Is the U.S. in an Economic Decline?

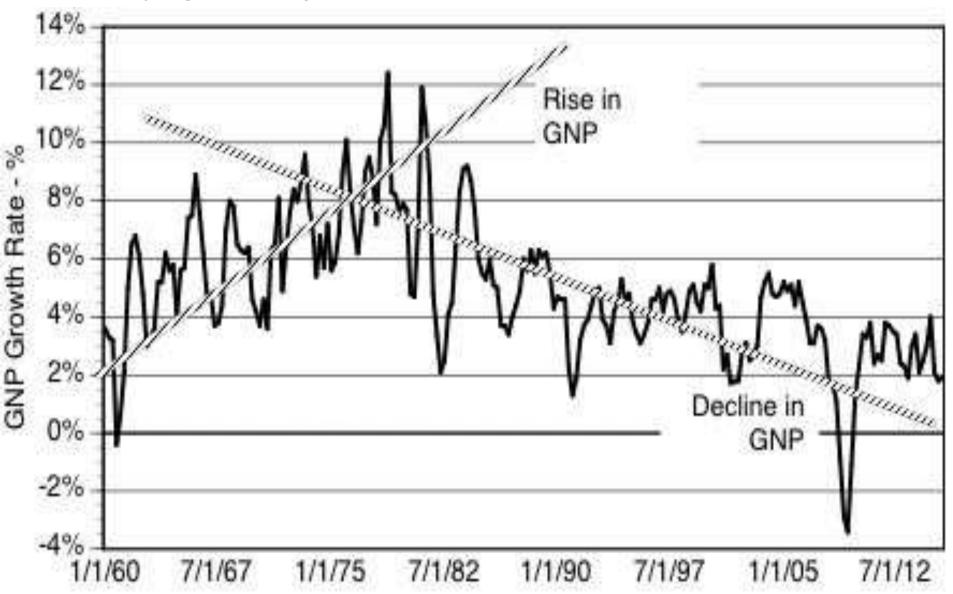
New Canaan Senior Men Club – January 29, 2016

Paul A. Strassmann

Presentation Outline

- Assessment of the Current Situation
- How to View the Stock Market
- Personal Prospects for Seniors
- How to Preserve Savings

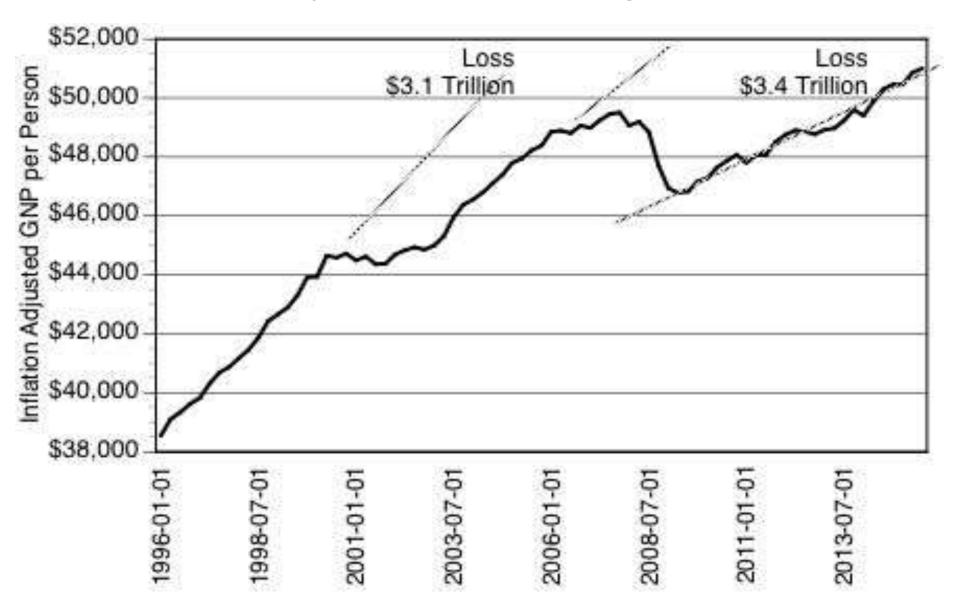
<u>Underlying Cause of Decline: Gross National Product Trend</u>



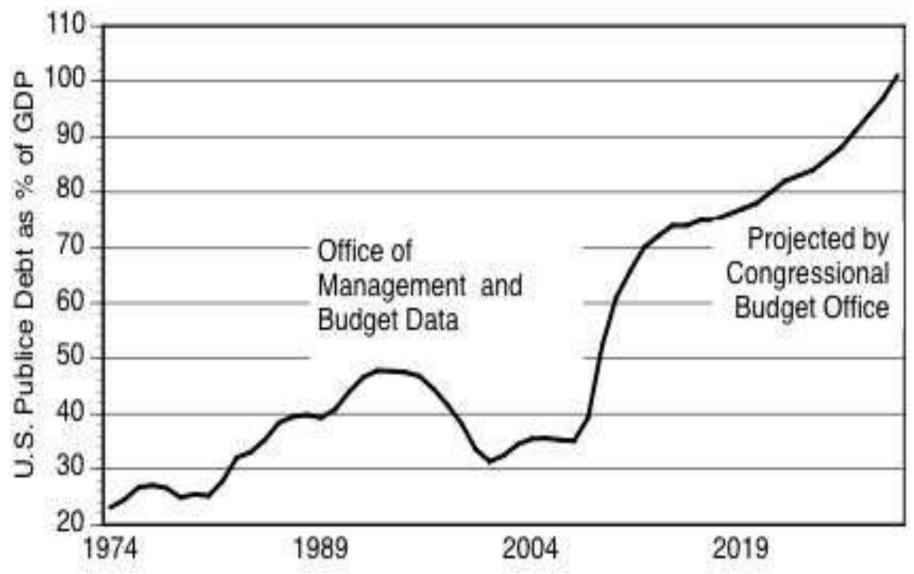
U.S. Is Still Prosperous: GNP/Capita Ranks #12 Of 224 Countries

Ranking	Country Name	GNP per Capita 2013	
1	Luxembourg	\$113,727	
2	Norway	\$102,832	
3	Qatar	\$96,077	
4	Macao	\$90,332	
5	Bermuda	\$85,748	
6	Switzerland	\$84,669	
7	Australia	\$67,628	
8	Sweden	\$60,283	
9	Denmark	\$59,819	
10	Singapore	\$55,980	
11	Faeroe	\$54,118	
12	United States	\$52,980	
224	Malawi	\$240	

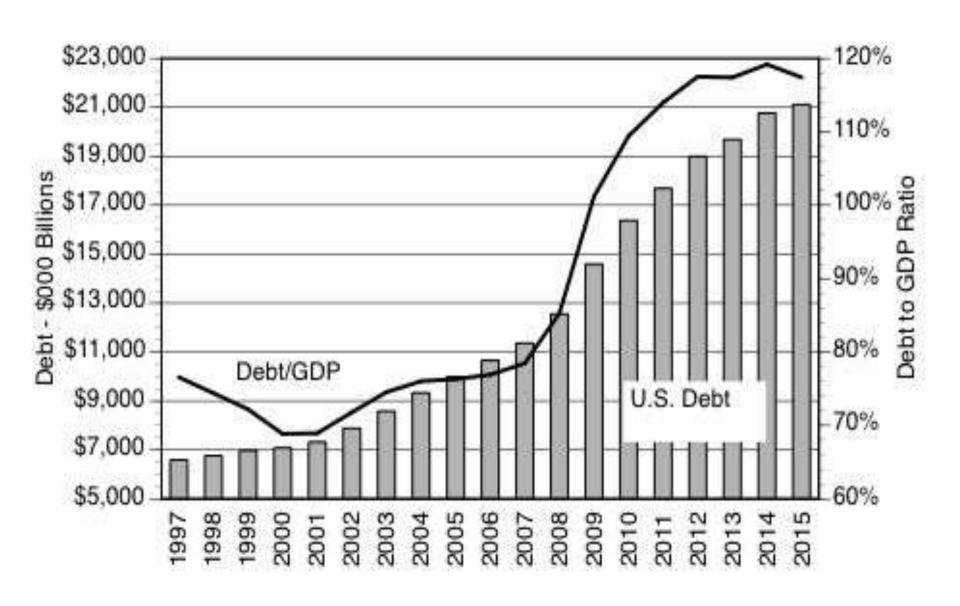
U.S. Stumble: Loss of Personal Income During Recent Recessions



