

WEEKLY MARKET COMMENTARY

For the Week of September 21, 2015

THE MARKETS

Trading was heavy on Wall Street Friday, and stocks closed lower following the Federal Reserve's decision to hold interest rates near zero. The Fed's decision fueled concerns about continuing weak global growth and a potentially deflationary environment. For the week, the Dow fell 0.29 percent to close at 16,384.79. The S&P lost 0.13 percent to finish at 1,958.03 and the NASDAQ rose 0.10 percent to end the week at 4,827.23.

Returns Through 09/18/15	1 Week	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Dow Jones Industrials (TR)	-0.29	-6.38	-2.77	9.15	11.89
NASDAQ Composite (PR)	0.10	1.93	5.09	14.95	15.83
S&P 500 (TR)	-0.13	-3.46	-0.62	12.66	14.10
Barclays US Agg Bond (TR)	0.35	1.01	3.30	1.87	3.23
MSCI EAFE (TR)	0.55	-1.44	-7.67	6.15	5.37

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.

One Measurement — The price-earnings (PE) ratio of the S&P 500 as of the close of trading on Friday, Sept. 11, 2015, was 19.8. The historical PE ratio for the index is 15.6. This PE ratio calculation is based upon trailing 12-month "as reported" earnings per share for the S&P 500 companies (source: S&P, BTN Research).

Market Cap Numbers — The average market capitalization of individual stocks within the S&P 500 index was \$37 billion as of Aug. 31, 2015. The largest capitalized stock was worth \$650 billion, and the smallest capitalized stock was worth just \$2.4 billion (source: BTN Research).

Keeping Pace — The average hourly wage of a worker in the private sector (i.e., non-government job) as of July 31, 2015 was \$25.01. The average hourly wage of a worker in the private sector as of July 31, 2007 was \$21.00, i.e., before the 2008 recession began. The \$4.01 pay increase over eight years equates to a 2.2 percent annual increase in wages. Inflation in the United States (using the "consumer price index" or CPI) increased 1.7 percent per year over the same eight-year period (source: Department of Labor, BTN Research).

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WEEKLY FOCUS – Protecting Your Smart Phone

Smart phones have brought newfound convenience to busy lives but not without some added hazards. Although not as susceptible to viruses as computers, they are vulnerable to being hacked – jeopardizing your privacy and exposing your financial information to cyber thieves.

There are multiple warning signs that may indicate your phone has been infiltrated: a battery draining much faster than normal, unusual charges on your bill, apps opening themselves, the phone lighting up when you're not using it, clicking sounds or white noise during a conversation, and the phone and battery feeling abnormally hot.

Anti-virus software is available, but most malware on phones today is unknowingly downloaded by owners. So read the permissions statement every time you install a new app and never provide any personal information when you do. Further minimize risks by only using apps from the official Google, Apple and Microsoft stores. While malware slips through the cracks of all app stores, their safeguards are better than most.

One of the easiest ways to hack your phone is through a Bluetooth device, so disable your device's "discoverable" mode and turn it off when you are not using your Bluetooth, or when you are entering or speaking sensitive information.

Ultimately, you need to balance convenience with security. Take the time to lock your screen with a complex password/pin and change it regularly; make sure your voicemail is password protected, pick a good email password and don't store passwords in your phone. Turn the auto complete feature off, so critical personal data isn't stored on sites (re-enter it each time you visit). Encrypting your phone will slow it down some but can provide added protection. Other good steps to take: access the Internet only from a secure Wi-fi, keep your operating system updated, regularly delete your browsing history and cookies, and utilize some type of anti-theft capabilities in the event your phone is lost or stolen, such as a tracker app to locate it or the ability to lock the phone remotely.

Your financial security matters to us, and that includes protecting your personal identity. We're always happy to help you address any concerns you may have.



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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#1306286.1