Economic Outlook

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Today's Discussion

- Macro Outlook
- Commodities & Inflation
- Storm Clouds (Gov't Policy)
- Q&A



Macro Environment

- Forecast is for <u>world</u> economic growth to slow in 2012.
- But <u>U.S.</u> expected to improve some, risks remain.

U.S. economic growth expected to be around 2.3% (GDP), < historical trend.

Government debt crisis in the U.S.; elected officials seem incapable of addressing the problem (are they watching Europe implode ??).

High oil prices remain a headwind.

Housing at depressed levels, but showing signs of recovery.

• Western Europe in recession.

Debt crisis in Western Europe won't go away (started 2 years ago w/Greece).

Crisis pushed Europe into recession 4q11 (expected to last thru 1H12).

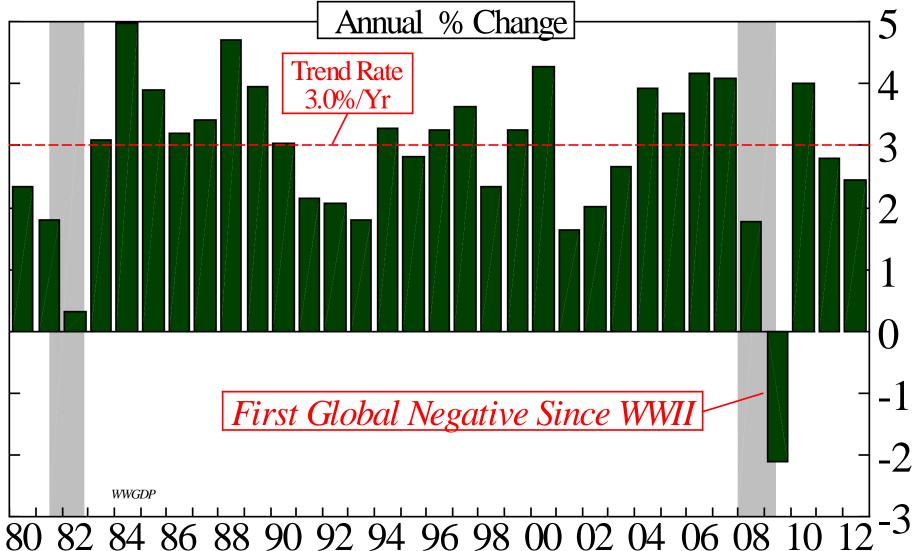
• Asia (excl Japan) slowing.

Emerging economies slowing after fighting high inflation (tight monetary policy, high interest rates). Now easing policy.

Japan recovering from earthquake/tsunami.



World Real GDP





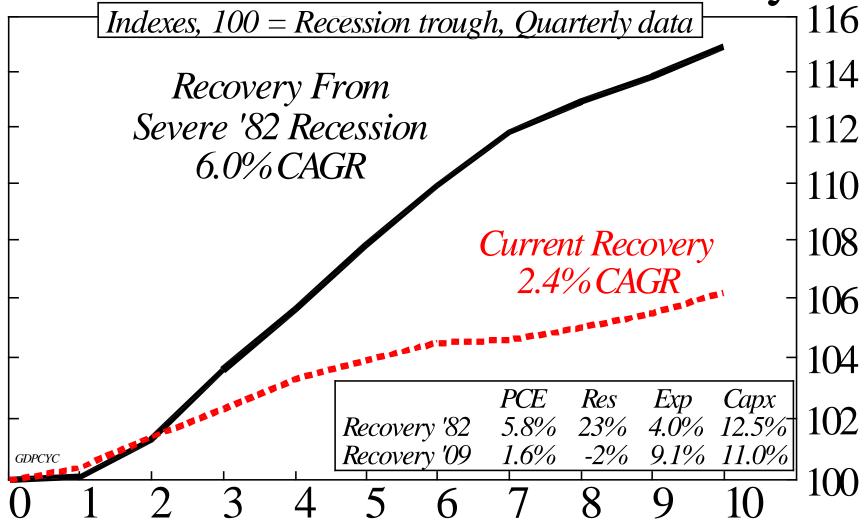
Real GDP

(Annual % Change)

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	2011	2012
World	<u>-2.2</u>	<u>4.1</u>	2.7	2.4
North America	-3.6	3.2	1.9	2.3
Western Europe	-4.1	1.9	1.5	-0.4
C. & E. Europe	-5.2	4.5	4.4	2.6
Asia	0.9	7.1	4.0	4.5
Japan	-5.5	4.5	-0.9	2.0
China	9.2	10.4	9.2	8.1
South America	-0.4	5.7	4.2	3.7
M. East & Africa	1.4	4.5	3.4	3.3

