

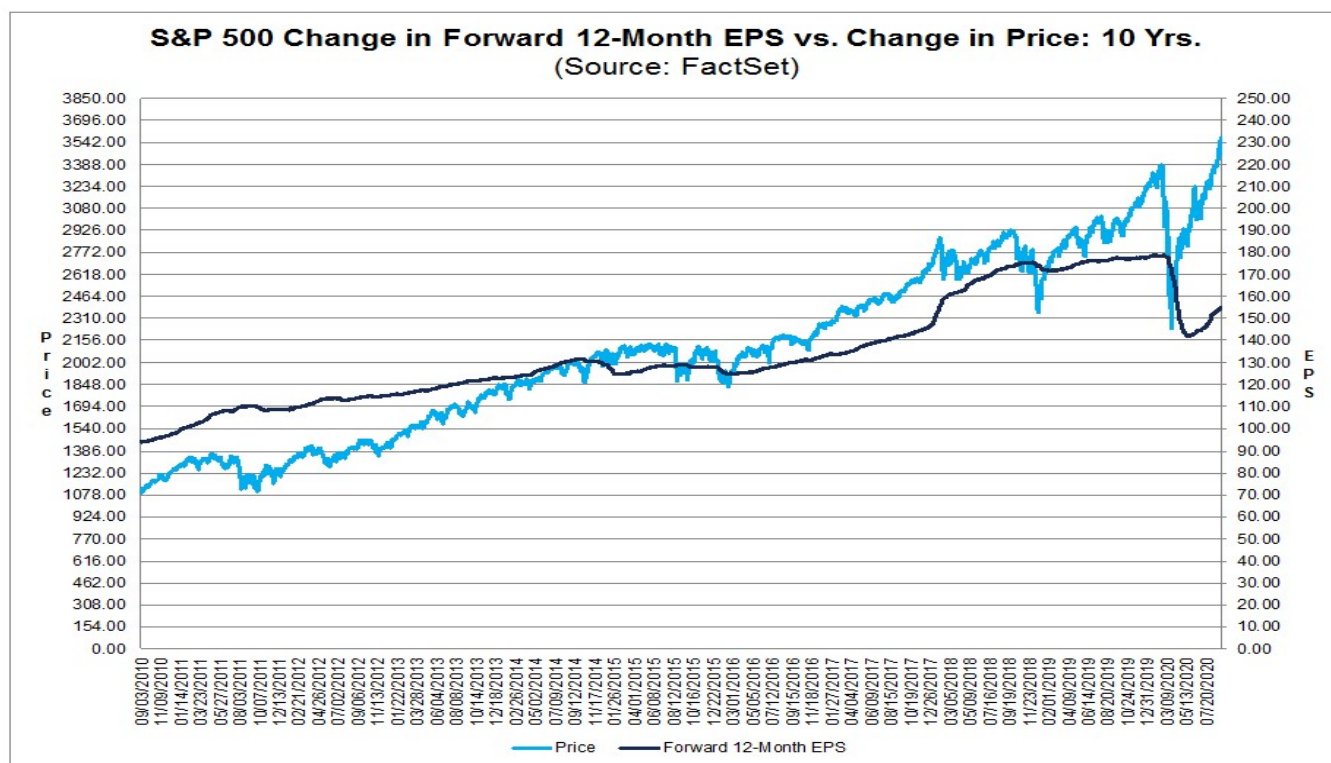
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Key Metrics

- **Earnings Growth:** For Q3 2020, the estimated earnings decline for the S&P 500 is -22.4%. If -22.4% is the actual decline for the quarter, it will mark the second largest year-over-year decline in earnings reported by the index since Q2 2009 (-26.9%).
- **Earnings Revisions:** On June 30, the estimated earnings decline for Q3 2020 was -25.4%. Eight sectors have smaller earnings declines or higher earnings growth rates today (compared to June 30) due to upward revisions to EPS estimates.
- **Earnings Guidance:** For Q3 2020, 21 S&P 500 companies have issued negative EPS guidance and 44 S&P 500 companies have issued positive EPS guidance.
- **Valuation:** The forward 12-month P/E ratio for the S&P 500 is 22.5. This P/E ratio is above the 5-year average (17.1) and above the 10-year average (15.4).
- **Earnings Scorecard:** For Q2 2020 (with 99.8% of the companies in the S&P 500 reporting actual results), 84% of S&P 500 companies have reported a positive EPS surprise and 65% have reported a positive revenue surprise. The second quarter marked the highest percentage of S&P 500 companies reporting a positive EPS surprise since FactSet began tracking this metric in 2008.



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Topic of the Week:

Analysts Are Raising Quarterly S&P 500 EPS Estimates for the First Time Since Q2 2018

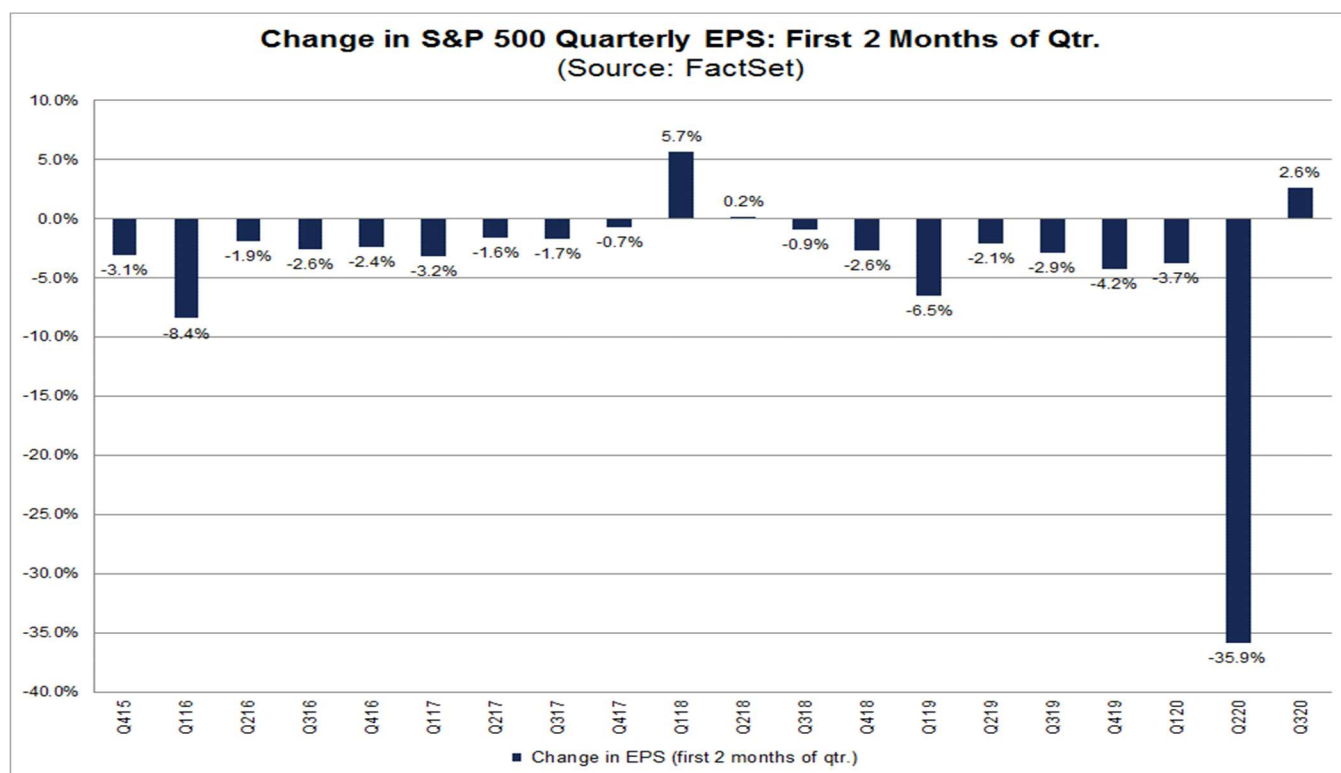
During the first two months of the third quarter, analysts increased earnings estimates for companies in the S&P 500 for the quarter. The Q3 bottom-up EPS estimate (which is an aggregation of the median EPS estimates for Q3 for all the companies in the index) increased by 2.6% (to \$32.62 from \$31.78) during this period. How significant is a 2.6% increase in the bottom up EPS estimate during the first two months of a quarter? How does this increase compare to recent quarters?

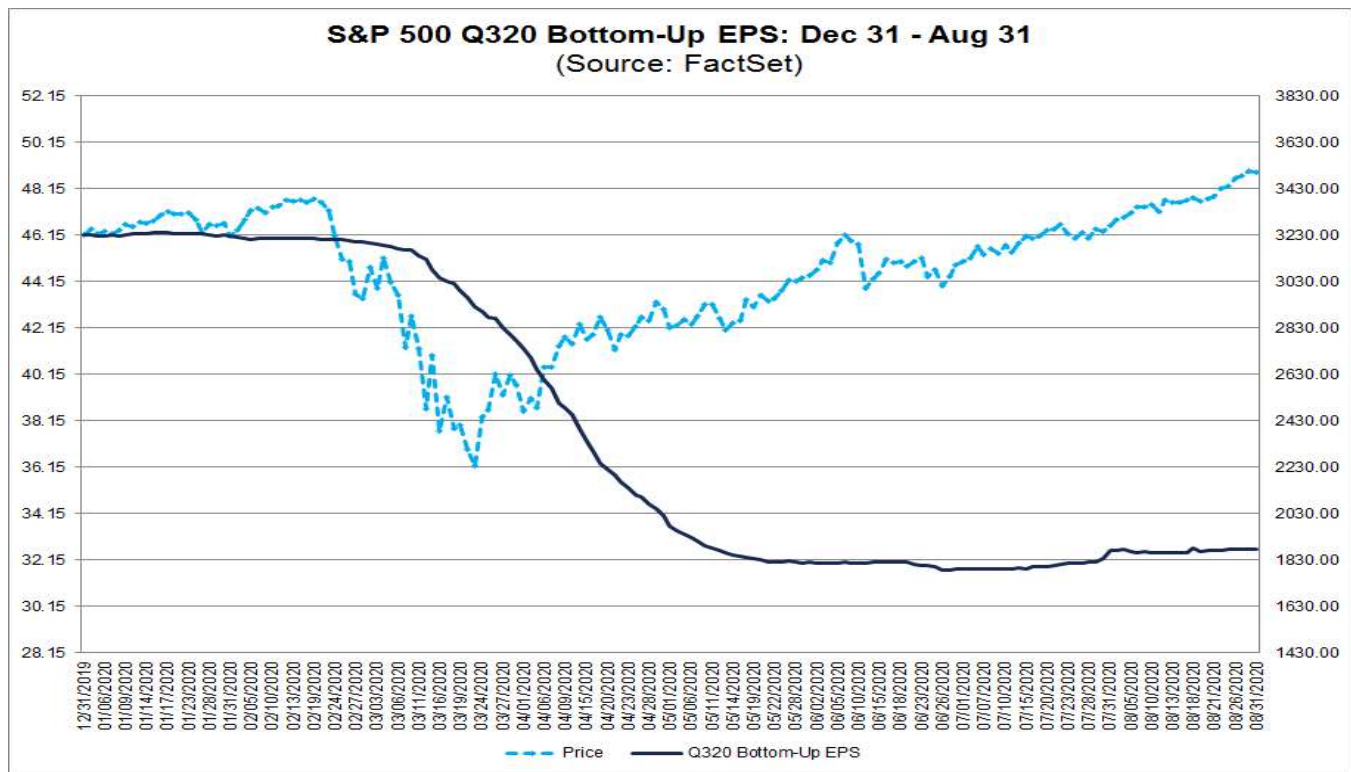
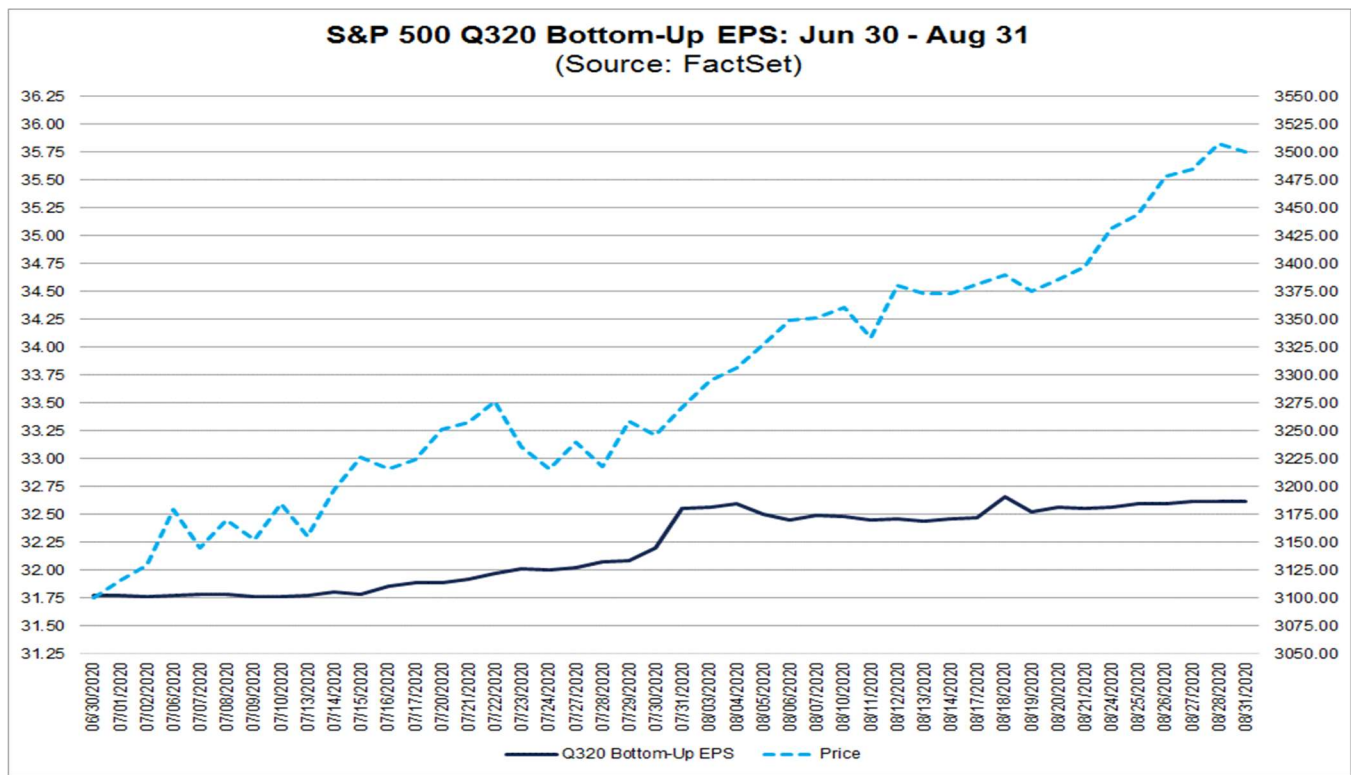
During the past five years (20 quarters), the average decline in the bottom-up EPS estimate during the first two months of a quarter has been 4.1%. During the past ten years, (40 quarters), the average decline in the bottom-up EPS estimate during the first two months of a quarter has been 3.4%. During the past fifteen years, (60 quarters), the average decline in the bottom-up EPS estimate during the first two months of a quarter has been 3.9%. Thus, while analysts typically lower EPS estimates during the first two months of a quarter, they increased EPS estimates during the first two months of Q3 2020.

In fact, this marked the first increase in the bottom-up EPS estimate over the first two months of a quarter since Q2 2018 (+0.2%) and Q1 2018 (+5.7%). Prior to Q1 2018, the last time the bottom-up EPS estimate increased over the first two months of a quarter was Q2 2011 (+1.5%). However, it should be noted that analysts made substantial cuts to EPS estimates for Q3 during the second quarter (March 31 to June 30). During this period, the Q3 bottom-up EPS estimate declined by 23.6% (to \$1.78 from \$41.60)

At the sector level, six sectors recorded an increase in their bottom-up EPS estimate for Q3 during the first two months of the quarter, led by the Energy (to -\$0.31 from -\$0.86), Consumer Discretionary (to \$6.60 from \$5.41), and Financials (to \$6.78 from \$6.29) sectors. Five sectors recorded a decline in their bottom-up estimate for Q3 during the first month of the quarter, led by the Industrials (to \$3.69 from \$3.98) sector.

As the bottom-up EPS estimate for the index increased during the first two months of the quarter, the value of the S&P 500 also increased during this same period. From June 30 through August 31, the value of the index increased by 12.9% (to 3500.31 from 3100.29). The third quarter marked just the third time in the past 20 quarters in which both the bottom-up EPS estimate for the index and the value of the index increased during the first two months of the quarter.





Q2 Earnings Season: By The Numbers

Overview

In terms of estimate revisions for companies in the S&P 500, analysts have increased earnings estimates in aggregate for Q3 2020 to date. On a per-share basis, estimated earnings for the third quarter have increased by 2.6% since June 30. In a typical quarter, analysts usually reduce earnings estimates. Over the past five years (20 quarters), earnings estimates have fallen by 4.1% on average during the first two months of a quarter. Over the past ten years, (40 quarters), earnings estimates have fallen by 3.4% on average during the first two months of a quarter. Over the past fifteen years, (60 quarters), earnings expectations have fallen by 3.9% on average during a quarter.

More S&P 500 companies have issued positive EPS guidance for Q3 2020 than average as well. At this point in time, 65 companies in the index have issued EPS guidance for Q3 2020. Of these 65 companies, 21 have issued negative EPS guidance and 44 have issued positive EPS guidance. The percentage of companies issuing positive EPS guidance is 68% (44 out of 65), which is above the 5-year average of 31%. However, the overall number of companies issuing EPS guidance for the third quarter of 65 is well below the 5-year average of 106.

Because of the net upward revisions to earnings estimates, the estimated (year-over-year) earnings decline for Q3 2020 is -22.4% today compared to the estimated (year-over-year) earnings decline of -25.4% on June 30. If -22.4% is the actual decline for the quarter, it will mark the second largest year-over-year decline in earnings reported by the index since Q2 2009 (-26.9%), trailing only the previous quarter (-31.7%). It will also mark the sixth time in the past seven quarters in which the index has reported a year-over-year decline in earnings. All eleven sectors are projected to report a year-over-year decline in earnings, led by the Energy, Industrials, and Consumer Discretionary sectors.

