

Global Corporate & Investment Bank Capital Markets Strategy Team



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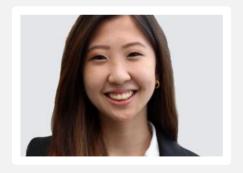
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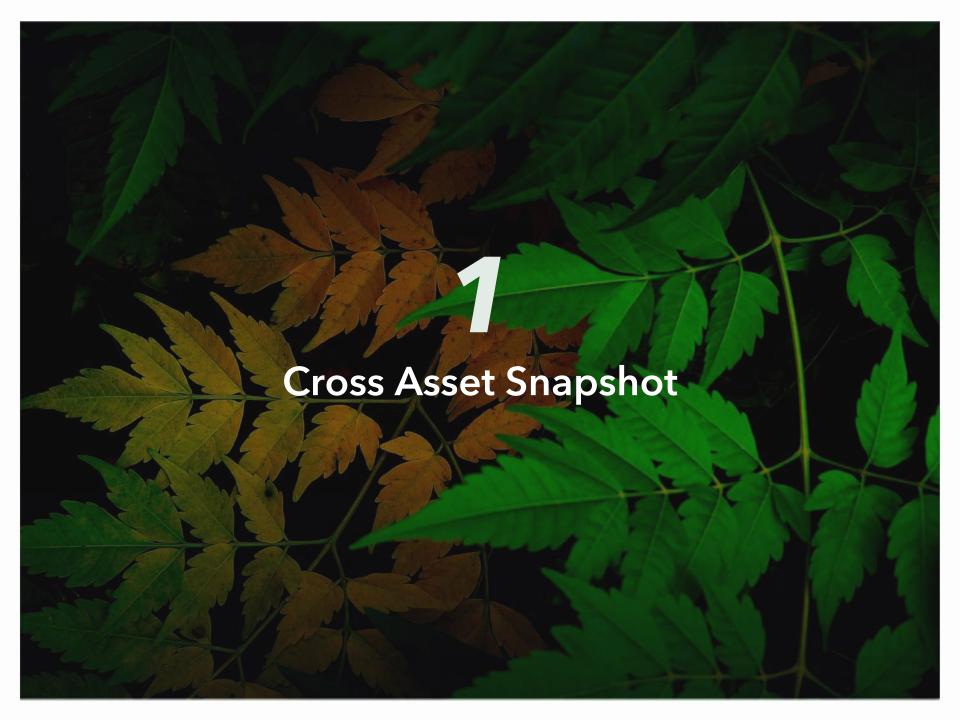


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AUTHORS

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Strong Returns Across the Board in 2025 YTD

Annual & YTD relative total returns, USD markets

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Munis	High Yield	S&P 500	Munis	S&P 500	S&P 500	S&P 500	Loans	S&P 500	S&P 500
3.6%	17.5%	21.8%	1.1%	31.5%	18.4%	28.7%	(-0.8%)	26.3%	25.0%
Mortgages	S&P 500	EM Sov	Mortgages	High Yield	High Grade	Loans	Munis	Loans	EM Sov
1.5%	11.9%	10.0%	1.0%	14.4%	9.8%	5.4%	(-9.0%)	13.7%	9.7%
S&P 500	Loans	High Yield	US Gov't	High Grade	US Gov't	High Yield	High Yield	High Yield	Loans
1.4%	10.3%	7.5%	0.8%	14.2%	8.2%	5.4%	(-11.2%)	13.4%	9.2%
EM Sov	EM Sov	High Grade	Loans	EM Sov	High Yield	Munis	Mortgages	EM Sov	High Yield
1.4%	10.1%	6.5%	0.6%	13.0%	6.2%	1.8%	(-11.9%)	13.2%	8.2%
US Gov't	High Grade	Munis	High Grade	Loans	Munis	High Grade	US Gov't	High Grade	High Grade
0.8%	6.0%	5.4%	(-2.2%)	8.7%	5.3%	(-1.0%)	(-12.9%)	8.4%	2.8%
Loans	Mortgages	Loans	High Yield	Munis	Mortgages	Mortgages	High Grade	Munis	Mortgages
0.1%	1.7%	4.3%	(-2.3%)	7.7%	4.1%	(-1.2%)	(-15.4%)	6.5%	1.4%
High Grade	US Gov't	Mortgages	S&P 500	US Gov't	EM Sov	US Gov't	S&P 500	Mortgages	Munis
(-0.6%)	1.1%	2.4%	(4.4%)	7.0%	3.9%	(-2.4%)	(-18.1%)	5.0%	1.1%
High Yield	Munis	US Gov't	EM Sov	Mortgages	Loans	EM Sov	EM Sov	US Gov't	US Gov't
(-4.6%)	0.4%	2.4%	(-5.2%)	6.5%	3.5%	(-3.0%)	(-18.3%)	3.9%	0.6%

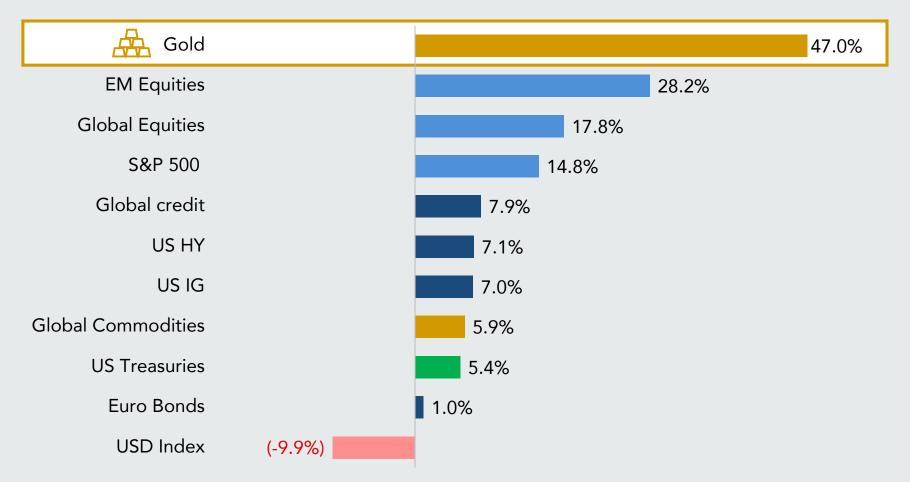
2025 YTE S&P 500 14.8% **EM Sov** 9.5% High Yield 7.1% High Grade 7.0% 1ortgage: 6.6% US Gov't 5.4% Loans 4.6% Munis 2.4%

Source: (1) CreditSights. Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025. BAML, S&P LSTA. Bloomberg EM Sov is USD EM Sovereign BBB & lower index.

Gold Outshines Major Global Asset Classes

Cross asset performance in 2025 YTD has been defined by significant dispersion across asset classes, strong returns in selected risk assets, tech innovation and elevated policy uncertainty

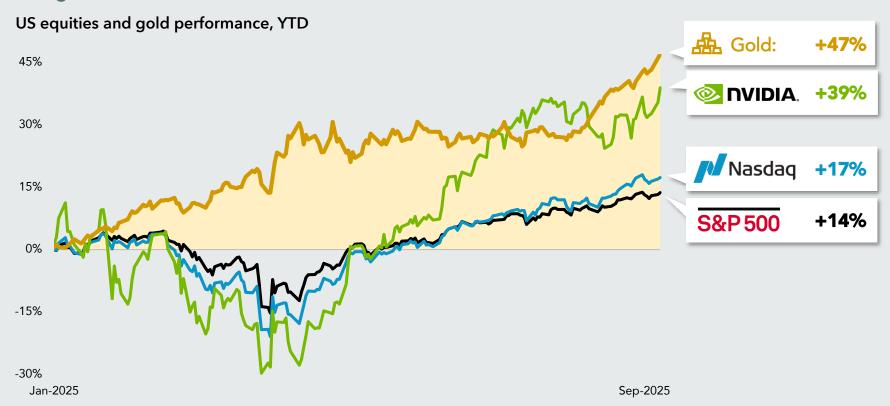
2025 YTD total returns



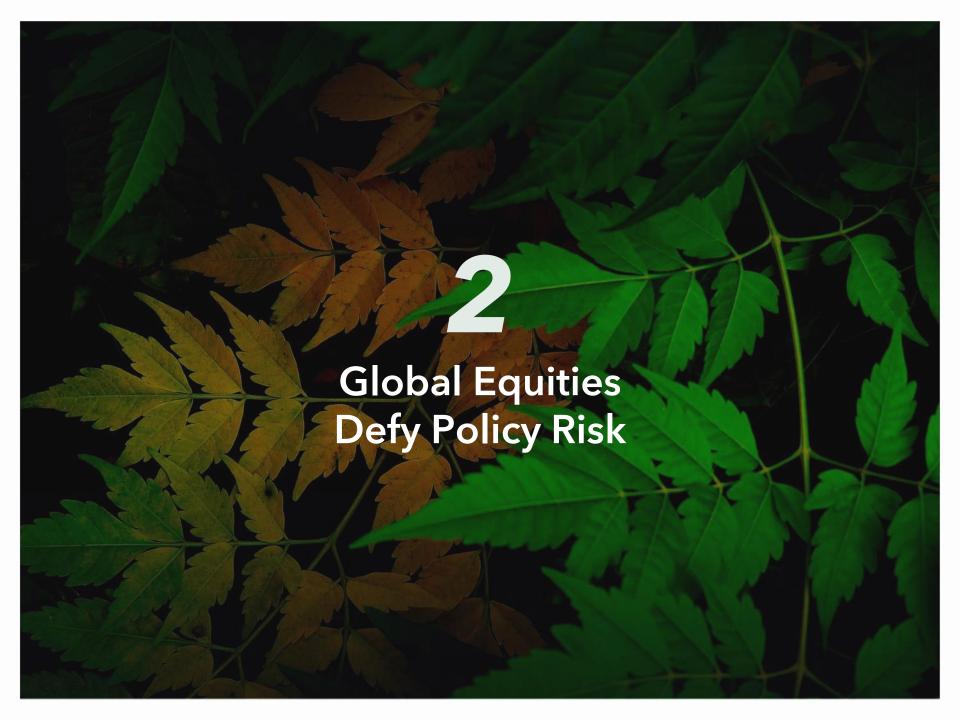
Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

Gold Outperforming High Growth Tech YTD

Gold has historically demonstrated low or inverse correlation with risk assets including equities, HY bonds and emerging market stocks. Key drivers of gold's unexpected and historic rally in 2025, even as tech stocks are sharply rising, include: de-dollarization and diversification strategies by global investors; record pace of central bank purchases (China, Russia, India, Turkey); US policy uncertainty (fiscal expansion, Fed independence concerns, trade escalation); elevated geopolitical risk; deceleration in the global economy; persistent global inflation and the Fed's pivot toward monetary easing (and related US Dollar weakness).



