□First Trust

TALKING POINTS

Data through April 2020

| Open-End Net Fund Flows (\$) | 3/20 | 2/20 | YTD (Mar) |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Equity | -46.19B | -15.96B | -101.40B |
| Taxable Bond | -213.02B | 3.88B | -163.87B |
| Municipal Bond | -42.13B | 8.87B | -21.39B |
| Hybrid | -47.23B | -53.08B | |
| Taxable Money Market | 694.81B | 706.95B | |
| K 1 | 4/20/20 | 12/21/10 | 4/20/10 |
| Key Interest Rates | 4/30/20 | 12/31/19 | 4/30/19 |
| Federal Funds Target Rate | 0.25% | 1.75% | 2.50% |
| ICE LIBOR (3-Month) | 0.56% | 1.91% | 2.58% |
| 2-Year T-Note | 0.20% | 1.57% | 2.27% |
| 10-Year T-Note | 0.64% | 1.92% | 2.50% |
| Bond Buyer 40 | 3.93% | 3.63% | 3.82% |
| C | 4/20 | VTD | 12 M - |
| Commodities/U.S. Dollar | 4/20 | YTD | 12 Mo. |
| U.S. Dollar Index (DXY) | -0.03% | 2.73% | 1.58% |
| TR/CC CRB Commodity Index | -3.77% | -36.92% | -36.39% |
| Crude Oil/WTI (per Barrel) | -8.01% | -69.15% | -70.52% |
| Natural Gas (per million BTUs) | 18.90% | -10.96% | -24.42% |
| Gold Bullion (Ounce) | 7.00% | 11.23% | 31.77% |
| | | | |

