

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

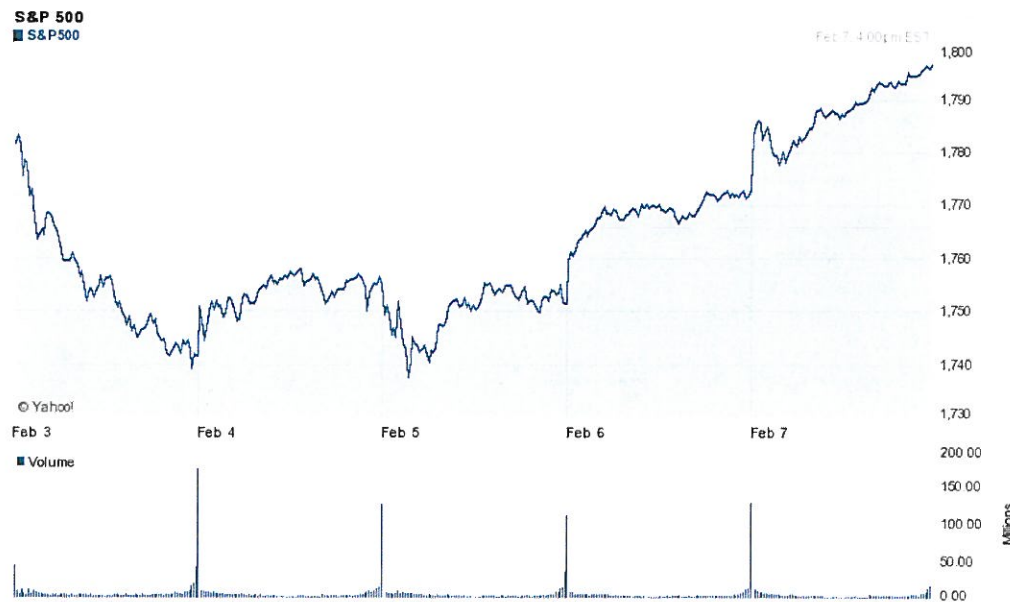
LEO A. PITRE, MBA, CFP®, CEP®

501 CANAL BOULEVARD • THIBODAUX, LOUISIANA 70301 • (985) 227-7114

APT Financial Management Weekly Advisor Analysis February 10, 2014

Don't Call It a Comeback

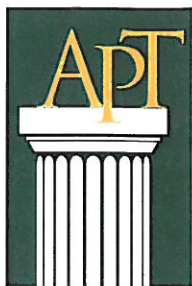
After being roughed up and bruised to begin 2014, U.S. equities punched their way off the ropes last week, posting gains of at least 1 percent in consecutive days for the first time in over a year. The S&P 500 rallied 2.6 percent in just the last two trading sessions making it the best two-day performance for the index since October 11 of last year, according to Bloomberg. After much talk of the S&P 500 nearing correction territory, defined as a decline of 10 percent or more, stocks are now only 2.8 percent lower than the all-time high set on January 15 of this year.



Source: Yahoo! Finance

Investors Find Silver Lining in Poor Jobs Report

The old adage, "Don't judge a book by its cover," applied perfectly to the January employment report released last week. Despite expectations for 180,000 new jobs, the actual result revealed an underwhelming 113,000 people found employment last month. Investors were further confounded by the unemployment rate declining to 6.6 percent on a low new jobs number, all while the labor participation rate increased. However, another element of the report investors likely found attractive was the 48,000 new construction and 21,000 manufacturing jobs created. Gains in these two sectors typically signifies a healthy economy. Furthermore, the unemployment rate survey, which surveys about 60,000 actual households versus the 400,000 businesses surveyed in the

