



## "The chief business of the American people is Business" – President Calvin Coolidge, Jan 1925

### US Markets: Bullish, Bullish, Bullish

US markets surged to record highs in November, with the Dow, S&P 500, and Nasdaq gaining 7.5%, 5.7%, and 6.2%, respectively. Small-cap stocks, represented by the Russell 2000, outperformed with a 10.8% gain, reflecting broader market strength. Wall Street's rally is fueled by a combination of government policies, Fed support, and media control, creating an environment where bad news is quickly absorbed and markets recover. Despite concerns over inflation, the Fed has maintained a stance that benefits the US stock market, with little disruption to its upward momentum.

### Commodities: Gold losing its shine

Gold has shown signs of cooling off, as Trump's victory introduces new uncertainties that could dampen its appeal. Speculation around a potential end to the war in Ukraine or the Gaza conflict has raised doubts among some gold bulls, despite a forecasted target of \$3,000 per ounce. If news of a resolution to these conflicts surfaces, we could see sharp declines in gold prices, triggering significant volatility.

### Asia Pacific: Diverging paths amid stimulus hopes

The Asia-Pacific markets are diverging, with challenges arising from a series of negative developments. Japan is facing a potential correction, weighed down by concerns over further Bank of Japan (BOJ) interest rate hikes. In South Korea, political uncertainty surrounding President Yoon's impeachment adds to market concerns. Taiwan's stocks are under pressure due to fears of potential tariffs under a Trump administration, while Hong Kong is grappling with the double impact of US tariffs on Chinese goods and a slowing Chinese economy.

China's market rebounded as officials introduced new measures to stimulate the economy, though these efforts have been met with skepticism in Western media. On a more positive note, Singapore and Australia stand out for attracting strong foreign inflows, while other emerging markets are seeing declines. The fear of slower interest rate cuts from the Fed has hit Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia, while India's market has been affected by corruption charges against the Adani Group and high valuations.

With expectations of more Chinese stimulus measures to support both China and Hong Kong markets, we remain bullish on selective Hong Kong stocks, such as HSBC, AIA, and China Mobile, which should benefit from increased policy support. Additionally, we are optimistic about certain high-quality stocks in Singapore and Australia as we approach the new year rally.



## From the News Desk to the Investment Team

- RBA held rates unchanged at 4.35% - 5<sup>th</sup> Nov
- BOE cut 25bps to 4.75% - 7<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Fed cut 25bps to 4.75% - 7<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Biden allows US military contractors into Ukraine – 8<sup>th</sup> Nov
- China hits back at EU with brandy tax after electric car tariffs – 9<sup>th</sup> Oct
- Europe's banks brace for tougher competition under Trump 2.0 – 11<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Trump places Musk as head of new ministry, Ministry of Government Efficiency – 13<sup>th</sup> Nov
- US CPI yoy 2.6% vs last 2.4% - 13<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Chipmakers flee China, shift to Vietnam amid US-China heat – 13<sup>th</sup> Nov
- China-APEC trade surpasses 21 trillion yuan in first 10 months of 2024, accounted for 59.1% of China's total trade – 13<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Russia open to any Ukraine peace talks if Trump starts them, envoy says – 14<sup>th</sup> Nov
- ECB GDP yoy 0.9% vs last 0.9% - 14<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Two of American's biggest debt holders are dumping Treasuries, Japan sold \$61.9 billion and China sold \$51.3 billion – 19<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Bad loan surge hits Thai households – 21<sup>st</sup> Nov
- US charges Indian billionaire Gautam Adani with bribery and fraud – 21<sup>st</sup> Nov
- Malaysia and Vietnam agree to enhance renewable energy cooperation – 21<sup>st</sup> Nov
- US national debt hits a new record \$36 trillion – 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov
- German economy avoids summer recession, but a winter recession is looming – 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov
- ECB can lower rates independent of Fed moves, Villeroy says – 24<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Economists lift Singapore GDP growth towards 5.4% yoy – 25<sup>th</sup> Nov
- ICC unsurprising decision on arrest warrants for Netanyahu, Gallant and Deif – 25<sup>th</sup> Nov
- US Republicans senators warn Canada, Britain, Germany, France: - help ICC, we crush your economy – 25<sup>th</sup> Nov
- RBNZ cut 50bps to 4.25% - 27<sup>th</sup> Nov
- China bans rare mineral exports to US – 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec
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## Market Overview

