# Leading Indicators



Key economic and financial metrics, updated weekly

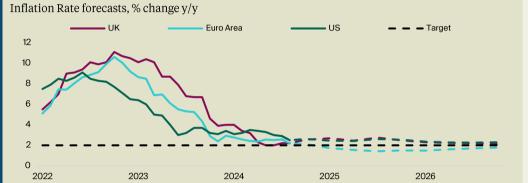
24th September 2024

## Inflation Stability, Office Revival, and the UK's Misery Index

## 2.2%

UK inflation held steady at 2.2% in August, below the BoE's forecast of 2.4% and in line with market expectations. Notably, services inflation rose from 5.2% to 5.6%. Eurozone inflation matched the UK at 2.2%, and US inflation slowed for the fifth consecutive month to 2.5%. Oxford Economics predicts that UK inflation will pick up to 2.5% by year-end, driven by the fading drag from energy price effects.

#### UK inflation remains unchanged at 2.2% in August



## 21.2%

The latest ONS BIC survey reveals that only 21.2% of businesses currently adopt or plan to implement remote working as a long-term strategy, a figure that has seen minimal change over the past 4 years. Despite the possibilities of remote work, we see a clear shift to office-centric workstyles – either hybrid or office-only approaches such as that announced by Amazon last week, which will see a five-day a week return to office from January 2025.

#### Are we seeing a shift in remote working?

Businesses using or intending to use increased homeworking permanently, September % 25% 21.3% 21.2% 18.9% 17.8% 20% 17.3% 15% 5% 0% 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

Source: Knight Frank Research, ONS BIC Survey

### 6.3

The Misery Index, a 1970s economic indicator combining unemployment and inflation, has reached its lowest level since early 2021, driven by easing inflation and a softening labour market. This decline, coupled with potential interest rate cuts, may set a favourable economic stage for the Labour government as they prepare to unveil their key fiscal strategies ahead of conference season.

#### **UK Economic Misery dips to its lowest level since early 2021**





## **Equities**

#### **Equity markets** Price return index, Jan 2020 = 100, US\$ — FTSE 250 — S&P 500 — STOXX 600 — Hang Seng 150 130 110 90 70 50 Jul Jan Jul Jul 2020 2021 2022

Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

2024

2023

Index	Last	Pe	rcentage	change s	since
Original value a	nd base	1 day	1 week	1 month	Jan '20
DAX 30	8,057	-0.9	1.1	2.1	21.7
FTSE 250	27,816	-0.9	1.3	0.6	-4.0
Hang Seng	2,441	4.2	9.2	7.9	-32.5
IBEX 35	13,129	0.1	2.6	5.9	22.5
MIB	37,480	-1.1	0.7	1.3	42.4
S&P 500	5,719	0.1	1.6	2.7	77.0
STOXX 600	575	-1.1	0.4	0.3	23.1
TOPIX	18	1.0	1.1	1.2	17.1

#### **Equity regional sectors** Price return index percentage change since Jan 2020 Europe **Emerging Markets** 125 100 75 50 25 0 -25 -50 -75 Tech Financials Industrials Real Estate

Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

	Percentage change since Jan 20				
	US	Europe	World		
Tech	136.0%	55.6%	64.9%		
Financials	44.8%	30.8%	1.3%		
Industrials	67.1%	46.6%	4.6%		
Real Estate	7.9%	-54.2%	-59.0%		

#### **REITs by region**

EPRA/NAREIT total return index, Jan 2020 = 100, US\$



Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

Index, total retur	n Last	Pe	ercentage	change s	since
Original value and I	base	1 day	1 week	1 month	Jan '20
US	3,045	0.8	0.1	5.9	27.4
Europe	2,408	0.0	-0.2	5.9	-15.5
World	3,656	0.3	0.1	6.1	13.8
Asia Pacific	3,406	-1.3	-0.2	6.4	-13.2

#### **UK REITs by sector**

UK EPRA gross total return index, Jan 2020 = 100, GBP£

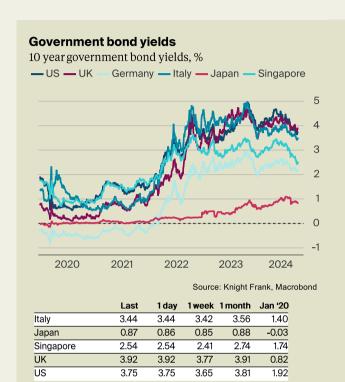


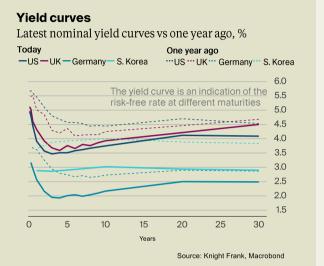
Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

			-		
Index, total retu	rn Last		Percenta	ge change	since
Original value and	base	1 day	1 week	1 month	Jan '20
All REITs	883	-0.7	<b>-</b> 1.7	3.2	-13.6
Office	1,843	-0.9	-1.5	4.1	-37.8
Industrial	1,412	-0.8	<del>-</del> 2.7	1.0	13.9
Retail	63	1.5	2.0	8.3	<del>-</del> 82.4
Healthcare	1,838	-0.9	-0.1	2.8	-18.9
Residential	1,236	-0.7	-1.6	1.0	-19.0
FTSE 250	18,421	-1.5	-0.2	-1.0	8.1



## **Bonds & Rates**





#### Interest rate swaps 5 year swap rates, % — US — UK — Eurozone — Japan 6 5 3 2 Jan Jul Jan Jul Jan Jul Jan Jul Jul 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

