Eirst Trust

Stock Index Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2014	5-yr.	
Dow Jones Industrial Avg. (17,826)	-1.26%	0.67%	11.18%	10.04%	12.94%	
S&P 500 (2,081)	-0.98%	1.67%	13.88%	13.68%	14.15%	
NASDAQ 100 (4,352)	-1.59%	3.06%	24.62%	19.49%	18.11%	
S&P 500 Growth	-1.23%	2.77%	17.45%	14.89%	15.39%	
S&P 500 Value	-0.70%	0.49%	10.10%	12.35%	12.90%	
S&P MidCap 400 Growth	-1.43%	6.51%	15.33%	7.57%	15.17%	
S&P MidCap 400 Value	-1.01%	2.83%	12.01%	12.04%	14.15%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Growth	-1.30%	5.57%	12.03%	3.85%	16.11%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Value	-0.93%	0.74%	7.93%	7.54%	13.70%	
MSCI EAFE	-0.23%	7.66%	1.61%	-4.90%	6.31%	
MSCI World (ex US)	0.21%	7.52%	2.32%	-3.87%	5.23%	
MSCI World	-0.56%	4.05%	7.97%	4.94%	9.96%	
MSCI Emerging Markets	0.83%	9.48%	5.83%	-2.19%	2.69%	

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 4/17/15.

S&P Sector Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2014	5-yr.	
Consumer Discretionary	-1.85%	4.66%	19.87%	9.68%	18.98%	
Consumer Staples	-1.06%	1.60%	15.44%	15.98%	15.18%	
Energy	2.14%	2.66%	-9.72%	-7.79%	8.48%	
Financials	-0.48%	-1.95%	12.44%	15.18%	9.99%	
Health Care	-0.99%	7.46%	30.72%	25.34%	20.64%	
Industrials	-2.20%	-0.50%	8.07%	9.80%	13.93%	
Information Technology	-1.54%	0.42%	19.50%	20.12%	13.75%	
Materials	-0.10%	2.63%	6.17%	6.91%	10.91%	
Telecom Services	-1.00%	2.75%	2.52%	2.99%	12.89%	
Utilities	-1.24%	-5.81%	8.04%	28.98%	12.66%	

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 4/17/15.

Bond Index Performance					
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2014	5-yr.
U.S. Treasury: Intermediate	0.40%	1.63%	3.49%	2.57%	2.94%
GNMA 30 Year	0.26%	1.10%	5.04%	6.03%	3.87%
U.S. Aggregate	0.44%	2.09%	5.84%	5.97%	4.38%
U.S. Corporate High Yield	0.23%	3.63%	2.77%	2.45%	8.42%
U.S. Corporate Investment Grade	0.55%	3.10%	6.95%	7.46%	6.40%
Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+)	0.12%	1.63%	9.47%	15.39%	6.75%
Global Aggregate	1.03%	-1.15%	-3.62%	0.59%	2.33%

Source: Barclays Capital. Returns are total returns. The *5-yr. return is an average annual.* One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 4/17/15.

Key Rates					
As of 4/17/15					
Fed Funds	0.00-0.25%	5-yr CD	1.47%		
LIBOR (1-month)	0.18%	2-yr T-Note	0.51%		
CPI - Headline	-0.01%	5-yr T-Note	1.31%		
CPI - Core	1.80%	10-yr T-Note	1.87%		
Money Market Accts.	0.46%	30-yr T-Bond	2.52%		
Money Market Funds	0.02%	30-yr Mortgage	3.85%		
6-mo CD	0.37%	Prime Rate	3.25%		
1-yr CD	0.67%	Bond Buyer 40	4.24%		

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

Market Indicators			
As of 4/17/15			
TED Spread	26 bps		
Investment Grade Spread (A2)	148 bps		
ML High Yield Master II Index Spread	466 bps		

Sources: Bloomberg and Merrill Lynch via Bloomberg.

Market Watch

Week of April 20th

Weekly Fund Flows							
Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds for the Week Ended 4/8/15							
	Current	Current Week		ous			
Domestic Equity	-\$1.315	Billion	-\$3.338	Billion			
Foreign Equity	\$3.231	Billion	\$1.779	Billion			
Taxable Bond	\$1.906	Billion	-\$1.381	Billion			
Municipal Bond	-\$187	Million	\$96	Million			
Change in Money Market Fund Assets for the Week Ended 4/15/15							
	Current	Current Week		ous			
Retail	-\$7.52	Billion	\$1.03	Billion			
Institutional	-\$31.82	Billion	-\$1.64	Billion			
Source: Investment Company Institute.							

Factoids for the week of April 13-17, 2015

Monday, April 13, 2015

Only 0.9% of individual taxpayers were audited by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in 2014, the lowest percentage in seven years, according to Bloomberg. Individuals earning \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 annually carry a 2.2% chance of being audited, while those earning more than \$1 million face around a 7.5% chance of being audited. In 2014, IRS audits uncovered \$11.9 billion in unpaid taxes, down 15% from the amount found in 2013. Due to a strengthening economy, IRS tax collections rose by 8.0% in 2014, to \$2.7 trillion.

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Data from AAA shows that the average price of a gallon of gasoline in the U.S. stood at \$2.39, as of 4/12/15, up 6.6% from the end of 2014, according to Bespoke Investment Group. The 6.6% rise represents the smallest average price gain at this point in a calendar year since the start of 2005. The biggest increase occurred in 2009, when the average price rose 26.8%. Since 2005, the average price gain for this period has been 16.5%.

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Moody's reported that the global speculative-grade default rate stood at 2.3% at the close of Q1'15, up from 2.1% at the end of Q4'14, according to its own release. Moody's is forecasting a default rate of 2.6% for December 2015. The historical average for the default rate on global speculative-grade debt has been 4.5% since 1983. The U.S. speculative-grade default rate stood at 1.9% at the close of Q1'15, unchanged from Q4'14. The default rate on senior loans stood at 0.61% in March, down from 0.73% in February, according to Standard & Poor's LCD. The rate was 1.02% a year ago.

Thursday, April 16, 2015

At the close of Q1'15, data from ETFGI showed that total assets invested in exchange traded products (ETPs), including ETFs and ETNs, stood at \$2.93 trillion worldwide, according to ETFDailyNews.com. The U.S. market accounted for \$2.09 trillion of the total. The ETP industry is comprised of 5,632 exchange traded products, with 10,902 listings on 63 exchanges in 51 countries. Inflows to ETPs set a record in Q1'15. Net new assets totaled \$95.99 billion in Q1'15, up from \$34.97 billion in Q1'14. ETPs listed in the U.S. took in \$57.53 billion, up from \$15.06 billion in Q1'14.

Friday, April 17, 2015

The federal funds target rate has remained at 0% to 0.25% since December 2008. Over the past six years, money sitting in savings accounts and money market funds has earned very little interest income. In Q1'15, the average annual percentage yield for a U.S. savings account was 0.09%, according to Fox Business. Swiss Re characterizes this low interest rate climate as "financial repression." While it acknowledges that low interest rates are beneficial for stimulating growth and financing government debt, it notes that having rates this low for such a sustained period has been costly for savers and investors with long-term commitments, such as insurance companies and pension funds, according to Fox Business. Swiss Re estimates that U.S. savers have lost approximately \$470 billion in interest income since late 2008.