| Total Return Performance | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| U.S. Stock Indices | 4/20 | YTD | 12 Mo. | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 | 12.82% | -9.30% | 0.85% | | | | | | |
| DJIA | 11.22% | -14.07% | -6.16% | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ 100 | 15.23% | 3.37% | 16.90% | | | | | | |
| S&P MidCap 400 | 14.18% | -19.73% | -14.96% | | | | | | |
| Russell 2000 | 13.74% | -21.09% | -16.41% | | | | | | |
| Russell 3000 | 13.24% | -10.43% | -1.05% | | | | | | |
| U.S. Styles/Market Caps | 4/20 | YTD | 12 Mo. | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Growth | 14.45% | -2.15% | 7.34% | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Value | 10.71% | -17.35% | -6.67% | | | | | | |
| S&P MidCap 400 Growth | 14.04% | -14.15% | -8.72% | | | | | | |
| S&P MidCap 400 Value | 14.34% | -25.78% | -21.71% | | | | | | |
| Russell 2000 Growth | 14.90% | -14.71% | -9.24% | | | | | | |
| Russell 2000 Value | 12.34% | -27.74% | -23.87% | | | | | | |
| F : C: -(1.00) | | | | | | | | | |
| Foreign Stock Indices (USD) | 4/20 | YTD | 12 Mo. | | | | | | |
| MSCI World NET (Ex-U.S.) | 6.97% | -17.91% | -11.47% | | | | | | |
| MSCI World NET (Ex-U.S.) MSCI Emerging Markets NET | 6.97% 9.16% | -17.91% -16.60% | -11.47% -12.00% | | | | | | |
| MSCI World NET (Ex-U.S.) MSCI Emerging Markets NET MSCI Europe NET | 6.97% 9.16% 5.93% | -17.91% | -11.47% -12.00% -13.58% | | | | | | |
| MSCI World NET (Ex-U.S.) MSCI Emerging Markets NET MSCI Europe NET MSCI BRIC NET | 6.97% 9.16% 5.93% 7.90% | -17.91% -16.60% -19.84% -14.68% | -11.47% -12.00% -13.58% -9.57% | | | | | | |
| MSCI World NET (Ex-U.S.) MSCI Emerging Markets NET MSCI Europe NET MSCI BRIC NET MSCI EM Latin America NET | 6.97% 9.16% 5.93% 7.90% 6.30% | -17.91% -16.60% -19.84% -14.68% -42.19% | -11.47% -12.00% -13.58% -9.57% -37.31% | | | | | | |
| MSCI World NET (Ex-U.S.) MSCI Emerging Markets NET MSCI Europe NET MSCI BRIC NET | 6.97% 9.16% 5.93% 7.90% | -17.91% -16.60% -19.84% -14.68% | -11.47% -12.00% -13.58% -9.57% | | | | | | |
| MSCI World NET (Ex-U.S.) MSCI Emerging Markets NET MSCI Europe NET MSCI BRIC NET MSCI EM Latin America NET | 6.97% 9.16% 5.93% 7.90% 6.30% | -17.91% -16.60% -19.84% -14.68% -42.19% | -11.47% -12.00% -13.58% -9.57% -37.31% | | | | | | |
| MSCI World NET (Ex-U.S.) MSCI Emerging Markets NET MSCI Europe NET MSCI BRIC NET MSCI EM Latin America NET Nikkei 225 | 6.97% 9.16% 5.93% 7.90% 6.30% 7.60% | -17.91% -16.60% -19.84% -14.68% -42.19% -12.23% | -11.47% -12.00% -13.58% -9.57% -37.31% -3.32% | | | | | | |
| MSCI World NET (Ex-U.S.) MSCI Emerging Markets NET MSCI Europe NET MSCI BRIC NET MSCI EM Latin America NET Nikkei 225 Bloomberg Barclays Bond Ind. | 6.97% 9.16% 5.93% 7.90% 6.30% 7.60% | -17.91% -16.60% -19.84% -14.68% -42.19% -12.23% | -11.47% -12.00% -13.58% -9.57% -37.31% -3.32% | | | | | | |
| MSCI World NET (Ex-U.S.) MSCI Emerging Markets NET MSCI Europe NET MSCI BRIC NET MSCI EM Latin America NET Nikkei 225 Bloomberg Barclays Bond Ind. U.S. Treasury: Intermediate | 6.97% 9.16% 5.93% 7.90% 6.30% 7.60% 4/20 0.27% | -17.91% -16.60% -19.84% -14.68% -42.19% -12.23% YTD 5.54% | -11.47% -12.00% -13.58% -9.57% -37.31% -3.32% 12 Mo. 9.27% | | | | | | |
| MSCI World NET (Ex-U.S.) MSCI Emerging Markets NET MSCI Europe NET MSCI BRIC NET MSCI EM Latin America NET Nikkei 225 Bloomberg Barclays Bond Ind. U.S. Treasury: Intermediate GNMA 30 Year | 6.97% 9.16% 5.93% 7.90% 6.30% 7.60% 4/20 0.27% 0.61% | -17.91% -16.60% -19.84% -14.68% -42.19% -12.23% YTD 5.54% 3.67% | -11.47% -12.00% -13.58% -9.57% -37.31% -3.32% 12 Mo. 9.27% 7.60% | | | | | | |
| MSCI World NET (Ex-U.S.) MSCI Emerging Markets NET MSCI Europe NET MSCI BRIC NET MSCI EM Latin America NET Nikkei 225 Bloomberg Barclays Bond Ind. U.S. Treasury: Intermediate GNMA 30 Year Municipal Bond (22+) | 6.97% 9.16% 5.93% 7.90% 6.30% 7.60% 4/20 0.27% 0.61% -2.64% | -17.91% -16.60% -19.84% -14.68% -42.19% -12.23% YTD 5.54% 3.67% -3.80% | -11.47% -12.00% -13.58% -9.57% -37.31% -3.32% 12 Mo. 9.27% 7.60% 1.31% | | | | | | |
| MSCI World NET (Ex-U.S.) MSCI Emerging Markets NET MSCI Europe NET MSCI BRIC NET MSCI EM Latin America NET Nikkei 225 Bloomberg Barclays Bond Ind. U.S. Treasury: Intermediate GNMA 30 Year Municipal Bond (22+) U.S. Aggregate | 6.97% 9.16% 5.93% 7.90% 6.30% 7.60% 4/20 0.27% 0.61% -2.64% 1.78% | -17.91% -16.60% -19.84% -14.68% -42.19% -12.23% YTD 5.54% 3.67% -3.80% 4.98% | -11.47% -12.00% -13.58% -9.57% -37.31% -3.32% 12 Mo. 9.27% 7.60% 1.31% 10.84% | | | | | | |
| MSCI World NET (Ex-U.S.) MSCI Emerging Markets NET MSCI Europe NET MSCI BRIC NET MSCI EM Latin America NET Nikkei 225 Bloomberg Barclays Bond Ind. U.S. Treasury: Intermediate GNMA 30 Year Municipal Bond (22+) U.S. Aggregate Intermediate Corporate | 6.97% 9.16% 5.93% 7.90% 6.30% 7.60% 4/20 0.27% 0.61% -2.64% 1.78% 4.00% | -17.91% -16.60% -19.84% -14.68% -42.19% -12.23% YTD 5.54% 3.67% -3.80% 4.98% 0.73% | -11.47% -12.00% -13.58% -9.57% -37.31% -3.32% 12 Mo. 9.27% 7.60% 1.31% 10.84% 6.35% | | | | | | |

