

# WeeklyMarket Update



## General Market News

- As the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) enters the quiet period leading up to its next policy meeting (January 31–February 1), the average Bloomberg surveyed economist expects to see another half percent of increases in the first quarter before levels remain stable through the second and third quarters. Inflation data has shown recent signs of softening, but Federal Reserve (Fed) officials will require more convincing signs before there are any serious conversations about stopping its cycle. Fed Governor Lael Brainard explained, “Even with recent moderation, inflation remains high, and policy will need to be sufficiently restrictive for some time to make sure inflation returns to 2 percent on a sustained basis.” Still, as we approach the February 1 FOMC rate decision, futures markets are confidently pricing in a smaller hike of 25 basis points (bps). This marks a significant downshift after a string of four 75 bps hikes and one 50 bps hike in 2022. Speaking to the possibility of a quarter percentage point hike, Brainard noted, “This will enable us to assess more data as we move the policy rate closer to a sufficiently restrictive level, taking into account the risks around our dual-mandate goals.” U.S. Treasury yields didn’t see much movement last week. The 2-, 5-, and 10-year were down 7 bps, to 4.17 percent, 3.54 percent, and 3.44 percent, respectively. The 30-year ended 1 bp lower at 3.6 percent.
- The Nasdaq Composite outperformed the Dow Jones Industrial Average last week as growth equities outperformed value equities.

The outperformance of the Nasdaq was due to the drop in Treasury yields on the back of weaker-than-expected retail sales for December and softer-than-expected inflationary data in the form of the **Producer Price Index (PPI)**. The PPI, which measures the average change over time in the selling prices received by domestic producers, fell 0.5 percent in December versus 0.1 percent expected. As a result, the economy showed hints of slowing faster than expected and fueled hopes that the Fed will ease the magnitude and pace of its rate hikes in 2023. The falling Treasury yields translate into a lower cost of capital for communication services, energy, technology, and consumer discretionary, which all outperformed. Industrials, utilities, and consumer staples lagged.

- The highlights of last week came on Wednesday with the release of the **retail sales**, PPI, and **industrial production** data for December. Headline and core retail sales both by more than expected to end the year. Producer prices fell more than expected in December, due in part to falling gas prices during the month. Industrial production also fell more than expected in December, driven by a larger than expected 1.3 percent decline in manufacturing production.
- The week wrapped on Friday with **existing home sales** for December. Existing home sales fell less than expected in December; however, the annualized pace of sales fell to its lowest level since 2010 to end the year.

## Market Index Performance Data

### EQUITIES

Index	Week-to-Date	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date	12-Month
S&P 500	-0.65	3.55	3.55	-8.17
Nasdaq Composite	0.55	6.47	6.47	-18.40
DJIA	-2.66	0.78	0.78	-0.54
MSCI EAFE	0.01	7.05	7.05	-6.36
MSCI Emerging Markets	0.63	8.39	8.39	-14.27
Russell 2000	-1.04	6.06	6.06	-4.71

Source: Bloomberg, as of January 20, 2023

### FIXED INCOME

Index	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date	12-Month
U.S. Broad Market	2.89	2.89	-8.88
U.S. Treasury	2.37	2.37	-8.98
U.S. Mortgages	3.28	3.28	-7.49
Municipal Bond	2.83	2.83	-4.61

Source: Bloomberg, as of January 20, 2023



### What to Look Forward To

This week's data will focus on economic growth, durable goods, and personal spending and income.

Thursday will see the release of **advance estimate fourth quarter GDP growth** and **preliminary estimate durable goods orders** data for December. Economists expect to see continued signs of economic growth when the fourth quarter GDP report is released. Personal consumption

growth is set to rise during the quarter, supporting overall economic growth. Orders of durable goods are set to rise in December, driven in part by an increase in volatile transportation orders.

Friday will see the release of **personal income and personal spending** reports for December. Both are expected to come in mixed, with economists projecting a modest increase for incomes during the month, while spending is set to drop.

Certain sections of this commentary contain forward-looking statements that are based on our reasonable expectations, estimates, projections, and assumptions. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve certain risks and uncertainties, which are difficult to predict. All indices are unmanaged and are not available for direct investment by the public. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The S&P 500 is based on the average performance of the 500 industrial stocks monitored by Standard & Poor's. The Nasdaq Composite Index measures the performance of all issues listed in the Nasdaq Stock Market, except for rights, warrants, units, and convertible debentures. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is computed by summing the prices of the stocks of 30 large companies and then dividing that total by an adjusted value, one which has been adjusted over the years to account for the effects of stock splits on the prices of the 30 companies. Dividends are reinvested to reflect the actual performance of the underlying securities. The MSCI EAFE Index is a float-adjusted market capitalization index designed to measure developed market equity performance, excluding the U.S. and Canada. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a market capitalization-weighted index composed of companies representative of the market structure of 26 emerging market countries in Europe, Latin America, and the Pacific Basin. The Russell 2000® Index measures the performance of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000® Index. The Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged market value-weighted performance benchmark for investment-grade fixed-rate debt issues, including government, corporate, asset-backed, and mortgage-backed securities with maturities of at least one year. The U.S. Treasury Index is based on the auctions of U.S. Treasury bills, or on the U.S. Treasury's daily yield curve. The Bloomberg US Mortgage Backed Securities (MBS) Index is an unmanaged market value-weighted index of 15- and 30-year fixed-rate securities backed by mortgage pools of the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA), Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae), and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC), and balloon mortgages with fixed-rate coupons. The Bloomberg US Municipal Index includes investment-grade, tax-exempt, and fixed-rate bonds with long-term maturities (greater than 2 years) selected from issues larger than \$50 million. One basis point is equal to 1/100th of 1 percent, or 0.01 percent. Rev. 01/23.

Authored by the Investment Research team at Commonwealth Financial Network®