Cliff Notes – Ruths Crisp Steak House

- Fiscal and monetary policy action to bridge the economic impact of the coronavirus has taken shape – and now the key is policy execution to ensure households and businesses get the cash being promised.

- Oil prices crashed last week amid plunging demand and a surging demand for oil storage, dragging down other risk assets such as stocks.

- The U.S. launched an additional $484 billion relief package, including a $321 billion top-up of its funding for small businesses. That takes the fiscal support passed by Congress to nearly $3 trillion in the past two months.

- Several large public companies, like Ruth's Chris, came under withering media attack for taking Payroll Protection Plan funds intended supposedly for only "small" business. Used to only having their steaks crispy hot in the fire, and not themselves, they returned the funds.

Weekly Index Returns & Commentary (ending 4.24.2020)

WEEK ENDING APRIL 24, 2020 (CUMULATIVE TOTAL RETURNS)

Equities[1]	Close	Week	YTD	1-Year
S&P 500	2,837	▼ -1.30%	▼ -11.7%	▼ -1.1%
DJIA	23,775	▼ -1.90%	▼ -16.1%	▼ -8.4%
NASDAQ	8,635	▼ -0.18%	▼ -3.5%	▲ 7.7%
Foreign Stocks		▼ -2.01%	▼ -21.2%	▼ -14.4%
Emerging Markets		▼ -2.39%	▼ -20.7%	▼ -16.4%

Top Three S&P 500 Equity Sectors[1]	YTD
Health Care	▼ -1.1%
Information Technology	▼ -2.9%
Consumer Staples	▼ -6.0%

Bottom Three S&P 500 Equity Sectors[1]	YTD
Energy	▼ -41.3%
Financials	▼ -28.8%
Industrials	▼ -23.9%

Bonds[2]	Week	YTD	1-Year	Yield
10-Yr. Treasury[3]	▲ 0.40%	▲ 11.0%	▲ 17.8%	0.60%
US Bonds	▲ 0.24%	▲ 5.0%	▲ 11.0%	1.39%
Global Bonds	▼ -0.03%	▲ 0.7%	▲ 5.7%	1.08%
Munis[4]	▼ -0.96%	▼ -1.1%	▲ 3.2%	2.10%

Market Indicators[5]		As of
Fed Funds Target	0.25%	04/24/20
Inflation	2.1%	03/31/20
Unemployment	4.4%	03/31/20
GDP	2.1%	12/31/19

Weekly Major Asset Class Commentary

Global Equities

Equities faced a volatile week as performance hinged on progress of COVID-19 treatment testing and economic data. The S&P 500 index contracted by -1.3% for the week, as inconclusive results from the first COVID-19 antiviral treatment trial hurt investor sentiment and outweighed the boost from lower weekly jobless claims and a new phase of fiscal stimulus.

Commodities

Crude oil witnessed its greatest price fluctuation in over two decades this past week. Continued global oversupply led to a severe shortage in storage capacity for WTI oil in Cushing, Oklahoma, driving WTI May futures prices negative for the first time in history. Both WTI and Brent are likely to see persistently low prices in the near term as the market rebalances.

Bonds

The US 10-Year Treasury yield dipped to its lowest level since March, as oil futures prices turned negative and drove global risk-off sentiment, but ultimately stabilized and ended down 7 basis points (bps) this past week. In Europe, the EU summit failed to make meaningful progress on the creation of a shared COVID-19 recovery fund.

FX

A persistent environment of uncertainty, from the oil market and COVID-19 concerns, further strengthened the US dollar against its peers. The US dollar index rebounded and ended 0.7% higher for the week.

(Source: GS Weekly).

