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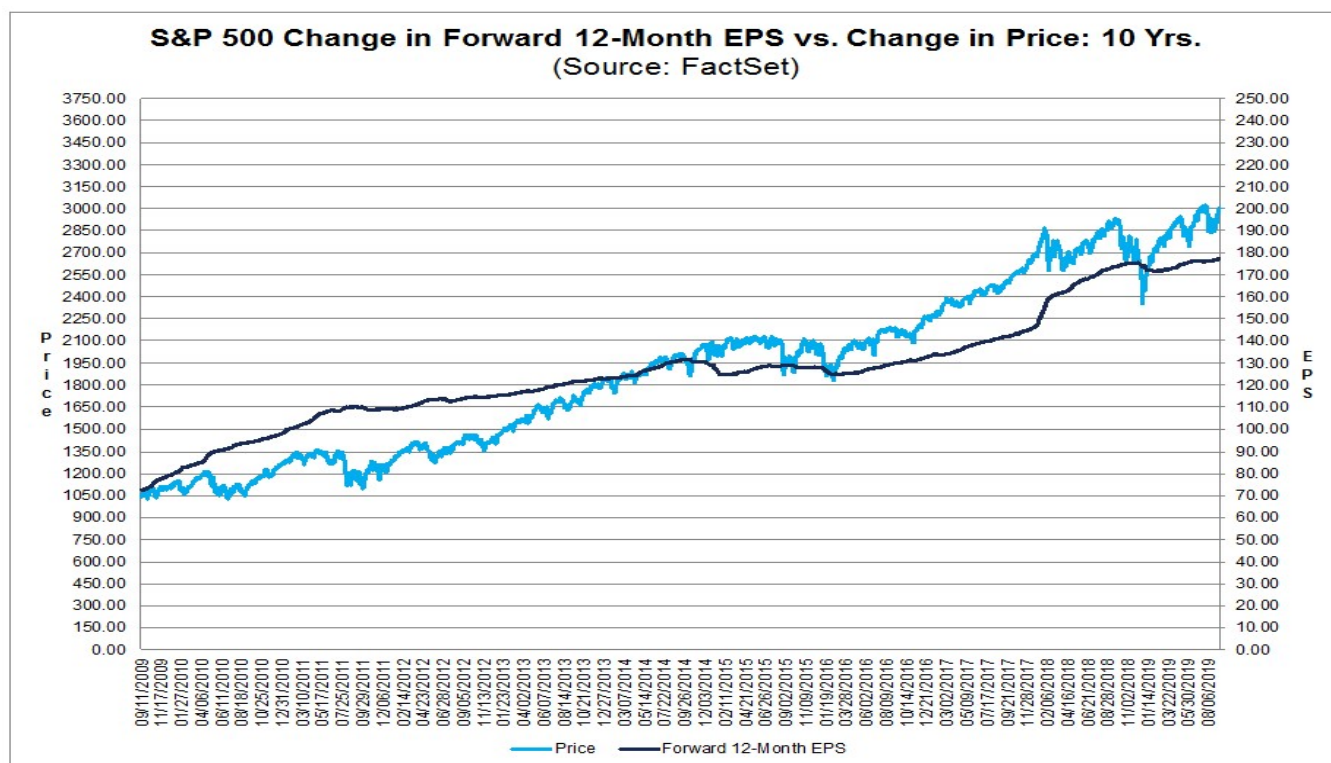
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**Author's Note:** Due to technical problems, we unfortunately were unable to publish many of the charts in the FactSet Earnings Insight report for today. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience.

## Key Metrics

- **Earnings Growth:** For Q3 2019, the estimated earnings decline for the S&P 500 is -3.7%. If -3.7% is the actual decline for the quarter, it will mark the first time the index has reported three straight quarters of year-over-year earnings declines since Q4 2015 through Q2 2016.
- **Earnings Revisions:** On June 30, the estimated earnings decline for Q3 2019 was -0.7%. All eleven sectors have lower growth rates today (compared to June 30) due to downward revisions to EPS estimates.
- **Earnings Guidance:** For Q3 2019, 80 S&P 500 companies have issued negative EPS guidance and 30 S&P 500 companies have issued positive EPS guidance.
- **Valuation:** The forward 12-month P/E ratio for the S&P 500 is 17.0. This P/E ratio is above the 5-year average (16.5) and above the 10-year average (14.8).



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## Topic of the Week:

### Where Are Analysts Most Optimistic on Ratings for S&P 500 Companies for Q3 2019?

With the end of the third quarter approaching, where are analysts most optimistic and pessimistic in terms of their ratings on stocks in the S&P 500? How have their views changed over the past few months?

Overall, there are 10,270 ratings on stocks in the S&P 500. Of these 10,270 ratings, 51.8% are Buy ratings, 41.8% are Hold ratings, and 6.4% are Sell ratings.

At the sector level, analysts are most optimistic on the Energy (66%) sector, as this sector has the highest percentage of Buy ratings. It is interesting to note that the Energy sector is projected to report the largest earnings decline of all eleven sectors in CY 2019 (-20.9%) and the largest earnings growth of all eleven sectors in CY 2020 (30.2%).

On the other hand, analysts are most pessimistic about the Consumer Staples (40%) sector, as this sector has the lowest percentage of Buy ratings. This sector also has the highest percentage of Sell ratings (12%).

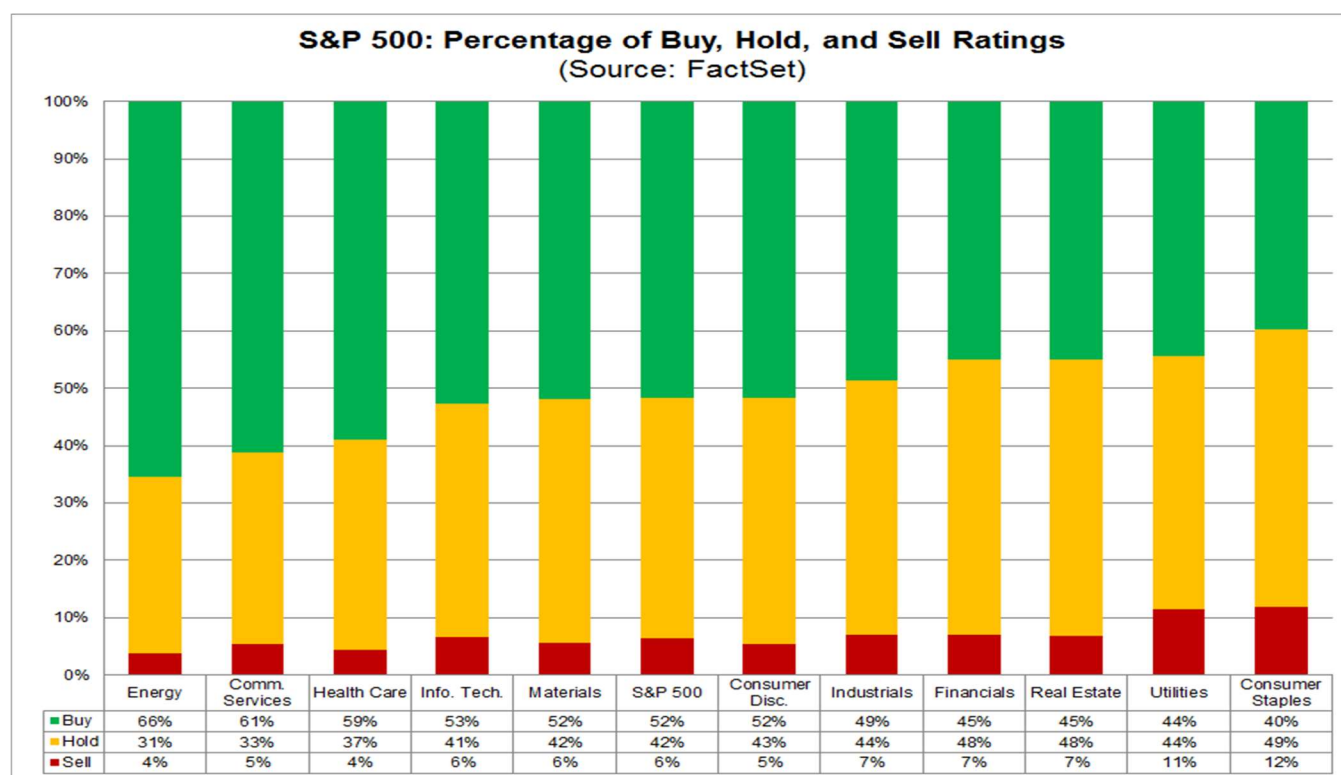
At the company level, the ten stocks in the S&P 500 (with a minimum of three analysts submitting ratings) with the highest percentages of Buy ratings and the highest percentages of Sell ratings are listed on the next page.

Since June 30, the total number of ratings on S&P 500 companies has decreased by 1.6% (to 10,270 from 10,435).

The number of Buy ratings has decreased by 3.1%. Eight sectors have witnessed a decrease in Buy ratings, led by the Consumer Discretionary (-7%) and Financials (-7%) sectors. Three sectors have seen an increase in Buy ratings, led by the Communication Services (+4%) sector.

The number of Hold ratings has increased by 0.3%. Four sectors have witnessed an increase in Hold ratings, led by the Industrials (+7%) and Materials (+5%) sectors. Seven sectors have recorded a decrease in Hold ratings, led by the Utilities (-11%) and Energy (-7%) sectors.

The number of Sell ratings has decreased by 0.8%. Five sectors have recorded a decrease in Sell ratings, led by the Health Care (-12%) and Consumer Discretionary (-11%) sectors. Four sectors have seen an increase in Sell ratings, led by the Financials (+16%) and Communication Services (+12%) sectors.