Equity Market Indexes	29-Nov-24	MTD ▲	YTD ▲
MSCI Global Index	862.49	3.63%	18.64%
S&P500	6,032.38	5.73%	26.47%
Nasdaq	19,218.17	6.21%	28.02%
Dow Jones Industrial Index	44,910.65	7.54%	19.16%
Magnificent 7 Index	163.27	5.85%	42.69%
Japan TOPIX	2,680.71	-0.55%	13.28%
MSCI Taiwan	920.34	-3.16%	34.03%
MSCI Korea	734.95	-4.70%	-11.53%
MSCI Australia	1,688.63	3.53%	10.97%
Hang Seng Index	19,423.61	-4.40%	13.94%
China CSI 300 Index	3,916.58	0.66%	14.15%
MSCI Singapore	1,730.63	8.80%	29.60%
iEdge Singapore REIT	1,018.37	-3.93%	-10.58%
MSCI India	2,889.41	-0.01%	16.16%
MSCI Thailand	478.13	-3.34%	1.09%
MSCI Emerging Markets	1,078.57	-3.66%	5.36%
S&P APAC REIT USD	1,169.60	-0.06%	0.60%
<b>Fixed Income</b>			
US 2 year Treasuries	4.15 %	-0.46%	-2.33%
US 10 year Treasuries	4.17 %	-2.71%	7.46%
BBG US Agg.Corp Spread	3,354.42	1.34%	4.14%
BBG US HY Corp Spread	2,694.63	1.15%	8.66%
<b>Currencies</b>			
US Dollar Index	105.74	1.69%	4.35%
EUR	1.0577	-2.82%	-4.19%
GBP	1.2735	-1.27%	0.03%
AUD	0.6512	-1.06%	-4.40%
NZD	0.5916	-1.02%	-6.38%
JPY	149.77	1.49%	-6.19%
SGD	1.3395	-1.49%	-1.45%
CNY (HK)	7.2491	-1.79%	-1.73%
KRW	1,397.20	-1.47%	-8.47%
TWD	32.47	-1.39%	-5.75%
THB	34.302	-1.67%	-0.47%
BRL	5.9713	-3.17%	-19.09%
<b>Commodities</b>			
WTI Oil	68.00	-1.82%	-5.09%
Gold	2,643.15	-3.67%	28.12%
Silver	30.63	-6.24%	28.70%
Baltic Dry Index	1,354.00	-2.45%	-35.34%



## Chart of the Month

Seasonality Chart : S&amp;P5000 - average 7 years



The chart highlights a clear seasonality trend in S&P 500 returns over the past 7 years. Notably, November has been the standout month, with an average gain of +4.60%, reinforcing its reputation as a strong month for the market. December, while showing positive returns in 5 out of 7 years, has seen slight weakness in 2 years. This suggests that while December is typically positive, the strong momentum from November may lead to a more modest gain, with the risk of a smaller pullback.

Looking ahead to 2025, January shows a solid average gain of +2.13%, indicating the potential for a positive start to the year. However, the data also points to a higher correction risk in February, with an average decline of -1.25%. This suggests that while we can expect a favorable new year rally, investors should be cautious about the potential for volatility or a brief market correction as we move into the early months of 2025.



“Learning is all about connections, and through our connections with unique people we are able to gain a true understanding of the world around us.”

The Abu Dhabi Private Markets Meeting held on December 3rd & 4th, 2024, provided valuable insights into the evolving landscape of Private Equity and Private Debt markets in the Middle East. Engaging with industry leaders from both sectors has deepened our understanding of the growing role these alternative investments play in portfolio diversification and risk management. Key discussions on Private Equity & Secondaries, Private Credit, and Real Assets have equipped us with new strategies and perspectives, which we can now integrate into our offerings to better serve our clients.



This event also highlighted the increasing demand for private credit as an attractive asset class for risk-adjusted returns, and the emerging opportunities in GCC-focused Private Equity. With these insights, we are poised to strengthen our investment solutions and enhance our ability to help clients navigate capital raising and deployment in these dynamic markets. As we move into 2025, we are excited to leverage these learnings to enrich our services and ensure that our clients remain well-positioned to capitalize on the opportunities and challenges ahead in private markets.

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