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## FED WEEK

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We are closely watching two capital market trends during the Federal Reserve's monetary policy decision this week. Both will give us good insight into if the Fed is taking correct monetary policy action.

1. U.S. Small Caps relative to Large Caps - Small caps have been underperforming the S&P500 since early May on slower domestic growth expectations. We credit this underperformance to monetary policy. While the Federal Reserve has correctly pivoted language away from rate hikes (avoiding the deflationary error of October-December 2018) it has not yet reversed course by decreasing interest rates. The market is pricing in the first 25bp interest rate cut this week. Judy Shelton, President Trump's intended nominee to fill an open seat on the Federal Reserve Board, is calling for a larger interest-rate cut at the Fed's July meeting, and we agree. Shelton is on record saying, "I would have voted for a 50-basis-point cut at the June meeting. I do think global conditions and the clear monetary paths being signaled by other central banks are a factor in considering how much our own Federal Reserve might choose to lower on July 31." Smaller companies are more exposed to higher interest than their larger counterparts with easier access to capital. Last week small caps broke the recent relative downtrend in place since May. If the Fed takes correct monetary policy action this week we expect small caps to continue this recent outperformance. If the Fed takes incorrect monetary policy action this week we expect the downtrend in small cap relative performance to resume.



## POLICY BASED INVESTING

by Russell Redenbaugh & James Juliano

Monday, July 29, 2019

2. Gold relative to Large Caps - Gold has been outperforming U.S. stocks since May, signaling a risk off stance. While there are certainly geopolitical reasons causing capital to seek a home in gold versus U.S. Dollars, we believe domestic monetary policy is also a factor. Similar to small caps underperformance, gold's outperformance was in part due to the Fed's reluctance to deliver correct monetary policy. In early July, gold's relative uptrend broke down signaling a risk-on stance ahead of this week's Fed meeting. If the Fed takes correct monetary policy action this week we expect gold to continue this recent underperformance. If the Fed takes incorrect monetary policy action this week we expect the uptrend in gold's relative performance to resume.



There is no need to predict what the Fed will do this week. Instead, use capital markets as a way to assess if whatever they do is correct or incorrect, and adjust your asset allocation accordingly. The best possible outcome for U.S. economic growth is Fed actions that result in small caps outperforming large caps and gold underperforming stocks.

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**ALLOCATOR**

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**Fixed Income**

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Bonds are an asset class that does well in a deflationary policy environment (Low Growth & Strong Currency)

We have long said the Treasury bond bubble will pop again as it did from May2013-Jan2014 when long term Treasury bonds fell 18%. With voters choosing Trump's pro-growth agenda to ignite growth, we believe the this is even more likely. Treasury bond prices are at risk to fall 30-50%, and we expect any moves higher in bond prices (lower in yields) to be short-lived. Since most other bonds price off of Treasury yields, fixed income in general is a risky asset class.

Asset	ETF	Action Date Red Sell/Green Buy		Current Price	% Gain/Loss	Policy Notes
Investment Grade	LQD	9/9/2016	\$119.00	\$124.34	4.5%	
Aggregate Bond	AGG	9/9/2016	\$109.00	\$111.21	2.0%	
Municipal	MUB	9/9/2016	\$111.00	\$113.54	2.3%	
TIPS	TIP	9/9/2016	\$114.00	\$114.99	0.9%	
Extended Duration	EDV	9/9/2016	\$128.00	\$125.39	-2.0%	
US Treasury 3-7 yr	IEI	9/9/2016	\$124.00	\$125.22	1.0%	
US Treasury 7-10 yr	IEF	9/9/2016	\$109.00	\$109.44	0.4%	
US Treasury 20+ yr	TLT	9/9/2016	\$133.00	\$131.47	-1.2%	
International Total Bond	BNDX	9/9/2016	\$54.40	\$57.83	6.3%	
High Yield	HYG	4/12/2016	\$77.00	\$87.17	13.2%	Act more like equities than bonds, benefit from improving growth

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**ALLOCATOR**

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**Commodities**

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A change in the price of gold is a change in the value of the currency. When gold rises, the currency's value falls and vice versa. Commodities are an asset class that does well when the currency is weak.