## Highest Buy Ratings % in S&amp;P 500\*: Top 10 (Source: FactSet)

Company	Buy	Hold	Sell
Diamondback Energy, Inc.	<b>100%</b>	0%	0%
Assurant, Inc.	<b>100%</b>	0%	0%
Amazon.com, Inc.	<b>98%</b>	2%	0%
Marathon Petroleum Corporation	<b>95%</b>	5%	0%
AMETEK, Inc.	<b>93%</b>	7%	0%
salesforce.com, inc.	<b>93%</b>	7%	0%
UnitedHealth Group Incorporated	<b>92%</b>	8%	0%
Mastercard Incorporated Class A	<b>92%</b>	5%	3%
Equinix, Inc.	<b>92%</b>	4%	4%
Boston Scientific Corporation	<b>92%</b>	4%	4%

\* Minimum of 3 analysts contributing ratings

## Highest Sell Ratings % in S&amp;P 500\*: Top 10 (Source: FactSet)

Company	Buy	Hold	Sell
Globe Life Inc.	22%	22%	<b>56%</b>
Franklin Resources, Inc.	0%	50%	<b>50%</b>
Consolidated Edison, Inc.	6%	53%	<b>41%</b>
Campbell Soup Company	13%	47%	<b>40%</b>
WEC Energy Group Inc	8%	54%	<b>38%</b>
News Corporation Class A	38%	25%	<b>38%</b>
Mettler-Toledo International Inc.	0%	64%	<b>36%</b>
Hormel Foods Corporation	8%	58%	<b>33%</b>
Garmin Ltd.	0%	67%	<b>33%</b>
Western Union Company	5%	64%	<b>32%</b>

\* Minimum of 3 analysts contributing ratings

## Q3 Earnings Season: By The Numbers

### Overview

In terms of estimate revisions for companies in the S&P 500, analysts have made cuts to EPS estimates at average levels for Q3 2019 to date. On a per-share basis, estimated earnings for the third quarter have fallen by 3.3% since June 30. This percentage decline is equal to the 5-year average (-3.3%) for a quarter, larger than the 10-year average (-3.1%) for a quarter, and smaller than the 15-year average (-4.3%) for a quarter.

However, a larger percentage of S&P 500 companies have lowered the bar for earnings for Q3 2019 relative to recent quarters. Of the 110 companies that have issued EPS guidance for the third quarter, 80 have issued negative EPS guidance and 30 have issued positive EPS guidance. The percentage of companies issuing negative EPS guidance is 73% (80 out of 110), which is above the 5-year average of 70%.

Because of the net downward revisions to earnings estimates, the estimated (year-over-year) earnings decline for Q3 2019 is -3.7% today compared to the estimated (year-over-year) earnings decline of -0.7% on June 30. If -3.7% is the actual decline for the quarter, it will mark the first time the index has reported three straight quarters of year-over-year declines in earnings since Q4 2015 through Q2 2016. It will also mark the largest year-over-year decline in earnings reported by the index since Q1 2016 (-6.9%). Five sectors are predicted to report year-over-year earnings growth, led by the Utilities and Real Estate sectors. Six sectors are projected to report a year-over-year decline in earnings, led by the Energy, Information Technology, and Materials sectors.

Because of the net downward revisions to revenue estimates, the estimated (year-over-year) revenue growth rate for Q3 2019 is 2.8% today compared to the estimated (year-over-year) revenue growth rate of 3.5% on June 30. If 2.8% is the actual growth rate for the quarter, it will mark the lowest revenue growth rate for the index since Q3 2016 (2.7%). Eight sectors are projected to report year-over-year growth in revenues, led by the Health Care sector. Three sectors are predicted to report a year-over-year decline in revenues, led by the Materials sector.

Looking ahead, analysts see low single-digit earnings growth in the fourth quarter followed by high single-digit earnings growth for both Q1 2020 and Q2 2020.

The forward 12-month P/E ratio is 17.0, which is above the 5-year average and above the 10-year average.

During the upcoming week, five S&P 500 companies are scheduled to report results for the third quarter.

### Estimate Revisions: Largest Estimate Cuts in Energy Sector

#### Slight Increase in Estimated Earnings Decline for Q3 This Week

The estimated earnings decline for the third quarter is -3.7% this week, which is slightly larger than the estimated earnings decline of -3.6% last week.

The estimated earnings decline for Q3 2019 of -3.7% is larger than the estimated earnings decline of -0.7% at the start of the quarter (June 30). All eleven sectors have a recorded a decrease in expected earnings growth due to downward revisions to earnings estimates, led by the Energy, Consumer Discretionary, and Materials sectors.

#### Energy: 89% of Companies Have Seen a Decline in Q3 EPS Estimates since June 30

The Energy sector has recorded the largest decrease in expected earnings growth since the start of the quarter (to -28.7% from -13.9%). This sector has also witnessed the largest decrease in price of all eleven sectors since June 30 at -5.7%. Overall, 25 of the 28 companies (89%) in the Energy sector have seen a decrease in their mean EPS estimate during this time. Of these 25 companies, 16 have recorded a decrease in their mean EPS estimate of more than 10%, led by Noble Energy (to -\$0.07 from \$0.01), Hess Corporation (to -\$0.21 from -\$0.04), and Apache Corporation (to -\$0.09 from \$0.20).

### Consumer Discretionary: 74% of Companies Have Seen a Decline in Q3 EPS Estimates since June 30

The Consumer Discretionary sector has recorded the second largest decrease in expected earnings growth since the start of the quarter (to -2.0% from 4.0%). Despite the decrease in expected earnings, this sector has witnessed an increase in price of 2.7% since June 30. Overall, 45 of the 61 companies (74%) in the Consumer Discretionary sector have seen a decrease in their mean EPS estimate during this time. Of these 45 companies, 13 have recorded a decrease in their mean EPS estimate of more than 10%, led by Macy's (to \$0.02 from \$0.10), L Brands (to \$0.03 from \$0.08), Under Armour (to \$0.18 from \$0.27), and Amazon.com (to \$4.60 from \$6.67).

### Materials: 79% of Companies Have Seen a Decline in Q3 EPS Estimates since June 30

The Materials sector has recorded the third largest decrease in expected earnings growth since the start of the quarter (to -7.0% from -1.7%). This sector has also witnessed the third largest decrease in price of all eleven sectors since June 30 at -0.5%. Overall, 22 of the 28 companies (79%) in the Materials sector have seen a decrease in their mean EPS estimate during this time. Of these 22 companies, 9 have recorded a decrease in their mean EPS estimate of more than 10%, led by Mosaic (to \$0.28 from \$0.57), Freeport-McMoRan (to \$0.07 from \$0.11), and International Paper (to \$1.01 from \$1.41).

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

The Q3 bottom-up EPS estimate (which is an aggregation of the median earnings estimates for all 500 companies in the index and can be used as a proxy for the earnings for the index) has decreased by 3.3% (to \$41.48 from \$42.90) since June 30. This percentage decline is equal to the 5-year average (-3.3%) for a quarter, larger than the 10-year average (-3.1%) for a quarter, and smaller than the 15-year average (-4.3%) for a quarter.

### Guidance: More S&P 500 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, 110 companies in the index have issued EPS guidance for Q3 2019. Of these 110 companies, 80 have issued negative EPS guidance and 30 have issued positive EPS guidance. The percentage of companies issuing negative EPS guidance is 73% (80 out of 110), which is above the 5-year average of 70%.

### Year-Over-Year Earnings Decline: -3.7%

The estimated (year-over-year) earnings decline for Q3 2019 is -3.7%, which is below the 5-year average earnings growth rate of 7.3%. If -3.7% is the actual decline for the quarter, it will mark the first time the index has reported three straight quarters of year-over-year declines in earnings since Q4 2015 through Q2 2016. It will also mark the largest year-over-year decline in earnings reported by the index since Q1 2016 (-6.9%).

Five sectors are predicted to report year-over-year earnings growth, led by the Utilities and Real Estate sectors. Six sectors are projected to report a year-over-year decline in earnings, led by the Energy, Information Technology, and Materials sectors.

### Utilities: Gas Utilities Industry Leads Year-Over-Year Growth

The Utilities sector is expected to report the highest (year-over-year) earnings growth of all eleven sectors at 4.0%. At the industry level, all five industries in this sector are projected to report growth in earnings. One of these five industries is predicted to report double-digit earnings growth: Gas Utilities (21%).



### Real Estate: Industrial REITs Sub-Industry Leads Year-Over-Year Growth

The Real Estate sector is expected to report the second highest (year-over-year) earnings (FFO) growth of all eleven sectors at 3.7%. At the sub-industry level, six of the eight sub-industries in this sector are projected to report growth in earnings (FFO). One of these six sub-industries is predicted to report double-digit growth: Industrial REITs (25%). On the other hand, two sub-industries are expected to report a year-over-year decline in earnings (FFO): Hotel & Resort REITs (-8%) and Real Estate Services (-2%).

### Energy: 4 of 6 Sub-Industries Expected to Report Year-Over-Year Growth

The Energy sector is expected to report the largest (year-over-year) decline in earnings of all eleven sectors at -28.7%. At the sub-industry level, four of the six sub-industries in the sector are expected to report a decline in earnings for the quarter: Oil & Gas Exploration & Production (-40%), Integrated Oil & Gas (-36%), Oil & Gas Refining & Marketing (-11%), and Oil & Gas Equipment & services (-1%). On the other hand, the other two sub-industries in the sector are expected to report growth in earnings for the quarter: Oil & Gas Drilling (37%) and Oil & Gas Storage & Transportation (24%).

### Information Technology: Semiconductor Industry Leads Year-Over-Year Decline

The Information Technology sector is expected to report the second highest (year-over-year) earnings decline of all eleven sectors at -10.5%. At the industry level, four of the six industries in this sector are projected to report a decline in earnings: Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment (-31%), Technology Hardware, Storage, & Peripherals (-14%), Electronic Equipment, Instruments & Components (-8%), and Communications Equipment (<-1%). On the other hand, the other two industries in this sector are expected to report earnings growth: Software (8%) and IT Services (3%).

### Materials: Metals & Mining Industry Leads Year-Over-Year Decline

The Materials sector is expected to report the third highest (year-over-year) earnings decline of all eleven sectors at -7.0%. At the industry level, two of the four industries in this sector are projected to report a decline in earnings: Metals & Mining (-45%) and Containers & Packaging (-15%). On the other hand, the other two industries in this sector are expected to report earnings growth: Construction Materials (20%) and Chemicals (3%).

## Year-Over-Year Revenue Growth: 2.8%

The estimated (year-over-year) revenue growth rate for Q3 2019 is 2.8%, which is below the 5-year average revenue growth rate of 3.5%. If 2.8% is the actual growth rate for the quarter, it will mark the lowest revenue growth rate for the index since Q3 2016 (2.7%).

