MONTHLY MARKET COMMENTARY, AS OF OCTOBER 2025

US Equity	Oct-25	YTD	Last 12m
S&P 500	2.3%	17.5%	21.5%
Russell 1000	2.2%	17.1%	21.1%
Russell 1000 Value	0.4%	12.1%	11.1%
Russell 1000 Growth	3.6%	21.5%	30.5%
Russell 2000	1.8%	12.4%	14.4%
Russell 2000 Value	0.3%	9.3%	9.9%
Russell 2000 Growth	3.2%	15.3%	18.8%
International Equity			
MSCI All-Country World ex-US	2.0%	28.6%	24.9%
MSCI EAFE	1.2%	26.6%	23.0%
MSCI Europe	0.7%	28.4%	23.2%
MSCI Japan	3.4%	24.8%	25.2%
MSCI Emerging Markets	4.2%	32.9%	27.9%
Fixed Income			
U.S. Intermediate Treasuries	0.4%	5.8%	5.7%
U.S. Long Treasuries	1.3%	7.0%	3.1%
U.S. TIPS	0.4%	7.2%	6.1%
Corporate IG Bond	0.4%	7.3%	6.6%
High-Yield Bonds	0.2%	7.4%	8.2%
Tax-Exempt Bonds	1.1%	3.0%	3.3%
International Bonds	-0.3%	7.6%	5.7%
Emerging Market Bonds	1.7%	10.4%	10.3%
Currencies			
Us Dollar	2.1%	-8.0%	-4.0%
Euro	-1.7%	11.4%	6.0%
Yen	4.1%	-2.0%	1.3%
Emerging Markets	-0.1%	6.6%	4.4%
Real Assets			
Commodities	2.9%	12.5%	14.2%
Energy	0.7%	-3.8%	6.2%
Industrial Metals	4.8%	13.5%	8.8%
Gold	-5.9%	103.9%	73.5%
Master Limited Partnerships	-0.7%	5.0%	11.7%
Real Estate Investment Trust	-1.6%	2.8%	-0.7%

October 2025 proved a month of cautious optimism across global markets. A moderation in inflation signals and continued strength in corporate earnings helped underpin risk-assets. At the same time, central banks signaled a more data-driven (and perhaps more patient) approach to policy, which lent support to equities and real assets. Nevertheless, pockets of stress—especially in credit and banking sectors—and divergent regional performances kept investors attentive to risk.

Equity: U.S. equities posted a solid advance in October, helping push major indices toward or into record territory. The S&P 500 rose 2.3% in October while growth equities clearly outperformed their value peers (3.6% vs 0.4% respectively). The performance was bolstered by strong corporate earnings, particularly in technology and communication segments, and a sentiment that monetary policy may be heading toward accommodation.

Developed international equity markets exhibited a more mixed tone (up 2.0% for the month) compared to the U.S. While global growth signals and trade-tension easing were supportive, region-specific headwinds (such as manufacturing softness in Europe, currency pressures, and structural concerns in Japan) weighed on broader outperformance. Diversification beyond highly concentrated U.S. equities has proven to be a prudent move for the year, given the risk/reward trade-off in other developed markets.

Emerging-markets equities continue to feature prominently (up 4.2% for the month) in the strategic discussion given the carry/yield potential and the weaker U.S. dollar backdrop. EM held up reasonably well in risk-on conditions, yet remains vulnerable to structural risks (e.g., China property, global trade). The overall message: EM equities may offer opportunities but are not without heightened risk in the current global environment.

Fixed Income: Fixed-income markets in October reflected the tug of war between improving sentiment (which favours risk assets) and pockets of credit/securitized stress (which remind investors of underlying fragilities). The Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index fell -0.3% in October. Yields declined somewhat on hopes of easing policy, but tight credit spreads limit further upside from here — meaning fixed income remains more about diversification and risk management than outsized returns for the moment. Corporate bonds underperformed treasuries, IG bonds delivered a 0.4% return and HY was up a mild 0.2%. Meanwhile, short term treasuries matched that of IG bonds and long-term treasuries where the outperformers of the segment, delivering a 1.3% return during October.

Liquid Real Assets: For October, commodities, infrastructure, and real estate benefited from the backdrop of moderate inflation, declining nominal yields and structural investment themes (such as energy transition and digital infrastructure). These exposures remain valuable as inflation hedges and diversifiers given the diminished incremental return potential in more traditional asset classes. The outperformers of the month were industrial metals (up 4.8%) and commodity assets (up 2.9%), while gold suffered a reversal from growth in previous months.

Sources:

i. *Bloomberg data.*

ii. *Monthly Market Review (October 2025) – JPM*

Disclaimer