**Market Watch**

**Weekly Fund Flows**

- **Equity Funds**: $22.2 B ($7.9 B)
  - Including ETF activity, Domestic funds reporting net inflows of $24.264 B and Non-domestic funds reporting net outflows of -$2.237 B.
- **Bond Funds**: $1 B ($16.7 B)
- **Municipal Bond Funds**: $374 M ($5.540 B)
- **Money Markets**: -$36.071 B ($94.047 B)

*Source: AMG Data Services*

**Factoids for the Week of June 16th - June 20th**

**Monday, June 16, 2008**

- Saudi Arabia has agreed to boost crude oil production by 200,000 barrels a day starting in July, according to UN Secretary Gen Ban Ki-moon. The Saudis just increased production by 300,000 barrels a day in June. The price of a barrel of crude oil closed Friday's trading at $134.86, but is trading above $138.00 this morning. Michael Greenberger, a former top official at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, estimates that large banks and hedge funds now account for 80% of oil-contract trading and have driven up the price of oil by 25%, according to USA TODAY. In 2000, approximately $9 billion was invested in oil futures, versus $220 billion today, according to BusinessWeek. The price of oil is up more than five-fold since April 2003. The dollar, which shoulders some of the blame, declined by 23.5% versus a basket of major currencies over that span.

**Tuesday, June 17, 2008**

- Merrill Lynch just boosted its target for global infrastructure spending to $2.25 trillion per year over the next three years, nearly double its earlier estimate, according to SeekingAlpha.com. China is expected to account for close to one-third of total annual spending at $725 billion a year. The Middle East-Gulf Region is the next highest at $400 billion followed by Russia, India, and Brazil at $325 billion, $240 billion, and $225 billion, respectively.

**Wednesday, June 18, 2008**

- Earnings growth for the S&P 500 is expected to decline by 7.7% (y-o-y) in Q2, but rebound to post double-digit gains in Q3 (+12.3%) and Q4 (+51.0%), according to Bespoke Investment Group. Earnings growth in the financial sector is expected to fall by 45.9% in Q2, way off the 9.2% gain posted in Q2/07, according to data from Bespoke and Thomson Baseline. Here are the estimates for earnings growth in the financials looking ahead three quarters: +2.6% (Q3/08); +452.7% (Q4/08); and +285.2% (Q1/09), according to Bespoke Investment Group.

**Thursday, June 19, 2008**

- S&P 500 stock buyback activity for Q1/08 totaled $113.9 billion, a 3.2% decline from the $117.7 billion spent in Q1/07, according to Standard & Poor's. It was the tenth straight quarter in which buybacks exceeded $100 billion. The record-high was set in Q3/07 at $171.95 billion. Over the past fourteen quarters (buyback boom began Q4/04), companies spent $1.55 trillion in buybacks, versus $1.68 trillion on capital expenditures and $783 billion on dividends.

**Friday, June 20, 2008**

- The Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimates that oil producers will extract an average of 87.7 million barrels of crude oil per day worldwide in 2009, according to USA TODAY. The EIA believes that demand will average 87.7 million barrels per day as well. The tight supply/demand relationship is just one of the factors driving speculation in the futures market. In 1970, for example, demand averaged 46.8 million barrels per day, while production averaged 48.9 million barrels. Energy traders are used to seeing a cushion of one million barrels or more per day and that doesn't exist today.