Weekly Macro Themes

End of Year Special Edition - 2025

"The End of Year Special Edition takes a different format to the usual weekly slide deck, and presents you with highlights, reflections, and some of the best charts of 2025. I sincerely hope you enjoy it!"
-- Callum Thomas, Head of Research and founder of Topdown Charts

Retrospective on 2025 + Thoughts Going Forward…

1. Charts That Worked: what went right, what helped identify risks and opportunities

2. Charts That Didn't Work: where we got things wrong, what lessons were learned

3. Favourite Charts of 2025: charts that were helpful, interesting, and surprising

4. Charts to Watch in 2026: key macro themes/ideas/risks in the year ahead

5. Honourable Mentions: noteworthy charts which didn't fit in the previous sections

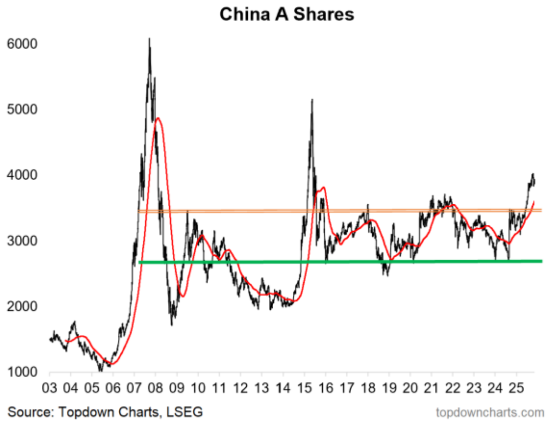
6. Track Record Update: reviewing open/closed ideas, monthly TAA value add

Section A. Charts That Worked

First up is a look at some of the charts and calls that worked particularly well during the year.

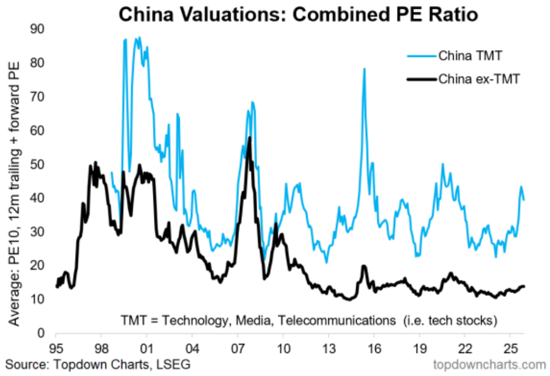
1. This chart and the thinking behind it helped in identifying one of the most underestimated and surprising strong performers in global markets this year. But that wasn't the only part of the story.

"2025 Surprise? Consensus does not see the possibility that Trade War 2.0 results in accelerated stimulus to counter headwinds –and a subsequent surge in domestic Chinese stocks (and the prospect that the disruptive new reformative policies potentially rattle expensive US stocks). While Chinese stocks are not without downside risk, there does appear to be an opportunity here." (10 Jan 2025)



2. Chinese tech stocks staged a magnificent rally from significantly undervalued & underestimated levels. It was one of those classic contrarian setups, but also a major development from a geopolitical/global-order standpoint, as the launch of DeepSeek AI challenged the previous notion of China as an imitator vs rising innovator. Which is another reminder to keep those narratives refreshed and sources current (those who rely on stale insights will always be surprised).

"Another potential ripple effect from DeepSeek is a challenging of the consensus Western media thinking that China can only imitate rather than innovate, …A rethinking here could see cheaper (valuations near bottom end of historical range) Chinese tech stocks re-rated up" (31 Jan 2025)

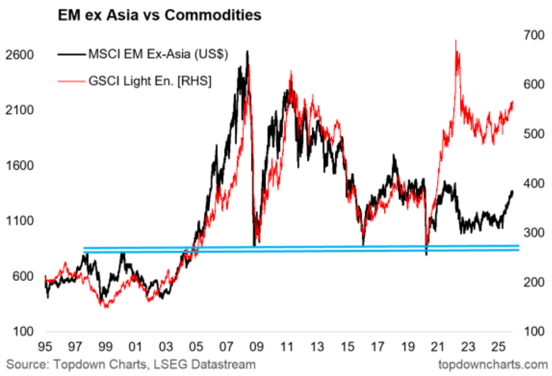


3. Probably one of my most favourite charts of the past couple of years is this textbook "Brobdingnagian breakout" of Emerging Markets (equal-weighted, USD terms). This was a key chart for building bullish conviction on EM equities and most likely represents a harbinger of a major inflection point (measured in years).

*"EM ex-China stocks have undertaken a promising major breakout, and the MSCI EM index continues to trace an upward trending path... **Key point:** on balance bullish EM as momentum + tailwinds outweigh prospective headwinds/risks."* (10 Jan 2025)

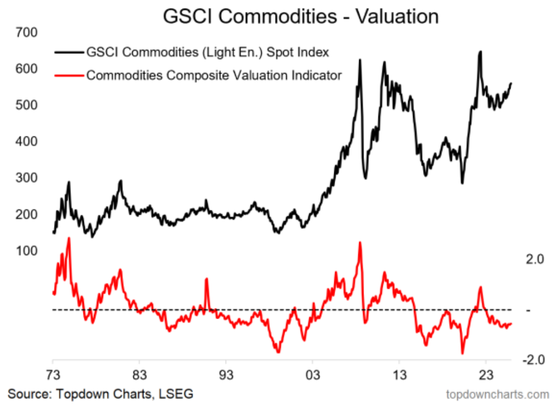
4. Another one in the EM space was the re-awakening of Emerging Markets excluding-Asia. This index also undertook a major bullish technical manoeuvre in breaking out of its multi-year range trade – and was closely interlinked with the bullish developments in commodities. And for charts like this the insights go a little both-ways; bullish price action in one line can be helpful in confirming bullish developments in the other market…

"EM ex-Asia is still significantly cheap, and could well help the case for EM if that side of things begins to pull its weight. The outlook for commodities will be a key swing factor here, as historically stronger commodities has helped EM ex-Asia." (24 Jan 2025)



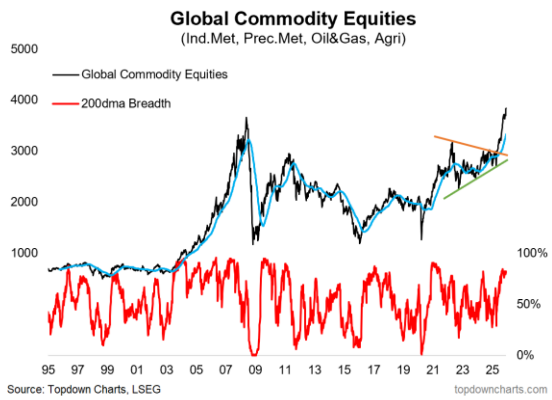
5. Speaking of commodities, this chart (along with several others I always have up my sleeve) helped identify the end of the cyclical bear market in commodities and the now emerging cyclical bull market. Something that has started to come into play this year and will be tremendously important heading into 2026.

"Lastly, this is all set against a backdrop of cheap valuations, and a tendency for commodities to undergo larger cycles; a new upcycle appears to be in progress; suggesting a bullish bias." (17 Jan 2025)



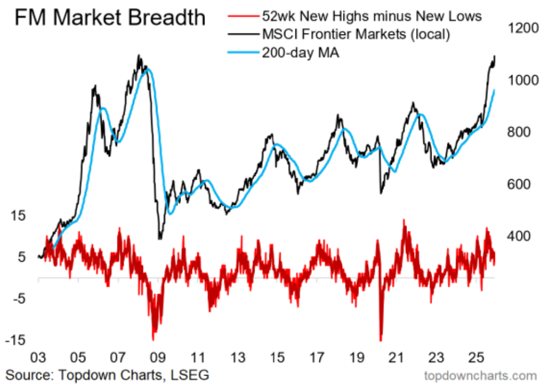
6. And it's not just the commodity prices, but also the companies that produce the commodities. Global commodity stocks undertook a major upside breakout this year, and this chart (+ a few others) helped me + my clients get onto this – but again, also helped in confirming the strength in commodity prices themselves.

