

Blog

INFLATION PRESSURES ARE BUILDING. PROTECT YOURSELF.

The Federal government is pursuing seemingly unlimited spending and is enabling this with unsustainably low interest rates. Investors need strategies to preserve purchasing power and stay ahead of the stealth erosion of their savings.

ETF Energy Mutual Fund Inflation Mutual Fund

The IMF Will Need to Bail Out Europe

October 20, 2011/0 Comments/in Global Issues /by Simon Lack
The FT has a very good summary of the current state of play in the European debt crisis. Yet another weekend summit critical to the survival of the Euro is upon us. Once again, bottom-up analysis of investments is held hostage to the macro issues at play. The EU is designed to seek consensus and [...]

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Another Disappointing Year for Hedge Funds

October 19, 2011/0 Comments/in The Hedge Fund Mirage /by Simon Lack

2002 seems like a long time ago, but that's the last time hedge funds outperformed a simple blend of 60% stocks and 40% bonds. Through 2000-02 during the dot-com collapse hedge funds added value, but since then as assets have flowed in the weight of all that money has steadily dragged down returns. Following a [...]

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Are Dividend Paying Stocks Expensive?

October 17, 2011/0 Comments/in Bonds Are Not Forever /by Simon Lack

Barron's over this past weekend included an article warning that dividend paying stocks were getting expensive. Author Michael Santoli cited recent work from Vadim Zlotnikov at Bernstein Research comparing price/book valuations on low beta and high beta stocks. On this basis low beta stocks are at the 99th percentile of valuation (i.e. expensive) over the past 50 [...]

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Simon Lack2011-10-17 15:49:372011-10-17 15:49:37Are Dividend Paying Stocks Expensive?

Carousing in Columbus, Ohio

October 14, 2011/0 Comments/in The Hedge Fund Mirage /by Simon Lack

I spent a most enjoyable day in Columbus, OH at the invitation of the local CFA Society. I should extend my thanks to Tim Steitz, Senior Investment Officer – Equities at the School Employees Retirement System of Ohio for organizing such a well attended event, and also Travis Upton, current President of the CFA Society [...]

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Force-feeding Capital to European Banks

October 13, 2011/0 Comments/in Global Issues /by Simon Lack
There can be little doubt that the European sovereign debt crisis has finally drawn the full attention of Europe's leaders. After following events from a more than discrete distance, it is starting to look as if a consensus is evolving around three principles: 1) Greater write-down of Greek debt 2) More realistic stress tests of [...]

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