

October 21, 2020

News Release

UBS Investor Sentiment: Most investors consider adjusting their portfolios in anticipation of the US election

- **Seventy-two percent of investors globally are considering a shift in their holdings prior to the vote, according to UBS's quarterly Investor Sentiment survey**
- **Most respondents would consider investing in healthcare, 5G networks and a green recovery over the next six months**

Zurich/Basel, October 21, 2020 – Most investors globally are contemplating changes to their portfolios ahead of the US election, according to the new Investor Sentiment study by UBS, the world's leading global wealth manager.

According to the study, which polled more than 4,000 investors and business owners across 14 markets globally in late September and early October, 72% of investors are considering a shift in their holdings prior to the vote. Sixty-two percent are planning to make additional changes based on the result.

- Sixty-six percent of investors are considering allocations to the healthcare sector over the next six months, while 62% are considering 5G networks and 56% are considering investments in a green recovery.
- Fifty-five percent consider their home region to be an attractive investment, the most popular choice globally.
- Forty-nine percent say they want to capture more yield in the next six months, compared with just 29% who want to reduce the level of risk in their portfolio.
- Seventy-five percent say they want more contact with their advisor.

Tom Naratil, President of UBS Americas and Co-President of UBS Global Wealth Management, says: "We recognized early in the pandemic that our clients needed advice more than ever, and the ongoing market volatility and political uncertainty reinforced that need. This survey reiterates that investors are looking for advice, and the US election is a unique opportunity for wealth managers to reach out to their clients and provide them with guidance during an uncertain time."

Iqbal Khan, Co-President of UBS Global Wealth Management, says: "Amid uncertainty over the US election and COVID-19, investors appear to be more positive on their own region than on the world at large. In the period surrounding the election, we believe they should diversify globally and avoid falling prey to their own home bias."

US

US investors' optimism over their region's short-term economic and market outlook has increased by the second biggest margin globally. Fifty percent are optimistic on the economy, up from 41% three months prior, and 55% are optimistic on stocks, up from 44%. Forty-nine percent of investors globally consider the US an attractive investment, the highest across any one region.

Latin America

Latin American investors are the most likely to express a positive short-term outlook, with 62% optimistic on their own region's economy and 60% optimistic on their own region's stocks. Eighty-one percent are considering making portfolio changes in anticipation of the US election and 73% plan to make additional changes based on the result, the highest proportions globally.

Europe

European respondents outside Switzerland are expressing above-average optimism on their own region's economy over the next 12 months. Fifty-eight percent say they are optimistic versus 55% globally. Compared with their international peers, European investors are more likely to be planning to adjust their portfolios after the US elections, with 65% saying they will do so.

Switzerland

In the short term, Swiss investors' optimism on their own region's economy and stocks has increased by the highest margin globally. Forty-four percent are expressing optimism on their region's economy over the next 12 months, up from 32% three months prior, and 54% are expressing optimism on their region's stocks over the next six months, up from 42%.

Asia

Fifty-five percent of Asian investors are expressing optimism on the economic outlook in their own region over the next 12 months, in line with the global average. They are also more likely to adjust their portfolios around the US election. Eighty percent are considering doing so before the vote and 65% are planning to do so afterwards.

About the UBS Sentiment survey

For this edition, UBS surveyed 2,852 investors and 1,150 business owners with at least \$1M in investable assets (for investors) or at least \$1M in annual revenue and at least one employee other than themselves (for business owners), from September 22 to October 12, 2020. The global sample was split across 14 markets: Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Mainland China, Mexico, Singapore, Switzerland, the UAE, the UK and the US. For the prior edition, UBS surveyed 4,018 investors and business owners with at least \$1M in investable assets (for investors) or at least \$1M in annual revenue and at least one employee other than themselves (for business owners), from June 23 to July 13, 2020. The global sample was split across the same 14 markets.

About UBS

UBS provides financial advice and solutions to wealthy, institutional and corporate clients worldwide, as well as private clients in Switzerland. UBS's strategy is centered on our leading global wealth management business and our premier universal bank in Switzerland, enhanced by Asset Management and the Investment Bank. The bank focuses on businesses that have a strong competitive position in their targeted markets, are capital efficient, and have an attractive long-term structural growth or profitability outlook.

UBS is present in all major financial centers worldwide. It has offices in more than 50 regions and locations, with about 30% of its employees working in the Americas, 31% in Switzerland, 19% in the rest of Europe, the Middle East and Africa and 20% in Asia Pacific. UBS Group AG employs over 68,000 people around the world. Its shares are listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

UBS Group AG and UBS AG

Media contact

Switzerland: +41-44-234 85 00
UK: +44-207-567 47 14
Americas: +1-212-882 58 58
APAC: +852-297-1 82 00

www.ubs.com/media