# Technical Advantage

# The ghosts of 2017 and 2018

# Key takeaways

- The DXY continues to repeat the 4Q16-1Q17 pattern. A lower high in 1Q25 may form a repeat head and shoulders top.
- US 10Y yield tends to double top. It may again if it retests 4.80% (YTD high) or 5% (Oct 2023 high) by Memorial Day.
- Oil was sideways in 1H17 & rallied in 2H17. SPX patterns align 2025 with 2018 (tough year) unless Trump year 1 (2017) repeats

# Summary: The ghosts of 2017

We previously reflected on the technical tendency to trust history repeats or at least rhymes. We initially looked at the FX market (<u>Remembering the 1Q17 DXY top 22 Jan 2025</u>). As this repeat pattern continues to evolve, in this report we look at macro markets to better understand how they may also be rhyming with history.

# DXY: A January peak, Q1 top, Q2-Q3 drop repeats 2017

If the DXY continues to repeat, the right shoulder of a head and shoulders top may form in the remainder of 1Q25. If a bounce is to a lower high, such as +/- 108.50, and then it turns down, a repeat top may be forming. A retest of 110 may form a double top. But new highs would break the pattern leading to 112.50 and/or the 2022 highs in the 114s.

# US10Y Yield: Double top at 4.80% / 5% by Memorial Day?

We compare 2015-2017 with that of 2023-2025. If history continues to repeat/rhyme, the comparison suggests yield double tops by the US Memorial Day holiday in May 2025 and declines into the US Labor Day holiday beginning September 2025. Such a double top could be at about 4.80% (YTD high) or 5%. (Oct 2023 high). The primary difference is the tide. Now is a secular bear market while 2016-2017 was a secular bull market.

# Oil: Choppy/sideways in H1, better in H2 if \$65 holds

We compare 2015-2017 with that of 2023-2025. If history continues to repeat/rhyme, oil prices remain in a range for the 1H25 and eventually break higher into an uptrend in the 2H25 and into 1H26. A break to new lows, such as below \$65 would deviate (stop) the rhyming pattern.

# SPX: A volatile 2018 looks like a risk for 2025

We compare 2022-2025 to 2014-2017. While patterns align, election years do not. In 2022-2023, a cup and handle base led to an uptrend through 2024. In 2015-2016, a head and shoulders base led to an uptrend through 2017. In 2018 the S&P 500 swung sharply to a higher high and lower low. If 2025 repeats 2018, an uninspiring or volatile year may be ahead (See: <u>2025 Equity Technical Strategy Year Ahead 08 January 2025</u>). One risk to this is equities persevered in year 1 of Trumps first term (2017) with the SPX rising almost 20%. Also the January barometer is supportive for the SPX this year.

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#### **BofA Global Research Reports**

Title: Subtitle	Primary Author	Date Published
<u>Market Analysis</u> <u>Comment: Bulls drink</u> from cup and handle patterns	Stephen Suttmeier, CFA, CMT	10 February 2025
<u>FX Technical Advantage:</u> <u>Hammering out a deal</u>	Paul Ciana, CMT	05 February 2025
<u>Rates Technical</u> <u>Advantage: Doves vs.</u> <u>hummingbirds</u>	Paul Ciana, CMT	27 January 2025
<u>Seasonality Advantage:</u> <u>Five Feb-April macro</u> <u>trends to know</u>	Paul Ciana, CMT	26 January 2025
<u>FX Technical Advantage:</u> <u>Remembering the 1Q17</u> <u>DXY top</u>		22 January 2025
<u>Technicals Explained: In</u> 2025, get to know technical strategy	Paul Ciana, CMT	14 January 2025
2025 Equity Technical	Stephen	, ,

Strategy Year Ahead: A Suttmeier, 2025 victim of its own success CFA, CMT

# FX Technical Advantage

# DXY 2023-2025 may be repeating 2015-2017

If the DXY continues to repeat, the right shoulder of a head and shoulders top may form in the remainder of 1Q25. If the bounce is to a lower high, such as +/- 108.50, and then it turns down, a repeat top may be forming. A retest of 110 may form a double top. But new highs would break the pattern leading to 112.50 and/or the 2022 highs in the 114s.

