Economic & Market Commentary

Even though economic signals were mixed, stock markets posted modest gains last week in anticipation of a Fed rate cut this coming Wednesday (10th) at the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting. With an 88.4% probability of a 0.25% rate cut this Wednesday, it is basically a foregone conclusion. The interesting aspects will center around member voting, updated economic projections, and economic reports that are to be released after the vote. The October FOMC meeting saw two dissenting votes, which has not happened in a very long time, and the vote Wednesday is likely to have dissenters as well. The lack of economic reports due to the government shutdown has clouded the economic outlook and many voting members have publicly stated that they are reluctant to further cut rates until there is better clarity on the direction of the economy, inflation, and employment. Some very important economic reports will be released over the next couple of weeks including November non-farm payrolls (16th), November retail sales (17th), November Consumer Price Index (18th), the first estimate of third-quarter U.S. GDP (23rd), and December consumer confidence (23rd). Since the government reopened, a couple of delayed economic reports were released in late November, both of which came in weaker than expected. The September jobs report saw unemployment bump up to 4.4% from 4.3% along with downward revisions to August and July employment numbers. The other report released was September retail sales. Consensus was looking for monthly growth of +0.40% but +0.20% was posted. Each of these weaker-than-expected reports increased the likelihood of a Fed rate cut in December. Since the release of these two delayed reports, other indicators suggest strength as holiday retail sales are better than expected and weekly jobless claims have fallen for two straight weeks. The Fed has consistently stated that policy will be data dependent and the next couple of weeks should provide better clarity on policy direction.

Index Total Returns - December 5, 2025				ISM Surveys			
	1-Wk	YTD	1-Yr	65% USA - ISM Manufacturing — USA - ISM Non-Manufacturing Recei	ssion Periods - United States		65%
MSCI-Emerging	1.42	31.53	28.53			1	
MSCI-Developed	0.77	28.38	23.18	env A		1	50M
NASDAQ	0.93	22.84	20.48		\mathbb{N}^{N}		WA
S&P 500	0.35	18.22	14.57	\wedge			
Dow Jones	0.62	14.58	8.97	55%	151	\mathcal{M}	55%
Russell 2000	0.88	14.47	6.68			4	Λ
S&P 400	0.39	7.84	1.26	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\		\\\\.\\\.\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	\$2.60
Barclay's U.S. Bond Index	(50%		A M , M	50%
High Yield	0.12	8.14	7.34	V			W 142
Aggregate	-0.48	6.94	4.94	45%			45%
Int. Gov. Credit	-0.29	6.57	5.77				
5-year Muni	0.04	4.78	3.76		1		
Municipal	-0.12	4.03	2.20	40% 16 17 18 19	'20 '21	'22 '23	'24 '25 40% ©FactSet Research Systems
U.S. Treasury Yields				S&P 500 Sector Total Returns - December 5, 2025			
	Latest	Week	1-Year	Sector	1-Wk	YTD	1-Yr
Treasury Yields	Close	Ago	Ago	Comm. Services	0.81	35.96	40.84
U.S. 1-Yr	3.60	3.59	4.22	Info Tech	1.38	26.08	27.53
U.S. 2-Yr	3.56	3.49	4.14	Industrials	0.60	18.63	9.20
U.S. 3-Yr	3.59	3.49	4.10	Utilities	-4.48	16.81	7.54
U.S. 5-Yr	3.72	3.60	4.07	Health Care	-2.72	13.02	6.00
U.S. 10-Yr	4.14	4.01	4.18	Financials	0.70	12.37	6.27
U.S. 30-Yr	4.79	4.66	4.34	Energy	1.44	10.02	-0.40
Municipal Yields - Bloomb	perg/Barclay	s Index		Materials	-1.37	6.65	-4.78
	Latest	Week	1-Year	Con. Discretion	0.88	6.14	8.68
Issue Type	Close	Ago	Ago	Consumer Staples	-1.25	4.25	-0.93
U.S. AAA	3.43	3.42	3.25	Real Estate	-1.48	3.88	-5.04
U.S. AA	3.47	3.45	3.26		P/E	P/E NTM	Dividend
U.S. A	3.85	3.83	3.65	Index Characteristics	NTM	10yr-Avg.	Yield
U.S. Baa	4.47	4.47	4.12	S&P 500 - Large Cap	22.62	19.07	1.09
U.S. Municipal	3.60	3.58	3.39	S&P 400 - Mid Cap	16.21	16.30	1.32
Michigan	3.73	3.73	3.57	S&P 600 - Small Cap	15.30	15.92	1.56