



# By the Numbers

- 1. IN MY LIFETIME AND BEYOND** – With **4 trading days** remaining in April 2020, the S&P 500 is **down 11.7% YTD** (total return), its worst YTD total return performance **through April 24th** in any year **since 1939**. The S&P 500 consists of 500 stocks chosen for market size, liquidity and industry group representation. It is a market value weighted index with each stock's weight in the index proportionate to its market value (source: BTN Research).
- 2. FEWER SHARES LEFT TO BUY** - Companies in the S&P 500 spent **\$730 billion** in 2019 on **stock buybacks**, i.e., purchasing back the companies' own shares. **Buybacks** have the effect of **reducing the number** of outstanding shares of the publicly held company on the open market, **increasing the ownership stake** of the remaining shareholders. The \$730 billion is the **2nd largest annual total** in history (source: Goldman Sachs).
- 3. ONE MONTH** - As of 9am ET on Tuesday **3/24/20**, the United States reported **44,795 cases** of COVID-19 patients and **550 deaths**. As of 9am ET on Friday **4/24/20**, the United States reported **878,248 cases** of COVID-19 patients and **49,948 deaths** (source: NBC News reports).
- 4. IT WASN'T LARGE ENOUGH** - The **\$349 billion** "Paycheck Protection Program" (PPP) in the CARES Act was **completely loaned out** as of Thursday 4/16/20. A total of **1,661,397 loans** were made **over 2 ½ weeks** since the signing of the legislation, an average of **\$210,000 per loan** (source: PPP).
- 5. ADD MORE MONEY** - An **additional \$310 billion** was allocated to the **PPP program** as of 4/24/20. **\$60 billion** of the \$310 billion will be available only through **small, midsize and community lenders** (source: Congress).
- 6. WOW** - The **CARES Act**, signed **a month ago** today (3/27/20), is projected to increase the **fiscal year 2020 budget deficit** of the USA by **\$1.61 trillion**, increasing the full year deficit forecast to **\$2.62 trillion** (source: CBO).
- 7. BIGGEST IN HISTORY** - The **largest annual budget deficit** in US history is **\$1.41 trillion** in fiscal year 2009, i.e., the 12 months ending 9/30/09 (source: Office of Management and Budget).
- 8. PRESTO!** - The **Fed's balance sheet** reached **\$5.45 trillion** as of 4/22/20, up from **\$3.85 trillion** as of 2/26/20. The **\$1.6 trillion balance sheet** increase in **less than 2 months** is the result of **digital creation** of money by the Fed, i.e., money used for purchases or lending **created with the press of a button** (source: Federal Reserve).
- 9. IN THE YEAR 2034** - Social Security trustees announced on 4/22/20 that the **trust fund** backing the payment of **Social Security benefits** (OASI retirement benefits) would be **zero in 2034**. A zero "trust fund" **does not mean** the payment of Social Security benefits would also **go to zero**, but rather would drop to **76% of their originally promised levels** through the year 2095. When the trustees released their report in **2010** (i.e., 10 years ago), the Social Security Trust Fund was projected to be **depleted in 2040** (source: Social Security Trustees 2020 Report).
- 10. LONG-TERM ISSUE** - The estimated **Social Security** shortfall today (i.e., a **present value** number) between the future taxes anticipated **being collected** and the future benefits expected to be **paid out** over the next 75 years is **\$16.8 trillion**. The entire \$16.8 trillion deficit **could be eliminated** by an immediate 3.14 percentage point increase in the **combined Social Security payroll tax rate** (from 12.40% to 15.54%) or an immediate **19% reduction in benefits** that are paid out to **current and future** beneficiaries (source: Social Security Trustees 2020 Report).
- 11. JUST SITTING SOMEWHERE** - 64% of the **commercial aircrafts** operated by **airlines worldwide** have been removed from daily usage and are **currently in storage** (source: Upgraded Points).
- 12. STAY HOME** - Wuhan, China, ground zero of the **COVID-19 pandemic**, was placed on a **76-day quarantine** that ran from 1/23/20 to 4/08/20. Wuhan has a population of **11 million**, more than NY City (source: Financial Times).
- 13. LOSE A JOB, LOSE HEALTH INSURANCE** - 39% of 2,644 American adults surveyed in the first week of April 2020 have either **lost their job**, had their **working hours reduced**, have been asked to take a **temporary leave**, or expect to have one of those **work reductions** occur as a result of COVID-19. Loss of employment has health insurance implications since **49% of the US population** had access to their health insurance **through their employer** as of December 2019 (source: Data for Progress, Kaiser Family Foundation).
- 14. THEY PAY TAXES** - The 10% of California's workforce who are **immigrants living in the state illegally** paid an estimated \$2.5 billion in **state and local taxes** in 2019 (source: California Governor Gavin Newsom).
- 15. UNEXPECTED** - Joe Burrow was **not listed** in an article titled "**11 Best QBs Who Will Be Returning to College Football in 2019**" that was published in December 2018. In spite of the snub, **Heisman Trophy** winner Burrow was **picked # 1 by the Cincinnati Bengals** in the 2020 NFL Draft last Thursday 4/23/20 (source: Bleacher Report).

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