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# How To Find Return In A Stagnant World

**Garry Evans**Managing Editor

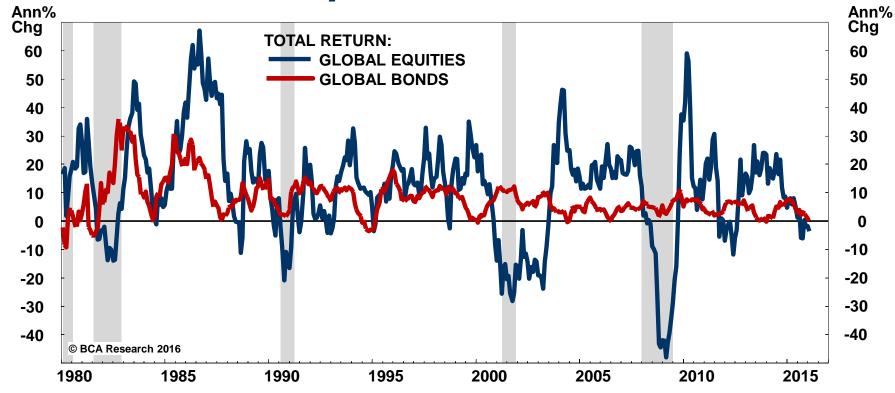


#### **Summary**

- 1. Outlook for the global economy and investment asset over the next 12 months
  - > Weak growth, but no recession. Poor returns from most asset classes.
- 2. Put that view in a longer term context
  - > Zero (even negative) interest rates, Fed raising rates only after six years of expansion.
- 3. How to make money (or at least avoid losing money)
  - > Be cautious. But there is risk in not taking risk



# **Low Returns Everywhere**

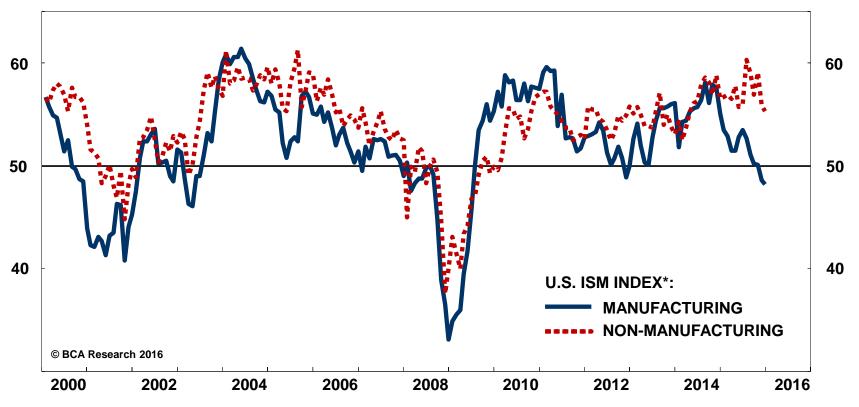


<sup>\*</sup> SOURCE: MSCI INC (SEE COPYRIGHT DECLARATION).



<sup>\*\*</sup> SOURCE: BARCLAYS.
SHADING DENOTES NBER DESIGNATED RECESSIONS.

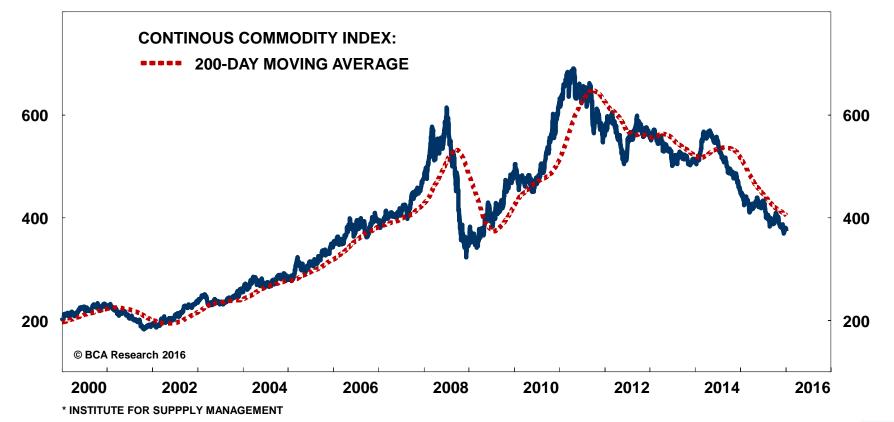
#### **Manufacturing Versus Services**



<sup>\*</sup> INSTITUTE FOR SUPPLY MANAGEMENT.



