EuroZone Market Monitor - 31 May 2024

Data sources: Bloomberg; Barclays; EuroStat; EIOPA; ONS; Milliman FRM



#### **Asset Price Monitor**

# **Local Equity Markets**

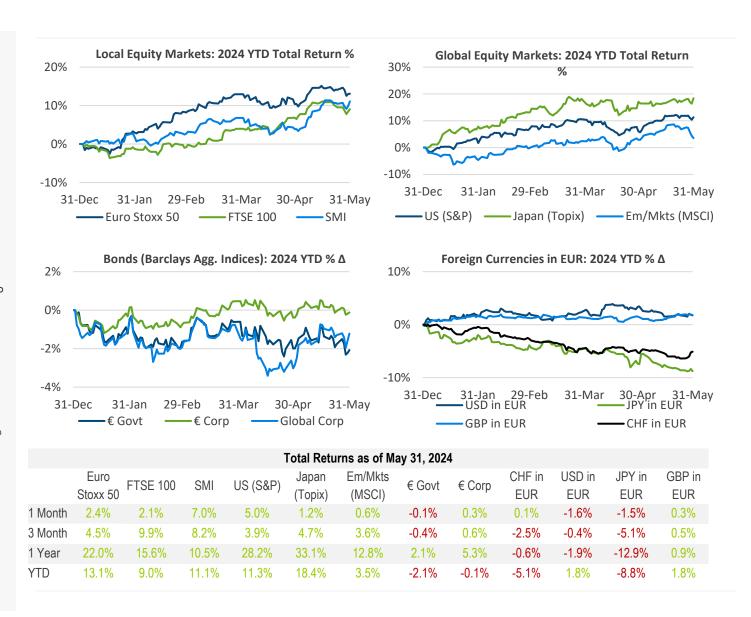
- Global equity markets had a positive performance in May, as continued optimism around global growth and expectations of interest rate cuts boosted investor risk appetite.
- Euro Stoxx 50 ended the month up 2.4%.
- The FTSE 100 gained 2.1%.

# **Global Equity Markets**

 Developed markets outperformed their emerging markets counterparts, with the S&P 500 up 5.0% and the Topix index returning 1.2%. The MSCI Emerging Markets index gained 0.6%.

#### **Bond/FX Markets**

- Both European government and corporate bond indices ended the month relatively flat.
- The Euro had a mixed performance, up 1.6% and 1.5% against the US Dollar and the Japanese Yen, respectively. Meanwhile the Euro was relatively flat against the British Pound.



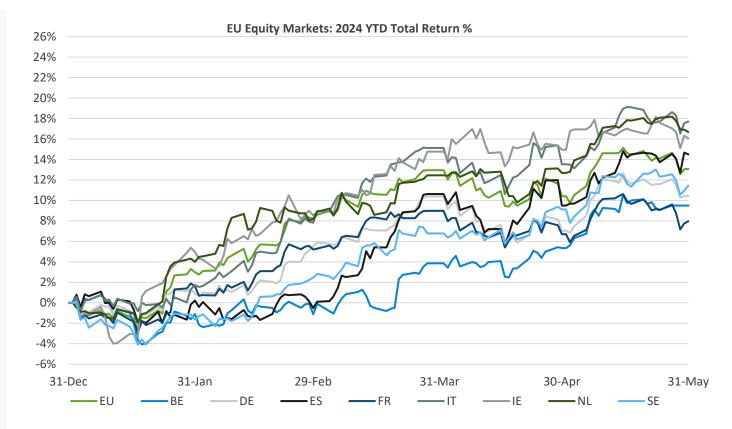


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# **Eurozone Equity**

- All major European equity markets made gains in May.
- The Spanish equity market outperformed and was up 4.6%.
- The Irish equity market was the laggard performer of the month, up 0.9%.
- The French equity index has returned 8.0% year-to-date, which is the smallest gain in the region over this period.
- The best performing equity market year-todate has been Italy, having gained 17.7% for the year so far.



