#### NORTHERN TRUST GLOBAL ECONOMIC RESEARCH



#### Still Searching for a New Normal The Outlook for Consumers and Banking

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, December 2014

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Northern Trust



Spending power has grown

Themes

- Leverage is under better control
- Progress has, however, been very uneven
  - The distribution of income and wealth has become more skewed
- Bank positions and performance are sound
  - The influence of low interest rates and regulation are visible
  - Lending standards are easier, but not overly easy
- New laws are addressing "Too Big to Fail"
  - Dodd-Frank has its strong points





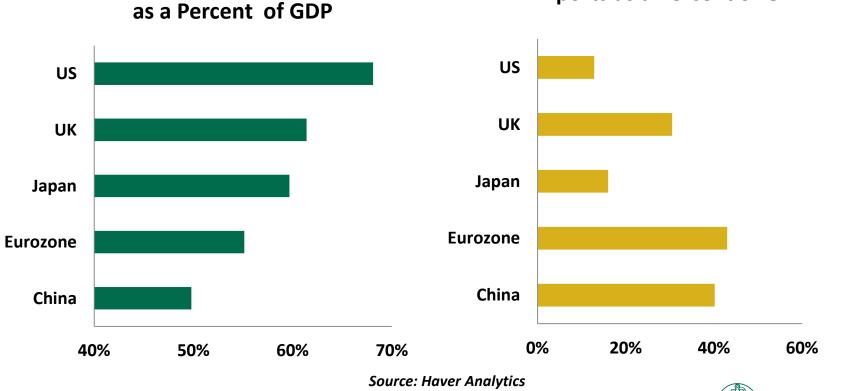
# **Spending Trends**



## **Still the Consumer of Last Resort**

**Consumer Spending** 

#### American spending remains critical to international economic performance



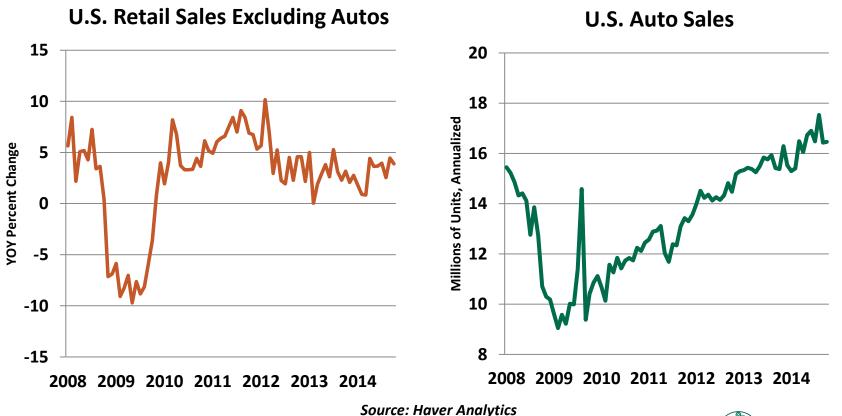
Exports as a Percent of GDP

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#### **Recent U.S. Consumption Trends**

- Retail gains have been centered at 4% annually
- Auto sales have moved ahead nicely

