

# Investment Weekly

18 October 2024 For Professional Clients only.

## Chart of the week - China's policy 'put'



After recently announcing new stimulus measures, China's policymakers have yet to fill in the details on the scale of support planned for tackling issues in housing markets, local governments, and consumer confidence. But with recent press conferences unveiling new commitments, there is clear evidence of a fundamental shift in policy thinking.

Speculating on the precise timing of China stimulus isn't sensible. However, the "three arrows" policy strategy – liquidity, fiscal/credit, structural measures – offers a way forward to boost the economy out of the deflation trap. With further policy meetings in the calendar – with the NPC standing committee in a few weeks – we may hear more soon.

As for markets, many Asian investors remain cautious on China stocks, arguing that it will take a long time for capital flows to return. But at 11.5x earnings, China still trades at a heavy discount to EM (14x) and global stocks (21x). With bad news still in the price, good news could be 'doubly good' for stocks. **We think current policy settings are calibrated as a policy 'put'**. With more support to follow, being negative and underweight seems risky.

Another way to think about market effects is that China stimulus sets up a **rotation trade in global stocks**. China's rally has already caused volatility in regional fund flows, affecting markets like India, Korea, and Japan. But perhaps the bigger picture is that **Chinese stimulus is spurring a rotation away from expensive US stocks, toward Asia**.

## **Market Spotlight**

## Taking geopolitics seriously

Geopolitical risk has been on the rise in 2024 – but a first question might be, "so what?". Many investors already feel well-equipped to deal with geopolitical risk. Most of the time, after all, the "geopolitical risk premium" has only a fleeting or transitory influence on investment markets. The effects unwind fairly quickly.

But this time could be different. In our new <u>Capital Market Assumptions</u> paper, we argue that there are several reasons why investors need to take geopolitics seriously in their asset allocation considerations. First, economic power is diffusing to Asia and the Global South, with profound implications for the macro-economy and the financial system. Second, the global environment has become less friendly to international cooperation. And third, the policies and principles that have stabilised the global order over the last 30 to 40 years seem increasingly obsolete.

It means that the "nice" economic regime now risks being "vile" – or, to spell it out, one of "Volatile Inflation and Limited Expansion". If left unchecked, it implies rising prices and lower economic growth potential. For investors, portfolio strategy will need to be prepared for such an eventuality and resilient to the implications of shorter business cycles, greater market dispersion, and changed correlations.

The value of investments and any income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Past performance does not predict future returns. Investments in emerging markets are by their nature higher risk and potentially more volatile than those inherent in some established markets. The level of yield is not guaranteed and may rise or fall in the future. For informational purposes only and should not be construed as a recommendation to invest in the specific country, product, strategy, sector or security. Any views expressed were held at the time of preparation and are subject to change without notice. HSBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited accepts no liability for any failure to meet such forecast, projection, or target. Diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against loss. Source: HSBC Asset Management. Macrobond, Bloomberg. Data as at 11.00am UK time 18 October 2024.



Private Credit →

Growth opportunities in Asia for the direct lending market

Indian Markets →

Factors driving the rise of a new asset class

Read our latest views: <u>Capital Market</u> <u>Assumptions</u>



#### ECB speeds up

At its October meeting, the European Central Bank (ECB) delivered its second rate cut in as many months and its third of this easing cycle. During the summer, the expectation was that it would cut at a pace of 25bp every other meeting. What has changed? One factor is that the Federal Reserve has become more willing to ease policy. However, there have also been important eurozone developments. First, the latest inflation numbers show tentative signs that service sector inflation is now weakening, having been relatively sticky earlier this year. Wage growth is also softening, supporting the view that inflation pressures are fading. Second, activity data have surprised to the downside – the PMIs point to a deceleration in growth during H2 2024, led by Germany.

With the inflation situation improving, growth looking patchy – particularly in Germany – and the ECB easing policy at a brisker pace, Bunds have been outperforming US Treasuries since mid-September, reversing the trend seen since mid-April. **Recent developments have also been consistent with our preference for a moderate overweight position in Bunds**.

