WS Global CIO Office
18 July 2025

Weekly Market View

Further consolidation ahead

→ After a strong run-up since April's lows, risk assets are now consolidating. This trend is likely to continue amid key event risks, especially with investor sentiment remaining overly bullish across several asset classes.

→ Following mixed US inflation reports, the focus turns to Japan's upper house election this weekend. A loss for the ruling party could fuel short-term market volatility, including further gains in the USD.

→ However, we expect US corporate earnings beats and trade deals in the coming weeks to ultimately drive global risk assets higher.

→ As such, we would use the ongoing USD rebound to trim any excessive allocation to US equities and rotate to our preferred markets, particularly Asia ex-Japan equities and Emerging Market (EM) local currency bonds.

Tranche into US banks: Strong earnings beats, deregulation boost, relaxed capital rules

Add to DM government bonds on any short-term yield spike: slowing growth, rate cuts

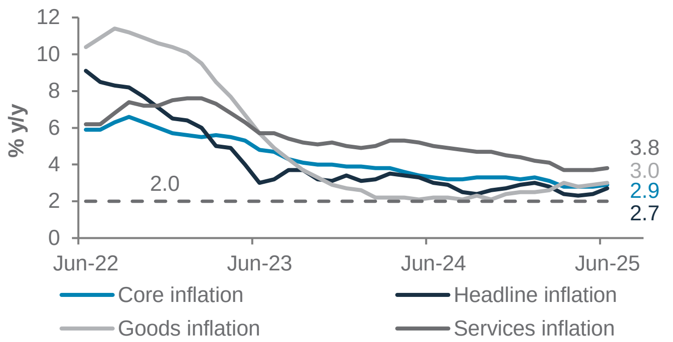
Rangebound GBP/USD: USD rebound offset by resilient UK inflation delaying BoE rate cuts

Important disclosures can be found in the Disclosures Appendix.

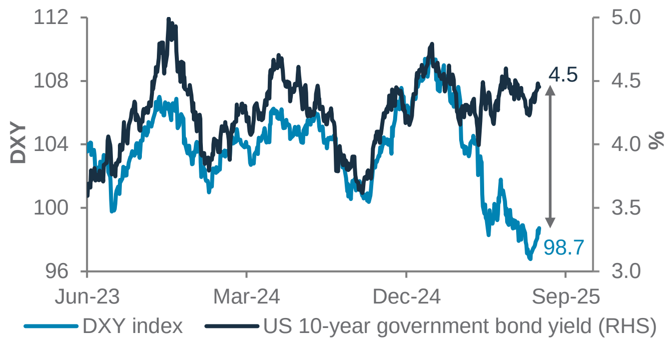
Charts of the week: Short-term bounce

The dollar's bounce is likely to be short-lived as cooling US services inflation is likely to lead the Fed to resume rate cuts

US headline, core, goods and services inflation



The USD index (DXY) and US 10-year government bond yield



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Editorial

Further consolidation ahead

Investment Strategy: After a strong run-up since April's lows, risk assets are now consolidating. This trend is likely to continue amid key event risks, especially with investor sentiment remaining overly bullish across several asset classes. Following mixed US inflation reports, the focus turns to Japan's upper house election this weekend. A loss for the ruling party could fuel short-term market volatility, including further gains in the USD. However, we expect US corporate earnings beats and trade deals in the coming weeks to ultimately drive global risk assets higher. As such, we would use the ongoing USD rebound to trim any excessive allocation to US equities and rotate to our preferred markets, particularly Asia ex-Japan equities and Emerging Market (EM) local currency bonds.

US inflation reports sustain Fed rate cut path: All eyes this week were on the US June inflation data. The reports were mixed, with a revival in tariff-driven consumer goods inflation (furnishings, apparels, etc.) offset by shelter disinflation and an unexpected stalling of producer prices. While goods inflation is likely to continue rising in H2, we expect **a slowing economy and job market to cool service-sector inflation, keeping overall price pressures in check.** This scenario preserves the prospects of a September Fed rate cut, even as markets have reduced the probability of such a move to 58% (from 91% on 1 July) after resilient inflation, retail sales and jobs data. We would add to 5-7-year maturity US government bonds, especially if the US 10-year bond yield rises above 4.5% (see page 6).

Overly bullish investor sentiment. As flagged last week, **investor sentiment (as measured by fractals, an indicator of market diversity) remains excessively one-sided (bullish)** in global, US and Asia ex-Japan equities and EM local currency bonds. This raises the risk of a near-term pullback. However, sentiment towards Euro area, UK and EM ex-Asia equities and Developed Market High Yield bonds have normalised this week, reducing reversal risk in these markets.

Japan elections could trigger volatility. Japan's upper house election on 20 July could spark near-term volatility in bond, equity and FX markets, especially if the ruling coalition loses its majority, as polls suggest. A sizable loss for the ruling coalition would raise the chance of a snap general election. It could also derail ongoing trade talks with the US, push bond yields higher, and further weaken the JPY (see page 4 for alternative scenarios and market implications).

ECB to hold rates amid EU and German stimulus. The European Commission unveiled a record USD 2tn long-term budget for 2028-34, proposing higher spending in defence, green energy and other strategic sectors. With Germany also accelerating fiscal policy stimulus and economic sentiment improving (see page 3), the scope for further ECB rate cuts is receding. We expect the ECB to hold its policy deposit rate at 2% next week but expect one final rate cut later this year before a prolonged pause. An ECB rate pause, positioned against expectations of renewed Fed rate cuts later this year, is likely to limit USD gains. We expect the USD index (DXY) to test resistance around 100, before resuming its decline.

