

FINANCIAL SECURITY
PLANNING SERVICES, INC.SM



Economic and Market Update & Cyber Safety Tips

December 3, 2020

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****Warm Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season****

Economic and Market Thoughts for December 2020

Brad McMillan, Commonwealth's Chief Investment Officer, recaps the market and economic news for November. It was a very strong month for the stock markets, with most up by double digits. With good news on vaccines and the resolution of the presidential election, investors gained confidence. But medical risks remain, and the economic risks rose. Layoffs increased, and consumer confidence declined. Business confidence remained high but has pulled back. So, is there reason to believe that things will improve in the months ahead? Tune-in to find out.



I hope you enjoy this month's video.

Cyber Safety Tips

Commonwealth Financial Network® has detected an increase in cyber-hacking attempts over the holiday period. Please be especially vigilant against suspicious emails, texts, and websites.

With the increase in online shopping, scammers will use many techniques to fool potential victims, including phishing emails or text messages, in order to obtain sensitive personal information. Please remember to be especially leery of emails or text messages that indicate a problem or question regarding a client's financial account information, as these scams may include hyperlinks that direct to fraudulent websites in an effort to obtain client identification or personal account data.

Here are some helpful tips you can use to avoid becoming a victim of cyber fraud:

Don't:

- Do not respond to unsolicited (spam) email or text.

- Do not click on links contained within an unsolicited email or text messages.
- Do not fill out forms contained in email messages that ask for personal information.

Do:

- Compare the link in the email to the web address link you are directed to and only click on it if they match.
- Instead of clicking on a link you're not sure about, type in the website, use a bookmark, or search on Google.
- Call the client or business that supposedly sent the email to verify that the email is genuine (but don't use the phone number included in the email, as that may be fraudulent, too).

Remember:

- If you are requested to act quickly or there is an emergency, it may be a scam. Fraudsters create a sense of urgency to get you to act impulsively.
- If it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

My staff and I deeply appreciate the continuing opportunity to work with you. Please let me know if you have any questions or requests. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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