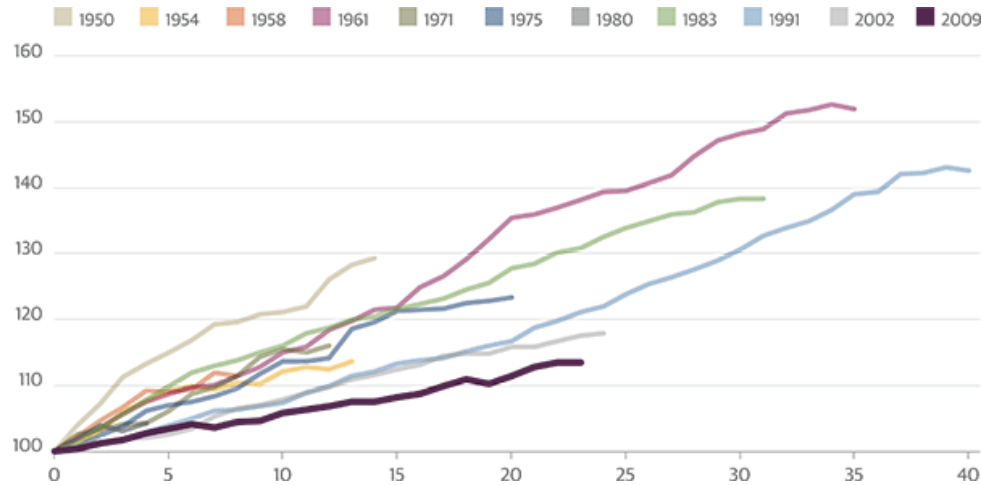


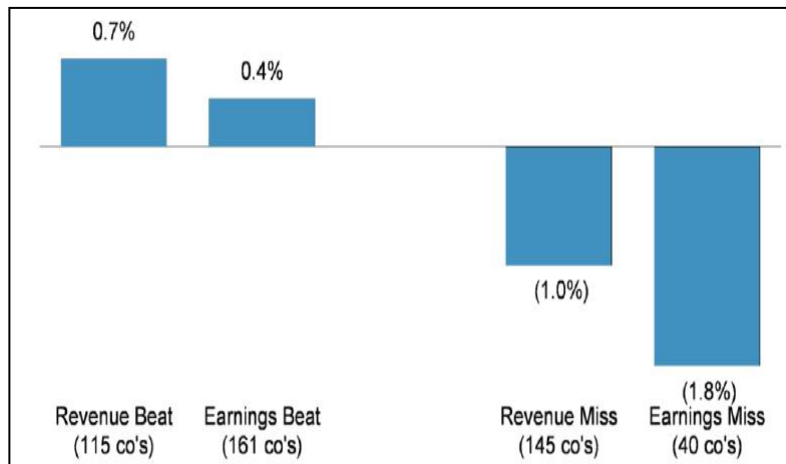
Market Recap

Real GDP in Economic Expansions



Source: Guggenheim Partners

Stocks Get Punished for Missing Earnings



Source: Morgan Stanley

The current economic expansion – begun in 2009 – has now exceeded 70 months, well beyond the historical average cycle of 57 months. Further, many are concerned that the expected Federal Reserve interest rate hike in September will signal the end of the current GDP cycle. However, there are reasons for continued optimism among investors. The last three expansion cycles averaged 94 months, indicating a new trend in expansion duration. In addition, this time, growth has been incredibly slow, which may provide additional upside potential for this point in the recovery. Lastly, the last 13 cycles support the fact that the lead up to, and the first year after, the start of a Fed tightening has been good for equities. Historically, the year leading up to the first rate increase has returned 16.4%, and the year after has returned 4.5%. This suggests that, while the highest returns may be behind us, it is reasonable to expect positive returns ahead.

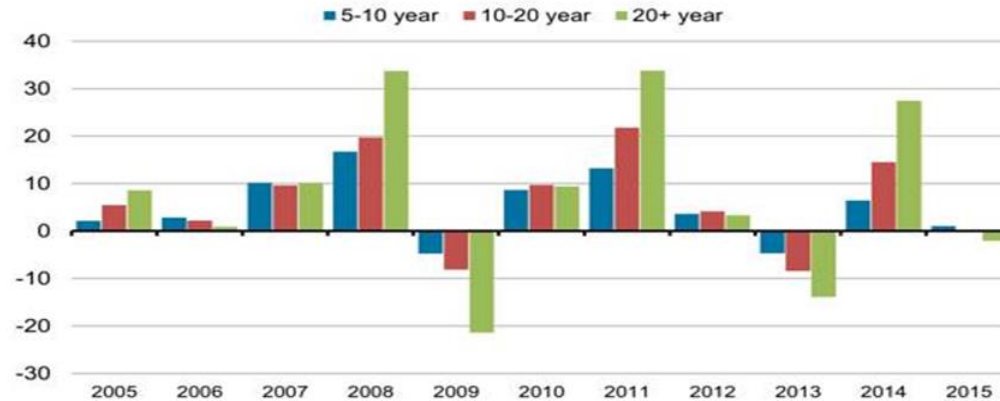
This earnings season, the market is looking very closely at companies' earnings releases and guidance for future periods, and the consequences are high. The penalty for missing on earnings and revenue estimates is significantly greater than the reward for beating the estimate. Additionally, companies that issue guidance which is higher than expected are being rewarded, while at the same time, those missing guidance expectations are being punished. On average, companies that have beaten their earnings estimates have done well and are up .4% this year, while companies missing their estimates have been disproportionately punished and are down 1.8%. On the revenue side, companies that have beaten revenue estimates have outperformed the rest of the market by .7% while those that have missed have experienced stock price hits of 1.0%.

Market Recap

Long-Dated Bonds May Suffer in 2015

Growing Maturity

Total returns for U.S. Treasurys by maturity group, %



Source: WSJ

2014 was a banner year for bond investors as bond prices rose and yields fell, leading investors to load up on longer-dated bonds in order to capture a higher yield. The longer the maturity, the better the total return was in 2014, as bonds maturing in 20 years or more posted an average total return of 27.5%, while bonds that matured between five and 10 years reported total returns averaging 6.4%. This highlights the effect of duration on a bond portfolio. Duration measures the sensitivity of a bond's price to small changes in interest rates. Bonds with higher durations usually see bigger price moves than those with lower durations when yields change. Unfortunately, this principle also works in reverse. Accordingly, with interest rates expected to rise in the near future, a bond portfolio with a higher duration and longer maturity will suffer more than a portfolio with a lower duration.

Paving Paradise for a Parking Lot



Source: Vox.com

Brazil spent close to \$3 billion building and refurbishing the 12 stadiums used to host the 2014 FIFA World Cup, justifying the expense with promises that the taxpayer-funded venues would continue to generate revenue in the years following the main event. Unfortunately, several of these stadiums—including Brasilia's \$900 Million, 72,000 seat venue—were built in cities that only support small, minor-league professional teams and, thus, struggle to draw large crowds. That same stadium in Brasilia is now used as a municipal bus parking lot. Unfortunately, the situation seems likely to repeat itself in the coming years—Brazil is currently making preparations to host the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, with projected costs approaching \$13.2 Billion. To paraphrase Joni Mitchell, it appears the Brazilian government literally paved paradise just to put up a parking lot.

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