Weekly Market Update

Surging oil prices and renewed US tariffs revived global inflation concerns, pushing bond yields higher and reducing expectations for easier monetary policy.

US

New tariffs intensified trade tensions: President Trump imposed duties of 10%–12.5% on imports from 60 trading partners, including China and the EU, citing concerns over forced-labour enforcement.

Brazil faced additional trade pressure: A separate 25% tariff was applied to billions of dollars of Brazilian exports, including machinery, ethanol, clothing and wood products.

Oil revived inflation and interest-rate concerns: Rising energy prices and Treasury yields led markets to increase expectations that the Federal Reserve could tighten policy later in the year.

The Iran conflict became a domestic political issue: US military casualties, rising economic costs and pressure on defence resources increased scrutiny of the administration's Middle East strategy.

UK

Andy Burnham began his premiership: The new Prime Minister replaced Keir Starmer and prioritised the cost of living, regional devolution and economic regeneration.

A new economic leadership structure emerged: Burnham established "No10 North" in Manchester and revived the National Economic Council to shift more decision-making away from Westminster.

Financial-services policy remained broadly unchanged: The government indicated it would retain the previous administration's City-friendly competitiveness and regulatory reform programme.

Markets gave the new government a cautious welcome: Investors saw some room for targeted spending, but remained sensitive to fiscal discipline, gilt yields and the credibility of the new Treasury team.

Europe

The ECB held interest rates unchanged: Policymakers paused after June's increase but left open the possibility of further tightening as higher energy costs threatened inflation.

Banks tightened lending conditions: Eurozone lenders reported stricter credit standards and expected further tightening because of geopolitical, economic and energy-related risks.

US tariffs tested transatlantic relations: EU officials questioned Washington's forced-labour justification, although exemptions for selected products limited some of the immediate economic impact.

The EU expanded sanctions against Russia: A 21st sanctions package targeted Russian banks and cryptocurrency networks, while retaining a limited exemption for transfers of Russian LNG.

Global

New US tariffs on China increased external pressure: Chinese goods were included in Washington's latest tariff measures, adding to uncertainty surrounding exports and global supply chains.

Japan's yen fell to a 40-year low: Higher US yields, rising oil prices and doubts over Japan's fiscal and monetary policy direction pushed the currency beyond ¥163 per dollar.

Sanae Takaichi unveiled her economic strategy: Japan's Prime Minister proposed large-scale public and private investment in growth industries, while reaffirming the Bank of Japan's formal independence.

Middle East tensions spread to additional shipping routes: Houthi attacks and threats against Saudi ports created a second potential disruption point alongside the Strait of Hormuz.

Performance

Asset Class/Region	Currency	Week ending 24 July 2026	Month to date	YTD 2026	12 Months
Developed Market Equities					
United States	USD	-0.6%	-1.1%	8.8%	17.5%
United Kingdom	GBP	1.4%	2.6%	10.4%	21.9%
Continental Europe	EUR	0.3%	-0.6%	10.5%	18.8%
Japan	JPY	2.3%	0.4%	19.1%	37.8%
Asia Pacific (ex Japan)	USD	0.4%	-4.7%	18.1%	28.6%
Australia	AUD	-0.3%	-0.1%	2.3%	4.0%
Global	USD	-0.4%	-0.7%	8.9%	17.6%
Emerging Markets Equities					
Emerging Europe	USD	2.0%	3.3%	18.1%	27.8%
Emerging Asia	USD	0.4%	-6.6%	19.8%	32.9%
Emerging Latin America	USD	1.4%	2.8%	13.6%	39.4%
BRICs	USD	0.1%	2.5%	-8.9%	-5.9%
China	USD	0.9%	4.9%	-10.8%	-8.1%
MENA countries	USD	0.3%	-0.5%	-0.3%	-3.0%
South Africa	USD	-1.6%	-3.3%	-8.3%	20.4%
India	USD	-2.2%	-2.1%	-14.5%	-14.0%
Global emerging markets	USD	0.5%	-5.3%	17.3%	30.8%
Bonds					
US Treasuries	USD	-0.7%	-1.1%	-0.6%	2.4%
US Treasuries (inflation protected)	USD	-0.7%	-0.9%	0.3%	2.4%
US Corporate (investment grade)	USD	-0.9%	-1.5%	-0.5%	3.2%
US High Yield	USD	-0.6%	-0.4%	1.5%	4.8%
UK Gilts	GBP	-0.5%	-1.6%	-1.5%	1.9%
UK Corporate (investment grade)	GBP	-0.5%	-1.4%	-0.5%	3.2%
Euro Government Bonds	EUR	-0.2%	-1.7%	-0.5%	-0.1%
Euro Corporate (investment grade)	EUR	-0.3%	-1.1%	0.3%	1.1%
Euro High Yield	EUR	-0.2%	-0.4%	1.5%	3.0%
Global Government Bonds	USD	-0.7%	-1.2%	-1.8%	-1.4%
Global Bonds	USD	-0.7%	-1.3%	-1.4%	0.4%
Global Convertible Bonds	USD	0.3%	-4.9%	12.3%	20.6%
Emerging Market Bonds	USD	-1.0%	-1.6%	0.4%	7.3%

