

Commentary

August 19, 2019

The Markets

Don't let volatility get you down.

Last week was the 40th anniversary of *BusinessWeek's* infamous cover headline: 'The Death of Equities: How inflation is destroying the stock market.' The publication's current iteration, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, reported it is still getting grief over the headline and subsequent bull market. In its defense, stocks trended lower for about three years after the magazine hit newsstands.

Since its 1982 low point, "The total return on the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index...with dividends reinvested has been nearly 7,000 percent. Not bad for a corpse."

Investors worried back in 1979, just as they do today.

At that time, the Federal Reserve was waging a war against inflation. Late in the summer of 1979, the annual average inflation rate in the United States was 10 percent. Homebuyers were locking in mortgage rates of 11.1 percent on 30-year fixed mortgages and feeling good about it as mortgage rates rose to 18.5 percent by October 1981.

Today, investors aren't worried about inflation. They are concerned about the U.S.- China trade war, the pace of global economic growth, the influence of monetary policy, negative interest rates...the list goes on.

Recent stock market volatility reflects those concerns.

It's possible we're nearing the end of the longest bull market for U.S. stocks. Further inversion of the yield curve last week suggested recession could be ahead. However, it's unlikely to arrive immediately.

If a recession does arrive, remember economic downturns are temporary and are relatively short. The Great Recession lasted 18 months and it was the longest since WWII. Typically, a recession averages six to 16 months, according to the *Minneapolis Federal Reserve*.

Right now, there is reason to believe the U.S. economy still has some oomph. *Barron's* reported, "The economy is obviously slowing, but not necessarily heading for recession. That means it is time for caution, not panic."

Data as of 8/16/19	1-Week	Y-T-D	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Standard & Poor's 500 (Domestic Stocks)	-1.0%	15.2%	1.7%	9.9%	7.9%	11.4%
Dow Jones Global ex-U.S.	-1.5	4.7	-5.7	2.1	-1.0	2.8
10-year Treasury Note (Yield Only)	1.5	NA	2.9	1.6	2.4	3.5
Gold (per ounce)	1.2	18.2	28.4	4.1	3.2	5.0
Bloomberg Commodity Index	-0.8	0.1	-7.5	-3.6	-9.3	-4.8

S&P 500, Dow Jones Global ex-US, Gold, Bloomberg Commodity Index returns exclude reinvested dividends (gold does not pay a dividend) 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, MarketWatch, 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.

UPCYCLING IS MODERN DAY ALCHEMY. When people take items that have been discarded and turn them into something of greater value, it's known as upcycling. Repurposing objects is appealing to people who want to live sustainably, people who embrace creativity, and/or people who like to make things...it's got a lot of appeal for a lot of people.

Here are a few interesting upcycling projects you may encounter as you travel:

Bird Calls Phone. A Maryland city wanted an interactive public art exhibit. The artist took a mint-condition payphone and wired it to play calls of local birds when dialed. (Takoma Park, MD)

People's Bike Library of Portland. It's an iconic sculpture that is a tribute to the popularity of cycling, as well as a bike rack and a bike 'lending library.' (Portland, OR)

Carhenge. It's built to resemble Stonehenge, but there is no mystery surrounding Carhenge in western Nebraska. The arrangement of repurposed vintage autos was built in the memory of the designer's father. (Alliance, NE)

The Heidelberg Project. This project isn't a single piece of art; it's an open air urban art environment. The artist and children from the neighborhood decorate vacant houses. Heidelberg Houses have included: Doors of Opportunity, The Taxi House, The Clock House, Obstruction of Justice, and others. (Detroit, MI)

City Museum. A 10-story, 100-year-old shoe factory in St. Louis was transformed into an urban playground using salvaged materials. It features, "a sky-high jungle gym making use of two repurposed airplanes, two towering 10-story slides...a rooftop Ferris wheel," and more. (St. Louis, MO)

It has been said that art is in the eye of the beholder. It's also in the portfolios of some investors. The 2018 U.S. Trust Insights on Wealth and Worth® survey found, "...financially driven collectors are increasingly incorporating art into their long-term wealth plans."

Weekly Focus – Think About It

"Art is something that makes you breathe with a different kind of happiness."

--Anni Albers, Textile artist

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- * All indexes referenced are unmanaged. Unmanaged index returns do not reflect fees, expenses, or sales charges. Index performance is not indicative of the performance of any investment.
- * The Dow Jones Global ex-U.S. Index covers approximately 95% of the market capitalization of the 45 developed and emerging countries included in the Index.
- * 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 afternoon gold price as reported by the London Bullion Market Association. The gold price is set twice daily by the London Gold Fixing Company at 10:30 and 15:00 and is expressed in U.S. dollars per fine troy ounce.
- * The Bloomberg 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 Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA), commonly known as "The Dow," is an index representing 30 stock of companies maintained and reviewed by the editors of The Wall Street Journal.
- * The NASDAQ Composite is an unmanaged index of securities traded on the NASDAQ system.
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- * Yahoo! Finance is the source for any reference to the performance of an index between two specific periods.
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