

Stock Index Performance

| Index                              | Week   | YTD     | 12-mo. | 2017   | 5-yr.   |
|------------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| Dow Jones Industrial Avg. (25,917) | -0.14% | 6.58%   | 21.67% | 28.11% | 14.41%  |
| S&P 500 (2,872)                    | -0.98% | 8.86%   | 18.76% | 21.82% | 13.95%  |
| NASDAQ 100 (7,430)                 | -2.91% | 17.03%  | 25.89% | 32.99% | 20.27%  |
| S&P 500 Growth                     | -1.60% | 14.53%  | 23.61% | 27.43% | 16.49%  |
| S&P 500 Value                      | -0.23% | 2.88%   | 13.64% | 15.35% | 10.99%  |
| S&P MidCap 400 Growth              | -0.48% | 9.67%   | 22.39% | 19.91% | 13.27%  |
| S&P MidCap 400 Value               | -1.21% | 5.76%   | 17.77% | 12.30% | 12.04%  |
| S&P SmallCap 600 Growth            | -1.54% | 21.56%  | 35.79% | 14.71% | 15.84%  |
| S&P SmallCap 600 Value             | -1.55% | 11.61%  | 26.02% | 11.43% | 13.45%  |
| MSCI EAFE                          | -2.83% | -5.05%  | 0.44%  | 25.03% | 4.54%   |
| MSCI World (ex US)                 | -2.83% | -6.26%  | -0.60% | 27.19% | 4.24%   |
| MSCI World                         | -1.70% | 3.06%   | 10.87% | 22.40% | 9.40%   |
| MSCI Emerging Markets              | -3.06% | -10.03% | -3.98% | 37.28% | 3.78%   |
| S&P GSCI                           | -1.59% | 5.90%   | 18.28% | 5.77%  | -11.78% |

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 9/7/18. 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 | -1.19% | 17.95% | 30.96% | 22.98% | 16.35% |
| Consumer Staples       | 1.09%  | -3.29% | 0.91%  | 13.49% | 9.37%  |
| Energy                 | -2.18% | 2.47%  | 15.60% | -1.01% | 0.42%  |
| Financials             | -0.07% | 2.30%  | 20.59% | 22.14% | 14.10% |
| Health Care            | -0.28% | 13.00% | 14.59% | 22.08% | 14.91% |
| Industrials            | 0.65%  | 3.26%  | 14.74% | 21.01% | 13.37% |
| Information Technology | -2.91% | 17.50% | 29.21% | 38.83% | 22.06% |
| Materials              | -0.50% | -1.16% | 9.80%  | 23.84% | 9.73%  |
| Real Estate            | -1.23% | 3.15%  | 4.22%  | 10.85% | 8.36%  |
| Telecom Services       | 0.07%  | -3.29% | 8.43%  | -1.25% | 5.97%  |
| Utilities              | 1.14%  | 4.51%  | 1.60%  | 12.11% | 11.88% |

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 9/7/18. 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     | -0.27% | -0.56% | -1.81% | 1.14% | 1.23% |
| GNMA 30 Year                    | -0.38% | -0.71% | -0.97% | 1.87% | 2.44% |
| U.S. Aggregate                  | -0.45% | -1.40% | -1.79% | 3.54% | 2.57% |
| U.S. Corporate High Yield       | -0.14% | 1.86%  | 3.02%  | 7.51% | 5.60% |
| U.S. Corporate Investment Grade | -0.49% | -2.47% | -1.80% | 6.42% | 3.89% |
| Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+) | -0.35% | -0.58% | 0.68%  | 8.19% | 6.32% |
| Global Aggregate                | -0.43% | -1.94% | -2.74% | 7.40% | 1.38% |

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 9/7/18. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Key Rates

|                     |            |                          |       |
|---------------------|------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Fed Funds           | 1.75-2.00% | 2-yr T-Note              | 2.70% |
| LIBOR (1-month)     | 2.12%      | 5-yr T-Note              | 2.82% |
| CPI - Headline      | 2.90%      | 10-yr T-Note             | 2.94% |
| CPI - Core          | 2.40%      | 30-yr T-Bond             | 3.10% |
| Money Market Accts. | 1.28%      | 30-yr Mortgage Refinance | 4.46% |
| 1-yr CD             | 2.49%      | Prime Rate               | 5.00% |
| 3-yr CD             | 2.58%      | Bond Buyer 40            | 4.06% |
| 5-yr CD             | 2.84%      |                          |       |

Sources: Bankrate.com and Bloomberg. All other rates are as of 9/7/18.

Market Indicators

As of 9/7/18

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| TED Spread                           | 19 bps  |
| Investment Grade Spread (A2)         | 137 bps |
| ML High Yield Master II Index Spread | 348 bps |

Source: Bloomberg.

Weekly Fund Flows

Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds for the Week Ended 8/29/18

|                 | Current Week     | Previous         |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Domestic Equity | -\$7.002 Billion | -\$3.382 Billion |
| Foreign Equity  | -\$1.068 Billion | -\$55 Million    |
| Taxable Bond    | \$2.990 Billion  | \$1.226 Billion  |
| Municipal Bond  | \$186 Million    | \$417 Million    |

Change in Money Market Fund Assets for the Week Ended 9/5/18

|               | Current Week    | Previous        |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Retail        | \$3.84 Billion  | \$3.18 Billion  |
| Institutional | \$13.44 Billion | -\$3.67 Billion |

Source: Investment Company Institute.

Factoids for the week of September 3, 2018

Monday, September 3, 2018

No Factoid, Holiday – Labor Day.

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Barclays Capital's mid-year Upstream Spending Survey of more than 200 companies revealed that global E&P expenditures are on pace to increase by 8% in 2018, essentially in-line with its forecast at the start of 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 \$65 per barrel for WTI and \$70 per barrel for Brent. The biggest increase in spending is expected to occur in North America (15%). International spending is expected to increase by 5%, while offshore spending is poised to fall 11%.

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

In August, the dividend payers (412) in the S&P 500 Index (equal weight) posted a total return of 1.33%, vs. 4.69% for the non-payers (93), according to S&P Dow Jones Indices. There are currently 505 stocks in the index. Year-to-date, payers were up 6.16%, vs. a gain of 17.60% for the non-payers. For the 12-month period ended August 2018, payers were up 16.83%, vs. a gain of 24.49% for the non-payers. The number of dividend increases in August totaled 19, up from 17 a year ago. Year-to-date, dividend increases totaled 275, up from 246 over the same period a year ago. One dividend was decreased in August, as was the case a year ago.

Thursday, September 6, 2018

International Data Corporation's (IDC) *Worldwide Quarterly Server Tracker* revealed that worldwide server shipments increased 20.5% year-over-year to 2.9 million units in Q2'18, according to its own release. Vendor revenue surged 43.7% year-over-year to a record \$22.5 billion in the quarter. It marked the fourth consecutive quarter of double-digit revenue growth. IDC noted that sales are strong due to an enterprise refresh cycle and increasing demand from cloud service providers.

Friday, September 7, 2018

Data released by the Tax Policy Center indicates that approximately 76.4 million Americans won't pay any federal income tax in 2018, up from 72.6 million in 2016, according to MarketWatch. Roughly one million households in the top 1% will account for 43% of the individual income taxes collected in 2018, up from 38% in 2017, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

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.