## VIX spike last Monday an overreaction, but market psychology may have changed

By Gustavo Medeiros and Ben Underhill

- Markets retraced losses after a very reactive VIX spike and risk sell-off last Monday.
- LATAM and China equities outperformed, due to their lower valuations and resulting lower beta to deteriorating global growth prospects.
- Steadier US data assuaged market concerns of sudden economic deterioration.
- However, as the economy continues to slow down, the narrative is shifting from 'when will cuts happen?' to 'will cuts work?'
- Rate cuts despite higher food prices in Mexico and Peru indicated central bank confidence that the US will embark on a cutting cycle from September.
- TSMC reported good earnings but raised concerns that the next few months may be slower.
- Diplomatic efforts made by US to avert an aggressive Iranian reaction to Israeli
  assassinations inside Tehran, with more Gaza ceasefire talks scheduled this week.

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#### Last Week Performance and Comments

EM Debt	Yield	Change (bp)	Spread	5 day Change
GBI-EM GD	6.28%	0	-	1.1%
GBI-EM China	2.10%	5	-	1.1%
GBI-EM FX Spot	-	-	-	0.9%
ELMI+ (1-3m NDF)	6.52%	-23	-	0.8%
EMBI GD	8.14%	2	416 bps	0.0%
EMBI GD IG	5.40%	4	133 bps	-0.2%
EMBI GD HY	11.58%	-1	766 bps	0.1%
CEMBI BD	6.73%	8	286 bps	-0.2%
CEMBI BD IG	5.52%	8	166 bps	-0.3%
CEMBI BD HY	8.43%	6	455 bps	0.0%

EM Equity*	1yr BF	Change
MSCI EM	11.6	0.3%
MSCI EM ex-China	12.9	-0.2%
MSCI EM Small Cap	9.9	-2.0%
MSCI Frontier	8.6	6.1%
MSCI EM Asia	12.2	0.1%
MSCI China	8.9	1.7%
MSCI EMEA	16.0	1.2%
MSCI Latam	8.8	-0.7%
MSCI EM Growth	13.2	-1.3%
MSCI EM Value	9.0	-0.5%

#### Comments

- EM stocks marginally outperformed, led by LatAm and China.
- EM local bonds performed well, with EM FX rallying 0.9%.
- EM Dollar bonds performed in line with global bonds.
- HY was positive while IG retraced some of last week's gain.

Global Debt	Yield	Change (bp)	Spread	5 day Change
2yr UST	4.06%	13	-	-0.2%
5yr UST	3.80%	15	-	-0.6%
10yr UST	3.94%	15	-	-1.1%
30yr UST	4.22%	15	-	-1.9%
10yr Germany	2.22%	4	-	-0.8%
10yr Japan	0.85%	-10	-	0.7%
Global Agg.**	3.51%	7	41 bps	-0.3%
US Agg. IG**	5.08%	14	96 bps	-0.8%
EU Agg. IG**	3.48%	7	80 bps	-0.1%
US Corp HY**	7.66%	-4	339 bps	0.3%
EU Corp HY**	6.86%	4	389 bps	0.1%

Global Backdrop*	PE 1yr BF	5 day Change
MSCI ACWI	17.1	0.0%
MSCI World (DM)	18.0	0.0%
S&P 500	20.4	0.0%
VIX Fut.*	19.3%	-12.8%
DXY Index*	103.2	0.5%
EUR*	1.092	-0.4%
JPY*	147.2	-2.0%
CRY Index*	276.0	2.2%
Brent*	79.9	4.7%
Gold*	2,436	1.3%
Bitcoin*	58,592	4.3%

#### Comments

- US Treasury yield curve moved higher, with 2-yr rising 13bps, and 10-yr rising 15bps.
- Yen sold off 2%, moderating some of last week's rally as carry trades unwound.
- The Dollar Index moved slightly higher as some recession fear was priced out of curve.

## **Global Macro**

## Stocks

The S&P 500 started last week with a sharp drop of nearly 4% on Monday, but managed to recover all its losses as the week progressed. Some investors likely saw a plunge in global markets as a chance to buy tech and other stocks for bargain prices, with the market probably driven artificially lower by forced selling by some traders. Despite the rebound, the index remains down 4% MTD.

