

# weekly market view

macro strategy | 17 August 2018

This reflects the views of the Wealth Management Group

## Editorial

### Turkish tantrums

- **We see limited contagion from Turkey's troubles, but a lot depends on credible policy responses. More USD strength and a further escalation of trade rifts are likely bigger risks.**
- **Equities:** US equities are likely to continue outperforming other markets amid economic divergence and ongoing trade tensions. Euro area remains vulnerable to Turkish uncertainty near term.
- **Bonds:** We expect Emerging Market (EM) bonds to be under pressure near term on weak EM sentiment. However, pockets of opportunity are emerging, notably in Asian USD bonds.
- **FX:** EUR/USD likely to weaken further towards 1.1185 support, although crowded bullish USD positioning is a key risk. USD/CNY is likely to face resistance around the 7.0 level.

### What's new?

- **Turkish tantrums.** As Turkey's currency plunged to record lows, the biggest impact has been limited to a section of EMs that are known to be vulnerable to external fund flows, notably Argentina and South Africa (while Russia has been affected by further US sanctions). Asian currencies have been mostly resilient, despite a stronger USD, and Asian USD bonds have outperformed EM USD bonds, underlining the region's stronger fundamentals, including high FX reserves. US equity market outperformance has increased and we expect this to continue, although the EUR's weakness this year is likely to support European exporter earnings in H2. We see limited scope for Turkey's crisis to escalate, given its geopolitical importance to the US and Europe. (Turkey's challenge is mainly economic, notably high fiscal deficit and rising inflation - see page 3 for details). The bigger risk remains a stronger USD and escalation in global trade tensions.
- **China's technology sector under pressure.** The MSCI China equity index has lost more than 20% from January's peak, led by the technology sector (which accounts for 39% of the index). Besides concerns about CNY depreciation, technology equities have been hurt by negative earnings surprises, concerns about increased competition and regulatory delay in approval for new online games. While near-term sentiment is likely to be driven by US-China trade tensions and CNY trends, we expect H1 earnings and corporate guidance to confirm the sector's robust outlook on the back of rising local consumption and structural drivers for IT demand.
- **Collapse in market diversity on gold, USD.** Gold plunged to a 20-month low below USD1,200/oz, almost mirroring the CNY's depreciation vs. the USD. Our models suggest an extreme lack of diversity in the market regarding views on gold (i.e. the market is extremely bearish on gold) and USD/CNY (i.e. extremely bullish on the pair). History suggests lack of market diversity often leads to a reversal in trends. With USD/CNY close to 10-year highs near 7.0, any verbal or active intervention by China's central bank could lead to a reversal in both gold and USD/CNY.

### What we are watching

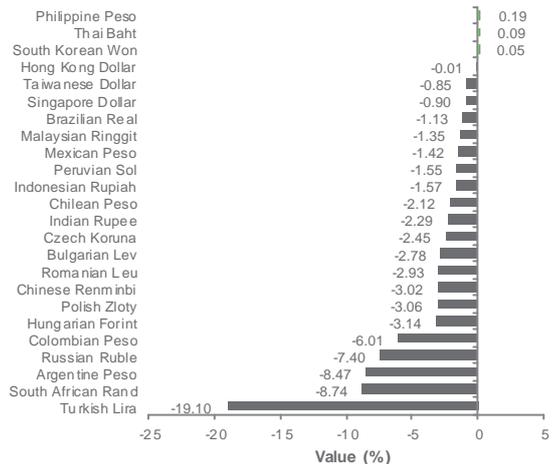
- **US-China talks.** The proposed resumption of talks in late August for the first time in two months could lift market sentiment.

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### The impact of the selloff in TRY has been limited to a select group of EMs with weak fundamentals, such as Argentina and South Africa

EM currency performance in the month ending 15 Aug.



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

### Most Asian economies have high FX reserves, underlining their relative resilience to shifts in EM capital flows

Ratio of FX reserves to short-term external debt

Less than 2x	Between 2-3x	Greater than 3x
Argentina	Israel	Korea
Turkey	Indonesia	Colombia
Malaysia	Poland	Thailand
South Africa		Mexico
Czech Republic		India
Chile		Brazil
Hungary		Philippines
		Russia

Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

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## What does this mean for investors?

