# Market Recap

#### 2011 Asset Returns Scorecard US 10 year Treasury 16.7 Brent crude oil 13.9 German 10v Bund 13.7 Gold JPM EMBI emerging debt 8.4 ML Global corporate bonds 4 N Euros per Swiss franc ML Global high yield bonds 2.4 Dollar index 1.8 Nasdaq composite -14 Yen per \$ MSCI developed equities Italy 10yr gov. bonds CRB commodities index 84 Silver -10.1 MSCI Asia ex Japan -14.6 GSCI soft commodities -15.5 Japan Nikkei 225 -17.8 MSCI emerging equities -18.3 Copper -23.1-20 -10 10 20 -30 n Thomson Reuters, Datastream

Source: Thomson Reuters

#### S&P 500 Analyst Forecasts

|                                       | 2012<br>FORECAST | 2011<br>FORECAST <sup>™</sup> S&P 500 |      | % OFF FROM<br>ACTUAL CLOSE<br>: 1257.6 |       |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|------|--|-------|
| Average                               | 1334             |                                       | 1372 |  | 8.3%  |
| MORGAN STANLEY<br>Adam Parker         | 1167             | 1238                                  |      |  | 1.6%  |
| CITIGROUP<br>Tobias Levkovich         | 1375             |                                       | 1300 |  | 3.3%  |
| HSBC<br>Gary Evans                    | 1190             |                                       | 1320 |  | 4.7%  |
| OPPENHEIMER<br>Brian Belski           | 1400             |                                       | 1325 |  | 5.1%  |
| UBS<br>Jonathan Golub                 | 1325             |                                       | 1325 |  | 5.1%  |
| BANK OF MONTREAL<br>Ben Joyce         | 1325             |                                       | 1350 |  | 6.8%  |
| WELLS FARGO<br>Gina Martin Adams      | 1360             |                                       | 1390 |  | 9.5%  |
| BARCLAYS<br>Barry Knapp               | 1330             |                                       | 1420 |  | 11.4% |
| J.P. MORGAN<br>Thomas Lee             | 1430             |                                       | 1425 |  | 11.8% |
| GOLDMAN SACHS<br>David Kostin         | 1250             |                                       | 1450 |  | 13.3% |
| DEUTSCHE BANK<br>Binky Chadha         | 1500             |                                       |      | 1550                                   | 18.9% |
| CREDIT SUISSE<br>Andrew Garthwaite    | 1340             | Not applicable                        |      |  |       |
| BANK OF AMERICA<br>Savita Subramanian | 1350             | Not applicable                        |      |  |       |

Source: Birinyi Associates/WSJ

In 2011, the best-performing asset category was U.S. Treasuries. Not even a downgrade of the United States' AAA rating and constant wrangling with the deficit stopped the rally in Treasuries. Benchmark Treasuries returned nearly 17% in 2011, their largest gain since 2008. Growing fears about the euro-zone debt crisis, combined with a pledge by the U.S. Federal Reserve to keep interest rates low through 2013, made the appeal of Treasuries irresistible to investors. Other top performers included commodities (such as gold and oil), which finished the year with gains of 10% and 8%, respectively. Global stocks have lost more than 9% for the year, although a steady flow of encouraging U.S. economic data allowed the U.S. market to be one of the better relative performers, finishing the year close to where it started in 2011.

At the start of each year, market strategists typically attempt to forecast how the market will perform in the coming year. Most Wall Street strategists are optimistic that the stock market will increase in 2012 but are not forecasting a dramatic move higher. The current consensus estimate among strategists is for the S&P 500 index to end 2012 at around 1334, which would be 6.1% higher than the 2011 closing value of 1257. Given the current 2% yield for the S&P 500, the total return for the market would be ~ 8%. Many worry that there seem to be few solutions to the European sovereign-debt crisis and that corporate earnings growth in the U.S. may begin to slow. It is interesting to note that the average forecast for 2011 was 1372, which would have been an 8.3% gain. The market fell well short of that estimate.

## HARBOUR CAPITAL ADVISORS

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2012 Consensus EPS Forecast

Source: Reuters

EPS (\$)



Worldwide Elections in 2012

Source: The Economist

How is a market forecast calculated? Market forecasts are largely a reflection of two components - profit (earnings) growth and a multiple to profits (P/E). The current baseline for 2012 forecasts reflects S&P earnings of \$98 per share and a P/E multiple of 12.8. The market can rise as profits increase and/or if investors are willing to pay more for profits (multiple expansion). We typically see multiple expansion when investors feel optimistic about the direction of the economy and market. That is not the case today. The current consensus forecast for the S&P 500 is 1334 (6.1% higher than the 1257 starting value). Profits are projected to grow 6% to 107, with the multiple remaining relatively unchanged at ~12.5. Harbour Capital Advisor's forecast is 1297. We are anticipating more moderate profit growth, as the market has not fully discounted the impact of European debt and the sluggish economy. Along with the 2% yield of the S&P, our total return target for the market is a modest 5% in 2012.

This week saw the traditional start to the Presidential election season with Mitt Romney's narrow victory in the Iowa Caucus. 2012 stands a good chance of being exceptionally pivotal as elections throughout the world can change the leadership and ideology of many nations and perhaps the world. Among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, only Britain's David Cameron does not face re-election this year. President Obama and President Sarkozy of France face presidential elections that are expected to be highly contested. Russian President Medvedev has already ceded the presidency back to Vladimir Putin. China is also preparing a turnover in power at the end of the year.

**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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