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Quick Update on Volatility

Good Morning,

There's a few charts I wanted to share with you this morning after the move lower in volatility over the last two days. As a reminder, as of Friday we have a generated by the Volatility Risk Trigger (VRT). The VVIX has fallen to historically low levels and the VIX itself has seen a substantial decline. I believe paire the market being stretched to the upside, the risk/reward for the market has shifted. Last night we got more evidence of a global slowdown with PMI data sl in most of Europe and notably in Germany and Japan. We get U.S. Markit PMI data today at 9:45 and ISM data next week.

First up, Volatility of the VIX (VVIX) has fallen to its lowest level since May 2015, historically when the VVIX has fallen below 76 the Volatility Index was high three weeks later 73% of the time (since 2012). The chart below shows red lines when VVIX has crossed under 76.

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Next is a chart looking at the large decline experienced by the Volatility Index (VIX) over the last two months. The VIX has fallen 45% of the last 42 trading The red lines on the chart below show when the VIX has fallen by at least 40% over 42 days and was under 20. Over the last ten years, the 'fear index' was higher 75% of the time 50 days later, which is interesting to note that when the VIX has fallen by this degree over an extended period of time (rather than a spike lower) it proceeded to grind higher over the next two months. As you can see on the chart below, after a large decline in volatility, the VIX doesn't immediately spike higher

21st Feb 2019

2016

2017

2018

2019 0.03

2015

2014

2013

Optuma optuma.com

2012

Best Regards,
Andrew Thrasher, CMT

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2008

Important Reminder

21st Feb 2019

2014

2016

2018

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