

Essential inCights for the C-Suite



The Trump Trade

A Closer Look at Market Reaction to the US Election

NOV 2024

The Macro Backdrop for Trump 1.0 vs. 2.0

As one considers that path ahead for the so called "Trump trade", it will be important to consider the sharply higher US debt metrics and risk-asset valuations of today's market as compared to eight years ago.

	Two weeks after 2016 election	Two weeks after 2024 election		Two weeks after 2016 election	Two weeks after 2024 election
US GOV'T DEBT METRICS			US EQUITY MARKETS		
US gov debt / GDP	102%	119%	S&P 500 index	2,203	5,894
US Treasuries outstanding	\$14 tn	\$26 tn	S&P 500 prior 12 month returns	+8%	+32%
US RATES			S&P 500 forward P/E multiple	17.1x	22.2x
Fed policy rate	0.50%	4.75%	ENERGY PRICES		
			Oil (WTI)	\$48	\$69
2 year UST	1.09%	4.25%	Natural Gas (Henry Hub)	\$2.98	\$2.96
10 year UST	2.31%	4.37%	CURRENCY MARKETS		
USD CREDIT			USD index	101.0	106.2
IG OAS	130 bps	77 bps	EUR / USD	1.06	1.06
			USD / JPY	111.1	154.0
HY OAS	463 bps	268 bps	USD / CNY	6.89	7.24

Source: Bloomberg. Data as of November 12, 2024. 2016 is November 22, 2016 and 2024 is November 19, 2024. S&P 500 P/E multiple is FactSet.

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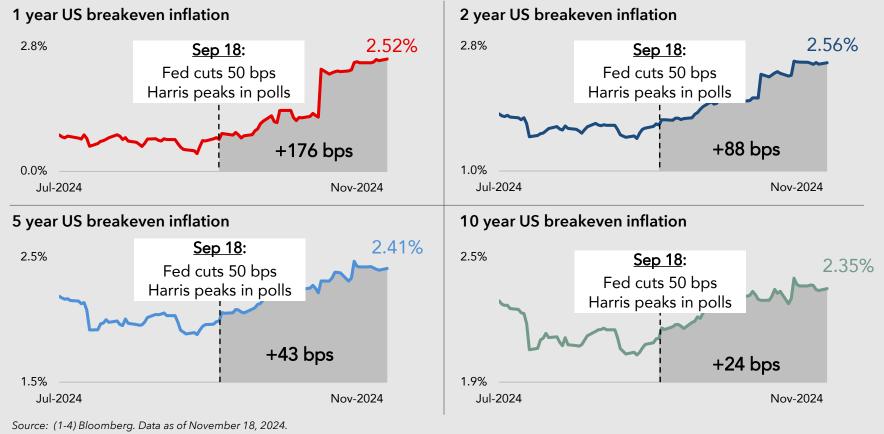
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1. Rates & Credit Markets

The Trump Trade: Higher Inflation Breakevens



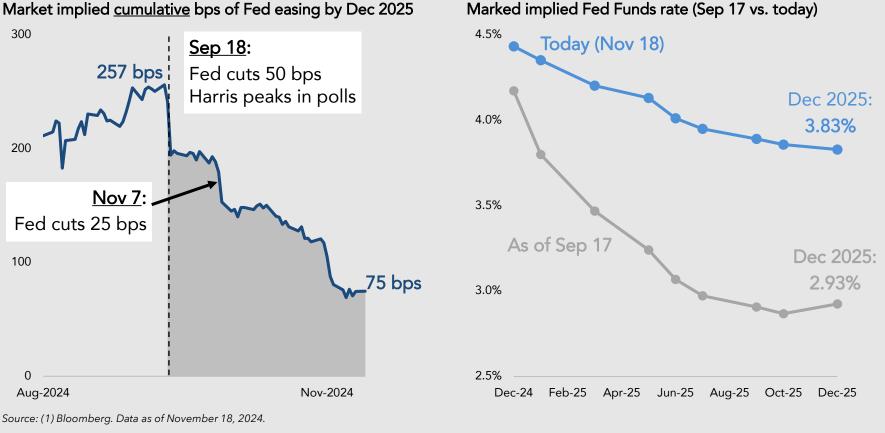
Even as inflation has fallen precipitously over the last two years, rising inflation breakevens suggest investors are on edge about "expected" US inflation. Numerous factors contributing to this uncertainty include: (1) stickiness in core and services inflation; (2) President-elect Trump's policy positions (fiscal, trade, immigration); (3) the Fed's pivot to easing; and (4) potential challenges to Fed policy independence.



