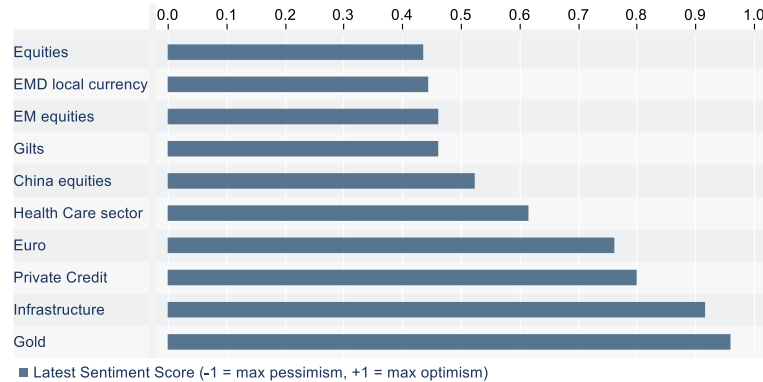


Buy Side - Sentiment Tracker

August 2025

Top 10 Bullish & Bearish

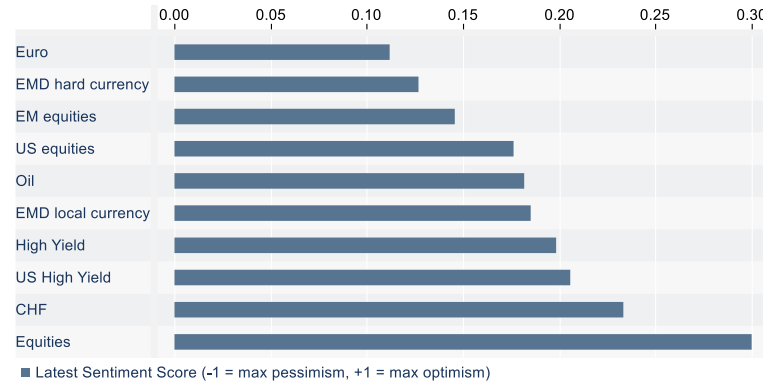
Top 10 Most Bullish



Sources: Sentiment Matters



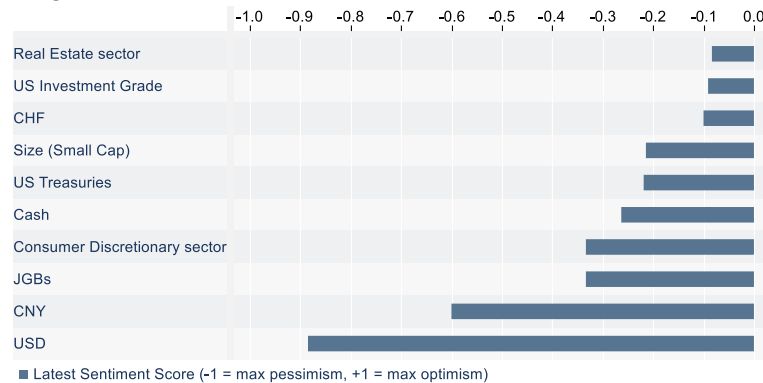
Top 10 - Largest Bullish 1 month change



Sources: Sentiment Matters



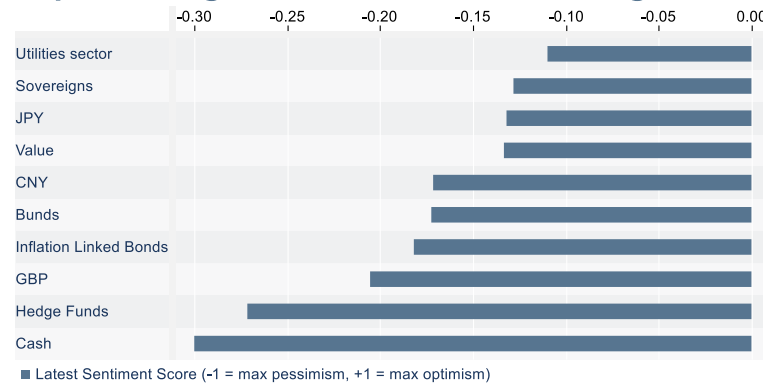
Top 10 Most Bearish



Sources: Sentiment Matters



Top 10 - Largest Bearish 1 month change



Sources: Sentiment Matters

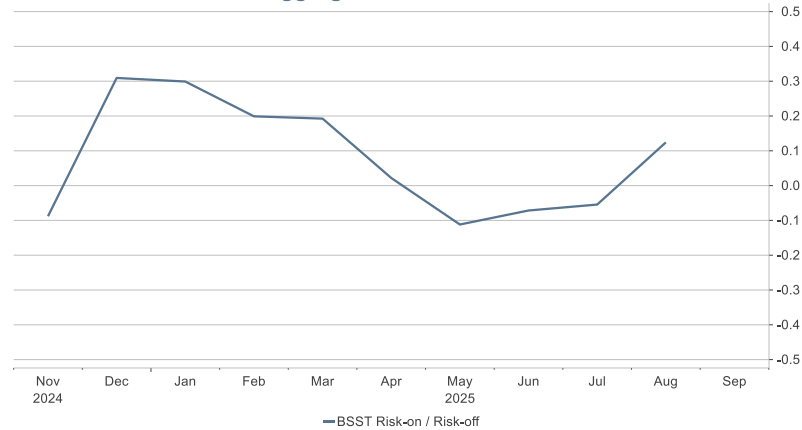


Sentiment: Grinding Bullish

- Risk appetite increased in 4 of 5 risk-on/risk-off indicators
- Cash saw the biggest drop in popularity in August—now **5th least popular** asset class (out of 60)
- Equities gained the most popularity this month; **Equities/Cash ratio** almost back to January highs
- High Yield also among the **Top 10 risers**
- Sovereigns and defensive equity sectors were **downgraded**

