Economic & Market Commentary

Last week saw economic estimates being revised downward due to weak auto and retail sales, expiration of Federal pandemic assistance, economic impact of the Delta variant, and inflation concerns. Stocks were slightly to moderately lower for the week while bonds were mostly unchanged. Last Wednesday, the Federal Reserve released The Beige Book report which provides a summary snapshot of economic conditions within the twelve Federal Reserve Bank districts. The report highlighted that the pace of economic growth has slowed and is being constrained by continued supply and demand imbalances, labor shortages, and impact in the spread of the Delta variant. Also noted that inflation persists along with the ability to pass along price increases. The Beige Book cited, "inflation was reported to be steady at an elevated pace, as half of the Districts characterized the pace of price increases as strong, while half described it as moderate. With pervasive resource shortages, input price pressures continued to be widespread." Reports released in the last week or so are consistent with trends identified in the Beige Book. The Bureau of Labor Statistics July Job Openings and Labor Turnover (JOLT) report showed job openings increased to a record 10.9 million. Additionally, weekly initial jobless claims fell to a pandemic low of 310,000. The expiration of Federal pandemic assistance along with persistent declines in weekly jobless claims should translate into continued positive monthly job gains near-term. The Bureau released the August Producer Price Index which reflected headline producer prices in August rose +0.7% and have risen +8.3% over the past year. Core producer prices, less food and energy, rose +0.3% in the month and +6.3% over the past year. The Consumer Price Index for August will be released this coming Tuesday and consensus forecast calls for a monthly increase of +0.4% and one-year increase of +5.3%. August retail sales numbers will be released this Thursday and consensus calls for a -1.0% decline last month.

Index Total Returns - September 10, 2021				U.S. Auto Sales			
	1-Wk	YTD	1-Yr	— U.S. Total Light Vehicle Sales, In Mil			20
S&P 500	-1.68	19.91	35.54	1			
NASDAQ	-1.61	17.82	39.38	18	12 MA 1	Λ .	18
S&P 400	-2.66	17.43	46.52			~~~~~~	۱ ۱۱
Dow Jones	-2.11	14.63	28.14	16		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	16
Russell 2000	-2.80	13.50	49.25				/
MSCI-Developed	-0.31	12.90	28.40	14			14
MSCI-Emerging	-0.47	2.94	22.99				13.06
Barclay's U.S. Bond Inde	x			12			12
High Yield	0.11	4.86	10.75	1			
Municipal	0.00	1.49	3.39	10			10
5-year Muni	0.01	0.74	1.63				10
Int. Gov. Credit	-0.05	-0.38	0.07				
Aggregate	0.02	-0.74	-0.21	8 12 13 14 15	'16 '17	'18 '19	'20 '21 ©FactSet Research Systems
U.S. Treasury Yields				S&P 500 Sector Total Returns - September 10, 2021			
	Latest	Week	1-Year	Sector	1-Wk	YTD	1-Yr
Treasury Yields	Close	Ago	Ago	Real Estate	-3.84	30.34	36.16
U.S. 1-Yr	0.07	0.07	0.15	Energy	-1.70	29.27	54.70
U.S. 2-Yr	0.22	0.20	0.14	Financials	-1.28	28.77	56.48
U.S. 3-Yr	0.45	0.40	0.16	Communication Services	-1.20	28.51	44.18
U.S. 5-Yr	0.81	0.78	0.26	Info Tech	-1.77	20.64	38.68
U.S. 10-Yr	1.33	1.32	0.68	Health Care	-2.68	18.31	30.05
U.S. 30-Yr	1.93	1.94	1.43	Materials	-1.59	16.82	32.93
Municipal Yields - Bloomberg/Barclays Index				Industrials	-2.52	15.86	35.29
	Latest	Week	1-Year	Consumer Discretionary	-0.33	12.75	22.54
Issue Type	Close	Ago	Ago	Utilities	-1.50	10.88	20.47
U.S. AAA	0.83	0.83	0.89	Consumer Staples	-1.24	8.82	16.26
U.S. AA	0.88	0.89	1.09		P/E	P/E NTM	Dividend
U.S. A	1.09	1.10	1.68	Index Characteristics	NTM	10yr-Avg.	Yield
U.S. Baa	1.40	1.39	2.55	S&P 500 - Large Cap	21.04	16.53	1.27
U.S. Municipal	0.97	0.98	1.32	S&P 400 - Mid Cap	16.57	15.98	1.10
Michigan	1.06	1.04	1.33	S&P 600 - Small Cap	15.45	15.67	1.09