ONE LOOK BACK AND TWO LOOKS FORWARD

Presented to the Central Arizona Estate Planning Council January 4, 2016 by Thomas J. Connelly



Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015

.

LOOKING BACK ON THE 2015 ECONOMY

Economic growth in 2015 was driven by consumer spending, primarily on services.

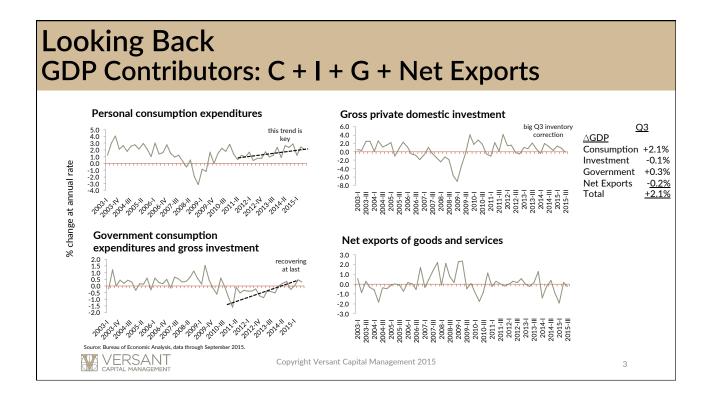
Credit growth is picking up across the board, except for the mortgage sector.

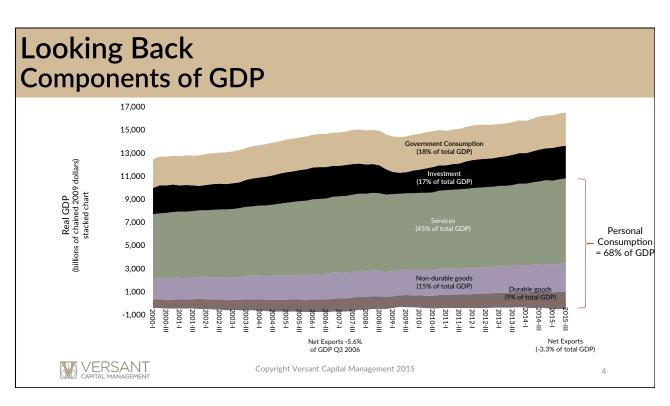
Global government spending will be positive for the first time since 2009.

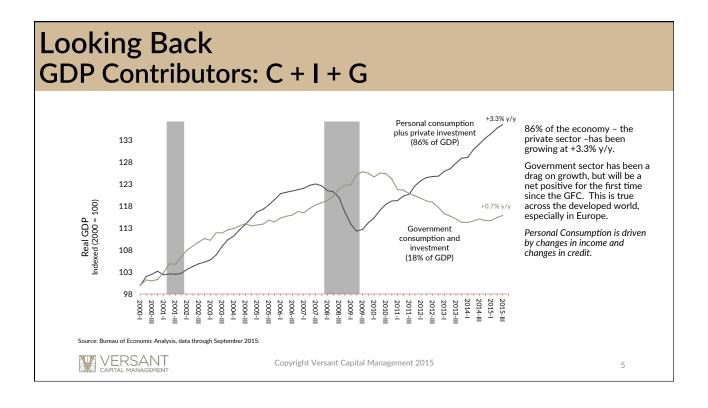


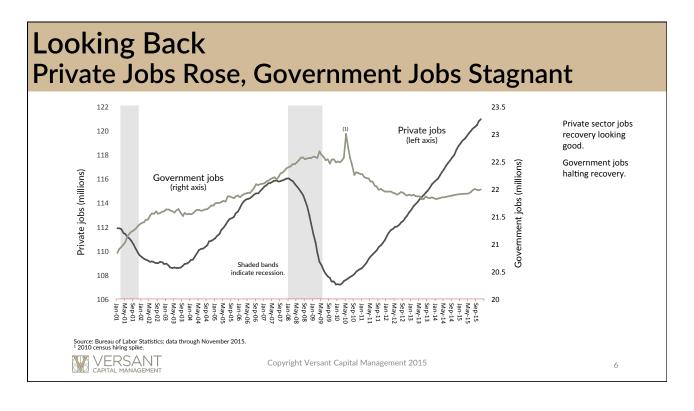


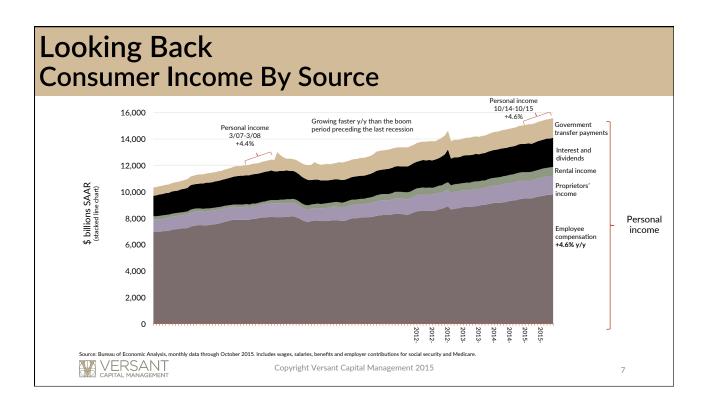
Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015