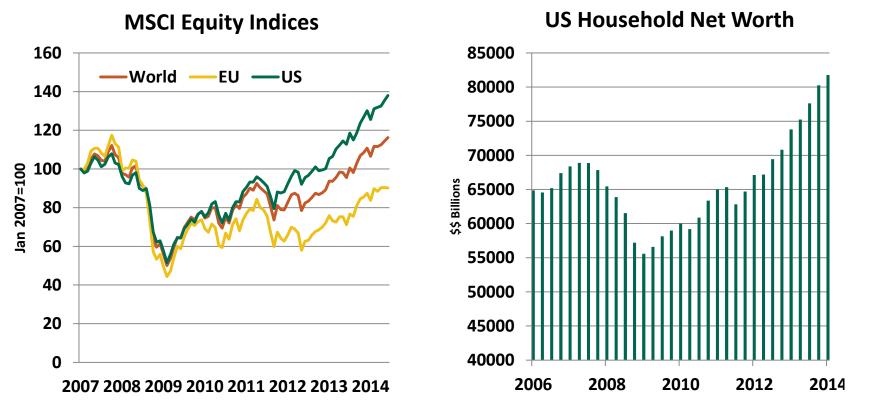




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### **Wealth Restoration**

- Equity markets have enriched those who own stocks
- New wealth spurs spending



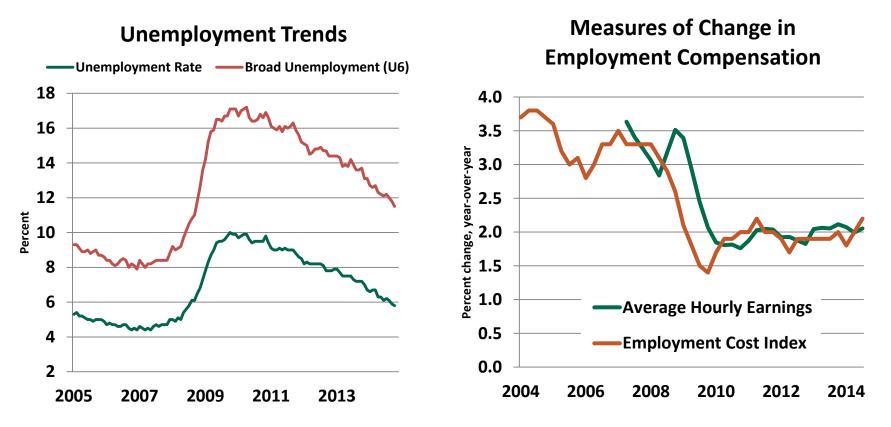
Sources: Bloomberg, Federal Reserve



# **U.S. Unemployment**

Joblessness has fallen sharply in the last two years

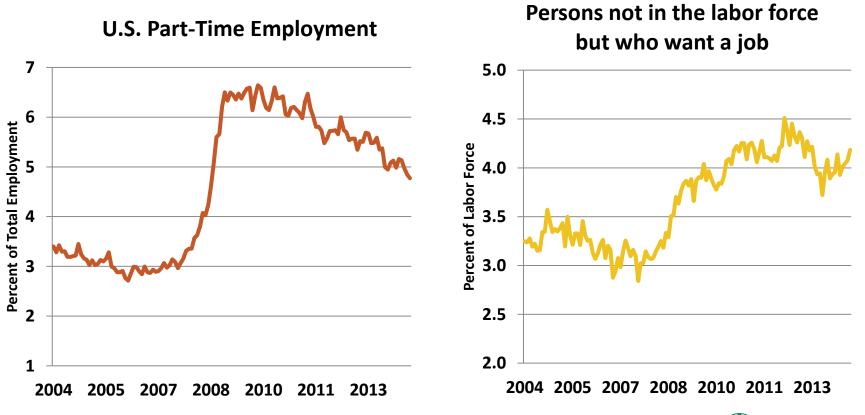
Little improvement in wage growth



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bloomberg, Haver Analytics



- Part-time work is still elevated
- Some potential to boost labor force participation



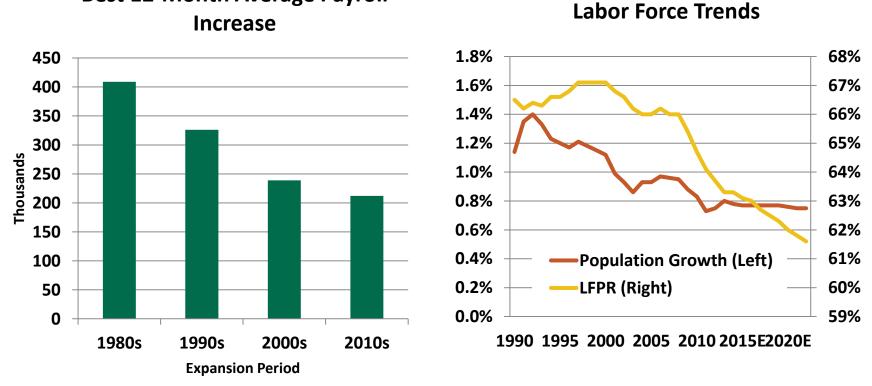
Source: Haver Analytics

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#### **Not Your Father's Expansion**

