

The lack of progress on the stimulus bill and rising Covid cases sent the markets lower last week, the S&P 500 dropped 0.53%<sup>1</sup>. Continued concerns about the stimulus bill sent the markets lower at open on Monday<sup>2</sup>. MarketWatch notes a continued stalemate on further stimulus threatens the recovery<sup>3</sup>. On a positive note, existing home sales continue to perform. Numbers from September shows a 9.4% increase from August with 7 out of 10 homes selling in less than 30 days<sup>4</sup>.



Halloween, what will it bring this year? As you may know, my house is the scary one on the block with strobe lights, tombstones, fog machines, and spooky music. I am still at a loss deciding if I should expend the effort, hand out candy without the décor, or turn off the lights (I think the second option will come to pass). It's a shame the kids may miss out on the holiday when they've (we've) all gone through so much this year.

----Chuck

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

***"It is never too late to be what you might have been."  
Novelist, George Eliot***

***Your activity for this week is to consider a dormant goal you wish you would have accomplished and re-start working toward completing it.***

***This Week in History***

***October 27, 1904 -- At 2:35 pm, New York City Mayor George McClellan takes the controls on the inaugural run of the city's innovative new rapid transit system: the subway<sup>5</sup>.***

<sup>1</sup> See update below

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-stocks/wall-street-opens-lower-as-virus-cases-surge-stimulus-doubts-weigh-idUSKBN27B18B>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/stimulus-stalemate-threatens-more-hardship-and-slower-recovery-economists-warn-2020-10-21?mod=economic-report>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/existing-home-sales-soared-higher-in-september-but-the-number-of-home-listing-has-dropped-to-a-record-low-2020-10-22?mod=economic-report>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/new-york-city-subway-opens>

*In this week's recap: Stocks lagged after another week with no fiscal stimulus; the labor market seemed to improve despite a rise in COVID-19 cases.*

# Weekly Economic Update

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*Presented by Charles D. Vercellone, ChFC, October 26, 2020*

## THE WEEK ON WALL STREET

The failure to reach an agreement on a new fiscal stimulus bill soured investor sentiment and sent stocks modestly lower for the week.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.95%, while the Standard & Poor's 500 lost 0.53%. The Nasdaq Composite index slipped 1.06% for the week. The MSCI EAFE index, which tracks developed overseas stock markets, declined 0.44%. <sup>1,2,3</sup>

## MARKETS DISAPPOINTED WITH STIMULUS IMPASSE

Stock prices ebbed and flowed all week, pulled by the gravity of fiscal stimulus talks in Washington, D.C. As investors saw improving prospects for a new fiscal stimulus bill, stocks rose. As prospects dimmed, stocks turned lower.

Hopes for striking a deal were raised late in the week as comments from a key negotiator suggested that a deal might be getting closer to fruition. The week ended, however, without an agreement, cementing a disappointing week of performance.

Market sentiment was further weighed down by the continued rise in COVID-19 cases in the U.S. and Europe, though anxieties were tempered by the belief that a full economic lockdown was unlikely.

## NEW JOBLESS CLAIMS FALL

Markets have been focused on weekly initial jobless claims as an important input into the state of economic recovery. After weeks of 800,000+ new jobless claims, last week's report reflected an improving labor market, as new jobless claims rose by 787,000, below consensus estimates of 875,000, while continuing jobless claims fell by more than one million. <sup>4</sup>

The report wasn't entirely positive, however, as more than 500,000 individuals were added to the emergency assistance program that extends unemployment benefits to those who have run out of state unemployment benefits. <sup>5</sup>

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## TIP OF THE WEEK



*When setting up a home-based business, be sure to research whether your local zoning regulations permit it. The Small Business Administration's website has an overview ([Zoning Laws for Home-Based Businesses](#)).*

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### THE WEEK AHEAD: KEY ECONOMIC DATA

**Monday:** New Home Sales.

**Tuesday:** Durable Goods Orders. Consumer Confidence.

**Thursday:** Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Jobless Claims.

**Friday:** Consumer Sentiment.

Source: Econoday, October 23, 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

**Monday:** Twilio, Inc (TWLO).

**Tuesday:** Microsoft (MSFT), Pfizer (PFE), Caterpillar (CAT), Merck (MRK), Eli Lilly (LLY), 3M Company (MMM), Corning Inc. (GLW).

