

Weekly Market View

Inching towards a Fed 'credibility' hike

→ August's strong US jobs and producer inflation reports mean the Fed is likely to hike next week or risk its credibility.

→ However, a rate rise is unlikely to be the start of a hiking cycle. While higher oil prices fuel near-term inflation, driving bond yields to multi-year highs, we see inflation easing next year as the impact of tariffs and oil prices fades.

→ There remains a residual risk that the Fed could be reluctant to hike rates next week, possibly due to pressure from the Trump administration. Any such hesitancy could lead to a short-term sell-off in equities and bonds as investors increasingly question the Fed's independence.

→ We would use any market volatility to add equities, given the robust earnings outlook, and increase bond maturities to 3-7 years.

→ Regardless of the Fed decision, we are adding semiconductor equities as an opportunistic idea.

Do you see any opportunities as rising memory chip prices are passed on to consumers?

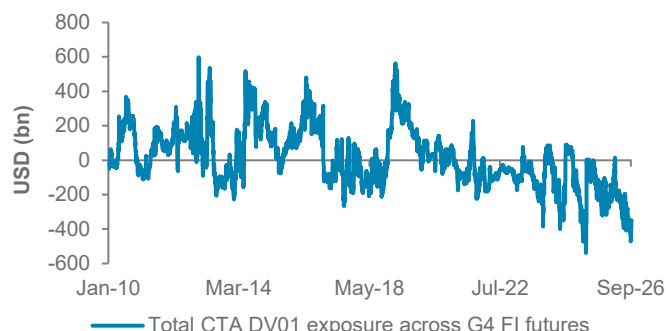
Does the latest ECB meeting change your outlook on policy rates?

What is the outlook for EUR, GBP, JPY amid the latest and upcoming policy meetings?

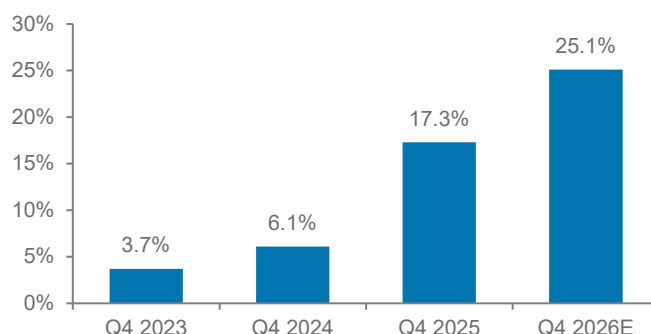
Charts of the week: Extremely bearish bond positions

Bond investor positioning extremely bearish, should limit yield spike; AI super-cycle gives structural support for equities

Managed futures positioning in US, Germany, Japan, UK bonds



AI adoption rates in the US



Source: Vanda Research, US Census Bureau, Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Editorial

Inching towards a Fed ‘credibility’ hike

Strategy summary: August’s strong US jobs and producer inflation reports mean the Fed is most likely to hike next week or risk its credibility. However, a rate rise is unlikely to be the start of a hiking cycle. While higher oil prices fuel near-term inflation, driving bond yields to multi-year highs, we see inflation easing next year as the impact of tariffs and oil prices fades.

There remains a residual risk that the Fed could be reluctant to hike rates next week, possibly due to pressure from the Trump administration. Any such hesitancy could lead to a short-term sell-off in equities and bonds as investors increasingly question the Fed’s independence. We would use any market volatility to add equities, given the robust earnings outlook, and increase bond maturities to 3-7 years. Regardless of the Fed decision, we are adding semiconductor equities as an opportunistic idea.

A resilient job market. Last week, we said the chance of a Fed rate hike has risen above 50% after Chair Warsh’s hawkish Jackson Hole speech. The two remaining requirements that would secure a hike would be: i) a robust jobs report for August, followed by ii) an inflation report showing core inflation at or above 0.2% m/m. The first requirement has been met – the US economy added 162,000 jobs in August, almost triple consensus estimates, with prior two months revised higher.

Although around 60% of the job gains were in only two sectors – leisure & hospitality and government – and average hourly earnings continued its slide to a five-year low of 3.1% y/y, the crucial unemployment rate remained steady at 4.1% as labour force participation rate rose. The unemployment rate suggests the US economy is running at full employment. Meanwhile, US headline and core producer inflation accelerated in August.

Inching towards a Fed ‘credibility’ hike: A 25bps Fed hike next week now looks most likely. The only caveat to this outlook would be an underwhelmingly soft inflation report for August due tonight. With Fed Chair Warsh already characterising the current US policy rate of 3.75% as not restrictive, any failure to

hike, due to pressure from the administration, would hurt the Fed’s credibility, impacting equities and bonds. The US 10-year yield surged this week 19bps to a three-year high of 4.97%.

Extremely bearish positioning to limit bond yield upside:

The US 10-year bond yield faces a major resistance level – 2023 high of 5.02%. Moreover, investor positioning is extremely bearish (CTA short positions at record). Also, current yields are uncomfortably close to the “Trump put” levels. Authorities have several regulatory and bond supply and liquidity management tools to cap yields, at least in the near term. This implies limited scope for further upside in medium-to-long-term yields.

