



The markets were down much of last week prior to a rally on Friday, the S&P 500 fell 0.63% for the week<sup>1</sup>. Positive news on a possible vaccine sooner rather than later contributed to the rally.

As noted last week, I have spent much of the past few weeks talking with clients about changes to the investment mix due to concerns between now and year end. My main concerns revolve around a combined Flu/Covid season and the upcoming election. Increased economic pressure due to a spike in hospitalizations and/or expectations of a tax increase (especially capital gains taxes) could put downward pressure on the markets. These are just a couple of good reasons to have a conversation with your investment professional about your accounts and plans. Please take some time to have a discussion.

A bit of sunshine this past weekend: We saw temps in the 80's here along with a good deal of sunshine before a cold front rolled in over Michigan this week. Add to that a last second win by the Lions breaking an 11-game losing streak and all was right with the world (Covid notwithstanding). As we head into October, I am wondering how one of my favorite holidays will work – Halloween. As I have noted in the past, my house is the scary house on the street with fog machines, spooky sounds, and decorations. The local kids do look forward to it. Will I be able to do the same this year? Will it be cancelled? I assume at the very least the number of kids will dwindle as concerns about collecting candy door-to-door will have many parents keeping the kids at-home.

----Chuck

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

***"The period of greatest gain in knowledge and experience is the most difficult period in one's life."***

***The Dalai Lama***

***Your activity for this week is to look for the knowledge and experience that you gained dealing with 2020 so the entire year will not be a waste***

**This Week in History**

***October 1, 1908 -- The first production Model T Ford is completed at the company's Piquette Avenue plant in Detroit. Between 1908 and 1927, Ford would build some 15 million Model T cars. It was the longest production run of any automobile model in history until the Volkswagen Beetle surpassed it in 1972<sup>2</sup>.***

<sup>1</sup> See update below

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/ford-motor-company-unveils-the-model-t>

*In this week's recap: Stocks have a mixed reaction to ongoing uncertainty; additional fiscal stimulus on hold.*

# Weekly Economic Update

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*Presented by Charles D. Vercellone, ChFC, September 28, 2020*

## THE WEEK ON WALL STREET

Stocks were mixed last week as worries that stretched from Washington D.C., where prospects of a new fiscal stimulus bill dimmed, to Europe, which saw an increase of new COVID-19 cases. The Dow Jones Industrial Average declined 1.75%, while the Standard & Poor's 500 fell 0.63%. The Nasdaq Composite index gained 1.11% for the week. The MSCI EAFE index, which tracks developed overseas stock markets, slumped 4.20%.<sup>1-3</sup>

## LATE FRIDAY RALLY PARES LOSSES

Dwindling chances of a federal fiscal stimulus, pre-election jitters, and worries over a second wave of coronavirus infections in Europe weighed heavily on investors.

The weakness in technology persisted. The Department of Justice proposal to curb legal protections for internet companies and require them to take greater responsibility for the content on their sites adding to that sector's woes.<sup>4</sup>

Energy stocks were also hit hard on concerns of a slowdown in economic growth hurting oil demand.

The week wasn't entirely absent of good news. Investors focused on reports of new progress in developing a vaccine and the passage in the House of Representatives of a bipartisan continuing resolution bill to fund the government through December 11th.<sup>5</sup>

Absent any apparent catalyst, stocks rallied in the final days of the week, cutting losses on major indices and powering the NASDAQ Composite to a weekly gain.

## FISCAL STIMULUS ON LIFE SUPPORT

Market hopes for an additional fiscal stimulus bill, which were already fading, suffered another setback as events in Washington, D.C., appeared to make it more unlikely that lawmakers and the president could come together to fashion a compromise spending bill.

Many economists and market observers, along with Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, believe that further spending may be needed to maintain the momentum of the current economic recovery.

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## TIP OF THE WEEK



*Applying for a mortgage online could save you some money in terms of closing costs, origination fees and interest rates as the online application cost is less for the lender to bear.*

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### THE WEEK AHEAD: KEY ECONOMIC DATA

**Tuesday:** Consumer Confidence Index.

**Wednesday:** ADP (Automated Data Processing) Report. Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

**Thursday:** Jobless Claims.

**Friday:** Employment Situation. Factory Orders.

Source: Econoday, September 25, 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

**Tuesday:** Micron Technologies (MU), McCormick (MKC).

**Thursday:** Constellation Brands (STZ), Pepsico (PEP), Conagra Brands (CAG).

Source: Zacks, September 25, 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

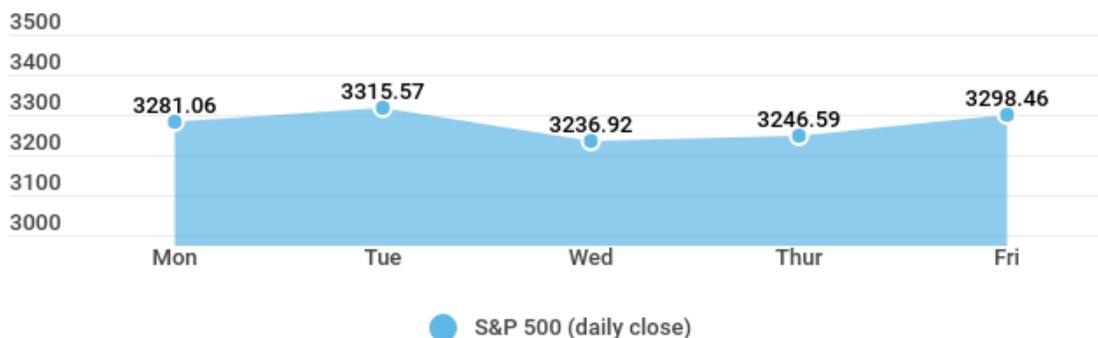


*“Live out of your imagination, not your history.”*

*DR. STEPHEN COVEY*

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| Market Index | Close     | Week   | Y-T-D   |
|--------------|-----------|--------|---------|
| DJIA         | 27,173.96 | -1.75% | -4.78%  |
| NASDAQ       | 10,913.56 | +1.11% | +21.63% |
| MSCI-EAFE    | 1,830.90  | -4.20% | -10.12% |
| S&P 500      | 3,298.46  | -0.63% | +2.09%  |



|   | Treasury     | Close | Week   | Y-T-D  |
|---|--------------|-------|--------|--------|
|  | 10-Year Note | 0.66% | -0.04% | -1.26% |

Sources: The Wall Street Journal, September 25, 2020; Treasury.gov, September 25, 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, September 18, to Friday, September 25, close. Weekly performance for the MSCI-EAFE is measured from Friday, September 18, open to the Thursday, September 24, close. Weekly and year-to-date 10-year Treasury note yield are expressed in basis points.

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## THE WEEKLY RIDDLE



*A supermarket sign says you can buy energy bars at \$12 a dozen. At that price, how much would it cost you to buy 100 energy bars?*

*LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE: A family has a mother, father, and four daughters. Each daughter has one brother. How many people are in the family?*

*ANSWER: Seven people - each of the daughters have one brother, there is not one brother for each daughter.*

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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.

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. Fixed income investments are subject to various risks including changes in interest rates, credit quality, inflation risk, market valuations, prepayments, corporate events, tax ramifications and other factors.

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, September 25, 2020
2. The Wall Street Journal, September 25, 2020
3. The Wall Street Journal, September 25, 2020
4. The Wall Street Journal September 23, 2020
5. CNN.com, September 22, 2020

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The Wall Street Journal, September 25, 2020  
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