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One sector that did push higher was airlines. The companies said they flew nearly full flights last month, an important profit driver for the industry. United Continental flew flights on average 82.9 percent full; while American Airlines reported its flights were 82.7 percent full.

In other futures trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange, wholesale gasoline rose 0.9 cents to close at $1.417 a gallon. Heating oil fell 1.1 cents to close at $1.591 a gallon and natural gas rose 0.4 cents to close at $2.502 per 1,000 cubic feet.

US government bond prices rose slightly. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.09 percent. The euro rose to $1.1363 while the dollar rose to 120.24 yen.

Metals prices rose. Gold climbed $11.60 to $1,155.90 an ounce, silver gained five cents to $15.82 an ounce and copper climbed seven cents to $2.41 a pound.

Stocks close out best week of the year

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