Equity Returns as of May 31, 2024									
	EU	Belgium	Germany	Spain	France	Italy	Ireland	Netherlands	Sweden
1 Month	2.4%	3.9%	3.2%	4.6%	1.2%	3.7%	0.9%	3.6%	2.1%
3 Month	4.5%	10.7%	4.6%	15.1%	2.6%	9.2%	6.9%	7.9%	8.7%
QTD	0.1%	5.4%	0.0%	3.5%	-0.9%	2.2%	1.1%	3.8%	4.4%
YTD	13.1%	9.5%	10.4%	14.5%	8.0%	17.7%	16.0%	16.7%	11.4%

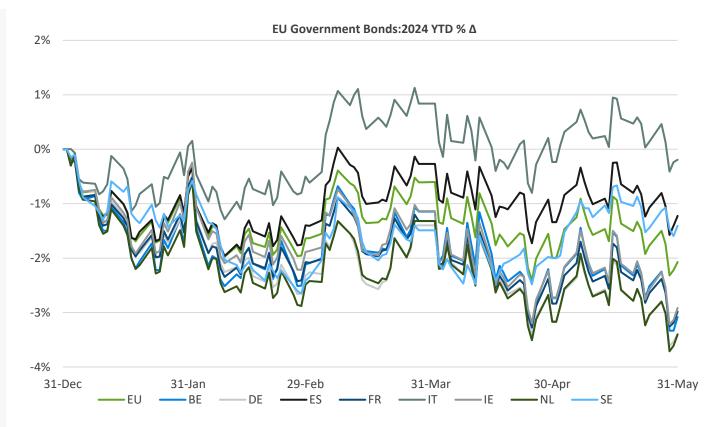


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#### **Eurozone Government Bonds**

- European government bond indices had a mixed performance in May, with most indices remaining relatively flat.
- The Swedish government bond index had the largest monthly gain, up 0.6%.
- The Belgian government bond index had the largest loss for the month, down 0.4%.
- The Dutch and German government bond indices have had the largest losses year-todate, both losing 3.4% during this period.
- The Italian government bond index remains the outperformer in the region for the year so far, having lost 0.2% year-to-date.



Bond Returns as of May 31, 2024									
	EU	Belgium	Germany	Spain	France	Italy	Ireland	Netherlands	Sweden
1 Month	-0.1%	-0.4%	-0.2%	0.1%	-0.2%	0.0%	-0.2%	-0.2%	0.6%
3 Month	-0.4%	-1.0%	-1.1%	0.2%	-0.9%	0.3%	-1.0%	-0.9%	1.0%
QTD	-1.5%	-2.0%	-2.0%	-1.0%	-1.7%	-1.0%	-1.8%	-2.1%	0.1%
YTD	-2.1%	-3.1%	-3.4%	-1.2%	-3.0%	-0.2%	-2.9%	-3.4%	-1.4%



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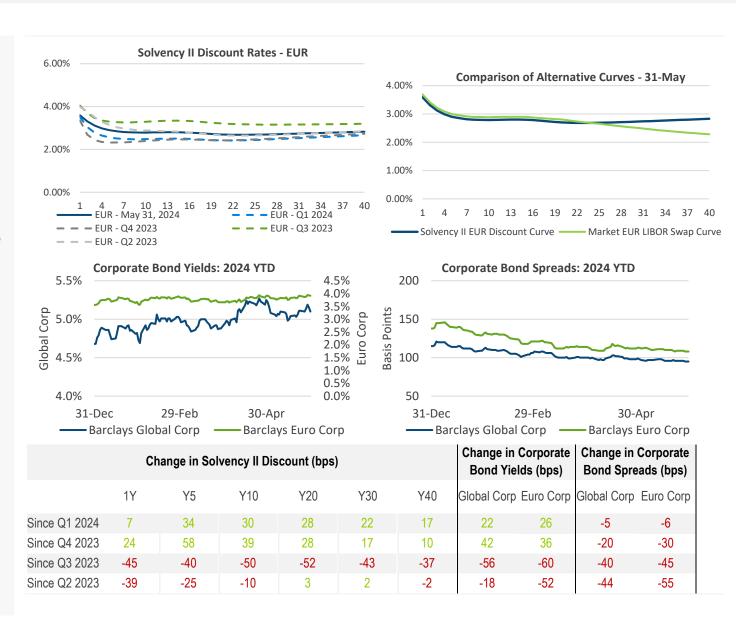
#### **Liability Valuation Monitor**

#### **Risk Free Rates**

- EUR risk-free rates saw a marginal increase in May, except for the 1-year rate which declined by 1 basis point.
- The 20-year EUR risk-free rate increased by 5 basis points, whilst the 5, 20 and 30-year rates all rose by 4 basis points.

# **Corporate Bonds**

- Global corporate bond yields fell by 15 basis points, whilst their European counterparts were unchanged in May.
- Global and European credit spreads tightened by 3 and 4 basis points, respectively.
- The marginal increase in risk-free rates, offset by the tightening in corporate bond spreads, resulted in a relatively flat performance for the European corporate bond index.





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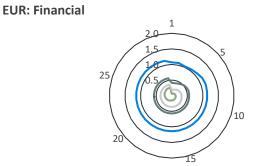
#### Solvency II Monitor - Spreads

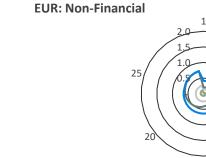
#### **Fundamental Spreads**

- The fundamental spread data shown is for the end of April.
- There were no material changes since the last report.

# Fundamental Spreads %

AAA





AAA

EUR Financial Fundamental Spread %								
	1Y	Y5	Y10	Y20	Y30			
AAA	0.06	0.10	0.13	0.19	0.27			
AA	0.19	0.26	0.33	0.36	0.36			
Α	0.41	0.51	0.56	0.57	0.57			
BBB	1.07	1.08	1.14	1.14	1.14			
EUR Financial 'Before Floor' %								
	1Y	Y5	Y10	Y20	Y30			
AAA	0.00	0.04	0.10	0.19	0.27			
AA	0.04	0.07	0.11	0.18	0.26			
Α	0.05	0.11	0.17	0.29	0.40			
BBB	0.11	0.20	0.29	0.43	0.53			

EUR Non-Financial Fundamental Spread %								
	1Y	Y5	Y10	Y20	Y30			
AAA	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.08	0.12			
AA	0.13	0.17	0.25	0.25	0.26			
Α	0.20	0.28	0.37	0.51	0.74			
BBB	0.41	0.52	0.63	0.64	0.74			
EUR Non-Financial 'Before Floor' %								
	1Y	Y5	Y10	Y20	Y30			
AAA	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.08	0.12			
AA	0.00	0.04	0.09	0.17	0.26			
Α	0.04	0.15	0.27	0.51	0.74			
BBB	0.10	0.21	0.33	0.55	0.74			

**BBB** 

The **Solvency II risk-free discount rates** are based on applying the Smith-Wilson Extrapolation to LIBOR swap rates sourced from Bloomberg (current curve is for 31/05/24) and applying the Credit Risk Adjustment as defined in the Technical Specs. For the official published curves please refer to the EIOPA website.

The **Credit Risk Adjustment** is a component of the risk-free discount curve defined by EIOPA. It is calculated from actual experience in the 'LIBOR-OIS' spread (3 months for EUR), and is bounded between 0.10 and 0.35. We show actual LIBOR-OIS spread levels and the defined CRA, for EUR.

**EIOPA fundamental spreads** show the credit spread corresponding to the risk of default or downgrading of an asset. This is shown here across financial and non-financial assets, credit quality steps 0-3 and durations of 1-30 years. The data is provided by EIOPA and as of 30/04/24. **Fundamental spread** = maximum (probability of default + cost of downgrade; 35% of long-term average spread). In the tables we show the 'before floor' measure = probability of default + cost of downgrade.



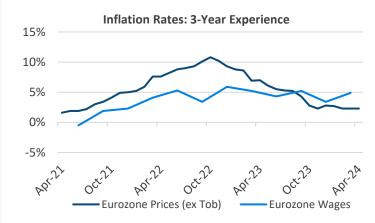
BBB

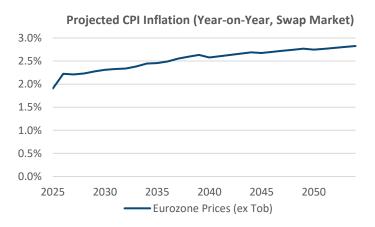
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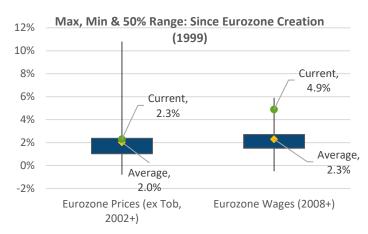
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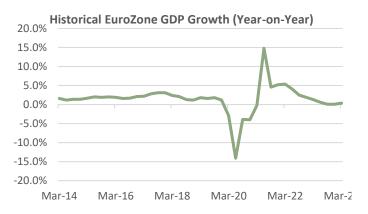
#### **Inflation Monitor**

- Eurozone price inflation remained unchanged in April at 2.3%.
- Eurozone Q1 2024 wage inflation increased by 150 basis points from the previous quarter to 4.9%.
- The Eurozone projected CPI curve was lower at the very short-end, whilst the rest of the curve was relatively unchanged in comparison to the previous month.