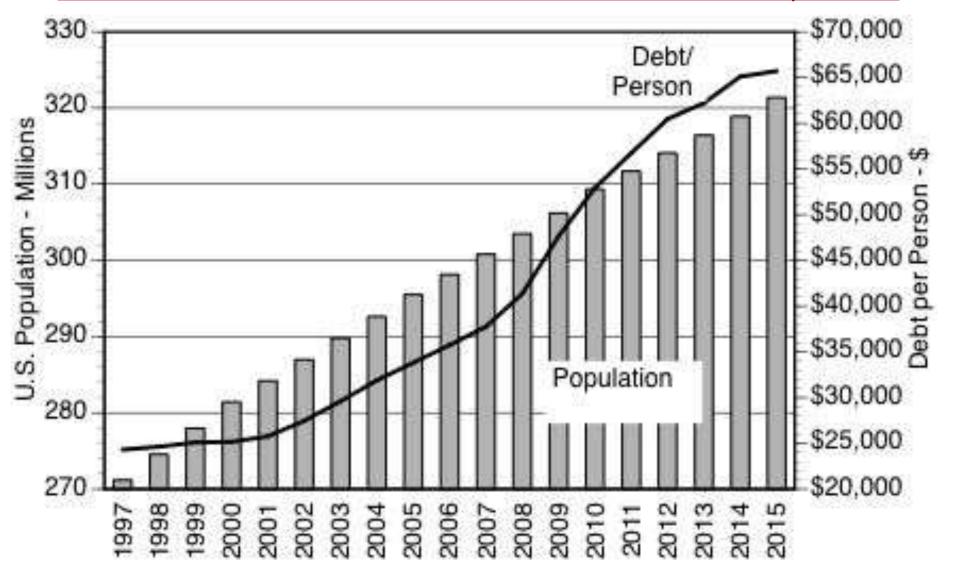
Outlook not Promising: Public Debt Projected to Exceed the GDP



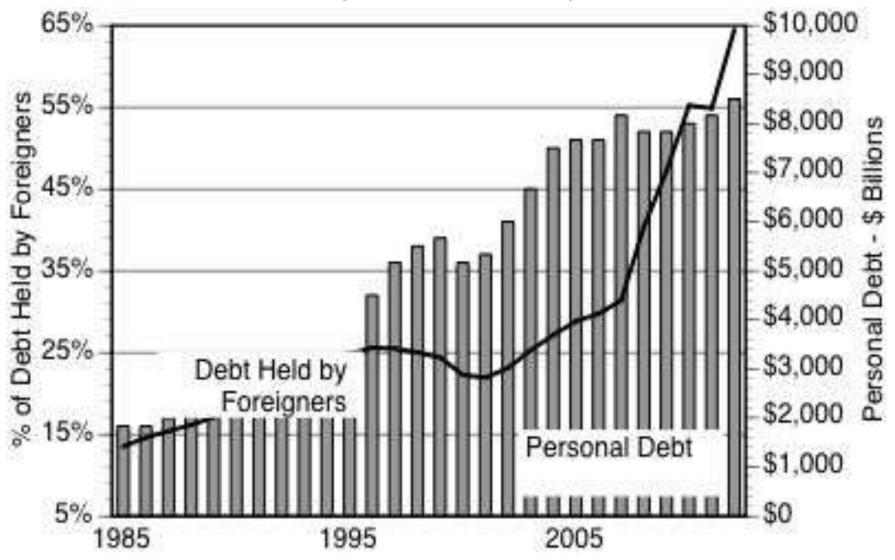
Major Hurdle: Debt More Than Doubled by \$14 Trillion



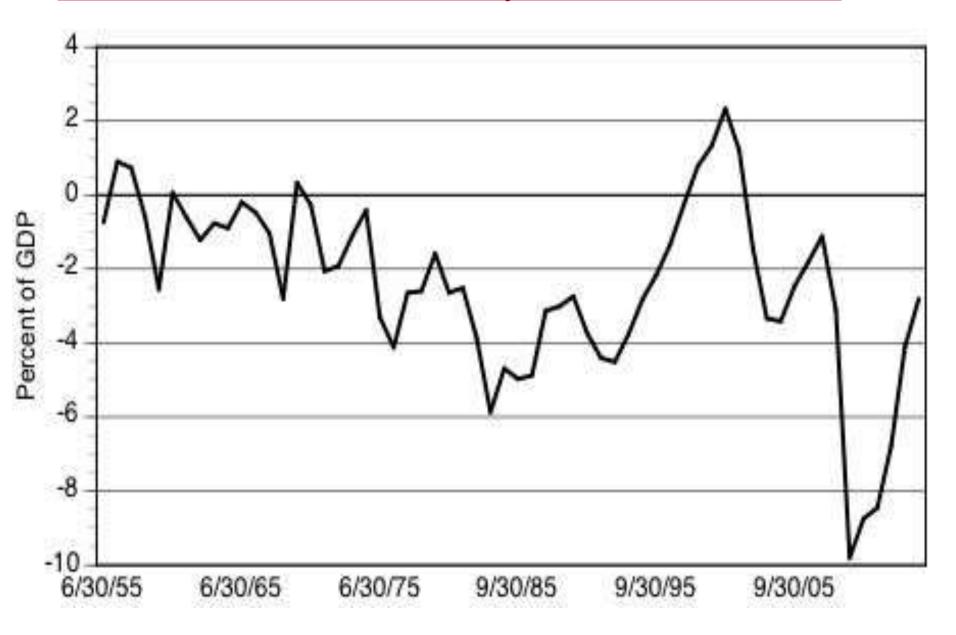
Adverse Indicator: Debt/Person Increased Faster Than Population



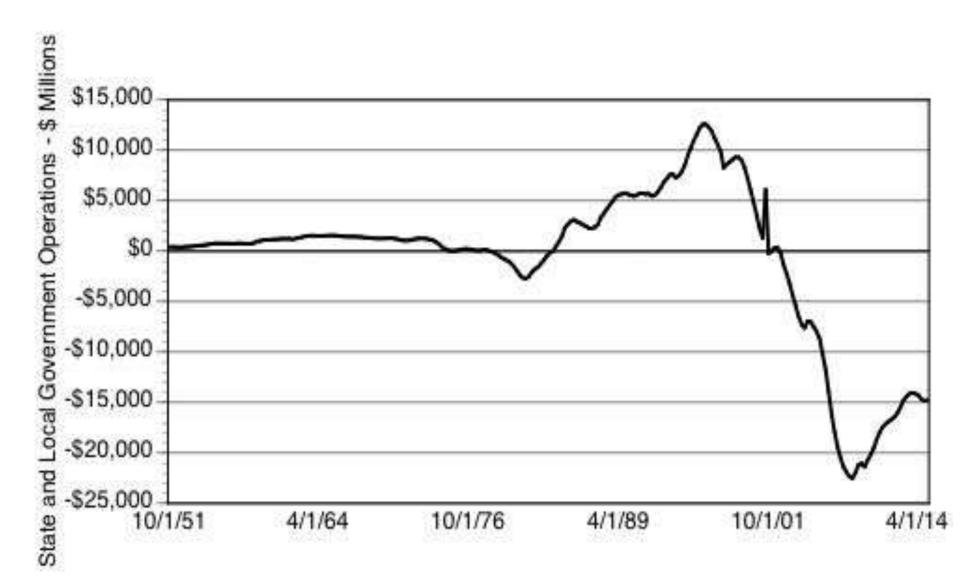
Is That a Threat? - Foreigners Hold 65% of Personal Debt