"Global commodity equities are ticking up following a notable correction; with breadth ticking up from oversold, and price rebounding from a logical short-term support level. With the 200-day average still strongly upsloping and the outlook for commodity prices improving (which has a huge bearing on things here), the technical outlook for global commodity equities looks good." (17 Jan 2025)



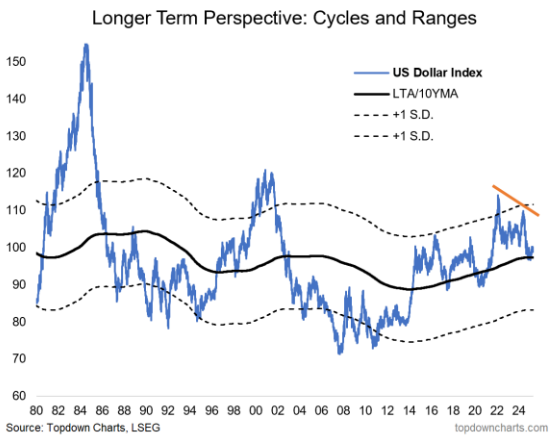
7. While the case for frontier markets was supported by a broader setup (valuations, macro, strategic considerations), this technical chart helped in building conviction with the bullish breakout. It's always particularly satisfying to nail the call for asset classes and markets that are outside of the mainstream and under-covered like this one; so a good chart indeed.

"Over to frontier markets, things have begun to pickup again after a period of consolidation. FM equities in local currency terms in particular look strong with a clear upside breakout and surge in 52-week new highs vs lows market breadth" (24 Jan 2025)



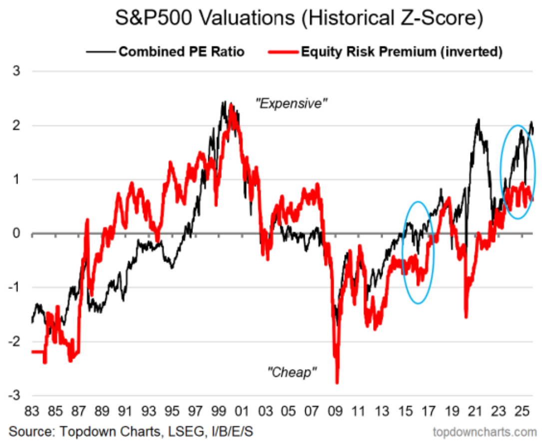
8. If in doubt, just zoom out. And in zooming out for the US dollar, the pattern of price action becomes clear; it looks like a bear.

"Zooming out, the US dollar looks to be progressing through the long-term cycle; likely pushing lower as it runs its course. In the short-term with regards to the prospect of a major breakdown, sentiment is still middle of the road after turning down from previous consensus bullish, and positioning likewise has ample room to move to the downside – in other words, there are plenty of minds still left to change to the bearish side for the US dollar. " (11 April 2025)



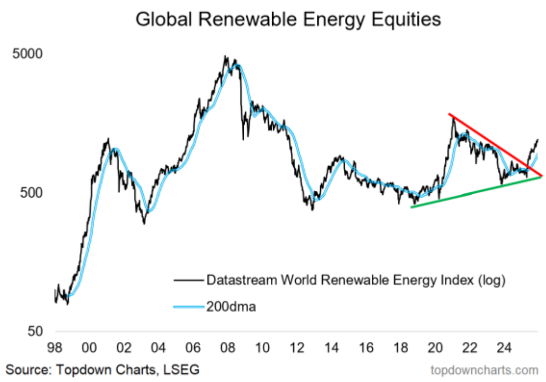
9. So this one was part of a comparative analysis of the backdrop of Trump 1.0 vs 2.0 – the key point being that this time around was an entirely different setup with a different policy agenda. This helped in getting on the right side of the chaos that characterized the first half of the year.

"Comparing 2016/17 vs 2024/25, valuations are now expensive vs cheap back then, earnings expectations are running hot vs cold back then, effective corporate tax rates have already come down a lot (hard to repeat that) – meanwhile the policy outlook under the red wave victory is likely to be reform-like (tariffs, deportations, fiscal repair/government efficiency), with some of the intended long-term gains likely to face short-term uncertainty + difficulty. At best markets go sideways, maybe rotation, but most likely more volatility and probably correction(s)." (10 Jan 2025)



10. Last but not least: the renewal of renewables.

"After the boom and the bust – a new breakout in renewable energy stocks. Global renewable energy equities have broken out after an extended period of range trading following a bursting of the 2020 bubble. Over that time investors have steadily exited clean energy ETFs, with AUM now a fraction of where it once stood… a good contrarian signal, and sign it could have room to run." (18 July 2025)

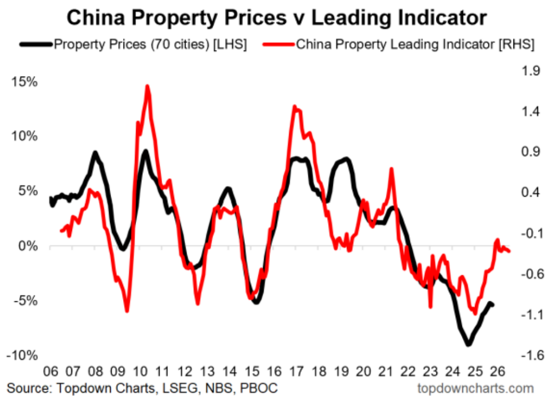


Section B. Charts That Didn't Work

Of course, it wouldn't be complete without a look at some of the charts that didn't work (or shall we say the ones that worked "less well!").

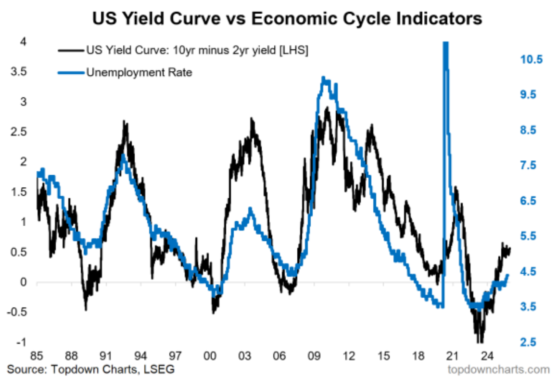
1. It looked like the property downturn in China was turning around, but we still haven't seen any let-up in price declines as yet. Very important market to keep tabs on: continuing to monitor.

"following the various stimulus measures announced last year, the property price leading indicator has turned the corner; suggesting that the worst might be over for China's deepest and most prolonged property downturn since records began." (17 Jan 2025)



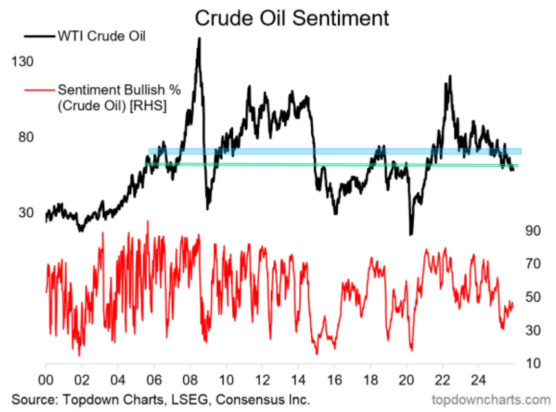
2. Worst fears of recession back in April were not realized, although some aspects did show clear softening. Calling this one wrong (for now?).

"consistent with the Trump admin policy frenzy and uncertainty shock – and very much consistent with the notion that the Trump admin are embarking on essentially a reform-like policy agenda of cathartic short-term pain for anticipated longer-term gain and restructuring. You also see it in the yield curve and at least the trend in the unemployment rate (which is likely to head 20-50bps higher at least on planned Federal staffing cuts). " (11 April 2025)



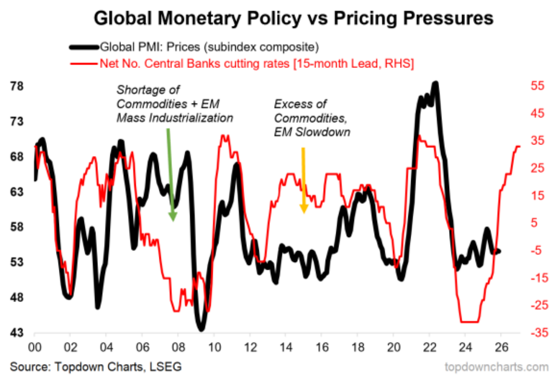
3. Well, crude oil had just about every excuse and chance to rally during 2025 given what went on in geopolitics, but every time it did managed a blip up it turned out to be a false dawn. And perhaps to add to the frustration is that while the upper support level did not hold, the breakdown was not particularly decisive either. While neither bulls nor bears really took control this year, I suspect next year could be a bit different. Definitely one to keep on the radar.

