



## Stenner Wealth Partners+

Our Weekly Market Summary Highlights (as at 01/17/2025)

### Market Highlights

#### **In terms of broad markets,**

- U.S. stocks rallied on Friday to close out a strong week on optimism over the health of the economy and path of interest rates as investors braced for a slew of policy changes under the incoming Trump administration.
  - For the week, the Dow and S&P 500 advanced 3.7% and 2.9%, respectively. The Nasdaq climbed 2.5% week to date for its best one-week performance since early December.
- Oil prices fell slightly on Friday but posted a fourth consecutive week of gains, as the latest U.S. sanctions on Russian energy trade heightened expectations for oil supply disruptions.
- US retail sales increased at a slower-than-anticipated month-on-month rate in December, in the latest data point that could paint a picture of the state of the American economy heading into the new year.
  - Retail sales grew by 0.4% last month, decelerating from an upwardly revised pace of 0.8% in November, and below the 0.6% expected.
- Gold prices were pressured by an uptick in the U.S. dollar on Friday, but remained on track for a weekly gain as uncertainties around incoming President Donald Trump's policies and renewed bets of further rate cuts lifted bullion **above the key \$2,700 level.**
- Israel's full cabinet has been deliberating for hours over the Israel-Hamas ceasefire and hostage release deal, in a crucial last hurdle to its implementation. The smaller security cabinet approved the deal earlier on Friday

#### **In terms of rates and inflation,**

- US consumer prices rose in line with expectations in December, while an underlying measure was slower than anticipated, according to a closely-watched gauge of inflation that could play into the Federal Reserve's interest rate policy plans
  - The headline consumer price index increased by 0.4% last month, accelerating slightly from 0.3% in November, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics said. In the twelve months through December, the CPI climbed by 2.9%, faster than the prior reading of 2.7%.
  - Meanwhile, the so-called "core" measure, which strips out volatile items like food and fuel, edged up by 0.2% month-on-month and 3.2% year-over-year. Economists had estimated the numbers would match November's pace of 0.3% and 3.3%, respectively.
- The Canadian labour market ended 2024 on a very strong note, adding 90.9k positions in December, primarily in full-time positions, **throwing odds of a January rate cut into question**
- China's economic activity accelerated more than expected in the final three months of 2024 as stimulus measures kicked in, allowing Beijing to meet its annual growth target.
  - China's gross domestic product expanded by 5.4% in the fourth quarter, beating Reuters-pollled economists' estimates of a 5.0% growth, and outpacing the 4.6% in the third quarter, 4.7% in the second quarter, 5.3% in the first quarter.