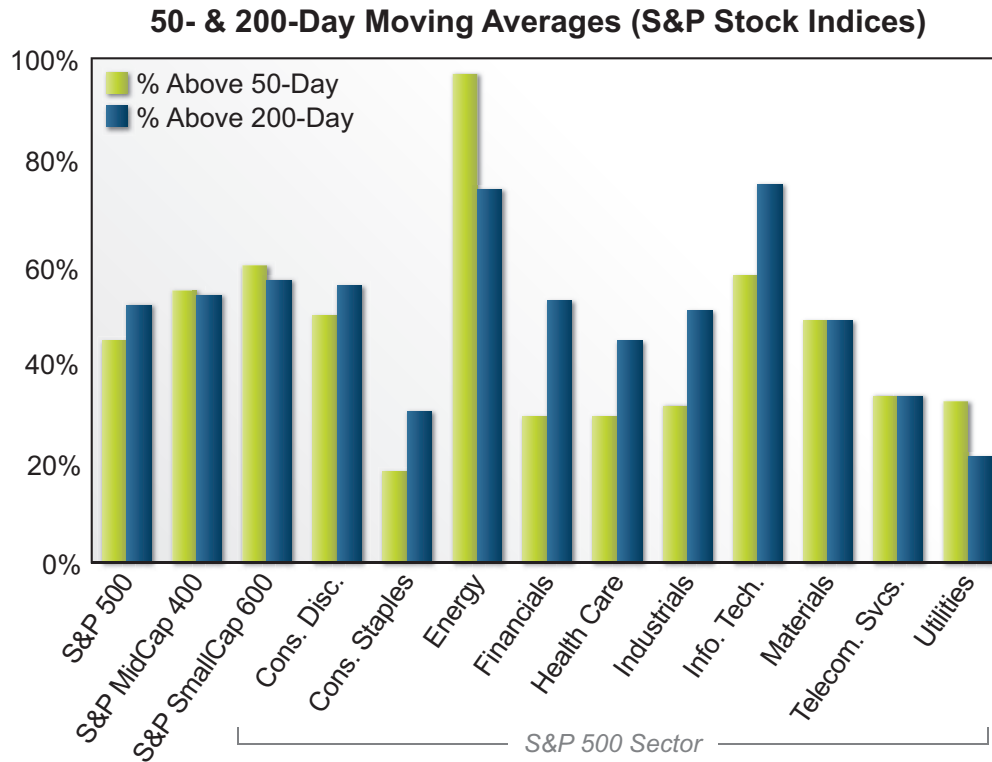


A Snapshot of Moving Averages



Source: Bloomberg. As of 5/9/18 (10:17am CST). Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

View from the Observation Deck

1. In today's post, we are showing the percentage of stocks in a number of major U.S. stock indices that are trading above their respective 50-Day and 200-Day moving averages.
2. Moving averages tend to smooth out day-to-day price fluctuations and can be a useful tool for traders to identify both positive trends and reversals, in our opinion.
3. On 5/9/18, the S&P 500 and S&P MidCap 400 Indices closed 6.09% and 3.58% below their respective all-time highs set on 1/26/18, according to Bloomberg. The S&P SmallCap 600 Index closed at its all-time high on 5/9/18.
4. The percentage of stocks in the S&P 500, S&P MidCap 400 and S&P SmallCap 600 Indices trading above their 50-Day moving averages were 44%, 54% and 59%, respectively.
5. The percentage of stocks in the S&P 500, S&P MidCap 400 and S&P SmallCap 600 Indices trading above their 200-Day moving averages were 51%, 53% and 56%, respectively.
6. The percentage of stocks trading above their 50-Day moving average by sector ranged from 18% (Consumer Staples) to 97% (Energy).
7. The percentage of stocks trading above their 200-Day moving average by sector ranged from 21% (Utilities) to 75% (Information Technology).

This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The illustration excludes the effects of taxes and brokerage commissions and other expenses incurred when investing. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. The S&P 500 Index is a capitalization-weighted index comprised of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance, while the 11 major S&P 500 Sector Indices (Real Estate was added as the 11th major sector in 2016 but data is not available for this chart) are capitalization-weighted and comprised of S&P 500 constituents representing a specific sector. The S&P MidCap 400 Index is a capitalization-weighted index that tracks the mid-range sector of the U.S. stock market. The S&P SmallCap 600 Index is a capitalization-weighted index that tracks U.S. stocks with a small market capitalization.

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.