

42

VAR CAPITAL

**Investment Committee Meeting  
September 2020**

## Summary and risks

Key risks include:

- US China trade war rhetoric and US Elections, Covid developments

Made some key changes in asset allocation:

- Reduced cash allocation from c.12% to c.7%, deployed in European equities (overweight) and some US equities
- Considering taking profits off US equities before US elections as a risk mitigation measure
- Participated in new bond issues to take advantage in a low yield environment
- Core sector exposures are tech, consumer, healthcare and utilities
- New trades include buying Walmart, Medtronic, Veolia, Nissan bond new issue

## VAR portfolios: Changes in asset allocation

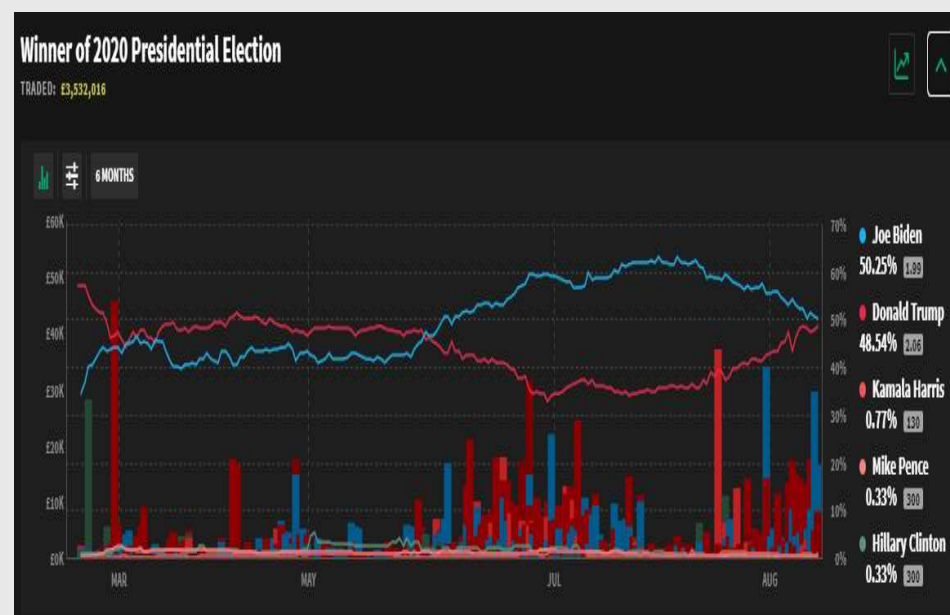
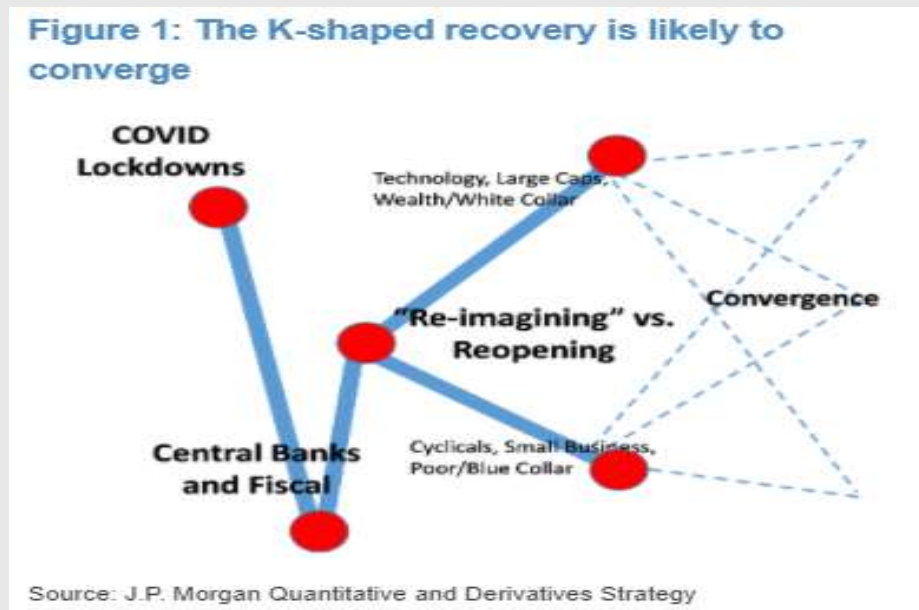
	Previous (Q2 2020)	Current (Q3 2020)
Cash	5-15%	5-10%
Fixed Income	35-45%	35-45%
Equities	50%	50-55%

