

January, 2021

We made it to the end of 2020! The Presidential elections are behind us and the results are confirmed. The stock market is just off record highs and the vaccine is getting distributed! What a relief- something we needed for the end of the year. But as always, we need to be ready for the next chapter of the story.

We are planning to put out to you a more detailed recap of 2020 in early January, but we do not have serious concerns about the markets for early this year. The economy and jobs are struggling, but the next round of government stimulus will help. Some make a comparison to the tech bubble crash in 2000, after the Fed announced significant interest rate hikes, but there is no similar catalyst apparent to cause a crash at this time.

It will be interesting to see how the mood of the country changes with the coming of the new year and the events that will shape it. I look forward to 2021, but we have not put the challenges of 2020 behind us yet. It will be another year that historians will look back upon to see how the US came out of the pandemic and how we transitioned into a new Presidency.

In case you missed them, you may find one of these blogs on our website interesting:

[Outlook 2021: Where we are and where we're headed](#)

For those wanting to start the new year on a good start: [5 Positive Financial Habits to Adopt Today](#)

At the 2017 Commonwealth National Convention, we heard the British photographer Platon speak to us about how he tries to tell the story, give the message and make the connection in his pictures to reach people. Here is a link to part of the presentation that we saw, made into the Netflix Original Documentary Series- Abstract: The Art of Design, in which he tells us of his passion for his work. <https://youtu.be/BDpqt-haLLM>

In this time of need for facts, a client introduced us to USAFacts, a resource for unbiased government facts, founded by Steve Ballmer, former CEO of Microsoft. Here is a short video in which he introduces the website www.USAFacts.org which has been helpful to us during the past year. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2-ozVllqt4&feature=youtu.be>

There are many questions as to the second round of stimulus checks in the bill signed on December 27,2020. Who is eligible? What amount will be paid out and when will they be paid out? Will I have to pay taxes on the money?

Market Summary

As of December 31, 2020

S&P 500:	3748.75
Dow Ind.:	30483
Nasdaq:	12883.00
10 YR Treas.:	.91%

Here is a link to the answers to these and other questions about the bill: [FAQ: What You need to know about the Second Round of Stimulus Checks](#)

Thank you and take care-

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S&P 500: The Standard & Poor's (S&P) 500 Index tracks the performance of 500 widely held, large-capitalization US stocks. The Barclays US Aggregate Index covers the dollar-denominated investment-grade fixed-rate taxable bond market. The Morgan Stanley Capital International Europe, Australia, Far East (MSCI EAFE) Index is a capitalization-weighted index that tracks the total return of common stocks in 21 developed-market countries within Europe, Australia and the Far East. DJIA - A price-weighted average of 30 actively traded blue-chip stocks, primarily industrials including stocks that trade on the New York Stock Exchange Nasdaq - A market-capitalization weighted index of the more than 3,000 common equities listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange