# **NEWSLETTER**

Winter 2021-February 3, 2021

## **Summary**

- Economic News –
  Coronavirus is continuing to spread but two new vaccines are available. Joe Biden has been declared President of the United States.
- · Market Events S&P 500 gained 16.2% over past year.

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## **Economic News**

The US Real GDP increased at an annual rate of 4% in the fourth quarter of 2020.

Inflation measured in the 12-month Consumer Price Index (CPI) percentage change was 1.6% in December 2020. The Personal Consumption Expenditure Price Index (PCE) change was 1.3% in December 2020. The Fed's objective for inflation continues to remain at a 2 percent average over the longer run.

The Fed decided the federal funds rate to target a range of 0 to 0.25 percent and maintaining until labor market conditions have reached a level consistent with Committee's assessment of maximum employment and inflation moderately exceeds 2 percent for some time.

Coronavirus continues to spread. There are two vaccines currently available from Pfizer and Moderna. Joe Biden has been declared President of the United States.

The US dollar in the last few months have stabilized. The US Dollar Index has remained in the low 90's range. Oil prices have stabilized and increased to \$55 a barrel.

### **Market Events**

The S&P 500 closed today 16.2% higher from a year ago. The 10-year treasury rate is at 1.14%.