First Trust

Market Watch

Week of September 21st

Stock Index Performance					
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2019	5-yr.
Dow Jones Industrial Avg. (27,657)	-0.01%	-1.35%	4.34%	25.34%	13.75%
S&P 500 (3,319)	-0.60%	4.16%	12.52%	31.48%	13.38%
NASDAQ 100 (10,937)	-1.35%	26.08%	39.97%	39.46%	21.72%
S&P 500 Growth	-1.35%	17.15%	25.53%	31.13%	17.06%
S&P 500 Value	0.53%	-10.53%	-2.46%	31.92%	8.80%
S&P MidCap 400 Growth	0.84%	0.32%	5.87%	26.29%	9.16%
S&P MidCap 400 Value	0.38%	-17.90%	-12.32%	26.01%	5.24%
S&P SmallCap 600 Growth	0.67%	-7.43%	-2.52%	21.08%	8.44%
S&P SmallCap 600 Value	1.47%	-20.52%	-15.58%	24.50%	5.07%
MSCI EAFE	0.79%	-4.46%	2.73%	22.01%	5.01%
MSCI World (ex US)	0.94%	-2.96%	4.71%	21.51%	5.89%
MSCI World	0.02%	1.65%	9.41%	27.67%	9.80%
MSCI Emerging Markets	1.58%	1.19%	11.01%	18.42%	8.47%
S&P GSCI	4.69%	-31.88%	-28.55%	17.63%	-7.38%

Source: Bloomberg. Returns are total returns. *5-yr. return is an average annual.* One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 9/18/20. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

S&P Sector Performance						
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2019	5-yr.	
Communication Services	-2.30%	7.33%	14.19%	32.69%	10.02%	
Consumer Discretionary	-2.32%	19.42%	22.93%	27.94%	15.86%	
Consumer Staples	-1.56%	2.67%	7.97%	27.61%	9.13%	
Energy	2.91%	-42.82%	-41.87%	11.81%	-8.36%	
Financials	-0.17%	-18.66%	-11.33%	32.09%	8.18%	
Health Care	0.91%	4.58%	18.36%	20.82%	10.27%	
Industrials	1.52%	-2.10%	1.90%	29.32%	10.84%	
Information Technology	-1.04%	22.95%	39.71%	50.29%	25.69%	
Materials	0.97%	8.53%	15.06%	24.58%	11.76%	
Real Estate	0.10%	-6.51%	-6.51%	29.01%	7.27%	
Utilities	-0.75%	-7.90%	-5.18%	26.40%	10.36%	
Sources Bloomborg, Boturn	Sources Pleambarg Baturne are total returne Fur return is an everage annual					

Source: Bloomberg. Returns are total returns. *5-yr. return is an average annual.* One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 9/18/20. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. On 9/28/18, the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) was reconstituted and the Telecommunications Services sector was renamed

Communication Services. GICS sector information for periods prior to 9/28/18 may not necessarily be comparable to the reconstituted sectors.

Bond Index Performance					
Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2019	5-yr.
U.S. Treasury: Intermediate	-0.07%	5.95%	6.48%	5.22%	2.82%
GNMA 30 Year	-0.25%	3.01%	3.86%	5.86%	2.72%
U.S. Aggregate	-0.09%	6.93%	7.85%	8.72%	4.24%
U.S. Corporate High Yield	0.10%	1.44%	3.80%	14.32%	6.55%
U.S. Corporate Investment Grade	0.10%	7.33%	9.63%	14.54%	6.09%
Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+)	0.10%	3.23%	4.43%	10.26%	5.11%
Global Aggregate	0.54%	6.43%	7.05%	6.84%	4.07%

