

MOOSECALLS

Global Financial News & Analysis
OCT.09.2026 through OCT.18.2026

<i>Global Executive Summary, Rankings, & Re-cap</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Markets Technical Summary, Global Economy</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>US Economy Fed & Inflation</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Federal Reserve</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Weekly Technical Summary</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>US Dollar, Carry Trade</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>US Treasury Bonds</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>US Large-cap Stocks</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>US Small-cap Stocks</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>US Equity Sectors</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>International: Gold</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>International: Commodities, Oil</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>International: European Stocks</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>International: Japanese Stocks</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>International: Asia Pacific ex-Japan Stocks</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>International: Latin American Stocks</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Timing v. Buy-and Hold:</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Index Model Global Timing</i>	
<i>USES Model US Equity Strategy Timing</i>	
<i>Federal Thrift Savings Plan Timing Model</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Moospeak Editorial</i>	<i>21</i>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: OCT.09.2026

This weekly global Investment newsletter tracks investment strategy performance, including buy-and-hold and market timing using ETFs as proxies for indices.

GLOBAL MARKETS: WEEK'S ACTION— MIXED-Risk (1)

THIS WEEK: 1st MIXED-Risk week after 1 Risk-OFF week.
US Stocks MIXED, Foreign Stocks MIXED, Bonds UP and Gold UP

Long Rates Slip

The 30-year T-bond dipped to 5.60% and the 10-year to 5.24%. The cash yield rose to 4.06%, and the 3m-10y yield curve flattened to 119 bpts. Oversold, US long Treasury prices rose 1.1%, as expectations of at least one (and possibly two) additional 2026 Fed rate hikes waned ever so slightly. Lower US yields did not dampen the Dollar (+0.4%) but they did boost commodities (+1.3%), including oil (+0.6%) and gold (+1.2%). US large-caps (+1.2%) enjoyed the break in rising yields, but US small-caps (-0.9%) were not convinced. Offshore equities were mixed to down against the stronger Dollar. Only Latin America (+9.1%) was up, and that was an anomaly. Europe (-0.4%), Japan (-1.1%), and Asia Pacific (-2.3%) were all down. One change in the models this week.

GLOBAL OUTLOOK POSITIVE (4 of 4 and unchanged week). The Baltic Dry Index, oil and copper prices and bond yields are all higher, making the outlook very positive.

US INFLATION: No data releases. WTI oil prices up a few cents to \$92. Global inflation per the Fed Check (84) still warrants tightening despite the latest rate hike but seems to be cooling.

US ECONOMY: Jobless Claims Low, Services Expansion Slows, Consumer Sentiment Weakens. Yield curve positive and steepening. Recession chances a year out shrinking and minimal. Money market system healthy per SOFR. Above average US growth prospects. GDP Now estimate (Q3) at 3.6% as of 10/09.

FEDERAL RESERVE: 1st rate hike since 12/25 rate cut three weeks ago. Fed Check (84) remains hawkish. The Fed's balance sheet currently stands at \$6.75 trillion, with the Fed Funds Rate at 3.75-4.00%. By December, at least one more Fed rate HIKE (81%) is likely and possibly two.

INVESTMENT STRATEGIES: There is one model switch this week.

GLOBAL OUTLOOK: POSITIVE (4 of 4)

Indications are positive for the global economy.

An international shipping measure and proxy for current global trade, **the Baltic Dry Index is at 2,917 this week, down from 3,148 last week and up 16% after 13 weeks, a positive** signal. After opening 2026 at 1,882, the BDI is still well below its 2010 peak of 4,640.

Meanwhile, another proxy for world activity, **WTI oil is at \$91.85 this week, up 29% in the latest quarter, a positive** economic signal. Oil remains below its 2022 peak of \$130, but well above the 2020 COVID low of \$10.

Our proxy for global construction, **copper is at \$6.69 this week and up 7% this quarter, a positive signal.**

Domestically, **the 10-year US bond yield is at 5.24% this week, up 70 basis points over the past 13 weeks, and a positive** bet on the largest world economy.

REGIONAL RANKING: Asia Has the Lead

Regional
Rankings
through
OCT.18.2026

**THIS WEEK: 1st MIXED-Risk week after 1 Risk-OFF week.
US Stocks MIXED, Foreign Stocks MIXED, Bonds UP and Gold UP**

The best regional market per CI is Asia-Pacific, but US large caps have a better technical score, a higher RSI and a positive PMO that is improving. Japan has the best PMO score right now thanks in part to recent US Yen stabilization efforts which should end when Japan normalizes its domestic interest rates. Among international equities, Emerging markets (EEM) that are commodity-centric are likely to outperform developed markets (EFA) that have to import raw materials, especially energy. (Europe, Britain, Japan). In addition, developed nations like Japan, Europe, Britain, and the US have all raised interest rates now, some twice— another drag. US large-caps (SPY) have gradually come to the fore, while small-caps fell off after the rate hike. SPY is more likely to rebound from a stronger Dollar which favors US multinational assets over foreign, technology over other sectors, and growth over value.

** Working off a stop-loss. Assets are ranked by CI, the “confidence index”. It combines the relative strength (rank), and technical strength (TS). The Trend is based on the TS reading. **Working off a buy-stop.*

	CI%	FUND	TS+	READ	RSI	PMO	+/-	condition
1	100%	Asia Pacific ex-Japan (AAXJ)	71%	bullish	46.1	0.46	positive	deteriorating
2	89%	US Large-caps (SPY)**	104%	very bullish	60.5	0.58	positive	improving
3	46%	US Small-caps (IWM)*	27%	bearish	38.8	-1.38	negative	deteriorating
4	45%	Japan (EWJ)**	89%	very bullish	52.1	0.85	positive	deteriorating
5	20%	Short US Income (SGOV)	82%	very bullish	66.8	0.15	positive	deteriorating
6	-20%	Europe (IEV)*	25%	bearish	37.1	-1.35	negative	deteriorating
7	-32%	Latin America (ILF)**	102%	very bullish	67.7	1.73	positive	improving
8	-125%	Very Long US Bonds (EDV)*	2%	very bearish	37.8	-2.30	negative	deteriorating
9	-155%	Gold Bullion (GLD)*	13%	very bearish	45.8	-1.13	negative	deteriorating
		US Dollar**	104%	very bullish	69.9		positive	improving
		Commodities	99%	very bullish	57.8		positive	deteriorating
		US Oil	98%	very bullish	53.3		positive	deteriorating
		Ryan/CRB	84%	HIKE RATES				
		Volatility	15.2	normal				

Latin stocks (ILF) are the best performing regional choice YTD, solely due to this week's 9% gain fueled by a Brazilian preliminary election results showing the socialist incumbent could be replaced by a more investor-friendly opponent in the run-off. (ILF's one-week spike could as easily vanish after the run-off, should the incumbent make a comeback, which is why regional investing is not recommended—too volatile.) In Asia, weakness in India and China, is offset by strength in tech and semiconductors in Taiwan and South Korea. Japan is also showing life of late, thanks to the US-Japan joint foreign exchange intervention which also helps the entire Asian region. Among international equities Emerging markets (EEM) are outperforming Developed (EFA).

YTD	FUND	10/09/26	10/02/26	13wk	26wk	39wk	52wk	3Y
25.3%	Latin America (ILF)	9.1%	0.7%	12.8%	1.7%	22.2%	49.6%	69.7%
24.1%	Asia Pacific ex-Japan (AAXJ)	-2.3%	-0.2%	-0.6%	9.3%	19.4%	33.8%	52.6%
21.2%	Japan (EWJ)	-1.1%	1.0%	4.6%	10.1%	18.8%	36.4%	55.5%
14.2%	US Large-caps (SPY)	1.2%	-0.2%	3.8%	11.5%	13.8%	20.5%	40.3%
13.3%	US Small-caps (IWM)	-0.9%	-0.2%	-5.9%	3.8%	8.7%	18.5%	31.8%
2.8%	Europe (IEV)	-0.4%	-2.6%	-3.0%	-0.5%	3.0%	13.3%	33.9%
0.1%	Short US Income (SGOV)	0.1%	0.1%	0.9%	1.8%	2.8%	3.7%	8.4%
-3.0%	Gold Bullion (GLD)	1.2%	-3.4%	1.7%	-12.6%	-6.5%	4.2%	56.7%
-15.0%	Very Long US Bonds (EDV)	1.1%	-3.4%	-9.9%	-11.2%	-11.8%	-16.3%	-21.6%

REGIONAL RANK & SUMMARY

THIS WEEK: 1st MIXED-Risk week after 1 Risk-OFF week.
US Stocks MIXED, Foreign Stocks MIXED, Bonds UP and Gold UP

#1 ASIA-PACIFIC Slips Below 50-day

AAXJ fell 2.3% this week, after losing 0.2% last week. That left it bullish and ranked 1 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is down 0.6% for the quarter, but up 33.8% for the year.

