# TRIVANT

CUSTOM PORTFOLIO GROUP, LLC

# quarterly INSIGHTS

# EXECUTIVE

SUMMARY

# S&P 500 Index Shows Largest Quarterly Gain Since 1998

n the Second Quarter, the domestic S&P 500 Index rose 15.93% while the MSCI EAFE Index (foreign) rose 25.85%. This was the largest quarterly gain for the S&P 500 Index since 1998. All global equity markets had strong positive performance, highlighted by Emerging Markets at +34.84%.

The Second Quarter rally built on the market rebound that began on March 10. From March 10 to June 30, the S&P 500 Index rose 36.88%. This is typical of significant bounces off market bottoms.

Through the last year, we have steadfastly advocated that our clients stay the course regarding their appropriate asset allocation. This disciplined approach to investing has recently paid off.

Many clients have asked us if we maintain our 2009 forecast that global equity markets will advance 18% to 22% (Fourth Quarter 2008, 2009 Market Forecast, page 9). We maintain our forecast.

# **Gauging The Success Of Your Portfolio**

An equity benchmark index defines your portfolio performance standard in terms of return and the level of risk taken to achieve that return. With an appropriate benchmark, portfolio performance can be assessed with consideration to the level of risk taken. Without an appropriate benchmark, there is no way to objectively interpret portfolio performance.

The S&P 500 Index is the appropriate equity benchmark for a US-based investor to gauge portfolio success. To get the highest return per unit of risk, we advocate a 10% to 30% foreign weighting in an equity portfolio. The specific amount of foreign weighting at a given time will depend on our market outlook. We aim to beat the S&P 500 Index over time while taking reasonable steps to control portfolio risk. Adept sub-asset allocation decisions and security selection achieve this goal.

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# We Are Shifting The Portfolio Towards An Increased Small Cap Emphasis

Going into the Second Quarter, we maintained a large cap focus in the portfolio because we believed large cap stocks offered a better risk/return tradeoff. During the quarter, we added two small cap stocks to the portfolio. We felt it was the right time to begin a shift towards increased small cap emphasis.

We expect to see stronger signs of an improving economy six months forward. Small cap stocks should out-perform during the expansion phase of the business cycle. To best position the portfolio, we anticipate further increasing our small cap emphasis through a series of adjustments over the next few months.

# Bond Performance Mixed in the Second Quarter

The Fed interest rate was maintained in the Second Quarter as part of a globally coordinated effort to stimulate economic growth. The Barclays Capital U.S. Government/Credit Bond Index rose 1.86% in the Second Quarter.

Investors moved from US Treasury bonds to stocks and higher-yielding bonds. This was a stark contrast to the Fourth Quarter 2008 phenomenon of investors' "flight to safety" with respect to US Treasury bonds. During the Second Quarter, Treasury bond prices fell and corporate bond prices rose.

The Fed can no longer cut interest rates. There are no immediate inflation concerns and the need to stimulate the economy rules out an interest rate increase. Interest rates should therefore remain steady in the near term.

## TRIVANT CUSTOM PORTFOLIO GROUP, LLC

## Second Quarter 2009 Review

Commentary in this review reflects our portfolio strategy. Many of our clients have different objectives and circumstances which are reflected in unique portfolio considerations. Please note that accounts may not contain all elements of the strategy discussed here. Additionally, individual client customizations and start dates may preclude certain elements of this strategy from being implemented. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. A risk of loss is involved with investments in stock markets.



John Barber, CFA Chief Investment Officer



Dan Laimon, MBA President



Michael Harris, CFA Vice President

# **Gauging The Success Of Your Portfolio**

# Selecting An Appropriate Equity Benchmark Index Is Critical

There is no shortage of domestic and international stock market indices. Watch the business reports on television stations such as CNBC or browse any market-related website on the Internet. You will be bombarded with numerous indices for stock performance according to world region, market capitalization, and/or business sector type. This information overload can be confusing and frustrating.

