

# 2020 Economic & Stock Market Outlook:

## Cyclical Strength Emerges Amid Ongoing Uncertainty

Supplemental Chart Pack

December 12, 2019

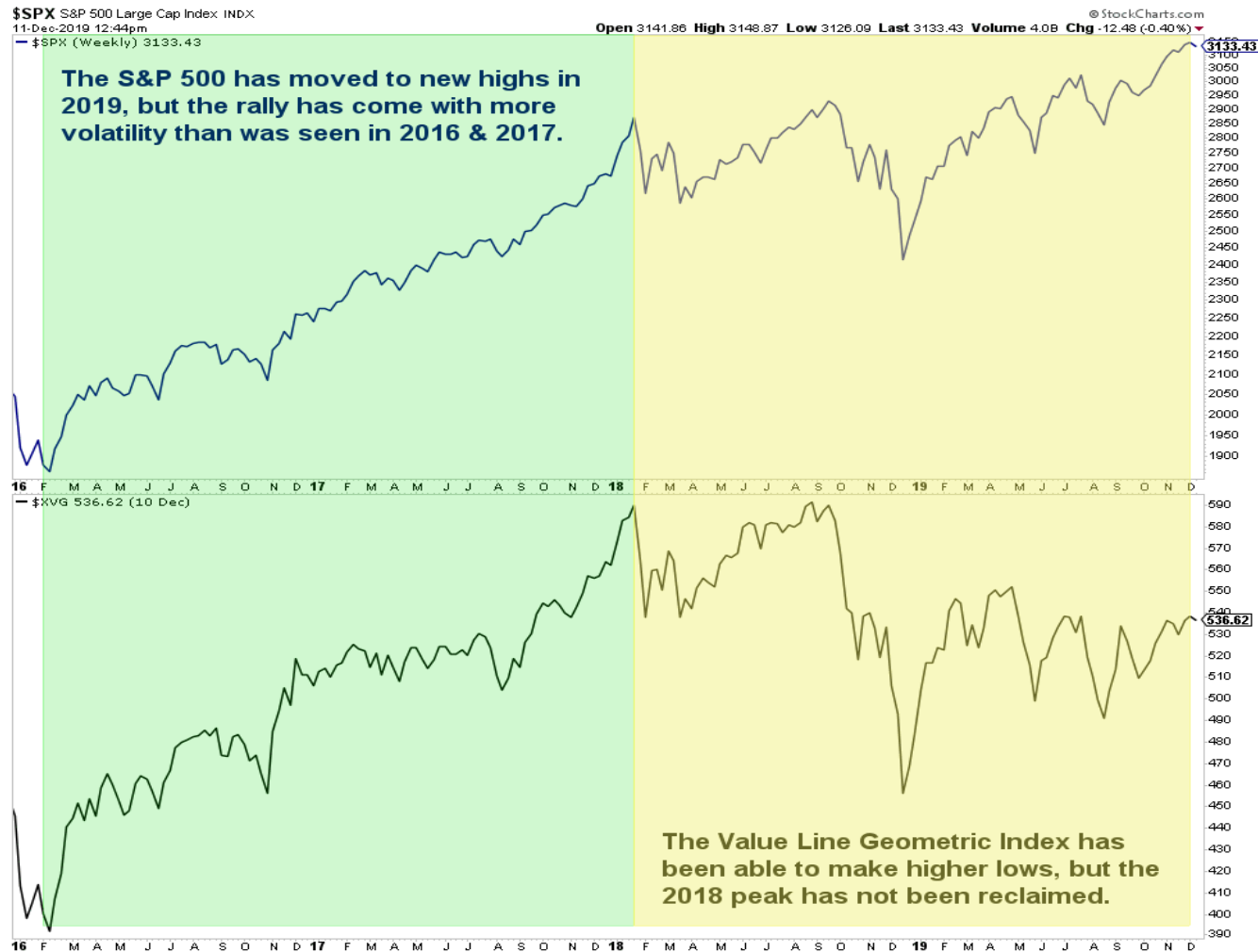
The background of the bottom section is a collage of various financial charts, including line graphs and bar charts in different colors (red, yellow, green, blue) on a light grey grid.

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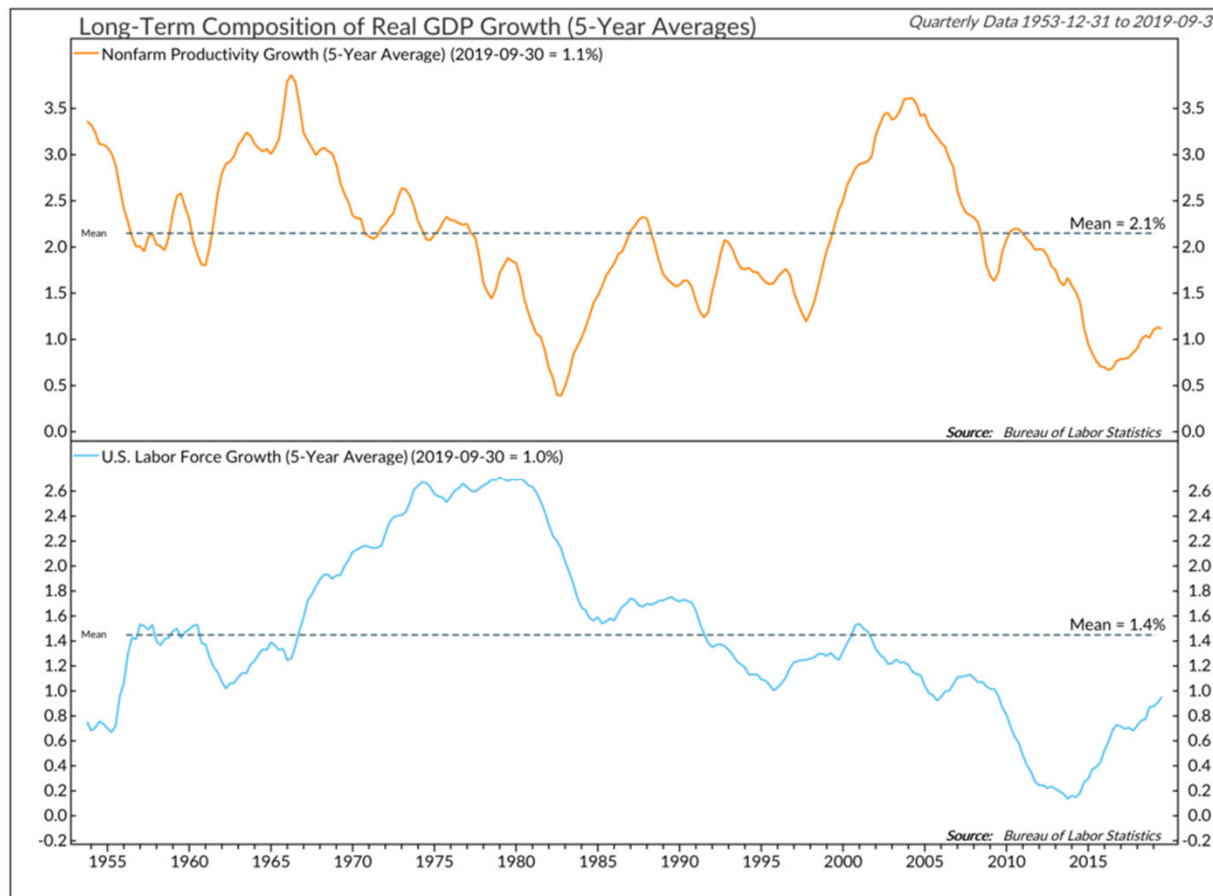
*Despite ongoing volatility, cyclical strength re-emerged and the S&P 500 made new highs in 2019.*

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*While below their long-term averages, both productivity and labor force growth trends are rising.*

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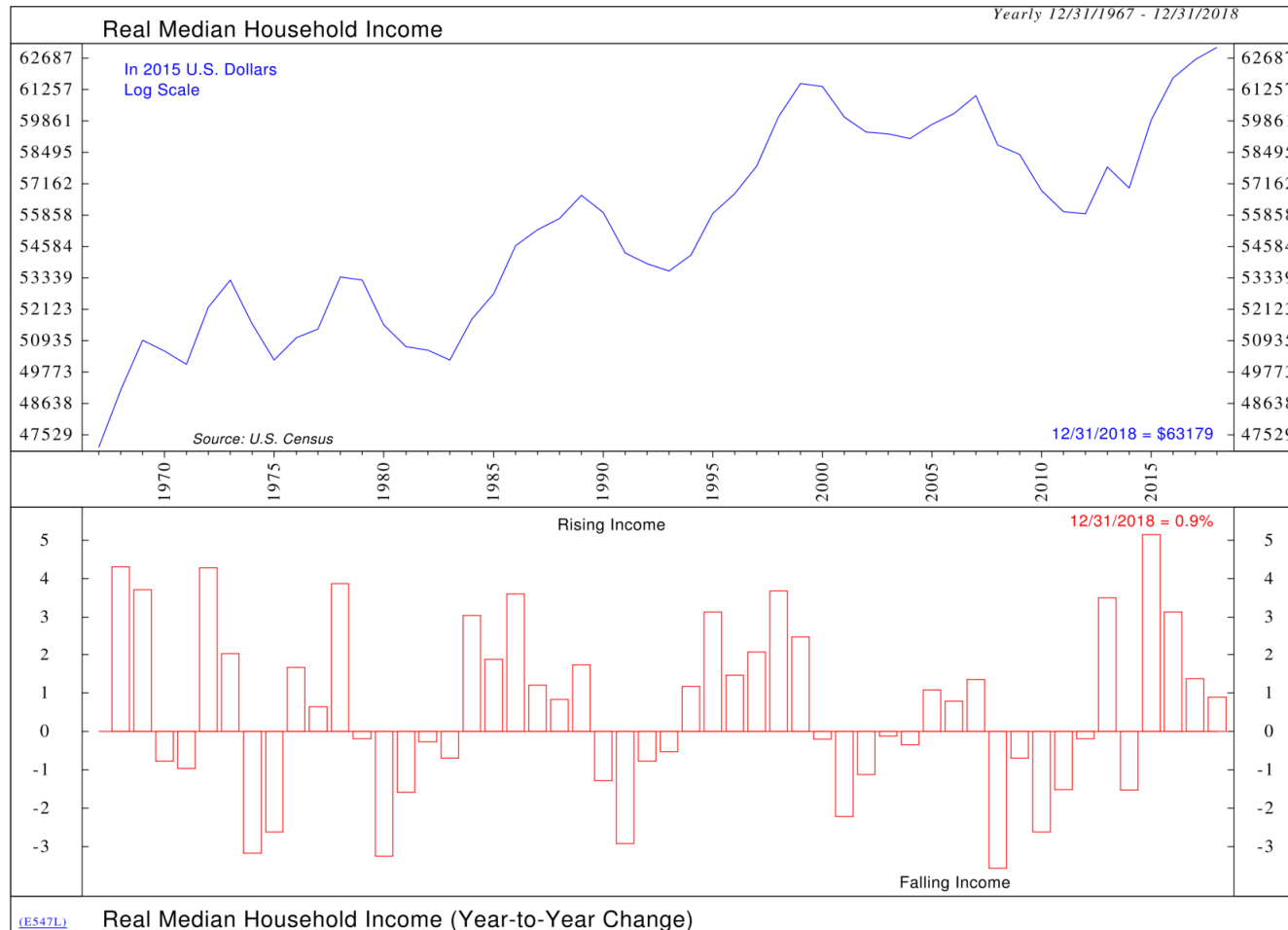


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# Real median household income reached a new high in 2018.



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*The weight of the evidence improved over the course of 2019, fueled by improving broad market trends.*

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### Macro Factors (What Could Happen)

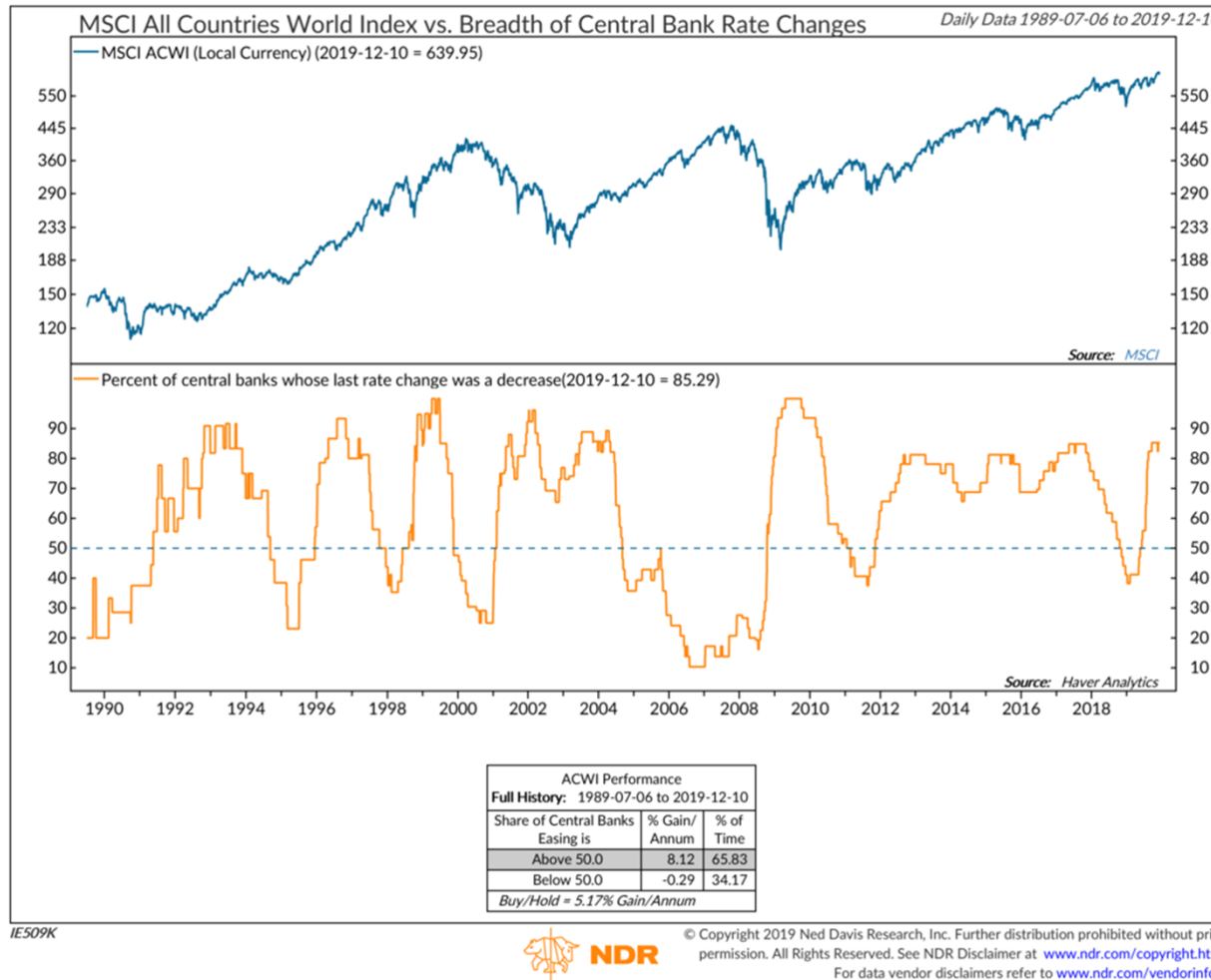
|                          |         |    |
|--------------------------|---------|----|
| • Federal Reserve Policy | Bullish | +1 |
| • Economic Fundamentals  | Neutral | 0  |
| • Valuations             | Bearish | -1 |