Sources: Bloomberg, Bloomberg Barclays, Investment Company Institute

Climate

As one might expect, opinions seem to vary widely when it comes to forecasting the state of the economy and the fate of the stock market, particularly while still in the midst of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Some pundits, and President Donald J. Trump, are anticipating a V-shaped snapback to the economy, while others are leaning more towards a U- or L-shaped recovery, the latter of which does not portend much of a recovery. With respect to the sharp sell-off in the stock market in Q1'20, which sent the S&P 500 Index into bear market territory (20% decline from its most recent high), some pundits believe that the S&P 500 Index already established its closing low for the period on 3/23/20 at 2,237.40. Others, believe the index needs to retest the bear market low before properly launching the next bull market. Since 1928, there have been 25 bear markets and 60% of the time the S&P 500 Index has retested and established a fresh low, according to MarketWatch.

Stock Market

The S&P 500 Index ("index") closed at 2,912.43 on 4/30/20, 13.99% below its all-time closing high of 3,386.15 on 2/19/20, according to Bloomberg. The index staged a robust rebound, up 30.17%, from its low-point this year at the close on 3/23/20 (2,237.40) through 4/30/20. The S&P 500 Index posted a total return of 12.82% in April. All 11 major sectors that comprise the index were up on a total return basis. The top-performer was Energy, up 29.78%, while the worst showing came from Utilities, up 3.22%. Year-to-date through April, the S&P 500 Index posted a total return of -9.30%. Only one of the 11 major sectors was up on a total return basis. The top-performer was Information Technology, up 0.22%, while the worst showing came from Energy, down 35.70%. While S&P 500 Index earnings have been adjusted much lower for 2020 since the start of the year, 2021 projections are up significantly. As of 12/30/19, Bloomberg's 2020 and 2021 consensus earnings estimates for the S&P 500 Index stood at 9.02% and 10.72%, respectively. As of 5/1/20, those same two estimates were -20.1% and 24.9%, respectively. A Bloomberg survey of 18 equity strategists found that their average 2020 year-end price target for the S&P 500 Index was 2,935 as of 4/15/20, according to its own release. The highest estimate was 3,500 while the lowest estimate was 2,500. Data from S&P Global Market Intelligence indicates that 81 U.S. companies and public investment funds, such as real-estate investment trusts, have suspended or canceled their dividends in 2020, the highest number since 2001, according to Bloomberg. Over the previous 10 years, a total of 55 companies eliminated their dividends. In addition to the 81 suspended or canceled dividends, 135 companies have cut their dividend payouts in 2020. At the current pace, dividend reductions could easily surpass the 316 cuts made in 2009. Last year set a record for dividend payouts at \$491 billion. Bank of America sees dividend payouts declining by around 10% in 2020.

Bond Market

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note (T-note) closed trading on 4/30/20 at 0.64%, down three basis points (bps) from its 0.67% close on 3/31/20, according to Bloomberg. The yield stood 167 bps below its 2.31% average for the 10-year period ended 4/30/20. Perhaps the biggest news in the bond market pertained to the credit markets. Moody's reported that its global speculative-grade default rate stood at 3.5% in March, according to its own release. Moody's puts the historical average default rate at 4.1% since 1983. It sees the default rate rising to 11.3% by the end of March 2021. Its baseline default forecast assumes a sharp downturn in the global economy in the first half of 2020, followed by a recovery later this year and into 2021. Its most pessimistic scenario (deeper economic disruptions stemming from the coronavirus lingering into 2021) has the default rate reaching 16.3% by March 2021. Moody's noted that the largest number of downgrades in March occurred in the Hotel, Gaming & Leisure and Oil & Gas industries. Goldman Sachs believes that investment-grade corporate debt issuance could hit a record \$1.5 trillion in 2020, according to CNBC.

