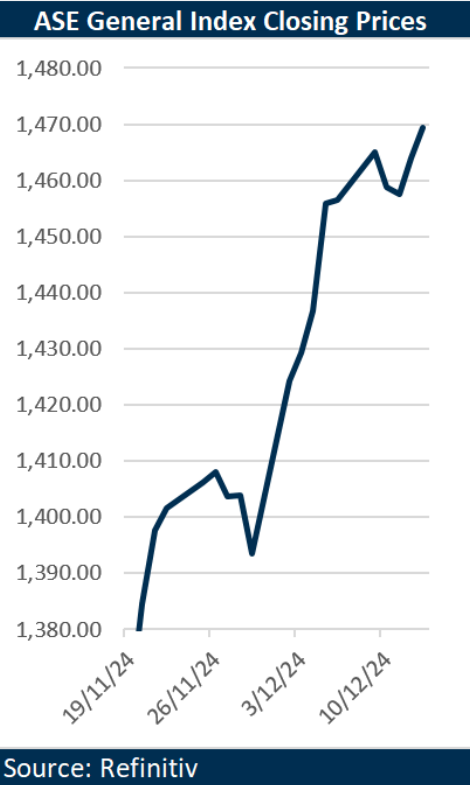




GREECE

| Greece's market and economy show resilience with steady growth, debt reduction, and strategic investments driving optimism for future stability and development.

MARKET COMMENT & DRIVING EVENTS

The Greek market closed positively this week, continuing its upward trajectory. The **General Index (GI)** rose by **0.88%**, reaching **1,469.32 points**, while the **FTSE 25** advanced by **0.92%** to **3,584.43 points**. The banking sector outperformed the broader market, gaining **1.37%** to close at **1,298.37 points**.

In a significant development, **Alexis Patelis**, head of the Prime Minister's Economic Office, announced his resignation. Mr. Patelis played a pivotal role in Greece's economic reforms, including achieving the country's return to **investment-grade credit status** and enhancing financial stability. His successor will reportedly be **Michalis Argyrou**.

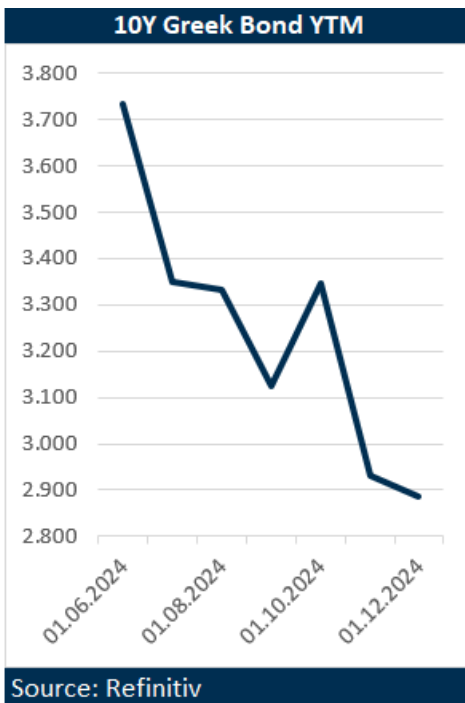
Greece's economy demonstrated resilience, with **GDP** growing by **2.4% year-on-year** in the third quarter, slightly surpassing the **2.3% growth** recorded during the same period last year. On a quarterly basis, the economy expanded by **0.3% in Q3**, down from the **revised 1.2% growth in Q2**. For the first nine months of 2024, overall growth stands at **2.3%**, signaling steady progress despite slower quarterly performance.

The Greek government continued its efforts to reduce debt, announcing the early repayment of **€8 billion** in loans. According to **Yannis Stournaras**, governor of the Bank of Greece, this move aligns with Greece's long-term goal of reaching the Stability Pact's **60% debt-to-GDP ratio** within 40 years. These repayments underscore the government's commitment to fiscal discipline and economic stability.

