



JGC Wealth Management, LLC

Fee-Only Financial Planning and Asset Management

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Third Quarter Update September 30, 2021

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS

Sixty years after imagining the project, and after both had passed away, why did the famed artist couple Christo and Jeanne-Claude wrap L'Arc de Triomphe in Paris in silvery-blue fabric and red rope (which became an especially ethereal nighttime display)? Because they wanted to. And because their heirs carried out their vision, funding it through Christo's estate. (Jeanne-Claude died in 2009; Christo passed on May 31, 2020.) The exhibit ran from September 18–October 3, never to be repeated. Touching the artwork was not only permitted but encouraged. The event did not dominate global headlines. But it was a nice bit of upbeat news elbowing its way in through the usual crisis-driven clamor.

As usual, there's plenty to be concerned about. In the U.S., trillion-dollar budget proposals rise and fall. The debt ceiling hovers in balance. Immigrants press at the borders and inflation waits in the wings. Around the world, there's heartbreaking news coming out of Afghanistan, China's Evergrande is on the brink of failure, and repercussions of climate change loom ever larger.

THE MARKETS IN REVIEW

Throughout, markets have continued to deliver relatively strong returns year to date. But not unlike the Christo and Jeanne-Claude exhibit, this news has been wedged in between the usual bounty of mixed messages. As a *Wall Street Journal* quarter-end wrap-up reported, "All told, the S&P 500 is still up 15% for the year and managed to squeeze out a sixth straight quarter of gains." But this larger view arrives several paragraphs in, after leading with the more attention-grabbing news: "Markets tumbled to end the quarter, sending the S&P 500 to its worst monthly pullback since the pandemic-fueled selloff of March 2020." It's typical to think of capital markets as nothing more than constructions for conducting commerce and making money. That they tend to do over time. But markets are made of people, in all our messy glory. Which means the close-up view can be equally as messy. This, in turn, tempts reporters and consumers alike to focus on bold, breaking news that seems to matter, instead of the bigger picture.

THE IMPACT OF THE NEWS TO YOU







A recent Farnam Street columnist observed:

"News is, by definition, something that doesn't last. It exists for only a moment before it changes. ... It's not important to living a good life. It's not going to help you make better decisions. It's not going to help you understand the world. It's not dense with information. It's not going to help you develop deep and meaningful connections with the people around you."

Christo, Jeanne-Claude, and their heirs have demonstrated that there's value in savoring life's fleeting moments. But their "news" is of a different nature. When new information helps us reimagine the ordinary, it can elevate our world view. It grants us the gift of connecting with others who can offer a different perspective. It can even stretch time and reach across generations to create enduring legacies. This is what we wish for you and your family—this and every quarter. Please continue to reach out to us whenever we can help you realize your own family's greatest goals in a world that never stops spinning.

