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In this week's recap: Stocks stall late in the week, thanks to tech markets slide. The jobs recovery makes continued progress.

Weekly Economic Update

Presented by Don Clark, MBA, CFP®, September 7, 2020

THE WEEK ON WALL STREET

A late week sell-off sent stocks broadly lower as investors took some profits after stocks reached all-time highs earlier in the week.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average slid 1.82%, while the Standard & Poor's 500 slumped 2.31%. The Nasdaq Composite index dropped 3.27% for the week. The MSCI EAFE index, which tracks developed overseas stock markets, fell 0.62%.¹⁻³

GRAVITY REASSERTS ITSELF

Stocks hit a wall late last week as the technology companies, which had led the market higher, slipped in Thursday and Friday trading, dragging down the overall market.

The week began on an upbeat note as August momentum continued into the start of September. While participation in the rally on Tuesday and Wednesday was fairly broad, technology stocks continued to be the focus of market strength. But that sentiment changed quickly on Thursday.

With little warning and no obvious catalyst, it remains unclear whether the technology selloff last week was the result of market technicals or a fundamental change in investor outlook. The coming weeks may provide some clarity in this regard.

LABOR MARKET RECOVERY SPUTTERS FORWARD

Last week saw a series of employment-related reports that evidenced a continued labor market recovery.

The Automated Data Processing (ADP) employment survey showed that private payrolls increased by 428,000 in August, falling short of consensus expectations of over 1.1 million. News turned more positive as new jobless claims checked in at 881,000—an improvement from the over one million new claims the prior week. Americans receiving unemployment declined by 1.24 million to 13.3 million—half the peak number in May.^{4,5,6}

Finally, the monthly jobs report indicated that nearly 1.4 million nonfarm jobs were added last month, with the unemployment rate declining to 8.4%. The progress was predominantly attributable to government hiring, primarily of new Census workers, though the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors saw gains in new hiring.⁷

TIP OF THE WEEK



Sometimes teens confuse wants with needs. Pointing out the difference will help them handle money with more maturity (and it may help you save a dollar or two).

THE WEEK AHEAD: KEY ECONOMIC DATA

Wednesday:

Job Openings and Turnover Survey (JOLTS).

Thursday:

Jobless Claims.

Friday:

Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Source: Econoday, September 4, 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:

Lululemon (LULU), Coupa Software (COUP), Slack Technologies (WORK).

Thursday:

Chewy (CHWY), Peloton (PTON).

Friday:

Kroger (KR).

Source: Zacks, September 4, 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



“Laughter is by definition healthy.”

DORIS LESSING

Market Index	Close	Week	Y-T-D
DJIA	28,133.31	-1.82%	-1.42%
NASDAQ	11,313.13	-3.27%	+26.09%
MSCI-EAFE	1,899.02	-0.62%	-6.77%
S&P 500	3,426.96	-2.31%	+6.07%



Treasury	Close	Week	Y-T-D
10-Year Note	0.63%	-0.11%	-1.29%

Sources: The Wall Street Journal, September 4, 2020; Treasury.gov, September 4, 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, August 28, to Friday, September 4, close. Weekly performance for the MSCI-EAFE is measured from Friday, August 28, open to the Thursday, September 3, close. Weekly and year-to-date 10-year Treasury note yield are expressed in basis points.

THE WEEKLY RIDDLE



*If it were two hours later than right now, it would be half as long until midnight as it would be if it were an hour later than right now.
 What time is it?*

LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE: There is a kind of sweet bean that never grows in a garden. What is it?

ANSWER: Jelly Bean.

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CITATIONS:

1. The Wall Street Journal, September 4, 2020
2. The Wall Street Journal, September 4, 2020
3. The Wall Street Journal, September 4, 2020
4. CNBC, September 2, 2020
5. CNBC, September 3, 2020
6. CNBC, September 3, 2020
7. CNBC, September 4, 2020

CHART CITATIONS:

The Wall Street Journal, September 4, 2020
The Wall Street Journal, September 4, 2020
treasury.gov, September 4, 2020