

December 14 - December 18, 2020 Weekly Index Research Update**The CrowdBureau® Peer-to-Peer Lending and Equity Crowdfunding Index (CBP2PTR) posted -2.02% to finish the week**

The CrowdBureau® Peer-to-Peer Lending and Equity Crowdfunding Index (CBP2PTR) finished the week posting -2.02% on Friday, December 18, 2020, ending at a value of 42.12. The three major U.S. equity benchmarks turned positive with D.C. circumventing a government shutdown for pandemic relief package negotiations, the restarting of share repurchase and dividend programs for big banks. For the week, the index was down four out of the five trading days resulting in a negative total return for the week. (Refer to the Chart of the Week).

Major U.S. equity indexes shares rose. The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) recorded 0.44% ticking up to 30,179.05, while the S&P 500 Index (SPX) eked out 1.25%, ending higher at 3,709.41. The Nasdaq Composite Index (COMP) climbed 3.05%, driving gains up to 12,755.64 for the session. Small cap stocks measured by the Russell 2000 benchmark skyrocketed 3.05% higher to end at 1,969.99. The Philadelphia Federal Reserve reported the U.S. manufacturing index dropped 6 points to 26.3 in December from 32.3 in November. Homebuilders in the U.S. started construction on homes at a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 1.55 million in November, representing a 1.2% increase from October in comparison to 2019, housing starts were up almost 13%, and the acceleration of building permit applications was the highest in 14 years. On Friday, the Fed resumed the share buyback and dividend programs after the Comprehensive Capital Analysis and Review showed big banks' resiliency after evaluating losses, revenue, and capital levels. In China, the National Bureau of Statistics released economic data for November on Monday, the country's sector-wide recovery continues. Industrial output gained 7.0% in November from a year earlier, increasing from 6.9% in October. Fixed-asset investment added 2.6% during the first eleven months of the year, a faster pace of 1.8% recorded in the first 10 months. Retail sales, a gauge for consumer spending, advanced by 5.0% in November from 2019, up from 4.3% in October, and the urban jobless rate decreased for a fourth consecutive month to 5.2% in November, compared with 5.3% in October.

The 10-year Treasury note yield TMUBMUSD10Y, 0.946% rose 1.8 basis points to 0.947% to end the week higher. Oil futures soared for the seventh consecutive week, the U.S. benchmark CL.1 booked 5.41% to settle at \$49.08 a barrel. The precious metal gold futures for February delivery GCG21 ended 2.5% higher to 1,888.90 an ounce.

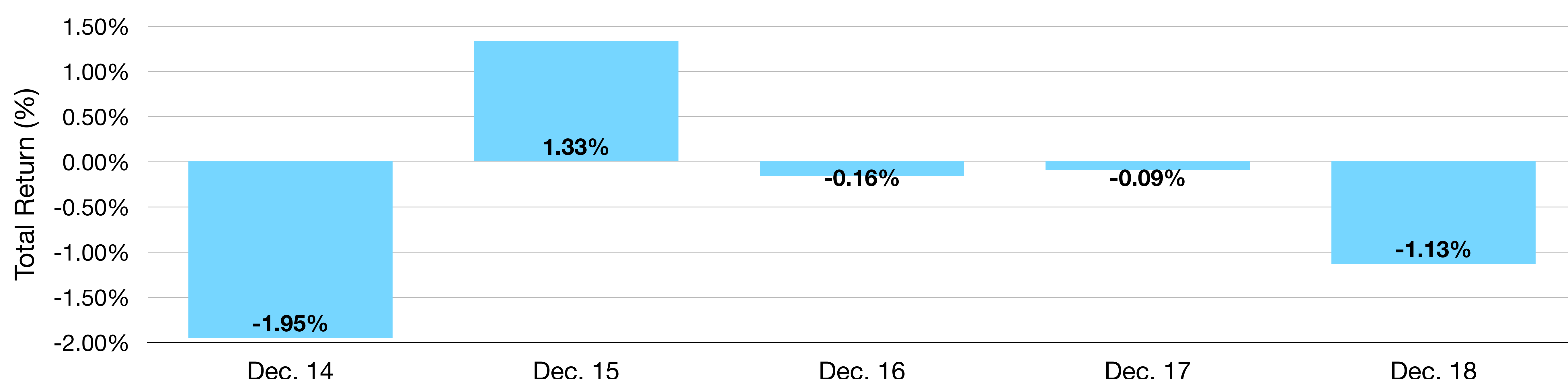
In Asia, China's Shanghai Composite index rose 1.43% to end at 3,3394.90. At the same time, Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index dropped -0.03%, registering 26,498.60. In Europe, the Stoxx 600 Europe index eked out 1.66% to 397.60 pandemic lockdowns accelerated across the European nation-states, and Brexit talks ensued.

