

WEEKLY MARKET PERSPECTIVES

September 22 – September 26, 2025

STIFEL

Wealth management insights from Stifel's CIO Office

WHAT TO KNOW:

U.S. Equities Fell Last Week

The S&P 500 fell 0.3% last week, breaking a three-week winning streak. Investor attention centered on economic data – including inflation, consumer spending, and GDP – that will shape the Federal Reserve's upcoming October policy decision. Meanwhile, Fed officials offered diverging views on the path forward for monetary policy. Markets continue to anticipate another 25-basis-point rate cut at the next Fed meeting.

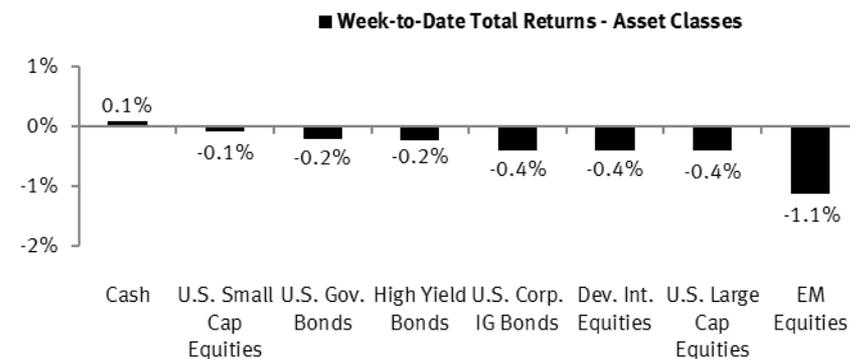
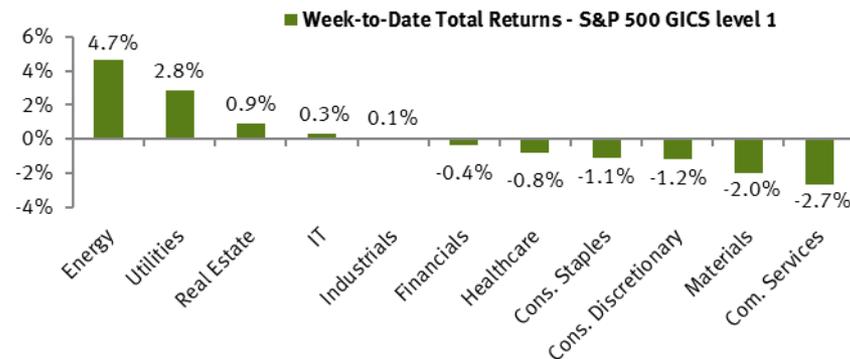
Consumer Strength Continues to Sustain a Strong U.S. Economy

The final estimate for Q2 2025 GDP growth came in at 3.8%, exceeding expectations due to a notable upward revision in consumer spending. This stronger reading dampened hopes for near-term Fed rate cuts, sparking a risk-off reaction in markets. At the same time, corporate profits were revised sharply lower, implying that businesses may be absorbing tariff costs rather than passing them on to consumers. Meanwhile, Bloomberg noted spending on intellectual property products surged at its fastest pace since 1999, likely on heightened investment in AI-related software and research. On the inflation front, the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) Price Index ticked up 0.3% in August, while core PCE remained flat. Lastly, inflation-adjusted personal spending rose 0.4%, indicating that consumers continue to spend despite economic uncertainty and weak sentiment.

U.S. Monetary Policymakers Provide Thoughts Ahead of October Fed Meeting

Fed Chair Jerome Powell avoided giving a direct view on the path of rates but emphasized that "two-sided risks [to inflation and the labor market] mean that there is no risk-free path." Other Fed officials were divided – some pointed to signs of labor market weakness and argued for rate cuts, while others warned that inflation risks call for patience. Opinions also varied on how restrictive current policy is. At the same time, investors closely followed the escalating dispute between President Trump and Fed Governor Lisa Cook over his efforts to remove her, raising fresh concerns about Fed independence.