Eight sectors are projected to report year-over-year growth in revenues, led by the Health Care sector. Three sectors are predicted to report a year-over-year decline in revenues, led by the Materials sector.

### Health Care: Cigna and CVS Lead Growth on Easy Comparisons to Year-Ago Pre-Merger Revenues

The Health Care sector is expected to report the highest (year-over-year) revenue growth of all eleven sectors at 12.5%. At the industry level, five of the six industries in this sector are predicted to report revenue growth for the quarter. However, the Health Care Providers & Services is the only industry projected to report double-digit revenue growth (17%). On the other hand, the Pharmaceuticals (-1%) industry is the only industry projected to report a decline in revenue.

At the company level, Cigna and CVS Health are predicted to be the largest contributors to revenue growth for the sector. However, the revenue growth rates for both companies are being boosted by apples-to-oranges comparisons of post-merger revenues to pre-merger revenues. The revenue estimate for Cigna for Q3 2019 (\$34.49 billion) reflects the combined revenues of Cigna and Express Scripts, while the actual revenue for Q3 2018 (\$11.46 billion) reflects the standalone revenue for Cigna. The revenue estimate for CVS Health for Q3 2019 (\$62.97 billion) reflects the combined revenues of CVS Health and Aetna, while the actual revenue for Q3 2018 (\$47.27 billion) reflects the standalone revenue for CVS Health. These apples-to-oranges comparisons are the main reason Cigna and CVS Health are projected to be the largest contributors to revenue growth for the sector.

### Materials: DuPont Leads Decline on Hard Comparison to Year-Ago Pre-Split Revenues

The Materials sector is expected to report the highest (year-over-year) decline in revenue of all eleven sectors at -12.0%. At the industry level, two of the four industries in this sector are predicted to report a decline in revenue for the quarter: Chemicals (-19%) and Metals & Mining (-7%).

At the company level, DuPont is predicted to be the largest contributor to the decline in revenue for the sector. However, the revenue decline is being boosted by an apples-to-oranges comparison of post-split revenues to pre-split revenues. The revenue estimate for DuPont for Q3 2019 (\$5.48 billion) reflects the standalone revenue for DuPont, while the actual revenue for Q3 2018 (\$20.12 billion) reflects the combined revenue for DowDuPont (DuPont, Dow, and Corteva). This apples-to-oranges comparison is the main reason DuPont is projected to be the largest contributor to the revenue decline for the sector.

## Looking Ahead: Forward Estimates and Valuation

### Earnings: Low Single-Digit Earnings Growth Projected for 2019

For the third quarter, S&P 500 companies are expected to report a decline in earnings of -3.7% and growth in revenues of 2.8%. Analysts see low single-digit earnings growth in the fourth quarter followed by high single-digit earnings growth for both Q1 2020 and Q2 2020.

For Q4 2019, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 3.2% and revenue growth of 3.7%.

For CY 2019, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 1.3% and revenue growth of 4.2%.

For Q1 2020, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 7.9% and revenue growth of 5.5%.

For Q2 2020, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 9.1% and revenue growth of 6.4%.

For CY 2020, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 10.6% and revenue growth of 5.6%.

### Valuation: Forward P/E Ratio is 17.0, Above the 10-Year Average (14.8)

The forward 12-month P/E ratio is 17.0. This P/E ratio is above the 5-year average of 16.5 and above the 10-year average of 14.8. It is also above the forward 12-month P/E ratio of 16.8 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 2.3%, while the forward 12-month EPS estimate has increased by 0.7%.

At the sector level, the Consumer Discretionary (21.7) sector has the highest forward 12-month P/E ratio, while the Financials (12.1) sector has the lowest forward 12-month P/E ratio.

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

The bottom-up target price for the S&P 500 is 3311.25, which is 10.0% above the closing price of 3009.57. At the sector level, the Energy (+19.5%) 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 Utilities (+1.2%) and Real Estate (+3.3%) sectors are expected to see the smallest price increases, as these sectors have the smallest upside differences between the bottom-up target price and the closing price.

Overall, there are 10,270 ratings on stocks in the S&P 500. Of these 10,270 ratings, 51.8% are Buy ratings, 41.8% are Hold ratings, and 6.4% are Sell ratings. At the sector level, the Energy (66%) sector has the highest percentage of Buy ratings, while the Consumer Staples (40%) sector has the lowest percentage of Buy ratings.

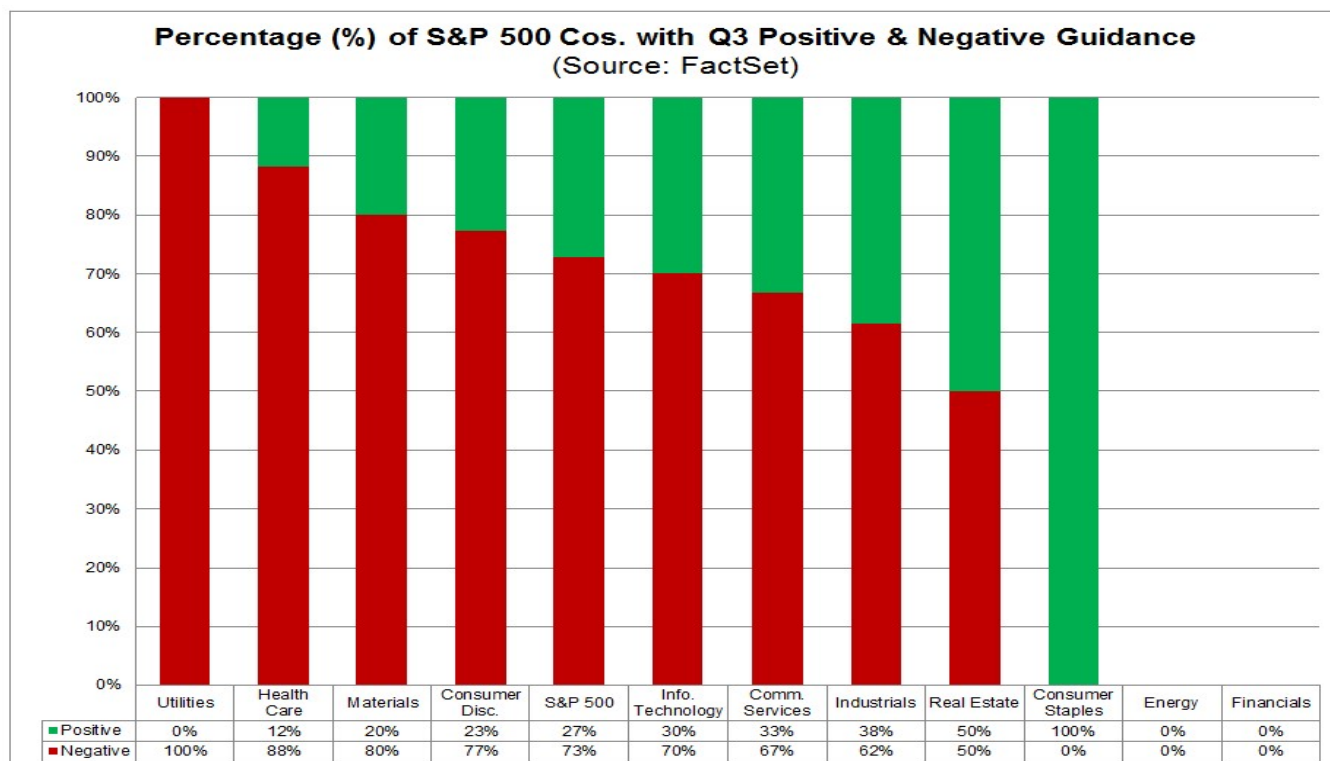
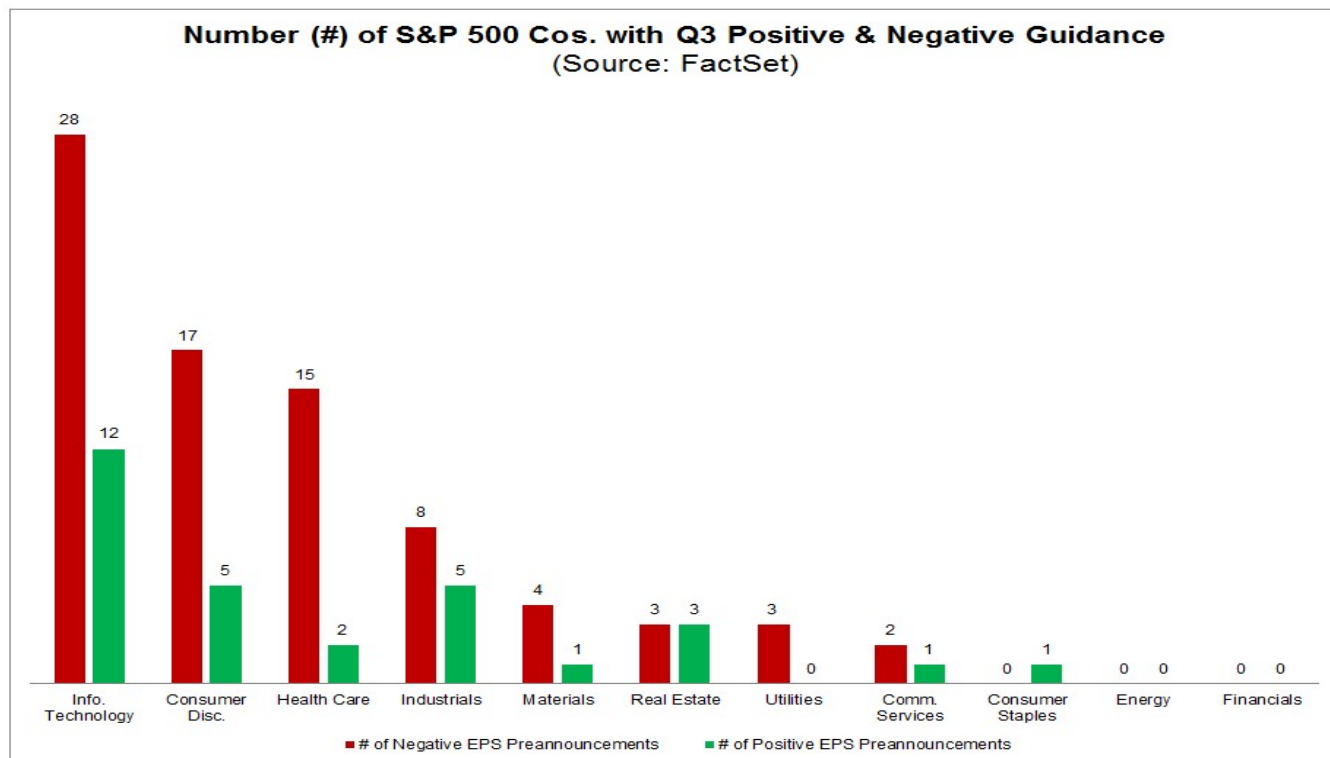
For more details, please see pages 2 and 3.

