

Chart-1

NFIB Small Business Optimism Index

dshort.com
February 2017
Data through January

..... Current Level is now at 105.9 ● Recession Starts

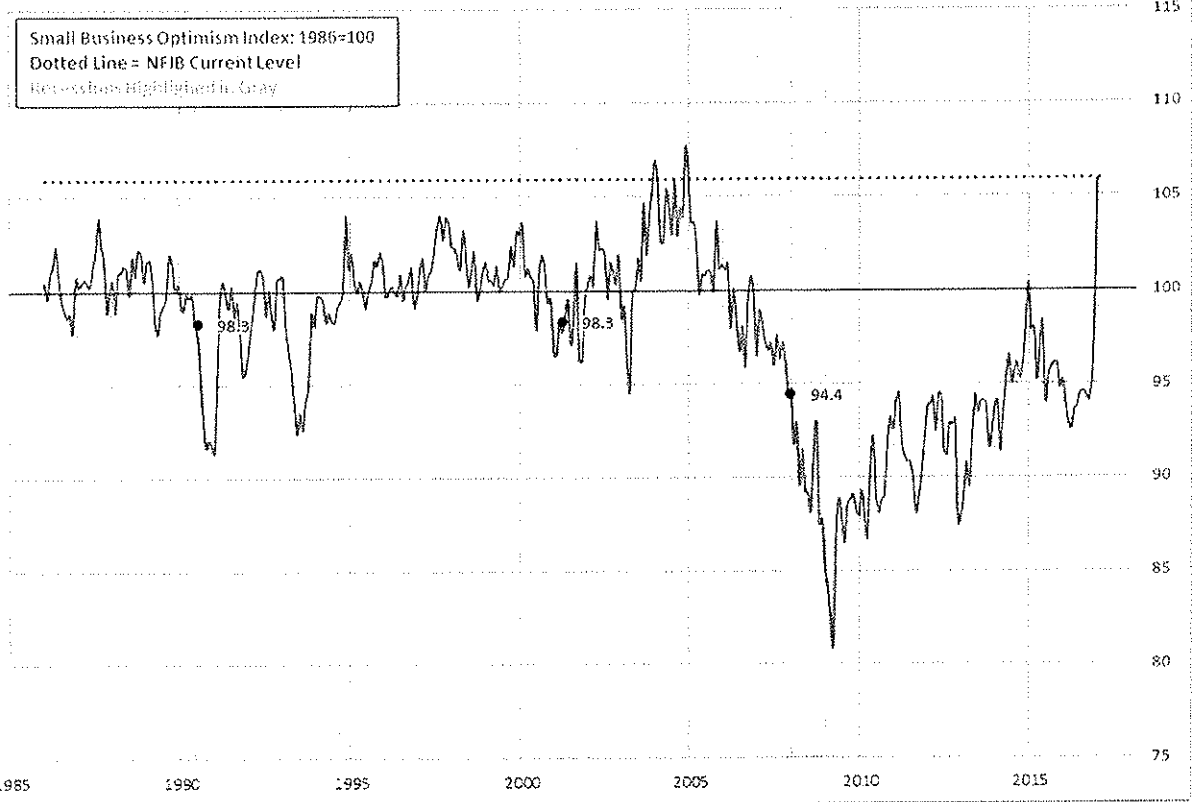
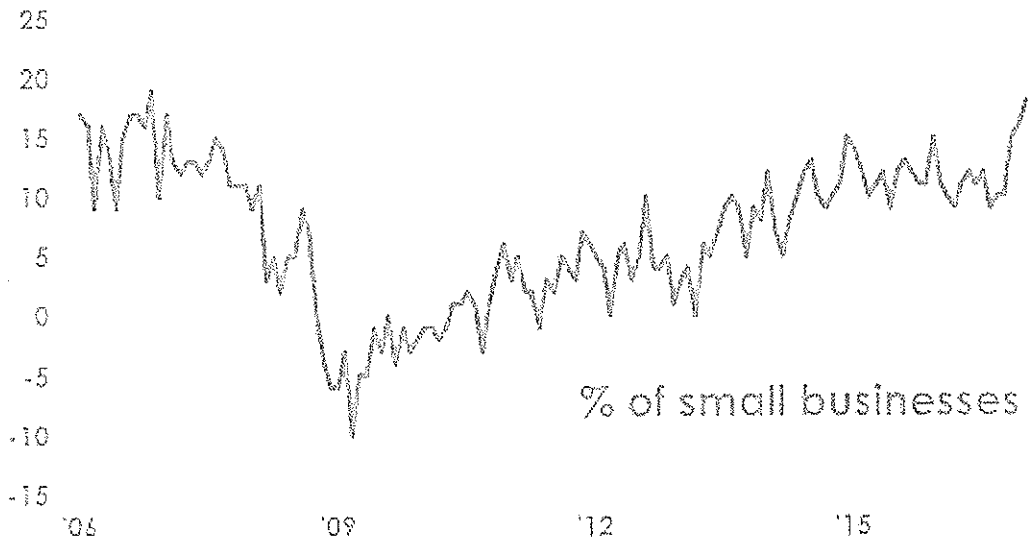


Chart-2

Are small businesses planning to hire?

