

CHART OF THE MOMENT

December 4, 2020

A November to Remember

As we finish the final weeks of a year that has undoubtedly changed our lives in many ways, I want to start by wishing you a delightful upcoming holiday season. Whether in person or by Zoom, I hope you can enjoy some time with your friends, families, and loved ones.

As we look back on November, the news of positive results from coronavirus vaccine trials from Pfizer, Moderna, and AstraZeneca helped drive the markets higher. In the chart to the right, we can see that 464 of the S&P 500 companies were positive for November. What a stark contrast to the recovery we saw in April when companies were recovering from the Corona Crash of February and March, when many parts of the world were implementing COVID-19 restrictions. One would expect the majority of stocks to contribute towards gains coming off a -34% selloff, but to see a nearly equal number of companies provide positive gains in November well into the recovery is a sign that the broader market sectors are recovering and not just the sectors that led through the pandemic.

Stock Market Success Spreads

Number of S&P 500 stocks contributing to market gains in 2020, by month



Sources: FactSet, WSJ



statista

Source: <https://www.statista.com/chart/23664/stock-market-gains-covid/>

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While we still have a challenging winter ahead of us with the third wave of rising COVID-19 cases, we can finally start to see the light at the end of the tunnel. As the vaccine distribution begins in the coming months, hopefully by Spring or Summer of 2021, we can start to see a return to normalcy. However, it will be interesting to see how consumer behaviors have changed. Will there be a pent-up demand for say, the travel and restaurant industries, or will consumers continue to stay home? Will we see another period of the roaring '20s? While the answers to these questions remain unknown, I am thankful that we finally have a light at the end of the tunnel.

With 2021 on the horizon, what life changes are happening for you next year? Have you planned appropriately? It's always a good idea to review your entire financial picture and ensure it is tied together with a current, personalized financial plan.

If it's time for a fresh look at your financial situation, let's talk!



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