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| **RESOURCE LOG – NOVEMBER 2023** | | | | |
| **Article Title** | **Detail** | **Publication** | **Date** | **Author** |
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| What’s News | ♦ Home prices rose in August to a record as a shortage of homes for sale kept the market competitive. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/01/2023 |  |
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| China Economy shows New Signs of Slowing | China’s economy suffered a setback as surveys showed factory orders shrank and construction activity slowed, reigniting growth concerns just as activity appeared to be stabilizing.  Chinese leaders have stepped up stimulus measures in recent weeks, but many economists now say authorities will need to do more in the final stretch of the year to ensure growth doesn’t fizzle out.  Manufacturers faced weakening orders from both domestic and overseas customers in October…  China’s economy is experiencing a rough 2023. The abandonment of draconian covid-19 controls around the turn of the year triggered a burst of consumer-led growth. But that impulse waned as household began to dial back spending ,their caution reflecting a bleak outlook for real estate and other actors such as rising youth unemployment. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/01/2023 | Jason Douglas |
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| Stocks End October on High Note  *Major indexes advance but not enough to prevent monthly losses* | The slide in stocks has coincided with a three-month pause in interest-rate increases, the longest since the Federal Reserve began boosting borrowing costs in March 2022 to slow inflation.  Fed officials are likely to hold interest rates steady at this week’s policy meeting…  In commodities markets, benchmark U.S. oil futures shed $1.29 a barrel to end at $81.02, down 11% in October. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/01/2023 | Ryan Dezember |
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| Commercial Real- Estate Lending Slows Down | Total volume of commercial real-estate loans held by banks, he largest source of debt financing, declined during the first two weeks of October, according to analysis of Federal Reserve figures by Trepp, a data provider. Bank commercial property lending has declined for only two months since 2014. Most other two-weeks periods since 2014 have shown positive growth.  Other debt providers are also in retreat. Only $28.2 billion of loans converted into commercial mortgage-backed securities have been issued this year, the lowest figure since 2011…  Additionally, the largest mortgage REIT’s halted loans to new borrowers in the first half of the year. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/01/2023 | Peter Grant |
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| Stocks Extend Post-Fed Rally  *All 11 sectors of S&P 500 end higher, led by energy, utility, consumer shares* | Stocks rose broadly Thursday, gaining for a second day after Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell signaled that the central bank may be done lifting interest rates for now.  The S&P 500 rose 1.9%. the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 1.7%, while the Nasdaq composite rose 1.8%.  The rate-sensitive real-estate sector led the way, rising 3.1%.  Bond yields retreated. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note fell to 4.668%...  With yields falling more than a fifth of a percentage point over the course of two days, riskier assets are getting a boost. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/03/2023 | Jack Pitcher |
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| In Reversal, Mortgage Rates Fall | Mortgage rates fell for the first time in nearly two months.  The average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage edged down to 7.76% this week from 7.79% a week ago, according to Freddie Mac data released on Thursday.  Mortgage rates tend to roughly follow the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which has reversed course and started falling… | The Wall Street Journal | 11/03/2023 | Ben Eisen |
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| S&P 500 Clinches Best Week Since November 2022 | The S&P 500 rallied Friday, capping its best weekly performance since November 2022, after the latest monthly jobs report suggested the Federal Reserve’s interest-rate raising campaign is working.  The broad index gained 0.9%, brining its gains for the week to 5.9%. The index is up 14% this year. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added about 200 points, or 0.7%, on Friday, while the Nasdaq composite rose 1.4%. Thos indexes also recorded their biggest weekly percentage gains of the year.  …the Fed’s latest policy decision gave investors hope that the economy is pulling back enough for inflation to abate without falling into a recession-and that interest rates could be near their peak.  The yield on the U.S. 10-year Treasury note ended the week at 4.557%, from 4.846% a week ago. That marked the steepest weekly drop since March.  All but one of the 11 sectors in the S&P 500 rose Friday. The energy sector slipped 1% as Brent crude dropped 2.3% to $84.89 a barrel. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/04-05/2023 | Hannah Miao |