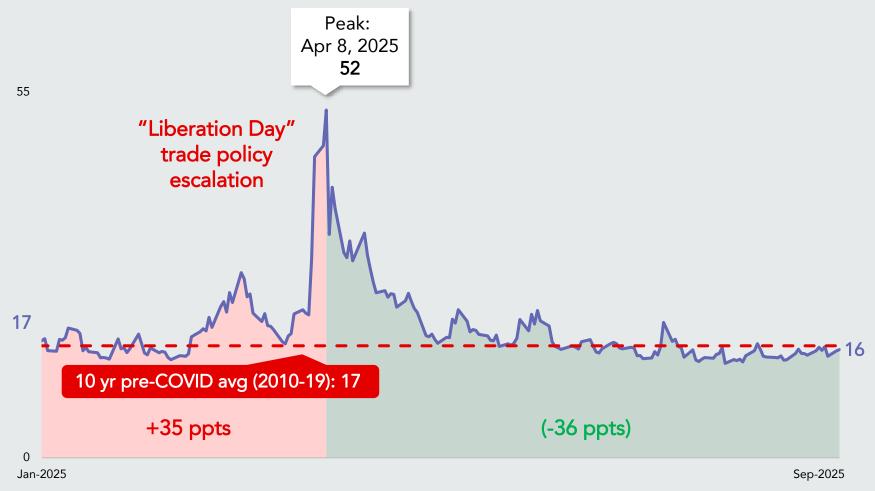
Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.



VIX Volatility Resets Below Stress Thresholds

Though policy uncertainty, trade escalation and geopolitical risk remain high, the VIX volatility index has reset below long term averages.



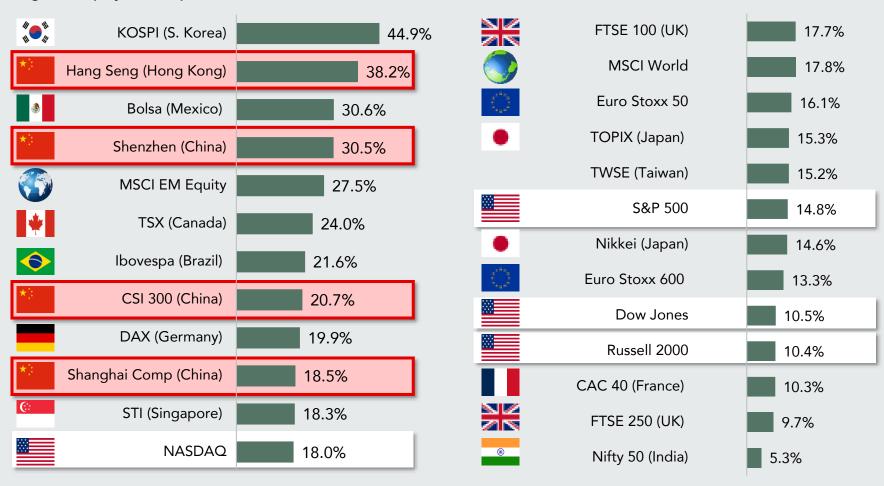


Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

The "Animal Spirits" Have Been Stronger Overseas

Despite expectations of pro-growth US policy in 2025, global equities have been resilient to trade war risk and sharply outperformed US stocks.

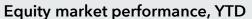
Regional equity market performance in 2025 YTD (total return)



Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025. Equity market performance is total returns.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Dominated Global Majors

Following four straight years of negative returns (2020 - 2023), and an underperforming economy in recent years, the Hong Kong's equity markets in 2025 have repeated the prior year's strong returns, with notable YTD outperformance vis-à-vis all of the global majors.





Sep-2025

Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

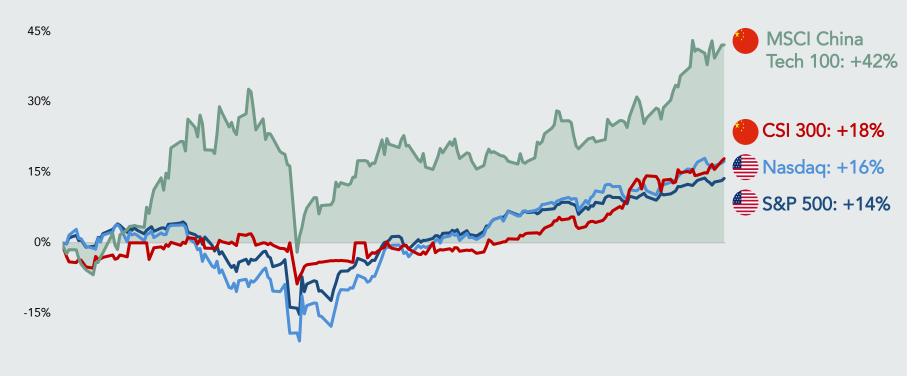
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Jan-2025

The China "Tech Surprise" as Core 2025 Theme

The China "tech surprise" has unexpectedly emerged as a core theme for 2025, especially given weak sentiment in the sector in recent years as well as a more confrontational tech policy emanating from Washington. Strong rallies in tech leaders like Alibaba, Tencent and other Chinese tech giants were driven by Al breakthroughs, robust earnings, regulatory reforms and policy priority tailwinds from Beijing.

Equity market performance, 2025 YTD



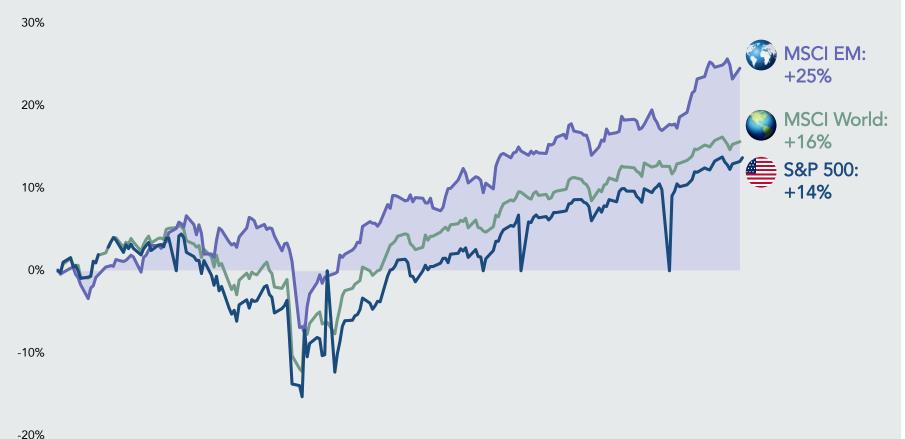
-30% Jan-2025 Sep-2025

Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

EM Equities Also Outpacing Developed Markets

Though theoretically more vulnerable in a global trade war, EM equities have outperformed in 2025 on macro resilience, policy support and a weaker US Dollar.

Equity market performance, 2025 YTD



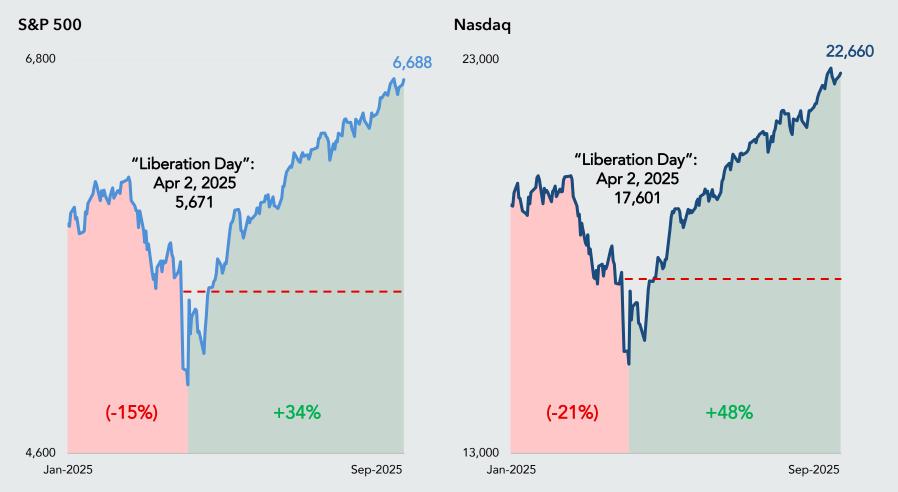
Jan-2025 Sep-2025

Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

US Equity Bounceback Unexpectedly Strong



Both the S&P 500 and the NASDAQ had corrections following tariff escalation in early April, but have since rebounded to above their pre-Liberation Day peaks. Since WW2, there have only been three occasions where the market was down more than 10% and still finished positive.