Key risks: i) if the Fed holds next week, we see further near-term sell-off on doubts about the Fed’s independence, with the 10-year yield breaking above 5.02% briefly. ii) further oil spike. However, extreme positioning should still limit any bond yield upside. As such, **we see the yield rise as an opportunity to raise maturity of bond allocations to 3-7 years, preferring corporate bonds.** Longer-maturity bonds remain vulnerable to oil-driven inflation expectation and fiscal risks.

Adding one more ECB rate hike after hawkish outlook: The ECB raised its deposit rate 25bps to 2.5%, as expected, and upgraded its growth and inflation forecasts for the coming years, citing a resilient economy and higher energy prices. President Lagarde was decidedly hawkish, while declining to commit to another hike. The upgraded inflation forecasts, Lagarde’s comments and recent surge in gas prices lead us to add one more 25bps rate hike by year end (see page 8).

Tactically adding semiconductor equities; using volatility to buy on dips: This week’s softness in equity markets was mainly driven higher oil prices and bond yields. We would use any volatility to add equities, especially in the US and Asia-ex-Japan, where the corporate earnings outlook remains robust. In fact, we are using the weakness in semiconductor equities to add tactical exposure (see page 4 for more details).

— **Rajat Bhattacharya**

The weekly macro balance sheet

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

(+) factors: Stronger Euro area sentiment, dovish RBA

(-) factors: Hawkish ECB, Middle East geopolitical tensions

	Positive for risk assets	Negative for risk assets
Macro data	- Euro area Sentix Investor Confidence rose unexpectedly to 5.1 in September - China consumer price inflation was in line with estimates at 0.8% y/y	- US headline and core producer inflation accelerated to 5.4% and 4.6% y/y, respectively - US NFIB small business optimism index fell to 98.7 in August, below estimates - China import and export growth missed estimates at 28.2% and 25% y/y, respectively, in August - China producer price inflation rose by 3.8% y/y in August, above estimates
	Our assessment: Neutral – Stronger Euro area sentiment vs. softer-than-expected US business optimism and weak China trade activity	
Policy developments	RBA Deputy Governor Hauser and Assistant Governor Hunter both signaled uncertainty on further rate hikes	ECB raised its key interest rates by 25 bps as expected and hints at hike in subsequent meeting
	Our assessment: Neutral – Hawkish ECB, Dovish RBA	
Other developments	Iran reportedly nearing a deal with Oman to manage shipping through Strait of Hormuz	- President Trump intensified pressure on the Fed Reserve to cut rates, threatening trade restrictions against economies with which the US runs a deficit if the Fed did not act - US and Iran trade attacks in Middle East conflict; Houthis attacked Saudi energy infrastructure
	Our assessment: Negative – Ongoing geopolitical tensions, political pressure on Fed to cut rates	

US small business optimism, hiring plans and inflation expectations appear to have peaked lately

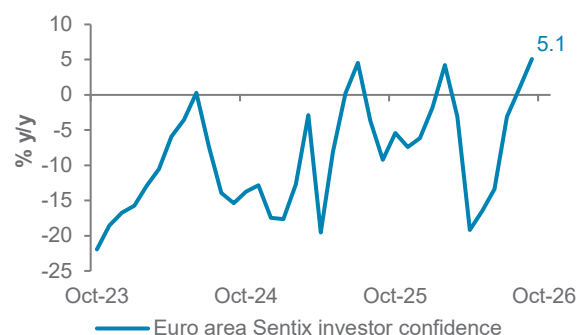
US small business optimism index; indices for hiring plans and 'inflation single-most important problem'



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Euro area investor confidence has picked up lately

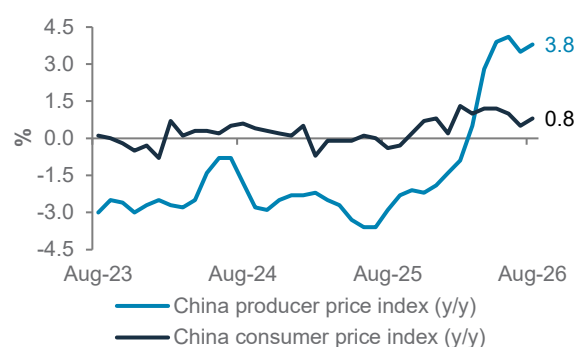
Euro area Sentix Investor Confidence



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

China's producer inflation remained elevated due to imported commodity prices, but consumer inflation remained subdued

China's producer and consumer price inflation



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Top client questions

Q Do you see any opportunities for investors as rising memory chip prices are passed on to consumers?

Our view: *Within technology, we prefer semiconductors over hardware. We are initiating an Opportunistic idea on global semiconductors on the back of sustained AI infrastructure spend and attractive valuations.*

Rationale: Rising memory costs have contributed to **higher PC and smartphone prices**, yet hardware manufacturers have been unable to fully pass these costs on to consumers, resulting in **continued margin pressure**. In contrast, memory fundamentals remain supported by tight supply conditions and long-term agreements. That said, memory remains inherently cyclical and volatile, and investors should **right-size their exposure** to the industry appropriately.

