



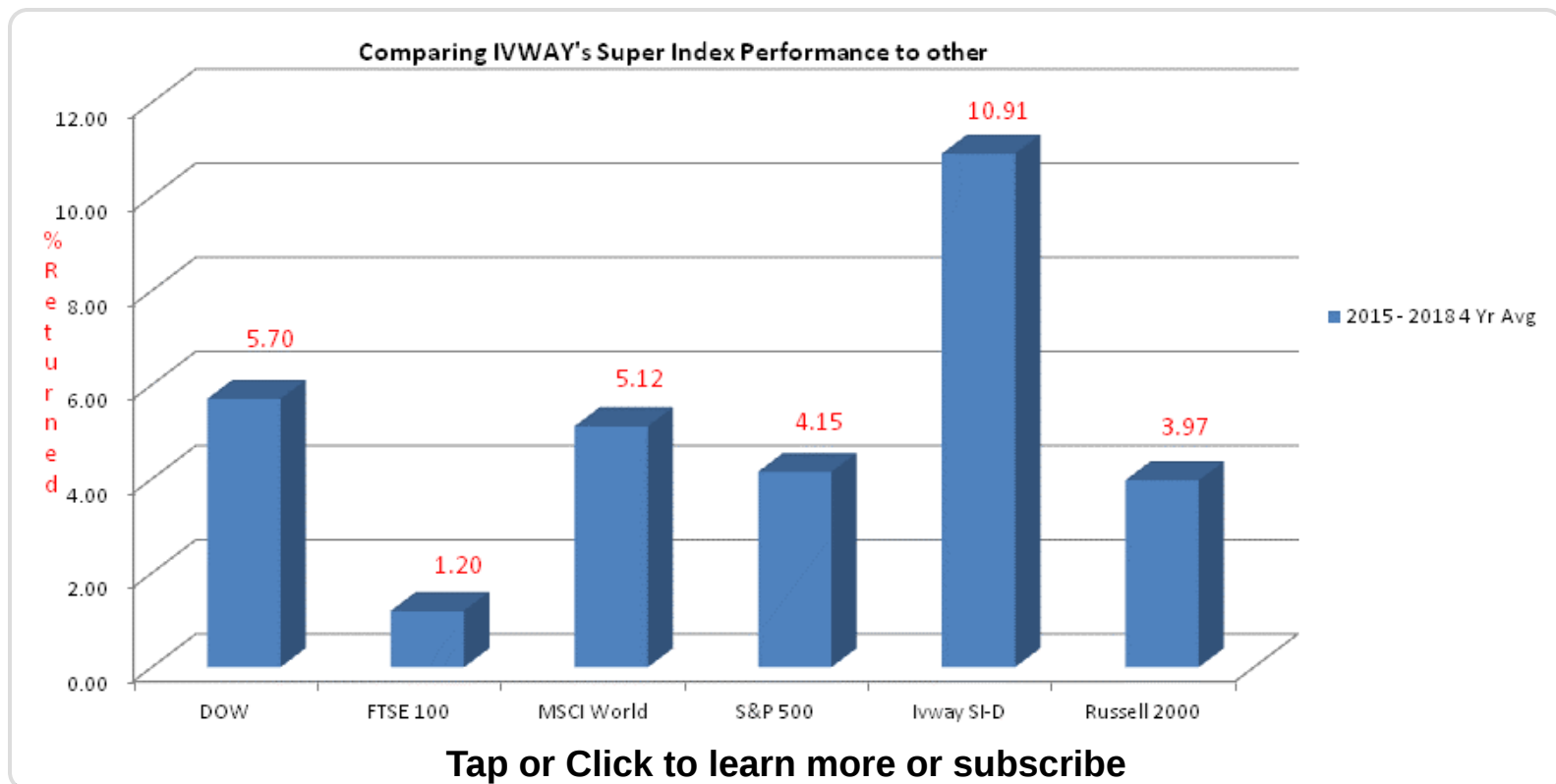
07-08, 2019 23:07:55 UTC New York Markets: Open Bond Market: Late Trade Equity Market: Closed

Welcome

IVWAY Covers Investment Analytics to Index Creation

Maximizing Securities, 401(k), ETF, and Pension Portfolio Growth
We Combine Loss Prevention with Intelligent Investing Choices

Interested? Then Join Us



Succinct Views by Andrew Marek

President Trump's Speech on the 4th, Jul 8 2019

President Trump addressed the nation on July 4th, America's Independence Day, and without being self-centered expressed the ideals of this country, as the Washington Pundits put it. Truly a fine set of words spoken, but that is not how President Trump has been running this country. Fox News declared that the Democrats have been panicking about nothing. Really?

Unfortunately the conservative right and Fox News among others feel that words mean everything and actions mean nothing. Actually, most of humanity feels that way too. Stupidity and poor critical thinking are rampant throughout the world. One would think that poor critical thinking in one of the world's most developed countries is in short supply, apparently not. Let's illustrate with an extreme example.

Venezuela elected Hugo Chavez, who died in 2013, promised better conditions (words) for the poor. But Mr. Chavez was himself ignorant and screwed up the economy by relying (action) solely on oil income, so when oil prices tanked so did his economy and the poor got poorer. Mr. Maduro succeeded Mr. Chavez and claimed (words) he would help the poor instead his policies (action) succeeded in making the poor poorer and hungrier.

President Trump claimed (words) he would resuscitate the coal industry, instead job losses (action) continue. Mr. Trump stated that everyone would have the finest health coverage (words), instead he continued trying to abolish the Affordable Care Act with no replacement (action). Mr. Trump stated that he would make America great again (words) and then cut corporate taxes (action) with the lost tax burden falling on the middle class in the future, etc.

When the chasm between what one states (words) and what that person actually does (action) widens that person starts to approach the level of a con artist. And those who believe the con artist always get fooled.

U.S. Sanctions Huawei: Huawei is losing money, Jul 5 2019

Huawei is encountering money troubles as its exports to the U.S. dwindle because of the imposed U.S. ban on its products. Chinese President Xi Jinping wants the U.S. to back off all sanctions regarding Huawei. The U.S. should not agree.

