

Market Outlook

Market Commentary – September 30, 2024

The Fed initiated a series of aggressive rate hikes in 2022, from near zero to eventually terminating at 5.50% in 2023. In September, the Federal Reserve ended months of speculation with a 0.50% decrease in the target rate for Fed Funds. With this policy reversal, the Fed acknowledged policy was restrictive – a view held by some investors. Pursuant to their dual mandate of price stability and full employment, the Fed justified the shift as a necessary "re-calibration" of policy. If the Fed had not cut rates, some argue the high cost of capital would have contributed to recession. However, the Fed's policy reversal also risks re-igniting inflation.

Historically, the Federal Reserve has not cut rates in isolation. Investors now anticipate a series of rate cuts that could further reduce Fed Funds 1.25 – 1.75%. Further rate reductions should provide relief to capital intensive sectors that rely on low cost financing, including residential real estate. However, there is over \$6 trillion in money market and deposit balances that will experience reduced interest income. That excess liquidity should support markets during periods of uncertainty, but reallocation of those funds could also contribute to market volatility.

Cash and money markets still have higher yields than longer maturity fixed income. This reflects a market anomaly known as the inverted Treasury yield curve. With the rate cut, portions of the curve have resumed a positive slope.

However, cash and money markets continue to provide greater current income than longer dated bonds. This dynamic will dissipate as the Fed "re-calibrates" policy. We expect cash and money market yields will decline commensurate with further rate cuts from the Fed.

The S&P 500 has posted attractive year-to-date returns, with recent acceleration fueled by the rate cut. Market leadership is no longer extraordinarily concentrated. Improved market breadth is a favorable development for the sustainability of the rally. In particular, we note that interest rate sensitive sectors, such as utilities, have performed well. There are technical market conditions that warrant caution, but overall, fundamentals remain healthy with corporate earnings expected to grow.

Recent economic indicators contributed to a view among investors that recession was imminent. However, other data suggest a more favorable outlook for economic growth. We note that higher rates boosted consumption. Thus, lower interest income could dampen consumption growth going forward. We maintain a favorable outlook for the economy while vigilant for signs of resurgent inflation. While we acknowledge there are headwinds to growth, there are also tailwinds. On balance, therefore, we remain constructive. We look forward to discussing these matters with you and reviewing your accounts. Please contact the office if you would like to schedule a virtual or in person meeting.



Markets

Year to date and historical performance of select asset classes

	Annualized		ualized	Total Returns since		
Asset Class	YTD	1 year	3 Year	10/30/2022	1/3/2022	
Domestic Equities						
S&P 500	28.55	30.36	10.74	60.34	32.10	
S&P 500 Equal Weight (RSP)	16.83	19.10	6.51	34.40	17.30	
S&P 100	33.64	35.60	12.51	73.15	38.50	
Dow Jones Ind. Avg.	18.43	20.36	9.32	39.39	27.29	
NASDAQ Comp	33.67	36.24	9.82	82.65	28.89	
Russell 2000 (IWM)	17.14	22.07	3.87	30.89	7.45	
International Equities						
Shanghai Composite (CIN)	13.03	13.70	-0.27	20.61	-0.32	
Hedged Japan (DXJ)	27.82	28.20	25.30	84.00	91.50	
Hedged Europe (HEDJ)	7.23	7.36	7.68	39.59	20.50	
Emerging Markets (EEM)	10.26	14.00	-1.34	34.83	-5.21	
Canada (EWC)	15.62	20.11	6.32	33.01	15.07	
Bonds						
Long Treasuries (TLT)	-5.46	-3.17	-13.11	0.64	-31.40	
Inv. Grade Corporates (LQD)	1.89	3.10	-3.07	16.40	-7.53	
High Yield Corporates (HYG)	8.44	9.33	2.75	21.05	7.70	
Core US Aggregate Bond (AGG)	2.04	3.21	-2.25	10.56	-5.59	
US 1-3 Month T-Bills (BIL)	5.02	5.06	2.80	8.36	8.65	
Real Assets/Commodities						
Commodities (BCI)	4.80	6.28	4.12	-2.67	9.78	
Gold (GLD)	27.79	30.20	13.52	59.50	45.13	
Oil (BNO)	9.23	12.40	14.33	-2.74	40.97	
Real Estate Investment Trusts (RMZ)	12.80	15.49	0.36	28.38	-2.57	
Agriculture (DBA)	33.27	33.07	13.68	48.04	47.66	

