# **Monthly Market Snapshot**



November 2018

# Monthly Overview

The first month of the fourth quarter certainly left its mark on investors, although that mark came in the form of a deep, cutting wound that is anything but desirable. Rising rates, trade war fears, choppy earnings and the prospect of slower global economic growth were assigned blame.

Canada's benchmark S&P/TSX Composite index slid 6.3% in October, and the punishment was widespread. Energy stocks lost 9.1% of their values, info tech stocks tumbled 8.1% and consumer discretionary names plummeted 6.4%. Health care stocks, which account for only a small fraction of the overall value of the index, faced the most severe loss of any sector, 17.6%, as marijuana stocks were smashed following cannabis legalization in Canada. Defensive sectors, such as telecom services, utilities and consumer staples, were also down on the month but the losses there were far more muted. For the 12 months ended October 31, the Canadian index showed a loss of 3.4%.

The U.S. dollar moved 2.5% higher versus the loonie in October, as fear pushed investors into the perceived safety of the greenback. Despite the currency pickup for Canadian investors, the S&P 500 was still off 5.3% in CAD terms during the period, the worst month in more than seven years for the index. Consumer discretionary, energy and industrials were sectors that each experienced a loss of 9% or more during October. Volatility came back in spades in October for equity markets around the globe, and an interesting stat to illustrate just how volatile the month was for stocks is this: the S&P 500 experienced swings of 1% or more during ten trading days in a 16 day stretch. That followed 74 straight trading days with no swings in excess of 1%.

There was no reprieve for stock investors with international exposure either. The MSCI EAFE benchmark shed 6.4% while emerging markets stocks sank 7.2% On a year-over-year basis,

the MSCI Index was lower by 10.4% to October 31 in CAD terms.

Bond investors didn't have a good go of things in October either. Canadian investment grade issues slipped 0.6% in aggregate on the month and the global investment grade benchmark shed 1.1% as interest rates slowly plodded higher. Both the YTD and one year returns for global and Canadian investment grade bonds through October 31 were negative.

Turning briefly to commodities, crude oil prices were slammed as the per barrel price of WTI ended the month at US\$65.31, a decline of almost 11%. That came in the face of an 8.4% improvement in natural gas prices.

The Bank of Canada raised its policy rate by 25 basis points to 1.75% on October 24. This marked the third rate hike on the part of the Bank this year. Most lending institutions have been increasing their prime rates along with the policy rate hikes, meaning consumers with floating-rate debt, including many mortgage holders, have seen a steady increase in their borrowing costs. The good news for savers is that rising interest rates have resulted in better yields on short-term deposit products. The move on the part of the Bank of Canada follows September's quarter point hike on the part of the U.S. Federal Reserve. The fed next meets in early November, but forecasters don't expect an increase until its mid-December meeting.

The Canadian economy is on target for 2% growth in 2018. That's a solid number, and more clarity around trade along with solid labour conditions and constructive commentary from business around investment should be supportive of further "normalization" of the Bank of Canada's policy rates. Economists are calling for a further two or three rate hikes before 2019 comes to a close.



# Monthly Market Statistics

Data to October 31, 2018, unless otherwise indicated

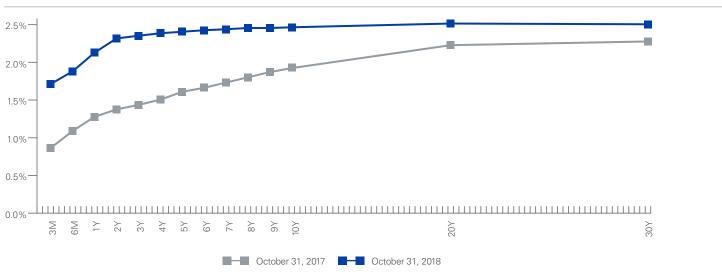
Higher interest rates, renewed trade fears, disappointing earnings, and concerns about slowing global growth all contributed to October's challenges. And this can be encapsulated in the rise of the VIX in the month of October. The VIX is a measure of the broad U.S. stock market's expectation of volatility. It is forward looking and seeks to predict the variability of future market movements. It's also sometimes referred to as the "fear index". The chart below tracks the level of the VIX over the past six months and shows that the implied fear in the markets has taken off recently.

