Investors Have Had A Big Appetite For Foreign Equities So Far In 2015



View from the Observation Deck

- 1. Despite all of the turmoil abroad and the strength of the U.S. dollar relative to many major foreign currencies, investors funneled a net \$112.4 billion into open-end mutual funds/exchange-traded funds (ETFs) comprised of large-capitalization (cap) stocks based outside of the U.S. in the first eight months of 2015.
- 2. When you include Morningstar's Europe Stock and Japan Stock fund categories, net inflows to foreign equity open-end funds/ETFs totaled \$155.2 billion (see chart), or 56.60% of the \$274.2 billion of net inflows to the top 10 categories.
- 3. As of 9/23/15, foreign equities accounted for 62.61% of the world's total equity market cap, with the U.S. representing the other 37.39%, according to Bloomberg.
- 4. Health Care has been a strong theme in the U.S. It is the only sector that has outperformed the S&P 500 Index in each of the past five calendar years (including this one), according to S&P Dow Jones Indices.
- 5. Four of the top 10 Morningstar categories involved fixed-income funds.

This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The S&P 500 Index is a capitalization-weighted index comprised of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance.