

Economic and Market
Overview

**Fourth Quarter
2014**

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UMB Investment Management
appreciates this opportunity to
present our information to you.

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Economics

As we expected, the U.S. economy expanded rapidly in the second half of 2014 and we anticipate the momentum to continue throughout 2015. This year our economic theme is “Lift Off.” We are anticipating that real GDP in the U.S. will accelerate to a range of 2.7%- 3.1%. 2015 will be driven by the consumer as the labor market continues to strengthen and consumer confidence expands. Many of the domestic economic signals from both consumers and businesses are improving, supporting our theme.

The labor market, an important driver of consumer confidence, is the strongest we have seen in 15 years. In 2014 businesses created approximately three million new jobs, 25% more than in 2013. We expect continued strength in 2015 as there are 4.8 million unfilled jobs, one for every two unemployed. In addition, we think that job quality has improved. More and more workers are voluntarily separating from their positions, which indicates they can find a better job. The labor market should continue to tighten over the next few years, which will lead to some wage gains. Wage increases will lead to increased consumer spending and could also lead to sustainable core inflation. The impact of wage gains on core inflation in 2015 will likely be small and will be more than offset by the impact of lower energy prices, which could feed through to core inflation. Core personal consumption expenditures (PCE), the Fed’s preferred inflation index, is currently running at 1.4% - well below their target of 2.0%.

Consumer confidence continues to trend higher as the consumer’s financial picture improves. Key drivers in 2015 will be the labor market, higher stock and home prices and lower energy costs. As consumers’ household net worth increases and their debt burden is reduced due to lower interest rates, consumers may re-lever their balance sheets. Revolving debt has increased 4% in the past year and non-revolving debt has swelled 6% - both indicators of increased consumption patterns.

Businesses are in good shape as well. The manufacturing sector in the U.S. looks particularly strong, with continued strength in purchasing manager surveys and strong durable goods orders. Importantly, the new orders component of the Institute of Supply Management manufacturing survey, a great leading indicator for economic activity, suggests robust economic growth for the first half of 2015. Moreover, small businesses are feeling quite confident — as evidenced in both the highest reading in the NFIB small business optimism index since late 2006 and continued robust commercial and industrial (C&I) loan growth.

An important question at hand is whether the U.S. economy can decouple from the global economy. Europe continues to struggle along, however lower oil prices and hopeful monetary stimulus from the European Central Bank (ECB) will bolster financial markets and provide economic stimulus, keeping Europe from an official recession. Commodity-rich countries may also struggle as the strength of the dollar will put downward pressure on commodity prices. We do think decoupling can happen since we have seen it before; the late ‘90s is a perfect example.

The table below summarizes our 2014 forecasts:

	2015 Year-End Target
U.S. Real GDP Growth Rate	2.7% - 3.1%
Global Real GDP Growth Rate	2.8%
S&P 500 Price Target	2265
S&P 500 Operating EPS Growth	6.00%
Projected 10-Year Treasury Rate	2.50%

Equity Markets

The stock market (S&P 500) rose by 4.9% in Q4 and increased 13.7% in 2014, which was in line with our original forecast. Volatility increased in 2014 relative to 2013, a trend we expect to continue this year. There were five mini-corrections in the S&P 500 in 2014 versus only 3 in 2013. Moreover, volatility was even more pronounced in the Russell 2000, which tracks smaller capitalization stocks and the commodity markets, in particular oil. Oil prices ended the year down over 50% due to a supply glut, weakening global demand and OPEC's failure to stabilize prices. So, despite the 13.7% return in the S&P 500, one could say the market had a somewhat defensive tone.

We believe 2015 will be another positive year for the equity markets. Solid corporate earnings growth with reasonable valuations, especially compared to other asset classes, should lead to moderate returns in the 8-12% range. However, the risks are mounting. Valuation is no longer cheap by many metrics, lower energy prices could have a negative contagion impact that many are not forecasting, and international markets could remain weak while the ECB stimulus disappoints or is proven ineffective. Catalysts that we are tracking for the first half of 2015 are an announcement of a sizeable quantitative easing (QE) program by the ECB or some other targeted measure to improve bank lending or business confidence, a stabilization in oil prices to limit contagion fears, and a continuation of solid corporate earnings growth.

The range of our year-end price target for the S&P 500 is 2230-2300, or 8-12% higher than 2014. This year we anticipate 4% revenue growth and 6% earnings growth, which will lead to 10% returns in the equity market. That is, $4 + 6 = 10$. We reach the midpoint of our price target (2265) using our earnings estimate of \$130 on the S&P 500 and applying a price earnings multiple of just over 17x.

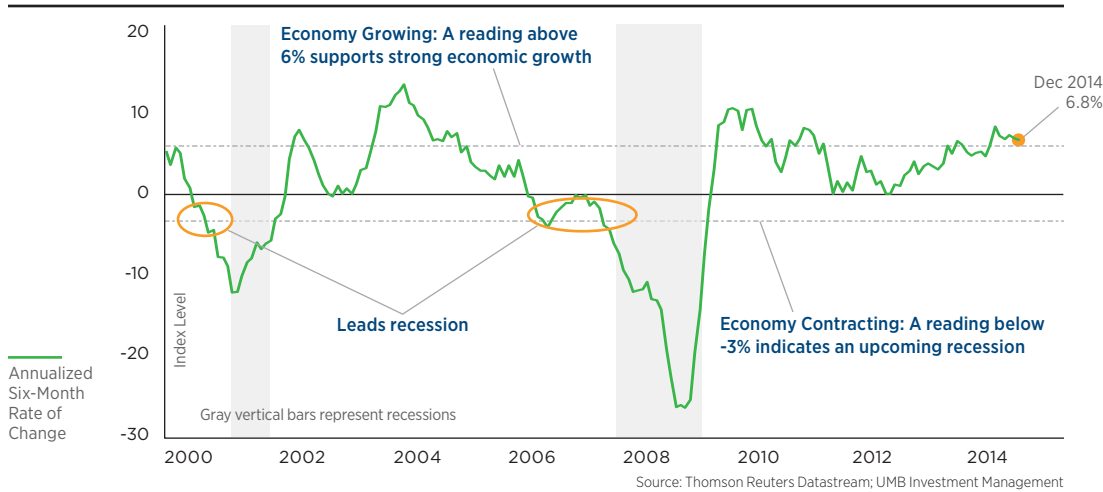
Fixed Income Markets

The "lower for longer" trade has taken over the US Treasury market. Steadily improving domestic economic data have been overwhelmed by global currency and interest rate trends. As the ECB heads towards its own period of QE, Euro area rates continue to plummet towards zero (and lower). Simultaneously, the U.S. Dollar continues to appreciate versus the Euro. This combination makes U.S. Treasury notes significantly more attractive to European (and global) investors - driving global flows into our bond markets and driving our rates steadily lower.

Consequently, the U.S. 10-year continues to establish lower trading ranges. Late in 2014, the trend began to gain momentum, driving the 10-year to 2.17%. As this was happening, oil was in the midst of a surprise selloff, experiencing a vicious plunge into the year end. These two factors exacerbated the sell-off that was already working its way through the Corporate and High Yield markets. (See page 9) Given the extreme volatility of interest rates and oil, and the surprising impact they've had on High Yield, we elected to remove most of our exposure to High Yield. We feel that intermediate-term volatility is likely to remain elevated until an ECB stimulus plan is announced and oil achieves some stability. We will look for those two factors to unfold before we seek a re-entry point for exposure to this sector. Given our optimistic outlook for the U.S. economy, we believe the long-term outlook for High Yield should be reasonably strong.

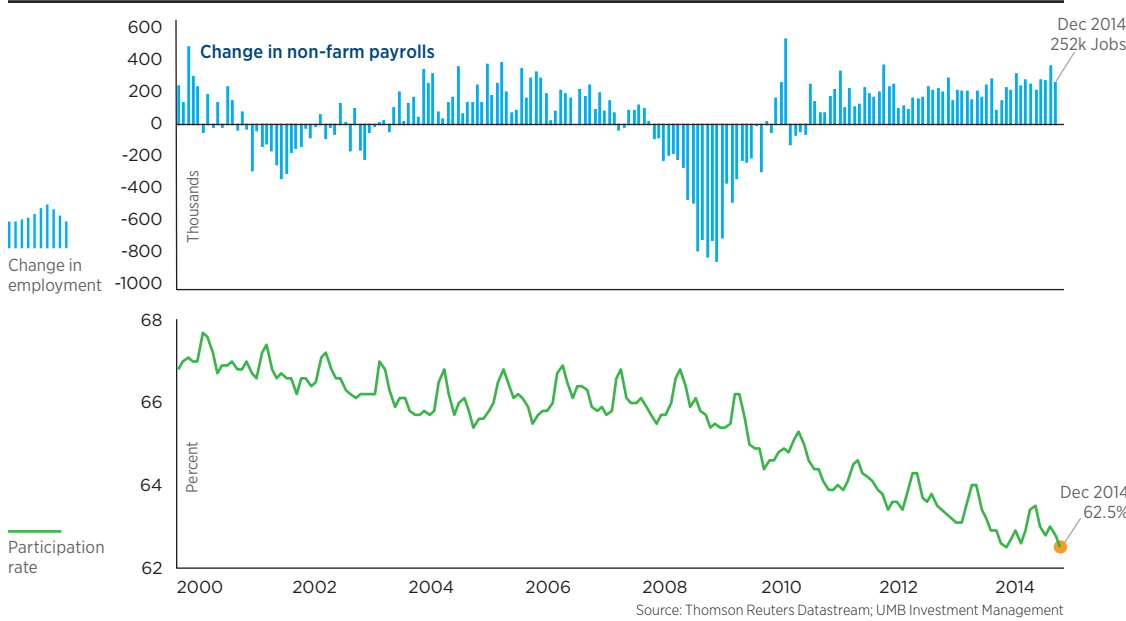
We expect domestic economic strength to lead the FOMC to begin liftoff of overnight rates during Q3 of this year. Rates should rise across the maturity spectrum in response to this action. It seems reasonable to estimate that the 10-year yield could move higher by year end. However, if the current global trends continue to build momentum, the rise could be more muted, keeping the 10-year in a lower range.

The Index of Leading Economic Indicators



- The Index of Leading Economic Indicators (LEI) is made up of 10 components, 7 of which are non-financial and 3 of which are financial.
- The indicator is up over 6% over the last six months annualized, which suggests the economy will grow at a robust rate.
- A rate of change of -3% is normally a good leading predictor of an upcoming recession — not on the horizon.
- The current LEI reading supports our 2015 real GDP forecast of 2.7–3.1% in the US.

