

# How Stocks Have Fared Since Donald J. Trump Was Elected President

## Major Equity Index Total Returns (USD)

Index	11/8/16-10/16/20	3/8/18-10/16/20	2/19/20-10/16/20
NASDAQ 100	157.17%	74.70%	22.64%
S&P 500	75.99%	33.80%	4.16%
S&P MidCap 400	40.83%	8.83%	-3.72%
MSCI Emerging Markets Net TR	36.80%	0.53%	3.70%
S&P SmallCap 600	34.88%	0.67%	-8.10%
MSCI Daily TR Net World (ex U.S.)	26.23%	0.26%	-5.18%

Source: Bloomberg. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

## View from the Observation Deck

1. The presidential election is just 14 days away. Now seems like a good time to see how stocks have performed since Donald J. Trump was elected.
2. With respect to the stock market, perhaps three of the most defining dates for the Trump administration in its first term have been election day (11/8/16), the day the first round of tariffs on imported steel (25%) and aluminum (10%) were launched (3/8/18) and the day the S&P 500 Index peaked following an impressive 10-year, 11-month bull market run (2/19/20), in our opinion.
3. The negative toll on the global economy and securities markets from the escalation and spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) has been substantial. The pandemic ended the bull market in stocks on 3/12/20, as measured by the S&P 500 Index. The silver lining in this story, however, is that we have experienced a significant rebound in the stock market since the sell-off stopped on 3/23/20. Compare the returns in point 4 below, to those in the last column in the table.
4. The following total returns reflect just how much the major indices in the table were punished during the coronavirus-induced sell-off (2/19/20-3/23/20): 27.84% (NASDAQ 100); -33.79% (S&P 500); -41.81% (S&P MidCap 400); -41.27% (S&P SmallCap 600); -33.61% (MSCI Emerging Markets Net TR); and -31.16% (MSCI Daily TR Net World (ex U.S.)), according to Bloomberg.
5. The U.S. dollar, which can be a safe-haven destination for foreign investors, didn't strengthen under the Trump administration until the tariffs commenced on 3/8/18. From 11/8/16 through 03/8/18, the U.S. dollar declined by 7.85%, as measured by the U.S. Dollar Index (DXY), according to Bloomberg. From 3/8/18 through 10/16/20, the U.S. Dollar Index rose by 3.88%. The dollar did rally as much as 14.02%, from 3/8/18 through 3/20/20.
6. The bottom line is that stocks, as measured by the S&P 500 Index, have performed better than their historical average under Trump.
7. From 1926-2019, the S&P 500 Index posted an average annual total return of 10.20%, according to Morningstar/Ibbotson Associates. The 75.99% cumulative total return posted by the S&P 500 Index from 11/8/16 through 10/16/20 equates to an average annualized total return of 15.43%, according to Bloomberg. The 33.80% return from 3/8/18 through 10/16/20 equates to an average annualized total return of 11.80%. The S&P 500 Index is even up (4.16%) in the COVID-19 pandemic.

*This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The illustration excludes the effects of taxes and brokerage commissions and other expenses incurred when investing. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. The NASDAQ 100 Index includes 100 of the largest domestic and non-financial companies listed on The NASDAQ Stock Market based on market capitalization. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. The S&P MidCap 400 Index is a capitalization-weighted index that tracks the mid-range sector of the U.S. stock market. The S&P SmallCap 600 Index is a capitalization-weighted index that tracks U.S. stocks with a small market capitalization. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity market performance of emerging markets. The MSCI World (ex U.S.) Index is a free float weighted index designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets. The U.S. Dollar Index (DXY) indicates the general international value of the dollar relative to a basket of major world currencies. The information presented is not intended to constitute an investment recommendation for, or advice to, any specific person. By providing this information, First Trust is not undertaking to give advice in any fiduciary capacity within the meaning of ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code or any other regulatory framework. Financial professionals are responsible for evaluating investment risks independently and for exercising independent judgment in determining whether investments are appropriate for their clients.*