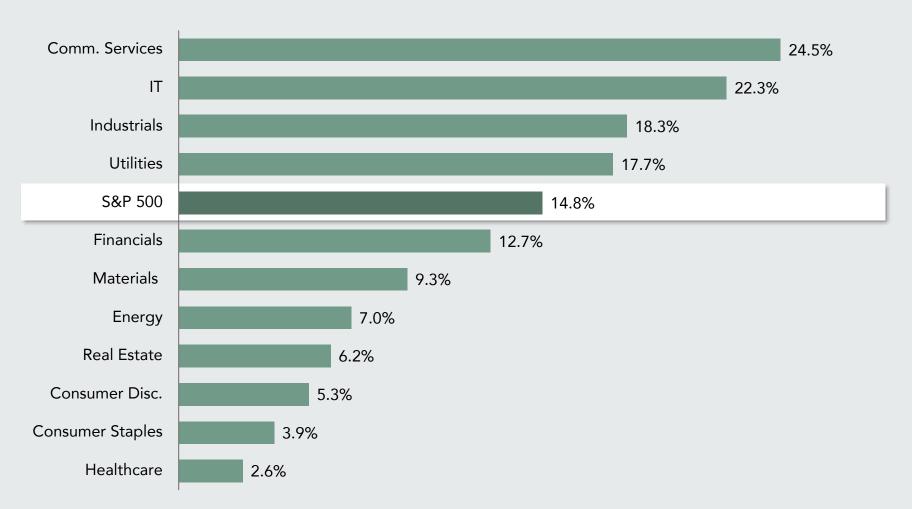


Source: (1-2) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

Services Sectors Posting Strong Returns



S&P 500 industry sector performance in 2025 YTD (total return)



Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

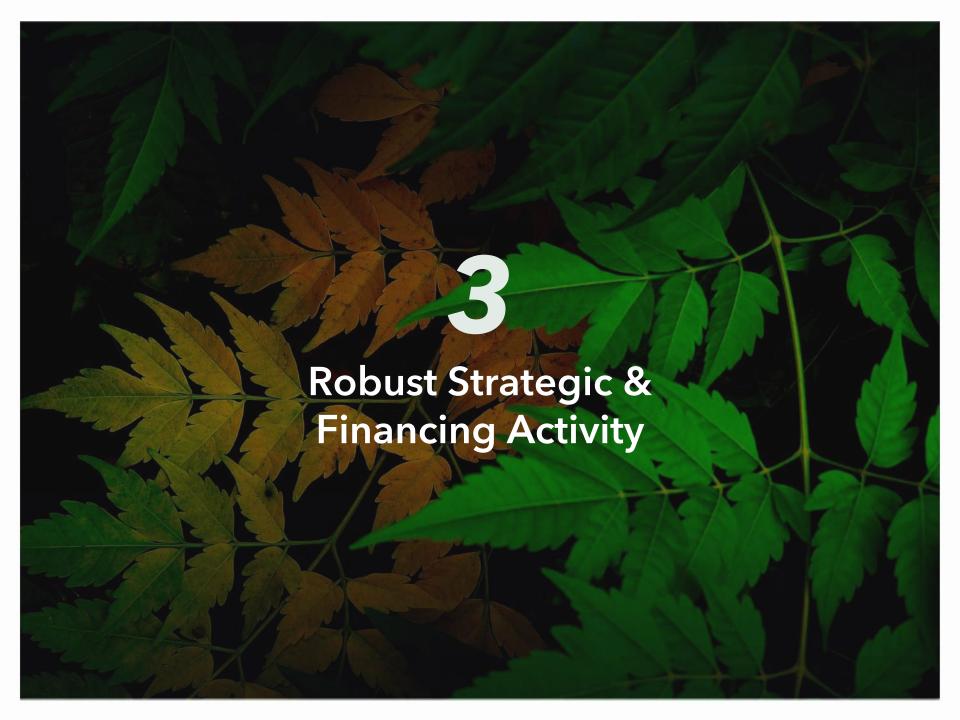
Small Caps & Value Stock Underperformance Continues

Despite elevated large cap valuations going into 2025, and expected tailwinds from fiscal expansion and deregulation, small cap and value stocks continued to lag larger cap US growth stocks.

Equity market performance, YTD



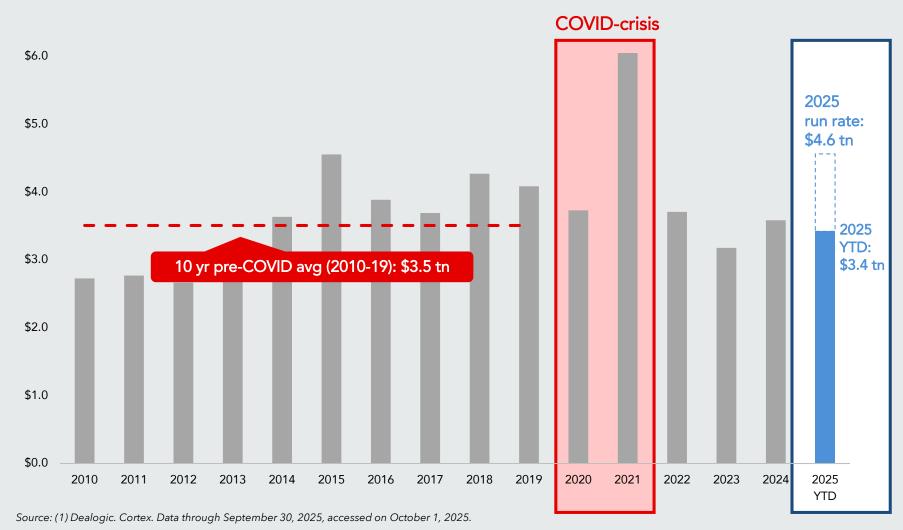
Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.



Global M&A Recovers Despite Uncertainty



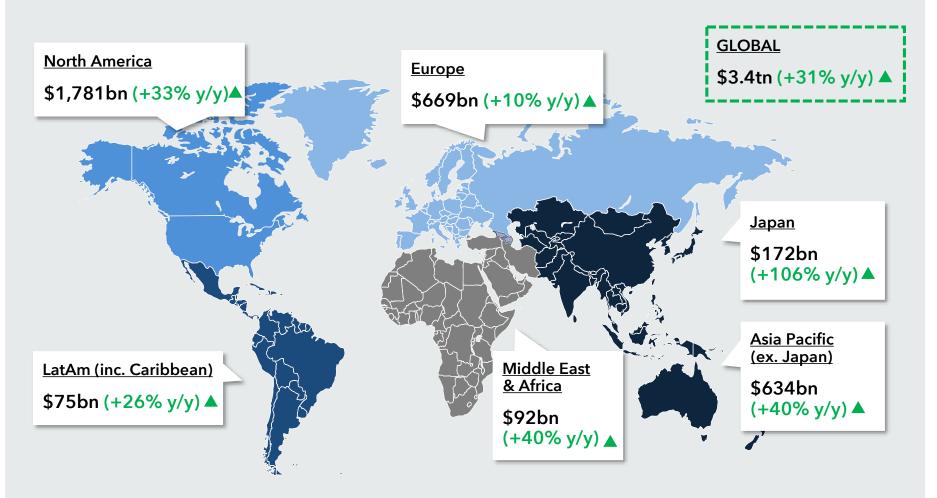
Annual global M&A volumes, USD tn



M&A Volumes Up in All Regions Globally



M&A volumes in Jan-Sep 2025 vs. Jan-Sep 2024 and y/y increase (based on target region)



Source: (1) Dealogic. Cortex. Data through September 30, 2025, accessed on October 1, 2025. Region is by target.

Record Buyback Pace Close to \$1 Trillion



Trade war and policy uncertainty dampened buyback volumes in Q2, down 20% from a record Q1. However, expect buybacks to return to closer to first quarter record levels in the 2H with full year 2025 expenditure expected to set a new record.



Source: (1) S&P Global. Data through Q2 2025. 12-month expenditure is rolling sum.

Notable 2025 USD IG Milestones



Largest ex-COVID issuance YTD (2025: \$1.3 tn)

*Ex-2020 COVID Yr

Fastest year to reach \$1 tn (202 days)

*Ex-2020 COVID Yr

Largest 1H on record (1H 2025: \$941 bn)

*Ex-2020 COVID Yr

Tightest IG spreads since 1988 (Sep 18: 72 bps)

Largest deal day on record (Sep 2: 29 deals)

*Tied with 2024

Largest Q1 on record (Q1 2025: \$555 bn)

*Ex-2020 COVID Yr

Top 5 Q3 on record (Q3 2025: \$416 bn) Top 5
largest month
on record
(Sep 2025: \$215 bn)

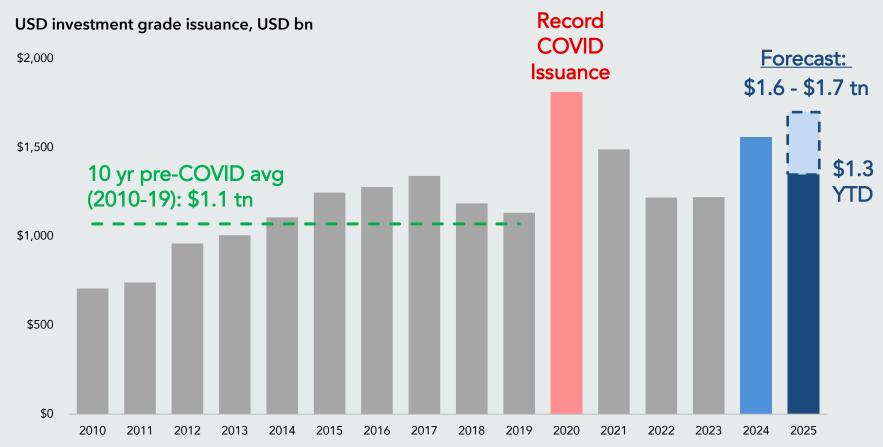
Second Q3 ever to hit \$400 bn (Q3 2025: \$416 bn) Largest September on record (Sep 2025: \$215 bn) Largest month by deal count on record (Sep 2025: 152 deals)

*Ex-2020 COVID Yr

Largest month by tranche count on record (Sep 2025: 273 tranches)

USD IG on Track for New Record (Ex-COVID)

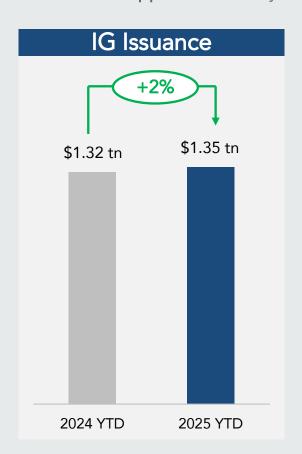
US Dollar investment grade bond markets are on track to exceed full year forecasts of \$1.6 trillion, an historic pace driven by elevated refinancing needs, tighter credit spreads, resilient corporate fundamentals and extraordinary technical demand for credit. Already, USD IG issuance volumes in 2025 set a first half (ex-COVID) record, as well as the fastest time period (ex-COVID) to \$1 trillion of issuance.



Source: (1) CFR. Data as of September 30, 2025.

