

Sevens Report Alpha Webinar: How Bad Is the Damage?

Thursday, April 2nd, 2020 Tom Essaye, President Sevens Report Research



Goals for today's webinar

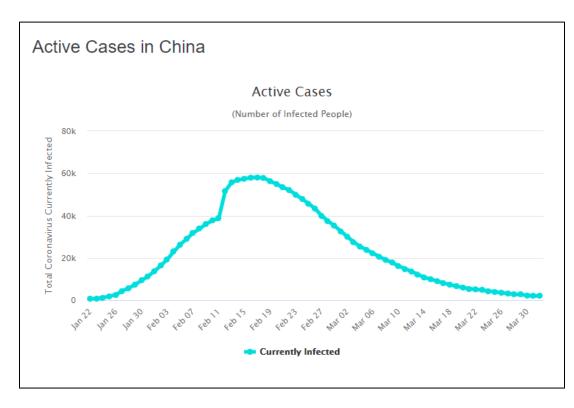
- Virus Numbers: Are there encouraging trends in the actual data?
- When Could This End? We'll revisit good/bad/ugly scenarios from the previous webinar in the context of the new data.
- Valuations: Are stocks cheap? It depends on our estimates for earnings and the economy.
- What Can Still Go Wrong? Continuing the "fire" analogy from Monday's Report, I'll talk about the one remaining "hot spot" in the markets.
- What additional Alpha strategies will take advantage of longer-term opportunities, assuming we avoid a long, protracted recession and bear market.