The Trump Trade: More Shallow Fed Easing Path



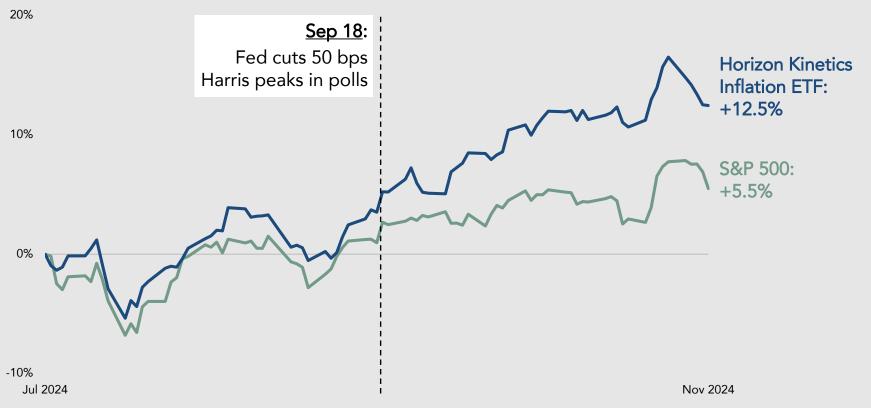
Over the course of 2024, markets have dramatically repriced expectations for Fed policy in the year ahead. After a 50 bps rate cut at the September FOMC meeting, and a 25 bps rate cut at the November meeting, the market is pricing a 60% probability of one more 25 bps rate cut by year end 2024 and 75 bps of easing over the next 12 months. Notably, the market has very quickly become "more dovish" than Fed forecasts for policy easing.



The Trump Trade: Companies Benefitting from Inflation Outperforming

The bond market is not the only market priced for higher inflation expectations. In equity markets, companies that benefit from rising prices have also been outperforming the broader S&P 500 index since Trump began to close the gap in US polls in late September.

S&P 500 vs. Horizon Kinetics Inflation ETF performance since July 21

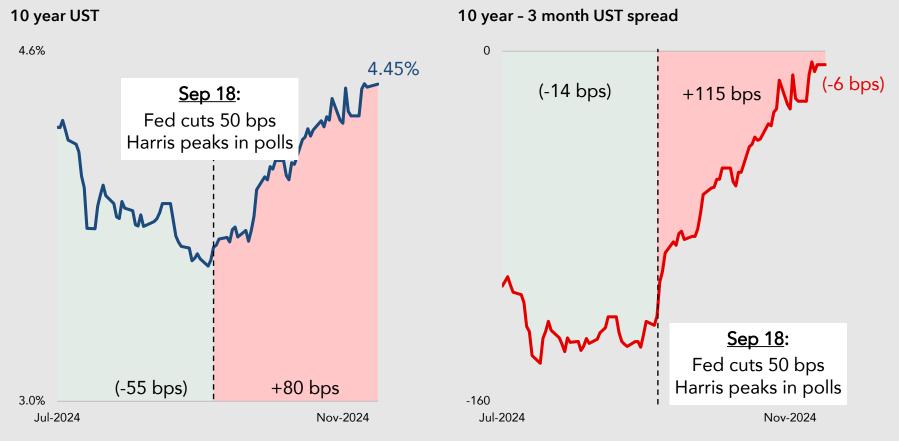


Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of November 18, 2024. Horizon Kinetics Inflation ETF fund is actively managed and seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing primarily in companies that are expected to benefit, either directly or indirectly, from inflation.

The Trump Trade: Yield Curve Steepening



Since Trump began to tighten the gap in polls in late September, the UST yield curve has steepened in anticipation of more expansionary fiscal policy led by tax cuts and increased spending. Specifically, it is very unusual for 10 years rates to rise 80 bps in the first two months of a Fed easing cycle.

