



MITCHELL MCLEOD PUGH & WILLIAMS
INVESTMENT ADVISER

Q1

Quarterly Market Review
First Quarter 2017



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Even though it seemed to face headwinds from every direction – political discord, rising interest rates, uncertainty over economic policy, geo-political events in Syria and North Korea and historically high valuation levels – the U.S. stock market advanced again in the first quarter of 2017. The current bull market has now entered its ninth year since the Great Recession of 2008. There is no shortage of opinions on why the market has continued to surge, and plenty of forecasts have been made as to when and if the market will experience a correction or enter a bear market phase.

Valuations in the stock market are essentially a result of discounting the expectation of future corporate profits. With control of the White House and both houses of Congress in one party's hands, prospects are high that business-friendly reforms will occur in health care and taxation and within the "regulatory state." These potential reforms, along with the possibility of a major infrastructure bill, have fueled investor optimism by offering hope that there is still room for this market to run. Whether this optimism is warranted will become clear in the months to come.

In the meantime, our firm will continue to adhere to our clients' asset allocations and to maintain broad diversification across asset class, capitalization range and industry sector. That is what we believe to be the critical elements in building and preserving wealth – regardless of periodic changes in market conditions.

Overview:

Market Summary

World Stock Market Performance

World Asset Classes

US Stocks

International Developed Stocks

Emerging Markets Stocks

Select Country Performance

Select Currency Performance vs. US Dollar

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

Commodities

Fixed Income

Impact of Diversification

Quarterly Topic: Investment Shock Absorbers



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Market Summary

Index Returns

	US Stock Market	International Developed Stocks	Emerging Markets Stocks	Global Real Estate	US Bond Market	Global Bond Market ex US
Q1 2017	STOCKS				BONDS	
	5.74%	6.81%	11.44%	1.44%	0.82%	-0.35%
Since Jan. 2001						
Avg. Quarterly Return	1.9%	1.4%	3.0%	2.7%	1.2%	1.1%
Best Quarter	16.8% Q2 2009	25.9% Q2 2009	34.7% Q2 2009	32.3% Q3 2009	4.6% Q3 2001	5.5% Q4 2008
Worst Quarter	-22.8% Q4 2008	-21.2% Q4 2008	-27.6% Q4 2008	-36.1% Q4 2008	-3.0% Q4 2016	-3.2% Q2 2015

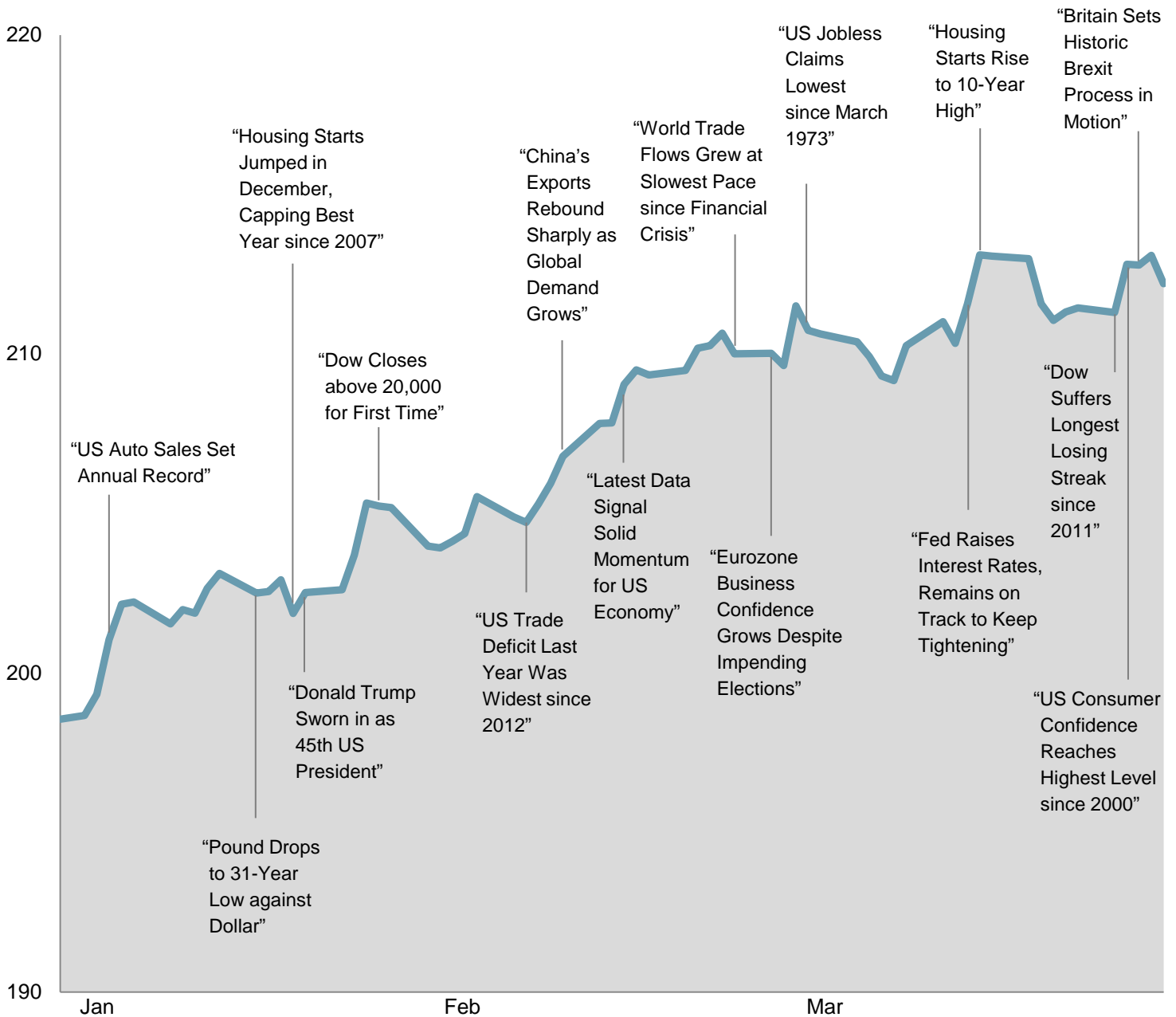
Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Market segment (index representation) as follows: US Stock Market (Russell 3000 Index), International Developed Stocks (MSCI World ex USA Index [net div.]), Emerging Markets (MSCI Emerging Markets Index [net div.]), Global Real Estate (S&P Global REIT Index [net div.]), US Bond Market (Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index), and Global Bond ex US Market (Citi WGBI ex USA 1-30 Years [Hedged to USD]). The S&P data are provided by Standard & Poor's Index Services Group. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks, and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. MSCI data © MSCI 2017, all rights reserved. Bloomberg Barclays data provided by Bloomberg. Citi fixed income indices copyright 2017 by Citigroup.



