



**Wealth
Management**

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Week in Review, June 4, 2021

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SRI Wealth Management Group

Special Focus: Pride Month

Data demonstrating the economic expansion continued to roll out this week. The Institute for Supply Management (“ISM”) survey showed the manufacturing index for national factory activity increased to 61.2 in May from 60.7 in April, an increase well in excess of expectations. A reading above 50 indicates expansion in manufacturing. While the survey results indicated heavy pent-up demand, they also noted that supply chain shortages and a lack of labor are challenges affecting every segment of manufacturing ([Reuters](#)). Private payrolls increased by 978,000 in May, versus expectations of 650,000. Companies hired at the fastest rate since August 2020, with nearly half of the hiring coming from the hospitality and leisure industries. In addition, first-time jobless claims fell to another pandemic low, with 385,000 people filing for unemployment last week ([Barrons](#)). The unemployment rate has gone down to 5.8% ([NYT](#)). Non-farm payrolls increased by 559,000 in May, a good number but less than had been expected ([Bloomberg](#), [FX Street](#)). Overall the data indicates that the economy continues to improve even if that path may have some bumps along the way. The Federal Reserve indicated that they would be selling their portfolio of corporate bonds, which had been purchased as part of their emergency measures during the pandemic ([Federal Reserve](#)). Markets ended the week in positive territory with the S&P 500 up 0.6%, the DJIA up 0.7%, and the NASDAQ up 0.5%.

This week marks the beginning of Pride Month, which is now officially recognized as such by the White House ([Whitehouse.gov](#)). This is just the latest in a lineup of actions the White House has taken to restore and expand LGBTQ rights since taking office, beginning with an executive order prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation signed the President’s first day in office. More recently, the President encouraged Congress to pass the Equality Act to provide civil rights protections to the LGBTQ community. We are grateful for this type of

leadership. National laws codifying rights for vulnerable populations are needed to combat a variety of state legislations seeking to limit those same rights. There are currently 250 such bills across the country ([NYT](#)). More locally, this weekend the San Francisco Giants will be the first major league baseball team to wear pride colors on their uniforms ([Mercury news](#)).

Last week we wrote about one of the largest oil and gas companies having two progressive board members added to the board as a result of a proxy vote brought forward by a small activist firm, Engine No. 1. At that time, the votes received for two additional board members proposed by the activist firm were still being counted. One of the two did not receive adequate votes to receive a board seat, but one did, bringing the total number of new board members as a result of this initiative to three ([NYT](#)). Many are looking at this as a turning point in corporate shareholder engagement. As Andy Behar, CEO of As You Sow, said, “Now it is clear that you don’t have to be Carl Icahn or even Gordon Gekko to force change....However, having a large stake can help when it comes to wielding power. If Larry Fink called on every company to adopt a Paris-compliant climate transition plan and report it against these targets every year, or said ‘we are going to vote against your board’ every company would do it overnight” ([Bloomberg](#)). Check out the views of some other concerned investors regarding this oil and gas giant [here](#).

As always, reach out to us with any questions or commentary. Thanks and have a great weekend!

Weekend reads

RBC [Global Insight June](#)

RBC [Global Insight Weekly June 3, 2021](#)

USA Today [Four more Oath Keepers arrested in capital riots](#)

Financial Post [Intergenerational wealth](#)

[NYT Tom Hanks: You Should Learn the Truth About the Tulsa Race Massacre](#)

[NYT The Fight to Teach Asian American History](#)

WSJ [The economic recovery is here](#)

NYT [Members of regulatory body slow environmental regulations](#)

Washington Post [LGBTQ Activist Kay Lahusen passes away](#)

WSJ [Hong Kong police make arrests on Tiananmen Square Massacre](#)

Weekend listen

RBC [Digital Health](#)

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