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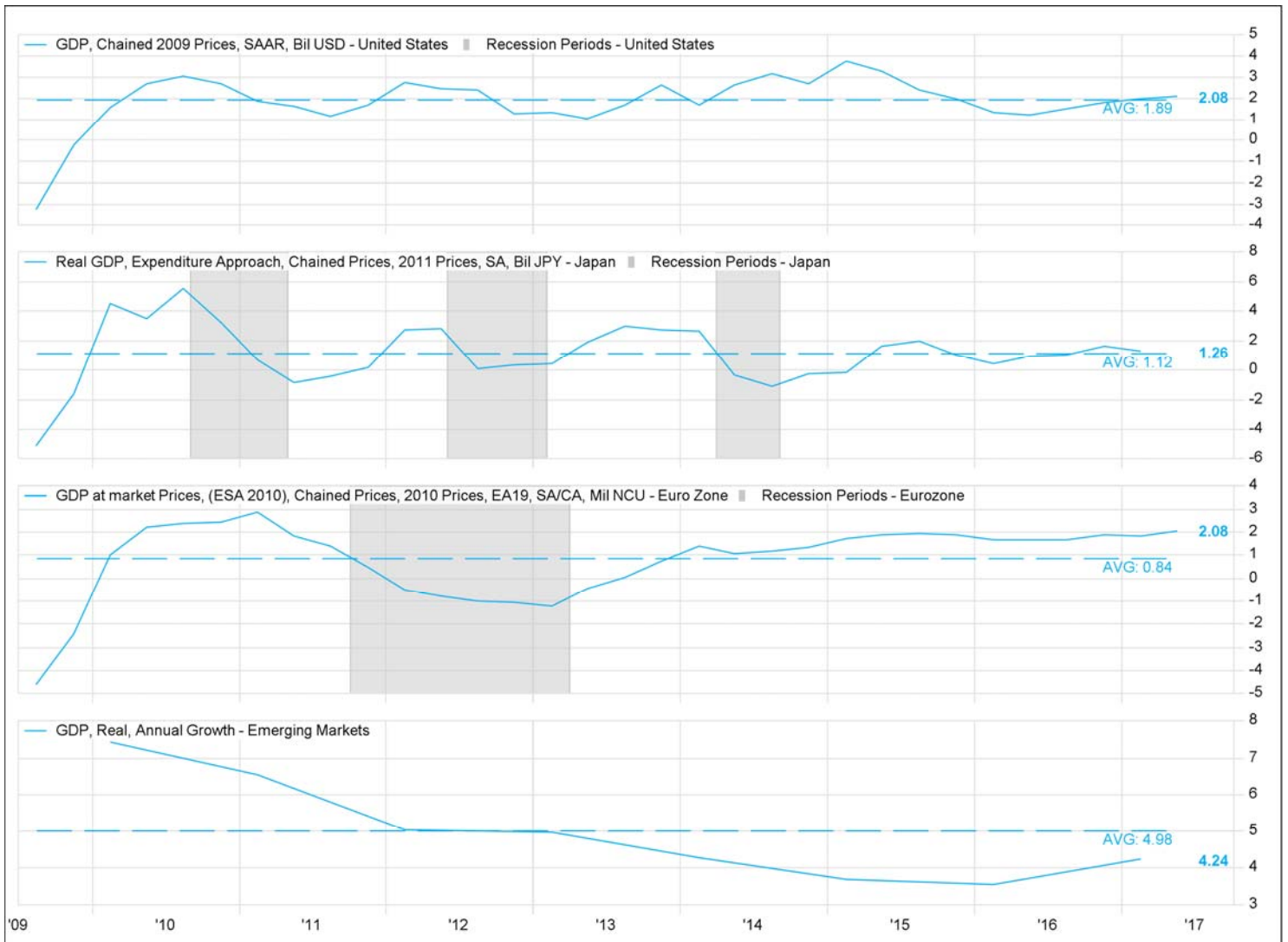
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## Post Global Financial Crisis Major Economy Performance – All Clear?

Forgetting for a second the noise and concern over North Korean nuclear tipped missiles, a noticeable trend not seen since the end of the Global Financial Crisis has appeared over the intermediate term. The major economic areas of the world the United States, Japan, the Eurozone and the developing nations are all trending at reasonable levels of growth simultaneously. Japan has been serially in and out of recession since 2009 and has worked itself through three downturns in seven years. The Eurozone suffered an extended contractionary downturn starting in 2011 and the developing nations, largely driven by China, never really cracked below 3% growth as a collective. Meanwhile, the U.S. economy has been the consistent 2% growth performer.

The last eight years have been defined by herculean efforts of accommodation on the part of central banks, as they have used interest rate mechanisms as well as extraordinary balance sheet expansion policies to provide large amounts of liquidity to the global financial system. This has all happened seemingly to get us to where we are now. All the global pieces are performing reasonably well, though not all yet robustly. This is where the Bull and Bear argument comes in. Can central bankers move off the crisis era policies without major disruptions as we move into a new era? The moves will likely be telegraphed and gradual to accomplish this. Markets may undergo an orderly adjustment phase and politicians may actually set about making the necessary structural fiscal and regulatory reforms that will be required during the transition. The Bears argue that conditions are likely to become more volatile as a result of the policy unwinds. As always, investment opportunities will be found in either scenario. Now, if only we can get North Korea to stop shooting off ICBMs.



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