### Companies Reporting Next Week: 5

During the upcoming week, five S&P 500 companies are scheduled to report results for the second quarter.

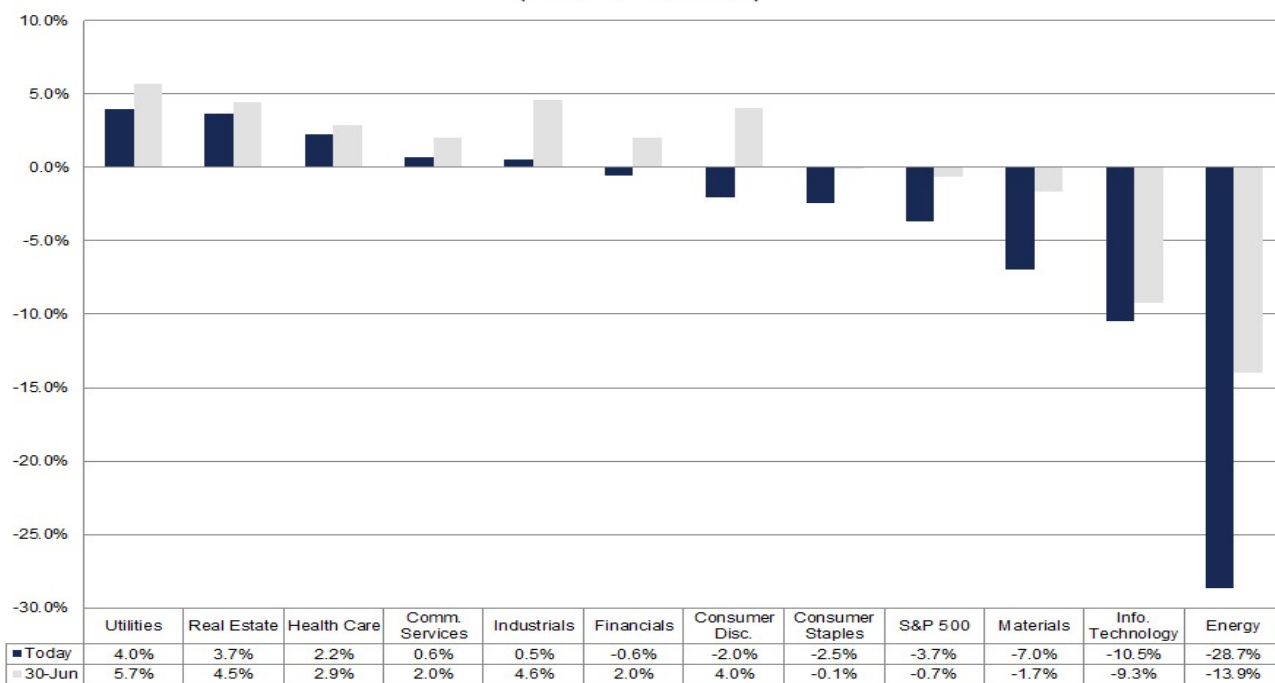


## Q3 2019: EPS Guidance

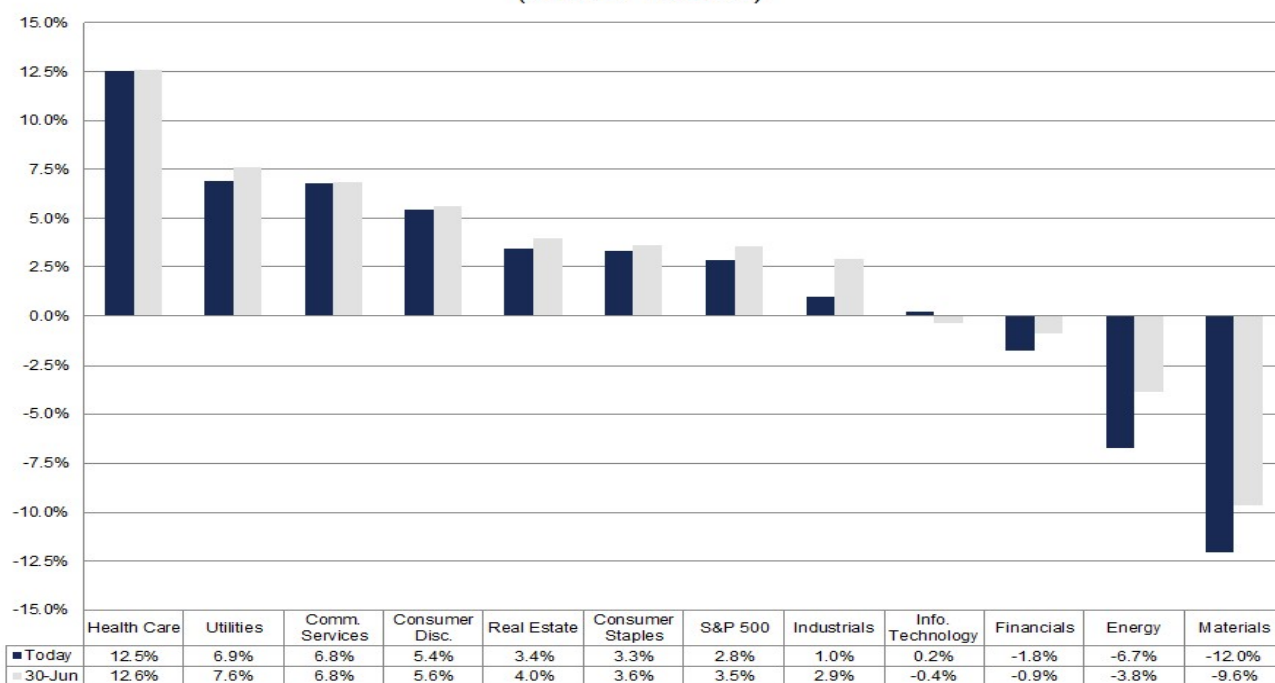


## Q3 2019: Growth

**S&P 500 Earnings Growth: Q3 2019**  
(Source: FactSet)

