

## **Creative Global Investments**

## **Morning Market Commentary & Weekly Charts**

Monday, April 15th, 2013

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# Creative Global Investments/Europe

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Objectivity
Integrity
Creativity

## More Bailouts in Europe and effects on wealth

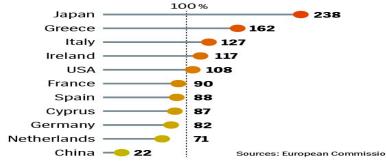
It was revealed yesterday in a draft of the updated rescue plan for Cyprus that the country will need an extra EUR 6.0bn for a bailout, taking the total aid package to EUR 23bn. This could be a problem given that Cyprus will have to find the extra EUR 6.0bn itself in the form of spending cuts, tax rises and probably even deeper haircuts on depositors in the restructured banks

In addition the Cypriot government has been asked to sell off over half of its gold reserves to help raise some of the money, a fact that was immediately met with consternation and a denial by the Bank of Cyprus, and could also run into le gal obstacles under EU law. Rescue programs in Ireland and Portugal are also likely to be hot topics at the Eurogroup meeting in Dublin. One issue not on the agenda is Slovenia's banking sector

No central bank will admit it is keeping rates low to help governments out of their debt crises. But in fact they are bending over backwards to help governments to finance their deficits. This is nothing new in history. After World War II, there was a long phase in which central banks were subservient to governments. It has only been since the 1970s that they have become politically more independent. The pendulum seems to be swinging back as a result of the financial crisis. That is true of the European Central Bank as well, albeit less than for other central banks. And the crisis isn't over yet, not in the United States and not in Europe.

#### National debt

as a percentage of gross domestic product, 2012



But dangers of such central bank policies are well known: It eventually will lead to high inflation. But it is certainly more difficult for a central banker to raise interest rates with a debt to gross domestic product ratio of over 100 percent than it is when this ratio stands at 39 percent. Therefore, we believe the shift towards less independence of monetary policy is not just a temporary change.

The US and Europe have to deal with the debt overhang one way or the other because the high debt levels are an impediment to growth; they paralyze the financial system and the credit process. One way to cope with this is to write off part of the debt. But we are in an environment where politicians are very reluctant to do write-offs. So what happens is that with these types of central bank policies, money and wealth is being redistributed from savers to government via negative interest rates.

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When the inflation rate is higher than the interest rates paid on the markets, the debts shrink as if by magic. The downside, though, is that this applies to the savings of normal people. The technical term for this is financial repression. After World War II, all countries that had a big debt overhang relied on financial repression to avoid an explicit default. After the war, governments imposed interest rate ceilings for government bonds. Nowadays they have more sophisticated means.

Monetary policy is doing the job. And with high unemployment and low inflation that doesn't even look suspicious. Only when inflation picks up, which is ultimately going to happen, will it become obvious that central banks have become subservient to governments.

Is it wrong for Europe to focus on austerity measures with inflation at such a low level? No. Restructuring, inflation und financial repression are not substitutes for austerity. All these measures reduce your existing stock of debt. Unless you do austerity you keep adding to the debt. There is no either or. You need a combination of both to bring down debt to a sustainable level.

Is the new trend in monetary policies a good way of tackling debt problems? There are no silver bullets. If central banks try to accommodate and buy debt, there are risks associated with it. Somewhere down the road you are going to wind up with higher inflation. That is a safe bet, even in Japan, which is currently dealing with the opposite phenomenon: deflation with sinking prices. A further risk of such policies is that efforts to save will be delayed.

The best way of dealing with a debt overhang is to never get into one. Once you have one, what can you do? You can pray for higher growth, but good luck! Historically it doesn't happen, countries seldom just grow themselves out of debt. To reduce national debt, countries need a combination of austerity, so that they don't add further to the pile of debt, and higher inflation, which is effectively a subtle form of taxation ...with the consequence that people are going to lose their savings? No doubt, pensions are in deep trouble. Governments have a lot of leverage on what kinds of assets pension funds hold. In France, for example, public pension funds have shifted money from shares (on the stock market) to government bonds. Not because their returns are great, but because it is more expedient for the government. Pension funds, domestic banks and insurance companies are the most captive audiences, because governments can just change the rules of the game.

