

The Market Week in Review

For Week Ending January 6, 2018

THE MARKETS

Stocks kicked off the year with their best first day of trading since 2013 which also pushed the Nasdaq above 7,000, the Dow above 25,000 and the S&P above 2,700 all for the first time ever. The rally continued through the week and all the major indices closed markedly higher. WTI crude oil tacked on another \$1.50 to \$61.50 per barrel and gold moved \$15 higher to \$1,320 per ounce. On the other side of the trade were bonds, whose prices moved lower as the yield on the 10 Year Note climbed eight basis points to 2.48%.

Index	Started Week	Ended Week	Change	% Change	YTD %
DJIA	24,719.22	25,295.87	576.65	2.33%	2.33%
Nasdaq	6,903.39	7,136.56	233.17	3.38%	3.38%
S&P 500	2,673.61	2,743.15	69.54	2.60%	2.60%
Russell 2000	1,535.51	1,560.01	24.50	1.60%	1.60%

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

- ISM's Manufacturing Index rose 59.7, beating even the high end of expectations. New orders posted their seventh straight 60+ reading of 69.4. Export orders rose 2.5 points to 58.5, underscoring the strength in the report.
- Minutes from the FOMC's most recent meeting which concluded on December 13th indicated that two Committee members voted against raising the Fed Funds target rate 25 basis points. Members also discussed the flattening of the yield curve, which was described as "not unusual".

Contact Us

• Our Website:
www.estatecounselors.com

• Our Email:
firm@estatecounselors.com

• Our Phone Number:
(262) 238-6996

• Our Address:
414 N. Main Street
Thiensville, WI 53092

- Initial jobless claims in the week of December 30th rose 3,000 to a 250,000 level which still indicates a strong labor market. Continuing claims for the week of December 23rd fell 37,000 to 1.91 million.
- Nonfarm payrolls in December increased less than expected, rising only 148,000 versus the 191,000 consensus. The unemployment rate held at 4.1%, as did the labor force participation rate at 62.7%.
- The trade deficit increased to \$50.5 billion in November despite exports jumping 2.3%. Imports spiked 2.5% evidencing strong domestic demand.
- Factory orders rose 1.3% in November on top of a 5 tenth upward revision to a 0.4% gain for the prior month.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The big guys are the status quo, not the innovators.”
- Ken Fisher

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,

Estate Counselors, LLC
414 N. Main Street
Thiensville, WI 53092
Phone (262) 238-6996
Fax (262) 238-6999
www.estatecounselors.com

Important Disclosures: The information and statistics in The Market Week in Review have been obtained from sources we believe to be reliable but are not guaranteed by us to be accurate or complete. Any and all earnings, projections, and estimates assume certain conditions and industry developments, which are subject to change. The opinions stated are those of Estate Counselors, LLC, but are not intended to be a substitute for personal investment advice. Services provided by Estate Counselors, LLC do not constitute legal services and are not being provided by Willms, S.C. law firm. Communications between Estate Counselors, LLC and its clients are therefore not covered by the attorney-client privilege, and as a result may be discoverable by third parties. All such communications are, however, covered by Estate Counselors, LLC's privacy policy, a copy of which is available on request. Please let us know if you would like to discontinue receiving it. Thank you.
