|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **RESOURCE LOG – December 2024** | | | | |
| **Article Title** | **Detail** | **Publication** | **Date** | **Author** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Weak Factory Activity Persists | Manufacturing activity in the U.S. contracted for an eighth-straight month in November, albeit at a less sharp pace, reflecting the challenge for the incoming Trump administration to revive the struggling industrial sector. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/03/2024 | Ed Frankl |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Investors Raise Bets on Rate Cut, While South Korean Won Tumbles | The S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite hit records on Tuesday, with investors growing more confident that the Federal Reserve is heading toward an interest-rate cut in two weeks.  Fed-funds futures indicate traders now see a 72% chance of another 0.25 percentage point interest-rate cut in December.  The S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite climbed to records…  …December’s first trading day, both indexes closed at records.  The Dow Jones Industrial Average ticked down by 0.2%, or 76.47 points, to 44705.53.  Newly released economic data pointed to a solid labor market.  Signs the economy remains strong could reduce traders’ bets on a Fed interest-rate cut in December, but some investors believe that the central bank is likely to continue easing monetary policy barring any significant data surprises.  ♦ The 10-year Treasury yield inched higher, settling at 4.221%. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/04/2024 | Vicky Ge Huang and Caitlin McCabe |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| ♦ What’s News | OOPEC+ will further push back an oil-production increase planned for January by three months amid softer prices and market concerns of an impending glut. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/06/2024 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| For Small Stocks, Look past The Trump Effect | Since the election, the S&P SmallCap 600 Index is up 6%, compared with a 5.1% gain for the S&P 500.  Yet for 2024 as a whole, the S&P 600 lags behind its blue-chip counterpart by 13 percentage points. Since the end of 2019, the shortfall is 40 percentage points.  The S&P 500’s gains have been so top-heavy, its largest 10 companies make up the biggest part of the index ever. ‘When you get this extreme level of concentration, eventually there’s a buyer’s exhaustion,” said Jonathan Coleman, who manages small-cap funds at Janus Henderson. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/06/2024 | Jon Sindreu |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Jobs Rebound Eases Concerns | The labor market bounced back last month, as workers sidelined by storms got back on the job and thousands of striking Boeing employees returned to work. The U.S. added a seasonally adjusted 227,000 jobs in November… | The Wall Street Journal | 12/07-08/2024 | Justin Lahart |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Nasdaq Composite, S&P 500 Set Records  *Monthly jobs report solidified views for a quarter-point Fed rate cut this month* | The S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite rallied to set new records after data showed hiring rebounded in November.  Unemployment edged up to 4.2%, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said, matching consensus forecasts.  Both the Nasdaq and the S&P 500 posted weekly gains, extending their win streak to three consecutive weeks.  ♦ Bond yields fell. The benchmark 10-year yield edged lower to settle a t 4.150%, from around 4.18% the day prior. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/07-08/2024 | Jack Pitcher and Katy Barnoto |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| S&P 500’s Strong 2024 Sparks Debate on How Far It Can Rise | Wall Street is grappling with whether another year of robust gain is possible for a stock market that is looking precariously expensive.  The S&P 5oo has surged 28% in 2024 and is on pace for back-to-back annual jumps of more than 20% for the first time since a four-year stretch that ended in 1998.  Strategists at some of the nation’s biggest banks are projecting more modest returns in 2025. JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs project that the S&P 500 will reach 6500 by the end of next year, a 6.7% increase from Friday’s close of roughly 6090.  Analysts generally agree that President-elect Donald Trump’s Pro-Growth policies will be a boom for stocks but some question how much further they can run. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/09/2024 | Krystal Hur |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Dividend Stocks Set for Comeback  *With tech pricey and bonds losing appeal, shares that pay out lure more investors* | Owning stocks with big dividends might finally start paying off.  With highflying tech stocks looking expensive and falling interest rates potentially denting the appeal of bonds, dividend shares look good, they said.  Investors typically flock to the dividend payers in down markets or when the economic outlook turns cloudy. Indeed, many companies with big payouts, including utilities and consumer staples, produce stable earnings In any weather. In rallies, though, their shares tend to lag behind.  The performance gap between the S&P 500 and the dividend stocks has widened this year.  Last week, the S&P 500’s dividend yield, which measures dividend payouts relative to stock price, hit a 20-year low when it dropped below 1.19%.  The top-heavy S&P 500 has produced a total return of 28% this year, including price gains and dividend payments… | The Wall Street Journal | 12/09/2024 | Jasmine Li |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Major Stock Indexes Slip on Fears Of Overvaluation in AI Sector | Stock investors’ obsession with technology cut both ways Tuesday as optimism over quantum computing duked it out with anxiety about over-valuation in artificial intelligence. Bearish sentiment ultimately won out with major indexes closing slightly lower. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/11/2024 | Joe Wallace and Matt Wirz |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| What’s News | ♦ Bitcoin investors celebrating the cryptocurrency’s surge to a record say the rally will continue because of the limit to the number of bitcoins that can ever be created. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/11/2024 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Inflation Bubbles Up Again | Progress on bringing down inflation stalled in November, with the consumer-price index of goods and services costs ticking up to a 2.7% increase.  Prics of consumer goods-everything from cars to living room furniture, but excluding food and energy-increased at the fastest month-over-month pace in a year and a half, led by a jump in vehicle prices.  Economists fear that goods inflation could accelerate if the incoming Trump administration follows through on threat to impose across-the board tariffs. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/12/2024 | Harriet Torry and Nick Timiraos |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| What’s News | ♦ OPEC cut its forecast for oil-demand growth for the fifth consecutive month after further postponing plans to increase output. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/12/2024 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Nasdaq Crosses 20000 Mark, Boosted by New Inflation Data | The Nasdaq Composite crosse 20000 for the first time Wednesday, lifted by the AI rally and new inflation data that bolstered expectations the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates next week.  Relieved investors flocked to tech stocks.  The Dow Jones Industrial Average edged lower…  The S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite rose on Wednesday, buoyed by the inflation report. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/12/2024 | Heather Billers and Caitlin McCabe |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| ECB Reduces Interest Rates | The ECB cut interest rates by a quarter point, aiming to stabilize an economy rocked by debt worries in France and ahead of threatened tariffs. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/13/2024 | Source: FactSet |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| What’s News | ♦ U.S. stocks fell Friday in light but broad-based selling. The Dow fell 0.2% and the S&P 500 dropped slightly, while the Nasdaq eked out a 0.1% gain. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/14-15/2024 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| What’s News | ♦ Trump’s tariff threats have triggered a behind-the-scenes lobbying campaign to soften or change the president-elect’s plans, but the effort faces a potentially insurmountable roadblock in the leader’s intransigence. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/16/2024 |  |
| Bitcoin Rally Tests Some Big Onetime Skeptics | The world’s largest cryptocurrency has been buoyed by hopes that the digital-assets industry will bloom under a second Donald Trump administration. Investor enthusiasm over a coming crypto renaissance has lifted other tokens, too, pushing the market cap of all cryptocurrencies toward $4 trillion.  With prices rising and crypto companies flush with cash, some of the biggest banks and asset managers on Wall Street are trying to capitalize on the resurgence.  **Jamie Dimon**  The JPMorgan Chase chief executive has never been a fan of bitcoin.  More recently, Dimon said bitcoin is a useless “pet rock.” | The Wall Street Journal | 12/16/2024 | Vicky Ge Huang |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| What’s News | ♦ CEOs of the world’s biggest companies are more optimistic about the economy than they have been in years, a survey found. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/17/2024 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Stocks Fall as Fed Signals Fewer Cuts  *Banks lowers rates by expected quarter-point, but hawkish turn rattles investors* | Stocks went into a nosedive, with the major indexes all logging their worst day in months.  The declines accelerated throughout the afternoon as investors digested central-bank forecasts and comments from Powell that spurred concerns that rates might not go down again anytime soon. That was a notable shift after the Fed initiated rate reductions with a larger-than-usual half-point cut in September amid expectations that a steady sequence of cuts could follow.  The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost more than 1,100 points, or 2.6%. That marked its tenth loss in a row-its worst losing streak in 50 years. The S&P 500 lost nearly 3%, and the Nasdaq Composite lost 3.6%.  The projections show officials expect to make fewer rate reductions, with most penciling in two cuts for 2025, do2wn from four at their meeting in September. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/19/2024 | Nick Timiraos |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2024’s Stock Extremes Aren’t Sure to End | Stocks: They don’t make them like they used to.  In 2024, extreme market trends have become even more so. U.S. equities, which had already more than doubled the performance of international ones between 2000 and 2023, have delivered a further 29% return, compared with less than 9% for non-U.S. stocks, based on MSCI indexes.  This is because of further U.S. dollar appreciation and because the technology-related Magnificent Seven-Apple. Microsoft, Amazon.com, Alphabet, Meta Platforms, Tesla and Nvidia-have grown to make up about one-third of the S&P 500, compared with roughly one-quarter at the end of 2023.  The megacap rally has been so brutal that the S&P SmallCap 600 has lagged behind despite receiving a bump from the Trump trade. Fateful past periods of small-caps’ having relative price/earnings ratios as low as today include the Nifty Fifty era of the 1970s and the dot-com bubble of the late 1990s. In the aftermath of these episodes, small-caps went on to outperform blue chips significantly. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/19/2024 | Jon Sindreu |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Dow, S&P. Nasdaq Drop Sharply  *Blue chips’ 2.6% fall is worst since August after Fed casts doubt of future rate cuts* | The blue-chip index gave up an early gain and posted its largest slide since August after Fed officials lowered rates by a quarter percentage point and disappointed investors by signaling just two more cuts next year. The move marked the index’s 10th straight decline-its longest streak of daily losses since October 1974.  The Dow industrials lost 2.6%, or 1.123 points, to 42326.87. The S&P 500 fell 2.9% and the Nasdaq Composite declined 3.6% in its worst day since July.  Gold dropped. Bitcoin fell more than 5.7% in its worst single-day slide since August.  