

EXETER FINANCIAL

Q2

Quarterly Market Review

Second Quarter 2017

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Second Quarter 2017

This report features world capital market performance and a timeline of events for the past quarter. It begins with a global overview, then features the returns of stock and bond asset classes in the US and international markets.

The report also illustrates the impact of globally diversified portfolios and features a quarterly topic.

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: When Rates Go Up, Do Stocks Go Down?

Market Summary

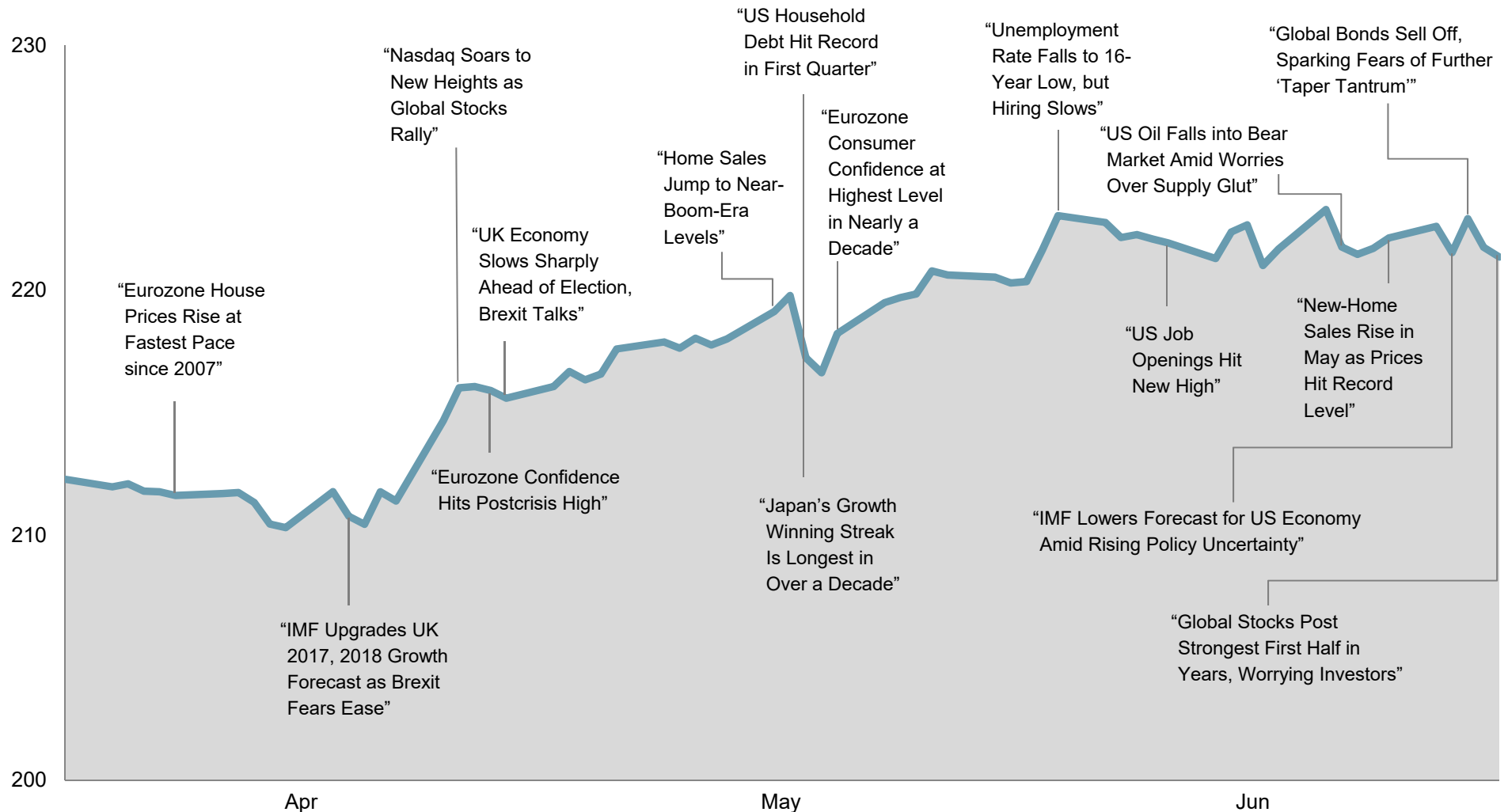
Index Returns

	US Stock Market	International Developed Stocks	Emerging Markets Stocks	Global Real Estate	US Bond Market	Global Bond Market ex US
Q2 2017	STOCKS				BONDS	
	3.02%	5.63%	6.27%	1.67%	1.45%	0.60%
						
Since Jan. 2001						
Avg. Quarterly Return	1.9%	1.5%	3.1%	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.