Because of the net upward revisions to revenue estimates, the estimated (year-over-year) revenue decline for Q3 2020 is -4.1% today compared to the estimated (year-over-year) revenue decline of -5.5% on June 30. Five sectors are projected to report year-over-year growth in revenues, led by the Health Care. Six sectors are predicted to report a year-over-year decline in revenues, led by the Energy and Industrials sectors.

Looking at future quarters, analysts predict a (year-over-year) decline in earnings in the fourth quarter (-13.0%) of 2020. However, they are also project a return to earnings growth starting in Q1 2021 (13.2%).

The forward 12-month P/E ratio is 22.5, which is above the 5-year average and above the 10-year average.

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

Earnings Revisions: Energy & Consumer Discretionary Sectors See Largest Increases in Earnings

No Change in Estimated Earnings Decline for Q3 This Week

The estimated earnings decline for the third quarter is -22.4% this week, which is equal to the estimated earnings decline of -22.4% last week. Overall, the estimated earnings decline for Q3 2020 of -22.4% today is smaller than the estimated earnings decline of -25.4% at the start of the quarter (June 30). Eight sectors have a recorded a decrease in their expected earnings declines due to upward revisions to earnings estimates, led by the Energy, Consumer Discretionary, and Financials sectors. On the other hand, three sectors have a recorded an increase in their expected earnings declines due to downward revisions to earnings estimates, led by the Industrials sector.

Energy: Chevron and Exxon Mobil Lead Earnings Increase Since June 30

The Energy sector has recorded the largest decrease in its expected earnings decline since the start of the quarter (to -106.6% from -119.7%). Despite the increase in expected earnings, this sector has witnessed the largest decrease in price (-9.1%) of all eleven sectors since June 30. Overall, 19 of the 26 companies (73%) in the Energy sector have seen an increase in their mean EPS estimate during this time. Of these 19 companies, 17 have recorded an increase in their mean EPS estimate of more than 10%, led by Schlumberger (to \$0.12 from -\$0.05), Halliburton (to \$0.07 from -\$0.14), EOG Resources (to \$0.03 from -\$0.09), and Pioneer Natural Resources (to \$0.35 from \$0.15). However, Chevron (to -\$0.01 from -\$0.37) and Exxon Mobil (to -\$0.07 from -\$0.18) have been the largest contributors to the increase in expected earnings for this sector since June 30.

Consumer Discretionary: Amazon, Ford, Home Depot, & GM Lead Earnings Increase since June 30

The Consumer Discretionary sector has recorded the second largest decrease in its expected earnings decline since the start of the quarter (to -42.1% from -52.8%). This sector has also witnessed the largest increase in price (+17.7%) of all eleven sectors since June 30. Overall, 40 of the 60 companies (67%) in the Consumer Discretionary sector have seen an increase in their mean EPS estimate during this time. Of these 40 companies, 31 have recorded an increase in their mean EPS estimate of more than 10%, led by Ford Motor (to \$0.13 from -\$0.03), L Brands (to \$0.06 from -\$0.21), and Mohawk Industries (to \$1.92 from \$0.85). However, Amazon.com (to \$7.15 from \$4.54), Ford Motor, Home Depot (\$2.95 to \$2.51), and General Motors (to \$1.29 from \$0.97) have been the largest contributors to the increase in expected earnings for this sector since June 30.

Financials: JPMorgan Chase Leads Earnings Increase Since June 30

The Financials sector has recorded the third largest decrease in its expected earnings decline since the start of the quarter (to -25.1% from -34.4%). This sector has also witnessed an increase in price of 7.9% since June 30. Overall, 54 of the 66 companies (82%) in the Financials sector have seen an increase in their mean EPS estimate during this time. Of these 54 companies, 29 have recorded an increase in their mean EPS estimate of more than 10%, led by Capital One Financial (to \$1.39 from \$0.72) and Huntington Bancshares (to \$0.20 from \$0.11). However, JPMorgan Chase (to \$1.90 from \$1.57), Allstate (to \$3.88 from \$2.48), and U.S. Bancorp (to \$0.82 from \$0.56) have been the largest contributors to the increase in expected earnings for this sector since June 30.

Industrials: GE, Boeing, and Airlines Industry Lead Earnings Decrease Since June 30

The Industrials sector has recorded the largest increase in its expected earnings decline since the start of the quarter (to -63.1% from -59.2%). Despite the decline in expected earnings, this sector has witnessed the fifth largest increase in price (+12.6%) of all eleven sectors since June 30. Overall, 25 of the 73 companies (34%) in the Industrials sector have seen a decrease in their mean EPS estimate during this time. Of these 25 companies, 9 have recorded a decrease in their mean EPS estimate of more than 10%, led by General Electric (to -\$0.05 from \$0.01), Boeing (to -\$2.01 from -\$1.17), Alaska Air Group (to -2.84 from -\$1.86), Southwest Airlines (to -\$2.19 from -\$1.48), Delta Air Lines (to -\$3.03 from -\$2.32), American Airlines Group (to -5.75 from -\$4.71), and United Airlines Holdings (-7.12 from -\$5.90). These seven companies have also been the largest contributors to the decrease in expected earnings for this sector since June 30.

Guidance: More S&P 500 Companies Issuing Positive EPS Guidance for Q3 to Date

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, 65 companies in the index have issued EPS guidance for Q3 2020. Of these 65 companies, 21 have issued negative EPS guidance and 44 have issued positive EPS guidance. The percentage of companies issuing negative EPS guidance is 32% (21 out of 65), which is well below the 5-year average of 69%.

However, the total number of companies issuing EPS guidance to date for Q3 2020 of 65 is well below the 5-year average for a quarter (106).

Earnings Decline: -22.4%

The estimated (year-over-year) earnings decline for Q3 2020 is -22.4%, which is below the 5-year average earnings growth rate of 4.0%. If -22.4% is the actual decline for the quarter, it will mark the second largest year-over-year decline in earnings for the index since Q2 2009 (-26.9%), trailing only the previous quarter (-31.7%). It will also mark the sixth time in the past seven quarters in which the index has reported a year-over-year decline in earnings. All eleven sectors are expected to report a year-over-year decline in earnings, led by the Energy, Industrials, and Consumer Discretionary sectors.

Energy: 3 of 5 Sub-Industries Expected to Report Year-Over-Year Decline of More Than 115%

The Energy sector is expected to report the largest (year-over-year) decline in earnings of all eleven sectors at -106.6%. Lower year-over-year oil prices are contributing to the earnings decline for this sector. Although the price of oil has increased by 5% since June 30, the average price of oil for Q3 2020 to date (\$41.58) is still 26% below the average price for oil in Q3 2019 (\$56.44). At the sub-industry level, four of the five sub-industries in the sector are projected to report a decline in earnings. Three of these four sub-industries are predicted to report a decline in earnings of more than 115%: Oil & Gas Exploration & Production (-125%), Oil & Gas Refining & Marketing (-120%), and Integrated Oil & Gas (-117%). The only sub-industry in the sector projected to report year-over-year growth in earnings is the Oil & Gas Storage & Transportation (3%) sub-industry.

Industrials: Airlines Industry Expected to Lead Year-Over-Year Decline

The Industrials sector is expected to report the second largest (year-over-year) earnings decline of all eleven sectors at -63.1%. At the industry level, all twelve industries in this sector are predicted to report a decline in earnings. Four of these twelve industries are projected to report a decline in earnings of more than 30%: Airlines (-306%), Industrial Conglomerates (-52%), Aerospace & Defense (-40%), and Machinery (-35%).

The Airlines industry is also expected to be the largest contributor to the year-over-year decline in earnings for the sector. If the five companies in this industry were excluded, the estimated earnings decline for the sector would improve to -29.9% from -63.1%.

Consumer Discretionary: 4 of 11 Industries Expected to Report Year-Over-Year Decline of More Than 30%

The Consumer Discretionary sector is expected to report the third largest (year-over-year) earnings decline of all eleven sectors at -42.1%. At the industry level, ten of the eleven industries in this sector are expected to report a decline in earnings. Four of these ten industries are projected to report a decline in earnings of more than 30%: Hotels, Restaurants, & Leisure (-129%), Textiles, Apparel, & Luxury Goods (-62%), Automobiles (-38%), and Auto Components (-37%). On the other hand, the only industry expected to report earnings growth in this sector is the Specialty Retail (3%) industry.

Revenue Decline: -4.1%

The estimated (year-over-year) revenue decline for Q3 2020 is -4.1%, which is below the 5-year average revenue growth rate of 3.4%. Five sectors are expected to report year-over-year growth in revenues, led by Health Care sector. Six sectors are expected to report a year-over-year decline in revenues, led by the Energy and Industrials sectors.

Health Care: 4 of 6 Industries Expected to Report Year-Over-Year Growth

The Health Care sector is expected to report the highest (year-over-year) revenue growth of all eleven sectors at 7.2%. At the industry level, four of the six industries in this sector are predicted to report year-over-year growth in revenues: Biotechnology (22%), Health Care Providers & Services (8%), Life Sciences, Tools, & Services (6%), and Pharmaceuticals (5%). On the other hand, two industries are expected to report a decline in revenue: Health Care Technology (-4%) and the Health Care Equipment & Supplies (-2%).

It should be noted that the revenue growth rates for some of the larger contributors to revenue growth for this sector are being boosted by apples-to-oranges comparisons of post-merger revenues in Q3 2020 to pre-merger revenues in Q3 2019, including Centene, Bristol Myers Squibb, and AbbVie.

Energy: 4 of 5 Sub-Industries Expected To Report Year-Over-Year Decline of More Than 25%

The Energy sector is expected to report the largest (year-over-year) decline in revenue of all eleven sectors at -31.8%. Lower year-over-year oil prices are contributing to the earnings decline for this sector. Although the price of oil has increased by 5% since June 30, the average price of oil for Q3 2020 to date (\$41.58) is still 26% below the average price for oil in Q3 2019 (\$56.44). At the sub-industry level, all five sub-industries in the sector are predicted to report a year-over-year decline in revenue. Four sub-industries are projected to report a decline in revenue of more than 25%: Oil & Gas Exploration & Production (-40%), Oil & Gas Refining & Marketing (-38%), Oil & Gas Equipment & Services (-29%), and Integrated Oil & Gas (-27%).

Industrials: Airlines Industry Expected to Lead Year-Over-Year Decline

The Industrials sector is expected to report the second largest (year-over-year) revenue decline of all eleven sectors at -17.5%. At the industry level, eleven of the twelve industries in this sector are predicted to report a decline in revenues, led by the Airlines (-73%) industry. On the other hand, the Air Freight & Logistics (+6%) industry is the only industry in the sector expected to report year-over-year earnings growth for the quarter.

The Airlines industry is also expected to be the largest contributor to the year-over-year decline in revenue for the sector. If the five companies in this industry were excluded, the estimated revenue decline for the sector would improve to -9.3% from -17.5%.

Looking Ahead: Forward Estimates and Valuation

Earnings: Analysts Expect Earnings Decline of -18.5% for CY 2020

For the third quarter, S&P 500 companies are expected to report a decline in earnings of -22.4% and a decline in revenues of -4.1%. Analysts expect an earnings decline of -18.5% and a revenue decline of -2.9% for CY 2020.

For Q4 2020, analysts are projecting an earnings decline of -13.0% and a revenue decline of -1.4%.

For CY 2020, analysts are projecting an earnings decline of -18.5% and a revenue decline of -2.9%.

For Q1 2021, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 13.2% and revenue growth of 3.1%.

For Q2 2021, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 44.3% and revenue growth of 13.7%.

For CY 2021, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 26.3% and revenue growth of 8.1%.

Valuation: Forward P/E Ratio is 22.5, Above the 10-Year Average (15.4)

The forward 12-month P/E ratio is 22.5. This P/E ratio is above the 5-year average of 17.1 and above the 10-year average of 15.4. It is also above the forward 12-month P/E ratio of 21.7 recorded at the end of the second quarter (June 30). Since the end of the second quarter (June 30), the price of the index has increased by 11.4%, while the forward 12-month EPS estimate has increased by 6.9%.

At the sector level, the Consumer Discretionary (39.7) sector has the highest forward 12-month P/E ratio, while the Financials (14.4) sector has the lowest forward 12-month P/E ratio.

Targets & Ratings: Analysts Project 7% Increase in Price Over Next 12 Months

The bottom-up target price for the S&P 500 is 3708.60, which is 7.3% above the closing price of 3455.06. At the sector level, the Energy (+26.0%) sector is expected to see the largest price increase, as this sector has the largest upside difference between the bottom-up target price and the closing price. On the other hand, the Information Technology (+3.4%) sector is expected to see the smallest price increase, as this sector has the smallest upside difference between the bottom-up target price and the closing price.

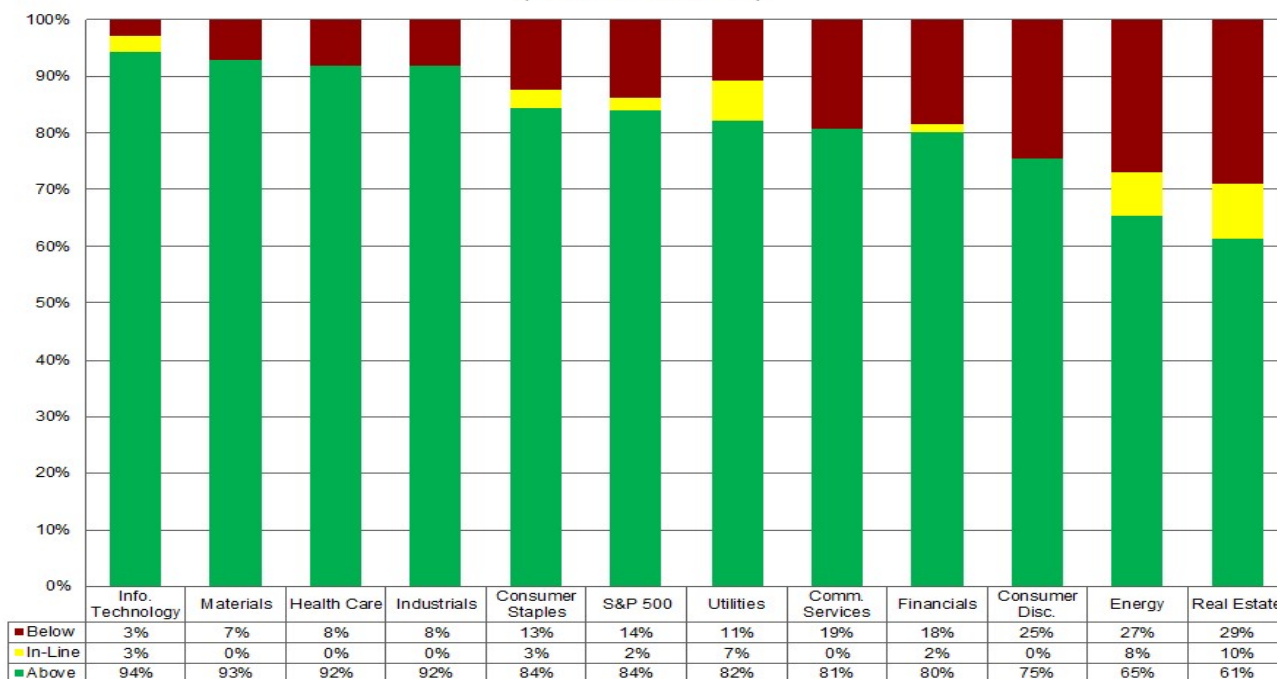
Overall, there are 10,203 ratings on stocks in the S&P 500. Of these 10,203 ratings, 52.5% are Buy ratings, 40.8% are Hold ratings, and 6.7% are Sell ratings. At the sector level, the Health Care (61%) and Energy (61%) sectors have the highest percentages of Buy ratings, while the Financials (45%) and Consumer Staples (46%) sectors have the lowest percentages of Buy ratings.

