Weekly Investment Review 21 July 2025

Oracle sees great investment in Europe's future

There were further developments on the tariff front last week. On Monday, US President Donald Trump threatened 30% levies on the EU and Mexico starting on 1st August. Reports suggest the White House is pushing for a minimum blanket charge of 15%-20% on all EU goods. The US president also gave Russia an ultimatum on its war with Ukraine, promising 100% tariffs if they do not secure a peace deal in 50 days.

In the US, headline CPI inflation increased to 2.7% in June, ahead of forecasts of 2.6%, while the core rate rose to 2.9%, below expectations of 3.0%. However, there was a devil in the details. Excluding vehicles, core goods rose by 0.5% MoM, the largest jump since June 2022. Later in the week, the PPI index showed producer price inflation cooled from 2.6% to 2.3% in June, coming in below projections of 2.5%.

US industrial production increased by 0.3% in June, beating forecasts of 0.1%. Retail sales also surprised on the upside, jumping 0.6% MoM having declined by -0.9% in May. Meanwhile, weekly initial jobless claims fell for the fifth week in a row. The dollar strengthened during the week in response to the positive economic data.

US equities were on the ascendancy, supported by strong Q2 earnings releases. Nvidia stock spiked over 4% after the US government allowed it to resume selling its H20 AI chips to China. Equities in Europe finished the week in the red as Q2 earnings disappointed. This was despite news that Oracle will invest \$3 billion in Al and cloud infrastructure in Germany and the Netherlands over the next five years.

In the UK, Chancellor Rachel Reeves outlined plans to deregulate Britain's financial services industry in an effort to "boldly regulate for growth". Meanwhile, the annual UK CPI inflation rate for June climbed to 3.6%, printing above consensus estimates of 3.4%, while the unemployment rate rose to 4.7%, ahead of expectations to hold firm at 4.6%.



Fact of the week

Japan's 10-year yield rose above 1.59% last week to its highest level since the 2008 Global Financial Crisis.



• Gold Copper • Oil

Snapshot

The week ahead				
22 July	Speech by Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell.			
24 July	ECB rate decision is announced.			
25 July	UK retail sales for June is reported.			





Corporate Bonds

Our regular market information continues on the next page.

	1 Week Return 11.07.25 to 18.07.25		Year to Date Return 31.12.24 to 18.07.25	
	Local Currency	Euro	Local Currency	Euro
World	0.5%	0.9%	10.6%	-1.7%
U.S.	0.7%	1.1%	7.8%	-4.2%
Europe	-0.3%	-0.3%	10.4%	10.4%
Ireland	-2.2%	-2.2%	15.5%	15.5%
U.K.	0.5%	0.4%	12.0%	6.8%
Japan	0.4%	0.0%	1.4%	-4.6%
Hong Kong	0.8%	1.3%	25.1%	10.2%
Corporate Bonds	0.2%	0.2%	0.6%	0.6%
Sovereign Bonds	0.2%	0.2%	-1.1%	-1.1%

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.

Equities

- Global stocks finished up 0.9% in euro terms and up 0.5% in local terms last week.
- Year-to-date global markets are down by -1.7% in euro terms and up by 10.6% in local terms.
- The U.S. market, the largest in the world, finished up 1.1% in euro terms and up 0.7% in local terms.

Fixed Income & FX

- The U.S. 10-year yield finished at 4.4% last week. The German equivalent finished at 2.7%. The Irish 10-year bond yield finished at 3.0%.
- The Euro/U.S. Dollar exchange rate finished at 1.16, whilst Euro/GBP finished at 0.87.

Commodities

- Oil finished the week at \$67 per barrel and is down -16.4% year-todate in euro terms.
- Gold finished the week at \$3,350 per troy ounce and is up 13.7% year-to-date in euro terms.
- Copper finished the week at \$9,725 per tonne and is up 0.1% year-to-date in euro terms.

Source: MSCI. The MSCI information may only be used for your internal use, may not be reproduced, or disseminated 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.

Zurich Life Assurance plc

Zurich House, Frascati Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, A94 X9Y3, 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.

