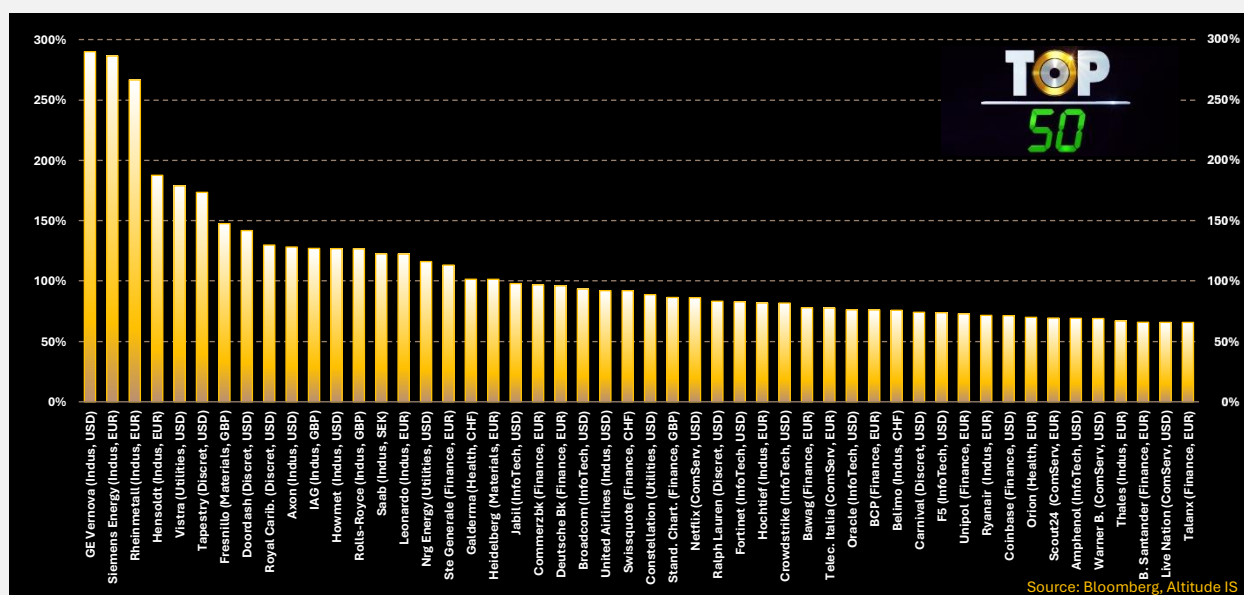


The flexiweekly that reaches new heights - published on 18 August 2025

"TOP 50 COMPANIES: DO YOU KNOW THIS YEAR'S HITS?"

- Reviewing all the stocks is an effective way to identify profitable themes
- There are 50 stocks that have delivered annual returns of over 65%
- Some make the headlines, while others progress quietly
- These stocks come from a variety of sectors and together form a well-balanced portfolio

CHART OF THE WEEK: "The 50 best investments of the last 12 months"



