

Domestic Irish News

Consumer confidence declines in November

Ireland's measure of consumer confidence fell slightly this month, from 46.1 in October to 45.3 in November. Job losses in the Technology sector are expected to impact the Irish workforce, which includes 275,000 foreign-owned Technology sector employees. This follows September's 41-year low consumer confidence reading of 42.1.

Global Share Markets

MSCI AC World Index ends the week higher

Global share markets ended the week higher, according to the MSCI AC World Index. This came alongside the US Federal Reserve's meeting minutes, which showed that the central bank may begin to moderate its battle against inflation with smaller interest rate increases. Other central banks are also expected to respond to slowing global growth.

China zero-Covid lockdowns prompt protests

Mass dissent in Shanghai as China continues to impose Covid-19 lockdowns

The Chinese government's ongoing zero-Covid policies have pushed people to protest, calling for President Xi Jinping to resign and for the Communist Party to be shut down, amid lockdown policies and isolation rules as Covid-19 cases continue to rise. These protests are being further fuelled by a recent fire in the city of Xinjiang, causing the deaths of 10 people; the failed rescue efforts are being blamed by many on Covid-19 restrictions.

US Federal Reserve (Fed)

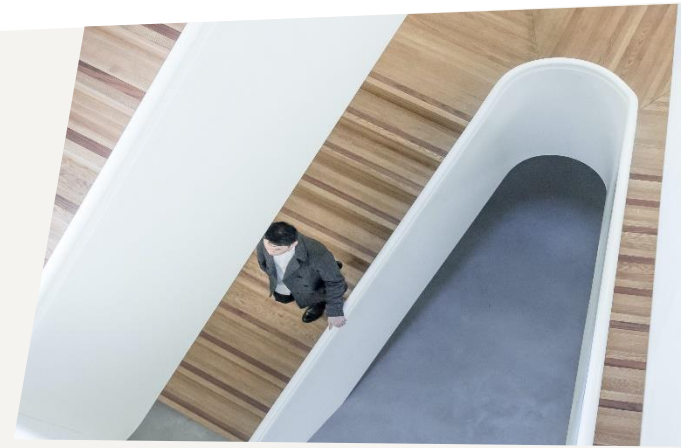
Fed officials talk of slowing interest rate rises

Several Fed officials have stated their support of slowing the pace of interest rate increases in the coming months, after months of the central bank raising rates to combat growing inflation. At its November meeting, the Fed raised interest rates by 0.75%, but minutes show that many officials are backing rises of smaller increments following months of large rate rises. The federal funds rate currently sits at 3.75-4%.

UK economy

UK economy projected worst performer in G20

The OECD has said that the UK economy is on track to be the worst performer in the G20 (except Russia) over the next two years. It expects GDP to fall 0.4% next year and rise by only 0.2% in 2025. It notes that, while the UK subsidising energy bills will bring down headline inflation in the short term, it will add to demand in the economy, increasing inflationary pressures in the medium term.



“The wisest men follow their own direction.”

EURIPIDES

The Story of the Week

NASA Artemis rocket reaches moon orbit

Last Wednesday, NASA launched the Artemis rocket to the moon, carrying the Orion capsule. The mission saw the capsule pass the moon on Monday, and it is set to travel a further 40,000 miles. The mission is the first of its kind for 50 years. It will soon be the furthest away from Earth that a mission capable of carrying humans has ever been. Flight director, Zeb Scoville, said “This is one of those days that you've been thinking about and talking about for a long, long time.” The Orion capsule will remain in space in lunar orbit before a planned touchdown on Earth on 11 December. Missions carrying humans are expected in 2024 and 2025.

Index performances and market data

Equity & Bond Markets (%) in Local Currency	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 YTD (25/11)
MSCI AC World (Gross TR)	11.7	9.5	-4.3	29.6	7.2	21.4	-12.4
ISEQ Overall Return	-2.7	9.5	-20.8	33.6	4.2	15.7	-12.0
Euro Stoxx 50 TR	4.7	10.0	-11.2	29.3	-2.6	24.1	-4.8
S&P 500 TR	15.3	7.0	0.4	33.9	8.6	28.7	-14.3
Nasdaq Composite	12.1	13.9	2.1	39.2	32.9	22.2	-27.7
Nikkei 225	8.8	10.3	-3.2	24.1	14.2	6.7	0.3
MSCI Emerging Markets	14.9	21.0	-9.9	21.1	8.9	0.1	-16.0
Eurozone Government Bonds 1–5 yr	0.9	-0.2	0.0	1.1	0.6	-0.9	-6.1

Central Bank Rates (%)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (25/11)
ECB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
Bank of England	0.25	0.25	0.75	0.75	0.10	0.25	3.00
U.S. Federal Reserve	0.75	1.50	2.50	1.75	0.25	0.25	4.00

Sovereign 10yr Bond Yields (%)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 YTD (25/11)
U.S.	2.5	2.4	2.7	1.9	0.9	1.5	3.7
German	0.2	0.5	0.2	-0.2	-0.6	-0.2	2.0
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	0.3
Ireland	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.1	-0.3	-0.3	2.4
Italy	1.8	2.0	2.7	1.4	0.5	1.2	3.9
Greece	7.2	4.1	4.4	1.5	0.6	1.3	4.2
Portugal	3.8	1.9	1.7	0.4	0.0	0.0	2.9
Spain	1.3	1.5	1.4	0.5	0.0	0.6	3.0

Foreign Exchange Rates	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (25/11)
Euro/Dollar (€/\$)	1.05	1.20	1.14	1.12	1.22	1.14	1.04
Euro/Sterling (€/£)	0.85	0.89	0.90	0.85	0.90	0.84	0.86
Sterling/Dollar (£/\$)	1.24	1.35	1.27	1.32	1.37	1.35	1.21

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Sources: Factset / Bloomberg / Moneymate / MSCI

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