

Weekly Market Commentary

November 10, 2025







Weekly Market Commentary – GRIP Report – Week Ending November 7, 2025

Executive Summary

Growth is slowing, inflation pressures are easing, and policy is drifting toward accommodation. Our risk composite remains modestly risk-on, but leadership is narrow and breadth mixed. The inflation nowcast is neutral to disinflationary. Policy makers are signaling more support, raising the question of whether 2026 brings a growth surprise—and if so, whether inflation re-accelerates in a 'run it hot' regime.

G — Growth

High-frequency data signal softer momentum. Job openings have fallen toward multi-year lows, firms report restrained hiring plans, and the October ISM manufacturing survey continued to contract with downbeat respondent commentary. Shipping and freight corroborate the slowdown container ship departures from Asia to the U.S. are running materially below last year's levels heading into the holiday season.



RenMac: Renaissa... 🔮 @... Nov 3 💋 …









Respondent commentary in the October ISM manufacturing PMI was downbeat across the board with respondents mentioning weak demand, trade tensions, and uncertainty.

WHAT RESPONDENTS ARE SAYING

- "Business continues to remain difficult, as customers are cancelling and reducing orders due to uncertainty in the global economic environment and regarding the ever-changing tariff landscape." (Chemical Products)
- "Decrease in domestic demand for finished products has resulted in slower manufacturing and an increase of raw material in inventory." (Petroleum & Coal Products)
- "In general, business is really strained. Money is sitting tighter, and geopolitical changes add to the uncertainty/risk factor. Even medical fields are feeling the pressure." (Miscellaneous Manufacturing)
- Sales continue to underperform in our automotive OEM and industrial divisions. Our aerospace and automotive aftermarket are the only areas performing slightly above budget. This is the third month of lower-than-expected sales, and the remainder of the year
- outlook is not looking better. Sales are expected to be slightly less than in 2024." (Fabricated Metal Products)
 "Tariffs continue to be a large impact to our business. The products we import are not readily manufactured in the U.S., so attempts to reshore have been unsuccessful. Overall, prices on all products have gone up, some significantly. We are trying to keep up with the wild fluctuations and pass along what costs we can to our customers." (Machinery)
- "The commercial vehicle (CV) market remains depressed as customers continue to delay vehicle purchases. Uncertainty in price and transportation demand remains the center of attention. U.S. trade policy and reciprocal actions by China in the form of export controls on rare earths and semiconductors, as well as ocean freight carrier restrictions, have once again caused a lot of stress in supply lines. The CV industry is now bracing for the next round of tariffs focused on commercials vehicles, scheduled to begin on Nove (Transportation Equipment)
- "The tariff trade war has negatively impacted agricultural export markets, driving down demand and price. This negatively impacts farmer revenue and the likelihood of farmers investing in new equipment." (Machinery)
- "The unpredictability of the tariff situation continues to cause havoc and uncertainty on future pricing/cost. But even with the tariffs, the
 cost to import in many cases is still more attractive than sourcing within the U.S. Challenges with tariffs on production equipment necessary for internal production makes it difficult to justify expansion of capacity." (Computer & Electronic Products)
- . "Volatility in some of our highly exposed commodity markets has tempered a bit, thanks to improved weather conditions and overall downward pressure on pricing. Tariffs continue to remain difficult to quantify, manage and deal with in general, since they continue to impact us day-to-day and our bottom line." (Food, Beverage & Tobacco Products)
- Wonder has turned to concern regarding how the tariff threats are affecting our business. Orders are down across most divisions, and we've lowered our financial expectations for 2025." (Chemical Products)



17 14

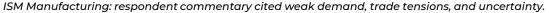


57















RenMac: Renaissa... 📀 @... · Nov 3 🧭

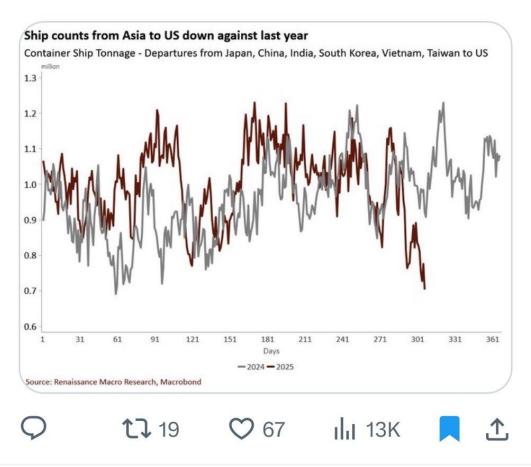








Ship counts from Asia to the US are down sharply against last year. We add up container ship tonnage across several countries, down roughly 20 percent against last year. Not sure what it means, probably not the best sign heading into the holiday season.