Looking more broadly at semiconductors, earnings growth continues to be supported by ongoing AI infrastructure spend and **broadening AI adoption**, with US AI adoption expected to reach 25.1% in Q4. The results season reaffirmed strong demand trends for semiconductors, while guidance points to **persistent tightness in supply**. The industry trades at around 16x forward earnings, below its five-year average of around 20x, despite the strong growth outlook. We view the pullback in valuations as an **attractive entry point** and initiate an Opportunistic idea on global semiconductors.

— **Ryan Goh**, Investment Strategist

Q Does debt-funded AI capex pose a downgrade risk for hyperscalers? Does it create a material overhang for Developed Market (DM) investment-grade (IG) corporate bonds?

Our view: *Rating agencies do not assess credit quality on leverage metrics alone; they look through the business cycle. DM IG corporate bond spreads could disperse across sectors.*

Rationale: The picture is mixed across hyperscalers, but the trend uniformly points to **tighter credit headroom**. Rating agencies do not assess credit quality on leverage metrics alone. Rather, they look through the business cycle, weighing capex intensity against earnings trajectory and demand durability over a multi-year horizon.

Currently, leading rating agencies **expect hyperscaler leverage to peak around 2027**, followed by deleveraging as capex subsidies and earnings continue growing. That said, the **downgrade risk could rise** if deleveraging is delayed, demand weakens or idiosyncratic issues emerge, such as the use of unconventional, off-balance-sheet circular financing structures that obscure true leverage.

For **DM IG corporate bonds**, the bias is broadly negative, driven by **supply indigestion** from heavy AI-related issuance, downgrade risk and index concentration distortion as a few large issuers dominate benchmark weightings. However, **we do not expect a uniform sell-off**. Spreads could disperse across sectors, with **AI capex-heavy sectors** most likely to stay structurally wide.

— **Cedric Lam**, Senior Investment Strategist

Global semiconductor valuations have become more attractive amid continued AI-driven earnings growth

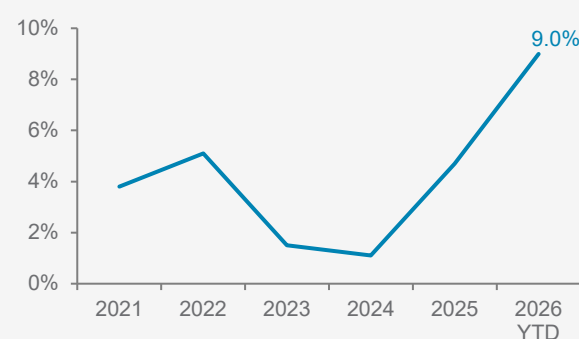
Global semiconductors 12-month forward price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Hyperscalers' bond issuance represents a growing proportion of US IG bonds

Percentage of hyperscalers' bond issuance against US IG bonds



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Top client questions (cont'd)

Q Will long-dated US government bond yields rise further following the US Treasury's first expanded bond buyback?

Our view: *The bond buyback should flatten the US yield curve, but is unlikely to mark a structural shift. Given higher yields, we cautiously extend duration and favour the 3-7-year segment.*

Rationale: The US Treasury said it will purchase up to **USD 6bn of longer-dated government debt** in the first operation under an expanded buyback programme. However, **bond markets remain underwhelmed**, with investors viewing the scale of repurchases as insufficient relative to broader market expectations and the sheer volume of outstanding long-term debt. As a result, **yields have continued their upward trajectory**, with the US 10-year yield hitting a three-year high near 4.96% and the 30-year yield rising to 5.37%, suggesting markets are not yet convinced that the buyback will materially shift the supply-demand balance for long-duration debt.

Mechanically, funding long-end purchases via increased Treasury-bill issuance introduces a flattening impulse to the yield curve. Still, we view this as a **liquidity management tool rather than a structural pivot**. We, therefore, do not expect it to be the dominant catalyst for a significant or sustained decline in long-term yields.

Compounding matters, **crude oil prices** breaching USD 100/bbl will revive inflation concerns, likely reinforcing a **'higher-for-longer' policy stance** and offsetting the buyback's marginal relief. Against, this backdrop, we advocate maintaining a defensive duration posture. Given higher yields, we **cautiously extend duration** and favour the **3-7 year maturity** bucket as inflation risks and heavy debt supply are keeping upward pressure on long-term yields near term.

— Cedric Lam, Senior Investment Strategist

Q Where is the RBA headed on interest rates, and what does it mean for the AUD and AUD bonds?

