*In this week’s recap: China jolts the markets by devaluing the yuan, aggregate second-quarter earnings top analyst projections, and stocks* *retreat for the week.*

**Weekly Economic Update**



*Presented by Michael J. Levine, August 12, 2019*

**THE WEEK ON WALL STREET**

Stocks spent much of last week rebounding from a Monday drop that reflected nervousness about the U.S.-China trade fight. By Thursday’s closing bell, the S&P 500 had regained all its Monday losses, but it descended again on Friday.

The three big U.S. equity benchmarks finished the week lower: the S&P declined 0.46%; the Dow Jones Industrial Average, 0.75%; the Nasdaq Composite, 0.56%. A broad index of foreign shares, the MSCI EAFE, lost 0.95%.1,2

**China Devalues Its Currency**

Last Monday, stocks fell 3% in reaction to the overnight weakening of the Chinese yuan. A weaker yuan makes Chinese exports cheaper for buyers who pay for them in dollars.

Critics quickly accused China of manipulating its currency to strike back at the U.S. The federal government plans to impose tariffs on nearly all Chinese products next month, likely making those goods more expensive to American consumers; a weaker yuan could counter the effect of those import taxes.”3,4

**Earnings Season Update**

Ninety percent of S&P 500 firms have now reported second-quarter results. Their collective sales and profits have surprised to the upside.

Stock market analytics firm FactSet says that overall earnings have beaten estimates by 5.7%. Seventy-five percent of firms have reported actual earnings per share surpassing estimates, which is better than the five-year average.5

**FINAL THOUGHT**

We are seeing a significant bond rally this summer, even with interest rates at very low levels. (When bond prices rise, bond yields tend to fall.) At the moment, about a quarter of the global bond market is invested in government notes with negative interest rates. The 10-year Treasury stands in contrast. Friday, it was yielding 1.74%.6,7



T I P O F T H E W E E K



*If you think you need to* ***save more*** *for* ***retirement****, think about saving at a rate that is slightly above your “comfort zone.” This calls for some financial* ***discipline*** *and* ***dedication****, but your future self may thank you years from now.*



**THE WEEK AHEAD: KEY ECONOMIC DATA**

**Tuesday:** The July Consumer Price Index appears, reporting the country’s monthly and annual rate of inflation.

**Thursday:** July retail sales numbers from the Census Bureau.

**Friday:** The initial August University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index presents the latest snapshot of household confidence in the economy.

Source: Econoday / MarketWatch Calendar, August 9, 2019

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 release of data may be delayed without notice for a variety of reasons.

**THE WEEK AHEAD: COMPANIES REPORTING EARNINGS**

**Monday:** Sysco (SYY)

**Wednesday:** Cisco (CSCO)

**Thursday:** Alibaba (BABA), Applied Materials (AMAT), Nvidia (NVDA), Walmart (WMT)

**Friday:** Deere & Co. (DE)

Source: Zacks.com, August 9, 2019

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.



Q U O T E O F T H E W E E K



*“****Dignity*** *does not come in* ***possessing*** *honors, but in* ***deserving*** *them.”*

*ARISTOTLE*







T H E W E E K L Y R I D D L E



*You write the word* **one** *on a piece of paper. An observer tells you she can make* one***disappear*** *by* ***adding*** *something to it. Is this true, and how can she do it?*

*LAST WEEK’S RIDDLE: What two things will you never be able to eat at dinner?*

*ANSWER: Breakfast and lunch.*



**Know someone who could use information like this?**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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4 - bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-08-05/china-hits-back-at-trump-with-weaker-yuan-halt-on-crop-imports [8/5/19]

5 - insight.factset.com/earnings-season-update-august-9-2019 [8/9/19]

6 - cnbc.com/2019/08/07/how-bonds-with-negative-yields-work-and-why-this-growing-phenomenon-is-so-bad-for-the-economy.html [8/7/19]

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