Market Recap

Synchronized Global Growth



Source: Neuberger Berman

Investor Sentiment Surges Higher



Source: TD Ameritrade

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Economic growth accelerated around the world in 2017, supporting earnings growth and the stock market. Moreover, this trend of globally synchronized growth is expected to continue in 2018. While economic growth rates in developed markets like the U.S. and Europe increased, those rates were well below the rates achieved in emerging markets like China and India. Emerging markets continue to benefit from favorable demographics and labor outsourcing trends to lower cost regions. This long-term trend is expected to continue despite a rising tide of populism. Non-U.S. developed market stocks and emerging market stocks remain priced at a discount relative to U.S. stocks. With favorable favorable valuations and а economic environment, many expect these markets to be the primary beneficiaries of the ongoing global expansion.

Investor sentiment, as represented by various indices, is elevated. Enthusiasm for stocks has been strong, helped by: improved global growth, tax reform in the U.S., accommodative monetary policy around the world, and positive price momentum. U.S. stocks have advanced for approximately fourteen consecutive months, one of the longest periods ever. While the fundamental economic environment remains favorable for stocks, the recent spike in enthusiasm often leaves more experienced investors with a measure of pause, as elevated investor sentiment is typically a contrarian indicator of future returns.

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Return Quilt and the Benefits of Diversification

																- 2017
2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Ann.	Vol.
EM Equity	REITS	EM Equity	REITS	EM Equity	Fixed Income	EM Equity	REITS	REITS	REITS	Small Cap	REITS	REITS	Small Cap	EM Equity	EM Equity	EM Equity
56.3%	31.6%	34.5%	35.1%	39.8%	5.2%	79.0%	27.9%	8.3%	19.7%	38.8%	28.0%	2.8%	21.3%	37.8%	12.7%	23.0%
Small	EM		EM			High	Small	Fixed	High	Large	Large	Large	High	DM	Small	
Сар	Equity	Comdty.	Equity	Comdty.	Cash	Yield	Сар	Income	Yield	Cap	Cap	Cap	Yield	Equity	Сар	REITS
47.3%	26.0%	21.4%		16.2%	1.8%	59.4%	26.9%	7.8%	19.6%	32.4%	13.7%	1.4%	14.3%	25.6%	11.2%	22.3%
DM	DM	DM	DM	DM	Asset	DM	EM	High	EM	DM	Fixed	Fixed	Large	Large	REITS	Small
Equity	Equity	Equity	Equity	Equity	Alloc.	Equity	Equity	Yield	Equity	Equity	Income	Income	Сар	Сар		Сар
39.2%	20.7%	14.0%	26.9%	11.6%	-25.4%	32.5%	19.2%	3.1%	18.6%	23.3%	6.0%	0.5%	12.0%	21.8%	11.1%	18.8%
REITS	Small Cap	REITS	Small Cap	Asset Allog.	High Yield	REITS	Comdty.	Large Cap	DM Equity	Asset Alloc.	Asset Alloc.	Cash	Comdty.	Small Cap	Large Cap	Comdty.
37.1%	18.3%	12.2%	18.4%	7/1%	- 26.9%	28.0%	16.8%	2.1%	17.9%	14/9%	5.2%	0.0%	11.8%	14.6%	9.9%	18.8%
High	High	Asset	Large	Fixed	Small	Small	Large	0b	Small	High	Small	DM	EM	Asset	High	DM
Yield	Yield	Alloc.	Сар	Income	Cap	Сар	Cap	Cash		Yield	Сар	Equity	Equity	Alloc.	Yield	Equity
32.4%	13.2%	8.1%	15.8%	7.0%	-33.8%	27.2%	15.1%	0.1%	16.3%	7.3%	4.9%	-0.4%	11.6%	14/6%	9.6%	18.4%
Large	Asset	Large	Asset	Large	Comdty.	Large	High	Asset	Large	REITS	Cash	Asset	REITS	High	DM	Large
Cap 28.7%	Allog.	Cap 4.9%	2NIOC. 15.3%	Cap 5.5%	- 35.6%	Cap 26.5%	Yield 14.8%	Alloc.	Cap 16.0%	2.9%	0.0%	Ahoc.	8.6%	Yield 10.4%	Equity 8.6%	Cap 14.5%
				5.5%						2.970			/	10.4 70		
Asset Alloc.	Large Cap	Small Cap	High Yield	Cash	Large Cap	Asset Alloc.	Asset Allog	Small Cap	Asset Alloc.	Cash	High Yield	High Yield	Asset Alloc.	REITS	Asset Alloc.	High Yield
26.3%	10.9%	4.6%	13.7%	4.8%	-37.0%	25.0%	13.3%	-4.2%	12.2%	0.0%	0.0%	-2.7%	8.3%	8.7%	8.3%	11.3%
Comdty.	Comdty.	High	Cash	High	REITS	Comdty.	DM	DM	Fixed	Fixed	EM	Small	Fixed	Fixed	Fixed	Asset
Comaty.	-	Yield		Yield				Equity	Income	Income	Equity	Сар	Income	Income	Income	Alloc.
23.9%	9.1%	3.6%	4.8%	3.2%	-37.7%	18.9%	8.2%	- 11.7%	4.2%	- 2.0%	- 1.8%	-4.4%	2.6%	3.5%	4.1%	11.0%
Fixed	Fixed	Cash		Small	DM	Fixed	Fixed	Comdty.	Cash	EM	DM	EM	DM	Comdty.	Cash	Fixed
Income 4.1%	Income 4.3%	3.0%	Income 4.3%	Cap - 1.6%	Equity - 43,1%	Income 5.9%	Income 6.5%	- 13.3%	0.1%	Equity - 2.3%	Equity - 4.5%	Equity - 14.6%	Equity 1.5%	1.7%	1.2%	Income 3.3%
4.1%	4.5%		4.3%	- 1.0 %		5.9%	0.5%	- 13.3% EM	0.1%	- 2:3%	- 41: 5 %	- 14.0 %	1.5 %	1.7%	1.2 %	5.5%
Cash	Cash	Fixed Income	Comdty.	REITS	EM Equity	Cash	Cash	EM Equity	Comdty.	Comdty.	Comdty.	Comdty.	Cash	Cash	Comdty.	Cash
1.0%	1.2%	2.4%	2.1%	- 15.7%	- 53.2%	0.1%	0.1%	- 18.2%	- 1.1%	-9.5%	- 17.0%	-24.7%	0.3%	0.8%	-0.3%	0.8%