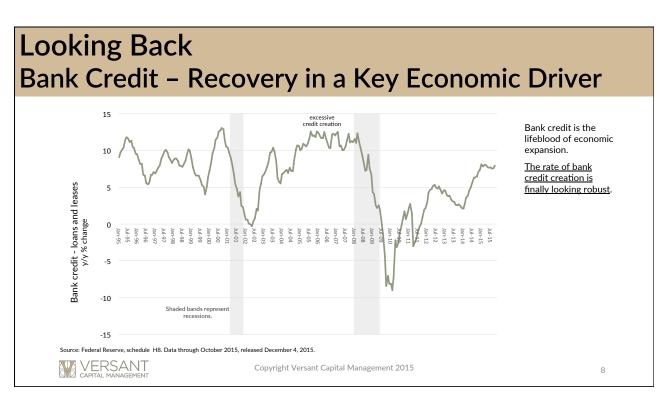


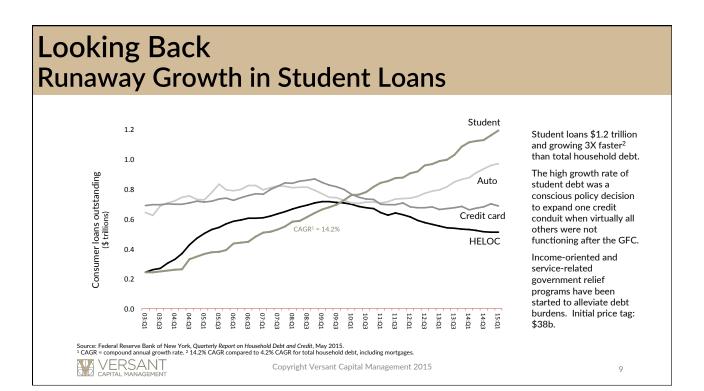


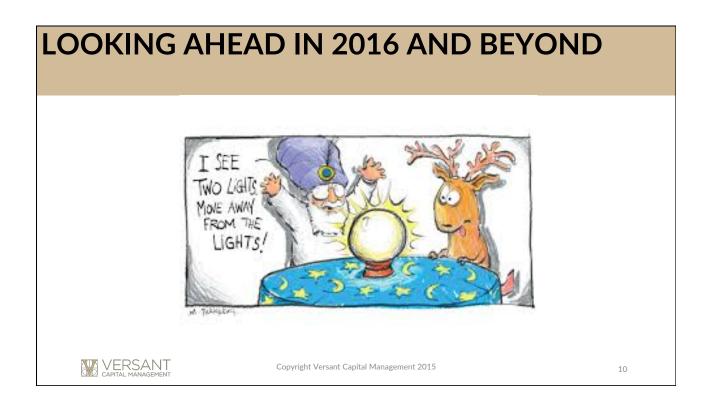


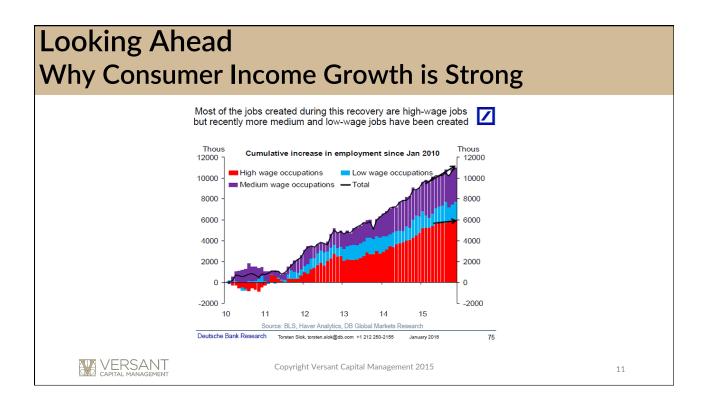


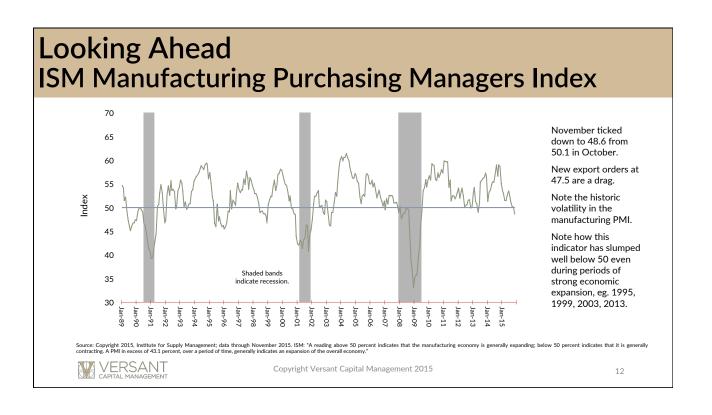


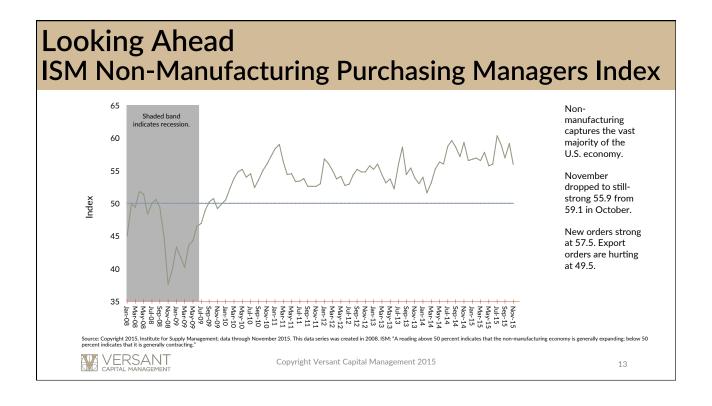


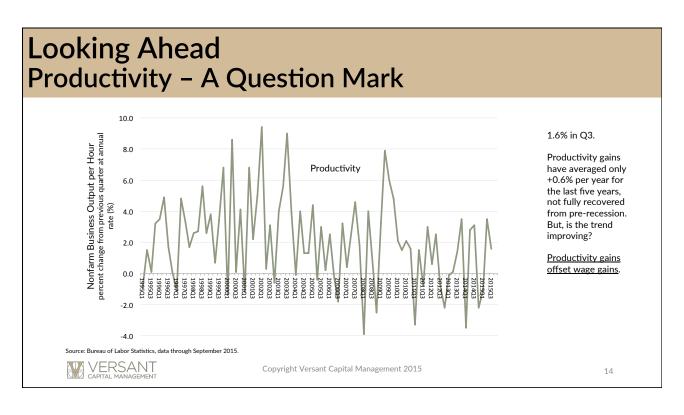




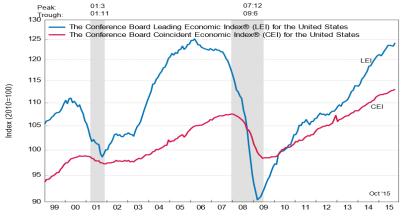








Looking Ahead U.S. Index of Leading Economic Indicators (monthly)



"The U.S. LEI rose sharply in October, with the yield spread, stock prices, and building permits driving the increase. Despite lackluster third quarter growth, the economic outlook now appears to be improving ... the U.S. economy remains on track for continued expansion heading into 2016."

The Conference Board November 19, 2015

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) components: 1) average weekly hours worked, manufacturing; 2) average weekly initial unemployment claims; 3) manufacturers' new orders – consumer goods and materials; 4) ISM index of new orders; 5) manufacturers' new orders, nondefense capital goods; 6) building permits – new private housing units; 7) stock prices, S&P 500; 8) Leading Credit Index"; 9) interest rate spread; 10-year Treasury less fed funds: 10) Index of consumer exceptations.

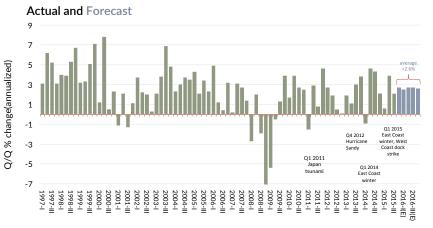
ource: ©The Conference Board. Data through October 2015, released November 19, 2015



Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015

15

Looking Ahead Consensus U.S. Economic Forecast



The 70 economists surveyed in early November see an average +2.6% rate of quarterly GDP growth ahead

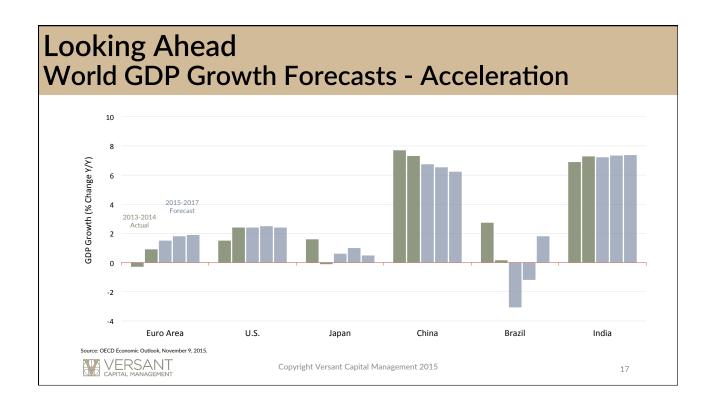
It's a Goldilocks forecast ... healthy economic growth with benign inflation.

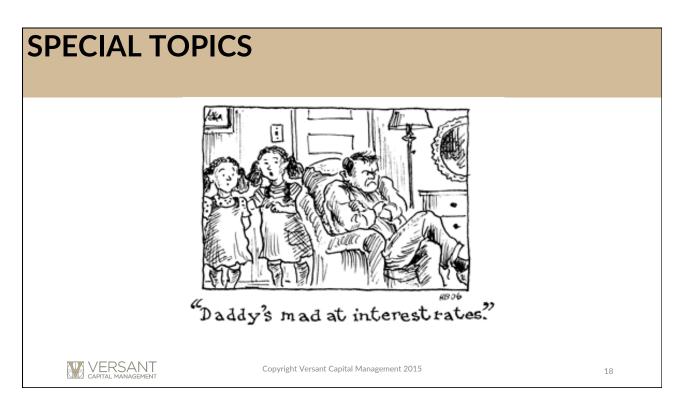
Unfortunately no post-war recession has been forecasted successfully by the Fed, or any administration or survey.

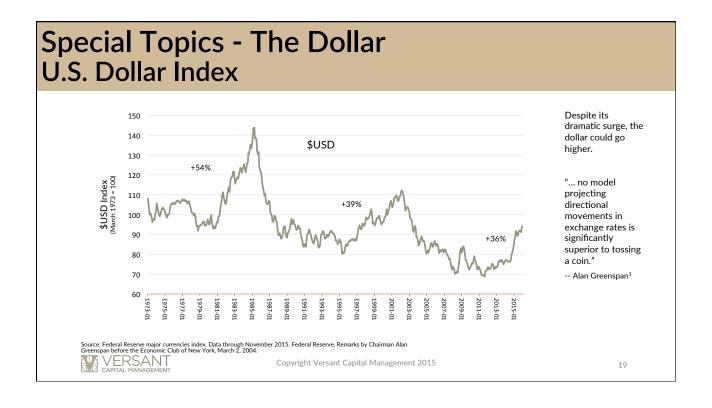
ources: Bureau of Economic Analysis, actual data through September 2015; The Wall Street Journal survey taken November 2015

