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

One Source: cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

One Source: Bloomberg.

Factoids for the week of January 9, 2017

Monday, January 9, 2017

The Thomson Reuters/PayNet Small Business Lending Index rose from a downwardly revised 119.8 in October 2016 to 129.9 in November 2016, according to Reuters. It also marked the first year-over-year increase in six months. Small business borrowing is a key barometer of growth because small companies tend to do much of the hiring that drives economic gains.

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

S&P Dow Jones Indices announced that total dividend distributions for U.S. common stocks increased by a net (increases less decreases) $8.9 billion in Q4'16, up 48.3% from the $6.0 billion increase in Q3'16 and up 147.2% from the $3.6 billion increase registered in Q4'15, according to its own release. In 2016, net dividend increases totaled $23.6 billion, down 39.0% from $38.7 billion in 2015. Significant dividend cuts in Energy, and some Materials issues, caused the drop, according to Howard Silverblatt, senior index analyst at S&P Dow Jones Indices. In 2016, there were 2,634 dividend increases, down 6.3% from the 2,810 dividend increases in 2015.

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Moody’s reported that its global speculative-grade default rate stood at 4.4% at the end of Q4'16, according to its own release. It sees the rate falling to 3.0% by December 2017. Moody’s puts the historical average default rate at 4.2% since 1983. In 2016, the number of defaults totaled 142, the highest amount since 2009. The U.S. speculative-grade default rate stood at 5.6% at the end of Q4'16. It sees the U.S. rate falling to 3.8% by December 2017. The default rate on senior loans stood at 2.06% in December, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Credit Suisse Group AG reported that equity long-short fund managers, the biggest category in hedge funds, currently hold the fewest bearish stock bets on record, according to Bloomberg. As a group, these managers significantly underperformed the broader market last year. In 2016, the S&P 500 Index posted a price-only (does not include dividends) return of 9.5%, while the long-short managers tracked by Credit Suisse were down 4.3%, their worst showing since 2011. Equity long-short hedge funds had $686.7 billion in assets under management as of November 2016, according to eVestment.

Friday, January 13, 2017

International Data Corporation’s (IDC) Worldwide Quarterly Cloud IT Infrastructure Tracker reported that vendor revenue from sales of infrastructure products (server, storage and Ethernet switch) for cloud IT grew by 8.1% year-over-year to $8.4 billion in Q3’16, according to its own release. Revenue from infrastructure sales to private cloud grew by 8.2% to $3.3 billion, while sales to public cloud grew by 8.0% to $5.1 billion. IDC noted that it is seeing strength in emerging markets and small cloud service providers.