Companies Reporting Next Week: 2

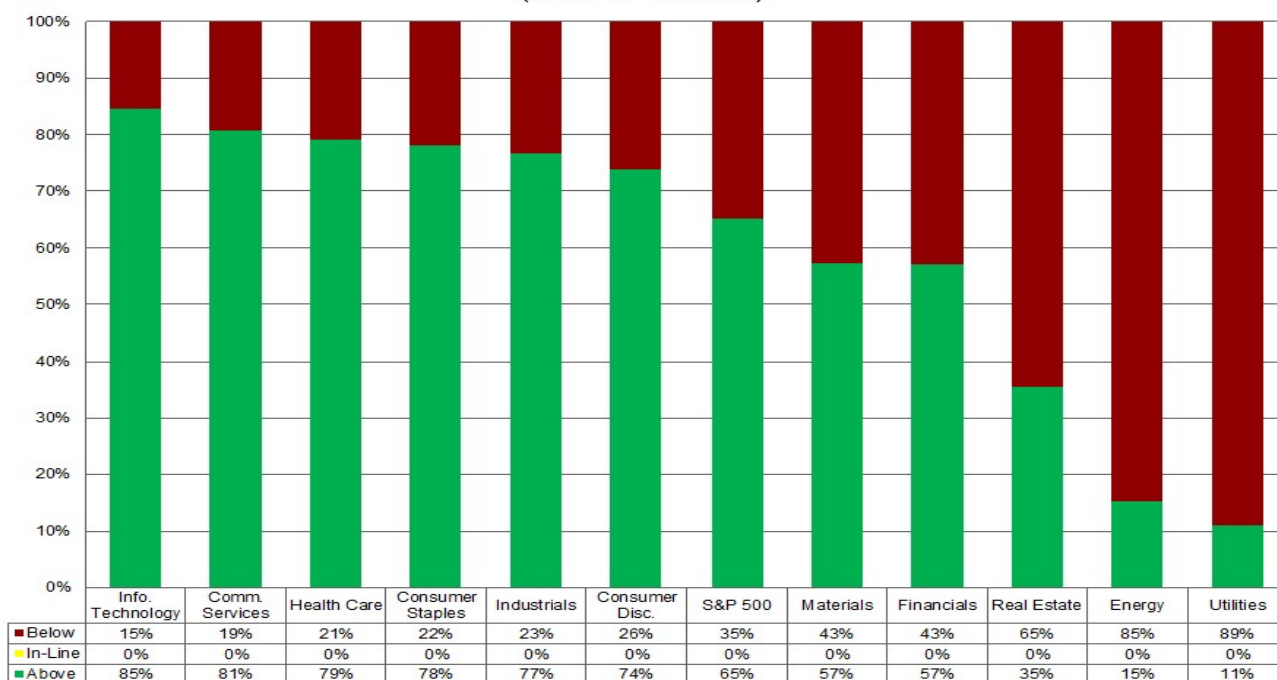
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Q2 2020: Scorecard

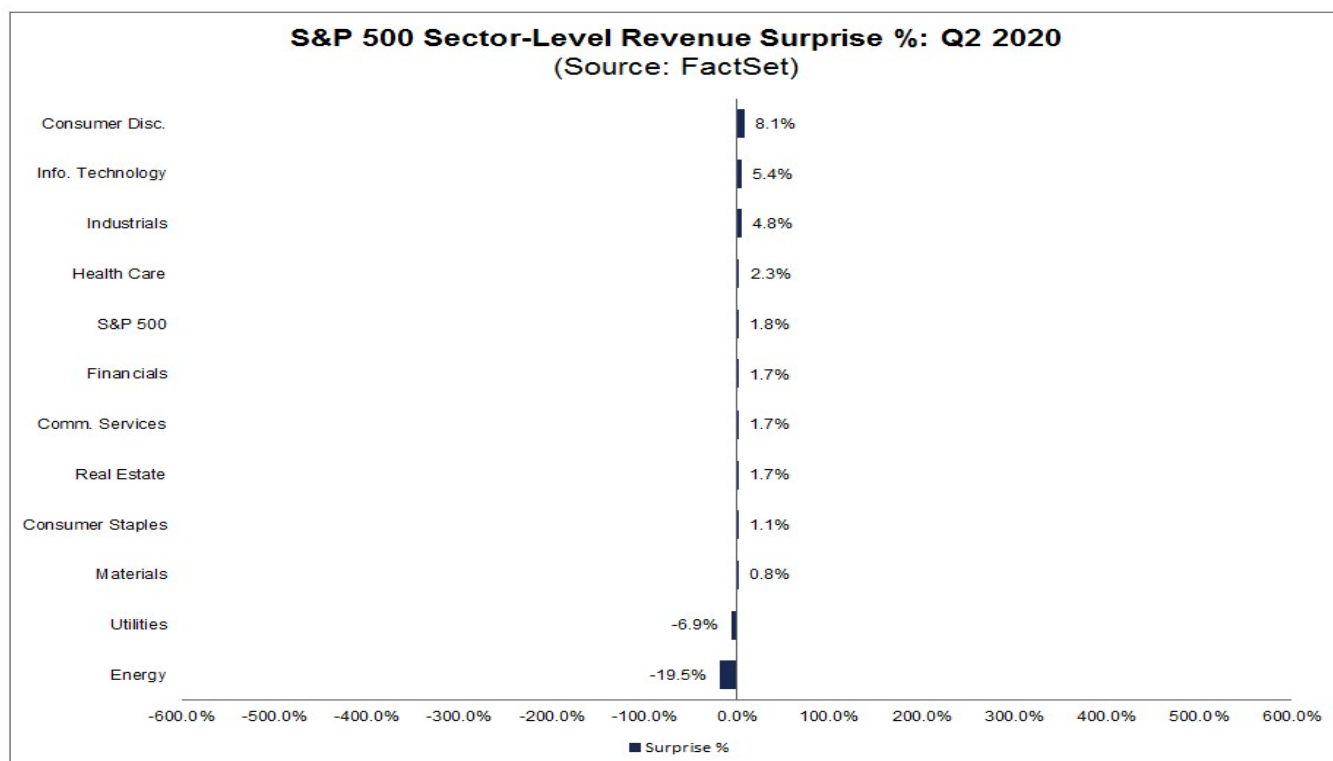
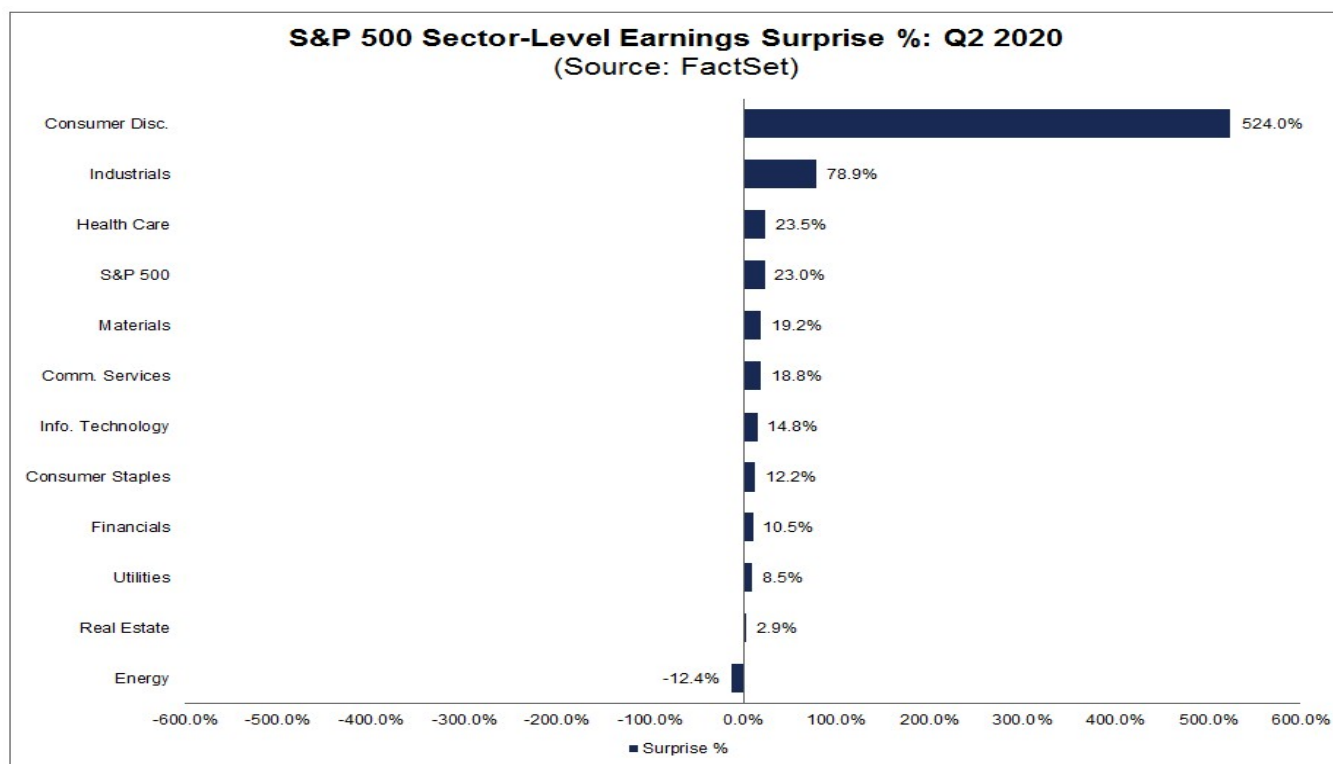
S&P 500 Earnings Above, In-Line, Below Estimates: Q2 2020
(Source: FactSet)



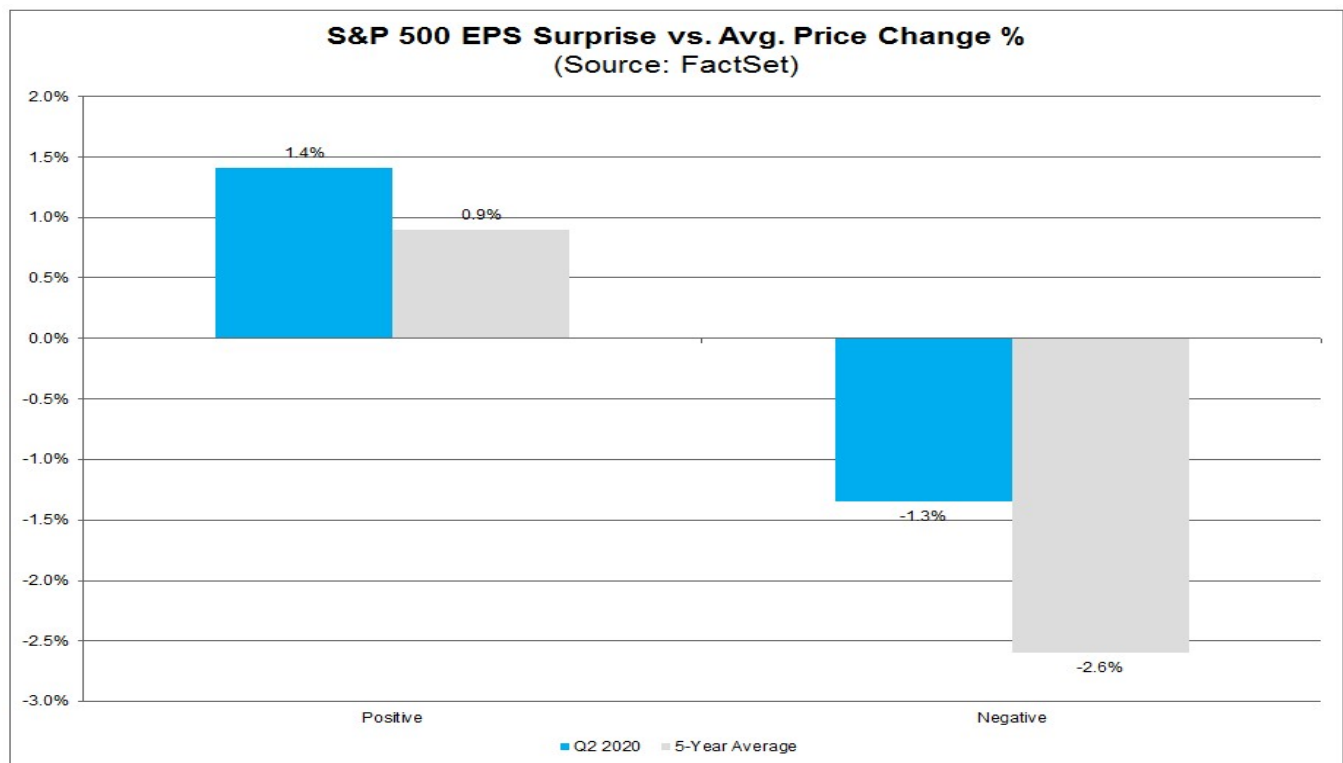
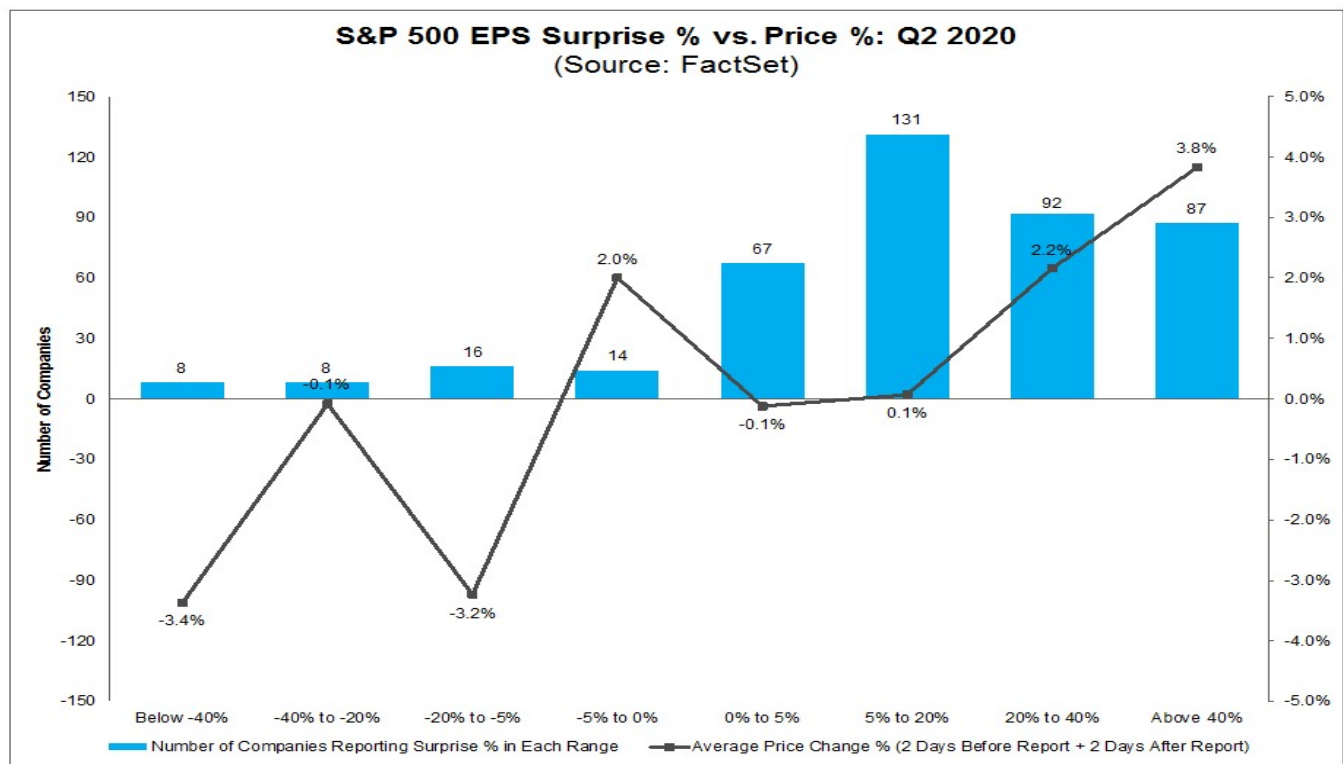
S&P 500 Revenues Above, In-Line, Below Estimates: Q2 2020
(Source: FactSet)



