

# KEYPRIVATE

## Quarterly Update

Q4 2025



**KEYPRIVATE**  
Next generation portfolio management

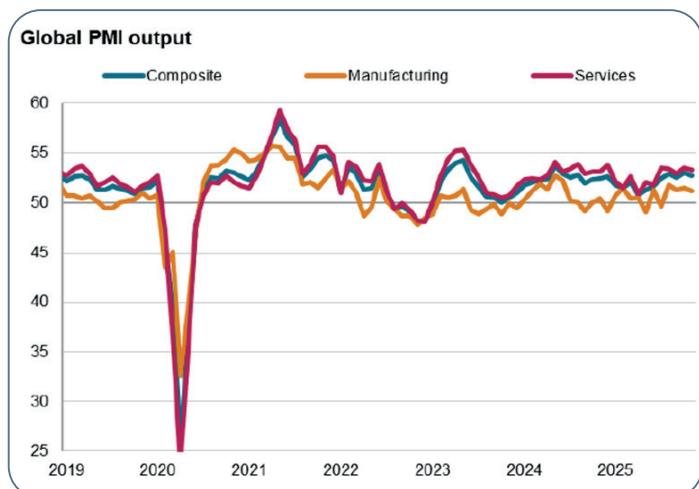


*The 2025 financial and economic year has now come to a close. The past year has certainly caused a number of shocks, not least because of the statements and decisions made by President Trump. The announcement of higher import tariffs led to a brief increase in volatility, which later proved to be another excellent entry point for equity investors. Our Keyprivate portfolios delivered an excellent performance thanks to our overweight position in non-US shares and our investment in gold*

Geert Van Herck  
Chief Strategist KEYPRIVATE

## Economic environment

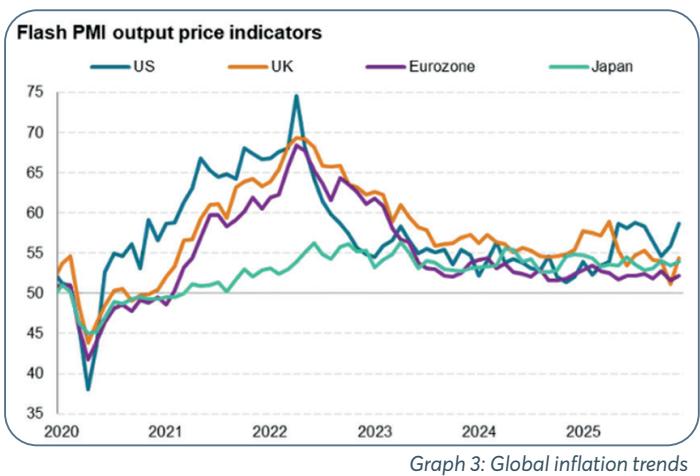
It is worth noting that global economic activity remained stable in 2025. Graph 1 shows the current trend in global manufacturing confidence in the industrial and service sectors. All curves remained above the critical level of 50 points, which indicates expansion in both the industrial and service sectors. All the decisions taken by President Trump have not led to a slowdown or recession in the global economy. Global economic activity was supported by means of significant investments in data centres in the United States, infrastructure investments in Europe and more. The central banks also played their part by adjusting short-term interest rates and providing the global economy with some oxygen



Graph 1: Global economic activity trend  
Source : S&P Global



Despite the good progress shown by the global economy, we note at the end of 2025 that the US economy is likely to experience a (slight) downturn in the first few months of 2026. This can be derived from the trends seen in US companies' order books. Graph 2 clearly shows a decline in the trend of new orders for US companies in both the industrial and service sectors in the closing months of 2025. It goes without saying that this trend is the result of the events seen in spring 2025, when the introduction of higher import tariffs disrupted international trade. The United States' trading partners took retaliatory measures and, as a consequence, we are now observing that orders from US companies are falling.



