



Third Quarter Perspective: At the close of the third quarter, we conducted a deep dive into the key factors that shaped performance. In the next section, we highlight three takeaways and how your portfolio performed. We are pleased to report that client portfolios delivered solid gains (after fees) during the period. Clients receive detailed personal time-weighted return results.

3 Key Takeaways from the 3rd Quarter of 2025...and What It Means for You.

1. **Record Highs for U.S. stocks:** The S&P 500 and other broad benchmarks each hit all-time highs fueled by exceptional strength for companies involved in artificial intelligence (AI) and supported by strong corporate earnings overall.

***What It Means for You:** Top performing investments for clients were U.S. stock market holdings, led by tech-heavy assets. We constantly assess the risk of the stock market and believe that having a level of protection during stock market record highs is a prudent decision. Buffered stock ETFs provide a level of safety for equity risk.*

2. **Fed Cuts Rates.** The Federal Reserve (Fed) cut the federal funds target by 25 basis points (one-quarter of 1%), as cracks in the labor market and a possible economic slowdown outweighed inflation concerns. Eleven of the 12 members voted in favor of the size of the cut.

***What It Means for You:** The Fed decision to cut rates, and anticipation of further cuts, dampens the total return potential for short Treasuries. As a result, we tilted fixed income allocations in client portfolios to broader bond exposure, specifically U.S. & international corporate bonds, to provide higher total return.*

3. **Gold Continues to Run.** The precious metal gained driven by continued geopolitical tensions, a weaker dollar (due to falling interest rates) and central banks' buying the asset.

***What It Means for You:** During the quarter, technical signals indicated that gold prices were overbought, a sign to sell, and we took gains across the board.*

Thank you. We reiterate our shared goals of growing your wealth and guarding your future.

September 2025



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