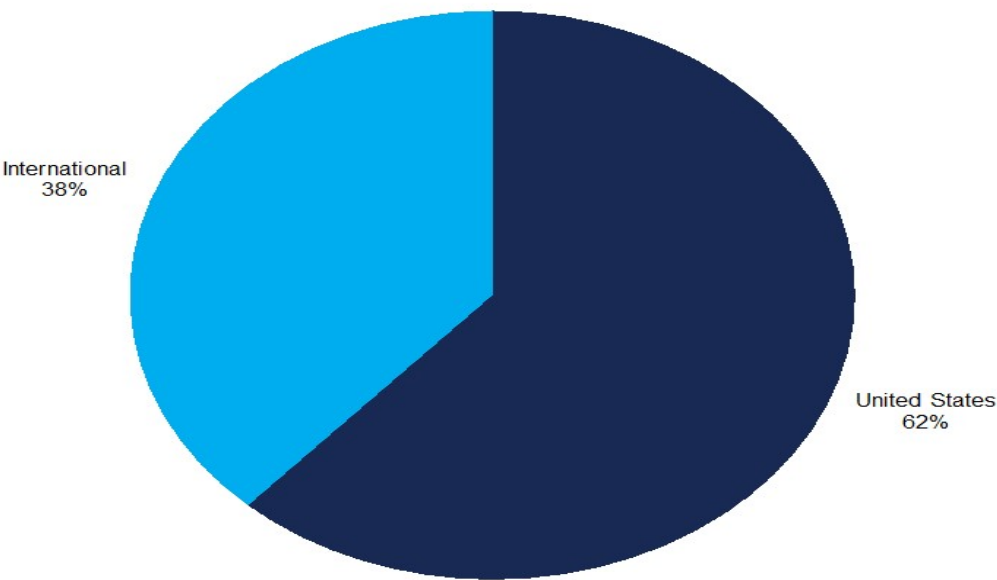


**S&P 500 Revenue Growth: Q3 2019**  
(Source: FactSet)

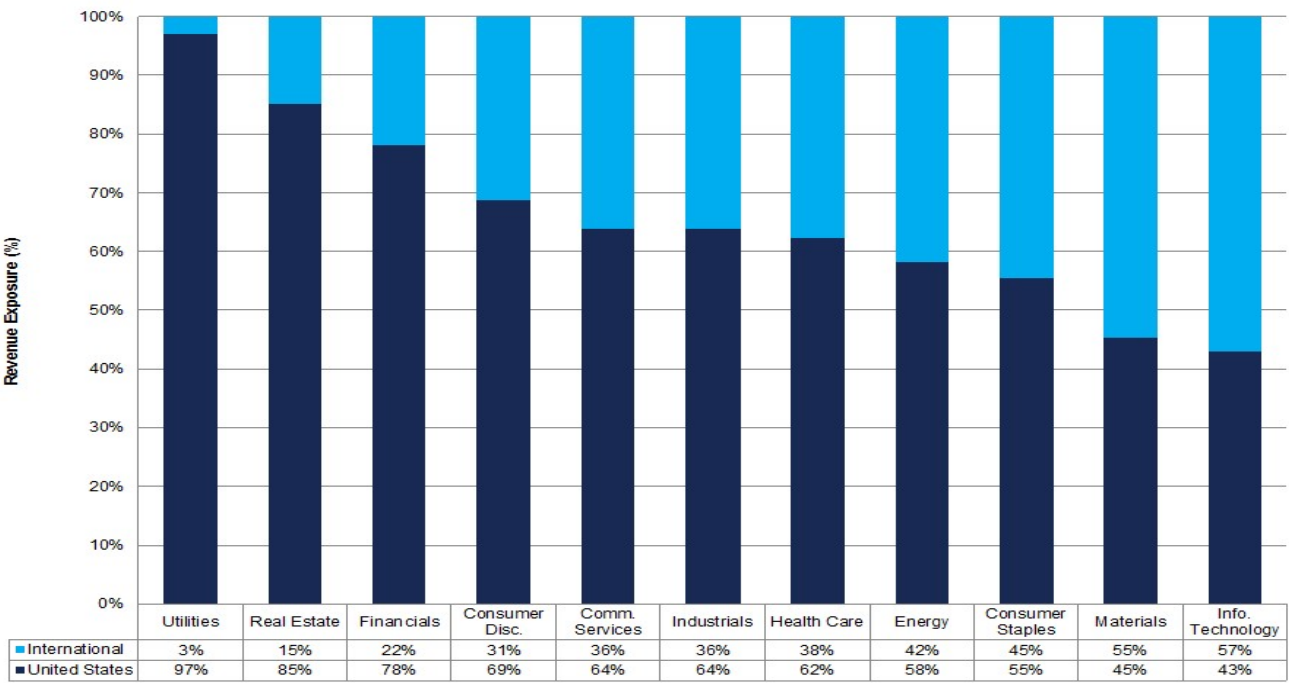


# Geographic Revenue Exposure

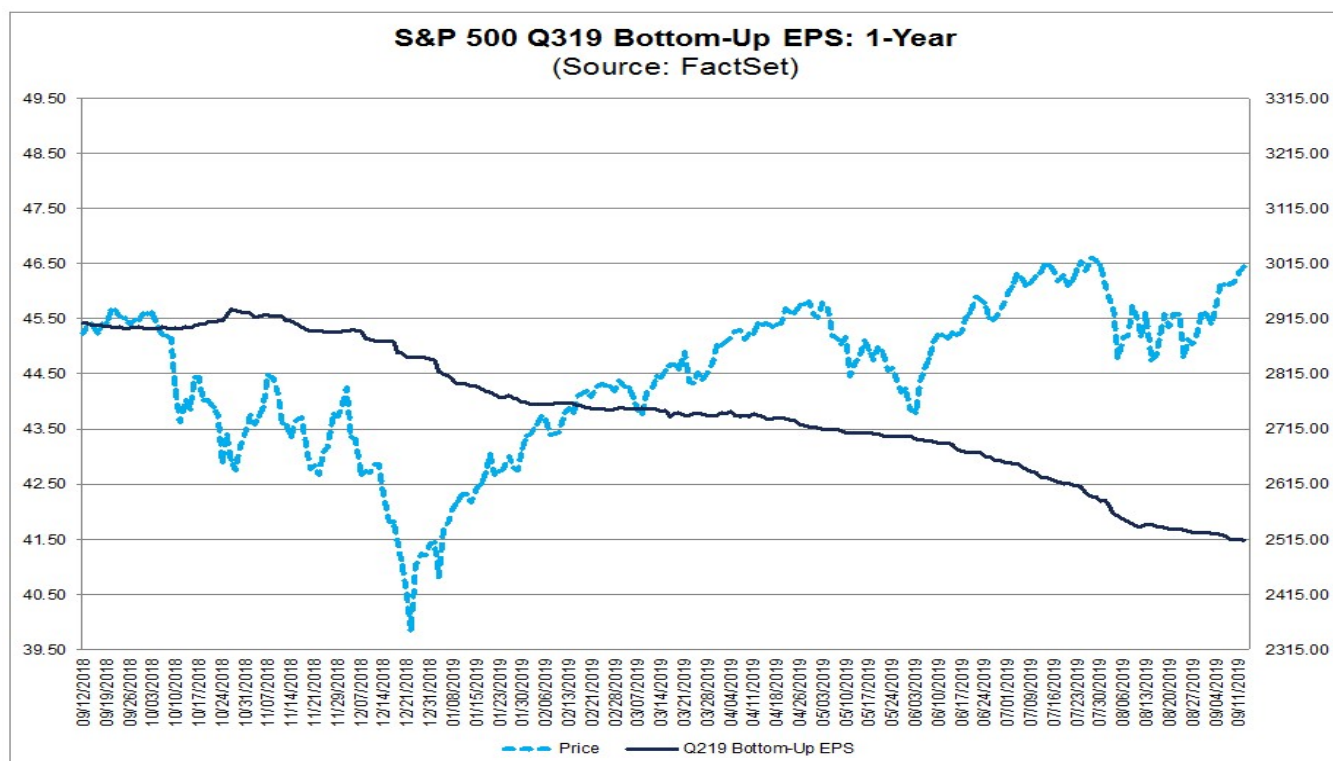
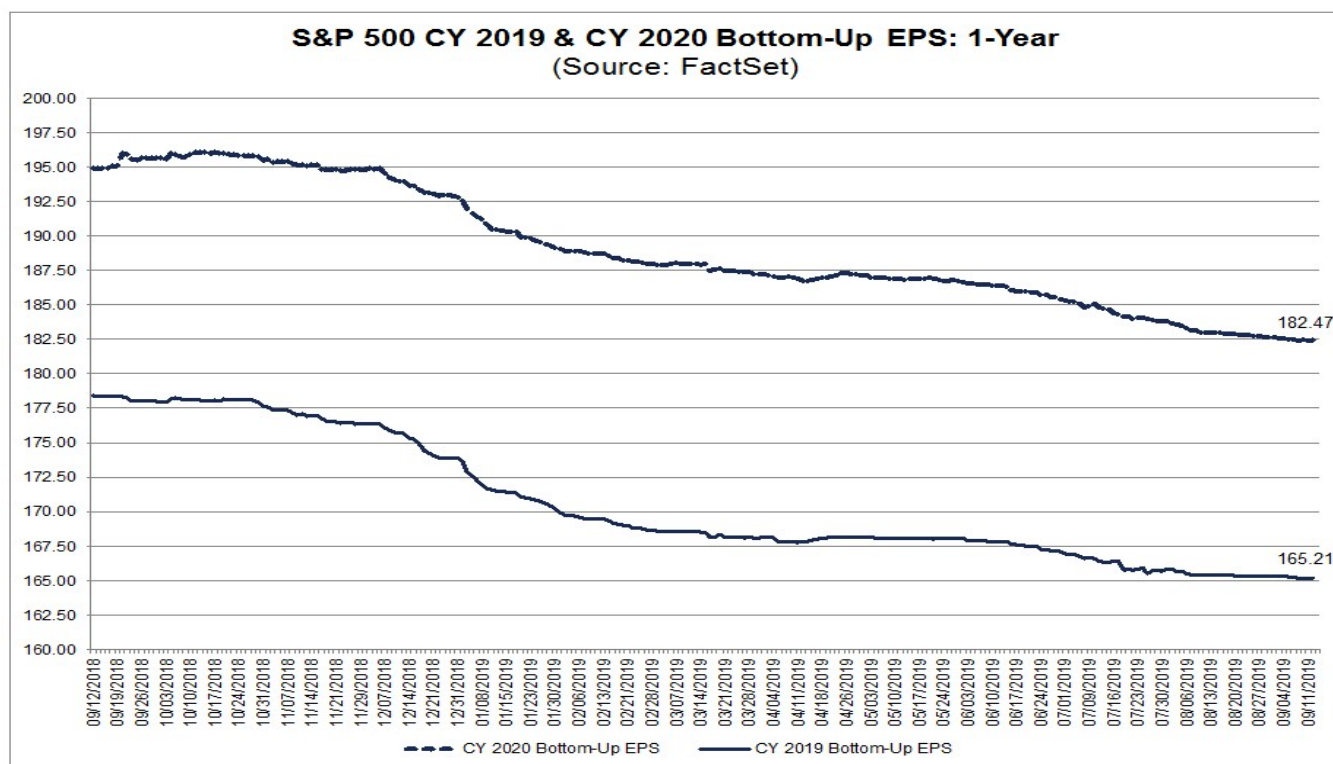
**S&P 500: Aggregate Geographic Revenue Exposure (%)**  
(Source: FactSet)