Our view: *We see a rising probability of a September RBA rate hike, but a second hike in November is not our base case.*

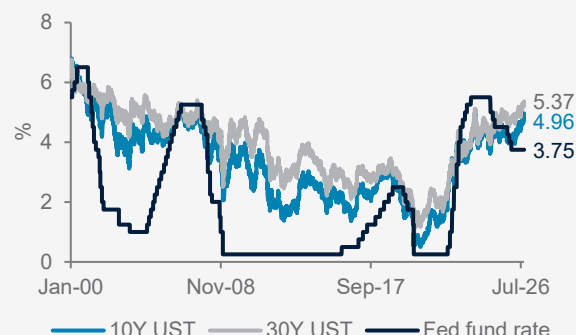
Rationale: The RBA remains **focused on inflation**, having already hiked its policy rate three times in 2026 – the most of any G7 central bank. Beyond a stronger-than-expected July CPI print, strong business investment and a tight labour market continue to reinforce the case for further tightening. A **further hike** is now more likely than we previously expected, but back-to-back hikes is not our base case.

Meanwhile, **AUD/USD** has risen to the 0.72 level, and the **Australia 10-year government bond yield has climbed over 70bps** over the past six months, with the move accelerating sharply since late August as rate-hike expectations surged. We expect both the AUD and bond yields to remain within their recent range, as the **hawkish policy shift has largely already been priced** in by markets.

— Cedric Lam, Senior Investment Strategist

US government bond yields have approached multi-year highs

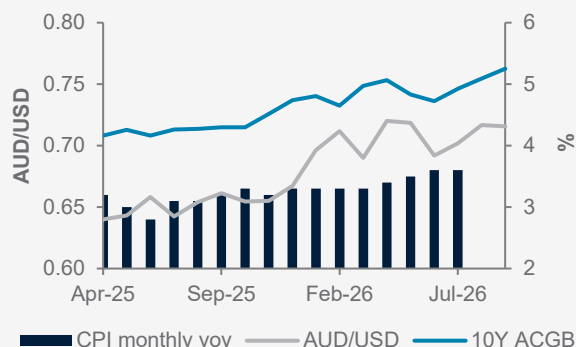
US government bond yield curve (%)



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

We expect the AUD and the Australia 10-year government bond yield to remain rangebound, as the hawkish RBA policy shift is largely priced in

Australia monthly CPI y/y, AUD/USD and Australia 10-year government bond yield



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Top client questions (cont'd)

Q How does the JPY appreciation affect your view on Japan equities and key sectors?

Our view: *Japan equities remain a Core holding, with Japan financials as our preferred sector.*

Rationale: The JPY appreciation sharpens the **earnings divergence** between domestically oriented sectors and exporters, given the significant share of overseas revenues across corporate Japan. Our preferred **financial sector** generates c.60% of its revenue domestically and stands to benefit from ongoing BoJ policy normalisation through wider net interest margins. Other domestic-demand sectors, including **services and construction**, face limited currency-translation headwinds and should benefit from stronger wage growth and improved cost pass-through. Within **technology**, the semiconductor supply chain remains attractive, given Japan's strong global market position and pricing power amid structural AI demand, offsetting the sector's c.78% overseas revenue exposure.

Conversely, **healthcare** has limited domestic offsets to absorb the JPY strength, while it has the highest overseas revenue exposure at c.80%. Similarly, **autos** are vulnerable, facing headwinds from currency appreciation, tariff pressures and intensifying competition.

— **Jason Wong**, Senior Equity Analyst

Q Is there a risk of further oil price rise? How do we hedge it?

Our view: *We forecast WTI oil at USD 90/bbl in three months, but risks are skewed to the upside. US Treasury Inflation-protected Securities (TIPS) remain our preferred hedge.*

Rationale: Three developments would lead us to revise our forecast higher, with the first two already in motion: (1) **A prolonged disruption to Gulf exports that accelerates global oil inventory draws**. US crude oil stocks are visibly thinner, trending below their five-year range.

(2) **Lasting damage to production or export infrastructure**. Recent strikes on Saudi energy assets raise concerns more about the resilience of alternative export routes than about immediate production losses. Tighter US action against Iran-linked tankers could further constrain flows. (3) **Stronger-than-expected demand** that accelerates the tightening of physical balances. China appears to have resumed buying. Conversely, a credible normalisation in the Middle East remains the largest downside risk. With gasoline around USD 5 per gallon, the US administration has a clear incentive to facilitate a normalisation before the November US midterm elections.

We prefer to **hedge upside oil risk at the portfolio level** rather than through outright oil-sensitive exposure, with **US TIPS** being our preferred route against higher headline inflation.

— **Anthony Naab**, CFA, Investment Strategist

Our preferred Japan financial sector generates c.60% of its revenue domestically and stands to benefit from ongoing BoJ policy normalisation through wider net interest margins

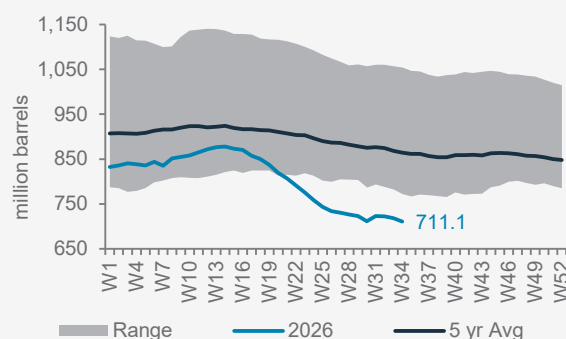
Domestic and overseas revenue exposure by MSCI Japan sectors

