

Monthly Market Review

June 2024

Author



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Soft serve

Economic data was weaker around the world in June, putting the 'soft' back into the soft landing and unwinding concerns that some economies (e.g. the U.S.) may run 'too hot' for inflation to fall. Some developed market central banks have now started their rate cutting cycle to support growth as inflation pressures fade, but the pace of policy easing will be more modest compared to expectations a few months ago. Australia is proving an exception to this view, as inflation is looking more stuck than sticky, creating a bias for further tightening.

Politics was firmly on the agenda in June as elections were called in the UK and Europe. In the UK, the election outcome is less about who will win, but by how much, given the hefty lead in the polls by the Labour party. Meanwhile, in Europe, the outcome of the European Parliamentary elections resulted in a decisive shift to the right. The result led to a snap election being called in France, with the far-right and far-left leaning parties performing strongly in the first round of voting.

In the U.S., the election campaigning is gathering pace, but neither candidate is laying out any plans to reduce spending or meaningfully raise taxes to address the ballooning fiscal deficit. A less fiscally prudent U.S. government could spark another period of rising inflation.

Fixed income markets have languished over the first six months the year. Easing inflation pressures and the onset of rate cutting cycles should mean lower yields on core government bonds. However, politics have complicated the picture as markets may reprice the inflation outlook given long-run spending plans of incoming governments. Core government bond yields are likely to remain range bound, and investors should be wary of adding too much duration to portfolios until the outlook is clearer.

Equity markets moved higher in June and the MSCI World Index rose 2.4%, helped by the better performance of U.S. and Japanese markets as Europe lagged. Emerging markets outperformed (4.3%), supported by the artificial intelligence (AI) exposed markets in Taiwan and Korea, which are large weights in the index.

However, the narrowness of the U.S. rally is again in focus as the Al names dominate performance. Over the second quarter, the U.S. S&P 500 was up 4.3%, but the equal weighted index has fallen 2.6% over the same period. A broadening out in the U.S. market is expected given the improving earnings outlook in the non-Al related names and relatively better valuations. Similarly, while the European market has been buffeted by politics, the cyclical improvement in the economy and over-discounted nature of the equity market provides ample opportunity for active stock selection to generate returns.



Australian economy:

- Inflation surged to 4.0% year-over-year (y/y) in May, well above expectations and was the fastest pace of monthly price rises since November 2023. This followed the higher April monthly figure and suggests the full quarterly figure will be above the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA's) inflation forecast, putting pressure on them to raise rates in August. (GTM AUS page 5)
- The RBA kept the cash rate steady at 4.35% in June and the commentary shifted in a hawkish direction. The statement brought back the commitment to getting inflation back to target and suggests the RBA's tolerance for inflation is wearing thin. The biggest hurdle for the RBA is communicating any further tightening in policy, just as inflation is likely to fall given the impact of government subsidies that begin in July. (GTM AUS page 54)
- Retail sales were soft in April, with a 0.1% gain month-overmonth (m/m) and follows from the March decline of -0.4% m/m. Speculation around further monetary policy tightening is likely weighing on consumer sentiment and behaviour.
- The unemployment rate fell by 0.1% to 4.0% in May, but the April and May reports were distorted by the higher than usual number of people that were identified as unemployed in April but waiting to start work in May. Taking the April and May labour market data together and comparing it to March suggests the ongoing cooling in the labour market. (GTM AUS page 9)
- House prices continued to rise in June, and the national index rose by 0.7% m/m and by 8.3% y/y. Regionally the price movement is diverse as Brisbane (1.2% m/m) and Perth (2.0% m/m) reported strength, contrasting the muted moves in Sydney (0.5% m/m) and Melbourne (-0.2% m/m). Tight supply is underpinning the price growth nationally, but an expected slowdown in migration and potential for further rate hikes may cool housing market activity. (GTM AUS page 10 and 11)

Equities:

- The MSCI World index rose 2.4% in June and the S&P 500 by 3.6%, outperforming the 1.0% gain for the ASX 200. European stocks (-1.4%) lagged as political uncertainty weighed on markets. Japanese equities gained 1.7% and the rest of the APAC region outperformed developed markets. The MSIC Asia ex-Japan index rose 3.8% and helped the broader EM equity index to a 4.3% return for the month. (GTM AUS page 31)
- The re-rating in equity markets accounts for a large share

- of this years returns, and many equity markets are no longer cheap. The U.S. equity market is trading at 21.0x on a forward price-to-earnings (P/E) basis. Meanwhile Australia at 16.8x P/E is one standard deviation above its long run average. Even Japanese and European equities are trading inline with long run averages at the index level. The rising valuations in equities stresses the need for an active approach to equities to find value while avoid the traps. (GTM AUS page 32)
- Earnings expectations have remained consistent across markets for 2024, with an expected pick up in 2025, which is helping investors justify the higher valuations. (GTM AUS page 33)
- At the sector level, the financial sector recorded the strongest gain (5.1%) in May, followed by consumer staples (4.6%), utilities (4.6%) and healthcare (4.4%). Materials was the worst performing sector (-6.5%), while energy (-1.6%) and industrials (-0.2%) were also in the red for the month.