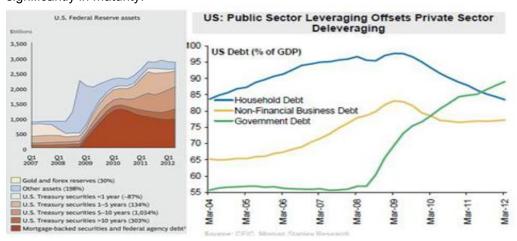
We have seen 50 years of peace and democracy in Europe, but also 50 years of rising debt. Are democracies incapable of setting a budget and sticking to it? No, but after World War II austerity was easier to pursue, because Europe had a younger population and therefore less entitlements. Furthermore, military expenditure was easier to reduce. So, the build-up in debt we have seen since the crisis is very rare. Usually you get that kind of build-up when there is a war.

But is it not a declaration of bankruptcy for democracy if central bankers, who haven't even been elected, have to step in to fix the problem in the end? The biggest mistake that European policy-makers are now making is not to put debt restructuring more explicitly on the table.

Greece has had its restructuring, that's history. But look at Ireland and Spain. Private senior bank debt has not been written off, despite the fact that underlying asset prices in those countries have collapsed and are still collapsing. So would some closures of banks be helpful? Probably not, as the bankruptcy of banks can have a considerable effect on the financial system.

And, a haircut being a transfer from the creditor to the borrower would hurt French banks, German banks, Dutch banks and other banks from the creditor countries. This is the reason why politically, there are many issues at play to avoid bankruptcy, and what governments are doing is called "a redistribution".

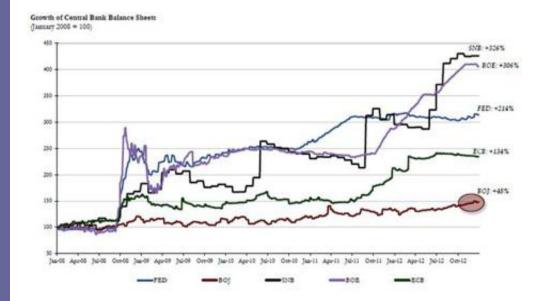
The United States is very highly indebted as well. Even more so than European countries on an aggregate basis. Who are the large holders of government bonds? Foreign central banks. You think the Bank of China is going to be repaid? The US doesn't have to default explicitly. If you have negative real interest rates, the effect on the creditors is the same. That is also a transfer from China, South Korea, Brazil and other creditors to the US. And what happens if the creditors don't continue to play along and the interest rates on American government bonds climb? Do you see the danger of a debt crisis in the US? Why do we have such low interest rates? The Federal Reserve Bank is prepared to continue buying record levels of debt as long as the unemployment situation isn't satisfying. The US Government has taken over the excess debt from the system to avoid any big losses for the creditors. Post credit crisis, there has been a great swap of debt from the private to the public sector, with consumers and corporates in the US reducing debt while the public sector has taken on more leverage. In reality, this does not alter the situation in a big way. All stakeholders (creditors, savers and taxpayers) stand to loose in the process as the impaired asset remains impaired regardless of the balance sheet on which it sits. As a result, the assets of the central bank have been deteriorating in quality and lengthening significantly in maturity.



US Government Highly Dependent On The Fed For Funding: The US government is highly dependent on the Fed for funding. This has led to explosion of the Central Bank's balance sheet due to excess printing of money. For example in 2011, the Fed's money printing spree led to it purchases of 60% of the total treasury notes issued. If the Fed prints at the same speed, it could end up owning 60% of all outstanding debt by 2015 (vs. 27% in 2012). The Fed's balance sheet has grown dramatically to US\$ 3.0 trillion by mid-2012 (vs. \$900 billion at the beginning of the financial crisis).