*Note: The above asset allocation applies to a medium risk portfolio mandate*

Appendix slides...

## The market has overall recovered significantly but volatility is back in September

- The K-shaped recovery shown below (outperformance of tech and underperformance of value/cyclicals) continues although the first week of September saw some convergence/rotation of the trend
- Additionally, one of the potential risk events for November 2020, the US presidential election, is also fluid. After losing a lot of support over the summer, Trump is again gaining more traction



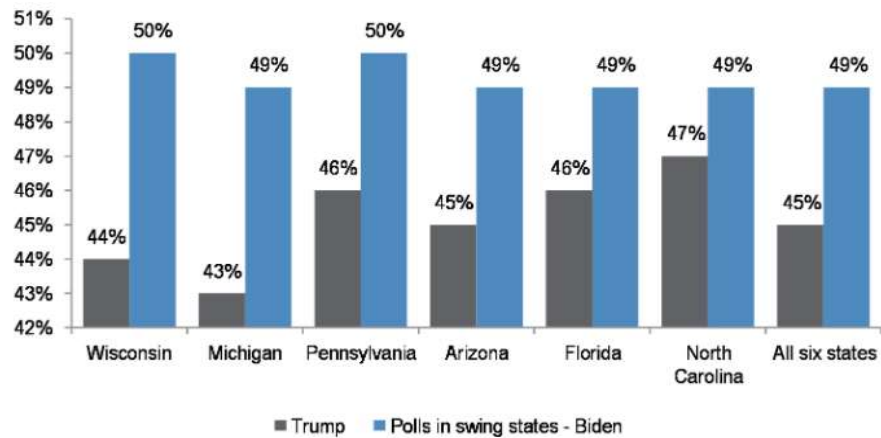
Source: JPMorgan, smarkets.com

The figures are for illustration only.

Disclaimer: Past performance is not an indication of future performance. The value of investments, and any income can fall, as well as rise, so you could get back less than you invested. Neither capital nor income is guaranteed.

## US presidential election one of the risk events in Q4 2020

Figure 5: Polls in number of swing states



Source: CNBC

Table 4: Estimated S&P 500 earnings impact based on Biden's proposals

Sector	Total	Higher corporate tax rate	Higher GILTI tax	15% minimum tax
Communication Services	-12.2%	-8.6%	-3.1%	-0.5%
Consumer Discretionary	-11.1%	-8.4%	-1.5%	-1.2%
Consumer Staples	-7.2%	-5.5%	-1.6%	-0.2%
Energy	-7.6%	-7.4%	-0.1%	0.0%
Financials	-8.3%	-7.7%	-0.5%	-0.2%
Health Care	-9.6%	-5.2%	-3.2%	-1.1%
Industrials	-9.1%	-8.5%	-0.5%	-0.1%
Information Technology	-10.7%	-5.3%	-4.6%	-0.8%
Materials	-7.7%	-6.7%	-0.9%	-0.1%
Real Estate	-0.9%	-0.3%	-0.4%	-0.2%
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	<b>-9.2%</b>	<b>-6.5%</b>	<b>-2.1%</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>

Source: US Equity & Quant Strategy, Compustat

Note: Utilities and Equity Real Estate Investment Trusts (a Real Estate industry) were excluded from the analysis

