Eirst Trust

Stock Index Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2013	5-yr.	
Dow Jones Industrial Avg. (16,361)	-0.26%	-0.62%	13.99%	29.65%	18.25%	
S&P 500 (1,863)	-0.06%	1.43%	20.04%	32.38%	19.03%	
NASDAQ 100 (3,533)	-0.04%	-1.30%	25.82%	36.94%	22.17%	
S&P 500 Growth	-0.10%	0.42%	20.47%	32.75%	19.14%	
S&P 500 Value	-0.02%	2.52%	19.60%	31.97%	18.97%	
S&P MidCap 400 Growth	-0.78%	-1.43%	16.35%	32.68%	21.49%	
S&P MidCap 400 Value	0.18%	3.04%	22.19%	34.25%	21.19%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Growth	-1.79%	-3.90%	24.03%	42.68%	22.48%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Value	-0.67%	-0.31%	25.65%	39.98%	21.35%	
MSCI EAFE	0.29%	1.18%	14.09%	22.78%	13.79%	
MSCI World (ex US)	-0.17%	0.99%	10.57%	15.29%	13.11%	
MSCI World	0.05%	1.23%	16.80%	26.68%	16.06%	
MSCI Emerging Markets	-1.79%	-0.35%	-0.86%	-2.60%	11.53%	

Source: Bloomberg. Returns are total returns. The *5-yr. return is an average annual.* One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 4/25/14.

S&P Sector Performance					
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2013	5-yr.
Consumer Discretionary	-0.50%	-4.73%	18.20%	43.08%	24.74%
Consumer Staples	0.31%	2.39%	9.53%	26.14%	18.65%
Energy	0.37%	5.23%	22.24%	25.05%	16.15%
Financials	-0.03%	0.41%	19.27%	35.59%	16.70%
Health Care	0.81%	3.87%	22.70%	41.46%	21.69%
Industrials	-0.42%	0.67%	29.43%	40.64%	21.86%
Information Technology	-0.37%	0.56%	25.87%	28.43%	18.45%
Materials	-0.69%	2.64%	22.51%	25.60%	17.11%
Telecom Services	-3.58%	-0.47%	-4.77%	11.47%	13.57%
Utilities	1.79%	14.45%	9.45%	13.21%	16.11%

Source: Bloomberg. Returns are total returns. The *5-yr. return is an average annual.* One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 4/25/14.

Bond Index Performance					
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2013	5-yr.
U.S. Treasury: Intermediate	0.13%	0.87%	-0.96%	-1.34%	2.54%
GNMA 30 Year	0.48%	2.55%	-0.03%	-2.17%	4.02%
U.S. Aggregate	0.36%	2.58%	-0.22%	-2.02%	4.88%
U.S. Corporate High Yield	0.16%	3.48%	6.69%	7.44%	16.48%
U.S. Corporate Investment Grade	0.48%	4.09%	0.98%	-1.53%	9.41%
Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+)	0.33%	7.48%	-0.43%	-6.01%	7.57%
Global Aggregate	0.20%	3.37%	2.55%	-2.60%	5.14%

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 4/25/14.

Key Rates						
As of 4/25/14						
Fed Funds	0.00-0.25%	5-yr CD	1.38%			
LIBOR (1-month)	0.15%	2-yr T-Note	0.43%			
CPI - Headline	1.50%	5-yr T-Note	1.72%			
CPI - Core	1.70%	10-yr T-Note	2.67%			
Money Market Accts.	0.44%	30-yr T-Bond	3.44%			
Money Market Funds	0.01%	30-yr Mortgage	4.25%			
6-mo CD	0.37%	Prime Rate	3.25%			
1-yr CD	0.70%	Bond Buyer 40	4.63%			

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

Market Indicators			
As of 4/25/14			
TED Spread	21 bps		
Investment Grade Spread (A2)	133 bps		
ML High Yield Master II Index Spread	369 bps		

Sources: Bloomberg and Merrill Lynch via Bloomberg.

Market Watch

Week of April 28th

Weekly Fund Flows						
Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds for the Week Ended 4/16/14						
	Current	Current Week		ous		
Domestic Equity	\$636	Million	\$2.076	Billion		
Foreign Equity	\$1.652	Billion	\$3.647	Billion		
Taxable Bond	\$630	Million	\$1.415	Billion		
Municipal Bond	\$29	Million	\$162	Million		
Change in Money Market Fund Assets for the Week Ended 4/23/14						
	Current	Current Week		Previous		
Retail	-\$5.60	Billion	-\$5.33	Billion		
Institutional	\$12.92	Billion	-\$29.69	Billion		
Source: Investment Company Institute.						

Factoids for the week of April 21 - 25, 2014

Monday, April 21, 2014

A recent Gallup poll found that a majority of Americans think real estate (owning a home) is the "best" long-term investment, followed by gold, stocks and mutual funds, savings accounts/CDs and bonds, according to *Fortune*. Robert Shiller, the economist who helped create the Case-Shiller housing index, points out that home prices look "remarkably" stable after being adjusted for inflation. For the 100-year period ended 1990, real home prices rose only 0.2% a year, on average. Even after factoring in the bubble in residential real estate values and the popping of said bubble in 2006, when adjusted for inflation-adjusted annual return on the S&P 500 was 6.32%, while the return on government debt was approximately half that figure, according to *Fortune*. Gold, on an inflation-adjusted basis, has returned 4.12% per year, on average, since the end of the Bretton-Woods monetary order in 1971, according to *Fortune*.

Tuesday, April 22, 2014

Venture capitalists invested \$9.5 billion (951 deals) in Q1'14, up from \$8.4 billion (1,112 deals) in Q4'13, according to the MoneyTree[™] Report from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) and the National Venture Capital Association (NVCA), based on data provided by Thomson Reuters. Venture capital (VC) investments into the Software industry totaled \$4.0 billion in Q1. Software companies accounted for 44% of all deals. Biotechnology was the second most active industry in terms of VC funding taking in \$1.1 billion (112 deals) in Q1. The IT Services industry captured the third largest total at \$816 million (59 deals).

Wednesday, April 23, 2014

A study of single family housing from Zillow found that U.S. homeowners paid around \$2,800 in property taxes, on average, in 2012, according to MSN.com. The county with the highest property taxes, on average, was Westchester County (New York) at \$14,829, while the lowest was Randolph County (Arkansas) at \$149. The county with the highest property tax as a percentage of home value went to Allegany County (New York) at 3.76%, while the lowest went to Caroline County (Virginia) at 0.17%.

Thursday, April 24, 2014

Worldwide sales of semiconductors rose 11.4% (y-o-y) to \$25.87 billion in February, according to the Semiconductor Industry Association. It marked the highest increase (y-o-y) in more than three years. Like January, sales growth was strongest in the Americas, with volume up 18.0% (y-o-y). Sales rose 12.0% in the Asia Pacific region and 9.6% in Europe. From 4/23/13-4/23/14, the Philadelphia Semiconductor Index posted a total return of 39.33%, compared to 27.27% for the S&P 500 Information Technology Index and 21.33% for the S&P 500.

Friday, April 25, 2014

Bloomberg data shows that global M&A deal volume (either completed or announced) has totaled \$939 billion so far in 2014, according to *Businessweek*. More than 5,400 deals, valued at \$157 billion, have already been completed. M&A activity has been especially strong in Europe, where deal volume is running 60% higher than at this point a year ago. Volume is up 41% in Asia and 18% in North America. Companies have an incentive to make acquisitions now, while interest rates are low and financing is cheap.