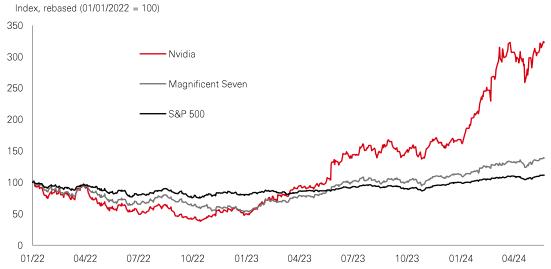


Investment Weekly

24 May 2024 For Professional Clients only.

Chart of the week - Unstoppable...for now



As US Q1 earnings season comes to an end, Nvidia's very strong results and guidance this week helped buoy overall S&P 500 performance, with the index pushing into fresh record territory. The results mattered given the company's outsized weight in the index following months of stellar gains. And it helps maintain investor confidence in the AI theme – a crucial market driver since early last year. **Many analysts now view tech profits as second only to tier-1 economic releases and Fed-speak in terms of their ability to influence broad market direction**.

In the near-term, as investors ride the wave of good earnings momentum, economic resilience and renewed confidence in a soft landing, stocks can continue to climb the 'wall of worry'. The trend is your friend, until it bends. Further down the line, sticky inflation, geopolitics, and growth cooling all feature on the list of possible concerns.

But the price you pay matters. Today, the Magnificent Seven's 12-month forward price-earnings (PE) ratio is 31x versus 18x for the rest of the S&P. Tech earnings growth expectations remain high (at around 20% for 2024 and 2025) and along with communication services make up over half of the overall index EPS growth. Therefore, at these valuations, investors remain vulnerable to a scenario where earnings in these sectors disappoint. And for the wider market, a Fed that keeps rates frozen heading into 2025 is still the key risk.

Market Spotlight

Navigating 'higher for longer' in Latam

Latin American nations were ahead of the curve in their response to inflation. But faced with the prospect of a potentially 'higher for longer' outlook in the US, some Latam central bankers have had to tread more carefully.

At its last meeting earlier this month, Banco Central do Brasil eased the pace of cuts to 25bp, from 50bp at the prior six meetings. This came amid recent FX weakness (the real is down 6% year-to-date). And in Mexico, central bankers have been more constrained. Deep economic integration with the US, the peso's high liquidity, and domestic inflation pressures recently forced a pause in the cutting cycle. And in Chile, there's been an even more cautionary tale. Aggressive rate cuts in 2022 and 2023 opened the way for FX-induced inflation. That forced a rethink in early 2024, with much slower cutting expected from here.

Rapid disinflation and rate cuts propelled huge gains Latin America's markets last year. But the slowdown in monetary policy easing – and subdued growth and earnings momentum in the region – may go some way in explaining this year's reversal in performance. Fed rate cuts are likely needed to reignite investor enthusiasm.

Macro Outlook \rightarrow

Inflation trends and what lies ahead for the economy

Chinese Equities \rightarrow

Sectors that are leading the country's market higher

Hedge Funds \rightarrow

More opportunities for finding alpha in 2024

Discover more in our 02 Global Investment <u>Outlook</u>

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. Source: HSBC Asset Management. Macrobond, Bloomberg. Data as at 11.00am UK time 24 May 2024.



China stocks surge

Stock markets in China and Hong Kong have rallied this year, with solid momentum in Q2 delivering one of the strongest performances in global equities.

One driver of the moves has been a package of government support ranging from broad fiscal expansion to highly targeted plans to boost shareholder protections. There has also been strategic backing for key sectors, including the ailing property market, where measures sparked a 34% surge in real estate stocks in Q2.

Elsewhere, signs of cyclical stabilisation have played well for financial stocks. And upbeat earnings growth in places has supported sectors such as communications services.

There are still headwinds. China's property market is still weak, and growth remains unbalanced, with overcapacity in some sectors, lingering deflationary pressure and low consumer sentiment. **But** with stocks still trading at a discount, we think re-rating can continue, especially if the news flow improves.

Reading the economic tea leaves

Last week marked the start of our quarterly 'Strategic Forum', bringing together teams across Asset Management to update our house views and forecasts. It started with an exploration of how the growth-inflation mix has evolved in 2024, where it might head next, and what that means for our scenarios.

