Eirst Trust

Stock Index Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2013	5-yr.	
Dow Jones Industrial Avg. (16,663)	0.78%	2.04%	12.84%	29.65%	15.29%	
S&P 500 (1,955)	1.28%	7.13%	20.11%	32.38%	16.67%	
NASDAQ 100 (3,988)	2.57%	11.93%	31.32%	36.94%	21.27%	
S&P 500 Growth	1.65%	7.85%	22.93%	32.75%	17.62%	
S&P 500 Value	0.87%	6.36%	17.16%	31.97%	15.70%	
S&P MidCap 400 Growth	1.10%	2.34%	15.24%	32.68%	18.42%	
S&P MidCap 400 Value	1.34%	7.47%	18.89%	34.25%	18.24%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Growth	0.65%	-2.44%	12.72%	42.68%	18.99%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Value	0.94%	1.23%	15.56%	39.98%	17.84%	
MSCI EAFE	1.71%	1.16%	11.10%	22.78%	8.53%	
MSCI World (ex US)	1.94%	3.56%	12.38%	15.29%	8.22%	
MSCI World	1.46%	4.59%	15.93%	26.68%	12.35%	
MSCI Emerging Markets	2.84%	9.20%	14.71%	-2.60%	7.30%	

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 8/15/14.

S&P Sector Performance					
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2013	5-yr.
Consumer Discretionary	1.14%	1.18%	16.88%	43.08%	23.09%
Consumer Staples	1.42%	5.07%	12.78%	26.14%	16.16%
Energy	-0.18%	9.15%	20.20%	25.05%	15.00%
Financials	0.96%	4.29%	14.58%	35.59%	11.46%
Health Care	2.36%	12.65%	26.89%	41.46%	19.73%
Industrials	1.30%	1.81%	19.74%	40.64%	18.84%
Information Technology	1.76%	11.93%	28.65%	28.43%	16.96%
Materials	1.02%	8.81%	23.82%	25.60%	14.24%
Telecom Services	0.57%	5.45%	8.79%	11.47%	14.41%
Utilities	1.25%	12.48%	14.91%	13.21%	12.24%

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 8/15/14.

Bond Index Performance					
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2013	5-yr.
U.S. Treasury: Intermediate	0.24%	2.04%	2.21%	-1.34%	2.93%
GNMA 30 Year	0.34%	4.41%	5.74%	-2.17%	4.14%
U.S. Aggregate	0.45%	4.66%	5.64%	-2.02%	4.60%
U.S. Corporate High Yield	1.08%	5.11%	9.86%	7.44%	12.20%
U.S. Corporate Investment Grade	0.64%	6.82%	9.18%	-1.53%	7.27%
Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+)	0.63%	11.70%	14.03%	-6.01%	7.79%
Global Aggregate	0.30%	4.91%	6.35%	-2.60%	4.01%

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 8/15/14.

Key Rates						
As of 8/15/14						
Fed Funds	0.00-0.25%	5-yr CD	1.34%			
LIBOR (1-month)	0.16%	2-yr T-Note	0.41%			
CPI - Headline	2.10%	5-yr T-Note	1.54%			
CPI - Core	1.90%	10-yr T-Note	2.34%			
Money Market Accts.	0.49%	30-yr T-Bond	3.13%			
Money Market Funds	0.01%	30-yr Mortgage	4.28%			
6-mo CD	0.34%	Prime Rate	3.25%			
1-yr CD	0.66%	Bond Buyer 40	4.44%			

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

Market Indicators	
As of 8/15/14	
TED Spread	20 bps
Investment Grade Spread (A2)	133 bps
ML High Yield Master II Index Spread	397 bps

Sources: Bloomberg and Merrill Lynch via Bloomberg.

Market Watch

Week of August 18th

Weekly Fund Flows						
Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds for the Week Ended 8/6/14						
	Current	Current Week		ous		
Domestic Equity	-\$3.064	Billion	-\$1.257	Billion		
Foreign Equity	\$2.642	Billion	\$1.462	Billion		
Taxable Bond	-\$8.644	Billion	\$1.137	Billion		
Municipal Bond	\$454	Million	\$687	Million		
Change in Money Market Fund Assets for the Week Ended 8/13/14						
	Current	Current Week		ous		
Retail	\$1.22	Billion	\$12.72	Billion		
Institutional	\$9.30	Billion	\$0.05	Billion		
Source: Investment Company Institute.						

Factoids for the week of August 11 - 15, 2014

Monday, August 11, 2014

Census Bureau data shows that the average square footage of newly constructed single-family homes in the U.S. increased by 56.5% from 1,660 square feet in 1973 to 2,598 square feet in 2013, according to USA TODAY. Over the same period, however, the average number of people per household fell from 3.01 to 2.54. The average sales price of newly constructed single-family homes surged 419.2% from \$62,500 in 1978 (earliest available data) to \$324,500 in 2013.

Tuesday, August 12, 2014

Moody's reported that the global speculative-grade default rate stood at 2.1% in July, down from 2.2% in June, according to its own release. Moody's is forecasting a default rate of 2.2% for December 2014. The historical average for the default rate on speculative-grade debt has been approximately 4.7% since 1983. The U.S. speculative-grade default rate stood at 1.8% in July, down from 1.9% in June. The default rate on senior loans stood at 0.96% in July, up from 0.83% in June, according to Standard & Poor's LCD. The historical average is 2.97%.

Wednesday, August 13, 2014

In 2011, the most recent year in which the IRS has compiled final data, an individual needed to have an adjusted gross income of at least \$389,000 to be in the top 1% of wage earners in the U.S., according to CNNMoney. That figure stood at \$426,439 in 2007, prior to the 2008 financial crisis. In 2011, the top 1% earned nearly 19% of all adjusted gross income reported and paid 35% of all federal income taxes collected by the IRS. The effective tax rate of the top 1% was 23.5%, well above the 14.0% average tax rate for the top 50% of filers.

Thursday, August 14, 2014

Year-to-date through July, the federal government collected \$1.80 trillion in taxes, up 7.8% from the \$1.67 trillion collected in the same period in 2013, according to *Forbes*. Tax receipts were higher (y-o-y) in each of the first seven months. Tax revenue is also higher on a fiscal year basis (\$2.40 trillion collected), which ends in September. While individual income taxes accounted for approximately 46% of total receipts y-t-d, corporate income taxes contributed slightly less than 10%. The remainder was comprised of Social Security and Medicare taxes, excise taxes and customs duties. Estate and gift taxes accounted for less than 1%.

Friday, August 15, 2014

In addition to such hurdles as high student loan balances and increased competition for properties from institutional investors, lenders are requiring bigger down payments from buyers wanting to purchase a home in the U.S., according to Bloomberg. In 2013, the median down payment for the cheapest 25% of homes was 7.5% of the sales price, up from a low of 3.1% in 2006, according to Seattle-based Redfin. The average was 4.2% from 2001 through 2007. The median down payment was \$9,480. In 2013, the median down payments (% of sales price) for the middle 50% and top 25% of homes stood at 8.8% and 20.9%, respectively. Demand for mortgages has slumped of late. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York reported that mortgage originations totaled \$286 billion in Q2'14, the lowest level of activity since 2000.