### After the 2024 election, two rallies comprised a 6.32% rise and a timely turn

So far after the 2024 US election, the DXY saw two rallies totaling 6.32%. It broke out higher from its two-year range. The measured move target estimates upside can persist to +/- 114, unless a top forms. So far it has reached half its target (low 110s intraday). Provided there is no higher high in 1Q25, it may be forming a top and repeating 1Q17.

# After the 2016 election, two rallies comprised a 6.4% rise and then a Q1 top

After the 2016 US election, the DXY saw two rallies totaling 6.42%. It broke out higher from its two-year range to new 13-year highs. The measured move target estimated upside to +/- 107. It peaked halfway to target on January 3rd at 103.82. In 1Q17 the head and right shoulder of a head and shoulders top formed. Then the DXY declined through August 2017.

**Exhibit 1: DXY in 2015-2017 is tracking 2023-2025. If history repeats, a head and shoulders top may form in 1Q25.** DXY in 2022-2025 (top) vs 2014-2017 (bottom)



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# Rates Technical Advantage

# US10Y yield: 2023-2025 is rhyming with 2015-2017

We compare 2015-2017 with that of 2023-2025. If history continues to repeat/rhyme, the comparison suggests yield double tops by the US Memorial Day holiday in May 2025 and declines into the US Labor Day holiday beginning September 2025. Such a double top could be at about 4.80% (YTD high) or 5%. (Oct 2023 high). The primary difference is the tide. Now is a secular bear market while 2016-2017 was a secular bull market.

## After the 2024 US election, 10y yield dipped, then broke out higher rising 64bps

From 4Q23-3Q24, the US 10y yield was trending lower. From September 2023 to the US election on Nov 5<sup>th</sup> 2024, higher lows began as yield broke above two downtrend lines. After the election, yield rose slightly, dipped and then went to another higher high and above a third downtrend line. From the low shortly after the election, 10Y yield has risen 64bps. If it were to rise the same amount as in 2017, or about 85bps, it may test 5%. If history continues to rhyme, a retest of 4.80-5.00% is next as a double top forms.

### After the 2016 election, 10y yield rose 85bps to retest a key high in Sept 2014

From 3Q15-2Q16, US 10Y yield was trending lower. From July 2016 to the US election on Nov 8<sup>th</sup> 2016, higher lows began and yield broke above two downtrend lines. After the election, yield went to another higher high and above a third downtrend line. From election day, the US 10Y yield rose 85bps. The rise in US 10Y yield stalled at the Sept 2014 peak of 2.62%. In 1Q17 a double top formed and it declined through August.

Exhibit 2: US10Y Yield: 2015-2017 looks similar to the 2023-2025. If history repeats, 10Y yield may double top at 4.80-5.00% by Memorial Day. US 10Y yield in 2022-2025 (top) vs 2014-2017 (bottom)



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# Commodity Technical Advantage

# WTI Crude Oil: 2022-2025 is rhyming with 2014-2017

Below we compare 2015-2017 with that of 2023-2025. If history continues to repeat/rhyme, oil prices remain in a range for the 1H25 and eventually break higher into an uptrend in the 2H25 and into 1H26. A break to new lows, such as below \$65 would deviate (stop) from the rhyming pattern.

## After the 2024 election, oil traded sideways, then higher, then back into range

In 2022-2024, oil price was in a downtrend and found support in the \$65s. A descending triangle pattern had been forming. After the US election price broke out to the upside. The rally wasn't sustained. Price has settled in a \$65-80 range. While no new lows are seen below the support line at \$65, then a sideways to higher pattern may be repeating.

