

The Market Week in Review

For Week Ending July 25, 2015

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

It was a busy week for corporate earnings reports, and although there were several reports that beat expectations, disappointing revenues from large multinational companies were more than enough to drag the equity markets lower throughout the week. Commodities as a whole continued their downward slide as worries about China's economy loomed and the dollar maintained its strength. Gold plunged to a new five year low and crude oil broke the \$50 mark to close the week at \$48 a barrel. Interest rates eased and the yield on the 10 Year Note fell eight basis points to 2.27 percent after several weeks of floating in the range of 2.30 to 2.49 percent.

Index	Started Week	Ended Week	Change	% Change	YTD %
DJIA	18,086.45	17,568.53	-517.92	-2.86%	-1.43%
Nasdaq	5,210.14	5,088.63	-121.51	-2.33%	7.44%
S&P 500	2,126.64	2,079.65	-46.99	-2.21%	1.01%
Russell 2000	1,267.09	1,225.99	-41.10	-3.24%	1.77%

DAILY DEVELOPMENTS

MONDAY

There were no major economic announcements on Monday.

TUESDAY

There were no major economic announcements on Tuesday.

WEDNESDAY

Sales of previously owned homes in the U.S. rose 3.2% last month according to data released on Wednesday by the National Association of Realtors. The increase amounts to an annualized rate of 5.49 million, which is the highest annual rate since 2007. A tight supply of homes on sale drove prices to a record high. On average homes were on the market for 34 days before they were sold, the shortest period in four years which helped to drive the median sales price of a previously owned home to an all-time record of \$236,400, 6.5% above the year-ago price and above the peak price set in July 2006.

National chain-store sales edged up 0.2% in the first two weeks of July from the comparable period in June, according to Redbook Research's latest indicator, released Tuesday. The index's increase was in line with expectations.

THURSDAY

The Labor Department announced Thursday that the number of Americans seeking jobless benefits for the first time hit its lowest level in 42 years last week. Initial claims dropped by 26,000, to 255,000. The four week rolling average fell by 4,000, to 282,500.

FRIDAY

New home sales plunged 6.8 percent in June. The original estimate for May was revised 40,000 lower, adding to the pain. However, a bright spot in the report came in the way of new home supply, which jumped 3.4 percent pointing to higher future sales. June now marks the lowest annualized rate of new home sales this year.

TIDBITS

The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's national economic activity index increased by 0.08 in June from May's -0.08. Any result above zero indicates the national economy is expanding above its historic trend rate of growth.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Everything you’ve ever wanted is on the other side of fear.”

- George Addair

I hope you have found the information in this week's market summary informative. 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. 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

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.
