

BUSINESS ACUITIES

OCTOBER 2020

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SHARE MARKET

The global stock markets experienced significant volatility in October 2020 due to various factors, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the global economy. While I don't have real-time data or specific details about every individual stock, I can provide you with a general overview of what occurred during that time.



In October 2020, the stock markets initially faced turbulence as concerns grew about the resurgence of COVID-19 cases in many parts of the world, leading to renewed lockdowns and restrictions. This uncertainty had a negative impact on investor sentiment, causing a notable decline in stock prices.

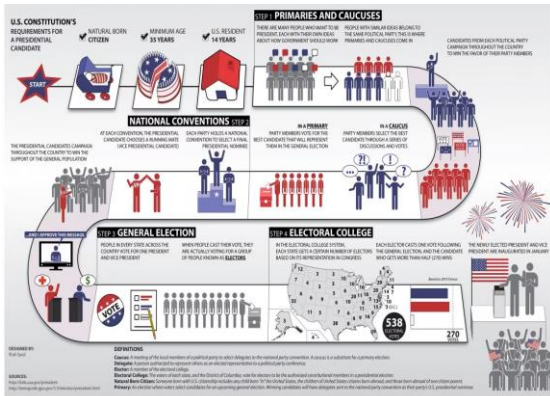
However, towards the latter part of the month, there was a slight recovery as investors grew more optimistic about potential stimulus measures and progress on vaccine development. Additionally, several major technology companies reported better-than-expected earnings, which also helped buoy the markets.



It's important to note that stock market performance can vary across different countries and individual companies, so the overall situation in October 2020 may not apply uniformly to all markets. To get more specific information about a particular stock or market, I recommend referring to financial news sources or consulting with a financial advisor.

FINANCE

1. **U.S. Presidential election:** The 2020 U.S. Presidential election was a major focus in October.



Investors closely monitored the race between incumbent President Donald Trump and challenger Joe Biden, as their policy positions on issues like taxes, regulation, and trade had the potential to impact various sectors and industries.

2. **Stimulus negotiations:** Talks regarding a new round of economic stimulus in the United States were ongoing in October. Investors closely followed the progress of negotiations between the White House and Congress, as additional stimulus measures had the potential to support economic recovery and financial markets.

3. **COVID-19 impact:** The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continued to influence financial markets in October 2020. Concerns about rising cases and potential lockdown measures in various parts of the world impacted investor sentiment and contributed to market volatility.

4. **Earnings season:** October marked the quarterly earnings season, during which publicly traded companies released their financial results for the previous quarter.



Investors paid close attention to these reports, as they provided insights into the overall health of companies and their resilience amid the pandemic.

5. **Tech sector performance:** The technology sector remained in focus in October 2020. Major technology companies, particularly those involved in e-commerce, cloud computing, and digital services, continued to benefit from the shift

towards remote work and online activities. However, there were also concerns about valuations and potential regulatory scrutiny.

6. **Central bank policies:** Central banks around the world, including the U.S. Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank, continued to implement monetary policy measures to support their respective economies. Investors monitored statements and actions from central banks for indications of future policy directions.

BUSINESS NEWS

1. Antitrust lawsuit against Google:

In October 2020, the U.S. Department of Justice filed an antitrust lawsuit against Google,



accusing the company of using anti-

competitive practices to maintain its dominance in the search and online advertising market. The lawsuit marked a major legal challenge for one of the world's largest technology companies.

2. **Big Tech earnings:** Many major technology companies reported their earnings for the third quarter of 2020 in October.

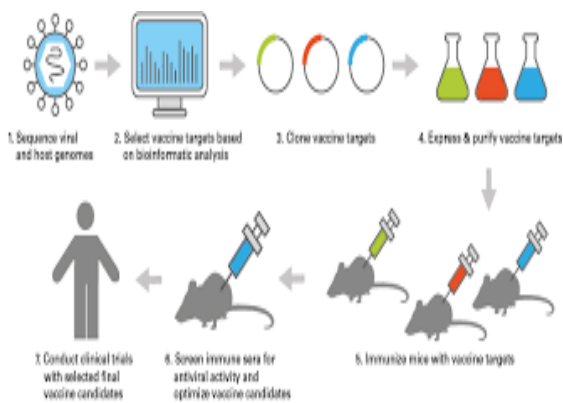


Companies like Apple, Amazon, Facebook, and Google's parent company Alphabet posted strong financial results, benefiting from increased demand for their products and services during the pandemic.

3. **Retail bankruptcies:** The retail industry continued to face challenges in October 2020, with several prominent companies filing for bankruptcy. This included

department store chains like J.C. Penney and Neiman Marcus, as well as apparel retailers such as Brooks Brothers and J.Crew. The pandemic's impact on consumer behavior and increased online shopping contributed to the difficulties faced by these companies.

4. **Vaccine development:** Progress on COVID-19 vaccine development was a significant focus in October 2020.



