

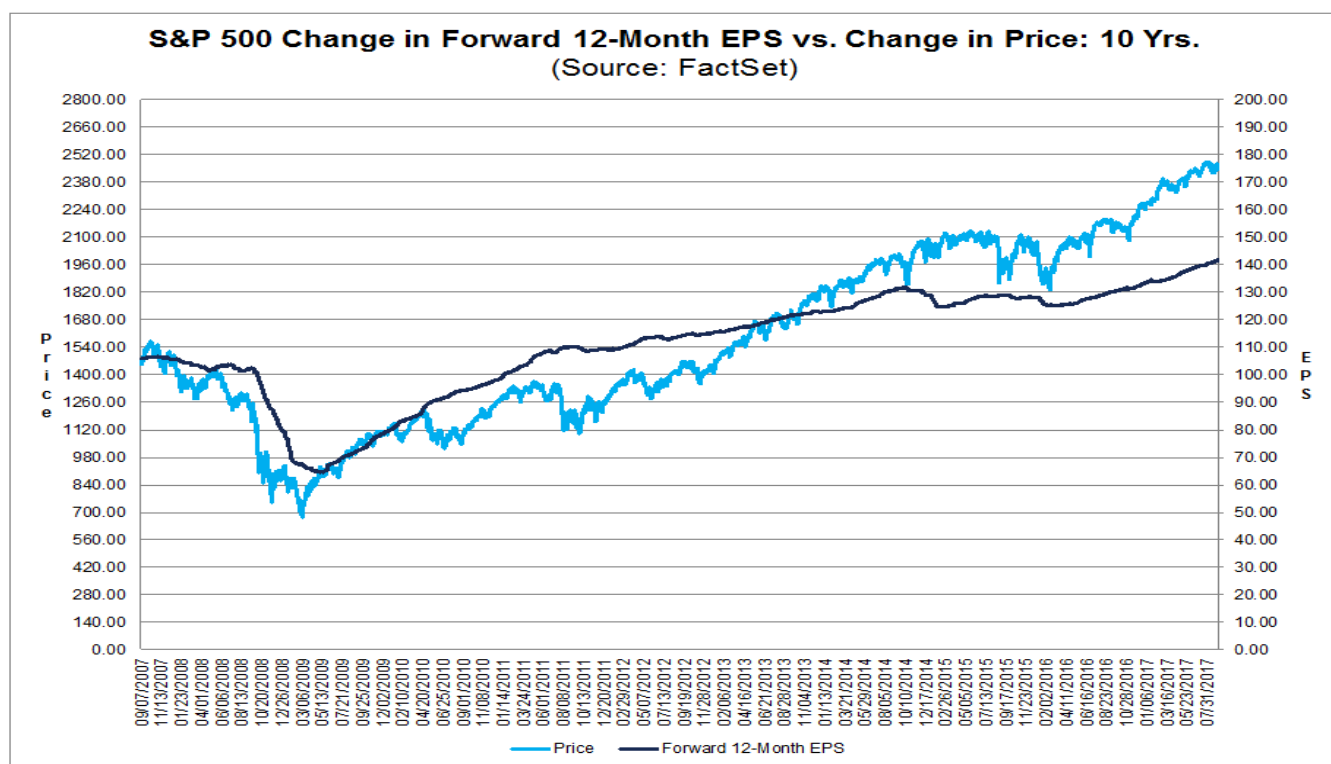
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September 8, 2017

Key Metrics

- **Earnings Growth:** For Q3 2017, the estimated earnings growth rate for the S&P 500 is 4.9%. Eight sectors are expected to report earnings growth for the quarter, led by the Energy sector.
- **Earnings Revisions:** On June 30, the estimated earnings growth rate for Q3 2017 was 7.5%. Nine sectors have lower growth rates today (compared to June 30) due to downward revisions to earnings estimates, led by the Energy sector.
- **Earnings Guidance:** For Q3 2017, 73 S&P 500 companies have issued negative EPS guidance and 43 S&P 500 companies have issued positive EPS guidance.
- **Valuation:** The forward 12-month P/E ratio for the S&P 500 is 17.4. This P/E ratio is above the 5-year average (15.5) and above the 10-year average (14.1).
- **Earnings Scorecard:** For Q2 2017 (with 100% of the companies in the S&P 500 reporting actual results for the quarter), 73% of S&P 500 companies reported positive EPS surprises and 70% reported positive sales surprises.



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Topic of the Week:

S&P 500 Companies With Higher Exposure to Asia Have Outperformed Index Over Past Month

"Our commitment among the allies are ironclad. Any threat to the United States or its territories, including Guam, or our allies will be met with a massive military response, a response both effective and overwhelming...We are not looking to the total annihilation of a country, namely North Korea, but as I said, we have many options to do so..."—U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis (Sep. 3)

Military tensions between the U.S. and North Korea have escalated in recent weeks. Should tensions escalate to the point of affecting economic activity, how many S&P 500 companies could be impacted? How much revenue exposure do S&P 500 companies have to the Asia Pacific region?

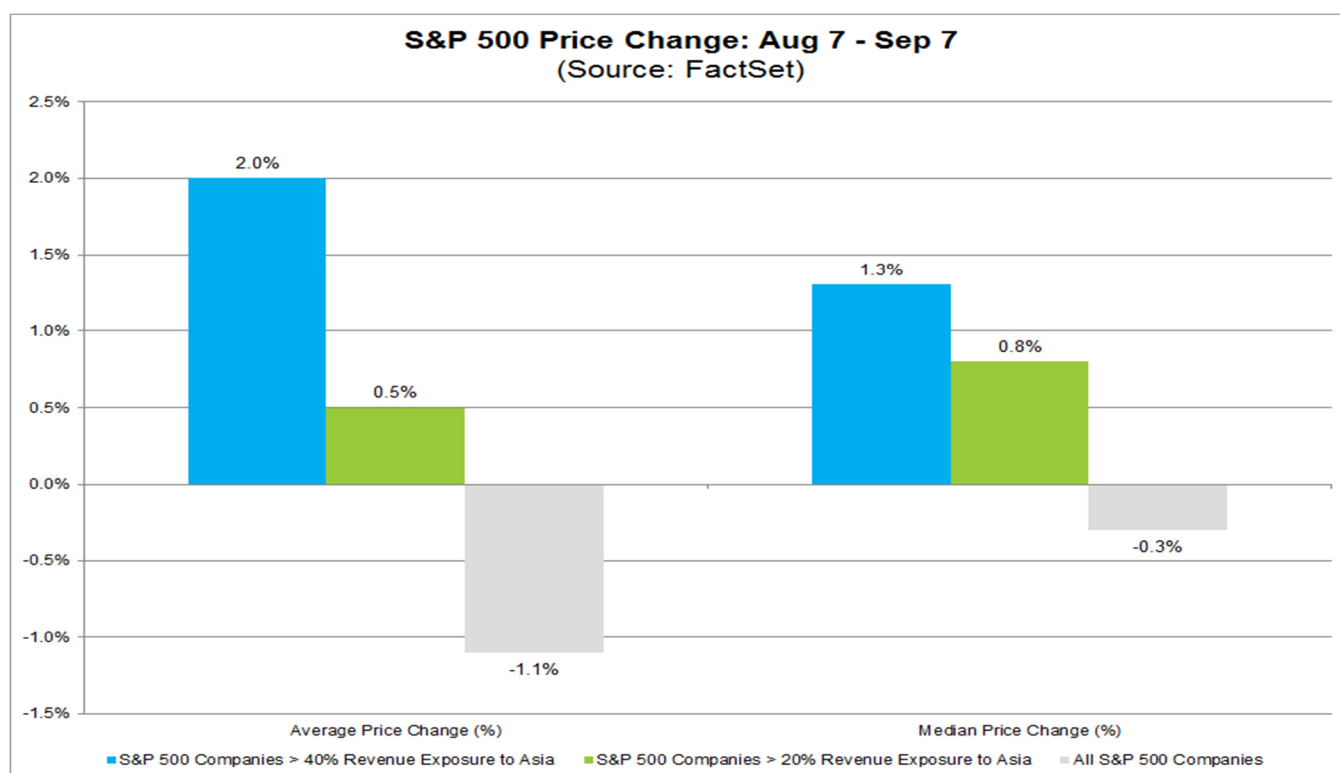
According to FactSet Market Aggregates and FactSet Geographic Revenue Exposure data (based on the most recently reported fiscal year data for each company in the index), the aggregate revenue exposure of the S&P 500 to the Asia/Pacific super-region is 10.9%.

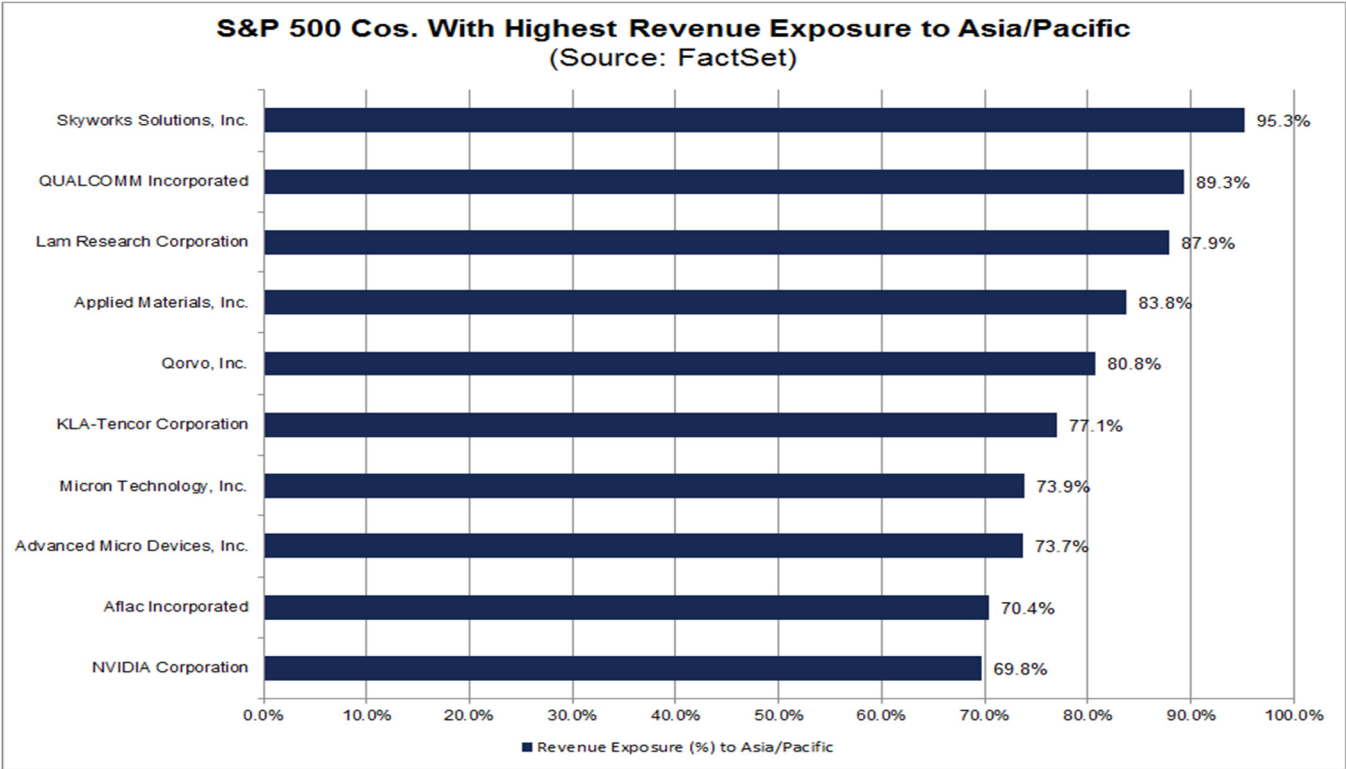
However, a number of S&P 500 companies have significant revenue exposure to the Asia/Pacific super-region. Overall, 82 S&P 500 companies have revenue exposure of 20% or more to the Asia/Pacific super-region, and 22 S&P 500 companies have revenue exposure of 40% or more to the Asia/Pacific super-region.

Given the escalation in tensions, have S&P 500 companies with more exposure to the Asia/Pacific super region underperformed the index as a whole in recent weeks? The answer is no.

For the entire S&P 500 index, the average price change for a stock from August 7 through September 7 was -1.1%. For the companies in the index with at least 20% revenue exposure to the Asia/Pacific super-region, the average price change over this period was +0.5%. For the companies with at least 40% revenue exposure to the Asia/Pacific super-region, the average price change over this period was +2.0%.

For the entire S&P 500 index, the median price change for a stock from August 7 through September 7 was -0.3%. For the companies in the index with at least 20% revenue exposure to the Asia/Pacific super-region, the median price change over this period was +0.8%. For the companies with at least 40% revenue exposure to the Asia/Pacific super-region, the median price change over this period was +1.3%.





Q3 2017 Earnings Season: By the Numbers

Overview

In terms of estimate revisions, analysts have made smaller cuts than average to earnings estimates for companies in the S&P 500 for Q3 2017 to date. On a per-share basis, estimated earnings for the third quarter have fallen by 2.0% since June 30. This percentage decline is smaller than the trailing 5-year average (-3.5%) and the trailing 10-year average (-4.3%) for the first two months of a quarter.

In addition, a smaller percentage of S&P 500 companies have lowered the bar for earnings for Q3 2017 relative to recent averages. Of the 116 companies that have issued EPS guidance for the third quarter, 73 have issued negative EPS guidance and 43 have issued positive EPS guidance. The percentage of companies issuing negative EPS guidance is 63% (73 out of 116), which is below the 5-year average of 75%.

Because of the downward revisions to earnings estimates, the estimated year-over-year earnings growth rate for Q3 2017 has fallen from 7.5% on June 30 to 4.9% today. Eight sectors are predicted to report year-over-year earnings growth, led by the Energy, Materials, and Information Technology sectors. Three sectors are projected to report a year-over-year decline in earnings, led by the Consumer Discretionary sector.

Because of downward revisions to sales estimates, the estimated year-over-year sales growth rate for Q3 2017 has fallen from 5.2% on June 30 to 5.1% today. Ten sectors are projected to report year-over-year growth in revenues, led by the Energy, Materials, and Information Technology sectors. The only sector predicted to report a year-over-year decline in revenues is the Telecom Services sector.

Looking at future quarters, analysts currently project earnings growth to rebound to double-digit levels starting in Q4 2017.

The forward 12-month P/E ratio is 17.4, which is above the 5-year average and the 10-year average.

During the upcoming week, one S&P 500 company is scheduled to report results for the third quarter.

Earnings Revisions: Energy Sector Has Recorded Largest Drop in Expected Earnings Growth

Small Decrease in Estimated Earnings Growth Rate for Q3 This Week

The estimated earnings growth rate for the third quarter is 4.9% this week, which is slightly below the estimated earnings growth rate of 5.2% last week. Small downward revisions to EPS estimates for companies in the Financials, Information Technology, Industrials, and Materials sectors were mainly responsible for the slight decrease in the overall earnings growth rate for the index during the week.

Overall, the estimated earnings growth rate for Q3 2017 of 4.9% today is below the estimated earnings growth rate of 7.5% at the start of the quarter (June 30). Nine sectors have recorded a decline in expected earnings growth since the beginning of the quarter due to downward revisions to earnings estimates, led by the Energy and Materials sectors.

Energy: Largest Decline in Expected Earnings Growth since June 30, led by Exxon Mobil and Chevron

The Energy sector has recorded the largest decrease in expected earnings growth since the start of the quarter (to 106.4% from 157.3%). This sector has also witnessed a decrease in price of -0.3% during this same period. Overall, 25 of the 32 companies (78%) in the Energy sector have seen a decline in their mean EPS estimate during this time. Of these 25 companies, 22 have recorded a decrease in their mean EPS estimate of more than 10%, led by Anadarko Petroleum (to -\$0.54 from -\$0.09), Marathon Oil (to -\$0.16 from -\$0.05), and Apache Corporation (to \$0.02 from \$0.25). However, the decline in the mean EPS estimates for Exxon Mobil (to \$0.84 from \$0.99) and Chevron (to \$0.86 from \$1.14) has been the largest contributor to the decrease in expected earnings for this sector since June 30. While the stock price of Exxon Mobil has fallen by 2.4% (to \$78.83 from \$80.73) since June 30, the stock price of Chevron has actually increased by 6.8% (to \$111.40 from \$104.33) during the same period.

Materials: 2nd Largest Decrease in Expected Earnings Growth

The Materials sector has recorded the second largest decrease in expected earnings growth since the start of the quarter (to 10.3% from 24.0%). Despite the decrease in estimated earnings, this sector has witnessed an increase in price of 1.7% since the start of the quarter. Overall, 17 of the 25 companies (68%) in this sector have seen a decline in their mean EPS estimate during this time. Of these 17 companies, 5 have recorded a drop in their mean EPS estimate of more than 10%, led by CF Industries Holdings (to -\$0.57 from -\$0.29). However, the conversion of EPS estimates to the combined DowDuPont entity from the standalone EPS estimates for Dow Chemical after the completion of the merger on September 1 accounts for most of the decline in the growth rate for this sector since the start of the quarter.

Index-Level (Bottom-Up) EPS Estimate: Below Average Decline to Date

Downward revisions to earnings estimates in aggregate for the third quarter to date have been below recent averages. The Q3 bottom-up EPS estimate (which is an aggregation of the earnings estimates for all 500 companies in the index and can be used as a proxy for the earnings for the index) has fallen by 2.0% (to \$33.16 from \$33.84) since June 30. This decline in the EPS estimate for Q3 2017 is below the trailing 1-year (-2.5%) average, the trailing 5-year (-3.5%), and the trailing 10-year average (-4.3%) for the bottom-up EPS estimate for the first two months of a quarter.

