Weekly Investment News
8 May 2017

Global equities tick higher on the back of positive politics and economics

Weekly Snapshot

World Equities

European Sovereign Bonds

Corporate Bonds

Gold

Oil

Industrial Metals

Week in Review

- Emmanuel **Macron** won a landslide **victory** yesterday, taking 65% of the vote in the French presidential election, a larger margin than had been predicted in the polls. The initial reaction in equity markets appears to be muted, with the result broadly as expected.
- Markets were muted in the run up to the election although there were a number of positive narratives last week. The **Obamacare replacement bill** was passed, which bodes well for the likelihood of the Trump administration passing further market friendly legislation. **US jobs data** was also **positive**, with another 211,000 people added to the nation's payroll in April. **Economic data** emanating from **Europe struck an optimistic tone**, with PMIs hitting a six year high, inflation data moving higher (albeit still below the 2% target), and GDP figures coming in at roughly the same as the US.
- The US reporting season is drawing to a conclusion, with over **78% of the S&P having reported results since 3 April.** More than **72% of companies have beaten estimates**, with Tech and Industrials amongst the best sectors.

	Index	1 Week Return 28.04.17 to 05.05.17		Year to Date Return 31.12.16 to 05.05.17	
		Local Currency %	Euro %	Local Currency %	Euro %
Global (euro)	FTSE World (total return)	0.1%	0.1%	5.4%	5.4%
US	S&P 500	0.6%	-0.3%	7.2%	2.9%
Europe	FTSE Europe Ex. U.K.	2.5%	2.5%	11.4%	11.4%
Ireland	ISEQ	4.2%	4.2%	9.7%	9.7%
UK	FTSE 100	1.3%	0.6%	2.2%	2.9%
Japan	Topix	1.2%	-0.8%	2.1%	2.7%
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	-0.6%	-1.6%	11.3%	6.4%
Bonds	Merrill Lynch Euro over 5	0.0%	0.0%	-1.6%	-1.6%

The **global index** finished the week up 0.1%, with Ireland performing strongly at 4.2%. **Gold** slipped by 3.7% as a more 'risk-on' sentiment prevailed in the market. **Oil** was down also, as confidence in OPEC production cut plan continues to fade. **US ten year yields** moved to 2.35% from 2.28% a week ago.

The Week Ahead

Thursday 11 May	Friday 12 May	Friday 12 May
The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee meets in London, where no change in policy is expected. Markets however will closely monitor any comments in relation to recent Sterling strength.	US inflation data is released where the April CPI figure is forecast to be 0.2% (month-on-month), from a previous reading of -0.3%.	German GDP for Q117 goes to print where a figure of 0.7% (quarter-on-quarter) and 1.7% (year-on-year) is forecast, up from 0.4% and 1.2% respectively from the last reading.

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.

Zurich Life Assurance plc
Zurich House, Frascati Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Telephone: 01 283 1301 Fax: 01 283 1578 Website: www.zurichlife.ie

ZURICH®