Market Commentary

Market and Economic Chartbook | April 27, 2020

Global Markets

Global Market Summary

Global stocks, U.S. sectors and interest rates

Global Stock Market Summary

Index	Level	WTD	MTD	QTD	YTD
S&P 500	2836	-1.3%	9.8%	9.8%	-12.2%
Dow Jones Industrials Average	23775	-1.9%	8.5%	8.5%	-16.7%
NASDAQ Composite	8634	-0.2%	12.1%	12.1%	-3.8%
MSCI Emerging Markets Index	879	-2.4%	3.6%	3.6%	-21.1%
MSCI EAFE Index	1588	-2.1%	1.9%	1.9%	-22.0%
MSCI All Country World Index	472	-1.6%	6.8%	6.8%	-16.4%
MSCI Europe Index	1557	-1.9%	1.2%	1.2%	-23.9%

Global Rates Summary

	Apr 24, 2020	Mar 31, 2020	Dec 31, 2019
3-Month Treasury Yield	0.12%	0.11%	1.55%
2-Year Treasury Yield	0.22%	0.23%	1.58%
10-Year Treasury Yield	0.60%	0.70%	1.92%
30-Year Treasury Yield	1.17%	1.35%	2.39%
30-Year Fixed Mortgage	3.33%	3.50%	3.74%
German 10-Year Bund Yield	-0.47%	-0.47%	-0.18%

Sector Performance

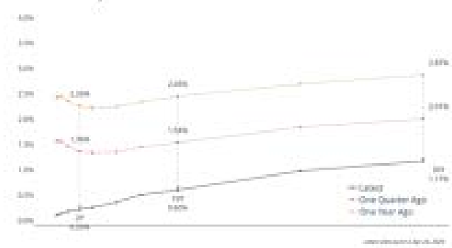
Index	WTD	MTD	QTD	YTD
Energy	1.7%	18.4%	18.4%	-42.1%
Comm.	-0.0%	9.5%	9.5%	-9.4%
Cons. Disc.	-0.2%	16.3%	16.3%	-6.5%
Healthcare	-0.5%	13.1%	13.1%	-1.7%
Technology	-0.8%	10.2%	10.2%	-3.3%
Materials	-0.9%	10.7%	10.7%	-18.7%
S&P 500	-1.3%	9.8%	9.8%	-12.2%
Industrials	-2.5%	4.2%	4.2%	-24.3%
Financials	-3.1%	4.3%	4.3%	-29.4%
Cons. Stap.	-3.2%	7.5%	7.5%	-6.3%
Utilities	-3.8%	5.1%	5.1%	-9.8%
Real Estate	-4.4%	6.5%	6.5%	-14.7%

Currencies and Commodities

Index	Level	MTD	QTD	YTD
US Dollar Index	100.38	1.2%	1.2%	4.1%
Euro	1.08	-1.5%	-1.5%	-3.7%
Chinese RMB	7.08	0.1%	0.1%	-1.7%
Japanese Yen	107.44	0.5%	0.5%	1.1%
British Pound	1.23	-0.5%	-0.5%	-6.9%
WTI Oil	16.70	-23.9%	-23.9%	-74.3%
Brent Oil	21.51	-4.8%	-4.8%	-67.8%

S&P 500

U.S. Treasury Yield Curve



Like the seasons, boom and bust cycles are a natural and unavoidable part of both the stock market and the economy. And although the winter months may be unpleasant, they eventually give way to warmer weather. So too do recessions and bear markets eventually stabilize and pave the way for economic expansions and bull markets. Although the public health crisis makes the current bear market unique and uncertain, with the S&P 500 still down about 12% for the year, it too should eventually turn around.

More importantly perhaps is the fact that bull and bear markets are not created equal. Unlike the movement of the Earth around the sun, bull and bear markets don't operate on a set schedule. Instead, economists and investors are like Punxsutawney Phil checking their shadows. There are many investors who constantly fear the onset of winter and, when it finally arrives, equally many who believe it will never be spring.

The history of modern market and economic cycles suggests that while downturns may be sudden and deep, the subsequent expansions more than make up the difference. As the first chart below shows, bear markets since World War II have lasted anywhere from 6 months to two-and-a-half years. During these periods, the U.S. stock market has fallen anywhere from 22% (1957) to 57% (the 2008 financial crisis) at their worst points.

In contrast, bull markets have lasted from about 2 years to over a decade in length, with the two longest cycles occurring during the past 30 years. These cycles have seen the stock market multiply in value many times over. The nearly eleven-year bull market that ended in March experienced a price return of 401% and close to 530% with reinvested dividends. If seasons behaved like the bear and bull markets of recent decades, there would be beautiful weather 11 months out of the year.

