



DONALD J. MOULTON
CFP®, RFC

MOULTON WEALTH MANAGEMENT INC.
MOULTON HOT MINUTES
SPECIALIZING IN RETIREMENT AND TAX PLANNING
1220 N. MULLAN ROAD
SPOKANE, WA 99206
509-922-3110



RIAL R. MOULTON
CFP®, CPA/PFS, RFC

www.moultonwealth.com

Week of August 15, 2022

It's hard to believe August is already half over. Seems like summers get shorter – and hotter – every year. Hope you're all enjoying it while it lasts.

This week saw both consumer inflation (CPI) and producer inflation (PPI) finally decline compared to a year earlier. CPI fell from 9.1% in June to 8.5% in July and PPI fell from 11.2% in June month to 9.8% in July. Certainly both measures are good news,

ATTEND OUR...

RISK MANAGEMENT

SEMINAR

BRING A GUEST

➤ **AUGUST 31ST @ 9:30 AM – SPOKANE**

(BREAKFAST)

➤ **AUGUST 24TH @ 11:00 AM – RICHLAND**

CALL **509-922-3110** TO RESERVE A SEAT!

but before we begin assuming we've won the fight against inflation, let's dig into the data.

First, virtually the entire decline in both indices was due to falling energy prices. If we remove the 7.7% July decline in gas from CPI it would have been 9.09%. It doesn't mean we shouldn't count it, just that we are looking for a broader reduction of prices.

Digging into the CPI report we found that food actually rose again, now up 10.9% vs a year ago. Worse, food at home is now up 13.1% vs 2021. Other components that rose included shelter, medical care, motor vehicle insurance, household furnishings and operations, new vehicles and recreation. Decliners include air fares, used vehicles, communication and apparel.

As you look at those categories in the context of an 8.5% inflation rate, do you really believe the Fed will stop raising rates as the talking heads suggest?

Let's assume you're the Fed Chair with this data and your stated goal is to get inflation down to your target of 2%. Your only tools are rate hikes and reduction of your balance sheet (i.e. tightening monetary conditions). Now remember you were wrong and roundly mocked for saying inflation was transitory for several months before finally admitting it was not. Are you ready to act on the hope that inflation will magically decline from 8.5% to 2% without you doing anything more to make it so?

Please see our new website www.MoultonWealth.com. Of the many improvements, the most important is we now host podcasts of past radio shows, allowing you to listen at your convenience. If you've not heard any yet, we'd suggest starting with [05-28-22 \(Connecting the Economic Dots\)](#) as well as [05-21-22 \(Housing Bubble\)](#) and of course the most recent show.

Taking it one step further, remember CPI was 8.5% in March, then fell to 8.3% in April, rose to 8.6% in May and 9.1% in June. If we throw in July's 8.5% do you see a reliable pattern of declining inflation?

Nor do we.

“Inflation is when you pay fifteen dollars for the ten-dollar haircut you used to get for five dollars when you had hair.”

Sam Ewing – American Athlete

The other news item being bandied about all week is that the NASDAQ is now in a new bull market. How did they come to that conclusion considering it is down (as of this writing) just over 18% from its peak? Because it has risen over 20% from its lowest level of the year. After all, the logic goes, how could this be happening unless the bear market is behind us?

During the Dot.com bear market from 2000 – 2003 the NASDAQ lost over 80% from top to bottom. However it was far from a straight line down. In fact during that decline there were **7** different rallies of at least 20%, all of which were surrendered to new lows. Be careful listening to “experts” who are trying to keep you fully invested so they can keep collecting fees.

The [Kobeissi Letter](#) is a weekly investment letter sent to subscribers analyzing what is happening with the markets. They are independent as are we. Recently they tweeted a series of thoughts about the stock market, inflation, the Fed and where we are in the cycle. Following are some of their thoughts.