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| Global Economy Splits Into U.S. vs. China | China passed a significant milestone last fall: for the first time since its economic opening more than four decades ago, it traded more with developing countries than the U.S., Europe and Japan combined.  In this increasingly divided world economy, Washington continues to raise the heat on China with investment curbs and export bans, while China reorients large parts of its economy away from the West toward the developing world.  The international Monetary Fund said in October that fragmentation between China and the West was weighing on the world’s economic recovery this year. A more severe break between U.S.-and China-led blocs could cost the global economy as much as 7% of gross domestic product, worth trillions of dollars, IMF research suggests.  Latin America, Africa and developing markets in Asia now account for 36% of overall Chinese trade…  Foreign direct investment into China over the four quarters through June was 78% lower than it was a year earlier, Chinese data show. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/04-05/2023 | Jason Douglas and Tom Fairless |
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| Global Turmoil Helps Fuel Interest Rates | In times of war and conflict, investors have long piled into Treasury bonds and other safe-haven assets, bringing interest rates down.  The violence risks a wider war across the oil-rich Middle East: A World Bank analysis released last week warned that oil prices could rise from roughly $85 a barrel to $150 a barrel, in a worst-case scenario.  Analysts have attributed the recent run-up in yield to a rise in the term premium, the added return investors demand for lending over long instead of short periods.  The link between interest rates and supply shocks is another sign of how intensifying geopolitical rivalry and conflict is making it harder, and costlier, for investors and business to plan. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/06/2023 | Andrew Duehren |
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| Treasury Plan Gives Lift To Stock, Bond Markets | Stocks and bonds both staged rallies last week, getting a boost when the Treasury increased the size of longer-term debt auctions by a smaller amount than many had expected.  By the end of the week, the yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury note – the source of so much recent anxiety in markets – had fallen all the way back down to 4.557% after briefly topping 5% on Oct. 23. The S&P 500 climbed 5.9% for the week, largely reflecting relief over the decline in yields, which are a critical driver of U.S. borrowing costs. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/06/2023 | Sam Goldfarb |
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| Migrants From distant Places Cross Border | For the second year in a row, arrests by the Border Patrol at the U.S. southern border surpassed two million. Most of them, almost 9 out of 10 apprehensions, are of migrants from Latin America and the Caribbean. But the surge in so-called extracontinental migrants poses a challenge for the U.S. because deporting migrants to Africa and Asia is time-consuming, expensive and sometimes not possible. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/06/2023 | Santiago Pérez |
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| Consumer Spending Fuels Strong Quarter | Earnings for the nation’s biggest companies are poised to show their first collective increase in a year, helped in part by strong consumer spending this summer.  The members of the S&P 500 are on pace to collectively report a 3.7% rise in earnings for the third quarter, the first such increase since the year-earlier quarter.  Driving the profit gains was consumer spending, as Americans continued to dine out, take trips and buy on-line. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/06/2023 | Peter Santilli and George Stahl |
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| Stocks Build on Last Week’s Advances | Major indexes are coming off their best week of the year, boosted by hopes that the Federal Reserve’s interest-rate hiking cycle is close to done and a strong quarterly earnings season that is in its final innings.  The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 4.662% from 4.557% on Friday.  The mood in the market has quickly turned from dour to optimistic.  Meanwhile, recent data on the job market has indicated the red-hot labor market is slowing, a sign that the central bank won’t keep raising interest rates.  Brent futures closed at $85.18 a barrel… | The Wall Street Journal | 11/07/2023 | Gunjan Banerji |
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| What’s News | ♦ Foreign companies long used to plowing the profits they made in China back into the country for hiring and investment are pulling those earnings out as growth slows and tensions between Beijing and Washington increase. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/07/2023 |  |
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| Xi Tries to Lure Nation’s Youth To Countryside | With youth unemployment recently hitting record levels – and deepening concern in Beijing about the hollowing out of rural China-Xi is calling on students and college graduates to embrace hardship and consider giving up city life for the countryside. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/07/2023 | Brian Spegele |
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| S&P, Nasdaq Build Upon Win Streaks | Stocks ended higher, building on a long run of gains.  Demand for Treasurys passed another test erected by Wall Street, giving traders little reason to pull back from the stock market.  Lower yields have helped some speculative stocks surge. | The Wall Stree4t Journal | 11/09/2023 | Eric Wallerstein |
