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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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OUR VIEWS ON ECONOMIC AND OTHER EVENTS AND THEIR EXPECTED IMPACT ON INVESTMENTS

OCTOBER 25, 2021

OWNER OPERATED COMPANIES

GO TO PORTLAND 15 OF 15 ALTERNATIVE FUND

PORTLAND 15 OF 15 ALTERNATIVE FUND COMPANY NEWS

Danaher Corporation ("Danaher") – Danaher announced results for the third quarter of 2021, which included net earnings of US$1.2 billion, or $1.54 per diluted common share representing a 33.0% year-over-year increase from the comparable 2020 period. Non-GAAP, measured not prepared using the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, ("Non-GAAP") adjusted diluted net earnings per common share were $2.39 which represents a 39.0% increase. Revenues increased 23.0% year-over-year to $7.2 billion, with 20.5% non-GAAP core revenue growth. Year-to-date operating cash flow was $6.0 billion, representing a 51.0% increase year-over-year, and non-GAAP free cash flow was $5.2 billion, representing a 46.5% increase year-over-year. For the fourth quarter 2021, the company anticipates that non-GAAP core revenue growth will be in the low-to-mid teens percent range. For the full year 2021, the company now anticipates that the non-GAAP core revenue growth rate including Cytiva Company will be more than 20%. Rainer M. Blair, President and Chief Executive Officer, stated, "Our team delivered another outstanding result in the third quarter, with over 20% core revenue growth and terrific earnings and cash flow performance. We continued to invest for growth across our businesses, expanding production capacity and accelerating innovation initiatives. Additionally, the recently closed acquisition of Aldevron LLC enhances our portfolio and expands our capabilities into the important field of genomic medicine." Blair continued, "Our performance is a testament to the power of our portfolio and our team's commitment to the Danaher Business System, and we see significant opportunities ahead to continue building sustainable, long-term value for shareholders."

Facebook, Inc. ("Facebook") – Wall Street has remained resolute in its support of Facebook's stock ahead of its earnings report on Monday despite a barrage of negative headlines and steady decline for its share price. Of the analysts tracked by Bloomberg, 80% recommend buying Facebook shares, while only 5% have the equivalent of a sell rating. That kind of positive consensus is common for the biggest tech names, but Facebook stands out after shares suffered a record six-week decline, pushing the price near the lowest level since May. Facebook is down about 15% off a September peak, and faced more pressure last week after Snap Inc.'s results disappointed on the back of supply chain issues and changes in privacy policy at Apple Inc. On Monday, a consortium of news organizations reported that staff members at the social media platform faulted the company for contributing to the U.S. Capitol riots on January 6, 2021, and also have said some core products make disinformation worse. The weakness over the past few weeks follows negative headlines and intense scrutiny over Facebook's content strategy and some of its products; since September, the company suffered a global outage, a corporate whistle-blower shared internal documents with regulators and the media, and a rise in treasury yields spurred widespread weakness in growth names. Investors and analysts sticking with the stock cite Facebook's ability to recover from selloffs and controversies. This resiliency is due in part to the company's central position in the market for global internet advertising, where its 2020 market share was second only to Google, according to Bloomberg Intelligence data. Ad budgets continue to shift online, with Facebook among the biggest beneficiaries of this trend. Monday's third quarter report is expected to show 2.77 billion daily active users across its platforms, while revenue is expected to rise 37%, extending a years-long streak of double-digit growth. Facebook's price-to-earnings ratio is 24, near its lowest since April 2020, and below the 26.4 ratio for the S&P 500 Index. It is also trading at a discount to its average historical multiple, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

