

SPENDING DEBATE TO NOW RAMP UP. ANY RELIEF RALLY SHOULD BE GIVEN BACK.

The Investment Climate:

We believe these two charts simplify the whole story of what's going on in Washington.

They plot US household income since 1967 and the amount of this income that was collected in federal taxes and spent on federal expenditures.

The blue line marks the intersection where \$1 of income equals \$0.50 of spending in the first chart and \$0.50 of taxation in the second.

Note that until the 2008 financial crisis income, taxation and spending tracked consistently, although deficits were being generated.

The financial crisis created, for the first time, a decline in household income from \$50k in 2007 to \$48k in 2010, labeled with an **X**. This resulted in a commensurate decline in tax receipts.

But spending continued unabated and broke well above the blue equilibrium line. In addition to spending not being a function of income, as is the case for taxation, spending includes unemployment entitlements that grow inversely to economic activity and income direction.

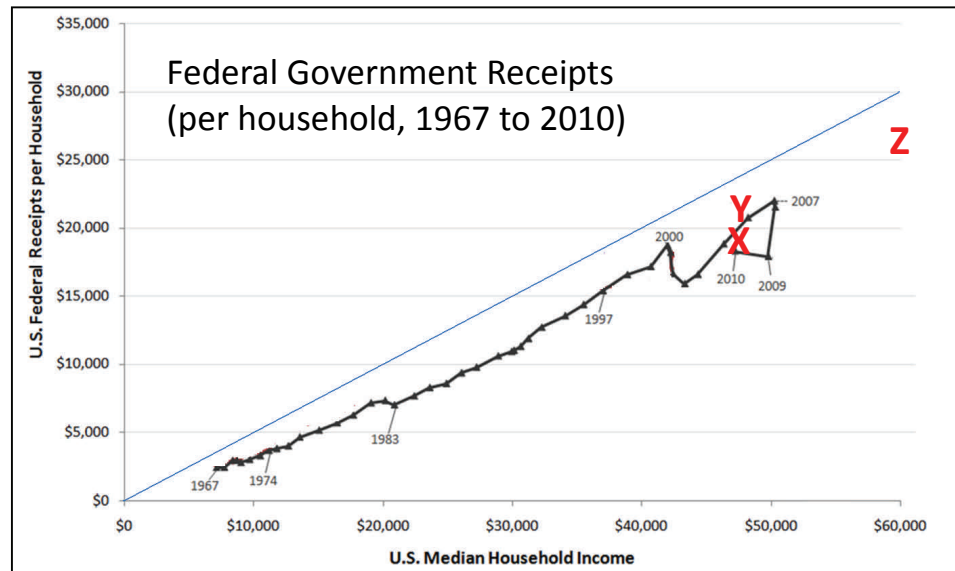
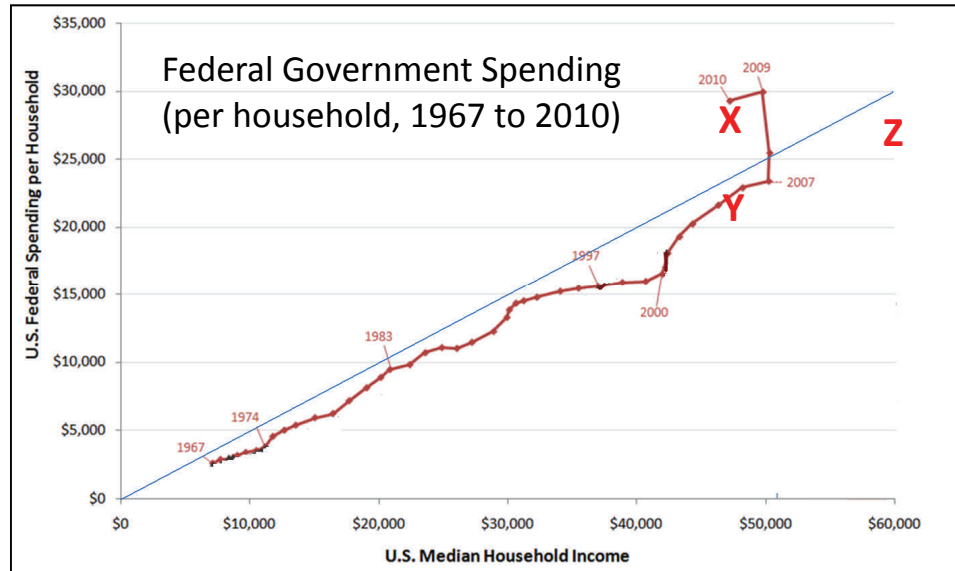
*If economic activity remains below normal, spending must be cut and taxation must be increased to levels identified by the **Y**'s, and the spending cut would have to exceed that of taxation.*