1. If this bear market is over, it will be the first with only 2 relief rallies since 1973.
2. If this bear market is over, it will have a 12% higher low than the average bear market historically.
3. If this bear market is over, it will be the first to bottom without the VIX fear gauge ever reaching 45 or higher.
4. If this bear market is over it will have ended 3 months sooner than the average bear market.

This in context, again from the Kobeissi Letter.

1. 8.5% inflation is an improvement.
2. Government officials are now the best traders.
3. The Fed is trying to put us into a recession to kill inflation.
4. GDP has fallen two quarters in a row but Wall Street says “this time is different”.
5. High volatility, historically an earmark of bear markets, is now considered normal and a bullish condition.

Remember, despite Wall Street’s assurance that successful investing means just buying their stuff always and selling it never (which by the way is NOT how they do it themselves) successful investing – and protecting your portfolio – is a process of weighing probabilities.

Given some of the data presented, what is the most probable outcome?

To be clear, ultimately there will be a good time to buy stocks. A new bull market will begin but most probably from far lower levels and with stocks much more cheaply valued.

LISTEN TO RIAL'S AND DON'S RADIO SHOW,

"YOUR MONEY MATTERS"

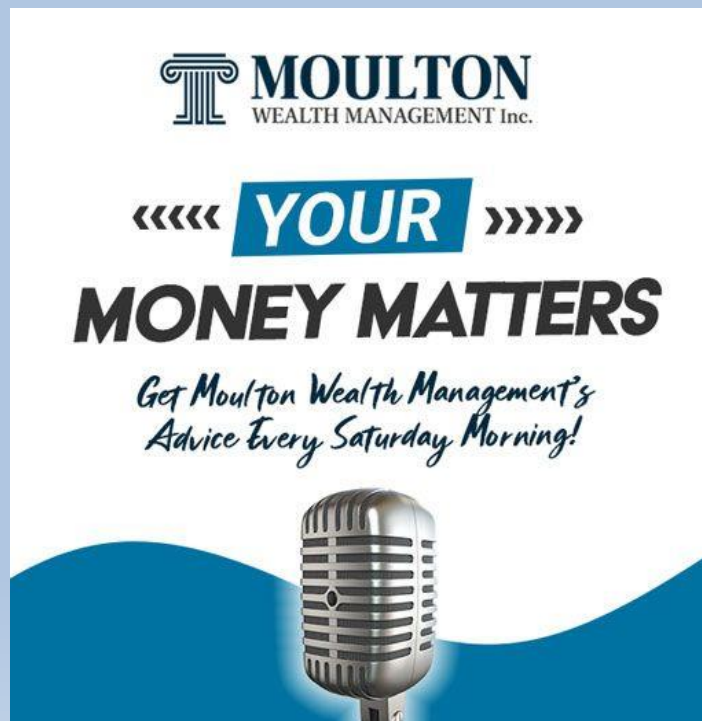
EVERY SATURDAY MORNING AT

8:00 AM ON KXLY RADIO CHANNEL 920 AM IN SPOKANE

AND AT 9:30 AM ON NEWSTALK RADIO CHANNEL 870 AM IN THE TRI-CITIES AREA

LISTEN LIVE AT WWW.NEWSTALK870.AM AGAIN AT 9:30 EACH SATURDAY MORNING

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE MOULTONWEALTH.COM FOR PODCASTS



The trick for investors is to remain patient and both emotionally and financially fit to take advantage of it. We would suggest if you ride your portfolio down 30% or more from here, you won't be either.

If you don't sell high, you can't buy low.

What is your defensive plan?

Call or attend a seminar to hear about ours.

Remember, we have a feature on our website: www.MoultonWealth.com to help you measure your risk tolerance. The problem with trying to decide how much risk to take is we all want to be aggressive when the market is going up, but conservative when it's going down. That's why a sell discipline is important. However, the first line of defense is always our allocation. This approach to measuring risk gives a number by making investors trade off gains and losses. Just click the button to see where you stand.