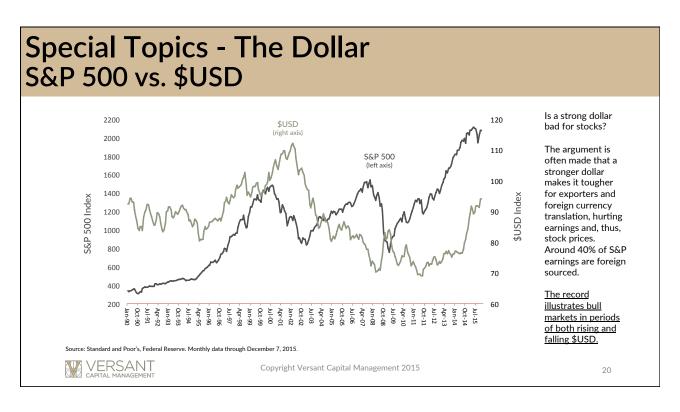


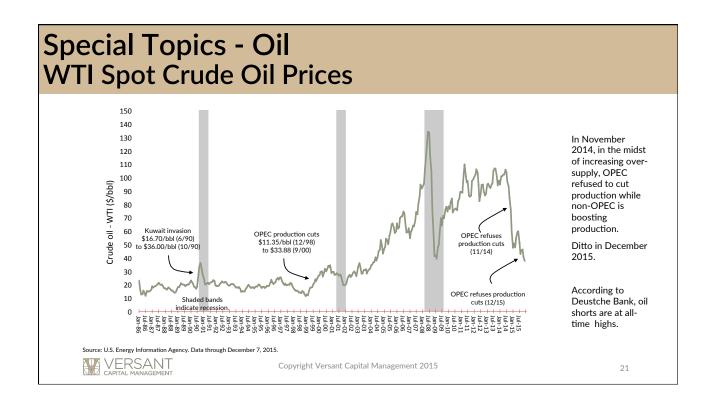
Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015

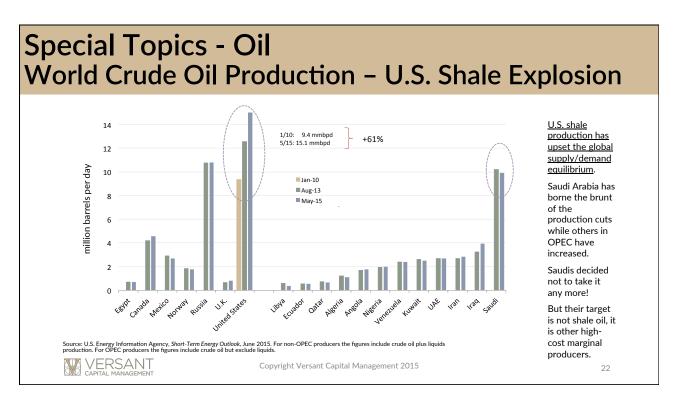


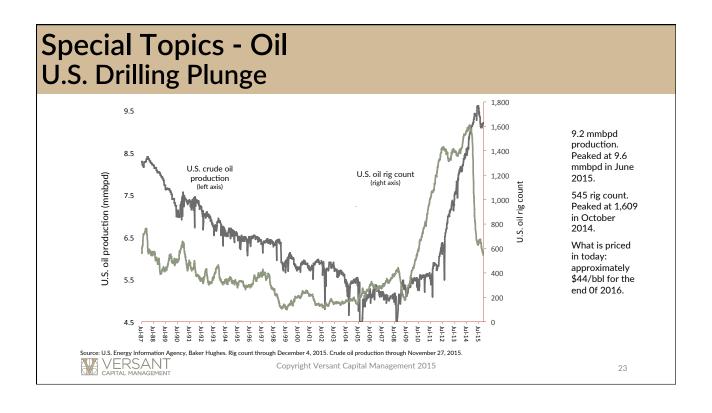


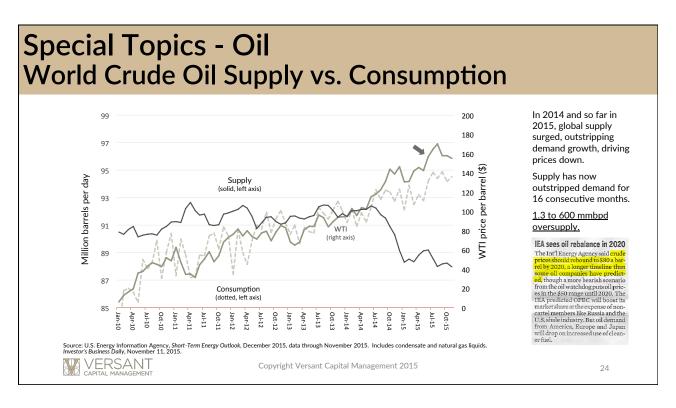


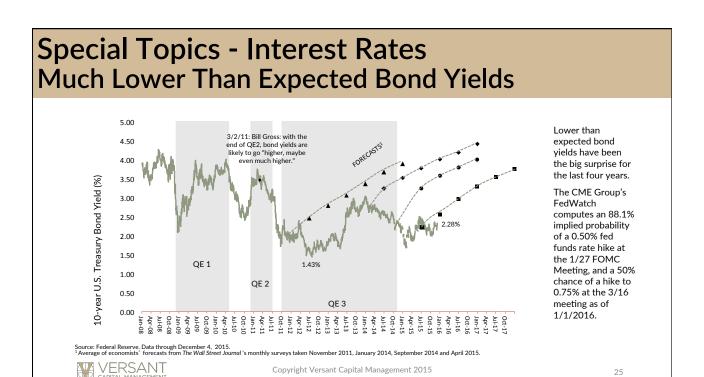


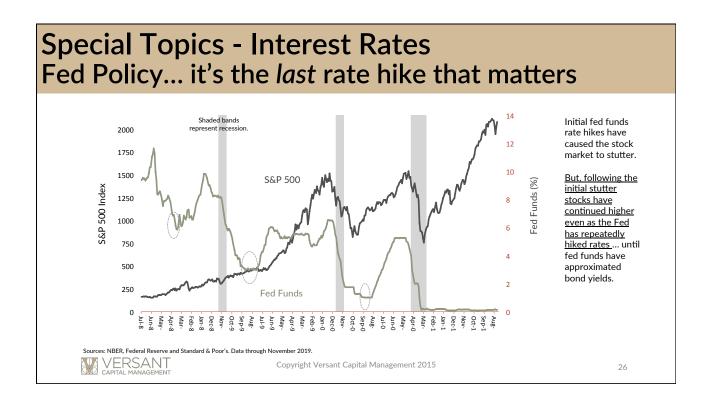




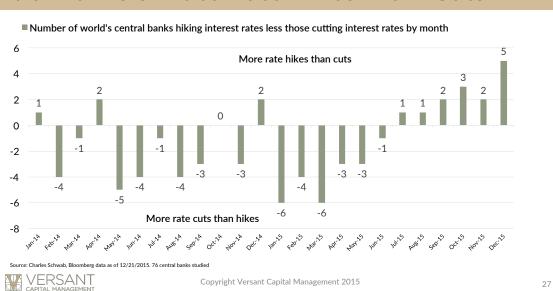








Special Topics - Interest Rates Central Banks Shift to Rate Hikes From Cuts

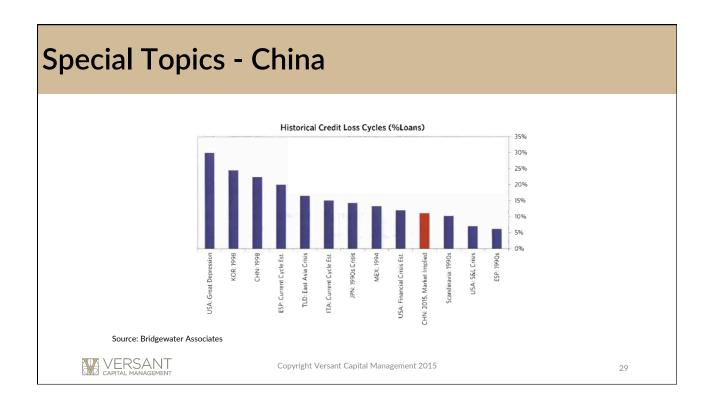


Special Topics - China

- China is Trying to Re-engineer Its Economy From an Industrial Exporter to a Consumption-Based Economy Revolving Around Services.
- China is in a period of credit adjustment resulting from a period of hyperinvestment. It is in the
 early stages of passing through credit losses (Bridgewater Daily Observations, 11/290/2015):
 - Debt service burdens reduced through interest rate cuts.
 - Restructurings and forbearances have been selectively mandated.
 - Defaults are allowed to flow through at a reasonable pace.
 - Targeted fiscal stimulation.
 - Government has propped up asset prices and exchange rates to allow troubled debtors time to unwind.
- The Banking System is Well Capitalized and May be Able to Handle the Problem if Given Time.
- Chinese Government Reserves are Extensive and Available.
- But the pace of Credit Creation is Still Too High Painful But Manageable Adjustment Ahead.
- Undertaking steps to float the currency and rise to reserve currency status.
- The government has committed to full interest rate liberalization.