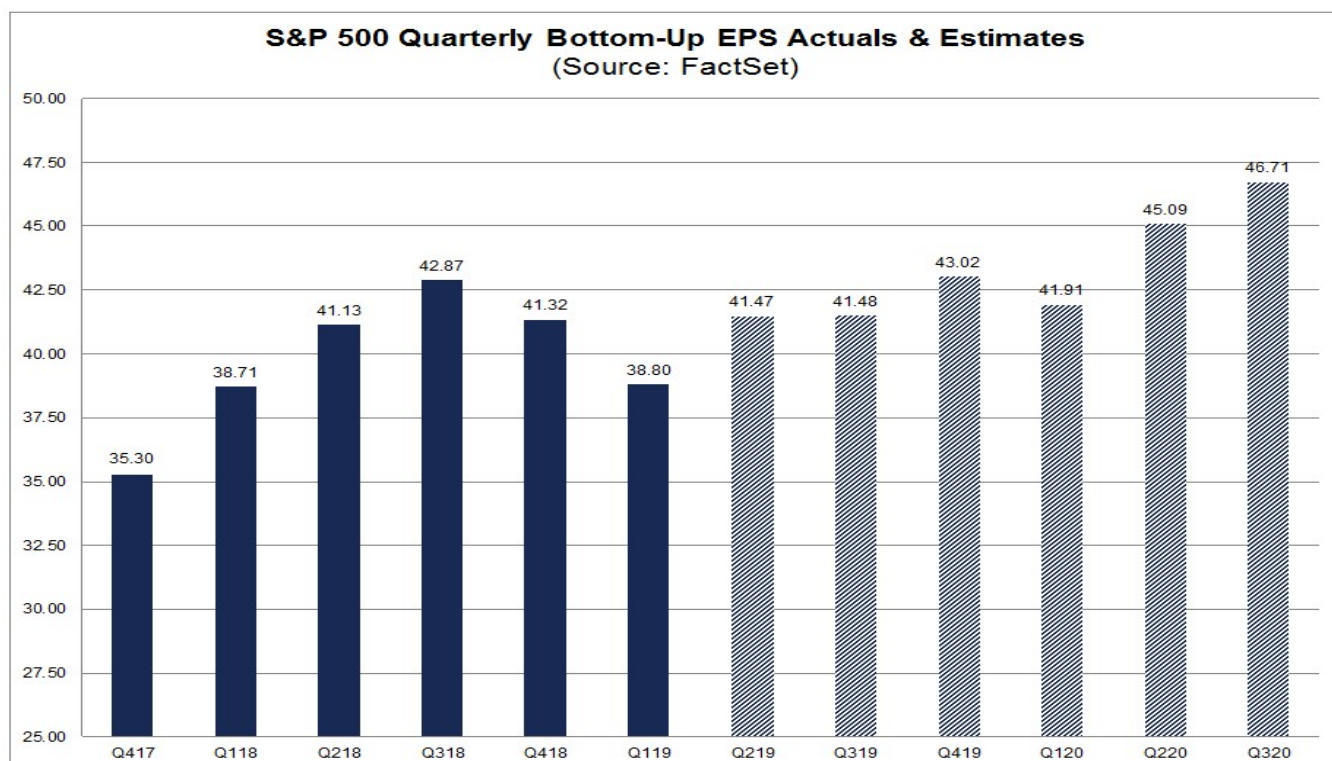
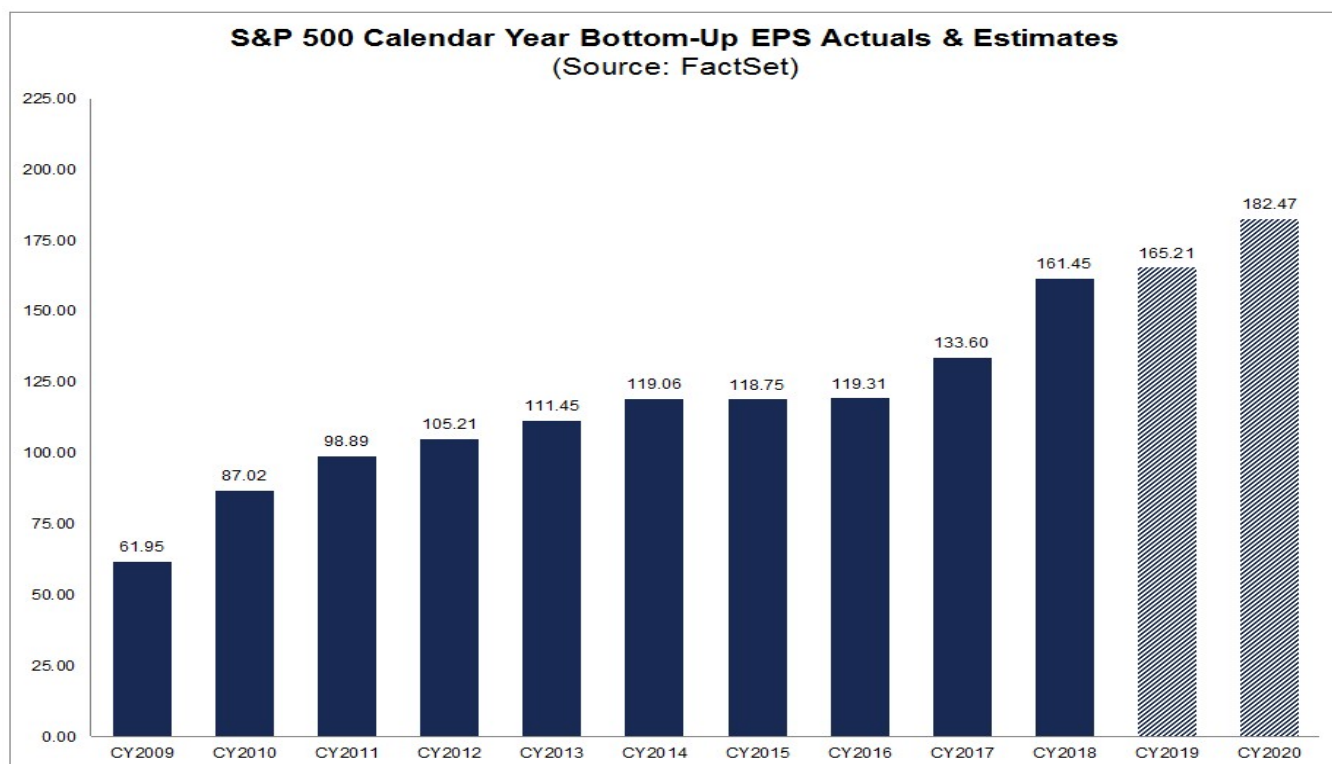
**S&P 500: Aggregate Sector Geographic Revenue Exposure (%)**  
(Source: FactSet)



## Bottom-up EPS Estimates: Revisions

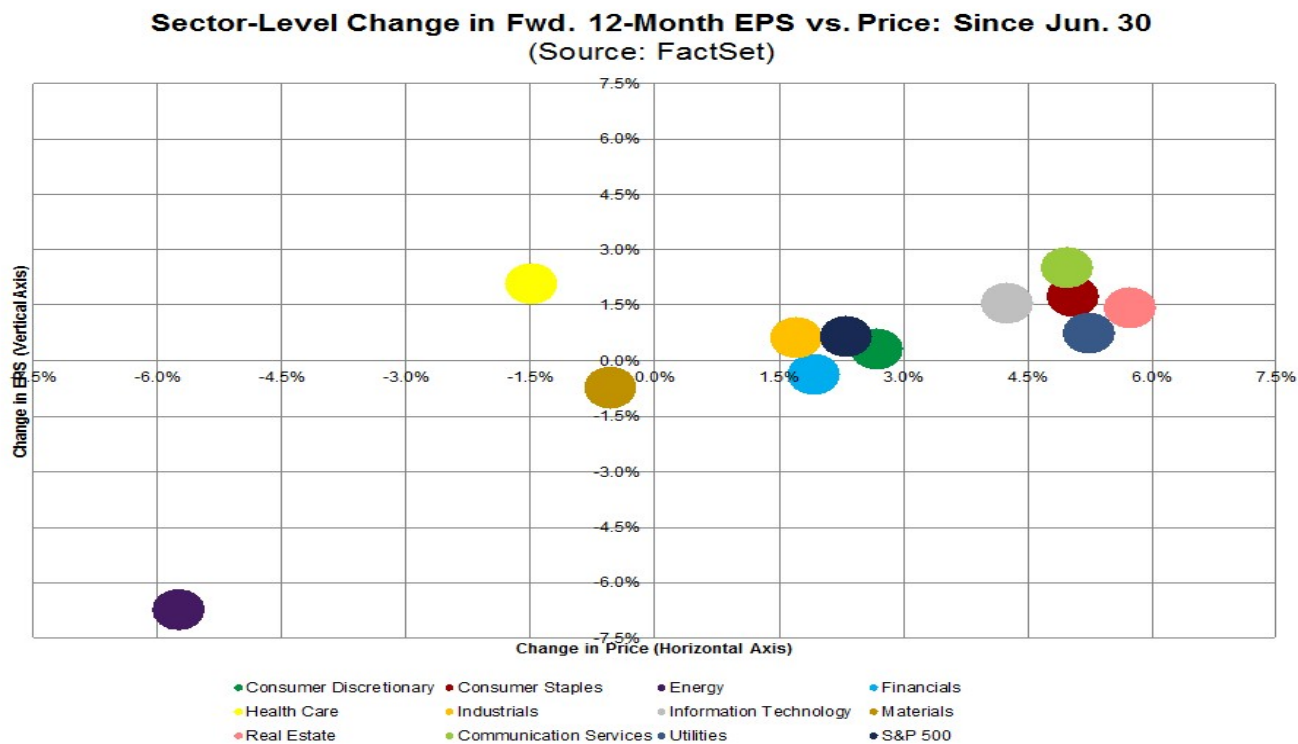
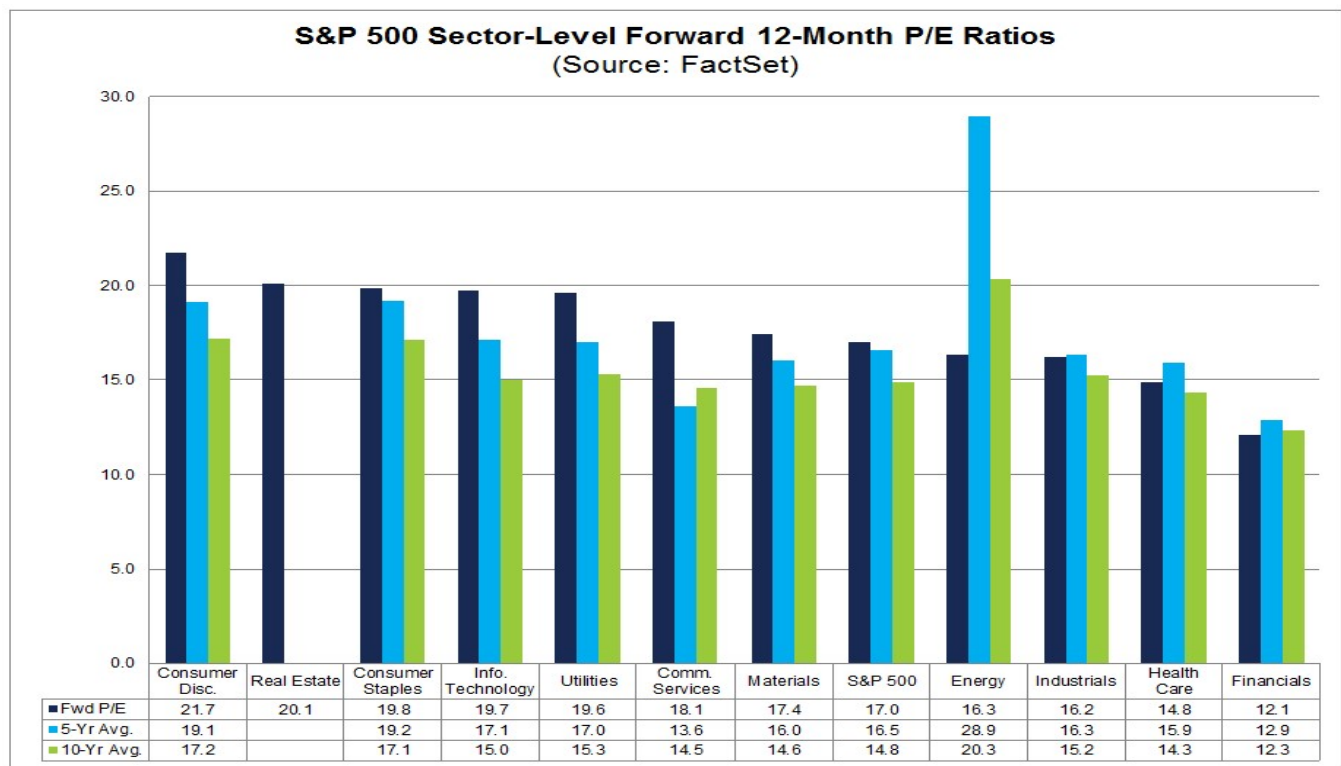