#2 US LARGE-CAPS Inch Higher

SPY rose 1.2% this week, after losing 0.2% last week. That left it very bullish and ranked 2 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is up 3.8% for the quarter and up 20.5% for the year.

#3 JAPAN Triggers Buy-Stops, Backs Off

EWJ fell 1.1% this week, after gaining 1.0% last week. That left it very bullish and ranked 3 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is up 4.6% for the quarter and up 36.4% for the year.

#4 US SMALL-CAPS Still Testing 200-day

IWM fell 0.9% this week, after losing 0.2% last week. That left it bearish and ranked 4 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is down 5.9% for the quarter, but up 18.5% for the year.

#5 CASH YIELD Rises--

The 3-month yield rose 7 basis points to 4.06%. The 10-year dipped to 5.24% flattening the yield curve to 118 basis points. Cash is currently ranked #5 globally. The 3-month T-bill is up 0.95% for the quarter and up 3.74% for the year.

#6 EUROPE Continues to Break Down IEV fell 0.4% this week, after losing 2.6% last week. That left it bearish and ranked 6 globally and less attractive than cash. The index is down 3.0% for the quarter, but up 13.3% for the year.

#7 LATIN AMERICA Gets Brazilian Bounce

ILF rose 9.1% this week, after gaining 0.7% last week. That left it very bullish and ranked 7 globally and less attractive than cash. The index is up 12.8% for the quarter and up 49.6% for the year.

#8 US LONG T-BONDS Bounce At Oversold Low

EDV rose 1.1% this week, after losing 3.4% last week. That left it very bearish and ranked #8 globally and less attractive than cash. Long bonds are down 9.9% for the quarter and down 16.3% for the year as yields have risen.

#9 GOLD Hits New Low, Bounces

GLD rose 1.2% this week, after losing 3.4% last week. That left it very bearish and ranked 9 globally and less attractive than cash. The index is up 1.7% for the quarter and up 4.2% for the year.

COMMODITIES Edge Upward

A very bullish CRB rose 1.3% this week, after losing 0.2% last week. Commodity prices are up 22.1% for the quarter and up 44.8% for the year.

Crude Oil Up Fractionally

The broader oil complex (USO) rose 0.6% this week, following last week's loss of 0.6%, and is currently very bullish. US oil prices are up 42.0% for the quarter and up 101.6% for the year.

US DOLLAR Posts New Overbought High

UUP rose 0.4% this week, after gaining 0.9% last week. It is currently very bullish, up 1.9% for the quarter and up 4.2% over the past year. At \$29.02, UUP is above its short-term (50-day) average and its intermediate-term (200-day) average.

US ECONOMY: OCT.09.2026

OVERALL: Jobless Claims Low, Services Expansion Slows Consumer Sentiment Weakens

PRODUCTION: Services Expansion Slows

(+) 10/03 WEEKLY EIA Crude Oil Inventory (-3.19M) DRAW increases as WTIC oil prices rise to \$92

- (-) AUG Industrial Production (+0.0%) flat-- below prior and below consensus.
- (-) AUG Capacity Utilization (76.3) UNCHANGED in line with prior and expectations.
- (+) SEP S&P Global U.S. Manufacturing PMI – (55.9) expanding, BELOW previous.
- (+) SEP S&P Global U.S. Services PMI – (58.8) expanding, UP from previous**
- (-) SEP ISM Manufacturing Index (54.5) expanding, BELOW prior and consensus.
- (-) SEP ISM Services Index (54.9) expanding, BELOW prior and consensus.**

CONSTRUCTION: Construction Up

- (-) AUG Housing Starts (1275K) BELOW consensus and previous as revised.
- (-) AUG Building Permits (1394K) BELOW prior and consensus.
- (-) AUG Existing Home Sales (3.98M) below previous and consensus.
- (+) AUG New Home Sales (684K) UP from prior and forecasts.
- (+) AUG Construction Spending (+0.9%) ABOVE prior and expectations.

INFLATION: PCE Prices Benign

- (-) AUG CPI (+0.4%) warmer than prior and consensus. (+3.4% y-o-y)
- (-) AUG Core CPI (+0.3%) warmer than prior and in line with consensus. (+2.4% y-o-y)
- (-) AUG PPI: (+0.4%) warmer than prior and in line with consensus. (+5.4% y-o-y)
- (+) AUG Core PPI (+0.2%) cooler than prior and forecasts. (+4.6% y-o-y)
- (-) AUG Import Prices (+0.7%) hot monthly and (+7.0%) year-on-year.
- (-) AUG Export Prices (+0.6%) hot monthly and (+8.6%) year-on-year.
- (-) AUG PCE Prices (+0.3%) more benign than prior and expected. (1yr 3.4% down.)
- (-) AUG PCE Prices – Core (+0.2%) more benign than prior and expected (1yr 3.0% down.)

JOBS: Claims Low

(+) Weekly initial Claims (197K) in line with prior and consensus.

(-) Weekly Continuing Claims (1716K) ABOVE prior week.

- (+) SEP ADP Private Payrolls (90K) UP more than expected from previous.
- (-) SEP Nonfarm Payrolls (+29K) well BELOW previous and consensus.
- (-) SEP Unemployment rate (+4.2%) ticked higher than prior and consensus.
- (-) SEP Average Hourly Earnings (+0.1%) WEAKER than consensus and prior.
- (+) SEP Average workweek (34.4) unchanged, better than expected.
- (+) AUG JOLTS Job openings (7.08M) BELOW consensus and prior revised higher.
- (+) AUG Challenger Job Cuts (52.9K) UP from JUL but DOWN from a year ago. Lowest AUG since '22.

CONSUMPTION: Consumer Sentiment Weakens

- (-) AUG Consumer Confidence (81.9) DOWN from prior and below consensus.
- (+) AUG Durable Orders flat (+0.0%) BELOW prior but ABOVE consensus.
- (-) AUG Personal Income (+0.2%), BELOW consensus and prior.
- (+) AUG Personal Spending (+0.9%) ABOVE prior and forecasts.
- (-) OCT Michigan Consumer Sentiment (46.3) pessimistic and WORSE than prior and consensus.**
- (+) JUL NFIB Small Business Optimism (99.8) strong and ABOVE prior (97.4).
- (+) AUG Retail Sales (+1.2%) ABOVE consensus after loss previously.
- (-) AUG Trade Deficit (-\$105.6) WORSE than prior and consensus.**
- (+) AUG Federal Budget (-\$166.8) deficit less than July's.

GDP & RELATED DATA: Q2 GDP Revised Higher

- (-) AUG Leading Economic Index (-0.1%) BELOW consensus and prior.
- (+) Q2 GDP – 2rdEST (+2.2%) UP from previous and consensus.
- (+) Q2 GDP Deflator – 3rdEST (+6.1%) less hot than previous and forecasts.
- Q2 Employment Cost Index (+0.9%) hotter than consensus and previous.
- (+) Q2 Productivity – (1.4%) revised in line with prior and consensus. Up more than labor costs.
- (+) Q2 Unit Labor Costs – revised (+1.2%) a tick lower than previous and consensus. Cooler than inflation.
- (-) Q2 Current Account Balance (-\$246.0B) deficit greater than previous quarter and consensus forecast.