Global inflation figures have remained under control in recent years. However, if one message can be taken from Graph 3, it is that the period of low inflation figures is over. We are seeing an upturn in inflation in both the United States and the United Kingdom. As a general rule, these higher inflation figures reflect higher commodity prices and, in the case of the United States, they may also be affected by higher import tariffs. After all, large numbers of US companies import from China and other regions and will try to pass the higher import tariffs on to their customers, creating a cycle of higher prices that ultimately makes its way to American consumers. It therefore remains to be seen whether the Western central banks will change tack and opt for a policy focusing on monetary tightening rather than lower short-term interest rates.

**Conclusion:** Despite the noise surrounding President Trump's trade policy, the global economy has not entered a slowdown or recession. The main economic regions are still reporting positive growth figures. However, one area for attention in the short term is the trend in US companies' order books. Fewer orders mean less production, which could put growth figures under some pressure. That said, investments in US data centres remain consistently high while infrastructure investments are underpinning growth in Europe. The Keyprivate Investment Committee therefore remains positive and does not expect any major downward shocks for global economic growth.

# Financial markets Q4 2025

## Stock markets

2025 was a remarkable year on the stock markets as, for the first time since the 2008 financial crisis, non-US shares outperformed US shares. Looking at the table showing the returns for 2025, European shares and shares from emerging markets such as China and Brazil returned more than double the performance of US shares (which make up around 70% of the MSCI World tracker). President Trump's antics are just one reason why international investors are seeking greater exposure to non-US shares. Another important explanation is the relative undervaluation of European and Chinese shares (China being the main country in the MSCI Emerging Markets tracker). Finally, the lower dollar is another reason to seek less exposure to American assets

Stock trackers returns Q4 2025 (in EUR)		Stock trackers return 12M 2025 (in EUR)	
MSCI World	4,13%	MSCI World	7,29%
MSCI Emerging Markets	4,21%	MSCI Emerging Markets	16,88%
MSCI Europe	6,21%	MSCI Europe	19,74%
MSCI Europe small caps	3,71%	MSCI Europe small caps	17,10%

Table 1: Returns on Keyprivate share trackers Q4 2025/12M 2025 - Source: Bloomberg

## Bond markets

It is worth noting that European government bonds did not generate a return in 2025, illustrating the new world bond investors have entered. Long-term interest rates have been trending upwards in both Europe and the United States for a number of years, which means that it will be more difficult to achieve positive yields with bonds. This was seen in 2025, with one explanation for the poor performance being the large infrastructure and defence spending by many European countries. On the other hand, high-yield bonds performed much better thanks to their high correlation with the stock markets and the fact that the European economy did not enter a recession (leading to few doubts about the non-repayment or partial repayment of bonds issued).

Bond trackers returns Q4 2025 (in EUR)		Bond trackers returns 2025 (in EUR)	
Eurozone government bonds	0,12%	Eurozone government bonds	0,00%
High-yield bonds	1,02%	High-yield bonds	5,32%

Table 2: Returns on Keyprivate bond trackers Q4 2025/12M 2025 - Source: Bloomberg

## Commodity markets

The big winner of 2025 was undoubtedly the gold price. Rising by almost 50%, the commodity left many other financial assets trailing in its wake. Such a strong performance can be explained by the policies of Asian central banks in particular, as the central banks invested an increasing amount of their extensive reserves in gold instead of US debt (and therefore the US dollar). Taking this path shows they want to become less dependent on the US economy and its impact on the trend of the dollar. Towards the end of the year, we also saw industrial metals start to rebound as the outlook for the global economy looked positive. The fact that the central banks in the most important Western countries cut their short-term interest rates to provide some oxygen for economic growth supported this upward trend. Infrastructure and defence spending consumed a large number of basic commodities such as copper and zinc, fuelling positive sentiment around industrial metals.