Robust USD Issuance Across Ratings Spectrum

Corporate Treasurers have adeptly navigated geopolitical risk, trade wars and economic uncertainty in 2025, accelerating debt issuance to take advantage of strong investor demand and favorable financing costs. Just as large cap IG issuers have pre-funded maturities and strategic funding needs against a low visibility backdrop, high yield issuers have also moved quickly to take advantage of the return of risk appetite has the year has progressed.







Source: (1-3) IG and HY bond data are CFR. Data as of September 30, 2025. IG loan is LSEG. Data as of September 30, 2025. Leveraged loan is LCD. Data as of September 25, 2025.

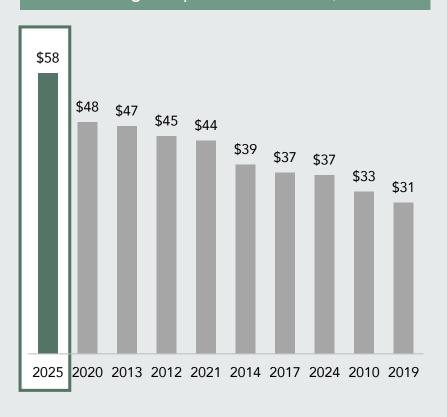
3rd Largest USD HY Month Ever, Largest USD HY September Ever

USD high yield issuance came roaring back in recent months as policy visibility improved, the macro-economic backdrop remained favorable and the Fed resumed its easing cycle. USD HY issuance of \$58 billion in September was the third largest HY issuance month in history, and the largest September on record.

All time largest monthly HY issuance, USD bn



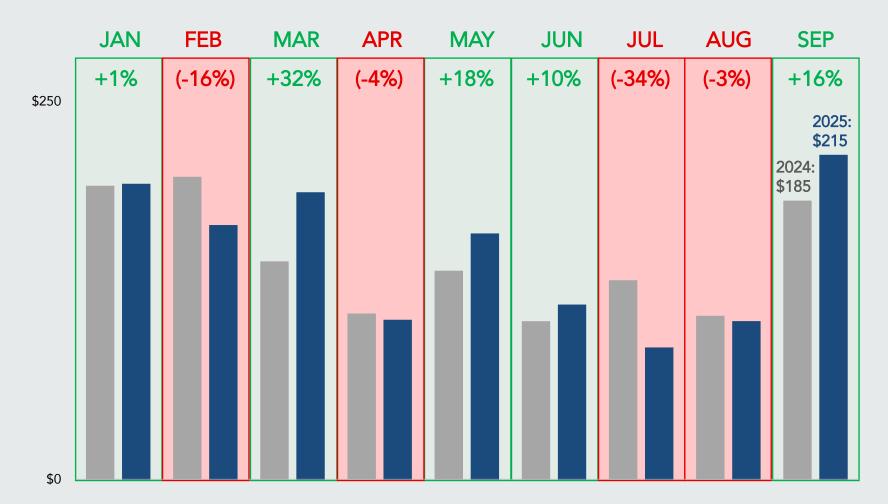
All time largest September HY issuance, USD bn



Source: (1) CFR. Data as of September 30, 2025.

USD IG Issuance Ahead of Historic 2024 Pace

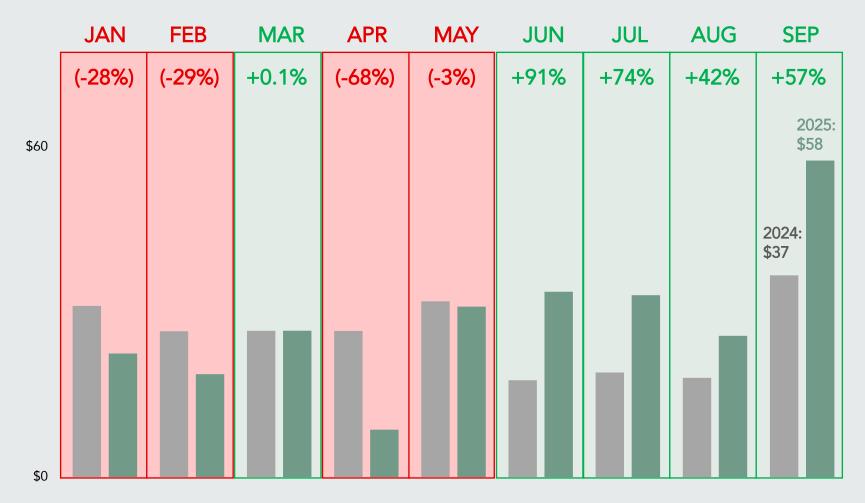
2024 vs. 2025 USD IG issuance, bn



Source: (1) CFR. Data as of September 30, 2025.

USD HY Issuance Roars Back Since June

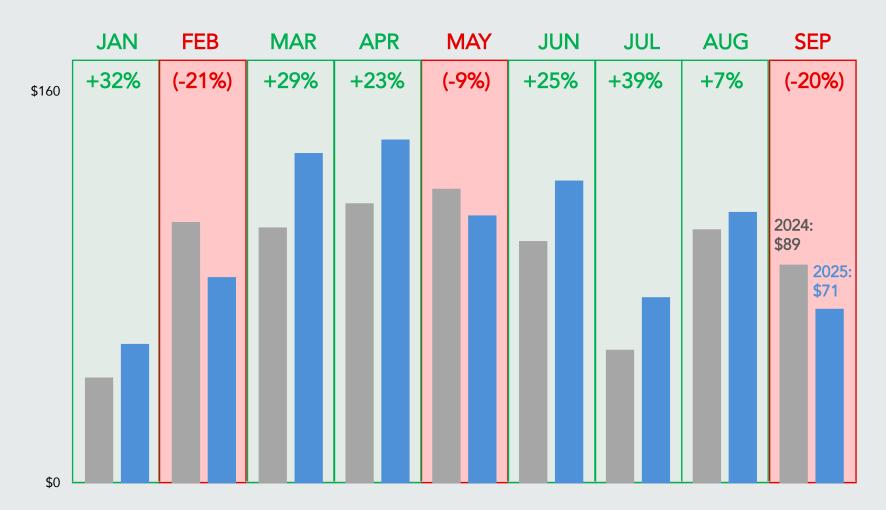
2024 vs. 2025 USD HY issuance, bn



Source: (1) CFR. Data as of September 30, 2025.

IG Loan Issuance Remains Steady

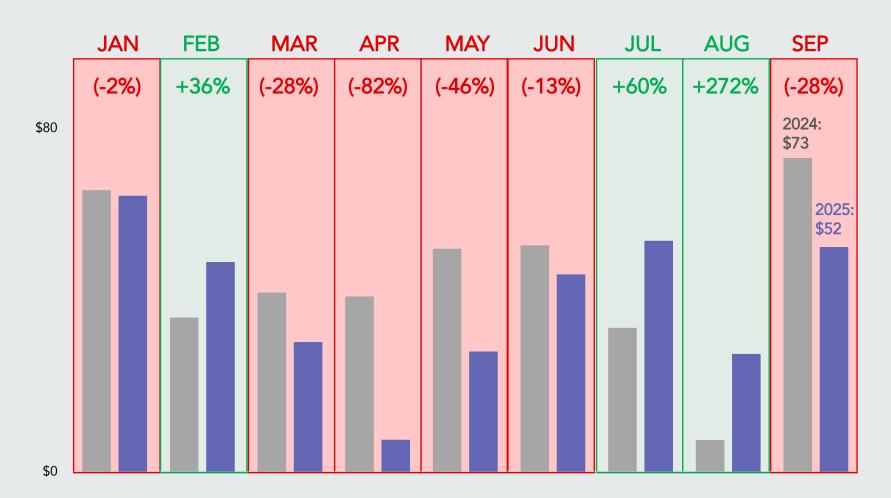
2024 vs. 2025 USD IG loan issuance, bn



Source: (1) LSEG. Data as of September 30, 2025.

Lev Loan Issuance Slows in 2025

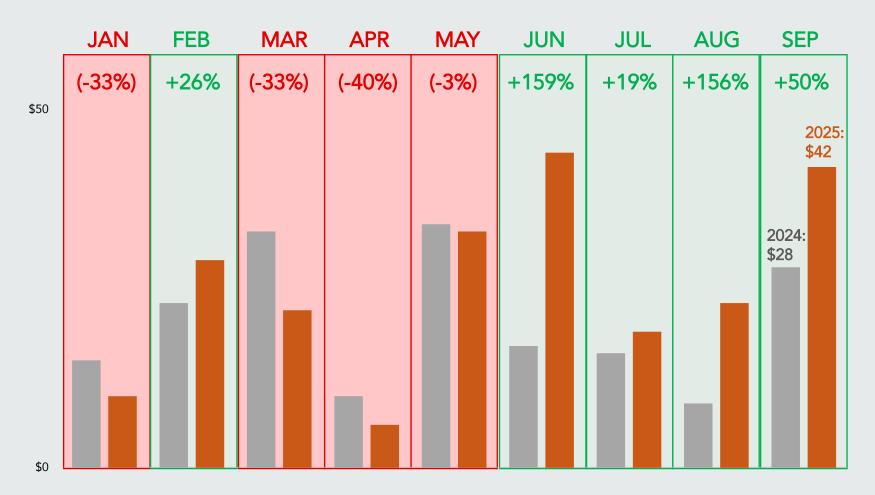
2024 vs. 2025 USD leveraged loan issuance, bn



Source: (1) LCD. Data through September 25, 2025.

Strong Summer for ECM Issuance

2024 vs. 2025 USD ECM issuance, bn



Source: (1) Dealogic. Excludes SPACs, close-end funds and deals less than \$50mn. Data as of September 30, 2025.

