

MainStreet Advisors Financial Market Update

February 17, 2012
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Economic Update

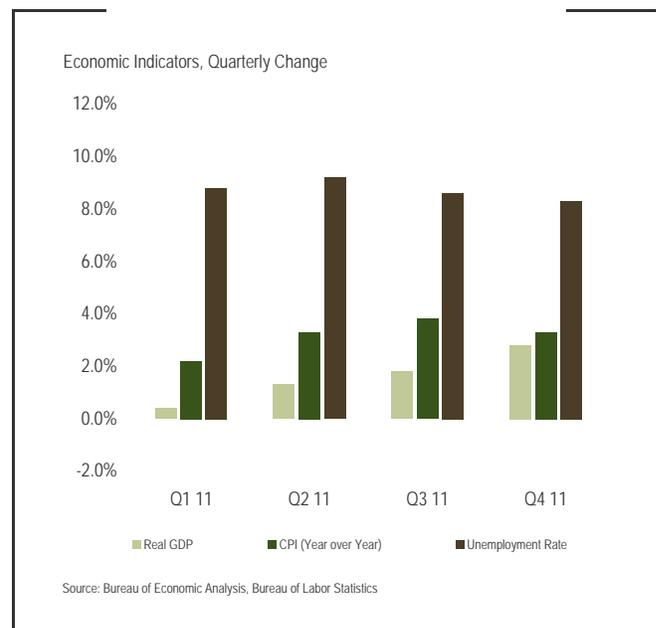
The likelihood of the eurozone economy falling into a recession increased as the 17 nation economy shrank for the first time since the second quarter of 2009. GDP for the eurozone contracted 0.3% for the fourth quarter after anemic growth of 0.1% the previous quarter, according to Eurostat. The Italian and Dutch economies both fell into recession after shrinking 0.7%. Portugal contracted another 1.3% and GDP in Greece fell a staggering 7.0%. The overall number was supported by better than expected numbers out of France and Germany. High unemployment and austere fiscal policies will continue to weigh on the eurozone economy in the near-term.

Things on this side of the pond look much better. The Conference Board's Leading Economic Index showed a 0.4% increase in January following an upwardly revised 0.5% gain the previous month. The fourth consecutive gain in the index reflected broad based strength among its components and point to a stronger U.S. economy in the coming months.

Retail sales grew in January, but at a rate less than markets were expecting. Retail sales were up 0.4% after being flat the previous month, according to the Commerce Department. There was surprising weakness in the auto component which fell 1.1% in conflict with a motor vehicle sales report released earlier in the month that showed unit sales jumped to a 14.2 million annual rate in January. Excluding this oddity, the numbers looked healthy across most other components.

After three months without rising prices, inflation started to pick up again at the consumer level. A report from the Labor Department showed headline inflation was up 0.2% in January. Year-over-year CPI inflation decelerated, though, to 2.9% from 3.0% in December. Inflation at the producer level rebounded 0.1% during January after slipping 0.1% the previous month. The increase was all at the core level as both the energy and food components declined. Overall the numbers look to be within a margin of safety between fears of deflation and worries of excessive inflation.

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Federal Reserve Banks, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Commerce, The Conference Board, the National Association of Realtors, the National Association of Home Builders, the European Central Bank.



Feb. 14 th	Retail Sales, Jan. Monthly Chg.	0.4%
Feb. 14 th	Import Prices, Jan. Monthly Chg.	0.3%
Feb. 14 th	Export Prices, Jan. Monthly Chg.	0.2%
Feb. 14 th	Business Inventories, Dec. Monthly Chg.	0.4%
Feb. 15 th	MBA Purchase Applications Index, Wkly. Chg.	-1.0%
Feb. 15 th	Empire State Mfg Survey, February	19.53
Feb. 15 th	Frgn Dmnd for LT US Securities, December	17.9B
Feb. 15 th	Industrial Production, Jan. Monthly Chg.	0.0%
Feb. 15 th	Housing Market Index, February	29.0
Feb. 15 th	EIA Petroleum Status Report, Wkly. Chg.	-0.2M Barrels
Feb. 16 th	Housing Starts, January	699,000
Feb. 16 th	Initial Jobless Claims (week ending 2/11)	348,000
Feb. 16 th	Producer Price Index, January Monthly Chg.	0.1%
Feb. 16 th	Philidelphia Fed Survey, February	10.2
Feb. 17 th	Consumer Price Index, January Monthly Chg.	0.2%
Feb. 17 th	Leading Indicators, Jan. Monthly Chg.	0.4%

