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# JUNE 2015

### Current Environment - Macro Overview

Market Update

(all values as of 05.29.2015)

### Stock Indices:

Dow Jones	18,010
S&P 500	2,107
Nasdaq	5,070

#### Bond Sector Yields:

2 Yr Treasury	0.61%
10 Yr Treasury	2.12%
10 Yr Municipal	2.28%
High Yield	5.96%

#### YTD Market Returns:

Dow Jones	1.05%		
S&P 500	2.36%		
Nasdaq	7.05%		
MSCI-EAFE	6.99%		
MSCI-Europe	5.31%		
MSCI-Pacific	10.29%		
MSCI-Emg Mkt	5.01%		
US Agg Bond	0.99%		
US Corp Bond	0.94%		
US Gov't Bond	0.95%		

#### Commodity Prices:

Gold	1,187
Silver	16.78
Oil (WTI)	60.30

#### Currencies:

Dollar / Euro	1.09
Dollar / Pound	1.53
Yen / Dollar	123.94
Dollar / Canadian	.80

Uncertainty surrounding the exit of Greece from the euro caused equity and bond markets to react as updates emerged from Greece. Tentative negotiations between Greek leaders and its European creditors, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), European Union (EU), and European Central Bank (ECB), are considered fragile and inconclusive by the international markets.

Figures released by the ECB in late May showed that Greece's embattled banks are experiencing a pick-up in deposit outflows. Total deposits fell to €139.36 billion in April, down from over €170 billion just five months ago, leaving deposit levels at Greek banks at their lowest levels in more than a decade. A dramatic increase in outflows would be of serious consequence to the Greek economy, as people and businesses hold on to euros rather than

# U.S. Cities Growing - Domestic Migration

As demographics evolve and industries create additional jobs, a migration back to American cities is occurring. Following the second world war, suburbs exploded throughout the country with

**U.S. Cities Growing** City Populations (000)s / 2014 9000 8000 7000 6000 5000 4000 3000 2000 1000 0 LOS Angeles sandiego NewYork Philadelphia SanAntonio Chicago Houston Phoenit SanJost

spending euros, thus stalling the economy.

U.S. companies hold an estimated \$1.73 trillion of cash as reported by Moody's this past month. With such ample cash reserves, companies continue to seek buying opportunities and execute stock repurchase programs in order to deploy such vast cash positions.

Domestic economic data released in May showed slightly improving conditions. Growth in the housing market was validated as new residential sales and construction both increased from prior periods. Economists view improvements in the housing sector optimistically since housing provides numerous jobs throughout the country.

Sources: Fed, Moody's, IMF, ECB, Eurostat

young families, whereas today, cities have now become the chosen destination.

Younger individuals are finding more jobs and less travel time in cities, allow-

ing them to spend more on recreational activities versus commuting. As they've paved their way into the city lifestyle, U.S. cities have grown, with 10 cities now having a population of a million or more.

#### Source: U.S. Census Bureau



# Equity Overview - Domestic Equity Markets

Volatility throughout domestic markets in May sent indices gyrating throughout the month. Major equity indices all hit record highs in May, elevating stock prices to new levels. The technology driven Nasdaq index has thus far outperformed the S&P 500 and Dow Jones Indices year to date.

Analysts are seeing an abundant amount of cash on corporate balance sheets, which buoys well for continued stock buybacks and dividend increases. Healthy corporate balance sheets and cash flows offer companies the flexibility not only to return capital to shareholders through dividends and share buybacks, but also to increase hiring, pursue mergers and acquisitions, and increase capital expenditures. All of these factors are likely to provide support to both the market and the overall economy in the coming months.

#### Sources: Reuters, S&P, Bloomberg

# Chinese Money Coming To The U.S. - Global Wealth Transfer

Chinese investments in the United States are seeing an increase so far in 2015 after new visa rules for Chinese tourists, students, and businessmen went into effect late last year. The changes are likely to add an estimated \$85 billion to the American economy, impacting many sectors, including the U.S. real estate market.

Some analysts believe that longer duration visas for Chinese students will drive up the number of students flocking to American universities and colleges, creating a trickle-down effect for residential properties. This is because Chinese parents are more willing to invest in housing than to rent while their children attend U.S. Schools.

California and New York will likely see increased growth as both states already receive large amounts of foreign real estate capital. In New York City, eight billion dollars is spent each year on residences in the city alone, some of which comes from wealthy foreign investors. NYC remains the number one destination for Chinese buying U.S. real estate, having spent \$6.7 billion on property in the city between 2008 and 2014. California, meanwhile, was second during that same period, which saw \$1.6 billion in real estate investments. Philadelphia, Detroit, and Houston have also become popular destinations for Chinese buyers.

Over the past few years, there's been an influx



of Chinese money into the U.S., increasing from about \$58 million in 2000 to \$14 billion in 2013.

The Chinese are interested in acquiring anything American, from companies to commercial and residential real estate, motivated by the fact that they feel their assets are much better protected in the United States than in communist ruled China.

The Chinese also represent more than 85 percent of investors who have applied for EB5 visas, which provide a method of obtaining a green card for foreign nationals who invest money in the United States.

The number of Chinese visitors to the Unit-States has increased over 460 pered cent in the past seven years, according to the U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

#### Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce



# Global Fixed Income Update - Bond Markets

An aversion towards holding European government debt as a haven has been fanned by the lingering anticipation of a resolution between Greece and its creditors. The yield on various European government bonds edged higher in May as a result of the constant impasse with Greece and its creditors. Those countries with some similar characteristics to Greece saw yields increase (falling bond prices) such as Spain, Italy, and Portugal.

