

The End of the Beginning

The equity markets put together back-to-back winning weeks as the economy and COVID-19 news is less worse than it was potentially forecast to be just a few weeks ago. The curve appears to be flattening on COVID, select parts of the U.S. are set to be opened this month, and most of the early corporate earnings reports and commentary weren't as bad as potentially feared. While society and the economy are far from back to normal, there is growing sentiment that, in the words of Winton Churchill, "Now is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning".

We continue to monitor employment as a key metric to gauge the potential economic impact from COVID-19. First-time unemployment claims for the week of April 11th were 5.2 million, a second week of decrease from the 6.6 million on April 4th and the 6.9 million on March 28th. The four-week moving average increased to 5.5 million from 4.3 million as the larger increases from the past three weeks factor into the moving average calculation.

The depressed level of oil prices has been having an impact on domestic drilling activity. The count of active U.S. oil rigs declined 12% last week and have declined 48% over the past twelve months. The combination of lower drilling activity and eventual return of demand for transportation fuels (gasoline, jet fuel, etc.) should bring the market back into balance once economic activity resumes.

Continuing unemployment claims, which we explain in our *Dissecting Headlines* section, were reported at 12.0 million for the week of April 4th, up from 7.4 million the week of March 28th.

Financial Market Update

	Weekly Return	YTD Return		Weekly Return	YTD Return
S&P 500 Index	3.1%	-11.0%	Aggregate Bond Index	0.8%	4.3%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	2.2%	-15.1%	U.S. Dollar Index	0.3%	3.5%
NASDAQ 100	7.2%	1.1%	WTI Crude Oil	-19.7%	-70.1%
Russell 2000 (Small Cap Index)	-1.4%	-26.3%	Gold	0.0%	11.0%
International Stocks (MSCI ex-US)	0.8%	-19.8%	Real Estate (US REIT Index)	-4.6%	-22.8%

Sources: S&P Global, Thomson Reuters

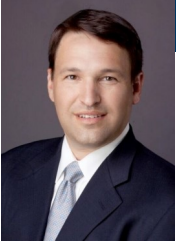
Dissecting Headlines: Continuing Unemployment Claims

The weekly headline grabbing announcement in the labor market for the past few weeks has been initial unemployment claims. This measures the number of new workers applying for unemployment. An additional weekly data point in the labor market is continuing unemployment claims. This measures the number of workers currently collecting unemployment payments. Like initial claims, continuing claims are also released by the Department of Labor. Continuing claims are released on a one-week lag, so the most recently reported week for continuing claims was April 4th, while the most recent initial claims data was from April 11th.

With the potential peak in initial claims seen the week of March 28th, monitoring the progress of continuing claims along with the monthly employment report, can help gauge the rate at which individuals are returning to work as the economy recovers from the COVID-19 induced unemployment spike. As mentioned above, continuing unemployment claims were reported at 12.0 million for the week of April 4th, up from 7.4 million the week of March 28th.

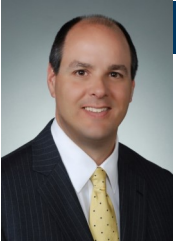
Continuing unemployment claims and initial unemployment claims are reported each Thursday morning.

The NovaPoint Capital Team



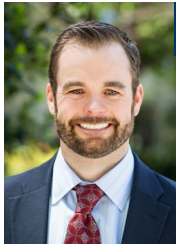
Joseph Sroka, CFA, CMT / Chief Investment Officer / jsroka@novapointcapital.com

Joe has over 20 years of experience in the investment management industry. Prior to founding NovaPoint, he was a portfolio manager at Spectrum Advisory Services and GMT Capital in Atlanta, and Epoch Investment Partners in New York. He has also worked as an equity research analyst at Merrill Lynch and ABN Amro. Before beginning his investment career, Joe was an Infantry officer in the U.S. Army. Joe holds a BS from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and an MBA from the University of Chicago. He is both a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and a Chartered Market Technician (CMT).