Risk-on, Risk-off Indicators

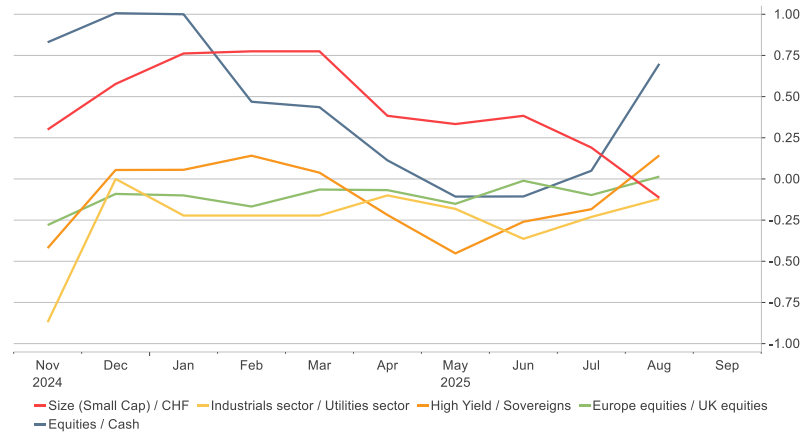
BSST Risk-on / Risk-off Aggregate



Source: Sentiment Matters, Macrobond



BSST Risk-on / Risk-off Indicators



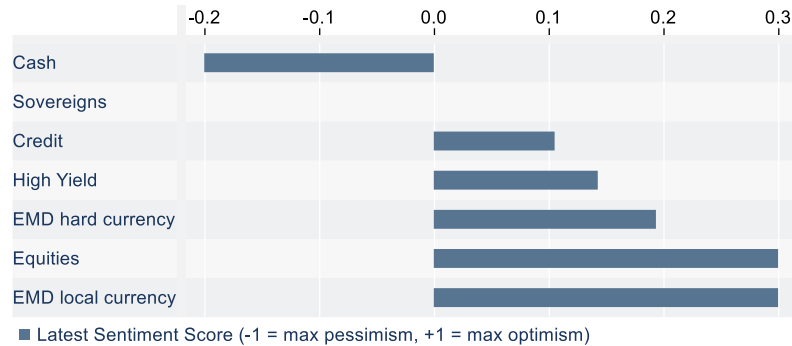
Source: Sentiment Matters, Macrobond



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Asset Allocation

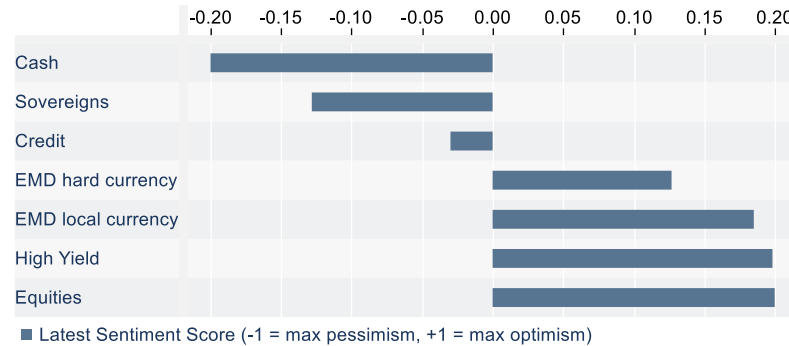
Asset Allocation - BSST Sentiment



Sources: Sentiment Matters



Asset Allocation - 1 month change

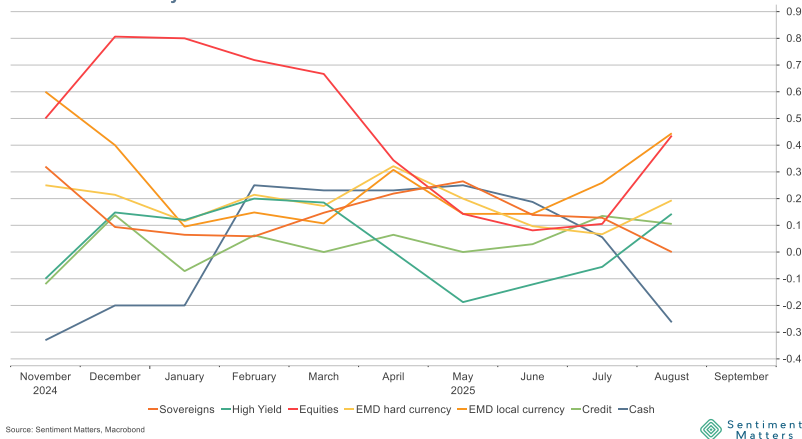


Sources: Sentiment Matters



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Asset Classes - Buy Side Sentiment