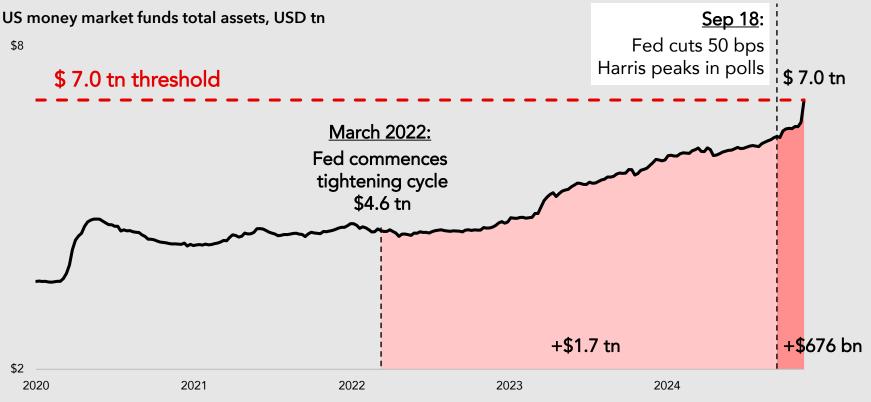


Source: (1-2) Bloomberg. Data as of November 18, 2024.

The Trump Trade: New Highs for MMF Flows



For the first time on record, USD money market fund (MMF) balances have risen above the \$7 trillion threshold. Since Harris peaked in the polls on September 18th, nearly \$700 billion has flowed into USD money market funds (MMFs), even as the Fed has pivoted toward policy easing. As UST yields move higher with rising expectations of US fiscal expansion, demand for MMFs has increased accordingly.



Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of November 18, 2024.

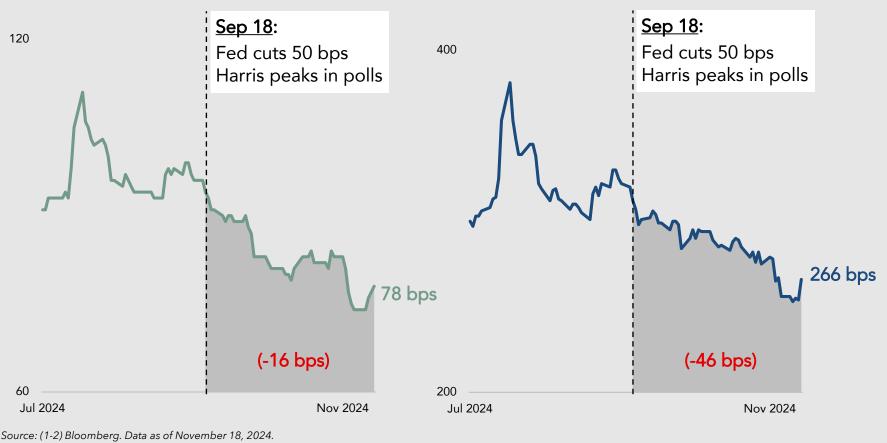
The Trump Trade: IG & HY Credit Spreads Tighten



Corporate credit will benefit from higher earnings driven by tax cut extensions and deregulation. USD IG and HY credit are well below long term averages, at their tightest levels since 1998 and 2007, respectively.

USD HY OAS since July 21

USD IG OAS since July 21

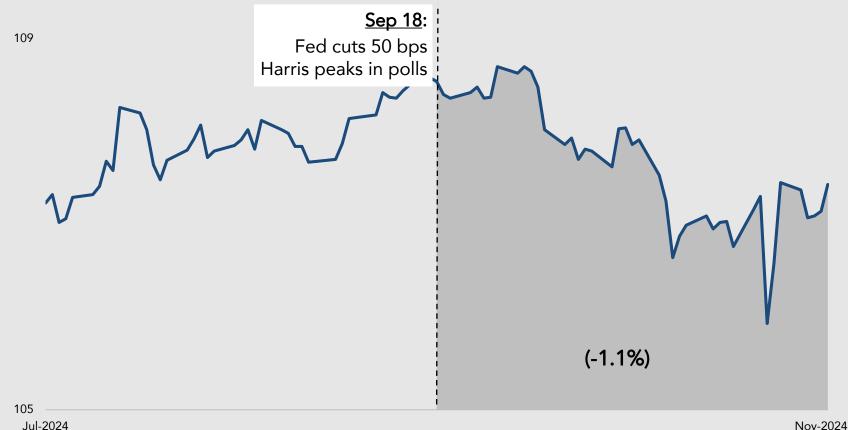


The Trump Trade: Muni Bonds Less Attractive



The combination of lower taxes, higher deficits and potentially higher inflation make muni bonds less attractive in the eyes of investors.

