



WEEKLY MARKET COMMENTARY

For the Week of July 28, 2014

The Markets

Stocks fell on Friday after the release of disappointing U.S. corporate earnings, including Amazon.com. Tensions between Russia and the West also continued to impact stocks as confidence in Germany declined. For the week, the Dow fell 0.82 percent to close at 16,960.57. The S&P gained 0.01 percent to finish at 1,978.34 and the NASDAQ climbed 0.39 percent to end the week at 4,449.56.

Returns Through 07/25/14	1 Week	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Dow Jones Industrials (TR)	-0.82	3.62	11.61	13.32	16.28
NASDAQ Composite (PR)	0.39	6.54	23.42	16.11	17.75
S&P 500 (TR)	0.01	8.24	19.50	16.45	17.56
Barclays US Agg Bond (TR)	0.09	4.03	4.48	3.44	4.73
MSCI EAFE (TR)	0.43	4.17	15.41	7.92	10.30

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.

Just in Case — One in four Baby Boomers (26 percent) has established a financial plan to fall back on in the event they are forced to retire prematurely due to circumstances beyond their control, including getting fired or because of the loss of a job due to a disability or serious health complications (source: Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies, BTN Research).

May I Have a Mulligan? — Of the more than 1,000 U.S. seniors surveyed in March 2014 (age 60 and over), 45 percent of them indicated that if they could "turn back the clock," they would save more money for their retirement years (source: National Council on Aging, BTN Research).

DC Money — Ninety percent of the money invested today in employer-sponsored retirement plans goes into defined contribution plans as opposed to defined benefit plans (source: Center for Retirement Research, BTN Research).



WEEKLY FOCUS – Estate Planning And Retirement Planning Go Together

When you begin thinking about the legacy choices you want to make with your finances, keep in mind that estate planning and retirement planning should go hand-in-hand. The money you save for retirement needs to include funding to support your lifetime and any legacy choices you make.

After you decide how much money you would like to leave to others – family, businesses, trusts, charities – you need to evaluate if those funds will still be available after your retirement expenses. If you live longer than expected, decisions need to be made on whether you will cut back on spending during retirement or if you will take from the legacy money you have set aside.

Estate planning remains one of the ways you can protect yourself and your loved ones after you're gone. With the proper techniques and planning, you can help ensure that you're remembered for the impact you had on your community and your world. And in the event of an accident or other medical emergencies, you should be prepared with your estate plans in writing and up to date.

An estate plan should be a living document that receives regular attention and adjustment, not a stone tablet carved and forgotten until after your death. Most adults have assets of some kind, and therefore should have at least a will, even if the beneficiary is a parent or sibling. As circumstances change – marriage, children, retirement, senior years – additional planning and documents will be required to minimize tax obligations and to ensure wealth and property are disposed after death as you desire.

If you need help reviewing your retirement and estate plans, or discussing your decisions with your children, please call our office. Although we cannot provide legal or tax advice, we are happy to work with your attorney or accountant.

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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#976499