



CIO OFFICE DAILY OUTLOOK

25 June 2026

Markets had one of those deceptively quiet days where the index screens barely moved but plenty was going on underneath. Global equities slipped fractionally, with MSCI ACWI down 0.2% and developed and emerging markets both off the same 0.2%, an unusually tight cluster that masked some genuinely large moves at the asset level. Brent fell 4.3% to \$73.7 a barrel, erasing the last of its wartime gains as more tankers crossed Hormuz and peace-deal optimism left the market suddenly awash with supply; gold dropped 2.9% to \$3,999 an ounce, breaking below \$4,000 for the first time since November and sliding into a bear market more than 20% off its January peak; the dollar rose 0.2%; and the yield on 10-year Treasuries declined nine basis points to 4.40% as cheaper energy eased the inflation worry heading into Thursday's data.

The S&P 500 eased 0.1% to 7,358, testing its 50-day moving average, yet roughly two of every three members actually rose; the weakness was concentrated in the mega-caps, with Microsoft off 2.3% and Oracle down 4.6% doing most of the damage, while the Dow, lighter on tech, gained 0.4%. It was a third consecutive session of de-risking in the AI complex, looking more like a rotation and a rightsizing of stretched positioning than a fundamental alarm bell, though the line that the next leg of the AI build-out is starting to collide with market discipline captured the mood. Away from tech the breadth was striking: homebuilders ripped on the housing bill, even as the president abruptly scrapped the signing ceremony and clashed with Senate Republicans over the war. The big banks added to the firmer tone, passing the Fed's stress tests and lifting dividends and buybacks, with JPMorgan and Goldman leading.

Elsewhere, the MSCI Europe up 0.1%, as Germany's Ifo expectations gauge nudged higher to 84.1 (still shy of estimates) and the ECB's Schnabel kept up the hawkish drumbeat, arguing rates need to rise further to get inflation back to 2%, with one more move still priced for the year. Japan slipped 0.7% even after this week's record, as the BOJ leaned into the idea that the AI export boom is cushioning the economy from the oil shock and roughly nine in ten economists now look for another hike by year-end. Korea rebounded 3.3%, clawing back part of this week's brutal selloff, helped by renewed appetite for memory names as SK Hynix lines up a \$29 billion US listing. MSCI China is up 0.4%, with the PBOC unveiling an overnight reverse repo operation that some read as a possible de facto easing signal and Beijing marketing up to €5 billion of euro bonds. Dubai was effectively unchanged, up 0.1%.

Markets this morning

Today morning the mood has flipped, and the catalyst is Micron. The memory maker reported after the US close with a forecast that blew past expectations, guiding to roughly \$50 billion in revenue next quarter against the \$43 billion analysts had pencilled in, and the stock jumped around 14% in late trading. That was exactly the reassurance the market was looking for after three days of doubt over the AI trade, and it has reignited the whole complex: Nasdaq 100 futures are up 1.8% and S&P 500 futures up around 0.6%, while in Asia Korea's Kospi surged as much as 6% and the regional benchmark climbed 1.5%. The memory names are leading, with SK Hynix and Kioxia both up more than 10% as each lines up a US listing. Oil is still sliding, Brent below \$73, and gold has steadied near \$4,000, while the dollar holds close to a seven-month high and Treasuries are quiet ahead of the data.

Upcoming key events/data

Looking ahead, the calendar is dominated by today's US PCE, the Fed's preferred inflation gauge, expected to accelerate to around 4.1% and harden the hawkish case Warsh set out last week, landing alongside personal income and spending.

Have a great day.

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