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UBS ETF Capital Markets Weekly Flow Update (19<sup>th</sup> of August – 23<sup>rd</sup> of August)

Market Commentary

The MSCI World ended up 1.84% driven by Financials (2.04%), Information Technology (1.22%) and Consumer Discretionary (2.52%).

As the 2Q earnings season draws to a close, the reporting season saw EPS growth improving sequentially in both Europe and US to 3% and 10%, respectively, well above consensus estimates. Earnings beats improved in US but were a touch lower than the prior quarter in Europe. There was unfortunately a slightly more cautious tone around full-year outlook from firms. Cyclicals were the laggards, pulling 2Q beats and FY24 EPS momentum lower, while a strong showing from Financials with consequent upgrades has helped offset some of the negative revisions.

In both Europe and the US, Financials delivered the most beats across the sectors whilst Energy lagged the market. Earnings growth was positive in the two regions together for the first time since 3Q 2022, helped by easier comps. Sales beats increased notably in Europe to above-average levels while US sales beats dropped to below-average levels. In contrast, as previously mentioned, earnings were the other way around indicating margin contraction in Europe.

Firms have turned slightly more cautious on the economic outlook after seeing improvement over the last couple of quarters. The more cautious view on the outlook has translated to fewer firms upgrading guidance than usual for SXXP. In fact, the net proportion of firms upgrading guidance has been the lowest since 2020. Yet companies have confidence in maintaining margins due to the possession of pricing power and implementing cost efficiency programs. Incrementally more firms are seeing disinflationary trends in input costs than those seeing inflationary trends. Companies continue to invest in capacity expansion and digital transformation drives to harness AI capabilities for client offerings and operational efficiency.

The FOMC minutes, released on Wednesday revealed that most Fed officials were strongly inclined toward a rate cut at their September meeting, with several even open to an immediate reduction in July. Although the Fed decided to keep rates unchanged in July, maintaining the federal funds rate at 5.25%-5.5%, the minutes highlighted that a rate cut in September is likely if economic data continues to meet expectations. Officials expressed growing concerns over a slowing labour market, confirmed by a significant downward revision of 818,000 jobs in the employment data for April 2023 to March 2024. This, coupled with increased confidence among "almost all participants" that inflation is nearing the Fed's 2% target, has shifted the central bank's focus more toward the employment side of its dual mandate.

The Eurozone Composite PMI rose to 51.2 in August from 50.2 in July, above consensus forecasts for 50.1. The service sector outcome was the most encouraging, with the index up from 51.9 to 53.3 (cons 51.7) (though France's Olympic effect would have helped). The manufacturing index edged

down, from 45.8 to 45.6 (cons 45.8). The latter might have been worse, given the decline seen in France and Germany. Although the composite PMI rose, economic indicators, such as GDP and unemployment data, suggest that the Eurozone economy is slowing. Slow growth and continued disinflation in the services sector should allow the ECB to cut rates again this year. Markets expect another 50bps of rate cuts from the ECB in the rest of the year following the first cut in June.

Finally, BoJ Governor Ueda said on Friday that he remained resolved to raise interest rates if inflation stayed above the 2% target but warned that financial markets remained unstable. This echoes BoJ Deputy Governor Uchida's comment on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August that the BoJ will not hike rates when markets are unstable. July's inflation data point though sends a mix message as core inflation (ex-fresh food) accelerated from 2.6% y/y to 2.7%, but core-core inflation (ex-fresh food and fuel) slowed from 2.2% y/y to 1.9%. The latter is a key gauge of broader inflation trends for the BoJ, as it indicates demand-pull inflation.

Next week we have Nvidia earnings on Wednesday, US Conf. Board consumer confidence for August on Tuesday, US 2Q GDP annualised q/q on Thursday and US Personal income for July and University of Michigan Sentiment for August on Friday. In addition, there is ECB M3 money supply y/y for July on Wednesday and EU Consumer confidence for August & EU CPI for August on Friday.