Employment



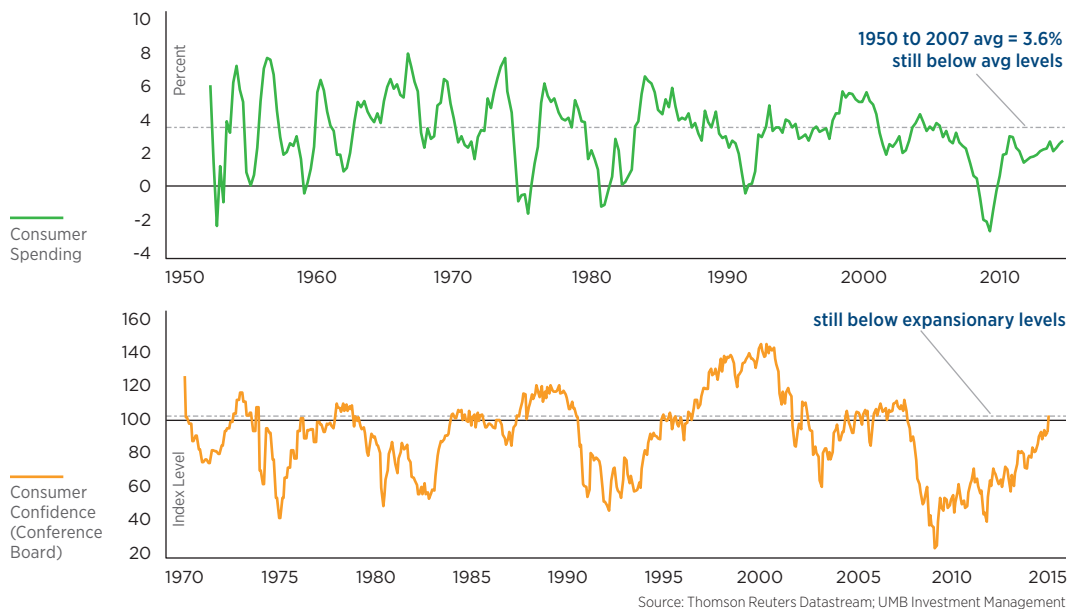
- Unemployment at the end of the year stands at 5.6%. Part of this improvement was due to the historically low participation rate, driven by a large number of retirees plus people going back to college, thus leaving the labor market.
- Payroll growth remained robust in the fourth quarter, averaging 289,000. Overall, we expect payroll growth will average 250,000 jobs per month this year — a slight increase compared to last year.
- We anticipate the unemployment rate to be at 5.5% by the end of 2015. However, the unemployment rate could tick higher due to increasing labor force participation as job openings are at a 13-year high.
- The improved employment landscape will support consumer confidence and thereby consumer spending. This should accelerate economic growth.

Core Inflation (PCE) and Wage Growth



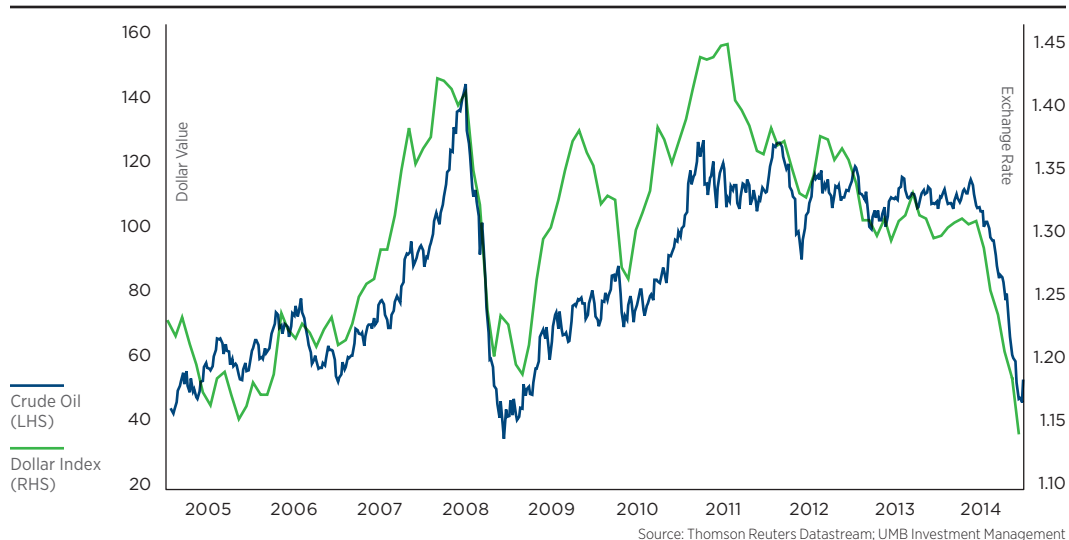
- The Fed’s measure for Inflation (core PCE) is well below its long-term “target” of 2.0%. Current core inflation, excluding food and energy, is at 1.4%. Core CPI, which has a heavy weight towards housing, is at 1.6%.
- We believe meaningful wage growth is necessary for sustainable inflation. Wages have been increasing at a moderate pace since the recovery began.
- Headline inflation will likely remain below 2.0% in 2015 due to lower energy prices. Core inflation could be subdued as well if wage growth is limited and/or lower oil prices feed through to other products and services.