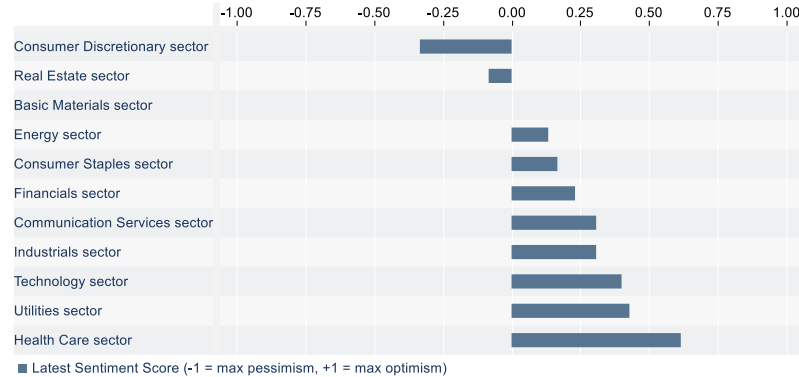


Source: Sentiment Matters, Macrobond



Equity Sectors

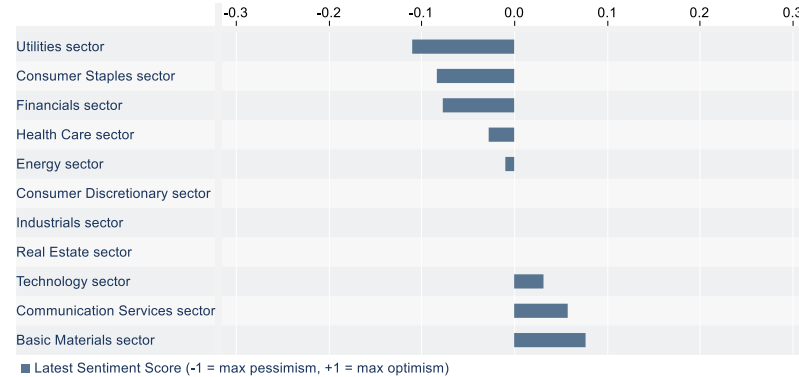
Equity Sectors - BSST Sentiment



Sources: Sentiment Matters



Equity Sectors - 1 month change in BSST Sentiment

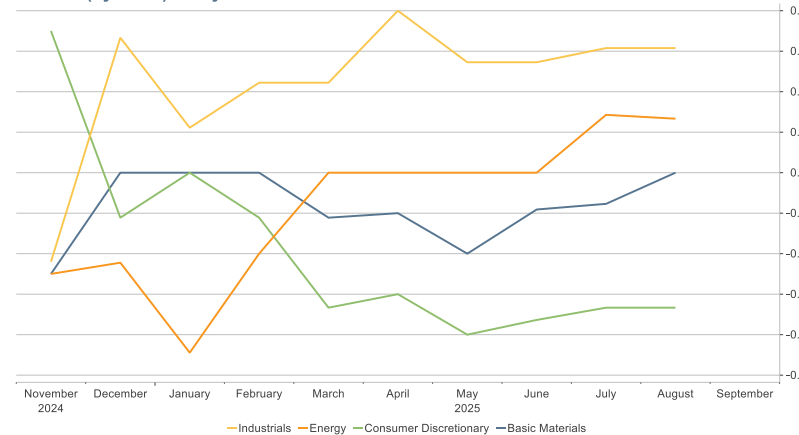


Sources: Sentiment Matters



- **Defensives downgraded** (Utilities, Staples, Health Care) — possibly first signs of **recession view capitulation**
- Defensive bias still present despite downgrades
- **Tech** upgraded
- **Utilities** and **Health Care** remain most popular sectors, even after some downgrades
- **Consumer Discretionary** remains by far the least popular—unchanged since March

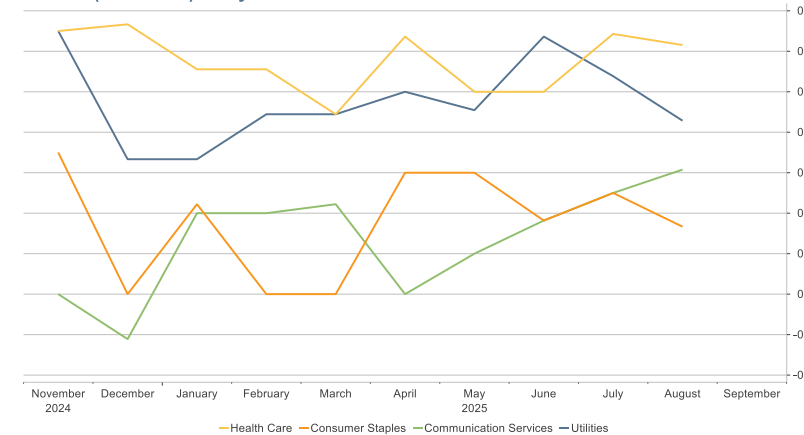
Sectors (cyclical) - Buy Side Sentiment



Source: Sentiment Matters, Macrobond



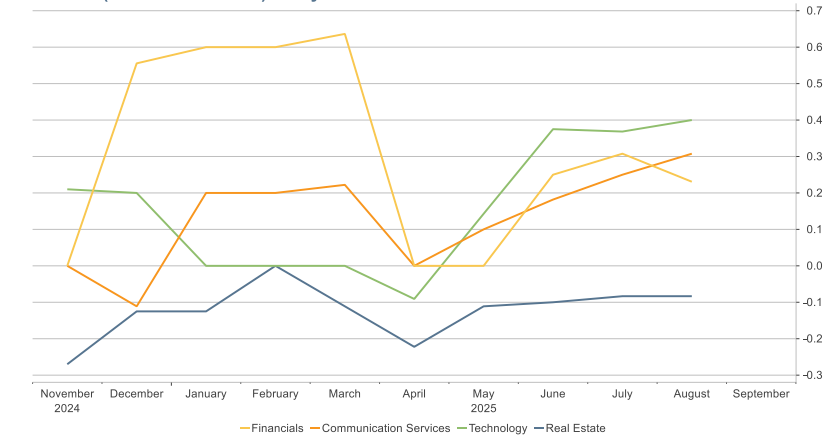
Sectors (defensive) - Buy Side Sentiment



