

WEEK OF OCTOBER 14, 2024

Market Update

Headline and core Consumer Price Index (CPI) data was slightly higher than expected in September.

Quick Hits

- 1. Report releases: Year-over-year consumer inflation fell to a three-year low in September
- 2. Financial market data: Long-term yields continued to rise as recent employment and inflation readings surprised to the upside.
- **3. Looking ahead:** This week's data will focus on retail sales, industrial production, and housing.

Report Releases: October 7-11, 2024

Trade Balance:

August (Tuesday) The trade deficit shrank slightly more than anticipated in August, reducing the monthly trade gap to its smallest level in five months.

- Expected/prior trade deficit: -\$70.5 billion/-\$78.9 billion
- Actual trade deficit: -\$70.4 billion



Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) Meeting Minutes:

September (Wednesday)

Minutes from the September FOMC meeting showed that most board members favored the interest rate cut of 50 basis points (bps) they announced after the meeting. A handful of participants favored a smaller cut.



Consumer Price Index (CPI):

September (Wednesday)

Year-over-year consumer inflation continued to improve, falling to a three-year low of 2.4 percent in September.

- Prior monthly CPI/core CPI growth: +0.2%/+0.2%
- Expected monthly CPI/core CPI growth: +0.1%/+0.3%
- Actual monthly CPI/core CPI growth: +0.2%/+0.3%
- Prior year-over-year CPI/core CPI growth: +2.5%/+3.2%
- Expected year-over-year CPI/core CPI growth: +2.3%/+3.2%
- Actual year-over-year CPI/core CPI growth: +2.4%/+3.3%



Preliminary University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Survey:

October (Friday)

Consumer sentiment fell more than expected to start October.

Consumer views on current conditions and future expectations soured.

- Expected/prior month consumer sentiment survey: 70.1/71.0
- Actual consumer sentiment survey: 68.9



>> The Takeaway

- FOMC meeting minutes showed some discourse regarding last month's 50 bps rate cut.
- Headline and core CPI were slightly higher than expected in September.

Financial Market Data

Equity

Index	Week-to-Date	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date	12-Month
S&P 500	1.13%	0.96%	23.25%	34.80%
Nasdaq Composite	1.13%	0.86%	22.89%	35.30%
DJIA	1.22%	1.31%	15.42%	29.32%
MSCI EAFE	0.25%	-2.00%	10.73%	21.54%
MSCI Emerging Markets	-1.66%	-0.94%	15.76%	24.31%
Russell 2000	0.99%	0.22%	11.42%	27.86%

Source: Bloomberg, as of October 11, 2024

U.S. equities moved higher as earnings season kicked off. Banks were stronger than expected, with JPMorgan and Wells Fargo reporting better-than-expected results. Nvidia continued its recent rebound, but Tesla struggled after disappointment surrounded its robotaxi event. Technology, industrials, and financials were among the top performers, whereas utilities, communication services, and consumer discretionary lagged.

Fixed Income

Index	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date	12-Month
U.S. Broad Market	-1.46%	2.93%	9.77%
U.S. Treasury	-1.60%	2.18%	7.74%
U.S. Mortgages	-1.43%	3.01%	10.59%
Municipal Bond	-0.56%	1.72%	8.95%

Source: Bloomberg, as of October 11, 2024

The long end of the curve continued its recent rise as data continued to be mostly positive after the hotter-than-expected September jobs report. As a result, inflation is expected to be higher than previously expected; investors are therefore expecting higher yields/compensation for this potential risk. The 10-year Treasury yield closed at 4.11 percent, up 13 bps.