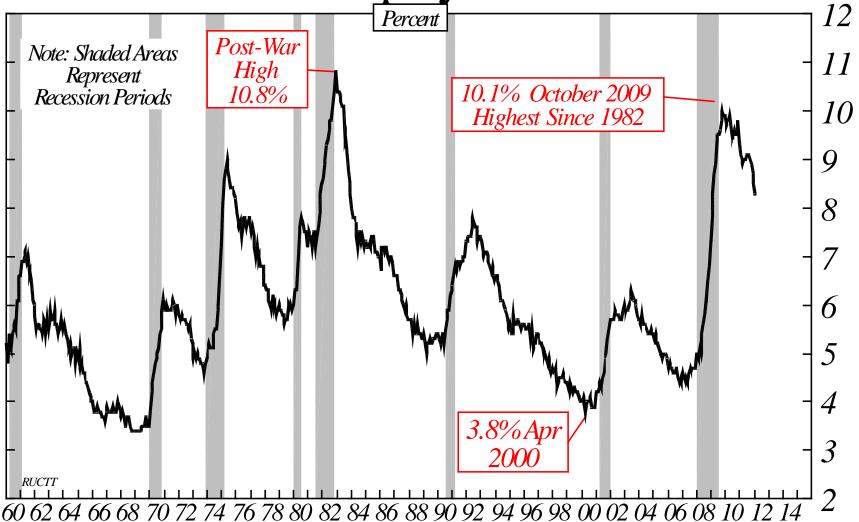


U.S. Real GDP: 2 1/2 - Year Recovery



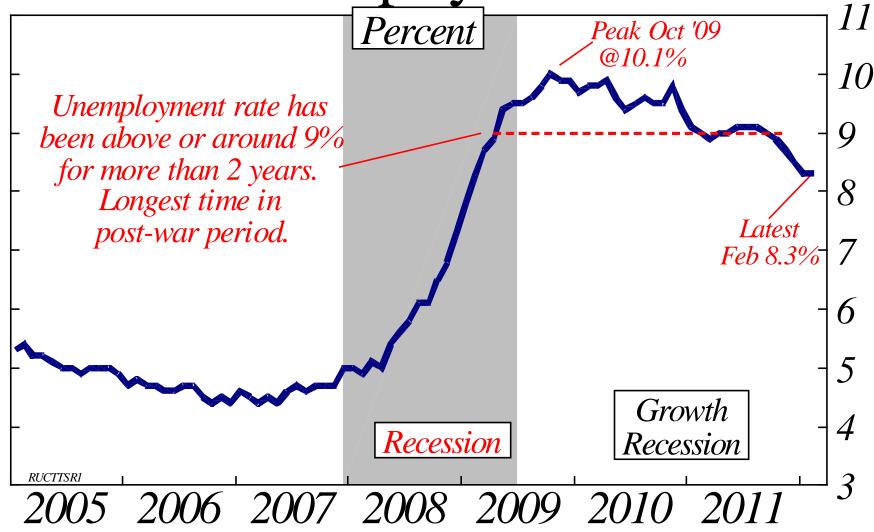


U.S. Unemployment Rate



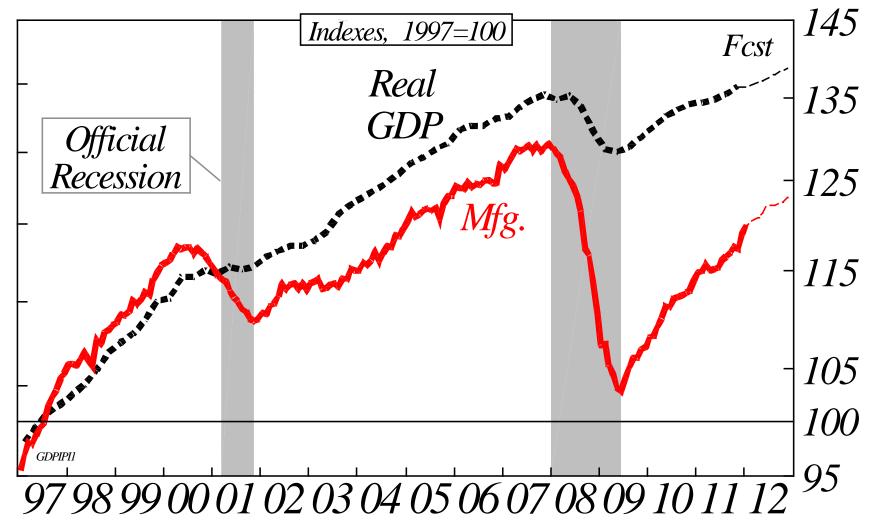


U.S. Unemployment Rate





Growth Trends - U.S.





Key Markets for U.S. Mfg

(F=Forecast)2009 2010 2011 2012F Residential Construction* -22.2 -4.3 -1.4 11.0 Nonresidential Const.* -21.2 -15.8 4.4 5.4 Motor Vehicles & Parts -25.727.9 8.3 11.6 Aircraft Equipment -2.9 -2.37.7 15.8 Rubber & Plastic Products -16.3 10.1 3.8 4.5 10.6 8.6 Construction Machinery -36.89.0 Mining & Oilfield Equipment -20.74.6 24.2 9.4 7.2 Computers & Electronics -8.9 10.8 4.9 **Total Manufacturing 5.4** 4.5 4.8 -13.5



^{*} Real GDP components, all others industrial production, mfg.

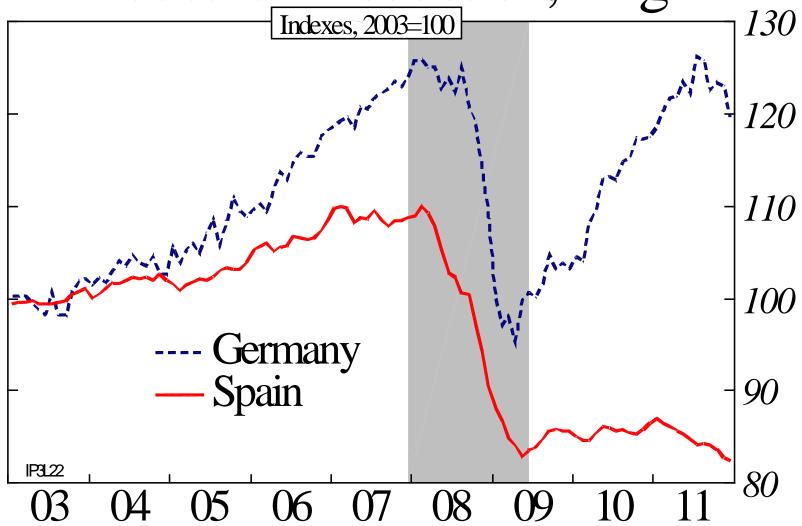
Industrial Production - W. Europe 1.10 *120* 115 1.05 110 1.00 105 0.95 100 0.90 95 Euro-Zone IPI (R) OECD Leading Indicator (L)