Q2 2020: Scorecard

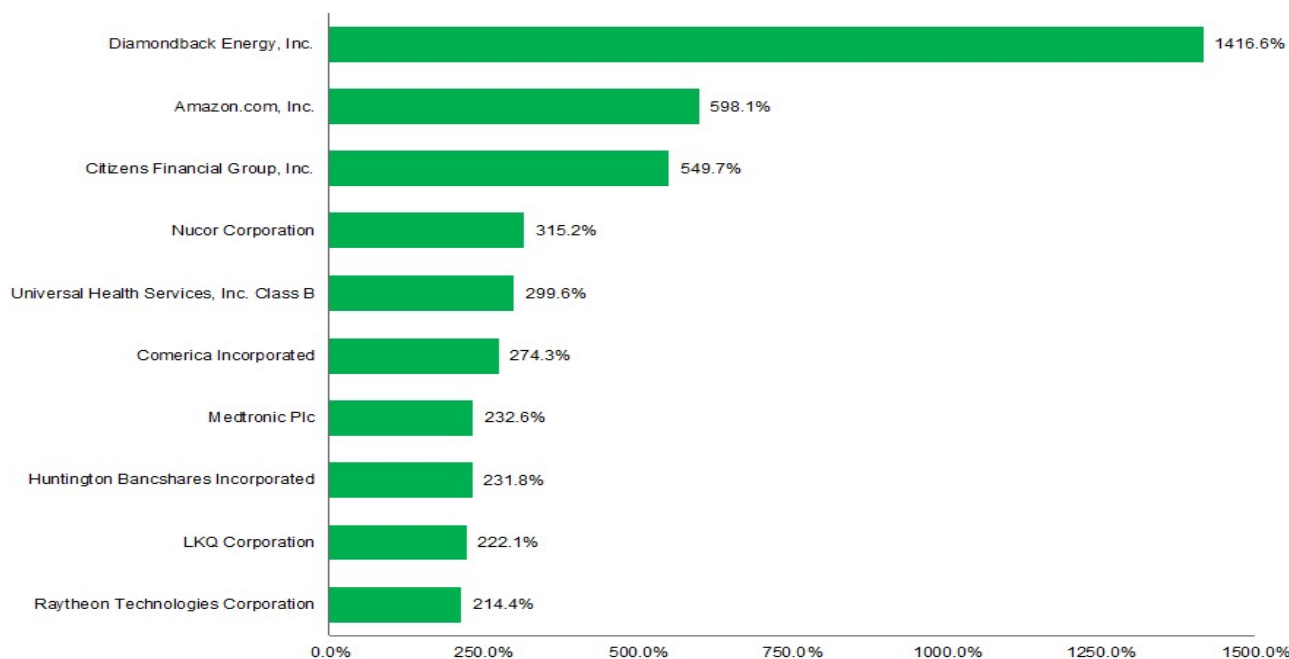


Q2 2020: Scorecard

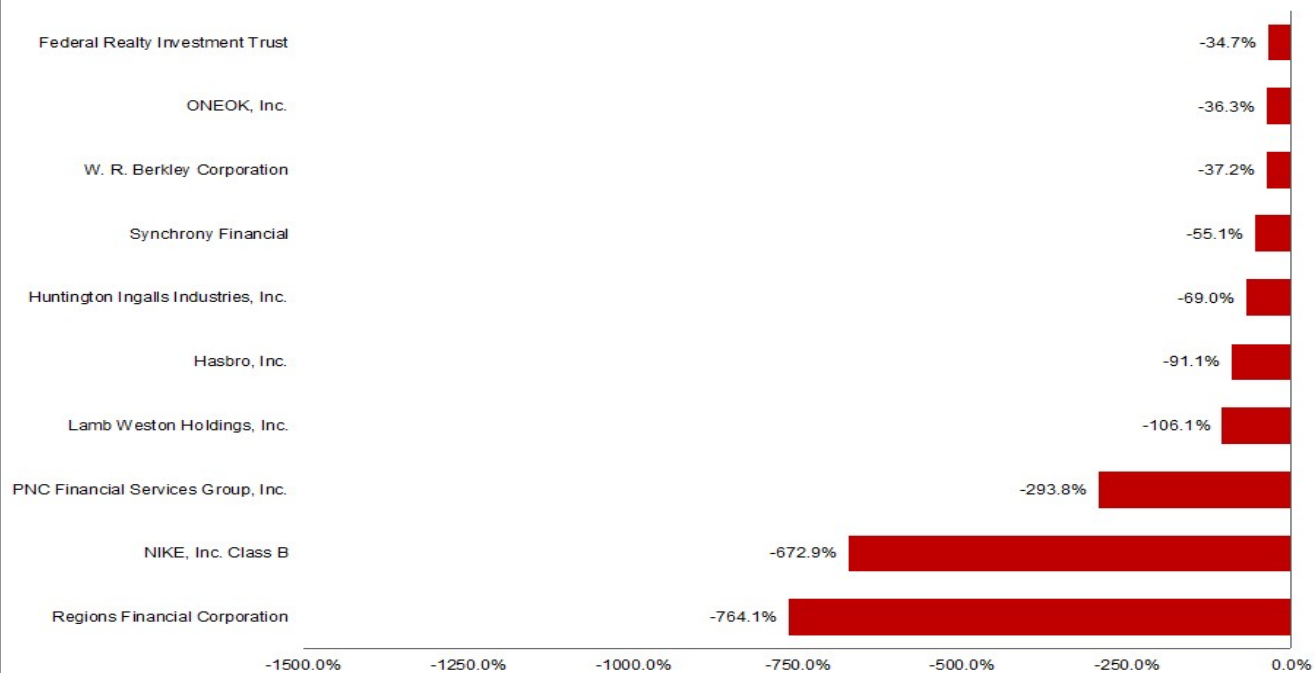


Q2 2020: Scorecard

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

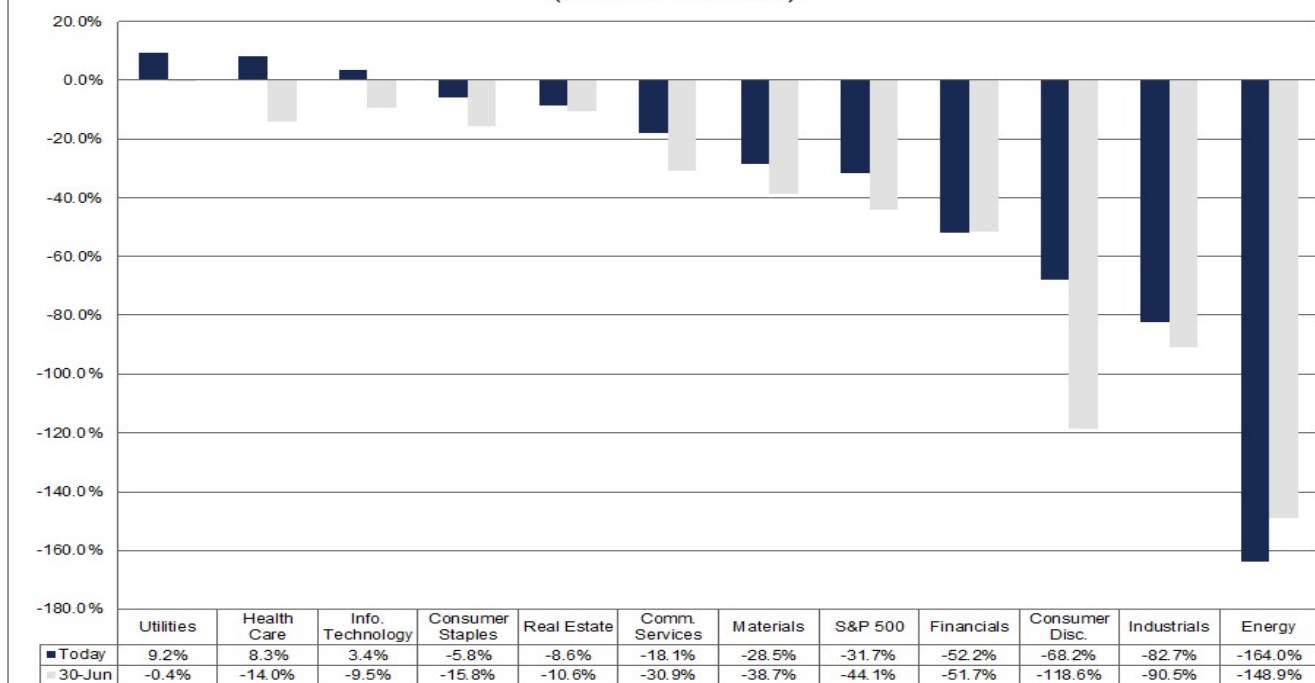


S&P 500 Actual EPS Surprise %: Bottom 10 Q2 Actual EPS Surprises
(Source: FactSet)

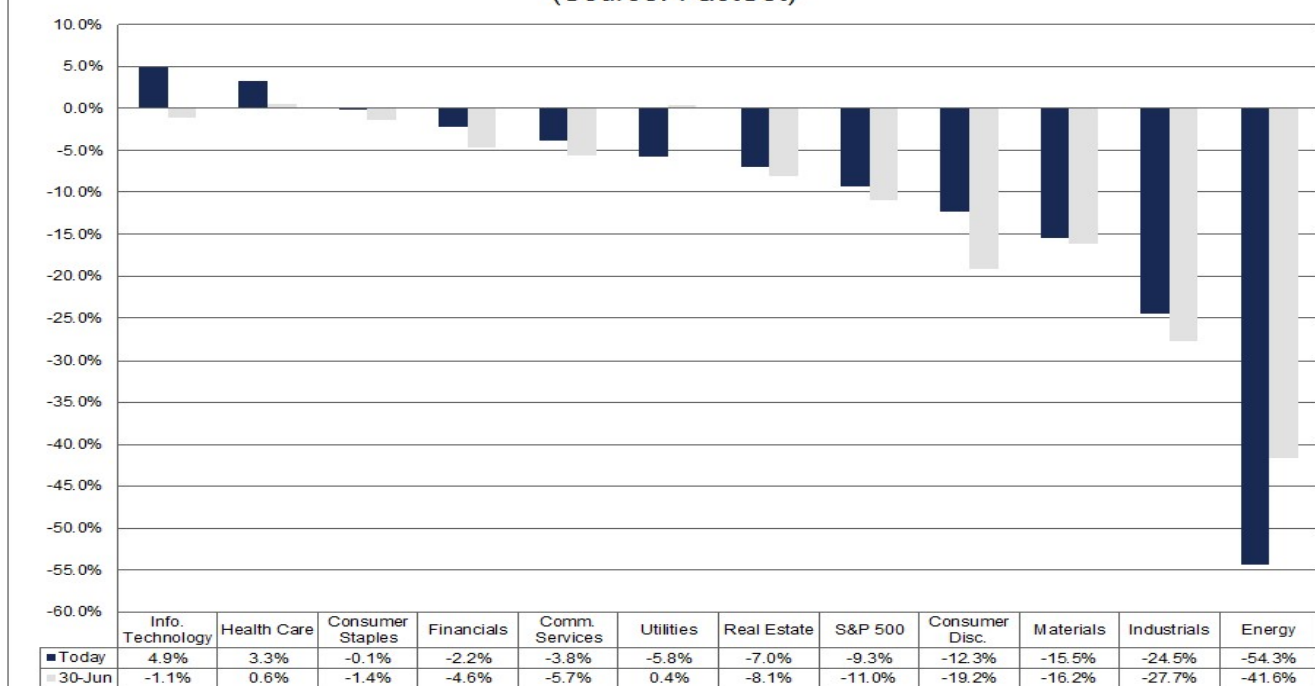


Q2 2020: Growth

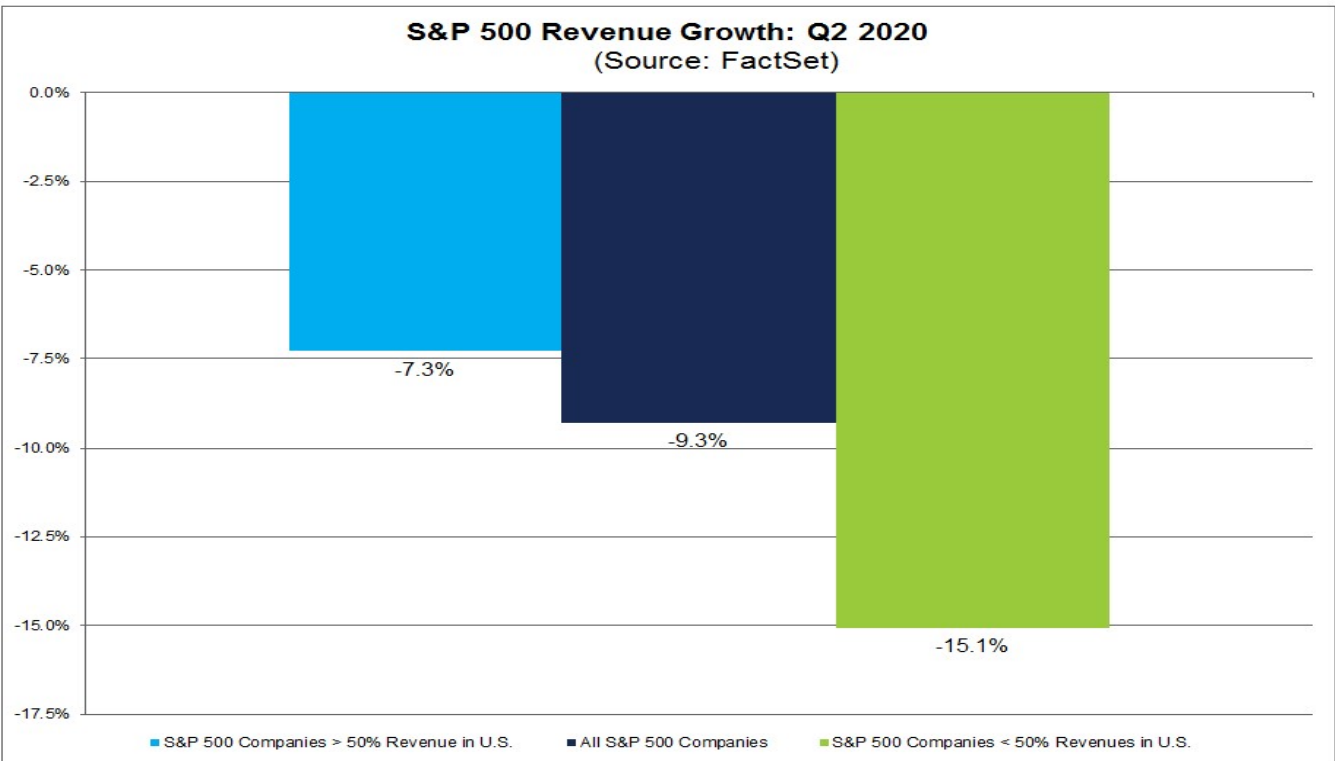
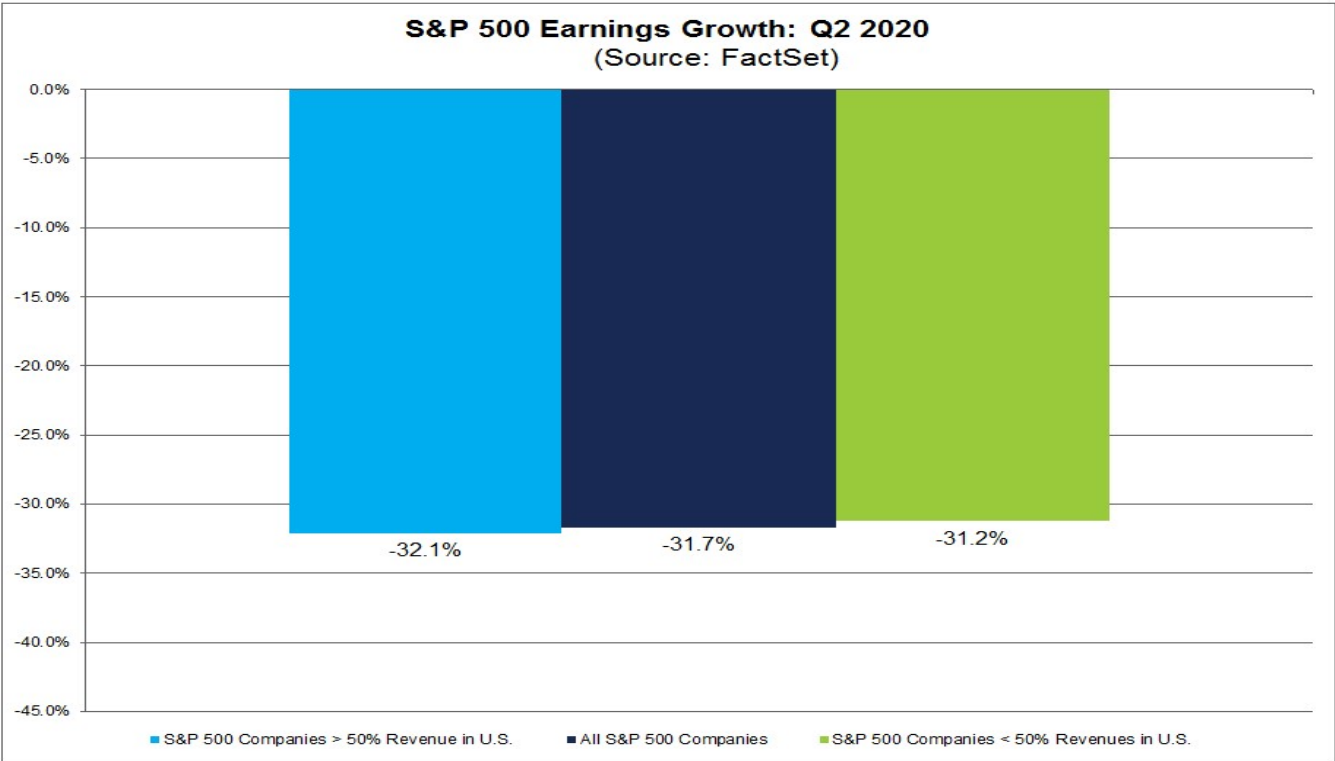
S&P 500 Earnings Growth: Q2 2020
(Source: FactSet)



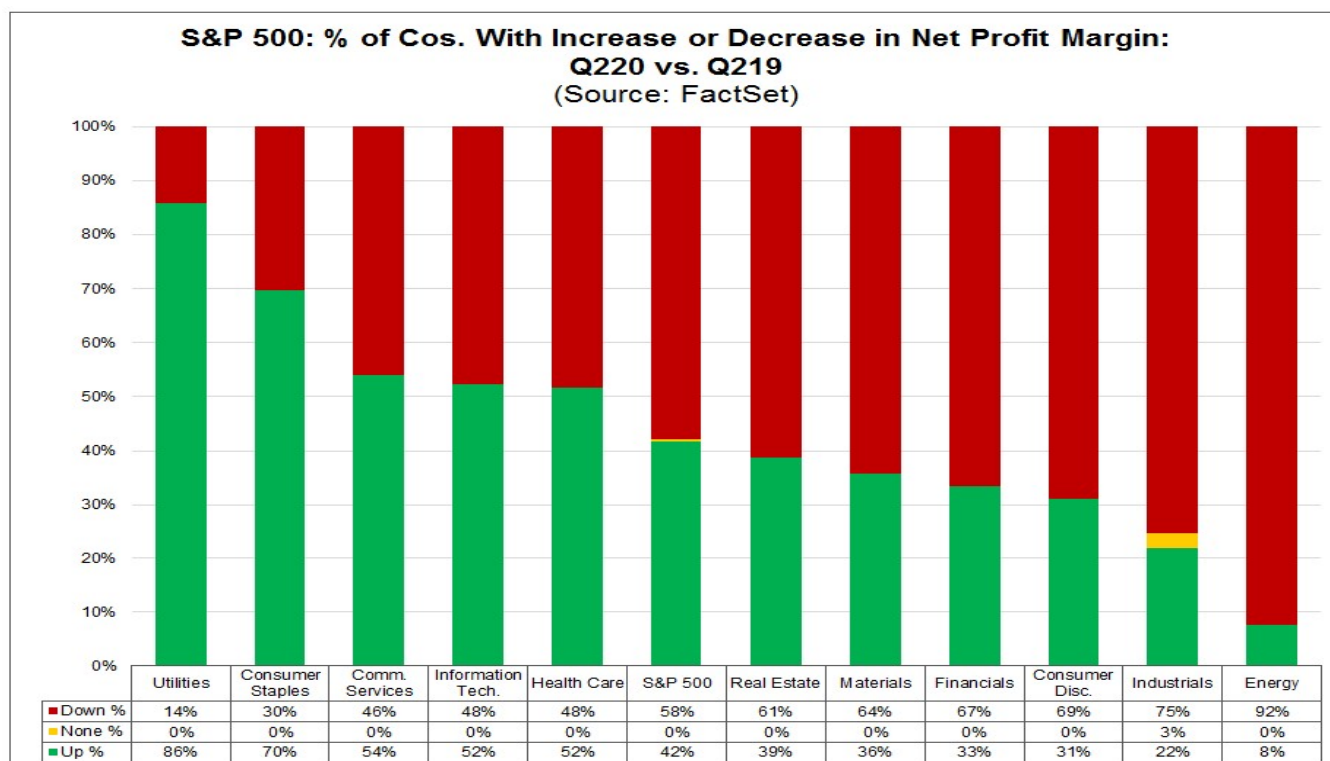
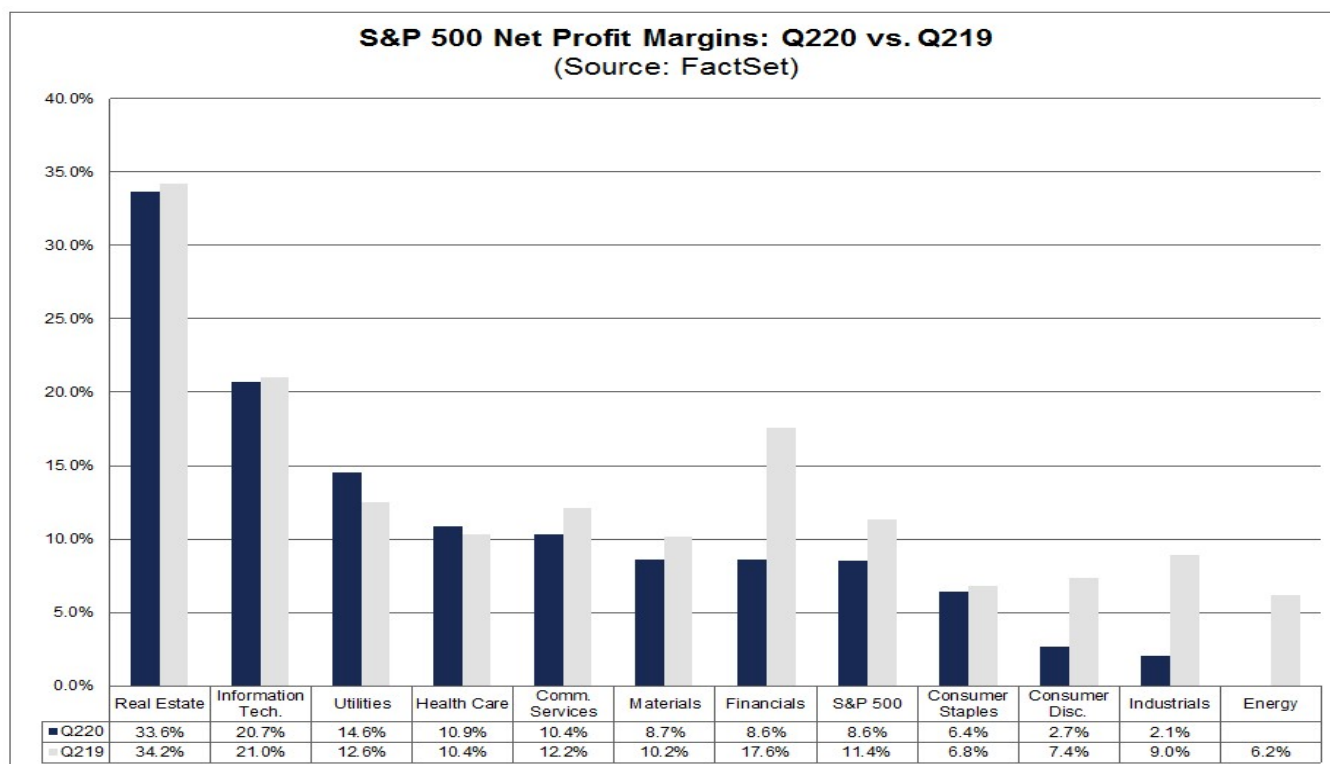
S&P 500 Revenue Growth: Q2 2020
(Source: FactSet)



