

## Domestic Irish News

### Consumer spending increases

During August, Irish consumer spending rose by 0.8%, though actual transactions were lower, reflecting skyrocketing prices. Amid the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, the government has announced that stimulus measures will be put in place to help households and the worst-affected sectors with increasing energy prices.

## Global Share Markets

### Global share markets trade lower

Higher-than-expected consumer price inflation weighed on investor sentiment, as the S&P 500 saw its worst weekly performance since June, after a gain last week. Investors await the US Federal Reserve's (Fed's) 21 September meeting, where it is highly expected that the central bank will raise rates.

## Microsoft's Activision purchase sparks investigation

### The recent purchase of video game producer Activision Blizzard by Microsoft may hurt competition

An investigation into Microsoft will be launched following its \$69 billion acquisition of Activision, which makes games such as Call of Duty. The Competition and Markets Authority believes this may hurt competition within the broader gaming industry should Microsoft refuse competitors access to games made by Activision.

## US Federal Reserve (Fed)

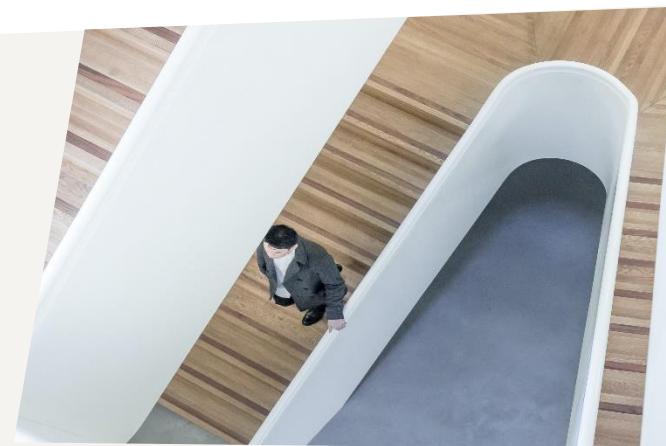
### Annual inflation rate eases

The annual inflation rate in the US fell for a second month, from 8.5% in July to 8.3% in August. Despite being the lowest reading in four months, this was still above forecasts of 8.1%. Energy costs remain a major contributor to US inflation.

## Bank of England (BoE)

### Annual inflation decreases

The UK's annual inflation rate has decreased for the first time in 11 months, from 10.1% in July to 9.9% in August. The largest contributor to this was a drop in motor fuel prices, but food prices remain high. The BoE still expects to raise interest rates by 0.5% at its meeting next week.



“Much wisdom often goes with fewest words.”

SOPHOCLES

## The Story of the Week

### Highly detailed Lobster Nebula image captured

On 12 September, an image of the Lobster Nebula was captured by the Dark Energy Camera located in Chile at the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory. The camera was in search of dark energy, as part of the Dark Energy Survey, an international project. It managed to capture the Lobster Nebula, which is part of the Scorpius constellation – the nebula is 8,000 light years away, and the image is thought to be the most detailed picture of the nebula ever taken.

# Index performances and market data

| Equity & Bond Markets (%)<br>in Local Currency | 2016 | 2017 | 2018  | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022<br>YTD<br>(16/09) |
|--|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------------------------|
| MSCI AC World (Gross TR)                       | 11.7 | 9.5  | -4.3  | 29.6 | 7.2  | 21.4 | -15.9                  |
| ISEQ Overall Return                            | -2.7 | 9.5  | -20.8 | 33.6 | 4.2  | 15.7 | -18.5                  |
| Euro Stoxx 50 TR                               | 4.7  | 10.0 | -11.2 | 29.3 | -2.6 | 24.1 | -16.2                  |
| S&P 500 TR                                     | 15.3 | 7.0  | 0.4   | 33.9 | 8.6  | 28.7 | -17.8                  |
| Nasdaq Composite                               | 12.1 | 13.9 | 2.1   | 39.2 | 32.9 | 22.2 | -26.4                  |
| Nikkei 225                                     | 8.8  | 10.3 | -3.2  | 24.1 | 14.2 | 6.7  | -3.1                   |
| MSCI Emerging Markets                          | 14.9 | 21.0 | -9.9  | 21.1 | 8.9  | 0.1  | -15.5                  |
| Eurozone Government Bonds 1–5 yr               | 0.9  | -0.2 | 0.0   | 1.1  | 0.6  | -0.9 | -5.6                   |

| Central Bank Rates (%) | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022<br>(16/09) |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------------|
| ECB                    | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.25            |
| Bank of England        | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.10 | 0.25 | 1.75            |
| U.S. Federal Reserve   | 0.75 | 1.50 | 2.50 | 1.75 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 2.50            |

| Sovereign 10yr Bond<br>Yields (%) | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022<br>YTD<br>(16/09) |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------------------------|
| U.S.                              | 2.5  | 2.4  | 2.7  | 1.9  | 0.9  | 1.5  | 3.4                    |
| German                            | 0.2  | 0.5  | 0.2  | -0.2 | -0.6 | -0.2 | 1.7                    |
| UK                                | 1.3  | 1.3  | 1.3  | 0.8  | 0.2  | 1.0  | 3.1                    |
| 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 | 2.3                    |
| Italy                             | 1.8  | 2.0  | 2.7  | 1.4  | 0.5  | 1.2  | 4.0                    |
| Greece                            | 7.2  | 4.1  | 4.4  | 1.5  | 0.6  | 1.3  | 4.3                    |
| Portugal                          | 3.8  | 1.9  | 1.7  | 0.4  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 2.8                    |
| Spain                             | 1.3  | 1.5  | 1.4  | 0.5  | 0.0  | 0.6  | 2.9                    |

| Foreign Exchange Rates | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022<br>(16/09) |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------------|
| Euro/Dollar (€/\$)     | 1.05 | 1.20 | 1.14 | 1.12 | 1.22 | 1.14 | 1.00            |
| Euro/Sterling (€/£)    | 0.85 | 0.89 | 0.90 | 0.85 | 0.90 | 0.84 | 0.88            |
| Sterling/Dollar (£/\$) | 1.24 | 1.35 | 1.27 | 1.32 | 1.37 | 1.35 | 1.14            |

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Sources: Factset / Bloomberg / Moneymate / MSCI

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