



The markets took a breather last week with the S&P 500 dropping 0.37% (up 17.02% YTD)<sup>1</sup>. The Fed met Wednesday and as expected, left rates untouched. However, comments seem to indicate they may be open to policy adjustments in the future as the economy continues to expand. One move may be to begin tapering its bond purchases<sup>2</sup>. Consumer spending and incomes continued to rise, and the University of Michigan's Consumer Sentiment Survey came in better than expected<sup>3</sup>.

August is here and it's hard to believe we're more than halfway through 2021. Concerns regarding the Delta variant are making headlines as spikes in infections across the nation are, once again, occurring. The CDC is recommending masks again for everyone, even those fully vaccinated. However, many states are nixing the recommendation for fear of shutting down their economies again. It does appear most of the hospitalizations and deaths occurring at present are amongst the unvaccinated so if you haven't gotten your shot(s), please consider doing so. The sooner we can get Covid behind us, the better. Speaking of behinds, I had a weigh-in and measurement last week with my trainer and I'm down 7 pounds,  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in my waist, and 1 inch in my hips in my battle to recover from the Covid 30 (pounds). If you've been working on a similar issue, I hope you are having success!

---Chuck

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

***"You must have long-term goals to keep you from being frustrated by short-term failures."***

***Major General, Charles C. Noble***

***Your activity for this week is to focus on your long-term goals and forget about the daily roadblocks and detours.***

***This Week in History –***

***August 5, 1957 -- We're goin hoppin! We're goin hoppin today! American Bandstand began broadcasting nationally on this day in 1957<sup>4</sup>.***

<sup>1</sup> see update below

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/07/28/fed-decision-july-2021.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/30/economy/inflation-consumer-incomes-june/index.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/american-bandstand-goes-national>

*In this week's recap: Stocks open week on big highs, but end with small losses due to Delta concerns and a lower GDP.*

# Weekly Economic Update

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*Presented by Charles D. Vercellone, ChFC, August 2, 2021*

## THE WEEK ON WALL STREET

The stock market posted small losses last week despite a very strong showing by corporate America.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 0.36%, while the Standard & Poor's 500 lost 0.37%. The Nasdaq Composite index dropped 1.11% for the week. The MSCI EAFE index, which tracks developed overseas stock markets, jumped 1.51%.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

## STOCKS TAKE A BREATH

There were plenty of excuses for stocks to retreat last week. News of a new phase in Chinese regulators' crackdown on large, private-sector companies, a decline in new home sales, and concerns about the Delta variant weighed on investors.

After opening the week adding to record highs, stocks turned lower despite an earnings season that continued to impress.

Solid earnings from the mega-cap technology companies were not enough to propel stocks higher. Instead, stocks slipped throughout the week, fighting uncertainty over Chinese stocks, a disappointing second-quarter Gross Domestic Product number, and a retreat in technology shares they reset to fresh company guidance.

## CHINESE CRACKDOWN

Chinese technology stocks were under pressure last week as Chinese regulators continued their push to rein in large companies for reasons that include data security, abusive corporate behavior, financial stability, and curtailing private-sector power.

Chinese government actions raised new levels of concerns about which industries may next fall in the crosshairs of regulators. American investors have plenty of exposure to Chinese companies. Substantial losses were felt by mutual funds and hedge funds, which account for about 86% of the holdings in the over 200 U.S.-listed Chinese companies whose aggregate market capitalization exceeds \$2 trillion.<sup>4</sup>

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## TIP OF THE WEEK



*We all have impulses that can make us spend more and save less. Recognizing them can help us to improve our financial behaviors.*

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### THE WEEK AHEAD: KEY ECONOMIC DATA

**Monday:** ISM (Institute for Supply Management) Manufacturing Index.

**Tuesday:** Factory Orders.

**Wednesday:** ADP (Automated Data Processing) Employment Report. ISM (Institute for Supply Management) Services Index.

**Thursday:** Jobless Claims.

**Friday:** Employment Situation Report.

Source: Econoday, July 30, 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:** Simon Property Group, Inc. (SPG)

**Tuesday:** Alibaba Group Holdings (BABA), Activision Blizzard, Inc. (ATVI), Amgen, Inc. (AMGN), Eli Lilly & Company (LLY), Diageo, PLC (DEO)

**Wednesday:** Roku, Inc. (ROKU), Prudential Financial, Inc. (PRU), CVS Health Corporation (CVS), General Motors, Inc. (GM), Etsy, Inc. (ETSY), Electronic Arts, Inc. (EA), MGM Resorts International (MGM), Match Group, Inc. (MTCH), Emerson Electric Co. (EMR), Booking Holdings (BKNG)

**Thursday:** Square, Inc. (SQ), Illumina, Inc. (ILMN), Duke Energy Corporation (DUK), Albemarle Corporation (ALB), Cigna Corporation (CI), Becton, Dickinson and Company (BDX), Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (REGN)

**Friday:** Dominion Energy (D).

Source: Zacks, July 30, 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.

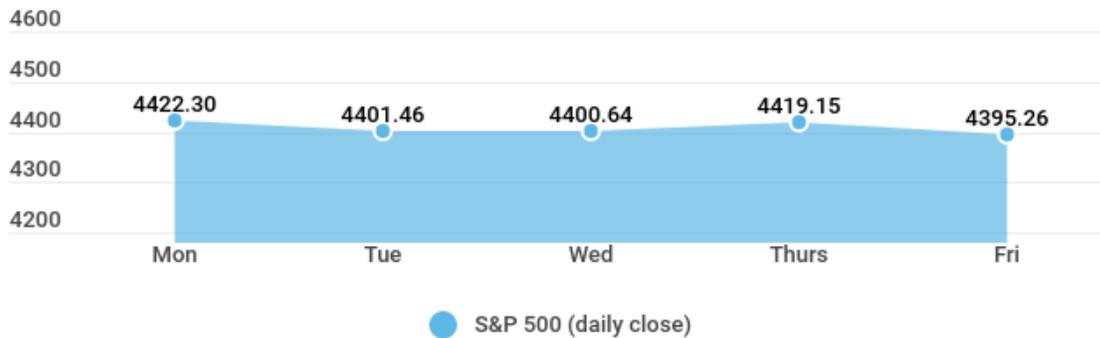
QUOTE OF THE WEEK



*“I want to believe that there is a mountain so high that I will spend my entire life striving to reach the top of it.”*

CICELY TYSON

Market Index	Close	Week	Y-T-D
DJIA	34,935.47	-0.36%	+14.14%
NASDAQ	14,672.68	-1.11%	+13.85%
MSCI-EAFE	2,341.81	+1.51%	+9.05%
S&P 500	4,395.26	-0.37%	+17.02%



	Treasury	Close	Week	Y-T-D
	10-Year Note	1.24%	-0.06%	+0.31%

Sources: The Wall Street Journal, July 30, 2021; Treasury.gov, July 30, 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, July 23, to Friday, July 30, close. Weekly performance for the MSCI-EAFE is measured from Friday, July 23, open to Thursday, July 29, close. Weekly and year-to-date 10-year Treasury note yield are expressed in basis points.

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## THE WEEKLY RIDDLE



*A coin lies inside an otherwise empty bottle that has a cork inserted in its neck. How can you remove this coin without removing the cork or breaking the bottle?*

*LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE: When can you add two to eleven and get one as the correct answer?*

*ANSWER: When you add two hours to eleven o'clock, you get one o'clock.*

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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, July 30, 2021
2. The Wall Street Journal, July 30, 2021
3. The Wall Street Journal, July 30, 2021
4. Yahoo Finance, January 7, 2021

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