After the 2016 election, 10y yield rose 85bps to retest a key high in Sept 2014 In 2014-2016, oil price was in a downtrend and found support in the \$25s with a double bottom at the lows. Then a larger head and shoulders bottom formed. After the US election, oil price broke out to the upside. The rally wasn't sustained. Eventually price settled into a \$42-55 range. Then price broke out above a trend line and continued higher into 2018.

Exhibit 3: WTI: 2014-2017 looks similar to 2022-2025. If history repeats, oil trades sideways in 1H25, breaks higher in 2H25 and trends higher into 1H26 WTI Crude Oil future (CL1) in 2022-2025 (top) vs 2014-2017 (bottom)



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# Equity Technical Advantage

# SPX: 2022-2024 rhymed w/2014-2017; 2018 a 2025 risk

We compare 2022-2025 to 2014-2017. While patterns align, election years do not. In 2022-2023, a cup and handle base led to an uptrend through 2024. In 2015-2016, a head and shoulders base led to an uptrend through 2017. In 2018 the S&P 500 swung sharply to a higher high and lower low. If 2025 repeats 2018, an uninspiring or volatile year may be ahead (See: 2025 Equity Technical Strategy Year Ahead 08 January 2025). One risk to this is equities persevered in year 1 of Trump's first term (2017) with the SPX rising almost 20%. Also, the January barometer is supportive for the SPX this year (Seasonality Advantage 26 January 2025).

### After the 2024 election, the S&P500 rallied to higher highs, but less impulse

In 2022-2023, the SPX formed a cup and handle base and rallied in 2024. After the US election in 2024, the SPX rallied another +/- 7% ending January 2025. Price broke below short-term trend line support but the medium-term uptrend line remains.

### After the 2016 election, the S&P500 rallied thru 2017, 2018 was a rough year

In 2015-2016, the SPX formed an inverse head and shoulders base pattern. Upon the onset of the US election, the index tested the neckline as support and then began a full year rally through 2017. In January 2018, the SPX rallied +/- 7% to a peak and then a correction occurred that broke below short-term trend line support. The medium-term uptrend line broke later on in October 2018.

Exhibit 4: S&P 500: Patterns align, however election years do not. 2022-2024 = 2015-2017 but the 2024 election does not = the 2016 election. A risk is 2025 begins to repeat/rhyme with 2018 which saw volatile sharp swings in asset prices. SPX in 2022-2025 (top) vs 2014-2017 (bottom)



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# **Chart Alpha**

### Exhibit 5: Open trades

Open technical trades and cross strategy alpha trades including technicals

Report	Trade	Entry / revise date	Entry Level	Spot target 1	Spot target 2	Spot target 3	Spot stop	Rationale / time horizon	Risks
FX Technical Advantage	Buy GBPUSD 3m call spread 1x1.5	2/5/2025	0.4135% GBP (Spot ref: 1.2480, vol ref: 7.80%/7.50%).	1.26	1.275	1.2850	-	chart may have just turned up after completing wave	<ol> <li>A failed hammer or head and shoulders pattern if spot</li> <li>declines below 1.2249 (Monday low),</li> <li>If the UK is targeted with tariffs causing GBP to</li> <li>sell off and 3) Strong US NFP data on Friday February 6 causing USD to rally</li> </ol>
FX Alpha	Buy USDCHF 3mth 0.92/0.9450 call spread	14-Jan-24	0.6466% USD	0.924	0.945	-	-	Increasing momentum and uptrend, possible double bottom extends rally.	Short term trend is overbought.
Global Macro Year Ahead	US 5s30s Steepener	21-Jan-25	30	60	85	100	30 (raised)	An uptrend channel, supportive oscillators and primary wave III up remain underway.	A break below the channel may lead to further flattening and a loss.
EM Alpha	Long BRL/COP	21-Nov-24	754	825	861	898	700	TD Combo buy signal, bullish divergence, trend line breakout, wave count, head & shoulders base	A decline below 735 would invalidate a head and shoulders base.