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| What’s News | ♦ Fed Chairman Jerome Powell indicated that the central bank wouldn’t declare an end to its historic interest-rate increases until it had more evidence that inflation was cooling. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/10/2023 |  |
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| China’s Economy Descends Back Into Deflation  *Beijing’s stimulus measures have so far failed to bring up consumer confidence* | China slipped back into deflation in October after a brief reprieve, high-lighting how hard it is for Beijing to reinvigorate domestic demand in the world’s second-largest economy. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/10/2023 | Stella Yifan Xie |
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| S&P Snaps Win Streak After Powell Talk | Major indexes fluttered between small gains and losses in quiet trading through the early afternoon. They turned firmly into the red after an auction of government debt showed lower-than-expected demand and propelled Treasury yields higher.  The S&P 500 finished 0.8% lower, thwarting what would have been just its 32nd nine-day winning streak since 1928, according to Dow Jones Market Data.  The resulting decline in stocks accelerated after Powell said at a conference in Washington that it was too early to declare victory against price pressures.  Any continuation of the market’s advance will rely heavily on megacap stocks, including Tesla and Nvidia… | The Wall Street Journal | 11/10/2023 | David Uberti |
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| Older Americans Are Better Off Than Ever | The growth in seniors’ household income is matched by an increase in their wealth. The typical senior household’s inflation-adjusted net wealth in mid-2022 was nearly 200% higher than it was in 1983.  The main threat to labor and capital markets is the rising national debt. Since Social Security, Medicare and other programs that assist seniors account for about 40% of non-interest federal spending, the growth in the national debt can’t be curtailed without reforming these programs. The high level of financial well-being enjoyed by most seniors provides Congress and the next president with an opportunity for reform. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/10/2023 | John F. Cagan and Daniel L. Heil |
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| U.S., China Switch Economic Roles | As Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen meets Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng this week, the two sides find themselves in an economic role reversal.  The U.S. economy buoyed by consumer spending and generous government subsidies for certain industries, bounded forward this year, notching 4.9% growth in the third quarter and defying forecasts of a recession. China is mired in a property slump that has weighed down its economy, raising questions among economists about whether Beijing’s growth engine is permanently downshifting.  The comparative U.S. strength and Chinese weakness is a change from previous rounds of diplomacy between the world’s two largest economies, when China’s rocketing growth fed anxiety among American officials about Beijing’s geopolitical ambitions.  Still, U.S. trade with China has been declining compared with its relationship with other APEC countries, as both nations increasingly turn to alternative partners in the Indo-Pacific and around the world. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/10/2023 | Andrew Duehren |
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| Nasdaq Sees Best Day Since May as Stocks Rally | U.S. tocks climbed Friday, notching a winning week, led by the Nasdaq composite’s best day in more than five months.  The tech-heavy index jumped 2%, its biggest one-day percentage gain since May 26. All three indexes finished the week higher, with the Nasdaq up 2.4%.  All 11 sectors of the S&P 500 advanced Friday, with information-technology stocks rising the most.  The bond market stabilized on Friday, with the benchmark 10-year Treasury yield settling at 4.627%, from 4.629% the day prior.  “Markets will continue to be very choppy until we get better clarity of what the next policy action is,” said Amanda Agati, chief investment officer for PNC Asset Management Group.  “It’s a really strange dance between the Fed and the market,” said Ronald Temple, chief market strategist at Lazard. “But we should expect that dance to continue.”  In oil markets, Brent crude gained 1.8% on Friday to $81.43 a barrel. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/11-12/2023 | Hannah Miao |
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| Investors Put Bonds Back in Play | The new era of higher interest rates has reignited a long-smoldering Wall Street debate: Is it better for ordinary investors to buy individual bonds outright? Or shares of bond mutual funds?  During the yearslong period of near-zero interest rates, the answer seemed simple: Funds had low fees and were easy to buy and sell, and share values rose alongside bond prices. If any one bond defaulted, losses were minimal.  The historic declines suffered by major bond funds last year highlighted the risks of that approach. Rising rates crushed funds’ share prices. That is because bond prices drop when new higher-yielding bonds come on the market and make older, lower-yielding bonds less attractive.  Many these days are considering buying individual bonds instead and holding them to maturity to lock in today’s higher rates.  Bond investors often share a sentiment credited to Mark Twain, that the return of their money is more important than the return on their money. For that reason, many prefer buying individual bonds and holding them until they mature.  The risk of buying them a la carte comes from concentration. If a company runs into trouble and defaults on its debt, bondholders can suffer steep losses. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/13/2023 | Heather Gillers |