Bond yields climbed, with the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rising to 4.493%, its highest level since May… | The Wall Street Journal | 12/19/2024 | Heather Gillers |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| What’s News | ♦ The U.S. economy grew more than initially estimated in the third quarter, extending a solid stretch of economic expansion. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/20/2024 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| What’s News | ♦ The Bank of England left its key interest rate unchanged at 4.75% a day after the Fed rocked markets by signaling fewer cuts in the year ahead. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/20/2024 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| S&P, Nasdaq Slip on Fed Outlook | U. S. stock indexes stabilized but failed to hold onto early gains, a day after the Federal Reserve revised its outlook for interest rates and inflation triggered a steep selloff.  The Dow industrials rose less than 0.1%, or 15.37 points, to 42342.24. The modest gain snapped a 10-day stretch of declines for the blue-chip index, its longest streak of daily losses since Oct. 4, 1974. The S&P 500 fell less than 0.1% and the Nasdaq Composite lost 0.1%.  Markets were jolted Wednesday after the Fed penciled in just two rate cuts for 2025 at its December policy meeting, pouring cold water on investors’ expectations for markedly lower rates next year. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/20/2024 | Krystal Hur and Angus Berwick |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| The Fed Cut Rates. And Mortgage Costs Went Up. | Hopes were high that the Federal Reserve could make homes more affordable by cutting interest rates. So far, mortgage rates instead are rising.  Average 30-year mortgages have climbed to around 6.7% from roughly 6.1% since the Fed started lowering rates in September, Freddie Mac says.  Mortgage rates are based on long-term Treasury yields. Those are mostly driven by expectations for where short-term interest rates will be in the future, rather than where they are now. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/21-22/2024 | Source: Freddie Mac (mortgage rate); Federal Reserve (Fed-funds rate) |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Favored Measure of Inflation increased Less Than Expected in November | The Federal Reserve’s favored measure of inflation showed prices increased 0.1% in November and 2.4% over the past 12 months, the Commerce Department said Friday.  The 12-month pace marked a reacceleration from a 2.3% 12-month increase in the personal-consumption expenditures price index in October, underscoring the challenge the Fed faces in getting inflation all the way back to its 2% target. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/21-22/2024 | Matt Grossman |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| What’s Newes | ♦ The Dow, S&P 500 and Nasdaq rose 1.2%, 1.1% and 1%, respectively, but each ended the week down at last 1.8% after Wednesday’s selloff. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/21-22/2024 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Xi Sticks to His Guns As Economy Teeters | …China is drowning in debt, reeling from a property bust that wiped out trillions of dollars of household wealth, and verging on a deflationary spiral. Growth has slowed, Western investment has collapsed and consumer confidence is near a record low.  And yet, China squares off with the U.S. for a second showdown over trade, Xi is digging in. He is convinced his top-down approach to managing China’s economy, with plans to make it an even-bigger industrial power, offers the best path for China to surpass the U.S. in economic might.  “Xi still believes that the East is rising and the West is in decline,” a foreign-policy adviser in Beijing said… | The Wall Street Journal | 12/24/2024 | Lingling Wei |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Dow Ekes Out Gain as Bonds Sell Off  *Indexes remain on course for robust full-year gains; auto stocks lift Nikkei 225* | The blue-chip index swung between small gains and losses before finishing with a gain of less than 0.1%, just enough to extend a resilient tome from earlier in the week. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite both slipped less than 0.1%.  The clam in the equity market clashed with stubbornly rising bond yields as debt investors expressed concerns about rising inflation and government deficits. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/27/2024 | Matt Wirz and Quentin Webb |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Hopes for a Bond Recovery Fade | In recent weeks, money managers have been dumping Treasurys, while savers have been rushing out of longer-term bond funds.  All that selling has pushed Treasury yields to the upper end of their two-year range. Still, investors remain worried that a tough environment for bonds could get even worse if President-elect Donald Trump pursues inflationary policies such as new tariffs. Many are debating whether hiding out in short-term T-bills could again be the smarter play.  Now, though, more investors have come to believe that the economy can handle nigher rates and that inflation will persist as a threat. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/30/2024 | Sam Goldfarb |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Stocks Set for Best 2 Years Since ‘90s  *Interest-rate levels create doubts that market can maintain sizzling pace of 2024* | Even with a stumble in the last few trading days, the broad U.S. stock index is on pace for its best consecutive years since 1997 and 1998, according to Dow Jones Market Data, during the lead-up to the bursting of the dot-com bubble.  Gold is on pace for its best year since 2010, while bitcoin more than doubled, vaulting above $100,000 for the first time before slipping below that mark.  Many investors anticipate that a resilient U.S. economy and a Federal Reserve that has switched to cutting interest rates-even if not as deeply as some had hoped-will allow stocks to push higher. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/31/2024 | Karen Langley |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Indexes Decline In Tech Pullback | A year-end tech selloff rattled markets for a second straight session on Monday.  Major U.S. stock indexes slumped. The technology-heavy Nasdaq Composite fell 1.2%, leading the day’s declines. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slid roughly 1%, or 418.48 points, and the S&P 500 declined about 1.1%. | The Wall Street Journal | 12/31/2024 | Krystal Hur and Caitlin McCabe |