% planning increase - % planning decrease, Jan.'06 - Jan.'17



NFIB.COM/jobsdata

Chart - 3

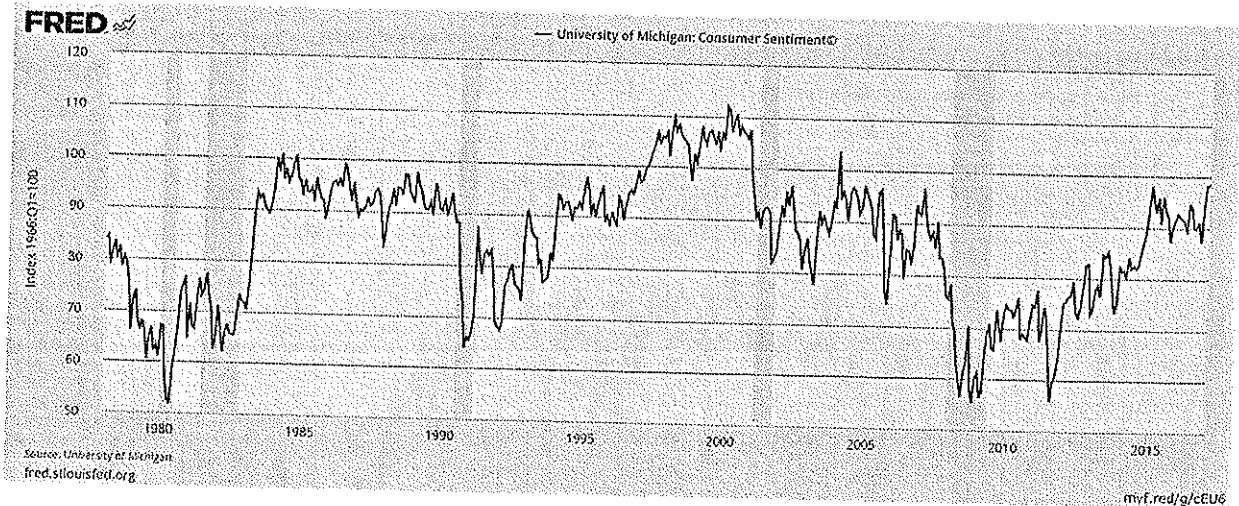


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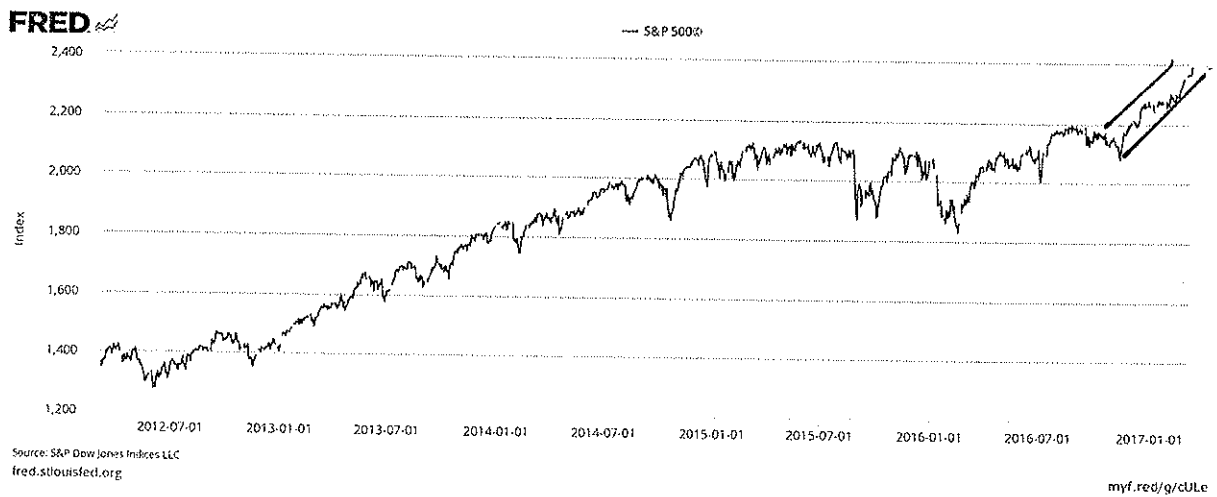
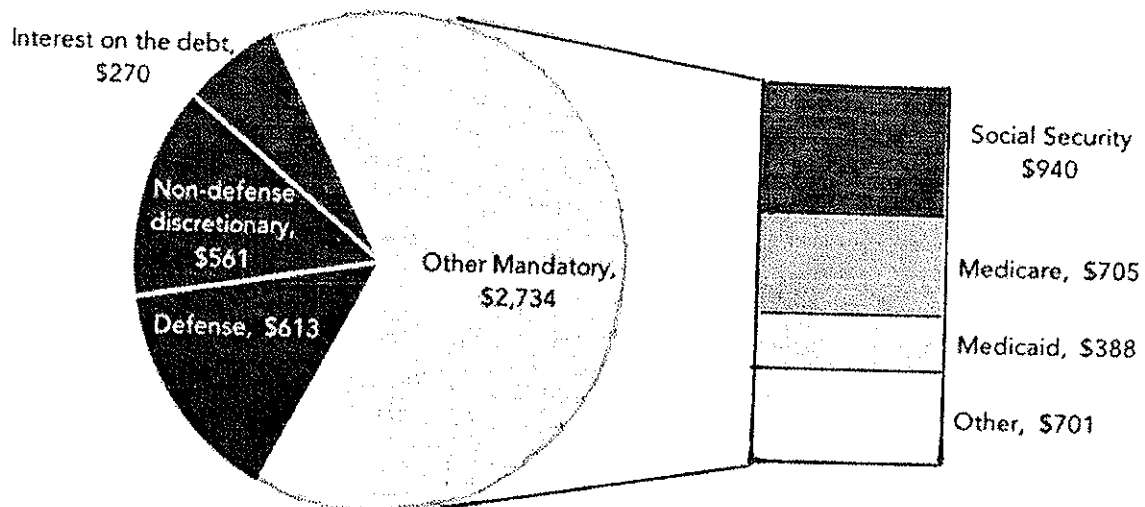


Chart - 5

Shares of Federal Spending, 2017

billions of dollars

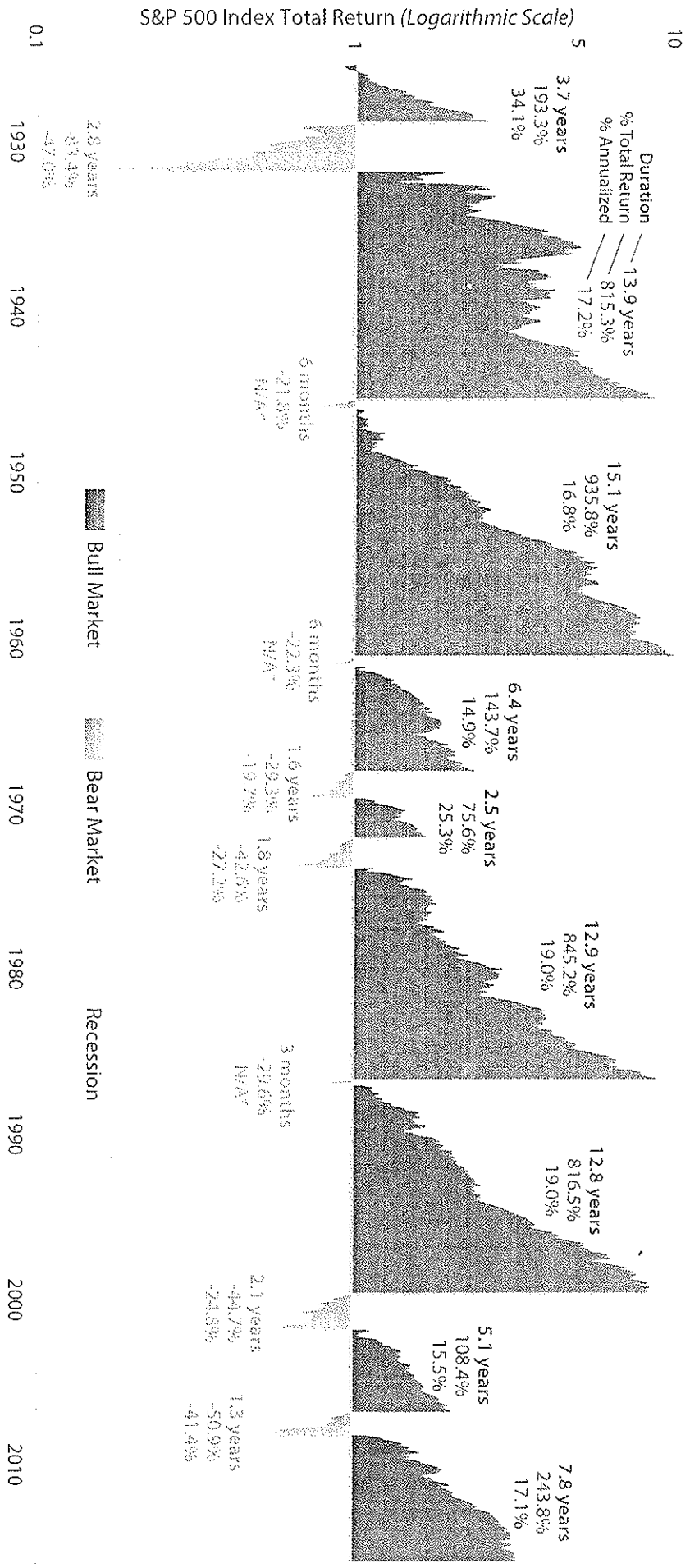


Source: Congressional Budget Office,

History of U.S. Bear & Bull Markets Since 1926

This chart shows historical performance of the S&P 500 Index throughout the U.S. Bull and Bear Markets from 1926 through 2016. Although past performance is no guarantee of future results, we believe looking at the history of the market's expansions and recessions helps to gain a fresh perspective on the benefits of investing for the long-term.

