

Halfway through 2026, where next for markets?

Global markets closed the week on a positive note, as investors looked beyond recent volatility in artificial intelligence stocks and turned their attention back to the broader economic outlook. US equity markets gained ground over the shortened trading week, supported by renewed confidence that the long-term AI investment story remains intact despite recent bouts of profit-taking across the technology sector. Attention then shifted to the latest US labour market data. The economy added 57,000 jobs in June, well below expectations of approximately 115,000, making it the weakest monthly employment gain since February. Despite the softer hiring figures, the unemployment rate edged down to 4.2%, highlighting a labour market that is slowing but remains relatively resilient. The report reinforced expectations that the Federal Reserve will continue to tread cautiously on interest rates. Treasury markets reacted by pushing yields higher, with the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury yield rising from 4.37% to around 4.48% by Thursday as investors adjusted their outlook for future monetary policy.

European equities also finished the week in positive territory, supported by easing inflationary pressures and lower energy prices. Oil markets continued to unwind the geopolitical risk premium that had built up during tensions in the Middle East, with WTI crude falling back below \$69 per barrel, close to levels seen before the recent US–Iran conflict. The decline in energy prices helped improve confidence that the impact on economic growth and inflation may prove less severe than initially feared. This was reflected in the latest inflation data, with annual eurozone consumer price inflation (CPI) slowing to 2.8% in June, down from 3.2% in May and below market expectations. The moderation was driven by lower inflation readings across several of the region's largest economies, including Germany, France and Italy, reducing immediate pressure on the European Central Bank to tighten policy further.

Asian markets delivered a mixed performance. In Japan, equities advanced even as investors took profits in technology and semiconductor stocks following a strong first half of the year. However, the Bank of Japan's latest Tankan survey pointed to resilient business confidence, reinforcing expectations that the central bank will continue its gradual path towards monetary policy normalisation.



Fact of the week

Gold prices fell below \$4,000 per troy ounce on Tuesday, marking its steepest quarterly decline in 13 years, with spot prices dropping over 13% in Q2 2026.

Our regular market information continues on the next page.

Snapshot



- World Equities
- Corporate Bonds
- Gold
- Oil
- Copper



- Sovereign Bonds

The week ahead

06 July	Eurozone PPI and retail sales data is released.
09 July	Chinese CPI and PPI data goes to print.
10 July	Japanese PPI data is reported.



	1 Week Return 26.06.26 to 03.07.26		Year to Date Return 31.12.25 to 03.07.26	
	Local Currency	Euro	Local Currency	Euro
World	2.1%	1.7%	10.1%	13.0%
U.S.	1.9%	1.5%	9.8%	12.6%
Europe	2.7%	2.7%	12.8%	12.8%
Ireland	-0.3%	-0.3%	5.3%	5.3%
U.K.	1.6%	2.4%	9.5%	11.6%
Japan	2.1%	1.9%	21.5%	21.2%
Hong Kong	1.8%	1.4%	1.9%	3.9%
Corporate Bonds	0.0%	0.0%	-0.2%	-0.2%
Sovereign Bonds	-0.8%	-0.8%	1.0%	1.0%

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 1.7% in euro terms and up 2.1% in local terms last week.
- Year-to-date global markets are up by 13.0% in euro terms and up by 10.1% in local terms.
- The U.S. market, the largest in the world, finished up at 1.5% in euro terms and up at 1.9% in local terms.

Fixed Income & FX

- The U.S. 10-year yield finished at 4.5% last week. The German equivalent finished at 2.9%. The Irish 10-year bond yield finished at 3.1%.
- The Euro/U.S. Dollar exchange rate finished at 1.14, whilst Euro/GBP finished at 0.86.

Commodities

- Oil finished the week at \$69 per barrel and is up 22.9% year-to-date in euro terms.
- Gold finished the week at \$4,177 per troy ounce and down -0.7% year-to-date in euro terms.
- Copper finished the week at \$13,317 per tonne and is up 9.8% year-to-date in euro terms.