

Weekly Market Update

November 30, 2020



Last Week in the Markets: November 23rd – 27th, 2020

	TSX	S&P 500	DOW	NASDAQ	ACWI	CAD/USD	GOLD (USD)	OIL (USD)
Friday Close	17,396.56	3,638.35	29,910.37	12,205.85	623.759	76.99 ¢	\$1,788.10	\$ 45.53
week +/-	+ 377.46	+ 80.81	+ 646.89	+ 350.88	+ 14.235	+ 0.62¢	-\$ 90.10	+ \$ 3.11
week +/- %	+ 2.22%	+ 2.27%	+ 2.21%	+ 2.96%	+ 2.34%	+ 0.82%	- 4.80%	+ 7.33%
52 wk HIGH	17,971	3,646	30,117	12,236	612	77.35 ¢	\$2,099	\$ 58.92
52 wk LOW	11.173	2.192	18.214	6.631	403	68.18 ¢	\$1.462	\$ 26.22
YTD +/- %	+ 1.95%	+ 12.62%	+ 4.81%	+ 36.03%	+ 10.35%	+ 0.01%	+ 17.40%	- 25.43%
1Yr +/- %	+ 1.73%	+15.37%	+ 6.20%	+ 40.21%	+ 13.48%	+ 2.26%	+ 23.03%	- 21.65%

(source: Bloomberg <https://www.bloomberg.com/markets>, MSCI <https://www.msci.com/end-of-day-data-search> and ARG Inc. analysis)

What happened last week?

Despite elements of turmoil elsewhere, especially the political and legal kinds, it was a relatively lighter week as the American Thanksgiving holiday was observed on Thursday. U.S. markets were closed on Thursday and operated with limited hours on Friday. Two competing forces affected market values last week: the expanding spread of the coronavirus and optimism regarding the progress of vaccine development. Infections, hospitalizations and deaths continue to rise globally, particularly in the United States where daily rates are approached and surpassed the peaks of late spring and summer. AstraZeneca provided positive vaccine development news to counter disease spread, adding to earlier announcements by Moderna and Pfizer that a viable vaccine has been proven effective and relatively safe.

At the moment the positive news is besting the negative effects of the pandemic's spread as the major indices in North America made solid gains of more than 2% last week. The Canadian dollar strengthened in tandem with the price of oil, which are both signs of international confidence in Canada.

Canadians are facing similarly dire Covid-19 news across the country. In addition to the public health measures new federal financial support for individuals and commercial tenants has been announced. The latest details of Canada's Covid-19 Economic Response Plan:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#industry>

What's ahead for this week?

In Canada, the Federal Finance Minister, Chrystia Freeland, will deliver an economic update. The overall health of the government and the spending to-date on coronavirus release will be outlined, but the detail is expected to be more focused on the next few months and year, than the last 8 months when Bill Morneau ran this portfolio. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-heres-what-to-look-for-in-ottawas-coming-fiscal-update/>

The schedule for releases for the next few weeks includes September's Gross Domestic Product, October's building permits and raw materials price index and November's employment report. Collectively the statistics will provide additional insight into Canada's economic health.

In the U.S., pending home sales, durable goods orders, construction spending and the trade balance, all for October, will be released along with November's employment report.