

# Equities edge higher in subdued week of trading

## Weekly Snapshot



World Equities  
Sovereign Bonds  
Oil  
Copper



Gold  
Corporate Bonds

## Week in Review

- It was a **light week of trading** as the approaching Thanksgiving holiday in the US garnered attention, with trading volumes 20% below the monthly average. However, stocks on both sides of the Atlantic still moved higher, as the **S&P 500 hit a fresh record high** last Tuesday.
- The **latest Fed minutes** did nothing to dissuade the market of the prospect of a December rate hike, although the **slightly 'dovish' tone** of some of the commentary **led to a fall in the US dollar** versus its peers, most notably the euro. The single **currency was also supported by news from Germany** that the **risk of another election had dissipated** somewhat.
- Consumer sentiment** in the US for November **dipped slightly**, however this follows October's 13 year high. The Conference Board's index of **leading economic indicators increased sharply**, suggesting the improved economic backdrop is set to continue.

	Index	1 Week Return 17.11.17 to 24.11.17		Year to Date Return 31.12.16 to 24.11.17	
		Local Currency %	Euro %	Local Currency %	Euro %
Global (euro)	FTSE World (total return)	0.0%	0.0%	7.2%	7.2%
US	S&P 500	0.9%	-0.3%	16.2%	2.8%
Europe	FTSE Europe Ex. U.K.	0.9%	0.9%	10.2%	10.2%
Ireland	ISEQ	-0.3%	-0.3%	5.5%	5.5%
UK	FTSE 100	0.4%	0.1%	3.7%	-0.9%
Japan	Topix	1.0%	0.3%	17.3%	8.4%
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2.3%	1.1%	35.8%	19.2%
Bonds	Merrill Lynch Euro over 5	0.3%	0.3%	1.3%	1.3%

The **global index** in euro terms returned 0.02% last week, although the strengthening euro reduced returns for Irish investors. Hong Kong led the way, up 1.1% (in euro terms).

**Oil** continued its recent positive run, up 4.2% and closing just short of \$59/barrel.

The **ten year US bond yield** closed the week at 2.34%, although the two

year yield has risen sharply in recent months. The **German 10 year bund yield** closed at 0.36%. The **EUR/USD** rate finished the period at 1.19, up from 1.17 a week ago.

## The Week Ahead

Wednesday 29 November	Thursday 30 November	Thursday 30 November
The consensus view is for the second estimate of Q3 US GDP to come in at 3.2% (quarter-on-quarter).	The flash Eurozone inflation figures for November are released with the year-on-year figure projected to be 1.6%, up from 1.4%.	Japanese inflation and unemployment data goes to print, with CPI expected to rise to 0.8% from 0.7%, while unemployment looks set to remain at 2.8%.

**Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("BofAML"), used with permission. BofAML PERMITS USE OF THE BofAML INDICES AND RELATED DATA ON AN "AS IS" BASIS, MAKES NO WARRANTIES REGARDING SAME, DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE SUITABILITY, QUALITY, ACCURACY, TIMELINESS, AND/OR COMPLETENESS OF THE BofAML INDICES OR ANY DATA INCLUDED IN, RELATED TO, OR DERIVED THEREFROM, ASSUMES NO LIABILITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE OF THE FOREGOING, AND DOES NOT SPONSOR, ENDORSE, OR RECOMMEND ZURICH LIFE ASSURANCE PLC, OR ANY OF ITS PRODUCTS OR SERVICES.**

**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.**