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| What’s News | ♦ Investors are betting the recent stock market rally has legs after a lightning-fast rebound drove the index up around 7% over the past two weeks, its best stretch of the year. Bulls are piling into funds that track U.S. shares and abandoning trades that would profit in times of market turmoil. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/13/2023 |  |
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| Oil Market Expects Low Prices To Remain | A selloff that dragged crude prices near their lowest levels in four months has left many oil drillers, energy traders and fuel producers with the same question: What will OPEC do?  Benchmark U.S. crude has posted three weekly losses in a row, tumbling as much as 20% below its September high… | The Wall Street Journal | 11/14/2023 | David Uberti |
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| Wall Street Slashes Corporate Profit Views | Wall Street has slashed its estimates for corporate profits in the final months of 2023.  Analysts cut their projections for fourth-quarter earnings at companies in the S&P 500 by 3.9% in October, according to FactSet, more than twice the 10-year average of 1.8%. that marks the deepest reduction during the first month of a quarter in more than three years. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/15/2023 | Karen Langley |
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| Inflation Cools, Market Soars  *Report fuels hope for end of Fed rate rises; S&P 500 jumps 1.9%, Nasdaq climbs 2.4%* | Inflation’s broad slowdown extended through October, likely ending the Federal Reserve’s historic interest-rate increases and sparking big rallies on Wall Street.  Consumer prices overall were flat last month and rose 3.2% from a year earlier, a slower pace than in September, the Labor Department said Tuesday.  The easing reflected lower prices for cars and airfares and milder growth in the cost of housing and other services.  The Nasdaq closed up 2.4%, while the s7p 500 rose 1.9%, the biggest one-day jumps for both since April. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added nearly 500 points, or 1.4%.  Yields fell sharply across Treasurys, with the benchmark 10-year note declining 0.191 percentage point to 4.440% on Tuesday.  With the October report, core prices have increased for five straight months more slowly than in the previous two years.  Whether the Fed can sustain this painless decline in inflation depends in part how the economy responds over the coming year to its past monetary tightening. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/15/2023 | Nick Timiraos and Amara Omeokwe |
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| Small Firms Hold Back As Loan costs Add Up | With borrowing costs double their levels from just two years ago, many small businesses are pulling back, another sign of how higher interest rates are cooling the economy.  Some entrepreneurs are postponing equipment purchases and expansion plans, while others are delaying hiring…  The average interest rate small businesses paid on short-term loans has stood at 9% or higher over the past three months…  “Small businesses are generally in better financial shape than in times past when interest rates have risen sharply, but they still are financially fragile,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Analytics.  Small businesses spent about 6% of revenue on interest payment in 2021, before the recent round of rate increases, according to Goldman Sachs, versus 2% for larger companies. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/15/2023 | Ruth Simon |
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| Why Xi No Longer Brags About Economy | China’s economy is beset by multiple challenges, from a deflating property bubble and unmanageable local government debts to slumping confidence and deflation. The U.S., meanwhile, has just recorded its strongest quarter in nearly two years while inflation subsides.  More important, while as much as three-quarters of China’s economy faces headwinds, the quarter that doesn’t, manufacturing, will keep China an economic and military threat to the West for the foreseeable future-even if overall growth turns lackluster.  China’s growth, which averaged 10% a year from 1980 to 2012, was always bound to slow around now because of an aging population, less rural-to-urban migration and diminishing opportunities to catch up to wealthier countries.  Whereas the U.S. has too few houses and infrastructure, China now has too much of both. Millions of apartments are vacant.  Much of the debt to finance that investment, issued by developers and local governments to ordinary Chinese or Chinese banks, is in danger of default. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/15/2023 | Greg Ip |
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| What’s News | ♦ House lawmakers approved a plan that would continue funding federal agencies until early next year, a critical step in averting a partial government shutdown, with Speaker Mike Johnson relying heavily on Democratic votes to get his bill across the finish line. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/15/2023 |  |