SoftBank Group Corp. ("SoftBank") – A lot has changed since WeWork first tried to go public: a new leader, fewer employees, and a global pandemic. While the company still loses money, the investors were more welcoming this time around. The stock was up 13% at the close of trading Thursday. Last week's deal is the culmination of a two-year efforts to take WeWork public. When it last tried in 2019, WeWork was a giant in real estate and technology. The company, which rents office space, was one of the world's most richly valued start-ups and the largest office tenant in its hometown of New York City, with locations around the globe. Adam Neumann, the co-founder, had carefully polished the company's image over nearly a decade, but the prospectus for WeWork's initial public offering peeled the veneer right off. The filing for the company laid out a series of personal and professional conflicts for Neumann, and mounting losses. The company's loss of US$905 million in the first half of 2019 would have been even worse if not for a one-time accounting gain from a modified loan at the time. Yet, it was enough to contribute to WeWork's near-collapse. Within months, Neumann was out of a job, WeWork almost ran out of cash, and a major shareholder, SoftBank Group Corp., agreed to bail the company out. The current Chief Executive Officer is Sandeep Mathrani, a long-time real estate professional who runs WeWork with Marcelo Claure, the company's Executive Chairman and the Chief Operating Officer at SoftBank. Neumann, whose name was referenced 169 times in the 2019 initial public offering (IPO) prospectus, still looms large. Although Neumann forfeited his management role, he retains a stake in the business of 9% and a net worth of about $2.3 billion. Neumann, 42, was also granted the right to return to WeWork board meetings in about four months as an observer. After the last IPO disaster, WeWork's business was further battered by the coronavirus pandemic. Many customers canceled leases and stopped paying rent when the economy turned and workers stayed at home. WeWork's loss ballooned to more than $2 billion in the first quarter of this year. Things have rebounded in recent months, WeWork executives have said. Revenue in the first half of the year was $1.19 billion. WeWork now trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol "WE." Although the stock climbed Thursday, the deal value of about $9 billion is a sharp drop from the $47 billion valuation SoftBank gave the business in 2019. Mathrani had said in January that WeWork would be profitable by year-end. WeWork has since revised that forecast. The company said it'll generate positive free cash flow next year.

SoftBank – Marcelo Claure, SoftBank Group Corp.'s Chief Operating Officer (COO), has advocated for a spinoff of the company's Latin American investment fund, putting him at odds with founder Masayoshi Son, who disagrees with the move, according to people familiar with the discussions. The Latin American venture isn't as high profile as SoftBank's Vision Fund, but it has grown to US$8 billion in assets since its launch in March 2019. The initial fund, under Claure's leadership, has backed 48 companies and generated an internal rate of return of 85% in dollar terms. Claure sees a spinoff as a way to build the business, create value for SoftBank and boost his own compensation, explained the people, who asked not to be identified because the matter is private. In a statement from the company, Son denied the discussion of spinning out SoftBank's Latin American Fund.

Marcelo Claure has often pushed for more authority and money, the people noted, though he was SoftBank's second-highest paid executive last year and became a billionaire when he sold his cellphone distributor to SoftBank in 2013. He has suggested that he deserves as much as US$1 billion in part because he led the turnaround of Sprint Corp., which SoftBank sold to T-Mobile US Inc. ("T-Mobile") last year for about $37 billion. SoftBank loaned Claure capital to buy a $500 million stake as part of the T-Mobile deal. It is possible Claure could leave SoftBank over the disagreement with Son, the people noted, although the COO has floated the idea of resigning in the past without actually doing so. Despite their different opinions over the Latin America spinoff, the two men have developed a close relationship since SoftBank bought a majority stake in Claure's Brightstar Corp. in 2013.

The Vision Fund organization, which now includes a second US$40 billion fund, has had blockbuster successes, including Korean e-commerce pioneer Coupang Inc. and delivery service DoorDash Inc. SoftBank's own stock chronically trades far below the value of its assets though and has tumbled more than 40% from its peak in March. SoftBank estimates the value of its assets at 15,450 yen a share ($135), net of debt, compared with SoftBank's share price of 6,238 yen at Monday's close.

Reliance Industries Limited ("Reliance") – A consumption boom sweeping across India bolstered the sales of products ranging from electronics to lingerie and helped Mukesh Ambani's conglomerate offset the pain from an 86% jump in raw material costs. Reliance Industries Ltd. posted a better-than expected 43% rise in quarterly profit to 136.8 billion rupees (US$1.8 billion) late on Friday evening. Total revenue was above all analyst estimates with a 50% surge for the quarter ended September 30, 2021. Indian consumer spending was very strong, after more than a year lockdown, the effects of the virus faded away. Large conglomerates like Reliance benefited as new infections ebbed, vaccination cover spread and mobility restrictions eased.

The earnings show "inherent strengths of our businesses and the robust recovery of the Indian and global economies," Ambani said in the earnings statement. "All our businesses reflect growth over pre-COVID-19 levels." Ambani's group wasn't spared the pinch of raw material inflation that's affecting companies across sectors globally, as metal prices touch record levels and crude oil becomes pricier. But Reliance's earnings have validated Ambani's vision to diversify the conglomerate beyond its traditional energy businesses into consumer and digital ventures and bet big on India's US$1 trillion consumption market. India last week also touched the milestone of administering more than 1 billion COVID-19 shots that will likely embolden Indian consumers to travel and shop more.