World Stock Market Performance

MSCI All Country World Index with selected headlines from Q2 2017



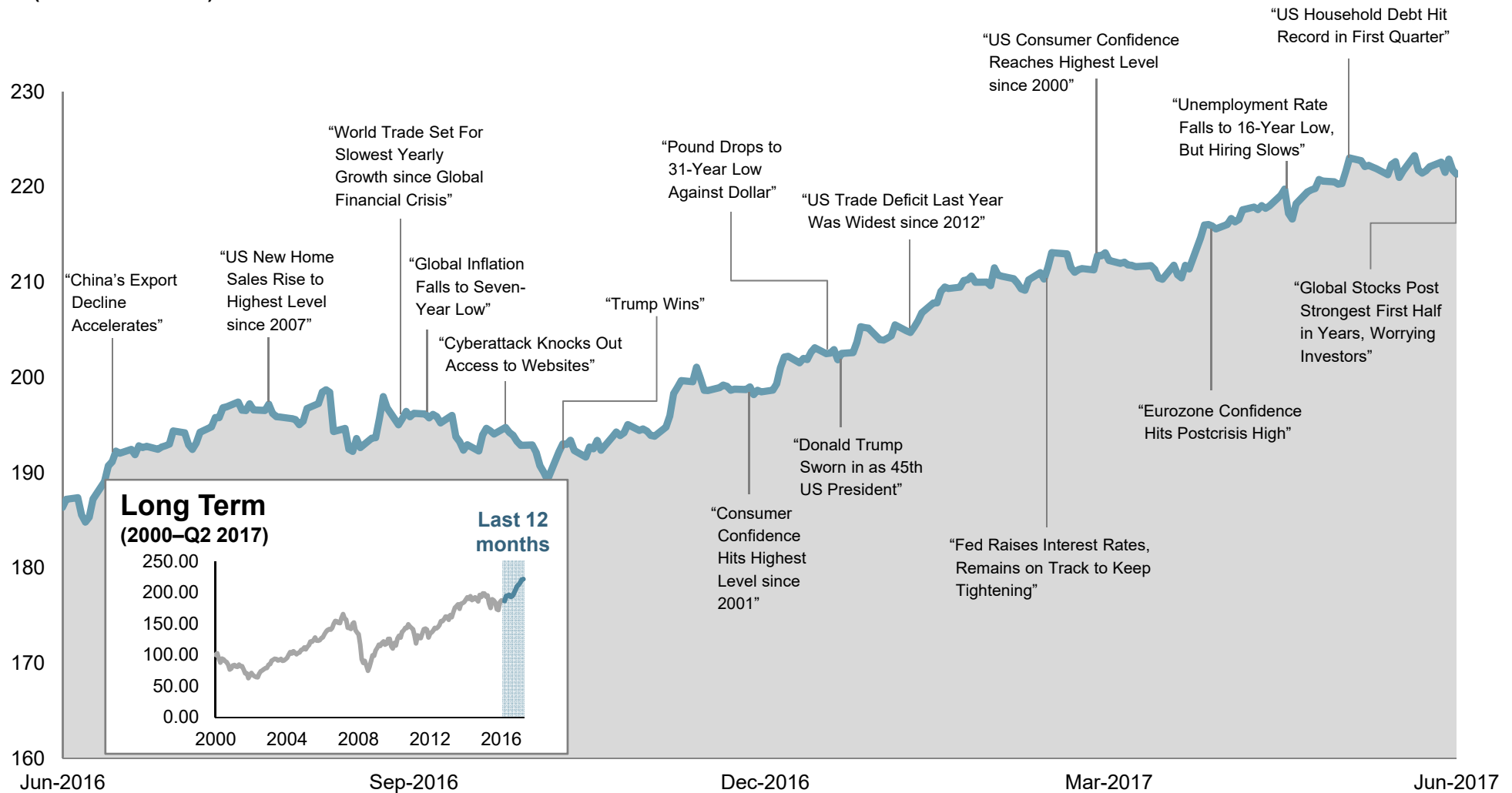
These headlines are not offered to explain market returns. Instead, they serve as a reminder that investors should view daily events from a long-term perspective and avoid making investment decisions based solely on the news.

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.

World Stock Market Performance

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

Short Term (Q3 2016–Q2 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.

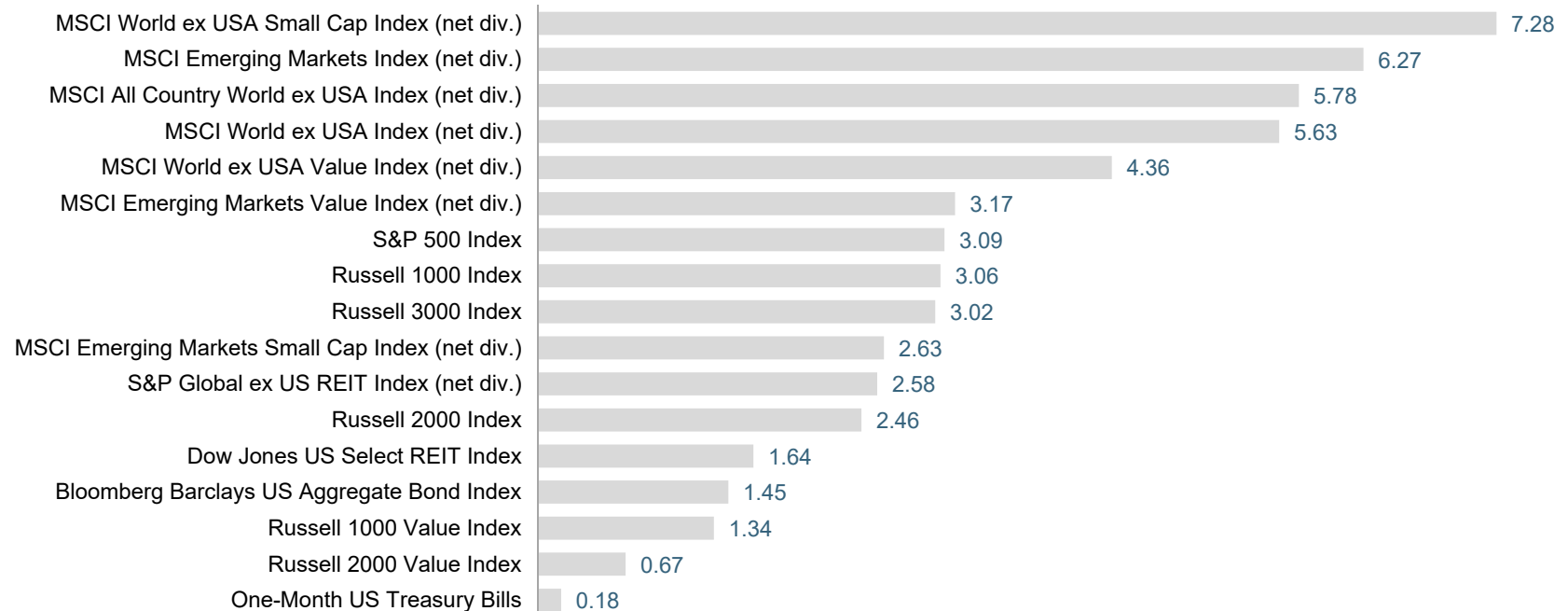
It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Performance does not reflect the expenses associated with management of an actual portfolio. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

