

Using Macro News Events in Automated FX Trading Strategy



The Main Thesis

The arrival of macroeconomic news from the world's largest economies brings additional volatility to the market.





Overall methodology

Sources of data:

- RavenPack macro-economic news database
- Historical trading tick data from Citi FX

Technology – Deltix QuantOffice/QuantServer software:

- TimeBase
- QuantOffice
- Strategy Trading Server (used for simulated real-time deployment)

Major steps of the research:

- Creation of initial setup
- Analysis of RavenPack news database
- Analysis of intraday distribution of macro-economic news
- Investigation of main hypothesis that macro-economic news increases short-term volatility
- Creation and backtesting of simple breakout strategy with opening signals triggered by news



RavenPack News Analytics

- Delivers sentiment analysis and event data most likely to impact financial markets and trading around the world
- Analytics on more than 170,000 entities in over 100 countries
- Relevant news items about entities are classified and quantified according to their sentiment, relevance, topic, novelty, and market impact

Entity Type Coverage:

• Places: 138,000+

Companies: 30,000+

Organizations: 2,200+

• Currencies: 190+

• Commodities: 70+

Equity Entity Coverage by Region:

• Europe: 38.6%

Americas: 30.1%

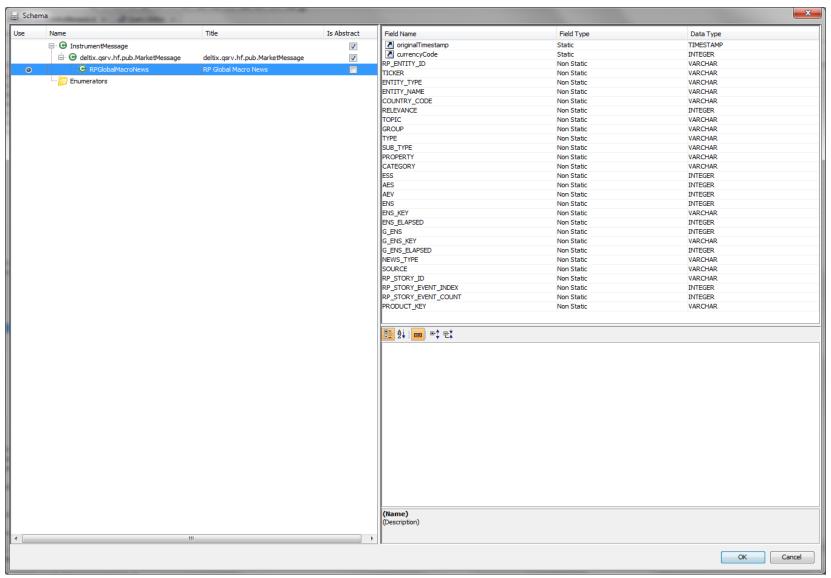
• Asia: 25.3%

Africa: 4.1%

Oceania: 2.0%

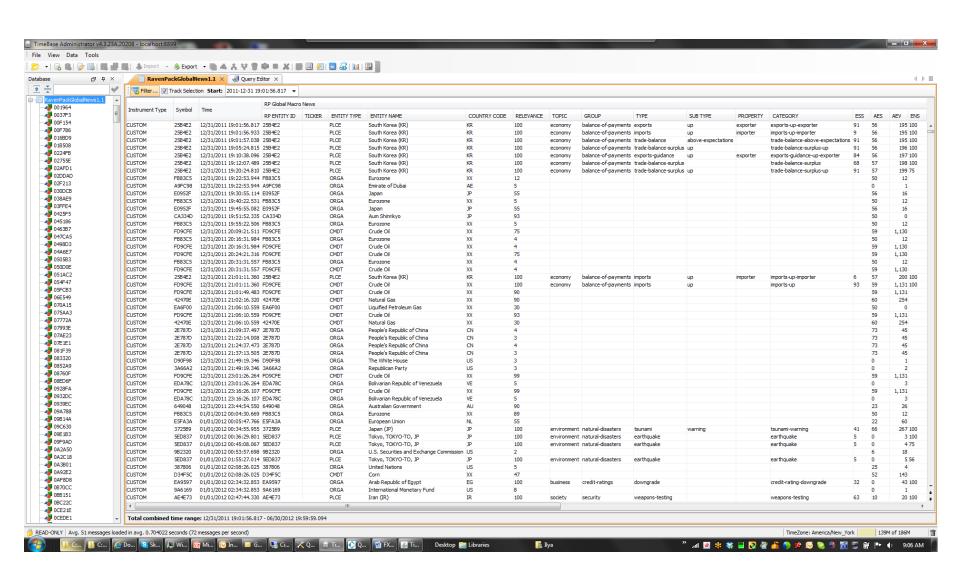


RavenPack News Analytics



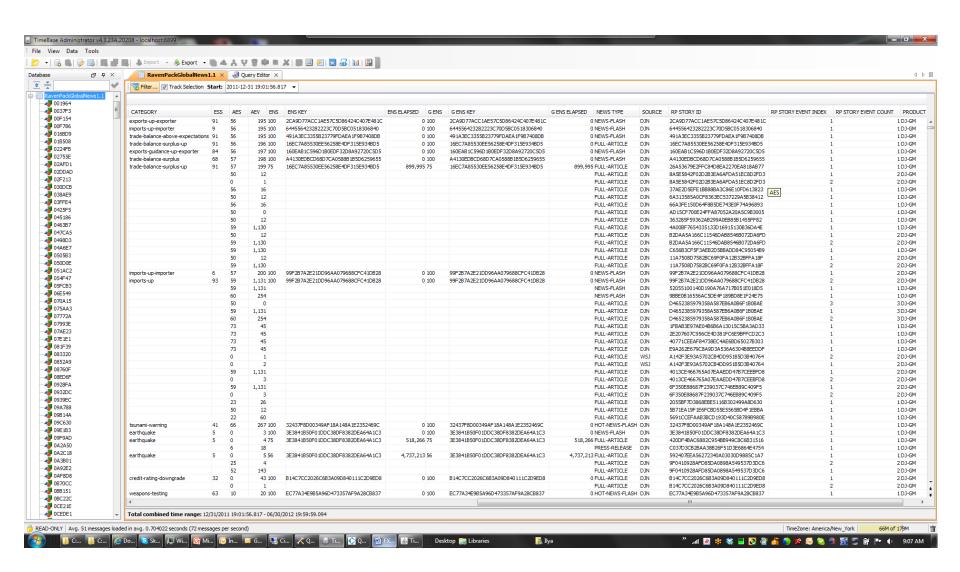


RP news data in TimeBase





RP news data in TimeBase





Parameters of setup

RP Data from 03/01/2012 till 07/01/2012:

- More than 1.1 million messages
- Used subset of macro-economic news for US (287,000 records), Germany (7,800), EU (3,700) and Japan (14,400).

All data was filtered by the following news types:

- consumer-price-index
- producer-price-index
- unemployment
- retail-sales
- gross-domestic-product
- durable-goods
- interest-rate
- consumer-confidence
- home-sales-existing, home-sales-new
- current-account, current-account-surplus, current-account-deficit
- consumer-spending
- jobless-claims
- inflation
- trade-balance, trade-balance-deficit, trade-balance-surplus

Extra filters are:

news relevance: RELEVANCE = 100

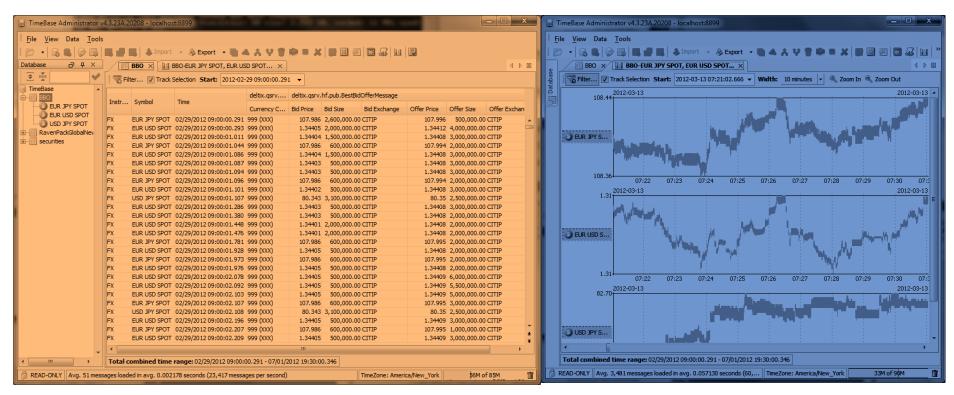
– news novelty: ENS = 100



Historical Tick Data

Historical window from 1 March 2012 till 1 August 2012:

- Three currency pairs EURUSD, USDJPY, EURJPY;
- Raw ask, bid data from Citi FX data feed;
- On average the daily volume of ask and bid messages is ~1,000,000
- Total volume of data used in research is 100,000,000 messages





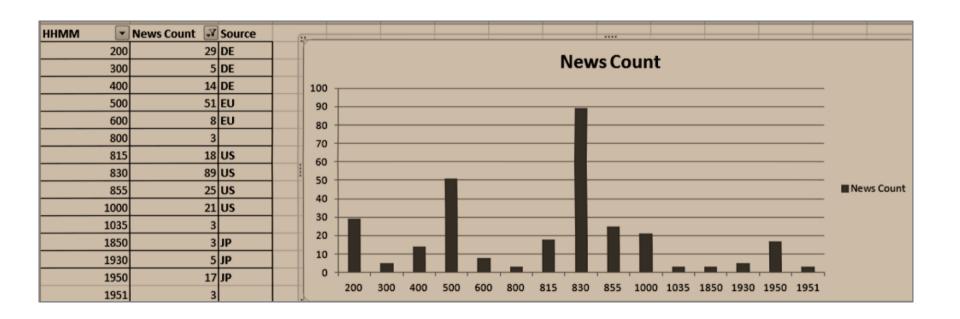
Macro news intra-day distribution

- The experiment has been performed to identify 1-minute time intervals with highest density of macro-economy news with RELEVANCE = 100 and ENS = 100.
- Applied the following filters:
 - Country Filter: US, DE, EU, JP
 - News Type filter major economy news types as specified above.
 - Time interval to collect statistics: 1 March 2012 30 June 2012



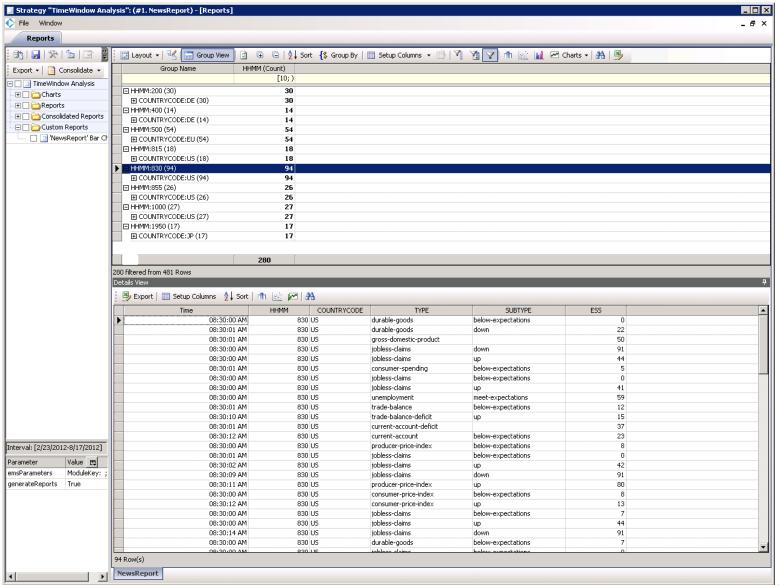
Macro news distribution

The following turn point minutes have been identified (with a number of news per minute exceeding 2):