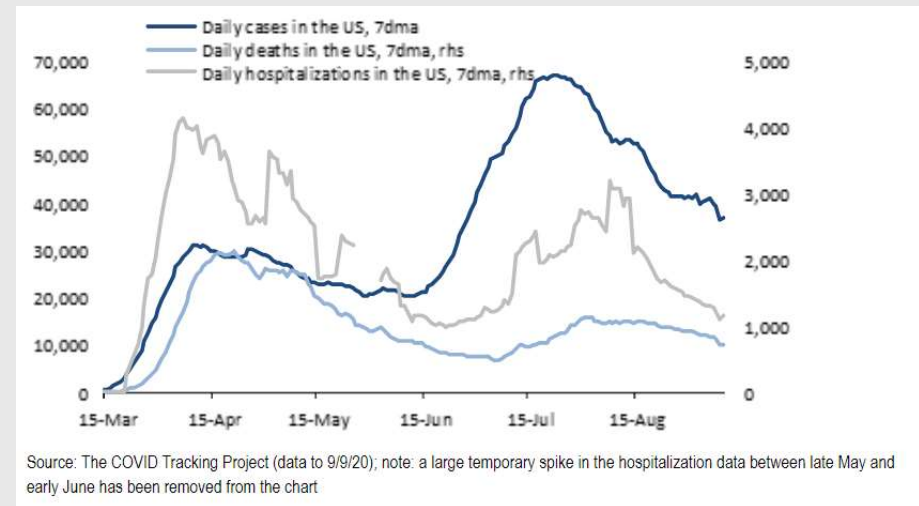
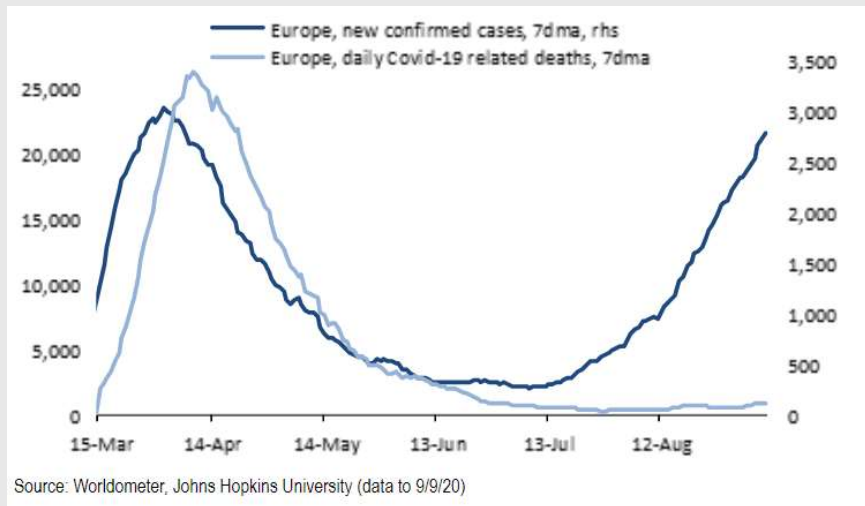
Source: JPMorgan, smarkets.com

The figures are for illustration only.

Disclaimer: Past performance is not an indication of future performance. The value of investments, and any income can fall, as well as rise, so you could get back less than you invested. Neither capital nor income is guaranteed.

## Spread of Covid-19: rising in Europe, fading in the US

- While the 7-day average of daily new cases in the five major European countries (Germany, UK, France, Italy and Spain) is nearly back to the previous peak in early April, daily fatalities have only recently reached 100, compared to an April peak of 3,300
- The 7-day average of Covid-related daily fatalities in the US has fallen below 800, while daily hospitalizations have declined by nearly 60% since end-July