Fixed income:

- Australian government bonds yields fell by 10 basis points (bps) over the month to 4.31% and the U.S. 10-year Treasury yield declined by 12bps to 4.37%, but this masked a late month rise from much lower levels. (GTM AUS page 50)
- More broadly, the benign macro environment supports the
 extended parts of the fixed income market such as
 investment grade and high yield bonds. Both segments of
 the credit market rose in June in Australia and globally. The
 positive corporate earnings and contained defaults rates
 are keeping spreads tight. (GTM AUS page 51)

Other assets:

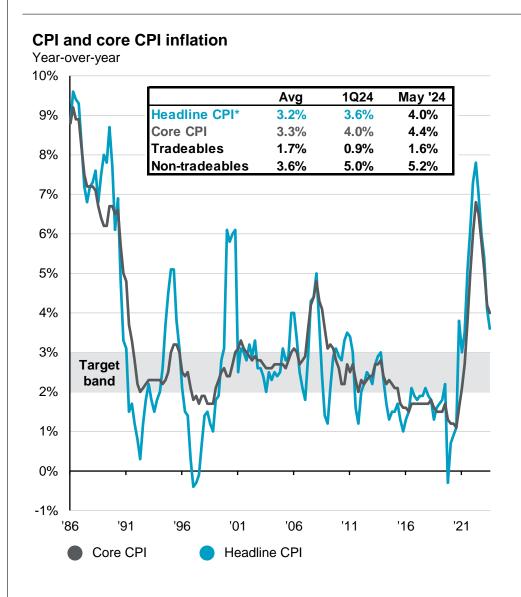
- Commodity prices were mixed in June. The price of Brent oil rose 7% to USD 86 per barrel, gold lost some of its shine falling by 0.7% to USD 2,331, but other metals suffered through worse performance. Aluminum was down 7.2%, and nickel fell 14.5%. (GTM AUS page 67)
- The iron ore price has been slow to adjust to the outlook for Chinese demand, confounding some investors. The price was down 9.4% to USD 107, but from an elevated level.
 Chinese steel output has been resilient, creating demand for iron ore. however, an increasing share of the production is being exported from China.
- The U.S. dollar index was 1.1% higher in June and the Australian dollar (AUD) index gained 0.9%. The repricing of the rates outlook supported the AUD vs the USD and the currency rose 0.4% to AUD 0.668. (GTM AUS page 69)

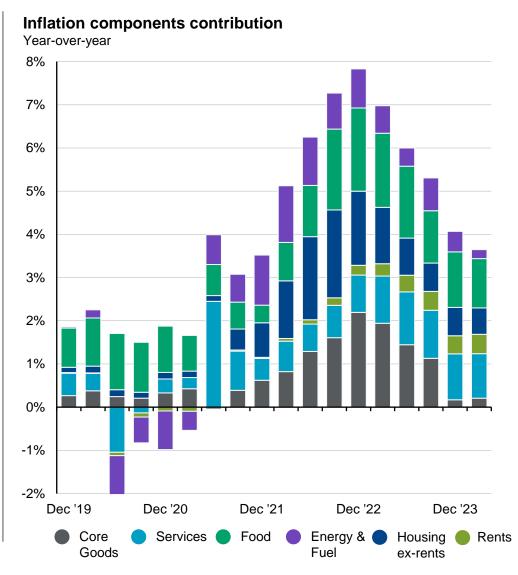




Inflation





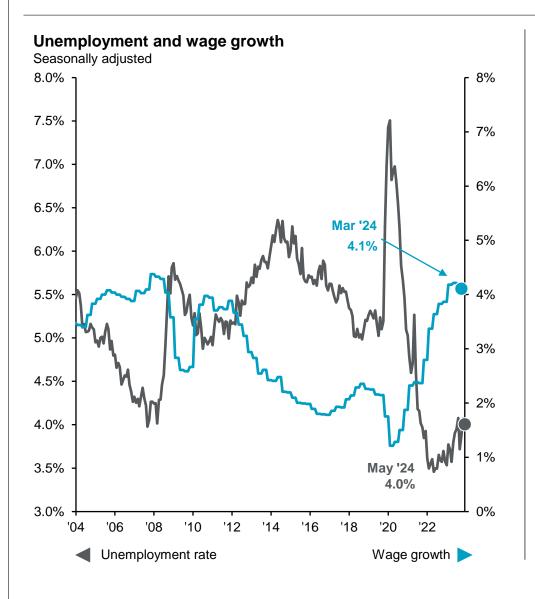


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, FactSet, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. *CPI is the Consumer Price Index, core CPI is the trimmed mean measure of inflation. Tradeables represent approximately 35% of the CPI basket and non-tradeables 65%. Core goods CPI is goods CPI excluding volatile items. Monthly CPI series not shown on chart.