In our view, the market remains in a fragile state. Whereas a deep recession remains a very unlikely scenario, US economic growth has been slowing and is likely to run at around half the pace over the next 18 months than in the prior period when nominal GDP growth was around 6.5%. This means sales and earnings growth, which is priced for a return to the previous macro environment, are exaggerated, keeping US stocks more volatile. The same cannot be said for several Emerging Markets (EMs) which are pricing a very soft economic environment, which is against the ongoing growth outperformance across several EM countries.

## Rates

The risk-off market sentiment led to a swift repricing of US yields, causing the yield curve to briefly 'disinverts' on Tuesday – a signal often associated with impending recession. By this morning, some of the bearish sentiment had eased, with the two-year yield at 4.05% and the 10-year at 3.94%, respectively.

However, the debate is now shifting from the timing of rate cuts to whether these cuts will be effective. The lowest interest rate small businesses can borrow at currently is prime, and the US prime rate is currently 6.5%, the highest this century. This is starting to bite consumers and the labour market harder, raising the question of whether cuts now will be enough to avert more disruptive slowdown.

That is why consensus is now swinging towards deeper cuts, with a 68% probability now priced for a 50bps cut in September. Meanwhile, rate cuts in Mexico and Peru, (despite rising food prices bringing about notably higher monthly inflation readings) indicate growing confidence in weakening demand and a dovish US monetary runway from here on.

JP Morgan increased the H2 2024 recession probability by 10% to 35%. It sees economic activity remaining solid, but hints from the private sector, and its impact on the labour market, demands a more cautious scenario analysis.<sup>1</sup>

## **Geopolitics:**

**US Presidential elections:** Kamala Harris confirmed Governor of Minnesota Tim Walz as her running mate. The Democratic Party continued to gain momentum in the polls with several pollsters pointing to a Democratic victory across the swing states. This suggests the race will be significantly closer than expected before Joe Biden dropped out, which should lower the odds of the Democrats winning both Houses of Congress. The Republicans need only to win three out of the 12 disputed Senate seats to have a 51 to 49 majority.

**Israel:** The US, Egypt, and Qatar have scheduled ceasefire talks for Gaza on Thursday, 15 August. These discussions are seen as crucial to preventing a potential Iranian retaliation following Israel's assassination of a senior Hamas official inside Tehran. A ceasefire is widely regarded as the best way to avert direct a hostile reaction from Iran, which could escalate the already tense situation. The decision by the US to delay the talks by a week appears to be a strategic move, likely aimed at defusing tensions and providing time for cooler heads to prevail, even if the talks themselves ultimately fail.

Nevertheless, Axios reported the Israeli intelligence community believes Iran is preparing to respond to the assassination within days.<sup>2</sup> The main risk is if Iran causes significant civilian casualties within Israel, which would be seen as a severe escalation. While the Iranian regime may be careful to avoid civilian casualties for self-preservation purposes, the risk of miscalculation is always present.

**Russia/Ukraine:** Ukraine's incursion into Russian territory expanded last week, with drones striking a military airfield in the Lipetsk region. Moscow declared a state of emergency in the region, along with the Kursk region, where the Kremlin has lost control of roughly 350km<sup>2</sup> of territory.

**Commodities:** Copper hit its lowest close since March as stockpiles rose by the most in four years, underscoring weak demand in Asia. The London Metal Exchange index has fallen 19% since peaking in May, almost erasing all of 2024's gains. Oil moved down alongside other risky assets early this week, before bouncing 6%, moving from USD 72 back to USD 76 dollars per barrel.

<sup>2</sup> See – https://www.axios.com/2024/08/11/iran-attack-israel-intelligence-updated

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See - https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-08-07/jpmorgan-boosts-us-recession-chance-to-35-by-end-of-this-year

## **EM Asia**

## Economic data

Green shoots of better Chinese demand, India leaves rates unchanged.