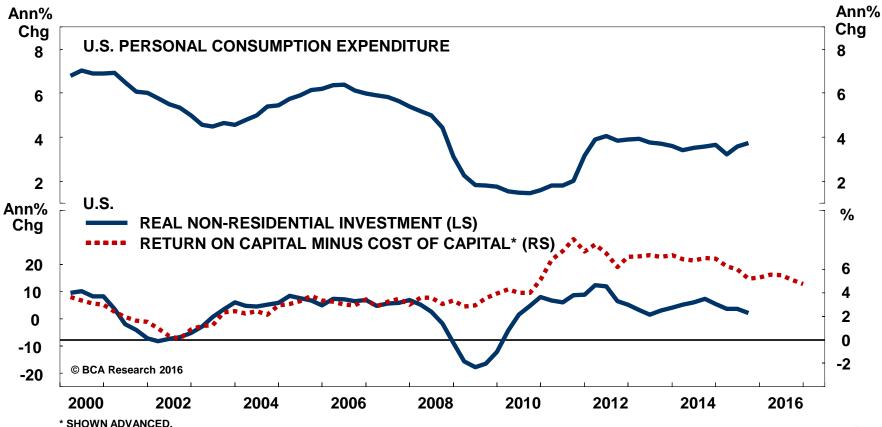
# **A Classic Hog Cycle**





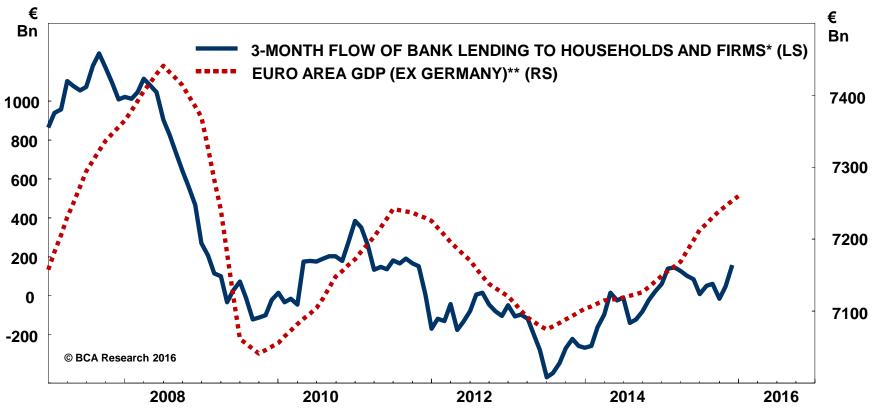
## **U.S.: Both Consumption & Capex Sluggish**

6





#### **Europe: Better But Hardly Inspiring**



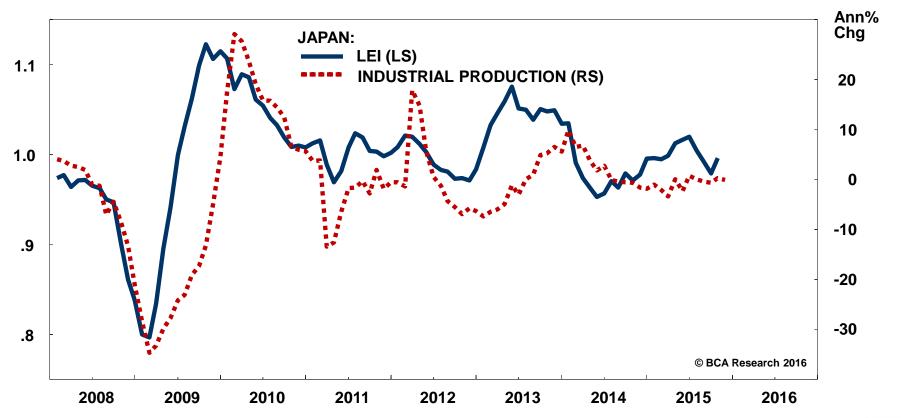
SOURCES: ECB, STATISTISCHES BUNDESAMT, EUROSTAT.