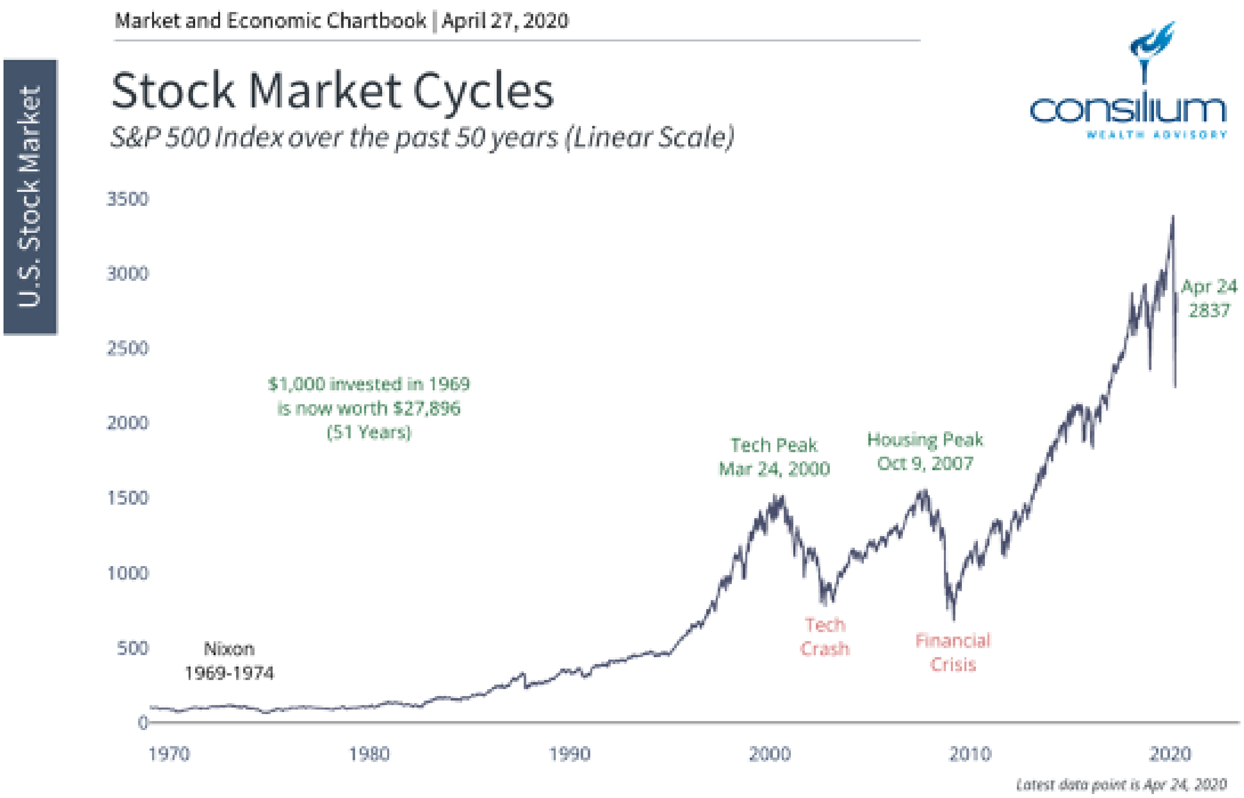
Historical bear markets have almost always been tied to an economic recession. These recessions serve important purposes when there are significant imbalances in the economy, especially as they relate to over-exuberance in certain sectors or around individual and corporate debt. Thus, recessions are often periods when over-leverage is fixed and resources are re-allocated to better uses, setting the stage for future growth.

Of course, past performance is no guarantee of future results, and the point is not that bear markets are insignificant. For those who live in colder climates, preparation is the key - but not at the expense of enjoying the summer months. Preparation when it comes to one's portfolio means holding a balanced set of asset classes and focusing on longer-term trends.

The trends relating to this bear market and the recession that is likely already occurring due to the coronavirus will depend on the on-going economic shutdown. Tens of millions of jobs have already been lost and stress is building for individuals, businesses and municipalities, especially in credit markets. Some of these job losses may be temporary depending on how quickly the economy reopens, but this is little consolation for those facing financial difficulties. The plateauing of COVID-19 cases in the U.S. and other countries returning to work are positive signs of potential green shoots over the next several months.

Thus, while there will undoubtedly be very poor economic data, increased stock market volatility, and challenging times ahead for people and companies alike, it's important to see the bigger picture when it comes to investor portfolios. Below are three charts that help to put bull and bear markets in perspective.