What's Your Risk Number?



In the markets:

U.S. Markets: U.S. stocks rallied after data showed signs that inflation had started to slow, supporting the view that the rise in the consumer prices may have peaked. Federal Reserve officials reiterated that the central bank still had work to do in taming inflation, but the market nonetheless appeared to lower its expectations for a 75-basis-point (0.75%) rate hike in September. The Dow Jones Industrial Average finished the week up 958 points, finishing at 33,761, a gain of 2.9%. The technology-heavy NASDAQ Composite rallied 3.1% to close at 13,047. By market cap, the large cap S&P 500 added 3.3%, while the mid cap S&P 400 surged 4.4% and the small cap Russell 2000 finished the week up 4.9%.

International Markets: Major international markets were all positive for the week. Canada's TSX rose 2.9%, while the United Kingdom's FTSE 100 added 0.8%. On Europe's mainland, France's CAC 40 and Germany's DAX added 1.3% and 1.6%, respectively. In Asia, China's Shanghai Composite rose 1.5%, logging its first positive week in three. Japan's Nikkei finished the week up 1.3%. As grouped by Morgan Stanley Capital International, developed markets added 2.7%. Emerging markets finished up 2.5%.

Commodities: Major commodities finished the week to the upside as well. Precious metals were higher with Gold rising 1.4% to \$1815.50 per ounce and Silver added 4.3% to \$20.70. Energy retraced some of last week's declines. Brent crude oil rebounded 3.5% to \$98 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate crude added 3.5% to \$92.09. The industrial metal copper, viewed by some analysts as a barometer of world economic health due to its wide variety of uses, finished the week up 3.3%.

U.S. Economic News: The number of Americans filing for first-time unemployment benefits rose to its highest level since last November, another sign of the cooling labor market. The Labor Department reported initial jobless benefits rose by 14,000 to 262,000 last week. Economists had expected just an increase of 4,000 new claims. The four-week moving average of claims, smoothed to iron-out the weekly volatility, rose by 4,500 to 252,000. Claims have been slowly trending higher over the past few months, consistent with softening demand for workers. The Federal Reserve has been intent on cooling the labor market to help get the rate of inflation under control. Stuart Hoffman, senior economic advisor at PNC Financial Services Group wrote in a research note, "The rise in initial claims since early April is a cool breeze blowing at the hot labor market this summer."

Confidence among the nation's small business owners rose last month, reflecting improved expectations about business conditions. The National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB), a small-business lobbying group, reported its Small Business Optimism Index climbed 0.4 points to 89.9 in July. Economists were expecting the index to remain unchanged. Of the 10 index components, four increased while six decreased. Inflation remained a key concern, with 37% of small business owners reporting it as their single most important problem in operating their business. That reading was at its highest level since the end of 1979. On a positive note, the sub-index that measures the percentage of owners expecting better business conditions over the next six months recorded the biggest rise, up nine points from June's record low.

Consumers got a reprieve from higher prices in July, according to the latest report from the government. The Labor Department's Consumer Price Index (CPI) remained unchanged in July, down from a 1.3% increase the prior month and below economists' expectations of a 0.2% advance. Over the past year, inflation retreated to 8.5% from its 41-year high of 9.1% in June. The closely-watched "core" measure of inflation that omits volatile food and energy rose 0.3% in July, down from a 0.7% gain in the prior month. The 12-month rate remained steady at 5.9%. The big rise in inflation was the cost of food, which rose 1.1% in July. Over the past year, food prices alone are up 10.9%, the highest since May 1979. Energy prices fell 4.6% in July, with gasoline prices down 7.7%. Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets wrote, "The July CPI report may be the first clear indication that consumers are pushing back against high inflation in response to tighter monetary policy." In addition, he stated his view that inflation was close to peaking, though the "climb down the mountain will be slow."