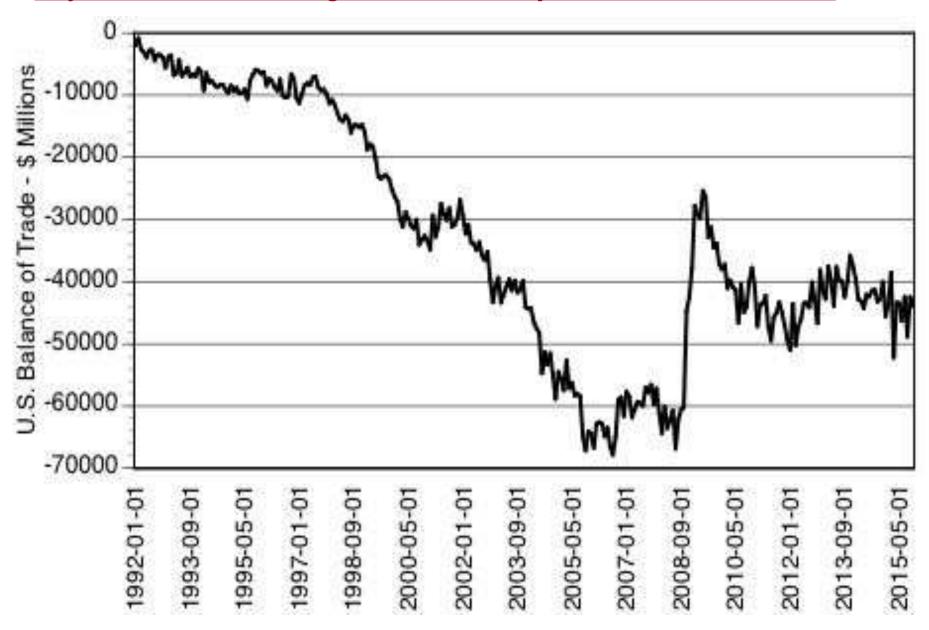
Bad News: Federal Government Deficit Continues to Increase



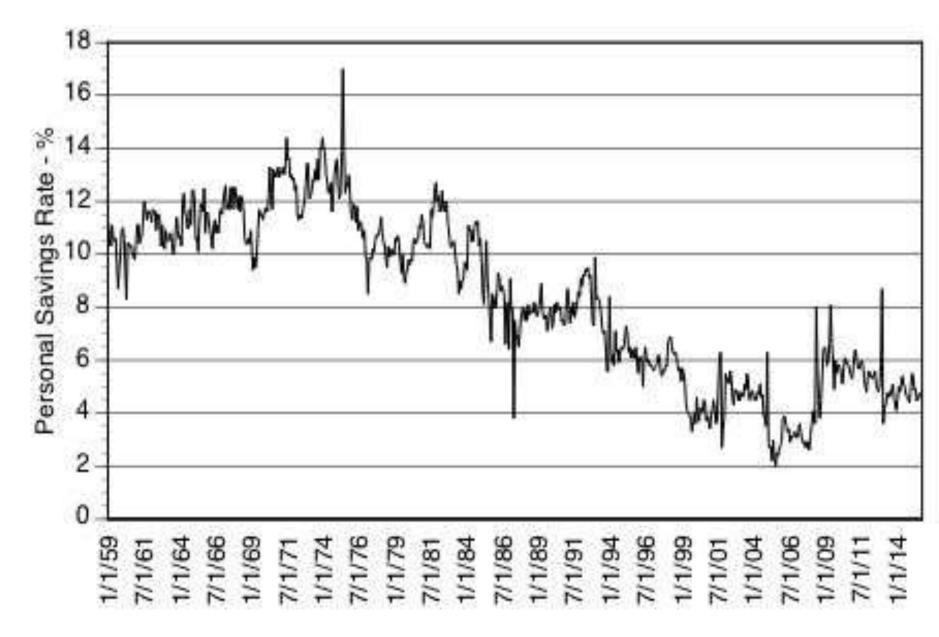
Bad News: Deficits of State and Local Government Increasing



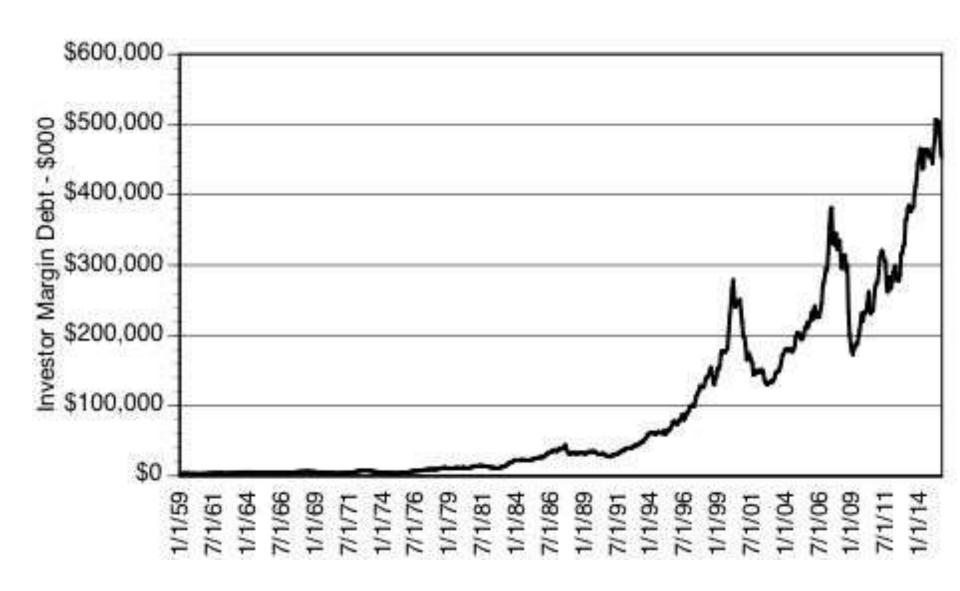
<u>Unfavorable Trend: Negative Balance of U.S. Trade Since 1992</u>



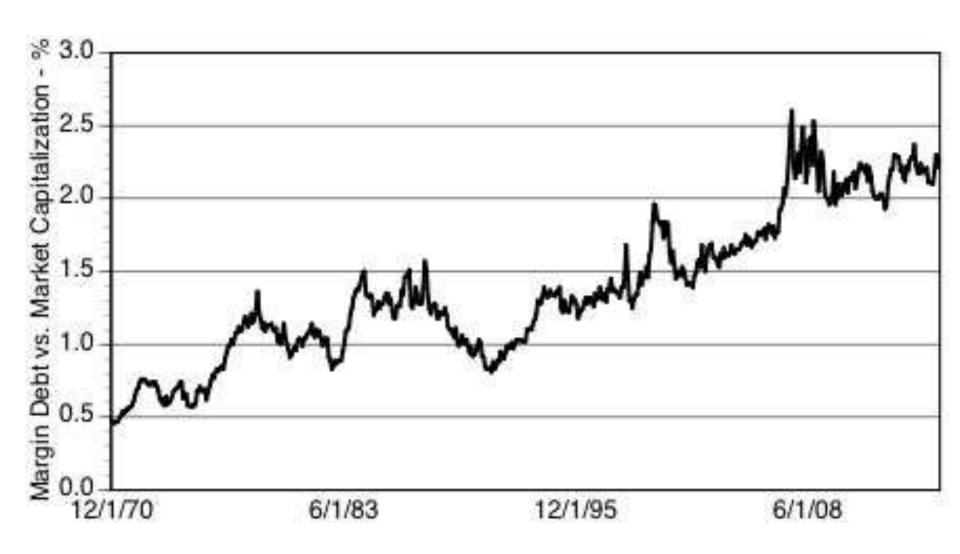
<u>Unfavorable Trend: Personal Savings Rates Have Declined</u>



