



The images seemed implausible. American citizens, so distrustful of their democratic government, invaded the US Capitol building early last Wednesday afternoon (1/06/21). The resulting mayhem led to 5 deaths and forced the Senate to seek safety for just short of 6 hours before the lawmakers reconvened after 8pm ET. Seven hours later they completed the confirmation of President-elect Biden's November win at 3:44am ET. Washington has 9 days to prepare for a presidential inauguration that as a result of the 2020 pandemic, was already going to play out different than any other in US history. Now even more so (source: BTN Research).

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note closed above 1% last Wednesday for the first time in nearly 10 months as both Senate run-off races in Georgia flipped for the Democratic challenger. The Washington trifecta - control of the White House, the Senate and the House by a single political party - increases the chances of additional stimulus coming from our national lawmakers. More government spending means more borrowing and more "digital creation" of new money, actions that may push the cost of money higher for Uncle Sam. The potential upshot of additional government spending - inflation, almost a forgotten concept in America today (source: BTN Research).

The hits just keep on coming - the S&P 500 finished the week with back-to-back record closes. Nothing seemingly has gotten in the way of higher stock prices - not a pandemic, not a contentious presidential campaign, and not last week's lawlessness at the US Capitol building (source: BTN Research).

Notable Numbers for the Week:

1. **FIFTY-FIFTY** - The **political split** in the Senate today is **technically not 50-50**, but rather is 50 Republicans, 48 Democrats and 2 Independents **who caucus with the Democrats**, effectively making it a **50-50 split**. The last time the Senate was **split 50-50** was in 2001, George W. Bush's **first year in office** (source: Senate).
2. **GOT A LOWER RATE** - Through 9/30/20, **65% of the mortgages that were originated** in the United States YTD **were refis** of existing mortgages (source: Inside Mortgage Finance).
3. **YOU THINK IT'S THIS EASY EVERY YEAR?** - More **new brokerage accounts** (an estimated **10 million**) were opened during calendar year 2020 than in **any other year in US history** (source: JMP Securities).



4. **OLD AND THE YOUNG** - 81% of COVID-19 deaths nationwide as of 12/30/20 were Americans at least age 65. Just 1% of COVID-19 deaths nationwide as of 12/30/20 were Americans under the age of 35 (source: National Center for Health Statistics).

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