World Asset Classes

Second Quarter 2017 Index Returns (%)

Looking at broad market indices, non-US developed markets and emerging markets recorded similar returns, outperforming the US during the quarter.

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



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US Stocks

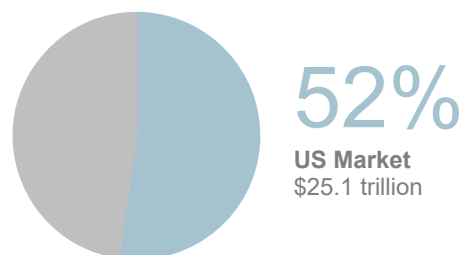
Second Quarter 2017 Index Returns

The broad US equity market posted positive returns for the quarter but underperformed both non-US developed and emerging markets.

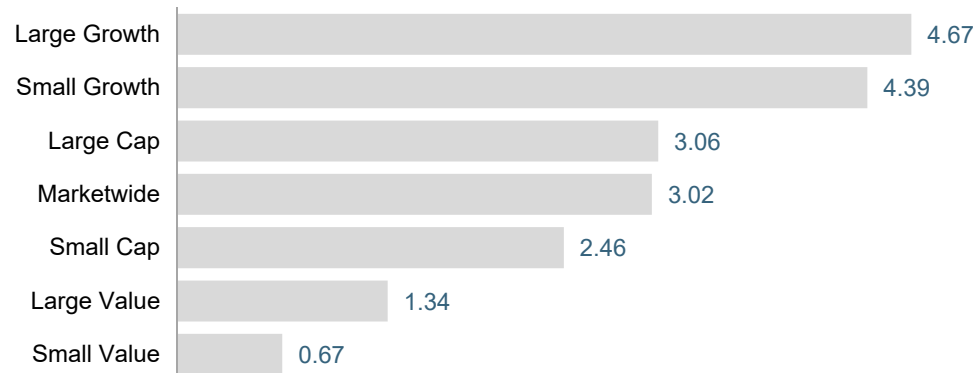
Value underperformed growth indices in the US across all size ranges.

Small caps in the US underperformed large caps.

World Market Capitalization—US



Ranked Returns for the Quarter (%)



Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	YTD	1 Year	* Annualized		
			3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Marketwide	8.93	18.51	9.10	14.58	7.26
Large Cap	9.27	18.03	9.26	14.67	7.29
Large Value	4.66	15.53	7.36	13.94	5.57
Large Growth	13.99	20.42	11.11	15.30	8.91
Small Cap	4.99	24.60	7.36	13.70	6.92
Small Value	0.54	24.86	7.02	13.39	5.92
Small Growth	9.97	24.40	7.64	13.98	7.82

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.

International Developed Stocks

Second Quarter 2017 Index Returns

In US dollar terms, developed markets outperformed the US equity market and had similar performance to emerging markets indices during the quarter.

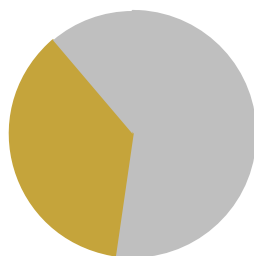
Looking at broad market indices, the value effect was negative across all size ranges in non-US developed markets.

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

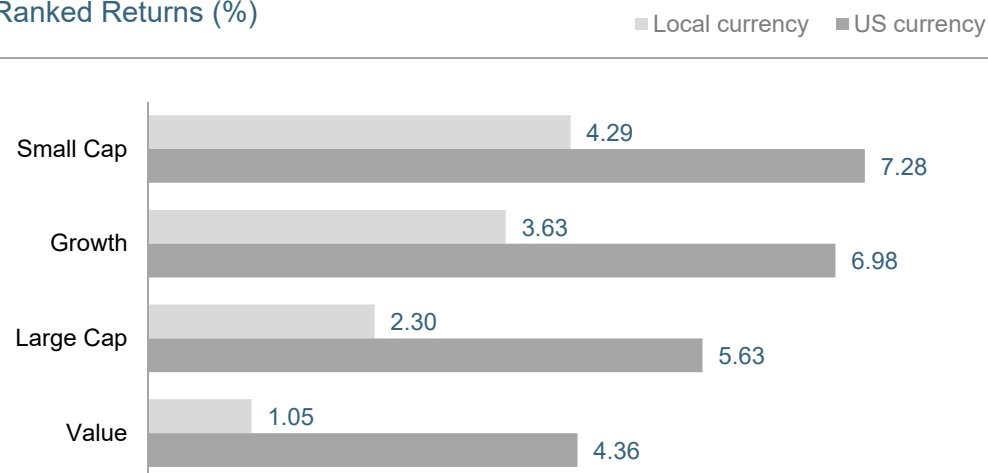
World Market Capitalization—International Developed

36%

International
Developed
Market
\$17.5 trillion



Ranked Returns (%)



Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Large Cap	12.82	19.49	0.67	8.15	1.00
Small Cap	15.45	21.26	4.02	11.43	2.92
Value	10.27	24.24	-0.94	7.69	0.09
Growth	15.57	14.90	2.22	8.54	1.84

* Annualized

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Emerging Markets Stocks

Second Quarter 2017 Index Returns

In US dollar terms, emerging markets indices outperformed the US and recorded similar performance to developed markets outside the US.