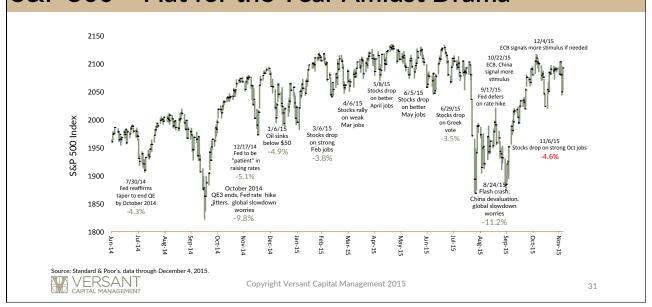


Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015

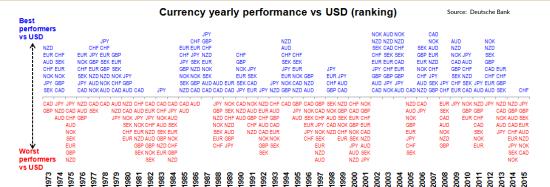




Review of Global Investment Market Returns S&P 500 - Flat for the Year Amidst Drama



Review of 2015 Investment Market Returns Developed Market Freely Floating FX



No currency has rallied as strongly as the dollar into its third year.

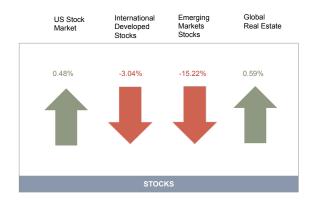
Being long the U.S. dollar was described by DB as the year's most crowded trade.

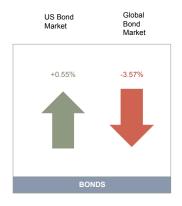
Economic strength in the US, rising interest rates, and the rest of the world conducting monetary policy via currency depreciation suggests the dollar's strength may be resilient for the time being.



Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015

Review of 2015 Investment Market Returns Market Summary





Past performance is not a guarantee of future results, indices are not available for direct investment, index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Market segment (index representation) as follows:

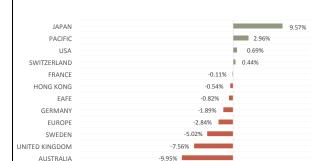
US Stock Market (Repides 3000 Index), Indices 3000 Index, Indices 3000 Index), Indices 3000 Index, Indices 3000 Index, Indices 3000 Index, Indices 3000 Index), Indices 3000 Index, Indices 3000 Indic



Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015

33

Review of 2015 Investment Market Returns Select Country Stock Market Performance



Developed Market Returns

Emerging Market Returns



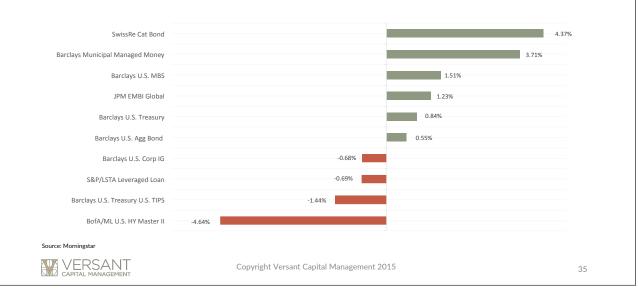
Source: Morningstar, Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Country, eturns from MSCI (country) NP USD index dat

VERSANT CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

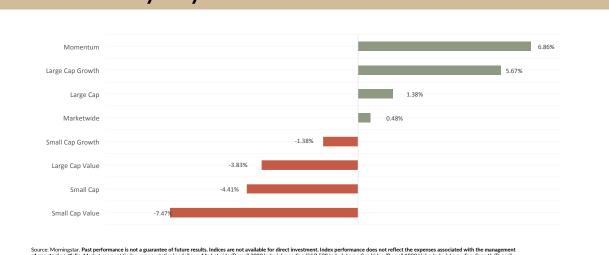
CANADA

Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015

Review of 2015 Investment Market Returns Fixed Income



Review of 2015 Investment Market Returns U.S. Stocks by Style

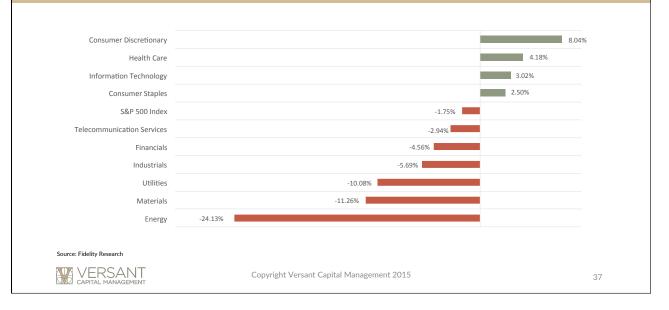


Source: Morningstar, Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Market segment (index representation) as foliows: Marketwide (Russell 3000 Index), Large Cap (SAP 500 Index), Large Cap (Salue (Russell 3000 Oalve) Index), Large Cap (SAP 500 Index), Large Cap (SAP

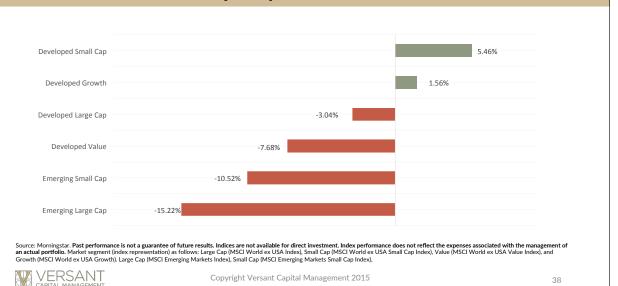


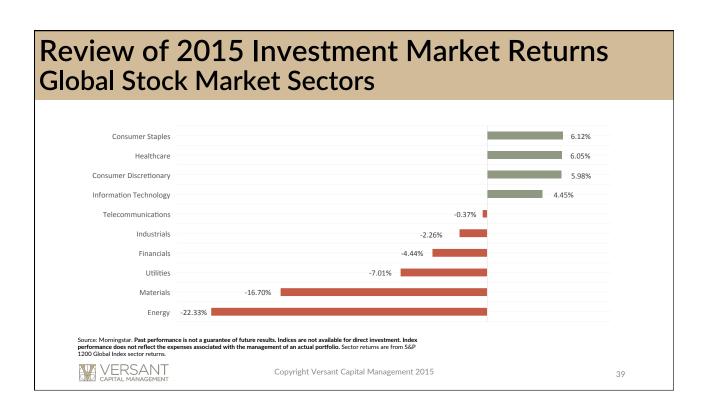
Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015

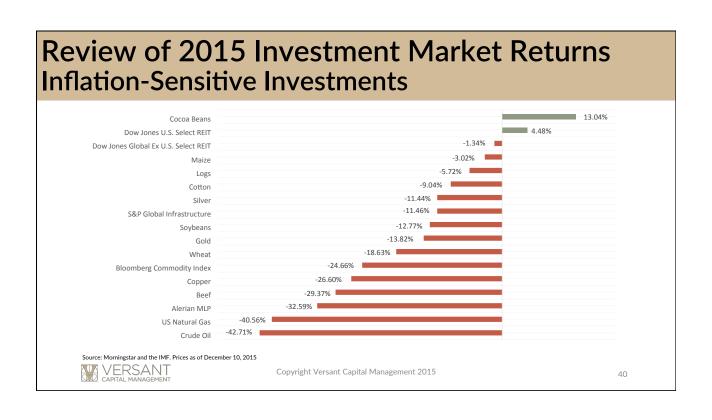
Review of 2015 Investment Market Returns U.S. Stock Market Sectors



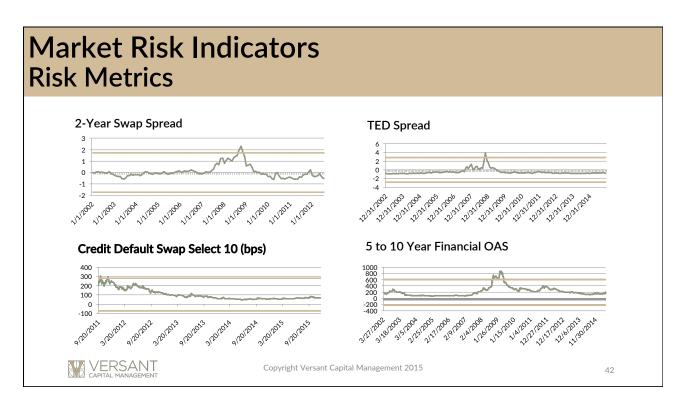
Review of 2015 Investment Market Returns International Stock by Style

