



Molina Wealth Management
 Liliانا N. Molina, MBA, CFF, CFP®
 President & Founder
 7901 Jones Branch Dr Suite 800
 McLean, VA 22102
 703-748-5819
 703-748-5816
 liliana.molina@spireip.com
 http://www.molinawm.com/



Market Week: September 3, 2024

The Markets (as of market close August 30, 2024)

Despite moments of trepidation, the stock market extended its winning streak to three straight weeks. And even with its rough start, August marked the fourth month in a row of positive returns. Several encouraging reports suggested that the economy is holding up and inflation is moderating, keeping alive hopes of a soft landing and a September rate cut by the Federal Reserve. The Dow posted the largest gain to close out the week at an all-time high, and the Global Dow also soared. The large caps of the S&P 500 posted a modest gain, the small caps of the Russell 2000 treaded water, and the tech-heavy NASDAQ ended the week in the red. Financials, energy, and materials were the top performing sectors, while information technology and communication services lagged. Bond prices fell, pushing up 10-year Treasury yields. Regardless of heightened geopolitical tensions, crude oil prices slipped due to expectations of weaker global demand. Gold prices fell and the dollar rose.

Stocks couldn't maintain their momentum last Monday, though the Dow (0.2%) and the Global Dow (0.1%) pulled off slight gains. Declining tech stocks dragged down the NASDAQ (-0.9%), while the Russell 2000 (-0.4%) and the S&P 500 (-0.3%) also posted losses. The 10-year Treasury yield fell to 3.82%. Crude oil spiked more than 2.9% on the news that Libya would halt exports. Gold prices and the dollar also rose.

The Global Dow (0.4%), the NASDAQ (0.2%), and the S&P 500 (0.2%) all closed higher on Tuesday, while the Russell 2000 declined 0.7%. The Dow ended the day where it began, sitting at an all-time high. The 10-year Treasury yield rose slightly to 3.82%. Crude oil prices dropped 2.2% to about \$75 per barrel. Gold prices advanced and the dollar retreated.

Last Wednesday, all of the benchmark stock indexes listed here ended up in the red. The NASDAQ fell 1.1%, followed by the Russell 2000 (-0.7%), the S&P 500 (-0.6%), the Dow (-0.4%), and the Global Dow (-0.3%). The 10-year Treasury yield ticked up again to 3.84%. Crude oil prices fell more than 1.5%. Gold lost value and the dollar advanced.

Stock market returns were mostly positive on Thursday, with one major exception. Shares of a high-profile chipmaker sold off due to a disappointing forecast, even though it reported second-quarter earnings that beat expectations. Those losses weighed on the NASDAQ, which fell 0.2%. The S&P 500 and the Global Dow both ended the day flat. The small caps of the Russell 2000 posted a 0.7% gain, followed closely by the Dow, which climbed 0.6% to reach another record high. The yield on 10-year Treasuries inched up for the third-straight day to close at 3.86%. Crude oil prices rose nearly 2.0%, settling just under \$76.00 per barrel. Gold prices and the dollar also advanced.

Investors kicked off the holiday weekend in good spirits on Friday, after the Fed's preferred gauge pointed to tamer inflation.(See below.) All of the major stock indexes listed here closed higher. The NASDAQ gained 1.1% and the S&P 500 rose 1.0%, followed by the Russell 2000, which climbed 0.7%. The Global Dow and the Dow returned 0.6%.. The benchmark 10-year Treasury yield added 4.4 basis points and settled at 3.91%. Crude oil prices dropped 3.0% and Gold prices fell 1.0%, while the dollar edged up slightly.

Stock Market Indexes

Market/Index	2023 Close	Prior Week	As of 8/30	Weekly Change	YTD Change
--------------	------------	------------	------------	---------------	------------



Key Dates/Data Releases

9/3: S&P Global
Manufacturing PMI

9/4: International trade in
goods and services, JOLTS

9/5: S&P Global Services
PMI

9/6: Employment situation

DJIA	37,689.54	40,712.78	41,563.08	2.09%	10.28%
NASDAQ	15,011.35	17,877.79	17,713.63	-0.92%	18.00%
S&P 500	4,769.83	5,634.61	5,648.40	0.24%	18.42%
Russell 2000	2,027.07	2,218.70	2,217.63	-0.05%	9.40%
Global Dow	4,355.28	4,847.19	4,934.57	1.80%	13.30%
fed. funds target rate	5.25%-5.50%	5.25%-5.50%	5.25%-5.50%	0 bps	0 bps
10-year Treasuries	3.86%	3.80%	3.90%	10 bps	4 bps
US Dollar-DXY	101.39	100.70	101.68	0.97%	0.29%
Crude Oil-CL=F	\$71.30	\$74.90	\$73.61	-1.72%	3.24%
Gold-GC=F	\$2,072.50	\$2,546.50	\$2,535.30	-0.44%	22.33%