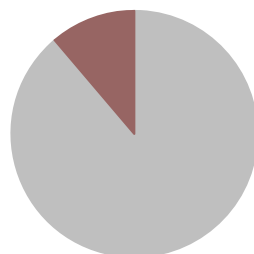
Looking at broad market indices, the value effect was negative across all size ranges in emerging markets.

Small caps underperformed large caps in emerging markets.

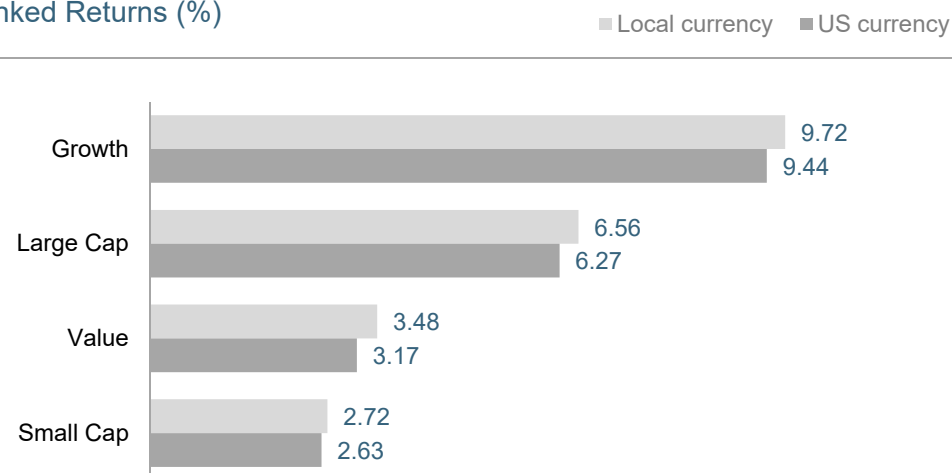
World Market Capitalization—Emerging Markets

11%

Emerging Markets
\$5.4 trillion



Ranked Returns (%)



Period Returns (%)

* Annualized

Asset Class	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Large Cap	18.43	23.75	1.07	3.96	1.91
Small Cap	15.99	17.03	0.81	5.15	2.17
Value	13.65	21.57	-1.33	1.67	1.53
Growth	23.45	25.99	3.42	6.18	2.22

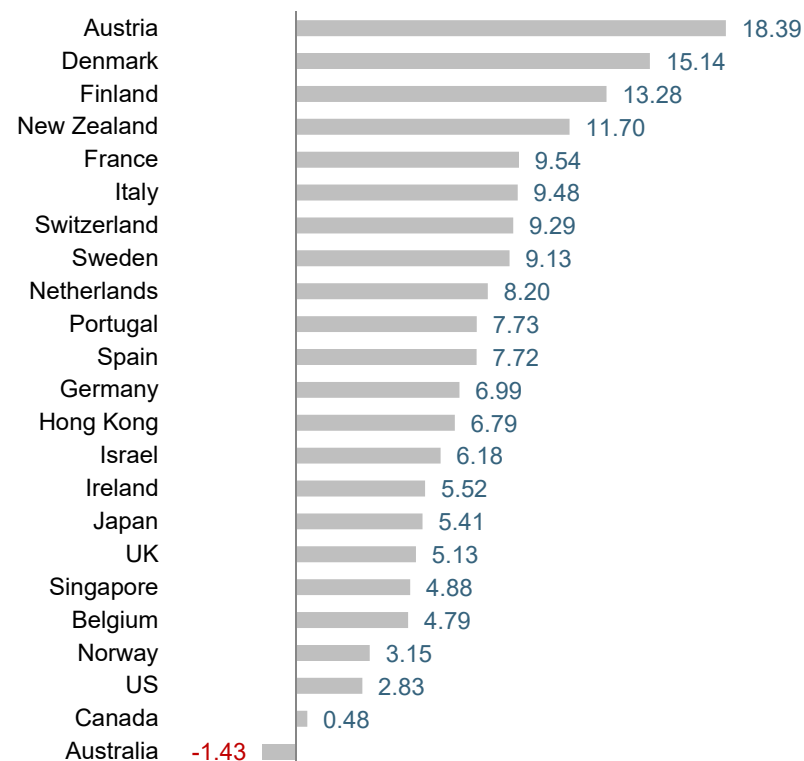
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Select Country Performance