IPEURO

0.85

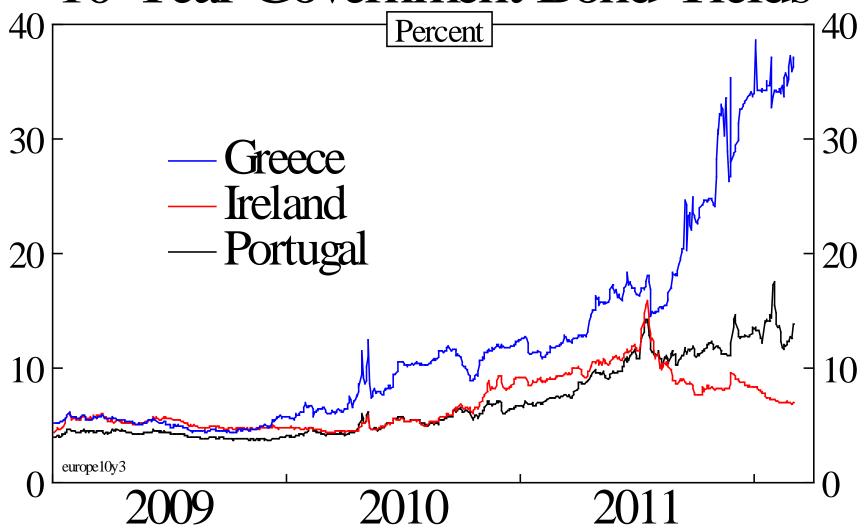


Industrial Production, Mfg



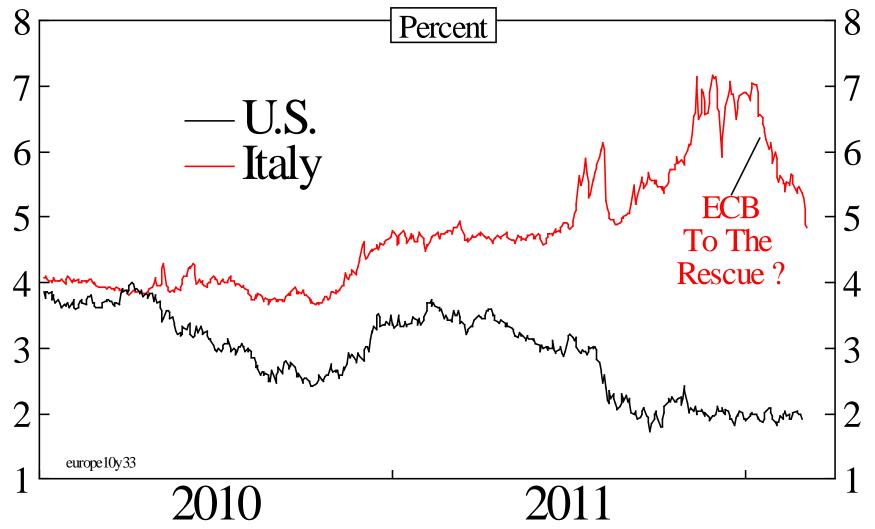


10-Year Government Bond Yields



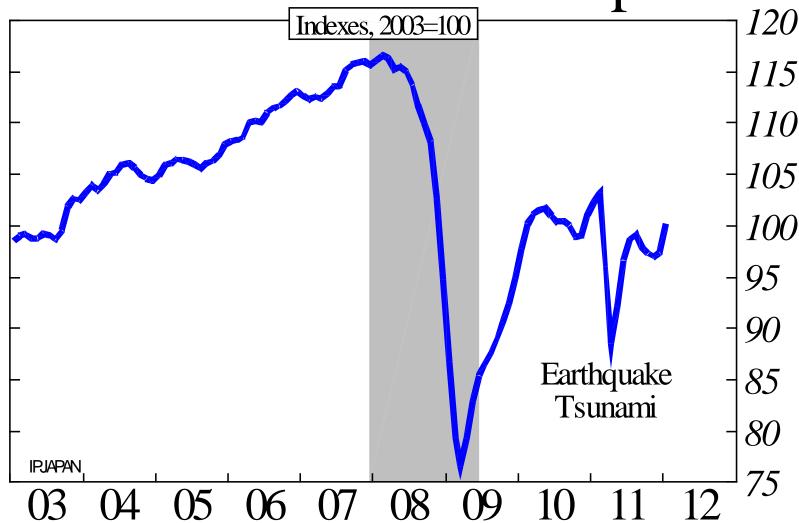


10-Year Government Bond Yields



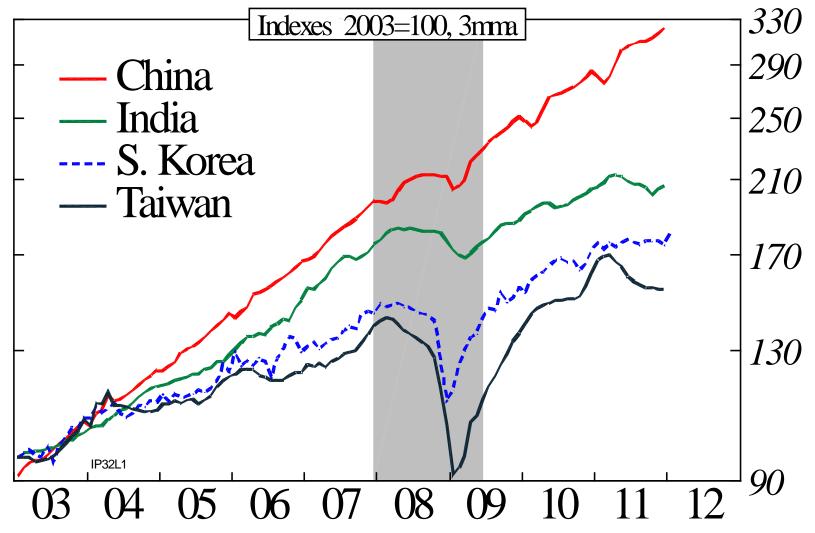


Industrial Production - Japan





Industrial Production - Asia





Housing Market



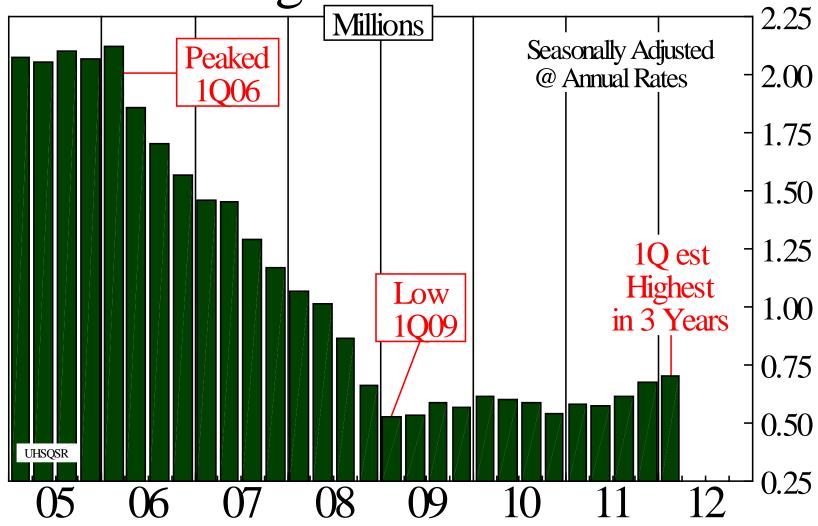
Housing Market

- Negatives:
- Large overhang of foreclosed properties
- Uncertainty over future home prices
- Tight underwriting standards