**Wednesday:** General Electric (GE), The Boeing Corporation (BA), Ford Motor Company (F), Visa (V), Mastercard (MA), Gilead Sciences (GILD), Blackstone Group (BX), Amgen (AMGN), United Parcel Services (UPS), eBay (EBAY), Norfolk Southern (NSC).

**Thursday:** Apple (AAPL), Facebook (FB), Twitter (TWTR), Alphabet, Inc. (GOOGL), Southern Company Airlines (SO), Shopify (SHOP), Comcast Corporation (CMCSA), Anheuser-Busch InBev (BUD).

**Friday:** Abbvie (ABBV), Chevron (CVX), Charter Communications (CHTR).

Source: Zacks, October 23, 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.

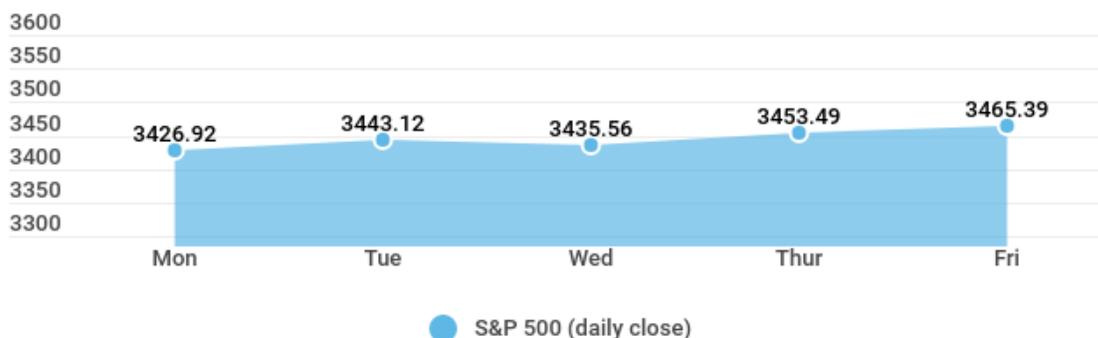
QUOTE OF THE WEEK



*“Getting people to like you is merely the other side of liking them.”*

NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

Market Index	Close	Week	Y-T-D
DJIA	28,335.57	-0.95%	-0.71%
NASDAQ	11,548.28	-1.06%	+28.71%
MSCI-EAFE	1,874.07	-0.44%	-8.00%
S&P 500	3,465.39	-0.53%	+7.26%



	Treasury	Close	Week	Y-T-D
	10-Year Note	0.85%	+0.09%	-1.07%

Sources: The Wall Street Journal, October 23, 2020; Treasury.gov, October 23, 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, October 16, to Friday, October 23, close. Weekly performance for the MSCI-EAFE is measured from Friday, October 16, open to the Thursday, October 22, close. Weekly and year-to-date 10-year Treasury note yield are expressed in basis points.

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## THE WEEKLY RIDDLE



*Three light switches are in the “off” position. Each connects to a light bulb in an adjoining room that you cannot see into. You can freely switch the light bulbs on and off, but you can only go into the adjoining room once to check on the state of the bulbs. Is it possible to tell which switch controls which bulb?*

*LAST WEEK’S RIDDLE: What should the last entry be in the following sequence of numbers: 9|18, 8|46, 7|94, 6|63, 5|52, 4|\_\_?*

*ANSWER: Each sequence represents the square root of a number with digits reversed (9 is the square root of 81, 8 is the square root of 64, and so on). So the missing number is 61 (4 is the square root of 16).*

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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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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.

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.

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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, October 23, 2020
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4. CNBC, October 22, 2020
5. CNBC, October 22, 2020

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