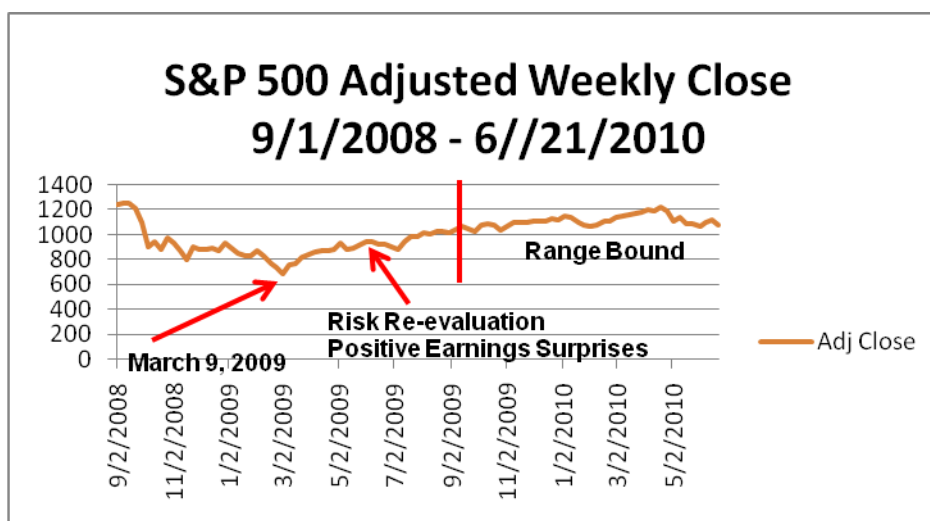




## Dorion-Gray Retirement Planning Weekly Commentary June 28, 2010

### Technically Speaking....

Last week we reported that the critical level on the downside for the S&P 500 was 1110.30 if this level is penetrated then a pattern failure will be signaled. There was currently only a slight probability for this to occur. The bad news was the market closed down -3.7% for the week at 1076.59. The good news is that a pattern failure did not happen and is not expected to. The S&P as well as the markets in general are expected to continue in their range bound mode with continued volatility the norm. See graph below.



Graph: Dorion-Gray Capital Management, Closing price Data from Yahoo Finance

There is little expectation that there will be any change to this in the near future. This was enhanced last week with the second government reduction in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter GDP to +2.7 % from the initial +3.2%. With productivity still at +2.8% and exceeding GDP it indicates that private sector job growth was nonexistent in the first quarter. The jobless benefits claims current 4 week average is at 462,500- we need it to be below the 400,000 level necessary for job growth.

The reasons are simple.

- 1- All the leading indicators are showing that the economy is again decelerating (growth is again slowing).
- 2- Uncertainty over rising taxes, accelerating U.S. debt, and continuing unemployment has the private sector paralyzed.
- 3- There is absolutely no private sector U.S. job creation currently, and the labor department report due this Friday is expected to again show flat to negative job growth.
- 4- Housing sales declined last week with new home sales hitting an all time low.
- 5- Large companies are in good shape as they are hoarding cash due to cost containment while small business is retreating due to a lack of sales.
- 6- Inventories are starting to build as supply is higher than demand.
- 7- There is a strong concern that the Fed is inadvertently tightening monetary policy. A lack of growth in bank reserves after allowance for excess reserves remains a strong indicator of a decelerating economy.

The short term charts suggest that if the market can move above the 1084.30 level that a minor rally will unfold for two to three days. If this occurs then a rally toward the 1092/1099 level will be signaled. The extreme to the upside is for a rally toward the 1105/1110. Then a decline to retest the 1070 level will unfold. Should the market fail and penetrate the 1067.90 level then a decline toward the 1040 level will most likely unfold.

The weekly charts suggest that the market is likely to end this week lower. Should the 1040 level be penetrated then a further decline toward the 992 level will be signaled. Currently there is only a 20 percent probability for the 1040 level to be penetrated.

The pattern on the intermediate charts continues to suggest a trading range as there are no new downtrends signaled at this time.

After painting a completely morbid picture of our current economy, I'll leave you with a slightly more inspirational quote from Robert Kennedy that I saw in an article written by prominent market researcher Daryl Jones:

“All of us might wish at times that we lived in a more tranquil world, but we don't. And if our times are difficult and perplexing, so are they challenging and filled with opportunity.”

We do not live in easy times, but opportunities to make money and protect our capital remain abundant.

We will keep you informed.

## **The Markets**

Can world governments "cut" their way to prosperity?