Earnings Guidance: Fewer Companies Issuing Negative EPS Guidance for Q3 than Average

The term “guidance” (or “preannouncement”) is defined as a projection or estimate for EPS provided by a company in advance of the company reporting actual results. Guidance is classified as negative if the estimate (or mid-point of a range estimates) provided by a company is lower than the mean EPS estimate the day before the guidance was issued. Guidance is classified as positive if the estimate (or mid-point of a range of estimates) provided by the company is higher than the mean EPS estimate the day before the guidance was issued.

At this point in time, 116 companies in the index have issued EPS guidance for Q3 2017. Of these 116 companies, 73 have issued negative EPS guidance and 43 have issued positive EPS guidance. The percentage of companies issuing negative EPS guidance is 63% (73 out of 116), which is below the 5-year average of 75%.

In the Health Care sector, more companies have issued positive EPS guidance (11) than negative EPS guidance (9) to date for the third quarter.

Earnings Growth: 4.9%

The estimated (year-over-year) earnings growth rate for Q3 2017 is 4.9%. Eight sectors are expected to report year-over-year growth in earnings, led by the Energy, Materials, and Information Technology sectors. On the other hand, three sectors are expected to report a year-over-year decline in earnings, led by Consumer Discretionary sector.

Energy: Highest Earnings Growth

The Energy sector is projected to report the highest (year-over-year) earnings growth of all eleven sectors at 106.4%. The unusually high growth rate for the sector is mainly due to unusually low earnings in the year-ago quarter. On a dollar-level basis, the Energy sector is predicted to report earnings of \$9.4 billion in Q3 2017, compared to earnings of 4.6 billion in Q3 2016. If this sector were excluded, the estimated earnings growth rate for the remaining ten sectors would fall to 3.2% from 4.9%.

At the sub-industry level, all six sub-industries in the sector are projected to report earnings growth: Oil & Gas Exploration & Production (N/A due to year-ago loss), Oil & Gas Drilling (N/A due to year-ago loss), Oil & Gas Equipment & Services (255%), Oil & Gas Refining & Marketing, (52%), Integrated Oil & Gas (37%), and Oil & Gas Storage & Transportation (14%).

Materials: DowDuPont Leads Growth on Easy Comparison to Standalone Earnings for Dow Chemical

The Materials sector is expected to report the second highest (year-over-year) earnings growth of all eleven sectors at 10.3%. At the industry level, all four industries in this sector are predicted to report earnings growth. Three of these four industries are projected to report double-digit earnings growth: Metals & Mining (32%), Construction Materials (19%), and Containers & Packaging (15%). At the company level, DowDuPont is expected to be the largest contributor to

earnings growth for the sector. However, the mean EPS estimate and share weight for Q3 2017 reflect the combined DowDuPont company, while the year-ago EPS actual and share weight for Q3 2016 reflect the standalone Dow Chemical company. This apples-to-oranges comparison is main reason DowDuPont is expected to be the main driver of earnings growth for the sector.

Information Technology: Semiconductor Industry Leads Growth

The Information Technology sector is expected to report the third highest (year-over-year) earnings growth of all eleven sectors at 8.7%. At the industry level, four of the seven industries in this sector are predicted to report earnings growth. Only one of these four industries is projected to report double-digit earnings growth: Semiconductor & Semiconductor Equipment (29%). The Semiconductor & Semiconductor Equipment industry is also expected to be the largest contributor to earnings growth for the sector. If this industry were excluded, the estimated earnings growth rate for the Information Technology sector would fall to 4.0% from 8.7%. At the company level, Micron Technology is expected to be the largest contributor to earnings growth for the sector. The mean EPS estimate for the company for Q3 2017 is \$1.81, compared to year-ago EPS of -\$0.05. If Micron Technology alone were excluded, the estimated earnings growth rate for the Information Technology sector would fall to 5.0% from 8.7%.

Consumer Discretionary: General Motors Leads Decline

The Consumer Discretionary sector is expected to report the largest (year-over-year) decline in earnings for the quarter at -3.0%. At the industry level, six of the twelve industries in this sector projected to report a decline in earnings, led by the Automobiles (-23%) and Textiles, Apparel, & Luxury Goods (-20%) industries. At the company level, General Motors is expected to be the largest contributor to the earnings decline for the sector. The mean EPS estimate for the company for Q3 2017 is \$1.13, compared to year-ago EPS of \$1.72. If General Motors were excluded, the estimated earnings growth rate for the Consumer Discretionary sector would rise to 0.2% from -3.0%.

Revenue Growth: 5.1%

The estimated (year-over-year) revenue growth rate for Q3 2017 is 5.1%. Ten sectors are expected to report year-over-year growth in revenues, led by the Energy, Materials, and Information Technology sectors. The only sector that is expected to report a decline in revenues is the Telecom Services sector.

Energy: Highest Revenue Growth

The Energy sector is expected to report the highest (year-over-year) revenue growth of all eleven sectors at 20.0%. At the sub-industry level, five of the six sub-industries in the sector are predicted to report revenue growth: Oil & Gas Equipment & Services (56%), Oil & Gas Drilling (46%), Oil & Gas Refining & Marketing (34%), Integrated Oil & Gas (11%), and Oil & Gas Storage & Transportation (8%). On the other hand, the Oil & Gas Exploration & Production (-3%) sub-industry is the only sub-industry that is expected to report a year-over-year decline in earnings.

This sector is also expected to be the largest contributor to revenue growth for the S&P 500. If the Energy sector were excluded, the estimated revenue growth rate for the index would fall to 3.9% from 5.1%.

Materials: DowDuPont Leads Growth on Easy Comparison to Standalone Revenue for Dow Chemical

The Materials sector is expected to report the second highest (year-over-year) revenue growth of all eleven sectors at 12.0%. At the industry level, all four industries in this sector are predicted to report revenue growth. Two of these four industries are projected to report double-digit revenue growth: Chemicals (14%) and Construction Materials (11%). At the company level, DowDuPont is expected to be the largest contributor to revenue growth for the sector. However, the mean revenue estimate for Q3 2017 reflects the combined DowDuPont company, while the year-ago revenue actual for Q3 2016 reflects the standalone Dow Chemical company. This apples-to-oranges comparison is main reason DowDuPont is expected to be the main driver of revenue growth for the sector.

Information Technology: Internet Software & Services Leads Growth

The Information Technology sector is expected to report the third highest (year-over-year) revenue growth of all eleven sectors at 8.0%. At the industry level, five of the seven industries in this sector are predicted to report revenue growth. Three of these five industries are projected to report double-digit earnings growth: Internet Software & Services (22%), Semiconductor & Semiconductor Equipment (13%), and IT Services (11%).

Telecom Services: 2 of 4 Companies to Report Sales Decline

The Telecom Services sector is the only sector that is expected to report a (year-over-year) decline in revenues at -0.6%. Two of the four companies in the sector are projected to report a sales decline for the quarter, led by CenturyLink (-7%).

Looking Ahead: Forward Estimates and Valuation

Growth Expected to Rebound to Double-Digit Levels after Q3

For the third quarter, companies are expected to report earnings growth of 4.9% and revenue growth of 5.1%. Analysts currently expect earnings to rebound to double-digit levels over the next few quarters.

For Q4 2017, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 11.4% and revenue growth of 5.6%.

For Q1 2018, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 10.4% and revenue growth of 6.1%.

For Q2 2018, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 10.2% and revenue growth of 5.9%.

For all of 2017, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 9.7% and revenue growth of 5.6%.

Valuation: Forward P/E Ratio is 17.4, above the 10-Year Average (14.1)

The forward 12-month P/E ratio is 17.4. This P/E ratio is above the 5-year average of 15.5, and above the 10-year average of 14.1. However, it is below the forward 12-month P/E ratio of 17.5 recorded at the start of the third quarter (June 30). Since the start of the third quarter, the price of the index has increased by 1.7%, while the forward 12-month EPS estimate has increased by 1.6%.

At the sector level, the Energy (28.6) sector has the highest forward 12-month P/E ratio, while the Telecom Services (12.2) sector has the lowest forward 12-month P/E ratio. Nine sectors have forward 12-month P/E ratios that are above their 10-year averages, led by the Energy (28.6 vs. 18.7) sector. One sector (Telecom Services) has a forward 12-month P/E ratio that is below the 10-year average (12.2 vs. 14.2). Historical averages are not available for the Real Estate sector.

Targets & Ratings: Analysts Project 10% Increase in Price Over Next 12 Months

The bottom-up target price for the S&P 500 is 2711.79, which is 10.0% above the closing price of 2465.10. At the sector level, the Consumer Discretionary (+13.8%), Financials (12.9%), and Telecom Services (+12.7%) sectors have the largest upside differences between the bottom-up target price and the closing price, while the Utilities (+1.3%) sector has the smallest upside difference between the bottom-up target price and the closing price.

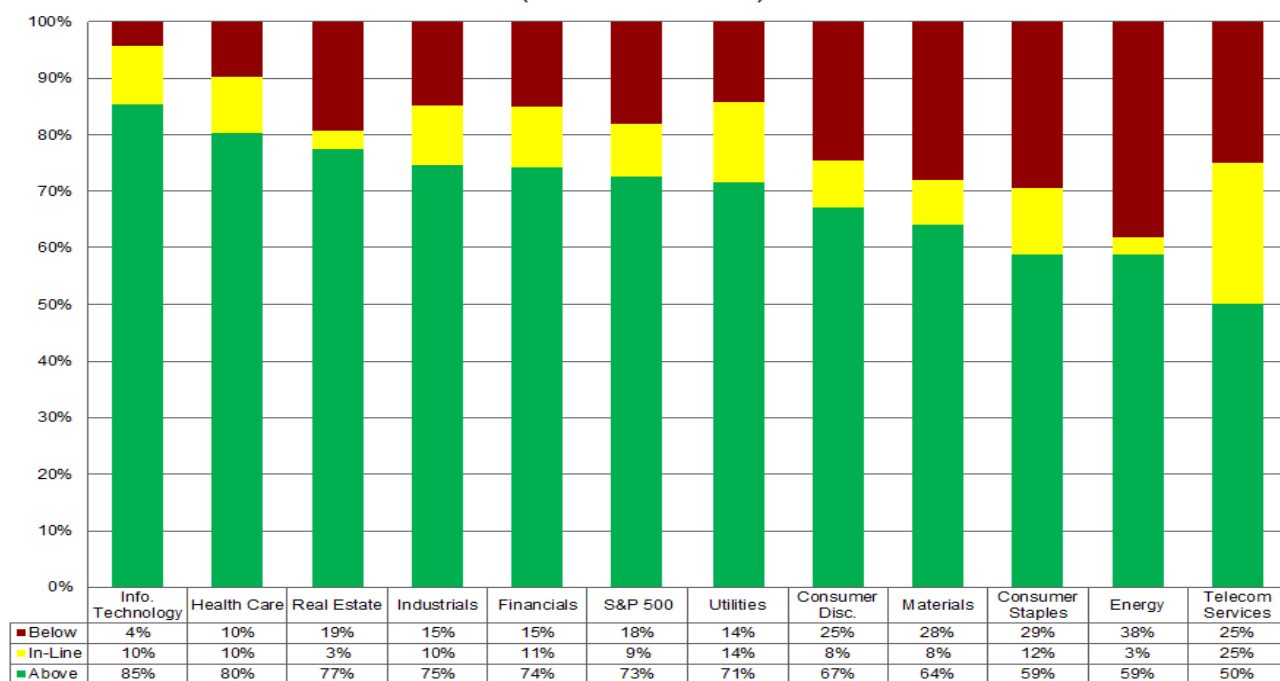
Overall, there are 10,962 ratings on stocks in the S&P 500. Of these 10,962 ratings, 49.4% are Buy ratings, 45.4% are Hold ratings, and 5.1% are Sell ratings. At the sector level, the Information Technology (58%), Energy (57%), and Health Care (56%) sectors have the highest percentages of Buy ratings, while the Telecom Services (7%) sector has the highest percentage of Sell ratings.

Companies Reporting Next Week: 1

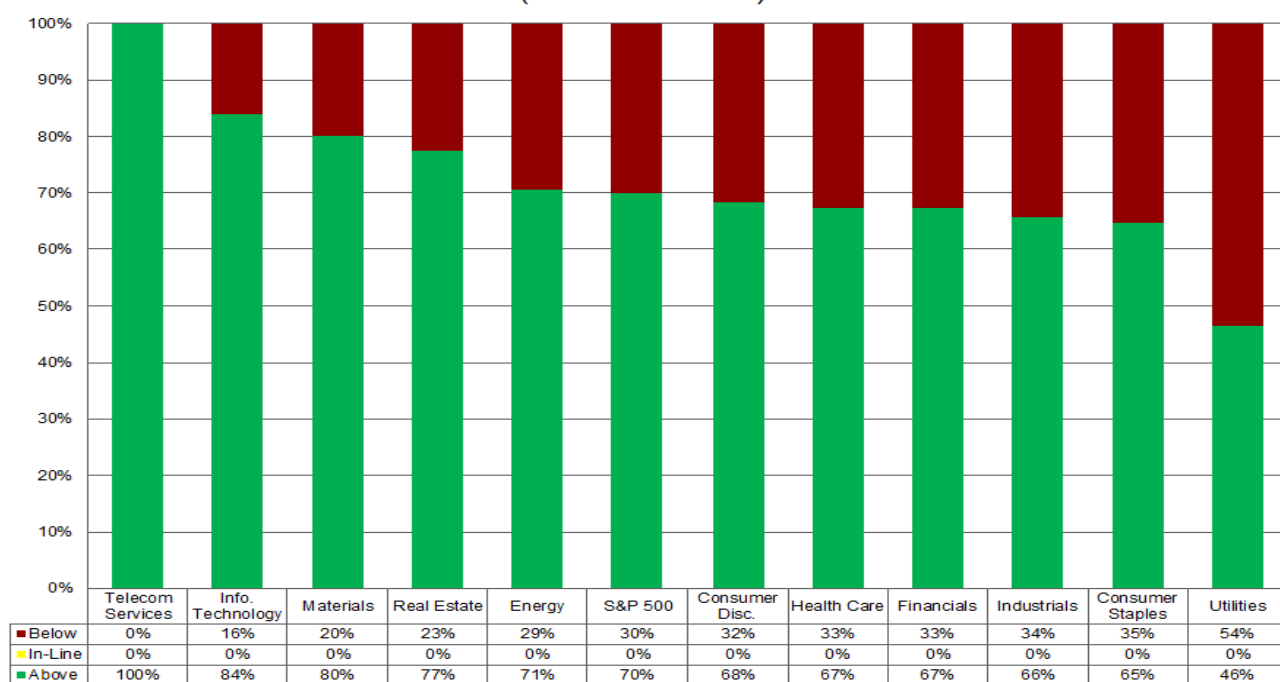
During the upcoming week, one S&P 500 company is scheduled to report results for the third quarter.

Q2 2017: Scorecard

S&P 500 Earnings Above, In-Line, Below Estimates: Q2 2017
(Source: FactSet)

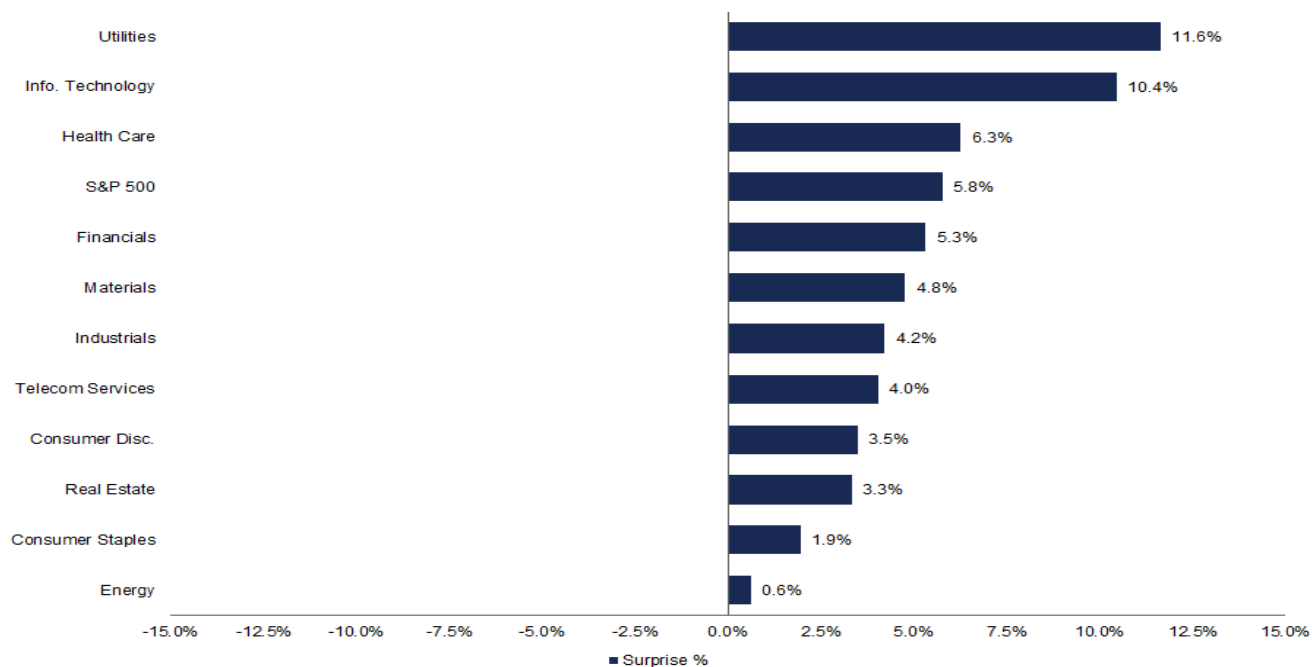


S&P 500 Revenues Above, In-Line, Below Estimates: Q2 2017
(Source: FactSet)