- The average Bull Market period lasted 8.9 years with an average cumulative total return of 49.0%.
- The average Bear Market period lasted 1.3 years with an average cumulative loss of -41%.



From the lowest close reached after the market has fallen 20% or more, to the next market high.

Bull

From when the index closes at least 20% down from its previous high close, through the lowest close reached after it has fallen 20% or more.

Bear

Source: First Trust Advisors L.P., Morningstar. Returns from 1926 - 2016. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. Index returns do not reflect any fees, expenses, or sales charges. This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. These returns were the result of certain market factors and events which may not be repeated in the future. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Not FDIC Insured • Not Bank Guaranteed • May Lose Value

First Trust Portfolios L.P. • 1-800-621-9533 • www.ftportfolios.com

First Trust

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S&P 500 Trailing 12-Month P/E Ratio: 1954-Present

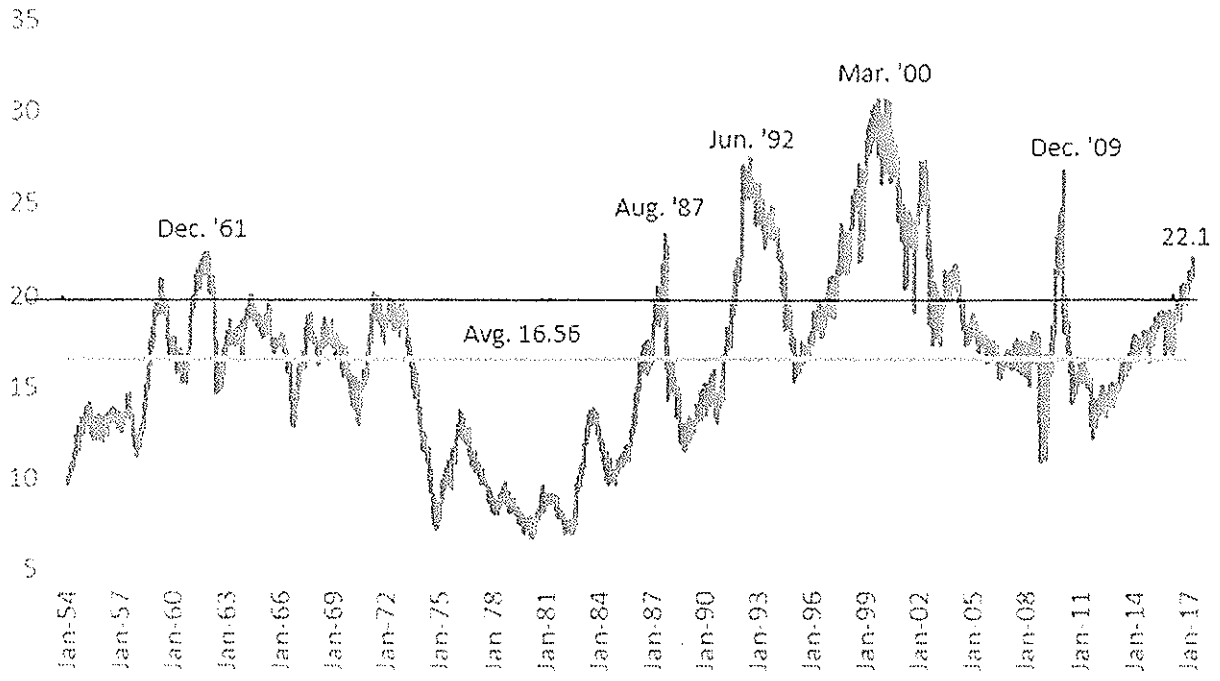


Chart 8

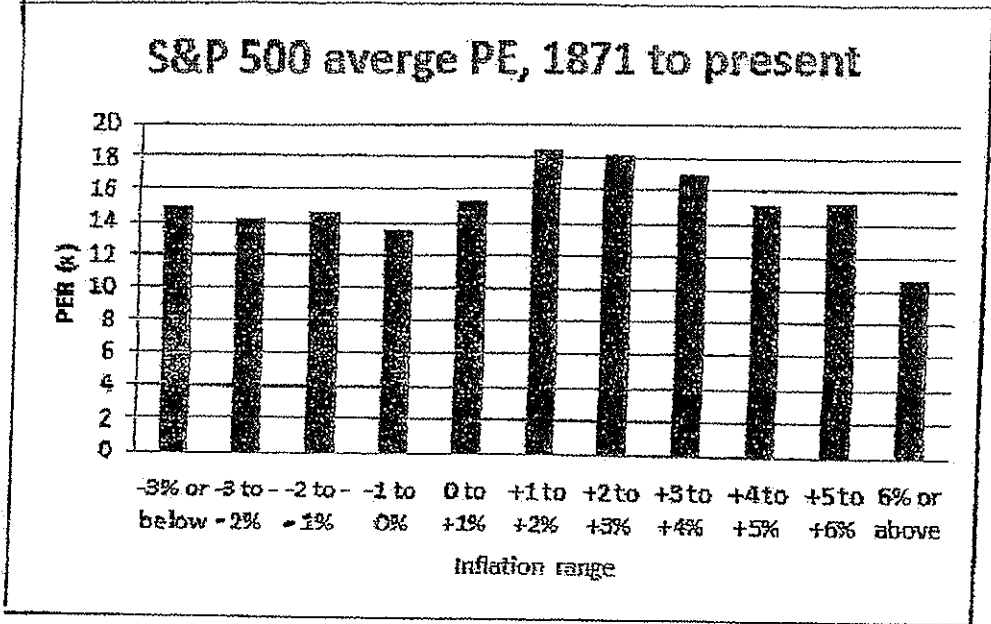


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Average company lifespan on S&P 500 Index (in years)