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World Stock Market Performance

MSCI All Country World Index with selected headlines from Q1 2017



These headlines are not offered to explain market returns. Instead, they serve as a reminder that investors should view daily events from a long-term perspective and avoid making investment decisions based solely on the news.

Graph Source: MSCI ACWI Index [net div.]. MSCI data © MSCI 2017, all rights reserved.

It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Performance does not reflect the expenses associated with management of an actual portfolio. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.



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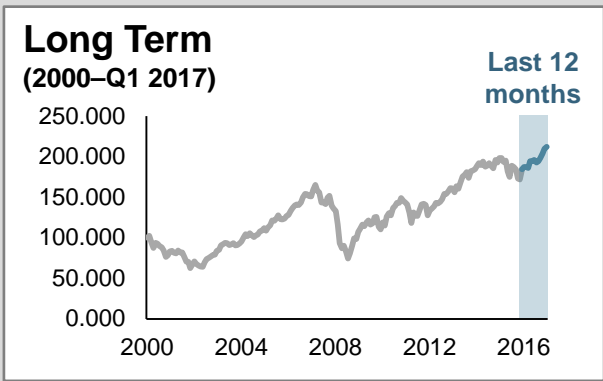
World Stock Market Performance

MSCI All Country World Index with selected headlines from past 12 months

Short Term (Q2 2016–Q1 2017)



Long Term (2000–Q1 2017)



These headlines are not offered to explain market returns. Instead, they serve as a reminder that investors should view daily events from a long-term perspective and avoid making investment decisions based solely on the news.

Graph Source: MSCI ACWI Index [net div.]. MSCI data © MSCI 2017, all rights reserved.

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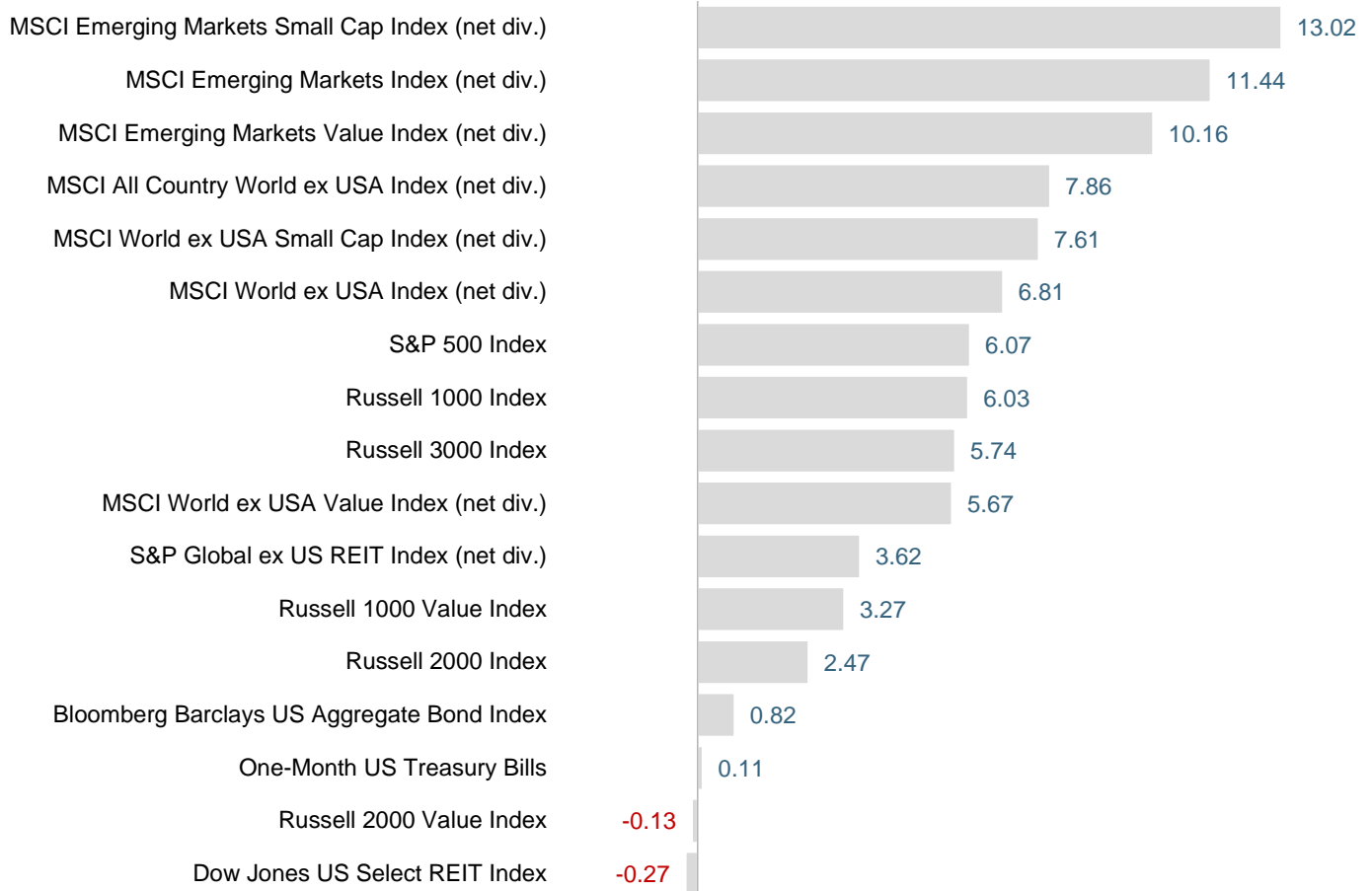
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World Asset Classes