Late last year, disinflation and positive growth hinted at the prospect of the softest of soft landings for the economy. But in Q1, a sequence of three hot inflation prints reframed expectations. And, by April, those worries – and the implication of higher for longer rates – came back with a bang, with government bond yields surging.

Recent data suggests the inflation surprise may now be ebbing, and that growth could be cooling down too. After this rotation through the quadrants, the question now is the extent to which the data goes on to align with the three potential scenarios we have identified before: a **hard landing**, a **softish landing**, or a more positive **golden path**. Despite uncertainty, with signs that growth is slowing, our view is that a softish landing remains the most likely course.

Hedging uncertain markets

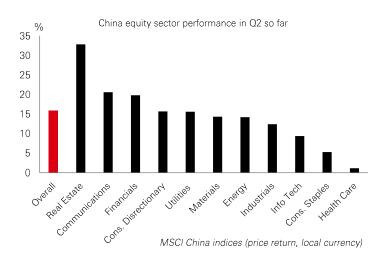
Hedge funds have got off to a strong start in 2024, helped by supportive conditions in FX, equity and commodity markets. 'Trend following' strategies, such as Managed Futures – which pursue directional moves in markets – have been the strongest.

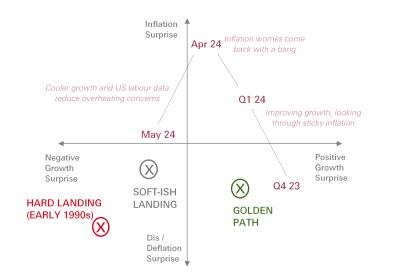
A key reason for this performance is that higher rates have caused wider dispersion in asset class and market performance. That means there has been a broader range of winners and losers, which is exactly what hedge funds need to achieve alpha returns.

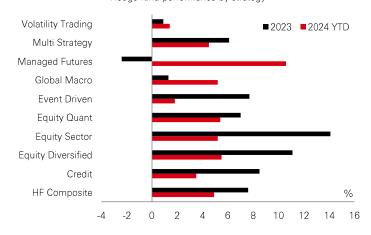
Our hedge fund specialists remain positive on the opportunity for discretionary macro managers in this environment. While rate cuts are expected later this year, managers are trading rates and, more generally, seeing relative value opportunities in both rates and commodities. There is also a positive view on Multi-Strategy and Multi-Manager Platforms, with quant and fundamentals-driven approaches performing well this year. **Against a backdrop of positive stock-bond correlations, and heightened geopolitical tensions, hedge funds have strong appeal as portfolio diversifiers** – though there is a need for careful manager selection.

Past performance does not predict future returns.

Source: HSBC Asset Management. Macrobond, Bloomberg. Data as at 11.00am UK time 24 May 2024.







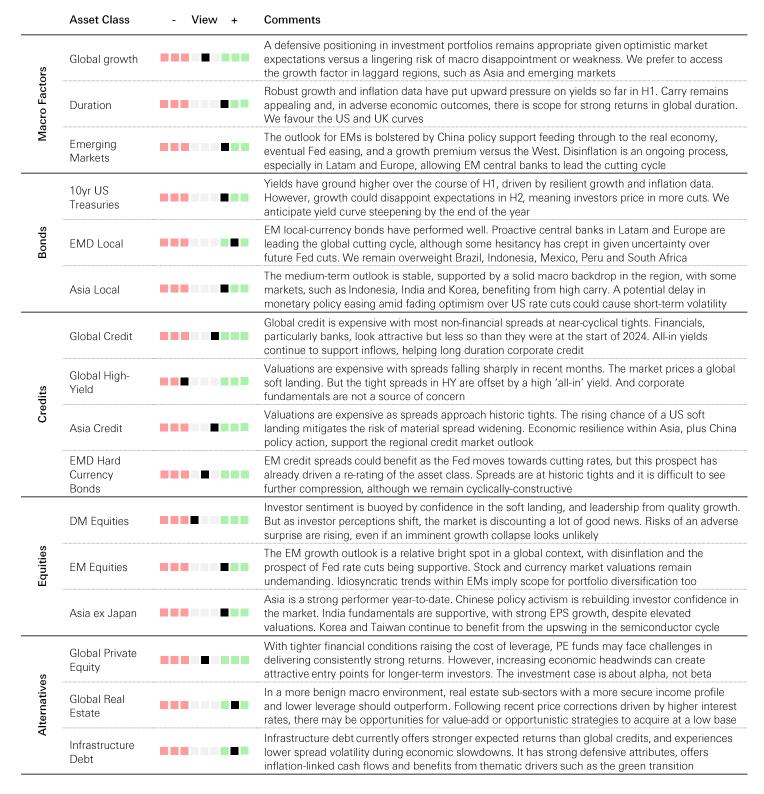
Hedge fund performance by strategy



Asset class views

Our baseline macro scenario is for a soft-ish landing, involving a slowdown in growth and further disinflation. 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.





