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Full Market Commentary

The Week on Wall Street

Stocks posted modest gains last week, with quarterly earnings season in full swing and the election on the horizon.

The Standard & Poor's 500 Index increased 0.85 percent, while the Nasdaq Composite Index rose 0.80 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average advanced 0.96 percent. The MSCI EAFE Index, which tracks developed overseas stock markets, fell 0.31 percent.^{1,2}

Six In A Row

Stocks bolted out of the gate as the week began. The S&P 500 and the Dow Industrials hit record highs, with the Dow crossing 43,000 for the first time.³

Midweek, news of stronger-than-expected retail sales report contributed to overall market momentum. Retail sales rose a seasonally adjusted 0.4 percent in September, topping economists forecasts.⁴

As the week wrapped up, the technology sector helped fuel a rally that pushed the S&P and Nasdaq to another record high. It was the sixth straight week of gains for the S&P 500, Nasdaq, and Dow Industrials.⁵

Insight From Corporate Reports

There were many market forces pushing each other around last week.

Corporate earnings reports drove much of the market action. Some of the most extensive financial stocks surprised on the upside, supporting a narrative that the economy remains strong.

At the same time, a corporate report from one of the world's largest chip manufacturing contractors revealed continued strong global demand for AI microchips. However, increasing investor anxiety was a constant undertow in trading as the November elections drew nearer.⁶

Best Regards,

THIS WEEK: KEY ECONOMIC DATA

Monday: Fed Officials Lori Logan, Neel Kashkari, and Jeffrey Schmid speak.

Tuesday: Fed Official Patrick Harker speaks.

Wednesday: Existing Home Sales. Beige Book. Fed Officials Michelle Bowman and Thomas Barkin speak.

Thursday: New Home Sales. Weekly Jobless Claims. Fed Official Beth Hammack speaks.

Friday: Durable Goods. Consumer Sentiment.

Source: Investors Business Daily - Econoday economic calendar; October 18, 2024

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: GE Aerospace (GE), Philip Morris International Inc. (PM), Verizon Communications Inc. (VZ), Texas Instruments Incorporated (TXN), RTX Corporation (RTX), Lockheed Martin Corporation (LMT), Fiserv, Inc. (FI)

Wednesday: Tesla, Inc. (TSLA), The Coca-Cola Company (KO), T-Mobile US, Inc. (TMUS), Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. (TMO), International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), ServiceNow, Inc. (NOW), AT&T Inc. (T), Boston Scientific Corporation (BSX), The Boeing Company (BA)

Thursday: Amazon.com, Inc. (AMZN), S&P Global Inc. (SPGI), Union Pacific Corporation (UNP), United Parcel Service, Inc. (UPS)

Source: Zacks, October 18, 2024

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.

1. The Wall Street Journal, October 18, 2024
2. Investing.com, October 18, 2024
3. CNBC.com, October 15, 2024
4. The Wall Street Journal, October 17, 2024
5. The Wall Street Journal, October 18, 2024
6. The Wall Street Journal, October 18, 2024
7. IRS.gov, July 3, 2024
8. American Psychological Association, July 24, 2024