

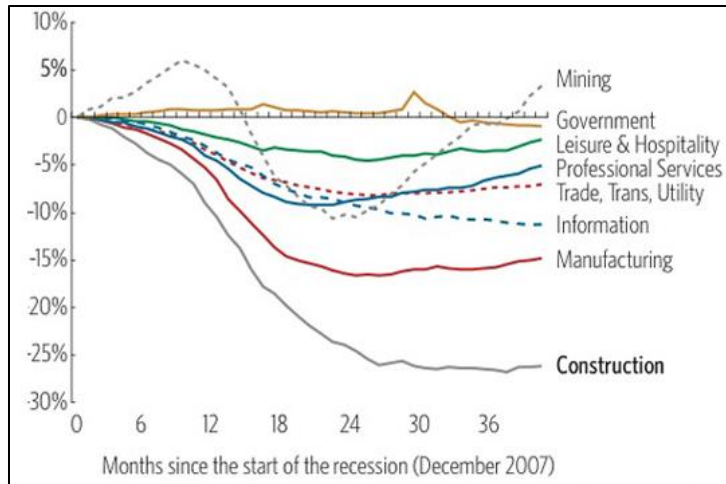
Market Recap

S&P 500 Price to Earnings Ratio



Source: Bloomberg

U.S. Employment Change Since December 2007



Source: Reuters

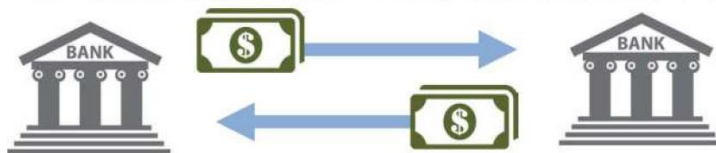
This week marked the start of earnings season. Company earnings for the S&P 500 are expected to be lower in the third quarter than they were in the second. The consensus is for third quarter earnings to be \$24.29 (versus \$24.86 in the second quarter, an all-time record). This represents a projected increase of almost 13% from the third quarter one year ago. Current forecasts have earnings growing 17% y-o-y in the fourth quarter. The fourth quarter forecast may be revised lower given the global slowdown; however, the earnings growth scenario represents the most compelling argument for a fourth quarter recovery for the market. The S&P 500 P/E ratio (using 1-yr forward earnings estimates) is currently 10.27. This is the lowest it's been since 2008, when a dramatic global recession was widely expected. If the global economy ends up experiencing anything short of a total collapse and companies can maintain profits close to forecasts, then stocks are currently selling at exceptional bargain prices.

On Tuesday, the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness released its report. The panel is a group of executives (headed by GE's Jeffery Immelt) advising the President on job creation. They are recommending an effort to attract \$1 trillion in foreign direct investment within five years. With the U.S. jobless rate at 9.1%, Obama is pressing Congress to act on his jobs plan. One interesting chart from the jobs report looks at employment creation and destruction by industry since before the recession. Every category including the government experienced net job losses. Construction was the hardest hit. The one exception was the mining industry, which benefitted from the heightened price of gold and other precious metals,

Market Recap

Bank-to-bank Lending System

Bank-to-bank lending is critical for a healthy credit market and economy



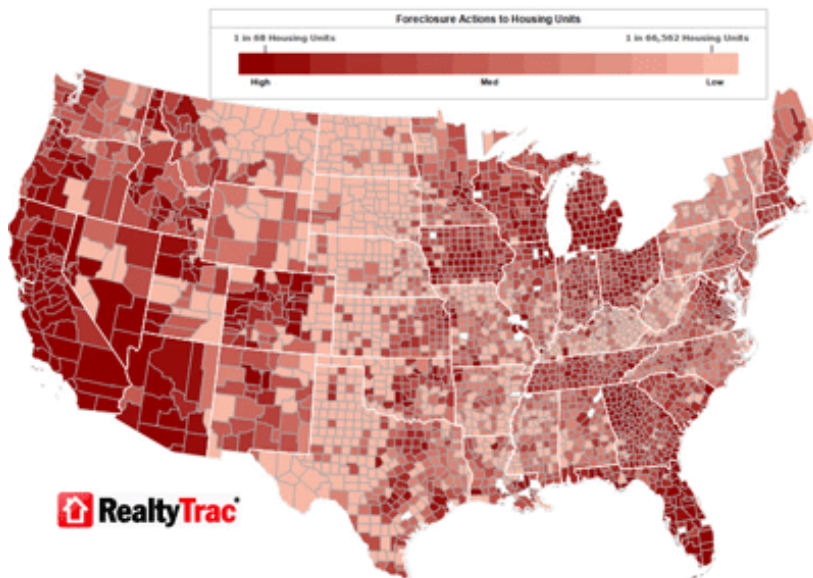
Financial crisis: bank-to-bank lending froze-up due to “toxic asset” exposure

- U.S. toxic assets = mortgages
- Europe toxic assets = sovereign debt



Source: JP Morgan

U.S. Property Foreclosures



Bank-to-bank lending forms the foundation of credit markets. If a bank doesn't have adequate reserves to make a loan, it can borrow funds from another bank. Typically, banks lend to one another at very low interest rates, as they are reasonably confident they'll be repaid. During the financial crisis, banks stopped lending to each other due to fears that they wouldn't be repaid. This led to a collapse of economic activity. European banks now find themselves in a similar situation. Instead of having exposure to toxic mortgage-related assets, bonds issued by troubled sovereigns, like Greece, are the culprit. Fears of default have resulted in panicked selling of these bonds, which has eroded bank capital ratios and jeopardized the European banking system as a whole. Current estimates have European banks holding ~\$490bil of exposure to the sovereign debt of Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, and Spain.

RealtyTrac reported that third-quarter foreclosures fell 34% from a year ago but increased 1% from the previous quarter. This is a sign foreclosure activity may be slowly picking up. Default notices, scheduled auctions, and bank repossessions were reported on 610,337 properties. One in every 213 U.S. housing units had a foreclosure filing during the quarter. The hardest hit areas include Nevada, California, Arizona, and Florida. According to James Saccacio, CEO of RealtyTrac:

“While foreclosure activity in September and the third quarter continued to register well below levels from a year ago, there is evidence that this temporary downward trend is about to change direction, with foreclosure activity slowly beginning to ramp back up”.

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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