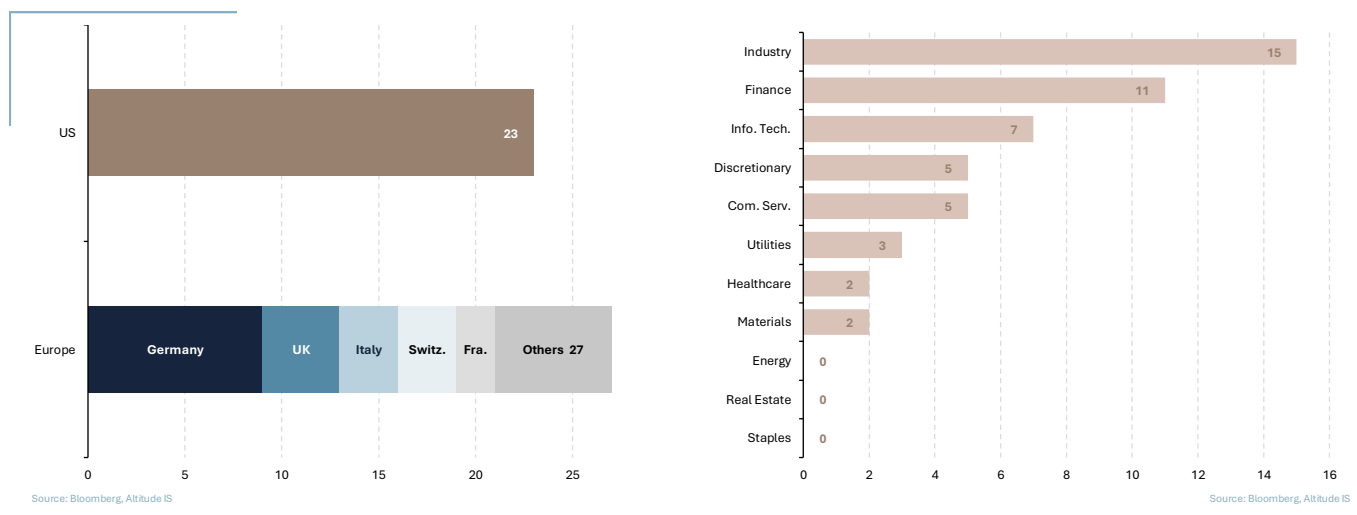
FINANCIAL MARKETS ANALYSIS

For once, rather than predicting which sectors and themes will outperform over the next twelve months, let's take the time to look back. **Analysing the past is an effective way of identifying trends, testing the robustness of fundamentals and thus avoiding missing out on a profitable strategy.** Barring a macroeconomic disruption or exogenous shock, the themes that have driven the market to new heights have good reason to extend their lead, at least for a while. Following this review of companies, including stocks in the S&P 500 and Stoxx 600 indices, it appears that **the list of the 50 best-performing stocks** is neither a simple mirror of the two main global indices nor a list of technology



mega-caps (see Chart of the Week). The first thing to note is that **US and European stocks are evenly represented** (see Fig. 2), whereas they are in a 3:1 ratio in the MSCI World Index. The sectors also hold some surprises, with **industry and finance alone accounting for half of the selection**. Conversely, energy, real estate and consumer staples are conspicuous by their absence (see Fig. 3). The analysis was conducted using this type of prism in order to identify the discriminating factors and highlight the dominant themes.

Fig. 2 & 3 – Breakdown of Top 50 companies by country and sector



The results are instructive. **This Top 50 list paints a complex but realistic picture of an economy that is rearming, investing in physical and digital infrastructure, accelerating electrification, relying on strong banks, and whose affluent classes are seeking high-quality services.**

1. European rearmament: from the peace dividend to the security premium.

The list of the fifty best-performing stocks is primarily about Europe and industry. **Defence and aerospace stocks**, which had been neglected for nearly a generation, **have seen a remarkable re-rating**. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but also since the announcement of the United States' withdrawal from certain conflicts and its reduced contribution to NATO funding, the geopolitical balance has shifted. Europe has no choice but to increase its military spending (see Fig. 4) and adopt concrete industrial plans to rearm itself. The security of Europeans and their sovereignty of supply are once again becoming financial priorities.

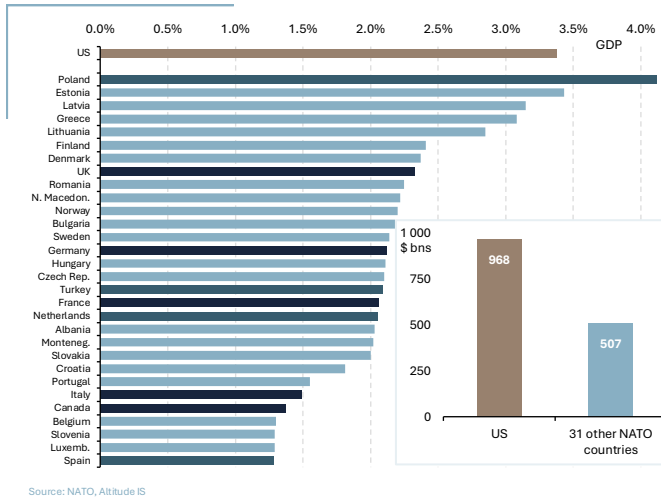
The order books of companies in the sector are now multi-year, the ramp-up of production lines is diluting fixed costs and amplifying operational leverage, while technology is becoming more complex. One need only look at the trajectories of [Rheinmetall](#), [Hensoldt](#), [Rolls-Royce](#), [Howmet](#), [Leonardo](#) and [Saab](#) to gauge the scale of the defence sector's rerating. This is neither a flash in the pan nor a publicity stunt, but the stock market expression of a lasting dynamic.