## Bottom-up EPS Estimates: Current & Historical



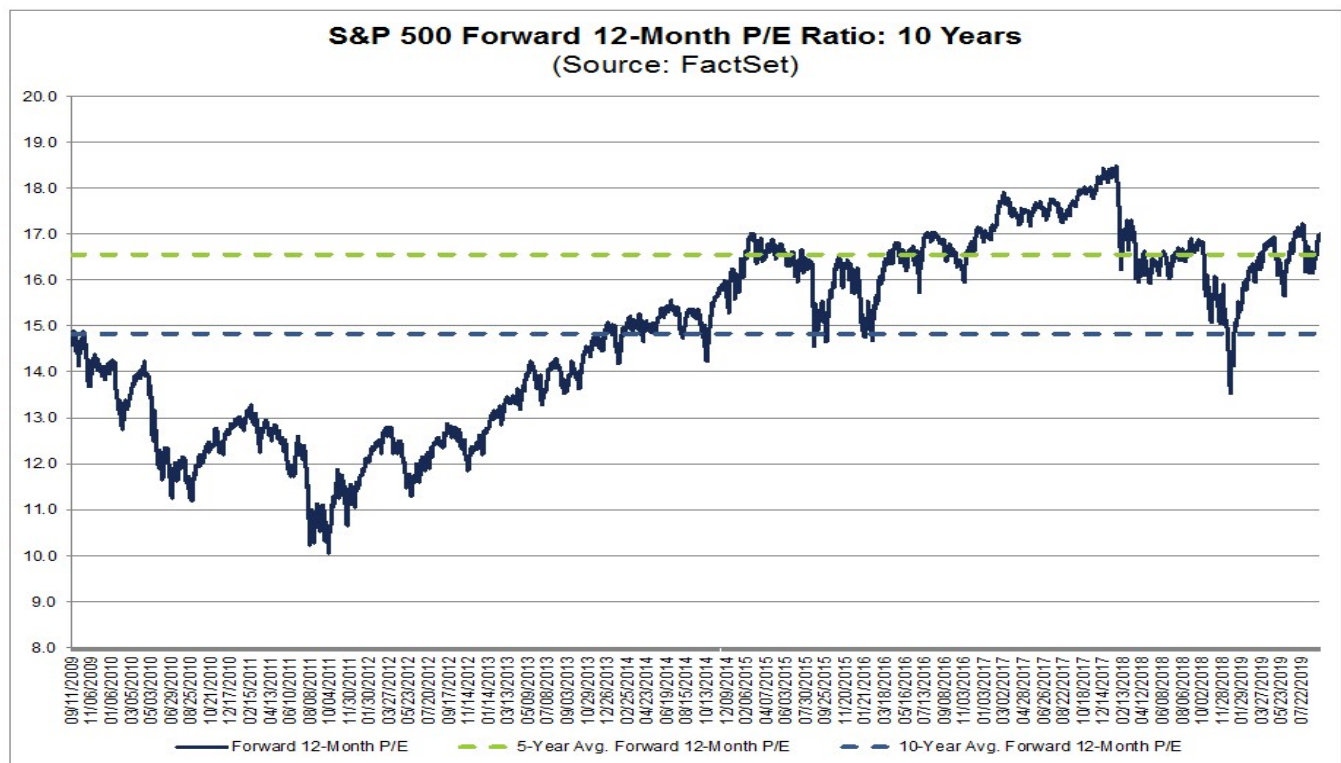
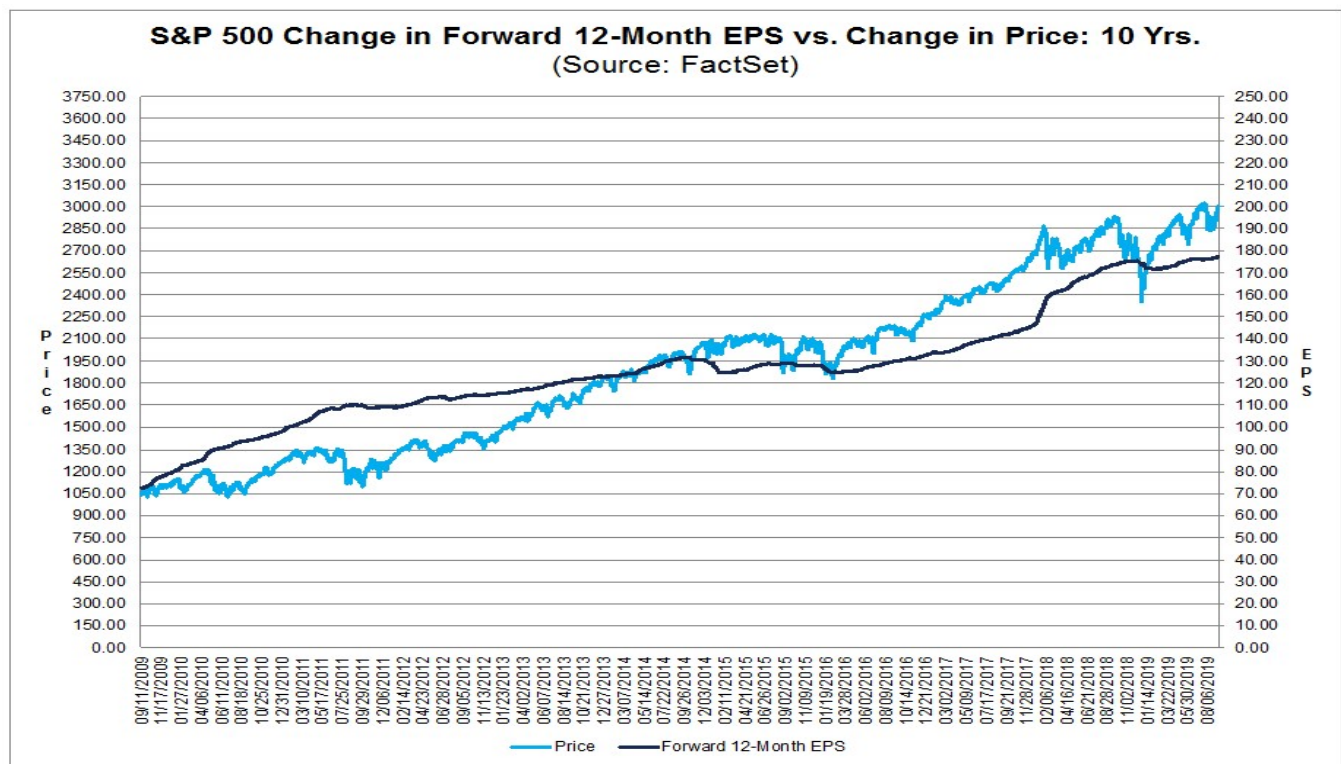


