First Trust

Weekly Market Commentary

Week Ended November 20, 2020

US Economy and Credit Markets Yields and Weekly Changes:				
6 Mo. T-Bill:	0.081 (-1.0 bps)	Duration:	3.66 years	
1 Yr. T-Bill:	0.096 (-2.0 bps)	Bond Buyer 40 Yield:	3.51 (-5 bps)	
2 Yr. T-Note:	0.157 (-2.2 bps)	Crude Oil Futures:	42.15 (+2.02)	
3 Yr. T-Note:	0.208 (-2.6 bps)	Gold Spot:	1,870.99 (-18.21)	
5 Yr. T-Note:	0.371 (-3.5 bps)	Merrill Lynch High Yield Indice	s:	
10 Yr. T-Note:	0.824 (-7.2 bps)	U.S. High Yield:	5.46 (-13 bps)	
30 Yr. T-Bond:	1.520 (-12.7 bps)	BB:	4.12 (-11 bps)	
		B:	5.82 (-13 bps)	

U.S. Treasury bond yields fell across the yield curve last week with Treasury yields falling more on the longer-term end of the curve. Risk-on sentiment was spurred on Monday by Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine preliminary late-stage clinical trial data revealing an efficacy rate of 94.5%. On Tuesday, retail sales gains came in at 0.3% for the month of October, which was softer than the consensus, but gains were up to 0.7% with revisions. Industrial production picked up steam in October, beating the October consensus estimate of 1.0% by 10 basis points. Later in the week, October housing data came through, and continued to be strong. Housing starts for the month were up 4.9%, beating the consensus expectation, and up over 14% versus last year. While existing home sales increased 4.3% in October and have increased 26.6% versus last year. Major economic reports (related consensus forecasts, prior data) for the upcoming week include Monday: November Preliminary Manufacturing PMI (53.0, 53.4); Tuesday: September FHFA House Price Index MoM (0.8%, 1.5%), November Conference Board Consumer Confidence (97.6, 100.9); Wednesday: November 20 MBA Mortgage Applications (N/A, -0.3%), November 20 Initial Jobless Claims (730k, 742k), November 21 Continuing Claims (5993k, 6372k), October Preliminary Wholesale Inventories MoM (n/a, 0.4%), 3Q Second GDP Annualized QoQ (33.1%, 33.1%), October Preliminary Durable Goods Orders (1.0%, 1.9%), October Personal Income (0.0%, 0.9%), October Personal Spending (0.3%, 1.4%), November Final University of Michigan Sentiment (77.0, 77.0), October New Home Sales (975k, 959k).

US Equities				
Weekly Index Performance:		Market Indicators:		
DJIA:	29,263.48 (-0.65%)	Strong Sectors:	Energy, Industrials, Materials	
S&P 500:	3,557.54 (-0.73%)	c .		
S&P Midcap:	2,147.61 (1.64%)	Weak Sectors:	Utilities, Health Care, Real Estate	
S&P Smallcap:	1,020.23 (2.63%)			
NASDAQ Comp:	11,854.97 (0.25%)	NYSE Advance/Decline:	2,309 / 861	
Russell 2000:	1,785.34 (2.38%)	NYSE New Highs/New Lows:	377 / 25	
		AAII Bulls/Bears:	44.4% / 26.4%	

The weekly decline in the S&P 500 with hints of daily positivity defined the week before Thanksgiving. Positive vaccine trails from **Moderna** and **Pfizer** were the focus earlier in the week as both companies announced efficacy of around 95% and are seeking to fast track its manufacturing and distribution. The good news of the future was met with the reality of the past. The impact of the shutdowns on businesses over a range of industries are putting pressure on Congress to work with Treasury Secretary Mnuchin on a second stimulus in the form of a lending program and monetary assurances. This has been a point of partisan contention for months and has only been complicated by the perceived inconclusive election results dogging the current administration. On Friday, Georgia's Secretary of State certified the state's election results after completing a hand audit of over 5 million ballots. The Georgia governor now has until Saturday to approve the state's electors. President Trump will in turn have until Tuesday to request a recount. Back on Capitol Hill, **Twitter** and **Facebook** CEO's faced a range of questions by the Senate Judiciary Committee about how the two companies handled political content during the election cycle. As the hearing concluded, some of the members of the committee also commented on the absence of tech heavyweights **Amazon** and **Google**. Looking ahead to next week, investors will get a gauge on the economy as initial jobless claims will be released on Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

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