- Positives:
- Mortgage Rates @ record lows
- Prices @ 10 year lows
- Inventory of new homes @ record lows

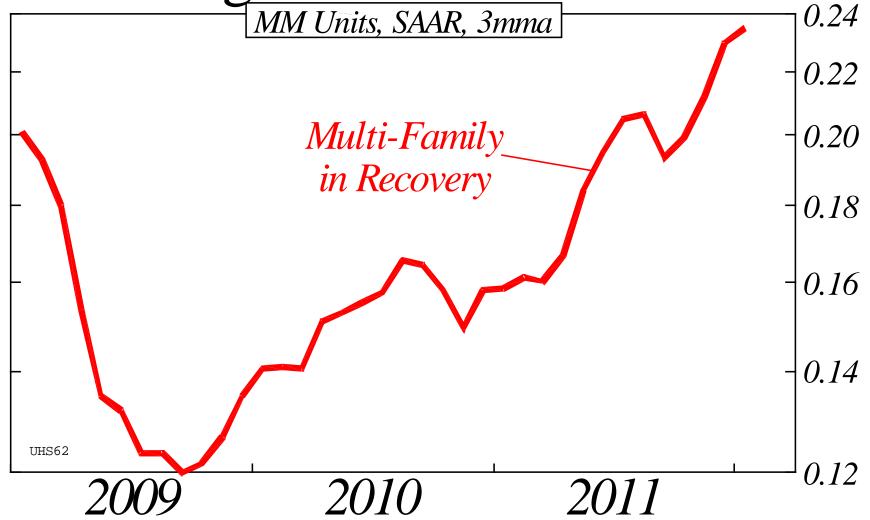


Housing Market - Starts



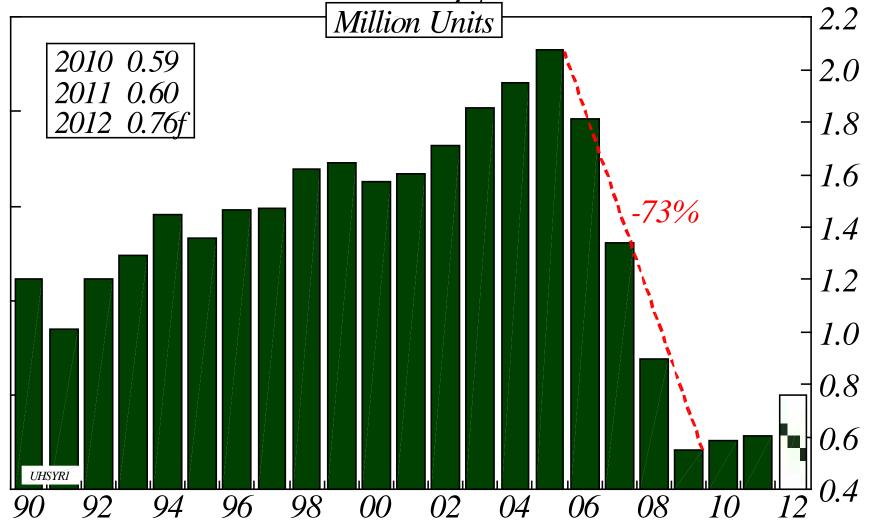


Building Permits - New Homes



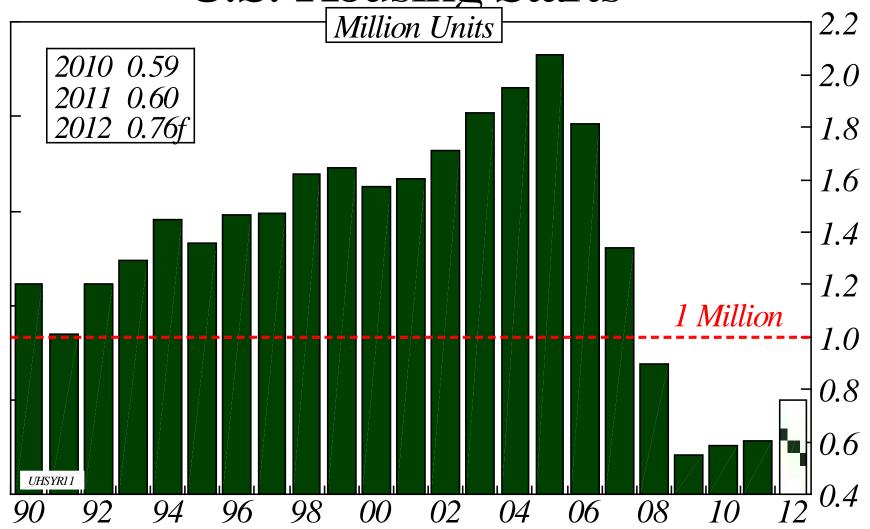


U.S. Housing Starts