This wave of rearmament is feeding the entire stock market: advanced materials, cutting-edge technology, precision engineering, sensors, engines, embedded systems, logistics, training, maintenance, etc. On the financial markets, investors are looking not only at sales volumes but also at companies' ability to fulfil orders and sustain margins over time through service contracts.



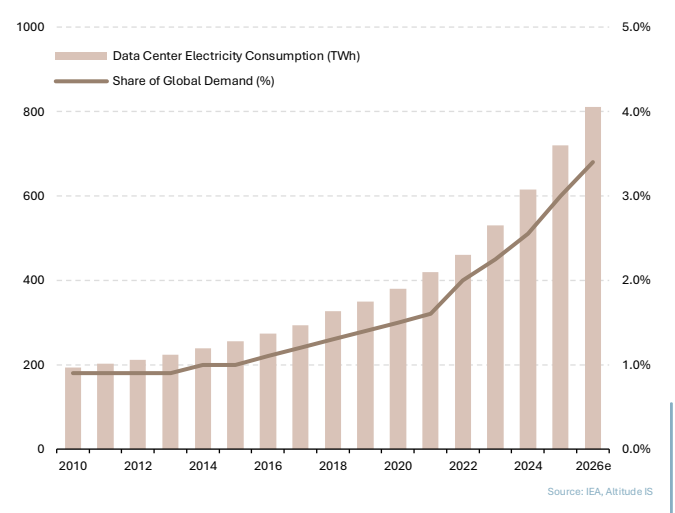
On the periphery of the sector, [Axon Enterprise](#) shows that public security is following the same logic, with a model that combines hardware, software and multi-year service contracts.

Fig. 4 – Military spending within NATO



Source: NATO, Altitude IS

Fig. 5 – Electricity consumption of data centres



Source: IEA, Altitude IS

2. Electricity: kilowatts are becoming more strategic than barrels.

The second driver of performance revolves around electricity. Perceived as a strategic asset, **demand is growing in line with the digitalisation of the economy, the roll-out of heat pumps, the acceptance of electric mobility and, more recently, generative AI.** The latter is giving rise to a multitude of data centres, which are very energy-intensive (see Fig. 5). Two types of companies, [Vistra](#), [Constellation](#) and [NRG](#), are benefiting from this. Thanks to the flexibility of their production facilities, they are able to take advantage of a favourable spread. They produce terawatt hours (TWh), buy them at low prices on the wholesale market and then sell them at higher prices through long-term contracts.

In terms of electrical infrastructure, [GE Vernova](#) and [Siemens Energy](#) are benefiting from **the upgrading of electricity transmission**, as well as their ability to maintain and modernise networks. The Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP) confirms the scale of future investment, whether in the development of cross-border interconnections, the upgrading of high-voltage lines or the deployment of storage capacity. This shift is already evident in network operators' budgets, connection schedules and the identification of congestion zones around major consumption hubs and data centres. Investors are rewarding companies that guarantee the availability of kilowatt hours, in the right place at the right time, and reduce intermittency.

3. European banks: re-rating thanks to cash returns and stronger balance sheets.

European financials are the third category in the ranking. The sector initially benefited from lower central bank rates and the steepening of the yield curve. By lending long-term and borrowing short-term, banks earn interest margins (see Fig. 6). **Beyond this monetary effect, financial companies are reaping the benefits of efforts on three fronts: refocusing activities, controlling risks and distributing dividends to shareholders.** [Société Générale](#), [Commerzbank](#), [Deutsche Bank](#), [Standard Chartered](#), [Bawag](#), [Banco Comercial Português](#) and the [Swissquote](#) platform illustrate this virtuous triangle. The historical discount relative to US peers has not been closed in a few quarters, but it began to narrow as risk-weighted assets grew and distributions became predictable. Investors are rewarding models that can transform a balance sheet into cash flows without compromising capital buffers.



4. Travel & leisure: customer experience and pricing power.

The fourth performance driver is more unexpected. With the pandemic behind us, **airlines and leisure companies have proven that it is possible to better meet demand, particularly demand from high-end consumers.** This segment is less sensitive to price hikes and its savings have been boosted by the rise in financial markets. Royal Caribbean and Carnival have taken advantage of the fact that solvent customers are willing to pay higher prices, especially when supply is limited and quality is high. United Airlines and IAG (the merger of British Airways and Iberia) have managed to improve their profitability by implementing more accurate pricing. In both cases, operators that have reinvested in service quality and streamlined their fleets have gained pricing power. In the adjacent discretionary consumption sector, Tapestry has confirmed the resilience of accessible luxury by combining an appropriate pricing policy with strict selection of points of sale. Meanwhile, DoorDash shows that large-scale route optimisation improves profitability. For investors, the decisive factor is leverage on equity. Every additional margin point, driven by better yield management or a clearer cost structure, has a positive impact on the share price.