Container ship tonnage from Asia to the U.S. is running well below 2024 levels.

Equity performance underscores the bifurcation in the economy. A narrow cohort of mega-cap technology names has driven the bulk of index gains, while the average stock has lagged significantly.







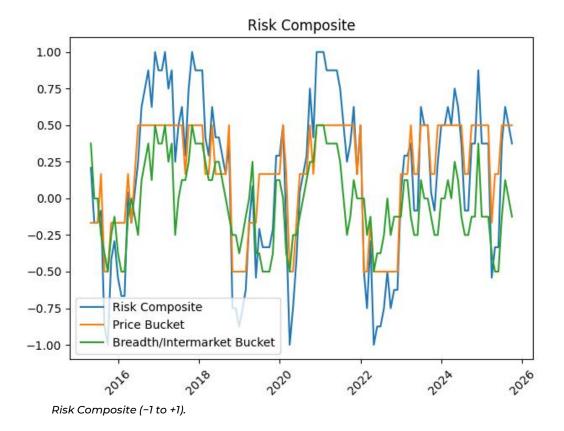
Equity returns over the past five years: Magnificent 7 vs. the rest.

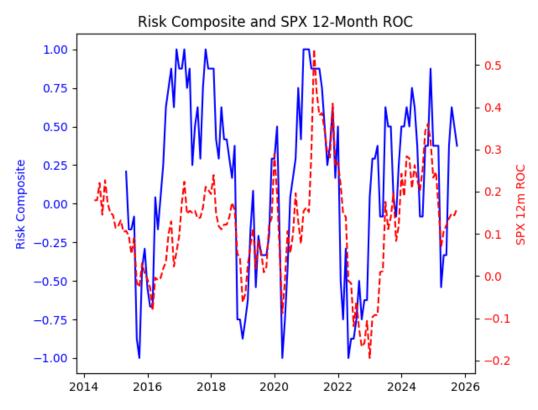
R — Risk Appetite

Our composite blends price trends (HY spreads, Bitcoin, ACWI) with breadth and intermarket relationships (BPI, VTI/GLD, VTI/IEF, SPHB/SPLV, VB/VV, VWO/VEA, Copper/Gold, Lumber/Gold). At month-end October it read modestly risk-on. Credit remains supportive, and cyclicals have shown pockets of strength, but breadth is uneven and leadership narrow.









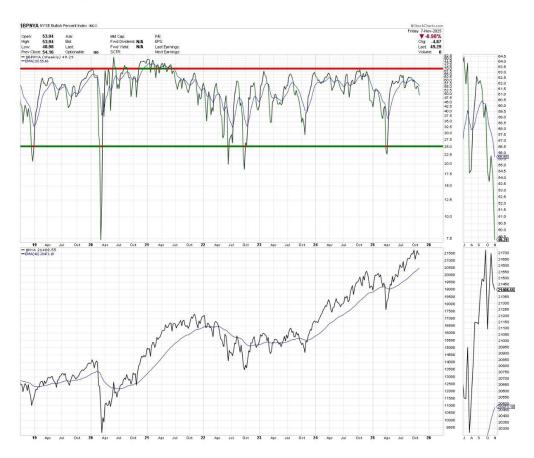






Breadth indicators are middling—fewer than two-thirds of issues are in bullish patterns—while high-yield spreads are still historically tight but off the lows. Cross-asset ratios remain mixed: stocks vs. bonds and high-beta vs. low-vol point cautiously positive; small-caps vs. large-caps and cyclical commodities vs. gold lean defensive.

