

In this week's recap: stocks slip after heavier jobless claims and U.S.-China strife.

Weekly Economic Update

Presented by Pat Baxter, Investment Advisor Representative, July 27, 2020

THE WEEK ON WALL STREET

Stocks slipped in the final days of trading last week on higher jobless claims and rising tensions in the U.S.-China relationship.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 0.76%, while the Standard & Poor's 500 dipped 0.28%. The Nasdaq Composite Index dropped 1.33% for the week. The MSCI EAFE Index, which tracks developed stock markets overseas, rose 1.24%.^{1,2,3}

STOCKS LOSE MOMENTUM

Stocks marched higher to begin the week on progress with a COVID-19 vaccine and a string of upbeat corporate quarterly reports. Firming oil prices and the passage of a fiscal stimulus bill by the European Union also helped buoy investors' spirits.

Market sentiment, however, turned negative after Thursday morning's report of an uptick in new unemployment claims, which suggested a possible slowdown in hiring. The market was led lower by the technology sector ahead of quarterly reports from some of the sector's biggest names.⁴

U.S.-CHINA TENSIONS ESCALATE

Tensions escalated last week as the U.S. ordered China to close its consulate in Houston, which the White House claimed was stealing American information. A day earlier, the U.S. had accused China of attempting to steal COVID-19 research data. China responded by ordering the U.S. to close its consulate in the city of Chengdu.^{5,6}

The markets appear more focused on the apparent deteriorating relations between the two nations, worried about a repeat of the trade battle in 2018. Whether the rancor is managed is likely to remain a top concern for investors in the weeks ahead.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The mega-cap technology companies' market dominance is a concern to some. Last week it was reported that six of these mega-cap stocks represent 41% of the Nasdaq market

capitalization. Five mega-cap names included in the S&P 500 Index account for 22% of that index's market capitalization.⁷

Investors have embraced these firms because they appear to be able to show solid financial performance in the midst of an economy coping with COVID-19.

TIP OF THE WEEK



Periodically review and/or rebalance your portfolio, to see that your investments are in sync with your objectives.

THE WEEK AHEAD: KEY ECONOMIC DATA

Monday: Durable Goods Orders.

Wednesday: Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) Meeting Announcement.

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

Friday: Consumer Sentiment.

Source: Econoday, July 24, 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: Advanced Micro Devices (AMD), Visa (V), Pfizer (PFE), McDonalds (MCD), 3M Company (MMM), eBay (EBAY), D.R. Horton (DHI).

Wednesday: Facebook (FB), Boeing (BA), Qualcomm (QCOM), PayPal (PYPL), General Motors (GM), Shopify (SHOP), Teladoc Health (TDOC).

Thursday: Apple (AAPL), Ford (F), Alphabet (GOOGL), Mastercard (MA), Procter & Gamble (PG), Eli Lilly (LLY), United Parcel Service (UPS).

Friday: AbbVie (ABBV), Exxon Mobil (XOM), Caterpillar (CAT), Merck (MRK), Chevron (CVX).

Source: Zacks, July 24, 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.

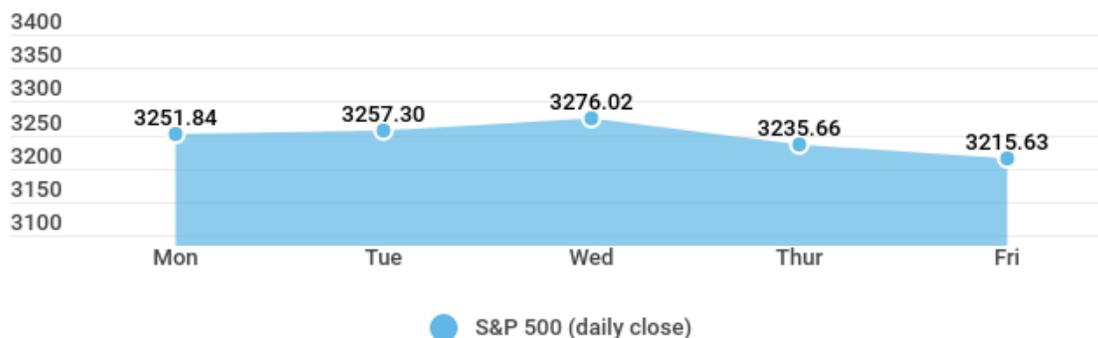
QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“Imagination is the eye of the soul.”

JOSEPH JOUBERT

Market Index	Close	Week	Y-T-D
DJIA	26,469.89	-0.76%	-7.25%
NASDAQ	10,363.18	-1.33%	+15.50%
MSCI-EAFE	1,875.42	+1.24%	-7.93%
S&P 500	3,215.63	-0.28%	-0.47%



	Treasury	Close	Week	Y-T-D
	10-Year Note	0.59%	-0.05%	-1.33%

Sources: The Wall Street Journal, July 24, 2020; Treasury.gov, July 24, 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, July 17, to Friday, July 24, close. Weekly performance for the MSCI-EAFE is measured from Friday, July 17, open to the Thursday, July 23, close. Weekly and year-to-date 10-year Treasury note yield are expressed in basis points.

THE WEEKLY RIDDLE



*How many 9s are in the range of numbers from 1 to 100?
(Remember, the number 99 has two 9s in it.)*

LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE: Is there a way that you can make the number seven even?

ANSWER: Take away the S, and seven becomes even.

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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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CITATIONS:

1. The Wall Street Journal, July 24, 2020
2. The Wall Street Journal, July 24, 2020
3. The Wall Street Journal, July 24, 2020
4. NYTimes.com, July 23, 2020
5. CBSnews.com, July 22, 2020
6. APNews.com, July 24, 2020
7. CNBC, July 22, 2020

CHART CITATIONS:

The Wall Street Journal, July 24, 2020
The Wall Street Journal, July 24, 2020
treasury.gov, July 24, 2020