

### MARKET INSIGHT...

- Performance
- Economic Update
- Charts\* of Interest

\*Provided by Strategas Research Partners LLC

November 21, 2011

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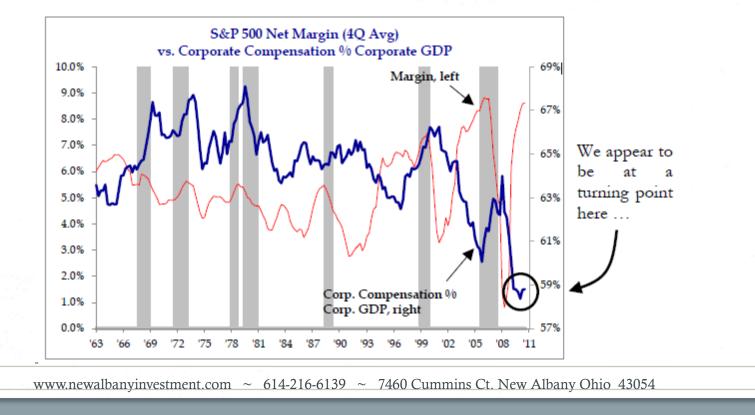
# **The Walks and Second PERFORMANCE:** as of 11-21-2011

	Sector	Week	3Mo	YTD			
-	S&P 500	-3.8%	7.1%	-1.6%			
	Russell 2000 (small/mid Cap)	-3.4%	9.0%	-7.2%			
4	MSCI EAFE (Eurp. Asia, Far East)	-4.0%	-3.7%	-13.0%			
T	MSCI Emerging Mkt	-3.8%	-6.2%	-18.9%			
	US Bonds (Barclay's agg. Index)	0.0%	0.5%	6.9%			
N	High Yield Bonds (US)	-0.7%	2.5%	3.2%			
	GLD (Net asset value)	-3.6%	-5.7%	20.8%			
	Defensive Sector	-2.3%	5.8%	7.5%			
	Cyclical Sector	-4.8%	5.1%	-10.9%			
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### Profit Margins and Earnings at Tipping Point.

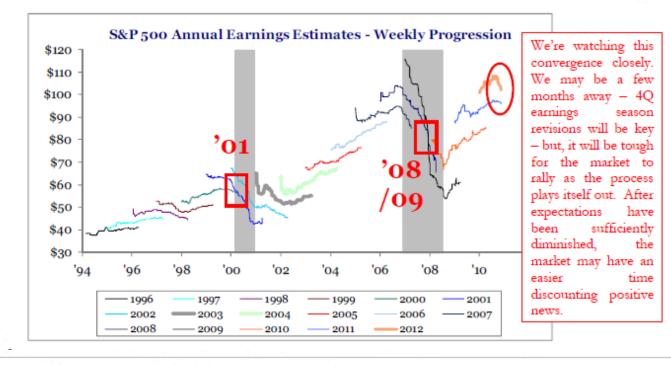
The current economic cycle may be one of the most unusual in modern history. It is, indeed, rare to find companies post near-record levels of profit margins and robust profit growth and NOT see labor participate in some way. Eventually, companies decide that they need to hire workers if they want to continue to grow. Unfortunately, political and macroeconomic uncertainties on both sides of the Atlantic have led capital to largely go on strike when it comes to their interest in hiring and expansion.





#### Earnings: Negative Earnings Cross insight

2012 Earnings forecast for S&P continue to drop. The process of reducing profit expectations for next year <u>below</u> those for the current year is known as a <u>negative</u> <u>earnings cross</u>. This has only occurred twice in the last 15years, 2001 and 2008/09. Both times the market sold off, -14% in 2001 and -20% in 2008/09.

