

INSURANCE INDUSTRY NEWS

New Focus for the FHLB

In November, the FHFA published updated rules for the FHLB system, bringing the organization’s focus back to two primary objectives: 1) providing stable and reliable liquidity to their members and 2) supporting housing and community development. In the wake of the March bank failures, the FHFA had become concerned with the use of FHLB funding as a source of emergency or “last resort” funding by member banks, rather than as long-term advances or supportive of affordable housing. While most insurers use the FHLB long term advance program, it is important to be aware that there will be significant new restrictions on single-day funding, and additional rules regarding the use of FHLB advances for leverage could be considered in the future.

Source: FHFA

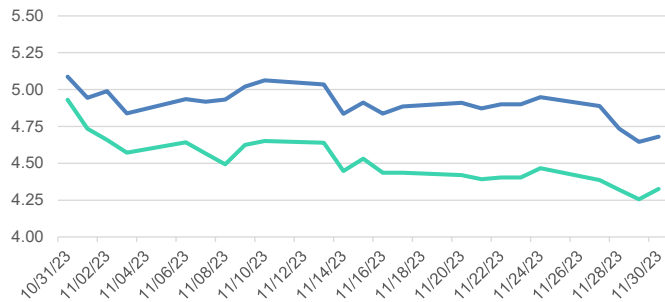
FEATURED MARKET DATA

Bonds Break Out

In November 2023, the Bloomberg Aggregate Index posted its strongest monthly total return since 1985, sparked by a decline in rates. The 10-year Treasury yield ended the month at 4.34% after rising above 5.00% in October. A lower-than-expected inflation print of 3.2% sparked a rally across Wall Street, with traders largely removing potential Federal Reserve rate hikes from their forecasts. In addition, the labor market showed signs of better balance adding 180,000 jobs while maintaining an unemployment rate at 3.9%.

Source: Bloomberg

Treasury Rates Shift Down



Source: Bloomberg

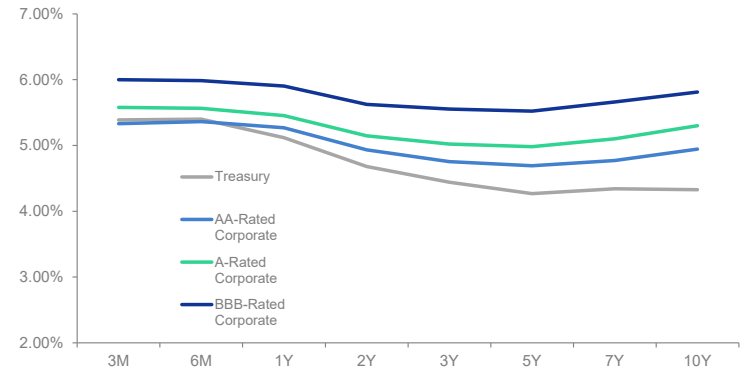
RECENT NEWS

Stocks Post Strong Returns

The U.S. equity market also saw a significant rally, particularly in the S&P 500 and Nasdaq 100 indices. The S&P 500 surged 8.9% in November, marking the 7th highest monthly return since 2000. November’s rally was broad-based, encompassing a wide range of stocks beyond the mega-cap “Magnificent 7” tech stocks that had dominated market gains earlier in 2023. This broad-based rally suggests a healthy market condition, where gains are spread across various industries and company sizes.

Source: FactSet

Market Yields



Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P. 11/30/23

U.S. Economic Indicators

Event	Event Date	Period	Survey	Actual	Prior / Revised (R)
Consumer Price Index (MoM)	11/14/23	OCT	0.1%	0.0%	0.4%
Consumer Price Index (YoY)	11/14/23	OCT	3.3%	3.2%	3.7%
Retail Sales Ex. Auto (MoM)	11/15/23	OCT	-0.2%	0.1%	0.8% (R)
Chicago Fed National Activity Index	11/21/23	OCT	0.00	-0.49	-0.02 (R)
Core PCE (YoY)	11/30/23	OCT	3.5%	3.5%	3.7%
Consumer Confidence	11/28/23	NOV	101.0	102.0	99.1 (R)
ISM Manufacturing	12/01/23	NOV	47.6	46.7	46.7
Change in Nonfarm Payrolls	12/08/23	NOV	180K	--	150K
Unemployment Rate	12/08/23	NOV	3.9%	--	3.9%

Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P. 11/30/23. Glossary terms on following page.

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Glossary of Terms

Term	What is it:
Building Permits	Records the number of permits for future housing construction.
Capacity Utilization	Tracks the extent to which capacity is being used in the production of goods and services.
Change in Nonfarm Payrolls	This indicator measures the change in the number of employees on business and government payrolls.
Chicago Fed National Activity Index	A nationwide measure of economic activity and inflation pressures. An index value of zero indicates that the national economy is expanding at its historical trend rate of growth.
Consumer Confidence	Index examines how consumers feel about jobs, the economy and spending.
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	Measures the average change in retail prices over time for a basket consisting of more than 200 categories of assorted goods and services paid directly by consumers.
Core Consumer Price Index (Core CPI)	This measure of CPI excludes food and energy costs.
Durable Goods Orders	A measure of new orders placed with domestic manufacturers for durable goods, which are items that last three years or more.
Existing Home Sales	Measures monthly sales of previously owned single-family homes.
GDP Annualized QoQ	Measures the annualized quarterly growth of the final market value of all goods and services produced within a country. GDP is the foremost report on how fast or slow the economy is growing.
Housing Starts	Records the number of new housing units started during a period.
Index of Leading Economic Indicators (LEI)	An index designed to predict the direction of the economy.
Initial Jobless Claims	Tracks new filings for unemployment insurance benefits.
ISM Manufacturing	Measures manufacturing activity based on a monthly survey of purchasing managers.
MBA Mortgage Applications	The Mortgage Bankers Association's weekly mortgage application survey includes home loan application activity for conventional and government loans for home purchases and refinances.
Mortgage Delinquencies	A measure of the percent of total conventional and government loans which are at least one payment past due, but not in the process of foreclosure.
Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE)	The Federal Reserve's preferred measure of inflation tracks overall price changes for goods and services. Core PCE excludes food and energy.
Personal Income and Spending	Index records the income Americans receive, how much they spend, and what they save.
Retail Sales	Tracks the sale of new and used goods for personal or household consumption.
Retail Sales Ex. Auto	Retail sales excluding motor vehicles and parts.
S&P Case-Shiller Home Price Index	Tracks the value of single-family housing within the U.S. There are multiple indexes including the 20-City Composite.
Unemployment Rate	The U-3 unemployment rates tracks the percentage of the civilian workforce that is unemployed.

Source: Bloomberg, The Secrets of Economic Indicators by Bernard Baumohl; PMA Asset Management, LLC

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