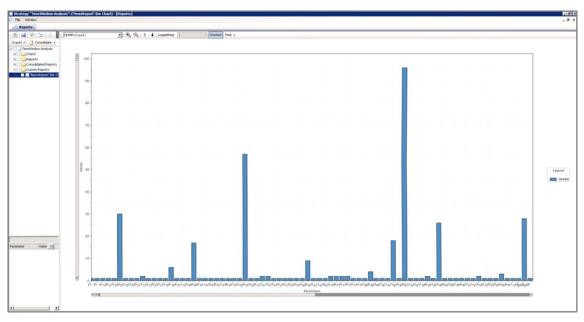


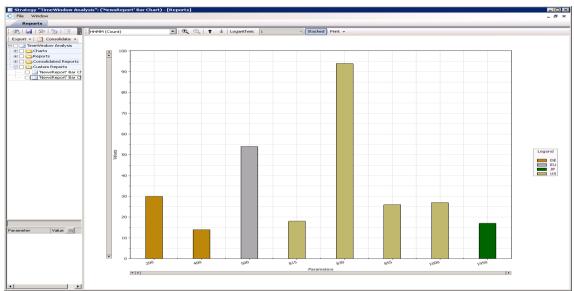
Macro news distribution





Macro news distribution







- Looking at market turn points when major economy news are released for US,
 Germany/EU, and Japanese economy we were interested to evaluate the impact of the news on short-term volatility of FX rates.
- As a measure of volatility we used annualized standard deviation of log returns inside
 5 min window of 10-sec bars (30 bars).
- We also calculated variance ratio (*):

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VR = HILO(N) / (ATR(N) * SQRT(N)) where
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N = 30; HILO (N) is high/low price range and ATR(N) is average true range over the N bars period

- All statistics were calculated for 5 minutes before the economy news release time and for 5 minutes after the release scheduled time, for example for US events scheduled for 8:30, the time intervals were 8:25 8:30 and 8:30 8:35
- (*) Variance Ratio statistics introduced by Lo and MacKinlay (1988):
 - □VR close to 1 indicates that market is in a random walk regime;
 - □VR > 1 indicates that market is in a trending regime (with positive autocorrelation of price returns);
 - \square VR < 1 indicates that market is in a mean reversion regime (with negative autocorrelation of price returns).





Volatility and VR change on the days when major US economy data released

ннмм	Prev Volatitility	Next Volatility	Vol Change %	Prev VR	Next VR	VR Change %
8:30	0.1456	0.3282	154.0465	1.3035	1.7461	45.3637
EUR JPY SPOT	0.1753	0.3978	135.3153	1.2504	1.6487	40.1570
EUR USD SPOT	0.1104	0.2217	137.0218	1.2795	1.6748	46.9280
USD JPY SPOT	0.1510	0.3651	189.8022	1.3807	1.9148	49.0062
10:00	0.1623	0.2205	59.5643	1.2290	1.5921	39.5154
EUR JPY SPOT	0.2044	0.2764	58.5763	1.2609	1.6278	43.6316
EUR USD SPOT	0.1228	0.1782	60.1901	1.0526	1.4279	43.3808
USD JPY SPOT	0.1597	0.2068	59.9265	1.3735	1.7208	31.5339

Volatility and VR change on the days when no US economy data released

ннмм		Prev Volatitility	Next Volatility	Vol Change %	Prev VR	Next VR	VR Change %
	8:30	0.1152	0.1402	29.8781	1.3531	1.4180	16.8429
EUR JPY SPOT		0.1403	0.1737	31.1027	1.3656	1.4124	13.5323
EUR USD SPOT		0.1079	0.1263	29.3345	1.3770	1.3554	7.0577
USD JPY SPOT		0.0975	0.1205	29.1972	1.3166	1.4861	29.9386
	10:00	0.1469	0.1746	31.3288	1.2794	1.3820	15.6410
EUR JPY SPOT		0.1818	0.2191	35.5203	1.2184	1.3544	19.4199
EUR USD SPOT		0.1240	0.1515	27.8194	1.1802	1.3149	18.8981
USD JPY SPOT	•	0.1350	0.1533	30.6466	1.4395	1.4766	8.6050