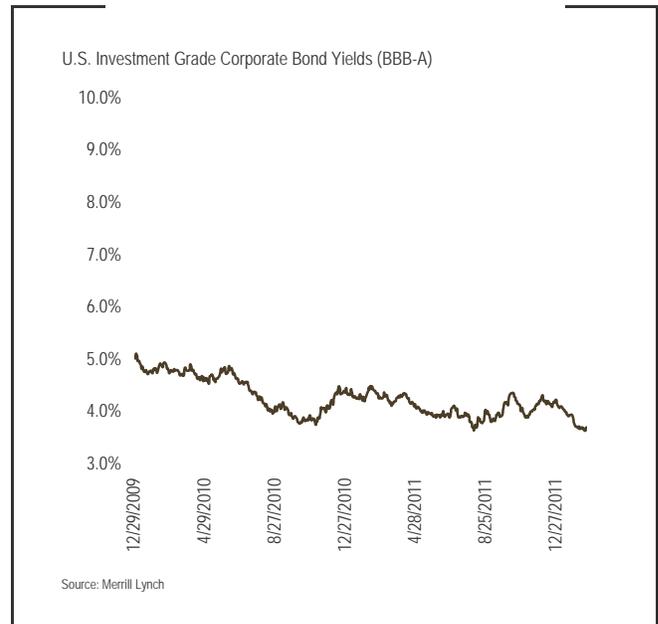
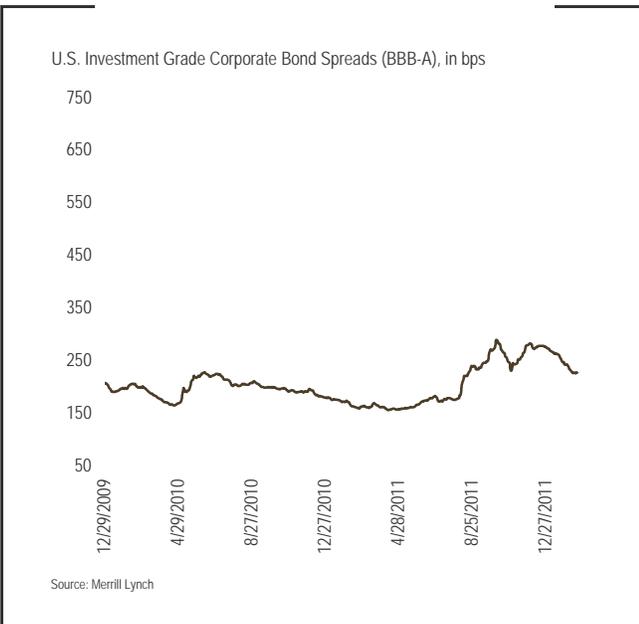
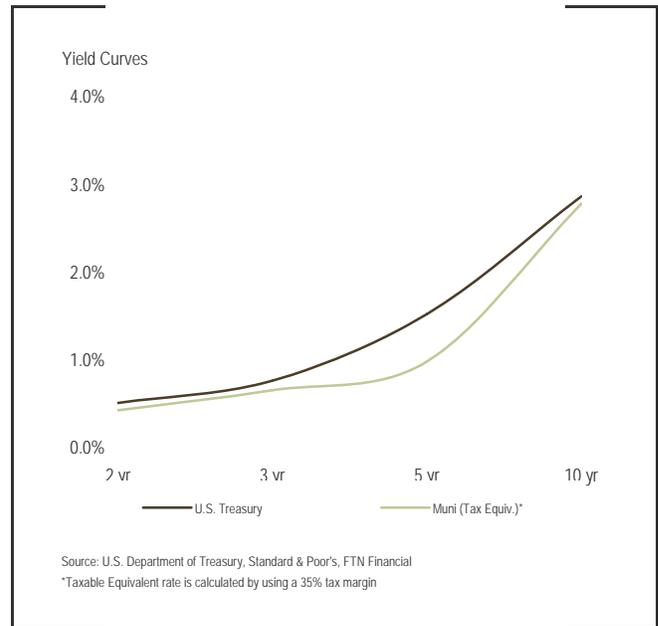
Bond Market Update