YTD through 12/13/2024

Note: returns presented as %, assumes dividends are reinvested

Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream



Year to date and historical performance of select equity sectors

		Annualized			Total Returns since		
Domestic Equity Sectors	YTD	1 year	3 Year	10/30/2022	1/3/2022		
Domestic Equities							
Consumer Discretionary	36.50	38.74	7.77	72.99	19.11		
Retail	38.85	41.20	9.10	82.68	29.09		
Consumer Staples	21.67	21.58	9.36	30.82	26.66		
Energy	9.14	12.69	19.83	5.14	66.76		
Oil & Gas Exploration	-3.18	0.13	16.12	-10.13	49.31		
Financial Services	37.98	41.96	12.02	56.29	36.13		
Regional Banks (KRE)	26.40	30.15	0.93	8.23	-2.64		
Health Care	5.13	6.35	2.25	11.89	3.48		
Industrials	20.07	23.24	9.60	48.60	30.11		
Materials	6.01	9.48	3.65	28.57	8.14		
Technology	39.12	41.07	13.92	108.44	45.05		
Communication Services	40.47	42.44	15.47	112.39	50.76		
Utilities	26.16	23.17	7.42	25.73	21.74		
Transportation (IYT)	7.75	9.59	3.04	35.28	5.39		
Real Estate	10.06	13.05	-1.58	24.33	-8.23		

YTD through 12/13/2024

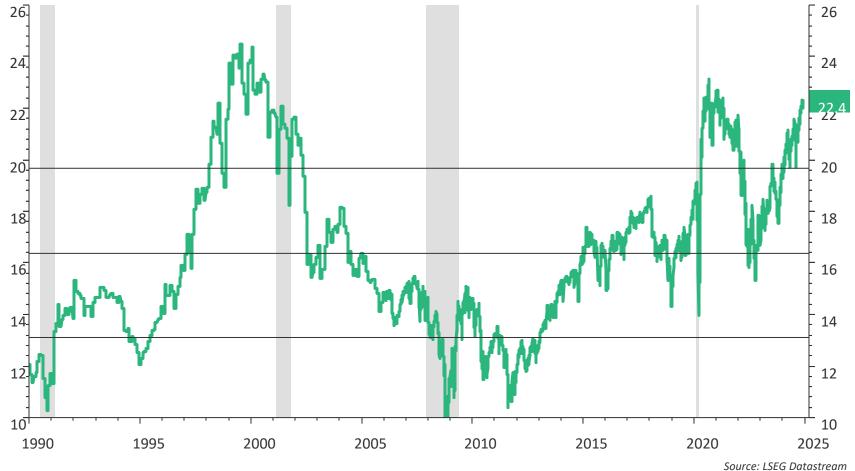
Note: returns presented as %, assumes dividends are reinvested

Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream



S&P 500 Valuation

S&P 500 - Price to Next Twelve Month Earnings Ratio



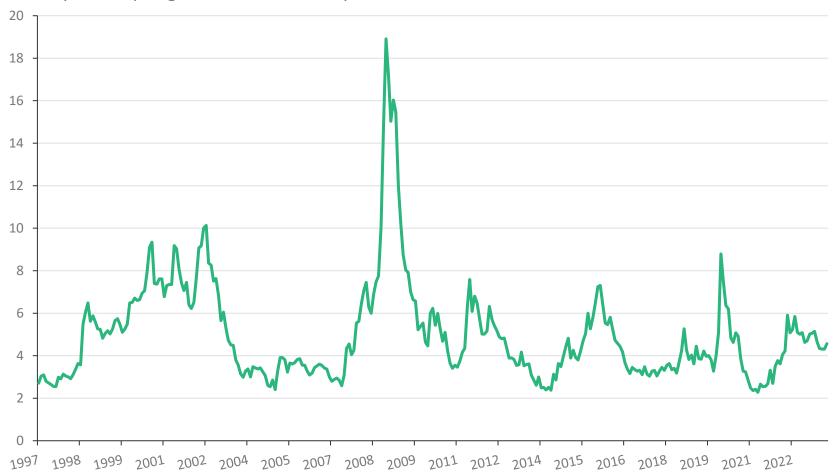




Credit Spreads

High Yield Credit Spread

Barclays US Corp. High Yield - 10 Yr. Treasury Yield

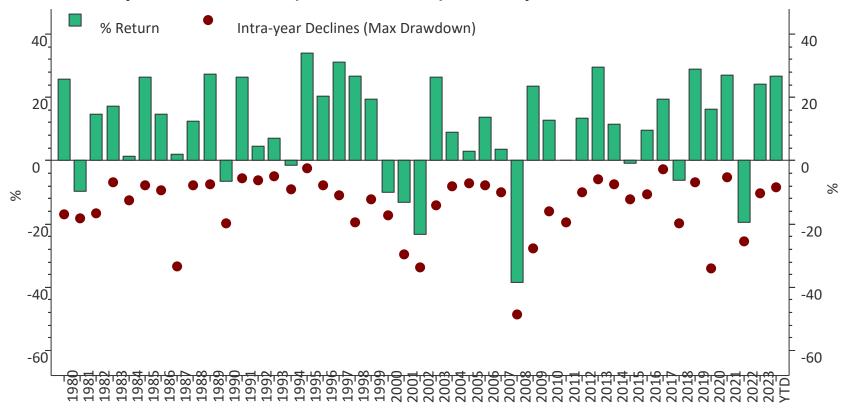


Source: Bloomberg



Stock Market Performance and Max Drawdowns by Year

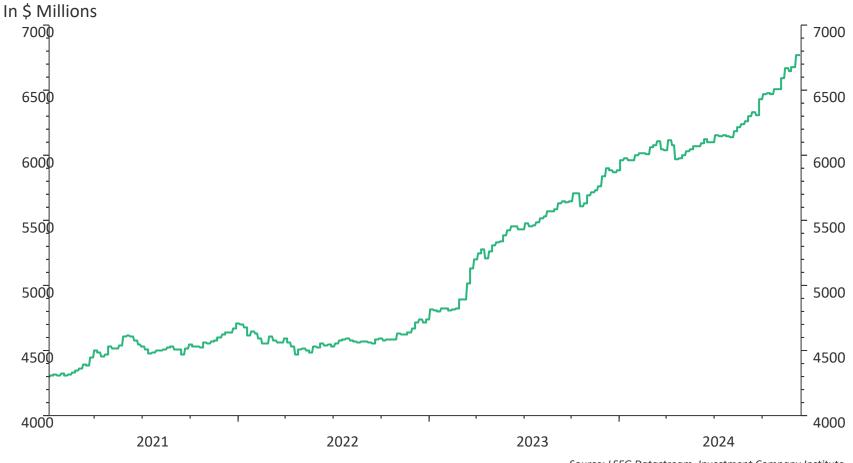
S&P 500 Intra-year Price Declines (Max Drawdown) vs. Yearly Price Returns





