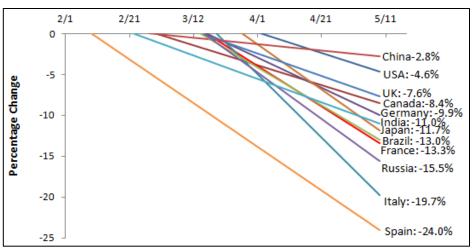
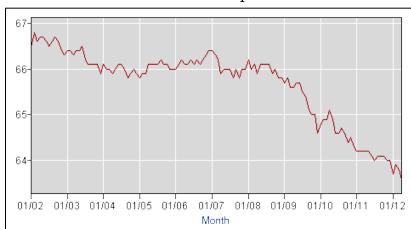
Market Recap

Decline from 2012 Market Peaks



Source: Reuters

Labor Force Participation Rate



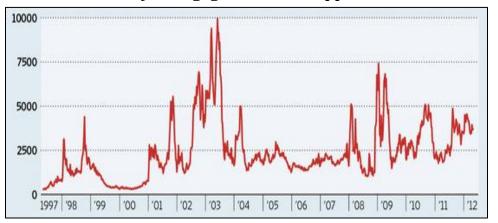
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

The last several weeks have been especially challenging for equity markets. Although all major equity markets have fallen from their 2012 peaks, there has been significant variance among global markets. Not surprisingly, Spain was the first to peak and now leads the list of international market declines with a 24% fall from that peak. Although its peak came more than a month later, Italy's decline has been almost equal to that of Spain; it is now down 19.7% from its high. Although U.S. equities are down close to 5% from their highs in April, relative to the rest of the world, the decline has been less dramatic. The only country that has seen less of a decline than the U.S. has been China. In terms of timing, while most countries saw their year-to-date peaks in early to mid-March, U.S. equities held out the longest and didn't peak until April 2nd.

The April jobs report indicated that the unemployment rate has fallen to 8.1% (nearing the 8% level that the Obama administration aimed at with its \$750 billion stimulus bill). However, the news was not all positive. Only 115,000 new jobs were added in April, reflecting signs of potential economic slowdown. Perhaps even more troubling was the drop in the labor force participation rate to 64.3%, its lowest level since 1981. The number of adults not in the labor market is at all time high of 88.4 million. The civilian-employment-to-population ratio of 58.4% is the lowest in 30 years. These figures are clear indicators that many potential workers have given up attempts to find employment. The ratio has fallen steadily since 2009, around the same time that the administration stated its aim to keep unemployment below 8%. If today's labor force participation rate was the same as it was when the Great Recession ended in June 2009 (67.5%), the headline unemployment rate would be 10.9%.

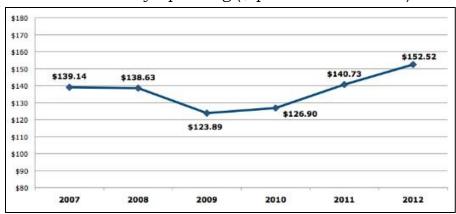
Market Recap

Weekly Mortgage Refinance Applications



Source: Mortgage Bankers Association, Freddie Mac, WSJ

Mother's Day Spending (\$ per U.S. Consumer)



Source: National Retail Federation

With low mortgage rates, re-financing activity has once again climbed to high levels. Nationwide mortgage rates average around 4%, which has helped thousands of Americans free up cash or retire debt. According to Freddie Mac, borrowers who refinanced during the first quarter were able to reduce first-year interest payments by an average of \$2,900. Overall, refinancing over the past three years has unlocked savings worth \$46 billion in the first year of refinancing. The current surge in demand has come at a time when a small handful of banks control a larger share of the mortgage market. Lenders are also being more cautious about to whom they lend money and how they process loans. It now takes the nation's largest mortgage lenders an average of more than 70 days to complete a refinance, up from 45 days a year ago. In addition, many large lenders have boosted their rates due to more limited competition. This increases profits of the lenders at the expense of savings for the borrower.

According to a National Retail Federation survey, total U.S. spending related to Mother's Day is expected to reach \$18.6 billion this year. This figure is 13.8% higher than the \$13.1 billion spent in 2011. The increase is driven by a more-than-8% rise in average per-person spending, from \$140.73 to \$152.52. Overall, three-quarters of respondents plan to spend either the same (57.8%) or more (17.1%) this year. Men will be spending more than women. Men will spend an average of \$189.74, 61.6% more than the average \$117.42 that women will spend. Looking at age-related spending trends, 25-34 year-olds will spend the most on average (\$217), followed by 18-24 year-olds (\$188) and 35-44 year-olds (\$180). The most popular items that consumers will buy on Mother's Day are greeting cards (83%), flowers (66%), a special outing (54%), and gift cards or certificates (40%).

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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