

WEEKLY MARKET COMMENTARY

For the Week of Sept. 9, 2013

THE MARKETS

Following the Labor Day holiday on Monday, the Dow advanced, ending a four-week streak of declines. U.S. stocks closed relatively flat on Friday after labor market data removed some uncertainty about the Federal Reserve policy, but concerns remained about possible military action against Syria. For the week, the Dow rose 0.80 percent to close at 14,922.50. The S&P gained 1.40 percent to finish at 1,655.17 and the NASDAQ climbed 1.95 percent to end the week at 3,660.01.

Returns Through 09/06/13	1 Week	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Dow Jones Industrials (TR)	0.80	15.95	15.26	15.66	8.89
NASDAQ Composite (PR)	1.95	21.21	16.72	17.89	10.16
S&P 500 (TR)	1.40	17.78	18.18	16.93	8.30
Barclays US Agg Bond (TR)	-0.86	-3.65	-2.98	2.50	4.62
MSCI EAFE (TR)	2.81	11.19	20.92	8.50	3.87

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.

I've Got It Covered – Forty-four percent of more than 1,500 Americans surveyed this year believe they have planned and saved sufficient assets to allow them to live their desired lifestyle until age 85. Thirty-five percent believe they have prepared adequately to maintain their desired lifestyle until age 95 (source: Northwestern Mutual's 2013 Planning & Progress Study, BTN Research).

Every Day – An estimated 9,200 Americans will turn 65 years old each day this year (2013). An estimated 11,400 Americans will turn 65 years old each day by the year 2029 (source: Government Accountability Office, BTN Research).

Two Out Of Three – The month of August produced a loss of 2.9 percent for the S&P 500 (total return), only its second "down" month this year (out of eight months YTD). Over the past 250 months (through Aug. 31, 2013), the split is 65 percent "up" and 35 percent "down" for the S&P 500 (source: BTN Research).

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WEEKLY FOCUS – Life Happens; Be Prepared

September is Life Insurance Awareness Month, a campaign coordinated by the nonprofit LIFE Foundation in response to growing concern about the number of Americans who lack adequate life insurance protection. According to LIFE, approximately 70 million adult Americans have no life insurance, and most of those who do, have far less coverage than most financial experts recommend.

So what is the right amount of life insurance? As with many personal finance numbers, that depends on your circumstances, your stage in life and your future plans. Certainly at its most basic, life insurance is intended to offset the financial impact your death may have on the lives of your dependents. That impact may be simply the costs of your final expenses, such as funeral costs, medical bills, taxes, debts and professional fees for attorneys or accountants. Or the impact may be more significant, as in the case of a stay-at-home parent and his or her children, who depend solely on a spouse's income for all of their day-to-day needs.

Life insurance can factor into more complex financial needs, such as leaving a legacy to your children or favorite charities. It can be important for a small business owner, providing the funds for the heirs to purchase the business or replace the business income if they must close or sell it. If you have a large estate, life insurance can provide funds to pay for estate taxes that would otherwise limit your legacy.

Over your lifetime, your life insurance needs will change. At certain times you may need to increase or decrease your life insurance coverage. While on its surface life insurance may seem to be a one-time decision – you buy it, have the premium deducted from your bank account and never think about it again – it can be a dynamic part of your financial picture.

If you or a loved one needs help in evaluating your life insurance needs, including whether your current coverage is appropriate, please contact our office. We will gladly work with your existing insurance agent, handle your insurance needs at our office or recommend an agent to work with you.

This commentary brought to you by:



Davidson Financial Services

Anthony A Davidson, Investment Advisor Representative can be reached at:

1795 Alysheba Way Suite 3101 Lexington, KY 40509

859-245-5880 fax: 859-245-7007

anthony@wealthhappens.net www.wealthhappens.net

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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#XXXXXX