

# WEEKLY MARKET COMMENTARY

For the Week of June 2, 2014

## THE MARKETS

The Dow and the S&P 500 both closed at record highs on Friday. All three major indexes gained in the month a May, with the Dow and the S&P 500 marking their fourth straight month of gains and the NASDAQ scoring its first monthly increase in three. For the week, the Dow rose 0.73 percent to close at 16,717.17. The S&P gained 1.24 percent to finish at 1,923.57 and the NASDAQ climbed 1.36 percent to end the week at 4,242.62.

Returns Through 05/30/14	1 Week	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Dow Jones Industrials (TR)	0.73	1.92	13.27	12.87	17.56
NASDAQ Composite (PR)	1.36	1.58	22.76	14.38	19.05
S&P 500 (TR)	1.24	4.97	20.45	15.15	18.40
Barclays US Agg Bond (TR)	0.37	3.87	2.71	3.55	4.96
MSCI EAFE (TR)	0.97	3.78	18.04	7.30	11.43

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.

**The Oldest Index** – The Dow Jones Industrial Average turned 118 years old on Monday, May 26, 2014. Only 12 stocks were used in the index's original calculation on May 26, 1896, and only one stock in that group remains in the index today. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is a popular indicator of the stock market based on the average closing prices of 30 active U.S. stocks representative of the overall economy (source: Dow Jones, BTN Research).

**Since Then** – The last recession in the U.S. was 18 months in length and ended on June 30, 2009, or 59 months ago. The unemployment rate in the nation was 9.5 percent on June 30, 2009, and was 6.3 percent on April 30, 2014 (source: Department of Labor, BTN Research).

**The Wrong Direction** – There were 16 American workers for every one Social Security retiree receiving benefits in 1950. It is estimated that there will be just over two American workers for every one Social Security retiree receiving benefits in 2035 (source: Social Security Trustees 2013 Report, BTN Research).

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Page 2 of 2

## WEEKLY FOCUS – Who Needs Your Social Security Number?

Because Social Security numbers (SSN) are unique to each individual, many businesses have made them the method of choice for establishing identity on customer accounts. That's why having your SSN makes it so easy for an identity thief to set up bogus accounts in your name – and why you should push back on businesses who demand it from you.

Who really needs your SSN? Your employer and your bank or financial service company may require it to comply with federal law, and if you use Medicare or Medicaid, your doctor's office will need your SSN to file claims for those charges. Beyond that, few others actually need your SSN. What they do need is some form of identification. A driver's license, state-issued identification or passport is usually preferred, and some companies will ask for a second piece of ID to confirm your license. This can often take the form of a birth certificate, credit card bill, bank statement, pay stub or company security badge. Just make sure none of those documents contain your SSN.

Be prepared to offer these forms of identification when you decline to give your SSN. You may be told that you cannot conduct business with the company without divulging your SSN. Ask for a supervisor – and keep asking, on up the chain of command until you find someone who understands the importance of guarding your SSN and agrees to accept other forms of identification. If that doesn't work, consider paying cash rather than establishing credit or a billing account – or find another company to do business with.

On average, victims of identity theft spend 60 hours and \$1,180 cleaning up the damage, according to the Federal Trade Commission. Take the first step in protecting yourself by giving your SSN only to those who truly – by law – need that information. For more information on how to use and protect your SSN or when a requirement to provide your SSN is legitimate, visit <https://www.privacyrights.org/my-social-security-number-how-secure-it>. If you have questions about protecting your identity, please feel free to contact our office at any time.



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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#937699