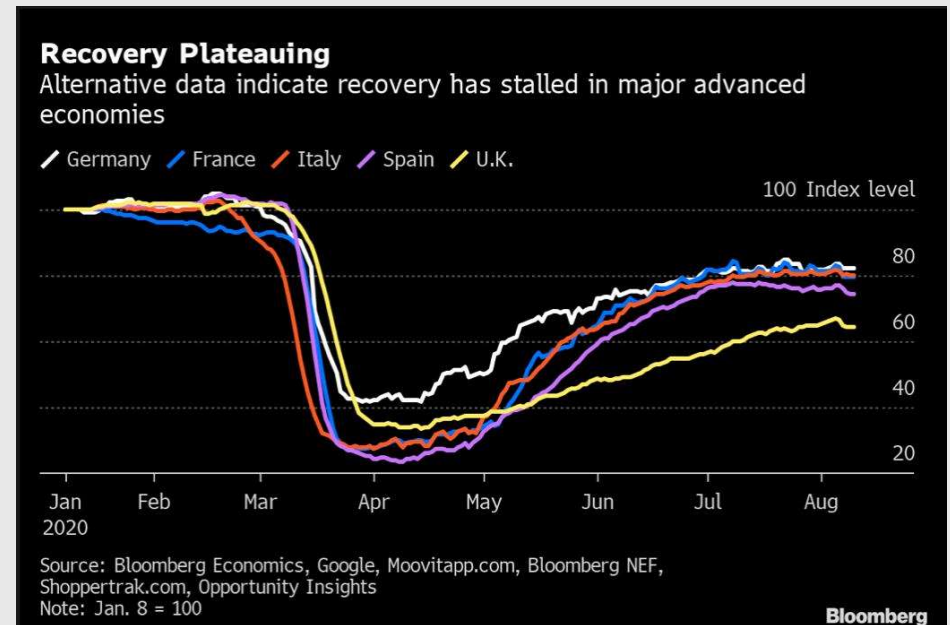
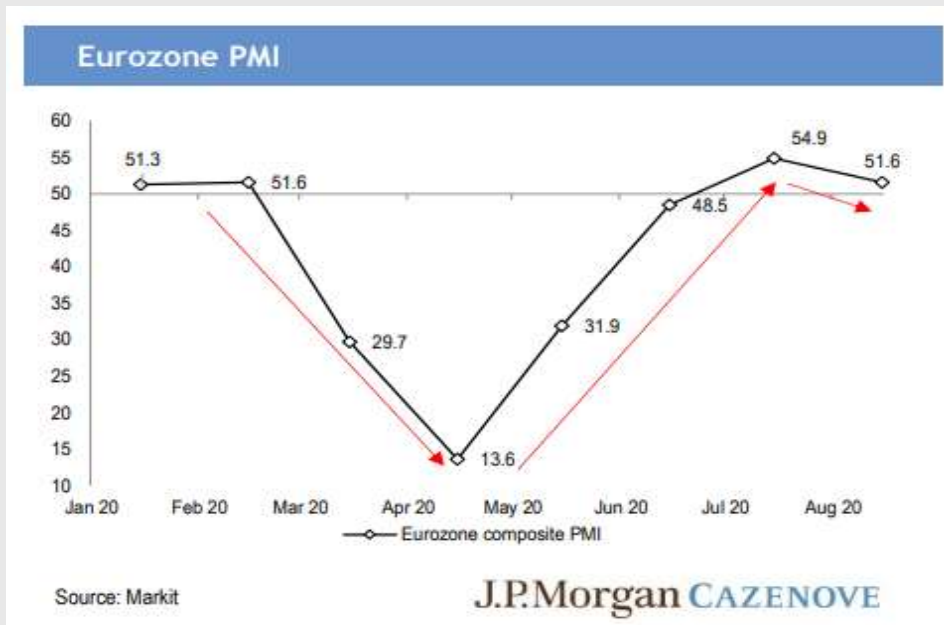


Source: Bank of America Merrill Lynch

*The figures are for illustration only.*

*Disclaimer: Past performance is not an indication of future performance. The value of investments, and any income can fall, as well as rise, so you could get back less than you invested. Neither capital nor income is guaranteed.*

