

# HUDSON VALLEY PATTERN *for* PROGRESS

## The PULSE of the ECONOMY

EDITION 10 | AUGUST 21, 2020

When you look at the chart to the right from the New York Times discussing the disconnect between the stock market and everything that is happening in the country – this should be taken as a sign of optimism. They say the actions of the market are forward thinking – a year or two out. As not everyone gets to share in the stock market’s performance, take it for what it is worth – just one sign of optimism. **And a little optimism can’t hurt.**

**A second trend worth noting is more local.** The virus’ infection rate continues to remain very low in New York. While the number of deaths continues to climb nationally and the infection rate has seen an uptick in states like Massachusetts and New Jersey many are pondering “why not in New York? The state has made it clear that healthcare concerns take precedent over the economy. The Governor’s mantra has been, I will not let us go back to the days of 800 deaths per day in New York. While there are clearly examples in New York of people not following the healthcare guidelines for the most part we do. Why? Our theory is because New York went first and the impact was so devastating, there are many of us that are still shell shocked. Who doesn’t know someone touched by the virus or an essential worker who went into harm’s way. The result is that there are many New Yorkers, whose memories of the first few months are etched in their psyche. For many of us, we are still tentative to get on with our lives as if things are normal. Our economy will come back, but for now, we need to remain vigilant and let those memories fade a bit.

**STOCK MARKET-DOW JONES**  
**27,897** **27,758** **↓ 139**  
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"The “cocooning” movement has reached a fever pitch as we hunker down at home; consuming streaming television, purchasing everything online, and taking advantage of pickup and delivery services. We’ll continue to question any “high-touch” environment; from shopping malls to staff meetings. The changes in the way we live and work now mean that consumers may not need what you’re selling anymore. Or they need it in a different way. Or they need something entirely new that you could potentially provide. It’s time to shake off the marketing goals we had shaped and maybe missed for this year, and start planning for a strong 2021."

**Deborah Garry,**  
**President & CEO**  
**BBG&G Advertising & Public Relations**



### ‘THIS MARKET IS NUTS’: S&P 500 HITS RECORD, DEFYING ECONOMIC DEVASTATION

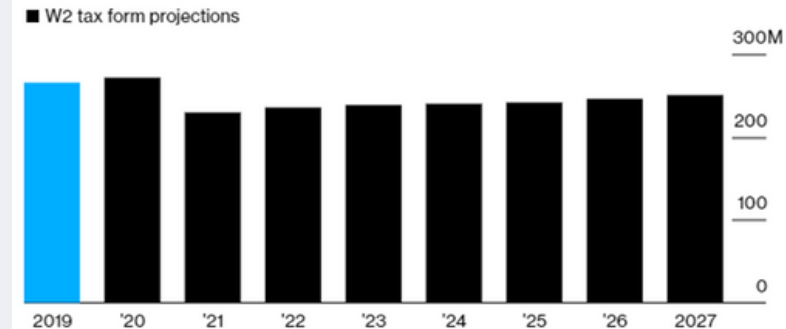


Widespread economic devastation, severe unemployment and a grim prognosis for recovery have not stopped the stock market’s exuberance. And on Tuesday, that undying optimism propelled the market to a new high, pushing it past a milestone reached only six months ago, when the coronavirus was just beginning its harrowing journey across the United States. “This market is nuts,” said Howard Silverblatt, senior index analyst for S&P Dow Jones Indices.

Source: New York Times

### EMPLOYMENT RUT

Wage and salary tax projections not anticipated to rebound quickly



W-2s are an imperfect measure for employment, because they don’t track the actual number of people employed. A single worker with several jobs would be required to fill out a form for each position. Still, the data suggests that it could take years for the U.S. economy to make up for the contraction suffered because of Covid-19.

Source: Bloomberg News

### WEEKLY ECONOMIC INDEX (WEI)

Over Recent Months | Percent (GDP Growth Units)

The WEI is an index of ten daily and weekly indicators of real economic activity scaled to align with the four-quarter GDP growth rate.