Note: Bid/offer spreads accounted for in initiation and closing levels. Does not reflect tax withholdings or any investment advisory fees. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. A complete performance record is available on request. Inception date - 10/16/2015. As of 2024, trade entry levels are typically based on the chart time stamp. For additional discussion on baseline views, valuation and risks to open trades, please see reports.

Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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#### **Exhibit 6: Closed trades**

Approximately two years of closed technical and/or collaborative cross strategy trades in the alpha, technical advantage and year ahead reports

Report	Trade description	Entry date	Entry level	Spot target 1	Spot target 2	Spot target 3	Stop	Revise / close date	Level closed
Global Macro Year Ahead	Short EURJPY via long 6m ERKO EURJPY put, ATMF strike: 158.75, down/out European barrier: 150	24-Nov-24	0.7425% EUR, spot ref: 160.65. expiry May 23 2025.	158.75	150		-	2/7/2025	0.99% EUR with spot ref: 157.51
Global Macro Year Ahead	US 5s30s Steepener (Raise stop)	24-Nov-24	30	60	85	100	30	1/21/2025	45
EM Alpha	Long BRL / MXN	9/24/2024	3.51	3.67	3.80	3.95	3.40	11/14/2024	3.55
Chart Alpha	Buy USZ4	10/31/2024	117-29	120	120-25	-	116-20	11/1/2024	116-20
FX Technical Advantage	Short gold vs silver	9/26/2024	83.50	80.00	78.50	75.00	87.5	10/29/2024	80.52
FX Technical Advantage	Short USDKRW	9/26/2024	1335	1300	1270	1225.00	1355	10/14/2024	1355
FX Technical Advantage	Short GBPUSD	10/2/2024	1.362	1.3100	-	-	1.34	10/4/2024	1.308
FX Technical Advantage	Short GBPUSD (lower stop)	9/26/2024	1.3407	1.3250 (reached)	1.31	-	1.3525 to 1.3400	10/2/2024	1.326
FX Technical Advantage	Short NZDUSD	8/22/2024	0.6140	0.6092	0.6050	0.5975	0.6230	8/23/2024	0.6230
FX Alpha	Buy EURSEK 3m 11.40/11.60 CS	6/7/2024	0.62% EUR, vol ref 5.7%; exp 9 Sep 2024, spot ref 11.3891	45544	11.4	11.6	-	7/12/2024	0.87% EUR
FX Alpha	Buy a 25D 3m GBP/USD call	3/8/2024	spot ref: 1.28. Cost = 0.51% GBP	1.3000	1.3140	-	-	6/8/2024	0
EM Alpha	Short USDZAR	11/15/2023	18.15	17.6	17.25	-	18.55	5/13/2024	18.06 (Spot 18.36 less 1.6% carry)
Rates Alpha	Buy 10y bunds vs USTs	2/13/2024	182bps	200bps (reached)	225bps	-	Raise to 188	5/9/2024	200bps



Exhibit 6: Closed trades Approximately two years of closed technical and/or collaborative cross strategy trades in the alpha, technical advantage and year ahead reports