This week

Date	Country	Indicator	Data as of	Actual	Prior	Comment
Mon. 20 May	CN	Loan Prime Rate (1yr)	May	3.45%	3.45%	The PBOC left the 1-yr and 5-yr LPR rates unchanged, having left the 1-yr MLF rate unchanged in the prior week
Wed. 22 May	NZ	RBNZ Interest Rate Decision	May	5.50%	5.50%	The RBNZ left policy on hold, stating policy needs to be restrictive for a "sustained period" and that a rate hike was a "real consideration"
	UK	CPI (yoy)	Apr	2.3%	3.2%	Headline inflation slowed markedly in April, driven by the reduction in the OFGEM energy price cap. Service sector inflation remains sticky
	US	Minutes of May FOMC meeting	May			The May FOMC minutes reiterated that Q1 inflation data had shown "a lack of further progress" towards the 2% inflation target. "Various" participants noted a "willingness to tighten policy further" if needed
	ID	Indonesia Central Bank Interest Rate Decision	May	6.25%	6.25%	The BI kept rates unchanged amid recent currency stability, following April's surprise rate hike
Thu. 23 May	IN	S&P Global Composite PMI	May (P)	61.7	61.5	India's composite PMI edged higher in May and is close to all- time highs amid continued strong domestic demand
	EZ	Eurozone HCOB Composite PMI	May (P)	52.3	51.7	The eurozone composite PMI increased further in May, driven by stronger manufacturing while the services PMI was stable
	US	Composite PMI	May (P)	54.4	51.3	The US composite PMI jumped to a 12 month high in May. However, the employment index remained in contractionary territory
	MX	GDP (qoq)	Q1 (F)	0.3%	0.2% (P)	Q1 GDP was upgraded slightly with growth supported by the services and agricultural sectors while industrial output fell
	ΤY	Turkish Central Bank Interest Rate Decision	May	50.00%	50.00%	The Turkish central bank kept the policy rate unchanged at a high level amid elevated inflation
Fri. 24 May	JP	Nationwide CPI ex fresh food & energy (yoy)	Apr	2.4%	2.9%	Core inflation slowed in April, driven by goods sector disinflation. Service sector inflation softened due to temporary factors

P – Preliminary, F – Final, Q – Quarter CN – China, NZ – New Zealand, ID – Indonesia, IN – India, MX – Mexico, TY – Turkey, JP – Japan

The week ahead

Date	Country	Indicator	Data as of	Survey	Prior	Comment
Mon. 27 May	EZ	Q1 Earnings				Thus far, 90% of Europe Q1 results have been released. Beats improved from Q4, defensives (staples and utilities) fared better than cyclicals. Consensus 2024e EPS growth nudged higher to 5%
	US/UK	US Memorial Day and UK Spring	bank holida	y. Financial	markets a	re closed
	GE	IFO Business Climate Index	May	90.3	89.4	German business confidence has recovered recently but remains relatively low
Tue. 28 May	US	Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index	May	96.0	97.0	The Conference Board consumer confidence index has fallen for three consecutive months but remains within the range since mid-2022
	US	S&P Case Shiller House Price Index, 20 major cities (mom)	Mar	0.3%	0.6%	US house prices have risen steadily over the past year as tight supply has offset the impact of high mortgage rates on demand
Thu. 30 May	US	GDP (qoq annualised)	Q1	1.2%	1.6%	Downward revisions to retail data suggest Q1 GDP growth will also be revised slightly lower
	US	Pending Home Sales (mom)	Apr	0.5%	3.4%	Pending home sales, a good leading indicator of existing home sales, have stabilised recently but remain at a depressed level
Fri. 31 May	JP	Industrial Production (mom)	Apr	1.7%	4.4%	Industrial production should rise further in April, led by manufacturing as the impact of the recent auto shutdown unwinds
	CN	Official Manufacturing PMI	May	50.4	50.4	China's manufacturing PMI is expected to remain stable in May but positive readings for the US and eurozone suggest an upside risk
	EZ	СРІ (уоу)	May(P)	2.5%	2.4%	Headline inflation should tick higher in April, driven by unfavourable base effects in energy. Goods price inflation has largely normalised but service sector inflation remains sticky
	IN	GDP (qoq annualised)	Q1 (S)	6.4%	8.4%	A base effect from a strong Q1 2023 should weigh on yoy growth, but the underlying demand remains strong
	US	Core PCE Deflator (yoy)	Apr	2.8%	2.8%	Inflation was uncomfortably strong in early 2024, but CPI and PPI data suggest month-on-month core PCE will moderate in April