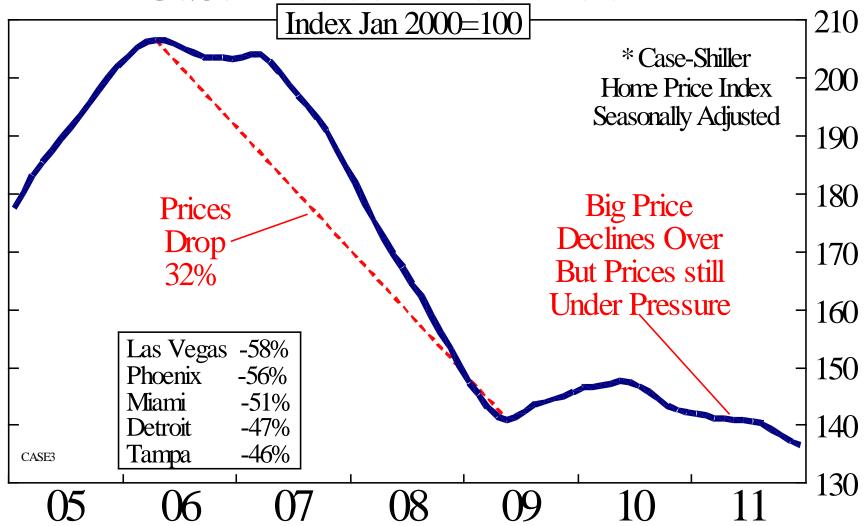


U.S. Housing Starts



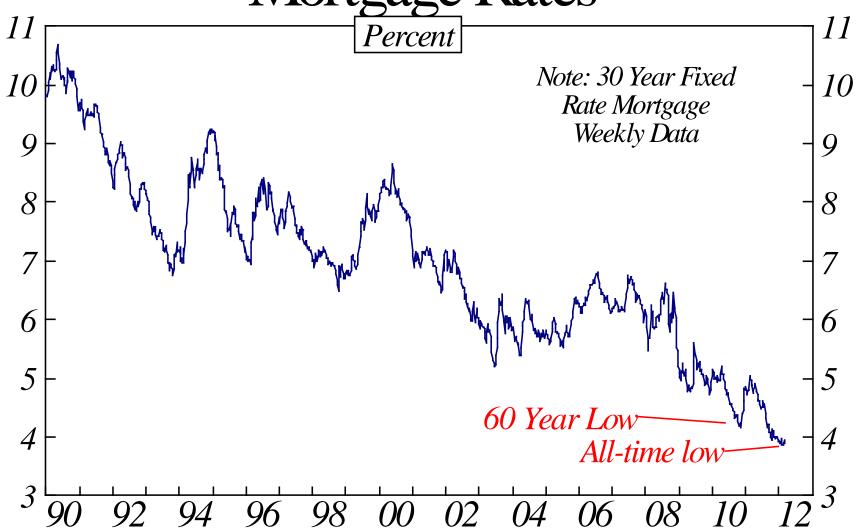


U.S. House Price Index*



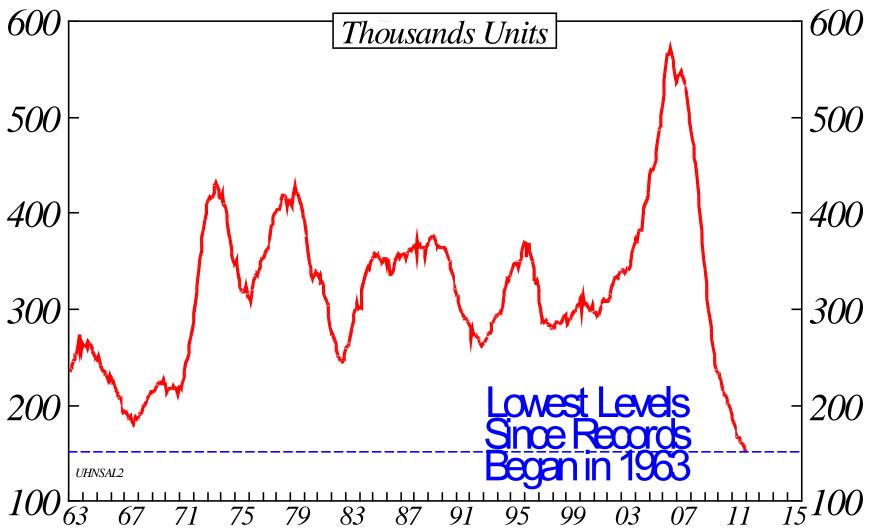


Mortgage Rates





New Home Inventories

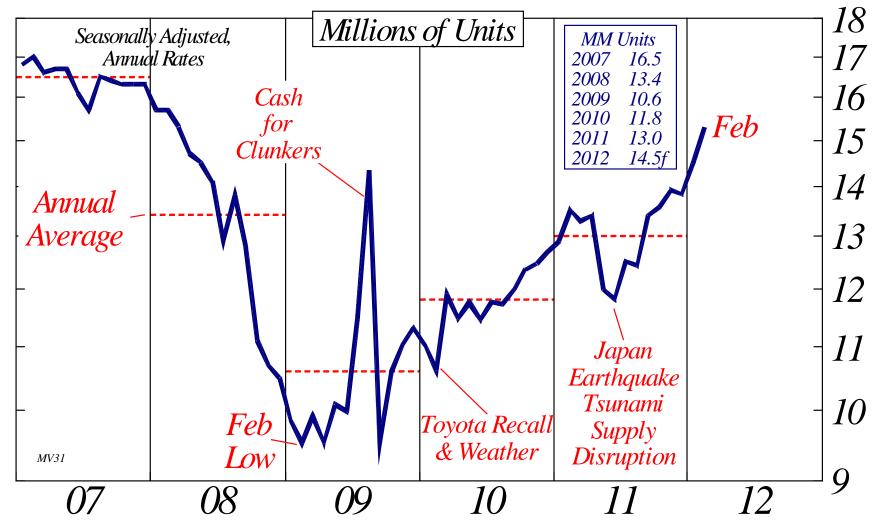




Auto Market

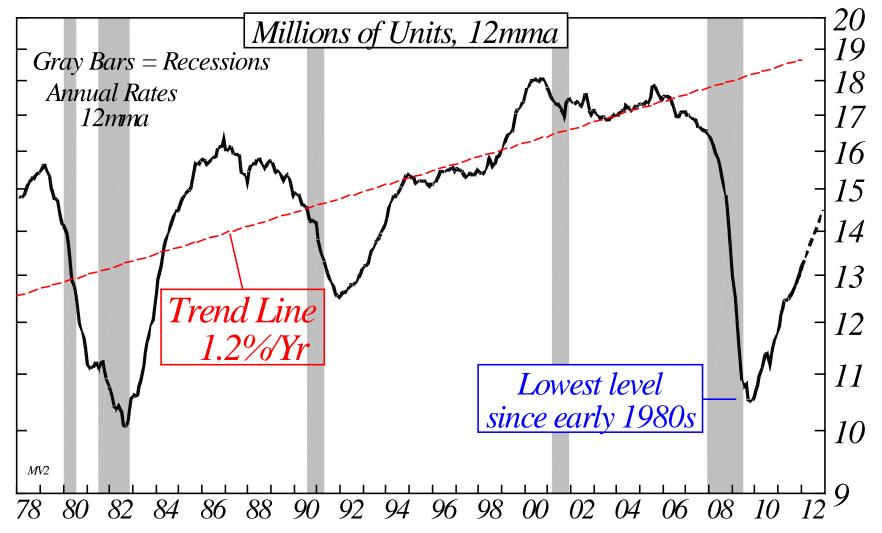


Motor Vehicle Sales - U.S.





