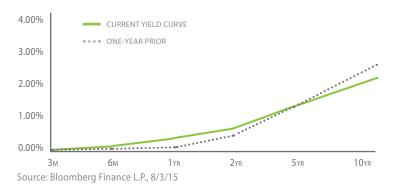


# PRUDENT MAN ADVISORS MARKET UPDATE

# AUGUST 2015

### Historical Yield Curve



### FEATURED ECONOMIC INDICATOR

### Corporate Profits Struggle

Of the 363 companies in the S&P 500 Index to report 2nd quarter earnings, quarterly growth in aggregate sales and earnings have declined. This follows a downward trend for both metrics over the past year and the second consecutive quarter of negative sales growth. Declines are partly related to a stronger dollar and slower growth abroad. China, in particular, has caused some of the world's largest companies to warn that weaker growth in that country would affect profits in the second half of the year. Lower oil prices, also partly related to slower growth in emerging markets, has negatively affected profits at energy companies in the U.S.

Source: Bloomberg, Financial Times



### Source: Bloomberg

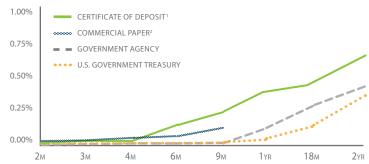
### **RECENT NEWS**

# Fed Nearing First Rate Hike

The Federal Reserve cut the Federal Funds rate to near zero in December 2008 with a goal of encouraging households and business to borrow, spend and invest. Nearly seven years later, the Fed used its July policy statement to strengthen its position that the economy is approaching the point where it can ease off the accelerator by increasing the rate at which banks borrow. The Fed has signaled it plans to increase rates at one of its remaining policy meetings this year—in September, October or December. Fed officials cited "solid job gains" and said underutilization of labor market resources had diminished. However, inflation continues to be held down by factors such as weakness in foreign economies that is putting downward pressure on commodities prices. The Fed continues to state that future monetary policy is data dependent and has further indicated that it is inclined to raise rates very gradually after the first increase.

Source: Wall Street Journal, Financial Times

# **Indicative Rates**



<sup>1</sup> Average of top ten banks; <sup>2</sup> General Electric Capital Corp. Source: PMA Financial Network, Inc., Bloomberg Finance L.P., 8/3/15

## **U.S. Economic Indicators**

0.5. Economic malcators					
Event	Event Date	Period	Survey	Actual	Prior / Revised (R)
Core PPI (YoY)	07/15/15	JUN	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%
Core CPI (YoY)	07/17/15	JUN	1.8%	1.8%	1.7%
Chicago Fed National Activity Index	07/23/15	JUN	-0.05	0.08	-0.08 (R)
Durable Goods Orders Ex. Transportation (MoM)	07/27/15	JUN	0.5%	0.8%	-0.1% (R)
Consumer Confidence	07/28/15	JUL	100.0	90.9	99.8 (R)
ISM Manufacturing	08/03/15	JUL	53.5	52.7	53.5
Initial Jobless Claims	08/06/15	AUG 1	272K		267K
Change in Nonfarm Payrolls	08/07/15	JUL	214K		223K
Unemployment Rate	08/07/15	JUL	5.3%		5.3%

Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., 8/3/15

# **Contact Information**

### JOHN H. HUBER, CFA

Senior Vice President, Chief Investment Officer

Prudent Man Advisors, Inc. 2135 CityGate Lane, 7th Floor Naperville, IL 60563

Tel: 630.657.6510 Fax: 630.718.8701

Email: jhuber@pmanetwork.com

This document was prepared by Prudent Man Advisors, Inc. for clients of the firm and its affiliated PMA entities, as defined below. It is being provided for informational and/or educational purposes only without regard to any particular user's investment objectives, financial situation or means. The content of this document is not to be construed as a recommendation, solicitation or offer to buy or sell any security, financial product or instrument, or to participate in any particular trading strategy in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or solicitation, or trading strategy would be illegal. Nor does it constitute any legal, tax, accounting or investment advice of services regarding the suitability or profitability of any security or investment. Although the information contained in this document has been obtained from third-party sources believed to be reliable, PMA cannot guarantee the accuracy or completeness of such information. It is understood that PMA is not responsible for any errors or omissions in the content in this document and the information is being provided to you on an "as is" basis without warranties or representations of any kind.

Securities, public finance services and institutional brokerage services are offered through PMA Securities, Inc. PMA Securities, Inc. is a broker-dealer and municipal advisor registered with the SEC and MSRB, and is a member of FINRA and SIPC. Prudent Man Advisors, Inc., an SEC registered investment adviser, provides investment advisory services to local government investment pools and separate accounts. All other products and services are provided by PMA Financial Network, Inc. PMA Financial Network, Inc., PMA Securities, Inc. and Prudent Man Advisors (collectively "PMA") are under common ownership.

Securities and public finance services offered through PMA Securities, Inc. are available in CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, OH, OK, PA, SD, TX and WI. This document is not an offer of services available in any state other than those listed above, has been prepared for informational and educational purposes and does not constitute a solicitation to purchase or sell securities, which may be done only after client suitability is reviewed and determined. All investments mentioned herein may have varying levels of risk, and may not be suitable for every investor. PMA and its employees do not offer tax or legal advice. Individuals and organizations should consult with their own tax and/or legal advisors before making any tax or legal related investment decisions. Additional information is available upon request.