### Market Factors (What Is Happening)

|                            |         |    |
|----------------------------|---------|----|
| • Investor Sentiment       | Neutral | 0  |
| • Seasonal Patterns/Trends | Neutral | 0  |
| • Tape (Breadth)           | Bullish | +1 |

|                          |         |    |
|--------------------------|---------|----|
| Weight of the Evidence = | Bullish | +1 |
|--------------------------|---------|----|

*Central bank rate cuts supported stocks in 2019 and this tailwind carries into 2020.*

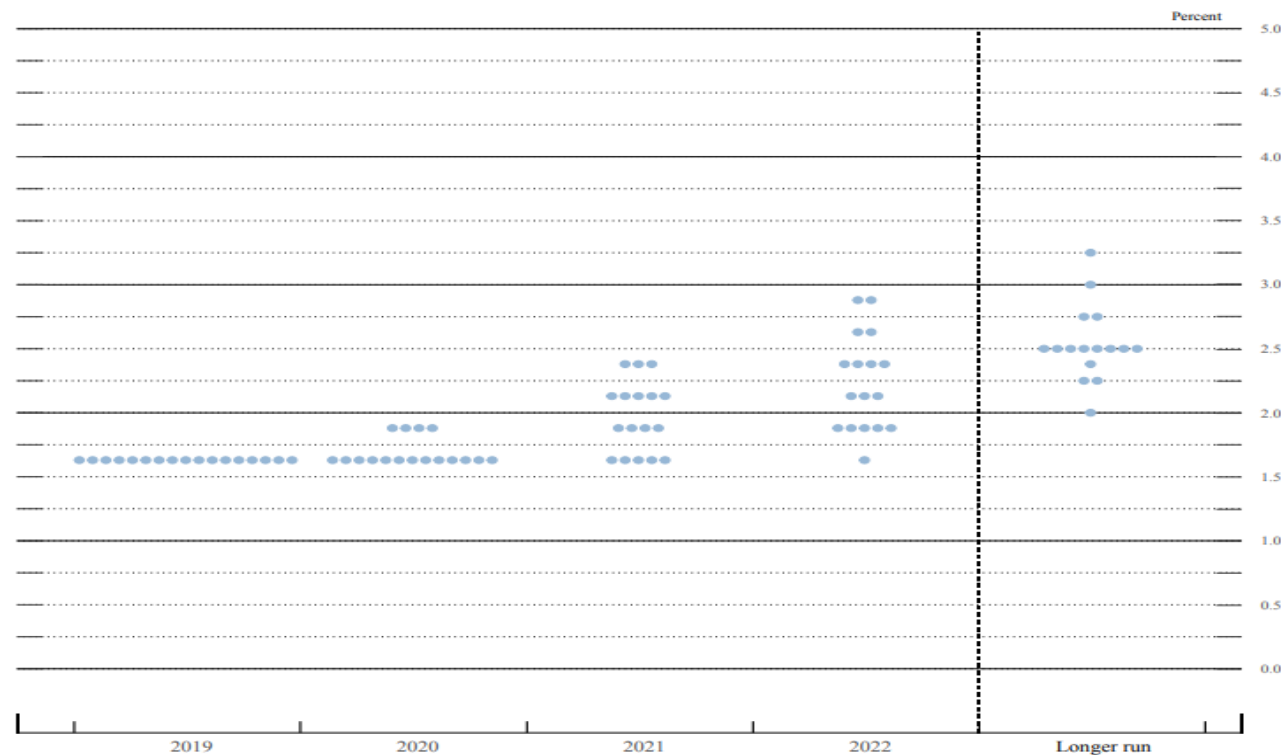


*The latest dot plot from the Fed suggests the mid-cycle rate adjustment is over after three rate cuts.*

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For release at 2:00 p.m., EST, December 11, 2019

Figure 2. FOMC participants' assessments of appropriate monetary policy: Midpoint of target range or target level for the federal funds rate



## *The favorable stock market reaction to Fed rate cuts diminishes after the third cut*

The logo for BAIRD, consisting of the word "BAIRD" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, set against a dark blue parallelogram background.

Stock Market Performance After a Federal Reserve Rate Cut  
Using Discount Rate from 1/03/1928 to 12/30/1988  
Using Fed Funds Rate from 1/03/1989 to 12/10/2019  
Index Data Starts 1/03/1928

|          | S&P 500 Index Percent Gain After |            |            |             |             |             |
|----------|----------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|          | #<br>Cases                       | 22<br>Days | 63<br>Days | 126<br>Days | 190<br>Days | 252<br>Days |
| 1st Cut  | 20                               | 4.00       | 7.05       | 11.74       | 10.48       | 14.84       |
| 2nd Cut  | 18                               | 2.74       | 10.64      | 11.18       | 12.10       | 16.66       |
| 3rd Cut  | 14                               | 3.05       | 6.55       | 6.20        | 9.24        | 10.14       |
| 4th Cut  | 10                               | 2.71       | 5.79       | 2.43        | 1.03        | 3.18        |
| 5th Cut  | 9                                | 0.99       | -0.70      | -2.35       | -4.51       | -1.68       |
| 6th Cut  | 8                                | 1.93       | 2.12       | 5.14        | 3.24        | 0.87        |
| Mean     |                                  | 2.57       | 5.24       | 5.72        | 5.26        | 7.33        |
| Buy/Hold |                                  | 0.61       | 1.76       | 3.51        | 5.34        | 7.22        |

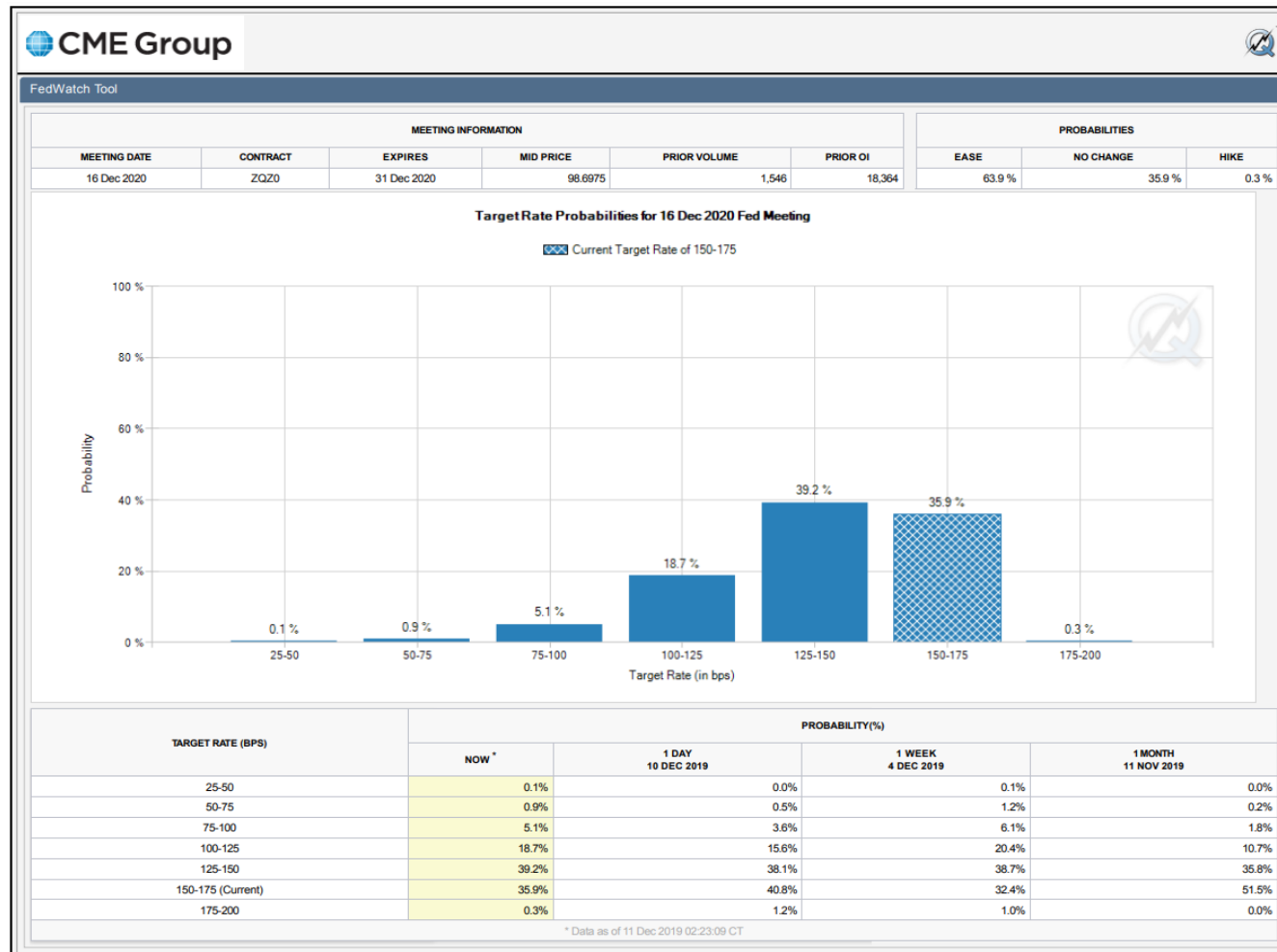
Days = Market Days

The number of Federal Reserve Rate cuts equals consecutive cuts until an intervening Federal Reserve Rate increase is encountered at which point the count is started over.



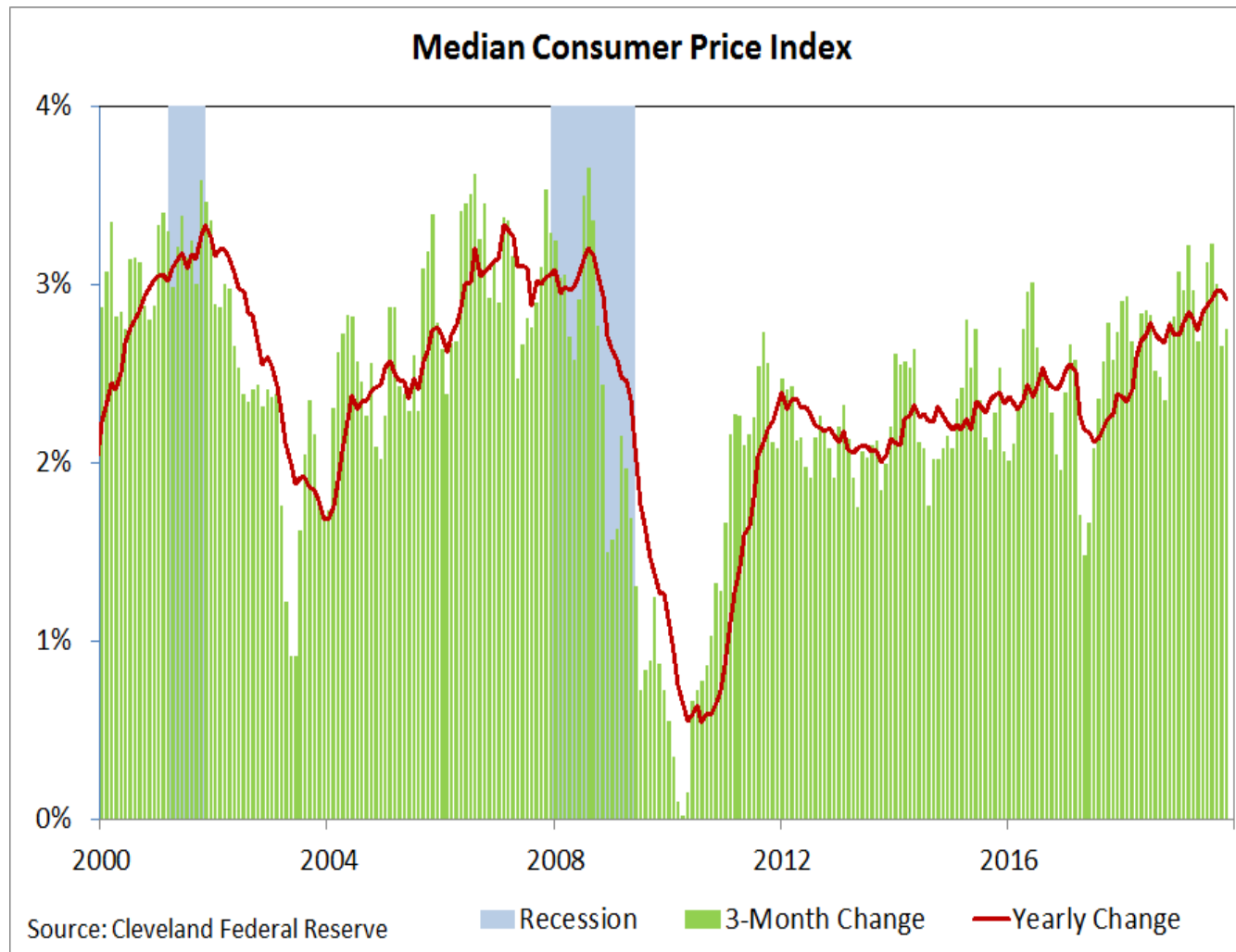
*Futures traders see the possibility of additional cuts in 2020.*