#### **Chart of the Month: A Volatile October**



Source: Bloomberg

### **Canadian Sovereign Yield Curve**



Source: Bloomberg

# **Monthly Market Statistics**

Data to October 31, 2018, unless otherwise indicated

# **Equity Index Returns (% in CAD)**

Index	1 Mo	3 Mo	6 Mo	YTD	1Yr	3Yr	5Yr	3Yr Std Dev
S&P/TSX Composite	-6.3	-7.9	-2.3	-5.0	-3.4	6.7	5.4	7.4
S&P/TSX Small Cap	-7.6	-9.3	-8.9	-11.7	-9.1	6.7	1.8	13.1
S&P 500	-5.3	-2.1	6.1	8.2	9.5	11.7	16.6	9.3
MSCI EAFE	-6.4	-7.8	-7.4	-4.3	-4.5	4.4	7.5	11.0
MSCI World	-5.8	-4.5	0.6	3.1	3.8	8.8	12.5	9.5
MSCI World Small Cap	-8.4	-8.1	-3.4	-0.6	0.3	9.4	12.4	11.5
MSCI Europe	-6.2	-9.1	-8.4	-5.2	-6.2	3.3	6.6	14.0
MSCI EM	-7.2	-10.6	-14.2	-11.3	-10.4	7.2	6.0	14.8
MSCI AC Asia	-8.0	-8.7	-10.4	-7.4	-6.7	6.8	8.9	12.1

Source: Bloomberg

# **Fixed Income Returns (% in CAD)**

Index	1 Mo	3 Мо	6 Mo	YTD	1Yr	3Yr	5Yr	3Yr Std Dev
FTSETMX Canada Universe Bond	-0.6	-0.8	-0.2	-1.0	-0.6	1.5	2.9	3.4
Barclays Global Agg	-1.1	-1.9	-3.2	-3.5	-2.0	1.5	0.3	5.0
Barclays High Yield Very Liquid Index	-0.1	0.6	3.7	5.5	2.3	5.8	8.6	5.1

Source: Bloomberg

# **Commodity Prices (Prices and Returns in USD)**

Commodity	10/31/2018 Price (\$)	MoM Change (%)	YoY Change (%)
WTI Crude Oil/BBL	65.31	-10.8	20.1
Natural Gas/mmBTU	3.26	8.4	12.6
Copper/pound	2.66	-5.2	-14.3
Silver/oz	14.28	-2.9	-14.4
Gold/oz	1215.00	2.0	-4.4

Source: Bloomberg

## **Economic Data**

Canada	
Real GDP - Q2 (q/q ann. % change)	2.9
Consumer Prices Sep (y/y % change)	2.2
Unemployment Rate, October '18	5.8
United States	
Real GDP - Q3 (q/q ann. % change)	3.5
Consumer Prices Sep (y/y % change)	2.3
Unemployment Rate, October '18	3.7

Source: Bloomberg, Stats Canada

# **One Month Sector Returns (% in CAD)**

Sector	S&P/TSX Composite	S&P 500
Consumer Discretionary	-6.4	-9.8
Consumer Staples	-0.7	4.0
Energy	-9.1	-9.8
Financials	-6.3	-3.1
Health Care	-17.6	-5.1
Industrials	-5.9	-9.3
Info Tech	-8.1	-6.4
Materials	-4.6	-7.9
Real Estate	-3.0	0.0
Telecom Services	-2.1	-4.2
Utilites	-2.6	3.7

Source: Bloomberg

## **Exchange Rates**

Cross	2018-10-31	6 Mos Ago	1Yr Ago
USD/CAD	1.32	1.28	1.29
EUR/CAD	1.49	1.55	1.50
GBP/CAD	1.68	1.77	1.71
CAD/JPY	85.84	85.14	88.17

Source: Bloomberg

#### Investment Recommendation Rating System

Recommended List: The list presents a selection of funds that we believe are among the best of their peers and offer unique characteristics that can add value when used in the second of their peers and offer unique characteristics that can add value when used in the second of their peers and offer unique characteristics that can add value when used in the second of their peers and offer unique characteristics that can add value when used in the second of their peers and offer unique characteristics that can add value when used in the second of the second o

well-diversified investment portfolio tailored to a client's investment objectives.

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Under review: The fund's participation on the Recommended List is under review.

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