Report	Trade description	Entry date	Entry level	Spot target 1	Spot target 2	Spot target 3	Stop	Revise / close date	Level closed
FX Alpha	Buy 3m EUR/JPY put spread	1/26/2024	0.6663% EUR (strikes 158.00, 155.00, spot ref 160.31, vol refs 8.709, 8.965	158	155	-	-	25-Apr	0
Technical Advantage	Buy BRL/CLP (raise stop to 192)	2/28/2024	190.75	200 (reached)	215	-	-	3/13/2024	192
Technical Advantage	Buy BRL/CLP (raise stop to 192)	2/2/2024	190.75	200 (reached)	215	-	190	2/28/2024	196.65
Technical Advantage	Buy USDSEK	2/2/2024	10.49	-	10.65	10.9	-	2/27/2024	10.30
Global Macro Year Ahead	US 5s30s steepener	1/23/2024	15	35	55	80	15	2/2/2024	24.00
Global Macro Year Ahead 2024 FICC	US 5s30s steepener, raise stop to 15	11/19/2023	15	35 (reached)	55	80	0	1/23/2024	32.00
Technical Advantage 2024 FICC	Buy USDKRW +1m NDF	12/1/2023	1293	1315	1327	1340	1270	1/3/2024	1308
Technical Advantage	Short MXN/CLP	12/1/2023	49.85	48.25	47.5	46.1	52.2	12/22/2023	52.20
Global Macro Year Ahead	Short GBPAUD via 3m 1.90-1.86 GBP/AUD put spread	11/19/2023	s/r 1.9192	1.86	1.84	-	-	1/3/2024	1.2315% GBP (s/r 1.8762, vol ref 7.354 / 6.921)
Global Macro Year Ahead	Sell EUR/NOK via 6m risk reversal	11/19/2023	s/r 11.8623 vol refs: 8.929 and 9.108).	11.35	11.22	11.1	-	1/3/2024	Received 0.7307% EUR
EM Alpha FX Alpha	Buy EURZAR Buy CADMXN	10/2/2023 10/23/2023	20.15 13.3338	20.75 14.00	-	-	19.60 13.00	11/1/2023 10/31/2023	19.60 13.00
FX Alpha	Buy EURSEK 3m zero-cost collar spot ref 11.5456		3m 11.8380 call for 0.5676% EUR, vol 7.394%; sell 3m 11.3143, vol 6.701%, zero-cost	11.84	-	-	-	10/30/2023	1.12%
FX Alpha	Buy GBPAUD 6m put seagull	9/8/2023	0.3827% GBP (long 6m put spread, 1.94 / 1.90	1.94	1.90	-	2.05	9/22/2023	1.2341% GBP
FX Technical Advantage	Short USDCAD	8/29/2023	1.3570	1.3497	1.346	1.335	1.3725	9/13/2023	1.3550
Commodities Technical Advantage	Buy CTZ3	9/5/2023	89.0600	94.60	96.5	100	86.3	9/7/2023	8630
FX Alpha	Sell 2m 25-delta OTM EUR/GBP put	6/24/2023	0.31% EUR (strike ref: 0.8472, spot ref: 0.8592, vol ref: 5.584) Buy 3m 10.73 call for 0.7795% USD	24-Aug-23	-	-	-	8/3/2023	Spot ref 0.86470, vol ref :4.214)
FX Alpha	Buy USDSEK via 3m collar (spot ref is 10.2724)	7/19/2023	(vol ref: 12.296%) and sell 3m 9.8960 put for the same price (vol ref: 10.202%).	10.5	10.7	-	9.896	8/1/2023	1.3316% USD with spot ref 10.6109
Technical Advantage	Buy USDMXN	6/27/2023	17.10	17.50	18.00	-	16.90	7/12/2023	16.90
FX Technical Advantage	Short GBPUSD	4/25/2023	1.2420	1.2367	1.223	1.216	1.255	4/28/2023	1.255
FX Alpha	Buy 3m USDSEK call spread	1/20/2023	1.4689% USD strikes 10.2466 & 10.70, spot ref 10.2971, vol refs 12.752/13.307)	10.25	10.5	10.7	-	3/7/2023	.82% USD (spot ref 10.7008, vol refs 12.18/11.943)
Rates Technical Advantage	5s30s steepener	2/12/2023	-12	0	10	20	-25	2/24/2023	-25
Rates Technical Advantage	Short US 10Y	1/22/2023	3.48%	3.70%	3.82%	3.90%	3.30%	2/17/2023	3.82%
2023 FICC Technical Views	Short USDCAD via 6m 1.33/1.30 put spread	12/2/2022	65 USD pips (Spot ref: 1.3489, vol: 7.668%/8.035%)	1.33	1.319	1.30	-	2/1/2023	74.53 USD pips (spot ref: 1.33, vol: 6.893% / 7.237%)

Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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