Staying bullish on US banks; focussing on technology earnings. Upcoming event risks notwithstanding, **US corporate earnings are likely to provide support** to risk assets. Major US banks beat Q2 earnings estimates on trading, advisory and wealth management fee income. The beats, combined with the passing of the Fed's stress tests and proposed easing of bank capital requirements, reinforce our bullish view on the financial sector (see page 5). The focus shifts to US technology sector earnings, where consensus (LSEG I/B/E/S) expects revenue growth of 12.8%, outpacing broader market, with earnings estimated to grow by 17.7%.

Watching US trade deals. Meanwhile, the US has reached another trade agreement – this time with Indonesia. Agreements with India, the European Union and South Korea are likely in the coming weeks. Japan's election outcome will be key to determine the nature of any US-Japan trade deal.

The weekly macro balance sheet

Our weekly net assessment: On balance, we see the past week's data and policy as neutral for risk assets in the near-term

(+) factors: Improving China economic data; easing US producer inflation; EU budget boost

(-) factors: Rising US consumer inflation, elevated trade tensions

	Positive for risk assets	Negative for risk assets
Macro data	• US headline, core producer price inflation both fell more than expected to 0% m/m • US industrial output (0.3% m/m) and retail sales (0.6%) rose more than expected • Germany ZEW Survey of growth expectations beat estimates • China's Q2 GDP grew more than expected by 1.1% q/q • China's exports, imports and industrial production growth beat estimates	• US headline consumer inflation rose above estimates to 2.7% y/y in June, while core inflation rose to 2.9% as expected • Euro area ZEW Survey of growth expectations rose less than expected • China's retail sales and fixed asset investment growth slowed more than expected
	Our assessment: Neutral – Robust US retail sales, China exports and industrial output and cooling US producer price inflation vs. rising US consumer inflation	
Policy developments	• Fed's latest Beige Book showed slight rise in US economic activity recently	
	Our assessment: Positive – Improving US economic activity	
Other developments	• US lifted restrictions on select AI chip exports to China • The European Commission proposed a record EUR 2tn budget for the 2028-2034 period • Trump denied he plans to fire Fed Chair Powell	• Trump announced 30% tariffs on EU and Mexico from 1 Aug, while EU threatened retaliation against US exports • US opened security investigations into the import of solar panel, drones, and polysilicon • Trump threatened 100% tariffs on Russia if no ceasefire deal with Ukraine within 50 days
	Our assessment: Neutral – EU budget boost vs elevated trade tensions	

US retail sales rose more than expected in June

US retail sales and "control group"* retail sales

Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered; *excludes volatile categories such as auto dealers, building material retailers, gas stations, office supply stores, etc. This number is used to estimate goods spending for calculating US GDP.

Euro area and German economic growth expectations both rose in July

Euro area and Germany ZEW survey expectations of economic growth and current situation

Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

China's retail sales and fixed asset investment slowed in June, while industrial output accelerated

China fixed asset investment, industrial production, and retail sales

Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Top client questions

What are the potential scenarios from Japan's elections and the implications for JPY, JGB and Japan equities?

Our view: Retain core exposure to Japan equities. Inflation risks remain. Maintain core holdings in DM IG bonds.

Rationale: The Japan upper house election will take place on 20 July. Ahead of the results, we outline three potential scenarios and their respective cross-asset implications:

1. **Ruling coalition retains its majority:** We expect **policy continuity** including moderate fiscal stimulus via ¥3.5 trn cash payouts. The BOJ is likely to resume gradual rate hikes, and market attention will shift to US trade negotiations before the 1 August deadline for US tariffs.

   We expect a) USD/JPY to likely remain steady in the 147 to 150 range, b) Equities mildly bullish and c) Long-term bond yields anchored, with 30-year JGB yields pulling back to the 2.8-2.85% level.

2. **Ruling coalition loses majority by a slight margin**: In this scenario, Prime Minister Ishiba would need to **cooperate with opposition parties** to form a majority. This would create pressure for larger fiscal packages, funded by debt issuance, and possibly a temporary pause in sales tax.

   We expect a) USD/JPY to break above 151 as markets price in slower rate hikes and more debt, b) Equity volatility likely to rise, c) 30-year JGB yields to stay elevated in the 3.1%-3.2% range.

3. **Ruling coalition suffers major defeat; opposition gains control**: This could lead to the resignation of Ishiba's cabinet or **a leadership change**. The opposition parties could push for consumption tax cuts and expansive fiscal spending, which could lead to a potential debt surge. The BOJ could pivot dovishly in response.

   a) JPY could experience significant depreciation, with USDJPY potentially crossing 154.8 if a JPY sell-off intensifies. Sovereign risk premium may widen, amplifying USD strength, b) Japan equities likely to sell-off, exacerbated by heightened uncertainty around a US-Japan trade deal given the tight 1 August deadline, c) 30-year JGB yield could rise sharply to 3.2%-3.4%.

Overall, we see an increasing likelihood of scenario #2, with media polls suggesting the ruling coalition may lose its majority. Markets are also sensitive to developments in the US-Japan trade deal, ahead of the looming 1 August US tariff deadline. Election results are expected late on 20 July or early 21 July, with 21 July being a Japan market holiday.