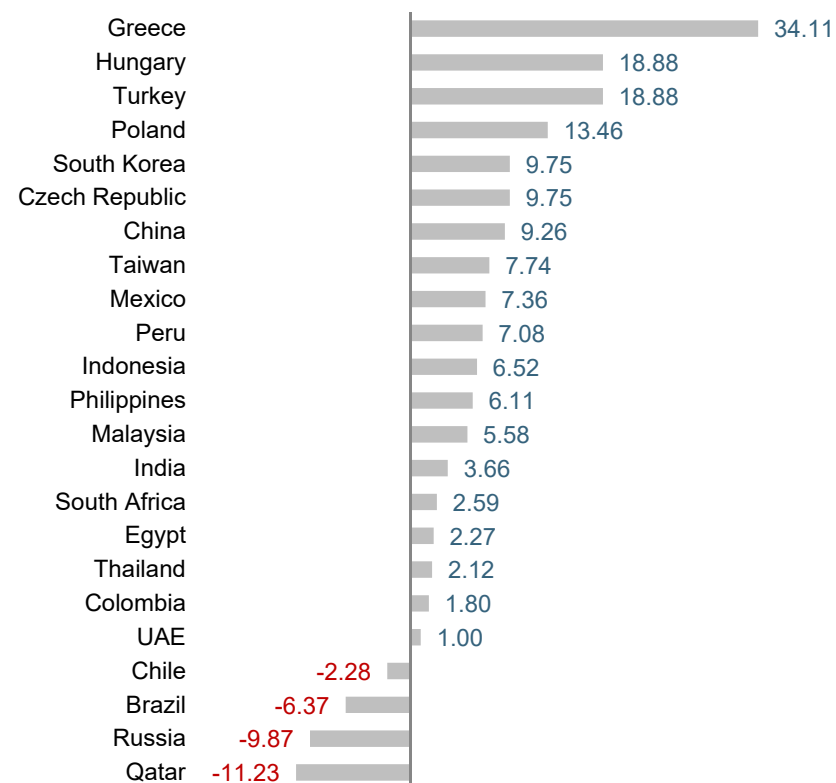
Second Quarter 2017 Index Returns

In US dollar terms, Austria and Denmark recorded the highest country performance in developed markets, while Australia and Canada posted the lowest returns for the quarter. In emerging markets, Greece, Hungary, and Turkey posted the highest country returns, while Qatar and Russia had the lowest performance.

Ranked Developed Markets Returns (%)



Ranked Emerging Markets Returns (%)



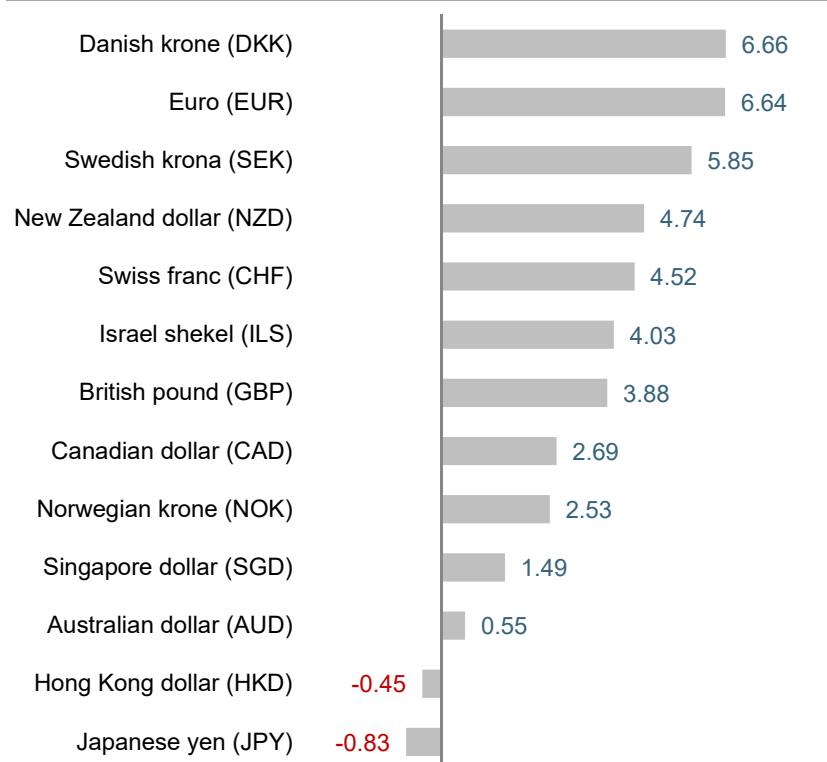
Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Country performance based on respective indices in the MSCI World ex US IMI Index (for developed 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

