

**Quarterly  
Investment Briefing  
February 5, 2015**

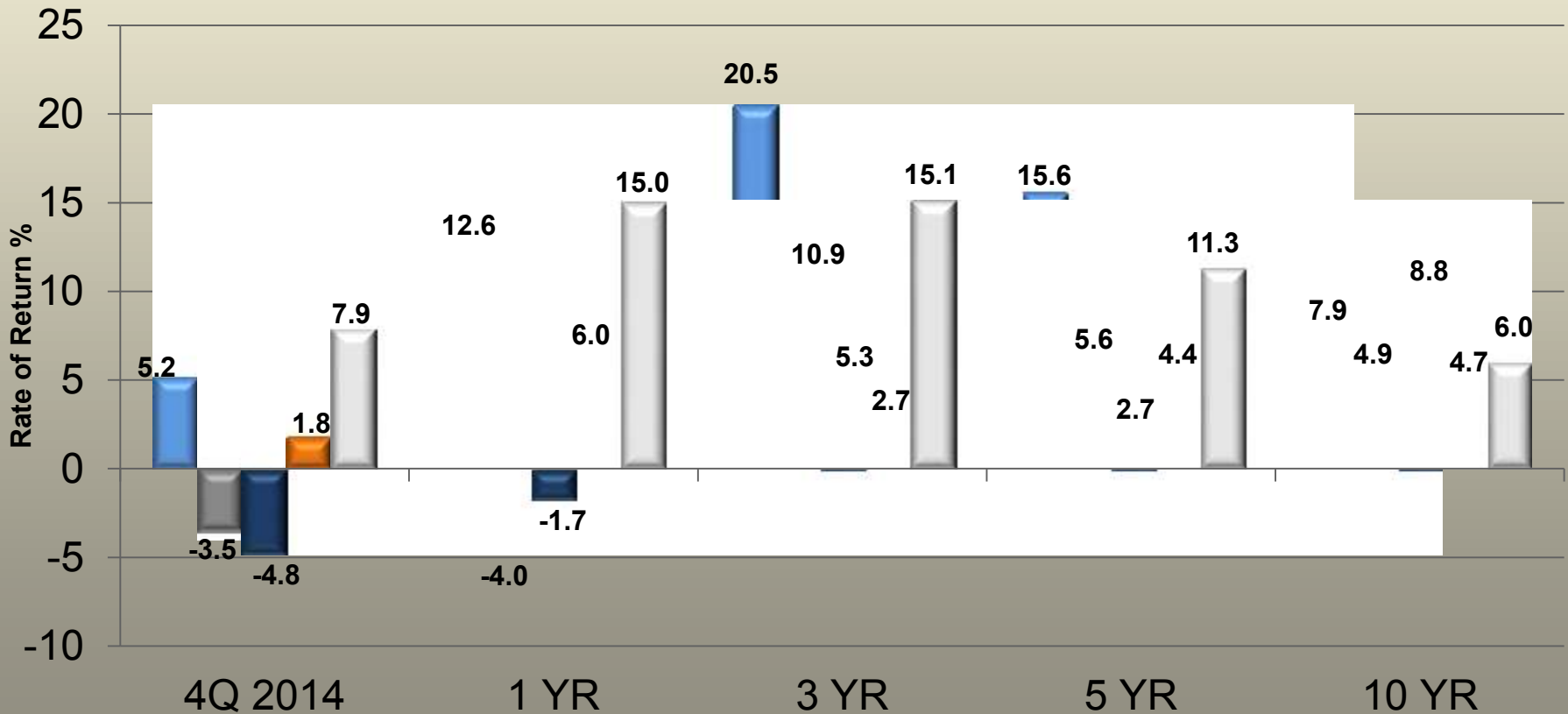


**Clayton T. Bill, CFA**

**Stephen J. Nilles, CFP**

# Capital Market Returns Current & Annualized Period Ending December 31, 2014

- U.S. Equities
- Non-U.S. Equities
- Emerging Market Equities
- Fixed Income
- Real Estate