Q2 2020: Growth

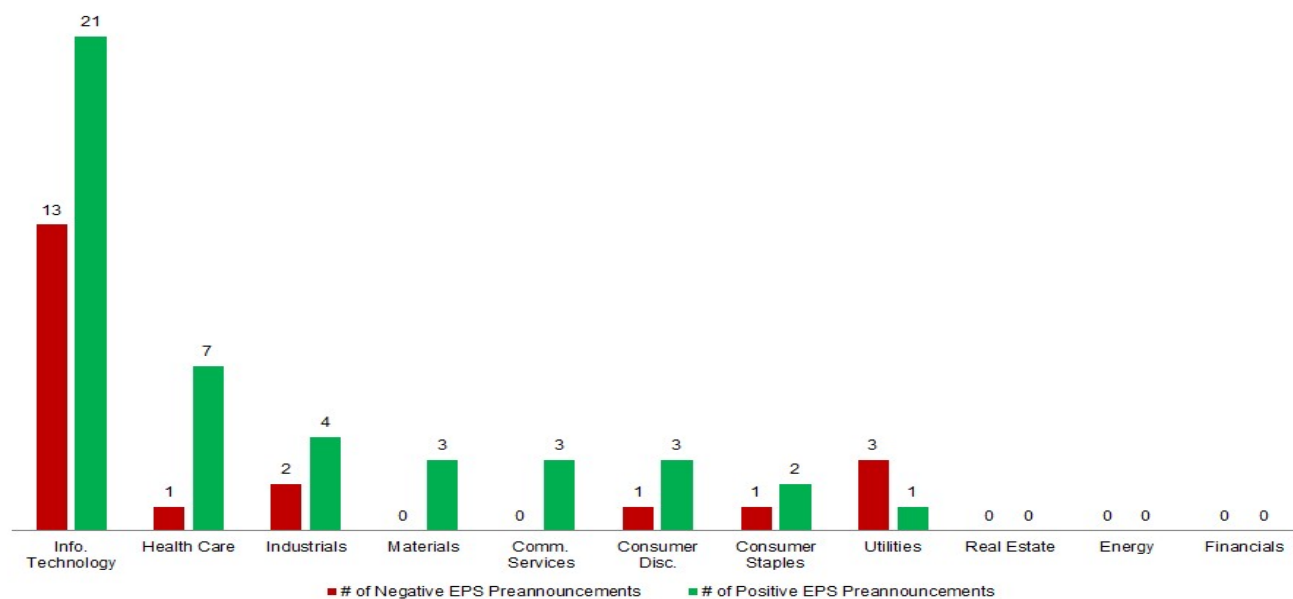


Q2 2020: Net Profit Margin

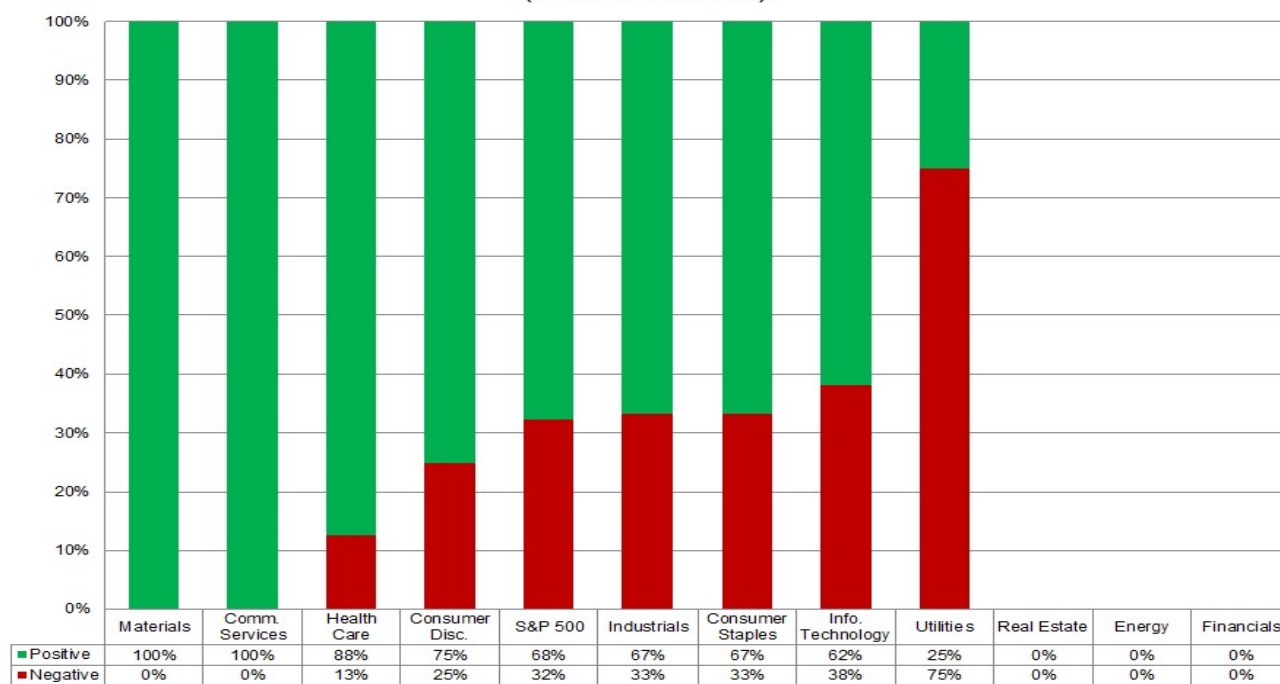


Q3 2020: EPS Guidance

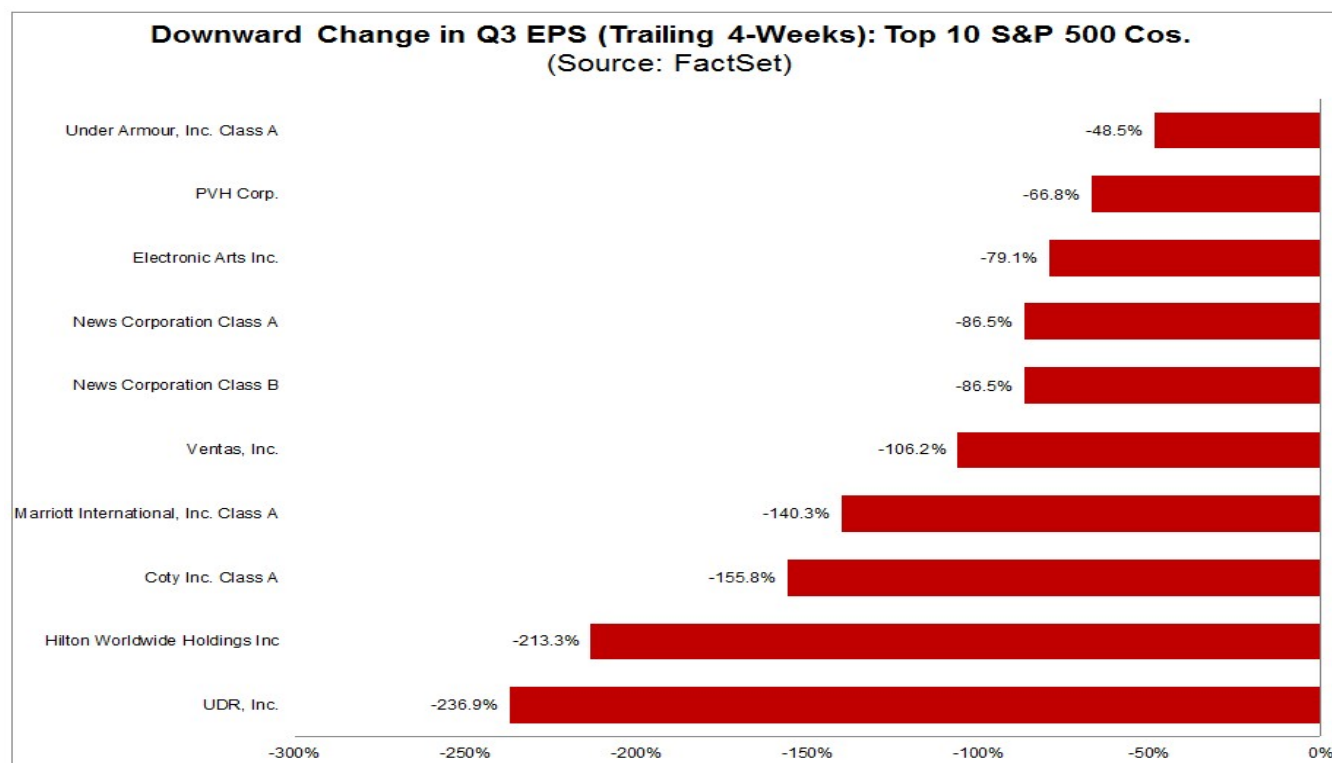
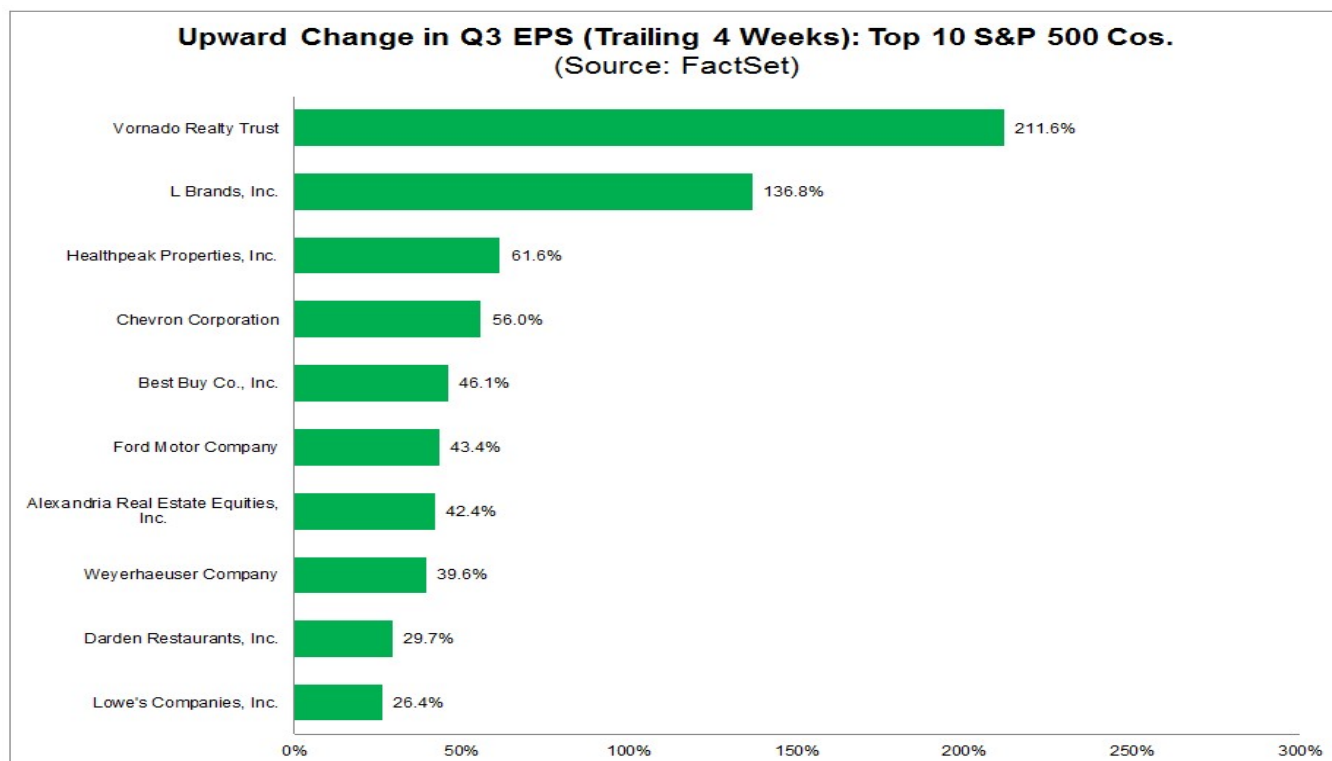
Number (#) of S&P 500 Cos. with Q3 Positive & Negative Guidance
(Source: FactSet)



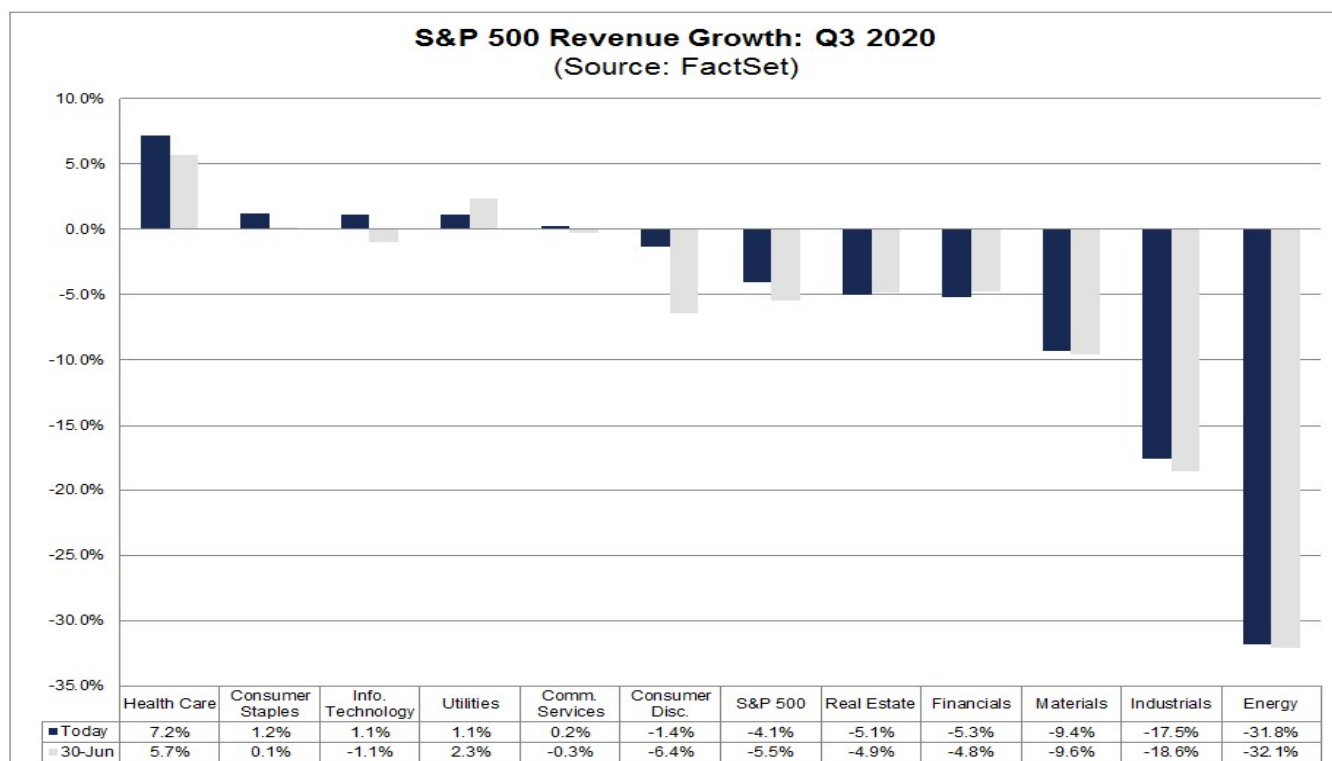
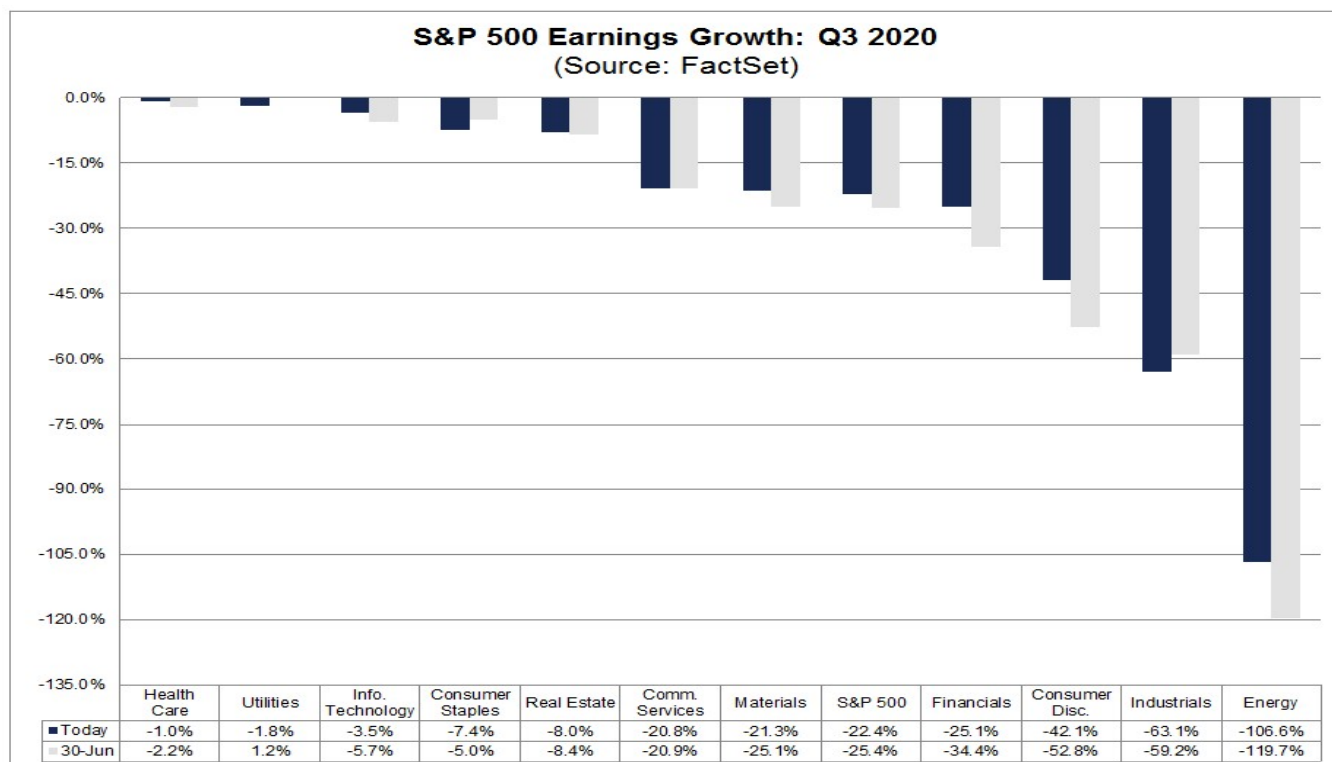
Percentage (%) of S&P 500 Cos. with Q3 Positive & Negative Guidance
(Source: FactSet)



