

The logo for Wealth Strategies Group, LLC features the company name in a bold, black, serif font. To the left of the text is a vertical blue bar. Below the text is a horizontal red bar.

Wealth Strategies Group, LLC

The first week of 2024 is behind us and the markets did not fare well as the S&P 500 dropped 1.5%¹. They did try to make a comeback Friday, but it was not enough to erase the prior 3 days declines. On a high note, the did open up this week on Monday. This week we will begin to see corporate earnings statements released along with employment and inflation data.

Along with a new year, we also begin the tax season. 1099s, 1098s, W2s, and other documents will soon be forthcoming. 1099s from your investment companies usually don't come out until later in February so plan accordingly. Also, tax rates for 2024 have changed. The standard deduction is increasing from \$27,700 for married filing joint in 2023 to \$29,200 in 2024². Brackets are also increasing, the 22% tax bracket in 2023 began at \$44,726 in taxable income, in 2024 it begins at \$47,151². What do you do with this information? Have a conversation with your tax advisor and plan accordingly. If you're retired, you may be able take more out of your retirement accounts before breaking into a new bracket. Perhaps a Roth IRA conversion would be beneficial.

----Chuck

This Week's Inspiration/Activity:

"Most of the things worth doing in the world were said to be impossible before they were done."

Jurist, Louis Brandeis

Feeling overwhelmed by your New Year's resolution and feeling like you won't be successful? Your activity for this week is to revisit your goals and determine if they are worthwhile attaining. If so, don't be discouraged and put in some extra effort and dedication.

This Week in History:

January 13, 1968 -- Legendary country singer Johnny Cash arrives to play for inmates at California's Folsom Prison. The concert and the subsequent live album launched him back into the charts and re-defined his career³.

¹ see update below

² <https://static.fmgsuite.com/media/documents/069c81e5-c97e-48ce-83af-a7b28653d23d.pdf>

³ <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/johnny-cash-performs-at-folsom-prison-california>

MARKET INSIGHTS



January 8, 2024

Stocks retreated in the first trading week of 2024, struggling a bit after a celebratory end to last year as investors second-guessed Fed signals and fretted over lingering inflation concerns.

New Year Blues

Stocks got off to a rough first week of the new year, with tech names leading the week's decline. Several market observers called it the "reverse Goldilocks" effect, where the market decided investors were getting a little too excited over the prospect of a Fed rate cut. Stocks bounced up and down each of the four trading days but ended each one down—except Friday, when the Dow Industrials, Nasdaq Composite, and S&P 500 all ended the day in the green when jobs data helped soften the week's slide.^{1,2}

All About the Fed

On Wednesday, manufacturing news came in better than expected, lifting markets until the December Federal Open Market Committee meeting minutes were released, revealing that the Fed members had discussed rate cuts for 2024 but in no specific terms.

Jobs and services sector news painted a better picture of the economy on Thursday, but as the 10-year Treasury hit 4%, stock prices responded negatively.

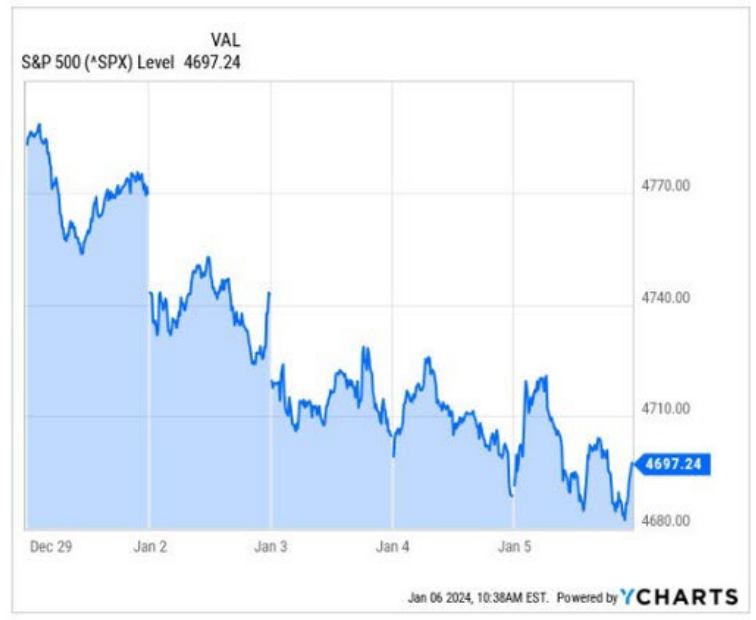
Source: YCharts.com, January 6, 2024. Weekly performance is measured from the close of trading on Friday, December 29, to Friday, January 5, close. Treasury note yield is expressed in basis points.

