

The Market Week in Review

For Week Ending December 30, 2017

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THE MARKETS

The final week of the year had very little economic data and very light trading with most of market participants on vacation. The Dow set 62 new highs in 2017 and the S&P experienced eight sessions of at least 1% moves. Historically low volatility was perhaps the most prevailing investment theme of the year. Crude oil rose above \$60 per barrel, having its best close since July 2015. The dollar index weakened to 92.

Index	Started Week	Ended Week	Change	% Change	YTD %
DJIA	24,754.06	24,719.22	-34.84	-0.14%	25.08%
Nasdaq	6,959.96	6,903.39	-56.57	-0.81%	28.24%
S&P 500	2,683.34	2,673.61	-9.73	-0.36%	19.42%
Russell 2000	1,542.93	1,535.51	-7.42	-0.48%	13.14%

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

- The year's final reading of The University of Michigan's Consumer Confidence Index registered 122.1. The number of respondents who cited jobs as "hard to get" dropped to 15.2% from 16.8% the prior month.
- The nation's trade deficit widened to \$69.7 billion in November. Exports increased 3% but it wasn't enough to offset the 2.7% rise in imports.

- Initial jobless claims during the week of December 23rd were unchanged at 245,000, though due to the holidays, 15 states had to be estimated. Continuing claims for the week of December 16th rose slightly to 1.94 million with the four week average down 24,000 to 1.92 million.
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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“There is always plenty of capital for those who can create practical plans for using it.”

- Napoleon Hill

We hope you have found the information in this week's market summary informative. If you would like to comment on any of the information found in this week's Market Week in Review please email us at firm@estatecounselors.com. If you would like to discuss how current market conditions could impact your investments, please feel free to call us at the number listed below.

Best regards,

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