An equity benchmark index defines your portfolio performance standard in terms of return and the level of risk taken to achieve that return. With an appropriate benchmark, portfolio performance can be assessed with consideration to the level of risk taken. Without an appropriate benchmark, there is no way to objectively gauge portfolio performance.

Benchmarking is critical because it gives you an unbiased point of reference regarding the progress of your investments. As your money manager, we strive to achieve the highest return per unit of risk. If we are able to beat an appropriate performance benchmark over time while taking reasonable steps to control your portfolio risk, we believe we are doing a good job. Which stock index is the most appropriate benchmark to gauge the success of the equity component of your portfolio?

# Appropriate Equity Benchmark Selection Is Driven By Five Criteria

Five criteria determine the selection of an appropriate equity benchmark index.

## 1. Index Construction (Price-Weighted Versus Market-Weighted)

In a price-weighted index, companies with higher stock prices are weighted more heavily to compute the index than companies with lower stock prices. This leads to great distortions in index measurement because the higher-priced stocks have greater impact regardless of the market values of the companies they represent. Avoid a price-weighted index in benchmark selection.

In a market-weighted index, the market capitalizations ("market caps") of individual companies determine their relative weightings to measure the index. Larger cap companies have greater impact on the index measurement than smaller cap companies. An appropriate benchmark index must be market-weighted.

## 2. Number of Companies In The Index

The benchmark index should contain a large number of companies to reflect a well-diversified portfolio.

## 3. Average Market Cap Of Companies In The Index

The benchmark index should have a large average market cap to best capture the broad market and economy.

## 4. Currency Denomination Of The Index

The benchmark index should be denominated in the home currency of the investor.

## 5. Investor Recognition And Acceptance Of The Index

The benchmark index should have wide investor recognition and be accepted as credible.

# Appropriate Equity Benchmark Selection Is A Simple Process Of Elimination

We have identified the five criteria that determine the selection of an appropriate equity benchmark index. The selection of the best benchmark is a simple process of elimination. Any index that does not meet all five criteria is an inappropriate benchmark.

We will illustrate the selection of the best equity benchmark for a US-based investor. The five most widely recognized indices available for potential benchmark selection are the

- S&P 500
- Dow Jones Industrial Average
- Russell 2000 (Small Cap)
- MSCI World (Morgan Stanley Composite Index World)
- MSCI EAFE (Morgan Stanley Composite Index Europe, Australia and the Far East)

Of these five benchmark candidates, only the S&P 500 Index meets all five criteria for benchmark selection.

BEST CHOICE					
Index Criterion	S&P 500	Dow Jones Industrial Average	Russell 2000 (Small Cap)	MSCI World	MSCI EAFE (Foreign)
Method of Construction	Market Weighted	Price Weighted	Market Weighted	Market Weighted	Market Weighted
Number of Companies	500	30	2000	>1000	983
Average Market Cap	Large	Large	Small	Large	Large
Currency Denomination	US Dollars	US Dollars	US Dollars	Blend (US & Foreign)	Foreign
Credibility: Inception Year	1926	1912	1970	1970	1970

## The S&P 500 Index Is The Appropriate Equity Benchmark For A US-Based Investor

A US-based investor should use the S&P 500 Index as his/her equity benchmark. In existence since 1926, the index is widely recognized and credible. The S&P 500 Index is properly constructed (market-weighted), contains an adequately large number of companies (500) to reflect a well-diversified portfolio, and has a large (versus small) average market cap.

The S&P 500 Index is denominated in US Dollars. This is an important consideration for a US-based investor. Most of his/her expenses are (or will be) in US Dollars. Having a portfolio gauged against a non-US Dollardenominated benchmark would force the investor to assume a higher-than-needed level of currency risk.

#### TRIVANT. The Right Choice

## The Dow Jones Industrial Average: All Hype and No Substance

The Dow Jones Industrial Average is an inappropriate equity benchmark because it is price-weighted, contains an insufficient number of stocks (30) to reflect a well-diversified portfolio, and has a considerable sector bias towards industrial stocks. We are unaware of any reputable money manager that incorporates the Dow Jones as an equity benchmark. If the Dow Jones is an inappropriate equity benchmark index, why does it dominate the television screen, print media and Internet? Part of the answer is its legacy (its inception was in 1912). The rest of the answer lies with the company that owns its licensing rights and profits from its usage.