RECESSION THREAT: MINIMAL, FALLING

US recession chances one year out: 13.88% (AUG 2027) per NY Fed. The Fed model's chance of recession has been below 30% (the threshold signaling a recession one year out) and falling since 2025. It reached a recent low of 15 in MAY 2026. The risk of recession was the highest in 40 years in May 2024, but it was avoided amid three years of massive Federal deficit spending and historic data falsification at the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ATLANTA FED: US Q3 GDP NOW at 3.6%

Atlanta Fed Current GDP Model (10/01/2026): Q3 Annualized 3.6% (Last week: Q3 Annualized +3.7%)

US ECONOMY: FEDERAL RESERVE

FED BALANCE SHEET (\$6.75T); FFR @ (3.75-4.00%)

Federal Reserve:
week of
OCT.09.2026

Currently, **the Fed's balance sheet is up to \$6.747 trillion** in the latest week 10/2/26. **The Fed Funds Rate was raised 25 BPS to 3.75-4.00%** at the SEP16 FOMC meeting. It was the first time rates have changed since the Fed cut in DEC 2025.

The next FOMC meeting is October 28. The new chairman since May 22, Kevin Warsh, chaired his first FOMC meeting June 17. There has been a sense that supply-side inflation pressures brought on by the war with Iran would eventually force two rate hikes by year-end. **After the latest hike, the odds of at least one more rate hike by year-end are still 81%.**

The Fed Check is at 84% and hawkish since 1/30/2026 (tighter monetary policy needed to combat global inflation pressures.) The US 2-Year yield at 4.80%, however, is now 93 bps HIGHER than the Fed overnight rate (3.875%), implying **near-term US domestic conditions make another Fed rate hike increasingly likely.**

The **3m-10y yield curve flattened to a slope of 118 bps** this week, as the 10-year US Treasury yield dipped to 5.24% and the 3-month cash yield rose to 4.06%. Intermediate term the curve is positive and steepening. (The curve was inverted from 11/22 through 12/24 but has been positive since.) The 30d-10y median yield 4.65% is above its 200-day at 4.07%. **A rising median yield and a steepening yield curve are both bullish for stocks.**

The 3-month SOFR yield is 3.87%, while the 3-month T-bill is 4.06%. That puts the SOFR/T-bill (SOF-T) spread at -19 basis points, below its 200-day average of -5.3 basis points. A widening SOF-T spread reflects tighter repo funding or unusually strong demand for 3-month Treasury bills.

FED CHECK: TIGHTER INDICATED (-1)
RATE POSTURE: TIGHTENING (-1)
BALANCE SHEET: STEADY (0)
FED SPEAK: HAWKISH (-1)
FED OVERALL: HAWKISH (-3)

Latest FOMC Assessment (2026.9.16) The Committee decided to raise the target range for the federal funds rate by 1/4 percentage point to 3-3/4 to 4 percent, in support of the Federal Reserve's dual mandate. The Committee is continuing its policy of maintaining ample reserves in the banking system. Economic activity is expanding at a solid pace. While uncertainty remains elevated owing, in part, to geopolitical developments, domestic spending has been resilient. Productivity growth is strong, and capital investment is robust. Job gains have kept pace with the workforce, and the unemployment rate has changed little. Inflation remains elevated. Today's policy action will support a timelier return to the Committee's 2 percent goal. The Committee will deliver price stability. (Next Meeting: 10/28/2026)

US Currency Market: US DOLLAR Posts New Overbought High



US Dollar: UUP rose 0.4% this week, after gaining 0.9% last week. It is currently very bullish—up 1.9% for the quarter (13 weeks) and up 4.2% in the last year (52 weeks). At \$29.02, UUP is above its short-term (50-day) average and its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Momentum in the greenback is positive and improving. RSI14 at 69.9 is neither overbought nor oversold.

As for other major currencies versus the Dollar, the Australian Dollar (FXA) is bearish and down 1.0% this week. The British Pound (FXB) is bearish and down 0.1%. The Canadian Dollar (FXC) is very bearish and down 0.8%. The Euro (FXE) is very bearish and down 1.2%. The Swiss Franc (FXF) is very bearish and down 0.1%, and the Japanese Yen (FXJ) is bullish and down 0.4%.

The Dollar put in another overbought high this Wednesday but backed off overbought by Friday's close. The greenback finished the week higher even after long term bond yields dipped with the 30-year reaching 5.60% and the 10-year falling to 5.24%. The Dollar broke out of its six-week downtrend four weeks ago

when rates began to surge. Before that, the US tariff regime, the Treasury's Yen bailout policy, and Treasury's bond buybacks all pressured the Dollar. With long rates now near over-bought highs and in corrective territory, the Dollar should get some respite soon. Last week's benign PCE inflation and weak payroll numbers could hasten that, but US economic fundamentals have had less to do with higher US rates than changing expectations and a narrowing gap between US monetary policy and that of other major central banks.

(Charts reprinted with permission from stockcharts.com.)

Carry-trade This Week

Moose guidance is based on US Dollar denominated ETF proxies. Investors seeking to maximize profits when investing in offshore securities may wish to incorporate a "carry-trade" currency strategy into the decision, (Basically, if a foreign currency is weakening (bearish) against the Dollar, using a Dollar-denominated ETF to invest in that country's assets will outperform using a hedged vehicle. If, however, the foreign currency is bullish vs. the Dollar, the Dollar-denominated investment will underperform. In the event of a weak Dollar there may be currency-hedged foreign equity ETFs available at least for Europe (HEDJ) and Japan (DXJ) that will outperform.

Description	READ	US \$ investors in Foreign Assets
Australian \$ (FXA)	bearish	US\$ Investors outperform hedged
British Pound (FXB)	bearish	US\$ Investors outperform hedged
Canadian Dollar (FXC)	very bearish	US\$ Investors outperform hedged
Euro Dollar (FXE)	very bearish	US\$ Investors outperform hedged (IEV>HEDJ)
Swiss Franc (FXF)	very bearish	US\$ investors outperform hedged
Japanese Yen FXJ	bullish	US\$ investors underperform hedged (EWJ<DXJ)
US Dollar	very bullish	

US Treasury Market: #8 US LONG T-BONDS Bounce At Oversold Low



US Long Treasury Bonds: EDV rose 1.1% this week, after losing 3.4% last week. That left it very bearish and ranked #8 globally and less attractive than cash. Long bonds are down 9.9% for the quarter (13 weeks) and down 16.3% for the year (52 weeks) as yields have risen. The US Treasury 10-year yield fell 4 ticks to 5.24% and the 3-month yield rose 7 ticks to 4.06%, with the yield curve flattening to 118 basis points. That reduces the odds of a recession in late 2026. At \$55.25, EDV is below its short-term (50-day) average and below its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Momentum (PMO) is negative and deteriorating, and its 14-day RSI of 37.8 means EDV is neither overbought nor oversold. As for currency effects, a pricier Dollar this week makes Dollar-denominated assets more attractive. Over time, a bullish Dollar improves returns to Dollar investors in US assets.

Oversold bonds rebounded this week, and long-term bond yields dipped with the 30-year slipping a tick to 5.60% and the 10-year shedding 4 bps to 5.24%. Last week's benign PCE inflation report along with a rather pathetic payroll report helped

yields to back off. Rising energy costs, massive US fiscal deficits, and tax-induced public and private sector credit demand all continue to pressure interest rates. Treasury's plan to double its buybacks of long-term T-Bonds in order to ease pressure on long-term borrowing costs for the government, businesses, and consumers may be a short-term help but it is not a long-term solution. Sustainable lower long-term rates will require improvements in the fiscal outlook, inflation trajectory, or other structural factors rather than buybacks alone— and that probably includes another short-term rate hike.

ETF Breakdown: EDV-- A market value-weighted index of high-duration, zero-coupon 25-year US Treasury securities. **Countries:** US (100%). **Top Sectors:** Government (93%), Cash (4%), ETFs (2%), Energy minerals (1%).

(Charts reprinted with permission from stockcharts.com.)

US Equity Market: #2 US LARGE-CAPS Inch Higher



US Large-Cap Stocks: SPY rose 1.2% this week, after losing 0.2% last week. That left it very bullish and ranked 2 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is up 3.8% for the quarter (13 weeks) and up 20.5% for the year (52 weeks). At \$778.57, SPY is above its short-term (50-day) average and above its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Its momentum (PMO) is positive and improving, and its 14-day RSI of 60.5 means SPY is neither overbought nor oversold. As for currency effects, a pricier Dollar this week makes Dollar-denominated assets more attractive. Over time, a bullish Dollar improves returns to Dollar investors in US assets.