DIVIDEND PAYERS

GO TO PORTLAND GLOBAL ALTERNATIVE FUND[1]

GO TO PORTLAND GLOBAL ARISTOCRATS PLUS FUND[1]

GO TO PORTLAND GLOBAL BALANCED FUND[1]

AT&T Inc. (AT&T") reported third quarter revenue as slightly ahead (by 50 basis points), driven by acceleration in postpaid net additional subscriptions (+1.218 million versus expected +705 thousand), which has averaged 1.1 million over the past five quarters. Prepaid (+351 thousand versus expected +150 thousand) and phones (+928 thousand versus +597 thousand) were also ahead. However, third quarter earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) was in-line due to expense headwinds from 3G shutdowns ($200 million), which is expected to continue into the fourth quarter of 2021 and first quarter of 20221. HBO Max added 1.9 million global subscriptions in the quarter, despite losing approximately 5 million after ending its partnership with Amazon Inc. U.S. subscriptions fell 1.8 million overall, but the LatAm launch more than made up for it with 3.7 million added in the third quarter. With six Euro countries launching in fourth quarter and solid content slate (Succession, Curb Your Enthusiasm, Matrix), we believe there's upside to the 70-73 million 2021 target. Broadband revenue inflected to growth in second quarter, jumping ahead of legacy declines, & EBITDA showed positive growth in third quarter. The quarter saw the most fiber gross adds ever at +289 thousand (up 43 thousand sequentially), with 70%+ new customers. Fourth quarter has a tough year-over-year comp, but a return to growth is likely in 2022 in our opinion.

Canadian National Railway ("CNI") reported third quarter earnings per share (EPS) of CA$1.52 versus consensus of $1.41. Revenue growth of 5.3% and CNI also reiterated its full-year guidance of double-digit EPS growth and separately announced that Jean-Jacques Ruest, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), will be retiring early next year with the search for a new CEO now underway. CNI's margins have declined in four of the past five quarters and for four straight years, but margins inflected positive in third quarter and improved 90 basis points year-over-year despite significant weather and operating headwinds in July. CNI has aggressively reduced management headcount over the past month.

Kimberly-Clark Corporation ("KC") reported 2021 third quarter Core EPS of US$1.62, which compares to consensus $1.65. Personal Care organic sales +9% but Gross margins -570 basis points. Input cost inflation was $480 million. KC's professional recovery is slower than anticipated with volumes +6% and consumer tissue pricing +1%, though we'd expect this to build in coming quarters. Guidance Adjusted EPS $6.05-$6.25 (previously $6.65-6.90). Net sales up +1-2% (from +1-4% previously). Organic sales down -1% to -2% (from flat to down -2% previously). Adjusted operating profit -20% to -22% (from -11% to -14%). Cost savings $520-$540 million (from $520-560 million previously). Share repurchase of $400 million (from $400-$450 million).

Procter & Gamble Co. reported first quarter 2022 fiscal year Core EPS of US$1.61, which compares to consensus $1.59. Total company organic sales +4% with each unit except Baby, Fem & Family Care outperforming versus expectations. Operating leverage benefit to margins +100 basis points as organic sales over-delivered. Gross margins -370 basis points driven by a combination of higher transportation costs and product & packaging investments. Management maintained full-year outlook despite $0.20/share incremental headwind from commodity and freight costs. Guidance 2022 fiscal year maintained fiscal year EPS of +3-6% year-over-year growth (Implied $5.83-$6.00). Current consensus assumes +5% year-over-year growth and $5.93 EPS.