Alan J. Conner, CPFA / President and Chief Compliance Officer / aconner@novapointcapital.com

Alan has over 20 years of experience in the investment management industry. Prior to founding NovaPoint, he was a fixed income manager at both Spectrum Advisory Services and a private family office. Alan was also with the Bank Group division of Countrywide Capital Markets where he developed balance sheet strategies for depository institutions. He holds a BS in Banking and an MBA in Finance from Nova Southeastern University. Alan is Certified Plan Fiduciary Adviser (CPFA) and an endurance athlete and three-time IRONMAN finisher.



Jeffery Wright, CFA / Managing Director & Portfolio Manager / jwright@novapointcapital.com

Jeff has 9 years of industry experience. Prior to joining NovaPoint, Jeff was a Vice President in the Private Banking and Investment Group at Merrill Lynch. Jeff also worked at Booz Allen Hamilton and the Department of Defense. Prior to his private sector career, Jeff was a Field Artillery officer in the U.S. Army. He holds a BA from the University of Texas and an MBA from the University of Maryland. Jeff is Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).



Frederick Wright, CFA / Managing Director & Portfolio Manager / fwright@novapointcapital.com

Frederick has over 25 years of experience in the investment management industry. Prior to joining NovaPoint, Frederick was a Partner and Investment Advisor at Brightworth where he advised high net worth investors. Frederick began his investment career in 1991 at Balentine & Co where he rose to Partner. He also co-founded and served as Chief Investment Officer at Wright Investment Management and at Smith & Howard Wealth Management. Prior to beginning his investment career, Frederick served as an Engineer officer in the U.S. Army. He holds a BS from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and an MBA from Emory University. Frederick is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).

NovaPoint Capital LLC (referred to herein as "NovaPoint" or "the Company") is registered with the SEC as an investment adviser, but registration does not imply any certain level of skill or training. The information contained in this document has not been filed with, reviewed by or approved by any regulatory or self-regulatory authority.

Not an offer of advisory services or securities: This document is limited to the dissemination of general information about the services provided by the Company and is provided for informational purposes only. This document is intended for residents of the United States only and the information contained herein does not constitute and should not be construed as an offering of advisory services or an offer to sell or solicitation to buy any securities or other financial instruments in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation, purchase or sale would be unlawful under the securities, or other applicable laws of such jurisdiction. Nothing contained in this document constitutes tax, legal or investment advice. Responses to any inquiry which may involve the rendering of personalized investment advice for compensation or effecting or attempting to effect transactions in securities will not be made absent compliance with state broker-dealer, investment adviser, broker-dealer agent or investment adviser representative registration requirements, or applicable exemptions or exclusions from such requirements.

Investment risk: The Company makes no representation, and it should not be assumed, that past investment performance is any indication of future results. Moreover, wherever there is the potential for profit there also is the possibility of loss. Certain of the Company's strategies may involve investments that are illiquid, are subject to a substantial risk of loss and are not suitable for certain investors.

Limitation of liability: While the Company uses reasonable efforts to include accurate and up-to-date information in this document, errors or omissions sometimes occur. The Company makes no warranties or representations as to the accuracy of this document. Opinions expressed herein are subject to change without notice. Under no circumstances shall the Company or any party involved in creating, producing, or delivering this document be liable for any direct, incidental, consequential, indirect, or punitive damages that result from the use of the information contained in this document, even if the Company's authorized representative has been advised of the possibility of such damages. Applicable law may not allow the limitation or exclusion of liability or incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

Trademarks and copyrights: All trademarks, service marks, trade names, logos, and icons are proprietary to the Company. Nothing contained in this document should be construed as granting, by implication, estoppel, or otherwise, any license or right to use any trademark displayed in this document without the prior written permission of the Company or such third party that may own the trademarks displayed in this document. Your use of the trademarks displayed in this document, or any other content in this document, except as provided herein, is strictly prohibited.