Sources: Bankrate.com, iMoneyNet.com and Bloomberg

**Factoids for the week of November 17 - 21, 2014**

**Monday, November 17, 2014**

The third quarter earnings season concluded last week and 62.1% of the 2,400+ companies that reported beat their consensus analyst estimates, according to Bespoke Investment Group. The beat rate was higher for the companies in the S&P 500, with 75.1% topping their respective estimates, according to Bloomberg. The following breaks down the earnings beat rate by sector (2,400+ companies tracked by Bespoke): 71.3% (Information Technology); 66.0% (Health Care); 64.3% (Industrials); 61.1% (Financials); 59.7% (Consumer Discretionary); 57.1% (Consumer Staples); 52.8% (Materials); 52.2% (Energy); 50.7% (Utilities); and 50.0% (Telecommunication Services).

**Tuesday, November 18, 2014**

The S&P/Experian Consumer Credit Default Composite Index stood at 1.06% in October 2014, down from 1.38% in October 2013, according to Bespoke Investment Group. The default rate on first mortgages stood at 0.98%, down from 1.30% a year ago. It was lower on second mortgages as well (0.47% vs. 0.72%). The bank card default rate stood at 2.60%, down from 2.97% a year ago. The auto loan default rate stood at 1.05%, down from 1.14% a year ago. Bank card and second mortgage default rates are currently at historical lows, according to David M. Blitzer, Managing Director and Chairman of the Index Committee for S&P Dow Jones Indices.

**Wednesday, November 19, 2014**

In 2015, sales of existing homes in the U.S. are likely to at least match the average posted from 1999-2002, just prior to the housing boom, according to Kiplinger. A strong rental market has already driven multifamily housing construction back to its historical norm. The following represents Kiplinger’s housing projections (2014 vs. 2015): Single-family starts (635,000 vs. 800,000); Multi-family starts (360,000 vs. 380,000); New-home sales (447,000 vs. 560,000); Existing-home sales (5.00 million vs. 5.35 million); Year-end 30-year mortgage rate (4.2% vs. 4.7%); and Year-end price change (+4.0% vs. +3.5%). As of 11/19/14, the S&P Homebuilding Select Industry Index stood 41.5% below its 10-year high set on 7/20/05, according to Bloomberg.

**Thursday, November 20, 2014**

A study by IMS Health (The Global Outlook for Medicines Through 2018) estimates that global spending on medicines will rise by 30%, to $1.3 trillion, by 2028. Spending is projected to grow at a 4% to 7% compound annual rate over the next five years. IMS predicts that nearly 200 new drugs will come to market in the next five years. More than 2,000 drugs are currently in late-stage clinical development.

**Friday, November 21, 2014**

The S&P 500 closed yesterday’s trading session at an all-time high of 2025.75. The index is up 13.1% so far in 2014, including reinvested dividends. When it comes to investing in U.S. equities, passive mutual funds and ETFs are clearly more popular with investors than actively managed mutual funds and ETFs, according to data from Morningstar. Active U.S. equity funds/ETFs experienced net outflows for the eighth consecutive month in October, while passive U.S. equity funds/ETFs experienced net inflows for the ninth consecutive month. For the one-year period ended October 2014, active U.S. equity funds/ETFs reported net outflows totaling $79.3 billion, compared to net inflows totaling $139.5 billion for passive U.S. equity funds/ETFs.