Flight to Cash

US Assets in Money Market Funds

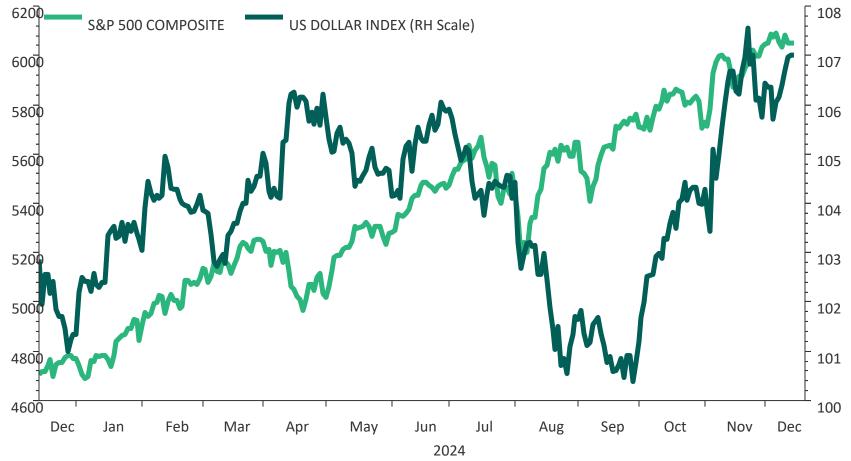






S&P 500 vs. the US Dollar Index

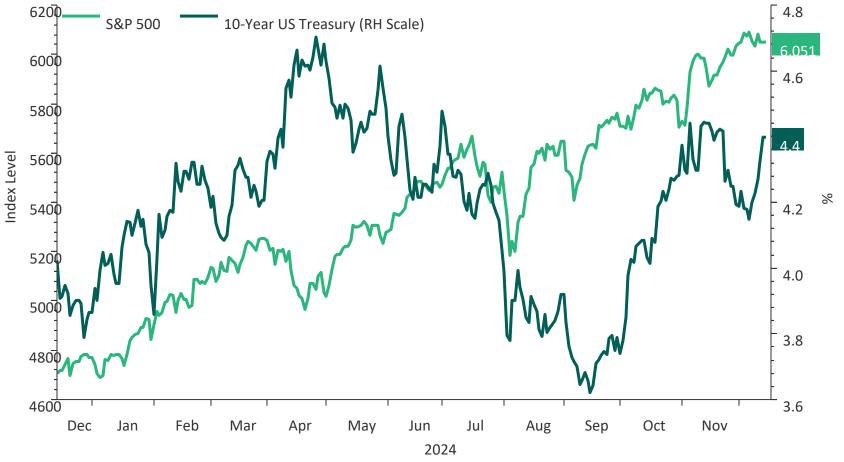
S&P 500 vs. the US Dollar Index





S&P 500 vs. the 10-Year Treasury Yield

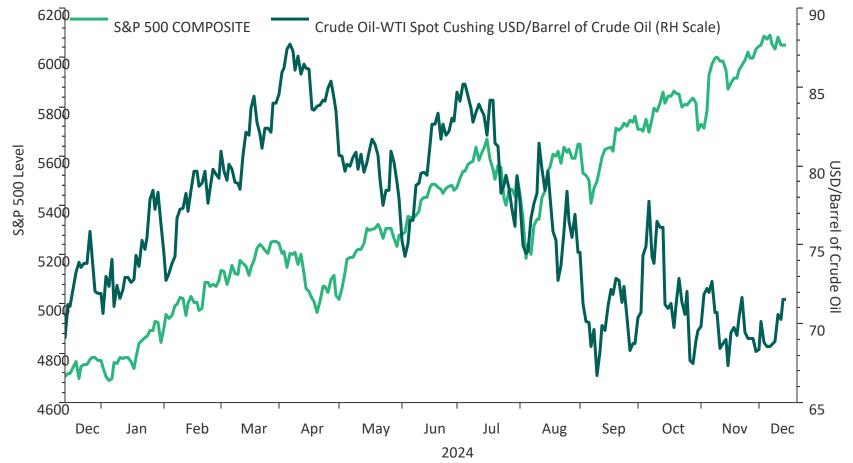
S&P 500 vs. the 10-Year Treasury Yield





S&P 500 vs. the Price of Crude Oil

S&P 500 vs. WTI Crude Spot





Dr. Copper

London Metal Exchange Copper Spot Price







Interest Rate Outlook

Global Interest Rates

Global Bond Yields on December 16, 2024

Maturity	US	Canada	UK	Germany	Switzerland	Japan	Spain	Italy	Brazil	Greece
2 year	4.241	3.052	4.345	2.040	0.066	0.590	2.228	2.406	14.940	NA
5 year	4.245	3.004	4.272	2.059	0.057	0.725	2.505	2.757	14.600	2.393
10 year	4.393	3.219	4.424	2.240	0.223	1.072	2.920	3.389	13.913	3.083
30 year	4.607	3.313	4.971	2.475	0.299	2.292	3.574	4.061	NA	NA

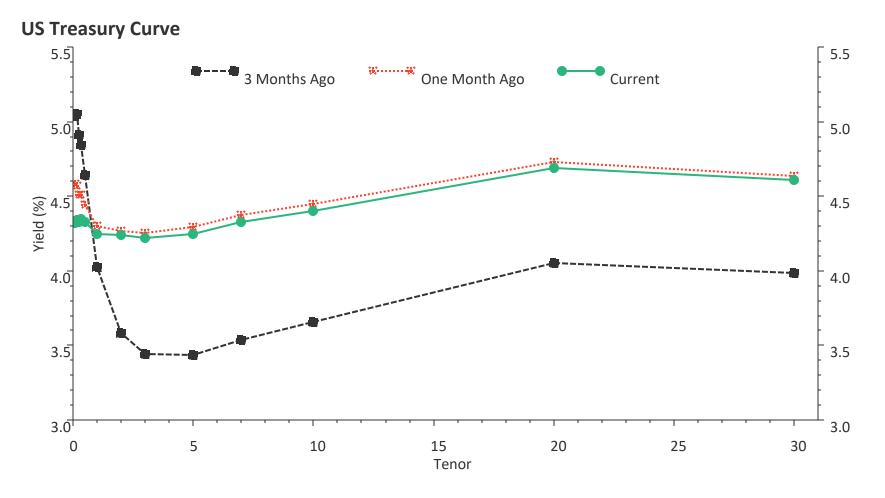
Change in Global Bond Yields since December 9, 2024

Maturity	US	Canada	UK	Germany	Switzerland	Japan	Spain	Italy	Brazil	Greece
2 year	0.000	0.029	0.037	-0.011	0.026	0.032	-0.042	0.011	-0.095	NA
5 year	-0.004	0.032	0.042	-0.015	-0.061	0.032	0.007	0.000	-0.143	0.006
10 year	-0.006	0.044	0.018	-0.008	-0.021	0.033	0.003	0.005	-0.170	0.019
30 year	-0.004	0.047	0.006	0.000	-0.009	0.048	0.009	0.001	NA	NA

