

Weekly Market Commentary & Developments

Week Ended September 20, 2013

US Economy and Credit Markets					
Yields and Weekly Changes:					
3 Mo. T-Bill:	0.01 (-01 bps)	GNMA (30 Yr) 6% Coupon:	109-29/32 (2.76%)		
6 Mo. T-Bill:	0.04 (+02 bps)	Duration:	3.59 years		
1 Yr. T-Bill:	0.10 (-01 bps)	30-Year Insured Revs:	142.3% of 30 Yr. T-Bond		
2 Yr. T-Note:	0.33 (-10 bps)	Bond Buyer 40 Yield:	5.14 (-8 bps)		
3 Yr. T-Note:	0.69 (-18 bps)	Crude Oil Futures:	104.67 (-3.54)		
5 Yr. T-Note:	1.48 (-21 bps)	Gold Futures:	1326.40 (+18)		
10 Yr. T-Note:	2.74 (-15 bps)	Merrill Lynch High Yield Indices:			
30 Yr. T-Bond:	3.76 (-08 bps)	U.S. High Yield:	6.63% (-19 bps)		
		BB:	5.29% (-18 bps)		
		B:	6.66% (-18 bps)		

Treasuries prices rallied as the Federal Reserve decided against tapering its 85 billion monthly bond buying program. Yields fell sharply as they move inversely to prices. The continued weakness in treasury yields is seen as a boon for REIT, Utility and other high yielding sectors. Friday, however, yields on the 10-year fell slightly as concern over the federal budget debate began weighing on gains from the Federal Reserve's tapering decision. The Treasury is on pace to need the debt ceiling limit raised by Mid-October to continue funding the government at current levels, and while the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution on Friday which would allow for this, it is unlikely to pass the U.S. Senate due to a provision defunding The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), more commonly known as Obamacare. Gold had a volatile week rising quickly on Thursday and then settling some on Friday to end the week up while Oil fell slightly. On Tuesday of last week the month-to-month CPI rose less than expected (.01%). Wednesday Mortgage Applications rose 11.2 percent coming off of five-year lows seen in the prior week helped by a falling 30 year fixed rate. Thursday had the Federal Funds Target decision; it continues to be held at .25% and will be for the forseeable future. Friday enjoyed initial jobless claims being less than expected and existing home sales coming in higher than expected. Major economic reports (and related consensus forecasts) for next week include: Tuesday: September CPI (80, -1.5 MoM); Wednesday: Durable Goods Orders (-.2% MoM), and New Home Sales (420K); Thursday: Initial Jobless Claims (325K), GDP Annualized (2.6%, +.1% YoY); Friday: Personal Income (.4%, +.3% MoM) and Personal Spending (.3%, +.2% MoM).

US Equities					
Weekly Index Performance:		Market Indicators:			
DJIA:	15,451.09 (0.50%)	Strong Sectors:	Industrials, Utilities, Financials		
S&P 500:	1,709.91 (1.32%)	Weak Sectors:			
S&P MidCap:	1,245.40 (1.31%)	Weak Sectors.	Telecom Services, Energy, Health Care		
S&P Small Cap:	605.28 (1.68%)	NYSE Advance/Decline:	2,292/ 886		
NASDAQ Comp:	3,774.73 (1.41%)	NYSE New Highs/New Lows:	•		
Russell 2000:	1,072.83 (1.81%)	AAII Bulls/Bears:	45.1% / 29.7%		

Last week the S&P 500 Index closed up with a 1.32% return. This was the third straight week of positive performance reversing the trend from August having negative performance for three out of the four full weeks. August had a return of -2.90% while September has returned 4.83% through September 20, 2013. Monday opened higher after reports that Larry Summers had withdrawn his bid to be the next Federal Reserve Chairman. The index closed up 0.57%. Tuesday opened modestly higher, but leveled off the remainder of the trading day for a 0.42% return as investors were focused on Wednesday's Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) decision on monetary policy. Wednesday morning stocks traded flat as investors waited to hear the FOMC decision. Stocks jumped in the afternoon on news that the Fed decided not to initiate the expected tapering citing strains on the economy. The S&P 500 Index closed up 1.22% for an all-time high close of 1,725.52 on Wednesday. Thursday saw stocks trading slightly lower from the record highs closing down less than 20bps. US initial jobless claims came in at 309K. This was an increase from the previous week's number of 292K, but much lower than the consensus estimate of 330K. Friday traded down the entire day closing with a -0.72% return. All ten economic sectors had positive performance for the week. The industrials sector was the best performing sector with a 2.01% return. Utilities and financials' sectors followed with 1.85% and 1.61% returns, respectively. Telecom services' 0.02% return was the worst performance of all the sectors and was followed by energy and health care which returned 0.65% and 1.06%, respectively. Safeway Inc., a retail food and drug chain, turned in the best performance in the S&P 500 Index with a 12.07% gain. The next two best performers were Aon PLC and Adobe Systems Inc. with returns of 10.22% and 9.46% respectively. This week will bring earnings news from companies such as NIKE Inc., Accenture PLC, Carnival Corp., Discover Financial Services, Micron **Technology Inc.** and many more.