iShares national muni bond ETF since July 21

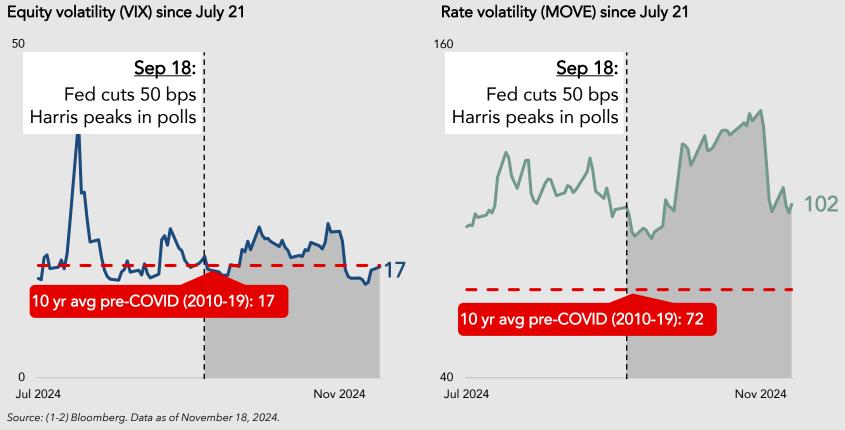


2. Equity Markets

The Trump Trade: Volatility Divergence



Add volatility divergence to the growing list of "Trump trades" which include a stronger Dollar, higher rates, bank stocks, US equities and crypto-currencies. With the 2017-18 playbook in mind (tax cuts, higher S&P 500 earnings and stock buybacks), rising US stocks have driven equity volatility (VIX) lower. At the same time, rate volatility has remained elevated as a "Republican sweep" increases the scale of multi-trillion US fiscal expansion, and related inflation / rate-path uncertainty.

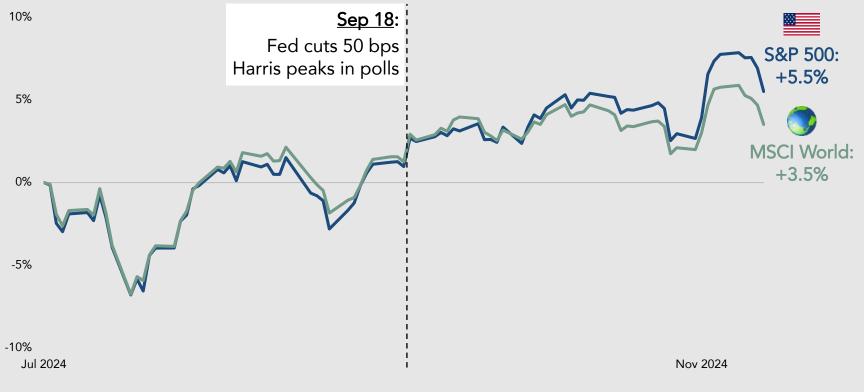


The Trump Trade: US Stocks Outperform Global Stocks



Following the US election, the S&P 500 crossed the 6,000 threshold for the first time, has set more than 50 new records YTD and is on track for its strongest YTD performance in 30 years (since 1995). One of the primary tenets of the so called "Trump trade" is that US stocks outperform global stocks as a result of: (1) the short term positive impact for equities of larger tax cuts passing through to earnings; and (2) the greater relative resilience of the US economy to "trade wars".

S&P 500 vs. MSCI World since July 21



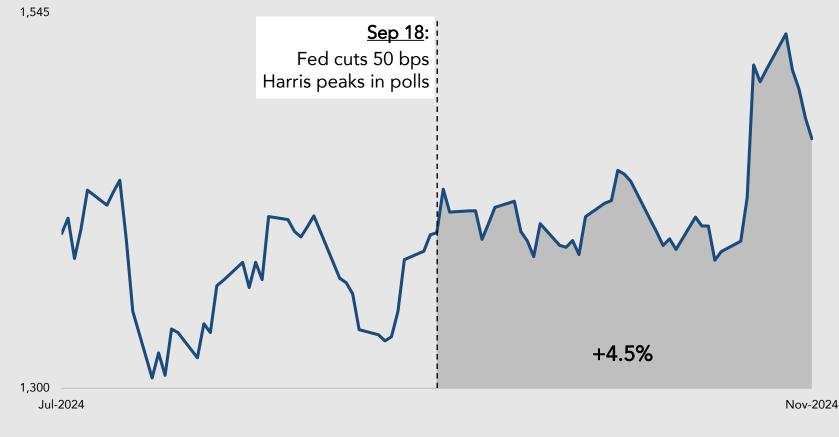
Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of November 18, 2024.

