



Friday, April 3, 2020

Week in Review, April 3, 2020

Special Focus: CARES Act, Mental Health, Beacons of Hope

Markets ended the week down, with the S&P down 2.1%, the DJIA down 2.7% and the NASDAQ down 1.7%. Wednesday also brought the first quarter of 2020 to a close, along with some difficult to digest records: driven by concerns about the economic impact of the Corona Virus, the S&P 500 had its worst quarter since 2008, and the DJIA its worst since 1987 ([WSJ](#)). With roughly two-thirds of Americans under some form of social distancing order from their state or local government, weekly initial unemployment claims sky rocketed to 6.6 million ([Washington Post](#)). The U.S. topped 1,000 coronavirus deaths in a single day for the first time Wednesday, a daily death toll more than double that of two of America's most deadly illnesses – lung cancer and the flu. Nationally, the University of Washington model predicts a peak daily death toll of 2,214 in mid-April, and a total of 84,000 Americans dead by the end of summer. That's more than twice the lives claimed during the 2018-19 flu season, which killed 34,000 people, according to the CDC ([MSN](#)). See the latest global situation report from the World Health Organization [here](#).

Special focus: CARES Act Summary

Congress passed a \$2 trillion stimulus bill last week. A detailed summary is attached. There is a little bit of something for everyone in this—from individuals with extended unemployment benefits, to small businesses, to larger companies and municipalities. The government moved very quickly to push this through in a very rare flash of bipartisan support. This is hoped to keep the nation in “suspended animation” as we endure the continued onslaught of covid-19. However, we would not be surprised if the government had to come back with additional fiscal stimulus packages down the road.

Special focus: Mental Health

We have all heard a lot about the virus itself and its impact on physical and economic health. This week we want to recognize the impact the uncertainty and social distancing we are experiencing can have on our mental health. Feeling vulnerable during this time is normal, and it does not equate to weakness. As Brene Brown said on “60 Minutes” this past Sunday, we are not meant to go at life alone. We have shared emotions and shared vulnerabilities, and we fare better when we use each other for support and courage ([CBS](#)). “We don't know how to social distance and stay sane...We don't know what to tell our kids. We're anxious, we're uncertain, we are a lot of us afraid. And...I know this from 20 years of research, and 400,000 pieces of data: ...if you don't own the feelings, and feel them, they will eat you alive.” If you are in need of support, please reach out and call a friend, a loved one, or us. In addition, the CDC has posted a number of resources for coping with stress and anxiety [here](#). We will get through this, together.

Special focus: Beacons of hope

Without dismissing the ongoing uncertainty, this week we also want to highlight some positive things we have seen people do for each other. In the absence of an organized federal response, we have seen state and local governments, local banks and community development funds, academic institutions, celebrities, and neighbors all step up to help each other.

- While the CARES act offers a lot of support for small businesses, we should recognize the work that CDFIs, community banks, and city level officials began doing before Congress passed the CARES act to give local businesses in underserved communities the support they need as quickly as possible. Here is some of what they have been doing: ([The Hill](#), [Chicago small business](#), [Euromoney](#)). Thank you to the CDFI community for the work you are doing on the front lines!”
- State and local governments: As of Thursday, 38 states had state wide lock down orders. In states that do not have such orders, many cities and counties have taken it upon themselves to issues them ([Business Insider](#)). In California and New York, Governors Newsom and Cuomo have daily press conferences. These leaders maintain a daily, transparent dialogue with their constituents, and it goes a long way to engender trust and confidence. What a contrast to watching the daily press conferences at the White House! [SF Chronicle](#).
- Duke University's Center for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship (CASE) has created a searchable database for global, national and regional capital sources for for-profit and nonprofit entrepreneurs at risk due to COVID19. As of last week, the resources topped \$15 billion ([Duke](#)).
- Golden State Warriors MVP Steph Curry compiled questions from his followers and spent a half hour on a virtual call with Dr. Anthony Fauci getting answers out to some of the most common questions he had received. He is definitely showing he is a MVP on the court and off! You can watch the full session [here](#).
- We are proud to share that RBC has committed to having no job losses in 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak as well as the previously announced \$2 million of donations it will be granting to non-profits during the covid-19 crisis.

The Week in Review will be sent out on Thursday next week. Our office will be closing at 2pm on Thursday, April 9th and will be closed on Friday April 10th, in observance of Good Friday as the financial markets will be closed. We will return as usual on Monday, April 13th.

Stay safe and health as we practice social distancing these coming weeks. As always, please reach out to us with any questions or commentary!

Written by Thomas Van Dyck, Catherine Chen, and Michelle Levy

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