

Furstenau Wealth Update November 18, 2024

The Markets

The United States stock market changed course.

Last week, the strength of the United States economy slowed investors' roll. Federal Reserve (Fed) Chair Jerome Powell told business leaders in Dallas, Texas, that the performance of the United States economy has been "remarkably good," better than any major economy in the world, which gives the Fed "the ability to approach our decisions carefully."

Powell's comments caused investors to reassess the likely pace of rate cuts. As they did, the probability of a December rate cut fell sharply, according to the CME FedWatch Tool.

The likelihood that the Fed may lower rates more slowly than expected roiled markets. Lu Wang, Isabelle Lee, and Emily Graffeo of *Bloomberg* reported, "With the world's most important central banker in no hurry to ease monetary policy thanks to a still-robust labor market and strong economic data, bond yields once again rose and dragged stocks lower in their wake. Down 2 [percent] over five sessions, the S&P 500 erased half of its trough-to-peak gains since the election. Combined with losses in corporate credit and commodities, the week rounded out a pan-asset retreat that by one measure was the worst in 13 months."

Investors' changing outlook was shaped by other factors, too. These included:

- **Elevated stock valuations.** Bella Albrecht of Morningstar reported, "The U.S. stock market is trading at an 11 [percent] premium to its fair value estimate." The data reflected share prices on November 13, which was midway through last week.
- **The risk of inflation rising again.** Many economists believe the incoming administration's spending and tax policies have the potential to reignite inflation, which could lead the Fed to reassess monetary policy.
- **A disrupting cabinet nomination.** Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to lead the Department of Health and Human Services rattled healthcare and consumer staples sectors of the market. "Shares of biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies fell, with the S&P 500 Pharmaceuticals index down about 2 [percent]. Shares of packaged food and beverage giants...also declined," reported Samuel Indyk and Ludwig Burger of Reuters.

By the end of the week, major U.S. stock indices were down. U.S. bond markets continued to be wary of tariffs and inflation, lifting the yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury to 4.5 percent. By week's end, though, the 10-year Treasury yield had settled at 4.3 percent, reported Liz Capo McCormick of *Bloomberg*.

Data as of 11/15/24	1-Week	YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Standard & Poor's 500 Index	-2.1%	23.1%	30.4%	7.8%	13.5%	11.1%
Dow Jones Global ex-U.S. Index	-3.0	3.9	10.5	-2.5	2.7	2.3
10-year Treasury Note (yield only)	4.4	N/A	4.5	1.6	1.8	2.3
Gold (per ounce)	-4.4	23.7	31.3	11.4	11.9	8.1
Bloomberg Commodity Index	-2.1	-2.6	-6.4	-2.3	4.0	-2.0



S&P 500, Dow Jones Global ex-US, Gold, Bloomberg Commodity Index returns exclude reinvested dividends (gold does not pay a dividend) and the three-, five-, and 10-year returns are annualized; and the 10-year Treasury Note is simply the yield at the close of the day on each of the historical time periods.

Sources: Yahoo! Finance; MarketWatch; djindexes.com; U.S. Treasury; London Bullion Market Association.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Indices are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly. N/A means not applicable.

THANKSGIVING ABUNDANCE. Turkey, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce have been on the Thanksgiving table for a long time. In many homes, though, the holiday meal has evolved to include regional dishes, cultural treats, and family favorites. People who responded to a social media post asking about unique Thanksgiving dishes reported that their meals include:

- Sliced tomatoes, cucumbers, olives, and onions with oil and vinegar,
- Chorizo cornbread with jalapeños,
- Sashimi and grilled salmon collar,
- Cranberries, grapes, walnuts and whipped cream salad,
- Quinoa with roasted delicata squash, kale, and pistachios,
- Creamed pearl onions,
- Spinach casserole,
- Twice baked potatoes,
- Shrimp and mirlitons (pear-shaped squash), and many other dishes.

Another reason Thanksgiving meals have evolved is dietary preferences. Some families include one or more vegetarian or vegan members, and others are eating less meat for health reasons.

Of course, grocery stores have played a significant role in the evolution of Thanksgiving dinner. “The average grocery store today has 300,000+ [items in stock], nearly eight times more than the average store of the 1970s,” reported Andy Nelson in Supermarket Perimeter. Having access to a wider variety of ingredients makes it possible to prepare holiday feasts that make your taste buds happy.

What is your family’s favorite Thanksgiving dish?

Weekly Focus – Think About It

“The first Thanksgiving meal in Plymouth probably had little in common with today’s traditional holiday spread. Although turkeys were indigenous, there’s no record of a big roasted bird at the feast. The Wampanoag brought deer and there would have been lots of local seafood (mussels, lobster, bass) plus the fruits of the pilgrim harvest, including pumpkin. No mashed potatoes, though. Potatoes had only recently been shipped back to Europe from South America.”

—*Origins of Thanksgiving National Holiday, History.com*

Best regards,

Ryan D. Furstenau

P.S. Please feel free to forward this commentary to family, friends, or colleagues. If you would like us to add them to the list, please reply to this email with their email address and we will ask for their permission to be added.

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- * Corporate bonds are considered higher risk than government bonds but normally offer a higher yield and are subject to market, interest rate and credit risk as well as additional risks based on the quality of issuer coupon rate, price, yield, maturity, and redemption features.
- * The Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500) is an unmanaged group of securities considered to be representative of the stock market in general. You cannot invest directly in this index.
- * All indexes referenced are unmanaged. The volatility of indexes could be materially different from that of a client's portfolio. Unmanaged index returns do not reflect fees, expenses, or sales charges. Index performance is not indicative of the performance of any investment. You cannot invest directly in an index.
- * The Dow Jones Global ex-U.S. Index covers approximately 95% of the market capitalization of the 45 developed and emerging countries included in the Index.
- * The 10-year Treasury Note represents debt owed by the United States Treasury to the public. Since the U.S. Government is seen as a risk-free borrower, investors use the 10-year Treasury Note as a benchmark for the long-term bond market.
- * Gold represents the 3:00 p.m. (London time) gold price as reported by the London Bullion Market Association and is expressed in U.S. Dollars per fine troy ounce. The source for gold data is Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (FRED), <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/GOLDPMGBD228NLBM>.
- * The Bloomberg Commodity Index is designed to be a highly liquid and diversified benchmark for the commodity futures market. The Index is composed of futures contracts on 19 physical commodities and was launched on July 14, 1998.
- * The DJ Equity All REIT Total Return Index measures the total return performance of the equity subcategory of the Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) industry as calculated by Dow Jones.
- * The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA), commonly known as "The Dow," is an index representing 30 stock of companies maintained and reviewed by the editors of The Wall Street Journal.
- * The NASDAQ Composite is an unmanaged index of securities traded on the NASDAQ system.
- * International investing involves special risks such as currency fluctuation and political instability and may not be suitable for all investors. These risks are often heightened for investments in emerging markets.
- * Yahoo! Finance is the source for any reference to the performance of an index between two specific periods.
- * The risk of loss in trading commodities and futures can be substantial. You should therefore carefully consider whether such trading is suitable for you in light of your financial condition. The high degree of leverage is often obtainable in commodity trading and can work against you as well as for you. The use of leverage can lead to large losses as well as gains.
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Sources:

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