J.P.Morgan
ASSET MANAGEMENT



Labour market

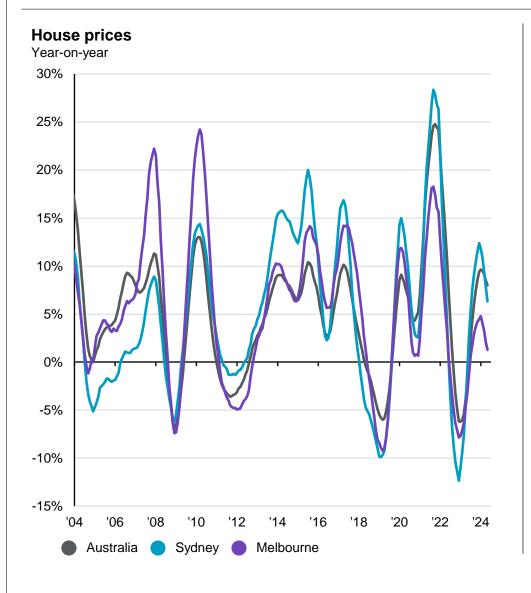


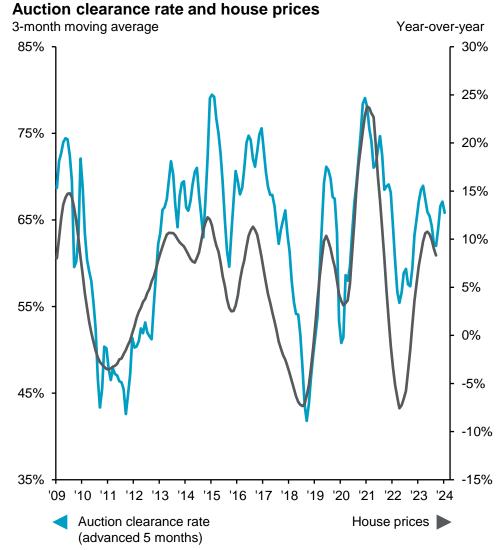






Residential real estate prices

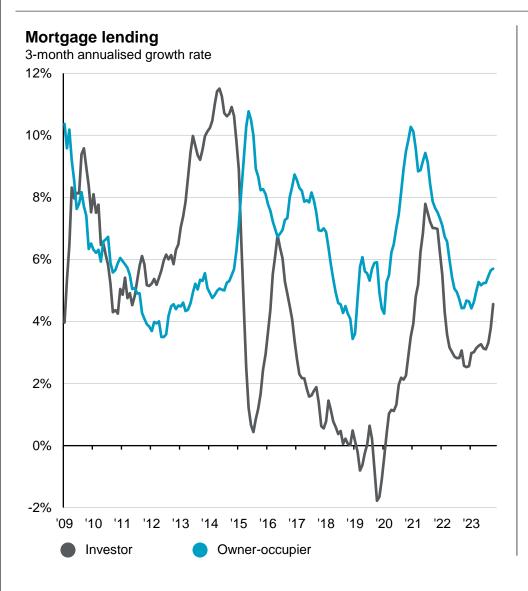


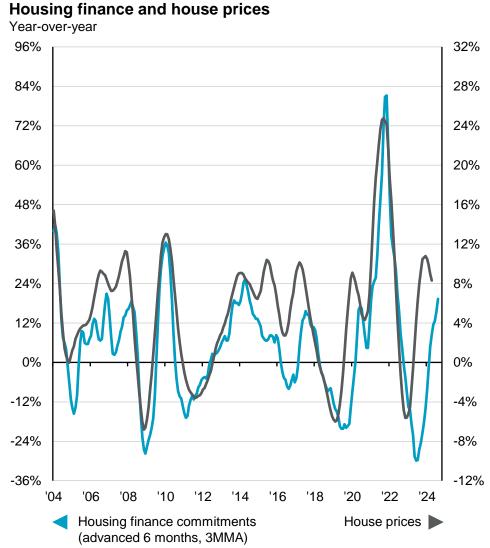






Residential real estate financing





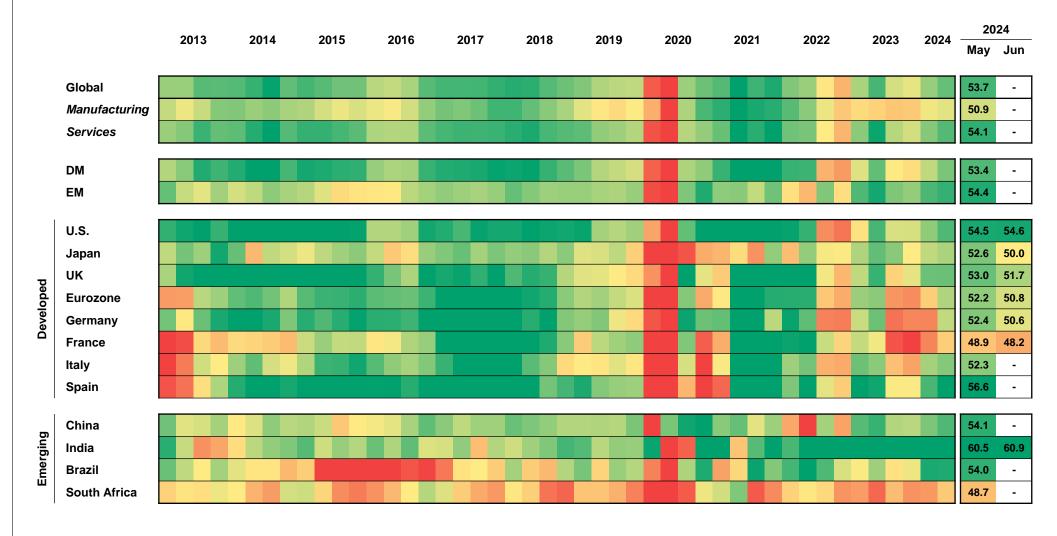




Global economic momentum

GTM AUS 16

Composite Purchasing Managers' Index



Source: FactSet, Markit, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Heatmap colours are based on PMI relative to the 50 level, which indicates acceleration or deceleration of the sector, for the time period shown. Heatmap is based on quarterly averages, with the exception of the two most recent figures, which are single month readings. DM and EM represent developed markets and emerging markets, respectively.

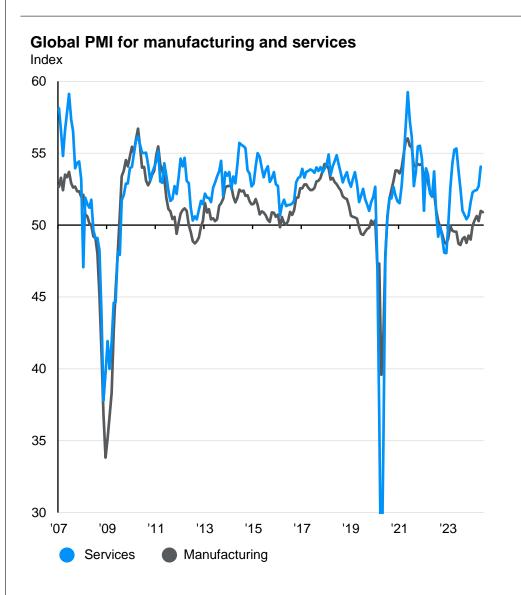
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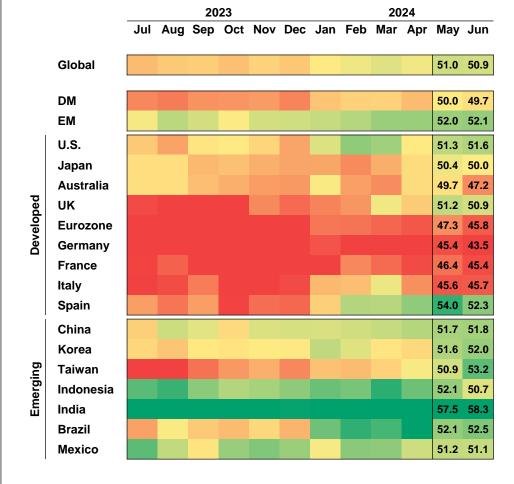


