Economic & Market Commentary

Index Total Returns - November 28, 2025

Stocks posted strong gains last week on the increasing likelihood of a 0.25% rate cut by Federal Reserve at their December 10th Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting. The strong finish propelled the S&P 500 to its 7th consecutive monthly advance. The probability of a December rate cut has been bouncing around like popcorn a kernel in hot oil the past few weeks. Heading into the October FOMC meeting, there was a 99% chance of a rate cut. After that meeting, the chance of a rate cut started to fall as many Fed officials, including Chair Powell, indicated that a December rate cut was not a foregone conclusion due to the lack of economic data from the government shutdown. In mid-November the probability of a December rate cut fell to 27% and this, along with Al concerns, pressured stock markets. Since the re-opening of the government, the chance of a rate cut has rebounded and this morning it stands at 88%. A weaker-than-expected labor market and retail reports, together with eroding consumer and business confidence, propelled the rebound. November consumer sentiment reading of 51 remained near historic lows in the University of Michigan survey. This represents a 2.6-point decrease from October's final reading of 53.6. Declines were widespread across age groups, income levels, and political affiliations, underscoring broad-based concerns. Sentiment peaked at around 72 in early 2025 but has trended downward since May, with sharper drops in September-October amid rising inflation and policy gridlock. November's 51.0 is the second-lowest reading ever, just above the record low of 50.0 in June 2022 (during peak post-pandemic uncertainty). The November Conference Board Consumer Confidence survey recorded a sharp decline to 88.7 on heightened concerns over the labor market, the government shutdown and pessimism about future business conditions. Like the UofM survey, declines were broad-based demographically.

II of M Consumer Sentiment Index

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	1-Wk	YTD	1-Yr	120% — University of Michigan Survey of Consume	rs, Consumer Sentiment Ind	ex, Q1 1966=100 - United State	es 120
MSCI-Emerging	2.49	29.69	29.51	110%			110
MSCI-Developed	3.25	27.40	24.50	M/ M/M			110
NASDAQ	4.91	21.71	22.38	100%		, <u>~ 1/44/1</u>	1009
S&P 500	3.74	17.81	15.00	90% N		WW LAGARA	00%
Dow Jones	3.20	13.88	8.03	50% NT	·		
Russell 2000	5.55	13.47	4.09	80% Y	·	√~ W	M 80%
S&P 400	3.96	7.42	-0.23	70%	J. My (1)	W	700
Barclay's U.S. Bond Inde	х			10%	/ NA MAI		70%
High Yield	0.80	8.01	7.55	60%	$ \forall$ Λ		60%
Aggregate	0.38	7.46	5.70	50%	' 1		5100 500
Int. Gov. Credit	0.23	6.87	6.21	30%			50%
5-year Muni	0.12	4.73	3.96	40% 96 '98 '00 '02 '04 '06	'08 '10 '12 '1	4 '16 '18 '20	122 124 40%
Municipal	0.15	4.15	2.64				
U.S. Treasury Yields				S&P 500 Sector Total Ret	urns - Novem	ber 28, 2025	
	Latest	Week	1-Year	Sector	1-Wk	YTD	1-Yr
Treasury Yields	Close	Ago	Ago	Comm. Services	5.89	34.88	39.71
U.S. 1-Yr	3.59	3.62	4.33	Info Tech	4.31	24.36	25.79
U.S. 2-Yr	3.49	3.51	4.22	Utilities	2.86	22.30	12.59
U.S. 3-Yr	3.49	3.50	4.16	Industrials	2.72	17.93	8.56
U.S. 5-Yr	3.60	3.62	4.12	Health Care	1.94	16.18	8.96
U.S. 10-Yr	4.01	4.06	4.25	Financials	3.19	11.59	5.53
U.S. 30-Yr	4.66	4.71	4.43	Energy	0.99	8.46	-1.81
Municipal Yields - Bloomberg/Barclays Index				Materials	3.35	8.13	-3.46
	Latest	Week	1-Year	Consumer Staples	1.70	5.57	0.32
Issue Type	Close	Ago	Ago	Real Estate	1.86	5.45	-3.61
U.S. AAA	3.42	3.43	3.31	Con. Discretion	5.32	5.22	7.73
U.S. AA	3.45	3.46	3.33		P/E	P/E NTM	Dividend
U.S. A	3.83	3.84	3.70	Index Characteristics	NTM	10yr-Avg.	Yield
				CO D FOO 1 6	22.61	19.10	1.09
U.S. Baa	4.47	4.48	4.16	S&P 500 - Large Cap	22.01	19.10	1.09
U.S. Baa U.S. Municipal	4.47 3.58	4.48 3.60	4.16 3.46	S&P 400 - Large Cap S&P 400 - Mid Cap	16.21	16.31	1.33