WEEKLY SNAPSHOT – ASSET CLASSES & SECTORS:*



WEEKLY ECONOMIC EVENTS IN REVIEW

CURRENT VS. CONSENSUS ▼ Worse ▶ In Line ▲ Better

MONDAY

▲ Chicago Fed Nat Activity

TUESDAY

- ▲ Current Account Balance
- ▼ S&P Global U.S. Mfg. PMI
- ▼ S&P Global U.S. Svcs. PMI
- ▼ Richmond Fed Mfg. Index

WEDNESDAY

▲ New Home Sales

THURSDAY

- ▲ Q2 GDP – Final Estimate
- ▲ Durable Goods Orders
- ▼ Wholesale Inventories
- ▲ Initial Jobless Claims

FRIDAY

- ▶ PCE YoY
- ▶ Core PCE YoY
- ▲ Personal Income
- ▲ Personal Spending

*Index Total Returns are represented by the following: Cash by Bloomberg U.S. Treasury Bill 1-3 months; High-Yield Bonds by Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield, U.S. Small Cap Equities by Bloomberg 2000, U.S. Corporate IG Bonds by Bloomberg U.S. Corporate IG, Emerging Markets Equities by MSCI EM, U.S. Large Cap Equities by Bloomberg 1000, U.S. Government Bonds by Bloomberg U.S. Government Bond Index, Developed International Equities by MSCI EAFE.

WEEKLY MARKETS REVIEW

EQUITY MARKETS			
	Current Level	Weekly	YTD
	Price Level	Total Return	Total Return
U.S. EQUITIES			
S&P 500	6643.70	-0.30%	14.05%
S&P 500 Equal Weight Index	7648.84	0.13%	9.23%
DJIA	46247.29	-0.15%	10.11%
NASDAQ	22484.07	-0.64%	17.01%
Bloomberg 1000	2338.37	-0.41%	14.05%
Bloomberg 2000	1663.38	-0.09%	8.35%
VIX	15.29	-1.04%	-11.87%
GLOBAL EQUITIES (USD terms)			
MSCI AC World	976.95	-0.48%	17.44%
MSCI EAFE	2741.79	-0.41%	24.32%
MSCI Europe	2469.18	-0.43%	26.10%
MSCI Japan	4666.40	0.12%	20.04%
MSCI Canada	2955.96	-1.60%	25.25%
MSCI EM	1325.58	-1.12%	25.57%
MSCI China	86.78	-0.88%	37.39%
MSCI Lat Am	2529.02	0.12%	41.65%
MSCI Asia ex Japan	864.21	-1.61%	24.79%
CURRENCY MARKETS			
	Current Level	Weekly	YTD
	Spot Rate	Change	Change
GLOBAL CURRENCIES			
EUR/USD	1.17	-0.37%	13.03%
GBP/USD	1.34	-0.52%	7.08%
USD/JPY	149.49	1.04%	-4.90%

FIXED INCOME MARKETS			
	Current Level	Weekly	YTD
	Yield	Total Return	Total Return
U.S. FIXED INCOME			
U.S. 2-year Treasury*	3.64%	-0.16%	4.51%
U.S. 5-year Treasury*	3.77%	-0.37%	6.56%
U.S. 10-year Treasury*	4.18%	-0.40%	6.91%
U.S. 30-year Treasury*	4.75%	-0.14%	4.53%
Bloomberg U.S. Muni	3.67%	-0.41%	2.52%
Bloomberg U.S. Investment Grade	4.79%	-0.37%	6.62%
Bloomberg U.S. Corp High Yield	6.71%	-0.23%	7.10%
GLOBAL FIXED INCOME (local currency terms)			
EM Government Debt LCL Currency ¹	3.75%	-0.82%	7.15%
Germany 10-year yield*	2.75%	0.07%	-0.47%
Spain 10-year yield*	3.31%	-0.02%	1.33%
Italy 10-year yield*	3.58%	-0.19%	2.86%
Japan 10-year yield*	1.65%	-0.17%	-3.02%
COMMODITY MARKETS			
	Current Level	Weekly	YTD
	Price Level	Return	Return
GLOBAL COMMODITIES			
Gold	3,759.98	2.03%	43.26%
Oil (WTI)	65.72	4.85%	-8.37%
Oil (Brent)	70.13	5.17%	-6.04%
Copper	477.15	3.11%	15.14%
Silver	46.08	6.95%	59.44%
Platinum	1,580.56	12.23%	74.16%
Natural Gas	2.84	-1.84%	-21.97%

