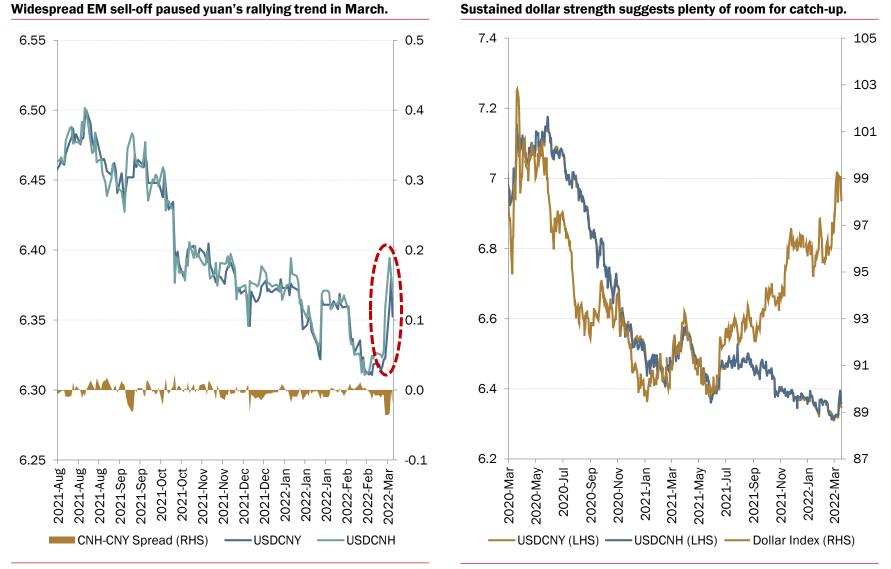
# Sentiment remains fragile despite accommodative liquidity conditions



Interbank liquidity conditions remain ample, but market sentiment is extremely vulnerable to geopolitical turmoil and secondary sanction risks.

Source: WIND, ICBC Standard

Note: Negative reading of Caixin Financial Condition Index reflects loose financial conditions, and positive reading means tighter financial condition in the onshore China market.

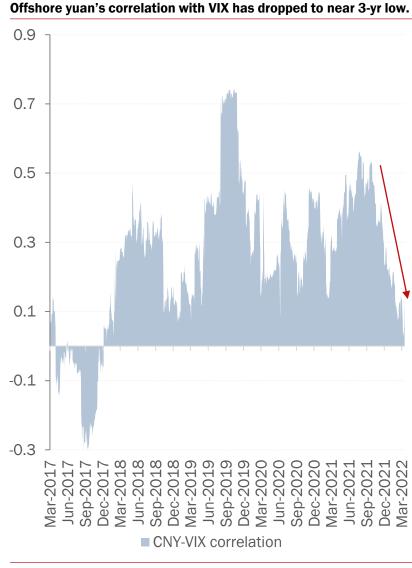


#### **Recent risk-off sentiment switched month-long yuan rally momentum**

Source: WIND, ICBC Standard

Source: Bloomberg, ICBC Standard

# But financial stability takes priority amidst heightened market volatility



**PBoC** has frequently adopted macro-prudential tools to steer market expectation and ease rapid yuan rally. Date **PBoC Policy Measures/Events** Increase macro-prudential adjustment coefficient from Jan. 2021 0.3 to 0.5 for firms lending to overseas borrowers. Reduce macro-prudential adjustment coefficient from Jan. 2021 1.25 to 1.00 for firms borrowing from overseas. Host PBoC FX Standing Committee meeting calling May 2021 Chinese banks to stay neutral on FX trading. Raise the reserve requirement ratio for FX deposits May 2021 from 5% to 7% with effective from 15<sup>th</sup> June. Grant fresh QDII guotas of c. USD 10bn to allow Jun. 2021 domestic institutional investors to undertake more outbound investment activities. China Development Bank sells USD 2 billion of 1-year notes on the interbank market. the first onshore dollar Jun. 2021 bond issuance since 2015. Market sees the move as a signal for state FIs to help absorb onshore USD liquidity. PBoC relaxes restrictions on domestic banks' ability to Sep. 2021 provide yuan-denominated loans overseas, a further step to increase global use of the RMB.