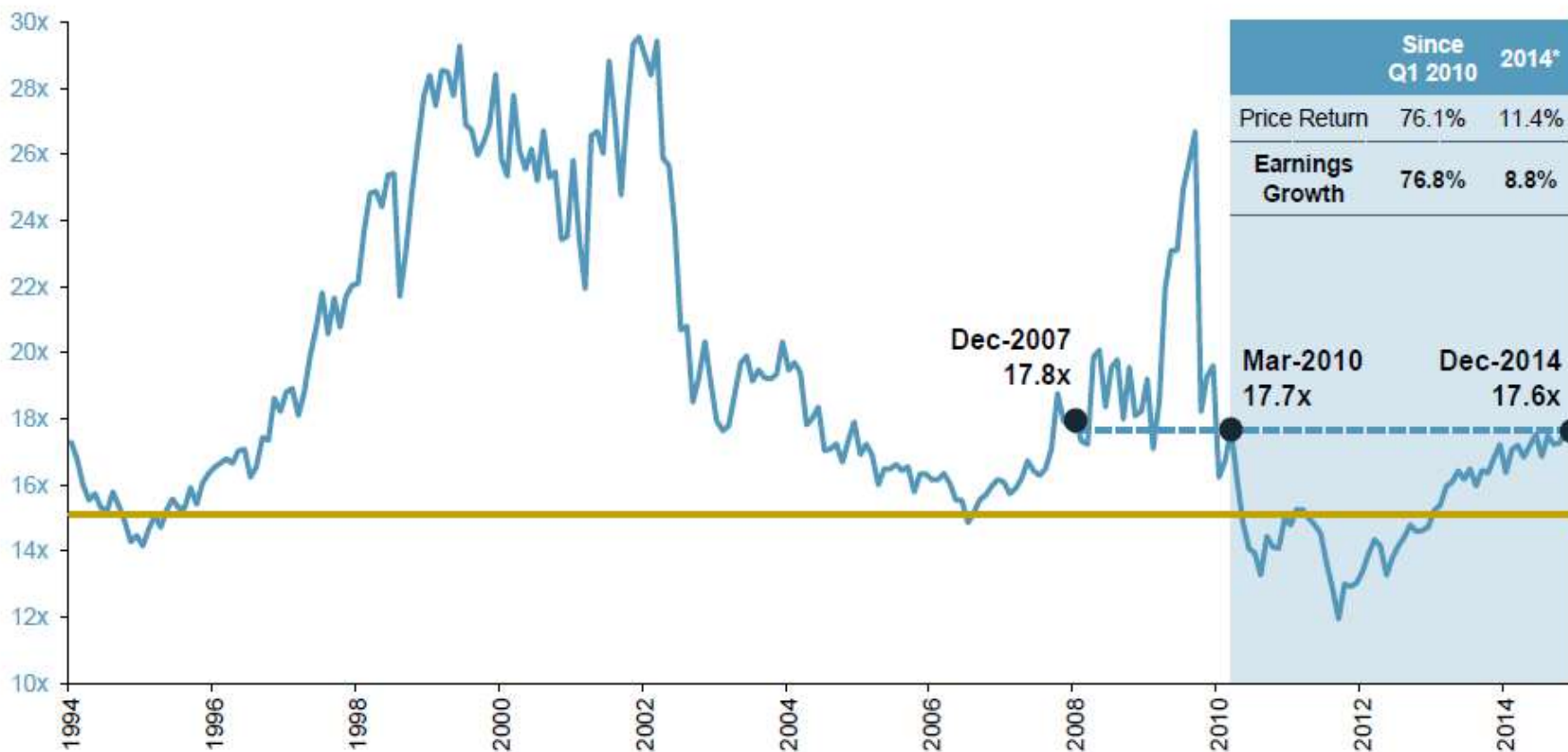


# Earnings Rebound Generally Explains Fuller U.S. Valuations

The nearly six-year bull market has been fueled largely by strong fundamentals, as rapid earnings growth has roughly matched price returns. U.S. equity market valuations remain somewhat above long-term historical averages, but they have recovered only to levels seen in 2007 and 2010, and current P/E levels should not impede additional cyclical price gains

## S&P 500 Valuations

— Price-to-Earnings (P/E) — Average P/E since 1926



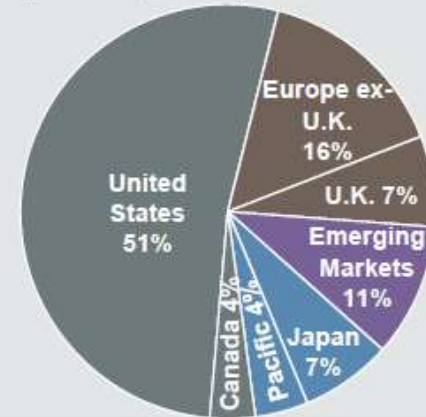
# Global Equity Markets

| Country / Region               | 4Q14  |      | 2014  |      |
|--------------------------------|-------|------|-------|------|
|                                | Local | USD  | Local | USD  |
| <b>Regions / Broad Indexes</b> |       |      |       |      |
| U.S. (S&P 500)                 | -     | 4.9  | -     | 13.7 |
| EAFE                           | 1.8   | -3.5 | 6.4   | -4.5 |
| Europe ex-U.K.                 | 0.2   | -4.3 | 7.4   | -5.8 |
| Pacific ex-Japan               | 3.1   | -1.5 | 5.8   | -0.3 |
| Emerging Markets               | 0.1   | -4.4 | 5.6   | -1.8 |

