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AUTHOR: Brandon Ridenour, CFP®, CRPC®

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Unemployment: Jobs data was incomplete this week due to the government shutdown.

Consumer Goods & Materials: Inflation pressures eased slightly in September as the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.3%, below the 0.4% forecast. The annual inflation rate ticked up to 3.0% (Sep) from 2.9% (Aug).

Retail Sales: The September Retail Sales report was missed due to the continued government shutdown.

Housing and Building: Pending Homes Sales were unchanged in September (MoM), missing expectations. The MBA 30-Year Mortgage Rate fell to 6.30%, the lowest level in over a year.

Yield Curve: The yield curve flattened this week. 2-year yields increased from 3.48% to 3.60%. 10-year yields climbed from 4.02% to 4.11%. Prices & rates move in opposite directions.

M2 Money Stock: The money supply rose 100B to \$22.21T (Sep). The advanced estimate for Q3 GDP (QoQ) is delayed from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) due to the government shutdown.

Manufacturing & Services: ISM Manufacturing PMI rose from 48.7 (Aug) to 49.1 (Sep), but remained in contraction territory. Non-Manufacturing (Services) PMI dropped from 52.0 (Aug) to 50.0 (Sep). 50 marks contraction / expansion.

S&P 500: The S&P 500 rose 48.51 points this week, closing at 6,840.20 (up 16.30% YTD). The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) was unchanged at 18.5.

Consumer Confidence: Conference Board (CB) Consumer Confidence fell for the third consecutive month, decreasing from 95.6 (Sep) to 94.6 (Oct). Will consumers' behavior reflect their sentiment, or will spending stay strong even as confidence wanes?

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Always remember that while this is a week in review, this does not trigger or relate to trading activity on your account with Financial Future Services. Broad diversification across several asset classes with a long-term holding strategy is the best strategy in any market environment.

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Contact an Advisor today:

Phone: (719) 357-7189 | E-mail: admin@ffsinv.com | Website: www.ffsinv.com

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