Prices at the wholesale level pulled back as well, implying more good news for consumer prices in the near future. The Labor Department reported its Producer Price Index fell -0.5% in July, its first negative monthly print since April of 2020. The reading was a surprise to the downside--economists had expected an increase of 0.2%. In annual terms, the headline PPI was up 9.8% in July, down from 11.3% in the prior month. The core producer price index, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, rose 0.2% in July, down from a 0.3% gain in the prior month. The decline appears to be largely result in the decline in energy prices. Energy prices dropped 9% in July, down sharply from their 9.4% gain in the prior month.

A survey of U.S. consumers showed sentiment rose in August, but remains near its all-time low seen in July. The University of Michigan's index of Consumer Sentiment rose to 55.1 in its preliminary reading for this month—up 4 points from July. Economists had expected a reading of just 52.5. Consumer expectations for inflation over the next year ticked down to 5% from 5.2% last month, while expectations for inflation over the next five years ticked up to 3% from 2.9% in July, which was a six-month low. Americans remain concerned about the rapidly rising costs of key goods like food and rent, though declines in the price of gasoline in recent weeks helped lift the national mood. "All components of the expectations index improved this month, particularly among low and middle-income consumers for whom inflation is particularly salient," wrote Joanne Hsu, director of the survey.

In a pair of speeches by Federal Reserve governors, Charles Evans, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago stated the July CPI data was "positive", but "nobody can be happy" with an 8.5% annual inflation rate. Evans now sees the Fed's benchmark policy rate rising to 3.25% - 3.5% by end of year, implying a slower pace of hikes ahead. On the economy, Evans said he didn't think the economy would "turn down in a significant fashion anytime soon." Minneapolis Fed President Neel Kashkari stated July's CPI print was the "first hint" of possible good news on the inflation front. "I was certainly happier to see a surprise to the downside," Kashkari said, but the Fed is "far, far away from declaring victory," he added.

[International Economic News:](#) Canada's inverted yield curve is signaling the Bank of Canada may be forced to raise interest rates to a level that almost guarantees a recession, analysts say. The yield on Canada's 10-year government bond has fallen more than 50 basis points below its 2-year yield—the biggest inversion since 1994. Analysts see yield curve inversions as predictors of recessions. Furthermore, Canada's economy is likely to be particularly sensitive to higher interest rates after Canadians borrowed heavily during the pandemic to participate in its red-hot housing market.

Britain's Christopher Dembik, Saxo Bank's head of Macro Analysis, wrote in a scathing research note that a currency crisis is the only thing missing in the United Kingdom resembling an "emerging-market economy". Dembik stated that adding up inflation, political instability following former Prime Minister Boris Johnson's departure, trade disruptions, and an unstable energy market, the British economy resembles one from the developing world rather than the sixth largest on the planet. However, despite the major economic challenges, the British pound sterling has remained relatively stable.

On Europe's mainland, French economic output is stabilizing as expansion in its dominant services sector has offset weaker activity in construction and manufacturing. The Bank of France reported output is holding steady in July and August at a level of 0.5% above the end of 2021. "In an economic environment that remains difficult with tensions on commodities markets and supply and hiring difficulties, activity continues to resist," the central bank said. The gauge of the Eurozone's second-largest economy provides some reassurance before what's expected

to be a difficult end to the year, with households and firms under pressure from high inflation and possible energy shortages.

Germany - the Eurozone's powerhouse - has now become its weakest link. Germany's economy stagnated between the first and second quarters, while the Eurozone as a whole grew by 0.7%. Last month the International Monetary Fund slashed its forecast for German growth in 2023 by 1.9%, down to 0.8%--the biggest downgrade of any country. While Italy, Spain and France recorded stronger than expected growth on the back of a tourism-fueled boom in its services economy, Germany has had to rely more on domestic demand. Christian Lindner, Germany's Finance Minister, stated his country's prospects had become "fragile". Soaring inflation, persistent supply chain problems, and weaker global demand are weighing heavily on the country's large industrial sector.