<sup>\*</sup> ADJUSTED FOR SALES AND SECURITISATION.

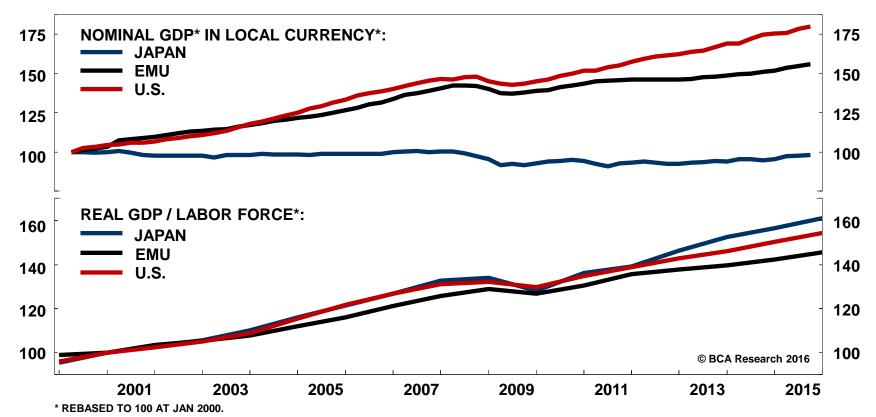
<sup>\*\*</sup> ANNUALISED RATE.

## Japan: Is Abenomics Working?



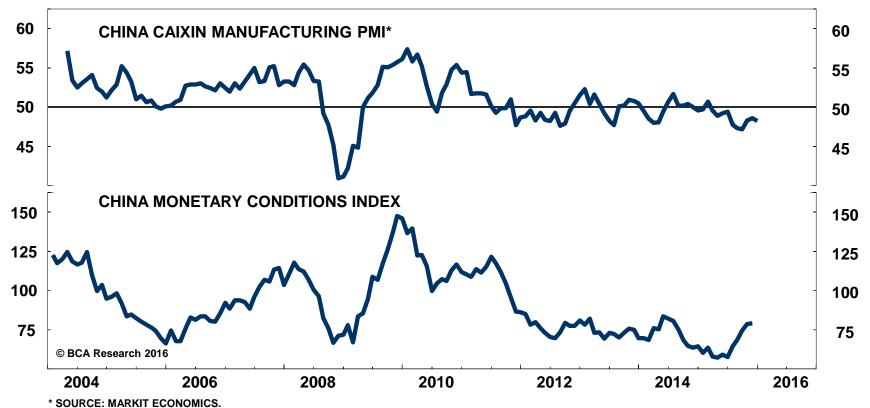


## **Japan Faces Huge Structural Headwinds**



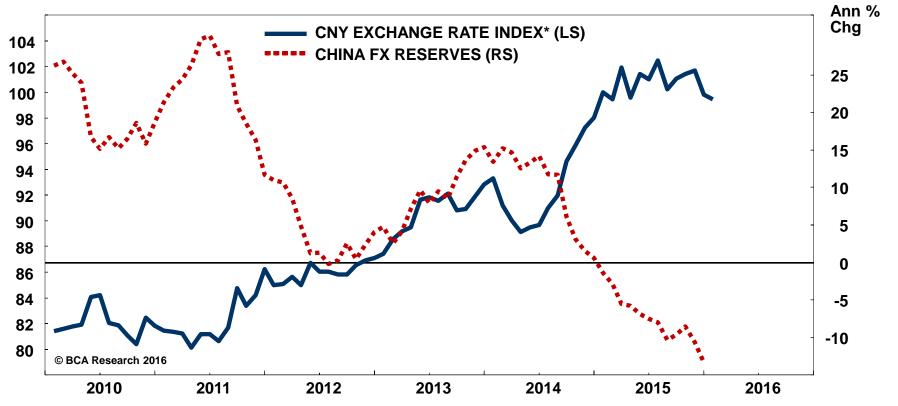


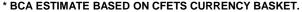
#### **China Should Avoid A Hard Landing**