First Quarter 2017 Index Returns (%)

Looking at broad market indices, emerging markets outperformed both US and non-US developed markets during the quarter. Real estate investment trusts (REITs) lagged their equity market counterparts.

The value effect was negative in the US, non-US, and emerging markets. Small caps outperformed large caps in emerging markets and non-US developed markets but underperformed in the US.



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US Stocks

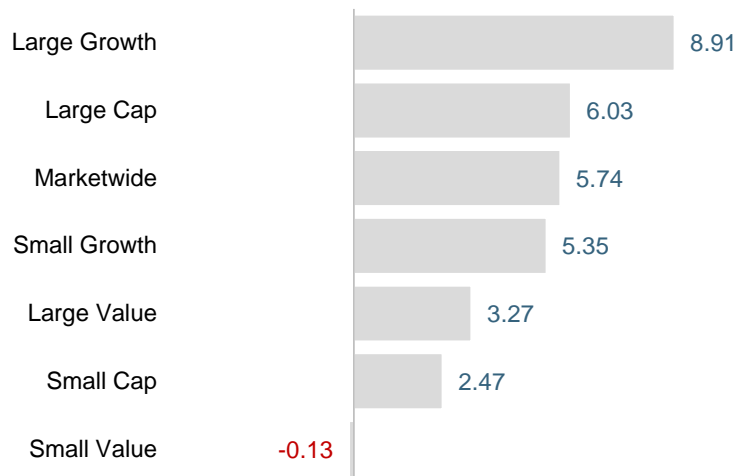
First Quarter 2017 Index Returns

The broad US equity market recorded positive absolute performance for the quarter.

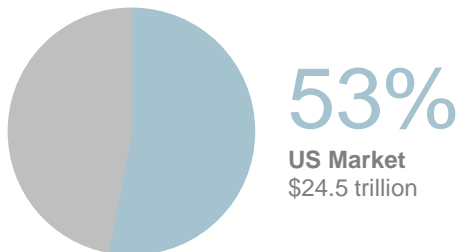
Value underperformed growth indices across all size ranges.

Small caps underperformed large caps.

Ranked Returns for the Quarter (%)



World Market Capitalization—US



Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Marketwide	18.07	9.76	13.18	7.54
Large Cap	17.43	9.99	13.26	7.58
Large Cap Value	19.22	8.67	13.13	5.93
Large Cap Growth	15.76	11.27	13.32	9.13
Small Cap	26.22	7.22	12.35	7.12
Small Cap Value	29.37	7.62	12.54	6.09
Small Cap Growth	23.03	6.72	12.10	8.05

* Annualized

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Market segment (index representation) as follows: Marketwide (Russell 3000 Index), Large Cap (Russell 1000 Index), Large Cap Value (Russell 1000 Value Index), Large Cap Growth (Russell 1000 Growth Index), Small Cap (Russell 2000 Index), Small Cap Value (Russell 2000 Value Index), and Small Cap Growth (Russell 2000 Growth Index). World Market Cap represented by Russell 3000 Index, MSCI World ex USA IMI Index, and MSCI Emerging Markets IMI Index. Russell 3000 Index is used as the proxy for the US market. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks, and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. MSCI data © MSCI 2017, all rights reserved.



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International Developed Stocks

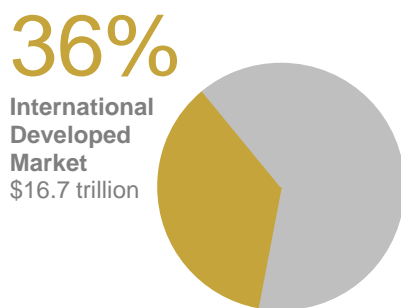
First Quarter 2017 Index Returns

In US dollar terms, developed markets outperformed the US equity market but underperformed emerging markets indices during the quarter.

