

S&P Dow Jones Indices

A Division of S&P Global

Index Dashboard: Dispersion, Volatility & Correlation

31 August 2018

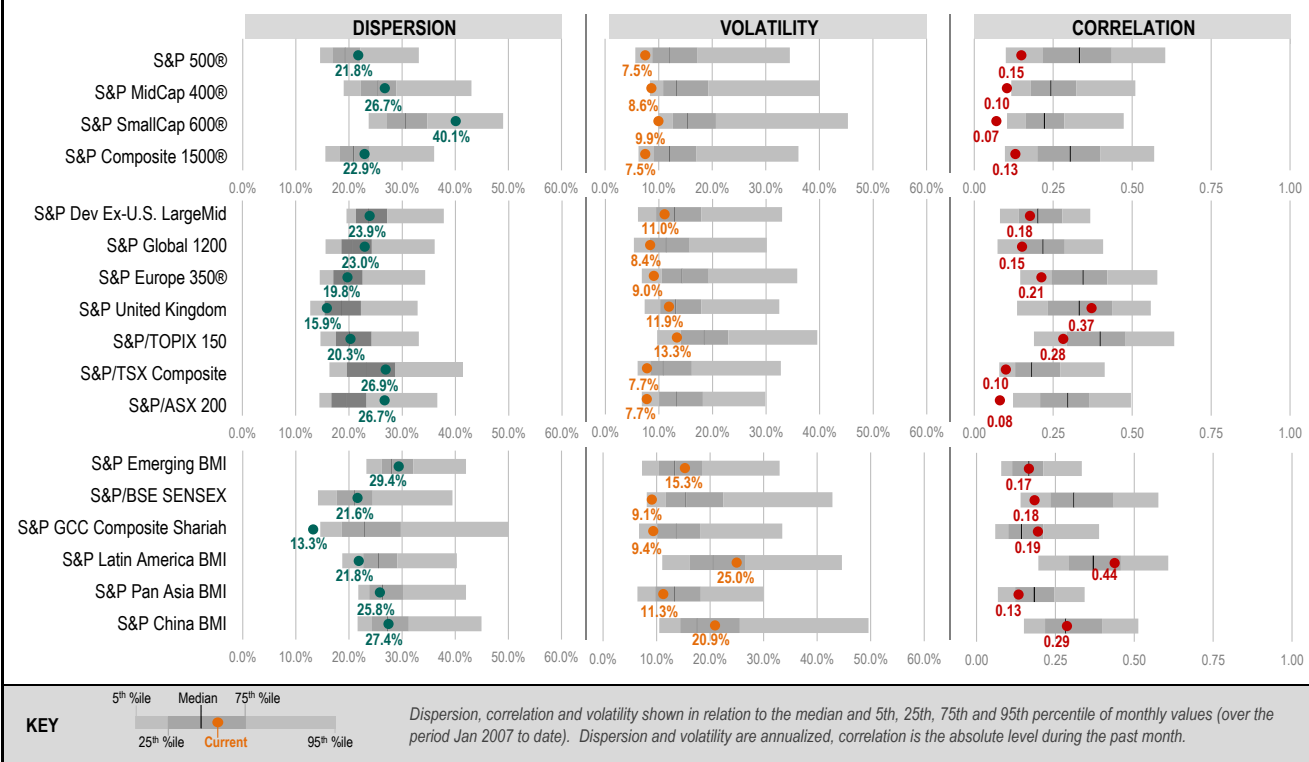
COMMENTARY

Is the long wait for a so-called “stock-pickers’ market” finally over for U.S. equity market participants? The S&P 500, S&P MidCap 400 and the S&P SmallCap 600 in particular recorded above-average dispersion and well-below average correlations and volatility in August.