Telecommunications is the cornerstone of the Internet and all inter and intra company communications worldwide. Any equipment manufacturer making any telecommunications equipment cannot be a monopoly and cannot be allowed to sell its equipment without severe scrutiny by any importing country. The risk of privacy violation and snooping is too high.

Supreme Court Cites No Power Over Partisan Gerrymandering, Jul 3 2019

The U.S. Supreme Court in a 5 to 4 vote ruled that the court had no jurisdiction over partisan gerrymandering effectively returning control in such matters to the states. Well as far as state representation to state legislatures that certainly holds. However, gerrymandering state representation to U.S. Congress should be a completely different matter.

No matter what the justices' argument the fact remains that equal representation under the constitution does come into play when congressional districts are redrawn to favor one party over another. Therefore, the constitution does have jurisdiction over this matter. Whether the Supreme Court admits that is another matter.

U.S. Ten Year Mild Bull Market, Jul 2 2019

Since the Great Recession ended in June of 2009 the U.S. markets have been enjoying a mild (slowly increasing) bull market. However, duration is stirring fears and any bumps in the road are immediately blown up by the news media to ludicrous proportions. The news media is looking for sensationalism and the consumer is looking for peace. A reduction in jobs added for a given month is not time to panic; rather it reflects the normal ups and downs of a growing economy.

Small adjustments are most welcome, something the news media does not seem to understand, what is not wanted is a two consecutive month decline in consumer confidence, jobs added, manufacturing orders, and declining profits. The scenario just mentioned is a precursor to a recession. Therefore, small obstructions in economic growth are normal and welcome, while a skyrocketing bull market, like the one which ended in 2007 is not welcome as the resulting fall becomes destructive.

Democratic Party Candidates for President 2nd Debate, Jul 1 2019

Highlight was Kamala Harris' reply to a question on accountability regarding unbridled spending by the Democrats. She skirted the question by fiercely attacking the Republican record. She justified her party's spending habits by angrily accusing the other party of excessive spending. That answer makes no sense. She never answered the question, so much for a presidential reply.

All candidates were unified in opposing President Trump and his policies and yes maybe he needs replacing. But ridiculous promises that have no political life like \$1000 per month to every working person in America, no more college costs, etc. are all blue sky promises. The promises sound great, but have no chance of ever coming to fruition.

Democratic Debates, Jun 28 2019

Smart candidates for any office, especially for the President of U.S. must strive to attain three goals. Most importantly, raise more money than the other candidates or their chances for election will be dim. Next, always be politically correct and diplomatic about issues they have poor knowledge about or do not understand. Finally, ALWAYS speak in general non-specific terms with little specific commitment or the news media will try to tear it apart damaging the given candidate's elect-ability.

Smollett Case Acquires Special Prosecutor, Jun 27 2019

Cook County Judge, Michael Toomin, ordered a special prosecutor to investigate and or re-open the Jussie Smollett case. This move, of course, is a necessary smoke screen being put up by the Chicago's Administration to save face regarding State's Attorney Kim Foxx's handling of the case where disorderly conduct charges against Smollett were dropped.

There are, at least, three hidden reasons for this sudden bravado by the Administration. First, others want the same treatment when faced with like charges (suggesting Smollett set a precedent). Second, there is no clear reason for dropping the said charges. Third, the previous Mayor gave this case life by ranting about its outcome and now the administration must save face. How will this turn out?

The news media is ranting about the cost to Smollett, but ignoring the enormous cost to the taxpayer. Disorderly conduct charges already cost Smollett legal fees plus \$10,000 in fines (Chicago is demanding another \$136,000 for police costs) and now more defense fees. End result, the taxpayer gets to foot the bill for the special prosecutor, extensive re-investigation, Judge's salary, court costs etc. to take a misdemeanor charge to another level which will easily surpass Mr. Smollett's costs.

Trump Rescinds Iran Retaliatory Strike, Jun 26 2019

President Trump stated that he backed out of giving an order to retaliate against Iran for shooting down a U.S. surveillance drone. The President cited being told that there may be 150 fatalities and that he thought that was not equitable.

Excellent, concern over human fatalities as part of collateral damage is a plus. Iran should take note. Although Iran also stated that it refrained from shooting down an accompanying manned surveillance plane. This type of on-the-edge diplomacy may have benefits although formal diplomacy is much preferred.

Supreme Court Upholds Anti Bias Rules, Jun 25 2019

The Supreme Court, last Friday, upheld its strict anti-bias rules by a 7-2 vote, criticizing the prosecution for discharging 41 of 42 black juror prospects over the course of six trials. Justice Clarence Thomas, a black justice dissented stating that bias was not evident. Really, what is wrong with that man?

At issue was a Mississippi case against Curtis Flowers, facing the death penalty after being convicted of killing four co-workers in the Tardy Furniture store in Winona, Miss., in 1996, supposedly in revenge. There was no physical evidence tying Mr. Flowers to the murders. Mr. Flower's attorney, Sheri Lynn Johnson, stated that her client is innocent. Although bias may be a contributing factor in the conviction of Mr. Flowers there is a much more disturbing aspect not being discussed.

The lack of witnesses and physical evidence should NEVER be a basis for convicting a person of murder where the conviction results in the death penalty. The laws of this nation and of each individual state need to be adjusted to reflect proper justice. Proper justice means that in all cases where no witnesses and no physical evidence exists, no matter how many killings, murder one is out. Otherwise, justice lies unfairly in the hands of the prosecution and political power.

Circumstantial evidence alone cannot be a method by which humanity decides to remove one of its own from society permanently as the chance of such a conviction being incorrect is just too high.

Chicago Immigration Raids, Jun 24 2019

The Chicago Tribune reported that preparations were being made for Immigration raids in the Chicago area. Although Immigration completes raids every day in Chicago and throughout the country, these raids are purported to be large scale.

Both the State of Illinois and the Mayor of Chicago have agreed to curtail any help by local police enforcement in completing any ICE raids. Chicago's ICE contingent is one of the largest in the country, but not big enough to pull off several large scale raids at once without help. Therefore, restricting local enforcement from participation will definitely have a curtailing effect on any planned large scale ICE immigration raids in Illinois.