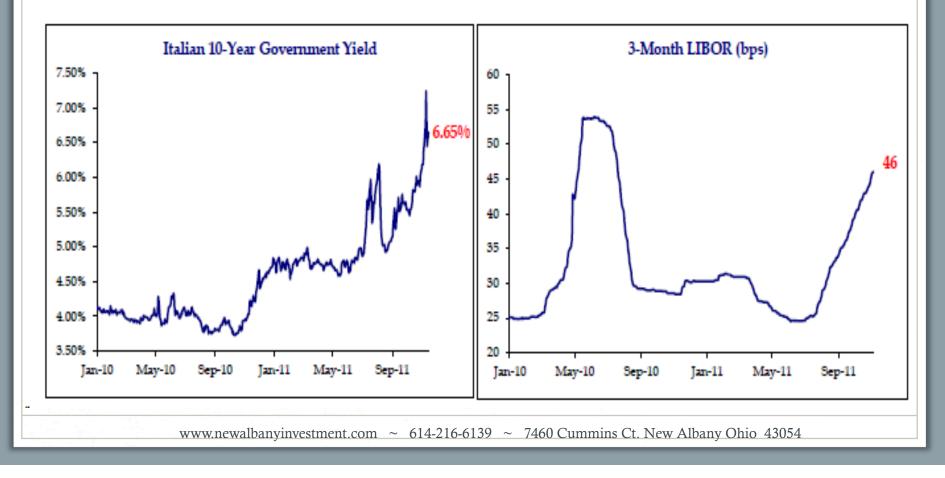


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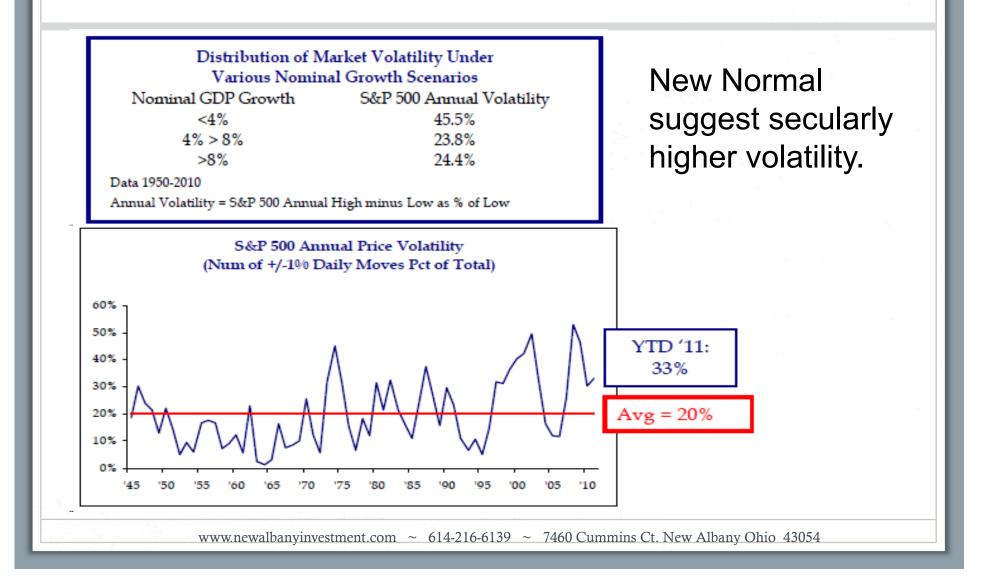
## Credit Markets: Typically Lead the Market and are Barometer of Economic Health

Rising yields indicate withdrawal of available credit, low investor confidence.





#### Economic Growth & Market Volatility Correlation: Low growth = Higher Volatility





### Valuation: Perhaps range bound.... S&P currently at 1215

2011 S&P 500 Expected Value Table						
Odds	Economy	S&P Earnings	Expected Multiple	Implied S&P 500		
5%	Recession	\$84.00	11×	924		
65%	Base Case: Macro Uncertainty	\$94.25	12x	1,131		
20%	Positive Policy Response	\$94.25	16x	1,508		
10%	Upside Surprise	\$98.00	14×	1,372		
	-		Expected Value:	1,220		

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Investment Management

### MARKET STRATEGY: Ride <u>Through</u> the Volatility

Given the extreme choppiness in the market and reliance on government policy to direct economic policy, core positions are positioned to ride through the volatility with a small portion available to participate in shorter term swings. Five themes employed to generate return and lower risk using a variety of asset classes:

- Income: High Yield Bonds currently paying out over 7.5%, are pricing in an economic slowdown with high default and low recovery rates. Also Corporate Bonds yielding 3.5% and dividend paying stocks.
- 2) <u>Low Volatility</u>: Low Beta stocks = US Large cap growth stocks
- 3) <u>Non-Correlating Assets</u>: Use of specialty funds that adjust risk up/down and across asset sectors as market conditions change
- 4) Inflation Hedge: Gold and Treasury Inflation protected Bonds
- 5) <u>Flexibility:</u> Use Exchange Traded Funds (ETF's) for a small portion of portfolio to enable better intra-day access when markets become exceptionally volatile.