First Trust

Dow Jones Industrial Avg. (10,463)

Index

S&P 500 (1,110)

S&P 500 Growth

S&P 500 Value

MSCI EAFE

MSCI World

Financials

Industrials

Materials

Health Care

Information Technology

U.S. Corporate Investment Grade

Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+)

Telecom Services

Global Aggregate

NASDAQ 100 (1,892)

S&P MidCap 400 Growth

S&P MidCap 400 Value

S&P SmallCap 600 Growth

S&P SmallCap 600 Value

MSCI World (ex US)

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Weekly Fund Flows for the Week Ended 09/01/10					
Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds					
	Current Week		Previo	Previous	
Domestic Equity	-\$7.596	Billion	-\$4.313	Billion	
Foreign Equity	-\$1.944	Billion	-\$292	Million	
Taxable Bond	\$5.656	Billion	\$4.836	Billion	
Municipal Bond	\$1.002	Billion	\$1.120	Billion	
Change in Money Market Fund Assets					
	Current Week		Previo	Previous	
Retail	\$3.07	Billion	-\$0.47	Billion	
Institutional	\$7.48	Billion	-\$5.75	Billion	
Source: Investment Company Institute					

Source: Investment Company Institute

Factoids for the week of September 6th -10th

Monday, September 6, 2010

Labor Day Holiday, Markets Closed

Tuesday, September 7, 2010

The Distressed Debt Securities newsletter reported that 46 issuers have defaulted on nearly \$1.7 billion of municipal bonds this year, according to *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*. The newsletter puts an average year for defaults at about \$1 billion. The amount of municipal bonds outstanding totaled \$2.83 trillion in Q1'10. The biggest contributor to the bump in defaults is the decline in tax collections. The amount raised by states in April, May, and June was 17.2% less than the same period two years ago.

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

Moody's reported that the *global speculative-grade* default rate stood at 5.0% in August, down from 5.5% in July, according to iMarketNews.com. A year ago, the rate was 12.3%. Moody's is now forecasting a default rate of 2.7% by December 2010. The *U.S. speculative-grade* default rate stood at 5.1%, down from 5.4% in July. A year ago, the rate was 13.2%. Moody's is now forecasting a default rate of 2.9% by December 2010. The default rate on *senior loans* stood at 4.66% in August, down from 4.91% in July, according to Standard & Poor's LCD.

Thursday, September 9, 2010

Technology stocks are currently trading at their lowest levels relative to the S&P 500 in almost 20 years, according to research from Sanford C. Bernstein. Tech stocks are trading at 1.0x the S&P 500 – the lowest multiple since March 1991 and well below the historical average of 1.31x since 1977. The depressed valuations exist across hardware, software and tech services. This deterioration has occurred (largely over the past 2.5 years) despite tech companies having historically high cash balances and ROICs (return on invested capital) relative to the S&P 500.

Friday, September 10, 2010

Railroad freight volume is at its highest level since November 2008, according to Anthony Mirhaydari at MSN.com. Railroad loadings are up 12.2% compared to a year ago. The following shows how some of the latest data breaks down: autos (+19%); standard shipping containers (+18%); industrial products (+13%); agricultural products (+8%); and coal (+2%). Rail volume provides a valuable snapshot of the economy because it reflects the activity of producers, retailers and consumers.

MSCI Emerging Markets	1.01%	4.21%	16.68%	78.51%	12.35%	
Source: Bloomberg. Returns are total returns. The <i>5-yr. return is an average annual.</i> One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 09/10/10.						
S&P Sector Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2009	5-yr	
Consumer Discretionary	0.05%	9.10%	20.63%	41.33%	0.55%	
Consumer Staples	0.93%	5.56%	12.94%	14.89%	6.22%	
Energy	0.46%	-3.71%	2.25%	13.86%	2.30%	

-0.02%

2.03%

0.97%

-0.25%

0.22%

1.67%

Stock Index Performance

YTD

2.29%

0.90%

2.26%

-0.37%

2.21%

7.67%

4.69%

3.18%

2.48%

-3.18%

-0.97%

-1.05%

1.44%

-3.58%

9.66%

-6.33%

0.60%

6.47%

8.81%

8.47%

3.60%

12-mo.

11.64%

13.00%

8.68%

0.00%

16.03%

12.61%

11.49%

8.30%

-0.14%

4.31%

4.23%

0.38%

5.09%

5.10%

9.35%

15.35%

11.28%

9.95%

3.77%

17.67%

8.42%

2009

22.68%

26.47%

54.63%

31.58%

21.17%

41.23%

33.77%

28.34%

22.86%

31.78%

41.45%

29.99%

17.24% -11.07%

0.23%

1.23%

1.72%

5.44%

4.02%

5.87%

4.21%

5.49%

19.70%

20.93%

61.72%

48.57%

18.68%

23.43%

6.93%

8.93%

5-vr

2.28%

-0.14%

3.90%

0.84%

-1.20%

3.56%

1.75%

0.80%

-0.01%

1.26%

3.58%

0.57%

Week

0.17%

0.49%

1.19%

0.61%

0.37%

-0.28%

-0.39%

-1.42%

-1.07%

0.97%

0.95%

0.70%

Utilities -0.58% 3.45% 13.31% 11.91% 2.59% Source: Bloomberg. Returns are total returns. The 5-yr. return is an average annual. Oneweek, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 09/10/10.

Bond Index Performance YTD 5-vr Index Week 12-mo. 2009 U.S. Treasury: Intermediate -0.31% 5.89% 5.39% -1.41% 5.52% GNMA 30 Year -0.33% 6.22% 6.99% 5.37% 6.36% -0.27% 6.86% 7.61% 5.93% 5.83% U.S. Aggregate U.S. Corporate High Yield 9.64% 58.21% 0.74% 21.49% 7.78%

-0.15%

-0.01%

-0.51%

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 09/10/10.

Key Rates					
As of 09/10					
Fed Funds	0.00-0.25%	5-yr CD	2.49%		
LIBOR (1-month)	0.26%	2-yr T-Note	0.57%		
CPI - Headline	1.20%	5-yr T-Note	1.57%		
CPI - Core	0.90%	10-yr T-Note	2.79%		
Money Market Accts.	0.70%	30-yr T-Bond	3.86%		
Money Market Funds	0.04%	30-yr Mortgage	4.56%		
6-mo CD	0.81%	Prime Rate	3.25%		
1-yr CD	1.24%	Bond Buyer 40	4.90%		

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

Market Indicators				
As of 09/10				
TED Spread	15 bps			
Investment Grade Spread (A2)	194 bps			
ML High Yield Master II Index Spread	639 bps			

Sources: Bloomberg and Merrill Lynch via Bloomberg.