



Strong employment reports and rising consumer confidence sent the stock market broadly higher last week.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1.02%, while the Standard & Poor's 500 picked up 1.67%. The Nasdaq Composite index gained 1.94%. The MSCI EAFE index, which tracks developed overseas stock markets, lost 1.42%.^{1,2,3}

Market Insights

Market Index	Close	Week	Y-T-D
DJIA	34,786.35	+1.02%	+13.66%
NASDAQ	14,639.33	+1.94%	+13.59%
MSCI-EAFE	2,309.27	-1.42%	+7.53%
S&P 500	4,352.34	+1.67%	+15.87%



Treasury	Close	Week	Y-T-D
10-Year Note	1.44%	-0.10%	+0.51%

Sources: The Wall Street Journal, July 2, 2021; Treasury.gov, July 2, 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, June 25, to Friday, July 2, close. Weekly performance for the MSCI-EAFE is measured from Friday, June 25, open to Thursday, July 1, close. Weekly and year-to-date 10-year Treasury note yield are expressed in basis points.

Stocks Rally

Rising conviction in the economic recovery and waning inflation worries drove stock prices higher, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite racing to record closes to begin the week.

Amid the week-long march higher, market leadership changed hands throughout the five-trading days. The leadership baton alternated between the technology and high-growth companies, which responded to lower bond yields, and cyclical stocks, which rallied on higher oil prices and successful bank stress tests.

Economic news buoyed investor sentiment as consumer confidence rose and an improving labor market—weekly initial jobless claims came in at a pandemic-era low (364,000), while employers added 850,000 new jobs in June—sent the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite to new record highs to close out the week.^{4,5}

A Confident Consumer

Market sentiment was lifted by a rise in The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index, which reached its highest level since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. This was the fourth-straight month of increases in consumer-confidence levels.⁶

The consumer outlook for income, business, and labor market conditions over the short-term improved markedly. Interestingly, consumer confidence and buying intentions appear largely unaffected by the possibility of rising inflation. In fact, the survey showed a rise in the number of consumers expecting to purchase homes, automobiles, or home appliances. Vacation intentions also rose.⁶

This Week: Key Economic Data

Tuesday: ISM (Institute of Supply Management) Services Index.

Wednesday: JOLTS (Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey) Report. FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) minutes.

Thursday: Jobless Claims.

Source: Econoday, July 2, 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.

This Week: Companies Reporting Earnings

Thursday: Helen of Troy Limited (HELE), Levi Strauss & Co. (LEVI).

Source: Zacks, July 2, 2021

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Food for Thought

"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

– Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Tax Tips

When Was the Last Time You Checked Your Withholding Status?

Most people check their withholding status at the end of the year or as filing season arrives, but the middle of the year is just as good of a time as any to double-check your withholding status and make sure it's accurate. The IRS has a handy tool called the Tax Withholding Estimator, which can help you avoid having too much or too little tax withheld from your wages.

The tool can also help you determine if you need to fill out a new W-4 to submit to your employer, complete a new W-4P, or make additional payments to the IRS. It does this by estimating your annual income, how many children you are claiming for the child tax credit and earned income tax credit, and other items that may affect your taxes for the year.

Before using the Tax Withholding Estimator, gather all necessary documents. This includes your W-2 from your employer, any 1099 forms you have from banks and other payers, and any other forms you need. Gathering as much information as possible will help because the estimator will only be as accurate as the information you enter.

* This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax advice. We suggest that you discuss your specific tax issues with a qualified tax professional.

Tip adapted from IRS.gov⁷

Healthy Living Tip

Strength Training Strategies for Every Level

If you want to build muscle mass, sometimes the best strategies are the simplest ones. For example, getting great at the "big four" exercises can help you build a strong (literally) foundation. These four moves are the squat, deadlift, bench press, and shoulder press. With these simple movements, you can work some of your body's major muscle groups.

Another strategy is to mainly stick with dumbbells and barbells. Sure, all the fancy machines in the gym look fun and enticing, but to master the foundational movements with free weights is a skill in itself. Free weight and bodyweight training are some of the most effective exercises and they're also the simplest.

Lastly, maintain a log and track your progress. Even doing one more rep or lifting 5 more pounds counts as progress. These achievements will keep you motivated and will make it easier to track your progress as you get stronger.

Tip adapted from Men's Journal⁸

Weekly Riddle

What 11-letter word must always be spelled incorrectly?

Last week's riddle: Can you write down eight eights so that they add up to one thousand? Answer: $888 + 88 + 8 + 8 + 8 = 1000$.

Photo of the Week



Seigantoji Temple Pagoda in Nachikatsuura, Wakayama Prefecture, Japan.

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Footnotes and Sources

1. The Wall Street Journal, July 2, 2021
2. The Wall Street Journal, July 2, 2021
3. The Wall Street Journal, July 2, 2021
4. The Wall Street Journal, July 2, 2021
5. CNBC, July 2, 2021
6. The Conference Board, June 29, 2021
7. IRS.gov, February 1, 2021
8. Mensjournal.com, 2021

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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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