Consumer



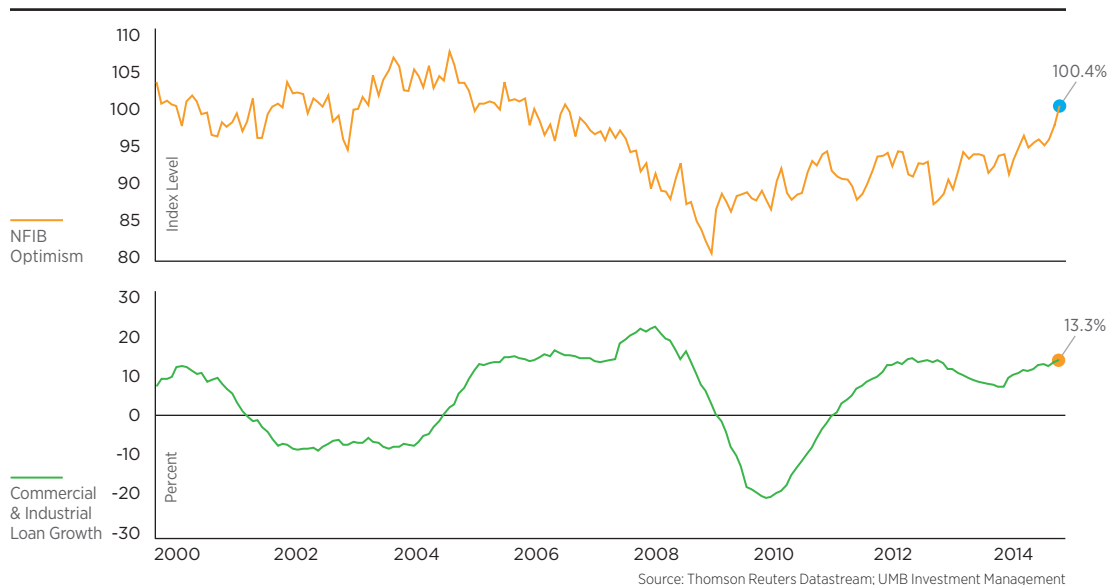
- Consumer spending has been relatively weak over the past 5 years. Consumer spending has grown at 3.6% since WWII compared to 2.2% over the past 5 years.
- We expect increased consumer spending will be driven by a higher level of consumer confidence in the economy based on lower oil prices, robust job growth, and several years of positive stock market performance.
- A wildcard for 2015 is whether consumers draw down savings or “re-lever” to spend. The current data suggests a re-leveraging cycle.
- We believe consumers will increase spending in 2015 at a faster rate than 2014.

Oil & the Dollar



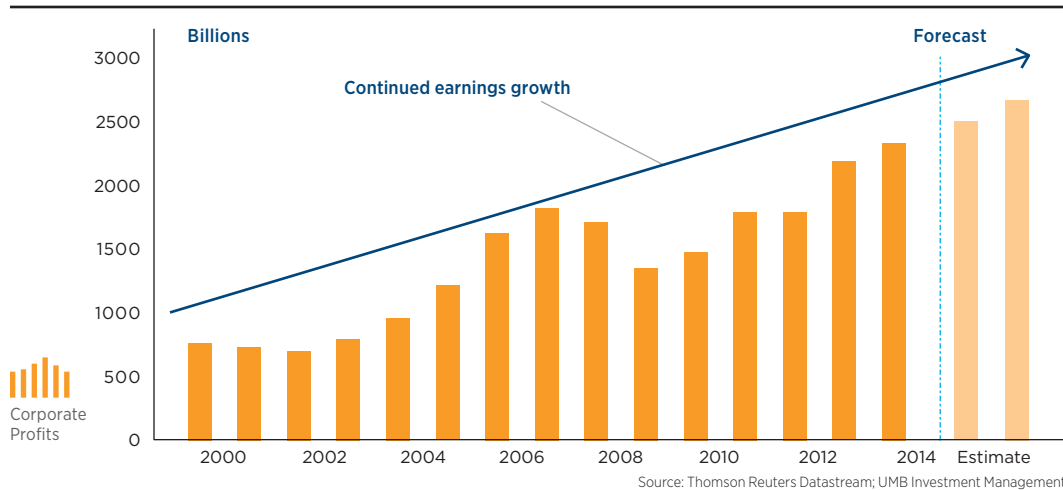
- There has been a strong inverse correlation between the dollar and oil prices over the last 10 years at -0.80.
- An increase in supply and lower global demand — due to weakening foreign economies — are largely responsible for the downturn in oil prices. A stronger dollar will also keep oil prices in check.
- Lower gasoline prices could serve as a “tax break” for consumers. Every 10 cent change at the price at the pump equates to a \$100 change in annual household discretionary income or \$10 billion to the economy.
- We contend that lower oil prices are good for the US economy and the oil markets are not signaling a meaningful global economic slowdown.

