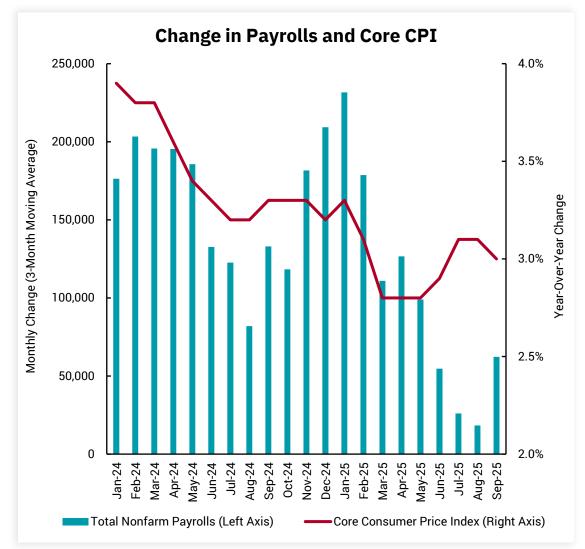
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Weekly market update

Chart of the week (Dec. 5, 2025)





As many of you know, the Federal Reserve has a dual mandate - full employment and price stability. The definition of "full employment", according to what is available on www.federalreserve.gov, is "the highest level of employment or lowest level of unemployment that the economy can sustain in a context of price stability." I see no numbers in that definition. As for price stability, the same website states, "Prices are considered stable when consumers and businesses do not have to worry about costs significantly rising or falling when making plans or borrowing money for long periods." The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) judges that an inflation rate of 2% over the longer run, as measured by the annual change in the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) Price Index, is most consistent with the Fed's price-stability mandate. Whew! At least we do have a number here, 2%.

Sometimes, both mandates are calling for action in the same direction. If the economy is running hot, leading to tight employment markets reflected in increasing wage pressures and higher inflation, the course of action from the Fed towards higher rates is clear. On the contrary, if unemployment is rising and inflation is falling as demand wanes, the need for lower rates from the Fed is obvious. Sometimes, however, the Fed is trying to decide which mandate matters the most and the path forward is not without risks. Such is the case today.

Our chart this week plots the annual rate of inflation—as measured by the "core" <u>Consumer Price Index</u> (CPI), which excludes volatile food and energy prices—against the monthly change in payrolls since January 2024. Over this period, the Fed has reduced the overnight Fed Funds target rate by 150 basis points, or 1.5%, from a target range of 5.25-5.50% to today's 3.75%-4% range. Much of this reduction has been led by the decline in inflation from 4% to the most recent reading of 3%. The need to lower rates due to the "full employment" part of the mandate was less pressing as new job growth remained positive and the unemployment rate has been stable around 4.2%.

Recent Fed commentary and actions suggest a shift in focus from inflation to employment. Core inflation, while lower in September than in August, is still higher than it was some months ago. As a result, recent rate cuts would seem to be driven more by the risks of a slowing job market than continued progress towards the Fed's target of 2% inflation. (One could reasonably wonder why price stability means 2% inflation, rather than something more stable, like 0%, but I digress.) In the past, we have seen the unemployment rate rise quickly once it starts higher, so some measure of caution by the Fed is warranted. Then again, I recall a time when "full employment" was thought to be a 5% unemployment rate. It would seem "full employment' might be a slightly lower unemployment rate now. In sum, look for another rate cut from the Fed this week.

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Weekly market update



Commentary (Dec. 5, 2025)

Domestic Equities

- U.S. stocks reached near all-time highs during the week, driven by some big M&A news and a Fed rate cut next week becoming a near certainty. The rate-sensitive Russell 2000 Index outperformed for the week.
- A delayed September Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index, the Fed's preferred inflation gauge, was released Friday and showed an increase in line with expectations for a stable inflation environment.
 Markets are now pricing in about a 90% chance of a Fed interest rate cut at its meeting next week.
- Netflix agreed to buy Discovery's studios and streaming business from Warner Bros. It is one of the largest M&A transactions of 2025 and is set to reshape the entertainment and media industry. Netflix shares declined on the news, while Warner Bros. shares increased.
- The University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index unexpectedly improved in early December, with consumers' short- and long-term inflation expectations easing.

International Equities

- Foreign stock markets rose this week as investors remained cautious, assessing new economic data ahead of upcoming central bank meetings next week.
- Broad gains across European markets and strength in Japanese equities led developed markets higher for the second straight week. Australia's GDP rose 2.1% year-on-year, marking its strongest expansion since the third quarter of 2023. Euro-area core inflation rose 2.4% from a year ago, which could lead the European Central Bank (ECB) to leave policy rates unchanged at its next meeting.
- Gains across select markets in Asia and Latin America helped lift returns
 for the emerging markets index. South Korea continued its strong
 performance, with headline inflation advancing 2.4% year-over-year,
 providing its central bank with more reason to remain cautious about
 further policy rate cuts. Both Poland and India reduced their policy rates
 by 0.25%, setting Poland's rate at 4% and India's at 5.25%.