In Asia, China took action against Taiwan following U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to the island earlier this month after ignoring warnings from Beijing. China suspended imports of Taiwan citrus, frozen fish, sweets and biscuits and exports of natural sands to Taiwan. The new measures appear to be more symbolic than real, analysts say, as the new sanctions affect only about 0.04% of their two-way trade. Taiwan's exports to mainland China were worth \$113 billion last year and its imports from China amounted to about \$82 billion, the bulk of which was in electrical machinery, electronic and technological parts, none of which Beijing has targeted.

Over 40% of major companies in Japan expect the economy to slow down over the next year, a Kyodo News survey showed. The reading was a huge increase from just 5% recorded one year ago. The survey of 114 companies, including Toyota Motor Corp. and SoftBank Group Corp., found that Japanese blue chips are becoming increasingly pessimistic about the country's economic outlook. Furthermore, the survey found the number of those that believe the economy will expand dropped to just 55% from 90% last year. Higher commodity prices, a decline in consumer spending, and the yen's weakness against the U.S. dollar and other major currencies were all cited as reasons for the dour outlook.

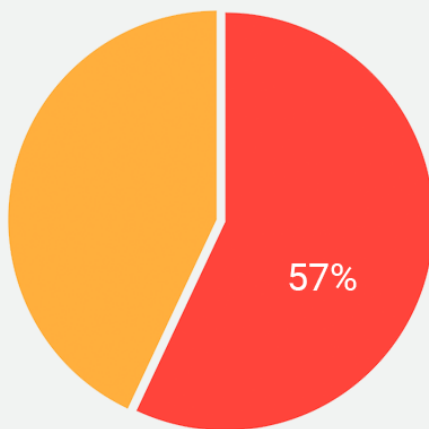
Finally: Over the past year nearly every essential good or service has escalated in price, but for those renting, costs have often skyrocketed. News site "The Hustle" conducted a survey attempting to gain more insight into how much rent has gone up over the past year and why. Their findings: a whopping 71% of renters experienced rent hikes last year with an average increase of 14.6%. In certain hot spots, such as Miami, San Diego, and Austin, average rent was up more than 25%! As for why, the survey found a very interesting relationship: the probability of a rent increase was highly correlated with the size of the landlord. Just 57% of Mom-and-Pop landlords (fewer than 5 rental units) raised rent over the past year. In contrast, over 85% of respondents reported rent hikes if their landlord was a conglomerate (greater than 10,000 units). (Data and chart from thehustle.com.)

Rent hikes increase with landlord size

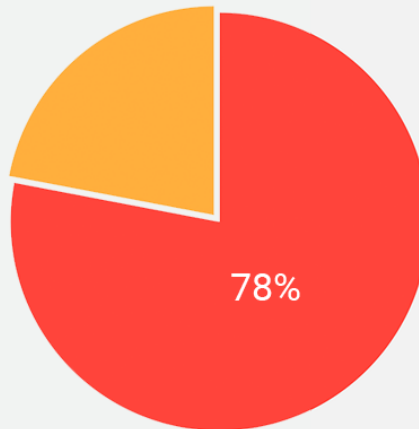
Did your rent go up in the past year?

yes no

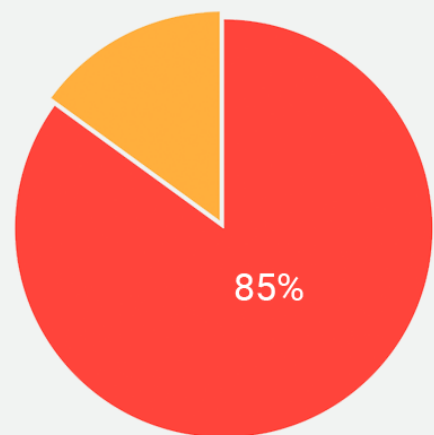
Mom and pop
(5 units or fewer)



Mid-size
(100-500 units)



Conglomerate
(10k+ units)



DATA: Survey of 2,300 readers of The Hustle (July 2022); averages are weighted



Get a physical! We invite you to attend a seminar and come in for a “financial physical”, even if you think your current approach is fine. Much like going to the doctor for a physical despite feeling great, you want to make sure any negative issues you may not be aware of are caught early and addressed. For example...

