

WEEKLY MARKET COMMENTARY

For the Week of Dec. 30, 2013

THE MARKETS

U.S. stock indexes closed mostly flat on Friday, ending a six-day streak of record closing highs for the Dow. The Dow and the S&P 500 posted their second straight week of gains, with the Dow posting its best two weeks since June 2012 and the S&P posting its best two-week period since July 2013. For the week, the Dow rose 1.59 percent to close at 16,478.41. The S&P gained 1.31 percent to finish at 1,841.40 and the NASDAQ climbed 1.26 percent to end the week at 4,156.59.

Returns Through 12/27/13	1 Week	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Dow Jones Industrials (TR)	1.59	28.89	28.96	15.56	17.30
NASDAQ Composite (PR)	1.26	37.66	39.21	15.94	22.12
S&P 500 (TR)	1.31	31.87	32.64	16.04	18.67
Barclays US Agg Bond (TR)	-0.40	-2.11	-2.20	3.37	4.44
MSCI EAFE (TR)	2.34	22.29	21.85	8.37	12.84

Source: Morningstar.com. *Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Indexes are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly. Three- and five-year returns are annualized. The Dow Jones Industrials, MSCI EAFE, Barclays US Agg Bond and S&P, excluding "1 Week" returns, are based on total return, which is a reflection of return to an investor by reinvesting dividends after the deduction of withholding tax. The NASDAQ is based on price return, which is the capital appreciation of the portfolio, excluding income generated by the assets in the portfolio in the form of interest and dividends. (TR) indicates total return. (PR) indicates price return. MSCI EAFE returns stated in U.S. dollars.

Better Than 2012 – The most recently recorded unemployment rate for the U.S. was 7.0 percent for November 2013, down 0.8 percentage points from November 2012 (source: Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Nearly One-Eighth – According to 2012 Census data, 13.7 percent of the United States population is 65 years old or older (source: U.S. Census Bureau).

Relying On Social Security? – The number of people receiving Social Security benefits as of November 2013 is 57,917,000. This translates to a total monthly payout of \$67,425,813,060, or an average monthly benefit of \$1,164.18 (source: Social Security Administration).

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WEEKLY FOCUS – Financial Resolutions a Common Theme for 2014

It's almost time to ring in 2014! And when the champagne has run dry and the crowds in Times Square have gone home, it will be resolution time again. People are ready to get everything on the right track, from fitness to finance.

Fidelity Investments® fifth annual New Year Financial Resolutions Study found a record number of Americans (54 percent) are ringing in the New Year by considering a financial resolution. A key reason for this strong resolve: 26 percent of survey participants say they are in a better financial situation than they were this time last year, up from 19 percent in the previous year. Another indication of a new commitment to improved financial standing is that the U.S. personal savings rate grew to 4.9 percent in September 2013, from 2.9 percent in September 2007.

While personal finance is on the radar of many heading into 2014, only 8 percent of people will stay on track with their New Year's resolutions. To be part of that elite group, look for assistance in meeting your specific goals.

If you are on track, a review can help you stay on track. If you got off course from where you wanted to be, then this is an opportunity to take action and get back to where you want to be. Setting aside a few minutes with your advisor can answer the following question: Do your current investments still support your plans, your lifestyle and maybe even your legacy?

Contact our office today for a review of your current financial situation and an evaluation of your goals. We can help make sure you have the right balance of saving and spending to keep you feeling confident about your finances in this New Year and beyond.



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* The Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500) is an unmanaged group of securities considered to be representative of the stock market in general. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is a price-weighted index of 30 actively traded blue-chip stocks. NASDAQ Composite Index is an unmanaged, market-weighted index of all over-the-counter common stocks traded on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System. The Morgan Stanley Capital International Europe, Australia and Far East Index (MSCI EAFE Index) is a widely recognized benchmark of non-U.S. stock markets. It is an unmanaged index composed of a sample of companies representative of the market structure of 20 European and Pacific Basin countries and includes reinvestment of all dividends. Barclays Capital Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged index comprised of U.S. investment-grade, fixed-rate bond market securities, including government, government agency, corporate and mortgage-backed securities between one and 10 years. Written by Securities America. SAI#787558