**Best 12-Month Average Payroll** 

 Demographics are having a significant impact on the labor markets

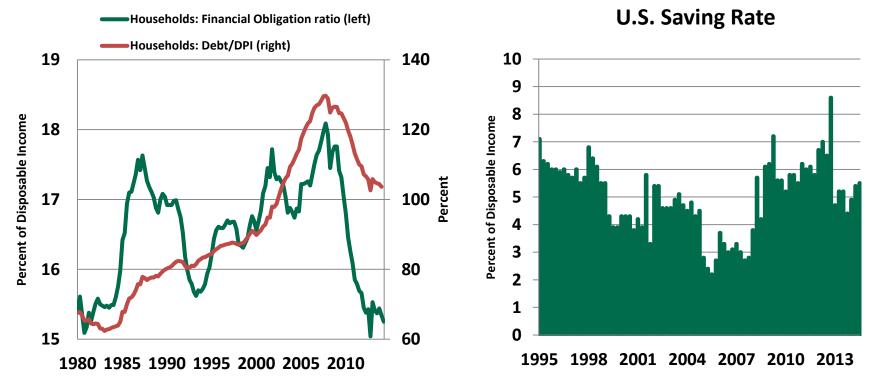


Sources: Bloomberg, Census Bureau, BLS



#### **Progress on Deleveraging**

- Debt and debt service are at multiyear lows
- Saving rates have increased



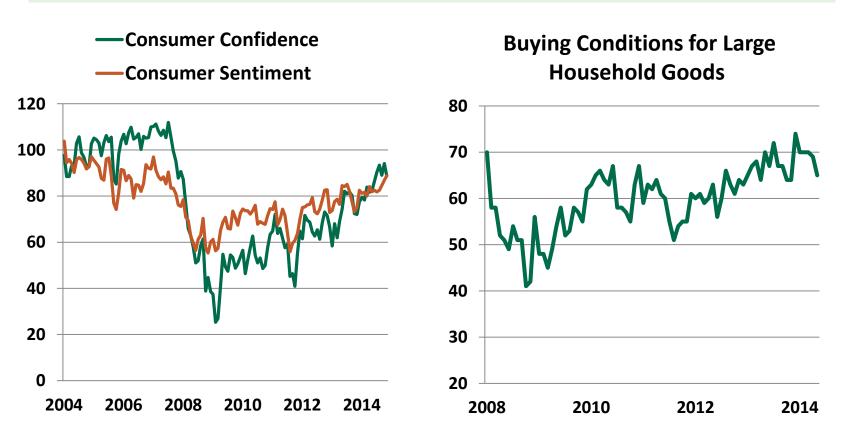
**U.S. Debt Trends** 

Sources: Federal Reserve, Bloomberg, Haver Analytics



#### **Consumer Attitudes**

#### Surveys suggest an improving outlook

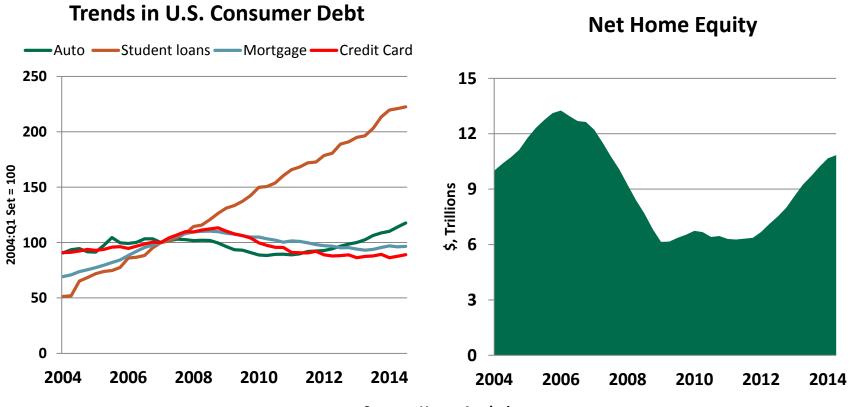


Sources: Haver Analytics, University of Michigan Survey



# **Use of Credit**

- Student loans are the only category which has grown meaningfully
- Home equity is no longer a "piggy bank"

