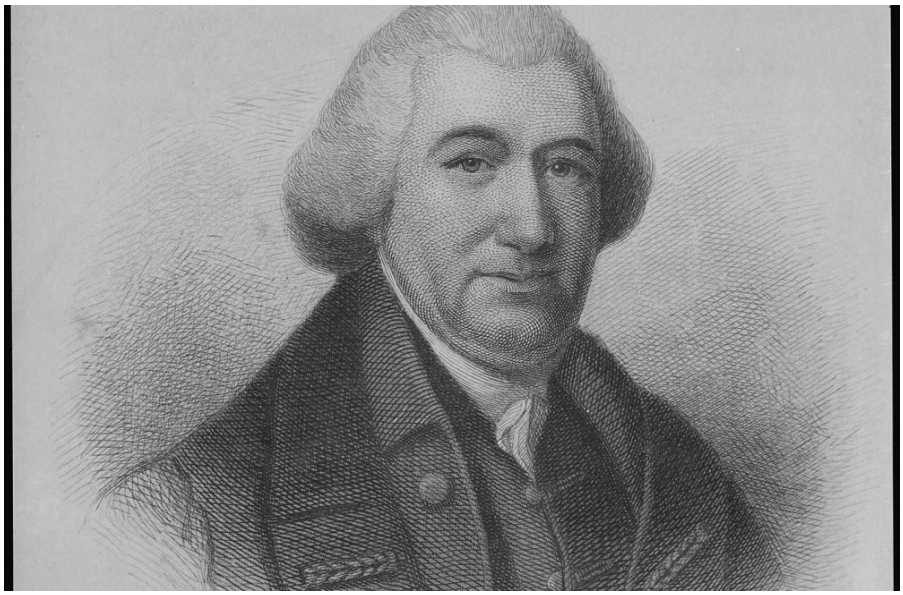
EVERETT FINANCIAL GROUP

Weekly Commentary

September 23, 2019



First President

George Washington is revered as the Father of Our Country. He was not, however, our first president elected under the Constitution, taking office in 1789. But the United States came together as a nation years before the Constitution was enacted. In 1781, when the last of the thirteen colonies ratified the Articles of Confederation, the new country was officially brought into being.

Shortly thereafter, Congress unanimously elected John Hanson of Maryland as the first president of the United States. His full title was actually "president of the United States in Congress assembled. "Congress voted to provide the new president with a house and servants, and ruled that he "takes precedence of all and every person in the United States."

Hanson served only a year and is now largely forgotten, but at the time, a colleague wrote: "I congratulate your Excellency on your appointment to fill the most important seat in the United States."

That letter was signed by none other than George Washington.

The Articles of Confederation were, in a sense, the first constitution. They became the law of

the land on March, 1, 1781, a date that could be considered the country's birthday. They were in effect for nearly eight years, a period of time often forgotten in American history.

Under Hanson's leadership, Congress established the Treasury department, adopted the Great Seal of the United States (still in use today), and declared the fourth Thursday of every November "a day of Thanksgiving."

The Greatest Stories Never Told

Weekly Market Commentary
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The Markets

There's a new theory in town.

Renowned economist Robert Shiller's new book suggests investors may be able to predict and prepare for economic events by tracking popular stories.

Applying the theory might have been a challenge last week. There were so many stories with potential to move markets and affect the economy it was difficult to guess which would be the most influential.

In the end, on-again-off-again trade negotiations provided the spark that drove markets lower. *Barron's* explained:

> "The S&P 500 would have finished flat for the week - except it decided to drop 0.5 percent after reports that China had canceled a visit to Montana hit the newswires...That's not what we would have expected, given all of the week's excitement. Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure was attacked. The Federal Reserve cut interest rates by a quarter-point. U.S. money markets went crazy and forced the Fed to intervene, setting off comparisons to the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008. And, yet, a Montana junket was the ultimate determinant of whether the market finished up or down."

On Saturday, reports from U.S. trade representatives and China's state-run news agency emphasized trade discussions were 'constructive' and 'productive' and would continue in October, reported *The New York Times*.

Last week, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell mentioned trade wars 20 times in his news conference, reported *The Wall Street Journal*. "Other geopolitical risks figured less prominently or not at all. Mr. Powell mentioned Brexit once, and tensions in Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia didn't come up."

The Fed chair emphasized the Fed is using the tools at its disposal to support demand and counteract economic weakness. However, it has no way to resolve trade issues. He pointed out uncertainty about trade has reduced business investment across the United States and could hurt economic growth.