Verizon Communications Inc. ("VZ") had third quarter revenue a touch light (by ~100 basis points), largely on the sale of VZ Media (closed September 1, 2021), but postpaid retail net additions were solid (+699 thousand, including +429 phone versus WR +505 thousand with +400 thousand phone) and FiOS video & High Speed Data ("HSD") net adds were slightly better driving solid consumer wireless service revenue growth (+3.9%, in-line). Adjusted EBITDA beat (by ~80 basis points) on non-equipment cost reductions. The early preparation for the 5G buildout over the prior 2 to 3 years has largely mitigated supply chain issues. With deployment only months away, VZ is making headway with its customer base as 25% already have 5G capable devices (in under 12 months), 66% of new customers taking premium plans, and over 30% of its total customers on premium plans. The company provided new disclosure on fixed wireless access subscriptions, with 55 thousand net ads in third quarter and 150 thousand in total to date. VZ is on track for 15 million homes passed by year-end, with 5G homes now in 57 markets. Management reiterated its intention to be a nationwide mobile & broadband provider and the debate relative to the cable incumbents will likely intensify. Given the competitive intensity in the market, VZ has focused on high quality, high value, and higher priced customers. Thus far, the strategy is paying off given the current 5G device & Fixed Wireless Access ("FWA") uptake, which could be encouraging if trends continue post 5G rollout.

LIFE SCIENCES

GO TO PORTLAND LIFE SCIENCES ALTERNATIVE FUND

Roche Holding AG ("Roche") reported 2021 third quarter Group sales of 3%, ahead of consensus. Sales grew 8% to CHF 15,971 million with guidance raised to top end of prior range for the 2021 fiscal year, namely to grow in the mid-single digit range constant exchange rate("CER") (previously low to mid-single digits). Core EPS guidance to grow broadly in line with sales. The 2021 third quarter Pharma sales grew 5% to CHF 11,708 million (4% beat versus consensus). The beat was driven by Actemra, Ronapreve and Herceptin. Actemra saw benefit from COVID-19 treatment as it is now included in the COVID-19 treatment guidelines for many countries. Ronapreve uptake was strong in Europe and Japan. Ocrevus, Evrysdi, Perjeta and Rituxan were all light of consensus. Ocrevus growth was below expectations and was more driven by returning patients instead of new patients. Overall biosimilar erosion of Actemra, Ronapreve and Herceptin was -35% in line with consensus of -36%. Rituxan erosion is slightly faster than expected and Herceptin more resilient. The 2021 third quarter Diagnostics sales grew 18% to CHF 4,263, 2% ahead of consensus. Sales were driven by strong growth in all regions. Routine diagnostics (ex-COVID-19) recorded strong growth (+11% year-over-year although this was well down on the +31% ex COVID-19 seen in second quarter). Core Lab was up +13% (driven by immunodiagnostics and clinical chemistry), Molecular Lab was up +18% and Point of Care +144% (driven by point of care immunodiagnostics), Diabetes -2%% (blood glucose monitoring up, insulin delivery systems down). Roche recorded CHF 985 million of COVID-19 diagnostics related sales in third quarter, down from 1.3 billion in second quarter and it's understood the company expects another between CHF 700 million to CHF 1 billion of COVID-19 Diagnostics sales in the fourth quarter.

Clarity Pharmaceuticals Limited ("Clarity") – An Australian-based clinical stage radiopharmaceutical company developing next-generation products to address the growing need in oncology, is pleased to announce that the C-BOBCAT study led by Professor Louise Emmett has closed for recruitment at St. Vincent's Hospital, in Sydney Australia. C-BOBCAT is a pilot trial assessment of the diagnostic value of 64Cu SAR-Bombesin PET/CT imaging for staging of ER/PR + HER2- breast cancer patients with metastatic disease in comparison with conventional imaging (CT, bone scan and 18F FDG PET/CT). SAR-Bombesin has been used to image seven patients with ER/PR positive metastatic breast cancer under the C-BOBCAT trial and a number of patients via the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Special Access Scheme (SAS) in both breast and prostate cancer patients. Clarity's Executive Chairman, Dr. Alan Taylor, commented, "We are very pleased with the imaging and safety data acquired during the trial and under the TGA SAS and have made a decision to close the trial early to enable the human clinical data to be used for regulatory submissions, including the upcoming Investigational New Drug (IND) Application filings with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for SAR-Bombesin. As per our recent announcement, Evergreen Theragnostics, Inc. will be one of the U.S. manufacturing groups to supply the Targeted Copper Theranostics for the U.S. based SAR-Bombesin clinical trial. We anticipate this trial to commence in 2022." Professor Louise Emmett, Principal Investigator in the C-BOBCAT trial at St. Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, commented, "Our collaboration with Clarity on the C-BOBCAT trial has been a very exciting one as the diagnostic program with 64Cu SARBombesin generated evidence of the utility and superiority compared to conventional imaging in some patient subgroups (e.g. 99mTc bone scan, 18F FDG). In addition to these benefits for some breast cancer patients, we also found SAR-Bombesin advantageous for prostate cancer patients who are prostate specific membrane antigen (PSMA) negative, thus validating the product's pan-cancer application. I look forward to finalizing and publishing the results from the C-BOBCAT trial and wish Clarity every success in progressing this asset through clinical development." Dr. Taylor said: "SAR-Bombesin is a promising asset that can be developed for a number of cancer indications. The high uptake and strong product retention visualised by PET imaging of patients at 1, 3 and 24 hours after product administration suggest significant potential for therapy applications with 67Cu SAR-Bombesin. We are excited to further advance its clinical development with a strong focus on regulatory approvals in the U.S. and leverage the results generated in collaboration with some of the leading Australian scientific organisations and hospitals to reach our ultimate goal of improving treatment outcomes for children and adults with cancer."