Goldman Sachs Focuses on Private Equity, Jun 21 2019

Goldman Sachs is restructuring itself to enter the private equity market with investment muscle by combining four current divisions. According to WSJ, the new unit will be close to KKR's size with about \$140 billion in assets.

Well, steady market growth normalization, the current trend, is bad for investment houses because

they tend to tout explosive returns, therefore higher risk areas become appealing. Moving into higher risk investing when dependable investment growth stagnates is not really news rather it is the normal progression of human desires and needs.

Pension Funds and Social Activism, Jun 20 2019

WSJ reported that Pension funds are starting to reconsider following the path of social activism, like not investing in private prison system stock, gun manufacturers, etc. as their portfolio return rates start to shrink. Improving society does come at a cost and individual pensioners just want money. What can be done?

Pension funds need to do more research as alternative growth methods are available and can maintain social activist ideals.

Hong Kong Protests Extradition Law, Jun 19 2019

Hong Kong's leader tried to push through an extradition back to the mainland law for anyone breaking laws in Hong Kong. China's President Xi's attempt to solidify his authority over Hong Kong was met with extreme protests forcing a suspension of the law.

Dictators and near dictators tend to understand that the only way to extent control is through authoritarian rule, it isn't. China needs to scrutinize the methods of western democracies; they excel at underhanded methodologies for gaining control.

For example, after 9-11, the U.S. passed the Patriot Act, a bill that put all sorts of restrictions on privacy and obtaining justice, by disseminating propaganda emphasizing that a vote against the bill indicated a lack of patriotism.

Drug Firms Dislike New Ad Rule, Jun 18 2019

A new rule issued by Medicare and Medicaid states that drug companies must include the list price of the drug being advertised in the Ad. Drug companies content among other reasons that the most anyone on Medicaid pays for a drug is \$8. The companies have made a strange point.

The cost to the patient may be only \$8, but the cost to Medicaid or Medicare is apparently far greater. The drug companies have described an unethical money making methodology. The government uses other people's money so they will not care about the drug cost and the end price is always \$8 or less so the drug recipient is oblivious, therefore, we, the drug companies, can help ourselves to some more of the taxpayer's money.

Including the drug's list price in an Ad would increase public support for controlling drug company drug prices.

Changes in New York Rent Laws, Jun 17 2019

New York's legislature passed new rent laws this past week and these laws were immediately signed into law by Governor Cuomo. The real estate associations and lobbies cried foul, calling this a dark day for the industry.

Well the real estate industry has been greedy driving up rent costs up to 42% per year in some areas in New York. The rich may not care, but everybody else (the majority) cannot live as homeless people. So let the industry cry in its soup. Finally some rent relief.

Gov Reviews Music Industry Licensing, Jun 14 2019

According to WSJ, the United States Government is reviewing the decades old music licensing agreement. This could bring changes to songwriters, composers, and music publishers pay at the expense of the two giant public performance rights administrators Ascap and BMI.

Ascap desires a more flexible agreement, meaning more money for Ascap, and BMI said it welcomes a review. One interpretation, clenched teeth smile with an aside by both CEOs to their people, send enough people to the government to make sure things go our way and check our congressional campaign contributions.

Alleged Animal Abuse at Fair Oaks, Jun 13 2019

An activist group sent in an investigator and came away with damaging videos regarding the mistreatment of cows and calves by workers at Fair Oaks Farm in Indiana, maker of Fairlife milk brand. Jewel-Osco, Chicago's largest grocery store chain pulled all Fair Oaks products from its shelves. Fair Oaks owner, veterinarian Michael McCloskey expressed shock, disgust, and issued a statement positing disappointment. Sincere?

Well maybe, but shades of shutting down Rick's Cafe in the movie Casablanca appear plausible. The Prefect of Police in Casablanca, a gambler himself, shuts down Rick's stating shock at finding that the establishment promotes gambling while quietly accepting his winnings.

New Broker Conflict of Interest Rule, Jun 12 2019

The SEC passed a Broker Conflicts of Interest Rule that states that brokers must seek what is best for the client rather than what is suitable for the client (old rule). Fine, a step in the right direction, but there are a few issues with this new rule.

There appears to be no definition of 'what is best for the client', therefore, the rule will help eliminate extreme conditions like product-sales-to-clients contests. But on an individual level the broker will still be able to push a product more in the suitable area rather than the best interests of the client area and get away with the sale.

Answer lies in acquiring more wealth management education, consider subscribing to IVWAY. IVWAY does not push any products instead we teach and provide you with the methodology to learn about wealth and increase it on your own.

Wealth Management and Retirement Planning Advertising, Jun 11 2019

I continuously come across retirement planning and wealth management advertising luring the consumer (that is you) to the wealth planning or management product being pushed. The advertisement asks questions like: when can I retire, how will social security help, what if I want early retirement, how much money will I have to spend per month, what role does my 401(k) play, and will I have extra money? If YOU are incapable of answering these questions *on your own* then YOU are STUPID.

Will I continue to make fun of your stupidity? No. Instead, I will offer you the opportunity to subscribe to IVWAY for a pittance and learn about wealth and wealth management. Simply click on the graph above and enter the world of wealth accumulation.

Possible Federal Funds Rate Reduction, Jun 10 2019

The Federal Funds Rate is controlled by the Federal Reserve Bank and it is the rate that Banks within the Federal Banking System charge each other for overnight loans. A cascading effect is created and interest rates that banks charge consumers, businesses, etc. are then adjusted accordingly.

Earlier this week the Fed stated that if the trade war got out of hand, the Fed might consider reducing the Federal Funds Rate. Note the words 'if' and 'might consider', as they are Fed Chair speak for we have been monitoring the trade war and the economy is taking a hit and now we have to put interest rate reduction on the table.

As I stated in earlier blogs, if the President continues his chaotic approach to propping up the economy he will affect it. Well, thank you Mr. President, the people who elected you were expecting an improvement in their lives and looks like you want them to suffer.

