WHOLE LOTTA SHAKIN' GOIN' ON

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This article is relevant to financial professionals who are considering offering model portfolios to their clients. If you are an individual investor interested in WisdomTree ETF Model Portfolios, please inquire with your financial professional.

Come on over baby
Whole lotta shakin' goin' on
Yes, I said come on over baby
Baby you can't go wrong

We ain't fakin'
Whole lotta shakin' goin' on

Well I said come on over baby

We got chicken in the barn
Oooh... huh
Come on over baby
Babe we got the bull by the horns

We ain't fakin'
Whole lotta shakin' goin' on…

Come on over baby
We got chicken in the barn
Whose barn
What barn
My barn…

Come on over baby well, we got the bull by the horns

We ain't fakin'

Whole lotta shakin' goin' on

(From "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On" by Jerry Lee Lewis, 1957)

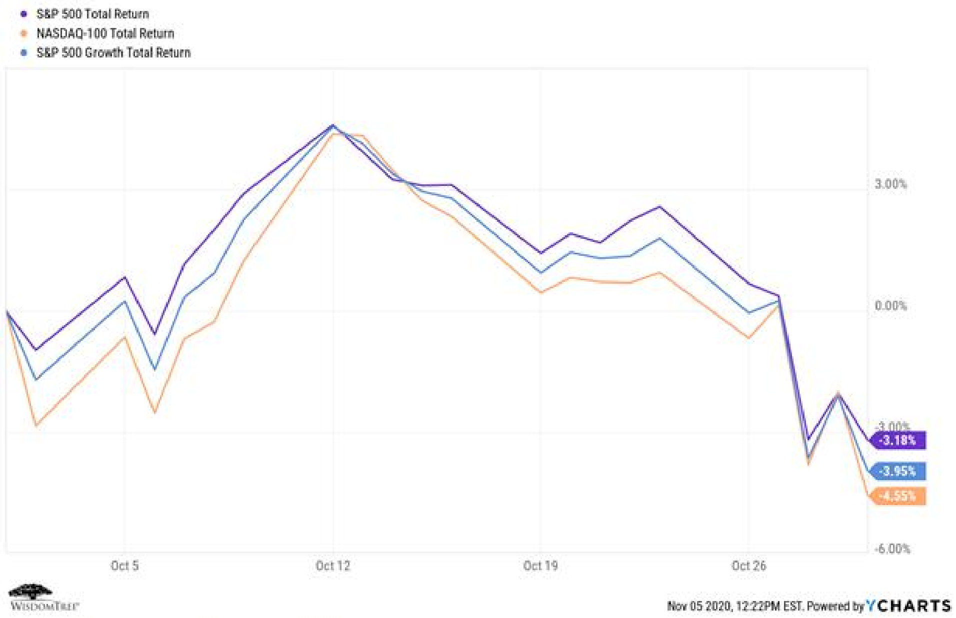
Prior to the election, we posted an actionable items position paper about how the markets might react depending on the outcome. As we write this blog, it appears that it will be "Outcome Two" (Biden win, GOP Senate, Dem House), although we will not know the final make-up of the Senate until after the dual run-off elections in Georgia in early January. With the Republicans (probably) holding a small majority in the Senate and actually picking up seats in the House (while still remaining in the minority), we probably will not see the sweeping legislative changes we might have seen had there been either a red or blue wave.

In the event of this outcome we had suggested the following market, legislative and monetary environment: (a) a continuation of accommodative monetary policy, (b) a continued steepening of the yield curve, (c) the passage of some kind of significant fiscal stimulus package and (d) a continued improvement in the economy. The caveat to this forecast is that we still cannot anticipate the medium-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, or the consequences of any national, state or local level responses to it.

But in the days immediately following the election, despite there being no decided presidential winner and an uncertain Senate, the market reacted vigorously. It seemed to price in (a) no massive new tax hikes, (b) moderate to minimal new regulatory restrictions and continued political gridlock. What is interesting is that, historically, the market likes political gridlock, because it tends to minimize the thing it hates the most—**uncertainty**. Progress on the development of a COVID-19 vaccine also resulted in fairly vigorous market movements, but we think these may be more transitory in nature.

Heading into the election, the market, fearing a projected blue wave election, had been migrating toward more conservative and “risk-off” positioning. We saw this especially in the short-term decline in growth stocks over the course of October, especially the hyper-valued FAANG stocks (Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Netflix and Google/Alphabet).[1]

Here we compare the S&P 500 Index to the S&P 500 Growth Index and the NASDAQ 100 Index (as a proxy for the FAANG stocks) over the course of October:



Source: YCharts, data 10/01/20–10/30/20. You cannot invest in an index, and past performance does not guarantee future results.

But once the market began to price in a divided government environment, regardless of president, growth stocks roared back (with a slight pause as positive vaccine news hit the wires):

Source: YCharts, data 10/01/20–10/30/20. You cannot invest in an index, and past performance does not guarantee future results.

Note that, following the announcement of positive COVID-19 vaccine news shortly after election day, we witnessed a [factor](#) rotation back toward [value stocks](#) (as suggested by the broad market S&P 500 Index outperforming the two growth indexes). But the growth indexes were still strongly positive.

Now, of course, 15 days do not make a trend. It is not unreasonable, however, to think that the market—which for several years rewarded [large-cap](#) growth stocks despite escalating [valuations](#)—may return to that trend in the wake of the election results and corresponding assumed tax, fiscal and monetary policy going forward.