The US large-cap index triggered buy-stops on Monday and Tuesday, posting a new high before settling back a bit. SPY continues to hold above 50-day support, rangebound since early August with a declining and weak average directional change (ADX<10), just enough to make PMO positive and improving. SPY is still technically bullish, and the Dollar is improving favoring US assets globally. This week SPY replaces EEM as 1st choice in the global model. US

large caps are among the few assets we track that haven't started to break down. A benign PCE inflation report last week and a rather pathetic payroll report seemed provide hope that an October rate hike (17%) might be postponed. That said, US stocks face the same headwinds they've faced all year-- war-induced inflation and a global tariff regime. Equities are still much more attractive than bonds, cash or even gold. The USES and TSP models have both switched to US large caps.

ETF Breakdown: EDV-- A market value-weighted index of high-duration, zero-coupon 25-year US Treasury securities. **Countries:** US (100%). **Top Sectors:** Government (93%), Cash (4%), ETFs (2%), Energy minerals (1%).

(Charts reprinted with permission from stockcharts.com.)

US Equity Market: #4 US SMALL-CAPs Still Testing 200-day



US Small-Cap Stocks: IWM fell 0.9% this week, after losing 0.2% last week. That left it bearish and ranked 4 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is down 5.9% for the quarter (13 weeks), but up 18.5% for the year (52 weeks). At \$278.94, IWM is below its short-term (50-day) average and above its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Its momentum (PMO) is negative and deteriorating, and its 14-day RSI of 38.8 means IWM is neither overbought nor oversold. As for currency effects, a pricier Dollar this week makes Dollar-denominated assets more attractive. Over time, a bullish Dollar improves returns to Dollar investors in US assets.

The US small-cap index triggered a stop-loss below its 200-day on Thursday but closed above both on Friday. (Benign PCE inflation last week and a weak payroll report seemed to provide hope that we might avoid a 2nd rate hike in October (17%). That said, US stocks still face the same headwinds they've faced all year-- war-induced inflation, a global tariff regime and a widespread fascination—public

and private-- with debt. IWM is no longer oversold this week, but its average directional change continues to strengthen to the downside (ADX>38). Money flow is still negative but improving. PMO is negative and deteriorating. Major support at the 200-day, also the 38% Fibonacci retracement, induced a high-volume bounce to end the week. Small-caps, for whom additional borrowing costs are an important consideration are disproportionately affected by higher interest rates. Long rates are no longer overbought and are headed lower this week.

ETF Breakdown: IWM-- A cap-weighted index fund. **Countries:** US (99%). **Top Sectors:** Finance (22%), Health Technology (12%), Technology Services (12%), Producer manufacturing (8%), Electronic Technology (7%), Industrial Services (4%), Energy Minerals (4%), Commercial services (4%), Consumer services (3%), Process industries (3%).

(Charts reprinted with permission from stockcharts.com.)

US Equity Market: Week's Top Sectors: Semiconductors, Technology, Internet, Telcom

The table below ranks 27 primary US sector ETFs in order of relative momentum this week. Sectors ranked higher than cash are bullish (**buy or hold**), and those ranked below cash are bearish (**sell or avoid**). **This week's** US equity sector momentum slows and turns slightly negative -- 49% of our sectors are buy or hold (L56%). **BUYS held at 30%** (L30%) and **HOLDS fell to 19%** (L26%). **Avoids are up to 51%** (L44%). **Top buys this week:** Oil Exploration, Utilities, Software, Internet. **Week's Worst:** Bitcoin, Gold Miners, Banks, Home Construction *stop-loss **buy-stop

CI%	Description	ROC	TS	READ	RSI	PMO	+/-	Condition
100%	Semiconductors (SMH)	46%	98%	very bullish	53.0	2.65	positive	improving
77%	US Technology (IYW)	38%	111%	very bullish	62.8	2.31	positive	improving
62%	Software (XSW)	33%	103%	very bullish	58.9	1.19	positive	improving
48%	Oil/Gas Expl & Prod (XOP)	19%	106%	very bullish	58.7	1.25	positive	improving
45%	US Health Providers (IHF)	21%	77%	bullish	56.9	-0.25	negative	improving
41%	DJ Internet Index (FDN)	22%	107%	very bullish	63.8	1.14	positive	improving
37%	Biotechnology (IBB)	14%	81%	very bullish	50.7	0.68	positive	deteriorating
32%	Bitcoin (BLOK)	10%	35%	bearish	40.0	-0.41	negative	deteriorating
23%	S&P 500 (SPY)	11%	104%	very bullish	60.5	0.58	positive	improving
22%	US Pharmaceuticals (IHE)	6%	48%	neutral	45.4	-0.80	negative	deteriorating
11%	Capital Markets (KCE)	6%	44%	neutral	41.0	-1.47	negative	deteriorating
6%	KBW Insurance (IAK)	3%	51%	neutral	49.4	-0.99	negative	improving
-2%	Telecommunications (FCOM)	-1%	62%	bullish	48.3	0.62	positive	deteriorating
-3%	KB Banks (KBE)	0%	28%	bearish	34.3	-1.95	negative	deteriorating
-5%	CASH	-2%	49%	neutral	54.4	-0.07	negative	improving
-5%	US Oil Equip & Serv (IEZ)	-7%	22%	bearish	41.3	-1.86	negative	deteriorating
-5%	REITs (VNQ)	-5%	13%	very bearish	43.2	-1.95	negative	deteriorating
-7%	Transports (IYT)	-3%	18%	very bearish	45.3	-1.77	negative	improving
-9%	Industrials (XLI)	-5%	18%	very bearish	44.8	-1.29	negative	improving
-10%	Media Portfolio (XLC)	-6%	32%	bearish	45.4	0.09	positive	deteriorating
-14%	Retail (XRT)	-3%	30%	bearish	51.9	-1.15	negative	improving
-15%	Select Materials (XLB)	-8%	23%	bearish	44.0	-1.30	negative	deteriorating
-16%	Consumer Staples (XLP)	-8%	31%	bearish	56.0	-0.69	negative	improving
-22%	Food & Beverage (PBJ)	-11%	14%	very bearish	46.0	-1.23	negative	improving
-25%	Utilities (XLU)	-13%	9%	very bearish	54.7	-1.64	negative	improving
-28%	US Aerospace & Def (PPA)	-16%	6%	very bearish	35.8	-2.68	negative	deteriorating
-31%	Gold Miners (GDX)	-24%	37%	bearish	46.7	-0.55	negative	deteriorating
-31%	US Medical Devices (IHI)	-16%	30%	bearish	48.9	-0.98	negative	deteriorating
-42%	Home Construction (XHB)	-18%	2%	very bearish	38.5	-2.14	negative	improving

US Sector Top Performers: Last 2 weeks (10/09/26)

YTD	Description	THIS wk	LAST wk	2 wks	13wk	26wk	39wk	52wk	3Y
51.7%	Oil/Gas Expl & Prod (XOP)	3.6%	1.9%	5.5%	24.9%	8.7%	52.2%	45.9%	43.3%
-3.0%	Utilities (XLU)	4.0%	0.8%	4.8%	-7.9%	-9.4%	-1.0%	-6.2%	7.7%
9.4%	Software (XSW)	3.4%	1.2%	4.6%	13.9%	41.2%	9.2%	1.7%	30.5%
11.9%	DJ Internet Index (FDN)	3.3%	0.0%	3.3%	11.4%	26.1%	11.9%	6.3%	42.8%
-1.4%	Retail (XRT)	1.8%	0.2%	2.0%	-3.8%	5.0%	-2.6%	0.4%	14.7%
7.4%	Consumer Staples (XLP)	3.6%	-1.9%	1.7%	-0.1%	3.3%	9.9%	10.2%	8.4%
18.4%	US Health Providers (IHF)	3.0%	-1.4%	1.7%	0.0%	34.0%	15.9%	12.0%	4.5%
3.0%	KBW Insurance (IAK)	2.1%	-0.6%	1.5%	-4.1%	9.9%	4.9%	6.7%	14.1%
34.7%	US Technology (IYW)	-0.3%	1.3%	1.1%	8.8%	45.2%	34.4%	34.1%	80.2%
2.3%	Food & Beverage (PBJ)	1.1%	-0.1%	1.1%	-4.0%	-7.1%	4.3%	1.2%	0.5%

INTERNATIONAL MARKETS: #9 GOLD Hits New Low, Bounces



Gold Bullion: GLD rose 1.2% this week, after losing 3.4% last week. That left it very bearish and ranked 9 globally and less attractive than cash. The index is still up 1.7% for the quarter (13 weeks) and up 4.2% for the year (52 weeks). At \$384.58, GLD is below its short-term (50-day) average and below its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Its momentum (PMO) is negative and deteriorating, and its 14-day RSI of 45.8 means GLD is neither overbought nor oversold. As for currency effects, a pricier Dollar tend to weaken interest in foreign assets, commodities and gold. Over time, a bullish Dollar limits returns to Dollar investors in foreign equities, commodities and gold.