## MSCI: Selected Countries

|                |      |       |       |       |
|----------------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| United Kingdom | -0.4 | -4.2  | 0.5   | -5.4  |
| France         | -1.7 | -5.8  | 3.6   | -9.0  |
| Germany        | 4.0  | -0.4  | 2.8   | -9.8  |
| Japan          | 6.7  | -2.4  | 9.8   | -3.7  |
| China          | 7.0  | 7.2   | 8.3   | 8.3   |
| India          | 1.5  | -0.7  | 26.4  | 23.9  |
| Brazil         | -7.5 | -14.8 | -2.8  | -13.7 |
| Russia         | -5.9 | -32.8 | -12.1 | -45.9 |

**Weights in MSCI All Country World Index**  
 % global market capitalization, float adjusted



## Global Equity Market Correlations

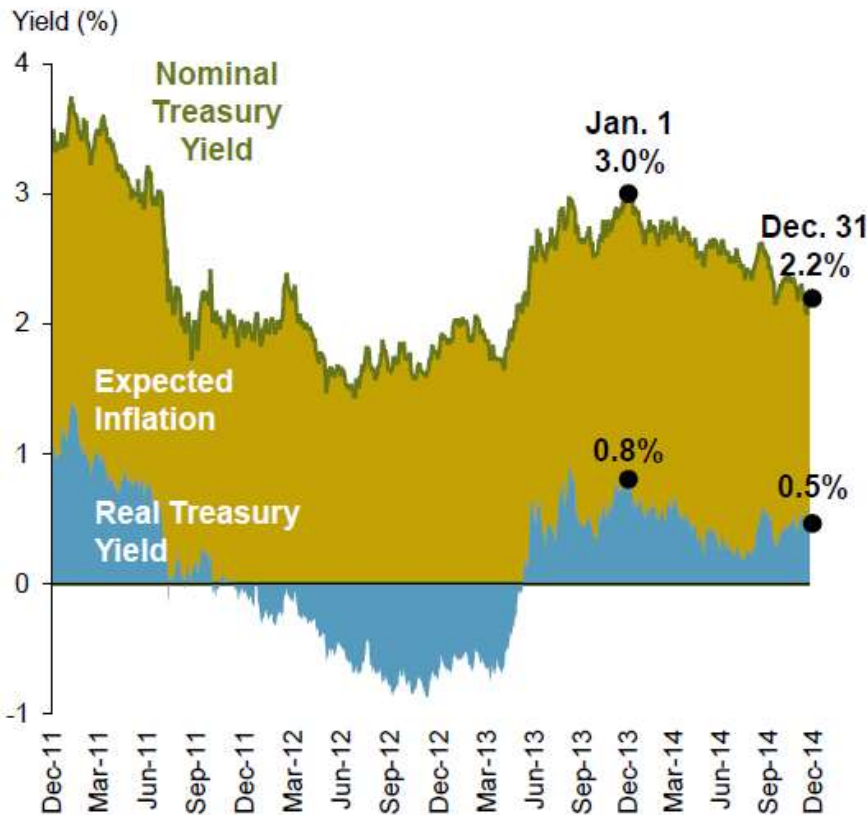
Rolling 1-year correlations, 30 countries



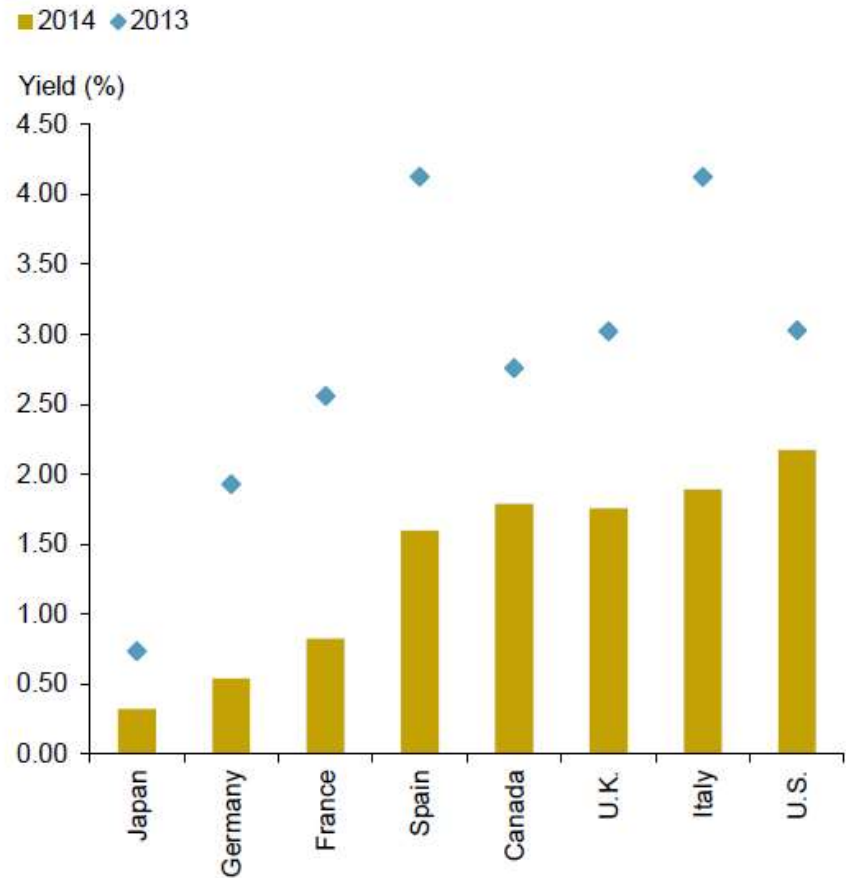
# Restrained Bond Yields And Inflation Expectations