Until an agreement is reached, stories told about U.S.-China trade issues are likely to remain influential.

Data as of 9/20/19	1-Week	Y-T-D	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Standard & Poor's 500 (Domestic Stocks)	-0.5%	19.4%	2.1%	11.8%	8.3%	10.9%

Dow Jones Global ex-U.S.	-0.2	10.5	-2.9	4.5	0.5	2.4
10-year Treasury Note (Yield Only)	1.8	NA	3.1	1.7	2.6	3.5
Gold (per ounce)	-0.1	17.2	24.3	4.6	4.4	4.2
Bloomberg Commodity Index	0.6	3.2	-5.6	-2.1	-7.8	-4.5

S&P 500, Dow Jones Global ex-US, Gold, Bloomberg Commodity Index returns exclude reinvested dividends (gold does not pay a dividend) and the three-, five-, and 10-year returns are annualized; and the 10-year Treasury Note is simply the yield at the close of the day on each of the historical time periods.

Sources: Yahoo! Finance, MarketWatch, djindexes.com, London Bullion Market Association.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Indices are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly. N/A means not applicable.

WHAT'S YOUR GIG? In a 2018 issue of the*Harvard Business Review*, an independent consultant compared working in the gig economy (a labor market characterized by the prevalence of short-term contracts or freelance work as opposed to permanent jobs) to being a trapeze artist. Independent work requires concentration and discipline. There is a stomach-dropping void between assignments and exhilaration when a new assignment is landed.

When you consider the risks of gig work, it's remarkable so many people work independently. About 20 to 30 percent of the working population in the United States and Western Europe are gig workers, according to the *McKinsey Global Institute*.

People work independently for a variety of reasons. Forty-four percent derive their primary income from gig work (although 14 percent of these people would prefer traditional employment). Fifty-six percent earn supplemental income from independent work (16 percent of these people are financially strapped).

The most popular gigs, according to *appjobs*, are:

- Delivery work
- Freelance work (editing, translating, photography, art, copywriting, design, and consulting)
- Pet sitting
- Cleaning
- Driving

The most lucrative gigs include:

- Massage therapy
- Freelance work
- Home cooking
- Teaching
- Delivery work

The gig economy is growing. However, there are issues that make it less attractive, such as lack of benefits, income insecurity, and lack of training and credentialing. These issues may create opportunities for entrepreneurs.

Weekly Focus - Think About It

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go..."
--Dr. Seuss, American children's author

Best Regards,

Brian Everett
Certified Financial Planner™
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Complimentary Consultation For Your Referral

The highest compliment you can give us is the referral of your family and friends. Your referrals are always welcome. Refer someone to us today and give them the gift of a complimentary consultation!

Sources:
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P.S. Please feel free to forward this commentary to family, friends, or colleagues. If you would like us to add them to the list, please reply to this e-mail with their e-mail address and we will ask for their permission to be added.

* Government bonds and Treasury Bills are guaranteed by the U.S. government as to the timely payment of principal and interest and, if held to maturity, offer a fixed rate of return and fixed principal value. However, the value of fund shares is not guaranteed and will fluctuate.
* Corporate bonds are considered higher risk than government bonds but normally offer a higher yield and are subject to market, interest rate and credit risk as well as additional risks based on the quality of issuer coupon rate, price, yield, maturity, and redemption features.
* The Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500) is an unmanaged group of securities considered to be representative of the stock market in general. You cannot invest directly in this index.
* All indexes referenced are unmanaged. Unmanaged index returns do not reflect fees, expenses, or sales charges. Index performance is not indicative of the performance of any investment.
* The Dow Jones Global ex-U.S. Index covers approximately 95% of the market capitalization of the 45 developed and emerging countries included in the Index.
* The 10-year Treasury Note represents debt owed by the United States Treasury to the public. Since the U.S. Government is seen as a risk-free borrower, investors use the 10-year Treasury Note as a benchmark for the long-term bond market.
* Gold represents the afternoon gold price as reported by the London Bullion Market Association. The gold price is set twice daily by the London Gold Fixing Company at 10:30 and 15:00 and is expressed in U.S. dollars per fine troy ounce.
* The Bloomberg Commodity Index is designed to be a highly liquid and diversified benchmark for the commodity futures market. The Index is composed of futures contracts on 19 physical commodities and was launched on July 14, 1998.
* The DJ Equity All REIT Total Return Index measures the total return performance of the equity subcategory of the Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) industry as calculated by Dow Jones.
* Yahoo! Finance is the source for any reference to the performance of an index between two specific periods.
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* Consult your financial professional before making any investment decision.