Dow Jones & Company is a leading provider of syndicated news, financial information and stock market data. The company was acquired in 2007 by News Corporation (owned by Rupert Murdoch), whose holdings include the Fox Television Network. Dow Jones publishes the *Wall Street Journal*, one of the most widely read US newspapers with a circulation of more than 2 million, as well as international editions of *The Journal*. The company also publishes *Barron's* and other community newspapers. Dow Jones owns the online business news site *MarketWatch*.

## **US-Based Investors Should Not Use The MSCI World Index As Their Benchmark**

There are two reasons why the MSCI World Index is an inappropriate benchmark for US-based investors:

## 1. Improper Currency Denomination

Since the MSCI World Index is more than 50% weighted towards foreign stocks, its currency denomination can best be described as a blend of the US Dollar and "mixed foreign". The appropriate equity benchmark for US-based investors (the S&P 500 Index) is mostly denominated in US Dollars (the investors' home currency).

## 2. Inefficient Risk/Return Tradeoff

## As an investor, you seek the highest return per unit of risk.

Annualized returns from US and foreign markets have been identical from 1970 through 2008. However, foreign markets have a relatively higher level of risk (as measured by standard deviation of returns). Using the MSCI World Index as a benchmark leads to an excessive concentration of foreign currency-denominated stocks. This results in an inefficient risk/return tradeoff: you take more risk to achieve the same return.

Index	Return*	Risk (Standard Deviation of Returns)		
S&P 500 Index (US)	9.44%	18.16%		
MSCI EAFE Index (Foreign)	9.45%	23.20%		
* Competrically linked areas returns from 1070 through 2009				

\* Geometrically linked gross returns from 1970 through 2008

For an efficient risk/return tradeoff, use the S&P 500 Index as your equity benchmark.

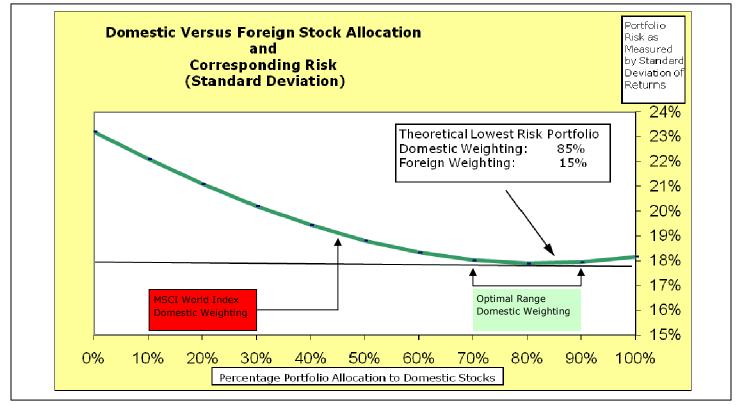
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# An S&P 500 Index Benchmark Does Not Preclude Foreign Exposure In Your Portfolio

The S&P 500 Index contains domestic stocks that are denominated in US Dollars. Using this index as your equity benchmark does not preclude foreign stock exposure in your portfolio. Domestic stocks do not move in complete tandem with foreign stocks. Your portfolio should have some level of foreign exposure to reduce portfolio risk. How much foreign exposure is prudent?

We previously noted the risk level of the domestic S&P 500 Index is 18.16%. In contrast, the risk level of the foreign MSCI EAFE Index is 23.20%. Each index has the same expected annualized return over the long-term. Any combination of domestic and foreign stock weightings should theoretically have the same long-term expected return. However, various combinations of domestic and foreign weightings will have significantly different levels of portfolio risk due to their imperfect correlation.

Adding foreign exposure to your portfolio is done to control risk, not to bolster long-term expected return. The risk inherent in a 100% domestic stock portfolio can be reduced by adding a degree of foreign stock exposure. In a range of 70% to 90% domestic stock weighting, your portfolio can assume a lower level of risk than a 100% domestic stock weighting while having the same expected long-term return.