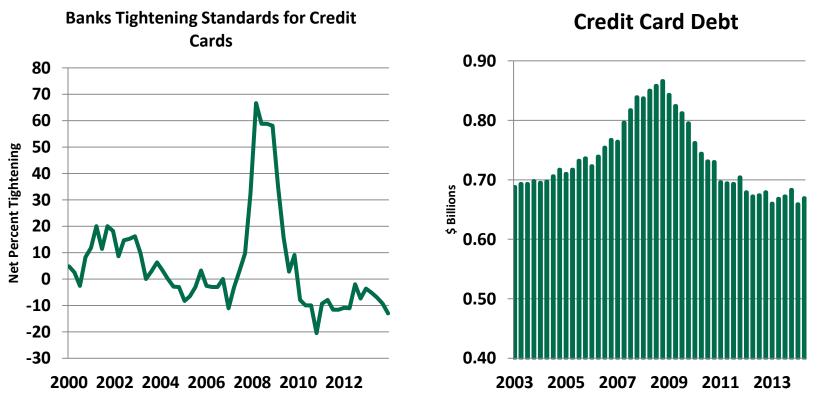


Source: Haver Analytics



### **Credit Card Trends**

- Standards have become more accommodative
- Households seem reluctant to take advantage



Source: Federal Reserve



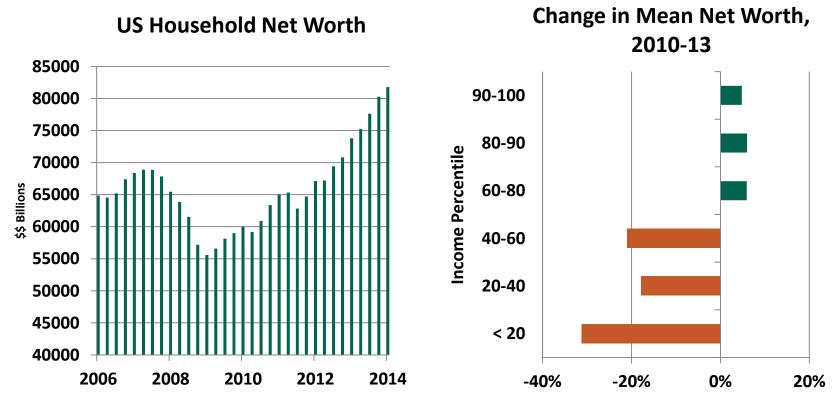


# **Divergence of Fortune**



#### Wealth Gains

Those with the greatest equity exposure have profited the most in recent years

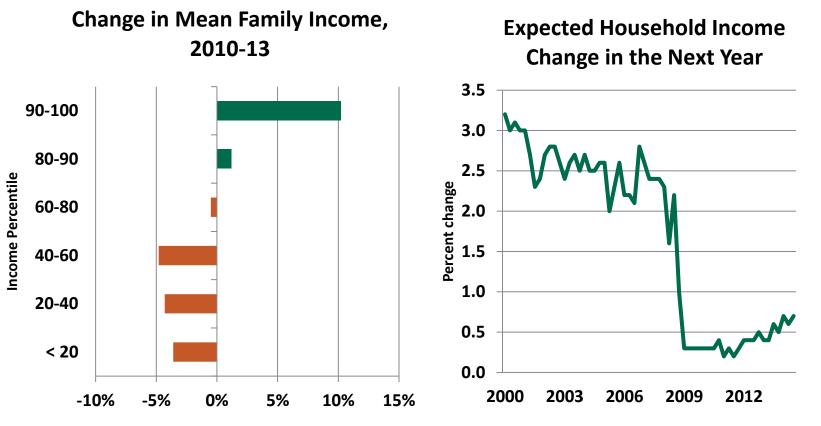


Sources: Bloomberg, Federal Reserve



#### **Income Growth and Expectations**

- Only the uppermost deciles have gained
- Moderation in outlook could affect spending trends