- Preliminary, Q – Quarter, S – Second EZ – Eurozone, GE – Germany, JP – Japan, CN – China, IN – India

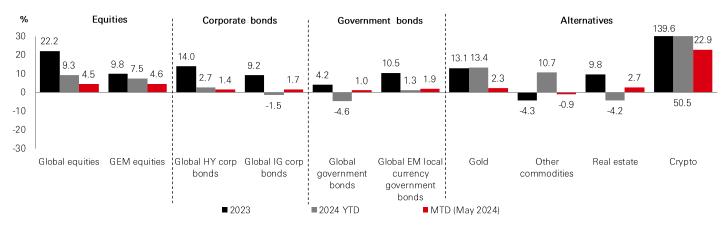
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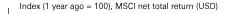


This week

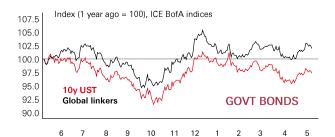
Risk asset sentiment cooled towards the end of the week despite some impressive Q1 results in the US and upbeat PMI surveys. Core government bonds sold off modestly on hawkish May FOMC minutes ahead of upcoming core PCE inflation data. Gilts underperformed US Treasuries following disappointing UK inflation data. US equities were mixed: the tech-heavy Nasdaq fared better than the S&P 500 and the rates-sensitive Russell 2000. The Euro Stoxx 50 index posted modest losses. Japan's Nikkei 225 fell, with 10yr JGB yields breaching 1% amid fears of lower BoJ JGB purchases. In EM, the Shanghai Composite eased on lingering concerns about the weak property sector. India's Sensex remained buoyed by the positive cyclical and structural outlook. In commodities, oil softened on an upside surprise in US crude inventories, while copper weakened. Gold fell on higher US real yields.

Selected asset performance







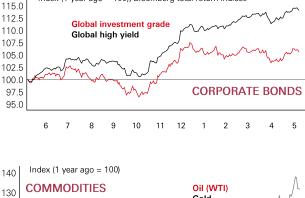


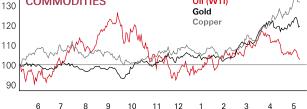












Past performance does not predict future returns

Source: HSBC Asset Management. Macrobond, Bloomberg. Data as at 11.00am UK time 24 May 2024.



