## □First Trust

### **TALKING POINTS**

**Data through October 2020** 

Open-End Net Fund Flows (\$)	9/20	8/20	YTD (Sep)					
Equity	-70.94B	-68.79B	-446.09B					
Taxable Bond	30.79B	59.27B	75.52B					
Municipal Bond	6.17B	10.55B	17.98B					
Hybrid	-6.64B	-2.54B	-68.96B					
Taxable Money Market	-111.66B	-55.32B	786.57B					
K 1	10/20/20	12/21/10	10/21/10					
Key Interest Rates	10/30/20	12/31/19	10/31/19					
Federal Funds Target Rate	0.25%	1.75%	1.75%					
ICE LIBOR (3-Month)	0.22%	1.90%	1.90%					
2-Year T-Note	0.16%	1.57%	1.53%					
10-Year T-Note	0.88%	1.92%	1.69%					
Bond Buyer 40	3.62%	3.63%	3.61%					
C	10/20	VTD	12 14 -					
Commodities/U.S. Dollar	10/20	YTD	12 Mo.					
U.S. Dollar Index (DXY)	0.16%	-2.44%	-3.40%					
Refinitiv/CC CRB Excess Ret.	-2.55%	-22.10%	-18.18%					
Crude Oil/WTI (per Barrel)	-11.01%	-41.39%	-33.94%					
Natural Gas (per million BTUs)	32.41%	52.97%	27.38%					
Gold Bullion (Ounce)	-0.40%	23.43%	24.10%					
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Total Return Performance								
U.S. Stock Indices	10/20	YTD	12 Mo.					
S&P 500	-2.66%	2.76%	9.70%					
DJIA	-4.52%	-5.38%	0.34%					
NASDAQ 100	-3.16%	27.49%	38.02%					
S&P MidCap 400	2.17%	-6.63%	-1.16%					
Russell 2000	2.09%	-6.78%	-0.16%					
Russell 3000	-2.16%	3.13%	10.14%					
U.S. Styles/Market Caps	10/20	YTD	12 Mo.					
S&P 500 Growth	-3.08%	16.89%	24.44%					
S&P 500 Value	-2.00%	-13.24%	-7.10%					
S&P MidCap 400 Growth	1.16%	2.60%	8.49%					
S&P MidCap 400 Value	3.49%	-16.57%	-11.60%					
Russell 2000 Growth	0.76%	4.66%	13.35%					
Russell 2000 Value	3.58%	-18.75%	-13.95%					
Foreign Stock Indices (USD)	10/20	YTD	12 Mo.					
MSCI World NET (Ex-U.S.)	-3.93%	-10.78%						
MSCI Emerging Markets NET	2.06%	0.87%						
MSCI Europe NET	-5.64%	-13.99%	-9.29%					
MSCI BRIC NET	3.35%	5.49%	13.92%					
MSCI EM Latin America NET	-1.13%	-36.79%	-33.14%					
Nikkei 225	-0.07%	2.85%	5.41%					
Bloomberg Barclays Bond Ind.	10/20	YTD	12 Mo.					
U.S. Treasury: Intermediate	-0.38%	5.62%	5.32%					
GNMA 30 Year	0.01%	3.32%	3.43%					
Municipal Bond (22+)	-0.43%	2.70%	3.27%					

Sources: Bloomberg, Bloomberg Barclays, Investment Company Institute

-0.45%

0.04%

0.51%

0.10%

-0.09%

6.32%

5.65%

1.13%

5.82%

1.92%

6.19%

6.15%

3.49%

5.63%

3.47%

U.S. Aggregate

Global Aggregate

Intermediate Corporate

U.S. Corporate High Yield

**EM Hard Currency Aggregate** 

#### **Climate**

Despite weeks of negotiations between Congress and the Trump administration, lawmakers were unable to strike a deal on a new fiscal stimulus package prior to the election. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of unemployed Americans are in need of further financial assistance. The number of unemployed persons in the U.S. stood at 12.6 million in September, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Many benefits, such as the moratorium on evictions, are set to expire at the end of December. Researchers at Northwestern University reported that food insecurity has more than doubled in the COVID-19-induced recession, according to CNBC. It now impacts nearly 25% of all U.S. households. The lack of a stimulus deal provided a bit of a headwind to the stock market in late October, in our opinion.