An Unfavorable Indicator: Brokerage Debt is Increasing

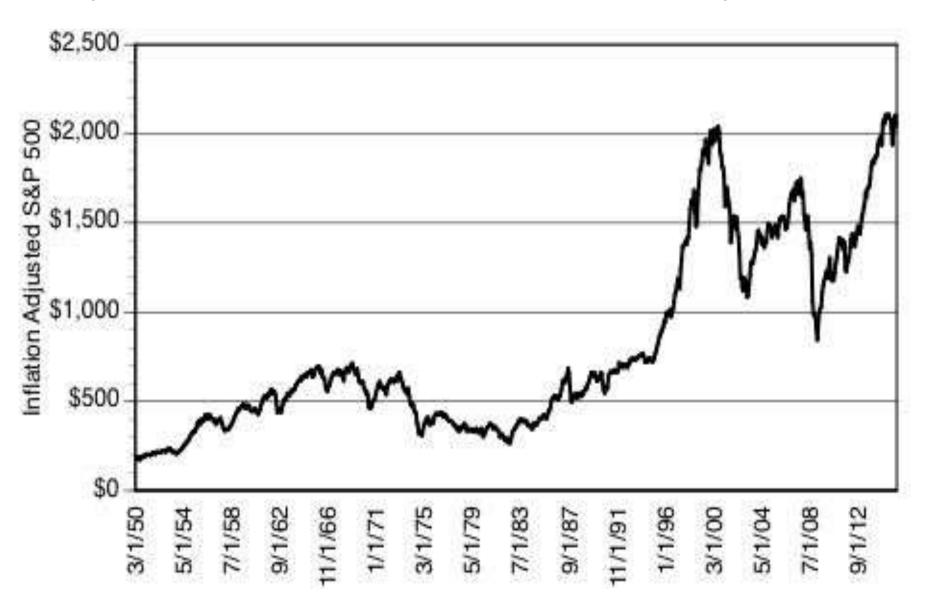


Bad Sign: Investor Margin Debt Now Exceeds Market Capitalization

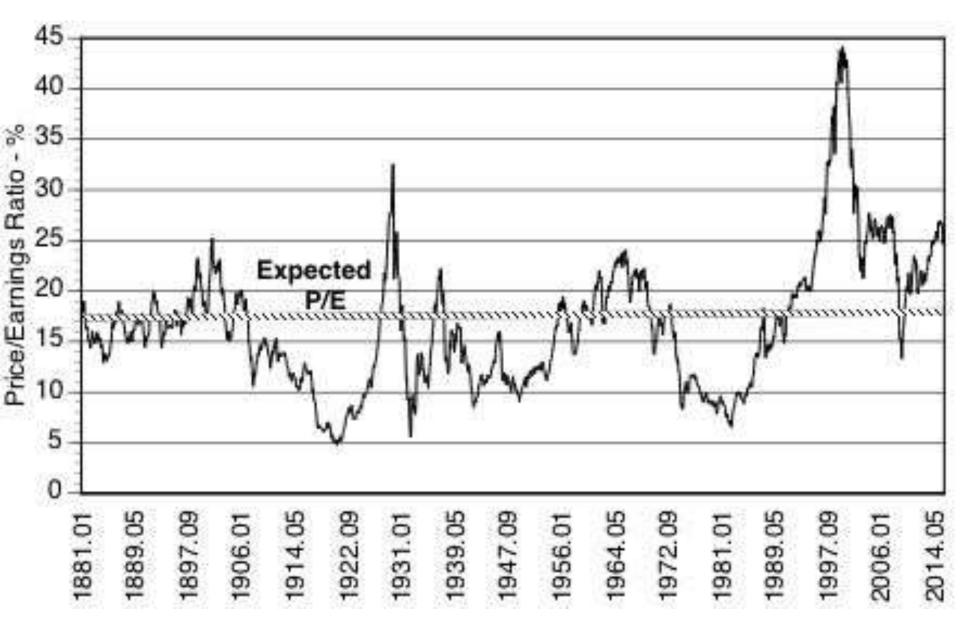


The Stock Market

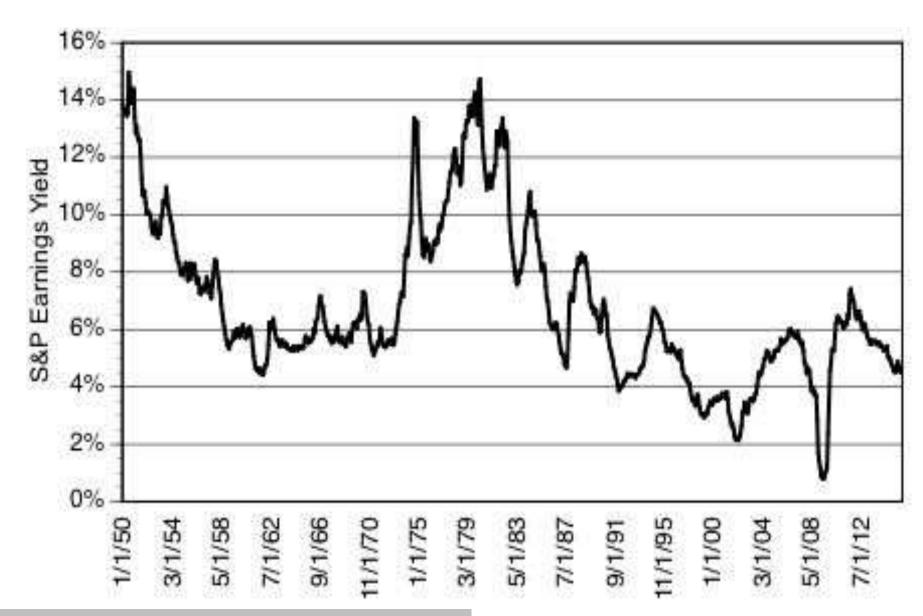
<u>Unfavirable Indicator: S&P 500 Becomes Unstable After 2000</u>



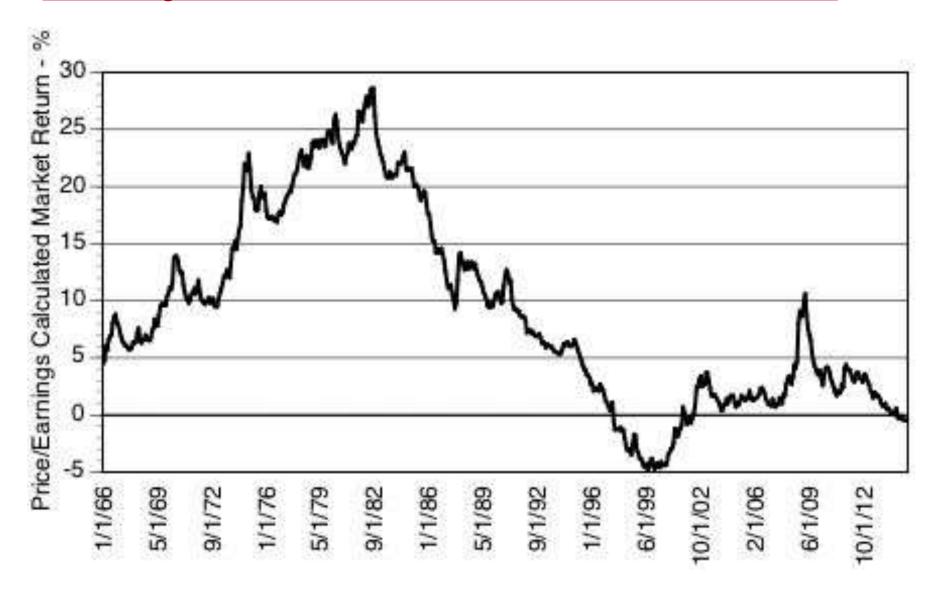
Stock Market Overvalued According to Yale Dept. of Economics



