

Weekly Market Commentary

Week Ended March 13, 2015

US Economy and Credit Markets					
Yields and Weekly Changes:					
3 Mo. T-Bill:	0.02 (+01 bps)	GNMA (30 Yr) 6% Coupon:	113-31/32 (1.31%)		
6 Mo. T-Bill:	0.11 (+01 bps)	Duration:	3.77 years		
1 Yr. T-Bill:	0.24 (-03 bps)	Bond Buyer 40 Yield:	4.29 (-03 bps)		
2 Yr. T-Note:	0.66 (-07 bps)	Crude Oil Futures:	44.84 (-4.77)		
3 Yr. T-Note:	1.07 (-08 bps)	Gold Futures:	1152.40 (-11.90)		
5 Yr. T-Note:	1.59 (-11 bps)	Merrill Lynch High Yield Indices	s:		
10 Yr. T-Note:	2.12 (-13 bps)	U.S. High Yield:			
30 Yr. T-Bond:	2.70 (-14 bps)	BB:	5.01 % (+10 bps)		
		B:	6.90% (+12 bps)		

Treasury prices rose from last week's 2015 lows as the European Central Bank began its quantitative easing program. Treasuries began the week on a three day winning streak as the Eurozone's central bank started buying €60 billion (\$65B) in Eurozone sovereign bonds in an attempt to stave off deflation and spur economic growth. In addition to the bond-buying program, Treasury prices also rose on Wednesday due to strong demand for a new \$21 billion auction of 10-year Treasury Notes. Treasury prices were mostly flat and mixed on Thursday and Friday amid weak economic reports. Weak retail sales in February and a fourth straight month of lower prices in the Producer Price Index led eased concerns from investors that the Federal Reserve would raise the Federal Funds Rate in June. The U.S. Dollar rose to a new high since 2003 with investors seeking safety as central banks around the world lower rates. Oil continued its slide, dropping another 9% over the course of the week. Major economic reports (and related consensus forecasts) for the upcoming week include: Monday: March Empire Manufacturing (8.00), February Industrial Production (0.2% MoM), February Capacity Utilization (79.5%); Tuesday: February Housing Starts (1,048,000); Wednesday: March 13 MBA Mortgage Applications, March 18 FOMC Rate Decision Upper Bound (0.25%); Thursday: March 14 Initial Jobless Claims (294,000), March Philadelphia Fed Business Outlook (7.5), February Leading Index (0.2%).

US Equities				
Weekly Index Performance:		Market Indicators:		
DJIA:	17749.31 (-0.52%)	Strong Sectors:	Health Care, Industrials,	
S&P 500:	2053.4 (-0.80%)		Utilities	
S&P MidCap:	1491.12 (0.36%)	Weak Sectors:	Info Tech, Energy	
S&P Small Cap:	707.24 (1.50%)		Materials	
NASDAQ Comp:	4871.758 (-1.10%)	NYSE Advance/Decline:	1,411 / 1,834	
Russell 2000:	1232.138 (1.25%)	NYSE New Highs/New Lows:	180 / 222	
		AAII Bulls/Bears:	31.6% / 25.4%	

The Dow Jones Industrial Average retreated .41% for the week falling to 17,749.31. Friday's close is nearly 3% below the all-time high of 18,288.68 achieved on March 2nd of this year. Currently, the Dow trades at a P/E ratio of 16.21 times earnings and has a dividend yield of 2.25%. However, these numbers will be expected to change this week as Apple will join the 30 components of the Dow, replacing AT&T. Partly impacting returns last week was a sharp fall in the price of oil. Oil prices fell 9.61% to close the week at \$44.84 per barrel. As a result, investors in the S&P 500 Energy Index lost 2.76% for the week. Perhaps the biggest news of the week was the announcement of Fed's CCAR results. Comprehensive Capital Analysis and Review, or better known as CCAR, are tests conducted by the Fed to determine capital adequacy and whether banks can return capital to shareholders. 28 of 31 banks passed with flying colors while Deutsche Bank and Banco Santader were cited for deficiencies. The remaining banks were given approval to increase the amount of capital returned to shareholders. One of last week's biggest disappointments was chip maker, Intel. The company reduced its first quarter sales outlook by \$1 billion dollars. Shares in the company dropped 6.81% during the week. Contrasting Intel's stock performance was embattled nutrition and supplement maker, Herbalife. The company has been accused by short-sellers and critics of being a pyramid scheme and is currently being investigated by the Federal Trade Commission. However, the Wall Street Journal reported that consultants hired by a hedge fund have received subpoenas in relation to possible market manipulation. Shares in the company rose more than 10% last week. Looking ahead to this week, the Fed will announce its decision on whether to raise interest rates though no increase is expected. In addition, Oracle and FedEx will announce quarterly results.