# Eirst Trust

Stock Index Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2014	5-yr.	
Dow Jones Industrial Avg. (17,129)	-0.78%	-1.49%	-1.24%	10.04%	11.08%	
S&P 500 (2,006)	-0.31%	-0.58%	-0.65%	13.68%	12.37%	
NASDAQ 100 (4,515)	-0.49%	7.85%	7.07%	19.49%	16.72%	
S&P 500 Growth	-0.48%	3.73%	3.32%	14.89%	13.77%	
S&P 500 Value	-0.10%	-5.26%	-4.97%	12.35%	10.85%	
S&P MidCap 400 Growth	-0.64%	0.43%	0.72%	7.57%	10.68%	
S&P MidCap 400 Value	-1.34%	-8.44%	-7.64%	12.04%	10.00%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Growth	-0.57%	1.60%	3.08%	3.85%	12.15%	
S&P SmallCap 600 Value	-0.41%	-8.32%	-6.81%	7.54%	10.16%	
MSCI EAFE	-0.17%	-2.55%	-2.09%	-4.90%	3.71%	
MSCI World (ex US)	0.34%	-7.02%	-6.06%	-3.87%	1.30%	
MSCI World	-0.23%	-2.65%	-2.42%	4.94%	7.58%	
MSCI Emerging Markets	2.12%	-15.55%	-13.48%	-2.19%	-4.33%	
S&P GSCI	-2.08%	-33.78%	-36.08%	-33.06%	-14.83%	

**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 12/18/15.

S&P Sector Performance					
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2014	5-yr.
Consumer Discretionary	-0.36%	9.04%	11.47%	9.68%	17.65%
Consumer Staples	0.49%	4.17%	3.67%	15.98%	13.91%
Energy	-1.05%	-22.87%	-21.83%	-7.79%	0.11%
Financials	0.03%	-3.69%	-3.62%	15.18%	10.56%
Health Care	0.70%	4.57%	1.85%	25.34%	19.63%
Industrials	-1.01%	-4.93%	-4.47%	9.80%	11.20%
Information Technology	-1.30%	4.26%	3.61%	20.12%	13.66%
Materials	-3.05%	-10.80%	-10.13%	6.91%	4.98%
Telecom Services	1.34%	1.32%	1.18%	2.99%	8.30%
Utilities	2.77%	-6.63%	-5.85%	28.98%	10.78%

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 12/18/15.

Bond Index Performance					
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2014	5-yr.
U.S. Treasury: Intermediate	-0.30%	1.37%	1.48%	2.57%	2.16%
GNMA 30 Year	-0.07%	1.49%	1.69%	6.03%	3.18%
U.S. Aggregate	-0.35%	0.81%	1.13%	5.97%	3.37%
U.S. Corporate High Yield	-0.95%	-5.43%	-4.58%	2.45%	5.00%
U.S. Corporate Investment Grade	-0.68%	-0.37%	0.17%	7.46%	4.73%
Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+)	0.03%	4.37%	4.83%	15.39%	7.67%
Global Aggregate	-0.69%	-3.06%	-3.19%	0.59%	1.31%

**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 12/18/15.

Key Rates						
As of 12/18/15						
Fed Funds	0.25-0.50%	5-yr CD	1.82%			
LIBOR (1-month)	0.35%	2-yr T-Note	0.95%			
CPI - Headline	0.50%	5-yr T-Note	1.68%			
CPI - Core	2.00%	10-yr T-Note	2.21%			
Money Market Accts.	0.47%	30-yr T-Bond	2.92%			
Money Market Funds	0.03%	30-yr Mortgage Refinance	3.94%			
6-mo CD	0.34%	Prime Rate	3.50%			
1-yr CD	1.11%	Bond Buyer 40	4.22%			

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

Market Indicators				
As of 12/18/15				
42 bps				
e Spread (A2) 192 bps				
aster II Index Spread 720 bps				
aster II Index Spread				

Sources: Bloomberg and Merrill Lynch via Bloomberg.

