

## Our Views

- We favor US equities over international developed equities.
- Our favorite sectors in the US are Info Tech, Health Care, and Industrials.
- Among international markets, we favor Japan and India over the euro zone, the UK, and Latin America.

## Regional Updates

### DEVELOPED MARKETS



#### US

Overweight

- After bottoming in April, the S&P 500 recovered its losses: +0.5% YTD and around 4% below the February high.
- The Federal Reserve held rates steady at 4.25-4.50% in May, commenting that the effects of tariffs remain unclear for now.
- Moody's downgrade of US debt on May 16 raised concerns about the fiscal outlook, pushing 10-year Treasury yields to 4.42%.
- The US Dollar Index is down ~8% YTD—trading near the midpoint of its five-year range (90 to 113).



#### Euro Zone

Underweight

- Euro zone equities (MSCI Europe ex-UK) YTD are up 22.1% in USD terms and are outperforming the S&P 500 by ~22% YTD.
- The ECB is widely expected to lower its key deposit facility rate to 2.0% at its policy meeting on June 5.
- Euro zone inflation was 2.2% in April, unchanged from March and approaching the ECB's 2% target.
- The euro is up over 9% YTD, amid broad USD weakness and boosted by Germany's plans for fiscal stimulus.

### EMERGING MARKETS

#### EM Asia

Overweight India



- Chinese equities have fully recovered their post-Liberation day drawdown (+8% in CNY) and are up 15.4% in USD terms YTD.
- China's economy is a mixed picture: while exports and industrial activity are strong, consumption remains sluggish.
- India's market was largely unaffected amid rising tensions with Pakistan: Nifty 50 is up 11% from its April low in local terms.
- In China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand, central banks recently cut rates to support growth.



#### Japan

Overweight

- MSCI Japan is up 10.6% YTD in USD; improving earnings and share buybacks offsetting headwinds from high yields.
- The Bank of Japan (BOJ) rate may continue to hike interest rates if the economy continues to improve and inflation climbs.
- Concerns about BOJ tapering of bond purchases pushed the 30-year JGB yield above 3%—its highest level since 2000.
- The yen has been consistently below 150 per USD since the end of March, boosted by the surging yields.



#### UK

Underweight

- UK equities are lagging Europe but outperforming the US on a YTD basis. The MSCI UK is up 16.8% in USD.
- In a split decision, the Bank of England narrowly delivered a 25 bp rate cut in May, bringing the policy rate down to 4.25%.
- UK bond yields are rising with the 10-year gilt at ~4.7% as the market braces for higher supply in the coming months.
- Having benefited from a weaker dollar, the pound has climbed to 1.35—its highest level since September 2024.

#### LatAm

Neutral



- LatAm equities are among the top performers YTD, with the MSCI LatAm Index up ~25% in USD terms.
- Brazil's central bank slowed its hiking pace from 100 bps to 50 bps and set the rate at 14.75%—its sixth rate hike since Sep 2024.
- Mexico's central bank delivered a third cut of 50 bps, setting the rate at 8.5% as it shifts its focus to growth over inflation.
- Higher yields and weaker USD made LatAm local debt the best-performing region among EMs: YTD, it returned 15% in USD.

## In the Spotlight

### India Market Update: Still An Attractive Long-Term Opportunity

The growth scare in late 2024, driven by high inflation, slowing activity, and tight monetary policy, triggered a steep market selloff in India, with the MSCI India Index experiencing a peak-to-trough decline of ~22% in US dollar terms. While international equity investors reduced their India exposure amid a sharp rebound in Chinese equities during the same period, India has bounced back since its trough in March, which, among other things, shows the risk of selling at the bottom. Amid cooler inflation, the central bank has cut rates twice since February—an easing cycle we expect to continue. Industrial activity and trade data have also shown some green shoots, suggesting the economy has bottomed. Although the recovery may be choppy at times, stabilizing growth and more supportive policy will help. It also helps that India is a beneficiary of the US-China trade war, though the indirect impact of tariff uncertainty may be weighing on near-term corporate decisions. We reiterate our bullish stance on India, echoing what we wrote last July ([link](#)). Investing in India is a multi-year theme, and short-term volatility should not derail the case. We believe the long-term structural drivers are intact, and India remains one of our top ideas in international equities.