Corporate Health



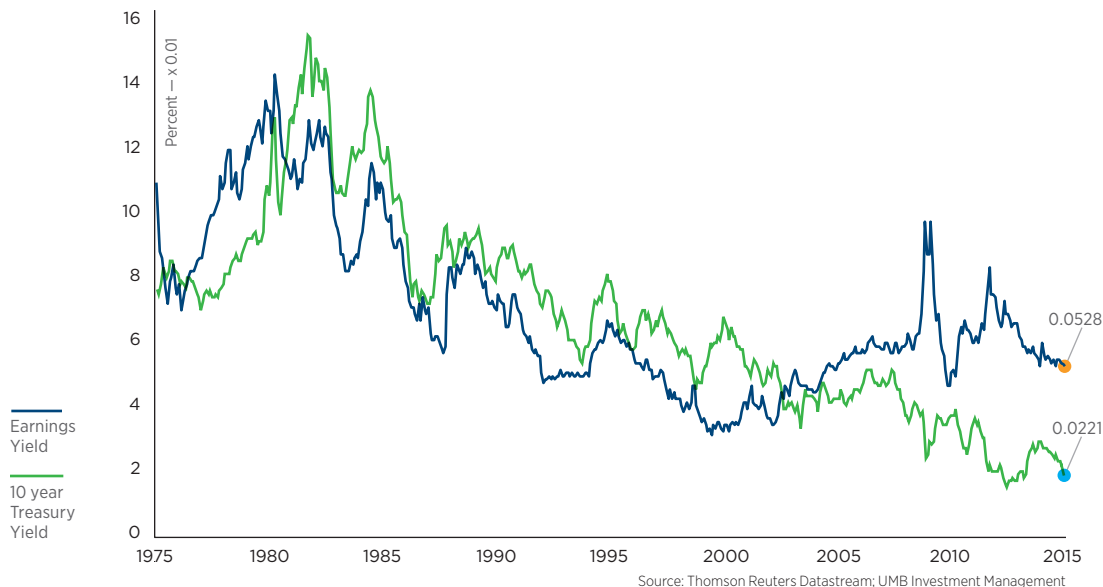
- Corporate America is healthy, as evidenced by strong corporate profits and the NFIB optimism index reaching the 100 level for the first time since 2006.
- As a result, we expect companies to invest in capital and labor to grow their business.
- Commercial and Industrial (C&I) loan growth remains robust and has accelerated recently to a rate over 11% year over year, indicating firms are reinvesting in their business.
- The improved health of corporate America supports our forecast of an improving economy and continued earnings growth.

Corporate Profits



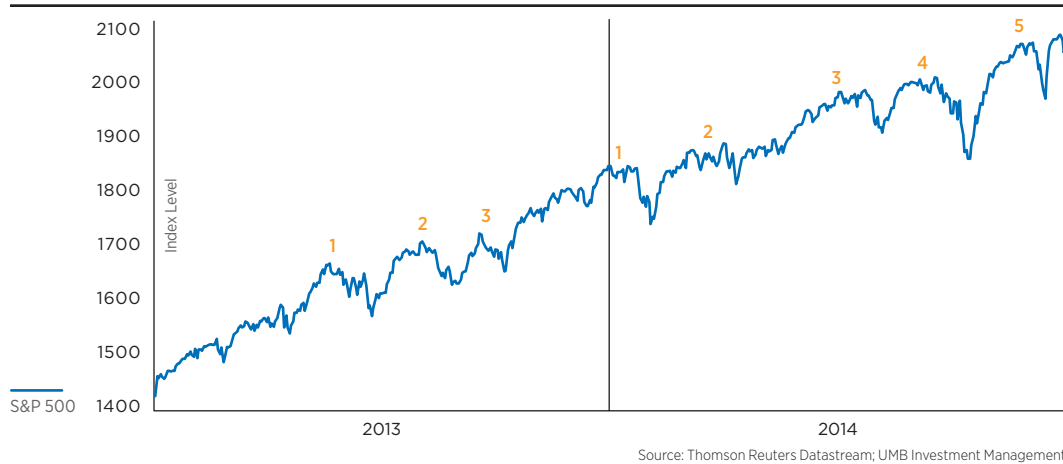
- The stock market is highly correlated to corporate earnings growth. We believe economic conditions are favorable for continued earnings growth.
- We expect 6% earnings growth in 2015, driven by 4% revenue growth, flat margins, and continued high levels of share repurchases which should add 2% to EPS growth.
- The biggest risks to our earnings forecast are lower oil prices and a global economic slowdown. The energy sector is 8% of the S&P 500 and around a third of S&P 500 company sales are generated internationally.
- Overall, the earnings backdrop supports our 8-12% return expectation for stocks in 2015.

