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# The Week Ahead



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## THINGS TO WATCH

### Third Quarter GDP

U.S. Census Bureau data to be released tomorrow are expected to show real gross domestic product (GDP) expanded at a 3.2% annualized pace in the third quarter, following growth of 3.8% in 2Q25 and a 0.6% contraction in 1Q25. Third-quarter growth was likely supported by resilient back-to-school consumer spending and continued strength in discretionary outlays among higher-income households. Nonresidential investment should also be a bright spot, driven by AI data center construction.

### Technology Dip-Buying?

Reporting over the weekend from The Information suggests OpenAI is making meaningful progress on enterprise profitability, a development that could help stabilize sentiment across AI-related stocks following recent volatility. The company's compute margins reportedly climbed to about 70% in October, highlighting improving unit economics even as heavy infrastructure spending continues. While OpenAI remains unprofitable, clearer signs of operating leverage and a renewed focus on monetizing ChatGPT through enterprise subscriptions may help counter growing skepticism around AI capital expenditures.

### Venezuela

The U.S. Coast Guard and Navy have intensified pressure on Venezuela by pursuing and intercepting oil tankers near its coast, seeking to cut off a critical source of hard currency for President Nicolás Maduro's government. The stepped-up blockade has increasingly threatened a significant source of crude oil exports to China.

### Precious Metals

Gold looks poised to eclipse \$4,400 per ounce and reach fresh all-time highs amid continued central bank purchases, easing monetary policy, and increased geopolitical tensions. Silver and platinum have also posted strong gains over the past 12 months, supported by a similar mix of drivers.

### LAST WEEK'S ECONOMIC DATA

	LATEST	3MO PRIOR	CHANGE
Non-Farm Payrolls (Thousands) - Nov.	64	-26	▲
Unemployment Rate - Nov.	4.6%	4.3%	▲
Retail Sales (M/M) - Oct.	0.0%	0.6%	▼
Consumer Price Index (Y/Y) - Nov.	2.7%	2.9%	▼
Core Consumer Price Index (Y/Y) - Nov.	2.6%	3.1%	▼

INDEX	LEVEL	WEEK	YTD	12 MO
DJ Industrial Average	48134.89	-0.64%	15.09%	14.30%
NASDAQ	23307.62	0.50%	21.50%	19.90%
S&P 500	6834.50	0.13%	17.64%	16.70%
MSCI EAFE	2861.13	0.20%	30.77%	31.66%
BB U.S. Aggregate	2344.14	0.34%	7.15%	7.08%

### KEY BOND RATES

	WEEK	1MO AGO	1YR AGO
3-Month T-Bill	3.58%	3.82%	4.32%
10-Year Treasury	4.16%	4.06%	4.52%

### REPORTS DUE THIS WEEK

	LATEST
Housing Starts (Millions Ann.) - Oct.	1.31
Building Permits (Millions Ann.) - Oct.	1.33
New Home Sales (Thousands Ann.) - Sept.	800
GDP (Q/Q Annualized) - 3Q25	3.2%
Conf. Board Consumer Confidence - Dec.	88.7

Total returns are as of 12/19/25. Source data: Bloomberg and Morningstar are believed to be correct but not verified.

## NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

**\$100 billion**

Last week, The Wall Street Journal reported that OpenAI is seeking to raise \$100 billion by the end of the first quarter in a funding round that could value the ChatGPT owner at as much as \$830 billion—larger than about 98% of companies in the S&P 500. The fundraising comes at a critical time for OpenAI, as the company looks to ramp up spending on improvements to its large language models amid an increasingly competitive landscape.

**1.3%**

Since 1950, the S&P 500 has averaged a 1.3% return during the so-called Santa Claus rally, which spans the final five trading days of December and the first two sessions of January. Over the past 75 years, the index has posted gains 79% of the time during this seven-day stretch. Some market observers attribute the Santa Claus rally to a combination of holiday sentiment, year-end bonus investing, fading tax-loss selling pressure, and lighter institutional trading activity.

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