General Market Commentary

October ended as one of the worst months in history for global markets as no asset class except cash was immune from the market fallout. The US government passed a $700 billion bailout plan on Oct. 2nd to help ease the financial crisis. On Oct. 8th major central banks cut their respective key rates by 50 bps in a coordinated effort to stem the crisis. The US Federal Reserve cut rates an additional 50 bps at the end of the month, sending the key rate to 1.00%. Crude oil prices continued to fall from July’s record high of $146 per barrel, ending the month just under $68 per barrel.