## CONCLUSION

The S&P 500 Index is the appropriate equity benchmark for a US-based investor to gauge portfolio success. To get the highest return per unit of risk, we advocate a 10% to 30% foreign weighting in an equity portfolio. The specific amount of foreign weighting at a given time will depend on our market outlook. We aim to beat the S&P 500 Index over time while taking reasonable steps to control portfolio risk. Adept sub-asset allocation decisions (currency, country, sector and market cap considerations) and security selection achieve this goal.

# **Equity Market Review**

# S&P 500 Index Shows Largest Quarterly Gain Since 1998

In the Second Quarter, the domestic S&P 500 Index rose 15.93% while the MSCI EAFE Index (foreign) rose 25.85%. This was the largest quarterly gain for the S&P 500 Index since 1998. All global equity markets had strong positive performance.

The Second Quarter rally built on the market rebound that began on March 10. From March 10 to June 30, the S&P 500 Index rose 36.88%. This is typical of significant bounces off market bottoms previously discussed (Third Quarter 2008, Bounces Off Bear Market Bottoms Are Substantial, page 13). Areas of note for the quarter include:

- Foreign stock out-performance was partially attributable to US Dollar depreciation
- Financials (+35.08%) rebounded strongly from a dismal First Quarter as fears of bank instability subsided
- Technology (+19.35%) continued to prosper and is by far the leading sector year to date (+24.08%)
- Emerging Markets (+34.84%) benefited from stable commodity prices and relatively stronger fiscal stability
- US small cap stocks (+24.09%) out-performed US large cap stocks (+16.64%)

Equity Index Performance			
Index	Q2 2009	YTD 2009	
S&P 500 (Domestic)	15.93%	3.16%	
MSCI EAFE (Foreign)**	25.85%	8.42%	
MSCI World	21.05%	6.79%	
MSCI Emerging Markets	34.84%	36.22%	
Russell 2000 (Small Cap)*	20.23%	1.77%	
MSCI Japan	23.05%	2.67%	
MSCI UK (United Kingdom)	26.59%	13.07%	
MSCI EMU (European Monetary Union)	26.74%	4.64%	
* Performance data does not include dividends	** Europe, Austral	lia and the Far East	

# We Are Shifting The Portfolio Towards An Increased Small Cap Emphasis

Going into the Second Quarter, we maintained a large cap focus in the portfolio because we believed large cap stocks offered a better risk/return tradeoff. During the quarter, we added two small cap stocks to the portfolio. We felt it was the right time to begin a shift towards increased small cap emphasis.

As we predicted, the Conference Board's Index of Leading Economic Indicators (LEI) Index rose in April and May (First Quarter 2009, LEI Stability Is A Bullish Sign, page 3). This may be a signal that the worst of the recession is over. However, a rising LEI Index is not in itself a reason for a major shift in portfolio strategy.

We expect to see stronger signs of an improving economy six months forward. Small cap stocks should out-perform during the expansion phase of the business cycle. To best position the portfolio, we anticipate further increasing our small cap emphasis through a series of adjustments over the next few months.

# Currency, Country, Sector & Market Cap Performance at a Glance

# **The US Dollar**

The US Dollar slightly depreciated versus the Japanese Yen, depreciated versus the Euro, and considerably depreciated versus the British Pound in the Second Quarter. The Federal Reserve Board Funds Rate was maintained at a target 0% to 0.25%. The European Central Bank (ECB) lowered its rate from 1.50% to 1.00%. Oil prices were likely a major factor in the depreciation of the US Dollar, rising from approximately US \$48 to US \$71 per barrel over the quarter (a price increase of 48%).

US Dollar Appreciation Versus Foreign Currencies				
Currency	Q2 2009	YTD 2009	2008	2007
US Dollar/Euro	(4.91%)	(0.58%)	5.88%	(9.59%)
US Dollar/Japanese Yen	(2.94%)	6.82%	(18.37%)	(6.43%)
US Dollar/British Pound	(10.82%)	(12.72%)	44.00%	(1.01%)
US Dollar Index*	(5.84%)	(1.71%)	6.20%	(8.47%)
* The Dollar compared with a weighted basket of currencies Source: Telemet				

In Q2 2009, the dollar fell 5.84% against a basket of diversified currencies.