Source: Patten & Patten

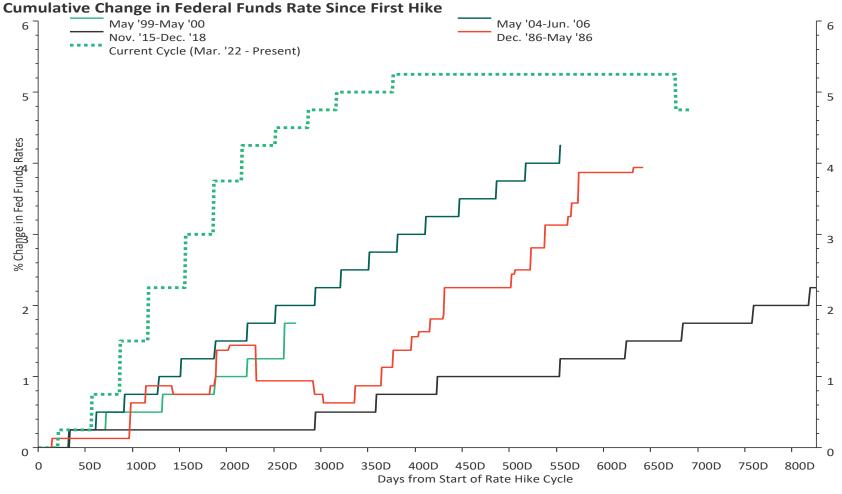


US Treasury Yield Curve





Historical Perspective of Current Fed Policy







Fed Rate Hike Probability

Rate Probability by Meeting

Mosting Data	Mid-Point of Fed Funds Target Range: Current Market Expectations								
Meeting Date	2.625	2.875	3.125	3.375	3.625	3.875	4.125	4.375	4.625
12/18/2024								94.20%	5.80%
1/29/2025							15.90%	79.30%	4.80%
3/19/2025						8.90%	51.40%	37.60%	2.10%
5/7/2025					2.20%	19.30%	48.00%	28.90%	1.60%
6/18/2025				0.80%	8.50%	29.90%	41.00%	18.90%	1.00%
7/30/2025			0.20%	2.40%	12.90%	32.20%	36.40%	15.20%	0.80%
9/17/2025		0.00%	0.70%	4.80%	17.30%	33.10%	31.50%	11.90%	0.60%
10/29/2025		0.10%	1.20%	6.40%	19.40%	32.90%	29.00%	10.40%	0.50%





Inflation Measures

Core PCE vs. Dallas Fed Trimmed Mean PCE

Year-over-Year Percent Change Core PCE - 12 month Dallas Fed Trimmed Mean PCE - 12 month Dallas Fed Trimmed Mean PCE - 6 month Headline PCE - 12 month %4 Source: LSEG Datastream



Treasury Yield Spread

2Yr/10Yr Spread

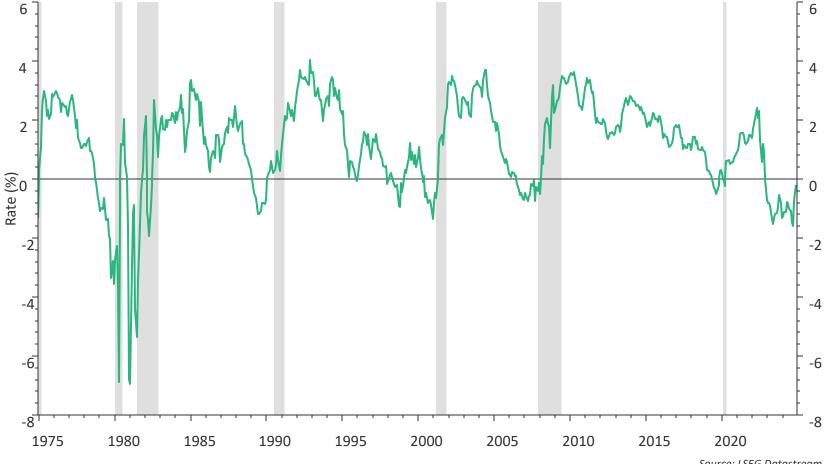


Yield Curve Inversion	Recession Lag	S&P 500 Peak Lag	S&P 500 Return to Peak post Yield Curve Inversion
Aug-78	17 months	19 months	17.70%
Sep-80	10 months	3 months	13.60%
Dec-88	19 months	20 months	35.70%
Feb-00	13 months	2 months	8.40%
Dec-05	24 months	23 months	23.50%
Aug-19	6 months	6 months	0.75%



Interest Rate Spreads

10-Year Treasury - Fed Funds Effective Rate







Fed Balance Sheet

Fed Reserve Balances with Fed Reserve Banks (\$Bn)