Disinflationary global trends caused a drop in inflation expectations and bond yields around the world. Monetary tightening in 2015 may continue to put upward pressure on U.S. short rates, but long-term U.S. bond yields remain high relative to other developed economies, with foreign central bank monetary easing likely to help prevent a dramatic spike in rates.

**10-Year Nominal and Real Treasury Yields and Inflation Expectations**



**Government Yields for Major Economies**



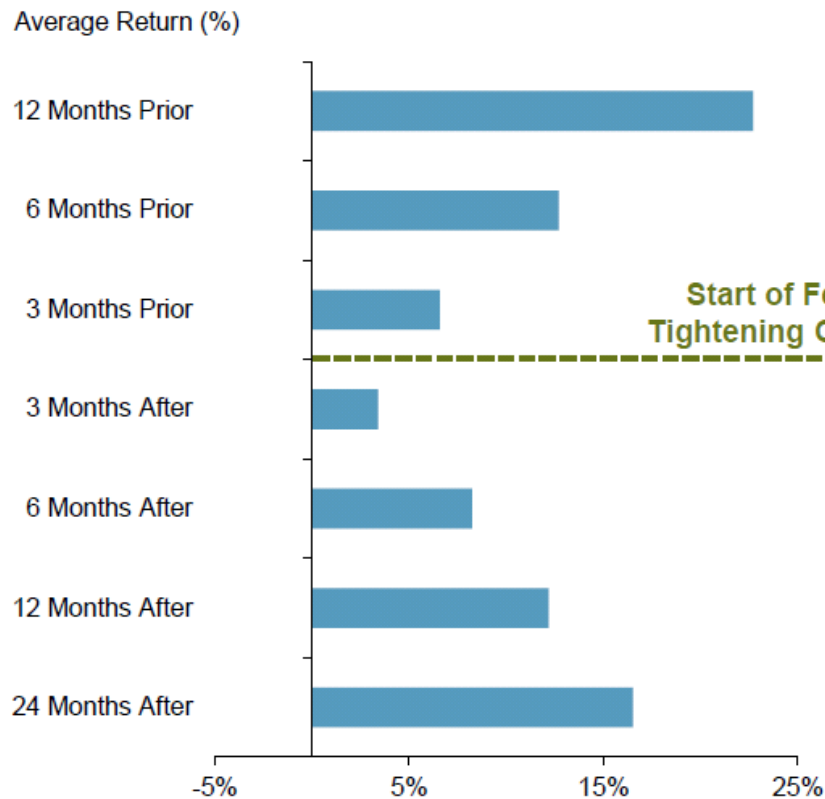
# Can U.S. Rates Move Lower?