A BREXIT Referendum?, Jun 7 2019

Kudos to Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn for pushing for a referendum regarding Brexit. At last a Brit with some sense and at this point a referendum vote will reflect an understanding of what Brexit really means. Brexit has been in the news long enough for every British citizen to gain some idea about the pros and cons of Brexit.

The United Kingdom should stay in the E.U. as economic gains will be sorely affected if an exit occurs as is already apparent, but then again I am not a British citizen.

Japan's Economy In Steady Recovery, Jun 6 2019

According to a panel of experts appointed by Japan's cabinet, Japan is enjoying its longest economic growth since World War II. Will this expansion continue? Prime Minister Abe seems more interested in returning money to Japanese citizens via various rebate programs rather than extracting a boost in wages which would increase spending. And an increase in spending would boost the economy.

However, Mr. Abe would have to deal with frugal corporate managers. One way around this dilemma, as stated in the Economist, would be reducing large retirement payouts by corporations in favor of wage increases. That appears to make sense, but who is going to convince the retiring Japanese citizen that it is better to give up part of his retirement pay for the future benefit of his country?

Chicago's Memorial Day Weekend Violence, Jun 5 2019

Well, different Mayor same result. Mayor Lightfoot working with Police Superintendent Johnson increased manpower and patrols to reduce violence. However, the numbers almost matched the numbers during the previous year's Memorial Day weekend under Mayor Emanuel (43 people shot and several killed). Clearly an increase in patrols and police presence is not the complete answer.

What is needed everyone already knows and that answer requires money. It is an infusion of money for better schools, community service, and an increase in business investment. Bluntly put, the violent areas of the city will continue to be violent. Violence reduction requires social and economic changes that will give the people affected hope and a chance to better their lives.

Warren Buffett Suggests Retirement Investing Plan for Seniors, Jun 4 2019

Warren Buffett suggested that people headed for retirement should split their investment dollars into 20%

90% large cap stocks and 10% short-term government bonds. Craig L Israelson in an article titled **Testing Buffett's Advice**, in the May issue of *Financial Planning*, set up a comparison test to see if historically Buffett's advice holds. Mr. Israelson set up 25 twenty-five year rolling periods between 1970 and 2018 and then averaged the results.

The comparison included a seven asset portfolio with the money spread evenly between all seven assets, a 60% SandP 500 and 40% aggregate bond portfolio and Mr. Buffett's suggested portfolio. Each portfolio started with \$1 million. The averages show Mr. Buffett's portfolio a clear winner averaging \$600,000 more in ending balance and average total withdrawal over 25 years (using the IRS rmd approach). As Mr. Israelson pointed out this may not be an approach indicative of fiduciary care.

However, Ivway's Super Index would best Mr. Buffett's approach as the Super Index restricts the large cap stocks to the companies that display the best financial strength.

The Ivway Super Index shows an advantage of 80% over both the DOW and SandP 500 over a four year period from 2015 to 2018. *To start investing sign up with Ivway today.*

Funding the Illinois Pension Deficit, Jun 3 2019

Now that Illinois Governor Pritzker successfully added changing the Illinois Tax structure from a fixed to a progressive tax to the 2020 Illinois ballot, his attention needs to shift to the Pension Issue. The \$100 billion plus shortage needs a voter referendum also.

It is time to sever the current pension system and move all NEW Illinois government workers to a pension methodology consisting of a Social Security - 401(k) combination. This will also require an Illinois Constitutional amendment and should also be added to the 2020 Illinois ballot for a voter decision.

Why is Social Security better than a state pension fund? The current screaming regarding Social Security's future is that it will be one to two trillion dollars in the red in another 40 years, so why switch to Social Security. BECAUSE, states do not print money! Economic power lies with the Federal Government not with the states. Therefore if Social Security goes into the red ANY state pension fund will be in danger of failing and will be short funded as the Federal Government will shift funding or increase taxes as necessary to pay for its shortfall.

Why use 401(k) to supplement pension? Because 401(k) investing will give individuals a chance to learn about investing and provide the capability to outgrow the Social Security growth rate. The combination of Social Security and 401(k) will increase an individual's ability to maintain their working days lifestyle into retirement.

Federal Reserve Ok Keeping Rate Steady, May 31 2019

The Federal Reserve seems inclined to hold rates steady at this point. An excellent move as the Fed is most likely interested in seeing the collateral damage from the tariff war between the U.S. and China. Spending will definitely be affected.

President Trump, who seems to be working diligently at causing economic chaos, may get his wish. Trouble is he seems to be alone on this one as every other U.S. citizen values steady economic growth.

Virginia Blackface Probe, May 30 2019

Tribune reported that an investigation to determine if Virginia Governor Ralph Northam's medical school yearbook which contained a racist blackface photo was actually the Governor himself. Hmmm. does this qualify for shades of Brett Kavanaugh?

Too Many Students Given More SAT Test Time, May 29 2019

WSJ reported that students are being given more SAT test taking time and the amount of students qualifying for this seems excessive. The San Francisco area allows almost 30% of the students to take an SAT test in a separate room and for longer periods of time than normally scheduled. Parents are using psychologists to help convince the schools that more test time is indeed needed. Poor kids are less likely to qualify for more test time. Let's apply some critical thinking.

Public schools must complete an Individualized Education Program (IEP) to allot a student more test time and have the IEP approved. And for that you need school psychologists and special education teachers and there are very few in poor districts. Ergo, fewer students in poor schools will get more test time, just like there are fewer good teachers in poor school districts. Is this news?

If more students are qualifying for more test time and psychologists are involved then blame the psychologists not the parents on this one. Ask if the psychologists are manipulating the definitions needed to establish an educational need that will qualify the student for more test time. The news here would be professionals (psychologists) being unethical in satisfying parents' requests.

Illinois: Proposed Electric Car Registration Fee, May 28 2019

Illinois Governor Pritzker proposed \$1000 annual registration fees for electric vehicles. Supposedly the fee would be an equivalent gas tax fee. Have you lost your mind governor?

