



**Friday, May 8, 2020**

**Week in Review, May 8, 2020**

## **Special Focus: Market Growth Despite Rising Unemployment**

The U.S. unemployment rate jumped to 14.7 percent at the end April, the highest level since the Great Depression, leaving a total of 33 million Americans unemployed. This massive jump was due to 20.5 million people abruptly losing their jobs in a single month, wiping out a decade of job gains. The staggering losses are roughly double what the nation experienced during the 2007-09 crisis, which had previously been measured as the worst downturn since World War II. The White House administration has taken an optimistic approach stating, “Those jobs will all be back, and they’ll be back very soon,” but analysts warn it could take many years to return to the 3.5 percent unemployment rate the nation experienced in February in part because it’s unclear what a new economy will look like even if scientists make progress on a vaccine, testing, and treatment. ([Washington Post](#))

The stark employment data could create even more urgency for a number of governors who are debating when to re-open parts of their state economies. Nearly two months since the social distancing measures began, more than 35 states have started to reopen. You can see each state’s current status on reopening [here](#). While most states have eased into it, allowing outdoor spaces such as beaches and state parks to reopen, a few states have even begun to allow people to get haircuts, go to the gym, and sit down at restaurants, despite the warnings of some public-health experts. ([NBC News](#))

In anticipation of furloughed employees returning to the workforce, as well as states and businesses reopening, the market has continued to climb this week. The S&P 500 up 3.50%, Dow Jones Industrial Average up 2.56%, and Nasdaq Composite up 6.00%, all closed higher on Friday. Since their market lows in March, all three averages have bounced more than 30%, pulling them out of bear market territory. ([CNBC](#)) However, much of this boost comes from investors flocking to the big tech stocks that dominate the S&P 500, and may not be the best indicator of the market as a whole. ([CNN](#))

Legendary Investor Warren Buffet does not seem to be as optimistic. Mr. Buffett didn’t buy up stocks during the recent market plunge, unlike his spending spree amid the carnage of the 2008 financial crisis and has recently sold his holdings in the 4 biggest airlines. In Berkshire’s annual meeting this past Saturday, Mr. Buffett stated he was uncertain about how the market would behave in the near term, but maintained his usual optimism that markets would improve in the long term, saying “You can bet on America, but you kind of have to be careful about how you bet.” ([NY Times](#))

The Wallace Global Fund has given its third Henry A. Wallace award (HAW) to the Poor People’s Campaign in advance of their historic June 20th mobilization. The

HAW established in 2017, recognizes movements demonstrating extraordinary courage in activism while standing up to oppressive corporate and political power. The Poor People's Campaign is a multi-state movement co-chaired by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis. The Campaign is spearheading a fight for justice, focused on supporting working class and marginalized communities. Modeled on the 1968 Poor People's Campaign led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., today's Campaign is rooted in the understanding that our society's first priority must be taking care of people and our planet, not making profits or strengthening corporations. Please take a moment and watch the short [award video](#). The Campaign has long planned **an historic mobilization for economic and social justice on June 20, 2020 in Washington DC**. Together with more than 100 mobilizing partners, they are now holding this [Mass Poor People's Assembly](#) and March on Washington **online** to demand that the voices of more than 140 million poor and low-wealth people across this nation are heard.

Be safe and stay healthy. As always, please reach out to us with any questions or commentary!

### **Weekend Reads**

RBC [Global Insight Weekly](#)

CNN [Why unemployment claims are so much higher in Kentucky, Hawaii and Georgia](#)

NY Times [The Killing of Ahmaud Arbery](#)

NY Times [Facebook Names First Members of Oversight Board That Can Overrule Zuckerberg](#)

NY Times [E.U. Is Facing Its Worst Recession Ever. Watch Out, World.](#)

electrek [Tesla has a new product: Autobidder, a step toward becoming an electric utility](#)

The Wall Street Journal [Regulators Try to Ease Financial-Reporting Burdens](#)

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