IFirst Trust

Stock Index Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2016	5-yr.	
Dow Jones Industrial Avg. (24,754)	0.42%	28.28%	27.28%	16.50%	16.23%	
S&P 500 (2,683)	0.30%	22.23%	21.07%	11.95%	15.78%	
NASDAQ 100 (6,465)	-0.01%	34.41%	32.51%	7.27%	20.88%	
S&P 500 Growth	-0.12%	28.00%	26.71%	6.89%	17.05%	
S&P 500 Value	0.75%	15.59%	14.58%	17.39%	14.17%	
S&P MidCap 400 Growth	0.50%	20.22%	19.87%	14.76%	14.92%	
S&P MidCap 400 Value	1.46%	12.37%	11.57%	26.52%	14.76%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Growth	0.40%	14.98%	14.75%	22.07%	16.49%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Value	1.10%	11.79%	11.33%	31.21%	15.53%	
MSCI EAFE	1.25%	23.87%	24.64%	1.00%	7.67%	
MSCI World (ex US)	1.45%	25.69%	26.95%	4.50%	6.60%	
MSCI World	0.69%	22.13%	21.71%	7.51%	11.55%	
MSCI Emerging Markets	2.07%	35.03%	38.50%	11.19%	4.26%	
S&P GSCI	2.32%	2.61%	4.26%	11.37%	-12.49%	

Source: Bloomberg. Returns are total returns. 5-yr. return is an average annual. One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 12/22/17. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

S&P Sector Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2016	5-yr.	
Consumer Discretionary	0.98%	23.44%	21.51%	6.03%	17.81%	
Consumer Staples	-0.02%	13.45%	12.88%	5.38%	13.06%	
Energy	4.54%	-1.20%	-2.64%	27.36%	2.54%	
Financials	0.81%	22.79%	21.28%	22.75%	18.28%	
Health Care	-0.98%	22.52%	22.44%	-2.69%	17.53%	
Industrials	1.08%	20.72%	19.30%	18.85%	16.61%	
Information Technology	-0.22%	40.29%	38.36%	13.85%	21.09%	
Materials	2.18%	23.61%	22.40%	16.69%	12.46%	
Real Estate	-2.28%	9.17%	10.75%	3.39%	6.82%	
Telecom Services	1.43%	-0.84%	-1.28%	23.49%	7.76%	
Utilities	-4.70%	11.68%	11.56%	16.29%	12.30%	

Source: Bloomberg. Returns are total returns. 5-yr. return is an average annual. One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 12/22/17. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Bond Index Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2016	5-yr.	
U.S. Treasury: Intermediate	-0.33%	0.88%	1.36%	1.06%	0.89%	
GNMA 30 Year	-0.34%	1.56%	2.36%	1.57%	1.67%	
U.S. Aggregate	-0.61%	3.01%	3.75%	2.65%	2.01%	
U.S. Corporate High Yield	0.00%	7.28%	7.61%	17.13%	5.75%	
U.S. Corporate Investment Grade	-0.76%	5.66%	6.54%	6.11%	3.34%	
Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+)	-0.50%	7.31%	8.07%	0.88%	4.19%	
Global Aggregate	-0.40%	6.48%	7.39%	2.09%	0.54%	

Source: Bloomberg Barclays. Returns are total returns. 5-yr. return is an average annual. One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 12/22/17. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Key Rates					
Fed Funds	1.25-1.50%	5-yr CD	2.21%		
LIBOR (1-month)	1.51%	2-yr T-Note	1.89%		
CPI - Headline	2.20%	5-yr T-Note	2.25%		
CPI - Core	1.70%	10-yr T-Note	2.48%		
Money Market Accts.	0.85%	30-yr T-Bond	2.83%		
Prime Money Funds	0.85%	30-yr Mortgage Refinance	3.87%		
1-yr CD	1.70%	Prime Rate	4.50%		
3-yr CD	1.89%	Bond Buyer 40	3.94%		

Sources: Bankrate.com, Barron's and Bloomberg. The rate shown for Prime Money Funds is as of 12/20/17. All other rates are as of 12/22/17.