Source: Sentiment Matters, Macrobond



Sectors (Tech & Financial) - Buy Side Sentiment

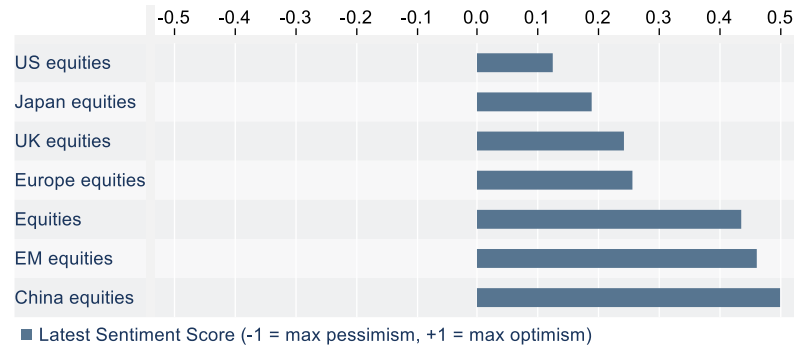


Source: Sentiment Matters, Macrobond



Equity Regions

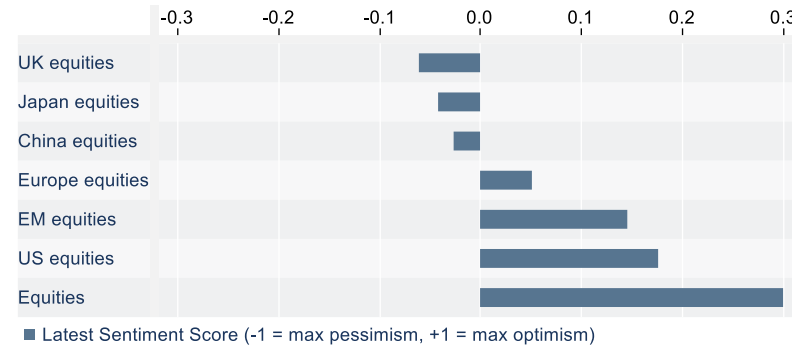
Equity Regions - BSST Sentiment



Sources: Sentiment Matters



Equity Regions - 1 month change

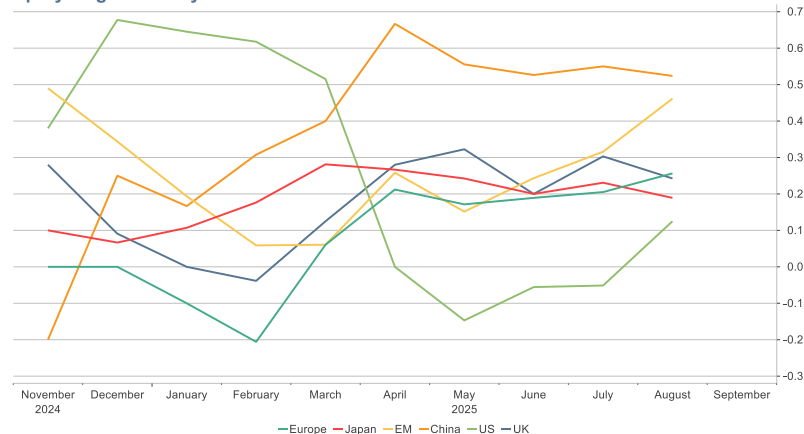


Sources: Sentiment Matters



- **US:** Sentiment has risen for 3 straight months from May lows—but still the **least popular** region
- **EM:** Rising and catching up with China as **most popular** region
- **Europe:** Middle of the pack, similar to UK and Japan—despite headlines about rotation into European equities and fiscal spending boosts

Equity Regions - Buy Side Sentiment

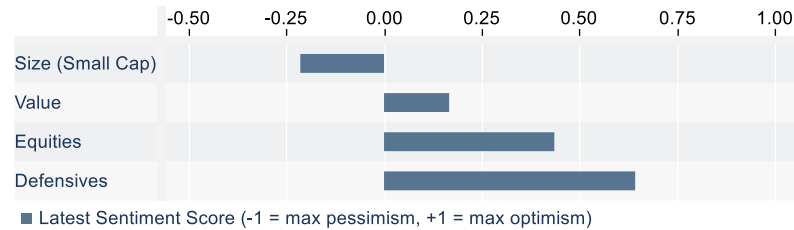


Source: Sentiment Matters, Macrobond



Equity Factors

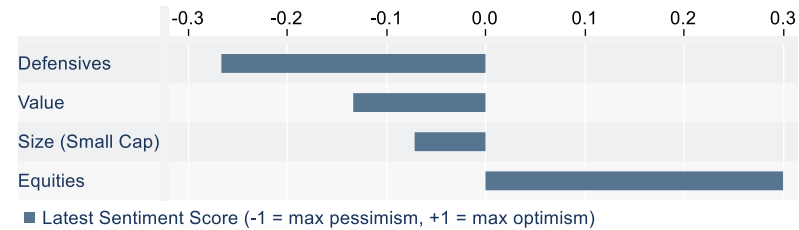
Equity Factors - BSST Sentiment



Sources: Sentiment Matters



Equity Factors - 1 month change

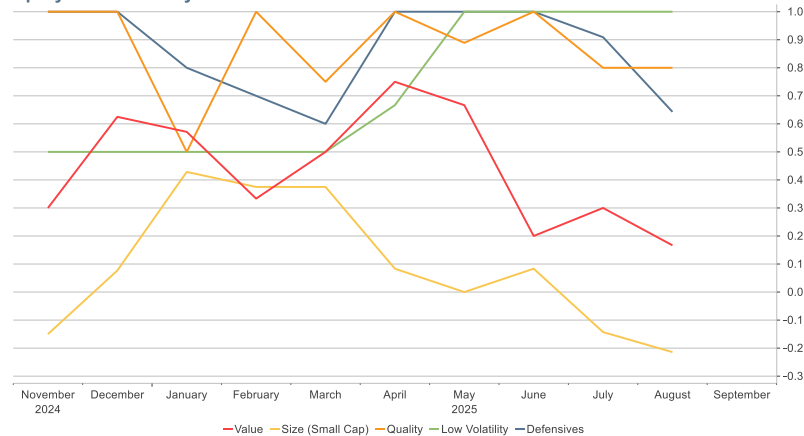


Sources: Sentiment Matters



- Downgrades for **Value**, **Size**, and **Defensives**
- Value still the most popular factor (more bulls than bears)
- Size (small caps) has been steadily losing favour all year—now clearly more bears than bulls