For the third straight week, U.S. Treasuries finished lower amid speculation European leaders will soon reach an agreement to provide an additional rescue package for Greece, reducing demand for safe-haven securities. The bond market also faces \$99 billion in new government debt sales next week, mostly focused on the intermediate-term portion of the yield curve. All else equal, market makers tend to push down prices before an auction as a way to underwrite bonds at more attractive levels. Meanwhile, analysts at Goldman Sachs, long known as bond market bears, acknowledged that yields have remained lower than they anticipated due to the combined effect of continued uncertainty in the eurozone area and the Federal Reserve's easy monetary policy of keeping short-term interest rates near zero. Although they expect bond yields to tick higher in coming months, they feel "some of the euro-area risk needs to be removed before we can recommend taking short positions" on Treasuries.

Separately, yields on investment-grade and high yield corporate debt have fallen considerably and spreads have tightened since the beginning of the year, according to Barclays, as investors react to solid corporate earnings, drifting away from the flight-to-safety trade. Reflecting this change in demand, mutual funds and ETFs focused on this sector of the bond market have experienced robust inflows over the past several months.

Issue	2.10.12	2.17.12	Change
3 month T-Bill	0.09%	0.09%	0.00%
2-Year Treasury	0.27%	0.29%	0.02%
5-Year Treasury	0.81%	0.88%	0.07%
10-Year Treasury	1.96%	2.01%	0.05%
30-Year Treasury	3.11%	3.16%	0.05%

Source: Bloomberg, FTN Financial, The Wall Street Journal, U.S. Department of Treasury.



Stock Market Update

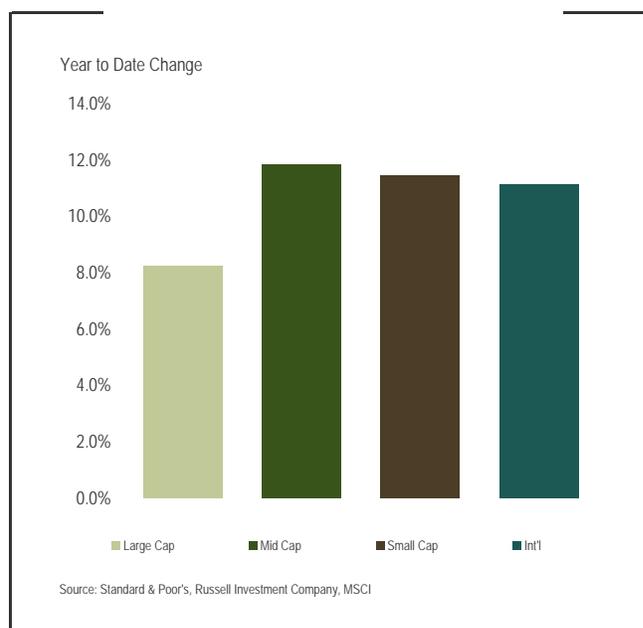
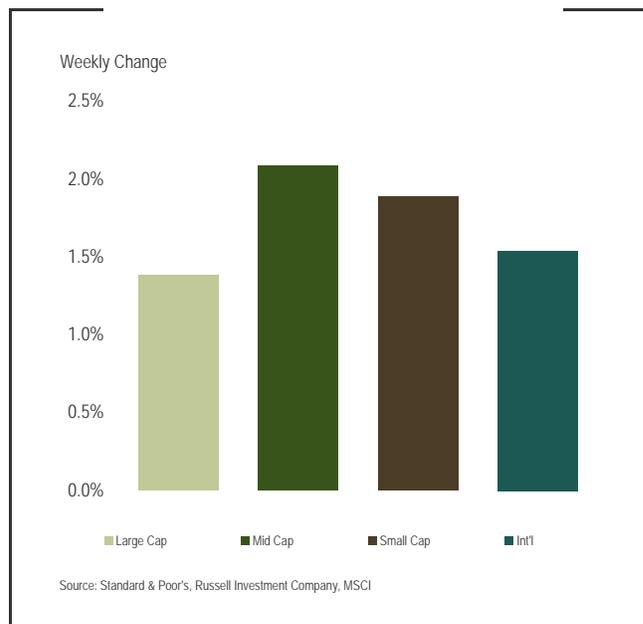
Stocks continued their positive run in 2012 this week with most major markets finishing higher for the five-day trading period. Domestic markets were especially strong Thursday on positive economic data, before settling back on Friday in anticipation of a key vote on a second Greek bailout over the weekend. Of note, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has not had a triple digit decline in the last 35 trading days, the longest streak in over a year. For the week, the Dow increased 1.0% to 12924.87, its highest level since May 19, 2008. The S&P 500 Index closed at 1361.23, up 1.4%, while the NASDAQ rose 1.6% to 2951.78.