## Activity in Europe has bounced from the lows but improvements seem to have stalled



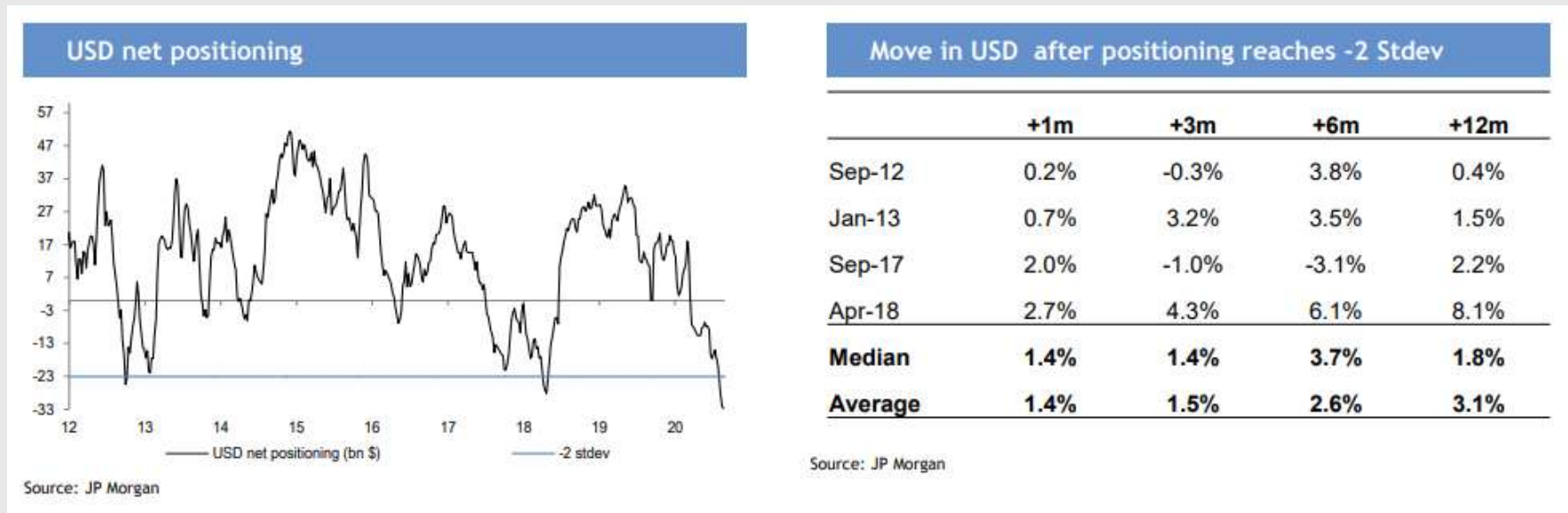
The figures are for illustration only.

Disclaimer: Past performance is not an indication of future performance. The value of investments, and any income can fall, as well as rise, so you could get back less than you invested. Neither capital nor income is guaranteed.



## USD has collapsed but how much downside is there from here?

- The US dollar has been driven lower for a range of reasons:
  1. Lockdowns are ending, the world is recovering and the USD safe haven bid unwinds
  2. Europe started doing better given mainly due to the region's fiscal optimism
  3. Negative idiosyncratic US political and macro risks (presidential election, growth rebound stalling)
- Net USD positioning is subdued; backtesting the forward USD performance from similar levels, USD tended to move higher (please see chart and table below)



*The figures are for illustration only.*

*Disclaimer: Past performance is not an indication of future performance. The value of investments, and any income can fall, as well as rise, so you could get back less than you invested. Neither capital nor income is guaranteed.*

