



VICTORY PARTNERS

MIDDLE MARKET INSIGHT

What Business Owners Need To Know

OMICRON

HAS 26 UNIQUE
MUTATIONS

DATA COLLECTION
ON THE OMICRON
VARIANT MAY TAKE 3-6
WEEKS

DURING THIS
TIME RESEARCHERS
EXPECT TO LEARN
WHETHER IT IS EVASIVE

S&P 500

ROSE 1% AS OF 10:06 AM
MONDAY, THE 29th

NASDAQ

ROSE 1.7%

DOW JONES

ROSE 0.3%

THE I.M.F.

PREDICTS THAT WORLD
CONSUMER PRICES
WILL RISE 4.3%

OMICRON

HAS RAISED FEARS THAT
CLOSES IN TRADE COULD
STIFLE PRODUCTION

PORTS

& FREIGHT YARDS HAVE
BECOME CLOGGED
WITH SHIPMENTS

The Omicron COVID-19 Variant

- "The World Health Organization on Friday designated Omicron a "variant of concern" just days after the variant was first reported in southern Africa. The WHO said it is coordinating with many researchers worldwide to better understand how the variant will impact the COVID-19 pandemic, with new findings expected within 'days and weeks.'"
- Other information should come more quickly. Within two weeks, "we'll get a better handle on the severity of the illness," said Dr. Peter Hotez, a vaccine expert and professor of molecular virology and microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine.
- The first real-world studies of vaccine effectiveness against Omicron in communities are likely to take at least three to four weeks, as experts study rates of so-called "breakthrough" infections in people who are already inoculated.

Stocks Rally Despite Omicron Variant

- "Stocks climbed and bonds fell as a relative sense of calm returned to global markets, with investors reassessing their worst-case scenarios for the omicron coronavirus strain."
- The S&P 500 was driven by rising energy, technology and retail stocks to wipe away its November losses. Vaccine makers rose as BioNTech SE, Moderna Inc. and Johnson & Johnson said they're working to adapt their Covid-19 shots to address the latest variant, with the German partner of Pfizer Inc. noting it could have a new version within 100 days as needed. Travel companies rebounded from Friday's rout. Twitter Inc. jumped on news that Chief Executive Officer Jack Dorsey is stepping down.
- Positive indications of US home buying recovered to a 10-month high in October, signaling steady housing demand despite growing concerns about affordability among many potential buyers. The National Association of Realtors' index of pending home sales increased 7.5% from a month earlier. The median estimate in a Bloomberg survey of economists called for a 1% advance.

Inflation

- Rising inflation is pushing up prices for food, gas and other commodities, forcing many to dig deeper or tighten their belts. This is especially bad in developing economies.
- The depreciation of currencies across Central and Eastern Europe against the U.S. dollar and euro is pushing up the price of imports and fuel, exacerbating the crisis by securing supply.
- Efforts to stimulate the economy have had unintended consequences: consumers have felt more encouraged to spend the money they received through government assistance or low-interest borrowing, and vaccine rollouts encouraged people to return to restaurants, bars and shops, the surge in demand tested the capacity of suppliers to keep pace.

Sources: www.reuters.com | www.apnews.com | www.Bloomberg.com