Athens Stock Exchange	
General Index Movers	Weekly Change
Top Gainers	
Interlife General Insurance Company	9.77%
Alumil	8.75%
Austriacard Holdings	7.41%
Petros Petropoulos SA	6.82%
Iktinos Hellas	6.05%
Top Losers	
Biokarpet Industrial and Commercial E	-1.83%
Hellenic Telecommunications	-1.46%
Alpha Bank	-1.40%
Titan Cement	-1.39%
Piraeus Port	-1.32%

In corporate news, **Helleniq Energy** finalized the acquisition of the remaining **50% stake in Elpedison** for a total price of up to **€195 million**, granting the company full ownership of **Elpedison B.V.** This strategic acquisition strengthens Helleniq Energy's position in the energy market. Meanwhile, the **Latsco Family Office**, led by **Marianna Latsi**, sold a **2.53% stake in GEK TERNA** to international investors and **Giorgos Peristeris** as part of its portfolio restructuring. The transaction involved six blocks sold at **€18 per share**, totaling **2.6 million shares** valued at **€47 million**. Pantelakis Securities resumed coverage of GEK TERNA with an **overweight recommendation** and a target price of **€27**, reflecting a **50% upside** potential.

On the international stage, **METLEN's** bauxite exploration and exploitation investment in Ghana received recognition as part of the **EU's Global Gateway flagship projects for 2025**. This highlights METLEN's strategic importance in promoting sustainable investments and securing critical raw materials for Europe. The company is also expanding into Germany, focusing on developing **renewable energy sources (RES)** and storage projects.

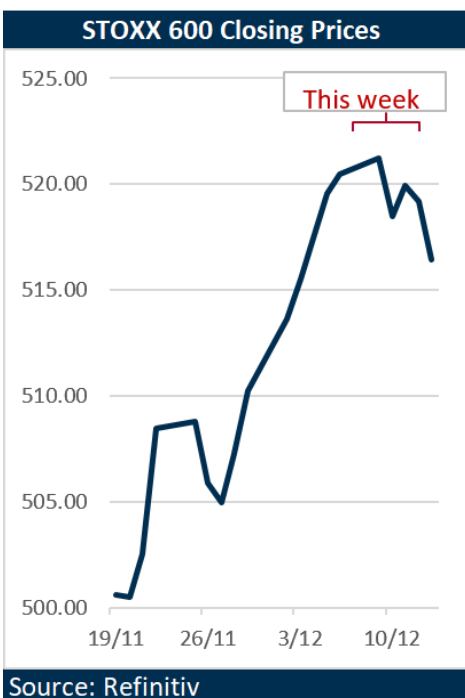


In the banking sector, systemic banks are set to incur a one-off cost of **€100 million** to support vulnerable borrowers' first residences. Additionally, the reduction of retail transaction fees is expected to cost the banking system approximately **€100 million**, or **€25-30 million per bank**, while the increase in property taxes on bank-owned properties could add an extra **€5-10 million**. **Attica Bank**, following its merger with Pancretia Bank, reported organic profitability for the first nine months of 2024, achieving recurring operating profits of **€27.3 million**. The bank aims to complete its full restructuring by 2024 and operational integration by 2025. **Alpha Bank** announced the election of **Mr. Dimitris Tsitsiragos** as Chairman of its Board of Directors. In summary, Greece's economic and market landscape continues to exhibit resilience and growth, bolstered by fiscal reforms, corporate advancements, and strategic investments. The ongoing debt reduction efforts and potential credit upgrades highlight the country's improving economic stability, while developments in the energy and banking sectors signal promising opportunities for future growth.

EUROPE | European markets faced mixed outcomes amid economic growth concerns, cautious ECB monetary policy, and geopolitical challenges impacting confidence and stability

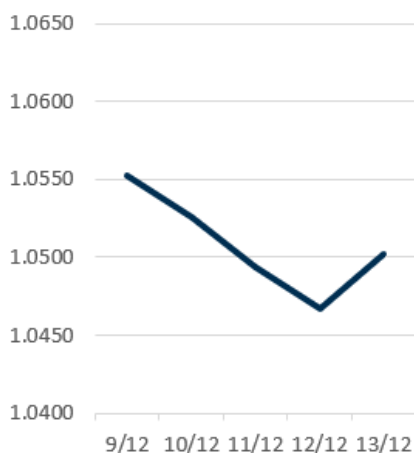
MARKETS&ECONOMY

The European markets experienced mixed outcomes this week, reflecting investor concerns about economic growth and monetary policy decisions. The pan-European **STOXX Europe 600 Index** fell by **0.77%**, influenced by uncertainty over the **European Central Bank's (ECB)** approach to easing monetary policy. Major European indices showed varied performances. **Germany's DAX** rose slightly by **0.10%**, and **Italy's FTSE MIB** gained **0.40%**. However, **France's CAC 40** dropped **0.23%**, and the **UK's FTSE 100** declined by **0.10%**, closing the week at **£8,300.33**.