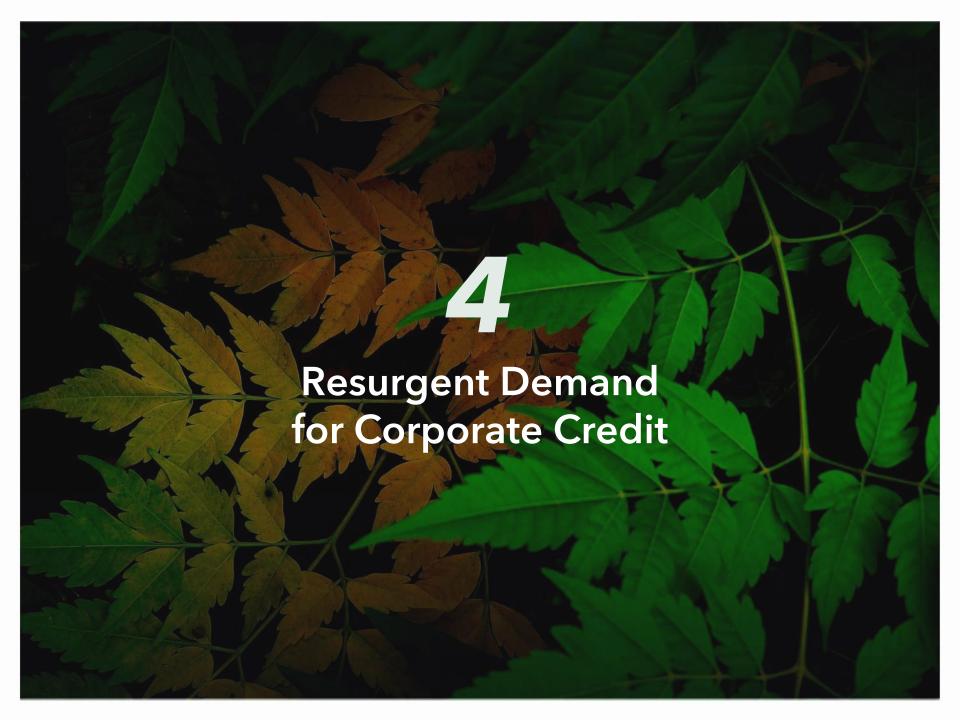
USD Equity & IPO Volumes Improve

USD ECM issuance, bn

USD IPO issuance, bn



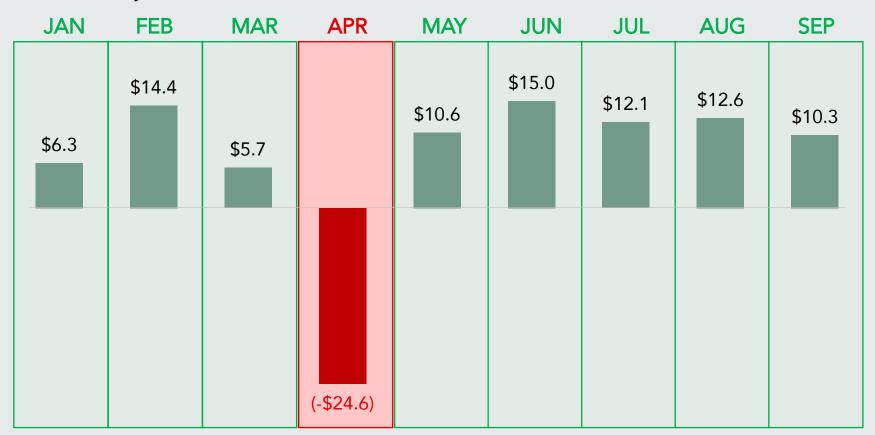
Source: (1-2) Dealogic. Excludes SPACs, close-end funds and deals less than \$50mn. Data as of September 30, 2025.



Resurgent USD Corporate Bond Flows

Demand for USD corporate credit has continued its strong pace since May as investors favor the additional yield of strong corporate balance sheets over increasingly levered sovereigns. Since the more acute period of risk-off sentiment in April, global investors have directed over \$50 bn in aggregate into US dollar IG and HY funds.

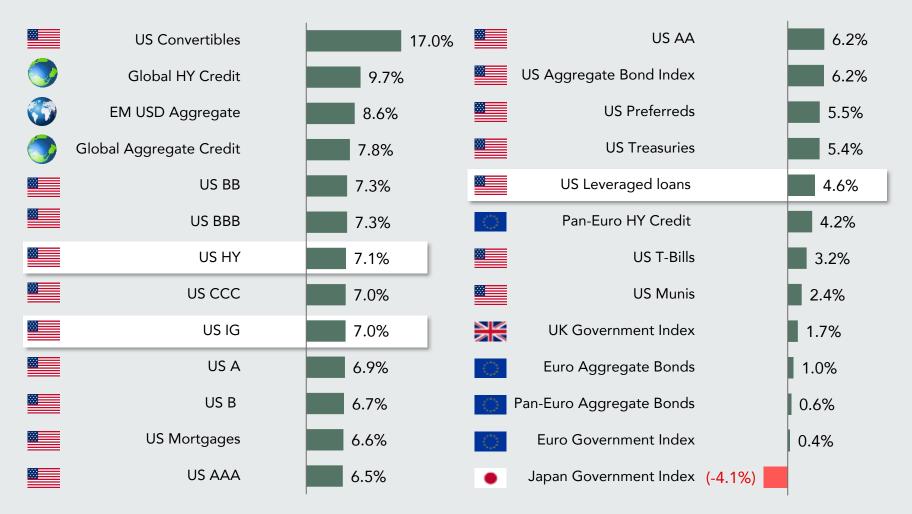
US 2025 monthly IG & HY fund flows, USD bn



Source: (1) IFR. Data through the week ending September 24, 2025.

Robust Returns Across Global Credit Spectrum

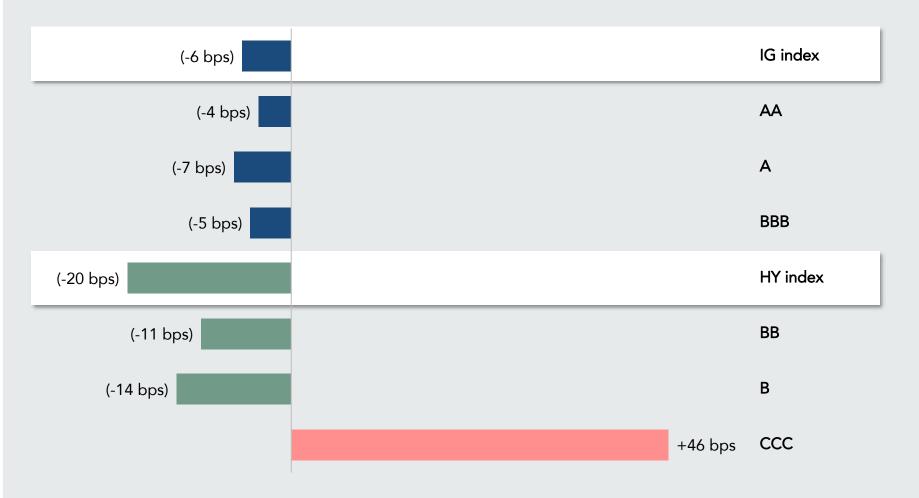
Credit market total returns 2025 YTD



Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

Spread Tightening Across the Ratings Spectrum

USD credit spreads in 2025 YTD



Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

Credit Spreads Remain Well Below Historic Averages

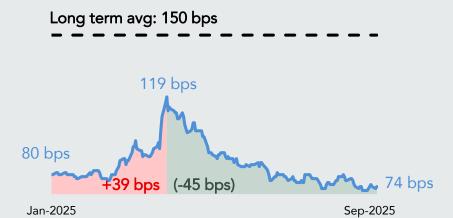
Though UST yields moved lower on slower growth and Fed policy easing, USD IG and HY credit spreads continue to tighten on a strong combination of extraordinary technical demand and resilient corporate fundamentals.

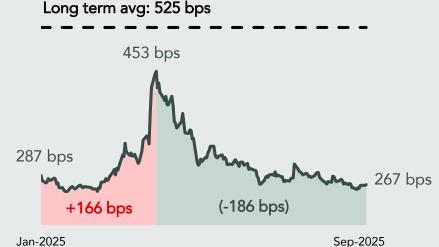
USD <u>investment grade</u> credit spreads 2025 YTD

Recession threshold: 250 bps

USD <u>high yield</u> credit spreads 2025 YTD

Recession threshold: 800 bps

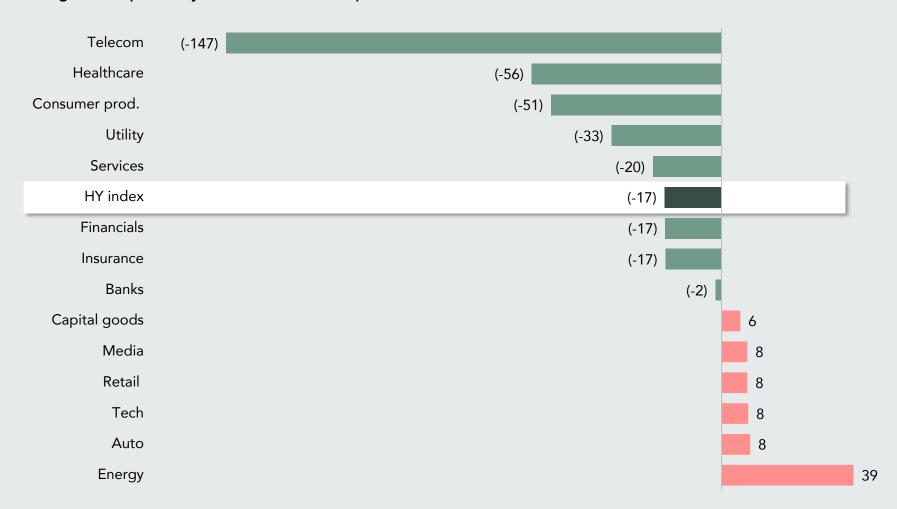




Source: (1-2) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

Credit Spread Tightening Varied Sharply by Sector

Change in HY spreads by sector in 2025 YTD, bps

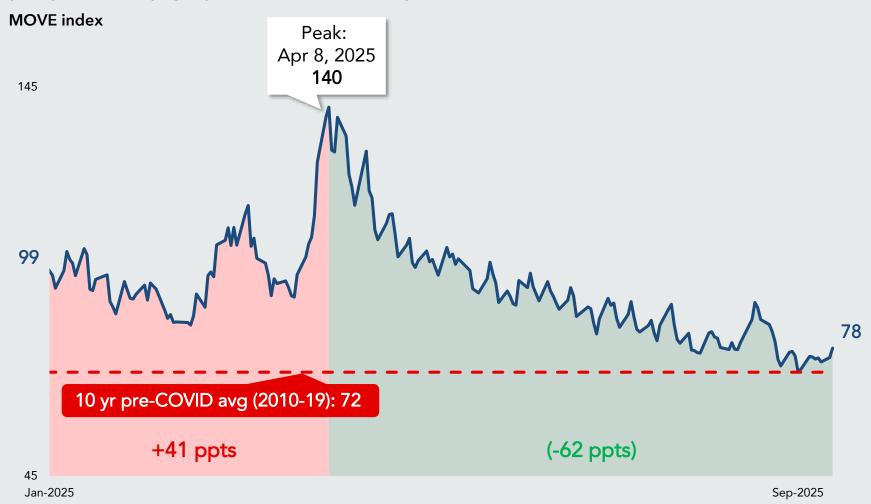


Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.



