



Market Commentary November 30, 2015

Dear Investors:

American markets were relatively quiet during Thanksgiving week but there were fireworks in China's markets.

Late in the week, media outlets reported the China Securities Regulatory Commission was conducting inquiries into several securities firms as part of an anti-corruption crackdown triggered by last summer's wild market gyrations. The news sizzled through China's stock markets. The *Financial Times* wrote:

"It's like a trip down memory lane... if memory lane was vertical...The Shanghai Composite was down by as much as 6.1 percent in late trade, with the tech-focused Shenzhen Composite following suit, down by as much as 6.8 percent. It would be Shanghai's biggest one-day fall since August 25, when the benchmark slumped by 7.7 percent, writes Peter Wells in Hong Kong."

U.S. markets were sanguine, in part, because there was little activity on Friday, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. It also may have something to do with an upward revision in third quarter's gross domestic product (GDP), which measures the value of all goods and services produced in the United States. On Tuesday, the U.S. Commerce Department reported GDP increased at an annual rate of 2.1 percent during the third quarter, an improvement over the initial estimate of 1.5 percent.

Next week may be a doozy. The European Central Bank is expected to introduce additional monetary easing measures, while the U.S. Federal Reserve provides additional clues about the timing of its monetary tightening measures, said *The Wall Street Journal*. We'll also get news about U.S. home sales, automobile sales, chain store sales, factory orders, and employment. It's likely to be an interesting week.

4100 Embassy Parkway, Suite 100, Akron, Ohio 44333-1783
330-434-2000 / Fax: 330-665-1515
www.symphony-financial.com

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Data as of 11/27/15	1-Week	Y-T-D	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Standard & Poor's 500 (Domestic Stocks)	0.1%	1.5%	1.1%	14.3%	12.0%	5.2%
Dow Jones Global ex-U.S.	-0.8	-4.7	-7.9	2.2	0.8	1.3
10-year Treasury Note (Yield Only)	2.2	NA	2.2	1.7	2.8	4.4
Gold (per ounce)	-2.3	-11.8	-11.5	-15.4	-4.9	7.9
Bloomberg Commodity Index	-0.4	-22.3	-28.2	-17.4	-11.2	-6.8
DJ Equity All REIT Total Return Index	0.9	2.2	3.5	12.0	12.4	7.3

S&P 500, Dow Jones Global ex-US, Gold, Bloomberg Commodity Index returns exclude reinvested dividends (gold does not pay a dividend) and the three-, five-, and 10-year returns are annualized; the DJ Equity All REIT Total Return Index does include reinvested dividends and the three-, five-, and 10-year returns are annualized; and the 10-year Treasury Note is simply the yield at the close of the day on each of the historical time periods. Sources: Yahoo! Finance, Barron's, djindexes.com, London Bullion Market Association. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Indices are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly. N/A means not applicable.

IT SEEMS THAT SHOPPING HAS JOINED FOOD, FOOTBALL, AND FAMILY as a favorite pastime on Thanksgiving Day.

Did you log on and do a little holiday shopping last Thursday while your holiday feast was cooking? If so, you are not alone. *Market Watch* reported consumers spent \$1.1 billion between midnight and 5:00 p.m. eastern time on Thanksgiving Day. That was a 22 percent increase over the year before.

After taking a break to give thanks, gorge on Thanksgiving delicacies, and enjoy family time, consumers fired up their devices again – more than one-third of sales were made via smart phone or tablet – for round two in the online shopping arena. On Friday, between midnight and 11:00 a.m. eastern time, they spent another \$822 million. That's 15 percent more than last year. In total, Black Friday sales were expected to be about \$2.6 billion.

By Friday morning, out-of-stock rates were reported to be double the level they normally reach this time of year. So, prepare for the possibility shoppers may be rabidly seeking more than one extremely popular gift item as we head deeper into the holiday shopping season.

That's a more welcome turn of events than 1953's glut of unsold turkeys. *The Fiscal Times* reported Swanson got started in the frozen dinner manufacturing business when it finished Thanksgiving with 260 tons of extra turkeys. Its solution was to package sliced turkey with trimmings on aluminum trays. In 1954, the company sold 10 million frozen turkey dinners and a new industry was born.

Since investors were concerned about weaker than expected retail sales just a couple of weeks ago, if retail spending continues to be strong in coming weeks, it could affect investors' confidence and outlook.

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Weekly Focus – Think About It

“My first rule of consumerism is never to buy anything you can’t make your children carry.”

--Bill Bryson, American author

Best regards,



John Y. Kim, J.D., LL.M
President

P.S. Please feel free to forward this commentary to family, friends, or colleagues. If you would like us to add them to the list, please reply to this e-mail with their e-mail address and we will ask for their permission to be added.

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- * The Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500) is an unmanaged index. Unmanaged index returns do not reflect fees, expenses, or sales charges. Index performance is not indicative of the performance of any investment.
- * The Dow Jones Global ex-U.S. Index covers approximately 95% of the market capitalization of the 45 developed and emerging countries included in the Index.
- * The 10-year Treasury Note represents debt owed by the United States Treasury to the public. Since the U.S. Government is seen as a risk-free borrower, investors use the 10-year Treasury Note as a benchmark for the long-term bond market.
- * Gold represents the afternoon gold price as reported by the London Bullion Market Association. The gold price is set twice daily by the London Gold Fixing Company at 10:30 and 15:00 and is expressed in U.S. dollars per fine troy ounce.
- * The Bloomberg Commodity Index is designed to be a highly liquid and diversified benchmark for the commodity futures market. The Index is composed of futures contracts on 19 physical commodities and was launched on July 14, 1998.
- * The DJ Equity All REIT Total Return Index measures the total return performance of the equity subcategory of the Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) industry as calculated by Dow Jones.
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