Weekly Market Update

November 13, 2023

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"Real heroes don't wear capes."

~ Unknown

Market Watch

Week Ending Nov. 10, 2023

(Source: Briefing.com)

• **DJIA:** *2023 YTD 3.40%*	34,283.10	221.80
• **NASDAQ:** *2023 YTD 31.80%*	13,798.10	319.90
• **S&P 500:** *2023 YTD 15.00%*	4,415.24	56.90
• **Russell 2000:** *2023 YTD -3.20%*	1,705.38	-55.38
• **10 Year Treasury:**		4.63%

Dave's Weekly Commentary

Happy Monday! First I want to thank all those who are serving and have served in the military along with their families. My father served during the tail end of World War II, and many of those we work with have also served and have families who supported them along the way. Thank. you.

Last week we transitioned to Osaic and for the most part that has gone smoothly. As with most transitions, minor glitches are to be expected, however those glitches were more on the operational side and not on the client care or account management side of our business. We are confident the overall experience and care will be even better.

On to what is happening in the financial markets ...

Many retailers will be reporting their quarterly earnings results over the course of the next few weeks. While reporting those results, we will get the latest retail sales for the month of October, as we enter the end of the year, and we also enter the holiday shopping season. ‚Tis the season for the consumer". We will see if weakening sentiment will be showing up in surveys and polling data. Consumer spending is no small consideration either as it accounts for nearly 70% of GDP, which is to say, as goes the consumer, so goes the economy.

We know from the advanced Q3 real GDP estimate of 4.9% that the consumer went just fine in July, August, and September. Consumer sentiment, as measured by the University of Michigan, rose in July but fell in August and September. So, to that point, consumers weren't exactly putting their money where their mouth was. Real personal consumption expenditures increased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.0% in the third quarter, with spending on goods up 4.8% and spending on services up 3.6% The overall strength in spending was a surprise, but the continued inclination to spend was not. Between July and September, the unemployment rate ranged from 3.5% to 3.8%, near a 54-year low.

In other words, people who are employed are people who spend money. Granted they aren't always spending money on discretionary items/experiences, because the means to do so just aren't there. A lot of money is spent only on life's necessities because, as other reports suggest, a lot of people are living paycheck-to-paycheck, and that could mean some people are spending every dollar they earn. In any case, the spending all goes to the same economic pie and the pie in the third quarter was a Costco-size pie.

So, what next is the $22 trillion question? Consumers are facing their fair share of challenges, but the continuation of a strong labor market is key to helping them continue to overcome many of the challenges that include the higher cost of living, the resumption of federal student loan payments, and higher credit costs. One needs to be careful what they wish for when it comes to the Fed and interest rates. If we see a deteriorating labor market would get the Fed's attention, but it would also translate into lower levels of spending that would undermine earnings estimates. A soft landing for the economy is looking contingent on not only a soft landing for the labor market, but also an unemployment rate that doesn't take off. If that component takes flight, there will be some real bite behind the consumer's bark.

On to last week's markets...

Market participants were digesting another heavy flow of earnings news. The Vanguard Mega Cap Growth ETF rose 3.4% this week versus a 1.3% gain in the market-cap weighted S&P 500, which closed above the 4,400 level on Friday. The Invesco S&P 500 Equal Weight ETF declined by 0.6% this week. The broader market showed nice resilience to selling efforts despite many participants thinking stocks are due for a pullback. The S&P 500 is now up 7.2% from its low close on October 27. Small and mid-cap stocks were an exception, relenting to some selling pressure this week. The Russell 2000 fell 3.2% and the S&P Mid Cap 400 declined 1.6%.

Six of the 11 S&P 500 sectors logged a gain this week. The heavily weighed information technology (+4.8%) and communication services (+2.2%) sectors were the best performers followed by consumer discretionary (+0.9%). The energy (-3.8%), utilities (-2.6%), and real estate (-2.1%) sectors saw the biggest declines.

