

# Stocks Trade Higher as Market Reacts to Election Results

**Services**  
Investment Management

**December 1, 2024**

## Monthly Market Summary

- The S&P 500 Index returned +6.0% but underperformed the Russell 2000 Index's +11.1% return. All eleven S&P 500 sectors traded higher, with Consumer Discretionary and Financials gaining more than +10%. In contrast, defensive sectors, such as Health Care, Utilities, and Consumer Staples, underperformed the S&P 500.
- Corporate investment-grade bonds produced a +1.8% total return as Treasury yields declined, marginally outperforming corporate high-yield's +1.6% total return.
- International stocks traded lower for a second consecutive month. The MSCI EAFE developed market stock index returned -0.3%, while the MSCI Emerging Market Index returned -2.7%.

## Markets Set New All-Time Highs in November's Post-Election Rally

The U.S. presidential election results fueled November's stock market rally, as investors focused on the incoming administration's policy agenda and its implications. The S&P 500 gained +6.0%, its biggest monthly return since November 2023. The index traded above the key 6,000 level and set a new all-time high, bringing its year-to-date return to +27%. Smaller companies took center stage during the market rally, with the Russell 2000 surging +11.1% to set a record high. In the bond market, Treasury yields rose after the election due to concerns about increased fiscal spending, tax cuts, and large fiscal deficits under the next administration. However, later in the month, yields reversed lower, and bonds posted positive returns. With Republicans taking control of the White House, Senate, and House in January, the following section discusses key policy areas to watch, along with the potential market and economic impacts.

## Key Policies to Watch in the Next Administration

Investors are monitoring two key areas: tax policy and trade. The administration is expected to focus on extending the tax cuts passed during President Trump's first term. This could stimulate economic growth and boost corporate profits, although it could widen the fiscal deficit. On trade, the administration plans to use tariffs to advance U.S. interests in international affairs and renegotiate trade deals. However, in the near term, tariffs could disrupt supply chains, slow economic growth, and squeeze profit margins in our view.

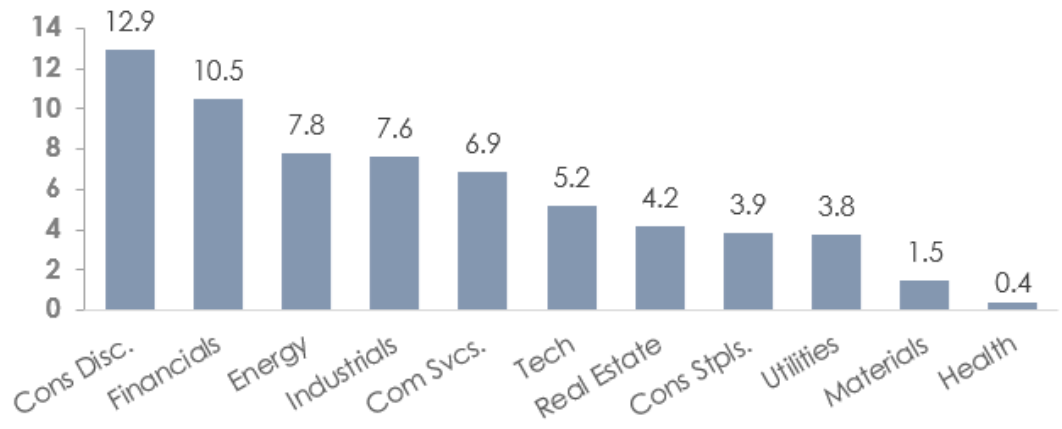
Other critical policies include immigration and deregulation. There are concerns that tariffs, stricter immigration policies, and expansionary fiscal policy could combine to keep inflation high. If so, the Federal Reserve might need to keep interest rates higher for longer. Elsewhere,

there is an expectation that deregulation could create new growth opportunities in the financial and energy sectors, while relaxed antitrust enforcement could lead to more mergers and acquisitions. Economic growth and corporate earnings will remain important long-term drivers, but in the short term, markets may be sensitive to shifting policy headlines as the new administration takes office.

