



June 1, 2014

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### *Anomaly of a Bond Market*

Predictions of a rise in interest rates in anticipation of Fed action have been muted by a bond rally even as stocks reach all time highs. What is driving the bond rally at this time? It may be that risk aversion continues to be the norm.

#### **Why this rate trend?**

The Fed's low subsidized interest rate is intended to stimulate growth via risk taking.

*Why hasn't it?*

Corporate cash is a precious resource. Spend wisely, or fear the return of illiquidity. The Fed clearly wants growth. Corporations and individuals want certainty. Long term investors are a bit of a rare breed these days. The Fed's policy relies upon a willingness to take risk - invest capital to grow business. Instead, business mergers are growing. M&A transactions do not produce growth. They result in belt tightening and job losses.

#### **What's the point?**

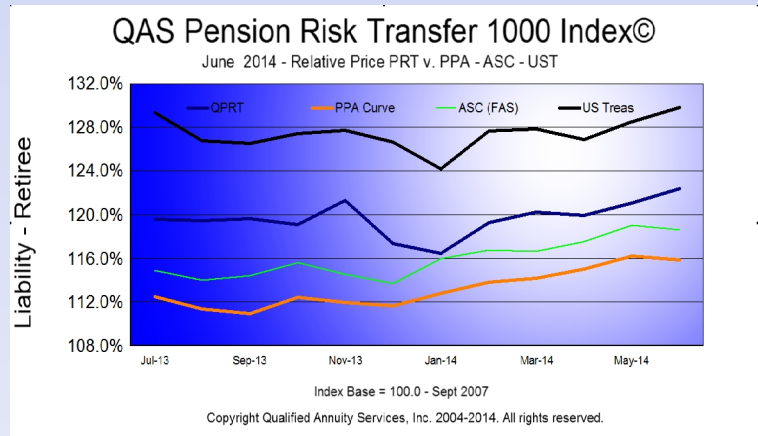
The Fed goal of risk taking is not resonating. Washington clamped down on risk taking at commercial banks via Dodd-Frank. As lending wanes, banks grow capital very slowly from basic operations which are largely a commodity.

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Immediate</b>	<b>Deferred</b>
April 1, 2014	3.13%	3.46%
May 1, 2014	2.99%	3.31%
June 1, 2014	2.85%	3.18%



*Has risk taking been redefined once again?*

#### **How does this impact the PRT Market ?**

Volatility has moderated lower. Period to period changes have been range bound:

<b>PRT Trax Index - Change</b>			
<b>Change %</b>	<b>12 Mos</b>	<b>3 Mos</b>	<b>1 Month</b>
<b>QPRT</b>	2.36%	2.06%	1.08%
<b>PPA Curve</b>	2.98%	0.74%	-0.32%
<b>ASC (FAS)</b>	3.25%	0.89%	-0.35%
<b>US Treasury</b>	0.37%	2.32%	1.03%

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