



# By the Numbers

1. **THROUGH THE END OF MAY** - The S&P 500 is **down 5.0%** YTD (total return) through 5/29/20. **Just 121 stocks** in the index are **up YTD**. 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. **TRILLIONS** - From its 2/19/20 stock market high, US stocks **lost \$12.7 trillion in market capitalization** through the **stock market low close** on 3/23/20. From its 3/23/20 low point, US stocks have **gained \$8.8 trillion in market capitalization** through the close of trading last Friday 5/29/20 (source: Wilshire).
3. **LOTS OF BORROWING** - By the end of **fiscal year 2020**, i.e., the 12 months ending 9/30/20, the US Treasury anticipates it will have **issued \$4.5 trillion in new debt**, more than triple the **\$1.28 trillion of new debt issued** in fiscal year 2019 (source: Treasury Department).
4. **BACK UP OFF THE MAT** - Since **downgrading California's general obligation credit rating** in February 2009 and again in January 2010, the rating agency S&P has **upgraded California's credit rating 3 times** – in January 2013, again in November 2014 and finally in July 2015 (source: California State Treasurer).
5. **LET IT BE PERPETUAL** - Existing home prices in the United States have risen for **35 consecutive quarters** through the **end of the 1st quarter 2020**, i.e., from 6/30/11 through 3/31/20. Existing homes in Idaho, up +12.6% on average for the 12 months ending 3/31/20, have experienced the **greatest year-over-year appreciation** of any US state (source: Federal Housing Finance Agency).
6. **WHEN IT STARTED** - The **first death** in the United States from the **COVID-19** virus occurred on **Thursday 2/06/20** in Santa Clara County California or just under **4 months ago**. As of last Friday, 5/29/20 9am ET, **102,041 Americans** had died from the **COVID-19 virus** (source: NBC News Meet the Press – First Read).
7. **SPENDING MORE** - 45% of 1,008 adults surveyed in April 2020 say they have **increased their monthly spending** while **quarantined** due in part to **costs** related to **groceries and streaming services** (source: TD Ameritrade).
8. **BY THE END OF THIS MONTH** - **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)** loans made under the 3/27/20 CARES Act allows for **loan forgiveness**, i.e., the loan **becomes a grant**, if an employer who had laid off employees between 2/15/20 to 4/26/20 is **able to rehire his/her employees to 2/15/20 levels by 6/30/20**. Please consult your **PPP lender** for details (source: CARES Act).
9. **JUST BEFORE WE VOTED** - The **highest unemployment rate** at the end of the month **just prior** to a presidential election in the United States was **7.8% as of 10/31/12**. President Barack Obama won a 2nd term in office by defeating Mitt Romney in the **11/06/12 election**. Note that monthly jobless data has been tracked in the United States **since 1948** (source: Department of Labor).
10. **THEN AND NOW** - The USA's **last recession** ran for **18 months** from December 2007 to June 2009. During those 18 months, **first-time jobless claims averaged 484,231 per week**. In the **last 10 weeks** during the COVID-19 pandemic, **first-time jobless claims have averaged 4.1 million per week**, or **more than 8 times** the level that occurred during the **nation's mortgage crisis** a dozen years ago (source: Department of Labor).
11. **GET READY** - **Spending for ads** related to the **2020 political races** in the House, Senate and the White House are projected to reach a **record \$6.7 billion**. 54% of the spending historically occurs in the **final 10 weeks** before election day, i.e., from the last week of August to the first Tuesday in November (source: Advertising Analytics).
12. **OUCH!** - Illinois contributed **\$600 million** on behalf of the **state's 5 state pension systems** for fiscal year 1996. **25 years later**, Illinois' pension contribution will be **\$9.7 billion** for fiscal year 2021 (source: Illinois.gov).
13. **NO HURRY TO RETIRE** - 45% of American workers expect to **work past age 65**. 30 years ago, just 18% of American workers anticipated **working past age 65** (source: Employee Benefit Research Institute 2019).
14. **WHERE DO YOU LIVE?** - 39% of the US population live in cities that have **at least 50,000 people**, but only 4% of US cities have a population of **at least 50,000** (source: Census Bureau).
15. **FOURTH AND LONG** - The **University of Nebraska football team** has sold out their stadium for **375 consecutive home games**, dating back to the # 1 sellout on **11/03/62**. The football stadium, which holds **85,458 fans**, brought in **\$30 million in ticket sales** in 2019. If forced to reduce attendance to **20,000 per game** for the 2020 season **due to the pandemic**, the club will **lose \$23 million** in ticket revenue this year (source: Omaha World Herald).

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