

Stocks touched new record highs last week as bond yields steadied, a fiscal relief bill was signed into law, and confidence in a strong economic recovery grew.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 4.07%, while the Standard & Poor's 500 tacked on 2.64%. The Nasdaq Composite index rose 3.09% for the week. The MSCI EAFE index, which tracks developed overseas stock markets, gained 3.01%.^{1,2,3}

Market Insights

Dow 32,000

Stocks marched higher as bond yields leveled off and the \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill moved through the legislative process. A muted inflation number and a better-than-expected jobless claims report evidenced an improving economy absent an attendant rise in inflation.⁴

The technology sector was particularly volatile, with the Nasdaq Composite falling into correction territory to start the week as investors rotated into cyclical opportunities.

Technology rebounded strongly as bond yields stabilized and bargain hunters purchased tech names at reduced prices. The bounceback propelled the S&P 500 to a record high, while the reopening trade drove the Dow Industrials above 32,000 for the first time.^{5,6}

The week ended on a mixed note, with the Dow and S&P 500 adding to their record closes and the Nasdaq Composite trimming its weekly gain.

Treasury Auctions

Treasury auctions to finance federal spending are usually staid affairs, but investor trepidation was high ahead of last week's auctions of 10-year and 30-year Treasuries. Investors were concerned that lukewarm demand amid a huge supply had the potential to drive yields higher and take the pressure on stock prices lower.

As it turned out, Wednesday's auction of 10-year Notes was received with adequate demand, helped by a tame February inflation number and strong overseas interest. The following day's 30-year auction also went relatively smoothly, though the auction yield was 36.2 basis points higher than last month's auction. Despite \$120 billion of federal debt issuance last week, yields steadied, easing investors' interest rate concerns for the moment.⁷

This Week: Key Economic Data

Tuesday: Retail Sales. Industrial Production.

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

Thursday: Jobless Claims. Index of Leading Economic Indicators.

Source: Econoday, March 12, 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.

This Week: Companies Reporting Earnings

Tuesday: Coupa Software (COUP).

Wednesday: Five Below (FIVE), Cintas Corporation (CTAS).

Thursday: FedEx Corporation (FDX), Nike, Inc. (NKE), Dollar General (DG).

Source: Zacks, March 12, 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.

Food for Thought

"You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep spring from coming."

– Pablo Neruda

Tax Tip

Couples Who Work Together, Tax Together

As more households decide to start a business, many couples find themselves learning about the tax responsibilities related to that business. There are some things to consider when working together.

Here are a few items to consider:

- You should first establish if you have a partnership business (where both spouses have an equal say in the affairs, services, and capital of the business) or an employee/employer relationship (one spouse substantially controls management decisions). These relationships face different tax situations.
- If there is an employee/employer relationship, the second spouse (employee) may be subject to income tax, Social Security, and Medicare.
- If there is a partnership relationship, you may need to report the business income on Form 1065, US Return of Partnership Income.

* This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax advice. We suggest that you discuss your specific tax issues with a qualified tax professional.

Tip adapted from IRS.gov⁸

Healthy Living Tip

Eat This, Not That: Easy Food Swaps Anyone Can Do

Eating healthier doesn't have to be hard! You might not have to make any major changes in your current diet! By swapping out unhealthy options for healthier picks, you can cut the bad stuff and still enjoy your meal. Here are some of our favorite food swaps:

- Mustard instead of mayonnaise (0 calories vs. 90 calories)
- Scrambled eggs with green onions instead of cheese (170 calories vs. 275 calories)
- Sparkling water instead of soda (0 calories vs. 140 calories)
- Fresh fruit instead of dried fruit (69 calories vs. 325 calories)
- Greek yogurt instead of sour cream (28 calories vs. 60 calories)
- Olive oil spray instead of a tablespoon of olive oil (5 calories vs. 120 calories)
- Corn tortillas instead of flour tortillas (100 calories vs. 280 calories)
- All-bran cereal instead of granola (80 calories vs. 200 calories)
- Goat cheese instead of Brie cheese (70 calories vs. 100 calories)

Many healthy swaps like these can help you reduce your caloric intake, consume less sugar, and make it easy to create a more balanced meal.

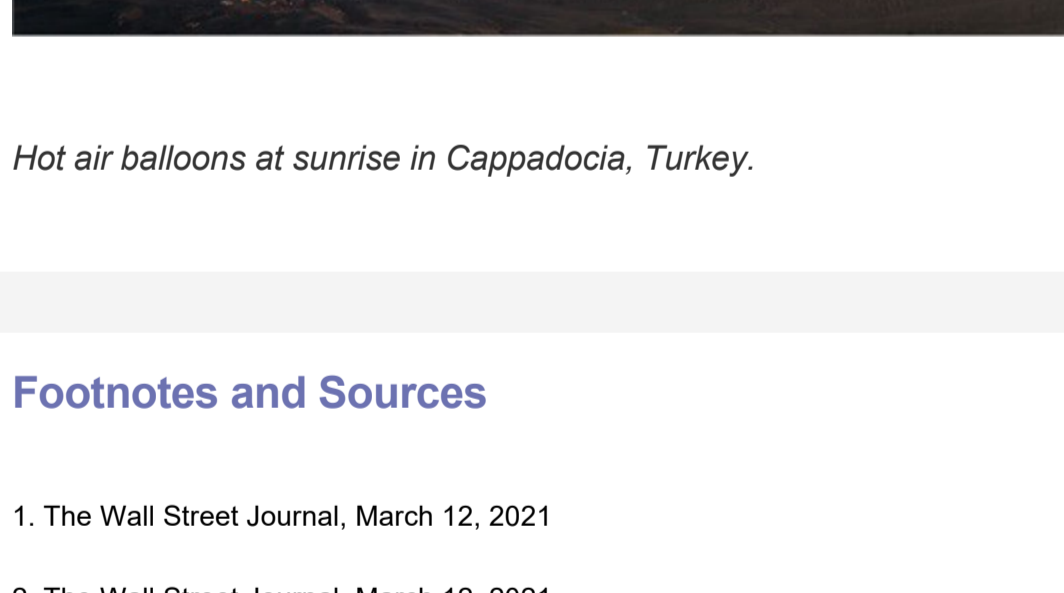
Tip adapted from EatThis.com⁹

Weekly Riddle

Where does today come before yesterday?

Last week's riddle: The name of a particular insect is six letters long. You can lop off the last three letters from its name and end up with the name of another insect. What is this six-letter word? Answer: Beetle.

Photo of the Week



Hot air balloons at sunrise in Cappadocia, Turkey.

Footnotes and Sources

1. The Wall Street Journal, March 12, 2021
2. The Wall Street Journal, March 12, 2021
3. The Wall Street Journal, March 12, 2021
4. Bloomberg.com, March 10, 2021
5. CNBC, March 11, 2021
6. The Wall Street Journal, March 10, 2021
7. The Street, March 11, 2021
8. IRS.gov, October 7, 2020
9. EatThis.com, September 29, 2020

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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.

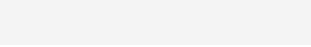
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Please consult your financial professional for additional information.

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