Bonds

- The U.S. Treasury yield curve steepened with the front-end (<1-year) moving lower and the long-end rising on mixed employment/Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) data and signs that inflation remains sticky. Higher-developed-market sovereign yields, particularly in Japan, also contributed to weakness at the long end of the curve, with the yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury hitting a two-week high on Friday.
- Despite policy rates moving lower, U.S. money market funds continue to receive positive net flows, with the market exceeding \$8 trillion in assets under management (AUM) for the first time, according to Crane Data.
- Internationally, dollar bloc rates surged with Australian sovereign yields
 rising on growing sentiment that its central bank will be forced to switch
 back to raising rates to bring down inflation, while Canadian rates moved
 higher on stronger-than-expected economic data. Additionally, Japanese
 government bond yields continued to make new highs, with a Bank of
 Japan (BOJ) December rate hike being almost fully priced into the market.

Economics

- On Wednesday, the ADP Employment Report showed a decline of 32,000 private payrolls, significantly below the consensus estimate of an increase of 20,000 jobs. Small businesses with fewer than 50 employees were the hardest hit. This continued weakness in the labor market has increased expectations for a December interest rate cut.
- On Thursday, initial jobless claims came in at 191,000, better than both the consensus estimate of 225,000 and last week's reading of 216,000.
- On Friday, the delayed September Personal Income & Outlays report was released. Both the PCE Price Index and Core PCE Price Index came in at 3.0%, slightly higher than expected, indicating that inflation remains a persistent challenge.
- Looking ahead, the Federal Reserve's December meeting is scheduled for this week. Many anticipate that the Fed will lower interest rates as a weakening labor market overshadows sticky inflation.