Equity Factors - Buy Side Sentiment

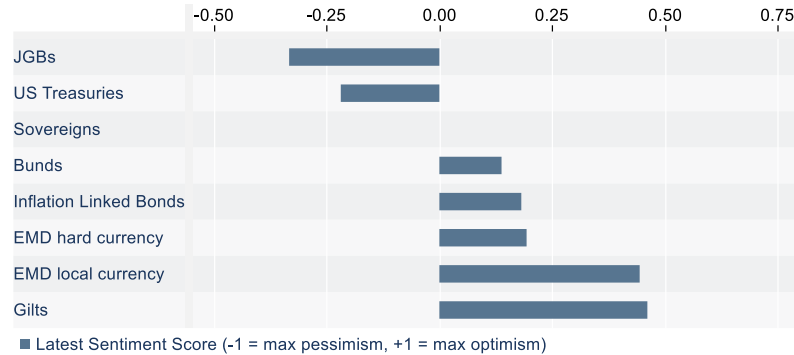


Source: Sentiment Matters, Macrobond



Sovereigns

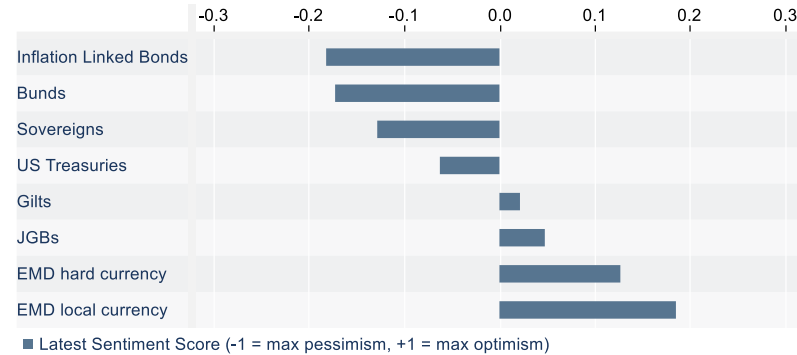
Sovereigns - BSST Sentiment



Sources: Sentiment Matters



Sovereigns - 1 month change

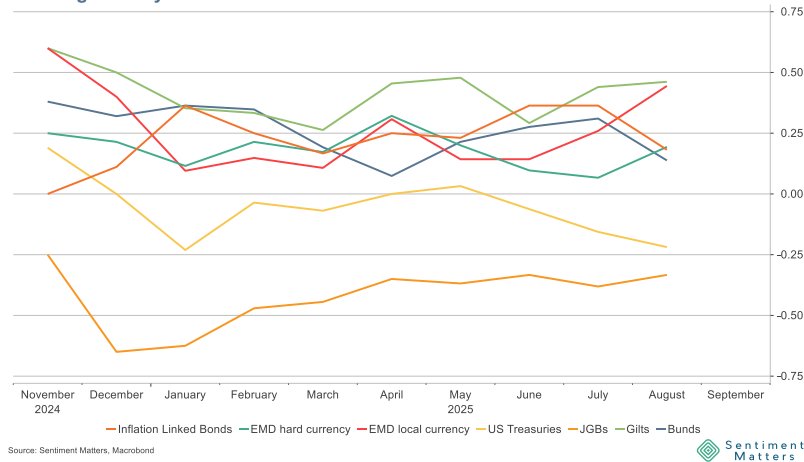


Sources: Sentiment Matters



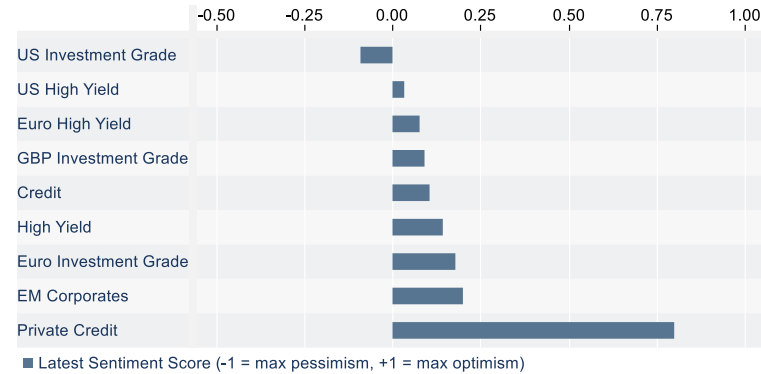
- **Treasuries:** Downgraded for 3rd straight month—no benefit from stronger US equities or stable USD sentiment
- **EMD:** Biggest winners, in line with EM equities being the most popular region
- **Gilts:** Still near the top of the popularity rankings
- **Inflation-linked bonds:** Biggest drop—suggesting inflation fears are fading despite tariffs
- **Bunds:** Downgraded but remain net bullish

