

First Quarter 2014 - Commentary & Perspective

Executive Summary

First Quarter Drivers of the Market: Consolidation of 2013 market gains, geopolitical concerns about Russia, Fed policy and leadership changes, and slowdown of economic growth attributed to the weather.

Equities: The market endured a rotational correction that we believe was needed after the major gains in 2013.

Our long term view: If history is any guide, the economy should continue its expansion into 2015.

Stuck in the Mud

On the surface it looks like not a whole lot happened in the global markets during the first quarter of 2014. The markets ended the quarter largely mixed: the S&P 500 was up 1.80%, the Russell 2000 gained 1.12%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average declined 0.15%. Overseas markets were also mixed: the MSCI EAFE Index was up 0.83, MSCI Europe gained 2.14%, while emerging markets continued to suffer with the MSCI Emerging Market Index down 0.54%. Bonds and commodities both outperformed stocks. The Barclays Aggregate Bond Index and High Yield Index advanced 1.84% and 2.98% respectively, while the S&P GSCI commodity index advanced 2.62%.

However, one needs to look a little deeper to gain perspective on what really happened during the quarter as it was anything but dull. The S&P 500 endured a 5.8% decline from January 15th to February 3rd, its largest correction since April to June 2012. In addition, the market endured a rotational correction that resulted in some aggressive sectors, such as biotech and internet stocks, declining much more sharply than the major indices. All told, given the major gains achieved in 2013, we view a consolidation in the first quarter to be a win for the markets.

The main drivers of the markets during the quarter were a consolidation of the 2013 market gains, geopolitical concerns surrounding Russia's annexation of the Crimea in Ukraine, continued Fed tapering and a changing of the guard at the Federal Reserve, and a slowdown in economic growth attributed to the weather. Markets consolidate by either declining or through time with sideways prices. So far it looks to us as if the market is consolidating through time with little price damage. The markets traversed a lot of ground in the first quarter but ended up with little gains to show for it. For example, during the quarter the Dow Jones Industrial Average saw 13 days where it exceeded

100 point rallies, and another 10 days in which it suffered 100 point or greater losses. Overall the Dow Jones Industrial Average traversed 5601 points on a closing basis, yet finished the quarter within 120 points of where it started. A reason for the rotational correction is believed to be tax selling with the income tax deadline on April 15th. This is the first tax season of meaningful higher taxes attributed to the combination of Obama Care and the fiscal deal struck at the end of 2012. We believe investors are feeling a little sticker shock from the hike in taxes and that many are closing positions and taking cash out of the market in order to pay their taxes.

Geopolitics took center stage during the quarter. Russia didn't allow the good feelings that came along with the successful hosting of the Olympics to last long as it invited the condemnation of the global community when it exerted its influence on the Ukraine. Russia seems to be methodically trying to rebuild both its status as a world power and its empire. The annexed Crimean area of the Ukraine is the third piece of the old Soviet Union that Russia has brought back into its fold. Russia moved swiftly. It took less than 30 days from the impeachment of former Ukrainian President Victor Yanukovich on February 22nd for Crimea to become a republic in the Russian Federation through a referendum, a vote of the Russian Duma's upper and lower houses, and the presidential seal of approval. The crisis may not be over yet. If Russia wants the whole of the Ukraine there does not seem to be much the global community can do about it except threaten economic sanctions. The Russian intervention put investors on edge but historically these types of geopolitical crisis events rarely determine the course of the stock markets. Thus, the current Ukraine crisis doesn't change the outlook for the market which, as always, is dependent on the underlying strength in the technical and fundamental picture.

The biggest event during the first quarter and the one likely to have the longest lasting impact on the economy and markets is the changing of the guard at the Federal Reserve with Janet Yellen stepping into the role of Chair of the Board of Governors. This Fed Chair has the monumental task of reigning in quantitative easing without jeopardizing the markets and economic expansion. Historically the markets haven't treated new Fed Chairs well — they are most often challenged early on in their tenure. So far however, the market has reacted well to the Fed's tapering activities. The Fed has tapered their bond buying program from \$85 billion a month to \$55 billion a month and they appear on target to end the program by year-end. The latest comments from the Federal Reserve have been a bit more hawkish with a target fed funds rate of 1% at the end of 2015 and 2.25% in 2016. As a result, the yield curve flattened with the shorter maturity bond yield rising. Credit conditions have remained firm even in the face of continued tapering and a more hawkish tone coming from the Federal

Reserve. Investment grade and high yield corporate debt remain well supported and continue to trade with healthy bids under the market and plenty of liquidity. We are watching the credit market closely as it usually deteriorates prior to the overall market and so far it has remained very resilient.

The budget battles in Washington failed to derail the U.S. economy in the fall, but Mother Nature succeeded this winter. According to the National Weather Service, temperatures from December through February were the coldest in 20 years, and a blizzard prolonged winter's grip on the Northeast through March. The economy suffered a brief soft patch attributed to the weather, but recent data suggest the economy has emerged from winter's chill and is again heating up.

