# What Signals an Economic Downturn?

By: Benjamin Aubry, Gary Fisher, and Bruce Mark



Every day, trillions of dollars are traded around the world by both humans and computers. The common goal between all parties involved is to make a profit on their respective trading strategies.

### When is the next market downturn?

**Our Primary Question:** What are potential economic and financial measurements that can be used to predetermine a downturn or recession in the US financial markets?

- Our team's goal for this project is to each analyze a different securities' data set in order to compare them to the S&P 500, then draw conclusions on whether the information reveals potential sell signals.

# Can comparing yields between equities (stocks) and bonds predict a market downturn?

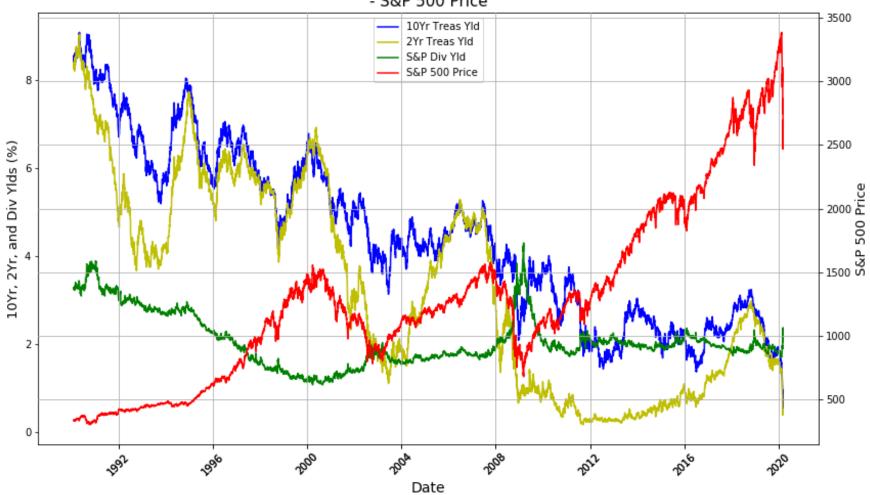
• Why analyze these metrics? Equities (stocks) and bonds generally move in opposite directions from one another. By converting the equity prices to its yield equivalent, we can then directly compare equity yields to bond yields in order to find a trend.

## Relevant Data Highlights:

- Source: Quandl.com
- <u>Pricing Used</u>: CME-S&P 500 spot month futures, US 10-Year Treasury Rate, and US 2-Year Treasury Rate

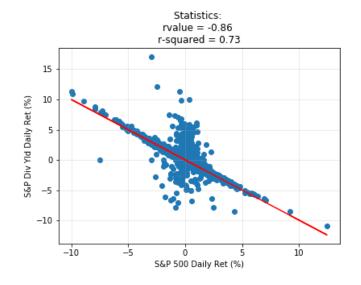
#### 1/31/1990 to 3/20/2020 Daily Values for

- 10Yr Treas Yld
- 2Yr Treas Yld
- S&P 500 Div Yld
  S&P 500 Price



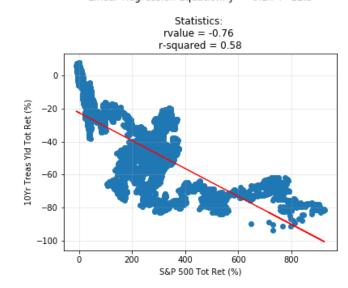
S&P 500 Daily Ret (%) vs S&P Div Yld Daily Ret (%)

Linear Regression Equation: y = -1.0x + 0.0



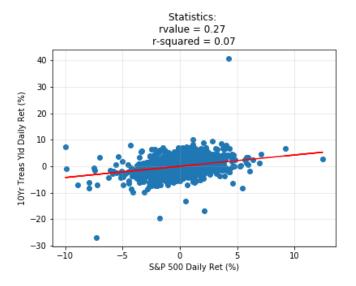
S&P 500 Tot Ret (%) vs 10Yr Treas Yld Tot Ret (%)

Linear Regression Equation: y = -0.1x + -22.5



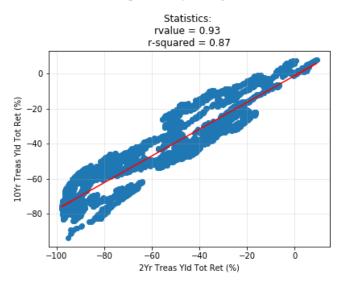
S&P 500 Daily Ret (%) vs 10Yr Treas Yld Daily Ret (%)

Linear Regression Equation: y = 0.4x + -0.0



2Yr Treas Yld Tot Ret (%) vs 10Yr Treas Yld Tot Ret (%)

Linear Regression Equation: y = 0.8x + -1.2

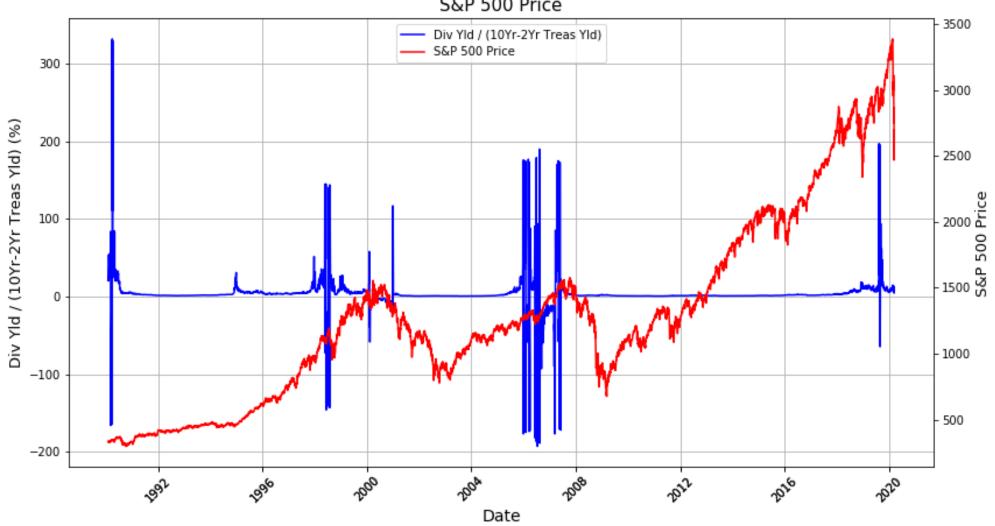


1/31/1998 to 3/20/2002 9/30/2005 to 3/20/2009 Daily: Div Yld / (10Yr-2Yr Treas Yld) and S&P 500 Price Daily: Div Yld / (10Yr-2Yr Treas Yld) and S&P 500 Price - 1600 200 150 Div Yld / (10Yr-2Yr Treas Yld) Div Yld / (10Yr-2Yr Treas Yld) S&P 500 Price S&P 500 Price - 1500 150 100 Div Yld / (10Yr-2Yr Treas Yld) (%) Div Yld / (10Yr-2Yr Treas Yld) (%) - 1400 - 1400 S&P 500 Price S&P 500 Price - 1100 - 800 -150- 1000 -200 -150 Date

Date

#### 1/31/1990 to 3/20/2020

Daily: Div Yld / (10Yr-2Yr Treas Yld) and S&P 500 Price



## **Conclusion:**

- The ratio previously compared to the S&P 500 does appear to be a leading indicator for trying to anticipate a large market downturn.
- The most important part of the indicator seems to be when the ratio is above or below zero (0).
  - Only after the ratio changes from negative to positive will the "sell" signal be triggered.
- Additional analysis will need to be performed on data before 1990 in order to compare results.

# Questions?