Country	Event	Period	Actual	Survey	Prior/Revised	Comments
China	Exports (YoY)	Jul	7.0%	9.5%	8.6%	• Exports miss reflects lower western demand,
	Imports (YoY)	Jul	7.2%	3.2%	-2.3%	while imports growth largely due to fiscal stimulus frontloading raising demand for
	Trade Balance (USD)	Jul	84.65bn	98.35bn	99.05bn	construction goods, as policymakers focus on boosting weak GDP growth.
	Foreign Reserves (USD)	Jul	3,256.37bn	3,252.00bn	3,222.36bn	
	PPI (YoY)	Jul	-0.8%	-0.9%	-0.8%	
	CPI (YoY)	Jul	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%	• CPI higher mostly related to food prices.
	Money Supply M2 (YoY)	Jul	-	6.0%	6.2%	
India	RBI Repurchase Rate	Aug-08	6.5%	6.5%	6.5%	• Rate left unchanged as higher food prices
	RBI Cash Reserve Ratio	Aug-08	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	keep inflation from declining further.
Indonesia	GDP (YoY)	2Q	5.1%	5.0%	5.1%	• Growth still strong, but consumption slowed.
	Foreign Reserves (USD)	Jul	145.4bn	-	140.2bn	
Malaysia	Foreign Reserves (USD)	Jul-31	114.7bn	_	113.3bn	
	Industrial Production (YoY)	Jun	5.0%	4.2%	2.4%	• Solid mom manufacturing and mining growth.
South Korea	BoP Current Account Balance (USD)	Jun	12,259m	_	8,923m	• Lower imports, exports flat, better tourism.
Taiwan	CPI (YoY)	Jul	2.5%	2.5%	2.4%	• Export growth led by US, Korea, Malaysia
	Exports (YoY)	Jul	3.1%	4.4%	23.5%	vs. big slowdown from Europe and China.
Thailand	CPI (YoY)	Jul	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	• CPI marginally higher on fuel and food prices.
	CPI NSA (MoM)	Jul	0.2%	0.1%	-0.3%	
	CPI Core (YoY)	Jul	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	
	Gross International Reserves (USD)	37469	232.1bn	_	228.7bn	
Vietnam	Domestic Vehicle Sales (YoY)	Jul	-	-	0.5%	

Source information is at the end of the document.

## **Commentary**

**Bangladesh:** President Mohammed Shahabuddin dissolved parliament on Tuesday and agreed to calls from student protesters for Nobel Prize winner Muhammed Yunus to be named Chief Adviser, essentially Prime Minister, for an interim government that would hold power until a new election is held. With the country currently in a state of severe upheaval, Yunus appealed to the citizens in a press conference upon his return "to save the country from anarchy so that we are able to move ahead on the path that we have chosen." This came after reports of attacks on ethnic and religious minorities.

**Taiwan:** TSMC reported a 6% month-over-month increase in July sales, a significant outperformance compared to the five-year average of a 10% decline for the same period. Despite this strong showing, forward-looking indicators suggest weaker months may be on the horizon, leading our semiconductor view to remain cautious.

## Latin America

### Economic data

Solid activity in Brazil, cuts in Mexico and Peru.