The US Dollar depreciated in the Second Quarter for the following reasons:

- The "flight to safety" through US Treasury purchases that bolstered the US Dollar in the First Quarter and 2008 tapered off. There are US debt level concerns. Many investors moved out of Treasury bonds into riskier and potentially better-performing areas such as non-US-based corporate bonds and stocks. As a result, the demand for US dollars fell because US Dollars had to be converted to foreign currencies. When the demand for US dollars decreases, the US Dollar depreciates.

- The US trade deficit was unchanged in May (\$26 billion) as compared to February (source: The Commerce Department). To reflect higher oil prices through June 30, we expect a rising deficit in the yet-to-be-released June data. The anticipation of a rising trade deficit likely had a negative impact on the US Dollar. However, a rising deficit should be short-lived because oil prices have fallen subsequent to June 30. We anticipate a falling future trade deficit after the June data, which should benefit the US Dollar.

## The US Dollar: Portfolio Strategy Considerations

We are not concerned that the US Dollar depreciated in the Second Quarter, and believe the US Dollar will slightly appreciate in the last half of 2009.

During the quarter, the European Central Bank (ECB) lowered its rate from 1.50% to 1.00%. The Fed rate was maintained at a target 0% to 0.25% (it cannot go lower). As the rate gap between the ECB and the FED narrows, the Euro becomes a less attractive currency versus the US Dollar. Until there are clear signs of an improving economy, we do not foresee rising oil prices, which should benefit the US Dollar.

We do not anticipate the US Dollar will be a major factor in 2009 portfolio performance. In the Second Quarter, we slightly lowered our portfolio weighting from approximately 90% domestic exposure. This adjustment was made for sector and market cap considerations, not currency considerations.

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## Japan

Japan has lagged other foreign regional performance year to date. In the Second Quarter, its gross domestic product (GDP) fell at an annualized rate of 14.2% (in comparison, the US GDP fell 5.5%). Exports to the US, Asia and the European Union (EU) are falling. Corporate profits continue to weaken.

Japan: Portfolio Strategy Considerations

Japan provides a degree of portfolio risk control since it is lowly correlated to US performance. We maintain a very small portfolio position at this time.

## **Emerging Markets**

Emerging Markets was the best-performing global area (+34.84%) in the Second Quarter. Higher commodity and energy prices helped resource-rich regions. In addition, the fact that these countries are not undertaking nearly the level of deficit spending as observed in the US and Europe may have contributed to performance.

Country	Q2 2009	YTD 2009
Brazil	40.97%	58.59%
Russia	37.77%	45.94%
India	59.84%	57.45%
China	35.81%	37.62%

Emerging Markets: Portfolio Strategy Considerations

Emerging Markets have double the exposure to commodity markets relative to the S&P 500 Index, and are highly volatile. Since we anticipate tame commodity markets until there are clear signs of an economic recovery, there is little impetus to significantly weight this region. In what we believe is a better risk/return tradeoff, we recently raised our commodity exposure through investment in an Australian mining company.

China's \$585 billion fiscal stimulus represents nearly 18% of its GDP (compared to less than 6% in the US) and is being implemented quickly. Since we see the potential for an increasing number of middle-class consumers in China who will want cell phones, we added a Chinese telecom company to the portfolio.

## Europe

Europe was up considerably (+26.74%) versus the S&P 500 Index (+15.93%) for the quarter. Part of this outperformance was due to currency appreciation that we expect will revert. There are no indications that European business prospects are better than other global regions. In the Second Quarter, annualized GDP fell significantly in the United Kingdom (-9.3%), Germany (-14.4%) and Switzerland (-16.0%).

The European Central Bank (ECB) was forced to further cut its interest rate from 1.50% to 1.00% in an effort to stimulate the economy. We anticipate the rate will remain stable. There has been great European reluctance to provide fiscal stimulus measures, and thus far Europe has been lagging the world in recovery.

