## Some Perspective on the Performance of the S\&P 500



## View from the Observation Deck

1. The S\&P 500 began today's trading session $4.15 \%$ below its all-time high of 1565.15 on 10/9/07.
2. The index has posted a total return of $5.28 \%$ year-to-date through $1 / 28$. It was up $15.99 \%$ in 2012.
3. The last bar (\#5) in the chart (shaded gold) represents the average annual benchmark return for the index since 1926. It changes modestly every year.
4. Bar \#1 is simply extraordinary because it reflects an annualized total return that is nearly double the historical average. Performance was significantly boosted by the Internet Revolution (1995-1999).
5. Bar \#2 reflects the fallout after the Internet bubble burst late in Q1'00. This is your so-called "Lost Decade" in stocks.
6. Bar \#3 shows the annualized total return for the two decades captured in Bar \#1 and Bar \#2. The 8.2\% average gain is closer to the historical 9.8\% benchmark return.
7. Bar \#4 extends the period measured in Bar \#3 by another three calendar years through 2012. The return was unchanged.
8. The current estimated 2013 price-to-earnings ( $P / E$ ) ratio on the S\&P 500 is 13.17 (as of $1 / 17 / 13$ ), according to Standard \& Poor's. That is well below its 50-year average P/E of 16.54, according to Bloomberg.