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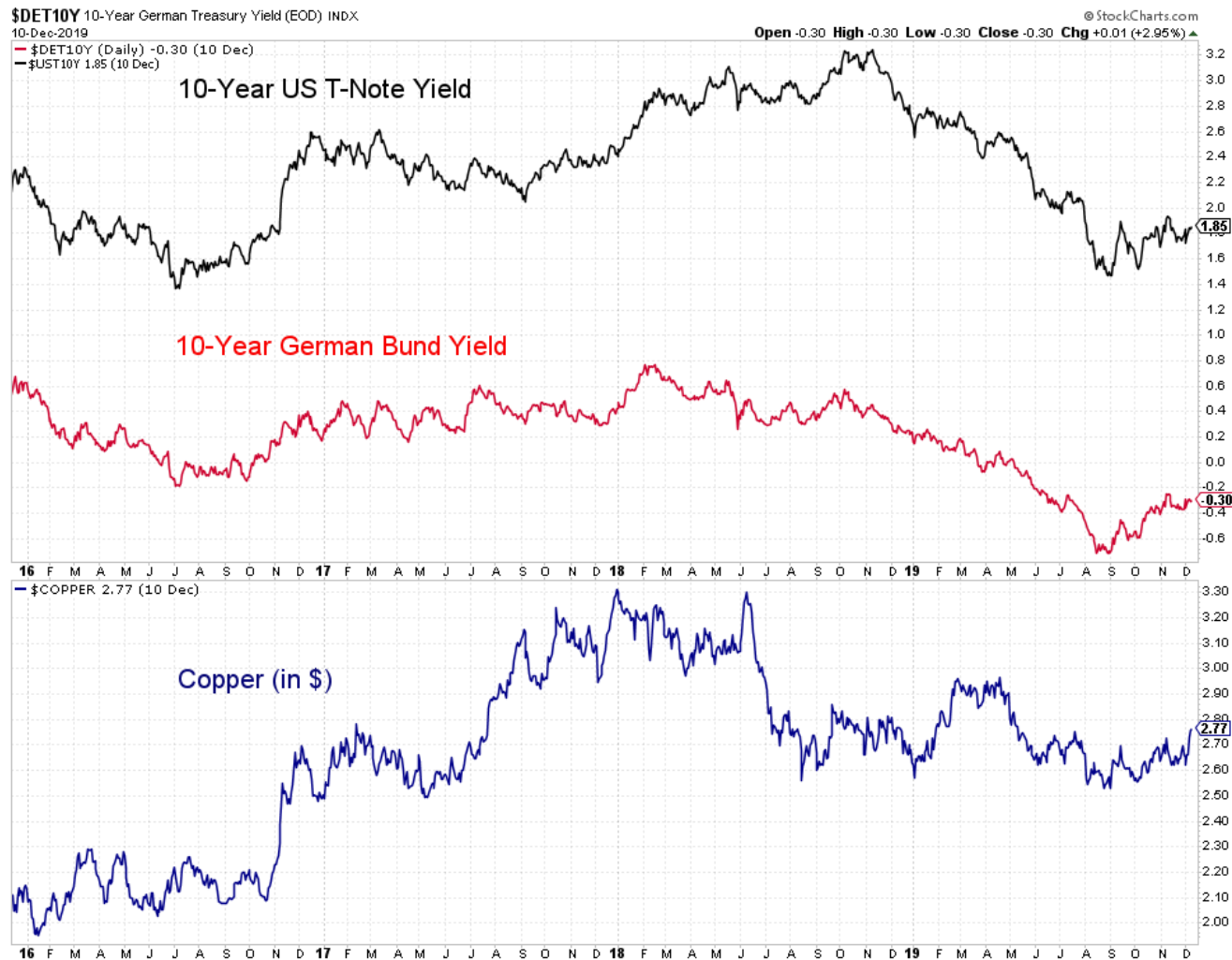
*While the Fed has discussed muted inflation, the median CPI moved to its highest level in a decade.*

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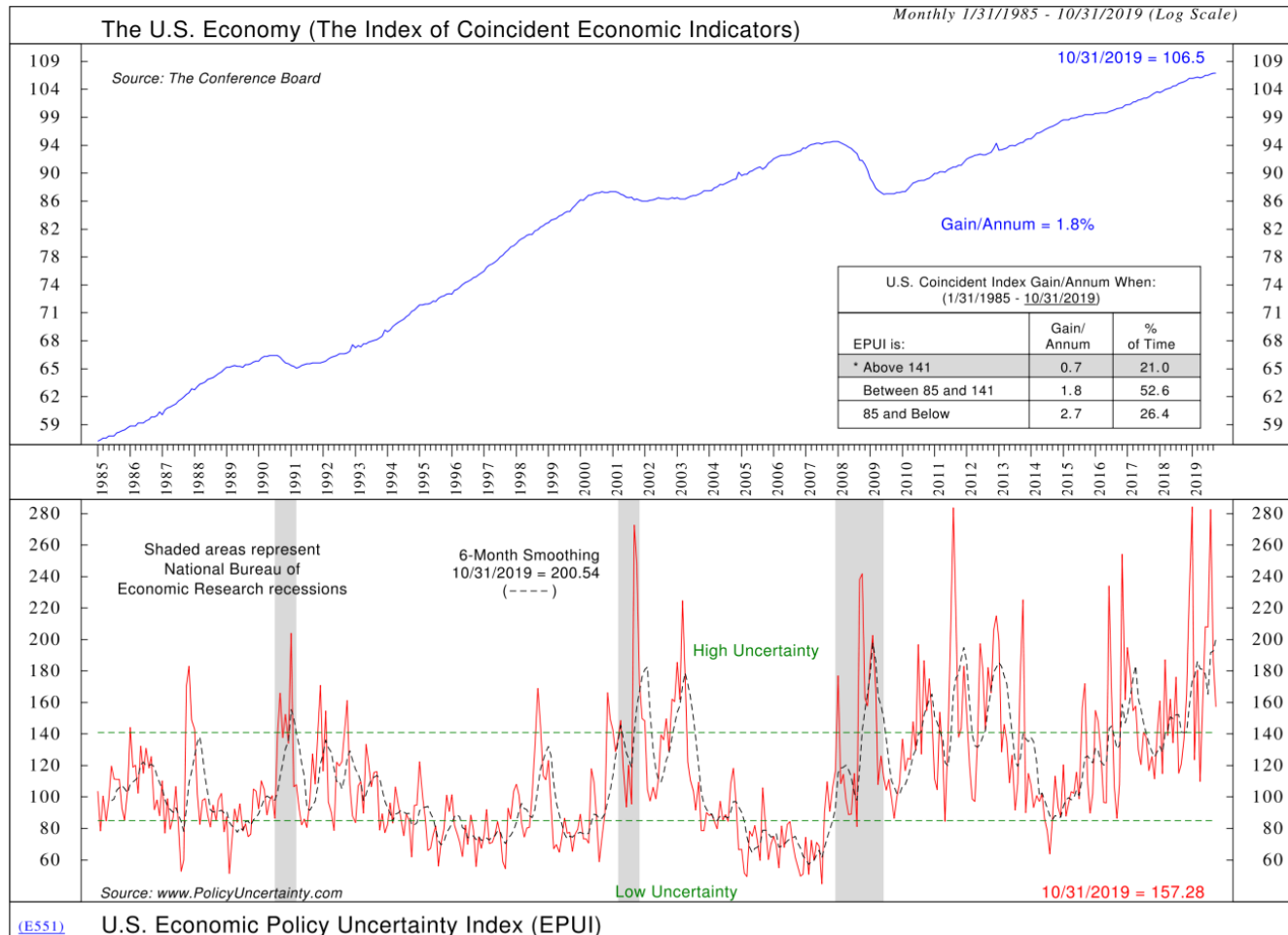
*Bond yields and copper have moved off mid-2019 lows  
– further gains could keep the Fed on the sidelines.*

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*Uncertainty will never go away entirely, but elevated levels (like we saw in 2019) can weigh on the economy.*

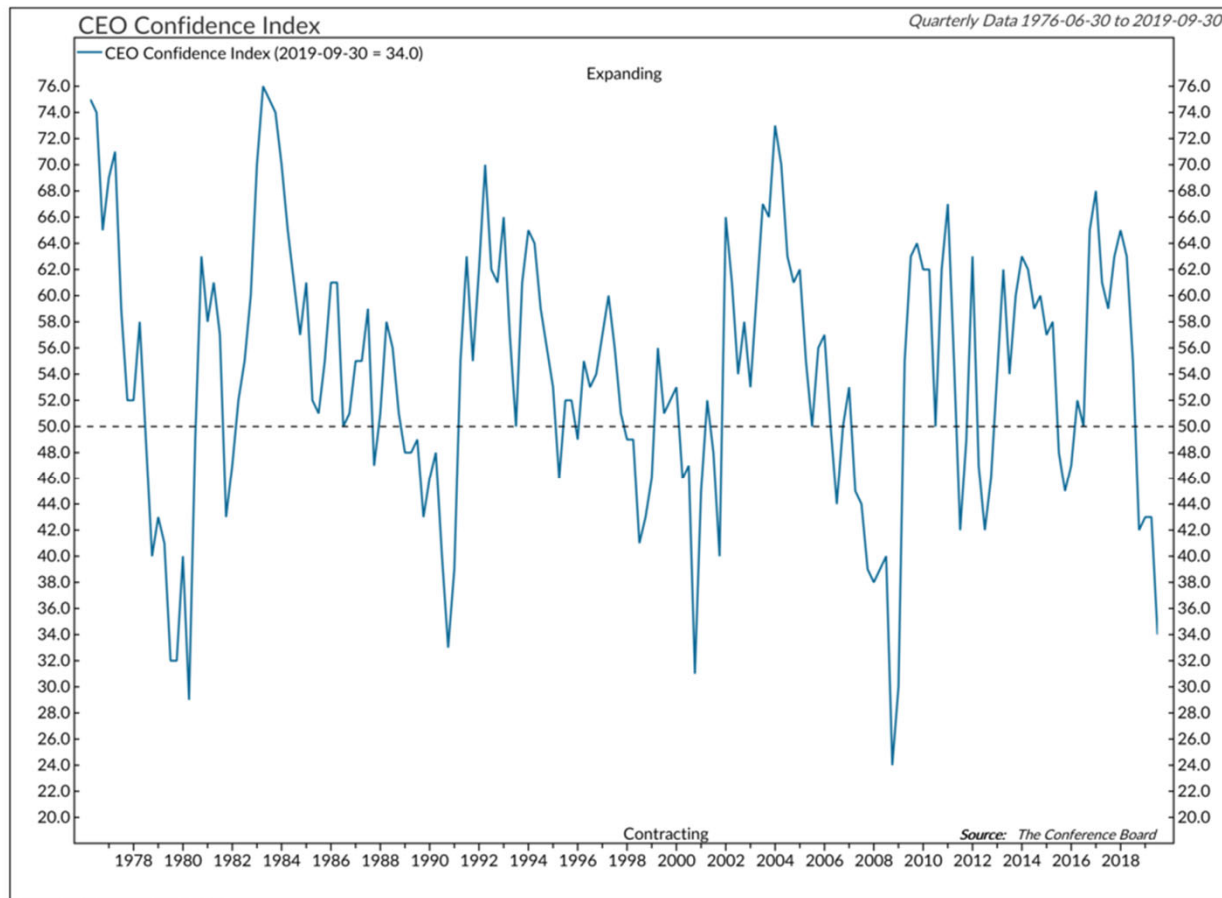
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*Uncertainty seems to be weighing on CEO confidence, which is at its lowest level in a decade.*

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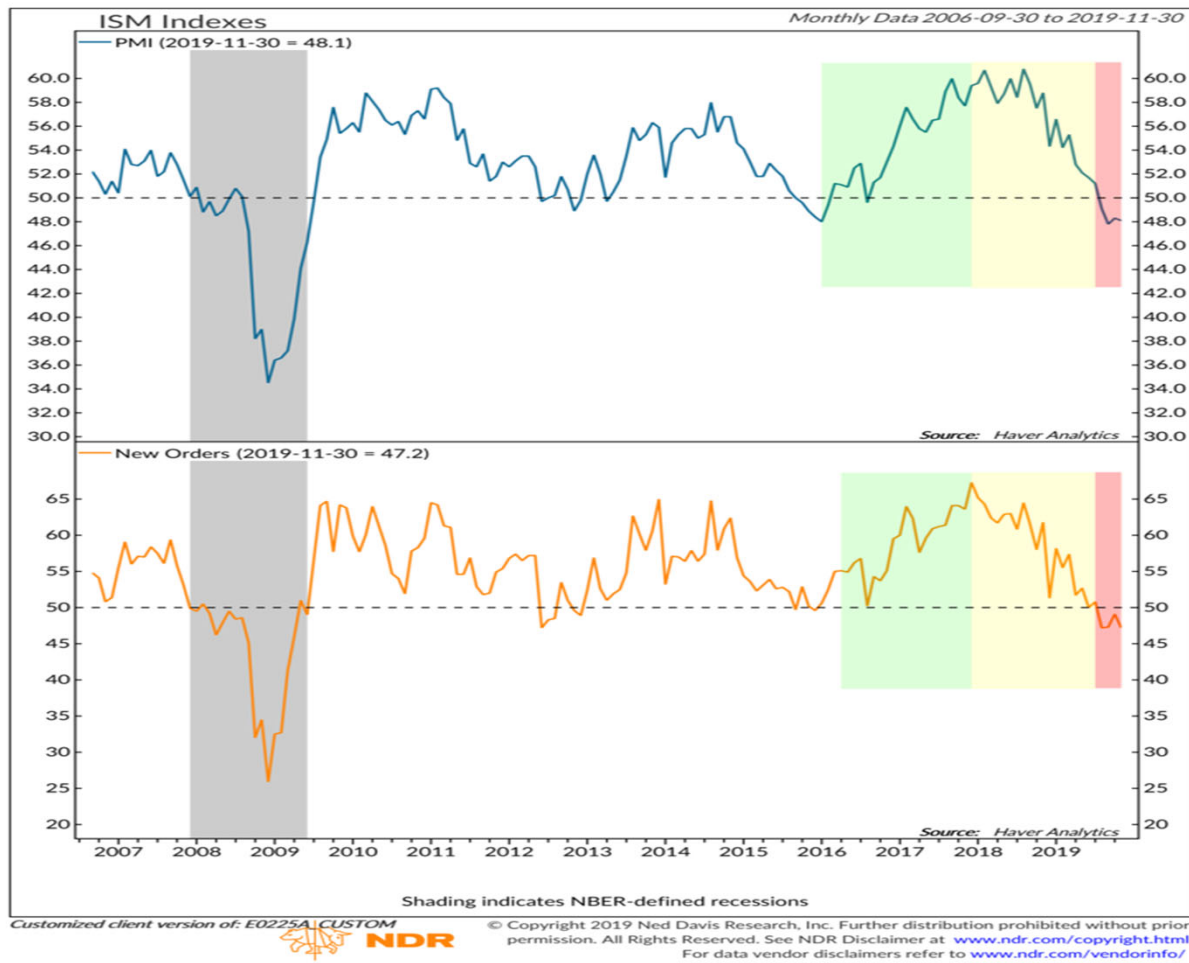
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*Domestic manufacturing data continued to weaken in 2019 and now show activity is contracting.*