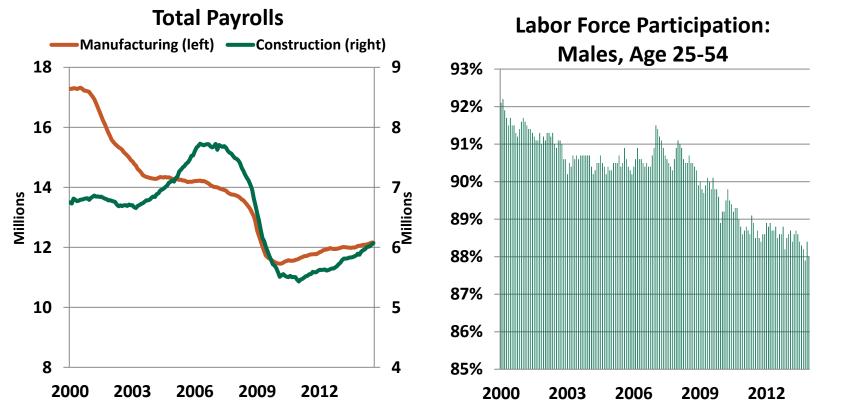


Sources: Federal Reserve, University of Michigan



#### **One Angle on Unemployment**

- Decomposing trends by age and education is key
- Those with less than a college degree have fared worst

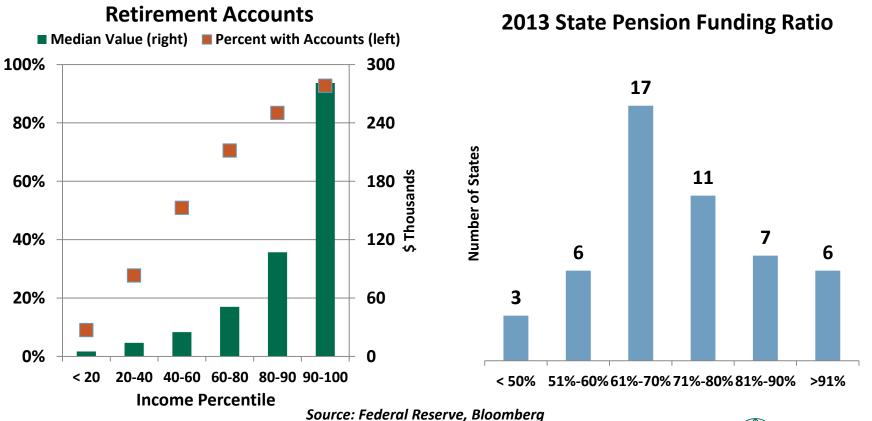


Sources: Haver Analytics, BLS



## **Ready for Retirement?**

- Many households remain underprepared
- Will public pensions be honored in full?



- In aggregate, organic sources of income provide reasonable support for spending
- Attitudes towards leverage have not approached pre-crisis levels
- The income distribution affects how much people buy, and what they buy
- Many households still have work to do to get ready for retirement



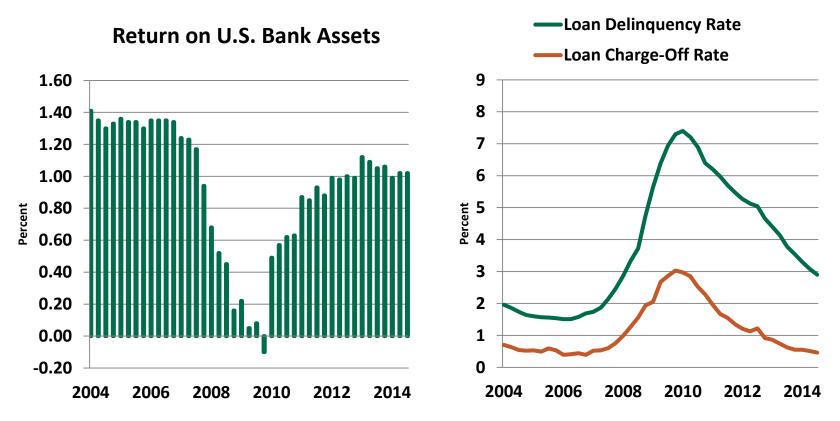


# **Bank Performance**



### **U.S. Bank Performance**

- Profitability limited by low interest rates, compliance costs
- Loan quality is excellent

