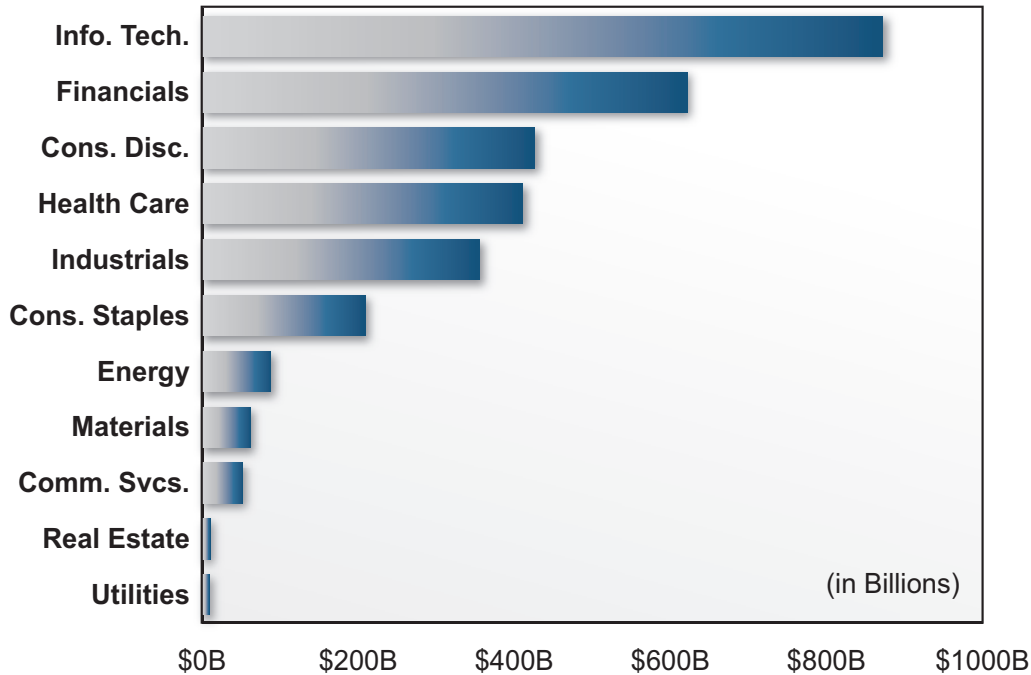


Stock Buybacks by Sector

S&P 500 Index Stock Buybacks by Sector (5-Year Total)



S&P Dow Jones Indices. Data (preliminary) as of 9/30/19.

View from the Observation Deck

1. S&P 500 Index stock buybacks totaled \$175.89 billion (preliminary) in Q3'19, down 13.7% from the \$203.76 billion spent on buybacks in Q3'18, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices.
2. Howard Silverblatt, senior index analyst at S&P Dow Jones Indices, notes that consensus estimates have buybacks at a base level of \$170 billion per quarter moving forward.
3. For the 12-month period ended September 2019, buybacks totaled \$770.14 billion, up 6.9% from the \$720.40 billion repurchased over the same period through September 2018.
4. S&P Dow Jones Indices reported that S&P 500 Index companies spent \$3.114 trillion on buybacks for the five-year period ended 9/30/19.
5. As indicated in the chart, Information Technology was the most active sector with respect to buyback activity over the past five years. Technology companies repurchased stock valued at \$871.6 billion, or 28.0% of total buybacks for the S&P 500 Index. Financials and Consumer Discretionary followed with buybacks totaling \$621.26 billion and \$426.51 billion, respectively.
6. In addition to stock buybacks, S&P 500 companies are also rewarding shareholders through higher dividend distributions (not shown in chart). S&P 500 Index dividend payments totaled an all-time quarterly high of \$123.12 billion in Q3'19, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices.

This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. The 11 major S&P 500 Sector Indices are capitalization-weighted and comprised of S&P 500 constituents representing a specific sector.

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