



CIO OFFICE MORNING MARKET WRAP

28 October 2025

Global equities pushed higher on Monday as progress in US-China trade discussions helped sustain the late-October rally. The MSCI ACWI rose 1.1%, supported by firmer risk appetite and growing confidence that policy and diplomacy are aligning into a more stable backdrop. Reports of progress on tariffs, export controls, and shipping levies suggested a thaw between Washington and Beijing ahead of the Trump-Xi meeting later this week, adding another leg to a move that has carried global benchmarks to record levels. In the U.S., the S&P 500 advanced 1.2% to another all-time high, with technology and consumer names again at the forefront. The Nasdaq 100 gained 1.8% as semiconductor shares extended their leadership, and Qualcomm rallied after unveiling new AI data-center chips to compete with Nvidia. Amazon added through the session before news late in the day that the company plans to eliminate about 30,000 corporate roles across logistics, payments, cloud, and gaming, its largest restructuring since 2023. Markets traded with a steady tone ahead of Wednesday's Federal Reserve meeting, where a 25-basis-point cut remains the base case. Treasury yields hovered near 4% and the dollar eased marginally as equities maintained control of the narrative.

European markets mirrored the positive tone, with the MSCI Europe rising 0.2% as banks and industrials offset weaker energy and consumer shares. Spain's Ibex 35 closed at a record high led by Santander and BBVA, Siemens and Schneider Electric gained after analyst upgrades, and Porsche recovered on guidance that profitability should trough next year. Novartis fell after announcing a \$12 billion deal for Avidity Biosciences, while Barclays rose on news of regulatory approval to expand operations in Saudi Arabia. The region traded with a sense of balance ahead of Thursday's ECB meeting, where officials are expected to keep rates unchanged but acknowledge firmer growth conditions across the bloc. In Asia, equities rallied broadly with the MSCI China Index up 1.7% and Japan's TOPIX gaining 1.7%, extending last week's momentum. Chinese markets strengthened after state media described the latest trade understandings with the US as "hard-won results," lifting confidence across exporters and industrials. Rare-earth producers and shipping firms gained after reports that China will delay new export restrictions, and China Overseas Land advanced on improving property sales data. Apparel and footwear exporters benefited from expanded trade access with Vietnam, and markets in Korea, Hong Kong, and Southeast Asia moved in tandem with steady foreign inflows and renewed focus on cyclical sectors.

Within commodities, Brent crude declined 0.5% to \$65.6 a barrel, gold fell 3.2% to \$3,982 an ounce, the dollar slipped 0.1%, and the 10-year Treasury yield edged down to 3.99%.

Markets this morning:

This morning, the rally slowed as Asia opened to a quieter session ahead of a dense week of policy decisions and corporate earnings. The MSCI Asia Pacific Index slipped 0.2% as Japan and South Korea eased from record highs, Shanghai advanced past the 4,000 mark for the first time in a decade, and copper hovered near a record as optimism around industrial demand continued to build. The yuan strengthened to its highest level in nearly a year, the yen edged higher, and the dollar drifted lower.

Upcoming key events/data:

The remainder of the week is lined with key data and policy events. On Tuesday, South Korea reports GDP, India releases industrial production, and the US prints consumer confidence, alongside earnings from BNP Paribas and HSBC. Wednesday brings Australia's CPI, Canada's rate decision, and the Fed's expected 25 bp cut followed by results from Meta, Alphabet, and Microsoft. Thursday features GDP and inflation data from the major Eurozone economies, Japan's rate decision, and earnings from Apple and Amazon. Friday concludes with China's official PMIs, Japan's Tokyo CPI and industrial production, Eurozone inflation, and results from Exxon and Chevron. President Trump's meetings with Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and China's President Xi Jinping during the APEC summit will define the geopolitical backdrop as October closes and markets prepare for November's policy recalibration.

Have a great day.

Chief Investment Office
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