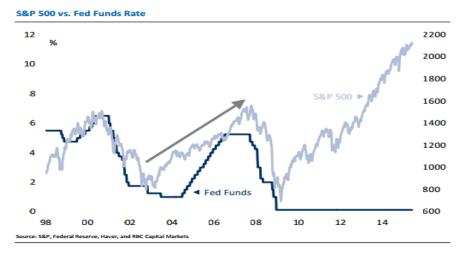
Market Recap

Fed Rate Hikes Don't Mean The End Of The Bull Market



Source: RBC Capital Markets

S&P Stocks with Foreign Sales Exposure Outperform



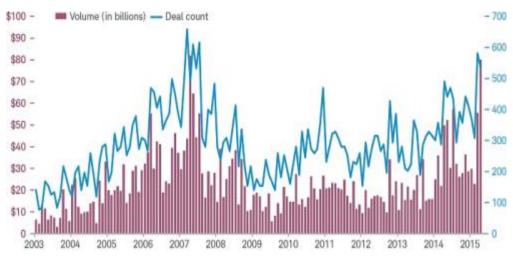
Source: Evercore ISI

As the Federal Reserve is poised to raise short term interest rates later this year, uncertainty remains as to the impact on the equity markets going forward. Many investors are under the assumption that a rate increase will have an adverse effect on the stock market. This makes sense as higher rates mean higher borrowing costs, which will hurt company profits and ultimately stocks. However, there is an argument that increased rates won't cause the end of the bull market. While we may see a selloff on the initial rate hike, history proves that the decline is usually modest, followed by a quick recovery and a return to an upward trending market. The initial rate hikes of 1999 and 2004 did little to stop the S&P 500 from gaining new ground. This time, supported by a reasonably solid U.S. economic backdrop, a similar pattern may emerge.

During the month of May, S&P 500 stocks with high levels of foreign sales reversed their strong-dollar-driven downward trends to outperform the broader U.S. market. This, despite the fact that Europe's benchmark stock index, the Stoxx 600, declined 2.7% for the month due to continued concerns over Greece's economic health and questionable participation in the Eurozone as well as China's slowing growth, the combination of which has overshadowed an overall positive growth outlook in Europe. While down in May, the European stock market has outperformed the U.S by 14% thus far this year. Accordingly, investors question whether this recent multinational outperformance is due more to the market's conviction that this year will continue to reveal stronger global growth, or more to concerns about the opportunity costs of investing in U.S.-centric businesses.

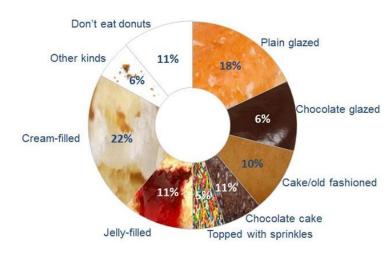
Market Recap

M&A Activity Is Increasing



Source: Charles Schwab, Bloomberg Data

Celebrating National Doughnut Day



Source: WachFox

Merger and acquisition (M&A) activity among publicly-traded companies, both in terms of the number of deals as well as the deal size, is at its highest level since 2007. Through the end of April, deals are up over 60% compared to this time last year. This may be a good thing for investors as corporate cash that was earning low or negative yields will be redirected into existing businesses, in turn, generating higher returns for investors. Furthermore, as smaller companies are acquired with cash, there are fewer overall shares in the market, benefitting owners of the remaining shares. Although we are now at levels last seen before the financial crisis, there seems to be less risk in the markets as today's deals are more widely diversified across sectors and are therefore less likely to lead to a bubble. In 2007, more than half the M&A deals involved the financial sector. In contrast, this year, financials comprise less than one-third of all deals, while the next three largest sectors, in aggregate, represent 45% of the deals.

Friday, June 5 is National Doughnut Day. In celebration, many bakers, including Dunkin' Donuts, Krispy Kreme, and Tim Hortons, give their wares away today. National Doughnut Day origins go back to 1938, and the day is as much about the people behind the food as it is about the ring of fried dough itself. During World War I, women volunteering for the Salvation Army made doughnuts for soldiers serving overseas as a way to boost morale. National Doughnut Day was launched by the Chicago branch of the Salvation Army, in part as a way to raise funds for, and awareness of, the organization's work in the community. But the spirit behind the day was the recognition of these women's contribution to the war effort. Today, an estimated 10 billion doughnuts are made in the U.S. each year. That is an average of 31 doughnuts per person every year. Cream-filled remains the most popular choice, followed closely by the classic Plain Glazed variety.

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 www.harbourcapitaladvisors.com.

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