

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

THE MARKET IN REVIEW

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Table listing stock names (e.g., AT&T Inc, AbbottLab), dividends, yields, P/E ratios, last prices, and year-to-date percentage changes.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, May 26, the 147th day of 2020. There are 219 days left in the year. On this date in: 1868: The impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson ended with his acquittal on the remaining charges. 1940: Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of some 338,000 Allied troops from Dunkirk, France, began during World War II. 1981: 14 people died when a Marine jet crashed onto the flight deck of aircraft carrier USS Nimitz off Florida.

Pandemic proves a boon for bicycle industry in US

Olga R. Rodriguez ASSOCIATED PRESS



Bicycles are selling out around the country and officials are trying to take advantage of the growing momentum by expanding bike lanes or widening existing ones to make space for commuters on two wheels. JEFF CHIU/AP FILE

SAN FRANCISCO — Joel Johnson hadn't owned a bicycle since he was 15, but the pandemic has changed all that. Johnson first bought a multipurpose bike to avoid the germs on crowded buses and trains but then discovered a passion for pedaling around San Francisco, where some streets are now closed to traffic. He has been taking regular morning rides to stay fit and weekend excursions in leafy Golden Gate Park or along the Pacific Ocean. He has since upgraded to a new road bike.

Johnson, 25, is among thousands of cooped-up Americans snapping up new bicycles or dusting off decades-old bikes to stay fit, keep their sanity or have a safe alternative to public transportation. The pandemic is proving to be a boon for bike shops, which have seen a surge in demand, with people waiting in line at still-open shops and mechanics struggling to keep up.

Bicycles are selling out across the world and officials in the U.S. are trying to take advantage of the growing momentum by expanding bike lanes during the pandemic or widening existing ones to make space for commuters on two wheels.

San Francisco soon followed, closing sections of twelve streets in a city that already has a robust network of bike lanes. The San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, an advocacy and education group, has seen demand for its classes on city biking — now online — jump from 30 participants to more than 100, Executive Director Brian Wiedenmeier said.

"We have a three-day sale once a year literally called 'the madness sale.' This just feels like two straight months of madness sales," said Dale Ollison, a bike mechanic at Hank and Frank Bicycles, an Oakland, California, shop that is selling online and doing curbside pick-ups.

Oakland was the first California city to launch a "slow streets" program in April and has closed 20 miles of city streets to cars to create a safer outdoor

space for pedestrians and cyclists. San Francisco soon followed, closing sections of twelve streets in a city that already has a robust network of bike lanes.

"A lot of folks are dusting off their bikes to get themselves and their families a bit of fresh air during all of this," he said. "It's the perfect tool for this time."

In the Southern California city of Santa Clarita, which boasts more than

100 miles of trails and bike lanes and a strong cycling culture, avid riders have noticed trails they built and maintain in nearby hills busier with newcomers, including some riding the wrong direction.

Ivan Harms has been riding bikes since second grade and works at Incycle Bicycles, a high-end Santa Clarita shop.

"I used to never see anybody, but now I see hikers and bikers and dogs. They're everywhere. I love it!" Harms said. "Cycling was slowly becoming more niche for years. But now with people wanting to be outdoors, I think it's going to be exploding for many years to come."

Suburbs

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of Sartell and Sauk Rapids.

While many elected representatives tend to be older — due to the investment of time and experiences those roles require — two recent Sartell mayors were elected when they were in their mid-30s.

Mayor Ryan Fitzhum was 33 when he was elected in 2018. He ran after Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll — the city's first female mayor — decided not to run for reelection. When she left office, she was 40.

While Sartell City Council is 100% male, the other bodies representing the cities and schools in the suburbs are more balanced when it comes to gender — and better reflect the cities' populations, which are split pretty evenly between male and female residents.

Sauk Rapids has a male mayor, and two male and two female council members.

The six members of the Sartell-St. Stephen school board are split evenly genderwise, while the Sauk Rapids-Rice school board is majority female, with five women and two men.