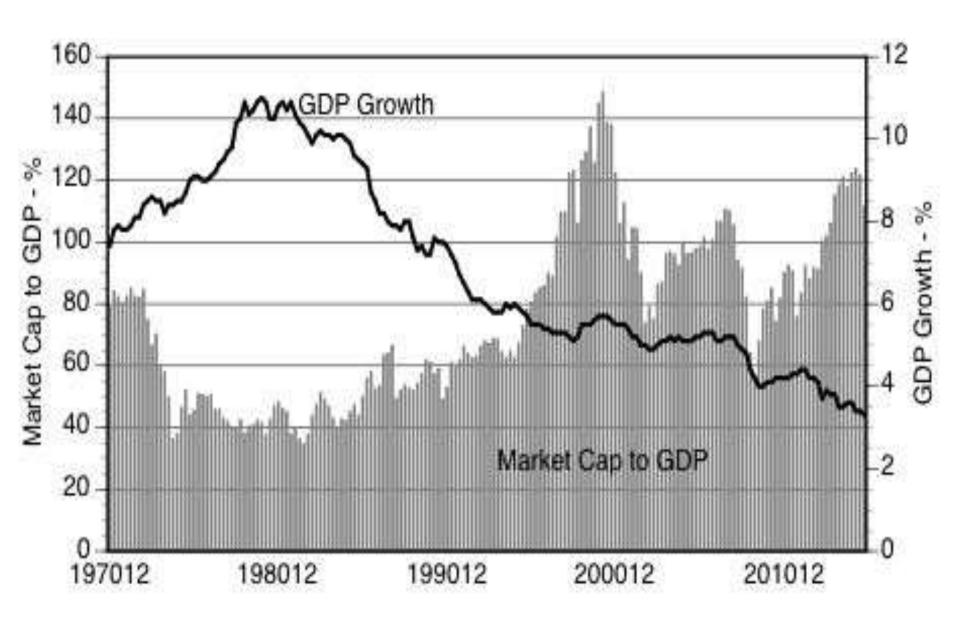
Confirmation of Adverse Trend: S&P Earnings Yields Have Declined



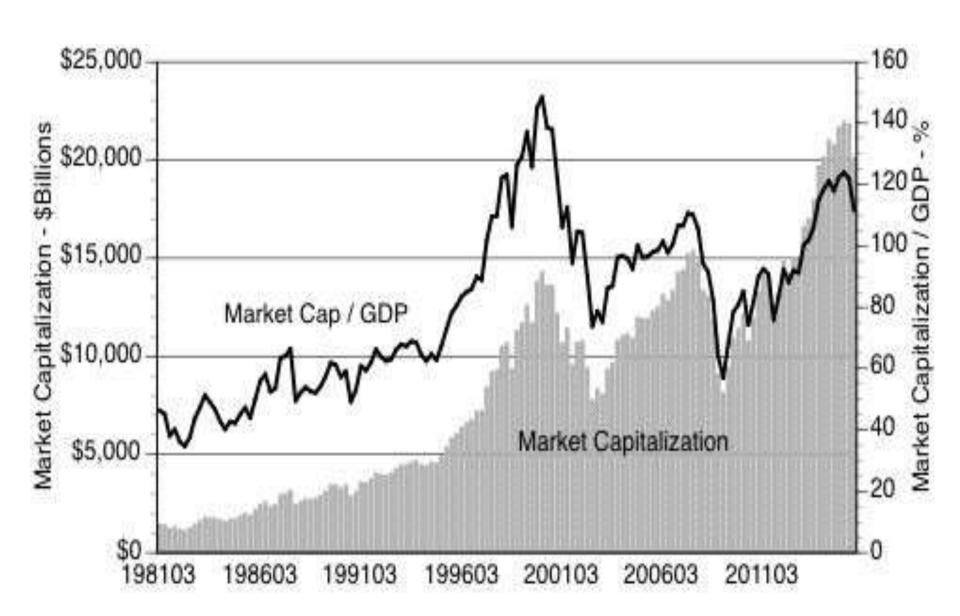
A Warning: Stock Market Returns Have Declined Close to Zero



