

# Markets close out October with another record high

October defied the history books as markets recovered strongly across the month and finished out on Friday at record highs. Whilst slightly disappointing earnings from Apple and Amazon dominated the headlines, the upward trajectory for earnings in general has been clear. With just short of 75% of companies having reported, the S&P is on course for an average earnings 'beat' of 7%. Whilst this would be the weakest since the pandemic it is still positive and suggests that the global economy will continue to see positive growth even after the initial post COVID rebound.

Economic data and a generally optimistic political mood in Washington also contributed to the gains for equities. Before flying out to the G20 and COP26 summits, President Biden appears to have made some progress in consolidating Democrat support for his infrastructure bill. New Home Sales increased 14% and US consumer confidence also grew for the first time in three months, with personal spending rising 0.6% in September. A growing expectation of a holiday season spending splurge, including the highest number of vacations since 2019 augers well for the US economy, albeit under the shadow of supply chain issues.

Data from the eurozone was broadly positive, with preliminary GDP growth for Q3 coming in ahead of expectation, although inflation was also strong – driven by energy costs. The ECB kept monetary policy unchanged as expected, but President Lagarde's subsequent comments left the market slightly underwhelmed in relation to the path for future interest rate rises. The commentary from central banks (note the Fed and Bank of England this week) will be closely watched, as there has been a growing divergence between the monetary policy being priced in by the bond markets vs the commentary emanated from global central bankers.

**Our regular market information continues on the next page.**

## Snapshot



World Equities  
Corporate Bonds  
Oil  
Copper



Sovereign Bonds  
Gold

## The week ahead

3 Nov

The market expects a tapering announcement as the Federal Reserve meets.

4 Nov

The latest meeting from the Bank of England will be closely watched for guidance on potential 2022 rate hikes.

5 Nov

The October non-farm payrolls report from the US goes to print.



	1 Week Return 25.10.21 to 01.11.21		Year to Date Return 01.01.21 to 01.11.21	
	Local Currency	Euro	Local Currency	Euro
World	0.5%	0.8%	19.4%	26.3%
U.S.	0.7%	1.1%	23.0%	30.0%
Europe	0.9%	0.9%	21.1%	21.1%
Ireland	0.0%	0.0%	15.6%	15.6%
U.K.	0.2%	0.1%	16.4%	23.4%
Japan	0.4%	0.4%	13.0%	8.2%
Hong Kong	-0.9%	-0.6%	1.3%	6.7%
Corporate Bonds	-0.2%	-0.2%	-2.3%	-2.3%
Sovereign Bonds	-0.2%	-0.2%	-4.8%	-4.8%

### Equities

- Global stocks were up last week by 0.8% in euro terms and 0.5% in local terms.
- Year-to-date global markets are up 26.3% in euro terms and 19.4% in local terms.
- The U.S market, the largest in the world, was up 1.1% in euro terms and 0.7% in local terms.

### Fixed Income & FX

- The U.S. 10-year yield finished at 1.58% last week. The German equivalent finished at -0.08%. The Irish 10-year bond yield finished at 0.35% to remain in positive territory.
- The Euro/U.S. Dollar exchange rate finished at 1.16, whilst Euro/GBP finished at 0.85.

### Commodities

- Oil finished the week at \$84 per barrel and is up 82.8% year-to-date in euro terms.
- Gold finished the week at \$1,783 per troy ounce and is down -0.8% year-to-date in euro terms.
- Copper finished the week at \$9,809 per tonne.

Source: MSCI. The MSCI information may only be used for your internal use, may not be reproduced or redisseminated in any form and may not be used as a basis for or a component of any financial instruments or products or indices. None of the MSCI information is intended to constitute investment advice or a recommendation to make (or refrain from making) any kind of investment decision and may not be relied on as such. Historical data and analysis should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of any future performance analysis, forecast or prediction. The MSCI information is provided on an "as is" basis and the user of this information assumes the entire risk of any use made of this information. MSCI, each of its affiliates and each other person involved in or related to compiling, computing or creating any MSCI expressly disclaims all warranties (including, without limitation, any warranties of originality, accuracy, completeness, timeliness, non-infringement, merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose) with respect to this information. Without limiting any of the foregoing, in no event shall any MSCI Party have any liability for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, punitive, consequential (including, without limitation, lost profits) or any other damages. (www.msci.com)

Source ICE Data Indices, LLC ("ICE DATA"), is used with permission. ICE DATA, ITS AFFILIATES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE THIRD PARTY SUPPLIERS DISCLAIM ANY AND ALL WARRANTIES AND REPRESENTATIONS, EXPRESS AND/OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE, INCLUDING THE INDICES, INDEX DATA AND ANY DATA INCLUDED IN, RELATED TO, OR DERIVED THEREFROM. NEITHER ICE DATA, ITS AFFILIATES NOR THEIR RESPECTIVE THIRD PARTY PROVIDERS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ANY DAMAGES OR LIABILITY WITH RESPECT TO THE ADEQUACY, ACCURACY, TIMELINESS OR COMPLETENESS OF THE INDICES OR THE INDEX DATA OR ANY COMPONENT THEREOF, AND THE INDICES AND INDEX DATA AND ALL COMPONENTS THEREOF ARE PROVIDED ON AN "AS IS" BASIS AND YOUR USE IS AT YOUR OWN RISK. ICE DATA, ITS AFFILIATES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE THIRD PARTY SUPPLIERS DO NOT SPONSOR, ENDORSE, OR RECOMMEND ZURICH LIFE ASSURANCE PLC, OR ANY OF ITS PRODUCTS OR SERVICES.

Figures are calculated using Total Returns Indices.

Warning: Past performance is not a reliable guide to future performance.  
Warning: The value of your investment may go down as well as up.  
Warning: Benefits may be affected by changes in currency exchange rates.  
Warning: If you invest in this product you may lose some or all of the money you invest.

### Zurich Life Assurance plc

Zurich House, Frascati Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

Telephone: 01 283 1301 Fax: 01 283 1578 Website: www.zurich.ie

Zurich Life Assurance plc is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

Intended for distribution within the Republic of Ireland.

GR: 5685 Print Ref: ZL ISA 5685 0121