Volatility and VR change on the days when major Japan economy data released

ннмм	Prev Volatitility	Next Volatility	Vol Change %	Prev VR	Next VR	VR Change %
19:3	0.0494	0.0943	99.0026	1.9646	1.9533	9.2445
EUR JPY SPOT	0.0677	0.1232	87.1012	2.2411	1.9995	-8.5106
EUR USD SPOT	0.0392	0.0503	47.2493	1.8744	1.6090	-7.1013
USD JPY SPOT	0.0414	0.1096	162.6573	1.7783	2.2516	43.3453
19:5	0.0852	0.1361	78.4769	1.6259	1.8428	23.7382
EUR JPY SPOT	0.1050	0.1781	88.6472	1.5142	1.8133	31.2710
EUR USD SPOT	0.0587	0.0630	29.7352	1.6198	1.5132	5.5643
USD JPY SPOT	0.0920	0.1671	117.0484	1.7438	2.2020	34.3794

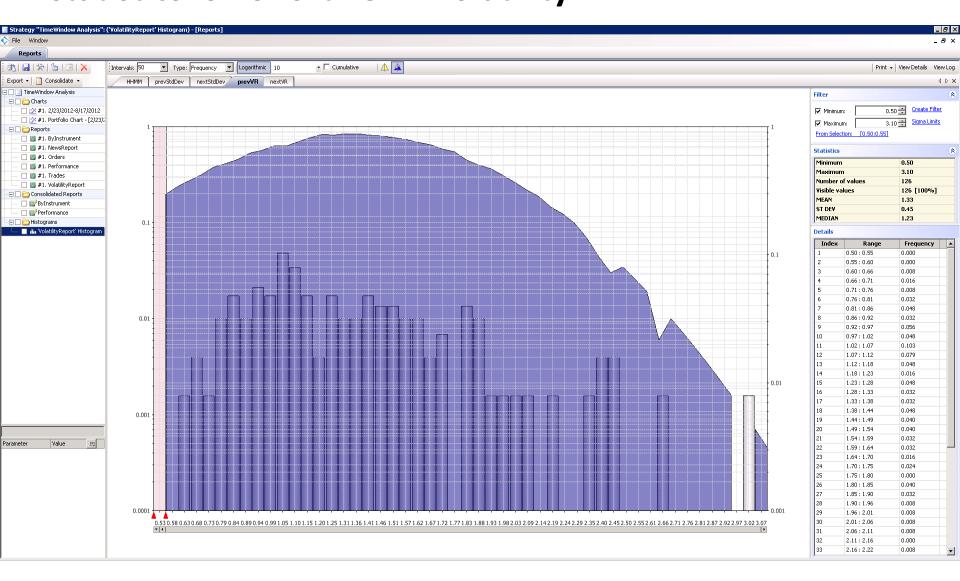
Volatility and VR change on the days when **no Japan economy data** released

ннмм		Prev Volatitility	Next Volatility	Vol Change %	Prev VR	Next VR	VR Change %
	19:30	0.0528	0.0604	36.4493	1.7390	1.8866	25.2754
EUR JPY SPOT		0.0656	0.0772	32.8931	1.7214	1.8333	22.5881
EUR USD SPOT		0.0408	0.0441	30.4293	1.7248	1.7826	22.6103
USD JPY SPOT		0.0519	0.0599	46.0256	1.7707	2.0437	30.6277
	19:50	0.0632	0.0720	25.7074	1.8076	1.8460	15.0673
EUR JPY SPOT		0.0795	0.0916	24.3676	1.7660	1.8303	16.9838
EUR USD SPOT	·	0.0452	0.0484	24.3416	1.8490	1.8561	14.1445
USD JPY SPOT	·	0.0647	0.0760	28.4129	1.8077	1.8517	14.0734