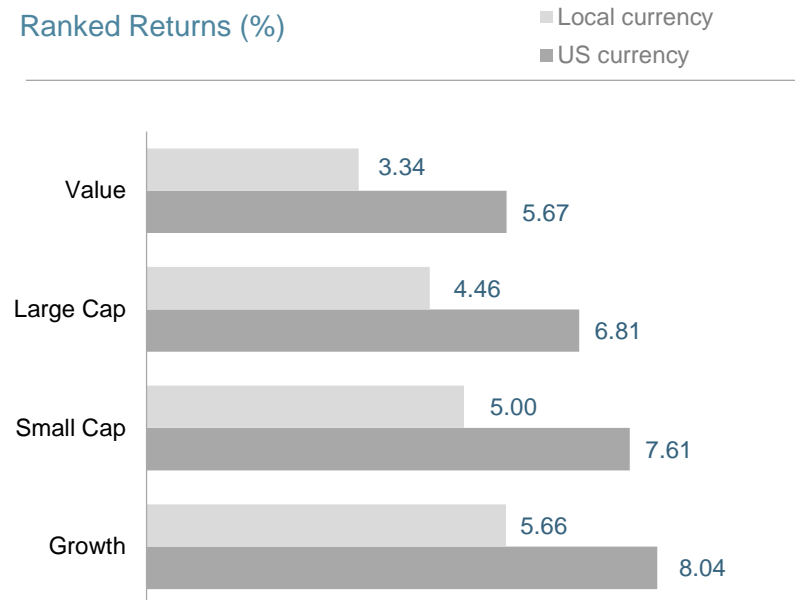
Small caps outperformed large caps in non-US developed markets.

The value effect was negative across all size ranges in non-US developed markets.

World Market Capitalization— International Developed



Ranked Returns (%)



Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Large Cap	11.93	0.35	5.38	1.13
Small Cap	11.58	2.70	7.78	2.72
Value	16.46	-0.67	5.19	0.31
Growth	7.47	1.27	5.48	1.87

* Annualized

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Emerging Markets Stocks

First Quarter 2017 Index Returns

In US dollar terms, emerging markets indices outperformed both the US and developed markets outside the US.

The value effect was negative among large cap stocks in emerging markets but positive among small cap stocks.

Small caps outperformed large caps.

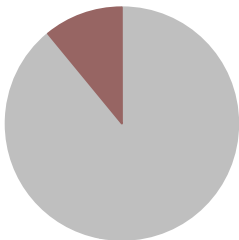
Ranked Returns (%)



World Market Capitalization— Emerging Markets

11%

Emerging Markets
\$5.1 trillion



Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Large Cap	17.21	1.18	0.81	2.72
Small Cap	14.49	1.66	2.87	3.92
Value	17.43	-0.10	-1.01	2.67
Growth	17.08	2.37	2.54	2.69

* Annualized

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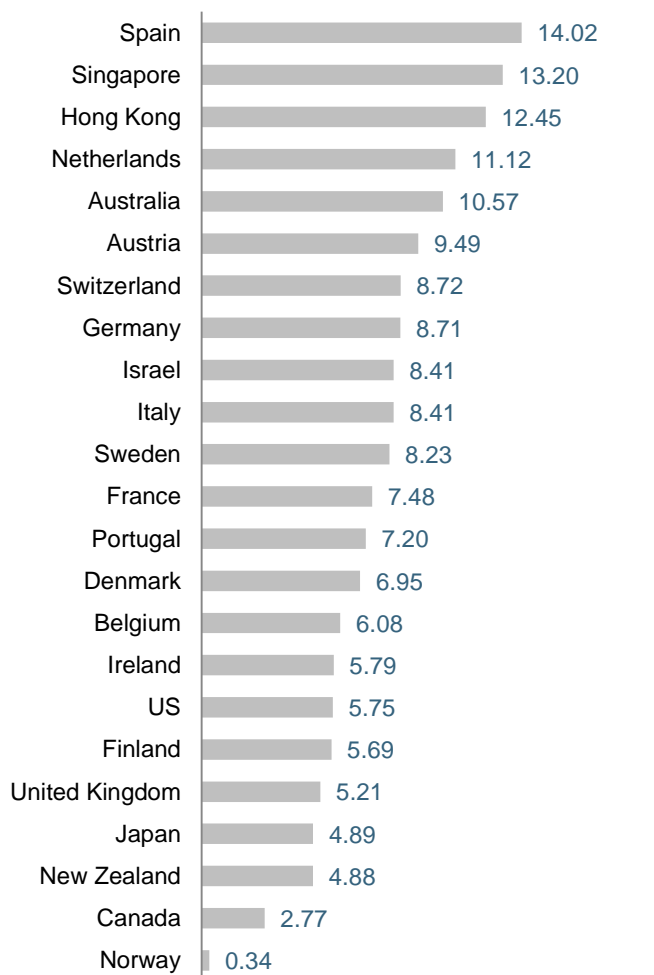