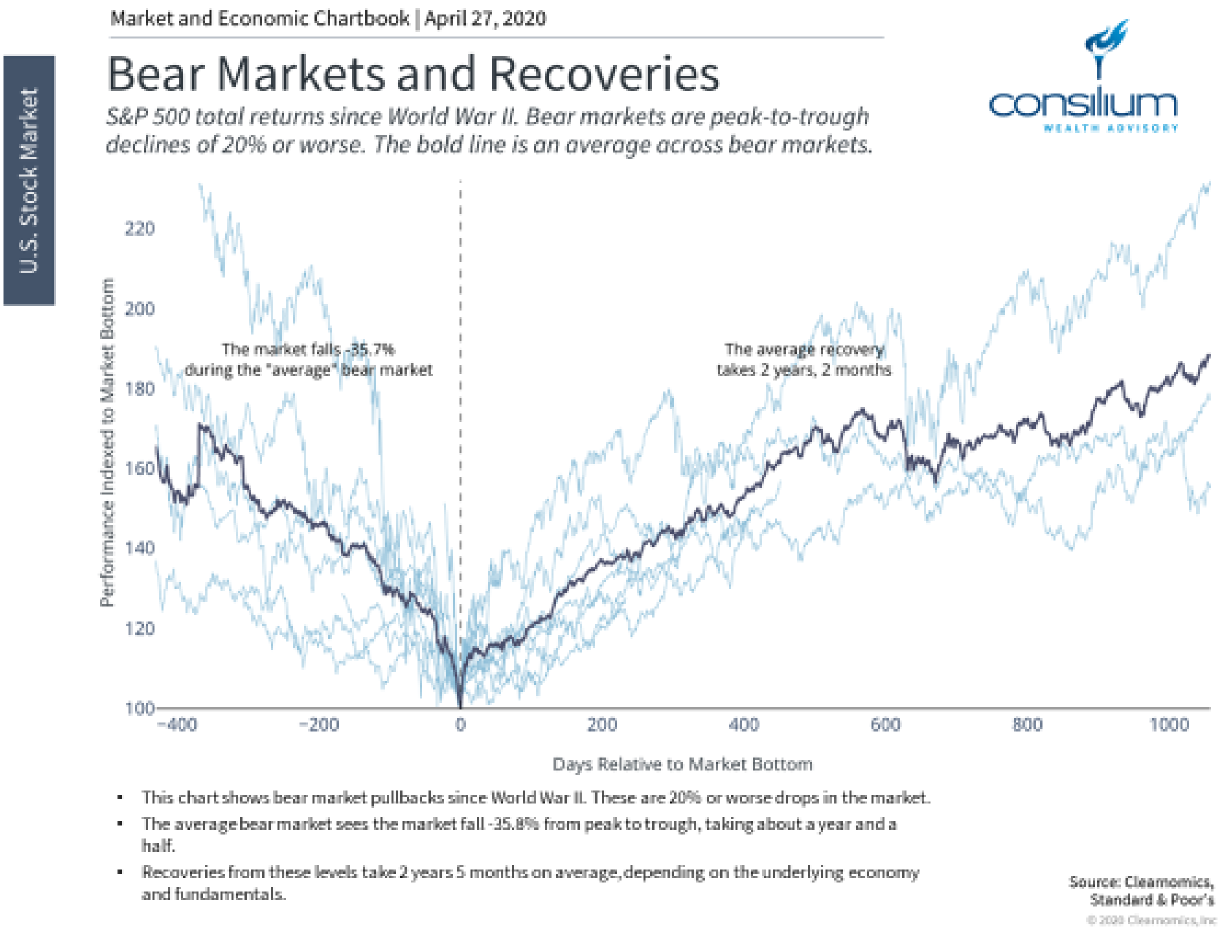
1. Bull and bear markets are a natural part of investing



Bull and bear markets are a natural and unavoidable part of investing. Not only are they difficult to predict, but each market cycle has its own unique circumstances. Despite this, historical bull markets tend to last much longer and generate much larger returns compared to bear market declines.