Earnings Yield of the S&P 500 vs. 10 Year Treasury Yield



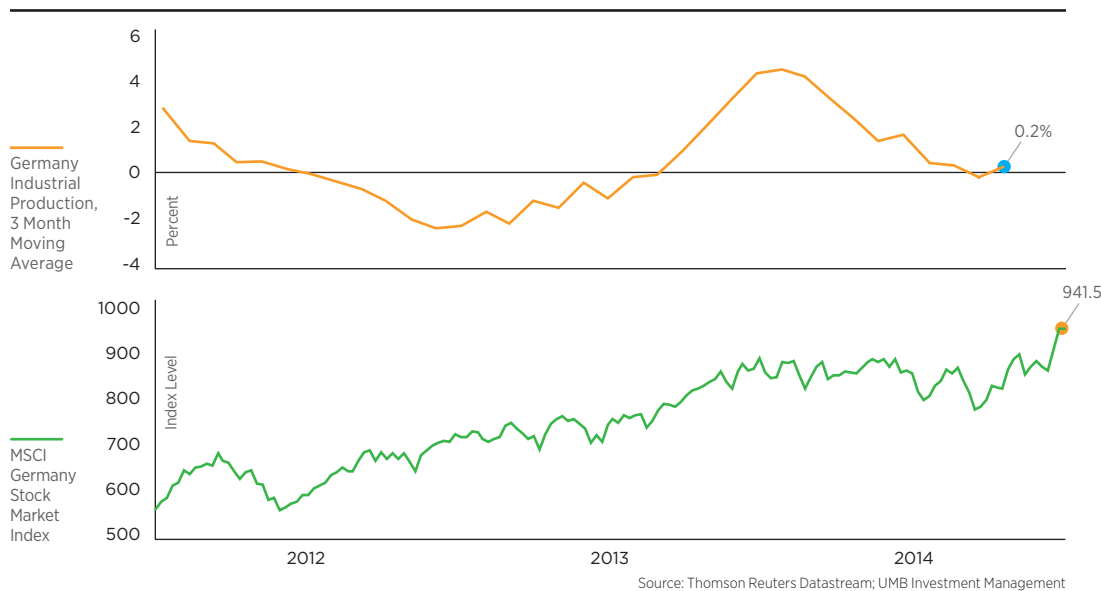
- Valuation, as measured by the earnings yield (the inverse of the price to earnings ratio) is attractive.
- The earnings yield on the S&P 500 is 5.3% compared to 2.2% on the 10-year Treasury yield. Historically, it is rare to see the earnings yield of the S&P 500 higher than the 10-year and this generally signals that the equity market is undervalued.
- Valuations on a P/E basis are in line with historical averages at around 16x.
- We expect slight multiple expansion in 2015. This supports our year-end price target on the S&P 500 of 2265 (17.4 x EPS of \$130).

Volatility, Mini Corrections



- Stock market corrections are a normal and healthy occurrence during a bull market. We have not experienced a technical correction of 10% in more than two years. We saw two meaningful corrections in 2010 and 2011.
- The market has become more volatile. There were five mini-corrections in 2014 versus only three in 2013.
- The drivers of increased volatility have been fears of a global economic slowdown, lower oil prices, and a policy mistake by the Fed. That is, the Fed starts to tighten policy despite a weaker global growth backdrop.

International Economies



- International economies continue to be weak. Growth in Germany, the largest and most important economy in Europe, is anemic. Industrial production and manufacturing activity is feeble.
- The German stock market, after falling sharply from the high reached in June, has recovered on ECB stimulus expectations.
- Monetary stimulus in Europe may bolster financial markets in local currency terms.
- A global slowdown could negatively impact U.S. corporate earnings as the average firm in the S&P 500 gets around a third of its revenue from international markets.

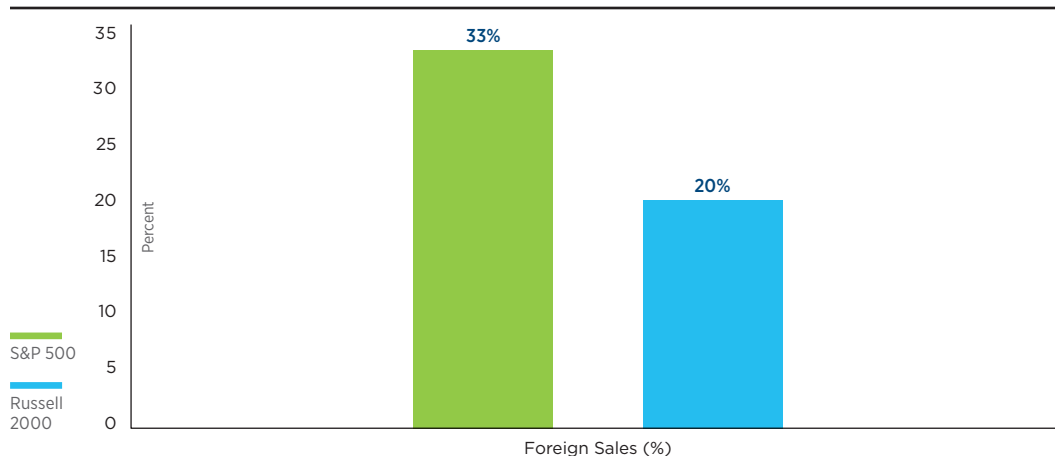
S&P 500 Year-to-Date Return

Index followed by sectors	Total Return % as of 12/31/14				
	1 Month	3 Month	YTD	3 Year	5 Year
S&P 500	-0.26	4.93	13.68	20.38	15.44
Utilities	3.52	13.19	28.98	13.92	13.34
Health Care	-1.32	7.48	25.34	27.83	19.37
Technology	-1.70	5.24	20.12	20.97	14.84
Consumer Staples	-1.04	8.15	15.98	17.44	16.07
Financials	1.79	7.22	15.18	26.19	13.33
Industrials	-0.16	6.74	9.80	21.19	17.53
Consumer Discretionary	0.97	8.74	9.68	24.79	21.37
Materials	-0.67	-1.80	6.91	15.56	11.22
Telecommunication	-6.13	-4.16	2.99	10.73	11.41
Energy	0.50	-10.68	-7.79	6.43	8.74

Source: Bloomberg

- The S&P 500 rose 4.9% in the fourth quarter, resulting in a 2014 gain of 13.7%.
- The market had a somewhat defensive tone in 2014 as the traditional safety sectors like utilities and health care are outperforming the more economically-exposed sectors like materials and energy.
- In 2015, we continue to expect an environment where active sector and stock selection will be critical to performance as the fed prepares to tighten policy and global economic growth remains uneven.