	Domestic	Overseas
MSCI Japan	43.4	56.6
Health Care	21.3	78.7
Technology	21.7	78.3
Discretionary	30.9	69.1
Materials	36.4	63.6
Staples	37.4	62.6
Industrials	46.9	53.1
Energy	54.9	45.1
Financials	58.6	41.4
Communication	75.8	24.2
Real Estate	90.2	9.8
Utilities	95.0	5.0

Source: FactSet, Standard Chartered

US crude oil stocks have fallen below their five-year average

Total US crude oil stocks (w/w), year-to-date (YTD) 2021-26



Source: EIA, Standard Chartered

Top client questions (cont'd)

Q What is your outlook for the EUR, GBP and JPY against the backdrop of this month's central bank policy meetings?

Our view: EUR/USD is supported by the ECB's monetary tightening path, but an increasingly likely Fed hike could limit its near-term upside. The JPY is likely relatively strong as we expect the BoJ to catch up with rate hikes. Meanwhile, the GBP remains vulnerable amid uncertainty around the UK's upcoming Autumn Budget.

Rationale: The ECB hiked rates by 25bps to 2.5% as expected, with the market now pricing in another hike in December. Euro area annual consumer inflation rose to 3.3% in August – the highest in nearly three years – driven by energy pass-through from the Middle East conflict. The ECB also raised its 2027 growth forecast to 1.4% from 1.2%, headline inflation forecast to 2.5% from 2.3% and core inflation forecast to 2.6% from 2.5%. **Greater economic resilience and persistent underlying inflation** leave the ECB open to another hike. However, wage growth moderated to 3.3% in Q2 (from 3.5%), approaching the ECB's c.3% compatibility threshold, which could temper the pace of subsequent hikes. We see **gradual upside risk for EUR/USD**, with resistance at 1.18 in the coming weeks, although a Fed hike could delay a sustained break higher.

We now see a Fed hike as increasingly likely next week, especially if core consumer price inflation rises by at least 0.2% m/m. August producer price inflation came in higher than expected. Firm **WTI oil prices above USD 100/bbl** increase the risk of higher inflation and inflation expectations in the months ahead. **A hike, or guidance signalling further tightening, would support the USD**, limiting the extent of EUR, JPY and GBP gains against it. We expect the USD Index (DXY) to be capped near 99.8.

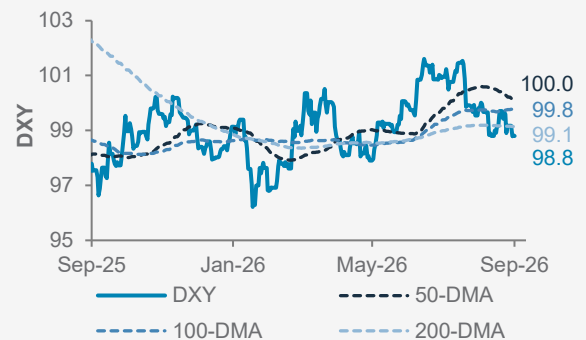
The **USD/JPY repricing** reinforces our concern about **BoJ policy normalisation**. Downside risks towards 150-152 remain significant, but a Fed hike and **still-large US-Japan yield and growth differentials** should provide some support. A cautious BoJ message could trigger a rebound, particularly after the recent sharp adjustment. We expect one hike next week, followed by another in Q4 (likely in December) and potentially one each in Q1 and Q2 2027.

BoE Governor Bailey has previously resisted calls for immediate tightening, preferring greater clarity on second-round inflation effects. However, **delayed energy price pass-through and rising food prices** are likely to push UK inflation higher. While renewed rate hike expectations provide a structural underpinning for the GBP, **the BoE's cautious stance relative to the ECB and the UK Autumn Budget uncertainty** remain significant headwinds. We expect GBP/USD to remain rangebound, with a bearish bias near 1.34. Above all, we see **some upside potential in EUR/GBP**.

— Vincent Tan, Senior Investment Strategist
— Iris Yuen, Investment Strategist

USD (DXY) index upside risk is likely limited

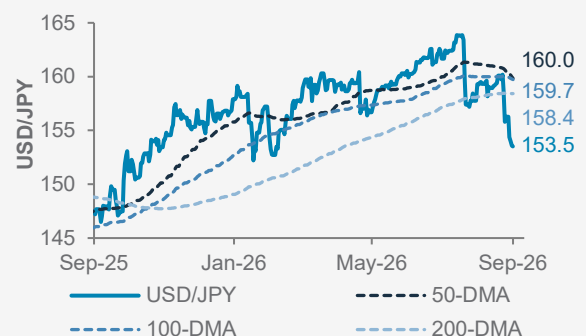
DXY and technicals



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

USD/JPY faces downside risks, with the support zone at 150-152

USD/JPY and technicals



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Top client questions (cont'd)

Q Does the latest ECB meeting change your outlook on policy rates?