Quarterly Market Summary

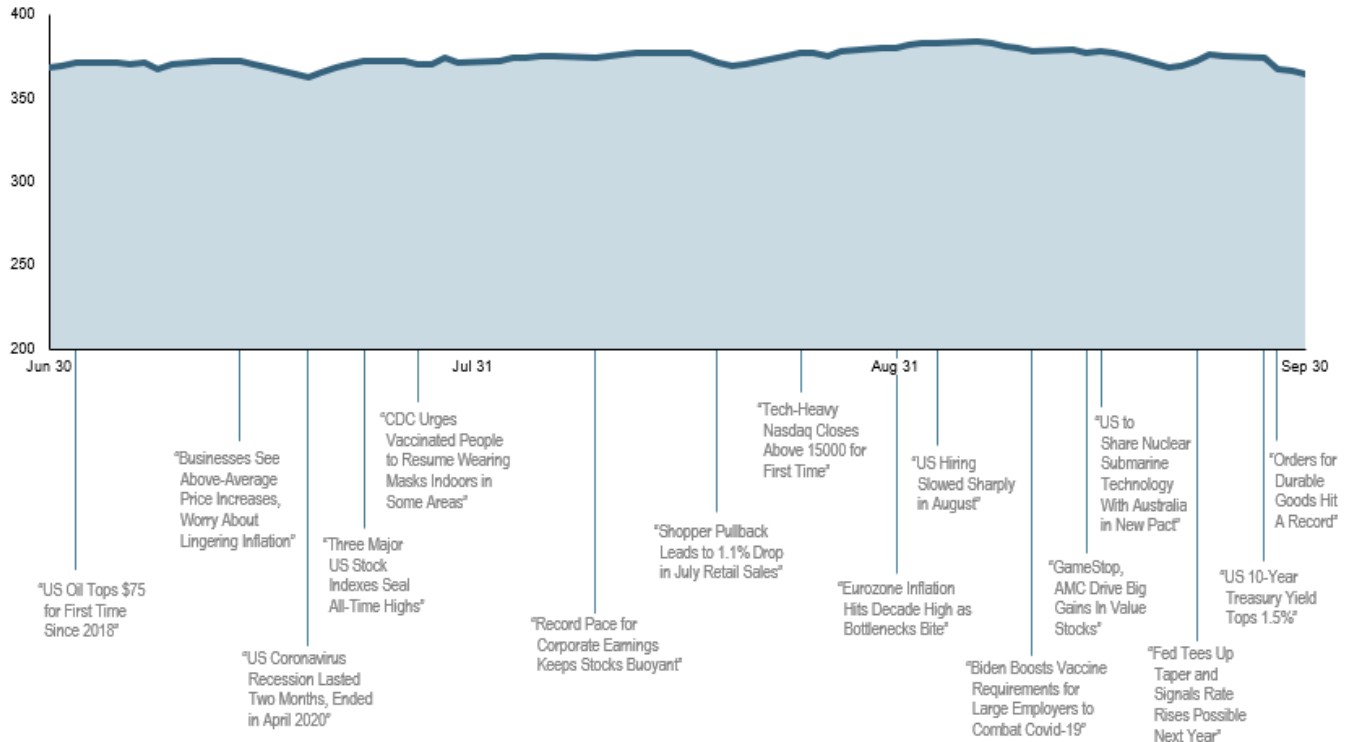
Index Returns

	US Stock Market	International Developed Stocks	Emerging Markets Stocks	Global Real Estate	US Bond Market	Global Bond Market ex US
3Q 2021	STOCKS				BONDS	
	-0.10%	-0.66%	-8.09%	-0.08%	0.05%	0.09%
						
Since Jan. 2001						
Avg. Quarterly Return	2.4%	1.7%	2.9%	2.5%	1.1%	1.1%
Best Quarter	22.0%	25.9%	34.7%	32.3%	4.6%	4.6%
	2020 Q2	2009 Q2	2009 Q2	2009 Q3	2001 Q3	2008 Q4
Worst Quarter	-22.8%	-23.3%	-27.6%	-36.1%	-3.4%	-2.7%
	2008 Q4	2020 Q1	2008 Q4	2008 Q4	2021 Q1	2015 Q2

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Market segment (index representation) as follows: US Stock Market (Russell 3000 Index), International Developed Stocks (MSCI World ex USA Index [net div.]), Emerging Markets (MSCI Emerging Markets Index [net div.]), Global Real Estate (S&P Global REIT Index [net div.]), US Bond Market (Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index), and Global Bond Market ex US (Bloomberg Global Aggregate ex-USD Bond Index [hedged to USD]). S&P data © 2021 S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a division of S&P Global. All rights reserved. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks, and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. MSCI data © MSCI 2021, all rights reserved. Bloomberg data provided by Bloomberg.

World Stock Market Performance

MSCI All Country World Index with selected headlines from Q3 2021



These headlines are not offered to explain market returns. Instead, they serve as a reminder that investors should view daily events from a long-term perspective and avoid making investment decisions based solely on the news.

Graph Source: MSCI ACWI Index [net div.]. MSCI data © MSCI 2021, all rights reserved.

It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Performance does not reflect the expenses associated with management of an actual portfolio. **Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.**

HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN

Medicare open enrollment began on October 15th and will run through December 7th, allowing everyone who wants one, a do-over on what health plan they will be saddled with for the coming year. Without a doubt, Medicare is one of the more complicated health insurance programs, so here are some things to consider as you're maneuvering through the process.

- Be mindful of the fraudsters – Medicare's website encourages you to guard your Medicare ID number as you would a credit card number. Additionally, Medicare can only enroll you over the phone if you call them first; they won't be calling you to initiate this. They also won't be visiting you at your home, so be wary of a person knocking on your door calling themselves a Medicare rep.
- Prescriptions – each plan changes which prescriptions it covers annually. Thankfully, Medicare.gov now has a comparison tool to help you identify which plans will best cover your specific prescriptions
- Plan styles – each plan offers different benefits. We recommend focusing your search on the plan that covers the items that are most important to you. Perhaps it's lower co-pays, maybe you'd prefer cheaper premiums, or maybe the best prescription coverage available would mean the most to you in the coming year.

Often when folks are talking Medicare, they're asking questions about Social Security. Let us know if you'd like to make a plan for the best time to collect Social Security, or how to structure withdrawals from investment accounts to minimize how Social Security may or may not be taxed. Until then, happy Medicare season!

Live Updates via Web Event

We are continuing to have virtual "market updates" when we can. Our next update will be November 16th at 7:00 p.m. We plan on addressing some of the most common questions we are receiving from clients and give some updates on tax and other changes as well. Please register by sending an email to info@jgcwealth.com, along with any questions you might have.

Quarterly Reports

Enclosed are the reports on your portfolio for the quarter ending September 30, 2021. If you want to discuss your portfolio, have had changes in your financial situation, or have any other financial concerns or questions, please call us.

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