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Market Week: October 9, 2017

The Markets (as of market close October 6, 2017)

Equities continued to surge last week as each of the benchmark indexes listed here posted notable gains — despite a late Friday's downturn. The Dow rose by 1.65%, followed by the Nasdaq, Russell 2000, and the S&P 500. Only the Global Dow failed to increase by at least 1.0%. The labor report's strong wage gains may have enticed long-term bond investors to sell, pushing prices on 10-year Treasuries lower while inflating yields.

The price of crude oil (WTI) reversed a rising trend over the past few weeks, falling to \$49.25 per barrel, down from the prior week's closing price of \$51.64 per barrel. The price of gold (COMEX) fell to \$1,278.90 by early Friday evening, down from the prior week's price of \$1,282.50. The national average retail regular gasoline price decreased to \$2.565 per gallon on October 2, 2017, \$0.018 less than the prior week's price and \$0.320 more than a year ago.

Market/Index	2016 Close	Prior Week	As of 10/6	Weekly Change	YTD Change
DJIA	19762.60	22405.09	22773.67	1.65%	15.24%
Nasdaq	5383.12	6495.96	6590.18	1.45%	22.42%
S&P 500	2238.83	2519.36	2549.33	1.19%	13.87%
Russell 2000	1357.13	1490.86	1510.22	1.30%	11.28%
Global Dow	2528.21	2907.67	2929.76	0.76%	15.88%
Fed. Funds target rate	0.50%-0.75%	1.00%-1.25%	1.00%-1.25%	0 bps	50 bps
10-year Treasuries	2.44%	2.33%	2.35%	2 bps	-9 bps

Chart reflects price changes, not total return. Because it does not include dividends or splits, it should not be used to benchmark performance of specific investments.

Last Week's Economic Headlines

- Hurricanes Harvey and Irma could have had a significant impact on the employment figures for September, according to the latest report from the Department of Labor Statistics. The unemployment rate declined to 4.2% — 0.2 percentage point below August's rate. Hourly earnings rose by \$0.12 to \$26.55 and are up \$0.74, or 2.9%, over the last 12 months. For the first time in seven years, nonfarm employment fell by 33,000 in September from August. This information, which may be revised over the next few months, certainly indicates that employment is reaching capacity and wage inflation is spiking, making it more likely that the Fed will raise interest rates in October.
- Hurricane Harvey may have disrupted shipping along the Gulf Coast, impacting foreign trade in August. The goods and services deficit was \$42.4 billion in August, down \$1.2 billion from \$43.6 billion in July, revised. August exports were \$195.3 billion, \$0.8 billion more than July exports. August imports were \$237.7 billion, \$0.4 billion less than July imports. Year-to-date, the goods and services deficit increased \$29.1 billion, or 8.8%, from the same period in 2016. Exports increased \$84.9 billion, or 5.8%. Imports





Key Dates/Data Releases

10/11: JOLTS

10/12: Producer Price Index,
Treasury budget

10/13: Consumer Price
Index, retail sales

increased \$114.0 billion, or 6.4%. A relatively weak dollar has made U.S. goods and services cheaper to buy for foreign consumers, expanding exports. Moderate domestic economic growth has encouraged buyers to shop in less expensive foreign markets, pushing imports higher.

- Purchasing managers were optimistic about the manufacturing sector in September. The IHS Markit final U.S. Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index™ expanded to 53.1 from August's reading of 52.8. A similar survey, the Manufacturing ISM® Report On Business®, also grew from 58.8% in August to 60.8% in September. Both the Markit and ISM reports also showed growth in new orders, production, and employment.
- In the services sector, purchasing managers were optimistic as reflected in the September non-manufacturing index of 59.8%, which is an increase of 4.5 percentage points over August. A reading over 50.0% represents growth, so September's reading indicates continued growth in the non-manufacturing sector, but at a faster rate. This is the highest reading since August 2005, when the index registered 61.3%. Non-manufacturing industries reporting growth in September include retail trade; real estate, rental & leasing; finance & insurance; and accommodation & food services.
- In the week ended September 30, the advance figure for initial claims for unemployment insurance was 260,000, a decrease of 12,000 from the previous week's unrevised level. The advance insured unemployment rate remained at 1.4%. The advance number of those receiving unemployment insurance during the week ended September 23 was 1,938,000, an increase of 2,000 from the previous week's revised level.

Eye on the Week Ahead

Trading during the Columbus Day week is expected to be slow. From an economic perspective, the first reports of inflationary indicators for September are out next week, including the Consumer Price Index and the Producer Price Index. Price growth has been weak for 2017 and is not expected to have changed much in September.

Data sources: News items are based on reports from multiple commonly available international news sources (i.e. wire services) and are independently verified when necessary with secondary sources such as government agencies, corporate press releases, or trade organizations. Market data: Based on data reported in WSJ Market Data Center (indexes); U.S. Treasury (Treasury yields); U.S. Energy Information Administration/Bloomberg.com Market Data (oil spot price, WTI Cushing, OK); www.goldprice.org (spot gold/silver); Oanda/FX Street (currency exchange rates). All information is based on sources deemed reliable, but no warranty or guarantee is made as to its accuracy or completeness. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any securities, and should not be relied on as financial advice. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. All investing involves risk, including the potential loss of principal, and there can be no guarantee that any investing strategy will be successful.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) is a price-weighted index composed of 30 widely traded blue-chip U.S. common stocks. The S&P 500 is a market-cap weighted index composed of the common stocks of 500 leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy. The NASDAQ Composite Index is a market-value weighted index of all common stocks listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange. The Russell 2000 is a market-cap weighted index composed of 2,000 U.S. small-cap common stocks. The Global Dow is an equally weighted index of 150 widely traded blue-chip common stocks worldwide. Market indices listed are unmanaged and are not available for direct investment.

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