



## Coffee & Commentary

September 28, 2026

---

### Good Morning!

Welcome to Coffee & Commentary, presented by Alpha Zero's CEO and CIO, Eric Mechler CFP®, ChFC®, AIF®, BFA™, RICP®.

Let's get started.

### 1. What is currently impacting financial markets?

- The major U.S. stock indexes recorded their first winning week in three, although trading remained volatile as enthusiasm around AI investment returned, oil prices declined, and 10-year Treasury yields climbed back above 5%. Final results on the week were; **S&P 500 +1.2%**, **NASDAQ +2.1%**, and the **Dow +0.3%**.
- Economic reports continue to portray a strong but inflation-sensitive expansion. S&P Global's preliminary Composite PMI increased in September to its highest level since July 2021, as employment grew at the fastest pace in more than four years and input costs rose at nearly a four-year high.
- Oil markets remained highly volatile as U.S. and Iranian negotiators explored a phased path toward reopening the Strait of Hormuz, while continued Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia preserved supply risks. West Texas Intermediate declined approximately 8% for the week to \$92.41 per barrel, while globally traded Brent crude finished at \$104.32.

### 2. How are we to prepare and act?

- The decline in U.S. crude reduced one immediate source of pressure on gasoline, transportation, and inflation expectations, but the underlying message from business activity was that demand remains unusually firm. An economy operating near capacity can pass higher labor, energy, and

supply-chain costs into prices more easily, particularly when consumers already expect inflation to remain elevated. That leaves policymakers weighing two different forms of resilience: growth strong enough to support profits, and demand strong enough to keep inflation from returning to target. The economy still has momentum, but the combination of firm activity, cautious consumers, and restrictive financing conditions suggests that the next stage of the expansion will be judged as much by inflation efficiency as by the headline pace of growth.

- This week also showed that powerful secular investment can coexist with greater selectivity across the rest of the economy. The large cloud commitment between Anthropic and Akamai added another tangible piece of evidence that AI demand is moving beyond enthusiasm into multi-year spending on computing capacity, networking, memory, and software. Outside AI, Costco and Darden demonstrated that value-oriented retail and established restaurant brands can still produce healthy sales even as sentiment weakens. Oil remains the bridge between these stories because it influences household purchasing power, corporate costs, inflation, and the Fed's reaction function. The result is not a uniformly strong or weak environment, but one in which structural growth, pricing power, and capital intensity increasingly determine the quality of earnings.

### 3. Taking a look at the week ahead.

- Monday — New York Fed President Williams speaks
- Tuesday — JOLTS job openings
- Wednesday — PCE inflation, revised second-quarter GDP
- Thursday — Weekly jobless claims
- Friday — September employment report, unemployment rate

--

As always, here at Alpha Zero we believe knowledge is power and look forward to helping you Think Beyond What's Next.

Please feel free to share this newsletter with friends and family, and we thank you in advance for any introductions you send our way.

Have a great week and please reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

**Eric Mechler, CFP®, ChFC®, AIF®, BFA™, RICP®**  
Founder, CEO & CIO

Alpha Zero  
[2500 N Military Trail, Suite 320](#)  
[Boca Raton, FL 33431](#)  
Phone: (561) 576-2599  
[eric@alphazerowealth.com](mailto:eric@alphazerowealth.com)

Investment Advisory Services are offered through Alpha Zero LLC, a registered investment adviser. Insurance products and services are offered and sold through Alpha Zero LLC and individually licensed and appointed agents. **Please remember that securities cannot be purchased, sold, or traded via e-mail or voice message system. Likewise, insurance coverage cannot be bound, altered, or cancelled via e-mail or a voice message system.** This email transmission and any documents, files or previous email messages attached to it may contain information that is confidential or legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you must not read this transmission and that any disclosure, copying, printing, distribution, or any action or omission of this transmission is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately notify the sender by telephone at (561) 576-2599 or return and delete the original transmission and its attachments without reading or saving in any manner.

Securities offered through The Leaders Group, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC, 475 Springfield Ave, Summit, NJ 07901.(303) 797-9080. Alpha Zero LLC and the Leaders Group are not affiliated.

Visit our website

**Alpha Zero**  
2500 N Military Trail, Suite 320, Boca Raton, FL 33431  
Phone: ( 561) 576-2599  
[eric@alphazerowealth.com](mailto:eric@alphazerowealth.com)



**Think Beyond What's Next.**

Alpha Zero | 2500 N Military Trail Suite 320 | Boca Raton, FL 33431 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!