# Market Watch

Week of December 21st

Weekly Fund Flows						
Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds for the Week Ended 12/9/15						
	Current	Current Week		ous		
Domestic Equity	-\$5.213	Billion	-\$7.976	Billion		
Foreign Equity	-\$1.216	Billion	-\$890	Million		
Taxable Bond	-\$7.275	Billion	-\$1.953	Billion		
Municipal Bond	\$825	Million	\$918	Million		
Change in Money Market Fund Assets for the Week Ended 12/16/15						
	Current	Current Week		ous		
Retail	\$36.04	Billion	-\$1.95	Billion		
Institutional	-\$56.36	Billion	\$14.68	Billion		
Institutional	+	DIIIION	\$14.08	DIIIIO[]		

Source: Investment Company Institute.

#### Factoids for the week of December 14-18, 2015

### Monday, December 14, 2015

LIMRA Secure Retirement Institute estimates that U.S. annuity sales rose 3.6% (y-o-y) in Q3'15, according to its own data release. Annuity sales totaled \$60.6 billion, up from \$58.5 billion in Q3'14. Variable annuity (VA) sales totaled \$32.9 billion, down 7.3% from \$35.5 billion in Q3'14. Fixed annuity (FA) sales totaled \$27.7 billion, up 20.4% from \$23.0 billion in Q3'14. In the first nine months of 2015, annuity sales totaled \$175.3 billion (\$101.3 billion VA vs. \$74.0 billion FA), down 1.8% from the same period in 2014.

#### Tuesday, December 15, 2015

BlackRock Inc. reported that global exchange-traded products took in \$28.2 billion in new assets in November, with \$21.4 billion of that amount going to U.S. equity ETFs, according to Benzinga. November was the best month this year for U.S. equity fund flows. Flows to large-cap funds accounted for roughly half of the total. Small-cap and sector funds took in \$3.4 billion and \$3.9 billion, respectively, with the majority of sector fund flows targeting technology (\$2.1 billion) and financials (\$1.4 billion).

#### Wednesday, December 16, 2015

In Q3'15, the U.S. airline industry reported the highest quarterly profits since 2006, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. Data from the U.S. Department of Transportation showed that the airlines reported net income totaling \$9.3 billion, up from \$3.1 billion in Q3'14, but below the \$20.8 billion reported in Q1'06. Profits in Q3'15 were boosted by lower fuel costs, which declined by 35% over the past year, according to the International Air Transport Association. The rate of filled seats per plane ("load factor") stood at 83.88% in Q3'15.

## Thursday, December 17, 2015

Year-to-date through November, REITs were able to raise \$58.7 billion via a combination of IPOs, secondary equity offerings and secondary debt offerings, according to data provided by REIT.com. Nearly all of the capital was raised through secondary offerings (\$25.1 billion in equity & \$32.2 billion in debt). Merrie Frankel, vice president and senior credit officer at Moody's Investors Service, notes that low interest rates have allowed REITs to refinance their mortgages and bonds. REITs raised \$63.6 billion last year and \$77.0 billion in 2013.

#### Friday, December 18, 2015

Solar and wind energy companies stand to benefit from the \$1.1 trillion government spending bill approved by the House this morning. The bill is expected to pass the Senate as early as this afternoon and then get signed into law by President Obama, according to USA TODAY. The bill extends the 30% federal investment tax credits applied to the cost of solar energy systems installed by businesses or homeowners through 2019, according to Zacks. It was due to expire at the end of 2016. After 2019, the 30% credit falls to 10% by 2022. The wind energy sector gets to maintain a production tax credit that pays 2.3 cents per kilowatt-hour of electricity generated. It is being extended through 2020, but will then be gradually decreased over a four-year period before being completely phased out.

This information is provided by First Trust Advisors L.P. • 1-800-222-6822 • Approved For Public Use • 12/21/15