## 2020 asset returns

Chart 19: 2020 Ranked Returns, USD-terms

### Ranked Returns, USD-terms (2020)

Assets		Equities		Sectors		Fixed Income		FX vs. USD		Commodities	
1 Gold	27.8%	1 China Equities	15.1%	1 ACWI Info Tech	24.1%	1 30-year Treasury	23.5%	1 Swedish krona	7.1%	1 Silver	50.4%
2 US Equities	7.8%	2 Taiwan Equities	13.4%	2 ACWI Cons. Discretionary	17.6%	2 TIPS	9.6%	2 Swiss franc	5.9%	2 Iron Ore	34.8%
3 Government Bonds	6.5%	3 US Equities	7.8%	3 ACWI Telecoms	8.5%	3 Treasury Master	9.0%	3 Euro	5.3%	3 Gold	27.8%
4 Investment Grade Bonds	6.2%	4 Switzerland Equities	6.6%	4 ACWI BioTechnology	7.1%	4 German Govt	7.4%	4 Australian dollar	3.8%	4 Natural Gas	9.9%
5 Industrial Metals	3.2%	5 Germany Equities	4.7%	5 ACWI Healthcare	5.4%	5 US Corp IG	6.8%	5 Japanese yen	2.3%	5 Copper	9.6%
6 EM Sovereign Bonds	2.8%	6 Korea Equities	3.9%	6 ACWI Materials	2.7%	6 BBB IG	5.8%	6 Taiwanese dollar	2.1%	6 Platinum	-4.8%
7 High Yield Bonds	1.6%	7 Portugal Equities	0.8%	7 ACWI Consumer Staples	0.1%	7 UK Govt	5.8%	7 Chinese renminbi	1.9%	7 WTI Crude Oil	-37.7%
8 EM Equities	-0.7%	8 Japan Equities	-2.6%	8 ACWI Industrials	-4.3%	8 Non-US IG Government	4.9%	8 NZ dollar	-0.7%	8 Brent Crude Oil	-38.2%
9 Japan Equities	-2.6%	9 Canada Equities	-4.0%	9 ACWI Utilities	-6.9%	9 EM Corporate	4.0%	9 Canadian dollar	-1.2%		
10 US Dollar	-3.3%	10 Hong Kong Equities	-4.7%	10 ACWI Real Estate	-13.4%	10 US Mortgage Master	3.8%	10 Singapore dollar	-1.5%		
11 Europe Equities	-5.5%	11 India Equities	-5.0%	11 ACWI Financials	-20.6%	11 European HY	3.6%	11 British pound	-1.9%		
12 Pacific Rim x Japan	-8.6%	12 France Equities	-8.4%	12 ACWI Banks	-29.5%	12 2-year Treasury	2.9%	12 Norwegian krone	-2.6%		
13 UK Equities	-20.9%	13 Australia Equities	-9.0%	13 ACWI Energy	-38.8%	13 EM Sovereign	2.8%	13 Korean won	-2.8%		
14 Oil	-37.7%	14 Italy Equities	-11.8%			14 Japan Govt	1.4%	14 Indian rupee	-2.9%		
		15 S. Africa Equities	-18.9%			15 3-Month Treasury Bills	0.6%	15 Indonesian rupiah	-6.3%		
		16 UK Equities	-20.9%			16 US Corp HY	0.4%	16 Mexican peso	-11.4%		
		17 Singapore Equities	-21.2%			17 CCC HY	-8.5%	17 South African rand	-15.7%		
		18 Spain Equities	-21.2%					18 Russian ruble	-17.7%		
		19 Russia Equities	-25.8%					19 Turkish lira	-20.5%		
		20 Mexico Equities	-25.8%					20 Brazilian real	-24.1%		
		21 Turkey Equities	-30.4%								
		22 Brazil Equities	-32.9%								
		23 Greece Equities	-34.5%								