# Forward 12M P/E Ratio: Sector Level

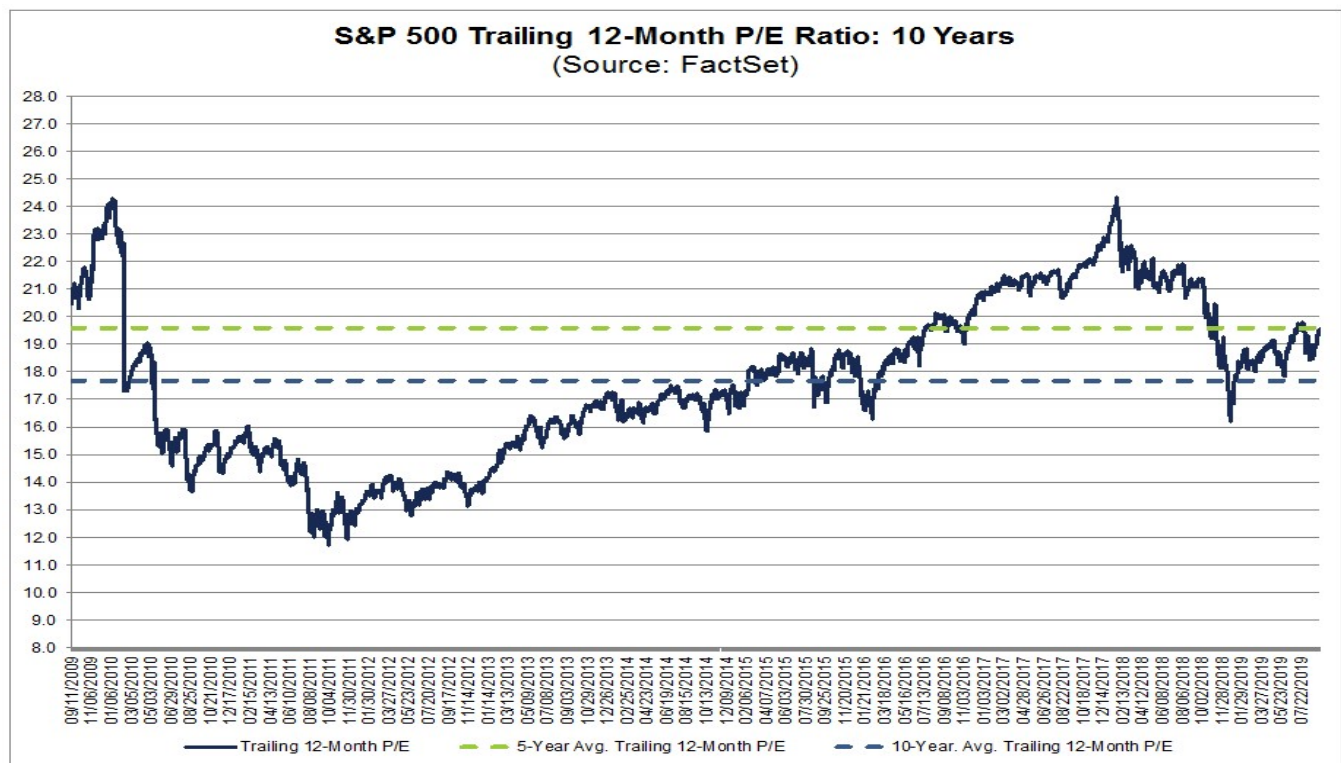
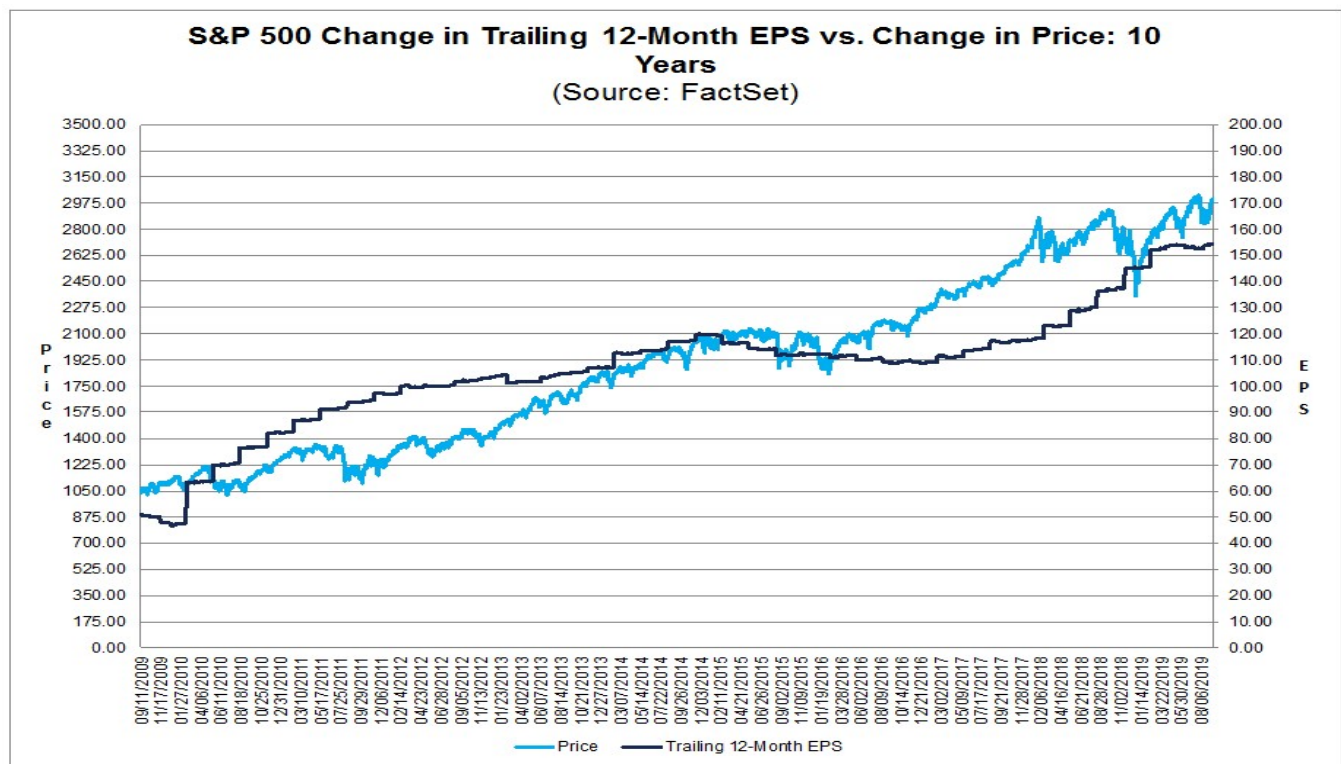




# Forward 12M P/E Ratio: 10-Years

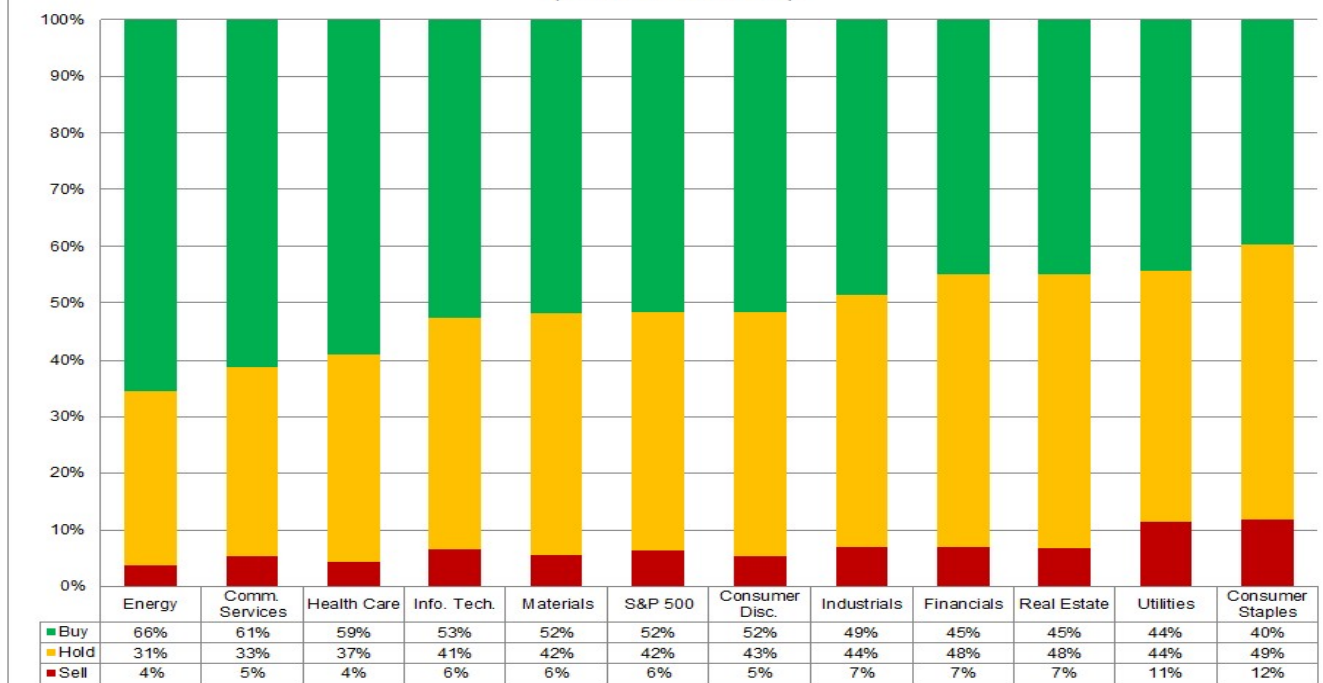


# Trailing 12M P/E Ratio: 10-Years

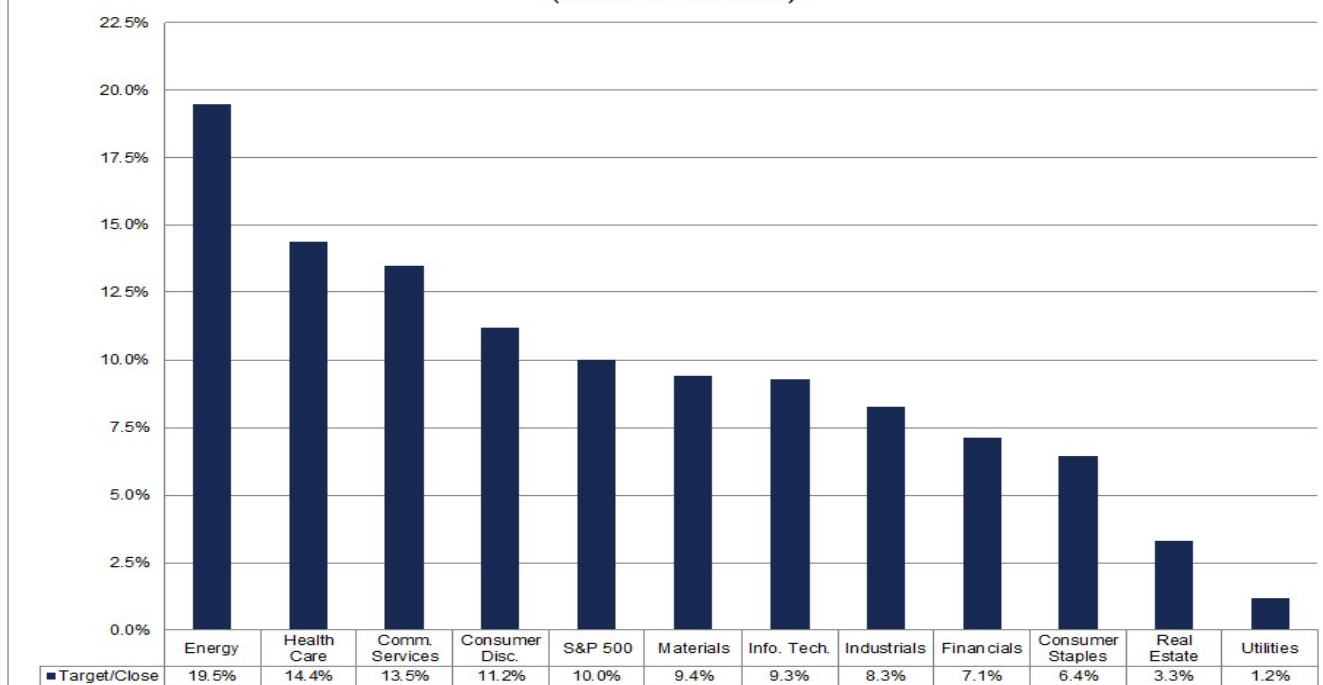


## Targets &amp; Ratings

**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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