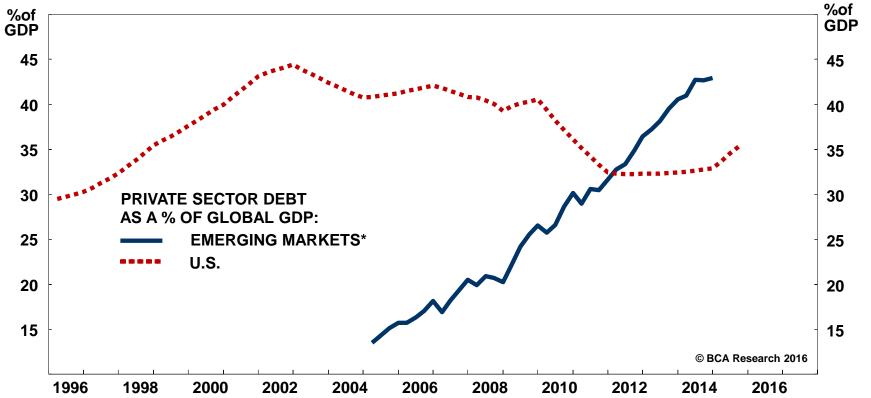
#### As Long As Currency Policy Doesn't Trip It Up







#### **EM At The Start Of A Massive Deleveraging**



\*SOURCE: IMF AND BIS; CHINA PRIVATE SECTOR IS CALCULATED AS CUMULATIVE TOTAL SOCIAL FINANCING EXCLUDING EQUITY ISSUANCE BY NON-FINANCIAL CORPORATIONS PLUS NON-BANK INTERNATIONAL DEBT SECURITIES AND FOREIGN BANK CLAIMS ON NON-BANK CORPORATE SECTOR

