



Abel Financial Strategies

Augustus W. Abel, CFP®
Financial Advisor
3130 Winding Woods Dr
Powell, OH 43065
phone (614) 499-1201
aw@awabelfinancial.com
www.awabelfinancial.com

*Abel Financial
Strategies*



Market Week: March 3, 2014

The Markets

After making several attempts at setting a new all-time record high, the S&P 500 finally managed it at the end of the week. Buoyed by the possibility of a slowdown in Fed tapering, domestic equities more than erased the previous week's losses; it was the first week so far this year that the S&P has ended in positive territory year-to-date.

Market/Index	2013 Close	Prior Week	As of 2/28	Weekly Change	YTD Change
DJIA	16576.66	16103.30	16321.71	1.36%	-1.54%
Nasdaq	4176.59	4263.41	4308.12	1.05%	3.15%
S&P 500	1848.36	1836.25	1859.45	1.26%	.60%
Russell 2000	1163.64	1164.63	1183.03	1.58%	1.67%
Global Dow	2484.10	2465.31	2484.68	.79%	.02%
Fed. Funds	.25%	.25%	.25%	0 bps	0 bps
10-year Treasuries	3.04%	2.73%	2.66%	-7 bps	-38 bps

Chart reflects price changes, not total return. Because it does not include dividends or splits, it should not be used to benchmark performance of specific investments.

Last Week's Headlines

- The U.S. economy grew a bit more slowly in Q4 2013 than previously thought (2.4%). According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, that put growth for all of 2013 at 1.9%.
- Home prices saw a slight (0.1%) decline in December, according to the S&P/Case-Shiller 20-City Composite Index--its second straight drop--but were 13.4% higher than the previous December.
- Despite the frigid winter weather in much of the country, the Commerce Department said sales of new homes were almost 10% higher than in December and more than 2% higher than the previous January.
- Orders for durable goods fell 1% in January, according to the Commerce Department. Though it was the third month of the last four to see a decline, it wasn't nearly as bad as December's 5.3% drop, and most of the decline was due to the often volatile transportation sector. Excluding the 5.6% transportation loss, new orders were up 1.1%.
- Tokyo-based Mt. Gox, at one time the largest Bitcoin exchange, filed for bankruptcy following days of suspense after its website went dark. The company said hackers may have made off with roughly 750,000 bitcoins owned by customers and 100,000 of its own--the equivalent of nearly half a billion dollars' worth of the virtual currency. Meanwhile, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen told a congressional committee that the Fed has no authority to regulate Bitcoin but suggested that Congress could look into doing so.



Key Dates/Data Releases

3/3: Auto sales, personal income/spending, ISM manufacturing report, construction spending

3/5: ISM services report, Fed "beige book"

3/6: Business productivity/costs, U.S. factory orders

3/7: Unemployment/payrolls, balance of trade

- Yellen also told Congress that the Fed is keeping a close eye on signs of weakness in economic data over the last month and is prepared to slow its tapering efforts if necessary. The Fed wants to assess the extent to which the weakness was the result of a slowing economy or simply lousy weather.

Eye on the Week Ahead

In addition to Friday's jobs numbers, investors will be watching the European Central Bank on Thursday to see if any additional monetary easing policies might be announced. On Wednesday, the Chinese government will announce its forecast for economic growth there in 2014. Finally, the tense situation in Ukraine could also factor into the psychology of the markets.

Data sources: All information is based on sources deemed reliable, but no warranty or guarantee is made as to its accuracy or completeness. News items are based on reports from multiple commonly available international news sources (i.e., wire services) and are independently verified when necessary with secondary sources such as government agencies, corporate press releases, or trade organizations. Market data: U.S. Treasury (Treasury yields); WSJ Market Data Center (equities); Federal Reserve Board (Fed Funds target rate); U.S. Energy Information Administration/Bloomberg.com Market Data (oil spot price, WTI Cushing, OK); www.goldprice.org (spot gold, NY close); Oanda/FX Street (currency exchange rates). Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any securities, and should not be relied on as financial advice. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) is a price-weighted index composed of 30 widely traded blue-chip U.S. common stocks. The S&P 500 is a market-cap weighted index composed of the common stocks of 500 leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy. The NASDAQ Composite Index is a market-value weighted index of all common stocks listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange. The Russell 2000 is a market-cap weighted index composed of 2,000 U.S. small-cap common stocks. The Global Dow is an equally weighted index of 150 widely traded blue-chip common stocks worldwide. Market indices listed are unmanaged and are not available for direct investment.

Securities offered through **First Heartland Capital**[®], Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory Services offered through **First Heartland**[®] **Consultants, Inc.** (Abel Financial Strategies is not affiliated with First Heartland Capital[®], Inc.)