The **ECB** announced a **0.25%** interest rate reduction, bringing the deposit rate to **3%**. While this move was expected, investors remain concerned about whether it is sufficient to address current economic challenges. The ECB revised its growth projections downward, forecasting **GDP growth of 0.7% in 2024** (from **0.8%**), **1.1% in 2025** (from **1.3%**), and **1.4% in 2026** (from **1.5%**). Inflation forecasts were also adjusted to **2.4% for 2024** (from **2.5%**) and **2.1% for 2025** (from **2.2%**). Futures markets predict the deposit rate will decrease to **1.75% by the end of 2025**. **ECB President Christine Lagarde** emphasized a data-dependent approach to future decisions, while the ECB committed to greater transparency by publishing monthly data on bonds maturing from its pandemic emergency purchase program starting **January 8**. Economic data across the Eurozone highlighted ongoing challenges. The **Sentix Investor Confidence Index** for December fell unexpectedly to **-17.5**, marking its lowest level since **November 2023**. **Germany's inflation** remained steady at **2.4%**.

EUR/USD



Source: Refinitiv

However, the country's trade surplus declined to **€13.4 billion in October** from **€16.9 billion in September** and **€18.9 billion in October 2023**. Exports to the **European Union** decreased by **0.7%** compared to September, while imports rose by **0.4%**. Non-EU exports fell by **5.3%**, with imports down **0.6%**. According to the **Ifo Institute**, Germany's economy could grow between **0.4% and 1.1% in 2025**, contingent on supportive economic policies.

France faced political and economic challenges, as **Moody's** downgraded the country's credit rating to **Aa3** with a stable outlook. This decision reflects concerns over "political fragmentation" following **President Emmanuel Macron's** appointment of **François Bayrou** as prime minister after a no-confidence vote ousted **Michel Barnier**. Additionally, wholesale prices in France fell by **0.6% in November**, signaling deflationary pressures in some sectors.

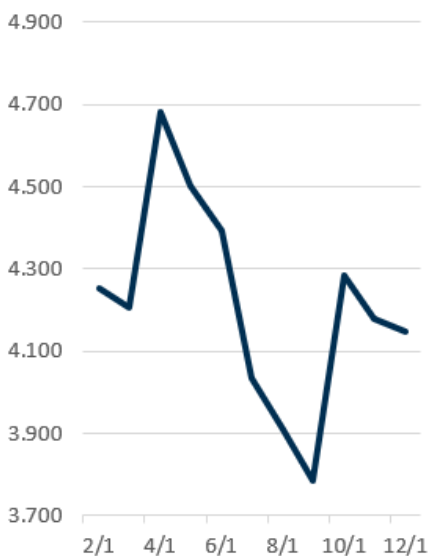
The **United Kingdom's** economy showed signs of weakness. Inflation rose again in November, while job vacancies fell at the fastest rate in Europe. **GDP** contracted by **0.1% in October** following a similar decline in September, marking the first back-to-back monthly contraction since the early days of the **COVID-19 pandemic**. Public sentiment about the economy worsened, contributing to a decline in the value of **Sterling** and investor caution.

On the corporate front, **Inditex**, the owner of **Zara**, saw its stock plummet by **10.07%**, despite reporting a **9%** increase in revenues for the period from **November 1 to December 9** compared to last year on a constant currency basis. **HSBC** announced a significant restructuring plan aimed at saving at least **\$3 billion**, or **10%** of its 2024 expense bill, by **June 2025**. The plan includes cutting senior management positions by **40%** and reorganizing the bank into four divisions, with a separation of its **Hong Kong** and **UK** operations.

