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Weekly Market Update, January 14, 2019
Presented by Bruce & Dawn Cramer

General Market News

- After several weeks of rates moving lower across the curve—with the 10-year U.S. Treasury reaching a low of 2.54 percent a little more than a week ago—rates were back up last week. The 10-year opened at 2.68 percent early Monday, while the 30-year opened just above 3 percent and the 2-year opened at 2.52 percent. Some parts of the curve remain inverted and, in some cases, are slightly deeper than in weeks past. Once the inversion process begins, the curve typically becomes fully inverted within months, which has historically indicated oncoming recessions.
- The three major U.S. markets all finished the week higher, as Chinese economic stimulus and stronger-than-expected employment data eased fears of a deceleration in global growth. After extending talks for an additional day, Chinese and U.S. negotiators came away with positive sentiment following their discussions.
- The top-performing sectors were industrials, REITs, consumer discretionary, and technology. These cyclical sectors continued their rebound from December’s sell-off as trade talks and strong employment sparked an uptick in investor confidence.
- Last week saw the release of a handful of important economic updates; however, the ongoing government shutdown has delayed some data releases. On Monday, the Institute for Supply Management Nonmanufacturing index declined to 57.6, down from the previous reading of 60.7.
- On Friday, the Consumer Price Index showed annual consumer inflation of 1.9 percent, which is down from the previous level of 2.2 percent. Inflation at these levels is largely in line with Federal Reserve (Fed) targets.

Equity Index	Week-to-Date	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date	12-Month
S&P 500	2.58%	3.63%	3.63%	-4.34%
Nasdaq Composite	3.45%	5.09%	5.09%	-2.29%
DJIA	2.42%	2.93%	2.93%	-4.02%
MSCI EAFE	2.89%	3.90%	3.90%	-12.64%
MSCI Emerging Markets	3.77%	3.70%	3.70%	-13.96%
Russell 2000	4.84%	7.36%	7.36%	-7.57%

Source: Bloomberg

Fixed Income Index	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date	12-Month
U.S. Broad Market	0.18%	0.18%	0.66%
U.S. Treasury	-0.02%	-0.02%	1.46%
U.S. Mortgages	0.17%	0.17%	1.52%
Municipal Bond	0.32%	0.32%	2.03%

Source: Morningstar Direct

What to look forward to

This week's data starts with prices and whether inflation is picking up. On Tuesday, the producer prices report will be released. The headline index, which includes energy and food, is expected to drop by 0.1 percent for December, down from a 0.1-percent increase in November, on declines in gasoline and commodity prices. The annual change is expected to stay steady at 2.5 percent, on base effects, indicating that longer-term inflation pressures remain elevated above the Fed's target range but may be moderating. The core index, which excludes energy and food, is also expected to show slower growth, at 0.2 percent for December, down from 0.3 percent for November. Here, the annual figure is expected to rise from 2.7 percent to 3 percent, also on base effects. This increase will keep some pressure on the Fed to raise rates.

Also on Tuesday, the retail sales report is due, but it will not be released until the end of the federal government shutdown. If it is released, it is expected to show faster growth, rising from 0.2 percent in November to 0.3 percent in December. Core retail sales, which exclude autos, are expected to be steady, with December growth of 0.2 percent. There may be some downside risk to these numbers, with the fading of the tax cut boost and recent turbulence in the financial markets.

The National Association of Home Builders survey will also be released on Tuesday. It is expected to bounce back slightly, rising from 56 in December to 57 for January, after a large drop over previous months. On Thursday, the housing starts report will be released if the government reopens. It is expected to drop slightly, from 1.256 million to 1.253 million annualized, although the survey results and building permit data suggest the final result might be better than expected. Overall, these figures would suggest the housing slowdown may be moderating if they come in as expected.

On Friday, the industrial production report is expected to pull back from a surprise gain of 0.6 percent for November to a still healthy gain of 0.3 percent for December. There may be some downside risk here, on a weather-related decrease in utility production. Manufacturing is expected to do well, with growth rising from flat in November to growth of 0.3 percent for December. There may be some downside risk here, as surveys have weakened recently.

Finally, the University of Michigan consumer confidence survey, also released on Friday, is expected to show confidence pulling back further from 98.3 for December to 96.4 for January. This would remain a high level, historically, and suggests that consumers are not significantly worried about the recent stock market turbulence or the trade war, given the continued strong labor market and decline in gas prices. This level should continue to support consumer spending and economic growth.

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Stock Market, except for rights, warrants, units, and convertible debentures. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is computed by summing the prices of the stocks of 30 large companies and then dividing that total by an adjusted value, one which has been adjusted over the years to account for the effects of stock splits on the prices of the 30 companies. Dividends are reinvested to reflect the actual performance of the underlying securities. The MSCI EAFE Index is a float-adjusted market capitalization index designed to measure developed market equity performance, excluding the U.S. and Canada. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a market capitalization-weighted index composed of companies representative of the market structure of 26 emerging market countries in Europe, Latin America, and the Pacific Basin. The Russell 2000® Index measures the performance of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000® Index. The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged market value-weighted performance benchmark for investment-grade fixed-rate debt issues, including government, corporate, asset-backed, and mortgage-backed securities with maturities of at least one year. The U.S. Treasury Index is based on the auctions of U.S. Treasury bills, or on the U.S. Treasury's daily yield curve. The Bloomberg Barclays US Mortgage Backed Securities (MBS) Index is an unmanaged market value-weighted index of 15- and 30-year fixed-rate securities backed by mortgage pools of the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA), Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae), and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC), and balloon mortgages with fixed-rate coupons. The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Municipal Index includes investment-grade, tax-exempt, and fixed-rate bonds with long-term maturities (greater than 2 years) selected from issues larger than \$50 million.

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