

Market Update 1st Quarter 2016

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Greetings!

This year's first quarter market update offers a mixed bag of news. Some good, some not so good. Overall, however, we do believe in, and foresee, a long-term uptrend in the markets.



Read on to learn why!

Warm regards,



Catherine Maniscalco Avery

The backbone of CAIM is to employ a classic long term investment strategy including dividend paying stocks. CAIM is an independent, women owned investment management firm specializing in managing investment portfolios for women and baby boomers.

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Market Update 1st Quarter 2016

"Going nowhere fast" is the best way to describe the markets in this 1st quarter of 2016. Markets did not take kindly to the downside in oil prices and the fear of a global, and possible domestic, recession.

However, Fed Chair, Janet Yellen, did come to the rescue in terms of assuring us that rates will continue to remain low amidst the turmoil. Then, from a February 11th low, the market rebounded 13% by the end of the 1st quarter, erasing most of the losses from the beginning of the year.

While we are glad to have this behind us now, I am sure most of you have concerns about where we go from here. Just as we have witnessed over the past few years, there continue to be both positive and negatives out there for the market.

On the one hand, uncertainty regarding the presidential election, as well as the direction of interest rates here in the United States, will start to weigh on the markets. First quarter earnings for most companies are expected to be weak but there is the potential for surprise on the upside. On the other hand, the labor markets are holding up well and consumers are benefitting from low oil prices and reduction of their debt load.

The scenario described lends itself to more ups and downs in the market, and while it is difficult for us to predict how the market will finish this year, we do believe it is currently taking a pause in a long-term uptrend.

Our high quality dividend paying stocks continue to hold up well versus the overall market. And while last year was a difficult year, we are encouraged that holdings that did not perform well in 2015 have been our shining stars so far in 2016.

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Panic is Not a Strategy



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