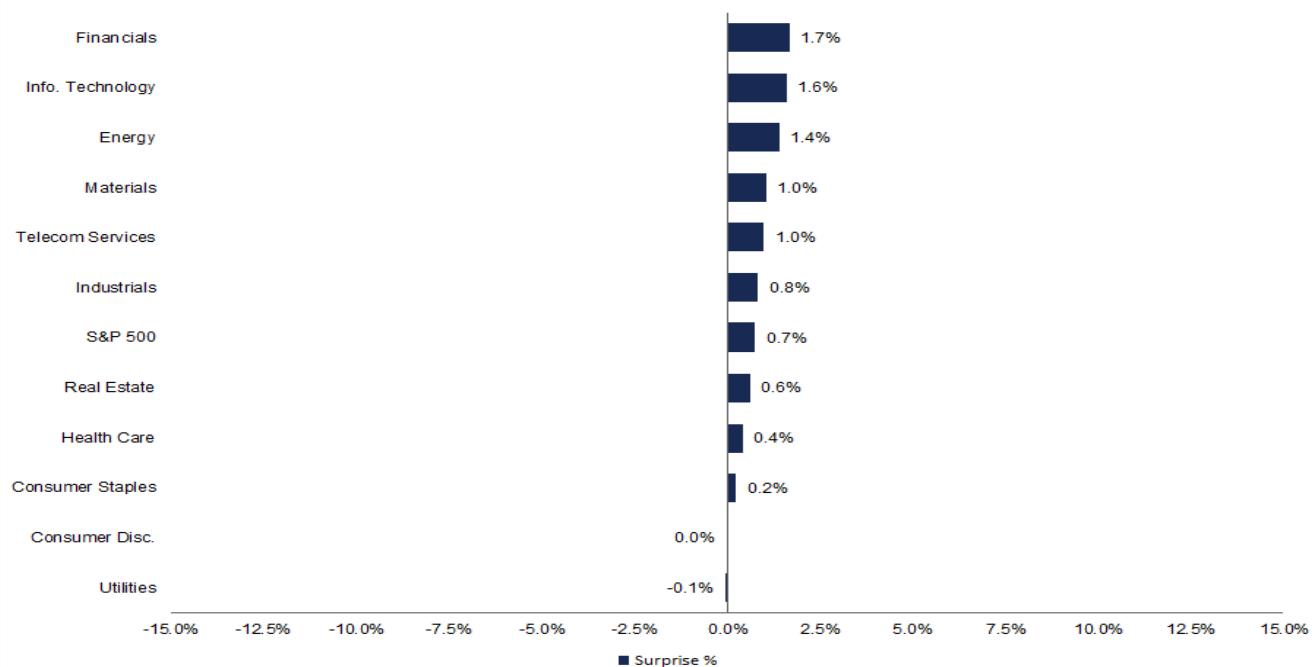


Q2 2017: Scorecard

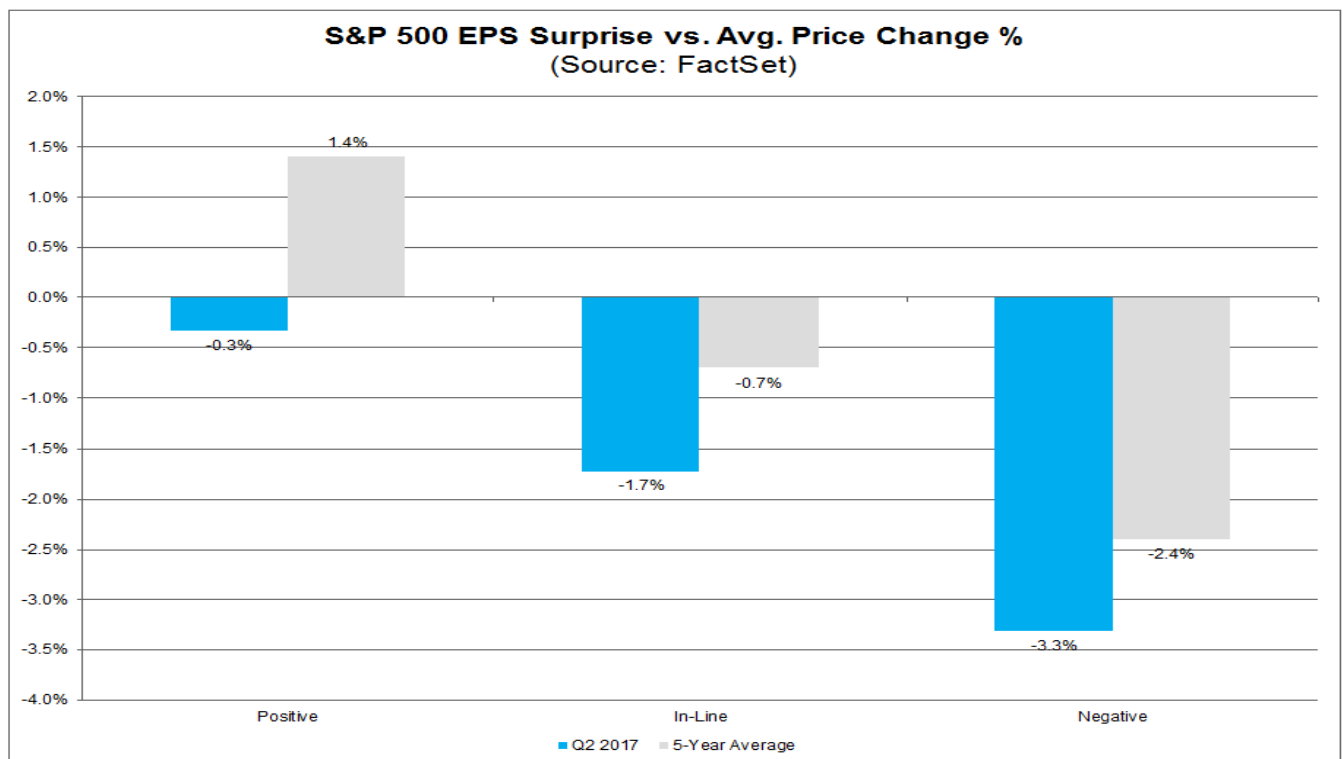
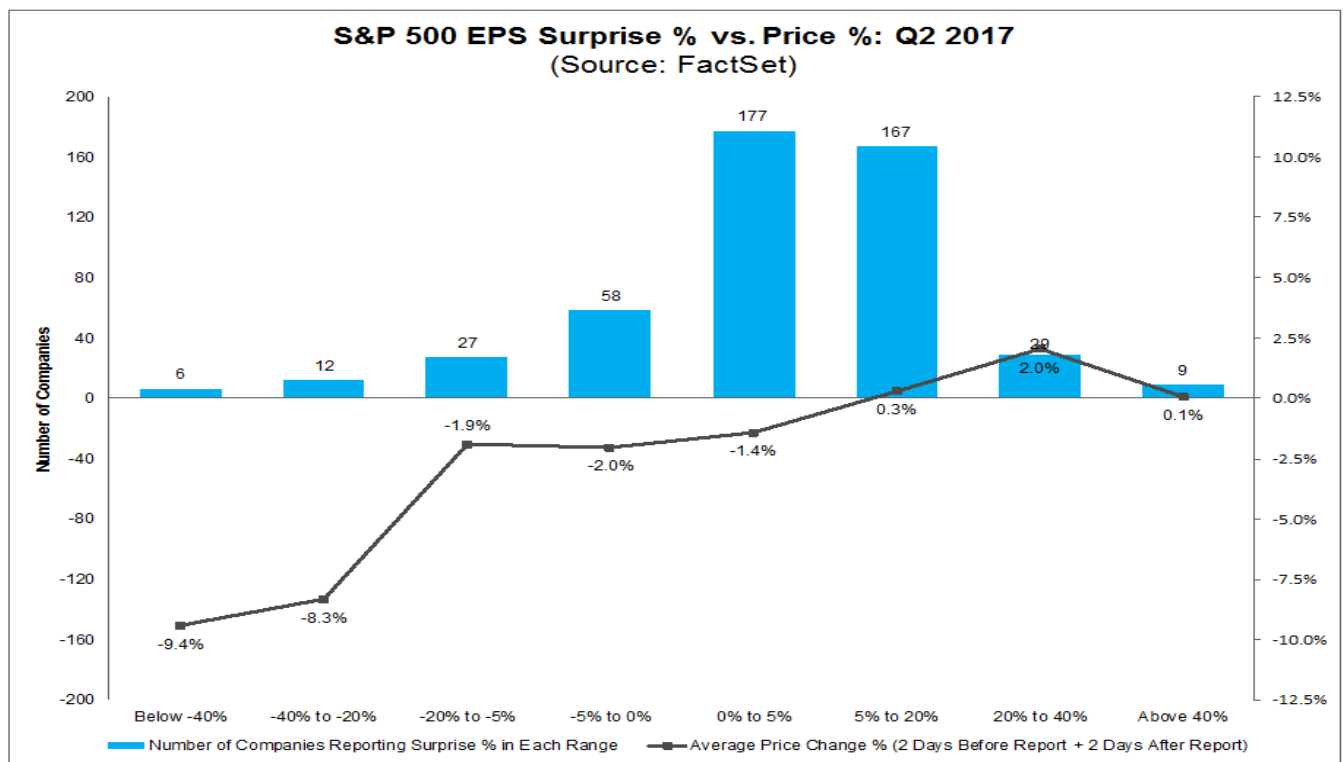
S&P 500 Sector-Level Earnings Surprise %: Q2 2017
(Source: FactSet)



S&P 500 Sector-Level Revenue Surprise %: Q2 2017
(Source: FactSet)

