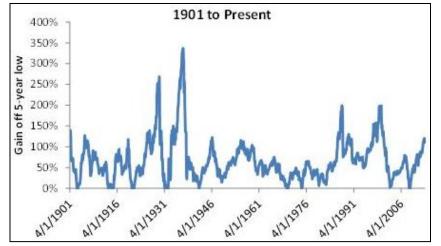
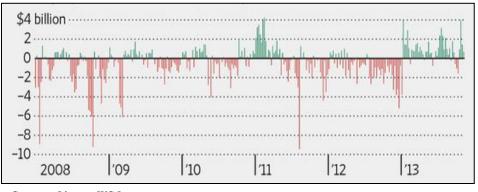
Market Recap

Dow Jones Industrial Average Gains off of 5-year Low



Source: Blackrock

U.S. Equity Mutual Fund Flows



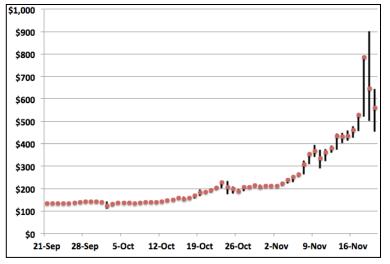
Source: Lipper; WSJ

Given the magnitude of recent stock market gains, investors are increasingly concerned that equities are overvalued, or even nearing a bubble. Based on several traditional valuation measures, stocks are no longer cheap, but may not yet have peaked. Stocks in the S&P 500 are trading at a price-to-earnings ratio of 14.7 times analysts' expectations for the next 12 months' earnings. That is up from 12.6x at the start of this year and just above the 10-year average of 14.1x. However, a comparison of the last three major market peaks (1987, 2000 and 2007) suggests the rally still has additional room (prior P/E ratios were, respectively, 23x, 30x and 17.5x). The current price-to-book ratio is 2.5x book value. The price-to-book ratio peaked at close to 5x in 2000 and 3x in 2007. While valuations may not be at extreme levels, stocks rarely record the types of gains we have seen since the 2009 lows. Over the past 40 years, there have only been two other periods in which stocks have rallied this far this fast: the run-up to the 1987 crash, and the late 1990s in advance of the technology bubble.

Five years after the financial crisis, there are signs that individual investors are finally reentering the stock market. Main Street investors largely sat out the early years of the stock-market rebound, many of them still shaken by the 37% decline in 2008. In 2013, U.S. stock mutual funds have attracted more cash (\$76 billion) than they have in any year since 2004. From 2006 through 2012, they withdrew \$451 billion. According to the latest poll from the AAII, investors are more bullish about the stock market than at any time since the financial crisis (45% of individuals are bullish, above the long-term average of 39%). The renewed optimism among retail investors is considered by many seasoned professionals to be a warning sign as retail investors have historically had a poor track record of market timing.

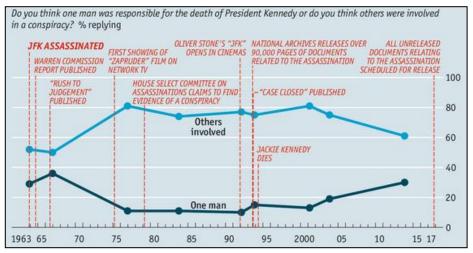
Market Recap





Source: Bitcoincharts

Kennedy Assassination Conspiracy Believers



Source: Gallup; The Economist

'Bitcoin,' the peer-to-peer digital currency that allows users to conduct transactions online without the intermediation of a central authority, has garnered a great deal of attention of late. This week, Congress received a crash course on Bitcoin, as it considers whether the virtual currency should be regulated. The national exposure resulted in a spike in Bitcoin's value to over \$618. While testimony revealed that the virtual currency can be (and is) currently exploited by criminals, the possibility of regulatory oversight seemed to lend credence that Bitcoin might succeed as a fast, secure and efficient payment system. While Bitcoin is not yet adopted on a widespread basis, merchants have an incentive to accept the currency because transaction fees are lower than those imposed by credit card processors. Recent adopters span various industries (e.g. online travel, secondary education, dating, website development), and are global in their reach. In just five years, the virtual currency has gone from being worth pennies to over \$600 apiece.

As we mark the fiftieth anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy, there is renewed deliberation around the theory that Lee Harvey Oswald was not the lone assailant. Since 1963, plots involving the CIA, the Mafia and other groups have been debated and dismissed, only to be reopened years later. Today, the percentage of Americans who support a conspiracy theory involving more than one assailant is at a historic low (61%)outside the years immediately following Kennedy's death. The publication of books such as Mark Lane's "Rush to Judgment" and creation of movies such Oliver Stone's film "JFK" have sparked periods during which more than 80% of Americans believe in the theory that multiple gunmen killed the President.

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Contact: If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us at 703.992.6164. For more information about Harbour Capital Advisors, please visit our website at <u>www.harbourcapitaladvisors.com</u>.

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