

The Client Connection

News and Updates from The Gensler Group

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In this issue

The Markets

The World Cup and Economics

6 Ways to Cultivate
Positive Thinking

Updated Reviews



Weekly Market
Commentary

Q1

Quarterly Market Review
First Quarter 2014

The Markets

Investors remain oddly complacent even in the face of unexpected events that have the potential to disrupt global markets.



Last week, news media reported civil war in Syria has boiled over into Iraq, and ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria), a Sunni extremist group, has seized control of hundreds of square miles. According to CNN.com, the group's ambition is to create an Islamic state that encompasses the Sunni regions of both Iraq and Syria. [1] The Economist pointed out the potential for volatility in world energy prices is enormous because significant portions of the world's energy reserves are controlled by Middle Eastern nations (factor in Russia and Venezuela, too). [2]

Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, let markets know the United Kingdom's central bank may raise rates sooner than expected to help turn the country's recovery into a durable expansion.[3] His speech sparked speculation about the timing of rate hikes in the United States. President of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, James Bullard, told The Wall Street Journal the Fed is likely to raise rates sooner than expected if the U.S. economy meets performance expectations during 2014. [4]

Quarterly Market
Review

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The World Cup and Economics



Paul, the German octopus oracle, did pretty well predicting outcomes of 2010 World Cup matches. Paul's approach wasn't too scientific and, now that he is gone, a lot of folks are turning to animal prognosticators. China has a team of baby pandas and

Germany has put Nelly the elephant on the task. [7]

In case you're not a soccer aficionado, The World Cup - soccer's version of the Super Bowl, World Series, Stanley Cup, etc., etc. - began last weekend. SBNation.com's soccer glossary describes the event like this:[8]

"The World Cup is the most important soccer tournament on the planet. It is contested over 64 games by 32 national teams every four years and tends to be watched by a significant fraction of the global population... Long story short: it's the most important trophy in the world's most popular sport."

The World Cup also provides a lesson on sentiment-driven markets. Market sentiment reflects the optimism or pessimism of investors on the whole - crowd attitude - and it can send markets higher or lower. It can affect markets even when there's no change in underlying fundamentals. [9]

[Click here to read the entire article.](#)

6 Ways to Cultivate Positive Thinking

Surefire tips to turn your thinking from negative to positive.

The flowers and birds offer a picturesque scene, yet you're in a funk. You're not finding things to look forward to, and when you think about trying a

new activity or getting projects done, you ask yourself, "Why bother?"



Well, the good news is that a shift in your thinking may be all you need to revitalize your day and find perspective. You can learn to turn your thinking from negative to positive, according to doctors at Mayo Clinic. It takes practice but in time you can create a new habit. A simple first step: Don't say anything to yourself that you wouldn't say to anyone else. If negative thoughts stream through your mind, evaluate them rationally and respond with affirmations of your good points.

[Here are more ways to find your optimism.](#)

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