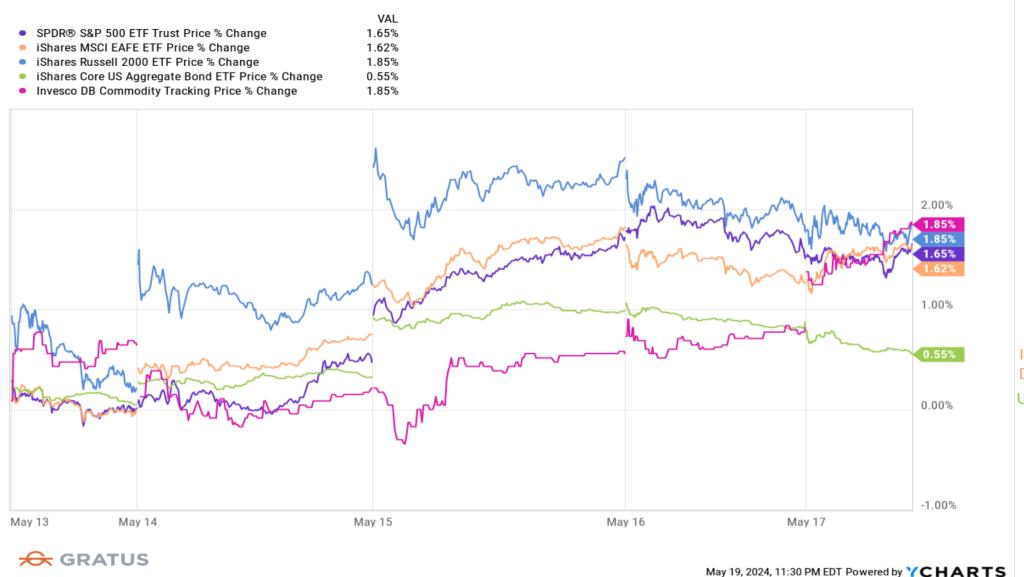




May 20, 2024

Last Week's Performance





Commodities
US Small Company
Stocks

US Large Stocks

International
Developed Mkt Stocks
US Total Mkt Bonds

Chart #1: Inflation Cooling?





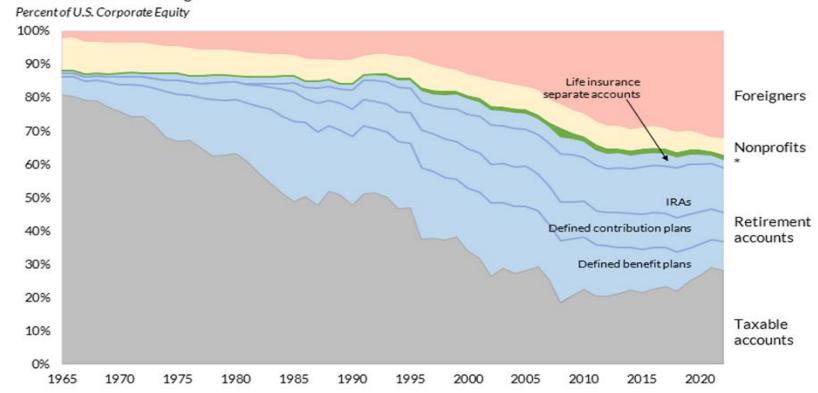
Part of the enthusiasm in the stock market last week was inspired by the "in-line" inflation reports that came out last week relating to both the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as well as the Producer Price Index (PPI). As the chart above shows, there has been a meaningful decline in inflation since peaking in early 2022. However, we remain skeptical that inflation will be able to trend much lower in the intermediate term based on a variety of factors we've outlined previously.

Chart #2: Increasing Foreign Stock Ownership



FIGURE 2

Ownership of U.S. Publicly-Traded Corporate Stock, 1965-2022 Direct and indirect holdings



Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, "Financial Accounts of the United States;" Tax Policy Center Calculations *Federal, state and local government holdings, including equity in 529 accounts

A question we've been hearing from clients is "where is the incremental demand for stocks coming from given where valuations are in the S&P 500"? As the chart suggests, a large portion of incremental demand has been coming from international buyers. This ownership evolution will be important to remember when the next draw down occurs as foreign investors can be very quick to adjust holdings if liquidity is required.



Appendix

Correction / Recession Indicators



| Market Price Indicators | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| Commodities Trend (50 Day Moving Average) ¹ | Advancing | |
| S&P 500 Trend (200 Day Moving Average) ¹ | Above | |
| High Yield Credit Spreads (579 bps ave) ² | 308 | |
| BBB Credit Spreads (172 bps ave) ² | 111 | |
| Yield Curve 10yr – 3M (175 bps ave) ² | -104 | |
| Yield Curve 10yr -2yr ² | -42 | |
| NYSE Advance/Decline Line (month/month) ¹ | Advancing | |

| Economic Indicators | | |
|---|-------|---|
| Continued Unemployment Claims (mln) ² | 1,693 | |
| GDP Nowcast (1.5-2.5% ave) ⁵ | 3.8% | |
| Case-Schiller 20 Mkt HPI (y/y) ⁶ | 7.31% | |
| US ISM Manufacturing (>50= expansion) ² | 49.4 | |
| US ISM Services (>50= expansion) ² | 49.2 | 1 |
| Headline Consumer Price Index (y/y) ² | 3.48% | |
| Leading Economic Index (m/m) ² | -0.3% | |

| Sentiment Indicators | | |
|---|---------|---|
| CNN Fear/Greed Index ³ | Greed | |
| AAII % Bulls Sentiment (39% ave) ⁴ | 40.9% | |
| Volatility Index (13-19 ave) ¹ | 11.9 | 1 |
| CBOE Total Put/Call Ratio (range = 0.9 to 1.1) ¹ | 0.81 | |
| % S&P 500 Above the 200 Day Moving Average (40-60 ave) ¹ | 80.2% | |
| Total Positive | 5 / 19 | |
| Total Negative | 11 / 19 | |

Disclosure



Gratus Capital, LLC (Gratus) is a limited liability company that provides investment advisory services, financial planning and other wealth management services to individuals and businesses. Gratus is an SEC Registered Investment Adviser and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Focus Financial Partners. Registration with the SEC does not imply any level of skill or training. Our Form ADV is available upon request.

The information contained in this summary is for informational purposes only and contains proprietary information that is subject to change without notice. Any opinions expressed are current as of the time made and subject to change without notice.

Gratus Office REIT Index was constructed to provide a proxy for the price performance of publicly traded office REITs. The inception of the index was Feb 24, 2011. Dividends are reinvested. The index is rebalanced quarterly and allocated as follows: 20% BXP, 20% HIW, 20% SLG, 20% VNO, 10% CUZ, and 10% AAT.

Past performance is not indicative of any specific investment or future results. Views regarding the economy, securities markets, or other specialized areas, like all predictors of future events, cannot be guaranteed to be accurate and may result in economic loss to the investor. Any information provided by Gratus regarding historical market performance is for illustrative and educational purposes only. Clients or prospective clients should not assume that their performance will equal or exceed historical market results and/or averages.

Gratus' portfolio recommendations may differ from the date of this publication and implementation in a portfolio. The information provided is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, investment, legal or tax advice. Nothing contained herein should be construed as a recommendation or advice to purchase or sell any security, investment or portfolio allocation. Any investment advice provided by Gratus is client-specific based on each client's risk tolerance and investment objectives.

If you have questions, please contact our team at: clientsupport@gratuscapital.com