



## **ARC Commodity Factor Risk Model Monthly Report July 2025**

The Asset Risk Company (ARC) Commodity Model is a cross-sectional commodity factor model. The model contains 50 of the most widely traded commodity products with approximately 1,200 futures in total over all maturities. All futures in the model have exposures to sectors, sub-sectors, style and trading factors such as basis, momentum, and open interest. The model is estimated daily with 25 years of history. It provides a framework for managing risk and investment decision-making.

In this report, you will find:

- Performance of Sectors, Sub-Sectors and Style and Trading Factors
- Examples of Factor Tilted Portfolios (Low Vol, Value, Momentum, Backwardation)
- Factor Based Risk Decomposition of Popular Commodity Indexes (BCOM, GSCI)
- Inflation prediction

The ARC Commodity Model is a powerful tool to help many constituencies in the financial industry, trading, and real economy. Some of the applications of the model are very straightforward, but some uses of the model are more nuanced. We recommend this short piece that provides details on both common and novel use cases for a commodity factor model: <https://www.assetriskcompany.com/whyfactor.html>. You can access our latest research at <https://www.assetriskcompany.com/library.html>.



## Sectors and Factors Performance Report:

Table 1: Sectors and Subsectors Performance

Sectors	July 25	2025	5-year Return	5-year Volatility
<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>	<b>-1.4%</b>	<b>12.6%</b>	<b>12.8%</b>
Grain And Oilseed	-3.3%	-0.3%	11.2%	15.9%
Lumber And Pulp	9.7%	13.5%	-2.4%	47.7%
Proteins	5.5%	21.7%	15.3%	10.3%
Softs	-0.7%	-13.3%	9.5%	14.3%
<b>Energy</b>	<b>-1.4%</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>13.4%</b>
Biofuels	-1.4%	-1.3%	18.6%	17.6%
Coal	-1.4%	-1.3%	22.5%	24.2%
Crude Oil	-0.1%	-5.2%	3.1%	15.1%
Natural Gas	-4.2%	2.8%	6.9%	15.8%
Petrochemicals	-1.4%	-1.3%	6.0%	16.2%
Refined Products	1.7%	-2.3%	9.7%	16.9%
<b>Metals</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>23.8%</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>
Base	-2.4%	12.7%	11.9%	19.0%
Precious	4.9%	31.3%	7.8%	16.6%

Both the Agriculture and Energy sectors are down year-to-date, with all Energy sub-sectors also posting negative returns. Precious Metals continue their upward trajectory, up +31.3% YTD, while Base Metals declined over the month—dragged down by the recent Copper shock. As a reminder, ARC sectors and sub-sectors returns are **not** estimated using a static configuration of commodity weightings. The returns come naturally from a cross-sectional regression of the 1,200 assets in the model and



therefore cover the entire term structure. For instance, Natural Gas has more than 120 maturities in the model. The model uses all of that information to derive sector and subsector returns and one can think of our sectors as risk weighted on the entire curve.

**Table 2. Styles/Trading Factors Performance**

<b>Factor</b>	<b>July 25</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>5 Year Return</b>	<b>5 Year Volatility</b>
<b>Basis</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>-3.5%</b>	<b>-7.9%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
<b>Open Interest</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>
<b>Momentum</b>	<b>-3.4%</b>	<b>-5.3%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>5.8%</b>
<b>ST Momentum</b>	<b>-3.3%</b>	<b>-2.6%</b>	<b>-7.4%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
<b>Trading Activity</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
<b>Volatility</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>8.7%</b>
<b>ST Volatility</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>

Both Momentum factors—1-year and 30-day—posted sharply negative returns for the month, while the Volatility factor rose significantly, up +4.4% in July. The factor replicating portfolios are not a practical way to trade and consist of positions (both long and short) in most of the instruments in the model’s universe. We provide a much more parsimonious factor-tilted (long only) portfolio later in this analysis.

## **Factor Tilted Portfolios Performance Report:**

As shown above there are some clear patterns emerging for the ARC Commodity Styles and Trading Factors. However in order to take advantage of these trends, ARC has created long-only tilted versions. Our findings, based on 25 years of data, are:

- Low Volatility and Low Momentum (Value), Low Basis (Extreme Backwardation) are reliable and produce much better performance and risk than traditional indices



- High Momentum performed well over the last 5 years
- High Basis is reliable in underperforming the indices

**Table 3: Top 5 Futures Tilted Portfolios and BCOM Performance**

<b>Return &amp; Risk</b>	<b>Low Vol</b>	<b>Low Mom/Value</b>	<b>Low Basis</b>	<b>Hi Mom</b>	<b>BCOM</b>
<b>July Returns</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>-3.2%</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>
<b>YTD Returns</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b>5 Yr Returns</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>21.1%</b>	<b>17.6%</b>	<b>23.1%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>
<b>5 Yr Volatility</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>18.9%</b>	<b>13.8%</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>14.3%</b>
<b>Sharpe</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>

\*Annualized 5 years

With the exception of High Momentum, all tilted portfolios outperformed the BCOM index in July. Year-to-date, both Low Volatility and Low Momentum portfolios are ahead of BCOM. Over the five-year period, all tilted portfolios have delivered Sharpe ratios above 1.