## Going direct

The private credit market has grown rapidly in recent years, driven in part by strong demand for direct lending. There have been two key reasons for this: one is that traditional banks have retrenched from parts of the lending market, leaving private credit managers to fill the void. Another is that direct lending proved popular with private equity managers during the post-Covid deal-making boom.

For private credit investors, the returns have been strong. With an average yield of nearly 12%, the asset class has outperformed other Credits. With the global easing cycle under way, returns are expected to moderate over time, but it's expected to remain a high yield asset class.

While North America and Europe currently dominate direct lending markets, Asia is comparatively small – but growing strongly in some areas. With around 80% of total credit in Asia still provided by banks, there is growing demand for alternative sources of finance for fast growing firms, mergers and acquisitions, and private equity deals. **This supports our positive view on the outlook for private credit and its role as a high yielding portfolio diversifier**.

#### Navigating new India

Reforms implemented over the past decade along with more credible monetary and fiscal policy have allowed India to begin tapping its catchup potential and enviable demographics. The IMF expects India to be the fastest growing G20 economy over the remainder of the decade, with real GDP rising by almost 50% by 2029.

Consistent with the strong recent and expected growth, MSCI India has outperformed MSCI ACWI by a significant margin over the last five years. Importantly, however, the Indian equity market now offers greater diversification and less volatility than in the past – MSCI India now comprises over 150 stocks versus under 80 in late 2019. Moreover, it is not just in equity space that India stands out – its 10y government yield is among the highest for investment grade issuers and has a low correlation with global bonds. Add in an undervalued INR, which also exhibits less volatility than the average EM currency, and **there is a strong case for India to be viewed as an asset class in its own right**, rather than simply part of a benchmark.







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Source: HSBC Asset Management. Macrobond, Bloomberg, Datastream, Pregin. Data as at 11.00am UK time 18 October 2024.



## Asset class views

Our baseline macro scenario is for a soft-ish landing, characterised by growth falling below trend and inflation returning to target. But the data flow is likely to remain bumpy and the outlook remains uncertain. Risk asset valuations are stretched in many areas. That means that any deterioration in corporate fundamentals could create market volatility. A defensive positioning in portfolios remains appropriate, which includes selective exposures to fixed income, risk assets, and private markets.

House view represents a 12-month investment view across major asset classes in our portfolios.



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## Key Events and Data Releases

## This week

Date	Country	Indicator	Data as of	Actual	Prior	Comment
Sat. 12 October	CN	Briefing from Ministry of Finance	Oct			The MoF unveiled measures to tackle risks related to local public debt and property destocking, and signalled more fiscal support
Sun. 13 October	CN	CPI (yoy)	Sep	0.4%	0.6%	Soft CPI data suggest deflationary pressures from non-food items are due to demand/supply imbalances
Mon. 14 October	CN	Trade Balance (USD)	Sep	81.7bn	91.0bn	Typhoon disruptions and ongoing macro challenges resulted in a narrowing of the trade surplus
Tue. 15 October	UK	Unemployment Rate, ILO	Aug	4.0%	4.1%	Strong jobs gains pushed the unemployment rate lower in August, but data reliability remains a problem
Wed. 16 October	ID	Bank Indonesia Rate	Oct	6.00%	6.00%	BI left policy unchanged. Modest price pressures allow room for future easing, but recent currency weakness creates uncertainty
	UK	СРІ (уоу)	Sep	1.7%	2.2%	Disinflation in the service sector is more evident, supporting calls for two 25bp cuts by the BoE by year-end
	PH	Central Bank Policy Rate	Oct	6.00%	6.25%	The BSP continued its easing cycle, with the governor suggesting further measured cuts ahead
Thu. 17 October	ΤY	CBRT 1 Week Repo Lending Rate	Oct	50.00%	50.00%	Turkey's central bank kept rates steady as expected, but were more hawkish as recent sticky inflation data has increased uncertainty
	ΕZ	ECB Deposit Rate	Oct	3.25%	3.50%	Improving inflation and recent downside surprises in economic activity drove the ECB's decision to deliver a back-to-back cut
	US	Retail Sales (mom)	Sep	0.4%	0.1%	Strong household balance sheets and declining rates supported retail sales and point to robust Q3 consumer spending
	US	Industrial Production (mom)	Sep	-0.3%	0.3%	Looking through the volatility, the level of industrial production has remained broadly unchanged since late 2022
	СН	Banco Central de Chile Policy Rate	Oct	5.25%	5.5%	BCC cut by 25bp, in line with expectations, and aims to reduce the policy rate gradually towards a more neutral level
Fri. 18 October	JP	СРІ (уоу)	Sep	2.5%	3.0%	Headline inflation was pulled lower by a fall in energy prices. Core inflation measures edged down
	CN	Industrial Production (yoy)	Sep	5.4%	4.5%	Industrial activity held up but weak global manufacturing data and geopolitical risks create uncertainty regarding the outlook
	CN	Retail Sales (yoy)	Sep	3.2%	2.1%	The pickup in goods sales was aided by the consumer goods trade-in scheme benefiting auto and home appliance sales
	CN	GDP (yoy)	Q3	4.6%	4.7%	Sequential real growth rose to 0.9% qoq, up from 0.5% in O2. But nominal GDP growth was soft at 4.0% yoy amid deflation

