

December 20, 2024

All eyes were on the Federal Reserve this week when as expected the Fed cut interest rates by 25 basis points (bps), bringing the Fed funds target range to 4.25%-4.5%. In addition to adjusting rates, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) provided investors with an update on the outlook for monetary policy. The Fed signaled more caution regarding rate normalization with inflation remaining sticky, as well as a new "wait and watch" approach given the impending Trump administration's potentially inflationary policies. FOMC members now project Fed funds will end 2025 at 3.75-4% versus an expectation of 3.4% in September, implying only two quarter point cuts in 2025 versus prior expectations of four cuts. Renewed inflationary pressures, coupled with an overheated equity market trading at 22x earnings, caused the S&P 500 to post its worst week since early September. Bond rates rose on the revised Fed outlook, with the 2-year Treasury ending the ske b ps higher and the 10-year finishing 12 bps higher. On a positive note, the U.S. economy has proved to be resilient in the face of elevated borrowing costs, which gives the Fed some reassurance that it can hold rates higher for longer without risking an economic downturn. Labor market conditions remain supportive of economic growth and consumer spending. Retail sales surprised to the upside, rising 0.7% in November from the prior month. This print reflects a healthy consumer that is benefitting from a resilient labor market. PCE data on Friday showed a 2.4% price increase during November, below expectations of a 2.5% increase.

| | | Wk | Wk | Div | YID | 12 Mos | |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|----------|---------|----------|----------|--|
| Stocks | Close | Net Change | % Change | Yield | % Change | % Change | |
| DJII-USA | 42,840.26 | -987.80 | -2.25 | 1.75 | 13.67 | 15.53 | |
| S&P 500 | 5,930.85 | -120.24 | -1.99 | 1.33 | 24.34 | 26.23 | |
| NASDAQ | 19,572.60 | -354.13 | -1.78 | 0.72 | 30.39 | 32.44 | |
| S&P MidCap 400 | 3,124.28 | -152.92 | -4.67 | 1.54 | 12.32 | 13.96 | |
| EAFE | 75.10 | -3.79 | -4.80 | 3.29 | -0.33 | 2.22 | |
| Emerging Markets | 52.68 | -2.42 | -4.39 | 2.84 | 4.15 | 8.06 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Sector - Large Cap | | Wk | | | | | |
| beeton Lange cup | Close | Net Change | WTD | MTD | QTD | YTD | |
| Defensive | | | | | | | |
| Staples | 865.68 | -22.38 | (2.5%) | (3.9%) | (2.5%) | 13.6% | |
| Health Care | 1,603.10 | -36.08 | (2.2%) | (6.5%) | (10.8%) | 0.8% | |
| CommServices | 344.45 | -7.58 | (2.2%) | 4.3% | 9.5% | 40.0% | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Eco Sensitive | | | | | | | |
| Consumer Disc | 1,870.88 | -49.82 | (2.6%) | 4.6% | 16.5% | 31.9% | |
| Energy | 638.92 | -37.76 | (5.6%) | (11.8%) | (5.6%) | (0.2%) | |
| Industrials | 1,128.15 | -30.65 | (2.6%) | (7.1%) | (1.6%) | 16.9% | |
| Info Tech | 4,669.54 | -34.26 | (0.7%) | 2.4% | 6.0% | 37.5% | |
| Materials | 536.53 | -23.26 | (4.2%) | (9.8%) | (11.7%) | (0.6%) | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Interest Rate Sensitive | | | | | | | |
| Financials | 804.29 | -16.44 | (2.0%) | (5.6%) | 6.6% | 28.4% | |
| Utilities | 385.43 | -6.36 | (1.6%) | (8.0%) | (6.1%) | 19.7% | |
| REIT | 248.28 | -17.48 | (6.6%) | (11.3%) | (11.5%) | (1.1%) | |
| | | | | | | | |

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Russell Style Returns

| WTD | Value | Blend | Growth | YTD | Value | Blend | Growth |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Large | -2.88% | -2.13% | -1.52% | Large | 14.43% | 25.40% | 35.03% |
| Medium | -3.49% | -3.33% | -2.73% | Medium | 13.36% | 16.29% | 24.89% |
| Small | -5.33% | -4.50% | -3.71% | Small | 7.60% | 11.87% | 16.25% |

| Commodity | Price | Wk % Change | FOREX | Price | Wk % Change |
|-------------|----------|-------------|---------|--------|-------------|
| Copper | 4.10 | -2.36 | EUR/USD | 1.04 | -0.74 |
| Gold | 2,639.80 | -1.35 | USD/JPY | 156.51 | 1.80 |
| WTI | 69.51 | -2.50 | GBP/USD | 1.25 | -0.38 |
| Brent | 72.93 | -2.09 | USD/CAD | 1.44 | 0.99 |
| Natural Gas | 3.75 | 14.42 | | | |
| | | | | | |

Source: FactSet







| Treasuries | Current Yield | 12/31/23 Yield |
|------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1 - Year | 4.26 | 4.78 |
| 2 - Year | 4.31 | 4.25 |
| 5 - Year | 4.31 | 3.85 |
| 10 - Year | 4.58 | 3.88 |
| | | |
| 30 - Year | 4.72 | 4.03 |



| COMING UP NEXT WEEK | | Consensus | Prior |
|--|-------|-----------|--------|
| 12/23 Consumer Confidence | (Dec) | 112.0 | 111.7 |
| 12/24 Durable Orders ex-Transportation SA M/M (Preliminary) | (Nov) | 0.10% | 0.21% |
| 12/24 Durable Orders SA M/M (Preliminary) | (Nov) | 0.35% | 0.30% |
| 12/24 New Home Sales SAAR | (Nov) | 665.0K | 610.0K |

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