

Equities continue to move higher as dollar extends winning streak







The **global index** rose 2.7% last week, as the strong returns seen since the US election continued.

Gold slipped further last week and returned -1.6% as it was hit by dollar strength and rate expectations. Copper fell back 1.7% last week, but this must be viewed in the context of

Week in Review

- In the US markets stayed close to all-time highs as they
 continued to digest the potential policies that the new Trump
 administration may employ. The other big theme of the week
 was the strength of the US dollar, which climbed to a 13 year
 high on continued expectations of increased US government
 spending and an interest rate hike next month.
- The Japanese equity market rose strongly during the week as the weaker Yen was seen as a positive for export sensitive stocks.
 The Nikkei 225 is now 20% above its recent low, which some analysts would consider the start of a technical 'bull market'.
- **US Treasuries continued their sell off** this week, with the difference (or spread) between US and German 10-year benchmark yields hitting its widest in 27 years, further highlighting the divergent monetary policy between the world's two biggest trading blocs.

	Index	1 Week Return 11.11.16 to 18.11.16		Year to Date Return 31.12.15 to 18.11.16	
		Local Currency %	Euro %	Local Currency %	Euro %
Global (euro)	FTSE World (total return)	2.7%	2.7%	7.9%	7.9%
US	S&P 500	0.8%	3.4%	6.8%	9.6%
Europe	FTSE Europe Ex. U.K.	0.3%	0.3%	-6.7%	-6.7%
Ireland	ISEQ	1.3%	1.3%	-7.3%	-7.3%
UK	FTSE 100	0.7%	1.2%	8.6%	-6.7%
Japan	Торіх	3.6%	2.2%	-7.7%	3.6%
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	-0.8%	1.7%	2.0%	4.6%
Bonds	Merrill Lynch Euro over 5	0.0%	0.0%	3.7%	3.7%

the near 11% rise the week before. **Oil was up** over 5% and closed at just short of \$46/barrel.

The 10 year US treasury yield closed at 2.35%, up another 20 basis points over the course of the week, whilst the 10 year German equivalent fell back last week to 0.27% from 0.31%,

contributing to the record spread between the two.

The euro weakened against the dollar with the EUR/USD rate moving from 1.09 to 1.06, as the dollar extended it record winning streak versus the eurozone currency.

The Week Ahead

Wednesday 23 November Wednesday 23 November Friday 25 November The minutes of the Federal The second estimate of UK GDP for UK Chancellor Philip Hammond will deliver his first Autumn Statement Reserve's November interest rate Q3 is released where the consensus is where he is expected to give an meeting are released. They will be for an increase of 0.5% for the indication of financial policy for the next closely examined as per usual, but quarter, with the year-on-year figure the market now fully expects a rate few months. coming in at 2.3%. rise at the December meeting.

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.zurichlife.ie
Zurich Life Assurance plc is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.
Intended for distribution within the Republic of Ireland.