#### KEY TAKEAWAYS

Growth Scare Fading, Early Signs Of Recovery Emerging

Policy Easing Underway, More Support Likely This Year

Structural Macro Tailwinds Remain Firmly In Place

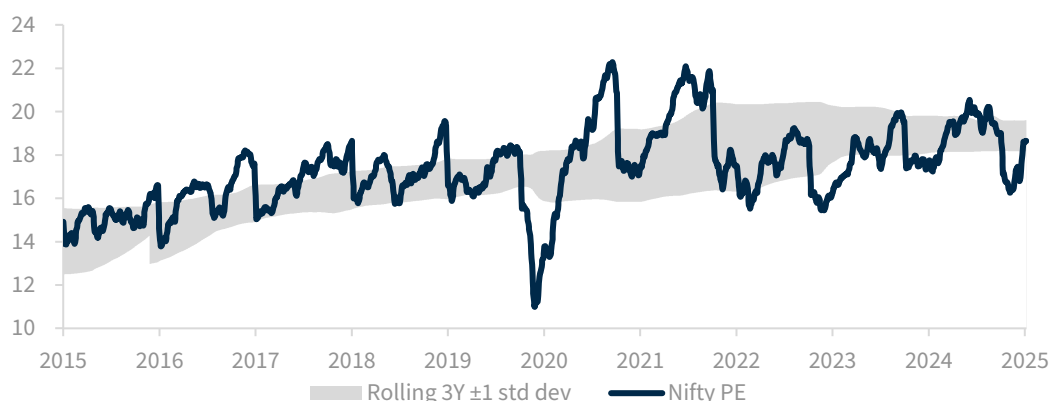
#### Three Structural Megatrends That Will Sustain India's Growth

- 1. A Top Beneficiary Of Global Supply Chain Diversification**—COVID-related disruptions, heightened geopolitical tensions, the US-China trade war, and broader tariff uncertainty have reinforced the case for supply chain diversification. While onshoring (shifting to fully domestic production) is one option, there are others as well: what's known as nearshoring and friendshoring, both of which are cost-advantaged. In the friendshoring category, India remains the only market comparable to China vis-à-vis geographic location, labor force size and education, and improving infrastructure. Apple and Foxconn's recent investment announcements underscore this trend and highlight growing global corporate confidence in India as a reliable yet low-cost production base. We believe that export-oriented foreign direct investment will continue to grow in the coming years as India positions itself as an attractive supply chain destination.
- 2. Relatively Untapped Domestic Market Remains A Growth Driver**—India's domestic economy is still relatively closed, with many sectors underdeveloped. This creates vast potential across a wide range of industries. Coupled with favorable demographics, rising real incomes, and an expanding urban middle class, India's domestic market remains one of the last large-scale growth frontiers globally. Private consumption accounted for 65% of GDP and is expected to grow 6.4% in 2025. Both domestic and international firms are increasing investments to tap into this opportunity, particularly in consumer goods, financial services, and infrastructure. We expect this trend to accelerate meaningfully over the coming decade, supporting economic expansion and benefiting the equity market.
- 3. Structural Reforms And Infrastructure Capex Sustain Long-Term Growth**—India has long had potential, but progress was historically constrained by business-unfriendly tax and legal regimes, fragmented regulatory frameworks, and weak infrastructure. In recent months, reform-minded Prime Minister Modi's coalition has secured key election victories at the state level, which may pave the way for regional tax and regulatory alignment with the union government's pro-business agenda. Infrastructure continues to be a policy priority, with capex above 22% of total expenditure in the FY25–26 budget (which started in April), a 10% year-over-year increase, supported by increased allocations for transportation, energy, and logistics. The recent UK-India trade deal and ongoing EU-India trade talks further illustrate India's commitment to building a globally competitive economic environment.