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	() - /	() - /	() -1	() - /			
MSCI AC World Index (USD)	789	-0.8	3.9	3.7	22.4	8.5	798	628	18.5
North America									
US Dow Jones Industrial Average	39,065	-2.3	1.6	-0.2	19.1	3.7	40,077	32,327	19.2
US S&P 500 Index	5,268	-0.7	3.9	3.5	28.0	10.4	5,342	4,104	21.5
US NASDAQ Composite Index	16,736	0.3	6.5	4.6	34.1	11.5	16,996	12,416	30.2
Canada S&P/TSX Composite Index	22,201	-1.2	1.5	3.7	11.4	5.9	22,555	18,692	15.4
Europe									
MSCI AC Europe (USD)	570	-0.7	4.4	4.8	14.6	6.8	576	459	14.4
Euro STOXX 50 Index	5,015	-1.0	0.5	2.9	17.6	10.9	5,122	3,993	14.1
UK FTSE 100 Index	8,311	-1.3	3.4	7.8	9.0	7.5	8,474	7,216	12.1
Germany DAX Index*	18,618	-0.5	2.9	6.9	17.5	11.1	18,893	14,630	13.5
France CAC-40 Index	8,085	-1.0	-0.1	1.5	11.5	7.2	8,259	6,774	14.3
Spain IBEX 35 Index	11,231	-0.9	1.8	10.9	22.6	11.2	11,386	8,879	11.2
Italy FTSE MIB Index	34,334	-3.0	0.2	5.0	29.4	13.1	35,474	26,000	9.3
Asia Pacific									
MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan (USD)	567	-0.6	6.2	7.2	11.6	7.2	573	469	14.6
Japan Nikkei-225 Stock Average	38,646	-0.4	0.5	-1.2	26.0	15.5	41,088	30,488	22.7
Australian Stock Exchange 200	7,728	-1.1	0.6	1.1	7.1	1.8	7,911	6,751	17.4
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	18,609	-4.8	8.2	11.3	-2.7	9.2	20,361	14,794	9.4
Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite Index	3,089	-2.1	1.4	2.8	-3.6	3.8	3,322	2,635	11.5
Hang Seng China Enterprises Index	6,605	-4.8	8.3	14.6	2.0	14.5	7,024	4,943	8.8
Taiwan TAIEX Index	21,565	1.4	7.1	14.2	33.5	20.3	21,669	15,976	19.5
Korea KOSPI Index	2,688	-1.4	0.4	0.7	4.7	1.2	2,779	2,274	10.7
India SENSEX 30 Index	75,424	2.0	2.1	3.1	22.1	4.4	75,637	61,485	21.4
Indonesia Jakarta Stock Price Index	7,222	-1.3	0.7	-1.0	7.1	-0.7	7,454	6,563	13.1
Malaysia Kuala Lumpur Composite Index	1,619	0.2	3.0	4.5	14.9	11.3	1,633	1,369	14.6
Philippines Stock Exchange PSE Index	6,620	0.0	0.7	-4.2	0.1	2.6	7,071	5,920	11.4
Singapore FTSE Straits Times Index	3,317	0.1	0.7	4.1	3.2	2.4	3,393	3,042	10.7
Thailand SET Index	1,364	-1.3	0.2	-2.4	-11.2	-3.6	1,579	1,330	14.9
Latam									
Argentina Merval Index	1,513,777	2.7	25.9	36.9	343.1	62.8	1,584,055	336,046	8.9
Brazil Bovespa Index*	124,729	-2.7	0.0	-3.6	14.6	-7.0	134,392	108,193	7.9
Chile IPSA Index	6,782	1.8	6.6	9.6	20.2	9.4	6,795	5,363	11.0
Colombia COLCAP Index	1,406	-1.6	4.7	9.0	26.6	17.7	1,451	1,045	7.5
Mexico S&P/BMV IPC Index	55,918	-2.9	-1.0	-1.3	4.7	-2.6	59,021	47,765	12.9
EEMEA									
Russia MOEX Index	3,420	-2.3	-0.3	8.8	28.8	10.4	3,522	2,626	N/A
South Africa JSE Index	78,873	-0.8	5.8	6.3	4.3	2.6	80,214	69,128	10.8
Turkey ISE 100 Index*	10,741	0.9	10.5	14.6	142.7	43.8	11,088	4,404	5.3

*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	-0.7	4.1	4.2	9.3	24.4	17.5	71.1
US equities	-0.7	3.9	3.7	10.6	29.8	27.5	97.3
Europe equities	-0.6	5.3	6.5	8.7	17.8	11.6	47.5
Asia Pacific ex Japan equities	-0.6	6.4	8.0	8.1	14.5	-10.3	28.4
Japan equities	-0.5	0.7	0.1	6.7	16.7	7.4	41.8
Latam equities	-3.2	1.1	-2.8	-7.1	13.0	20.1	22.4
Emerging Markets equities	-0.7	5.8	6.9	7.5	15.4	-11.0	25.3

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.



Bond indices - Total Return	Close	1-week Change (%)	1-month Change (%)	3-month Change (%)	1-year Change (%)	YTD Change (%)
BarCap GlobalAgg (Hedged in USD)	557	-0.3	0.9	0.2	3.9	-0.7
JPM EMBI Global	859.5	-0.5	1.9	2.1	10.5	1.3
BarCap US Corporate Index (USD)	3180.2	-0.3	1.7	0.2	5.2	-1.3
BarCap Euro Corporate Index (Eur)	246.0	-0.3	0.2	0.4	6.1	-0.1
BarCap Global High Yield (Hedged in USD)	584.3	-0.3	1.2	2.2	14.6	3.2
Markit iBoxx Asia ex-Japan Bond Index (USD)	217.1	0.0	1.4	1.3	6.0	1.6
Markit iBoxx Asia ex-Japan High-Yield Bond Index (USD)	249	0.2	2.6	3.9	14.3	8.6

