













COVID-19 Index

August 3, 2020

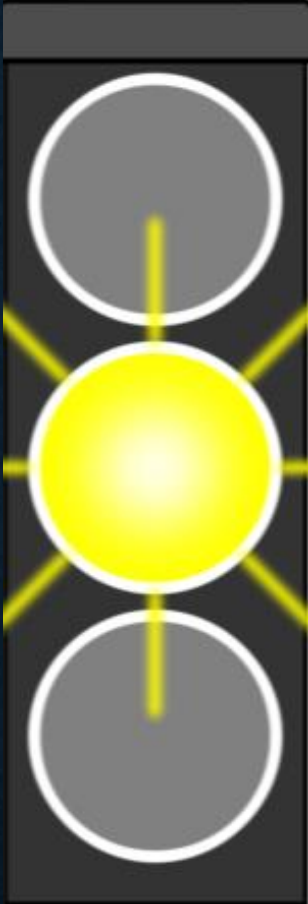
Health

Economy

Markets

Topic	Current Status	Score
Vaccine Testing Treatment	Consensus for a vaccine by mid-2021. The availability and accuracy of testing remains a controversy. Trump administration aims to have a vaccine by January 2021 as part of Operation Warp Speed. The U.S. government agreed to pay nearly \$2 billion to Pfizer and BioNTech for 100 million coronavirus vaccine doses.	
New Cases	Global confirmed cases are 17,325,093 as of July 31, 2020 according to JHU. Number of cases in US is 4,495,375. New cases in the U.S. came in at 70,800 on July 29, 2020. Dr. Fauci said that states with severe Covid-19 outbreaks are going to “seriously look at shutting down.”	
Deaths	According to JHU: Global deaths at 673,868 and US deaths at 152,075 as of July 31, 2020. Per the WHO, the Covid-19 crisis is “far from over” and “the worst has yet to come.”	
US GDP	U.S. GDP fell at a seasonally and inflation adjusted -32.9% annual rate in Q2, or a -9.5% drop compared with the prior quarter. The figures were the steepest declines in more than 70 years of record-keeping. Fed forecasts US economy will shrink -6.5% this year.	
ECRI	ECRI’s U.S. Weekly Leading Index (WLI) stands at -6.5% as of July 24, 2020. The market tends not to rebound until the ECRI trends positive. It is not as low as 2009 levels anymore.	
Unemployment	June unemployment rate fell to 11.1% from 13.3%. Initial claims for jobless benefits rose to 1.434 million last week, up from 1.416 the week prior. This was the 19th week in a row where initial jobless claims were above 1 million. Continuing claims climbed to 17.06 million, up from 16.197 million the week prior. The rise in continuing claims was concentrated in California and Texas.	
More Stimulus?	Republicans are set to release their proposal for the next coronavirus relief bill on Monday, August 3, 2020, with millions of Americans on the verge of losing unemployment benefits.	
Federal Reserve	Fed Chair Jerome Powell said that “the pace of the recovery looks like it has slowed.” He also said that “the path of the economy is going to depend to a very high extent on the course of the virus, on the measures that we take to keep it in check.”	
Global	Last week, European Union leaders agreed to a €750 billion coronavirus relief fund. While this move was clearly triggered by the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic, “it established a crucial principle that the European Union was willing to provide some fiscal aid to nations in an emergency,” said Dr. David Kelly of JP Morgan Chase. German GDP shrunk -10.1% in Q2.	
S&P 500	+1.25% YTD. Goldman Sachs forecasts the S&P 500 will end 2020 roughly -7% lower than its current price. They estimate it to be at 3,000 by the end of the year, and 3,100 by the end of 2021. Tech mega caps continue to lead the rally. FAANGM accounts for over 25% of the S&P.	
Gold	Gold prices reached a new all-time high on Thursday, July 30, 2020, as it hit \$1,960 per ounce. The previous all-time high was set in 2011 when it was \$1,921 per ounce.	
Earnings	S&P 500 Forward P/E Ratio currently 22.02x, a level not seen since Tech Bubble. A market of haves versus have nots. “Big Tech” companies demolished Q2 earnings estimates.	

OVERALL



Progress will be slow; hope for no 2nd wave; consensus for a “swoosh” recovery if we are lucky.

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