CN - China, EZ - Eurozone, UK - United Kingdom, ID - Indonesia, PH - Philippines, TY - Turkey, US - United States, CH - Chile, JP - Japan

## The week ahead

Date	Country	Indicator	Data as of	Survey	Prior	Comment
Mon. 21 October	US	Earnings	Q3			11% of the S&P500 have reported Q3 results, with a healthy level of beats in healthcare, IT, and financials. Energy missed heavily.
Tues. 22 October		IMF and World Bank Bi-Annual Meeting	Oct			The IMF's latest World Economic Outlook should be relatively sanguine about global growth in 2025
Wed. 23 October	CA	BoC Policy Rate	Oct	3.75%	4.25%	Below target headline inflation and downside growth risks suggest the BoC will deliver a 50bp cut at its October meeting
Thu. 24 October	US	Composite PMI (Flash)	Oct	54.4	54.0	The US composite PMI has been broadly steady since the spring, comfortably in expansion territory
	EZ	Composite PMI (Flash)	Oct	-	49.6	Eurozone composite PMI has moved back into contraction territory, with Germany showing greater signs of weakness
	JP	Tokyo CPI excluding food and energy (yoy)	Oct	-	1.2%	Tokyo's core CPI has remained below 2% recently as service sector inflation has softened
	IN	S&P Global Composite PMI (Flash)	Oct	-	58.3	India's composite PMI is moderating, driven by softer growth in new business and export orders, but remains high
	UK	S&P Global Composite PMI (Flash)	Oct	-	52.6	The UK composite PMI has remained in a relatively tight range this year at a level consistent with solid growth
Fri. 25 October	GE	IFO Business Confidence Index	Oct	86.0	85.4	IFO's business climate index has declined for four consecutive months, highlighting the loss of momentum in German growth

US - United States, CA - Canada, EZ - Eurozone, JP - Japan, IN - India, UK - United Kingdom, GE - Germany

Source: HSBC Asset Management. Data as at 7.30am UK time 18 October 2024. For informational purposes only and should not be construed as a recommendation to invest in the specific country, product, strategy, sector or security. Any views expressed were held at the time of preparation and are subject to change without notice.



## This week

A solid increase in US retail sales during September buoyed US Treasury yields towards the end of the week. In stocks, the small-cap Russell 2000 saw the strongest gains, with the large-cap S&P 500 touching new highs, helped by upbeat Q3 earnings news. In Europe, the ECB cut rates by 25bp, noting that inflation was increasingly under control but warning the outlook for the bloc's economy was worsening. In Asia, Chinese equities pulled back for a second week following recent rallies, with a slew of macro data releases and policy expectations remaining in focus. India's Sensex also fell, but some ASEAN markets fared better, with Thai and Indonesian equities ending positively. Brazil's Ibovespa and Mexico's IPC were also both on course to finish higher. Elsewhere, the oil price fell on easing fears over tensions in the Middle East. Gold once again reached new highs.