Our view: The ECB raised its deposit rate by 25bps for the second time this year, taking it to 2.5%, in line with our expectations coming into this meeting. Given the new ECB staff projections that show higher inflation and stronger growth over the next couple of years, as well as ECB President Lagarde's hawkish remarks at the press conference, we are now projecting another deposit rate hike to 2.75% before year end.

Rationale: The ECB cited the ongoing Middle East conflict as the primary driver of **renewed inflationary pressure**, with energy price shocks feeding through to broader price levels. The central bank stated that **inflation will likely remain above 2%** for an "extended period," and updated staff projections revised inflation higher for 2027 and 2028, with the 2028 inflation forecast now at 2.1%, slightly above the ECB's 2% target.

ECB President Lagarde described this week's hike as a "no brainer," with the decision bolstered by **stronger inflation and growth projections**. Key points from the press conference include:

- The ECB is not pre-committing to a particular rate path, reiterating **a meeting-by-meeting, data-dependent approach**.
- Lagarde noted that **the Governing Council did not discuss future meetings**, though the upward revision to the inflation and growth outlook has shifted the balance towards further tightening.
- The hawks within the Governing Council appear to be winning the internal debate and would prefer to continue hiking, with **the deposit rate potentially rising to at least 2.75%**.
- **The Euro area economy's surprising resilience** was acknowledged as a factor supporting the decision.
- **Core inflation remains above 2%** through the end of the forecast horizon, a signal that the ECB does not view the current tightening cycle as complete.

"Framework" guidance and market implications: The hawkish shift in the ECB's updated projections and Lagarde's decidedly hawkish comments lead us to **expect another 25bps hike by December**. The central bank's "meeting-by-meeting" stance means future decisions will be heavily influenced by incoming energy price data, second-round inflation effects and labour market developments. With seemingly no peace solution likely on the horizon in the Middle East, **risks could continue to skew to the upside for policy rates** as we head into 2027.

— **Jonathan Liang, CFA**, CIO for Fixed Income and FX

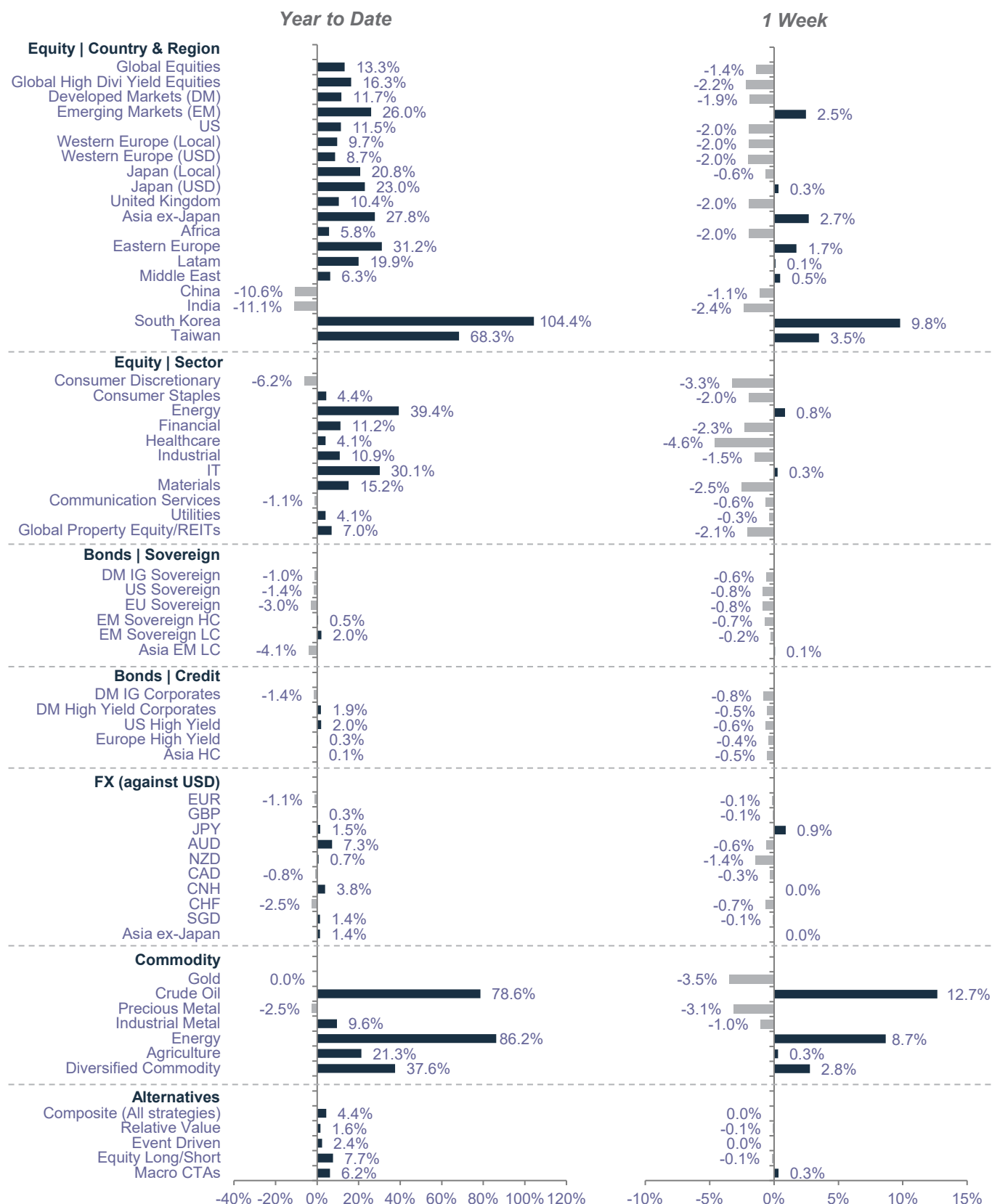
The new ECB staff projections show higher inflation and stronger growth over the next couple of years