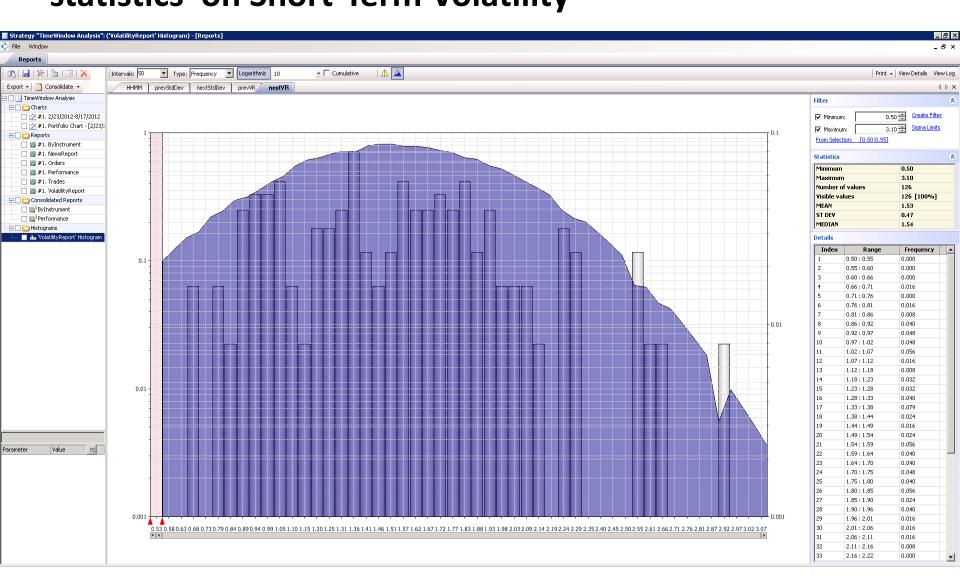












Simple Trading Strategy: crossing break-out levels after macro-economic news



We would like to explore the facts that volatility grows and there is a positive autocorrelation of returns at the time of major economy news release or immediately after that.

The proposed strategy is a **breakout strategy** which defines breakout buy/sell levels on **5 minutes** time interval preceding a scheduled economic event.

Upon receiving the **news event** we enter **long** if market price goes **above the breakout buy level** or enter **short** if the market price **goes below the sell level**.

The strategy **closes** the positions **5 minutes after** the received news event.

The order execution is done using relatively conservative BBO mode – buy by best ask price and sell by best bid price
The lot size for all trades is 100,000 USD.