Subtracting out the \$100 paid currently for annual car registration leaves \$900 which at your proposed tax rate for gas vehicles of 38 cents per gallon covers 2,368 gallons or at 30 miles per gallon, per your proposal, each electric vehicle would have to travel over 70,000 miles per year. THAT IS HIGHWAY ROBBERY!

Have you heard of the words Climate Change Governor? You should desire to move all Illinois drivers to electric car usage not away from electric car usage. Yes you are a billionaire and do not care, but the working people of Illinois need cleaner air at a reasonable cost. The idea Governor is to make electric cars cheaper than gas powered cars so that people PURCHASE MORE ELECTRIC CARS!

Net Promoter Score (NPS): Corporate Propaganda, May 24 2019

Net Promoter Score (NPS) is increasingly used by companies to justify salary increases, bonuses, and investment according to a WSJ article. What is it? Does it refer to revenue, financial strength, sales increases, or profit increases? The answer to the latter question is no.

NPS is a customer response derived score by answering the question. On a scale of 0 to 10, how likely are you to recommend us to a friend? Answers are divided into 9 to 10 is a promoter, 7 to 8 is passive and ignored, and 0 to 6 is a detractor. You take the percentage of promoters and subtract the percentage of detractors and the result is your NPS score (e.g. Promoters 60%, detractors 20% and so the NPS is the difference or 40). Note, if a detractor then there is a follow-up question asking why.

Is NPS a good growth indicating measurement? No. First the question itself is company administered, is un-audited and therefore the results can be manipulated. Second, from personal experience it is biased as every time I end a call after receiving a service the company representative says, please take the one question survey and give an excellent rating. I hang up, but the one time where the service sucked and I was waiting for the questions it never came. This suggests that NPS has little validity, so why do companies stand by it?

Companies like NPS because it is a neat propaganda tool that might prop up the stock price and definitely can increase bonuses and executive pay. As for revenue growth and profit, really if you can increase your pay and not go bankrupt then who cares.

Alabama Severely Limits Abortion, May 23 2019

Alabama's leaders both executive and legislative passed and signed a severely limiting abortion measure into law. Please note that Alabama has the nation's worst schools and therefore poor critical thinking is a mainstay of this state.

What relevancy does the new abortion law have to poor schooling? Well, if you have to ask then you the reader have an issue also. But I will explain.

If you are brought up without the necessary schooling to question everything before accepting anything that is written or said, then you will be relegated to only questioning that which is presented to you as allowable to question. Hence, lawyers, doctors, and scientists, all very learned people, can believe nonsensical religious doctrine and propagate it without question while applying proper critical thinking within their own profession. An excellent example of how a highly educated person can also be stupid at the same time.

San Francisco Bans Face Recognition Usage, May 22 2019

San Francisco achieves a new first by banning facial recognition usage by agencies within its jurisdiction. Hooray, finally a move towards maintaining personal privacy. The rest of the U.S. should take note and follow suit.

Illinois DCFS Issues, May 21 2019

Governor Pritzker ordered an investigative report to review the problems that DCFS faces when attempting to keep families intact in spite of severe child abuse. When a child is in extreme danger under the intact family approach a petition by the caseworker may be made to the legal system. Further, families can refuse support services like therapy or parenting classes. A sorry state of affairs, what can be done?

Once the justice system agrees to a course of action further decision making should be relegated to a committee of three clinical psychologists (doctorate level only). Why? Because fast action is needed when new abuse occurs. The caseworker is on the front-line and upon detecting deteriorating family conditions or new abuse quick action (as in immediate) may be required. The committee can review the new findings and the action taken by the caseworker within 24 hours and suggest a course of action. At this point the parents must be forced into therapy to retain the child (this will have to be part of the initial legal resolution). Nice thought, but all this costs money and where is that going to come from?

Well maybe a review of what Governor Rauner did in cost cutting is necessary and if it affected DCFS funding then an attempt to restore that money would be suggested, but with a new purpose in mind meaning child safety. Regardless, any new funding will have to be newly appropriated and new money will have to be found.

Higher Education Economics, May 20 2019

The May 2019 advertising supplement to Chicago Life Magazine contained an article written by Allen R Anderson, a Senior Lecturer at the University of Chicago's Department of Economics. Let us take a closer look at Mr. Anderson's logic in several of his claims

close. Look at Mr. Anderson's logic in several of his claims.

Claim: lowering tuition or providing free tuition to all will result in an enormous transfer of funds to the rich. Well Mr. Anderson forgot to define who he is referring to when he uses the term rich. Are the rich the upper 1% of earners, anyone in the middle class or just anyone above the poor class (constituting about 40 million people in 2017 according to the IMF)?

Claim: More financial aid and free tuition are regressive which the liberals should not endorse. Regressive meaning paying less by reducing tuition costs to the individual. The action, Mr. Anderson is regressive, but the idea is progressive meaning more people will be educated and available to grow the economy, that Sir is a liberal idea.

Claim: Universities need money to pay those professors meaning Mr. Anderson is worried about his salary. No further comment is needed here.

Claim: According to a Federal Reserve Bank study additional financial aid is reflected in subsequent tuition increases. That is because Universities are actually big business and use financial aid driven tuition increases as an excuse to tax the paying students. Well maybe a wrongful tuition increase tax is needed to transfer the funds back to the government so that the government has more money to help more students.

Claim: Best tuition aid idea is Milton Friedman's 1950 idea on income-share agreements. A contract each needy student would sign to allocate a portion of their future salary (wage garnishment) to the University. Mr. Friedman was a University of Chicago Nobel Prize winning free market economist. Well his free market ideas were applied by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank, and that action helped produce the great recession of 2007. Do we really want more of the same Mr. Anderson?

Transfer of funds like financial aid, while holding Universities accountable for unsubstantiated tuition increases, is part of the answer. Repaying tuition loans and or across the board forgiveness, will transfer funds to the needy and to those who can afford to pay. But maybe interest, the holy grail of money making, should be forgiven when tuition repayment ability is annually recalculated based on income whenever monthly repayment ability falls below the interest plus at least 10% of the principal. Thereby, even small tuition payments will reduce the student's principal and, therefore, the total amount left to pay will be reduced.