After GLD gapped below its 50-day last week (and its 200-day a month ago), it attempted to fill the gap this week and failed. Long-term interest rates did retreat, however leaving gold higher on the week but still bearish. The bearishness is due to higher interest rates devolving from war-induced inflation, a global US tariff regime, an US economy increasingly at full employment, and massive government deficits.

As a result, the US has joined Europe, Japan and Britain in what has now become a rising rate world that is strengthening the Dollar. That would appear to make gold's prospects dim unless the yield curve flattens. Gold competes with bonds in the "safe-haven" space and bond yields are close to overbought on the very long end and still near highs set in 2008. Another rate hike expected by year-end is keeping downward pressure on gold.

(Charts reprinted with permission from stockcharts.com.)

INTERNATIONAL MARKETS: COMMODITIES Up Fractionally



Commodities: A very bullish CRB rose 1.3% this week, after losing 0.2% last week. That left commodity prices up 22.1% for the quarter (13 weeks) and up 44.8% for the year (52 weeks). At \$32.96, the CRB is above its short-term (50-day) average and above its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Its momentum (PMO) is positive and deteriorating, and its 14-day RSI of 57.8 means the CRB is neither overbought nor oversold.

Crude Oil: Meanwhile, the broader oil complex (USO) rose 0.6% this week, following last week's loss of 0.6%, and is currently very bullish. That leaves US oil prices up 42.0% for the quarter (13 weeks) and up 101.6% for the year (52 weeks). At \$148.20, USO is above its short-term (50-day) average and above its intermediate-

The shortfall in global oil supply due to the US-Iran conflict continues, as WTI crude rose fractionally (to \$92) this week, three weeks after the Fed's first rate hike in over three years. After a benign PCE read and weak payroll numbers last week,

long-term interest rates backed off a little this week and oil rose despite a stronger Dollar. Oil's moves are primarily supply-risk/geopolitical rather than evidence of stronger global economic demand. Global supply of LNG (Liquified Nat Gas) rallied this week on reports the US is adding supply out of Alaska by pipeline to Asia.

(Charts reprinted with permission from stockcharts.com.)

INTERNATIONAL EQUITIES: #6 EUROPE Continues Break Down



European Large-Cap Stocks:

IEV fell 0.4% this week, after losing 2.6% last week. That left it bearish and ranked 6 globally and less attractive than cash. The index is down 3.0% for the quarter (13 weeks), but up 13.3% for the year (52 weeks). At \$70.51, IEV is below its short-term (50-day) average and below its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Its momentum (PMO) is negative and deteriorating, and its 14-day RSI of 37.1 means IEV is neither overbought nor oversold. As for currency effects, a pricier Dollar this week makes foreign assets, commodities and gold less attractive. Over time, a bullish Dollar limits returns to Dollar investors in foreign equities, commodities and gold, but improves the region's trade competitiveness.

IEV broke below 200-day support last week and remains there this week. PMO is negative and deteriorating and the average directional change is strong (ADX=36) and getting stronger. IEV was oversold last week and bounced off it this week before heading lower. The Dollar-based European equity index has been fading ever since

the Euro topped out in early August on rumors the US would hike rates. At 2.25%-2.50% the new ECB deposit facility rate is still well below the new US Fed overnight rate (3.75-4.00%), but Europe has an inflation problem due to a sharp increase in energy prices out of the Middle East and it's moving toward tighter monetary policy even as it projects 2026 euro-area growth of only 0.9%-- creating a potentially difficult combination of higher inflation and slower growth. US trade policy also remains a headwind, particularly for Europe's export-oriented automobile and industrial sectors. The US rate hike could slow US demand for EU exports, but it does come amid better-than-average US Q3 GDP. Among international equity choices, emerging economies (commodity-centric) have better prospects during a commodity boom than slow-growth developed regions like Europe that are hiking rates. NOTE: A weakening Euro puts dollar-based Europe (IEV +0) behind Europe's hedged version (HEDJ +3) per 6-month Price-Performance. Europe continues to underperform the US market (VTI +15) even after the US rate hike. Ireland (EIRL +10), Netherlands (EWN +9), Italy (EWI +3), Denmark (EDEN +3), Spain (EWP +2), Germany (EWG +0), Switzerland (EWL +0), Britain (EWU -1), and France (EWQ -7) are lagging it.

ETF Breakdown: IEV-- A cap-weighted index fund. **Countries:** UK (24%), France (18%), Switzerland (16%), Germany (13%), Netherlands (7%), Denmark (7%), Energy Minerals (6%), Utilities (4%), Consumer durables (4%), Technology Services (5%), Process industries (3%).

(Charts reprinted with permission from stockcharts.com.)

INTERNATIONAL EQUITIES: #3 JAPAN Triggers Buy-Stops, Backs Off



Japanese Stocks: EWJ fell 1.1% this week, after gaining 1.0% last week. That left it very bullish and ranked 3 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is up 4.6% for the quarter (13 weeks) and up 36.4% for the year (52 weeks). At \$97.86, EWJ is above its short-term (50-day) average and above its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Its momentum (PMO) is positive and deteriorating, and its 14-day RSI of 52.1 means EWJ is neither overbought nor oversold. As for currency effects, a pricier Dollar this week makes foreign assets, commodities and gold less attractive. Over time, a bullish Dollar limits returns to Dollar investors in foreign equities, commodities and gold, but improves the region's trade competitiveness.

Japanese equities continue to hug their positively-sloping 50-day trend, three weeks after the BoJ raised its bank rate to 1.25%, making for the highest Japanese rate since 1995 (31 years). Average directional strength in EWJ is weak (ADX<10) denoting a rangebound index. PMO is positive, but deteriorating. EWJ is still technically bullish, and the

Yen has more or less stabilized with US help. There's no reason to sell EWJ at this point. Coming just 3 months after the previous rate hike in June, the latest hike represents the shortest interval between rate hikes since 1990 as Japan's central bank continues to shift away from decades of ultra-loose monetary policy. Persistent inflation risks, a gradually recovering Japanese economy, and external shocks—including elevated crude oil prices linked to the Middle East conflict—were primary drivers for normalizing rates. Counterintuitively, the Japanese yen weakened following the announcement. Currency markets interpreted the 7–2 split decision as slightly more dovish than expected, and exporter stocks responding to the softer yen kept EWJ above short and intermediate trends and bullish. Overall, the external backdrop remained favorable for Japan's exporters but less favorable for its domestic consumers. Strong global risk appetite, solid earnings, and US-backed Yen stability are supportive of EWJ, while rising yields and BOJ tightening expectations create countervailing pressure. Note: EWJ (+12) is tracking its hedged version, DJX (+12), and slightly lagging six-month US equity performance (VTI @ +15).

ETF Breakdown: EWJ-- A cap-weighted index fund. **Countries:** Japan (100%) **Top Sectors:** Finance (15%), Consumer durables (14%), Producer manufacturing (14%), Electronic Technology (12%), Health Technology (9%), Process industries (5%), Technology Services (5%), Consumer non-durables (5%), Communications (5%), Distribution services (4%).

(Charts reprinted with permission from stockcharts.com.)

INTERNATIONAL EQUITIES: #1 ASIA-PACIFIC Slips Below 50-day



Asia-Pacific ex-Japan: AAXJ fell 2.3% this week, after losing 0.2% last week. That left it bullish and ranked 1 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is down 0.6% for the quarter (13 weeks), but up 33.8% for the year (52 weeks). At \$115.54, AAXJ is below its short-term (50-day) average and above its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Its momentum (PMO) is positive and deteriorating, and its 14-day RSI of 46.1 means AAXJ is neither overbought nor oversold. As for currency effects, a pricier Dollar this week makes foreign assets, commodities and gold less attractive. Over time, a bullish Dollar limits returns to Dollar investors in foreign equities, commodities and gold, but improves the region's trade competitiveness.