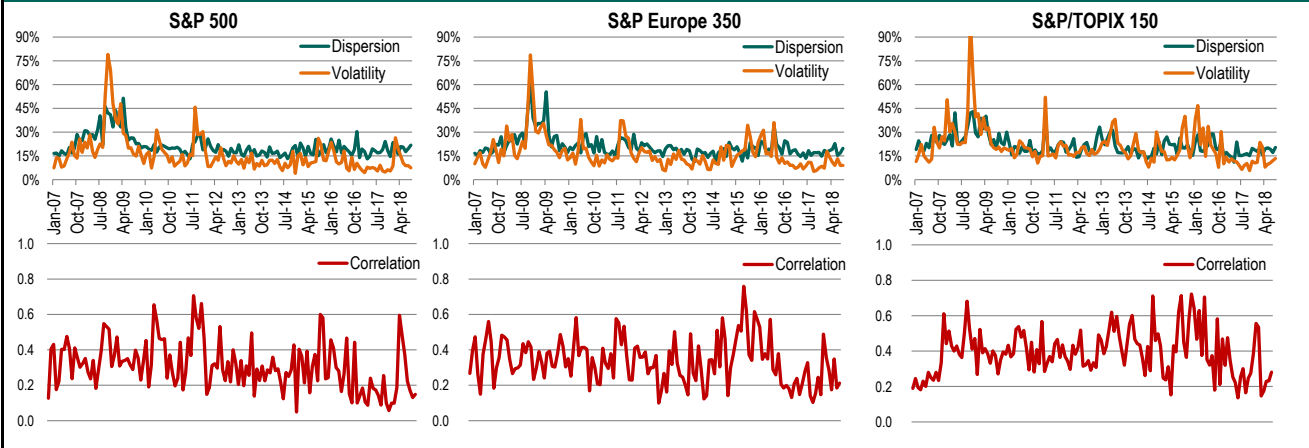
August’s report offered both echoes and exceptions to the U.S. across global equity markets. For Australia’s S&P/ASX 200, we report dispersion at its highest in over a year, correlation near all-time lows and volatility near the bottom 5% of its historical distribution.

On the other hand, volatility in our United Kingdom and Latin America benchmarks was at average and above-average levels, respectively, while correlations were relatively high. Both volatility and correlation measures rose overall this month in the S&P Developed Ex-U.S. LargeMidCap Index.

GLOBAL DASHBOARD



MAJOR BENCHMARKS JAN 2007 TO DATE



Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices as of August 31, 2018

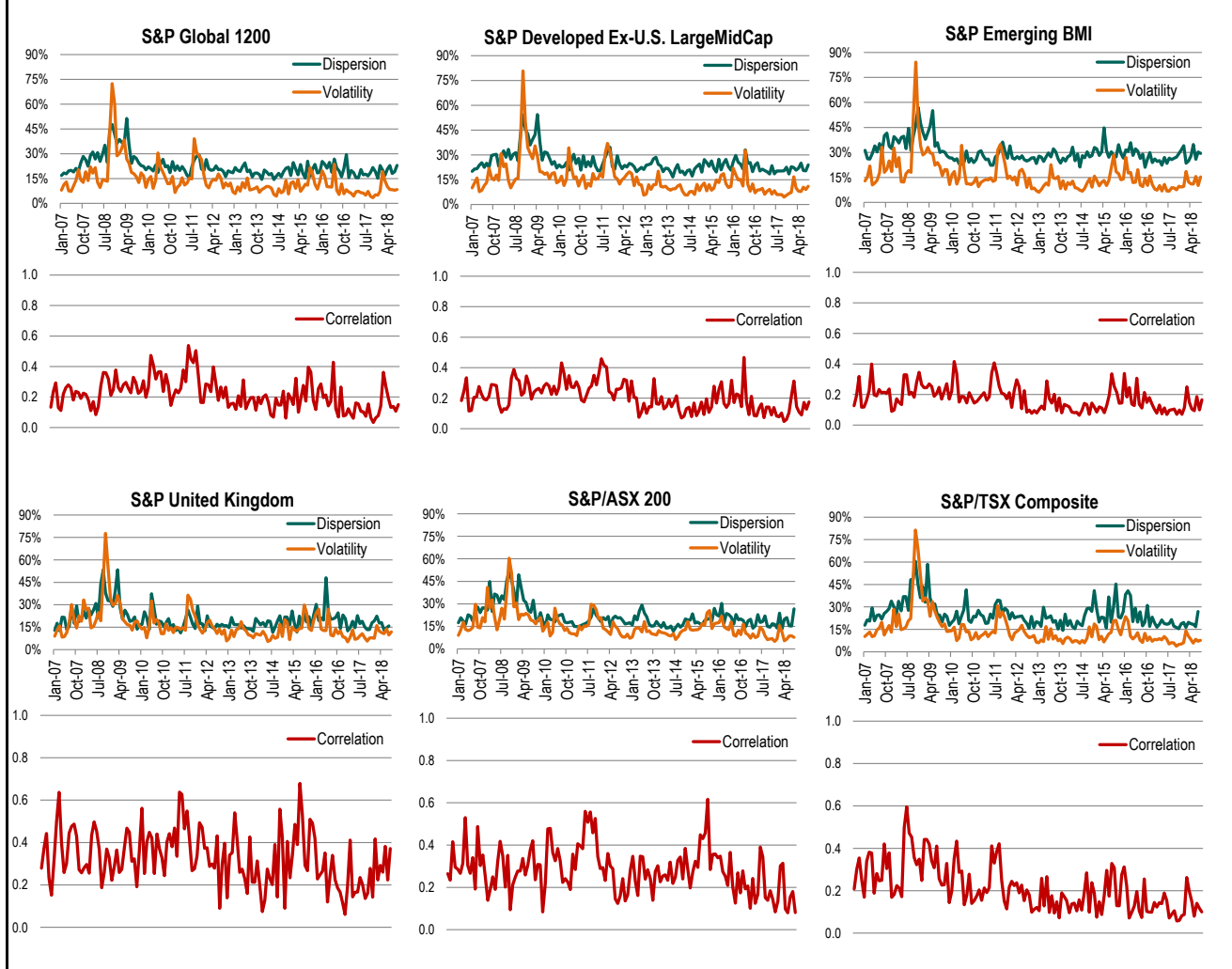
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MAJOR BENCHMARKS JAN 2007 TO DATE (cont'd)