New North Korean Missiles, May 17 2019

According to the WSJ North Korean new short-range missiles present a new threat to South Korea. NO THEY DO NOT!

North Korea already tested missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads. Therefore, bombardment capability between the new and old missiles would be the same. What is different is that the new missiles are Russian and can probably be better controlled and possibly shot from a moving truck making them more elusive. Once they strike the result will be the same.

Trump Loves Chaos, May 16 2019

Many news analysts point out that President Trump feels at home with chaos and that is how he is running the government. What the President has succeeded in doing is not only putting himself under scrutiny but the media too. The President bullies his subordinates, the media, and foreign governments by making outlandish claims and or lying as needed to get the desired chaotic effect. The U.S. government's propaganda machine is in tatters.

Since the days of Woodrow Wilson the U.S. government has been using the media to craft misleading statements to achieve its goals. Now the media is under attack and must defend itself, by pointing out the President's misstatements concerning government and the media. Now the public is starting to

take notice as it is no longer kept in the dark. That means that the public will take a more active voice in their own government and that is bad for the government and the news media, but good for the public.

Foreign Regulators and U.S. Tech Giants, May 15 2019

The European Union is installing new laws to curb U.S. Tech Giants like Facebook and Google. The new regulations will address hateful content presentation and maintaining competitive market barriers like using operating systems to block rivals. This is nothing new, actually, it is the norm for any company that reaches its maturing stage.

All companies that grow quickly enough to secure a very large portion of any given market will try to undercut their competition by underhanded means, if allowed to do so. Let us recall a few companies that followed the same route in the past, Standard Oil, U.S. Steel, AT and T, and IBM to name a few. What is slightly different in the latest case is that the Tech Giants are trying to overwhelm the foreign markets and foreign governments will not roll over like our government.

Uber IPO, May 14 2019

According to the WSJ Uber's IPO opened in the red as shares traded at \$42 dollars a price below the \$45 offering. Well that is bad for Uber and the IPO industry, but very good for the consumer. Let us take a closer look at the offer price of \$45.

First the offer price has IPO costs built into it of about 33% meaning the shares are actually worth about \$30 dollars and it usually takes months or quarters for the share purchaser to realize the proper share value providing the share price continues to rise. That is why the small investor should steer clear of IPO offerings, let the institutions and pension funds buy the stuff after all they can afford to wait.

John Daly To Ride During PGA, May 13 2019

Paul Newberry, Associated Press, wrote a commentary about John Daly at 53 playing in the 2019 PGA Championship. He will be allowed to lean on his golf cat because of an arthritic knee. Mr. Newberry commented that Daly didn't take care of himself and this is the result.

Mr. Newberry apparently was not privy to science courses as he should know that arthritis is either genetic or develops due to some severe joint injury. Being overweight, poor diet, etc. can exacerbate the disease.

As for John Daly being a sideshow at the PGA, well it will be a comedic distraction to the monotony of good golf and it will draw fans. Let's not forget that golf needs all the help it can muster; golf courses are closing due to fewer players and golf fees are rising, that is not a winning economic formula.

When Trump Leaves Office, May 10 2019

If a democrat replaces Trump, the belief as stated in an Economist article that things will go back to normal is errant thinking. First the mess created by the current president will have to be addressed.

Namely, NATO payment issues, charging countries for using their land for military bases, Iran, North Korea, war in Yemen, immigration, etc., will all have to be revisited and corrected. Most difficult of all reacquiring our allies trust. That alone will take some time and world leaders have changed and see us in a different light so going back to the old ways will not be the answer.

Interpreting the U.S. Unemployment Rate, May 9 2019

The unemployment rate is at 3.6% which is at its lowest point since 1969, except that it includes those working part-time. Unless incorrect counting is controlled for the rate may not be as good as it appears.

Incorrect counting causes are many and include part-time workers actively looking for full time jobs or other part-time jobs. Let us review the official definition of unemployment. To be unemployed you must be jobless, actively seeking work, or available to take a job. A part-time worker looking for another part-time job is both actively seeking a job and available for work, but that person technically is not jobless. Therefore, a single overall unemployment rate does not tell the full story.

Lying During Psychotherapy, May 8 2019

Monitor on Psychology May 2019 publication contains an article by Alyssa Shaffer titled The Truth About Lies. This refers to patients lying to their therapist. Among the top ten questions that patients do not answer truthfully are: how bad I really feel, my thoughts about suicide, things I have done that I regret, and why are you late for your appointment. I do not know how any therapist can conclude that a patient is lying when responding to any of these questions. All of the above questions are subjective.

Subjective means that the responder is faced with a definition decision because the answer covers a response range and even if the therapist tries to quantify a response by providing a range like on a scale of 1 to 10 the response will still be subjective. Therefore, therapist complaints about these types of lies have no legs.

The concern about lying when answering the last question, why are you late for your appointment, is meaningless for two reasons. First, it will always come across as a control attempt by the therapist indicating a therapeutic weakness. Second, unless the patient has a pattern of lateness, who cares, the patient still has to pay for the full session.

U.S. Attorney General William Barr, May 7 2019

U.S. Attorney General William Barr appeared before the Senate and proceeded to defend his recent actions regarding the Mueller Report by being evasive or stretching the truth as needed. All of his actions appeared to be focused on obfuscating any attempt to discuss any Presidential involvement.

Accusations of becoming an unpaid Presidential defense attorney instead of representing the best interests of the American people are rampant. Why are the pundits surprised? Finding morally and ethically decent people has always been difficult just reference Abraham in Genesis 18:16-33 as he pleads with God, mind you, against the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Ukraine Elections, May 6 2019

The Ukraine just elected Volodymyr Zelensky as its new President by a landslide (73%). Mr. Zelensky, a comedic actor who appeared in a TV series about a school teacher who became President, has no political experience. Voters wanted change. Sound familiar? Well a funny novice at the helm should at least provide some comic relief to outgoing President Petro Poroshenko's administration. Or he can really screw things up by trying to mimic other world leaders who became power hungry.