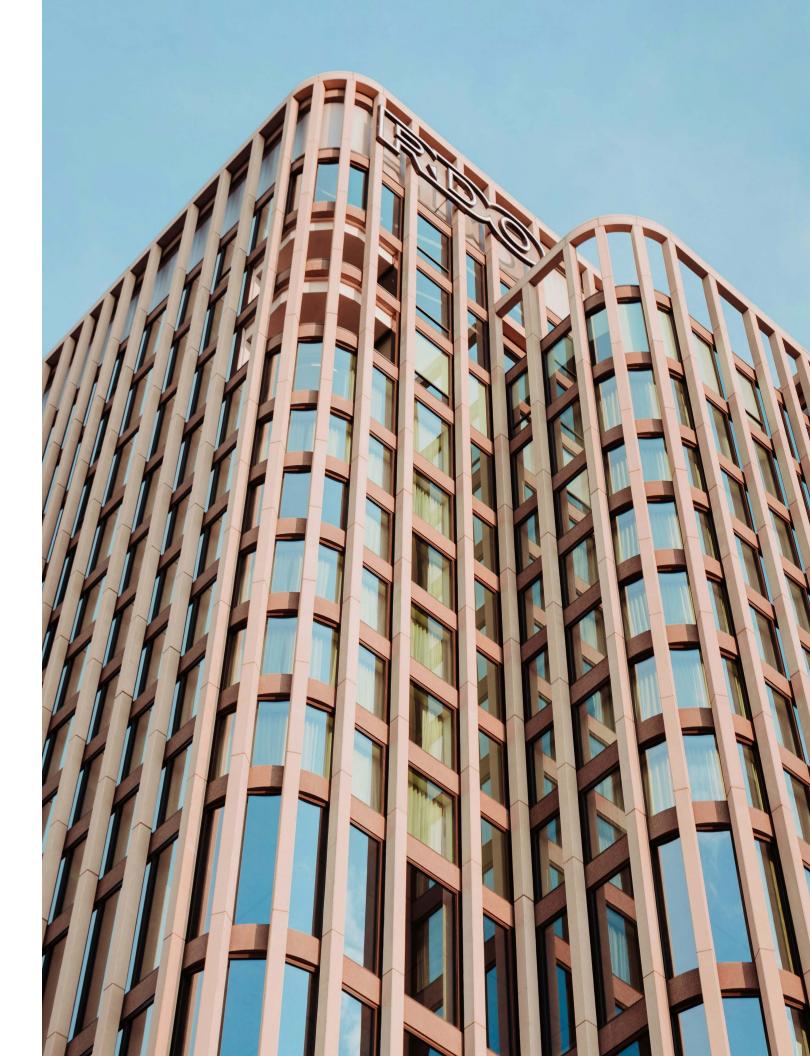
>> The Takeaway

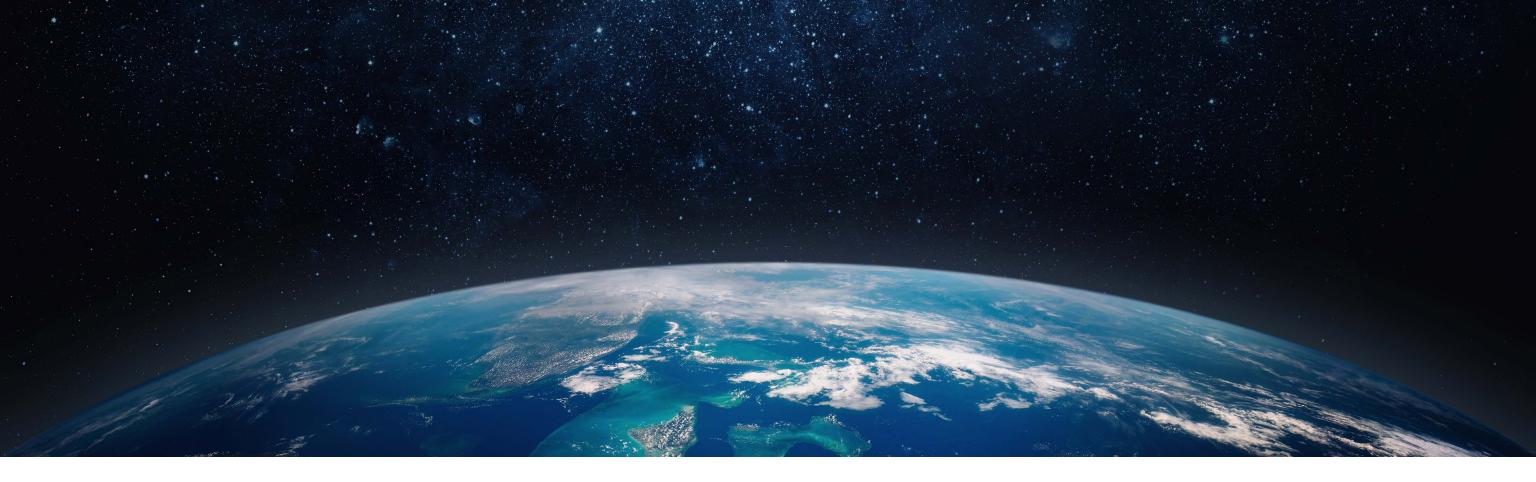
- Solid bank earnings helped propel equities higher.
- Yields continued to increase on the long end of the curve as concerns regarding a rebound in inflation seeped in.

Looking Ahead

This week, we expect data on retail sales, industrial production, and housing.

- Most of the data will be released on Thursday, with retail sales, industrial production, and the NAHB Housing Market Index anticipated:
 - Retail sales are expected to improve in September after surprising to the upside in August. Core sales are also set to accelerate.
 - **Industrial production** is expected to pull back modestly in September after surging in August.
 - **Home builder confidence** is anticipated to improve yet remain in contractionary territory.
- On Friday, **housing starts and building permits** for September will be released. These measures of new home construction are expected to fall after rebounding more than expected in August.





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companies and then dividing that total by an adjusted value, one which has been adjusted over the years to account for the effects of stock splits on the prices of the 30 companies. Dividends are reinvested to reflect the actual performance of the underlying securities. The MSCI EAFE Index is a float-adjusted market capitalization index designed to measure developed market equity performance, excluding the U.S. and Canada. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a market capitalization-weighted index composed of companies representative of the market structure of 26 emerging market countries in Europe, Latin America, and the Pacific Basin. The Russell 2000® Index measures the performance of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000® Index. The Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged market value-weighted performance benchmark for investment-grade fixed-rate debt issues, including government, corporate, asset-backed, and mortgage-backed securities with maturities of at least one year. The U.S. Treasury Index is based on the auctions of U.S. Treasury bills, or on the U.S. Treasury's daily yield curve. The Bloomberg US Mortgage Backed Securities (MBS) Index is an unmanaged market value-weighted index of 15- and 30-year fixed-rate securities backed by mortgage pools of the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA), Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae), and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC), and balloon mortgages with fixed-rate coupons. The Bloomberg US Municipal Index includes investment-grade, tax-exempt, and fixed-rate bonds with long-term maturities (greater than 2 years) selected from issues larger than \$50 million. One basis point is equal to 1/100th of 1 percent, or 0.01 percent.

Authored by the Investment Research team at Commonwealth Financial Network.®

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