— **Iris Yuen**, *Investment Strategist*
— **Michelle Kam, CFA**, *Investment Strategist*
— **Anthony Naab, CFA**, *Investment Strategist*

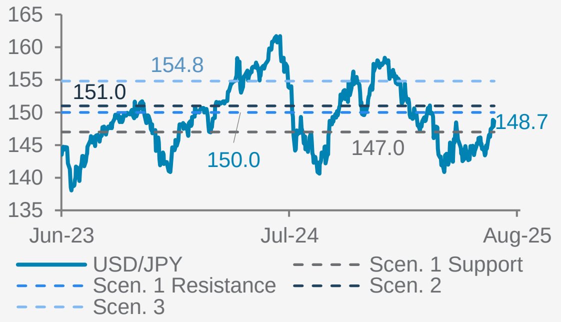
Japan's long bond yield appears to have priced in a marginal loss of majority for the ruling coalition

Japan's 30-year government bond yield

Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

USD/JPY has rebounded from a triple-bottom around 141

USD/JPY and key technical levels



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Top client questions (cont'd)

What is your view on the US semiconductor sector after the recent policy developments?

Our view: Raise exposure to semiconductor sector on pullback.

Rationale: The recent easing of US restrictions on semiconductor exports to China has boosted sentiment, providing US chipmakers with better regulatory visibility and a clearer path to assessing the lucrative Chinese market.

The US maintains a dominant position in AI and advanced chip technology, accounting for around 50% of the global semiconductor market share across different segments.

However, US semiconductor stocks remain vulnerable to tariffs. Trump's waiver of the baseline **25% tariff** on certain semiconductor products in early April could potentially be reversed as soon as 1 August. In addition, the US remains exposed to global supply chain disruption, with the latest risk stemming from the investigation into polysilicon and drone imports under the "Section 232 Investigation".

The current earnings season may also introduce volatility, particularly after a key global supplier to the chip industry issued weak guidance for 2026, raising concerns about the demand outlook. Furthermore, valuations of US semiconductor equities are elevated. We recently closed our opportunistic idea on US semiconductors and would prefer to add on pullback.

— **Jason Wong**, *Equity Analyst*

Elevated valuation of US semiconductor equities suggests investors should wait for pullbacks before adding to the sector

12-month forward P/E ratio for the Philadelphia Semiconductor Index (SOX Index)

Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

What are the key takeaways from the US major banks' Q2 earnings?

Our View: Tranche into major US banks, especially on pullback caused by tariff news. De-regulation is the structural driver.

Rationale: As of 16 July, 20% of financial stocks in the S&P500 have reported results. Earnings growth expectations for the sector stand at 7.8% y/y, outperforming the broader index (6.5% y/y) (source: LSEG I/B/E/S). Major US banks have highlighted rising trading revenue, fees on Wealth and Asset Management and net interest income, aided by solid economic growth and loan demand.

Additionally, the passing of the Fed's annual stress test suggests major banks are likely to **release excess stress capital buffers,** which could improve shareholder returns. Valuations remain appealing, with the **S&P 500 Banks index still trading at a discount to the broader index**. The focus now is on the US tariffs. Any escalation in tariff rates could weigh on capital markets activity and loan growth projections, but may present an attractive opportunity to add exposure.

— **Michelle Kam, CFA,** *Investment Strategist*

The S&P 500 Banks index is trading at a valuation discount to the broader index

12-month forward P/E for S&P500 Banks index relative to S&P500 index

Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Top client questions (cont'd)

The US 30-year bond yield broke above the key 5% level again. What is your outlook on the 10-year bond yield?

Our view: We expect volatility in long-dated bond yield. Adding long-dated bonds if the US 10-year yield rises above 4.5%.

Rationale: The combination of a resilient job market, ongoing tariff concerns, and the fiscal impact of the One Big and Beautiful Bill has driven long-dated bond yields higher. **Tariff uncertainties** and **mixed economic data** are likely to sustain near-term volatility in long-dated yields.

However, we expect the **job market to soften** in the second half of 2025, which could prompt the Fed to cut interest rates as early as September. Despite the mixed data, the yield differential between the 10-year and 2-year, and the 30-year and 10-year US government bonds, have remained stable at around 50bps over the past few of months. As front-end yields decline, we expect long-dated bond yields to decline in tandem.

We believe the 5-7-year bond maturity bucket offers the best balance between attractive yields and potential price gains, while limiting exposure to inflation or fiscal deficit risks inherent in longer maturities. For long-dated bonds, we would add when the 10-year US government bond yield rises to 4.50% or higher. Over the next 6-12months, we expect it to move towards the 4.00%-4.25% range.

— **Ray Heung,** *Senior Investment Strategist*

The gap between the US 10-year and 2-year bond yields and the 30-year and 10-year yields remain around 50bps over the past few months

Difference between US treasury 30-year & 10-year bond yields and 10-year & 2-year bond yields

Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

What are the implications of a USD short squeeze on European currencies such as the GBP?

Our View: GBP/USD to be rangebound with resistance near 1.36 and support at 1.32.

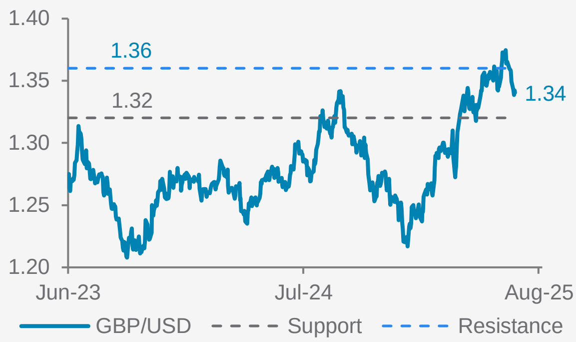
Rationale: The USD index (DXY) has gradually rebounded from a low of 96.3 this month, recovering from technically oversold conditions. A stronger-than-expected consumer inflation print has **scaled back market expectations for the Fed rate cuts** this year, with the probability of a 25bps cut in September now just above 50%. We expect the short squeeze risk in DXY to persist near term. However, for the DXY to break above its 100-day MA at 100, we would need to see consistently strong economic data, such as an upside surprise in the upcoming PMI.