The Trump Trade: Small Cap Stocks Rally



President Trump's "America First" domestic policy bias, and the prospect of more expansive tax cut extensions, have precipitated a strong rally in more US dominated small cap indices.

S&P small cap 600 index since July 21

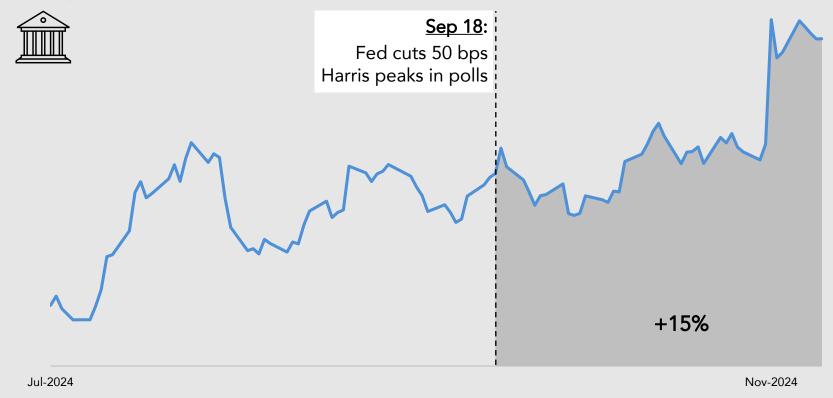


The Trump Trade: Bank Sector Deregulation



The S&P Regional Bank KRE ETF gained 13.4% the day after the US election (Nov 6th), its 5th best daily performance since inception on June 6th, 2006 (4,627 days). Regional banks, in particular, are expected to benefit from the combination of lower taxes and regulatory policy easing (executive orders, political appointments) in Trump's second term.

S&P Regional Bank KRE ETF since July 21



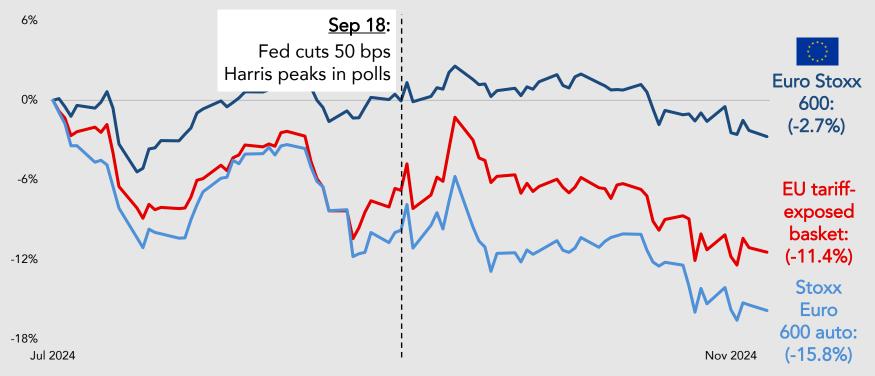
Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of November 18, 2024.

The Trump Trade: Tariff Exposed Stocks Vulnerable



European export sensitive stocks, led by auto and luxury goods companies, have sharply underperformed broader indices as the probability of a "Trump trade war" has ebbed and flowed in recent months. Notably, we would expect a potential Trump trade war to impact allies and adversaries alike, as it did in 2018-19. Europe would be particularly vulnerable given the exposure of its economy to global trade, global growth and China.

