Eirst Trust

Stock Index Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2015	5-yr.	
Dow Jones Industrial Avg. (16,640)	1.56%	-3.99%	-6.30%	0.21%	9.26%	
S&P 500 (1,948)	1.63%	-4.32%	-5.72%	1.37%	10.41%	
NASDAQ 100 (4,236)	1.73%	-7.54%	-3.90%	9.75%	13.99%	
S&P 500 Growth	1.71%	-5.01%	-4.19%	5.51%	11.92%	
S&P 500 Value	1.54%	-3.60%	-7.57%	-3.14%	8.80%	
S&P MidCap 400 Growth	2.93%	-4.66%	-7.70%	2.01%	8.66%	
S&P MidCap 400 Value	2.48%	-3.18%	-12.43%	-6.66%	8.05%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Growth	2.84%	-5.71%	-7.57%	2.74%	10.16%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Value	2.78%	-4.06%	-11.03%	-6.70%	8.61%	
MSCI EAFE	0.15%	-8.95%	-14.95%	-0.81%	0.76%	
MSCI World (ex US)	0.22%	-7.91%	-17.31%	-5.66%	-1.11%	
MSCI World	1.11%	-6.25%	-10.65%	-0.87%	5.17%	
MSCI Emerging Markets	-0.09%	-6.68%	-23.72%	-14.92%	-5.27%	
S&P GSCI	2.14%	-8.19%	-35.96%	-32.86%	-17.70%	

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 2/26/16.

S&P Sector Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2015	5-yr.	
Consumer Discretionary	2.90%	-4.26%	0.00%	10.11%	15.76%	
Consumer Staples	0.44%	1.18%	5.05%	6.60%	14.65%	
Energy	0.41%	-3.75%	-23.64%	-21.12%	-3.46%	
Financials	1.50%	-10.60%	-11.06%	-1.56%	6.86%	
Health Care	2.02%	-6.57%	-5.87%	6.89%	18.01%	
Industrials	2.26%	-1.31%	-5.93%	-2.56%	9.87%	
Information Technology	1.49%	-5.39%	-4.16%	5.92%	11.36%	
Materials	3.16%	-3.18%	-16.51%	-8.38%	4.00%	
Telecom Services	1.23%	10.15%	8.34%	3.40%	10.86%	
Utilities	-0.07%	6.73%	5.89%	-4.84%	12.17%	

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 2/26/16.

Bond Index Performance					
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2015	5-yr.
U.S. Treasury: Intermediate	-0.07%	2.08%	2.62%	1.18%	2.54%
GNMA 30 Year	-0.01%	1.39%	2.63%	1.41%	3.30%
U.S. Aggregate	0.02%	1.95%	1.47%	0.55%	3.60%
U.S. Corporate High Yield	1.58%	-1.60%	-8.71%	-4.47%	3.99%
U.S. Corporate Investment Grade	0.32%	0.91%	-1.69%	-0.68%	4.57%
Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+)	-0.14%	1.29%	4.71%	4.52%	7.94%
Global Aggregate	-0.43%	2.87%	0.61%	-3.15%	1.36%

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 2/26/16.

Key Rates						
As of 2/26/16						
Fed Funds	0.25-0.50%	5-yr CD	1.85%			
LIBOR (1-month)	0.44%	2-yr T-Note	0.79%			
CPI - Headline	1.40%	5-yr T-Note	1.24%			
CPI - Core	2.20%	10-yr T-Note	1.76%			
Money Market Accts.	0.56%	30-yr T-Bond	2.64%			
Money Market Funds	0.10%	30-yr Mortgage Refinance	3.69%			
6-mo CD	0.34%	Prime Rate	3.50%			
1-yr CD	1.13%	Bond Buyer 40	4.06%			

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

Market Indicators	
As of 2/26/16	
TED Spread	32 bps
Investment Grade Spread (A2)	230 bps
ML High Yield Master II Index Spread	780 bps

Sources: Bloomberg and Merrill Lynch via Bloomberg.

Market Watch

Week of February 29th

Weekly Fund Flows						
Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds for the Week Ended 2/17/16						
	Current	Week	Previ	Previous		
Domestic Equity	-\$2.271	Billion	-\$3.625	Billion		
Foreign Equity	\$1.034	Billion	\$2.252	Billion		
Taxable Bond	\$107	Million	-\$729	Million		
Municipal Bond	\$857	Million	\$1.419	Billion		
Change in Money Market Fund Assets for the Week Ended 2/24/16						
	Current	Week	Previ	Previous		
Retail	-\$2.64	Billion	\$2.94	Billion		
Institutional	\$17.69	Billion	\$4.59	Billion		
Source Investment Company Institute						

Source: Investment Company Institute.

Factoids for the week of February 22-26, 2016

Monday, February 22, 2016

Chinese companies are buying up foreign businesses at a record pace, according to Business Insider. Dealogic reported there have been 102 Chinese outbound mergers and acquisitions deals worth \$81.6 billion announced so far in 2016, up from 72 deals worth \$11 billion in the same period a year ago. Due to the economic slowdown in China, Chinese companies are looking for inorganic opportunities to supplement growth, according to Vikas Seth, head of emerging markets in the investment-banking and capital markets department at Credit Suisse.

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration reported that Americans drove a record 3.15 trillion miles in 2015, eclipsing the previous record of 3.00 trillion miles set in 2007, according to Motor Trend. Data showed that 268.5 billion of those miles were driven in December, up 4% on a year-over-year basis. The mileage count includes busses, passenger vehicles and truck travel. In 2015, the average price of a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline in the U.S. was \$2.40, down from \$3.34 in 2014, according to AAA. It average \$2.83 per gallon in 2007.

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

The Chicago Board Options Exchange Volatility Index (VIX) uses S&P 500 options activity to gauge investors' expectations of future volatility. The VIX Index closed yesterday's trading session at a reading of 20.98, according to Bloomberg. That level of volatility is in line with the VIX Index's 10-year average of 20.58 and 20-year average of 21.05 (thru 2/23/16). Over that 20-year period, the VIX Index reached as high as 80.86 (11/20/08) and as low as 9.89 (1/24/07).

Thursday, February 25, 2016

First time home buyers could provide a boost to the residential real estate market this spring, according to Fox Business. Data from LendingTree shows that the most popular months for mortgage requests are March, April and May. In 2015, the average mortgage in the U.S. totaled \$220,499. A survey from TD Bank found that nearly 20% of first time home buyers are looking to purchase this spring, with two-thirds of them intending to put down 20% of the purchase price.

Friday, February 26, 2016

The S&P 500 Index closed at 1,951.70 on 2/25/16, 8.41% below its all-time closing high of 2,130.82 (5/21/15), according to Bloomberg. As of 2/25/16, 54.6% of the stocks in the S&P 500 Index were trading above their 50-day moving averages, up from just 18.0% on 1/28/16, according to data from Bespoke Investment Group. The following reflects the percentage of stocks in each of the S&P 500 Index sectors that were trading above their 50-day moving averages on 2/25/16: 100.0% (Utilities); 81.6% (Consumer Staples); 80.0% (Telecom. Services); 72.3% (Industrials); 66.7% (Materials); 58.3% (Consumer Discretionary); 47.8% (Information Technology); 37.0% (Health Care); 34.1% (Energy); and 31.8% (Financials).

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