



UK Week in Markets

Week ending 01 August 2021



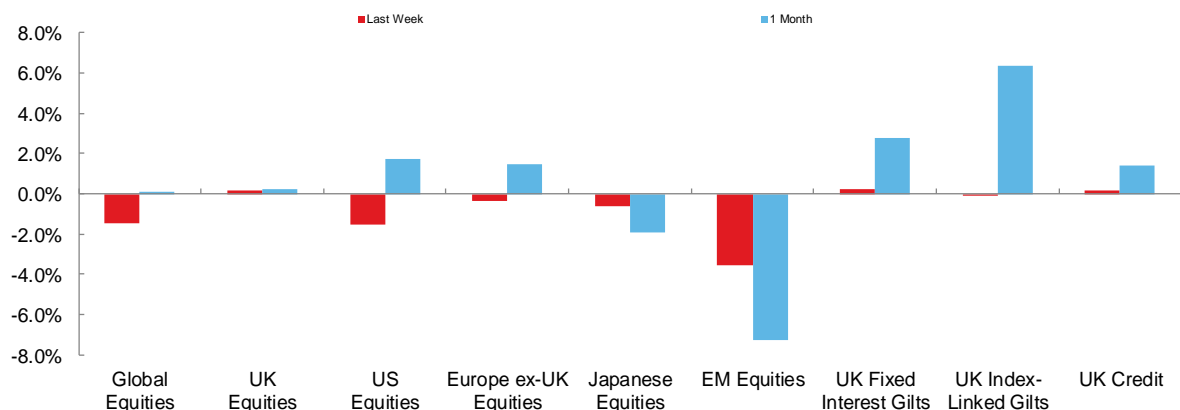
Key News and Events

- Following a series of regulatory measures aimed at the tech sector, China imposed a massive regulatory crackdown on its \$100bn-a-year private tutoring sector, banning companies that teach school curriculum subjects from taking profits and listing on stock exchanges in the future. This move by the Chinese Communist Party escalated concerns over the extent of future regulation. Meanwhile, Tencent, a Chinese tech giant, suspended new registrations on its flagship messaging app Wechat until it aligns with relevant rules and regulations.
- After weeks of negotiations, US senators voted 67-32 in support of the Biden administration's \$1tn bipartisan infrastructure spending bill. The bill still needs to be approved by the Senate and Democrat-controlled House of Representatives.
- The Eurozone economy rebounded in Q2 2021 with quarter-on-quarter growth of 2% as the lifting of lockdowns and accelerating vaccination programme boosted consumer and business confidence. US economic growth was weaker than expected as weak property investments and inventory drawdowns offset strong consumption. The economy grew by 6.5% on an annualised basis over Q2 2021.



Market Overview

Index Returns



Cumulative Return Over Last 12 Months

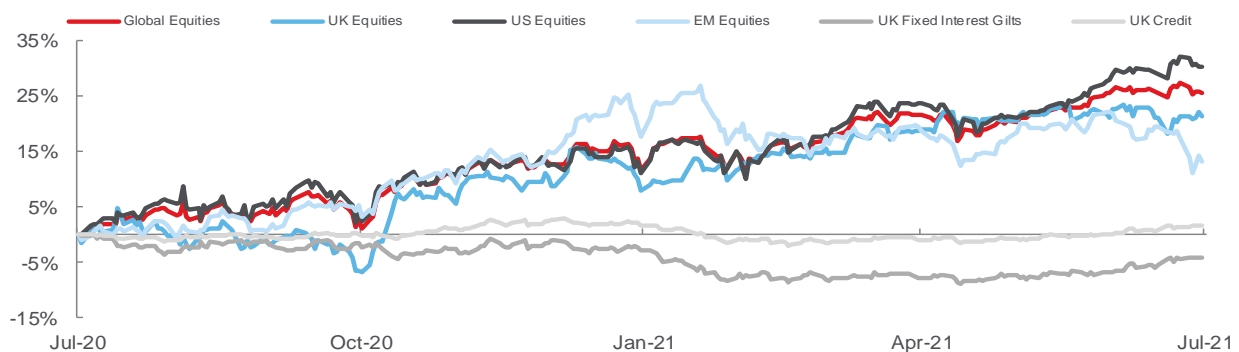


Chart Source: FactSet, FTSE, MSCI, ICE BofAML. Total return in GBP terms shown.