If growth is slowing while the currency weakens, there is stagflation. Own precious metals.

If growth is accelerating while the currency weakens, there is an inflationary expansion. Own agriculture, industrial and energy commodities.

Commodities suffered heavy losses in the strong US Dollar environment 2012-2015. In 2016 Dollar weakness was caused by election uncertainty and commodities rallied. That weak Dollar trend was reversed by Election2016. The demand for transactional and asset based Dollars will rise if Trump's pro-growth policies are implemented and fall if his policy agenda fails. Gold's recent decline back below \$1,300/oz is a confirmation of better policy and rising growth rates. Capital is beginning to leave safe haven asset classes as policy uncertainty diminishes.

Asset	ETF	Action Date Red Sell/Green Buy		Current Price	% Gain/Loss	Policy Notes
Gold	GLD	10/2/2017	\$120.77	\$133.64	10.7%	
Silver	SLV	10/2/2017	\$15.67	\$15.31	-2.3%	
Energy	DBE	8/13/2014	\$28.97	\$13.97	-51.8%	
Oil	USO	7/30/2014	\$37.00	\$11.65	-68.5%	
Agriculture	DBA	9/13/2011	\$32.50	\$16.35	-49.7%	
Broad Comm. Index	GSG	8/5/2011	\$33.00	\$15.44	-53.2%	
Base Metals	DBB	6/17/2011	\$23.00	\$15.36	-33.2%	

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## ALLOCATOR

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### Real Estate

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Real Estate is an asset class that performs well when growth is accelerating. When rising growth is coupled with a strong currency, own real estate tied to business activity (like commercial REITS). When rising growth is coupled with a weak currency, own real estate tied to commodities (farmland).

Commercial RE will be helped by improving real economic growth. RE properties leveraged to businesses & economic growth are preferred under pro-growth US policies.

Asset	ETF	Action Date Red Sell/Green Buy		Current Price	% Gain/ Loss	Policy Notes
Residential	REZ	12/21/2016	\$61.00	\$74.15	21.6%	Real estate assets have declined as higher interest rates expectations lower the perceived attractiveness of housing demand and real estate's dividend yield.
Building/Construction	ITB	12/21/2016	\$28.00	\$38.87	38.8%	
Mortgage REIT	REM	4/1/2016	\$35.00	\$43.16	23.3%	
REIT	VNQ	3/7/2016	\$75.50	\$88.29	16.9%	

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**ALLOCATOR**

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**US Equity**

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We have been waiting for a 1980s/90s type of policy driven equity bull market for sixteen years. The 2014 midterm House/Senate/gubernatorial election shifts put us on the path as pro-growth candidates propelled the GOP to majorities. It was a repudiation of anti-growth economic policies and a big step toward a Reagan/Clinton type of equity bull market. Despite the voters' growth signal, Obama doubled down on his tax/spend/regulatory (EPA) agendas in 2015 causing stocks to be range bound and volatile. As 2016 began, policy uncertainty ahead of November's elections became the biggest threat to equities. The ebb and flow of the presidential political season moved markets in both directions as investors waited to learn which policy theme would prevail in November – growth vs. redistribution. Voters decisively made their choice in Election2016, and growth won. Trump's pro-growth policy agenda beat Hillary's anti-growth policy agenda in landslide fashion. Republicans retained control of the Senate, House and increased their control of governorships by three. The policy stage is now set for Trump and Congress to keep delivering pro-growth tax, regulatory and monetary policies. As they do, a bull market in U.S. equities will ignite to rival the 1980s/90s

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**US Equity - Cap Size**

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Asset	ETF	Action Date Red Sell/Green Buy		Current Price	% Gain/Loss	Policy Notes
Micro	IWC	7/11/2016	\$72.00	\$92.64	28.7%	Most tied to domestic policy / growth
Total Market	IWV	5/19/2016	\$117.00	\$177.53	51.7%	
Large	IWB	5/19/2016	\$111.00	\$167.98	51.3%	Large caps should underperform smaller caps as domestic economic growth accelerates
Small Cap	IJR	5/19/2016	\$54.00	\$79.14	46.6%	Most tied to domestic policy / growth
Mid Cap	IWR	4/6/2016	\$38.57	\$57.37	48.7%	More tied to domestic policy / growth