Pharmaceutical companies, including Pfizer, Moderna, and AstraZeneca, provided updates on their vaccine candidates' efficacy and safety, generating optimism about potential solutions to the global health crisis.

5. **U.S. election impact on business:** The U.S. Presidential election had implications for various industries. Companies and investors closely followed the election campaign and

anticipated potential policy changes under different administrations, particularly in areas such as taxes, regulation, healthcare, and trade.

6. **Remote work and digital transformation:** The pandemic accelerated the adoption of remote work and digital technologies in many industries.

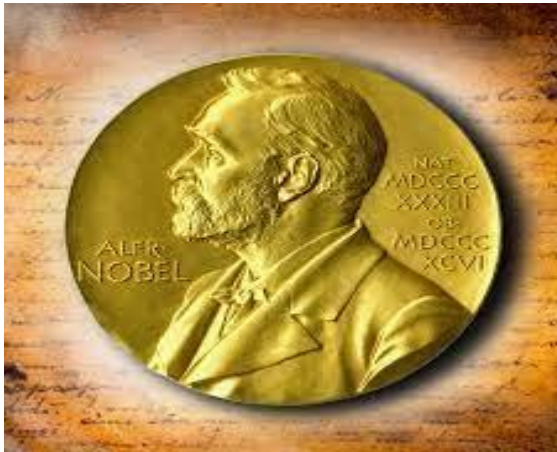


In October 2020, businesses continued to adjust their operations to accommodate remote workforces, invest in digital transformation, and explore new opportunities in areas like e-commerce and online services.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. **Nobel Prizes:** The Nobel Prizes, which recognize outstanding achievements in various fields, were

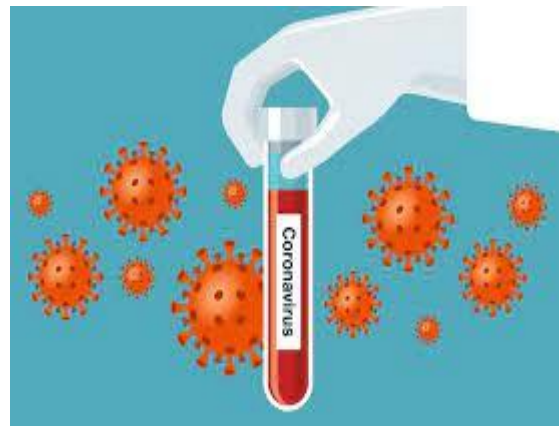
awarded in October. The Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to three scientists—Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel, and Andrea Ghez—for their groundbreaking work on black holes.



The Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna for the development of CRISPR-Cas9, a gene-editing technology.

2. **Mars missions:** October 2020 witnessed the launch of several missions to Mars. The United Arab Emirates' Hope Probe, China's Tianwen-1, and NASA's Mars 2020 (Perseverance rover) missions were all launched with the goal of exploring the red planet, studying its atmosphere, and searching for signs of past or present life.

3. **COVID-19 research:** As the COVID-19 pandemic continued, October 2020 saw significant advancements in COVID-19 research and technology. Scientists worked on developing vaccines, improving testing methods, and understanding the virus's transmission and impact on different populations.



Additionally, progress was made in therapeutics and treatment strategies for COVID-19.

4. **Quantum computing:** October 2020 marked notable progress in the field of quantum computing. Google announced that its quantum computer, Sycamore, had achieved a milestone called "quantum supremacy," demonstrating its ability to perform a specific calculation significantly faster than classical computers.

5. **Space exploration:** Besides Mars missions, other space-related events occurred in October 2020. NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft successfully collected samples from the asteroid Bennu, aiming to bring them back to Earth for analysis.



SpaceX also launched its Falcon 9 rocket, sending 60 Starlink satellites into orbit as part of its plan to create a global satellite internet network.

6. **Artificial intelligence (AI) advancements:** AI continued to make strides in various domains. Researchers developed new AI algorithms and models for improved image recognition, natural language processing, and machine learning applications. AI technologies were increasingly integrated into various industries, including healthcare, finance, and autonomous vehicles.

MUTUAL FUND

Mutual funds are investment vehicles that pool money from multiple investors to invest in a diversified portfolio of stocks, bonds, or other securities. The performance of mutual funds can vary depending on their investment objectives, strategies, and the performance of the underlying securities.



In October 2020, the global financial markets experienced volatility due to factors such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, economic uncertainties, and geopolitical tensions. The performance of mutual funds during that period would have been influenced by these factors, as well as the specific securities held in

their portfolios.



It's important to note that there are different types of mutual funds, including equity funds, bond funds, balanced funds, and sector-specific funds, among others. Each type of fund may have had different performance characteristics in October 2020 based on their investment focus and the market conditions.

To get specific information about the performance of a particular mutual fund during that time, it is advisable to consult with the fund company or review their official reports and prospectus. Financial news sources and investment research platforms may also provide insights into the general performance trends of mutual funds during that period.