

Stock Index Performance

Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2018	5-yr.
Dow Jones Industrial Avg. (26,026)	0.07%	12.10%	8.22%	-3.48%	12.46%
S&P 500 (2,804)	0.46%	12.26%	6.81%	-4.39%	10.80%
NASDAQ 100 (7,152)	0.89%	13.22%	7.10%	0.04%	15.45%
S&P 500 Growth	1.01%	12.78%	8.96%	-0.01%	12.75%
S&P 500 Value	-0.16%	11.67%	4.45%	-8.97%	8.47%
S&P MidCap 400 Growth	-0.14%	15.17%	3.52%	-10.34%	8.72%
S&P MidCap 400 Value	-0.63%	17.00%	7.26%	-11.90%	8.31%
S&P SmallCap 600 Growth	-0.47%	14.60%	10.82%	-4.09%	10.42%
S&P SmallCap 600 Value	-1.18%	17.60%	5.88%	-12.68%	8.35%
MSCI EAFE	0.58%	9.57%	-4.46%	-13.79%	2.12%
MSCI World (ex US)	0.22%	9.87%	-5.28%	-14.20%	2.53%
MSCI World	0.50%	11.59%	2.27%	-8.71%	6.63%
MSCI Emerging Markets	-0.65%	9.07%	-9.61%	-14.58%	4.14%
S&P GSCI	-1.84%	11.83%	-3.08%	-13.82%	-13.06%

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 3/1/19. 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.	2018	5-yr.
Communication Services	0.60%	12.14%	5.25%	-12.53%	5.85%
Consumer Discretionary	0.22%	12.19%	8.27%	0.82%	12.23%
Consumer Staples	-0.31%	7.43%	5.33%	-8.39%	8.16%
Energy	1.09%	16.09%	2.87%	-18.10%	-2.40%
Financials	0.89%	12.09%	-4.09%	-13.04%	10.75%
Health Care	0.42%	7.57%	14.16%	6.47%	11.19%
Industrials	0.26%	18.65%	3.67%	-13.32%	9.77%
Information Technology	1.00%	15.15%	8.42%	-0.29%	17.73%
Materials	-1.43%	8.84%	-4.92%	-14.70%	5.19%
Real Estate	-1.16%	11.88%	20.14%	-2.23%	7.96%
Utilities	0.10%	7.95%	20.57%	4.11%	11.03%

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 3/1/19. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Bond Index Performance

Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2018	5-yr.
U.S. Treasury: Intermediate	-0.29%	0.18%	2.63%	1.41%	1.29%
GNMA 30 Year	-0.33%	0.62%	3.34%	1.03%	2.05%
U.S. Aggregate	-0.40%	0.80%	2.68%	0.01%	2.27%
U.S. Corporate High Yield	0.49%	6.30%	4.54%	-2.08%	4.54%
U.S. Corporate Investment Grade	-0.27%	2.41%	2.32%	-2.51%	3.18%
Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+)	0.04%	1.11%	3.61%	0.34%	4.94%
Global Aggregate	-0.36%	0.69%	-0.84%	-1.20%	0.73%

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 3/1/19. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Key Rates

Fed Funds	2.25-2.50%	2-yr T-Note	2.55%
LIBOR (1-month)	2.49%	5-yr T-Note	2.56%
CPI - Headline	1.60%	10-yr T-Note	2.75%
CPI - Core	2.20%	30-yr T-Bond	3.12%
Money Market Accts.	1.34%	30-yr Mortgage Refinance	4.42%
1-yr CD	2.72%	Prime Rate	5.50%
3-yr CD	2.89%	Bond Buyer 40	4.05%
5-yr CD	3.02%		

Sources: **Bankrate.com, Federal Reserve Bank NY, & US Bureau of Labor Statistics.** All data as of 3/1/19.

Market Indicators

TED Spread	17 bps
Investment Grade Spread (A2)	146 bps
ML High Yield Master II Index Spread	386 bps

Source: **Bloomberg** as of 3/1/19.

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.

This information is provided by First Trust Advisors L.P. • 1-800-222-6822 • Approved For Public Use • 3/4/19

Weekly Fund Flows

Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds for the Week Ended 2/20/19

	Current Week	Previous
Domestic Equity	-\$2.553 Billion	-\$2.730 Billion
Foreign Equity	-\$1.250 Billion	\$1.004 Billion
Taxable Bond	\$6.187 Billion	\$2.948 Billion
Municipal Bond	\$2.351 Billion	\$2.928 Billion

Change in Money Market Fund Assets for the Week Ended 2/27/19

	Current Week	Previous
Retail	-\$2.36 Billion	\$6.03 Billion
Institutional	\$9.27 Billion	-\$13.94 Billion

Source: **Investment Company Institute.**

Factoids for the week of February 25, 2019

**Monday, February 25, 2019**

The S&P/Experian Consumer Credit Default Composite Index stood at 0.90% in January 2019, down from 0.95% in January 2018 and well below its 10-year average of 1.87%, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices. The default rate on first mortgages stood at 0.69%, down from 0.72% a year ago. The bank card default rate stood at 3.42%, down from 3.57% a year ago. The auto loans default rate stood at 0.99%, down from 1.07% a year ago. Low inflation and a strong labor market should continue to support the economy and limit any increase in consumer credit default rates, according to David M. Blitzer at S&P Dow Jones Indices.

**Tuesday, February 26, 2019**

LIMRA Secure Retirement Institute reported that U.S. annuity sales totaled \$62.1 billion in Q4'18, up 22% year-over-year and the highest quarterly total since Q1'09, according to its own release. In 2018, total annuity sales rose 14% year-over-year to \$232 billion. Variable annuity (VA) and fixed annuity (FA) sales totaled \$24.7 billion and \$37.4 billion, respectively, in Q4'18. In 2018, FA sales totaled \$132 billion, up 25% from 2017, while VA sales totaled \$100 billion, up 2% from 2017.

**Wednesday, February 27, 2019**

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) reported that donations to colleges and universities totaled a record \$46.73 billion in the 2017-2018 academic year, up 7.2% from the previous academic year, according to FOX Business. The top 10 recipients took in 18% of all donated funds. CASE's survey included data from 929 institutions. Harvard topped the list at \$1.42 billion, followed by Stanford's \$1.10 billion and Columbia's \$1.01 billion.

**Thursday, February 28, 2019**

Data from the Association for Advancing Automation (A3) indicates that shipments of robots to U.S. companies totaled a record 28,478 in 2018, up nearly 16% from the number shipped in 2017, according to Reuters. Pressure to automate is growing as businesses seek to reduce labor costs in a tight job market. Except for the automotive industry, where carmakers cut back on shipments after completing a major round of tooling up for new truck models, shipments increased in every sector tracked by A3.

**Friday, March 1, 2019**

Year-to-date through February, the S&P 500 Index posted a price-only (does not include dividends) return of 11.1%, according to Bloomberg. Since 1938, when both January and February have been up, the index finished the year in positive territory 29 of 30 times, with an average return of more than 20%, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices. The only down year was 2011 (-0.002%). In 26 of the 30 years, the gains were double-digits, and in 15 of the 30 years, the returns surpassed 20%.