

Like a bull in China's shop

Days after sending equity prices falling with threats to impose 100% tariffs on Chinese imports, US President Trump provided a boost to global stock markets last week when he posted on social media: "Don't worry about China, it will all be fine!". However, the VIX index, which is commonly referred to as a "fear gauge" for the US stock market, rose to around 29 points during the week, having remained below 20 points since the start of August, marking the highest level since April.

In corporate news, chipmaker Broadcom's stock rose nearly 10% on Monday after it announced a partnership with OpenAI. Broadcom CEO Hock Tan said the deal marked "a pivotal moment in the pursuit of artificial general intelligence".

The German ZEW Economic Sentiment Index increased to 39.3 from 37.3 in September, missing consensus estimates of 41.0 as slow economic growth in Europe keeps morale subdued. This trend was shared by the UK which reported just 0.1% of growth to GDP in August, in line with projections.

The UK unemployment rate for the three months to August was recorded at 4.8%, unexpectedly rising from 4.7% in July. In the US, another week of government shutdown meant another sparse economic calendar. The CPI inflation report, which will provide key information to the Fed ahead of their meeting at the end of this month, was delayed a week, while credit-card data indicated that retail sales moderated in September, with the official retail sales report also being delayed.

Global government bonds rallied during the week causing yields to fall as investors sought safety amid renewed tariff worries. Supported by heightened volatility in equities and expectations for another Fed rate cut at the end of October, gold had another green week, returning 5.8%.



Fact of the week

There is now more investment-grade debt tied to artificial intelligence than to banks, with AI-linked credit now totalling \$1.2 trillion, making it the largest segment of the investment-grade market.

Our regular market information continues on the next page.

Snapshot



- World Equities
- Corporate Bonds
- Sovereign Bonds
- Copper
- Gold



- Oil

The week ahead

22 Oct	UK CPI and PPI Indices go to print.
24 Oct	Irish Presidential election takes place.
24 Oct	US inflation data is released, and Eurozone PMI indices are published.



	1 Week Return 10.10.25 to 17.10.25		Year to Date Return 31.12.24 to 17.10.25	
	Local Currency	Euro	Local Currency	Euro
World	1.4%	0.6%	17.2%	4.0%
U.S.	1.7%	0.9%	14.2%	1.4%
Europe	0.8%	0.8%	14.9%	14.9%
Ireland	-1.8%	-1.8%	19.3%	19.3%
U.K.	-0.7%	-0.8%	17.8%	11.8%
Japan	-0.9%	-0.4%	15.5%	7.1%
Hong Kong	-4.0%	-4.5%	27.0%	12.7%
Corporate Bonds	0.5%	0.5%	1.1%	1.1%
Sovereign Bonds	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%

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 0.6% in euro terms and up 1.4% in local terms last week.
- Year-to-date global markets are up by 4.0% in euro terms and up by 17.2% in local terms.
- The U.S. market, the largest in the world, finished up at 0.9% in euro terms and up 1.7% in local terms.

Fixed Income & FX

- The U.S. 10-year yield finished at 4.0% last week. The German equivalent finished at 2.6%. The Irish 10-year bond yield finished at 2.8%.
- The Euro/U.S. Dollar exchange rate finished at 1.16, whilst Euro/GBP finished at 0.87.

Commodities

- Oil finished the week at \$58 per barrel and is down -28.7% year-to-date in euro terms.
- Gold finished the week at \$4,252 per troy ounce and is up 43.9% year-to-date in euro terms.
- Copper finished the week at \$10,588 per tonne and is up 8.7% 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.