Meanwhile, **European NATO members** are discussing increasing defense spending to **3% of GDP by 2030**, up from the current **2%**. This proposal aims to address underfunding amid the ongoing **Ukraine conflict** and **Russia's threat**. While **23 of NATO's 32 members** meet the existing **2% benchmark**, countries like **Italy** and **Spain** still fall short. **Germany**, which met the **2% target** for the first time this year, advocates for higher spending as a strong signal to the **U.S.** Leaders face the challenge of balancing fiscal pressures with security needs, and a decision is anticipated at the **2024 NATO summit**.

In conclusion, this week's developments highlighted the economic difficulties facing Europe, including subdued investor confidence, inflationary concerns, and political uncertainty. While some countries, such as **Germany**, are managing to stabilize inflation, broader growth challenges persist. The **ECB's** recent moves reflect a cautious approach to monetary policy, but the path forward remains uncertain, especially as nations grapple with fiscal constraints and geopolitical tensions.

US 10Y Bond YTM



Source: Refinitiv

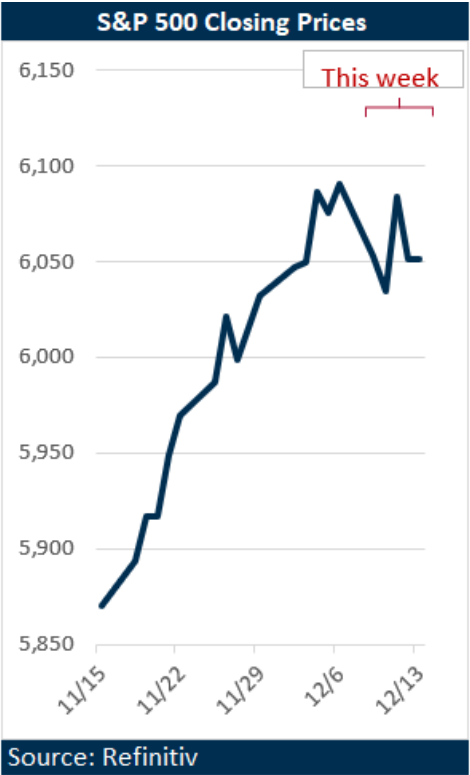
Nasdaq Movers	Weekly Change
Top Gainers	
Broadcom	25.22%
Warner Bros Discovery	13.23%
Tesla	12.08%
Alphabet A	8.65%
Alphabet C	8.44%
Top Losers	
MongoDB	-22.19%
Applovin	-19.19%
Super Micro Computer	-17.03%
Adobe	-15.78%
Datadog	-9.26%

US | **U.S. markets faced mixed performances with economic uncertainties, while the Nasdaq showed resilience, and potential USPS privatization raised concerns for e-commerce and logistics.**

MARKETS & ECONOMY

The **Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA)** extended its losing streak to **seven sessions**, its longest since **2020**. For the week, the Dow dropped **1.8%**, closing at **43,828.06**. This marked its second consecutive week of decline, reflecting investor caution. The **S&P 500**, which had been on a three-week winning streak, fell **0.6%**, ending the week at **6,051.09**. Conversely, the **Nasdaq** displayed resilience, gaining **0.3%** to close at **19,926.72**, despite briefly surpassing the **20,000-point milestone midweek**. The Nasdaq’s performance signifies its fourth consecutive weekly gain.

Economic data released during the week painted a mixed picture of the U.S. economy. The **Producer Price Index (PPI)** rose by **3% year-over-year** in November, exceeding expectations and marking the highest annual increase since **February 2023**. **Core PPI**, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, climbed **3.4% year-over-year**. Consumer inflation in November aligned with forecasts. The overall **CPI** increased to **2.7%** from **2.6%** in October, while the **core CPI** remained steady at **3.3%**. However, real average hourly earnings grew at a slower pace, rising **1.3% year-over-year** compared to the previous rate of **1.4%**. Seasonally adjusted initial jobless claims rose by **17,000 to 242,000** for the week ending **December 7**, surpassing analyst predictions. This increase signals potential softening in the labor market. The yield on **10-year Treasury notes** rose from **4.32% to 4.40%**, reflecting shifting expectations regarding future interest rates.