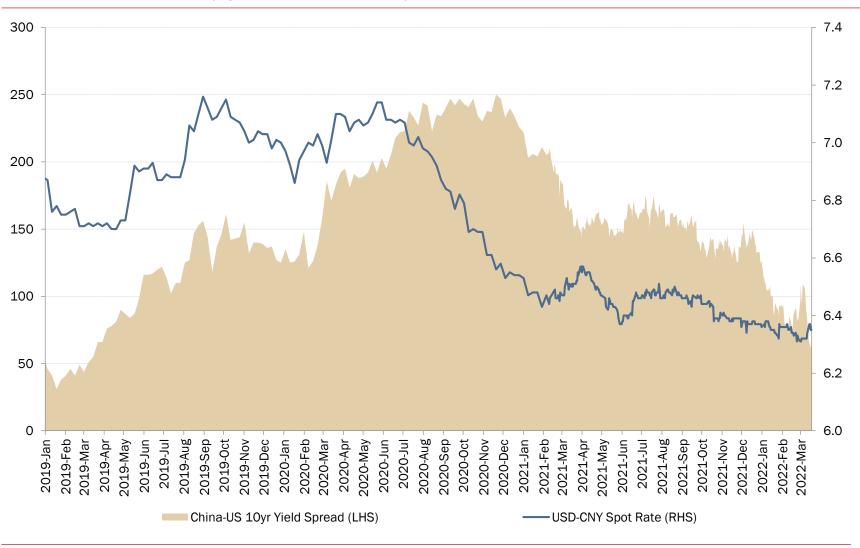
Nov. 2021 PBoC warns against one-way yuan bets

- China Foreign Exchange Committee (CFEC) urges banks Nov. 2021 to cap the size of commercial banks' proprietary trading accounts after the rapid ascent in the yuan recently.
  - CFETS adjusted the currency basket and marginally
- Jan. 2022 increased the weight for USD, EUR and GBP effective from  $1^{st}$  Jan 2022.

Source: WIND, ICBC Standard

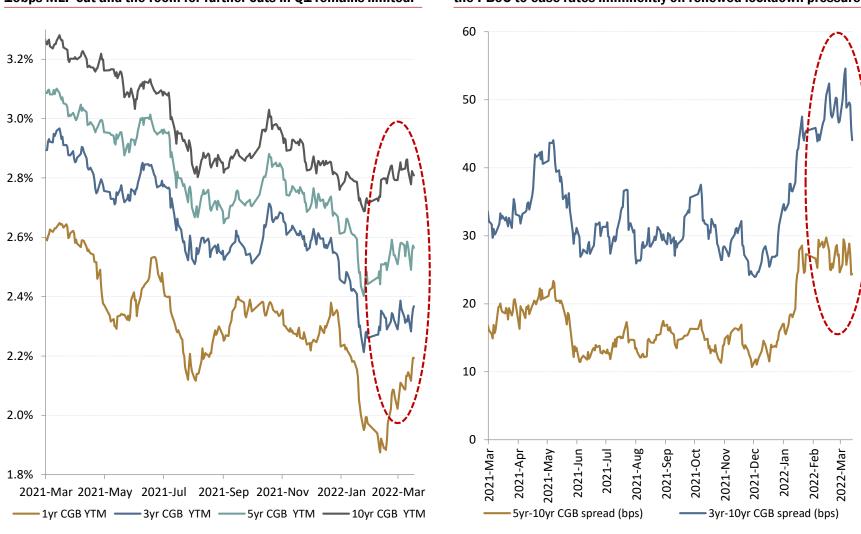
Source: CFETS, ICBC Standard

# CGB-UST spreads may narrow further with monetary policy de-coupling



Yield spread between China-US 10yr government bond has sharply narrowed to c.65bps in March 2022 from c. 250bps in November 2020.