Sovereigns - Buy Side Sentiment



Credits

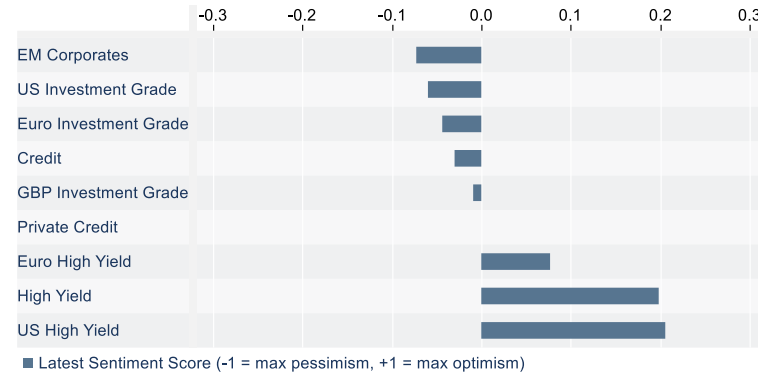
Corporates - BSST Sentiment



Sources: Sentiment Matters



Corporates - 1 month change

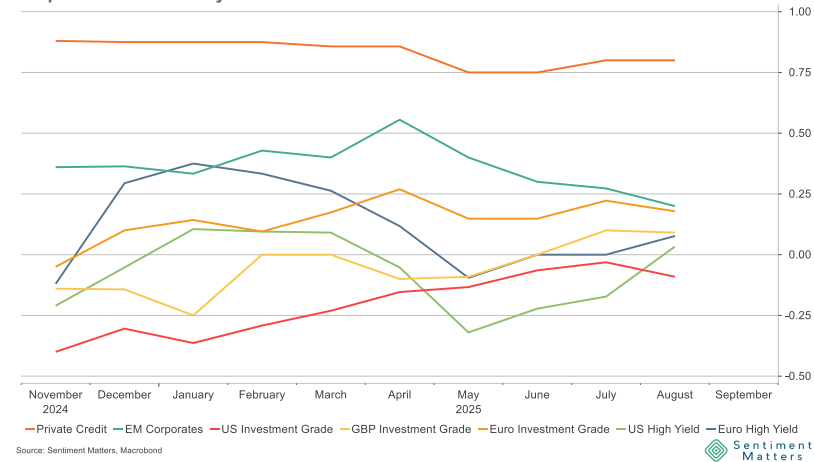


Sources: Sentiment Matters



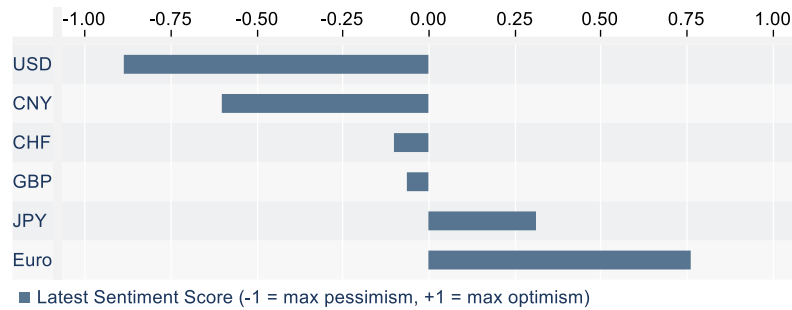
- **High Yield: Upgraded**
- **Investment Grade: Downgraded**
- Both shifts fit with the survey's broader **risk-on tone**
- Europe remains preferred over US in both HY and IG

Corporate Bonds - Buy Side Sentiment



Currencies

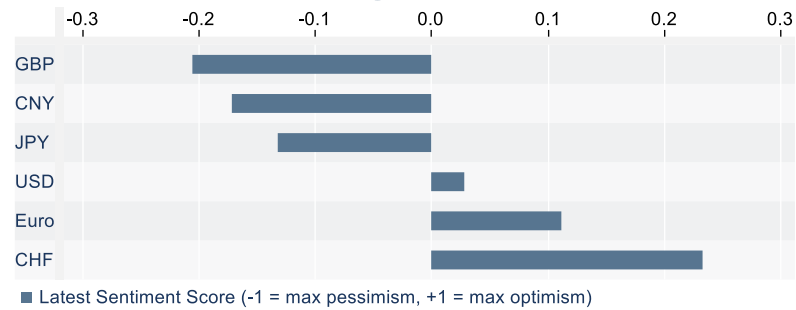
FX - BSST Sentiment



Sources: Sentiment Matters



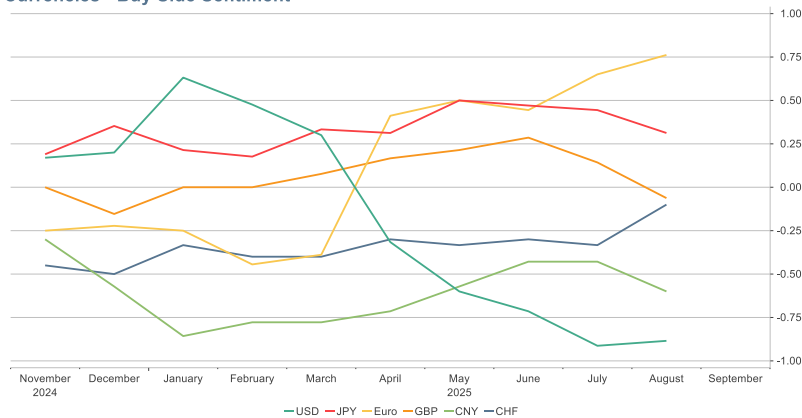
FX - 1 month change BSST Sentiment



Sources: Sentiment Matters



Currencies - Buy Side Sentiment



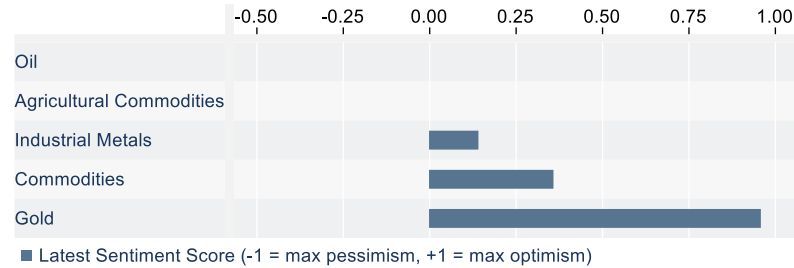
Source: Sentiment Matters, Macrobond



- **Euro** sentiment keeps climbing—net 75% bullish; little room left for further upgrades
- **GBP**: Biggest loser in August, mirroring sharp CFTC positioning drop in recent weeks—no extreme bearishness yet, but momentum is negative
- **US Dollar**: Still extremely bearish
 - CFTC positioning bounce not yet reflected in buy-side upgrades
 - Remains least popular asset overall (-89% net bearish)
 - Biggest loser YTD—from consensus long to consensus short
 - 0 bulls, 3 neutral, 23 bears