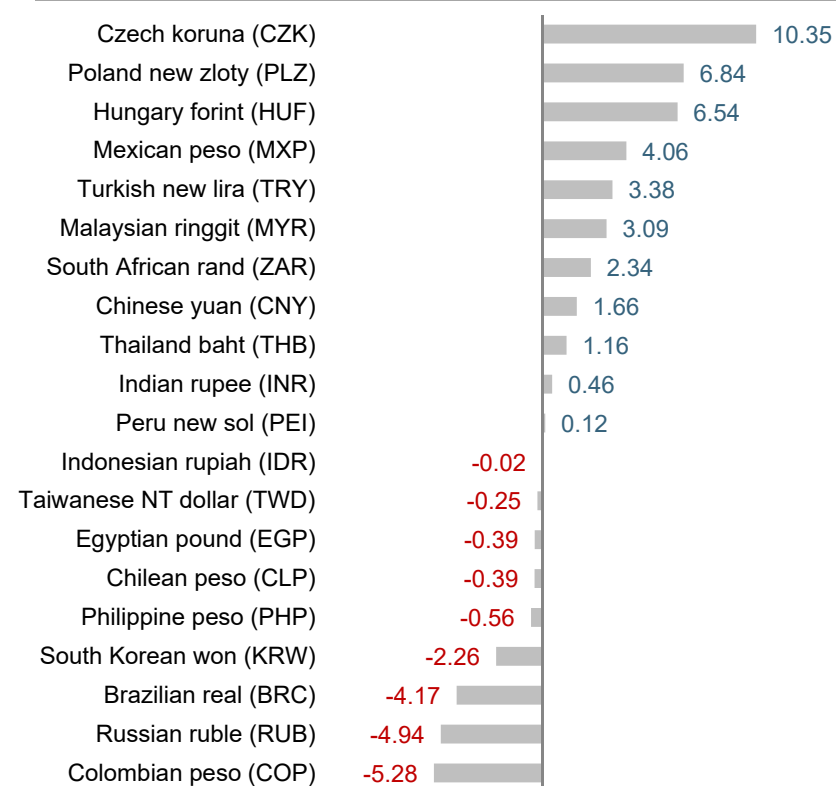
Second Quarter 2017

Most non-US developed currencies appreciated against the US dollar during the quarter, with the Danish krone and the euro experiencing the biggest gains. Emerging markets currencies were mixed vs. the US dollar. The Czech koruna appreciated by more than 10%, while the Russian ruble, Brazilian real, and Columbian peso depreciated by more than 4%.

Ranked Developed Markets (%)



Ranked Emerging Markets (%)

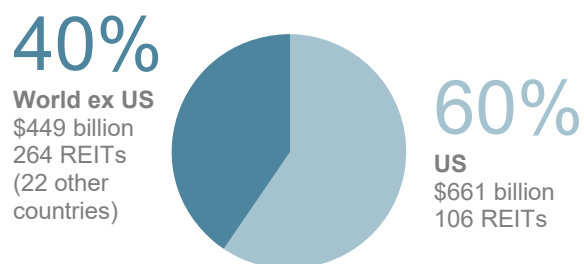


Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

Second Quarter 2017 Index Returns

Non-US real estate investment trusts outperformed US REITs.

Total Value of REIT Stocks



Ranked Returns (%)



Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	YTD	1 Year	* Annualized		
			3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
US REITs	1.36	-2.43	8.04	9.00	5.42
Global REITs (ex US)	6.30	-0.37	1.13	6.86	0.20

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

Second Quarter 2017 Index Returns

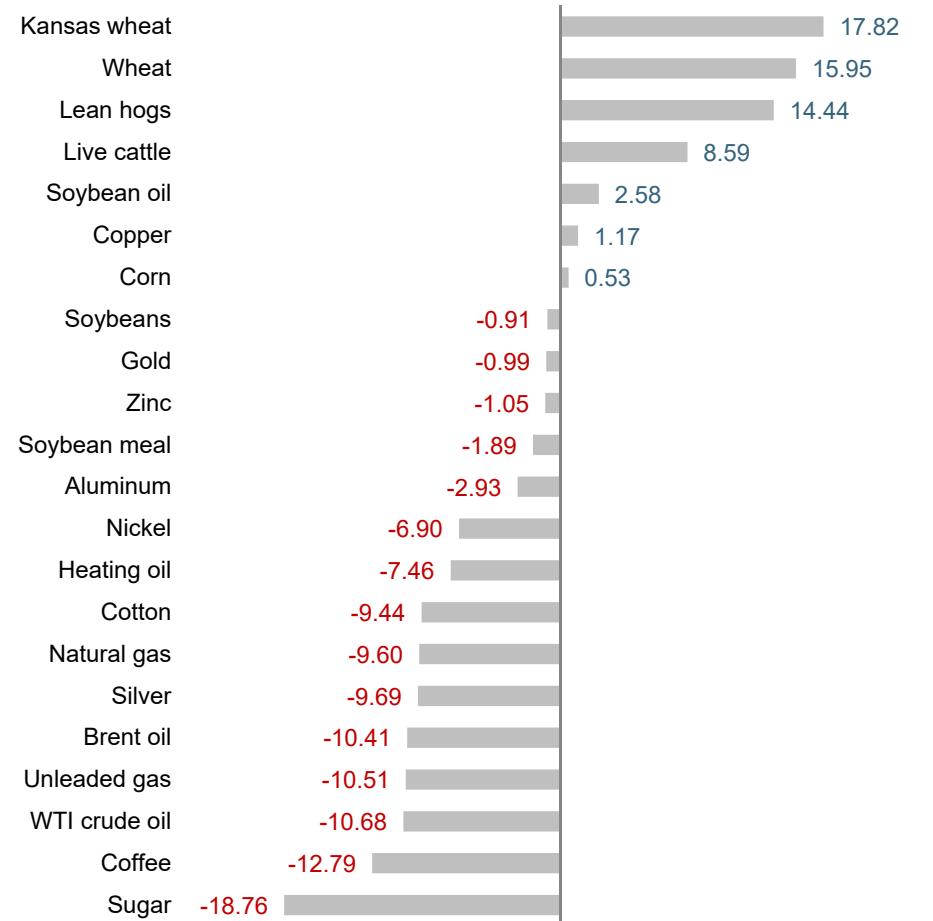
The Bloomberg Commodity Index Total Return declined 3.00% during the second quarter.

The livestock and grains complexes led quarterly performance, with lean hogs returning 14.44%, live cattle 8.59%, wheat (Chicago) 15.95%, and wheat (Kansas) 17.82%.

Softs was the worst-performing complex, with sugar and coffee declining 18.76% and 12.79%, respectively. Cotton also experienced a decline, decreasing 9.44%.

Period Returns (%)		* Annualized			
Asset Class	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Commodities	-5.26	-6.50	-14.81	-9.25	-6.49

Ranked Returns for Individual Commodities (%)



Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Index is not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. All index returns are net of withholding tax on dividends. Securities and commodities data provided by Bloomberg.