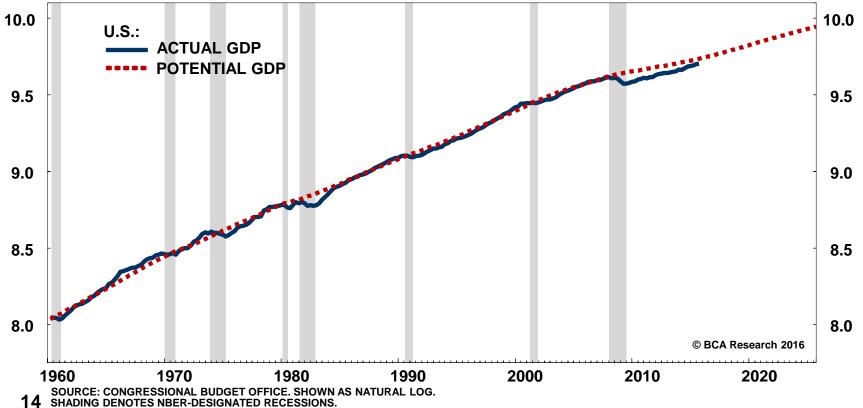


#### **No Sign Of Recession Yet**



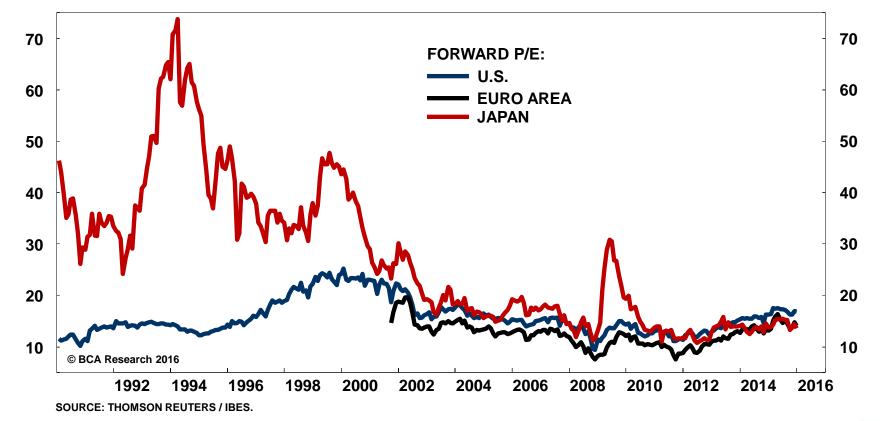


#### **What Roadmap To Use**



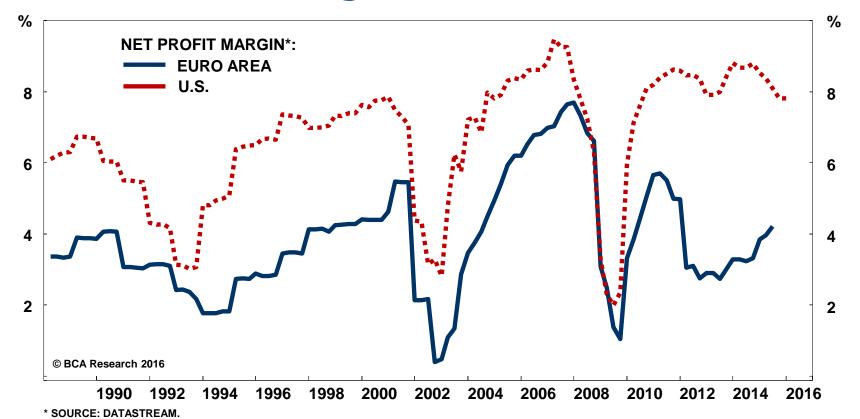


#### **Equities Are Not Cheap**



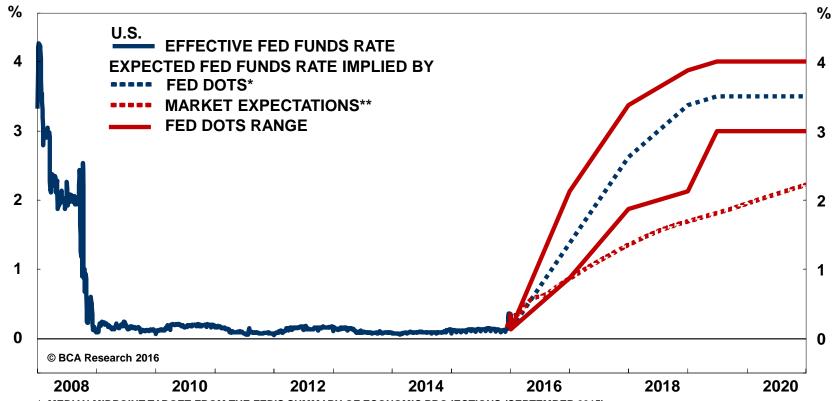


#### **And U.S. Profit Margins Have Peaked**





#### **Trajectory Of Fed Price Hikes**

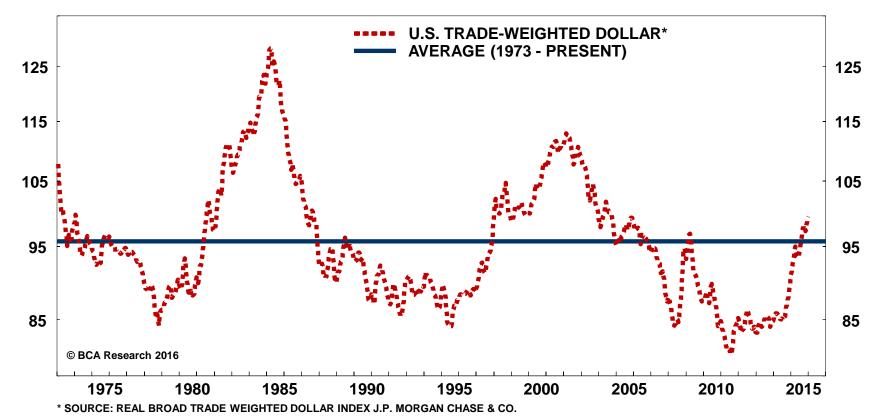


<sup>\*</sup> MEDIAN MIDPOINT TARGET FROM THE FED'S SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC PROJECTIONS (SEPTEMBER 2015).



