

WEEKLY MARKET COMMENTARY

For the Week of January 7, 2019

THE MARKETS

A strong jobs report and reassuring comments from the Federal Reserve chairman helped stocks surge Friday. The U.S. added 312,000 jobs in December – far more than expected. Fed Chairman Jerome Powell indicated the central bank would be flexible in steering the course of interest rates. For the week, the Dow rose 1.65 percent to close at 23,433.16. The S&P gained 1.90 percent to finish at 2,531.94, and the NASDAQ climbed 2.34 percent to end the week at 6,738.86.

Returns Through 1/04/19	1 Week	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Dow Jones Industrials (TR)	1.65	0.50	-4.41	13.72	9.94
NASDAQ Composite (PR)	2.34	1.56	-4.79	11.18	10.28
S&P 500 (TR)	1.90	1.03	-5.21	10.19	8.91
Barclays US Agg Bond (TR)	0.46	0.21	0.44	2.09	2.55
MSCI EAFE (TR)	1.43	0.98	-14.55	4.11	0.91

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.

Every Day — An estimated 10,400 Americans will turn 65 each day in 2019. This group represents the ninth year of the 19 years in which waves of baby boomers will reach age 65. An estimated 11,500 Americans will turn 65 each day in 2029 (source: Government Accountability Office, BTN Research).

Cost of Our Debt — In April 2018, the Congressional Budget Office forecasted that interest paid on our national debt will increase from \$390 billion in fiscal year 2019 to \$915 billion in fiscal year 2028. That's a projected increase of 9.9 percent per year of our nation's net interest costs for the next nine fiscal years (source: Congressional Budget Office, BTN Research).

Shifting the Risk — Between 1975 and 2014, the number of defined benefit pension plans in the private sector fell by 57 percent while the number of defined contribution plans increased by 208 percent (source: DOL, BTN Research).

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WEEKLY FOCUS – A New Year Resolution: Developing a Wealth Mindset

So, the New Year has begun and you've yet to claim a resolution. It's never too late. Why not resolve to strengthen your strategy on wealth building?

Since you're reading this, you're probably already on the path to financial success. But it doesn't hurt to compare your financial habits with those of the already-wealthy. If you haven't adopted these tactics, maybe it's time you should. If you've already embraced them, recommit to them and pass them on to your children or heirs.

A review of the top books on what it takes for financial success reveals some common tactics in those who've achieved it.

Develop a wealth mindset. Those who believe accumulating wealth is a given are those who most often get it. Success must be a given. Bruce Lee once said, "As a man thinks, so he is." Granted, the man was a martial arts phenomenon, not a financial wiz, but the principle remains that same.

Don't be a sheep. If you follow the advice of most people, you'll end up like most people. But – most people aren't wealthy. So why follow their actions or advice? Traditional advice on attaining wealth is based on risk avoidance and fear. But wealthy people are usually described as risk-takers.

Embrace simplicity. Thomas Stanley interviewed hundreds of millionaires for his book, "The Millionaire Next Door." He discovered most of them led frugal, simple lives. Indeed, the typical millionaire lives in a middle-class home and drives a two-year-old or paid-off car, according to Dave Ramsey. Trying to embody the physical trappings of a stereotypical millionaire is expensive and could end up costing you substantially.

Beef up your financial literacy. The more you know about finance and your personal economics, the better equipped you are to make sound wealth-building, retirement and income distribution decisions.

Don't work for your money – make your money work for you. Every penny is a seed, with the potential to grow more. Wise investments accumulate wealth for you, even while you're sleeping.

Call our office today. We can provide you with the financial advice you need to ensure your money is working hard for you – and not the other way around.

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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, Copyright January 2019. All rights reserved. Securities offered through Securities America, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC. SAI#2369233.1