



MISSOURI  
1300 NW Briarcliff Pkwy, Ste. 120  
Kansas City, MO 64150  
913.948.6770  
816.399.0787

## **Weekly Market Update, December 3, 2018** *Presented by Bruce & Dawn Cramer*

### **General Market News**

- Rates moved lower last week, breaking some support levels. The 10-year Treasury dropped below 3.05 percent and opened Monday morning at 3.03 percent. The short end of the curve has tightened, with the difference between the 2- and 5-year Treasuries only 3.5 basis points (bps). The spread had been as low as 2.5 bps last Friday. The 30-year Treasury stands at 3.32 percent. The difference between the 2- and 30-year Treasuries is now back down to only 48 bps.
- All three major U.S. markets were up last week, as the market waited for the G20 meeting. West Texas Intermediate crude oil dropped below \$50 on continued global supply-demand concerns. Russia and Saudi Arabia opened discussions relating to the oil trade to extend the OPEC accord. Tailwinds are expected to come from U.S.-China trade talks, which can reduce the pressures that U.S. businesses face. Overall, the macro news for U.S. markets was positive.
- Several important economic updates were released last week. On Tuesday, the Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index declined slightly, as expected. This result was in line with a similar decline in the University of Michigan consumer sentiment survey released the week before.
- On Wednesday, the second estimate of third-quarter gross domestic product growth remained unchanged, at 3.5 percent on an annualized basis. Also on Wednesday, new home sales came in much worse than expected, falling 8.9 percent against expectations for a gain of 4 percent.
- On Thursday, October's personal spending and personal income figures were released. Both reports beat expectations, growing 0.6 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively.

Equity Index	Week-to-Date	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date	12-Month
S&P 500	4.91%	2.04%	5.11%	6.27%
Nasdaq Composite	5.66%	0.50%	7.24%	7.75%
DJIA	5.32%	2.11%	5.59%	7.62%
MSCI EAFE	0.97%	-0.01%	-8.96%	-7.48%
MSCI Emerging Markets	2.65%	4.13%	-11.96%	-8.75%
Russell 2000	3.04%	1.58%	0.98%	0.57%

Source: Bloomberg

Fixed Income Index	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date	12-Month
U.S. Broad Market	0.60%	-1.79%	-1.34%
U.S. Treasury	0.89%	-1.27%	-0.96%
U.S. Mortgages	0.90%	-0.81%	-0.49%
Municipal Bond	1.11%	0.08%	1.13%

Source: Morningstar Direct

## What to look forward to

This week is a busy one, with several key reports scheduled for release. The data flow started Monday, when the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) Manufacturing index surprised to the upside. It rose from 57.7 to 59.3, above the expected 57.5. This is a diffusion index, where values above 50 indicate expansion and below 50 indicate contraction. So, this metric remains quite strong. The increase came despite slowing global growth and the recent appreciation in the dollar, which has been increasing the costs of U.S. products to foreign buyers. Uncertainty over trade policy remains a headwind as well. Despite these concerns, the increase suggests that the damage has not yet been significant, and manufacturing will remain positive for the overall economy.

On Wednesday, the ISM Nonmanufacturing index is expected to pull back a bit further, from 60.3 to 59.5, after a surprise increase in September to a 21-year high. This is a diffusion index, too, where values above 50 indicate expansion and below 50 indicate contraction. The pullback is expected to come from slowing growth in services. With some surveys indicating more of a slowdown in this sector, there is likely some downside risk here. But even with a larger pullback than the decline expected, this would remain very positive for the overall economy.

On Thursday, the international trade report is expected to show that the U.S. trade deficit widened further in November, from \$54 billion to \$54.9 billion. We already know from the advance report that the trade deficit in goods widened because export growth has dropped back—even as imports have remained steady.

Consequently, there may be some additional downside risk to this report. Overall, if the numbers come in as expected, trade will likely be a drag on fourth-quarter growth.

The University of Michigan consumer confidence survey, to be released on Friday, is expected to show confidence pulling back further from 97.5 for November to 97 for December. This would remain a high level, historically. It suggests that consumers are not yet worried about the effects of a trade war, given the continued strong labor market and decline in gas prices. These factors should continue to support consumer spending and economic growth.

Finally, Friday's employment report is expected to show that job growth continued to be strong in November, with a gain of 205,000, after an October surge of 250,000. The unemployment rate is expected to stay at a very low 3.7 percent. In addition, wage growth is expected to tick up a bit, from 0.2 percent in October to 0.3 percent for November. Wage growth on an annual basis is also expected to rise, from 3.1 percent to 3.2 percent, on base effects. There is some downside risk here, depending on the impact of the California fires. But if the numbers come in as expected, this would be another healthy report and signal continued economic growth. It would also likely support another rate hike from the Federal Reserve in December.

**\*Please click the following link!\*** <https://vimeo.com/channels/966267>

***Disclosures:** Certain sections of this commentary contain forward-looking statements that are based on our reasonable expectations, estimates, projections, and assumptions. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve certain risks and uncertainties, which are difficult to predict. All indices are unmanaged and are not available for direct investment by the public. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The S&P 500 is based on the average performance of the 500 industrial stocks monitored by Standard & Poor's. The Nasdaq Composite Index measures the performance of all issues listed in the Nasdaq Stock Market, except for rights, warrants, units, and convertible debentures. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is computed by summing the prices of the stocks of 30 large 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 Barclays U.S. 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 Barclays 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 Barclays U.S. 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.*

Bruce & Dawn Cramer are financial advisors located at Cramer Capital Management 1300 NW Briarcliff Parkway, Suite 120, Kansas City, MO 64150. They offer securities and advisory services as Investment Adviser Representatives of Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Advisers. They can be reached at 913-948-6770 or at [bruce@cramercapitalmanagement.com](mailto:bruce@cramercapitalmanagement.com) or [dawn@cramercapitalmanagement.com](mailto:dawn@cramercapitalmanagement.com)

Authored by the Investment Research team at Commonwealth Financial Network.  
© 2018 Commonwealth Financial Network®