Select Country Performance

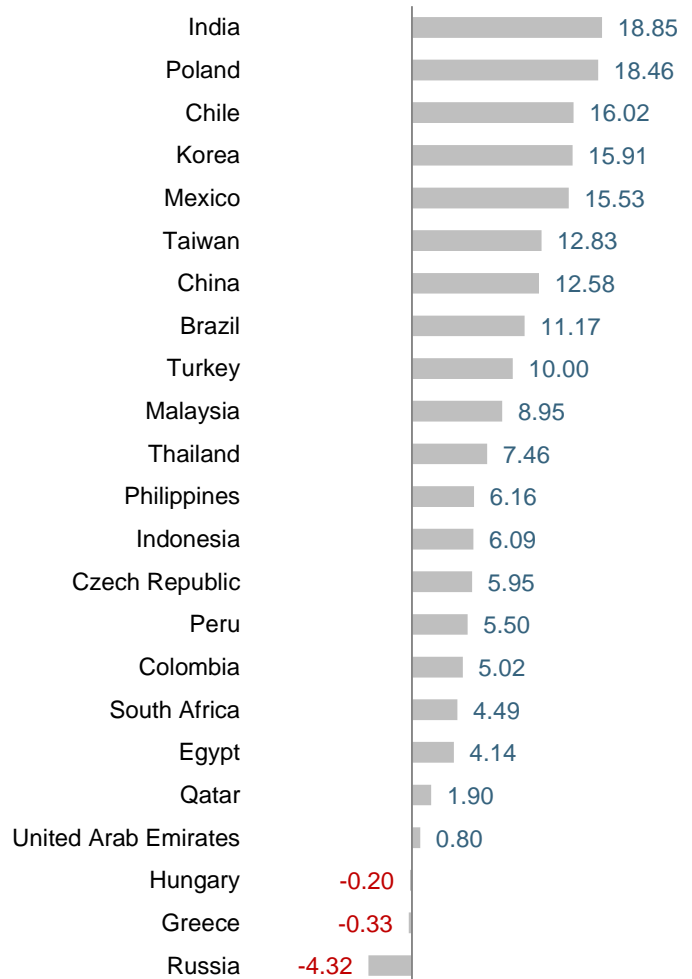
First Quarter 2017 Index Returns

In US dollar terms, Spain and Singapore recorded the highest country performance in developed markets, while Canada and Norway returned the lowest performance for the quarter. In emerging markets, India and Poland posted the highest country returns, while Greece and Russia returned the lowest performance.

Ranked Developed Markets Returns (%)



Ranked Emerging Markets Returns (%)



Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Country performance based on respective indices in the MSCI World ex US IMI Index (for developed markets), MSCI USA IMI Index (for US), and MSCI Emerging Markets IMI Index. All returns in USD and net of withholding tax on dividends. MSCI data © MSCI 2017, all rights reserved. UAE and Qatar have been reclassified as emerging markets by MSCI, effective May 2014.