Total Motor Vehicle Sales - U.S.





Commodity Prices & Inflation



Commodities & Inflation:

Oil pricesa replay of 2008?

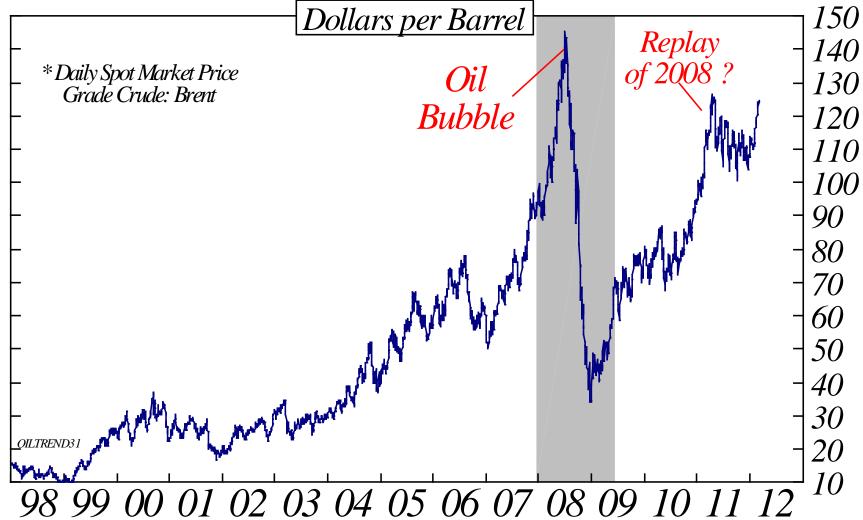
- A spike in oil prices in 2008 helped push US into recession.
- Also dealing with *Extreme* volatility

Not just oil prices

- All commodities up sharply from recession lows.
- Commodity inflation feeds headline inflation.
- Core inflation (dominated by labor costs) still relatively low.

