Dorion-Gray Retirement Planning
Weekly Commentary
June 14, 2010

Technically Speaking….

Even though last week was again another volatile week, the S&P 500 ended up 2.5% for the week. However, a week does not a trend make. The markets should continue their volatile range bound trading again this week and most likely for a few more.

The good news is that the range currently appears to be moving up slightly as it should fall in the 1040 to 1148 range (based on the S&P 500). Volume was light on the up days which is generally an indication of market weakness. On the positive side, all ten sectors of the S&P 500 gained. Cyclical stocks outperformed as both Energy and Basic Materials moved 4.3 percent higher.

Markets are driven by greed and fear, and fear has been ruling as uncertainty which fuels fear continues to grip both the U.S. and global markets.

U.S. economic news was mixed last week as retail sales fell 1.2% in May. The decline was pretty much across all sectors and even though disappointing remember one month does not a trend make. The underlying economic signals are still indicating positive growth (though somewhat slower than originally expected) for the U.S.

The U.S. trade deficit increased in April (just reported) as both imports and exports decreased but exports decreased more than imports as problems in the Euro Zone and the fall of the Euro versus the dollar affected U.S. exports.

Initial jobless claims decreased to 456,000 for the ist week of June, however, the four week moving average, a more accurate measure, increased to 463,000. Numbers over 400,000 do not bode well for private sector job growth. The good news was hours worked and temporary jobs increased. It is evident that companies are continuing to grow profits through efficiency and cost containment due to the uncertain business and economic environment.

The short term charts suggest that the market should continue higher for at least today and tomorrow. The target is the 1102/1108 levels (S&P 500). The critical support is at the 1081.40 level if this level holds for the next two to three days then it will set the tone for more upside over the 5 to 8 trading days. There is a possibility for a minor high between the 1102/1108 levels then a moderate decline that should not decline below the 1081.40 level followed by a further rally toward the 1123/1134 levels later in the pattern.

The intermediate charts suggest if the market can close higher again this week there is a 60 percent probability for a rally toward the 1140/1148 levels. The extreme allowed in this pattern is the 1189.45 level. There is only a 30 percent probability for this level to be penetrated over the next three weeks.

We will keep you informed.

The Markets

Which country is the most attractive market for investors?

Perhaps Brazil? Russia? India? China? Collectively, those four are known as the "BRIC" countries and for a number of years, many investors have pointed to them as economic stars. However, in a global quarterly poll of investors and analysts who are Bloomberg subscribers released on June 8, "Almost four of 10 respondents picked the U.S. as the market presenting the best opportunities in the year ahead." That placed the U.S. #1 on the list followed by Brazil, China, and India.

Of course, this is simply the *opinion* of a group of investors and analysts and it does not mean that the U.S. will turn out to *be* the best market. But, it does raise an interesting observation, which is… there are countries with good economics and countries with good investment opportunities--and they are not always the same.

Here's what we mean. In the first quarter of 2010, Brazil, India, and China's economies expanded at an annual rate of 9.0%, 8.6%, and 11.9%, respectively, as measured by gross domestic product, according to Bloomberg. That's huge. By contrast, the U.S. economy expanded at a relatively modest 3.0% in the first quarter, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. On the surface, you might think that the three countries with the highest economic growth rates would also present the most attractive investment opportunities. Possibly yes, but the latest survey from Bloomberg put the good ol' USA in the #1 spot.

Why would these investors and analysts put a slower-growing U.S. ahead of fast-growing Brazil, India, and China? There could be numerous reasons, but a simple takeaway is this--in the short-term, good economics does not always translate into good investment opportunities. For example, if the fast economic growth in Brazil, India, and China was already "priced into" their financial markets, then the near-term outlook for stock prices might be muted. Conversely, if the modest growth in the U.S. helped drive our stock prices down to a relatively low level, then we might be in the best position to experience a bounce from this "oversold" condition.

This is a long-winded way of saying short-term market movements might not reflect current economic realities.

