

- **U.S. stocks** started the year 2021 just the way they ended 2020. The **Dow** and **S&P 500** were both up during the first week of the year by approximately 2%. Reports that President-elect Joe Biden will release a new economic stimulus plan in the coming weeks might further contribute to the rise of markets. However, markets could finish lower as investors are worried about the effects of a possible second impeachment trial for President Donald Trump.
- Similarly, major **European markets** advanced during the first week of 2020. Nonetheless, the coronavirus pandemic remains a key concern. The U.K. reported more than 50,000 new daily cases on Thursday and a further 1,162 deaths of people with the virus. On the data front, euro zone economic sentiment improved in December, according to European Commission figures published Thursday, but inflation remained negative, coming in at -0.3% according to a flash estimate.
- In **Asia**, the **Nikkei 225** has added 2.53% last week, hitting its highest level since August 1990. Hong Kong's **Hang Seng** also rose despite reports that the Trump administration was considering banning U.S. entities from investing in an expanded list of Chinese companies in the waning days of his presidency.
- On Friday, cryptocurrency, **Bitcoin** surged to a new all-time high price of nearly \$42,000.
- **African** equity markets also started 2021 on the right foot. Most markets posted positive returns for the first week of the year. South Africa led the pack as its benchmark index closed on Friday at an all-time high of 63,519.18 points.
- In Mauritius, the **SEMTRI** also started on a positive note. Construction stock, **GAMMA**, soared by 8.5% last week.

	PRICE	MTD	YTD
America			
Dow Jones Industrial Average (in USD)	31,097.97	1.61%	1.61%
S&P 500 (in USD)	3,824.68	1.83%	1.83%
Europe			
DAX (in EUR)	14,049.53	2.41%	2.41%
FTSE 100 (in GBP)	6,873.26	6.39%	6.39%
CAC 40 (in EUR)	5,706.88	2.80%	2.80%
Asia			
BSE Sensex (in INR)	48,782.51	2.16%	2.16%
Hang Seng (in HKD)	27,878.22	2.38%	2.38%
Nikkei 225 (in JPY)	28,139.03	2.53%	2.53%
MSCI			
MSCI South Africa (in ZAR)	1,400.73	3.21%	3.21%
MSCI Emerging markets (in USD)	1,353.53	4.82%	4.82%
Africa			
S&P All Sub-Saharan Africa Index (in USD)	366.84	1.40%	1.40%
SEMTRI (Mauritius)	6,393.84	0.46%	0.46%
Commodities (in USD)			
Gold	1,835.40	-3.15%	-3.15%
Brent oil	55.99	8.09%	8.09%
Copper	3.67	4.39%	4.39%