#### **Stock Market**

The S&P 500 Index ("index") closed at 3,269.96 on 10/30/20, 8.68% below its all-time closing high of 3,580.84 on 9/2/20, according to Bloomberg. The S&P 500 Index posted a total return of -2.66% in October. Only two of the 11 major sectors that comprise the index were up on a total return basis. The top-performer was Utilities, up 5.04%, while the worst showing came from Information Technology, down 5.10%. Year-to-date through October, the S&P 500 Index posted a total return of 2.76%. Six of the 11 major sectors were up on a total return basis. The top-performer was Information Technology, up 22.13%, while the worst showing came from Energy, down 50.38%. While S&P 500 Index earnings have been adjusted much lower for 2020 since the start of the year, 2021 projections are up significantly. As of 12/30/19, Bloomberg's 2020 and 2021 consensus earnings estimates for the S&P 500 Index stood at 9.02% and 10.72%, respectively. As of 10/30/20, those two estimates were -17.70% and 22.39%, respectively. The market for new public offerings has been strong this year. Data from Renaissance Capital shows that a total of 184 equity IPOs (market caps above \$50 billion) have been priced in the U.S. so far this year (as of 11/2), up 32.4% from the same period a year ago (pre COVID-19), according to its own release. The 184 companies raised a combined \$63.7 billion, up 48.7% from the same period a year ago. Health Care and Technology have accounted for 51% and 23%, respectively, of the IPOs launched this year. Last month we noted that large-capitalization (cap) stocks were significantly outperforming small-caps, mid-caps and the major foreign stock indices in 2020. While that still holds true, it was not the case in October. Small-caps, mid-caps and emerging markets performed far better than large-caps. We will monitor this moving forward to see if becomes a trend.

#### **Bond Market**

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note (T-note) closed trading on 10/30/20 at 0.88%, up 19 basis points (bps) from its 0.69% close on 9/30/20, according to Bloomberg. The yield stood 132 bps below its 2.20% average for the 10-year period ended 10/30/20. U.S. investment-grade (IG) corporate bond issuance set a record at \$912 billion through the first nine months of 2020, according to Fitch Ratings, Inc. Fitch reported that the volume of downgrades from IG into high yield status totaled \$159 billion over the same period. It noted that \$101 billion of that total happened in Q1'20. Issuance of green bonds (used to fund climate-related projects) also reached a milestone in September. Total global issuance topped the \$1 trillion mark for the first time, according to GreenBiz. Issuance has surged over the past two years and 2020 is on track to eclipse last year's record of \$257.7 billion.

#### **Takeaway**

Not all news pertaining to COVID-19 is negative. Both consumers and workers are adapting to the new normal born out of the pandemic. Employees are not only working from home they are also on the move. Upwork Inc. estimates that between 14 million and 23 million Americans plan to relocate to more affordable housing markets to work remotely, according Staffing Industry Analysts. In many cases, the migration of workers is expected to come out of the major urban areas. The National Retail Federation says that consumers are eager to shop despite the challenging climate. Consumers are adapting to online shopping at a blistering pace. Adobe Analytics estimates that online holiday shopping in 2020 (November and December) will surge 33% year-over-year to a record \$189 billion, according to CNBC. That equates to around two years of e-commerce growth in just one season. Adobe noted that online sales could exceed \$200 billion if consumers receive another round of government stimulus checks or if brick-and-mortar stores are forced to shut down due to the spread of Covid-19. The firm expects smartphones to account for 42% of all online sales.

**Past performance is no guarantee of future results.** Historical performance figures for the indices are for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. Indices are unmanaged and an investor cannot invest directly in an index.