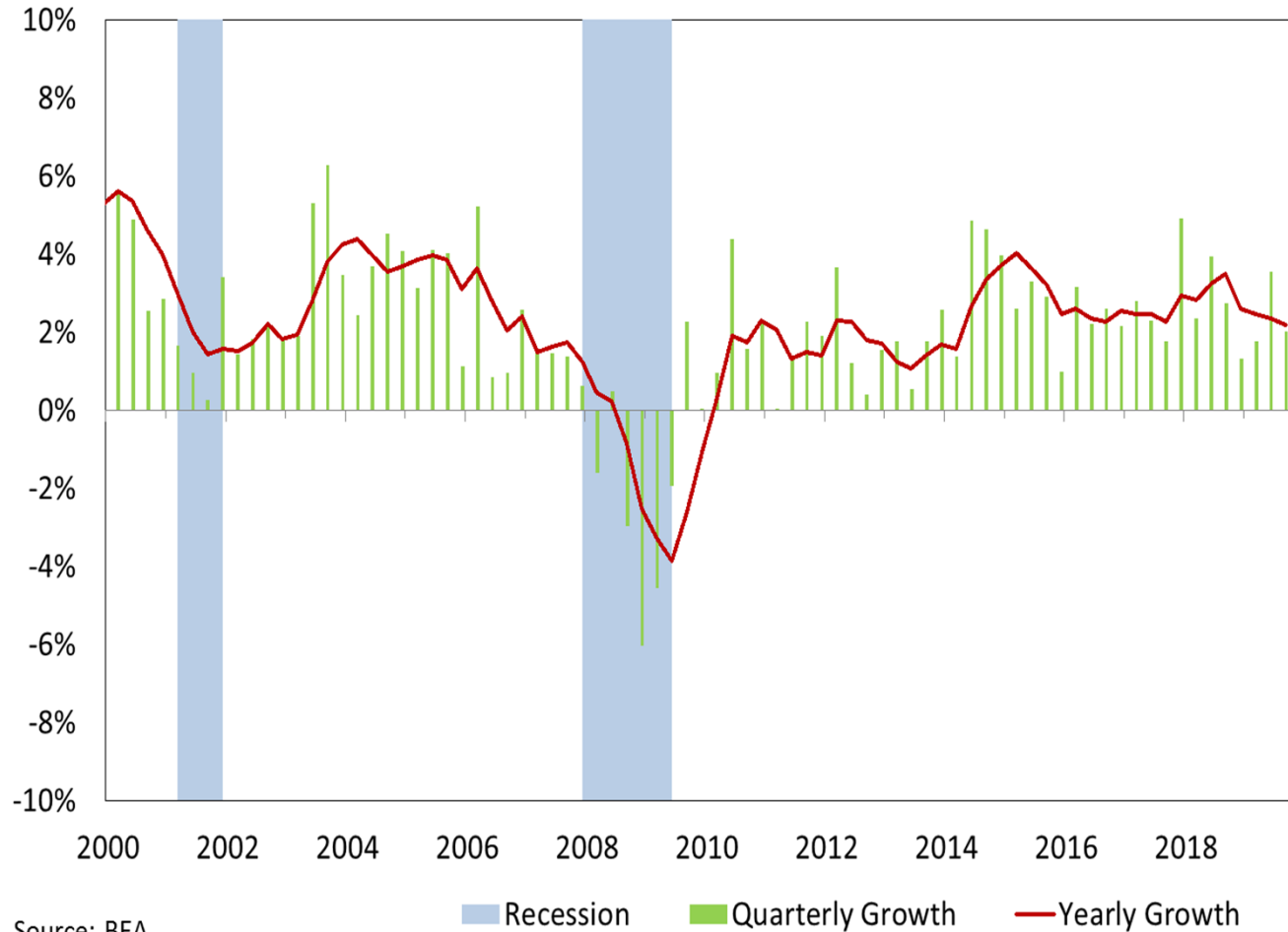
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*While the consumer has been resilient, growth in domestic demand is still at lowest level sine 2014.*

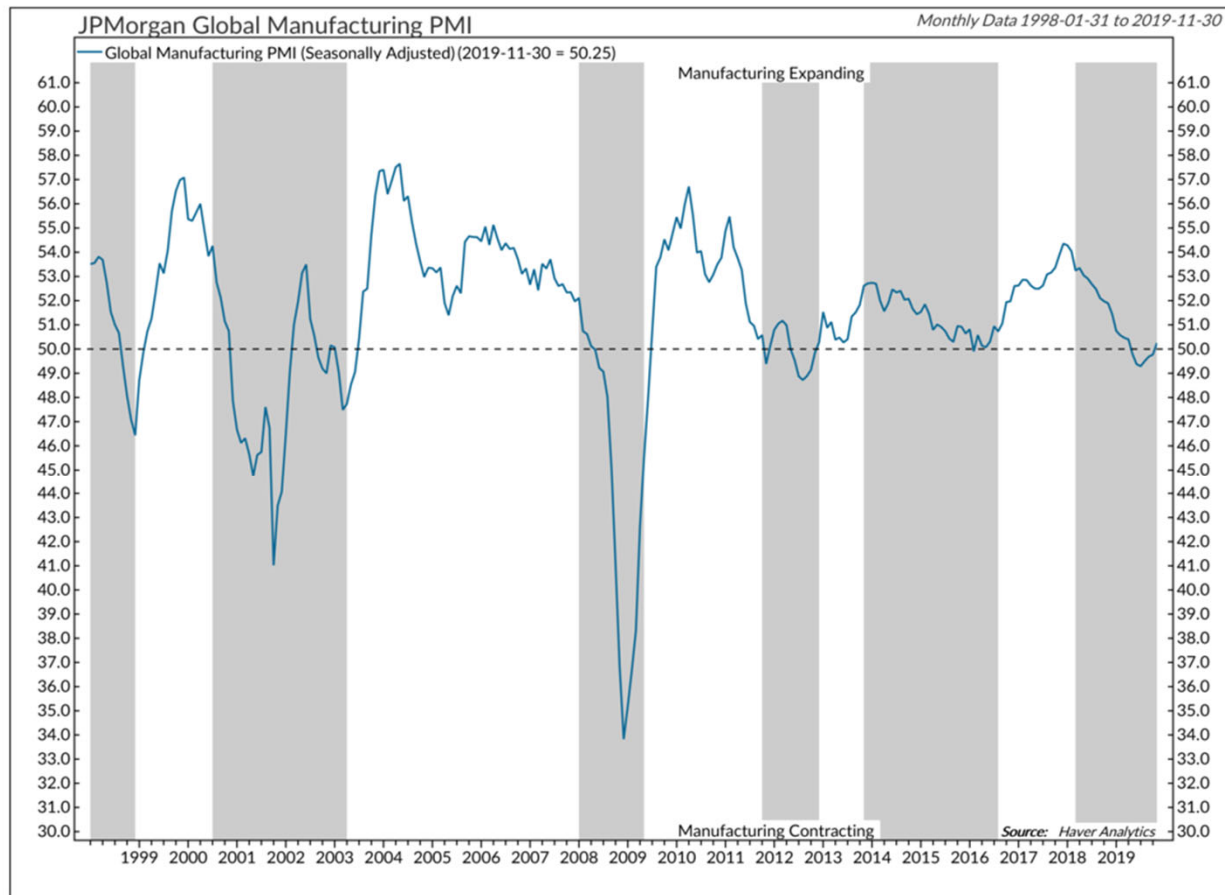
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**Real Final Sales to Domestic Purchasers**



*Globally there is (again) evidence of green shoots emerging.*

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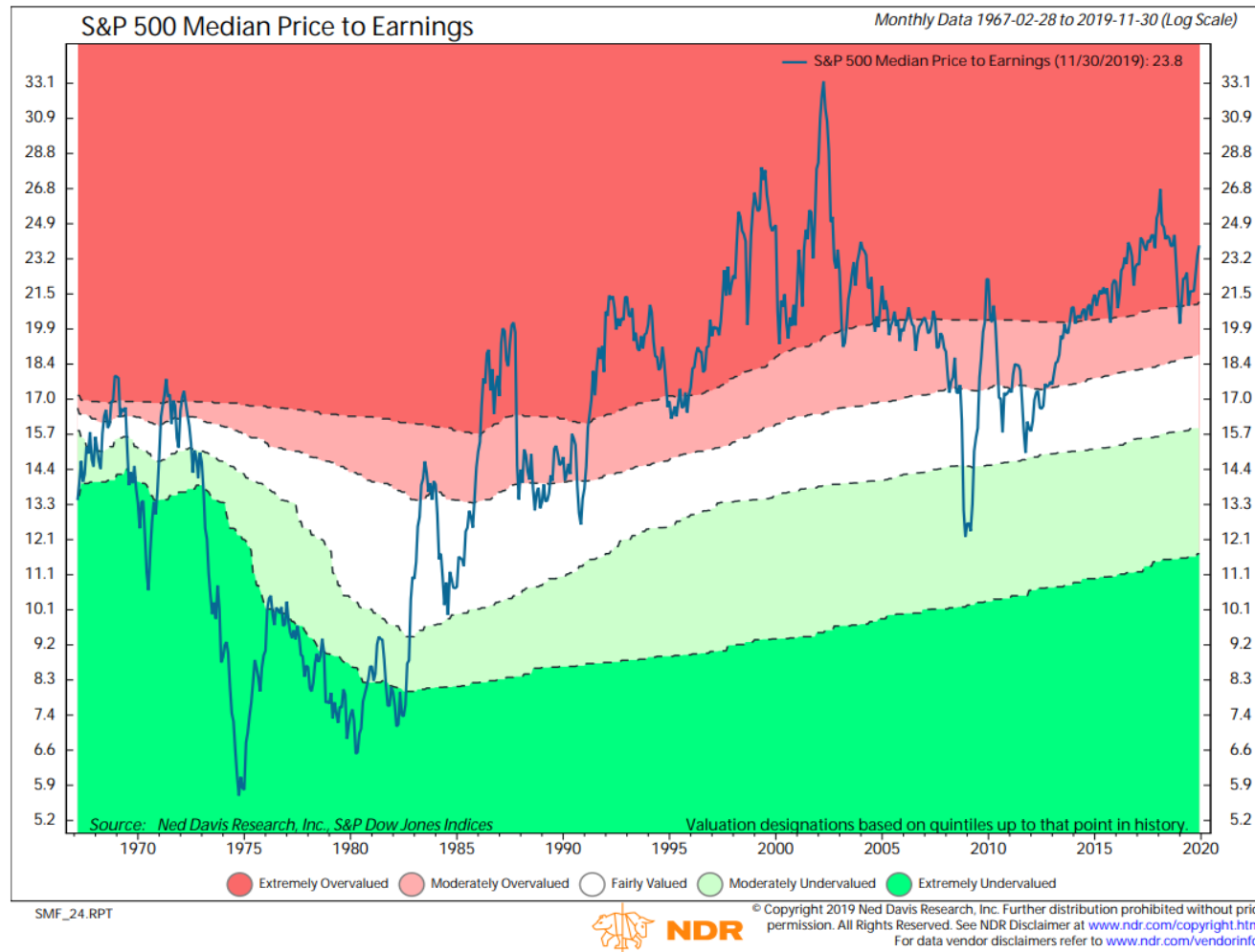


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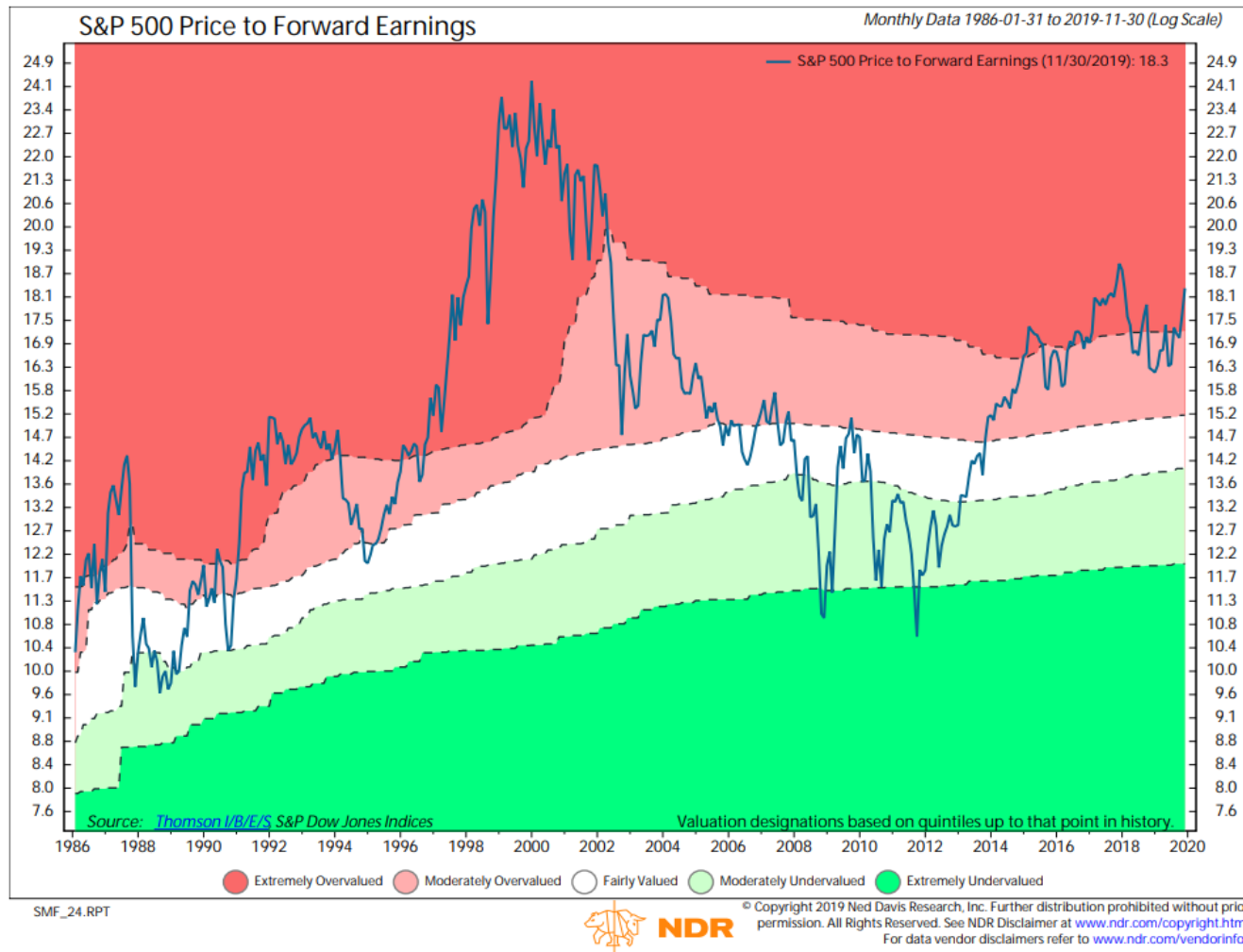
*Price gains in 2019 outpaced earnings growth, keeping valuations at elevated levels on a trailing basis.*

