



WS Global Chief Investment Office 19 July 2024

Weekly Market View

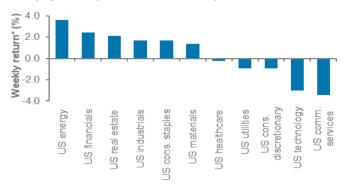
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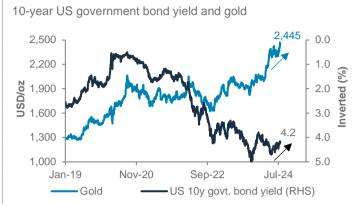


Charts of the week: Trump trade visible in equities, less so in bonds

US equity weakness likely to hide sector rotation under the surface; gold and bond yields are likely recoupling

US equity sector performance over the past week*





Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered; *11-18 July

Editorial

Return of the 'Trump trade'

Are we back in a 'Trump trade' world? The US Presidential election is still four months away, but the relatively dramatic events of the past week mean markets are pricing in a high chance of a Trump victory. For investors, this means balancing the impact of proposed Trump policies of higher tariffs and spending – which are arguably pro-growth, but also inflationary – with major market drivers that include disappointing economic data, likely Fed rate cuts and near-term pullback risks.

Nevertheless, we see these divergences creating opportunities. We would take advantage of short-term sectoral rotation within US equities and improving Japan market technicals. In bonds, we believe the Fed will ultimately drive bond yields lower, adding some urgency to taking advantage of still-high yields.

Advantage Trump: Betting markets predict high chances of a win for Trump in November's US presidential election, a lead that surged after last weekend's assassination attempt. In financial markets, this triggered a revival of the 'Trump trade' narrative.

Sectors like energy posted gains on deregulation expectations even as technology fell amid tariffs concerns. Beyond equities, the USD weakened (albeit within recent ranges). While it has been argued that Trump's proposed policies should result in higher US bond yields, soft economic data and Fed rate cut expectations have thus far continued to push yields lower.

Macro and market fundamentals – the real drivers: We believe the macro and markets environment has lent a significant helping hand to 'Trump trades'. Fed Chair Powell's rising comfort in signalling rate cuts in the second half of this year was supported by the Fed's Beige Book, that showed slowing activity and inflation regionally, and slowing inflation in prior weeks. US economic surprises also remain negative.

However, over the past week, retail sales, industrial production and housing starts surprised on the upside, suggesting US economic disappointments may be bottoming. This was in contrast with the Euro area, where data remained weak, and China, where the Third Plenum did not directly address near-term challenges.

The sector rotation opportunity: US equities face stretched investor positioning, with our own proprietary indicator pointing to a two-thirds chance of a short-term pullback. However, much of this excessive optimism appears concentrated in the technology sector.

Over a short (1-3 month) horizon, it is likely the focus temporarily shifts to sectors like energy and financials (and even small caps). These sectors are potential beneficiaries of Trump's proposed tariff, spending and deregulation policy proposals, but they also stand to benefit from a correction in investor positioning.

USD/JPY fall to extend, improving Japan equity technicals: USD/JPY fell around 3% over the past week in a suspected policy intervention move. While history suggests intervention alone is unlikely to create a lasting currency move, for now we see a negative bias for USD/JPY with resistance at 157.60. The currency move has improved the near-term technical outlook for Japan equities, creating a regional rotation opportunity at a time when US markets face short-term reversal risks.

A narrowing window to lock in yields: While Trump's proposed policies are largely viewed as inflationary, we continue to expect bond yields to be driven by near-term Fed rate cut expectations. Recent data and policymaker comments support our view the Fed will start cutting rates in H2 24, likely in September. This means investors face a narrowing window to lock in today's attractive yields before short- and long-term yields move significantly lower.

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: Dovish Fed, resilient US retail sales, factory output
- (-) factors: Weak China growth data, geopolitical tensions

Positive for risk assets Negative for risk assets US retail sales were US producer prices rose unexpectedly flat; control more than expected by group retail sales rose 2.6% y/y more than expected by Euro area ZEW survey fell 0.9% m/m to 43.7 US industrial production China GDP grew 4.7% y/y, rose more than expected less than expected; US housing starts and imports contracted Macro data building permits rose more unexpectedly; retail sales than expected rose less than expected China factory output rose China credit growth slowed more than expected to more than expected, while fixed assets investment 8.1% y/y rose, as expected UK headline and core consumer inflation rose more than expected Our assessment: Neutral - Resilient US retail sales, factory output vs weak China growth data Fed Chair Powell said the China's third plenum Fed will not wait until disappointed those hoping

- Policy developments
- Fed will not wait until inflation reaches its 2% inflation target to cut rates

 The Fed's Beige Book
- suggests slowing activity
 and price pressures

 Reports suggested the BoJ
- Reports suggested the BoJ intervened in the currency markets in a bid to support the JPY
- China's third plenum disappointed those hoping for a significant stimulus as the focus remains on the quality, rather than quantity, of growth
- The PBoC held one-year lending rate unchanged, as expected
- The ECB stood pat on its policy rate, as expected.

