**Factoids for the week of December 2 - 6, 2013**

In November, the dividend-payers (418) in the S&P 500 (equal weight) posted a total return of 6.80%, vs. 5.53% for the non-payers (82), according to Standard & Poor’s. Y-T-D, the payers were up 36.84%, vs. a gain of 41.52% for the non-payers. For the 12-month period ended November, payers were up 39.68%, vs. a gain of 46.39% for the non-payers. The number of dividend increases y-t-d through November totaled 340, up from 309 at this point a year ago. Twelve dividends were cut, compared to 10 at this point a year ago. In the first 10 months of 2013, net cash inflows to Equity Income mutual funds and Equity Income ETFS totaled approximately $12.5 billion and $7.3 billion, respectively, according to data from Lipper.

**Tuesday, December 3, 2013**

Americans have been possessing their consumer durable goods (typically last at least three years) longer than at any point in the last 50 years, according to MSN.com. This suggests there could be pent-up demand. The average age of such items as furniture, appliances and computers is the highest since 1962, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Americans are holding on to their jewelry, wristwatches and garden tools the longest before replacing the items. In 2012, the average age of jewelry was 5.3 years, the oldest since 1942. Home and garden tools was 5.1 years, the highest since 1961. Cars and luggage were the only two categories of the 17 tracked to age at least three years (longer than at any point in the last 50 years, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Americans are holding on to their jewelry, wristwatches and garden tools the longest before replacing the items. In 2012, the average age of jewelry was 5.3 years, the oldest since 1942. Home and garden tools was 5.1 years, the highest Since 1961. Cars and luggage were the only two categories of the 17 tracked by the BEA that saw a decrease in average age in 2012.

**Wednesday, December 4, 2013**

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) data shows that the number of federally insured banking institutions nationwide totaled 6,891 in Q3’13, according to The Wall Street Journal. It was the first time since 1934 that the number of FDIC-insured banks in the U.S. stood below 7,000. The number peaked above 18,000 in the mid-1980s. Since then, more than 10,000 banks left the industry via mergers, consolidations and failures. The FDIC puts the failure rate at around 17%. The vast majority of the 10,000-plus institutions no longer in business had less than $100 million in assets.

**Thursday, December 5, 2013**

U.S. payrolls currently stand about 1.5 million below where they were in 2008, according to Bloomberg. The ratio of U.S. wages to corporate earnings stood at 3.2 in Q2’13, the lowest since 1966, according to data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The historical average is closer to 4.5. Profitability at S&P 500 companies is rising. Each dollar of sales is expected to generate a record 3.2 in Q2’13, the lowest since 1966, according to data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The historical average is closer to 4.5. Profitability at S&P 500 companies is rising. Each dollar of sales is expected to generate a record 3.2 in Q2’13, the lowest since 1966, according to data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The historical average is closer to 4.5. Profitability at S&P 500 companies is rising. Each dollar of sales is expected to generate a record 3.2 in Q2’13, the lowest since 1966, according to data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The historical average is closer to 4.5.

**Friday, December 6, 2013**

As of the start of today’s trading session, the S&P 500 had posted a total return of 27.7% (25.2% price-only) in 2013. Data from Standard & Poor’s shows that when the S&P 10 gains 20% or more in a calendar year it goes on to appreciate around 10%, on average, the following year, according to USA TODAY. The following calendar year has been up 78% of the time. In the six years in which the S&P 500 has posted a gain of 30% or more, the index has gained 14%, on average, the following year. It was up in five of those six years.