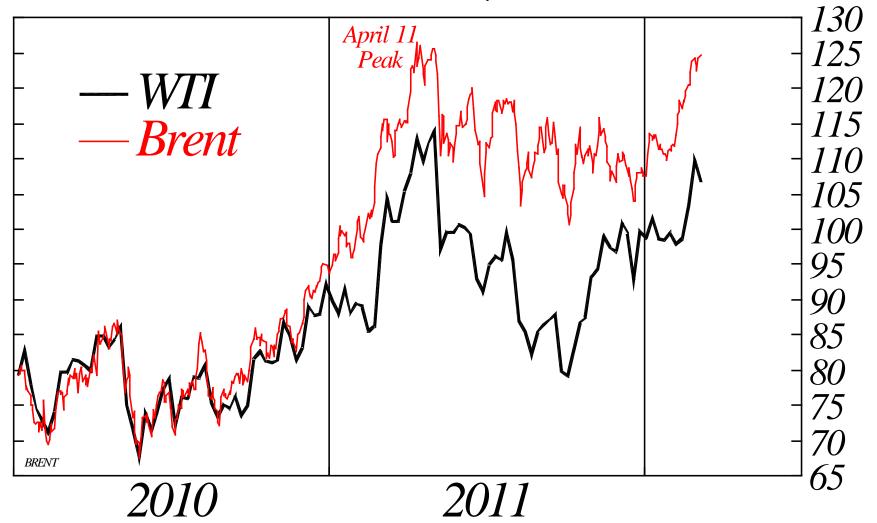


Oil Prices *



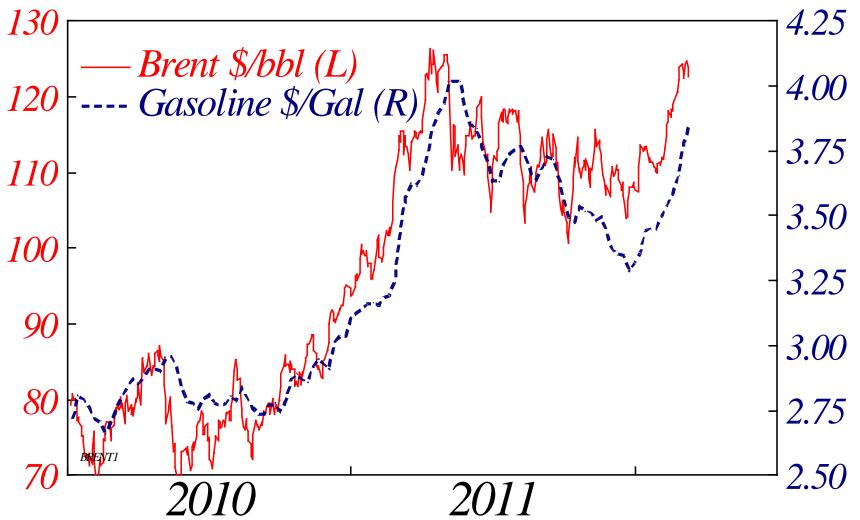


Oil Prices \$/bbl



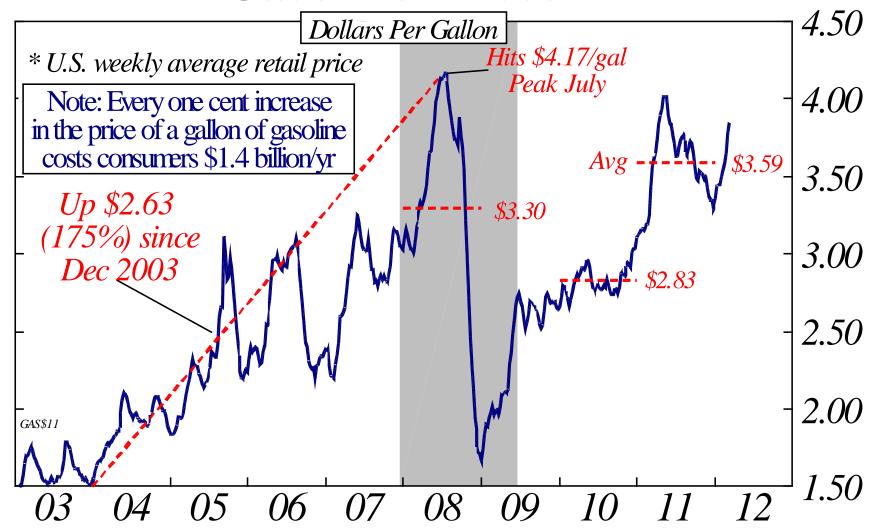


Oil & Gasoline Prices

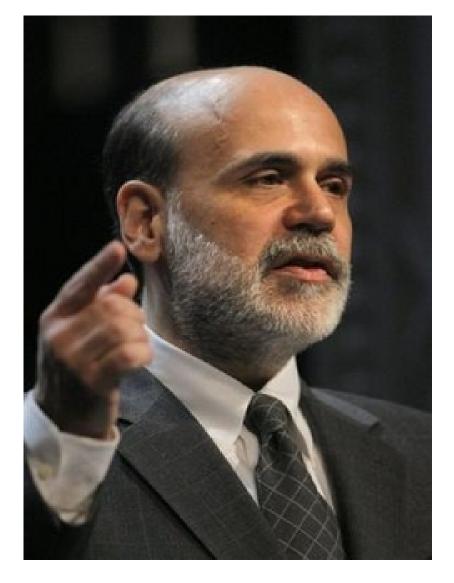




Gasoline Prices*





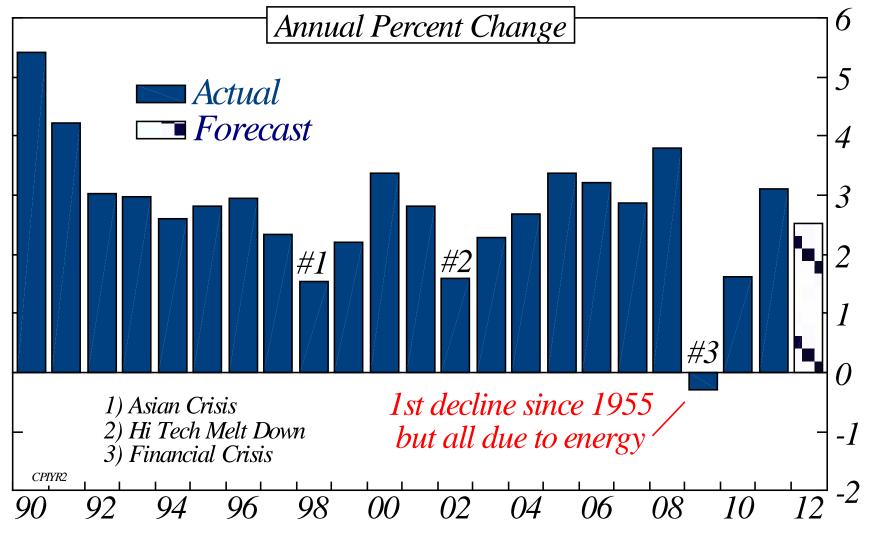


Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke

"What inflation??"

