

Rising inflation, resilient market

Global equity markets closed the week higher, although investor sentiment remained unsettled by geopolitical tensions and concerns that inflation could remain elevated for longer than expected. Confidence improved as reports of renewed diplomatic engagement between the US and Iran helped calm fears of further disruption to oil supplies. WTI crude prices eased back after previously rising above \$108 per barrel earlier in May, providing some relief to markets.

NVIDIA delivered another strong earnings update during the week, reinforcing expectations that global spending on AI infrastructure, data centres, and semiconductor technology will continue to accelerate. The results supported gains across the wider technology sector and helped offset weakness in more economically sensitive areas of the market. Economic data suggested that the US economy continues to expand, albeit unevenly. Flash PMI figures for May showed the composite index holding steady at 51.7, indicating modest growth overall. Manufacturing activity strengthened further to 55.3, while the services reading eased to 50.9, highlighting softer demand in consumer-focused sectors. Inflationary pressures remained a key focus, with US consumer prices rising 0.6% during April and 3.8% on an annual basis. Producer price inflation also accelerated to 6.0% year-on-year, its highest level since 2022.

Bond markets experienced volatility during the week as investors reassessed the outlook for interest rates. The 10-year US Treasury yield rose to 4.67% before retreating towards 4.56% by Friday as oil prices stabilised. The 30-year Treasury yield briefly climbed above 5.20%, amid expectations that the Federal Reserve may delay potential rate cuts. European equities also moved higher, supported by improving risk appetite despite persistent inflation concerns. Eurozone inflation accelerated to 3.0% in April from 2.6% previously, driven primarily by energy costs. Flash PMI surveys pointed to weakening business activity across the region as higher energy prices and supply disruptions weighed on growth expectations.

Japanese equities rebounded strongly during the week, helped by a weaker yen and softer domestic inflation data. Japan's core CPI slowed to 1.4% year-on-year in April, below the Bank of Japan's 2% target for a third consecutive month. The yen weakened towards JPY 159 against the USD dollar as investors scaled back expectations for near-term Bank of Japan policy tightening.



Fact of the week

Last week, the S&P 500 closed higher, extending its gains for an eighth straight week and marking its longest uninterrupted winning streak since 2023.

Our regular market information continues on the next page.

Snapshot



- World Equities
- Corporate Bonds
- Sovereign Bonds
- Copper



- Gold
- Oil

The week ahead

26 May	BoJ Core CPI data is reported.
28 May	US PCE price index and GDP data goes to print.
29 May	French, German, Spanish and Italian CPI data is released.



	1 Week Return 15.05.26 to 22.05.26		Year to Date Return 31.12.25 to 22.05.26	
	Local Currency	Euro	Local Currency	Euro
World	1.3%	1.6%	9.0%	10.4%
U.S.	1.0%	1.3%	9.3%	10.7%
Europe	3.2%	3.2%	6.9%	6.9%
Ireland	5.5%	5.5%	-0.7%	-0.7%
U.K.	2.6%	3.6%	7.4%	8.6%
Japan	1.3%	1.2%	15.8%	15.5%
Hong Kong	-2.0%	-1.8%	11.6%	12.3%
Corporate Bonds	0.6%	0.6%	-0.4%	-0.4%
Sovereign Bonds	1.2%	1.2%	0.1%	0.1%

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.
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Equities

- Global stocks finished up 1.6% in euro terms and up 1.3% in local terms last week.
- Year-to-date global markets are up by 10.4% in euro terms and up by 9.0% in local terms.
- The U.S. market, the largest in the world, finished up at 1.3% in euro terms and at 1.0% in local terms.

Fixed Income & FX

- The U.S. 10-year yield finished at 4.6% last week. The German equivalent finished at 3.0%. The Irish 10-year bond yield finished at 3.2%.
- The Euro/U.S. Dollar exchange rate finished at 1.16, whilst Euro/GBP finished at 0.86.

Commodities

- Oil finished the week at \$96.6 per barrel and is up 70.3% year-to-date in euro terms.
- Gold finished the week at \$4,509 per troy ounce and is up 5.7% year-to-date in euro terms.
- Copper finished the week at \$13,615 per tonne and is up 10.7% year-to-date in euro terms.