

CHART OF THE WEEK

June 11, 2020

RIDING THE RAILS

For the past several weeks, we have been observing the “battle” between the stock market and economic data. Our Chart of the Week captures the essence of this tug-of-war in a vivid way.

The chart to the right depicts the performance of the railroad industry, as measured by the Dow Jones U.S. Railroads Index. After a sharp decline in March and an almost equally sharp rally in April and May, we see this index once again approaching its high-water mark.

While the stock market seems to have experienced a V-shaped recovery, it appears the real economy may still have considerable ground to cover before it catches up. The graph on the next page reflects this reality.

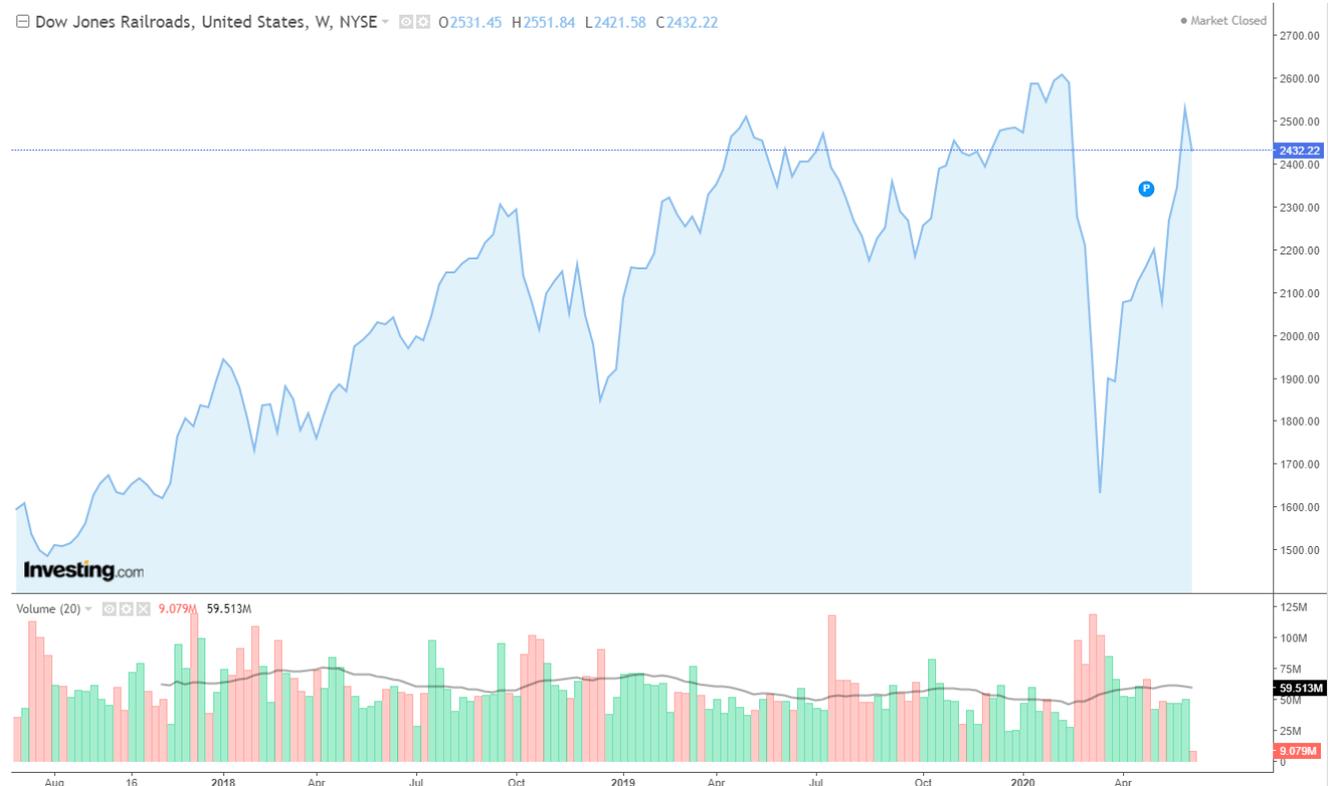


CHART OF THE WEEK

THE GOODS

Rail traffic for the week ending June 6, 2020 was down significantly from the same week in 2019. The comparable year-to-date numbers are down, as well. Given that roughly 40% of goods in the U.S. are shipped via rail,¹ the statistics shown indicate a continuation of serious underlying economic strain.