The data comes from demographic surveys sent to about 70 area elected officials in April; some of the ages and genders come from past reporting.

The unscientific survey asked basic demographic questions such as gender, age and race, as well as other questions about political ideology, sexuality, household income, criminal background and religion.

The survey represents only a snapshot in time — insufficient in capturing people's collective experiences — but provides insight on who our leaders are and the things that influence their perceptions.

It also shows whether the makeup of elected bodies reflects the makeup of their constituents.

Local experts say that matters because diversity has been shown to increase the number of ideas considered by a body, increase its responsiveness to constituents and even increase peo-

ple's perception of whether the system is democratic.

How suburbs stack up

Both Sartell and Sauk Rapids have, on average, younger residents compared to the rest of the country. The median age of the United States was 38 in 2018, while the median ages in Sauk Rapids and Sartell were 33 and 34, respectively.

Of the three members of the Sauk Rapids City Council who responded to the survey, one is between 35-49 and two are between 50-64. Four of seven Sauk Rapids-Rice school board members responded; one is between 35-49, two are between 50-64, and one is 65 or older.

The Sartell school board as a group declined to respond to the survey, according to Board Chairman Jeremy Snoberger.

Of the five St. Joseph City Council members, four are male. Three members are between 35-49, one is between 50-64, and one is 65 or older.

St. Joseph Mayor Rick Schultz did not respond to the survey. The four members who responded are white, which reflects the majority of the city's constituents, 93% of whom are white.

Waite Park City Council follows the trend of skewing older, more male and more white than its residents, according to survey results.

In Waite Park, about 48% of residents are men. The council is 100% men.

The five-member Waite Park City Council is also 100% white, whereas the makeup of the city is 67% white, 18% black and 9% Hispanic or Latino.

In Waite Park, about 16% of residents are 65 or older. Three of the council members — 60% — are 65 or older. All members are older than 50.

The cities of Sauk Rapids and Sartell are less racially diverse than St. Cloud and Waite Park.

The population of Sartell is about 90% white, and the population of Sauk Rapids is about 91.5% white, according to census data. Not enough officials responded to meaningfully analyze the

racial makeup of the councils or school boards in the suburbs.

All respondents: Educated, employed and likely married

Fifty-one — or about three-fourths — of the candidates who received surveys responded. Not all respondents answered every question.

Of the officials who responded, no one said they were part of the LGBTQ community.

The survey shows most elected officials have some form of higher education, more than three-fourths are employed, 81% are married and less than 8% have a household income of less than \$50,000.

Forty-eight officials responded to the question about their education level. Of those, 38% hold doctorates or graduate degrees, 35% hold undergraduate or trade school degrees and 27% have a high school diploma or attended some college.

Forty-seven officials shared their employment status. Of those, 43% work full time, 23% are retired, 19% are self-employed and 15% work part time.

All but three gave their relationship status. Of those, 81% are married, 9% are divorced, 6% are single and 4% are cohabitating.

Thirty-eight officials shared their household income. Of those, only 8% have a household income of \$25,000-\$50,000, and only 13% have a household income of more than \$200,000.

About half of the respondents have a household income of between \$50,000-\$100,000. The median household income in 2019 for the St. Cloud Metropolitan Statistical Area — which includes Stearns and Benton counties — was about \$67,000.

Forty-three officials answered if they were practicing a religion. About 80% said they practice a religion; all the religions listed were a Christian denomination.

The longest amount of time an official who responded to the survey has lived in the political district in which they were elected or appointed is 72 years; the shortest amount of time is four years.

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Postal information

St. Cloud Times, USPS #475-800, ISSN #0742-7913, is published Monday through Sunday at 24 Eighth Ave. S, St. Cloud, MN 56301. Periodicals postage paid at St. Cloud, MN 56301.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Customer Service, PO Box 62670, San Angelo, TX 76906