Meanwhile, the UK inflation surprised to the upside, which may prompt markets to reassess expectations for further BOE rate cuts beyond the next meeting. While GBP/USD may still correct lower in light of the stronger USD, **resilient UK inflation** could limit the downside and complicate the bearish narrative. This supports a range-bound GBP/USD between 1.32 to 1.36.

— **Iris Yuen**, *Investment Strategist*

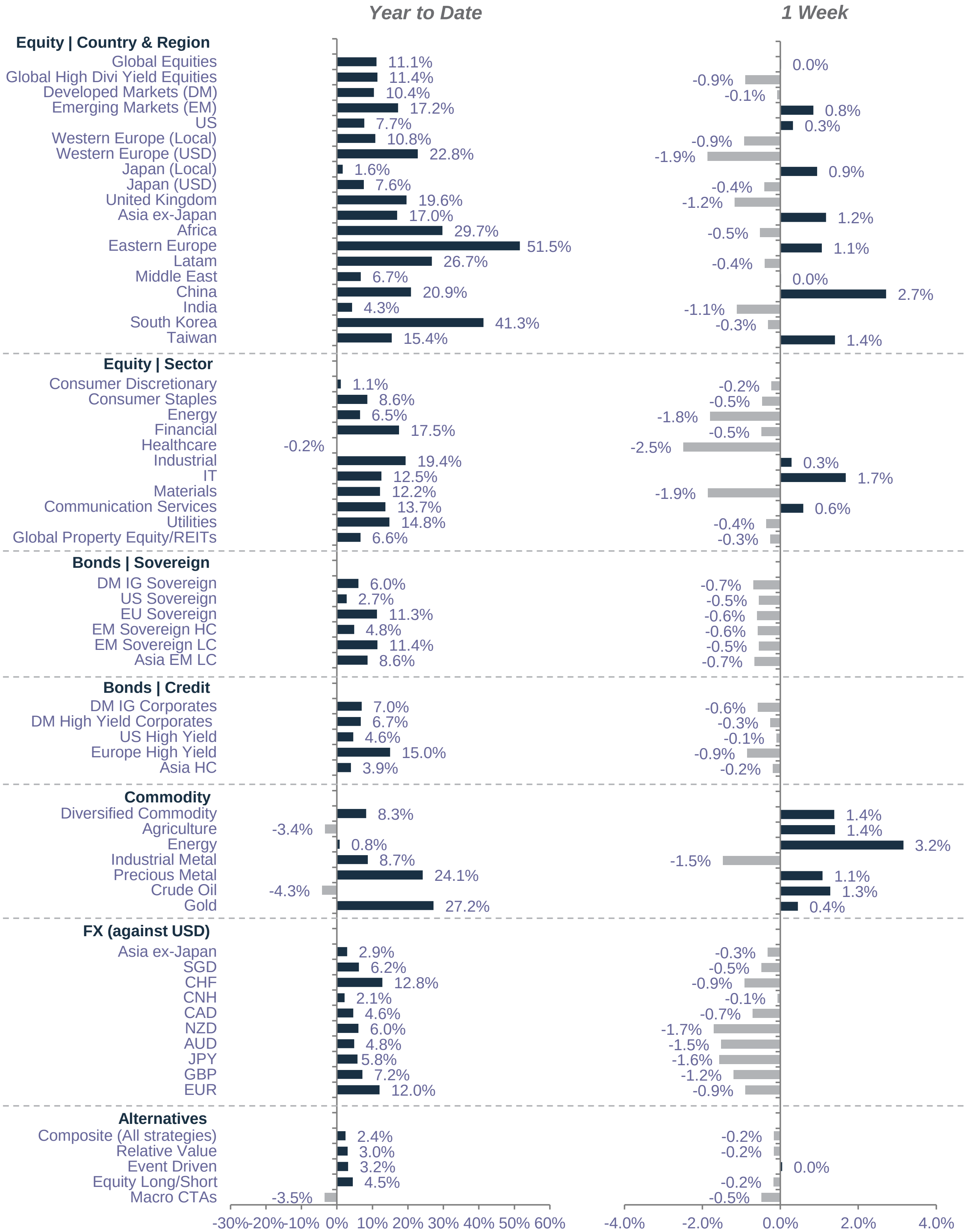
GBP/USD to remain range-bound near-term

GBP/USD and technical levels



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Market performance summary*



Sources: MSCI, JP Morgan, Barclays Capital, Citigroup, Dow Jones, HFRX, FTSE, Bloomberg, Standard Chartered
*Performance in USD terms unless otherwise stated, 2025 YTD performance from 31 December 2024 to 17 July 2025; 1-week period: 10 July 2025 to 17 July 2025

Our 12-month asset class views at a glance

Asset class			
Equities	▲	**Preferred Sectors**	
US	◆	US Financials	▲
Europe ex-UK	◆	US Technology	▲
UK	▼	US Communication	▲
Asia ex-Japan	▲	Europe Technology	▲
Japan	◆	Europe Communication	▲
Other EM	◆	Europe Industrials	▲
		Europe Financials	▲
Bonds (Credit)	◆	China Technology	▲
Asia USD	◆	China Communication	▲
Corp DM HY	◆	China Discretionary	▲
Govt EM USD	◆		
Corp DM IG	▼	**Alternatives**	◆
Bonds (Govt)	◆	**Gold**	◆
Govt EM Local	▲		
Govt DM IG	◆		