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 News

- The economy grew at an annualized rate of 3.0% in the second quarter according to the second estimate of gross domestic product. GDP accelerated at a rate of 1.4% in the first quarter. The personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index increased 2.5%. Excluding food and energy prices, the PCE price index increased 2.8%. Consumer spending, as measured by the personal consumption expenditures index, rose 2.9%. Spending on goods increased 3.0%, while spending on services climbed 2.9%. Residential fixed investment declined 2.0%, while nonresidential (business) fixed investment increased 4.6%. Exports rose 1.6% and imports, which are a negative in the calculation of GDP, jumped 7.0%.
- Prices consumers paid for goods and services, as measured by the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index, rose 0.2% in July following a 0.1% increase in June. Excluding food and energy, prices increased 0.2%. Over the 12 months ended in July, the PCE price index rose 2.5%, the same as the 12-month estimate for the period ended in June. Prices for goods decreased by less than 0.1%, and prices for services increased 3.7%. The July 12-month increase in prices excluding food and energy was 2.6%, unchanged from the 12 months ended in June. Also in July, personal income increased 0.3%, while disposable personal income advanced 0.3%. Consumer spending, as measured by the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) index, increased 0.5% in July, up from the June estimate of 0.3%.
- Durable goods orders shot up 9.9% in July after dropping 6.9% in June. Excluding transportation, new orders decreased 0.2%. Excluding defense, new orders increased 10.4%. The 34.8% jump in new orders for transportation equipment (mainly aircraft) drove the overall increase in July. New orders for nondefense capital goods in July increased 41.9%.
- According to the advance report on international trade in goods (excluding services), the deficit for July widened by \$6.1 billion, or 6.3%, from June. Exports were virtually unchanged, while imports decreased \$6.1 billion, or 2.3%. Since July 2023, exports have risen 4.4% and imports have surged 8.2%.
- The national average retail price for regular gasoline was \$3.313 per gallon on August 26, \$0.069 per gallon under the prior week's price and \$0.500 per gallon less than a year ago. Also, as of August 26, the East Coast price fell \$0.045 to \$3.254 per gallon; the Midwest price decreased \$0.114 to \$3.208 per gallon; the Gulf Coast price dipped \$0.102 to \$2.894 per gallon; the Rocky Mountain price increased \$0.114 to \$3.357 per gallon; and the West Coast price decreased \$0.008 to \$4.050 per gallon.
- For the week ended August 24, there were 231,000 new claims for unemployment insurance, a decrease of 2,000 from the previous week's level, which was revised up by 1,000. According to the Department of Labor, the advance rate for insured unemployment claims for the week ended August 17 was 1.2%, unchanged from the previous week's rate. The advance number of those receiving unemployment insurance benefits during the week ended August 17 was 1,868,000, an increase of 13,000 from the previous week's level, which was revised down by 8,000. States and territories with the highest insured unemployment rates for the week ended August 10 were New Jersey (2.8%), Rhode Island (2.5%), California (2.2%), Puerto Rico (2.1%), Minnesota (2.0%), Connecticut (1.8%), Massachusetts (1.8%), Pennsylvania (1.8%), Nevada (1.7%), New York (1.7%), and Washington (1.7%). The largest increases in initial claims for unemployment insurance for the week ended August 17 were in Florida (+2,153), California (+979), Indiana (+854), South Carolina (+645), and Virginia (+408), while the largest decreases were in Michigan (-2,847), Texas (-1,952), New Jersey (-1,010),

Georgia (-979), and Puerto Rico (-779).

Eye on the Week Ahead

Results from the August purchasing managers' indexes (PMI) for manufacturing and services will be released this week. Two important employment reports for August are also coming out. Labor market data is highly anticipated at this critical juncture for the economy, especially after last month's disappointing jobs report raised expectations that the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates substantially in September.

Data sources: Economic: Based on data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (unemployment, inflation); U.S. Department of Commerce (GDP, corporate profits, retail sales, housing); S&P/Case-Shiller 20-City Composite Index (home prices); Institute for Supply Management (manufacturing/services). Performance: 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).

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. 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. Forecasts are based on current conditions, subject to change, and may not come to pass. U.S. Treasury securities are guaranteed by the federal government as to the timely payment of principal and interest. The principal value of Treasury securities and other bonds fluctuates with market conditions. Bonds are subject to inflation, interest-rate, and credit risks. As interest rates rise, bond prices typically fall. A bond sold or redeemed prior to maturity may be subject to loss. 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 largest, publicly traded 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. The U.S. Dollar Index is a geometrically weighted index of the value of the U.S. dollar relative to six foreign currencies. Market indexes listed are unmanaged and are not available for direct investment.

Spire Wealth Management, LLC is a Federally Registered Investment Advisory Firm. Securities offered through an affiliated company, Spire Securities, LLC., a Registered Broker/Dealer and member FINRA/SIPC.

Neither Spire Wealth Management, LLC nor Liliana N. Molina provides tax or legal advice. Please speak with your tax or legal professional.