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**Weekly Economic Update for October 12, 2020**

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**From :** HyLee Hansen, CFP(R) <HYLEE@HIFCFP.COM>  
**Sender :** HyLee Hansen, CFP(R) <HYLEE@HIFCFP.COM>  
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HI Financial, LLC 3023 E. Copper Point Dr. Suite 106, Meridian, ID 83642 [www.hifcfp.com](http://www.hifcfp.com)

208.846.7230

Gary D. Case &amp; HyLee Hansen, CFP®

hylee@hifcfp.com

*In this week's recap: Stocks soar, despite mixed messages on fiscal stimulus.*

## Weekly Economic Update

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*Presented by HyLee Hansen, CFP®<sup>®</sup>, October 12, 2020*

### THE WEEK ON WALL STREET

Stocks staged a powerful rally last week, riding a wave of optimism over the prospect of the passage of a new fiscal stimulus bill.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 3.27%, while the Standard & Poor's 500 increased 3.84%. The Nasdaq Composite index gained 4.56% for the week. The MSCI EAFE index, which tracks developed overseas stock markets, advanced 2.23%. <sup>1-3</sup>

### STIMULUS STALEMATE?

The anticipation of lawmakers passing a new round of economic stimulus was a decisive driver of market action all week.

A mid-week tweet by President Trump announcing that he was ending stimulus negotiations sent stocks lower. Losses were exacerbated by sharp declines in some mega-cap technology companies as

details emerged from a House Judiciary subcommittee report on its investigation into their competitive practices. <sup>4</sup>

Stocks quickly reversed direction, climbing after the President tweeted that he would sign a limited stimulus bill, but lawmakers appeared to reject a piecemeal approach.

Stocks consolidated on Friday, helped by continuing stimulus talks and new election polls that suggested that the risk of a contested outcome appeared to be fading.

### SMALL CAP RALLY

The outperformance of large cap stocks relative to small cap stocks has been both wide and persistent during the last ten years. Last week's action in small cap stocks, as represented by the Russell 2000 Index, indicates that smaller companies may finally be making up some ground. <sup>5</sup>

Last week, the Russell 2000 Index rose 6.33%, outperforming the S&P 500 by 2.4%. <sup>6</sup>

While this outperformance may be fleeting, a potential broadening of the stock market rally may be considered a healthy development.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

This week begins the third-quarter earnings season, with companies from a variety of industry sectors reporting (see below). Early earnings reports start predominantly with the major banks, whose earnings results may provide insight into the general health of American consumers.

As is often the case, company guidance about the future earnings may be of greater interest to investors than past results.

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#### TIP OF THE WEEK



*Use your phone or camera to take a video of your home and your belongings. Keep it in a safe place. It may come in handy someday.*

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### THE WEEK AHEAD: KEY ECONOMIC DATA

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

**Thursday:** Jobless Claims.

**Friday:** Industrial Production. Consumer Sentiment.

Source: Econoday, October 9, 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

**Tuesday:** Johnson & Johnson (JNJ), J.P. Morgan Chase (JPM), Citigroup (C), Blackrock (BLK).

**Wednesday:** Bank of America (BAC), UnitedHealth Group (UNH).

**Thursday:** Morgan Stanley (MS).

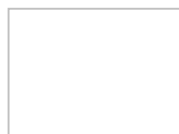
**Friday:** Schlumberger (SLB), J.B. Hunt Transport Services (JBHT), Kansas City Southern (KSU), V.F. Corporation (VFC).

Source: Zacks, October 9, 2020

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#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK



*“He who has a ‘why’ to live can bear almost any ‘how.’”*

*FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE*

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#### THE WEEKLY RIDDLE



*Al gives Jane three boxes, one labeled DIAMONDS, one labeled PEARLS and one labeled DIAMONDS OR PEARLS. He tells her that all three boxes are labeled incorrectly, and that one box contains diamonds, one pearls and the other emeralds. Al then tells Jane that if she can guess the contents of any box without opening it, she can keep the contents. How many boxes must Jane open to do this, and/or how many boxes can she keep?*

*LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE: In 15 minutes, a dress will dry on a clothes wire. How long would it take you to dry five dresses?*

ANSWER: 15 Minutes. They all dry at the same rate and at the same time on a clothes wire.

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HyLee Hansen, CFP® may be reached at 208-846-7230 or HYLEE@HIFCFP.COM  
www.hifcfp.com

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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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6. The Wall Street Journal, October 9, 2020

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