Market Summary

Equities

- Global equity markets fell over the week.
- The MSCI AC World Index fell by 0.6% in local currency terms and fell by 1.5% in sterling terms.
- The Materials sector was the best performer, returning 1.8% in sterling terms.
- The Consumer Discretionary sector was the worst performer, returning -2.6% in sterling terms.
- UK equities were the best performing market in sterling terms (+0.2%).
- Emerging Market equities were the worst performing market in sterling terms (-3.6%).

Government Bonds

- The 10-year gilt yield fell by 2bps to 0.57% and the 20-year gilt yield fell by 1bp to 0.99%.
- The 10-year US treasury yield fell by 5bps to 1.23%.
- At the 10-year maturity, the German bund yield fell by 4bps to -0.45% and the French government bond yield fell by 2bps to -0.10%.
- Greek government bond yields fell by 6bps to 0.60%.
- The UK Over 5-year real yield rose by 1bp to -2.36% and the UK 20-year real yield rose by 1bps to -2.56%.
- 20-year breakeven inflation fell by 2bps to 3.48%.

Credit

- The sterling non-gilt spread over UK gilt yields (based on the ICE index) was unchanged at 91bps over the week.
- The US high yield bond spread over US treasury yields rose by 4bps to 326bps over the week.
- Meanwhile, the spread of hard currency emerging market debt over US treasury rose by 3bps to 357bps over the week. Local currency emerging market debt fell over the week, returning -0.4%.

Commodities

- The S&P GSCI index rose by 1.6% in USD terms over the week.
- The S&P GSCI Energy index rose by 2.3% as the price of Brent Crude oil rose by 3.0% to US\$76/BBL.
- Industrial metal prices rose by 2.5% as copper prices rose by 3.3% to US\$9,748/MT.
- Agricultural prices rose by 0.4% and gold prices rose by 1.5% to US\$1,826/Oz.

Currencies

- Sterling strengthened by 1.1% against the US dollar and rose by 0.3% against the euro, ending the week at \$1.39/£ and €1.17/£ respectively.
 - The US dollar decreased by 0.7% against the Japanese yen, ending the week at ¥109.75/\$.
-

Contacts

Himmat Dhaliwal

Aon – London

himmat.dhaliwal@aon.com

+44 (0) 1372 73 3619

Nikhil Anto

Aon – Bangalore

nikhil.anto@aon.com

+91 80 6621 8236

About Aon Global Asset Allocation

Where are we in the economic cycle? What is the relative value of different asset classes? How are technical factors, such as regulation, impacting prices? Aon's Global Asset Allocation team continually asks and answers questions like these. We use our findings to help clients make timely decisions about asset allocation in their schemes' portfolios.

With over 160 years of combined experience, the team is one of the strongest in UK investment consultancy today.

Our experts analyze market movements and economic conditions around the world, setting risk and return expectations for global capital markets.

The team use those expectations to help our clients set and, when it's right to do so, revise their long-term investment policies.

We believe that the medium-term (1–3 years) has been under exploited as a source of investment performance. Maintaining medium-term views that complement our long-term expectations, we help our clients to determine when to make changes to their investment strategy

About Aon

Aon plc (NYSE:AON) is a leading global professional services firm providing a broad range of risk, retirement and health solutions. Our 50,000 colleagues in 120 countries empower results for clients by using proprietary data and analytics to deliver insights that reduce volatility and improve performance.

For further information on our capabilities and to learn how we empower results for clients, please visit <http://aon.mediaroom.com>.

© Aon plc 2021. All rights reserved.

Aon Solutions UK Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Registered in England & Wales.

Registered No: 4396810.

Registered Office:

The Aon Centre

The Leadenhall Building

122 Leadenhall Street

London EC3V 4AN

Appendix: Disclaimer

This document and any enclosures or attachments are prepared on the understanding that it is solely for the benefit of the addressee(s). Unless we provide express prior written consent, no part of this document should be reproduced, distributed or communicated to anyone else and, in providing this document, we do not accept or assume any responsibility for any other purpose or to anyone other than the addressee(s) of this document. Notwithstanding the level of skill and care used in conducting due diligence into any organisation that is the subject of a rating in this document, it is not always possible to detect the negligence, fraud, or other misconduct of the organisation being assessed or any weaknesses in that organisation's systems and controls or operations. This document and any due diligence conducted is based upon information available to us at the date of this document and takes no account of subsequent developments. In preparing this document we may have relied upon data supplied to us by third parties (including those that are the subject of due diligence) and therefore no warranty or guarantee of accuracy or completeness is provided. We cannot be held accountable for any error, omission or misrepresentation of any data provided to us by third parties (including those that are the subject of due diligence). This document is not intended by us to form a basis of any decision by any third party to do or omit to do anything.