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| Stocks Extend Rally on Data | Growing evidence of a gradually cooling economy helped push stocks higher again.  The S&P 500 rose 0.2%. the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite gained 0.1%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.5%, or 164 points. Seven of the 11 sectors within the S&P 500 closed higher.  Hopes that the Fed’s campaign to increase interest rates is winding down have sparked a fierce rally since the central bank’s last meeting ended on Nov. 1.  The yield on the 10-year Treasury note settled at 4.535%, up from 4.440% Tuesday.  Traders in interest-rate derivatives are pricing in a 100% chance that the central bank leaves its policy rate unchanged at the next two policy meetings in December and January, according to CME Group’s FedWatch tool. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/16/2023 | Charley Grant |
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| All Is Quiet in Oil Markets – for Now | The shale revolution rebalanced the market. The U.S., once the world’s largest oil importer, is now its largest producer.  That would change if the war were to spread, but Iran and China have a stake in keeping it contained.  Financial investors in the oil market aren’t panicking about possible disruption. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/16/2023 | Daniel Yergin |
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| Inflation in Britain Declines Sharply | The U.K.’s statistics agency Wednesday said consumer prices were 4.6% higher in October than year earlier, a drop from the 6.7% rate of inflation recorded in September and the slowest increase since October 2021. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/16/2023 | Paul Hannon |
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| What’s News | ♦ Growing evidence of a cooling economy again helped push stocks higher, lifting the S&P 500, Dow and Nasdaq by 0.1%, 0.5% and 0.1%, respectively. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/16/2023 |  |
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| What’s News | ♦ Consumers cut their spending at stores, dealerships and gas stations last month, tapping the brakes on economic growth ahead of the holiday shopping season. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/16/2023 |  |
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| Economy Closes In On a Soft Landing | The U.S economy is approaching what most economists had thought either unlikely or impossible: inflation returning to its prepandemic norm without a recession or even much economic weakness, a so-called soft landing.  Six months ago, the consensus among economists surveyed by The Wall Street Journal was that the economy would enter a recession over the next 12 months. In October’s survey, the average forecast of economists was for no recession.  October’s report, released Tuesday, showed inflation had come down to 3.2%.  The big drop happened while employers continued to add jobs and without any obvious sign that economic growth was petering out.  Until inflation is back to 2%, the Fed is unlikely to declare victory.  Yet investors seem prepared to declare victory. Futures markets put the probability hat the Fed will begin cutting interest rates by May at roughly 65%, according to CME Group data. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/16/2023 | David Harrison and Jeffrey Sparshott |
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| Small Stocks Trail Market by Widest Margin in 25 Years | The S&P 600, an index of small companies with an average market value of $1.8 billion, has climbed 8% from its recent low on Oct. 27, slightly trailing the S&P 500. Yet for 2023, it is on pace to trail its large-cap counterpart by the widest margin in a calendar year since 1998.  The Federal Reserve’s interest-rate campaign has hurt small-caps more than their larger peers because small companies tend to issue more floating-rate debt. Their loan payments fluctuate with benchmark interest rates…  Even if the central bank is done raising interest rates, small-caps likely won’t see any relief from higher interest expenses until rates start falling. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/17/2023 | Hardika Singh and Jack Pitcher |
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| Is the Stage Set for a Year-End Rally? | Investors are feeling optimistic after Tuesday’s lower-than-expected inflation data.  This comes on the back of decent consumer-spending figures and a third-quarter earnings season that ended up better than Wall Street was anticipating. The elusive “soft landing” than many economists thought impossible seems the most likely outcome.  Furthermore, stocks tend to do well in the final quarter of the year.  The &SP 500 is trading at 18.7 times the earnings that its constituent companies are expected to generate during the next 12 months. This is significantly below the 2020 peak, when this multiple almost touched 24, but in line with pricey prepandemic levels.  Also, this year’s gains have been extremely top heavy. While technology and communication services – home of the “Magnificent Seven” group of Apple, Microsoft, Alphabet, Amazon.com, Nvidia Tesla and Meta – are both up roughly 50% this year, helped by solid results, five out of 10 sectors in the S&P 500 fell…  Tech has done well, but the real winners have been real estate, utilities and materials – sectors which suffer when rates are high and have had lackluster earnings compared with expectations. It goes to show how market sentiment depends on relief from higher bond yields. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/17/2023 | Jon Sindreu |