- Do you need a process to help manage losses during the next bear market?
- Have you addressed your investment process and adjusted it for what is going on in the world?
- If not, what are you waiting for?

At the bottom of the 2007 - 2009 bear market the S&P-500 index returned to levels last seen in 1996.

The drop didn't retrace only a few months or even a couple years.

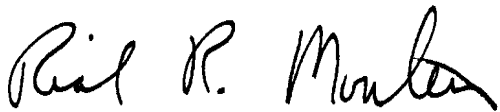
We discuss many of these issues on the weekly radio show and invite you to listen.

WEEKLY FOCUS – THINK ABOUT IT

“Inflation is when you pay fifteen dollars for the ten-dollar haircut you used to get for five dollars when you had hair.”

Sam Ewing – American Athlete

Yours truly,



Rial R. Moulton, CFP®, CPA / PFS, RFC
Certified Financial Planner™



Donald J. Moulton, CFP®, RFC
Certified Financial Planner™

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.

Investment services offered through Moulton Wealth Management, Inc., an independent Registered Investment Advisor. The Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500) is an unmanaged group of securities considered to be representative of the stock market in general. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is a price-weighted index of 30 actively traded blue-chip stocks. The NASDAQ Composite Index is an unmanaged, market-weighted index of all over-the-counter common stocks traded on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System. Yahoo! Finance is the source for any reference to the performance of an index between two specific periods. Opinions expressed are subject to change without notice and are not intended as investment advice or to predict future performance. Consult your financial professional before making any investment decision. You cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Investments in securities do not offer a fixed rate of return. Principal, yield and / or share price will fluctuate with changes in market conditions and, when sold or redeemed, you may receive more or less than originally invested. No system or financial planning strategy can guarantee future results.

To unsubscribe from the “Molten Hot” Minutes please reply to this e-mail with “Unsubscribe” in the subject line, or write us at 1220 N. Mullan Road, Spokane, WA 99206.

<https://mishtalk.com/economics/food-at-home-is-up-13-1-percent-from-a-year-ago-most-since-february-1979>
https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/sam_ewing_103896

The Barclays Global Aggregate Bond Index (formerly Lehman Brothers Global Aggregate Index), an unmanaged market-capitalization-weighted benchmark, tracks the performance of investment-grade fixed income securities denominated in 13 currencies. The index reflects reinvestment of all distributions and changes in market prices.

The Barclays U.S. 1-10 Year TIPS Index is an unmanaged index composed of inflation-protected public obligations of the U.S. Treasury that have a remaining maturity of one to ten years.

The Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged benchmark index composed of U.S. securities in Treasury, Government-Related, Corporate, and Securitized sectors. It includes securities that are of investment-grade quality or better, have at least one year to maturity, and have an outstanding par value of at least \$250 million.

The Barclays U.S. TIPS Index is an unmanaged index composed of all U.S. Treasury Inflation- Protected Securities rated investment grade, have at least one year to final maturity, and at least \$250 million par amount outstanding.

The Barclays U.S. Treasury Index is an unmanaged index composed of U.S. Treasuries.

The CDX IG 12 is a benchmark high-grade derivatives index, which measures the cost of insuring a basket of U.S. investment-grade corporate debt against defaults.

The Chicago Board Options Exchange Volatility Index (VIX) tracks the expected volatility in the S&P 500 over the next 30 days. A higher number indicates greater expected volatility. Common usage: The Chicago Board Options Exchange Volatility Index (VIX), a barometer of market volatility.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average is a widely followed market indicator based on a price-weighted average of 30 blue-chip stocks that trade on the New York Stock Exchange which are selected by editors of The Wall Street Journal.