Source: JP Morgan

The U.S. as an Energy Superpower



For the second consecutive calendar year, all asset classes generated positive returns. Nevertheless, the return differences among various asset classes are noteworthy. For example, emerging market equities generated a 38% return, while cash generated a 1% return. These year to year return differences highlight the importance of portfolio diversification as a risk management tool. A well-diversified portfolio can reduce the large performance swings typically associated with investing in only one asset class. These year to year return differences also illustrate the concepts of return cyclicality and mean reversion. Put differently, periods of outperformance are often followed by periods of underperformance. Emerging market equities and non-U.S. developed market equities outperformed from 2003-2007, underperformed from 2008-2016, and have started to again outperform in 2017.

In 2017, the U.S. became a net exporter of natural gas for the first time in over 50 years. This follows a similar net export position also achieved recently in crude oil. These events have fundamentally shifted the conversation of the U.S.'s energy security, with major implications for economic growth, geopolitics, and trade. This dramatic change is a testament to the power of hydraulic fracking technology. The U.S. is now the world's largest producer of natural gas (having surpassed Russia in 2009) as domestic production volumes have increased by more than 30% since 2008.

Source: EIA

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Contact: If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us at 703.992.6164. For more information about Harbour Capital Advisors, please visit our website at <u>www.harbourcapitaladvisors.com</u>.

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