Country	Event	Period	Actual	Survey	Prior/Revised	Comments
Argentina	Vehicle Domestic Sales Adefa	Jul	33,043	_	32,333	
Brazil	Trade Balance Monthly (USD)	Jul	7,640m	7,796m	6,385m	• Wider on solid export growth.
	Vehicle Exports Anfavea	Jul	39,089	-	28,957	
	Vehicle Sales Anfavea	Jul	241,336	-	214,304	• Solid vehicle production, sales and exports
	Vehicle Production Anfavea	Jul	246,721	-	211,035	suggests economic growth remains solid.
	FGV Inflation IGP-DI (MoM)	Jul	0.83%	0.71%	0.5%	PPI inflation picking up pace after BRL
	FGV CPI IPC-S	Aug-07	0.54%	-	0.5%	depreciation.
	IBGE Inflation IPCA (YoY)	Jul	4.50%	4.47%	4.23%	Inflation back to the upper end of the
	IBGE Inflation IPCA (MoM)	Jul	0.38%	0.35%	0.21%	target band.
Chile	Trade Balance (USD)	Jul	1,295m	1,387m	1,990m	Copper exports rose despite lower prices
	CPI (MoM)	Jul	0.70%	0.60%	0%	on stronger volumes.
	CPI (YoY) Chained	Jul	4.60%	4.40%	4%	
Colombia	CPI (MoM)	Jul	0.20%	0.28%	0%	• Slower July inflation brings bigger rate cut.
	CPI (YoY)	Jul	6.86%	6.95%	7%	
Ecuador	CPI (YoY)	Jul	1.57%	-	1%	
Mexico	CPI (YoY)	Jul	5.6%	5.5%	5.0%	• An interest rate cut despite higher inflation,
	CPI Core (MoM)	Jul	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	but largely due to higher food prices. MPC was split 3×2 for a 25bps cut.
	Overnight Rate	Aug-08	10.75%	10.75%	11%	The weaker data in US and nearly guaranteed
	Industrial Production NSA (YoY)	Jun	-	-0.20%	1%	September cut part of story too.
Peru	Reference Rate	Aug-08	5.50%	5.75%	5.75%	

Source information is at the end of the document.

### Commentary

**Brazil:** Although rates are still high, restrictive policy is not feeding through to the economy due to higher fiscal spending. Stronger economic activity data and higher inflation expectations in Brazil now makes a hike more likely than a cut by the central bank. Our low-confidence base case is that the BCB will keep a hawkish stance and avoid a hike, but that is contingent on the BRL performance within the next weeks. Be that as it may, there is a clear divergence from other LATAM countries like Peru and Mexico, who are turning more dovish

**Colombia:** Petrobras confirmed a gas discovery in the Tayrona block, in deep waters off the coast of Colombia. The discovery is being developed by a consortium formed by Petrobras as operator with a 44% stake and Ecopetrol with a 56% stake.

**Mexico:** The Central Bank preference to cut policy rates despite higher-than-expected inflation numbers over the last months shows they are more concerned about GDP growth slowing down. This is an important signal to global monetary policy, considering the importance of the US GDP growth to the Mexican economy – suggesting the Fed should be moving towards a more 'doveish' stance. In political news, the incoming administration plans to encourage state oil company Pemex to pursue equity partnerships with private firms, a strategy not favoured by the current president. This approach aims to boost Pemex's reserves and manage its substantial debt, according to sources familiar with the plan. These

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## Latin America (continued)

partnerships, like previous Pemex joint ventures with private producers known as farm-outs, were initially introduced through energy reforms about a decade ago, allowing private and foreign companies to collaborate with Pemex on exploration and production activities. Over the coming weeks, outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador will be pushing several controversial reforms through Congress. The impact on markets and investor appetite for Mexico that the specifics around the reforms will bring will be closely watched.

## **Central and Eastern Europe**

### **Economic data**

CPI higher in Hungary, as Romania cuts again.

Country	Event	Period	Actual	Survey	Prior/Revised	Comments
Czech Republi	c Industrial Output NSA (YoY)	Jun	-9.1%	-6.0%	-3.2%	• Deeper decline in machinery and metals.
Hungary Trade Balance (EUR)		Jun P	1,095m	1,050m	1,001m	
	Retail Sales (YoY)	Jun	2.6%	3.4%	3.6%	• Retail sales weaker, however CPI rose faster
	Industrial Production WDA (YoY)	Jun	-3.7%	-3.8%	-4.9%	than est. as food costs rose, breaching the top end of CB's tolerance band, making the
	CPI (MoM)	Jul	0.7%	0.5%	0.0%	100bps cuts currently priced unlikely, in our view.
	CPI (YoY)	Jul	4.1%	4.0%	3.7%	
Romania	Interest Rate Announcement	Aug-07	6.50%	6.75%	6.75%	• Romania cut again in a surprise move,
	Retail Sales (YoY)	Jun	10.0%	-	6.2%	citing an improvement in their near-term inflation forecast.
	Trade Balance (EUR)	Jun	-2,778.8m	_	-2,974.8m	

Source information is at the end of the document.

