

Third Quarter 2024 Market Review

Stocks both in the U.S. and internationally continued their year-long climb in Third Quarter 2024 as inflation and interest rate concerns eased.

In the U.S., the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 8.72%, while the broader S&P 500 index gained 5.89%. Small cap stocks, as measured by the Russell 2000 index, enjoyed a 9.27% gain.

International stocks also enjoyed substantial gains for the quarter. The MSCI EAFE index of large cap stocks in Europe, Australasia and the Far East gained 7.26%, while the MSCI Small Cap index enjoyed a gain of 10.54%.

Alternative asset classes surged during Third Quarter 2024 as well. In particular, the Dow Jones U.S. REIT (real state stock) index gained 15.56%, while the Dow Jones International REIT index soared 17.19%. Meanwhile, the MSCI Emerging Markets index posted a gain of 8.72% for the quarter.

Fixed income also rose during the quarter as declining interest rates spurred a bond rally. The Bloomberg U.S. Govt/Credit Intermediate Term bond index gained 4.17% for the quarter, while the Bloomberg Municipal bond index gained 2.71%.

Looking back at the one-year period ending September 30, 2024, all of the above equity asset classes have posted gains of between 20% and 36%. Despite dire warnings last fall of a looming bear market from many media pundits, stocks soared instead. Yet another reminder that neither the so-called experts nor anyone else has a crystal ball—and the only way to be sure you don't miss a big rally in stocks is to always stay invested in stocks.