## **Commodity Indices Risk Decomposition**

Energy remains the largest sector in the GSCI, while it is the smallest in the BCOM index. Both indices exhibit elevated z-scores relative to Open Interest, highlighting their concentration in front-month contracts.

Notably, BCOM displayed higher volatility than GSCI this month—a departure from the typical pattern, where both indices have historically shown similar volatility levels.



We use a 6 month half-life for this risk decomposition so the model is fairly reactive to market conditions. Despite different sector allocations, both indices have similar risk and exposures to styles.

**Table 4: Factor Exposures**

<b>Factors Exposures</b>	<b>BCOM</b>	<b>GSCI</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>	0.35	0.27
<b>Energy</b>	0.28	0.52
<b>Metals</b>	0.37	0.21
<b>Basis</b>	-0.17	-0.28
<b>Open Interest</b>	2.14	1.41
<b>Momentum</b>	0.60	0.06
<b>ST Momentum</b>	0.05	0.06
<b>Trading Activity</b>	0.38	-0.44
<b>Volatility</b>	-0.03	-0.04
<b>ST Volatility</b>	-0.09	-0.08

Exposures, z-scores for BCOM and GSCI as of 7/31/2025

A portfolio that is long/short would be evaluated on the breakout between systematic exposures and whether idiosyncratic risk. Long-only managers will want to find their exposures relative to their benchmark. As shown below in the correlation tables, sector correlations with style factors are relatively small. The model is able to separate risk due to sector allocation and styles risk. All risk is not equal. Systematic risk can display non-normal behavior when compared to specific or idiosyncratic risk. Both types of risks are driven by fluctuation, but systematic risk is driven by the “crowd” expressing some thematic bet. The systematic risk is related to market risk.



**Table 5: Risk Attribution of BCOM and GSCI**

<b>Index</b>	<b>BCOM</b>	<b>GSCI</b>
<b>Total Risk</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>13.4%</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>	1.2%	0.9%
<b>Energy</b>	2.3%	5.4%
<b>Metals</b>	4.4%	2.1%
<b>Basis</b>	0.0%	0.1%
<b>Open Interest</b>	6.4%	4.1%
<b>Momentum</b>	0.6%	0.0%
<b>ST Momentum</b>	0.1%	0.1%
<b>Trading Activity</b>	-0.1%	0.2%
<b>Volatility</b>	0.0%	0.0%
<b>ST Volatility</b>	-0.2%	-0.2%
<b>Specific Risk</b>	4.3%	4.3%

Ex-Ante Annual Volatility Decomposition for BCOM and GSCI as of 7/31/2025

## **Inflation:**

Empirical testing finds that the ARC Commodity Model is an excellent predictor of breakout moves in the headline number, both in bouts of inflation and deflation. For July, we predict an increase in CPI level, and an increase year-on-year (Inflation). Reach out to [info@assetriskcompany.com](mailto:info@assetriskcompany.com) for our estimate.



## Factor Correlations:

Long-term correlations between sectors and style factors are very low. The model is able to separate sector allocation risk from style risk providing key insights in the real key drivers of risk and performance of a portfolio.

Table 6. Factor Correlations

Correlations	Agriculture	Energy	Metals	Basis	Open Interest	Momentum	ST Momentum	Trading Activity	Volatility	ST Volatility
Agriculture	1.00	0.24	0.28	0.04	(0.03)	(0.03)	0.01	0.05	0.13	0.08
Energy	0.21	1.00	0.28	(0.08)	0.30	(0.13)	(0.03)	(0.13)	(0.01)	0.14
Metals	0.30	0.25	1.00	(0.20)	0.02	(0.09)	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.05
Basis	0.03	(0.05)	(0.20)	1.00	(0.19)	0.01	(0.12)	0.15	0.04	(0.06)
Open Interest	(0.02)	0.25	(0.01)	(0.18)	1.00	(0.12)	0.04	(0.57)	(0.27)	0.05
Momentum	0.00	(0.05)	(0.13)	0.03	0.05	1.00	0.22	0.07	0.07	0.04
ST Momentum	0.08	(0.01)	0.04	(0.16)	0.06	0.27	1.00	0.04	(0.19)	0.53
Trading Activity	0.08	(0.08)	0.08	0.11	(0.51)	(0.05)	0.01	1.00	0.16	(0.03)
Volatility	0.07	(0.02)	0.02	0.00	(0.24)	(0.09)	(0.27)	0.16	1.00	(0.65)
ST Volatility	0.09	0.11	0.04	(0.01)	0.03	0.11	0.65	(0.03)	(0.67)	1.00

1 yr correlations on the right (above the diagonal), 30 days on left (below the diagonal).

## Conclusion:

In this report, we have shown the factor performance driving the commodity markets. Using the ARC Commodity model, style-tilted portfolios have shown great performance and seem to be suitable benchmarks for active managers to track. We then conducted an analysis into the risk dynamics of two major commodity indices. The view of commodities as diversifiers is quite accurate. All of this was possible with the ARC model. The model enables the user to look at their book or portfolio and how it fits into their thesis as well as how it fits in the broader economic landscape.