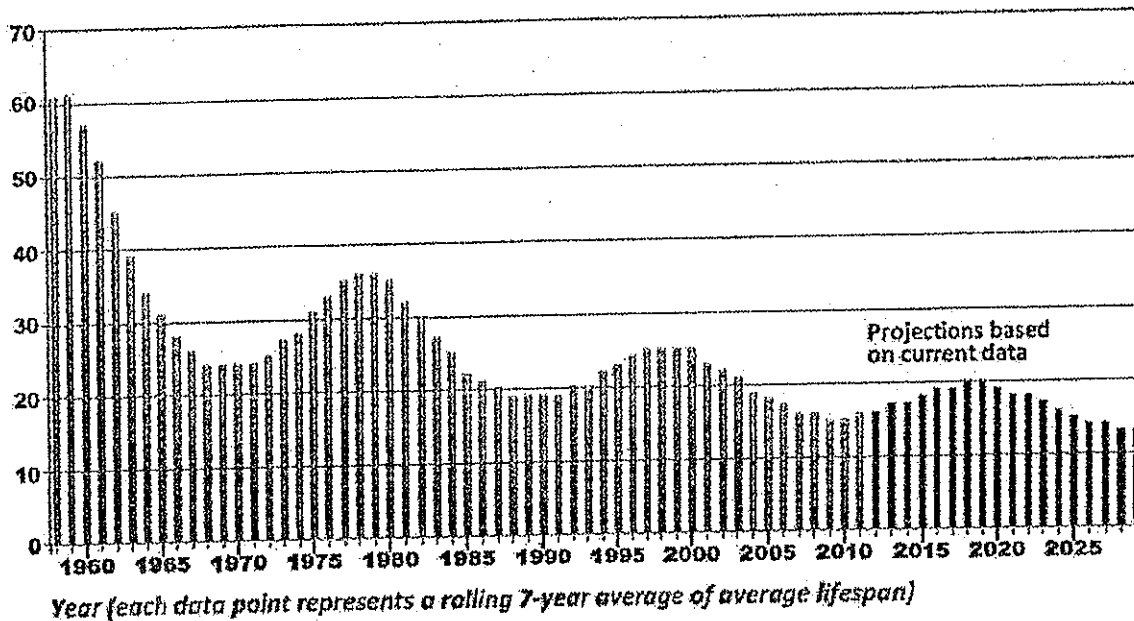


Chart-10

FRED

Corporate Profits After Tax (without IVA and CCAdj)/Gross Domestic Product

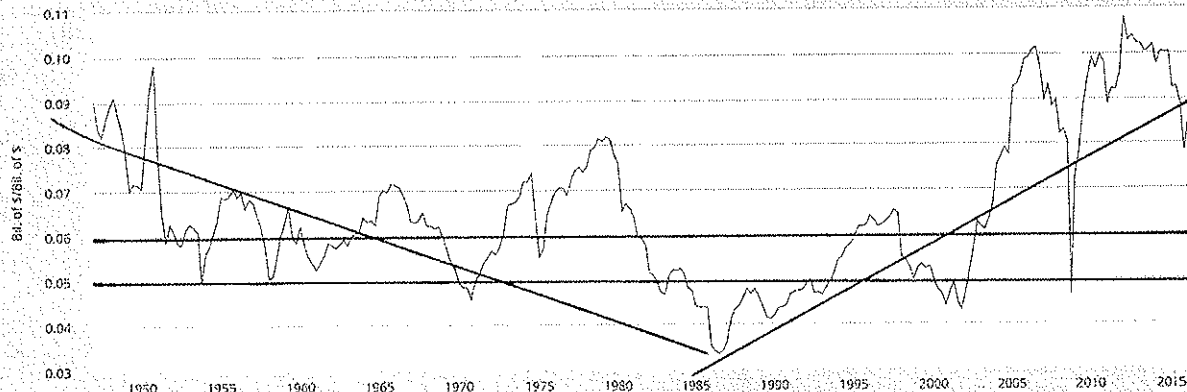
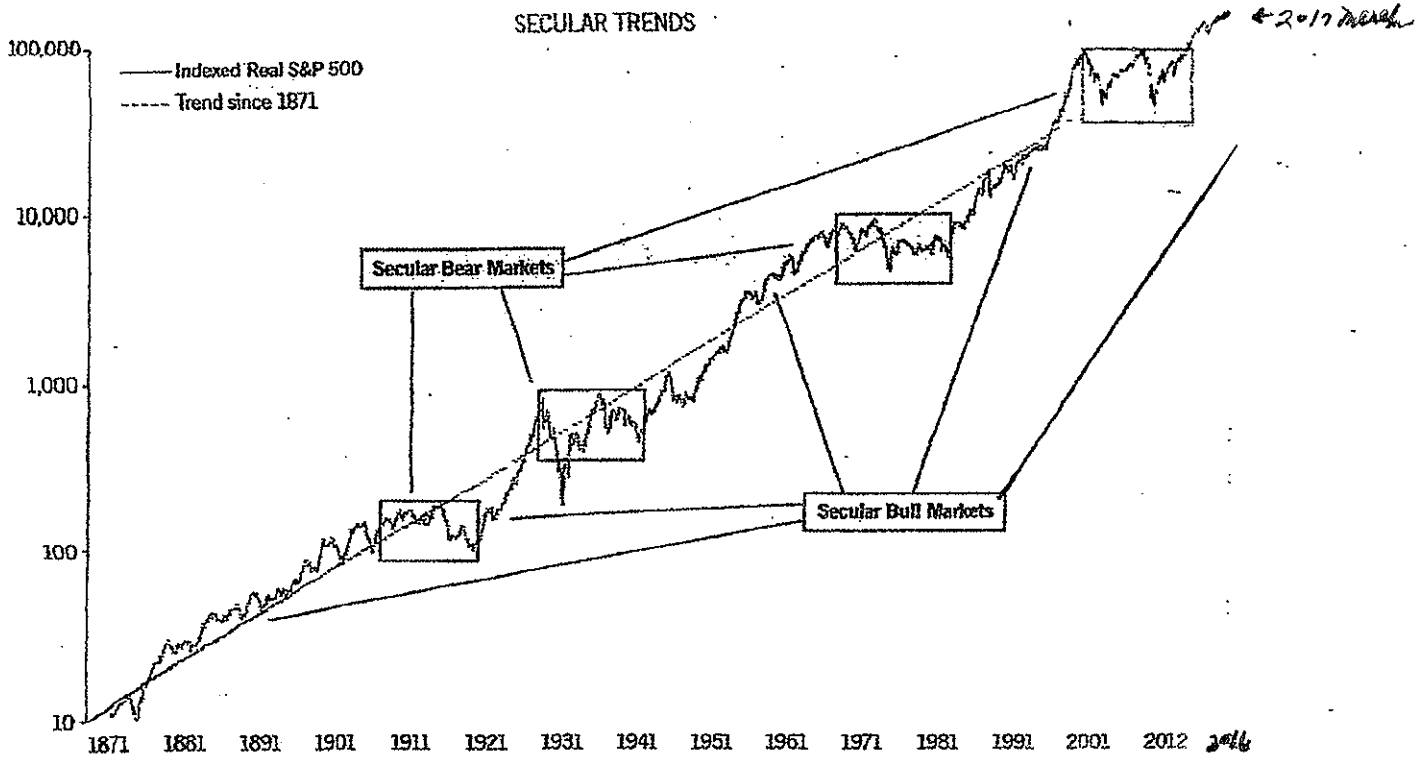


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Monthly data since 1871. Source: Haver Analytics, Robert Shiller, Fidelity Investments through December 2012

