

Equities retreat slightly, as Jackson Hole Symposium closes

Weekly Snapshot



Gold
Oil
Copper



World Equities
Sovereign Bonds
Corporate Bonds

Week in Review

- **Equities were relatively stable** in local terms during the week, with the stronger Euro reducing returns for Irish investors. **US Economic data was mixed**, with solid retail sales and labour data somewhat offset by weaker home sales figures.
- The **Jackson Hole Economic Symposium** saw keynote speeches from a number of prominent central bankers, with Fed Chair Powell commenting that the **US economy has 'strengthened substantially'** and that further interest rate increases would remain appropriate.
- The announcement of a wave of new **US tariffs on Chinese imports** failed to upset markets, as press reports of a breakthrough in **NAFTA negotiations** between Mexico and the US also hit news bulletins.

	1 Week Return 17.07.18 to 24.08.18		Year to Date Return 31.12.17 to 24.08.18	
	Local Currency %	Euro %	Local Currency %	Euro %
Global (euro)	-0.7%	-0.7%	6.8%	6.8%
US	0.9%	-0.7%	7.5%	11.2%
Europe	1.2%	1.2%	-1.4%	-1.4%
Ireland	1.4%	1.4%	-3.5%	-3.5%
UK	0.3%	-0.6%	-1.4%	-3.1%
Japan	0.7%	-1.6%	-6.0%	-1.5%
Hong Kong	1.7%	0.1%	-7.5%	-4.8%
Bonds	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%

The **global index** was down slightly last week, in euro terms, as a weaker US dollar affected returns. Europe and Ireland both saw strong positive moves.

Oil reversed its recent weak run, and closed at just short of \$69/barrel as

Iran sanctions started to impact global supply. **Gold** also moved higher and closed at \$1,205 per troy ounce. **Copper** was up nearly 3% over the course of the week, helped by the weaker US dollar.

The **ten year US bond yield** finished at 2.81%, amid some market uncertainty. The **German equivalent** closed at 0.34%, having started the week at 0.30%.

The **EUR/USD** rate finished the week at 1.16.

The Week Ahead

Wednesday 29 August	Friday 31 August	Friday 31 August
The second estimate of Q2 GDP growth in the US is released, and looks set to be confirmed at 4.1% (QoQ).	Eurozone inflation goes to print, where the consensus forecast the core figure to remain unchanged at 1.1% (YoY).	The latest Chinese manufacturing PMI is expected to come in at 51.0 from a previous figure of 51.2.

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