

# Investment Weekly

For the week ended Dec 12, 2025

## Commentary

**Weekly summary:** Stock market results were mixed this week. Smaller companies performed well and hit record highs, while big technology stocks fell. Investor favor shifted out of tech companies into other types of businesses like banks, airlines, and payment companies. The Federal Reserve cut interest rates but indicated a more conservative cutting path in 2026.

## Markets review

- **The S&P 500 edged slightly lower while small-company stocks hit new highs.** This shift suggests investors are looking beyond mega-cap technology stocks and finding opportunities in a broader range of companies.
- **Technology and housing-related stocks struggled on concerns about expensive artificial intelligence investments and a cautious housing market outlook.** The housing weakness could signal that high mortgage rates and home prices continue to pressure affordability, though it may eventually lead to more competitive pricing for homebuyers.
- **Long-term borrowing costs increased.** Yields on 10-year and 30-year U.S. Treasury bonds rose to their highest levels since early September, which typically translates to higher costs for mortgages and other long-term loans.
- **The U.S. dollar weakened slightly while gold prices climbed.** A weaker dollar can make imported goods more expensive at checkout but may benefit American exporters and travelers heading abroad. Gold's 2% gain reflects continued investor uncertainty about the economic outlook.
- **Gas prices may see some relief as oil prices fell 4.4%.** Lower crude oil costs generally translate to reduced prices at the pump over the coming weeks.

## Economic review

- **The Federal Reserve lowered interest rates by a 0.25% but signaled fewer cuts ahead.** This cautious approach suggests the central bank is trying to balance keeping borrowing affordable while preventing inflation from resurging. The Fed now expects just one rate cut in 2026, fewer than previously anticipated.
- **Fed Chair Powell revealed that job growth numbers may be overstated by 60,000 per month.** This matters because employment data drives Fed decisions on interest rates. If the job market isn't as strong as reported, the Fed might cut rates sooner to support the economy—potentially good news for borrowers but concerning for overall economic health.
- **Major home retailers and builders issued cautious forecasts for 2026.** This suggests the housing market remains challenging due to high prices and mortgage rates, although it could eventually lead to price adjustments that benefit buyers or more promotional activity from home improvement retailers.

## Earnings review

- **3Q25 earnings season has essentially concluded.** More than 99% of S&P 500 companies reported. The blended earnings growth rate was 15.0% and the revenue growth rate was 8.3%. 83% of S&P 500 companies beat consensus EPS expectations.

## Market data

Index prices (\$)	12/12/2025	12/31/2024
Dow Jones Industrial Average	48,458	42,544
S&P 500	6,827	5,882

Returns (%)	1wk	QTD	YTD	3mo
Equities				
S&P 500	-0.63	2.33	17.51	4.00
S&P Mid Cap 400	0.93	2.94	8.87	2.46
S&P Small Cap 600	2.02	4.47	8.90	5.12
Russell 1000	-0.56	2.22	17.14	3.72
Russell MidCap	0.54	1.31	11.87	1.48
Russell 2000	1.19	4.95	15.85	6.78
Dow Jones Industrial Average	1.05	4.85	15.84	6.20
NASDAQ Composite	-1.62	2.49	20.87	4.92

Fixed income				
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate	-0.20	0.56	6.73	0.31
Bloomberg Global Aggregate	0.03	-0.23	7.66	-0.35
Bloomberg High Yield Bond	-0.13	0.73	8.00	0.95
S&P / LSTA Senior Loan	0.20	1.47	6.86	1.78
JPM EMBI+ Emerging Markets Bond	0.02	2.05	11.87	1.91

S&P 500 sectors				
Technology	-2.30	0.71	23.18	4.56
Materials	2.44	-0.06	9.25	-1.95
Consumer discretionary	0.33	1.13	6.50	1.35
Health care	0.47	10.66	13.55	12.05
Utilities	-1.05	-1.79	15.59	0.88
Consumer staples	1.15	1.50	5.45	-0.36
Energy	-0.56	2.21	9.41	3.81
Financials	2.32	1.98	14.99	2.49
Industrials	1.38	1.60	20.28	3.85
Communication services	-3.16	5.74	31.66	5.35
Real Estate	-0.76	-2.91	3.10	-2.52