Negative Interest rate for the Next Decade: In the previous paragraph, we have looked into how the Central Banks have bailed out the creditors. Now we will look at how it is trying to help the debtors. It is trying to lower the funding cost by keeping interest rates artificially low (financial repression) through quantitative easing. Japan tried the same formula during the 1990s to come out of deflation, but ended creating "Zombie banks". Under current circumstances, the Central Banks risks themselves of becoming zombies considering the policy tools they are adopting.

The Fed's Loss Absorption Capacity is very limited too. A change of accounting standards (new liability position: interest on Federal Reserve notes due to the US Treasury) in 2011 created an infinite loss-absorption capacity for the Fed. After this change, losses resulting from sale of bond below their original purchase price will be shown as capital participation from the US Treasury (instead on the Fed's balance sheet as a reduction in capital). Instead of transferring profits to the Treasury on a weekly basis, the Fed delays the remittance if the line items become negative. This amount could be used to setoff any future losses. The present value of this future seigniorage could increase by ~\$1.8 trillion after this.



And China's central bank will also continue to buy treasuries, because they don't want the renminbi to appreciate. That sounds like a perpetual motion, of course it is!

The Quantitative Easing program is expected to continue, increasing the scope for central banks defaulting as well. Though the loss-absorption capacity of Fed looks infinite, it lacks credibility due to the concerns of future inflation. Despite the expansion of monetary base, inflation has not been a cause of concern till now. Deflation coupled with adverse effect on deleveraging in the US, had led to a fall in velocity of money.

The magnitude of the required adjustment could be huge. The FED would have to significantly reduce its balance sheet, and therefore, the monetary base by US\$ 1.8 trillion to sterilize inflationary pressure. Failure to do so would drive up the price level in the US by almost 300%. After the debt restructuring, the remaining Fed assets would be about US\$ 1.2 trillion. There would only be no risk of inflation from such debt forgiveness by the central bank if the velocity of money were to remain historically low.

The impacts of central bank's interventional policies are not clear, the outcome and investment of these ultra-loose monetary policies could be quite significant for the next decade:

- Increasing deficits with less scope for fiscal discipline
- Negative interest rates for longer than expected
- Asset price inflation especially in emerging markets, commodities and other risk assets
- Value destruction of Savings & Pensions

#### **Global Macro Commentary & Events**

#### **Upcoming Macro Events:**

- Japan Industrial Production for February will be released at 12:30am.
- Euro-Zone Trade Balance for February will be released at 5:00am EST. The market expects €5.0B versus –€3.9B previous.
- Canadian Existing Home Sales for March will be released at 9:00am EST.
- Empire State Manufacturing Survey for April will be released at 8:30am. The market expects 7.50 versus 9.24 previous.
- Treasury International Capital for February will be released at 9:00am.
- NAHB Housing Market Index for April will be released at 10:00am. The market expects 45 versus 44 previous.

#### Review of past macro-economic data:

Event	Actual	Forecast	Previous
EUR German Wholesale Price Index (MoM)	-0.20%		0.10%
EUR German Wholesale Price Index (YoY)	0.30%		1.40%
EUR Euro-Zone Industrial Production s.a. (MoM)	0.40%	0.20%	-0.60%
EUR Euro-Zone Industrial Production w.d.a. (YoY)	-3.10%	-2.50%	-2.40%
USD Advance Retail Sales	-0.40%	0.00%	1.00%
USD Retail Sales Less Autos	-0.40%	0.00%	1.00%
USD Retail Sales "Control Group"	-0.20%	0.20%	0.30%
USD Producer Price Index (YoY)	1.10%	1.40%	1.70%
USD Producer Price Index Ex Food & Energy (MoM)	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%
USD Producer Price Index Ex Food & Energy (YoY)	1.10%	1.40%	1.70%
USD Retail Sales Ex Auto & Gas	-0.10%	0.30%	0.30%
USD Producer Price Index (MoM)	-0.60%	-0.20%	0.70%
USD U. of Michigan Confidence	72.3	78.5	78.6
USD Business Inventories	0.10%	0.40%	0.90%
CNY Business Climate Index	125.6		124.4
CNY Fixed Assets Inv Excl. Rural YTD YoY	20.90%	21.30%	21.20%
CNY Retail Sales (YoY)	12.60%	12.60%	
CNY Real GDP YTD (YoY)	7.70%	8.00%	7.80%
CNY Real GDP (QoQ)	1.60%	2.00%	2.00%
CNY Industrial Production YTD (YoY)	9.50%	10.00%	9.90%
CNY Industrial Production (YoY)	8.90%	10.10%	
CNY Retail Sales YTD (YoY)	12.40%	12.50%	12.30%
CNY Real GDP (YoY)	7.70%	8.00%	7.90%