**Bottom Line** | We maintain our long-term constructive view on India. The investment horizon should be measured in years, not months. While India's equity market may appear expensive at first glance, with the P/E ratios of the Nifty 50 and MSCI India in the 19 to 21 range compared to MSCI EM Asia's P/E ratio of 12, this premium valuation is supported by India's relatively strong growth prospects and its unique geopolitical advantage. Moreover, current valuations are only slightly above the country's long-term average, suggesting room for sustained investor confidence. The recent economic slowdown and market selloff, followed by a rebound, have helped clear some near-term hurdles. As with all emerging markets, periodic volatility is inevitable. Investors should opportunistically seek entry points during market pullbacks to build long-term exposure and benefit from structural growth trends.

#### India's Equity Valuations Are Within Historical Norms

India's P/E sits within its 3-year rolling  $\pm 1$  standard deviation band, indicating that even at 19x, valuations are well anchored within historical norms of a high-growth market.



Source: Bloomberg as of 5/23/25

## Key Market Levels and Performance

### Fixed Income | Broad-based Gains Across Most Sectors YTD

	Yield (%)	MTD	YTD	1Yr
International ex-US	2.9%	-0.2%	7.0%	8.4%
TIPS	4.3%	-0.9%	3.3%	6.1%
Emerging Markets	6.6%	0.6%	2.9%	8.4%
US High Yield	7.7%	1.7%	2.7%	9.6%
Treasurys	4.2%	-1.2%	2.3%	5.6%
US Aggregate	4.7%	-0.9%	2.2%	6.1%
US Investment Grade	5.3%	-0.2%	2.1%	6.3%
Municipals		0.1%	-1.0%	2.1%

### Global Equities | Most International Equities Outperform US YTD

	MTD	YTD	1Yr
MSCI Europe Ex-UK	4.8%	22.1%	14.9%
MSCI EAFE	4.7%	17.3%	15.2%
MSCI UK	3.7%	16.8%	16.9%
MSCI China	4.7%	15.4%	26.4%
MSCI Canada	5.5%	11.6%	23.6%
MSCI Japan	4.6%	10.6%	13.4%
MSCI EM	5.4%	10.1%	12.4%
MSCI India	1.6%	3.4%	5.1%

### US Equities | NASDAQ Outperforms MTD

	Level	MTD	YTD	1Yr
S&P 500	5,912	6.2%	0.5%	12.3%
NASDAQ	19,176	9.9%	-0.7%	13.3%
DJ Industrial Average	42,216	3.8%	-0.8%	9.8%
Russell 2000	2,075	5.6%	-7.0%	1.9%

### US Equity Sectors | Tech And Consumer Discretionary Lead YTD

	MTD	YTD	1Yr
Info Tech	1.4%	11.3%	-1.4%
Cons. Discretionary	1.4%	10.0%	-5.7%
Comm Services	0.6%	9.1%	2.7%
Industrials	0.9%	8.5%	8.1%
Financials	1.2%	4.1%	4.9%
Materials	0.6%	2.7%	2.7%
Utilities	1.2%	2.3%	6.5%
Energy	0.5%	1.0%	-4.8%
Real Estate	2.7%	0.7%	2.3%
Cons. Staples	0.9%	0.5%	6.2%
Health Care	1.3%	-6.0%	-4.1%

### Economic Forecasts

	2024		2025 Projections	
	Growth	CPI	Growth	CPI
US*	2.1	2.9	~1.0	3.5
Eurozone	0.8	2.4	0.9	2.1
UK	1.1	2.5	1.0	3.1
Canada	1.6	2.4	1.3	2.2
Japan	0.2	2.7	1.0	2.7
India	6.5	5.0	6.4	4.4

Source: RJ Forecasts\* for Growth and PCE, FactSet Estimates as of 5/29/25

### Commodities & FX | Gold Shines, While US Dollar And Oil Lag YTD

	Level	MTD	YTD	1Yr
Gold	3,312	0.7%	26.6%	41.5%
Euro	1.1353	-0.1%	9.6%	5.0%
Japanese Yen	144.30	-1.2%	8.8%	9.1%
British Pound	1.3486	0.9%	7.7%	6.0%
Canadian Dollar	1.3750	0.0%	4.1%	-0.7%
BBG Commodity Index	101	-0.1%	2.1%	-4.4%
China Yuan	7.1958	1.0%	1.5%	0.8%
US Dollar Index	99.4	-0.2%	-8.5%	-5.0%
Crude Oil (WTI)	60.4	4.7%	-15.0%	-23.8%