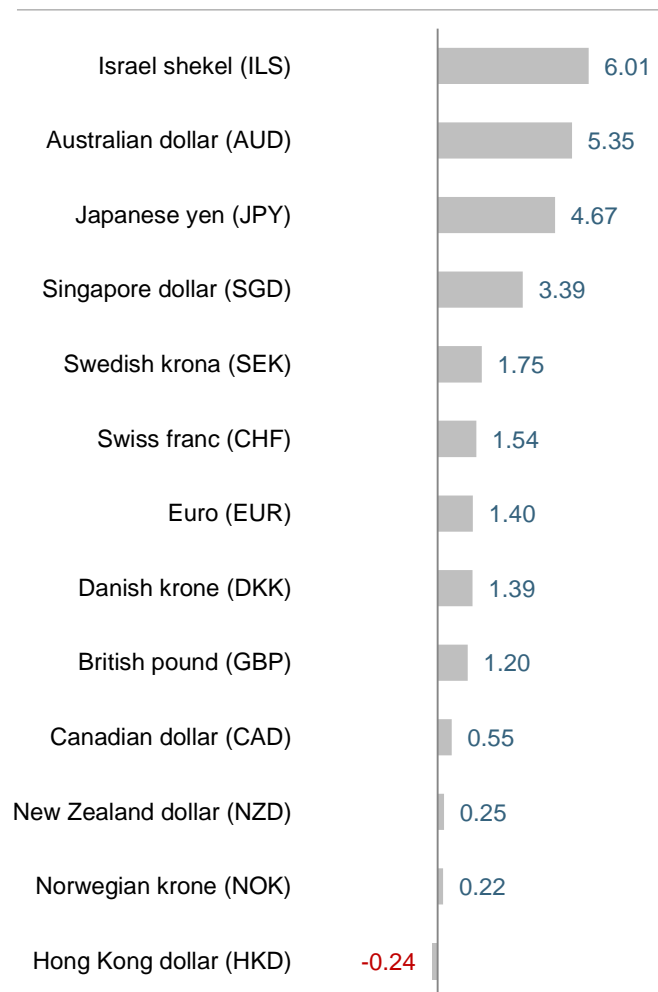


Select Currency Performance vs. US Dollar

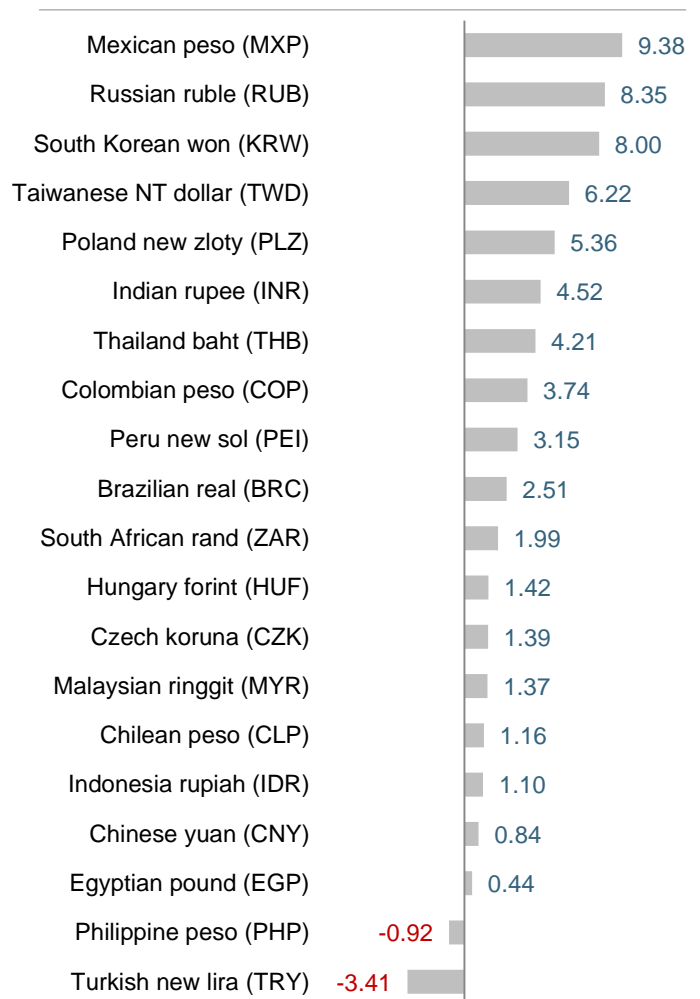
First Quarter 2017

Most non-US developed markets currencies appreciated against the US dollar during the quarter, with the Israeli shekel and the Australian dollar experiencing the greatest appreciation. In emerging markets, the Mexican peso appreciated nearly 10%, while the Turkish lira depreciated almost 4%.

Ranked Developed Markets Returns (%)



Ranked Emerging Markets Returns (%)



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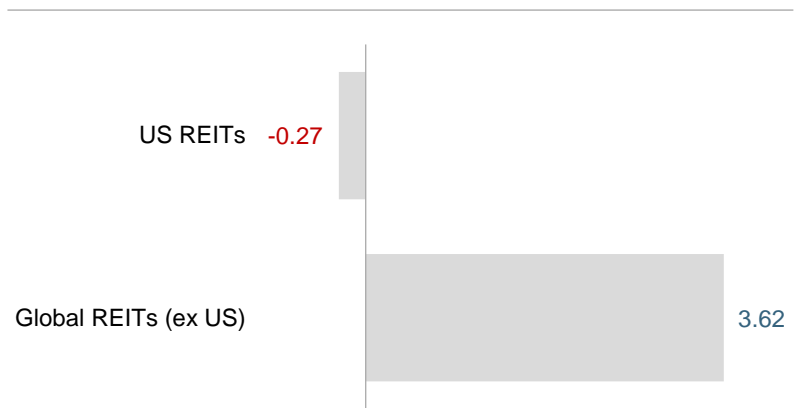
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Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

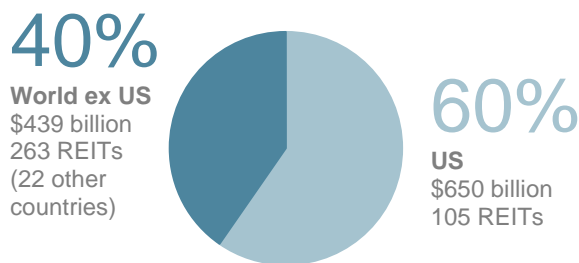
First Quarter 2017 Index Returns

Real estate investment trusts (REITs) lagged their equity market counterparts.

Ranked Returns (%)



Total Value of REIT Stocks



Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
US REITs	1.21	9.96	9.45	4.22
Global REITs (ex US)	-1.61	3.46	6.79	-0.39

* Annualized

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Number of REIT stocks and total value based on the two indices. All index returns are net of withholding tax on dividends. Total value of REIT stocks represented by Dow Jones US Select REIT Index and the S&P Global ex US REIT Index. Dow Jones US Select REIT Index used as proxy for the US market, and S&P Global ex US REIT Index used as proxy for the World ex US market. Dow Jones US Select REIT Index data provided by Dow Jones ©. S&P Global ex US REIT Index data provided by Standard and Poor's Index Services Group © 2017.



Commodities

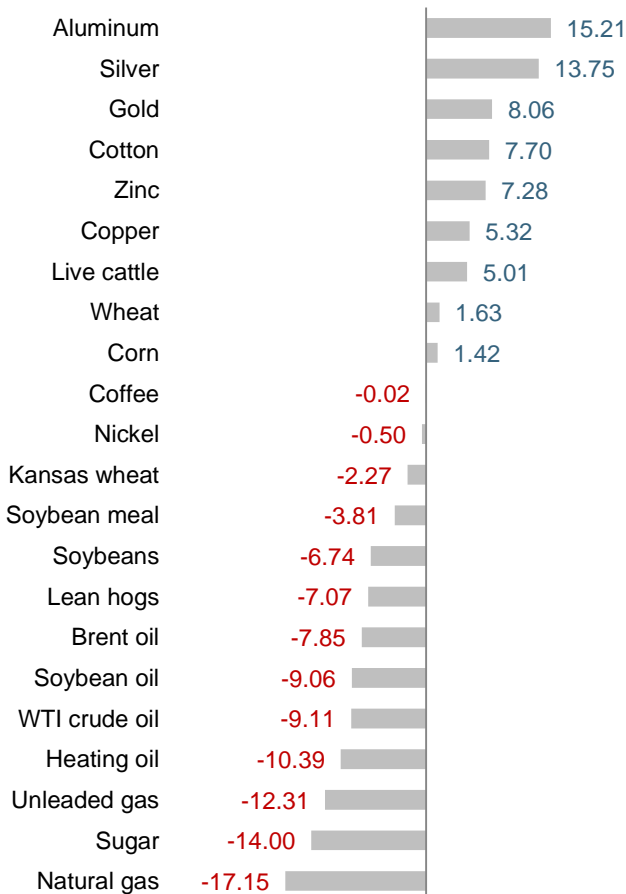
First Quarter 2017 Index Returns

The Bloomberg Commodity Index Total Return declined 2.33% during the first quarter of 2017.