Performance

Asset Class/Region	Currency	Week ending 24 July 2026	Month to date	YTD 2026	12 Months
Property					
US Property Securities	USD	1.6%	5.4%	23.3%	23.9%
Australian Property Securities	AUD	-1.7%	-3.2%	-9.8%	-10.1%
Global Property Securities	USD	0.5%	3.4%	11.8%	14.5%
Currencies					
Euro	USD	-0.5%	-0.3%	-3.1%	-3.3%
UK Pound Sterling	USD	-0.9%	0.6%	-0.9%	-1.3%
Japanese Yen	USD	-0.8%	-0.7%	-4.2%	-10.3%
Australian Dollar	USD	0.1%	1.1%	4.8%	6.0%
South African Rand	USD	-1.7%	-2.5%	-1.5%	5.0%
Swiss Franc	USD	-1.2%	-1.1%	-2.9%	-2.8%
Chinese Yuan	USD	0.1%	0.2%	3.2%	5.6%
Commodities & Alternatives					
Commodities	USD	3.4%	11.8%	35.5%	39.5%
Agricultural Commodities	USD	1.1%	7.5%	14.5%	10.1%
Oil	USD	9.9%	32.7%	59.0%	39.9%
Gold	USD	1.3%	1.0%	-5.9%	20.8%

Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P. Past performance is not indicative of future returns.

Global Matters Weekly

27 July 2026

For more information, please contact your adviser or alternatively contact:

Belvest Investment Services Limited
研富投資服務有限公司
9th Floor, Centre Mark II
305-313 Queen's Road Central
Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

Tel +852 2827 1199
Fax +852 2827 0270
belvest@bis.hk
www.bis.hk

Important notes

This communication is issued by Belvest Investment Services Limited and/or Belvest related companies (collectively, and individually Belvest) solely to its clients, qualified prospective clients or institutional and professional investors. Unless stated otherwise, any opinions or views expressed in this communication do not represent those of Belvest. Opinions or views of any Belvest company expressed in this communication may differ from those of other departments or companies within Belvest, including any opinions or views expressed in any research issued by Belvest. Belvest may deal as Distributor or Agent, or have interests, in any financial product referred to in this email. Belvest has policies designed to negate conflicts of interest. Unless otherwise stated, this e-mail is solely for information purposes.

This message may contain confidential information. Any use, dissemination, distribution or reproduction of this information outside the original recipients of this message is strictly prohibited. If you receive this message by mistake, please notify the sender by reply email immediately.

Unless specifically stated, neither the information nor any opinion contained herein constitutes as an advertisement, an invitation, a solicitation, a recommendation or advise to buy or sell any products, services, securities, futures, options, other financial instruments or provide any investment advice or service by Belvest.

No representation or warranty is given as to the accuracy, likelihood of achievement or reasonableness of any figures, forecasts, prospects or return (if any) contained in the message. Such figures, forecasts, prospects or returns are by their nature subject to significant uncertainties and contingencies. The assumptions and parameters used by Belvest are not the only ones that might reasonably have been selected and therefor Belvest does not guarantee the sequence, accuracy, completeness or timeliness of the information provided herein. None of Belvest, its group members or any of their employees or directors shall be held liable, in any way, for any claims, mistakes, errors or otherwise arising out of or in connection with the content of this e-mail.

This e-mail and any accompanying attachments are not encrypted and cannot be guaranteed to be secure, complete or error-free as electronic communications may be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, delayed or incomplete, and/or may contain viruses. Belvest therefore does not accept any liability for any interception, corruption, loss, destruction, incompleteness, viruses, errors, omissions or delays in relation to this electronic communication. If verification is required please request a hard-copy version. Electronic communication carried within the Belvest system may be monitored.