Equity style performance				
Large cap value	0.58	4.01	16.14	5.02
Large cap growth	-1.55	0.64	17.99	2.57
Mid cap value	0.71	2.44	12.17	3.09
Mid cap growth	-0.03	-2.18	10.37	-3.36
Small cap value	1.97	6.08	15.67	7.22
Small cap growth	0.47	3.91	16.03	6.38

International equities				
MSCI EAFE	0.85	3.50	30.12	4.06
MSCI U.K.	-0.16	3.07	30.16	2.93
MSCI Europe ex-U.K.	0.91	3.97	33.92	5.22
MSCI Japan	1.42	4.48	26.54	4.84
MSCI AC Asia ex-Japan	0.09	3.08	31.42	3.90
MSCI Emerging Markets	0.44	3.61	32.85	5.32
MSCI ACWI	-0.16	2.72	22.10	4.17

Source: FactSet.

## Economic calendar

Date	Country/Region	Event
12/15/2025	Euro Zone	Industrial Production (Oct)
	U.S.	Empire State Index (Dec)
	U.S.	NAHB Housing Market Index (Dec)
12/16/2025	Japan	S&P Global PMI Services (Dec)
	U.K.	ILO Unemployment Rate (Oct)
	Euro Zone	Trade Balance (Oct)
	U.S.	Nonfarm Payrolls (Nov)
	U.S.	Unemployment Rate (Nov)
	U.S.	Unemployment Rate (Nov)
12/17/2025	China	Foreign Direct Investment (Nov)
	U.K.	CPI (Nov)
	U.K.	PPI (Nov)
	Germany	Ifo Business Climate (Dec)
	U.K.	ONS House Price (Oct)
	Euro Zone	CPI (Nov)
	U.S.	Retail Sales (Nov)
	U.S.	Retail Sales (Nov)
12/18/2025	U.K.	BoE Official Bank Rate
	Euro Zone	ECB's Monetary Policy
	U.S.	CPI (Nov)
	U.S.	Initial Claims (12/13)
	U.S.	Philadelphia Fed Index (Dec)
	Japan	CPI (Nov)
	Japan	Japan Policy Rate
	Japan	Japan Policy Rate
12/19/2025	Germany	GfK Consumer Confidence (Jan)
	Germany	PPI (Nov)
	U.K.	Retail Sales (Nov)
	U.S.	GDP (3Q25)
	Euro Zone	Consumer Confidence Indicator (Dec)
	U.S.	Existing Home Sales (Nov)
	U.S.	Michigan Sentiment (Dec)
	U.S.	Personal Consumption Expenditure (Nov)

Source: FactSet.

## Market data, cont'd

As of:	Last close	Prior week	Year end	3 mos ago
U.S. bond rates (%)				
U.S. federal funds target rate	3.75	4.00	4.50	4.50
U.S. 2yr Treasury	3.53	3.58	4.25	3.57
U.S. 10yr Treasury	4.19	4.17	4.58	4.06
U.S. 20yr Treasury	4.82	4.78	4.86	4.64
U.S. 30yr Treasury	4.85	4.81	4.79	4.68
High yield (Merrill U.S. Corporates)	6.48	6.47	6.97	6.44
Consumer rates (%)				
30yr mortgage rate	6.31	6.30	7.28	6.47
Prime rate	6.75	7.00	7.50	7.50
Commodities				
Gold (USD/oz)	\$4,328.30	\$4,217.70	\$2,641.00	\$3,686.40
Crude oil (USD/bbl)	\$57.44	\$58.88	\$71.72	\$62.69
Copper (LME \$/mt)	\$11,816.00	\$11,695.00	\$8,706.00	\$10,004.50
Gasoline (USD/gal)	\$3.20	\$3.27	\$3.22	\$3.45
Exchange rates				
\$ per €	1.17	1.16	1.04	1.17
\$ per £	1.34	1.33	1.25	1.36
¥ per \$	155.89	155.87	157.16	147.68
U.S. Dollar Index	98.40	99.09	108.49	97.55

Source: FactSet.

## Index definitions

Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index measures a wide range of global government, government-related, corporate and securitized fixed-income investments, all with maturities greater than one year.