NOTES

Definitions

Dispersion for each index is the annualized, index-weighted standard deviation of the index constituents' full-month total returns. See "[Dispersion: Measuring Market Opportunity](#)" for a formal definition of dispersion and more information on its uses.

Correlation for each index measures the correlation among the daily returns of the index constituents during the month, calculated via the ratio of index variance to the index-weighted average constituent variance. See "[At the Intersection of Diversification, Volatility and Correlation](#)" for a more detailed explanation of the calculation.

Volatility for each index is the annualized standard deviation of daily index price returns during the month. See "[The Landscape of Risk](#)" for details on the relationship of correlation, volatility and dispersion.

Historical Measurement Periods

The time period over which the median and percentiles of dispersion and correlation are measured begins with January, 2007 and ends with the current month except in the case of the S&P GCC Composite Shariah (which has a history to April, 2007).

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Charts and graphs are provided for illustrative purposes. Past performance is not an indication or guarantee of future results. The charts and graphs may reflect hypothetical historical performance. All information presented prior to the launch date is back-tested. Back-tested performance is not actual performance, but is hypothetical. The back-test calculations are based on the same methodology that was in effect when the index(es) was officially launched. However, it should be noted that the historic calculations of an Economic Index may change from month to month based on revisions to the underlying economic data used in the calculation of the index. Complete index methodology details are available at www.spdji.com. It is not possible to invest directly in any index.

S&P Dow Jones Indices defines various dates to assist our clients in providing transparency on their products. The First Value Date is the first day for which there is a calculated value (either live or back-tested) for a given index. The Base Date is the date at which a given index is set at a fixed value for calculation purposes. The Launch Date designates the date upon which the values of a given index are first considered live: index values provided for any date or time period prior to the index's Launch Date are considered back-tested. S&P Dow Jones Indices defines the Launch Date as the date by which the values of an index are known to have been released to the public, for example via S&P Dow Jones Indices's public website or its data feed to external parties. For Dow Jones-branded indices introduced prior to May 31, 2013, the Launch Date (which prior to May 31, 2013, was termed "Date of introduction") is set at a date upon which no further changes were permitted to be made to the index methodology, but that may have been prior to the index's public release date.

Prospective application of the methodology used to construct the index(es) as well as revisions to economic data may not result in performance commensurate with the back-test returns shown. The back-test period does not necessarily correspond to the entire available history of the index(es). Please refer to the index methodology for the particular index in question, available at www.spdji.com, for more details about such index, including the manner in which it is rebalanced, the timing of such rebalancing, criteria for additions and deletions, as well as all index calculations.

Another limitation of using back-tested information is that the back-tested calculation is generally prepared with the benefit of hindsight. Back-tested data and/or information reflects the application of the index methodology and selection of index constituents in hindsight. No hypothetical record can completely account for the impact of financial risk in actual trading. For example, there are numerous factors related to the equities, fixed income, or commodities markets in general which cannot be, and have not been accounted for in the preparation of the index information set forth, all of which can affect actual performance.

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