Euro Stoxx 600 vs. European tariff-exposed basket vs. Stoxx Euro 600 auto since July 21

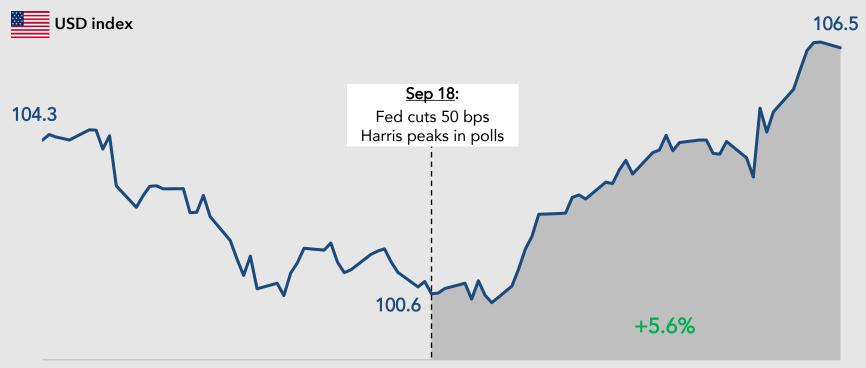


Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of November 18, 2024. EU tariff-exposed basket is GS EU Tariffs Exposed. Includes European companies expected to be negatively impacted by the implementation of tariffs on US imports.

3. Currency Markets



Since Trump's gap in the polls began to tighten in late September, the Dollar has strengthened on the prospect of pro-growth fiscal expansion, upward inflation pressure and the prospect of a "Trump Trade War 2.0." As evident in 2018-19, the Trump trade wars precipitate USD strengthening by virtue of: (1) safe-haven flows; (2) upward pressure on US inflation; (3) higher resilience of less export dependent US economy; and (4) global central bank policy pivots in response to the US tariffs (rate cuts, currency depreciation).



Jul-2024

Nov-2024

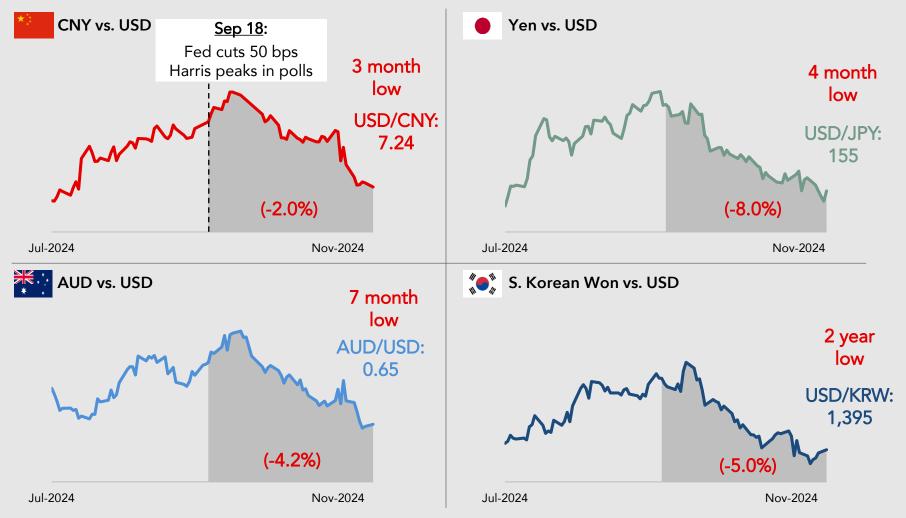
Source: (1) Bloomberg. Data as of November 18, 2024.



Source: (1-2) Bloomberg. Data as of November 18, 2024. All currencies graphed vs. USD to show depreciation.