The industrial and precious metals complexes were the top performers. Aluminum gained 15.21%, silver rose 13.75%, and gold climbed 8.06%.

Energy was the worst-performing complex. Natural gas declined 17.15%, while unleaded gas fell 12.31%. Heating oil declined 10.39%, and WTI crude oil fell 9.11%.

Ranked Returns for Individual Commodities (%)



Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Commodities	8.71	-13.91	-9.54	-6.22

* Annualized



Fixed Income

First Quarter 2017 Index Returns

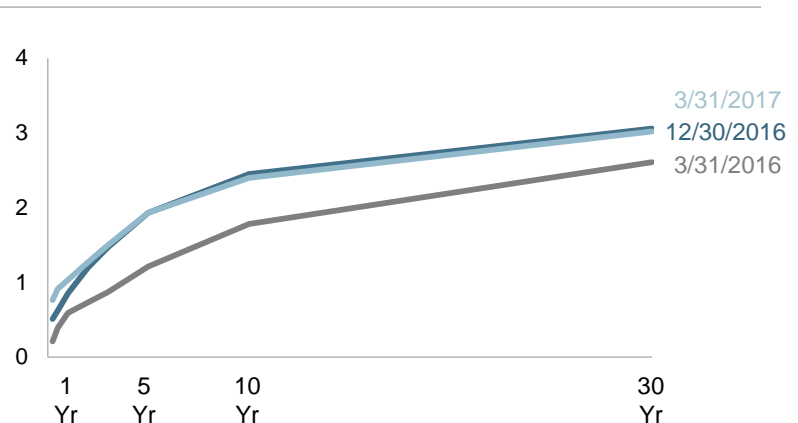
Interest rates were mixed across the US fixed income market during the first quarter of 2017. The yield on the 5-year Treasury note was unchanged, ending at 1.93%. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note decreased 5 basis points (bps) to 2.40%. The 30-year Treasury bond yield decreased 4 bps to 3.02%.

The yield on the 1-year Treasury bill rose 18 bps to 1.03%, and the 2-year T-note yield increased 7 bps to 1.27%. The yield on the 3-month T-bill increased 25 bps to 0.76%, while the 6-month T-bill yield rose 29 bps to 0.91%.

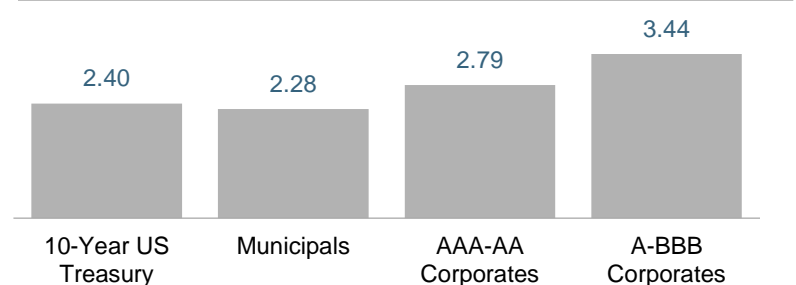
Looking at total returns, short-term corporate bonds gained 0.69% and intermediate-term corporate bonds gained 1.16%.

Short-term municipal bonds generated a total return of 1.20%, while intermediate-term municipal bonds returned 1.91%. Revenue bonds performed in line with general obligation bonds.

US Treasury Yield Curve (%)



Bond Yields across Issuers (%)



Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Bloomberg Barclays Long US Government Bond Index	-4.78	5.81	4.05	6.65
Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bond Index	0.15	3.55	3.24	4.33
Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index	0.44	2.68	2.34	4.27
Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate High Yield Index	16.39	4.56	6.82	7.46
Bloomberg Barclays US TIPS Index	1.48	2.03	0.97	4.24
BofA Merrill Lynch 1-Year US Treasury Note Index	0.56	0.39	0.35	1.31
BofA Merrill Lynch Three-Month US Treasury Bill Index	0.36	0.17	0.14	0.68
Citi World Govt. Bond Index 1-5 Years (hedged to USD)	0.64	1.38	1.38	2.54

* Annualized

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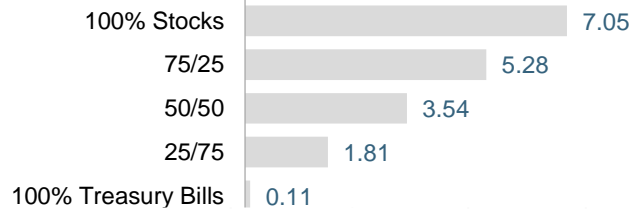


Global Diversification

First Quarter 2017 Index Returns

These portfolios illustrate the performance of different global stock/bond mixes and highlight the benefits of diversification. Mixes with larger allocations to stocks are considered riskier but have higher expected returns over time.