Q3 2020: EPS Revisions



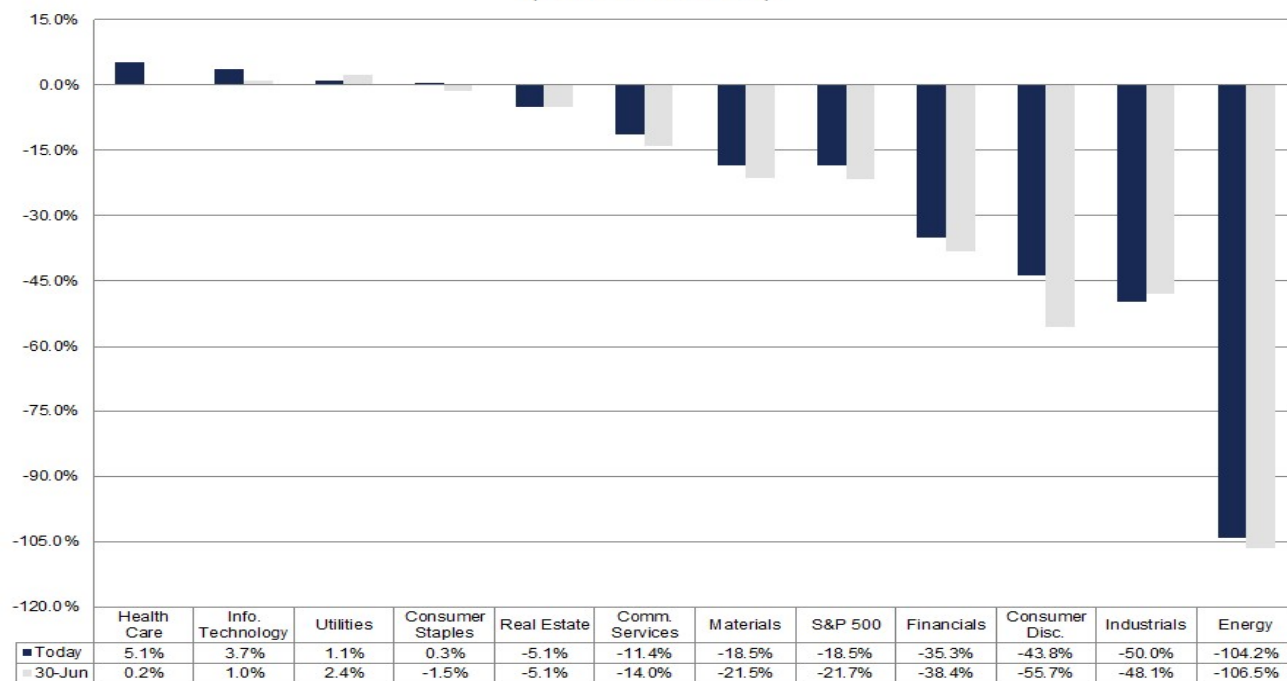
Q3 2020: Growth



CY 2020: Growth

S&P 500 Earnings Growth: CY 2020

(Source: FactSet)



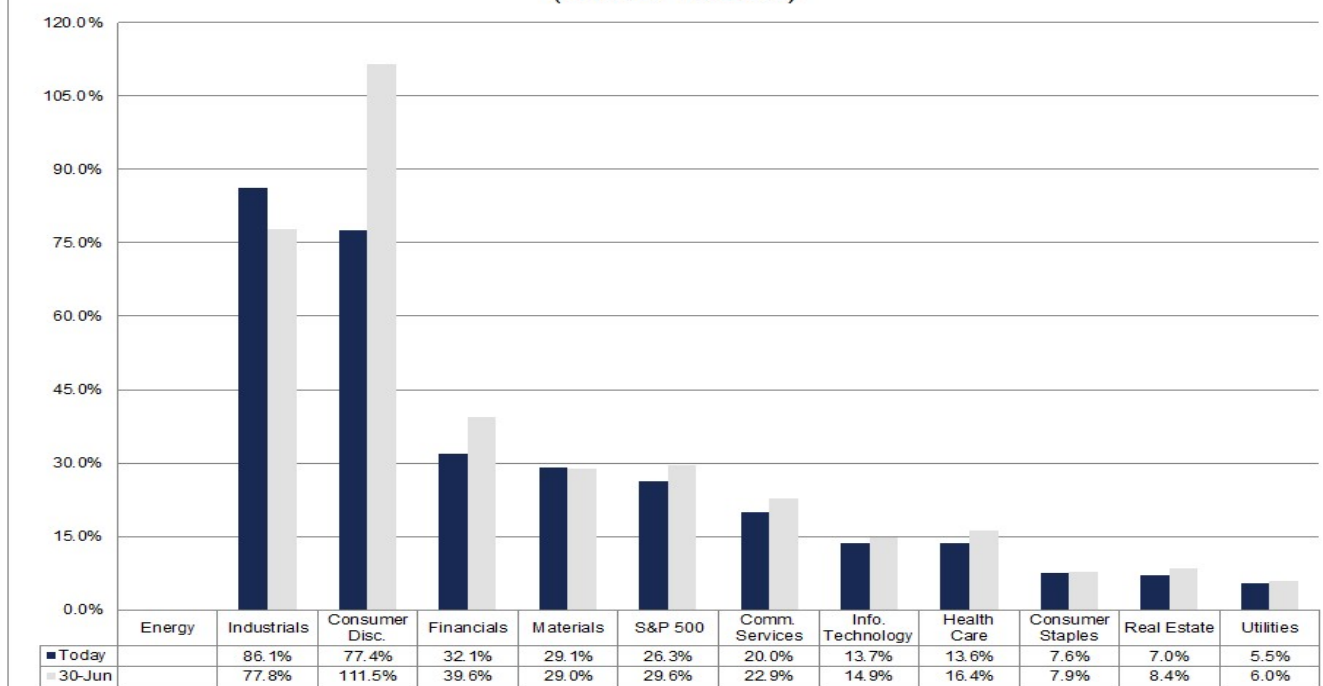
S&P 500 Revenue Growth: CY 2020

(Source: FactSet)

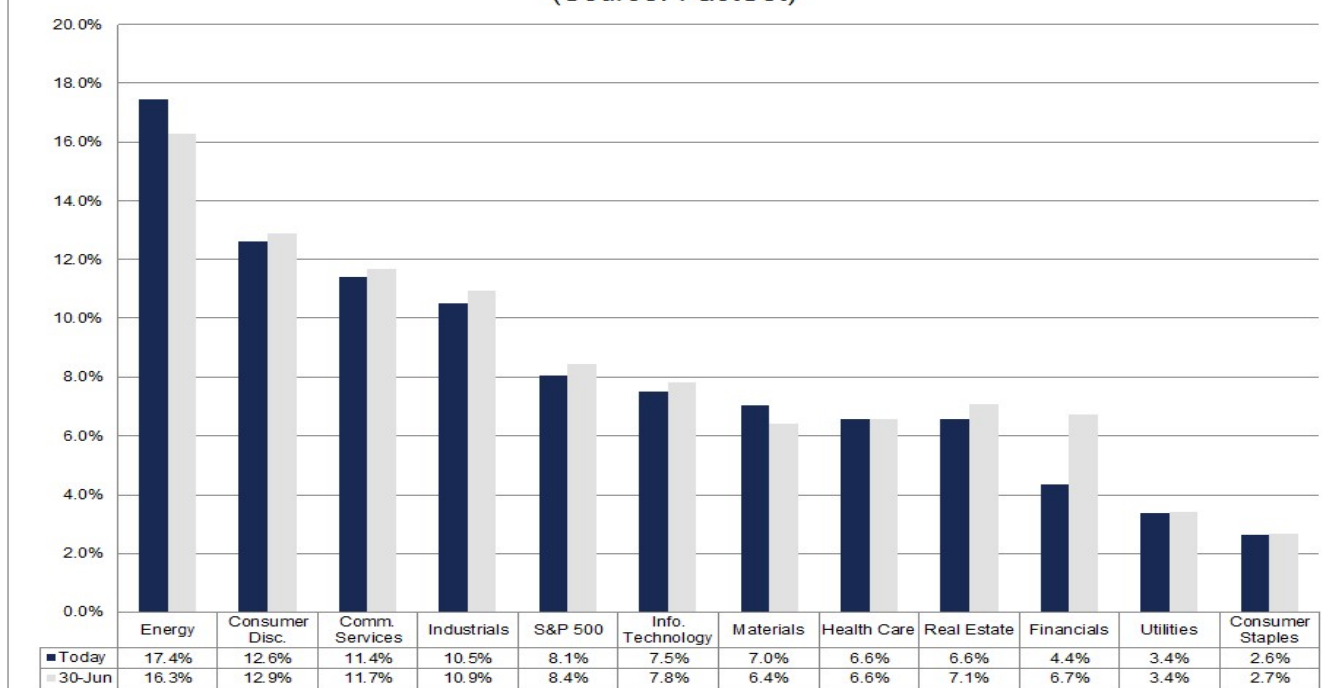


CY 2021: Growth

S&P 500 Earnings Growth: CY 2021
(Source: FactSet)

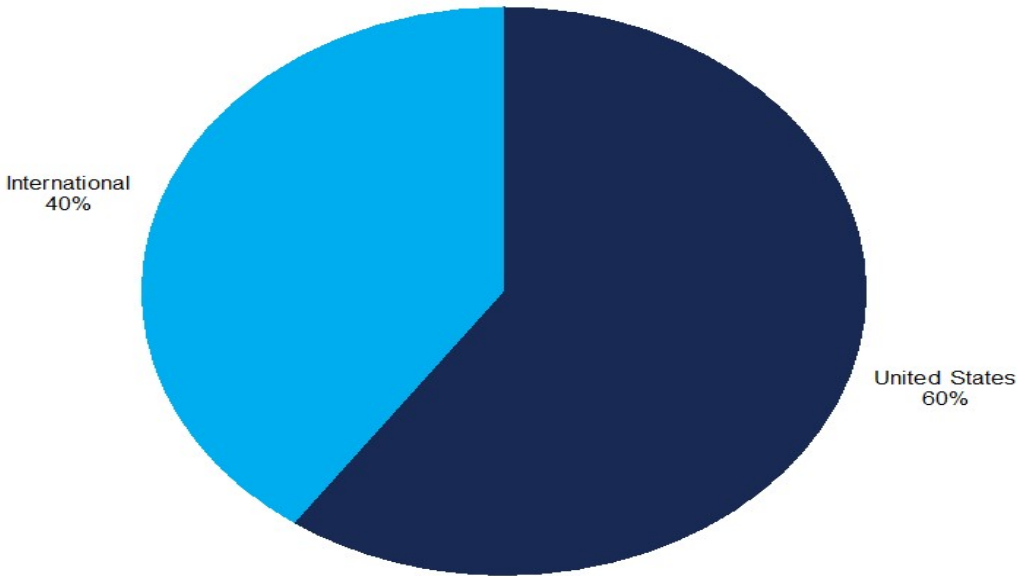


S&P 500 Revenue Growth: CY 2021
(Source: FactSet)