Source: Standard Chartered Global Investment Committee

Legend: ▲ Most preferred | ▼ Less preferred | ◆ Core holding

Economic and market calendar

	Market	Event	Period	Expected	Prior
MON	USD	Leading Index	Jun	-0.2%	-0.1%
TUE					
WED	EUR	Consumer Confidence	Jul P	–	-15.3
	USD	Existing Home Sales	Jun	4.00m	4.03m
THU	EUR	GfK Consumer Confidence	Aug	–	-20.3
	EUR	HCOB Eurozone Manufacturing PMI	Jul P	–	49.5
	EUR	HCOB Eurozone Services PMI	Jul P	–	50.5
	EUR	ECB Deposit Facility Rate	24-Jul	–	2.0%
	EUR	ECB Main Refinancing Rate	24-Jul	–	2.2%
	USD	Chicago Fed Nat Activity Index	Jun	–	-0.28
	USD	Initial Jobless Claims	19-Jul	–	–
	USD	Continuing Claims	12-Jul	–	–
	USD	S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI	Jul P	–	52.9
	USD	S&P Global US Services PMI	Jul P	–	52.9
	USD	New Home Sales	Jun	650k	623k
FRI/SAT	EUR	IFO Business Climate	Jul	–	88.4
	USD	Durable Goods Orders	Jun P	-10.3%	16.4%

Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered
Prior data are for the preceding period unless otherwise indicated. Data are % change on previous period unless otherwise indicated
P - preliminary data, F - final data, sa - seasonally adjusted, y/y - year-on-year, m/m - month-on-month

The S&P500 has next interim resistance at 6,420

Technical indicators for key markets as of 17 July close

Index	Spot	1st support	1st resistance	12m forward P/E (x)	12m forward dividend yield (%)
S&P 500	6,297	6,059	6,420	22.3	1.3
STOXX 50	5,377	5,221	5,502	15.1	3.2
FTSE 100	8,973	8,781	9,091	13.0	3.7
TOPIX	2,840	2,769	2,890	15.1	2.7
Shanghai Comp	3,517	3,391	3,599	12.9	3.1
Hang Seng	24,499	23,500	25,183	10.6	3.3
Nifty 50	25,111	24,673	25,609	20.5	1.6
MSCI Asia ex-Japan	812	781	830	13.8	2.5
MSCI EM	1,241	1,196	1,266	12.9	2.9
Crude oil (WTI)	67.5	61.6	76.0	na	na
Gold	3,339	3,257	3,412	na	na
UST 10Y Yield	4.45	4.26	4.57	na	na

Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered
Note: These short-term technical levels are based on models and may differ from a more qualitative analysis provided in other pages

Investor diversity in global equities stays below threshold

Our proprietary market diversity indicators as of 17 July close

Level 1	Diversity	1-month trend	Fractal dimension
Global Bonds	●	↑	1.66
Global Equities	○	↓	1.19
Gold	●	↑	2.22
Equity			
MSCI US	○	↓	1.20
MSCI Europe	◐	↓	1.28
MSCI AC AXJ	○	↓	1.20
Fixed Income			
DM Corp Bond	◐	→	1.45
DM High Yield	◐	↓	1.27
EM USD	◐	↓	1.35
EM Local	◐	→	1.25
Asia USD	◐	↓	1.43
Currencies			
EUR/USD	●	↑	1.56

Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered; **Fractal dimensions below 1.25 indicate extremely low market diversity/high risk of a reversal**

Legend: ● High | ◐ Low to mid | ○ Critically low standard chartered

InvesTips

from the CIO's desk

Fortnightly series on **WEDNESDAYS**

Presented by

Steve Brice

Global Chief Investment Officer
Standard Chartered Bank

Tune in to InvesTips from the CIO's desk, a financial education podcast series designed to empower anyone and everyone with the knowledge and tools to navigate their investment journey with confidence.

LISTEN NOW

STANDARD CHARTERED MONEY INSIGHTS

Apple Podcasts **Spotify**

Disclosures

This document is confidential and may also be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please destroy all copies and notify the sender immediately. This document is being distributed for general information only and is subject to the relevant disclaimers available at our Standard Chartered website under Regulatory disclosures. It is not and does not constitute research material, independent research, an offer, recommendation or solicitation to enter into any transaction or adopt any hedging, trading or investment strategy, in relation to any securities or other financial instruments. This document is for general evaluation only. It does not take into account the specific investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any particular person or class of persons and it has not been prepared for any particular person or class of persons. You should not rely on any contents of this document in making any investment decisions. Before making any investment, you should carefully read the relevant offering documents and seek independent legal, tax and regulatory advice. In particular, we recommend you to seek advice regarding the suitability of the investment product, taking into account your specific investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs, before you make a commitment to purchase the investment product. Opinions, projections and estimates are solely those of SC at the date of this document and subject to change without notice. Past performance is not indicative of future results and no representation or warranty is made regarding future performance. The value of investments, and the income from them, can go down as well as up, and you may not recover the amount of your original investment. You are not certain to make a profit and may lose money. Any forecast contained herein as to likely future movements in rates or prices or likely future events or occurrences constitutes an opinion only and is not indicative of actual future movements in rates or prices or actual future events or occurrences (as the case may be). This document must not be forwarded or otherwise made available to any other person without the express written consent of the Standard Chartered Group (as defined below). Standard Chartered Bank is incorporated in England with limited liability by Royal Charter 1853 Reference Number ZC18. The Principal Office of the Company is situated in England at 1 Basinghall Avenue, London, EC2V 5DD. Standard Chartered Bank is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority. Standard Chartered PLC, the ultimate parent company of Standard Chartered Bank, together with its subsidiaries and affiliates (including each branch or representative office), form the Standard Chartered Group. Standard Chartered Private Bank is the private banking division of Standard Chartered. Private banking activities may be carried out internationally by different legal entities and affiliates within the Standard Chartered Group (each an “SC Group Entity”) according to local regulatory requirements. Not all products and services are provided by all branches, subsidiaries and affiliates within the Standard Chartered Group. Some of the SC Group Entities only act as representatives of Standard Chartered Private Bank and may not be able to offer products and services or offer advice to clients.

