

In this week's recap: Delta variant continues to concern the markets; labor market shows positive signs.

Weekly Economic Update

Presented by Mary Ahearn, CFP®, September 13, 2021

THE WEEK ON WALL STREET

In a quiet week of news, stocks moved lower amid simmering concerns over the Delta variant's effect on the progress of economic reopening.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average declined 2.15%, while the Standard & Poor's 500 dropped 1.69%. The Nasdaq Composite index fell 1.61% for the week. The MSCI EAFE index, which tracks developed overseas stock markets, slipped 0.63%.^{1,2,3}

STOCKS WEAKEN

In a holiday-shortened week of trading, markets were choppy as investors grew cautious in the face of a potential Fed tapering decision later this month and the impact of Delta on the economic recovery.

What little news there was, it was decidedly mixed. Job growth showed real strength coming off a shaky employment report the previous Friday, while the Producer Price Index surged by 8.3% year-over-year, representing the largest annual increase since November 2010. The release reminded investors that inflation remained a market risk. Stocks tried to stage a rebound on Friday before sagging to close out the week.

JOBS IMPROVEMENT

After a disappointing employment report, two labor market reports last week appeared to show that the labor market recovery appeared intact. The JOLTS report (Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey) showed 10.9 million open jobs, a number that exceeded the number of unemployed by more than two million. The rate of hiring, however, decelerated, perhaps explaining why the August employment report fell short of expectations.⁴

A day later the weekly initial jobless claims fell to a new pandemic low of 310,000, coming in below its four-week moving average of 339,500. Continuing claims fell to their lowest level since March 14, 2020.⁵

TIP OF THE WEEK



Your will, trust, and powers of attorney should be reviewed regularly, once a year if possible. Time can alter priorities and intentions.

THE WEEK AHEAD: KEY ECONOMIC DATA

Tuesday: Consumer Price Index.

Wednesday: Industrial Production.

Thursday: Jobless Claims. Retail Sales.

Friday: Consumer Sentiment.

Source: Econoday, September 10, 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: Lennar Corporation (LEN).

Source: Zacks, September 10, 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.

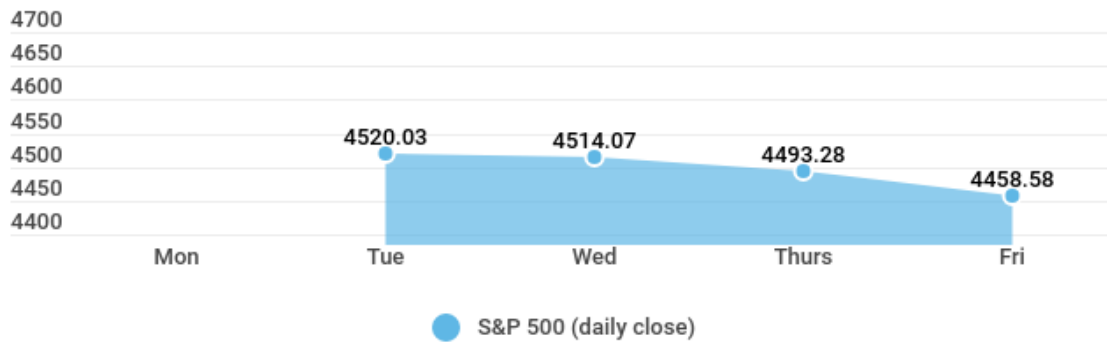
QUOTE OF THE WEEK




“Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work.”

ARISTOTLE

Market Index	Close	Week	Y-T-D
DJIA	34,607.72	-2.15%	+13.07%
NASDAQ	15,115.49	-1.61%	+17.28%
MSCI-EAFE	2,374.46	-0.63%	+10.57%
S&P 500	4,458.58	-1.69%	+18.70%



	Treasury	Close	Week	Y-T-D
	10-Year Note	1.33%	+0.00%	+0.40%

Sources: The Wall Street Journal, September 10, 2021; Treasury.gov, September 10, 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, September 3, to Friday, September 10, close. Weekly performance for the MSCI-EAFE is measured from Friday, September 3, open to Thursday, September 9, close. Weekly and year-to-date 10-year Treasury note yield are expressed in basis points.

THE WEEKLY RIDDLE



You can easily touch me, but not see me. You can throw me out, but not away. What am I?

LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE: I can only live where there is light, but I die if the light shines on me. What am I?

ANSWER: A shadow.

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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.

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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, September 10, 2021
2. The Wall Street Journal, September 10, 2021
3. The Wall Street Journal, September 10, 2021
4. CNBC, September 8, 2021
5. CNBC, September 9, 2021