"WTI crude has begun a significant rally off a major long-term support level, with sentiment turning up from about neutral (bottom end of the range)." (17 Jan 2025)



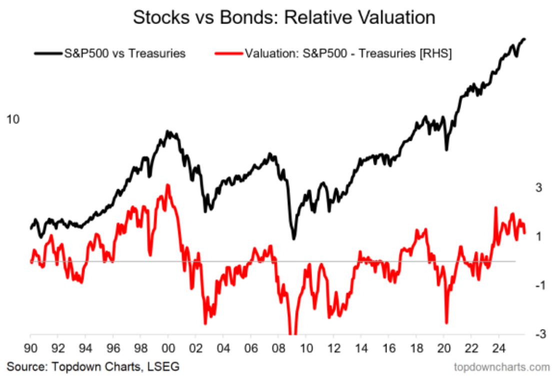
4. Closely related, with global growth kind of just muddling along in 2025 there was no major upside for oil or inflation in general. It might well be that the tariffs ended up kicking this can down the road.

"I think you can still get an inflation uptick at a global level even with a minor slowdown or growth scare in the US, but a big part of that will hinge on commodities (which in my view have a bullish outlook). The key point to note is inflation expectations remain elevated, so any uptick in growth is going to fuel an inflation resurgence; this is basically the base case now. ***Key point:*** *the conditions are ripe for an inflation resurgence. "* (28 Mar 2025)



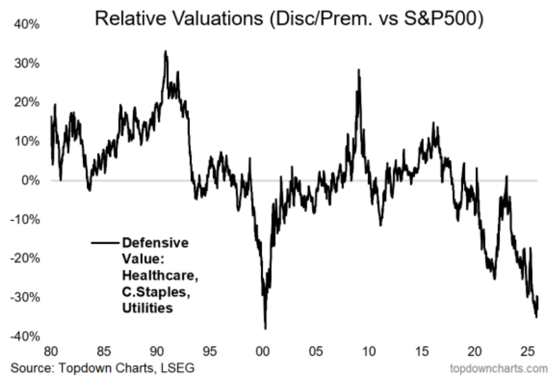
5. Despite the relative value indicator reaching the most expensive levels since dot-com, and with stocks expensive and bonds cheap, it was not meant to be to see stocks lose ground vs bonds this year (except briefly during the tariff tantrum).

"Around the turn of the year the stocks vs bonds relative valuation indicator reached a new post-dot com high; even surpassing the mid/late-90's levels (i.e. on par with the reading seen around the peak). And the underlying signals are consistent: stocks are expensive, bonds are cheap." (31 Jan 2025)



6. And basically an alternative version of the above, defensive stocks (healthcare, utilities, consumer staples) despite reaching the most extreme relative value readings since the very peak of the dot com bubble –did not (yet) manage to move much. I suspect with both the below and the above charts that it is probably more of a matter of when than if, but again it goes to show that the big puzzle picture needs all of the pieces in alignment to really work. These both lacked the tactical element in 2025.

"Similarly, the defensive sector basket relative value score is great – as cheap as dot com, and that's not good. The time when defensives are most hated is when the bull market is most extended e.g. 2000, 2021. I view this basket as both an interesting alternative hedge and a contrarian signal." (10 Jan 2025)

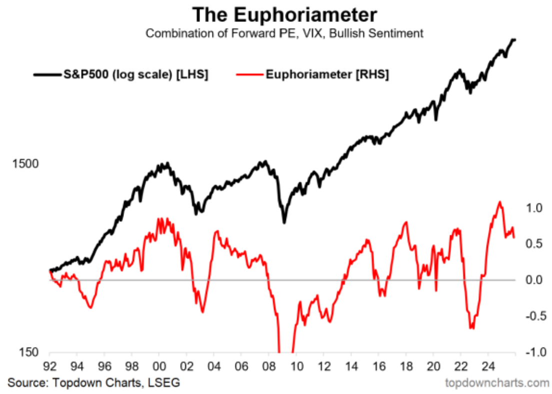


Section C. My Favourite Charts

These are some of my favourites – either new or interesting, or ones that helped illuminate some of the key developments across macro and markets.

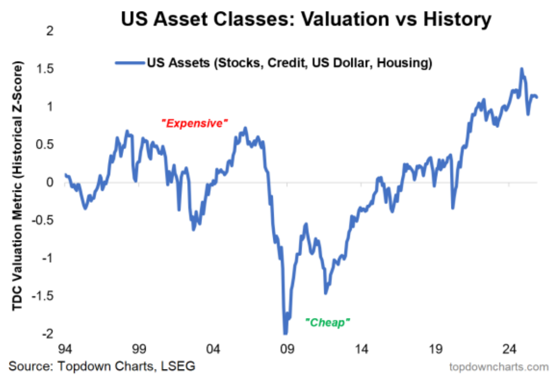
1. The peak in this indicator at record highs helped forewarn of the April correction, but perhaps just as interesting is how it's moved down again from a lower peak more recently. So an interesting one in retrospect, but also in reminding us not to get too complacent as risks build-up in the system.

"sentiment has reached record highs and now ticking down from the highs. This is what we call a mature/aging bull market." (10 Jan 2025)



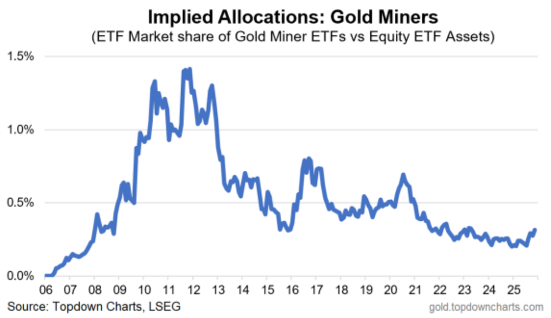
2. One such risk is how after reaching record highs in late-2024, the combined valuation indicator for US equities, US credit spreads (inverted), USD, and US housing market valuations still remains at historically elevated levels. As I noted in the comments, this is the opposite of where things sat at the beginning of the golden decade+ that followed from the 2009 extreme lows in this chart.

"it's not isolated to stocks; credit spreads are expensive, the US dollar is expensive, housing is expensive, and treasuries by contrast are cheap. We now find ourselves sitting at a broad US asset valuation picture basically the opposite of that of March 2009." (31 Jan 2025)



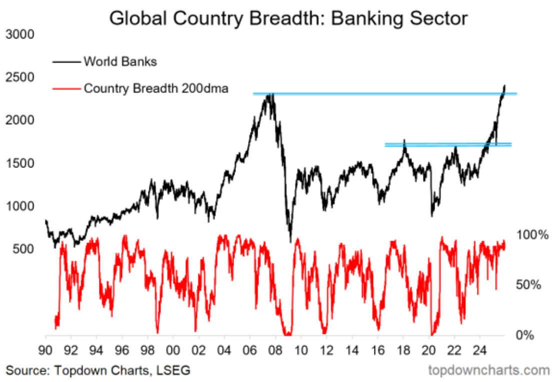
3. This one makes the favourites, not just because it's one of my favourites, but probably one of the most shared charts (on social media). Despite the triple-digit percent gains for gold miners, the implied allocations to these stocks by ETF investors barely managed to blip up from near record lows. Which begs the question as to whether gold miners may even still be early despite the strong performance to date.

"In absolute terms gold miners are in the process of establishing an uptrend, but with attention still mostly on tech and passive flowing to larger stocks it may take a top in tech to drive rotation (or a more undeniable rise in gold). This mood is captured in the ETF market implied allocations to gold miners, which is near a record low. " (31 Jan 2025)



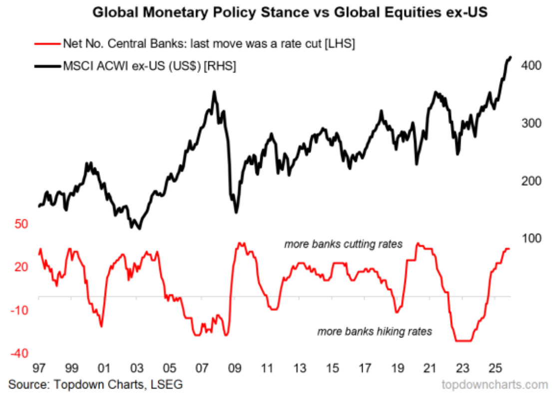
4. Another big beautiful breakout: global banking stocks broke out, retested that breakout during the April tariff tantrum, and then proceeded to launch to new all-time highs. This makes the favourites for obvious reasons on first glance, but also because of how it played in to the resurgence in global equities.