Over the past 65 years, according to InvesTech Research, seven of the past 10 bear markets have been accompanied by an economic recession. Consumer spending accounts for roughly two-thirds of GDP growth and it's not surprising that falling consumer confidence has often preceded the onset or start of a recession. It's a good thing we don't expect to see that happening anytime soon as the Conference Board's measure of Consumer Confidence recently moved out to new recovery highs. Additional evidence of a resilient economy can be found in the decidedly positive message coming from another recovery high in the Index of Leading Economic Indicators (LEI). Since 1960, the average lead time between a peak in the LEI and the start of an economic recession has exceeded 11 months. If history is any guide, we believe the economy should continue its expansion into 2015.

Q1 Portfolio Analysis & Performance

U.S. Sector Opportunity

Top Contributors

- iShares U.S. Pharmaceuticals
- iShares PHLX Semiconductor

Top Detractors

- iShares U.S. Broker Dealers
- First Trust Internet

The Sector Opportunity portfolio has developed solid overweights in technology and health care, sectors which have led the market higher. The portfolio's technology holdings include broad technology (IYW), internet (FDN), semiconductors (SOXX), and the NASDAQ 100 (QQQ). Health care holdings include broad health care (XLV), pharmaceuticals (IHE), biotechnology (IBB), and medical devices (IHI). The most significant addition to the portfolio has been basic materials (IYM), which since August has been slowly gaining relative strength

Past performance is not indicative of future results.

*Allocations will vary according to client account guidelines and restrictions.

vs. the S&P 500 apparently driven largely by the chemicals industry. Semiconductors, broad health care, and pharmaceuticals were the biggest contributors for the quarter. Internet, broker dealers, and the NASDAQ 100 were the biggest detractors. What the portfolio owns and what it does not own are equally significant. As of the end of the quarter, the Sector Opportunity portfolio did not own any consumer staples, utilities, energy, or consumer discretionary. Of particular note is our complete avoidance of consumer discretionary, which was our largest sector holding for most of 2013 and which is now mired in a sustained relative downtrend. Energy, however, may be making a relative strength base after poor relative performance in 2013 and could be a candidate for addition to the portfolio in the coming weeks. The portfolio's current sector weightings are as follows: Technology 34.0%, Health Care 32.0%, Financials 15.0%, Basic Materials 12.0%, Industrials 4.0%, and Cash 3.0%.

U.S. Style Opportunity

Top Contributors

- PowerShares S&P 500 High Beta
- iShares Russell Midcap Growth

Top Detractors

- iShares Russell 2000 Growth
- iShares S&P 500 Growth

The Style Opportunity sleeve is evolving from an exclusive focus on growth stocks toward value and larger capitalization. As we began 2014, the Style Opportunity sleeve was exclusively focused on growth across all capitalization levels (large, mid, and small-cap growth). However, in February our relative strength models began to show value stocks to be on the rise. Our first value-oriented addition was the S&P 500 High Beta (SPHB), a newer addition to our Style ETF universe. Despite what you may infer from its name, the S&P 500 High Beta ETF is composed of mainly value stocks, with financials and energy being the largest overweights. What might be more surprising is that Morningstar puts the S&P 500 High Beta in the mid cap value equity style box. Early in March, the Russell Mid Cap Value ETF (IWS) began to rise in our rankings, at which time we established a position. Thus, since February, the portfolio's substantial overweights in large cap growth and mid cap growth have been reduced and moved into value. Value stocks right now have established short-term relative strength that, if it continues, will cause them to dominate the Style Opportunity portfolio fairly quickly. Russell Midcap Growth (IWP) and the S&P 500 High Beta (SPHB) were the largest contributors for the quarter, while the S&P 500 Growth (IVW) and Russell 2000 Growth (IWO) were the largest detractors. The portfolio's latest trades have shifted the portfolio's stance towards value and growth as more neutral, and they have had the effect of adding exposure to energy, utilities, and in particular financials. The portfolio remains fully invested, as cash is down to only 3%.

This is not a recommendation to buy or sell a particular security. Please see attached disclosures.

International Opportunity (Developed, Emerging & Frontier)

Top Contributors

- iShares MSCI Spain
- iShares MSCI Italy

Top Detractors

- S&P 500 SPDR ETF
- Guggenheim China Small Cap ETF

International equity markets have displayed unusual concentration in their relative strength recently, but that concentration may slowly be beginning to end. Europe and the U.S. have been at the top of our relative strength rankings since last summer, and while they remain near the top, we have seen a few new entrants. India (EPI and SCIF) and the Frontier Markets (FM) have displayed relative strength in the international sphere, and they are the newest additions to the portfolio. India in particular appears to be benefitting as markets anticipate that a pro-business government will be installed as a result of the May elections. Italy (EWI) and Spain (EWP) were the strongest contributors during the quarter, while the S&P 500 (SPY) and China Small Cap (HAO) were the biggest detractors. With the notable exception of India, the portfolio has avoided emerging markets. While emerging markets have seen a rally in the past few weeks, they will need to show more sustained relative strength in order to rise in our rankings and prove that their latest surge is something more than a bear market rally. The portfolio's current regional weightings are as follows: Europe 67.0%, Asia Emerging Markets 14.0%, United States 10.0%, Frontier Markets 5.0%, and Cash 4.0%.

