

# WealthManagement

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## Market Insights

### *A periodic newsletter from Idaho Trust*

*Early in 2014 we saw a selloff in emerging markets when the Federal Reserve began tapering its quantitative easing program but the selloff has proved to be short-lived with emerging markets now up more than six percent for the year. Recent economic reports have shown that U.S. economic growth has rebounded from the first quarter's weather-induced contraction.*

## Emerging Markets

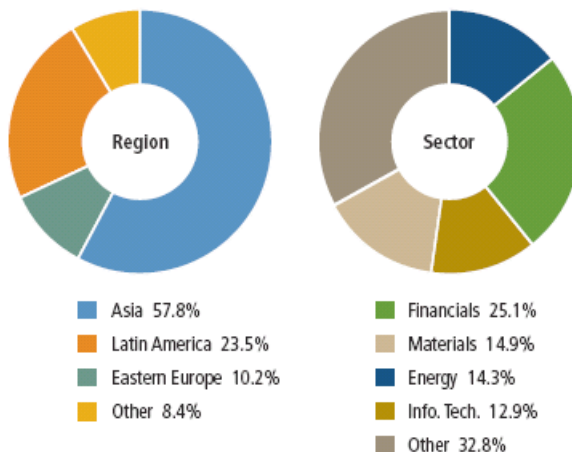
Assets across emerging markets sold off early this year when the Federal Reserve began tapering its quantitative easing program and concerns about slowing Chinese growth collided with domestic economic tensions in countries such as Argentina. Fear that a tighter monetary policy would drive up interest rates and drive down emerging market stock prices caused nervous investors to sell altogether.

The violent swings and fear in emerging markets have since calmed, even as the Fed has steadily cut its monthly quantitative easing from \$85 billion to the current \$35 billion. There has also been a large policy response from central banks from Turkey to South Africa as they quickly raised interest rates and defended their currencies in attempt to attract investors seeking higher returns.

Idaho Trust Bank offers total wealth solutions including its LifeNeeds™ investing process. The LifeNeeds™ investment process utilizes proven strategies and techniques delivered by a highly trained staff of wealth management professionals.

LifeNeeds™ wealth management accounts feature optimized asset allocations, robust security screening and Idaho Trust's unique TacticLogic™ investment process. All of which are tailored to our clients' unique financial needs.

MSCI Emerging Markets Index: Regional and Sector Breakdown (%)



Source: MSCI

Region: Other includes Egypt 0.47%, Morocco 0.15%, South America 7.81%.

Sector: Other includes Consumer Discretionary 6.92%, Consumer Staples 6.68%, Health Care 0.97%, Industrials 7.38%, Telecommunication Services 7.42%, Utilities 3.41%.

Investors have been putting their faith back into emerging markets and stocks have climbed 16 percent from their low point in early February and are now up more than 6 percent for the year. In the last week of July alone, emerging markets saw an inflow of \$5.3 billion, the highest weekly number since January of last year. China was a major recipient to the inflows along with Mexico and Greece.

While this year's GDP growth estimates have been reduced for emerging markets, the pace of economic expansion still far exceeds that of the U.S., Western Europe and Japan and there is no indication that the trend will be changing any time soon. The nature of the economic growth does continue to shift with China, who was once content as the factory of the world, now redirecting its production to meet a growing demand for goods and services at home. The shift from exportation to domestic consumption is not unique to China.

DEVELOPED VS. EMERGING PMI



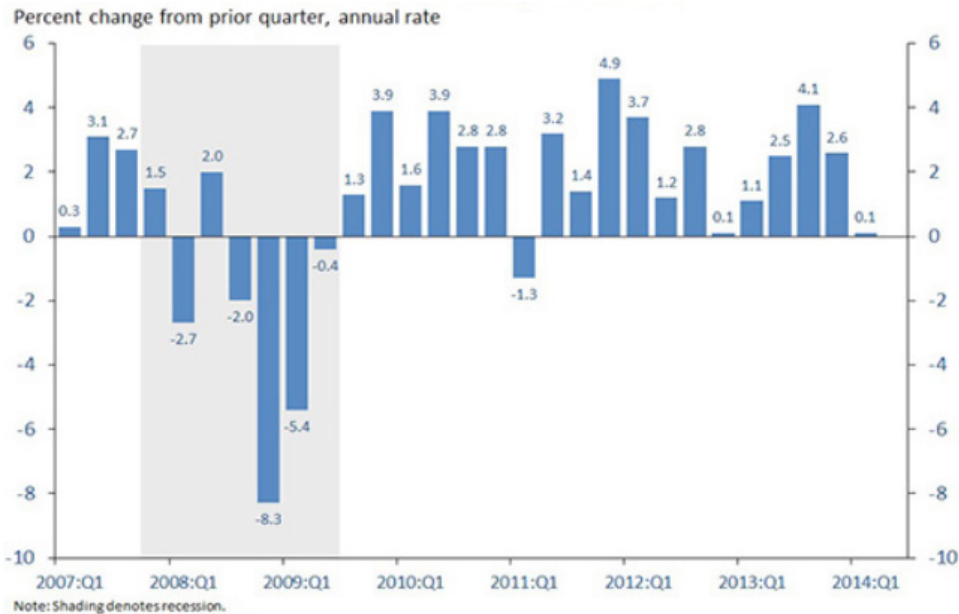
Emerging market manufacturing data have shown clear signs of improvement in recent months, helping to boost investor sentiment toward the developing world.

Sources: Thomson Reuters Datastream, BlackRock Investment Institute as of 7/1/2014.



## U.S. Economy

In the beginning of 2014, U.S. stocks were also tested by an uncertain economy, mixed valuations and a harsh winter lull. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for the first quarter was a stunner. The GDP of a country is a measure of the output of goods and services produced by labor and property located in that country. The initial reading was a slight expansion, but that was ultimately revised to a 2.9 percent contraction, the worst quarterly showing in five years.



The second quarter data showed substantial improvement. Gains in consumer spending and business investment helped the U.S. economy rebound more than forecast in the second quarter. GDP rose at a four percent annualized rate, the most since the third quarter of 2013. According to a survey of economists, real GDP is pegged to stay stable and grow at an annual rate of three percent for the remainder of the year which would put GDP growth at two percent for the full year.

## Conclusion

In the first weeks of 2014 emerging markets tanked when the Federal Reserve began tapering its quantitative easing program. Emerging markets have since stabilized and investors are tiptoeing back into emerging markets, as fears of a currency crisis spreading throughout developing countries have eased. GDP growth in the first quarter of the year saw a contraction but the second quarter data was certainly much better while gains in consumer spending and business investment helped the U.S. economy rebound from the first quarter slump. The U.S. economy is expected to continue to improve, growing around two percent this year.

### S&P 500 Index

3 Month	3.03%
Year-to-Date	5.66%
1 Year	16.93%
3 Year	16.78%
5 Year	17.05%

### MSCI EAFE Net Index

3 Month	0.23%
Year-to-Date	2.72%
1 Year	15.07%
3 Year	7.94%
5 Year	9.98%

### Barclays Aggregate Bond Index

3 Month	0.71%
Year-to-Date	3.67%
1 Year	3.97%
3 Year	3.03%
5 Year	4.63%

As of 7.31.2014

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