Commodities

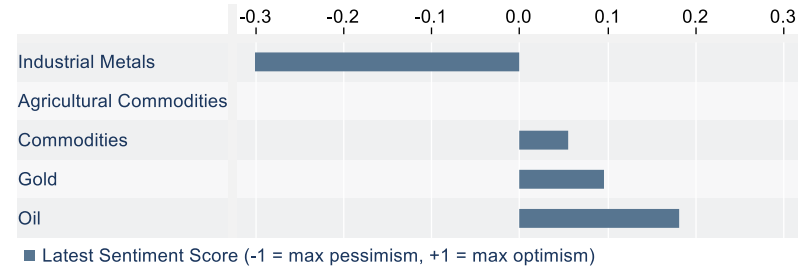
Commodities - BSST Sentiment



Sources: Sentiment Matters



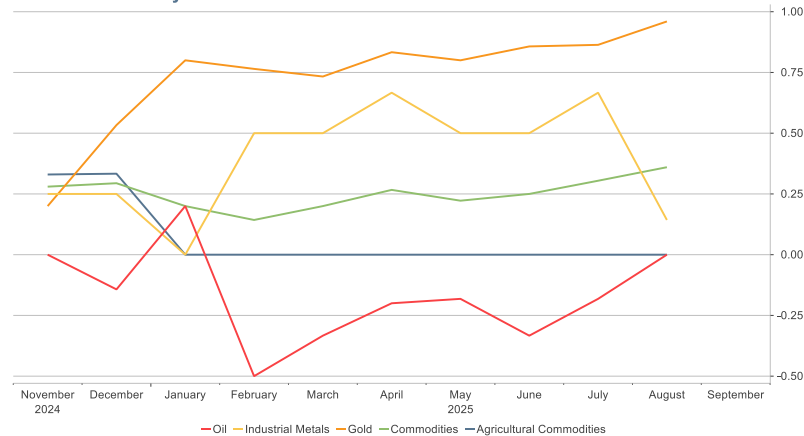
Commodities - 1 month change



Sources: Sentiment Matters



Commodities - Buy Side Sentiment



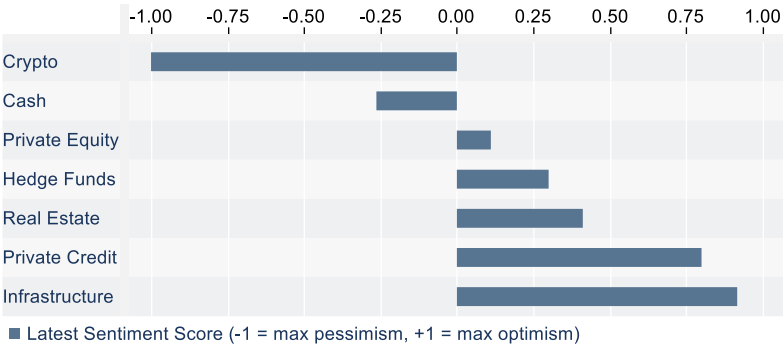
Source: Sentiment Matters, Macrobond



- **Gold:** Keeps getting upgraded—close to max bullishness (**24 bulls, 1 neutral, 0 bears**)
 - Several upgrades this month framed as “buying the dip after sentiment normalised”
 - Buy-side commentary suggests **similar bullishness in silver**
- **Oil:** Continues to recover from February lows—now as many bulls as bears
- **Industrial Metals:** Some downgrades, but smaller sample size magnified the move

