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# Managing investments in a bipolar market 

Windsor Club - November 20, 2008

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## The bipolar market

National Post Sept. 30, 2008

| -8.41 | -778 | 23 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | max mix |  |

## BALIOUTCOLLAPSES, MARKETSIN FREE FALL



National Post Oct 1, 2008

National Post Oct 11, 2008

| Sk7/Rs | now | cons |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 16.1\% | 8.2\% | 7.789 |

Ottawa buys into G7 rescue, FP1. Full coverage, FP1-7
A week of market hell

## VOL ATHITר ATPL AT ASTSX POSTS $18 \%$ GAIN IN MINUTES <br> WILD RIDE <br> 18.\% ENDSIN <br> 1,637 9.8\% GAIN <br> National Post <br> Oct 15, 2008



## U.S. dollar rises T-bill yield plummets



## Bear markets are common

Bear Markets (U.S. stocks) Peak-Trough Months to Months to Start End Decline Trough Recovery

| Averages |  | $-33.23 \%$ | 15 | 31 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mar-1876 | Feb-1879 | $-33.11 \%$ | 15 | 20 |
| Sep-1882 | Nov-1885 | $-20.76 \%$ | 21 | 17 |
| Jan-1893 | Aug-1897 | $-25.12 \%$ | 4 | 48 |
| Sep-1902 | Nov-1904 | $-25.79 \%$ | 13 | 13 |
| Sep-1906 | Dec-1908 | $-33.97 \%$ | 14 | 13 |
| Nov-1916 | May-1919 | $-27.98 \%$ | 13 | 17 |
| Oct-1919 | Apr-1922 | $-22.78 \%$ | 22 | 10 |
| Aug-1929 | Jan-1945 | $-83.41 \%$ | 33 | 151 |
| Nov-1947 | Oct-1949 | $-21.76 \%$ | 6 | 35 |
| Jun-1962 | Apr-1963 | $-22.28 \%$ | 6 | 10 |
| Dec-1968 | Jan-1972 | $-31.45 \%$ | 19 | 19 |
| Jan-1973 | Sep-1976 | $-43.34 \%$ | 21 | 24 |
| Sep-1987 | Jul-1989 | $-30.21 \%$ | 3 | 20 |
| Sep-2000 | Mar-2006 | $-43.26 \%$ | 25 | 42 |
| Oct-2007 | $?$ | $?$ | $?$ | $?$ |

Raw Data
Sources:
Professor Robert Schiller, CRSP, S\&P, Citigroup

## This bear is severe but not unprecedented

|  | Decline <br> (through 20-Nov-2008) |
| :---: | :---: |
| Canadian Stocks (TSX) | $-48.77 \%$ |
| U.S. Stocks (S\&P 500) | $-52.26 \%$ |
| Global Stocks (All-World) | $-56.54 \%$ |
| Overseas (developed) | $-58.69 \%$ |
| Emerging Markets | $-67.29 \%$ |

Note: Excludes dividends. U.S. and foreign stocks in U.S. dollars Source: Yahoo! Finance

## Canadian stocks:

## cheapest in 20+ years



## U.S. Stocks: cheapest since 1990



# S\&P 500 Dividend Yield: Highest since Oct 1992 



## Buffett Signals - 1970s



## Buffett: early but right




Quotation Sources: CNBC, Fortune, Forbes

## Should we listen to Buffett?

|  | 1974 buy <br> signal | 1979 buy <br> signal | 1999 <br> warning |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6 mos later | $+24 \%$ | $+12 \%$ | $0 \%$ |
| 1 year later | $+31 \%$ | $+23 \%$ | $-6 \%$ |
| 2 years later | $+50 \%$ | $+47 \%$ | $-16 \%$ |
| 3 years later | $+58 \%$ | $+30 \%$ | $-29 \%$ |
| 5 years later | $+110 \%$ | $+109 \%$ | $-4 \%$ |

## Lessons from the Great Depression



## Junk bonds at record low



Source: Investment Opportunities: High Yield Bonds, Dundee Securities, October 15, 2008

## Simplistic (long-term) expected return model

|  | Bonds <br> (Gov't) | Stocks | High Yield <br> Bonds |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Yield | $3.57 \%$ | $6.25 \%$ | $20.00 \%$ |
| + Growth in Yield | $0.00 \%$ | $5.00 \%$ | $0.00 \%$ |
| = Baseline <br> Expectation (before <br> price/yield change) | $\mathbf{3 . 5 7 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 . 2 5 \%}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 . 0 0 \%}$ |
| + Impact of Price/Yield <br> Change | - | +/- | + |
| = Expected Return | ??? | ??? | ??? |

## Wrap-up

- Markets are panic-driven.
- Bear markets have always occurred, and always will.
- Stocks are cheap.
- High yield bonds are at record lows.


## Suggestions

- Focus on longer-term fundamentals.
- Have a balanced portfolio (75/25 rule).
- Diversify, particularly when values are abundant.
- Stocks and high yield bonds are very attractive.

