First Trust

Market Watch

Wee	z of	1110	0	ot
	K UI	Jui		LSL.

Stock Index Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2008	5-yr	
DOW JONES 30 (8500)	2.69%	-1.61%	-30.44%	-31.92%	-1.10%	
S&P 500 (919)	3.66%	2.96%	-32.57%	-36.99%	-1.90%	
NASDAQ 100 (1436)	5.35%	18.92%	-28.89%	-41.57%	0.07%	
S&P 500/Citigroup Growth	3.76%	6.65%	-28.96%	-34.91%	-1.66%	
S&P 500/Citigroup Value	3.55%	-0.92%	-36.31%	-39.19%	-2.26%	
S&P MidCap 400/Citigroup Growth	4.55%	12.06%	-32.90%	-37.58%	0.95%	
S&P MidCap 400/Citigroup Value	4.31%	3.63%	-34.12%	-34.78%	0.45%	
S&P SmallCap600/Citigroup Growth	4.98%	1.76%	-32.34%	-32.84%	0.37%	
S&P SmallCap600/Citigroup Value	4.27%	-3.19%	-31.82%	-29.50%	-0.48%	
MSCI EAFE	2.15%	8.66%	-36.53%	-43.07%	3.35%	
MSCI World (ex US)	2.57%	10.57%	-36.19%	-43.26%	4.04%	
MSCI World	3.10%	7.01%	-34.61%	-40.39%	1.06%	
MSCI Emerging Markets	3.73%	37.87%	-34.36%	-53.49%	15.13%	

Source: Bloomberg. Returns are total returns. The *5-yr. return is an average annual.* One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 5/29/09.

S&P Sector Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2008	5-yr	
Consumer Discretionary	2.70%	7.99%	-27.25%	-33.49%	-4.82%	
Consumer Staples	0.86%	-2.39%	-16.58%	-15.44%	2.78%	
Energy	4.97%	2.61%	-37.22%	-34.89%	12.37%	
Financials	5.50%	-1.33%	-48.74%	-55.23%	-13.04%	
Health Care	2.55%	-2.41%	-17.81%	-22.80%	-1.67%	
Industrials	3.16%	-3.88%	-41.31%	-39.92%	-2.65%	
Information Technology	5.10%	19.99%	-28.76%	-43.14%	-1.79%	
Materials	2.93%	19.40%	-39.46%	-45.64%	3.18%	
Telecom Services	3.68%	-5.05%	-29.37%	-30.47%	2.60%	
Utilities	3.63%	-6.88%	-32.52%	-28.99%	6.29%	

Source: Bloomberg. Returns are total returns. The *5-yr. return is an average annual.* One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 5/29/09.

Bond Index Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2008	5-yr	
U.S. Treasury: Intermediate	-0.13%	-2.05%	7.12%	11.35%	5.04%	
GNMA 30 Year	-0.19%	2.54%	8.61%	7.87%	5.98%	
U.S. Aggregate	0.21%	1.32%	5.36%	5.24%	5.01%	
U.S. Corporate High Yield	1.36%	26.80%	-7.77%	-26.16%	4.04%	
U.S. Corporate Investment Grade	1.77%	5.44%	0.43%	-4.94%	3.35%	
Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+)	-1.31%	13.82%	-2.50%	-14.68%	3.81%	
Global Aggregate	0.38%	1.10%	2.42%	4.79%	5.49%	

Source: Barclays Capital. Returns are total returns. The *5-yr. return is an average annual.* One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 5/29/09.

Key Rates					
As of 5/29					
Fed Funds	0.25%	5-YR CD	3.10%		
LIBOR (1-month)	0.32%	2-YR T-Note	0.92%		
CPI - Headline	-0.70%	5-YR T-Note	2.06%		
CPI - Core	1.90%	10-YR T-Note	3.45%		
Money Market Accts.	1.34%	30-YR T-Bond	4.33%		
Money Market Funds	0.18%	30-YR Mortgage	5.23%		
6-mo. CD	1.63%	Prime Rate	3.25%		
1-YR CD	2.17%	Bond Buyer 40	5.32%		

Sources: Bankrate.com, iMoneyNet.com and Bloomberg.

Market Indicators				
As of 5/29				
TED Spread	49 bps			
Investment Grade Spread (A2)	375 bps			
ML High Yield Master II Index Spread	1171 bps			

Sources: Bloomberg and Merrill Lynch via Bloomberg.

Weekly Fund Flows for the Week Ended 5/20/09						
Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds						
	Current Week Previous					
Domestic Equity	\$252	Million	\$4.767	Billion		
Foreign Equity	\$513	Million	\$1.849	Billion		
Taxable Bond	\$6.462	Billion	\$6.872	Billion		
Municipal Bond	\$1.931	Billion	\$1.787	Billion		
Change in Money Market Fund Assets						
	Current Week		Previous			
Retail	-\$7.29	Billion	-\$2.03	Billion		
Institutional	\$22.74	Billion	-\$14.62	Billion		

Source: Investment Company Institute

Factoids for the week of May 25th - May 29th

Monday, May 25, 2009

Memorial Day - Markets Closed

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

The S&P 500's earnings yield, which is calculated by dividing total profits by the index's price, stood at 8.2% last week, based on analysts' earnings estimates for next year, according to Bloomberg. It exceeded the yields on U.S. investment-grade bonds by 1.36 percentage points, the widest margin on record when compared with historic profits, according to data from Bloomberg and Merrill Lynch. This is an indication that stocks are cheap relative to corporate debt.

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

The number of banks on the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's "problem bank" list increased by 53 to 305 (\$220 billion in assets) in Q1, according to CNNMoney.com. That is the most since 1994. It should be noted that, on average, just 13% of the banks on this list have failed. So far in 2009, 36 banks have gone under. More than 1,900 financial institutions failed from 1987-1991.

Thursday, May 28, 2009

The Baltic Dry Index, a measure of shipping costs for commodities, surpassed 3,000 points for the first time since October, according to Bloomberg. It was off 92% in 2008. The index has posted gains in each of the past 18 sessions through today, its longest winning streak in two years. China's demand for iron ore (infrastructure component of \$566 billion stimulus plan) is partly responsible for the jump in shipping costs. Rental rates for capsize vessels (175,000 metric tons) have increased 12% to \$56,698 a day, while the rates for smaller panamax ships (87,500 metric tons) are up 10% to \$20,934, according to the Baltic Exchange.

Friday, May 29, 2009

The high debt loads being carried by many baby boomer households today could seriously impact the quality of their retirement, according to "Debt: The Detour on America's Road to Retirement," Securian's 2009 Survey of Financial Values and Debt. Currently, 22% of boomers owe at least \$50,000 in non-mortgage debt, up from 12% in 2007. Thirty-eight percent of boomers have at least \$25,000 in non-mortgage debt, up from 29% in 2007.