



Hopes of a Covid vaccine from Pfizer, sooner rather than later, fueled the markets last week, sending the DJIA and S&P 500 to new heights, the S&P 400 closed up 2.16% for the week (+10.97% YTD)<sup>1</sup>. Hopes soared again on Monday as Moderna announced results of their vaccine trial showing a 94.5% effective rate in trials. The markets moved higher on the news with the DJIA up 192.55 points at open<sup>2</sup>. On the downside, states are looking at re-enacting restrictions and business closures to fight the uptick in infections.

Michigan announced 3-weeks of increased restrictions to gatherings and shut down high schools, colleges, bowling alleys, theaters, and in-person dining effective Wednesday of this week. Hopefully, we can get a handle on the outbreak and avoid month-long shutdowns again.

----Chuck

**This Week's Inspiration/Activity:**

***"Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it."  
Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)***

***Your activity for this week is to "get busy" on one of your goals that has languished.***

**This Week in History - I posted this one a few years back but with the current state of discord I thought it appropriate to repeat it.**

***November 19, 1863 -- President Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address as he dedicated a national cemetery at the site of the Civil War battlefield in Pennsylvania<sup>3</sup>.***

***---- From the movie "Remember the Titans" ----This is where they fought the battle of Gettysburg. Fifty thousand men died right here on this field, fighting the same fight that we are still fighting among ourselves today. This green field right here, painted red, bubblin' with the blood of young boys. Smoke and hot lead pouring right through their bodies. Listen to their souls, men. I killed my brother with malice in my heart. Hatred destroyed my family. You listen, and you take a lesson from the dead. If we don't come together right now on this hallowed ground, we too will be destroyed, just like they were. I don't care if you like each other or not, but you will respect each other. And maybe... I don't know, maybe we'll learn to play this game like men.***

<sup>1</sup> See update below

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-stocks/wall-street-rises-at-open-as-moderna-says-vaccine-94-5-effective-idUSKBN27W1CC>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/lincoln-delivers-gettysburg-address>

*In this week's recap: A COVID-19 vaccine spurs a stock market rally, even as more cases are reported and some areas renew lockdowns.*

# Weekly Economic Update

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*Presented by Charles D. Vercellone, ChFC, November 16, 2020*

## THE WEEK ON WALL STREET

News of a COVID-19 vaccine ignited a rally in economically sensitive stocks and a broad retreat in technology companies last week, though enthusiasm was tempered by reports of rising new infections and fresh lockdowns.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average surged 4.08%, while the Standard & Poor's 500 rose 2.16%. The Nasdaq Composite index fell 0.55% for the week. The MSCI EAFE index, which tracks developed overseas stock markets, jumped 4.01%.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

## VACCINE HOPES

Reports of an effective COVID-19 vaccine sent stocks soaring on Monday as the end to economic uncertainty appeared to be in sight. Stocks that had been pummeled by economic lockdowns surged on the news, while the stay-at-home stocks suffered steep declines. Bond yields and oil prices both moved higher on expectations of increased economic activity.

Market enthusiasm evaporated in the days that followed, however, as higher COVID-19 infections, new lockdowns, and low expectations for a new fiscal stimulus package dampened the optimism brought on by the pending vaccine.

Stocks closed the week on a higher note, with cyclical stocks adding to their gains and technology companies shaving part of their losses.

## CLOUDS OVER CHINESE CAPITALISM?

The market was caught by surprise last week when Chinese regulatory authorities issued draft guidelines to address concerns over abusive monopolistic practices. Shares in some of the biggest Chinese technology companies dropped on the news. This follows the prior week's suspension of a listing of a large initial public offering for one of the country's leading fintech companies.

It's difficult to say whether Chinese regulators are acting on concerns that western nations have with the dominance of Big Tech companies, or if they are attempting to rein in the power and influence of privately owned corporations. An answer may not be clear anytime soon, but investors will be watching.