Data as of 6/11/10	**1-Week**	**Y-T-D**	**1-Year**	**3-Year**	**5-Year**	**10-Year**
Standard & Poor's 500 (Domestic Stocks)	2.5%	-2.1%	15.4%	-10.2%	-1.9%	-2.8%
DJ Global ex US (Foreign Stocks)	1.0	-10.3	6.1	-11.9	1.7	0.0
10-year Treasury Note (Yield Only)	3.2	N/A	3.9	5.1	4.1	6.1
Gold (per ounce)	1.4	10.5	28.8	23.3	23.2	15.7
DJ-UBS Commodity Index	2.5	-10.2	-4.6	-10.1	-4.1	1.9
DJ Equity All REIT TR Index	7.8	12.5	58.9	-8.1	1.9	10.9

Notes: S&P 500, DJ Global ex US, Gold, DJ-UBS Commodity Index returns exclude reinvested dividends (gold does not pay a dividend) and the three-, five-, and 10-year returns are annualized; the DJ Equity All REIT TR Index does include reinvested dividends and the three-, five-, and 10-year returns are annualized; and the 10-year Treasury Note is simply the yield at the close of the day on each of the historical time periods.
Sources: Yahoo! Finance, Barron’s, djindexes.com, London Bullion Market Association.
Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Indices are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly. N/A means not applicable or not available.

DID YOU FEEL WEALTHIER in the first 3 months of this year? Well, believe it or not, the net worth of U.S. households rose by $1.1 trillion in the first quarter, according to the Federal Reserve. Most of this increase came from rising stock prices. And, if you believe economists, each extra dollar of wealth should generate about 5 cents of spending over time, according to MarketWatch. Dubbed "The Wealth Effect," it suggests that rising stock prices could lead to a virtuous cycle of higher spending, higher corporate earnings, and higher stock prices. That's the good news.

Here's the bad news. The theory also works in reverse.

Yes, household net worth was up in the first quarter, but it is still down about $11.4 trillion from its early 2007 peak, according to MarketWatch. And, with the roughly 7% slide we've seen in S&P 500 so far in the second quarter, we may see the net worth number drop when the second quarter data is released in a few months.

This net worth data and the stretched balance sheets of many Americans leaves us with a conundrum. On one hand, consumer spending accounts for about 70% of U.S. economic activity, according to Associated Press. So, if we want robust economic growth, we need consumers to open their wallets and start buying stuff. On the other hand, the pragmatic observer says consumers are already too much in debt and need to curb their spending and build up their savings. This could lead to slower growth.

Essentially, we can keep spending by going deeper in debt and hope we can "leverage" our way to prosperity. Or, we can cut our spending, increase our savings, and gradually build our way back to a sustainable growth rate. Both scenarios would likely cause some pain. The former scenario would likely delay the pain. The latter scenario would likely speed it up.

Sooner or later, don't be surprised if we enter an "Age of Austerity" that enables (forces?) consumers to reduce their debts, and, after a painful adjustment, puts our country back on a path to prosperity.

Weekly Focus – Think About It

"I have learned, as a rule of thumb, never to ask whether you can do something. Say, instead, that you are doing it. Then fasten your seat belt. The most remarkable things follow."
--Julia Cameron

Best regards,

The Dorion-Gray Team

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P.S. Please feel free to forward this commentary to family, friends, or colleagues. If you would like us to add them to the list, please reply to this e-mail with their e-mail address and we will ask for their permission to be added.

* The Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500) is an unmanaged group of securities considered to be representative of the stock market in general.

* The 10-year Treasury Note represents debt owed by the United States Treasury to the public. Since the U.S. Government is seen as a risk-free borrower, investors use the 10-year Treasury Note as a benchmark for the long-term bond market.

* Gold represents the London afternoon gold price fix as reported by the London Bullion Market Association.

* The DJ Commodity Index is designed to be a highly liquid and diversified benchmark for the commodity futures market. The Index is composed of futures contracts on 19 physical commodities and was launched on July 14, 1998.

* The DJ Equity All REIT TR Index measures the total return performance of the equity subcategory of the Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) industry as calculated by Dow Jones.

* Yahoo! Finance is the source for any reference to the performance of an index between two specific periods.

*Commentary prepared by Dorion-Gray with information from various sources including Peak, market strategist R. Kendall, The Hudson Institute, EWI, Hedgeye Risk Management, Securities America, Inc., and Classic Economic Principles.

* Opinions expressed are subject to change without notice and are not intended as investment advice or to predict future performance.

* Past performance does not guarantee future results.

* You cannot invest directly in an index.

* Consult your financial professional before making any investment decision.