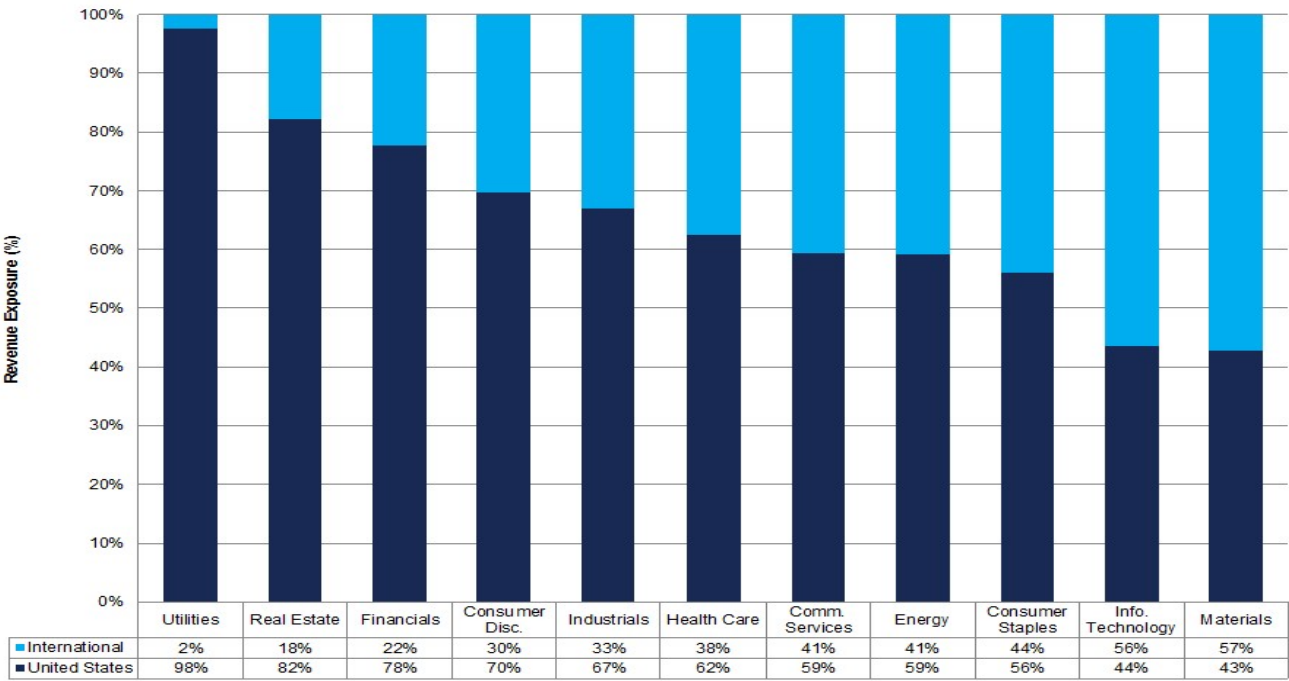


Geographic Revenue Exposure

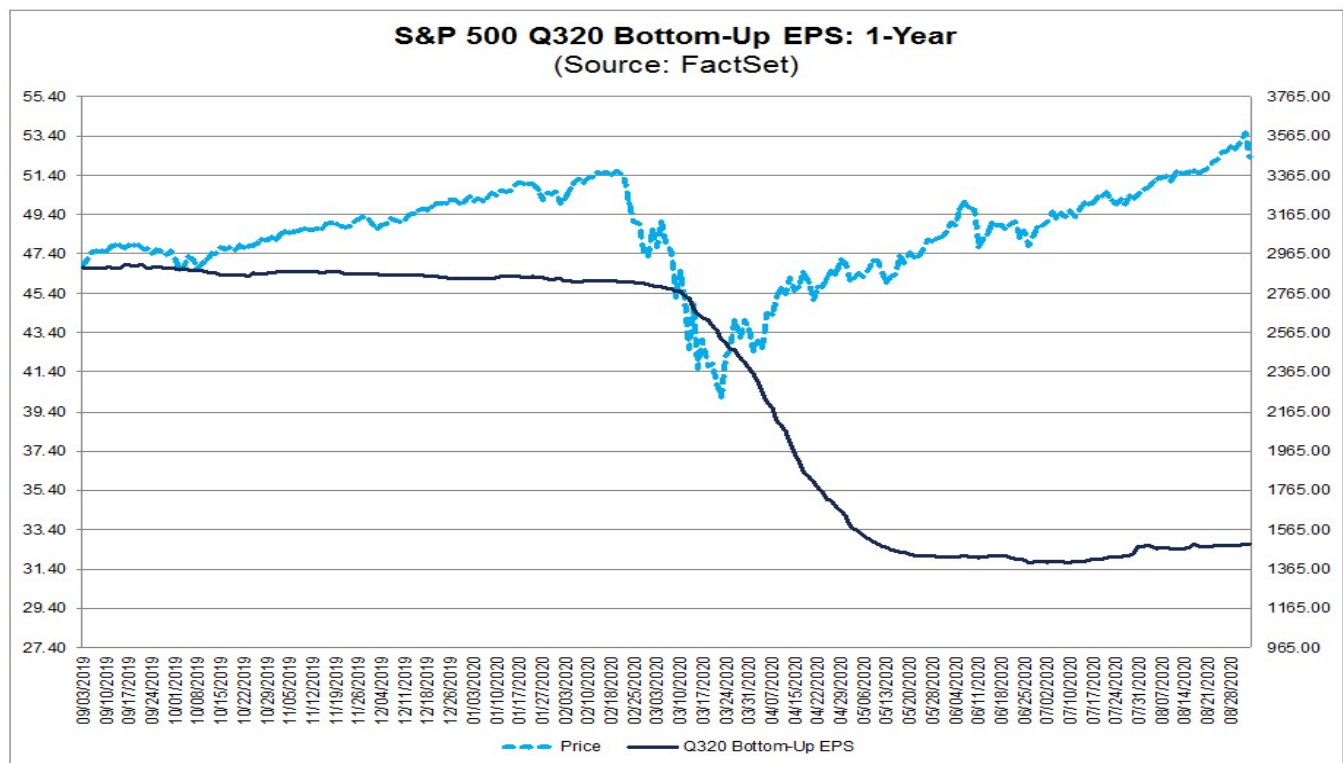
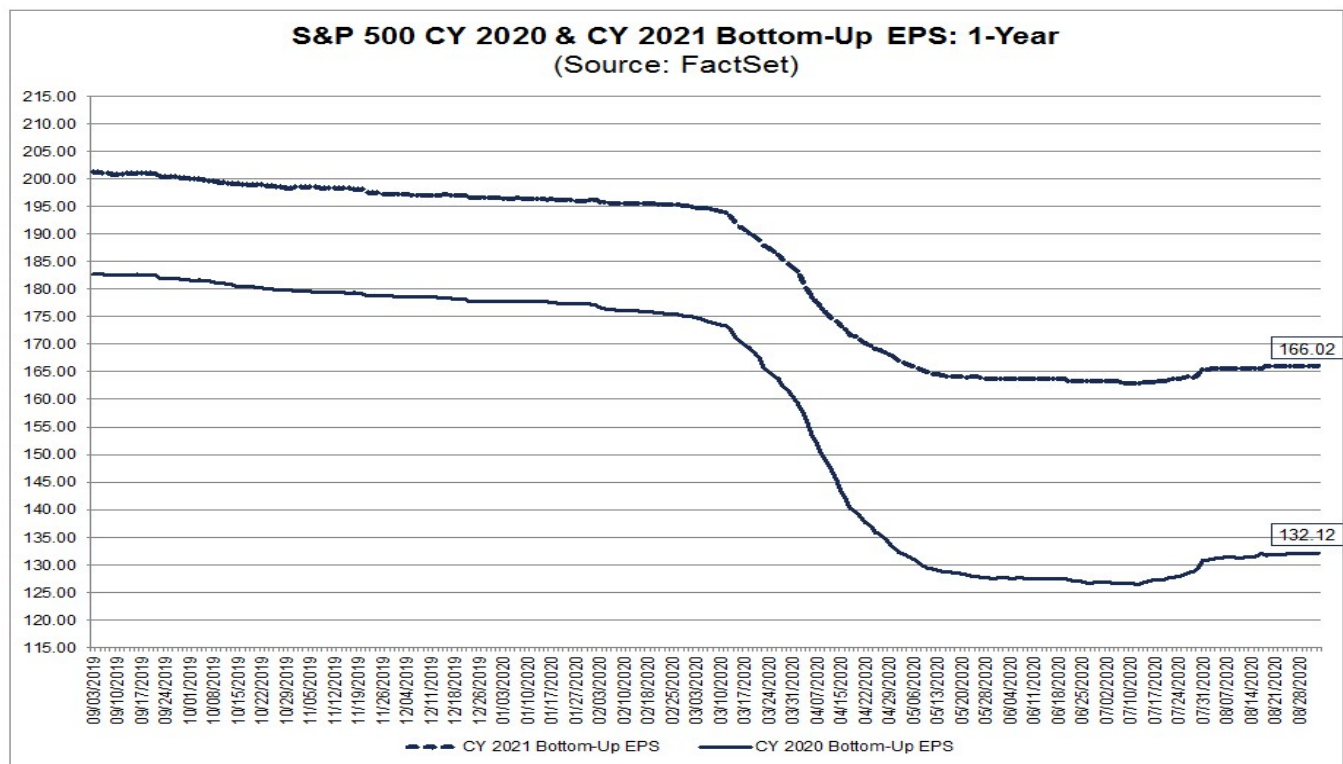
S&P 500: Aggregate Geographic Revenue Exposure (%)
(Source: FactSet)



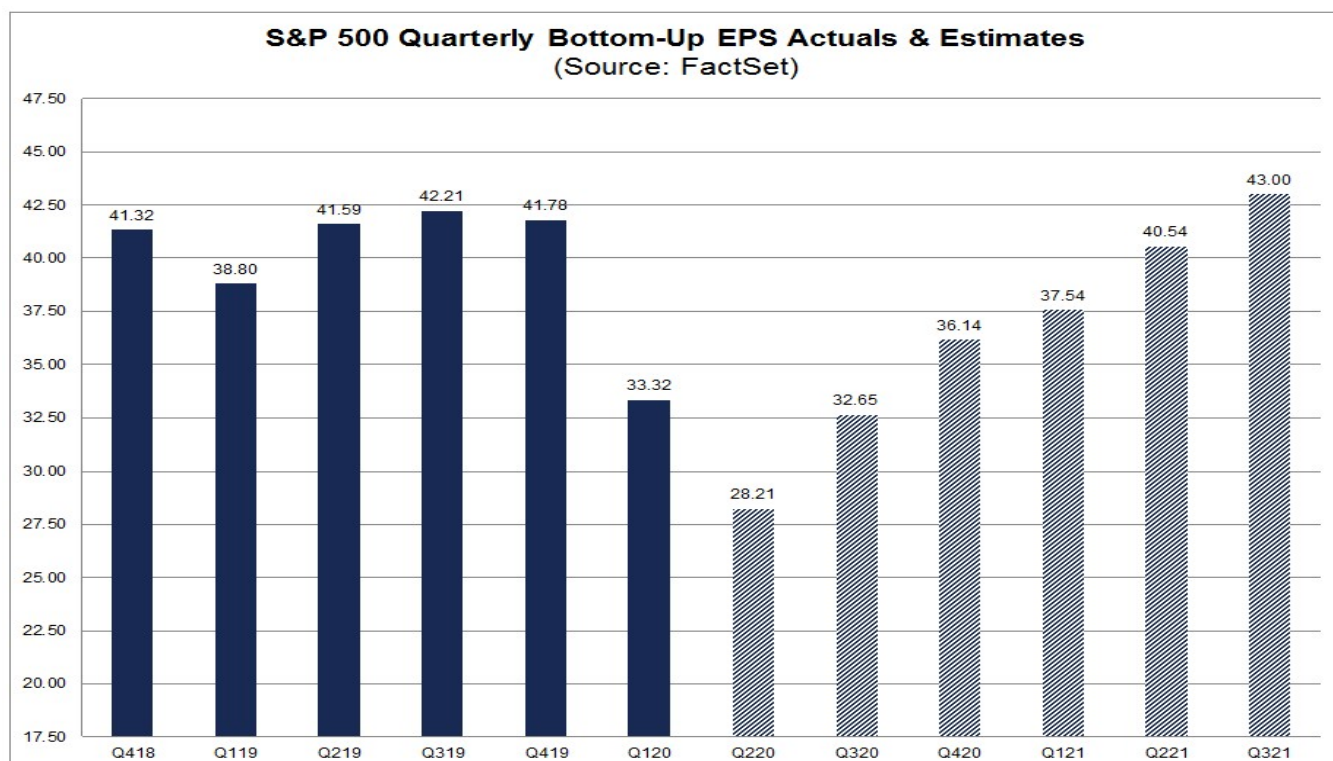
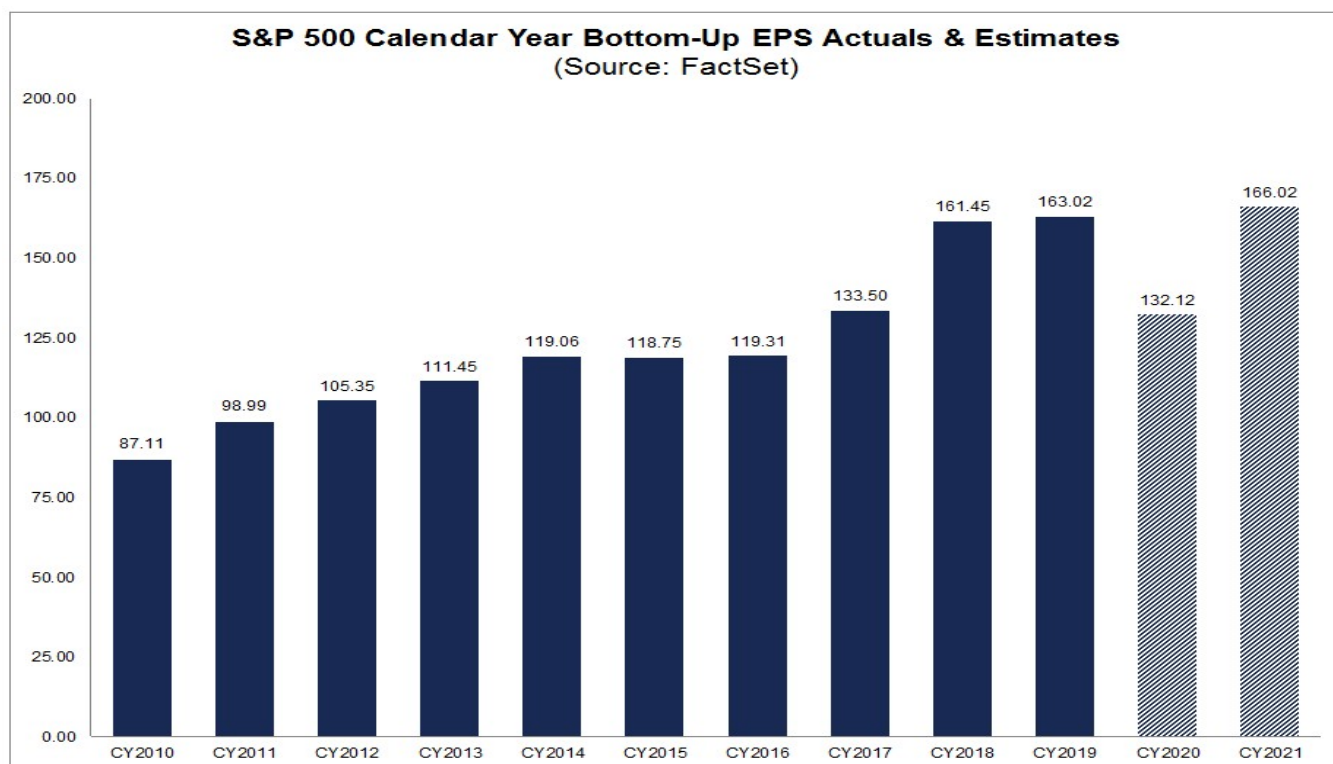
S&P 500: Aggregate Sector Geographic Revenue Exposure (%)
(Source: FactSet)



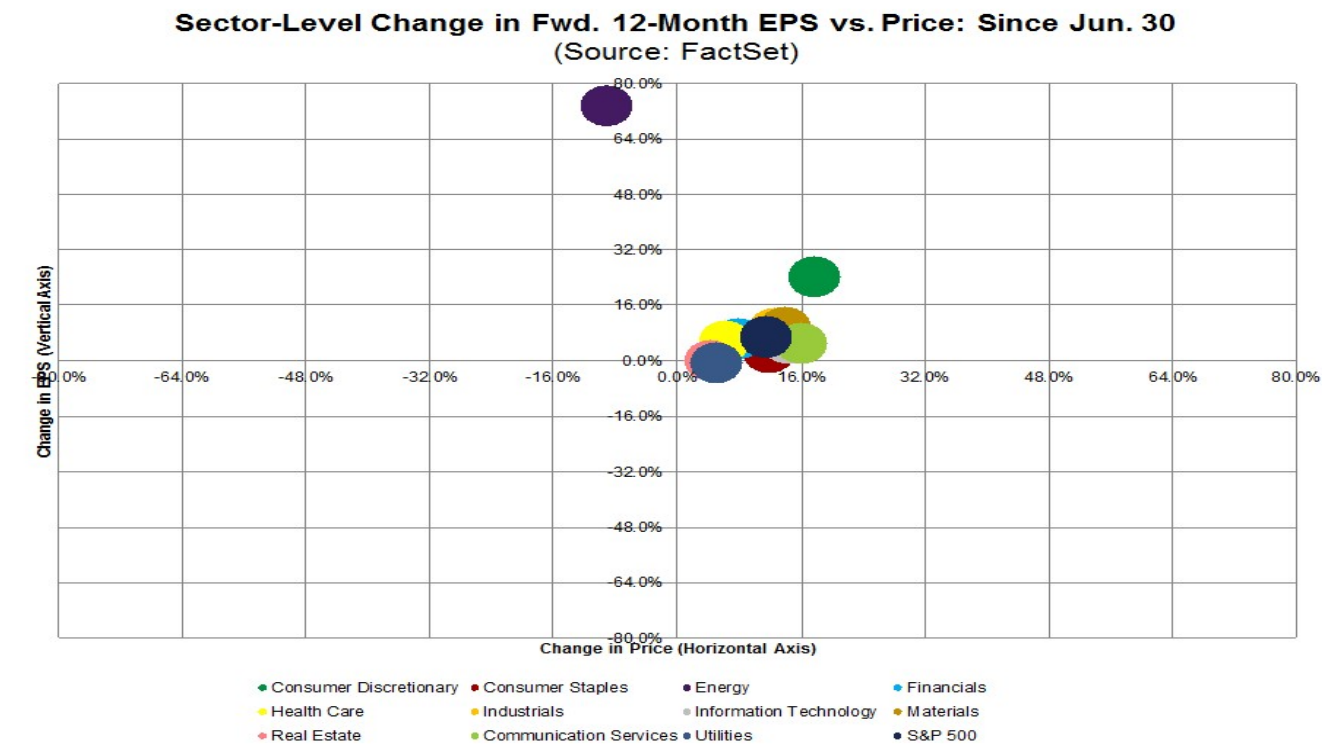
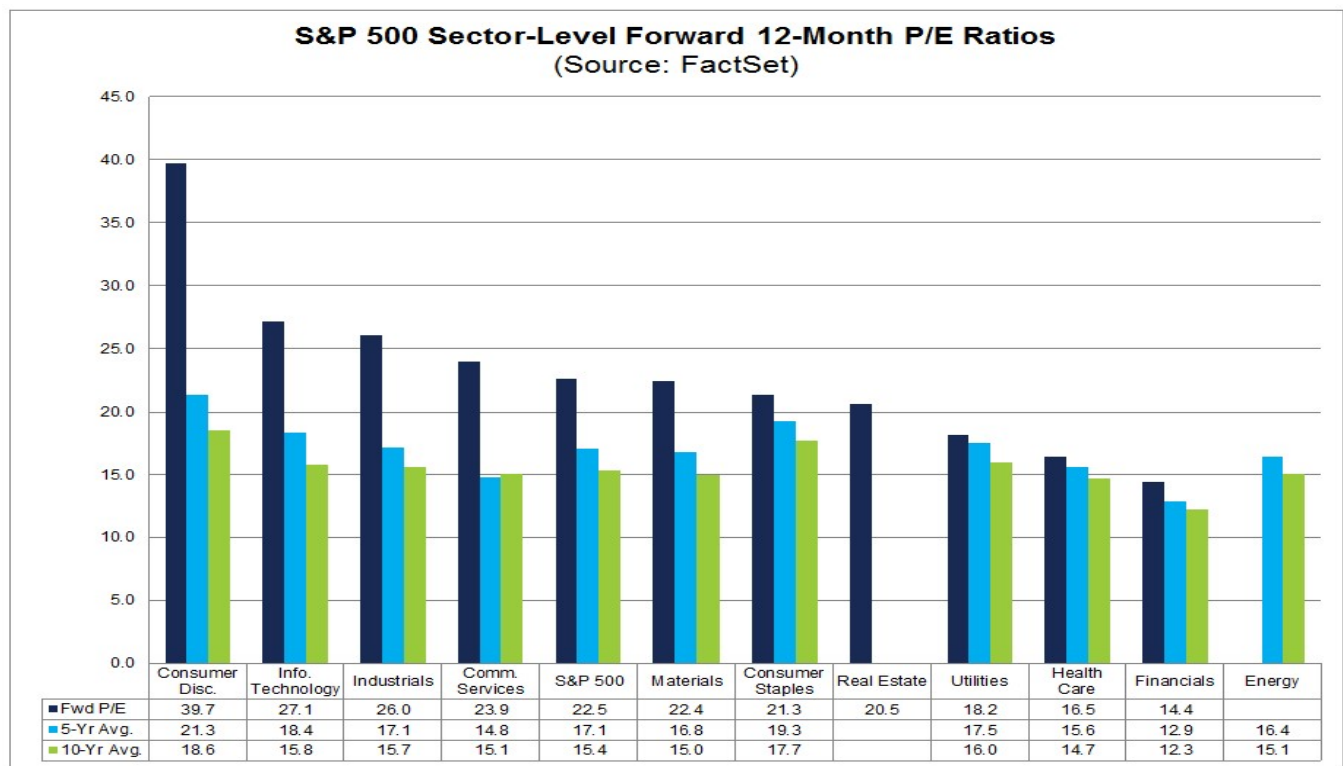
Bottom-up EPS Estimates: Revisions