Fixed Income

Second Quarter 2017 Index Returns

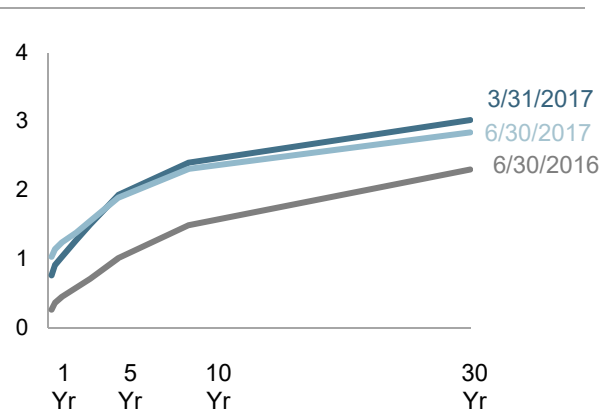
Interest rates were mixed across the US fixed income market during the second quarter. The yield on the 5-year Treasury note decreased 4 basis points (bps) to 1.89%. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note decreased 9 bps to 2.31%. The 30-year Treasury bond yield decreased 18 bps to finish at 2.84%.

The yield on the 1-year Treasury bill rose 21 bps to 1.24%, and the 2-year Treasury note yield rose 11 bps to 1.38%. The yield on the 3-month Treasury bill climbed 27 bps to 1.03%, while the 6-month Treasury bill yield increased 23 bps to 1.14%.

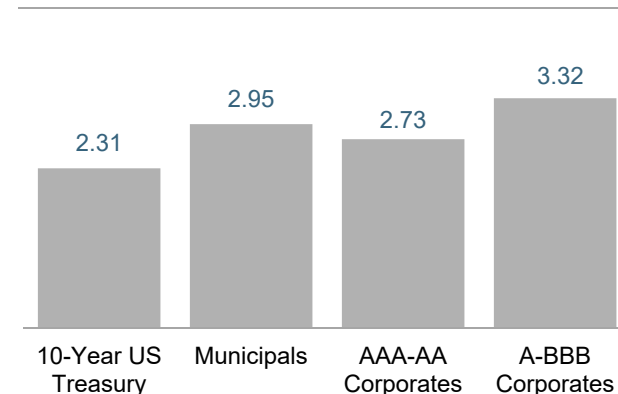
In terms of total returns, short-term corporate bonds gained 0.59% and intermediate corporates gained 1.49%.

Short-term municipal bonds gained 0.56%, while intermediate-term municipal bonds returned 1.97%. Revenue bonds gained 2.19%, outperforming general obligation bonds by 39 bps.

US Treasury Yield Curve (%)



Bond Yields across Issuers (%)



Period Returns (%)

* Annualized

Asset Class	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*
Bloomberg Barclays Long US Government Bond Index	5.44	-6.96	5.54	2.82	7.27
Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bond Index	3.57	-0.49	3.33	3.26	4.60
Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index	2.27	-0.31	2.48	2.21	4.48
Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate High Yield Index	4.93	12.70	4.48	6.89	7.67
Bloomberg Barclays US TIPS Index	0.85	-0.63	0.63	0.27	4.27
BofA Merrill Lynch 1-Year US Treasury Note Index	0.30	0.40	0.41	0.37	1.21
BofA Merrill Lynch Three-Month US Treasury Bill Index	0.31	0.49	0.23	0.17	0.58
Citi World Government Bond Index 1-5 Years (hedged to USD)	0.65	0.28	1.30	1.37	2.52

One basis point equals 0.01%. 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. Yield curve data from Federal Reserve. State and local bonds are from the S&P National AMT-Free Municipal Bond Index. AAA-AA Corporates represent the Bank of America Merrill Lynch US Corporates, AA-AAA rated. A-BBB Corporates represent the Bank of America Merrill Lynch US Corporates, BBB-A rated. Bloomberg Barclays data provided by Bloomberg. US long-term bonds, bills, inflation, and fixed income factor data © Stocks, Bonds, Bills, and Inflation (S&BBI) Yearbook™, Ibbotson Associates, Chicago (annually updated work by Roger G. Ibbotson and Rex A. Sinquefeld). Citi fixed income indices copyright 2017 by Citigroup. The BofA Merrill Lynch Indices are used with permission; © 2017 Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated; all rights reserved. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of America Corporation. The S&P data are provided by Standard & Poor's Index Services Group.