Source: Bloomberg Barclays. Returns are total returns. *5-yr. return is an average annual*. One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 9/18/20. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Key Rates					
Fed Funds	0.00% - 0.25%	2-yr T-Note	0.14%		
LIBOR (1-month)	0.15%	5-yr T-Note	0.28%		
CPI - Headline	1.30%	10-yr T-Note	0.69%		
CPI - Core	1.70%	30-yr T-Bond	1.45%		
Money Market Accts.	0.42%	30-yr Fixed Mortgage	3.01%		
1-yr CD	0.65%	Prime Rate	3.25%		
3-yr CD	0.67%	Bond Buyer 40	3.57%		
5-yr CD	0.78%				

Sources: Bankrate.com, Federal Reserve Bank NY, & US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Money Market Accts., CDs, and 30-yr Fixed Rate Mortgage Rates as of 9/21/20, LIBOR and Prime Rate as of 9/15/20, all other data as of 9/18/20.

Market Indicators	
TED Spread	13 bps
Investment Grade Spread (A2)	146 bps
ICE BofA US High Yield Constrained Index Spread	517 bps
Source: Bloomberg, As of 9/18/20.	

Weekly Fund Flows						
Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds for the Week Ended 9/9/20						
	Current	Current Week		Previous		
Domestic Equity	-\$13.822	Billion	-\$20.887	Billion		
Foreign Equity	-\$1.545	Billion	-\$12.331	Billion		
Taxable Bond	\$9.036	Billion	\$19.422	Billion		
Municipal Bond	\$1.457	Billion	\$1.719	Billion		
Change in Money Market Fund Assets for the Week Ended 9/16/20						
	Current	Week	Previ	Previous		
Retail	-\$1.35	Billion	\$3.48	Billion		
Institutional	-\$50.54	Billion	-\$29.93	Billion		
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Source: Investment Company Institute.

Factoids for the Week of September 14, 2020

Monday, September 14, 2020

Moody's reported that its global speculative-grade default rate stood at 6.4% in August, the highest it has been in a decade, according to its own release. Moody's puts the historical average default rate at 4.1%. Its baseline scenario sees the default rate peaking at 8.7% in Q1'21. In 2009, the default rate peaked at 13.3%. Moody's has recorded 155 defaults so far this year, well above the 56 defaults at this point a year ago. The U.S. speculative-grade default rate stood at 8.7% in August. Moody's sees it peaking at 11.4% in Q1'21. The default rate on senior loans stood at 4.31% at the close of August, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

Data from Renaissance Capital shows that a total of 113 equity IPOs (market caps above \$50 million) have been priced in the U.S. so far this year (as of 9/15), up 0.9% from the same period a year ago (pre COVID-19), according to its own release. The 113 companies raised a combined \$38.4 billion, up 1.8% from the same period a year ago. Health Care and Technology have accounted for 53% and 18%, respectively, of the IPOs launched this year.

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

The S&P/Experian Consumer Credit Default Composite Index stood at 0.67% in August 2020, down from 0.92% in August 2019 and well below its 1.79% average since inception (7/31/04), according to S&P Dow Jones Indices. The default rate on first mortgages stood at 0.48%, down from 0.69% a year ago. The bank card default rate stood at 3.45%, down from 3.73% a year ago. The auto loans default rate stood at 0.53%, down from 0.98% a year ago.

Thursday, September 17, 2020

S&P 500 Index stock buybacks totaled \$88.66 billion (preliminary) in Q2'20, down 55.4% from the \$198.72 billion executed in Q1'20 and down 46.4% from the \$165.46 billion registered in Q2'19, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices. In Q2'20, Information Technology, Communication Services and HealthCare were the most active sectors accounting for 41.6%, 31.1% and 12.1%, respectively, of all buyback expenditures. S&P 500 Index companies distributed \$119.04 billion in dividend payments in the quarter, down 6.3% from the \$126.98 billion paid out in Q2'19. Significant buyback reductions are expected to continue in Q3'20.

Friday, September 18, 2020

The U.S. Census Bureau reported that approximately 34 million Americans lived in poverty in 2019, down 4.2 million from the prior year, according to 24/7 Wall St. The poverty rate declined from 11.8% in 2018 to 10.5% last year, the lowest percentage since estimates were first published in 1959. In 2019, the weighted average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$26,370.

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