

Stocks move slightly lower, as US politics takes centre stage once again

Snapshot



Sovereign Bonds Corporate Bonds



World Equities
Gold
Copper
Oil

Week Ahead



Flash Eurozone inflation figures for September are released.



U.K. Manufacturing PMI for September goes to market.



U.S. Non-Farm payroll data goes to print

Stocks moved slightly lower and bond yields were broadly flat as U.S. politics took centre stage last week, with Democrats stepping up plans to impeach President Trump. The calls grew louder following the release of a transcript between President Trump and his Ukrainian counterpart, but the scenario is still a long way off such an eventuality. The news overshadowed much of the economic releases, although real consumer spending in the U.S. disappointed, and Friday's upcoming jobs report will be closely watched. Preliminary economic data for September in the Eurozone painted a weakening picture, with German figures this week likely to provide investors with clearer view. It remains to be seen what the influence of the recent 'loosening' of monetary policy from the ECB is on the Eurozone economy. Stocks look set to start this week on a negative footing, as Bloomberg reports that the White House are discussing ways to limit American investment in China.

	1 Week Return 16.09.19 to 30.09.19		Year to Date Return 01.01.19 to 30.09.19	
	Local Currency	Euro	Local Currency	Euro
World	-0.8%	-0.4%	15.5%	20.6%
U.S.	-1.1%	-0.6%	18.2%	23.9%
Europe	0.4%	0.4%	17.5%	17.5%
Ireland	1.9%	1.9%	18.5%	18.5%
U.K.	1.3%	0.8%	9.6%	10.8%
Japan	-0.8%	-0.6%	8.4%	15.7%
Hong Kong	-1.2%	-0.8%	0.1%	4.7%
Corporate Bonds	0.0%	0.0%	6.6%	6.6%
Sovereign Bonds	0.9%	0.9%	15.2%	15.2%

Fauities

- Equities decreased last week, by -0.8% in local terms, and by 0.4% in euro terms.
- Ireland and the U.K. were the best performers over the week delivering 1.9% and 0.8% respectively, and the influential US market was down slightly at -0.6% in euro terms.

Fixed Income & FX

- The U.S. 10-year yield recovered further last week to finish at 1.70%. The German equivalent is now at -0.56%. The Irish 10 year bond yield is at -0.02%.
- The Euro/U.S. Dollar exchange rate finished at 1.10, whilst Euro/GBP was at 0.89.

Commodities

- Oil finished the week at \$56 per barrel.
- Gold finished the week at \$1,492 per troy ounce.
- Copper decreased to \$5,736 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 INDICAS AND 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.

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.