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purposes only and should not be construed as a recommendation to invest in the specific country, product, strategy, sector or security. Source: HSBC Asset Management. Macrobond, Bloomberg. Data as at 7.30am am UK time 18 October 2024. Note: Asset class performance is represented by different indices. Global Equities: MSCI ACWI Net Total Return USD Index. Gem Equities: MSCI Emerging Net Total Return USD Index. Corporate Bonds: Bloomberg Barclays Global HY Total Return Index unhedged. Bloomberg Barclays Global IG Total Return Index unhedged. Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Treasuries Total Return Index. JP Morgan EMBI Global Total Return local currency. Commodities and real estate: Gold Spot \$/OZ/ Other commodities: S&P GSCI Total Return CME. Real Estate: FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Global Index TR USD. All the data above is in in USD, total return, month-to-date terms.



Equity Indices	Close	1-week Change (%)	1-month Change (%)	3-month Change (%)	1-year Change (%)	YTD Change (%)	52-week High	52-week Low	Fwd P/E (X)
World		()-1	() - Y	() ()	()-1	() - /			<u> </u>
MSCI AC World Index (USD)	852	-0.1	3.1	4.2	29.9	17.2	858	628	19.9
North America									
US Dow Jones Industrial Average	43,239	0.9	4.2	6.3	28.4	14.7	43,290	32,327	22.4
US S&P 500 Index	5,841	0.5	4.0	5.4	35.4	22.5	5,878	4,104	24.2
US NASDAQ Composite Index	18,374	0.2	4.6	2.8	38.0	22.4	18,671	12,544	36.0
Canada S&P/TSX Composite Index	24,690	0.9	4.7	8.6	26.9	17.8	24,704	18,692	17.0
Europe									
MSCI AC Europe (USD)	571	-0.7	-0.8	0.9	20.3	7.0	595	459	14.5
Euro STOXX 50 Index	4,947	-1.1	2.3	1.6	20.5	9.4	5,122	3,993	14.4
UK FTSE 100 Index	8,385	1.6	1.6	2.2	10.5	8.4	8,474	7,280	12.5
Germany DAX Index*	19,583	1.1	4.7	6.7	29.7	16.9	19,675	14,630	14.7
France CAC-40 Index	7,584	0.1	1.9	0.0	8.9	0.5	8,259	6,774	14.5
Spain IBEX 35 Index	11,905	1.6	1.9	6.8	29.2	17.8	12,038	8,879	11.3
Italy FTSE MIB Index	35,039	2.1	4.1	1.5	24.5	15.4	35,474	27,078	10.3
Asia Pacific									
MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan (USD)	602	-2.0	5.1	4.0	23.0	13.7	632	469	15.1
Japan Nikkei-225 Stock Average	38,982	-1.6	7.2	-2.9	21.7	16.5	42,427	30,538	21.3
Australian Stock Exchange 200	8,283	0.8	1.7	3.1	17.0	9.1	8,385	6,751	19.3
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	20,634	-2.9	16.8	16.1	16.4	21.0	23,242	14,794	9.6
Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite Index	3,256	1.2	19.8	9.4	6.4	9.4	3,674	2,635	12.6
Hang Seng China Enterprises Index	7,400	-2.9	19.8	17.3	21.8	28.3	8,373	4,943	8.8
Taiwan TAIEX Index	23,487	2.6	8.3	0.4	42.9	31.0	24,417	15,976	18.7
Korea KOSPI Index	2,596	0.0	0.8	-8.1	5.4	-2.2	2,896	2,274	10.3
India SENSEX 30 Index	80,937	-0.5	-2.4	-0.5	22.9	12.0	85,978	63,093	23.0
Indonesia Jakarta Stock Price Index	7,736	2.9	-1.2	5.7	11.7	6.4	7,911	6,640	14.8
Malaysia Kuala Lumpur Composite Index	1,647	0.8	-0.8	0.8	13.9	13.2	1,685	1,425	15.1
Philippines Stock Exchange PSE Index	7,399	1.2	3.4	10.4	18.0	14.7	7,605	5,920	12.6
Singapore FTSE Straits Times Index	3,640	1.9	1.3	4.9	16.1	12.3	3,653	3,042	11.6
Thailand SET Index	1,499	1.9	4.4	13.1	4.2	5.9	1,507	1,273	16.6
Latam									
Argentina Merval Index	1,801,604	1.0	-0.7	17.8	125.5	93.8	1,856,002	568,624	7.7
Brazil Bovespa Index*	130,793	0.6	-2.2	2.5	14.7	-2.5	137,469	112,098	9.0
Chile IPSA Index	6,572	0.0	3.8	-0.1	13.4	6.0	6,838	5,363	11.1
Colombia COLCAP Index	1,346	1.5	3.0	-1.3	18.7	12.6	1,451	1,084	7.4
Mexico S&P/BMV IPC Index	52,464	0.1	-0.2	-1.1	6.5	-8.6	59,021	47,765	12.2
EEMEA									
Saudi Arabia Tadawul Index	11,907	-0.7	-0.1	-2.3	11.1	-0.5	12,883	10,262	N/A
South Africa JSE Index	86,582	0.5	4.7	7.8	20.3	12.6	87,803	69,128	12.4
Turkey ISE 100 Index*	9,002	1.4	-7.9	-19.2	14.8	20.5	11,252	7,203	5.0

