Macroeconomic Overview

	Index	Weekly % Change	YTD % Change
SPX Index	S&P 500	0.81%	6.75%
INDU Index	Dow Jones Industrial	0.11%	8.28%
CCMP Index	NASDAQ Composite	1.61%	6.27%
RTY Index	Russell 2000	2.59%	15.82%
VIX Index	VIX	-12.82%	-29.43%

U.S. Markets:

Markets experienced moderate movement this week all in positive territory as the country moves into the holiday season. With rate hikes becoming more and more of a reality, the Russell 2000 prospered the most change this week, sitting at a 2.6% gain. Investors are seeing the upcoming rate hikes as giving small-cap companies more exposure to lending services as they should give institutions the much needed incentive to loan to riskier applicants given a slightly larger window for spreads to grow. Higher bond yields also aid financials to broaden their perspectives of applicants. Along with this, many financials are looking forward to an environment that promotes less regulation standards under a Trump presidency.

Despite the two-week surge in the markets, analysts claim there is still a heavy amount of uncertainty culminating from the early stages of President-Elect Trump's policy plans. Areas such as healthcare haven't gained the trust of investors as the status of the Affordable Healthcare Act is still up in the air. The decision to repeal or amend will have longing effects on other wobbly sectors such as pharmaceuticals.

Commodities: The West Texas Intermediate oil futures for delivery in December rose slightly, about .98%, and settled at $46.14 a barrel. Investors continue to respond to OPEC's decision to cut supply in order to adequately meet demand, a feat not yet conquered in over two years. In light of the committee's decision to shift reduction responsibilities to other nations while appeasing Iran to only cap their production, analysts at Barclays signal that U.S. producers won't hesitate to capitalize on OPEC's decisions, referring to a possible growth in production topping out at $55 a barrel.

Gold fell on Friday to a five month low to $1203.52 as the dollar has hit its highest pinnacle in over thirteen years backed by expectations of the Fed's decision to increase rates. The continued strength of the dollar outperformed foreign currencies as exchange traders anticipate the fiscal effects of President-elect Trump's policies in the upcoming term. Futures for December deliveries also settled a measly .7% above their weakest point in eight months. This trend is also seen in the movement of silver and platinum, both of which hit lows since June and February ($16.42 and $911) respectively.

Specific news: President-elect Trump took full advantage of the week to begin formulating his cabinet to aid the development of alterations in various arenas; healthcare still sits as the main focus for many investors. Regulation bureaus such as the SEC has fallen to only two members as the chairwoman Mary Jo White stepped down earlier this week. Investors see the committee to have less weight as a less regulated economic landscape will soon take shape.

This week also witnessed a remarkable drop in the jobless rate, sinking to a 43-year low as other records within the housing sector proved bright as well. Housing permits were the highest recorded since 1982 as starts spiked 25%.

Next week ahead: With a shortened week ahead, market reports of existing home sales will be released on Tuesday and jobless claims will be on Wednesday with the FOMC minutes later in the day. On Friday, the Fed will release its latest balance sheet.

International Markets

	Index	Weekly % Change	YTD % Change
BE500 Index	BE 500	0.50%	-8.70%
SXXP Index	Stoxx Europe 600	0.56%	-7.22%
DAX Index	DAX	-0.03%	-0.73%
UKX Index	FTSE 100	0.67%	8.55%
CAC Index	CAC 40	0.34%	-2.86%
NKY Index	Nikkei 225	3.41%	-5.60%
SHCOMP Index	Shanghai Composite	-0.10%	-9.79%
SZCOMP Index	Shenzhen Composite	0.15%	-8.56%

Europe: European indices gained minimal momentum facing the looming effects of post-Brexit impacts. A recent forecast conducted by Phillip Hammond claims that the UK will face a 100 million pound deficit in the next five years. Market figures responded in the UK gaining just under .7%, driven by the uncertainty of the forecast as well as the United Kingdom's next steps into a fiscal stimulus as they emerge from historical measures of one surrounding monetary policy. On the Mediterranean, Italian bond yield skyrocketed to their highest point in over a year due to a major sell off as investors process the possible outcomes of an upcoming vote that would dethrone their prime minister.

In other bond news, ECB President Draghi announced that in light of the Eurozone's continued state of economic weakness, the bank's bond purchasing program may extend into the next month until substantial inflation improvement is realized. Despite the dark prospects throughout Europe, consumer sentiment, much like the slow recovery across the pond, has remained buoyant. Confidence surveys claim that retail sales figures grew at their fastest rate in fourteen years, signaling a brighter future for UK's growth prospects.

Asia: The Nikkei index finished strongly deep into the green this week as Japan witnesses a much stronger-than-expected GDP growth with a YoY figure of 2.2%, toppling the .8% forecast. Economists attribute the gain to increased exports rather than private consumption which correlates with overall consumer sentiment in the country as negative rates are still a reality. The BoJ has taken measures to influence the rates on two-year bond yields and five-year yields by implementing its first fixed rate debt buying policy. On Friday, the ten year bond yield hit positive territory, clearing .04% by week's end, the first seen since the central bank's attempt to control the yield curve, an implementation effective Sep. 21.

China suffered greatly this week as the Yuan hits an eight year low versus the dollar, with no help from the USD's surge in value this week. The direct rate fell to $.1455 as uncertainty of trade relationships with the U.S. loom over consumers. Trump's campaign proposed to pin tariffs on Chinese imports into the U.S and contributed to testify against the nation's methods of influencing the value of its currency.