The Dow Jones Wilshire Real Estate Securities Index (RESI) is used to measure the U.S. real estate market and includes both real estate investment trusts (REITs) and real estate operating companies (REOCs). It is weighted by float-adjusted market capitalization.

The JP Morgan Emerging Market Bond Index is a total-return, unmanaged trade-weighted index for U.S. dollar-denominated emerging-market bonds, including sovereign debt, quasi-sovereign debt, Brady bonds, loans, and Eurobonds.

The JP Morgan EMBI Global Diversified Index tracks the performance of external debt instruments (including U.S.-dollar-denominated and other external-currency-denominated Brady bonds, loans, Eurobonds and local market instruments) in the emerging markets.

The JP Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index tracks the performance of local-currency bonds issued by emerging market governments.

The MSCI World Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets. The MSCI World Index represents 23 developed market countries.

The MSCI All Country World Index is a market-capitalization-weighted index composed of over 2,400 companies, and is representative of the market structure of 46 developed and emerging market countries. The index is calculated with net dividends reinvested in U.S. dollars.

The MSCI EAFE Index is an unmanaged, market-capitalization-weighted equity index that represents the developed world outside North America.

The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a free float-adjusted market-capitalization-weighted index designed to measure the performance of global emerging market equities.

The NASDAQ Composite Index is a market-value-weighted index of all common stocks listed on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations (NASDAQ) system.

The Russell 1000 Index includes 1000 of the largest U.S. equity securities based on market cap and current index membership; it is used to measure the activity of the U.S. large-cap equity market.

The Russell 2000 Index includes 2000 small-cap U.S. equity names and is used to measure the activity of the U.S. small-cap equity market.

The S&P 500 Index is a capitalization-weighted index made up of 500 widely held large-cap U.S. stocks in the Industrials, Transportation, Utilities and Financials sectors.

Investing Terminology

Alpha is a measure of a portfolio's return above a certain benchmarked return.

Alternative Investments are investments that are not one of the three traditional asset types (stocks, bonds and cash). Alternative investments include hedge funds, managed futures, real estate, commodities, and derivatives contracts.

Asset-Backed Securities (ABS) are bonds backed by a pool of loans or accounts receivable and commonly include payments from credit cards, auto loans and mortgage loans.

Austerity refers to measures taken by a country's government in an effort to reduce expenditures and a budget deficit.

Beta is a measure of the volatility or systematic risk of a security or a portfolio in comparison to the market as a whole.

Book-to-Price Ratio is the inverse of the price-to-book ratio, which is calculated as the market value of a security divided by its book value. A lower the price-to-book ratio for a security may mean the security is undervalued, and vice versa (the higher the book-to-price ratio, the better the value).

Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities (CMBS) are pools of commercial mortgage loans that are packaged together and sold to the public. They are usually structured in tranches, or classes of risk, so that investors can determine how much risk they want to take on. In general, CMBS carry less prepayment risk than loans backed by residential mortgages.

Corporate Bonds are debt securities issued by corporations to raise money; these bonds usually pay higher coupon rates than government or municipal bonds.

Correlation Risk refers to the change in the marked to market value of an asset when the correlation between the underlying assets changes over time.

Credit Ratings are an assessment of the risk of default of a company or country. The higher the credit quality (or rating), the lower the perceived risk of default.

Cyclical Sectors or Stocks are those whose performance is closely tied to the economic environment and business cycle. Managers with a pro-cyclical market view tend to favor stocks that are more sensitive to movements in the broad market and therefore tend to have more volatile performance.

Debt-to-Equity Ratio is calculated as long-term debt divided by common shareholders' equity, and measures the amount of a firm's leverage, or debt.