Commodity tracker returns Q4 2025 (in EUR)		Commodity tracker returns 12M 2025 (in EUR)	
Gold	13,43%	Gold	48,23%
Industrial metals	11,71%	Industrial metals	16,39%

Table 3: Returns on Keyprivate commodity trackers Q4 2025/12M 2025 - Source: Bloomberg

## Net returns of Keyprivate portfolios 12M 2025

Table 4 shows the net returns achieved by our 10 Keyprivate profiles.

Below are some observations on the trends in the net returns for 2025:

- Our Keyprivate portfolios have achieved excellent net returns in 2025, with our equity strategy making a significant contribution. From the end of Q1, we took an overweight position in non-US share trackers (MSCI Europe and MSCI Emerging Markets) in our Keyprivate portfolios to the detriment of an investment in the MSCI World tracker (which is an indirect investment in US shares that make up 70% of the MSCI World index). The main trend on the stock market for 2025 was that US shares lagged behind for the first time in a long time, with other regions returning better performance.

- In the bond segment, we mainly opted to invest in high-yield bonds. The bond segment is closely correlated to the development of the European stock market. As European shares performed well in 2025, it is no surprise that European high-yield bonds ranked among the best-performing bond categories. From the summer months onwards, we reduced our exposure to high-yield bonds as the interest-rate spread with traditional government bonds had become so low. In other words, the Keyprivate Investment Committee believe the upside potential of high-yield bonds to be limited. The returns from the sale of part of the high-yield position were invested in short-term European government bonds.

- There were no rotations in the commodities component, as the Keyprivate portfolios remained invested in gold from the start of 2025. It goes without saying that the gold price proved to be the standout performer in 2025. This investment is also an important factor in the Keyprivate portfolios' splendid net returns.

2025	
Profile	Net
1	4,03 %
2	5,68 %
3	7,72 %
4	9,00 %
5	9,43 %
6	12,48 %
7	14,46 %
8	15,82 %
9	16,84%
10	16,78 %

Table 4:  
Net returns 12M 2025

Net returns 01/01/2016 – 31/12/2025											
profile		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
3 - Very cautious	100	2,37 %	2,24 %	- 6,65 %	4,90 %	-1,90 %	10,29 %	-10,10 %	7,38 %	6,92 %	7,72%
5 - Balanced	100	4,63 %	4,64 %	- 4,84 %	5,02 %	-1,92 %	12,37 %	-10,20 %	9,36 %	8,38 %	9,43%
7 - Dynamic	100	7,52 %	7,13 %	- 7,78 %	7,11 %	-1,44 %	15,12 %	-9,35 %	11,70 %	10,88 %	14,46%
10 - Very aggressive	100	5,47 %	8,99 %	- 8,84 %	6,17 %	1,16 %	16,62 %	-10,85 %	14,06 %	12,92 %	16,78%

These net returns were calculated based on real portfolios established on 4 January 2016 (the first trading day of 2016). These portfolios have therefore been through every re-balancing process. The calculation of net returns includes annual management fees and all taxes.

## Looking to the future

For 2026, the Keyprivate Investment Committee remains positive about the trend in global economic activity. We do not see any signs of a slowdown or even a recession. On the contrary, an upturn in economic growth is to be expected. Graph 4 shows a very high correlation between Japanese and US leading indicators. Examples of leading indicators include permits for the construction of new homes or companies' order books. If these indicators go up, it suggests that an upturn in economic growth is on the horizon, as the construction of new homes and order production will increase activity. Graph 4 shows that the Japanese leading indicators have been rising for six months. Based on the high correlation with the US leading indicators, we expect a recovery having seen a declining trend in these indicators in recent times. It should give the US economy a boost at a time when investments in data centres (crucial to the AI transformation) are already underpinning growth.

