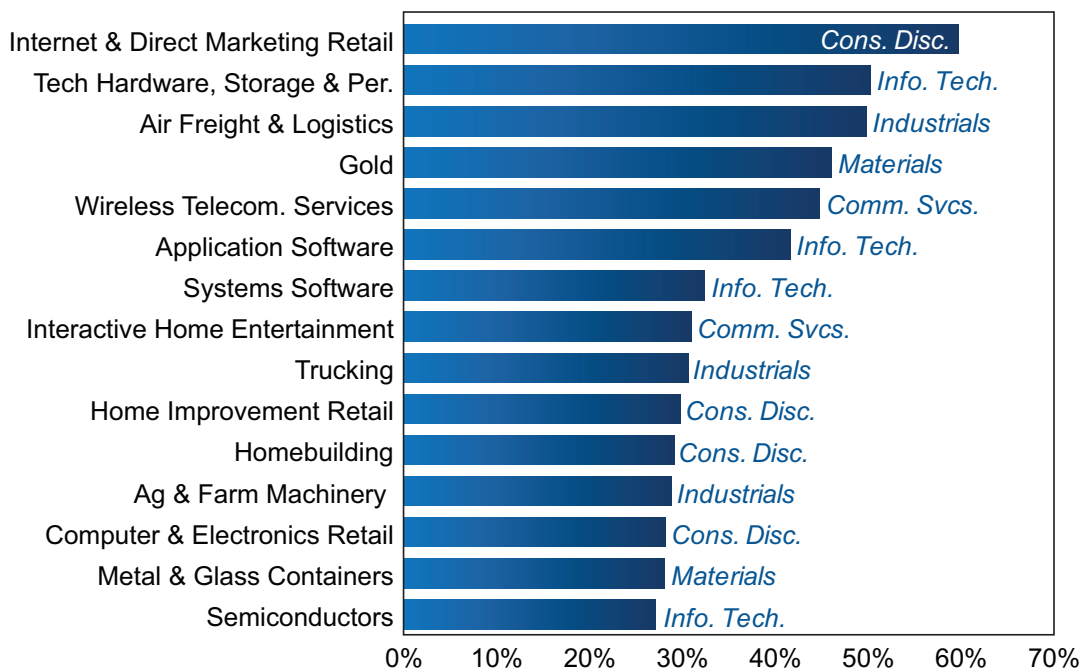


Top-Performing S&P 500 Index Subsectors In 2020

Top 15 S&P 500 Index Subsector Total Returns (12/31/19-9/29/20)



Source: Bloomberg. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

View from the Observation Deck

1. Today's blog post is for those investors who want to drill down below the sector level to see what is performing well in the stock market.
2. The S&P 500 Index is currently comprised of 11 sectors and 124 subsectors, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices.
3. Of the 15 subsectors featured in the chart, four are classified as either Consumer Discretionary or Information Technology.
4. As of 9/30/20, the most heavily weighted sector in the S&P 500 Index was Information Technology at 28.2%, followed by Health Care at 14.2%, Consumer Discretionary at 11.6% and Communication Services at 10.8%, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices.
5. The 15 top-performing subsectors in the chart posted total returns ranging from 27.11% (Semiconductors) to 59.72% (Internet & Direct Marketing Retail).
6. With respect to the 11 sectors, six posted positive total returns for the period captured in the chart.
7. From 12/31/19-9/29/20, the top-performing S&P 500 sector indices were Information Technology, Consumer Discretionary, Communication Services and Materials, up 27.54%, 22.56%, 8.48% and 4.46%, respectively, on a total return basis, according to Bloomberg. The S&P 500 Index posted a total return of 4.70% for the period.
8. There are a growing number of packaged products, such as exchange-traded funds, that feature S&P 500 subsectors.

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 an unmanaged index of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance, while the S&P sector and subsector indices are capitalization-weighted and comprised of S&P 500 constituents representing a specific sector or industry.

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, the Internal Revenue Code or any other regulatory framework. Financial professionals are responsible for evaluating investment risks independently and for exercising independent judgment in determining whether investments are appropriate for their clients.