

Monthly Newsletter

October 2024



Monthly Market Recap

With the past 3 quarters of the year all closing positively, September brought many surprises. Noted as a historically negative month, all major indexes in September rallied. As the month started lower, the Federal Reserve cut interest rates by 50 basis points causing stocks to soar. With major indexes all closing positive, the market continues to rally. The S&P 500 advanced 2.1%, the DJIA was up 2%, and the NASDAQ added 2.8%.

August's data indicated that the unemployment rate declined to 4.2% in July, 0.1% lower from the 4.3% in July. With the data coming in lower, this was a sigh of relief as many feared the economy was in trouble. The August jobs report highlighted that the labor market added 89,000 jobs trending up in industries like Healthcare and Construction. Data from the August jobs report and unemployment numbers aided the Fed in their decision to cut rates this past month.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.2% in August month-over-month and reported 2.5% year over year, down from 2.9% in July. This was the smallest annual increase since February 2021. Excluding food and energy, core CPI rose by 0.3% on a month-to-month basis and remained unchanged at 3.2% year-over-year. The energy index decreased 0.8% in August month-over-month and fell 4% year-over-year. Shelter costs remain high as the index increased by 0.5% in August, 0.1% higher from the 0.4% in July.

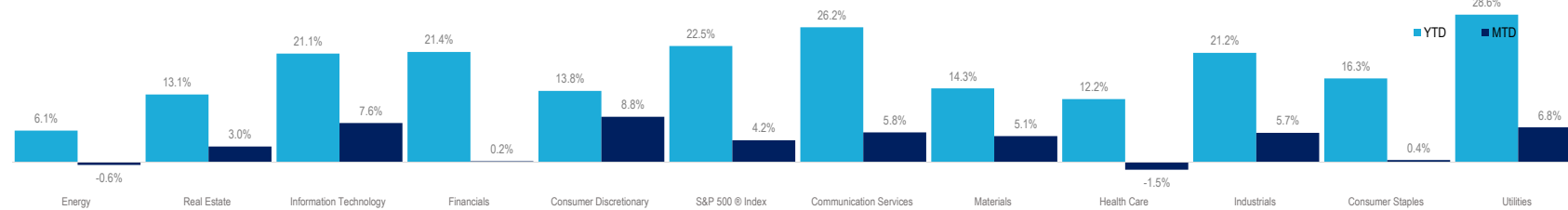
As inflation cooled in August, the Fed continues to monitor all data before announcing another rate cut. Consumer spending remains strong, driving economic activity. With the fourth quarter approaching, all major indexes closed positively after a turbulent third quarter. We saw record highs from the S&P 500 along with the Dow Jones Industrial Average this past month as stocks rallied. Overall, September's market conditions indicate a stable economic environment with continued cautious optimism.

As the election nears, we are watching closely and anticipate further market gains. Entering the fourth quarter, market strength has continued through September notching historic closes. We hope this trend continues, bringing more momentum in the coming months.

Equities	Index Return %	
	MTD	YTD
S&P 500	2.1%	22.1%
Russell 3000	2.1%	20.6%
Nasdaq	2.8%	21.8%
Dow Jones	2.0%	13.9%
Fixed Income		
US Aggregate	1.3%	4.4%
US Corporate High Yield	1.6%	8.0%
Economic Metrics		
	Rate %	
	Aug-24	
US Unemployment Rate	3.90%	
US Inflation Rate	2.53%	
Commodities		
	Levels	
	Aug-24	Sep-24
Oil (WTI)	74.52	71.33
Gold	2,513.40	2,661.90
DowJ. Commodity Index	972.38	1,011.56
Interest Rates		
	Rate %	
	Aug-24	Sep-24
10 Year Treasury Rate	3.91%	3.81%
30 Year Treasury Rate	4.20%	4.14%
30 Year Mortgage Rate	6.35%	6.08%
US Corp. AAA Effective Yield	4.44%	4.24%

All numbers reported are as of Sept 30, 2024

Major Economic Events	Date
Employment Situation	4-Oct
Inflation Rate	10-Oct
FOMC Meeting	8-Nov



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Sources

S&P 500 Performance	https://ycharts.com/indices/%5ESPXTR/level
Russell 3000 Performance	https://ycharts.com/indices/%5ERUATR/level
Nasdaq Performance	https://ycharts.com/indices/%5ENA100TR/level
Dow Jones Performance	https://ycharts.com/indices/%5EDJITR
US Aggregate Performance	https://ycharts.com/indices/%5EBBUSATR
US Corporate High Yield Performance	https://ycharts.com/indices/%5EBBUSCOHYTR
US Unemployment Rate	https://ycharts.com/indicators/us_unemployment_rate
US Inflation Rate	https://ycharts.com/indicators/us_inflation_rate
10 Year Treasury Rate	https://ycharts.com/indicators/10_year_treasury_rate
30 Year Treasury Rate	https://ycharts.com/indicators/30_year_treasury_rate
30 Year Mortgage Rate	https://ycharts.com/indicators/30_year_mortgage_rate
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Sectors & Industries Performance	https://ycharts.com
Dow Jones Commodity Index	https://ycharts.com/indices/%5EDJCI
Gold Price	https://ycharts.com/indicators/gold_price_in_us_dollar
Crude Oil Price	https://ycharts.com/indicators/wti_crude_oil_spot_price

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