Global manufacturing

GTM AUS 17



Global PMI for manufacturing by country





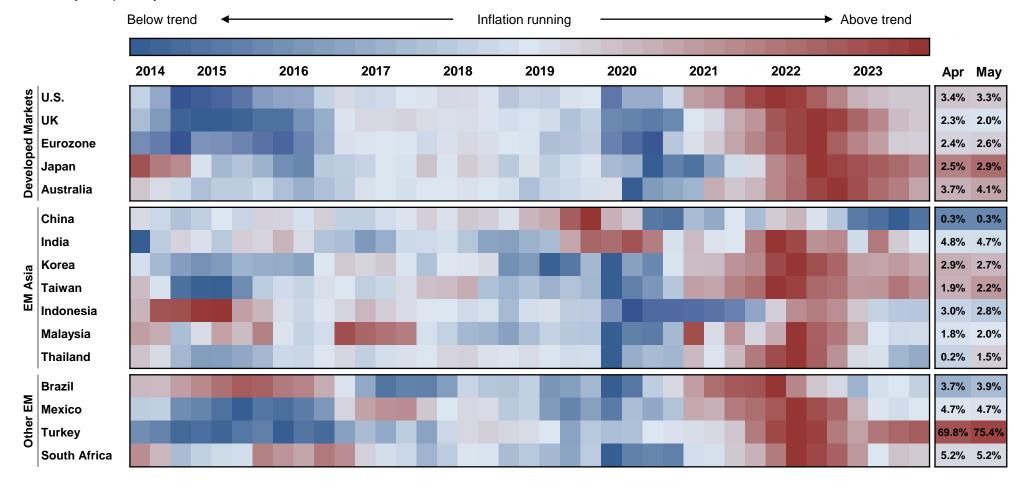


Global inflation heatmap

GTM AUS 20

Headline consumer prices

Year-over-year, quarterly



Source: ABS, Department of Statistics Malaysia, DGBAS, Eurostat, FactSet, Goskomstat of Russia, IBGE, India Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, INEGI, J.P. Morgan Economic Research, Korean National Statistical Office, Ministry of Commerce Thailand, Ministry of Internal Affairs & Communications Japan, National Bureau of Statistics of China, Office for National Statistics UK, Statistics Indonesia, Statistics Institute Turkey, Statistics South Africa, U.S. Department of Labor, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Quarterly averages, except for the two most recent figures, which are single month readings, are shown. Colours are based on z-score of year-over-year inflation rate relative to each country's own 10-year history where red (blue) indicates inflation above (below) long-run trend. EM represents emerging markets.

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World equity market returns

GTM AUS 31

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	YTD	2Q '24	10-years	'14 - '23 Vol.
AUD Local	24.3% U.S. 13.7%	25.6% Japan 12.1%	13.2% Small Cap 13.2%	31.5% Asia ex JP 35.9%	6.2% U.S. -4.4%	31.7% U.S. 31.5%	14.2% Asia ex JP 22.7%	36.6% U.S. 28.7%	-1.1% Australia -1.1%	25.5% U.S. 26.3%	17.8% U.S. 15.3%	4.8% Asia ex JP 8.0%	15.1% U.S. 12.0%	Small Cap 17.2%
	14.9% Asia ex JP 7.7%	14.0% U.S. 1.4%	12.5% U.S. 12.0%	27.5% EM 31.0%	-2.3% Portfolio -7.3%	24.8% Europe 24.6%	9.2% Small Cap 9.2%	24.1% Europe 23.3%	-8.4% Europe -8.0%	19.9% Europe 15.0%	12.3% Asia ex JP 12.9%	2.7% EM 6.3%	9.1% Portfolio 8.3%	U.S. 15.2%
	8.7% Portfolio 6.8%	10.2% Small Cap 10.2%	12.1% EM 10.1%	20.0% Small Cap 20.0%	-2.8% Australia -2.8%	24.0% Portfolio 23.7%	8.1% EM 19.5%	19.0% Portfolio 17.2%	-8.7% Japan -2.5%	19.3% Japan 28.3%	10.0% EM 11.2%	1.9% U.S. 4.3%	8.3% Japan 8.6%	Japan 14.7%
	7.3% EM 5.6%	9.8% Europe 5.4%	11.8% Australia 11.8%	17.2% Japan 22.2%	-4.2% Japan -16.0%	23.4% Australia 23.4%	7.9% U.S. 18.4%	17.2% Australia 17.2%	-8.8% Portfolio -9.5%	15.8% Portfolio 16.2%	8.8% Portfolio 9.8%	-0.7% Portfolio 1.5%	7.9% Australia 7.9%	Asia ex JP 14.6%
	5.7% Japan 10.3%	8.4% Portfolio 3.3%	9.4% Portfolio 9.8%	16.9% Europe 13.7%	-4.6% Asia ex JP -12.0%	21.4% Small Cap 21.4%	4.2% Portfolio 8.6%	16.9% Small Cap 16.9%	-12.2% U.S. -18.1%	12.4% Australia 12.4%	8.7% Europe 9.8%	-1.1% Australia -1.1%	7.6% Europe 7.0%	Portfolio 14.5%
	5.6% Australia 5.6%	2.6% Australia 2.6%	6.3% Asia ex JP 6.4%	16.7% Portfolio 19.1%	-4.7% EM -9.7%	19.4% Japan 18.1%	3.0% Japan 7.4%	7.3% Japan 12.7%	-13.5% Asia ex JP -15.1%	9.6% EM 10.3%	7.6% Japan 20.1%	-1.4% Europe 1.2%	7.0% Asia ex JP 5.2%	Australia 14.1%
	3.1% Europe 5.2%	2.5% Asia ex JP -5.3%	4.0% Japan 0.3%	12.8% U.S. 21.8%	-4.8% Europe -10.0%	19.1% EM 18.5%	1.4% Australia 1.4%	3.8% EM 0.1%	-13.9% EM -15.2%	7.8% Small Cap 7.8%	4.2% Australia 4.2%	-4.5% Small Cap -4.5%	6.0% Small Cap 6.0%	EM 13.5%
	-3.8% Small Cap -3.8%	-3.9% EM -5.4%	0.7% Europe 7.9%	11.8% Australia 11.8%	-8.7% Small Cap -8.7%	18.7% Asia ex JP 18.2%	-3.5% Europe -1.7%	1.4% Asia ex JP -2.8%	-18.4% Small Cap -18.4%	5.7% Asia ex JP 6.8%	2.8% Small Cap 2.8%	-6.5% Japan 1.7%	5.9% EM 5.6%	Europe 13.2%