# High/Low Snapshot

Data as of 10/30/20

Index	10-Yr. High Value	Date	10-Yr. Low Value	Date	Month-End Value	% Off High Value	YTD Return (USD)	Month-End Yield
S&P 500	3580.84	9/2/2020	1099.23	10/3/2011	3269.96	-8.68%	2.76%	1.84%
S&P 500 Growth	2516.63	9/2/2020	598.65	10/3/2011	2261.22	-10.15%	16.89%	1.10%
S&P 500 Value	1301.02	1/17/2020	494.97	10/3/2011	1089.78	-16.24%	-13.24%	2.99%
S&P MidCap 400	2106.12	2/20/2020	744.98	10/3/2011	1900.18	-9.78%	-6.63%	1.81%
S&P MidCap 400 Growth	1043.25	10/12/2020	345.40	10/3/2011	982.39	-5.83%	2.60%	1.11%
S&P MidCap 400 Value	692.20	1/16/2020	252.35	10/3/2011	559.32	-19.20%	-16.57%	2.69%
S&P 100	1675.67	9/2/2020	500.09	10/3/2011	1507.65	-10.03%	6.19%	1.81%
DJIA	29551.42	2/12/2020	10655.30	10/3/2011	26501.60	-10.32%	-5.38%	2.33%
NASDAQ 100	12420.54	9/2/2020	2038.22	8/19/2011	11052.95	-11.01%	27.49%	0.79%
Russell 2000	1740.75	8/31/2018	609.49	10/3/2011	1538.48	-11.62%	-6.78%	1.57%
Russell 2000 Growth	1223.70	10/13/2020	350.15	10/3/2011	1132.56	-7.45%	4.66%	0.55%
Russell 2000 Value	2049.42	8/22/2018	804.33	10/3/2011	1537.84	-24.96%	-18.75%	2.68%
Russell 3000	2089.83	9/2/2020	644.45	10/3/2011	1923.70	-7.95%	3.13%	1.74%
MSCI World Net (ex U.S.) (USD)	6499.50	1/17/2020	3369.63	10/4/2011	5732.13	-11.81%	-10.78%	2.87%
MSCI Emerging Markets Net (USD)	573.23	1/26/2018	296.25	1/21/2016	532.17	-7.16%	0.87%	2.28%
Ibovespa/Brazil (USD)	43619.40	4/8/2011	9077.09	1/21/2016	16278.68	-62.68%	-43.27%	3.18%
RTS/Russia (USD)	2123.56	4/8/2011	628.41	1/20/2016	1066.60	-49.77%	-27.14%	7.08%
S&P BSE 500/India (USD)	245.12	1/24/2018	95.89	9/3/2013	203.99	-16.78%	-6.07%	1.22%
Shanghai Composite/China (USD)	832.07	6/12/2015	314.68	12/3/2012	481.83	-42.09%	12.57%	2.21%
KOSPI/South Korea (USD)	2.42	1/29/2018	1.16	3/19/2020	1.99	-17.82%	5.47%	1.94%
Hang Seng (USD)	4241.01	1/26/2018	2087.46	10/4/2011	3109.03	-26.69%	-11.38%	3.15%
MSCI Euro (USD)	1544.35	1/26/2018	814.62	6/1/2012	1167.00	-24.43%	-14.52%	2.68%
S&P 500 Consumer Discretionary	1287.57	10/13/2020	267.58	10/3/2011	1172.03	-8.97%	19.76%	0.92%
S&P 500 Consumer Staples	684.99	9/2/2020	292.38	11/30/2010	639.46	-6.65%	1.20%	2.80%
S&P 500 Energy	737.09	6/23/2014	179.94	3/18/2020	216.82	-70.58%	-50.38%	7.90%
S&P 500 Utilities	359.13	2/18/2020	152.93	8/8/2011	316.92	-11.75%	-0.93%	3.46%
S&P 500 Financials	516.21	1/2/2020	151.85	10/3/2011	396.09	-23.27%	-20.90%	2.67%
S&P 500 Banks	383.30	1/2/2020	105.73	8/22/2011	243.32	-36.52%	-33.85%	4.14%
FTSE NAREIT All Equity REITs	835.20	2/14/2020	371.48	10/3/2011	642.32	-23.09%	-15.22%	4.05%
S&P 500 Health Care	1273.61	9/2/2020	346.38	8/10/2011	1184.32	-7.01%	1.15%	1.75%
S&P 500 Pharmaceuticals	768.14	1/21/2020	282.86	8/10/2011	692.60	-9.83%	-5.18%	2.91%
NYSE Arca Biotechnology	6142.97	7/20/2020	1001.60	11/25/2011	5212.90	-15.14%	3.10%	0.34%
S&P 500 Information Technology	2232.92	9/2/2020	357.71	8/19/2011	1948.66	-12.73%	22.13%	1.19%
Philadelphia Semiconductor	2433.48	10/12/2020	326.32	8/19/2011	2246.15	-7.70%	23.11%	1.50%
S&P 500 Telecom Services	215.83	9/2/2020	115.22	8/8/2011	196.55	-8.93%	9.46%	1.12%
S&P 500 Industrials	718.21	2/12/2020	245.04	10/3/2011	641.01	-10.75%	-5.36%	2.01%
S&P 500 Materials	419.18	9/17/2020	179.78	10/3/2011	396.87	-5.32%	4.65%	2.05%
Philadelphia Gold & Silver	228.95	4/8/2011	38.84	1/19/2016	140.32	-38.71%	32.11%	0.68%
Refinitiv/CC CRB Excess Return	370.56	4/29/2011	106.29	4/21/2020	144.73	-60.94%	-22.10%	N/A
ICE BofA Perpetual Preferred	300.01	10/23/2020	146.25	8/8/2011	296.77	-1.08%	3.06%	4.40%
ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Constrained	472.87	2/20/2020	250.64	10/4/2011	467.36	-1.17%	0.07%	6.01%

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