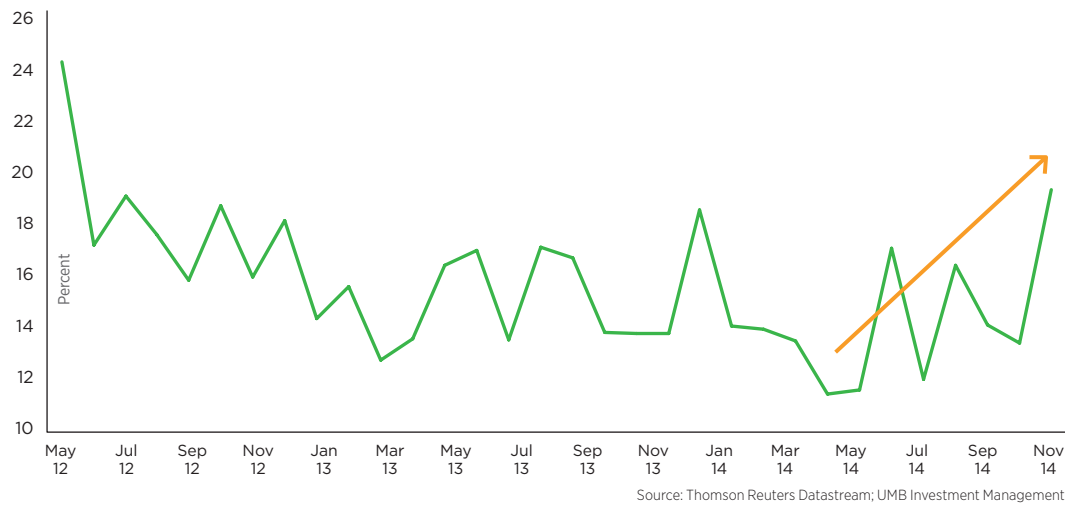
Foreign Sales as a % of Total Sales



Source: Bloomberg

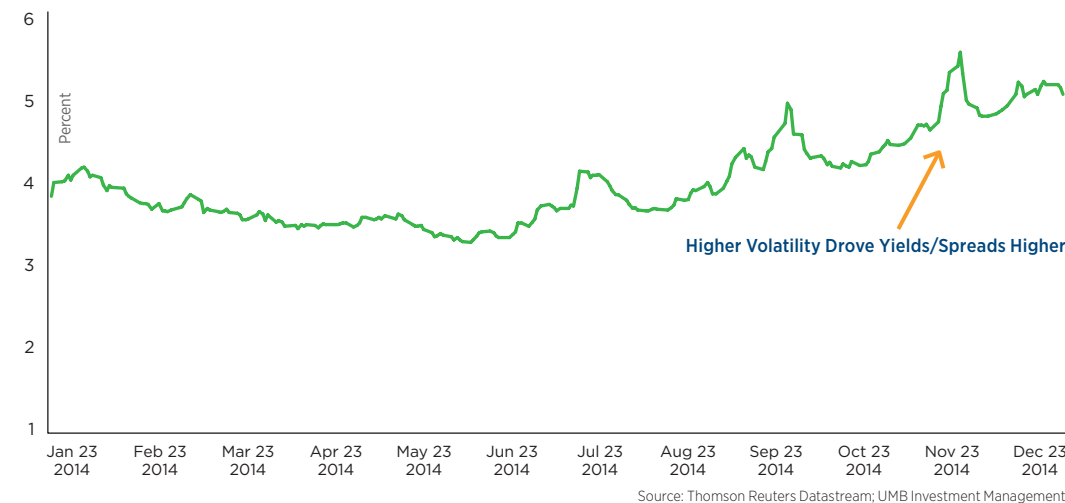
- International growth remains weak relative to growth in the U.S.
- Smaller capitalization stocks have less exposure to international economies than larger companies, which insulates them somewhat from global forces.
- We expect smaller capitalization stocks to outperform larger stocks in 2015 as growth in the U.S. will be strong versus the rest of the world and relative valuation is attractive.

Market Volatility



- Equity market volatility (left) drives high yield spreads (below).
- Low volatility has persisted throughout most of the last two calendar years, driving up values on the credit-based sectors of the bond market.
- Shifting trends in the global landscape and less clarity about the outlook from the Fed have begun to push volatility higher.
- Higher volatility leads to weak performance in the High Yield sector.

High Yield Spreads



- High Yield spreads have continued to widen.
- Fund flows into High Yield and related sectors have continued to be weak.
- Valuations have come under pressure .
- Higher spreads (yields) caused negative returns during the quarter and eroded most of the yield advantage for the year.