So, the question remains. Is the recovery in U.S. stocks proportional to a pending economic recovery, or will there be a retreat somewhere along the way as equity markets adjust downward due to sustained economic weakness? Time will tell.

We encourage you to stay focused on your financial goals. We will continue to monitor market and economic trends and keep you and your advisor informed accordingly.

U.S. Rail Traffic¹ Week 23, 2020 – Ended June 6, 2020

| | This Week | | Year-To-Date | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | Cars | vs 2019 | Cumulative | Avg/wk ² | vs 2019 |
| Total Carloads | 192,494 | -22.0% | 4,906,251 | 213,315 | -15.1% |
| Chemicals | 27,902 | -13.8% | 714,051 | 31,046 | -4.0% |
| Coal | 48,689 | -32.1% | 1,319,838 | 57,384 | -26.3% |
| Farm Products excl. Grain, and Food | 14,793 | -3.5% | 348,166 | 15,138 | -3.0% |
| Forest Products | 8,632 | -9.5% | 214,962 | 9,346 | -6.1% |
| Grain | 21,026 | -0.9% | 475,778 | 20,686 | -5.8% |
| Metallic Ores and Metals | 13,393 | -40.3% | 427,388 | 18,582 | -14.5% |
| Motor Vehicles and Parts | 9,365 | -40.5% | 233,984 | 10,173 | -37.8% |
| Nonmetallic Minerals | 30,109 | -14.2% | 686,899 | 29,865 | -10.0% |
| Petroleum and Petroleum Products | 9,672 | -27.6% | 267,105 | 11,613 | -8.9% |
| Other | 8,913 | -11.9% | 218,080 | 9,482 | 1.4% |
| Total Intermodal Units | 240,677 | -9.6% | 5,427,307 | 235,970 | -11.2% |
| Total Traffic | 433,171 | -15.6% | 10,333,558 | 449,285 | -13.1% |

¹ Excludes U.S. operations of Canadian Pacific, CN and GMXT.

² Average per week figures may not sum to totals as a result of independent rounding.

Source: <https://www.aar.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-06-10-railtraffic.pdf>

CHART OF THE WEEK

June 11, 2020



Kevin Churchill
CFA®, CFP®
Chief Investment Officer

¹ <https://railroads.dot.gov/rail-network-development/freight-rail/freight-rail-overview>

Please remember that past performance may not be indicative of future results. Different types of investments involve varying degrees of risk, and there can be no assurance that the future performance of any specific investment, investment strategy, or product (including the investments and/or investment strategies recommended or undertaken by Ashton Thomas Private Wealth, LLC), or any non-investment related content, made reference to directly or indirectly in this newsletter will be profitable, equal any corresponding indicated historical performance level(s), be suitable for your portfolio or individual situation, or prove successful. Due to various factors, including changing market conditions and/or applicable laws, the content may no longer be reflective of current opinions or positions. Moreover, you should not assume that any discussion or information contained in this newsletter serves as the receipt of, or as a substitute for, personalized investment advice from Ashton Thomas Private Wealth, LLC. To the extent that a reader has any questions regarding the applicability of any specific issue discussed above to his/her individual situation, he/she is encouraged to consult with the professional advisor of his/her choosing. Ashton Thomas Private Wealth, LLC is neither a law firm nor a certified public accounting firm and no portion of the newsletter content should be construed as legal or accounting advice. If you are a Ashton Thomas Private Wealth, LLC client, please remember to contact Ashton Thomas Private Wealth, LLC, in writing, if there are any changes in your personal/financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing/evaluating/revising our previous recommendations and/or services. A copy of the Ashton Thomas Private Wealth, LLC's current written disclosure statement discussing our advisory services and fees is available upon request.