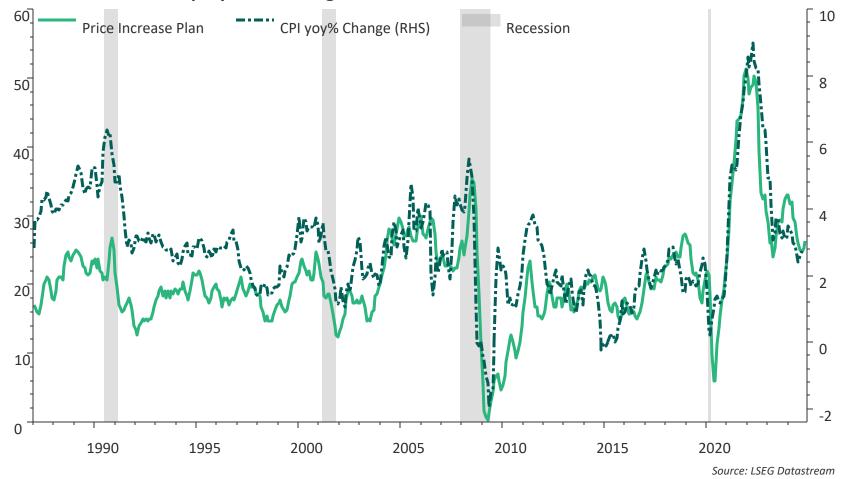






Businesses Plan Price Increases

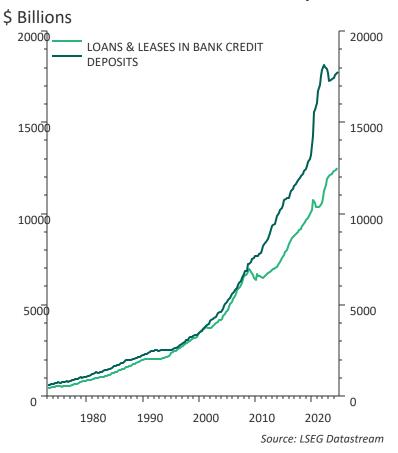




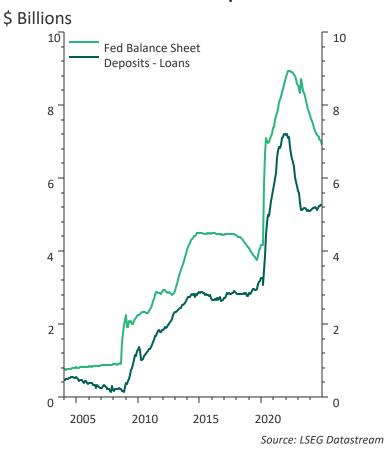


Credit Growth has Lagged Deposit Growth

US Commercial Bank Loans and Deposits



Fed Balance Sheet and Deposit Growth



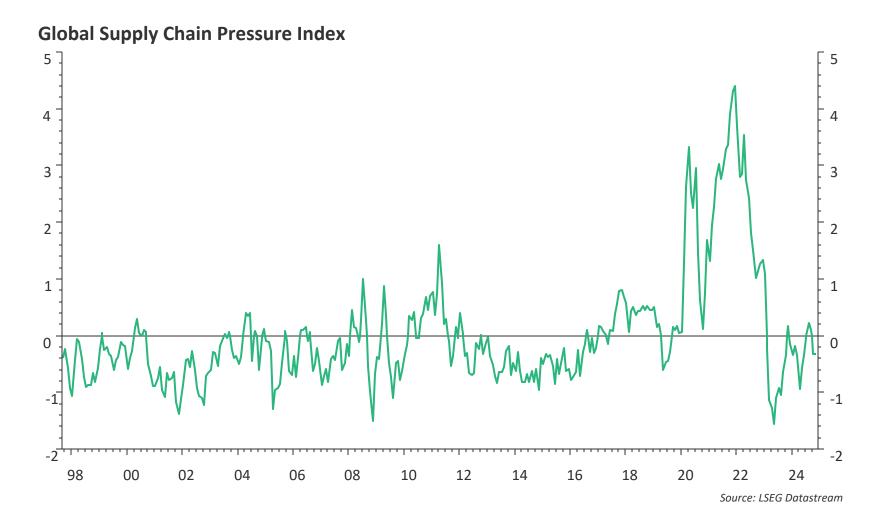


Velocity of Money Near All-Time Lows

Velocity of Money GDP/M2 Supply $2.\bar{2}$ 2.2 2.0 2.0 1.8 1.8 1.6 1.6 1.4 1.41.2 $1.\bar{2}$ 1.0 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020

