Eirst Trust

Stock Index Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2014	5-yr.	
Dow Jones Industrial Avg. (18,086)	1.86%	2.78%	9.05%	10.04%	15.24%	
S&P 500 (2,127)	2.42%	4.42%	10.82%	13.68%	17.26%	
NASDAQ 100 (4,662)	5.46%	10.73%	21.62%	19.49%	22.42%	
S&P 500 Growth	3.27%	7.19%	14.96%	14.89%	18.77%	
S&P 500 Value	1.47%	1.43%	6.38%	12.35%	15.70%	
S&P MidCap 400 Growth	0.75%	8.21%	13.98%	7.57%	18.05%	
S&P MidCap 400 Value	-0.20%	0.78%	5.10%	12.04%	16.63%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Growth	0.96%	9.35%	17.25%	3.85%	19.60%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Value	0.21%	0.23%	6.73%	7.54%	17.33%	
MSCI EAFE	2.03%	8.25%	-0.91%	-4.90%	8.76%	
MSCI World (ex US)	1.70%	5.11%	-4.01%	-3.87%	6.83%	
MSCI World	2.16%	5.34%	4.56%	4.94%	12.63%	
MSCI Emerging Markets	1.12%	-0.02%	-9.29%	-2.19%	2.36%	

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 7/17/15.

S&P Sector Performance					
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2014	5-yr.
Consumer Discretionary	1.95%	10.52%	20.22%	9.68%	23.46%
Consumer Staples	1.88%	4.33%	14.66%	15.98%	16.78%
Energy	-1.18%	-8.00%	-24.15%	-7.79%	8.98%
Financials	3.02%	3.61%	14.06%	15.18%	14.45%
Health Care	2.28%	13.25%	29.21%	25.34%	24.21%
Industrials	1.51%	-1.47%	4.43%	9.80%	16.85%
Information Technology	5.26%	6.06%	15.24%	20.12%	17.66%
Materials	-0.13%	-0.98%	-2.55%	6.91%	12.98%
Telecom Services	1.36%	4.99%	0.30%	2.99%	13.67%
Utilities	0.85%	-6.61%	6.25%	28.98%	12.31%

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 7/17/15.

Bond Index Performance					
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2014	5-yr.
U.S. Treasury: Intermediate	0.11%	0.78%	1.78%	2.57%	2.06%
GNMA 30 Year	0.48%	0.24%	2.27%	6.03%	2.98%
U.S. Aggregate	0.42%	-0.01%	1.90%	5.97%	3.26%
U.S. Corporate High Yield	0.07%	2.50%	0.04%	2.45%	8.16%
U.S. Corporate Investment Grade	0.51%	-0.84%	0.54%	7.46%	4.91%
Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+)	0.35%	0.29%	5.31%	15.39%	5.98%
Global Aggregate	-0.46%	-3.87%	-7.67%	0.59%	1.38%

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 7/17/15.

Key Rates					
As of 7/17/15					
Fed Funds	0.00-0.25%	5-yr CD	1.66%		
LIBOR (1-month)	0.19%	2-yr T-Note	0.67%		
CPI - Headline	0.10%	5-yr T-Note	1.67%		
CPI - Core	1.80%	10-yr T-Note	2.35%		
Money Market Accts.	0.47%	30-yr T-Bond	3.08%		
Money Market Funds	0.02%	30-yr Mortgage	4.24%		
6-mo CD	0.37%	Prime Rate	3.25%		
1-yr CD	1.01%	Bond Buyer 40	4.47%		

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

Market Indicators	
As of 7/17/15	
TED Spread	27 bps
Investment Grade Spread (A2)	167 bps
ML High Yield Master II Index Spread	495 bps

Sources: Bloomberg and Merrill Lynch via Bloomberg.

Market Watch

Week of July 20th

Weekly Fund Flows						
Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds for the Week Ended 7/8/15						
	Current	Week	Previo	Previous		
Domestic Equity	-\$2.446	Billion	-\$5.514	Billion		
Foreign Equity	\$4.604	Billion	\$2.073	Billion		
Taxable Bond	-\$2.932	Billion	-\$1.538	Billion		
Municipal Bond	-\$287	Million	-\$861	Million		
Change in Money Market Fund Assets for the Week Ended 7/15/15						
	Current	Current Week		ous		
Retail	-\$0.32	Billion	\$7.29	Billion		
Institutional	-\$1.03	Billion	\$11.89	Billion		
Source: Investment Company Institute.						

Factoids for the week of July 13-17, 2015

Monday, July 13, 2015

SNL Energy reported that the U.S. generated more of its electricity from gas than coal in April 2015, according to the *Financial Times*. It was the first time in U.S. history that gas-fired electricity generation topped coal-fired generation. Power plants fueled by natural gas accounted for 31% of total production, compared to 30% for coal. In 2010, coal had a 45% share. The decline in the price of natural gas had a lot to do with the drop in the demand for coal. Natural gas closed Friday's trading session (7/10/15) at \$2.77 per million British thermal units, down from \$4.12 on 7/10/14, according to Bloomberg.

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Kiplinger estimates that new home sales in the U.S. will rise (y-o-y) by 22% and 23%, respectively, in 2015 and 2016, according to its own release. Existing home sales are expected to rise by 7% and 6%, respectively, in 2015 and 2016. In May, first-time purchasers of existing homes accounted for 32% of all buyers, up from 29% in May 2014. It expects that figure to hit 35% by the end of 2016. Some lenders have eased credit terms. The percentage of Federal Housing Administration loans extended to borrowers with credit scores of less than 640 has risen from 8% in 2013 to 18% today.

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

S&P 500 companies reported that 47.8% of their sales came from outside the U.S. in 2014, up from 46.3% in 2013, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices. That figure was 43.8% in 2004. Foreign sales reached a record-high of 47.9% in 2008. European sales increased from 6.8% of all S&P 500 sales in 2013 to 7.5% in 2014. Asian sales increased from 7.7% in 2013 to 7.8% in 2014. The sectors that reported foreign sales in excess of 50% of total sales were Information Technology (59.4% vs. 56.6% in '13), Energy (56.2% vs. 54.6% in '13), Materials (54.5% vs. 54.5% in '13) and Health Care (50.3% vs. 51.3% in '13).

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Moody's reported that the global speculative-grade default rate stood at 2.3% in June, down from 2.4% in May, according to its own release. Moody's is forecasting a default rate of 3.0% for December 2015. The historical average for the default rate on global speculative-grade debt has been 4.5% since 1983. The U.S. speculative-grade default rate stood at 2.0% in June, up from 1.9% in May. The default rate on senior loans stood at 0.81% in June, down from 0.83% in May, and well below the historical average of 2.90%, according to S&P Capital IQ.

Friday, July 17, 2015

The MoneyTree™ Report from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) and the National Venture Capital Association (NVCA) revealed that venture capital (VC) firms invested \$2.3 billion (126 deals) into the field of biotechnology in Q2'15, according to FierceBiotech. It was the largest dollar amount for the biotechnology sector since record-keeping began in Q1'95. VC firms funneled approximately \$4 billion into the sector in the first half of 2015. The industry is on track to crush last year's VC funding record of \$6 billion.