"Global bank stocks have broken out 3rd time lucky against that major resistance zone. A big part of the strength has been global ex-US, but US banks have also started to regain ground vs the index. Overall this is technically a clear sign of strength in a key sector (especially so for global equities)." (14 Feb 2025)



5. Speaking of resurgence in global (ex-US) equities, this chart helped capture what was a major driver of performance and a key catalyst set against a backdrop of cheap valuations. This was a particularly important one because basically we were seeing much more aggressive monetary easing by rest-of-world, and of course that is the type of thing that's going to disproportionately add tailwinds to global stocks.

"Meanwhile the shift to easing is bullish for global equities; particularly global ex-US where there has been more easing + monetary conditions easing from a weaker US dollar." (30 May 2025)



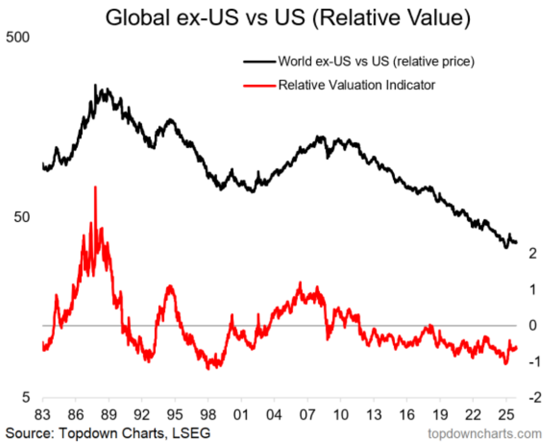
6. Staying with global stocks, this curious line traces the path of "GSV" (global ex-US, Small, Value) – which is the cheap side of the global equities relative value trinity (global vs US, small vs large, value vs growth); where all 3 are trading at record cheap relative valuations. But this chart shows that the absolute performance of GSV actually put in a pretty good run this year.

Albeit the pessimists are probably pointing at that price line now hitting the upper end of that uptrend channel…

"Looking at absolute performance, GSV has pulled back to its mid uptrend channel line where it looks to find support… given the emerging evidence for reacceleration we'd keep a bullish bias for GSV." (24 Jan 2025)

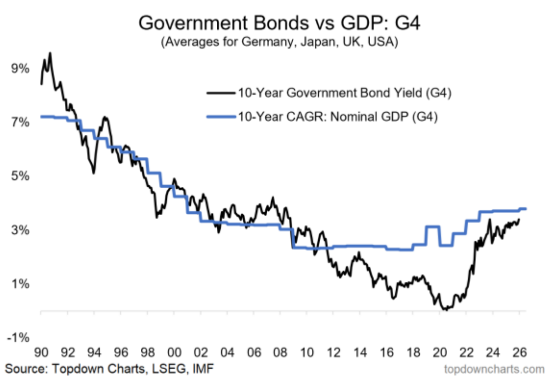
7. Lastly on global equities, the chaos of Q1 helped remind folk of political risk, with the USA unleashing the type of policy/political risk often only seen in emerging markets. This was a key catalyst for at least a momentary turnaround in the long-term underperformance of global vs US stocks. But add to that also this chart which showed the relative valuation indicator reaching an extreme multi-decade low just prior. Funny how excuses and catalysts tend to conveniently show up around big extremes like that.

"But to summarize with composite valuation signals, global ex-US are cheap/reasonable by themselves, but just reached a 27-year extreme on a relative basis. We need to pay attention when such extremes are reached, especially when there is a credible macro scenario for a turn (reacceleration) and promising technicals." (14 Feb 2025)



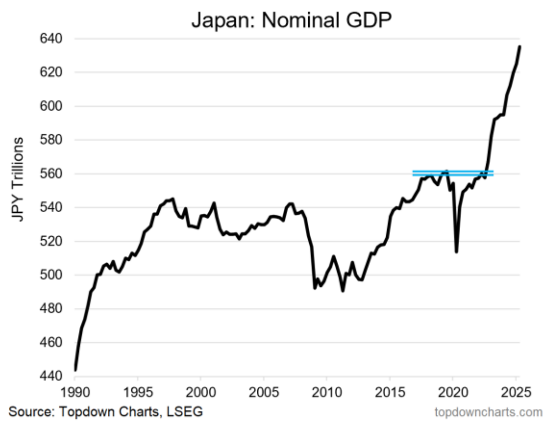
8. Higher for longer lingered longer.

"Bonds are cheap and sentiment remains bearish, yet getting bullish on bonds is tricky with the very real prospect of growth/inflation resurgence and the tail risk of a bond vigilante revolt with regards to US fiscal risks (not to mention possible policy mistakes if all these rate cuts turn out to be unnecessary and prompt a return to hikes). " (10 Jan 2025)



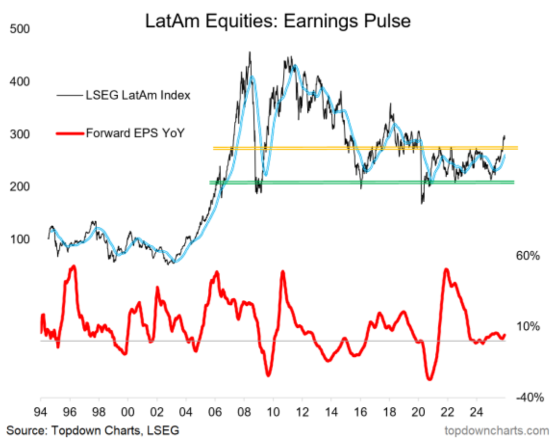
9. This chart is a favourite because it will offend some nerds who say you can't use technical analysis on macro data! But when you see any data series just tick along in a range, stagnating for decades like this and then moving distinctly and materially out of that range, it should make you pay attention no matter what. And this chart has been huge in driving Japanese stocks –and especially; JGB yields higher.

"Similarly, Japan has seen nominal GDP breakout after prolonged stagnation, and a clear and distinct upshift in the long-term rate of nominal growth; this should correspond to higher Stockmarket valuations (for logical reasons)." (14 Feb 2025)



10. When a support line gets challenged + valuations are cheap + macro supportive, and then price turns up, that's a good formula for gains. Big turnaround in progress here.

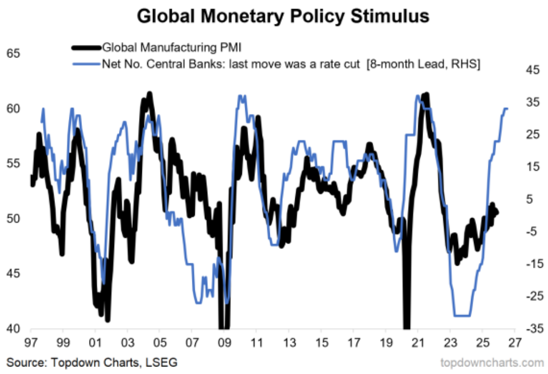
""Latin American Equities (Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Peru) have been ticking higher recently off of a major long-term support line. This also comes as forward earnings are starting to get revised higher from previous stagnation (a bullish cyclical signal), and set against a backdrop of cheap valuations (average PE10 ratio near record lows)." (28 Feb 2025)



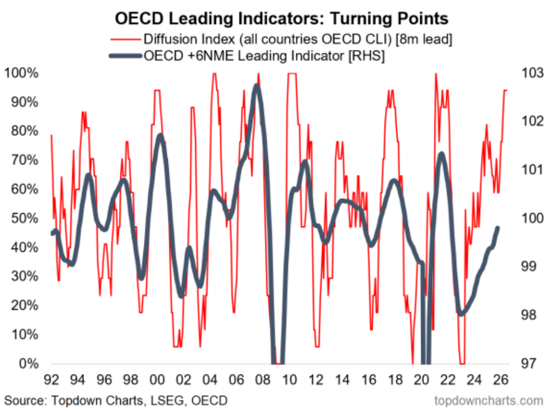
Section D. Charts to Watch in 2026

As interesting and sometimes amusing as it is to look back, we get paid for looking forward. There are several key clues, trends, and themes that will be critical to keep front of mind as we head into 2024 and into the next phase of the cycle.

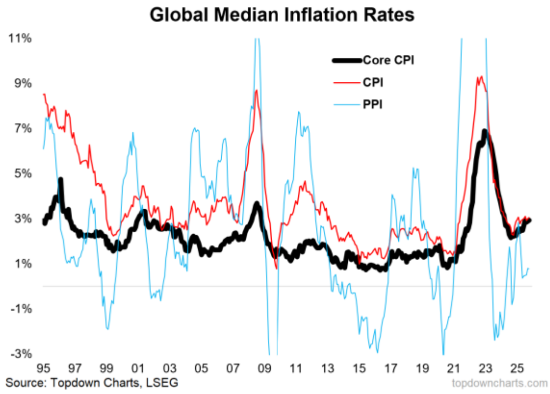
1. From Tightening to Tailwinds: the biggest story in macro of the 2020's echoes on into 2026, with monetary policy going from tailwind in 2020 to tightening in 2023, and back to tailwinds again. This is coming at a time where nascent signs are showing an upturn in the macro pulse from previous stagnation (e.g. the global manufacturing PMI pictured below). The path laid out by the monetary policy leading indicator here is a very interesting one indeed, and it's not the only sign.