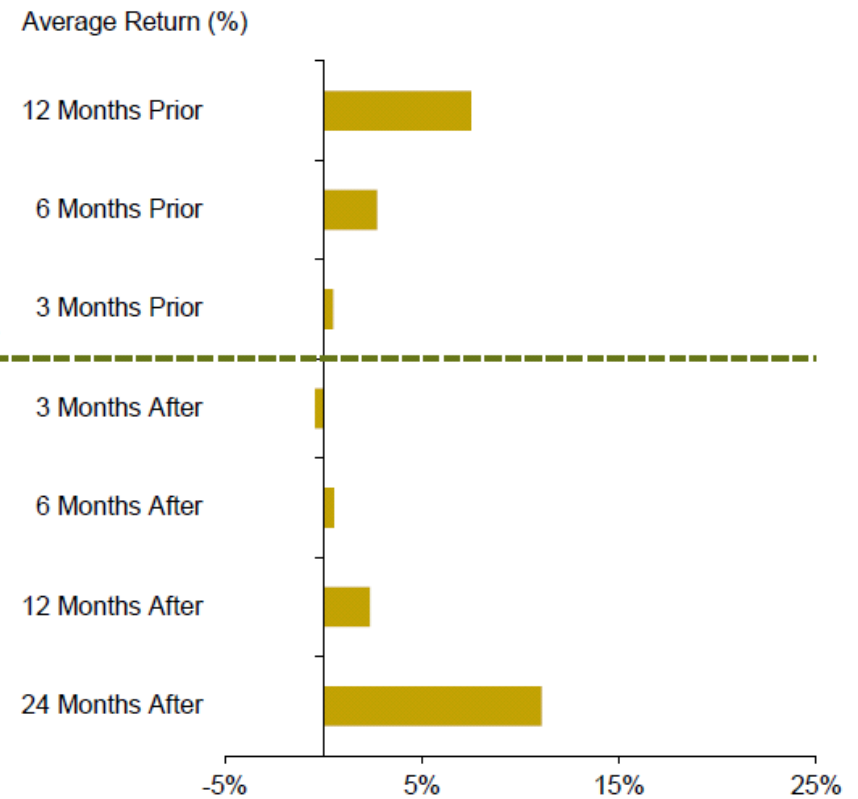
# First Fed Rate Hike Typically Not A Showstopper

Historically, U.S. stocks have posted solid returns prior to and immediately following the Fed's first hike of a tightening cycle, with double-digit average returns one year ahead of and one year after the first rate increase. Bond performances has tended to slow prior to and just after the first hike, though returns have generally been solid two years later.

**Equity Performance around Fed Tightening Cycles, 1950–2010**



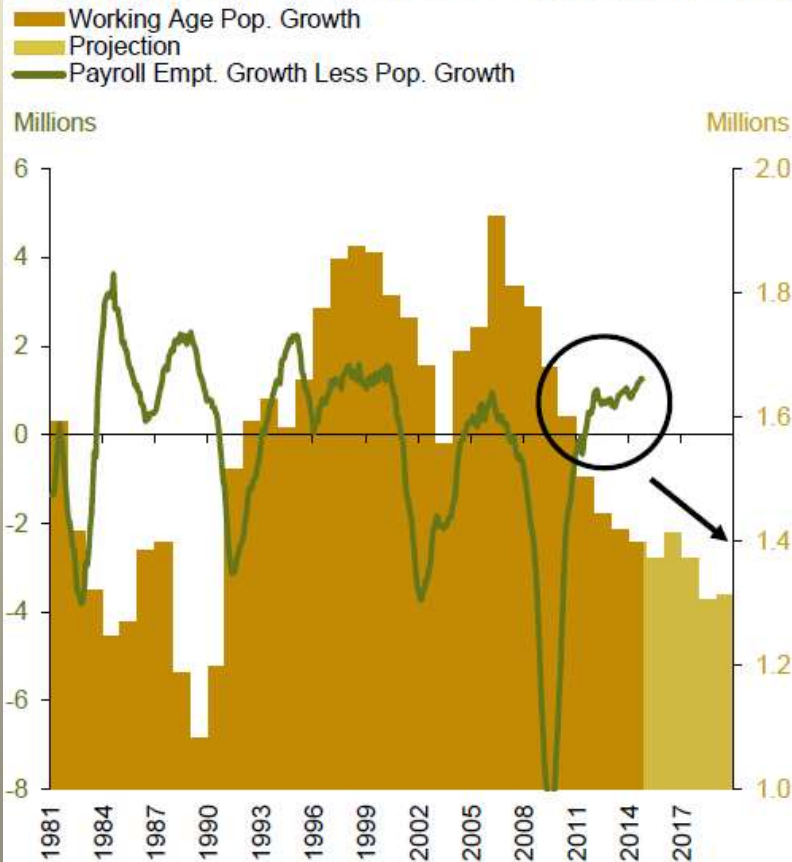
**Bond Performance around Fed Tightening Cycles, 1950–2010**



