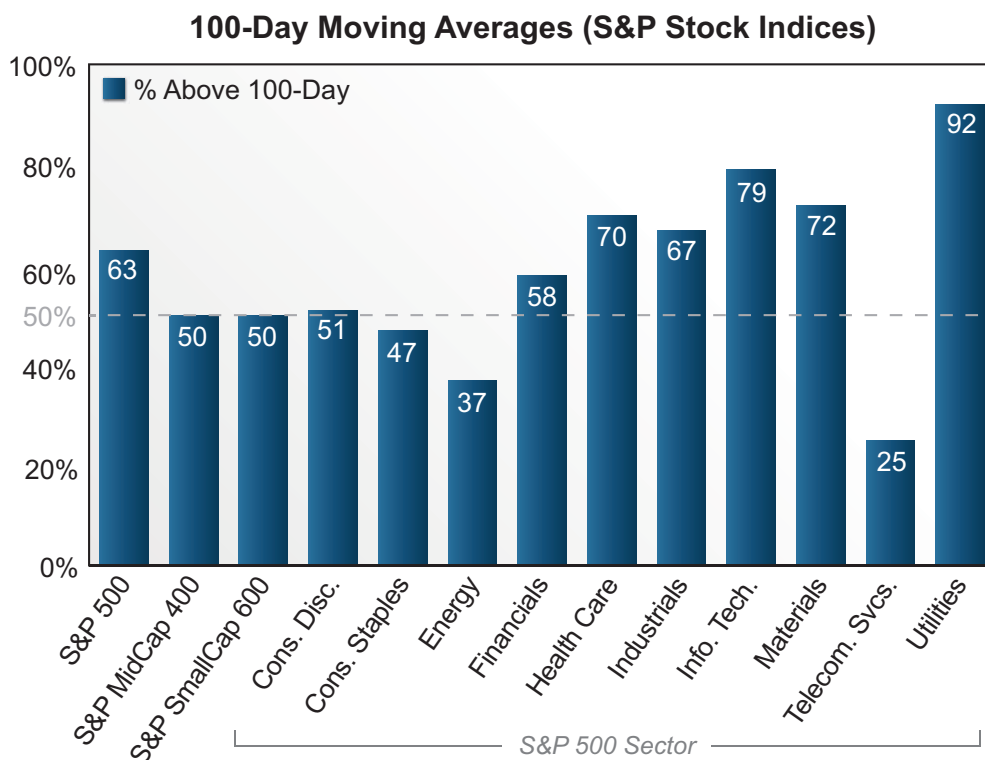


The S&P 500 Index Just Set Another All-Time Closing High



Source: Bloomberg. As of 9/12/17. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

View from the Observation Deck

1. In today's post, we show the percentage of stocks in a number of major Standard & Poor's (S&P) stock indices that are trading above their respective 100-Day moving averages.
2. Moving averages tend to smooth out day-to-day price fluctuations and can be a useful tool for traders/investors to identify both positive trends and reversals, as well as entry or exit points, in our opinion.
3. With many stock indices trading at or near their respective all-time highs, we believe that investors can benefit from a variety of perspectives on the market. Investors can view another we posted on 9/7/17 ([click here to view](#)).
4. The S&P 500 Index stood at its all-time closing high (2,496.48) on 9/12/17, according to Bloomberg. The S&P MidCap 400 Index stood 2.27% below its all-time closing high (1,791.93 on 7/25/17), while the S&P SmallCap 600 Index stood 2.53% below its all-time closing high (876.06 on 7/25/17).
5. As indicated in the chart, five of the 13 indices have 50% or fewer of their constituents trading above their respective 100-Day moving averages. Utilities stands above all at 92%.
6. Even though the S&P 500 Index just set a new all-time high on 9/12/17, its 32nd of the year, there is still plenty of potential value in the market, in our opinion.

This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The illustration excludes the effects of taxes and brokerage commissions and other expenses incurred when investing. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. The S&P 500 Index is a capitalization-weighted index comprised of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance, while the 11 major S&P 500 Sector Indices (Real Estate was added as the 11th major sector in 2016 but data is not available for this chart) are capitalization-weighted and comprised of S&P 500 constituents representing a specific sector. The S&P MidCap 400 Index is a capitalization-weighted index that tracks the mid-range sector of the U.S. stock market. The S&P SmallCap 600 Index is a capitalization-weighted index that tracks U.S. stocks with a small market capitalization.

The information presented is not intended to constitute an investment recommendation for, or advice to, any specific person. By providing this information, First Trust is not undertaking to give advice in any fiduciary capacity within the meaning of ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code. First Trust has no knowledge of and has not been provided any information regarding any investor. Financial advisors must determine whether particular investments are appropriate for their clients. First Trust believes the financial advisor is a fiduciary, is capable of evaluating investment risks independently and is responsible for exercising independent judgment with respect to its retirement plan clients.