\*Indices expressed as total returns. All others are price returns.

Equity Indices - Total Return	1-week Change (%)	1-month Change (%)	3-month Change (%)	YTD Change (%)	1-year Change (%)	3-year Change (%)	5-year Change (%)
Global equities	-0.1	3.2	4.6	18.7	32.0	22.1	76.2
US equities	0.5	4.1	5.8	23.2	36.9	31.6	107.0
Europe equities	-0.7	-0.7	1.3	9.6	23.6	11.5	42.4
Asia Pacific ex Japan equities	-2.0	5.1	4.6	16.2	26.1	0.0	32.5
Japan equities	-1.4	0.5	-2.0	9.1	19.4	8.0	34.8
Latam equities	-0.5	-3.9	-2.6	-15.0	4.3	17.2	5.6
Emerging Markets equities	-2.1	4.5	3.2	13.3	23.5	-4.2	25.2

All total returns quoted in USD terms and subject to one-day lag. Data sourced from MSCI AC World Total Return Index, MSCI USA Total Return Index, MSCI AC Europe Total Return Index, MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan Total Return Index, MSCI Japan Total Return Index, MSCI Emerging Latin America Total Return Index, and MSCI Emerging Markets Total Return Index

Total return includes income from dividends and interest as well as appreciation or depreciation in the price of an asset over the given period.

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Bond indices - Total Return	Close	1-week Change (%)	1-month Change (%)	3-month Change (%)	1-year Change (%)	YTD Change (%)
BarCap GlobalAgg (Hedged in USD)	582	0.3	-0.7	2.3	11.1	3.7
JPM EMBI Global	908.9	0.2	-0.7	3.8	19.6	7.1
BarCap US Corporate Index (USD)	3353.3	0.1	-1.3	2.9	15.2	4.1
BarCap Euro Corporate Index (Eur)	256.5	0.5	0.9	2.5	10.4	4.1
BarCap Global High Yield (Hedged in USD)	621.4	0.4	0.7	4.3	19.9	9.7
Markit iBoxx Asia ex-Japan Bond Index (USD)	226.6	0.1	-0.2	2.5	12.7	6.0
Markit iBoxx Asia ex-Japan High-Yield Bond Index (USD)	263	0.4	2.5	3.0	22.8	14.5

Total return includes income from dividends and interest as well as appreciation or depreciation in the price of an asset over the given period.

