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Weekly Market Commentary

Week Ended February 18, 2022

US Economy and Credit Markets Yields and Weekly Changes:						
6 Mo. T-Bill:	0.613 (-6.6 bps)	Crude Oil Futures:	91.07 (-2.03)			
1 Yr. T-Bill:	0.957 (-5.4 bps)	Gold Spot:	1,898.43 (+39.67)			
2 Yr. T-Note:	1.465 (-3.4 bps)	Merrill Lynch High Yield Indi	ices:			
3 Yr. T-Note:	1.675 (-5.0 bps)	U.S. High Yield:	5.87 (5 bps)			
5 Yr. T-Note:	1.821 (-3.4 bps)	BB:	4.91 (5 bps)			
10 Yr. T-Note:	1.929 (-0.9 bps)	В:	6.21 (6 bps)			
30 Yr. T-Bond:	2.240 (0.1 bps)					

U.S. Treasury bond yields finished the week lower across the yield curve as markets reacted to the fluid Ukraine-related news and persistent inflation pressure on the U.S. economy. Producer Price Index (the PPI) data was reported early last week. The PPI rose 1.0% in January, 0.5% higher than expected. Producer prices are up 9.7% versus a year ago, reaffirming that inflation is rampant in the U.S. economy. Treasury yields jumped on Tuesday, most notably the 10-year treasury yield hit its highest level since July 2019. Investors shifted to risky assets in reaction to Ukraine-related headlines suggesting easing tensions. The Federal Open Market Committee (the FOMC or the Fed) January meeting minutes were released on Wednesday. Compared to the dramatic policy shift from the Fed at the beginning of the year. commentary out of the Fed's January meeting was tamer. Most notably, the Fed made no clear hint to a 50 bps rate hike in their minutes. According to Bloomberg's calculation, the odds of a 50 bps rate hike instead of a 25 bps rate hike dropped from 63% to 50%. Treasury yields fell sharply on Thursday as Ukraine-related tensions re-emerged. Ukraine officials and separatists exchanged blame over ceasefire violations and U.S. President Biden mentioned a Russian invasion into Ukraine could happen in the next "several days." The geopolitical uncertainty renewed investor interest in safe haven assets going into President's Day weekend. Major economic reports (related consensus forecasts, prior data) for the upcoming holiday-shortened week include Tuesday: February Preliminary Markit US Manufacturing PMI (56.0, 55.5), February Preliminary Markit US Services PMI (53.0, 51.2), February Preliminary Markit US Composite PMI (53.0, 51.2).

US Equities					
Weekly Index Performance:		Market Indicators:			
DJIA:	34,079.18 (-1.77%)	Strong Sectors:	Consumer Staples, Materials		
S&P 500:	4,348.87 (-1.52%)		Consumer Discretionary		
S&P Midcap:	2,632.49 (-0.53%)	Weak Sectors:	Financials, Comm. Services		
S&P Smallcap:	1,297.92 (-0.23%)		Energy		
NASDAQ Comp:	13,548.07 (-1.73%)	NYSE Advance/Decline:	967/2,393		
Russell 2000:	2,009.33 (-1.00%)	NYSE New Highs/New Lows:	67/375		
		AAII Bulls/Bears:	19.2%/43.2%		

The S&P 500 Index finished lower for the week as markets reacted to several economic releases, the ongoing uncertainty in Eastern Europe, and the release of minutes from the most recent Fed meeting. The January PPI Index growth of 9.7% year over year confirmed that inflationary pressures exacerbated by supply chain bottlenecks are continuing to inflict damage on producers. Retail sales numbers on Wednesday surprised to the upside as consumer behavior was driven mostly by online retail, automobiles, and building materials. Also on Wednesday, minutes from the recent Fed meeting were released which indicated that market expectations for multiple rate hikes in 2022 are well founded. Consumer Staples was the only GICS sector to finish the week positively, followed by Materials and Consumer Discretionary. The worst performing sector for the week was Energy which remains by far the best performing sector year to date but has been whipsawed recently by the geopolitical interest at the Russia/Ukraine border. The top contributor to the return of the S&P 500 was Cisco Systems, Inc. (CSCO, +6.1%). The worst performing company in the S&P 500 was ViacomCBS Inc. (PARA, -21.2%) which changed its name to Paramount Global to promote the streaming service that the company owns. This week marked two years since the pre-COVID-19 market high and the stay-at-home trade may have finally run its course as many pandemic favorites indicated slowing growth including Shopify Inc. (SHOP, -23.7%), Etsy Inc. (ETSY, -10.2%), and Roblox Inc. (RBLX, -25.8%). In a strange turn of events, Hilton Worldwide Holdings is now outperforming Zoom Video Communications Inc. since the pre-pandemic market peak in February 2020. In the week ahead, investors will be tuning in to quarterly results from Alibaba (BABA), Home Depot (HD), Lowe's (LOW), and Macy's (M).

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