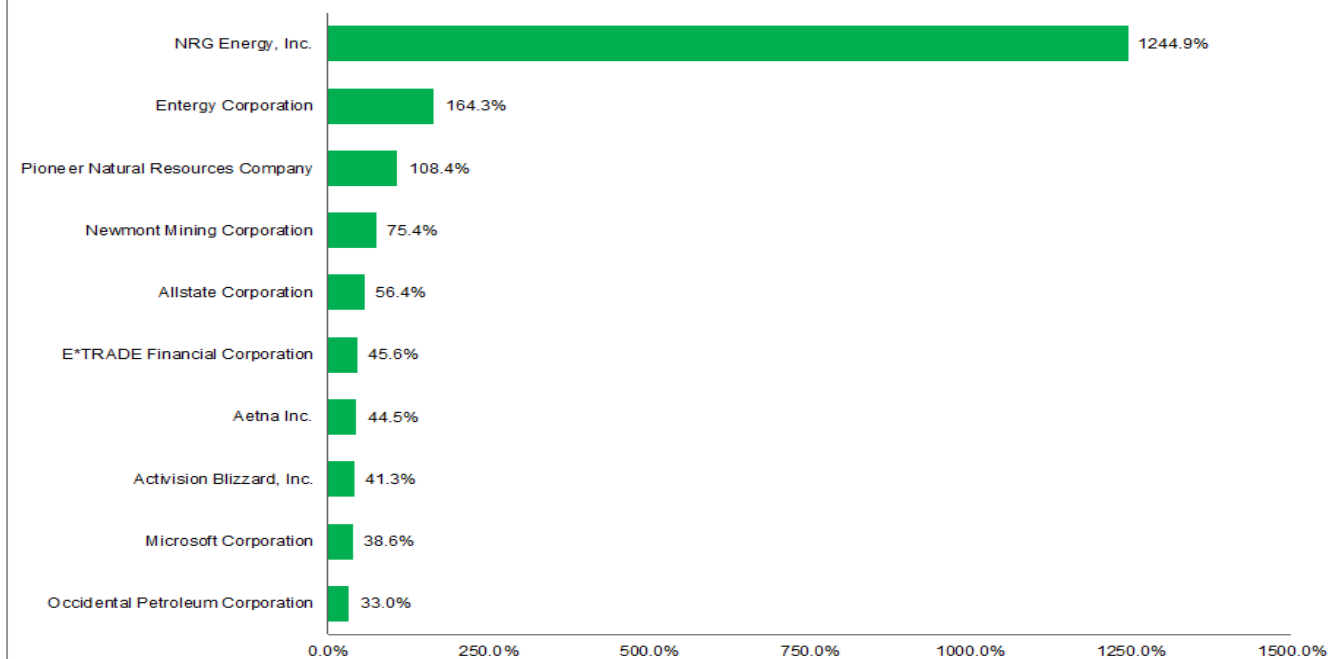


Q2 2017: Scorecard

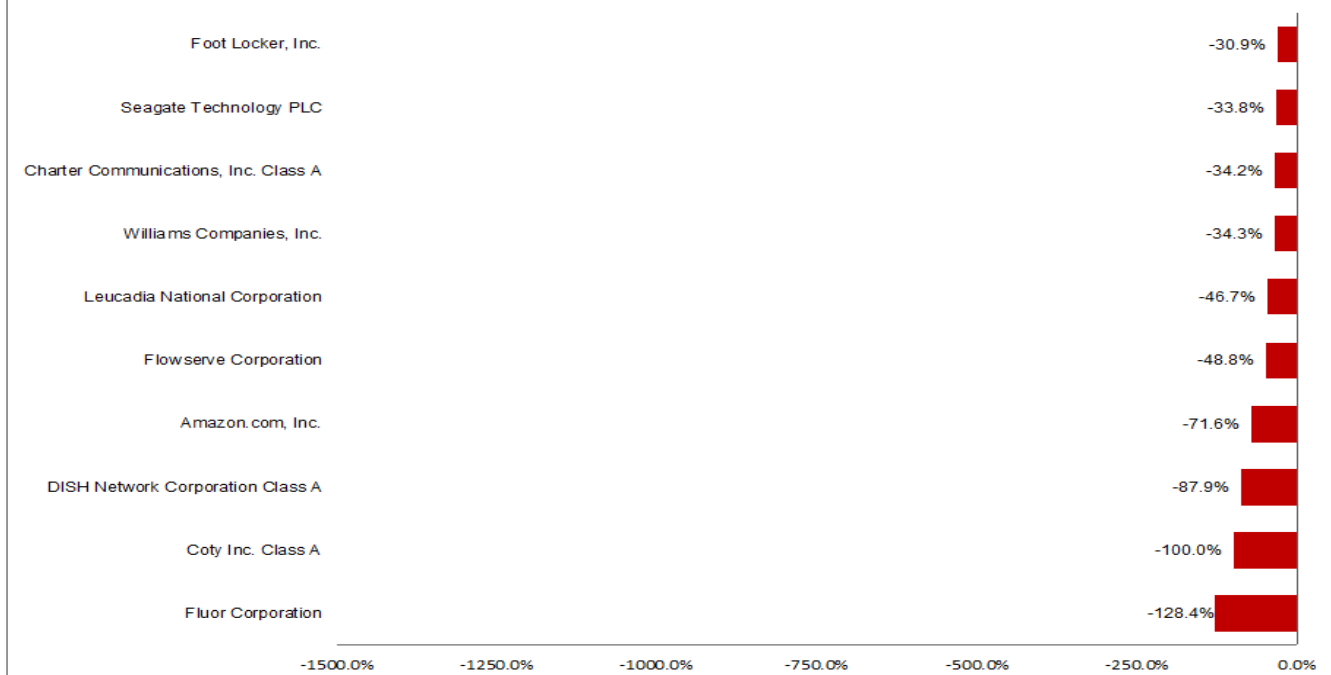


Q2 2017: Scorecard

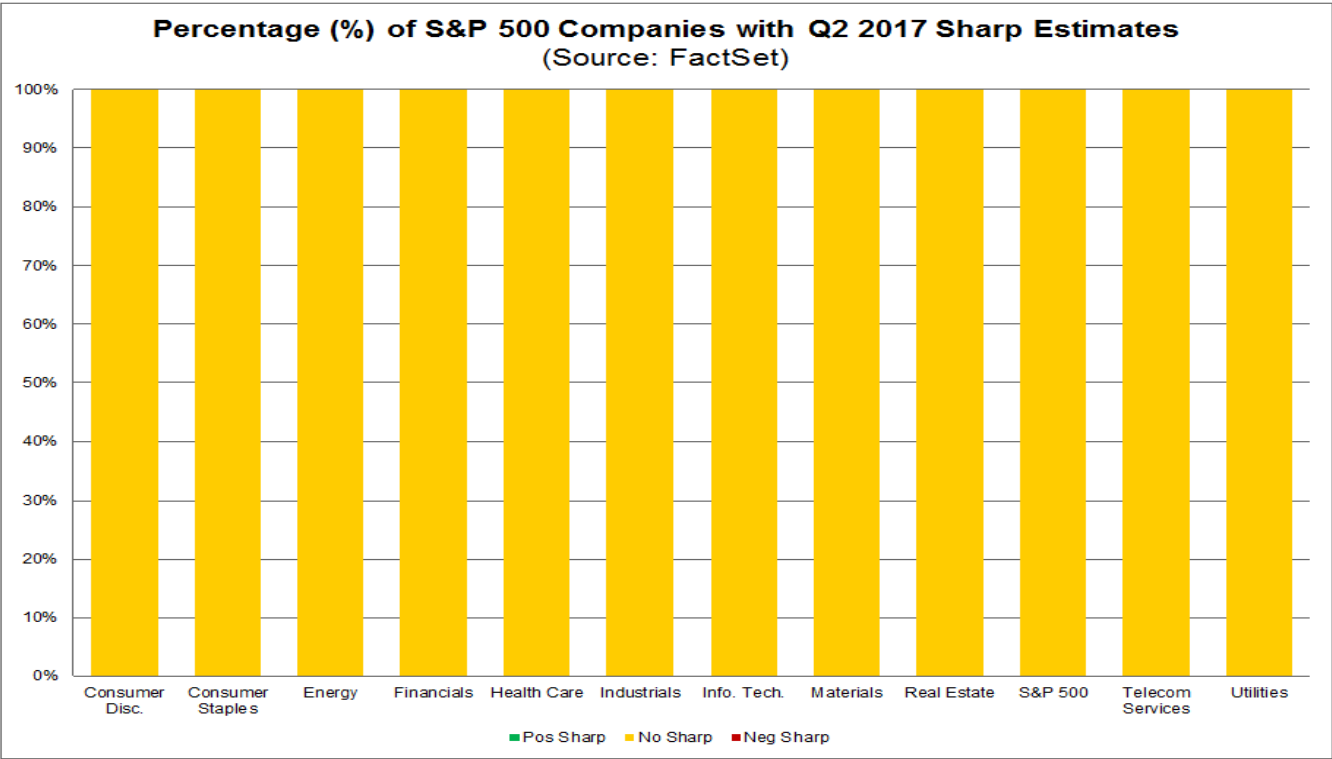
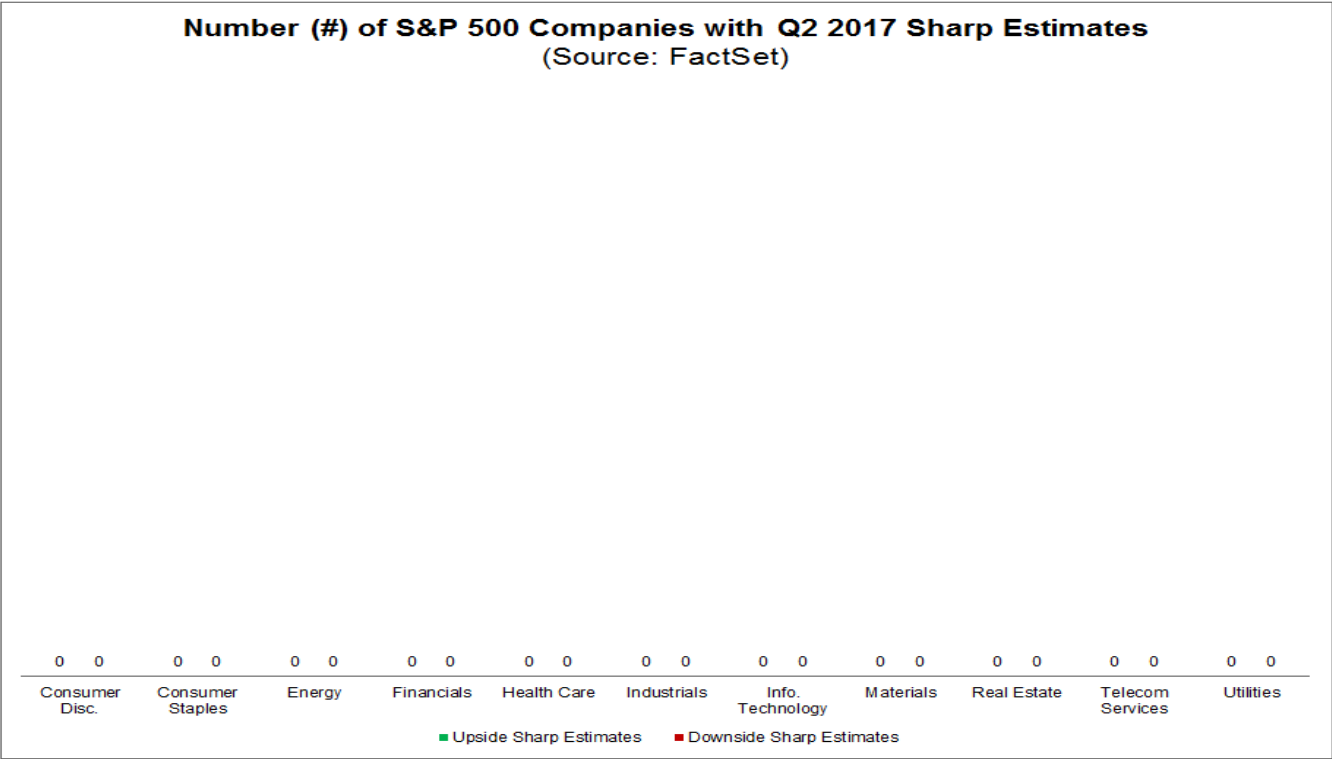
S&P 500 Actual EPS Surprise %: Top 10 Q2 Actual EPS Surprises
(Source: FactSet)



S&P 500 Actual EPS Surprise %: Bottom 10 Q2 Actual EPS Surprises
(Source: FactSet)

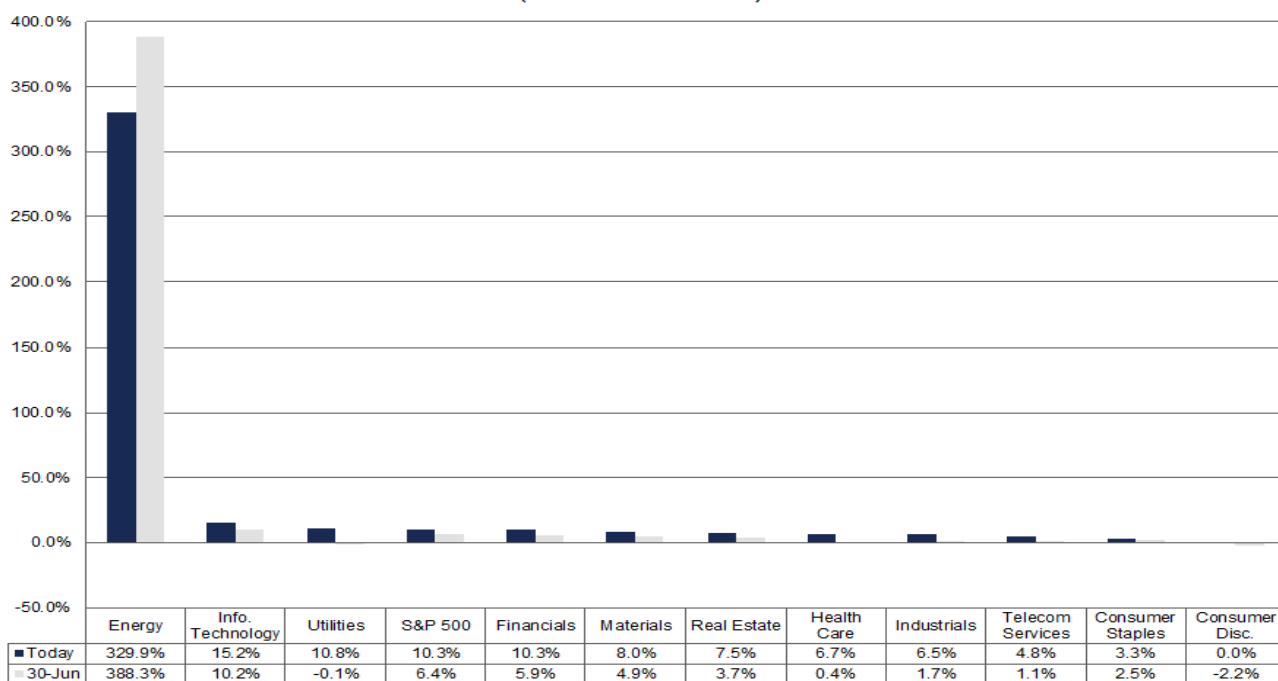


Q2 2017: Projected EPS Surprises (Sharp Estimates)

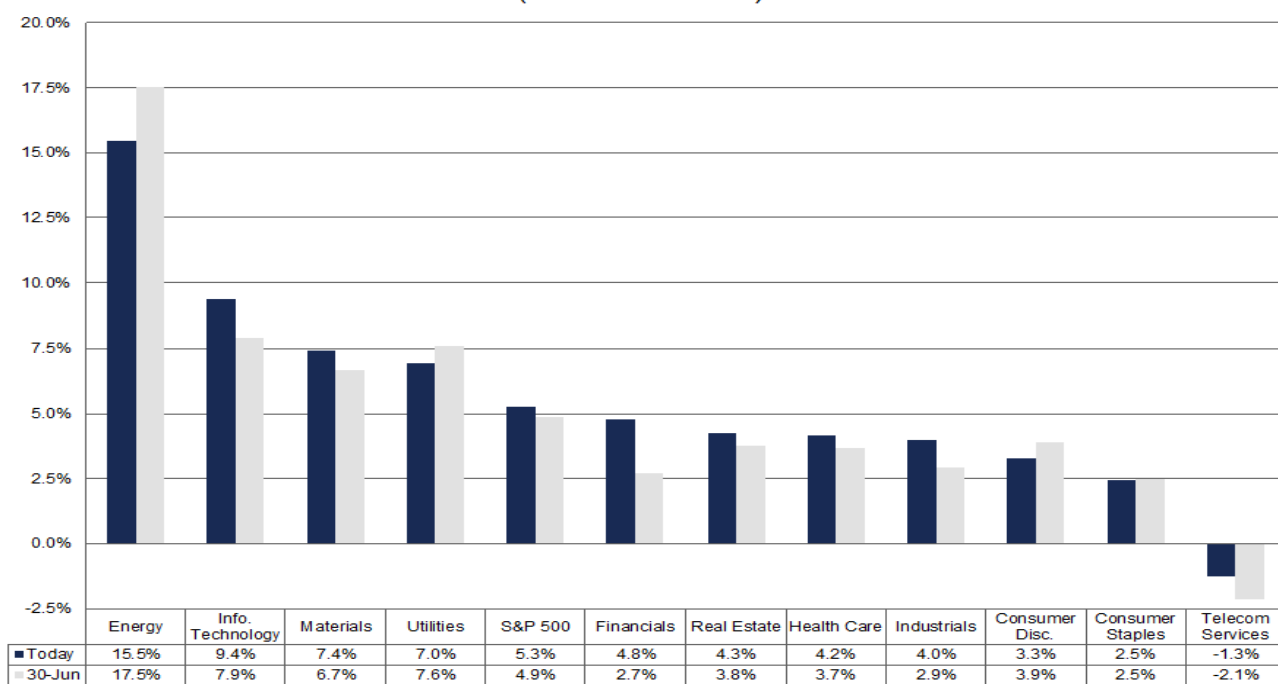


Q2 2017: Growth

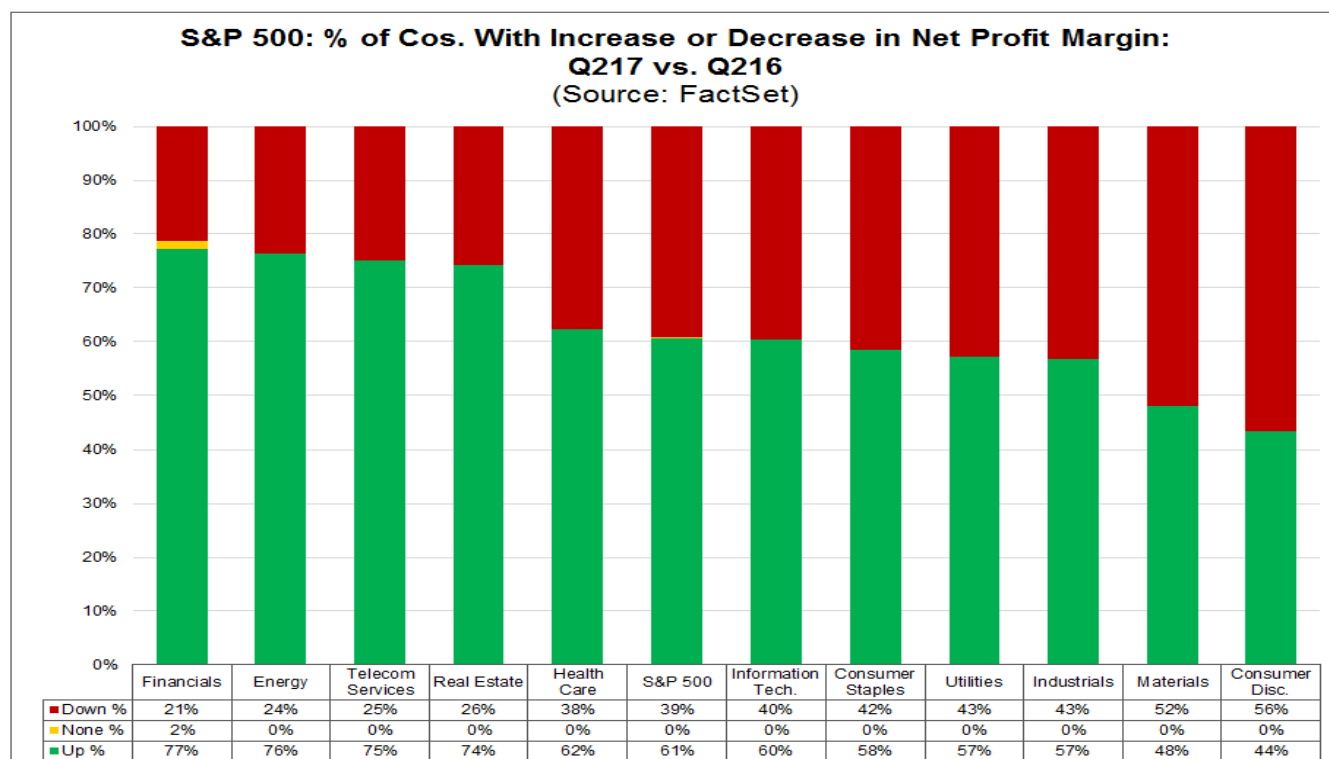
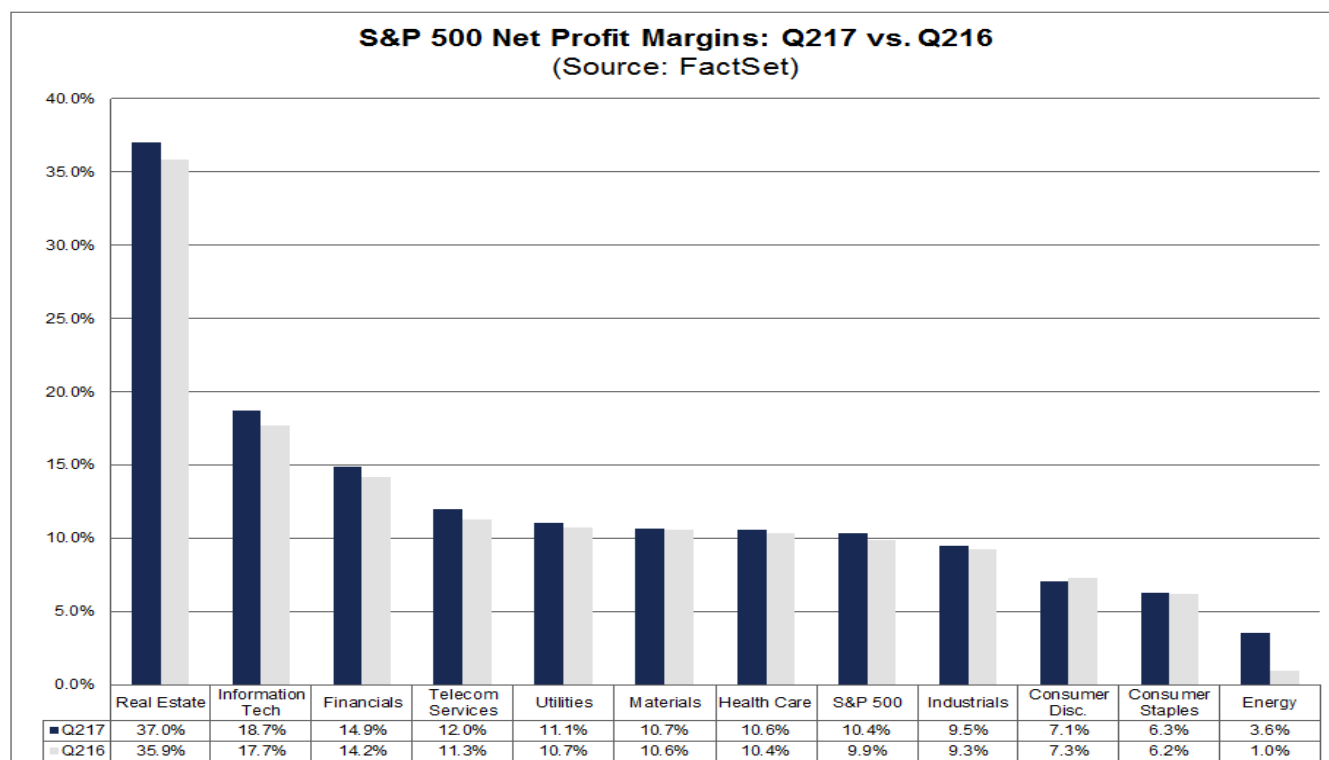
S&P 500 Earnings Growth: Q2 2017
(Source: FactSet)



S&P 500 Revenue Growth: Q2 2017
(Source: FactSet)