Global stocks declined, led by EMs, amid worries about the fallout from the crisis in Turkey. EM local currency bonds led losses in debt markets as currencies and commodities declined.

### Equities: US outperformance likely to continue

- US benchmark index close to record high.** The S&P 500 index is 1% away from its all-time high, with two members, both from the technology sector, attaining a USD1tn market capitalisation. However, the capitalisation of other index members remains far from this milestone. This, in part, reflects the diminishing diversity of stocks driving the S&P 500 index, with the technology sector accounting for almost 2/3 of the gains YTD. This is typical of a late-cycle bull market. We expect this trend to continue, with the US outperforming other markets on the back of solid earnings expectations and the heavyweight technology sector driving the market on the back of structural demand drivers.
- Euro area equities are under pressure.** The Euro Stoxx 50 fell through its 50-day moving average (DMA) due to contagion from developments in Turkey, with the banks industry group falling almost 10% so far this month. Euro area Q2 corporate earnings are forecast to decline 3.5%, although we note that earnings revisions have turned positive in recent weeks, potentially reflecting the benefits of a weaker EUR. Nevertheless, developments in Turkey are likely to dominate markets near term.

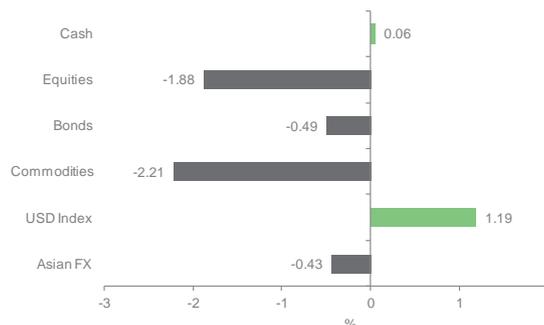
### Bonds: Turkish uncertainty hits EM bonds

- Looking for better entry points.** EM bonds, both USD- and local currency-denominated, fell as the Turkey-led sell-off hurt sentiment. EM local currency bonds were dragged lower by EM currencies, which are likely to remain under pressure in the near term. Hence, we do not view the sell-off as a buying opportunity yet. Although Turkish bonds account for just 3% of EM USD bonds, the asset class delivered negative returns as EM yield premiums rose. There is a risk of yield premiums rising further in the near-term, should sentiment deteriorate further. Though we continue to like EM USD bonds over a 12-month horizon, we could get better entry points in the coming weeks.
- Asian bonds outperform.** Asian USD bonds remained remarkably resilient, despite the stress in Turkey and the uptick in onshore defaults in China, with yield premiums moving only slightly higher. The recent performance supports our view of Asian USD bonds as a relatively defensive asset class within the EM bond space. Asian bonds remain as a core holding within a diversified allocation.

### FX: EUR/USD likely to test new support level

- EUR/USD weakness likely to extend near term.** EUR/USD broke below the 1.1450 support to a new low of 1.1300 as concerns about the impact of Turkey's crisis on Euro area banks drove safe-haven flows to the USD. EUR/USD has now lost more than 9% since it started its drawdown in April. We see the pair in the final stages of the drawdown, although we believe there is scope for further near-term decline towards the support at 1.1185; on the rebound, 1.1500 should serve as a strong near-term resistance.
- USD/CNY likely to face resistance around 7.0.** The pair pulled back from close to January 2017 high near 6.99. This suggests that the psychologically important 7.0 level may be defended in the near-term, especially given the market's extremely bullish USD positions.

