SIB Standard Investment Bank | Mansa X Special Fund

21ST - 25TH SEPTEMBER 2026

GLOBAL MARKETS

WEEKLY MARKET BRIEF

Highlights.

The S&P 500 Index managed to finish the week higher despite renewed concerns about inflation and the prospect of higher interest rates. Gains were concentrated in information technology and communication services, where investor enthusiasm over the strong adoption of Meta Platforms' consumer artificial intelligence (AI) agent fuelled optimism about the broader potential of agentic AI and its implications for demand for computing infrastructure. Utilities underperformed as higher interest rates weighed on the sector, while energy stocks also lagged. For the week, the S&P 500 advanced 1.21%, the Dow gained 0.28%, while the Nasdaq 100 outperformed with a 3.25% increase. Preliminary September readings from S&P Global's purchasing managers indexes (PMIs) pointed to another month of solid U.S. economic expansion. The composite PMI, which combines manufacturing and services activity, increased to 58.4 from 58.0 in August. The reading represented a 62-month high and marked the fourth consecutive month of expansion. The strength of economic activity, however, came alongside renewed price pressures. Average input costs for goods and services increased at their fastest rate since October 2022, highlighting the risk that stronger economic momentum could be accompanied by renewed inflation. This evidence that the U.S. economy was accelerating, combined with more hawkish comments from several Federal Reserve officials, led investors to increase expectations that persistent inflation could require additional interest rate increases. Reports that the Trump administration could consider restricting U.S. diesel exports added another potential source of upward pressure on energy prices and inflation expectations. Credit markets also came under pressure, with spreads widening across both U.S. investment-grade corporate bonds and the high yield market. Across the Atlantic, European markets were pulled in opposing directions by improving economic indicators and continued enthusiasm around AI on one side, and renewed inflation concerns caused by elevated energy prices and resilient economic activity on the other. For the week, the pan European Euro STOXX 600 managed to eke out a gain of 0.81% while the Euro STOXX 50 gained 1.07%. Investors also considered whether stronger economic data and persistent inflation could encourage the European Central Bank to pursue tighter monetary policy. Money markets are now pricing in roughly 100 basis points of ECB rate hikes by late 2027, while investors in both the US and UK have similarly increased expectations for further monetary tightening amid hawkish policymaker commentary and resilient economic data. Moving along to Asia, Japanese equity markets were open for only two trading sessions during the week ending September 25, with markets closed from Monday through Wednesday for national holidays. Despite the shortened trading period, equities advanced. The Nikkei 225 increased 2.07%, while the broader TOPIX rose 0.92%. AI and semiconductor stocks led the gains, reflecting the strength previously seen in U.S. technology shares while Japanese markets were closed. The Bank of Japan's September 18 interest rate decision had been viewed as less hawkish than some investors had anticipated. The decision included two dissenting votes and offered limited guidance regarding the timing of future policy moves. Separately, Chinese equities declined over the week, with mainland growth stocks and Hong Kong technology companies among the weakest performers. Mainland markets were closed Friday for the Mid-Autumn Festival. Through Thursday's close, the CSI 300 had fallen 1.51%, while the Shanghai Composite was down 0.60% for the week.

Data highlights: CAD Retail Sales YoY (Jul) fell less than expected, -10bps, from 5.2% to 5.1%, analysts expected a -130bps decrease, from 5.2% to 3.9%. CHF SNB Interest Rate Decision stayed the same at 0%. ZAR Inflation Rate YoY (Aug) rose less than expected, +10bps, from 4.3% to 4.4%, expectations were for a stronger increase, from 4.3% to 4.5%. AUD Unemployment Rate (Aug) rose +10bps, from 4.5% to 4.6%, consensus was for the print stay the same at 4.5%.

Week ahead: AUD RBA Interest Rate Decision, USD JOLTs Job Openings (Aug) – Tuesday | AUD CPI (Aug), USD ADP Employment Change (Sep), USD GDP Growth Rate QoQ (Q2), USD Core PCE Price Index MoM (Aug), USD Personal Spending MoM (Aug) – Wednesday | CHF Inflation Rate YoY (Sep), CHF Retail Sales YoY (Aug), AUD Balance of Trade (Aug), EUR Unemployment Rate (Aug), USD ISM Manufacturing PMI (Sep) – Thursday | JPY Unemployment Rate (Aug), EUR Inflation Rate YoY (Sep), EUR Core Inflation Rate YoY (Sep), USD Nonfarm Payrolls (Sep), USD Nonfarm Payrolls Private (Sep), USD Unemployment Rate (Sep) - Friday

Global Markets Overview

Treasury yields: The US 10-year Treasury yield climbed to 5.16%, approaching its highest level since mid-2000, as investors refocused on hawkish commentary from Federal Reserve officials and the lack of concrete progress in US-Iran negotiations continued to reinforce concerns over inflation. Strong US economic data, deteriorating fiscal conditions and rising government debt have further weighed on the bond market, while Treasury Secretary Bessent's efforts to contain long-dated yields through increased Treasury buybacks are widely viewed as having had limited impact. Markets are currently pricing in a 25bps Fed rate hike next month, with the probability of such a move standing at around 66%. In Europe, Germany's 10-year Bund yield climbed back to 3.60%, its highest level since June 2009, extending its advance for a seventh consecutive week as elevated energy prices heightened concerns over renewed inflationary pressure and increasingly hawkish central-bank signals pushed rate expectations higher. European bonds also remained under pressure from growing concerns over debt affordability in highly indebted economies, particularly France and Italy, ahead of next year's elections.