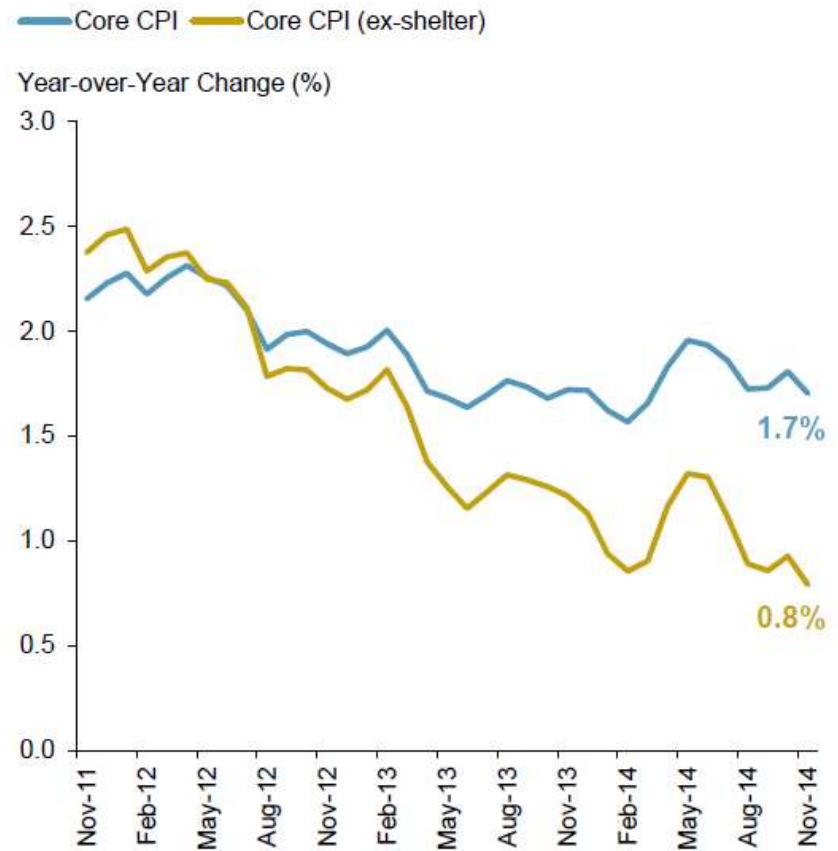
# Big Labor Market Gains, Few Late-Cycle Inflation Pressures

Relative to current demographic trends, the pace of hiring in late 2014 was the fastest in 15 years, with the U.S. adding 2.6 million jobs versus a rise in the working-age population of only 1.4 million workers over the past 12 months. Tightening labor markets are only gradually adding to inflationary pressures, leaving a strong outlook for consumer real income growth.

**Employment Growth vs. Population Growth**



**U.S. Core CPI**





# Potential Implications of Cheap Oil in 2015

## Price of oil



## Challenges:

- › **High-yield bonds of energy companies:** Energy has become the largest sector of the high yield bond market\*. Extended low oil prices may put pressure on select energy firms' ability to service their debt.
- › **Energy companies in general:** Firms that are under-capitalized may face financial stresses, including reduced hiring and reduced capital expenditures.

## › Deflation

## Opportunities:

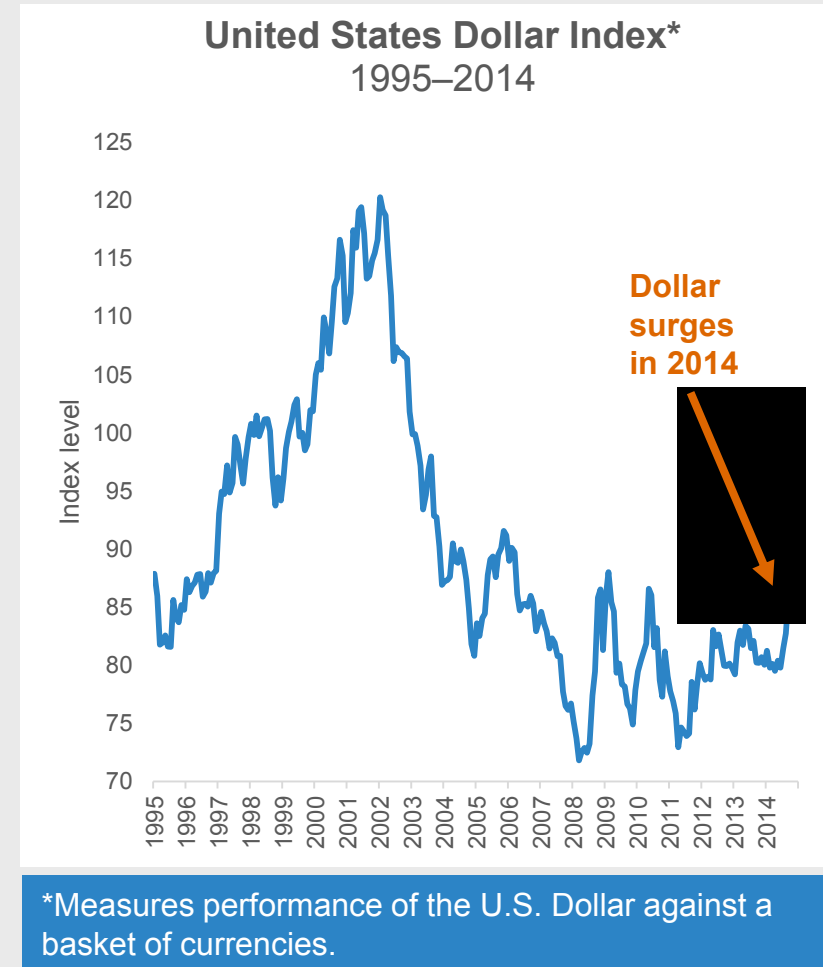
- › **Consumer:** Extra money in consumer pockets (unofficial tax cut) may benefit other sectors – retail / consumer goods
  - › U.S. drivers saved \$14 billion in 2014 / \$50- \$75 billion projected in 2015 in gasoline expenditures\*\*
- › **Companies:** Those with high oil inputs may be more attractive
  - › Airlines, auto, trucking, fertilizers (Air Transport stocks up 54% in 2014)\*\*\*