Takeaway

Investors are craving evidence that the U.S. is making progress against COVID-19, in our opinion. As of 5/1/20, 23 states have a partial reopening underway, according to NBC News. These states are likely to provide us with some valuable feedback in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, many investors have decided to tamp down their risk exposure. Year-to-date through 4/29/20, total U.S. money market fund assets surged by \$1.102 trillion, from \$3.631 trillion to \$4.733 trillion, according to the Investment Company Institute.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Historical performance figures for the indices are for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. Indices are unmanaged and an investor cannot invest directly in an index.



High/Low Snapshot

Data as of 4/30/20

| Index | 10-Yr. High Value | Date | 10-Yr. Low Value | Date | Month-End Value | % Off High Value | YTD Return (USD) | Month-End Yield |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| S&P 500 | 3386.15 | 2/19/2020 | 1022.58 | 7/2/2010 | 2912.43 | -13.99% | -9.30% | 2.08% |
| S&P 500 Growth | 2120.38 | 2/19/2020 | 528.55 | 7/2/2010 | 1903.30 | -10.24% | -2.15% | 1.30% |
| S&P 500 Value | 1301.02 | 1/17/2020 | 486.55 | 7/2/2010 | 1053.14 | -19.05% | -17.35% | 3.12% |
| S&P MidCap 400 | 2106.12 | 2/20/2020 | 700.16 | 7/6/2010 | 1646.36 | -21.83% | -19.73% | 2.15% |
| S&P MidCap 400 Growth | 1004.45 | 2/20/2020 | 306.64 | 7/6/2010 | 826.24 | -17.74% | -14.15% | 1.25% |
| S&P MidCap 400 Value | 692.20 | 1/16/2020 | 251.27 | 7/6/2010 | 503.23 | -27.30% | -25.78% | 3.27% |
| S&P 100 | 1518.94 | 2/19/2020 | 463.84 | 7/2/2010 | 1338.02 | -11.91% | -6.62% | 2.05% |
| DJIA | 29551.42 | 2/12/2020 | 9686.48 | 7/2/2010 | 24345.72 | -17.62% | -14.07% | 2.66% |
| NASDAQ 100 | 9718.73 | 2/19/2020 | 1728.34 | 7/2/2010 | 9000.51 | -7.39% | 3.37% | 0.96% |
| Russell 2000 | 1740.75 | 8/31/2018 | 590.03 | 7/6/2010 | 1310.66 | -24.71% | -21.09% | 1.81% |
| Russell 2000 Growth | 1142.13 | 2/19/2020 | 324.00 | 7/6/2010 | 925.28 | -18.99% | -14.71% | 0.85% |
| Russell 2000 Value | 2049.42 | 8/22/2018 | 804.33 | 10/3/2011 | 1382.58 | -32.54% | -27.74% | 3.00% |
| Russell 3000 | 1984.26 | 2/19/2020 | 602.36 | 7/2/2010 | 1684.96 | -15.08% | -10.43% | 2.03% |
| MSCI World Net (ex U.S.) (USD) | 6499.50 | 1/17/2020 | 3249.15 | 5/25/2010 | 5274.27 | -18.85% | -17.91% | 3.68% |
| MSCI Emerging Markets Net (USD) | 573.23 | 1/26/2018 | 296.25 | 1/21/2016 | 439.97 | -23.25% | -16.60% | 3.01% |
| Ibovespa/Brazil (USD) | 43619.40 | 4/8/2011 | 9077.09 | 1/21/2016 | 14835.15 | -65.99% | -48.30% | 4.39% |