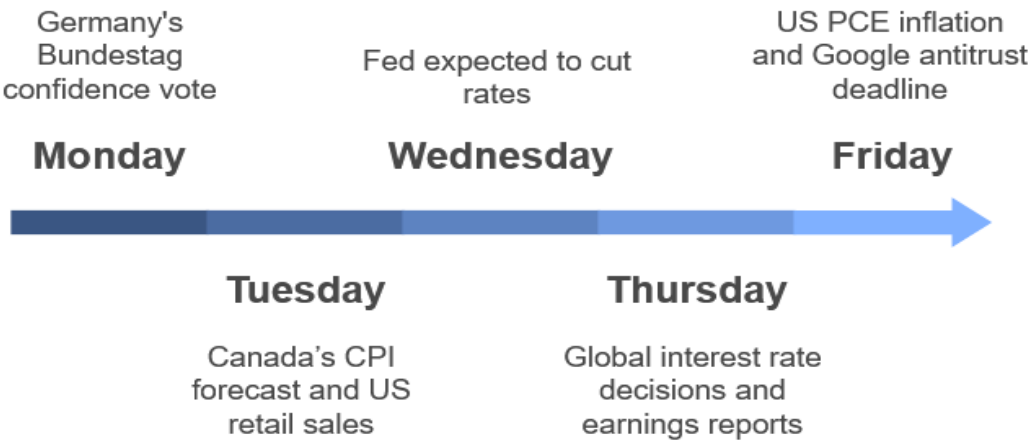
Broadcom's shares surged **24%** following a robust earnings report, which highlighted a **51% annual revenue increase to \$14.05 billion**. **AI-related revenue** grew by an astonishing **220%**, and CEO **Hock Tan** projected **\$60–90 billion** in AI chip revenue over the next three years. **Alphabet's** stock climbed **8.44%** due to advancements in quantum computing, cloud technology, and generative AI. The launch of **Gemini 2.0** and positive industry feedback boosted investor confidence. **Warner Bros. Discovery** saw its shares rise **13.23%** after announcing plans to split its operations into two units, one focusing on cable and linear TV and the other on streaming and studio production. Completion is expected by **mid-2025**. **Adobe** experienced a sharp decline, losing up to **14% in one day**. Despite beating **Q4 2024** estimates, concerns over AI monetization and a disappointing fiscal **2025** forecast weighed heavily on its performance. Additionally, **Palantir**, **MicroStrategy**, and **Axon Enterprise** will replace **Super Micro Computer**, **Moderna**, and **Illumina** in the **Nasdaq 100** on **December 23** as part of the index's reconstitution. A significant policy consideration emerged this week regarding the **U.S. Postal Service (USPS)**. **President-elect Donald Trump** is contemplating privatizing the **USPS**, which has accumulated over **\$100 billion** in losses since **2007** and reported a **\$9.5 billion net loss** in the last fiscal year.

S&P 500 Movers	Weekly Change
Top Gainers	
Broadcom	25.22%
Walgreens Boots	21.38%
Warner Bros Discovery	13.23%
Tesla	12.08%
Boeing	10.21%
Top Losers	
Super Micro Computer	-17.03%
Adobe	-15.78%
Omnicom	-12.67%
Nucor	-12.15%
Cigna	-11.31%

This move could significantly impact the e-commerce sector, particularly **Amazon and small businesses** that rely heavily on **USPS** for deliveries. While the agency has actively cut costs and modernized its operations, the administration is also reviewing contracts related to fleet electrification, which could be canceled. If implemented, privatization could lead to major changes in delivery pricing and accessibility, reshaping the logistics landscape in the U.S.

The **Federal Reserve’s** upcoming meeting is expected to deliver a **25-basis point rate cut**, marking its third consecutive reduction. While this move is already priced in, market focus will shift to guidance for **2025**. Recent remarks by **Fed Chair Jerome Powell** suggest a cautious approach, balancing inflation control with employment stability. Analysts at **Citi** note that the risks lean dovish, with Powell likely to emphasize flexibility depending on inflation and labor market trends. Additionally, global **PMI** data scheduled for release this week will offer fresh insights into economic activity. Last month’s data suggested a spillover of manufacturing sector sluggishness into services, raising concerns about global growth prospects.

Key Global Economic and Political Events This Week





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