If economic activity was to get back in line with the past 50 years (\$60k), taxation would

move to a point identified by the **Z** due to the progressive nature of its calculation but spending would not only not

past this would have been a fait accompli but that was during a time when trend lines for income, tax receipts and spending

Reserve there may be a period when the right to unprecedented low borrowing costs is jeopardized.



be allowed to grow to avoid increased deficits but would actually have to decline to get back to historical equilibrium.

Over the next few months it is unlikely that the economy will recover back to its historical trend line but discussions must be entered regarding increase of the US debt ceiling. In the

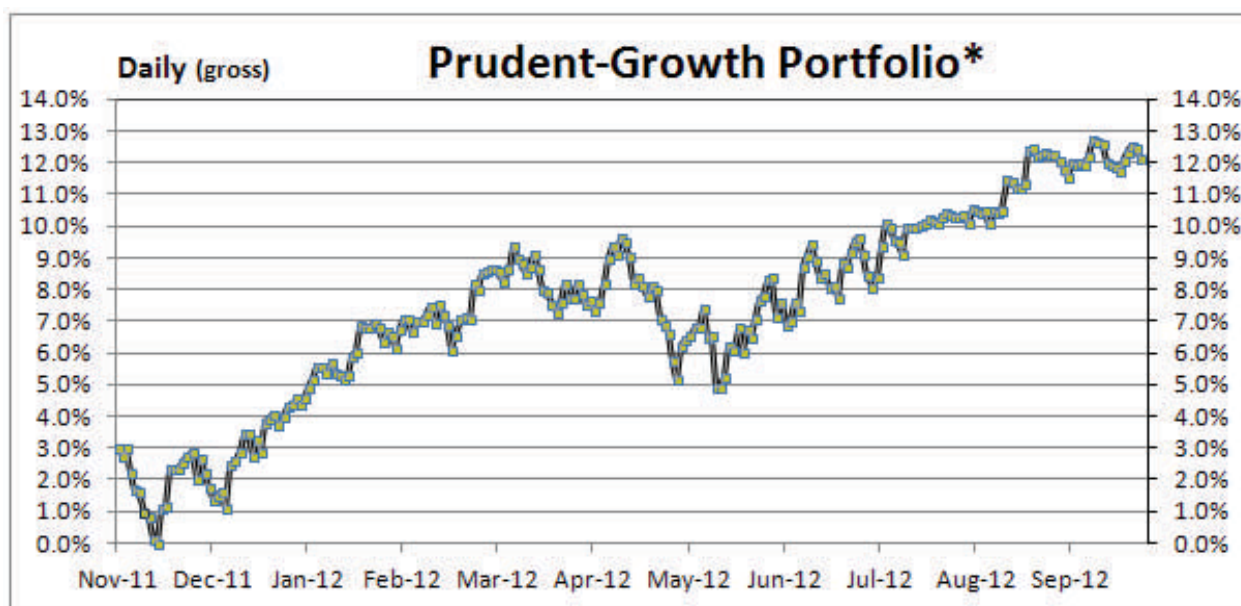
had some semblance of correlation. The financial crisis and the slow recovery to date may make ratings agencies and our creditors much less comfortable with the US's ability to get its house in order, especially after the events of the past month.

With significant buying of US debt being done by the Federal

The Portfolio Strategy:

We believe any stock-market relief rally resulting from passage of this "cliff" deal will be worked off during the next three months of spending and taxation debates. In the end, without the immediate resumption of economic growth to close budget deficits, government spending must be reduced.

RAM taxable SMA account. *see disclosure for details.



* DISCLOSURE

Past performance is not indicative of future results.

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