Source: BofA Global Investment Strategy, Bloomberg, as of 9 September 2020

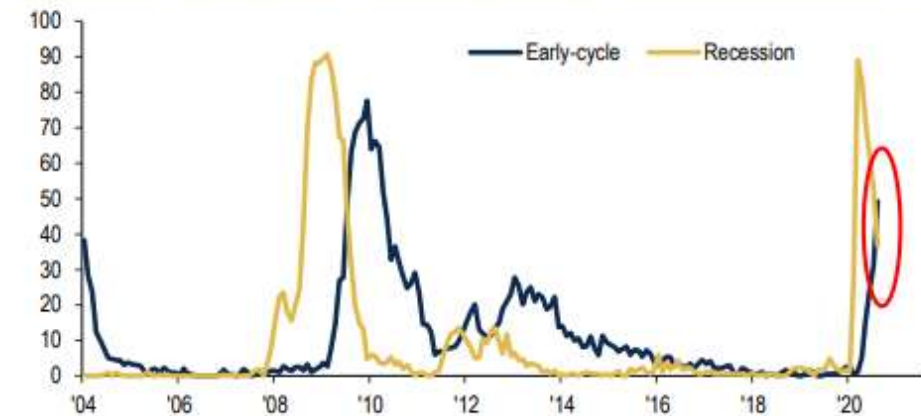
The figures are for illustration only.

Disclaimer: Past performance is not an indication of future performance. The value of investments, and any income can fall, as well as rise, so you could get back less than you invested. Neither capital nor income is guaranteed.

## Bank of America Merrill Lynch – Fund Manager Survey (Sep 2020)

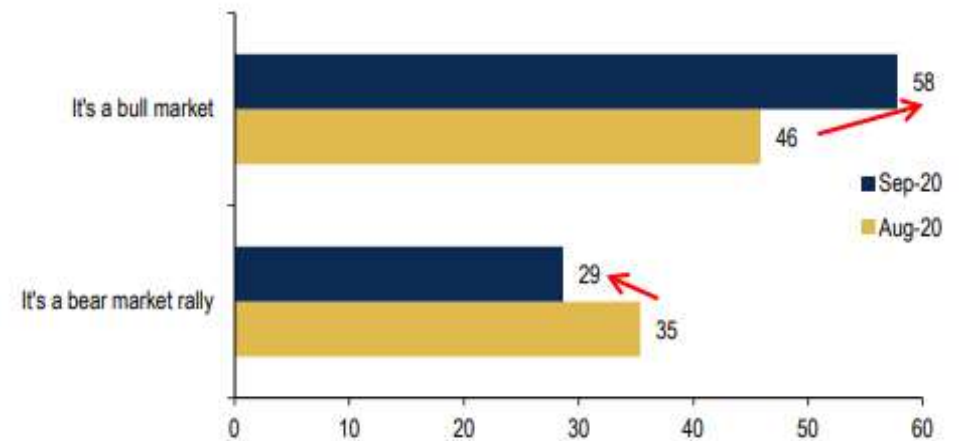
- For the first time since February more investors (49%) say global economy is in early-cycle phase vs recession (37%), key recovery milestone (see 2009 & 2012)
- Net 58% of investors say bull market has started, was 25% in May.

**Exhibit 3: FMS investors think early-cycle rather than recession for first time since February**



Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey

**Exhibit 1: FMS investors believe we are in a bull market**



Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey

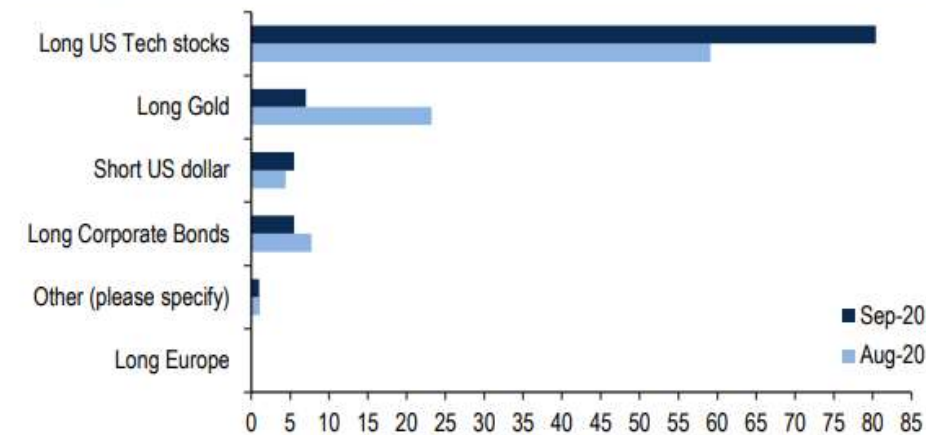
*The figures are for illustration only.*