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The Value of Energy

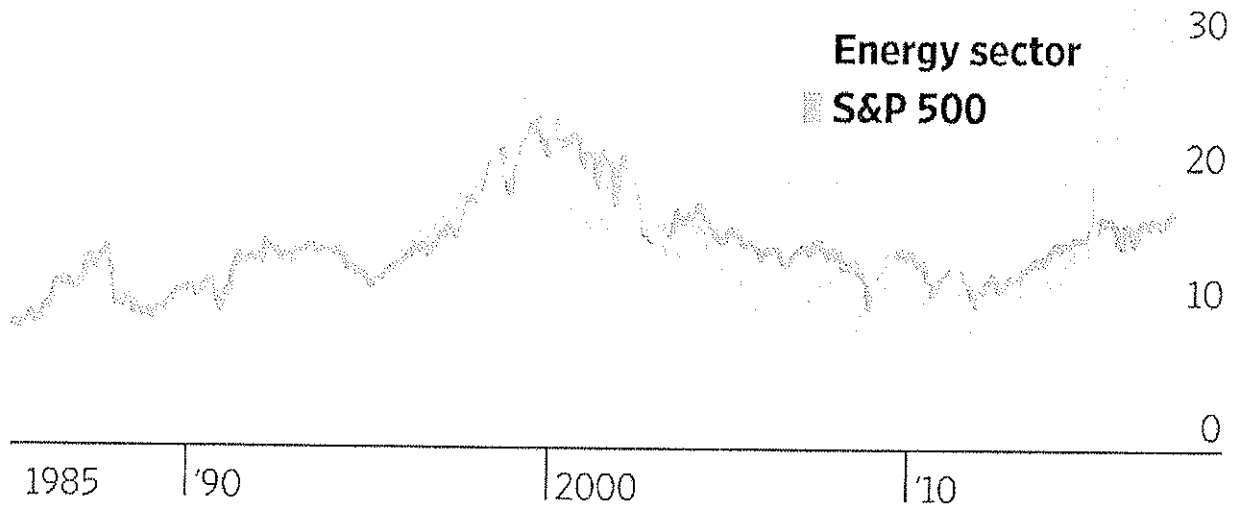
60

U.S. energy sector price-earnings multiples jumped as profits collapsed, supporting the valuation of the wider stock market.

50

Forward price-to-earnings ratio*

40

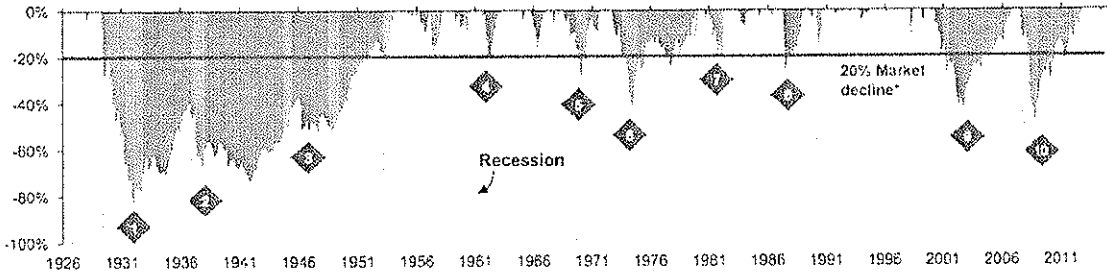


*Ratio of price to 12-month forward operating earnings
Source: Thomson Reuters IBES

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Bear markets GTM - U.S. | 16

S&P 500 composite declines from all-time highs



Characteristics of past bear markets

	Market Corrections	Cycle Peak	Bull Market Duration (Months)	Decline from All-time High	Recession	Commodity Spike	Aggressive Fed Tightening	Extreme Valuations	Commentary
1	Crash of 1929	Aug 1929	37	-84%	◆			◆	Excessive leverage, irrational exuberance
2	1937 Fed Tightening	Feb 1937	22	-74%	◆		◆		Premature monetary tightening
3	Post-WW1 Crash	May 1946	48	-54%	◆			◆	Post-war demobilization, recession fears
4	Flash Crash of 1962	Dec 1961	14	-22%				◆	Flash crash, Cuban Missile Crisis
5	Tech Crash of 1970	Dec 1969	73	-29%	◆	◆	◆		Economic over-heating, dividend cut
6	stagflation	Dec 1972	26	-43%	◆	◆			OPEC oil embargo
7	Vodka Tightening	Nov 1980	31	-19%	◆	◆	◆		Extremely high rates to rein in inflation
8	1987 Crash	Aug 1987	59	-27%	◆				Program trading, over-heated market
9	Tech Bubble	Aug 2000	118	-42%	◆			◆	Extreme valuations, mostly in tech stocks
10	Global Financial Crisis	Oct 2007	55	-51%	◆	◆	◆		Leverage, housing, Lehman collapse

Source: FactSet, NBER, Robert Shiller, Standard & Poor's, J.P. Morgan Asset Management
 *A bear market represents a 20% or more decline from the previous market high using a monthly frequency.
 Periods of "Recession" are defined using NBER business cycle dates. "Commodity Spikes" are defined as significant rapid upward moves in oil prices.
 Periods of "Extreme Valuations" are those where S&P 500 last twelve months P/E levels were approximately two standard deviations above long run averages. "Aggressive Fed Tightening" is defined as Federal Reserve monetary tightening that was unexpected and significant in magnitude.
 Guide to the Markets - U.S. Data as of June 30, 2015

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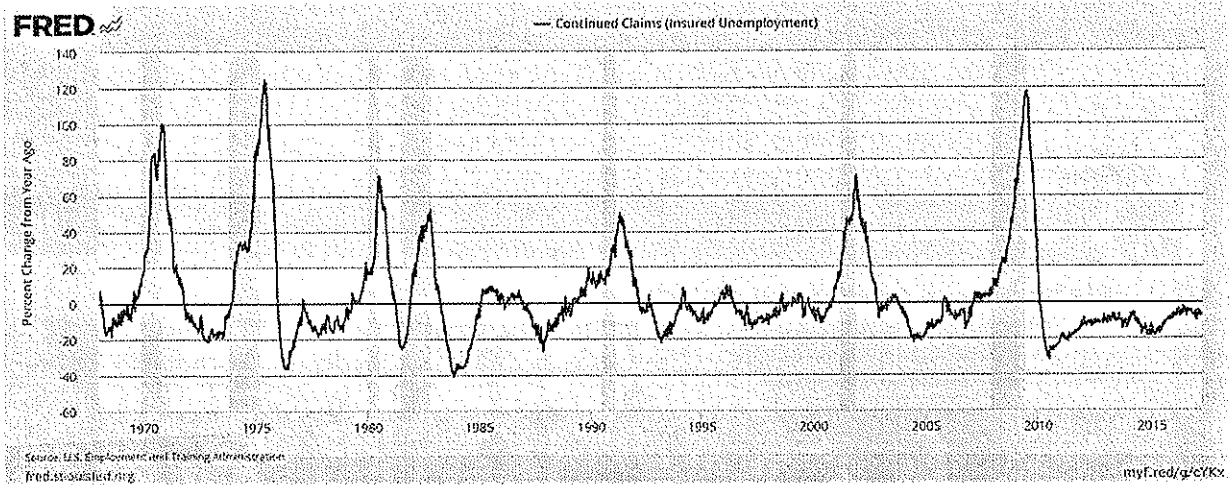