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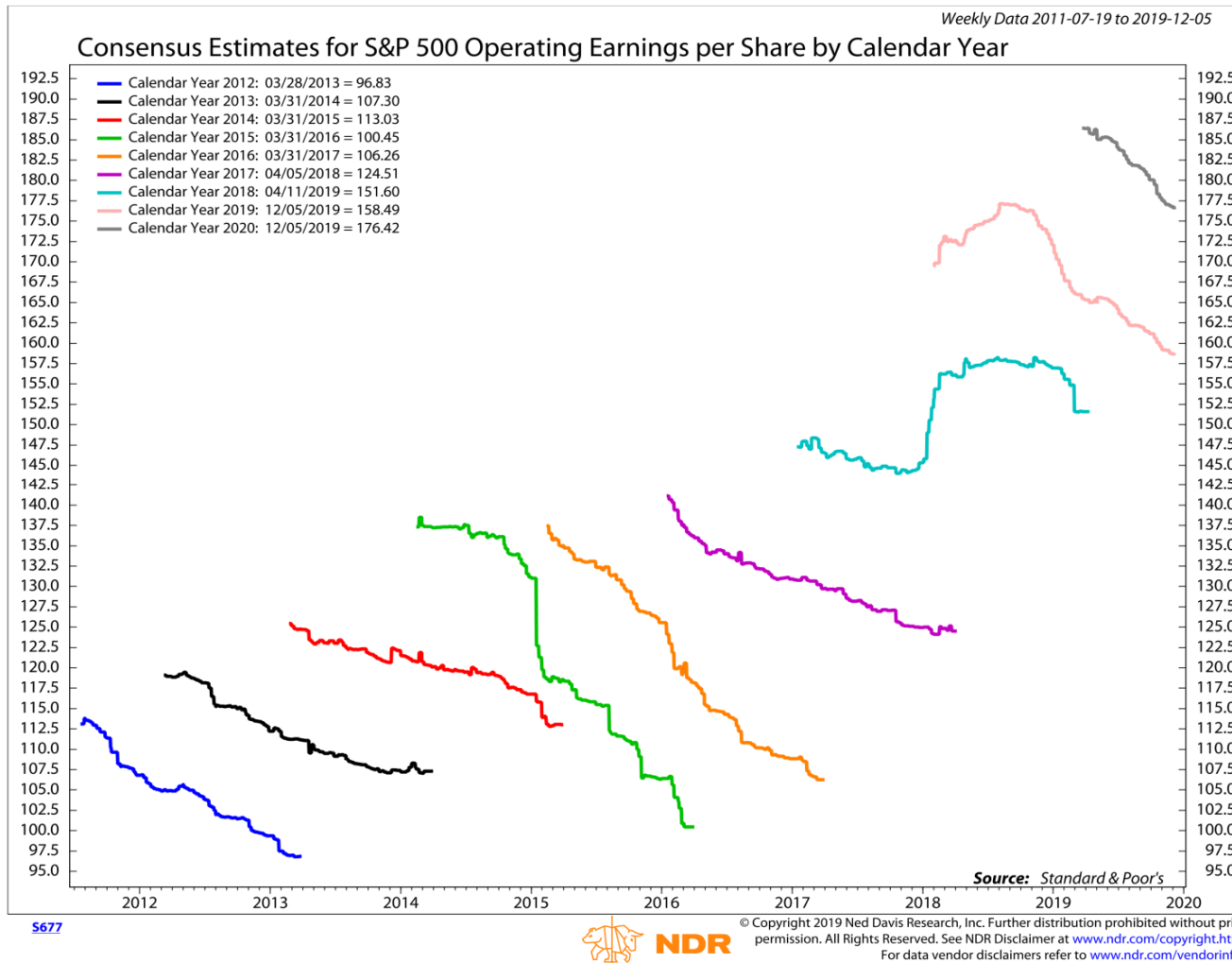
*Valuations are also stretched relative to forward earnings.*

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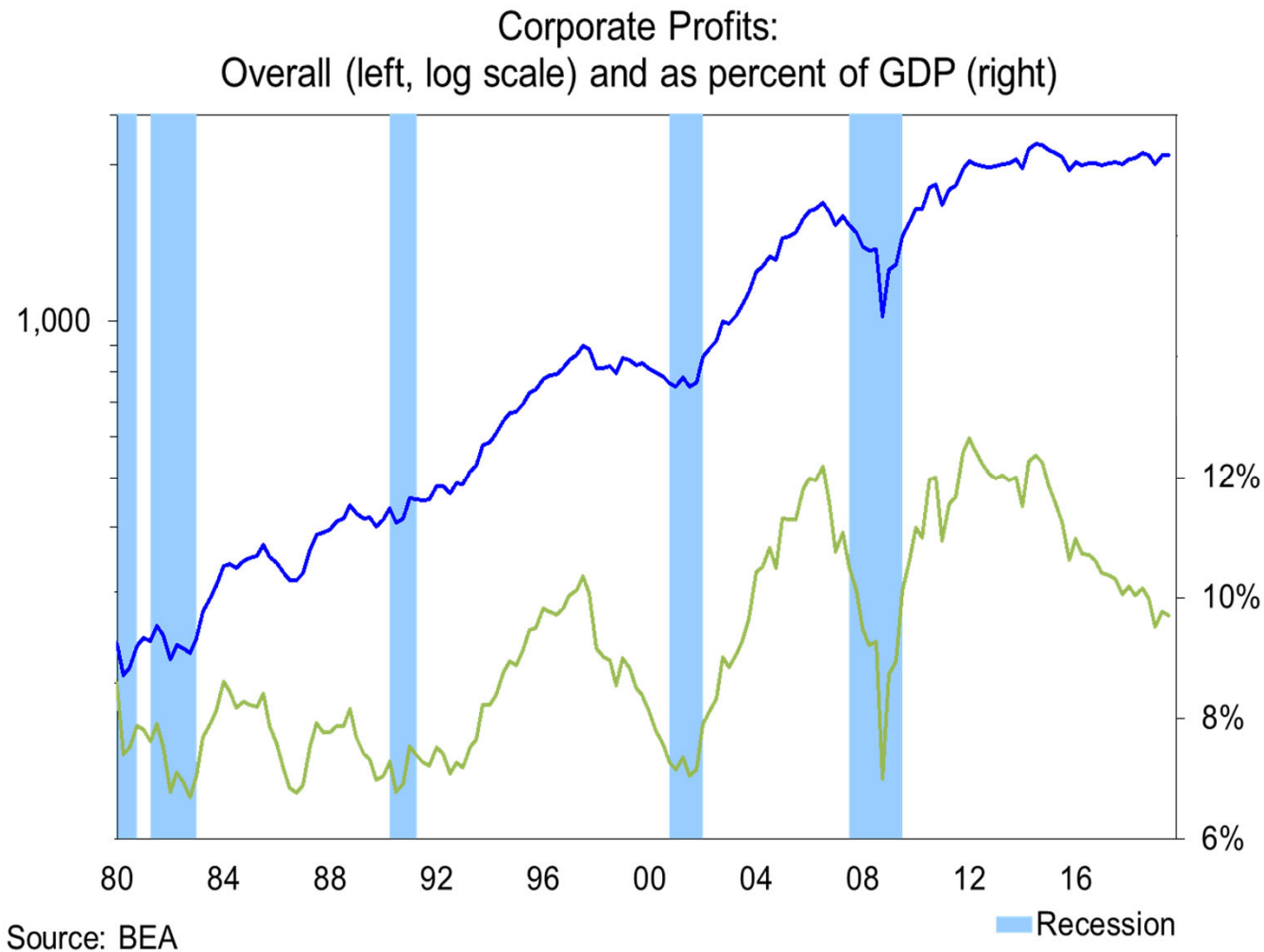
*Expectations tend to fall as the year progresses, but earnings growth is expected to rebound in 2020.*

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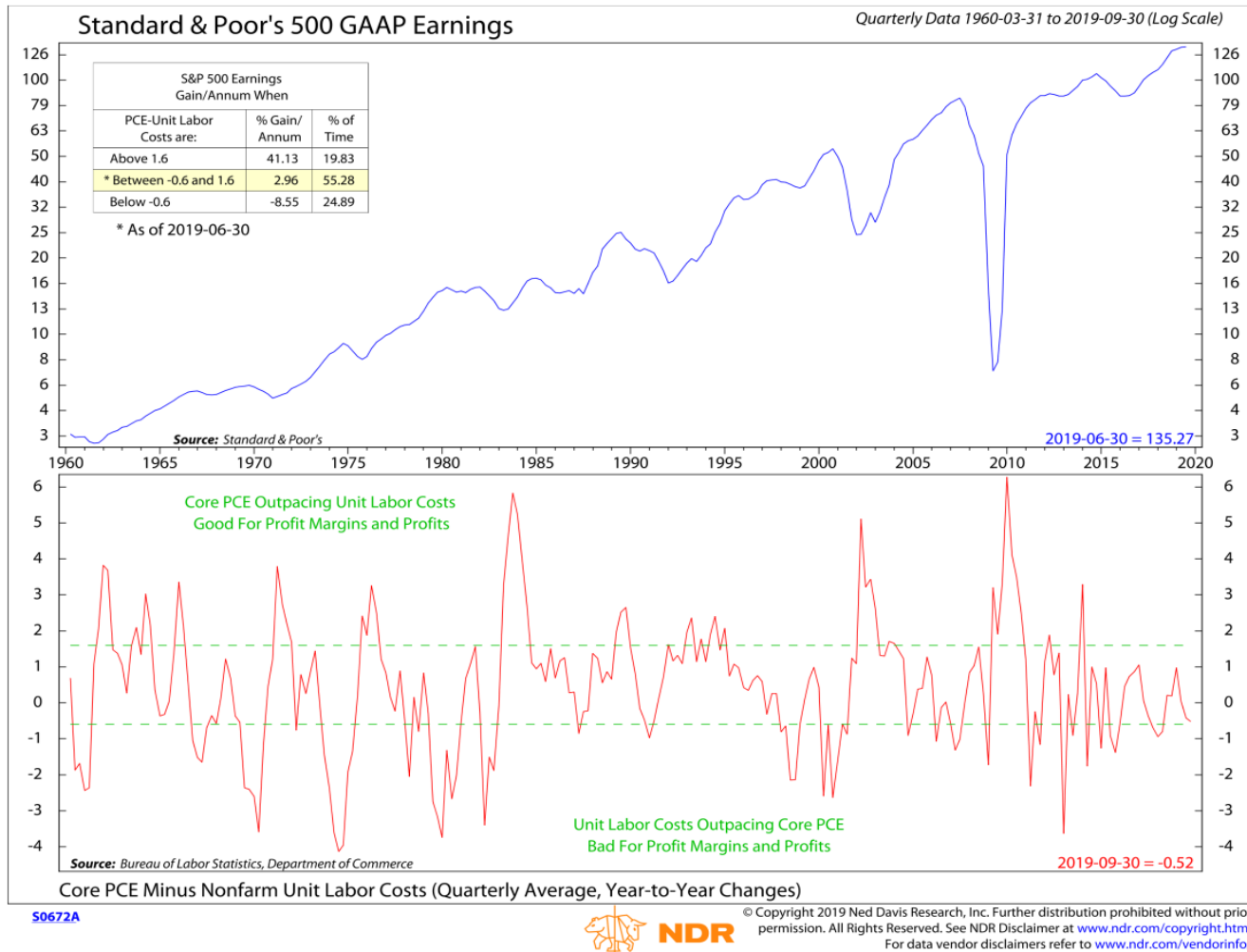
*As measured in the GDP data, corporate profits have not risen in 5 years while margins have deteriorated.*

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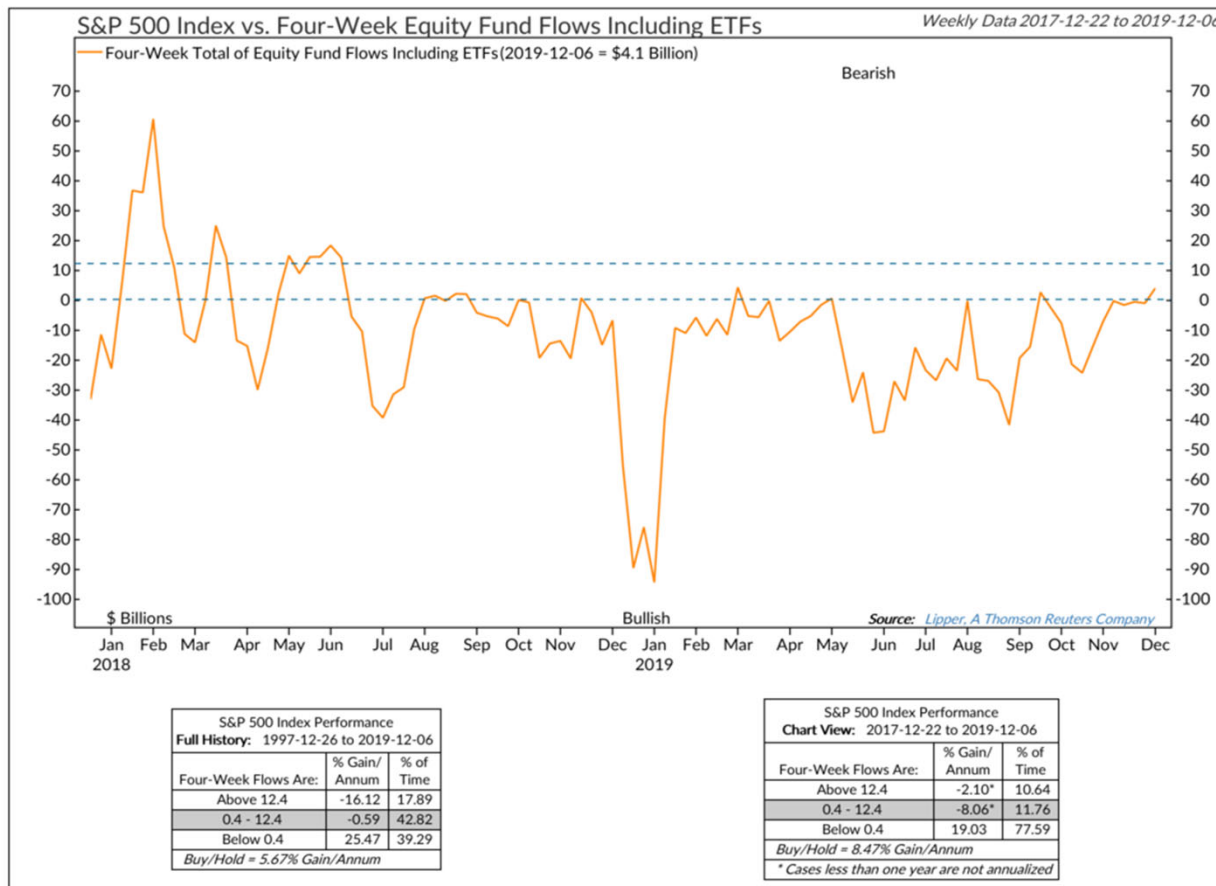
*Labor costs outpacing inflation tends to weigh on earnings growth.*

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*The latest fund flow data suggest recent investor skepticism may be fading.*

