

Apple grabs the headlines, as earnings leads markets higher

Weekly Snapshot



World Equities



Sovereign Bonds

Gold

Oil

Copper

Corporate Bonds

Week in Review

- Equities moved higher last week, as earnings continued to be a positive influence on markets. **Apple** took most of the headlines as a positive earnings report pushed it to become the **first trillion dollar company in history**. From a wider perspective 4/5ths of the S&P has now reported with **over 80% beating earnings-per-share expectations**.
- The **monthly non-farm payrolls from the US disappointed slightly**, coming in at 157,000 versus a consensus expectation of 193,000. However, the blow was softened by upward revisions for the two previous months, combined with a tick down in the unemployment rate to 3.9%.
- The **Bank of England raised rates to 0.75%**, in a move that was well flagged to markets. The Bank of Japan and the US Federal Reserve both kept their rates steady in meetings last week. The **market expects two further rate rises from the US this year**, with the next one forecast for the September meeting.

	1 Week Return 27.07.18 to 03.08.18		Year to Date Return 31.12.17 to 03.08.18	
	Local Currency %	Euro %	Local Currency %	Euro %
Global (euro)	0.5%	0.5%	6.9%	6.9%
US	0.8%	1.5%	6.2%	10.2%
Europe	-0.7%	-0.7%	-0.3%	-0.3%
Ireland	-1.6%	-1.6%	-3.5%	-3.5%
UK	-0.6%	-0.6%	-0.4%	-0.6%
Japan	-1.9%	-1.3%	-4.1%	0.6%
Hong Kong	-3.9%	-3.2%	-7.5%	-4.5%
Bonds	-0.5%	-0.5%	0.3%	0.3%

The **global index** moved higher last week, finishing up 0.5%, with a positive move from the US offsetting weaker performances elsewhere.

Oil was lower and closed at \$68.50/barrel, whilst **gold** continued its recent weakness to close at \$1,213 per troy ounce.

The **ten year US bond yield** finished at 2.95%, after briefly hitting above 3% during the week. The **German equivalent** closed at 0.41%.

The Week Ahead

Tuesday 7 August – Wednesday 8 August	Friday 10 August
Earnings season continues, with the focus this week on companies such as Walt Disney and Glencore.	The consensus expects US core CPI to come in at 0.2% (month-on-month) and 2.3% (year-on-year).

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("BofAML"), used with permission. BofAML PERMITS USE OF THE BofAML INDICES AND RELATED DATA ON AN "AS IS" BASIS, MAKES NO WARRANTIES REGARDING SAME, DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE SUITABILITY, QUALITY, ACCURACY, TIMELINESS, AND/OR COMPLETENESS OF THE BofAML INDICES OR ANY DATA INCLUDED IN, RELATED TO, OR DERIVED THEREFROM, ASSUMES NO LIABILITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE OF THE FOREGOING, AND DOES NOT SPONSOR, ENDORSE, OR RECOMMEND ZURICH LIFE ASSURANCE PLC, OR ANY OF ITS PRODUCTS OR SERVICES.

**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.**