rota return includes income in		1-week	1-month	3-months	1-year	Year End	52-week	52-week	1-week Change
Currencies (vs USD)	Latest	Ago	Ago	Ago	Ago	2023	High	Low	(%)
Developed markets									
EUR/USD	1.08	1.09	1.11	1.09	1.05	1.10	1.12	1.05	-0.9
GBP/USD	1.31	1.31	1.32	1.29	1.21	1.27	1.34	1.21	0.0
CHF/USD	1.16	1.17	1.18	1.13	1.11	1.19	1.20	1.08	-1.0
CAD	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.37	1.37	1.32	1.39	1.32	-0.2
JPY	150	149	142	157	150	141	162	140	-0.5
AUD/USD	0.67	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.63	0.68	0.69	0.63	-0.6
NZD/USD	0.61	0.61	0.62	0.60	0.59	0.63	0.64	0.58	-0.7
Asia									
HKD	7.77	7.77	7.79	7.81	7.83	7.81	7.84	7.76	0.0
CNY	7.11	7.07	7.08	7.26	7.32	7.10	7.32	7.01	-0.6
INR	84.1	84.1	83.8	83.7	83.3	83.2	84.1	82.6	0.0
MYR	4.30	4.29	4.24	4.67	4.75	4.59	4.81	4.09	-0.4
KRW	1370	1351	1334	1384	1350	1288	1400	1283	-1.4
TWD	32.1	32.2	32.0	32.6	32.3	30.7	32.9	30.6	0.3
Latam									
BRL	5.65	5.61	5.46	5.54	5.06	4.86	5.86	4.80	-0.8
COP	4257	4209	4182	4045	4237	3855	4302	3738	-1.1
MXN	19.8	19.3	19.3	18.0	18.2	17.0	20.2	16.3	-2.7
ARS	980	975	962	925	350	808	983	350	-0.6
EEMEA									
RUB	97.4	95.8	92.8	88.4	98.0	89.5	100.3	82.7	-1.6
ZAR	17.6	17.4	17.5	18.3	19.0	18.4	19.4	17.0	-1.1
TRY	34.2	34.3	34.1	33.1	28.0	29.5	34.5	27.9	0.2

Bonds	Close	1-week Ago	1-month Ago	3-months Ago	1-year Ago	Year End 2023	1-week basis point change*
US Treasury yields (%)							
3-Month	4.63	4.63	4.75	5.33	5.49	5.33	1
2-Year	3.97	3.96	3.62	4.47	5.22	4.25	2
5-Year	3.90	3.90	3.48	4.12	4.93	3.85	0
10-Year	4.10	4.10	3.70	4.20	4.91	3.88	0
30-Year	4.41	4.41	4.02	4.42	4.99	4.03	0
10-year bond yields (%)							
Japan	0.97	0.95	0.82	1.03	0.80	0.61	2
UK	4.09	4.21	3.85	4.06	4.66	3.53	-12
Germany	2.21	2.27	2.19	2.43	2.92	2.02	-6
France	2.94	3.04	2.92	3.09	3.56	2.56	-10
Italy	3.41	3.56	3.57	3.74	4.98	3.69	-15
Spain	2.91	3.01	3.00	3.21	4.05	2.98	-10
China	2.12	2.15	2.04	2.27	2.71	2.56	-2
Australia	4.31	4.23	3.86	4.24	4.65	3.96	8
Canada	3.16	3.22	2.93	3.38	4.11	3.11	-6

\*Numbers may not add up due to rounding.

_Commodities		1-week Change (%)	1-month Change (%)	3-month Change (%)	1-year Change (%)	YTD Change (%)	52-week High	52-week Low
Gold	2,708	1.9	5.8	10.7	39.0	31.3	2,714	1,923
Brent Oil	74.8	-5.4	2.6	-9.2	-10.3	-0.3	87	68
WTI Crude Oil	71.1	-6.0	1.7	-10.0	-10.3	0.6	83	65
R/J CRB Futures Index	281.7	-3.2	0.7	-1.4	-1.4	6.8	300	258
LME Copper	9,516	-2.8	1.2	1.4	19.4	11.2	11,105	7,856

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