IFirst Trust

Stock Index Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2017	5-yr.	
Dow Jones Industrial Avg. (25,219)	4.36%	2.37%	25.20%	28.11%	15.30%	
S&P 500 (2,732)	4.37%	2.45%	18.71%	21.82%	14.79%	
NASDAQ 100 (6,771)	5.65%	6.04%	29.14%	32.99%	21.11%	
S&P 500 Growth	4.99%	4.73%	25.44%	27.43%	16.77%	
S&P 500 Value	3.71%	0.06%	11.28%	15.35%	12.45%	
S&P MidCap 400 Growth	4.71%	1.94%	16.27%	19.91%	13.46%	
S&P MidCap 400 Value	4.22%	-1.67%	6.35%	12.30%	12.15%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Growth	4.40%	1.55%	12.89%	14.71%	14.77%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Value	4.35%	-0.13%	9.81%	11.43%	13.60%	
MSCI EAFE	4.27%	1.35%	21.13%	25.03%	7.37%	
MSCI World (ex US)	4.41%	1.54%	21.94%	27.19%	6.49%	
MSCI World	4.31%	1.80%	18.61%	22.40%	10.89%	
MSCI Emerging Markets	5.03%	3.69%	29.73%	37.28%	4.86%	
S&P GSCI	3.28%	-0.04%	6.61%	5.77%	-12.86%	

Source: Bloomberg. Returns are total returns. 5-yr. return is an average annual. One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 2/16/18. 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.	2017	5-yr.	
Consumer Discretionary	3.94%	6.31%	23.13%	22.98%	17.38%	
Consumer Staples	3.47%	-2.45%	5.76%	13.49%	11.02%	
Energy	2.15%	-5.59%	-2.06%	-1.01%	-0.05%	
Financials	4.73%	3.84%	20.47%	22.14%	17.14%	
Health Care	4.07%	3.42%	18.18%	22.08%	16.42%	
Industrials	4.71%	2.05%	17.39%	21.01%	15.28%	
Information Technology	5.90%	5.78%	34.57%	38.83%	21.51%	
Materials	3.55%	0.05%	17.33%	23.84%	11.18%	
Real Estate	1.97%	-6.82%	1.37%	10.85%	4.79%	
Telecom Services	2.42%	-3.06%	0.09%	-1.25%	6.32%	
Utilities	3.21%	-4.84%	4.61%	12.11%	10.37%	

Source: Bloomberg. Returns are total returns. 5-yr. return is an average annual. One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 2/16/18. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Bond Index Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2017	5-yr.	
U.S. Treasury: Intermediate	-0.33%	-1.32%	-0.38%	1.14%	0.72%	
GNMA 30 Year	-0.16%	-1.92%	-0.06%	1.87%	1.43%	
U.S. Aggregate	-0.21%	-2.12%	1.04%	3.54%	1.79%	
U.S. Corporate High Yield	0.80%	-0.48%	4.68%	7.51%	5.39%	
U.S. Corporate Investment Grade	-0.22%	-2.50%	3.16%	6.42%	3.13%	
Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+)	-0.16%	-2.23%	5.32%	8.19%	3.70%	
Global Aggregate	1.01%	1.01%	7.54%	7.40%	1.39%	

Source: Bloomberg Barclays. Returns are total returns. 5-yr. return is an average annual. One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 2/16/18. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Key Rates						
Fed Funds	1.25-1.50%	5-yr CD	2.28%			
LIBOR (1-month)	1.59%	2-yr T-Note	2.19%			
CPI - Headline	2.10%	5-yr T-Note	2.63%			
CPI - Core	1.80%	10-yr T-Note	2.88%			
Money Market Accts.	0.83%	30-yr T-Bond	3.13%			
Prime Money Funds	1.00%	30-yr Mortgage Refinance	4.28%			
1-yr CD	1.91%	Prime Rate	4.50%			
3-yr CD	1.90%	Bond Buyer 40	4.00%			

Sources: Bankrate.com, Barron's and Bloomberg. The rate shown for Prime Money Funds is as of 2/14/18. All other rates are as of 2/16/18.

