

# Stocks rally on cooler data

Last week saw US equities rally as interest rate expectations eased and the labour market appeared to cool. On Wednesday, the Federal Reserve held its November policy meeting where the FOMC decided to hold interest rates steady. A 'no change to rates' scenario was broadly in line with expectations, however the ensuing policy statement and comments from Fed Chair Jerome Powell were perceived as quite dovish in nature, with Powell being specifically upbeat when speaking on the area of wage gains. The market reacted to this positively, with growth stocks showing strong performance.

On Friday, sentiment was complemented by cooler labour market data releases. Data issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed that hiring figures for October were lower than expected with employers adding 150,000 jobs in October. The report also showed that unemployment has risen to its highest level since early 2022 now standing at 3.9%. Long term bond yields, which have been particularly elevated throughout the cycle, decreased in line with lower rate expectations giving fixed income investors some reprieve.

In Europe stocks also rebounded, largely driven by developments in the US. Positive sentiment was aided by the release of Eurozone Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures on Tuesday. The results showed that Inflation across the Eurozone dropped to a two-year low of 2.9% in October, below expectations and down from 4.3% in September. Data also showed that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) figures contracted in Q3 of 2023, declining by 0.1%. This followed news that Germany, Europe's largest economy, also saw its GDP contracted by 0.1%. Although slowing growth indicates lower inflation, investors have begun to consider whether the growth outlook may increasingly become an issue in the region. In the UK, the Bank of England decided to hold rates steady, keeping interest rates at 5.25%.

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

## Snapshot



World Equities  
Corporate Bonds  
Copper



Gold  
Oil

## The week ahead

08 Nov

German CPI figures are published.

09 Nov

US Initial Jobless Claims goes to print.

10 Nov

US GDP figures released.



	1 Week Return 30.10.23 to 06.11.23		Year to Date Return 31.12.22 to 06.11.23	
	Local Currency	Euro	Local Currency	Euro
World	4.6%	3.5%	12.4%	11.7%
U.S.	4.7%	3.6%	14.9%	14.3%
Europe	3.3%	3.3%	8.1%	8.1%
Ireland	6.1%	6.1%	16.8%	16.8%
U.K.	1.1%	1.9%	2.7%	5.0%
Japan	4.2%	2.9%	26.0%	10.7%
Hong Kong	2.9%	1.8%	-15.8%	-16.4%
Corporate Bonds	0.9%	0.9%	0.7%	0.7%

### Equities

- Global stocks were up last week by 3.5% in euro terms and down by 4.6% in local terms.
- Year-to-date global markets are up 11.7% in euro terms and 12.4% in local terms.
- The U.S market, the largest in the world, finished up 3.6% in euro terms and 4.7% in local terms.

### Fixed Income & FX

- The U.S. 10-year yield finished at 4.59% last week. The German equivalent finished at 2.70%. The Irish 10-year bond yield finished at 3.13%
- The Euro/U.S. Dollar exchange rate finished at 1.08, whilst Euro/GBP finished at 0.87.

### Commodities

- Oil finished the week at \$82 per barrel and is up 1.7% year-to-date in euro terms.
- Gold finished the week at \$1,987 per troy ounce and is up 8.5% year-to-date in euro terms.
- Copper finished the week at \$8,096 per tonne.

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### Zurich Life Assurance plc

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

Telephone: 01 283 1301 Fax: 01 283 1578 Website: [www.zurich.ie](http://www.zurich.ie)

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