IFirst Trust

Stock Index Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2017	5-yr.	
Dow Jones Industrial Avg. (24,538)	-2.97%	-0.30%	19.59%	28.11%	14.49%	
S&P 500 (2,691)	-1.98%	1.00%	15.22%	21.82%	14.47%	
NASDAQ 100 (6,811)	-1.23%	6.70%	28.37%	32.99%	21.39%	
S&P 500 Growth	-1.73%	4.14%	22.88%	27.43%	16.63%	
S&P 500 Value	-2.26%	-2.29%	6.91%	15.35%	11.92%	
S&P MidCap 400 Growth	-1.33%	0.84%	14.31%	19.91%	13.53%	
S&P MidCap 400 Value	-1.24%	-2.79%	5.03%	12.30%	12.26%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Growth	-1.01%	1.39%	13.44%	14.71%	14.90%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Value	-1.87%	-1.90%	8.19%	11.43%	13.35%	
MSCI EAFE	-2.86%	-1.97%	17.01%	25.03%	6.74%	
MSCI World (ex US)	-2.88%	-1.30%	19.02%	27.19%	6.03%	
MSCI World	-2.34%	-0.40%	15.15%	22.40%	10.45%	
MSCI Emerging Markets	-2.80%	2.21%	29.05%	37.28%	4.81%	
S&P GSCI	-2.18%	-0.44%	8.21%	5.77%	-12.03%	

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 3/2/18. 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.	2017	5-yr.
Consumer Discretionary	-2.63%	4.56%	19.96%	22.98%	16.96%
Consumer Staples	-1.21%	-5.78%	-0.21%	13.49%	9.89%
Energy	-2.71%	-7.19%	-3.71%	-1.01%	-0.27%
Financials	-2.21%	1.96%	16.48%	22.14%	16.88%
Health Care	-1.91%	1.34%	12.77%	22.08%	15.76%
Industrials	-3.26%	-0.86%	13.17%	21.01%	14.69%
Information Technology	-0.82%	6.93%	34.18%	38.83%	21.98%
Materials	-3.85%	-2.55%	13.63%	23.84%	11.07%
Real Estate	-2.66%	-9.27%	-3.32%	10.85%	4.25%
Telecom Services	-0.62%	-5.98%	-4.97%	-1.25%	5.07%
Utilities	-2.77%	-7.01%	-2.03%	12.11%	9.40%

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 3/2/18. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Bond Index Performance					
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2017	5-yr.
U.S. Treasury: Intermediate	0.06%	-1.18%	0.00%	1.14%	0.66%
GNMA 30 Year	0.07%	-1.89%	0.27%	1.87%	1.38%
U.S. Aggregate	0.02%	-2.11%	1.19%	3.54%	1.69%
U.S. Corporate High Yield	-0.20%	-0.74%	3.43%	7.51%	5.22%
U.S. Corporate Investment Grade	-0.22%	-2.81%	2.68%	6.42%	2.90%
Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+)	0.06%	-2.18%	5.05%	8.19%	3.63%
Global Aggregate	0.17%	0.74%	7.82%	7.40%	1.39%

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 3/2/18. 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	2.40%		
LIBOR (1-month)	1.66%	2-yr T-Note	2.24%		
CPI - Headline	2.10%	5-yr T-Note	2.63%		
CPI - Core	1.80%	10-yr T-Note	2.86%		
Money Market Accts.	0.85%	30-yr T-Bond	3.14%		
Prime Money Funds	1.04%	30-yr Mortgage Refinance	4.27%		
1-yr CD	1.93%	Prime Rate	4.50%		
3-yr CD	2.07%	Bond Buyer 40	4.00%		

Sources: Bankrate.com, Barron's and Bloomberg. The rate shown for Prime Money Funds is as of 2/28/18. All other rates are as of 3/2/18.

Market Indicators	
As of 3/2/18	
TED Spread	39 bps
Investment Grade Spread (A2)	116 bps
ML High Yield Master II Index Spread	365 bps
Source: Bloomberg.	

totaled 112, up from 100 over the same period a year ago. No dividends were decreased in February, down from one cut a year ago.

Friday, March 2, 2018

Experian reported that the average new auto loan hit a record \$31,099 in Q4'17, according to CNBC. The average used auto loan rose to a record \$19,589. The average monthly payments for new and used autos hit all-time highs of \$515 and \$371, respectively, in Q4'17. On average, consumers are spreading out new auto loans over 69 months, while the average term for used auto loans is just over 64 months. In 2017, the average price paid for a new vehicle was \$35,176, another all-time high, according to Edmunds.

Market Watch Week of March 5th

Weekly Fund Flows						
Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds for the Week Ended 2/21/18						
	Current Week		Previ	Previous		
Domestic Equity	\$707	Million	-\$1.249	Billion		
Foreign Equity	\$3.063	Billion	\$5.568	Billion		
Taxable Bond	\$2.418	Billion	-\$8.708	Billion		
Municipal Bond	\$497	Million	-\$599	Million		
Change in Money Market Fund Assets for the Week Ended 2/28/18						
	Current	Week	Previ	Previous		
Retail	-\$6.18	Billion	\$2.22	Billion		
Institutional	\$4.14	Billion	\$13.41	Billion		

Source: Investment Company Institute.

Factoids for the week of February 26, 2018

Monday, February 26, 2018

Janus Henderson reported that global dividend payouts rose by 7.7% to an all-time high of \$1.25 trillion in 2017, according to Reuters. It sees global dividends rising another 7.7% in 2018. The 7.7% increase in 2017 was the strongest since 2014.

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Companies are earmarking a chunk of their expected tax savings for stock buybacks. Birinyi Associates reported that nearly 100 U.S. companies have announced stock repurchase plans in the past month, according to *The New York Times*. They intend to buy \$178 billion worth of stock, the highest amount ever unveiled in a single quarter.

Wednesday, February 28, 2018 The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) announced that U.S. commercial banks and savings institutions insured by the FDIC reported aggregate net income of \$25.5 billion in Q4'17 (low due to one-time income tax effects from the new tax law), down 40.9% from the \$43.2 billion posted in Q4'16, according to its own release. Without the tax adjustments, estimated net income would have been \$42.2 billion, down 2.3% from a year ago. Community banks reported net income of \$4.1 billion, down 14.2% from a year ago. Excluding the one-time tax charges, estimated Q4'17 net income would have been up 17% from a year ago. The number of institutions on the FDIC's list of "problem banks" stood at 95 in Q4'17, down from 104 in Q3'17. The post-crisis high for the list was 888 in Q1'11.

Thursday, March 1, 2018

In February, the dividend-payers (418) in the S&P 500 Index (equal weight) posted a total return of -4.31%, vs. -3.70% for the non-payers (87), according to S&P Dow Jones Indices. There are currently 505 stocks in the index. Yearto-date, payers were down 0.62%, vs. a gain of 3.83% for the non-payers. For the 12-month period ended February 2018, payers were up 12.24%, vs. a gain of 13.55% for the non-payers. The number of dividend increases in February totaled 69, up from 66 increases a year ago. Year-to-date, increases

fiduciary, is capable of evaluating investment risks independently and is responsible for exercising independent judgment with respect to its retirement plan clients.

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