	Last	1 day	1 week	1 month	Jan '20
Eurozone	2.28	2.34	2.28	2.44	-0.13
Japan	0.66	0.66	0.67	0.66	0.03
Singapore	3.66	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.50
UK	3.81	3.81	3.66	3.93	0.88
US	3.48	3.47	3.38	3.63	1.70

#### Swap curves Latest swap curves vs one year ago, % Today One year ago -US-UK-Euro Area -Japan ···US ···UK ··· Euro Area ··· Japan 6 3 2 10 30 15 20 25 Years Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

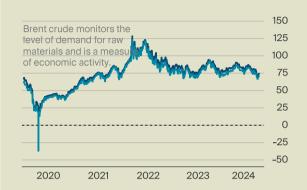


## **Commodities & Volatility**

#### **Energy**

Oil spot prices, \$ per barrel

- Brent Crude - West Texas Intermediate (WTI)



Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

	Last	1 day	1 week	1 month	Jan '20
Brent, \$ per barrel	74.2	74.2	73.7	79.1	66.0
WTI, \$ per barrel	70.5	70.5	69.9	75.3	61.1

#### **Baltic dry index**

Baltic Exchange, Shipping Dry index (BDI), US\$

- Baltic dry index



		Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond				
	Last	Percentage change since				
		1 day	1 week	1 month	Jan '20	
Baltic Dry	2014	1.87	5.94	14.3	84.8	

#### Volatility index

Near term stock price volatility indicator

— CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) --- Long term average



Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

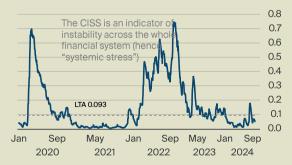
	Last	1 day	1 week	1 month	Jan '20
CBOE VIX	15.9	15.9	17.6	15.9	13.8
Euro Stoxx 50 VIX	16.4	16.4	16.6	15.3	14.0
Nikkei VIX	26.6	24.3	27.8	25.4	14.8
KOSPI VIX	22.3	21.5	21.7	21.3	14.7

#### Systemic stress

Measures FX, money, sovereign and bond yield volatility

- New ECB Composite Indicator of Systemic Stress (CISS)

--- Long term average



Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

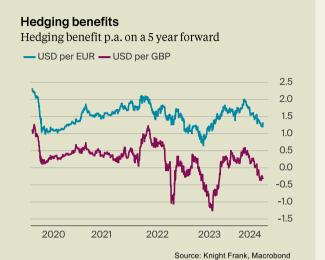
	Last	1 week	1 month	Jan '20
Systemic stress composite	0.079	0.077	0.069	0.023
Equity markets stress sub index	0.104	0.087	0.086	0.009
Bond markets stress sub index	0.047	0.046	0.047	0.02
FX markets stress sub index	0.031	0.013	0.040	0.004



## Currencies & Monetary Policy



	Last	1 day	1 week	1 month	Jan '20
EUR per GBP	1.199	1.192	1.187	1.180	1.177
KOR per GBP	1,783	1,775	1,743	1,754	1,525
USD per GBP	1.335	1.328	1.320	1.319	1.321
LISD per FLIR	1116	1116	1112	1118	1123



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	Last	1 day	1 week	1 month	Jan '20
USD to EUR	1.33	1.26	1.22	1.32	2.32
USD to GBP	-0.33	-0.30	-0.25	-0.30	1.12

#### Inflation and monetary policy

#### Inflation rate (%)

	Aug	Jul	Jun	May
Australia <sup>1</sup>	n/a	n/a	3.8	3.8
Canada	2.0	2.5	2.7	2.9
China	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.3
Euro Area	2.2	2.6	2.5	2.6
France	1.8	2.3	2.2	2.3
Germany	1.8	2.3	2.2	2.4
India	3.7	3.6	5.1	4.8
Italy	1.1	1.3	0.8	0.8
Japan	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.8
Saudi Arabia	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6
South Korea	2.0	2.6	2.4	2.7
Spain	2.2	2.7	3.4	3.6
Sweden	1.9	2.6	2.6	3.7
UK	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0
US	2.6	2.9	3.0	3.3

#### 1. Australia Inflation rate is only available on a quarterly basis.

#### Interest rates (%)

Last	Jan '23
4.35	3.10
4.25	4.25
4.35	4.35
3.65	2.50
3.65	2.50
3.65	2.50
6.50	6.25
3.65	2.50
0.25	-0.10
5.50	5.00
3.50	3.25
3.65	2.50
3.50	2.50
5.00	3.50
5.00	4.50

#### **Asset purchasing**

Latest (\$) 1	m change (%)
0.29 tn	-2.6
215 bn	0.1
6.16 tn	0.6
7.15 tn	-0.4
1.69 tn	1.0
2.66 tn	-0.6
432 bn	4.0
1.28 tn	-0.3
5.36 tn	0.3
493 bn	-2.4
391 bn	-4.2
487 bn	-0.8
120 bn	-1.0
1.26 tn	-1.2
7.11 tn	-0.7

Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond





#### Quantifying Technology in Real Estate

Quantifying Technology in Real Estate explores how emerging technologies are transforming the real estate landscape. This report examines key trends across sectors, highlighting how technological integration is driving innovation and influencing real estate strategies for the future.

#### View report



#### UK Cities DNA - Don't Stop Thinking Of Tomorrow

The first of twelve insight papers in our UK Cities DNA initiative — putting real estate supply and demand in the context of the economic direction of travel.

#### View report

#### Recent research



Life Sciences & Innovation Insight: Q2 2024

The UK life sciences sector is changing at pace. With this in mind, we have developed a quarterly market intelligence dashboard to track key developments.



UK Real Estate Navigator: Q2 2024

Is UK Real Estate at a turning point? Explore the current trends in UK commercial real estate with the latest edition of our UK Real Estate Navigator, available now. We like questions, if you've got one about our research, or would like some property advice, we would like to hear from you



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