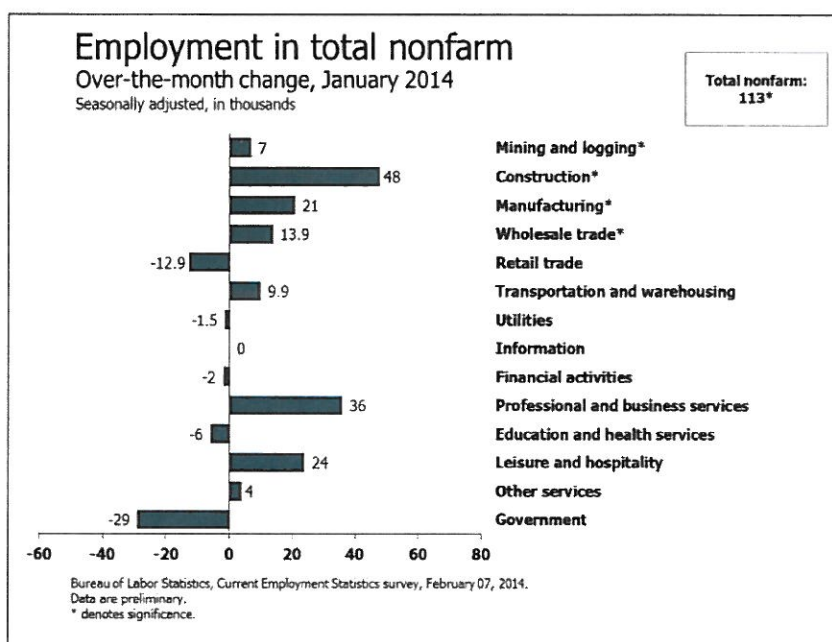


FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

LEO A. PITRE, MBA, CFP®, CEP®

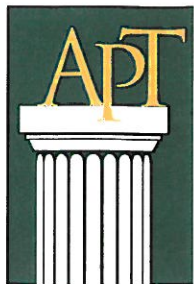
501 CANAL BOULEVARD • THIBODAUX, LOUISIANA 70301 • (985) 227-7114

payrolls report, showed the household measure of employment actually surged by 638,000 in January and has increased by 1.2 percent over the last three months making these last three months the strongest since 2000.



Solid Earnings Season Flying Under the Radar

While the business media has chosen to focus their attention on emerging market woes and other issues this month, corporate earnings have seemingly garnered less of the spotlight than usual. According to Bloomberg, of the two-thirds of S&P 500 companies that have reported their latest quarterly results, 76 percent have topped profit estimates and 66 percent have exceeded revenue estimates. The data would further suggest that profits, on average, increased more than 8 percent in the final quarter of 2013. Bespoke Investment Group points out that out of all the 1,100+ companies that have reported earnings, 65 percent have beaten their earnings estimates. Bespoke went on to say if this trend were to continue, this would be the strongest earnings beat rate seen since the fourth quarter of 2010.

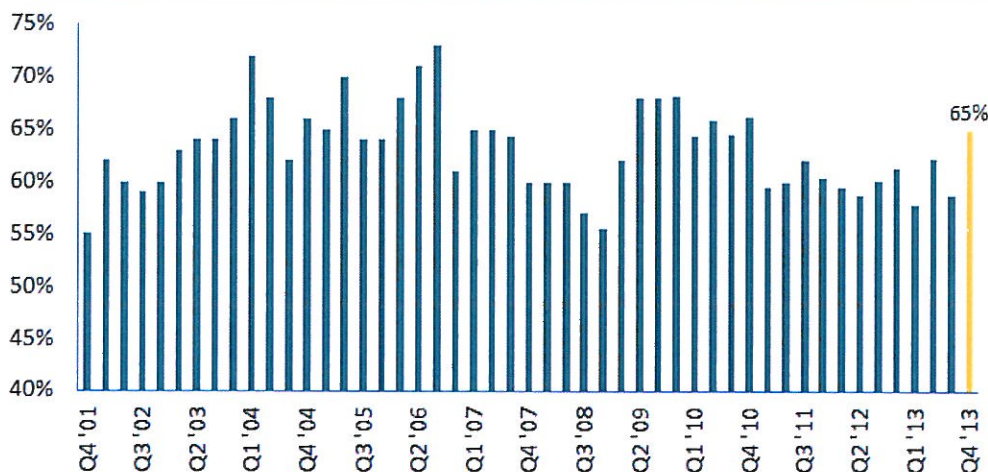


FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

LEO A. PITRE, MBA, CFP®, CEP®

501 CANAL BOULEVARD • THIBODAUX, LOUISIANA 70301 • (985) 227-7114

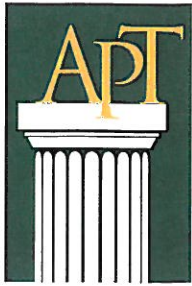
% of Companies Beating Earnings Estimates by Quarter: 2001-Present