Trading Strategy

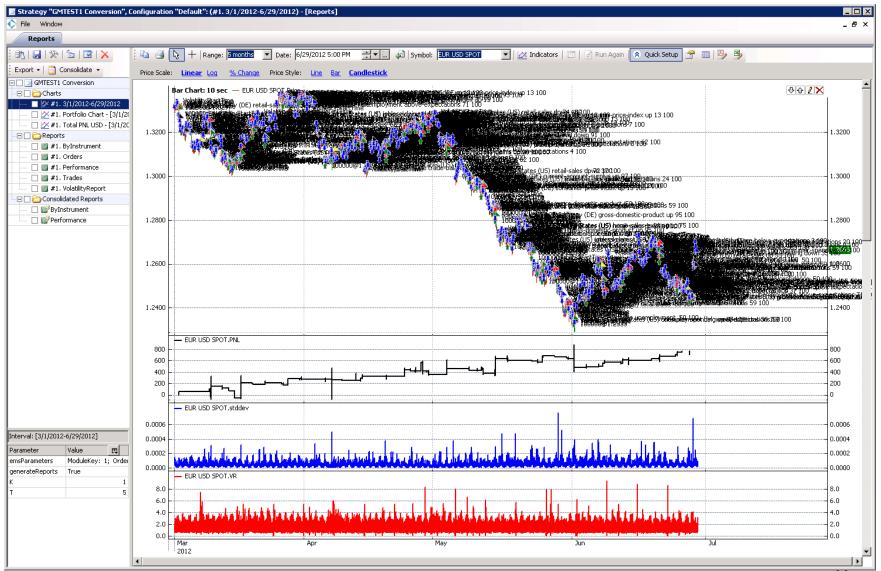


Trade on German Retail Sales data released 03/02/2012 at 2:00 AM ET



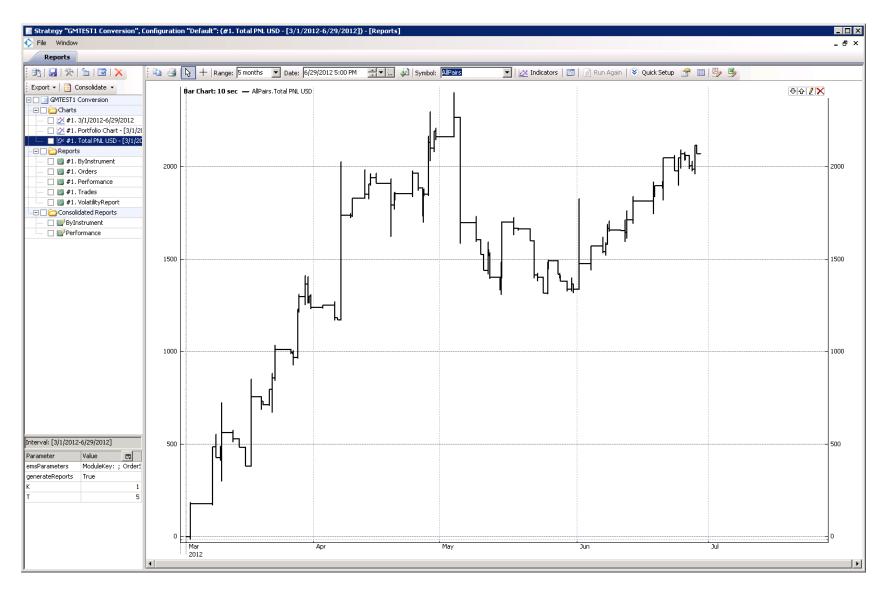
PnL Curve





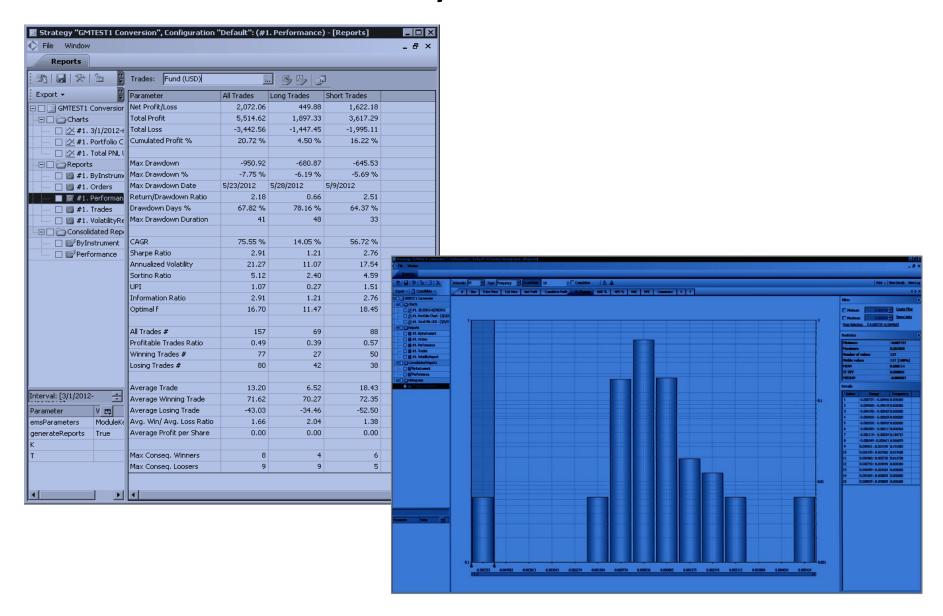
PnL Curve





Summary Statistics

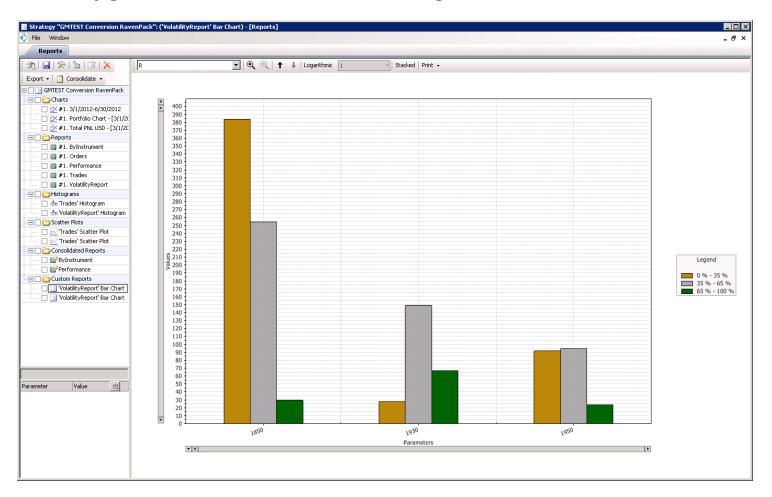






The Improvement of Trading Strategy by incorporating ESS – Event Sentiment Score

We observed that news events with **low and mid-range values of ESS** trigger larger short-term volatility growth than news events with high values of ESS.