### Benchmark (USD) performance w/w\*



\*Week of 09 August 2018 to 16 August 2018

Source: MSCI, JP Morgan, DJ-UBS, Citigroup, Bloomberg, Standard Chartered (Indices used are JP Morgan Cash, MSCI AC World TR, Citi World Big, DJ-UBS Commodity, DXY and ADXY)

### EM equity market technical indicators remain weak

Technical levels of key market indicators as on 16 August

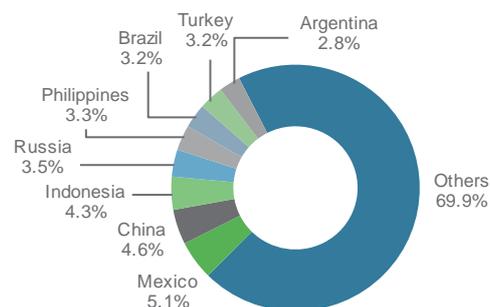
Index	Spot	1st support	1st resistance	Short-term trend
S&P500	2,841	2,795	2,872	↑
STOXX 50	3,378	3,340	3,435	↓
FTSE 100	7,556	7,474	7,610	↓
Nikkei 225	22,293	21,750	23,050	↑
Shanghai Comp	2,705	2,630	2,845	↓
Hang Seng	27,100	26,000	28,900	↓
MSCI Asia ex-Japan	641	618	675	↓
MSCI EM	1,022	972	1,084	↓
Brent (ICE)	71	67	75	↓
Gold	1,179	1,145	1,215	↓
UST 10Y Yield	2.87	2.80	3.01	↑

Source: Trading Central, Standard Chartered

Note: Arrows represent short-term trend opinions

### Turkey and Argentina account for only 6% of the EM USD bond index

Weights of markets in the EM USD global bond index



Source: JPMorgan EMBI Global Diversified Index, Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

### EUR/USD faces the next support at 1.1185

EUR/USD



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

## Top client questions

### Q1. Are Turkey's challenges a sign of things to come?

Contagion fears have risen further over the past week after the TRY fell a whopping 18% on 10 August. Emerging Market (EM) currencies have been under pressure for some time, but clearly the TRY's depreciation last week intensified pressures. We have also seen contagion across other asset classes, such as bonds and equities.

Looking forward, Turkey will remain important to short-term EM sentiment. Turkey has traditionally been more vulnerable than most to swings in sentiment towards EMs. Only when the tide goes out do investors see who is naked. Turkey's high current account deficit – which the IMF forecasts will be over 5% of GDP again this year – means the country is very reliant of foreign funding, and thus skimpily dressed at best.

This situation has been exacerbated by a lack of coherence when it comes to policy settings. Inflation has risen from 10% to 15% from 10% this year on the back of earlier currency weakness. Despite this, the central bank has yet to hike interest rates amid President Erdogan's continued commentary that higher interest rates are not acceptable. The recent rebound notwithstanding, until this stance changes, the TRY will be vulnerable.

From a contagion perspective, this leaves three main focus areas:

- 1) **EM currencies** are likely to remain susceptible to further TRY weakness near term. Longer term, we retain a bearish USD bias, although we acknowledge this is, at least, taking a lot longer to play out than we expected. China's response to EM pressures, both in terms of potential financial support (along the lines of Qatar's investment in Turkey) and its own FX policy, is key.
- 2) **EM bonds**, both the USD and local currency denominated, have been hit by the sell-off in Turkey. While the direct impact is limited, the impact on risk appetite has been huge. EM currency weakness and/or tighter monetary policies have undermined local currency bonds. In the USD bond space, we have seen an increase in yield premiums across most countries. While an EM crisis is not our base case, EM bonds remain vulnerable to a short-term, continued deterioration in sentiment.
- 3) **Global equities** have seen an increasingly divergent performance. While the US is 1% below its all-time high and in an uptrend, the rest of the world is down 12% in the same period and firmly in a downtrend (see chart).

Turkey's challenges have clearly exacerbated this divergence, undermining support for both EM and Euro area equities, the latter due to the banking sector exposure to Turkish companies. Adding to the weakness in EM equities is Chinese technology shares, which have come under pressure following poor quarterly earnings, although we see this as temporary. Euro area equities should ultimately benefit from a weaker EUR, but could continue to underperform global equities until the situation in Turkey stabilises or the EUR weakens significantly further.

Another risk is contagion spreads to the US equity market. Here, the 1997-98 experience may provide comfort. US equities remained in a strong uptrend in the first 6-9 months of the Asian financial crisis (even as countries experienced full blown debt crises) and only fell sharply when the US financial system was threatened (via the collapse of Long Term Capital Management). Therefore, while a short-term pullback in US equities can never be ruled out, we believe the multi-month trend remains positive.