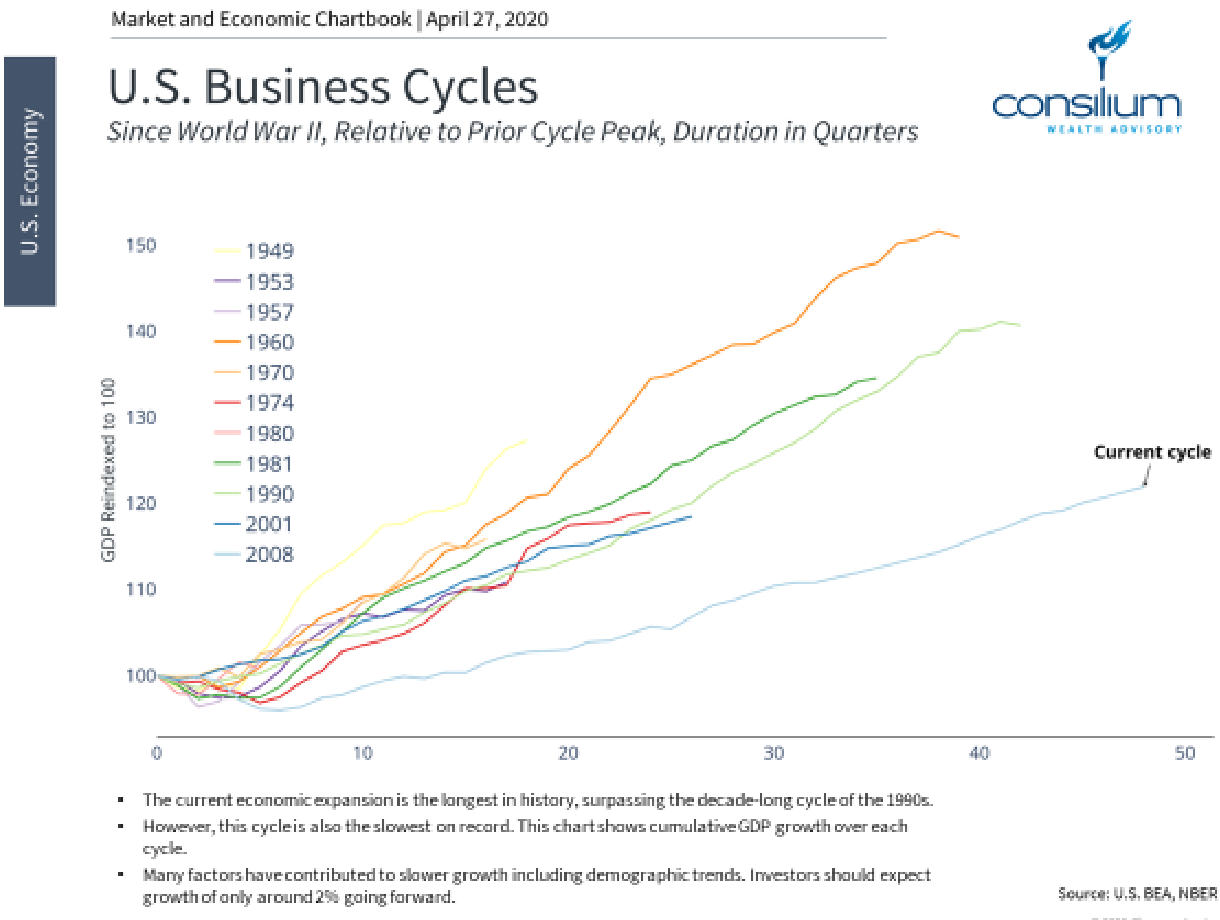
2. Bear markets tend to turn around without notice and recover steadily

Bear Markets and Recoveries



While bear market declines can be sudden and swift, recoveries tend to occur without notice. These subsequent bull markets then recover over years, with recent cycles lasting a decade or longer.

3. Economic cycles show similar patterns of long expansions



While the stock market and the economy are not the same, they are very much related. This is because stock prices often fluctuate depending on economic performance via earnings, interest rates, credit spreads, and other factors. It's no surprise then that the economy shows similar patterns of abrupt recessions followed by long expansionary periods.

The bottom line? Investors should keep bull and bear markets in context since these cycles occur over years and decades, not days, weeks or months. Holding portfolios that can weather these cycles is the key to long-term success.