



## Weekly Economic News & Updates

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### THE WEEK ON WALL STREET

The big story last week was the sudden grounding of Boeing 737 Max 8 and 9 passenger jets in dozens of countries. The financial effects of this ban could potentially impact the airline industry and segments of the economy for months. While the news created a headwind for the Dow Industrials, stocks managed to post solid gains for the week. The Nasdaq Composite rose 3.12%; the S&P 500, 2.46%; the Dow, 2.25%. Bullish sentiment was also evident overseas. Looking at the MSCI EAFE index, international stocks advanced 1.93%. Any companies mentioned are for illustrative purposes only. It should not be considered a solicitation for the purchase or sale of the securities. Any investment should be consistent with your objectives, time frame and risk tolerance.

### TRADE MEETING DELAYED

Yet another week of intense negotiations, and still no definitive trade deal with China. Even though signs of progress are uneven and the President has tempered his optimism, both sides are certainly doing their best and, no doubt, giving it the ol' college try. But, as we've learned this week, the ol' college try isn't what it used to be and plans for a late-March, Mar-a-Lago, celebratory keg party are up in the air. Back in jolly ol' England, the embattled Mrs. May could probably do with a cold one, or two, after another week of more failed attempts to somehow enable the United Kingdom to gracefully end its existing relationship with the European Union. Britannia may have once ruled the waves, but that ship has already sailed; there will be no graceful exit for the Brits.

### MUTED INFLATION

The latest Consumer Price Index showed just a 1.5% rise in overall consumer costs in the year ending in February. This number does not suggest an overheating economy. During a 60 Minutes interview last week, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said the central bank did "not feel any hurry" to make a rate move.

### TAX TIP

If you turned 70½ last year, April 1 is your final deadline to receive your initial Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from a traditional IRA, SEP-IRA, SIMPLE IRA, or employer-sponsored retirement plan. If you take your initial RMD from these retirement accounts this year, you must receive your second RMD from them by December 31, 2019.

### WEEKLY QUOTE

*"Committing a **great truth** to memory is **admirable**; committing it to life is **wisdom**."*

WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD

### WEEKLY TIP

*If it seems you will **retire before you are eligible for Medicare**, be sure to **make the most of your employee health benefits**. Schedule doctor, optometrist, and dentist check-ups as well as any major procedures needed. Paying for this health care out of pocket could be hugely expensive, and the premiums for private insurance could be costly.*

### WEEKLY RIDDLE

*Only one bachelor has served as President of the United States. Who was he?*

### Last week's answer:

*750 - 200 = 550 standard-sized cars*

Sources: MarektingPro, Financial Strategies Group, The Baker Group, w.sj.com, bigcharts.com, treasury.gov, Randy Baker and Chris Low and Rebecca Kooshak FTN Financial

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