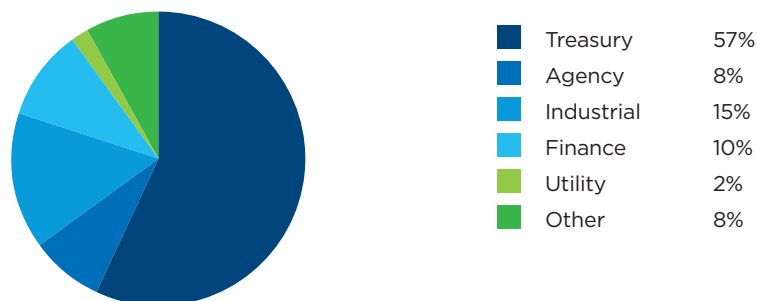
Performance

Index/Sector	3 Mo Return	YTD Return
Treasury Long	8.62	25.07
Gov Cred Long	5.60	19.31
Agency Long	5.31	19.56
Corp Long	3.98	15.73
U.S. Government	1.86	4.92
U.S. Gov/Credit	1.82	6.01
Aaa	1.81	5.34
MBS Fixed Rate	1.80	6.15
U.S. Aggregate	1.79	5.97
U.S. Credit	1.76	7.53
Baa	1.28	8.25
Agg Intermediate	1.20	4.12
Gov Cred Intermediate	0.89	3.13
Corp Intermediate	0.85	4.35
Agency Intermediate	0.70	2.05
1-3 Yr	0.19	0.64
US High Yield	-1.45	2.45

Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream; UMB Investment Management

- Falling rates and rising volatility pushed the long, high-grade sectors (Govt, AAA) to the top of performance ranks.
- Performance of Corporate sectors is slowing as volatility rises.
- High Yield returns were negative for the quarter yet again

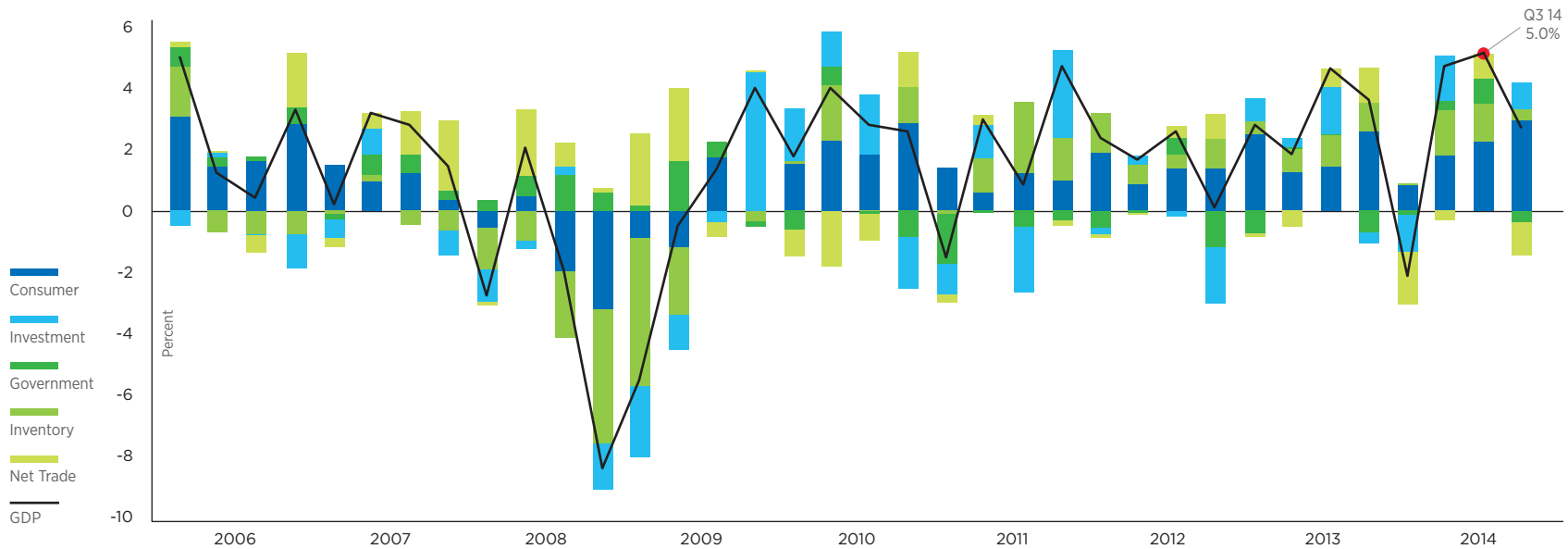
Barclays Intermediate Government/Credit Sector Weights



Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream; UMB Investment Management

- The Treasury sector dominates the performance of the broad indices.
- With Treasury rates at the bottom of a long-term range, and Credit/High Yield performance slowing, fixed returns will likely be quite modest going forward.
- MBS can be used to enhance yield carry, but valuations appear stretched and the sector (like High Yield) is susceptible to increases in volatility.

Contributions to GDP Growth



Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream; UMB Investment Management

% Contribution to GDP by Quarter

Component	13-Jun	13-Sep	13-Dec	14-Mar	14-Jun	14-Sep
Consumption	1.2	1.4	2.5	0.8	1.7	2.2
Investment	1.0	2.5	0.6	-1.1	2.9	1.2
Net Exports	-0.5	0.6	1.1	-1.7	-0.3	0.8
Government	0.1	0.0	-0.7	-0.1	0.3	0.8
Total	1.8	4.5	3.5	-2.1	4.6	5.0

Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream; UMB Investment Management

UMB GDP Forecast

Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year
2012	2.3 (A)	1.6 (A)	2.5 (A)	0.1 (A)	2.3 (A)
2013	2.7 (A)	1.8 (A)	4.5 (A)	3.5 (A)	2.2 (A)
2014	-2.1 (A)	4.6 (A)	5.0 (A)	3.0 (E)	2.4 (E)
2015	3.0 (E)	3.0 (E)	3.1 (E)	3.3 (E)	3.0 (E)

(A) = Actual, (E) = Estimate

Source: UMB Investment Management

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