Source: Bespoke Investment Group

Debt Ceiling Deja Vu

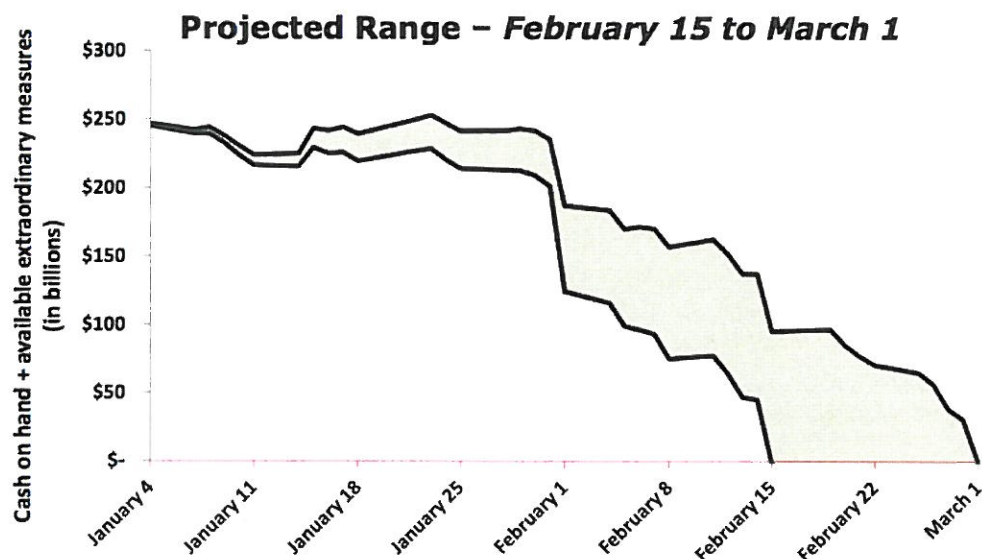
Here we go again. After the temporary suspension of the U.S. debt limit expired last week, Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew informed Congress he believes the U.S. will exhaust all remaining cash and run out of extraordinary measures to fund the government by February 27 of this year. The Bipartisan Policy Center echoed these same thoughts by estimating a range of time the U.S. government may run out of money to fund its obligations, as depicted below. While there doesn't appear to be the same posturing in Washington as the last time we faced this deadline, we can never be sure what will happen until a final resolution is reached that ensures the debt ceiling is once again raised. Not many on Wall Street appear worried an actual default on U.S. debt will occur, but it's worth nothing this time around the issue comes at an especially inconvenient part of the year. A high level of tax refunds are typically issued this month and Congress fittingly plans to be out of session from February 17-24.



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

LEO A. PITRE, MBA, CFP®, CEP®

501 CANAL BOULEVARD • THIBODAUX, LOUISIANA 70301 • (985) 227-7114



Note: The projections above are subject to substantial uncertainty and volatility resulting from economic performance, cash flow fluctuations, and other factors

Source: Bipartisan Policy Center Projections based off of Treasury's Daily, Monthly, and Direct Government Account Statements

WWW.BIPARTISANPOLICY.ORG



Best regards,

Leo A. Pitre, MBA, CFP®, CEP®

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.

Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC.

* This newsletter was prepared by Peak Advisor Alliance. Peak Advisor Alliance is not affiliated with the named broker/dealer.

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

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

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

* The economic forecasts set forth in the presentation may not develop as predicted and there can be no guarantee that strategies promoted will be successful.

* Past performance does not guarantee future results.

* You cannot invest directly in an index.

* Consult your financial professional before making any investment decision.

* To unsubscribe from the APT Advisor Analysis please [click here](#), or write us at 501 Canal Blvd. Thibodaux, LA 70301.

* To unsubscribe from the please reply to this e-mail with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line, or write us at 501 Canal Blvd. Thibodaux, LA 70301.

Sources:

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/101398937>

<http://chart.finance.yahoo.com/z?s=%5eGSPC&t=5d&q=l&l=on&z=l&a=v&p=s&lang=en-US®ion=US> (Chart)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-02-07/fed-tapering-seen-on-course-even-as-job-growth-trails-forecasts.html>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-02-07/payrolls-in-u-s-rise-less-than-forecast-jobless-rate-falls.html>

<http://www.frbsf.org/economic-research/publications/economic-letter/2004/august/two-measures-of-employment-how-different-are-they/>

http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-rOVxBn_Zdlc/UvTxUi78wFI/AAAAAAAAAY1Q/WkFmUji4s5Q/s1600/nonfarm-payroll-2014-02C.png

(Chart)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-02-07/u-s-index-futures-rise-before-jobs-data-as-expedia-gains.html>

<http://www.bespokeinvest.com/>

http://www.bespokeinvest.com/storage/eps%20beet%20207.png?__SQUARESPACE_CACHEVERSION=1391803146979 (Chart)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-02-07/lew-says-u-s-borrowing-authority-may-not-go-past-feb-27.html>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2013/01/07/this-is-what-would-happen-if-we-breach-the-debt-ceiling/>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/files/2013/01/debt-ceiling-date-bpc.jpg> (Chart)