



Additional News from Yesterday

ExxonMobil (XOM, \$85.49) reported EPS in line with consensus and revenue up 16%, to \$121.6 billion (vs consensus \$119.7 billion), owing to higher prices. Management reported a full year increase of 35% and 37% in net income and revenue, respectively. Shares fell 1.89

Mattel (MAT, \$29.53) gained 5.15% after reporting EPS of \$1.07 (vs consensus \$1.01) and revenue up 1%, to \$2.15 billion (vs consensus \$2.22 billion) owing to strong demand for toys and lower costs. The company raised its quarterly dividend to \$0.31 (from \$0.23), payable on March 9.

Hologic (HOLX, \$19.20) advanced 6.30% as it reported adjusted EPS of \$0.34 (vs consensus \$0.32) and revenue up 9%, to \$472.7 million (vs consensus \$466.4 million). Management guided full year adjusted EPS of \$1.36 - \$1.38 (vs consensus \$1.36), and revenue of \$1.93 billion (vs consensus \$1.91 billion).

Eli Lilly (LLY, \$39.25) advanced 1.43% after reporting adjusted EPS of \$0.87 (vs consensus \$0.81) and revenue down 2%, to \$6.05 billion (vs consensus \$5.89 billion). The company reaffirmed its full year EPS guidance of \$3.10 - \$3.20 (vs consensus \$3.21), and revenue of \$21.8 - \$22.8 billion.

RadioShack (RSH, \$10.23) dropped 29.81% after guiding 4Q EPS of \$0.11 - \$.013 (vs consensus \$0.36) hurt by **Sprint (S, \$2.16)** wireless business. S fell 1.62%.

The recent surge in the number of companies increasing dividends continued today as **Hershey (HSY)** increased its dividend by 10.1 percent, and **Broadcom (BRCM)** raised its dividend 11.1 percent.

Today's economic data was nothing to excite the market, but the data were solid. Perhaps hope for some resolution to the EU problem is generating added enthusiasm in EU nations, which is reflected in their economic measures.

It will not take much to give our equity market a lift. As we noted yesterday, a one multiple point change in the S&P 500 would add 100 point to the index. Getting a multiple point boost merely could result from a reduction in worries about Europe. Concern about a notable slowdown China also seems to be fading.

The market's appetite for risk assets was abundantly clear in the movement of the S&P 500 sectors last month where typically defensive sectors actually fell even as the overall S&P 500 rose 4.36 percent. The rush to economically sensitive sectors will reach a level where it is overdone short-term. We think we are getting close to that level.

At the peak this morning the S&P 500 reached 1327.56, which was about six points below its most recent peak. If the market allows the S&P to move beyond the prior peak and approached 1350, reducing some exposure would be wise.

It is entirely possible that 1350 will not be the peak for the S&P 500 this year, but technical factors suggest that the market at 1350 would be stretched short-term and in need of a period of consolidation.

Have a great day.

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