Market Abuse Regulation (MAR) Disclaimer

Banking activities may be carried out internationally by different branches, subsidiaries and affiliates within the Standard Chartered Group according to local regulatory requirements. Opinions may contain outright “buy”, “sell”, “hold” or other opinions. The time horizon of this opinion is dependent on prevailing market conditions and there is no planned frequency for updates to the opinion. This opinion is not independent of Standard Chartered Group’s trading strategies or positions. Standard Chartered Group and/or its affiliates or its respective officers, directors, employee benefit programmes or employees, including persons involved in the preparation or issuance of this document may at any time, to the extent permitted by applicable law and/or regulation, be long or short any securities or financial instruments referred to in this document or have material interest in any such securities or related investments. Therefore, it is possible, and you should assume, that Standard Chartered Group has a material interest in one or more of the financial instruments mentioned herein. Please refer to our Standard Chartered website under Regulatory disclosures for more detailed disclosures, including past opinions/ recommendations in the last 12 months and conflict of interests, as well as disclaimers. A covering strategist may have a financial interest in the debt or equity securities of this company/issuer. All covering strategist are licensed to provide investment recommendations under Monetary Authority of Singapore or Hong Kong Monetary Authority. This document must not be forwarded or otherwise made available to any other person without the express written consent of Standard Chartered Group.

Sustainable Investments

Any ESG data used or referred to has been provided by Morningstar, Sustainalytics, MSCI or Bloomberg. Refer to 1) Morningstar website under Sustainable Investing, 2) Sustainalytics website under ESG Risk Ratings, 3) MCSI website under ESG Business Involvement Screening Research and 4) Bloomberg green, social & sustainability bonds guide for more information. The ESG data is as at the date of publication based on data provided, is for informational purpose only and is not warranted to be complete, timely, accurate or suitable for a particular purpose, and it may be subject to change. Sustainable Investments (SI): This refers to funds that have been classified as ‘Sustainable Investments’ by Morningstar. SI funds have explicitly stated in their prospectus and regulatory filings that they either incorporate ESG factors into the investment process or have a thematic focus on the environment, gender diversity, low carbon, renewable energy, water or community development. For equity, it refers to shares/stocks issued by companies with Sustainalytics ESG Risk Rating of Low/Negligible. For bonds, it refers to debt instruments issued by issuers with Sustainalytics ESG Risk Rating of Low/Negligible, and/or those being certified green, social, sustainable bonds by Bloomberg. For structured products, it refers to products that are issued by any issuer who has a Sustainable Finance framework that aligns with Standard Chartered’s Green and Sustainable Product Framework, with underlying assets that are part of the Sustainable Investment universe or separately approved by Standard Chartered’s Sustainable Finance Governance Committee. Sustainalytics ESG risk ratings shown are factual and are not an indicator that the product is classified or marketed as “green”, “sustainable” or similar under any particular classification system or framework.