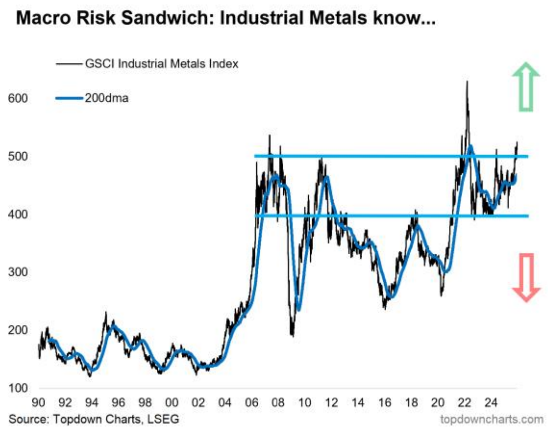
2. Global Growth Reacceleration: the OECD leading indicators are also pointing to a major improvement in the global economy; we are going to need to get used to the term "reacceleration" (i.e. a big upturn out of stagnation rather than recession -which has largely been avoided so far). Aside from monetary tailwinds there are several other factors in this thesis such as fiscal stimulus, thematic capex, inventory cycles, and so-on. But there are a couple of logical flow-on effects should this playout as planned.



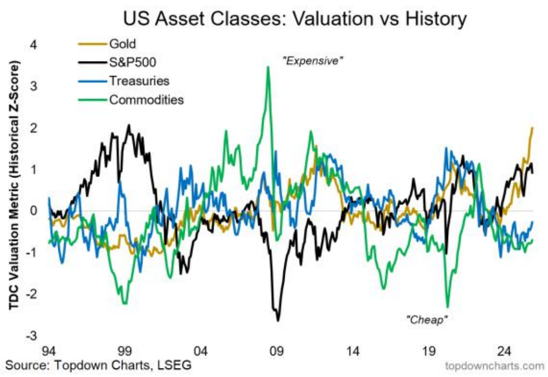
3. Inflation Resurgence: one key flow-on will almost certainly involve inflation resurgence. We've already seen global inflation rates settling into a new higher range and even begin to turn up. Psychologically there's also going to be a greater sensitivity to any signs of inflationary pressures.



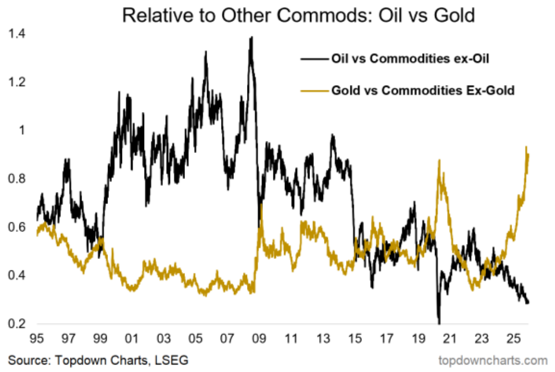
4. Macro Metals: this one joins the list of charts to watch in the year ahead once again as it's going to be a key real-time indicator to track whether the reacceleration and resurgence theme is playing out as planned (i.e. an upside breakout).



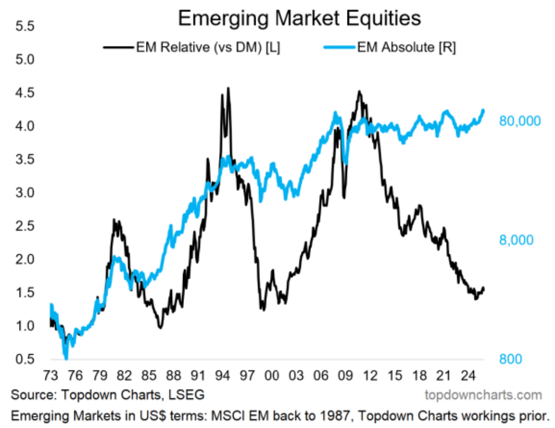
5. Cheap vs Expensive: with gold (and stocks) already tracking at expensive levels, the obvious beneficiary from this macro prognosis is going to be cheap commodities. But at the same time, don't forget about that other cheap diversifier.



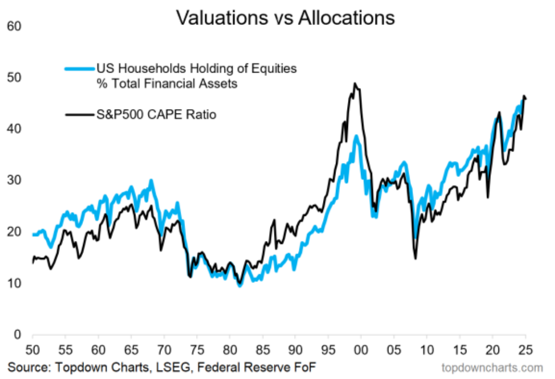
6. Tail of Two Commodities: within commodities –as noted, gold has already had a very strong run, and may well continue. But this chart shows a sort of stretching of the rubber band as oil lags and gold leads. A strong inflationary upturn is going to boost more cyclical commodities like oil.



7. Emerging Inflection Point: it's also the type of conditions under which emerging markets and global ex-US equities in general do well. And we're already witnessing what looks like a major decadal turning point for EM equities.



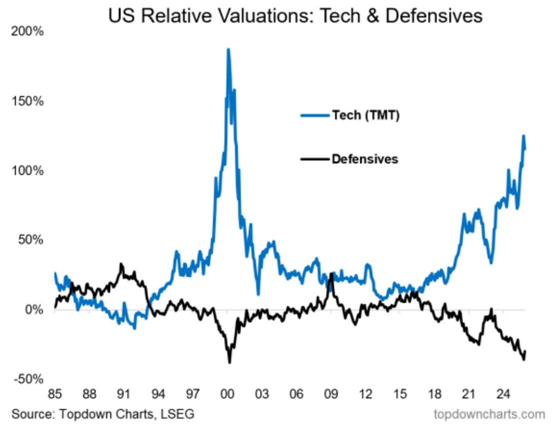
8. Newer Higher Plateaus: one problem is that US equities are already very richly priced and household allocations to equities are at a record highs. Also consider that this is all heavily concentrated in tech, and it points to one thing…



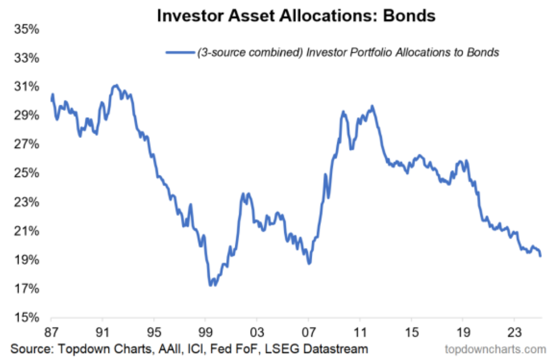
9. Dot-Com Echoes: with US tech stocks trading at the most expensive relative valuations since the height of the dot com bubble – and defensives trading at the same deep discount, it almost looks too simple... If you want a harbinger chart, if there were ever going to be post-mortem clues that flagged the peak of this market cycle, it's probably going to be this chart.

While an orderly economic upturn is likely to be supportive, a rapid reacceleration and resurgence in inflation is likely to trigger two things: rotation into beneficiary assets (traditional cyclical stocks, commodities) and out of tech + potentially an upswing in interest rates; which has historically hurt the more long-duration growth-tech stocks.

Hence a rethink on asset allocations is going to be required as the things that worked in the past few years are unlikely to keep delivering in this type of scenario.



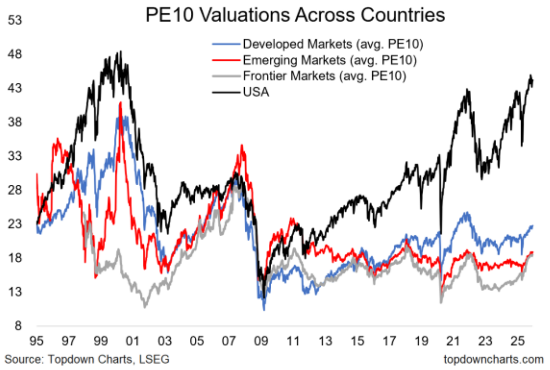
10. Market Cycle Signal: lastly, this one not only adds to the cautionary tone on the market cycle, but also provides a prompt to have another think on bonds. There's two ways we can be wrong on reacceleration; e.g. more of the same middle-porridge, or: recession. With bonds trading on cheap valuations and investor allocations to bonds at cycle lows, it makes them a classic contrarian play –not something to forget about (and yes: bonds are still downturn diversifiers).



