

# RobustQuant Weekly Compass

Weekend Edition | September 22, 2025

 **COMPASS FOR EMOTIONAL DISCIPLINE—NOT TRADING ADVICE**

*Weekly boundaries to help reduce fear and greed in market decisions*

## 1 | At a Glance

Asset	Weekly Range (Sep 26 close)	Width	Track Record
S&P 500	6,559 – 6,949	±2.9%	38/40 (95.0%)
Gold (GLD)	326 – 356*	±4.4%	11/11 (100%)
REITs (XLRE)	40.2 – 43.9*	±4.4%	1/1 (100%)

\*Newsletter-exclusive coverage




Target: ~95% of weekly closes fall within these ranges

Track record details → [robustquant.com/predictions](https://robustquant.com/predictions)

## 2 | This Week's Summary

Perfect week: All three assets closed within systematic boundaries. Fed delivered expected 25bp cut while maintaining measured approach to future easing.

### Key Results:

- S&P 500: 6,663 (upper-mid range) 
- Gold: 339 (mid-range) 
- REITs: 41.85 (mid-range) 

Markets absorbed Fed cut with confidence while BoJ resistance to easing provided global policy contrast.

## 3 | What Moved Markets (Sep 15–21)

### Fed Delivers "Risk Management" Cut:

Federal Reserve cut rates 25bp to 4.00-4.25% in 11-1 decision. Chairman Powell emphasized employment risks while projecting two more cuts by year-end. Lone dissenter wanted 50bp cut, not less.

### Bank of Japan Holds Firm:

BoJ maintained 0.5% rate despite two dissenting votes for increases to 0.75%—most hawkish showing since normalization began. Governor Ueda confirmed intention to "continue raising rates" if economy performs as forecast.

### China Shows Mixed Signals:

Industrial production slowed to 5.2% (weakest since August 2024) while trade remained resilient. Fixed investment grew just 0.5% as real estate investment plunged 12.9%. Exports to EU (+10.4%) and ASEAN (+22.5%) offset US weakness.


## Geopolitical Developments:


Treasury Secretary Bessent expressed confidence US-China trade deal was "near" ahead of November 10 deadline. EU announced first-ever Russian gas sanctions with LNG ban by January 2027.

### Bottom Line:

Central bank divergence continues—Fed cuts defensively while BoJ tightens gradually. Trade tensions show progress while energy security reshapes European markets.

## 4 | S&P 500 Boundaries (Sep 26)

 **Range: 6,559–6,949**

 **Hit Rate: 38/40 weeks (95.0%)**

### Last Week's Performance:

Closed at 6,663—in upper-middle of our 6,475-6,877 range, absorbing Fed cut with steady confidence.

Current Range: [6,559 ===== 6,949]  
                  ^6,663 last close

### What This Means:

Range shifts higher, reflecting market confidence in Fed's measured approach. Width narrows slightly as volatility patterns stabilize post-meeting.

### For Your Planning:

- Lower zone (6,559-6,700): Where fear often peaks
- Middle zone (6,700-6,850): Normal trading area
- Upper zone (6,850-6,949): Where excitement builds

Remember: These are weekly movement boundaries, not buy/sell signals.

## 5 | Gold Coverage (Newsletter-Exclusive)

 **Range: 326–356**

A bar chart with a single bar representing a perfect record. The bar is blue and reaches the top of the chart area. The text 'Perfect Record: 11/11 weeks (100%)' is displayed next to the bar.


Gold closed at 339 within our 323-356 range—demonstrating steady safe-haven demand as Fed cuts while other central banks resist easing.

### Central Bank Divergence Impact:

Fed cuts typically support gold through dollar weakness, while BoJ tightening creates cross-currents. Current positioning reflects this complex dynamic.

## 6 | REITs Coverage (Newsletter-Exclusive)

 **Range: 40.2–43.9**

 **Perfect Start: 1/1 weeks (100%)**

REITs closed at 41.85 within our 40.9-44.7 range—successful first official week tracking rate-sensitive real estate sector.

**Fed Rate Impact:**

Quarter-point cut provides modest support for real estate valuations through lower borrowing costs. REITs often respond positively to early stages of Fed easing cycles.

## 7 | How to Read These Ranges

**What They Show:**

Weekly boundaries where markets typically move—designed to help you stay calm when emotions run high.

**What They Don't Show:**

Buy/sell signals, price targets, or guaranteed outcomes.

**The Retail Trap:**

Most individual investors buy when markets break above ranges (excitement peaks) and sell when they fall below (fear dominates). This emotional pattern often leads to buying high, selling low.

**Professional Approach:**

- Stay systematic within boundaries
- Lower ranges: Fear creates opportunities for planned strategies
- Upper ranges: Excitement may warrant risk review
- Outside ranges: Unusual market behavior where many implement tail risk mitigation strategies

**Key Point:**

Emotional reactions to range breaks often hurt returns. Use boundaries as context for staying disciplined when markets test your patience.

## 8 | Track Record

**Performance Since Launch:**

- S&P 500: 38 hits in 40 weeks (95.0%)
- Gold: 11 hits in 11 weeks (100%)
- REITs: 1 hit in 1 week (100%)

**What This Means:**

About 95% accuracy hitting weekly movement zones. The 5% misses often signal important market changes requiring range adjustments.

**Transparency:**

All ranges published before each week starts. No retroactive changes. Complete history available on our website.

## 9 | The Psychology Behind This

Markets move between fear and greed cycles. Most retail investors:

- Buy during excitement (often near range tops)
- Sell during panic (often near range bottoms)
- Miss the steady middle periods

This compass helps identify when emotions might be driving decisions rather than logical planning.

**Professional traders typically:**

- Maintain systematic approaches
- View range extremes as potential opportunity zones
- Avoid emotional reactions to daily noise
- Focus on risk management over market timing

**Your Approach:**

Whatever your strategy, these boundaries provide context for keeping emotions in check during volatile periods.

## 10 | Method and Limitations

**How Ranges Work:**

Combines current volatility patterns, trend direction, and momentum indicators. Targets ~95% weekly containment rate.

**What Can Go Wrong:**

- Markets change faster than ranges can adapt
- Unusual events create temporary breakouts
- Past accuracy doesn't guarantee future performance

**Post-Fed Meeting Environment:**

Rate decisions provide background context but don't drive range calculations. Systematic approach remains independent of policy speculation while acknowledging their market impact.

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**Questions About Your Situation:**

**Q: Should I buy at 6,750?**

A: This compass shows 6,750 sits in normal weekly range. Your specific actions depend entirely on your financial plan, timeline, and risk tolerance.

**Q: How do Fed cuts affect the ranges?**

A: Rate cuts provide background context for market behavior. Ranges adapt to resulting volatility patterns while maintaining systematic independence from policy speculation.

**Q: What about the REITs perfect start?**

A: One week provides encouraging calibration but expect occasional misses over time. REITs follow same systematic methodology as other assets.

**Q: Will central bank divergence create volatility?**

A: Fed easing while BoJ tightens creates cross-currents. Watch for range breaks as signals of unusual market behavior requiring extra caution.

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**Next Week:** Ranges for October 3 close

**Updates:** Quick social media notes if exceptional volatility occurs

*This is a hobby project providing market context. Not investment advice. Past performance doesn't guarantee future results. Consult qualified professionals for personal financial decisions.*

**Systematic over emotional. Structure over speculation.**