Donor Advised Funds are private funds administered by a third party and created for the purpose of managing charitable donations on behalf of an organization, family, or individual.

Duration is a measure of a security's price sensitivity to changes in interest rates. Specifically, duration measures the potential change in value of a bond that would result from a 1% change in interest rates. The shorter the duration of a bond, the less its price will potentially change as interest rates go up or down; conversely, the longer the duration of a bond, the more its price will potentially change.

Excess Returns are investment returns from a security or portfolio that exceed a benchmark or index with a similar level of risk.

Grantor Retained Annuity Trust is an estate planning technique that minimizes the tax liability existing when intergenerational transfers of estate assets occur. An irrevocable trust is created for a certain term or period of time. The individual establishing the trust pays a tax when the trust is established. Assets are placed under the trust and then an annuity is paid out every year. When the trust expires, the beneficiary receives the assets estate and gift tax free.

High Yield Debt is rated below investment grade and is considered to be riskier.

Managed Futures strategies use futures contracts as part of their overall investment strategy. They provide portfolio diversification among various types of investment styles and asset classes to help mitigate portfolio risk in a way that is not possible in direct equity investments.

Market Capitalization is calculated as the number of company shares outstanding multiplied by the share price, and is used to determine the total market value of a company.

Momentum is the rate of acceleration for an economic, price or volume movement; it is used to locate trends within the market.

Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS) are pools of mortgage loans that are packaged together and sold to the public. They are usually structured in tranches, or classes of risk, so that investors can determine how much risk they want to take on.

Option-adjusted spreads estimate the difference in yield between a security or collection of securities and comparable Treasuries after removing the effects of any special features, such as provisions that allow an issuer to call a security before maturity.

Peripheral Eurozone Countries are those countries in the Eurozone with the smallest economies.

Price-to-Book Ratio is calculated as the market value of a security divided by its book value. A lower the price-to-book ratio for a security may mean the security is undervalued.

Private Foundations are charitable organizations that do not qualify as public charities by government standards. A private foundation is a nonprofit organization which is usually created via a single primary donation from an individual or a business and whose funds and programs are managed by its own trustees or directors.

Quantitative Easing refers to expansionary efforts by central banks to help increase the supply of money in the economy.

Recapitalized/recapitalization refers to injecting fresh equity into a company or a bank, which can be used to absorb future losses. This generally takes place through the company issuing new shares. In the case of a government or organization recapitalizing a bank, it usually results in the government or organization owning a stake in the bank.

Spreads: Yield spreads represents the difference in yields offered between corporate and government bonds. If they tighten, this means that the difference has decreased. If they widen, this means the difference has increased.

Standard Deviation: Statistical measure of historical volatility. A statistical measure of the distance a quantity is likely to lie from its average value. It is applied to the annual rate of return of an investment, to measure the investment's volatility (risk). Standard deviation is synonymous with volatility, in that the greater the standard deviation the more volatile an investment's return will be. A standard deviation of zero would mean an investment has a return rate that never varies.

Treasuries are U.S. government debt obligations that are backed by the full faith and credit of the government. Often, they are used as a proxy for a risk-free asset when comparing other risky assets.

Yield Curves illustrate the relationship between the interest rate, or cost of borrowing, and the time to maturity. Yields move inversely to prices. The Barclays Capital 1-10 Year US TIPS Index: Barclays Capital 1-10 Year US TIPS Index measures the performance of inflation-protected public obligations of the U.S. Treasury that have a remaining maturity of one to ten years.

(Other Sources: All index- and returns-data from Yahoo Finance; news from Reuters, Barron's, Wall St. Journal, Bloomberg.com, ft.com, guggenheimpartners.com, zerohedge.com, ritholtz.com, markit.com, financialpost.com, Eurostat, 0020Statistics Canada, Yahoo! Finance, stocksandnews.com, marketwatch.com, wantchinatimes.com, BBC, 361capital.com, pensionpartners.com, cnbc.com, FactSet.)