

In this week's recap: Markets react to growing COVID-19 infections and potential successor to Powell.

Weekly Economic Update

Presented by Mary Ahearn, CFP®, November 22, 2021

THE WEEK ON WALL STREET

Stocks were mixed last week in choppy trading as investors battled the crosscurrents of good economic data and a troubling rise in COVID-19 infections globally.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average slid 1.38%, while the Standard & Poor's 500 added 0.32%. The Nasdaq Composite index gained 1.24% for the week. The MSCI EAFE index, which tracks developed overseas stock markets, dropped 0.59%.^{1,2,3}

TRADING UNCERTAINTY

A healthy retail sales report, falling jobless claims, positive earnings surprises, and strong manufacturing data lent support to stock prices, but investor sentiment was dampened by several concerns.

Chief among these worries are a resurgence of COVID-19 infections this winter and the impact inflation may have on consumer confidence and corporate profit margins. The uncertainty surrounding the renomination of Fed Chair Powell exacerbated this unease; a decision from President Biden may come soon. Technology and other high-growth companies led the market, while some of the reopening stocks, such as travel and energy, lagged.

RETAIL SALES JUMP

October retail sales increased 1.7%, indicating that consumers may be more confident than recent surveys have suggested. Sales of electronics, appliances, and autos were particularly strong last month.⁴

The market cheered the report, interpreting the results as a sign that inflation has not discouraged Americans from buying the products and services they want or need. This retail sales number, however, may be overstated for two reasons. First, higher prices increase the level of

sales even if consumer demand is flat. Second, spending may have been pulled forward by consumer worries over higher future prices and concerns that goods may not be available during the holiday shopping season.

FINAL THOUGHT

We want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving, full of family, fun, and joy.

On this special day of gratitude, we would also like to express our appreciation to you for extending us the privilege of serving you this year and helping you pursue your important financial goals.

TIP OF THE WEEK



Avoid visiting ATMs alone at night, and never count your money at one. If an outside ATM seems lonely, try a well-lit ATM in a 24-hour grocery or drug store instead.

THE WEEK AHEAD: KEY ECONOMIC DATA

Monday: Existing Home Sales.

Tuesday: Composite PMI (Purchasing Managers' Index) Flash.

Wednesday: Jobless Claims. Durable Goods Orders. Gross Domestic Product (GDP). New Home Sales. Consumer Sentiment. Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) Minutes.

Source: Econoday, November 19, 2021

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: Zoom Video Communications, Inc. (ZM).

Tuesday: Best Buy Co., Inc. (BBY), Dollar Tree, Inc. (DLTR), Dell Technologies, Inc. (DELL), Autodesk, Inc. (ADSK), Analog Devices, Inc. (ADI).

Wednesday: Deere & Company (DE).

Source: Zacks, November 19, 2021

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.

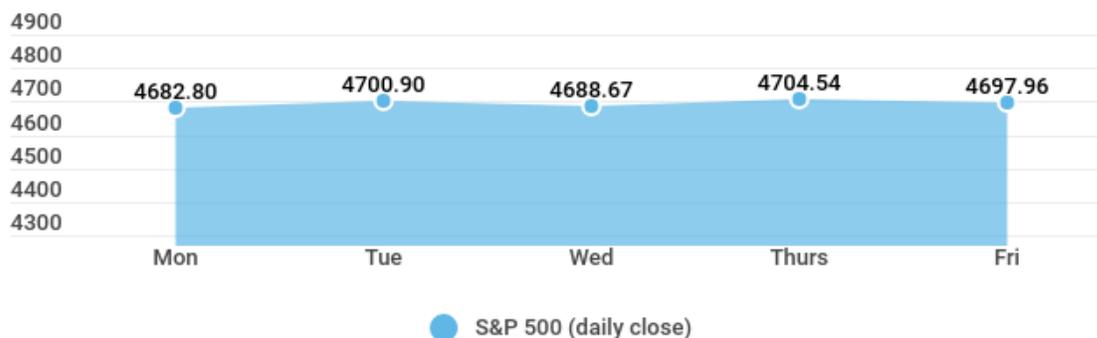
QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“The emblem of a philosophy is not that it contains a set of specific thoughts, but that it generates a way of thinking.”

SAMUEL R. DELANY

Market Index	Close	Week	Y-T-D
DJIA	35,601.98	-1.38%	+16.32%
NASDAQ	16,057.44	+1.24%	+24.59%
MSCI-EAFE	2,350.30	-0.59%	+9.44%
S&P 500	4,697.96	+0.32%	+25.08%



	Treasury	Close	Week	Y-T-D
	10-Year Note	1.54%	-0.04%	+0.61%

Sources: The Wall Street Journal, November 19, 2021; Treasury.gov, November 19, 2021
 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 12, to Friday, November 19, close. Weekly performance for the MSCI-EAFE is measured from Friday, November 12, open to Thursday, November 18, close. Weekly and year-to-date 10-year Treasury note yield are expressed in basis points.

THE WEEKLY RIDDLE



The Cage family has a mother, father, and six sons, and each son has one sister. So, how many people are in this family?

LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE: An interesting occurrence happened about 25 minutes before 1 p.m. on May 6, 1978, involving numbers on the clock and months and years on the calendar. What was this numerically interesting moment?

ANSWER: Early that afternoon, the time and date read 12:34 on 5/6/78.

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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, November 19, 2021
2. The Wall Street Journal, November 19, 2021
3. The Wall Street Journal, November 19, 2021
4. CNBC, November 16, 2021