Bad Signal: Market Cap to GDP Growth Now Exceeds GDP Growth

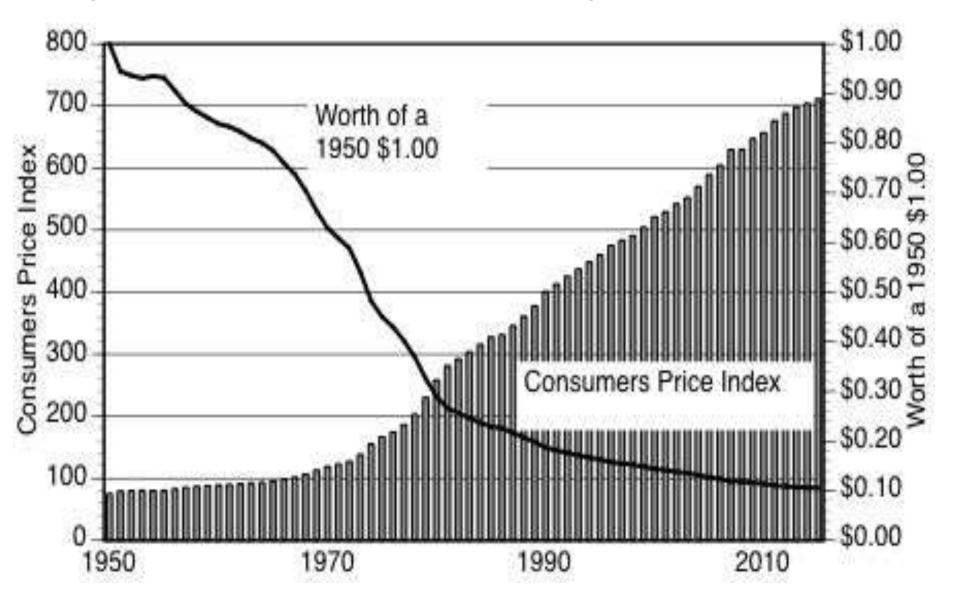


Bad Signal: Market Cap/GDP is Now Greater Than 100%

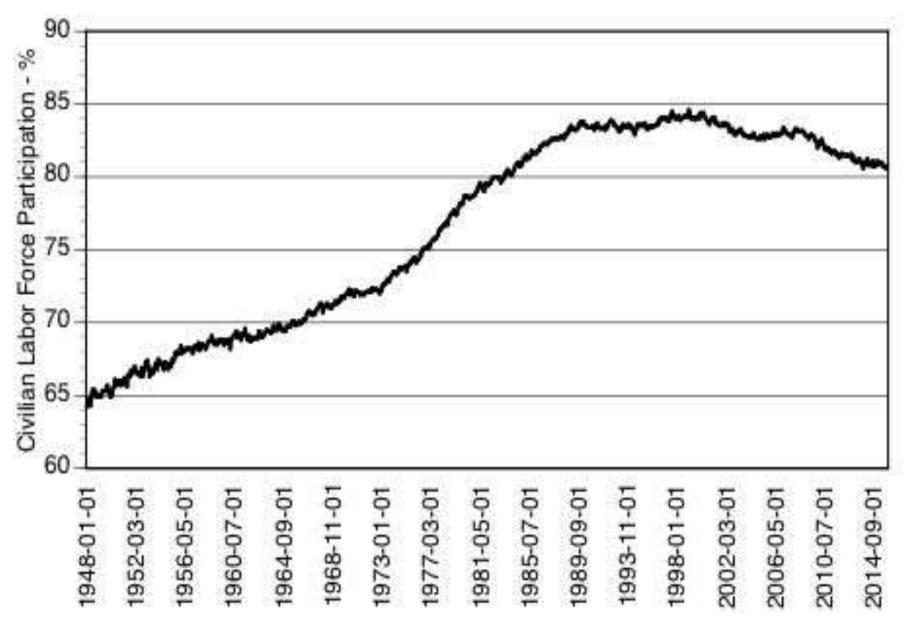


Personal Prospects

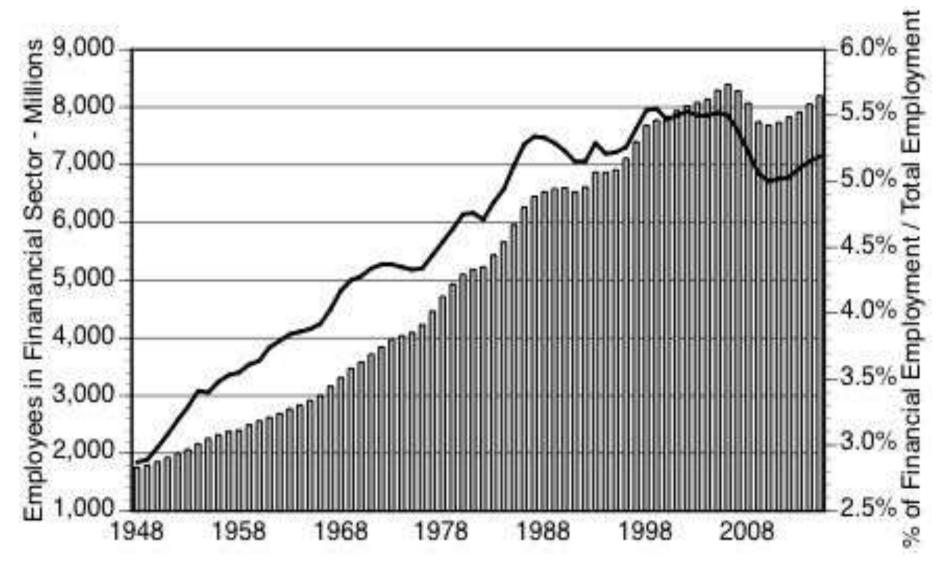
<u>Unfavorable Trend: Decline in the Value of a Dollar</u>



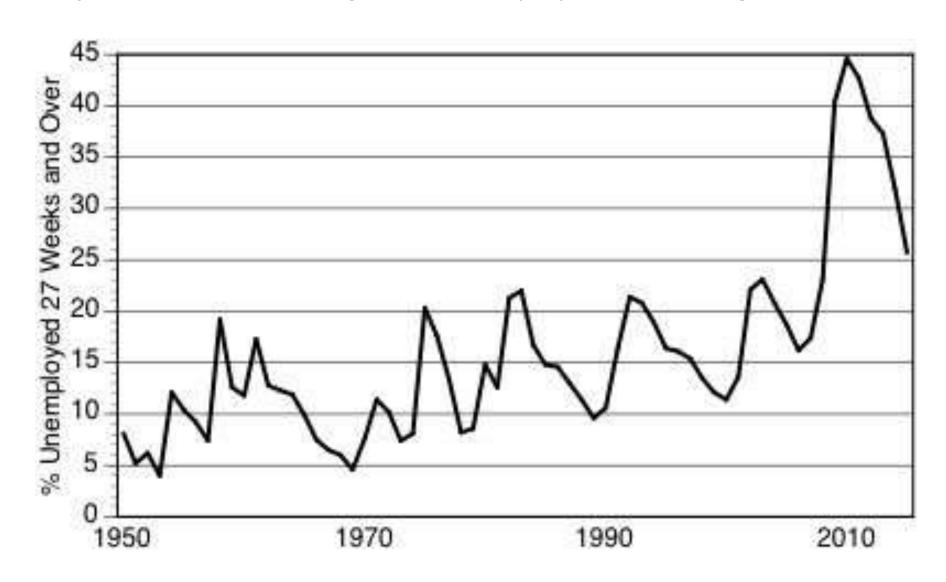
Unfavorable Trend: Labor Force Stopped Growing



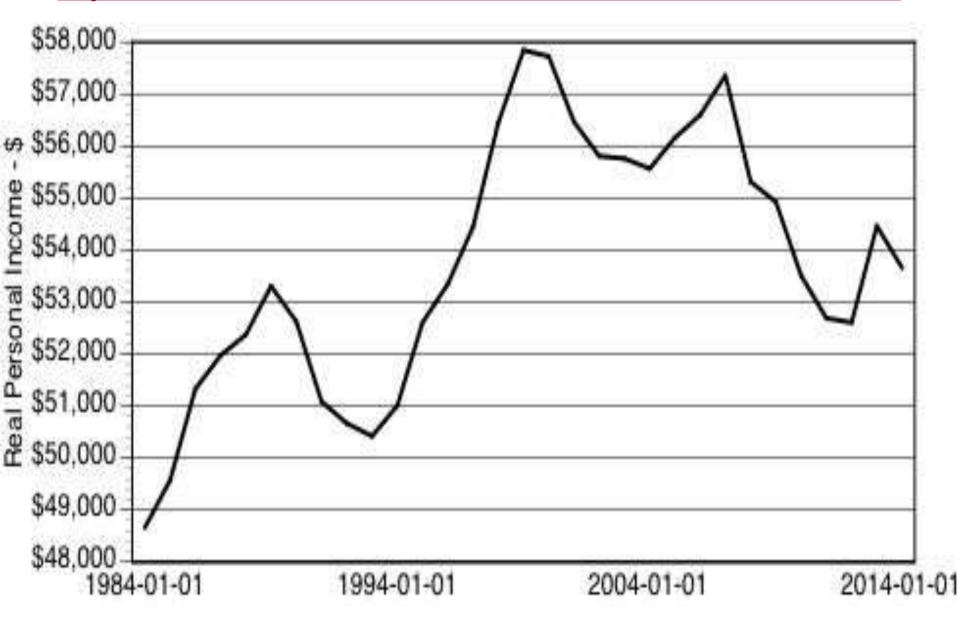
Of Interest to NC: Employment in Financial Sector Keeps Declining



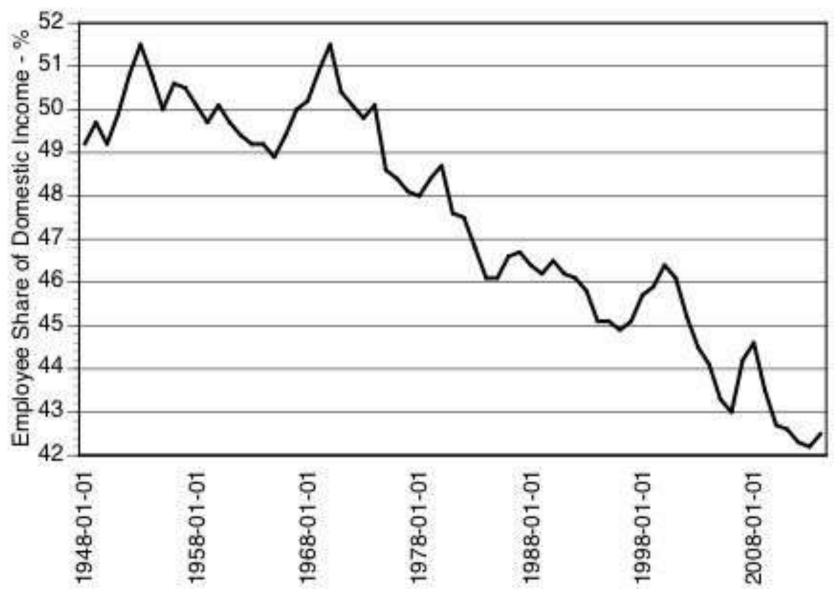
<u>Unfavorable Trend: Long Term Unemployment is Rising</u>