Bond Yields	Close	% W/W	% YTD
US 10Y	5.16	3.29	23.84
Bund 10Y	3.60	2.33	26.13
Gilt 10Y	5.37	1.34	19.80
Japan 10Y	3.08	3.14	49.23

Equities: US equities finished the week higher as easing oil prices helped halt the sharp rise in Treasury yields and provided some relief to risk assets. The S&P 500 advanced 1.21%, the Dow gained 0.28%, while the Nasdaq 100 outperformed with a 3.25% increase. Benchmark borrowing costs also steadied after reaching multi-decade highs, easing some of the pressure on equity valuations. AI-related stocks were mixed, although hardware names were largely stronger, with Applied Materials gaining 9.09% and Lam Research advancing 9.41%. European equities also ended Friday higher as moderating energy prices eased some of the recent inflationary pressures. The Euro STOXX 50 gained 1.07% to 6,303, while the STOXX Europe 600 rose 0.81% to 665. Banks recovered after recent underperformance, with UniCredit and ING gaining between 0.3% and 0.41%, while AI software and infrastructure stocks also benefited from renewed momentum in the US sector, lifting ASML and Prosus.

Indices	Close	% W/W	% YTD
S&P 500	7743	1.21	13.12
EU Stoxx 600	665	0.81	8.57
FTSE 100	10695	0.34	7.69
Nikkei 225	66364	2.07	31.83

Currencies: The dollar index edged up to 100.97, pausing after a five-session rally that had lifted the greenback to July highs. Despite Friday's pause, the dollar gained 0.75% on the week, marking its second consecutive weekly advance. The broader move remained underpinned by expectations of further Federal Reserve tightening, persistent uncertainty in the Middle East, the sequential rise in oil prices and resilient US economic activity. Meanwhile, Sterling ended the week at $1.3247, hovering near a three-month low as the dollar remained supported by growing expectations of additional Fed rate hikes this year. Investors also assessed recent comments from Bank of England policymakers for clues on the direction of monetary policy. The ongoing US-Iran conflict and elevated energy prices continued to fuel concerns over renewed inflationary pressures, prompting markets to price in a solid probability of a 25bp BoE rate hike in November.

Currencies	Close	% W/W	% YTD
EURUSD	1.1391	-0.83	-3.02
GBPUSD	1.3247	-1.10	-1.69
USDJPY	157.28	0.25	0.36
USD Index	100.97	0.75	2.69

Commodities: Crude oil eased to $92.41 a barrel after Iran called on the US to revive an interim peace framework that had failed to bring an enduring end to the war over the summer. A sequenced agreement would broadly mirror the memorandum of understanding reached between Washington and Tehran in mid-June, which resulted in a fragile ceasefire that collapsed several weeks later. Iran's foreign minister proposed reopening the Strait of Hormuz and resuming nuclear negotiations with the US within seven days, provided the Trump administration accepts Tehran's conditions, including lifting the naval blockade, unfreezing Iranian assets and ending the war "on all fronts.". Despite recent gains, the US oil benchmark remained down 7.87% for the week. Gold traded at $4,285 an ounce, leaving the metal 2.14% lower on the week as elevated US Treasury yields and increasing expectations of further Federal Reserve rate hikes continued to weigh on demand. Positively, Gold demand in India showed modest improvement as lower prices attracted buyers ahead of the festive season.

Commodities	Close	% W/W	% YTD
Gold	4285	-2.14	-0.80
Copper	669.55	1.22	17.84
WTI Crude	92.41	-7.87	60.94
Wheat	703.25	-1.54	24.52

Performance of Major Global Financial Assets

% Change.

GOV. BOND YIELDS

% Change.	US 10Y	BUND 10Y	GILT 10Y	JAPAN 10Y	AUSSIE 10Y	ITALY 10Y
W/W	3.3	2.3	1.3	3.1	2.0	1.7
MTD	8.6	8.3	6.0	4.3	5.4	8.6
YTD	23.8	26.1	19.8	49.2	13.2	27.0

EQUITY INDICES

% Change.	S&P 500	NASDAQ	EU STOXX 50	DAX INDEX	FTSE 100	NIKKEI 225	HANG SENG
W/W	1.2	3.3	1.1	0.4	0.3	2.1	-1.0
MTD	0.7	3.9	-1.8	-3.2	-1.2	0.1	-4.1
YTD	13.1	21.2	8.8	3.7	7.7	31.8	-4.4

CURRENCIES

% Change.	USD INDEX	EURUSD	GBPUSD	USDJPY	USDCNY	USDZAR
W/W	0.7	-0.8	-1.1	0.3	0.2	0.4
MTD	1.6	-2.0	-2.2	-1.5	-0.1	1.2
YTD	2.7	-3.0	-1.7	0.4	-3.9	-1.5

COMMODITIES

% Change.	WTI CRUDE	GOLD	COPPER	COFFEE	WHEAT
W/W	-7.9	-2.1	1.2	-0.7	-1.5
MTD	7.8	-3.4	1.5	-10.6	-9.1
YTD	60.9	-0.8	17.8	-11.4	24.5

KEY: -100% +100%

Data Sources: Bloomberg, Investing.com, Trading Economics, T. Rowe Price, Standard Investment Bank

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