### RJ Market Forecasts as of 5/29/25

	2025 Year-End
S&P 500	5,800
10-year Treasury	4.25%
EURUSD	1.10
WTI	\$65/barrel

### India Equity Sectors (in USD Terms) | Wide Sector Dispersion YTD

	MTD	YTD	1Yr
Communications	0.7%	14.1%	22.6%
Energy Minerals	0.5%	12.3%	-5.0%
Finance	3.7%	7.5%	6.8%
Process Industries	4.9%	3.6%	7.5%
Non-Energy Minerals	3.7%	3.5%	-4.5%
Consumer Durables	4.4%	2.1%	-2.3%
Consumer Non-durables	-0.4%	-0.1%	2.5%
Utilities	1.2%	-1.9%	-15.7%
Producer Manufacturing	11.3%	-2.3%	-3.1%
Health Technology	0.4%	-5.4%	14.5%
Tech Services	4.7%	-13.9%	7.2%

FactSet Data as of 5/29/2025, Asset Classes Ranked By YTD Performance.

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**SECTORS** | Sector investments are companies focused on a specific economic sector and are presented here for illustrative purposes only. Sectors are subject to varying levels of competition, economic sensitivity, and political and regulatory risks. Investing in any individual sector involves limited diversification.

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**RUSSELL 2000 INDEX** | The Russell 2000 Index is a stock market index that measures the performance of the 2,000 smaller companies included in the Russell 3000 Index.

**US DOLLAR INDEX** | The US Dollar Index is used to measure the value of the dollar against a basket of six foreign currencies. These are: the Euro, Swiss franc, Japanese yen, Canadian dollar, British pound, and Swedish krona.

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**AGGREGATE BOND** | Bloomberg US Agg Bond Total Return Index: The index is a measure of the investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable bond market of roughly 6,000 SEC-registered securities with intermediate maturities averaging approximately 10 years. The index includes bonds from the Treasury, Government-Related, Corporate, MBS, ABS, and CMBS sectors.

**INVESTMENT GRADE CORPORATE BOND** | The Bloomberg Global Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index is a rules-based market-value-weighted index engineered to measure the investment-grade, fixed rate, global corporate bond market.

**MUNICIPAL** | Bloomberg Municipal Total Return Index: The index is a measure of the long-term tax-exempt bond market with securities of investment grade (rated at least Baa by Moody's Investors Service and BBB by Standard and Poor's). This index has four main sectors: state and local general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, insured bonds, and prerefunded bonds.

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**MSCI JAPAN INDEX** | The MSCI Japan Index is a stock market index that measures the performance of large and mid-cap companies listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

**MSCI AC ASIA EX JAPAN INDEX** | The MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Index captures large and mid cap representation across 2 of 3 Developed Markets (DM) countries (excluding Japan) and 8 Emerging Markets (EM) countries in Asia.

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**MSCI CANADA** | The MSCI Canada Index is designed to measure the performance of the large and mid cap segments of the Canada market. With 87 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in Canada.

**MSCI EMERGING MARKETS LATIN AMERICA** | MSCI EM Latin America Net Return Index: The index captures large- and mid-cap representation across five Emerging Markets (EM) countries in Latin America. With 116 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

**MSCI EUROPE** | The MSCI Europe Index is a stock market index that measures the performance of large and mid-cap companies across developed countries in Europe.

**MSCI EUROPE EX UK** | MSCI Europe Ex UK Net Return Index: The index captures large and mid cap representation across 14 Developed Markets (DM) countries in Europe. With 337 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization across European Developed Markets excluding the UK.