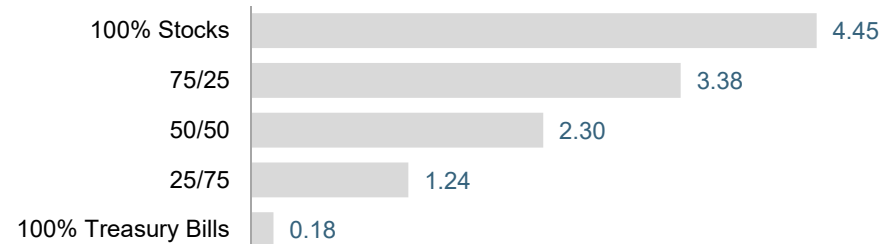
Impact of Diversification

Second Quarter 2017 Index Returns

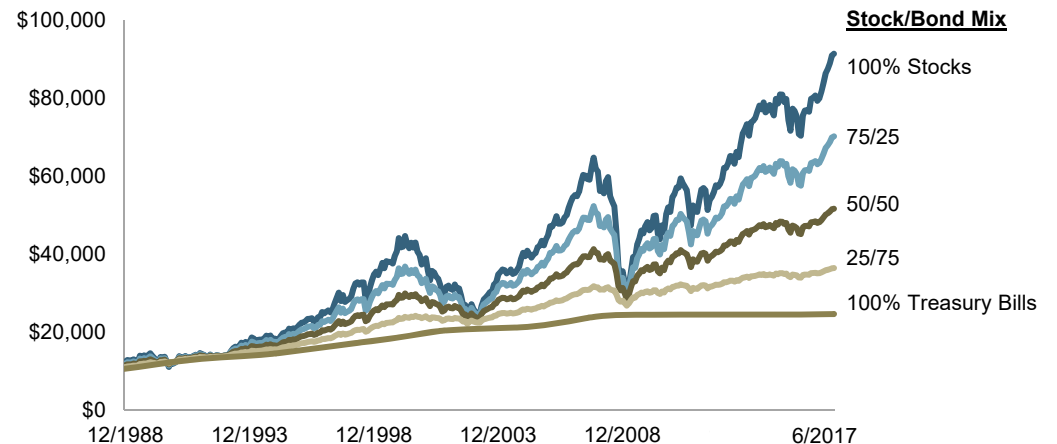
These portfolios illustrate the performance of different global stock/bond mixes. Mixes with larger allocations to stocks are considered riskier but have higher expected returns over time.

Period Returns (%)						* Annualized
Asset Class	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*	10-Year STDEV ¹
100% Stocks	11.82	19.42	5.39	11.14	4.27	16.96
75/25	8.84	14.41	4.17	8.38	3.60	12.71
50/50	5.93	9.57	2.89	5.62	2.73	8.46
25/75	3.08	4.90	1.56	2.87	1.68	4.22
100% Treasury Bills	0.29	0.40	0.17	0.12	0.45	0.29

Ranked Returns (%)



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).

When Rates Go Up, Do Stocks Go Down?

Second Quarter 2017

Should stock investors worry about changes in interest rates?

Research shows that, like stock prices, changes in interest rates and bond prices are largely unpredictable.¹ It follows that an investment strategy based upon attempting to exploit these sorts of changes isn't likely to be a fruitful endeavor. Despite the unpredictable nature of interest rate changes, investors may still be curious about what might happen to stocks if interest rates go up.

Unlike bond prices, which tend to go down when yields go up, stock prices might rise or fall with changes in interest rates. For stocks, it can go either way because a stock's price depends on both future cash flows to investors and the discount rate they apply to those expected cash flows. When interest rates rise, the discount rate may increase, which in turn could cause the price of the stock to fall. However, it is also possible that when interest rates change, expectations about future cash flows expected from holding a stock also change. So, if theory doesn't tell us what the overall effect should be, the next question is what does the data say?

Recent Research

Recent research performed by Dimensional Fund Advisors helps provide insight into this question.² The research examines the correlation between monthly US stock returns and changes in interest rates.³

Exhibit 1 shows that while there is a lot of noise in stock returns and no clear pattern, not much of that variation appears to be related to changes in the effective federal funds rate.⁴

Exhibit 1. Monthly US Stock Returns against Monthly Changes in Effective Federal Funds Rate, August 1954–December 2016



Monthly US stock returns are defined as the monthly return of the Fama/French Total US Market Index and are compared to contemporaneous monthly changes in the effective federal funds rate. Bond yield changes are obtained from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

1. See, for example, Fama 1976, Fama 1984, Fama and Bliss 1987, Campbell and Shiller 1991, and Duffee 2002.

2. Wei Dai, "Interest Rates and Equity Returns" (Dimensional Fund Advisors, April 2017).

3. US stock market defined as Fama/French Total US Market Index.

4. The federal funds rate is the interest rate at which depository institutions lend funds maintained at the Federal Reserve to another depository institution overnight.

When Rates Go Up, Do Stocks Go Down?

(continued from page 16)

For example, in months when the federal funds rate rose, stock returns were as low as -15.56% and as high as 14.27%. In months when rates fell, returns ranged from -22.41% to 16.52%. Given that there are many other interest rates besides just the federal funds rate, Dai also examined longer-term interest rates and found similar results.

So to address our initial question: when rates go up, do stock prices go down? The answer is yes, but only about 40% of the time. In the remaining 60% of months, stock returns were positive. This split between positive and negative returns was about the same when examining all months, not just those in which rates went up. In other words, there is not a clear link between stock returns and interest rate changes.

CONCLUSION

There's no evidence that investors can reliably predict changes in interest rates. Even with perfect knowledge of what will happen with future interest rate changes, this information provides little guidance about subsequent stock returns. Instead, staying invested and avoiding the temptation to make changes based on short-term predictions may increase the likelihood of consistently capturing what the stock market has to offer.

GLOSSARY

Discount Rate: Also known as the "required rate of return," this is the expected return investors demand for holding a stock.

Correlation: A statistical measure that indicates the extent to which two variables are related or move together. Correlation is positive when two variables tend to move in the same direction and negative when they tend to move in opposite directions.

INDEX DESCRIPTIONS

Fama/French Total US Market Index: Provided by Fama/French from CRSP securities data. Includes all US operating companies trading on the NYSE, AMEX, or Nasdaq NMS. Excludes ADRs, investment companies, tracking stocks, non-US incorporated companies, closed-end funds, certificates, shares of beneficial interests, and Berkshire Hathaway Inc. (Permco 540).

Source: Dimensional Fund Advisors LP.

Results shown during periods prior to each Index's index inception date do not represent actual returns of the respective index. Other periods selected may have different results, including losses. Backtested index performance is hypothetical and is provided for informational purposes only to indicate historical performance had the index been calculated over the relevant time periods. Backtested performance results assume the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains.

Eugene Fama and Ken French are members of the Board of Directors for and provide consulting services to Dimensional Fund Advisors LP.

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