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The Stock Market Survived a Scary Week. Why This Week Could Be Scarier.

By [Ben Levisohn](#) Updated Oct. 9, 2021 10:08 am ET / Original Oct. 8, 2021 8:28 pm ET

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The [Dow Jones Industrial Average](#) gained 1.2% this past week, while the [S&P 500](#) rose 0.8%, and the [Nasdaq Composite](#) squeaked out a 0.1% advance. For the Dow, it was just the second rise in the past six weeks.

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because of the disappointing headline number. Yes, the U.S. added just 194,000 jobs in September, well below forecasts for 500,000, and that's the kind of miss that would suggest a slowing economy. The number, though, was close to meaningless, given the seasonal adjustments—which may have skewed it lower—and by comparison to the household survey, which showed more than 500,000 new jobs as the unemployment rate fell to 4.8%. Try making an investment decision off that.