Europe: Portfolio Strategy Considerations

We maintain minimal European exposure as we see no factors that point to out-performance.

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## **Sector Performance**

Financials was the best-performing sector (+35.08%) in the Second Quarter, although it remains in negative territory year to date (-4.76% through June 30). Its significant bounce was likely due to subsiding fears of bank nationalization, the increased profit potential from a steepened yield curve, and the fact that the sector was considerably beat up in the First Quarter and throughout 2008. Technology (+19.35%) was the next best performing sector, and is by far the leading sector year to date (+24.08%).

Telecom was the worst performing sector in the Second Quarter (+1.90%), due to intense competition and reduced consumer spending. Health Care (+8.27%) was the second-worst performing sector, likely in response to fears of massive government intervention and the fact that a traditionally defensive sector becomes less attractive during a market bounce.

S&P 500 Index Sector Performance - Q2 2009 40% 35% 30% 25% 20% 15% 10% 5% 0% Energy Materials Industrials Cyclicals Staples Health Care Financials Technology Telecom Utilities

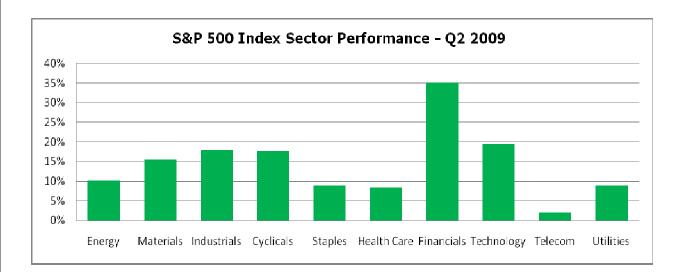
Industrials and Cyclicals slightly out-performed the S&P 500 Index (+15.93%). Materials closely mirrored the S&P 500 Index performance. Energy, Utilities and Staples lagged.

## Sectors: Portfolio Strategy Considerations

We remain under-weight (as compared to the S&P 500 Index) to Energy and Financials pending more evidence of an improving world economy. Crude oil inventories remain high and we do not believe current economic conditions can support significantly higher oil prices. Although US Financials enjoyed a nice rebound, we are leery of changing our slight under-weight position to an over-weight position. Delinquency rates for consumer loans have recently spiked, new government regulations have curtailed business volume, and both the housing and commercial real estate markets are under pressure.

We continue to over-weight Technology, although our over-weight position is less pronounced than at the beginning of the year. This sector has solid balance sheets with good cash positions, which are attractive qualities in the current credit environment. If businesses are going to spend money on anything right now, we believe purchases will be geared towards increased efficiency and productivity.

We recently reduced our Health Care exposure from an over-weight to neutral-weight position. Government regulation may impact sector profitability. We replaced the Health Care exposure with a Telecom position in China.



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## Market Cap Performance

Small cap US stocks fared better than large cap US stocks in the Second Quarter. Small cap foreign stocks fared better than large cap foreign stocks. During the quarter, we added two small cap stocks to the portfolio.

Theoretically, the right time to lower the average portfolio market cap is six months prior to improved economic data. We expect to see stronger signs of an improving economy, and consequently felt it was the right time to begin a shift towards increased small cap exposure.

Market Cap Performance	Q2 2009	YTD 2009
Large Cap Performance World	20.58%	6 110/
Foreign	25.85%	6.11% 9.07%
USA	16.64%	4.73%
Small Cap Performance		
World	28.29%	15.00%
Foreign	34.37%	22.51%
USA	24.09%	10.51%

## Market Cap: Portfolio Strategy Considerations

Small cap stocks should out-perform during the expansion phase of the business cycle. To best position the portfolio, we anticipate further increasing our small cap emphasis through a series of adjustments over the next few months.

## **Style Performance**

US Growth stocks fared similarly to US Value stocks in the Second Quarter. This was due to the two leading sectors. Technology (+19.35%) drove growth stocks and Financials (+35.08%) drove value stocks .