Market Indicators	
As of 12/22/17	
TED Spread	36 bps
Investment Grade Spread (A2)	108 bps
ML High Yield Master II Index Spread	356 bps
Comment Discondense	

Source: Bloomberg.

The information presented is not intended to constitute an investment recommendation for, or advice to, any specific person. By providing this information, First Trust is not undertaking to give advice in any fiduciary capacity within the meaning of ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code. First Trust has no knowledge of and has not been provided any information regarding any investor. Financial advisors must determine whether particular investments are appropriate for their clients. First Trust believes the financial advisor is a fiduciary, is capable of evaluating investment risks independently and is responsible for exercising independent judgment with respect to its retirement plan clients.

Market Watch

Week of December 25th

Weekly Fund Flows						
Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds for the Week Ended 12/13/17						
	Current	Week	Previ	Previous		
Domestic Equity	-\$13.292	Billion	-\$9.284	Billion		
Foreign Equity	-\$312	Million	\$1.858	Billion		
Taxable Bond	\$3.617	Billion	\$4.900	Billion		
Municipal Bond	-\$111	Million	-\$553	Million		
Change in Money Market Fund Assets for the Week Ended 12/20/17						
	Current	Current Week		ous		
Retail	\$5.32	Billion	\$4.58	Billion		
Institutional	-\$26.47	Billion	\$29.17	Billion		

Source: Investment Company Institute.

Factoids for the week of December 18, 2017

Monday, December 18, 2017

The 33rd annual Barclays E&P Spending Survey (released on 12/14/17) estimates that global E&P expenditures will increase by 8% in 2018, according to its own release. E&P spending was up 4% in 2017. The expected rise in global spending in 2018 assumes average crude oil prices of around \$55 per barrel for WTI and \$60 per barrel for Brent. The biggest jump in spending by far is expected to occur in North America (21%). International spending is expected to increase by 4%, while offshore spending is poised to fall 14%.

Tuesday, December 19, 2017 Chief Executive's CEO Confidence Index in Business Conditions 12 Months Out just registered its second most optimistic year (7.08 out of 10) since the index commenced in late 2002, according to its own release. The highest mark ever achieved for a calendar year was 7.47 in 2004. The anticipated passage of corporate tax reform appears to be the main reason for the boost in optimism. The monthly survey of 267 CEOs just revealed that two-thirds of those polled plan to add to their workforce in 2018, while only 5% forecast a decrease in headcount. CEOs are also expecting to increase both profitability and revenue in 2018.

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed the trading session on 12/18/17 at an all-time high of 24,792.20. It marked the 70th record closing high this year, according to Bespoke Investment Group. Prior to this year, 1995 held the record for the most closing highs at 69. In the past 117 years, there have only been three years (1925, 1995 and 2017) in which the index registered more than 60 record closing highs. In the years following 1925 and 1995, the index posted price-only returns (not including dividends) of 0.35% (1926) and 26.01% (1996). The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed the trading session on 12/18/17 at

Thursday, December 21, 2017 All 24 S&P 500 Index industry groups were trading above their 200-day moving-average as of 12/18/17, according to Bespoke Investment Group. Since 1990, there have been ten periods where this has occurred. In those instances, over the following three, six, and twelve month periods, the S&P 500 Index showed positive returns 100% of the time, with average price-only returns (not including dividends) of 4.83%, 9.85%, and 14.25%, respectively.

Friday, December 22, 2017

The Interactive Advertising Bureau (IAB) announced that digital advertising revenues in the U.S. surged to an all-time high of \$40.1 billion in the first half of 2017, up 23% year-over-year from the \$32.7 billion spent in the first half of 2016, according to its own release. The IAB noted that mobile captured 54% of total digital ad revenues. Advertisers spent \$21.7 billion on mobile in the first half of 2017, up 40% from the \$15.5 billion spent in the same period a year ago and up 164% from the \$8.2 billion spent in the first half of 2015.