Alternatives

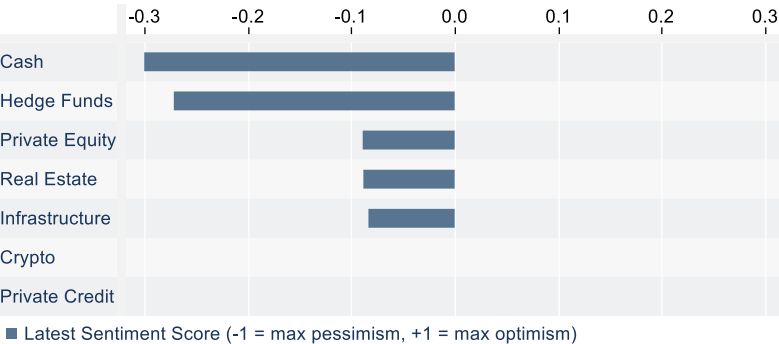
Alternatives - BSST Sentiment



Sources: Sentiment Matters



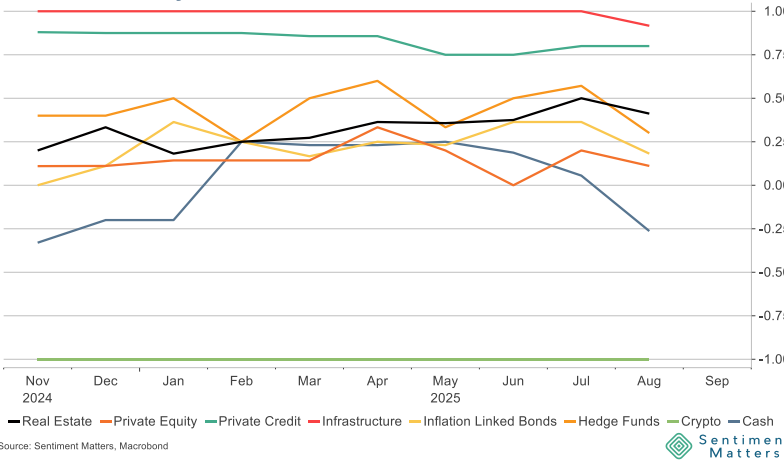
Alternatives - 1 month change



Sources: Sentiment Matters

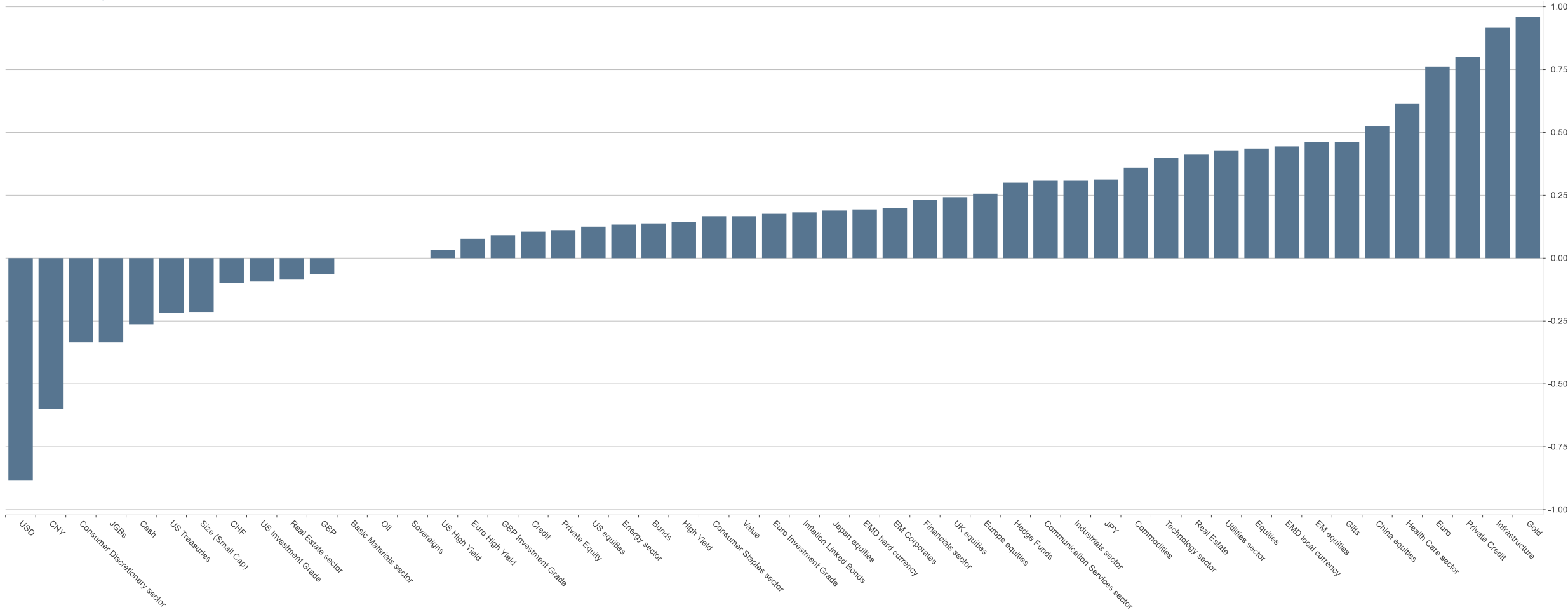


Alternatives - Buy Side Sentiment



All Assets – Buy Side Sentiment

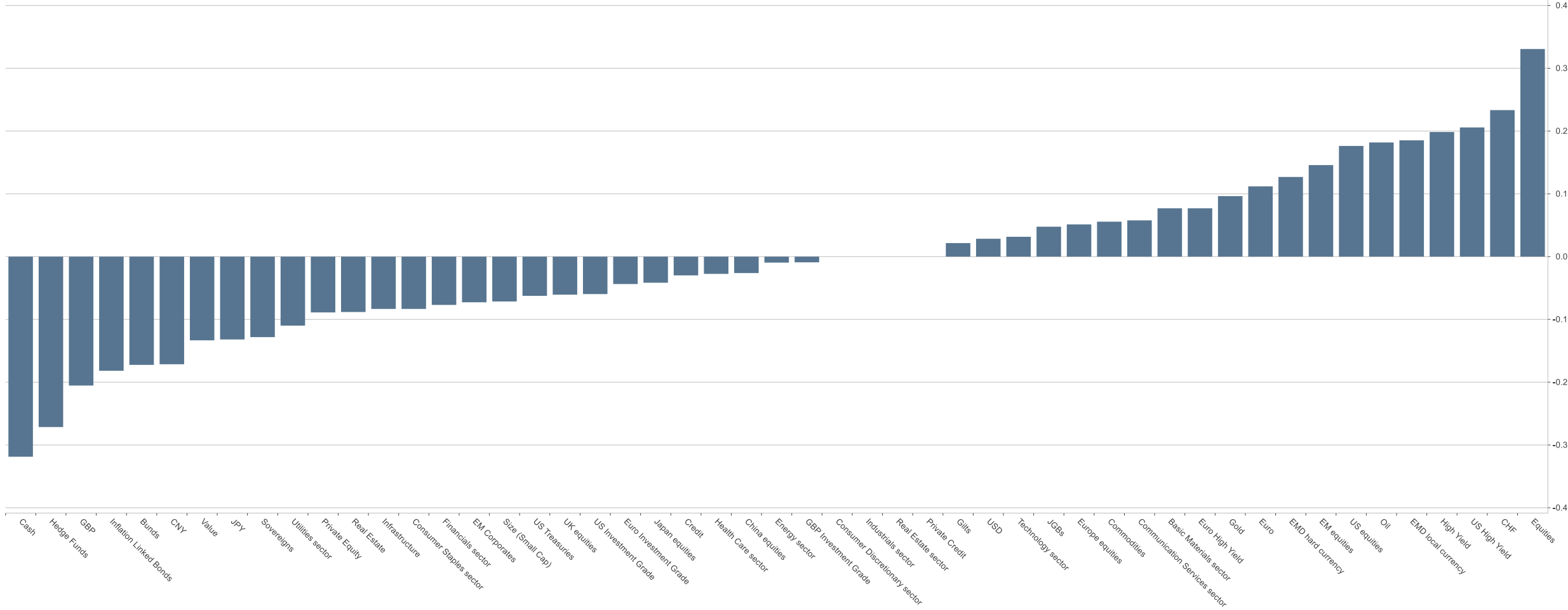
All Assets - Buy Side Sentiment



Source: Sentiment Matters, Macrobond

All Assets – 1m change in Buy Side Sentiment

All Assets - 1 month change in Buy Side Sentiment



Source: Sentiment Matters, Macrobond