Asia-Pacific equities dipped below their positively-sloping 50-day this week, but not decisively so. Prices have been rangebound since mid-August with average directional strength very weak (ADX<11). Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and Australia tightened monetary policy three weeks ago, and while PMO is positive, it has

deteriorated since. Strong gains in semiconductor and AI-related names that have benefitted equities in Korea and Taiwan lately backed off this week. India (a rate hike, a weak rupee and heavy foreign capital outflows) had the hardest week. It and China (weak banking and property sectors) continue to fall behind amid slower growth and trade disagreements with the US. Overall, foreign investors have redirected funds toward Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, where valuations and AI-related opportunities appear more attractive. Asian equity markets (AAXJ +13) are less attractive than US stocks (VTI +15) in 6-month Price-Performance. Taiwan (EWT +49) is still a standout along with South Korea (EWY +27) followed by Singapore (EWS +11). Australia (EWA -3), China (FXI -5), Hong Kong (EWH -6), India (IMVP -14), lag the US and are struggling due to energy dependence and US tariffs. As for international equity choices, emerging economies (commodity-centric) have better prospects during a commodity boom than slow-growth developed regions that are hiking rates (Europe and Japan).

ETF Breakdown: AAXJ-- A cap-weighted index fund. **Countries:** Hong Kong (36%), Taiwan (17%), India (16%), Korea (14%), Mainland China (4%), Singapore (4%), Thailand (2%), Indonesia (2%), Malaysia (2%), US (1%). **Top Sectors:** Finance (24%), Electronic Technology (20%), Technology Services (10%), Retail (7%), Consumer non-durables (5%), Consumer durables (4%), Producer manufacturing (4%), Transportation (4%), Energy (4%), Health Technology (3%).

(Charts reprinted with permission from stockcharts.com.)

INTERNATIONAL EQUITIES: #7 LATIN AMERICA Gets Brazilian Bounce



Latin America 40: ILF rose 9.1% this week, after gaining 0.7% last week. That left it very bullish and ranked 7 globally and less attractive than cash. The index is up 12.8% for the quarter (13 weeks) and up 49.6% for the year (52 weeks). At \$38.15, ILF is above its short-term (50-day) average and above its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Its momentum (PMO) is positive and improving, and its 14-day RSI of 67.7 means ILF is neither overbought nor oversold. As for currency effects, a pricier Dollar this week makes foreign assets, commodities and gold less attractive. Over time, a bullish Dollar limits returns to Dollar investors in foreign equities, commodities and gold, but improves the region's trade competitiveness.

Brazil's Bovespa, the largest equity market in South America, gapped higher this week, pulling all of Latin America (ILF) up with it. Brazil's 1st round presidential election defied most pre-election polls as Senator Flávio Bolsonaro finished ahead of incumbent President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, 47% to 45%. Bolsonaro is viewed by Wall Street and by domestic financial

investors as significantly more fiscally conservative and market-friendly, raising expectations for stricter public spending controls, privatization efforts, and structural reforms to address Brazil's rising debt-to-GDP ratio (which has hovered near 83%). Brazil's banking sector, its energy and materials, and the Brazilian Real all surged. The sudden shift in sentiment catalyzed a wave of sidelined capital re-entering the market ahead of the upcoming runoff election. Elsewhere, global monetary conditions and US trade policy remained more important than domestic developments. That is increasingly true with momentum in Latin equities (ILF +3) under-outperforming its US cousin (VTI +15) in 6-month Price-Performance. Colombia (COLO +21) is by far the strongest Latin equity market, and outperforming the US. Brazil (EWZ +8) and Canada (EWC +5), which is not in ILF, but a key player in the Americas are positive but lagging. Equities, Argentina (ARGT -5), Mexico (EWW -8), and Chile (ECH -9) are deteriorating.

ETF Breakdown: ILF-- A cap-weighted index fund. **Countries:** Brazil (58%), Mexico (26%), US (8%), Chile (6%), Colombia (2%) **Top Sectors:** Finance (31%), Non-energy minerals (20%), Energy Minerals (14%), Consumer non-durables (10%), Retail (7%), Communications (5%), Technology Services (4%), Utilities (3%), Process Industries (2%), Producer manufacturing (2%).

(Charts reprinted with permission from stockcharts.com.)

INVESTMENT STRATEGIES: PASSIVE DIVERSIFIED: BUY-AND-HOLD

This site compares passive and active investment strategies. The passive strategy is represented by two diversified ETFs, moderate growth (AOM) and aggressive growth (AOA). AOM is comprised of 60% income instruments and 40% equity assets. AOA is 80% equity and 20% income. AOA (mostly stocks) outperforms in bull market scenarios and AOM (mostly bonds) works better when equities are weak.

Passive Buy-and-Hold Strategies TOP Buy and Hold Strategy: Aggressive Growth (AOA)

2026 has been better than average for US stocks though they lagged international equities and bonds until March. As the 4th quarter begins VTI (the Total US Stock Index) is nominally 17% higher over 12 months, above its 11% post-WWII (1945-2025) annualized average. Bonds, however, have been miserable. 7-10 year Treasuries are nominally down -3% in 12 months, considerably below their long-term annual average of +5%. The drag from bonds has dampened Diversified Buy & Hold strategies leaving relatively modest nominal returns year-to-date. Moderate portfolios are weaker than aggressive, but both AOM (+6%) and AOA (+14%) are still positive over 12 months.

THIS WEEK: 1st MIXED-Risk week after 1 Risk-OFF week.
US Stocks MIXED, Foreign Stocks MIXED, Bonds UP and Gold UP

Technical readings are still bullish for (80-20) aggressive portfolios (AOA) but have deteriorated to neutral for (40-60) moderate portfolios (AOM). The differences are widening, as another Fed rate hike threatens both bonds and equities.

CI%	METRICS	ROC	TS	READ	RSI	PMO	+/-	Condition
19%	(AOA) Aggressive Growth*	4%	71%	bullish	51.3	-0.02	negative	deteriorating
-1%	(AOM) Moderate Growth & Inc*	-1%	41%	neutral	48.3	-0.28	negative	deteriorating
YTD	PERFORMANCE	this wk	last wk	13wk	26wk	39wk	52wk	3Y
9.4%	(AOA) Aggressive Growth	0.4%	-0.5%	0.7%	11.7%	9.6%	13.1%	31.6%
2.3%	(AOM) Moderate Growth & Inc	0.4%	-0.6%	-0.9%	4.8%	3.7%	5.7%	16.7%
PR/HI	PRICING	SL	PRICE	BS	52w HI	52w LO	50d avg	210d avg
98.0%	(AOM) Moderate Growth & Inc	96.61	98.01	99.33	100.03	85.90	98.24	93.74
97.3%	(AOA) Aggressive Growth	48.52	48.82	49.74	50.16	46.60	49.17	48.16

Market Timing v. Diversified Buy & Hold: Performance*

Strategy	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Index Moose	23.2%	58.7%	5.5%	3.6%	-16.3%	11.7%	13.2%	-6.5%	5.1%	9.0%
Aggressive G&I (AOA)	9.4%	19.3%	11.5%	15.6%	-17.9%	13.5%	10.7%	12.5%	-6.2%	8.0%
Moderate G&I (AOM)	2.3%	11.0%	4.9%	9.2%	-16.4%	5.3%	7.7%	19.5%	-9.9%	14.1%
Strategy	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
S&P Benchmark	14.2%	14.5%	24.5%	24.3%	-19.5%					
US Strategy Moose	4.7%	16.7%	26.1%	12.3%	-7.0%	22.2%	20.9%	23.6%	1.2%	28.5%

The Index Model crushed all competitors in 2025 and is excelling again in 2026. It has outperformed in three of the last ten years. US Strategy Moose has outperformed in six of the last 10 years, thanks to massive government borrowing. In total, one of our two momentum models has outperformed buy-and-hold in nine of the last ten years. For buy and hold investors: Aggressive (AOA) is outperforming the more moderate (AOM) diversifications.