Fig. 6 – European banks and yield curve

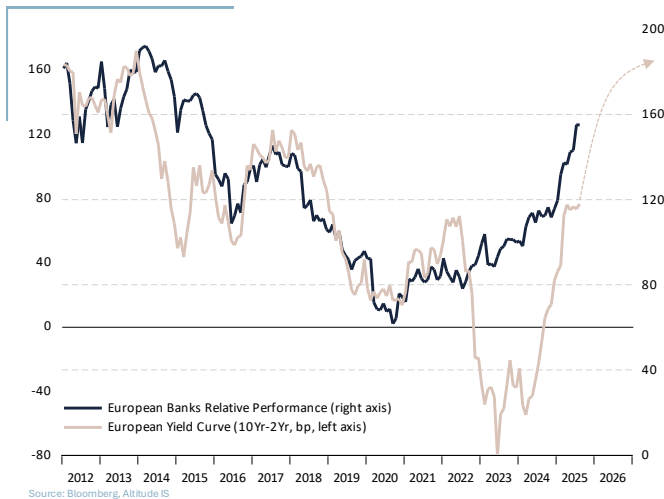
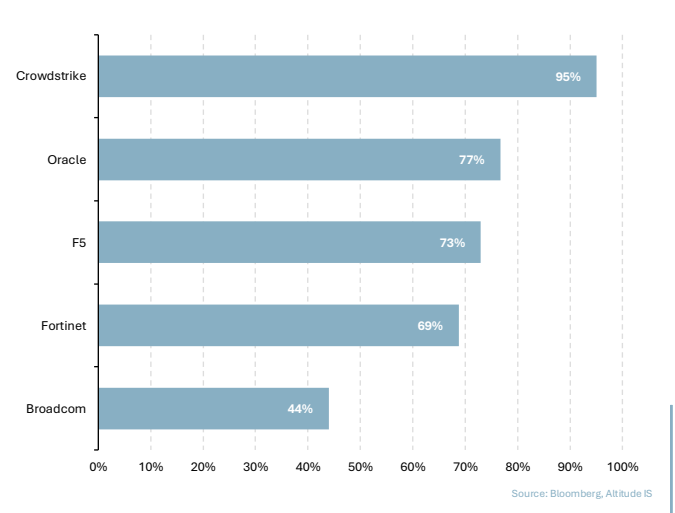


Fig. 7 – Share of recurring revenue in Tech



5. Tech's "shovels and pickaxes": behind AI lie suppliers and security.

Finally, and against all expectations, the list of the fifty best-performing stocks is not dominated by the Magnificent Seven. In the technology sector, **we mainly find infrastructure companies, those that make the digital economy and AI possible.** Broadcom supplies circuits and network platforms at the heart of the computing chain. Jabil and Amphenol deliver components and assembly services for more compact and efficient hardware. Oracle monetises its databases and cloud with multi-year contracts. CrowdStrike secures workstations, servers and mobile devices, while Fortinet protects network infrastructure. Finally, F5 guarantees application availability and security by managing traffic and blocking attacks. This constellation of digital "shovel and pickaxe" suppliers is thus able to impose contractual price increases and generate recurring revenues (see Fig. 7).

Experienced readers will have noticed that three major sectors are conspicuous by their absence. The (carbon-based) energy sector has no representatives in the Top 50. Although the Majors generate significant cash flows, oil and gas prices have not been favourable to them. The real estate investment trusts sector is suffering from high capital costs, despite the recent fall in interest rates. Only data



centre REITs have fared relatively well over the period. Finally, the consumer staples sector has been hit by capital flows shifting towards premium discretionary consumption. Weak volumes and promotional battles in the food sector have added insult to injury.

Overall, the winners of the last twelve months have been far from benefiting from a passing trend. On the contrary, it is companies that were in a leading position, with little competition and strong pricing power, that have made it into the Top 50. **Yesterday's winners could therefore well be tomorrow's winners.** The question remains as to their high valuations. Following their spectacular rises, these stocks naturally carry a risk of a technical correction.