Source: FactSet, MSCI, Standard & Poor's, TOPIX, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Annualised return (Ann.) and volatility (Vol.) covers the period 2014 to 2023. Volatility is based on local currency returns. Small Cap: S&P ASX Small Ordinaries; Asia ex JP: MSCI AC Asia ex Japan; EM: MSCI EM Index; Europe: MSCI Europe Index; Japan: TOPIX first section; Australia: ASX 200 Index; U.S.: S&P 500 Index. Hypothetical portfolio (for illustrative purposes only and should not be taken as a recommendation): 20% U.S.; 30% Australia; 15% EM; 15% Europe; 10% Japan; 10% small cap. All indices are total returns. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current and future results.

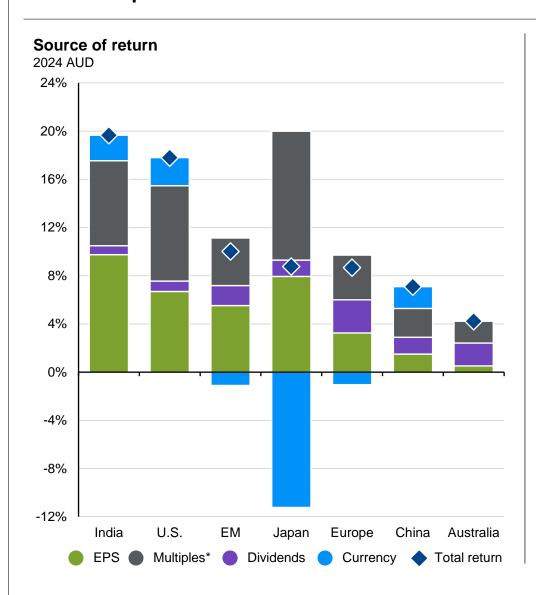
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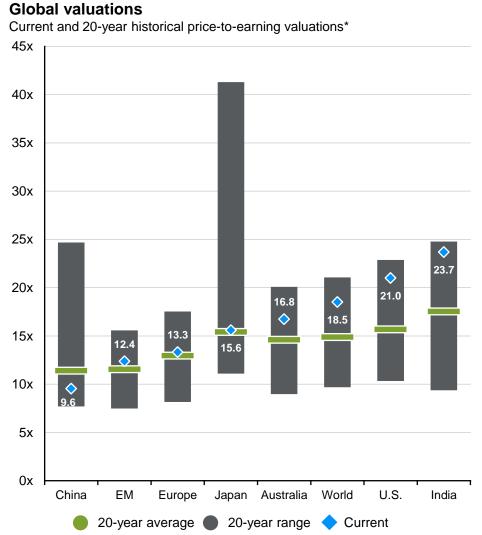




Global equities: Source of return and valuations

GTM AUS 32





Source: FactSet, MSCI, Standard & Poor's, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

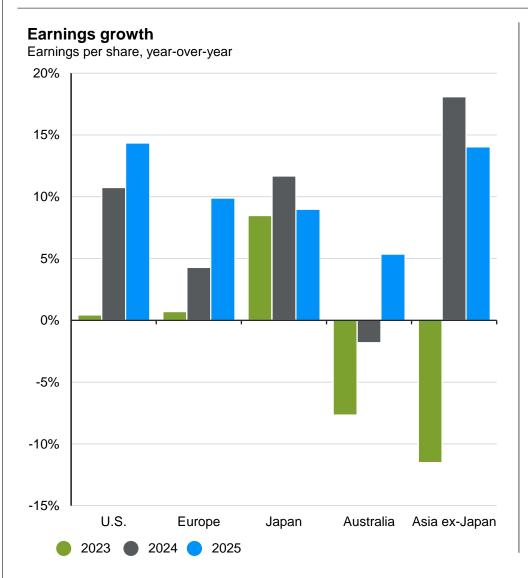
All return values are MSCI indices except the U.S. and Australia, which are the S&P 500 and ASX 200, respectively. *Multiple expansion is based on the forward P/E ratio and EPS growth outlook is based on NTMA earnings estimates. Chart is for illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current and future

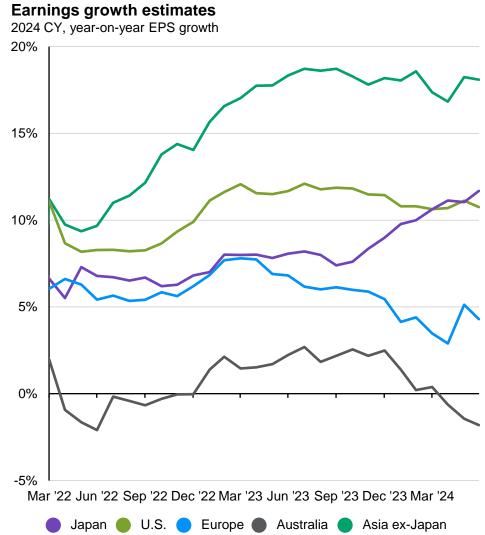
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Global equities: Earnings and revisions