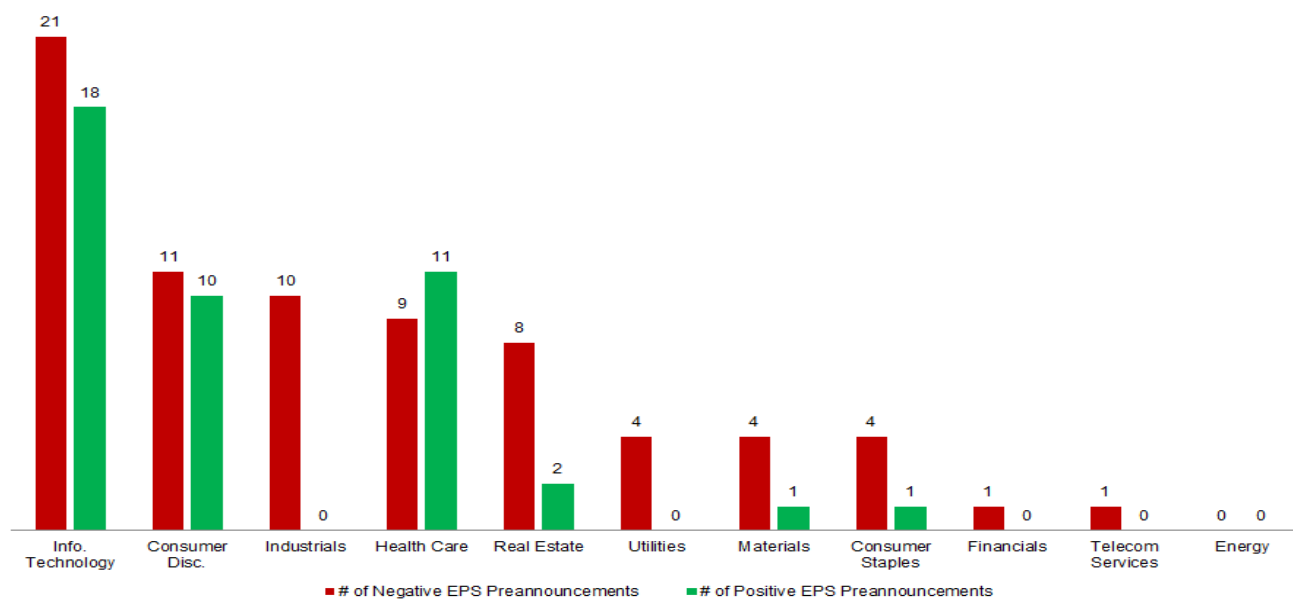


Q2 2017: Net Profit Margin

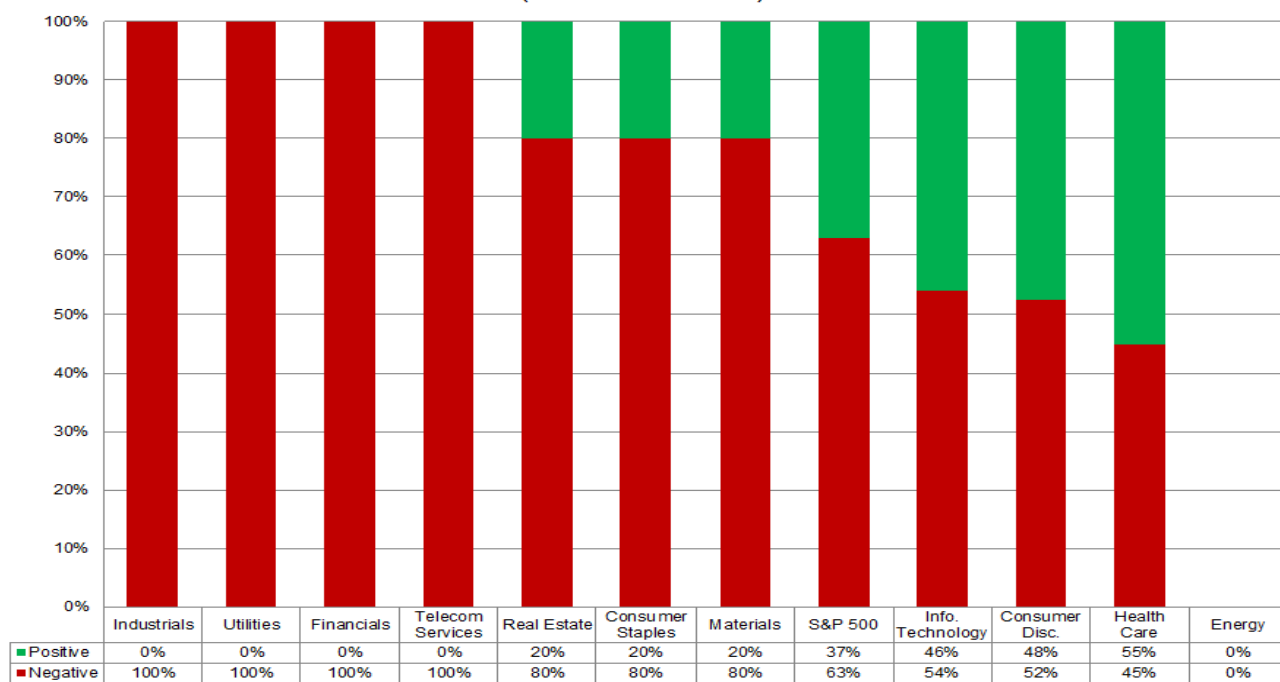


Q3 2017: Guidance

Number (#) of S&P 500 Cos. with Q3 Positive & Negative Guidance
(Source: FactSet)

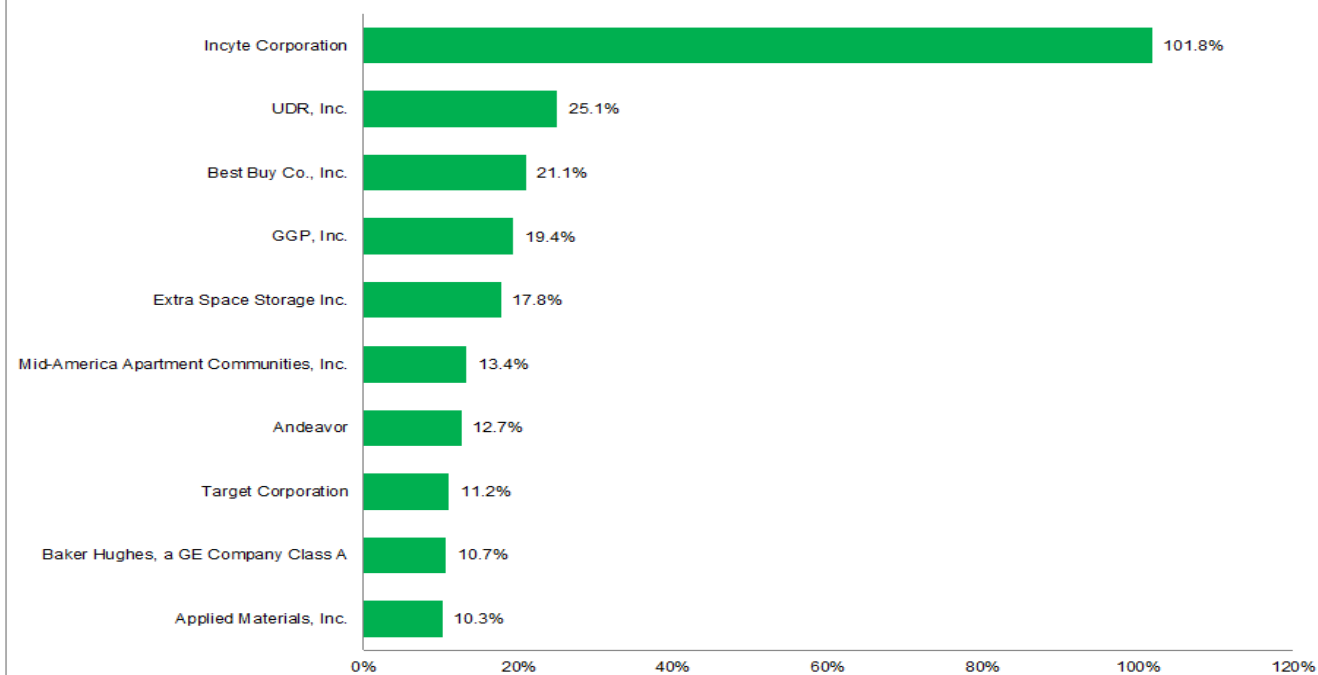


Percentage (%) of S&P 500 Cos. with Q3 Positive & Negative Guidance
(Source: FactSet)

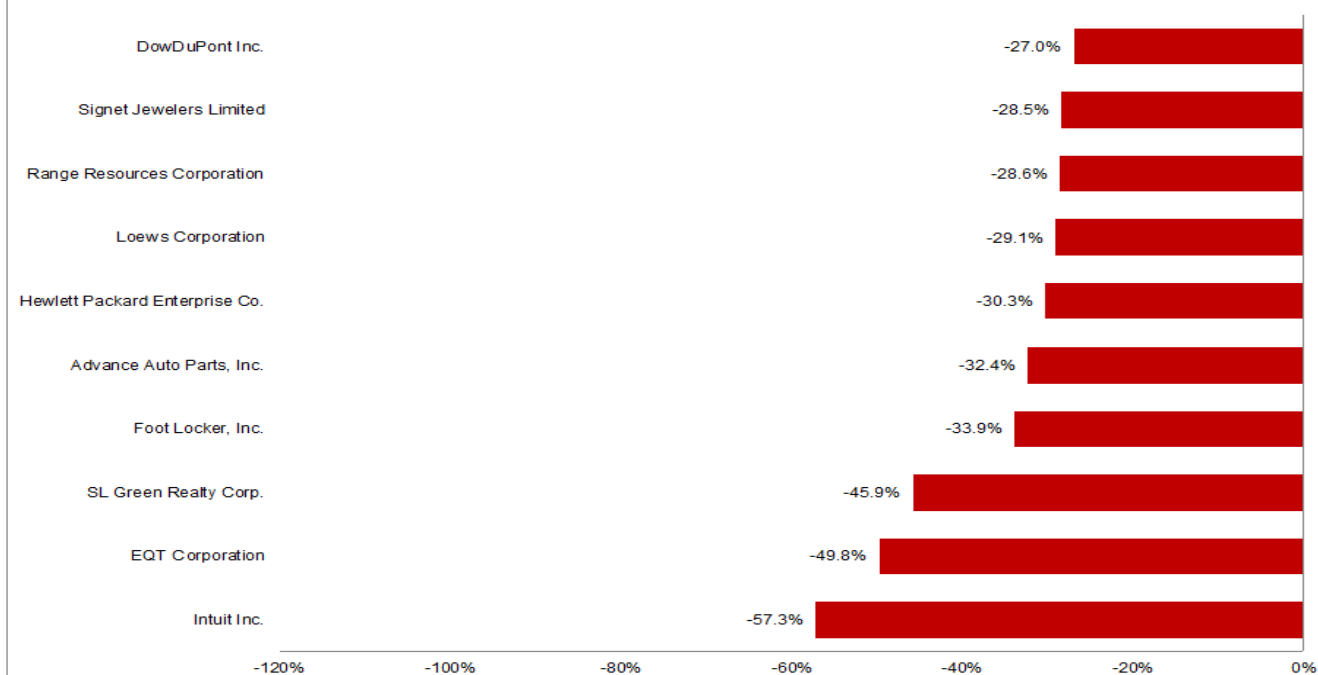


Q3 2017: EPS Revisions

Upward Change in Q3 EPS (Trailing 4 Weeks): Top 10 S&P 500 Cos.
(Source: FactSet)

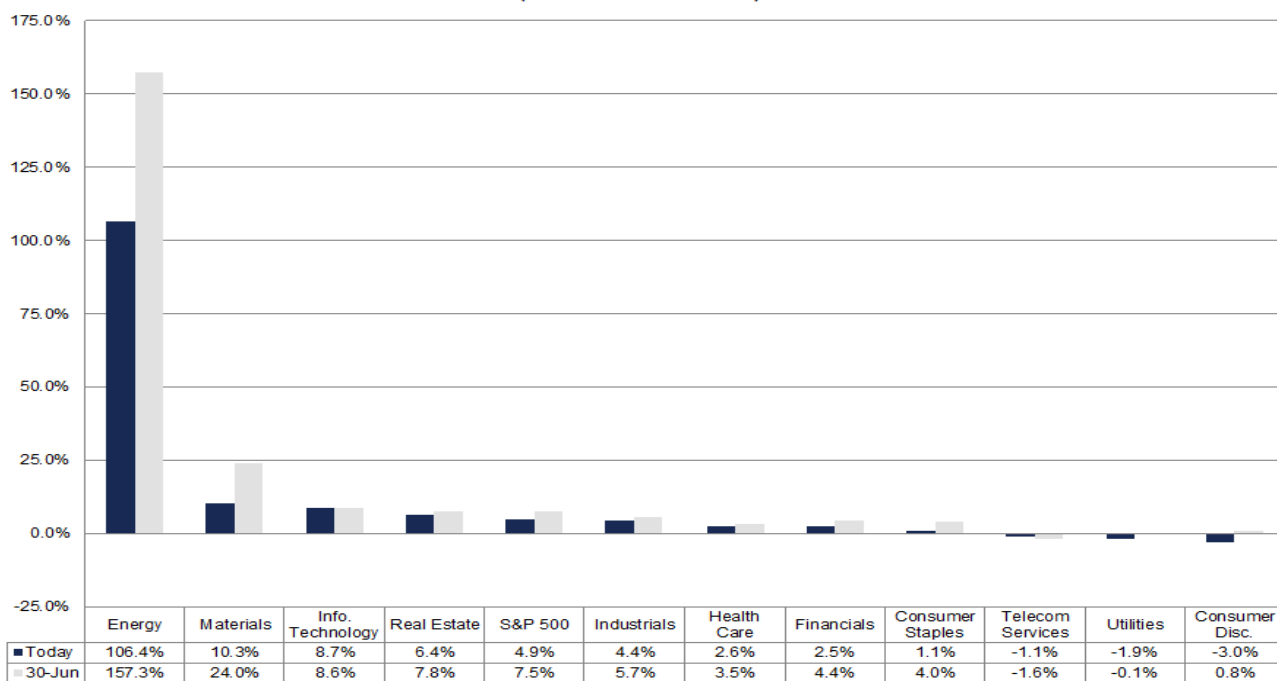


Downward Change in Q3 EPS (Trailing 4-Weeks): Top 10 S&P 500 Cos.
(Source: FactSet)

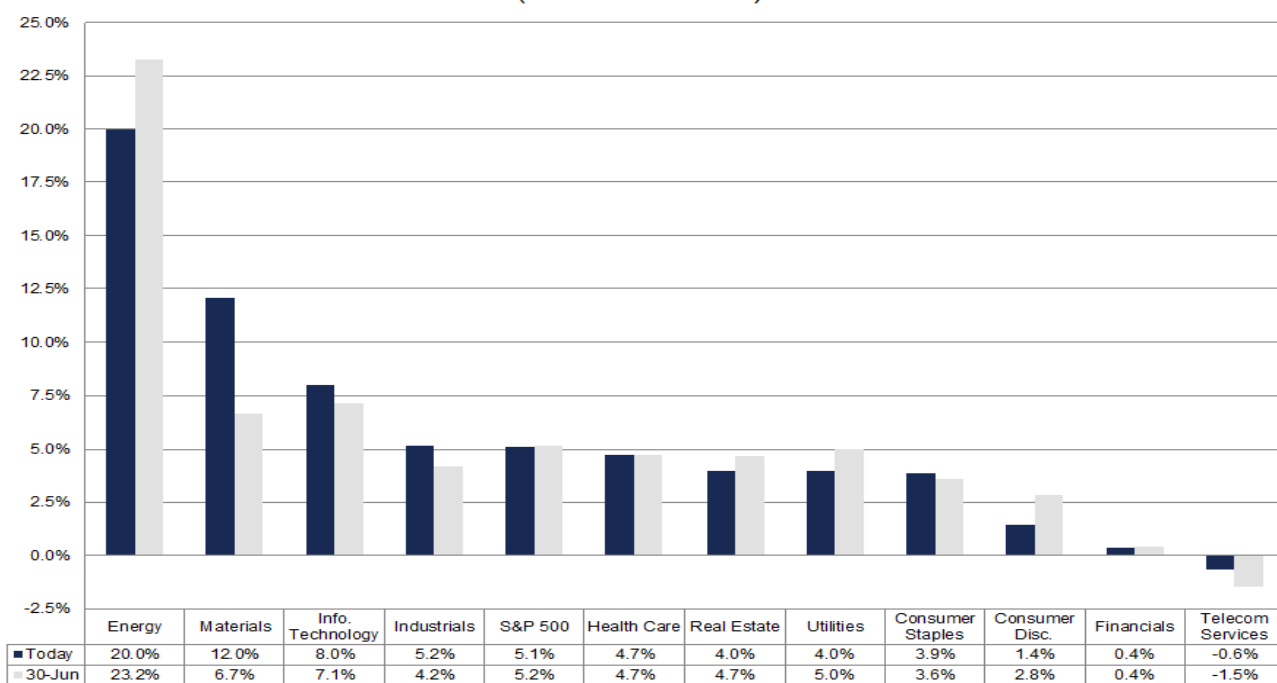


Q3 2017: Growth

S&P 500 Earnings Growth: Q3 2017
(Source: FactSet)

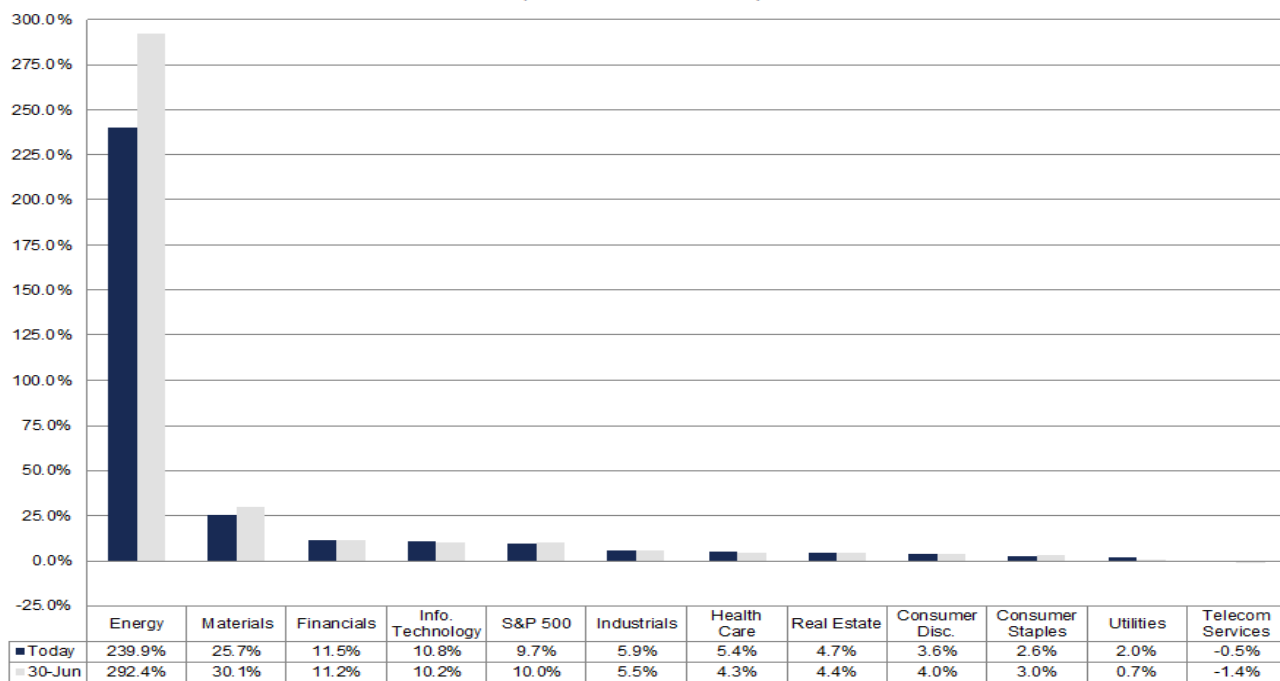


S&P 500 Revenue Growth: Q3 2017
(Source: FactSet)