WEEKLY MARKETS DYNAMICS

Issues	NYSE	Nasdaq
Advancing	866	1,840
Declining	964	1,399
Unchanged	19	63
Total	1,849	3,302

Issues at	NYSE	Nasdaq
New 52 Week High	430	561
New 52 Week Low	197	345

Source: Bloomberg. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Indexes are unmanaged, do not reflect fees or expenses, and are not available for direct investment.

*Total Returns for the 2-year Treasury = Bloomberg U.S. Treasury 1-5 year; 5-year = Bloomberg U.S. Treasury 5-7 year; 10-year = Bloomberg U.S. Treasury 7-10 year; 30-year = Bloomberg U.S. Treasury 20+ year; German 10-year = Bloomberg Germany Govt 7-10 year; Spanish 10-year = Bloomberg Spain Govt 7-10 year; Italian 10-year = Bloomberg Italy Govt 7-10 year; Japan 10-year = Credit Suisse Japan Govt 7-10 year.

¹Returns in U.S. dollars

DISCLOSURE

Past performance does not guarantee future results. Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Asset allocation and diversification do not ensure a profit or protection against loss.

Led by Stifel Chief Investment Officer Michael O’Keeffe, the Stifel CIO Office is comprised of several investment professionals. The team works collaboratively with other Stifel professionals to develop macroeconomic analysis, market analysis, strategic and tactical asset allocation guidance, applied behavioral finance, and specific investment solutions for advisors and clients.

Alternative Investments or Non-Traditional Assets – Alternative investments may include, but are not limited to: Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), Commodities, Futures, Hedge Funds, Venture Capital, Limited Partnerships, etc.

Real Estate – When investing in real estate companies, property values can fall due to environmental, economic, or other reasons, and changes in interest rates can negatively impact the performance.

Commodities and Futures – 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 that is often obtainable in commodity trading can work against you as well as for you. The use of leverage can lead to large losses as well as gains.

Hedge Funds – Investors should be aware that hedge funds often engage in leverage, short-selling, arbitrage, hedging, derivatives, and other speculative investment practices that may increase investment loss. Hedge funds can be highly illiquid, are not required to provide periodic pricing or valuation information to investors and often charge high fees that can erode performance. Additionally, they may involve complex tax structures and delays in distributing tax information. While hedge funds may appear similar to mutual funds, they are not necessarily subject to the same regulatory requirements as mutual funds.

Venture Capital – Venture capital investments involve substantial risks. The risks associated with investing in companies in the start-up or expansion stages of development are greater than those of companies in later stages, because the companies’ business concepts generally are unproven and the companies have little or no track record.

Limited Partnerships – Generally, limited partnership investments are suitable only for a narrow class of relatively sophisticated investors. Limited partnership investments may be speculative in nature and be subject to resale restrictions or illiquidity. An investment is appropriate only for investors who have the capacity to absorb a loss of some or all of their investment.

Bonds – When investing in bonds, it is important to note that as interest rates rise, bond prices will fall. High-yield bonds have greater credit risk than higher quality bonds.

Duration – Duration is a measure of the sensitivity of the price -- the value of principal -- of a fixed-income investment to a change in interest rates. Duration is expressed as a number of years.

Standard Deviation – Standard deviation is a measure of the dispersion of a set of data from its mean. It is calculated as the square root of variance by determining the variation between each data point relative to the mean. If the data points are further from the mean, there is higher deviation within the data set.