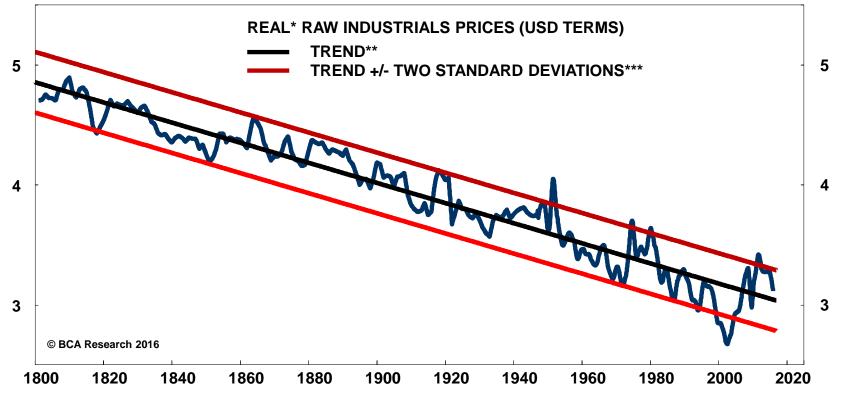
<sup>\*\*</sup> AS DISCOUNTED IN THE OIS CURVE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2016.

#### **Dollar Usually Moves In Long Waves**





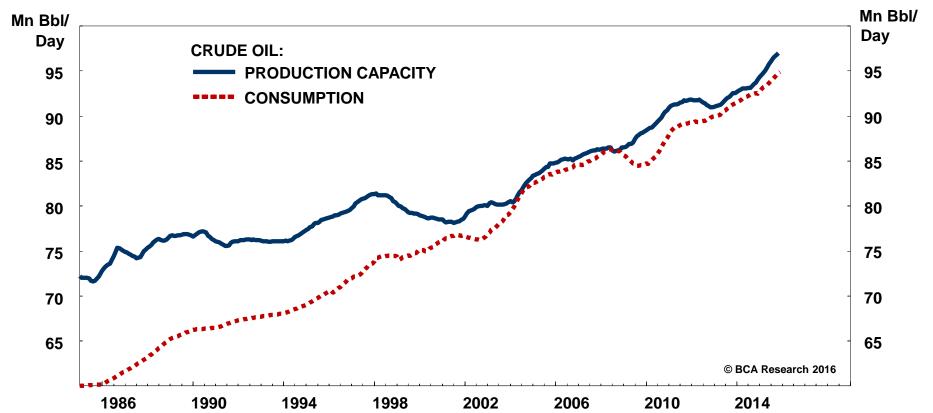
#### **So Do Commodities**



- \* ADJUSTED BY U.S. GDP DEFLATOR.
- \*\* TIME TREND FROM 1800 TO 2008.
- \*\*\* DEVIATION FROM 25-YEAR TREND



## **But Oil May Rebalance By Mid-2016**





#### **Avoid The Emerging Markets Trap**



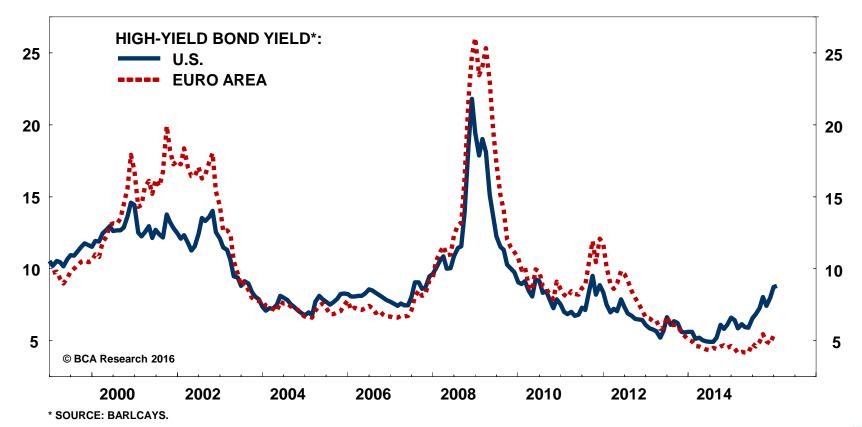
\* INCLUDES 50 INDUSTRY GROUPS.
SOURCE: MSCI Inc. (SEE COPYRIGHT DECLARATION).