Style Performance	Q2 2009	YTD 2009
US Growth	16.42%	11.87%
US Value	17.89%	(0.95%)
Foreign Growth	22.12%	7.96%
Foreign Value	30.76%	11.70%

Source: MSCI

## Style: Portfolio Strategy Considerations

For the time being, we will maintain a growth bias due to our expectation of continuing challenges in the Financials sector, and the safety of significant cash on hand in the Technology sector.

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# **Bond Market Review**

The Fed interest rate was maintained in the Second Quarter as part of a globally coordinated effort to stimulate economic growth. The Barclays Capital U.S. Government/Credit Bond Index rose 1.86% in the Second Quarter.

Key US Interest Rates	June 30, 2009	March 31, 2009	Change
Federal Reserve Boards Funds Rate	0.25%	0.25%	no change
2-Year Treasury (Constant Maturity)	1.13%	0.80%	+33 basis points
5-Year Treasury (Constant Maturity)	2.63%	1.65%	+98 basis points
10-Year Treasury (Constant Maturity)	3.13%	2.66%	+47 basis points
	Note: 100 basis poin	nts (bp) = 1.00%	Source: Bloomberg

Investors moved from US Treasury bonds to stocks and higher-yielding bonds. This was a stark contrast to the Fourth Quarter 2008 phenomenon of investors' "flight to safety" with respect to Treasury bonds. During the Second Quarter, Treasury bond prices fell (yields increased) and corporate bond prices rose (yields decreased).

The yield curve, which compares the 2 year Treasury rate (Constant Maturity) versus the 10 year Treasury rate, became slightly more "steep" as the rise of longer yields was more than the rise of shorter yields. Normally a steepened yield curve benefits banks because lending becomes more profitable. In the tough current lending environment, a slightly steepened yield curve is somewhat inconsequential.

Core inflation remains tame. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI (Consumer Price Index) was unchanged in April and up 0.1% in May.\* Over the last 12 months (May 2008 through May 2009), the index has fallen 1.3%. This is the largest decline since April 1950 and is due mainly to a 27.3% decline in the energy index.

The Fed can no longer cut interest rates. There are no immediate inflation concerns and the need to stimulate the economy rules out an interest rate increase. Interest rates should therefore remain steady in the near term.

## Bond Market: Portfolio Strategy Considerations

We sold Treasury bonds late last year and replaced them with investment-grade corporate bonds and certificates of deposit (CDs). At the time, we believed Treasury bond prices did not have much upside after their best year since 1995 (a 2008 return of 13.7%). So far in 2009, we are right. Treasury bond prices have fallen. The corporate bonds and CDs have positive returns.

We also continue to hold Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (TIPS) as part of a diversified bond portfolio. TIPS act as a hedge against inflation.

Right now, TIPS are priced to anticipate just over 2% annual inflation during the next 10 years. If inflation increases, TIPS become more valuable because the bond price and coupon payments are adjusted for inflation. Although inflation is not a concern at the moment, deficit spending and an economic recovery could fuel inflation. TIPS act as an "insurance policy" against rising inflation. This type of insurance can be especially important for investors who require portfolio income.

\*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## TRIVANT. The Right Choice

# **Closing Thoughts**

The Second Quarter rally was encouraging. Positive market momentum from March 10 continued through the early part of May. We have started to shift the portfolio towards an increased small cap emphasis in anticipation of an improved economic outlook.

Through the last year, we have steadfastly advocated that our clients stay the course regarding their appropriate asset allocation. This discipline paid off during the quarter as the S&P 500 Index rose almost 16%.

As of June 30, the S&P 500 Index was +3.16% year to date. We maintain our original forecast that global equity markets will advance 18% to 22% in 2009. If we are right, much of the remaining advance could take place in the Fourth Quarter. We will not be concerned if the market pulls back a little in the meantime.

We will continue to closely monitor the market and adjust your portfolio as needed. Please feel free to contact us anytime to discuss questions or comments you may have. We will keep you informed of portfolio progress.

Respectfully submitted,



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"Bull markets are born on pessimism, grow on skepticism, mature on optimism, and die on euphoria."

Sir John Templeton

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