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

rotai return includes income in				·					1-week
Currencies (vs USD)	Latest	1-week Ago	1-month Ago	3-months Ago	1-year Ago	Year End 2023	52-week High	52-week Low	Change
Developed markets	Latest	Ago	Agu	Ayu	Ayu	2023	nıgıı	LOW	(%)
EUR/USD	1.08	1.09	1.07	1.08	1.08	1.10	1.13	1.04	-0.3
GBP/USD	1.00	1.03	1.07	1.00	1.00	1.10	1.13	1.20	0.1
CHF/USD	1.09	1.10	1.25	1.14	1.24	1.19	1.31	1.08	-0.6
		1.10							
CAD	1.37		1.37	1.35	1.36	1.32	1.39	1.31	-0.8
JPY	157	156	155	151	139	141	160	137	-0.9
AUD/USD	0.66	0.67	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.68	0.69	0.63	-1.2
NZD/USD	0.61	0.61	0.59	0.62	0.61	0.63	0.64	0.58	-0.4
Asia	7.04	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.04	7.05	7 70	
HKD	7.81	7.80	7.83	7.82	7.83	7.81	7.85	7.79	-0.1
CNY	7.24	7.22	7.25	7.20	7.06	7.10	7.35	7.05	-0.3
INR	83.1	83.3	83.3	82.9	82.7	83.2	83.6	81.7	0.3
MYR	4.71	4.69	4.78	4.78	4.59	4.59	4.81	4.50	-0.5
KRW	1369	1355	1369	1331	1318	1291	1400	1257	-1.1
TWD	32.3	32.2	32.5	31.6	30.8	30.6	32.7	30.5	-0.2
Latam									
BRL	5.15	5.10	5.15	4.99	4.96	4.85	5.29	4.70	-0.8
COP	3867	3829	3939	3964	4447	3875	4489	3739	-1.0
MXN	16.7	16.6	17.1	17.1	17.8	17.0	18.5	16.3	-0.6
ARS	890	887	873	839	236	808	890	237	-0.4
EEMEA									
RUB	89.9	91.0	92.3	94.9	80.4	89.5	102.4	79.4	1.2
ZAR	18.4	18.2	19.2	19.3	19.2	18.4	19.9	17.4	-1.3
TRY	32.3	32.2	32.6	30.9	19.9	29.5	32.8	19.9	-0.1

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	5.39	5.39	5.41	5.40	5.33	5.33	0
2-Year	4.92	4.82	4.93	4.69	4.38	4.25	10
5-Year	4.52	4.45	4.66	4.28	3.82	3.85	8
10-Year	4.47	4.42	4.64	4.25	3.74	3.88	5
30-Year	4.58	4.56	4.77	4.37	3.99	4.03	2
10-year bond yields (%)							
Japan	1.00	0.94	0.89	0.71	0.41	0.61	6
UK	4.25	4.13	4.33	4.03	4.21	3.53	13
Germany	2.58	2.52	2.59	2.36	2.47	2.02	7
France	3.06	2.99	3.09	2.83	3.05	2.56	6
Italy	3.89	3.81	3.98	3.80	4.33	3.69	8
Spain	3.34	3.27	3.38	3.25	3.53	2.98	7
China	2.31	2.32	2.27	2.40	2.71	2.56	0
Australia	4.31	4.21	4.41	4.20	3.65	3.96	10
Canada	3.62	3.63	3.80	3.46	3.27	3.11	-1

*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	2,339	-3.2	1.0	14.9	19.5	13.4	2,450	1,811
Brent Oil	80.8	-3.8	-7.2	1.3	8.4	5.7	91	69
WTI Crude Oil	76.3	-4.2	-7.1	1.5	8.7	6.0	86	66
R/J CRB Futures Index	293.8	0.0	-1.1	8.5	11.8	11.4	298	254
LME Copper	10,391	-2.6	6.3	21.3	31.5	21.4	11,105	7,856

Past performance does not predict future returns. The level of yield is not guaranteed and may rise or fall in the future. Source: HSBC Asset Management. Bloomberg. Data as at 11.00am UK time 24 May 2024.

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