



Taking Some Time Away

In the next couple of weeks, this newsletter is going to be a bit light on analysis. I wanted to give you a heads up as that is not what you should typically expect. Usually, I provide research and nuance in addition to the data and models that I have created.

However, until August 23rd, I am taking some time away.

A year ago, my Dad passed away. Due to COVID restrictions, I could not have a proper memorial service after his passing.

Hundreds of people would have shown up, breaking every rule in the book. He liked to break the rules, but I have had to put this off for nearly 15 months.

It's now time to take my Dad to his final resting place. My family has a mausoleum, and under cover of darkness, I will place his ashes in there to rest in peace with his mom, dad, sister, and a few other relatives.

It must be an Italian-American thing, these mausoleums. It's massive. It's like a skyscraper in a cemetery. It's the sort of thing a certain real estate developer from New York City would build. There's no gold lettering, though.

My trip starts with two days at Saratoga for the horse races. My Dad loved the ponies. Saratoga was the August place to be, and he was always there. Dad went to Saratoga every year for over 80 years.

I'm going to miss buzzing into the track in his 1964 Corvette Sting Ray with the top down and the mufflers blaring. He bought it new and kept it for 55 years. That car had over 500,000 miles on it. They don't make 'em like they used to.



As I type this, there is a beautiful print of Secretariat over my right shoulder. My Dad loved Secretariat. I remember back to 1984, and I was eight years old. Dad bet an exacta, meaning he needed two horses to come in first and second. If the bet paid off, it would return \$990. That's back when \$990 was \$990.

It wasn't looking good most of the way. We had the horse in front who was winning easily. But we also needed a horse named Alone in Paris to come in second to win the bet. At the top of the stretch, Alone in Paris was way back. He was 25 lengths behind the leaders. All of a sudden, something jolted him, and he took off. Alone in Paris ran an 8th of a mile faster than any horse I had ever seen. He nipped another horse at the wire and finished second.

The bet paid off, and Dad collected \$990. We went to an art gallery and purchased that print. Now, Alone in Paris wasn't a famous horse. I'm sure he went to a glue factory after his racing career ended. However, I will never forget Alone in Paris and that moment 37 years ago.

The same goes for my Dad. I produced a video eulogy since we could not have an in-person memorial. In that eulogy, I said, "if you are always remembered, you never truly die." My Dad lives on in my heart and my soul. I think of him every day. I would give anything and everything to spend one more day with him in good health.

I know that cannot be the case. However, I will give my Dad one hell of a party when I am back in my hometown. I also plan to visit various places where I grew up and soak up the memories. I know it will be an emotional time.

Then when I return it is my anniversary. I will take off again for another few days to a remote inn in the middle of nowhere.

I like being in the middle of nowhere.

Family always comes first in my book. The stock market will always be there.

That said, all of the data for this newsletter is generated on the weekend. That is why you get it by Sunday night or Monday morning.

I will still send out the letter but with just the facts. After that, when everything returns to normal, there will be more commentary as usual.

Thanks for your understanding!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'John', written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.

John

Risk-O-Meter

Risk remained unchanged this week, and the *Risk-O-Meter* is still on a "buy" signal. The credit market indicators I developed to measure risk are screaming "sell," but the stock market indicators have not flipped over to the red zone just yet. As a result, the meter indicates that risks are higher than average but not high enough to trigger a sell signal.

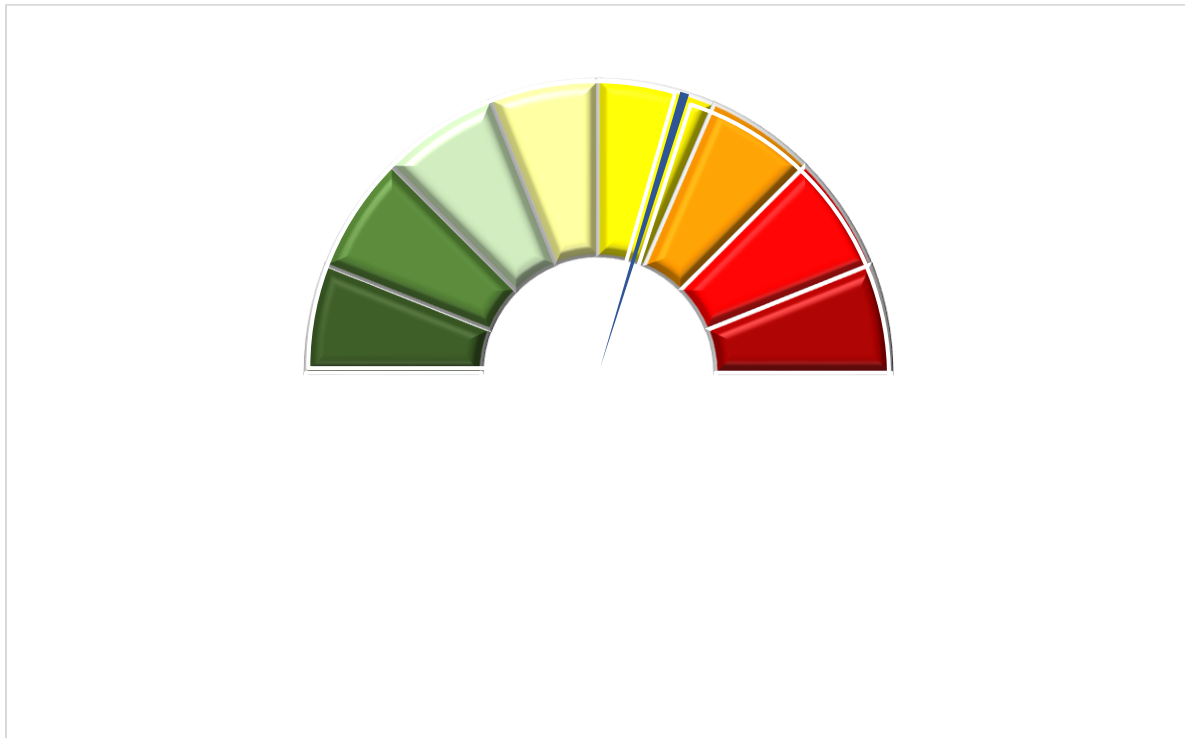
One bit of news I found interesting was that Senator Joe Manchin from West Virginia expressed concern about easy money policies and indicated he'd like to see the Federal Reserve begin tapering.

The end of easy money would be a disaster for the market. Massive liquidity infusions entirely drive the market.

Besides being the most powerful person in the world because he controls the critical vote in the Senate, he's also not stupid. I wonder if his song and dance is a pretext to dramatically scale back the proposed \$3.5 trillion "human infrastructure" bill that will pass entirely on party lines.

We could easily see a lot of volatility going forward as this bill is negotiated and the end of the extra unemployment benefit is phased out at the end of September.

Fasten your seatbelt!



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