Banks Want Criminals?, May 3 2019

Banks believe that the current law prohibiting hiring people with even misdemeanor offenses like shoplifting or minor drug charges or passing bad checks etc. is too limiting. The current laws have no statute of limitations. The SEC's FINRA arm requires divulging misdemeanors within the last ten years. What can be done?

First, people with minor offenses need to look into getting them expunged, meaning removed from the official record, thereby it never happened. Second, congress should create and maintain a list of offenses qualifying for a statute of limitations regarding banking employment. Finally, the created statute of limitations should be reviewed by congress on a regular basis possibly in concert with presidential terms.

Stock Market Volatility Index Drop, May 2 2019

The Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE) equity volatility index has dropped another 9.4% after recording a large drop at the start of the year. That means that equity money is going elsewhere usually into higher risk ventures. The market gurus, heads of brokerages and chest beating know-it-alls are spouting that optimism is the driving force.

Really, if someone offers you five pizzas costing you \$1 each if you buy five at once as opposed to \$10 for one, what will you do? Obviously get the five. Riskier markets now cost less to get into and can result in much higher returns than the slowly advancing stock market. Therefore, at best, it is thinly disguised optimism and more likely visions of instant riches. Sort of like playing power ball when the prize is approaching one billion. Instantaneous gratification always appears more appealing than steady gains, that keeps Vegas in business.

Oil Prices Surge, May 1 2019

Oil prices surged to \$67.50 per barrel, their highest levels since October of 2018. If the end result of this shenanigan, by the Trump administration, ends up forcing Iran to stop their nuclear programs then this will be a win for the administration. However, the previous sanctions that finally forced Iran to the negotiating table took a long time to mature so these will not have an instantaneous effect either. What is instantaneous is an irritating and costly gas price increase at the pump. Another love letter from the Trump administration entitled: Up Yours Consumer.

Terror in Sri Lanka, Apr 30 2019

The ISIS terror attacks in Sri Lanka were horrific resulting in 200 plus deaths. Could this have been prevented? At least partially appears to be the answer.

Apparently Sri Lanka was warned ahead of time, but did it take those warnings seriously or did it treat them like the U.S. treated warnings ahead of 9/11, meaning ignored them. Security services seem to lean towards ignoring warnings that do not come from their own organizations because we (a given security service) are big tough guys and can figure it out all by ourselves.

Most likely it's the confidence interval issue. Meaning, if, for example, someone at a roulette wheel bets on red and wins 50 times in a row, the surrounding crowd will probably bet on red on the 51st roll. The thinking being that the wheel is fixed or the person betting is the chosen one ignoring the odds that suggest an infinitesimal chance at the 51st roll in a row staying red or that each roll has only a 50% chance of falling within the red.

This, of course, illustrates weaknesses in human thinking. Security forces should know better, apparently not. Maybe every good security force should employ a psychologist or two to help them

apparently not. Maybe every good excellent force should employ a psychologist or two to help them with an ongoing problem.

U.S. Economy Grows at Torrid Pace, Apr 29 2019

It was reported by the PBS News Hour that the U.S. Economy grew at a 3.2% rate in the first quarter of 2019. This of course is an initial report as adjustments follow after data is scrutinized by economists. Question to be asked is how can excellent economic returns exist during the Presidency of arguably the worst president in U.S. history?

If a sitting President's policies are reflected immediately by the economy then the adjective "worst" would have to be changed to strange or best or quirky, etc., but the suspicion and indeed the evidence suggests that a sitting president's policies will be reflected in the economy over a long period of time. Therefore, changes made in the first term of a sitting president will come into full force during the second term or during the term of the following president. What is the answer?

The answer lies in comparative analysis performed a generation after a sitting president leaves office by economists and historians, provided they stick to the facts and keep their opinions to themselves (very difficult to do). The answer DOES NOT lie with the person in the street who is usually driven by opinion and possesses poor or non-existent critical thinking. Nor does the answer lie with the sitting president or anyone even remotely connected to them or the news media as both the former and latter are strongly biased. We can conclude that only time will tell.

Goldman Sachs Pursues Consumer Banking, Apr 26 2019

Goldman Sachs started to reduce its volatile trading dependency by launching a consumer bank, Marcus, in 2016. Slow but steady profits from regular lending are not as anxiety promoting as volatile trading. The Economist noted that investors are not delighted as wealth management (buy side, money investing) is more profitable and today it accounts for nearly 90% of the profits made in capital markets. Why the shift to buy side?

Buy side is much easier on wealth managers. They do not have to predict (something they are terrible at), instead they do portfolio management using existing indexes. Wealth managers then convince their investors that best returns are achieved using a combination of portfolio management combined with tax avoidance strategies (legal only, of course). Well Ivway.com believes that the sell side, investment banking activities, still has an important role.

Actually Ivway.com believes that coordinating the buy and sell sides in symphony with each other can present investors with much higher and steadier returns. Finding out how this can be done is only a click and a subscription away. Sign up.

Notre Dame Fire Saves Macron?, Apr 25 2019

When President Macron declared Notre Dame represents the history and literature of France he unified the nation. The burning of the sacred and architecturally elegant cathedral may turn things around for President Macron. The Economist claimed that special skill will be needed to comfort a mourning nation while resolving the *gilets jaunes* (yellow jacket protests) issue.

I could not disagree more; the road to a proper resolution is very simple. All Macron has to do is consider the best interests of his nation, bypassing special interests like the rich and corporations. The result will be soaring popularity and an energized thankful nation.

Costly Hybrids, Apr 24 2019

Gas powered cars must go and will, sooner will be better than later. The logical transition is gas to hybrid to electric. Why the need for hybrids? Because the current U.S. infrastructure supports the hybrids, they still need gas, and they are greener than their gas only cousins. So why not run out and get one? Because hybrids cost a lot, nearly as much as an equivalent electric car.

Detroit needs to alter its manufacturing, marketing and, selling approach regarding hybrids and make them more affordable. Maybe the government should step in and provide some green driven rebates.

Chief Financial Officer Pay, Apr 23 2019

The top two positions of any corporation is that of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) yet many companies pay the CFO much less than any of their Senior V. P. positions. Why?