International and Emerging Markets – There are special considerations associated with international investing, including the risk of currency fluctuations and political and economic events. Investing in emerging markets may involve greater risk and volatility than investing in more developed countries.

Short Positions – The investor should note that when a short position moves in an unfavorable way, the losses are theoretically unlimited. The broker will demand more collateral, and the manager might have to close out that short position at an inopportune time to limit any further losses.

Small Company Securities – Small company securities are typically more volatile and carry additional risks, since smaller companies generally are not as well established as larger companies.

Private Equity – Private equity funds are not appropriate for all investors. Investors should be aware that private equity funds may contain speculative investment practices that can lead to a loss of the entire investment. Private equity funds may invest in entities in which no secondary market exists and, as such, may be highly illiquid. The funds are not required to provide periodic pricing or valuation information to investors and often charge high fees that can erode performance. Additionally, they may involve complex tax structures and delays in distributing tax information.

INDEX DESCRIPTIONS

Bloomberg U.S. 1000 Total Return Index – The Bloomberg U.S. 1000 Value Total Return Index provides exposure to companies with superior value factor scores based on their earnings yield, valuation, dividend yield, and growth.

Bloomberg U.S. 2000 Value Total Return Index – The Bloomberg U.S. 2000 Value Total Return Index provides exposure to companies with superior value factor scores based on their earnings yield, valuation, dividend yield, and growth.

Bloomberg U.S. Treasury 1-5 year – this index includes fixed income securities issued by the U.S. Treasury guaranteed by the U.S. government, all with maturities between 1 and 5 years.

Bloomberg U.S. Treasury 5-7 year – this index includes fixed income securities issued by the U.S. Treasury guaranteed by the U.S. government, all with maturities between 5 and 7 years.

Bloomberg U.S. Treasury 7-10 year – this index includes fixed income securities issued by the U.S. Treasury guaranteed by the U.S. government, all with maturities between 7 and 10 years.

Bloomberg U.S. Treasury 20+ year – this index includes fixed income securities issued by the U.S. Treasury guaranteed by the U.S. government, all with maturities over 20 years.

Bloomberg Germany Govt 7-10 year – this index includes fixed income securities issued by Germany guaranteed by German government, all with maturities between 7 and 10 years.

Bloomberg Spain Govt 7-10 year – this index includes fixed income securities issued by Italy guaranteed by Spanish government, all with maturities between 7 and 10 years.

Bloomberg Italy Govt 7-10 year – this index includes fixed income securities issued by Spain guaranteed by Italian government, all with maturities between 7 and 10 years.

Credit Suisse Japan Govt 7-10 year – this index includes fixed income securities issued by Japan guaranteed by Japanese government, all with maturities between 7 and 10 years.

Bloomberg U.S. Treasury Bills 1-3 Months Index includes all publicly issued zero-coupon U.S. Treasury Bills that have a remaining maturity of less than 3 months and more than 1 month, are rated investment grade, and have \$250 million or more of outstanding face value.

Bloomberg U.S. Corporate IG Index is an index considered representative of fixed-rate investment-grade taxable bond debt.

Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Corporate Index is an index considered representative of fixed-rate investment-grade taxable bond debt.

Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield is an index considered representative of fixed-rate, noninvestment-grade debt.

Bloomberg U.S. Government Bond Index is an index considered representative of fixed-rate, investment-grade US Government debt.

Bloomberg Global Aggregate provides a broad-based measure of the global investment-grade, fixed-rate debt market.

BofAML MOVE Return Index measures U.S. bond market volatility by tracking a basket of OTC options on U.S. interest rate swaps. The Index tracks implied normal yield volatility of a yield curve weighted basket of at-the-money one-month options on the 2-year, 5-year, 10-year, and 30-year constant maturity interest rate swaps.

DJIA – The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) is a price-weighted average of 30 significant stocks traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and the NASDAQ. The DJIA was invented by Charles Dow back in 1896.