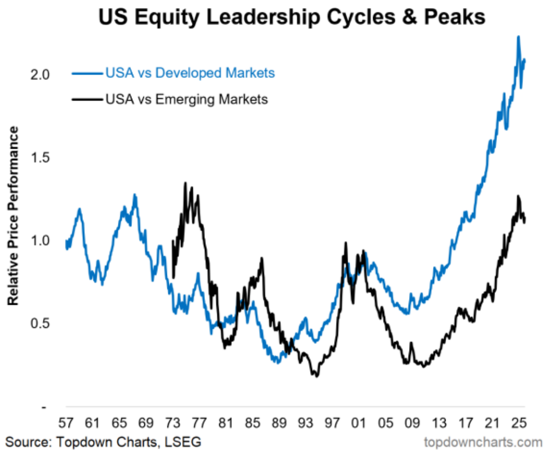
Section E. Honourable Mentions

These charts were worthy of mention but didn't quite fit into any of the previous categories.

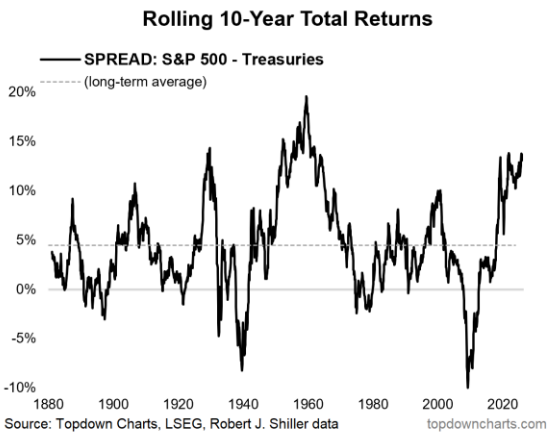
1. Clues of catch-up: this chart shows how far the US has diverged from global equity valuations, but also the nascent catch-up trade underway.



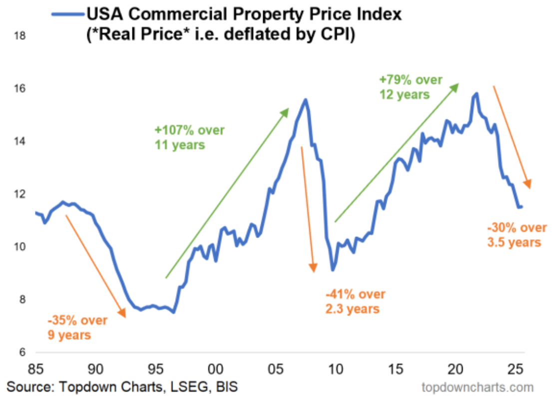
2. Peak performance: this one shows US stock market outperformance peaking vs DM and EM.



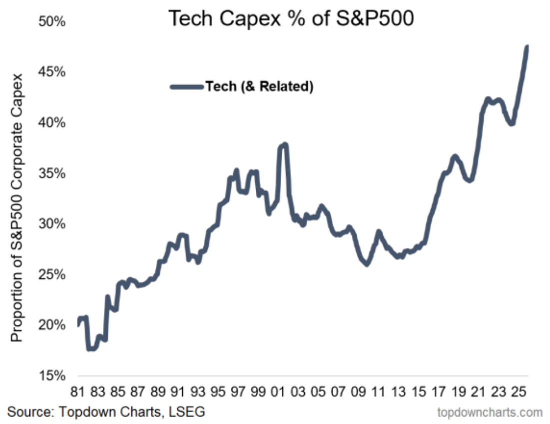
3. Stocks vs Bonds over the Long-run: the rolling 10-year total return premium for stocks vs bonds looks stretched vs long-term average, and it looks late in the cycle (and it does look cyclical).



4. The big reset in Commercial Real Estate: in real inflation-adjusted terms, the CRE downturn has been substantial (-30%) and drawn-out (almost 4 years since peak to initial trough). Some might say that's "enough" (downturn done?).



5. Tech capex crowd-out: successive waves of capex by tech and tech related stocks have seen a crowding-out of capex vs the rest of the S&P500.



6. Surging semiconductors: the big beneficiary of the latest wave of capex and indeed of the AI hype bubble has been semiconductor stocks – with that sector's market cap weight far eclipsing levels seen during the dot com boom. Is it the new normal, or just another cycle of boom and b...?

Section 6. Track Record Update

The Weekly Macro Themes report has been published since 2016. The ideas inventory table pictured below was implemented in early-2020 (to present a summary of specific views/ideas). The below table shows summary stats from 2020-2025. Performance has been decent with the overall hit rate comfortably above 70% and average profit for right ideas materially outweighing the average loss on wrong ideas.

Summary Statistics					
Ideas Right (macro views + trade ideas)	38	Trade ideas/market views right	30	*Avg profit*	*27%*
Ideas Wrong (macro views + trade ideas)	12	Trade ideas/market views wrong	11	*Avg loss*	*-10%*
Percentage of All Ideas correct	**76%**	**Percentage of trade ideas/market views profitable**	**73%**		

As a brief explanation of the table, **Date** is the date of the report in which the idea was initiated and explained**.** The "category" denotes market view/idea as **Idea**, macro view as **Macro**, and **Risk** being a mix of both (often lower conviction). The Subject denotes the main area of focus or asset class, and Topic refers to specific market/region/asset. Direction denotes the main view (e.g. up/down, bullish/bearish). Timeframe is the initial anticipated time for the idea or view to run its course. Conviction ranges High/Med/Low. Most of the ideas come from the Weekly Macro Themes reports, but some come from the Global Markets Monitor email.