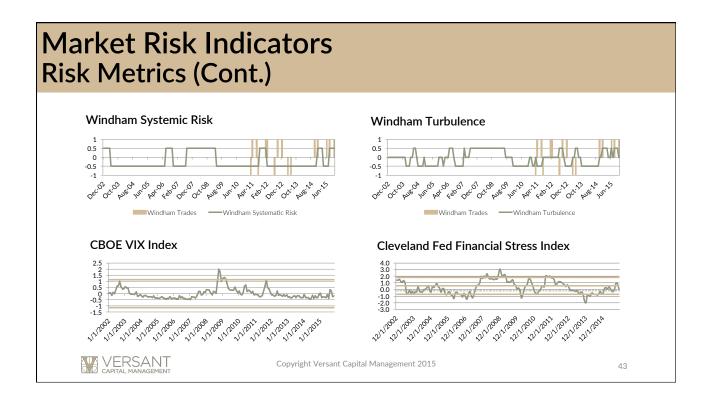


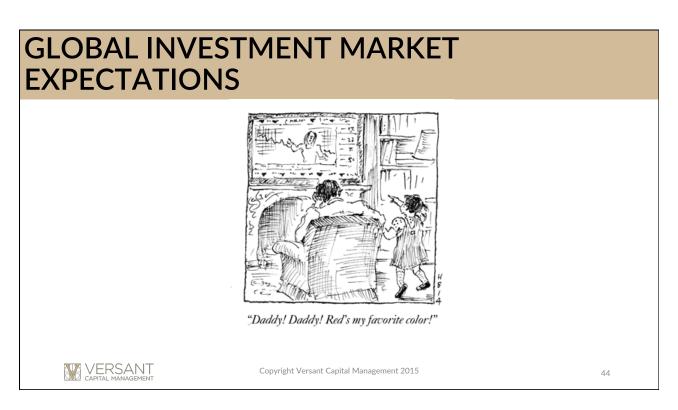


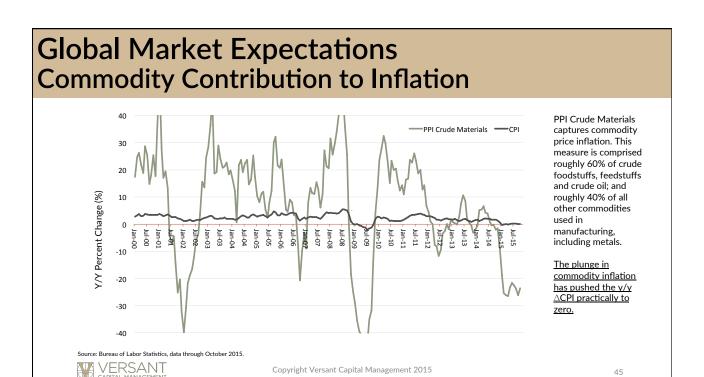


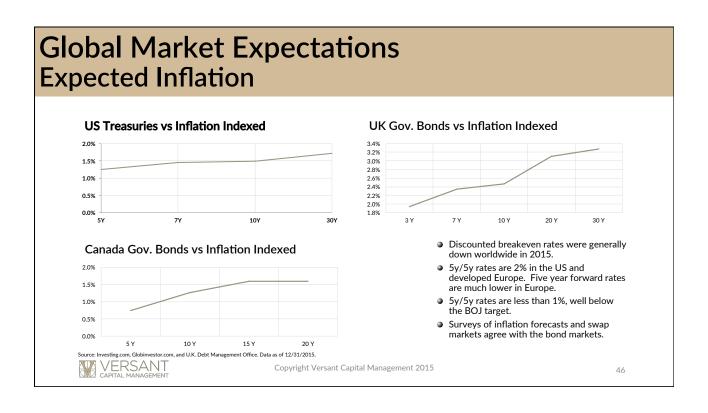


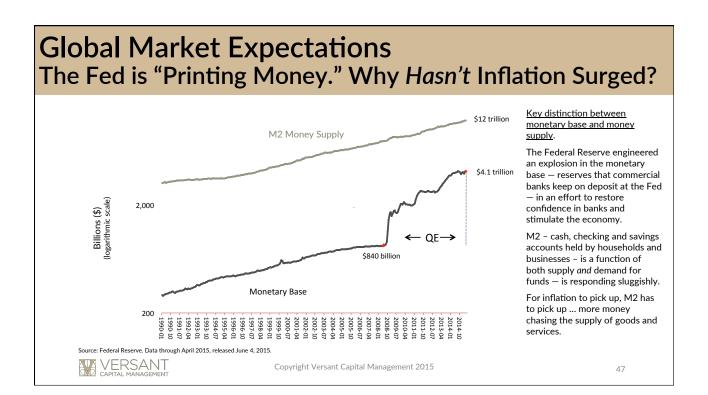


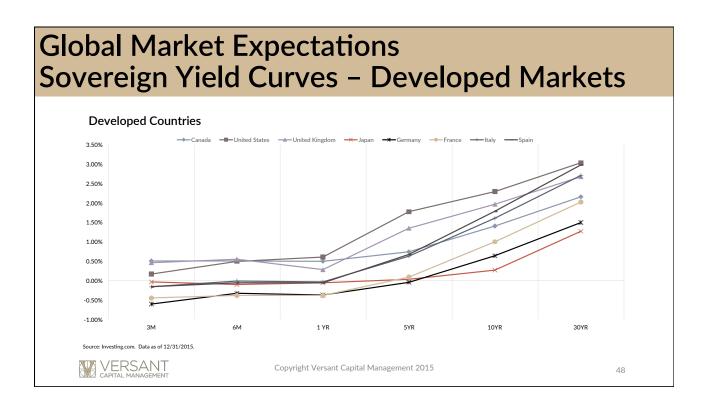




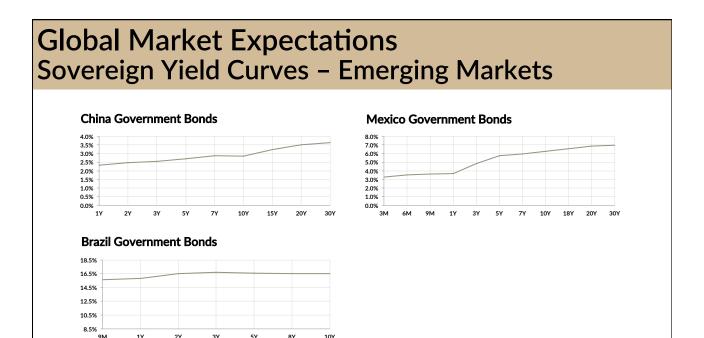






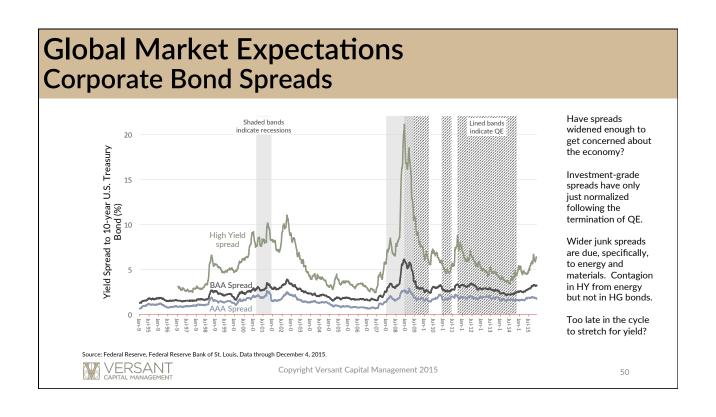


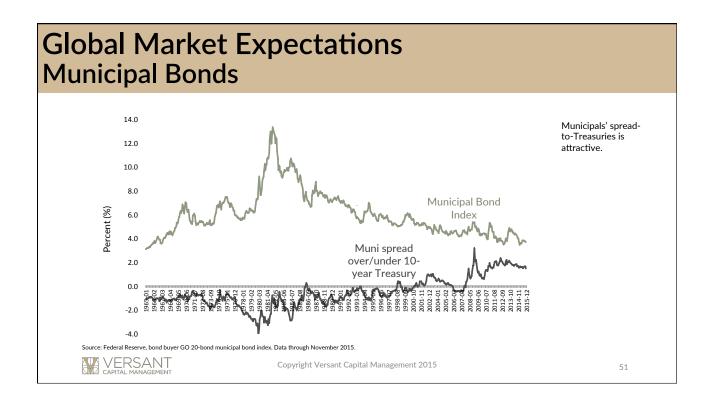
49

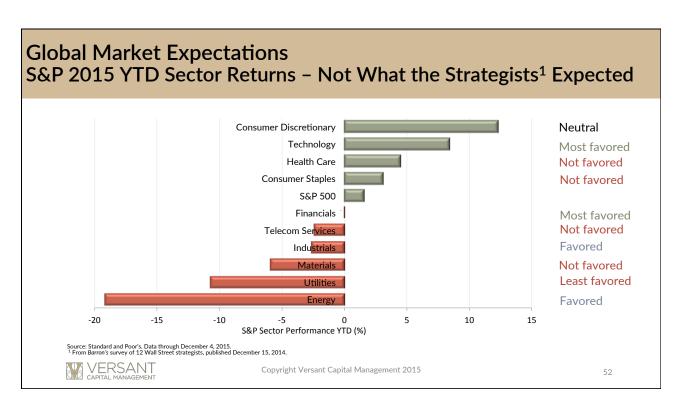


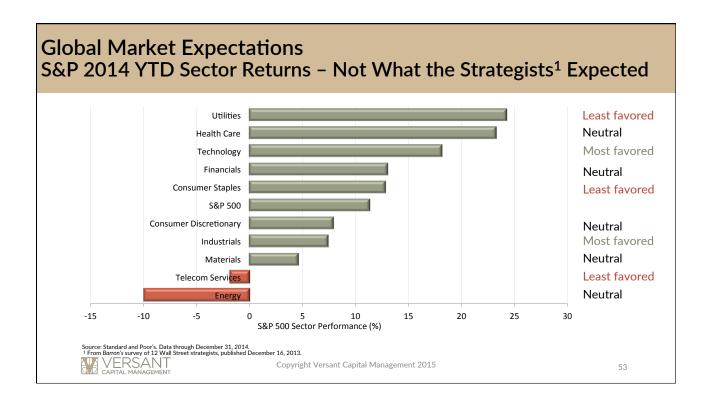
Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015

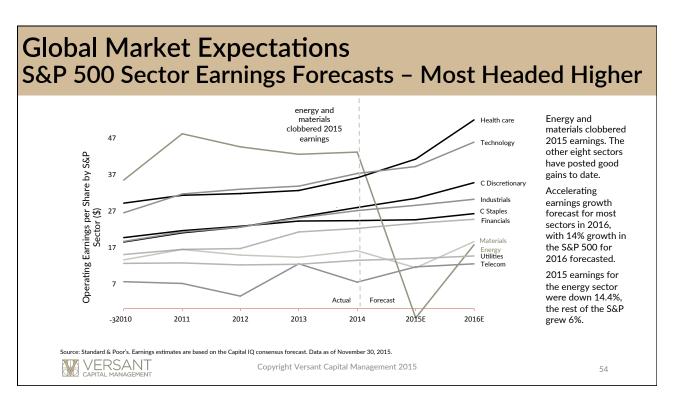
VERSANT

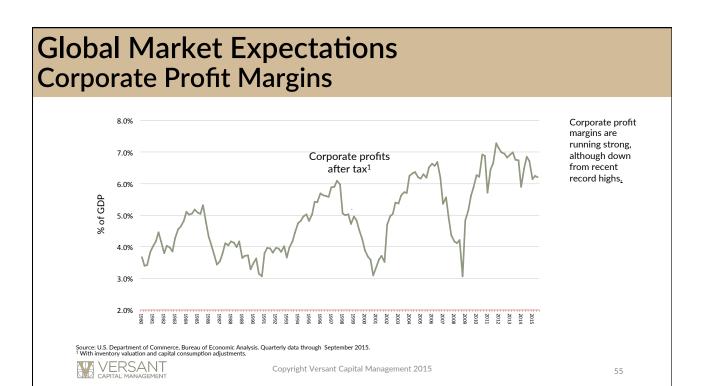


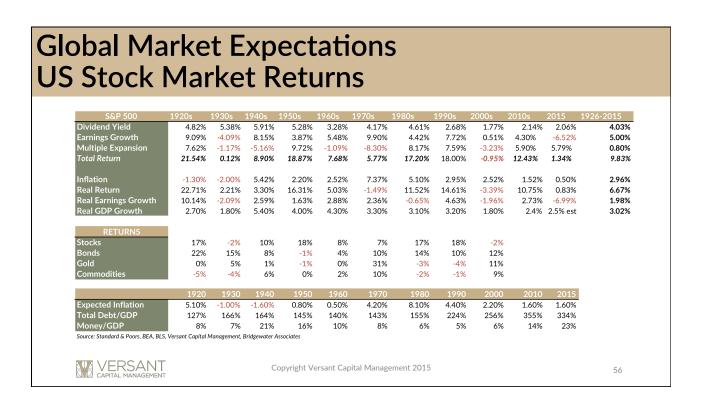




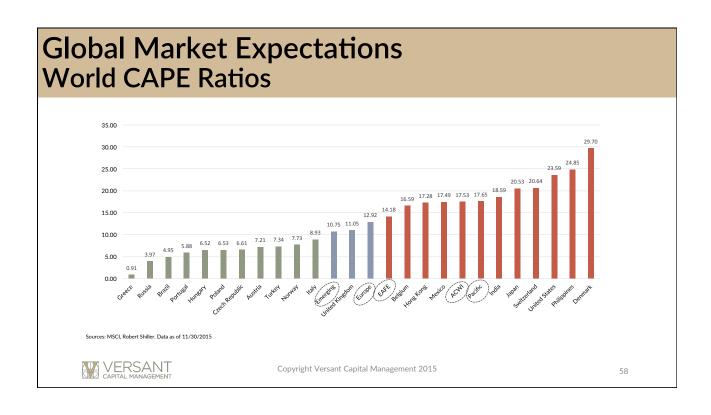




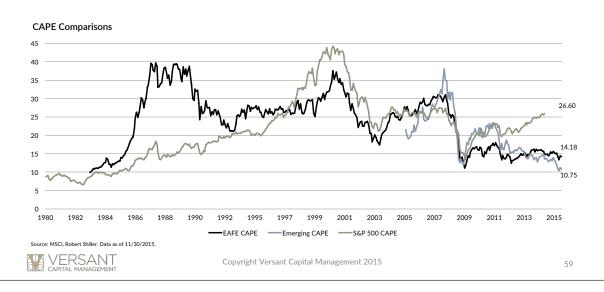




bal Marke	_		-			
rld CAPE	Datia					
ria CAPE	капо	5				
		-				
Country/Region	CAPE	CAPE Earnings Yield	TTM P/F	TTM Earnings	P/B	Dividend Yield
Country/ (Cgion	CALL	CAI E Larrings Ficia	111117	Yield	, 5	Dividend field
005505		110.010				1 000/
GREECE	0.90	110.84%	N/A	N/A	0.49	1.20%
RUSSIA BRAZIL	3.55	28.14%	7.83	12.77%	0.62	4.85%