MOVE Volatility Index Lower Despite Policy Uncertainty

Counterintuitively, the MOVE rate volatility index has moved lower despite elevated inflation and policy uncertainty (geopolitical, fiscal, monetary and trade).



Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

UST Yields Diverge from Global Peers

While US policy uncertainty remains high, key factors driving UST yields lower than global peers in 2025 include: (1) investor re-positioning for Fed easing cycle; (2) US economic data (labor market weakness, inflation contained); (3) demand for dollars in global commerce; and (4) the size, safety and liquidity of the UST market vis-a-vis other global government bond markets.

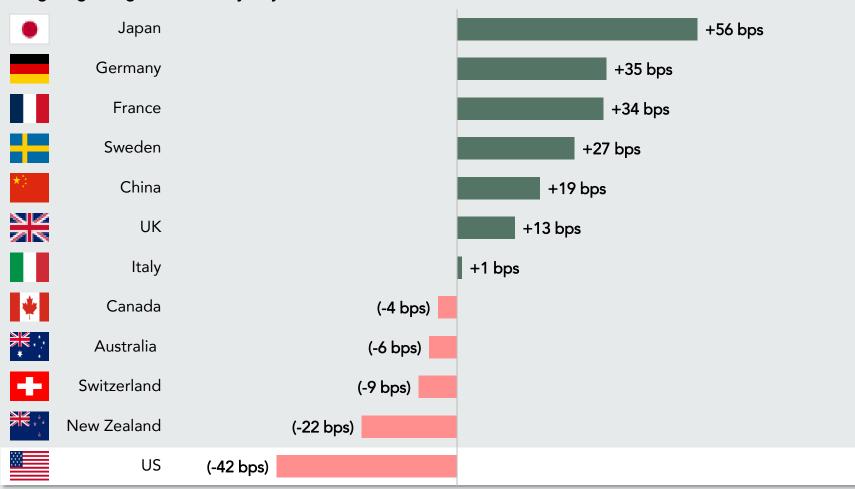
2025 YTD change in 10 yr government bond yields, bps



Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

Divergence in Global 10 Year Yields YTD

Change in global government 10 year yields in 2025 YTD

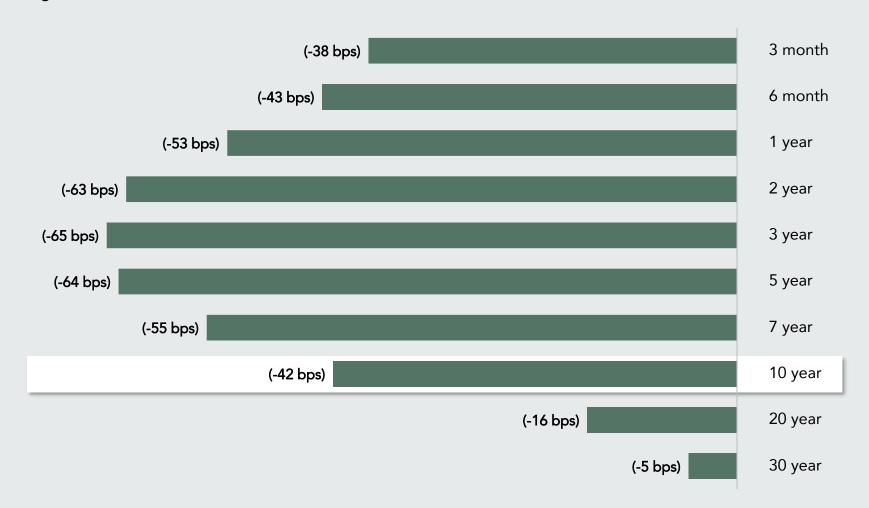


Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

UST Yields Tighter Across Entire Curve YTD



Change in UST rates in 2025 YTD



Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

Best Year for UST Returns Since 2020







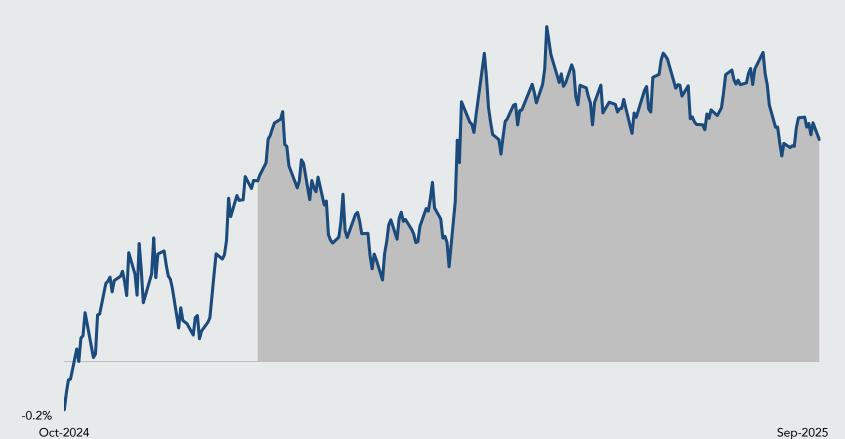
Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

Term Premia Returns to Markets in 2025



10 year term premium estimate

1.0%



Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

Curve Steepening Becomes a Core 2025 Theme



2s30s UST yield curve

140 bps



Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

Long End More Sensitive to Fiscal Expansion



Sep-2025

30 yr government bond yields in the post-COVID era



Sep-2025

Jan-2021

Sep-2025

Jan-2021

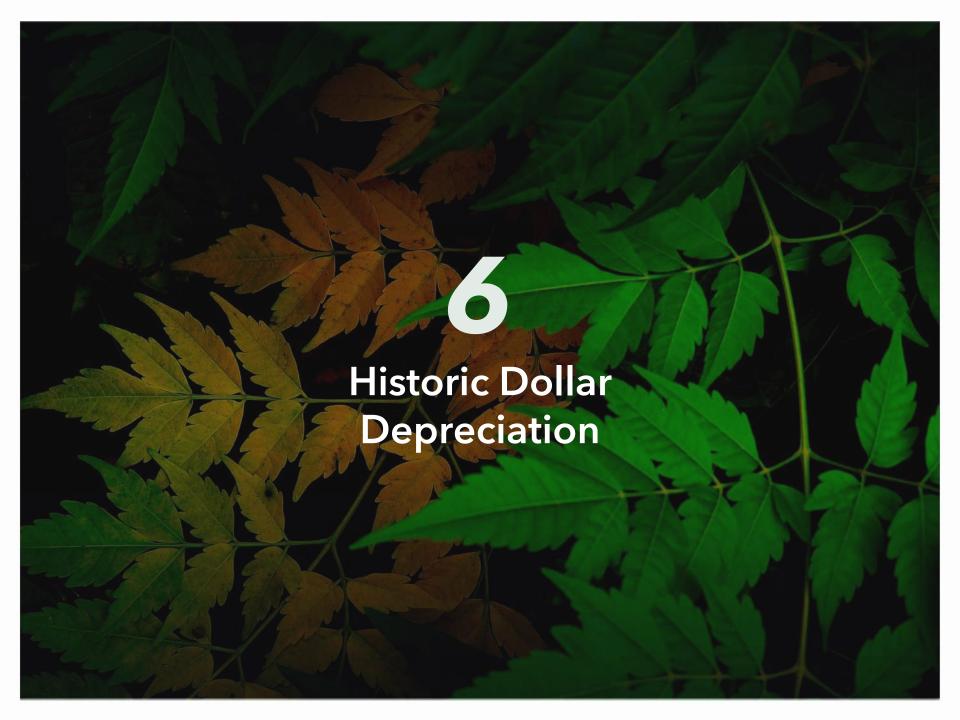
Source: (1-8) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

Sep-2025

Jan-2021

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Jan-2021

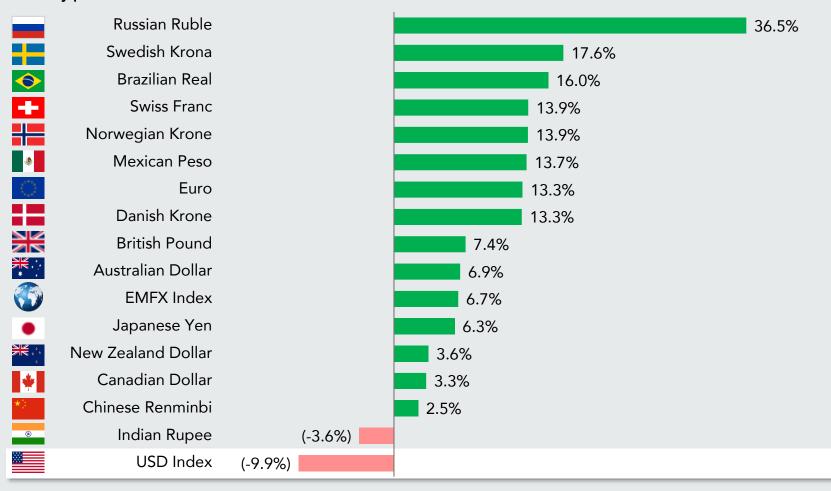


Historic Pace of US Dollar Depreciation



The US Dollar weakened considerably vis-a-vis both G20 and EMFX counterparts.