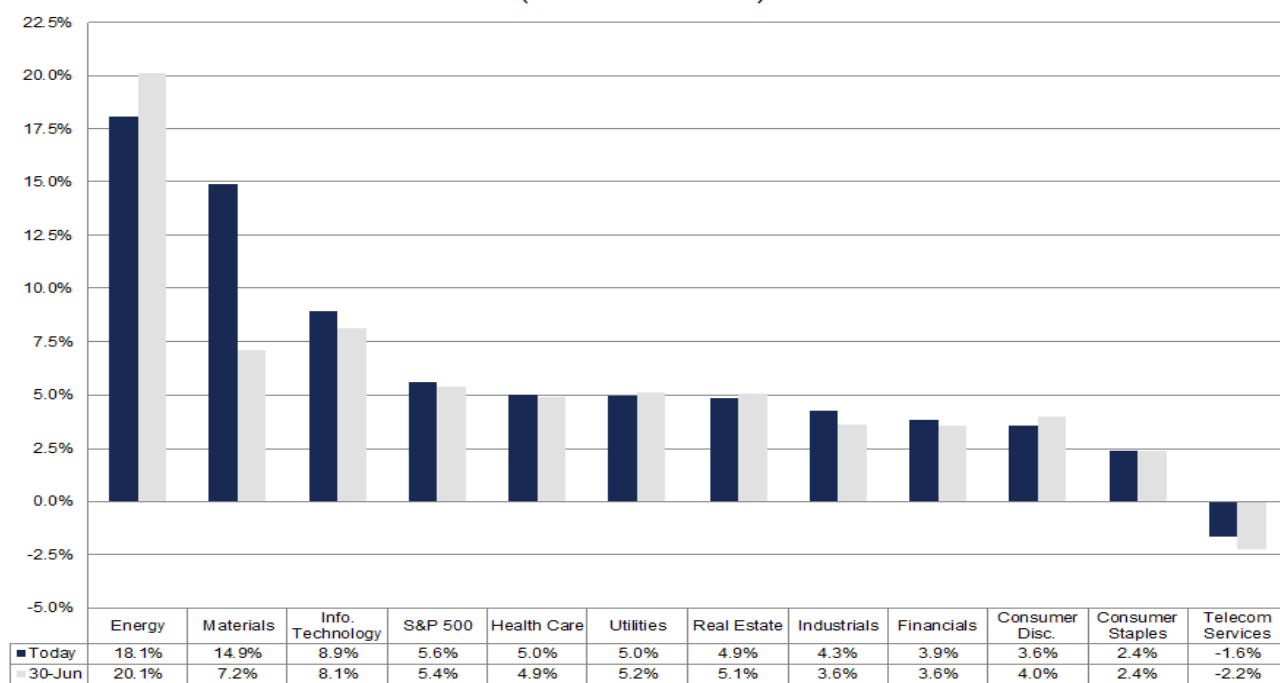


CY 2017: Growth

S&P 500 Earnings Growth: CY 2017
(Source: FactSet)

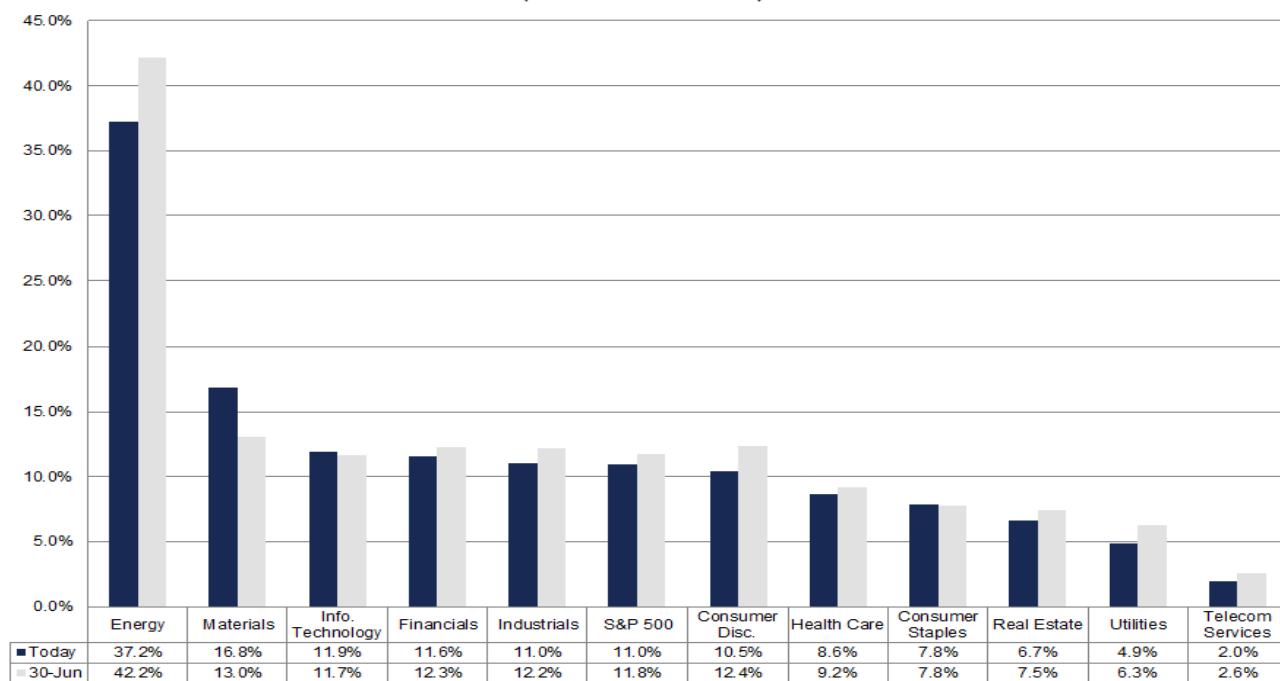


S&P 500 Revenue Growth: CY 2017
(Source: FactSet)

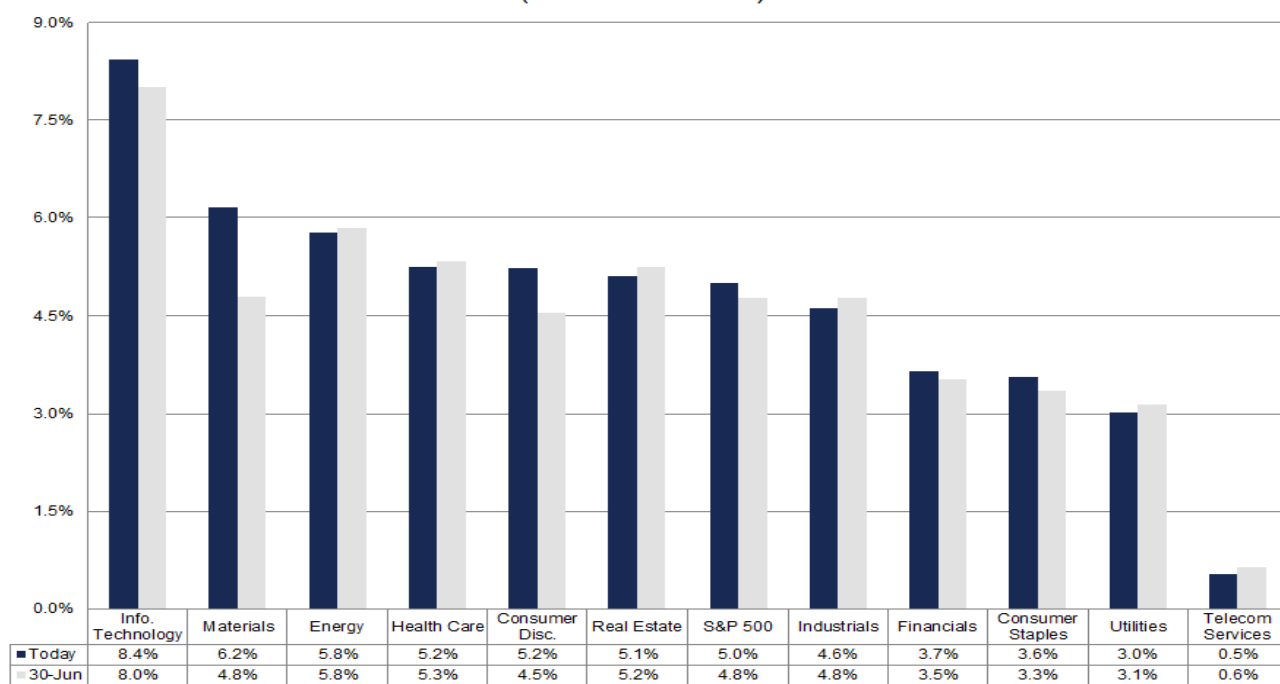


CY 2018: Growth

S&P 500 Earnings Growth: CY 2018
(Source: FactSet)

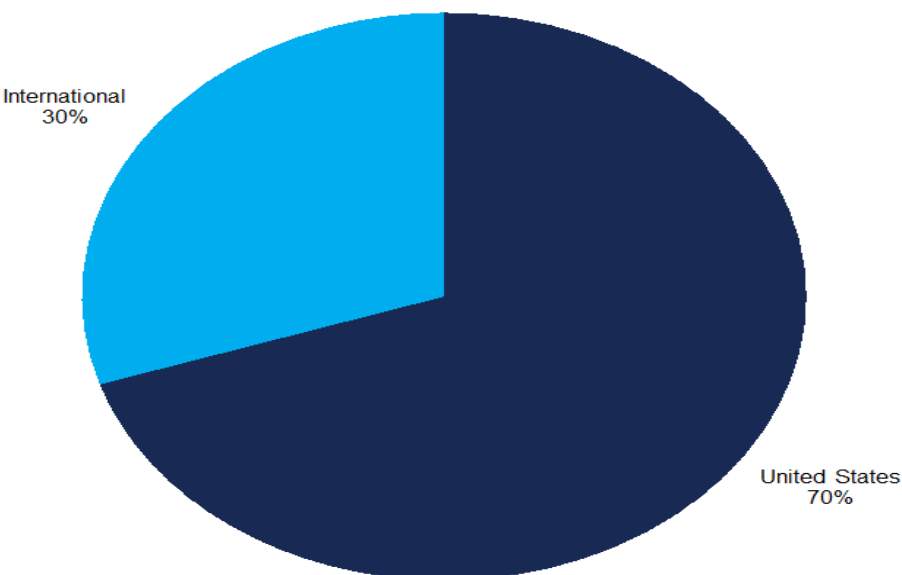


S&P 500 Revenue Growth: CY 2018
(Source: FactSet)

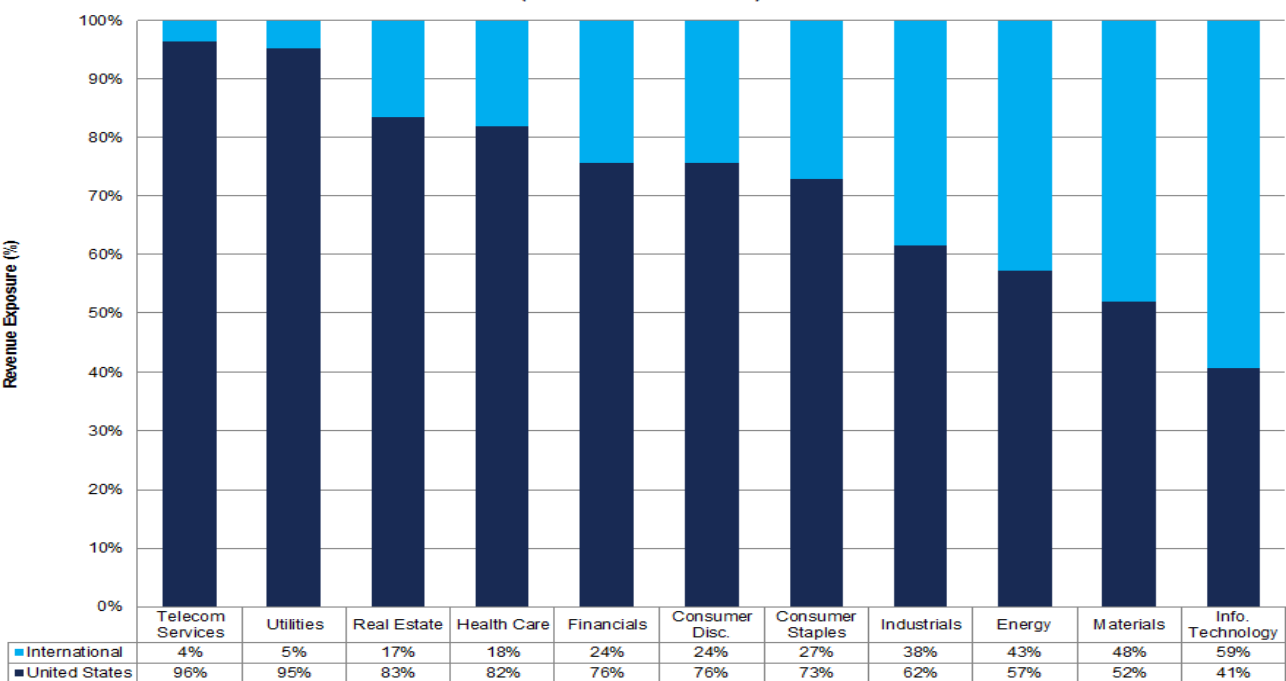


Geographic Revenue Exposure

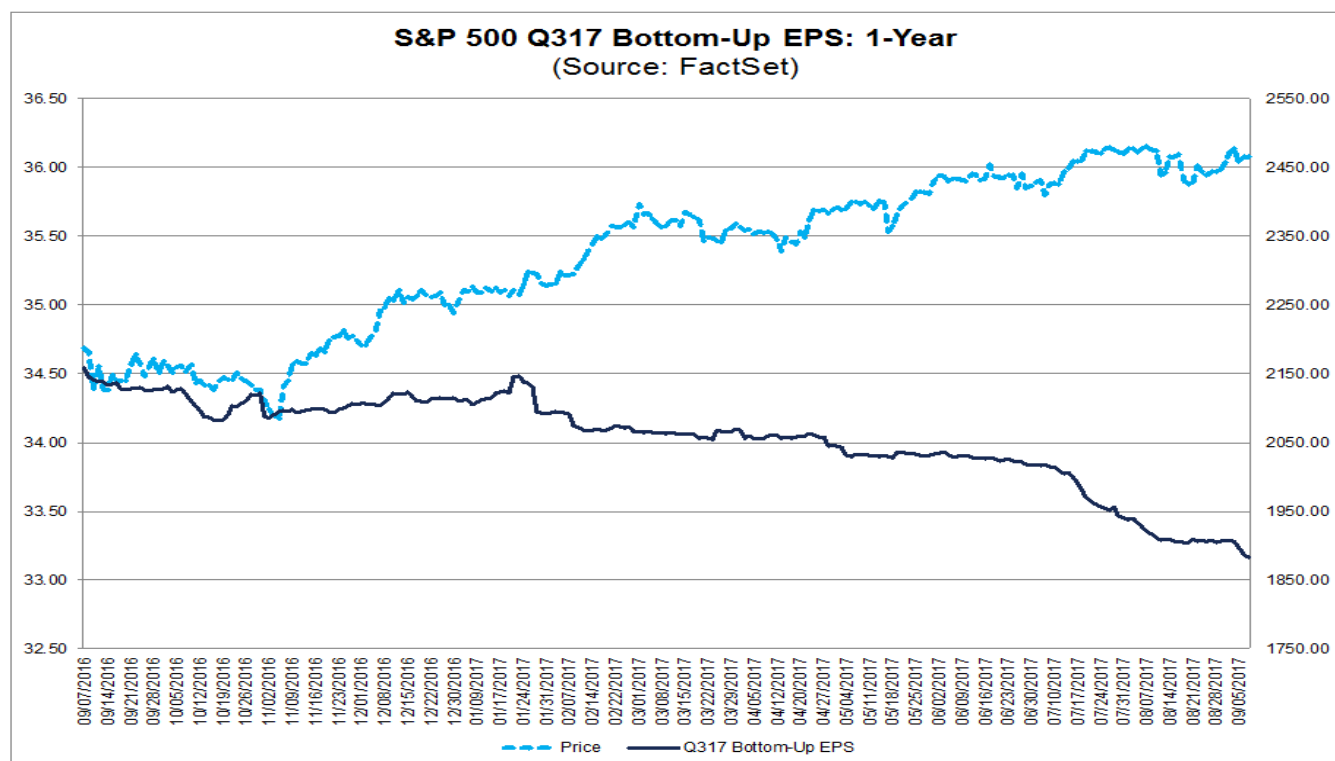
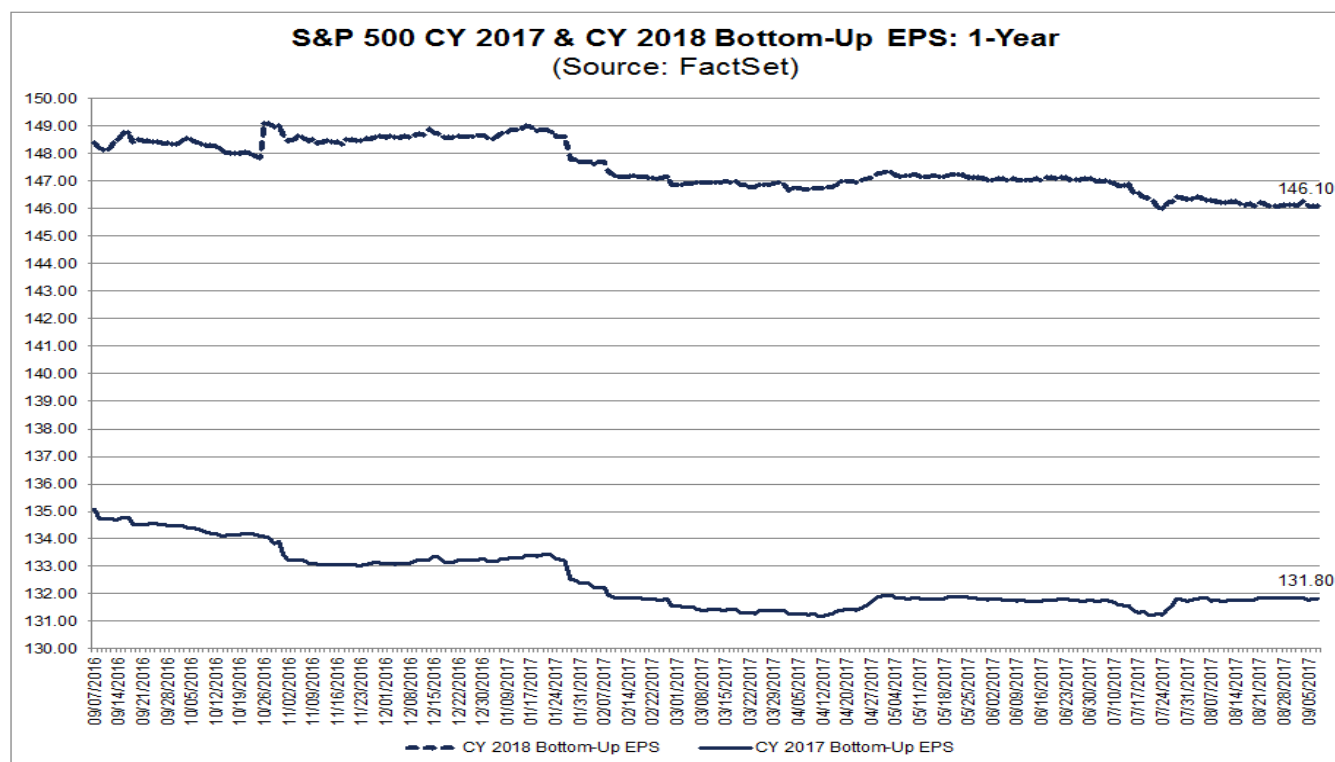
S&P 500: Aggregate Geographic Revenue Exposure (%)
(Source: FactSet)