**FIGURE 1**  
**U.S. Style Returns (November in %)**

	Value	Blend	Growth
Large	6.5	6.0	6.5
Mid	7.4	8.9	13.4
Small	9.7	11.1	12.5

*Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 11/30/2024*

**FIGURE 2**
**U.S. Sector Returns (November in %)**


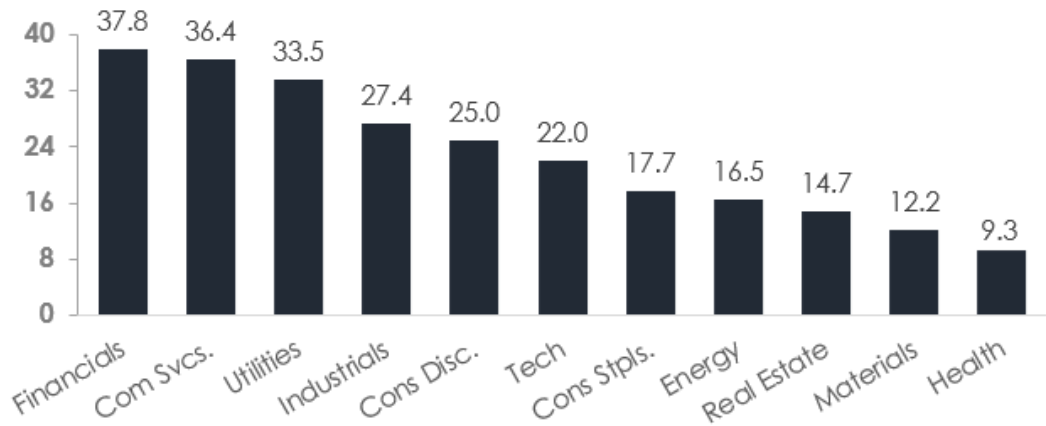
*Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 11/30/2024*

**FIGURE 3**
**U.S. Style Returns (YTD in %)**

	Value	Blend	Growth
Large	22.4	27.8	31.9
Mid	21.7	23.9	29.9
Small	17.4	21.4	25.5

*Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 11/30/2024*

**FIGURE 4**  
**U.S. Sector Returns (YTD in %)**



*Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 11/30/2024*

**FIGURE 5**  
**Market Data Center**

Stocks	1 month	3 months	6 months	YTD	1 year	3 years	Dividend Yield	NTM P/E	P/B
S&P 500	6.0%	7.2%	14.9%	27.8%	33.6%	36.6%	1.16%	22.1x	5.0x
Dow Jones	7.8%	8.5%	16.9%	20.9%	26.8%	36.1%	1.43%	20.7x	5.6x
Russell 2000	11.1%	10.2%	18.2%	21.4%	36.1%	14.4%	1.06%	27.2x	1.2x
Russell 1000 Growth	6.5%	9.2%	16.7%	31.9%	37.7%	34.8%	0.47%	29.2x	12.8x
Russell 1000 Value	6.5%	6.6%	13.7%	22.4%	29.1%	32.1%	1.73%	17.5x	2.8x
MSCI EAFE	-0.3%	-4.8%	-1.0%	6.7%	12.3%	11.8%	2.94%	13.8x	1.8x
MSCI EM	-2.7%	-0.3%	4.2%	8.3%	12.0%	-5.2%	2.40%	12.0x	1.7x
NASDAQ 100	5.4%	7.2%	13.4%	25.0%	31.9%	31.3%	0.55%	26.8x	7.9x

Fixed Income	Yield	1 month	3 months	YTD	1 year	3 years
U.S. Aggregate	4.64%	1.1%	-0.1%	3.0%	6.7%	-6.0%
U.S. Corporates	5.11%	1.8%	0.5%	3.5%	8.5%	-7.6%
Municipal Bonds	3.84%	1.7%	1.6%	2.6%	4.9%	0.0%
High Yield Bonds	7.36%	1.6%	2.3%	8.5%	11.9%	8.5%