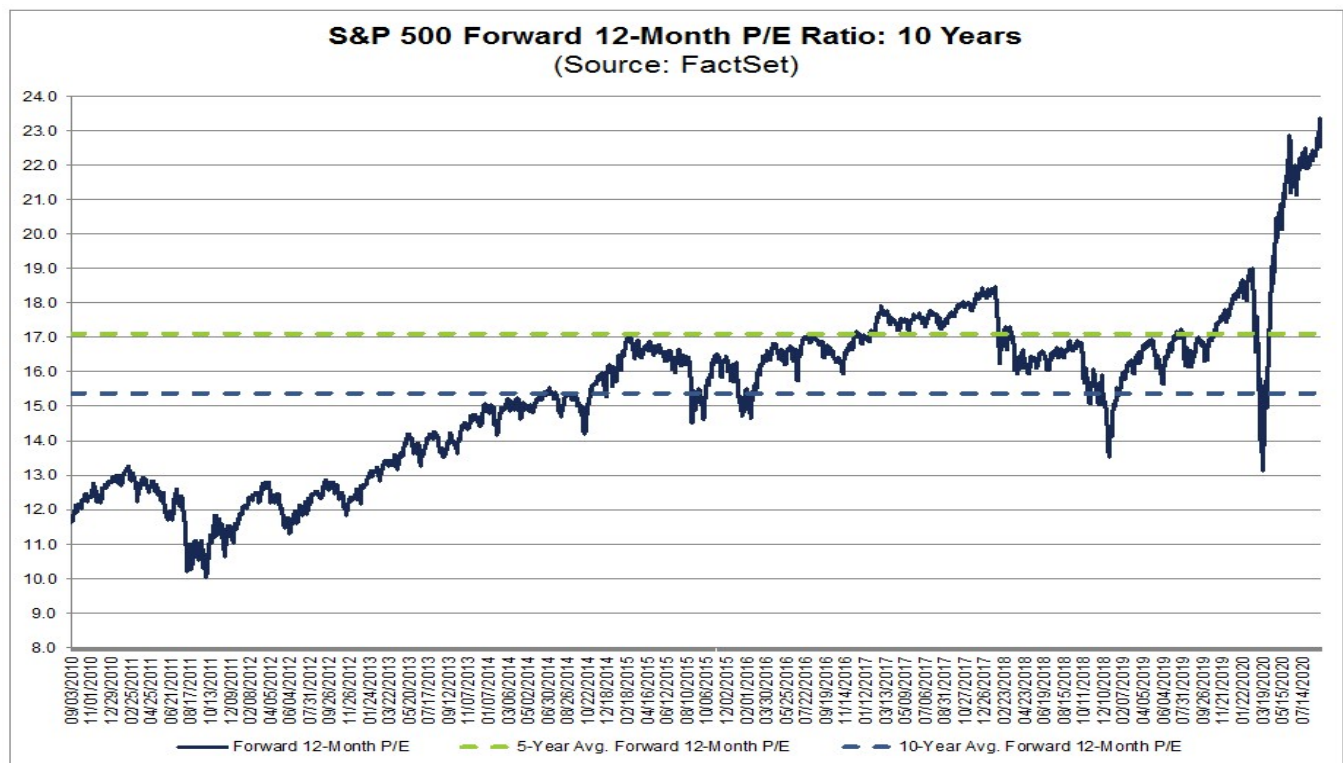
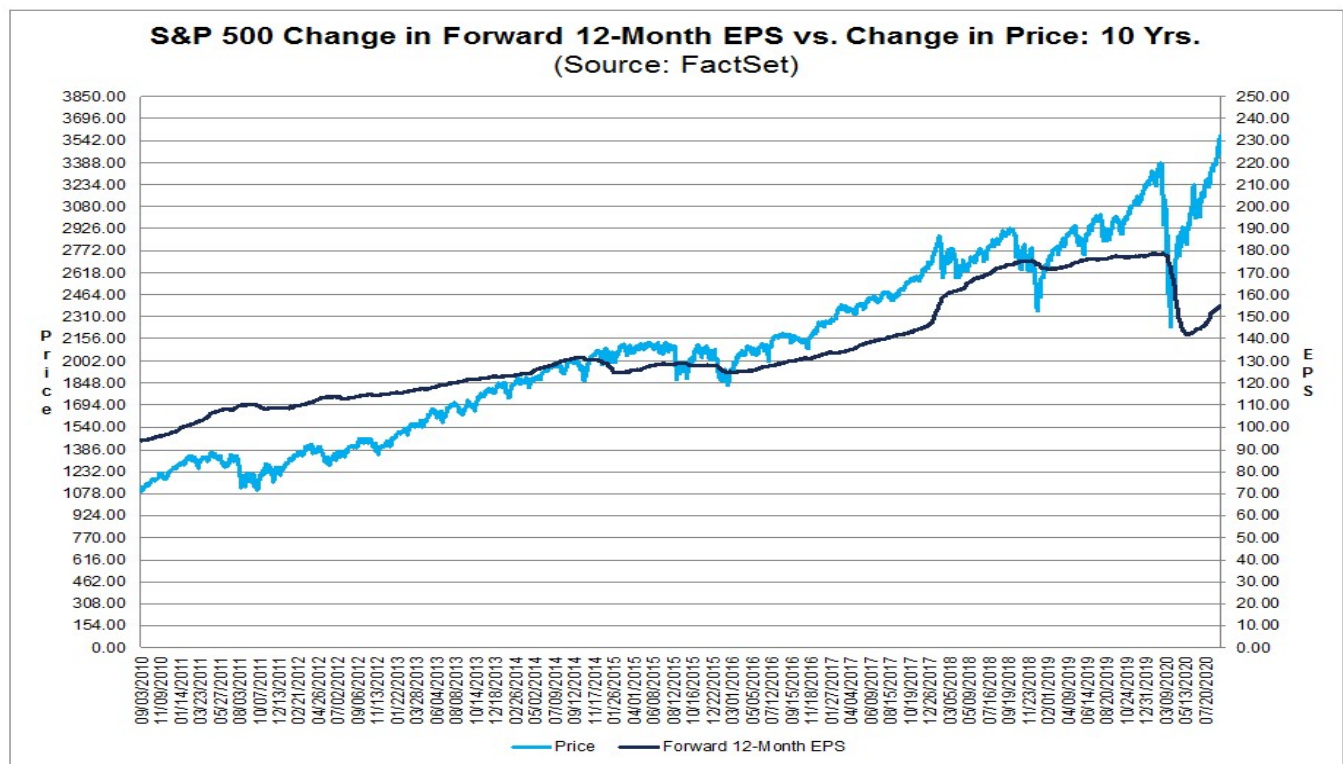
Bottom-up EPS Estimates: Current & Historical



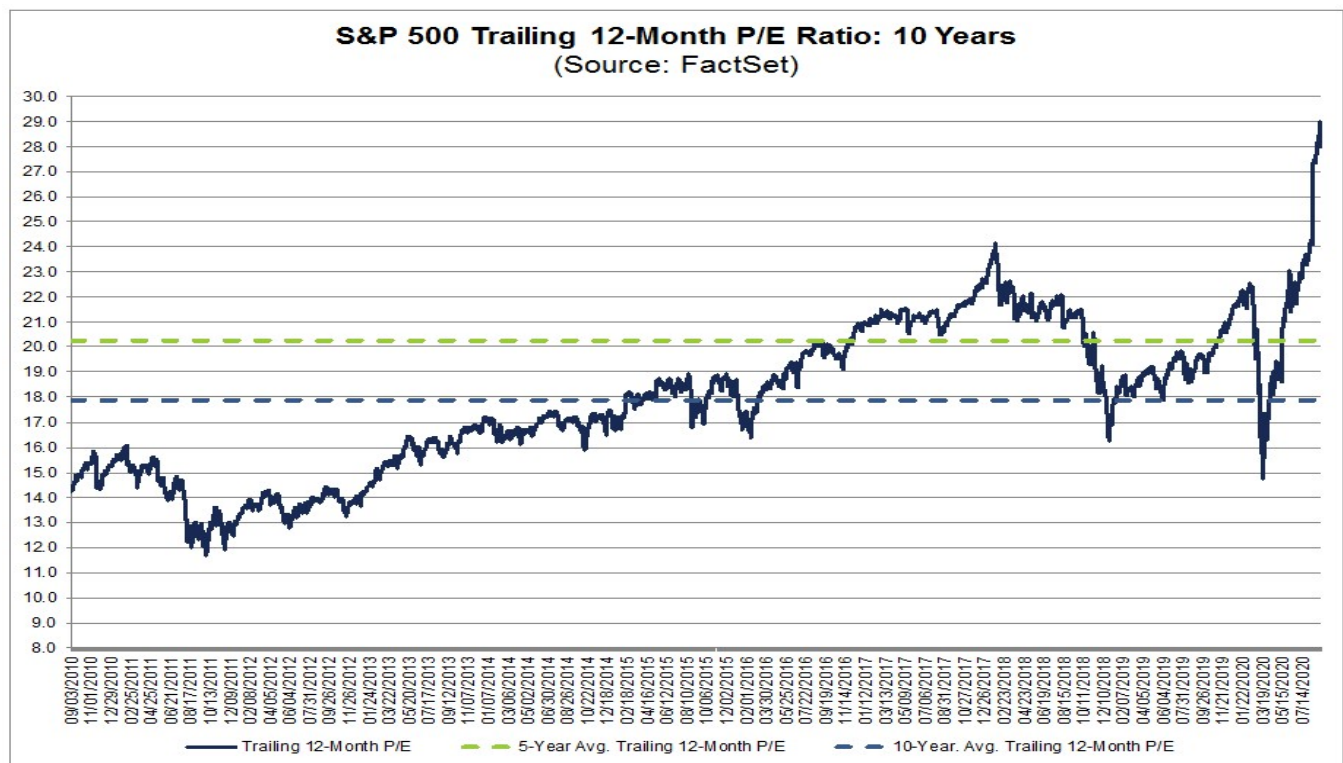
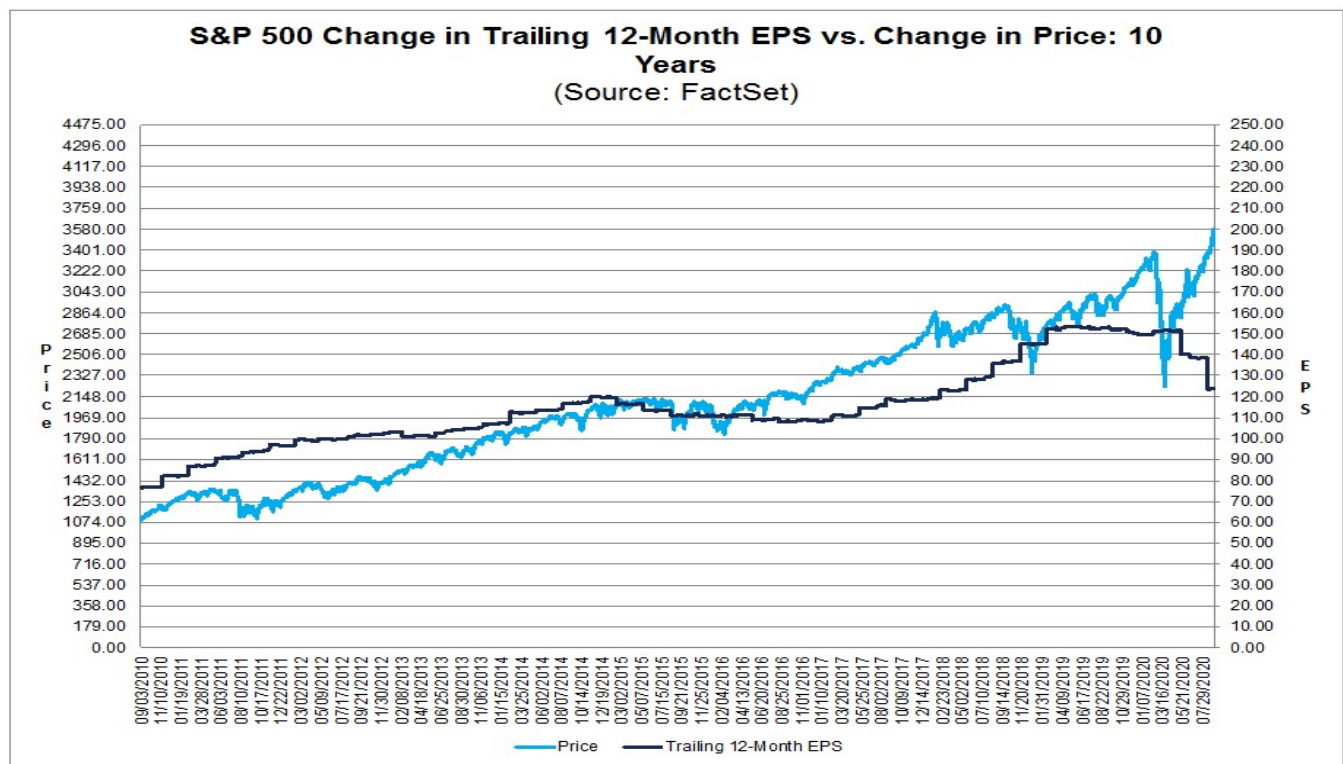
Forward 12M P/E Ratio: Sector Level



Forward 12M P/E Ratio: 10-Years



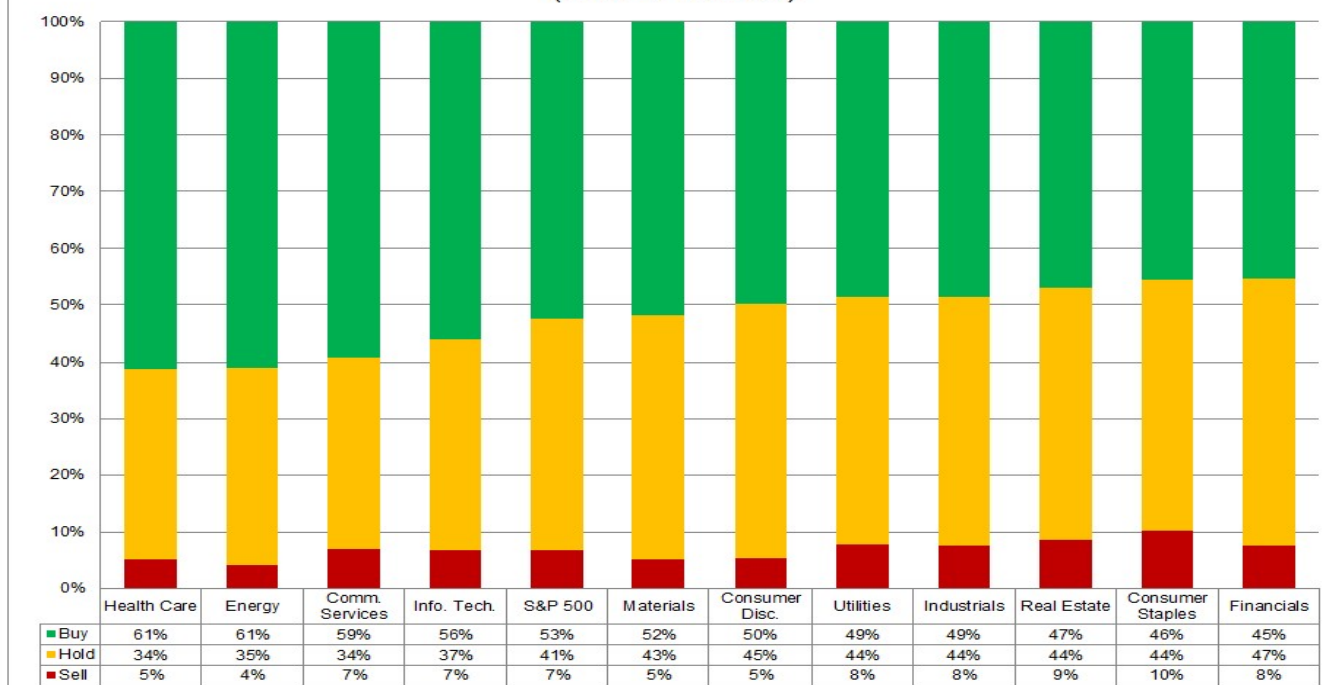
Trailing 12M P/E Ratio: 10-Years



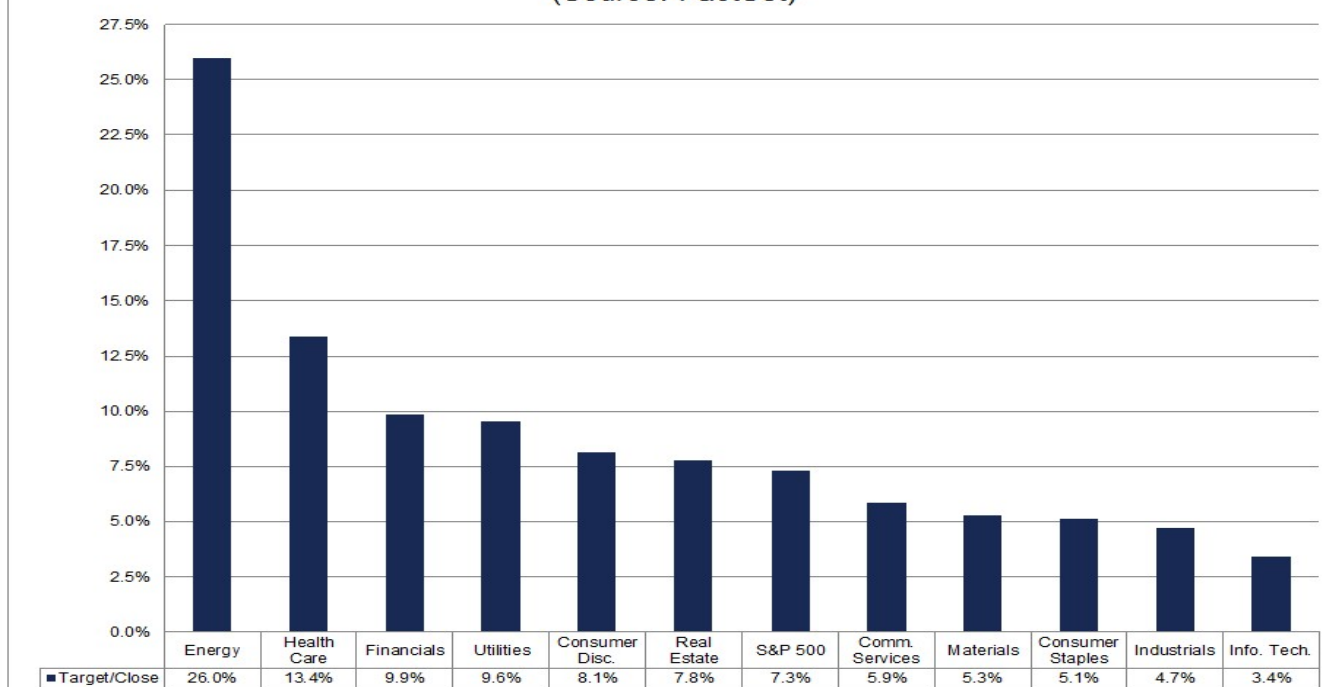
Targets & Ratings

S&P 500: Percentage of Buy, Hold, and Sell Ratings

(Source: FactSet)

**S&P 500 Sector-Level Bottom-Up Target Price vs. Closing Price**

(Source: FactSet)



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