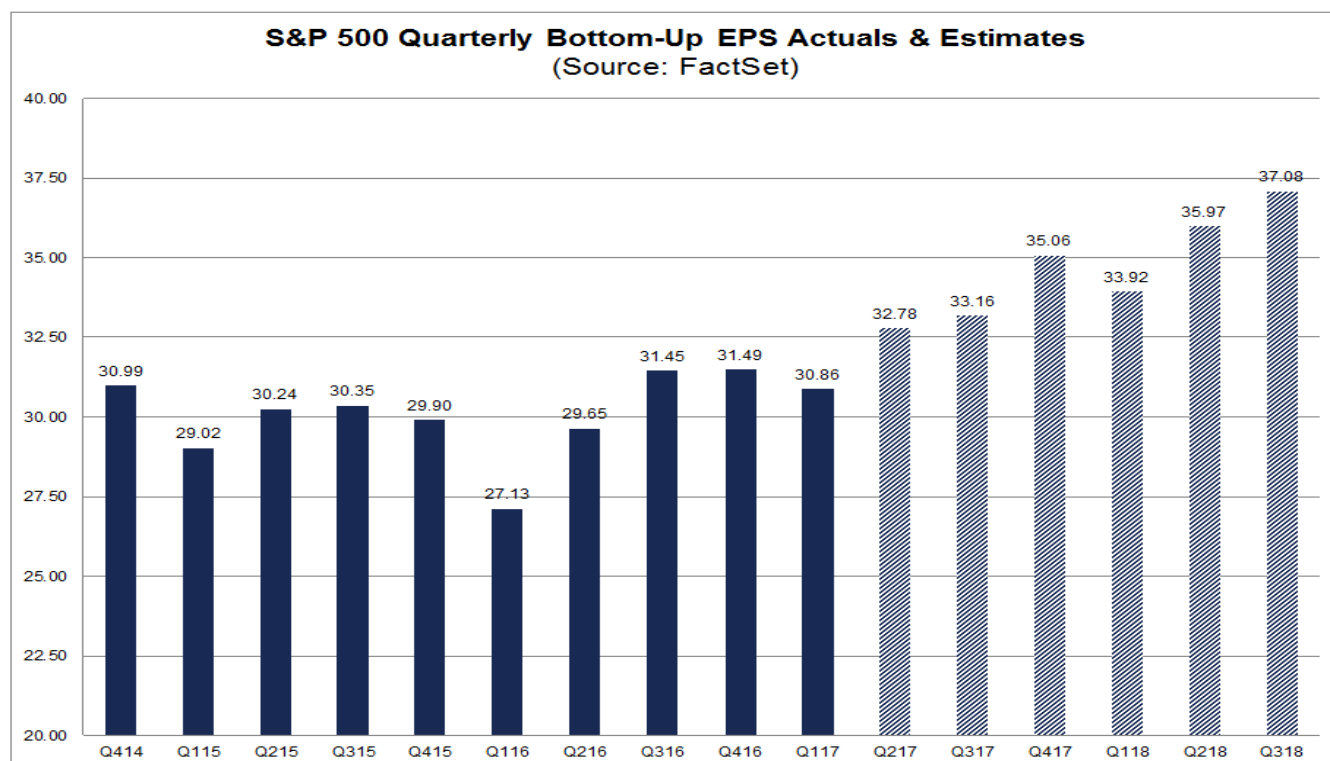
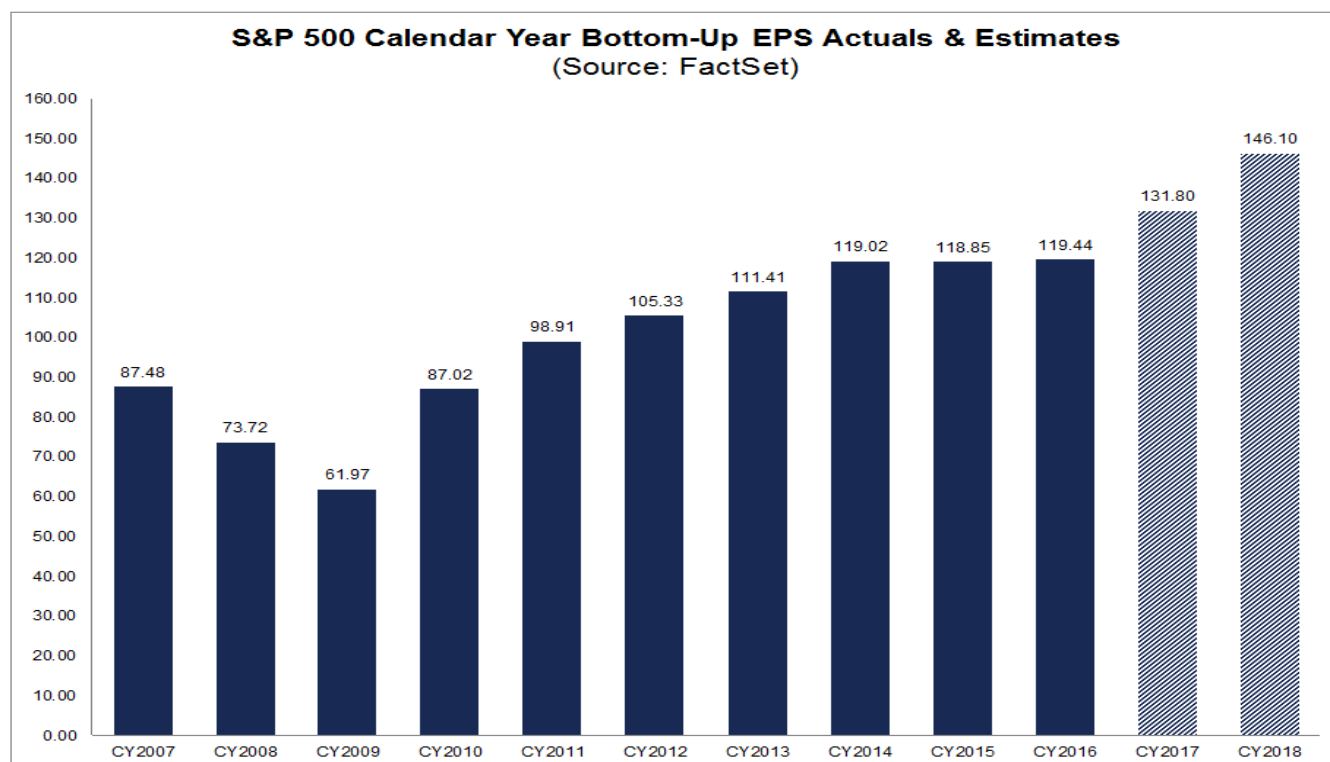
S&P 500: Aggregate Sector Geographic Revenue Exposure (%)
(Source: FactSet)



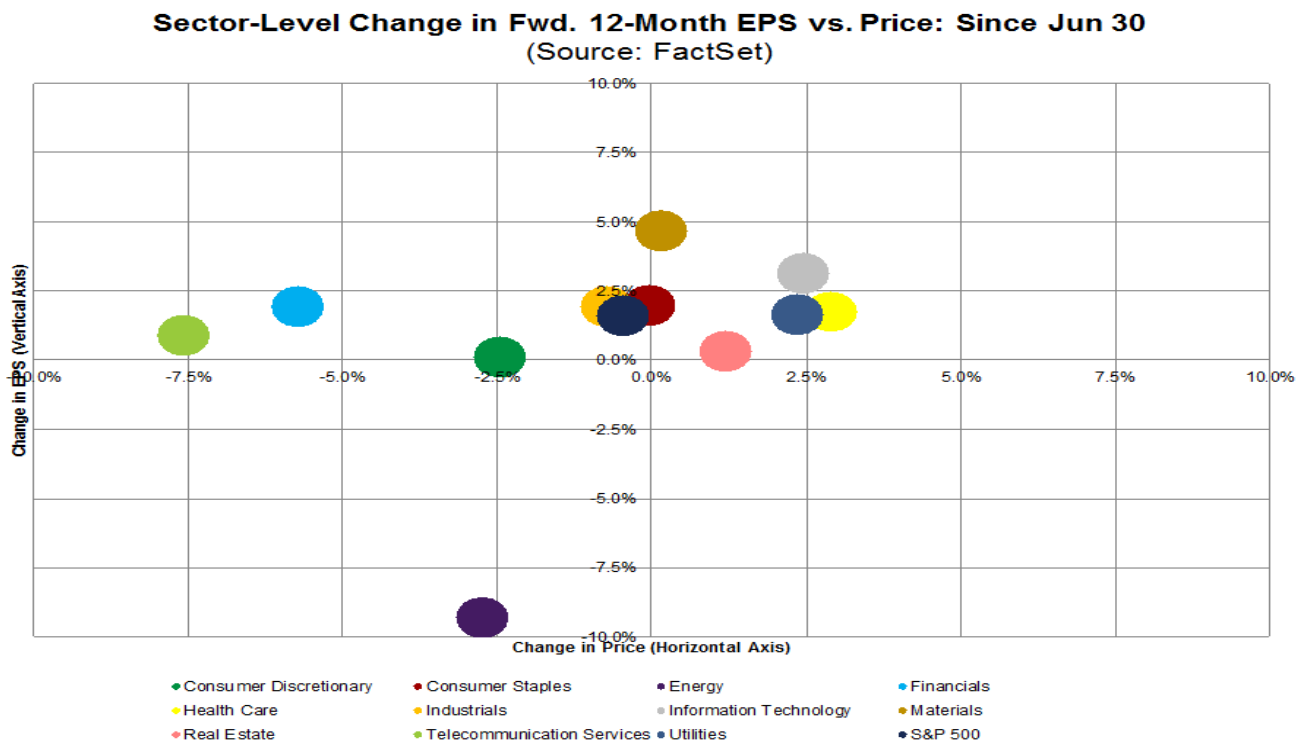
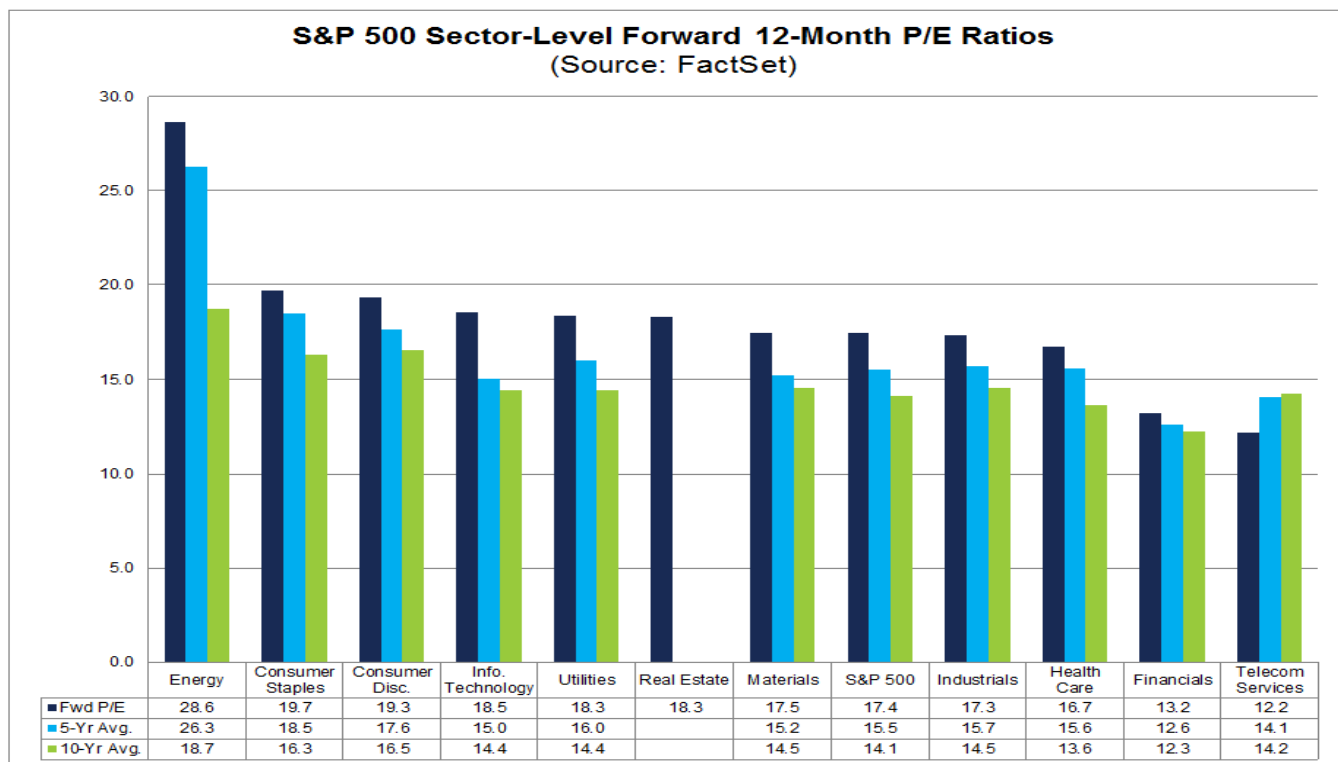
Bottom-up EPS Estimates: Revisions



