

# Some budge on US budget

The US market wrapped up the week on a softer note, with major stock indexes slipping as investors took a breather from the recent tech-fuelled rally. Worries about elevated valuations and questions surrounding the surge in artificial intelligence (AI) investment prompted traders to rotate out of some high-growth names. Despite the market's pause, company earnings remain robust and corporate commitments to AI spending show no signs of easing, indicating that the latest dip is more about shifting sentiment and recalibrated expectations than any real weakness in fundamentals. Still, the AI story cuts both ways: it's driving innovation and excitement, but with a handful of tech giants steering much of the market, that same momentum has the potential to amplify volatility.

The ongoing U.S. government shutdown hit a historic milestone this week, becoming the longest in the nation's history and adding another layer of unease to market sentiment. The economic consequences started to make headlines; concerns mounted over missing government data and how the extended shutdown could drag on GDP growth. In the bond market, U.S. Treasuries offered a steadier picture. Prices firmed as yields on shorterand medium-term maturities fell lower, while long-term rates ticked higher, a sign that investors were seeking safety in the near term but still eveing inflation and growth risks further out.

In Europe, markets also lost ground over the week, with most major indices retreating as investors reassessed the lofty valuations of technology and Al-related stocks. Fresh economic data did little to lift sentiment. Eurozone retail sales slipped by 0.1% in September, the third month in a row of decline, defying forecasts for a rebound and reinforcing concerns about sluggish consumer demand. Meanwhile, the final reading of the Eurozone Manufacturing PMI for October landed at 50.0, signalling an economy stuck between modest expansion and contraction as new orders continued to falter.

Chinese equities managed to achieve modest gains over the week, supported by signs of a thaw in US-China trade relations that helped lift investor confidence. Markets took heart from news that the two nations agreed to a one-year pause in their trade dispute following talks between their leaders at the recent Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit. While the gathering produced few concrete policy outcomes, the overall tone was notably more reasonable and cooperative, enough to give investors a sense that tensions may be easing, at least for now.



## Fact of the week

Tesla Shareholders have overwhelming approved a proposed \$1 trillion pay plan for CEO Elon Musk, subject to ambitious business targets over the next decade.

# **Snapshot**



- Copper
- Gold





- Corporate Bonds
- · Sovereign Bonds
- Oil

The we	The week ahead			
12 Nov	German CPI is released.			
13 Nov	US CPI data is published.			
14 Nov	Eurozone GDP and employment data goes to print.			



Our regular market information continues on the next page.

	1 Week Return 31.10.25 to 07.11.25		Year to Date Return 31.12.24 to 07.11.25	
	Local Currency	Euro	Local Currency	Euro
World	-1.5%	-1.7%	18.0%	5.6%
U.S.	-1.7%	-2.0%	15.4%	3.2%
Europe	-1.4%	-1.4%	13.6%	13.6%
Ireland	1.2%	1.2%	25.8%	25.8%
U.K.	0.0%	-0.1%	22.4%	15.0%
Japan	-1.3%	-0.9%	20.8%	10.9%
Hong Kong	3.5%	3.2%	36.9%	22.3%
Corporate Bonds	-0.4%	-0.4%	0.7%	0.7%
Sovereign Bonds	-0.4%	-0.4%	0.2%	0.2%

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 down -1.7% in euro terms and down -1.5% in local terms last week.
- Year-to-date global markets are up by 5.6% in euro terms and up by 18.0% in local terms.
- The U.S. market, the largest in the world, finished down at -2.0% in euro terms and down -1.7% in local terms.

#### Fixed Income & FX

- The U.S. 10-year yield finished at 4.1% last week. The German equivalent finished at 2.7%. The Irish 10-year bond yield finished at 2.9%.
- The Euro/U.S. Dollar exchange rate finished at 1.16, whilst Euro/GBP finished at 0.88.

#### **Commodities**

- Oil finished the week at \$60 per barrel and is down -25.4% year-to-date in euro terms.
- Gold finished the week at \$4,001 per troy ounce and is up 36.5% year-to-date in euro terms.
- Copper finished the week at \$10,698 per tonne and is up 10.7% 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, 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 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 INDIC

#### **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.