#### **Asian Economies**

China's first-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) growth dropped from 7.9% in the prior quarter to 7.7%, while the consensus forecast had been expecting an uptick to 8.0%. The reading still remains above China's 2013 growth target of 7.5%, but will scale back hopes for any material upside surprise to official forecasts. Raw materials descended into sell-off territory as investors jittered over whether a slowdown in the world's second-largest economy will detriment demand for such materials,

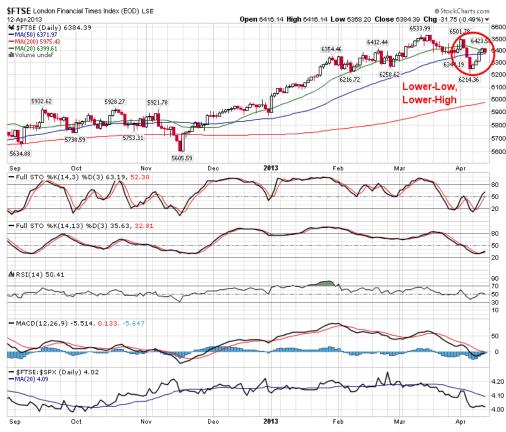
"Sell in May" has come early for equity markets in Canada, Germany, France, United Kingdom, and China.

Negative pressures in equity benchmarks around the globe combined with significant declines in commodity markets is resulting in an increased probability that a top in United States equity markets is near, if not already realized.

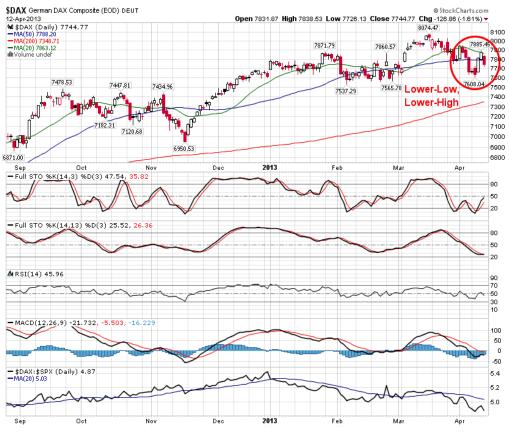
## **Global Markets Commentary**

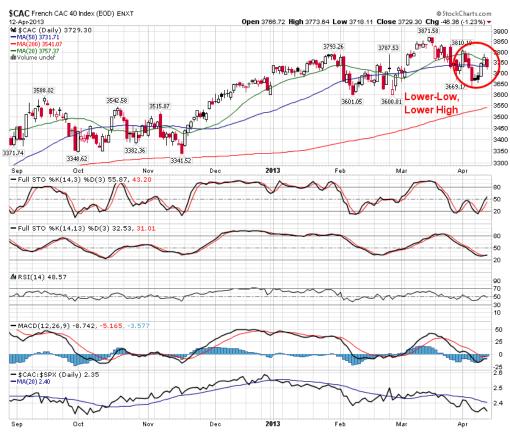
Benchmarks around the globe have begun to trend lower, showing a series of lower-lows and lower-highs, a characteristic of a negative trend.





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The commodities were pressured lower by a stronger US\$ and а weaker than expected report on the Producer Price Index. which showed a month-overmonth decline of sixtenths of a percent.

Inflation, as well as expectations related to; remain on a negative trend, as reported last week, forcing investors to cash out of commodities that benefit during inflationary periods.