# Factors Affecting Currency

## ECONOMIC STRENGTH, CENTRAL BANK ACTION AND INTEREST RATES

Central bank policies around the globe are moving in different directions

- › U.S. and U.K. likely to raise interest rates in 2015
  - › The U.S. dollar surged against other major currencies in 2014, reflecting a strengthening U.S. economy
  - › A strong U.S. dollar tends to help importers, but may hurt exporters, trade and foreign tourism
- › Eurozone and Japan poised to keep interest rates low
  - › Both currencies weakened in 2014
  - › A weaker currency could help exporters boost trade and encourage foreign tourism



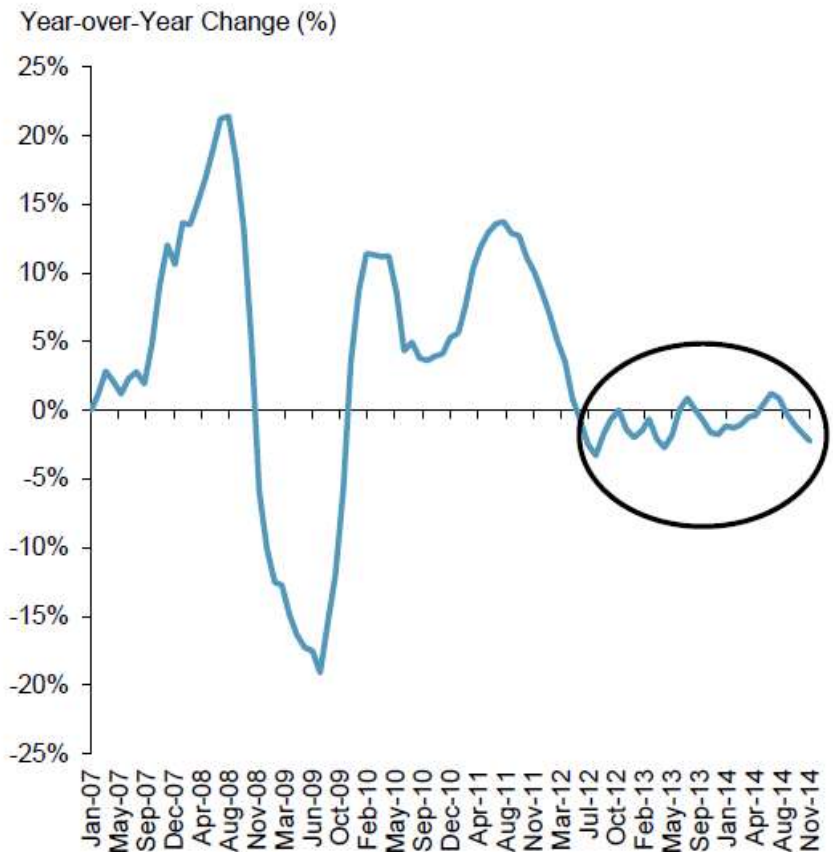
# U.S. Consumers Benefit From Strong U.S. Dollar, Disinflation

Profits of U.S. exporters and multinational companies may be negatively affected by a stronger dollar, while non-U.S. exporters enjoy a boost in competitiveness. Non-U.S. businesses that borrowed in dollars may face a greater burden. The biggest impact is the boost to the purchasing power of U.S. consumers through a stronger currency and falling import prices.