ECB staff macroeconomic projections for the Euro area (% y/y)

		Jun 2026	Sep 2026
Growth	2026	0.8	0.9
	2027	1.2	1.4
	2028	1.5	1.5
Headline inflation	2026	3.0	3.0
	2027	2.3	2.5
	2028	2.0	2.1
Core inflation	2026	2.5	2.5
	2027	2.5	2.6
	2028	2.2	2.3

Source: European Central Bank, 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, 2026 YTD performance from 31 December 2025 to 10 September 2026; 1-week period: 3 September 2026 to 10 September 2026

Our 12-month asset class views at a glance

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

Source: Standard Chartered Global Investment Committee

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

The S&P500 has next interim resistance at 7,746

Technical indicators for key markets as of 10 Sep close

Index	Spot	1st support	1st resis- tance	12m forward P/E (x)	12m forward dividend yield (%)
S&P 500	7,592	7,509	7,746	19.1	1.2
STOXX 50	6,269	6,162	6,477	14.7	3.2
FTSE 100	10,609	10,495	10,821	12.6	3.5
TOPIX	4,055	3,967	4,181	15.8	2.3
Shanghai Comp	3,934	3,858	4,003	12.9	3.1
Hang Seng	24,954	24,543	25,713	10.5	3.4
Nifty 50	23,478	23,046	24,243	17.6	1.9
MSCI Asia ex-Japan	1,152	1,109	1,184	10.2	2.4
MSCI EM	1,745	1,681	1,789	10.0	2.7
Crude oil (WTI)	102.5	86.7	111.1	na	na
Gold	4,318	4,168	4,582	na	na
UST 10Y Yield	4.96	4.73	5.08	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

Economic and market calendar

Market Event		Period Expected Prior		
MON	CNH	Retail Sales y/y	Aug	0.9% 0.6%
	CNH	Industrial Production y/y	Aug	4.8% 4.5%
	CNH	Fixed Assets Ex Rural YTD y/y	Aug	-7.1% -6.7%
	CNH	Property Investment YTD y/y	Aug	-20.1% -19.2%
	EUR	ZEW Survey Expectations	Sep	– 31.4
TUE	USD	Empire Manufacturing	Sep	12.1 20.6
	USD	Import Price Index y/y	Aug	– 5.9%
	USD	Retail Sales Ex Auto & Gas	Aug	0.4% -0.2%
	USD	FOMC Rate Decision (Upper Bound)	16-Sep	3.75% 3.75%
	USD	FOMC Rate Decision (Lower Bound)	16-Sep	3.5% 3.5%
WED	EUR	CPI y/y	Aug F	– 3.3%
	EUR	CPI Core y/y	Aug F	– 2.4%
	GBP	Bank of England Bank Rate	17-Sep	3.8% 3.8%
	USD	Philadelphia Fed Business Outlook	Sep	32.1 47.4
	JPY	BoJ Target Rate	18-Sep	1.3% 1.0%

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

Investor diversity has normalised across asset classes

Our proprietary market diversity indicators as of 10 Sep close

Level 1	Diversity	1-month trend	Fractal dimension
Global Bonds	●	↓	1.54
Global Equities	●	→	1.57
Gold	●	↑	1.81
Equity			
MSCI US	●	→	1.63
MSCI Europe	●	→	1.54
MSCI AC AXJ	●	↓	1.69
Fixed Income			
DM Corp Bond	●	↓	1.52
DM High Yield	●	↑	1.91
EM USD	●	↓	1.69
EM Local	●	↓	1.39
Asia USD	●	↓	1.72
Currencies			
EUR/USD	●	↑	1.84