The impact on market performance over the past several years of the FAANG stocks (and some include Microsoft to form "FAANGM") cannot be overstated:

Source: Yardeni Research Inc., as of 11/13/20. You cannot invest in an index, and past performance does not guarantee future results.

For definitions of terms in the chart, please visit our glossary.

Recognizing that many advisors and their end clients believe in this "all growth, all the time" narrative, we recently launched the **WisdomTree Disruptive Growth Model**. This model seeks to capture the attraction of many advisors to rapidly evolving new technologies (e.g., cloud computing), new ways of living, working and playing (e.g., biotech, cybersecurity and online gaming) and disruptive solutions in existing industries (e.g., platform-based solutions and financial technology).

The Disruptive Growth model was designed explicitly to allocate to ultra-high-growth industries and sectors in a diversified manner, where each of the allocations has minimal security overlap with the others or with broad market indexes.

We've previously discussed our Disruptive Growth Model, and financial advisors can learn more about it by registering on the WisdomTree website and reviewing the model information available there.

This model allocates to a variety of disruptive-themed ETFs: our Cloud Computing Fund (WCLD) and Growth Leaders Fund (PLAT) (with a focus on high-growth platform-based companies), as well as other ETFs that invest in areas such as genomics/biotech, fintech, cybersecurity, and online gaming and e-sports.

The securities that make up these various allocations are high growth, with the corresponding high valuations to show for it—this is a "go-go" portfolio.

But if you believe that the election results and corresponding economic, political and market conditions suggest we may return to a similar environment to that of the past few years (even including the pandemic-induced recession of the first half of 2020), then adding some disruptive "whole lotta shakin'" into your portfolios may be just what's "goin' on".

[1]As of November 19, 2020, the WisdomTree ETF PLAT held positions in Facebook (6.85 % of the portfolio), Amazon (7.78 %), Alphabet/Google (8.95 %) and Microsoft (7.92 %), but not in Netflix or Apple. The WisdomTree ETF WCLD did not hold positions in any of the FAANGM stocks.

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PLAT: There are risks associated with investing, including the possible loss of principal. Foreign investing involves special risks, such as risk of loss from currency fluctuation or political or economic uncertainty; these risks may be enhanced in emerging, offshore or frontier markets. Technology platform companies have significant exposure to consumers and businesses, and a failure to attract and retain a substantial number of such users to a company's products, services, content or technology could adversely affect operating results. Technological changes could require substantial expenditures by a technology platform company to modify or adapt its products, services, content or infrastructure. Technology platform companies typically face intense competition, and the development of new products is a complex and uncertain process. Concerns regarding a company's products or services that may compromise the privacy of users, or other cybersecurity concerns, even if unfounded, could damage a company's reputation and adversely affect operating results. Many technology platform companies currently operate under less regulatory scrutiny but there is significant risk that costs associated with regulatory oversight could increase in the future. The Fund invests in the securities included in, or representative of, its Index regardless of their investment merit, and the Fund does not attempt to outperform its Index or take defensive positions in declining markets. The composition of the Index is heavily dependent on quantitative and qualitative information and data from one or more third parties, and the Index may not perform as intended. Please read the Fund's prospectus for specific details regarding the Fund's risk profile.

WCLD: There are risks associated with investing, including the possible loss of principal. The Fund invests in cloud computing companies, which are heavily dependent on the Internet and utilizing a distributed network of servers over the Internet. Cloud computing companies may have limited product lines, markets, financial resources or personnel and are subject to the risks of changes in business cycles, world economic growth, technological progress and government regulation. These companies typically face intense competition and potentially rapid product obsolescence. Additionally, many cloud computing companies store sensitive consumer information and could be the target of cybersecurity attacks and other types of theft, which could have a negative impact on these companies and the Fund. Securities of cloud computing companies tend to be more volatile than securities of companies that rely less heavily on technology and, specifically, on the Internet. Cloud computing companies can typically engage in significant amounts of spending on research and development, and rapid changes to the field could have a material adverse effect on a company's operating results. The composition of the Index is heavily dependent on quantitative and qualitative information and data from one or more third parties, and the Index may not perform as intended. Please read the Fund’s prospectus for specific details regarding the Fund’s risk profile.

For standardized performance and the most recent month-end performance click here NOTE, this material is intended for electronic use only. Individuals who intend to print and physically deliver to an investor must print the monthly performance report to accompany this blog.

For more investing insights, check out our Economic & Market Outlook

View the online version of this article here.

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You cannot invest directly in an index.

DEFINITIONS

Yield curve : Graphical Depiction of interest rates on government bonds, with the current yield on the vertical axis and the years to maturity on the horizontal axis.

Fiscal Stimulus : Using fiscal policy as a tool to provide economic growth.

Nasdaq 100 Index : Includes 100 of the largest domestic and international non-financial companies listed on The Nasdaq Stock Market based on market capitalization. The Index reflects companies across major industry groups including computer hardware and software, telecommunications, retail/wholesale trade and biotechnology. It does not contain securities of financial companies, including investment companies.

Factor : Attributes that based on its fundamentals or share price behavior, are associated with higher return.

Value stocks : Stocks whose share prices are lower relative to their earnings per share or dividends per share. Investors pay less for these stocks because their earnings or dividend growth expectations going forward are lower.

Large-Capitalization (Large-Cap) : A term used by the investment community to refer to companies with a market capitalization value of more than $10 billion. Large cap is an abbreviation of the term “large market capitalization”. Market capitalization is calculated by multiplying the number of a company’s shares outstanding by its stock price per share.

Valuation : Refers to metrics that relate financial statistics for equities to their price levels to determine if certain attributes, such as earnings or dividends, are cheap or expensive.