Date	Category	Subject	Topic	Direction	Timeframe	Conviction	Comments/Notes	Updates	Outcome	% Return
12 Aug 2022	**Idea**	Equities	Frontier Markets	Bullish	6-18m	Low	Valuations cheap, FX value also (extreme) cheap, technicals turning	10 Oct 2025: change to neutral	" Profit "	52%
28 Feb 2025	**Idea**	Equities	LatAm	Bullish	6-18m	Med.	Cheap valuations, light allocations, earnings turning up, technicals	10 Oct 2025: change to neutral	" Profit "	22%
31 Jan 2025	**Idea**	Equities	Gold Miners	Bullish	6-18m	Med.	Bullish momentum in gold, cheap relative value, technicals, positioning	25 Apr 2025: tactically neutral	" Profit "	32%
9 Jun 2023	**Macro**	MonPol	Global	Dovish	6-18m	Med.	Downside risks to growth/inflation; monetary tides turning on the fringe	31 Jan 2025: change to neutral	Correct	n/a
21 Jul 2023	**Idea**	Equities	REITs	Bullish	6-18m	Low	Technicals turning up, extreme pessimism, slight relative value	25 Oct 2024: change to neutral	" Profit "	12%
13 May 2022	**Idea**	Bonds	Treasuries	Bullish	12-18m	Med.	bullish on technicals/sentiment/macro/valuations	9 Feb 2024: change to neutral	"Loss"	-7%
24 Jun 2022	**Macro**	Inflation	Global	Down	6-18m	Med.	commodity downside, growth risks, base effects, supply rebound	9 Feb 2024: change to upside	Correct	n/a
21 Jan 2022	**Macro**	Economy	Global	Down	1-2yrs	High	multiple leading indicators point to a global recession	9 Feb 2024: downgrade to risk	Wrong*	n/a
28 Jan 2022	**Idea**	AA	Stocks vs Bonds	Bearish	1-2yrs	Med.	wary of bullish technicals, but clear macro + value downside risks	26 Jan 2024: change to neutral	"Loss"	-26%
17 Jun 2022	**Idea**	Equities	China	Bullish	6-18m	Low	Technicals/value/macro/policy/sentiment (A-shares + MSCI)	19 Jan 2024: change to neutral	"Loss"	-13%
14 Apr 2023	**Idea**	Comdty	Gold	Bullish	6-18m	Low	Promising technicals, value, positioning/flows (but needs breakouts x3)	2 Oct 2023: change to neutral	"Loss"	-9%
13 May 2022	**Idea**	Comdty	Commodities	Bearish	6-18m	Low	Still bearish, but big adjustment already, risk outlook more balanced	31 July 2023: change to neutral	" Profit "	18%
7 May 2021	**Macro**	Policy	Global	Hawkish	1-3yrs	Low	still hawkish, but expect global policy pause soon (pivot much later)	28 Apr 2023: change to neutral	Correct	n/a
23 Jul 2021	**Macro**	Capex	Global	Up	1-3yrs	Low	expect capex to rebound, esp. commodities + infra/climate	17 Feb 2023: run its course	Correct	n/a
11 Mar 2022	**Risk**	Equities	Global	Bearish	6-12m	Med.	weak technicals, policy/inflation headwinds, lack of value case	27 Jan 2023: change to neutral	" Profit "	1%
19 Mar 2021	**Idea**	Equities	Defensive Value	Bullish	1-3yrs	Med.	(relative) increasingly cheap relative valuations	27 Jan 2023: change to neutral	" Profit "	12%
10 Apr 2020	**Idea**	Equities	EM ex-Asia	Bullish	12-18m	Low	value, positioning, FX: *Lower Conv* favor LatAm	15 Jul 2022: neutral/on watch	" Profit "	5%
21 Aug 2020	**Idea**	Equities	UK Equities	Bullish	12-18m	Med.	cheap valuations, consensus underweight, tactical indicators	15 Jul 2022: change to neutral	" Profit "	18%
21 Jan 2022	**Idea**	FX	EMFX	Bullish	12-18m	Low	supportive valuations	8 Jul 2022: neutral/on watch	"Loss"	-9%
21 Aug 2020	**Idea**	Equities	Energy Stocks	Bullish	1-3yrs	Low	cheap valuations, contrarian signals, + rel. vs gold/miners	27 Jun 2022: change to neutral	" Profit "	105%
27 Aug 2021	**Idea**	Equities	US Small Caps	Bullish	6-12m	Low	capitulation in positioning/flows, reset in relative value	27 May 2022: change to neutral	"Loss"	-10%
10 Apr 2020	**Idea**	Equities	Eurozone	Bullish	12-18m	Low	relative value, pessimistic sentiment, policy (fiscal+monetary)	20 May 2022: neutral/on watch	" Profit "	26%
15 May 2020	**Idea**	Equities	Global Banks	Bullish	12-18m	Med.	cheap valuations, improving technicals/macro outlook	20 May 2022: change to neutral	" Profit "	50%
16 Jan 2021	**Macro**	Inflation	Global/US	Up	12-18m	High	mix of short/medium-term factors present clear upside risk	13 May 2022: run its course	Correct	n/a
20 Mar 2020	**Idea**	Comdty	Commodities	Bullish	3-5yrs	Low	underinvestment in supply, global capex/demand outlook	13 May 2022: reverse	" Profit "	74%
17 Sept 2021	**Idea**	Equities	Gold Miners	Bullish	6-12m	Low	(relative to S&P500) valuation, sentiment, positioning, technicals	6 May 2022: move neutral	" Profit "	12%
10 Apr 2020	**Idea**	Equities	EM	Bullish	12-18m	Low	Still some relative value, but risks more mixed now	25 Mar 2022: move neutral	" Profit "	27%
24 Sept 2021	**Idea**	Bonds	US Treasuries	Bearish	3-6m	Low	technicals, sentiment, macro, valuations, policy	21 Feb 2022: move neutral	" Profit "	3%
8 May 2020	**Idea**	FX	US Dollar	Bearish	1-3yrs	Low	long-term cycles, fading yield support, fiscal outlook, sentiment	25 Feb 2022: move neutral	" Profit "	3%
19 Nov 2021	**Risk**	Comdty	Ind. Metals	Bearish	3-6m	Low	place on risk-watch given weak technicals/sentiment/macro risks	4 Feb 2022: lift risk watch	"Loss"	-8%
30 Jul 2021	**Risk**	Equities	EM	Bearish	1-3m	Low	place on risk-watch given suite of risk indicators "orange flags"	21 Jan 2022: lift risk watch	" Profit "	3%
10 Apr 2020	**Idea**	Equities	Frontier	Bullish	12-18m	Low	strategic +MT case good, but ST mixed.	13 Dec 2021: move neutral	" Profit "	59%
9 Oct 2020	**Idea**	Comdty	Gold	Bearish	12-18m	Low	maintain medium-term bias: valuations, real yields, macro	12 Nov 2021: move neutral	" Profit "	3%
9 Jul 2021	**Idea**	FX	Safe Haven FX	Bullish	3-6m	Med.	value reset, positioning signal, technicals look bullish	22 Oct 2021: close (neutral)	"Loss"	-2%
13 Mar 2020	**Idea**	Equities	Global	Bullish	12-18m	Low	risks clearly shifted, but not enough to flip outright bearish yet	20 Aug 2021: move neutral	" Profit "	59%
6 Mar 2020	**Macro**	Capex	Commodities	Down	12-18m	Med.	Comdty Capex rolling over: key variable for LT AC view	23 Jul 2021: reverse	Correct	n/a
14 Aug 2020	**Idea**	Bonds	US Treasuries	Bearish	6-12m	Low	ST mixed (sentiment/techs), bearish MT on macro/value	9 Jul 2021: move neutral ST	" Profit "	4%
16 Apr 2021	**Idea**	Comdty	Gold	Bullish	1-3m	Low	bullish technical and sentiment signals	18 Jun 2021: change to bear	"Loss"	-1%
10 Apr 2020	**Idea**	Equities	US Small Caps	Bullish	6-12m	Low	n.b. *no more relative value*, but cyclicals + cycles positive	28 May 2021: change to neutral	" Profit "	82%
19 Feb 2021	**Macro**	Policy	Global	Neutral	12-18m	Med.	mon.policy outlook switching to neutral -- increasingly hawkish	7 May 2021: change to hawk	Correct	n/a
20 Mar 2020	**Idea**	Bonds	TIPS B/E	Bullish	12-18m	Low	*no longer cheap* but links to recovery and inflation theme	9 Apr 2021: change to neutral	" Profit "	8%
11 Sept 2020	**Idea**	Comdty	Agri/Grains	Bullish	12-18m	Low	low capex, supply disruption, sentiment/positioning, SOI	19 Mar 2021: change to neutral	" Profit "	33%
6 Mar 2020	**Macro**	Policy	Global	Dovish	12-18m	High	"Global Policy Pivot Part 2" - expect new big wave of stimulus	19 Feb 2021: change to neutral	Correct	n/a
27 Mar 2020	**Idea**	Equities	GLIF	Bullish	12-18m	Low	oversold technicals, cheap absolute & relative valuations	5 Feb 2021: close (neutral)	" Profit "	18%
26 Jun 2020	**Risk**	Equities	EM	Bearish	1-3m	Low	mindful of O/H resistance, EMFX divergence	9 Nov 2020: alert lifted	"Loss"	-19%
26 Jun 2020	**Idea**	Equities	Gold Miners	Bullish	12-18m	Med.	short + longer term technicals setup in gold + miners rel.	9 Oct 2020: close (bearish)	" Profit "	16%
17 Apr 2020	**Idea**	FX	AUDUSD	Bullish	12-18m	Low	cheap valuations, IRDs +metals turned, crowded shorts	4 Sep 2020: close (neutral)	" Profit "	14%
13 Apr 2020	**Idea**	Equities	Gold Miners	Bullish	1-3m	Med.	rel perf. near breakout; technicals & sentiment bullish	26 June 2020: replace (LT)	" Profit "	14%
27 Mar 2020	**Idea**	REITs	US REITs	Bullish	12-18m	Low	oversold, rel val cheap, but abs val not, some uncertanties/risks	15 May 2020: close (neutral)	"Loss"	-4%
24 Feb 2020	**Risk**	Equities	EM + S&P500	Bearish	1-3m	Med.	bearish divergence for EM equities, S&P500, +EMFX breakdown	27 Mar 2020 (implied closed)	" Profit "	21%