## US Equity - Style

Asset	ETF	Action Date Red Sell/Green Buy		Current Price	% Gain/Loss	Policy Notes
Large Growth	IWF	7/11/2016	\$101.00	\$164.18	62.6%	Growth outperformed value in 2017 across all cap sizes. Trend will continue as tax cuts get implemented.
Small Growth	IWO	7/11/2016	\$140.00	\$204.52	46.1%	
Small Value	IWN	5/19/2016	\$92.00	\$121.31	31.9%	
Mid Growth	IWP	5/9/2016	\$90.00	\$148.30	64.8%	
Large Value	IWD	4/6/2016	\$95.00	\$130.04	36.9%	
Mid Value	IWS	4/6/2016	\$68.00	\$90.64	33.3%	

## US Equity - Sector

Asset	ETF	Action Date Red Sell/Green Buy		Current Price	% Gain/Loss	Policy Notes
Staples	XLP	6/5/2017	\$57.00	\$60.37	5.9%	Defensive sector hurt by rising growth
Utilities	XLU	6/5/2017	\$54.00	\$59.98	11.1%	Defensive sector hurt by rising growth
Metals/Mining	XME	5/8/2017	\$29.00	\$28.63	-1.3%	Tied to commodity prices, hurt by strong Dollar
Energy	XLE	3/13/2017	\$69.00	\$62.45	-9.5%	Tied to commodity prices, hurt by strong Dollar
Healthcare	XLV	2/8/2017	\$71.00	\$92.07	29.7%	
Discretionary	XLY	11/14/2016	\$79.00	\$123.55	56.4%	Consumer strong w/ rising growth expectations
Financial	XLF	7/18/2016	\$19.00	\$28.69	51.0%	Helped by Trump deregulation (Dodd Frank) & rising interest rates
Materials	XLB	4/6/2016	\$44.00	\$59.06	34.2%	Global growth
Industrial	XLI	3/14/2016	\$52.00	\$78.50	51.0%	Global growth
Technology	XLK	3/7/2016	\$41.00	\$82.59	101.4%	Repatriation tax reform huge plus for tech companies

## Foreign Equity

Country	ETF	Action Date Red Sell/Green Buy		Current Price	% Gain/Loss	Policy Notes
Mexico	EWX	10/1/2018	\$51.23	\$41.49	-19.01%	Freer and fairer trade agreements are pro-growth for all parties involved
Canada	EWX	10/1/2018	\$28.78	\$28.70	-0.28%	
Denmark	EDEN	7/2/2018	\$63.89	\$61.58	-3.62%	European polices not improvng despite anti-austerity movements across the Euro Zone. Capital is fleeing. A zero trariff trade deal with the U.S. would reverse course and be very pro-growth for European economies.
Switzerland	EWL	7/2/2018	\$32.58	\$37.29	14.46%	
Netherlands	EWN	7/2/2018	\$30.51	\$31.54	3.38%	
Sweden	EWD	7/2/2018	\$30.51	\$30.00	-1.67%	
Eurozone	EZU	7/2/2018	\$41.01	\$39.42	-3.88%	
Spain	EWP	7/2/2018	\$30.35	\$28.42	-6.36%	
Poland	EPOL	7/2/2018	\$21.78	\$22.98	5.51%	
France	EWQ	7/2/2018	\$30.52	\$30.43	-0.29%	
Germany	EWG	7/2/2018	\$29.98	\$27.54	-8.14%	
Italy	EWI	7/2/2018	\$28.89	\$27.73	-4.02%	
Austria	EWO	7/2/2018	\$22.65	\$19.84	-12.41%	
Israel	EIS	2/26/2018	\$52.41	\$55.24	5.40%	
Vietnam	VNM	10/9/2017	\$14.99	\$16.51	10.14%	Demographic leverage to US economic growth policies
Indonesia	EIDO	7/24/2017	\$26.78	\$25.89	-3.32%	Demographic leverage to US economic growth policies
Ireland	EIRL	1/26/2017	\$39.00	\$42.21	8.23%	
Singapore	EWS	1/11/2017	\$21.00	\$24.59	17.10%	
China	FXI	1/6/2017	\$35.50	\$42.23	18.96%	Strong Dollar emerging market, tied to US growth
World Ex US	VEU	11/15/2016	\$43.50	\$50.93	17.08%	Global growth reset higher after US Election2016
Norway	ENOR	8/20/2016	\$20.00	\$24.03	20.15%	
UK	EWU	8/4/2016	\$30.50	\$32.04	5.05%	Brexit was a vote for growth
Finland	EFNL	7/26/2016	\$33.00	\$37.29	13.00%	