PORTUGAL	4.69	21.30% 16.12%	17.05	5.87% 6.49%	1.13	4.58% 3.78%
POLAND	6.48	15.43%	11.11	9.00%	1.48	3.78%
CZECH REPUBLIC	6.53	15.32%	13.50	7.41%	1.33	7.04%
HUNGARY	6.63	15.07%	10.62	9.42%	1.25	2.10%
TURKEY	6.94	14.40%	9.60	10.42%	1.23	3.53%
AUSTRIA	7.16	13.98%	13.24	7.55%	1.06	1.86%
NORWAY	7.29	13.72%	12.57	7.95%	1.49	4.20%
SPAIN	8.59	11.65%	15.97	6.26%	1.28	5.19%
ITALY	8.71	11.48%	29.78	3.36%	1.05	3.02%
EM (EMERGING MARKETS)	10.51	9.52%	11.76	8.51%	1.22	2.81%
CHINA	12.45	8.03%	10.95	9.13%	1.42	2.76%
EUROPE	12.64	7.91%	18.09	5.53%	1.78	3.42%
EAFE	14.04	7.12%	16.99	5.88%	1.63	3.17%
BELGIUM	16.53	6.05%	19.26	5.19%	2.47	3.00%
MEXICO	16.68	5.99%	27.56	3.63%	2.61	1.46%
ACWI	17.23	5.80%	17.95	5.57%	2.00	2.60%
HONG KONG	17.35	5.76%	11.49	8,70%	1.18	3.00%
PACIFIC	17.81	5.61%	15.24	6.56%	1.40	2.73%
INDIA	19.07	5.24%	22.67	4.41%	3.22	1.42%
JAPAN	20.60	4.85%	16.02	6.24%	1.37	1.91%
SWITZERLAND	20.85	4.80%	18.38	5.44%	2.58	3.09%
USA	23.18	4.31%	20.54	4.87%	2.77	2.15%
PHILIPPINES	24.95	4.01%	20.19	4.95%	2.73	1.79%
DENMARK	30.55	3.27%	25.86	3.87%	4.06	1.59%