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

Access our views 24/7 on key platforms

Market views on-the-go

MVOG >



SC Wealth Insights

Find out more >



YouTube >



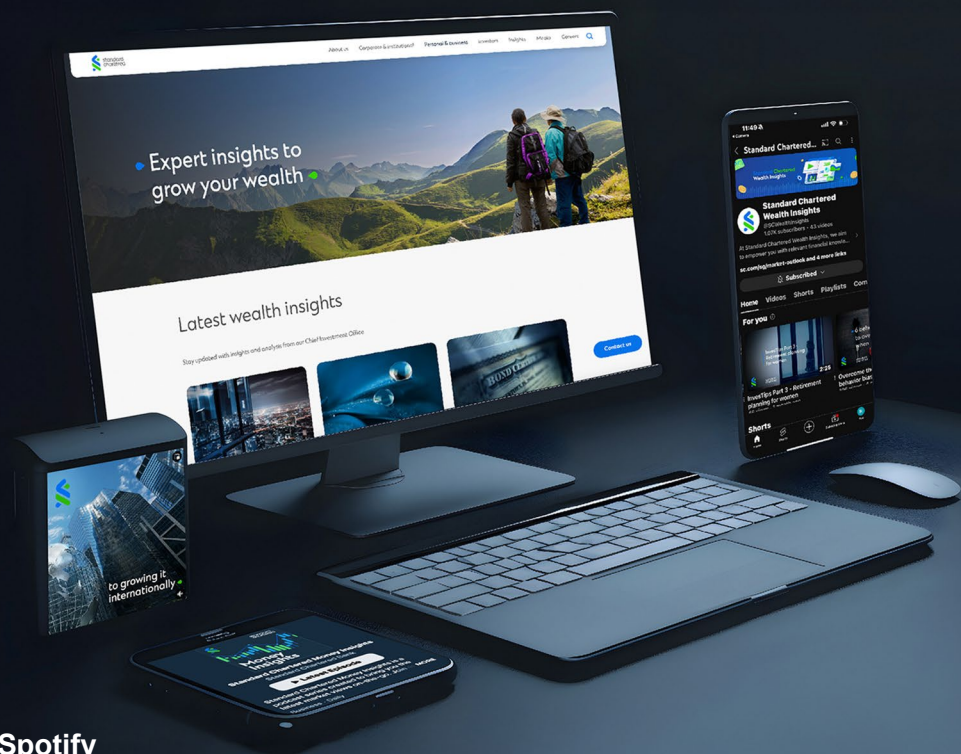
Facebook >



LinkedIn >



PvB LinkedIn >



SC Money Insights

4 podcasts shows on Spotify
and Apple platforms

Spotify >



Apple Podcasts >



Speak to your Relationship Manager/Investment Advisor today for access to our security specific publications.

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 Global 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 Global Private Bank and may not be able to offer products and services or offer advice to clients.

Copyright © 2026, Accounting Research & Analytics, LLC d/b/a CFRA (and its affiliates, as applicable). Reproduction of content provided by CFRA in any form is prohibited except with the prior written permission of CFRA. CFRA content is not investment advice and a reference to or observation concerning a security or investment provided in the CFRA SERVICES is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold such investment or security or make any other investment decisions. The CFRA content contains opinions of CFRA based upon publicly-available information that CFRA believes to be reliable and the opinions are subject to change without notice. This analysis has not been submitted to, nor received approval from, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or any other regulatory body. While CFRA exercised due care in compiling this analysis, CFRA, ITS THIRD-PARTY SUPPLIERS, AND ALL RELATED ENTITIES SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE, to the full extent permitted by law, regarding the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of this information and assumes no liability with respect to the consequences of relying on this information for investment or other purposes. No content provided by CFRA (including ratings, credit-related analyses and data, valuations, model, software or other application or output therefrom) or any part thereof may be modified, reverse engineered, reproduced or distributed in any form by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of CFRA, and such content shall not be used for any unlawful or unauthorized purposes. CFRA and any third-party providers, as well as their directors, officers, shareholders, employees or agents do not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness or availability of such content. In no event shall CFRA, its affiliates, or their third-party suppliers be liable for any direct, indirect, special, or consequential damages, costs, expenses, legal fees, or losses (including lost income or lost profit and opportunity costs) in connection with a subscriber's, subscriber's customer's, or other's use of CFRA's content.

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) MSCI 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. The ESG data providers may not provide data coverage of all companies or securities in our Sustainable Investment Universe or Fund Select funds. As a result, a small subset of companies or securities will not be in scope for exclusionary screening. Sustainable Investments (SI): This refers to funds that have been classified as 'ESG Intentional Investments - Overall' 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.

Shariah ("Shariah Compliant or Shariah Compliance")

For any reason to enter only into transactions which comply or are consistent with the principles of the Shariah, the client certifies that he/she/it has made his /her/its own investigation into and satisfied itself as to the Shariah compliance of the Islamic security and all necessary action to confirm that the Islamic security is Shariah compliant has been taken (including the obtaining of a fatwa, where required) and the Client will not claim any dispute on the grounds of any lack of Shariah compliance of these investments. The Client has not relied on Standard Chartered Group or any written declaration, fatwa, opinion or other documents prepared by, on behalf or at the request of Standard Chartered Group for the purposes of a determination or confirmation that these instruments are Shariah compliant.

Country/Market Specific Disclosures

Bahrain: This document is being distributed in Bahrain by Standard Chartered Bank, Bahrain Branch, having its address at P.O. 29, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, is a branch of Standard Chartered Bank and is licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain as a conventional retail bank. **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 Global 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 Chartered 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 Global 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 Global 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 UAE (“SC UAE”) is licensed by the Central Bank of the U.A.E. SC UAE is licensed by Securities and Commodities Authority to practice Promotion Activity. SC 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 Global 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. **Vietnam:** 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.