# POLICY BASED INVESTING

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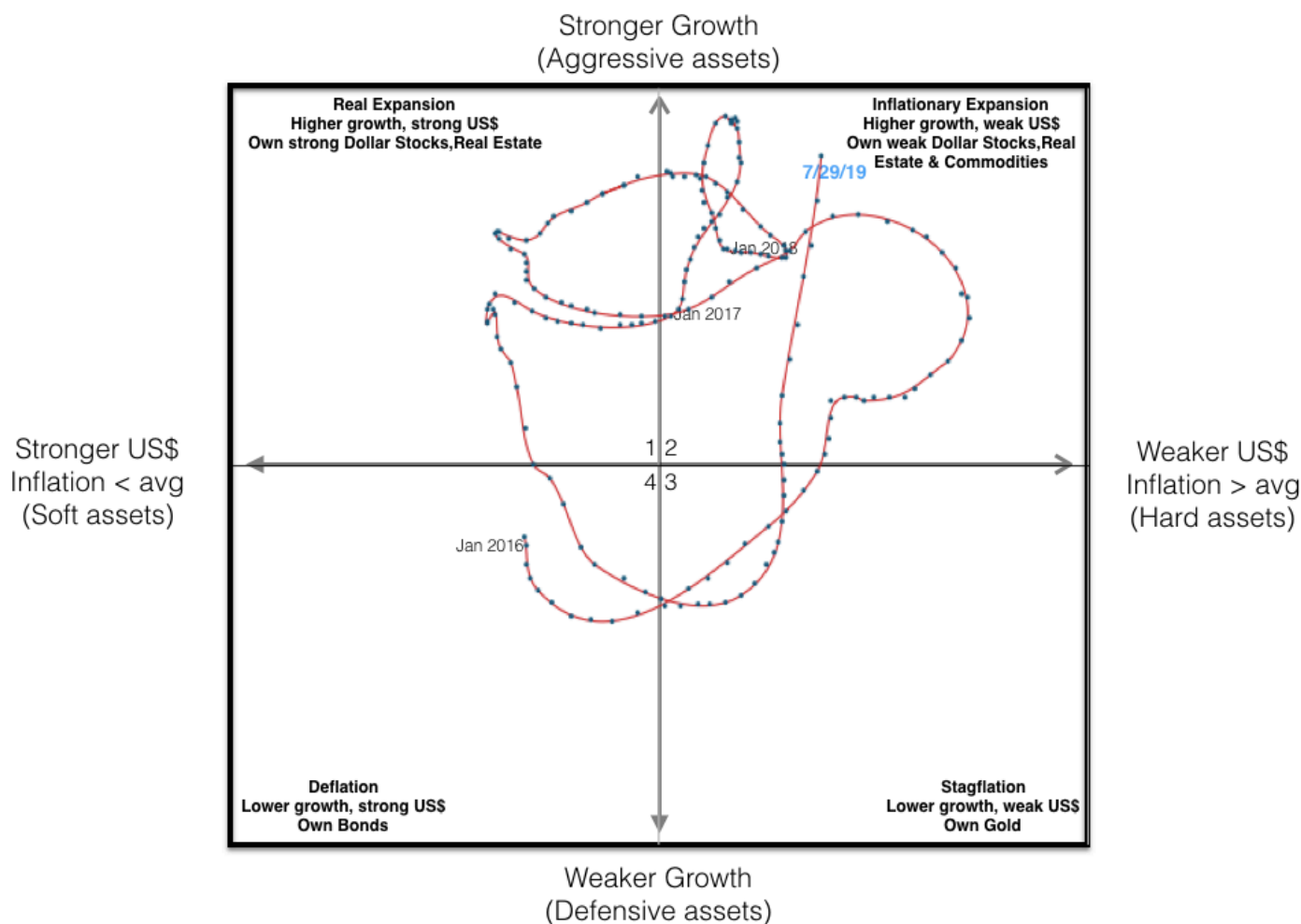
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Japan	EWJ	7/15/2016	\$47.00	\$54.81	16.62%	
South Korea	EWY	7/13/2016	\$52.00	\$57.13	9.87%	
Hong Kong	EWH	7/6/2016	\$19.00	\$25.79	35.74%	
Frontier Mkts	FRN	7/5/2016	\$10.50	\$14.67	39.71%	Highly levered to Eurozone growth movement
Peru	EPU	6/29/2016	\$30.50	\$37.27	22.20%	
South Africa	EZA	6/29/2016	\$51.00	\$53.01	3.94%	
India	EPI	6/27/2016	\$19.00	\$24.79	30.47%	Strong Dollar emerging market, tied to US growth
Taiwan	EWT	6/21/2016	\$27.00	\$35.80	32.59%	
Thailand	THD	5/20/2016	\$64.00	\$92.77	44.95%	
Belgium	EWK	3/16/2016	\$16.50	\$19.13	15.94%	
New Zealand	ENZL	3/5/2016	\$36.00	\$54.82	52.28%	
Philippines	EPHE	8/5/2015	\$37.00	\$36.16	-2.27%	
Qatar	QAT	12/1/2014	\$24.00	\$18.09	-24.63%	
Malaysia	EWM	10/3/2014	\$41.00	\$29.32	-28.49%	
Australia	EWA	9/16/2014	\$22.50	\$22.68	0.80%	
Greece	GREK	7/14/2014	\$20.00	\$9.69	-51.55%	
Portugal	PGAL	6/4/2014	\$15.00	\$10.45	-30.33%	
Columbia	ICOL	6/27/2013	\$21.00	\$13.29	-36.71%	
Turkey	TUR	6/1/2013	\$58.00	\$25.91	-55.33%	
UAE	UAE	5/20/2013	\$23.00	\$14.63	-36.40%	
Russia	RSX	8/7/2011	\$30.00	\$19.97	-33.43%	Weak Dollar emerging market