\$BPNYA - NYSE Bullish Percent Index

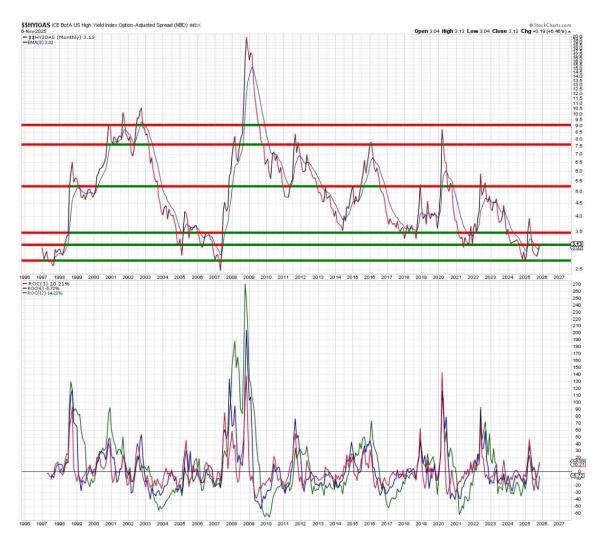


NYSE Bullish Percent Index: breadth remains below prior peaks.





\$\$HYIOAS - ICE BofA US High Yield Index Option-Adjusted Spread



High-yield OAS: still tight vs. history, but above cycle lows.







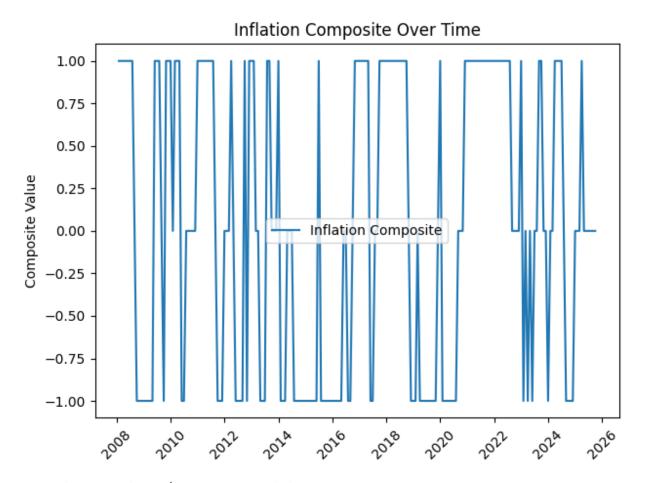
JNK / IEF ratio: risk appetite in credit vs. duration

I — Inflation

The inflation nowcast remains neutral to disinflationary. Brent crude has rolled over on 3-, 6-, and 12-month horizons, while the TIP:TLH ratio is not signaling an upside inflation break-out. Easing goods prices and stabilizing expectations support the view that inflation pressures are moderating.







Inflation Composite (TIP/TLH and Brent, majority-rule).

P — Policy

Monetary policy is pivoting toward support: the Fed has shifted from tightening to an easing bias, with discussion of additional rate cuts if growth softens further. On the fiscal and industrial fronts, the policy conversation emphasizes stimulus, reshoring, and strategic resources—consistent with a willingness to 'run it hot' if needed.







Luke Gro... 🕹 @LukeGro... · Nov 6 💋 · · ·





If "USD dominance" is still a strategic asset, why would the US govt be adding copper, silver, uranium, met coal, potash, lead & other minerals to a list of critical minerals?

Why not just print the USDs & buy the minerals as we need them like we did for the prior 50+ yrs?

+: Takeaways by Bloomberg Al

Hide ^

- · The US added copper, silver and uranium to a government list of critical minerals, which now totals 60 minerals.
- The list includes 15 rare earth elements and informs investments in mining and resource recovery, as well as tax incentives for US mineral processing.
- The updated list could lead to tariffs and trade restrictions, and has implications for the resource industry and traders, particularly for minerals like copper, potash, and silver.

The US added copper, silver and uranium to a government list of critical minerals as the Trump administration broadens its scope of what commodities it deems vital to the American economy and national security.

The updated US Geological Survey list adds 10 minerals to bring the total to 60, including metallurgical coal, potash, rhenium, silicon and lead, according to a US government site. It includes 15 rare earth elements. The list replaces a 2022 version.

Policy focus on strategic resources: expansion of the U.S. critical minerals list.









Political rhetoric points to a willingness to 'run it hot'.





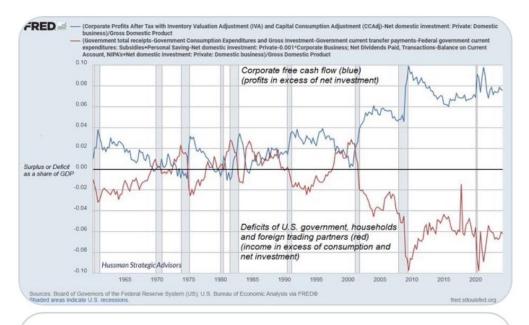


John P. Hussma... 📀 @huss... · Nov 3 🧭





yep - the top 10% own 87% of stocks, the top 1% own 50%, and corporate free cash flow is literally the mirror image of record deficits in the government and household sectors (an accounting identity) because average American families don't have enough to finance basic needs.