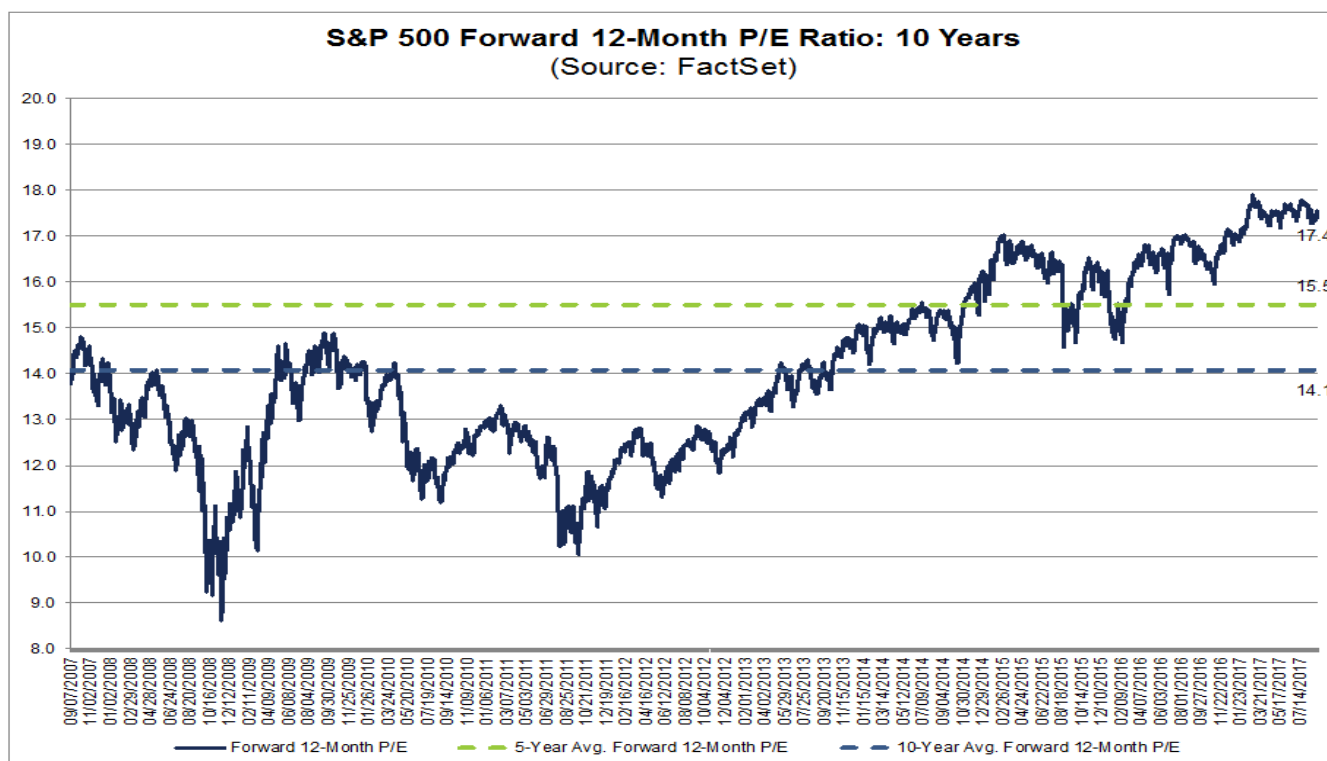
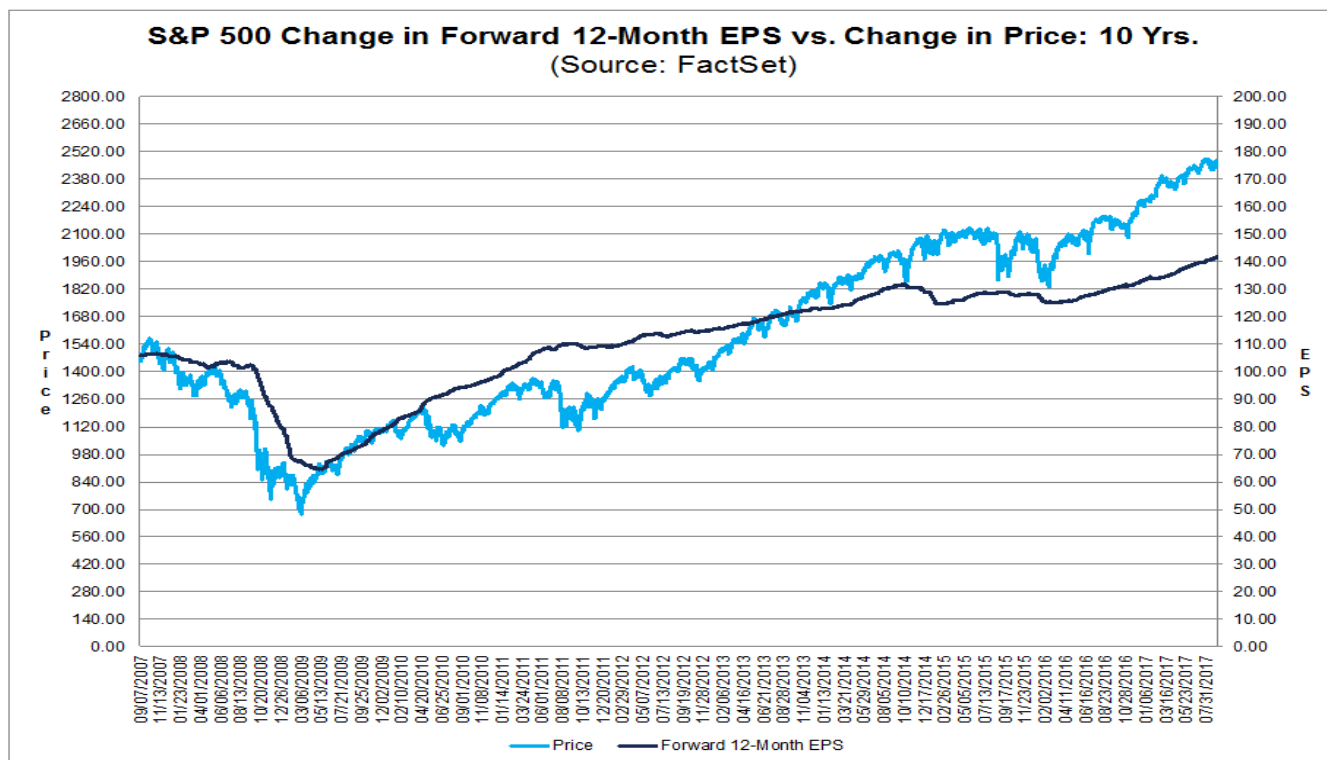
Bottom-up EPS Estimates: Current & Historical



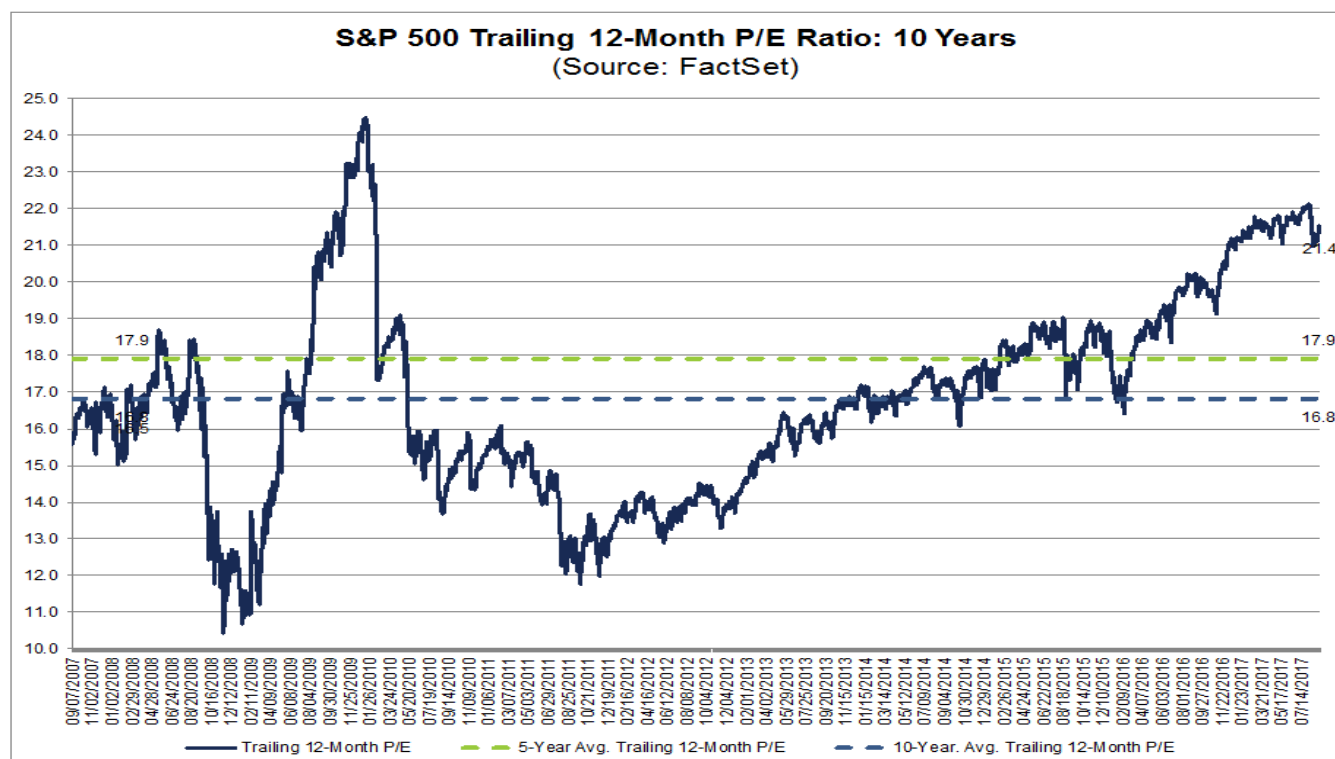
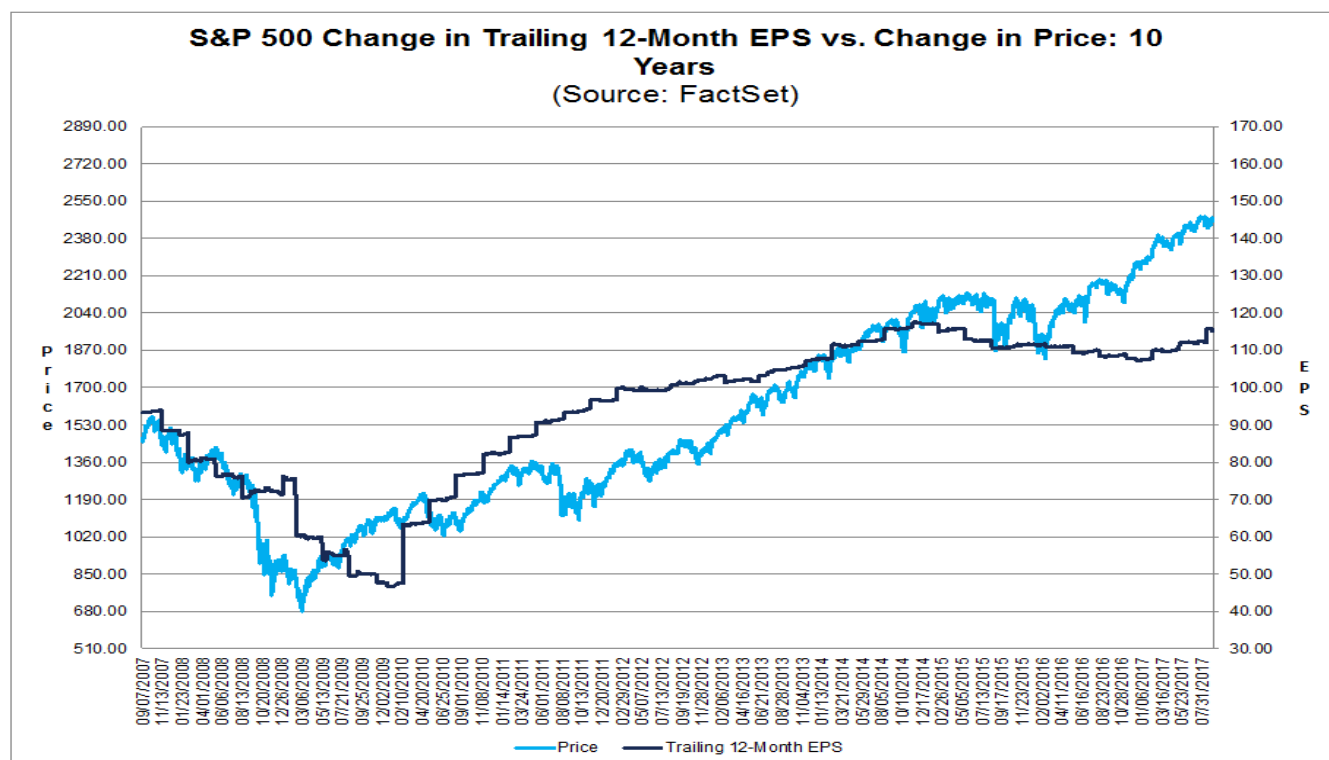
Forward 12M P/E Ratio: Sector Level



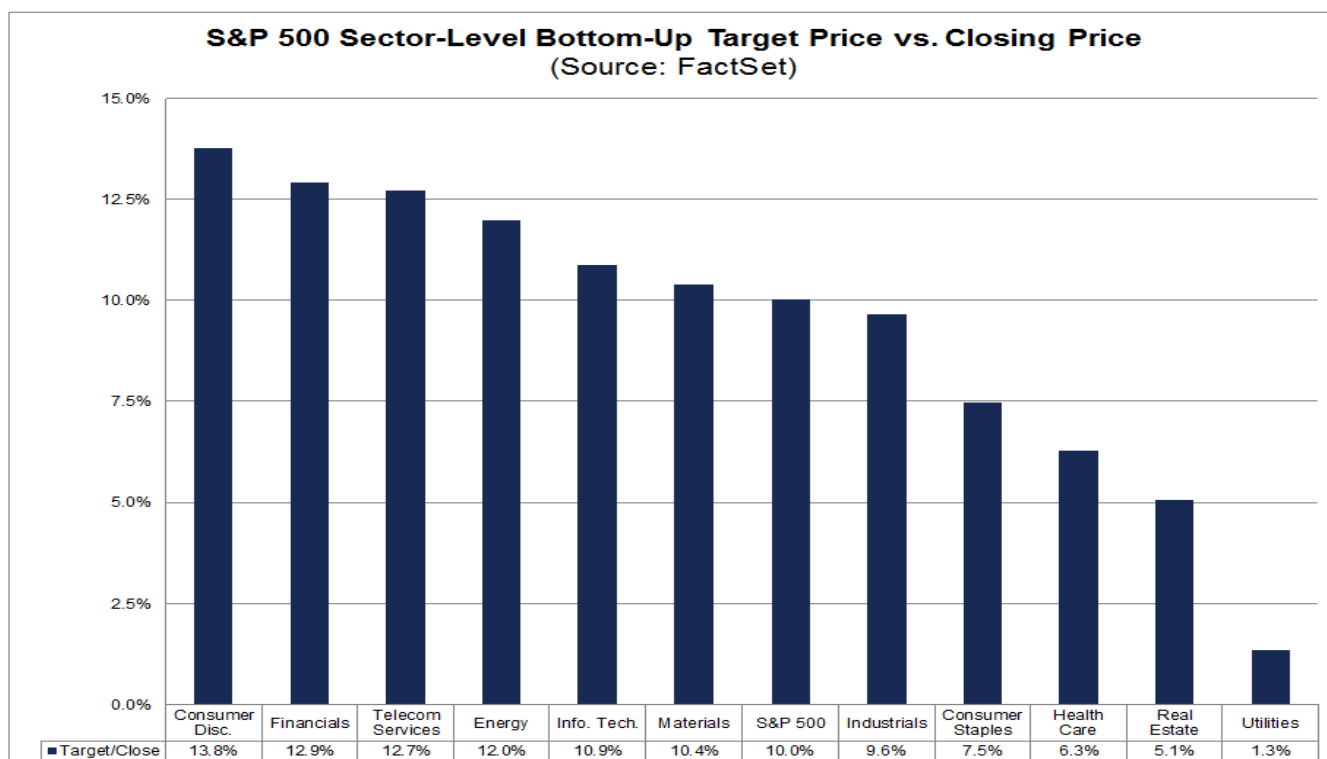
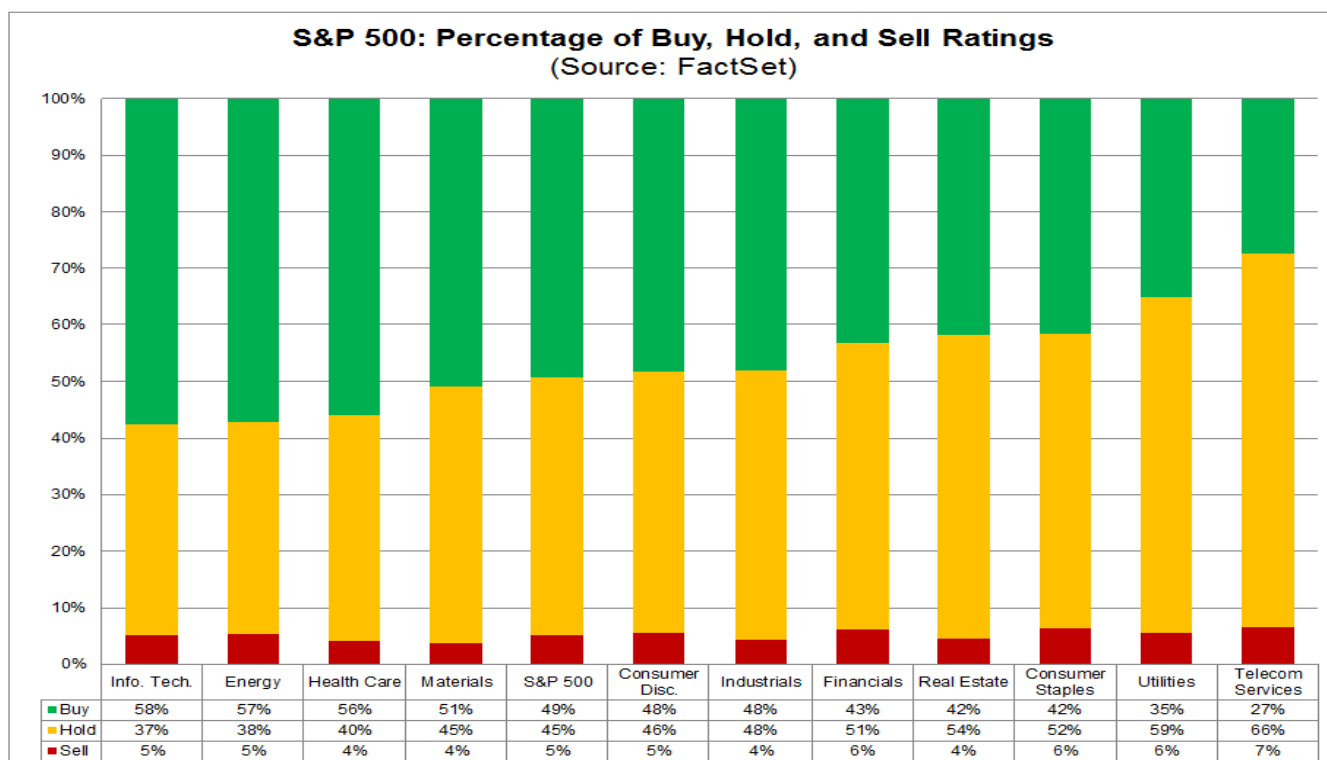
Forward 12M P/E Ratio: Long-Term Averages



Trailing 12M P/E Ratio: Long-Term Averages



Targets & Ratings



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