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| Foreigners Lose Interest in buying U.S. Treasury Debt | Foreigners no longer have an insatiable appetite for U.S. government debt. That’s bad news for Washington.  The Federal Reserve is shedding its portfolio at a rate of about $60 billion a month. Overseas buyers who were once important sources of demand – China and Japan in particular – have become less reliable lately.  Meanwhile, supply has exploded. The U.S. Treasury has issued a net $2 trillion in new debt this year, a record when excluding the pandemic borrowing spree of 2020.  In response to recent demand weakness, Treasury has shifted to issuing shorter-term bonds that are in higher demand, helping to restore market stability. The yield on the U.S. 10-year note, which shot above 5% in October, is now at around 4.4%. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/18-19/2023 | Chelsey Dulaney and Megumi Fujikawa |
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| U.S. Stocks Advance for Third Week In a Row  *S&P 500 closed higher in 13 of last 15 sessions* | U.S. investors’ appetite for risk has returned.  Tuesday’s cooler-than-expected inflation report was the latest reason for investors to cheer, helping extend a furious November rally in which the S&OP 500 has jumped 7.6%. Traders are betting the Federal Reserve’s rate-hike campaign is done for now and that inflation will head toward target levels without a steep recession – the elusive “soft landing.” Interest-rate derivatives now indicate that traders see a greater-than-50% chance of an interest-rate cut by the Fed’s May meeting. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/18-19/2023 | Jack Pitcher |
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| Retailers Eye Lures for Reluctant Buyers | Consumers are facing several financial stresses, including higher interest rates and raised borrowing costs for mortgages, credit-card balances and car loans.  .  …James Knightley, chief international economist at financial services provider ING.  “These headwinds have been there, they’ve just been building and building and building, and we just don’t have the savings and the access to credit to paper over the cracks,” said Knightley. The economist predicts holiday spending will be flat to lower when compared with last year as the stresses on household budgets build. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/20/2023 | Jennifer Williams-Alvarez and Kristin Broughton |
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| An unexpected Soft Landing Fuels Stock-Market Rally | The S&P 500 rose 2.2% over the past week, capping the index’s best three-week stretch since June 2020 and putting it up 18% for the year. A torrent of buying in Treasurys has sent benchmark yields down to 4.441%, easing persistent concerns about whether rising financing costs will hamper U.S. growth.  Many investors now expect the economy to cool enough for the Fed to begin reducing interest rates next year, without prompting a dramatic slowdown in consumer spending or a sharp contraction in the workforce.  “There’s too much reliance on a soft landing at this point,” said Victoria Fernandez, Portfolio manager and chief market strategist at Crossmark Global Investments. “We need to be a little bit cautious.”  For now though, the morsels of good news on the economy have led the stock market’s doubters to shed caution. In one of the clearest signs yet that investors are embracing a brighter outlook on the economy, the Russell 2000 index tracking shares of small companies jumped 5.4% over the past week. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/20/2023 | Gunjan Banerji and Hannah Miao |
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| What’s News | ♦ Fed officials were unwilling to conclude that they were done raising interest rates when they decided earlier this month to extend a pause in rate increases, minutes show. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/22/2023 |  |
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| October Home Sales Fell 4.1% | Existing-home sales fell 4.1% in October from the prior month to the lowest seasonally adjusted annual rate in 13 years. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/22/2023 | Source: National Association of Realtors |
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| Technology Stocks Drive Down Indexes  *Yield on 10-year Treasury note declines to 4.417% after Fed minutes* | Artificial intelligence powered the stock market for much of the year. Now it is testing stocks’ November rally.  The S&P 500 and Dow industrials each slipped 0.2%. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite led the losses, sliding 0.6%.  This year’s stock-market gains were largely fueled by the AI boom, but that stalled this summer as Treasury yields surged. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/22/2023 | Eric Wallerstein |
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| Depressed Sectors Join Stock Rally As Yer-end Approaches | Big tech stocks led much of this year’s rally. Now the rest of the market is rushing in.  Several beaten-down corners of the stock market are rebounding to help drive a surge that has lifted the S&P 500 by 3.3% since mid-November and 19% for the year. Amont the biggest gainers: sectors that had been bruised by higher interest rates and recession fears.  The advances reflect growing optimism that the Federal Reserve is set to pull off a soft landing, or a cooling of the economy that doesn’t tip it into a downturn. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/25-26/2023 | Hardika Singh |