Country/Market Specific Disclosures

Botswana: This document is being distributed in Botswana by, and is attributable to, Standard Chartered Bank Botswana Limited which is a financial institution licensed under the Section 6 of the Banking Act CAP 46.04 and is listed in the Botswana Stock Exchange. **Brunei Darussalam:** This document is being distributed in Brunei Darussalam by, and is attributable to, Standard Chartered Bank (Brunei Branch) | Registration Number RFC/61 and Standard Chartered Securities (B) Sdn Bhd | Registration Number RC20001003. Standard Chartered Bank is incorporated in England with limited liability by Royal Charter 1853 Reference Number ZC18. Standard Chartered Securities (B) Sdn Bhd is a limited liability company registered with the Registry of Companies with Registration Number RC20001003 and licensed by Brunei Darussalam Central Bank as a Capital Markets Service License Holder with License Number BDCB/R/CMU/S3-CL and it is authorised to conduct Islamic investment business through an Islamic window. **China Mainland:** This document is being distributed in China by, and is attributable to, Standard Chartered Bank (China) Limited which is mainly regulated by National Financial Regulatory Administration (NFRA), State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), and People’s Bank of China (PBOC). **Hong Kong:** In Hong Kong, this document, except for any portion advising on or facilitating any decision on futures contracts trading, is distributed by Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited (“SCBHK”), a subsidiary of Standard Chartered PLC. SCBHK has its registered address at 32/F, Standard Chartered Bank Building, 4-4A Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong and is regulated by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and registered with the Securities and Futures Commission (“SFC”) to carry on Type 1 (dealing in securities), Type 4 (advising on securities), Type 6 (advising on corporate finance) and Type 9 (asset management) regulated activity under the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) (“SFO”) (CE No. AJI614). The contents of this document have not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in Hong Kong and you are advised to exercise caution in relation to any offer set out herein. If you are in doubt about any of the contents of this document, you should obtain independent professional advice. Any product named herein may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong by means of any document at any time other than to “professional investors” as defined in the SFO and any rules made under that ordinance. In addition, this document may not be issued or possessed for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, and any interests may not be disposed of, to any person unless such person is outside Hong Kong or is a “professional investor” as defined in the SFO and any rules made under that ordinance, or as otherwise may be permitted by that ordinance. In Hong Kong, Standard Chartered Private Bank is the private banking division of SCBHK, a subsidiary of Standard Chartered PLC. **Ghana:** Standard Chartered Bank Ghana Limited accepts no liability and will not be liable for any loss or damage arising directly or indirectly (including special, incidental or consequential loss or damage) from your use of these documents. Past performance is not indicative of future results and no representation or warranty is made regarding future performance. You should seek advice from a financial adviser on the suitability of an investment for you, taking into account these factors before making a commitment to invest in an investment. To unsubscribe from receiving further updates, please send an email to feedback.ghana@sc.com. Please do not reply to this email. Call our Priority Banking on 0302610750 for any questions or service queries. You are advised not to send any confidential and/or important information to Standard Chartered via e-mail, as Standard Chartered makes no representations or warranties as to the security or accuracy of any information transmitted via e-mail. Standard Chartered shall not be responsible for any loss or damage suffered by you arising from your decision to use e-mail to communicate with the Bank. **India:** This document is being distributed in India by Standard Chartered in its capacity as a distributor of mutual funds and referrer of any other third party financial products. Standard Chartered does not offer any 'Investment Advice' as defined in the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Investment Advisers) Regulations, 2013 or otherwise. Services/products related securities business offered by Standard Charted are not intended for any person, who is a resident of any jurisdiction, the laws of which imposes prohibition on soliciting the securities business in that jurisdiction without going through the registration requirements and/or prohibit the use of any information contained in this document. **Indonesia**: This document is being distributed in Indonesia by Standard Chartered Bank, Indonesia branch, which is a financial institution licensed and supervised by Otoritas Jasa Keuangan (Financial Service Authority) and Bank Indonesia. **Jersey:** In Jersey, Standard Chartered Private Bank is the Registered Business Name of the Jersey Branch of Standard Chartered Bank. The Jersey Branch of Standard Chartered Bank is regulated by the Jersey Financial Services Commission. Copies of the latest audited accounts of Standard Chartered Bank are available from its principal place of business in Jersey: PO Box 80, 15 Castle Street, St Helier, Jersey JE4 8PT. Standard Chartered Bank is incorporated in England with limited liability by Royal Charter in 1853 Reference Number ZC 18. The Principal Office of the Company is situated in England at 1 Basinghall Avenue, London, EC2V 5DD. Standard Chartered Bank is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority. The Jersey Branch of Standard Chartered Bank is also an authorised financial services provider under license number 44946 issued by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority of the Republic of South Africa. Jersey is not part of the United Kingdom and all business transacted with Standard Chartered Bank, Jersey Branch and other SC Group Entity outside of the United Kingdom, are not subject to some or any of the investor protection and compensation schemes available under United Kingdom law. **Kenya:** This document is being distributed in Kenya by and is attributable to Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Limited. Investment Products and Services are distributed by Standard Chartered Investment Services Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Limited that is licensed by the Capital Markets Authority in Kenya, as a Fund Manager. Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Limited is regulated by the Central Bank of Kenya. **Malaysia:** This document is being distributed in Malaysia by Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad ("SCBMB"). Recipients in Malaysia should contact SCBMB in relation to any matters arising from, or in connection with, this document. This document has not been reviewed by the Securities Commission Malaysia. The product lodgement, registration, submission or approval by the Securities Commission of Malaysia does not amount to nor indicate recommendation or endorsement of the product, service or promotional activity. Investment products are not deposits and are not obligations of, not guaranteed by, and not protected by SCBMB or any of the affiliates or subsidiaries, or by Perbadanan Insurans Deposit Malaysia, any government or insurance agency. Investment products are subject to investment risks, including the possible loss of the principal amount invested. SCBMB expressly disclaim any liability and responsibility for any loss arising directly or indirectly (including special, incidental or consequential loss or damage) arising from the financial losses of the Investment Products due to market condition. **Nigeria:** This document is being distributed in Nigeria by Standard Chartered Bank Nigeria Limited (SCB Nigeria), a bank duly licensed and regulated by the Central Bank of Nigeria. SCB Nigeria accepts no liability for any loss or damage arising directly or indirectly (including special, incidental or consequential loss or damage) from your use of these documents. You should seek advice from a financial adviser on the suitability of an investment for you, taking into account these factors before making a commitment to invest in an investment. To unsubscribe from receiving further updates, please send an email to clientcare.ng@sc.com requesting to be removed from our mailing list. Please do not reply to this email. Call our Priority Banking on 02 012772514 for any questions or service queries. SCB Nigeria shall not be responsible for any loss or damage arising from your decision to send confidential and/or important information to Standard Chartered via e-mail. SCB Nigeria makes no representations or warranties as to the security or accuracy of any information transmitted via e-mail. **Pakistan:** This document is being distributed in Pakistan by, and attributable to Standard Chartered Bank (Pakistan) Limited having its registered office at PO Box 5556, I.I Chundrigar Road Karachi, which is a banking company registered with State Bank of Pakistan under Banking Companies Ordinance 1962 and is also having licensed issued by Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan for Security Advisors. Standard Chartered Bank (Pakistan) Limited acts as a distributor of mutual funds and referrer of other third-party financial products. **Singapore:** This document is being distributed in Singapore by, and is attributable to, Standard Chartered Bank (Singapore) Limited (Registration No. 201224747C/ GST Group Registration No. MR-8500053-0, "SCBSL"). Recipients in Singapore should contact SCBSL in relation to any matters arising from, or in connection with, this document. SCBSL is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Standard Chartered Bank and is licensed to conduct banking business in Singapore under the Singapore Banking Act, 1970. Standard Chartered Private Bank is the private banking division of SCBSL. IN RELATION TO ANY SECURITY OR SECURITIES-BASED DERIVATIVES CONTRACT REFERRED TO IN THIS DOCUMENT, THIS DOCUMENT, TOGETHER WITH THE ISSUER DOCUMENTATION, SHALL BE DEEMED AN INFORMATION MEMORANDUM (AS DEFINED IN SECTION 275 OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES ACT, 2001 ("SFA")). THIS DOCUMENT IS INTENDED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ACCREDITED INVESTORS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 4A(1)(a) OF THE SFA, OR ON THE BASIS THAT THE SECURITY OR SECURITIES-BASED DERIVATIVES CONTRACT MAY ONLY BE ACQUIRED