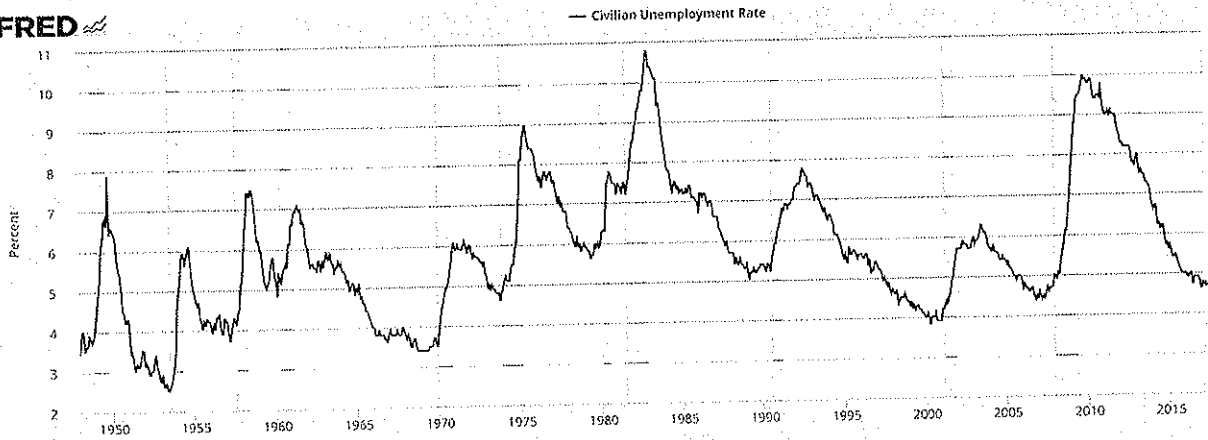
Table - I.

Unemployment Claims as a Recession Indicator

Months that Troughs Precede Recessions			Months that Peaks Follow Recessions		
First Month of Recession	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Last Month of Recession	Initial Claims	Continued Claims
Dec 1969	7	6	Oct 1970	0	1
Nov 1973	8	7	Feb 1975	0	3
Jan 1980	14	14	Jun 1980	0	1
Jul 1981	3	3	Oct 1982	0	1
Jul 1990	20	20	Feb 1991	1	3
Mar 2001	11	10	Oct 2001	0	7
Dec 2007	22	19	May 2009	-2	1
Average	12	11	Average	0	2

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FRED



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
fred.stlouisfed.org

myf.red/g/cv8

Table II Unemployment Turns Higher

RECESSION START	UE TURNED HIGHER	LEAD
1948.11	1948.06	5
1953.07	1953.07	0
1957.08	1957.04	4
1960.04	1960.03	1
1969.12	1969.06	6
1973.11	1973.11	0
1980.01	1979.07	6
1981.07	1981.04	3
1990.07	1990.04	3
2001.03	2001.01	2
2007.12	2007.03	8
AVERAGE		3.45

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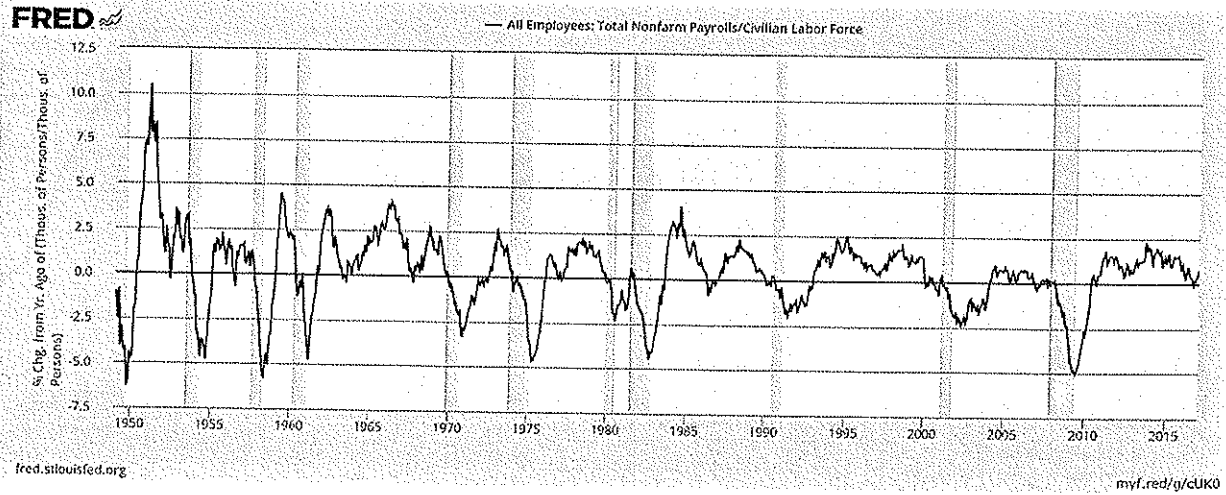


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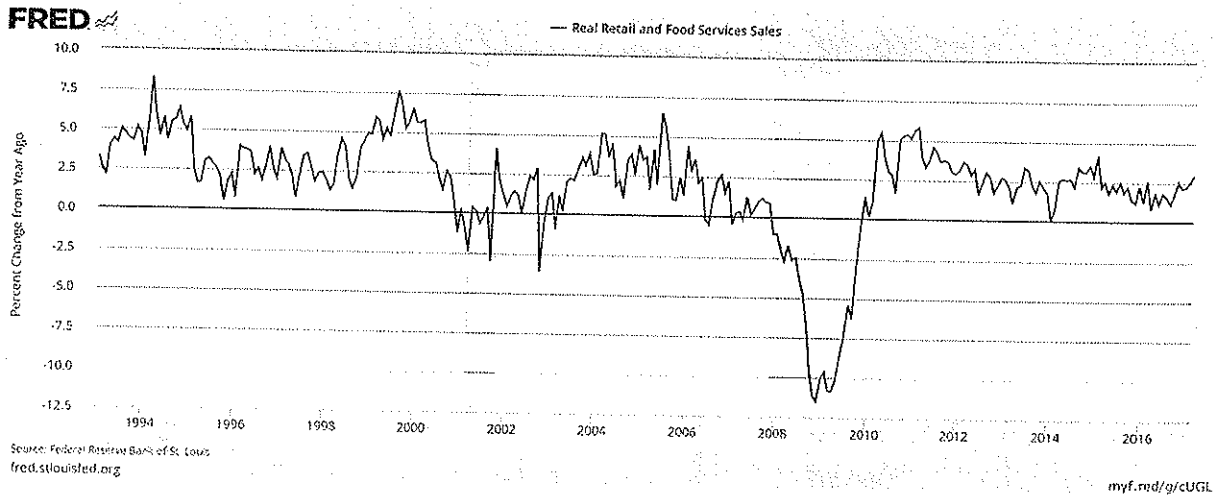


