Eirst Trust

Stock Index Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2018	5-yr.	
Dow Jones Industrial Avg. (26,412)	-0.03%	13.96%	10.35%	-3.48%	13.19%	
S&P 500 (2,907)	0.56%	16.67%	11.33%	-4.39%	12.14%	
NASDAQ 100 (7,628)	0.65%	20.88%	15.87%	0.04%	18.59%	
S&P 500 Growth	0.60%	17.59%	14.34%	-0.01%	14.71%	
S&P 500 Value	0.52%	15.64%	8.05%	-8.97%	9.15%	
S&P MidCap 400 Growth	0.86%	18.34%	4.21%	-10.34%	10.62%	
S&P MidCap 400 Value	0.89%	19.13%	7.35%	-11.90%	9.15%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Growth	0.27%	13.88%	4.82%	-4.09%	11.33%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Value	0.56%	16.76%	1.15%	-12.68%	8.73%	
MSCI EAFE	0.28%	12.49%	-3.16%	-13.79%	2.98%	
MSCI World (ex US)	0.36%	13.08%	-3.17%	-14.20%	3.12%	
MSCI World	0.49%	15.33%	5.34%	-8.71%	7.75%	
MSCI Emerging Markets	0.40%	13.20%	-5.18%	-14.58%	3.83%	
S&P GSCI	1.05%	19.69%	-1.98%	-13.82%	-12.02%	

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 4/12/19. 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	1.81%	19.50%	12.13%	-12.53%	6.01%	
Consumer Discretionary	0.65%	20.24%	17.05%	0.82%	15.33%	
Consumer Staples	1.02%	11.99%	11.03%	-8.39%	8.69%	
Energy	-0.17%	18.84%	-1.29%	-18.10%	-2.28%	
Financials	2.10%	14.64%	-0.56%	-13.04%	11.60%	
Health Care	-2.38%	4.36%	11.56%	6.47%	11.87%	
Industrials	0.32%	20.69%	6.46%	-13.32%	10.52%	
Information Technology	1.19%	24.42%	17.79%	-0.29%	20.35%	
Materials	0.49%	15.55%	2.06%	-14.70%	6.83%	
Real Estate	0.38%	19.11%	25.40%	-2.23%	9.33%	
Utilities	0.20%	10.90%	22.01%	4.11%	10.77%	

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 4/12/19. 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	-0.18%	1.17%	3.65%	1.41%	1.47%	
GNMA 30 Year	-0.05%	1.85%	4.34%	1.03%	2.22%	
U.S. Aggregate	-0.12%	2.52%	4.30%	0.01%	2.49%	
U.S. Corporate High Yield	0.57%	8.40%	6.09%	-2.08%	4.85%	
U.S. Corporate Investment Grade	0.20%	5.13%	5.00%	-2.51%	3.50%	
Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+)	0.21%	3.62%	5.33%	0.34%	5.04%	
Global Aggregate	0.16%	1.88%	-0.55%	-1.20%	0.76%	

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 4/12/19. 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	2.39%		
LIBOR (1-month)	2.48%	5-yr T-Note	2.38%		
CPI - Headline	1.90%	10-yr T-Note	2.57%		
CPI - Core	2.00%	30-yr T-Bond	2.98%		
Money Market Accts.	1.21%	30-yr Fixed Mortgage	4.09%		
1-yr CD	2.62%	Prime Rate	5.50%		
3-yr CD	2.76%	Bond Buyer 40	3.88%		
5-vr CD	2.75%	-			

Sources: Bankrate.com, Federal Reserve Bank NY, & US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

All data as of 4/12/19.

Market Indicators				
TED Spread	27 bps			
Investment Grade Spread (A2)	132 bps			
ML High Yield Master II Index Spread	368 bps			
Source: Bloomberg as of 4/12/19.				

Market Watch

Week of April 15th

Weekly Fund Flows						
Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds for the Week Ended 4/3/19						
	Current	Week	Previ	Previous		
Domestic Equity	-\$11.913	Billion	-\$6.045	Billion		
Foreign Equity	-\$1.407	Billion	-\$220	Million		
Taxable Bond	\$6.032	Billion	\$3.938	Billion		
Municipal Bond	\$1.453	Billion	\$2.032	Billion		
Change in Money Market Fund Assets for the Week Ended 4/10/19						
	Current	Week	Previ	Previous		
Retail	-\$3.26	Billion	\$9.86	Billion		
Institutional	-\$5.66	Billion	-\$4.07	Billion		

Source: Investment Company Institute.

Factoids for the week of April 8, 2019

Monday, April 8, 2019

Global mergers and acquisitions (M&A) deal activity totaled \$801.5 billion in Q1'19, down 15% from \$943.5 billion in Q1'18, according to Mergermarket. The number of deals struck in Q1'19 totaled 3,558, down 30% from 5,085 in Q1'18. The number of megadeals (above \$10 billion) totaled nine in Q1'19, down from 14 in Q1'18. Cross border M&A accounted for just 30.8% of all global deals in Q1'19, down from an average of 38-40% between 2015 and 2018. Geopolitical tensions between the U.S. and China, Brexit anxiety in Europe and growing economic headwinds were cited for the pullback in M&A activity.

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Moody's reported that its global speculative-grade default rate stood at 1.9% in March, the lowest level since October 2011, according to its own release. It sees the rate falling to 1.5% in March 2020. Year-to-date, a total of 20 Moody's-rated issuers defaulted, down from 30 at this point a year ago. Moody's puts the historical average default rate at around 4.2% since 1983. The U.S. speculative-grade default rate stood at 2.4% in March. It sees the rate falling to 1.7% in March 2020. The default rate on senior loans stood at 1.40% in March, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Wells Fargo analyst Mike Mayo estimates that American savers have lost \$500 billion to \$600 billion in interest payments on bank accounts and money market funds due to the Federal Reserve's post financial crisis policies, according to CNBC. The extended period of low interest rates has rewarded borrowers and risk takers, not prudent savers. Mayo notes that rates on around \$6.6 trillion in interest bearing accounts would have been at least 100 basis points higher over the past decade.

Thursday, April 11, 2019

CoreLogic reported that 10.6% of U.S. homes sold in Q4'18 were flips, defined as having been owned for less than two years, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. That percentage is closing in on the 11.3% share of sales posted at the peak of the last housing cycle in Q1'06. CoreLogic noted that flips today are more than twice as profitable as the flips made in 2006. Corporate sellers made up more than 40% of flippers in Q4'18, nearly three times the share of the market they had during the last boom.

Friday, April 12, 2019

S&P Dow Jones Indices announced that total dividend distributions for U.S. common stocks increased by a net (increases less decreases) \$11.8 billion in Q1'19, down from \$18.8 billion in Q1'18 (high payout due to companies passing along some of the tax savings following passage of Tax Cuts & Jobs Act in Dec. 2017), according to its own release. For the 12-month period ended 3/29/19, net dividend increases totaled \$51.3 billion, up from \$45.1 billion for the 12-month period ended 3/29/18. There were 777 dividend increases in Q1'19, down from 948 in Q1'18. The number of dividends cut or suspended in Q1'19 totaled 108, down from 167 in Q1'18. Currently, 82.8% of the companies in the S&P 500 Index pay a dividend, compared to 68.8% of S&P MidCap 400 companies and 52.2% of S&P SmallCap 600 companies.

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