2First Trust

Stock Index Performance Week YTD Index 12-mo. 2011 5-vr. 10.45% Dow Jones Industrial Avg. (13,135) -0.12% 14.17% 8.41% 2.56% S&P 500 (1,414) 19.33% -0.26% 14.89% 2.12% 1.49% NASDAQ 100 (2,628) -0.41% 16.85% 19.22% 3.69% 5.77% 4.70% 3.35% S&P 500 Growth 17.59% -0.54% 13.74% S&P 500 Value 0.10% 16.45% 21.63% -0.48% -0.41% S&P MidCap 400 Growth -0.21% 15.78% 20.21% -0.95% 5.74% 22.87% S&P MidCap 400 Value 0.30% 16.28% -2.40% 4.12% S&P SmallCap 600 Growth -0.12% 11.29% 16.05% 3.67% 5.22% S&P SmallCap 600 Value 0.31% 15.17% 22.08% -1.34% 4.56% MSCI EAFE 1.17% 15.95% 20.19% -12.14% -3.82% MSCI World (ex US) 15.51% 19.34% -13.71% -2.92% 1.35% MSCI World 0.40% 14.63% 19.09% -5.54% -1.29% MSCI Emerging Markets 1.84% 16.74% 18.38% -18.42% -0.82%

Source: Bloomberg. Returns are total returns. The 5-yr. return is an average annual. Oneweek, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 12/14/12.

S&P Sector Performance					
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2011	5-yr.
Consumer Discretionary	-1.12%	21.75%	25.64%	6.24%	9.03%
Consumer Staples	-0.56%	13.34%	18.02%	14.03%	7.31%
Energy	-0.48%	4.26%	9.88%	4.72%	0.19%
Financials	-0.14%	25.00%	30.18%	-17.07%	-9.40%
Health Care	0.07%	18.95%	24.55%	12.77%	4.70%
Industrials	0.35%	13.99%	19.38%	-0.59%	0.82%
Information Technology	-0.42%	12.79%	14.44%	2.43%	3.21%
Materials	1.68%	11.50%	16.50%	-9.68%	0.00%
Telecom Services	0.51%	19.59%	25.39%	6.33%	2.69%
Utilities	-0.66%	0.97%	6.19%	20.02%	0.11%

Source: Bloomberg. Returns are total returns. The 5-yr. return is an average annual. Oneweek, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 12/14/12.

Bond Index Performance					
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2011	5-yr.
U.S. Treasury: Intermediate	-0.17%	1.73%	1.81%	6.57%	4.80%
GNMA 30 Year	0.00%	2.24%	2.24%	7.97%	6.21%
U.S. Aggregate	-0.14%	4.20%	4.43%	7.84%	6.20%
U.S. Corporate High Yield	0.46%	15.58%	17.02%	4.98%	10.27%
U.S. Corporate Investment Grade	-0.16%	9.70%	10.25%	8.15%	8.18%
Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+)	-1.20%	12.16%	13.19%	14.88%	6.66%
Global Aggregate	0.01%	4.68%	5.77%	5.64%	5.82%

Source: Barclays Capital. Returns are total returns. The 5-yr. return is an average annual. One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 12/14/12.

Key Rates					
As of 12/14/12					
Fed Funds	0.00-0.25%	5-yr CD	1.36%		
LIBOR (1-month)	0.21%	2-yr T-Note	0.24%		
CPI - Headline	1.80%	5-yr T-Note	0.69%		
CPI - Core	1.90%	10-yr T-Note	1.70%		
Money Market Accts.	0.49%	30-yr T-Bond	2.86%		
Money Market Funds	0.02%	30-yr Mortgage	3.40%		
6-mo CD	0.47%	Prime Rate	3.25%		
1-yr CD	0.71%	Bond Buyer 40	4.02%		

Sources: Bankrate.com, iMoneyNet.com and Bloomberg.