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## TIP OF THE WEEK



*Adult children may ask you to help them out with business financing or a down payment on a property. While it's tempting to say yes, it's may be best to determine if your personal finances can handle it.*

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### THE WEEK AHEAD: KEY ECONOMIC DATA

**Tuesday:** Retail Sales.

**Wednesday:** Housing Starts.

**Thursday:** Existing Home Sales, Jobless Claims, Index of Leading Economic Indicators.

Source: Econoday, November 13, 2020

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.

### THE WEEK AHEAD: COMPANIES REPORTING EARNINGS

**Monday:** Palo Alto Networks (PANW), Tyson Foods, Inc. (TSN), JD.com, Inc. (JD).

**Tuesday:** Walmart (WMT), The Home Depot (HD).

**Wednesday:** Nvidia Corp. (NVDA), Target Corp. (TGT), Lowe's Companies (LOW), The TJX Companies (TJX).

**Thursday:** Workday, Inc. (WDAY), Ross Stores (ROST), Intuit (INTU), Netease, Inc. (NTES).

Source: Zacks, November 13, 2020

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.

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

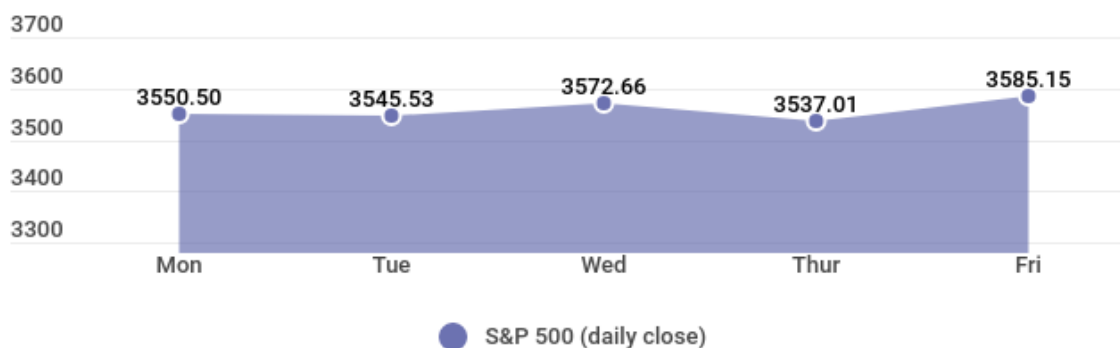



*“What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly.”*

THOMAS PAINE

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Market Index	Close	Week	Y-T-D
DJIA	29,479.81	+4.08%	+3.30%
NASDAQ	11,829.29	-0.55%	+31.84%
MSCI-EAFE	2,001.32	+4.01%	-1.75%
S&P 500	3,585.15	+2.16%	+10.97%



	Treasury	Close	Week	Y-T-D
	10-Year Note	0.88%	+0.05%	-1.04%

Sources: The Wall Street Journal, November 13, 2020; Treasury.gov, November 13, 2020

Weekly performance for the Dow Jones Industrial Average, Standard & Poor's 500 Index, and NASDAQ Composite Index is measured from the close of trading on Friday, November 6, to Friday, November 13, close. Weekly performance for the MSCI-EAFE is measured from Friday, November 6, open to the Thursday, November 12, close. Weekly and year-to-date 10-year Treasury note yield are expressed in basis points.

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## THE WEEKLY RIDDLE



*A rooster sits atop a farmhouse. Its roof is unequally pitched. One half slopes down at an angle of 60°, and the other half at 70°. If the rooster lays an egg right on the peak of the roof, on which side is the egg more likely to fall?*

*LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE: Two-and-a-half artists spend two-and-a-half hours painting two-and-a-half models on two-and-a-half canvases. How many artists would be necessary to paint 24 models on 24 canvases in 20 hours?*

*ANSWER: This would only require three artists. 24 artists can paint 24 models in 2.5 hours. Since the time available has increased by eight ( $20 = 8 * 2.5$ ), then you can reduce the number of artists by the same amount ( $3 = 24 / 8$ ).*

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### **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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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.

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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.

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CITATIONS:

1. The Wall Street Journal, November 13, 2020
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