



The markets closed higher last week on a tech recovery, positive economic reports, and investor reaction to the infrastructure proposal. The S&P 500 rose 1.14%¹ and a positive jobs report at the end of the week looks to send it higher this week. The Consumer Confidence report from the Conference Board jumped to 107.9 from February's 90.4 fueled by stimulus checks and increased vaccinations². Friday's jobs report also added to the euphoria as reports of 916,000 jobs were added in March³, causing economists to

comment "there is a light at the end of the tunnel"⁴. As the jobs report came in during the market holiday on Friday, futures are up for market opening on Monday⁵.

Morningstar notes the S&P 500 up 6.17% for the first quarter. While equities have had a decent run, the bond market has been in a slump. While the Fed has not made a move on interest rates, we have seen the 10-year treasury yields move higher. As yields increase, bond values decrease. Increased yields are welcomed for income but decreasing values can be problematic as fixed income returns can mute equity returns. It's important to review fixed income holdings as we are not seeing the bond market react as we would normally expect with no fiscal changes to monetary policy on behalf of the Fed.

---Chuck

This Week's Inspiration/Activity:

***I look to the future because that's where I'm going to spend the rest of my life.
George Burns (1896 - 1996)***

Your activity for this week is to "look to the future" and re-visit (or start) your financial and retirement plans. Give me a call to discuss.

This Week in History –

April 4, 1975 -- Childhood friends Bill Gates and Paul Allen found Microsoft in order to produce software for the Altair 8800, an early personal computer⁶.

¹ see update below

² <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/consumer-confidence-surges-in-march-to-a-pandemic-high-as-economy-speeds-up-11617113162?mod=economic-report>

³ <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/u-s-gains-916-000-new-jobs-in-march-and-signals-strengthening-economy-11617367042?mod=economic-report>

⁴ <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/there-is-finally-real-light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel-economists-react-to-strong-march-jobs-report-11617369313?mod=economic-report>

⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-stocks/wall-street-set-to-rise-after-strong-jobs-data-eyes-on-services-sector-survey-idUSKBN2BS0TW>

⁶ <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/microsoft-founded>

In this week's recap: Markets react positively to infrastructure proposals; S&P 500 rises above 4,000 for the first time.

Weekly Economic Update

Presented by Charles D. Vercellone, ChFC, April 5, 2021

THE WEEK ON WALL STREET

Overcoming a rocky start, stocks rallied into the close of a holiday-shortened week of trading as technology shares staged a powerful recovery and investors reacted positively to President Biden's infrastructure spending proposal.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.24%, while the Standard & Poor's 500 picked up 1.14%. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite index rose 2.60%. The MSCI EAFE index, which tracks developed overseas stock markets, slipped 0.43%.^{1,2,3}

S&P 500 HITS 4,000

Monday opened with two banks reporting they face losses due to the default of a small U.S. hedge fund. That news, combined with rising yields, higher new cases of COVID-19, and a public warning of new virus variants, started the week off on an unsettled note.⁴

Despite the shaky start, upbeat economic reports helped spark a rally that was paced by gains in the technology sector. The market also reacted positively on Wednesday to the introduction of a \$1.9 trillion infrastructure proposal.

Stocks closed out the week with an exclamation mark, with the S&P 500 Index closing above 4,000 for the first time.⁵

HEDGE FUND WOES

Last week's trading opened on news that a U.S.-based investor was forced to unwind positions in multiple Chinese technology companies and American media holdings.

A number of large banks saw their share prices fall early in the week, reflecting concerns about their exposure to the hedge fund losses. Meanwhile, investors grappled with whether this was a one-off event or the opening act for additional hedge fund issues. As the week wore on, it appeared the hedge-fund issues were an isolated event.⁴

TIP OF THE WEEK



As you retire, look at the changes in your expenses. Will your mortgage soon be paid off? What business-related expenses will disappear, and what new expenses will emerge? This may matter greatly in your retirement strategy.

THE WEEK AHEAD: KEY ECONOMIC DATA

Monday: Factory Orders.

Tuesday: Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS).

Wednesday: Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) Minutes.

Thursday: Jobless Claims.

Source: Econoday, April 1, 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

Tuesday: Paychex, Inc. (PAYX).

Thursday: Constellation Brands (STZ), Conagra Brands (CAG).

Source: Zacks, April 1, 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.

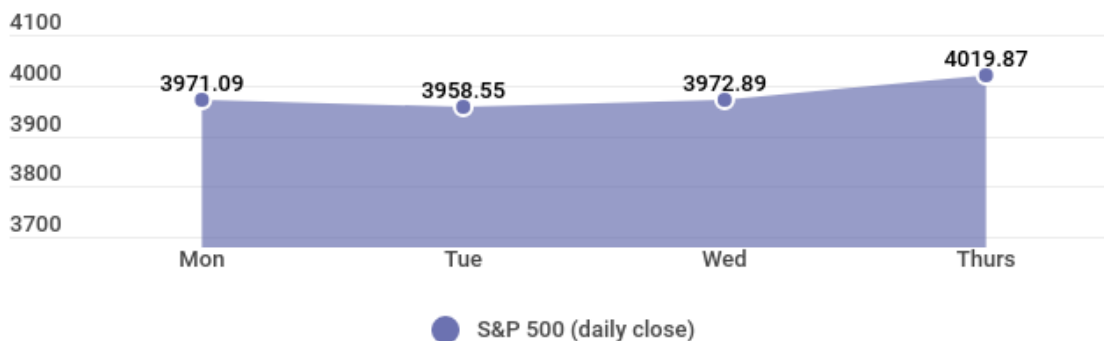
QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool.”

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Market Index	Close	Week	Y-T-D
DJIA	33,153.21	+0.24%	+8.32%
NASDAQ	13,480.11	+2.60%	+4.59%
MSCI-EAFE	2,208.32	-0.43%	+2.83%
S&P 500	4,019.87	+1.14%	+7.02%



Treasury	Close	Week	Y-T-D
10-Year Note	1.69%	+0.02%	+0.76%

Sources: The Wall Street Journal, April 1 2021; Treasury.gov, April 1, 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, March 26, to Thursday, April 1, close. Weekly performance for the MSCI-EAFE is measured from Friday, March 26, open to Wednesday, March 31, close. Weekly and year-to-date 10-year Treasury note yield are expressed in basis points.

THE WEEKLY RIDDLE



What can be seen in the middle of March and April, that can't be seen in the beginning or end of either month?

LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE: Christine likes grapes but not potatoes. She likes squash but not lettuce, and peas but not onions. Following the same rule, will she like pumpkins or apples?

ANSWER: Pumpkins. Christine only likes things that grow on vines.

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, April 1, 2021
2. The Wall Street Journal, April 1, 2021
3. The Wall Street Journal, April 1, 2021
4. Fortune.com, March 29, 2021
5. CNBC, April 1, 2021

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