Currency performance vs. USD in 2025 YTD

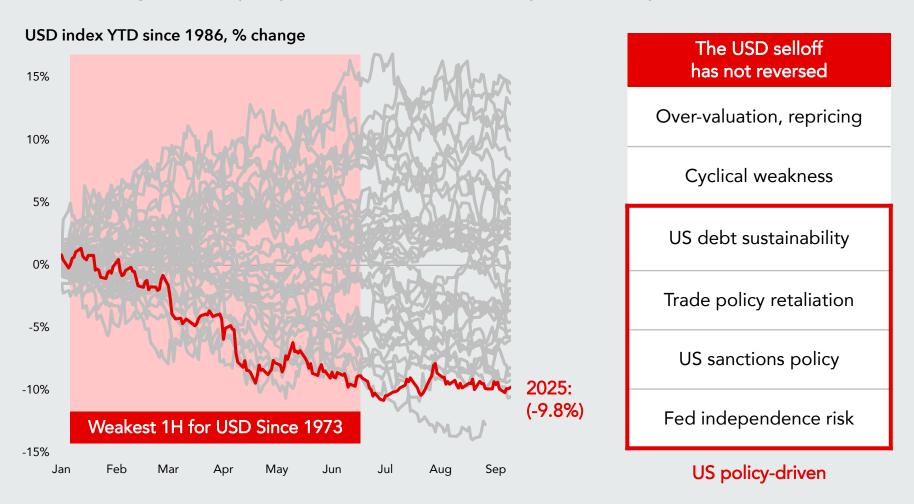


Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

Policy Confidence Concerns Weighing Heavily on USD



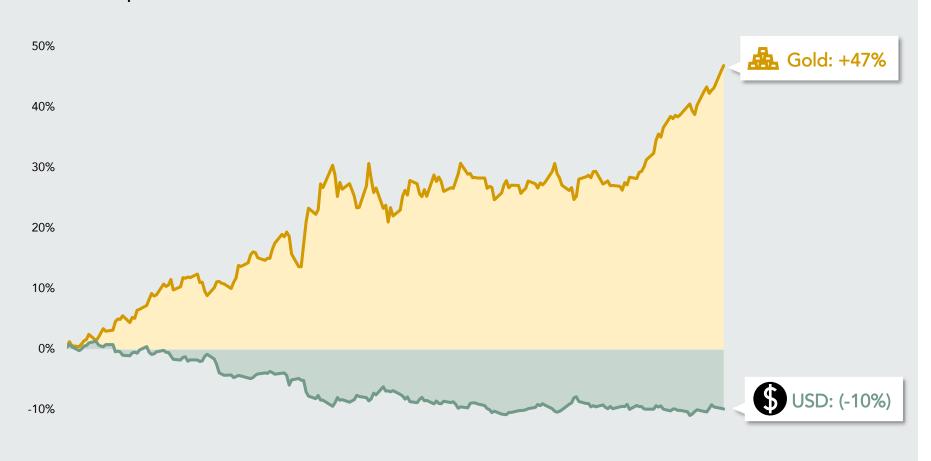
The US Dollar had its largest first half depreciation since 1973, and its weakest 6 months since 2009. Lower growth and policy related weakness remain key themes into year-end.



Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025. Data is 1986 - 2025.

De-Dollarization Through Gold Markets

Gold vs. USD performance, YTD 2025



-20% Jan-2025 Sep-2025

Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

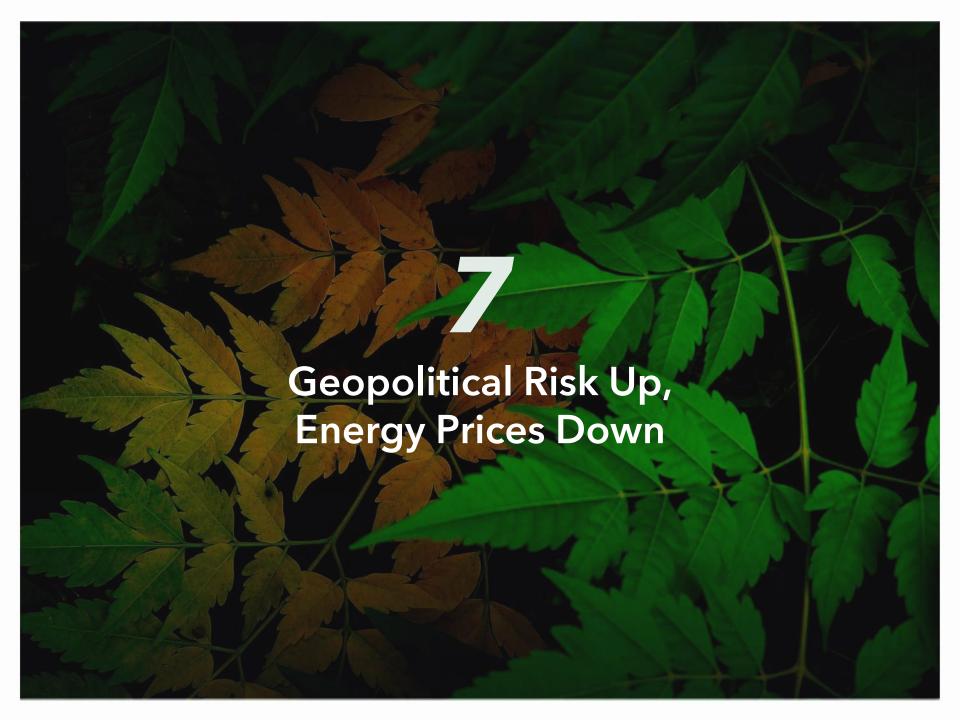
Digital Assets Benefitting from Policy Tailwinds

Digital assets, especially Bitcoin, have posted strong returns in 2025, driven by broader institutional adoption and policy tailwinds, most notably from the US Trump Administration.

Selected cryptocurrency performance since January 1, 2025

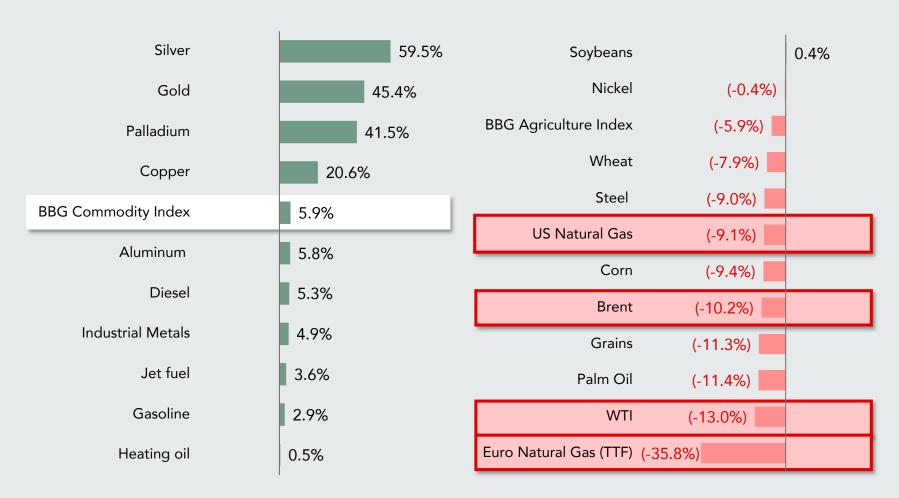


Source: (1-6) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.



Geopolitical Risk Up, Energy Prices Down

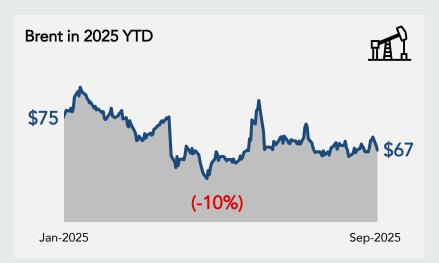
Commodity market performance in 2025 YTD



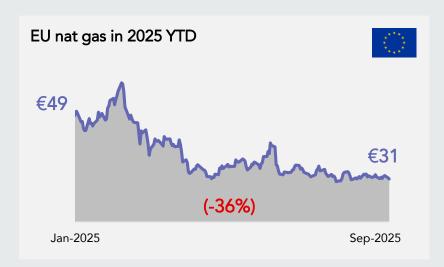
Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025. Commodities Index and Agriculture Index are total return.

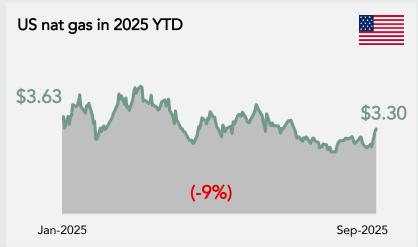
Lower Oil & Nat Gas Prices in 2025 YTD

Energy prices declined in 2025 YTD despite elevated geopolitical risk.