# CGB yields remain range-bound on limited monetary easing space in 2022



CGB yields nearly recovered all declines in Jan-22 following PBoC's 10bps MLF cut and the room for further cuts in Q1 remains limited.

CGB spreads nearly doubled from lows in Dec-21 as market expects the PBoC to ease rates imminently on renewed lockdown pressure.

Source: WIND, ICBC Standard

Source: Bloomberg, ICBC Standard

# Appendix I: Growth and Stability return as key policy focus in 2022

Key economic targets in the Government Work Report: 2022 vs 2021

		2022			
		GWR Targets	Actual Data	GWR Targets	Actual vs Targets
	GDP Target (%)	c. 5.5%		>6.0%	Exceeded the targe
DP	Actual GDP (CNY bn)	120,657.15 (est.)	114,366.97		
	GDP growth rate (yoy %)		8.1%	>=6.0%	On target
	Official Fiscal Deficit (CNY bn)	3,378 (est.)	3,446	3,446	On target
	Official Fiscal Deficit Ratio (% GDP)	2.8%	3.01%	3.2%	On target
	Special Bond Quota (CNY bn)	3,650	3,650	3,650	-Broadly on target
	Special Bond Quota (% GDP)	3.0%	3.2%	c.3.4%	broauly off target
iscal	Special Fiscal Arrangement (CNY bn)	Extra 1,500 (Special fiscal transfer payments to local gov. from central gov.)	ΝΑ	NA	NA
	Broad Fiscal Deficit Ratio (% GDP)	c. 7.0%	c. 6.2% - 6.5%	c. 6.5% - 7.0%	Slightly below targe
	Tax Cuts (CNY)	Est. CNY 2.5tn tax cut/rebate before year- end	Extra CNY 1.1tn corporate tax cut CNY 20bn agriculture subsidies	Min. CNY 50,000 VAT free allowance per annum for SMEs	Exceeded the targe
	Household Disposable Income Growth (yoy %)	"Same as nominal GDP growth rate" (c. 5.5%)	8.1%	"Same as nominal GDP growth rate"	On target
	Urban New Job Creation (mn)	11.00	12.69	11.00	Exceeded the targe
	Unemployment Rate (%)	max. 5.50%	5.10%	5.50%	Exceeded the targe
ocial	Poverty Reduction (mn)	NA	In progress	Social Welfare System (14 <sup>th</sup> FYP by 2025)	<sup>1</sup> On target
	Climate Change Action	<ol> <li>Flexible annual target with the goal to achieve 14<sup>th</sup> FYP target by 2025</li> <li>Energy consumption quota to exclude usage of raw material &amp; renewable energy</li> </ol>		3% reduction in energ intensity	<sup>y</sup> NA
	CPI (%)	c. 3.0%	0.9%	3.0%	Exceeded the targe
	New Loan Growth for SMEs (%)	NA	> 40%	> 30%	Exceeded the targe
onetary	<b>y</b> M2 (yoy %)	"Same as nominal GDP growth rate"	9.0%		
	Total Social Financing (yoy %)	"Increase new loan base and lower borrowing cost for real economy"	10.3%	<ul> <li>"Same as nominal GDP growth rate"</li> </ul>	Exceeded the targe