| RTS/Russia (USD) | 2123.56 | 4/8/2011 | 628.41 | 1/20/2016 | 1125.03 | -47.02% | -27.14% | 7.66% |
| S&P BSE 500/India (USD) | 245.12 | 1/24/2018 | 95.89 | 9/3/2013 | 169.12 | -31.01% | -22.73% | 1.67% |
| Shanghai Composite/China (USD) | 832.07 | 6/12/2015 | 314.68 | 12/3/2012 | 404.92 | -51.34% | -7.55% | 2.32% |
| KOSPI/South Korea (USD) | 2.42 | 1/29/2018 | 1.16 | 3/19/2020 | 1.61 | -33.74% | -15.25% | 2.37% |
| Hang Seng (USD) | 4241.01 | 1/26/2018 | 2087.46 | 10/4/2011 | 3179.61 | -25.03% | -11.96% | 3.78% |
| MSCI Euro (USD) | 1544.35 | 1/26/2018 | 814.62 | 6/1/2012 | 1071.20 | -30.64% | -22.84% | 4.10% |
| S&P 500 Consumer Discretionary | 1048.28 | 2/19/2020 | 228.84 | 7/6/2010 | 955.81 | -8.82% | -2.71% | 1.25% |
| S&P 500 Consumer Staples | 665.35 | 2/14/2020 | 262.40 | 7/2/2010 | 597.56 | -10.19% | -6.76% | 2.95% |
| S&P 500 Energy | 737.09 | 6/23/2014 | 179.94 | 3/18/2020 | 289.65 | -60.70% | -35.70% | 6.15% |
| S&P 500 Utilities | 359.13 | 2/18/2020 | 141.65 | 6/1/2010 | 290.71 | -19.05% | -10.72% | 3.51% |
| S&P 500 Financials | 516.21 | 1/2/2020 | 151.85 | 10/3/2011 | 378.34 | -26.71% | -25.43% | 2.79% |
| S&P 500 Banks | 383.30 | 1/2/2020 | 105.73 | 8/22/2011 | 245.75 | -35.89% | -34.56% | 4.11% |
| FTSE NAREIT All Equity REITs | 835.20 | 2/14/2020 | 342.95 | 7/6/2010 | 641.84 | -23.15% | -16.68% | 4.36% |
| S&P 500 Health Care | 1219.65 | 1/22/2020 | 324.13 | 7/1/2010 | 1162.03 | -4.72% | -1.63% | 1.73% |
| S&P 500 Pharmaceuticals | 768.14 | 1/21/2020 | 268.30 | 6/4/2010 | 737.32 | -4.01% | -0.46% | 2.60% |
| NYSE Arca Biotechnology | 5400.34 | 9/27/2018 | 995.18 | 7/6/2010 | 5167.98 | -4.30% | 2.06% | 0.27% |
| S&P 500 Information Technology | 1801.61 | 2/19/2020 | 328.07 | 7/2/2010 | 1608.60 | -10.71% | 0.22% | 1.39% |
| Philadelphia Semiconductor | 1979.50 | 2/19/2020 | 307.49 | 8/31/2010 | 1731.24 | -12.54% | -5.95% | 1.80% |
| S&P 500 Telecom Services | 192.97 | 2/19/2020 | 100.96 | 5/26/2010 | 170.66 | -11.56% | -5.47% | 1.35% |
| S&P 500 Industrials | 718.21 | 2/12/2020 | 234.50 | 7/2/2010 | 542.35 | -24.49% | -20.68% | 2.53% |
| S&P 500 Materials | 401.59 | 1/26/2018 | 170.73 | 7/2/2010 | 326.55 | -18.69% | -14.83% | 2.41% |
| Philadelphia Gold & Silver | 228.95 | 4/8/2011 | 38.84 | 1/19/2016 | 113.68 | -50.35% | 6.63% | 0.67% |
| TR/CC CRB Commodity | 370.56 | 4/29/2011 | 106.29 | 4/21/2020 | 117.20 | -68.37% | -36.92% | N/A |
| ICE BofA Perpetual Preferred | 293.45 | 2/17/2020 | 132.55 | 5/6/2010 | 279.56 | -4.73% | -2.91% | 5.00% |
| ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Constrained | 472.87 | 2/20/2020 | 232.16 | 5/25/2010 | 421.11 | -10.95% | -9.83% | 8.21% |

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