

The blessing of long life meets the burden of long duration bonds

Macro headlines

On the day Ethel Caterham, the world's oldest verified person living, turns 117 – a reminder of extraordinary longevity – global markets confront their own pressures with long-end bonds as the fiscal trajectory continues to deteriorate. US Treasury said that they may further increase Treasury buybacks after Wednesday's surprise doubling of long-duration repurchases, an attempt to stabilize a debt market rattled by swelling public liabilities now exceeding USD40trn. In geopolitics, President Trump warned of economic consequences for any country offering "any type of lifeline to Iran," reinforcing Washington's sanctions-first strategy as the US-Iran war nears six months with no progress on reopening the Strait of Hormuz. Treasury Secretary Bessent said the US will impose "the toughest sanctions in history". In macroeconomic data, inflation across major economies added to the sense of renewed pressure: Japan's July core CPI accelerated to 1.8% y/y as firms passed through higher import costs, and Germany's July producer prices surged 3.0% y/y, the fastest pace in over three years. Central banks continue to respond cautiously – Sweden's Riksbank held rates steady with a still live chance of a hike before year-end, while Egypt kept its deposit rate at 19%. Trade and demand indicators were mixed: Taiwan's July export orders surged 62% y/y to a record USD98bn on strong AI-related demand, while Walmart reported its slowest comparable sales growth in six years, warning that high gasoline prices are squeezing US consumers.

Market performances

US Treasuries sold off again on Thursday after brief reprieve, with the 30-year yield rising 5.4bps to 5.247%, reversing part of Wednesday's decline. The 10-year yield rose to 4.70%, underscoring persistent concerns about the US fiscal trajectory despite Treasury's expanded buyback program. US equities weakened: the Nasdaq fell 1%, the S&P 500 dropped 0.9%, and the Dow declined 1.3%. MSCI's global equity gauge fell 0.3%. European equities were softer, with the STOXX 600 down 0.12%. Tech sentiment remained resilient despite higher yields, with semiconductor stocks rebounding as AI-infrastructure spending remains non-discretionary, limiting the impact of bond market turbulence on the sector. Oil prices climbed as disruption in the Strait of Hormuz showed no signs of easing. Brent rose 2% to USD93.49/bbl, while WTI gained 0.77% to USD85.59/bbl. Distillate inventories fell for a third week, adding to supply tightness concerns. In FX, the euro traded at EUR1.1695, its highest since May, before settling flat. The yen weakened to JPY159.12 per USD. The dollar index edged up to 98.89. Cryptocurrencies, helped by the regulatory tailwinds, continued their march higher.

What's Next

Friday's calendar includes Canada's June retail sales (headline and ex-auto), US S&P Global manufacturing and services PMIs (flash), Mexico's June retail sales, and Argentina's June economic activity index and July trade data. The UK releases August GfK consumer confidence, July public finances data, and July retail sales (headline and ex-auto-fuel). France publishes August business and manufacturing confidence and flash PMIs. Germany releases flash PMIs and eurozone PMIs follow shortly after, alongside eurozone negotiated wages and consumer confidence data. Asia's docket includes India's HSBC PMIs (manufacturing, services, composite). While markets will pay close attention to the August flash PMIs to get a sense of high frequency macro

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dynamics, and to the long-end bond yield dynamics, football fans will watch the start of the English Premier League season with last year's title winners Arsenal playing newly promoted Coventry City.

Daily Market View

Investment Strategy ♦ August 21, 2026

Performance snapshot*				
Rates	Latest	1D (bp)	1M (bp)	3M (bp)
SOFR	3.62	0.00	3.00	12.00
UAE Eibor 3m	3.82	-8.63	-1.25	8.73
UAE Eibor 12m	4.23	0.89	9.27	19.35
US 3m Bills	3.79	0.81	-0.07	15.10
US 10yr Treasury	4.70	5.75	15.67	11.86
German 10yr Bund	3.26	-0.30	13.30	16.30
UK 10yr Gilt	5.07	2.30	11.60	7.90
Fixed Income		1D (%)	1M (%)	3M(%)
Global Agg. Index	502	-0.03	0.74	0.69
Global Treasuries	208	0.04	0.95	0.76
Global Corporate	303	-0.16	0.26	0.37
EM USD Sovereign	464	-0.25	-0.40	1.33
EM LCY Sovereign	169	0.15	1.94	2.96
Global High Yield	1,914	-0.10	0.63	1.83
Currencies				
Dollar Index	98.90	0.06	-1.86	-0.20
EUR USD	1.1673	0.03	2.05	0.40
GBP USD	1.3631	0.15	1.33	1.41
USD JPY	159.00	0.39	-2.09	0.10
Equities				
S&P 500	7,641	-0.87	2.46	2.80
Dow Jones	52,759	-1.32	1.18	5.50
NASDAQ	26,067	-1.00	2.14	-0.77
STOXX 600	650	-0.12	1.37	4.85
DAX	25,983	-0.42	4.64	5.04
Nikkei 225	66,217	1.36	3.24	10.72
FTSE 100	10,748	0.04	1.39	3.03
SENSEX	77,538	0.82	-0.79	2.95
Hang Seng	25,698	0.80	4.63	0.18
MSCI World	4,947	-0.57	2.90	3.79
MSCI EM	1,700	1.89	4.89	3.83
Regional Equities				
ADX	10,076	0.69	3.01	4.97
DFM	5,840	-0.04	0.44	3.78
Tadawul*	10,954	0.26	1.72	-1.27
DSM*	9,683	-0.92	-3.99	-8.25
MSM30*	7,523	-0.31	4.70	-1.25
BHSE*	1,944	-0.07	-1.10	-2.82
KWSE*	8,818	-0.03	0.89	-0.20
Commodities				
BBG Commodity Index	139.4	0.69	6.09	-0.52
Brent USD/bbl	93.78	2.36	6.45	-10.70
WTI USD/bbl	87.83	2.33	6.47	-10.61
Gold USD/t oz	4,510.1	0.37	12.26	-0.54
Silver USD/t oz	68.1	1.66	21.78	-10.29

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Platinum USD/t oz	1,834.7	0.78	14.92	-6.10
Aluminum	3,206.4	-0.66	1.74	-12.38
Copper USD/MT	14,170.0	-0.07	5.96	5.60
Digital Assets				
Bitcoin	72,663.8	5.25	13.40	-6.44
Ether	2,318.1	4.51	25.85	8.62
Solana	87.6	4.58	16.69	1.69
XRP	1.2	13.11	14.27	-9.17
Volatility				
VIX	16.01	7.52	-14.70	-8.20
MOVE	73.18	2.69	3.24	-10.24

Source: Bloomberg, and ADCB Asset Management *Notes: Data as at 8AM UAE time – August 21, 2025. Performance in local currency terms.

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