

*In this week's recap: Stocks end up higher and oil ends up lower after an up-and-down week, as traders react to events in the Middle East and the data in the December unemployment report.*

# Weekly Economic Update

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*Presented by RBF Wealth Advisors, January 13, 2020*

## THE WEEK ON WALL STREET

The market had a choppy five days, with traders reacting to geopolitical developments and weaker-than-expected jobs data. Even so, the three major U.S. equity indices posted weekly gains and continued their strong start to the new year. During Friday's trading session, the Dow Jones Industrial Average topped 29,000 for the first time.

Rising 1.75% for the week, the Nasdaq Composite outgained both the Dow (up 0.66%) and the S&P 500 (up 0.94%). The story for foreign stocks was different: the MSCI EAFE index declined 0.30%.<sup>1,2</sup>

## HOLIDAY HIRING NUMBERS

Wall Street was unimpressed by the latest jobs report from the Department of Labor. Employers added 145,000 net new workers in December; economists surveyed by Dow Jones had forecast a gain of 160,000. Wages grew less than 3% year-over-year for the first time in 17 months.

Unemployment remained at a 50-year low of 3.5%, however. The broader U-6 jobless rate, which also includes the underemployed, decreased to 6.7%, the lowest in 26 years of recordkeeping.<sup>3</sup>

## OIL PRICES DECLINE

The rally in crude oil spurred by strained U.S.-Iran relations ebbed this past week. At Friday's closing bell, WTI crude was worth \$59.04 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, down 6.36% for the week and 3.31% year-to-date.<sup>4</sup>

## WHAT'S AHEAD

A new earnings season starts Tuesday, with big banks leading off and reporting fourth-quarter results. Chinese Vice Premier Liu He will be in Washington, D.C., through Wednesday, and during his visit, he and President Trump are expected to sign the phase-one trade deal between the U.S. and China.<sup>5</sup>

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#### TIP OF THE WEEK



*When it comes to **naming an executor** for your estate, a **family member** or relative is **not your only option**. You can also name an **attorney** or a **corporate trustee** as your executor.*

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#### THE WEEK AHEAD: KEY ECONOMIC DATA

**Tuesday:** The December Consumer Price Index, providing a look at inflation last month and for all of 2019.

**Thursday:** December retail sales figures from the Department of Commerce.

**Friday:** The University of Michigan's preliminary January Consumer Sentiment Index, assessing consumer confidence levels from multiple angles.

Source: MarketWatch, January 10, 2020

The MarketWatch 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.

#### THE WEEK AHEAD: COMPANIES REPORTING EARNINGS

**Tuesday:** Citigroup (C), Delta Air Lines (DAL), JPMorgan Chase (JPM), Wells Fargo (WFC)

**Wednesday:** Bank of America (BAC), Goldman Sachs (GS), United Health (UNH), US Bancorp (USB)

**Thursday:** Morgan Stanley (MS)

**Friday:** Schlumberger (SLB)

Source: Zacks, January 10, 2020

Companies mentioned are for informational purposes only. It should not be considered a solicitation for the purchase or sale of the securities. Any investment should be consistent with your objectives, time frame and risk tolerance. 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.

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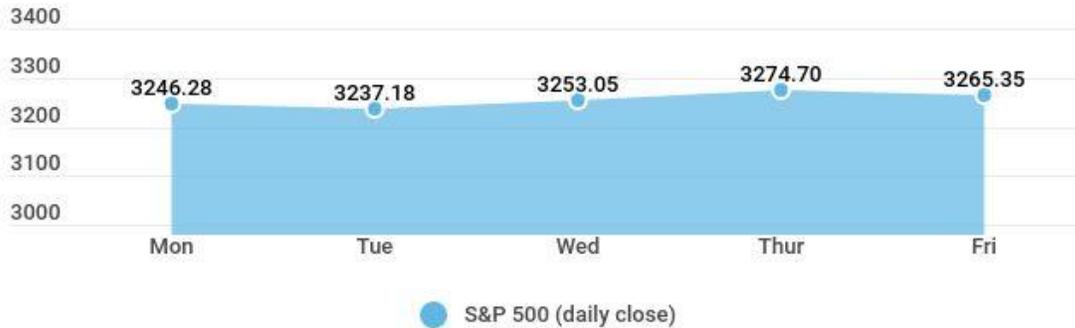
QUOTE OF THE WEEK



*“The man who says he is willing to meet you **halfway** is usually a poor judge of **distance**.”*

LAURENCE J. PETER

Market Index	Close	Week	Y-T-D
DJIA	28,823.77	+0.66%	+1.00%
NASDAQ	9,178.86	+1.75%	+2.30%
MSCI-EAFE	2,036.24	-0.30%	-0.03%
S&P 500	3,265.35	+0.94%	+1.07%



	Treasury	Close	Week	Y-T-D
	10-Year Note	1.83%	+0.03%	-0.09%

Sources: The Wall Street Journal, January 10, 2020; Treasury.gov, January 10, 2020

The market indexes discussed are unmanaged and generally considered representative of their respective markets. Individuals cannot directly invest in unmanaged indexes. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Weekly performance for the Dow Jones Industrial Average, Standard & Poor's 500 index, and NASDAQ Composite is measured from the close of trading on Friday, January 3 to the Friday, January 10 close. Weekly performance for the MSCI-EAFE is measured from the Friday, January 3 open to the Thursday, January 9 close. 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. Weekly and year-to-date 10-year Treasury note yield are expressed in basis points. 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.

## THE WEEKLY RIDDLE



*I can be used to build **castles**, but I **crumble** in your hands. I can help a man **see**, and am **found all around** the lands. What am I?*

*LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE: A couple took a trip to the Arctic Circle, and they were disappointed that they did not see any penguins. What didn't they realize about penguins?*

*ANSWER: They did not realize that almost all penguins live in the Southern Hemisphere.*

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RBF Wealth Advisors may be reached at 314-997-1652 or go online at [RBFadvisors.net](http://RBFadvisors.net)

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Please feel free to send us their contact information via phone or email. (Don't worry – we'll request their permission before adding them to our mailing list.)

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CITATIONS:

- 1 - [wsj.com/market-data](https://www.wsj.com/market-data) [1/10/20]
- 2 - [quotes.wsj.com/index/XX/MSCI%20GLOBAL/990300/historical-prices](https://quotes.wsj.com/index/XX/MSCI%20GLOBAL/990300/historical-prices) [1/10/20]
- 3 - [cnbc.com/2020/01/10/us-nonfarm-payrolls-december-2019.html](https://www.cnbc.com/2020/01/10/us-nonfarm-payrolls-december-2019.html) [1/10/20]
- 4 - [marketwatch.com/investing/future/crude%20oil%20-%20electronic](https://www.marketwatch.com/investing/future/crude%20oil%20-%20electronic) [12/3/20]
- 5 - [cnbc.com/2020/01/09/chinas-vice-premier-liu-to-sign-us-trade-deal-in-washington-next-week.html](https://www.cnbc.com/2020/01/09/chinas-vice-premier-liu-to-sign-us-trade-deal-in-washington-next-week.html) [1/9/20]

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