Brazil	EWZ	7/14/2011	\$60.00	\$45.44	-24.27%	Weak Dollar emerging market
Chile	ECH	3/1/2011	\$61.00	\$39.18	-35.77%	
Egypt	EGPT	2/23/2004	\$64.00	\$29.39	-54.08%	

## POLICY MAP

Growth increased versus last week (1.54 to 1.80): Despite pro-growth tax and regulatory policy improvements since 2016, growth has tipped into negative territory over fears of a 2008-style, deflationary monetary policy mistake.

Value of US\$ was decreased versus last week (0.81 to 0.83): Dollar had been stable between gold \$1,300-\$1,375/oz, and strengthened to \$1,230/oz. giving the Fed a strong Dollar signal to pause rate hikes until economic and market data calm down. Recent Dollar weakness above \$1,400 is concerning but likely has some temporary geopolitical causes like Iran.



## BOND YIELD COMPONENT ANALYSIS

**Nominal Yield: 2.08% (+1%)   Inflation Expectation Component: 1.80% (+0%)   Real Growth Component: 0.28% (+12%)**

Real growth exited the range of .30-.70 to the upside after 2017 tax cuts. In recent weeks growth expectations embedded in bond market have dislocated from equity markets. The collapse in real growth so far seems caused by global bond market dynamics, not a significant deterioration in U.S. policy outlook. Trade policy uncertainty is easing, and the Fed has avoided making a Q42018 deflationary policy mistake.