If the CEO is paid the most because of the strategic responsibility that that position requires and the CFO has to allocate financial resources to the CEO's strategic direction while maintaining a tight grip on the financial drain that day to day operations demand, then pay should be commensurate with position importance. There is no doubt that CFOs are strategically the number two person. Corporations need to take a closer look at their executive pay structures.

Verizon and 5G, Apr 22 2019

Verizon appears to be the first company offering 5G in the U.S. and it is already being tested in four markets, namely, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Houston, and Indianapolis according to the Verizon annual report. The news media has likened the coming of 5G to the second coming of Christ. But a closer look, as stated before in earlier blogs, does not back that view up.

Verizon states that 5G will have eight capabilities: peak data rates, mobile data volumes, mobility, connected devices, energy efficiency, service deployment, latency, and reliability. The result will lower latency and allow higher traffic rates as the volume of internet-connected device grows. Note, there are no claims of instant downloads of everything, screaming TV streaming services, and instant uploads of MRI or X-ray data.

As usual the media is full of hype without bothering to do the proper research to back up its sensationalist claims. As I stated in a previous blog, whatever the gain it will come at a higher cost.

Chicago Female Golden Gloves, Apr 19 2019

Big article in the Chicago Tribune on female Golden Glove boxers misses the real story. Why do people think that just because males do something females should follow suit. If males want to beat each other's brains in by boxing because, Oh My, boxing is such a neat sport that is fine. Women should reconsider, how about taking the money meant to train women in Golden Gloves boxing and diverting it to provide more education opportunities for women.

Herman Cain Fed Board Nominee, Apr 18 2019

Mr. Cain for Federal Reserve Board member would be a bad choice. President Trump desires that Mr. Cain, an ally, join the Federal Reserve board so that he can help override Mr. Powell. That would eradicate the Federal Reserve Board's independence making it a political football. We need the United States to run smoothly at least as far as economic policy is concerned.

Streaming TV vs Cable, Apr 17 2019

All the big corporations are jockeying to make more money from streaming TV bundles. The costs are rising, but how that is going to imperil Cable is not really clear. Yes millions of cable subscribers have gone to online streaming services **BECAUSE THEY WERE CHEAPER**. Now that they are going to cost just as much as cable or more a switch back to cable may be in order.

BREXIT: Soft Landing or Stay, Apr 16 2019

Once again the E.U. has given Brexit a stay until October 31, 2019. Parliamentarians have stated that to stay in the E.U. is to lose democracy, but underneath all of this is a reasonable exit argument. Ms. May's soft exit proposal would strip the U.K. of a lot of trade negotiating power. The only gain would be a soft Irish border between Northern Ireland (U.K.) and the Republic of Ireland (E.U.). That would be bad.

Let me re-emphasize from earlier comments that what is really needed is an action that would be best for the people of the U.K. and Ms. May's exit proposals so far are not the way to go. The best resolution would be to stay in the E.U. temporarily, until further notice, thereby retaining a voice in all E.U. decisions. Secondly, a government funded study, carried out by three U.K. Universities, say Belfast, Oxford, and the London School of Economics, should look into the pros and cons of Brexit.

Parliament could then review the studies and if leaving the E.U. is best then no second referendum would be needed. Instead proper public explanations followed by proper Brexit negotiations or if staying turned out to be best then a second Brexit referendum would be in order.

Tiger Woods Masters Victory, Apr 15 2019

Congratulations to Tiger Woods on winning his fifteenth Major, the 2019 Masters. It should be noted that all of his past coaches and teachers, including Butch Harmon, stated that Tiger would probably never win another major. Some went so far as to say he would never win another tournament.

Well Tiger did win another tournament that happened in 2018 and now he has won another Major. So much for coaching and teaching wisdom, Tiger answered all of his critics by simply winning.

BREXIT: Still No Solution, Apr 12 2019

Excuse me, according to the British PM Theresa May, she was going to deliver her third proposal to parliament and resign. Why is she still the PM? Now she is courting the opposition, is that not what she should have done to start with? What conclusion can we draw from the Brexit mess?

NEVER trust your government on anything. **ALWAYS** challenge your government to explain and to provide evidence to whatever the government contends is the correct path.

An Elected Chicago School Board, Apr 11 2019

Outgoing Mayor Rahm Emanuel said no, but incoming Mayor-Elect Lori Lightfoot says yes. Well who should be eligible to be elected for this proposed elected school board and what districts should each elected official represent?

First, elected school board members, including the board president, should be educators, not plumbers, pizza chain owners, lawyers, doctors, etc.

The board is proposed to be twenty members strong, this is too large and a huge committee will be inefficient and sub-committees will turn into fiefdoms just like in the legislature. Nine should be enough, if the Supreme Court of the United States can make do with nine people, so can the school board. Each member should represent a mix of both well to do and poor districts equally, except for the board president. The board president should represent all districts.

How should the election district be drawn? They should not as the current school districts already define areas. Instead, each district gets classified by social economic status (SES). Then the city council splits the districts according to SES into say three groups (upper, middle, and lower class) where the SES class is defined by the districts average family income using official class definition economic numbers for the Midwest. Finally, each of eight board member positions are randomly assigned districts, equally from each group. Once announced, an educator who lives in one of the grouped areas can then run for that particular board position.

Illinois Law and Sex Education, Apr 10 2019

Laws can define limits or a given term itself as in "Sexual Consent", but laws SHOULD NEVER specify how instruction must be structured. Education is not in the purview of a bunch of law makers. That's the job of educators. Why? Because community values and morals are fluid and the art of law making is not.

It takes a long time to get a law approved and much longer to get the same law repealed or changed. Tribune reported Kate Thayer in her article on Consent reported that the bill's sponsor Ann Williams claims that the issue is complex as consent does not count when intoxicated. Actually Ms. Williams unless you can prove that the alleged consenter was legally intoxicated, extremely unlikely in most cases, consent even when intoxicated will be acted on and therefore does count.

[EV SSL](#)



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](#).

iVWAY is an Internet Investment Advising company.
We are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).
Registration is a legal requirement and does not imply any special skill level.
We can be looked up at advisorinfo.sec.gov on the SEC Investment Advisor database.