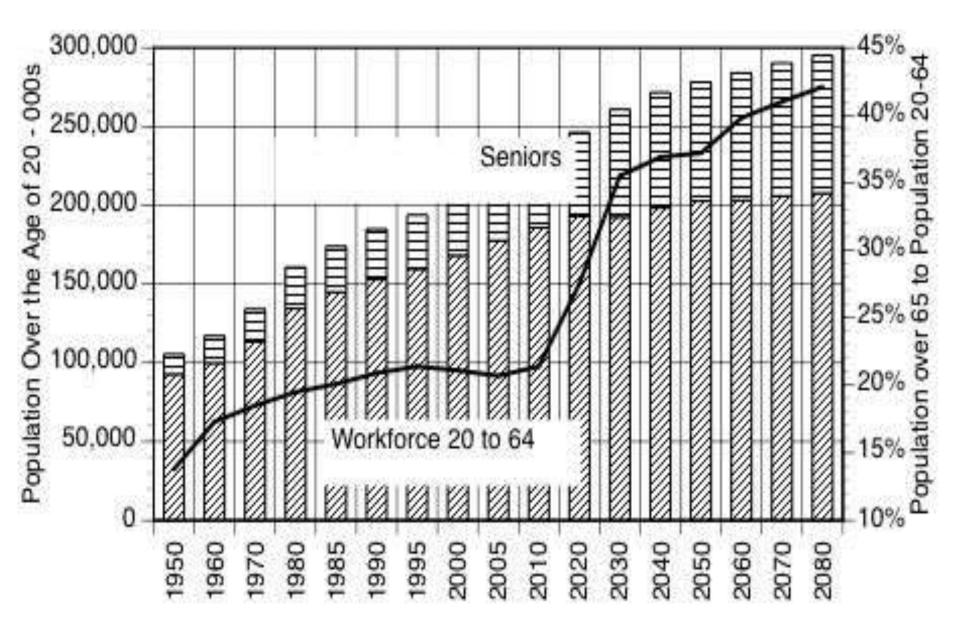
Unfavorable Trend: U.S. Real Median Income Declined Since 1990



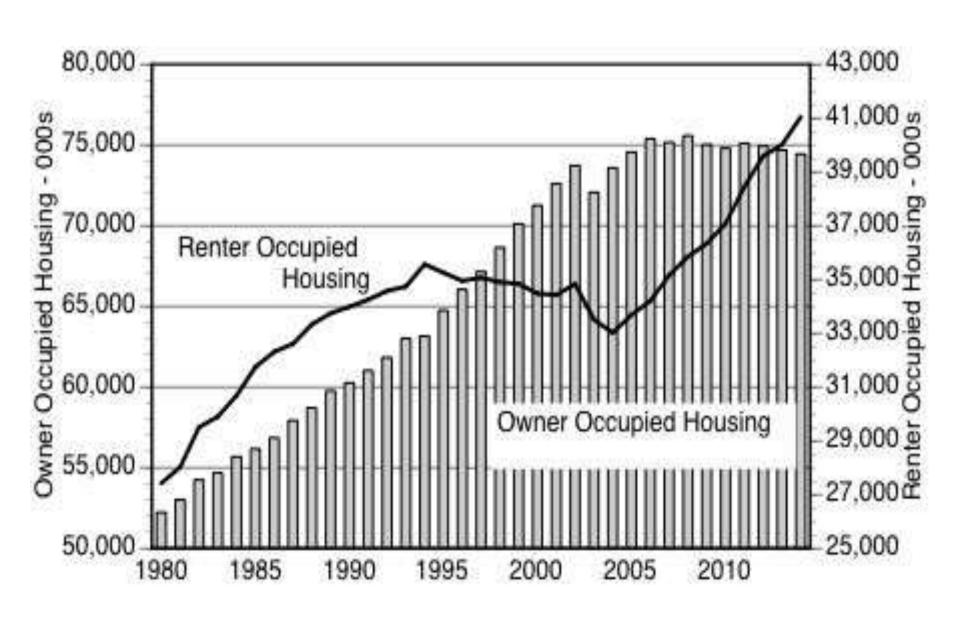
Employee Share of Domestic Income Has Declined Since 1968



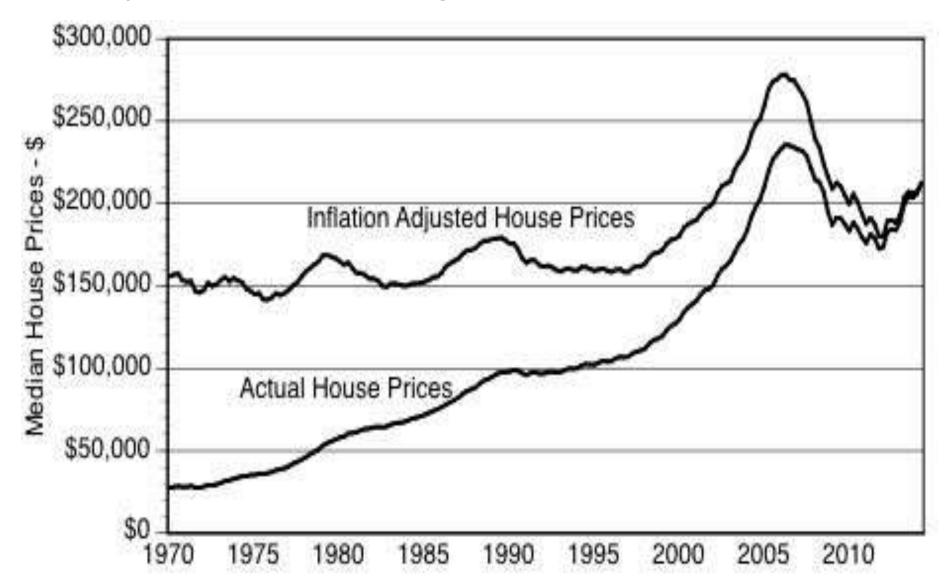
U.S. Seniors Will Require a Larger Support Population



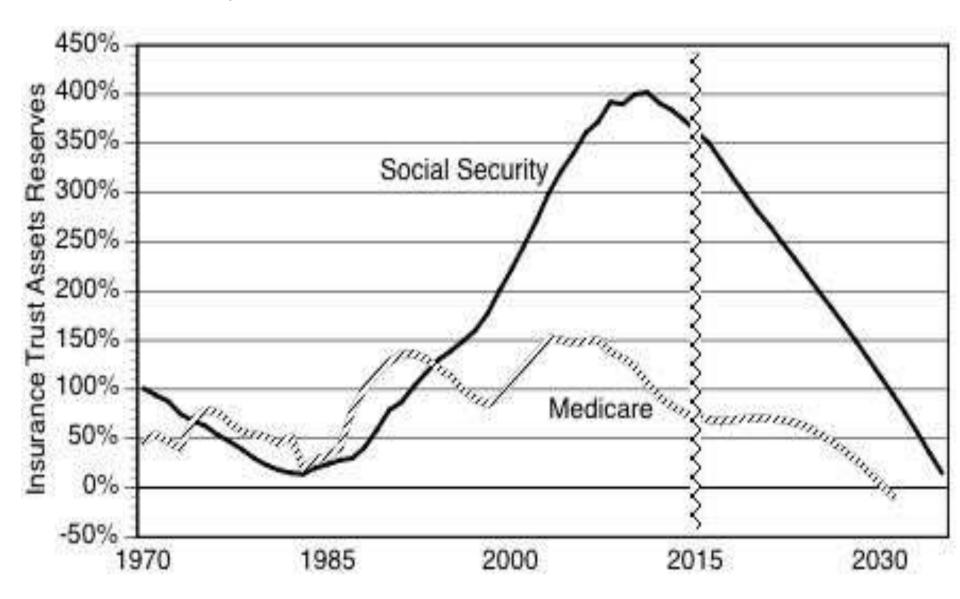
Occupancy of Housing is Shifting from Ownership to Rentals