Global Market Expectations World CAPE Ratios Comparison

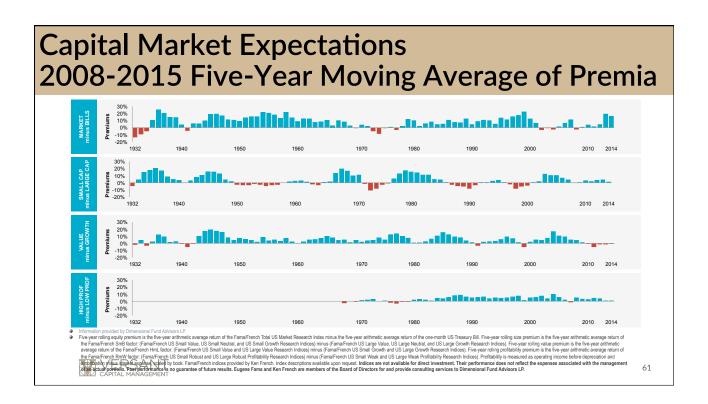


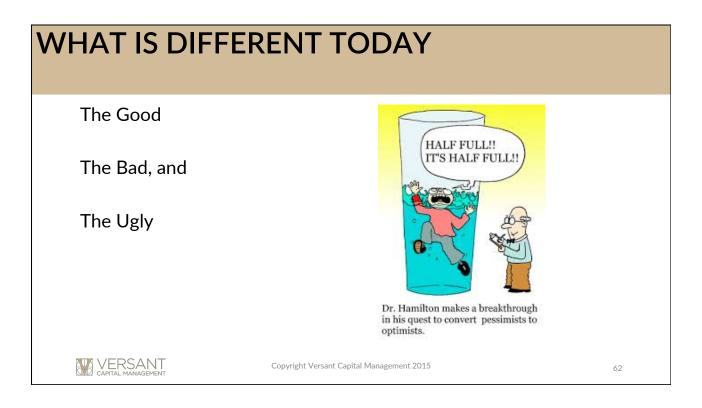
Capital Markets Assumptions*

			JPM 10-15 Years	Northern				
Category	Asset Class	BNYM 10 Years		Trust 5 Years	NEPC 5-7 Years	GMO 7 Years	WBlair 8 Years	RA 10 Years
		US Equities	US Large	7.20 %	7.00 %		6.00 %	0.10 %
US Small	8.40 %		7.25 %		6.00 %	1.40 %	-3.90 %	2.85 %
US High Quality						2.20 %		
US Broad Equity	7.30 %			5.60 %				
	Private Equity	10.70 %	8.50 %	8.60 %	8.50 %			
nternational Equities	Global Equity	7.40 %	7.50 %	6.50 %		_	6.80 %	
	Ex-US Developed Equity	7.00 %	7.75 %	6.10 %	7.25 %		8.80 %	7.77 %
	International Large					2.20 %		
	International Small	7.50 %				0.90 %	_	
	Emerging	9.80 %	10.00 %	7.80 %	9.75 %	6.30 %	15.70 %	10.38 %
Real Estate	US REIT	8.00 %	6.00 %					4.98 %
	Global REIT	7.70 %		6.90 %				
	Direct Real Estate	5.60 %	5.50 %		6.50 %			
Fixed Income	US Aggregate	2.70 %	3.75 %	3.00 %	3.75 %	1.30 %		3.59 %
	Municipal Bonds	3.10 %	3.25 %	3.30 %				
	US Treasury Bonds	2.10 %	3.00 %	2.50 %	1.75 %		1.60 %	3.26 %
	US High Yield	4.80 %	6.75 %	5.80 %	5.25 %		5.60 %	5.31 %
	International Bonds (Hedged)		2.50 %		1.09 %	-0.40 %		
	Global Aggregate	2.20 %	2.50 %	2.50 %			2.30 %	3.77 %
	Ex-US Developed Fixed Income						2.50 %	
a di Dinteriori	Emerging Debt	4.90 %	6.50 %	7.80 %	4.50 %	4.40 %	4.90 %	5.11 %
nflation Protection/	US TIPS	2.30 %	2.75 %	1.70 %	2.50 %			3.65 %
Hedging	Gold		3.50 %					1.40 %
	Diversifed Hedge Funds	4.90 %	4.25 %	4.40 %	5.75 %			
	Event Driven Hedge Funds	5.10 %	6.00 %	5.00 %				
	Cash			1.50 %	1.50 %	2.10 %		
	Infrastructure	7.30 %	6.50 %	6.20 %				
	Commodities	2.30 %	3.00 %		4.50 %			4.75 %
	Inflation					2.20 %		2.50 %

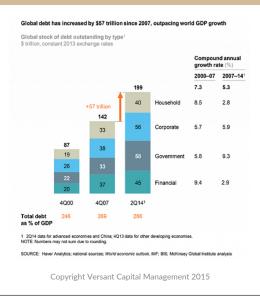
*Returns are geometric and stated in nominal terms. Real return estimates are adjusted to nominal returns by adding back expected inflation as estimated by that source







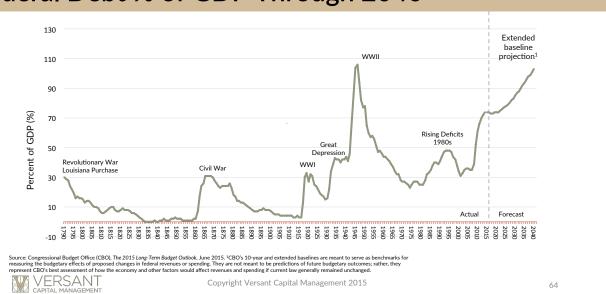
What is Different Today - The Ugly Deleveraging, What Deleveraging?



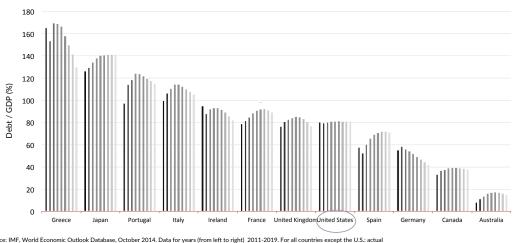
VERSANT

63

What is Different Today – The Ugly Federal Debt % of GDP Through 2040



What is Different Today - The Ugly Government Debt-to-GDP Ratios (2011-2019)



Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook Database, October 2014. Data for years (from left to right) 2011-2019. For all countries except the U.S.: actual data for 2011-2013, estimates for 2014-2019. For the U.S.: actual data for 2011-2012, estimates for 2013-2019

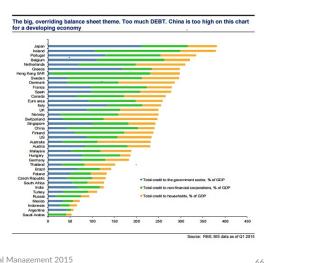


Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015

65

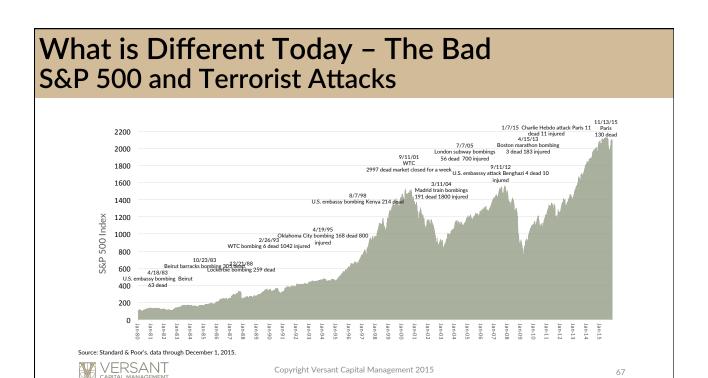
What is Different Today - The Ugly **Country Debt-to-GDP Ratios**

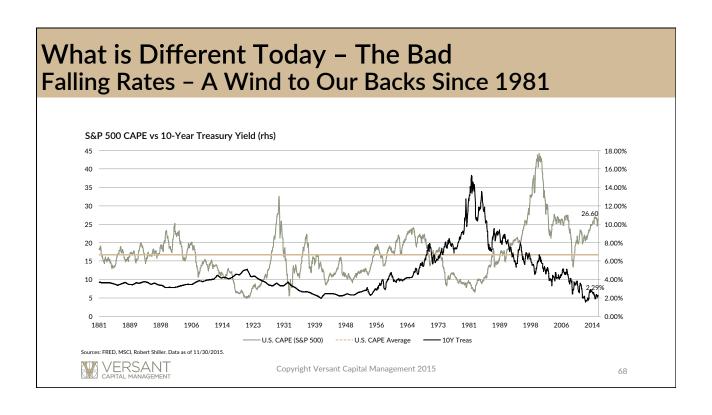
- The debt problem is endemic in developed market
- Current real yields on sovereign debt are barely positive in some countries; negative in others.
- The debt problem will be worked through with some combination of restructuring government benefits and transfers, continued repression of interest rates, restructuring of debt commitments, and induced inflation.
- There are few positive outcomes for holders of long-term sovereign debt.





Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015





What is Different Today – The Bad Fed Options During the Next Downturn Limited



Expansion of the Fed's Balance Sheet has Happened Before.

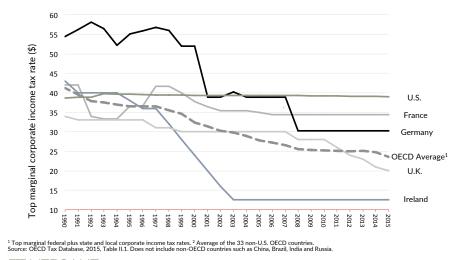
We will Not Have a Demographic Wave and Women Entering the Workforce to Help Us.

The Most Consistent Worry Among Professionals is the Paucity of Remaining Options Available to the Fed For the Next Economic Downturn.

Interest Rates are Near Zero; The Fed has Already Aggressively Expanded Its Balance Sheet - Helicopter Money?

69

What is Different Today – The Good Corporate Tax Rates¹ – Comparison From 1990



Corporate income tax rates started moving lower in the mid-1990's but the U.S., alone, did not follow.

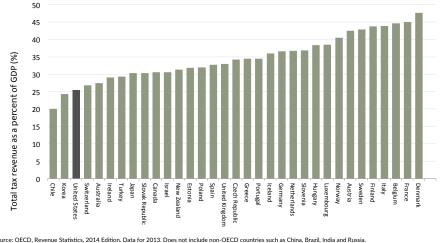
At 39% today, the U.S. is 15%% higher than the OECD average.

This is why the "inversions" are going to Ireland.

VERSANT CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015

What is Different Today - The Bad Taxes % of GDP - Comparison



While the U.S. has the highest corporate tax rate, the U.S. has one of the lowest total tax burdens among developed economies

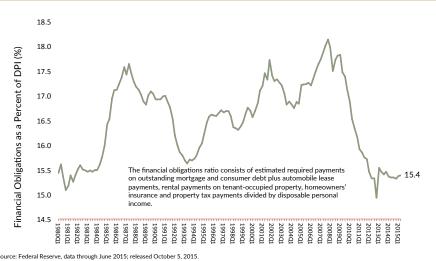
Small wonder U.S. companies are moving or opening foreign subsidiaries.

Source: OECD, Revenue Statistics, 2014 Edition. Data for 2013. Does not include non-OECD countries such as China, Brazil, India and Russia Includes all forms of taxes: federal, state and local; income taxes, sales taxes, VAT taxes, estate taxes, property taxes, etc.

Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015

71

What is Different Today - The Good Consumer Financial Obligations Ratio Near a Low



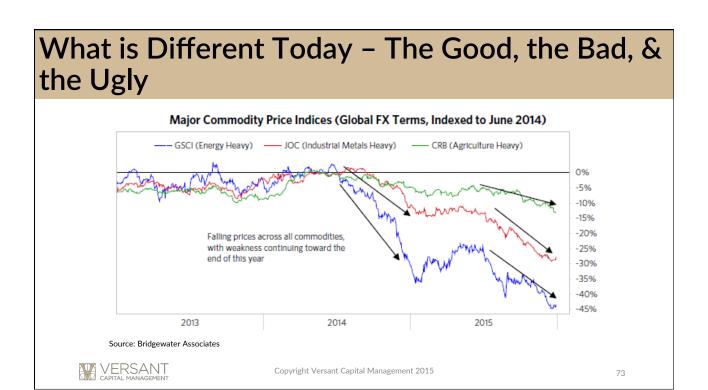
consumers' monthly flow of income to their fixed recurring monthly expenses, including debt service, gives a more accurate measure of consumers' financial health.

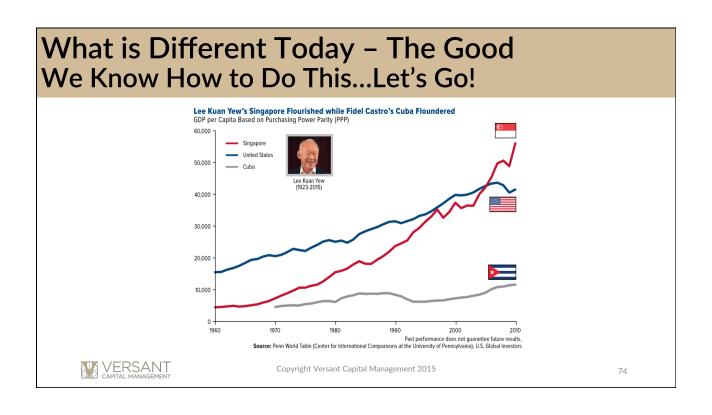
Consumers' ability to cover the monthly "nut" has seldom been better as incomes have recovered, household debt has been reduced and interest rates remain low

Caveat: Refinancing risk.

VERSANT

Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015





What is Different Today – The Good I'm With the Cornucopians

- Demographics, Debt, Interest Rates, Intergenerational Equity (who writes the check), and Malthusians are Headwinds.
- Positive Trends that Still Exist: The Improvement in the Lot of Most of the Planet's Inhabitants.
 - We know this can happen: Just look at Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and the former East Germany.
 - At around \$5,000 income per capita, big changes in diet and education.
 - Much investment in agriculture, energy, and materials will be needed.
 - The current market decline in these sectors may be teeing up quite an opportunity.
 - They also tend to be inflation sensitive sectors.
- The Cornucopians believe that technological progress will continue what was started in the late 1700s – more than a order of magnitude improvement in economic growth.
 - We believe even though we can't identify the future breakthroughs like so much else an act of faith.
 - The Malthusians believe the future can't duplicate the advances of the past.



Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015

75

What is Different Today – The Good Some Ideas

- Investment Strategies Focused on Forecasting are Dangerous We Cannot Forecast Well Enough
 - Invest in market risk premiums inexpensively.
 - Tilt around the edges with favorable trends.
- Rebalance aggressively from the things that have done well (US growth stocks) into that which has not (emerging market stocks).
- The big decline in interest rates and run up in debt will not be duplicated over the next 30 years; consider some other asset classes in your investment strategy.
- Tend more toward global market capitalization than relying on U.S. stocks alone. There is still ample room for long-term earnings growth outside the U.S.
- Make sure your less liquid investments are held in kind or in the proper investment vehicle to preclude forced selling.
- The Issues of the Day, Debt, Demographics, Interest Rates, and Inflation are Difficult but Solvable if All Interests Contribute. There are Historical Precedents.



Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUABLE TIME Q&A





Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015

77

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

Please remember that past performance may not be indicative of future results. Different types of investments involve varying degrees of risk, and there can be no assurance that the future performance of any specific investment, investment strategy, or product (including the investments and/or investment strategies recommended or undertaken by Versant Capital Management, Inc.), or any non-investment related content, made reference to directly or indirectly in this newsletter will be profitable, equal any corresponding indicated historical performance level(s), be suitable for your portfolio or individual situation, or prove successful. Due to various factors, including changing market conditions and/or applicable laws, the content may no longer be reflective of current opinions or positions. Moreover, you should not assume that any discussion or information contained in this newsletter serves as the receipt of, or as a substitute for, personalized investment advice from Versant Capital Management, Inc. To the extent that a reader has any questions regarding the applicability of any specific issue discussed above to his/her individual situation, he/she is encouraged to consult with the professional advisor of his/her choosing. Versant Capital Management, Inc. is neither a law firm nor a certified public accounting firm and no portion of the newsletter content should be construed as legal or accounting advice. If you are a Versant Capital Management, Inc. client, please remember to contact Versant Capital Management, Inc., in writing, if there are any changes in your personal/financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing/evaluating/revising our previous recommendations and/or services. A copy of the Versant Capital Management, Inc.'s current written disclosure statement discussing our advisory services and fees is available upon request.



Copyright Versant Capital Management 2015