This performance data may not reflect total return. Dividends and interest were not included until recently, and the numbers may understate true model, ETF, and benchmark performance by 2-3% for years before 2025. The table above covers the last decade, the period since the models went from weekly to daily and since stop-losses were incorporated. It illustrates several points: (1) Success of any one strategy can be highly variable year-to-year. Just because it worked last year doesn't mean it will next year. (2) Buy-and-hold is preferable in years with few lasting or deep corrections, i.e., trendless volatility. (3) When stocks are trending strong, in either direction, timing is safer. (4) Market timing is most profitable when there is one predominant asset choice, or in extended bear market scenarios. When stocks turn bearish buy-and-hold can be a huge loser. (5) To avoid substantial losses, buy-and-hold investors should have a separate exit plan, whereas such plans are implicit in index targeting (a loss-minimization strategy).

INVESTMENT STRATEGIES: THE US EQUITY STRATEGY TIMING MODEL

USE Strategy: HOLD Momentum (MTUM) since buy-stop 9/21/2026

The USES Model is an equity-only construct for determining the optimum equity strategy for the US stock portion of one's portfolio. It monitors and ranks 9 US equity strategies (as represented by the most popular smart-beta ETFs based on volume and capitalization) using our momentum methodology. The 9 US equity strategies included US momentum, US growth, US value, US low volatility, US high dividend, US fundamentals, US equal weight, US Large-cap benchmark, and US Small-caps.

THIS WEEK: 1st MIXED-Risk week after 1 Risk-OFF week.
US Stocks MIXED, Foreign Stocks MIXED, Bonds UP and Gold UP

The US Equity Strategy (USES) Model bought US Momentum (MTUM) on 9/21/2026 exiting Cash (MMF)

Momentum leading in CI and rate of change, triggered a buy-stop switch on 09/21/2026. Technical Strength is very bullish and Price Momentum Oscillator is positive and improving. Momentum and Growth are the only strategies that beat the SPY benchmark at the moment, and all three plus QUAL have triggered buy-stops. The rest are all working off stop losses.

Best Alternatives: US Growth IUSG lags in CI and ROC but has higher technical score and RSI. Positive, improving PMO less than MTUM.

Most Recent STOP: *20-d Stop-loss, **20-d Buy-stop

	CI%	METRICS	ROC	TS	READ	RSI	PMO	+/-	Condition
1	100%	US Momentum (MTUM)**	25%	98%	very bullish	58	1.41	positive	improving
2	67%	US Growth (IUSG)**	18%	107%	very bullish	62	1.20	positive	improving
3	43%	US Large-caps (SPY)**	11%	104%	very bullish	60	0.51	positive	improving
4	35%	US Fundamentals (QUAL)**	9%	105%	very bullish	66	0.63	positive	improving
5	23%	US Small-Caps (IWM)*	5%	27%	bearish	39	-1.38	negative	deteriorating
6	14%	US Value (IUSV)*	3%	54%	neutral	53	-0.32	negative	improving
7	13%	S&P Equal Weight (RSP)*	3%	51%	neutral	52	-0.64	negative	improving
8	10%	Cash (SGOV)	2%	91%	very bullish	100	0.14	positive	improving
9	-8%	US High Dividend (SPYD)*	-4%	20%	bearish	36	-1.89	negative	deteriorating
10	-26%	US Low Volatility (SPLV)*	-7%	19%	very bearish	48	-1.29	negative	improving

NOTE: All of the strategies in this model are derivative of and highly correlated to the S&P. When SPY's TS and/or CI is bearish, when it hits a stop-loss, is overbought, or gives some other sell signal, adopting any sub-strategy that is highly correlated to it is not recommended. To switch-in both SPY and the strategy ETF must have TS>50% and CI>50 or better, have a positive PMO, not be overbought, and be working off a buy-stop.

THIS WEEK: 1st MIXED-Risk week after 1 Risk-OFF week.
US Stocks MIXED, Foreign Stocks MIXED, Bonds UP and Gold UP

Performance-wise, MTUM holds year-to-date 26, 39, 52-week and 3Y honors this week. IUSG leads ever so slightly over the most recent quarter.

	YTD	PERFORMANCE	This Wk	Last Wk	13wk	26wk	39wk	52wk	3Y
1	28%	US Momentum (MTUM)	-0.9%	1.4%	-0.3%	30.6%	25.9%	25.9%	61.3%
2	18%	US Growth (IUSG)	0.9%	0.5%	5.6%	26.1%	17.6%	19.6%	53.5%
3	14%	US Fundamentals (QUAL)	1.2%	0.4%	4.2%	18.0%	13.6%	16.5%	29.8%
4	14%	US Large-caps (SPY)	1.2%	-0.2%	3.6%	19.0%	13.8%	16.6%	39.9%
5	13%	US Small-Caps (IWM)	-0.9%	-0.2%	-6.4%	11.6%	11.1%	14.2%	31.8%
6	11%	S&P Equal Weight (RSP)	1.6%	-0.7%	-0.5%	11.2%	10.8%	13.3%	24.2%
7	10%	US Value (IUSV)	1.4%	-1.0%	1.1%	10.7%	9.7%	13.6%	23.5%
8	6%	US High Dividend (SPYD)	0.9%	-1.7%	-3.8%	2.6%	8.3%	12.4%	11.4%
9	1%	US Low Volatility (SPLV)	1.8%	-0.6%	-4.8%	-1.3%	2.9%	1.3%	5.6%
10	0%	Cash (SGOV)	0.1%	0.1%	1.0%	1.9%	2.8%	3.8%	8.4%

INVESTMENT STRATEGIES: THE GLOBAL INDEX TIMING MODEL

TOP Index Model Move: SWITCH to US Large-caps (SPY)

THIS WEEK: 1st MIXED-Risk week after 1 Risk-OFF week.
US Stocks MIXED, Foreign Stocks MIXED, Bonds UP and Gold UP

The Global Index Model SWITCHED to US Large-caps (SPY) on 10/05/2026.

#1 US large-caps (SPY) continue to lead in overall confidence, technical strength, and a bullish RSI. This week (10/5), SPY triggered a buy-stop and its PMO, which governs switches became "positive and improving" allowing SPY to finally replace EEM in the Global Model. The switch means all three of our models are now invested in US Large-caps.

Best Alternative: EEM is still a viable alternative to SPY, but to switch back its PMO needs to be positive and improving and greater than SPY's. Both ETFs are rangebound and flat, essentially "correcting in place". Chances of a big move in either appear muted. Average directional change (ADX) is weak (near 10 for both with 25 normal). Short US income (SGOV) is the fallback if PMO for both SPY and EEM goes negative.

	CI%	FUND	TS+	READ	RSI	PMO	+/-	condition
1	89%	US Large-caps (SPY)	104%	very bullish	60.5	0.58	positive	improving
2	80%	Emerging Markets (EEM)	71%	bullish	47.7	0.44	positive	deteriorating
3	46%	US Small-caps (IWM)	27%	bearish	38.8	-1.38	negative	deteriorating
4	20%	Short US Income (SGOV)	82%	very bullish	66.8	0.15	positive	deteriorating
5	-2%	Developed Markets (EFA)	47%	neutral	41.8	-0.74	negative	deteriorating
6	-125%	Very Long US Bonds (EDV)	2%	very bearish	37.8	-2.30	negative	deteriorating
7	-155%	Gold Bullion (GLD)	13%	very bearish	45.8	-1.13	negative	deteriorating

Performance-wise, EEM holds year-to-date 26, 39 and 52-week honors this week. SPY leads ever so slightly over the last quarter while former favorite IWM is fading from view.