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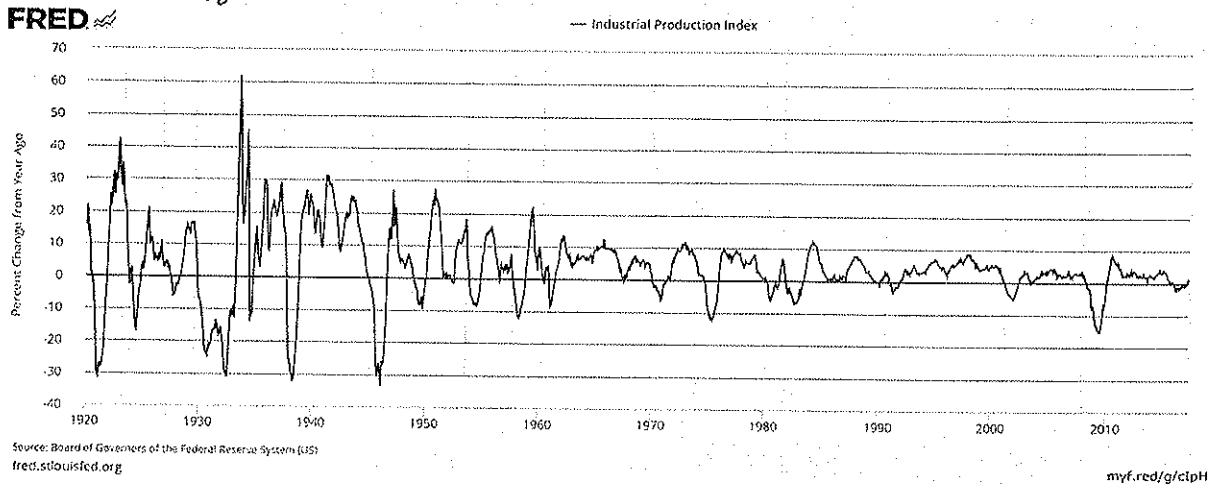
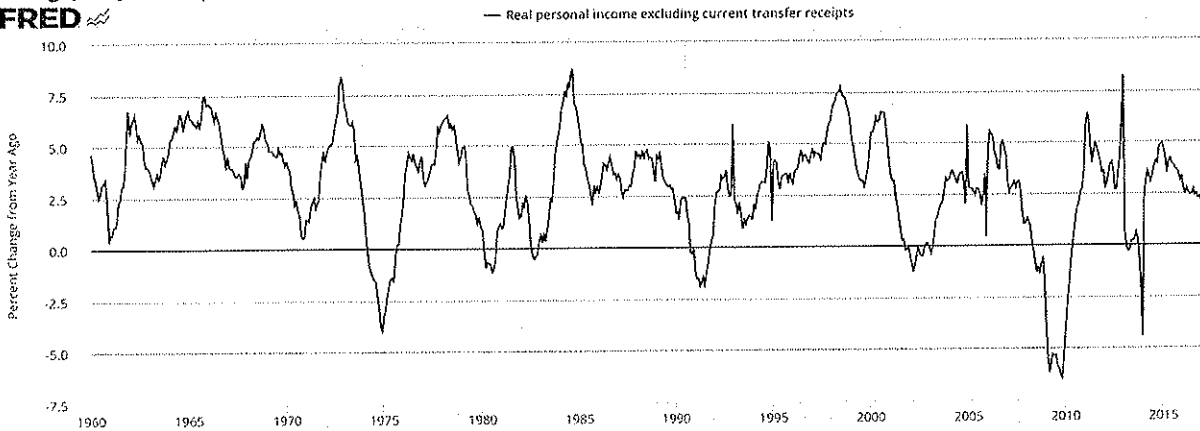


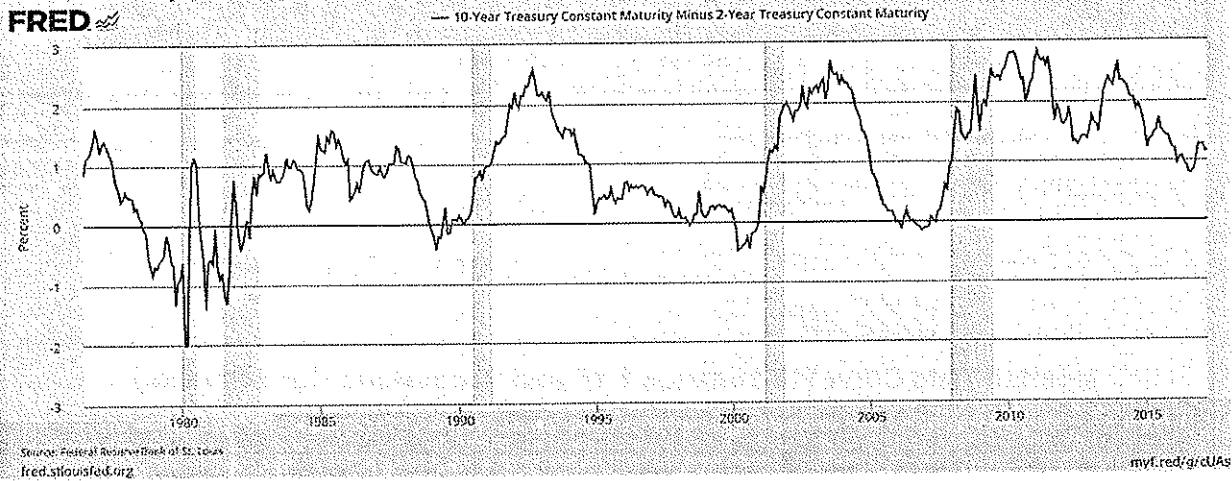
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FRED