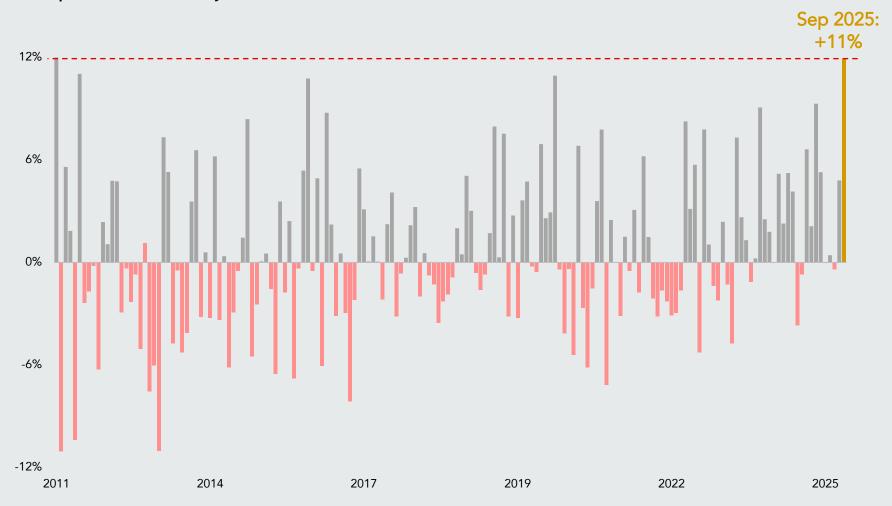




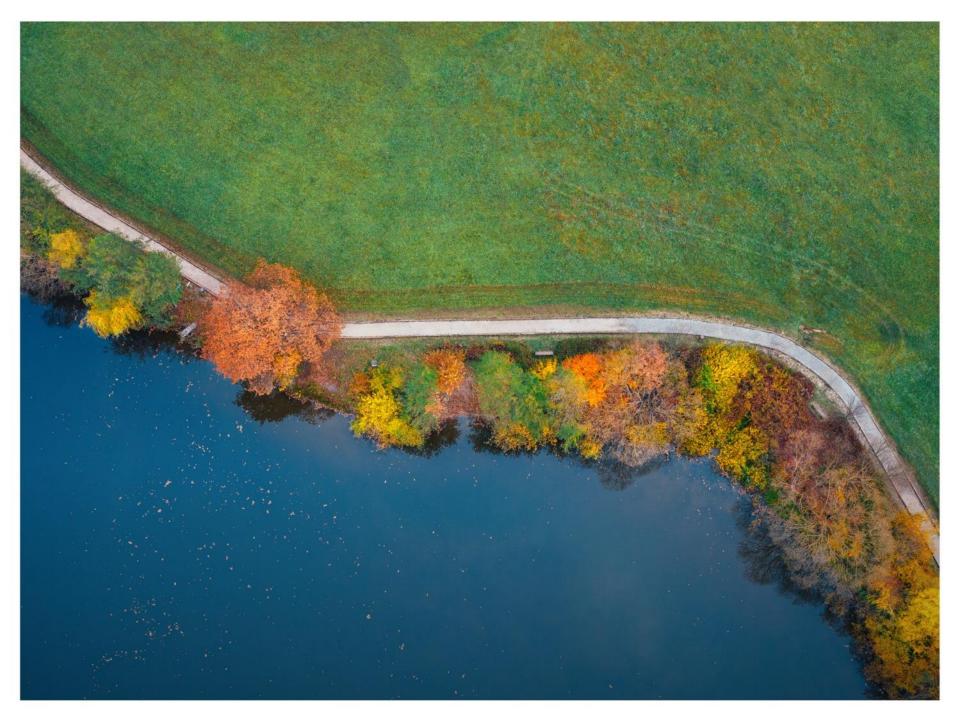
Source: (1-4) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.

Best Month for Gold Since 2011

Gold performance, monthly



Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2025.



Global Growth Expectations Have Reset Lower



2025 global growth forecasts (January 2025 vs. September 2025)



Source: (1-10) Oxford Economics. Data as of September 30, 2025.

2025 Global Economic Forecasts

The global economy is expected to grow at about 2.7% in 2025, well below its long term 3.5% average GDP growth forecasts, y/y

Region	2024	2025E	
North America			
US	2.8%	1.9%	-
Canada	1.6%	1.1%	-
Mexico	1.2%	0.7%	-
Eurozone	0.8%	1.3%	
Ireland	2.6%	11.4%	1
Spain	3.2%	2.7%	-
Netherlands	1.1%	1.3%	1
Italy	0.5%	0.6%	•
France	1.1%	0.6%	-
Finland	0.4%	0.3%	1
Germany	(-0.5%)	0.2%	1
Other Europe			
Türkiye	3.3%	3.5%	1
Poland	2.9%	3.4%	•
Czech Republic	1.1%	2.2%	•
Denmark	3.5%	1.4%	-
Sweden	0.8%	1.3%	•
UK	1.1%	1.3%	1
Switzerland	1.4%	1.1%	•
Russia	4.3%	0.9%	-
Norway	2.1%	(-0.2%)	-

Desire.	2024	20255	
Region	2024	2025E	
APAC	4.1%	4.1%	
■ India	6.7%	6.9%	1
Indonesia	5.0%	5.0%	-
** China	5.0%	4.8%	-
Singapore	4.4%	2.2%	-
** Australia	1.0%	1.7%	1
New Zealand	(-0.5%)	1.4%	1
Japan	0.1%	1.1%	1
South Korea	2.0%	0.8%	-
LatAm	1.8%	2.2%	
Argentina	(-1.3%)	4.3%	1
Colombia	1.6%	2.5%	1
Chile	2.4%	2.5%	1
Brazil	3.0%	2.4%	-
MENA	2.1%	3.2%	
UAE	4.0%	4.9%	1
Egypt	3.1%	4.3%	1
Saudi Arabia	2.0%	4.2%	1
Kuwait	(-2.6%)	4.0%	1
Sub-Saharan Africa	3.8%	3.8%	-
Qatar	2.6%	2.6%	1
Oman	1.7%	2.2%	1
South Africa	0.5%	0.9%	1

Source: (1) Oxford Economics. Data as of October 1, 2025.

2025 Global Currency Forecasts

Currency pair	Spot (Oct 1)	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Q2 2026	Q3 2026
EUR / USD	1.17	1.20	1.23	1.25	1.26
GBP / USD	1.35	1.36	1.38	1.39	1.40
USD / JPY	148	144	142	140	138
USD / CNY	7.12	7.10	7.05	7.00	6.95
AUD / USD	0.66	0.67	0.68	0.69	0.69
NZD / USD	0.58	0.59	0.60	0.62	0.62
USD / CAD	1.39	1.37	1.36	1.34	1.33
USD / NOK	9.97	9.75	9.51	9.28	9.13
USD / SEK	9.40	9.21	8.90	8.72	8.57
USD / CHF	0.80	0.78	0.77	0.77	0.76
USD / MXN	18.33	18.50	18.25	18.00	18.00
USD / BRL	5.32	5.35	5.30	5.25	5.20
USD / CLP	962	945	935	935	935

Source: (1) MUFG Annual Foreign Exchange Outlook - October 2025. (Derek Halpenny). Bloomberg.

2025 MUFG Global Rates Forecasts

		Q4 2025 Q1 2026		Q2 2026		Q3 2026			
	Spot (Oct 1)	MUFG	Consensus	MUFG	Consensus	MUFG	Consensus	MUFG	Consensus
Fed Funds	4.25%	3.75%	3.87%	3.50%	3.66%	3.25%	3.46%	3.00%	3.36%
2 yr UST	3.56%	3.38%	3.51%	3.25%	3.41%	3.13%	3.36%	3.00%	3.36%
5 yr UST	3.68%	3.50%	3.66%	3.38%	3.63%	3.25%	3.61%	3.13%	3.64%
10 yr UST	4.11%	4.00%	4.15%	3.88%	4.10%	3.75%	4.09%	3.63%	4.08%
30 yr UST	4.71%	4.63%	4.72%	4.50%	4.68%	4.38%	4.65%	4.25%	4.63%

Source: (1) MUFG Global Macro Research (George Goncalves). Bloomberg. Data as of October 1, 2025. Fed funds is upper bound.

2025 Commodities Forecasts

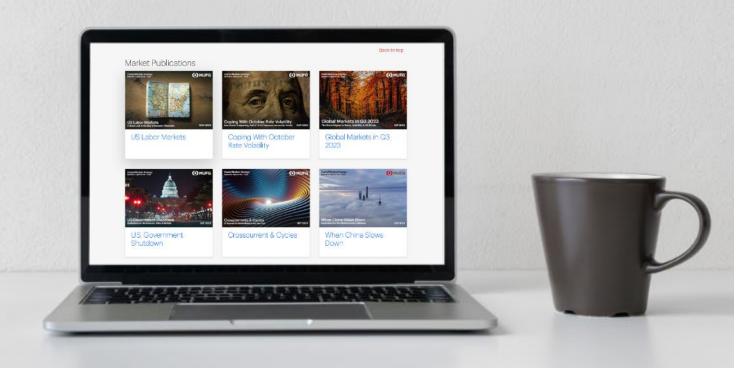
	Spot (Oct 1)	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Q2 2026	Q3 2026
WTI	\$62	\$60	\$59	\$59	\$59
Brent	\$66	\$64	\$62	\$62	\$63
US Nat Gas	\$3.38	\$3.94	\$4.15	\$3.75	\$3.75
Euro Nat Gas	€31	€36	€36	€30	€28

Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of October 1, 2025. Forecasts are Bloomberg Consensus.



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Tom Joyce is a Managing Director and Capital Markets Strategist within MUFG's global capital markets and investment banking business. Based in New York, Tom heads a team that creates customized analytical content for multi-national S&P 500 companies. His team provides in depth analysis on the impact of economic, political, public policy and regulatory dynamics on the US credit, foreign exchange, rates and commodities markets.

Experience

Tom has over 30 years of Investment Banking experience in New York, London, Hong Kong, and San Francisco. Tom created and built the Capital Markets Strategy role, advising corporate C-Suite executives (Boards, CEOs, CFOs, and Treasurers) on the pervasive macro forces driving markets. Tom also presents at dozens of corporate events each year including Board meetings, CEO ExCo sessions, CFO and Treasury off-sites, corporate leadership events and conferences.

Education

Tom's educational background includes a year of study at Oxford University from 1991 - 1992, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Holy Cross College in 1993, and a MBA from Kellogg Business School, Northwestern University in 2000.

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Tom resides in New Canaan, CT with his wife and four sons, where he previously served on the Board of Trustees of the New Canaan Library. Tom also serves on the President's Council of Holy Cross College.

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Experience

Stephanie has spent nearly eight years as a Capital Markets Strategist. She is an active member of the University of Michigan recruiting team and is focused on the diversity recruiting effort at MUFG. Stephanie is also a part of MUFG's DEI, Culture & Philanthropy (DCP) Council.

Education

Stephanie graduated with honors from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business with a BBA .

Personal

Stephanie is involved in NYC's iMentor program, mentoring high school students with their journey to college graduation. She also volunteers at Experience Camps, a free summer camp program for grieving children, as the associate program director.



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Experience

Angela previously interned at MUFG working in Capital Markets within the Equity Capital Markets and Leveraged Finance divisions. She is also an active member of the Carnegie Mellon University recruiting team.

Education

Angela graduated with honors from Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business with a BS in Business Administration with an additional major in Statistics and a minor in Media Design. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity and the Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Association.



























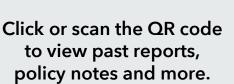








































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