\*\*\* This document includes information on the steps taken to complete team project 1. \*\*\*

Benjamin, Bruce, and Gary

* We have decided to analyze data which is relevant to the beginning of economic downturns. The goal is to find observable signals that can be used for trading or monetizing on the prediction of a potential downturn.
* The first steps taken were to set up group responsibilities, create questions that we wanted to answer, and decide which data sets would be utilized for analysis.
* The team decided that each section of the project would be worked on together. We would focus on individual parts of each “next-step” subjects, reconvene to share answers, and come to agreed upon answers and conclusions for each section.
* We decided that “quandl.com” would be the source of all financial data. A kudos must be given to Benjamin Aubry for suggesting the data site.
* A meeting was held that involved everyone scanning the website, “quandl.com”, for data that would be meaningful and impactful in our analysis.
* After reviewing the data site, it was concluded that we will analyze the following:
  1. Differences between corporate bond yields with ratings of AAA, BBB, and B ratings, vs the 5-year Treasury Bond yield. These ratings represent the highest credit quality, average investment grade credit quality, and a very low-grade credit quality vs the highest credit quality issued by the United States Treasury, respectively.
  2. The S&P 500’s average dividend yield vs the difference between the US 10-year Treasury Bond yield and the US 2-year Treasury Bond yield.
  3. Gold 1-month futures vs copper 1-month futures.
  4. Comparisons between each calculated metric mentioned above and the S&P 500 1-month futures.
* A shared github repository was created to complete the project.
* The team decided that we wanted to analyze data after 1985 for each realized economic downturn.
  1. 1987 (Black Monday)
  2. 1999/2000 (Dot-com bubble)
  3. 2001 (September 11th)
  4. 2008 (The Great Recession)
  5. 2020 (Coronavirus)

\*Some data is not available for the specified dates, so the next earliest date available is used for comparison when necessary.

* The team collected data and began merging appropriate datapoints for analysis.
* Each team member then took a portion of the project to complete, while everyone shared input on each other’s respective parts.
  1. Ben Aubry focused on the differences between corporate bond yields with ratings of AAA, BBB, and B ratings, vs the 5-year Treasury Bond yield.
     + These were his general steps taken
  2. Gary Fisher focused on the S&P 500’s average dividend yield vs the difference between the US 10-year Treasury Bond yield and the US 2-year Treasury Bond yield.
     + These were his general steps taken
       - Imported data from CSVs
       - Merged the data using Outer method
       - Sorted the data by Index
       - Changed date type to "datetime" for further sorting by date range
       - Cleaned data to start at earliest common start date for calculations
       - Calculated Daily Dividend Yield from the monthly value
       - Calculated daily percent returns
       - Inserted daily percent returns into data frame
       - Checked for NaN values, and shape of data frame
       - Dropped NaN rows from data frame
       - Sorted data frame by date range
       - Calculated total returns for date range
       - Created Master data frame and dropped infinite numbers
       - Created initial chart of variables used for charting
       - Created function for scatter plots
       - Created scatterplots of different variables for correlation comparisons
       - Created daily return chart for primary variables used
       - Created scatterplot of primary variables for correlation comparison
       - Created primary line plots showing full range of data used in charts
       - Created multiples line plots from different date ranges to show individual instances of findings from data
  3. Bruce Mark focused on Gold 1-month futures vs copper 1-month futures.
     + These were his general steps taken