## Central Asia, Middle East & Africa

## Economic data

• Inflation continues to fall in Egypt and Türkiye.

Country	Event	Period	Actual	Survey	Prior/Revised	Comments
Egypt	Urban CPI (YoY)	Jul	25.7%	_	27.5%	
	CPI Core (YoY)	Jul	24.4%	-	26.6%	• Core inflation continues strong decline.
Qatar	GDP Constant Prices (YoY)	4Q	-	_	1.2%	
South Africa	Manufacturing Prod SA (MoM)	Jun	-0.50%	1.30%	-3.6%	• Noisy mom, trend fairly minimal so far in '24.
Türkiye	CPI (MoM)	Jul	3.23%	3.10%	1.6%	• CBT maintained inflation forecast, as
	CPI (YoY)	Jul	61.78%	61.95%	71.6%	domestic demand continues to weaken with restrictive policy. Slow down in industry
	CPI Core Index (YoY)	Jul	60.23%	60.00%	71.4%	should accelerate this trend.
	Industrial Production (MoM)	Jun	-2.10%	-	1.8%	

Source information is at the end of the document.

## **Developed Markets**

### Economic data

More benign US data assuages some recession worries.

Country	Event	Period	Actual	Survey	Prior/Revised	Comments
Japan	BoP Current Account Balance (JPY)	Jun	1,533.5bn	1,865.0bn	2,849.9bn	Narrower surplus as stronger yen drives
	Money Stock M2 (YoY)	Jul	1.40%	_	1.5%	lower imports while consumer demand remains weaker.
	Money Stock M3 (YoY)	Jul	0.90%	_	1.0%	
United States	ISM Services Index	Jul	51.4	51.0	48.8	Stronger services growth go some way to
	Trade Balance (USD)	Jun	-73.1bn	-72.5bn	-75.0bn	soothe market concerns of recession.
	MBA Mortgage Applications	Aug-02	6.9%	-	-3.9%	
	Initial Jobless Claims	Aug-03	233k	240k	250k	Jobless and continuing claims lower calmed
	Continuing Claims	Jul-27	1875k	1875k	1869k	markets to some extent. Nevertheless, the drop in credit growth indicate a weakening
	Consumer Credit (USD)	Jun	8.934bn	10.0bn	13.946bn	economy.

Source information is at the end of the document.

### **Commentary**

**United States:** About 57,000 illegal crossings were reported in July, down from the historical high of 250,000 in December 2023. That was the lowest monthly figure since 2020 and useful for the Democrats in blunting Republican Party criticism.

## **Benchmark Performance**

Emerging Markets	Month to date	Quarter to date	Year to date	1 year	3 years	5 years
MSCI EM	-1.9%	-1.6%	5.8%	8.2%	-3.8%	4.2%
MSCI EM ex-China	-2.3%	-1.5%	6.8%	15.6%	1.1%	7.6%
MSCI EMEA	-3.6%	-0.1%	2.5%	6.5%	-7.0%	-0.8%
MSCI Latam	2.6%	3.7%	-12.6%	-2.3%	4.1%	1.4%
MSCI Asia	-2.0%	-2.1%	7.4%	7.9%	-4.5%	4.7%
MSCI China	-0.5%	-1.8%	2.8%	-8.8%	-14.2%	-3.1%
MSCI EM Growth	-1.1%	-1.1%	7.3%	7.8%	-6.5%	4.0%
MSCI EM Value	-2.8%	-2.2%	4.2%	8.5%	-0.8%	4.2%
MSCI EM Small Cap	-2.9%	-2.9%	3.9%	12.2%	1.9%	10.5%
MSCI Frontier	-1.4%	0.4%	6.4%	4.9%	-3.5%	1.9%
GBI-EM-GD	1.7%	4.1%	0.2%	4.2%	-1.4%	-0.5%
GBI-EM China	1.0%	2.3%	3.3%	6.5%	0.8%	3.8%
EM FX spot	1.1%	1.7%	-3.6%	-3.0%	-3.3%	-3.4%
ELMI+ (1-3m NDF)	1.1%	2.0%	0.6%	4.7%	-0.1%	0.6%
EMBI GD	0.5%	2.3%	4.7%	10.7%	-2.0%	0.0%
EMBI GD IG	0.9%	2.8%	2.3%	6.4%	-4.2%	-0.8%
EMBI GD HY	0.0%	1.9%	7.2%	15.1%	0.4%	0.8%
CEMBI BD	0.4%	1.9%	5.8%	10.4%	0.2%	2.4%
CEMBI BD IG	0.5%	2.1%	4.2%	8.3%	-1.4%	1.1%
CEMBI BD HY	0.2%	1.6%	8.2%	13.6%	2.4%	4.1%

