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WHAT THEY'RE BUYING: COMMODITIES, VALUE PICKS

Compiled by Russ Wiles, The Arizona Republic

A possible slowdown in consumer spending worries some local financial advisers.
David Fernandez

Wealth Engineering, Scottsdale

Sees a possible recession by year's end caused by a sluggish housing market and consequent drop in consumer spending. "Consumers probably won't be able to support the economy like they have in the past," Fernandez said.

In this environment, he sees good potential for commodities and likes the StreetTracks Gold Shares Fund (GLD). Fernandez also sees stock markets in commodity-rich nations doing well, which explains his enthusiasm for iShares MSCI Australia Index Fund (EWA) and iShares MSCI Canada Index (EWC).

Neal Van Zutphen

Delta Ventures Financial Counsel, Mesa

Doesn't expect to see much change from the stock market's current trading range in the absence of any big developments on the economic front. "I think we'll see an economy that muddles along," he said.

Van Zutphen likes Johnson & Johnson (JNJ), the diversified health care firm, as a dividend-rich value play. Another favorite is Symantec (SYMC), which he considers an underpriced technology stock. The company makes anti-virus and anti-spyware software under the Norton brand.

Keith Tigue

Robinson, Tigue, Sponcil & Associates, Phoenix

Sees potential in various foreign markets and energy stocks.

Tigue's favorites include iShares MSCI Emerging Markets (EEM), an exchange-traded fund, and Excelsior International Fund (UMINX), a mutual fund that holds stocks from Japan, Britain and other developed markets.

In energy, he likes Transocean Inc. (RIG), a company that provides contract drilling services in offshore areas around the globe.

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