

# The Market Week in Review

For Week Ending January 13, 2018

## THE MARKETS

Stocks have now logged their best start to a year since 2003 and all the major indices advanced to fresh highs this week. WTI crude oil hit its highest level since 2014, nearly reaching the \$65 mark. Gold also moved higher to \$1,340 an ounce, helped by a weaker U.S. dollar index which fell below 91. Interest rates continued to rise with the yield on the 10 Year Note briefly hitting 2.60% before settling the week at 2.55%.

Index	Started Week	Ended Week	Change	% Change	YTD %
DJIA	25,295.87	25,803.19	507.32	2.01%	4.39%
Nasdaq	7,136.56	7,261.06	124.50	1.74%	5.18%
S&P 500	2,743.15	2,786.24	43.09	1.57%	4.21%
Russell 2000	1,560.01	1,591.97	31.96	2.05%	3.68%

## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

- The Fed's JOLTS report indicated that job openings slipped 0.8% in November to 5.88 million with hires also falling 1.9% to 5.49 million.
- Import prices in December rose 0.1% with exports slipping 0.1%. Year over year import prices are up 3.0% with export prices rising 2.6%.
- Initial jobless claims in the week of January 6<sup>th</sup> rose 11,000 to a higher than expected 261,000. The four week average for that metric rose a sharp 9,000 to 250,750. In lagging data for the final week of December, continuing claims dropped a healthy 35,000 to 1.87 million, which is a new 44 year low.

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- Producer prices slipped 0.1% in December mainly due to weakness in trade services. The reading was the same when stripping out the volatile food and energy component. Year over year, prices are up 2.6%.
- Consumer prices edged 0.1% higher in December, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index. Less food and energy, core prices rose 0.3%.
- Retail sales rose 0.4% in December and the figure was the same when stripping out automobiles and gas. E-commerce sales were notably healthy during the month.

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### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.”

- T.S. Eliot

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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](mailto: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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