## **[**First Trust

## Weekly Market Commentary

## Week Ended November 21, 2014

|                |                | Yields and Weekly Changes:      |                         |
|----------------|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 Mo. T-Bill:  | 0.01 (unch.)   | GNMA (30 Yr) 6% Coupon:         | 112-28/32 (1.29%)       |
| 6 Mo. T-Bill:  | 0.06 (unch.)   | Duration:                       | 3.63 years              |
| 1 Yr. T-Bill:  | 0.12 (-03 bps) | 30-Year Insured Revs:           | 174.8% of 30 Yr. T-Bond |
| 2 Yr. T-Note:  | 0.50 (-01 bps) | Bond Buyer 40 Yield:            | 4.39 (unch.)            |
| 3 Yr. T-Note:  | 0.94 (-02 bps) | Crude Oil Futures:              | 76.75 (0.93)            |
| 5 Yr. T-Note:  | 1.61 (unch.)   | Gold Futures:                   | 1,200.00 (-14.40)       |
| 10 Yr. T-Note: | 2.31 (-01 bps) | Merrill Lynch High Yield Indice | s:                      |
| 30 Yr. T-Bond: | 3.02 (-03 bps) | U.S. High Yield:                | 6.52% (+11 bps)         |
|                |                | BB:                             | 4.99% (+08 bps)         |
|                |                | B:                              | 6.66% (+08 bps)         |

Treasury prices were mixed and relatively flat on what was a positive week for the equity markets. Treasury prices slipped on Monday as poor foreign economic data caused investors to prefer domestic equities. However, this drop was reversed on Tuesday with the escalation of violence between the Israelis and Palestinians as a Palestinian attack on an Israeli synagogue killed four Israelis and wounded seven others. Prices then dropped again on Wednesday as the Federal Reserve released the minutes from the October meeting. The minutes implied that several committee members are pushing for the Fed to stay on track to raise rates next year. Despite a drop in overall housing starts, single family home construction rose, which was a positive sign of consumer's economic futures. Treasury prices rose slightly again on Thursday as initial jobless claims were higher than expected. Treasure prices rose for a second consecutive day on Friday as China decided to cut its lending rate, making U.S. assets more attractive to international investors. Major economic reports (and related consensus forecasts) for the upcoming holiday shortened week include: Monday: Dallas Fed Manufacturing Activity (9.0); Tuesday: 3Q GDP Annualized (3.3% QoQ), 3Q Personal Consumption (1.9%), November Consumer Confidence Index (96.0); Wednesday: October Durable Goods Orders (-0.6%), November 22 Initial Jobless Claims (288,000), October Personal Income (0.4%), October Personal Spending (0.3%), November U. of Michigan Confidence (90.0), October New Home Sales (471,000).

| US Equities               |          |                    |                          |                       |  |  |
|---------------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| Weekly Index Performance: |          | Market Indicators: |                          |                       |  |  |
| DJIA:                     | 17,810.1 | (1.06%)            | Strong Sectors:          | Materials, Energy,    |  |  |
| S&P 500:                  | 2,063.50 | (1.21%)            |                          | Info. Tech,           |  |  |
| S&P Midcap:               | 1,444.39 | (0.97%)            | Weak Sectors:            | Telecom., Financials, |  |  |
| S&P Smallcap:             | 677.36   | (-0.28%)           |                          | Cons. Discretionary   |  |  |
| NASDAQ Comp:              | 4,712.97 | (0.58%)            | NYSE Advance/Decline:    | 1,949 / 1,287         |  |  |
| Russell 2000:             | 1,172.42 | (-0.10%)           | NYSE New Highs/New Lows: | 401 / 123             |  |  |
|                           |          |                    | AAII Bulls/Bears:        | 49.1% / 23.8%         |  |  |

Equities continued upward this week, as the S&P 500 closed Friday at 2,063.5, which was an all-time high. Internationally, Japan posted poor GDP growth for the quarter, which caused the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest economy to unexpectedly slip into a recession. The European Central Bank announced a list of policy resolutions for 2015, including the announcement that their form of quantitative easing could start to include government bonds. Merger and acquisition announcements were plentiful this week. Allergan Inc. rose over 5% Monday after Actavis PLC agreed to pay about \$66b for the pharmaceutical giant. Baker Hughes Inc. was up 10% this week as Halliburton Co announced they are going to pay \$19 in cash and 1.12 shares for each share of BHI. DreamWorks Animation SKG saw its shares slip nearly 13% as Hasbro Inc. pulled their acquisition offer because a purchase price could not be agreed upon. According to Bloomberg, as the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter earnings season comes to a close, 79% of the companies in the S&P 500 announced earnings higher than projected and 60% surpassed revenue estimates. Tyson Foods Inc. rallied nearly 6% as the frozen food maker announced 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter results that were well ahead of analyst estimates. Urban Outfitters Inc. dropped nearly 7% as the clothing retailer announced lower profit margins and same store sales growth than expected. Home Depot Inc. slid 2% after they announced earnings and revenue above estimates, but failed to raise their guidance raising fears of a slowing housing market. Target Corp. surged over 7% as they announced quarterly earnings and revenue ahead of estimates, as well as improving business in their Canada expansion. Looking ahead to next week, after the nation gets their fill of turkey and football on Thanksgiving, holiday sales season officially kicks off on Black Friday. With gas prices low, leaving more cash in consumer's pockets, retail sales expectations for the holiday season are high.