Is it 2008 Part II?

It feels like Déjà vu all over again! If you are an investor looking for a reason to be worried, there are plenty of headlines to light your fuse. Go ahead; press the panic button at your peril. I do not blame you for wanting to hit the switch. It is in our DNA to act accordingly, especially when the chicken littles are out in force and the bears, on cue, are yelling, “I told you so!” Of course, the media is hyperventilating because they know that catching eyeballs and selling newspapers is all about fear. Furthermore, the worrywarts, the naysayers, and the pontificating pundits of pessimism are out in droves revealing their same-o-lame-o gloom and doom story. As expected, the pundits and journalists will work overtime during the next few days, weeks, or perhaps months trying to scare us out of our long-term investment plan.

I understand the temptation to believe the Armageddon scenario, but this is not the time to give in; it is the time to dig in! I encourage you not to listen to the chatter. Pay no attention to the voices of doom and gloom. Just listen to the chatter. Pay no attention to the fear mongers. I encourage you not to act accordingly, especially when the going gets tough, I tip my hat to you, as I know it was and is not easy.

Nevertheless, if you want a broader, more rational picture of our current economic situation, I encourage you check out he August 20, 2015, short read from Fortune Magazine http://fortune.com/2015/08/20/american-economy-worries/. The author addresses all the "terrible news" that continues to bombard us. For example:

- It has not been this cheap to fill our gas tank in over a decade.
- Companies that rely on energy to manufacture their goods must figure out what to do with the excess capital they are not spending on fuel.
- American corporations are struggling under the burden of enormous piles of cash. They may have no choice but to return some of that money back to shareholders in the form of dividends.
- It appears that unemployment is so low that wages for American workers are going up, and that could raise consumption and demand for products and services.
- Contributions to 401(k) and other retirement plans are up dramatically.
- Housing starts and the construction sector are booming.
- America’s biggest global economic competitor (China) is reeling.
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The author apologizes (tongue in cheek) for bringing us all this terrible news! Kidding aside, please know that I am the first person to agree that there are always reasons not to invest in stocks, and the stock market will most likely continue to have its gut-wrenching declines from time-to-time. Nevertheless, my primary purpose of sharing this information is to help us appreciate the fact that things are seldom as bad as they appear and why it is. In my opinion, it is riskier to be out of the market than in it. That is my story, and I am sticking to it!

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