The material has been prepared or distributed solely for information purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy any security or instrument or to participate in any trading strategy. This material contains information from sources believed to be reliable, however, the accuracy and completeness of the information is not guaranteed.

Any opinions and forecasts expressed in this material are those as of January 2025 and are subject to change at any time, based on market and other conditions.  There is no guarantee that the current market will yield the same results as those in the past. The investment return and principal value of securities will fluctuate and may be worth more or less than original cost when sold.  Diversification does not assure or guarantee better performance and cannot eliminate the risk of investment losses.

Market Indexes are commonly accepted benchmarks for certain classes of securities.  Market indexes are comprised of individual stocks or bonds which are not actively managed and cannot be purchased directly by investors.

Because investors’ situations and objectives vary, this material is not intended to indicate suitability for any particular investor.

Investments are not FDIC-insured, nor are they deposits of or guaranteed by a bank or any other entity.

We believe the sources to be reliable, however, the accuracy and completeness of the information is not guaranteed. In the event of any discrepancy, the sponsor’s valuation shall prevail.

Securities and advisory services offered through Independent Financial Group LLC, a registered broker-dealer and investment advisor, Member FINRA/SIPC. (OSJ: 12671 High Bluff Dr. Ste. 200, San Diego, CA 92130) Independent Financial Group LLC and Juengling & Associates are independently owned and operated.

Prepared by James M. Juengling.

Juengling & Associates