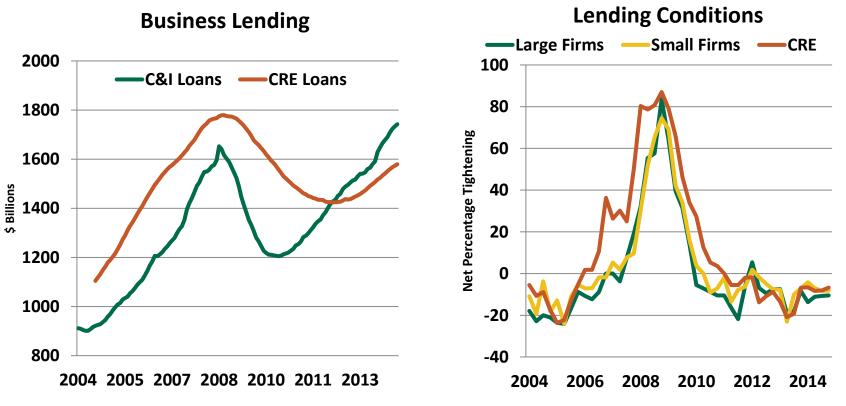


Sources: Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, Haver Analytics



# **U.S. Lending Trends**

- Solid growth in corporate lending
- Standards have eased somewhat in the last two years

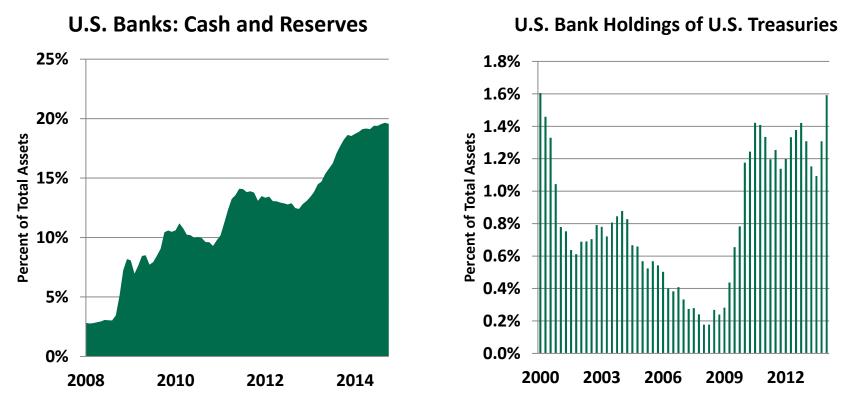


Source: Haver Analytics



#### **Balance Sheet Conservatism**

- A lot of QE remains idle on bank balance sheets
- New liquidity rules require highly liquid assets

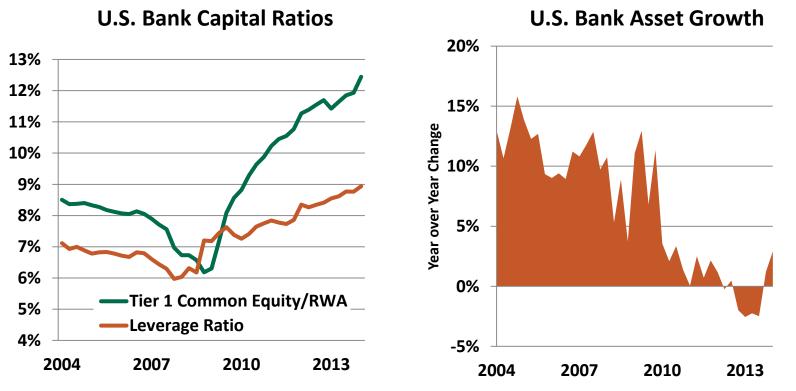


Sources: Federal Reserve, FDIC



## **Capital Accumulation**

 New standards and stress testing have brought significantly more capital into the industry



