

Key Market Levels:

	Fri 4pm ET	YTD	S&P500 Sector	3 Month
S&P 500	3.934	-17.45%	Communications	-5.18%
NASDAQ COMPOSITE	11,005	-29.66%	Discretionary	-11.72%
DJIA	33,476	-7.88%	Energy	+5.41%
Russell 2000	1,893	-19.98%	Financials	+4.45%
Int'l Developed	1,797	-15.40%	Health Care	+8.26%
VIX	22.85	16.3Lo/38.9Hi	Industrials	+11.05%
Oil	71.53	-5.20%	Materials	+11.08%
Gold	1,808	-1.20%	Real Estate	-5.08%
Bitcoin	17,101	-63.18%	Staples	+6.39%
US 10 yr	3.57%	+206 bps	Technology	+1.71%
US 30 yr	3.55%	+174 bps	Utilities	-4.89%

Recapping Last Week

U.S. equities retreated from technical resistance (see tweet here) as inflation and recession headlines continued to weigh on investor sentiment. The Russell 2000 Index sank 5%, while the Nasdaq Composite and S&P500 fell 3-4%. Ten of 11 S&P sectors were lower as energy plunged 8.5%, while communications and consumer discretionary slid 4.5%+. Despite OPEC sticking to existing production cuts and a shutdown of the Keystone Pipeline, crude oil tumbled 11% to \$71.50 per barrel, pressured by weak global economic prospects and waning demand. U.S. Treasury yields rose after Friday's PPI report, as wholesale prices came in higher than expected at +0.3% MoM. A spike in food prices offset lower energy costs. Consumer sentiment edged higher in early December, and 1-year inflation expectations fell to 4.6% from 4.9% ahead of the next week's critical CPI release. In other U.S. economic news, factory orders rose for a third straight month in October, and the services sector PMI ticked up to 56.5 as seasonal employment offered momentum. The U.S. trade balance widened sharply in October as exports dropped, which could be a negative factor for Q4 GDP. Consumer credit climbed more than forecast as credit card balances jumped 15% YoY, the largest increase in more than 20 years. The U.S. personal savings rate has plummeted to 2.3%, the second lowest level on record as inflation squeezes consumers. Internationally, China's government eased more Covid-19 restrictions, but investor optimism was tempered on concerns of soaring infections. A bumpy road to reopening likely lies ahead. Inflation contracted again in November and exports nosedived, suggesting the People's Bank of China may shift to more accommodative monetary policy. Australia's central bank continued its slower rate hikes, adjusting by 25bps as Q3 GDP reflected slowing growth. The **Bank** of Canada might be near the end of its aggressive hiking campaign after last week's 50bps lift. Finally, European retail sales weakened in October, while Germany's falling industrial production was balanced by an uptick in capital goods orders.

The Week Ahead

A massive week awaits ahead of the holiday season, focusing on inflation and central banks. It all kicks off with U.S. CPI on Tuesday, with November's reading expected to edge down to 7.3% YoY from 7.7% in October. It's the final key piece of data before Wednesday's FOMC meeting, and Fed Funds futures are currently pricing in a 77% probability of a 50bps hike, which is far from a certainty. A disinflationary print could reinforce the idea that inflation has peaked and set the path towards a smaller rate increase in January. Elsewhere, the Bank of England is grappling with 6% wage growth and still rising inflation as it meets Thursday, where a 50bps hike is likely. The European Central Bank gathers on the same day, and contrary to President Lagarde's recent comments there are signs of price increases slowing, which may prompt a downshift to only a 50bps raise. If all that wasn't enough, on Friday global flash PMIs will be released. Other U.S. events of note include retail sales, Treasury auctions, and the Philly Fed Manufacturing Index. Overseas, take note of UK GDP on Monday, EU economic sentiment on Tuesday, and China's retail sales and industrial production figures late Wednesday.

Chart of the Week: Equal Weights Leading

The S&P500 **Equal Weight** Index (SPXEW) has been performing better than its market cap-weighted counterpart (SPX) all year. At the 2022 low, **SPXEW**



was 24% off its high tick, versus 27% for SPX. Since then SPXEW is up 16% and currently only down 11% YTD, while SPX is off 17%. SPXEW managed to briefly break through its down sloping **resistance**, unlike SPX. The U.S. dollar's strength this year might explain it, as a **rising**

currency can be a headwind to the

index's largest stocks. Whatever the reason, **participation** by more index components may be viewed as a potential **bullish indicator** in a market trying to reverse a **downtrend**. Click here to view **chart**.



December 12 - 16

2022

Monday

UK GDP m/m 0.4% exp, -0.6% prior

U.S. 10-y Note Auction 4.14% WI, 2.2 b/c prior

Australia Westpac Consumer Sent. -6.9% prior

Tuesday:

EU German ZEW Econ Sentiment -26.8 exp, -36.7 prior

UK Claimant Count Change 3.5K exp, 3.3K prior

U.S. CPI m/m 0.3% exp, 0.4% prior

U.S. 30-y Bond Auction 4.08% WI, 2.4 b/c prior

Wednesday:

UK CPI y/y 10.9% exp, 11.1% prior

U.S. FOMC Statement

China Industrial Production y/y 3.8% exp, 5.0% prior

China Retail Sales y/y -3.9% exp, -0.5% prior

Thursday:

UK BOE Monetary Policy Summary

EU ECB Monetary Policy Statement

U.S. Retail Sales m/m -0.1% exp, 1.3% prior

U.S. Philly Fed Manufacturing Index -10.0 exp, -19.4 prior

U.S. Industrial Production m/m 0.1% exp, -0.1% prior

Friday:

EU German Flash PMIs 46.6/46.4 exp, 46.2/46.1 prior

UK Retail Sales m/m 0.3% exp, 0.6% prior

U.S. Flash PMIs 47.7/46.5 exp, 47.7/46.2 prior

Source: forexfactory.com

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CONTACT OUR STRATEGY DESK:

 inststrategydesk@tdameritrade.com strategydesk@schwab.com

**** 1-800-227-0816

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