

# WEEKLY MARKET COMMENTARY

For the Week of September 11, 2017

## THE MARKETS

Amid concerns over North Korea's actions, impending Hurricane Irma and news of the data breach at Equifax, the S&P 500 and the NASDAQ closed lower, while the Dow edged up. After two weeks of gains, all three major indexes were down for the week. For the week, the Dow fell 0.82 percent to close at 21,797.79 The S&P lost 0.58 percent to finish at 2,461.43, and the NASDAQ dropped 1.17 percent to end the week at 6,360.19.

Returns Through 9/8/17	1 Week	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Dow Jones Industrials (TR)	-0.82	12.29	20.92	11.18	13.18
NASDAQ Composite (PR)	-1.17	18.15	20.93	11.47	15.19
S&P 500 (TR)	-0.58	11.51	15.20	9.42	13.74
Barclays US Agg Bond (TR)	0.46	3.92	1.00	2.90	2.30
MSCI EAFE (TR)	0.83	18.49	15.79	3.36	8.13

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.

**Cut in Half** — The percentage of delinquent home mortgage loans (defined as being at least one monthly payment late but not including loans in the foreclosure process) was 8.44 percent at the end of the second quarter 2011. That number had fallen to 4.24 percent as of the end of the second quarter 2017 (source: MBA, BTN Research).

**Chasing Last Year's Winners** — An equal dollar investment made at the end of the day on Dec. 31, 2016, in the 10 best performing individual stocks within the S&P 500 from calendar year 2016 was up 8.4 percent YTD through Aug. 31, 2017 (source: BTN Research).

**Betting on Last Year's Worst** — An equal dollar investment made at the end of the day on Dec. 31, 2016, in the 10 worst performing individual stocks within the S&P 500 from calendar year 2016 was up 16 percent YTD through Aug. 31, 2017 (source: BTN Research).

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## WEEKLY FOCUS – Equifax Security Breach

Equifax announced last Thursday a cyber breach of its systems potentially affecting about 143 million people. The attack, second in size only to those last year at Yahoo, affects twice as many people as the J.P. Morgan Chase attack nearly three years ago.

The three nationwide credit reporting companies – TransUnion, Experian and Equifax – receive data about you from a wide range of sources, including credit card companies, retailers, lenders and banks. In the Equifax breach, cybercriminals mined the four crucial pieces of consumer information needed to apply for loans and credit cards: names, Social Security numbers, addresses and birth dates. Banks will now have to reissue cards for the 209,000 people whose credit card numbers were also exposed.

Although Equifax hasn't found any evidence of unauthorized activity, the company is offering one year of free credit file monitoring and identify theft protection through TrustedID Premier, even if you haven't been affected. Equifax won't contact everyone who was affected. To see if your information is at risk, go to <https://www.equifaxsecurity2017.com/>, click on the Potential Impact button at the bottom of the page, and enter your last name and last six digits of your Social Security number. Click submit, and you'll receive a message stating whether your information is at risk and how to sign up for the free service.

Monitoring won't begin until Sept. 11 at the earliest, so you won't know right away if your information was in fact compromised. By receiving the free service, you agree to submit any complaints to arbitration; you won't be able to sue, join a class-action suit or benefit from a class-action settlement. You can opt out by notifying Equifax in writing within 30 days of accepting the service.

As a precaution, you may want to place fraud alerts on your credit reports, so lenders must verify your identity before issuing credit in your name. You can also contact one of the three credit agencies and put a long-term freeze on your credit. The credit agency is then required to notify the other two. A freeze can last for 90 days and is renewable.

Call our office today for more ways to secure your online information – and your financial future.

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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, Copyright September 2017. All rights reserved. Securities offered through Securities America, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC. SA#1892834.1