



# Stocks' Strongest Monthly Performance of the Year

DECEMBER 2024



In November, stocks had the best month of 2024 in terms of performance. The S&P 500 Index of the U.S.'s largest companies and the Nasdaq both increased approximately 6% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained nearly 8%.

Across market capitalizations, small- and mid-cap growth stocks rose more than their larger counterparts in the month. The Russell Midcap Growth Index climbed 13% and the Russell 2000 Growth Index rose 12%; by comparison, the Russell 1000 Growth Index returned 6.5%.

In terms of sector returns, Consumer Discretionary stocks rose 13% on average followed by Financials, which returned 10%. Over the past year, companies in the Financials sector have increased over 45%.

Boosting equity returns in the month was a Trump victory in the U.S. presidential election accompanied by a Republican sweep in the Senate and House. In the one-week period following the election, the S&P 500 moved the market to new highs and topped 6,000 for the first time ever. Much of the market enthusiasm resulted from

the potential of less government regulation, lower corporate tax rates and a pro-business climate under a second Trump administration.

As 2024 comes to a close, it's a good time to reflect on your financial progress and set your sights on the year ahead. Assess your goals for the coming year: Are there new priorities you would like to focus on? Has your financial situation changed over the past year? At Buska, we can make sure your financial journey remains on track and aligned with your long-term goals.

All of us at Buska Wealth Management wish you a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and happy New Year.

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