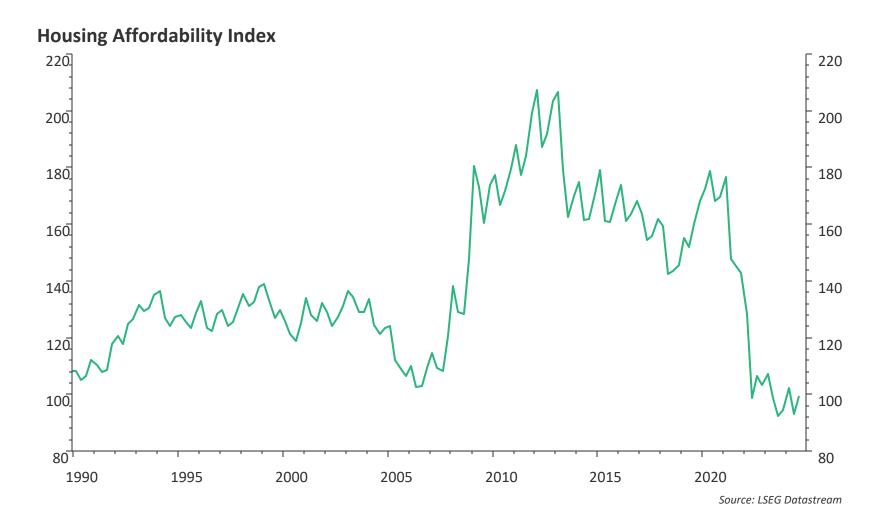


Supply Chain Normalization



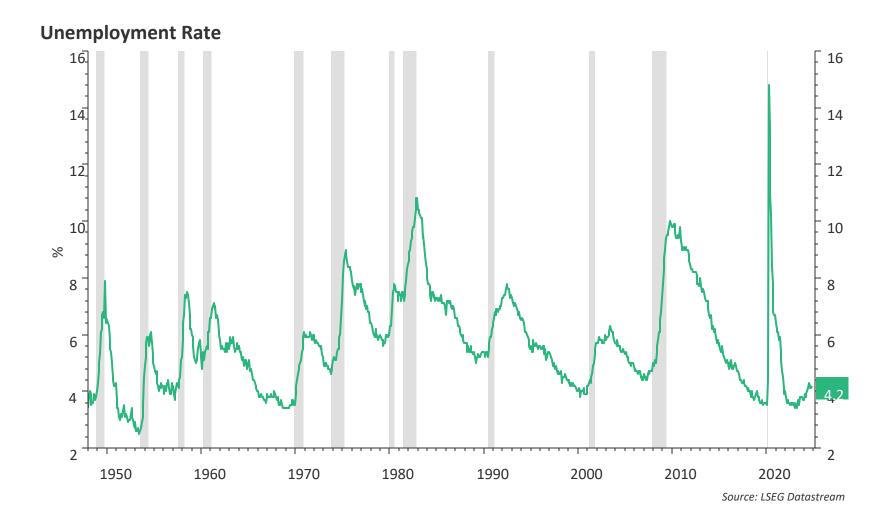


Housing Affordability Has Declined





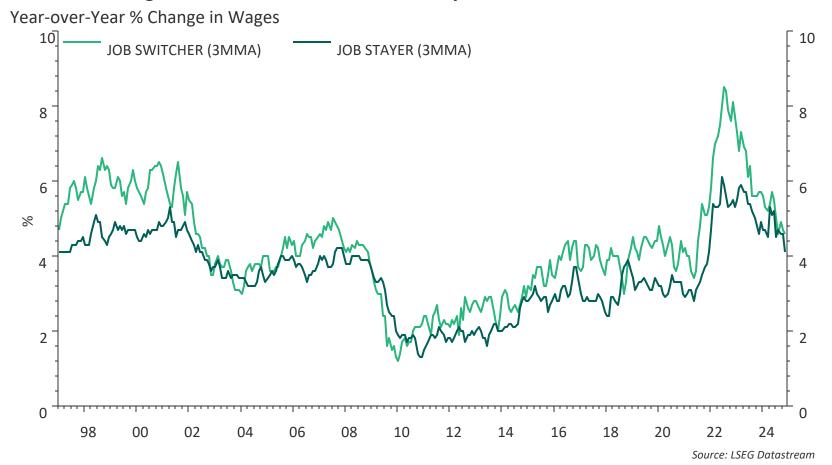
Strong Domestic Labor Market





Wage Inflation High but Moderating

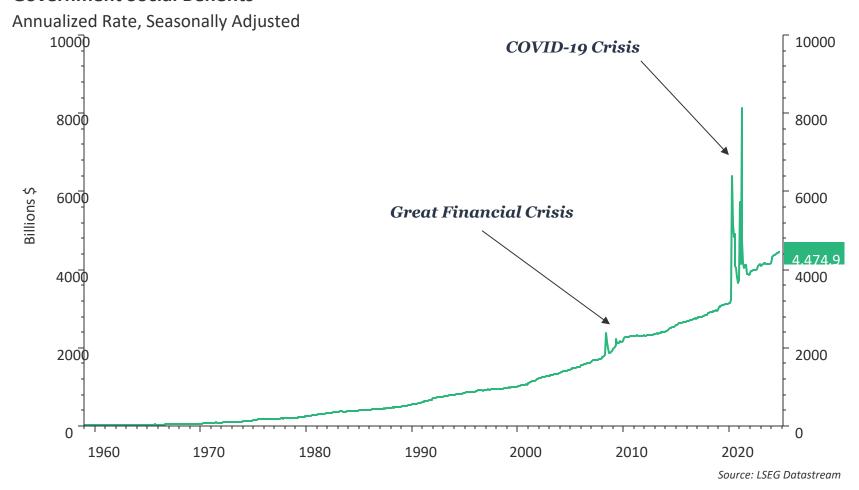
Atlanta Fed Wage Tracker: Job Switcher vs. Job Stayer