Conclusion:

Looking at the past does not prevent us from looking to the future or continuing to dance to last year's hits. Defence, electrification, premium travel and leisure, European banks and technology "shovels and pickaxes" have solid fundamentals. Barring a technical correction, these companies have a favourable fundamental base and momentum to extend their lead.



RETURN ON FINANCIAL ASSETS

Markets Performances (local currencies)	Last Price	Momentum Indicator (RSI)	1-Week (%)	1-Month (%)	2025 Year-to-Date (%)	2024 (%)	2023 (%)
Equities							
World (MSCI)	952.0	68.32	1.3%	3.6%	14.7%	18.0%	22.8%
USA (S&P 500)	6450	65.06	1.0%	3.4%	10.5%	25.0%	26.3%
USA (Dow Jones)	44 946	60.45	1.8%	2.2%	6.7%	15.0%	16.2%
USA (Nasdaq)	21 623	67.01	0.8%	4.6%	12.4%	29.6%	44.7%
Euro Area (DJ EuroStoxx)	579.0	62.96	1.6%	2.5%	17.9%	10.2%	19.5%
UK (FTSE 100)	9 139	59.29	0.8%	2.8%	14.9%	9.6%	7.7%
Switzerland (SMI)	12 074	59.52	1.7%	1.5%	7.3%	7.5%	7.1%
Japan (Nikkei)	43 736	70.86	3.7%	9.3%	9.9%	21.3%	31.0%
Emerging (MSCI)	1 272	63.60	1.6%	2.8%	20.8%	8.0%	10.2%
Brasil (IBOVESPA)	136 341	53.80	0.3%	0.8%	13.3%	-10.4%	22.3%
Mexico (IPC)	58 320	59.02	0.5%	3.4%	20.8%	-11.0%	22.4%
India (SENSEX)	81 630	43.12	0.1%	-1.8%	4.3%	9.6%	20.3%
China (CSI)	4 265	71.96	2.4%	5.0%	9.1%	18.2%	-9.1%
Com. Services (MSCI World)	151.8	75.65	2.6%	8.1%	22.6%	31.9%	38.1%
Cons. Discretionary (MSCI World)	439.7	65.69	2.6%	4.0%	5.1%	20.7%	29.5%
Cons. Staples (MSCI World)	295.2	55.08	-0.2%	1.7%	10.2%	4.7%	3.2%
Energy (MSCI World)	251.3	49.55	0.8%	-0.2%	7.4%	2.9%	6.0%
Financials (MSCI World)	213.5	65.21	1.8%	3.8%	21.2%	25.1%	16.4%
Health Care (MSCI World)	355.0	61.13	4.4%	2.9%	3.0%	1.5%	4.1%
Industrials (MSCI World)	449.5	56.50	0.4%	2.1%	20.8%	12.8%	22.5%
Info. Tech. (MSCI World)	885.2	62.63	-0.1%	3.7%	15.7%	31.9%	51.4%
Materials (MSCI World)	352.6	61.82	1.5%	4.0%	17.1%	-7.7%	12.6%
Real Estate (MSCI World)	1 005	51.90	0.4%	1.3%	5.7%	-0.4%	5.3%
Utilities (MSCI World)	187.8	58.85	0.1%	3.6%	19.6%	13.0%	1.6%
Bonds (Bloomberg)							
World (Aggregate)	3.53%	54.65	0.0%	1.1%	6.9%	-1.7%	5.7%
USA (Sovereign)	4.08%	53.23	-0.2%	1.3%	3.8%	0.6%	4.1%
Euro Area (Sovereign)	2.87%	40.54	-0.6%	-0.2%	-0.2%	1.9%	7.1%
Germany (Sovereign)	2.46%	38.66	-0.6%	-0.5%	-1.6%	0.6%	5.6%
UK (Sovereign)	4.62%	43.08	-0.5%	0.0%	2.9%	-3.0%	5.6%
Switzerland (Sovereign)	0.46%	56.65	-0.3%	1.2%	0.7%	5.4%	7.9%
Japan (Sovereign)	1.33%	40.40	-0.5%	0.1%	-2.0%	-2.1%	0.9%
Emerging (Sovereign)	6.35%	80.70	0.4%	2.5%	7.9%	7.0%	11.0%