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The Dow Jones Industrial Average is a stock market index that shows how 30 large publicly owned companies based in the U.S. have traded during a standard trading session in the stock market.

The MSCI EAFE Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure the equity market performers of developed markets outside the U.S. and Canada.

The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a freefloat-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity market performance in the global emerging markets.

The Russell 3000® Index measures the performance of the 3,000 largest U.S. companies based on total market capitalization, which represents approximately 98% of the investable U.S. equity market.

The Barclays U.S. Government and Credit Bond Index measures the performance of U.S. dollar denominated U.S. Treasuries, government-related, and investment grade U.S. corporate securities that have a remaining maturity of greater than 1 year. In addition, the securities have \$250 million or more of outstanding face value, and must be fixed rate and non-convertible.

The Barclays U.S. Corporate High-Yield Index covers the USD-denominated, non-investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market. Securities are classified as high-yield if the middle rating of Moody's, Fitch, and S&P is Ba1/BB+/BB+ or below.

Outlook

The bull market's resilience will likely be tested in the second quarter, when we feel seasonal and cyclical headwinds will start to intensify. Having surpassed the 5-year mark in early March, the current cyclical bull is older than the average 3.8 year average bull dating back to 1932. While bull markets don't die from old age, we may be in the later innings of the current cyclical bull market. Risks are rising as valuations are stretched and the political tensions rise as we approach the mid-term elections. The second and third quarters of the mid-term election year are the only quarters in the four year election cycle to average successive declines. In addition, the average correction in mid-term years dating back to 1934 has been 21.7%. Historical precedent suggests we should be especially wary of a possible correction beginning sometime in the second or third quarter. The markets are currently experiencing a rotational correction, but the underlying technical and conditional factors remain supportive. If these conditions deteriorate into a larger correction, it should reset investor expectations and relieve the valuation concerns, which could set the stage for much higher targets in 2015 and 2016.

The Barclays 30-Year U.S. Treasury Bellwethers Index is a universe of Treasury bonds, and used as a benchmark against the market for long-term maturity fixed-income securities. The index assumes reinvestment of all distributions and interest payments.

The Barclays 10-Year U.S. Treasury Bellwethers Index is a universe of Treasury bonds, and used as a benchmark against the market for long-term maturity fixed-income securities. The index assumes reinvestment of all distributions and interest payments.

The Barclays 5-Year Municipal Bond Index is the 5 Year (4-6) component of the Municipal Bond index. It is a rules-based, market-value-weighted index engineered for the tax-exempt bond market. The index tracks general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, insured bonds, and pre-refunded bonds rated Baa3/BBB- or higher by at least two of the ratings agencies.

The Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index covers the U.S. investment-grade fixed-rate bond market, including government and credit securities, agency mortgage pass-through securities, asset-backed securities and commercial mortgage-based securities. To qualify for inclusion, a bond or security must have at least one year to final maturity and be rated investment grade Baa3 or better, dollar denominated, non-convertible, fixed rate and publicly issued.

The B of A Merrill Lynch U.S. High Yield Index tracks the performance of below investment grade U.S. dollar-denominated corporate bonds publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market.

The Barclays 7-10 Year Treasury Index tracks the investment results of an index comprised of the U.S. Treasury bonds with remaining maturities between seven and ten years.

The Barclays 20+ Year Treasury Index tracks the investment results of an index comprised of the U.S. Treasury bonds with remaining maturities greater than twenty years.

The Barclays Long-Term Year Treasury Index tracks the performance of the long-term U.S. government bond market.

Index returns include the reinvestment of income and dividends. The returns for these unmanaged indexes

do not include any transaction costs, management fees or other costs. It is not possible to make an investment directly in any index.

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The CBOE Volatility Index® (VIX®) is a key measure of market expectations of near-term volatility conveyed by S&P 500 stock index option prices and which shows the market's expectation of 30-day volatility. It is constructed using the implied volatilities of a wide range of S&P 500 index options. This volatility is meant to be forward looking and is calculated from both calls and puts. The VIX is a widely used measure of market risk. The S&P 500 measures the performance of the 500 leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy, capturing 75% of U.S. equities. The Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is a market capitalization-weighted index, meaning the securities in the index are weighted according to the market size of each bond type. Most U.S. traded investment grade bonds are represented. Municipal bonds, and Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities are excluded, due to tax treatment issues. The index includes Treasury securities, Government agency bonds, Mortgage-backed bonds, Corporate bonds, and a small amount of foreign bonds traded in U.S. The Barclays Capital Aggregate Bond Index is an intermediate term index.

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