Our assessment: Neutral - Dovish Fed

Other developments

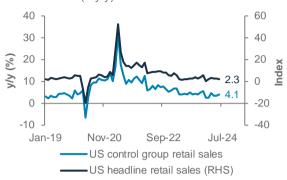
NA

- Former US President
 Trump gained support
 following an assassination
 attempt at a rally
- US explored tougher trade curbs in chip sales to China

Our assessment: Negative – Geopolitical tensions

US retail sales are holding up well

US retail sales (%y/y)



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Euro area growth outlook dipped

Euro area ZEW expectations survey



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

China data over the past weak extended weakness witnessed in recent months

China retail sales, factor output and fixed asset investment growth (%y/y)



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Top client questions

Which equity sectors should benefit most in a Trump election win scenario?

Betting markets show the assassination attempt on Trump further boosts his chances of winning the US presidential election and has acted as a catalyst for 'Trump trades'. Since the attempt, key US market outperformers were small caps, financials and the energy sector. The "broadening-out" of earnings growth and the rally, which we have been highlighting, is finally taking place.

These sectors benefitted because of raised expectations of (i) loosening financial sector regulations, (ii) 'America First' policies, improving conditions for smaller US companies, and (iii) a better environment for traditional energy companies.

Unlike the crowded positioning on growth sectors like technology, investors currently have light exposure in these three areas. Financials have largely seen favourable earnings. Energy sector stocks could also move higher in a Trump win scenario given his proposed supportive policies.

Higher borrowing costs over the past two years have been a headwind for small caps. However, this could be alleviated to some degree as the Fed signals greater willingness to cut rates in H2 24.

Daniel Lam, Head Equity Strategy

Equity sector returns in the past week differ sharply from H1 24

US equity market sector* returns



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered
* Russell 2000 reflects US small-cap performance

How does the ECB meeting outcome and French elections impact your view on Euro area government bonds?

The French election result is a hung parliament, with no party holding an absolute majority. Being the first hung parliament since 1958, the political situation is likely to remain fluid for now. However, President Macron is likely to remain in office until the end of his term, which should keep fiscal policy stable. Major rating agencies have retained their stable outlook on France, and we believe a rating downgrade is unlikely in the short term as (i) the next review window is likely a few quarters away and (ii) agencies usually await the first post-election budget to evaluate fiscal risks.

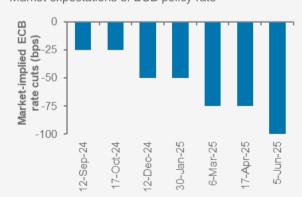
With the French election risk behind us, the focus will likely shift to ECB policy action. The July policy meeting was concluded without rate cuts. Policymakers remain data-dependent while leaving a rate cut window open in September. Markets expect a 25bps cut.

On the back of the completion of French elections and a still-favourable monetary policy backdrop, we retain our tactical buy on Euro government bonds (FX-hedged). We expect this to be supported by a narrowing yield premium between French and German government bonds as the French political environment stabilises.

— Cedric Lam, Senior Investment Strategist

Market continues to expect ECB to cut 25bps rate cut in the next September meeting

Market expectations of ECB policy rate



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Top client questions (cont'd)



Are the recent Yen gains likely to extend?

USD/JPY fell to 155.5, close to its 100-day moving average, amid speculation of policy intervention and rising likelihood of a BoJ rate hike this quarter amid sticky inflation. Additionally, the market expects the BoJ to trim bond buying by an average of JPY 16.1trn in the first year and a total of roughly JPY 45trn over a two-year period. In our view, this is likely to act as a tailwind for the JPY, alongside higher onshore yields.

Meanwhile, the USD fell amid the ongoing series of 'Trump trades'. Markets are concerned a Trump administration would favour a weaker USD, following his comments about the USD strength hurting US exports. A weaker USD is also consistent with lower US bond yields and the Fed Beige Book data showing slowing economic activity and cooling inflation.

We see USD/JPY likely testing support at 150.8 this week amid widening interest rate divergence. The previous support at 157.60 now acts as resistance after the technical break lower.

- Iris Yuen, Investment Strategist

What do technicals and bond yields tell us about the outlook for gold?