Relay Therapeutics, Inc. ("Relay") – A clinical-stage precision medicine company transforming the drug discovery process by combining leading-edge computational and experimental technologies, saw its shares rise after it priced a US$350 million follow-on offering. The offering size represented about 14% of the company's total shares outstanding. Goldman Sachs Group Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co., Cowen Inc. and Guggenheim Partners joint book runners for offering. The week before, Relay announced pre-clinical data for RLY-2608 that showed tumor regression, and said RLY-4008 in first-in-human trial was well tolerated in 49 patients with FGFR2 (fibroblast growth factor receptor) -altered tumors.

Telix Pharmaceuticals Limited ("Telix") is pleased to announce the first set of peer-reviewed results from the IPAX-1 Ph I/II study of TLX101 (4-L-[131I] iodo-phenylalanine, or 131I-IPA) in combination with external beam radiation therapy (XRT) in recurrent glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) has been delivered as a late breaking oral presentation at the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) Annual Meeting. The data confirms the study has met its primary objective, demonstrating safety and tolerability of TLX101 at doses tested. The results also show overall survival (OS) of 15.97 months, to date, in the second line (recurrent) GBM setting. Six out of ten patients in the study are still alive and will be followed until one year after dosing for the final OS calculation (May 2022). The primary objective of the study was to evaluate the safety and tolerability of intravenous 131I-IPA administered concurrently with second line XRT in patients with recurrent GBM. Secondary objectives were to determine optimal dosing, biodistribution and radiation absorption into the tumour, as well as assess preliminary efficacy through clinical and imaging-based assessment of tumour response. Based on these encouraging results, Telix confirms it intends to progress to a follow-on Phase II study and is currently finalizing the protocol in frontline post-surgery in combination with standard of care and using Telix's TLX101-CDx (18F-FET) investigational agent as a companion diagnostic.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Canada's Finance Minister, Chrystia Freeland, has reported that the federal government will not extend existing broad-based COVID-19 support programs for companies and individuals when they expire on Saturday, October 23, 2021, because the economy is recovering well. Instead, Ottawa will introduce more targeted and less costly measures for hard-hit sectors such as the tourism industry. The new programs will cost a total of CA$7.4 billion (US$6 billion) between October 24, 2021, and May 7, 2022, compared with the CA$289 billion Canada has already spent, Ms. Freeland said. The Finance Minister notes that Ottawa will aid hotels, restaurants and travel agencies still facing public health restrictions. It will also help cover the rent costs of employers who can show they have faced deep, enduring losses. Further, a third program is for companies that might suffer in case there are more lockdowns.

Canada – Bloomberg highlighted that retailers in Canada reported fewer sales in September amid supply chain bottlenecks and a reopening of the economy that allowed consumers to spend more on services. According to data released by Statistics Canada, receipts likely fell 1.9% after a gain of 2.1% in August -- slightly ahead of a 2% consensus estimate in a Bloomberg survey of economists. The article notes that the early estimate for September doesn't provide any details on the reasons for the pullback. However, the dip could signal retailers are struggling to meet strong demand because of global shipping constraints and shortage of microchips that's disrupting automotive manufacturing. It may also suggest consumers have less appetite for hard goods now that they're free to spend on services that had been prohibited for months like gym memberships and movie tickets. For August, the 2.1% gain was broad-based, led by higher sales at food and beverage stores, gasoline stations and clothing retailers. Sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers were flat.

