



Friday, January 14, 2022

Week in Review, January 14, 2022

In Focus: Climate Change Mitigation

U.S. stock markets have continued to be quite volatile through the second week of the New Year as the Federal Reserve carries on debates on how to address surging inflation. In December of 2021, U.S. inflation reached 7%, setting a record pace since 1982. The catalyst has been supply chain disruptions, food shortages, and government stimulus as a result of the pandemic, which has created great economic uncertainty moving forward ([WSJ](#)). Big banks are expecting four interest rate hikes from the Federal Reserve this year to better position monetary policy to address inflationary issues ([Reuters](#)). While a record number of jobs were added in 2021, as of the second week of 2022, U.S. jobless claims have risen to 230,000, increasing by 23,000 since last week, the highest since November, and about 15% higher than projected ([NYP](#)). Economists are not concerned with the surge in cases from the Covid-19 Omicron variant, believing that the variant will have a minimal impact on businesses and the labor market ([WSJ](#)). For the week, markets ended with the S&P 500 down 0.3%, the DJIA down 0.9%, and the NASDAQ down 0.3%.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), [2021](#) was one of the most catastrophic climate years on record with 688 deaths and about \$150 billion in damages as a result of extreme weather events all caused by climate change. Even with climate mitigation strategies, severe weather events are only expected to become more frequent and severe over time ([ABC](#)). Is Climate Change in your Top 10 List of Problems? Based on the latest Quinnipiac poll of the most urgent issues facing the country today, Americans say the top three are the economy, Covid-19, and immigration. And only 8% of Americans say climate change is an urgent issue, ranking 5th on the top 10 list. Based on political affiliation, Republicans say climate change is not even an issue and 9% of Independents say climate change is 5th on their list. On the other hand, 13% of Democrats say climate change is their 3rd most urgent issue on their top 10 list ([WSJ](#), [QU Poll](#)).

In 2021, the vast majority of government climate action did not go far enough and this year environmental laws will be at the center of climate change mitigation. Here are some of the most groundbreaking environmental bills, laws, and orders to [watch](#). Another remarkable opportunity for climate mitigation might be to switch to a plant-based diet. If nations move away from animal products, much less land would be needed to supply food. In turn, returning farmland to its natural state could remove 100 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by the end of the century ([Independent](#)).

This week's Big Bold Jewish Climate Fest featured a panel on how to divest from coal, oil and gas companies. Currently, there are roughly \$100 billion in assets held in Jewish endowments and other investments. While it is acknowledged that these assets will not make or break the fossil fuel industry, we are grateful for any additional momentum and

pressure placed on Wall Street firms to consider clean energy investments and help fight climate change ([Forward](#)).

Here is more evidence, if proof were needed, that the great energy transition is a slow one. Oil and gas majors continue to plough money into fossil fuels ([FT](#)).

The U.S. Mint has begun shipping the first coins in the American Women Quarters Program commemorating pioneering American women. The first quarters to circulate as part of the program honor Maya Angelou for her contribution to American history and make her the first Black woman to be depicted on a U.S. quarter. The writer and poet, who died in 2014 at age 86, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011 and recited a poem at U.S. President Bill Clinton's 1993 inauguration. The bureau will issue five quarters a year to honor women in fields including women's suffrage, civil rights, abolition, government and the arts ([NYT](#)).

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, our offices will be closed Monday, January 17th.

Please reach out to us with any market questions or commentary. Have a good weekend!

Weekend Watch

CBS 60 Minutes [Bridging America's political divide with conversations, "One Small Step" at a time](#)

Weekend Reads

RBC [Global Insight 2022 Outlook](#)

RBC [Global Insight Weekly January 13, 2022](#)

Jacobin [Public Pension Funds Are Massive Investors in Fossil Fuels](#)

NY Times [U.S. GHG Emissions Bounced Back Sharply in 2021](#)

NY Times [A Vivid View of Extreme Weather: Temperature Records in the U.S. in 2021](#)

NY Times [Manchin's Choice on Build Back Better: Mine Workers or Mine Owners](#)

Politico [White House departures send tremors through environmental community](#)

Reuters [Container shipping giant speeds up decarbonisation target by a decade](#)

The Atlantic [It's Not Just Manchin](#)

Washington Post [Kids shot and killed in 2021 could set gun violence record](#)

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