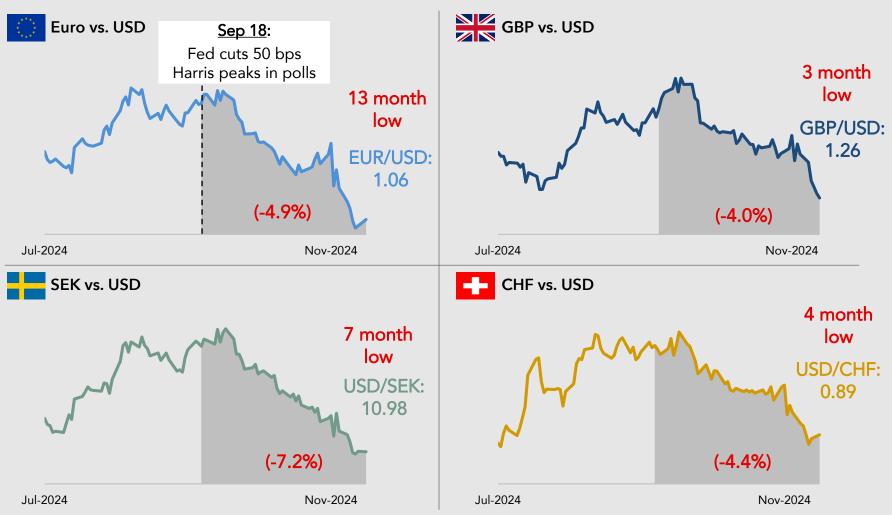






Source: (1-4) Bloomberg. Data as of November 18, 2024. All currencies graphed vs. USD to show depreciation.





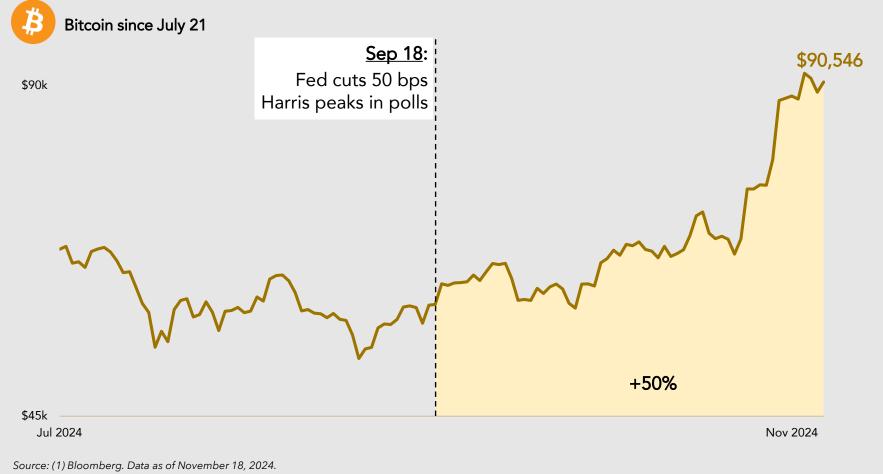
Source: (1-4) Bloomberg. Data as of November 18, 2024. All currencies graphed vs. USD to show depreciation.

The Trump Trade: Digital Currency Leadership

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Bitcoin rose nearly 10% in one day following President Trump's election victory, setting a new price threshold above \$90,000. President Trump has said that he wants to make the US the new "crypto capital of the planet" as well as establish a new strategic Bitcoin reserve.