Fixed income sector returns

GTM AUS 48

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	YTD	2Q '24	Ten-yr Ann.
AUD Local	25.3% Global HY 7.1%	16.0% U.S. MBS 6.1%	14.2% U.S. MBS 1.5%	15.3% Global HY 15.9%	5.1% Aus IG 5.1%	12.2% U.S. MBS 1.0%	14.6% EM Debt 14.4%	5.3% Aus IG 5.3%	12.5% U.S. TIPS 6.0%	-5.5% U.S. MBS -11.8%	12.7% Global HY 12.4%	4.9% Global HY 3.4%	0.2% Aus IG 0.2%	5.6% Global HY 3.9%
	16.4%	15.4%	13.9%	10.7%	3.5%	12.1%	13.9%	4.1%	7.6%	-6.2%	9.8%	4.1%	-1.0%	4.4%
	Global IG	EM Debt	EM Debt	EM Debt	Aus Gov	U.S. Treas.	Global HY	Aus Gov	Global HY	U.S. Treas.	EM Debt	EM Debt	Aus Gov	EM Debt
	0.3%	5.5%	1.2%	10.2%	3.5%	0.9%	14.0%	4.1%	2.9%	-12.5%	10.5%	1.8%	-1.0%	2.5%
	14.4%	14.8%	13.4%	5.6%	2.0%	9.7%	11.7%	1.1%	5.0%	-6.7%	8.9%	2.9%	-1.1%	3.3%
	U.S. MBS	U.S. Treas.	U.S. Treas.	Portfolio	Global HY	U.S. TIPS	Global IG	U.S. TIPS	U.S. MBS	Aus IG	Global IG	U.S. TIPS	Global HY	Global IG
	-1.4%	5.1%	0.8%	5.4%	7.6%	-1.3%	11.5%	11.0%	-1.0%	-6.7%	9.6%	0.7%	1.4%	1.4%
	12.9%	13.3%	10.9%	5.2%	1.2%	7.4%	9.5%	0.8%	4.5%	-7.0%	6.8%	1.9%	-1.3%	2.7%
	U.S. Treas.	U.S. TIPS	U.S. TIPS	U.S. TIPS	EM Debt	Global HY	Portfolio	Portfolio	EM Debt	Global HY	Aus IG	Portfolio	Portfolio	Portfolio
	-2.7%	3.6%	-1.4%	4.7%	9.3%	-2.4%	9.2%	6.1%	-1.5%	-11.8%	6.8%	0.7%	0.1%	2.0%
	9.9%	12.8%	8.5%	4.8%	1.0%	7.2%	8.6%	0.5%	3.7%	-10.2%	6.8%	1.6%	-1.5%	2.6%
	Portfolio	Global IG	Global IG	Global IG	Global IG	Portfolio	U.S. TIPS	Global IG	U.S. Treas.	Aus Gov	Portfolio	Aus IG	U.S. TIPS	U.S. MBS
	0.3%	3.1%	-3.6%	4.3%	9.1%	0.7%	8.4%	10.4%	-2.3%	-10.2%	6.8%	1.6%	0.8%	0.8%
	8.4%	11.7%	7.8%	3.8%	0.9%	7.1%	7.8%	-1.6%	3.1%	-10.4%	4.4%	1.3%	-1.9%	2.6%
	EM Debt	Portfolio	Global HY	Aus IG	Portfolio	Global IG	Aus Gov	Global HY	Global IG	EM Debt	U.S. MBS	U.S. Treas.	EM Debt	U.S. Treas.
	-6.6%	6.0%	-2.1%	3.8%	5.1%	-3.6%	7.8%	6.3%	-2.9%	-16.5%	5.0%	-0.9%	0.4%	0.8%
	6.1%	10.3%	7.7%	2.5%	-4.6%	6.0%	7.1%	-1.6%	2.3%	-10.7%	4.3%	1.2%	-2.2%	2.6%
	U.S. TIPS	Aus Gov	Portfolio	Aus Gov	U.S. TIPS	EM Debt	Aus IG	U.S. Treas.	Portfolio	Global IG	Aus Gov	Global IG	U.S. Treas.	Aus IG
	-8.6%	10.3%	0.5%	2.5%	3.0%	-4.6%	7.1%	8.0%	-1.1%	-16.7%	4.3%	-0.9%	0.1%	2.6%
	4.3%	9.2%	3.0%	2.2%	-5.1%	5.1%	7.0%	-3.5%	-1.6%	-11.7%	3.4%	1.2%	-2.2%	1.5%
	Aus IG	Global HY	Aus IG	U.S. MBS	U.S. MBS	Aus Gov	U.S. Treas.	EM Debt	Aus IG	Portfolio	U.S. Treas.	U.S. MBS	U.S. MBS	Aus Gov
	4.3%	2.5%	3.0%	1.7%	2.5%	5.1%	6.9%	5.9%	-1.6%	-11.1%	4.1%	-1.0%	0.1%	1.5%
	0.3%	8.1%	2.3%	1.5%	-5.3%	3.9%	6.5%	-5.4%	-3.1%	-76.2%	3.3%	-0.1%	-2.5%	-9.5%
	Aus Gov	Aus IG	Aus Gov	U.S. Treas.	U.S. Treas.	Aus IG	U.S. MBS	U.S. MBS	Aus Gov	U.S. TIPS	U.S. TIPS	Aus Gov	Global IG	U.S. TIPS
	0.3%	8.1%	2.3%	1.0%	2.3%	3.9%	6.4%	3.9%	-3.1%	-11.8%	3.9%	-0.1%	-0.2%	2.1%

Source: Bloomberg L.P., FactSet, ICE BofA, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Aus Gov: AusBond Treasury (0+Y); U.S. Treas.: Barclays U.S. Aggregate Government – Treasury; Global IG: Barclays Global Aggregate – Corporate – Investment Grade; Aus IG: Bloomberg AusBond Credit (0+Y); Global HY: BoA/ML Global High Yield; EM Debt: J.P. Morgan EMBI Global; U.S. TIPS: Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS); U.S. MBS: Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Securitised – MBS. Hypothetical portfolio (for illustrative purposes only and should not be taken as a recommendation): 25% Aus Gov, 15% Aus IG, 10% Global IG, 15% Global HY, 10% EM Debt, 15% U.S. Treas., 5% U.S. TIPS, 5% U.S. MBS. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current and future results. Guide to the Markets – Australia. Data as of 30 June 2024.