Positive momentum in the yellow metal has been strong over the past weeks, helping prices achieve a new record high. We attribute price gains to three factors:

- 1. Higher Fed rate cut expectations on the back of lower inflation, softer growth data and dovish Fed-speak
- 2. Lower real (net-of-inflation) US yields and a weaker USD
- 3. Rising odds of a Trump victory, coupled with increasing geopolitical uncertainty

Interestingly, history shows gold prices tended to decline under Republican administrations. A possible explanation for the different price reaction this time is that Trump's proposed policies are likely to worsen the fiscal balance and are likely inflationary in nature, enhancing the appeal of gold as a safe-haven and inflation hedge.

That said, the rally is looking increasingly stretched. The copper-to-gold ratio has fallen to its lowest since late-2020, running ahead of the decline in US 10-year government bond yield. Meanwhile, the Relative Strength Index (RSI) points to overbought conditions.

Therefore, we believe the bar for a further extension of the rally is high. The next technical resistance lies at the key psychological level of USD 2,500/oz. On the downside, the precious metal is supported by the 50-day moving average (50DMA) at around 2,358.

Zhong Liang Han, CFA, Investment Strategist

USD/JPY has broken below its trend channel, pointing to further weakness ahead

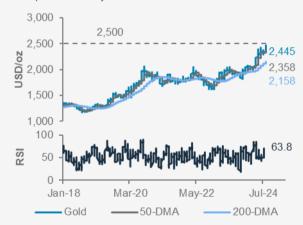
USD/JPY, trend channel and key technicals



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Gold remains on an uptrend, with the 50DMA as a likely near-term support on pullbacks

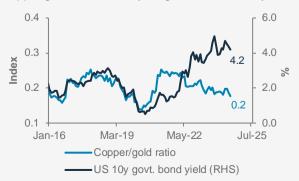
Gold price and key technicals



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

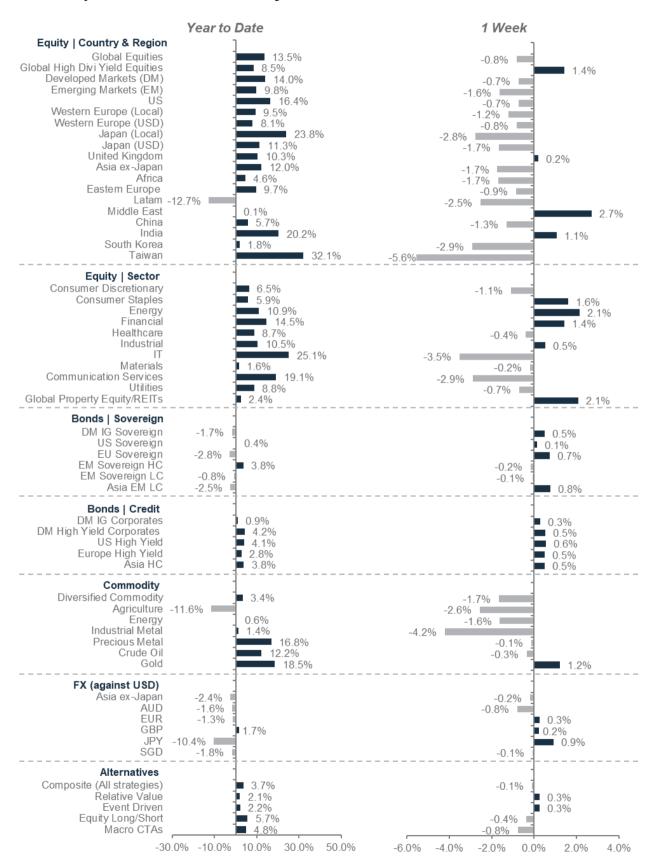
Copper/gold ratio ran ahead of the decline in US 10-year government bond yield

Copper/gold ratio, US 10-year government bond yield



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, 2024 YTD performance from 31 December 2023 to 18 July 2024; 1-week period: 11 July 2024 to 18 July 2024

Our 12-month asset class views at a glance

Asset class			
Equities	A	Preferred Sectors	
Euro area	•	US Communication	A
US		US Technology	
UK	▼	Europe Technology	A
Asia ex-Japan	•	Europe Healthcare	
Japan	•	China Communication	A
Other EM	•	China Discretionary	
		China Technology	
Bonds (Credit)	•	India Industrials	
Asia USD	•	India Discretionary	A
Corp DM HY	•	India Healthcare	
Govt EM USD	A		
Corp DM IG	•	Alternatives	•
Bonds (Govt)	•	Gold	•
Govt EM Local	▼		