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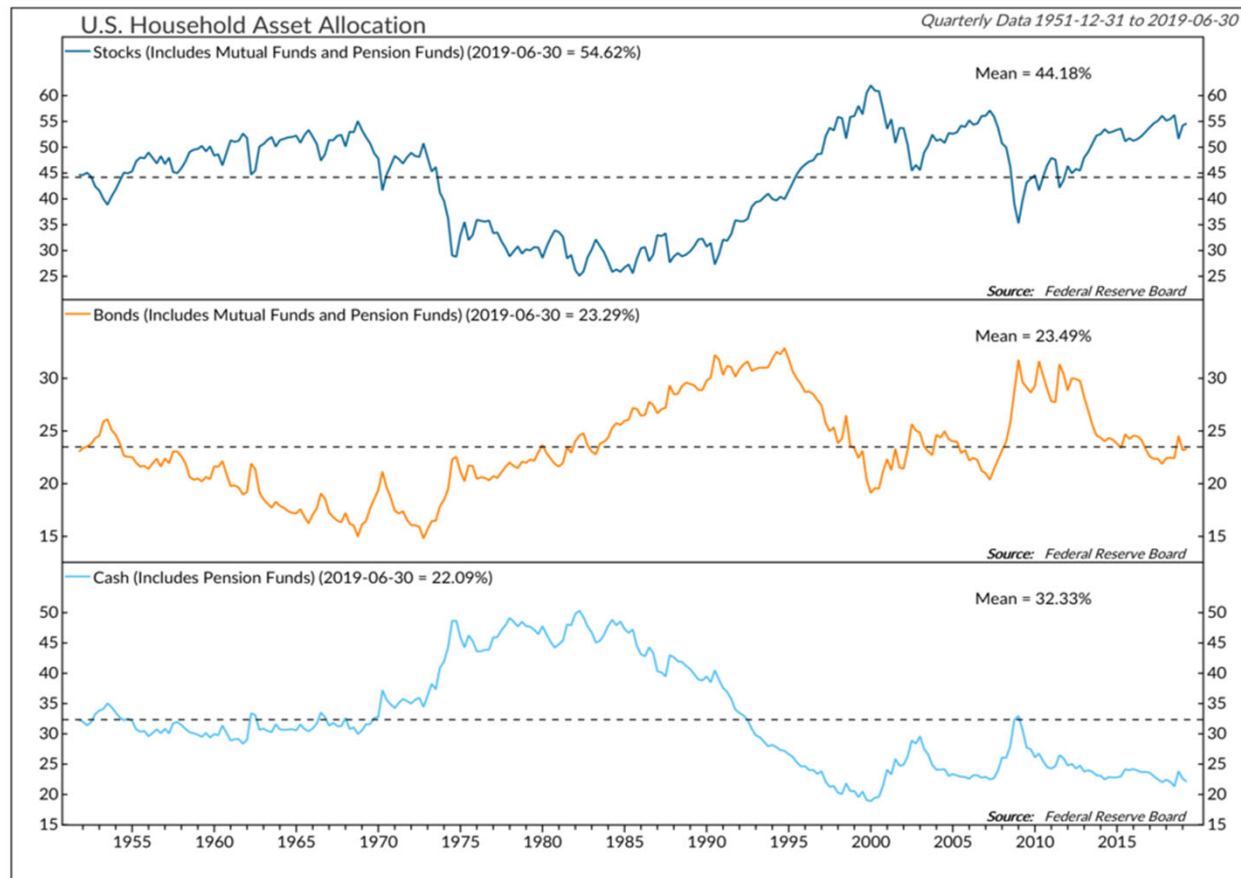
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*After a decade of gains, elevated household exposure to equities reflects a deep-seated complacency.*

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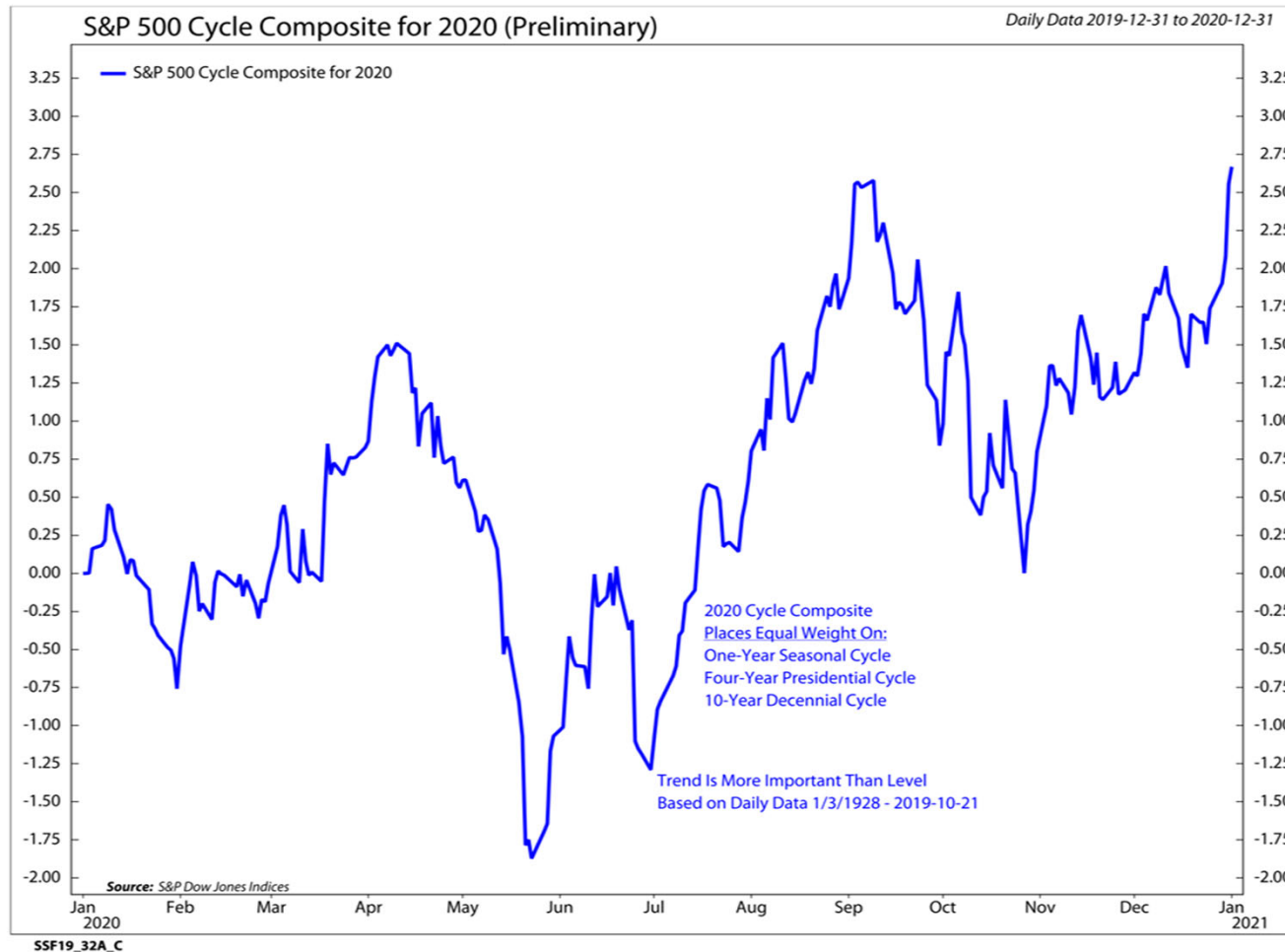
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*If seasonal patterns hold, election uncertainty could add to volatility but not derail cyclical strength.*

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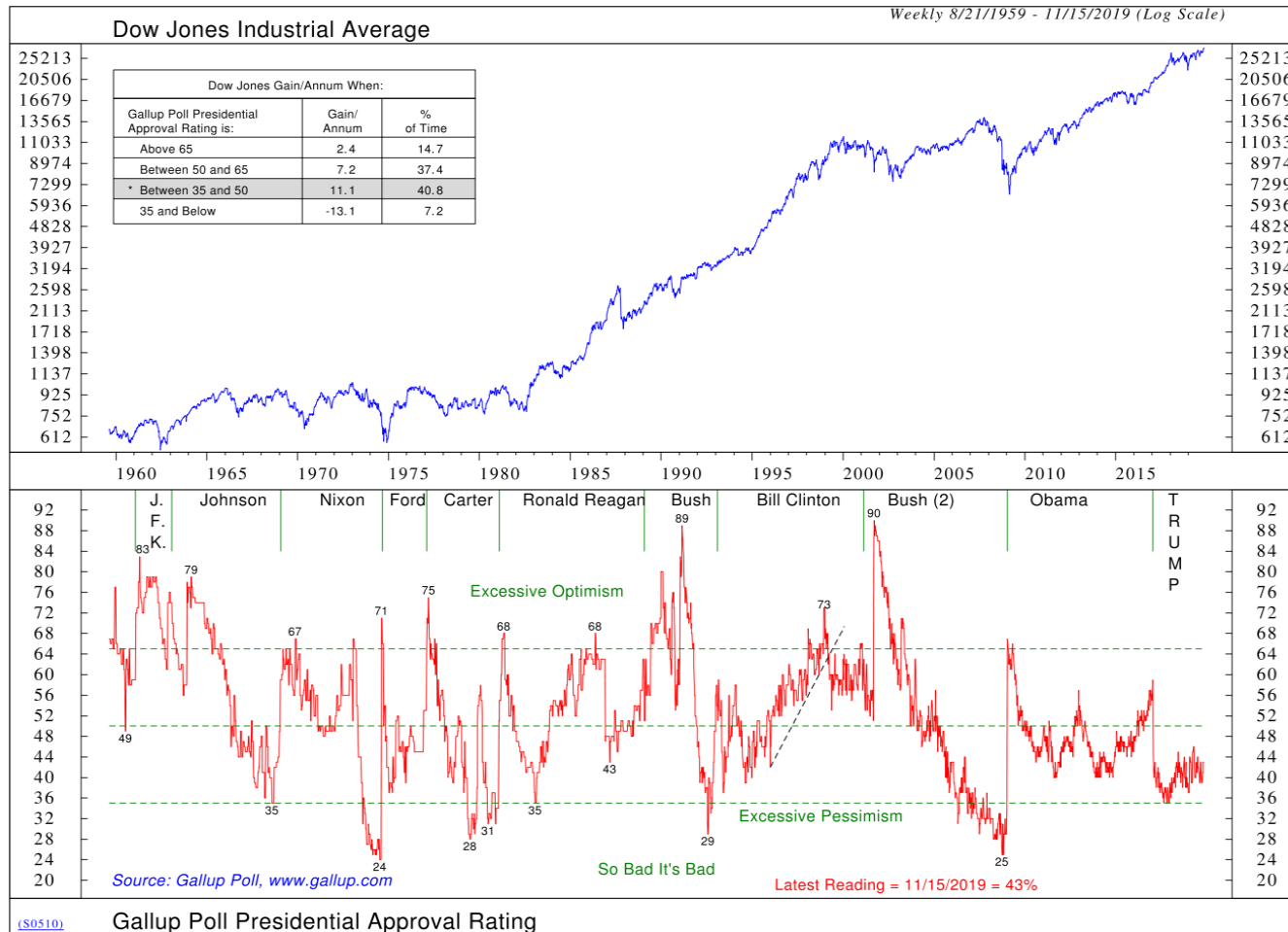


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*If President Trump's approval rating holds steady, impeachment is likely to be more noise than news.*

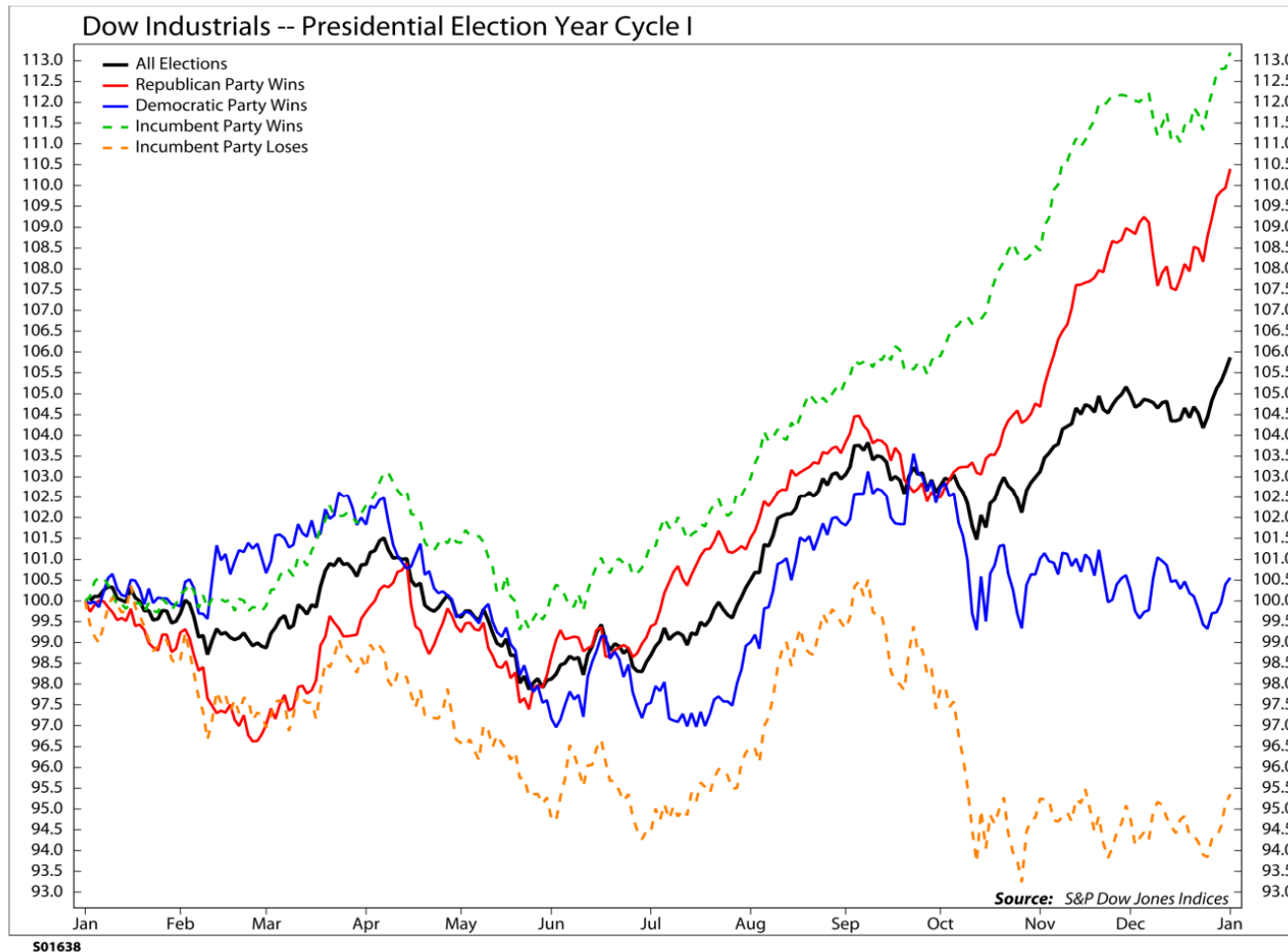
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*Stocks have tended to rally in advance of incumbent party victories in Presidential elections.*