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
fred.stlouisfed.org

myf.red/g/cUHX

Chart-30



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
fred.stlouisfed.org

myf.red/g/cUAs

Chart-21

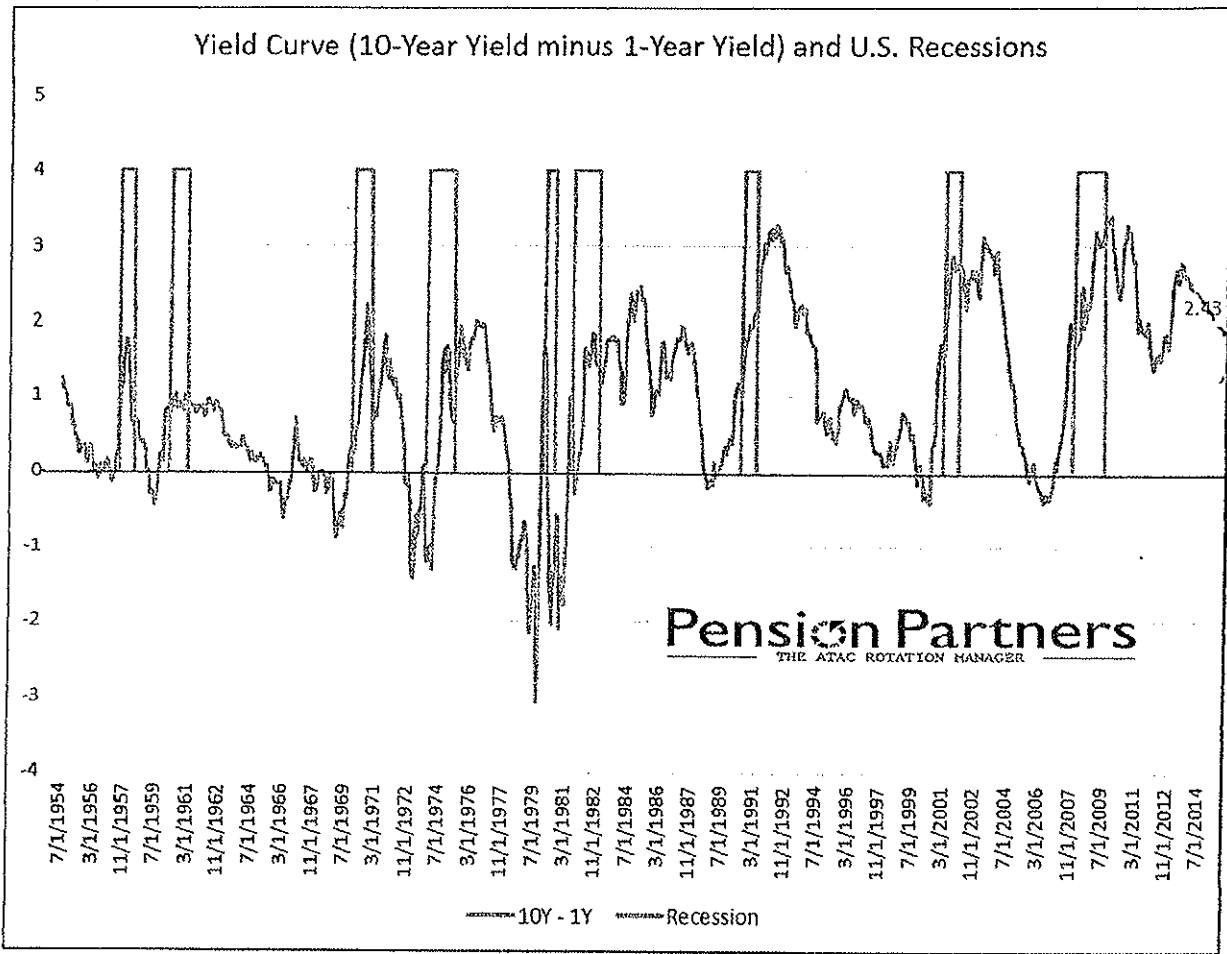


Table III

Inverted Yield Curve (10-Yr minus 1-Yr) and Recessions (1956-Present)				
Recession Start	Recession End	Inverted Curve Before Recession?	First Yield Curve Inversion	Lead (Months)
Aug-57	Apr-58	Yes	Dec-56	8
Apr-60	Feb-61	Yes	Sep-59	7
Dec-69	Nov-70	Yes	Dec-67	24
Nov-73	Mar-75	Yes	Mar-73	8
Jan-80	Jul-80	Yes	Sep-78	16
Jul-81	Nov-82	Yes	Sep-80	10
Jul-90	Mar-91	Yes	Feb-89	17
Mar-01	Nov-01	Yes	Apr-00	11
Dec-07	Jun-09	Yes	Jan-06	23
Average Lead Time				14
Pension Partners THE ATAC ROTATION MANAGER				

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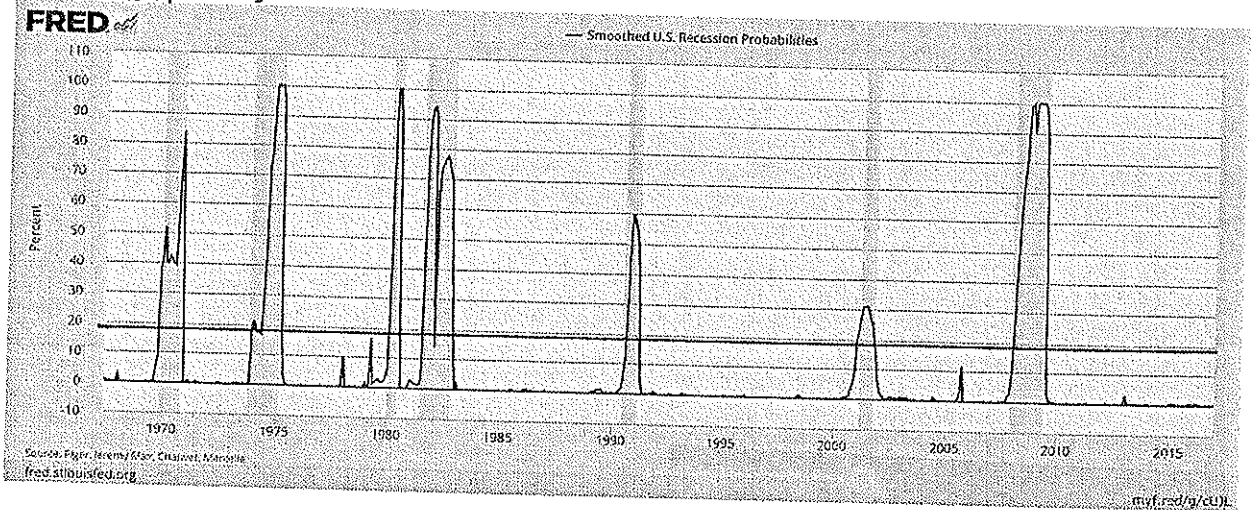


Chart-23

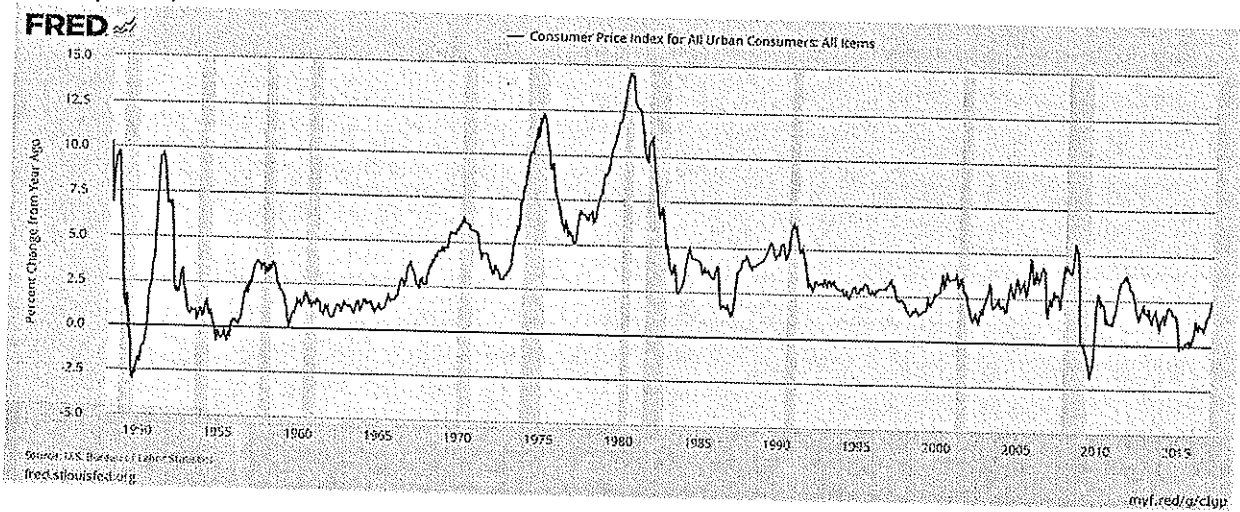


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