### Accelerated TRY losses merely adds to pressure on EM currencies

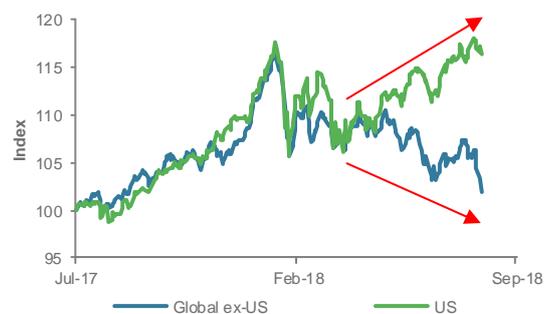
Performance of selected EM currencies relative to the USD (indexed to 100 on Jan 1 2018)



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

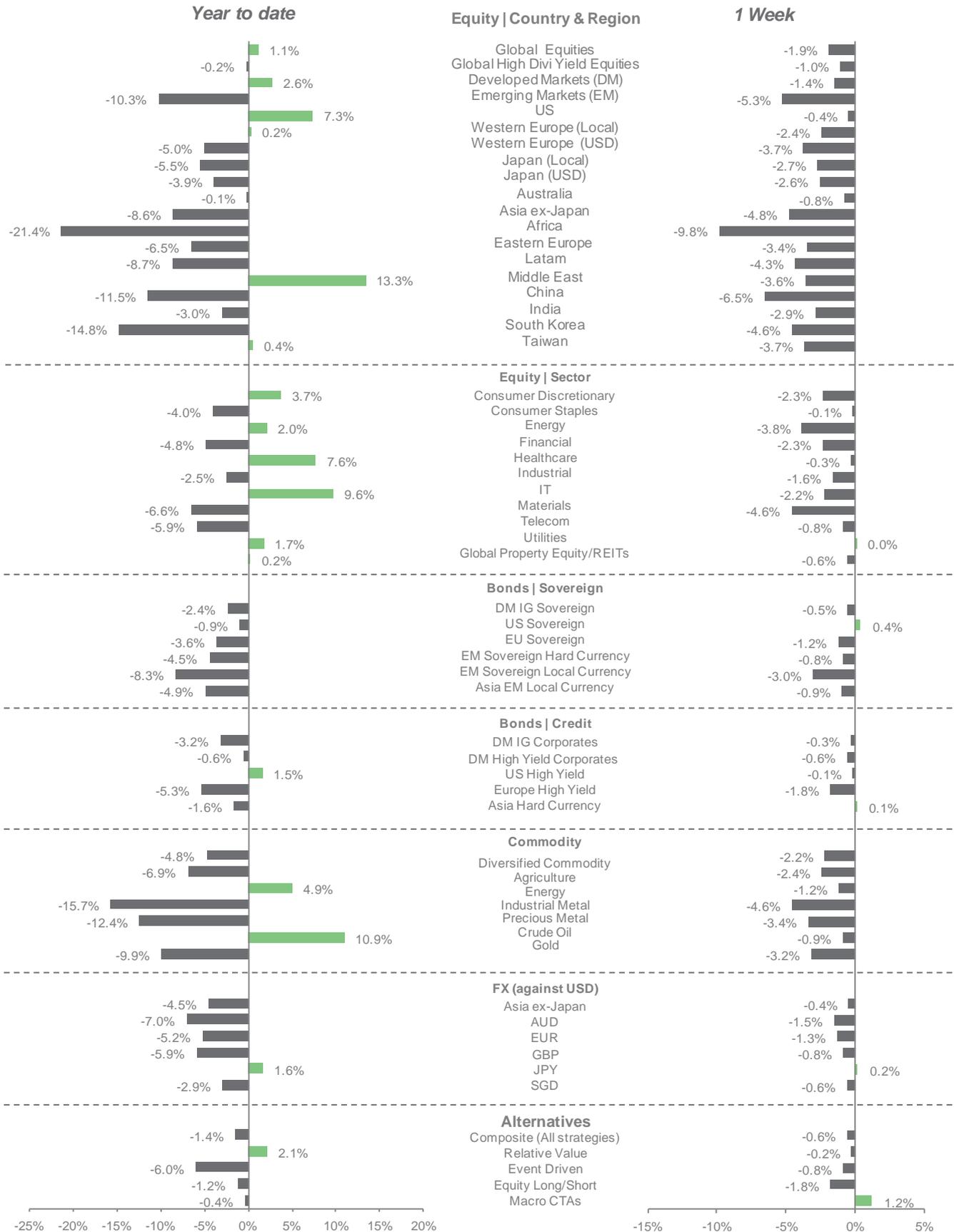
### Equity market divergence extends

MSCI all-country world ex-US and US total return indices (USD)



Source: MSCI, Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

### Market performance summary\*



\*Performance in USD terms unless otherwise stated, YTD period from 31 December 2017 to 16 August 2018, 1 week period: 09 August 2018 to 16 August 2018  
Sources: MSCI, JP Morgan, Barclays Capital, Citigroup, Dow Jones, HFRX, FTSE, Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

## Economic &amp; Market Calendar

	Event	Next Week	Date	Period	Expected	Prior
WED	US	Existing Home Sales	22-Aug-18	Jul	5.45m	5.38m
	GE	Markit/BME Germany Composite PMI	23-Aug-18	Aug P	–	55
THUR	EC	Markit Eurozone Manufacturing PMI	23-Aug-18	Aug P	–	55.1
	EC	Markit Eurozone Services PMI	23-Aug-18	Aug P	–	54.2
	EC	Markit Eurozone Composite PMI	23-Aug-18	Aug P	–	54.3
	US	New Home Sales	23-Aug-18	Jul	650k	631k
	EC	Consumer Confidence	23-Aug-18	Aug A	–	-0.6
		JN	Natl CPI Ex Fresh Food, Energy y/y	24-Aug-18	Jul	–
FRI/ SAT	GE	Exports q/q	24-Aug-18	2Q	–	-1.0%