Price of Homes Have Not Changed Since 2006



Social Security Trust Fund Declines



How to Preserve Savings

Option: Follow What Leading Investors Do



Bill Gates
Bill & Melinda Gates
Foundation Trust
2015-09-30 19 Stocks
Value: 17,237 Mil



Bill Nygren
Oak Mark Fund
2015-09-30 57 Stocks
Value: 15,745 Mil
Turnover: 8%



Bruce Berkowitz
Fairholme Capital
Management
2015-12-18 22 Stocks
Value: 3,471 Mil



Carl Icahn Icahn Capital Management LP 2015-12-29 24 Stocks Value: 27,876 Mil



Charles Brandes
Brandes Investment
2015-09-30 181 Stocks
Value: 6,842 Mil
Turnover: 10%



Charlie Munger
Daily Journal
2015-09-30 4 Stocks
Value: 124 Mil
Turnover: 0%



Chris Davis
Davis Selected Advisers
2015-09-30 190 Stocks
Value: 24,055 Mil
Turnover: 11%



Chuck Akre
Akre Capital Management,
LLC
2015-09-30 35 Stocks
Value: 4,311 Mil



Dreman Value Management 2015-09-30 487 Stocks Value: 994 Mil. Turnover: 13%



David Einhorn Greenlight Capital 2015-09-30 42 Stocks Value: 6,032 Mil Turnover: 18%

David Swensen

Yale University 2015-09-30 8 Stocks

Value: 324 Mil Turnover: 33%



David Tepper
Appaloosa Management
LP
2015-09-30 33 Stocks
Value: 2,864 Mil

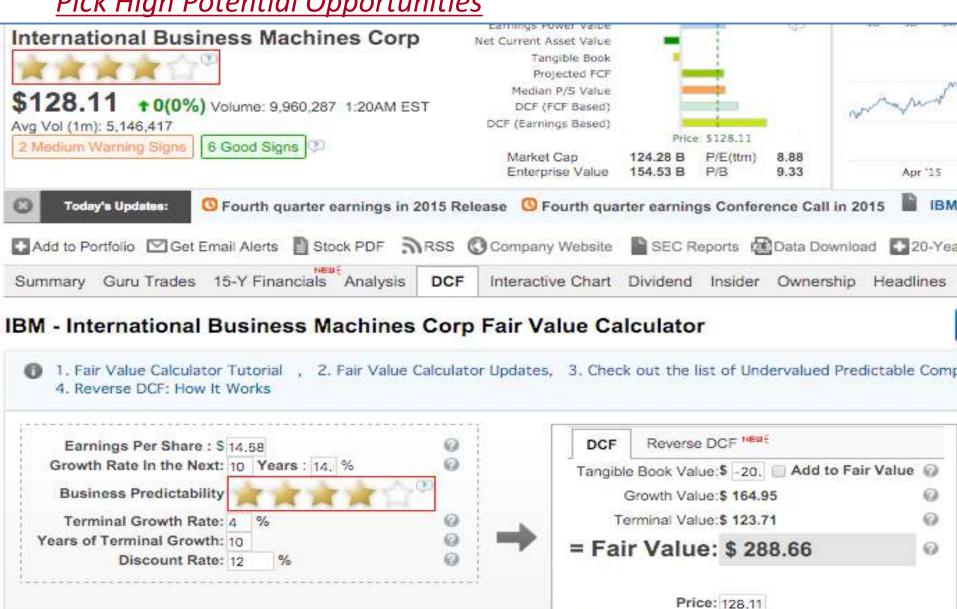
Follow Performance of Leading Investors

Investor	Stocks Bought	10-year Return -%	Return Since Inception- %	Fund	
Jim Simons	1491		30.0	Medallion Fund	
David Tepper	1	20.1	26.7	Appaloosa Investment LP I	
Prem Watsa	8	8.0	22.4	Fairfax Per Share Book Value	
Daniel Loeb	24	12.3	19.6	Master Fund	
Joel Greenblatt	492		19.1	Gotham Absolute Return Fund	
Warren Buffett	8	10.1	19.0	Berkshire Hathaway Book Value	
Vanguard Health Care Fund	20	12.7	17.6	Vanguard Healthcare Fund	
Leucadia National	1	10.3	17.2	Leucadia Corp. Book Value	
Carl Icahn	9		16.1	Private Equity	
Private Capital	10	5.5	15.2	PCM Value Fund	
Tom Russo	9	9.2	15.2	Semper Vic Partners	
Ruane Cunniff	13	9.2	14.3	Sequoia Fund	
Meridian Funds	0	7.7	14.2	Meridian Value Fund	
Richard Snow	79	6.7	14.1	All Cap Equity Composite	
FPA Capital Fund	11	7.4	14.0	FPA Capital Fund	
Mariko Gordon	14	12.6	13.8	Small-Cap Composite - Daruma	
PRIMECAP Management	45	10.3	13.8	Vanguard Primcap Fund	
First Eagle Investment	1	9.4	13.7	First Eagle Global Fund	
Dodge & Cox	21	7.1	13.5	Dodge & Cox Stock FUND	

Opportunities: Select High Performance Funds

Sector Investment Returns	YTD(%)	1 Year(%)	3 Year(%)	5 Year(%)
Consumer Cyclical	2.87	15.21	16.56	15.81
Health	1.88	14.71	23.56	20.76
Technology	1.13	13.57	16.28	12.09
Real Estate	0.84	12.12	10.60	11.57
Consumer Defensive	2.98	10.57	13.20	12.74
Industrials	-3.74	8.80	16.82	12.04
Global Real Estate	0.45	6.96	7.09	6.85
Financial	-0.98	6.10	13.31	9.77
Communications	-0.20	5.55	8.24	7.86
Utilities	-6.41	0.40	8.76	9.43
Natural Resources	-12.86	-16.83	-5.24	-1.88
Energy Limited Partnership	-19.18	-20.66	2.16	4.92
Equity Energy	-13.63	-21.82	-3.76	-1.69
Equity Precious Metals	-12.18	-21.89	-28.76	-20.45

Pick High Potential Opportunities



Margin Of Safety:56%

Scoreboard

Needs Fixing	Needs Strengthening		
Gross National Product	Employment		
Loss of GNP	GNP/Capita Rank		
Public Debt	Interest Rates		
Debt per Person	Currency Gains		
Foreginer Debt Holdings	Reduced Commodity Prices		
Federal Deficit	Residential Real Estate		
State and Local Deficit	International Position		
Negative Balance of Trade	Corporate Earnings		
Declining Savings	Agricultural Land		
Margin Debt	Department of Defense		
Market Overvalued	Enterpreneurship		
S&P Earnaings Decline	Uniform Language		
Small Stock Market Returns	Innovation		
Labor Force Participation	Research & Development		
Long Term Unemployment	University Innovation		
Declining Median Income	Financial Markets		
Social Security Trust Declines	Gegraphic Advatage		

U.S. Still the Greatest Economy

But U.S. Is Slipping – Needs Fixing

Rule # 1: Avoid Losses

Rule # 2: Get Incremental Gains