

# BIG UPDATE: MARCH 2012



# Bowden Investment Group

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Recent data suggests that the housing market may be near the bottom and on the way up. For the three month period ending in January, housing prices hit a new low. However, during this same time period, prices only fell at a rate of 0.8%. This slowing rate of decline could suggest that housing prices will not go down much further. However, there is no way to

## Letter from the President

Appalachian State's CFA Investment Research Team continued its preparation for the CFA Institute Research Challenge during the month of March. Appalachian State will represent North Carolina this month in the Regional level of the CFA Institute's Global Challenge against 31 universities from around the United States. The winner of the Regional level of the competition will represent the United States against three other universities from all over the world. We are eager to compete and represent Appalachian State in April.

I would like to extend sincere congratulations to all applicants for next

year's Bowden Investment Group. Dr. Goff and Mr. David Thompson have selected 12 students to manage the fund beginning this summer.

The current members of the Bowden Investment Group will spend the month of April positioning the fund with Graduation quickly approaching.

Thank you very much for your continued support and interest.

*Ethan*

## Economic Outlook

know how long the bottom of the market could last.

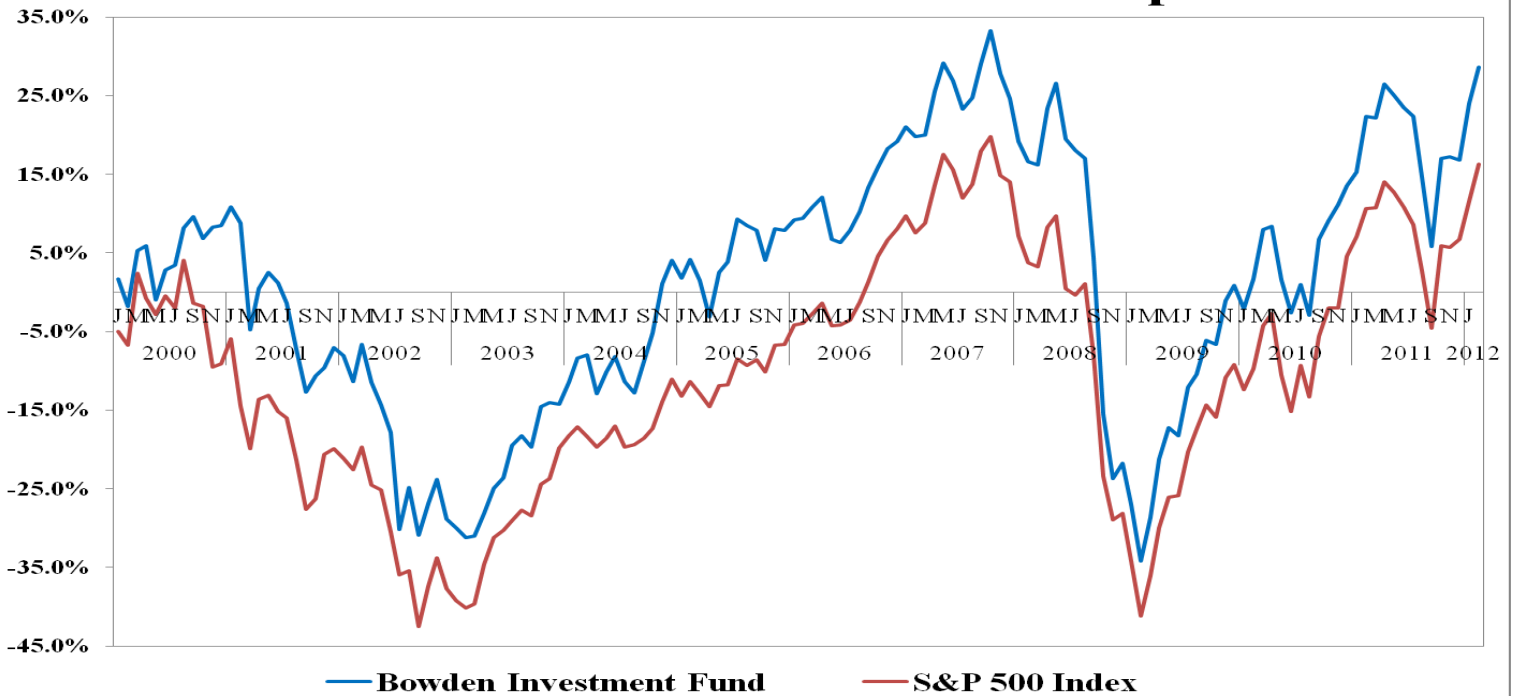
Consumer confidence fell slightly recently, yet is still near the highest level that has been seen since late 2008. Consumers are now more concerned about rising gas prices than jobs. A recent poll by Bloomberg shows that consumers are still concerned about jobs, but not as much as in years past.

Also, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke recently spoke, saying

that the economy is several years away from fully recovering. He cites 8.3% unemployment as a continued concern and did not rule out a third round of Quantitative Easing. Overall, the economy seems to be performing fairly well, yet could still be a long way from a full recovery.

*David Jones  
Economic Analyst*

## Bowden Investment Fund Cumulative Returns Since Inception



## Portfolio Management

### Buffalo Wild Wings

The BIG *trimmed* its position in BWLD from 70 shares down to 43 shares due to the recent run-up in share price from an outstanding earnings report back in February. BWLD increased from \$70 to over \$82 in one day – a gain of 17%. We sold 27 shares at approximately \$87 on March 5.

## Stock to Watch

### Medco Health Solutions

The BIG has been keeping a close watch on MHS as the merger with Express Scripts (ESRX) nears closer to becoming a reality. The FTC is currently reviewing the implications of the merger, but it is expected by many that the merger will go through. If this occurs the BIG will get \$28.80 per share of MHS and 0.81 shares of ESRX. As of the end of March, ESRX closed at \$54.18. The FTC is expected to rule in early April, so it will be interesting to see what happens as the merger grows closer to fruition. This is the first time that many BIG members have experienced a merger currently in progress and we are very intrigued as to how this will play out.

## Fund Performance

YTD 2012 Returns	
Bowden	S&P 500
12.71%	12.58%

March 2012 Returns	
Bowden	S&P 500
2.40%	3.29%

Value of Fund at Beg. of March:	\$91,335.26
Value of Fund at End of March:	\$93,525.76
% Change:	2.40%

*“Talent is God given. Be humble. Fame is man-given. Be grateful. Conceit is self-given. Be careful.”*

- John Robert Wooden -