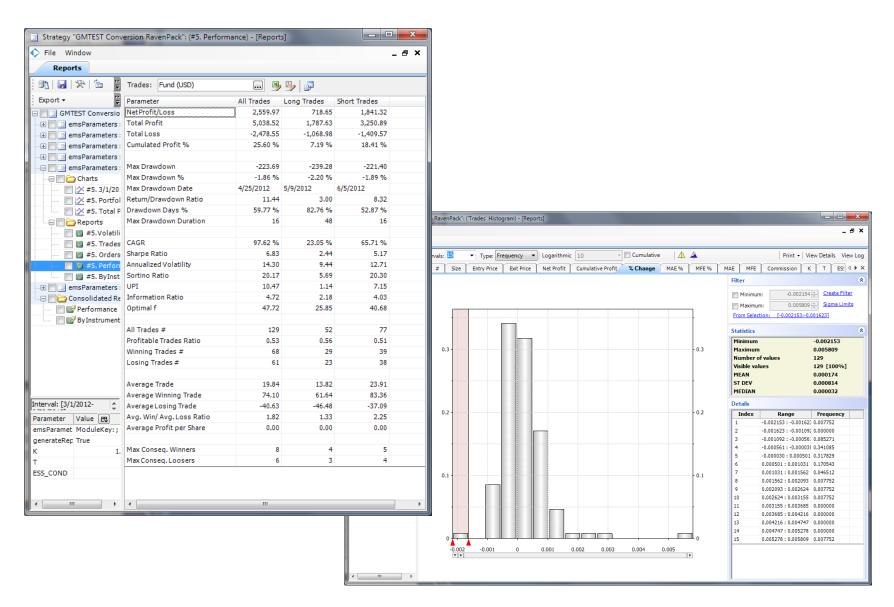
Modified Trading Strategy – adding ESS filters





Summary Statistics of Modified Strategy







Summary

- Empirical analysis shows that the arrival of macro-economic news from world's leading economies increases short-term volatility
- A simple breakout strategy triggered by the arrival of major macroeconomic news has alpha potential and is a candidate for further research.
- Adding an ESS filter helps to improve the performance of this breakout strategy