**MSCI INDIA** | The MSCI India Index measures the performance of the large and mid cap segments of the Indian market. The index has 156 constituents and covers approximately 85% of the Indian equity universe.

**MSCI UK** | The MSCI United Kingdom Index is designed to measure the performance of the large and mid cap segments of the UK market. With 79 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in the UK.

**NIFTY 50** | The NIFTY 50 is an Indian stock market index that represents the float-weighted average of 50 of the largest Indian companies listed on the National Stock Exchange.

**BLOOMBERG ASIA PACIFIC JAPAN GOVERNMENT** | A benchmark that measures the performance of fixed-rate, Japanese yen-denominated, investment-grade sovereign bonds.

**BLOOMBERG COMMODITY INDEX (BCOM)** | The Bloomberg Commodity Index is a broadly diversified commodity price index distributed by Bloomberg Index Services Limited.

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**CSI 300 INDEX** | The CSI 300 is a capitalization-weighted stock market index designed to replicate the performance of the top 300 stocks traded on the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange.

**DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE** | The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) is a stock market index that tracks 30 large, publicly-owned blue-chip companies trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and Nasdaq.

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**MSCI EAFE INDEX** | The MSCI EAFE Index is a stock market index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets outside of the US & Canada.

**LEADING ECONOMIC INDEX** | The Leading Economic Index is an index published monthly by The Conference Board. It is used to predict the direction of global economic movements in future months. The index is composed of 10 economic components whose changes tend to precede changes in the overall economy.

DATA SOURCE | FactSet, as of 5.29.25.

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## INVESTMENT STRATEGY

**Larry Adam**

*Chief Investment Officer*

T 410.525.6217

[larry.adam@raymondjames.com](mailto:larry.adam@raymondjames.com)

**Eugenio J. Alemán, Ph.D.**

*Chief Economist*

T 727.567.2603

[eugenio.aleman@raymondjames.com](mailto:eugenio.aleman@raymondjames.com)

**Kyle Noonan**

*Investment Strategy Analyst*

T 410.525.6231

[kyle.noonan@raymondjames.com](mailto:kyle.noonan@raymondjames.com)

**Matt Barry**

*Senior Investment Strategist*

T 410.525.6228

[matt.barry@raymondjames.com](mailto:matt.barry@raymondjames.com)

**Freddy Otero**

*Investment Strategy Analyst*

T. 410.525.6237

[freddy.otero@raymondjames.com](mailto:freddy.otero@raymondjames.com)

**Adolfo Cheong**

*Investment Strategy Analyst*

T 410.525.6256

[adolfo.cheong@raymondjames.com](mailto:adolfo.cheong@raymondjames.com)

**Mike Payne**

*Investment Strategy Analyst*

T 410.525.6232

[mike.payne@raymondjames.com](mailto:mike.payne@raymondjames.com)

**Giampiero Fuentes**

*Economist*

T 727.567.5776

[giampiero.fuentes@raymondjames.com](mailto:giampiero.fuentes@raymondjames.com)

**Anne Platt**

*VP, Investment Strategy*

T 727.567.2190

[anne.platt@raymondjames.com](mailto:anne.platt@raymondjames.com)

**Tracey Manzi**

*Senior Investment Strategist*

T 727.567.2211

[tracey.manzi@raymondjames.com](mailto:tracey.manzi@raymondjames.com)

**Lindsay Smith**

*Investment Strategy Analyst*

T 727.567.3335

[lindsay.smith@raymondjames.com](mailto:lindsay.smith@raymondjames.com)

**Pavel Molchanov**

*Investment Strategy Analyst*

T 704.940.6398

[pavel.molchanov@raymondjames.com](mailto:pavel.molchanov@raymondjames.com)

**Matthew Ziyadeh**

*Investment Strategy Analyst*

T 727.567.8984

[matthew.kurayaziyadeh@raymondjames.com](mailto:matthew.kurayaziyadeh@raymondjames.com)

**RAYMOND JAMES®**

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: THE RAYMOND JAMES FINANCIAL CENTER  
880 CARILLON PARKWAY // ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716 // 800.248.8863 // RAYMONDJAMES.COM