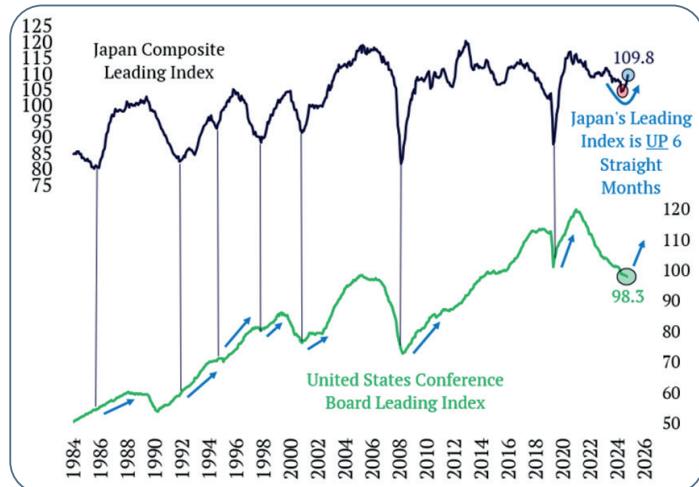
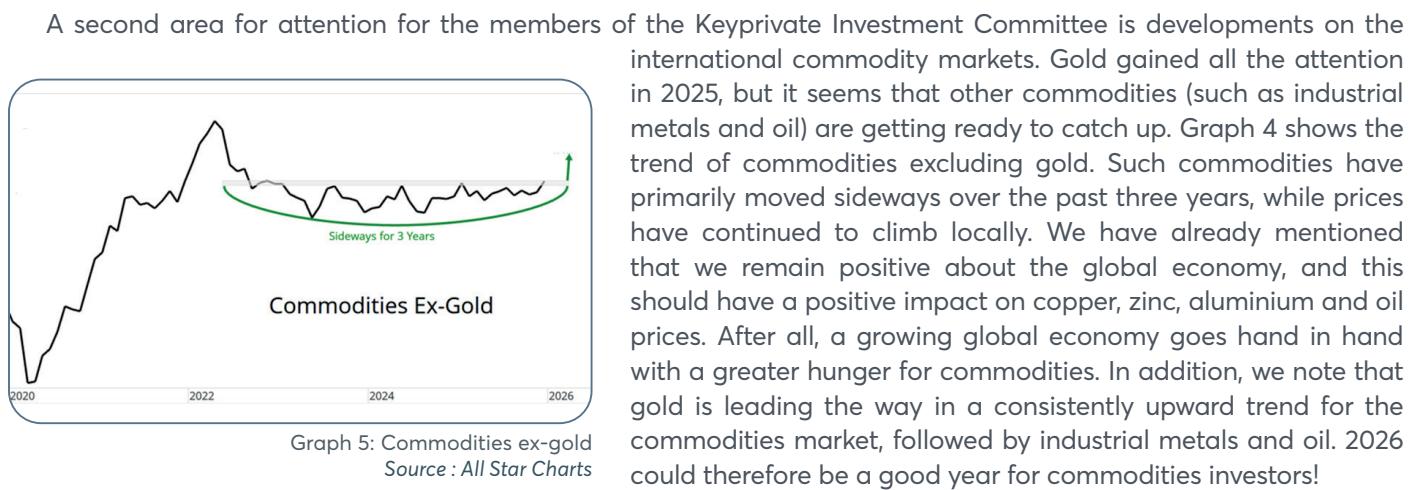


Figure 4: US – Japan leading indicators  
Source : WisdomTree Research



*Conclusion: 2025 was a turbulent year in many respects. President Trump's policies regularly led to higher volatility, but we can nevertheless say the global economy held up well by the end of 2025. On the financial markets, we saw two clear trends: on the one hand, US shares gave up their leading role to European and emerging market shares, and on the other hand, the excellent performance of the gold price. Our Keyprivate portfolios were able to take full advantage of both trends, allowing us to achieve excellent net returns for our customers as a result. We remain positive for 2026 – we do not see any signs of slower economic growth, which should support corporate earnings and encourage equity investors. We are also looking for opportunities in industrial metals on the commodities market.*

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