

# The Market Week in Review

For Week Ending September 13, 2014

## Contact Us

- Our Website:  
www.estatecounselors.com
- Our E-mail:  
firm@estatecounselors.com
- Our Phone Number:  
(262) 238-6996
- Our Address:  
414 N. Main Street  
Thiensville, WI 53092

## THE MARKETS

U.S. equities struggled to find direction amid a relatively light week of economic data. Market participants instead turned to global macro issues and an announcement by President Obama that the U.S. will wage a war on the terrorist group, ISIS. Stocks ultimately trended lower to end the week with declines while the yield on the 10 Year Treasury Note moved steadily higher into the week's end. The dollar also moved higher against a basket of other currencies amid a positive outlook for the U.S. economy and the possibility that members of the Federal Reserve might hint at raising interest rates when they meet next week. This in turn pushed Gold lower, as its price is denominated in U.S. dollars.

Index	Started Week	Ended Week	Change	% Change	YTD %
DJIA	17,137.36	16,987.51	-149.85	-0.87%	2.48%
Nasdaq	4,582.90	4,567.60	-15.30	-0.33%	9.36%
S&P 500	2,007.71	1,985.54	-22.17	-1.10%	7.42%
Russell 2000	1,170.13	1,160.61	-9.52	-0.81%	-0.26%

## DAILY DEVELOPMENTS

### MONDAY

The Federal Reserve announced Monday that outstanding consumer credit in the U.S. soared to a seasonally adjusted \$26 billion in July, the biggest one month increase since November 2001, according to the Federal Reserve. The increase greatly surpassed economists' forecast of \$17 billion. Non-revolving debt, which includes student and auto loans, rose by \$20.6 billion. Credit card debt increased \$5.3 billion.

### TUESDAY

According to the Bureau of Labor Statics Job Openings and Labor Turnover survey, released Tuesday, employers hired 4.9 million people in July, which is the highest level since December 2007. There were 4.67 million job openings as of the end of July. The JOLTS report has become a more closely watched economic indicator after Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said it was one of her preferred economic indicators.

### WEDNESDAY

The Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) said on Wednesday that mortgage banking activity dropped to its lowest level since December of 2000. The MBA's composite index slipped 7.2 percent during the holiday compressed week of September 5<sup>th</sup>. Although recent reports have indicated a down-trend in the index, Labor Day may also have played a role in the decline.

### THURSDAY

Initial jobless claims came in at 315,000 and were above expectations of 300,000. The increase caused the 4 week average to rise to 304,000 which is 8,000 higher than one month ago. Continuing claims data, which lags by a week, also rose by 9,000 for the week of August 30<sup>th</sup>. In contrast, the 4 week average for continuing claims is down by 15,000 to a new recovery low of 2.499 million which is 20,000 below the month ago number.

### FRIDAY

The much anticipated retail sales report showed a 0.6 percent increase in the month of August, which was in line with expectations. Excluding automobiles, sales increased 0.3 percent which was also unsurprising. Weakness in the report was headlined by gasoline sales, which declined 0.8 percent as demand fell. The report was closely eyed by many market participants as foresight into 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter GDP, which is expected to be a continuation of second quarter trends.

---

## TIDBITS

A recent report from State Street Bank shows that the average investor has 36% of their funds in cash, up from 26% in 2012.

---

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I know the price of success: dedication, hard work and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen."

- Frank Lloyd Wright

---

I hope you have found the information in this week's market summary helpful. If you would like to comment on any of the information found in this week's Market Commentary please e-mail me at [awillms@estatecounselors.com](mailto:awillms@estatecounselors.com). If you would like to discuss how current market conditions could impact your investments, please feel free to call me at the number listed below.

Best regards,

*Andy*

Andrew J. Willms, J.D. LL.M.

Estate Counselors, LLC  
414 N. Main Street  
Thiensville, WI 53092  
Phone (262) 238-6996  
Fax (262) 238-6999  
[www.estatecounselors.com](http://www.estatecounselors.com)

---

Important Disclosures: The information and statistics in this e-mail have been obtained from sources we believe to be reliable but are not guaranteed by us to be accurate or complete. Any and all earnings, projections, and estimates assume certain conditions and industry developments, which are subject to change. The opinions stated are those of Estate Counselors, LLC, but are not intended to be a substitute for personal investment advice. Services provided by Estate Counselors, LLC do not constitute legal services and are not being provided by Willms, S.C. law firm. Communications between Estate Counselors, LLC and its clients are therefore not covered by the attorney-client privilege, and as a result may be discoverable by third parties. All such communications are, however, covered by Estate Counselors, LLC's privacy policy, a copy of which is available on request. *Please let us know in a reply to this e-mail if you have received this message in error, or would like to discontinue receiving it.* Thank you.

---