

MARKETS | THE TRADER

## GameStop Erased the Stock Market's January Gains. February Could Be Worse.

By [Ben Levisohn](#) Jan. 29, 2021 8:32 pm ET

... A GameStop store in Rome.

Alessia Pierdomenico/Bloomberg

The S&P 500 index fell 3.3% to 3714.24 this past week, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 1,014.36 points, or 3.3%, to 29,982.62, and the Nasdaq Composite slid 3.5% to 13,070.69. All three suffered their worst drop since the week ended Oct. 30, while the S&P and Dow finished January down 1.4% and 2%, respectively.

... Let's start with the vaccine. Expectations had been for J&J to report an efficacy rate of at least 80%, but it came in at just 66%. Its stock fell 3.6% on Friday after the news was announced, and S&P 500 futures suffered a quick drop amid all the noise from the short-squeeze stocks. Experts were quick to defend the vaccine, however. They noted that it prevented severe symptoms in 85% of patients, meaning that even those who caught the virus had cough, sniffles, and fevers but avoided the worst outcomes, while reaching the same level in treating the more-contagious South African strain.