Sentiment from the Federal Reserve sent domestic yields higher as economic data released in May signaled improving conditions. Consensus now points to a year-end rate hike versus one occurring this summer as originally expected by analysts. Concern about banks not being allowed to hold and trade as much debt as it has in the past has led to liquidity worries among global bond traders. Stringent reform measures put in place by international banking regulators following the financial crisis, led to the creation of Basel III mandates. The rules essentially prohibit banks from actively holding and trading bonds for profit, thus minimizing the inventory that banks are willing to hold. Banks provide a necessary lubricant to the global bond market by facilitating bond trades among various sectors.

#### Sources: Bondtrader, Federal Reserve, Reuters

### Tobacco: America's 1st Cash Crop - Historical Note

America's economic base was established by the colonies in the early 1600s during a period of exploration and growth. The English colony of Jamestown was the initial place of America's first cash crop.

An enterprising settler in Jamestown named John Rolf was curious whether or not the young colonies could possibly compete in the profitable tobacco business. The climate and soil of the colonies lent themselves well for the cultivation and harvesting of tobacco. Tobacco trade was a monopoly controlled by the Spanish, who grew and harvested the valuable plant throughout the Caribbean and South America.

From a few tender tobacco seeds, the settlers were able to develop fields of tobacco in the early 1600s, with most of it exported to England. Shipments grew steadily, from 20,000 pounds in 1617 to over 1.5 million pounds by the end of the decade.

Before the success with tobacco, the colo-

nies had tried various crops, including timber, potash and wine. All of these failed due to inadequate growing conditions and price competition from other areas of the world.

> As tobacco revenue grew, so did immigration, as additional settlers arrived to hopefully gain from the desirable new plant. The demand for tobacco was so great that nearly every field in the Virginia colony was planted with tobacco, not leaving much if any room for food crops such as wheat and corn. The extensive planting of tobacco led to a shortage of food, which prompted the colonial government in 1619 to pass a law requiring a certain amount of corn be planted for every tobacco plant.

By the revolutionary war, the colony of Virginia was growing 55 million pounds of tobacco per year making it the richest and most powerful of the 13 colonies. Today, tobacco is still one of the state's top ten industries.

Source: Library of Congress



# **IRAs Are Growing** - Retirement Savings Review

Retirement assets have been increasing in the United States, with \$24.7 trillion in total retirement assets through the end of 2014. Retirement assets currently account for 36 percent of all household financial assets, with a significant portion held in Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).

Established by ERISA (Employee Retirement Securities Act) in 1974, IRAs have garnered a tremendous amount of assets meant for retirement purposes. With company pensions and retirement benefits not as plentiful as they were decades before, contributions and rollovers to IRAs have steadily grown.

8 7 6		<b>  IRA A</b> 9 2000-2014 Trillions (\$)			_		
5 -		_					
4 -			_				
3 -	_						
2 -							
1 -							
0 +	<b>—</b>	_					
	2000	2007	2008	2010	2012	2013	2014

As workers have gradually become more mobile

### China Pushes Its Currency - Currency Markets

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a proposed regional regulatory and investment treaty. As of 2014, twelve countries throughout the Asia Pacific region have participated in negotiations on

the TPP: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States, and Vietnam.

Board members of the IMF will vote this year on whether to add China's currency (the yuan) to its Special Drawing Rights basket along with the U.S. dollar, euro, yen, and British pound. An and less stationary, rollovers have become much more prevalent, with a substantial portion of IRA assets originating from other tax qualified plans such as 401(k)s and defined contribution plans.

The average IRA balance increased to \$119,804 in 2013, according to the lastest data made available by the Employee Benefit Research Institute. The average is an increase of over 30 percent from the 2010 average balance of \$87,668. The generous increase is a result of employee rollovers, market appreciation, and new contributions. The appreciation of IRAs elevated total IRA assets to exceed \$7.4 trillion by the end of 2014.

Of the various types of IRAs, traditional IRAs remain the most popular, with SEP, SIMPLE, and ROTHs accounting for a lesser proportion.

As workers transition from companies and industries that may have offered a retirement plan, such as 401ks, defined contribution plans, and pensions, more and more of these assets will find their way into IRAs and IRA Rollover Accounts.

#### Sources: U.S. Dept. of Labor, ICA, EBRI

IMF mission in China said that it would work closely with authorities toward inclusion of the yuan.

The SDR, an accounting unit usually deployed in

bailout packages, would deliver few direct benefits to China's 1.3 billion people.

China has been carefully lobbying to have its currency as a primary trading currency throughout the world.

#### Sources: IMF, Reuters

\*Market Returns: All data is indicative of total return which includes capital gain/loss and reinvested dividends for noted period. Index data sources; MSCI, DJ-UBSCI, WTI, IDC, S&P. The information provided is believed to be reliable, but its accuracy or completeness is not warranted. This material is not intended as an offer or solicitation for the purchase or sale of any stock, bond, mutual fund, or any other financial instrument. The views and strategies discussed herein may not be appropriate and/or suitable for all investors. This material is meant solely for informational purposes, and is not intended to suffice as any type of accounting, legal, tax, or estate planning advice. Any and all forecasts mentioned are for illustrative purposes only and should not be interpreted as investment recommendations. Quint Wealth Management, Inc. (Quint Investments & Insurance) is a Registered Investment Adviser in New York. We are allowed to do business in New York and other states where we are registered, exempted, or excluded from registration. Investments involve risk and unless otherwise stated, are not guaranteed. Be sure to first consult with a qualified financial adviser and/or tax professional before implementing any strategy discussed herein. Insurance products and services are offered and sold through Quint Risk Management, Inc. and individually licensed and appointed insurance agents.

There Are Over \$7 Trillion In IRAs

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