The CrowdBureau® Peer-to-Peer Lending and Equity Crowdfunding Index (CBP2PTR) finished the week posting -2.02%. On a month-to-date and year-to-date basis, the index stands at -2.48% and -27.42%, respectively. Over four of the five-day trading interval, Twenty-four constituents gained this week with a total return performance ranging from a positive 0.22% to a high 14.66%. The six Social Network[ing] platforms that outperformed. Facebook Inc.(FB), gained 1.04%, was hit with an anti-trust lawsuit by 48 states along with one of its competitors. Amazon.com Inc.(AMZN) rose 2.73%, while MercadoLibre Inc. (MELI), Square Inc. (SQ), PayPal Holdings Inc. (PYPL), and Brazilian-based PagSeguro Digital Ltd. (PAGS) climbed more than 5% each.

That said, the negative performance of the index resulted in the laggards losing market share. Included heavier-weighted U.S.-based LendingClub (LC) and LendingTree (TREE) declined -6.70% and -4.94%, respectively. Nine China-based P2P lenders underperformed, and share prices ranged from LexinFintech (LX) recorded 4.94%, to Jiayin Group In. (JFIN) notching down -1.61%. Qudian (QD) lost -4.51% to close the session. However, shares climbed by 7% pre-market open after third-quarter 2020 unaudited financial results on Monday. Qudian reported total revenues for the third-quarter 2020 were US\$125.1 million (RMB849.4 million), illustrating a decrease by 67.2% from the prior year. Year-on-year, net income fell by 43.2% to US\$87.2 million (RMB592.3 million), or RMB2.22 (US\$0.33) per diluted American Depositary Share (ADS). Non-GAAP net income declined by 45.7% year-on-year to US\$84.9 million (RMB576.4 million), or US\$0.32 (RMB2.16) per diluted ADS.

Four constituents in the Providers of Technology and Software Solution segment of the index, share prices fell back. Fidelity National Information Services Inc. (FIS) shed -1.76%, while CoreLogic Inc. (CLGX) decreased by -1.11%, and Green Dot Corporation (GDOT) ticked down -0.05%. Fiserv Inc. (FISV) slid -0.01%, Wednesday the company agreed to acquire Ondot Systems to expand its product suite, enabling customers to deliver "digital-first" and personalized experiences for their clients.

Two China-based P2P marketplace lenders made notable announcements. Shares of SOS Ltd. (SOS) eked out 0.49%, published the firm entered into strategic cooperation with Qingdao West Coast Healthcare Development Group that will focus on health management, virtual healthcare, the circulation of drugs, medical devices, senior care, and commercial insurance to expand its product offerings. Hexindai (HX) gained 0.80% reported that it held its 2020 annual general meeting and approved the name change from Hexindai Inc. to "Xiaobai Maimai Inc."

Chart of the Week**CrowdBureau® Peer-to-Peer Lending and Equity Crowdfunding Index (CBP2PTR) Total Return Performance for four out of the five trading days December 14 through 18, 2020**

Source: CrowdBureau Corporation

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