International markets were mostly higher this past week. The Japanese stock market hit its highest level since August of 2011, up 4.9% for the week as the yen reached a four month low. The bank of Japan announced an expansion in its asset purchase program by increasing purchase of Japanese government bonds. The BoJ also announced firm inflation targets. People's Bank of China Governor Zhou Xiaochuan announced plans to expand the country's investment in Europe, saying "we have always been confident in the euro and its future." In Europe, data released on Wednesday showed the eurozone economy contracted slightly less than expected in the fourth quarter of 2011. GDP growth was actually positive in France (+0.2%). The FTSE 100 Index finished up 0.9% for the week while the CAC 40 Index increased 2.0%.

In corporate news, Apple closed over \$500 for the first time. Apple stock now represents 17% of the NASDAQ-100 Index. General Motors reported a record profit for 2011. While earnings in the fourth quarter were slightly below expectations, the stock rose 9% on the news. Applied Materials reported strong profits and raised guidance for this fiscal quarter as sales of chip making equipment increased 26%. Kellogg Company agreed to buy Procter & Gamble's Pringles unit.

Issue	2.10.12	2.17.12	Change
Dow Jones	12,801.23	12,949.87	1.16%
S&P 500	1,342.64	1,361.23	1.38%
NASDAQ	2,903.88	2,951.78	1.65%
Russell 1000 Growth	630.56	638.82	1.31%
S&P MidCap 400	964.49	984.6	2.09%
Russell 2000	813.33	828.68	1.89%
MSCI EAFE	1,524.97	1,548.44	1.54%
MSCI Small Cap	1,061.69	1,049.24	0.70%

Prices reflect most recent data available at the time of publication
Source: Bloomberg, Russell Investment Company, Standard & Poor's, Morgan Stanley Capital International, The Wall Street Journal, MarketWatch.



