

# WEEKLY MARKET COMMENTARY

For the Week of June 23, 2014

## THE MARKETS

U.S. stocks rose again on Friday, driving the Dow and S&P 500 to close at record highs after a week of strong gains. Investors focused on the Federal Reserve's comments to keep interest rates low for a long period of time instead of geopolitical concerns in Iraq. For the week, the Dow rose 1.03 percent to close at 16,947.08. The S&P gained 1.40 percent to finish at 1,962.87 and the NASDAQ climbed 1.33 percent to end the week at 4,368.04.

Returns Through 06/20/14	1 Week	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Dow Jones Industrials (TR)	1.03	3.41	17.58	14.89	17.75
NASDAQ Composite (PR)	1.33	4.58	29.82	18.43	19.04
S&P 500 (TR)	1.40	7.24	26.20	17.91	18.82
Barclays US Agg Bond (TR)	0.04	3.38	3.69	3.30	4.97
MSCI EAFE (TR)	0.86	5.34	24.46	9.80	11.92

Source: Morningstar.com. \*Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Indexes are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly. Three- and five-year returns are annualized. The Dow Jones Industrials, MSCI EAFE, Barclays US Agg Bond and S&P, excluding "1 Week" returns, are based on total return, which is a reflection of return to an investor by reinvesting dividends after the deduction of withholding tax. The NASDAQ is based on price return, which is the capital appreciation of the portfolio, excluding income generated by the assets in the portfolio in the form of interest and dividends. (TR) indicates total return. (PR) indicates price return. MSCI EAFE returns stated in U.S. dollars.

**Party Like It Is 1999** — The number of births in the U.S. in 2013 is relatively unchanged from the number of births in 1999. There were 3,957,577 births in 2013, and there were 3,959,417 births in 1999 (source: National Center for Health Statistics, BTN Research).

**Disabled** — The number of Americans receiving disability benefits from Social Security has increased from 4.88 million as of Dec. 31, 1999, to 8.94 million as of Dec. 31, 2013, an increase of 83% (source: Social Security, BTN Research).

**Don't Count On It** — More than 14 million Americans applied for disability benefits from Social Security over the past five years (2009-2013), and only 4.9 million Americans were awarded disability benefits from Social Security over the same period. Recognizing that some of the 4.9 million that were awarded benefits applied for those benefits prior to Jan. 1, 2009, the "allowance rate" for receiving disability benefits is roughly 35% (source: Social Security, BTN Research).

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Page 2 of 2

## WEEKLY FOCUS – Stop Sweating The Small Stuff

In 2012, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich did something that you wouldn't have expected from someone worth approximately \$6.7 million (according to public financial disclosure forms from 2011). He bounced a check.

That goes to show that no matter how much money you make, it's the little things – in this case, a delay in processing the check and forgetting it was still out there when the account was closed – that can trip you up. And while they may come out all right in the wash (we're guessing Gingrich's bank waived his insufficient funds charge after learning of his error), they can cost you time and extra fees and charges. In some instances, they can even damage your credit rating.

It helps to have a system that puts all your financial information at your fingertips. That used to mean organizing your printed financial statements. Today it means going high tech with account aggregation, which uses sophisticated software called "screen scraping" to gather data from accounts you can access on the Internet. Your information is password protected and appears in an easy-to-use graphic interface. Plus, you have just one password to remember!

Not all aggregation sites offer the same amenities. We can help you determine what you need and which accounts to include that will give you the best overall picture of your day-to-day finances. You may be able to set payment or low-balance reminders and make online payments – helping you eliminate the hassle, cost and embarrassment of late payments or bounced checks.

Some sites even offer digital document storage, providing a paperless depository for wills, insurance policies, powers of attorney, contracts and other important documents. Having such information easily accessible can be a relief for your family in case of an emergency.

Using account aggregation can give your trusted advisors – including us – a more complete picture of your personal situation. That in turn better enables us to make recommendations best suited to you and to suggest adjustments as your big picture changes. So simplify your life – ask us about account aggregation.



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\* The Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500) is an unmanaged group of securities considered to be representative of the stock market in general. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is a price-weighted index of 30 actively traded blue-chip stocks. NASDAQ Composite Index is an unmanaged, market-weighted index of all over-the-counter common stocks traded on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System. The Morgan Stanley Capital International Europe, Australia and Far East Index (MSCI EAFE Index) is a widely recognized benchmark of non-U.S. stock markets. It is an unmanaged index composed of a sample of companies representative of the market structure of 20 European and Pacific Basin countries and includes reinvestment of all dividends. Barclays Capital Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged index comprised of U.S. investment-grade, fixed-rate bond market securities, including government, government agency, corporate and mortgage-backed securities between one and 10 years. Written by Securities America. SAI#952837