# Appendix II: Employment and environment as key policy focus in 2021

Key economic targets in the Government Work Report: 2021 vs 2020

		2021	2020 "Endeavour to achieve the 13 <sup>th</sup> FYP target"		
		GWR Targets	Actual Data	GWR Targets	Actual vs Targets
	GDP Target (%)	> 6.0%		2.00% - 4.00% implie	d growth rate
GDP	Actual GDP (CNY bn)	107,694.52	101,598.60	-	
	GDP growth rate (yoy %)	6.0%	2.30%	2.0% - 4.0%	On target
	Official Fiscal Deficit (CNY bn)	3,446	3,760	3,760	On target
	Official Fiscal Deficit Ratio (% GDP)	3.2%	3.6%	> 3.6%	On target
	Special Bond Quota (CNY bn)	3,650	3,750	3,750	Broadly on target
	Special Bond Quota (% GDP)	c.3.4%	3.75%	3.75%	
	Special Sovereign Bond (CNY bn)	0	1,000	1,000	On target
Fiscal	Broad Fiscal Deficit Ratio (% GDP)	c. 6.5% - 7.0%	8.3%	> 8.5%	On target
	Railway Infra-Investment (CNY bn)		1000	900	
	Road and Water Transport Infra- Investment (CNY bn)			NA	
	Tax Cuts (CNY bn)	Increase VAT free allowance by CNY 50,000 per annum for SMEs	2,600	2,500	On target
	Household Disposable Income Growth (yoy %)	"Same as nominal GDP growth rate" (> 6.0%)	2.10%	"Same as nominal GDP growth rate"	Below target
	Urban New Job Creation (mn)	11.00	11.86	9.00	On target
	Unemployment Rate (%)	c. 5.50%	5.20%	6.00%	On target
Social	Poverty Reduction (mn)	Set up local social welfare enhancement system for low income countries and regions before 2025	5.51 Eliminated extreme poverty	10 estimated ("Eliminate extreme poverty")	On target
	Climate Change Action	3% reduction in energy intensity (Cut energy & carbon intensity by 13.5% and 18.0% respectively before 2025)	· ·	• •	New target
Monetary	CPI (%)	3.0%	2.5%	3.50%	On target
	New Loan Growth for SMEs (%)	> 30%	54.8%	> 40%	On target
	Banking Sector CSR Profit Return (CNY tn)		1.5	NA	Exceeded the targe
	M2 (yoy %) Total Social Financing (yoy %)	"Same as nominal GDP growth rate"	<u>    10.1%</u> 13.3%	"Markedly higher than 2019"	On target
	Source: WIND ICBC Standard		±0.070		

# Appendix III: Key economic targets in the past Government Work Reports (2018 – 2020)

		2020	2019	2018
	GDP Target (%)	"Endeavour to achieve the 13 <sup>th</sup> FYP target"	6.0% - 6.5%	6.50%
GDP	Actual GDP (CNY bn)		99,086.50	91,928.11
	Previous GDP growth rate (yoy %)	6.10%	6.70%	6.90%
	Official Fiscal Deficit (CNY bn)	3,760	2,760	2,380
	Official Fiscal Deficit Ratio (% GDP)	> 3.6%	2.8%	2.6%
	Special Bond Quota (CNY bn)	3,750	2,150	1,350
	Special Bond Quota (% GDP)	3.75%	2.18%	1.47%
Fiscal	Special Sovereign Bond (CNY bn)	1,000	NA	NA
	Broad Fiscal Deficit Ratio (% GDP)	> 8.5%	5.0%	4.1%
	Railway Infra-Investment (CNY bn)	900	800	732
	Road and Water Transport Infra-Investment (CNY bn)	NA	1,800	1,800
	Tax Cuts (CNY bn)	2,500	2,000	1,100
	Household Disposable Income Growth (yoy %)	"Same as nominal GDP growth rate"	"Same as nominal GDP growth rate"	6.5%
Castal	Urban New Job Creation (mn)	9.0	11.0	11.0
Social	Unemployment Rate (%)	6.0%	5.5%	5.5%
	Poverty Reduction (mn)	10 estimated ("Eliminate extreme poverty")	10	10
	CPI (%)	3.5%	3.0%	3.0%
lanatam	New Loan Growth for SMEs (%)	> 40%	30%	
Ionetary	M2 (yoy %)	"Markadh, higher then 2010"	"Same as nominal GDP	"Reasonab
: WIND, ICBC S	Total Social Financing (yoy %)	"Markedly higher than 2019"	growth rate"	growth"