It's no secret that many countries are incurring large--and unsustainable--budget deficits. What's interesting is the approach each country is taking to try to lower their deficits to a manageable level. Britain, Japan, Germany, and Greece, for example, are focused on cutting government spending, according to Bloomberg, June 22. Conversely, the U.S., while concerned about government spending, seems more focused on keeping the stimulus spending alive and raising taxes until (hopefully) the economy can catch fire and grow on its own.

Who's right?

According to Harvard University professor Alberto Alesina, "There have been mountains of evidence in which cutting government spending has been associated with increases in growth, but people still don't quite get it." In addition, a study by Ben Broadbent and Kevin Daly of Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. as reported by Bloomberg on June 22, "discovered that reducing expenditures by 1 percentage point a year boosted average annual growth by 0.6 percentage point. Raising the ratio of taxes to GDP by the same margin cut growth by an average 0.9 percentage point." And, from a stock market perspective, the same report said, "The equity markets of the countries that sliced spending beat those of other advanced nations by 64% during a three-year period."

Like many things related to finance and economics, we won't know "who's right" until time passes and the market delivers its verdict. Between now and then, expect the vigorous debate on spending cuts versus stimulus spending to continue among academics, investors, and world leaders.

<b>Data as of 6/25/10</b>	<b>1-Week</b>	<b>Y-T-D</b>	<b>1-Year</b>	<b>3-Year</b>	<b>5-Year</b>	<b>10-Year</b>
Standard & Poor's 500 (Domestic Stocks)	-3.6%	-3.4%	17.0%	-10.4%	-2.0%	-3.0%
DJ Global ex US (Foreign Stocks)	-2.0	-8.6	13.9	-11.7	1.9	0.4
10-year Treasury Note (Yield Only)	3.1	N/A	3.6	5.1	3.9	6.1
Gold (per ounce)	-0.2	13.6	33.8	24.4	23.3	16.0
DJ-UBS Commodity Index	0.2	-7.5	3.1	-8.9	-4.2	2.1
DJ Equity All REIT TR Index	-3.0	11.7	65.9	-6.7	1.7	10.6

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.

**ARE THE FINANCIAL MARKETS "NORMALLY DISTRIBUTED"** and should you even care? Consider this. The average height of an American male is 69.4 inches, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, October 22, 2008. If we randomly chose 1,000 American males and calculated their average height, we would likely come up with a number close to 69.4 inches. Now, in an un-random fashion, let's assume we found an 8-foot tall man--who is clearly an extreme outlier--and we have him join the previous group of 1,000. By recalculating the data, we now find the average height of this group of 1,001 men jumps by a very *underwhelming* 0.03 inches. In other words, adding an extremely tall outlier to this group of average height men had very little effect on the overall average height of the group. Without getting too technical and assuming "tall outliers" are just as likely to be found as "short outliers," we can say the height of men follows a "bell curve" or a normal distribution.

By contrast, let's consider the average net worth of American households. According to the Federal Reserve, February 2009, the average American family had a net worth of \$556,300 in 2007. Like above, if we randomly chose 1,000 families, this group would probably have an average net worth near \$556,300. However, for fun, let's add Warren Buffett--and his \$40 billion net worth--to the group. Recalculating the data, we find the average net worth of this group of 1,001 Americans jumps to \$40.5 million! Clearly, adding an extreme outlier to this sample dramatically changed the average of the sample.

As it relates to the financial markets, do you think their distribution of returns looks more like the average height of American men (where an extreme outlier doesn't really affect the average) or the average net worth of American households (where an extreme outlier could have an extreme impact)? If you think the returns in financial markets look like the average height of American men, *but it turns out they behave more like the average net worth of American households*, you could lose a lot of money. In fact, much of modern portfolio theory is based on the assumption that financial markets follow a normal distribution, i.e., they look like the average height of American men. Unfortunately, experience suggests otherwise.

Warren Buffett-type outliers such as the October 1987 stock market crash, the 2000-2002 bursting of the internet bubble, the 2007-2009 bear market, the 2008 credit crisis, and last month's "flash crash," suggest that the financial markets are subject to large outliers that can significantly affect your financial well-being. Knowing that, we do our best to try to limit the damage to your portfolio if one of these outliers occurs during your investing lifetime.

## **Weekly Focus – Think About It**

"In the business world, the rearview mirror is always clearer than the windshield."

--Warren Buffett

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 DJ Global ex US is an unmanaged group of non-U.S. securities designed to reflect the performance of the global equity securities that have readily available prices.

\* 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. Technical analysis is provided based on our opinion of the overall prevailing market conditions but is not guaranteed and is subject to change without notice.

\* Past performance does not guarantee future results.

\* You cannot invest directly in an index.

\* Consult your financial professional before making any investment decision.