Factoids for the week of June 3 - 7, 2013

* Monday, June 3, 2013
  Sovereign wealth fund ownership in the S&P 500 increased from $145.9 billion four quarters ago to $182.4 billion, according to S&P Capital IQ. These funds currently represent approximately 1.2% of the S&P 500’s $15.5 trillion market capitalization. The sectors with the highest year-over-year change were Telecom. Services (+65.9%), Consumer Staples (+66.0%), Energy (+53.6%) and Utilities (+52.2%). The sectors possessing the most sovereign wealth fund investment capital are Financials ($35.9 billion), Information Technology ($33.7 billion) and Consumer Discretionary ($32.3 billion).

* Tuesday, June 4, 2013
  Energy-related master limited partnerships (MLPs), as measured by the Alerian MLP Index (50 constituents), outperformed the S&P 500 every year from 2000-2011, according to Kiplinger. The 15.99% total return on the S&P 500 did not work out so well. The MLP Index in $33.7 billion returns may have been subdued in 2012 by a record $26 billion worth of new shares hitting the market. The new shares added more than 10% to the category’s total stock market value, according to Kiplinger. The yield on the Alerian MLP Index is currently 5.58%, which is approximately 344 basis points higher than the yield on the 10-Year T-Note. Since 1996, the average spread over Treasuries has been around 340 basis points. Darren Schuringa, who invests in MLPs for Yorkville Capital Management, sees MLP distributions rising by 8.0% this year, up from around 6.0% the past few years.

* Wednesday, June 5, 2013
  In May, the dividend-payers (410) in the S&P 500 (equal weight) posted a total return of 2.07%, vs. 6.23% for the non-payers (90), according to Standard & Poor’s. Y-T-D, the payers were up 28.3%, vs. a gain of 12.58% for the non-payers. For the 12-month period ended May, payers were up 30.66%, vs. a gain of 40.9% for the non-payers. The number of dividend increases y-t-d through May totaled 204, up from 181 at this point a year ago. Ten dividends were cut, compared to four at this point a year ago. In the first four months of 2013, net cash inflows to Equity Income mutual funds and Equity Income ETFs totaled $6.2 billion and $4.4 billion, respectively, according to data from Lipper.

* Thursday, June 6, 2013
  The American Bankruptcy Institute reported that total filings fell 12% (y-o-y) in May, according to the Los Angeles Times. Total U.S. bankruptcy filings were down to 96,430. Consumer bankruptcy filings were off 11% to 70,630. The states with the highest per capita filing rates were Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Illinois and Utah.

* Friday, June 7, 2013
  Real Capital Analytics reported that foreign investors purchased $7.97 billion worth of U.S. commercial property in the first four months of 2013, up 25% from the same period a year ago, according to Bloomberg. The $7.97 billion accounted for 8.8% of all U.S. commercial real estate transactions so far in 2013. That is higher than the 8.1% average over the previous 10 years, according to Real Capital. In 2012, $27.5 billion worth of commercial real estate was purchased by foreigners, up from a low of $4.7 billion in 2009.

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