Weekly Market Update

For Week Ending December 05, 2025

Markets					Equ	ity Sty	le							Economic Data		
	Last Price	Change From Prior Week	Change From Year End	Change From Year Ago	7,50	nn -									Last Release	Year Ago
Capital Markets	Last Price	Prior week	Tear End	Tear Ago	7,50		:	S&P 500						Inflation	Last Release	rear Ago
Dow Jones Industrial Avg	47,954.99	0.6%	14.6%	9.0%	7,00	00 -								CPI Headline Inflation	3.0%	2.4%
												~~~	\\\'			
S&P 500 Index	6,870.40	0.4%	18.2%	14.5%	6,50	00 -				_		, v V-	¥	CPI Core Inflation	3.0%	3.3%
NASDAQ Composite	23,578.13	0.9%	22.8%	20.5%						1	V			Personal Consumption Exp (PCE) Core	2.8%	2.8%
S&P 400 Midcap Index	3,320.12	0.4%	7.8%	1.3%	6,00	00 - TV	W	1	Now You							
S&P 600 Smallcap Index	1,479.87	0.6%	6.7%	-0.3%	E E (	00		V-14	₩.					Jobs		
MSCI EAFE	10,374.91	0.8%	28.4%	23.2%	5,50	00 -		· lh	Γ					Unemployment Rate (U3)	4.4%	4.1%
MSCI Emerging Markets	754.82	1.4%	31.5%	28.5%	5,00	00		- Ч	1					Broader Unemployment Rate (U6)	8.0%	7.7%
Bloomberg US Agg	2,340.93	-0.5%	6.9%	4.9%	3,00	00		-						JOLT Survey (in millions)	7.23	7.65
Bloomberg Municipal 5 Yr	518.20	0.0%	4.8%	3.8%	4.50	00 —		-		-	+ +	-		Jobless Claims (000's)	191	225
Bloomberg US Corporate	3,535.54	-0.5%	7.5%	5.1%	, -	Dec-24	Feb-25	5 Apr-2	5 Jun-25	Au	ig-25 (	Oct-25	Dec-25	Change in Non-Farm Payroll (000's)	119	240
Bloomberg Glb Agg ex US Hdg	608.63	-0.4%	2.7%	2.4%				'			5			Average Hourly Earnings (Y/Y % Change)	3.8%	3.9%
Bloomberg High Yield	2,901.45	0.1%	8.1%	7.3%			4 84 41-4					4- D-	-+			
MSCI US REIT Index	2,370.83	-1.6%	2.6%	-2.8%			1 Month	•			Ye	ear to Dat	e*	Consumer & Spending		
Bloomberg Commodity Index	281.35	1.5%	17.9%	20.0%		Value	Core	Growth			Value	Core	Growth	Consumer Confidence (Conf Board)	88.7	112.8
					40					•				Consumer Spending (\$ Bil)	21,152	20.148
	Last Price/Yield	Prior Week	Year End	Year Ago	ğ	1.80	1.24	0.79	> 10%	arge	12.65	18.20	23.31	Consumer Credit (\$ Bil)	5.084	5.067
Key Rates	Luot i iloc/ iloid	T HOT WOOK	Tour Lina	Tour Ago	Large	1.00		0.70	- 1070	Ľ	12.00	10.20	20.01	Retail Sales (\$ Bil)	733	703
Fed Funds Target	4.00%	4.00%	4.50%	4.75%										. τοτα σαισό (ψ Διί)	133	703
3-Month Treasury	3.69%	3.80%	4.31%	4.44%	Mid	3.46	2.73	2.08	00/ 400/	Βid	7.59	7.84	8.09	Housing		
1-Year Treasury	3.59%	3.59%	4.31%	4.44%	Σ	3.40	2.73	2.00	0% - 10%	≥	1.55	7.04	0.09	Housing Starts (000's)	4.007	4 004
,															1,307	1,391
2-Year Treasury	3.56%	3.49%	4.24%	4.14%	Small	0.05	0.50	0.00		Small	0.04	0.70	0.00	Case-Shiller Home Price Index	328.94	324.74
5-Year Treasury	3.71%	3.60%	4.38%	4.07%	Æ	2.85	2.53	2.23	<0%	뜼	6.64	6.73	6.82	U.O. Donathoratholic		
7-Year Treasury	3.90%	3.78%	4.48%	4.12%						0,				U.S. Productivity		
10-Year Treasury	4.14%	4.01%	4.57%	4.18%		*S&P Indice	es							Real Gross Domestic Product (\$ Bil)	23,771	23,287
30-Year Treasury	4.79%	4.66%	4.78%	4.33%										Quarter over Quarter Change	3.8%	3.6%
					Fixe	ed Inco	me Style							Year Over Year Change	2.1%	3.1%
Consumer Rates					5.0	0% ¬			Yield Curve					ISM Manufacturing	48.20	48.40
30-Year Mortgage	6.30%	6.36%	7.28%	7.01%	5.0	10 70			rieid Curve	;				Capacity Utilization	75.87	75.72
Prime Rate	7.75%	7.75%	8.25%	8.50%	4.7	5% -								Markit US Composite PMI	54.20	54.90
SOFR	3.93%	4.12%	4.49%	4.59%	15	60%								·		
					4.5	10 76	_							U.S. General		
Commodities					4.2	.5% -								Leading Economic Indicators	98.4	102.1
Gold (spot)	4,197.78	4,239.43	2,624.50	2,631.67	4.0	.00/								Trade Weighted Dollar Index	121.4	127.1
Crude Oil WTI	60.08	58.55	71.72	68.30	4.0	0% -								EUR / USD	1.16	1.06
Gasoline	2.96	3.01	3.06	3.03	3.7	5%					—Curr	rent		JPY / USD	155.33	150.10
Natural Gas	5.29	4.85	3.63	3.08										CAD / USD	0.72	0.71
Copper	5.38	5.19	4.03	4.14	3.5	60% -					——1 Ye	ear Ago		AUD / USD	0.66	0.65
Сорреі	3.30	3.19	4.03	4.14	3.2	5% -								AOD / OSD	0.00	0.05
	P/E	P/E	Dulas 4s	0 Di.	3.0	0% ┴								COD FOO Conton Datume		
			Price to Book	Current Div Yield			3 Mo	2 Yr	5 Yr	7 Y	r 1	0 Yr	30 Yr	S&P 500 Sector Returns	4 Manth	YTD
Index Observatoriation	Forward	Trailing	DOOK	rieia			4 84 41-1					4- D-	- 4		1 Month	
Index Characteristics Dow Jones Industrial Ava	20.73	22.00	4.92	1.70		Short	1 Month ³ Interm.	Long			Short	ear to Date	e* Long	Communication Services	7.47%	35.96%
3						SHOIL	IIILEIIII.	Long	_		SHOIL	milenn.	Long	Information Technology	-1.02%	26.08%
S&P 500	22.47	25.53	5.49	1.17	₹	0.44	0.40	0.04		₹	4 7 4	0.40	- FO	Industrials	0.93%	18.63%
S&P 500 Value	18.53	20.15	3.50	1.90	Govt	0.41	0.49	-0.31	> 10%	Govt	4.74	6.12	5.59	Utilities	-2.54%	16.81%
S&P 500 Growth	27.19	32.66	10.31	0.57						_				Health Care	5.31%	13.02%
NASDAQ	28.23	37.03	7.73	0.60	Д					Д				Financials	2.13%	12.37%
S&P Midcap 400	16.42	18.45	2.66	1.61	Corp	0.47	0.67	0.41	0% - 10%	Corp	5.41	7.49	7.51	Energy	4.85%	10.02%
S&P Smallcap 600	15.66	17.05	1.94	2.42	١					U				Materials	3.22%	6.65%
•					1									O D: "		6.14%
MSCI EAFE	15.71	16.58	2.16	2.85										Consumer Discretionary	-2.45%	0.1770
•		16.58 11.49	2.16 2.10	2.85	¥	0.58	0.98	-0.42	<0%	<b>≻</b>	7.16	8.03	13.50	Consumer Discretionary Consumer Staples	-2.45% 2.93%	4.25%
MSCI EAFE	15.71				눞	0.58	0.98	-0.42	<0%	È	7.16	8.03	13.50			

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