Canada's consumer price index increased 0.2% in September (not seasonally adjusted), one tick above consensus expectations. In seasonally adjusted terms, headline prices increased 0.4% on gains for six of the eight categories. The rise in food (+0.9%), transportation (+0.8%), recreation/education/reading (+0.4%), health/personal care (+0.3%), shelter (+0.3%), household ops (+0.2%) more than offset declines in Clothing and footwear (-0.4%) and in alcohol/tobacco

(-0.1%). Year on year, headline inflation clocked in at 4.4%, up from 4.1 % in August and registered as the strongest print since February 2003. On a provincial basis, the headline annual inflation rate was above the national average in Quebec (+5.1%) while it undershot that mark in Alberta (+4.0%) and British Columbia (+3.5%). Ontario was on the national average at 4.4% its highest level in 18 years. The month-over-month variation would have been stronger it was not from the sharp decline in airfares in September (-14.8%) following last month's surge (+37.5%). With continued supply chain disruptions and the rise in food commodity prices price pressures could persist for some time. This could mean wage push inflation in the coming months as workers appear to have the bargaining power to demand compensation.

U.S. housing starts unexpectedly fell in September, down 1.6% to 1.555 million units annualized, the lowest since April. Piling on was a hefty downward revision to the previous month...the 3.9% increase in August was slashed to 1.2%. All the weakness was in the volatile multi-unit sector (-5.0%), taking back some of the prior month's 11% surge, while singles were flat. And building permits took a 7.7% dive to 1.589 million units annualized, the lowest since August 2020 with, again, most of the decline centered in multi-residential properties (-18.3%) although singles also slipped (-0.9%). By way of providing an explanation for this lower house starts, a number of homebuilders recently cited "unprecedented supply-chain challenges", and shortages of building materials and labor market tightness.

U.S. existing home sales beat expectations in September, jumping 7.0% to 6.29 million units annualized. That's the biggest one-month move since July of 2020 and the highest level since the start of the year. They're still below year-ago levels but those are 'base effects'... everyone moving out to the suburbs or to cheaper locations while doing the same job. Singles and multi-residential properties attracted more buyers, which hasn't happened since last December. And this is only the third time in 2021 that sales of single-family homes rose….as the housing market has had its own "supply problems" for some time, if you look at inventories and months' supply. During normal times, there are around six months out there... now, just 2.4 months.

China's economy grew 4.9% in the July to September quarter from a year earlier, the slowest pace in a year and worse than analysts had predicted. This was far slower from the previous quarter when growth was almost 8%, suggesting the recovery is weakening.

The UK economy is experiencing a taste of stagflation. We believe that it won't be anywhere near as severe or as persistent as it was in the 1970s... But for the next six months, the worsening product and labour shortages will put the brakes on the economic recovery at the same time as higher energy prices drive up consumer price index (CPI) inflation from 3.2% in August to a peak of around 5.0% in April next year. The Bank of England's growing fear that some of this rise in inflation is becoming embedded within wage growth and inflation expectations means it is on the cusp of raising interest rates from 0.10% for the first time since the pandemic.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

The U.S. 2 year/10 year treasury spread is now 1.20% and the U.K.'s 2 year/10 year treasury spread is 0.49%. A narrowing gap between yields on the 2 year and 10 year Treasuries is of concern given its historical track record that when shorter term rates exceed longer dated ones, such inversion is usually an early warning of an economic slowdown.

The U.S. 30 year mortgage market rate has increased to 3.09%. Existing U.S. housing inventory is at 2.6 months' supply of existing houses - well off its peak during the Great Recession of 9.4 months and we consider a more normal range of 4-7 months.

The VIX (volatility index) is 15.48 and while, by its characteristics, the VIX will remain volatile, we believe a VIX level below 25 bodes could be encourage for quality equities.

And finally: "Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please." – *Mahatma Gandhi* .... The Commodity Futures Trading Commission has awarded almost $200 million to a former Deutsche Bank employee who raised concerns about the manipulation of the Libor interest rate benchmark, marking the largest-ever payment under US whistleblower programmes

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Glossary of Terms: 'CET' core equity tier, 'EBITDA' earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, 'EPS' earnings per share, 'FCF' free cash flow, 'GDP' gross domestic product, 'ROE' return on equity, 'ROTE' return on common equity, 'ROTCE' return on tangible common equity, 'conjugate" a substance formed by the reversible combination of two or more others.

1.Not all of the funds shown are necessarily invested in the companies listed

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