Source: Standard Chartered Global Investment Committee

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

The S&P500 has next interim resistance at 5,661

Technical indicators for key markets as of 18 July close

		1st		12m forward	12m forward dividend
Index	Spot	support	tance	P/E (x)	yield (%)
S&P500	5,545	5,438	5,661	21.4	1.4
STOXX 50	4,870	4,809	4,991	13.1	3.5
FTSE 100	8,205	8,105	8,306	11.7	3.9
Topix	2,869	2,733	2,975	15.5	2.3
Shanghai Comp	2,977	2,910	3,038	10.9	3.4
Hang Seng	17,778	17,263	18,407	8.4	4.4
Nifty 50	24,801	23,821	25,309	19.4	1.4
MSCI Asia ex-Japan	708	692	724	13.0	2.6
MSCI EM	1,106	1,079	1,130	12.2	2.9
WTI (Spot)	82.8	80.2	85.0	na	na
Gold	2,445	2,331	2,521	na	na
UST 10Y Yield	4.20	4.07	4.41	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

	Event	Next week	Period	Expected	Prior
MON	US	Chicago Fed Nat Activity Index	Jun	-6.0%	18.0%
TUE	EC US	Consumer Confidence Existing Home Sales	Jul P Jun	- 3.96m	-14.0 4.11m
	EC	HCOB Eurozone Manufacturing PMI	Jul P	_	45.8
	EC	HCOB Eurozone Services PMI	Jul P	_	52.8
0	UK	S&P Global UK Manufacturing PMI	Jul P	_	50.9
WED	UK	S&P Global UK Services PMI	Jul P	_	52.1
	US	S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI	Jul P	_	51.6
	US	S&P Global US Services PMI	Jul P	_	55.3
	US	New Home Sales	Jun	640k	619k
	EC	M3 Money Supply y/y	Jun	_	1.6%
	US	GDP Annualized q/q	2Q A	1.7%	1.4%
욷	US	Durable Goods Orders	Jun P	0.5%	0.1%
	US	Cap Goods Orders Nondef Ex Air	Jun P	_	-0.6%
₹	US	PCE Price Index y/y	Jun	2.5%	2.6%
E S	US	Core PCE Price Index y/y	Jun	2.6%	2.6%

Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Prior data are for the preceding period unless otherwise indicated. Data are % change on previous period unless otherwise indicated

 ${\sf P}$ - preliminary data, ${\sf F}$ - final data, sa - seasonally adjusted, y/y - year-on-year, m/m - month-on-month

Investor diversity in US equities is at reversal threshold

Our proprietary market diversity indicators as of 18 July close

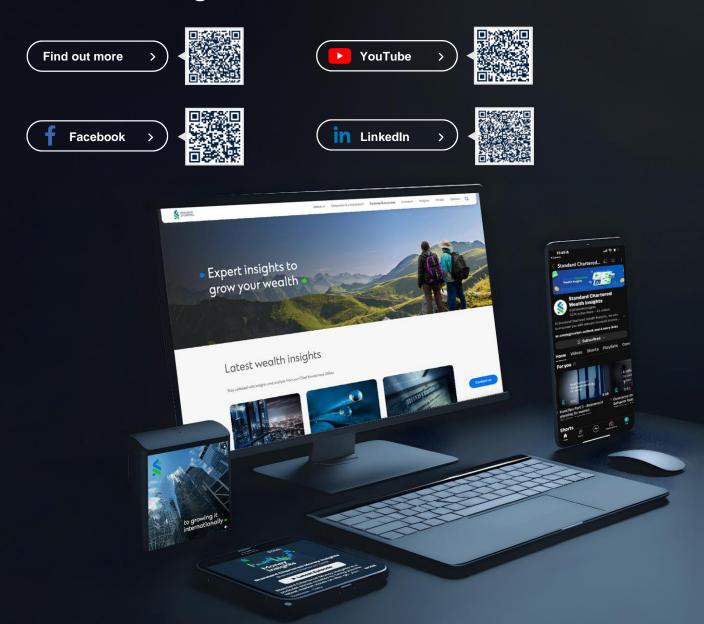
our proprietary market diversity maleators as or 10 daily close				
Level 1	Diversity	1-month trend	Fractal dimension	
Global Bonds	•	\downarrow	1.42	
Global Equities	0	\downarrow	1.25	
Gold	•	^	1.60	
Equity				
MSCI US	0	\downarrow	1.25	
MSCI Europe	•	\rightarrow	1.42	
MSCI AC AXJ	•	\downarrow	1.32	
Fixed Income				
DM Corp Bond	•	V	1.39	
DM High Yield	•	\downarrow	1.32	
EM USD	•	\downarrow	1.41	
EM Local	•	\downarrow	1.37	
Asia USD	•	\downarrow	1.38	
Currencies				
EUR/USD	•	\downarrow	1.37	

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

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