

*In this week's recap: The markets went back to basics this week, showing optimism for positive COVID-19 news.*

# Weekly Economic Update

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*Presented by Hirling Financial Group, February 8, 2021*

## THE WEEK ON WALL STREET

Stocks notched strong gains last week, paced by a string of solid economic reports and consensus-beating corporate earnings.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 3.89%, while the Standard & Poor's 500 advanced 4.65%. The Nasdaq Composite index jumped 6.01% for the week. The MSCI EAFE index, which tracks developed overseas stock markets, climbed 1.96%.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

## BULL STORY REMAINS INTACT

As the social media trading frenzy fizzled, investors were able to focus on more fundamental issues, like economic data and a fresh batch of corporate earnings. Pleased by an economy that appeared to be growing stronger, coronavirus cases in decline, and an improving vaccine rollout, investors bought stocks with enthusiasm.

The rally last week was broadly based, with the Energy, Financial, Communication Services, and Technology sectors posting gains.

The stock market's optimism on an improving economy was seconded by the bond market as the 30-year Treasury rate rose to nearly 2.0% by Friday. When yields rise, bond prices fall. Falling bond prices may indicate that investors are less interested in Treasuries and more interested in other investments that benefit from a stronger economy. Rising yields may also reflect worries that a growing economy may spark inflation that may lead the Fed to rethink its zero-rate policy.<sup>4</sup>

## THE INEVITABLE DENOUEMENT

It was just two weeks ago that a social media chat forum appeared to contribute to a buying frenzy in a handful of struggling companies, unsettling Wall Street and capturing the nation's attention.

These stocks staged a broad retreat last week as more was learned about the trading activity.

A similar social media-inspired buying effort was also initiated on silver. But silver prices experienced a modest gain before quickly reversing direction just days later.<sup>5</sup>

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#### TIP OF THE WEEK



*Take a look at your insurance policy and read the fine print about progressive illness in case you or a loved one are one day diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, or other forms of neurological disease.*

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#### THE WEEK AHEAD: KEY ECONOMIC DATA

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

**Wednesday:** Consumer Price Index (CPI).

**Thursday:** Jobless Claims.

**Friday:** Consumer Sentiment.

Source: Econoday, February 5, 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 (SPG).

**Tuesday:** Twitter (TWTR), Welltower, Inc. (WELL), KKR & Co. (KKR), Martin Marietta (MLM ), Fiserv (FISV).

**Wednesday:** Cisco Systems, Inc. (CSCO), General Motors (GM), Coca Cola (KO).

**Thursday:** Walt Disney (DIS), AstraZeneca (AZN).

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

Source: Zacks, February 5, 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.

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#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

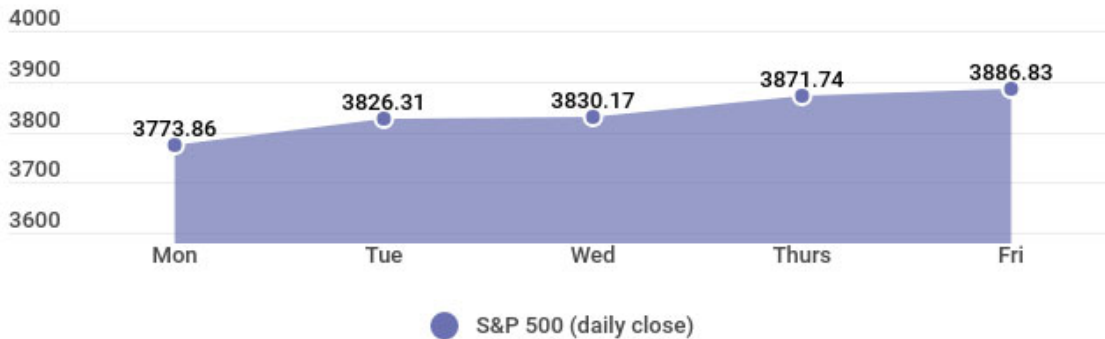


*“To be humble to superiors is duty, to equals courtesy, to inferiors nobleness.”*

*BENJAMIN FRANKLIN*

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Market Index	Close	Week	Y-T-D
DJIA	31,148.24	+3.89%	+1.77%
NASDAQ	13,856.30	+6.01%	+7.51%
MSCI-EAFE	2,165.73	+1.96%	+0.85%
S&P 500	3,886.83	+4.65%	+3.48%



	Treasury	Close	Week	Y-T-D
	10-Year Note	1.17%	+0.06%	+0.24%

Sources: The Wall Street Journal, February 5, 2021; Treasury.gov, February 5, 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, January 29, to Friday, February 5, close. Weekly performance for the MSCI-EAFE is measured from Friday, January 29, open to Thursday, February 4, close. Weekly and year-to-date 10-year Treasury note yield are expressed in basis points.

## THE WEEKLY RIDDLE



*Six cups are lined up in a row. Cups 1-3 on the left are full of juice; cups 4-6 on the right are empty. How can you arrange this*

*row so empty and full glasses alternate while moving only one cup in the process?*

*LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE: It can certainly be measured, yet it has no length, width, or height. What is it?*

*ANSWER: The temperature.*

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**Charles F. Hirling, Jr.**  
**Investment Advisor Representative**

**Bradley C. Hirling**  
**Registered Representative**

**Hirling Financial Group LLC**  
**Cambridge Investment Research**  
**6660 Riverside Drive, Suite 204**  
**Metairie, LA 70003**  
**504-885-0525 - Fax 504-885-0524**  
**[www.hirlingfinancialgroup.com](http://www.hirlingfinancialgroup.com)**

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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, February 5, 2021
2. The Wall Street Journal, February 5, 2021
3. The Wall Street Journal, February 5, 2021
4. The Wall Street Journal, February 5, 2021
5. CNBC, February 4, 2021