AT A CONSIDERATION OF NOT LESS THAN S$200,000 (OR ITS EQUIVALENT IN A FOREIGN CURRENCY) FOR EACH TRANSACTION. Further, in relation to any security or securities-based derivatives contract, neither this document nor the Issuer Documentation has been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore under the SFA. Accordingly, this document and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the product may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the product be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons other than a relevant person pursuant to section 275(1) of the SFA, or any person pursuant to section 275(1A) of the SFA, and in accordance with the conditions specified in section 275 of the SFA, or pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA. In relation to any collective investment schemes referred to in this document, this document is for general information purposes only and is not an offering document or prospectus (as defined in the SFA). This document is not, nor is it intended to be (i) an offer or solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any capital markets product; or (ii) an advertisement of an offer or intended offer of any capital markets product. Deposit Insurance Scheme: Singapore dollar deposits of non-bank depositors are insured by the Singapore Deposit Insurance Corporation, for up to S$100,000 in aggregate per depositor per Scheme member by law. Foreign currency deposits, dual currency investments, structured deposits and other investment products are not insured. This advertisement has not been reviewed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore. **Taiwan:** SC Group Entity or Standard Chartered Bank (Taiwan) Limited ("SCB (Taiwan)") may be involved in the financial instruments contained herein or other related financial instruments. The author of this document may have discussed the information contained herein with other employees or agents of SC or SCB (Taiwan). The author and the above-mentioned employees of SC or SCB (Taiwan) may have taken related actions in respect of the information involved (including communication with customers of SC or SCB (Taiwan) as to the information contained herein). The opinions contained in this document may change, or differ from the opinions of employees of SC or SCB (Taiwan). SC and SCB (Taiwan) will not provide any notice of any changes to or differences between the above-mentioned opinions. This document may cover companies with which SC or SCB (Taiwan) seeks to do business at times and issuers of financial instruments. Therefore, investors should understand that the information contained herein may serve as specific purposes as a result of conflict of interests of SC or SCB (Taiwan). SC, SCB (Taiwan), the employees (including those who have discussions with the author) or customers of SC or SCB (Taiwan) may have an interest in the products, related financial instruments or related derivative financial products contained herein; invest in those products at various prices and on different market conditions; have different or conflicting interests in those products. The potential impacts include market makers' related activities, such as dealing, investment, acting as agents, or performing financial or consulting services in relation to any of the products referred to in this document. **UAE:** DIFC - Standard Chartered Bank is incorporated in England with limited liability by Royal Charter 1853 Reference Number ZC18.The Principal Office of the Company is situated in England at 1 Basinghall Avenue, London, EC2V 5DD. Standard Chartered Bank is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority. Standard Chartered Bank, Dubai International Financial Centre having its offices at Dubai International Financial Centre, Building 1, Gate Precinct, P.O. Box 999, Dubai, UAE is a branch of Standard Chartered Bank and is regulated by the Dubai Financial Services Authority ("DFSA"). This document is intended for use only by Professional Clients and is not directed at Retail Clients as defined by the DFSA Rulebook. In the DIFC we are authorised to provide financial services only to clients who qualify as Professional Clients and Market Counterparties and not to Retail Clients. As a Professional Client you will not be given the higher retail client protection and compensation rights and if you use your right to be classified as a Retail Client we will be unable to provide financial services and products to you as we do not hold the required license to undertake such activities. For Islamic transactions, we are acting under the supervision of our Shariah Supervisory Committee. Relevant information on our Shariah Supervisory Committee is currently available on the Standard Chartered Bank website in the Islamic banking section. For residents of the UAE – Standard Chartered Bank UAE does not provide financial analysis or consultation services in or into the UAE within the meaning of UAE Securities and Commodities Authority Decision No. 48/r of 2008 concerning financial consultation and financial analysis**. Uganda:** Our Investment products and services are distributed by Standard Chartered Bank Uganda Limited, which is licensed by the Capital Markets Authority as an investment adviser. **United Kingdom:** In the UK, Standard Chartered Bank is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority. This communication has been approved by Standard Chartered Bank for the purposes of Section 21 (2) (b) of the United Kingdom's Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 ("FSMA") as amended in 2010 and 2012 only. Standard Chartered Bank (trading as Standard Chartered Private Bank) is also an authorised financial services provider (license number 45747) in terms of the South African Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act, 2002. The Materials have not been prepared in accordance with UK legal requirements designed to promote the independence of investment research, and that it is not subject to any prohibition on dealing ahead of the dissemination of investment research. V**ietnam:** This document is being distributed in Vietnam by, and is attributable to, Standard Chartered Bank (Vietnam) Limited which is mainly regulated by State Bank of Vietnam (SBV). Recipients in Vietnam should contact Standard Chartered Bank (Vietnam) Limited for any queries regarding any content of this document. **Zambia:** This document is distributed by Standard Chartered Bank Zambia Plc, a company incorporated in Zambia and registered as a commercial bank and licensed by the Bank of Zambia under the Banking and Financial Services Act Chapter 387 of the Laws of Zambia.