

08/26/21

Good Morning,

Investment markets have settled down after a jittery prior week that exposed concerns over the expanding Delta variant infections and the fiasco in Afghanistan. Those concerns lessened this week and we've had a gentle rally pushing stock indices to new highs. The current COVID-19 case surge is troublesome, and we would not be surprised to see restrictions resuming in certain areas of the country. Resistance to vaccinations is a health hurdle impacting all of us, including the vaccinated. The good news is that 363 million vaccines have been administered in the US, and more than 5 billion globally.

As the US struggles with internet privacy issues, China has announced new laws tightening controls over company data on their customers. Under a law approved last week by its ceremonial legislature, the ruling Communist Party has expanded restrictions on internet industries. The law would impose some of the world's strictest controls on private sector handling of information about individuals. However, it does nothing to affect the ruling party's pervasive surveillance or access to those corporate data for its own use – keeping tabs on its own citizens, and anyone doing business with Chinese internet companies.

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http://www.commonwealth.com/RepSiteContent/weekly_comm/commentary_redirect.htm

As always, if you would like to discuss this or anything regarding current market conditions or your portfolio, feel free to contact me at any time.

I don't know about you but I'm ready for a break in this scorching hot weather. I'm looking forward to the cool nights that usually arrive in August. Until next week, stay cool and stay healthy.

My best,

Wade

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