A rise in market rates following some Treasury auctions this week, along with commentary from Fed Chair Powell, slowed the rebound momentum for the broader market. The 2-yr note yield climbed 19 basis points this week to 5.05%. The 10-yr note yield rose seven basis points this week to 4.63%. Source: Briefing.com

Have a good week! Dave

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Newsletter continues on the next page.

UPDATED...
eQuipt Client Portal Access

Username and Password
In a majority of cases, your username and password will remain the same. In very rare cases, you may need to update your username. If prompted, please follow the on-screen instructions or contact technical support to update your username. Once updated, you will be asked to log in with your new username and existing password.

Mobile App Users
If you use the FSC eQuipt mobile app, you will need to download the new Osaic eQuipt app from your phone's app store. When accessing FSC eQuipt after November 6, you will be prompted to take this action.

- Android App Store: Osaic eQuipt
- Apple App Store: Osaic eQuipt

Online Access
Current website: www.fscequipt.com When accessing www.fscequipt.com on or after November 6, 2023, you will be redirected to www.equipt.osaic.com to log in.

New website: www.equipt.osaic.com

eDelivery Notifications
Notification of new documents delivered electronically will now be delivered from **support@osaic.com**.

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Planning Points, Part 1 of 2 *By Nicole Nguyen © 2023 The Wall Street Journal. This article was legally licensed through AdvisorStream. For more helpful articles, visit our blog at https://www.smithmosesandcozad.com/blog*

How to Rethink Your Media Subscriptions and Save on Monthly Fees

The prices of your streaming video subscriptions are going up. Again.

The cost of major streaming services has risen by about 25% over the past year or so, and companies are already planning future increases. I suddenly find myself longing for the era of DVD box sets.

In lieu of shiny silver discs, now is the time to stress-test your streaming mix. After all, which services are you using enough to make it worth the money? You can assess which ones you really use, employ smart cancellation tactics and suss out subscriptions you forgot you were paying for.

It's not a lot of work if you follow these shortcuts.

The price isn't right
Total household spending on streaming video can easily exceed $50 a month, thanks to recent price hikes for ad-free streaming plans.

Netflix plans to raise prices for U.S. and Canadian subscribers after the Hollywood actors' strike ends, as The Wall Street Journal has reported. That follows price increases last year. This past week, Disney+ raised its price to $13.99 monthly, while Hulu rose to $17.99 from $14.99. Discovery+ recently went up to $8.99 from $6.99.

Starting next year, Prime Video content, included with the $139 annual Amazon Prime membership, will have commercials. To avoid them, you'll have to pay Amazon an extra $2.99 monthly.

Paramount+, Peacock and Max (formerly HBO Max) increased prices earlier this year. Plus, Spotify and YouTube Music Premium are more expensive now, too.

Measure your streams
Ask yourself and your family: Are you actually using this subscription?

It might help to think of your bill as an hourly rate. Take Netflix's premium shared $20-a-month plan, with four concurrent streams.

If the account sharers—you and everyone with a profile on your account—watched only 2½ hours total in October, that subscription cost you $8 an hour! If you collectively watch 20 hours, it's a buck an hour. If you aren't squeezing enough hours of entertainment out of a subscription, cancel or downgrade to a cheaper plan.

You can actually dig in and find out how many hours you and your loved ones watch. On Netflix's Manage Access and Devices page, you can see when different devices and profiles last used the service.

Other services don't have similar timestamped login histories. As a proxy, you can use iOS Screen Time settings to get a snapshot of your family's streaming activity on mobile devices. Tap See All App & Website Activity for a report of weekly app usage across each user's iPhones and iPads. (Note: These stats don't show streaming from a web browser or TV apps.)

Android's Digital Wellbeing displays how much time is spent in different apps and websites on that platform's devices.

Streamline subscriptions
Subscribed to two different cloud-storage plans? What about two music services? If you have a bundle such as Apple One, which can include storage, music and news content, you might be paying for redundant subscriptions.

Moving from one music service to another—Spotify to Apple Music or vice versa—can be a pain because you lose playlists. Free Your Music is an easy way to port playlists, though it also charges a fee (one-time $14.99 or $6.66 each quarter).

Article continues next week.