USA (IG Corp.)	4.95%	60.60	0.1%	1.5%	5.0%	2.1%	8.5%
Euro Area (IG Corp.)	3.08%	49.63	-0.1%	0.2%	2.3%	4.7%	8.2%
Emerging (IG Corp.)	6.15%	82.11	0.3%	1.5%	5.9%	7.0%	6.7%
USA (HY Corp.)	6.95%	75.11	0.2%	0.9%	5.6%	8.2%	13.4%
Euro Area (HY Corp.)	5.29%	87.45	0.2%	1.0%	4.3%	8.2%	12.1%
Emerging (HY Corp.)	7.72%	83.04	0.5%	2.6%	8.2%	14.9%	13.1%
World (Convertibles)	506.2	68.30	1.3%	2.0%	15.0%	9.4%	12.3%
USA (Convertibles)	663.9	63.13	1.1%	1.5%	10.9%	10.1%	14.6%
Euro Area (Convertibles)	289.7	53.96	0.2%	1.1%	24.5%	14.7%	7.3%
Switzerland (Convertibles)	274.5	29.90	-1.5%	-2.9%	14.0%	-10.5%	5.8%
Japan (Convertibles)	244.7	82.66	1.7%	4.4%	8.0%	6.4%	7.6%
Hedge Funds (Bloomberg)							
Hedge Funds Industry	1 698	83.29	n.a.	1.3%	5.5%	11.1%	7.8%
Macro	1 351	68.63	n.a.	0.1%	0.6%	7.4%	1.6%
Equity Long Only	2 358	72.59	n.a.	1.0%	6.7%	12.0%	15.9%
Equity Long/Short	1 823	81.73	n.a.	2.3%	8.7%	14.0%	7.7%
Event Driven	1 832	82.35	n.a.	3.5%	6.2%	8.7%	7.3%
Fundamental Equity Mkt Neutral	1 745	94.31	n.a.	0.8%	5.6%	12.4%	6.6%
Quantitative Equity Mkt Neutral	1 750	85.40	n.a.	1.6%	5.2%	9.8%	7.8%
Credit	1 658	96.77	n.a.	0.3%	3.9%	8.5%	8.1%
Credit Long/Short	1 683	100.00	n.a.	0.7%	3.4%	10.0%	11.2%
Commodity	1 903	91.96	n.a.	0.7%	6.4%	14.7%	7.3%
Commodity Trading Advisors	1 281	50.63	n.a.	0.2%	-4.5%	7.9%	-3.6%
Volatility							
VIX	15.09	44.51	-0.4%	-13.2%	-13.0%	39.4%	-42.5%
VSTOXX	15.84	40.87	-9.0%	-10.8%	-6.9%	25.3%	-35.0%
Commodities							
Commodities (CRB)	557.9	n.a.	-0.4%	-1.6%	4.0%	5.1%	-8.0%
Gold (Troy Ounce)	3 356	n.a.	0.4%	0.2%	27.9%	27.2%	13.1%
Silver (Troy Ounce)	38.15	n.a.	1.4%	-0.1%	32.0%	21.5%	-0.7%
Oil (WTI, Barrel)	62.80	n.a.	-1.7%	-5.6%	-12.4%	0.1%	-10.7%
Oil (Brent, Barrel)	67.82	n.a.	-0.1%	-4.8%	-8.5%	-4.6%	-4.5%
Currencies (vs USD)							
USD (Dollar Index)	97.82	44.94	-0.7%	-0.7%	-9.8%	7.1%	-2.1%
EUR	1.1708	56.06	0.8%	0.7%	13.1%	-6.2%	3.1%
JPY	147.38	49.94	0.5%	1.0%	6.7%	-10.3%	-7.0%
GBP	1.3563	59.13	1.0%	1.1%	8.4%	-1.7%	5.4%
AUD	0.6521	51.28	0.1%	0.2%	5.4%	-9.2%	0.0%
CAD	1.3801	43.35	-0.2%	-0.5%	4.2%	-7.9%	2.3%
CHF	0.8060	49.29	0.8%	-0.6%	12.6%	-7.3%	9.9%
CNY	7.1799	50.66	0.1%	-0.1%	1.7%	-2.7%	-2.8%
MXN	18.725	50.49	-0.3%	0.1%	11.2%	-18.5%	14.9%
EM (Emerging Index)	1 839.6	50.93	0.1%	-0.3%	6.5%	-0.7%	4.8%
XBT	115 618	n.a.	-6.0%	-1.6%	23.4%	120.5%	157.0%

Source: Bloomberg, Altitude Investment Solutions

Total Return by asset class (Negative \ Positive Performance)



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