The most eye-catching activity, however, was in the commodity market, which saw Gold, Silver, and Oil record losses of 3% or greater. Weakness in the commodity market could spill over into equity markets should fund managers need to raise additional cash to cover recent losses. Gold and Silver remain out of seasonal favor, underperforming equity markets, on average, between now and the end of June.



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The selling in Gold and Silver was exacerbated by a breakdown below significant multi-year support.

Each chart suggests more selling pressures to come, in some cases significantly so.



Selling in Crude Oil picked up upon a breakdown below the neckline of a head-and-shoulders pattern.



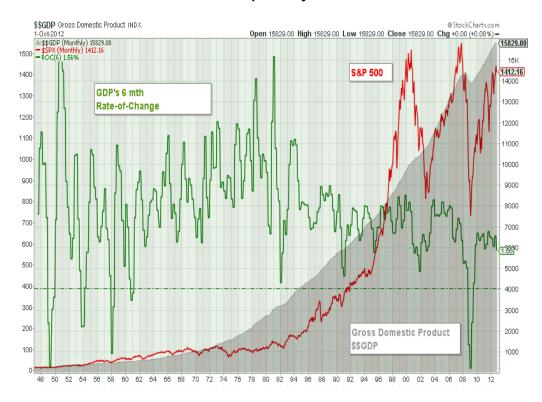
Positive seasonal tendencies for each stock conclude around these earnings results, also bringing an end to the period of seasonal strength in the financial sector as a whole.

Relative performance of the banking sector has been struggling for a few weeks, providing the warning signs necessary to exit the seasonal trade.



## **US Market Commentary & Weekly Charts**

Let's look at the following chart, indicating the dichotomy between the price of the S&P 500 and the US GDP over the past 70 years.



The VIX Index dropped 1.86 (13.36%) last week and once again is testing multiyear lows.

The Index fell back below its 20 and 50 day moving averages.



The S&P 500 Index gained 35.56 points (2.29%) last week.

Trend remains up. Support is at 1,538.57. The Index remains above its 20, 50 and 200 day moving averages.

Short-term momentum indicators are overbought.



Percent of S&P 500 stocks trading above their 50 day moving averages increased last week to 77.40% from 62.60%.

The index remains intermediate overbought.



Percent of S&P 500 stocks trading above their 200 day moving average increased last week to 90.20% from 87.40%.

The index remains intermediate overbought.



Bullish Percent Index for S&P 500 stocks increased last week to 82.20% from 80.00% and returned above its 15 day moving average.

The Index remains intermediate overbought.



Trend changed from neutral to up on a move above 3,270.30. The Index recovered above its 20 and 50 day moving averages.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index remains negative, but showing early signs of change.

Short-term momentum indicators are overbought.

The NASDAQ Composite Index gained 91.09 points (2.84%) last week.



Bullish Percent Index for NASDAQ Composite stocks increased last week to 66.17% from 65.61% and remained below its 15 day moving average.



Support is at 14,382.09. The Average remains above its 20, 50 and 200 day moving averages.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index remains positive.

Short-term momentum indicators are overbought.



The Index remains intermediate overbought.



The Russell 2000 Index gained 19.57 points (2.12%) last week.

Trend remains down. The Index moved above its 20 and 50 day moving averages.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index remains negative.

Short-term momentum indicators are slightly overbought.



The Dow Jones Transportation Average added 106.39 points (1.76%) last week.

Intermediate trend remains down. The Average remains below its 20, 50 and 200 day moving averages.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index remains negative.

Short-term momentum indicators are slightly overbought.



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Trend remains down. The Index fell below its 20 and 50 day moving averages on Friday.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index remains negative.

Short-term momentum indicators are neutral.

The S&P Energy Index added 4.95 points (0.87%) last week.



The Philadelphia Oil Services Index improved 11.09 points (4.65%) last week.

Intermediate trend changed from down to neutral on a break above 250.91. The Index moved above its 20 and 50 day moving averages.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index changed from negative to at least neutral.

Short-term momentum indicators are overbought.



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## **Canadian Markets Commentary & weekly charts**

The TSX Composite Index added 5.74 points (0.05%) last week.