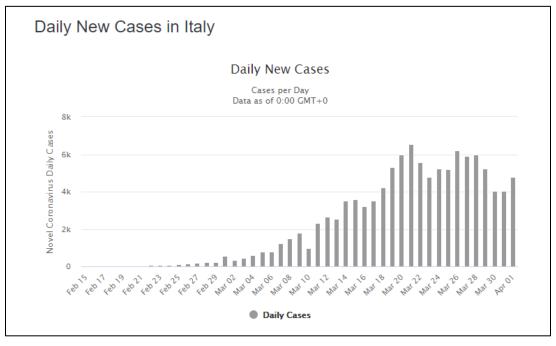


Virus Numbers: The Most Important Market Influence

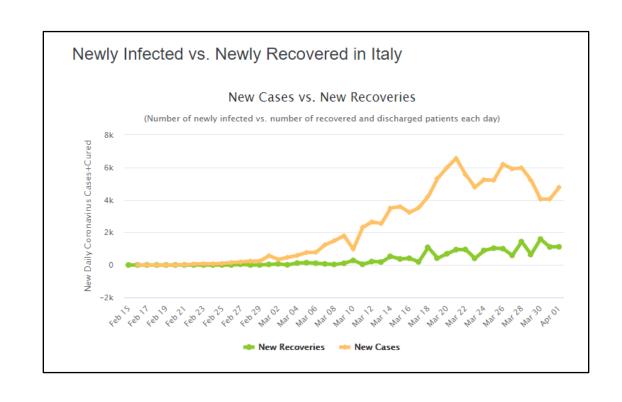


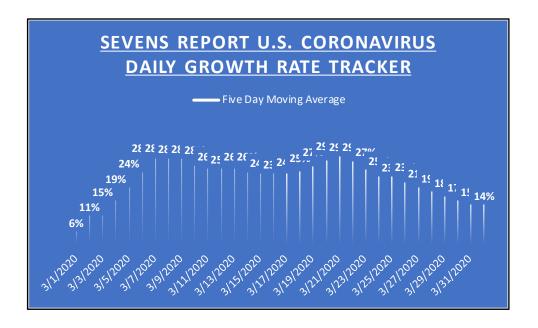
China and Italy As Examples



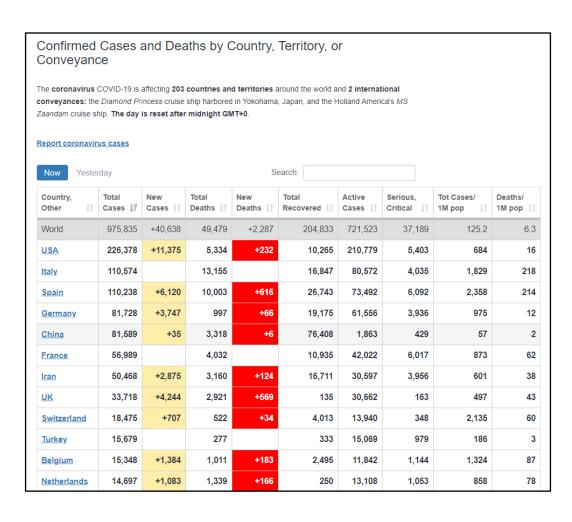


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Some Observations:

- China's economy is coming back online a little less than two months after peak virus (PMI > 50, Air traffic up 20% m/m).
- The U.S. virus growth rate is widely believed to be 2-3 weeks behind Italy.
- Italy peaked around March 21st.
- Means U.S. will hopefully peak by April 12th (consistent with administration estimates).
- Using China as a model, economy back on-line by mid-June.



Once Markets Are Stable, Then Focus Can Turn Back Towards Coronavirus and It's Economic Impact (Written March 16th)

- Three Scenarios (from MS):
 - Good: U.S. outbreak peaks at 30k cases within April. So, peak growth occurs
 over the next two weeks.
 - Average (Now Good): Peak growth occurs over the next month and U.S. cases move past China and into the 100's of thousands.
 - Bad: Containment doesn't really occur and the virus continues to spread through the summer, and hope then turns towards the pharmaceuticals to develop a vaccine or a treatment.



<u>Current Market Set Up – I'm Still Comfortable With This.</u>

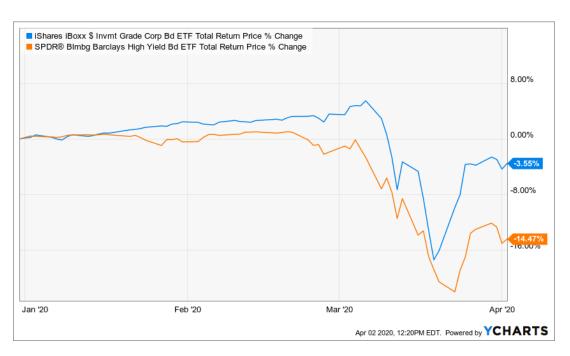
S&P 500 Valuation Matrix (3/16/2020)			
(2020/2021 Blended Earnings)	Long Recession (Not Done By End of Q3)	Done By End of Q3 (Recession)	Done By End of Q2 (Temporary Shock)
	14X	15X	17X
160	2240	2400	2720
165	2310	2475	2805
167.50	2345	2513	2848
170	2380	2550	2890

- Still largely comfortable with this valuation.
- But, as I mentioned in yesterday's Sevens Report, I think we need to look at EPS as blended between 2020 and 2021, at least through the summer.



What Could Still Go Wrong?

There's Been Important Progress in Corporate Bonds (LQD & JNK)



But Mortgages Need to be Watched (ETFs: MBB & CMBS).





Reasons to Be Optimistic: When This Is Over (and it will end) What Sectors Will Get Long Term Tailwinds?

- Reasons to be Optimistic:
 - A lot of negativity already priced in.
 - Viruses are temporary.
 - Government is involved.
 - Enormous global stimulus being thrown at the problem.
 - No bank liquidity issues like in 2008.
 - But, at least temporary slowdown now likely.

- Broad-based Sectors:
 - Tech (Secular Growth)
 - Financials (Steepening Curve)
 - Energy (Generational Values?)
- More Specific Ideas:
 - Wellness Industries/Healthcare.
 - Mobility As A Service (Uber Eats, etc.).
 - Cord Cutting (Good for Content Producers).
 - Work from Home/Video-Conferencing.
 - Easy Online Payment (Small biz)
 - Dollar stores (DG)/Recession names.