

TWO MINUTE DRILL

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LakePointe Advisors LLC

DECEMBER 2023

Index	11/30/2023	Change	% Change	% YTD
Dow Jones Industrial Average	35,950.89	520.47	1.47%	8.46%
S&P 500	4,567.80	17.22	0.38%	18.97%
NASDAQ Composite	14,226.22	-32.27	-0.23%	35.92%
Russell 2000	1,809.02	5.21	0.29%	2.71%
MSCI EAFE	2,124.91	1.74	0.08%	9.31%
MSCI Emerging Market	987.10	4.06	0.41%	3.21%

Source: FactSet. All performance percentages are simple appreciation, which excludes the effect of dividends. Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate displays as actual YTD%, as opposed to 12-month, year-over-year performance

TOP NEWS

Markets:

- The S&P 500 completed November with a 9.1% rally after a volatile October. The DJIA and Nasdaq also surged in November as the market anticipates that the Federal Reserve is done raising interest rates.

Government:

- Congress avoided yet another government shutdown by passing short-term funding legislation, kicking the spending can down the road until January 2024.

Economy:

- After spiking in October, bond yields pulled back significantly in November, again on the hopes that the Federal Reserve has completed its cycle of interest rate increases to fight inflation.



FEATURED TIPS

Stay Diligent In December

It's very easy at this time of year to get caught up in the season of giving. We made it to the end of yet another year and are well into the Christmas and holiday spending season. At the risk of sounding like Scrooge, I just want to be the voice of reason for a minute or two.

Many of us tend to overspend on those we care about during this time of year. We've all done it. It's our way of showing our appreciation, thanks and love of family, friends and those important to us. Once the holidays are over and the credit card bills start arriving in January, the holiday spending hangover kicks in. If used wisely, credit may allow us to manage our financial lives and cash-flow more efficiently. Using the card issuer's money for 30 days and then paying the balance off when the bill arrives. However, overspending and abuse of credit can and will lead to financial hardship, stress, loss of productivity and even health.

Before clicking submit at your online shopping website of choice, at the mall or wherever you shop, make sure you'll be able to pay the bill when it comes. You're not doing your loved ones a favor by overspending on gifts you can't afford only to make what might be a bad credit situation worse. Rather, set limits and budgets for holiday spending and be accountable to yourself, your spouse, or significant other about adhering to those limits. I assure you, you'll feel much better in January if you do.

Also, stay active as you eat all of those holiday meals and treats. Continue or start an exercise program now, before the herd does it as part of a New Year resolution. Health risk is one of the risks we all face that we can't transfer. Enjoy, but stay disciplined financially and physically this holiday season.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. As always, thank you for your confidence, loyalty and trust. I assure you that I don't take it for granted.

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Investors cannot invest directly in indexes. The performance of any index is not indicative of the performance of any investment and does not take into account the effects of inflation and the fees and expenses associated with investing.

The Russell 2000 is a stock market index measuring the performance of 2000 small capitalization stocks. It represents the 2000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000 Index, which in turn represents the 3000 largest companies in the U.S. Thus, the Russell 2000 is a barometer of small-cap stocks. Though small, the companies represented by the Russell 2000 are not the smallest of the small as they are not penny stocks. The Russell 2000 is weighted by the market capitalization of the stocks.

The MSCI EAFE Index is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets (Europe, Australasia, Far East) excluding the U.S. and Canada. The Index is market-capitalization weighted.

The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is designed to measure equity market performance in global emerging markets. It is a float-adjusted market capitalization index.

Before deciding whether to retain assets in a 401(k) or roll over to an IRA, an investor should consider various factors including, but not limited to, investment options, fees and expenses, services, withdrawal penalties, protection from creditors and legal judgments, required minimum distributions and possession of employer stock. Please view the Investor Alerts section of the FINRA website for additional information.



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