	YTD	FUND	10/09/26	10/02/26	13wk	26wk	39wk	52wk
1	22.1%	Emerging Markets (EEM)	-1.3%	-0.5%	0.0%	7.6%	18.2%	31.3%
2	14.2%	US Large-caps (SPY)	1.2%	-0.2%	3.8%	11.5%	13.8%	20.5%
3	13.3%	US Small-caps (IWM)	-0.9%	-0.2%	-5.9%	3.8%	8.7%	18.5%
4	7.7%	Developed Markets (EFA)	-0.5%	-1.5%	-0.5%	2.0%	6.4%	15.3%
5	0.1%	Short US Income (SGOV)	0.1%	0.1%	0.9%	1.8%	2.8%	3.7%
6	-3.0%	Gold Bullion (GLD)	1.2%	-3.4%	1.7%	-12.6%	-6.5%	4.2%
7	-15.0%	Very Long US Bonds (EDV)	1.1%	-3.4%	-9.9%	-11.2%	-11.8%	-16.3%

Strategy	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Index Moose	23.2%	58.7%	5.5%	3.6%	-16.3%	11.7%	13.2%	-6.5%	5.1%	9.0%
Aggressive G&I (AOA)	9.4%	19.3%	11.5%	15.6%	-17.9%	13.5%	10.7%	12.5%	-6.2%	8.0%
Moderate G&I (AOM)	2.3%	11.0%	4.9%	9.2%	-16.4%	5.3%	7.7%	19.5%	-9.9%	14.1%

INVESTMENT STRATEGIES: THE THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN TIMING MODEL

TSP Momentum & Performance

The Thrift Savings Plan, or TSP, is the government's 401K-style retirement plan. Beginning 12/21/2018, the revised TSP model began incorporating actual fund data and monitoring ten TSP funds instead of five index fund proxies alone. While having ten asset choices offers myriad possibilities, our primary concern involves the overall strategic decision: Should TSP investors use index targeting (market timing) to manage their portfolio or rely on a diversified buy-and-hold approach. **Answer:** it depends on the investor and on what's working.

TSP Strategy: HOLD C Fund (9/23/2026)

THIS WEEK: 1st MIXED-Risk week after 1 Risk-OFF week.
US Stocks MIXED, Foreign Stocks MIXED, Bonds UP and Gold UP

This week: TSP Model HOLDS Fund C from G via buy-stop on 9/23/2026

US LARGE CAPS (C) are more attractive than cash, bonds, and gold. CI, ROC, Technical strength and PMO are tops in the model as of the switch date. Fed rate hikes strengthen the Dollar, and make dollar-denominated assets like US Large-caps (Fund C) more attractive than foreign equities (Fund I) and Small-caps (Fund S)

Best Alternative: CASH (G) is the only other choice in the model for which a positive PMO is improving.

OVERALL, aggressive Lifetime Portfolios are outperforming TSP timing and the more moderate B&H portfolios.

	CI%	Fund	ROC	TS+	READ	RSI	PMO	+/-	condition
1	100%	US Large-caps (C)	11%	104%	very bullish	60.4	0.58	positive	improving
2	77%	Lifetime 2060	7%	73%	very bullish	51.6	0.11	positive	deteriorating
3	66%	US Small-caps (S)	7%	46%	neutral	47.3	-0.67	negative	improving
4	61%	Lifetime 2050	6%	71%	bullish	51.6	0.07	positive	deteriorating
5	54%	Lifetime 2040	5%	72%	bullish	51.8	0.08	positive	deteriorating
6	47%	International Fund (I)	2%	59%	neutral	43.5	-0.28	negative	deteriorating
7	42%	Lifetime 2030	4%	75%	bullish	52.4	0.10	positive	deteriorating
8	23%	Long-term Inc (L)	2%	86%	very bullish	54.9	0.13	positive	deteriorating
9	5%	Short-term Inc (G)	1%	101%	very bullish	100.0	0.19	positive	improving
10	-51%	Fixed Income (F)	-6%	2%	very bearish	40.4	-0.64	negative	deteriorating

TSP Lifetime & Index Funds: Performance Progression

I Fund remains best YTD and over 39, and 52 weeks and 3 years. but C Fund has overtaken it of late and is best over 13 and 26 weeks, key metrics in determining current model confidence (CI).

	Fund	THIS	LAST	13wk	26wk	39wk	52wk	YTD	3Y
1	International Fund (I)	0.7%	-1.0%	-0.6%	16.4%	15.6%	21.5%	15.9%	44.1%
2	US Large-caps (C)	0.6%	-0.5%	4.5%	23.9%	14.3%	17.7%	15.1%	39.2%
3	Lifetime 2060	0.7%	-0.6%	1.5%	20.4%	14.5%	18.3%	15.1%	40.1%
4	US Small-caps (S)	-0.1%	0.1%	-4.3%	18.7%	12.2%	12.4%	13.3%	33.1%
5	Lifetime 2050	0.5%	-0.5%	1.2%	16.8%	12.1%	15.5%	12.7%	34.1%
6	Lifetime 2040	0.5%	-0.4%	1.2%	14.9%	11.1%	14.1%	11.5%	30.9%
7	Lifetime 2030	0.3%	-0.3%	1.2%	12.0%	9.3%	11.9%	9.7%	26.5%
8	Long-term Inc (L)	0.2%	-0.1%	1.2%	7.1%	6.3%	8.1%	6.5%	17.3%
9	Short-term Inc (G)	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	2.5%	3.6%	4.6%	3.5%	9.2%
10	Fixed Income (F)	0.0%	0.3%	-3.0%	-2.1%	-2.5%	-1.7%	-2.3%	2.7%

TSP Moose v. TSP Lifetime Funds: Long-Term Performance

Strategy	2026 YTD	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
L2060	15.1%	22.6%	16.3%	23.3%	-15.9%	19.9%	new	--	--	--
L2050	12.7%	19.7%	14.0%	20.0%	-13.4%	16.3%	14.8%	23.3%	-6.0%	18.8%
L2040	11.5%	17.8%	12.9%	18.1%	-11.4%	14.5%	13.2%	20.7%	-4.9%	16.8%
L2030	9.7%	15.6%	11.5%	16.6%	-9.0%	12.4%	11.3%	17.6%	-3.6%	14.5%
TSP Moose	9.6%	15.3%	11.8%	16.5%	-3.4%	13.3%	21.8%	14.9%	6.5%	21.0%

OBSERVATION: The most aggressive Lifetime Funds have been the best performers since Covid (2020) thanks to the trillions in Federal deficit spending under Trump and Biden. An added bonus: Lifetime funds are a lot less work than timing the markets. The drawback is that buying and holding a Lifetime fund can be a disaster in a cyclical bear market (2022). The risk-reward is better with timing. Fortunately (or unfortunately as one's politics may dictate) the likelihood of a cyclical bear market occurring diminishes as government becomes an ever-larger portion of the US economy and as Fed market manipulation becomes more prevalent. The likelihood of a permanent bear market, however, becomes greater and when that reckoning does eventually come, however, it will be far worse, shaking our national institutions as well as the economy.

MOOSPEAK

Dear Moose Friends—

Glad you overcame the Cancel Culture and found the Moose. Now that you have, bookmark it. My mailing list has been deleted, so none of you will get weekly reminders alerting you to market developments until I figure out how to restore your contact info. So far, my efforts at a bulk upload have been rejected, so I may have to do it manually-- if it is even possible.

I also apologize for the pathetic state of the website. I'm trying to rebuild it using the beta version of a new system with which I have no experience and for which I have only general instructions. It has dawned on me that learning curves become a daunting concept after the age of 75. Not only do you have to figure out if you'll have enough time to reinvent yourself, but you have to decide if that's the way you want to spend your remain... er *golden* years.

Then of course, there's the big question: is the product still relevant enough to merit the effort? Frankly, I'm flying blind on that one. My subscribers have been blocked from paying for over two years, my metatags and keywords have been deleted, and after 30-years the site's Google position appears to be somewhere between "wtf" and "never heard of it". And this is not only a site that hasn't missed a weekly update in almost 20 years, but that returned over 50% on its signature Index model in 2025 and over 20% on it so far in 2026.

Giving something away for free tempts most people to consider it a worthless endeavor, but that is too kind. Include the direct costs of maintaining and publishing a dot-com address, and It is actually less than worthless. I do it because it keeps me involved in and aware of what's going on in the real world while simultaneously allowing me the conceit of thinking I may be helping others.

Now I'm told AI will do that for me and for everyone else if they want it to. My contributions will be redundant at best, at worst needless. Truth is, I enjoy the writing and research but the web-building, commerce and email management I can do without. For now, I will continue to provide a weekly pdf version of the newsletter for free, while I try to make the new site more functional and put myself back in touch with you.

In the meantime, grab the pdf and enjoy.