Any opinions or assumptions in this document have been derived by us through a blend of economic theory, historical analysis and/or other sources. Any opinion or assumption may contain elements of subjective judgement and are not intended to imply, nor should be interpreted as conveying, any form of guarantee or assurance by us of any future performance. Views are derived from our research process and it should be noted in particular that we cannot research legal, regulatory, administrative or accounting procedures and accordingly make no warranty and accept no responsibility for consequences arising from relying on this document in this regard. Calculations may be derived from our proprietary models in use at that time. Models may be based on historical analysis of data and other methodologies and we may have incorporated their subjective judgement to complement such data as is available. It should be noted that models may change over time and they should not be relied upon to capture future uncertainty or events.

BLOOMBERG® is a trademark and service mark of Bloomberg Finance L.P. and its affiliates (collectively "Bloomberg"). BARCLAYS® is a trademark and service mark of Barclays Bank Plc (collectively with its affiliates, "Barclays"), used under license. Bloomberg or Bloomberg's licensors, including Barclays, own all proprietary rights in the Bloomberg Barclays Indices. Neither Bloomberg nor Barclays approves or endorses this material, or guarantees the accuracy or completeness of any information herein, or makes any warranty, express or implied, as to the results to be obtained therefrom and, to the maximum extent allowed by law, neither shall have any liability or responsibility for injury or damages arising in connection therewith.

London Stock Exchange Group plc and its group undertakings (collectively, the "LSE Group"). © LSE Group 2021. FTSE Russell is a trading name of certain of the LSE Group companies. "FTSE®" "Russell®", "FTSE Russell® are a trademark(s) of the relevant LSE Group companies and is/are used by any other LSE Group company under license. All rights in the FTSE Russell indexes or data vest in the relevant LSE Group company which owns the index or the data. Neither LSE Group nor its licensors accept any liability for any errors or omissions in the indexes or data and no party may rely on any indexes or data contained in this communication. No further distribution of data from the LSE Group is permitted without the relevant LSE Group company's express written consent. The LSE Group does not promote, sponsor or endorse the content of this communication.

The MSCI information may only be used for your internal use, may not be reproduced or disseminated in any form and may not be used as a basis for or a component of any financial instruments or products or indices. None of the MSCI information is intended to constitute investment advice or a recommendation to make (or refrain from making) any kind of investment decision and may not be relied on as such. Historical data and analysis should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of any future performance analysis, forecast or prediction. The MSCI information is provided on an "as is" basis and the user of this information assumes the entire risk of any use made of this information. MSCI, each of its affiliates and each other person involved in or related to compiling, computing or creating any MSCI information (collectively, the "MSCI Parties") expressly disclaims all warranties (including, without limitation, any warranties of originality, accuracy, completeness, timeliness, non-infringement, merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose) with respect to this information. Without limiting any of the foregoing, in no event shall any MSCI Party have any liability for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, punitive, consequential (including, without limitation, lost profits) or any other damages. (www.msci.com)

Neither Markit, its Affiliates nor any third party data provider makes any warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, completeness or timeliness of the data contained herewith nor as to the results to be obtained by recipients of the data. Neither Markit, its Affiliates nor any data provider shall in any way be liable to any recipient of the data for any inaccuracies, errors or omissions in the Markit data, regardless of cause, or for any damages (whether direct or indirect) resulting there from. Opinions, estimates and projections in this report do not reflect the opinions of Markit Indices and its Affiliates. Markit has no obligation to update, modify or amend this report or to otherwise notify a reader thereof in the event that any matter stated herein, or any opinion, projection, forecast or estimate set forth herein, changes or subsequently becomes inaccurate. Without limiting the foregoing, Markit, its Affiliates, or any third party data provider shall have no liability whatsoever to you, whether in contract (including under an indemnity), in tort (including negligence), under a warranty, under statute or otherwise, in respect of any loss or damage suffered by you as a result of or in connection with any opinions, recommendations, forecasts, judgments, or any other conclusions, or any course of action determined, by you or any third party, whether or not based on the content, information or materials contained herein.