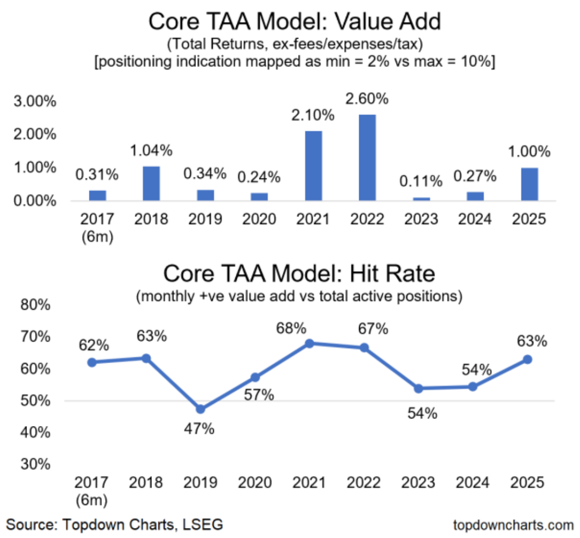
Open/Live ideas and views

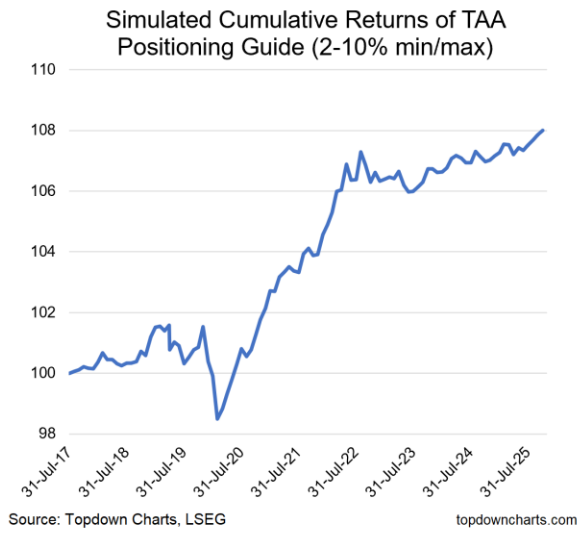
The below table shows current open ideas and views at the time of writing, return since idea inception in the second last column, and the last column showing YTD 2025 performance. For current open ideas as of the time of writing: the hit rate is sitting at 58% (67% for pure market views/ideas), which is higher than 50%, albeit a little lower than the all-time stats.

Date	Category	Subject	Topic	Direction	Timeframe	Conviction	Comments/Notes	Updates	Return %	2025%
12 Sept 2025	**Idea**	Bonds	Treasuries	Bullish	6-12m	Med.	Cheap valuations, light allocations, sentiment turning up, macro	28 Nov 2025: maintain	**0%**	
23 Aug 2024	**Risk**	AA	Stocks vs Bonds	Down	6-18m	Low	Relative + absolute value favors bonds, technicals, sentiment, macro	14 Nov 2025: maintain	**-17%**	-8%
21 Jun 2024	**Risk**	Comdty	Oil/Energy	Higher	6-12m	Low	Bullish technicals, demand, supply, geopolitical risk	1 Dec 2025: maintain	**-12%**	-5%
17 May 2024	**Idea**	Equities	China	Bullish	6-18m	High	Bullish technicals, valuation, sentiment, policy support, cycle	21 Nov 2025: maintain	**31%**	20%
12 Apr 2024	**Idea**	Equities	Commodities	Bullish	6-18m	High	Bullish technicals, good relative/abs value, bullish commodity outlook+	8 Dec 2025: maintain	**40%**	43%
12 Apr 2024	**Risk**	Comdty	Agri	Higher	6-12m	Low	Technicals turning up, sentiment/positioning extreme bearish	10 October 2025: maintain	**-7%**	-6%
9 Feb 2024	**Risk**	Inflation	Global	Higher	6-18m	Low	Growth reacceleration risk likely leads to inflation resurgence risk	21 Nov 2025: maintain	**(no)**	(yes)
9 Feb 2024	**Risk**	Growth	Global	Up	6-12m	Med.	Emerging evidence for reacceleration risk (leading indicators, soft data)	*14 Nov 2025: maintain*	***(yes)***	*(yes)*
13 Oct 2023	**Idea**	Equities	Defensive Value	Bullish	6-18m	Low	Cheap relative value, light allocations, (vs growth stocks expensive)	28 Nov 2025: maintain	**-19%**	-6%
15 Sept 2023	**Idea**	Comdty	Commodities	Bullish	1-3yrs	High	Risks shifted back to upside: technicals, sentiment, value, thematics	8 Dec 2025: maintain	**6%**	9%
26 May 2023	**Idea**	Equities	Japan	Bullish	1-3yrs	Low	Improving economics, compelling valuations, underallocated	31 Oct 2025: maintain	**47%**	24%
20 Jan 2023	**Idea**	Equities	Emerging	Bullish	6-18m	Med.	Cheap valuations, improving technicals/sentiment, macro/FX	28 Nov 2025: maintain	**45%**	32%
11 Nov 2022	**Idea**	FX	US Dollar	Bearish	6-18m	Low	Overvalued, overstretched, overcrowded, pillars of support fading	24 Nov 2025: maintain	**7%**	9%
21 Oct 2022	**Macro**	Housing	US/Developed	Down	1-3yrs	Low	excessive valuations mean downside risk and lower future returns	29 Aug 2025: maintain	**(up)**	(up)
14 Oct 2022	**Idea**	Equities	US Small Caps	Bullish	6-18m	Med.	Valuation reset, contrarian bullish sentiment, promising technicals	*14 Nov 2025: maintain*	**50%**	13%
11 Feb 2022	**Risk**	Credit	Credit Spreads	Up	6-18m	Low	on risk-watch given risk flags, stretched valuations, rate hikes	14 Nov 2025: maintain	**(down)**	(down)
21 Jan 2022	**Idea**	Bonds	EM Sovereign	Bullish	1-2yrs	Low	absolute + relative value, supportive sentiment & technicals	28 Nov 2025: maintain	**11%**	13%
27 Mar 2020	**Idea**	Equities	Global Ex-US	Bullish	3-5yrs	Med.	cheap valuations (absolute & relative), expected return differential	14 Nov 2025: maintain	**115%**	30%
27 Mar 2020	**Idea**	Equities	Value vs Growth	Bullish	3-5yrs	Low	value cheaper than usual vs growth, techs + macro drivers +ve	*14 Nov 2025: maintain*	**-23%**	-9%

Market Cycle Guidebook TAA Positions Performance

The below charts show the performance of the Tactical Asset Allocation positions from our monthly pack. Annual "value add" is the total performance of active overweights vs underweights across the year –the line chart on the right shows the monthly cumulative view of this, and the hit rate is the proportion of active positions that made a positive contribution to performance. This exercise is constrained to a minimum position of 2% and maximum of 10% – and for reference the TAA model is designed to summarize views and be an overlay to an existing strategic asset allocation benchmark (i.e. not as a standalone portfolio).





Overall it would be fair to say that at least on objective performance measures the service is adding value in terms of both the ideas from the flagship Weekly Macro Themes report and the monthly Market Cycle Guidebook TAA. Returns are positive, and hit rates are materially better than 50/50. But meanwhile the charts themselves as individual puzzle pieces (most often highly innovative, and insightful) only add to the value of the service – and client feedback consistently confirms this.

This is satisfying personally, and adds to my existing enjoyment of the craft. But at the same time there is good room to improve and make things even better, and I have a number of plans and ideas for that in 2026 – so be sure to stay connected and stay tuned for more good things to come!

by Callum Thomas, Head of Research & Founder at Topdown Charts

About Topdown Charts

Topdown Charts provides chart-driven research across a global multi-asset universe. The service is designed for multi-asset portfolio managers, active asset allocators, and fund managers who require top-down insights. The perspective is that of a former buyside strategist and the key deliverables are: investment idea generation, top-down global macro insights, risk management input, and innovative asset allocation research to help investors gain clarity and make decisions with confidence.

Topdown Charts -- What we do…

We help investors make decisions with confidence. We do this by delivering a flow of interesting ideas, risk management alerts, and meaningful macro insights.

Topdown Charts Professional Service: www.topdowncharts.pro

Aimed at multi-asset portfolio managers and professional investors requiring top-down input in their process - who require an extra flow of ideas to stay informed +alert to risks lurking off the radar.

The Topdown Charts Professional service includes:
-Regular research reports (see below for a full listing)
-Help with questions and requests (either about the reports or in general)
-Use of the charts (e.g. in your own reports, presentations, and client communications)

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Weekly Macro Themes: Core report, featuring 3-5 big ideas/topics each week spanning investment ideas and market views, risk management input, and meaningful macro insights.

Global Cross Asset Market Monitor: Weekly intelligence briefing on shorter term sentiment and technicals +developing market themes across global markets and asset classes.

Market Cycle Guidebook: Monthly focus on the medium-longer term factors such as cycle, valuation, monetary/policy, updated capital market assumptions, market commentary wrap, and a summary of views across asset classes and TAA positioning guide.

Quarterly Strategy Pack: Slide pack of core views and charts across macro and markets to support discussions and presentations with clients + webinar and Q&A sessions for subscribers.

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