Ranked Returns (%)

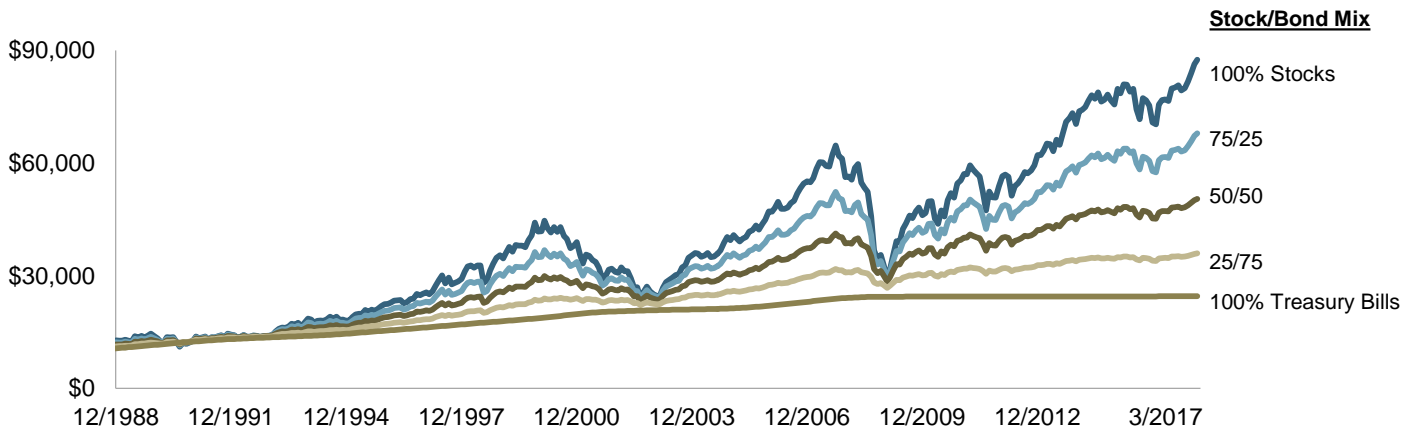


Period Returns (%)

* Annualized

Asset Class	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*	10-Year STDEV ¹
100% Stocks	15.69	5.65	8.97	4.56	17.01
75/25	11.67	4.35	6.80	3.84	12.75
50/50	7.76	2.99	4.60	2.93	8.5
25/75	3.96	1.58	2.36	1.83	4.24
100% Treasury Bills	0.26	0.11	0.08	0.56	0.36

Growth of Wealth: The Relationship between Risk and Return



1. STDEV (standard deviation) is a measure of the variation or dispersion of a set of data points. Standard deviations are often used to quantify the historical return volatility of a security or portfolio.

Diversification does not eliminate the risk of market loss. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Asset allocations and the hypothetical index portfolio returns are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent actual performance. Global Stocks represented by MSCI All Country World Index (gross div.) and Treasury Bills represented by US One-Month Treasury Bills. Globally diversified allocations rebalanced monthly, no withdrawals. Data © MSCI 2017, all rights reserved. Treasury bills © Stocks, Bonds, Bills, and Inflation Yearbook™, Ibbotson Associates, Chicago (annually updated work by Roger G. Ibbotson and Rex A. Sinquefeld).



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Investment Shock Absorbers

First Quarter 2017

Ever ridden in a car with worn-out shock absorbers? Every bump is jarring, every corner stomach-churning, and every red light an excuse to assume the brace position. Owning an undiversified portfolio can trigger similar reactions.

You can drive a car with a broken suspension system, but it will be an extremely uncomfortable ride and the vehicle will be much harder to control, particularly in difficult conditions. Throw in the risk of a breakdown or running off the road altogether, and there's a real chance you may not reach your destination.

In the world of investment, a similarly bumpy and unpredictable ride can await those with concentrated and undiversified portfolios or those who constantly tinker with their allocation.

Of course, everyone feels in control when the surface is straight and smooth, but it's harder to stay on the road during sudden turns and ups and downs in the market.

For that reason, the smart thing to do is to diversify, spreading your portfolio across different securities, sectors, and countries. That also means identifying the right mix of investments (e.g., stocks, bonds, real estate) that aligns with your risk tolerance.

Using this approach, your returns from year to year may not match the top performing portfolio, but neither are they likely to match the worst. More importantly, this is a ride you are likelier to stick with.

Here's an example. Among developed markets, Denmark was number one in US dollar terms in 2015 with a return of more than 23%. But a big bet on that country the following year would have backfired, as Denmark slid to bottom of the table with a loss of nearly 16%.¹

It's true that the US stock market (by far the world's biggest) has been a strong performer in recent years. But a decade before, in 2004 and 2006, it was the second worst-performing developed market in the world.¹

Predicting which part of a market will do best over a given period is tough. US small cap stocks were among the top performers in 2016 with a return of more than 21%. A year before, their results looked relatively disappointing with a loss of more than 4%. International small cap stocks had their turn in the sun in 2015, topping the performance tables with a return of just below 6%. But the year before that, they were the second worst with a loss of 5%.²

If you've ever taken a long road trip, you'll know that conditions along the way can change quickly and unpredictably, which is why you need a vehicle that's ready for the worst roads as well as the best. While diversification can never completely eliminate the impact of bumps along your particular investment road, it does help reduce the potential outsized impact that any individual investment can have on your journey.

With sufficient diversification, the jarring effects of performance extremes level out. That, in turn, helps you stay in your chosen lane and on the road to your investment destination.

Happy motoring and happy investing.

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2. In US dollars. US Small Cap is the Russell 2000 Index. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks, and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. International Small Cap is the MSCI World ex USA Small Cap Index (gross dividends). MSCI data copyright MSCI 2017, all rights reserved.

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