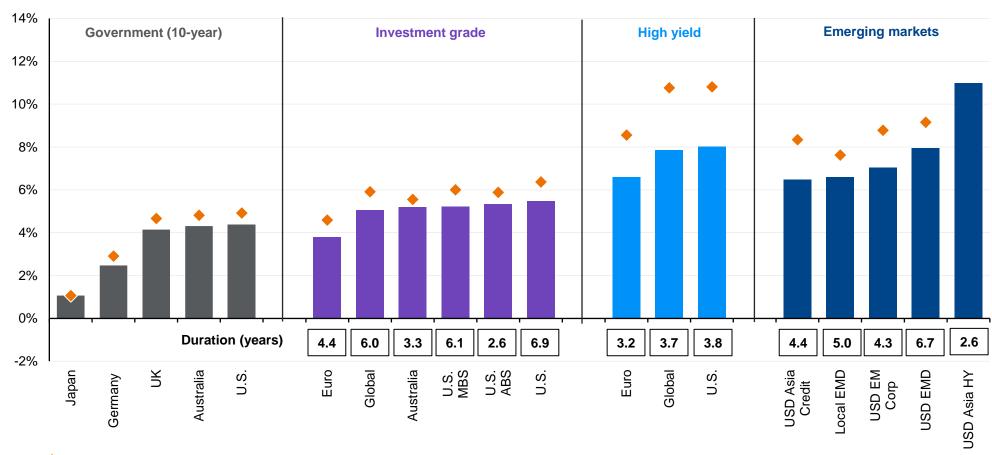




Fixed income yields

GTM AUS 50

Nominal yields



Maximum yield in past 10 years

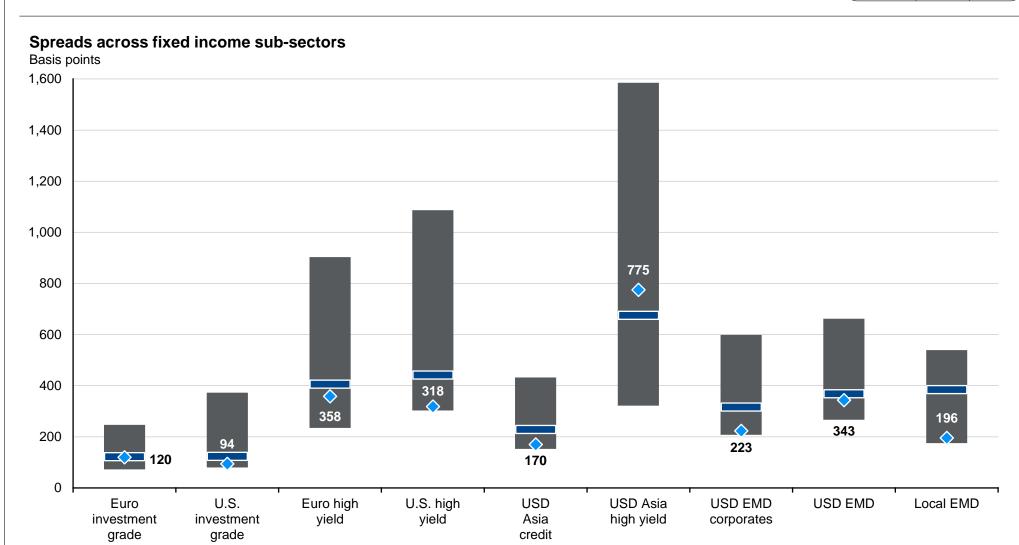
Source: Bloomberg L.P., FactSet, ICE BofA, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Euro IG: Bloomberg Barclays Euro-Aggregate – Corporate; Global IG: Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate – Corporate; Aus IG: Bloomberg AusBond Credit (0+Y); U.S. IG: Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Corporate. Euro HY: ICE BofA Euro Developed Markets Non-Financial High Yield Constrained Index; Global HY: ICE BofA Global High Yield; U.S. HY: ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Constrained Index; USD EM Corp: CEMBI Broad Diversified; Local EMD: GBI-EM Global Diversified; USD EMD: EMBI Global; USD Asia Credit: JPM Asia Credit; Local Asia EMD: JPM JADE; USD Asia HY: JPM Asia HY. Positive yield does not imply positive return. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current and future results. Max yield on USD Asia HY is 19.1%. Guide to the Markets – Australia. Data as of 30 June 2024.

