# EFirst Trust

Stock Index Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2016	5-yr.	
Dow Jones Industrial Avg. (21,988)	0.88%	13.21%	22.38%	16.50%	13.73%	
S&P 500 (2,477)	1.43%	12.16%	16.47%	11.95%	14.36%	
NASDAQ 100 (5,988)	2.86%	24.11%	26.64%	7.27%	18.15%	
S&P 500 Growth	1.93%	18.08%	18.98%	6.89%	15.22%	
S&P 500 Value	0.79%	5.46%	12.93%	17.39%	13.24%	
S&P MidCap 400 Growth	1.96%	8.64%	12.12%	14.76%	13.65%	
S&P MidCap 400 Value	1.47%	2.55%	12.86%	26.52%	14.21%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Growth	2.44%	4.03%	14.39%	22.07%	14.71%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Value	2.33%	-0.35%	13.19%	31.21%	14.33%	
MSCI EAFE	0.57%	17.51%	17.47%	1.00%	8.56%	
MSCI World (ex US)	0.66%	19.43%	18.95%	4.50%	7.46%	
MSCI World	1.13%	13.82%	16.27%	7.51%	11.17%	
MSCI Emerging Markets	0.64%	28.73%	25.28%	11.19%	5.37%	
S&P GSCI	1.95%	-6.76%	4.61%	11.37%	-15.16%	

**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 9/1/17. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

S&P Sector Performance					
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2016	5-yr.
Consumer Discretionary	1.66%	11.51%	13.52%	6.03%	16.55%
Consumer Staples	0.59%	7.94%	4.16%	5.38%	12.07%
Energy	0.85%	-14.32%	-5.01%	27.36%	-0.05%
Financials	-0.01%	7.45%	27.04%	22.75%	17.28%
Health Care	2.98%	19.03%	13.91%	-2.69%	17.94%
Industrials	1.57%	9.90%	17.61%	18.85%	15.68%
Information Technology	2.23%	26.50%	30.68%	13.85%	17.54%
Materials	1.94%	12.65%	16.10%	16.69%	11.50%
Telecom Services	-1.28%	-7.88%	-4.64%	23.49%	5.70%
Utilities	-0.57%	14.68%	15.77%	16.29%	12.72%

**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 9/1/17. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Bond Index Performance					
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2016	5-yr.
U.S. Treasury: Intermediate	0.06%	2.16%	0.03%	1.06%	1.09%
GNMA 30 Year	0.12%	1.94%	0.47%	1.57%	1.66%
U.S. Aggregate	0.07%	3.64%	0.49%	2.65%	2.15%
U.S. Corporate High Yield	0.39%	6.05%	8.63%	17.13%	6.47%
U.S. Corporate Investment Grade	0.06%	5.37%	2.13%	6.11%	3.59%
Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+)	0.23%	6.58%	0.42%	0.88%	4.40%
Global Aggregate	0.00%	7.22%	0.19%	2.09%	0.89%

**Source: Barclays.** Returns are total returns. The **5-yr. return is an average annual.** One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 9/1/17. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Key Rates						
As of 9/1/17						
Fed Funds	1.00-1.25%	5-yr CD	2.11%			
LIBOR (1-month)	1.24%	2-yr T-Note	1.34%			
CPI - Headline	1.70%	5-yr T-Note	1.74%			
CPI - Core	1.70%	10-yr T-Note	2.17%			
Money Market Accts.	0.64%	30-yr T-Bond	2.78%			
Money Market Funds	0.26%	30-yr Mortgage Refinance	3.79%			
6-mo CD	0.88%	Prime Rate	4.25%			
1-yr CD	1.40%	Bond Buyer 40	3.99%			

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

Market Indicators	
As of 9/1/17	
TED Spread	31 bps
Investment Grade Spread (A2)	127 bps
ML High Yield Master II Index Spread	382 bps

Sources: Bloomberg and Merrill Lynch via Bloomberg.

# Market Watch

Week of September 4th

Weekly Fund Flows						
Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds for the Week Ended 8/23/17						
	Current	Week	Previ	Previous		
Domestic Equity	-\$2.730	Billion	-\$9.890	Billion		
Foreign Equity	\$1.670	Billion	\$1.379	Billion		
Taxable Bond	\$2.486	Billion	\$3.365	Billion		
Municipal Bond	\$1.101	Billion	\$889	Million		
Change in Money Market Fund Assets for the Week Ended 8/30/17						
	Current	Current Week		Previous		
Retail	-\$1.18	Billion	\$0.29	Billion		
Institutional	-\$18.55	Billion	\$29.36	Billion		

Source: Investment Company Institute.

## Factoids for the week of August 28, 2017

## Monday, August 28, 2017

LIMRA Secure Retirement Institute estimates that U.S. annuity sales declined 8% year-over-year to \$53.9 billion in Q2'17, according to its own release. It marked the fifth consecutive quarterly decline in overall annuity sales. Variable annuity (VA) sales totaled \$24.7 billion in Q2'17, down 8% from the amount sold in Q2'16. It marked the 14th consecutive quarterly decline in VA sales. Fixed annuity (FA) sales totaled \$29.2 billion in Q2'17, down 7% from the amount sold in Q2'16.

#### Tuesday, August 29, 2017

Janus Henderson Group reported that worldwide stock dividend payments rose 5.4% year-over-year to \$447.5 billion in Q2'17, according to Bloomberg. The financial and technology sectors were among those showing strong dividend growth. Stock dividends are projected to reach a record \$1.21 trillion worldwide in 2017, up 3.9% from last year's payout. In Q2'17, dividend distributions set records in the U.S., Japan, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Indonesia and South Korea. While U.S. companies pay their dividends on a quarterly basis, most European firms distribute annual dividends in the second quarter.

## Wednesday, August 30, 2017

International Data Corporation's (IDC) Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker reported that smartphone shipments are expected to increase from 1.47 billion in 2016 to just over 1.7 billion in 2021, according to its own release. IDC believes that growth will be driven by demand for high-end smartphone devices. Year-to-date through 8/29/17, the NASDAQ OMX CTA Smartphone Index posted a total return of 18.40%, compared to 24.61% for the S&P 500 Information Technology Index and 10.75% for the S&P 500 Index.

#### Thursday, August 31, 2017

Swiss Re reported that economic losses from natural disasters totaled \$44 billion in the first half of 2017, down 62% from the losses posted in the first half of 2016, according to Bloomberg. Insurance covered more than half of the \$44 billion. With respect to Hurricane Harvey, risk-modeling company RMS estimates \$70 billion to \$90 billion in losses from wind, storm surge and flood damage. Hurricane Katrina (2005) losses totaled \$140 billion. Chuck Watson, a disaster modeler with Enki Research, estimates that insurers will end up covering around 27% of the damages, far less than the 47% paid out for Katrina.

#### Friday, September 1, 2017

In August, the dividend-payers (419) in the S&P 500 Index (equal weight) posted a total return of -1.15%, vs. -1.76% for the non-payers (86), according to S&P Dow Jones Indices. There are currently 505 stocks in the index. Year-to-date, payers were up 7.96%, vs. a gain of 9.14% for the non-payers. For the 12-month period ended August 2017, payers were up 9.48%, vs. a gain of 8.39% for the non-payers. The number of dividend increases in August totaled 17, up from 15 a year ago. Year-to-date, increases totaled 246, up from 239 over the same period a year ago. One company cut its dividend in August, compared to two dividend decreases a year ago.

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