Key Rates	11/30/2024	10/31/2024	8/31/2024	5/31/2024	11/30/2023	11/30/2021
2 yr Treasury	4.15%	4.16%	3.92%	4.87%	4.71%	0.52%
10 yr Treasury	4.17%	4.28%	3.92%	4.49%	4.36%	1.44%
30 yr Treasury	4.36%	4.48%	4.21%	4.63%	4.51%	1.78%
30 yr Mortgage	7.12%	7.28%	6.80%	7.29%	7.57%	3.23%
Prime Rate	8.50%	8.00%	8.50%	8.50%	8.50%	3.25%

Commodities	Level	1 month	YTD
Oil (WTI)	68.15	-1.6%	-4.9%
Gasoline	1.92	-1.7%	-7.0%
Natural Gas	3.37	24.4%	44.7%
Propane	0.80	-1.2%	19.6%
Ethanol	1.56	6.1%	-3.5%
Gold	2,674	-3.6%	29.1%
Silver	31.10	-6.4%	29.1%
Copper	4.08	-5.4%	5.2%
Steel	690	-6.1%	-39.2%
Corn	4.33	5.5%	-8.1%
Soybeans	9.90	1.0%	-23.2%

*Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 11/30/2024*

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*The S&P 500 Index or Standard & Poor's 500 Index is a market-capitalization-weighted index of 500 leading publicly traded companies in the U.S.*

*The Russell 2000 index measures the performance of approximately 2,000 small-cap US equities.*

*The MSCI EAFE Index is a stock market index that measures the performance of large- and mid-cap companies across 21 developed markets countries around the world. Canada and the USA are not included.*

*The MSCI Emerging Markets Index captures large and mid cap representation across 24 Emerging*

*Markets (EM) countries.*

*The Nasdaq 100 Index is a stock index of the 100 largest companies by modified market capitalization trading on Nasdaq exchanges.*

*The Russell 1000 Growth index is an index that tracks large cap, growth stocks. This benchmark is important for investors that might tilt their investments towards large cap growth. Growth stocks, in comparison to value stocks, are considered companies with a more growth potential, and a higher risk profile.*

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*The CBOE VIX Index is a calculation designed to produce a measure of constant, 30-day expected volatility of the U.S. stock market, derived from real-time, mid-quote prices of S&P 500® Index (SPX®) call and put options.*

*The Magnificent 7 is a group of major tech companies with stock growth that, on average, far outpaced the high-performing S&P 500® in recent years.*

*Coined in 2023, the group consists of Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Meta Platforms, Microsoft, Nvidia, and Tesla.*

*The Dow Jones Industrial Average, or simply the Dow, is a stock market index that indicates the value of 30 large, publicly owned companies based in the United States, and how they have traded in the stock market during various periods of time. These 30 companies are also included in the S&P 500 Index. The value of the Dow is not a weighted arithmetic mean and does not represent its component companies' market capitalization, but rather the sum of the price of one share of stock for each component company. The sum is corrected by a factor which changes whenever one of the component stocks has a stock split or stock dividend, so as to generate a consistent value for the index.*

*The Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index is used as a benchmark for investment grade bonds within the United States. This index is important as a benchmark for someone wanting to track their fixed income asset allocation.*

*The Bloomberg US Corporate Index covers performance for United States corporate bonds. This index serves as an important benchmark for portfolios that include exposure to investment grade corporate bonds.*

*The Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield Index covers performance for United States high yield corporate bonds. This index serves as an important benchmark for portfolios that include exposure to*

*riskier corporate bonds that might not necessarily be investment grade.*

*Treasuries, also known as Treasury securities, are debt obligations issued by the United States government. They are used to raise cash needed to fund government operations and help finance the federal deficit. Treasuries are backed by the full faith and credit of the US government, making them one of the safest investments. They are an important instrument in monetary policy, allowing central banks to control the money supply.*

*The Prime Rate is the interest rate that commercial banks charge their most creditworthy corporate customers. The prime rate is derived from the federal funds rate, usually using fed funds + 3 as the formula.*