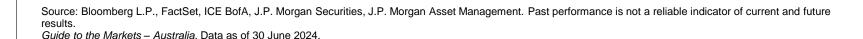




Fixed income valuations

GTM AUS 51





Current spread

10-year range

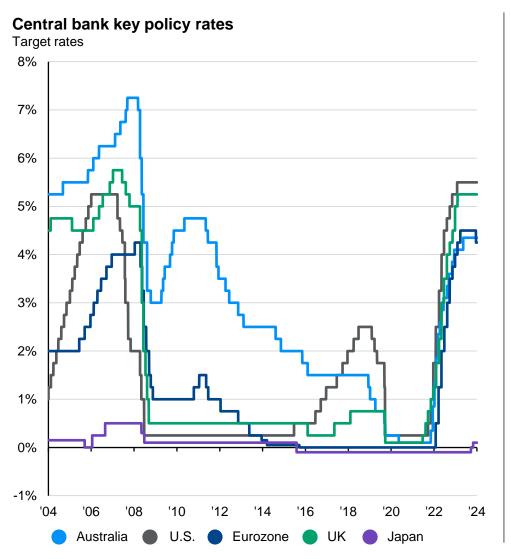
10-year average

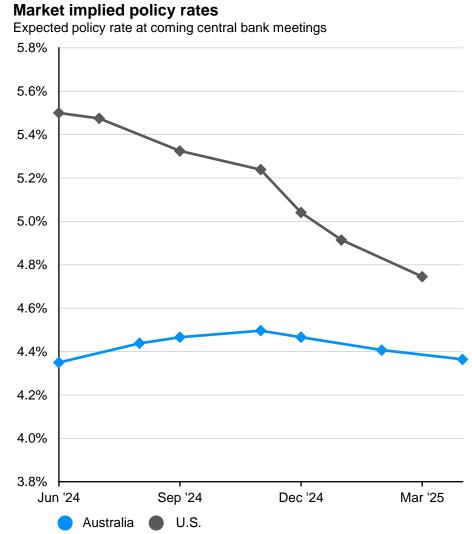




Central bank policy rates

GTM AUS 54





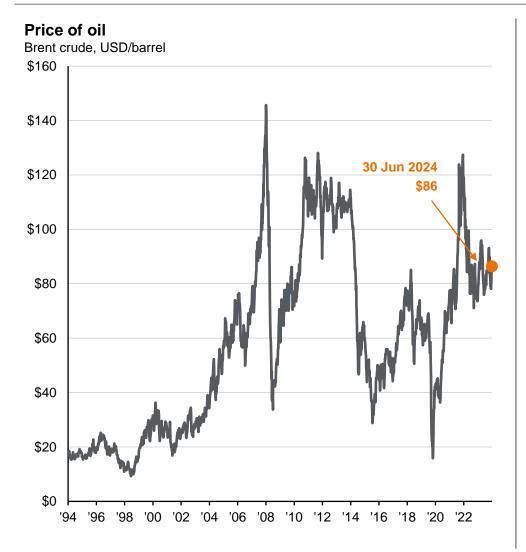
Source: Bank of Japan, European Central Bank, FactSet, Reserve Bank of Australia, U.S. Federal Reserve, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current and future results.

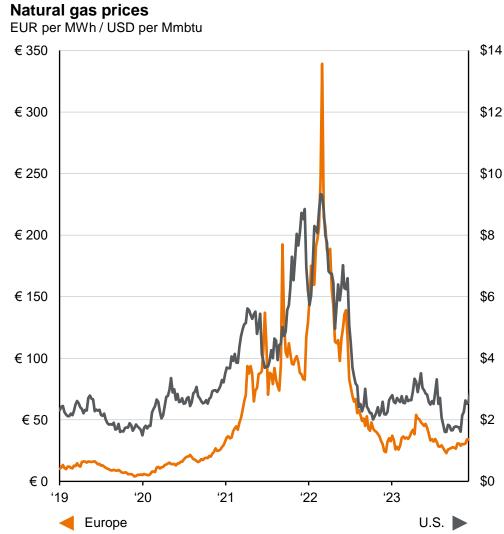
Guide to the Markets – Australia. Data as of 30 June 2024.





Energy prices





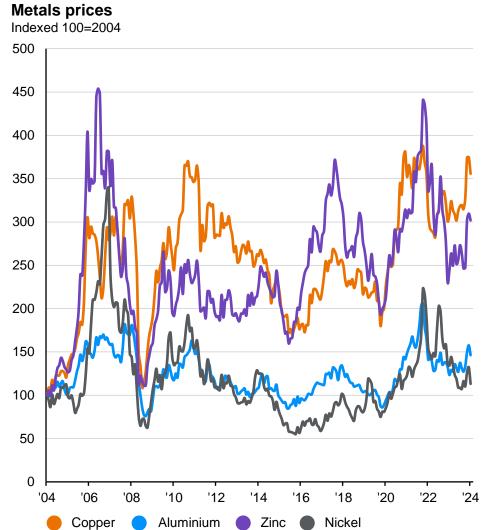




Metals

GTM AUS 67





Source: FactSet, J.P. Morgan Asset Management; (Left) U.S. Federal Reserve; (Right) London Metals Exchange. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current and future results.

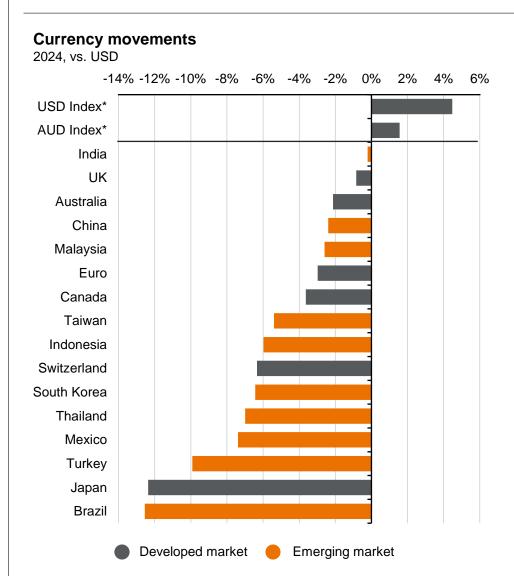
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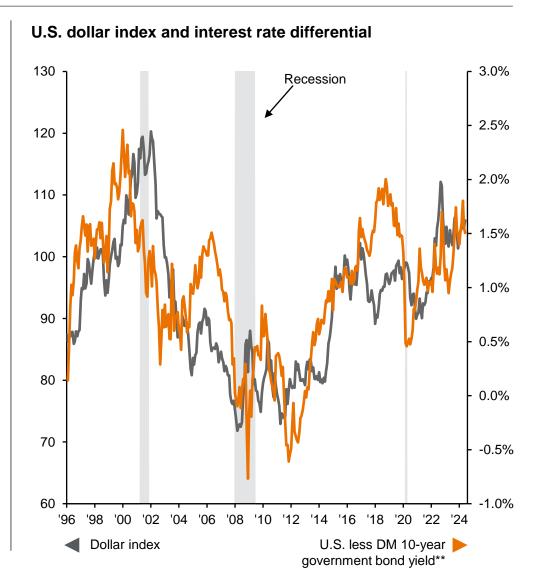




Global currencies

GTM AUS 69





Source: FactSet, J.P. Morgan Asset Management; (Left) Reserve Bank of Australia; (Right) OECD.

*USD and AUD Index shows performance vs. a basket of trading partners. **DM is developed markets and the yield is a GDP-weighted average of the 10-year government bond yields of Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Switzerland and the UK. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current and future results.

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Unless otherwise stated, all data are as of 30 June 2024 or most recently available.

Material ID: 0903c02a82674e7f