Trend remains down. The Index remains below its 20 and 50 day moving averages.

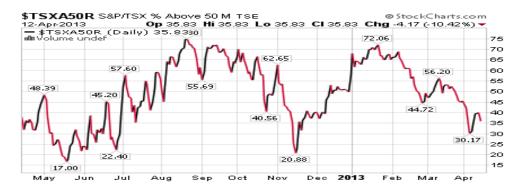
Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index remains negative.

Short-term momentum indicators are oversold.



Percent of TSX Composite stocks trading above their 50 day moving average increase last week to 35.83% from 30.99%.

The index remains oversold.



Percent of TSX Composite stocks trading above their 200 day moving average slipped last week to 53.33% from 53.72%.

The index continues to trend down.



### **Asian Markets Commentary & weekly charts**

Trend remains up. The Average remains above its 20, 50 and 200 day moving averages.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index remains positive.

Short-term momentum indicators remain overbought.

The Nikkei Average gained 651.50 points (5.08%) last week.



The Shanghai Composite Index fell another 19.51 points (0.88%) last week.

Trend remains down. The Index remains below its 20, 50 and 200 day moving averages.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index remains negative.

Short-term momentum indicators are oversold, but have yet to show signs of bottoming.



Intermediate trend remains down. The Index moved above its 20 day moving average.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index remains negative.

Short-term momentum indicators are trending up.

The Australia All Ords Composite Index added 116.80 points (2.38%) last week.



## **European Markets Commentary & weekly charts**

iShares on the Europe 350 Index added \$1.07 (2.71%) last week.

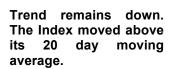
Trend remains down. Units moved above its 20 and 50 day moving averages.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 improved from negative to positive.

Short-term momentum indicators are trending up.



The Athens Index jumped 103.60 points (12.59%) last week.



Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index changed from negative to at least neutral.

Short-term momentum indicators are trending up.



#### **Fixed Income Markets Commentary & weekly charts**

#### **EURO Bonds**

German 10y	1.26	-0.00	0.10%
Italy 10yr	4.29	-0.00	0.04%
Spain 10yr	4.71	+0.04	0.85%
UK 10vr	1.72	-0.01	0.47%

The yield gap between 10- and 30-year German government securities rose to 97.5 basis points on April 4, the most since September 2011, as 10-year yields plunged. The steepening yield curve suggests investors are favoring Europe's safest fixed-income assets as Italy awaits a government seven weeks after elections and the bank crisis in Cyprus stokes concern the region's debt crisis may worsen.

The yield on Spanish 10-year bonds dropped to 4.61 percent on April 11 from 5.27 percent at the end of last year. Italian 10-year yields fell 45 basis points this month.

Italy remains without a new government after an election in February failed to produce a parliamentary majority, leaving Prime Minister Mario Monti as caretaker. Monti said April 10 that Italy's debt would reach a post-war record of 130.4 percent of gross domestic product this year as the euro region's third- biggest economy borrows to help contribute to bailouts and pay arrears to government suppliers.

#### **US Bonds**

The yield remains below its 20, 50 and 200 day moving averages.

Short-term momentum indicators recently have bottomed.

#### Yield on 10 year Treasuries increased 2.7 basis points (1.59%) last week.



The long term Treasury ETF fell \$0.89 (0.49%) last week despite the gain on Friday.



## **Currencies Commentary & weekly charts**

Intermediate trend remains down.

The Euro remains above its 20 and 200 day moving average, but below its 50 day moving average.

Short-term momentum indicators are trending up.

The Euro gained 1.20 (0.92%) last week.



The US\$ fell 0.45 (0.54%) last week.

Intermediate trend is up. The US\$ remains above its 50 and 200 day moving averages and below its 20 day moving average.

Short-term momentum indicators are trending down.



Trend is down. The Yen remains below its 20, 50 and 200 day moving averages.

Short-term momentum indicators remain oversold.

The Japanese Yen fell 0.81 (0.79%) last week.