Market Indicators	
As of 2/16/18	
TED Spread	29 bps
Investment Grade Spread (A2)	108 bps
ML High Yield Master II Index Spread	350 bps
Courses Bloom hour	

Source: Bloomberg.

The information presented is not intended to constitute an investment recommendation for, or advice to, any specific person. By providing this information, First Trust is not undertaking to give advice in any fiduciary capacity within the meaning of ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code. First Trust has no knowledge of and has not been provided any information regarding any investor. Financial advisors must determine whether particular investments are appropriate for their clients. First Trust believes the financial advisor is a fiduciary, is capable of evaluating investment risks independently and is responsible for exercising independent judgment with respect to its retirement plan clients.

Market Watch

Week of February 19th

Weekly Fund Flows						
Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds for the Week Ended 2/7/18						
	Current	Week	Previ	Previous		
Domestic Equity	-\$15.176	Billion	-\$4.806	Billion		
Foreign Equity	\$307	Million	\$2.622	Billion		
Taxable Bond	\$6.460	Billion	\$4.654	Billion		
Municipal Bond	-\$687	Million	\$1.891	Billion		
Change in Money Market Fund Assets for the Week Ended 2/14/18						
	Current	Week	Previ	Previous		
Retail	\$2.86	Billion	\$12.23	Billion		
Institutional	-\$0.87	Billion	\$15.41	Billion		

Source: Investment Company Institute.

Factoids for the week of February 12, 2018

Monday, February 12, 2018

Moody's reported that its global speculative-grade default rate stood at 2.8% in January, according to its own release. Moody's sees the rate falling to 1.7% by December 2018. Moody's puts the historical average default rate at 4.2% since 1983. The U.S. speculative-grade default rate stood at 3.2% in January. It sees the U.S. rate falling to 2.2% by December 2018. The default rate on senior loans stood at 1.83% in January, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

On average, the bottom-up earnings per share (EPS) estimate for the S&P 500 Index from Wall Street analysts usually decreases during the first month of a quarter, according to FactSet. Over the past ten years (40 quarters), the bottom-up EPS estimate posted an average decline of 2.5% in that first month. In January 2018, however, analysts increased their Q1 estimate for the index by 4.9%, from \$34.36 to \$36.04. That is the largest increase in the bottom-up EPS estimate over the first month of a quarter since FactSet began tracking such data in 2002. With respect to sectors, the biggest adjustments were in Energy (20.3%) and Financials (10.8%).

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 The National Retail Federation (NRF) estimates that Americans will spend \$19.6 billion to celebrate Valentine's Day, up 7.7% from the \$18.2 billion spent NBF noted that the \$19.7 billion last year, according to its own release. The NRF noted that the \$19.7 billion spent in 2016 is the all-time high. The average consumer is expected to spend \$143.56. Consumers plan to spend the most on jewelry (\$4.7 billion), an evening out (\$3.7 billion), flowers (\$2.0 billion), clothing (\$1.9 billion) and gift participation of the optimization of the billion). cards/gift certificates (\$1.5 billion).

Thursday, February 15, 2018

There are currently 11,097 analyst ratings on the stocks that comprise the S&P 500 Index, or an average of 22 ratings per stock, according to Bespoke Investment Group. There are 5,701 buy ratings, 546 sell ratings and 4,850 hold ratings. Energy has the highest number of analyst ratings per stock at 29.6, followed by Telecommunication Services at 29.0 and Information Technology at 25.7.

Friday, February 16, 2018

RealPage, an apartment management software and data company, reported that apartment completions in the 150 largest U.S. cities totaled 395,775 units in 2017, up 46% from 2016's unit count and more than double the long-term average, according to CNBC. Luxury, upscale buildings accounted for 75-80% of the new supply.