	US	Cap Goods Orders Nondef Ex Air	24-Aug-18	Jul P	–	0.2%

	Event	This Week	Date	Period	Actual	Prior
MON	IN	CPI y/y	13-Aug-18	Jul	4.2%	4.9%
TUE	CH	Retail Sales y/y	14-Aug-18	Jul	8.8%	9.0%
	CH	Industrial Production y/y	14-Aug-18	Jul	6.0%	6.0%
	CH	Fixed Assets Ex Rural YTD y/y	14-Aug-18	Jul	5.5%	6.0%
	JN	Industrial Production y/y	14-Aug-18	Jun F	-0.9%	-1.2%
	UK	Average Weekly Earnings 3m/y/y	14-Aug-18	Jun	2.4%	2.5%
	EC	ZEW Survey Expectations	14-Aug-18	Aug	-11.1	-18.7
WED	UK	CPI Core y/y	15-Aug-18	Jul	1.9%	1.9%
	US	Unit Labor Costs	15-Aug-18	2Q P	-0.9%	3.4%
	US	Retail Sales Ex Auto and Gas	15-Aug-18	Jul	0.6%	0.2%
	US	Industrial Production m/m	15-Aug-18	Jul	0.1%	1.0%
THUR	JN	Exports y/y	16-Aug-18	Jul	3.9%	6.7%
	UK	Retail Sales Ex Auto Fuel y/y	16-Aug-18	Jul	3.7%	2.9%
	US	Housing Starts	16-Aug-18	Jul	1168k	1158k
	US	Building Permits	16-Aug-18	Jul	1311k	1292k
FRI/ SAT	EC	CPI Core y/y	17-Aug-18	Jul F		1.1%
	US	U. of Mich. Sentiment	17-Aug-18	Aug P		97.9

Previous data are for the preceding period unless otherwise indicated

Data are % change on previous period unless otherwise indicated

P - preliminary data, F - final data, sa - seasonally adjusted

y/y – year-on-year, m/m - month-on-month

Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered; key indicators highlighted in blue

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