YCHARTS

Major Index Return Summary

Name	ROC 5	1M TR	YTD TR	1Y TR
Dow Jones Industrial Average	-0.65%	3.80%	-0.56%	16.25%
MSCIEAFE	-1.27%	4.19%	-1.26%	16.29%
Nasdaq Composite	-3.78%	2.13%	-3.23%	42.12%
S&P 500	-1.80%	2.97%	-1.50%	25.39%

S&P 500 Daily Close



10-Year Note Review

Indicator Name	Latest Value	1M Ago	1M Change
Date		3M Ago	3M Change
		1Y Ago	1Y Change
10 Year Treasury Rate	4.05%	4.18%	-3.11% ▼
01/05/24		4.72%	-14.19% ▼
		3.71%	9.16% ▲

Jobs Data in Focus

Finally, employment data helped buffer the week on Friday, as employers added 216,000 new jobs in December, besting estimates from economists and surpassing the 173,000 jobs added in November. News of unemployment remaining steady at 3.7% also helped sentiment.^{3,4}

This Week: Key Economic Data

Tuesday: International Trade in Goods.

Wednesday: EIA Petroleum Status Report.

Thursday: Jobless Claims. Consumer Price Index. Treasury Statement.

Friday: Producer Price Index.

Source: Investor's Business Daily, Econoday economic calendar; January 5, 2024

The Econoday economic calendar lists upcoming U.S. economic data releases (including key economic indicators), Federal Reserve policy meetings, and speaking engagements of Federal Reserve officials. The content is developed from sources believed to be providing accurate information. The forecasts or forward-looking statements are based on assumptions and may not materialize. The forecasts also are subject to revision.

This Week: Companies Reporting Earnings

Monday: Jefferies Financial Group (JEF)

Tuesday: Albertsons Companies (ACI)

Wednesday: KB Home (KBH), Rite Aid Corporation (RADCO)

Thursday: Infosys (INFY)

Friday: UnitedHealth Group Inc (UNH), JP Morgan Chase & Co (JPM), Bank of America Corporation (BAC), Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)

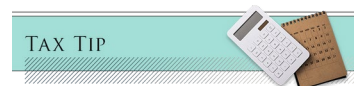
Source: Zacks, January 5, 2024

Companies mentioned are for informational purposes only. It should not be considered a solicitation for the purchase or sale of the securities. Investing involves risks, and investment decisions should be based on your own goals, time horizon, and tolerance for risk. The return and principal value of investments will fluctuate as market conditions change. When sold, investments may be worth more or less than their original cost. Companies may reschedule when they report earnings without notice.



"It is always a silly thing to give advice, but to give good advice is absolutely fatal."

– Oscar Wilde



Errors to Avoid When Filing Your Extended Tax Return

If you file an extension of your tax return, it's essential to avoid the common errors described below to submit a complete and accurate tax return:

- Missing or inaccurate Social Security number (SSN): Make sure your return has your correct SSN, matching what is on your Social Security card.

- Misspelled names: This may be a simple matter to look for, but mistakes happen. If you go by a name other than the one printed on your Social Security card, make sure you use the name on the card.
- Filing status: Claiming the wrong filing status can invalidate your return. Choose the correct option (electronic filing software can prevent mistakes). The interactive tax assistant tool can also help to determine your filing status and any relevant credits you should (or should not) claim.
- Math errors: Simple addition and subtraction mistakes can delay your return. Consider using electronic filing software that does the math automatically to avoid mistakes.
- Incorrect bank account information: If you opt to receive your refund via direct deposit, provide the correct bank account information. Giving an incorrect account number can delay your refund even further.
- Unsigned forms: Lastly, you should double-check that all sections of your forms are signed. Missing signatures can delay your return.

**This information is not intended to substitute for specific individualized tax advice. We suggest you discuss your specific tax issues with a qualified tax professional.*

Tip adapted from IRS.gov⁵



A Beginner's Guide to Juicing

Juicing is a fantastic way to get some extra fruits and veggies into your diet, especially on those busy days when you can't find time to make a nutritious meal. Plus, it's easy to start and reap the many benefits.