Global Backdrop	Month to date	Quarter to date	Year to date	1 year	3 years	5 years
MSCI ACWI	-3.3%	-1.7%	9.4%	16.6%	4.2%	10.9%
MSCI World (DM)	-3.4%	-1.7%	9.8%	17.6%	5.3%	11.8%
S&P 500	-3.2%	-2.0%	13.0%	21.4%	8.1%	14.7%
DXY Index*	-0.9%	-2.5%	1.8%	0.3%	10.9%	6.0%
EUR*	1.0%	1.7%	-2.3%	-1.7%	-3.8%	-1.9%
JPY*	2.2%	8.7%	-7.4%	-6.6%	-11.0%	-7.4%
CRY Index*	-0.8%	-5.0%	4.6%	-1.3%	9.1%	12.3%
Brent*	-1.1%	-7.6%	3.7%	-8.0%	4.0%	7.3%
Gold*	0.4%	4.7%	18.1%	27.4%	13.0%	12.3%
Bitcoin*	-11.7%	-4.7%	37.5%	99.0%	11.0%	82.9%
1-3yr UST	0.5%	1.7%	2.9%	5.6%	0.8%	1.3%
3-5yr UST	0.6%	2.7%	2.7%	5.8%	-0.9%	0.6%
7-10yr UST	0.9%	3.8%	2.2%	5.0%	-3.7%	-1.0%
10yr+ UST	1.7%	5.4%	0.1%	3.9%	-9.6%	-4.3%
10yr+ Germany	1.1%	4.0%	-1.4%	5.2%	-11.6%	-7.2%
10yr+ Japan	2.2%	2.3%	-4.4%	-6.2%	-5.7%	-4.2%
Global Agg.**	1.2%	4.0%	0.7%	5.0%	-4.5%	-1.5%
US Agg. IG**	0.7%	3.1%	2.4%	6.3%	-2.2%	0.1%
EU Agg. IG**	0.4%	2.4%	1.2%	5.9%	-4.2%	-2.2%
US Corp HY**	-0.1%	1.9%	4.5%	11.2%	2.2%	4.3%
EU Corp HY**	-0.1%	1.2%	4.5%	11.0%	1.5%	2.9%

Source and notations for all tables in this document:

Source: Bloomberg, JP Morgan, Barclays, Merrill Lynch, Chicago Board Options Exchange, Thomson Reuters, MSCI. As at latest data available on publication date.

\*Price only. Does not include carry. \*\*Global Indices from Bloomberg. Price to Earnings: 12 months blended-forward.

Index Definitions: VIX Index: Chicago Board Options Exchange SPX Volatility Index. DXY Index: The Dollar Index. CRY Index: Thomson Reuters/CoreCommodity CRM Commodity Index. Figures for more than one year are annualised other than in the case of currencies, commodities and the VIX, DXY and CRY which are shown as percentage change.

## **Explore Further Insights**

## **The Emerging View**

31 July 2024



The US Election's impact on Emerging Markets

Since early June, Trump has been polling as the most likely candidate to win the 2024 presidency. After a disastrous July, Biden dropping out of the Presidential race is a boost for the Democrats. Kamala Harris is a better candidate and may gather momentum. **Find out more**  $\rightarrow$ 

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