

## Domestic Irish News

### Irish retail sales fall

Irish retail sales fell by 3.2% over December. Bar sales, which dropped by 34.7%, and electrical goods sales, which were reported to have declined by 22.5%, were major contributors to this. According to the Irish Central Statistics Office, retail sales were 2.2% lower than they were during December of 2020, despite relatively relaxed virus-related restrictions.

## Global Share Markets

### Global equities continue to fall

Global stock markets fell by 1.08% over the past week. Investor optimism was hindered by the Fed's signal that it would raise interest rates during March. At the same time, growing tension between Russia and Ukraine brought additional uncertainty to share markets. Toward the end of the week, Apple reported strong earnings results; this lent some support to technology stocks and contributed to a rebound in some US indices.

## UK National Insurance

### UK National Insurance hike to go ahead

The British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, and chancellor of the exchequer, Rishi Sunak, have said that a planned £12 billion rise in National Insurance must go ahead. The tax rise, which is due in April, will see all employees, employers and the self employed pay 1.25p more in the pound for National Insurance. Critics have said that the tax hike will have a more significant impact on people who are lower paid.

## Individual Stocks

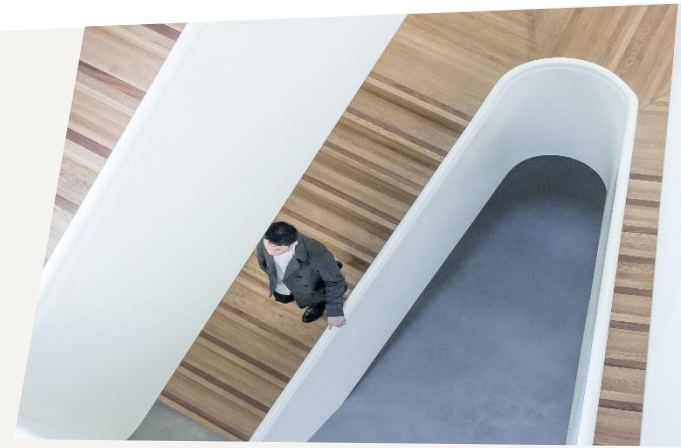
### Apple reports strong earnings

Following the announcement of better-than-expected results, US tech giant Apple's share price climbed sharply on Friday. Despite persistent global supply chain problems and Covid-19-related issues, Apple reported a revenue of \$123.9 billion and a profit of \$34.6 billion for the quarter ended 25 December 2021. Despite this, Apple is still down 4% over 2022 so far.

## US Federal Reserve

### US leaves interest rates unchanged

Following its January meeting, the US Central Bank, the Federal Reserve (Fed), announced that it would leave interest rates at 0.25%. But the Fed signalled that it would raise interest rates in March. Fed chair Jerome Powell also announced that, due to a strong economy and labour market, there is no need to postpone interest rate hikes. Powell also announced his concerns around persistently high inflation.



“One must work and dare if one really wants to live.”

VINCENT VAN GOGH

## The Story of the Week

### South Australia breaks renewable energy record

Over the week to 29 December 2021, South Australia supplied 100% of its electricity demand from renewable sources. Over the 156-hour period, wind turbines provided most of the power (estimated at an average of 64.4%), while solar panels generated the rest (35.6%). The area is populated by around 1.7 million people and includes the city of Adelaide.

# Index performances and market data

Equity & Bond Markets (%) in Local Currency	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 YTD (28/01)
MSCI AC World (Gross TR)	11.7	9.5	-4.3	29.6	7.2	21.4	-6.1
ISEQ Overall Return	-2.7	9.5	-20.8	33.6	4.2	15.7	-3.3
Euro Stoxx 50 TR	4.7	10.0	-11.2	29.3	-2.6	24.1	-3.6
S&P 500 TR	15.3	7.0	0.4	33.9	8.6	28.7	-6.9
Nasdaq Composite	12.1	13.9	2.1	39.2	32.9	22.2	-12.0
Nikkei 225	8.8	10.3	-3.2	24.1	14.2	6.7	-7.2
MSCI Emerging Markets	14.9	21.0	-9.9	21.1	8.9	0.1	-2.9
Eurozone Government Bonds 1–5 yr	0.9	-0.2	0.0	1.1	0.6	-0.9	-0.3

Central Bank Rates (%)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (28/01)
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	0.25
U.S. Federal Reserve	0.50	0.75	1.50	2.50	1.75	1.75	0.25

Sovereign 10yr Bond Yields (%)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 YTD (28/01)
U.S.	2.5	2.4	2.7	1.9	0.9	1.5	1.8
German	0.2	0.5	0.2	-0.2	-0.6	-0.2	0.0
UK	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.8	0.2	1.0	1.3
Japan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Ireland	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.1	-0.3	-0.3	0.5
Italy	1.8	2.0	2.7	1.4	0.5	1.2	1.3
Greece	7.2	4.1	4.4	1.5	0.6	1.3	1.9
Portugal	3.8	1.9	1.7	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.6
Spain	1.3	1.5	1.4	0.5	0.0	0.6	0.7

Foreign Exchange Rates	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (28/01)
Euro/Dollar (€/\$)	1.09	1.05	1.20	1.14	1.12	1.22	1.14
Euro/Sterling (€/£)	0.74	0.85	0.89	0.90	0.85	0.90	0.84
Sterling/Dollar (£/\$)	1.47	1.24	1.35	1.27	1.32	1.37	1.35

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Sources: Factset / Bloomberg / Moneymate / MSCI

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