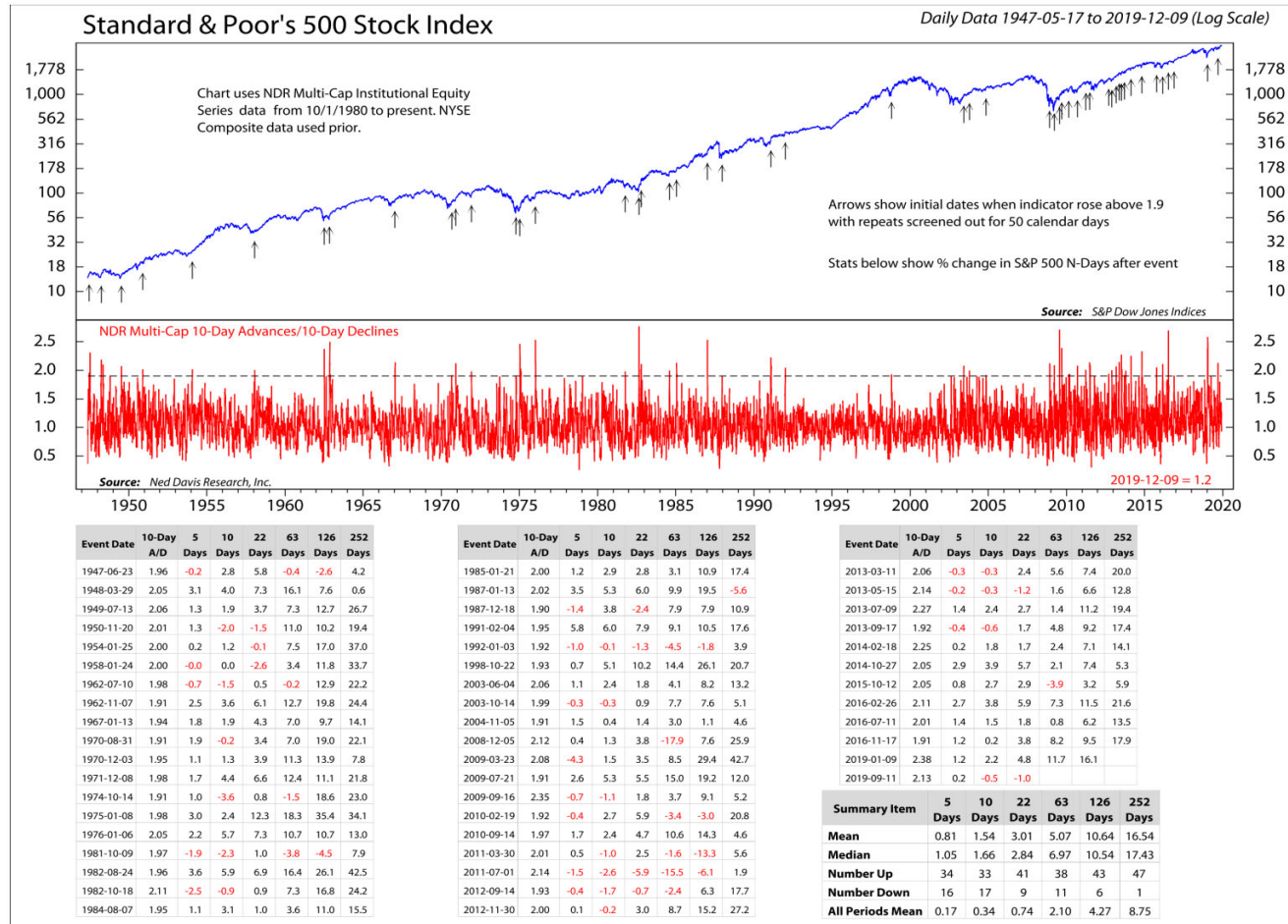
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# Breadth thrusts in early 2019 spelled an end to late-2018 weakness and have helped sustain the rally.

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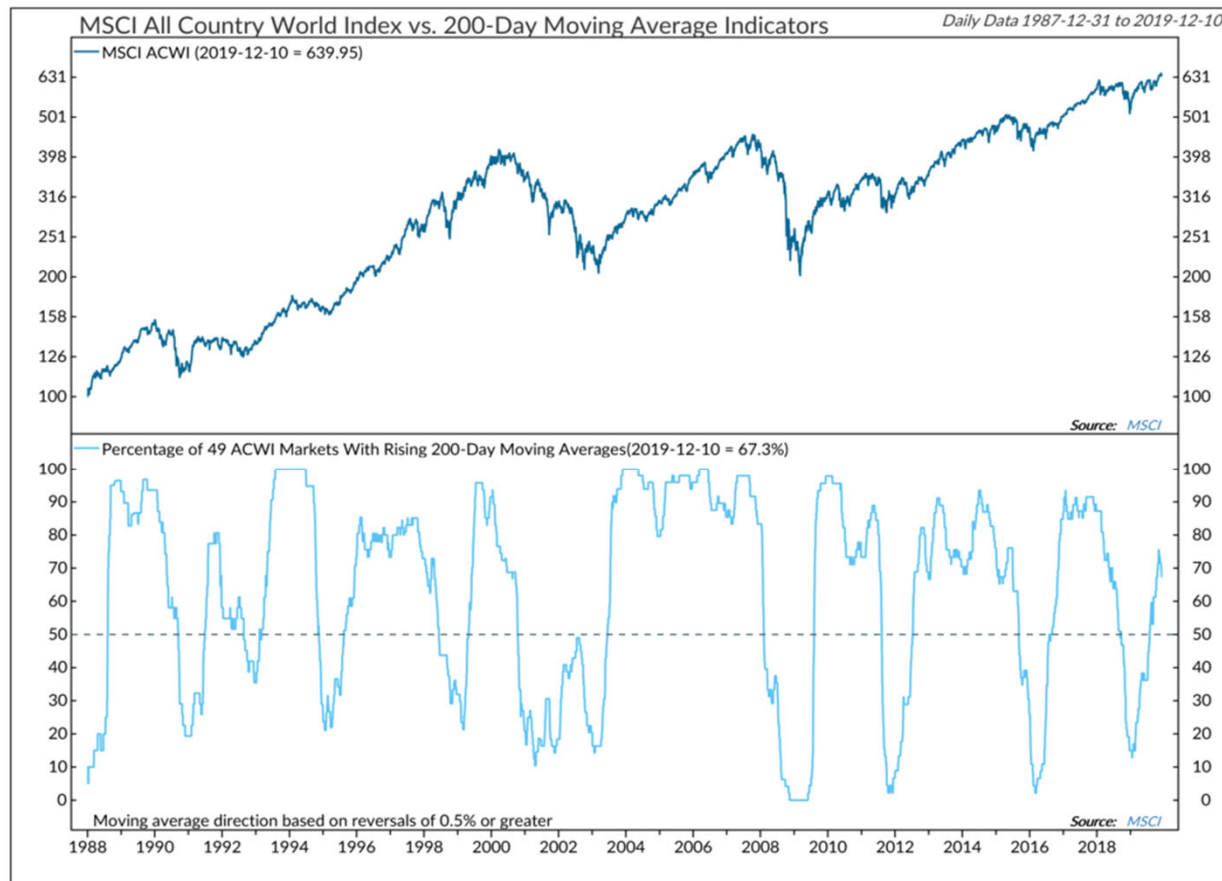


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*Rally participation has become a global trend – two-thirds of global markets have rising 200-day averages.*

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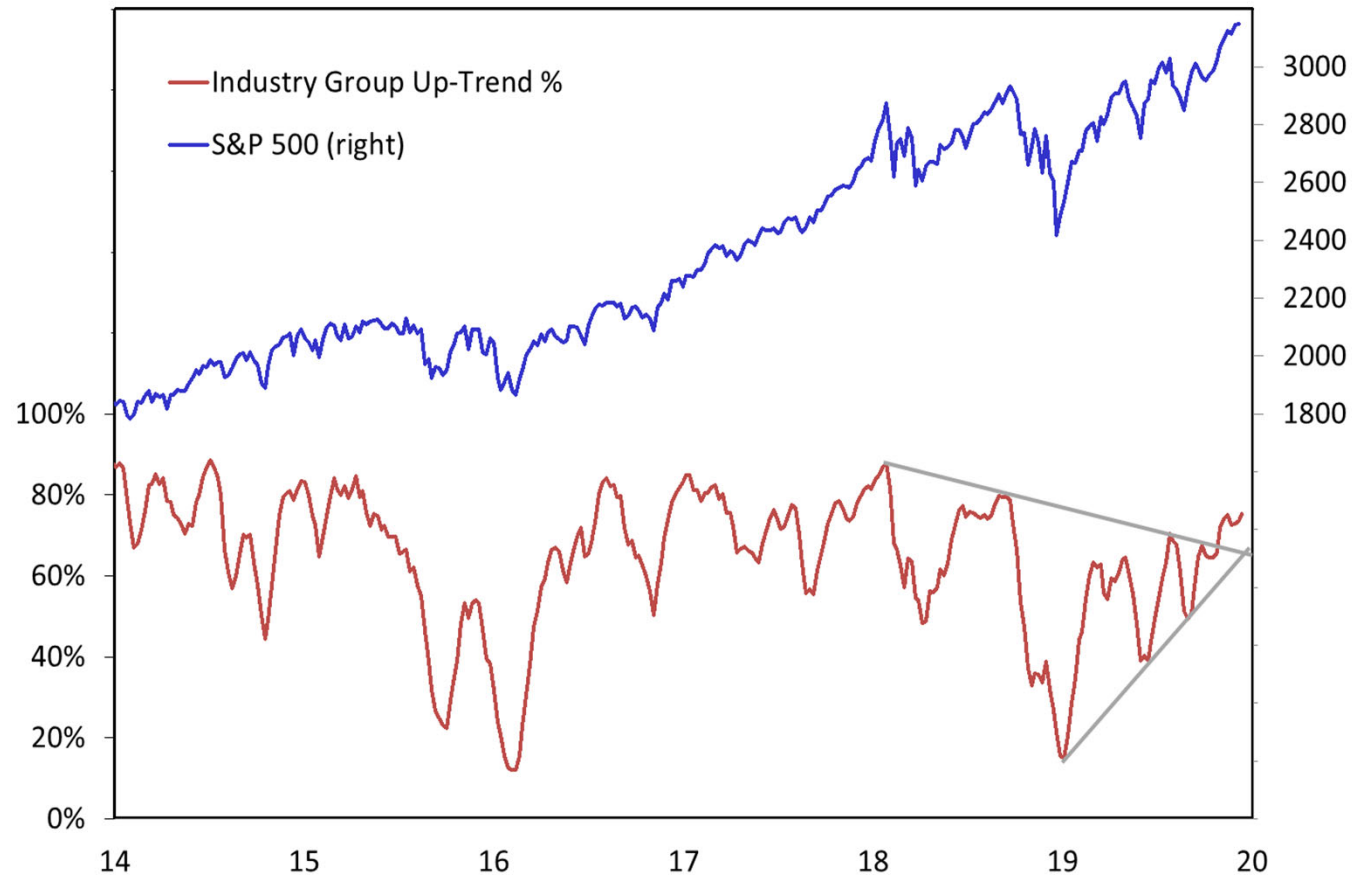


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*Domestics industry group trends have switched from making lower highs to making higher lows.*

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**S&P 500 and Industry Group Breadth**

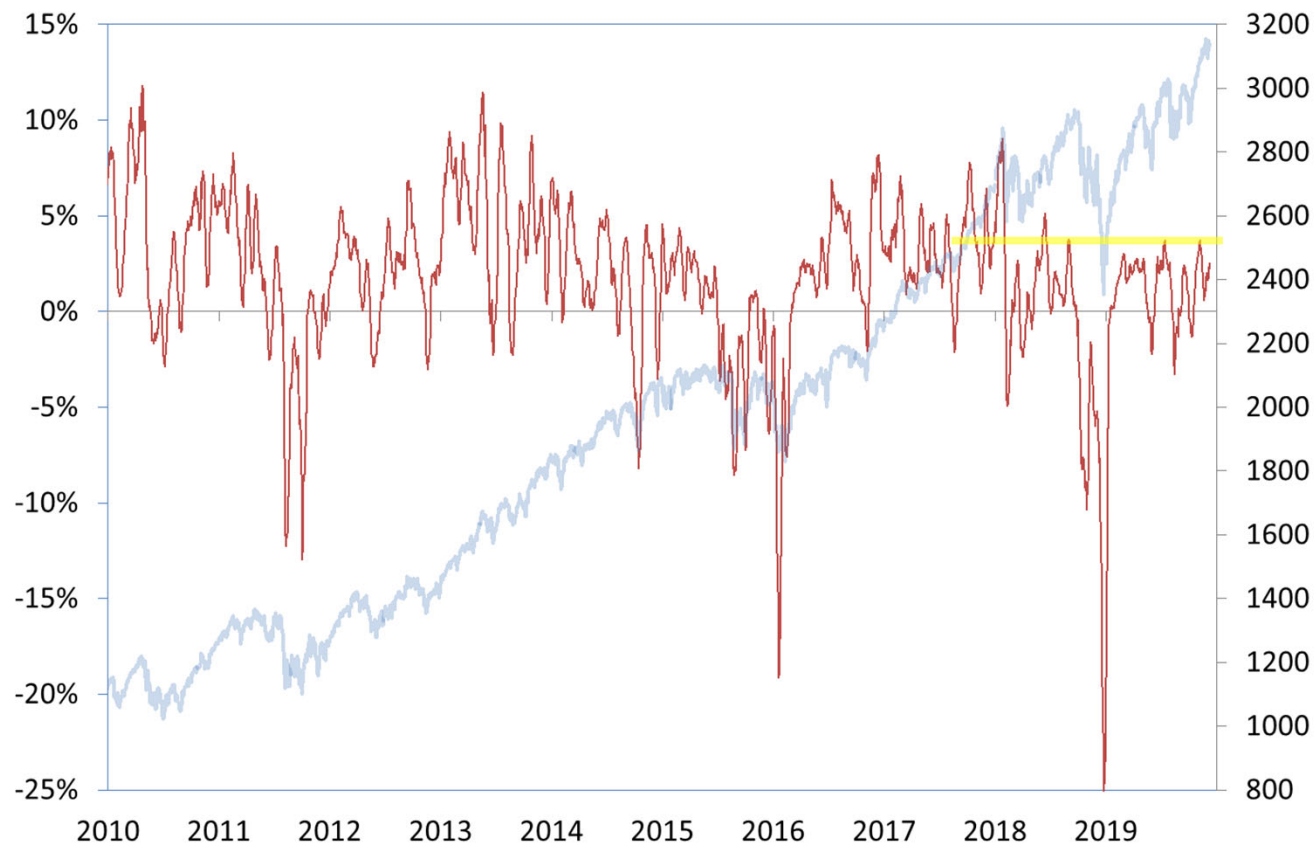


Source: FactSet, RWB Calculations

*New lows have faded, but the number of stocks making new highs leaves room for improvement.*

