Erst Trust

Weekly Market Commentary & Developments

Week ending November 19th, 2010

US Economy and Credit Markets					
Yields and Weekly Changes:					
3 Mo. T-Bill:	0.13 (+01 bps)	GNMA (30 Yr) 6% Coupon:	110-11/32 (1.21%)		
6 Mo. T-Bill:	0.18 (+02 bps)	Duration:	3.13 years		
1 Yr. T-Bill:	0.25 (+01 bps)	30-Year Insured Revs:	158.7% of 30 Yr. T-Bond		
2 Yr. T-Note:	0.50 (unch.)	Bond Buyer 40 Yield:	5.34% (+22 bps)		
3 Yr. T-Note:	0.78 (+04 bps)	Crude Oil Futures:	81.60 (-3.28)		
5 Yr. T-Note:	1.52 (+15 bps)	Gold Futures:	1352.70 (-12.80)		
10 Yr. T-Note:	2.87 (+08 bps)	Merrill Lynch High Yield Indices:			
30 Yr. T-Bond:	4.24 (-04 bps)	BB, 7-10 Yr.:	6.55% (+19 bps)		
		B, 7-10 Yr.:	7.94% (+18 bps)		

Treasury prices were generally flat on the short end this week while intermediate term notes were again lower and the 30-year bond gained modestly. Prices continued lower on Monday with the 10-year yield climbing 17 basis points on continued concern about the potential inflationary impact of QE2 but bounced back Tuesday. In economic news this week, Advance Retail Sales for October were reported at 1.2% vs. the estimate of 0.7%, and matched expectations of 0.4% excluding autos. October PPI was 0.4% vs. expectation of 0.8% and was -0.6% excluding food and energy. The Producer Price Index is up 4.3% year over year vs. the estimate of 4.6%. Excluding food and energy PPI was reported at 1.5% year over year vs. the estimate of 2.1%. October CPI was reported at 0.2% vs. the estimate of 0.3% and was flat excluding food and energy where the survey expected a 0.1% gain. The Treasury will sell \$99 billion in notes next week in the 2, 5 and 7 year maturities. Major economic reports (and related consensus forecasts) for next week include: Tuesday: 3Q2010 GDP (2.4%), 3Q2010 Personal Consumption (2.5%), October Existing Home Sales (4.48M, -1.10% MoM), Richmond Fed Manufacturing Index (7), Fed Minutes from the Nov 2nd – 3rd FOMC meeting; Wednesday: October Durable Goods Orders (0.0%, 0.6% excluding transportation), October Personal Income (0.40%), October Personal Spending (0.50%), November U of M Consumer Confidence (69.5), October New Home Sales (315K, 2.40%).

US Stocks					
Weekly Inde	ex Performance:	Market Indicators:			
DJIA:	11203.55 (+10.97,+0.1%)	Strong Sectors:	Industrials, Energy, Consumer Discretionary		
S&P 500:	1199.73 (+0.52,+0.0%)	Maak Caatara	5		
S&P MidCap:	850.33 (+6.46,+0.8%)	Weak Sectors:	Financials, Utilities, Materials		
S&P Small Cap:	384.10 (+0.92,+0.2%)	NYSE Advance/Decline:	920 / 2,233		
NASDAQ Comp:	2518.12 (-0.09,-0.0%)	518.12 (-0.09,-0.0%) NYSE New Highs/New Lows:			
Russell 2000:	724.36 (+5.09,+0.7%)				

US stocks were largely unchanged after Thursday's triple-digit Dow rally and Friday's late gains reversed an early week downtrend. Macro concerns occupied investors' attention throughout the week, specifically the negotiations over a financial bailout package for Ireland and more inflation-fighting measures from China. US economic data was mostly encouraging, particularly the October retail sales report which printed +0.4%, double the expectation. General Motors shares rose 3.6% on their first day of trading, affected by a last-minute hike by the US government to the offering price and quantity. The IPO raised over \$20 billion for GM owners, with the Treasury Dept. selling its stake down to 36% from 61%. A number of retailers reported good quarterly results, including Home Depot, Target, Gap and Foot Locker. Lowe's beat earnings expectations, but sales were weak and the company trimmed guidance. Wal-Mart saw US same-store sales results slip again, but the company predicted a better fourth quarter. Bank stocks were pressured by the Federal Reserve's announced plan to subject the 19 biggest banks to another round of stress tests. Comerica boosted its dividend, the first big bank to do so this year. Dell rode stronger than expected gross margins to post a bottom line earnings beat. Salesforce.com shares surged on sales that rose 30% from the prior year. In merger news, Caterpillar announced it would buy Bucyrus International for \$7.6 billion. EMC Corp. agreed to buy Isilon Systems for \$2.25 billion. Looking ahead, the coming week contains a number of important economic data points due out ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday including third guarter GDP (revised), personal income and spending, and October existing home sales. A smattering of earnings releases including Hewlett-Packard and Deere are also due out. Investors could play the "risk-on/risk-off" game in the short run until macro worries over European peripheral economies subside, essentially meaning more volatility could lie ahead.