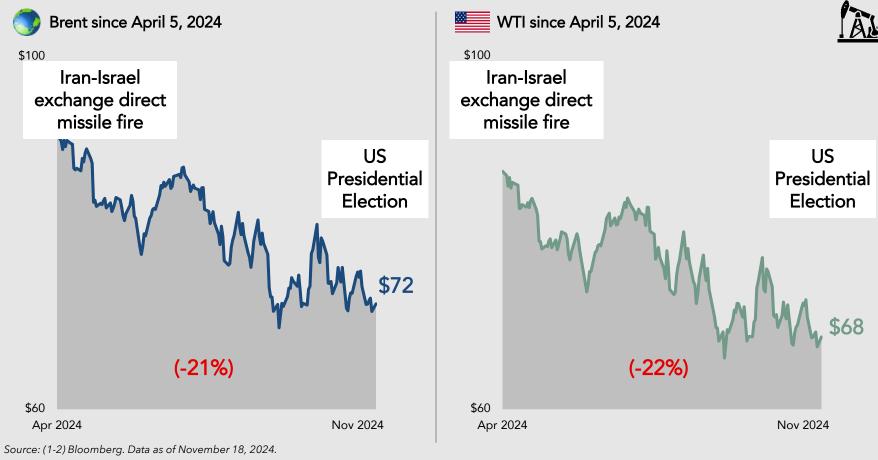


4. Energy Markets

The Trump Trade: Bearish Crude Oil



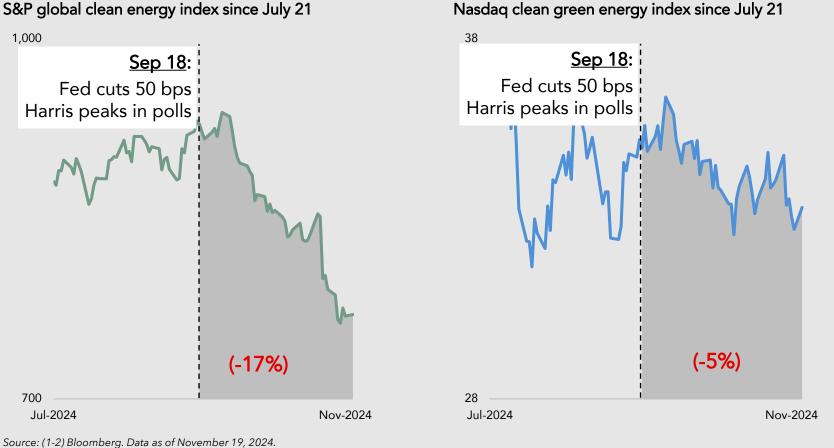
US energy production is ultimately determined by private company decision-making based on an assessment of supply and demand price impact. Nonetheless, President-elect Trump's policy positions are directionally bearish for oil and gas by virtue of facilitating increased production, and potentially exerting downward pressure on demand through trade and China policy.



The Trump Trade: Higher Friction Path to Energy Transition



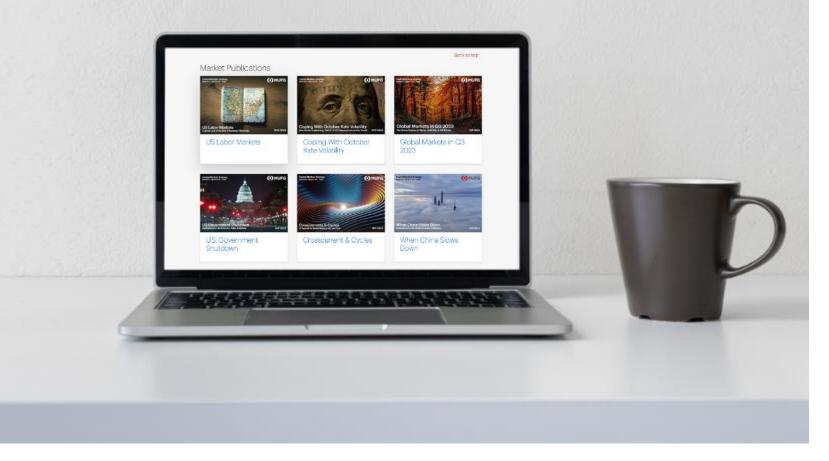
The Trump Administration will use executive orders, regulatory policy and tax policy to create a "higher friction" path for renewable energy. Nonetheless, given the role of Elon Musk in the Administration, as well as private and tech sector advancements, we expect a second Trump term to slow, not stop, the path to energy transition.





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Tom Joyce is a Managing Director and Capital Markets Strategist within MUFG's global capital markets and investment banking business. Based in New York, Tom heads a team that creates customized analytical content for multi-national S&P 500 companies. His team provides in depth analysis on the impact of economic, political, public policy and regulatory dynamics on the US credit, foreign exchange, rates and commodities markets.

Experience

Tom has over 30 years of Investment Banking experience in New York, London, Hong Kong, and San Francisco. Tom created and built the Capital Markets Strategy role, advising corporate C-Suite executives (Boards, CEOs, CFOs, and Treasurers) on the pervasive macro forces driving markets. Tom also presents at dozens of corporate events each year including Board meetings, CEO ExCo sessions, CFO and Treasury off-sites, corporate leadership events and conferences.

Education

Tom's educational background includes a year of study at Oxford University from 1991 - 1992, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Holy Cross College in 1993, and a MBA from Kellogg Business School, Northwestern University in 2000.

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Tom resides in New Canaan, CT with his wife and four sons, where he previously served on the Board of Trustees of the New Canaan Library. Tom also serves on the President's Council of Holy Cross College.

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Experience

Stephanie has spent nearly seven years as a Capital Markets Strategist. She is an active member of the University of Michigan recruiting team and is focused on the diversity recruiting effort at MUFG. Stephanie is also a part of MUFG's DEI, Culture & Philanthropy (DCP) Council.

Education

Stephanie graduated with honors from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business with a BBA .

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Experience

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Angela graduated with honors from Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business with a BS in Business Administration with an additional major in Statistics and a minor in Media Design. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity and the Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Association.



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