The C\$ gained 0.41cents (0.42%) last week.



Trend remains up. The C\$ remains above its 20 day moving average and moved above its 50 day moving average.

Short-term momentum indicators are overbought.

## **Commodities Commentary & weekly charts**

Trend remains down. The Index remains below its 20, 50 and 200 day moving averages.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index remains negative.

The CRB Index fell 1.07 points (0.37%) last week with more than all of the loss occurring on Friday.



Trend remains down. Copper remains below its 20, 50 and 200 day moving averages.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index remains negative.

Short-term momentum indicators have bottomed.

Copper was unchanged last week.



Trend remains down. Lumber remains below its 20 and 50 day moving averages.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index remains negative.

Lumber fell \$5.07 (1.34%) last week.



The Grain ETN gained \$1.78 (3.67%) last week.



The Agriculture ETF slipped 0.16 (0.30%) last week.

Trend remains down. Units remain below the 20, 50 and 200-day moving averages.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index remains negative but showing signs of change.

Trend remains down. Units remain below their 20 and 50 day moving averages.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index remains negative.

Short-term momentum indicators have bottomed.



### **Gold & Precious Metals Commentary & weekly charts**

Gold has fallen by \$60 today and is now under \$1500. The setup was perfect for this fall. Here is an explanation. Over the last month, if one could simply watch the news but not know the price of gold and silver, the logical conclusion would have been that this is the glory time for precious metals. After all, from every direction, news was coming that should have driven precious metals higher.

The Bank of Japan got a new chief who started running printing presses faster than Bernanke. Cyprus came close to confiscation of bank deposits, by taxing the deposits. Central banks bought US\$ 3 billion worth of gold in the first two months of 2013. North Korea threatened to fire nuclear missiles at US targets.

Based on all of this news, gold should have gone to new highs, but instead gold and silver are in the dumps. There are outflows from the popular Gold elated ETF's.

The technical outlook for Gold is negative:

- Negative in the very short-term
- Negative in the short-term
- Negative in the medium-term
- Negative in the long-term.
- Positive in the very long-term.

#### Gold plunged \$95.40 per ounce (6.05%) last week.

Intermediate trend remains down. Gold remains below its 20, 50 and 200 day moving averages.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index remains negative.

Short-term momentum indicators are oversold, but have yet to show signs of bottoming.



The precious metal is pushing back toward significant support at \$1525, a break of which could escalate selling pressures.

A measured move in the price of the metal below \$1525 targets down to \$1250, or almost 20% below present levels.

Trend remains down.
Silver remains below its
20, 50 and 200 day
moving averages.
Strength relative to gold
and the S&P 500 Index
remain negative. Shortterm momentum
indicators remain
oversold.

Silver enters into a period of seasonal weakness in the month of April, running through to the end of June.

Inflation expectations remain low, and consequently the price of Gold has faltered.



Silver is pushing back towards support of \$26, a break of which could see a measured move down to as low as \$17. Silver dropped another \$1.33 per ounce (4.89%) last week.



Platinum fell \$40.60 per ounce (2.64%) last week.

Trend remains down. Platinum remains below its 20, 50 and 200 day moving averages.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index remains negative, but strength relative to gold has turned positive.



Palladium fell \$7.40 (1.02%).

Trend remains down. Palladium remains below its 20 and 50 day moving averages.

Strength relative to gold is neutral.



### Oil, Gas & Energy Commentary & weekly charts

Trend remains down. Gas remains below its 20 and 50 day moving averages and fell below its 200 day moving average.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index remains negative.

Gasoline fell another \$0.05 per gallon (1.75%) last week.



Crude Oil fell another \$1.98 per barrel (2.14%) last week.

Trend is down. Crude oil remains below its 20 and 50 day moving averages and fell below its 200 day moving average.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index changed from neutral to negative.

Short term momentum indicators are trending down



Trend remains up. Gas remains above its 20, 50 and 200 day moving averages.

Strength relative to the S&P 500 Index remains positive.

Short-term momentum indicators remain overbought.

#### Natural Gas added \$0.13 (3.16%) last week.



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