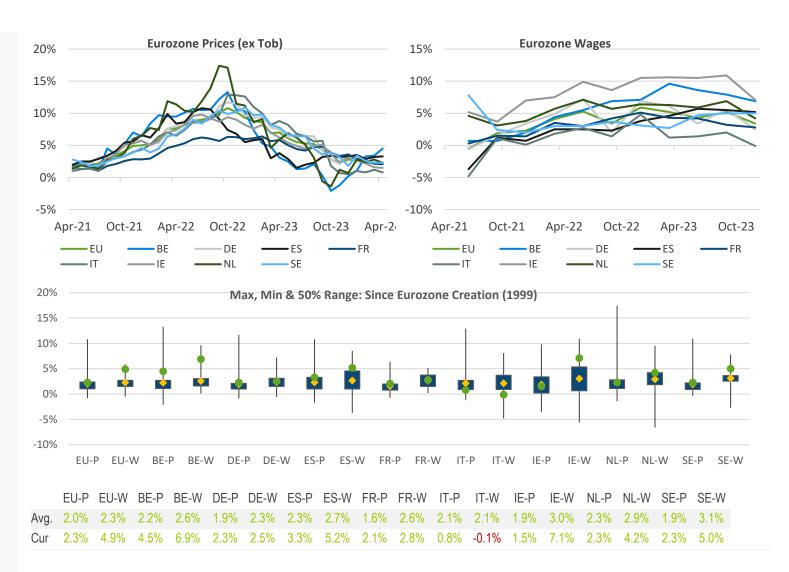


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#### **Inflation Monitor**

- Changes in price inflation were mixed for the major European economies in April.
- Belgium saw the largest increase in price inflation in April, rising by 110 basis points to 4.5%, which was also the highest reading in the region.
- The Netherlands had the largest decline in its price inflation, with the headline figure coming in at 2.3%, a decline of 50 basis points from the previous month.
- Italy had the lowest price inflation reading in the region at 0.8%.
- There were no updates to the wage inflation figures this month.





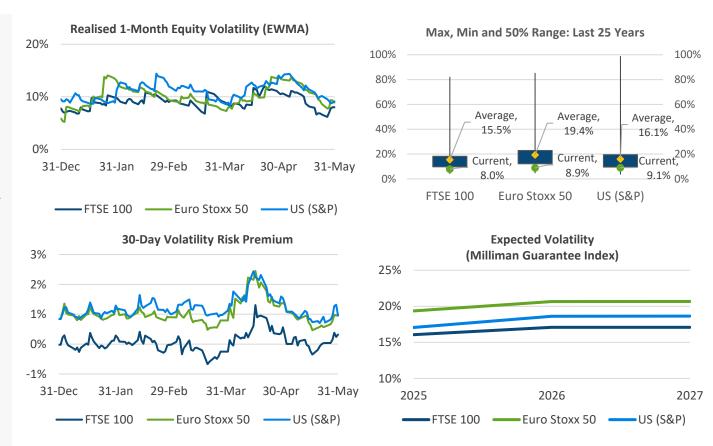
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# **Volatility and Hedging Cost Monitor**

- Realised volatilities on major equity indices declined in May.
- The FTSE 100 ended the month with a realised volatility of 8.0%. The same measure stood at 8.9% and 9.1% on the Euro Stoxx 50 and the S&P 500, respectively.
- Similarly, volatility risk premiums on major indices decreased in May. The FTSE 100 had a volatility risk premium of 0.3% at month-end. The volatility risk premium on both the Euro Stoxx 50 and the S&P 500 was 1.0%.

Please contact Milliman for more information on the basis and methodology used for these results.





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Data sources: Bloomberg; Barclays; EuroStat; EIOPA; ONS; Milliman FRM



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