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| Stocks Push Rally To a Fourth Week | Stocks solidified a fourth consecutive week of gains, after bouncing between small gains and losses Friday.  All three major indexes are on pace for their best monthly performance in more than a year.  The yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury note edged higher as bond prices fell. It settled Friday at 4.483%, snapping a run of five consecutive daily declines.  Healthcare was the S&P 500’s top-performing sector on Friday, Advancing 0.5%.  Gold futures closed above $2,000 a troy ounce for the first time since May, settling at $2,002.20. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/25-26/2023 | Charley Grant |
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| Cash Pile Expected To Spark Investment In Markets | Stocks and bonds have surged in November. With record investor balances in money-market funds, some analysts are optimistic that they have more room to run.  The S&P 500 is up 8.7% this month; the Nasdaq composite, 11%. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which falls as bond prices rise, is down nearly half a percentage point to 4.483%... | The Wall Street Journal | 11/27/2023 | Jack Pitcher |
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| U.S. Borrowers Get closer to Maxin Out | Credit-card utilization and delinquency rates are on the rise –  Across all cardholder income groups as of July, average utilization rates – the ratio of outstanding card-account balance to the account’s credit limit – were above February 2020 levels.  The silver lining from a macro-economic perspective is that challenges could be fairly concentrated within certain subsets of consumers, such as those with lower incomes and student-loan debts. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/27/2023 | Telis Demos |
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| Investors See Fed Rate cuts by May | Interest-rate futures indicated Monday a 52% chance the Fed will lower rates by at least a quarter-of-a-percentage point by its May 2024 policy meeting…  Investors, battered by the Fed’s efforts to slow the economy, have reacted by driving the S&P 500 up nearly 9% this month.  This month’s rally in stocks signals many investors anticipate a more benign outcome. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/28/2023 | Sam Goldfarb |
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| What’s News | ♦ Home prices climbed to a record in September due to a shortage of houses for sale, even as high mortgage rates made home purchases less affordable. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/29/2023 |  |
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| AI Craze Overtakes Value Stocks | This was supposed to be the year value stocks shined. Then AI mania took over and ran away with the spotlight.  Shares of big tech companies are s urging this year and racing past value stocks again, powered by investor optimism about the promise of artificial intelligence. That is a reversal from last year, when value stocks pulled ahead of growth stocks for the first time since 2016. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/29/2023 | Charley Grant |
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| OPEC Mulls Cuts In Output Amid War In Mideast | OPEC and its Russia-led allies are considering new oil-production cuts of as much as one million barrels a day, delegates said Wednesday, despite tensions in oil markets amid the conflict in the Middle East.  The move, which would likely send oil prices higher, could be announced Thursday at a virtual meeting of the cartel. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/30/2023 | Benoit Faucon and Summer Said |
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| Tech Giants Curb Growth Appetite | The tech industry has largely recovered from the downturn, but Silicon Valley learned a long-lasting lesson: how to do more with less.  The cuts are far smaller than the mass layoffs that reached tens of thousands in late 2022 and early this year. But they suggest a new era for an industry that in years past grew with little restraint, one in which companies are focusing on efficiency and acting more like their corporate peers that emphasize shareholder value and healthy margins.  “We’ve hired a lot over the past several years, and we’re in the process of digesting that growth and making sure we’re operating as efficiently as we can as a company,” said Brad Glasser, an Amazon spokesman. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/30/2023 | Katherine Bindley and Preetika Rana |
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| What’s News | ♦ OPEC and its Russia-led allies are considering new oil production cuts of as much as one million barrels a day, greater than most forecasts, despite tensions in oil markets amid the Middle East conflict, | The Wall Street Journal | 11/30/2023 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| What’s News | ♦ The economy grew faster than previously estimated in the third quarter at a seasonally and inflation-adjusted annual rate of 5.2%, the commerce Department said. | The Wall Street Journal | 11/30/2023 |  |

Americans 65 and up accounted for 22% of spending last year, the highest share since records began in 1972. -*The Wall Street Journal, October 8, 2023*

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