Bloomberg High Yield Bond Index tracks the performance of below investment grade U.S. dollar-denominated corporate bonds publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market.

Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index is a bond market index composed of U.S. securities in Treasury, Government-Related, Corporate, and Securitized sectors that are of investment-grade quality or better, have at least one year to maturity, and have an outstanding par value of at least \$250 million.

Dow Jones Industrial Average is a price-weighted average computed from the stock prices of 30 of the largest and most widely held public companies in the U.S., adjusted to reflect stock splits and stock dividends.

FTSE EPRA / NAREIT Global Real Estate Index represents general performance trends of the equity securities of real estate companies involved in the ownership, disposition and development of income-producing properties worldwide.

JPMorgan Emerging Markets Bond Index Plus (EMBI+) tracks total returns for traded foreign currency denominated debt instruments in the emerging markets which meet minimum criteria for face value outstanding and market trading liquidity.

MSCI ACWI Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to provide a broad measure of equity-market performance throughout the world, capturing large and mid cap representation across 23 Developed Markets (DM) and 26 Emerging Markets (EM) countries.

MSCI EAFE Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to measure developed markets' equity performance, excluding the U.S. & Canada, for 21 countries.

MSCI Europe ex-U.K. Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to measure equity performance of the 15 developed European markets except the U.K..

MSCI U.K. Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to measure equity performance of listed common stocks in the U.K..

MSCI Asia ex-Japan Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to measure equity performance of the 15 developed Asian markets except Japan.

MSCI Japan Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to measure equity performance of listed common stocks in Japan.

MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that measures emerging market equity performance of 23 countries.

Municipal Bond Index is a bond index that includes investment-grade, tax-exempt fixed-rate bonds with long-term maturities (greater than two years) selected from issues larger than \$50 million.

NASDAQ Composite Index is a market capitalization weighted index of the performance of domestic and international common stocks listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market including over 2,800 securities.

Large Growth: Russell 1000 Growth Index measures the large-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity market including Russell 1000 companies with higher price-to-book ratios and forecasted growth.

Large Value: Russell 1000 Value Index measures the large-cap value segment of the U.S. equity market including Russell 1000 companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower expected growth.

Midcap Growth: Russell MidCap Growth Index measures the performance of the mid-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity market including Russell Midcap Index companies with higher price-to-book ratios and forecasted growth.

Midcap Value: Russell MidCap Value Index measures the performance of the mid-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity market including Russell Midcap Index companies with lower price-to-book ratios and forecasted growth.

Small Cap Growth: Russell 2000 Growth Index measures the performance of small-cap growth stocks in the U.S. equity market including Russell 2000 companies with higher price-to-value ratios and forecasted growth.

Small Cap Value: Russell 2000 Value Index measures the performance of small-cap growth stocks in the U.S. equity market including Russell 2000 companies with lower price-to-value ratios and forecasted growth.

S&P 500 Index is a widely regarded as the best single gauge of the U.S. equities market, including 500 leading companies in major industries of the U.S. economy.

S&P 500 Sectors are defined as the GICS (Global Industry Classification Standard) sectors which provide standardized industry definitions consisting of 10 sectors, 24 industry groups, and 67 industries.

The S&P MidCap 400 includes 400 companies and represents almost 6% of the U.S. markets. To be eligible for inclusion in the index, a company should be a U.S. company, have a market cap between USD 3.3 billion to USD 11.8 billion, maintain a public float of at least 10% of its shares outstanding, and its most recent quarter's earnings and the sum of its trailing four consecutive quarters' earnings must be positive. The index implements changes on an as-needed basis.

The S&P SmallCap 600 includes 600 companies and represents almost 3% of the U.S. market. To be eligible for inclusion in the index, a company should be a U.S. company, have a market cap between USD 750 million to USD 3.3 billion, maintain a public float of at least 10% of its shares outstanding, and its most recent quarter's earnings and the sum of its trailing four consecutive quarters' earnings must be positive. The index implements changes on an as-needed basis.

The Russell 1000 Index measures the performance of the large-cap segment of the U.S. equity market and includes approximately 1,000 of the largest securities based on market capitalization and representing approximately 92% of the U.S. market.

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