First, decide what kind of juicer you want. The two most common types are masticating and centrifugal juicers. Masticating juicers "chew" the food and are slower. Preparing the produce for these juicers takes longer because they can juice only small pieces, but you retain more nutrients. Centrifugal juicers are slightly more affordable, and juice with a spinning disk. You do less produce prep, but the juice doesn't have as many nutrients.

Next, you need to decide what to juice. You'll learn which fruits and veggies yield the most juice and which choices combine well with others, but here are two simple recipes to get you started:

Green Juice

Celery

Cucumber

Apple/pineapple/orange/lemon

Spinach/kale

Purple Juice

Beets (you can juice the green tops as well)

Kale

Carrots

You can add ginger, turmeric, or even garlic to give your juice extra flavor and kick.

Tip adapted from Live Simply Natural⁶

WEEKLY RIDDLE



It has avenues, rivers, and parks, but no grass, water, or asphalt. What is it?

Last week's riddle: Victor is assigned to paint suite numbers on doors at an office building with 100 suites, which will be numbered from 1 to 100. How many times will he have to paint the number 8? Answer: 20 times - 8, 18, 28, 38, 48, 58, 68, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 98.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



White Pelicans in the water at the Ding Darling Wildlife Reserve at Sanibel, Florida

Footnotes and Sources

1. The Wall Street Journal, January 5, 2024
2. The Wall Street Journal, January 5, 2024
3. The Wall Street Journal, January 5, 2024
4. The Wall Street Journal, January 5, 2024
5. IRS.gov, September 6, 2023
6. Livesimplynatural.com, October 9, 2023

Investing involves risks, and investment decisions should be based on your own goals, time horizon, and tolerance for risk. The return and principal value of investments will fluctuate as market conditions change. When sold, investments may be worth more or less than their original cost.

The forecasts or forward-looking statements are based on assumptions, may not materialize, and are subject to revision without notice.

The market indexes discussed are unmanaged, and generally, considered representative of their respective markets. Index performance is not indicative of the past performance of a particular investment. Indexes do not incur management fees, costs, and expenses. Individuals cannot directly invest in unmanaged indexes. Past performance does not guarantee future results. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is an unmanaged index that is generally considered representative of large-capitalization companies on the U.S. stock market. Nasdaq Composite is an index of the common stocks and similar securities listed on the NASDAQ stock market and is considered a broad indicator of the performance of technology and growth companies. The MSCI EAFE Index was created by Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) and serves as a benchmark of the performance of major international equity markets, as represented by 21 major MSCI indexes from Europe, Australia, and Southeast Asia. The S&P 500 Composite Index is an unmanaged group of securities that are considered to be representative of the stock market in general.

U.S. Treasury Notes are guaranteed by the federal government as to the timely payment of principal and interest. However, if you sell a Treasury Note prior to maturity, it may be worth more or less than the original price paid. Fixed income investments are subject to various risks including changes in interest rates, credit quality, inflation risk, market valuations, prepayments, corporate events, tax ramifications and other factors.

International investments carry additional risks, which include differences in financial reporting standards, currency exchange rates, political risks unique to a specific country, foreign taxes and regulations, and the potential for illiquid markets. These factors may result in greater share price volatility.

Please consult your financial professional for additional information.

This content is developed from sources believed to provide accurate information. The information in this material is not intended as tax or legal advice. Please consult legal or tax professionals for specific information regarding your individual situation. This material was developed and produced by FMG Suite to provide information on a topic that may be of interest. FMG is not affiliated with the named representative, financial professional, Registered Investment Advisor, Broker-Dealer, nor state- or SEC-registered investment advisory firm. The opinions expressed and material provided are for general information, and they should not be considered a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security.

Copyright 2024 FMG Suite.

Charles D. Vercellone,
Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC®)
Accredited Investment Fiduciary (AIF®)
Wealth Strategies Group, LLC
200 E Big Beaver, Troy MI 48083
248-680-4622
chuck@wsgllc.net
www.wsgllc.net/welcome

Fee Based Advisory Services through Sigma Planning Corporation, A Registered Investment Advisor
Securities Products and Services through Sigma Financial Corporation, Member FINRA/SIPC
Wealth Strategies Group, LLC is not affiliated with Sigma Planning Corp or Sigma Financial Corp