

April 2013
Ask a Trust Officer

Stock market highs

DEAR TRUST OFFICER: I understand that the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the S&P 500-stock index set new highs in March. Are happy days here again?—ETERNAL OPTIMIST

DEAR ETERNAL: Yes, the S&P 500 closed the quarter at an all-time high, and the DJIA broke through its old record in early March. The S&P 500 was up 10% in the first quarter, the DJIA was up 11.3%, and the Nasdaq gained 8.2%.

Opinion is divided on whether this means “happy days are here again.” The answer will depend upon what you consider to be “happy days.” We do have economic growth, though it is weak. We don’t have strong job growth. We do have continuing corporate profits. We don’t have exciting interest rates for savers to pursue. The cloud over the Euro remains, although at this writing it appears the banking crisis in Cyprus has been defused.

There have never been days that were a panacea for investors, except, perhaps, in hindsight. If you’d like a more specific opinion about your own portfolio management, please bring your questions to us.

Do you have a question concerning wealth management or trusts? Send your inquiry to [\[trustofficer@bankname.com\]](mailto:trustofficer@bankname.com).

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