



## CAPITAL BENEFITS, LLC

### BY THE NUMBERS 1/10/2022 Edition

1. **WASHINGTON AND WALL STREET** – Democrat **Joe Biden** began his **second calendar year** as **POTUS # 46** last week. Democrats also maintain their **control of Congress** with a voting majority in **the House and Senate**. Over the **last 60 years** (1962-2021), the S&P 500 has **gained +11.9% per year** (total return) when **one party controls the White House, the Senate and the House**. 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. **AFTER THAT** - The S&P 500 was **up +11.0%**(total return) for the 4th quarter 2021, the **19th time in the last 30 years**(1992-2021) that the index has had **at least a +10% gain** (total return) in a quarter. Following the previous **18 quarters** when the index was up double-digits, the next quarter was **up 17 of 18 times** (source: BTN Research).

3. **WORTH MANY TRILLIONS** - The **US stock market** grew by **\$12 trillion** in calendar year 2021, from **\$41 trillion** as of 12/31/2020 to **\$53 trillion** as of 12/31/2021. **10 years ago** (12/31/2011), the US stock market was worth just **\$16 trillion**(source: Sibilis Research).

4. **A SINGLE STOCK** - The largest capitalized **individual stock** in the US reached **\$3 trillion** on 1/03/2022. **40 years ago** (1982), the total market capitalization of **all stocks in the world** was **\$2.7 trillion**(source: Wordbank.org).

5. **PROTECTING THE DOWNSIDE** - There were more **put option contracts** outstanding (more than **200 million**) at the end of 2021 on US individual stocks, ETFs (exchange-traded funds) and stock indices than **at any time** in history based on records maintained **since 2009** (source: CBOE Global Markets).

6. **ONE RIGHT, ONE WRONG** - Savita Subramanian, Head of US Equity and Quantitative Strategy at Bank of America, **predicted on 12/21/20** that the S&P 500 would end calendar year 2021 **at 3800** and that the yield on the 10-year Treasury note would finish the year **at 1.50%**. As of 12/31/2021, the S&P 500 closed **at 4766** and the closing yield on the 10-year note **was 1.496%** (source: Barron's).

7. **NOT DOING A LOT** - The **current session of Congress**(the 117th, running from 1/03/2021 to 1/03/2023), has passed **only 81 bills** with a year to go. The **fewest number of bills passed** in any **2-year session of Congress** going back to 1973 **is 284** during the 112th session of Congress that ran from 2011-2012 (source: GovTrack.us).

8. **DEBT** - The United States **increased its national debt by \$9.64 trillion** in the last **5 years**, i.e., 2017-21, rising from **\$19.977 trillion** (12/31/2016) to **\$29.617 trillion** (12/31/2021) (source: Treasury Department).

9. **DOWN FROM A TOP** - **5,079 retail stores closed** nationwide in 2021, down from an **all-time record 12,200 store closures** in 2020 (source: CoStar Group).

10. **PAY NOTHING** - 32% of the **148.2 million tax returns** that were filed for **tax year 2019**(the latest year for which data has been released) **did not pay any federal income tax**, a total of **46.7 million** tax returns (source: IRS).

11. **DUE IN APRIL** - Tesla founder **Elon Musk** claims that as a result of **exercising stock options** in 2021 that were awarded to him in 2012, he will **pay over \$11 billion in federal income tax** when he files his 2021 individual income tax return, the **largest federal income tax bill** for any individual in US history. Musk received 26.4 million **non-qualified stock options** in 2012, allowing him to buy his company's stock **at \$6.24 a share** at any time before August 2022. Musk is the **richest person** in the world, **worth \$263 billion** as of 1/07/2022 (source: CNBC).

12. **NECESSARY SKILLS** - Utah has the **top financial literacy requirement** for its **high school students** of any of the 50 US states. Utah requires all of its high school students to take a half-year course **dedicated to personal finance**, and then to take a **final exam** administered by the state. Ohio is the latest US state to add **some form of financial literacy instruction** at the high school level, effective 1/27/2022 (source: Champlain College Inc.).

13. **MAYBE, MAYBE NOT** - 37 states **do not tax Social Security benefits**, while the other 13 states **may or may not** tax Social Security benefits **dependent on other facts**, e.g., an individual's total income (source: USA Today).

14. **HAS NEVER BEEN LOWER** - 5 states (**Georgia, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Utah and West Virginia**) recorded their **lowest unemployment rates ever** in November 2021. **State jobless rates** have been tracked nationwide **since 1976** (source: Bureau of Labor Statistics).

15. **WHO WINS?** – It's Alabama vs. Georgia in **college football's national championship game** tonight (1/10/2022). An Alabama victory would give Nick Saban **his 8th national title as a head coach**. His 7 current titles (6 with Alabama and 1 with LSU) is the **most in college football history** (source: NCAA).