

Weekly Market Commentary

July 18, 2016

The Markets

“Start your engines,” was not in the Department of Labor (DOL)’s June Employment Report Summary, but it may as well have been. A positive jobs report revved investor optimism and sent U.S. stock markets sprinting higher last week.

Job growth was strong in June with 287,000 new jobs created. That helped soothe worries raised by a less than stellar May jobs report. *The Wall Street Journal* wrote:

“A powerful rebound in hiring last month eased fears about an economic downturn as the U.S. expansion enters its eighth year, putting the nation on solid footing to absorb global shocks and market turbulence.”

Investors appeared to agree the U.S. economic growth would continue apace. The *American Association of Individual Investors (AII)*’s Investor Sentiment Survey reported bullish sentiment – the expectation stock prices will rise over the next six months – increased by 5.8 percentage points last week to 36.9 percent. That’s just the second time since November 2015 bullishness has stayed above 30 percent for two weeks in a row.

Money managers didn’t sit in the stands. The *National Association of Active Investment Managers* reported active managers increased their stock market exposure to 97 percent last week, which is the highest since the group began calculating the measure, according to *Bloomberg*.

Investors’ enthusiasm was fortified by positive earnings reports and helped some markets reach new highs. The Dow Jones Industrial Average finished Friday at a record high, according to *Reuters*, and *Bloomberg* said, “...the S&P 500 Index closed at record highs on four consecutive days, something that hadn’t happened since November 2014.”

The coup in Turkey on Friday threw a wrench into the works. Demand for safe haven assets increased, according to *Bloomberg*. It wouldn’t be a surprise if markets pulled back to assess.

Data as of 7/15/16	1-Week	Y-T-D	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Standard & Poor's 500 (Domestic Stocks)	1.5%	5.8%	2.6%	8.7%	10.4%	5.8%
Dow Jones Globalex-U.S.	3.7	0.4	-9.5	-0.9	-1.0	0.4
10-year Treasury Note (Yield Only)	1.6	NA	2.4	2.7	2.9	5.1
Gold (per ounce)	-2.0	24.9	15.6	1.1	-3.5	7.4
Bloomberg Commodity Index	0.4	10.4	-12.0	-12.3	-12.0	-6.8
DJ Equity All REIT Total Return Index	0.4	15.9	221.4	12.6	12.5	7.7

S&P 500, Dow Jones Global ex-US, Gold, Bloomberg Commodity Index returns exclude reinvested dividends (gold does not pay a dividend) and the three-, five-, and 10-year returns are annualized; the DJ Equity All REIT Total Return Index does include reinvested dividends and the three-, five-, and 10-year returns are annualized; and the 10-year Treasury Note is simply the yield at the close of the day on each of the historical time periods.

Sources: Yahoo! Finance, Barron’s, djindexes.com, London Bullion Market Association.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Indices are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly. N/A means not applicable.

LOOK INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL... Sure, the world has changed during the last decade or two. We've gained about 1.6 billion people. (There are now 7.2 billion of us, globally.) There is an app for almost everything. (Just try to 'catch 'em all!') We even job hunt in cyberspace. (Make sure you customize your communications.)

Here are a few other changes that may be coming our way soon:

- **Saltwater crops.** One-fifth of the world's irrigated farmland has been swamped by seawater, and rising sea levels mean more acreage may be at risk. *Phys.org* reports scientists around the world have been studying how to grow salt-tolerant crops, including potatoes, strawberries, carrots, onions, and lettuce.
- **Custom-engineered bones.** "For the first time, pieces of living bone have been grown from the cells of...miniature pigs – and sculpted to replace...a pig's lower jaw, one of the strongest and most complex jaws in the face," according to *LiveScience.com*.
- **Smart refrigerators.** Someday soon, you may replace your old refrigerator with a smart fridge. The latest models have cameras that connect to your smart phone via Wi-Fi, so you can see what's inside while you're shopping at the grocery store.
- **Food-sharing apps.** Don't have time to cook? Log in to a food-sharing app to "connect with people in the same area who have leftover food to give away, allowing surplus to be shared and not wasted."
- **Dragon silk armor.** Genetically modified silkworms – they now share DNA with spiders – are spinning one of the toughest fibers ever made. If it performs well in ballistic tests, the U.S. Army may soon be wearing silk.

Our parents and grandparents saw the arrival of countless innovations – the telegraph, radio, television, automobiles, space travel, and much more. We're likely to witness some pretty amazing things, too!

Weekly Focus – Think About It

"It is important for all of us to appreciate where we come from and how that history has really shaped us in ways that we might not understand."

--*Sonia Sotomayor, Supreme Court Justice*

Best regards,

FIDES Wealth Strategies Group

P.S. Please feel free to forward this commentary to family, friends, or colleagues. If you would like us to add them to the list, please reply to this e-mail with their e-mail address and we will ask for their permission to be added.

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- * The Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500) is an unmanaged index. Unmanaged index returns do not reflect fees, expenses, or sales charges. Index performance is not indicative of the performance of any investment.
- * The Dow Jones Global ex-U.S. Index covers approximately 95% of the market capitalization of the 45 developed and emerging countries included in the Index.
- * The 10-year Treasury Note represents debt owed by the United States Treasury to the public. Since the U.S. Government is seen as a risk-free borrower, investors use the 10-year Treasury Note as a benchmark for the long-term bond market.
- * Gold represents the afternoon gold price as reported by the London Bullion Market Association. The gold price is set twice daily by the London Gold Fixing Company at 10:30 and 15:00 and is expressed in U.S. dollars per fine troy ounce.
- * The Bloomberg Commodity Index is designed to be a highly liquid and diversified benchmark for the commodity futures market. The Index is composed of futures contracts on 19 physical commodities and was launched on July 14, 1998.
- * The DJ Equity All REIT Total Return Index measures the total return performance of the equity subcategory of the Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) industry as calculated by Dow Jones.
- * Yahoo! Finance is the source for any reference to the performance of an index between two specific periods.
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