

Treasury Yields Rise Following the Fed's September Rate Cut



Evan Kulak

Financial Advisor

phone: (307) 365-6069

email:

evan@cuwgroup.com

Connect with your advisor

✓ *Financial Planning*

✓ *Investment
Management*

✓ *Wealth Management*

✓ *Retirement / 401(k)
Advice*

Looking for help with your investments?

Visit:

mymeridiantrust.com/for-you/discover/wealth-management

Monthly Market Summary

- The S&P 500 Index returned -0.9%, outperforming the Russell 2000 Index's -1.4% return. Three of the eleven S&P 500 sectors traded higher, with Financials and Communication Services both gaining more than +1.5%. The remaining eight sectors all traded lower by more than -1% during the month.
- Corporate investment-grade bonds produced a -3.2% total return as Treasury yields rose, underperforming corporate high-yield's -1.0% total return.
- International stocks traded lower. The MSCI EAFE developed market stock index returned -5.3%, while the MSCI Emerging Market Index returned -3.1%.

Stocks End 5-Month Winning Streak with First Loss Since April

Stocks finished October lower as investors navigated Q3 earnings, the upcoming election, and uncertain Federal Reserve policy. The S&P 500 posted its first monthly loss since April, lowering its year-to-date return to +20.7%. Large-cap stocks slightly outperformed small-cap stocks, but most investment factors produced similar returns. In the bond market, Treasury yields climbed as investors considered the possibility that the Fed may not cut interest rates as much as previously expected. Concerns about fiscal spending also drove Treasury yields higher, with expectations for continued high government spending regardless of the election outcome. With yields rising sharply, bonds traded lower for the first time in six months.

Treasury Yields Spike After the Fed's September Rate Cut

The bond market has experienced several large swings this year. The 10-year Treasury yield began the year around 3.90%. However, as inflation rose early in the year, the 10-year yield climbed to 4.70% by late April. Yields then reversed over the summer as falling inflation and rising unemployment fueled expectations for deeper rate cuts. Between late April and mid-September, the 10-year yield dropped by over -1.00%. It hit a low of 3.62% the week of the Fed's September meeting, when the central bank cut interest rates by -0.50%. It may seem counterintuitive, but since the Fed's September meeting, Treasury yields have risen sharply. The 10-year Treasury yield ended October at 4.28%, rising by over +0.65% in one and a half months.

What's behind this year's bond market swings? Volatile economic trends and uncertain Fed policy. Two key data points have increased volatility: inflation surged early in the year before easing over the summer, while unemployment rose from 3.7% in January to 4.3% in July, then fell to 4.1% in September. The Fed aims for stable prices and full employment, but conflicting data has complicated its interest rate decisions. There's general agreement that the Fed should continue to lower interest rates, but there's debate about how quickly and how much. The recent increase in Treasury yields reflects expectations for fewer interest rate cuts. As we've seen this year, that outlook could change in the coming months.

THIS MONTH IN NUMBERS

FIGURE 1

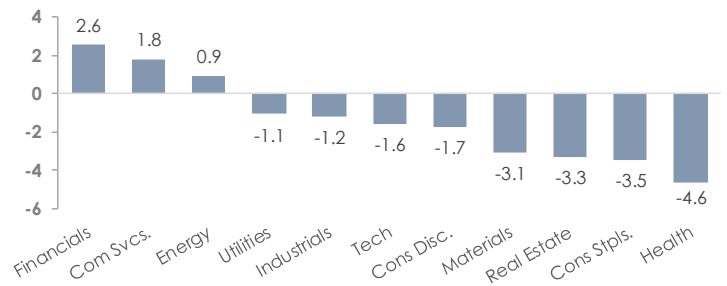
U.S. Style Returns (October in %)

	Value	Blend	Growth
Large	-1.1	-0.9	-0.4
Mid	-1.3	-0.5	1.7
Small	-1.5	-1.4	-1.3

Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 10/31/2024

FIGURE 2

U.S. Sector Returns (October in %)



Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 10/31/2024

FIGURE 3

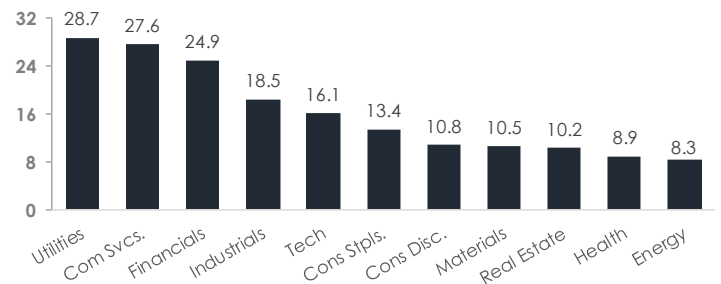
U.S. Style Returns (YTD in %)

	Value	Blend	Growth
Large	15.1	20.7	23.8
Mid	13.4	13.9	14.6
Small	7.2	9.4	11.7

Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 10/31/2024

FIGURE 4

U.S. Sector Returns (YTD in %)



Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 10/31/2024

FIGURE 5

Market Data Center

Stocks	1 month	3 months	6 months	YTD	1 year	3 years
S&P 500	-0.9%	3.6%	14.0%	20.7%	37.6%	28.1%
Dow Jones	-1.3%	2.7%	11.4%	12.2%	28.5%	22.1%
Russell 2000	-1.4%	-2.4%	11.8%	9.4%	33.9%	-1.1%
Russell 1000 Growth	-0.4%	4.6%	16.1%	23.8%	43.4%	27.4%
Russell 1000 Value	-1.1%	2.9%	10.4%	15.1%	30.5%	20.0%
MSCI EAFE	-5.3%	-1.4%	4.3%	7.0%	21.9%	7.0%
MSCI EM	-3.1%	3.5%	9.1%	11.3%	23.9%	-6.8%
NASDAQ 100	-0.9%	2.9%	14.3%	18.6%	38.8%	27.2%

	Dividend Yield	NTM P/E	P/B
S&P 500	1.21%	21.8x	4.9x
Dow Jones	1.63%	19.2x	4.9x
Russell 2000	1.16%	24.8x	1.2x
Russell 1000 Growth	0.48%	28.9x	12.4x
Russell 1000 Value	1.83%	16.7x	2.7x
MSCI EAFE	2.92%	14.1x	1.8x
MSCI EM	2.32%	12.4x	1.7x
NASDAQ 100	0.57%	26.5x	7.6x

Fixed Income	Yield	1 month	3 months	YTD	1 year	3 years
U.S. Aggregate	4.73%	-2.5%	0.2%	1.9%	10.4%	-6.7%
U.S. Corporates	5.19%	-3.2%	0.6%	1.7%	14.7%	-9.2%
Municipal Bonds	3.97%	-1.2%	0.1%	0.9%	9.1%	-0.8%
High Yield Bonds	7.39%	-1.0%	2.3%	6.9%	15.5%	5.7%

Commodities	Level	1 month	YTD
Oil (WTI)	70.61	3.6%	-1.5%
Gasoline	1.89	-5.7%	-8.3%
Natural Gas	2.71	-7.2%	16.6%
Propane	0.81	20.5%	21.1%
Ethanol	1.47	-6.1%	-9.0%
Gold	2,757	3.7%	33.1%
Silver	32.83	4.3%	36.3%
Copper	4.33	-3.7%	11.5%
Steel	735	-5.2%	-35.2%
Corn	4.11	-3.2%	-12.7%
Soybeans	9.80	-5.7%	-23.9%

Key Rates	10/31/2024	9/30/2024	7/31/2024	4/30/2024	10/31/2023	10/31/2021
2 yr Treasury	4.16%	3.64%	4.26%	5.03%	5.06%	0.49%
10 yr Treasury	4.28%	3.79%	4.05%	4.68%	4.90%	1.55%
30 yr Treasury	4.48%	4.13%	4.34%	4.79%	5.06%	1.94%
30 yr Mortgage	7.23%	6.68%	7.04%	7.55%	8.06%	3.14%
Prime Rate	8.50%	8.00%	8.50%	8.50%	8.50%	3.25%

Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 10/31/2024

See disclosures at the end of the client letter.

Firm Disclosures

Wealth management products and services are offered independently through Credit Union Wealth Group, LLC, an SEC registered investment advisor. Credit Union Wealth Group and Meridian Trust Federal Credit Union are not affiliated. Products and services made available through Credit Union Wealth Group are not insured by NCUA or any other agency of the United States and are not deposits or obligations of nor guaranteed or insured by any credit union, credit union service organization, or credit union affiliate. These products are subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of the principal amount invested.

See disclosures at the end of the client letter.