Peter Atwat... @Peter_Atwa... · Nov 3

Something something K-Shaped Economy... x.com/KobeissiLetter...

Macro context: concentration of equity ownership and fiscal dynamics.





Outlook

Rates are drifting lower, inflation is easing, and policy is turning more accommodative. With leading indicators deeply depressed, a 2026 growth surprise is plausible. The risk-management question is what that would mean for inflation: if growth re-accelerates, do we transition into a 'run it hot' regime, or does inflation stay anchored? Given mixed breadth and narrow leadership, we favor participating in risk while maintaining disciplined hedges and diversification.

Sources

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (JOLTS).
- Institute for Supply Management (ISM) Manufacturing PMI and respondent commentary.
- Renaissance Macro Research Shipping and ISM commentary visuals (tweets).
- ICE BofA US High Yield Index Option-Adjusted Spread (FRED/ICE).
- StockCharts BPNYA, JNK/IEF charts.
- Bloomberg / Apollo Chief Economist Magnificent 7 vs. rest chart.
- U.S. Bank Freight Payment Index Q3 2025 summary.
- Federal Reserve communications and recent press conferences.
- U.S. Department of the Interior 2025 Critical Minerals list.





DISCLOSURES

Ascentis Asset Management ("Ascentis") is a registered investment adviser. Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training. More information about Ascentis including its advisory services and fee schedule can be found in Form ADV Part 2 which is available upon request. Ascentis provides non-discretionary advisory services to other registered investment advisers and investment adviser representatives and does not provide advice to underlying clients of the firms and representatives to which it provides advisory services.

This is Ascentis's current assessment of the market and may be changed without notice. The visuals shown are for illustrative purposes only and do not guarantee success or certain level of performance. This material contains projections, forecasts, estimates, beliefs and similar information ("forward looking information"). Forward looking information is subject to inherent uncertainties and qualifications and is based on numerous assumptions, in each case whether or not identified herein. This information may be taken, in part, from external sources. We believe these external sources to be reliable, but no warranty is made as to accuracy.

This material is not financial advice or an offer to sell any product. Different types of investments involve varying degrees of risk and there can be no assurance that any specific investment will either be suitable or profitable for a client's investment portfolio. Economic factors, market conditions and investment strategies will affect the performance of any portfolio, and there are no assurances that it will match or outperform any benchmark. Investing in non-traditional and international investments involves additional risks that are not generally associated with investing in domestic equities.

The backtest simulation and associated performance figures provided are hypothetical. Performance figures do not include the deduction of advisory fees, brokerage or other commissions and any other expenses that a client would have paid or actually paid. The results do not represent the results of actual trading using client assets but were achieved by means of the retroactive application of a model that was designed with the benefit of hindsight. The results may not reflect the impact that any material market or economic factors might have had on the adviser's use of the back-tested model if the model had been used during the period to actually manage client assets. The results portrayed reflect the reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. Returns should not be considered indicative of the skill of the adviser. The hypothetical performance results do not relate to the type of advisory services currently offered by Ascentis Asset Management.

Benchmarks: The index / indices used by Ascentis have not been selected to represent an appropriate benchmark to compare an investor's performance, but rather are disclosed to allow for comparison of the investor's performance to that of certain well-known and widely recognized indices. Indices are not available for direct investment, are unmanaged and do not incur fees or expenses. Detailed information regarding the indices is available upon request. The volatility of the indices may be materially different than that of the portfolio.

PAST PERFORMANCE IS NO GUARANTEE OF FUTURE RESULTS. Not FDIC insured. All investment strategies have the potential for profit or loss. Historical data may use proxies to represent investments and asset classes. These proxies may have holdings and performance that vary from the investments or asset classes over time.









CONTACT US

Please feel free to call us or contact us via email if you require any further information.

EMAIL: contact@ascentis.co

ADDRESS: 5001 Spring Valley Road,

Suite 810W

Dallas, TX 75244 USA

WEBSITE: www.ascentisasset.com

For Advisor Use Only This is provided for informational purposes only and should not be considered a recommendation to buy or sell a specific security Past performance is no guarantee of future returns Please see attached disclosures