Market Indicators	
As of 12/14/12	
TED Spread	29 bps
Investment Grade Spread (A2)	181 bps
ML High Yield Master II Index Spread	528 bps

Sources: Bloomberg and Merrill Lynch via Bloomberg.

Market Watch

Week of December 17th

Weekly Fund Flows						
Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds for the Week Ended 12/5/12						
	Current	Current Week		Previous		
Domestic Equity	-\$5.844	Billion	-\$481	Million		
Foreign Equity	-\$1.320	Billion	-\$15	Million		
Taxable Bond	\$4.153	Billion	\$3.133	Billion		
Municipal Bond	\$1.074	Billion	\$1.305	Billion		
Change in Money Market Fund Assets for the Week Ended 12/12/12						
	Current	Current Week		Previous		
Retail	\$3.44	Billion	\$2.85	Billion		
Institutional	-\$1.91	Billion	\$29.48	Billion		
Source: Investment Company Institute						

Source: Investment Company Institute

Factoids for the week of December 10th – 14th

Monday, December 10, 2012

Moody's reported that the global speculative-grade default rate stood at 2.7% in November, down from 3.1% (revised up from 2.9%) in October, according to Finanzen.net. The rate was 1.8% a year ago. Moody's is forecasting a default rate of 2.7% for December 2012. The historical average for the default rate on speculative-grade debt has been approximately 4.8% since 1983. The U.S. speculative-grade default rate stood at 3.1% in November, down from 3.5% (revised up from 3.4%) in October. The rate was 2.0% a year ago. Moody's is forecasting a default rate of 3.2% for December 2012. The default rate on senior loans stood at 1.36% in November, up from 1.21% in October, but below the historical average of 3.2%, according to Standard & Poor's I CD.

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

The Barclays Capital "Original E&P Spending Survey" (conducted semiannually) estimates that worldwide E&P expenditures will increase by 6.6% in 2013, according to Barclays Capital. Spending is expected to rise from \$604.1 billion in 2012 to a record \$643.9 billion in 2013. Here is the global breakdown of the 2013 estimates compared to 2012: U.S. (\$138.7 billion in '12 vs. \$139.6 billion in '13); Canada (\$44.4 billion in '12 vs. \$44.7 billion in '13); and International (\$421.0 billion in '12 vs. \$459.6 billion in '13). E&P companies are basing their 2013 budgets on an average price estimate of \$85 per barrel for WTI crude oil and \$98 for Brent.

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

The most recent data from the IRS (2010 Tax Returns) shows that the top 1% of income earners reported adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$369, 691 or more, according to Kiplinger. The number of U.S. taxpayers in this elite group totaled 1.35 million. This small group of people accounted for 37.0% of all the federal income taxes paid in 2010. The top 5% (AGI > \$161,579) and 10% (AGI > \$116,623) of all taxpayers accounted for 59% and 71% of all federal income taxes paid, respectively. The bottom 50% (AGI < \$34,338) accounted for just 2%.

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Worldwide sales of semiconductors totaled \$25.22 billion in October, up 1.7% from September's take, according to the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA). It was the first month this year where sales topped \$25 billion. Year-todate, sales were down 3.7% from this point last year. SIA endorses the following World Semiconductor Trade Statistics (WSTS) organization's global semiconductor sales estimates: \$290 billion (2012), \$303 billion (2013) and \$319 billion (2014).

Friday, December 14, 2012

Data from Dealogic shows that announced U.S. mergers and acquisitions (M&A) volume totaled \$70.5 billion in Q3'12, down 23.7% from the previous quarter's \$92.4 billion and down 67.6% (y-o-y), according to SIFMA.org. The \$70.5 billion is the lowest quarterly volume since SIFMA began tracking it in Q1'00 and is significantly less than the 5-year quarterly average of \$226.4 billion. While the number of announced deals in Q3 was down only 1.8% from Q2, the average deal size fell by 22.3%.