

Domestic Irish News

Irish unemployment rate declines

The Irish central statistics office reported a 0.1% fall in unemployment during September. The jobless rate now stands at 6.4%, its lowest level since December 2020. The Covid-19-adjusted Irish unemployment rate, which includes claimants of Ireland's Pandemic Unemployment Payment, also fell and was reported at 10% during the month.

Global Share Markets

Global stocks made slight gains

According to the MSCI AC World Index, global equities gained 0.71% over the past week. Inflation, labour shortages, central bank policy and signs of slowing global economic growth continue to hinder equity performance. But investor sentiment was supported by the US Senate's vote to extend the country's debt limit until December. Global equities are now up 11.02% over the year to date.

US Economy

US nonfarm payrolls miss expectations

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the US added 194,000 jobs during September, significantly missing investor expectations of 500,000. This is the measure's lowest level so far this year. Leisure and hospitality jobs were the biggest contributors, while a sharp decline in public education jobs was the biggest detractor.

European Central Bank (ECB)

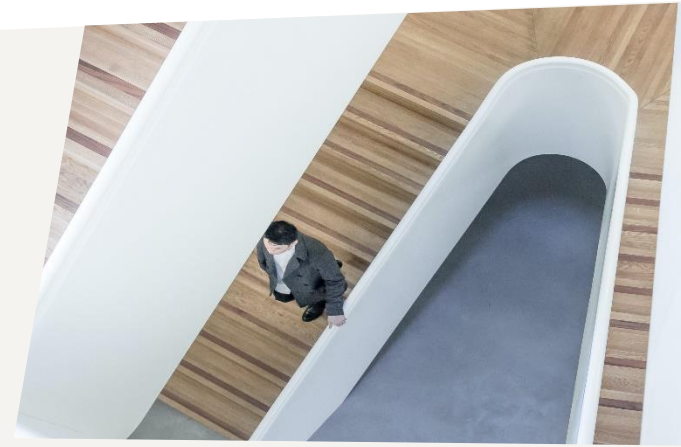
Policymakers discussed a larger reduction in asset purchases

According to minutes from the ECB's September monetary policy meeting, policymakers discussed a larger cut in asset purchases. A moderate reduction was decided, but some of the ECB's governing council members argued that the central bank is underestimating inflation forecasts and pushed for a bigger cut.

Energy Prices

Gas prices surge

Driven by supply and demand imbalance, natural gas prices are surging, hitting consumers in Europe, the UK and Asia especially hard. The European gas price surged to a record high. In the middle of the week, Russian president Vladimir Putin announced that his country was willing to stabilise surging global energy prices to prevent a sharp increase in inflation and a reduction in factory activity. On the news, UK gas contracts fell.



“Predicting rain doesn’t count. Building arks does.”

WARREN BUFFETT

The Story of the Week

Train travelling dog reunited with her owners

A little black and white dog, which got on a train by itself and travelled from Newbridge to County Dublin, has been reunited with her owners. The dog, according to her owner, is known for “scaling walls and opening doors” and was reunited with her family after Irish Rail posted a picture of her on their Twitter account.

Index performances and market data

Equity & Bond Markets (%) in Local Currency	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 YTD (08/10)
MSCI AC World (Gross TR)	9.3	11.7	9.5	-4.3	29.6	7.2	14.6
ISEQ Overall Return	33.6	-2.7	9.5	-20.8	33.6	4.2	15.3
FTSE 100 TR	4.6	2.0	8.2	-9.6	23.5	-16.2	13.2
Euro Stoxx 50 TR	7.3	4.7	10.0	-11.2	29.3	-2.6	17.3
S&P 500 TR	12.9	15.3	7.0	0.4	33.9	8.6	18.2
Nasdaq Composite	19.1	12.1	13.9	2.1	39.2	32.9	13.7
Nikkei 225	23.2	8.8	10.3	-3.2	24.1	14.2	3.7
MSCI Emerging Markets	-4.9	14.9	21.0	-9.9	21.1	8.9	1.6
Eurozone Government Bonds 1–5 yr	1.0	0.9	-0.2	0.0	1.1	0.6	-0.5

Central Bank Rates (%)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (08/10)
ECB	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank of England	0.50	0.25	0.25	0.75	0.75	0.10	0.10
U.S. Federal Reserve	0.50	0.75	1.50	2.50	1.75	1.75	0.25

Sovereign 10yr Bond Yields (%)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 YTD (08/10)
U.S.	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.7	1.9	0.9	1.6
German	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.2	-0.2	-0.6	-0.2
UK	2.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.8	0.2	1.1
Japan	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Ireland	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.1	-0.3	0.2
Italy	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.7	1.4	0.5	0.9
Greece	8.2	7.2	4.1	4.4	1.5	0.6	0.9
Portugal	2.5	3.8	1.9	1.7	0.4	0.0	0.4
Spain	1.8	1.3	1.5	1.4	0.5	0.0	0.5

Foreign Exchange Rates	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (08/10)
Euro/Dollar (€/\$)	1.09	1.05	1.20	1.14	1.12	1.22	1.16
Euro/Sterling (€/£)	0.74	0.85	0.89	0.90	0.85	0.90	0.85
Sterling/Dollar (£/\$)	1.47	1.24	1.35	1.27	1.32	1.37	1.36

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Sources: Factset / Bloomberg / Moneymate / MSCI

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