Eagle Strategies LLC

EAGLE FOCUS

weekly

October 5, 2026

MARKET PERFORMANCE RECAP

WEEK ENDING
October 2, 2026

INDEX	LAST FRIDAY'S CLOSE	% CHANGE YTD
S&P 500	7722.72	12.81%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	51176.96	6.48%
Nasdaq Composite	27190.86	16.99%
S&P MidCap 400	3668.01	10.98%
Russell 2000	2839.05	14.14%

The Fed's preferred inflation measure showed price pressures eased in August, with headline PCE rising 3.4% and core PCE increasing 3.0% from a year ago, both below expectations. Consumer spending was stronger than forecast, while income growth was softer, and second-quarter GDP was revised higher on stronger consumer, government, and private-sector spending. The report reduced expectations for an October rate hike, though markets continued to see a December increase as likely. (Source: CNBC)

U.S. consumer confidence fell sharply in September, dropping to 81.9, its lowest level since 2014 and well below expectations. Households grew more pessimistic about business and labor market conditions over the next six months, amid concerns over rising interest rates and higher energy prices linked to geopolitical tensions. The decline in sentiment was broad-based, spanning income levels, age groups, and political affiliations. (Source: Reuters)

August inflation data offered a mixed picture, with the Fed's preferred PCE price index showing persistent price pressures. Energy prices rose 2.3% for the month and were up 16.8% from a year earlier, while core PCE, which excludes food and energy, increased 0.2% in August and 3.0% over the past year, remaining above the Fed's 2% target. Food prices were relatively subdued, unchanged during the month and up 1.9% year over year. (Source: Haver Analytics)

Stocks and bonds are on track to move in opposite directions this year for the first time since 2021, restoring the diversification benefits of the traditional 60/40 portfolio. While rising interest rates have weighed on bond prices, higher yields have made fixed income more attractive, helping drive bond-fund inflows to their strongest pace since 2021. At the same time, the S&P 500 is headed for a fourth straight year of double-digit gains. (Source: Wall Street Journal)

A wave of corporate debt refinancings is approaching, with about $4.3 trillion in U.S. nonfinancial corporate bonds set to mature between 2027 and 2031. Companies that borrowed at ultra-low rates during the pandemic will increasingly need to refinance at today's much higher borrowing costs, potentially pressuring earnings and cash flow. The challenge is expected to be especially acute for lower-rated issuers. (Source: Reuters)

The ISM Manufacturing PMI edged down to 54.5 in September from 54.6 in August, coming in slightly below expectations but continuing to signal growth in the factory sector. Manufacturing activity expanded for the ninth straight month, while the broader U.S. economy remained in expansion for a 23rd consecutive month, reflecting continued economic resilience despite a modest cooling in activity. (Source: Seeking Alpha)

Private-sector employment rose by 90,000 jobs in September, topping expectations and marking the first acceleration in hiring since May. Job growth was led by the education and health care and leisure and hospitality sectors, while financial activities and professional services remained weak. The gain followed a downwardly revised increase of 36,000 jobs in August. (Source: Yahoo Finance)

Global bond yields surged last week, as investors continued to sell government debt, pushing borrowing costs in major economies to some of their highest levels in decades. The U.S. 10-year Treasury yield climbed to 5.34%, its highest since 2002, amid concerns about persistent inflation, rising energy prices, strong economic growth expectations, and heavy demand for capital tied to AI-related investment. Higher yields increase borrowing costs for governments, businesses, and consumers, raising the risk of additional pressure on economic growth. (Source: Reuters)

Rising living costs are making it harder for many Americans to get by, particularly older adults. The share of Americans age 65 and older living in poverty rose from 9.4% in 2020 to 15.4% in 2025, the largest increase among all age groups and the first time more than 10

million seniors fell below the poverty line. For 2026, the federal poverty threshold is $15,960 for an individual and $21,640 for a two-person household. (Source: MarketWatch)

Uncertainty over potential U.S. tariffs has led buyers to stockpile copper, pushing inventories in American warehouses to an estimated 2 million tons. Copper prices have risen more than 16% this year as companies rushed to secure supplies ahead of possible trade restrictions, creating a premium for metal delivered to the U.S. The growing stockpile has left the market focused less on supply and demand fundamentals and more on when those inventories might eventually be released. (Source: Wall Street Journal)

Consumers remain confident in their job security, but shrinking savings are leaving many with less financial flexibility. According to the latest PYMNTS Consumer Expectations Index, the share of consumers with three months or less of savings rose to 8%, while those with more than a year of savings fell to a 12-month low of 15.1%. Although confidence in current employment remains strong, weaker views on job mobility and the economy suggest households may be more vulnerable to financial disruptions if income is interrupted. (Source: PYMNTS)

U.S. natural gas storage increased by 64 billion cubic feet (bcf) in the week ended Sept. 25, matching expectations and lifting inventories to 3.415 trillion cubic feet. Storage levels remain 3.9% below year-ago levels but are 2.4% above the five-year average, indicating relatively healthy supplies despite a smaller-than-average seasonal build. (Source: Trading Economics)

Certificates of deposit (CDs), which pay a fixed interest rate in exchange for keeping money deposited for a set period, have become increasingly attractive as rates rise. Following the Federal Reserve's latest rate hike, 94% of CDs tracked by CD Valet, more than 2,000 products, posted rate increases in the week ended Sept. 29, far outnumbering the 131 that saw decreases. (Source: MarketWatch)

On Oct. 5, 1919, a young Enzo Ferrari competed in his first automobile race, finishing fourth in a hill climb near Parma, Italy. Although he enjoyed moderate success as a driver, Ferrari found his true passion in building cars, retiring from racing in the 1920s to focus on engineering and management. (Source: History.com)

The Granny Smith apple, one of the most popular varieties in the U.S. and a favorite for baking, is named after Maria Ann Smith, an Australian orchard owner who helped cultivate the variety in the 1800s. After emigrating from England to New South Wales, Smith recognized the apple's potential, and the fruit was eventually named in her honor. (Source: Word Smarts)

There have been four instances in Major League Baseball postseason history where a series MVP came from the losing team. The most recent occurred in 1987, when Jeffrey Leonard earned NLCS MVP honors despite the Giants' seven-game loss. The other players to join this club were Mike Scott (1986 NLCS, Astros), Fred Lynn (1982 ALCS, Angels), and Bobby Richardson (1960 World Series, Yankees). (Source: MLB)

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SMRU 9160445 Exp. Date 10.31.2027