



THE SUMMIT

Financial Strategies, Inc.

In this issue...


Open House and Shred Event - 1

Longest Economic Recovery
Ever - 1 & 3

The Summit Family Pictures - 2

Favorite Recipes - 4

OPEN HOUSE & SHRED EVENT



WHAT? PAPER SHRED EVENT

WHERE? THE SUMMIT FINANCIAL STRATEGIES
1905 NW 169th Place, Ste. 201 Beaverton OR 97006

WHEN? WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH
Anytime between 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Food Served from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
We are serving Chipotle for lunch!

Bring all of your documents/paper that need to be shredded!

LONGEST ECONOMIC RECOVERY EVER

by Brett Langer

It's hard to think, the current economic recovery is 9 years old and the stock market continues to defy gravity. We are all afraid to blink thinking that this party must end soon, but does it? As I'm writing this newsletter, the Dow looks as though it will crack 23,000 very soon. Currently, we are in the longest economic recovery ever, how can it possibly go on? My answer to this is, that it can and it probably will. This recovery is like none other we have witnessed.

Let's revisit two other recoveries. In the 80's we came back from the stagflation of the late 70's. During the Eighties recovery period our gross domestic product grew 39%. Then in the early 90's we hit a shallow recession. During our recovery afterwards, we saw our gross domestic product grow at 41%. Even though it has been 9 years into our current recovery period, our gross domestic product has only grown 19%. That's very anemic and it tells me we still have room to grow.

Our recovery period this time around is like none other. Why has it been so slow? Normally, when we are coming from a bad recession, our policies go into stimulus mode of trying to jack up business and personal consumption. The Federal Reserve lowered rates down to near zero after 2008. We can chalk that up in the column of aggressive stimulus to the economy by the Federal Reserve. Next, the Federal Reserve bought trillions of dollars of bonds in the open market in order to flood our system with money with the hopes of growing the economy at

continued on page 3

Contact us...

The Summit Financial Strategies
1905 NW 169th Place, Suite 201
Beaverton, Oregon 97006
Phone 503 466 1989
Fax 503 466 2128
www.summit-fs.com



THE SUMMIT FAMILY PICTURES

Langer & Bodens - Summer 2017



Sheelagh & Fiona on Morro Bay



Lisa with Clients New Puppy



Keith on ATV in Reno with Nikki



Harrison & Sophie at Biola - Fall Term 2017



Keith & Neil loading up the Langer desk



Date Night at Jim Gaffigan Concert



The Summit Financial Strategies
1905 NW 169th Place, Suite 201
Beaverton, Oregon 97006
Phone 503 466 1989
Fax 503 466 2128
www.summit-fs.com

LONGEST ECONOMIC RECOVERY EVER

continued from page 1

lightning speed. Normally, this aggressive play would work. This time around, it flat out didn't work for several reasons. First, our recession was related to individual debt issues rather than corporate debt issues. As a result, people were not borrowing very much, even at next to nothing rates, because everyone was trying to get rid of their debt instead of add to it. The second reason it didn't work, is that the Dodd Frank Act made it painful for consumers to get loans and for banks to lend. The pendulum fully swung on how home loans are made today. Even commercial loans, servicing small companies, became tough and complicated to obtain. Lending is the life blood to a consumptive economy like ours, and when that process become inefficient, growth is sacrificed.

Economic growth has also been disrupted by another piece of legislation: The Affordable Healthcare Act. Like it or not, the ACA has not lived up to its promises. Sure, we have millions of low income people enrolled who historically wouldn't have coverage. That's a good thing and maybe worth it. However, for those paying full price, in the state of Oregon, premiums are going up 30% this year (again), with less coverage to boot. The problem is, this is a huge expense to companies, especially small businesses, whom hire half of our workers in the United States. With this large burden to carry, employers have learned to operate with less employees than they would like to. Companies have had to cut certain areas of their business to cover the ever demanding costs.

Lastly, in the past five years, we had an alarming amount of new rules and regulations that went into action without being legislated or lobbied. While you can make an argument that some of these new regulations are good and add layers of protection, from an economic stand point, the amount and speed that these regulations were being enacted bogged down many businesses. When you add up finance reform, The Affordable Care Act, and gobs of new rules and regs, it has taken a long time for us to absorb the costs, time, and effort to implement all of these changes. I'm not arguing whether these changes are good or bad for our society, just that they really put the brakes on our recovery growth rate.

Starting in January of this year, no new rules or regulations have been enacted. In light of this, companies are finally trying to grow their businesses. Each quarter of this year, Gross Domestic Product growth has gained momentum. It looks as though we will finally grow 3% this year. Manufacturing is functioning like it did in 2004. Commercial building is ramping up like it was back in the 90's. Incomes are growing at a faster clip. Competition for jobs is coming around again. And, corporate profit growth has been increasing by double digits every quarter this year supporting current stock prices. There are many more positives to list, but I think you get the trend of what's happening.

All of this to say, our economy has some lost time to make up. This doesn't mean it will, but odds are there is probably another year or two of economic growth brewing. Momentum is a beautiful thing, once it gets going it's more difficult to shut the valve off. Who knows, if we can keep growth around 3% to 4% each year that is usually is a sweet spot for us. Normally with that consistent growth, we don't build bubbles or extremes that eventually cause shocks.

As always, we continue to take a neutral stance and reevaluate our surroundings each week. We do expect some short term sell offs, which are healthy for the markets. As a whole, we see a lot of good things that don't seem to be covered in the current news. We will continue to watch and communicate actual economic trends, good or bad, and try to take positions ahead of the curve.



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @
THE SUMMIT FINANCIAL STRATEGIES



Brett Langer, CFP*

Branch Manager & Financial Advisor

Keith Bandettini*

Financial Advisor

Lisa Mesquit, CFA*

Chartered Financial Analyst

Kim Langer

Administrative Assistant

Shelby Boden

Administrative Assistant

* Registered representatives and Financial Advisor offering securities through SCF Securities, Inc.-member FINRA & SIPC Investment Advisory Services offered through SCF Investment Advisors, Inc. 155 E. Shaw Ave #102 Fresno, CA 93710 800.955.2517 The Summit Financial Group is not affiliated with SCF.

FAVORITE RECIPES

Crockpot Pork Chops

by Kim Langer

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup light brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1/4 cup low sodium soy sauce
- 1-3 tablespoon red chile paste
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 3-5 pounds boneless pork chops (thick cut 1"- 1 1/2")
- 1/4 cup cornstarch

Instructions

Add ingredients (except pork chops and corn starch) in a 6-quart slow cooker. Stir to combine.



Add pork chops. Toss to coat with the sauce. Cook on low 6 hours.

After 6 hours, combine equal amounts cornstarch and water in a mason jar. Close the lid, to seal the jar. Shake the living tar out of it, to create a slurry. Add the slurry to the crockpot. Stir and cover, cook 1 more hour.

Serve and enjoy!

The Summit Financial Strategies
1905 NW 169th Place, Suite 201
Beaverton, Oregon 97006