## Implications of Strong USD

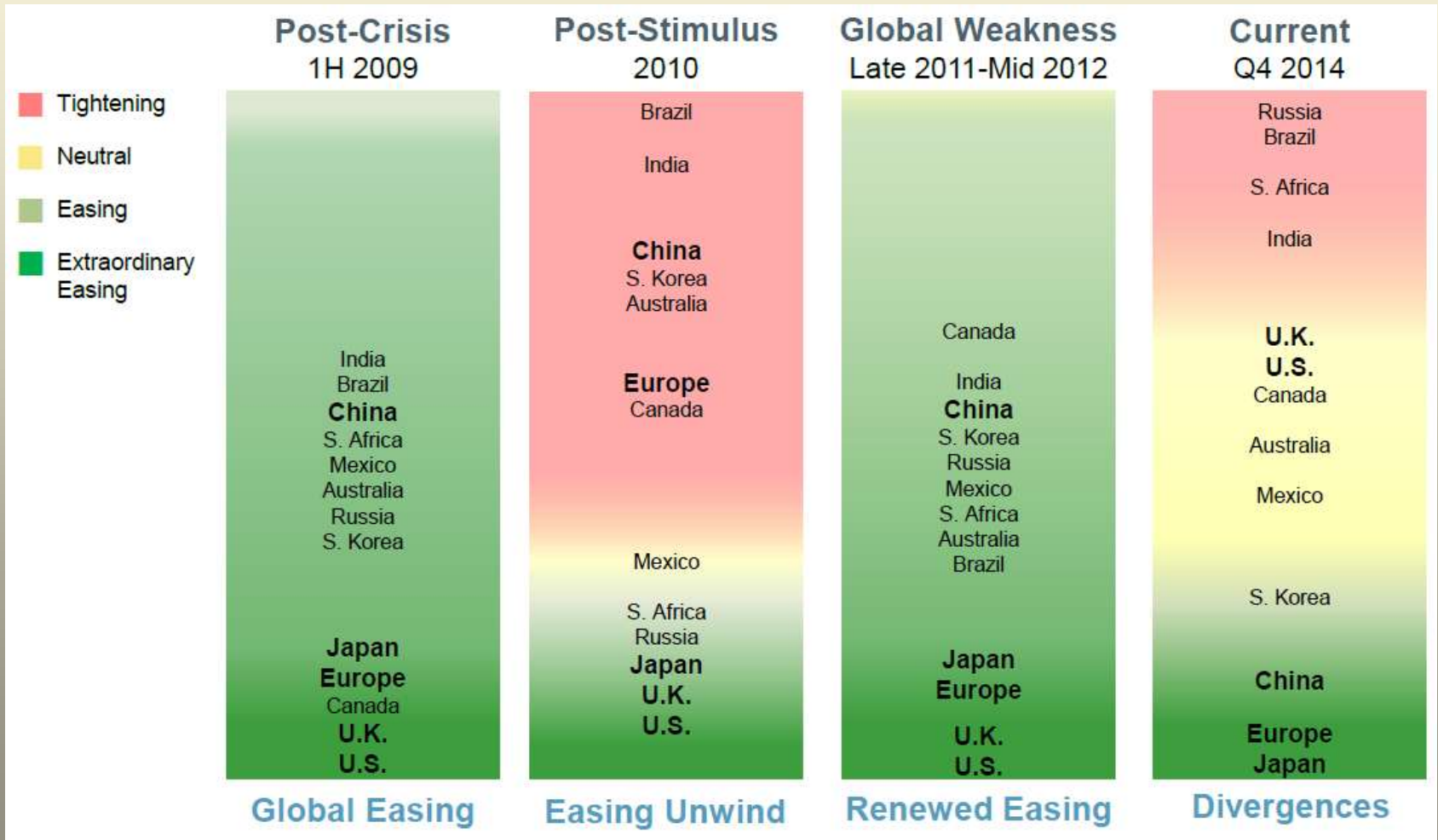
| Winners                             | Losers                                      |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| U.S. Consumers                      | U.S. Multinational Corporations & Exporters |
| Non-U.S. Exporters & Multinationals | Non-U.S. Importers & Consumers              |
|                                     | Non-U.S. Asset Prices in USD                |
|                                     | Non-U.S. Borrowers in USD                   |

## U.S. Import Prices



# Monetary Policies Increasingly Divergent

Since the global financial crisis in 2008, worldwide policy moves have been relatively synchronized. However, by the end of 2014, cyclical divergences created a greater deviation in monetary policy direction: the eurozone, Japan, and China implemented greater easing measures, the U.S. and U.K. moved toward tightening, and several EM countries hiked rates.



# 2015 Economic & Market Outlook

## UNITED STATES

continued strength

## EUROZONE

building momentum

## ASIA

more of the same

### Economic outlook

- › Forecast 3.0% real GDP growth and 2.0% core inflation
- › Employment gains projected at +200k/mo
- › Federal Reserve to raise Federal Funds Rate mid-year

- › Forecast 1.0-1.5% real GDP growth
- › Favorable monetary and fiscal policy support

- › Forecast 7.0% real GDP growth in China
- › Extremely stimulatory Japanese monetary policy
- › Australasian economies to slow to 2.0% GDP growth

### Market outlook

- › Mid-to-upper-single-digit equity market returns
- › U.S. 10-year Treasury yield at 3.0% at end of 2015

- › Valuations attractive relative to U.S. assets
- › Expectation of earnings growth momentum

- › Strengthening Japanese recovery
- › Asia-Pacific equities performing in line with global peers, albeit with heightened volatility