NASDAQ Composite Index – The NASDAQ Composite Index is a capitalization-weighted index that is comprised of all stocks listed on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System stock market, which includes both domestic and foreign companies.

S&P 500 Index is a capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks. The index is designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

S&P 500 Equal Weight Index is the equal-weight version of the widely regarded Standard & Poor's 500 Index, which is generally considered representative of the U.S. large capitalization market. The index has the same constituents as the capitalization-weighted S&P 500, but each company in the index is allocated a fixed weight of 0.20% at each quarterly rebalancing.

S&P GICS Index is a benchmark for investment in the commodity markets and as a measure of commodity performance over time. The index was originally developed by Goldman Sachs. In 2007, ownership transferred to Standard & Poor's, which currently owns and publishes it. Futures of the S&P GSCI use a multiple of 250. The S&P GSCI contains as many commodities as possible, with rules excluding certain commodities to maintain liquidity and investability in the underlying futures markets. The index currently comprises 24 commodities from all commodity sectors.

S&P Consumer Discretionary Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Consumer Discretionary sector.

S&P Information Technology Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Information Technology sector.

INDEX DESCRIPTIONS

S&P Financial Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Financial sector.

S&P Utility Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Utility sector.

S&P Real Estate Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Real Estate sector.

S&P Health Care Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Health Care sector.

S&P Communication Services Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Communication Services sector.

S&P Materials Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Materials sector.

S&P Industrial Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Industrial sector.

S&P Construction Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Construction sector.

S&P Energy Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Energy sector

The **S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller 20-City Composite Home Price NSA Index** is a value-weighted average that seeks to measure the value of residential real estate in 20 major U.S. metropolitan areas. The index is a composite of single-family home price indices for the nine U.S. Census divisions.

MSCI AC World Index captures large and mid cap representation across 23 Developed Markets (DM) and 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries.

MSCI Asia ex-Japan captures large and mid cap representation across two of three Developed Markets (DM) countries (excluding Japan) and nine Emerging Markets (EM) countries in Asia. With 647 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

MSCI EAFE Index captures large and mid cap representation across Developed Markets countries around the world, excluding the U.S. and Canada. With 914 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

MSCI Europe Index captures large and mid cap representation across 15 Developed Markets (DM) countries in Europe.

MSCI Emerging Markets (EM) Index captures large and mid cap representation across 23 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. With 837 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

MSCI Japan is designed to measure the performance of the large and mid cap segments of the Japanese market. With 321 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in Japan.

MSCI Canada is designed to measure the performance of the large and mid cap segments of the Canada market. With 91 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in Canada.

MSCI China captures large and mid cap representation across China H shares, B shares, Red chips, P chips and foreign listings (e.g. ADRs). With 153 constituents, the index covers about 85% of this China equity universe.

MSCI World Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets.

MSCI Latin America captures large and mid cap representation across five Emerging Markets (EM) countries in Latin America. With 109 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

Morgan Stanley Market – implied pace of hikes index (MSPOKE) is the number of Fed rate hikes in the 12 months following the first rate hike implied by the Eurodollar interest rate futures market.

VIX is a trademarked ticker symbol for the Chicago Board Options Exchange Market Volatility Index and shows the market's expectation of 30-day volatility. It is constructed using the implied volatilities of a wide range of S&P 500 index options. This volatility is meant to be forward looking, is calculated from both calls and puts, and is a widely used measure of market risk, often referred to as the "investor fear gauge."

ISM Non-Manufacturing Index is an index based on surveys of more than 400 non-manufacturing firms' purchasing and supply executives, within 60 sectors across the nation, by the Institute of Supply Management (ISM).

NFIB Small Business Optimism Index is compiled from a survey that is conducted each month by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) of its members. The index is a composite of ten seasonally adjusted components based on questions on the following: plans to increase employment, plans to make capital outlays, plans to increase inventories, expect economy to improve, expect real sales higher, current inventory, current job openings, expected credit conditions, now a good time to expand, and earnings trend.

Indices are unmanaged, do not reflect fees and expenses, and are not available for direct investment.