

For the Week of June 6, 2011

## THE MARKETS

U.S. stocks extended their weekly loss streak to five after a disappointing May job growth report added evidence the economy is stumbling. The U.S. added 54,000 jobs in May, well below the projected 169,000 economist estimated. The unemployment rate increased to 9.1 percent. The Institute for Supply Management's services index rose to 54.6 percent in May from 52.8 percent in April. For the week, the Dow fell 2.33 percent to close at 12,151.26. The S&P lost 2.30 percent to finish at 1,300.16 and the NASDAQ dropped 2.29 percent to end the week at 2,732.78.

Returns Through 6/03/11	1 Week	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Dow Jones Industrials (TR)	-2.33	6.13	21.62	2.27	4.33
NASDAQ Composite (PR)	-2.29	3.01	18.66	3.28	4.25
S&P 500 (TR)	-2.30	4.23	20.25	0.32	2.33
BarCap US Agg Bond (TR)	0.29	3.20	6.19	6.38	6.52
MSCI EAFE (TR)	-0.11	4.68	27.60	-4.41	1.09

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, BarCap 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.

**Don't Give Up** – The number of Americans who have been unemployed for at least 27 weeks is nearly five times larger today compared to four years ago. There were 1.2 million Americans that had been out of work for at least 27 weeks as of April 30, 2007, compared to 5.8 million long-term unemployed Americans as of April 30, 2011 (source: Department of Labor, BTN Research).

**Housing Values** – The average home price in the U.S. dropped by 17.5 percent (in aggregate, not per year) over the five years ending March 31, 2011 (source: Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, BTN Research).

**May Need Help** – The number of "problem" banks in the U.S. was 888 as of March 31, 2011, the largest number reported since the total reached 1,066 in 1992 (source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, BTN Research).

## WEEKLY FOCUS – Tying the Financial Knot

There are approximately 2.5 million weddings every year in the United States, and June is the most popular month, according to TheWeddingReport.com.

With the wedding to-do list wrapped up, couples need to turn to getting their house – especially their financial house – in order. The following checklist can help couples work through the financial red tape of tying the knot to ensure they start their new lives together on the right financial foot.

1. Check the withholding on your paychecks. You may need to adjust one or both.
2. Consider the impact of your combined income on contribution limits for your IRAs.
3. Change the beneficiary on your IRA, 401(k), bank accounts and insurance policies. Putting your spouse's name on the forms helps ensure assets transfer directly rather than going through probate.
4. Make a will. No it's not romantic, but it's necessary.
5. Evaluate life and disability insurance amounts, particularly if you own or will be purchasing a home so mortgage payments can be made if one of you dies or can't work.
6. Compare health care insurance to determine who has the most complete and cost-effective coverage.
7. Consider changing auto insurance to a single underwriter, which may qualify you for a multi-car discount. You may get even greater discounts if the same company underwrites your life, disability, homeowners and/or renters insurance.
8. Request and compare your credit scores. If one is significantly lower, that may impact how you title accounts and property.
9. Keep one credit card in your name only for emergencies. Otherwise, if you or your spouse has additional accounts, consider closing accounts or combining balances to reduce fees.

If someone you know has recently become engaged or married, give a gift that's not on the department store registry – a financial consultation. We'd love to help you or a loved one navigate post-nuptial finances. Call our office to schedule an appointment.

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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. SAI#310916