

# Stocks off to roaring start

Dow, Nasdaq, S&P all up

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Investors were encouraged Monday by a big rally on the first trading day of 2011 that carried the Dow industrials to their highest finish in almost 2½ years.

Now they're pulling for an encore and looking for signs that would signal a third straight year up for stocks.

The three primary U.S. stock benchmarks ended 2010 at or near new bull market highs for the second-consecutive year. And all three started the New Year with a bang.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 93 points to close at 11,670.75, its highest close since Aug. 28, 2008. The index had been up as many as 134 points earlier in the day.

The S&P 500 shot up 14.23, or 1.1 percent, to 1,271.87. The Nasdaq composite rose 38.65, or 1.5 percent, to 2,691.52.

Gains were broad, with all 10 industry groups that make up the S&P index rising. Financial companies led the way with a 2.3 percent jump.

Bank of America Corp., the Charlotte-based financial services giant, sprang up 6.4 percent to \$14.19 after the bank settled a dispute with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac over soured mortgage investments.

Stocks with Upstate ties performed well Monday. Shares of ScanSource Inc. gained 44 cents to \$32.34, while Fluor Corp. gained \$1.53 to \$67.79 and World Acceptance Corp. ran up \$1.67 to \$54.47.

The Associated Press contributed to this report



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Small companies also surged on Monday with the Russell 2000, which tracks smaller stocks, up 1.9 percent.