- Monday: China medium-term lending facility operations; Germany IFO business climate; Nigeria GDP; Singapore industrial production and US durable goods.
- Tuesday: China industrial profits; Germany GDP; Hong Kong trade; Mexico international reserves, trade and US Conference Board consumer confidence.
- Wednesday: Australia CPI; Israel rate decision; Russia unemployment, industrial production and Sri Lanka trade.
- Thursday: Chile unemployment; Eurozone consumer confidence, new car registrations; Germany CPI; Spain CPI; Sweden GDP and US GDP, initial jobless claims, merchandise trade.
- Friday: Australia retail sales; Brazil unemployment; Canada GDP; Chile industrial production; Colombia unemployment; Czech Republic GDP; Eurozone CPI, unemployment; Finland GDP; France CPI, GDP; Germany unemployment; Hong Kong retail sales; India GDP; Italy unemployment, CPI; Japan unemployment, Tokyo CPI, industrial production, retail sales; New Zealand building permits; Poland CPI; South Africa trade balance; South Korea industrial production; Sri Lanka CPI and US personal income, spending, PCE price data; University of Michigan consumer sentiment.

UBS ETF - Top 5 Net Inflows	USD
Global Equities Sustainable (hedged)	35,849,878
Euro Treasury Bonds	27,450,879
Global Equities	16,512,053
Swiss Real Estate	15,345,074
EM Bonds	13,494,931
UBS ETF - Top 5 Net Outflows	USD
UK Equities (hedged)	-121,074,917
Asian Equities Sustainable	-24,381,632
US Equities SmartBeta	-17,057,014
US Equities	-10,355,851
Commodity	-8,637,717
UBS ETF - Top 5 Primary Market Creations	USD
UBS ETF (CH) – SMI® (CHF) A-dis	36,597,461
UBS (Irl) ETF plc – Global Gender Equality UCITS ETF (hedged to CHF) A-acc	33,720,845
UBS (Irl) ETF plc – MSCI ACWI ESG Universal Low Carbon Select UCITS ETF (USD) A-dis	31,925,340
UBS (Lux) Fund Solutions – Bloomberg EUR Treasury 1-10 UCITS ETF (EUR) A-dis	21,204,524
UBS (Irl) ETF plc – MSCI ACWI ESG Universal Low Carbon Select UCITS ETF (USD) A-dis	14,586,578
UBS ETF - Top 5 Primary Market Redemptions	USD
UBS (Lux) Fund Solutions – MSCI United Kingdom UCITS ETF (hedged to EUR) A- acc	-121,074,917
UBS ETF (CH) – SPI® (CHF) A-dis	-27,451,986
UBS (Lux) Fund Solutions – MSCI Pacific Socially Responsible UCITS ETF (USD) A- dis	-23,519,850
UBS (Irl) ETF plc – MSCI World Socially Responsible UCITS ETF (USD) A-acc	-21,654,100
UBS (Lux) Fund Solutions – MSCI World Socially Responsible UCITS ETF (USD) A- acc	-19,304,700

UBS ETF - Top 10 Secondary Market Trades	USD
UBS (Lux) Fund Solutions – MSCI Japan UCITS ETF (hedged to GBP) A-dis Risk – Bloomberg RFQE	-50,070,000
UBS ETF (CH) – SMI® (CHF) A-dis Risk – Systematic Internaliser	34,930,000
UBS (Irl) ETF plc – Global Gender Equality UCITS ETF (hedged to CHF) A-acc NAV – Systematic Internaliser	33,890,000
UBS ETF (CH) – SPI® (CHF) A-dis NAV – Systematic Internaliser	-30,290,000
UBS (Irl) ETF plc – MSCI World Socially Responsible UCITS ETF (USD) A-acc NAV – Systematic Internaliser	-26,470,000
UBS (Lux) Fund Solutions – MSCI Pacific Socially Responsible UCITS ETF (USD) A- dis NAV – Systematic Internaliser	-23,570,000
UBS (Irl) ETF plc – Solactive Global Pure Gold Miners UCITS ETF (USD) A-dis Risk – Bloomberg RFQE	-20,790,000
UBS (Lux) Fund Solutions – MSCI United Kingdom UCITS ETF (GBP) A-acc NAV – Bloomberg RFQE	-18,550,000
UBS (Irl) Fund Solutions plc – CMCI Composite SF UCITS ETF (USD) A-acc NAV – Systematic Internaliser	17,110,000
UBS (Irl) ETF plc – MSCI USA Socially Responsible UCITS ETF (hedged to GBP) A- dis Risk – Bloomberg RFQE	-13,070,000

## **UBS ETF Capital Markets**

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