\* MARKET CAP-WEIGHTED AGGREAGATE OF INDONESIA, THAILAND, CHINA, MALAYASIA, TURKEY, RUSSIA AND BRAZIL.

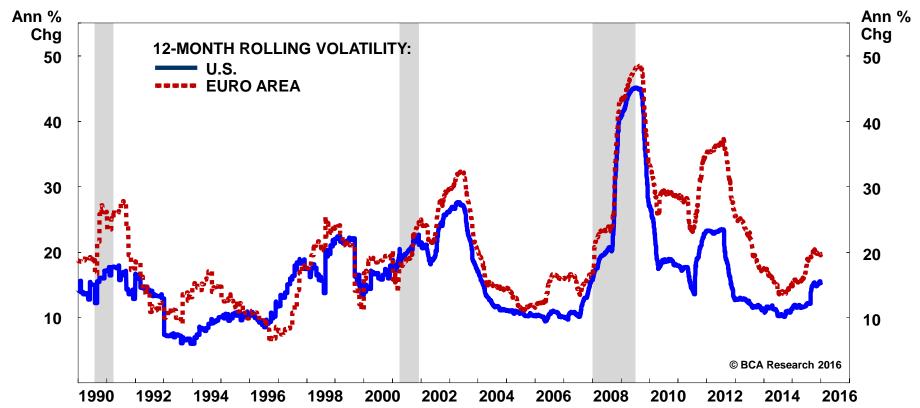


#### **U.S. Junks Bonds Offer Best Risk/Reward**



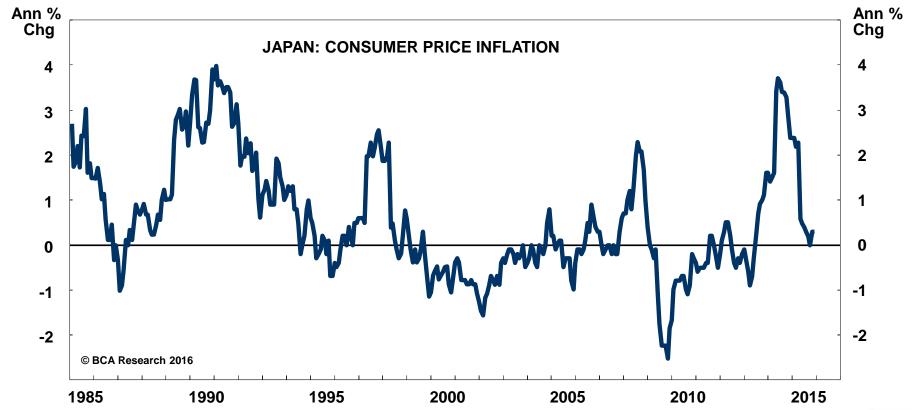


#### **U.S. Equities Safer Than European Ones**





## Japan As a Trade





#### **BCA Recommended Asset Allocation**

#### **Recommended Allocation**





<sup>\*</sup> WE RAISED TO OVERWEIGHT IN OUR SPECIAL REPORT DATED DECEMBER 11, 2015, ENTITLED "HIGH-YIELD BONDS: LOW VOLATILITY EQUITIES?" AVAILABLE AT GAA.BCARESEARCH.COM.



#### **Conclusion**

- Cash yields zero, government bonds 1%, and equities are expensive.
- > In this world, be nimble to make a positive return.
- > But there is risk in not taking any risk too.
- The global economic expansion is likely to continue for a couple of more years.
- ...unless the Fed has made a mistake.
- But the next global recession, when it comes, could be a nasty one.