*Disclaimer: Past performance is not an indication of future performance. The value of investments, and any income can fall, as well as rise, so you could get back less than you invested. Neither capital nor income is guaranteed.*

## Investor Risk Appetite (FMS BofAML Sep 2020)

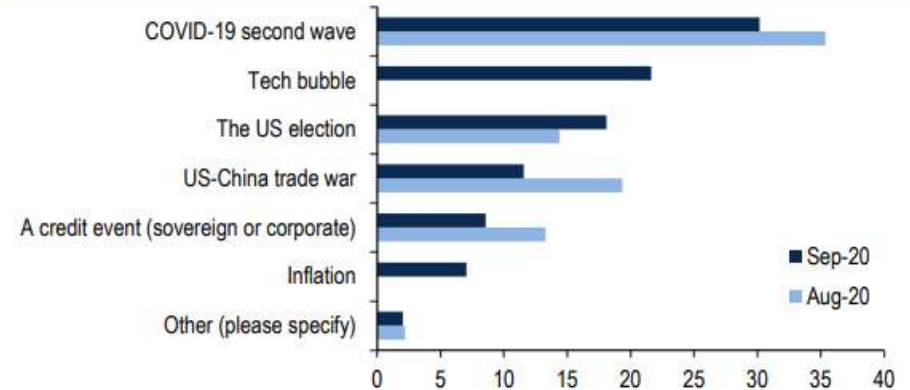
- Most crowded trade according to the survey is Long US Tech stocks (more crowded than in August)
- Biggest tail risk is still a Covid-19 second wave but now newly & closely followed by a Tech bubble

**Exhibit 21: What do you think is currently the most crowded trade?**



Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey

**Exhibit 20: What do you consider the biggest "tail risk"?**



Source: BofA Global Fund Manager Survey

*The figures are for illustration only.*

*Disclaimer: Past performance is not an indication of future performance. The value of investments, and any income can fall, as well as rise, so you could get back less than you invested. Neither capital nor income is guaranteed.*

## Disclaimer

VaR Capital Ltd is a limited company incorporated in England and Wales with registration number 09159540. UK registered office 41 & 43, Maddox Street, Mayfair, London W1S 2PD. VaR Capital Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Firm reference number 718558.

The views expressed in this report are not intended as an offer or solicitation for the purchase or sale of any investment or financial instrument. The views reflect the views of VaR Capital Limited at the date of this document and, whilst the opinions stated are honestly held, they are not guarantees and should not be relied upon and may be subject to change without notice.

The information contained in this document does not constitute investment advice and should not be used as the basis of any investment decision. References to specific securities are included for the purposes of illustration only and should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell these securities. VaR Capital has not considered the suitability of this investment against any specific investor's needs and/or risk tolerance. If you are in any doubt, please speak to your financial adviser.

The performance data displayed is unaudited and is designed only to provide summary information and the report does not explain the risks involved in investing in the markets. Performance is shown after deduction of costs but excluding management charges, and on the basis of income being reinvested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of the securities and the income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount originally invested. The value of overseas investments will be influenced by the rate of exchange.



# VAR CAPITAL

## CONTACT

41 & 43, Maddox Street, Mayfair  
London W1S 2PD, United Kingdom  
+44 (0) 203 7096 172

[www.varcapital.co.uk](http://www.varcapital.co.uk)