# Appendix IV: RMB Bilateral Swap Lines (since 2008)

	MB Bilateral Currency Swap Li			
Inception	Central Bank	Size (CNY bn)	Renewed Date	Status
12-Dec-08	South Korea	400.0	2011 (CNY 360bn),2014, 2017, 2020 (Expanded to CNY 400bn)	Active
20-Jan-09	Hong Kong	500.0	2011 (CNY 400bn), 2014, 2018, 2020 (Expanded to CNY 500bn)	Active
08-Feb-09	Malaysia	180.0	2012,2014, 2018,2021	Active
11-Mar-09	Belarus	7.0	2015, 2018	NA
23-Mar-09	Indonesia	250.0	2013, 2018 (Expanded to CNY 200bn), 2022 (Expanded to CNY 250bn)	Active
29-Mar-09	Argentina	130.0	2014,2017,2018 (Expanded to CNY 130bn), 2020	Active
09-Jun-10	Iceland	3.5	2013,2016, 2020	Active
23-Jul-10	Singapore	300.0	2013,2016, 2019 (3yr until 2022)	Active
18-Apr-11	New Zealand	25.0	2014,2017, 2020	Active
19-Apr-11	Uzbekistan	0.7		Expired
06-May-11	Mongolia	15.0	2012 (Expand), 2014(Expand), 2017, 2020	Active
13-Jun-11	Kazakhstan	7.0	2014, 2017	NA
23-Jun-11	Russian Federation	150.0	2014, 2017, 2020	Active
22-Dec-11	Thailand	70.0	2014, 2018, 2021 (5yr until 2026)	Active
23-Dec-11	Pakistan	30.0	2014, 2018, 2020 (Expanded to CNY 30bn), 2021	Active
17-Jan-12	United Arab Emirates	35.0	2015	Expired
21-Feb-12	Turkey	35.0	2015 (Expanded to CNY 12bn), 2019, 2021(Expanded to CNY 35bn)	Active
22-Mar-12	Australia	200.0	2015,2018, 2021	Active
26-Jun-12	Ukraine	15.0	2015	Active
26-Mar-13	Brazil	190.0		Expired
22-Jun-13	United Kingdom	350.0	2015, 2018, 2021 (5yr until 2026)	Active
09-Sep-13	Hungary	40.0	2016, 2020 (Expanded to CNY 40bn)	Active
12-Sep-13	Albania	2.0	2018	NA
09-0ct-13	European Union	350.0	2016, 2019 (3yr until 2022)	Active
21-Jul-14	Switzerland	150.0	2017	NA
16-Sep-14	Sri Lanka	10.0	2017,2021	Active
03-Nov-14	Qatar	35.0	2017, 2021	Active
08-Nov-14	Canada	200.0	2017,2021 (5yr until 2026)	Active
18-Mar-15	Suriname	1.0	2018	NA
10-Apr-15	South Africa	30.0	2015, 2018	Active
25-May-15	Chile	50.0	2017, 2018 (CNY 22bn),2020 (Expanded to CNY 50bn), 2021	Active
03-Sep-15	Tajikistan	3.0	2018	NA

Source: PBoC, ICBC Standard

# **Appendix IV: RMB Bilateral Swap Lines**

Central Bank RMB Bilateral Currency Swap Lines				
Inception	Central Bank	Size (CNY bn)	Renewed Date	Status
11-May-16	Morocco	10	2019	NA
17-Jun-16	Serbia	1.5	2019	NA
06-Dec-16	Egypt	18	2021	Active
27-Apr-18	Nigeria	15	2021	Active
26-0ct-18	Japan	200	2021	Active
10-Dec-18	Ukraine	15	(Expired in Dec 2021)	NA
11-Feb-19	Suriname	1		Active
20-May-20	Laos	6		Active
Total signed			).70 Total Expired	225.7
Total Effective			5.00	

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