First Trust

Week Ended July 17, 2015

US Economy and Credit Markets					
Yields and Weekly Changes:					
3 Mo. T-Bill:	0.02 (+01 bps)	GNMA (30 Yr) 6% Coupon:	112-24/32 (1.96%)		
6 Mo. T-Bill:	0.11 (+03 bps)	Duration:	3.87 years		
1 Yr. T-Bill:	0.26 (+01 bps)	Bond Buyer 40 Yield:	4.47 (-02 bps)		
2 Yr. T-Note:	0.67 (+03 bps)	Crude Oil Futures:	50.89 (-1.85)		
3 Yr. T-Note:	1.05 (+02 bps)	Gold Futures:	1,131.90 (-26)		
5 Yr. T-Note:	1.67 (+01 bps)	Merrill Lynch High Yield Indices	s:		
10 Yr. T-Note:	2.35 (-05 bps)	U.S. High Yield:			
30 Yr. T-Bond:	3.08 (-11 bps)	BB:	5.30% (-04 bps)		
		В:	7.17 % (+9 bps)		

Treasury bonds were up slightly on the week as yields fell amid mixed economic data and continued low inflation. Late last week the German parliament voted to give European officials the go ahead to negotiate a third bailout for Greece, which will allow Greece to receive 7.16B Euros on Monday, after Greece voted to accept austerity measures which were a prerequisite for the bailout negotiations. Crude oil prices were down last week as the specter of Iranian oil coming onto market weighs on crude oil prices as a result of a potential nuclear deal between the U.S. and Iran. Domestically, U.S. crude stockpiles continue to be high and domestic production is still strong despite a steep decline in the number of rigs in operation. Tuesday kicked-off a week with many major economic reports when retail sales were reported declining 0.3% in June, coming in below the 0.3% gain the consensus expected. This report disappointed Wall Street as stronger employment, improving consumer balance sheets and cheap energy have many analysts anticipating retail spending expansion. Wednesday reports included the Producer Price Index rising .4% and Industrial Production increasing .3% in June; both of which were above analyst expectations. The week wound down on Friday with the Consumer Price Index showing a June increase of .3% on the back of increased energy prices. Core prices are up 1.8% vs. the prior year. While retail sales are up through the year, they are only up marginally, and they are not providing a definitive sign of economic expansion as hoped. Major economic reports (and related consensus forecasts) for the upcoming week include: Wednesday: Prior Week MBA Mortgage Applications, June Existing Home Sales; Thursday: Prior Week Initial Jobless Claims and the June Leading Index (+.1%); Friday: June new home sales (-.9%).

US Equities				
Weekly Index Performance:		Market Indicators:		
DJIA:	18,086.45 (1.86%)	Strong Sectors:	Info Tech., Financials,	
S&P 500:	2,126.64 (2.42%)		Health Care	
S&P Midcap:	1,507.82 (0.29%)	Weak Sectors:	Energy, Materials,	
S&P Smallcap:	723.35 (0.59%)		Utilities	
NASDAQ Comp:	5,210.14 (4.25%)	NYSE Advance/Decline:	1,896 / 1,347	
Russell 2000:	1,267.09 (1.22%)	NYSE New Highs/New Lows:	266 / 281	
		AAII Bulls/Bears:	30.8% / 23.2%	

The S&P 500 had a positive 2.4% return this week, the best weekly return for the index since March, on strong domestic corporate earnings and headlines that Greece struck a short term, Band-Aid deal with its creditors. Anacor Pharmaceuticals Inc. was up over 72% for the week, as the now \$6b market cap company announced their experimental dermatitis drugs received positive phase 3 study results. The drugs are now pending FDA approval, which is expected in the first half of 2016. Earnings season continued this week as several large companies announced significant improvement in their operations. However, it was not all positive as several companies cut fullyear guidance. Citigroup Inc. rallied nearly 8% on the week as they announced earnings that surprised analysts, bank profitability measures were higher year over year as the bank continues to see improvement from their poorly performing assets. Wednesday, Netflix Inc. shares climbed over 18% as subscriber growth of 3.3m topped estimates, bringing total subscribers to 65.6m worldwide for 2Q15. Sherwin-Williams Co. announced earnings slightly lower than expectations, but cut forward guidance for the year giving the paint company a -7% return on Thursday. Garmin LTD preannounced earnings and cut full-year earnings outlook which sent the stock down over 7% on Thursday, it was the company's sharpest fall since September 2013. The S&P 1500 Tobacco Sub Industry index was up nearly 4% this week headlined by an earnings announcement from Philip Morris International Inc., which was above expectations boosting the company share price over 4% for the week. Google Inc. saw its shares shoot up over 16% on Friday, as the search giant's new CFO, Ruth Porat, unveiled a 5 point plan for more disciplined spending with a focus on growing core earnings. Major earnings announcements continue next week, as mega cap companies (defined as \$100b+ market cap) Apple Inc., Microsoft Corp., Amazon.com Inc., Verizon Communications Inc., AT&T Inc., Coca-Cola Co., Visa Inc., International Business Machines Corp., Comcast Corp., AbbVie Inc., Celgene Corp., QUALLCOMM Inc., Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc., and Boeing Co. are all expected to report.