Good To Know!

Weaver Financial

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In THE KANSAS CITY STAR.



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Can you save money refinancing your mortgage? Read my article here for the steps to check it out.

Where is the BEST Health Savings Account?

Morningstar produces a 50-page analysis on that yearly. Email if you'd like a highlighted copy on where to hold your HSA account.

<u>Asset</u>

Bonds

Large companies

Small companies

International stocks



YTD

+6%

- 9%

+7%

- 5%

Let's Do The Numbers

In a nutshell at the end of the 3rd quarter U.S. stocks remained on divergent paths: large companies

up 6%, but U.S. small companies down -9%. Overseas companies are down -5% year-to-

date. The return from bonds remains high at 7% due to the drop in rates. Click the video at left for more.

The 3rd quarter was marked by a ragged re-opening – of small businesses, of schools and colleges, of tourist and transportation sectors. We are rapidly learning to finetune our efforts for compliance, and to speed up therapeutics and vaccines. We've had activism in city streets, and this election. All impact our economy, and the uncertainty for businesses and investors.

What matters most? Corporate earnings and interest rates. The Federal Reserve intends to keep rates low until 2023. Markets love that. Corporate earnings likely get more stimulus, vaccines, and a return to some normal.

We have a rapidly-shifting economy, with some sectors contracting and others expanding. Compare the 24% YTD return on the NASDAQ index - heavily weighted with tech stocks - to the 5% return on the S&P 500 of large companies. Who benefits? Amazon. Who loses? American Airlines.

How do you invest in this cacophony? Remain diversified. Don't bet on

any single sector or country. Stay abreast of changes; things do not stay the same.

We know we'll innovate our way out of this virus, and that our economy will shift and settle. Focus long-term.

on KCUR Up-To-Date radio



Are Main Street and Wall Street On Different Planets?

Why the economy and the stock market seem to be moving in opposite directions. Listen to my advice and another planner's here.



In-office or Zoom? Your call. See our in-office protocols <u>here</u>.

Tread Carefully On Qualified Charitable Distributions

QCDs give to charities directly from your IRA. You need to be over 70.5. They decrease your RMD (required distribution) starting at 72.

Say your RMD is \$30,000. You can give \$5,000 to charity; take a \$25,000 RMD; pay tax on only \$25,000, not \$30,000. Why do it?

The charitable deduction is lost if you don't itemize anyway. Your AGI is less, so you may pay less in Medicare premiums, and less social security may be taxed.

If you didn't take a RMD in '20 due to the CARES Act, consider delaying to Jan '21 or gifting appreciated securities.

Resource Tip:

Q: Need intelligent analysis on economics, politics, and business—without drama?

A: The Economist drops a free daily podcast + weekly picks from its magazine. Search Economist Radio for podcasts, or the web here.