Sources: Federal Reserve, Haver Analytics

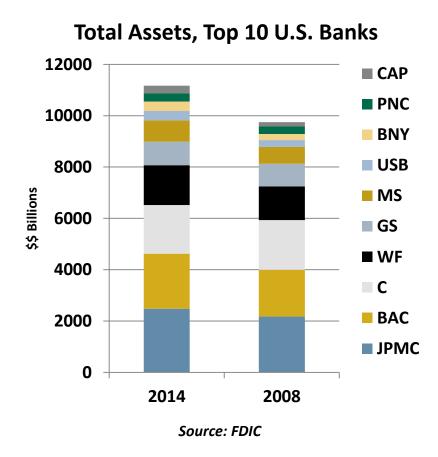


- Few think that the failure of a large bank could be resolved in an orderly way today
- Derided by many, the Dodd-Frank Act and new Basle rules have some very effective components
- We'll need to consider the unintended consequences of driving banks to be smaller



## How to Gauge "Bigness?"

Acquisitions and asset onboarding account for a good deal of the added concentration of total assets



#### Should we consider:

- Operational concentration (triparty repo, primary dealership, etc.)
- Dominance in a particular business line
- Interconnectedness

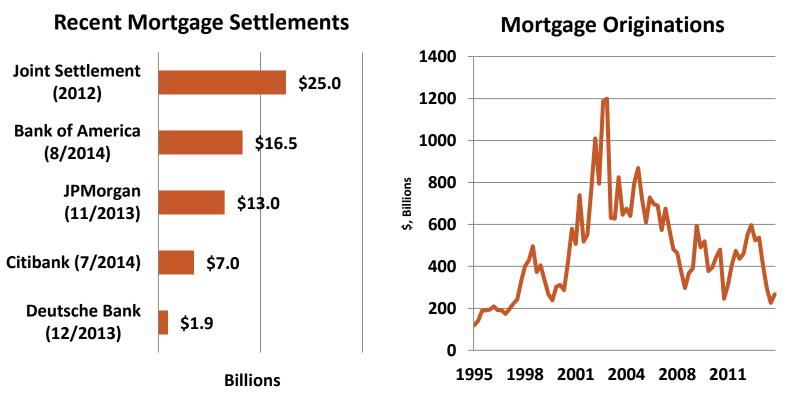


**Proposed Total Loss Proposed Leverage Requirements for Tier 1 Absorbing Capacity for G-SIFIs Common Equity Ratio Minima Convertible Debt** 10.0% Percent of Risk Weighted Assets Percent of Risk-Weighted Assets Percent of Total Assets **G-SIFI Surcharge** 2.5% **Core Capital Buffer G-SIFI Surcharge** 2.5% 10.0% 3.0% Base 4.5% Base 3.0%



#### **Impact on Mortgage Market**

- Penalties and new regulations have slowed originations
- Servicing has moved outside of the banking system

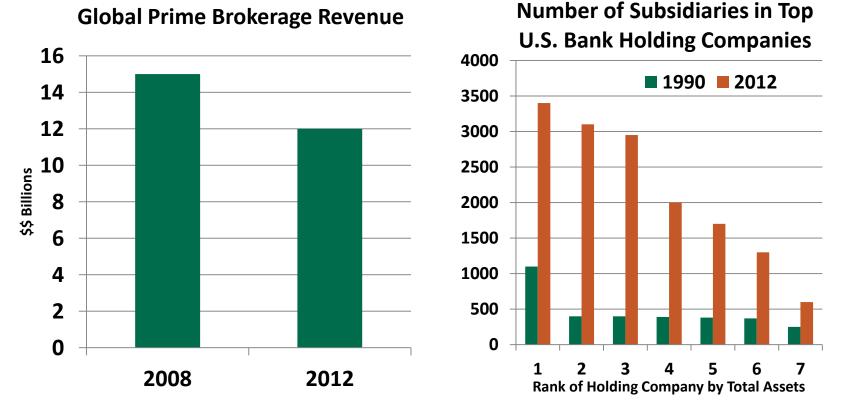


Sources: WSJ, Bloomberg, Haver Analytics



#### **Subtle Impacts**

- Capital rules limit credit extension to non banks
- R&R plans prompt rationalization of org structures



Source: Ernst & Young, Federal Reserve Bank of New York





- Profitability has been firmly re-established
- Balance sheet composition has changed dramatically since the crisis
- Banks and regulators are still seeking the "new normal" in their interactions
- Key risks:
  - International uncertainties
  - Cyber security
  - Leveraged lending



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