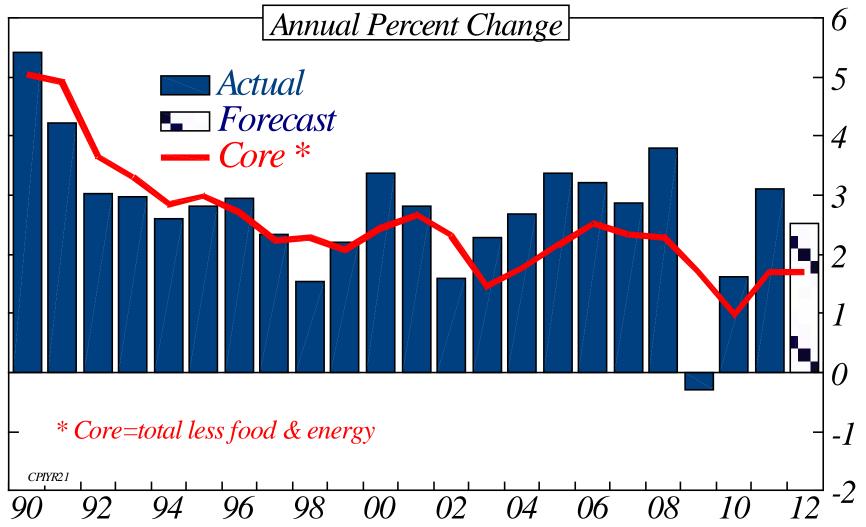


Consumer Price Index - US





Consumer Price Index - US

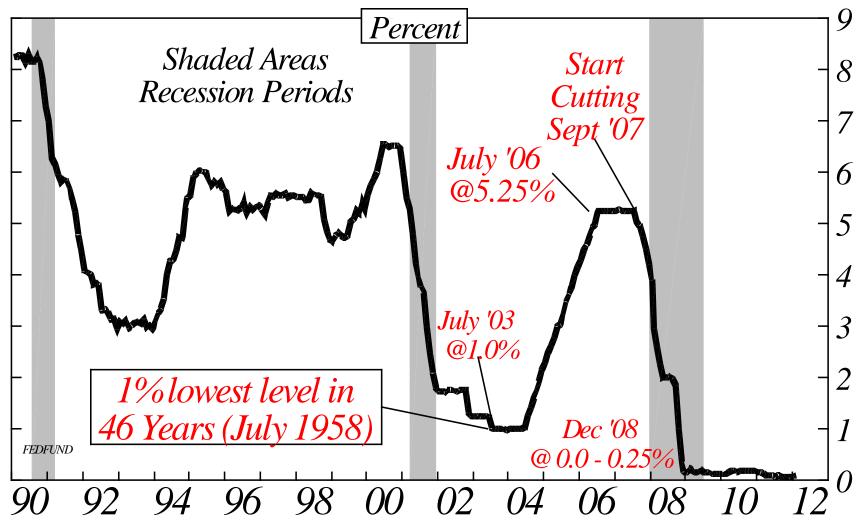




Federal Monetary & Fiscal Policy

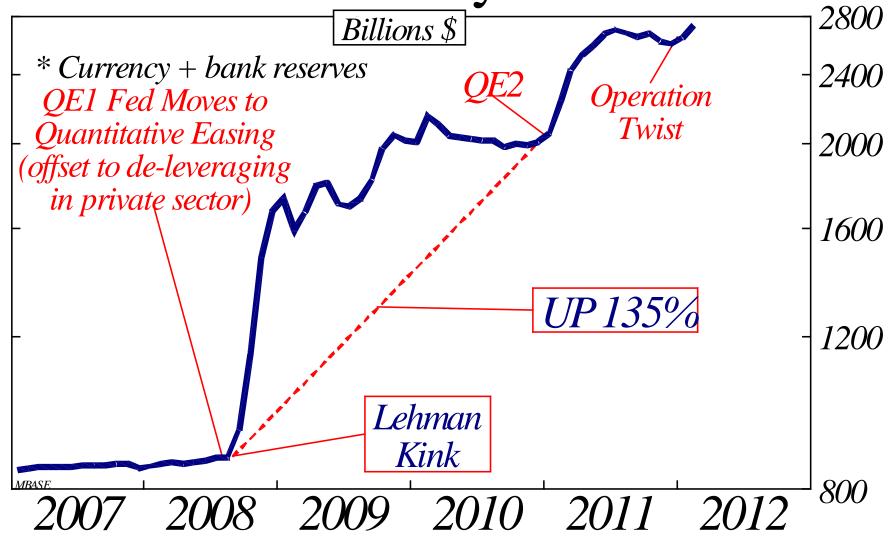


Fed Funds Rate





U.S. Monetary Base*





Storm Clouds on the Horizon



>\$15,000,000,000,000 National Debt!

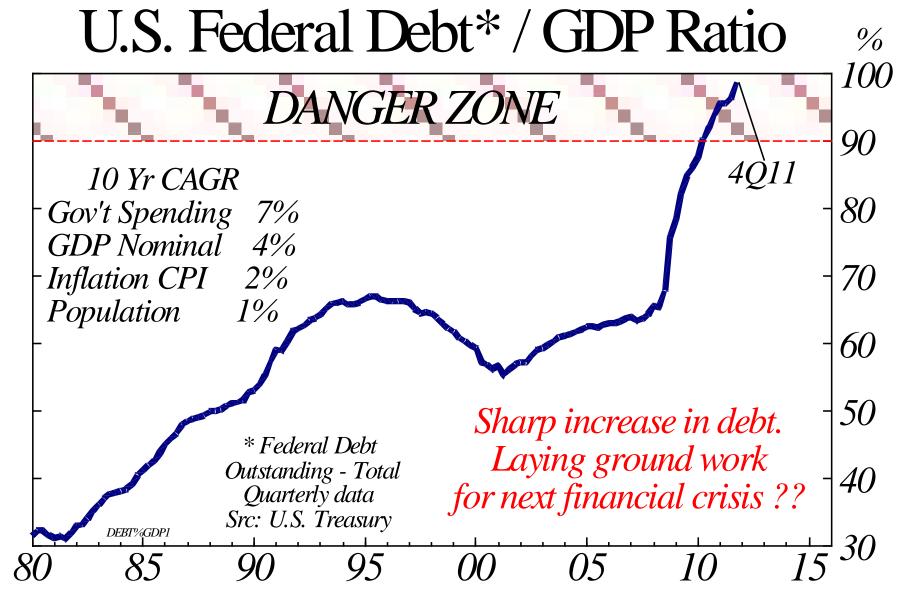
Congress needs to <u>cut</u> Trillions of \$ in spending.

Is the gov't capable of addressing this issue? To-date no progress.

U.S. lost AAA-bond rating; borrowing about 40 cents/\$ spent.

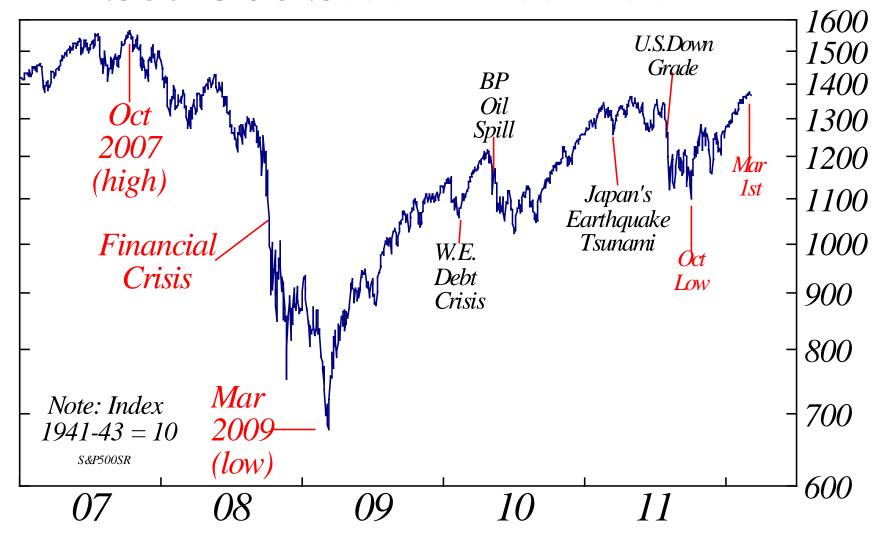
<u>Prediction</u>: No one will like the medicine.....Long hard road ahead!







S&P500 Stock Price Index





Conclusions:

- U.S. expected to improve some, but growth to be less than trend. *Risks*: oil prices, deficits/debt unsustainable, "fiscal cliff" in 2013 (*potential* combination of deep spending cuts & tax increases).
- Debt crisis & fiscal austerity have pushed Europe into recession.
- Asia (excl Japan) slowing, but regional growth to outpace rest of the world.
- Even in this overall global macro slowdown, some markets in the U.S. should do well (ag, aerospace, autos, energy).



Thank You!



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