Alternative Investments Market Update

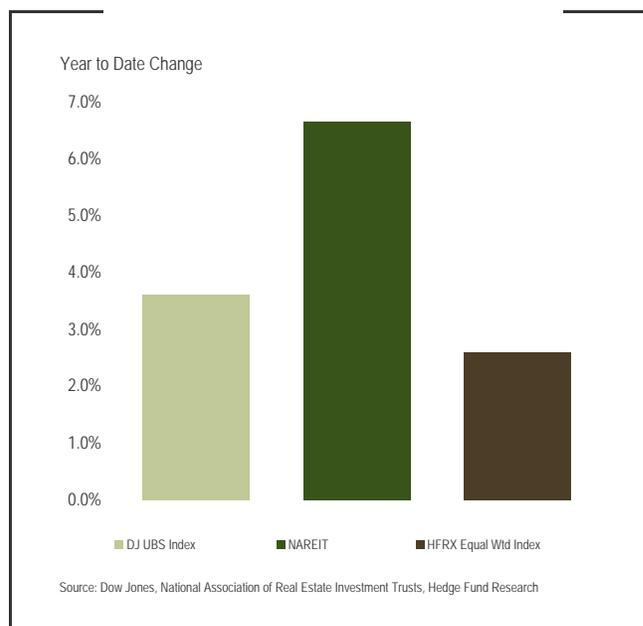
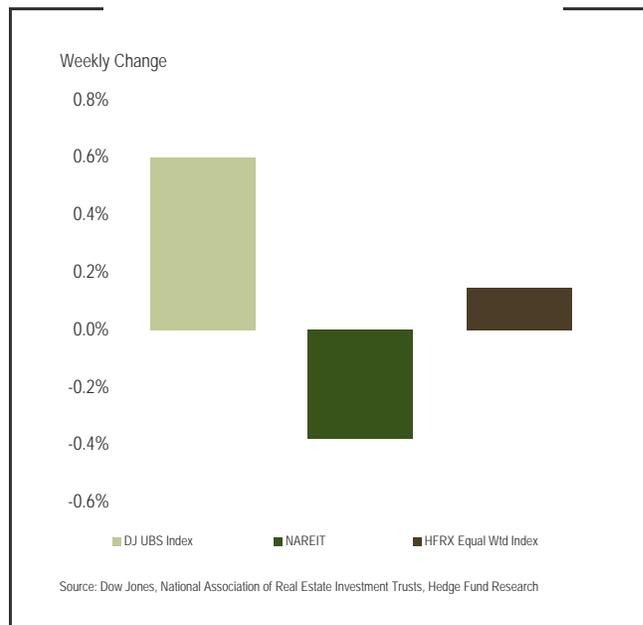
Due to fears of supply disruptions in Iran and rising confidence that Greece will finally secure a debt bailout deal by Monday, crude oil ended the week up 4.57%, settling at \$103.57 a barrel, its second consecutive weekly gain. Iran's top oil customers in Europe have already been making substantial cuts in their imports ahead of the European Union sanctions, which take effect in July, reducing flows to the continent in March by more than a third. In contrast, gold closed lower Friday as the precious metal lost some of its allure amid the speculation that European leaders would agree to oil sanctions. Gold ended the week pretty much flat, settling at \$1,723.80 an ounce, up 0.06%. Despite a less than stellar week for the metal, data from the World Gold Council revealed record investment demand lifted global gold demand to an all-time high last year, with China and India generating nearly 49% of demand. Those two countries also accounted for 55% of global jewelry demand for gold last year. Many analysts predict that China will emerge as the largest gold market in the world for the first time this year.

Unable to keep up with markets shaken by the eurozone debt crisis, a series of bad bets by hedge funds pushed the industry as a whole down 5.2% last year. According to Hedge Fund Research, 2011 marked the second year of losses in four for an industry that is used to chasing rapid gains from takeovers, and restructurings looked especially bad as the S&P 500 finished flat. Many experts attribute this to funds being too focused on the "medium term and not enough on price action." For example, some commodity funds that did not perform well last year were focused on the fundamentals, even when the short-term macro environment was not especially positive. Among those that fared the worst were long-short equity funds, which buy shares they expect to rise and sell short those expected to do worse, losing 8.3% last year. Hedge funds kicked off 2012 on the right foot, posting gains of 1.78% in January, but still significantly trailed the S&P 500, which was up 4.36% last month.

Issue	Previous Week	Current ¹	Change
Gold	1,722.70	1,723.80	0.06%
Crude Oil Futures	99.04	103.57	4.57%
Copper	385.65	372.05	-3.53%
Sugar	23.25	23.77	2.24%
HFRX Equal Wtd. Strat. Index	1,124.19	1,125.83	0.15%
HFRX Equity Hedge Index	1,033.22	1,034.43	0.12%
HFRX Equity Market Neutral	985.49	983.58	-0.19%
HFRX Event Driven	1,363.12	1,363.11	0.00%
HFRX Merger Arbitrage	1,506.88	1,513.16	0.42%
Dow Jones UBS Commodity Index	144.89	145.76	0.60%
FTSE/NAREIT All REIT	148.00	147.44	-0.38%

¹ Prices reflect most recent data available at the time of publication

Source: Dow Jones, National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts, Hedge Fund Research, Bloomberg, The Wall Street Journal, The International Monetary Fund.



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