

## FASCINATING FACTS

*Since everyone could do with a change from recent headlines and lockdowns, instead of the usual Insights publication, below is a list of several interesting market, and non-market facts to ponder.*

1. Since 1926, 84% of the rolling 3-year periods for the S&P 500 index (i.e., the 93 separate 3-years beginning 1926-28, then 1927-29, . . . 2018-20) have produced a positive return. (source: BTN Research).
2. Inflation, as measured by the "Consumer Price Index" (CPI), was up +1.4% for 2020. For the decade of the 2010s (1/01/2010 through 12/31/2019), inflation was up just +1.8% per year, the lowest decade of inflation in the USA since the 1930s. By comparison, the decade of the 1970s (1/01/1970 through 12/31/1979) suffered +7.4% annual inflation (source: Department of Labor).
3. Banks foreclosed on 50,238 homes nationwide in 2020, down 65% from 143,955 foreclosures in 2019 and down 78% from 230,305 foreclosures in 2018. The worst single year of foreclosures in US history – 1,050,500 foreclosures in calendar year 2010 (source: ATTOM Data Solutions).
4. The top 10% of US taxpayers in tax year 2018 made at least \$152,000 in adjusted gross income (AGI), received 48% of all AGI nationwide and paid 71% of all federal income tax (FIT) collected for the 2018 tax year. The bottom 90% of US taxpayers in tax year 2018 made less than \$152,000 in AGI, received 52% of all AGI nationwide and paid 29% of all FIT collected for the 2018 tax year (source: IRS).
5. 35% of the total tax revenue taken in by state and local governments are property taxes, a total that is more than the combined tax revenue collected in the form of state income taxes (20%) and corporate income taxes (3%) (source: Tax Foundation).
6. Just 25 cities in the United States create 52% of our nation's GDP, including New York City (8.8% of the USA's GDP), Los Angeles (5.4%) and Chicago (3.5%) (source: Statista).
7. The 3 most popular states to move into during 2020 were Tennessee, Texas and Florida. The 3 states with the greatest outflow of people during 2020 were California, Illinois and New Jersey. The rankings are based upon more than 2 million rentals of moving trucks last year that involved a "1-way" interstate movement of furnishings, personal possessions and clothing (source: U-Haul Migration Trends 2020).
8. 82% of 2020 college graduates did not have a full-time job in place on the day they graduated last year (source: TotalJobs Group Ltd.).
9. The S&P 500 has been up 40 of the last 50 years, i.e., 1971-2020, gaining an average of +10.9% per year (total return). The index had an average annual gain of +18.4% (total return) during the 40 "up years" while losing an average of 14.8% per year (total return) during the 10 "down years" (source: BTN Research).
10. The US stock market had a total capitalization of \$41 trillion as of 12/31/20, 39% of the world's \$104 trillion stock market capitalization (source: S&P).
11. 81% of COVID-19 deaths nationwide as of 12/30/20 were Americans at least age 65. Just 1% of COVID-19 deaths nationwide as of 12/30/20 were Americans under the age of 35 (source: National Center for Health Statistics).

# INSIGHTS

12. Administrative costs make up 34% of total US health care expenditures (i.e., expenses not related to direct patient care) including medical billing, the scheduling of appointments, and hiring of an office staff (source: Annals of Internal Medicine). BTN 1/13/20, #11

13. The most lethal health epidemic in the last 500 years was the worldwide flu outbreak that occurred in the fall of 1918 that killed 50 million people globally, including 675,000 Americans. 195,000 Americans died in October 1918, the deadliest month in our nation's history (source: CDC). BTN 2/24/20, #14

14. Just 1% of the US population is responsible for 22% of total health care spending in the country, i.e., 1% of our 329 million population (3.3 million people) create \$800 billion of health care expenses or an average of \$242,000 per person per year (source: Brookings). BTN 3/16/20, #9

15. To rank in the top 5% of US taxpayers for the 2018 tax year required adjusted gross income (AGI) of at least \$217,913. This group received 36% of all AGI reported nationwide but they paid 60% of the federal income tax that was collected (source: IRS).

16. An American male retiring at age 65 in 2020 who has earned the maximum taxable wage for Social Security taxes every year during his working career (\$137,700 in 2020) is projected to have paid \$741,000 (stated as a 2020 present value number) in lifetime Social Security taxes but is projected to receive just \$533,000 (stated as a 2020 present value number) in lifetime benefits (source: Tax Policy Center).

17. Small American businesses, defined as having less than 500 employees, are responsible for 44% of US economic activity (source: US Small Business Administration – Office of Advocacy).

18. \$1 out of every \$6 spent on US retail sales (16.1%) during the 2nd quarter 2020 was transacted online (source: Census Bureau).

19. A child born in 2020 that begins kindergarten in the fall of 2025 would attend college between the years of 2038 and 2042. If that child attended an average public in-state 4-year college and if the annual price increases for public colleges that have occurred over the last 30 years (+5.0% per year) continued into the future, the aggregate 4-year cost of the child's college education (including tuition, fees, room & board) would be \$231,779 or \$57,945 per year (source: College Board).

20. Even though crude oil is produced in 32 US states, just 2 states (North Dakota and Texas) are responsible for 52% of the nation's crude oil production (source: Energy Information Administration).



**Matt Jones, JD, CFP**  
President



**David Trent**  
Managing Principal