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**Breadth and S&P 500**



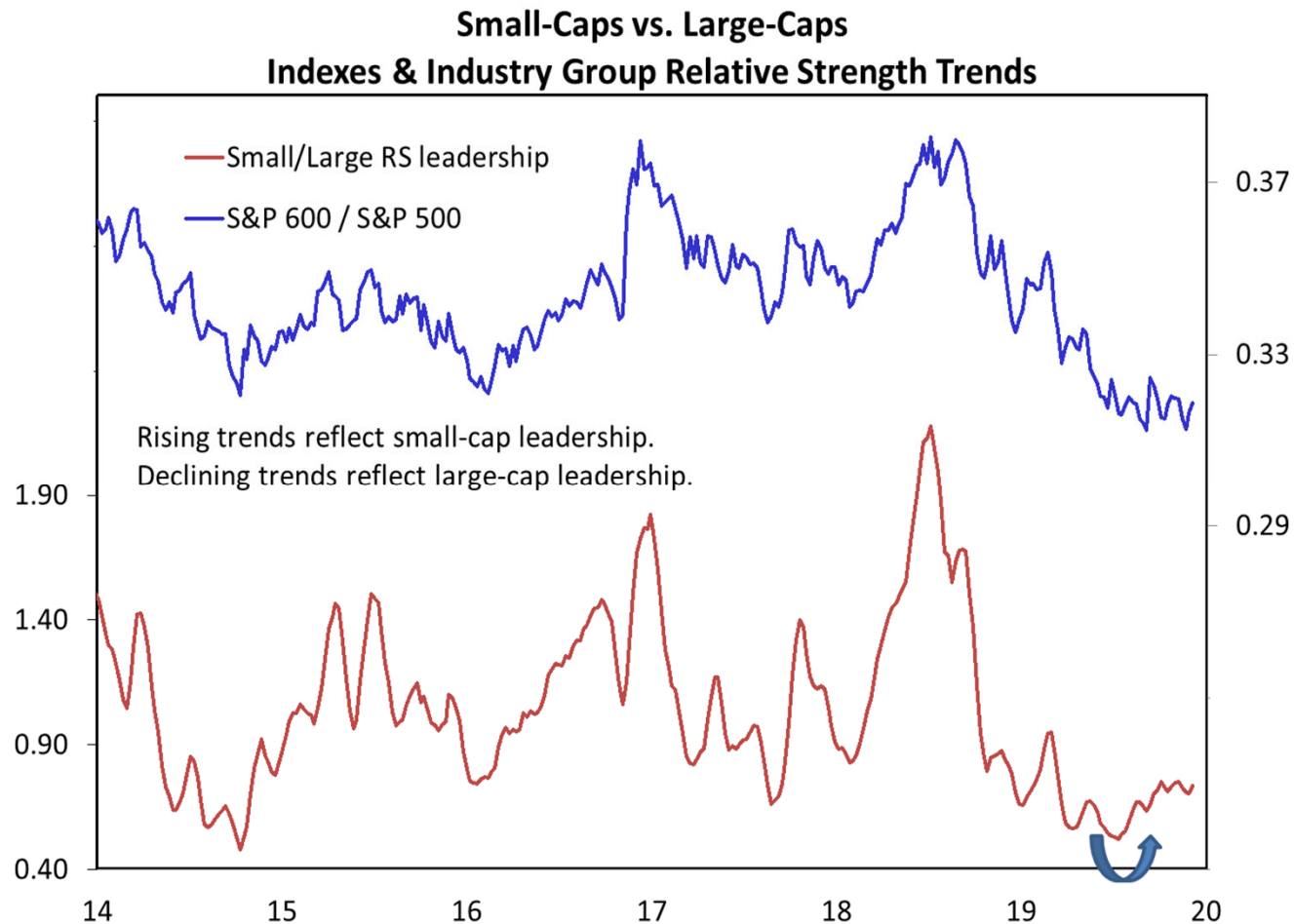
Source: Wall Street Journal

— 10-Day Total New Highs - New Lows

— S&P 500 (right)

*Industry group leadership is moving in the direction of small-cap strength.*

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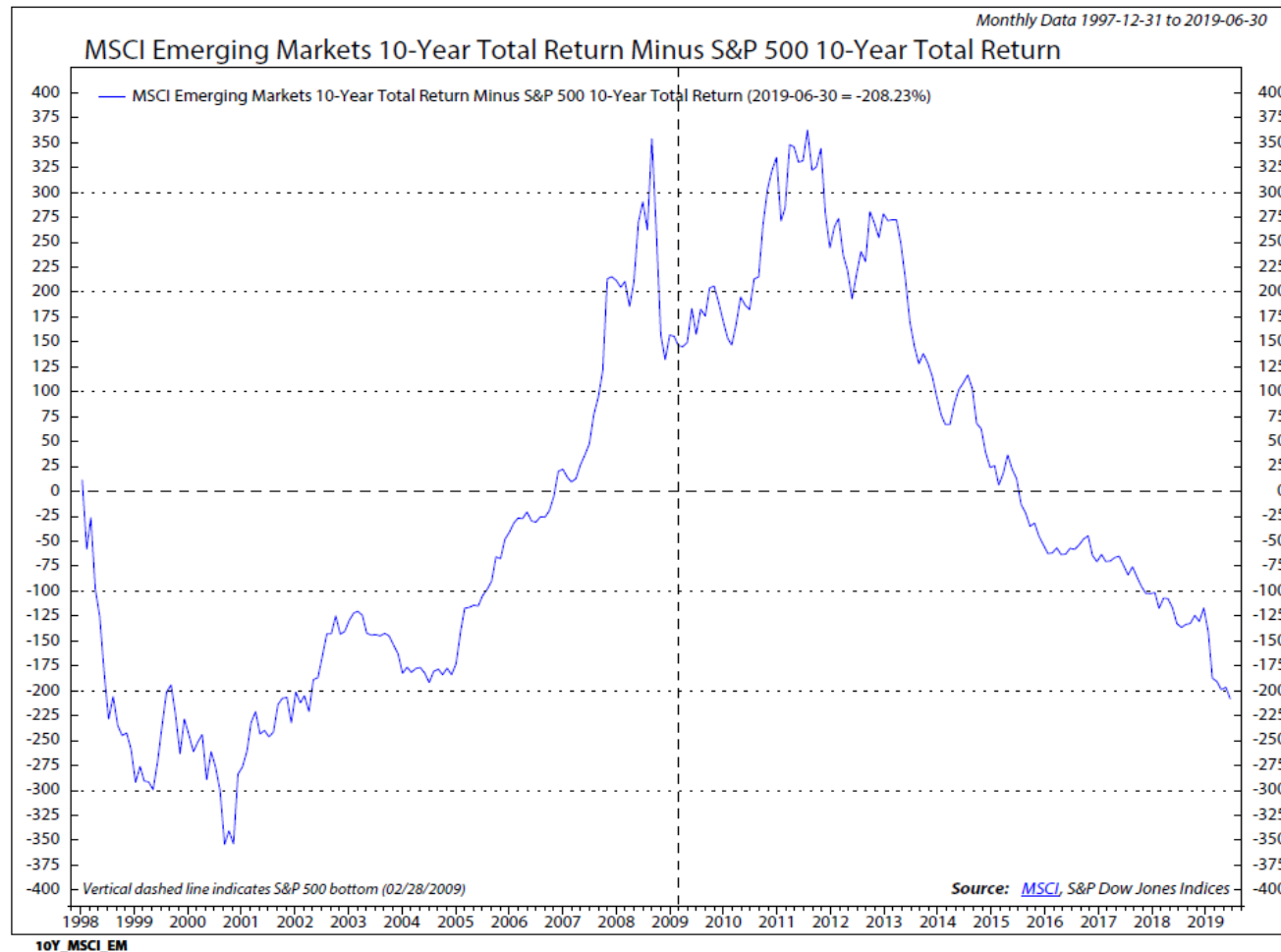


Source: FactSet, RWB Calculations



*Emerging markets have lost considerable ground to the S&P 500 over the past decade.*

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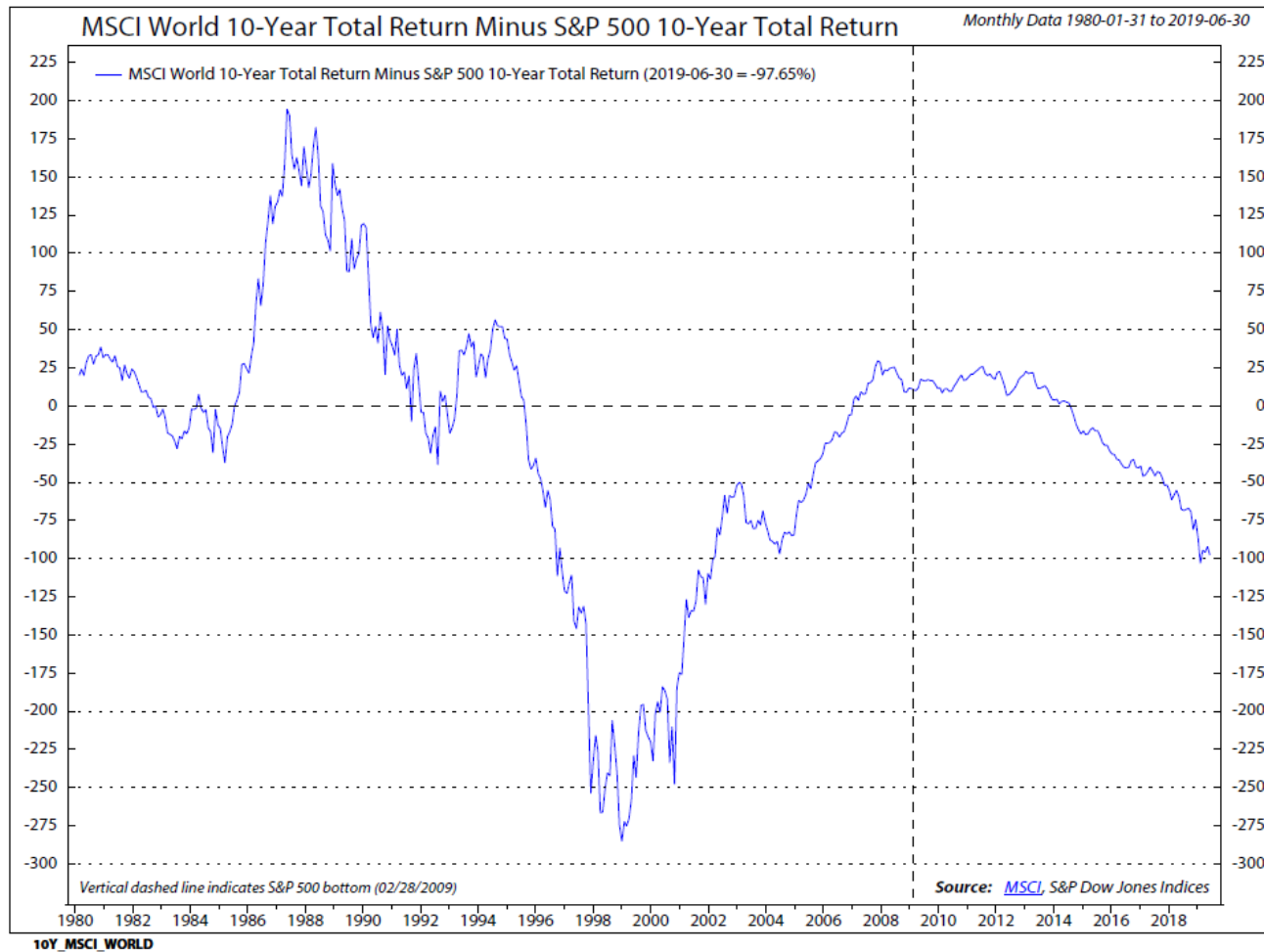


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*Gains in the S&P 500 over the past decade have not been matched by the rest of the world.*

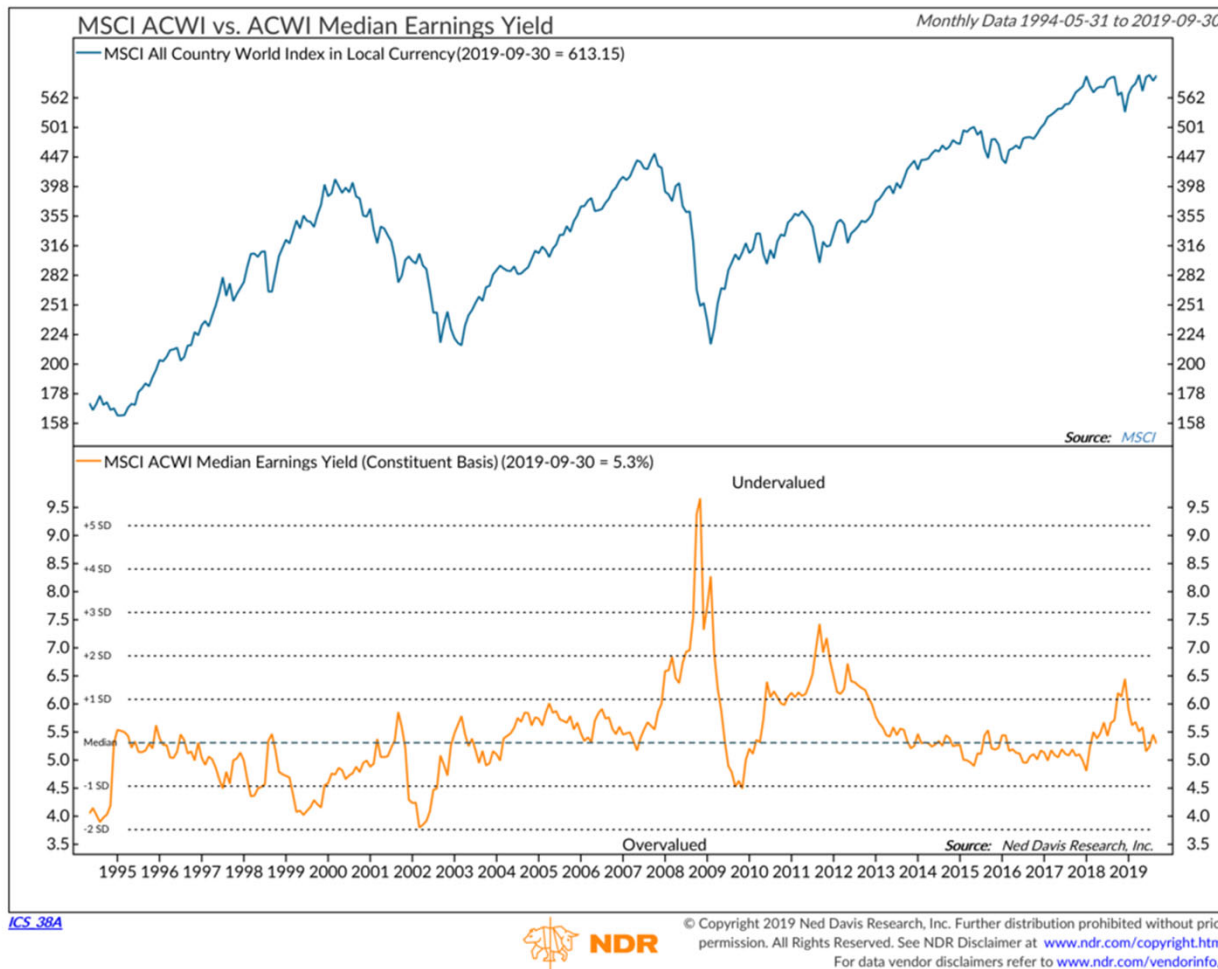
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*US valuations may be stretched, but global valuations appear less extreme.*

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