Rapid, Large-scale Support for the Economy

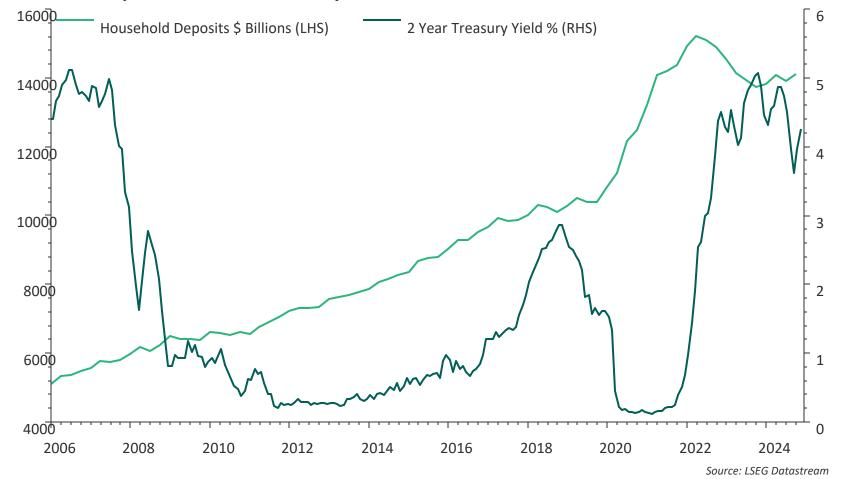
Government Social Benefits





Households Hoard Stimulus

Household Deposits vs. 2 Year Treasury Yield

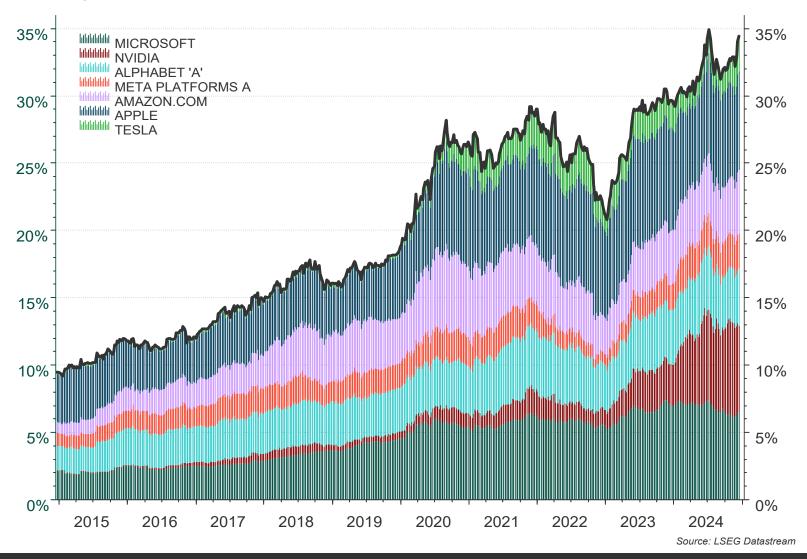




Appendix

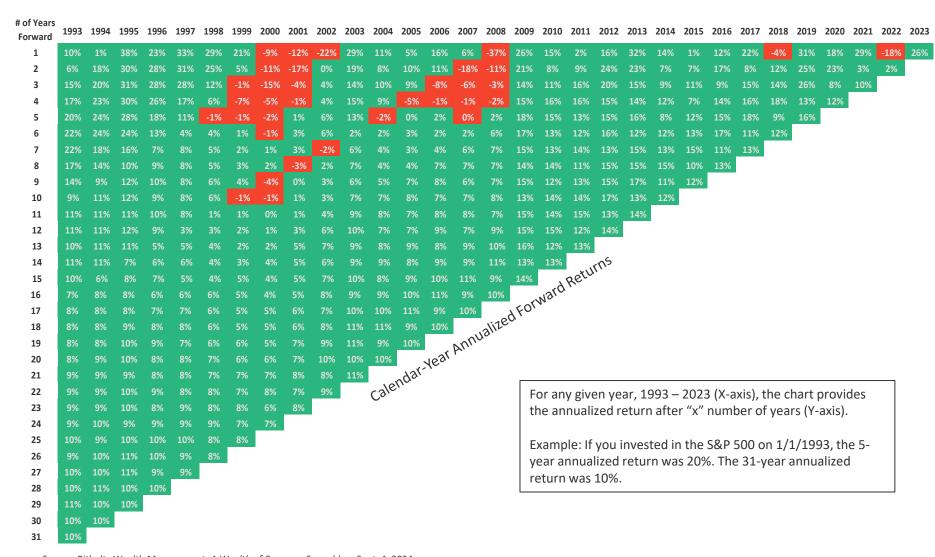
Historical Market Concentration







31 Years of Market Returns



Source: Ritholtz Wealth Management, A Wealth of Common Sense blog, Sept. 4, 2024

